

# New global commitment to end tuberculosis

STAR HEALTH DESK

Recently, 75 ministers agreed to take urgent action to end tuberculosis (TB) by 2030. The announcement came at the first World Health Organisation (WHO) Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Tuberculosis in the Sustainable Development Era: A Multisectoral Response, which brought together delegates from 114 countries in Moscow. President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation opened the Conference, together with Amina J Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary General, and Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General.

"Today marks a critical landmark in the fight to end TB," said Dr Tedros. "It signals a long overdue global commitment to stop the death and suffering caused by this ancient killer."

The Moscow Declaration to End TB is a promise to increase multisectoral action as well as track progress, and build accountability. It will also inform the first UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on TB in 2018, which will seek further commitments from heads of state.

Global efforts to combat TB



have saved an estimated 53 million lives since 2000 and reduced the TB mortality rate by 37%.

However, progress in many countries has stalled, global targets are off-track, and persistent gaps remain in TB care and prevention.

As a result, TB still kills more people than any other infectious disease. There are major problems associated with antimicrobial resistance, and it is the leading

killer of people with HIV.

"One of the main problems has been a lack of political will and inadequate investment in fighting TB," added Dr Tedros. "Today's declaration must go hand-in-hand with increased investment."

The meeting was attended by ministers and country delegations, as well as representatives of civil society and international

organizations, scientists, and researchers. More than 1000 participants took part in the two-day conference which resulted in collective commitment to ramp up action on four fronts:

- Move rapidly to achieve universal health coverage by strengthening health systems and improving access to people-centered TB prevention and care, ensuring no one is left behind.

- Mobilise sufficient and sustainable financing through increased domestic and international investments to close gaps in implementation and research.

- Advance research and development of new tools to diagnose, treat, and prevent TB.

- Build accountability through a framework to track and review progress on ending TB, including multisectoral approaches.

Ministers also promised to minimise the risk and spread of drug resistance and do more to engage people and communities affected by, and at risk of, TB.

The Russian Federation, host of the first Ministerial Conference to End TB, welcomed the Moscow Declaration. "Tuberculosis is a complex, multi-sectoral problem that requires a systemic and highly coordinated response to address the conditions which drive the disease," said Professor Veronika Skvortsova, Minister of Health, Russian Federation.

"The accountability framework we have agreed to develop marks a new beginning, and, with WHO's support to coordinate and track progress, we expect the Moscow Declaration to lead us forward to the high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly in 2018."

## NEW BP GUIDELINES

### Hypertension redefined 130 systolic or above

New guidelines from the American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association (AHA), among others, define substantially more U.S. adults as having hypertension than the 2003 Joint National Committee (JNC 7) report's definition. The new ACC/AHA guidelines — unveiled recently at the AHA's annual meeting — define systolic blood pressure at or above 130 mm Hg as constituting hypertension, while the older definition set the threshold at 140 or above.



### Protoy launched anti-drug awareness campaign

Recently a press conference was held at the premises of Protoy Medical Clinic Ltd. to launch a nationwide anti-drug awareness campaign with the slogan "Ar madok noy, ei hok prottoy" (To be drug free, committed we shall be).

Honourable Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Anisul Haque was present as the Chief Guest. As special guests, Mashrafe Mortaza, Captain of Bangladesh national ODI cricket team, Dr. Syed Imamul Hossain, Chief Consultant of Department of Narcotics Control and Mr. Nazmul Haque, Chairman of Protoy Medical Clinic was present.

Mashrafe stated, "Todays' youth, ones with overwhelming potential, could take Bangladesh's sports to the next level, but they are just losing their way in the vicious world of drugs and wasting their lives. Bangladesh needs these talents to break free of this dark world and walk towards the brighter future. Therefore, I pledge to work towards making Bangladesh Drug free and ask you all to unite in this effort."

The speakers at the press conference all vowed to work towards prevention of drug abuse. They urged people from all walks of life to be part of this campaign by following these simple steps:

- Make your own video in your cell phone saying "Ar madok noy, ei hok prottoy"
- Tag and share this video in Protoy medical Clinic's facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/prottoymedicalclinic>)



### Praava Health partnered with Joslin Diabetes Centre

Praava Health announces a new partnership with USA-based Joslin Diabetes Centre to connect patients in Bangladesh with world class diabetes care and prevention. A non-profit affiliate of Harvard Medical School, Joslin is the world's largest diabetes research centre, diabetes clinic, and provider of diabetes education.



## HEALTH bulletin



### Workplace bullying and violence are risk factors for type 2 diabetes

Workplace bullying and violence may increase the risk of type 2 diabetes, for both men and women, according to new research published in journal *Diabetologia*.

Whilst both bullying and violence represent negative interpersonal relationships, they appear to constitute different concepts and are distinct social stressors. Bullying is psychological aggression, including behaviours such as unfair criticisms, isolation and humiliating work tasks. It is most often perpetrated by people from inside, such as colleagues.

Violence, on the other hand, is more likely to involve physical acts such as pushing or kicking, or the threat of these, and is generally perpetrated by people from outside, such as clients, patients etc. Bullying and violence are distinct behaviours and consequently their induced emotions can be different.

The authors say: "There is a moderate and robust association between workplace bullying, violence and the development of type 2 diabetes. We suggest that prevention policies should be investigated as a possible means to reduce this risk."

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## WORLD ANTIBIOTIC AWARENESS WEEK

### ANTIBIOTICS: HANDLE WITH CARE

"Antimicrobial resistance is a danger of the utmost urgency. This year will be a pivotal one... We have a global action plan. What we need now is the action"

Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General addresses the Executive Board.  
Report by the Director-General to the Executive Board at its 138th Session  
Geneva, Switzerland. 25 January 2016

### Antibiotics don't work for all infections

Antibiotics only work on bacteria, not other infections like viruses that cause colds and flu. Taking an antibiotic when it's not needed will not make a significant difference to how you feel or how fast you recover. When you start to feel better it's usually because your immune system is doing the work to treat your infection.

### Bacteria become resistant to antibiotics, not your body

Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria change or mutate to protect themselves from an antibiotic. The more often antibiotics are used or taken incorrectly, the more chance bacteria have to change and become resistant to them. This can make bacterial infections much harder to treat. Mutated bacteria can also pass their genes to other bacteria, forming a new antibiotic resistant 'strain' of the bacteria.

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