

Experts stress early detection of throat diseases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a press conference in the city said yesterday some 8 to 10 per cent of Bangla-desh's population suffers from voice related problems.

World Voice Day Organising Committee held the press conference at the National Press Club.

Experts also said if the throat cancer is detected at the primary stage and it is treated properly complete cure is possible, said a press release.

The theme of this year's World Voice Day is 'Love your voice'.

The experts said modern treatment of the throat diseases is available in the country.

Prof M Alamgir Chowdhury, president of the World Voice Day Organizing

Committee and head of ENT department at Medical College for Women and Hospital, Uttara, presented the keynote paper.

M Hafiz Uddin Khan, former adviser to a caretaker government and chairman of Transparency International Bangladesh, was the chief guest at the press conference.

The significance of World Voice Day is immense, especially to the politicians, artistes and cultural activists, he said adding such conference would help make people more conscious about their throats.

Prof Dr M Alauddin, former chairman of ENT department at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, presided over the function.

Work for people rising above political beliefs

PM urges BCS officers

UNB, Savar

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed government officials to work for the betterment of the people rising 'above' their political beliefs and views.

"Bangladesh is a democratic country. You may have different political beliefs, likes and dislikes. But as a government official, you have to work only for the welfare of the people," she said.

The prime minister was addressing the closing ceremony of the 45th Foundation Training Course of the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) at its auditorium.

She told her audience that everyone in government services must keep in mind that their salaries, allowances and other facilities are

being paid from the taxes given by the people.

"Never forget that you are the servants of the people. Wherever you do your jobs, you have to work with patriotism, honesty, sincerity and sacrificial mentality," Hasina said.

The prime minister said that people of all walks of life, including the government officers, have to give their best to attain the development goals as soon as possible.

She observed that Bangladesh could not achieve development and prosperity at the expected level as democracy could not run uninterrupted in the past.

"For the most part, anti-democratic forces did not allow people to practice their own rights in their struggle to change their fate," she said.

Hasina asked the young BCS

officers to learn all facets of the history of Bangladesh, about the sacrifice and suffering that lay behind attaining independence under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"Learn how much hardship our people had to tolerate, how people had to sacrifice their lives to create an independent Bangladesh during the liberation war in 1971," she said.

The prime minister also asked the young BCS officers to reach out to the masses and realise their problems and prospects from the heart.

"After this training course you will go back to your respective work field. I hope you will be very attentive to the people's problems and also in increasing the people's prospects and potential," she said.

Terming herself as a mother and a

guardian, the prime minister suggested the young government officers should continue studying more and more in the days coming to enhance their professional skills, and thus work effectively for the people.

She also sought their cooperation in turning Bangladesh into a 'digital' and 'modern' country by 2021.

Hasina said the government is committed to establishing e-governance from the grassroots to the central level of government.

"You the young officers can play the strongest role in reaching the services to the doorsteps of the people," she said.

Regarding various problems faced by the BPATC, the prime minister asked the authorities concerned to submit project proposals on expanding and developing the existing female dormitory and day-care centre.

She said the government will actively consider infrastructure development.

The prime minister at the function inaugurated the long-expected electronic library of the BPATC.

A total of 243 BCS officers from 21 different cadre services, including 34 women, took part at the training of the BPATC 45th foundation course.

The prime minister distributed certificates and medals among the best 30 participants of the course.

The prime minister was also presented with a crest.

Chairman of BPATC's Board of Directors Finance Minister Abul Mal A Muhith, Adviser to the Prime Minister HT Imam, and Course Adviser of the 45th foundation course Hussain Jamil also spoke at the programme with BPATC Rector Md Delwar Hossain in the chair.



Winners of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award pose with the guests at the award ceremony at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

SC judge's staff makes away with Tk 70 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The personal officer (PO) of Justice M Joydul Abedin of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday fled away with around Tk 70 lakh of the judge and his wife from a bank through forging their signatures.

According to police, the PO took away around Tk 28.90 lakh from the account of the judge and around Tk 40 lakh from his wife's account at the SC Branch of Sonali Bank.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Syed Nurul Islam told The Daily Star that the judge filed a case with Shahbagh Police Station in this connection last night.

Talking to this reporter late last night over phone, Justice Joydul said: "My PO Lokman Hossain might have drawn the money forging our signatures." "We sent one of my men to draw money from the bank today (Sunday). But he found that there was no money in our accounts," he said, adding: "Lokman had been working as my PO for the last two years and he went into hiding after the incident."

