

World Oral Health Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A programme marking World Oral Health Day was held yesterday.

With the theme "Say Ahh", the programme was jointly organised by Bangladesh Dental Society (BDS) and Unilever Bangladesh's oral care brand Pepsodent in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC), says a press release.

The programme began with a procession in the morning announcing their campaign theme "Little Brush Big Brush" to encourage mothers and children in brushing their teeth regularly.

Speaking as the chief guest at the programme, Health Minister Mohammed Nasim said, "I am hopeful that a dental medical university will be established in the country to ensure better dental care for the nation."

"Healthy mouth is suggestive of healthy body. Lack of oral care may lead to cancer and other serious complications," said Kathryn Kell, president of World Dental Foundation (FDI).



Children brush their teeth during an awareness campaign at Bangabandhu International Conference Center in Dhaka yesterday. In a bid to encourage children to brush their teeth twice a day, Bangladesh Dental Society in association with Pepsodent organised the event, marking World Oral Health Day. Inset, the organisers bring out a procession outside the centre earlier in the day.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Check drug abuse, trade inside jail

President tells prison week event at Kashimpur Central Jail

UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday asked authorities to keep vigil on prisoners to refrain them from taking and running drug business inside jails.

"A large number of prisoners in jails are convicted in drug-related cases. Prison authorities have to take stern action to ensure that they do not consume or run drug business inside jails," he said.

The President said this while addressing a programme marking "Prison Week 2018" at Kashimpur Central Jail.

Abdul Hamid said strong surveillance is needed to ensure zero involvement, even from prison administration, into such unethical activities.

"We have to keep in mind that all responsibilities of a detainee rest with prison authorities as soon as he or she lands in jail," he said.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, Security Services Division Secretary M Farid Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury and Inspector General of Prisons Brig Gen Syed Iftekhar Uddin were also present.

Observing that no one in the world was born as a criminal, the president blamed unfavourable environment for making them criminals.

"Prison authorities have to take specific initiatives for criminals to enhance their moral values and rehabilitate them after imparting them with various trainings," he said.

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ACCESS TO JUSTICE

CJ seeks regional cooperation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain yesterday sought regional cooperation among the South Asian countries to ensure people's access to justice, which is the fundamental element for ensuring rule of law.

"Access to justice is a human right. It is the fundamental element for ensuring rule of law. Protection of human rights can only be granted by coordinated efforts of the stakeholders," he said at the closing session of the two-day South Asian regional conference.

The law department of Dhaka University and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) jointly organised the conference titled "Gender, Rights and Choices: Access to Justice in a Megacity" at DU Senate Bhaban in the capital.

Citing the rising number of filing cases, the chief justice claimed that access to justice in the country is improving gradually.

A total of 17,42,247 cases were filed at different courts across the country in 2017. "This figure amply shows that access to justice in Bangladesh is improving day by day, irrespective of gender," he said, speaking as the chief guest.

About gender discrimination, Justice Syed Mahmud said the country's constitution prohibits discrimination on the grounds of gender and it declares equality of men and women in all spheres of the state.

"Apart from the same, we have adequate laws to curb violence against women. The judiciary in Bangladesh is highly sensitive about gender justice," he added.

While speaking at the conference, other

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A hydraulic excavator is being used to tear down a section of AK Azad's house at Gulshan in the capital yesterday during a drive conducted by Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Maj Gen Shafeenul new DG of BGB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has appointed Maj Gen Shafeenul Islam as director



general (DG) of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Public administration ministry yesterday issued a gazette in this regard, 12 days after the paramilitary force's immediate past DG Maj Gen Abul Hossain had been withdrawn from the post.

Shafeenul was the chairman of Bangladesh Tea Board since 14 February 2016.

Maj Gen Abul Hossain was attached to the Armed Forces Division on March 7.

Born on March 2 of 1966, in Jaypurhat, Shafeenul joined Bangladesh Military Academy on June 25, 1984. He was commissioned on June 27, 1986 in the Corps of Infantry.

He is a graduate of Defence Services Command and Staff College in the capital's Mirpur and obtained his Masters in Defence Studies from National University.

Rajuk demolishes parts of AK Azad's house

Azad says he has Rajuk approved plan, all valid documents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday demolished most parts of Ha-Meem Group Managing Director AK Azad's residence at Gulshan in the capital.

Without serving any prior notice and while Azad and his family members were inside the house, a taskforce comprising a mobile court of Rajuk and officials of different public utilities started to demolish the two-storey building in the morning with heavy equipment.

The building, on Road 86 in Gulshan, does not have an approved plan, the officials said.

Azad at one point came out of the house with his wife and three other family members carrying their suitcases and inquired Rajuk officials about the reason for the demolition drive. They left the premises soon afterwards.

A large section of the house including the main entrance, portions of the front boundary wall, a car garage and a balcony were torn down during the daylong drive.

Waliur Rahman, zonal director of Rajuk and also the executive magistrate leading the mobile court, said, "The two-storey house on nearly one bigha of land has no approved design."

When asked if they served any notice to occupants of the house prior to carrying out the demolition, Waliur said such procedure was not necessary in the case of a mobile court's action and the defender in such cases has to provide legal proof on the spot.

The occupants of the house had failed to provide approved design of the house when Adiluzzaman, an authorised officer concerned of Rajuk, visited the house in person last week, the Rajuk director said.

Yesterday, they waited an hour before starting the demolition after making verbal requests to the occupants to vacate the house, he said, adding, "As the occupants did not

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