

10pc population infected with hepatitis B

Experts tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 10 percent of the country's total population is infected with hepatitis B virus and 3 percent with hepatitis C virus, said the experts at a discussion yesterday.

They said 3.5 percent of the pregnant mothers in the country are affected with hepatitis B.

The discussion was organised by Liver Foundation of Bangladesh to mark the World Hepatitis Awareness Day at Birdem auditorium in the city.

Speaking as chief guest at the discussion, Health Adviser Maj Gen (Retd) Dr ASM Matur Rahman stressed the need for creating mass awareness about hepatitis B and C to prevent the deadly diseases.

He said suffering from hepatitis B for a long time increases the risk of liver cirrhosis, liver cancer and liver failure.

The adviser said the government is going to include hepatitis B vaccine with national immunisation programme.

As the treatment of liver diseases is very expensive, its prevention should be our main strategy," said Prof AK Azad Khan of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (Dab).

He said if the liver diseases reach an advanced stage, only transplantation of liver could be the solution.

Dab is going to start liver transplantation soon at a reduced cost, he added.

Prof AQM Mohsen presented the keynote paper at the discussion chaired by Prof SN Samad Chowdhury.

The experts said it is possible to cure 30 to 60 percent of hepatitis B patients if treated properly.

But the treatment of hepatitis C in our country is not so optimistic and the vaccine of hepatitis C is yet to be invented, they added.

Using disposable syringe and needle can help prevent the spread of the diseases, said the experts, adding that nobody should use

toothbrush and razors of others.

They said there is less possibility of transmitting the viruses from sexual intercourse and breast-feeding.

Around 600 million people in the world are infected with hepatitis B and C. Of them, 350-400 million people are infected with hepatitis B and 180 million infected with hepatitis C.

Maj Gen (Retd) Prof AR Khan, Brig Gen (Retd) Prof Abdul Malik, Enad UJ Ameen, Zeba Rasheed Chowdhury, Prof Mohammad Ali of Liver Foundation and Prof Manir Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

This was the first time that Bangladesh observed the day with the slogan 'Get Tested.'

European Liver Patient Association (ELPA) and World Health Organisation, Europe have been observing the day since 2004 through different programmes.

This year around 40 countries observed the World Hepatitis Awareness Day.

First ever DCC sanitary landfill site opens tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will inaugurate the first ever Sanitary Landfill Site of the country at Matuail in the city tomorrow.

Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka will inaugurate the project assisted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Japanese Ambassador Masayuki Inoue will also attend the ceremony.

DCC and JICA have jointly started a four-year technical cooperation project titled 'Strengthening Solid Waste Management in Dhaka City' this year, a press release said.

The project was taken up following the comprehensive master plan study 'Clean Dhaka Master Plan' published in March 2005, the release added.

JICA has been supporting solid waste management in the city since 2000, the release also added.



Dhaka University Social Science Faculty Dean Prof Harun or Rashid, left, and Prof Nim Chandra Bhoomik, right, were produced before the judicial probe commission of Justice Habibur Rahman Khan at the Circuit House in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Duta urges govt to free detained teachers before Eid, Puja

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) yesterday urged the government to withdraw the cases against the detained teachers and students and take necessary steps to release them before the ensuing Eid and Puja.

A statement of Duta said the situation on the campus has improved due to cooperative and sympathetic steps of the government and the academic activities of the university are going to resume on October 28.

"We thank the chief adviser and the army chief for their respectful and sympathetic attitude towards the teachers and students," added the statement signed by acting president of Duta Prof Tazmeri SA Islam and acting general secretary Dr Mamun Ahmed. Four teachers and at least five students were arrested after the clash and demonstrations on the Dhaka University campus on August 20-22.

DGFI-DUMETTING DU teachers at a meeting with a high official of DGFI demanded release of their detained teachers and students before the Eid.

Meeting sources said the meeting invited by the vice-chancellor discussed the prevailing situation on the campus.

Teachers requested the DGFI officer to release their detained colleagues.

Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz, Treasurer Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad, Duta acting president Prof Tazmeri SA Islam and acting general secretary Dr Mamun Ahmed, Prof Dr Akhtaruzzaman, and Syndicate member Dr Rahmatullah were present.

Health ministry donates Tk 1.5cr to ICDDR,B for flood victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) donated Tk 1.5 crore (\$2.2 lakh) to ICDDR,B for the flood victims.

The Government Order (G.O.) to this effect was handed over to Dr Alejandro Cravito, executive director of ICDDR,B, by Health Secretary AKM Zafar Ullah Khan at ICDDR,B Executive Director's Conference Room on Wednesday.

ICDDR,B Hospital Administrator Dr Mark Pietroni, Director of Laboratory Sciences Division Dr Hubert Endiz, Director of Human Resources Ann Walton, Head of External Relations Dr Ishtiaque Zaman, and Technical Cooperation Officer Md Shafiqul Karim were present during the handover ceremony.

The donation was offered in recognition of the importance of the centre's humanitarian work for saving lives of diarrhoeal patients.

This contribution was in addition to the ministry's previous gifts of medicines and water purifying tablets for the same purpose. The government has emerged as the single largest donor out of a total of 200 such development partners that support the many work of ICDDR,B. Currently, Bangladesh government gives \$5.5 million to ICDDR,B every year.

84.73pc people have access to sanitation

Says health adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health and Family Welfare Adviser Maj Gen (retd) ASM Matur Rahman yesterday said that 84.73 percent people have access to sanitation and it is possible to ensure sanitation facility for all by the year 2010.

