

TB kills one in every 10 minutes

OUR CORRESPONDENT Kishoreganj

One person dies from Tuberculosis (TB) in every ten minutes and another is attacked in two minutes in the country.

In the world, Bangladesh is 6th among 22 countries most vulnerable to TB. These were revealed yesterday at a discussion meeting on creating awareness against TB. National Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Bangladesh (NATAB) organized the discussion, held at Kishoreganj Press Club.

The speakers said creating awareness is more essential than treatment of TB as 70,000 people die from the disease and another 2,62,000 are attacked annually in Bangladesh.

Recently, NATAB with the help of several NGOs, has introduced Directly Observed Method (DOT) to combat TB.

In this arrangement, patients have simply to go to nearby health centers, Imam of a mosque or health workers for TB medicine provided by NATAB.

A patient can not be irregular in taking the medicine as NATAB members monitor the process, the speakers said.

President of Kishoreganj NATAB unit Kazi Shahin Khan presided over the meeting addressed by, among others Kishoreganj Press Club president Ruhul Kuddus Salim, NATAB Kishoreganj unit secretary Enamul Hoq.

Inhaler crisis in northern dists

OUR CORRESPONDENT Nilphamari

Acute crisis of life saving inhalers for the asthma patients prevailing in the markets of northern districts. Though some inhalers are found but those are selling at higher price.

Market price of inhaler of Glaxo Smith Kline is Tk 140. But it is almost out of market and who had stocks are selling at Tk 180 to 200. Inhalers of other companies also being sold at higher price.

Local pharmacy owners when asked about the higher price and unavailability of inhalers said that the companies have decreased supply.

However a number of local medical representatives informed that the pharmaceutical companies are modifying their plans to produce inhalers using hydro flora alken (HFA) instead of using chloro flora carbon (CFC), which is harmful to environment.

Winter, the awful period for the asthma patients, is knocking at the door. In this season crisis of inhalers is a matter of great concern, commented physicians and asthma patients.

IU offices reopen

OUR CORRESPONDENT Kushtia

The Islamic University (IU) offices reopened yesterday after eight days of unscheduled closure.

The offices reopened following a decision taken by the university Syndicate, the highest decision making body, on Friday.

IU vice-chancellor (VC) Prof Fayaz Mohammad Serajul Haque presided the meeting. The university was closed on August 22 following deterioration of the Dhaka University (DU) situation.

However, no decision was taken about holding of classes and examinations as yet. The VC said a decision would be taken to this effect shortly.

Trial of 9 Allar Dal militants resumes in Kushtia today

Arrested son of district Jamaat Amir was second-in-command of the militant outfit, police say

OUR CORRESPONDENT Kushtia

Hearing of the case against nine arrested activists of Islamist militant outfit Allar Dal will resume today in the court of Kushtia Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge Jalal Saifur Rahman.

The case was filed under Section 6 (2) of the Emergency Powers Act.

Charge of the case was framed on August 20.

One of the arrested militants—Tasnim-ul-Alamis son of Kushtia Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Abdul Wahed. Tasnim was second-in-command of Allar Dal in the district, police said.

He was a second year student of Management Department at Kushtia Government College. The eight others are Nazmul Hasan, Tipu Sultan, Zahir Uddin, Md. Rakib Mondol, Safikul Islam, Lokman Hossain, Bappi Shahriar of Manikganj and Murad Sharif of Faridpur.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a nightlong drive arrested the nine militants from different areas of Kushtia district on June 5.

The drive followed intelligence report that Allar Dal activists were regrouping in the district.

A team of Rab-12 led by Maj. Hasibul Alam first arrested Rawnak Hossain. Haling from Raghunathpur village in Pangsha upazila in Rajbari district, Rawnak had arrived Kushtia days back and was regrouping militants. Acting on his confession, law enforcers raided different areas of the town and arrested eight others. Rab also seized some leaflets and books on Jihad from their possession.

Later, Rab in a press briefing at its office said that the arrested persons admitted that they were members of Allar Dal, which has 56 members in Kushtia town.

It was founded by Matin Mehedi, now detained.

When contacted, Jamaat Amir Abdul Wahed told this correspondent that his son is involved with Chhatra Shibir, not with any Islamist militant organisation.

Sources in different law enforcing agencies told this correspondent that a good number of activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir (student front of Jamaat) are also involved

with different militant outfits including Jamaatul Mujahideen, Bangladesh (JMB).



Flood damaged Saluvavita Junior High School in Sirajganj Sadar upazila. Authorities said repair of the institution is uncertain as they do not have any funds.

Flood damages 710 educational instts in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT Sirajganj

At least 710 educational institutions including college, high school, madrasa and primary school have been partially or fully damaged by flood in nine upazilas.

