

SYLHET: Divisional Commissioner Md Habibur Rahman formally inaugurated the workshop on 'Disaster Preparedness and Strategic Workplan' organised jointly by Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and International Foundation of Red Cross held recently. — Star photo

Malaria claims 125 lives, attack 20,000 in Jamalpur

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Dec 28: The killer disease malaria has once again broken out in bordering regions of the greater Jamalpur district, official sources said.

According to unofficial sources, over 20,000 people have been attacked with malaria and claimed 125 lives in the region during the last six months. The total situation worsened due to the absence of effective measures to check spread of the disease.

The worst affected villages are Singra, Baruna, Ranishimul, Meghadal, Chandapara, Karnajura, Amtol, Madapur, Jangaldi, Borakuchi, Bhabanikupa, Matikata, Katudanga, Babla, Fura, Aria in Sreebordin thana, Naguagan, Daudora, Parihata, Burunger, Kalakura, Khaichanda, Katabari, Andarupara, Luxipara, Samachura in Nolitabari thana, Haldigarm, Gumra, Sanda, Kura, Rangtiya, Naxhi, Gandigono, Gazi, Tauakucha, Delfai, Danshail and Ainapur in Ghenaigati thanas. Preventive measures have been taken to stop the spread of the disease, the officials say.

The situation took a serious turn due to the apathy on the part of the Health Department in taking effective measures to check the disease.

According to reports, there were reports of 105 deaths in Sreebordi thana, 15 in Nolitabari thana and eight in Ghenaigati thanas.

Official sources said that 12 medical teams were working in the affected areas. The total number of malarial patients in the district is 12,730.

There was a rumour that the disease is spreading from adjoining border regions of India. The people living in the regions alleged that several people have died of the malaria in Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura States of India.

Meanwhile, civil surgeon office has directed the thana health administrators to take preventive measures in bordering areas of greater Jamalpur district.

Recently, a protest meeting was held in front of Nolitabari thana Mukhtijoda Sangsad office against outbreak of malaria in the bordering regions of Sherpur and Jamalpur districts. The meeting was presided over by Jagadish Chandra Bormon. The speakers at the meeting has also alleged that there has been lack of treatment facilities on the part of the health officials and employees in the affected areas. Many of the affected villages

are yet to see the activities of health department. It is reported that, Indian authorities began spraying of malathion, a medicine to control the disease, in the areas and their territory to check further out-break of malaria there. Following this thousands of mosquitoes carrying the germ of malaria crossed into the Bangladesh border territory. It may be stated here that most of the affected areas in Bangladesh territory are either located in the border areas.

People of the affected areas have demanded for immediate arrangement for spraying of malathion in all the affected villages in Jamalpur and Sherpur districts, otherwise it would not be possible to control the large-scale out-break of the killer disease, expressed a member of physician working in the affected areas.

It is also alleged that the treatment is being seriously hampered due to the absence of necessary health workers in this area.

Besides most of the people of these areas which are located in the low-lying and hills areas are very poor. Most of them have also lost their resistance against the malaria germ.

Seized contraband items rotting in customs godown

COMILLA, Dec 28: Seized contraband items of lakhs of taka are being damaged in the customs godown here for want of proper instruction from the authority to sell out the same, reports UNB.

According to an official, the contrabands including 2.5 tons of wheat, 1.5 tons of powder milk and five tons of Indian potato which were seized by the law enforcing agencies at different times have already been damaged. Official sources said, the perishable items could not be sold in time as they did not get due to permission from the concerned authorities. The seized goods are usually sold in auction after proper clearance.

Meanwhile, the rotten potatoes of the godown which is situated in the residential areas have vitiated the atmosphere.

Indian sarees seized, three held in Feni

FENI, Dec 28: Bangladesh Rifles seized 3,677 pieces of Indian sarees worth about Tk 30.22 lakh from a truck on Feni-Ramgong highway near Samity Bazar on Thursday last, reports UNB.

