

# More awareness needed to tackle TB

Says George Soros

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over tuberculosis (TB) disease in Bangladesh becoming multi-drug-resistant, global financier and philanthropist George Soros yesterday stressed the need for raising awareness because the disease is "curable".

"Tuberculosis is curable and its eradication is attainable. Drugs are widely available. All we need now is more awareness campaigns with the participation of non-governmental organisations," Soros said during the launching ceremony of a report "TB Policy in Bangladesh - A Civil Society Perspective" at Brac Centre Inn in

Mohakhali yesterday.

The Public Health Watch prepared the report in collaboration with the Open Society Institute.

Expressing his concern over the increase of multi-drug-resistant TB in Bangladesh, Soros, the billionaire founder chairman of Open Society Institute, said the challenge ahead needs to be dealt with intense awareness campaigns.

"The poor man's disease, pulmonary tuberculosis, remains largely neglected globally due to low levels of awareness," Soros observed. The disease kills around 70,000 people annually in Bangladesh.

"Our main effort is to help global civil society build their capacity to support the 'Stop TB' programme," Soros said, who is on a special visit at the invitation of Brac.

Brac's director for advocacy and human rights, Afsan Chowdhury, reiterated Soros' message saying, "TB is silently killing people for long but it has also been invisible because of a lack of attention."

Chowdhury also linked the spread of the disease with the battle against poverty, as 300,000 people each year contract the disease in Bangladesh.

Brac founder and chairman Fazle Hasan Abed also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

(Left) Supporters of BNP candidate Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Awami League candidate Syeed Khokon march in separate processions side by side at Nayabazar in the city yesterday towards the office of the returning officer to submit nomination papers for the forthcoming election. (Right) Agitating political activists vandalise a microbus of a private TV channel near the office of the returning officer at Segunbagicha yesterday during a clash between the supporters of BNP and AL candidates.



PHOTO: STAR

Gono Forum leader Mostafa Mohsin Montu speaks at a rally organised by Gono Forum at Muktagan in the city yesterday protesting filing of case against eminent lawyers, including party President Dr Kamal Hossain.

## 'Sixth wage board soon'

CU CORRESPONDENT

Adviser to Information, Water resources and Religion ministries Mahbubul Alam emphasised the need for professional trainings for the journalists to develop their skills in their field.

Terming journalism a risky profession, the adviser said the news media must be equipped enough to present objective news to the nation.

"Journalists can play a role in addressing corruption in different sectors through their investigative reporting," Mahbub observed.

He was addressing as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of biannual general meeting and conference of Chittagong Press Club (CPC) held at the CPC auditorium yesterday.

Mahbub assured the journalists of taking initiatives to implement the sixth wage board soon.

Leaders of the CPC and Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) demanded an end to all kinds of repressions on journalists and proper investigations into the previous attacks on the journalists across the country.

CPC President Abu Sufian presided over the ceremony while General Secretary Kalim Sarwar, CUJ President Shahid Ul Alam and local daily Azadi Editor MAMalek spoke.

## Switzerland to provide support for free, fair polls

Bss, Dhaka

Switzerland Ambassador to Bangladesh Dora Rapold yesterday said that their government would give all out support to the Bangladesh caretaker government for holding a free and fair election.

She was holding a meeting with Dr Shobek Ahmed, commerce, finance and planning, post and telecommunications adviser to the caretaker government, at the finance ministry here.

Praising all the advisers of the caretaker government for taking timely measures to ensure participation of all political parties in the election, Rapold hoped that the next poll would be free, neutral and fair.

She invited Bangladesh on behalf of their government to join the upcoming conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to be held in Switzerland in January next for representing the least developing countries (LDCs).

Ministerial level representatives from commerce and finance ministries of various countries will participate in the conference for discussing the world trade disputes.

Welcoming the ambassador for their support, Dr Shobek hoped that the bilateral cooperation between the two countries would be further increased in future.

## Jubo League leader among 4 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least four people, including a Jubo League leader, were killed in separate road accidents in Pabna and Jhenidah yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Pabna reports: At least two people, including a Jubo League leader, were killed in a road accident at Shanthia upazila in Pabna yesterday.

The dead were identified as Monirul Islam Moni, 22, son of Moin member of the village Sharupogram in Shanthia upazila and Saikat, 25, son of Shahjahan Ali of the village Madhupur of the same upazila.

