

Dhaka Day by Day

A Second Thought before Opening the Chest

by Ekramul Kabir

A ting balloon on the end of a thin tube: that's all it took to end the agony of hundreds of thousands of people suffering from blocked arteries. Since the invention of this simple idea, people all over the world have benefited from angioplasty. It avoids the mess and danger of an operation, and minimises trauma. Recently a specialist in this life-saving field spoke to The Daily Star.

"Any blockage of the coronary arteries reduces the amount of oxygen to the heart. This can cause chest pain and may lead to what is usually known as a cardiac failure," said Dr. Tarun Kumar Praharaj during his visit to Dhaka to attend a two-day seminar organized by Bangladesh Cardiac Society on the 'Entire Spectrum of Heart Disease'.

Dr. Praharaj, a Senior Consultant Cardiologist of BM Birla Heart Research Centre at Calcutta, does invasive diagnosis of the heart, specialising in balloon angioplasty. He thinks that hundreds of thousands of people with heart disease can be made aware of their need for treatment at an early stage.

This treatment may include medication, coronary bypass surgery or coronary angioplasty.

During the last decade and a half, a procedure has been employed to open partially blocked coronary vessels of the heart before they become totally blocked. This procedure is called Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA). A very small catheter,



Once in place, the balloon is inflated to crack and compress the plaque, leaving a larger opening for blood to pass through.

about one millimetre in diameter, has a balloon surrounding it, beginning a few millimeters from its tip and extending backward along its shaft for 2 to 3 centimeters. This tip of the catheter is passed under radiographic guidance into the coronary system and pushed through the blocked artery until the balloon portion of the catheter straddles partially choked point. Then the balloon is inflated with atmospheric pressure which stretches the ailing artery almost to the point of rupture.

According to Dr. Tarun — it all depends upon correct diagnosis. Before an angioplastic surgery, the patients have to go through a diagnostic angiography to pinpoint the exact nature of their heart problem. Concerning the diagnosis he explained, "Special dyes are injected into the blood stream so that the vessels feeding the heart will be clearly defined in pictures on a Fluoroscope — a sort of X-ray de-

vice that produces live television images and can be recorded on a videotape."

After the Balloon Angioplasty procedure, the patients are taken to a Care Unit with special monitoring equipment. Recovery in the hospital is most likely a matter of allowing the insertion site to heal before the patient can get up and walk around.

Dr. Praharaj says that developing countries such as Bangladesh and India have higher incidents of heart disease whereas the developed countries have succeeded in minimizing their cardiac cases. The main reason for this he said, was that in developing countries "The basic awareness among the people is not there".

Smoking for a long time, he indicated, is one of the common causes of coronary disease of the heart, but if someone stops smoking at the initial period, then his or her chance of having a heart attack is significantly reduced and is the same as a non-smoker. The other causes are diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, excessive tension and in most cases a blockage of the artery.

As a recurring visitor to Bangladesh Dr. Praharaj has visited BIRDEM and the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases. He found that although both hospitals were performing open heart surgery and angiograms, the number of patients were very few. But he also believed that soon people will not have to go abroad for treatment since the medical facilities will be quite adequate quite at home.

As a sports fan and a regular week-end swimmer, he suggested some preventive precautions. 'Diet', he said, has a very significant impact on ischemic heart disease. Food, which is rich in fat, such as cheese, butter, pastry and ice-cream contain high cholesterol and if people don't control their dietary habits, the possibility of cardiac failure at an earlier age is much higher. Regular check ups, therefore, specially to determine cholesterol levels, is essential even for a young person.

Dr. Tarun Kumar Praharaj who does this Balloon Angioplasty open heart surgery, said that he would visit Bangladesh very soon. "Angioplasty has become a relatively common procedure in recent years, patients will attest to its success in their lives," were his concluding remarks to The Daily Star.



The Women's Day Observance Committee brought out a procession in the city yesterday to mark the International Women's Day. — Star photo

Bablu's death anniversary today

The fifth anniversary of death of Mahbulul Haq Bablu, former General Secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), will be observed today (Monday), reports BSS.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal has drawn up elaborate programmes in observance of the day. The programmes include wearing black badges, holding milad mahfil and discussion meeting after Asr prayers at the BNP central office.

