

First successful liver tumour operation in country

UNB, Dhaka In a major breakthrough in the country's health sector, the first sophisticated liver tumour operation took place at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital in the city. A tumour was removed from the liver of Pandit Ali, 50, in a successful two-hour operation...

Servier launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT A new pharmaceutical company formally launched its operation in Bangladesh at a simple ceremony on Saturday. The research-based French company - Servier is founded and owned by Dr. Jacques Servier.

Servier has 11 research centres around the world. The company has global operations with 15,000 employees in 140 countries. Its total turnover in last year was around two billion EURO.

In his welcome speech, Dr. Pinaki Bhattacharya, sales and promotion manager of Servier Bangladesh Operation said it is a truly research-based pharmaceutical company where utmost emphasis has been given on research and development projects. Servier invests 25 per cent of its total turnover in research while other best companies around the world invest only about eight percent in this sector.

He said Servier actually started its operation in Bangladesh in 1996 through its distributor, the Transcom Group. This year the company started its first clinical study in the country. Dr. Allain Bely, chief of the company's northern and central zone of Asia also spoke on the occasion. He gave a brief introduction on its global activities and services. Dr. MA. Hadi, vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University attended the launching ceremony as chief guest.



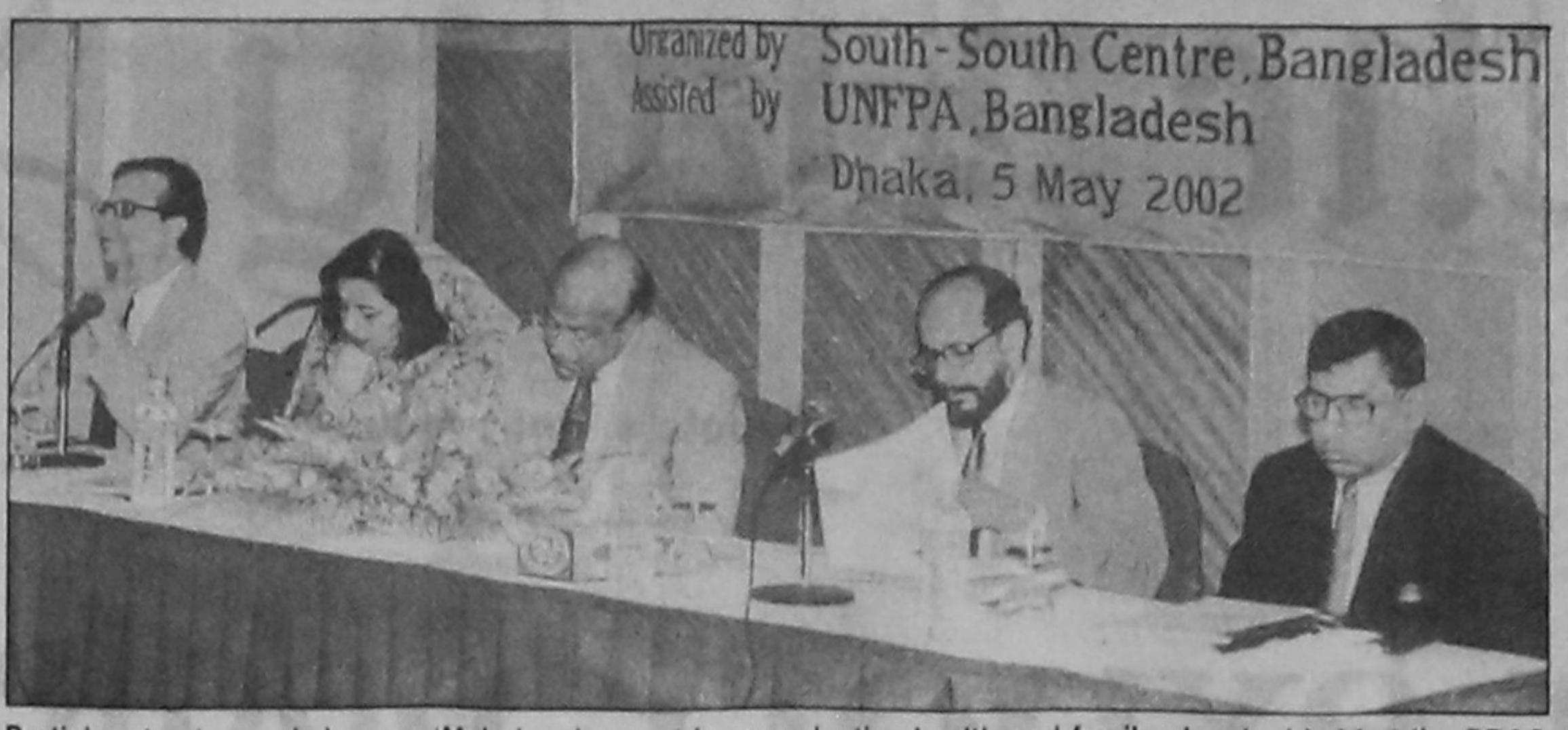
Dr. Allain Bely

only Tk 10-15 thousand. Dr. Zulfikar Rahman Khan, a specialist in hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery, conducted the sophisticated operation that took two hours to remove a tumour from the left-lobe of the liver of Pandit, who hails from Gazipur. Three senior professors -- Ata A Rabbi, Mahabur Rahman and Rashiduddin Ahmed -- supervised the operation while Dr. Towhid, Dr. Mohsin and Dr. Saif assisted them. He observed that CUSA is safe and more secure for removing cyst and tumour. "Within next one year, we will be able to transplant liver, which is the treatment for liver cirrhosis," he said confidently.

Dr. Zulfikar, who has vast experiences of working at the National University Hospital in Singapore, said that setting up a sophisticated operation theatre would cost about one crore taka. Liver tumour kills 1.2 million people around the globe a year. In Bangladesh, there is a lack of information about how many people are suffering from this fatal disease. But, there are so many, the doctors said.

In remote, rural areas, doctors usually release such patients with a sigh and many have to die without treatment. "But, the treatment is now possible," said a surgeon after the operation. Surgeons had conducted such operation here before, but there was lack of modern equipment like CUSA. "Huge bleeding occurs from this vascular organ during operation, but use of CUSA obstructed bleeding," Dr. Zulfikar said.

Prior to the operation, a formal inaugural ceremony of Hepatobiliary, Pancreatic & Endo-Surgery UT and CUSA & Intraoperative USG machine was held at the Samad Seminar Room of BSMMU. BSMMU pro-vice chancellors Prof. Mohammad Taher and Prof. Mannan Miah and treasurer Prof. Mobin Khan addressed the function with Surgery Department chairman Prof. Anam Ata A Rabbi in the chair.



