

WORLD TB DAY OBSERVED

'70,000 die of TB a year'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country observed World TB Day yesterday as elsewhere across the globe with the slogan 'I am stopping TB'.

Different organisations held workshop, seminar, rally and advocacy meeting to disseminate information regarding tuberculosis (TB) and make people aware of the disease.

At an advocacy meeting at the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) organised by The Chest and Heart Association of Bangladesh and National Tuberculosis Control Programme

the speakers said that tuberculosis is a deadly disease in this country but it can be cured if the patients continue the drugs as per the direction of the physicians.

They added that the government has been providing the drugs free of cost.

Prof Dr Pravat Chandra Barua, line director of TB and Leprosy Control Programme said that every year 70,000 people die of tuberculosis (TB) and 30 lakh new patients are diagnosed with the disease.

Prof Mirza Mohammad Hiron, president of The Chest and Heart Association, said that under the Tuberculosis Control Programme the case detection has increased to 72 percent and the treatment success rate is more than 93 percent.

While delivering the presidential speech, he also said that the NGOs, medical institutions and the expert physicians shall have to work together to control the disease. The Union Parishad members, teachers and Imams should also be involved with the programme for its success.

Dr Solaiman Siddiqui Bhuiyan, associate professor of National Institute of Diseases of Chest & Hospital (NIDCH), Major Dr Azizur Rahman, pulmonologist of CMH, Dr Golam Sarwar LH Bhuiyan, Dr Shamim Ahmed, Dr SM Mustafa Kamal and Dr AKM Akramul Haque

of NIDCH presented scientific papers on the basic facts about TB and the ongoing activities to control the disease and its treatment.

Prof KMHS Sirajul Haque of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) was present as a special guest while National Professor Dr Nurul Islam was present as the chief guest.

Dr Nurul Islam was presented with AK Khan Memorial Award for his outstanding contribution in the professional arena.

To mark the day, Brac, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and The National Press Club jointly organised a seminar at the National Press Club in the afternoon while The Daily Star was the media partner.

Director General of DGHS Professor MA Faiz was present as the chief guest while Dr Erwin Cooreman of World Health Organisation (WHO) Bangladesh, Faruque Ahmed, director of Brac Health Programme, Prof Dr Pravat Chandra Barua, line director, National TB Control and Leprosy Elimination Programme, Jamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, project director, UPHCP-2 and Dr Mohammad Akramul Islam were also present.

Earlier in the morning Brac and its partner organisations brought out a procession from Shahbagh intersection that ended at the High Court.

GRAFT CASES

Charges pressed against Khaleda's assignment officer, his wife

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against detained former premier Khaleda Zia's assignment officer Dr Firoz Mahmud Iqbal and his wife in two corruption cases.

ACC Assistant Director Jahangir Alam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court showing 24 people as prosecution witnesses.

The IO prayed for issuing arrest warrant against Dr Firoz and the order to attach his properties, as Firoz has been absconding since the case was filed.

ACC Deputy Director Iqbal Hossain filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station against Dr Firoz on November 13 last year for wasting government money by abusing power.

The complainant mentioned in the first information report (FIR) that Firoz used three vehicles of the Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL) and two vehicles of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) for his own and family purposes from June 2003 to October 2006, causing a loss of Tk 34.90 lakh to the state exchequer.

CHARGE SHEET AGAINST FIROZ COUPLE

The same IO yesterday pressed charges against Dr Firoz and his wife Mosammat Intiaz Begum in another case filed against them for amassing wealth illegally.

The IO prayed for issuing arrest warrants against the couple and the order to attach their properties, as they have been on the run since the case was filed with Ramna Police Station on November 13 last year.

The complainant said Dr Firoz amassed wealth worth Tk 14,77,236 illegally. Intiaz Begum was indicted in the case for abetting her husband.

700 freedom fighters urge govt to release engr Mosharraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 700 freedom fighters of Mirsarai in Chittagong have appealed to the government to release engineer Mosharraf Hossain, a freedom fighter and former minister, before the Independence Day on March 26.

In a letter submitted to the chief adviser of the caretaker government on March 23, the freedom fighters, who fought in the Sector-1, said Mosharraf was arrested on February 26 last year while coming out of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) after submitting his wealth statement.

