

DU male students under-fed

By Sohail Manzoor

Male resident students of Dhaka University are suffering from acute malnutrition, a recent study by the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science of the university reported.

According to the study the male resident students are suffering from low pressure and underweight compared to their height. Mean calorie intake was lower than their requirement and the intake of vitamin A was extremely low, the report said.

The study also found that the food available in the residential halls was not sufficient to maintain normal health of the students. They had to depend on food available outside the campus, it added.

The report, however, could not say anything about the nutritional status of the female resident students as it was conducted only on 125 students from five male halls of the university — Fazul Huiq Hall, Jagannath Hall, Hazi Mohammad Mohsin Hall, Shahidullah Hall and Ziaur Rahman Hall.

The study conducted by Moazzem Hossain under the supervision of Dr Quazi Salamullah felt that the nutritional status of the resident students could be improved through creating awareness among them and providing with the nutrition education and dietary guideline.

The students were thoroughly examined to find out the levels of their weight, height, blood pressure, food intake and some blood biochemical parameters.

The mean age, average height and weight of the participants were 22.22 years, 166.2 cm and 52.23 kgs respectively. The average desired weight was 59.20 kgs. Their average monthly total expenditure was Taka 1123 and that for food was Taka 769.

Their mean blood pressure of the participants was systolic 103 mmHg and diastolic 67 mmHg.

Dietary survey indicated that the average daily intake of nutrients were protein 66.8 gm, iron 22.5 mg, calcium 512 mg, vitamin A 736 IU and vitamin C 29.7 mg. Mean calorie intake was 1889 kcal per day. It was also found that 76.97 per cent of the total calorie intake came from the food they took inside the halls and 23.03% from outside.

The mean biochemical parameters of the participants were blood haemoglobin 14.84 g/dl, serum total protein 7.73 g/dl, serum albumin 4.54 g/dl and serum total cholesterol

136.0 mg/dl.

Daily calorie intake was 3.33 per cent lower than that required to maintain ideal body weight.

Each participant, was then given nutrition education and dietary guideline to have balanced diet according to their ability and foods available in the halls and surroundings.

After 3 months, 81 male students were re-examined and it was found that they gained their near-ideal body weight, blood pressure and blood haemoglobin level by following the suggestions.

Within this time, the mean body weight increased to 53.67 kg, which was 90.7% of the ideal weight. It was 88.2% (52.23 kg) three months before. The mean systolic blood pressure increased to 107 mmHg (3.88% increased) and diastolic pressure to 71 mmHg (3.05% increased).

Dietary survey at the second time indicated that the average daily intake of nutrients were protein 75.3 g (12.72% increased), iron 25.1 mg (11.56% increased), calcium 587 mg (14.65% increased), vitamin A 964 IU (30.98% increased) and vitamin C 56.8 mg (91.25% increased). Mean calorie intake was 2160 kcal per day (14.34% increased). The mean biochemical parameters (haemoglobin, serum total protein, albumin and total cholesterol) investigated were within normal range. About 98% of the total participants were within normal range of blood haemoglobin, which was 87% in the first time.

There are three food service systems in the Dhaka University halls, dining system, canteen system and mess system.

The dining system is managed by the hall authorities and the hall student union leaders. In the canteen system, canteens are managed by their owners on commercial basis.

The mess systems in unauthorised. It has developed at all the residential halls with several small groups of students managing their food keeping a cooking boy.

Some resident students when asked said the atmosphere at the dining halls was unhygienic and unhealthy. The foods available there were quite sub-standard, they alleged. But they preferred the cafeteria system because it gives scope to choose between items and also to eat outside. But the system should be strictly supervised by the house tutors, they opined.



Benazir Bhutto, flanked by her lawyer and an unidentified man (L), entering the Rawalpindi Supreme Court on Saturday. Benazir is charged with corruption while in power. —AFP photo

Court biased, says Benazir

ISLAMABAD, Oct 12: Pakistani Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto appeared before the country's Supreme Court today to argue that a special court hearing corruption charges against her was biased, reports Reuters.

Tight security surrounded Benazir's appearance in view of a near riot when she was ordered to appear before the High Court in Lahore earlier this year.

Entry to the Supreme Court building was restricted and armed police commandos guarded the courtroom and corridors.

Benazir's Attorney Raja Anwar moved a petition asking Pakistan's highest court to transfer three cases from the special court of Justice Reasheed Aziz Khan in Lahore on the grounds that he had shown himself to be biased.

Benazir faces a total of eight

cases of abusing her power while Prime Minister. All were instituted by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan who dismissed her government in August last year.

If convicted she could be barred from holding any public office for seven years.

