8pc of population infected with hepatitis B virus

Say experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a thanksgiving ceremony yesterday said around eight percent of the country's total population is infected with hepatitis B virus, while below one percent with hepatitis C virus.

They also said that 3.5 percent of the pregnant mothers are affected with hepatitis B.

Liver Foundation of Bangladesh organised the thanksgiving for its ongoing free hepatitis B vaccination programme supported by HSBC Bangladesh at Begum Sufia Kamal Auditorium at National Museum in the city.

Presenting his keynote speech, Director General (DG) of the organisation Prof Mohammad Ali stressed the need for creating mass awareness of hepatitis B and C viruses to prevent various deadly diseases.

Suffering from hepatitis B for a long time increases the risk of liver cirrhosis, liver cancer and liver failure, but the issue is still neglected, he added.

Saying that the vaccine cost of hepatitis B virus is very expensive, the DG suggested the government to produce it locally to make available among the common people.

Speaking as the special guest, Deputy Director of Social Services Department Shafiqul Islam said around 1,000 out of 10,000 orphans were brought under the programme this year, urging the organisation to continue the programme in future.

He also called on the government and non-government organisations to come forward to address the issue with an emphasis to arrange screening of pregnant women as the deadly disease transmits to babies through mothers.

Saying that the disease is transmitted by blood, Prof Dr Mohosen, gastroenterologist and herpetologist said people should have to be cautious during donating or injecting blood whether it is affected with Hepatitis B virus or not.

Attending the programme as the chief guest, HSBC Chief Executive Officer Sanjay Prakash handed Tk 3 lakh over to the organisation for the free vaccination programme.

He also assured the organisation of providing continued support in this connection.

NSU starts course on digital online librarianship

METRO DESK

The inauguration of the 8th batch and certificate awarding ceremony of the 7th batch of Certificate Course on Digital and Online Librarianship was held at the library of North South University on Monday, says a press release.

Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqi, vice chancellor of NSU, inaugurated the course for spring 2009 and distributed certificates among the 23 participants of 7th batch as the chief guest while Dr SAM Khairul Bashar, pro-vice chancellor of NSU, was present as special guest.

Prof Miftahur Rahman, Naimul Basher, Dr Md Mostafizur Rahman, programme coordinator and university librarian, Dr Mohammad Ali and Proctor Iqbalur Rahman Rokon were also present.

Dr Hafiz said a university has some commitments to the society and as a part of the social commitment NSU has introduced this advance IT course in librarianship.

Dr Khairul Bashar said over 100 students have successfully completed this course and they are playing a vital role in introducing digital and online library services in the country.

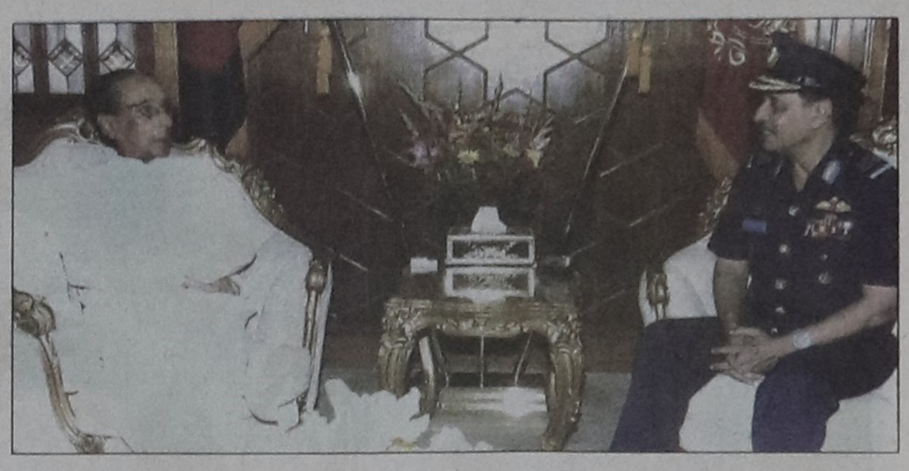

PHOTO: PID

Air Chief Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman pays a courtsey call on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

Air chief calls on president

UNB, *Dhaka*

Air Chief Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman, who flies to India tomorrow, paid a courtsey call on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban yesterday and apprised him of different development activities of his force.

During the meeting, the air chief also informed the president about his five-day official visit to India, Bangabhaban officials said.