"We believe it is part of a conspiracy of a vested quarter to put his (engineer Mosharraf) name on the list of corruption suspects," reads the letter signed by Mosharraf Hossain Commander on behalf of the freedom fighters.

They also said 10 months have already elapsed since the High Court granted him bail, but he is yet to be released.

Engineer Mosharraf, who took part in the Liberation War, also played an important role in signing the historic CHT peace accord, they added.

According to his family members, Mosharraf has been suffering from high blood pressure, diabetes and eye problems, they said.

Two workers of ad firm fall to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two workers of an advertising firm fell to their death while installing a billboard on the wall of a three-storey building at Mirpur in the city yesterday afternoon.

Four employees of Art Sign were working to install the billboard at West Kazipara, but two of them, Md Sohail, 28, and Md Alauddin, 35, fell to the ground after getting an electric shock at around 4:00pm, Mirpur police said.

They were rushed to nearby Al-Helal Hospital in a serious condition. As their condition deteriorated, they were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared them dead.



Police prevent leaders and activists of Gonotantrik Bam Morcha, an alliance of left-leaning political parties, from staging a token hunger strike in front of Moni Singh-Farhad Smriti Trust Bhaban at Purana Palta in the city yesterday. The leaders and activists were trying to register their protest against the price hike of essentials.

Improve water resources management  
Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday stressed the need to improve water resources management in order to resolve water crisis in the country.

Access to safe water is a basic human right, they said and called for effective measures to reclaim water bodies, combat water pollution and improve sanitation system.

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Nagorik Uddayog jointly organised the seminar on 'Water resources management in Bangladesh: Problems and prospects' at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium to mark the World Water Day.

Presiding over the seminar, Bapa President Prof Muzaffer Ahmed said water security is directly linked to food security.

Water crisis would worsen in the future, he said, adding that reclaiming water bodies and harvesting rainwater can help ensure supply of useable water.

He also called for steps to combat water pollution and introduce water-recycling system.

Stressing the need for proper sanitation system, Prof Muzaffer said about 40 percent of people are suffering from kidney diseases due to poor sanitation.

He also called for using indigenous knowledge to solve various problems.

Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, president of Bangladesh Economic Association, said the supply of useable water has been decreasing day by day mainly due to pollution.

He said a water policy has been formulated in 1999, which is better than those of many countries, but the policy is yet to be implemented.

"It is matter of regret that we formulate policy and plans and appoint foreign experts to conduct study, but we don't implement them," he said.

He also called for taking steps to improve the sanitation system in rural areas.

Engineer Emaduddin Ahmed, executive director of Institute of Water Modelling, said various types of environmental hazards such as waterlogging, shortage of safe water and water contamination have been increasing with the rise of urbanisation.

Such problems can be tackled effectively if the government departments work in a coordinated and accountable way, he said.

He also suggested initiating participatory projects, building a Ganges barrage within 10 years and incorporating the integrated water resource management issue in school curriculum.

Dr M Feroze Ahmed of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) presented a keynote paper while engineer Mashrur-Ul-Haque Siddique, former member-director of Water Development Board, Mozammel Hossain, deputy editor of the daily Sonokol, and Zakir Hossain, chief executive of Gonork Uddayog, also spoke.

Former state minister Selima Rahman, former lawmaker Shirin Sultana, Rehana Akhter Ranu and Yasmeen Haque were present.

Introduce OMS of food

FROM PAGE 1

roundtable at CIRDAP auditorium in the capital yesterday.

He said the government should increase its own stock, then supply those to the local market and expand safety-net measures like vulnerable group feeding (VGF) and food for work programmes for people of low-income group.

"The government has to take these initiatives right now, as the pre-harvest period is the most crucial time of the year and measures should be implemented quickly," he said.

Mentioning the government plan to increase salaries of government staff, he said it should think about the entire nation, not just its staff.

He said there is no alternative to increasing local agricultural production to lessen the food crisis.

"The government should have a long-term policy to meet food crisis and to make the entire situation sustainable, the country needs democracy," Akbar said.

Mahfuzul Haque, acting secretary of Ministry of Labour and

Employment, said the government is seriously thinking about implementing several safety-net measures for people of limited- and low-income groups as soon as possible.

Mahfuz said the government Sunday formed a high-powered committee led by the chief adviser to help mitigate the effects of soaring food prices.

