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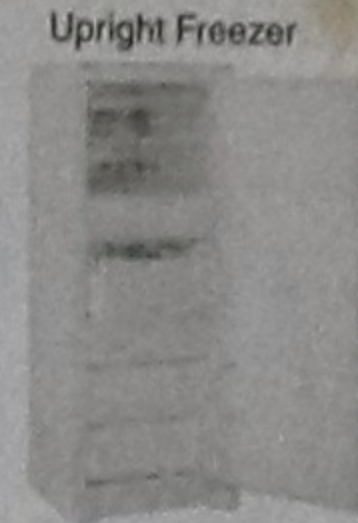
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Lung cancer: 90pc cases related to smoking

By Staff Correspondent

More than 40,000 people have lung cancer every year in Bangladesh and 90 per cent of the cases are related to smoking.

A recent study (clinical research) on lung cancer in Bangladesh, initiated by Onco Journal Club, showed that life span of patients with lung cancer can be prolonged with Taxotere chemotherapy.

Until now treatment for lung cancer has been limited to radiotherapy and platinum compounds. But Taxotere chemotherapy approved by the Food and Drug Administration of USA, encouraged six Bangladeshi scientists to study its effectiveness on patients in Bangladesh. The study has now been recognised internationally.

"This study is a significant

step forward for Bangladesh. It is now a document, which is globally acknowledged. We are proud to announce this," said Dr Pinaki Bhattacharya, a senior member of the research team.

The study conducted in three hospitals on 16 lung cancer patients showed that Taxotere can prolong life by 12 months in Bangladeshi patients while studies in other countries showed the chemotherapy can prolong life by 13 months.

The findings were revealed yesterday at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club, which was organised by Onco Journal Club.

The study also showed that with combination therapy tumour in 50 per cent of the patients is almost reduced and in

20 per cent of the cases 'complete response' or cancer cells disappeared.

Prof M A Hye, former director of the National Cancer Institute said, "The lung cancer cases in the country is on the rise which necessitates more such studies."

The study would be presented at the 9th World Conference on Lung Cancer to be held from September 11-15, 2000 in Japan. Three of the scientists would also be there to present the findings.

Prof M A Rab Bhuiyan, formerly head of radiotherapy department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Dr Debashish Samadder, senior physician at the National Cancer Institute, among others, were present at the press conference.

President urged to take steps to keep 64 JS seats reserved for women

Narir Khamatayane Nagorik Andolon has called for taking steps to keep 64 parliamentary seats reserved for women from country's 64 districts, reports UNB.

The demand came when a six-member delegation of the organisation, led by Chairperson of Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) Khushi Kabir, called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

They called for reorganising the present parliamentary seats reserved for women candidates and increasing the existing number of parliament members 300 to 364.

They demanded extension of the existing term of the seats reserved for women in parliament to at least 15 years and said women in the new system would directly participate in the election.

The members of the delegation submitted a memorandum in this regard to the President and requested him to look into the matter which, they said, would help ensure empowerment of women in society and state activities.

Responding to their demands, President Shahabuddin said country's women should directly face parliamentary elections alongside their male counterparts.

He said the Constitution would have to be amended for direct election of women to parliament and even for extension of the term of the existing parliamentary seats reserved for women.

In both cases, he said, a consensus among political parties is necessary and expressed satisfaction that the country's women are coming up to participate in various social and state activities.

"There must come a day when they will have a better role to play in social development," the President said.

Other members of the delegation, representing various NGOs, present on the occasion are Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed, Shamsul Huda, Hosne Ara Khan, Setara Musa and Shirin Akhter.

40 hurt as JCD, BCL clash at Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 6: A gunfight between the activists of BCL and JCD at Chokoria College today left at least 40 people injured, reports UNB.

The college authorities in a hurriedly called meeting declared the college closed till September 13.

Officials said they took the measure as tension gripped the entire area following an hour long armed clash between the two rival student organisations.

Witnesses said Zayed, 21, a BCL worker, was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries while another to the local hospital.

"During the clash over one hundred shots were fired and bombs exploded, turning the campus into battle field," witnesses said.

Police rushed to the spot, fired blank shot and teargas shells to disperse the clashing groups.

They also arrested two students in connection with the gunfight.

Sources said the trouble began over a trifling matter. In a tense situation is prevailing in the area up a specialised burn treatment centre at the GK Hospital, assisted by an Italian specialist nurse and a project manager. Three teams of specialist surgeons will come, each for two weeks, to help him.

In the second phase of three years, focus will be on training of local health personnel and rehabilitation of acid burn survivors.



