

# 'Chintito' donates money to poor cancer patients

CITY CORRESPONDENT

"An erudite old woman asked me who Chintito was while I went to her place to deliver the book 'A stir is born'. She asked me the same question at least 50 times. If I had known who Chintito was, I would have told her. I did not know people were so passionate about him," said Mamun Shahrier, a BUET student.

He was speaking at a special ceremony at Liberation War Museum in the city where Chintito, the legendary satire columnist of Star Weekend Magazine (SWM) of The Daily Star, donated Tk 3 lakh for poor cancer patients. The money was collected from the sale of 300 copies of the book 'A stir is born' priced at Tk 1000.

The book is a compilation of the satire column 'Chintito' published regularly in the SWM. The column deals with national

and international issues with a sharp sense of humour.

Professor Nizamuddin Ahmed, editor of the book, handed over the cheque to MA Jalil, chief executive officer of Mosabbir Cancer Care Centre.

"Chintito writes from a lofty position. Once in an interview Chintito was asked what was he like? He said, he had the patriotism of Bangabandhu, simplicity of Mahatma Gandhi, innocence of Matiur Rahman, vocabulary of Nazrul Islam, valour of a freedom fighter, impressiveness of the Royal Bengal Tiger and the romanticism of Rabindranath Tagore. As one single person cannot possess all these qualities Chintito does not exist," said Professor Nizamuddin Ahmed.

"You all know Chintito. He practices the art of humour or satire writing which is very tough. Writing a regular satire column is not so easy. We have started to forget how to write

with humour. The practice is rare in Bangla and almost absent in English," said Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

"Chintito gave away the money from a sense of social responsibility. We should also involve ourselves in this task. We are aware of what should be done and we always speak about that but seldom we involve ourselves in those works. We talk about environment, saving Buriganga and water bodies. But what is our contribution in these jobs?" said Mahfuz Anam.

"Helping a cancer patient is a noble thing to do. The whole family of a cancer patient is in turmoil especially when they are poor villagers. They hardly know what to do, where to go and how to treat the disease. Both the patient and his family need proper counseling and guidance," said MA Jalil.

"Many people do not know that it is not an infectious

disease. When a patient comes to the city from a village for treatment he has parents or companions with him. They do not find a place to live other than a relative's house. But most of the times the relatives do not want to accommodate them. We are trying to solve this problem by making accommodation arrangements," he said.

The Centre did not have any ambulance service at first but now it is providing this service for a token money of Tk 5. It is used to transport patients from other hospitals.

"We import all the drugs used in cancer treatment and that is very expensive. This money will be big help for us," said Jalil. He became emotional while taking the cheque. He urged all attending the ceremony to come to the hospital and share some moments with the patients.

Every year 200,000 people are diagnosed with cancer in

Bangladesh. At present, there are over 1 million registered cancer patients in Bangladesh with at least 50 percent not diagnosed.

There is only one government run cancer hospital, National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital in Mohakhali which can accommodate 50 indoor patients and treat 180 outdoor patients for chemotherapy and radiotherapy everyday.

There are two other cancer hospitals in the private sector but they are far from meeting the requirement. Every year 35 percent of the cancer patients travel to the neighbouring countries for treatment.

Mosabbir cancer care centre had been set up in memory of Mosabbir Hossain Khan, a teenager who was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer when he was to sit for his O Level examinations. The Centre provides counseling, consultation, information, chemotherapy and treatment



Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed hands over the cheque on behalf of 'Chintito' to MA Jalil.

for all types of cancer. Now it also provides free accommodation for cancer patients.

Chintito, the columnist who uses the pseudonym, chose to remain behind the curtain and was not present at the ceremony.



Last flush of monsoon. Incessant rains could not deter the city dwellers from continuing with their daily chores. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

## Uttara Third Phase moving at snails pace

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"Initially many factors like calling tenders for work, preparing designs, conducting studies, acquiring land, eviction and changes in design hindered the quick pace of work," said the PD. "But it will gain momentum once the development work reaches a certain stage," he added.

He claimed that the project's development work like earth filling; internal road network, drainage systems would be completed by 2009; three years'

from now.

Rajuk had fixed the deadline for completion of the project by 2003, which was later deferred to 2007.

"We will be able to start plot handover by next December," the PD said.

Regarding utility services, the PD said: "It is the responsibility of the agencies concerned to develop the utility service systems. We will just allocate them a lump sum fund for initial work and the rest will be done by the

agencies."

Kazi Reazul Monir said that Buet has been requested to carry out a study on the project and submit their recommendations on the design of the Uttara Third Phase. As per the Buet recommendations, changes will be made to the project design.