Acting on secret information, the jawans led by Capt Sayed Sanzid Hossain Kazi challenged the truck and recovered the smuggled goods. They also rounded up three people hailing from Chhagalnaya thana for their alleged involvement with the smuggling and were sent to the police custody.

The seized contrabands were deposited with the local customs godown.

Two housewives commit suicide in Jhalakathi

JHALAKATHI, Dec 28: Two housewives allegedly committed suicide at two villages of the district, police said today, reports UNB.

Nipa Rani Bepari, 26, wife of Abani Chandra Bepari allegedly hanged herself from a tree adjacent to her residence at village Poshonda in sadar thana on December 18 last.

Local people said she was mentally disabled.

RU VC gives exclusive interview

"Terrorists are being harboured, nourished and protected on campus"

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 28: The Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University authorities alone cannot maintain congenial atmosphere in the campus if the national political organisations, law enforcing agencies, government administration and judiciary departments do not play positive role, observed Prof Muhammad Yusuf Ali, Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star on Dec 19 evening at his residential office on the campus.

To explain the causes of terrorist activities in the campus Prof Yusuf Ali views that ill politics of the national political parties and failure of the law enforcing agencies, the government administration and the judiciaries in curbing terrorism were the main reasons behind the increasing trend of terrorist activities in educational institutions. "It is a matter of affliction but an open secret that terrorism and terrorists are now-a-days being harboured, nourished and protected for dominating politics and mostly the students are being used as weapons of this kind of ill-politics," the VC said.

At the same time, he said, "The campus situation has further aggravated by sentimental and grudgeful behaviour of some teachers for personal reasons."

Professor Muhammad Yusuf Ali, an eminent academical in chemistry, was elected a member of the VC panel with his two colleagues receiving the highest number of votes of the RU Senate. The honourable Chancellor appointed him Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University and he took the charge in August 1994. Since then two fierce student clashes occurred in the campus. A group of teachers is recently blaming the Vice Chancellor for his alleged failure in keeping the university free of terrorism and demanding his resignation. This group of teachers also announced a programme of non cooperation and decided to abstain from performing formal duties until Prof Yusuf Ali resigned. Another group of teachers, however, protested this decision. Thus the prevailing unrest situation of the university has turned more complex.

Reacting to the demand of his resignation, Professor Yusuf Ali, who is well-known for his honesty, modest behaviour and impartial attitude, smiled and asked, do I have any kind of control over the clashes happening inside the campus and the surrounding areas of the university? We can only request or advise the conflicting groups to refrain from such activities and do nothing more. Have we any armed guard regiment who can check the clashes? Law enforcing agencies are there and we requested them but they after fail to cope with the problem.

"Then how can the Vice Chancellor be held responsible for those incidents over which he has no control?" he asked.

"Terrorists acts are not uncommon in Dhaka, Chittagong or Agriculture University in Mymensingh but teachers in those institutions do not demand resignation of the VCs. This kind of demand has become a 'Rajshahi style' here, where none of the former vice chancellors except the first three could escape the demand of resignation," he recalled.

"The demand of resignation of the VC is completely illogical and nothing but a matter of sentiments and personal grudge of some teachers," he said.

About the allegation raised against him on adhoc appointments of pro-Jamaat people in some posts the VC said, all those appointments were given as per rules of the university and political affiliations of the candidates were not considered at all.

As for example, he said, "I have appointed four provosts, one each for Habibur Rahman, Ziaur Rahman, Madaar Baksh and Abdul Latif Halls. Out of them only one belong to my own group and another one to the so called pro Jamaat

group. Everyone in the campus are very well aware of the facts that only one provost, out of total 14, belong to pro-Islamic group."

He further explained, "so far as I can recall now, six teachers — three in Economics, and one each in Library Science, Pharmacy and Philosophy Departments were appointed on adhoc basis during my period. All of them were appointed according to the recommendation of the respective departmental Planning Committees. Five of them have four first classes. Only one has three first classes but he had no alternative as the department was running with only one teacher for a long time finding no efficient teacher to work with. They have no political identity so far it is learnt. In administrative sector, only one, out of five adhoc appointments, went to the pro-Islamic group.

