



Muktijoddha Samannay Parishad organised a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday.

Death from fever in Meherpur Disease not yet identified

UNB, Dhaka

Experts are yet to identify the unknown disease that has claimed many lives in the frontier district of Meherpur but opined that the scourge might be spread through mosquito bites.

An experts' team, headed by Professor Deen Mohammad of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, yesterday placed its report in a high-level meeting with State Minister for Health Prof M Amanullah in the chair.

Experts at the meeting suggested

procurement of necessary testing kits from abroad for proper diagnosis and treatment of the deadly disease that so far has claimed a dozen lives in the southwestern district.

The World Health Organisation has taken the responsibility to bring the kits on emergency basis, the meeting was informed.

The meeting decided that the blood samples collected from the patients should be tested as a preliminary measure for its treatment. "If necessary, the samples could be sent abroad for further test".

The meeting was also informed that there was no report of new patients, but the experts suggested that monitoring should be strengthened to check further casualties from the disease, which causes high fever and vomiting.

The experts discussed the situation in detail and gave their opinions as to whether the disease could be Japanese Encephalitis.

Representatives of WHO and Dhaka City Corporation, additional Director General of Health Directorate Shah Munir Hossain also attended the meeting.

DU debate competition Quarter-finals today

DU CORRESPONDENT

A total of four debate sessions were held on the second day of the six-day long First Inter-Hall English Debate Competition-2001 at the TSC auditorium yesterday as part of the first round of the competition.

The Dhaka University Debating Society in association with The Daily Star organised the event.

In the first session, Jagannath Hall beat their opponent Fazlul Haq Hall over the topic "Students politics should be banned for at least next five years." Sumon Dhor of the winning team was selected as the best speaker.

In the second session, Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall emerged as the winner. Their opponent was Zahurul Haq Hall.

The topic was "Literacy is the precondition to ensure good governance".

Kabi Jasimuddin Hall beat Ziaur Rahman Hall in the third session over the topic "Trade among Asian nations should be free", while Kamrul Islam was declared the best speaker.

In the last session, Rokeya Hall beat AF Rahman Hall over the topic "Globalisation is a weird game where only the rich can win" but the "best speaker" award went to Khairul Bashir of AF Rahman Hall.

Four more debate sessions of the quarter-final will be held today at the TSC seminar room.

Kabi Jasimuddin Hall is pitted against Jagannath Hall at 3pm and the topic is "Freedom of the individual is a myth".

At 3.30 pm, Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall will take on Mohsin Hall. And the topic is "Law should promulgate to stop sound pollution in metropolitan".

Rokeya Hall will face Fazlul Haq Hall at 4 pm over the topic "Friendship to all and malice to none - our foreign policy motto should be changed immediately".

And in the last session, Shahidullah Hall will take on Bangladesh Hall over the topic "American culture is an oxymoron" at 4.30 pm.

Leaders of BCL while briefing journalists about the programme yesterday said that they would confer a title on Prime Minister. At least three lakh people are expected to attend the rally, they said.

Holding the briefing at the DUCSU building of the Dhaka University yesterday noon the BCL leaders said that a total of seven thousand representatives of BCL from across the country will also meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Gano Bhabon office on May 18.

Justice Fazlul Karim takes oath

BSS, Dhaka

The oath of Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim of the High Court Division, who was appointed a judge of the Appellate Division of Bangladesh Supreme Court, was held at the Judges' Lounge here yesterday.

Chief Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury conducted the oath, an official press release said.