Members of the Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad took out a procession carrying black flags in the city yesterday. The Parishad is demanding repeal of the Vested Property Act in the current session of the Jatiya Sangsad. - Star photo

Bills seeking changes in CHT council acts placed

By Staff Correspondent

To pave the way for preparation of voter list in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), the government introduced three bills in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday seeking amendments to the district council acts of 1989 for Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban districts.

CHT Affairs Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma introduced the identical bills.

The acts have ambiguity on voter list preparation.

The House sent the three bills to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Parliament Affairs Ministry for scrutiny and return to it within a month.

Another bill proposing formation of a welfare trust for teachers of non-government primary schools was also tabled in the Sangsad yesterday.

Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed introduced the bill in the absence of Education Minister ASHK Sadek.

Tofail told the House that some 75,000 teachers would be benefited from the trust proposed in the bill.

The bill was sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education Ministry for scrutiny and return to the House in a month.

Terrorist Jabbar of Ctg jailed for 24 years

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 6: Terrorist Jabbar was sentenced to 24 years' rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 1 lakh, in default to suffer one more year's RI here today.

Three of his accomplices were sentenced to 14 years' RI and fined Tk 50,000 each in default to suffer 6 months more imprisonment each.

A Public Safety Act Tribunal of District Judge ANM Bashir Ullah awarded the sentence to Abdul Jabbar, a terrorist of Lalkhan Bazar Debarparr and a close associate of BCL leader Kana Bakkar, and his three associates in a case filed under PSA for extortion and terrorism.

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Speaker's call to attend JS session 'regularly'

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad went into session at 10 am yesterday with Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury reminding the members of their responsibilities as elected representatives of the people.

In his introductory speech, the Speaker said the MPs are pledge-bound to work for establishing people's rights and rule of law and speaking for the electorate on the floor of the House.

"I hope, all members of parliament will attend the session regularly considering welfare of the nation and the country and perform the duties vested on them by the people," he said before taking up the day's agenda.

Most of the Treasury Bench members attended the day's sitting. The opposition lawmakers continued their boycott they started 13 months ago.

The House took up a number of legislative businesses apart from routine affairs like question-answer and notices on issues of public importance. Rituals of the opening day were also there.

The Speaker informed the House about the JS Secretariat's notification vacating the Rangpur-3 seat of Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad.

Minister for CHT Affairs Kalpa Ranjan Chakma introduced three bills seeking amendments to Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban hill district councils.

Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed introduced the Non-government Primary School Teachers' Welfare Trust Bill in the absence of Education Minister ASHK Sadek.

The House sent the four bills to the parliamentary standing committees on respective ministries for scrutiny and return to the House within one month.

Md Sayedul Haq, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Ministry, submitted a scrutiny report on the Battalion Ansar (Amendment) Bill.

Earlier, Speaker nominated a five-member Panel of Chairmen who will chair the current session in the absence of him and the Deputy Speaker.

The panel members are: Prof Abdul Mannan, ABM Abul Quasem,

Abdul Latif Mirza and Meher Afroz of Awami League and Noor Mohammad Mandal of Jatiya Party (M-M).

The House also adopted separate obituary references on 10 renowned persons including eight former MPs who died recently.

They are former minister Monoranjan Dhar, former minister and Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Col (Rtd) M A Malek, former MPs A K M Morshed, Barrister Mahbubul Kabir, Alhaj Moulana Nurunnabi Samdani, Advocate Syed Abdus Sobhan, Abdul Hakim, former member of the then Pakistan National Assembly Principal Nurul Huq and former members of the then Provincial Assembly M A Malek and Abdul Hye Bachhu.

JP (M-M) whip Fazle Rabbi and ABM Abul Quasem of AL rose on point of order and demanded immediate steps for protection of lands from river erosion in their respective areas in Gaibanda and Chittagong.

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid adjourned the session at 12.25. It resumes at 10 am today.

Rab Murder case

Hearing on remand prayer for Javed, Shentu today

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 6: The CMM today prayer for seven-day remand for interrogation of two suspects Javed and Shentu in Rab Murder Case.

A lawyer submitted bail prayer for them. IO of the case submitted the prayer for remand.

Hearing on the remand prayer will be held tomorrow, a KMP source said. Meanwhile, Javed and Shentu were sent to district jail this afternoon.

IO of the murder case said important clues may be obtained from them through interrogation. Because, Javed and Shentu are armed cadre Shentu

who also managed to escape along with two others from hotel Shaikat at Cox's Bazar, he said.

Hasina calls on Jordan's King Abdullah

NEW YORK, Sept 6: King of Jordan Abdullah Bin Al Hussein has highly praised Bangladesh for signing various UN treaties on disarmament, reports BSS.