Respective Department Planning Committees forwarded and recommended the names and I approved the proposals as per rule. Is it my fault? he asked.

Prof Yusuf Ali said that a section of people were trying to colour him as anti-liberation force. "But I was in Norway in 1971. From there I worked in favour of our Liberation War. Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury who led the pro-liberation efforts abroad has kindly cited my contributions in one of his books."

"Frankly speaking I am a democratic and nationalist in my personal belief but I am not a politician. I never take part in any kind of political activities. I am a teacher and wish to remain so."

After taking the charge of the office of Vice Chancellor, my duty has been to run the university according to the rules. It is true that a rule may not always go against or in favour of an individual or a group. But what can I do? He said, the untoward situations which sometimes prevail in the university is not at all a matter of personal concern, but it is closely related to our administrative and national political system. Terrorism in the educational institutions can never be checked if the political parties do not stop harbouring and giving protection to the terrorists," he added.

It is alleged very often that the administration and police play either inactive or partial role before, after and during a clash takes place. The Vice Chancellor expressed almost same opinion and said, "there may be reasons behind this kind of behaviour but it is true that they cannot play justified role. It is not impossible to wipe out terrorism."

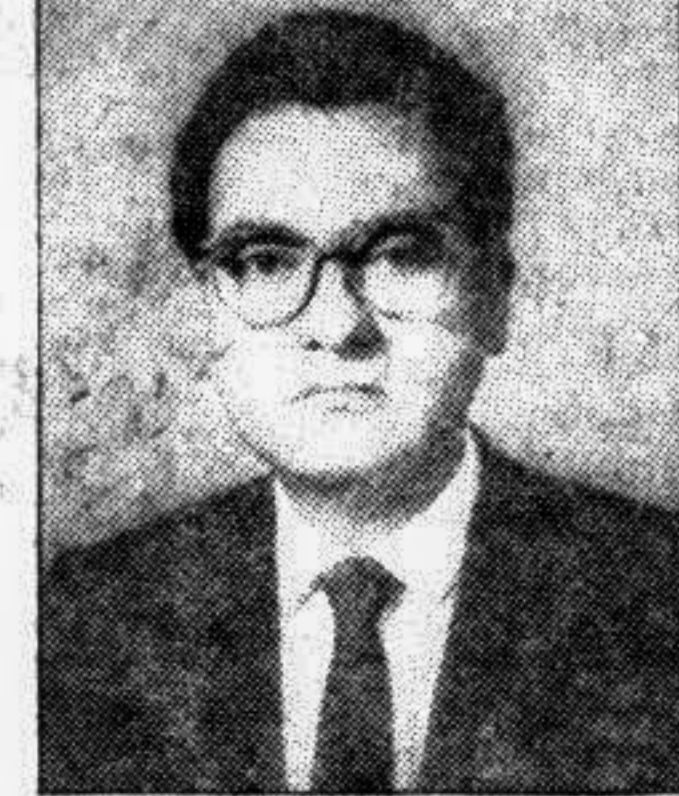
Explaining his methodology, Prof Yusuf Ali said that he always kept close contact with the student organisations, teachers, professional bodies, local elites, local political parties, police and the administration. I often sit with them, discuss the situation and measures to be taken. Almost everytime they promise to cooperate with me in curbing terrorism and maintaining congenial atmosphere in the university, but I regret to say that most of the time some of them forget their promises.

Sadly, he said, situations have turned so grave that teachers or the university authorities cannot even give academic punishments to the students fearing that this will be coloured as political issue.

"But I am not downhearted," he said, "I hope and pray that one day everybody will realise the facts and come forward to establish the truth."

He urged all concerned to unitedly work for curbing terrorism and maintaining congenial atmosphere in the university for the sake of higher education of thousands of students.

"We showed not do anything that will hinder the process and go in favour of the terrorists and anarchists," Prof Muhammad Yusuf Ali, concluded with a smile.



