

Dhaka Day by Day

Fighting the Old Killer

by Aasha Mehreen Amin



President Abdur Rahman Biswas addressing the members and guests at the Inaugural Session of Fourth Annual Conference of Bangladesh Cancer Society.

Although there are no reliable figures for the incidence of cancer in Bangladesh it has been estimated that every year, about 200,000 people become victims of this killer disease out of which about 150,000 die. Most victims do not even know they have cancer until it reaches its last stage. Lack of proper facilities and ignorance 'ensure' incorrect diagnosis, late detection and thousands of avoidable deaths. The government's apathy over the years towards cancer is reflected by its expenditure of only 3 per cent of national income on the health sector. With these depressing facts to fall back on, the Bangladesh Cancer Society has come up with an extensive campaign against cancer. Professor Haq, a cancer specialist and the president of the society talks of the objectives, achievements and drawbacks of the society in its movement against this deadly disease.

Formed in 1974, the Bangladesh Cancer Society consists of cancer specialists including radio therapists, surgeons and physicians. At present 50 per cent of the membership includes non-medical people. One of the main objectives, says the president of the society, is to create awareness among the public about cancer. This means making available, statistical information regarding the incidence mortality and curability of cancer and the conditions under which cancer occurs in the country. This is the first step. The second is to control the disease itself. This means facilitating activities towards prevention, early detection and proper treatment.

The most common type of cancer in Bangladesh is that of the lung, throat and mouth. Eighty five per cent of lung cancer is due to one bad habit — smoking. Professor Haq believes that just by not smoking and chewing tobacco 40 per cent of cancer in Bangladesh can be prevented. This is just a small example of how just simple awareness can actually prevent contracting cancer. Another very common form of cancer in women in Bangladesh is cervical and breast cancer. According to Haq, the main cause of cancer of the cervix is giving birth too many times within too little time gaps. Having fewer children significantly reduces the possibility of cervical cancer, not to mention reducing the population growth, an added bonus. Breast cancer, too can be controlled if detected early, merely through regular self examinations and medical check ups.

With the aim of creating awareness and providing information, the Society has published several leaflets and periodicals in English and Bengali, held press conferences and aired programmes on cancer on television and radio. The publications contain vital information written for the layman, including early symptoms, treatment, prevention, names of doctors and the ex-

isting facilities available. But it is not enough to just let people know about cancer. Hospitals, clinics, laboratories have to be developed and physicians, nurses, dentists trained to ensure detection, diagnosis and treatment. The president of the cancer society gives a pathetic picture of the current facilities available.

As an example he mentions that for a population of 110 million there is only one cobalt unit (a radiation machine), and that too about 20 years old. We need at least 110. Other machines such as deep X-ray machines used for cancer treatment are either out-dated or obsolete. Even the pathological departments of the various medical colleges are so poorly equipped that proper diagnosis let alone treatment cannot be a certainty.

The cancer society has developed an extensive plan to change all this. A part of this plan is to establish a cancer home in Dhaka, which would be a non-profit voluntary organisation. Some of the functions of this entity are — to provide terminal care of cancer patients, training of general practitioners, paramedics and nurses, both in the public and private sectors, informational services and to provide out patient services including chemotherapy and supportive symptomatic and psychological treatment to patients. In addition, the Society plans to spread its activities all over Bangladesh.

For an organisation as old as 18 years, achievements of the Society have not been as substantive as one would hope. A large part of this has to do with lack of funds. In spite of a growing membership and generous donations, the funds needed to carry out such a mammoth job are far from adequate.

It is clear that without the help of the government all these plans will go to waste. Although the government's past record does not have much to show for, Professor Haq is hopeful for the future. He comments that the Bangladesh government has 81,188 health workers including 9,630 doctors 6,630 nurses and 34,524 paramedics placed all over the country, even in the remotest villages. With a little training, he says, these health workers can be utilized for cancer education prevention and control of cancer while they are performing their other duties. Other facilities, such as radiation chemotherapy and surgical treatment is also a must for all medical college hospitals.

"We do not have the adequate resources", says the president of the Cancer Society, "to do the job alone. But we do have the expertise and dedication and we can use this to advise the government how to control cancer. If the government gives importance to our programmes, there is no reason why this terrible disease can not be checked significantly."



DU Vice-Chancellor Professor Maniruzzaman Miah addressing the inaugural function of the second seminar of Biotechnology Research Centre yesterday.

'Conduct research to improve people's lot'

By DU Correspondent

The Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor Maniruzzaman Miah Saturday urged scientists and researchers to conduct research on subjects relating to the improvement of the condition of the people.