The King conveyed the appreciation to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina when she called on him at St. Regis hotel here yesterday.

During the meeting, Sheikh Hasina said there is a tremendous scope for collaboration between the two countries for expansion of trade and investment.

Sheikh Hasina mentioned that the two countries have been working closely in the United Nations, Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC).

Sezer tells Hasina

Turkish companies willing to invest in Bangladesh

NEW YORK, Sept 6: Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer has said the Turkish companies are interested in investment in Telecom sector and agro-based industries in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

During talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Pierre Hotel here Tuesday morning, President Sezer emphasised on more economic cooperation between Dhaka and Ankara.

He said the Turkish construction companies are also willing to invest in Bangladesh.

The Turkish President expressed his desire to visit Dhaka in 2002 on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of independence of Bangladesh.

Earlier, Prime Minister Hasina informed the new Turkish President, who assumed the office in May this year, of various development work undertaken by her government to improve the economic status of the people.

Bangladesh is the best destination for foreign investment, she said and assured that the Turkish companies will be given special attention for investment in the country.

Hasina said Bangladesh and Turkey are working closely in International Forums, including the UN and D-8.

She invited the Turkish President to visit Bangladesh.

Doctor of Humane Letters conferred on Hasina

CONNECTICUT, Sept 6: The University of Bridgeport conferred degree of Doctor Humane Letters on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The citation mentioned, "your courage, compassion and devotion to human rights has made you a leader in your own country, Bangladesh, and an instrument of peace in the world-at-large."

President of the Bridgeport University Neil Albert Saloner conferred the degree on the Bangladesh Prime Minister at a ceremonial function at the Convocation Hall.

"I accept this honour on behalf of the people of Bangladesh, who have stood by me all along and to whom I owe so much," Sheikh Hasina said while receiving the degree.

The award is a tribute not only to me, but also to all my people," she said.

To make the event memorable, Mayor of Bridgeport City

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APAC forced to shift venue of protest rally in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 6: Police forced All Party Action Committee (APAC) to shift the venue for holding a scheduled protest rally from Kazi Dewri area to Lalidighi Square this afternoon.

The rally was arranged to protest the arrest of Chittagong IOJ convenor Mufti Ezzahar Islam.

Police said APAC was not allowed to hold its rally in Kazi Dewri area as the home minister was holding a meeting on law and order with police officials at the circuit house at 4 pm today.

Such a measure was taken to avert disturbance during the Home Minister's meeting at circuit house, police said. Police cordoned off Kazi Dewri area adjacent to the circuit house ahead of the meeting.

APAC Chittagong unit convenor and city BNP president Mir Md. Nasir Uddin chaired the rally. City JP president Jahangir Alam and general secretary Abdus Sattar of BNP, Liaquat Siddiqui of Jamaat and Abdur Rahman Chowdhury of IOJ addressed the rally.

The speakers warned of announcing tough programmes if Mufti was not released.

Mir Md. Nasir Uddin, a former mayor and ambassador, condemned the police move for forcing them to shift the venue of rally.

However, security has been beefed up in the port city today ahead of tomorrow's half-day hartal called by APAC to protest the arrest of Mufti Ezzahar.

Large number of police were deployed at all important points of the city to avoid violence.

APAC activists staged demonstration in the city this afternoon demanding release of Mufti Ezzahar.

BCL-Shibir clash in Bogra Azizul Haq College: 15 injured

BOGRA, Sept 6: A series of clashes between pro-Jamaat Islami Chhatra Shibir and Awami League-backed Chhatra League at Government Azizul Haq College left 15 people injured today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the trouble ensued at Science Faculty of the college when BCL activists tried to disrupt a meeting of Chhatra Shibir in the morning. The meeting was organised in memory of four Shibir workers killed in 1996.

BCL activists also went on a rampage in Jamilnagar area, a Shibir stronghold in the town attacking eight dormitories of the college, houses, shops and mosques.

But Shibir activists drove out the BCL activists at about 12 noon from the campus and brought out a procession protesting the incident.

Reinforcing their strength, the BCL activists again attacked the Shibir workers and fired gunshots on the campus.

This time, according to witnesses, the BCL activists drove out the Shibir men from the campus reportedly with the help of police who also fired 30 rounds of tear gas shell.

Witnesses said the BCL activists ransacked the local Jamaat office and torched the Shibir-controlled Ratna Coaching Centre.

Opposition protests price hike of oil & gas

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led four party opposition alliance brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting price hike of gas and petroleum products and government's alleged repression on opposition leaders and activists.

