# = FOCUS=

against HIV right from the LTHOUGH the first time of infection. The studies AIDS patient was detected in the USA also show that the virus can in 1981, earlier cases were reproduce rapidly making between 100 million and a bilfound by retrospective analylion new copies each day. sis to have occurred in 1978 The body fights back, turning in the USA, and in the late out a billion new T cells -1970s, in equatorial Africa. Causative organism was first also known as CD4 Lymphocytes - each day and destroydiscovered by the French ing up to 99 per cent of the scientist Prof Montaigner in 1983 and it was called Lyminvaders within two days. Unfortunately, the survivphadenotropic Virus (LAV) and in 1984 Dr Robert Gallo discovered it and named Human T cell Lymphotropic Virus III (HTLV-III). These two viruses were found to be

the same and in May 1986.

the International Committee

on the Taxonomy gave it a

new name: Human Immuno-

deficiency Virus (HIV). It was

also realised that there are

two types of HIVs and de-

noted HIV-1 and HIV-2 (in

West Africa) both of which

the human blood consists of

three types of cells such as

red blood cell, white blood

cell and platelets. Lympho-

cytes of White Blood cells are

three types: T cells (70 per

cent). B cells (20 per cent)

and Null cells (10 per cent).

The T cells and the B cells

cooperate, and in fact, T cells

control or stimulate the B

cells to fight against the dis-

HIVs are cytopathic virus, T

cells being their main target

and having unique ability to

destroy the T cells. The

viruses are able to spread

throughout the body and can

pass the blood-brain-barrier

and destroy some brain cells. Thus the HIV erodes the

body's defence system, ex-

posing the infected person to

opportunistic infections re-

sulting over time a range of

lung diseases, fungal infec-

tions, rashes, sores, wasting,

cancers and other painful and

debilitating conditions. Even-

tually, these AIDS-related ill-

ness overpower the body's

ability to fight back, causing

physical - and sometimes.

mental - ruin and death.

ease-carrying organisms. The

It may be mentioned here.

cause AIDS.

ing HIVs are often mutants. that is, organisms bearing slight genetic variations. These variations allow the virus to escape immediate detection by the body's T cells. These mutants are thus able to multiply, and in two weeks, almost all the new viruses are these mutants. By then, the T cells are able to identify these organisms and to fight them. The cycles are repeated-mutants survive T cells learn to fight them. Eventually however, the body's immune system is not able to replace all its losses. The T cell counts drop and AIDS develops. The new findings are im-

portant because they give clues as to why existing treatments have not been working. The researcher Dr David Ho believes that it is more appropriate to find ways to attack the virus, rather than to find ways to strengthen the immune sys-

#### Global Situation

In total, the World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that over 18 million people, 1.5 million of them children and 50 per cent of all are under 25 years of age have become infected with HIV, over two million have died. Till February 1995, a total of 36 HIV-infected persons have been detected in Bangladesh. Among them, AIDS developed in three persons and two already died. More than half of the children with HIV infection in the developing countries die before age of 12 months. The WHO also estimates

that everyday 6,000 people There is as yet no cure; the only therapies available are are becoming newly infected with HIV. In Asia, one in four for the treatment of oppornew infection occurs and by funistic infections. the end of the decade, more Until recently, t was believed that HIV infection goes Asians will be infected than through a slow process, dethat of Africans each year. If stroying the body's immune current trends continue, by over time. New studies in the the year 2000, the global to-USA show that the process tal will be more than double of estimated 30-40 million occurs must faster, with the body beginning its battle people. It is estimated by the

## Preventing AIDS by Shah Md Mahfuzur Rahman



Every year thousands of people are infected with HIV through blood or blood products

World Bank that the share of AIDS in the developing countries has been increasing from 50 per cent in 1985 and is expected to be 75 per cent by the end of this cen-

The most painful situation is that 10 million babies worldwide would be the carriers of AIDS and more than five million children will have lost their mothers or both parents to AIDS by next five.

#### Transmission of HIV

It is transmitted through three routes - sexual, parenteral and materno-foetal routes. Fundamental condition of transmission is that HIV must reach the blood of the recepients.

Sexual transmission: It is the commonest means of infection. Any vaginal, anal or oral sex can spread HIV. Homosexual and bisexual men who have many sexual partners who have been infected

with HIV are considered high risk groups. Unprotected sexual intercourse accounts for about 85 per cent of the world's HIV infections. It is transmitted from man to a woman, man to man to a lesser extent woman to a man. Biologically women are at more risk because a larger mucosal surface is exposed during sexual intercourse, and because semen carries a greater concentration of the

HIV than vaginal fluid.