The accident took place on Shanthia-Pabna highway at Chaknondorpur village when a speedy truck hit a Shanthia upazila-bound motorcycle at Chaknondorpur area at about 9:00am, leaving Moni and Saikat dead on the spot.

The dead were identified as Monirul Islam Moni, 22, son of Moin member of the village Sharupogram in Shanthia upazila and Saikat, 25, son of Shahjahan Ali of the village Madhupur of the same upazila.

Local people put up barricade on the road following the accident and seized the truck. Police arrested driver Ahsan.

Our Correspondent from Jhenidah adds: Two people were killed and six others injured in a road accident near Ahsan Nagar on Jhenidah-Kushtia Road yesterday.

The dead were identified as Feroz Ahmed, 28, of Rani Nagar.

### Godown gutted in fire in Rangpur

BSS, Rangpur

A godown was gutted in a fire in Chamrapur area in the town on Sunday evening.

Fire Service and Civil Defence sources said the fire in the godown, owned by one Abul Hossain, a skin trader, gutted huge goods. On information, firefighters from the nearby station rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control.

The reason of the fire, however, could not be ascertained immediately. The damage caused by the blaze is yet to be calculated, the sources said.

The dead were identified as Feroz Ahmed, 28, of Rani Nagar.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Dry weather will prevail over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said in a forecast.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 28.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 0.97 degree Celsius at Ishwardi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:19pm today and rises at 6:40am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in celsius	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	25.9	16.2	66	63
Chittagong	26.5	15.0	85	69
Rajshahi	24.7	10.9	93	75
Khulna	26.0	12.5	78	75
Barisal	26.5	11.4	89	79
Sylhet	26.9	13.7	89	75
Cox's Bazar	28.0	16.0	75	62

## Correction

BNP activists laid siege to an NGO office, not CIDA office, at Kamrangirchar on Monday. But in the report published in The Daily Star yesterday, it was inadvertently mentioned that CIDA office was besieged. We regret the error.

## RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY

### No Senate meet in last 5 years

RU CORRESPONDENT

No Senate meeting was held in Rajshahi University (RU) during the last five years although it is mandatory to convene at least one session a year.

An organisation of university teachers has raised a question over the legality of the administration as the university authorities are carrying out various activities violating the University Act 1973.

According to the act, the university authorities have to call at least one senate session a year where the annual budget will be placed and approved besides approving all other important decisions.

In order to maintain accountability and transparency, all important activities should be approved by the Senate.

Another vital role of the Senate is to finalise a three-member vice-chancellor panel for the approval of chancellor.

The RU Senate has also failed to do the job.

Campus sources said the existing administration during its one and half-year tenure did not call any senate session.

The previous administration led by Prof Faisal Islam Faruqui also did not call the Senate session during its three and a half year tenure.

As a result, all administrative and financial activities of the university were not approved by the Senate in sharp violation of the University Act 1973, alleged the Progressive Teachers' Society (PTS), an Awami League-backed organisation of teachers.

The HRI feels that the voting right of all citizens is the precondition for a free, fair and neutral election.

The meeting urged the caretaker government and Election Commission (EC) to prepare correct voter lists and publish it through gazette notification in all upazila EC office to ensure a credible election.

It also criticised the court order postponing the provision for knowing about the criminal offence and source of income of the candidates in the coming election.

The meeting was attended by its Secretary General Barrister Moiul Islam Chowdhury, Joint Secretary General Hasan-uz-Zaman Hasan and members GAM Sayed Siddiqi and Advocate Abdul Baki.

BRTC launches 462 buses for Eid-ul-Azha

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) launched 462 buses in 128 routes for smooth passenger movement on the occasion of the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha, says a press release.

The number of buses might be increased to 500 to meet passengers' demand. These buses will have fire-extinguishing facilities.

On the Eid day, special Volvo buses would operate in Mirpur-Motijheel route and that would cost only half of the fare, compared to other days.

BRTC will also launch 377 special buses for the aspirers to attend the Jtema that would be held on February 2 to 4. These buses would operate from January 28 to February 6, 2007. This year some ambulances would also be ready for the Jtema goers.

BRTC's Jtema services would be available from Aricha, Manikganj, Paturiaghata, Mawa, Tongi, Narsingdi, Bhairab, Kuliarchar, Sayedabad, Gulistan, Victoria Park, Kamalapur, Gabtali and Abdullaipur.

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