Participants at a workshop on 'Male involvement in reproductive health and family planning' held at the BRAC auditorium in the city yesterday. The South-South Centre, Bangladesh, organised the workshop.

'Involve men in reproductive health care for better family planning'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Speakers at a daylong workshop yesterday suggested involving the men in decision-making in reproductive health care to improve family planning outcomes. Equal participation of both men and women in all areas of family planning would bring about important changes in growth of population, they said.

The speakers observed that men play a key role in bringing about gender equity since, in most societies, they exercise predominant power in nearly every sphere of life, ranging from personal decisions regarding the size of families to the policy and programme decisions taken at all levels of the government. Organised by the South-South Centre, Bangladesh, the workshop titled 'Male involvement in reproductive health and family planning' was held at the BRAC auditorium in the city.

Speaking as chief guest, Health Minister Dr. Khandaker Mosharruf Hossain said, "Little progress has been made in achieving the goals of including men in reproductive services as accepted as a challenge in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)." "We do not have sufficient information on how to involve men in reproductive health and family planning programmes nor we are fully aware about the services that

are essential for men." However, there are some barriers to male participation in reproductive health, like social, cultural and religious norms and male-friendly clinics, he added. Other speakers at the workshop pointed out that male involvement is often rooted in the negative assumptions. They said many programme managers view men as gatekeepers and potential obstructionists who, if involved in decision-making, will defeat women's efforts to regulate fertility. Although the national family programme in Bangladesh has achieved remarkable success in contraceptive use, it is mainly female-oriented. The FP programmes deliberately focused on women to use modern contraceptive methods. Here, the speakers pointed out, men are virtually ignored and kept outside the purview of the reproductive healthcare facilities offered by the government. As a result, men seek advice from traditional healers, private practitioners, and paramedics. They also said that with the recognition of men's dominant role in many societies and their influence on women's contraceptive use and reproductive decision-making, policy-makers of population and development programmes around the globe have increasingly been promoting the

idea of male involvement in reproductive health. The Programme of Action adopted at the 1994 International conference on Population and development (ICPD) stresses the importance of reproductive rights and reproductive health for both men and women. Emphasising the need for equity in gender relations and responsible sexual behaviour, the Programme of Action notes that males as well as females must have access to appropriate information and services to achieve good sexual health and exercise their reproductive rights and responsibilities. Dr. Jalaluddin Ahmed, Director of the South-South Centre, said, "Male power judged negatively can be a powerful force for change. To ensure reproductive health care for all and to improve reproductive health situation in Bangladesh, involvement of men in all reproductive health programme is needed."