VC, Prof M Yusuf Ali

Alokito Chuadanga — an ambitious mass education programme

From Quamrul Arefin

CHUADANGA, Dec 28: An integrated development programme named, "Alokito Chuadanga" has created much enthusiasm among the mass people of Chuadanga district. The purpose of this programme is to liberate the illiterate boys, girls, men and women and to provide them with all facilities of education on primary health care, nutrition, cleanliness, Family Planning, protection of environment and earning.

The first target of the integrated programme is to give primary education among the neglected illiterate people of the district. The activities of this programme has been started from last July. Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga has been working much for implementing the Programme.

All the government high officials of the district, political leaders, Social and cultural organisations and representatives from the people of all walks of life who are related with this integrated programme joined.

In the meantime, about 1,500 mass education centres have been opened in all the four thanas of the district as a part of implementation of the Programme "Alokito Chuadanga".

The target to open mass education centres in the district under this programme has been fixed at 3000. The illiterate boys, girls, men and women between age 11 to 45 are taking lessons in these mass education centres. There is one mass education centre for every 30 illiterate students.

The male and female students in these mass education centres are being given lessons separately. For the successful implementation of the programme there is a centre conducting committee for each mass education centre for running the centre. The centre committee consists of one president, one member-Secretary and five to seven members. The



Students attend a mass education centre. — Star photo

period of giving lesson in the mass education centres are six months. After six months another group of 30 students are admitted in the centres.

The enthusiastic men and women who have got the sense of responsibility and can speak clearly and boldly have been appointed for the male education centres while the female teachers have been appointed for the female centres. In some exceptional cases, some centres are being run by the male teachers only.

At the present stage the teachers of the centres are giving free service. The existing government and Non-Government Primary Schools, madrasahs, premises of the mosques, schools and colleges, Union Parishad Community centres, Offices of the Non-Government Socio-Cultural Organisations and Government

Family Welfare Centres are being used as the mass education centres for the concerned areas of the district.

There is a supervisor for every 10 mass education centres. The supervisors are submitting their reports time to time to their superior authority on the activities and progress of the performances of the centres. The supervisors are HSC and graduates. They are also rendering services free of cost.

The text books in these mass education centres are being followed as introduced by the Integrated Non Formal Primary Education spreading programme of the government. Besides mass education, the students of these centres are also being given lessons on food, nutrition, sanitation, primary health care, Family Planning, protection of environment and income generating activities.

The female students are taking lessons in these centres five days in a week before evening while the male

students are taking lesson after evening for equal number of days in a week. The students are being given lessons for two hours daily.

The training course of teachers and supervisors for the programme has been completed in three phases. Those who have taken Master training are the teachers of colleges and schools, leading people of the society and the government officials. They have been trained up in co-operation with an NGO named VIDA.

There is a general body, an Executive Committee, five sub-Committees, Thana Committees, Pourashava Committees, Union Committees and Centre Committees for implementing the programme, "Alokito Chuadanga". Every Committee shall be responsible to his superior Committee for their performance. General body is the superior body. Above all there is a constitution for the programme, "Alokito Chuadanga."

Confce on new world order for peace held

MYMENSINGH, Dec 28: Mymensingh Polytechnic Institute organised a seminar on "A proposal to the United Nations on Moral Development Approach: A New World Order for Peace" in the Institute conference hall on December 19 last. Dr Shah Mohammad Faruk, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University attended the seminar as the chief guest, says a press release.

The key note paper on this universal moral development proposal to UN was presented by Dr Abu Obaidul Huq, professor and Director of Bangladesh Institute for Advancement of Science and Technology Teaching. In the proposal to United Nations Prof Obaidul Huque argued that the morality is the ultimate solution to curb today's widely talked about global severe problems of AIDS, poverty, violation of human rights, environment pollution, oppression on women, terrorism, drug abuses, smoking, etc.

20,000 children suffering from various diseases in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Dec 28: About 20,000 children in seven thanas of Chandpur district have been suffering from various intestinal diseases and malnutrition for lack of nutritious foods and medical facilities in the rural areas.