In a statement Nazim Uddin Alam, Joint Convener of JCD, asked all units of the party to observe the occasion with due honour.

New BAU VC accorded reception

The newly appointed Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Prof. M. Ashraf Ali Khan was accorded a reception recently at the Shilpacharya Zaitul Abedin Auditorium in Mymensingh by the BAU Employees' Association, reports BSS.

Presided over by Md Idris Ali, President of Employees' Association, the function was addressed by the President of BAU Teachers' Association Prof M Rafiqul Haque Bhuiya, the President of BAU Officers' Association Alhaj M Ziaul Islam, and the Registrar A Hannan Khan.

Sugar distribution in six rationing areas begins

The government has started distribution of sugar in six statutory rationing areas through ration dealers on the occasion of the holy Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr, an official handout said Sunday, reports BSS.

Sugar will be distributed at a fixed price among the ration card holders of Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Rangamati, Khulna and Narayanganj.

Under this arrangement 400 grams of sugar will be supplied against each ration card in a week, the handout said.

Ram Krishna Mission gives relief

Mymensingh unit of Ram Krishna Mission distributed relief articles among destitute people at Sarishabari Ram Krishna Mission at Mandir recently, reports BSS.

Jalal Ahamed, Deputy Commissioner formally inaugurated the relief distribution.

Relief distribution function was presided over by Advocate Arabinda Nag and Principal, Mymensingh Ramkrishna Mission was present as chief guest.

International Women's Day observed 'Implement UN resolution on women's rights'

By Staff Correspondent

The International Women's Day was observed on Sunday throughout the country as in other parts of the world with a renewed call for full implementation of the United Nations resolution on women's right and amendment of existing laws in Bangladesh to check repression on women.

Different women's and socio-cultural organisations chalked out elaborate day-long programmes in observance of the day.

This year's theme for the day was "Women, Environment and Development: Symbiosis for Survival".

Sammilito Aat-a-March Udd-japon Committee (Committee for Celebration of March 8), a conglomerate of 52 organisations brought out a colourful procession in the city and held rally in front of the National Press Club with its convener Begum Sufla Kamal in the chair.

Several thousand women with banners, placards and festoons joined the procession which started from the Public Library premises at around 10 am.

"The law and religion have provision of equal right for the women but it is not implemented in our society," Begum Sufla Kamal told the rally adding that "women want to live in the society with proper respect and this is the message of the day."

She said that the women in our society are very helpless and they are being tortured in various ways. The existing laws should be amended to resist and punish the repressionists, she added.

Ayesa Khanam, General Secretary of Mahila Parishad read out a resolution at the rally which expressed Bangladeshi women's solidarity with the women of the world.

The resolution said that the

women would work with men to build an exploitation-free society in Bangladesh upholding the spirit of the Liberation War.

The rally demanded enactment of 'Uniform Family Code' in accordance with the resolution of the United Nations. It also demanded formation of a commission to determine the present position and place of honour of women in our society.

The womens groups expressed concern over the activities of the fundamentalists and reactionist forces in the country.

The rally was followed by 'ganashanti and gananatak', a programme of open-air music and drama participated by

women in the rally. Later, at noon, Rabindranath Tagore's 'Street Patra' was staged at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

The celebration committee would also arrange a show of the short film 'Shurja Dighal Bari' today (Monday) at the Public Library auditorium.

'Narigrantha Prabartana' and four other organisation jointly held another rally in front of National Press Club in observance of the day and demanded acceptance of women workers' charter of demands. The rally was presided over by Farida Akhter.

In observance of the day 'Save the Distressed People' — a voluntary organisation held a discussion meeting at Kamalapur with Roushan Ara Begum in the chair.

International Women's Day is being observed in accordance with the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1977 and to recall the incident of March 8, 1957 in which police attacked a peaceful procession of women garment workers in Chicago in the United States of America.

Meanwhile, equal rights of women in the society was stressed at a seminar here Sunday.

Presided over by President of the Mahila Forum Advocate Ferdost Sultana, the seminar was participated by Prof Ashrafunnessa Khan and Ms Rowshan Ara Azad.

Hajj accord with Riyadh signed

Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia have signed the Hajj agreement for 1992 outlining the framework for number of pilgrims and their facilities during the forthcoming Hajj, reports UNB.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof Abdul Mannan said this on his return here Sunday from a four-day official visit to Saudi Arabia.

