



Students of Government Bangla College form a human chain in front of the college at Mirpur in the city yesterday demanding steps to build a memorial or museum on the college premises, one of the killing grounds during the Liberation War.

USE OF CELLPHONE WHILE DRIVING Cases filed against 35 drivers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Traffic department of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) yesterday seized licences of over 35 drivers of different vehicles and filed cases against them on the first day of its drive to check use of cellphone while driving.

A special team of CMP (traffic) led by Assistant Commissioner (AC) Mostak Ahmad seized the licences of the drivers of private car, microbus, city service bus and CNG-run auto-rickshaw till afternoon on charge of using cellphone while driving, police said.

AC Mostak told The Daily Star that the tendency of using cell phone while driving was mostly found in the drivers of private vehicles than the public ones.

He termed the drive a success as the dangerous tendency was not seen as much in the afternoon as it was in the morning.

A driver of a city service bus told this correspondent that he stopped using his cellphone while driving because the bus owner had warned him about the drive beforehand.

Raise mass awareness to combat TB

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker at a roundtable yesterday called for raising mass awareness to fight tuberculosis (TB), which is a major public health problem and leading cause of adult mortality.

They also stressed the need for active coordination between the efforts of government and NGOs to bring harmony in TB control programme.

The roundtable titled 'Tuberculosis control: Present situation and future programme' was organised jointly by the Prothom Alo and Brac at the newspaper's office in the city.

Dr Akramul Islam presented the keynote paper.

The discussants said most of the rural people consider TB as a curse and do not know that it is a curable disease.

"Diagnosis of TB and its treatment is not difficult but it is hard to complete the full course of the treatment as it is a lengthy process," said Prof MA Faiz, director

general of health services.

He said it would be difficult to achieve the target of TB control programme fixed for 2015.

Dr Zafarullah Chowdhury, project coordinator of Gonoshasthya Nagar Hospital, said TB is related to nutrition.

"Poor people are the main victims of TB as they suffer from malnutrition," he added.

Prof AKM Shamsul Haq, former president of Chest and Heart Association, said TB control programme started in this region in 1965 but the disease is still a major health problem.

He said WHO ranks Bangladesh fifth among the world's 22 high-burden TB countries.

He stressed the need for unified and coordinated efforts to eliminate TB.

Prof Pravat Chandra Barua said people's awareness is important to fight TB.

Faruq Ahmed, director of Brac Health Programme, said poor

people are the main victims of TB which poses a serious threat to their livelihood.

Prof ARM Lutful Kabir said many people have the intention of hiding TB when they are attacked.

He said diagnosis of children's TB is sometimes ignored and as a result it becomes critical.

Khurshid Alam Haider, NPO of TB Management at World Health Organisation, Asif Mujtaba Mahmud, associate professor of National Chest Disease Institute and Hospital (NIDCH), Prof MD Mustafizur Rahman, director of NIDCH, Shakhawat Hossein, secretary general of National Anti-TB Association of Bangladesh (NATAB), Dr K Zaman, a scientist at ICDDR,B, Wahida Banu, chairperson of Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, Dr Selima Rahman, director (health) of RDRS Bangladesh, Farid Hossein, bureau chief of Associated Press, and Dr Sabera Sultana, national consultant of WHO, also spoke.

Students protest move to close down Jute mills high school

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Over 1100 students, including 160 SSC examinees of People's Jute Mills High School formed a human chain at Khalishpur New Road yesterday in protest against Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation's (BJMC) move to close down the school.

"We will observe a token hunger strike for an hour everyday from March 5 if the decision is not withdrawn," said Shahana Parvin who reads in class nine.

The SSC examinees threatened to observe hunger strikes for an indefinite period if BJMC fails to provide necessary financial assistance to run the school.

The five-point demand of the students include repair of school building, payment of outstanding salaries to teachers and reopening of Peoples Jute Mills that was shut down on August 1 last year.

Closing down of school will spoil academic career of over 1100 students and ruin families of 30 teachers, said headmaster of the school MAMabud.

He urged the government to take steps to run the school if BJMC fails to do so.

The headmaster said that BJMC chairman had issued an official letter to zonal coordinator Abu Taher to make out plan to close down the school by absorbing students in other high schools of Star, Crescent and Platinum Jute Mills.

Foreign adviser airs concern over Israeli attack on Gaza

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury expressed his deep concern over Saturday's Israeli raids on the Gaza strip that reportedly killed over 20 people.

He said the attack was "most regrettable" and could have "extremely destabilising effects on the region."

"With every such act the volatile region moves further away from peace," he also said.

The foreign adviser urged an immediate cessation of Israeli hostilities.



Opera, a theatre group, stages a drama at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday, the first day of a week-long street drama festival organised by the Street Drama Parishad.

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