The VC was addressing as chief guest the inaugural

session of the second seminar arranged by the Biotechnology Research Centre of the DU.

Different types of research programmes were continuing in the university despite problems including existing terrorism on the campus, the Vice Chancellor said.

Stressing the need for research on the problems of food, health and treatment and industry, the DU VC said that it was our duty to solve all the problems arising out of the lack of technology.

Presided over by Professor M Sulatan Hossain, Acting Dean of the Faculty of Biology, the function was also addressed by Professor Aminul Islam, Director of the Centre, and Professor M Nawser Ali Khan, Chairman, Botany Department of the DU.

SC vacation from Sept 6

SC Correspondent

Annual vacation of both the Divisions of the Supreme Court will begin from September 6. The court will remain close till October, 15.

The Court will, however, reopen on Sunday, October, 18.

Sad mistake

A woman working with a legal aid organisation looking after toiling children was yesterday mistaken as childlifter, reports UNB.

Hosnera was caught, beaten and then taken to Motijheel thana by local people when she was going to the parents of freshers of a children's project run by Ain-O-Salish Kendra (ASK), said a press release. "Our field worker went there (Motijheel area) for organisational work, she had no ill-motive," said the press release signed by Justice KM Sobhan.

ASK has been working for the underprivileged working children for the last two years, providing them education, health care and legal aid, it said.

The legal aid and mediation centre has several field workers who frequently meet children and their parents in the project area.

The kendra sought cooperation of the people in its humanitarian service.

Air Chief back from USA

Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Choudhury returned home yesterday ending a fortnight-long visit to the United States and the Philippines, reports UNB.

During his stay in USA, he attended the second Pacific Air Chiefs conference in Hawaii and Mainland USA and meet with Chief of US Air Force General Merrill A. MePeak and other high officials of Pentagon and Department of Defence, said a press release.

He also visited different USAF operational Air base and training institution at Hickam, Randolph and Lackland.

JUCSU condemns killing of Forhad Hossain

Jahangirnagar University Central Students Union (JUCSU) condemned the killing of a Dhaka College student in a "terrorist" attack, reports UNB.

JUCSU Vice-President Masud Hasan Talukdar and General Secretary Shamsul Tabriz Mithu in a statement urged the government to identify and punish the culprits.

Forhad Hossain, a second year student, died from assaults by traders of Bakushah Hawkers market in Dhaka city last Wednesday.

The student leaders also called upon all to build resistance against terrorists.

Sarak Paribahan poll today

The biennial election to the executive committee of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity will be held today (Sunday), reports UNB.

To conduct the elections smoothly, votes will be polled in all branch offices throughout the country, says a press release of the Samity, an organisation of transport owners.

Presidents and General Secretaries of the branches of the Samity will act as Presiding Officers and Assistant Presiding Officers respectively.



- 5.00 Opening announcement
- 5.00 Al-Quran Programme summary
- 5.10 News in Bangla
- 5.20 Recitation from the Bible
- 5.25 Puppet Show: 'Bartha'
- 6.00 Sports programme
- 6.30 Chena Jaana
- 7.05 Tagore Songs
- 8.00 News in Bangla
- 8.30 Probaha
- 9.00 Drama series: Oshin
- 10.00 News in English
- 10.30 Band show
- 11.30 Khabar/The News
- 11.40 Monday's programme summary
- 11.45 Closing

Weather

No change in day temperature

By Staff Correspondent

Temporary light rain or shower is likely to occur at a few places over Chittagong and Khulna divisions and the regions of Faridpur, Dhaka, Bogra and Rajshahi while weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere during the next 24 hours commencing 6am today (Sunday).

The Met office forecasts, day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The maximum temperature of 35.4 degree Celsius was reported from Srimangal yesterday (Saturday) and the minimum of 24.6 degree was reported from Sylhet.

The sun sets today (Sunday) at 6.18 pm and rises tomorrow (Monday) at 5.40 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country yesterday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in Degree Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	32.9	26.5	82	71
Chittagong	33.0	26.5	75	78
Rajshahi	34.4	26.0	77	74
Khulna	33.8	26.6	78	72
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.5	70	85
Sylhet	34.5	24.6	82	67
Dinajpur	34.0	25.65	82	66
Srimangal	35.4	25.8	77	78



Gananatri Party leader Suranjit Sen Gupta addressing a public meeting at Gulistan Square in the city yesterday.

Parallel govt active within ruling party, says Suranjit

By Staff Correspondent

Gananatri Party leader Suranjit Sengupta MP Saturday said that a parallel government was active within the present BNP government.