Mannan and Saudi Minister for Pilgrimage and Endowment Affairs Abdul Wahab Ahmed Abdul Wasel signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

The agreement encompasses all details with regard to the arrangement of accommodation and transportation for the pilgrims, the State Minister said.

He said that the Saudi government strongly discouraged non-ballooted hajj pilgrims.

During his visit to the Kingdom, Prof Mannan also called on the President of Islamic Development Bank Dr Ahmed Mohammad Ali and discussed matters relating to financing of mosque-based mass literacy programmes in Bangladesh.

The IDB President in principle agreed to finance the project in future.

Secretary of the Religious Affairs Ministry Abdul Awal was present on this occasion.

Commonwealth Day today

Commonwealth Day will be observed today (Monday) in a befitting manner in all member-states of the loose confederation of former British colonies, reports UNB.

In a message on the occasion, Queen Elizabeth R, Head of the Commonwealth, asked the young people of the Commonwealth to make themselves aware of the crucial environmental problems and issues facing the member-states. "There is no time to spare. It is your future that is at stake," the Queen said, urging all to share the task of ensuring that "our world will remain fit for life and capable of sustaining us and those who will come after us."

Referring to ensuing United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Queen also urged all for chalking out measures that will check further destruction and permanent degradation of world's natural resources.

"Unless we take action now to halt the rise in global temperatures, rising sea levels will threaten the very existence of several islands and low-lying Commonwealth countries," she warned.

Describing the Commonwealth as "cross-section of the contemporary world" where one-third population of the world live, Queen Elizabeth stressed the need for democratic governments for ensuring the future health and vitality of the natural world around us.

Fire Service week observed

Fire Service and Civil Defence Week was observed in Jamalpur with much enthusiasm. Fazul Haque, Additional Deputy Commissioner (JEN) inaugurated the week, reports BSS.

Khatrul Basher Chistee, district chief warden of Fire Service and Civil Defence presided over the function.

Yusuf Ali, Head Master Singhjani High School and Ashraf Ali, Assistant Director in-charge, Fire Service and Civil Defence, Jamalpur-Sherpur region spoke in the function.

Happy Birthday TO YOU

SARAH DADU & DIDIMONI

Election to JU VC panel

Prof Saleh gets highest vote

By Staff Correspondent

Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman and Prof M Ima-muddin were elected members of the panel for the post of Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Sunday.

The panel the Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University. The present VC, Dr Abul Kashem Chowdhury and Prof K M Moudud Elahi belonged to one panel while Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman, Dr Enamul Huq Khan and Prof Imamuddin belonged to the other.

Muhammad Ali conducted polls.

However, the position secured by Prof Imamuddin was earlier tied with Prof K M Elahi. A second round of polls untied the tie.

