

# TB infection rate 20 times higher among prisoners: Study

UNB, Dhaka

The rate of being affected by Tuberculosis (TB) among the prisoners is 20 times higher than the rate among general population, a study said yesterday.

International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) conducted the study in Dhaka Central Jail.

The study led by Dr Sayera Banu, associate scientist of ICDDR,B screened some 12,464 prisoners in Dhaka Jail.

It further found that 22 percent of prisoners who were found negative in TB screening in the jail laboratory were later found positive when ICDDR,B screened their sputum through 'culture' technology.

The result of study was revealed at a dissemination seminar titled

"Detection and Control of Tuberculosis in Dhaka Central Jail" held at the ICDDR,B's Sasakawa Auditorium in the city.

Home Secretary Abdul Karim addressed the function as the chief guest.

Inspector General, Directorate of Prisons Brigadier General Zakir Hasan, Executive Director of ICDDR,B Dr Alejandro Cravioto and TB and leprosy specialist Prof Dr Pravat Chandra Barua also addressed the function.

Brig Gen Zakir Hasan said that with the existing facilities in the jails it is not possible to provide necessary medical treatment to the prisoners.

He said that a large number of prisoners in the country's 67 jails are suffering from infectious diseases, including Tuberculosis (TB),

while only 16 doctors are available to cover the total jail population.

"Out of total 16 doctors for all the prisons, four are working in Dhaka Jail. So the rest of 12 have to take care of the whole country's prisoners. Further, with the present facilities, we can only inspect the prisoners, not provide treatments to them," he said.

"With the present facility, our doctors who are mainly MBBS, cannot provide proper treatment to prisoners. They only look after them and if any serious case is found then the particular prisoner is sent for treatment in other government hospitals," he added.

The IG prison said the present jail codes do not allow the authorities to arrange more

medical facilities inside the jail.

"According to the existing jail code, the prisons work as only character correction centre. As a result, the matter of physical health of the prisoners is not getting importance," he said.

Brig Gen Zakir informed the seminar that modification of the jail code has been done as per demand, but the reviewed codes are yet to be implemented.

He urged the home ministry to take the issue of prisoners' physical condition into its concern.

The home secretary requested the ICDDR,B to conduct more similar studies inside the jails. The government will seriously think about how the prisoners could be provided with adequate medical facilities inside the jails.



Successful blood transfusioners pose for photograph with the guests at the inaugural ceremony of the 2nd International Conference of Blood Transfusion Society of Bangladesh at National Press Club in the city yesterday.



Chief Election Commissioner Dr ATM Shamsul Huda hands over certificate to a student of Military of Science and Technology (MIST) participated in national ID card and voter registration project at Multipurpose Hall at Mirpur Cantonment in the city yesterday.

## CEC hands over certificates to MIST students

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Dr ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday handed over certificates to the students of Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST), says an ISPR press release.

The students received their certificates at a programme at Multipurpose Hall of Mirpur Cantonment.

A total of 353 students participated in the national ID card and voter registration project from December 1 to February 14 last.

Election Commissioners Brig Gen (Retd) M Sakawat Hussain and Muhammed Sohul Hussain, Military Secretary of Army Headquarters Maj Gen Md Shafiqul Islam and MIST Commandant Maj Gen Abdul Wadud were present on the occasion.

## Germany to help establish good governance

UNB, Dhaka

Germany will intensify its support to Bangladesh for the establishment of transparent, citizen-responsive administration (good governance) in cities and municipalities of the country.

This was the most important result of the government negotiations on German-Bangladesh development cooperation that ended in the city on Monday.

A total of 51 million euros for 2008 and 2009 were committed during the negotiations, said a press release.

In the framework of a credit programme implemented with the Asian Development Bank, incentives will be given in future for cities and municipalities to orient their activities to poverty reduction and increase the participation of their own citizens in municipal planning processes.

This includes joint programme for investment in streets, public markets and water supply as well as improvements in living conditions in slums.

In addition to municipal development, measures to improve energy, efficiency and strengthen legal and social position of women in the country will be supported.

In order to help prevent climate-induced harm, German development cooperation is supporting, for the first time in Bangladesh, a programme to preserve biodiversity and protect river banks of the country.

## LDF MEMO TO FOOD ADVISER

# Introduce countrywide rationing system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) yesterday submitted a memorandum to the food adviser urging introduction of countrywide rationing system, extending OMS programme and establishing a state buffer stock of essential items to rein in price spiral.