Shahbagh police said Lokman hailed from Deokhali village in Patuakhali Sadar upazila.

Quality studies on climate change stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

High-quality researches and studies should be conducted on the climate change issue and the knowledge from the researches should be used at field level, speakers said yesterday.

Bangladesh as the most vulnerable country to climate change should focus on scientific researches on climate change and take actions as per the knowledge gained from the researches, they added.

The speakers said this at the launching ceremony of International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), a centre for studies and researches on climate change.

ICCCAD, which would be situated at Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB), has been established by IUB, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and International Institute for Environment and Development.

UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam, BCAS Executive Director Dr A Atiq Rahman and IUB Vice Chancellor Prof Bazlul M Chowdhury spoke at the function.

480 students get Duke of Edinburgh's Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Foundation, Bangladesh yesterday recognised 480 students from different educational institutes for successfully completing the requirements of the Bronze and Silver awards.

The award ceremony of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city.

Of the awardees, 58 were from Dhaka University, 19 from American International University of Bangladesh, 47 from Bangladesh International Tutorial, 14 from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, one from European Standard School, 67 from Jahangirnagar University, 81 from Maple Leaf International School, 62 from Mastermind School, 59 from Oxford International School, 18 from Red Brick School, 32 from University of Asia Pacific and 13 from United International University.

"For young people, the award offers immense opportunities to learn life skills needed in the changing world," said Prime Minister's Adviser on Education Dr Alauddin Ahmed while addressing the event as the chief guest.

"I hope the awardees will realise their role as citizens of a growing nation who will work towards materialising our dream of establishing Bangladesh as a financially independent and digital nation," he said.

The Duke of Edinburgh's

Award was introduced in Bangladesh in 2008. It initiated a movement for personal development for the youth.

The requirements of the Bronze and Silver awards include minimum six months and a year of efforts respectively under four sections - voluntary community service, acquiring a new skill, pursuing a physical recreation and an adventurous journey.

Some of the awardees taught underprivileged children as their service option, while some led cleaning up campaigns in their localities. For skills, some learned a foreign language, while some chose playing musical instruments.

As physical recreation, some took up self-defence arts like karate and other sports and for the adventurous journey component, the awardees had expeditions to different parts of the country and some visited abroad.

Speaking as the special guest, British High Commissioner Stephen Evans emphasised the need for young people's engagement in community work for their own development and for the development of the country.

He hoped that the award would be successful in contributing to the transformation of mass people from all sections of society.

Jim McCabe, chairman of Duke of Edinburgh's Award Foundation, Bangladesh also spoke.

The programme featured a recognition session for the awardees and music and dance.

Youth beaten for stalking DU student

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) students beat up a youth at TSC last night and handed him over to police as the youth and his three associates stalked a female student of Rokeya Hall.

Shahbagh police said identified as Fuaad Ahmed Babu, 25, the arrestee was taken to Shahbagh police custody.

Campus sources said Babu and his three associates stalked the student when she was returning to her dormitory around 9:30pm.

Proctor KM Saiful Islam told The Daily Star that the youths hurled offensive words at the girl.

Storm kills 2 in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Two persons were killed and 100 others injured while over 10 thousand hectares of boro crop and 500 mud huts were damaged during a nor'wester accompanied by hailstorms that lashed three upazilas of Netrakona Saturday night.

The dead were identified as Riaz Mollah, 32, and Azizul Islam, 40, of Boram village under Mohongonj upazila.

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable
Bangladesh Labour Welfare Foundation organises a roundtable on HIV/AIDS. Venue: Biam Foundation. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar
People's Saarc Bangladesh National Committee organises a seminar titled 'Visa-free South Asia and people's South Asian Union'. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:30am.

Publication ceremony
The publication ceremony of 'Bangabandhu's Proclamation of Independence: The historic verdict of the High Court'. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time: 5:00pm.

Seminar
Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) organises a seminar titled 'National education policy, financing in education: Our expectations'. Venue: LGED Bhaban, Level-2. Time: 3:30pm.

Workshop
Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) organises a workshop on 'Promoting good governance with reference to audit report backlog'. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 1:00pm.

Concern over unplanned land use

JS body says ministry doing nothing to control real estate cos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday expressed deep concern over the unplanned use of land across the country for constructing residential and commercial buildings.

The parliamentary standing committee on planning ministry also said the respective ministry is doing nothing to control real estate companies from grabbing lands and water bodies.