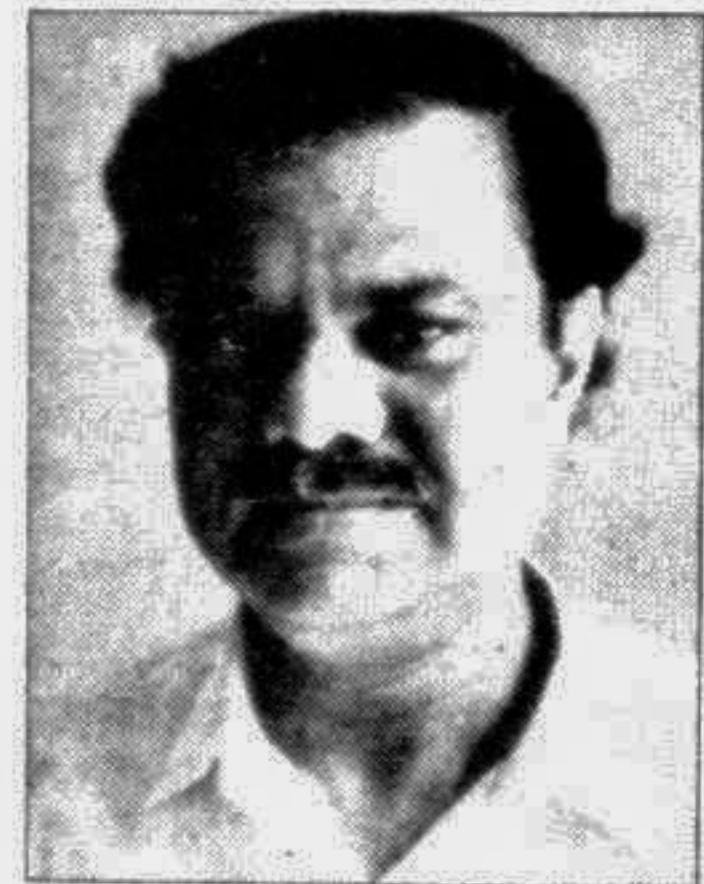


Prof Saleh Ahmed

The 91-member Senate of the university Sunday evening voted the probable VC candidates to the panel out of a total of six candidates belonging to two groups.

Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed, the present VC, got 52 votes while Prof Rahman got 44 and Prof Imamuddin received 40 votes.

The Chancellor of the universities will appoint one from



Prof Mustahidur Rahman

man, Dr Enamul Huq Khan and Prof Imamuddin belonged to the other.

The special session of the JU Senate began at 5-15 pm Sunday at the Senate Hall of the University with the Vice Chancellor in the chair. A total of 81 senators out of 91 cast their votes which, officials said, was maximum in the university's history. JU Registrar



Prof M Imamuddin

The panel led by Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed was proposed by Prof Mirza Mozammel Huq which was supported by Prof M Kabir. The panel led by Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman was proposed by Dr A B M Enayet Hossain and was seconded by Prof M Maniruzzaman and Prof K M Golam Hossain.

CUJ demands trial of Golam Azam

CHITTAGONG, Mar 8: Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) here today called upon the government to repeal all black laws and hold trial of Jamaat leader Prof Golam Azam, reports BSS.

A joint meeting of the outgoing and the incoming executive committees of the CUJ held at Chittagong Press Club with Akhtarun Nabi, outgoing President in the chair also demanded withdrawal of the bill on suppression of terrorism. The bill when passed as a law, would curb basic rights of people and the professionals, the meeting opined.

M Nasrul Huq and Nirmal Das, newly elected President and General Secretary of the CUJ also spoke.

Plea to save Rohingyas from annihilation

Bangladesh Rohingya Solidarity Association (BRSA) appealed to the conscience of the world community to come forward with a view to saving the Rohingya Muslims from complete annihilation by Myanmar military junta.

In a joint statement Alhaj SM Khalid Chowdhury and Md Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Chairman and Secretary General of the organisation said: It is a problem of untold human suffering and brutality of the highest order against the Rohingya Muslims launched by a group of Mya-nmar Army Generals and SLORC members who disregarded and flouted the mandate of Myanmar people and trying to coerce

them into submission by detaining Aung San Suu Kyi who symbolizes the unflinching faith of the struggling masses of Myanmar trying to establish a social order dedicated to the concept of democracy, equality and fraternity.

It is a moral obligation of all peace loving people, the national governments and the democracies of the world to take proper action with the cognizance of the United Nations to force the armed junta to immediately halt the systematic genocidal war against its minorities and surrender power to the popularly elected representative of the Myanmar people.

Weather Light rain likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light rain or shower is likely at one or two places over the regions of Noakhali, Comilla, and Chittagong. Meteorological office forecast for next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Sunday. Dry weather will prevail elsewhere in the country.

Day temperature may rise by one to two degree Celsius during the period. Met office also said.

The sun sets in Dhaka today (Monday) at 6.06 pm and rises tomorrow (Tuesday) at 6.12 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Sunday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	30.4	19.4	54	33
Chittagong	28.2	21.3	87	83
Khulna	31.3	19.6	75	56
Rajshahi	31.0	12.6	45	37
Dinajpur	29.2	13.5	54	30
Mymensingh	29.5	15.8	60	40
Sylhet	29.4	19.2	78	40
Cox's Bazar	29.0	21.8	77	82
Feni	29.8	23.0	91	77

It's new just for you

The Daily Star is pleased to introduce a new column where individuals and organisations can publish Birthday and Anniversary Greetings, Congratulatory and Condolence Messages, Get-Well/Good-Luck Wishes, Birth/Death Announcements, In Memoriam, etc. at nominal charges.

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