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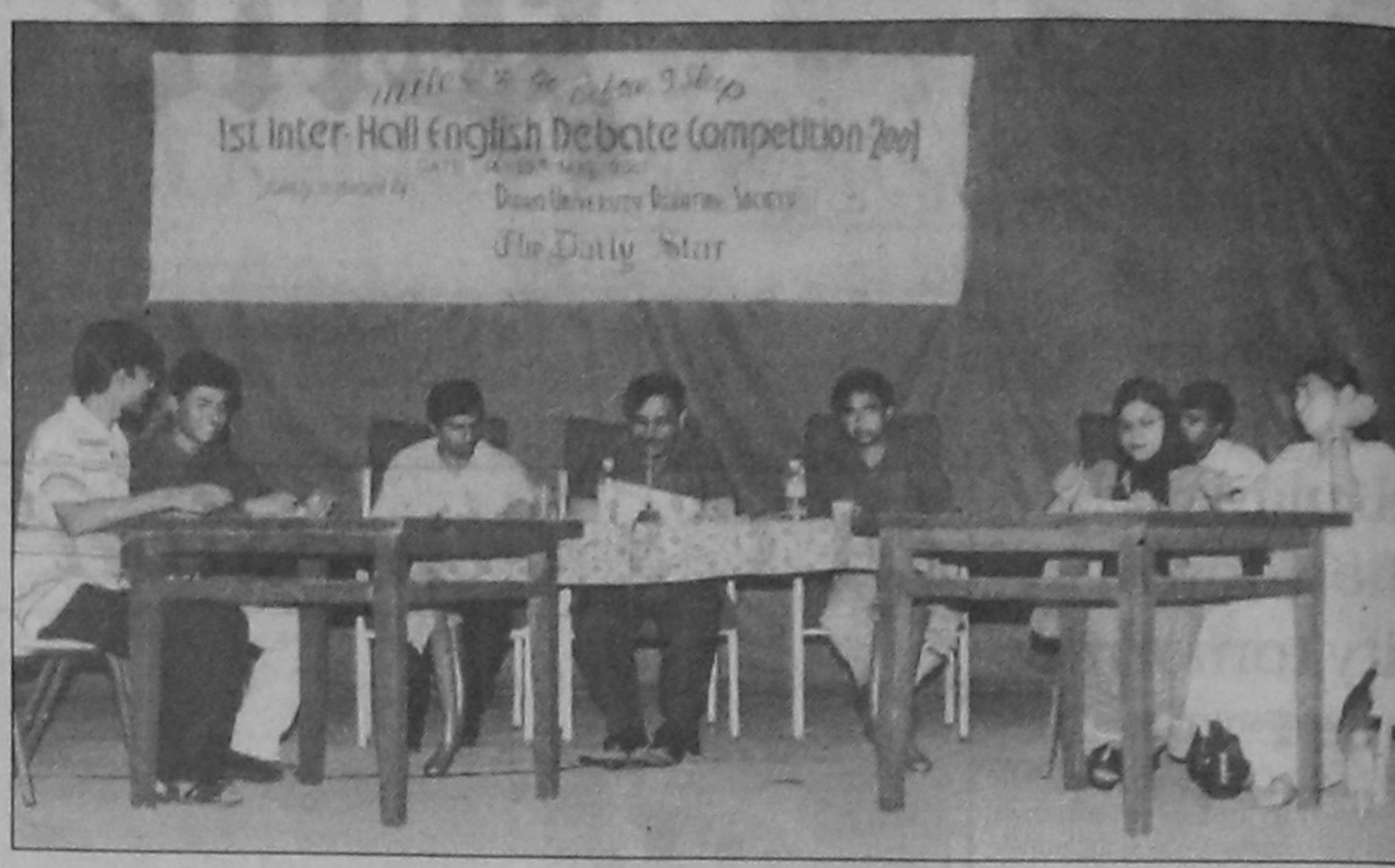
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Participants at the First Inter-Hall English Debate Competition-2001, organised by the Dhaka University Debating Society in association with The Daily Star. Rokeya Hall and Sir AF Rahman Hall took part in a debate session held at the TSC auditorium on the second day of the event yesterday.

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New trust fund at DU

UNB, Dhaka

A trust fund styled as 'Alhaj M Mujibur Rahman and Nurjahan Begum Memorial Trust Fund' has been set up in Islamic History and Culture Department of Dhaka University.

Hosne Ara Begum, Professor of Islamic History and Culture Department of Jagannath University and daughter of late Alhaj M Mujibur Rahman and Nurjahan Begum, handed over a cheque for Tk one lakh to the DU Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad yesterday for establishing the fund.

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Discussion on HIV/AIDS

BSS, Dhaka

Imam Training Academy under Islamic Foundation and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) yesterday organised a discussion meeting in the auditorium of Ashkuna permanent Haji Camp on "prevention of HIV/AIDS in Islam: Role of imams".

Minister of State for Religious Affairs Moulana Mohammed Nurul Islam attended the meeting as chief guest.

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