The project, stretching over 2,100 acres of land on the west of Uttara sector 12 and north of Mirpur, offers 432 of 2.5-katha plots, 4, 996 three-katha plots, 872 five-katha plots and about

340 of 7.5-katha plots and 550 plots of 10-katha commercial plots each.

About 2,000 of the total plots will be allotted to those whose land had been acquired for the project, while 20 percent (around 800) of the total plots has been reserved for works ministry and Rajuk officials and employees and will be allotted to them, said Rajuk sources.

# DTCB employees' salaries yet to be paid

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) employees have not received their salaries for July yet as the board is yet to be absorbed under the revenue sector after its effectiveness ended on June 30, 2006.

Although high officials of the board said that they hoped to get a block allocation to continue their activities until the problem is solved, sources in the communication ministry said it would not be possible to pay any salaries in next two months.

"We are trying to get block allotment to continue board activities and we are certain we will get it soon," said Md Shahjahan, executive director, DTCB.

The existing 58 DCTB employees are continuing with their jobs under clouds of uncertainty.

"We usually get paid for the previous month on the first or second day of the current month. If the payment is further delayed, we will suffer along with our families," said Md. Towheed Hassan, personal assistant (PA) to the executive director.

"At present we are borrowing money from others to keep our kitchens burning, but we cannot continue like this for long," said

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Karar Shoyeb, DCTB's accountant.

DTCB was allotted 24 vehicles when it was established and after finalising the new organogram for the board, 13 of them were recently taken back.

"Yet we cannot use the 11 vehicles available as fuel allotment has been discontinued," said an official of DTCB.

In 1997 the government initiated the DUTP funded by World Bank (WB) to develop a traffic system and modernise the overall transport sector in the capital.

WB, at the time imposed the formation of a high-powered board to coordinate and implement DUTP worth Tk 1,100.

Following WB's condition, the government in 2001 formed the DTCB under the communication ministry after passing a law in

parliament.

Since then all DTCB's expenditure including salaries, bonuses of employees were met by DUTP funds and with its expiry in June this year, DTCB activities have literally come to an end, as the government has not absorbed the board under the revenue sector.

When visited last Thursday, the DTCB office looked deserted, with even the few present sitting idle at their desks.

Many employees do not think that they would receive their salaries soon.

"I never thought that an important organisation like DTCB would face such a fate. The government should understand that this indecision would hamper the foreign aid in transport sector. The donors would not provide any more aid if DTCB doesn't exist," said an official of DTCB.

Many blamed the government for making this organisation idle.

"The government is bound to pay our dues whether the board is sustained or not. And I am sure that the government will finally have to absorb the board into its revenue sector. I don't know why they are creating this stalemate," said another DCTB official.

Despite the project's ending on June 30, the board's organisational structure has not been absorbed under the revenue sector due to a bureaucratic tangle, though the process had been on for the last one-and-a-half years.

The executive director called on the employees to be patient during the period of crisis saying that this organisation has to survive.

"We are very sure it will be absorbed under the revenue sector within a short time. We have finalised the Strategic Transport Planning (STP), a project supposed to be implemented by DTCB according to WB condition," said Md. Shahjahan, executive director, DTCB.