Of them, 62 were damaged fully and the rest partially, relevant sources said.

District relief office including primary and secondary education office sources said most of the educational institutions are situated on the bank of the Jamuna or in shoal areas.

River erosion and flood have caused an extensive damage to the institutions hampering educational activities to a great extent.

About 30 percent school, college and madrasas are now still under

water and the authorities concerned are facing shortage of fund, said an education officer seeking anonymity.

Most of the rooms and furniture of the institutions were damaged. In many cases, necessary documents were also washed away by floodwaters.

During a visit to the flood affected areas, this correspondent saw that many schools, colleges and madrasas have no trace of foundation at all.

Mostafizur Rahman, headmaster of Shaluvavita Junior High School in Sadar upazila said the school was established on one bigha of land with six tin shed rooms five years ago. Floodwaters have completely washed away the sheds. At present, the schools are running shortage of

fund.

Shukur Ali, headmaster of Bhatpuri High School said the school was completely damaged by flood bringing educational activities to a standstill one and a half months ago.

The school authorities are now looking for a safer place to rebuild the school. But, they need lots of money for the purpose.

Earlier, the Jamuna devoured the school four times and each time it was shifted to distant places.

Md. Mohabbat Ali, education officer said, it will not be possible to resume academic activities in the damaged institutions until and unless the government comes forward with adequate fund to rebuild those.

Army personnel repairing flood damaged 2km stretch of Satkhira-Khulna road. Renovation of the road from Mirzapur to Noapara in Satkhira began on Tuesday and will be completed in a day or two, sources said.



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Low guava price costs farmer's life

OUR CORRESPONDENT Barisal

A guava farmer allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a guava tree in his orchard as he failed to pay the lease money to the landowner due to sharp fall in price of the fruit.

The incident took place Friday afternoon at Brammonkati village in Jhalakati district, famous for guava cultivation.

Khiron Chandra, 60, of Madras village leased a guava garden at Tk 1.40 lakh for the current season from Milon Bepari of Brammonkati. He paid Tk 50,000 as advance.

But as harvest began, price of guava fell to Tk 2.5 per kilogram at local wholesale market. His production cost including the lease money was Tk 8.10 per kilogram.

One Friday afternoon garden owner Milon Bepari and his men caught and allegedly assaulted Khiron. They asked him to go to police station with them.

Khiron begged time to change his dress. He went to the guava garden and hanged himself from a tree.

Seeing the unusual delay, Milon and his men thought that Khiron might have fled away. They went to the garden and saw Khiron's body hanging from a guava tree.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Jhalakati Sadar Hospital for autopsy. Police said an unnatural death case has been filed.



PHOTO: STAR
Election Commissioner Brig. Gen. (Rtd) M Shakhawat Hossain and British High Commissioner Anwar Chowdhury yesterday visiting the data entry center at Mother Box Home Economics College in Rajshahi city for issuing voter identity cards.

'Police should be friends of people'

OUR CORRESPONDENT Satkhira

Speakers at a discussion meeting to mark the 'open house day' yesterday in Satkhira emphasized on building an efficient and honest police force for maintaining law and order.

Speakers hoped that 'open house day' programme would bring positive changes in police towards people as the programme has created a platform for civilians to discuss law and order with police.

To mark the day Kaligonj thana Police organised the discussion meeting at the thana police station compound.

Satkhira police superintendent (SP) Mirza Abdullaheb Baki was present as chief guest while upazila narbhi officer (UNO) Jasim Uddin Khan was the special guest.

SP Mirza Abdullaheb Baki said police were supposed to be the 'symbol of trust' and 'friends of common people', but the present situation is just the reverse.

The time has come to prove that police are friends of people, he added.

Civil society members, union parishad chairmen, members, journalists, local people attended the discussion meeting.

Workshop on violence against woman held in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT Gaibandha

A

workshop on repression on women, dowry and early marriage jointly organised by district community policing coordination committee and Gano Unnayan Kendro, a local NGO, was held at Gaibandha police line yesterday.

Terming repression on women, dowry and early marriage as a social crime, speakers in the workshop vowed to prevent the social crime.

Speakers also stressed the role of Imams of mosques to create awareness regarding the issues during sermon in the mosque.

Role of marriage registrars were also criticized as they conduct marriage only for financial benefits ignoring age of bride and bridegroom.

M Abdus Salam, convener of Gaibandha district community policing committee, presided over the workshop attended by deputy commissioner Kazi Md. Anwerul Hakim and police superintendent Saleh Md. Tanveer.

Gaibandha Bar Association president Sekender Azam Anam presented the keynote paper.

Nearly 300 participants including government officials, journalists, union parishad chairmen, imams and marriage registrars were attended the workshop.

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