



A schoolgirl is engrossed in painting at an inter-school painting competition 2008 at Kishori Lal Jubilee School and College in the city yesterday. Campaign for Heritage Conservation, Bangladesh organised the event.

## Comprehensive nat'l plan needed to ensure safe water for all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion have called for a comprehensive national plan on water utilisation to ensure pure drinking water for all and for irrigation facilities.

They also expressed concern over privatisation of various sectors like supply of water in the urban areas, education and health, saying that developments through privatisation processes so far have created troubles for common people and disparity in society.

The observations were made at a discussion demanding establishments of water pumps at intersections of urban areas. Nagorik

Shadhinata Odhikar Bastabayon Committee (Nasha) organised the programme at the National Press Club in the city on Thursday.

Eminent economist and environmentalist Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said water has become an economic commodity and unavailable for many people.

The water supplied by Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) is not worth drinking, said Prof Muzaffer, also chairman of Transparency International Bangladesh, adding that unhygienic water is contributing to intensify health problems and health cost of the poor.

"Around 95 percent water of the river Brahmaputra also flows into

the Bay of Bengal and there is no effort to contain and use this water for farm irrigation," the economist said.

Noted educationist Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury said there are no facilities of public toilets or water for commoners.

Education, health and water are becoming fully commercialised and the poor people are being deprived of these basic needs, which are supposed to be ensured by the state, he added.

Nagorik Sanghati General Secretary Sharifuzzaman Sharif, Nasha leaders sculptor Rasha, Abu Siddique, Nazmul Haque and Prof Samarjit Roy Chowdhury also spoke.

## One TB patient can infect 10 if not diagnosed in right time

Says Natab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Bangladesh (Natab) yesterday said that if not diagnosed in right time a person suffering from tuberculosis can easily infect at least ten people.

The speakers at the 'Meet the Press' at Dhaka Reporters' Unity also observed that a person suffering from tuberculosis is more vulnerable to HIV/AIDS than a healthy person.

They added that in Bangladesh 92 percent of tuberculosis cases are curable if diagnosed at the right time and the patients follow the advices of the physician.

Meanwhile, the death rate stands at 3 percent.

The meet was also informed that 45 tuberculosis patients died in 2007 while the number was 76 in 1990.

Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, vice president of the organisation, said that tuberculosis and poverty is very close to each other, adding, every year 225 people in every lakh are diagnosed with the disease while it attacks 3.25 lakh more people every year.

The speakers also underscored the need for public-private partnership to make the maximum use of the minimum resources.

Prof Pravat Chandra Barua of Directorate General of Health Services and Sagfuta Sultana were also present.

## Local govt polls will make a difference

Says survey report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the voters believe that their votes in the upcoming local government polls will make a difference in comparison to previous elections, says a survey report.

The survey was conducted by Election Working Group (EWG), an election watchdog comprising 33 non-government organisations, in four city corporations Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal and Sylhet in June. A total of 400 voters took part in the survey.

EWG revealed the survey report at a press conference at its secretariat in the city on Thursday.

Seventy-one percent of the respondents in Khulna City Corporation area believe that the upcoming city corporation election will bring a change.

Respondents in three other city corporations also expressed similar sentiments.

The voters said they would cast their votes in favour of those candidates who are honest and law abiding.

They said access to city officials and services has been improved since 1/11.

They also identified road communication, water and sewerage system, and law and order as their top concern.

Meanwhile, around 3075 observers of EWG will observe the upcoming polls in four city corporations and two pourasavas Chuadanga and Manikganj.

EWG teams, consisting of two members each, will visit every polling centre in four city corporations.

The press conference was attended by Zahurul Alam, director of EWG, and heads of its member organisations including Democracy Watch, Institute of Environment and Development (IED), Jatiya Nirbachon Porjebekhon Parishad (National Election Observer Council), Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (Fema) and BCDJC.

## BBC election dialogue tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BBC-initiated electoral dialogue will be held in Khulna tomorrow instead of today following the tragic death of a BBC employee Saiful Islam Russel in a road accident on Thursday night.

The dialogue will be organised at Zia Hall in Khulna city, says a press release.

## Cancer camp today

BSS, Dhaka

Mosabbir Cancer Care Centre and Urban Primary Health Care Project will jointly organise a cancer camp at City Maternity Centre at Hazaribag in the city today.

Cancer specialists will give advice to create awareness about the deadly disease from 9:00am to 12:00noon at the camp, a press release said.

Besides, the patients of the area who have symptoms of the disease will be provided initial examinations free of cost and advice on next course, the release added.



An open manhole on a road in front of Jalkhabar Hotel at Mohakhali in the city remains unrepaired for long, posing danger to pedestrians as well as passengers. The picture was taken yesterday.

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