Prof. Mahzarul Islam of Dhaka University and M E Khan, Regional Adviser of Population Council, jointly presented the keynote paper on 'Male involvement in reproductive health: The case of Bangladesh in relation to family planning'. Suneeta Mukherjee, UNFPA Representative in Bangladesh, and M. Fazlur Rahman, Secretary of Health ministry, were also present at the opening session.

Repression on woman Charges framed against Haji Selim, 8 others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Second Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka yesterday framed charges against former Awami League MP Haji Mohammad Selim and eight others in a case filed under the Special Act for Prevention of Women and Children Repression. The eight other accused are -- Selim's brother Iqbal Mahmud alias Tara, mother Makhon Bibi, sisters Munni Bibi, Nasrin Bibi and his relatives -- Ali Ahmed, Mohammad Kashem, Biplob and Haji Mohammad Saleh. Judge Kazi Rahamat Ullah fixed June 6 for trial of the case. The accused pleaded not guilty

and demanded justice before the court after the charges brought against them. Advocate Syed Rezaur Rahman submitted a petition before the court, seeking acquittal of the accused of charges. He stated that the accused were implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass them politically. So, they should be discharged from the charges, the lawyer argued. Appearing on behalf of the complainant, Advocate Masud Ahmed Talukder opposed the discharge petition and prayed for framing charges against them. After hearing both the sides, the court rejected the discharge petition and framed charges against the accused. In the case, filed with Lalbagh thana, it has been alleged that Iqbal Mahmud Tara along with other accused pressed his wife Sharmin Eui (victim) to bring dowry from her father. As she refused to oblige, the accused tortured her at times. Moreover, at about 7.00 pm on May 17 last year, the accused entered the bedroom of the victim and poured kerosene on her body and pressed her saying that if her father did not give the market and land in the name of Iqbal Mahmud Tara, she would be killed, the complaint alleged. On hearing the news of torture, Eui's father Mohammad Aman Ullah, mother and sister-in-law went to the house of accused and wanted to know the matter. But the accused confined them in a room and tortured them mercilessly. Victim's father filed a case with Lalbagh thana on November 19 last year accusing nine people including Haji Selim. The investigation officer (IO) of the case submitted a chargesheet to the CMM's Court, Dhaka against the 9 people on January 15.

Blood donation programme at DU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Students' Humanitarian Effort in Bangladesh (SHEBA) began a four-day blood donation and free blood test programme on the Dhaka University campus yesterday to help the dengue patients. The programme will be held at the Battola in front of the Arts Building today while it will be held at Curzon Hall and Science Annex Building on May 7 and 8 respectively. Students, teachers and officials of the university have been registering for the programme. The SHEBA will prepare a database of the donors so that they can be contacted anytime.

Prof. Mahmud-Ul-Amin of the Department of Biology, who is also the advisor of SHEBA, inaugurated the programme. He made a call to all, including the students, to come forward to prevent the spread of dengue and raise awareness about it. Presided over by SHEBA president Khandaker Mirajur Rahman, the programme was also addressed by former Dean of Arts Faculty Prof. Aminul Islam and coordinator of Quantum Foundation Zahurul Islam.

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ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় টেন্ডার নোটিশ নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজটির জন্য ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের তালিকাভুক্ত (সিভিল) ঠিকাদারদের নিকট হইতে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের 'টেন্ডার ফর ওয়ার্কস' ফরমে সীলমোহরকৃত টেন্ডার আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। ঠিকাদারগণকে খামের উপর কাজের নাম ও তাহাদের ফর্মের নাম স্পষ্টাকারে লিখিতে হইবে। কর্তৃপক্ষের রায়ে চূড়ান্ত বলিয়া বিবেচিত হইবে। কাজের পূর্ণ বিবরণ নিম্নে দেওয়া হইল।

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