The city unit of All-party Action Council organised the procession as part of a country-wide demonstration programme of the alliance.

Activists of BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islamic Oikya Jote assembled at the city's Muktangan in the afternoon and took out the procession. It terminated in front of BNP's central office at the Naya Paltan after parading different city streets.

Addressing a pre-procession rally, alliance leaders said the government enhanced the prices of gas and petroleum products without any valid reason.

The "puppet" and "subservient" government has failed in all sectors and in maintaining law and order they said and called upon the people to intensify the on-going movement to free the country and the people

from its "misrule".

The rally was addressed by Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Mirza Abbas of BNP, Saifur Rahman and Syed Abu Hossain Babla of JP, ATM Azharul Islam and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mijleed of Jamaat and ARM Abdul Motin of IOJ. Action Council Convenor and BNP leader Sadek Hossain Khoka presided over the rally.

Sadek Hossain Khoka alleged that since assuming power in 1996, the Awami League has been protecting interests of Indian.

He claimed that the corruption case against BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleeda Zia was a conspiracy by the ruling party to tarnish her image. He urged the government to withdraw the case immediately and warned of "dire consequences" for non-compliance.

Khoka said killing of opposition activists and rape are everyday affair now. "Ruling party activists are behind these crimes but none of them are booked and punished," he said.

10 killed, 65 injured in road accidents

At least ten people were killed and 65 injured as two buses plunged into roadside ditches in Kushtia and Tangail yesterday, report agencies.

Six people were killed and 30 others injured in the Kushtia accident while four people killed and 35 wounded in the Tangail mishap.

In Kushtia district, the accident took place on Kushtia-Bheramara road at Noy Mile in the afternoon when the driver of a passenger bus of "Rony Deluxe" coming from Bogra lost control and the vehicle skidded off the road.

Four of the victims died on the spot while one on way to Kushtia General Hospital. They are Bari Mollah, 30, Rahman, 30, Rubel, 35, Zamsed, 33, and Zakir Hossain, 40.

Fourteen of the injured were admitted to the General Hospital.

pital while the others given first aid. Police said most of the injured, mainly day-labourers, hailed from Natore.

The bus was yet to be salvaged when the report came at 8:54 pm.

Later police rushed to the spot, but could not arrest the driver or his helper. A case was filed.

Another report from Tangail adds: A bus bound for Dhaka from Gaibandha plunged into a roadside ditch at Post-Kanari in Mirzapur upazila at about 5 pm, leaving four people dead.

Identities of the victims were not immediately known. Twenty-five of the injured were admitted to Mirzapur Kuumudini Hospital.

Police continued effort to salvage the bus from the ditch till writing of this report at 9:25 pm.

NGOs come to the aid of burn & acid victims

By Special Correspondent

Efforts by an Italian and a local NGO have led to treatment of at least 60 people with severe burn injuries, 20 of them having acid burns.

Three Bangladeshi doctors have been sent to Italy for training in plastic surgery at the initiative of the Italian NGO. This was disclosed at a press conference at the residence of the Italian Ambassador in Dhaka yesterday.

Officials and doctors of the Italian NGO -- Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) based in Milan-- and the local Gana Shasthya Kendra (GK) spoke at the press conference on the progress of their joint endeavour.

our in treating burn victims locally. It is usually a very lengthy and expensive process," they said.

The representatives of the NGOs said the number of acid and other burn victims in the country are growing at an alarming rate and at this point of time, only a limited number of victims were being treated due to limited facilities and the lengthy process involved, they noted.

Dr D' Onofrio of COOPI and Director of GK Nagar Hospital in the city Dr Mohibullah Khandaker, among others, spoke about the treatment facilities for such sufferers at Hospital. Italian Ambassador Mario Filippo Pini and Rossana Massari, in-charge of Cooperation, Culture and Information at the Embassy were present on the occasion.

On an average, 20 acid and burn victims are being treated every month at the hospital and both COOPI and GK intend to expand the programme in the

coming months, they said. In the first phase, focus will be given on surgical treatment of the victims.

After some preparatory activities in May last year, the project started functioning in June this year. The first Italian personnel for the project included Plastic surgeon Prof Daniele Blandini and Head Nurse Roberta and they were later replaced by Plastic surgeon Prof D'Onofrio and Head Nurse Katia Sellaro.

As per COOPI and GK plan, in the first six months, an Italian resident surgeon will be engaged in setting up a specialised burn treatment centre at the GK Hospital, assisted by an Italian specialist nurse and a project manager. Three teams of specialist surgeons will come, each for two weeks, to help him.

In the second phase of three years, focus will be on training of local health personnel and rehabilitation of acid burn survivors.

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