Benazir used a news conference later to resume her 14-month-old campaign against Ishaq Khan, saying his relatives were "flourishing while the nation is wasting away."

With conservative Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in power, she said, Ishaq Khan was "deaf, dumb and blind about the corruption, lawlessness, violence, abuse of power and horse trading that is taking place."

She said Pakistan was on the verge of economic collapse and only a national government could force consensus between conflicting groups now tearing the country apart.

Sonia won't contest polls, says Rao

NEW DELHI, Oct 12: Sonia Gandhi, the Italian born widow of India's assassinated former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, will not contest elections to Parliament, Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao said today, reports AFP.

Rao told reporters here that Sonia had declined the ruling Congress (I) Party's nomination for her husband's Amethi constituency in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh in next month's elections.

He said he met her at her residence here and asked her to contest and the 44-year-old mother of two replied: "No, repeat No."

Sections of the Congress (I), which Gandhi headed until his assassination on May 21, had repeatedly urged his widow to take her husband's place in Parliament from the Amethi constituency.

Gandhi, who married Sonia in 1968, had been elected four times to Parliament from Amethi since 1981.

JCD sweeps violence-ridden college polls

By Staff Correspondent

Several gunshots were fired and a number of crackers exploded Saturday in the Bahadur Shah Park area during a clash between JCD activists and supporters of Jatiya Party. The clash occurred during election to the Students Union of Kabi Nazrul Islam College.

The rival groups armed with guns, knives, sticks and other weapons, clashed for about an hour from 9:15 am, witnesses said. No injury was reported following the clashes.

The elections were held on schedule and the Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal panel swept the polls.

Police arrested Shahadat Hossain Alias Munna (25), a former General Secretary of the Suhrawardy College Student Union, from the area. Police also seized two pipeguns, 10 rounds of live bullets, two ramdams and two big knives from his house at nearby 22 Patla Khan Lane. A case was registered with Sutrapur police.

Earlier on Friday night, gunshots were exchanged between the rival groups which started at around 8 pm and continued till midnight in and around the college campus area. None was injured.

Police on Thursday arrested 12 persons from the college campus on charge of being involved in terrorist activities.

Student stabbed to death by school-mate

By SSMCH Correspondent

A student of Dhaka Collegiate School at Sadarghat in the city was stabbed to death allegedly by a school-mate Saturday.

Mahbub Hossain (13), a student of class eight, succumbed to his injuries at the Sir Salmullah Medical College Hospital.

Witnesses said Mahbub was allegedly stabbed by a student of class nine in front of the main gate of the school at about 11:30 am. The killers identity and the cause of the incident could not be known.

Mahbub, eldest among three brothers and one sister is the son of Abdur Rauf, a resident of 3/5 B, Chandi Charan Bose street in Wari.

Mahbub, was immediately taken to National Hospital and was later transferred to SSMCH where doctors declared him dead.

Allegation refuted

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as misleading and said the BNP government will not allow a single person to die without food.

State Minister for Relief Lufar Rahman Khan also denied reports of death without food but admitted incidents of death from diarrhoea.

He said medicine, worth about Taka 5 crore were sent to the affected areas where sufficient numbers of doctors and health workers are working round the clock.

The state minister said he would give a fuller report to the House today (Sunday) on the situation in northern districts.

Panic micros

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rorists are snatched mainly from around the campus at gunpoint, a reliable source said adding that these were released after being used, for periods varying from several hours to days. Besides, some are privately owned, the source mentioned.

At the peak of the anti-Ershad movement last November, Golam Faruk Obhi and his associates created panic by their frequent movement on campus in an ambulance. This style of terrorism was a new one on campus and each time an ambulance passed through the campus students and others panicked.

Both the warring groups were in tough competition to increase their strength in arms and outsiders at the residential halls, where they had established their stronghold, campus sources said.

According to the sources, the JCD had been keeping its dominance mostly over the Mohsin, Suryasen, Jasimuddin halls while its rival the BCL at the Zahurul Haq, Salmullah and Jagannath halls.

Insiders of both the student organisations while talking to this correspondent admitted that the leaders were having little influence over the armed groups in their respective organisations.

Members of the armed groups in both organisations were more interested in battling their rivals to ensure their existence. Otherwise, they feel they are being ignored in their respective organisations, said a student leader on condition of anonymity.

The Midnight File

Moscow must honour commitments: G-7

BANGKOK, Oct 12: Seven major industrial nations agreed Saturday that Moscow and its breakaway republics must guarantee to honour commitments before massive new aid programmes can be developed, German officials said. German Finance Minister Theo Waigel told reporters that "broad agreement" on the need for such guarantees emerged during a seven and a half hour meeting of financial leaders from the United States, Japan, Germany, Canada, Britain, France and Italy, reports AP.