"He said he will leave here for India on April 23 at the invitation of the Chief of Indian Air Staff. He will lead a three-member delegation," said President's Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader.

The president hoped that "The existing bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India would be further strengthened" through the air chief's upcoming India visit.

The president also expressed his satisfaction over the role of Bangladesh Air Force in different nation building activities, including relief work during natural calamities in the country.

Secretaries concerned of Bangabhaban were present during the meeting.

Voter list updating starts in May

UNB, *Bagerhat*

The Election Commission will start next month updating the voter list with photograph across the country to include the new and leftout voters.

"The task of updating the voter list will start from May," Election Commissioner M Sakhawat Hossain said while exchanging views with media men here yesterday.

Door to door visit will be made for collecting data. First priority will be given to those who reached 18 in January this year. Those died will be dropped from the list, he said.

Sakhawat said EC is now independent and it has to be further strengthened. Positive responses have been received from both Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Awami League (AL) in this regard.

Earlier, he held meeting with officials and exchanged views on setting up server station.

Chandrabati Academy has named 12 renowned personalities for Chandrabati Gold Medal 2008 in recognition of their outstanding contribution to their respective fields. The winners are (clockwise from top left) National Professor Kabir Chowdhury (education), Rabeya Khatun (literature), Sayeed Ahmad (drama), Hashem Khan (fine arts), Belal Chaudhury (poetry), Prof Dr Atiur Rahman (economics), Pramatha Barua (social welfare), Dr Momenul Haq (medicine industry), Prof Dr Asit Baran Adhikary (medicine), Syed Abu Naser Bukhtear Ahmed (banking), Mustafa Mohiuddin (child literature), and Rokia Afzal Rahman (woman entrepreneur).

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- Maintain contact and negotiate with Tax, VAT officials, auditors and other regulatory authorities;
- Look after Company's human resource related matters;
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Qualification
- MBA preferably from Institute of Business Administration or Department of Finance of Dhaka University;
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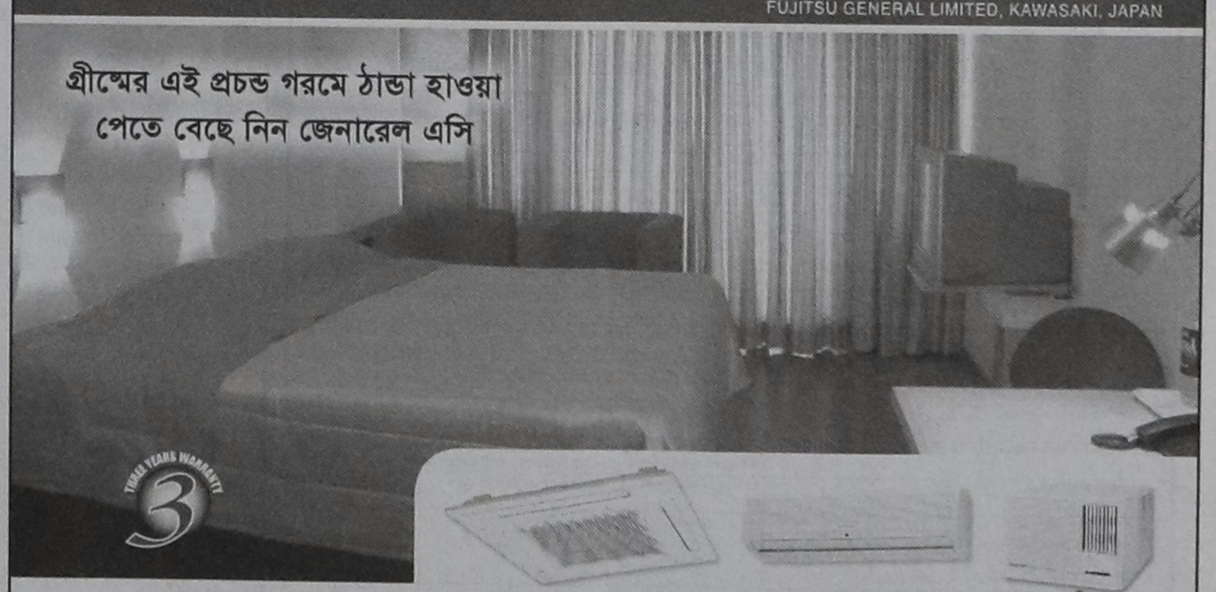

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