Transmission from man to

woman is 2-3 times higher than woman to man. Parenteral transmission: The HIV is also transmitted by the contaminated blood or blood products transfusion, syringes, needles, surgical and dental instruments. Any skin piercing including injections, ear piercing tattoing, acupuncture of scarification can transmit the virus if the instruments used have not

infected person. The risks for HIV transmission are increased if a person has other sexually transmitted diseases like Syphilis, Chancre or Herpes; because these illnesses leave wounds in the genitals which make it easier for HIV to enter the body.

been sterilised and have

previously been used on an

Materno-foetal transmission: HIV infected mother can transmit the virus to her

child during pregnancy, during child birth or during

breast-feeding. It is also important to remember that most babies breast-fed by mothers who are infected with HIV do not become infected through breastmilk. However, the virus has been found in the breastmilk of women with

It is not easy to find out the HIV infection in a baby of 12-18 months. All babies whose mothers have HIV are born with their mothers' antibodies, which remain until 12-18 months is difficult to show that a baby has been infected during breastfeeding rather than during pregnancy or during birth.

Some factors are known to increase the risk of transmission during breastfeeding. The risk to the baby is greater if the mother is: infected with HIV through blood transfusions during or shortly after child birth, or infected during unsafe sex with an infected partner when pregnant or breastfeeding, or afflicted with AIDS-related illnesses during pregnancy or breastfeeding.

Through there is risk, but breastfeeding is still recommended for women with HIV. if safe alternatives are not available or in areas where the risk from malnutrition and disease is

development and HIV

paramount. The HIV is not transmitted through casual contactssharing cloths, handshaking, living in the same house. working in same place, using same toilets, utensils and swimming pools; through sneezing, coughing hugging or kissing and journey by the same transport. There is no evidence that HIV is transmitted through mosquitoes.

bed bugs or any other insects. It should be mentioned here, virus is a very delicate one, hence it cannot live outside the body. It is easily killed by heat. It cannot survive in dry state in the shade for more than an hour and in the sun more than five min-

#### Symptoms of AIDS

AIDS is referred as a syndrome, because the range of manifestations may include a number of symptoms, signs and a variety of opportunities infections, neurological disorders and several types of cancers.

Once a person is infected,

the virus remains in the body lifelong. The risk of developing AIDS increases with time. Since HIV infection can take to many years (6 months to · 12 years) to manifest itself. the symptomless HIV-infected person can infect other people for years. Some people exposed to HIV may never proceed to the final

stage of AIDS, but they become 'carriers'.

The symptoms and signs are not specific. Many of the symptoms of AIDS are also symptoms of minor illnesses like colds or flu but in AIDS. these symptoms either do not go away or keep coming back. This symptoms include

: Unexplained fatigue, malaise; unexplained weight loss-more than 10 per cent of body weight; recurring fever and or night sweats: unexplained diarrhoea lasting longer than a month; loss of appetite; swollen glands usually in the neck, armpits or groins or generalised lymphadenopathy: enlarged spleen: white spots or unusual blemishes on the tongue or mouth; pink or purple blotches or bumps on or under the skin, inside the mouth, nose eyelids or rectum. The bumps may look like bruises but they do not go away.

#### Prevention of HIV Infection

Considering the route of infection, prevention of transmission can be done easily through international, national and local participation of people from all walks of life. To prevent it the following measures may be taken;

(a) AIDS education through all possible channels - religious and community organisations, women's groups, the mass media, the health services, schools and colleges, artists and entertainers — to dispel stigma. ignorance and false conceptions and to guide people specially young people to adopt self-protective behaviour like promoting safer sex such as:

Avoid having sex with persons known or suspected to have AIDS; limit the number of sex partners; know your sex partners and ask them about their health; avoid sexual practices that can damage body tissue (i. e. anal intercourse); always use of condoms when having sex, if you are unsure of the HIV status of the partners; do not have sex with persons who inject drugs; and do not inject illegal drugs as well as share

needles and or syringes. (b) Ensuring the hospital practices, blood and blood products, and hypodermic needles used in preventive health campaigns, and other instruments used in skin piercing are consistently HIV-free.

(c) HIV infected mothers should be couselled not to have babies.

(d) Providing care and counsel for more infected by HIV and dying of AIDS, and for family members and partners.

(e) Research into all aspects of HIV to understand its behaviour and develop curative and preventive thera-

(f) Challenging the immense of human capacity for denial about the threat of AIDS, and lifting taboos surrounding the discussion of sexually transmitted disease. The writer is working with Institute of Public Health, Mohakhali, Dhaka



#### Gold miners, Transvaal: The migrant labour system has destroyed family and community life, creating conditions ripe for the spread of AIDS

### **ADMISSION TEST ISSUE**

### Partial Truth and the Whole Truth

by Galib A Khan

came across a discussion paper. "Admission Test: Is there a I commenced by investiga- sion test. I collected the roll Necessity?" by Professor M M tion long before the present numbers, code numbers and Rahman. Professor Rahman controversy on admission test the merit scores and merit referred to a paper published began. The main incentive of orders of the admission test of in a local periodical, viz., the my investigation emerged all the 2573 students and as Lokayata. In the Lokayata, it is from a puzzle which hounded well as the total marks which my paper, which Professor me for quite a long time. I they obtained at their SSC. Rahman referred to, but the wondered: why some of my HSC examination and the way he made use of the data, students, though they were admission test. I analyzed published in my paper, was studying at the highest seat of these data. misleading and in a sense learning, couldn't write corrather a distortion of facts.