WB will fund the lion's share of Tk 10,000 crore for a 20 year-long STP project in Dhaka.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH	MARKET CLOSED	TAXI CAB	LIBRARY & INFO	
<p><b>Hospitals</b></p> <p>Anjuman-e-Mofidul Islam 9336611, 7411660</p> <p>BARDEM 8616641-50</p> <p>Cholera Hospital (ICDDR) 8811751-60</p> <p>CMH (Dhaka) 9870011</p> <p>Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital 8628612-6</p> <p>Holy Family Red Crescent 8311721-5</p> <p>Islamia Eye Hospital 9119315, 8112156</p> <p>Lion Eye Hospital 9129127</p> <p>Medinova Medical Services 8620353-4</p> <p>Mirpur General Hospital (Pvt) Ltd 9007873, 8015444</p> <p>Mitford Hospital 7319002-6</p> <p>National Heart Foundation Hospital 8014914, 8010491, 8021399</p> <p>Orthopedic Hospital 9112150</p>	<p>Salimullah Medical College Hospital 7319002-6</p> <p>Samorita Hospital 9131901</p> <p>Shahid Suhrawardi Hospital 9122560-78, 9112086, 8114856, 9130800</p> <p>Shishu Hospital 8116061-2, 9119119</p> <p><b>Clinics</b></p> <p>Akand Clinic 8015855, 8022581</p> <p>Arogya Niketan 9333730</p> <p>BAVS Maternity 8016413-4</p> <p>Dhaka Monorog Clinic 9005050</p> <p>Gulshan Mother &amp; Child Clinic 8822738, 8812992</p> <p>Ibn Sina Clinic 8119513</p> <p>Jahanara Clinic (Pvt) Ltd 8912929</p> <p>Judi Maternity 9113322</p> <p>Paltan Poly Clinic 9557385</p> <p>Retina Eye Center (Clinic) 9884588, 9884566</p> <p>Shishu Bekash Clinic 9351625</p>	<p>The Eye Clinic 9333238</p> <p><b>Blood Bank</b></p> <p>Red Crescent Centre- 9116563</p> <p>Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040</p> <p>Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7310061, 7319022</p> <p>Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9</p> <p><b>Eye Bank</b></p> <p>Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040</p> <p><b>Ambulances For Dead Body</b></p> <p>Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,</p> <p>Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,</p> <p>Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday</p> <p>Elephant Road-Friday</p> <p>Bishal Center-Friday</p> <p>Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday</p> <p>Polwell Market-Friday</p> <p>BCS Computer City-Friday</p> <p>Stadium Market-Friday</p> <p>Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.</p> <p>Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday</p> <p>Stadium Market-Friday</p> <p>Bangabazar Market-Friday</p> <p>National Museum-Thursday</p> <p>Ahsan Manzil-Thursday.</p> <p>New Market-Tuesday</p> <p>Gausia Market-Tuesday</p> <p>Mouchak Market-Sunday</p> <p>Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday</p> <p>Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday</p> <p>Eastern Plaza-Sunday</p> <p>Farmview Super Market-Sunday</p> <p>Muktiyuddha Jadughar-Sunday</p> <p>Dhaka Zoo-Sunday</p> <p>Shishu Jadughar-Sunday</p>	<p><b>Passenger's Complain</b></p> <p>01711-000990, 01711-000991, 01711-000992, DMP-999, 2627.</p> <p>Cab Salida Ltd. 9344477, 01711-620888, 01711-610405</p> <p>Cosmo Cab Ltd. 9112959, 8127191, Nitol Cab Co. Ltd. 8125285, 01711-621953</p> <p>JBS Cab Ltd. 0191-364575</p> <p>Coal Cab Ltd 8130485, 01711-826731</p> <p>Limujin Cab Ltd. 9318351, 9337204</p> <p>Multi-Cab Ltd. 9666502, 9570740</p> <p>Nihon Taxi Cab Ltd. 8624742,</p> <p>8624741</p> <p>Orion Taxi Cab Ltd. 934727, 9347277, 01711-155144</p> <p>Reliance Cab Ltd. 9339563-4</p> <p>RMS Cab Ltd. 8118536</p> <p>Shatarupa Taxi Cab Ltd. 731083, 01711-458740</p> <p>Tinni Cab Ltd. 9662009, 01711-645257</p> <p>Teletaxi Cab Ltd. 7202201</p> <p>Alif Cab Co. Ltd. 0191-357838, 83116948</p> <p>Cab One Ltd. 9563054 Ext.-3077, 3178</p> <p>United Cab Ltd. 7510166, 01711-348474</p> <p>Ulka Express Ltd. 9359885, 01711-313554</p> <p>Cab Bangla Ltd. 9563077 Ext.-3054, 3178, 01711-622644</p> <p>Cab i Ltd. 9563054, 9563077, 01711-629585</p> <p>Cab line Ltd. 8321162</p> <p>Capital Cab Co. Ltd. 9352847-9</p> <p>Classic Cab Ltd. 200825, 01711-233851, 01711-812415</p> <p>Comport Cab Ltd. 8817610-4</p> <p>Cab Express Ltd. 9341389, 9339337, 9348401 Ext.-111</p>	<p><b>Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers</b></p> <p>Central Public Library- 8626001-4, Shishu Academy- 9564128</p> <p>Shilpakala Academy- 8614673</p> <p>Bangla Academy- 8619550</p> <p>Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407</p> <p>Nazrul Institute- 9114602</p> <p>Ford Foundation- 8116133</p> <p>Alliance Francaise- 8611557</p> <p>Information Resource Center, The American Center - 8813440-4, 9886395-9</p> <p>British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7</p> <p>Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604</p> <p>Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6</p> <p>Indian Information Centre &amp; Cultural Library- 8850141-2</p> <p>The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314</p> <p>Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412</p> <p>Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4</p>