According to doctors, normal growth of children in Chandpur district are also hampered for want of balanced diet.



কুর্ড প্রতিযোগিতা

কুপন

এখানে কাটুন

১। অয়েস অব আমেরিকা'র সদর দপ্তর কোথায়?
উত্তর: | ক. ওয়াশিংটন ডিসি | খ. নিউ ইয়র্ক | গ. ডালাস | ঘ. হাঙ্গিউ

২। সুভদ্রাট্রে মেট্রি অন্স বাজের সংখ্যা কত?
উত্তর: | ক. ৪৯টি | খ. ৫০টি | গ. ৫১টি | ঘ. ৫২টি

৩। অয়েস অব আমেরিকা'র বাংলা বিভাগ কোন অনুষ্ঠানে প্রোডাক্টের চিঠিপত্রের জবাব দেয়?
উত্তর: | ক. সিডালী | খ. বন্ধন | গ. মিতালী | ঘ. পত্র-মিতা

৪। বিল ট্রিনটন সুভদ্রাট্রে কততম প্রেসিডেন্ট?
উত্তর: | ক. ৩২তম | খ. ৩৬তম | গ. ৩৯তম | ঘ. ৪২তম

৫। অয়েস অব আমেরিকা'র বাংলা বিভাগের সাক্ষাৎ অভিবেশন প্রতিদিন কখন আরম্ভ হয়?
উত্তর: | ক. রাত ৯-০০ টায় | খ. রাত ৯-৩০ টায় | গ. রাত ১০-০০ টায় | ঘ. রাত ১০-৩০ টায়

প্রতিযোগীর নাম: _____

পিতার নাম: _____

বর্তমান ঠিকানা: _____

এখানে কাটুন

নিয়মাবলী

আয়োজকঃ

ঢাকা জেলা অয়েস অব আমেরিকা (ডিওএ) ফান ক্লাব

প্রথম, দ্বিতীয় এবং তৃতীয় পুরস্কার যথাক্রমে: ঢাকা-হংকং-ঢাকা, ঢাকা-করাচী-ঢাকা এবং ঢাকা-কাঠমন্ডু-ঢাকা বিমান টিকেট। এই পুরস্কার প্রদান করা হবে বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স-এর সৌজন্যে।

প্রতিযোগিতার নিয়মাবলী:

১। ডিওএ'র প্রোডাক্ট এবং ফান ক্লাব সদস্যসহ বাংলাদেশে অবস্থানকারী কে কোন ব্যক্তি এই প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।

২। প্রতিযোগীদেরকে চারটি উত্তরের মধ্যে সঠিক উত্তরটির নাম পাশে টিক চিহ্ন দিতে হবে।

৩। ঢাকার মার্কিন সুভদ্রাবাসের কর্মীগণ, তাদের পরিবারবর্গ এবং ঢাকা জেলা ডিওএ ফান ক্লাবের কর্মকর্তাবৃন্দ এবং তাদের পরিবারবর্গের কেউ এই প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন না।

৪। পূর্ণকৃত ফর্মটি ফোটোকপি রূপে পাঠান। ঢাকা জেলা অয়েস অব আমেরিকা ফান ক্লাব, ১৬/১, নয়াপল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০ এই ঠিকানায় আগামী ১৫ই জানুয়ারী, ১৯৯৬ তারিখের মধ্যে ডাকযোগে পৌঁছাতে হবে (সেবারি রূপে পাঠানো যাবে)।

৫। প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিতদের নামের তালিকা আগামী ২৫ শে জানুয়ারী, ১৯৯৬ তারিখে এই পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত হবে এবং ডাকযোগে জানান হবে। পুরস্কার বিতরণের তারিখ এবং স্থানও তখন জানিয়ে দেয়া হবে। একই ব্যক্তি একাধিক কুপন পাঠাতে পারবেন। একাধিক সঠিক উত্তরসমূহের ক্ষেত্রে শর্তাধীন মাধ্যমে বিজয়ী নির্ধারণ করা হবে।