The measures include expanding OMS, VGF, and more intensive food import. The committee will also look into long-term solutions since the high price of food is likely to continue.

Wajedul Islam Khan, acting secretary general of BILS, said the government should secure a living wage, appointment letters and health care for labours to ensure a healthy industrial environment.

Tariquzzaman, regional coordinator of BATU Saarc, a sub-regional partner of Brotherhood of Asian Trade Unions and Abdul Hye Mandan, senior research fellow of Bangladesh Development Research Organisation, were also present.

Climate change battle

FROM PAGE 1

In 2006, 32 donor countries pledged \$3.13 billion to fund projects between 2006 and 2010.

GEF allocates and disburses about \$250 million dollars a year to projects for developing energy efficiency, renewable energies, and sustainable transportation, as the financial mechanism of the Climate Convention.

Bangladesh could also take advantage of two special funds under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) -- the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund.

Meanwhile, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), and the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) signed a memorandum of understanding with International University Bangladesh (IUB) to set up a global research institute here.

The International Centre for Climate and Development would be the first global centre of excellence for research on climate change in Bangladesh with international expertise, which would raise its own international funds.

While the government is planning to create a centre which would provide project models and the data required to mainstream climate change adaptation into government projects.

The project proposes to create a small interactive 'knowledge hub'

for research, and to cultivate and disseminate information about climate change in Bangladesh.

AKM Kamal Uddin of the Department of Environment (DoE) told The Daily Star that the government's proposal for a climate change research centre seeks to support mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into all government projects.

"The proposals were born from the idea that a centre is required to support government departments and agencies to continue development in a climate resilient manner," said Kamal.

Mainstreaming climate change adaptation would compel all government projects to include long term climate change possibilities and to use directives from the proposed centres in planning infrastructure, health, and education projects.

But, there is a debate regarding the two separate proposals, as one donor country official, closely working with the proposals, said only one such centre would be feasible as their mandates would overlap, requiring significant funding.

Atiq Rahman, however, told The Daily Star, "You have to think big and you have to think on multiple terms. So there is no problem in having more than one centre catering to different aspects of climate change here."

A decision on the government centre is scheduled to be finalised within two months, according to government sources.

Fakhruddin greets Gilani

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury conveyed greetings of Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed to newly nominated Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani through the Pakistan High Commissioner.

The felicitation was conveyed when the Pakistan High Commissioner Alamgir Bashir Khan Bahar called on Iftekhar yesterday.

The high commissioner informed the adviser of Pakistani gift of approximately 2500 tons of rice for the post-Sidr victims and handed over a token sack at a simple ceremony at the foreign ministry.

Factory worker killed by brother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A machine mechanic was killed when his elder brother allegedly struck him with a hammer inside a factory in city's Tejgaon Industrial Area yesterday following a family feud.

Police said both the victims, Emadul Haque, 24, and his brother Bashir Haque, are machine mechanics of a factory of Kohinor Chemicals Bangladesh Ltd.

Police quoting witnesses said Bashir and Emadul locked in a heated altercation at their workplace at around 2:00pm over a family matter.

At one stage of the squabble, Bashir hit his brother with a hammer indiscriminately, leaving him seriously injured. Co-workers rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

FNB welcomes women policy

The Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) welcomed the National Women Policy 2008, says a press release of the federation.

Though women take part in economic and social sectors from the grassroots level to everywhere, they are still lagging behind from the real development trends, the press release added.

Actual development of a country is not possible unless equal rights and opportunities for both male and female are ensured.

The federation hoped that the new women policy would play significant role in political, economic, and social arena to establish equal rights.

Bangladeshi shot dead by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

One Bangladeshi cattle trader was shot dead by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and two were arrested with cattle by Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) at Gorakmdal border area under Fulbari Upazila in Kurigram yesterday.

The dead was identified as Aydul, 32, son of Pacha Mamdu of Shaptibari village in Lalmonirhat and the arrestees were identified as Aminul, 24, and Badsha, 25 of Nandanga village under Fulbari Upazila.

BDR and local sources said BSF shot the cattle trader when he was entering into Bangladesh territory with cattle. Two other cattle traders were arrested by BDR.

BDR company commander of Shimulbari BOP at Fulbari sent a request letter to return the body. BSF did not respond to the request when this report was filed yesterday.