At a meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, the committee gave three months to the land ministry to submit a detailed report on its initiatives to recover government's lands, which have been grabbed over the years.

"There is a rule on how to use

lands. But it seems there is no law in the country in this regard, as it is not enforced," Oli Ahmed, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting. "The present situation is very alarming as influential people are grabbing government's land and water bodies."

"The committee, therefore, asked the land ministry to inform about its steps to recover the grabbed lands," Ahmed, also president of Liberal Democratic Party, said.

"It also asked the ministry to update the law over the use of lands," he added.

On allegations against real estate companies, the committee chief said there are no rules and regulations for the realtors against whom so many

allegations of fraud, grabbing of lands and filling of water bodies are available.

"It is imperative to regulate this sector for protecting the state's interests and safety of common people," Oli said.

On handover of 70 per cent share of Warid Telecom to an Indian company, it said the country has lost a huge amount of revenue as the mobile phone operator undervalued the price of its share while handing it over to the company.

"The committee asked the post and telecommunication ministry to verify the matter and submit a report before its next meeting," Oli Ahmed said.

It also asked the government to boost its activities to legalise Voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) business soon.

UNIVERSAL BIRTH REGISTRATION BY 2010

Bangladesh may miss target

Only 8 districts have attained 100pc birth registration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said only eight districts have attained cent percent birth registration since the programme began in the country on July 3, 2006.

They also said due to shortage of manpower and equipment, the project is lagging behind and might not achieve universal birth registration by 2010.

Only 63.67 percent of the total population has received birth certificate till December 31, 2009, they said.

Dhaka Reporters' Unity and Unicef jointly organised the sharing meeting on Birth Registration Programme in Bangladesh at the DRU conference room.

The speakers also said by June 30 this year children under 18 would be able to go

for birth registration free of cost while the people aged over 18 years would have to pay Tk 50 for this.

But from July 1, an 18-year-old person would have to pay Tk 80 for birth registration in union parishad and municipal areas and Tk 160 in city corporation or cantonment board areas. The amount would be higher for the aged persons, they said.

"However, the children under two years will always obtain the birth certificate free of cost," said Christine Jaulmes, chief of communication and information section of Unicef.

She said for not having a birth certificate the children are often subjected to exploitation. The children in contact with law often get punishment as the authorities don't know his or her original age and they

have to sit for marriage during their childhood.

"Birth registration is very important for ensuring basic child rights. It is a legal document. A total of 53 percent children aged under five have so far received birth certificates," she said. "But public awareness regarding the birth registration should be increased much to ensure the rights."

AKM Saiful Islam Chowdhury, project director of Birth and Death Registration Project and joint secretary to the Local Government Division, said in his keynote speech the government has made birth registration mandatory to receive 16 services.

"It is obligatory for passport, driving license, voter listing, land registration, marriage registration, enrol-

ment in school and recruitment in any public or private institutions," he said.

He also said establishing a national electronic birth registration system is one of the major challenges for the government. With the support of the Unicef, a Birth Registration Information System has been developed. The BRIS was launched in two areas of Cox's Bazar and Jessore in December last year on a pilot basis.

Upon successful completion of the pilot scheme, the system would be introduced nationwide, he added.

DRU President Shamim Ahmed, its General Secretary Pathick Saha and Arifa Sharmin, communication specialist of Unicef, also spoke at the discussion.



Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami stage a protest against power and water crises in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday blocking the road, thereby causing immense suffering to commuters.

7 injured in clash over allotment of shops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Seven people sustained stab injuries in a clash over allotment of shops at Madanpur Islamia Super Market under Bandar upazila of the district on Saturday night.

Sources said shop Abdul Gani, president of the shop owners' association, and Billal, a shop owner, got engaged in an altercation over allotment of shops at the market during a meeting of the association.

At one stage, Billal and his brother Faruk hacked Motalib, 38, Noor-e-Alam, 25, and Saiful Islam while five other people were injured while trying to save them.

The injured were given first aid at the Upazila Health Complex.

Officer-in-Charge Jibon Kanti Sarker of Bandar Police Station said shop owner Saiful Islam had lodged a case in this connection.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rajshahi, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Dhaka divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature remains nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:22pm and rises at 5:33am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.3	22.4	66	71
Chittagong	33.5	25.0	78	75
Rajshahi	34.4	25.2	78	75
Khulna	34.8	27.5	73	66
Barisal	33.7	27.4	76	77