Terming the food situation a very alarming, the LDF said a syndicate of crooked hoarders and businessmen hiked the prices of food grains when the government stock was very inadequate and, thus, bagged a huge benefit.

A seven-member LDF delegation submitted the 14-point memo to Food and Disaster Management Adviser AMM Shawkat Ali at the

latter's office in the city.

"Though the government has introduced OMS programme of late, it is limited in urban areas," the memo said, suggesting expansion of the programme and setting up of fair price shops with government help.

To ensure just prices of farmers' produce, the LDF suggested setting up of government purchase centres in each village for buying paddy and rice directly from the farmers, and extending BADC activities to send fertiliser, seeds, insecticides and irrigation equipment timely to the farmers.

Suggestions also included enacting consumer rights law and

ensure its countrywide enforcement, expanding the activities of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh to ensure smooth import, stock and supply of essentials through the government channels, and establishing a buffer stock at government initiative.

The LDF delegation comprised Coordinator Ruhin Hossain Prince, CPB President (acting) Shahidullah Chowdhury, General Secretary (GS) Mujahidul Islam Selim, Bangladesh Workers Party GS Bimal Biswas, Politburo member Haider Akbar Khan Rono, Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal GS Dilip Barua and Politburo member Lutfor Rahman.

## \$1.6m more Dutch help for Sidr victims

UNB, Dhaka

The Netherlands government will provide an additional amount of \$1.6 million as food assistance for the victims of cyclone Sidr raising the total amount of the Dutch support for the Sidr victims to \$10 million.

The food assistance will be channelled through the World Food Programme's Emergency Operation (EMOP), said a press release of the Netherlands Embassy.

The formal agreement to this effect will be signed between WFP and Netherlands government soon.

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster the Netherlands government released an amount of \$8.4 million for emergency aid to the victims. These funds were distributed through World Food Programme and several NGOs.

## Green University 2nd syndicate meeting held

The second syndicate meeting of the Green University was held on Friday at boardroom of the university, says a press release.

Green University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Anwarullah Chowdhury presided over the meeting.

The meeting accepted the resignation of former registrar of the university and appointed a new registrar. It was also decided that Department of English, Sociology and Anthropology would be opened from the next semester.

# 65pc people got warning before 24hrs of Sidr

## Survey reveals

BSS, Dhaka

Sixty-five percent people living along the coastline had received warning signal before 24 hours and 28 percent got 12 hours before the super cyclone Sidr that hit the country last November, revealed a survey.

For this early warning, people got sufficient time to evacuate and took shelter at safe places, said the survey report on 'Disaster relief activities in Bangladesh' conducted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) recently.

The report said major sources of receiving warning signal were radio (49.5 percent) and television (46.5 percent) while 32.5 percent people received warning from Union Parishad through miking. Only 5.54 percent and 2.5 percent people received warning from Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMC) and CPP volunteers respectively, it added.

The survey found that most of the people have no clear concept about intensity of danger signal. Household data exposed that 84

percent respondents are dissatisfied with the effectiveness of present early warning system.

Around 80 percent respondents have heard only danger signal number, 51 percent expected an abnormal height of tidal surge while 41 percent knew only that a cyclone might hit.

The report, observed that most of the people are illiterate and they don't know significance of storm or wind by number of signal, possible speed of wind, height of tidal wave, which is usually broadcast through television and radio.

The survey found that among the vulnerable population, a large number of people have no access to radio and television.

The report recommended establishing a local warning dissemination system by involving local volunteer group, members of Union Disaster Management Committee, cyclone shelter management committee and NGOs. Different equipment including hand mike, torchlight and first aid box need to be given to the volunteers for immediate response to disaster.

It also said port based signalling and warning system should be converted to people based and complete messages including speed of wind, expected time of cyclone, expected height of tidal wave, intensity of cyclone should be disseminated in easy language understandable to the common people.

## New Asian era is dawning

Says Iftekhar

UNB, Dhaka

An 18-member delegation of Indian Foreign Service Trainee Officers called on Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury at his office yesterday.

Iftekhar told the Indian officers that a new Asian era was dawning in which South Asia has great potentials to play a role.

The adviser urged them to build on the commonalities including shared history and values between the South Asian countries and construct "cooperative relationship across a broad spectrum of activities so that differences on core issues become diffused."

The partnership between Bangladesh and India can bring benefits to both our peoples, he added.

Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty and Foreign Service Academy Principal Shahed Akhtar were present.