"Out of 1104 candidates se- that perhaps I should try to HSC examinations. But what lected for admission in the know how my students per- was shocking was that, of the 'Ka' unit, there were none formed at their pre-University 333 students with doublesions...". In fact, in my paper that if there was any problem tained star grade in the adin the Lokayata, I presented at their pre-University educa- mission test. I found that of two tables, one on the 'Ka' unit tion, then this problem should the 2573, there was not a and the other on the 'Kha' unit affect the students of the single student with a third of Dhaka University admission other departments as well test of the academic year With this perspective in my level, though 60.32 per cent 1993-94. Professor Rahman mind, I began my study in July of them obtained third divireferred to the data of the 'Ka' 1994. unit and remained silent about

James Bond

BY IAN FLEMING

DRAWING BY HORAK

of change in one column) which year 1993-94. All these 2573 were published in my Lokayata students belonged to the 'Ka'

rect Bengali? This situation students, 333 obtained star Professor Rahman said, over the years made me think marks both in the SSC and double second divi- level of education. I thought stars, only one student ob-

the data of the 'Kha' unit, for, July 1994 and March 1995, 1 cent and 96.19 per cent obthe data of the 'Kha' unit, un- compiled data on 2573 stu- tained first division at the SSC derstandably, seemed contrary dents, among those who were and HSC examinations reto his claim. I therefore pre- admitted to the First year spectively, though only 4 20 sent here the two tables (in a Honours class of Dhaka per cent obtained first divi-

and 'Kha' units of the admis-

I found that of the 2573 division at the SSC or HSC sion in the admission test. Of During the period from the 2573 students, 91.18 per shorter form and with a minor University in the academic sion in the admission test

With these findings, I concluded that there prevailed an enormous gap of excellence between the points where the pre-University education ends and the University education begins. I suggested that this situation may be harmful for our students and that the higher authorities related to the education system may take note of this situation. This had been my main focus in the paper in question.

After 50 years of isolation, Albania opened up to Western cash, economic

However, I would also like to draw attention to a few more types of the above sort of anomalies of the results. First, of the 333 students who secured double stars, 30.54 per cent got third division marks in the admission test. I may say that 30.35 per cent of the double-star holders are not genuine star-holder at all. For, a student with two star-marks should not fall to the category of third division. And of these 333 double star-holders, only 13.81 per cent obtained first division in the admission test Next, of the 2573 students, there are those who though did not secure double stars but secured double first divi-

RAINCOAT

BRAND - NEW FROM BURBERRYS

Academic Year: 1993-94 6 7 SSC, HSC & Total Department SSC & HSC Exams Admn No Admn Test Micro Biology Pharmacy Applied Physics Bio-Chemistry Chemistry Physics Statistics Mathematics Geology Zoology Soil Science Psychology Botany Geography Industrial Arts 125 147 633

Table - 2, Unit - 'Kha'

Table - 1, Unit - 'Ka'

Academic Year : 1993-94													
	2	3	4	5	6	7	. 8	9	10	11	12	13	14,
Department	Total Admn No			SSC &	HSC Exams			Admn Test			SSC, HSC & Admn Test		COVER 200 - 400.0
		•	•	DES.	1	1	П	1	11	Ш	•		1,1,
			1	П	1	H	П				Ш	Ш	Ш
Economics	87	8	52	1/25	27	1350	51	1	51	35	3	25	6
English	100	8 9 6	44	3545	39	8		2	67	31	3	11	16
Law	81	6	28	(/#C)	43	2	2	4	51	26	( <b>*</b> )	11	19
Social Welfare	62	42	28	1	32	1	93	0.4	14	48	343	26	22
Public Admn	91	1	31	3379	54	5	ş	(8)	29	62	1	18	40
International	70	55 <del>8</del> 3	16	( <del>1.6</del> 5	50	4	*	ist.	14	56	5#3	9	37
Relations													
Journalism	51	1	12	1	32	3	2	120	8	43	NO 35833	11	28
Political Science	156	883	28	3	114	11	£	1153	14	142	(4)	30	103
Library Science	45	100	5	( ·	34	6	*	33	100	45	388	5	34
Philosophy	122	1665	5A	260	103	18	*	S. (40)	1	121	200	1	102
Islamic History	83	150	源 1	9.5	70	11	1	752	1	82	527	1	70
History	97	335	3	355	77	17		0.53	1	96	250	3	76
Bengali	122	R <del>9</del> 30	(*)	11 m	95	26	1	(#)	4	118	<b>35</b>	0.000 0.000	95
Islamic Studies	94	1	3	100	61	27	4	1	3	91	i	1	58
Sociology	152	2	3	1	86	43	17	1	19	132	-	2	79
Anthropology	24	1	4	356	5	6	8	High	3	21	1	2	5
Sanskrit & Pali	4	996	383	3963	1	2	1	E#3	送	4	(2007)	353	1
Arabic	28	1745	\$450	125	6	6	16	721	¥	28	3	7/12/5/5/5	6
Total	1469	29	257	6	929	196	52	8	280	1181	9	156	797