Developing nations wary

BANGKOK, Oct 12: Developing countries on Saturday voiced concern that Soviet interest in obtaining World Bank funding may reduce their share of international loans. After conferring at a meeting preceding next week's World Bank annual conference in Bangkok, a group of 24 developing countries decided to urge the bank to assist the Soviet, reports AP.

Kuwait resumes issuing visas

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 12: Kuwait has resumed granting visas to foreigners but will continue to refuse them to nationals of countries which supported Iraq during the Gulf crisis, Interior Minister Ahmad Hammoud said today. The Emirate had stopped giving out visas two months ago to limit the entry of foreigners into Kuwait, Sheikh Hammoud said, reports AFP.

Brandt operated upon

FRANKFURT, Oct 12: Former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt has been operated on for removal of a tumor from his colon, his office in Bonn said Saturday. His condition was reported "good". The 77-year-old Brandt is the patriarch of German politics, and won the 1971 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to improve ties with Eastern Europe, reports AP.

Indemnity bill

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to come to a decision on the Indemnity Repeal Bill if adequate efforts were made.

He said he had instructed the secretary of the committee to collect the opinions expressed by eminent lawyers of the country on the Bill, and also those expressed through newspaper editorials for the purpose.

The Law Minister requested the Opposition to confine discussion on the Bill in the committee till it finalised its report, otherwise the committee might be influenced, or subjugated.

Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition and AL MP's Salahuddin Yusuf, Sudhansu Sekhar Haldar and Motia Chowdhury said that the Bill was a property of the House, and discussion on it could not be subjugated.

Abdus Samad Azad demanded that the committee be given a week's time to complete its work. In reply Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafez said one week would be too short a time and suggested that two weeks be allowed. The Speaker agreed to the suggestion.

The Parliamentary Committee on campus terrorism was formed unanimously after a general discussion on the subject on the basis of the demand of the Opposition during the last session.

However, as the Opposition could not nominate seven members on that very day, provision was made for subsequently nominating Opposition members to the committee.

Party influence and terrorism

The Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina told parliament on Saturday that a certain party in order to expand its spheres of influence was creating terrorism in educational institutions.

Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain of the BNP said in his reply that the Leader of the Opposition was good enough not to name any party. Requesting her to follow the footsteps of Prophet

Muhammad (SM) in giving advice to others, he said that the nation hold all parties, not just any particular party, responsible for terrorism which should be uprooted untidily.

What's in a vote

When Hafizuddin rose to congratulate Sheikh Razzak Ali on behalf of two independent MPs on his getting elected unanimously, some AL members reminded him that the independent members had voted for the BNP candidate in the presidential election. The retired Major retorted "If your leaders could take oath as ministers after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, can't we even cast a vote?"

Deputy Speaker

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on a point of order spoiling against the 10 ordinances placed before the House for ratification. He said that the ordinances were promulgated to increase salary of the President, Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Ministers, State Ministers and Judges, but no bill has been placed for increasing the salary of the members of the Parliament.

Barrister Aminul Haque's name came up as the member of ministers from Rajshahi division was less than other divisions, but was finally dropped.

According to insiders, the Awami League is seriously contemplating to contest the election of Deputy Speaker. Yesterday afternoon, it sat in a meeting with the party chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair. It was learnt that Sudangshu Shekhar Haldar was named by a section of party MPs to contest but he refused the day's meeting ended without any decision.

Meanwhile, the BNP has already communicated the name of Panni as Deputy Speaker to all opposition parties. The election will be held today evening.

Razzak elected

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Giving his reaction to newsmen immediately after taking the oath of office Razzak said he was "really very happy to be elected Speaker of the Sangsad unanimously" and expressed his gratitude to all the members of the Sangsad.

Razzak pointed out that since the present Jatiya Sangsad was elected in free and fair polls under a non-partisan neutral government, it had many responsibilities to perform commensurate with the hopes and aspirations of the people.

The new Speaker described the current parliament as unique in terms of making the government accountable to the Sangsad.

Both the Treasury and Opposition Bench members should put in their best efforts to help parliamentary democracy flourish in the country. In this connection, he said the difference of opinion of both the parties should be narrowed to forge a national unity.

Replying to a question, as to what would be his role in the party politics, the Speaker said when he (Speaker) would sit in the Sangsad he would maintain neutrality.

Razzak said some experts would be involved with the

Parliament Secretariat and parliamentary standing committees so that members could participate in different deliberations fruitfully.