## Licences of 3 recruiting agencies cancelled

UNB, Dhaka

The licenses of three recruiting agencies have been cancelled and its entire deposits confiscated on charges of cheating and realising excess money in the name of manpower export and violating Code of Conduct of the recruiting agent.

The agencies are Barnali Corporation Ltd (RL-118), Shipon Enterprise Ltd (RL-764) and Spark Engineering and Construction Ltd (RL-179).

Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment has taken the decision following investigation after receiving complaints from the victims in this regard, said a handout yesterday.

## Businessman donates Tk 10 for cancer hospital

Businessman Shafiq Ahmed Khan Warsi has donated Tk 10 lakh for the construction of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH), says a press release.

He handed over a cheque for Tk 10 lakh to Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) President Kazi Rafiqul Alam at a ceremony at DAM office in the city yesterday.

With the donation a two-bed cabin of the hospital will be named after his wife Razia Sultana Warsia.



ORBIS International, Bangladesh Country Office and the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (DAB) recently signed an agreement to develop comprehensive diabetic eye care services for the remote rural population of the country's northern region.

## Police citizen charter published

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Police on Monday have published a citizen charter to reach and ensure its services to the people.

The charter gave details covering a total of 21 areas that include services provided by police, time of services, and complaint against police and its settlement.

Important services include providing all out cooperation by the duty officers to the people. Officer-in-charge of a police station will register written or verbal complaint as a First Information Report (FIR) from people who will go to police station to lodge a case.

Besides, people can lodge complaint to senior police officers against officer-in-charge or duty officer of a police station if they show reluctance in registering a case.

All inquiries relating to passport, verification and firearms' license must be completed by the police station within three days and the report submitted to the concerned unit, according to the citizen charter.

Complaints can be filed against concerned member of police if one does not get legal assistance from a police station, it said.

The charter can be downloaded from the website: www.police.gov.bd.

## Seminar on e-tourism technology

An international seminar on "Development of e-tourism technologies in Islamic countries" was held at the auditorium of Islamic University of Technology, Gazipur yesterday, says a press release.

Department of Computer Science and Information Technology of Islamic University of Technology (IUT), OIC General Secretariat, Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Republic of Azerbaijan jointly organised the seminar.

Prof Dr M Tamim, special assistant to the chief adviser, inaugurated the seminar while IUT Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr M Imtiaz Hossain chaired the event.

Prof Tamim said management training is needed to make effective use of resources in the Islamic countries. He also said mutual planning and cooperation among the OIC member countries can make the e-tourism industry a driving force to the economy.

Participants from Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sudan, Turkey and Uganda attended the seminar.

### বিশ্ব শিক্ষা অভিযান

### 'মানসম্মত শিক্ষা থেকে বাদ যাবে না কেউ'

### গ্লোবাল এ্যাকশন সপ্তাহ (২১-২৭ এপ্রিল) ২০০৮

### আজ 'পৃথিবীর সর্ববৃহৎ পাঠন'-এ অংশ নি

গণসাক্ষরতা অভিযান-এর সমন্বয়ে আজ বুধবার, ২৩ এপ্রিল, সকাল ১০টায় ঢাকা মহানগরীর ৫০টি স্থান ছাড়াও দেশের ২৫ হাজার বিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষক ও ছাত্রছাত্রীসহ সকল স্তরের প্রায় ৩০ লক্ষ মানুষ সর্বত্র একই সময়ে পৃথিবীর সর্ববৃহৎ পাঠন কর্মসূচিতে অংশ নেবেন। বিশ্ব শিক্ষা অভিযান (জিসিই)-এর বিশ্বব্যাপী আয়োজিত গ্লোবাল এ্যাকশন সপ্তাহ উদযাপনের অংশ হিসেবে বাংলাদেশে এই পাঠন কর্মসূচির আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। ইউনেস্কো, ইউনেসেফ ও আইএলও ছাড়াও বাংলাদেশ প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা সমিতি এবং শিক্ষক ও পেশাজীবী সংগঠন, এনজিও, সিভিল সোসাইটি গ্রুপসহ দুই শতাধিক সংস্থা সারা দেশে এই পাঠন কর্মসূচির আয়োজন করছে।