He said this while inaugurating the National Sanitation Month at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city.

The adviser also said that about 20 percent budgets of Upazila Parishad and Union Parishad are allocated for providing free sanitation facilities and raising mass awareness about sanitation.

"As part of the campaign, October was declared National Sanitation Month. We have achieved tremendous success in expanding sanitation coverage," he added.

The evaluation of sanitation activities of the past and planning for the future are the main objectives of the programme.

To ensure sanitation facility for all by the year 2010, the government has undertaken various steps, including distribution of free sanitary latrines among the poor and making them affordable for all.

"The number of people in Bangladesh with access to basic sanitation has been more than doubled since 2003 when the govern-

ment launched its 'sanitation for all by 2010' campaign. The present sanitation coverage is 84.73 percent which was only 33 percent in 2003," said Safar Raj Hossain, secretary to Local Government Division (LGD).

Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) Chief Engineer Mustafizur Rahman, UNICEF-Bangladesh Representative Louis Georges Arsenault, World Health Organisation (WHO) Bangladesh Representative Dr Duangadee Sunghobol and Danish Ambassador Einar H Jensen also spoke on the occasion.

JU Chhatra Moitri body announced

Aninda Arif, ASM Sazzad Hossain and M Shahinur Rahman Rana were declared president, general secretary and organising secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri of Jahangirnagar University (JU) unit yesterday, says a press release.

Chhatra Moitri President Rafiqul Islam Shujan announced the 15-member committee.

DMC's 35th founding anniversary today

The 35th founding anniversary of the Department of Mass Communication (DMC) under the information ministry is being celebrated today.

On this day, the department started its functioning in the present shape after the unification of Public Relations Directorate, Bangladesh Parishad, Bureau of National Reconstruction and Women's Wing in 1972, says a press release.

The department was actually established at the Writers Building in Kolkata in 1924 with a view to motivating people particularly on health and sanitation issues.

It contributed a lot to family planning campaign in the sixties.

The DMC has organised a discussion and doa mahfil at the Officers' Club in the city to mark its founding anniversary.

Besides, 68 offices of the department have chalked out separate programmes to celebrate the day.

The department, as the single largest institution in terms of advocacy campaign, has been carrying out different programmes at the grassroots level to motivate people on children and women's right, reduction of neonatal and maternal mortality, birth registration, family planning, safe motherhood immunisation, against terrorism and corruption, prevention of bird flu and HIV/AIDS.



Elderly people form a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday, marking the International Day of Older Persons. Resource Integration Centre organised the programme.

Change attitude towards persons with disabilities

Experts tell dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a dialogue yesterday called for bringing the issues of persons with disabilities under the ministries of education and children affairs in order to help mainstream them in society.

They also called for launching media campaign to change the attitude towards physically challenged people.

National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) organised the dialogue in association with Actionaid Bangladesh and Save the Children, Sweden-Denmark (SCSD) marking the 'National Child Rights Week'.

The dialogue titled '18th year of the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC): Protection

and right to education situation of children with disabilities' was held at LGED seminar room in the city, with former adviser to the caretaker government Sultana Kamal as the chief guest.

Presenting the keynote paper, AHM Noman Khan, secretary general of NFOWD, said that presently, only the ministry of social welfare is responsible for the disability issues. But it would not be possible to ensure participation of physically challenged children in mainstream education unless the education and children affairs ministries include this issue in their projects, he added.

He pointed out that most children with disabilities still do not have access to education

even after 18 years of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

He also called for enactment of a non-discriminatory law protecting the rights of persons with disabilities.

Obaidur Rahman, acting country representative of SCSD, called on all to create a supportive environment for the education of physically challenged children through changing attitude towards them.

Rasheda K Chowdhury of Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) and Mahbub Kabir of Actionaid Bangladesh also spoke at the dialogue moderated by Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury, chairperson of NFOWD committee on policy and legislation.

Int'l Day of Non-Violence today

Bangladesh will observe the International Day of Non-Violence today as elsewhere around the globe. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared October 2, birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, as International Day of Non-Violence in recognition of his role in promoting the message of peace around the world.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a message on the occasion said the UN was created in the hope that humanity could not only end the wars, it could eventually make them unnecessary. "Our founders hoped that the organisation could help stop violence by spreading a culture of peace, promoting tolerance and advancing human dignity."

"Recently, we have witnessed lethal force being used against unarmed and non-violent marchers who exemplified the very spirit of the Mahatma's teachings."

He said there is great need to address these trends and to promote true tolerance and non-violence at every level, from the individual all the way up to the state.

City road renamed after Ahsanullah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has renamed the road from Mirpur 10 roundabout to Kachukhet intersection via Mirpur 14 bus stand after Khanbahadur Ahsanullah in recognition of his outstanding contribution to education and healthcare.

Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka unveiled a plaque marking the renaming of the road as 'Khanbahadur Ahsanullah Sarak' at Mirpur 10 yesterday.

National Professor MR Khan, President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam and DCC officials were present at the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Mayor Khoka said Khanbahadur Ahsanullah established many philanthropic organisations, including Dhaka Ahsania Mission, and a number of educational institutions.

Ahsanullah also played an active role in establishing Dhaka University, he added.



Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka unveils a plaque marking the renaming of a road as 'Khanbahadur Ahsanullah Sarak' at Mirpur 10 yesterday.

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