Replying to another question whether there was any precedence of engaging experts in the Parliament Secretariat and standing committees in any country, the Speaker said there were such provisions in the state assemblies of the United States and Canada.

Razzak said, "We have already discussed the issue and there was no dearth of good sense among the Treasury Bench members in providing support to the Sangsad Secretariat." He said the issue would also be discussed with the opposition parties.

To a question as to when the Deputy Speaker would be elected, the Speaker said he might be elected today (Sunday).

Asked if there was any possibility of electing the Deputy Speaker from the Opposition side, the Speaker said there was no such precedence anywhere in the world. When told that in India the Deputy Speaker belonged to the Opposition, Razzak said a kind of coalition government was in power there.



Polaroid photo left by an unidentified messenger at the office of United News of India showing kidnapped Romanian envoy Livill Radu (C) flanked by two masked and heavily armed Khalistan Liberation Front militants. —AFP photo

JP constitution

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Chairman Ershad. The Prosecution side also questioned him about his personal life.

Tajul said that he could not remember his date of marriage and birth dates of his three sons.

The Prosecution also said that Tajul had married a woman who was the wife of a school teacher after enticing her.

However, Tajul Islam hurriedly opted to give a clarification on his marriage.

Deposing in the Court he said that his wife was his cousin who had been divorced by her former husband. He married her later on humanitarian grounds.

He said that her three sons also stay with him at present.

When the Attorney General asked this question Defence Counsel Yousuf Hossain Humayun raised an objection that this question was irrelevant to which the Attorney General Aminul Haque replied, "It is very much relevant to the case for he (witness Tajul) enticed the woman".

Tajul strongly defended himself and said that he could produce the former husband of his wife and their three children Russel, Jewel and Chandan to prove that his wife had been divorced by her former husband.

During the cross-examination Tajul further deposed that the March 20, 1991 petition asking to relieve Ershad of the case submitted to the former Acting President did not mention that the money belonged to the Jatiya Party.

He further admitted that

the case lodged by former Acting Secretary General of the party ABM Shahjahan did not mention how the Jatiya Party raised funds to buy a house.

Tajul during his deposition said that 1,46,42,800 taka was collected through primary membership subscriptions of the party, 25,35,250 taka was collected through donations, 3,22,250 taka was collected through subscriptions by party MPs and District Council Chairmen while 25 lakh taka was donated by Moudud Ahmed, Mizan Chowdhury and leaders of the party.

He said that all this money had not been deposited in the bank.

He further said that there was a bank account of the Jatiya Party with the Green Road branch of Agrani Bank which used to be operated under the joint signatures of the party chairman and the secretary general.

After cross-examination for about two hours yesterday Judge Mohammad Ali Khan adjourned the court to resume it on Tuesday.

One killed in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 12: A young man was killed and 20 others were injured, five seriously, in a road mishap on Sirajganj-Bogra road today, police said, reports UNB.

Moniruddin (22) of Panbari in Lalmonirhat district died on the spot as the Sirajganj-bound bus plunged into a roadside ditch near the Horagati village of Raiganj upazila this afternoon.

Gunmen seize halls

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of gunshot were fired in the Zahurul Haq Hall area, there was reportedly an inner conflict of the pro-Awami League Chhatra League at a conference in the area. The conflict was reported over formation of new committees.

Chhatra League sources, however, denied its link with the incident and said a group of armed activists of pro-BNP Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal had fired on the conference.

One of the teachers, wanting not to be named, said armed elements take position in the club every now and then while fighting rivals.

"We were forced to stay in the club till 12.30 Thursday night as gunbattle gripped the campus since the evening," he said.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) in a statement Saturday expressed grave concern over the severe deterioration of the campus situation.

The statement said the situation at the university was deteriorating day by day despite the demand of the teachers to the government and the political parties for a violence-free campus. It said the situation had gone beyond control of the university authorities.

The DUTA said huge arms and ammunition were at the halls and if those would not be recovered immediately, the future of students would be uncertain.

It hoped that the democratic government would take effective measure in this regard.

Biswas

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fully implemented for the improvement of the lot of the people.

He said people from all walks of life irrespective of party affiliation and opinion should extend cooperation to the government in its efforts for attaining the desired development goals.

The President stressed on promoting creative activities in the society to promote our national entity. We should show respect to the scholars, he said.

He also called upon the teachers to extend their wholehearted cooperation to ensure peaceful atmosphere on the campus.

The representatives of the federation discussed various problems faced by the teachers with the President who gave them a patient hearing.

The members of the delegation included Chairman of PSC Prof Ejazuddin Ahmed, Federation President Dr Enamul Haq Khan and Secretary General M Shariful Islam.

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