

'50pc adults victims of TB'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty percent adults in the country are victims of tuberculosis (TB) while on an average, 227 people in every lakh are being diagnosed as TB-infected, experts said quoting a study yesterday.

To eradicate tuberculosis, they stressed detection of tuberculosis patients and creating mass awareness about the fatality of the disease.

The experts were speaking at a 'meet the press' organised by National Tuberculosis Association of Bangladesh (Natab) at National Press Club in the city.

Speaking at the programme, General Secretary of Natab Dr Sakhat Hossain said that treatment and medication for tuberculosis patients are free of cost. He emphasised creating mass awareness, specially among the poor as they are the most vulnerable.

The most dangerous thing about the tuberculosis patients is that after continuing medication for a few days, they start feeling better and they stop taking medicines regularly and become careless. As a result, some sort of resistance power grows in the germs that ultimately leads to death, he said.

He also said that the best way to fight tuberculosis is early detection and regular medicine.

Speaking at the programme, Tuberculosis Consultant at Natab Dr Nasir Uddin said the DOTs (Direct Observation Therapy) approach proved efficient to combat tuberculosis

at rural level. Many tuberculosis patients are yet to be detected and that is why creating awareness about the symptoms of tuberculosis among the mass is a must, he added.

Members of Natab Dr Nur Uddin, Kamal Uz Zaman, Project Coordinator Sagupta Sultana and Secretary Mushtaq Hossain also spoke.

Illegal structures demolished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Karti Pakhha (Rajuk) yesterday demolished some illegal structures on government land as part of its ongoing drive to evict land grabbers.

Equipped with bulldozers, 50 labourers, authorisation officers and joint forces the Rajuk team conducted its drive at Awal Centre, Iqbal Centre, Blue Ocean, Delta Dalia, Bonali Bazar, and Tower Hamlet at Kamal Ataturk Avenue in the city.

The owners of those building grabbed some portions of the footpath.

Before the operation, Rajuk sent letters to the building owners.

Team leader Magistrate ASM Emdadul Dastagir told The Daily Star that it is a good sign that the owners are not creating any obstacle during the drive.



PHOTO: STAR

A panel of judges selects the winning entries for 'Cartoon contest against corruption' at The Daily Star office in the city yesterday. Star Insight, a fortnightly publication of The Daily Star, has organised the contest. Ten winners of the contest will be awarded at a ceremony on July 6. The judges are (from left) Sumana Sharmin, Shishir Bhattacharjee, Rafiqun Nabi, Sharier Khan and Abak Hussain.

'Recognise climate change as critical issue in dev programmes'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Climate change should be acknowledged as a critical issue in the development programmes of Bangladesh, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

Citing a study, they said, "Out of the 19 districts of the coastal zones of Bangladesh, 16 districts will experience the impact".

They were speaking at a seminar titled "Climate change: Our preparation" organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) at the National Press Club in the city to mark the World Environment Day.

Bapa President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said it is true that the developed countries are emitting greenhouse gas but India and China are also ignoring the climate change issue.

"We have made the environment a 'commodity' and are doing 'carbon trade'", he said, adding, if the entire world is united about the crisis, it would be possible to save the world.

Presenting a data that per capita emission of greenhouse gas of USA is 20.4 ton while the emission of Bangladesh is only 0.5 ton; Prof M Firoz Ahmed of Buet, also vice president of Bapa, regretted that the country is facing the consequences for which it is not responsible.

He said according to new guide-

lines it is mandatory for any country wishing to launch any project in Bangladesh to ensure that the project would not have bad impact on environment, adding, "This is high time that we thought of climate change seriously".

Malik Fida A Khan, department head, database and IT, CGIS in his speech said, if the sea level continues to rise, three percent of the coastal area by 2030, 32 percent by 2050 and 88 percent by 2100 will be inundated.

"The change in salinity level, inundation depth, tidal dynamics and fresh water flow would change the present dynamic balance between these factors, which might affect not only the productivity of the mangrove ecosystem but the entire biodiversity of the Sundarbans", he voiced concern.

Mazharul Islam, senior programme officer, Nagorik Odhikar, proposed that Bangladesh should create climate forest and use renewable energy to fight climate change.

Nasimul Haque, information and communication specialist, climate change cell, Environment Department said, Bangladesh is committed to working on the issue and the government is trying to prioritise the adaptation policy.

Aminur Rasul, president, Coast Trust, and Dr MA Matin, general

secretary, Bapa also spoke on the occasion.



PHOTO: AL

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina visits ailing party presidium member Zillur Rahman at BIRDIM Hospital in the city yesterday.

Worker swept away by torrents of water in sewerage line

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A worker was swept away by torrents of water while trying to clean up an underground sewerage line at Motijheel in the city yesterday.

The worker, Mohammad Rubel, has remained missing since the incident.

The police said Rubel and three other workers climbed down a manhole at around 12:00 noon to clean up the sewerage line, but he was swept away by torrents of water when he removed a pile of garbage clogging the pipe.

The police and other workers

searched for him inside the manhole but could not find out him.

A general diary (GD) has been filed with Motijheel Police Station.

Police said a group of sweepers under the supervision of a contractor have been working in the underground sewerage line from near the Sena Kalyan Bhaban to Kamalpur for the last few days.

A group of sweepers staged a demonstration at Wasa zonal office at Shegun Bagicha in the evening to protest the incident.

Dismissal of over 550 Rajuk employees declared illegal

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday declared illegal the dismissal of over 550 class four employees of Rajdhani Unnayan Karti Pakhha (Rajuk).

Making absolute its rules issued earlier upon 40 writ petitions filed by the aggrieved workers challenging the legality of the dismissal orders, a division bench, comprising Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice Afzal

Hossain Ahmed, delivered the judgment.

"They should be reinstated," Barrister M Bodruddoza, a counsel for the petitioners, told UNB quoting the verdict.

On February 18-19, 2004, Rajuk authorities on an order of the Ministry of Public Works dismissed its over 550 work-charge employees on the plea of excess manpower.

Mugger lynched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged mugger was killed and another injured by a mob at Shyampur area in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Akkas Ali, 28, and the injured as Muktar Hossain, 24.

The mob caught them while trying to snatch money from a person at Taltola and beat them mercilessly.

Both Ali and Hossain were taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Ali died.