



A boy admires a bonsai tree on display at a three-day bonsai exhibition at Nolinikanta Bhattoshali Gallery of National Museum in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Bonsai Garden organised the exhibition.

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE TODAY
Create awareness about ill effects of drugs
Speakers say at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for creating awareness among common people about the ill effects of drugs so that they keep themselves away from them.

They also urged people to treat drug addicts with empathy so that they can say no to drugs and come back to normal life.

The discussion titled 'Do Drugs Control Your Life?' was organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) at its auditorium in the city on the eve of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking today.

Taking part in the discussion,

Additional Inspector General of Prison Col Md Ashraf Islam Khan said the government is taking measure to control drug addiction inside the prisons in the country.

As part of that initiative, training is being imparted to guards and staffs working in the prisons, he added.

Deputy Director of narcotics control department Md Abu Taleb said since drug components are widely used for medication and for other purposes, it is difficult to control availability of drugs.

However, social awareness should be raised so that people remain far off from drugs, he added.

Taleb said in most of the cases it happens that the drug addicts give up taking drugs, but after some days

they start taking drugs again.

This happens because their brain gets accustomed to drugs and their bodies demand supply of those toxic components, he added.

Member of the Law Commission Dr M Enamul Huq talked about his personal experience as smoker and depicted how his family members had helped him in getting rid of that habit.

DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam chaired the discussion which was also participated by Officer-in-Charge of United Nations Information Centre Kazi Ali Raza and Prof Rowshon Ara Firoz of philosophy department at Dhaka University.



Channel i chief of News Shaikh Siraj, second from right, hands over a 24-point recommendation to Finance and Planning Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam, second from left, at a discussion on 'Agriculture Budget and the Budget for Farmers' organised by Channel i at National Economic Council (NEC) auditorium in the city yesterday. Agriculture Adviser CS Karim, extreme right, and Energy Adviser Tapan Chowdhury, extreme left, are also seen.

DU student
commits suicide
at Rokeya Hall

DU CORRESPONDENT

A female student of Dhaka University (DU) allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself in a bathroom at Begum Rokeya Hall yesterday.

The body of Zohra Khan Progya, a new second year student of the law department and resident of room No. 13 of the new building of the hall, was found hanging with a scarf from a pipe in the toilet.

Shahbagh police recovered the body at around 8:00am after breaking open the toilet door which was bolted from inside and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue.

Proctor Prof AKA Firoz Ahmed said the police suspects that the girl might have committed suicide. However, they are waiting for the autopsy report for confirmation.

Progya, a daughter of Nazimuddin Khan, a madrasa teacher, hailed from Azmatpur village in Kaliganj, Gazipur, hall authorities said.

It was not clear to her fellow residents why Progya committed suicide. Many of them said she was quiet and unassuming.

She returned to the dormitory from her home the day before yesterday and was looking normal, they said.

Progya had a brilliant academic background with CGPA 5 in both SSC and HSC examinations, hall authorities said. She stood fourth in DU Gha unit admission test.

Her aunt Taslima, a school-teacher, said she has no idea of why Progya committed suicide.

Her body was sent to her village home after the autopsy.

This is the second such incident in the Rokeya Hall in one year. Khadiza Khatun, a third year student of English department, committed suicide the same way on July 28, 2006.

DU to place
Tk 142.45cr
budget today

DU CORRESPONDENT

A two-day annual senate session of Dhaka University (DU) begins at 3:00pm today, with Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz in the chair.

On the first day of the session, DU Treasurer Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad will place the proposed budget of Tk 142.45 crore for the fiscal 2007-2008 without any deficit.

A total of Tk 127.45 crore of the budget will be allotted from government grant while the authorities expect the internal income to increase from Tk 12 crore to Tk 15 crore, sources said.

In the proposed budget, Tk 116.65 crore has been allotted for salary and allowance of teachers, officers and employees while Tk 14.7365 crore was allotted for the academic sector.

The corrected budget of 2006-2007 fiscal will also be presented at the session.

TIB DEBATE IN RAJSHAHI
Govt Lab
High School
champion
RU CORRESPONDENT

Govt Laboratory High School became champion in a two-day inter-school debate competition organised by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Sachetan Nagarik Committee (SANAC) in Rajshahi.

A total of 33 students of city's 11 schools participated in the competition that ended on Sunday. The competition was held at the auditorium of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Although Nowdapara Hamidpur Pilot High School became runner-up, Samiul Haque of the school was adjudicated as the best speaker in the competition.

Rajshahi TIB Convener and language veteran Advocate Golam Arif Tipu distributed prizes among the winners.

Review 'real' progress
in sanitation coverage

Speakers tell symposium

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The official figures indicate a spectacular increase in household sanitary coverage from 33.21 percent in 2003 to 81.47 percent in 2006, but it is time to review whether such progress was realistic, speakers at a symposium said yesterday.

Termining sanitation an indicator of civilization, Prof Dr Md Mujibur Rahman of Buet said, "We have to be very honest regarding this issue."

During his keynote presentation, he showed some recent photographs of hanging and unhygienic latrines in the city and said, "We claim to have achieved 85 percent sanitation coverage in the city, but in reality the figure is 42."

NGO forum and ITN-Buet jointly organised the symposium titled 'Promotion of total sanitation' at the Council Bhaban of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet). Channel i and

Bhorer Kagoj were the media partners of the symposium.

LGRD and Cooperatives Adviser Mohammad Anwarul Iqbal said deficiencies in sanitation hinder the people's well-being in many ways.

"Every year around 1,10,000 children under five die of diarrhoea due to lack of proper sanitation facilities. Besides, those who survive cannot grow well physically as well as mentally," he said.

The discussants focused on the current scenario of sanitation in Bangladesh, the drawbacks and the ways to achieve the Millennium Development Goal of ensuring 100 percent sanitation coverage by 2010.

Urging all concerned not to consider latrinisation as sanitation, Prof Dr Mujib highlighted the obstacles to ensuring proper sanitation facilities.

He also stressed the need for community involvement in sanitation programme and said, "We must consider hydrogeological

aspect before selecting any methods."

Current sanitation practice in hilly areas with scarcity of water is not suitable, he said. At present, Bandarban with the coverage rate of 41.94 percent ranked lowest among the districts.

He also stressed the need for proper monitoring of the sanitation activities and insisted on extending the sanitation initiatives beyond 'project-based' work.

"Sanitation is a human right, but the bodies concerned are doing only project-based works, they are not self-motivated," he said.

Prof Dr AMM Safiullah said water, sanitation, the environment and poverty are interlinked. Human waste pollutes water, soil and the environment and poor people become the victim of polluted environment, he said.

Prof Md Abdur Rouf and SMA Rashid, executive director of NGO forum, also spoke at the symposium.

'Plant trees to
create a
balanced
environment'

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed asked all to plant more and more trees and nurture those for enhancing forest resources and creating a balanced environment, as ecological imbalance poses a threat to human existence.

The president made the call while inaugurating tree-planting programme at Bangabhaban as part of the three-month-long countrywide tree-planting programme in the country.

"Tree is friend to nature and humans. Oxygen, the most important component of living, comes from trees. We get some basic elements like food, cloths, home, treatment and employment from trees," he said.

He cited researchers' opinion that the ice of polar areas is melting increasingly, prompting sea-level rise.

"Low-lying areas of the world, including Bangladesh, would be flooded due to rise of sea level. Rise of sea level with global warming is a great challenge to Bangladesh. We should plant more trees for checking global warming and reduce use of harmful gases, including CFC," he said.



Children perform at the Play Group Show 2007 of Sunnydale School at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR