

# Sanitation coverage still below 50 percent

Says Nanak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The benefits of safe water cannot be reaped unless 100 percent success in sanitation is achieved and to achieve the target everyone should work together irrespective of his/her political identity, said State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry Jahangir Kabir Nanak yesterday.

He was addressing a dissemination session to share the findings of a study on Advancing Sustainable Environment Health (ASEH) project at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in the city as the chief guest. WaterAid organised the programme.

Nanak said although sanitation coverage has been declared 90 percent, according to the Joint Monitoring Programme of UNICEF and WHO it is still below 50 percent.

He said it will be really tough to address sanitation challenges in areas like slum, railway, bus terminals and streets, areas that also concern other ministries,

and considering the reality they have set up the target of ensuring sanitary latrines for all households by 2013.

Nanak said they are also committed to ensuring arsenic-free safe water for all by the end of 2011.

"This is no more an election manifesto, instead this is now a charter of change for all in Bangladesh," he added.

The project ASEH covers 307 unions in 41 upazilas of 19 districts and more than 700 slums in three city corporations and one municipality to ensure access to safe water, environmental sanitation and hygiene promotion.

The study shows that the use of hygienic latrines in the rural area substantially increased from 21 percent at the baseline to 77 percent at the end of the ASEH project, which is being implemented with the support of the Department for International Development (DFID) of the UK.

The project began in July 2003 and is scheduled to run till March 2009.

The use of hygienic latrines is highest in the areas of Monga (93 percent) while the lowest is recorded in the Haor areas (57 percent), said the study.

The study also shows that 75 percent of poor and hardcore people use sanitary or hygienic latrines while only 62 percent of medium class households do the same.

Baseline use of hygienic latrines was only 20 percent in 2004, which rose to 80 percent in 2007 during the impact assessment and access to the hygienic latrines has further increased to 93 percent during the evaluation study in 2008.

Prof Abul Barakat presented the impact assessment of ASEH while the end of project evaluation of ASEH was presented by Dr Atiq Rahman.

Chris Austin, country representative of DFID Bangladesh, Jeremy Pelzer, chairperson of Board of Trustees of WaterAid UK, and Country Representative of WaterAid Bangladesh Md Khairul Islam also spoke.



Karmojibi Nari forms a human chain in front of Eden College in the city yesterday demanding proper investigation into the killing of Poly, a student of the college.



Guardians of Udayan Uchcha Madhyamik Bidyalaya continue demonstration against the increase in tuition fees. (Story on Page 3)

## Ctg teacher terminated for kicking student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The authorities of Little Jewels English Medium School here yesterday lodged a general diary (GD) against the terminated teacher who kicked a class VII student, leaving him seriously injured on Tuesday.

Principal Dilruba Ahmed said she lodged the GD with Panchlalaish Police Station as a precaution for the safety of students and teachers of the school.

Meanwhile, the victim's family was also taking preparation to file a GD in this connection.

The authorities terminated Ziaul Haque who injured Syed Ali Ahmed by kicking him reportedly for cheating during a class test on Tuesday morning.

The principal said she informed other teachers of the matter and the termination of the accused teacher formally at a staff meeting in the afternoon.

"We terminated the teacher as he had violated the rules of the school and also violated the child rights," she said, adding that such immediate punishment to the accused would be a message to other teachers so that they cannot beat up students anymore.

Ali, who was undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), was shifted to his residence in Hill View area in the morning as his condition improved.

Ali's mother Noor Ushaer told The Daily Star that they are going to file a GD against the teacher as a caution for the security of her son.

## Work ethically to materialise dreams of independence

Speakers urge NGOs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a function in the city yesterday said the country is yet to materialise the dream of freedom fighters even after 38 years of its independence.

They said the NGOs can play a major role in fulfilling those dreams.

The function was organised by Association for Realisation of Basic Needs (ARBAN), an NGO working with excluded disadvantaged communities, at LGED auditorium to celebrate its silver jubilee.

The speakers said the NGOs must go back to their original policy of helping

people instead of doing business and for that they must work ethically.

"NGOs can play an enormous role in establishing democracy, but they have to practice democracy in their own organisation first," said Jafarullah Chowdhury, chairman of Gonoshashtho Kendro.

Khushi Kabir, chairman of Nijera Kori, said, "Pleasing the donor agencies has become one of the primary mottos of NGOs these days and for that they often fail to perform their true obligation to people."

Geoffrey S Pereira, former executive director of Karitas Bangladesh, Chairman of

ARBAN Abdul Majid Malik, and Prof Naila Zaman Khan of child neurology department at Shishu Hospital shared their views on how NGOs of Bangladesh travelled a long journey since independence and developed into a promising sector in the country.

ARBAN works in the areas of education, sanitation, waste management and disaster management.

The organisation also provides housing, employment, health services and safe water to disadvantaged community.

The organisation currently works in 10 districts across the country.

## Contractor found dead in city hotel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a construction contractor from a residential hotel at Kotwali in the city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Nannu Alam, 45, of Durgachi area in Pabna town.

Police recovered the body from a room at hotel Bilshat at Nawabpur road at around 1:00pm.

Hotel authorities informed the matter to police yesterday morning after the hotel boys found his door closed from inside until 12:00 noon, police said quoting hotel authorities.

Police entered the room breaking the door and found the body lying in the bed.

Helal Uddin, a relative of the deceased, said Alam went to Dhaka from Pabna last week with Tk 6 lakh.

## Scientific edn system demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a mothers' conference at Savar yesterday demanded a universal and scientific education system.

Sachetan Nagonik Committee, Savar; Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Savar Upazilla Anti-Corruption Committee organised the conference on Genda Government Primary School premises.

The speakers said that every mother has to act like a teacher for the improving of the standard of primary education.

Prof Ataur Rahman from Agricultural University, former magistrate Joyal Abedin Khan and Upazilla Education Officer MA Aziz spoke at the programme with Salauddin Khan Nayeem in the chair.

## Fake medicine factory unearthed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-4) unearthed a fake pharmaceutical factory at Keraniganj and seized a huge quantity of spurious medicines, medicine making materials and also three machines from the factory early yesterday.

They also arrested two people in this connection, who admitted that they had been producing the fake medicines and marketing for years.

The arrestees were identified as Mohammad Saiful, 52, of Subhadda union under South Keraniganj police station and Mohammad Ibrahim of Pirojpur.

Rab officials said they seized three machines, 75,000 packets of fake saline, 1200 pieces of C-Vita tablets, 10kgs of sodium citrate and 15kgs of oclafote.

Sources said the drive was conducted in presence of Magistrate Anwar Pasha.

## WORLD ECONOMIC RECESSION Regional cooperation stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday said regional cooperation has to be extended to fight back unfavourable impacts of capitalist globalisation on third world countries.

The roundtable titled 'Globalisation, regional cooperation and transit' was organised by the weekly Ekota at Mukti Bhaban in the city.

General Secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh Mujahedul Islam Selim said the third world countries are facing various problems due to capitalist globalisation and worldwide financial recession.

He said under such circumstances the poor countries have to extend bilateral and regional cooperation among them.

Prof Intiaz Ahmed of international relations at Dhaka University said at least three countries are usually involved in transit issues.

India may seek transit over Bangladesh to reach Myanmar, he said, adding that in that case Bangladesh too can demand transit over India to reach Nepal and Bhutan.

"But if India seeks transit for reaching other parts of the country, then Bangladesh should consider its own interest," he said.

Prof MM Akash of Dhaka University said BNP was in favour of multilateral transit during its era in the past, so they should not retreat at present from the transit issue.

On the other hand, Awami

League has to make its stand on transit issue clear to people, he said, adding, they should not hide the issue using abstract words.

Dr Moynul Islam, former president of Bangladesh Economic Association, said political enmity and suspicion among the South Asian countries obstruct the regional communication and transportation.

Economist Anu Mohammad and Shaheen Rahman, editor of the weekly, also addressed the roundtable.

## BNCC training camp concludes

METRO DESK

The closing ceremony of the central training camp of Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC) was held at the BNCC Academy in Savar yesterday, says an ISPR press release.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Naheed attended the ceremony and reviewed the impressive march past and took salute as the chief guest.

Male and female cadets numbering 475, 11 BTFO and PUO and 63 military trainers from different universities and colleges participated in the training.

Defence Secretary Kamrul Hasan, Director General of the BNCC Brigadier General Kazi Anwar-ul-Islam and high military and civil officials were present on the occasion.

## Language Movement veterans honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To pay homage to the martyrs of the Language Movement, Oxford International School yesterday honoured eight Language Movement veterans and artists with 'Ekushey Sommanona Padak', says a press release.

They honoured Dr Jasimuddin Ahmed, Dr Halima Khatun, and Prof Mirza Majharul Islam for their role in the Language Movement, and Language Movement Museum Director MR Mahub, artist Mahmuduzzaman Babu, director and cinematographer Nurul Alam Atique, poet Rahman Henry and Aboni Anarjo for their contribution in Bengali culture.

Principal of the school GM Nizamuddin presided over the programme.



United Nations Assistant Secretary General Ajay Chhibber speaks at a meet the press at Hotel Sonargaon in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

## DSCSC graduation dinner held

METRO DESK

The graduation dinner for the Defence Services Command and Staff College 2008-09 (DSCSC) was held at DSCSC Officers' Mess at Mirpur Cantonment on Tuesday, says an ISPR press release.

Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman attended the dinner as the chief guest.

Mentionable, a total of 170 students, and officers attended the course. Of them 90 officers are from Bangladesh Army, 16 officers from Bangladesh Navy and 28 officers from Bangladesh Air Force and 36 overseas officers from 16 friendly countries -- Brunei, China, India, Jordan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Turkey and the USA.

Among others, Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division Lt General Md Abdul Mubeen, Defence Secretary Kamrul Hasan, PSOs of the three services, defence attaches of the representative countries, high civil and military officials and graduating student officers with their spouses attended the dinner.

## Handwriting competition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Museum will organise a handwriting competition for children on February 20 on the occasion of International Mother Language Day, says a press release.

The competition will be held with the participation of students from class 1 to class 10.

Interested applicants are requested to register their names with the museum by February 19.

The topics of writing will be announced on the day of competition.

## KILLING OF ATIQUIL ISLAM 2 remanded for 4 days for further interrogation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A court in Dhaka placed two people arrested in connection with the killing of Atiqul Islam, video editor of private television channel ntv, on a four-day remand when they were produced before the court yesterday.

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested suspected killer Abdullah Mohammad Ibne Ali Sarkar alias Nahid from the city's Shajahanpur area and according to his confession, another DB team arrested Khokon, a trader, and recovered the victim's snatched motorbike from Signboard area on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway on Tuesday.

DB police took them to their custody for interrogation on remand, said Additional Deputy Commissioner (PR) M Masudur Rahman, adding that they are trying to arrest other criminals involved in the killing and snatching.

Nahid disclosed the names of others involved in the incident, said ADC Masud.

The snatcher smashed down Atiqul and snatched his motorbike at Moghbazar railway crossing while he was returning to his residence at Noyatola from his office at Karwan Bazar on the night of February 14.



Members of the journalist community form a human chain in front of the Saarc Fountain at Karwan Bazar in the city yesterday protesting the killing of Atiqul Islam, a video editor of ntv.

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