



Nirapad Sarak Chai, a campaign for road safety, brings out a procession marking the National Road Safety Day at Shahbagh in the city yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

51pc households under iodine coverage: Survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the consumption of iodized salt increased more than four times in the country by 2006 in comparison to that of 1993, the present rate of consumption is not satisfactory.

This was stated by the experts at the inaugural session of a workshop at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

The workshop was organised by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC)

Indian broker kills self, wife after market losses

AFP, Mumbai

A stockbroker in India's financial capital strangled his pregnant wife then took his own life after losing his job because of the global credit crunch, police said Wednesday.

Parag Tanna, who was laid off from a local brokerage firm as markets took a nosedive last month, and his wife Neha were found dead at their home in the northern suburbs of Mumbai last weekend.

"We found a suicide note from the man saying that he was killing himself and his wife as he had lost all his earnings at the (stock) markets," a senior police official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The global economic turmoil has not spared India. Shares on the Mumbai stock exchange have plunged nearly 50 percent this year, as foreign investors pulled out cash to the tune of more than 11 billion dollars.

In September, a stockbroker and his wife reportedly committed suicide in India's technology hub of Hyderabad in a gas explosion which also killed their two-year-old child.

The broker was said to have been disturbed as he had suffered a loss in the stock market, the Press Trust of India news agency said at the time, quoting police.

under its Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders (CIDD) Project in association with the USAID and the Unicef.

At the workshop, Prof Harun KM Yusuf of biochemistry and human nutrition department of Dhaka University and Principal Investigator of National IDD/USAID Survey in Bangladesh 2004-05 presented the findings of the study.

He said adequate iodine coverage in households in the whole country is only 51 percent.

"We will have to cover 90 percent of household in adequate iodized salt consumption to meet millennium development goal by 2015 which is a great challenge before us," he added.

According to the survey, goiter prevalence among the children and women has reduced below 10 percent from 47 percent within 10 years while physiological iodine deficiency is still a public health problem affecting one-third of the population. Rural areas, particu-

larly the northern districts have considerably poorer iodine status than urban areas, the survey added.

Mahbub Jamil, special assistant to the chief adviser for industry ministry, was present at the workshop as chief guest. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to face the challenge of reaching adequate iodized salt to all people of the country by 2010.

He also called for cooperation from all the stakeholders in this respect.

Later the chief guest unveiled the cover of IDD-USAID Survey Report 2004-05.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary to industry ministry Sheikh Enayetullah said despite huge campaign there is a dearth of iodine salt in the markets.

He urged the owners of salt industries to be responsive in this respect.

Secretary to health and family welfare ministry MAM Nasir Uddin said the advocacy programme

should be taken to grassroots level to meet the challenge of iodine deficiency.

The government alone cannot attain this objective, he added.

Director of Population, Health and Nutrition Programme of USAID Lois Bradshaw assured that her organisation would continue its support to the government to reach its goal to meet iodine deficiency.

BSCIC Chairman Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman, who chaired the session, expressed his hope that the government and donor organisations would be successful in facing the challenges in this respect.

Unicef Nutrition Manager Josephine Iziku Ippe, Director of the Institute of Public Health and Nutrition and Line Director Dr Fatima Parveen Chowdhury, Deputy Representative of Unicef Iyrolumun Uhaa, and CIDD Project Director of BSCIC AKM Mustafizur Rahman also spoke at the inaugural session.

Basic journalism training for ethnic youths

METRO DESK

A three-day basic journalism training for ethnic youths began at Kamalganj in Moulvibazar yesterday with an aim to ensure their representation in the media and facilitate better coverage of the ethnic groups in the mainstream media, says a press release.

Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) organised the programme under a project titled 'Bridging media and ethnicity' in cooperation with the delegation of the European Commission to Bangladesh.

The overall goal of the project is to mainstream ethnic communities through nurturing a culture of human rights and promoting equality, tolerance and peace.

A total of 22 youths from different ethnic groups in the district are taking part in the training conducted by Quratul-Ain-Tahmina, freelance journalist, Sharier Khan, deputy editor of The Daily Star, and Shahana Huda, media and communications manager of Manusherjonno Foundation.

Through the training, four participants will be selected for a six-month journalism internship programme in two local newspapers -- daily Sylhet Dak and daily Shyamal Sylhet.