বিশ্বব্যাপী আয়োজিত এই পাঠন অনুষ্ঠানের মাধ্যমে অতীতের সকল রেকর্ড ছাড়িয়ে যাবার যে পরিকল্পনা নেয়া হয়েছে, তা সফল হলে এটি হবে একটি নতুন বিশ্ব রেকর্ড যা 'গিনেস বুক অব রেকর্ড'-এ লিপিবদ্ধ হবে। ২৩ এপ্রিল একই সময়ে বাংলাদেশ ছাড়াও বিশ্বের শতাধিক দেশে একই রকমের পাঠে অংশ নেবেন হাজার হাজার শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান, শিক্ষক-বুদ্ধিজীবীসহ সকল স্তরের মানুষ।

উল্লেখ্য, শিক্ষা সংকট নিরসনে বিশ্বের ১২০টি দেশের জাতীয় শিক্ষা কোয়ালিশন, নেটওয়ার্ক, ইউনিয়ন, ফেডারেশন, আন্তর্জাতিক এনজিও ও সাহায্য সংস্থা সহ সিভিল সোসাইটি গ্রুপ ও সংস্থা নিয়ে গঠিত জিসিই-র উদ্যোগে প্রতি বছর এপ্রিল মাসে সারা বিশ্বে একযোগে গ্লোবাল এ্যাকশন সপ্তাহ উদযাপন করা হয়।

আসুন, এ বছরের এ্যাকশন সপ্তাহে আয়োজিত গৌরবোজ্জ্বল এই সর্ববৃহৎ পাঠনে সকলে মিলে অংশ নিয়ে বিশ্ব নতুন রেকর্ড সৃষ্টি করি

সবার জন্য মানসম্মত শিক্ষা নিশ্চিতকরণে আমাদের দায়ি

- সর্বস্তরের নাগরিকের অংশগ্রহণে একটি সমন্বিত জাতীয় শিক্ষানীতি প্রণয়ন এবং এর সফল বাস্তবায়ন
- আনুষ্ঠানিক শিক্ষার পাশাপাশি উপানুষ্ঠানিক শিক্ষার ওপর সমান গুরুত্ব আরোপ এবং এজেন্ডা বেসরকারি উন্নয়ন সংস্থাগুলোর অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্র তৈরি
- বরে পড়া-কিশোর-কিশোরীদের জন্য বিকল্প শিক্ষার সুযোগ সৃষ্টি ও দুর্যোগ-কবলিত এলাকায় প্রয়োজন অনুযায়ী নমনীয় স্কুল-ক্যালেভারের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ
- মানসম্মত শিক্ষা নিশ্চিত করতে মানসম্মত শিক্ষক নিয়োগ এবং আধুনিক ও কার্যকর শিক্ষক প্রশিক্ষণ প্রক্রিয়ার উন্নয়ন নিশ্চিতকরণ
- কর্মজীবী শিশু-কিশোর, পথশিশু, পরিচর্যহীন শিশু এবং চর ও হাওর এলাকা, দুর্গম ও বিচ্ছিন্ন এলাকা (যেমন, ছিটমহল), পতিতালয়, জেলে সম্প্রদায়, অনাথ ও ভবঘুরে আশ্রয়কেন্দ্রের শিশুদের জন্য মানসম্মত আনুষ্ঠানিক শিক্ষার সুযোগ সৃষ্টি
- প্রতিবন্ধীদের শিক্ষার দায়িত্ব সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের পরিবর্তে শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীনে ন্যস্ত করে বহিষ্ঠ জনগোষ্ঠীর শিক্ষার জন্য যথাযোগ্য বিশেষ সুবিধার আয়োজন
- বয়স্ক নিরক্ষর, বিশেষ করে ১৮-৪৫ বছর বয়সী নারী-পুরুষের জন্য চাহিদাভিত্তিক মৌলিক শিক্ষা ও দক্ষতা বৃদ্ধিমূলক প্রশিক্ষণের সুযোগ সৃষ্টি
- আদিবাসী শিশুদের জন্য বাংলা ভাষার পাশাপাশি মাতৃভাষায় প্রাথমিক শিক্ষা গ্রহণের সুযোগ সৃষ্টি এবং আদিবাসী অধ্যুষিত এলাকার প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়গুলোতে একই ভাষা ও সংস্কৃতির আদিবাসী শিক্ষক নিয়োগ
- শিক্ষায়তনে শিশুদের শারীরিক ও মানসিক শান্তি প্রতিরোধে কার্যকর ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ।

জনসংযোগ

**গণসাক্ষরতা অভিযান**

৫/১৪ হুমায়ুন রোড, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

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