sions at SSC and HSC exami- 2.85 per cent obtained first the one hand, and the admisnations; the number of such division in the admission test. students is 1996. Of these

sion test results on the other. The writer is a Associate On the basis of all these I may claim that the qualita- Professor of the Department 1996 students with two first lapses between the SSC and tive standard which is re- of Philosophy at Dhaka divisions, only 57, i.e. only HSC examination results on quired of the students in the University.

admission test is much higher than that of the SSC and HSC examinations. And it is my proposal that we should prefer a standard for our students which is higher in nature. On the basis of all these

findings, I suggest that in the

admission procedure of the Dhaka University, more emphasis should be given, than it is given at present, on the results of the admission test. If this policy is adopted, then the secondary and higher secondary level students will concentrate more on learning than on securing higher marks. Securing high marks and learning per se are not the same; this is why the students with his marks in the SSC and HSC examinations fail to do well in the admission test. I may mention that the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) authority admits students on the basis of the admission test result. Acceptance of the admission test result as the sole criterion of admission will also eliminate the adverse effects of the qualitative difference of the grades of the different Boards of education and will thereby enable us to treat all the candidates with a single standard of judgment. I would consider it a fair policy.

Finally, I shall say that the failure to distinguish between the truth which Professor Rahman depicted with reference to my data and the truth which I have tried to present here is due to the invisible line of demarcation between a partial truth and the whole truth. We can't see such a line but reason can help us understand it. Thanks are due to GWF Hegel who was so nice to make this distinct for us.

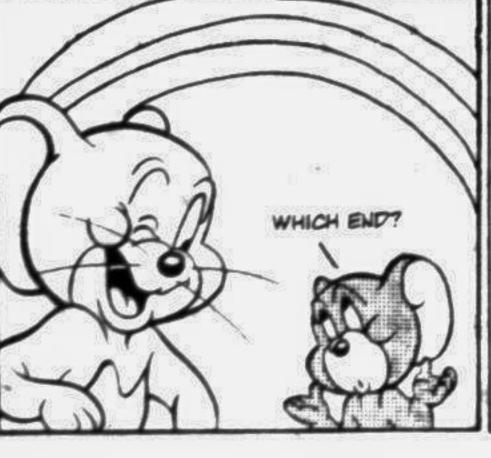
NGOs.

### THE SCOPE SHOWS ME MAKE SEEN TODAY EXPRESS THE SCOT MAN STEPS ACROSS TO THE HARD MANS OFFICE TO USE THE SCRAMBLER.

### TOM and JERRY







#### Child Prostitution: Global Concern HE dilemma of child by Mark Keenan prostitution is a "con-

cern of almost every country around the world," said Marilyn Rocky, executive director of Childhope International, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) dedicated to protecting street children worldwide. Rocky recently toured Thailand and the Philippines giving lectures for the US Information

Agency. Noting that economic disparities pose many problems in resolving the prostitution crisis, she added that a family in Thailand may receive the equivalent of \$775 dollars for

selling a daughter into bondage as a prostitute.

On her assignment, Rocky addressed audiences whose makeup varied from Fulbright scholars and law students to members of local Chambers of Commerce, service organisations and the press. All agreed that networks need to be established to keep people informed of the current crisis, she said.

The fundamental step to be taken in battling child prostitution is to keep people informed through these contact, or network groups.

Rocky suggested. Child prostitution is covered daily by the newspapers in the areas she visited because of the farreaching effect it has on so many women and children.

she added.

Networks, or the "gathering of like-minded people," are consistently used in the United States for mobilising various efforts. Rocky said. She gave examples of the civil rights movement in the 1960s and the women's suffrage movement. and pointed out that many networks take the form of

Rocky stressed that "dialogue among different cultures and different countries is very important in terms of sharing relevant information. For example, in 1989 the Southeast Asian Network for Street and Working Children was established to increase the flow of such information. Because of its success, it still exists to-

Though there is currently legislation in Thailand on the prohibition of child prostitution, no such legislation exists for child labour, Rocky noted.