"Begum Zia is helpless to that parallel government inclined to the anti-liberation forces," Suranjit told a rally at Gulistan Square adding that because of that government he failed to replace the Home Minister even in the face of mounting public pressure.

He alleged that because of the Home Ministry's failure to curb terrorism, Rashed Khan Menon fell prey to its ulterior design. He, however, did not elaborate the point.

"It seems that an indefinite anarchy have started in the country and the government is unconcern about it," he pointed out and said that "so the government can claim the law and order situation was under control even after attempt on Menon's life."

Presided over by city unit president Mahmudur Rahman the rally was addressed among others by party General Secretary Mohammad Afzal, Organising Secretary Shaiful Mawla, Presidium Member Saiful Islam and Nurul Islam.

"How can the Home Minis-

ter said, in that very night Jamaat-Shibir-Jubo Command were not involved with Menon incident," Suranjit questioned.

He also said that the government agencies were only investigating the Sarbahara links with Menon case but Workers Party Acting Secretary mentioned in the FIR (First Information Report) that Jamaat-Shibir, Jubo Command gang were involved in the attack.

"Why none of the Jubo Command activists is not interrogated yet," he asked.

Referring to the nationwide terrorism he said that this government totally failed to ensure security of the country-people.

Suranjit alleged that this government was following every footstep of the autocratic Ershad government and the law and order situation were now plunged in corruption.

"This government may have face the same fate of Ershad," he predicted.

Mohammad Afzal said that this government liked to maintain a close political relation with Jamaat and Matin Chowdhury and few other ministers were working as go-between.

Migration of talents to be checked: Huda

State Minister for Establishment Md Nurul Huda yesterday said, the government is contemplating actively to check the migration of the country's meritorious students for the sake of the future of the nation, reports BSS.

He was addressing a freshers' reception of Dhaka University at TSC auditorium.

Organised by the arts and cultural organisation 'Abong' of the University the function was presided over by Dr Wakil Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor of DU. It was addressed, among others by Barrister Mainul Hossain and Dr Humayun Azad.

Huda said, a sizable number of so-called students are now engaged with terrorism and

trying to spread it to the general students. He said, government is trying hard to root out terrorism from the society. But, he said, it needs a coordinated massive efforts of all political parties, social workers, teachers, students and conscious people of the society. He called upon all to apply ways and means to achieve the goal.

The State Minister said, the nation is already suffering from the legacy of the autocratic regime and everyone should try to improve the situation. He said that the government, like guardians and teachers wants that the students always engage themselves to develop their talents and intelligence.

Mahanagar Puja body formed

The Mahanagar Sarbajanin Puja Committee in its biennial conference held at Dhakeshwari temple melangan yesterday elected a 51-member executive committee with Anil Nath, Dwijendra Nath Saha and Dipen Chatterjee as its President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively, reports BSS.

The conference was presided over by the out-going President Profulla Kumar Howlader.

Earlier, founder president of the committee Kamal Bhushan Roy Chowdhury addressed the inaugural session of the conference as the chief guest.

Rashidul joins BCSIR as member admn

Khondokar Rashidul Huq recently joined Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) as Member (Administration), says a press release.

Prior to this assignment, Huq was the Director (Administration and Commercial) of Bangladesh Porjaton Corporation. Besides he was Member (Marketing and Cooperatives) Bangladesh Handloom Board and Deputy Chief (Personal and Training), Bangladesh Water and Power Development Board.

Old Cadet's Assoc meet held

The biennial meeting of the Old Cadet's Association of Sylhet (OCAS) was held at TSC auditorium in Dhaka Friday, reports BSS.

President of Dhaka University Teachers Association Dr SMA Fayez was present as the chief guest on the occasion. He called upon the OCAS members to play a more effective role in development of the country.

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DEATH ANNIVERSARY



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Dewan Ahmad Kabir Chowdhury Son Hisham/Intiaz and daughter Durba Kabir, 136, Housing Estate, Sylhet.

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১৯৯২-৯৩ শিকাবর্ষে ঢাকা গণ কমাণিয়াল ইনস্টিটিউটে ২ (দুই) বঙ্গের মেয়াদি ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-কমার্শ কোর্সে ১ম বর্ষ ১ম পর্বে সচিবী বিজ্ঞান ও হিসাব বিজ্ঞান বিভাগে ১৯৯২ ইং সনে অনুষ্ঠিত এসএসসি পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে প্রথম বিভাগে উত্তীর্ণ ছাত্র/ছাত্রীদের নিকট হইতে ভর্তির জন্য ইনস্টিটিউটের নির্ধারিত ফরমে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

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