The project has been undertaken after an assessment that shows representation of ethnic people in the media houses is at a minimum level. It also revealed that the media tends to portray merely cultural activities of the ethnic people rather than focusing on the state of their human rights.

Kamalganj Press Club President Shubroto Debroy Sanjay inaugurated the training programme where MRDI Executive Director Hasibur Rahman and senior reporter of daily Jugantor Sangram Singha, also Sylhet coordinator of MRDI, were also present.

117 fake driving licences seized

RU CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized 117 fake driving licences and arrested three people in Joypurhat yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Rafiqul Islam, 49, Rafiqul Islam, and Mohammad Noni.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab members conducted a drive at a transport works' union office and seized the fake driving licences.

Network of South Asian think tanks to be launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) will launch a network of leading South Asian think tanks to address issues related to peace, strategy and security at track two level.

The South Asian Regional Research Forum (SARRF) will serve as a critical platform for research and analysis of issues involving peace, strategy and security, said a press release.

It will also focus on the protracted and lingering regional conflicts and unresolved security issues.

Initially all Saarc member countries are coming to the forum and it will be comprised of one think tank from each member countries. SARRF will essentially fill up the space and serve as a pivotal area for research and analysis that have been needed for long, the release said.

BIPSS is also undertaking a regional research project in the field of Counter Terrorism

Strategy (CTS), the driving purpose of the project is to find out avenues to effectively deal with growing terror trends in the region.

BIPSS will therefore organise a regional conference titled 'Counter Terrorism Strategy: In Search of South Asian Cooperation' in February 2009 where presentation of the research findings on South Asian terrorism will be made by respective member institutions, the release said.

The three-day concept meeting for the conference begins in the city tomorrow.

The SARRF platform will advocate policy reforms to effectively combat the threats of terrorism and radicalisation in South Asia.

Memberships in SARRF is by invitation only and a second think tank will be welcome from each member states when the forum expands in February 2009, the release added.

The forum will also invite Saarc observer countries to become its member later.

General Moeen meets Pak president

BSS, Islamabad

Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday made a courtesy call on Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari and discussed matters of mutual interests.

General Moeen, who is now on a six-day official visit to Pakistan, also called on Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gillani, Joint Chief of Staff Committee General Tariq Majid, Defence Minister Chowdhury Ahmed Mukhtar, Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Noman Bashir and acting Air Chief Air Marshal Shahid Lateef.

They exchanged views on matters of mutual cooperation in the fields of trade, commerce, agriculture and cultural development and development of the armed forces of the two countries.

They hoped that trade and commerce between Bangladesh and Pakistan would be increased further when direct shipping line is established between the port cities of Chittagong and Karachi.

During his meetings with the high officials of Pakistan armed forces, General Moeen expressed the confidence that the existing defence cooperation between the two countries would be further cemented in the years to come.



Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed calls on Pakistan Chief of Army Staff General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani in Islamabad on Tuesday. PHOTO: ISPR



Students at a city school wash their hands with Lifebuoy soaps to mark the first ever Global Hand Washing Day. About 15 million children in 75,000 schools in Bangladesh washed their hands yesterday. PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Global hand washing day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty students aged between four and eight of Onnesha International School and College yesterday underwent hand washing lesson at the American Centre on the occasion of Global Hand Washing Day.

After a lesson by Dr Michael Morris, regional medical officer of US Embassy, the students had a practical hand washing session at the Centre canteen before having cookies and apple juice.

Catherine Hallock, cultural affairs officer of the embassy, assisted Dr Michael in teaching why hand washing is necessary, when it is more necessary and how to do it properly.

The students later took part in a picture-colouring session followed by the screening of Sisimpur, the Bangladeshi adaptation of Sesame Street.

"I will also share it with my friends and relatives," Oni, a pre-2 student, said.

"We also teach them at the school," Nasreen Monem Khan, principal of the school, said.

American Centre organised the programme on the occasion of Global Hand Washing Day that was observed globally on October 15 with the theme 'Clean hands save lives'.

It was observed in Bangladesh yesterday due to schools being closed on the October 15.

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Mark Sander from the University of East London [UEL] School of Law will be delivering presentations, conducting interviews and making **SPOT OFFERS** for qualified students as outlined below.

SPOT ADMISSIONS

For further details and to make appointments for interviews, please contact:

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