

Death anniversary
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 15th death anniversary of Qazi Nurul Islam, a former joint secretary.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani and a doa mahfil will be held for seeking eternal peace of the departed soul, said a press release.

Nurul Islam served different ministries, including information, communications, industries and parliament secretariat as a joint secretary.

Art camp begins in Bandarban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A five-day art camp began at a hilly resort in Bandarban yesterday evening with the participation of a dozen artists.

The camp, organised by Galleri Kaya, has brought together some leading senior artists of the country while most of the participants represent emerging young talents.

With a stroke of his brush and pen on a canvas, senior artist Shamarjit Roy Chowdhury launched the camp at the Milon Chhari Hill Resort. The other artists then improvised on the canvas.

Galleri Kaya Director Goutam Chakraborty said, "We have been thinking of organising this camp with emphasis on young people because they are the upcoming voice".

The other participating artists are Hamiduzzaman Khan, Tarun Ghosh, Kazi Rakib, Masuda Kazi, Shamiran Chowdhury, Ashraful Hasan, Biswajit Goswami, Kamaluddin, Shohag Parvez, Nagarbashi Barman, and Tarikat Islam.



Women sort out waste of garment factories in Pahartali area of Chittagong city. For a meagre wage of Tk 80 to 100, these women toil from 8:00am to 6:00pm everyday in unhealthy environments, while a section of traders are earning huge amounts of foreign currency by exporting these products. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Bangladesh at risk of MDR TB

Say experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country risks the spread of multiple-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) as TB infected urban slum dwellers frequently change residence, said Major Dr M Lutfur Rahman, program consultant of Urban Primary Health Care Project, yesterday.

The TB bacilli become resistant when patients break treatment due to the frequent change of residence, he said.

Lutfur was addressing a press briefing organised by several government and non-government organisations, including National TB Control Programme (NTP) and Brac, in the city's Jatiya Press Club.

The country, alongside the world, observes World TB Day today with a slogan "Stop TB in my lifetime", targeting

to halve TB-related deaths and contamination by 2015, a part of the millennium development goal.

As TB, which can be cured with medication, slowly became a major health concern in the country, the government initiated NTP in 1965.

NTP adopted Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course (DOTS), a standardised multi-drug treatment therapy having a six to eight month treatment period, for rural areas in 1994 and urban areas in 2001.

MDR-TB is emerging as a major threat to the NTP, said Dr Mohammad Ashaque Hussain, line director, TB-Leprosy of Directorate General of Health Services, at the programme.

It takes longer to treat, around two years, and can be cured with second-line drugs, which are more expensive and

have more side effects, he said.

Only four hospitals, one each in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Netrokona, provide MDR-TB treatment, he added.

Dr Ashaque said 1,500 people were diagnosed with MDR-TB from 2008 to 2011. However, World Health Organization says the number is 10,000.

Speakers at the programme said 155,568 people were diagnosed with TB in Bangladesh last year, ranking sixth among the world's 22 high-burden TB countries.

Brac Health Programme Associate Director Dr Mohammad Akramul Islam, Dr Aung Kyajaimang of Damien Foundation, NTP Programme Manager Dr Mohammad Nuruzzaman Huq and Dr Mirja Nizam Uddin of NTP attended the meeting.

Two die after joining father's qulkhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two brothers died after attending the qulkhwani of their father in Narayanganj yesterday.

The deceased are Swapon Mia, 18, helper of a public bus, and his brother Ramzan Ali, 12, a class two student of a local school in Dholaipar in the capital.

The duo, along with their mother Nilufa Begum and sister Moninur Nesa Shima, went to Jhalkuri village in Narayanganj in the morning to join the qulkhwani of their father Abul Hossain, who died on Tuesday.

On arriving at Abul's residence in the village, the four fell sick while Swapon and Ramzan started vomiting.

Being sick, the family returned back to their Dholaipar residence without completing the qulkhwani programme.

As the condition of the two boys was deteriorating, they were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in the afternoon, where duty doctors declared them dead, said their grandfather Akkas Ali.

Doctors suspected that food poisoning might have caused the deaths.

Their grandfather said the duo had breakfast at Dholaipar before setting off for the Narayanganj trip.

Shima was also admitted to DMCH with ailing health. Abul lived at Jhalkuri village with his second wife, who also died in the first week of March, while his first wife Nilufa lives with her six children at Dholaipar.

Earlier, visiting Abul's residence on the day of his demise, four of Nilufa's family fell sick and returned back the next day.

The bodies have been sent to DMC morgue for autopsy.

Safety at Rooppur N-plant first

Tanvir Mokammel urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted filmmaker Tanvir Mokammel yesterday appealed to the government to carefully ensure foolproof safety measures at the country's first-ever nuclear power plant at Rooppur in Pabna.

Mokammel described what he witnessed during his recent visit to Japan which is gradually rebuilding itself from the Great East Japan Earthquake and the resulting tsunami that tore through it on March 11, 2011, triggering another disaster at the Fukushima nuclear plant.

"It is true that we have a shortage of power and we have to overcome this crisis. But the government must be cautious so that a greater danger does not emerge while it is attempting to overcome the present crisis as it (the nuclear plant) has tremendous risks involved," he said.

Mokammel was speaking at a discussion on the March 11 disasters, organised by Shapla Neer, Bangladesh at NGO Forum's conference room in the city.

Speaking at the discussion, Prof Ohashi Masaaki of Keisen University elaborated how non-government organisations, with the government, could help disaster victims and focused some challenges faced by NGOs.

Masaaki, also the chairperson of Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation, discussed what residents of north-eastern Japan went through after last year's disaster and the disadvantages of nuclear power plants.

Atsushi OJIMA, country director of Shapla Neer, also spoke at the programme.

Russia will provide the necessary technical assistance and 85 percent of the fund for the 1,000 MW-capacity nuclear plant at Rooppur which is scheduled to go into operation in 2018.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion 10:30am.
Amra Kuri will hold a discussion; Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy Auditorium; Time: 5:30pm.

Discussion
News Network and Plan Bangladesh will organise a discussion; Venue: Women's Voluntary Association Auditorium, Dhanmondi Road-27; Time: 10:00am.

Seminar
Equitybd will arrange a seminar; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 10:00am.

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PHOTO: STAR

Artist Shamarjit Roy Chowdhury puts some strokes of his paintbrush on a canvas to inaugurate a five-day art camp at Milon Chhari Hill Resort in Bandarban yesterday.

BSF hands over six Bangladeshis

UNB, Benapole

Six Bangladeshis returned home through Benapole check-post yesterday after serving two and half years in Indian jail.

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) handed them over to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in the afternoon.

They are Selina, 18, Sakhina, 19, Sohel Sharif, 32, Akter Ali, 29, Delwar Munshi, 30 and Mujibar Rahman, 27. They all hailed from different areas of Bagerhat and Madaripur districts.

Benapole check-post immigration officer-in-charge Qamruzzaman said a group of human traffickers took them to India on March 4, 2010 in the name of giving them good jobs in India. Later, Indian police arrested them from Sealdah rail station and sent them to jail hajat.

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