LIBERATION WAR

Programme to express hatred to Pak forces

To pay homage to the memory of martyrs and express hatred to the cruelty of Pakistan occupation forces during the Liberation War, the students and teachers of University of Development Alternative (UODA), College of Development Alternative (CODA) and School of Development Alternative (SODA) will arrange a nightlong programme, says a press release.

The programme will be held at Manik Mia Avenue in the city. It will start just after sunset on March 25 and continue till sunrise of the Independence Day.

The programme includes recitation from the holy Quran, traffic art, poetry recitation, performing patriotic songs by the artists of the Shwadinh Bangla Betar Kendra and film screening on Liberation War.

Liberation War veterans of Indian Army to visit Bangladesh

A 10-member team of liberation war veterans led by Lt Gen (retd) JFR Jacob of Indian Army along with their spouses will visit Bangladesh on the occasion of 37th Independence and National Day, says an ISPR press release.

They will visit Bangladesh at the invitation of Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed. During the visit the war veterans will call on chief of army staff.

The team is likely to visit various battle sites and other places of historic importance.

The visiting war veterans are Lt Gen (retd) PN Kathpalia, Lt Gen (retd) GS Bakshi, Maj Gen (retd) RK Khanna, Maj Gen (retd) Laxman Singh, Maj Gen (retd) Ashok Verma Kalyan, Brig (retd) Amrit Kapur.

Cardiac, Vascular, Thoracic Surgeons Assoc executives

Bangladesh Association of Cardiac, Vascular and Thoracic Surgeons was formed on Friday, says a press release.

An executive committee of the association was also formed for the year 2008-09.

Dr NA Kamrul Ahsan, Dr Suman Nazmul Hosain and Dr Md Lutfur Rahman were elected president, secretary general and treasurer of the association.

Dr Jahangir Kabir was elected as the president elect.

Dr Nasiruddin Ahmed, Dr Shafiqul Ahsan, Dr Farooque Ahmed, Dr Md Aftabuddin, Dr Asit Baran Adhikari, Dr Khawaja Nasiruddin Mahmood and Dr Mahbubur Rahman were elected vice-presidents.

Other office-bearers are: Dr Mohammad Fazal Maruf and Dr Harun Rasheed -- joint secretary; Dr Syed Abdul Kader -- organising secretary (cardiac); Dr Bazul Gani Bhuiyan -- organising secretary (vascular); and Dr Md Kamrul Alam organising secretary (thoracic); Dr Sunil Kumar Sarkar -- scientific secretary; Dr Muhammad Kamrul Hassan -- publication secretary; Dr Zulfiqar Haider -- welfare secretary and Dr Mirza Abul Kalam Mohiuddin -- entertainment secretary.

# WEATHER

## TODAY

### Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country. Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 33.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 20.0 degrees Celsius at Sylhet and Majidde Court.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:12pm today and rises at 5:57am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage		
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.9	22.8	82	53
Chittagong	32.0	24.4	76	72
Rajshahi	33.4	22.6	73	56
Khulna	29.8	24.0	82	71
Barisal	30.0	24.3	79	79
Sylhet	25.8	20.0	85	79
Cox's Bazar	32.8	24.6	78	67

# DHAKA

## TODAY

### Independence Award

The Independence Award 2008 distribution ceremony will be held. Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

### Report launching

Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) will launch the report 'Human rights in Bangladesh 2007: A summary report'. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity. Time: 11:30am.

### Discussion

Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh organises a discussion on background of the independent Bangladesh and reality. Venue: IDB Bhaban conference room. Time: 4:30pm.

### Education fair

The opening ceremony of the two-day 3rd Chinese Education Fair will be held. China Scholarship Council and North South University jointly organise the fair. Venue: Bashundhara City, Level-7. Time: 10:30am.

### Certificate giving

The certificate giving ceremony of the foundation-training course for university teachers will be held. Venue: UGC auditorium. Time: 3:30pm.

### Conference

A daylong conference on Bangladesh-UK climate change will be held. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 9:00am.

## career opportunity /

We are one of the fastest growing advertising agencies of the country, handling leading international brands across different consumer product and services. And we are looking for passionate advertising savvys, creative Graphics Designers and Executive, Events & Activations.

### Graphics Designers

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Interested applicants are invited to send their detailed CV, passport size photograph and cover letter to [info@macommdbd.com](mailto:info@macommdbd.com) by March 31st, 2008.

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