

Save schoolboy Anup

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leukaemia is the most common type of cancer in children in Bangladesh and Anup Bhattacharya, a nine-year old schoolboy has been suffering from this deadly disease.



In his case, the white cells that fight with bacteria and virus are not produced adequately and are frequently broken down, a disease Anup has been suffering since his birth.

Jagannath College and University has taken up a fund raising programme for Anup.

"Anup has virtually stopped eating since last four days and he needs immediate treatment", doctors say.

Under the banner of 'Shekorer Sandhaney' they formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club recently to collect fund for his treatment.

"I have blood cancer. But I know there is treatment for this. So please help me to survive. I don't want to die so early," Anup made an appeal to all.

"This is our first programme and we intend to carry on this programme especially for poor children including Anup who suffer from blood cancer", said Khandaker Intekhab Alam, president of the organisation.

Anup is now in Haematology Department of Dhaka Shishu Hospital where he is being treated for almost one and half month. Doctors have suggested for him bone marrow transplant, a costly surgical intervention that requires around Tk 25 lakh.

"We have been organising special charity programme at different points of the city for last one month. So far we have collected Tk 1.25 lakh including Tk 2 from a beggar and Tk 50,000 from a family whose son (Ashit) died of blood cancer recently", said Raisuddin Ahmed, general secretary of the organisation.

Anup's father who works at a tailoring shop in Old Dhaka sold almost all his property for his initial treatment which mainly involved chemotherapy at a private hospital in Kolkata.

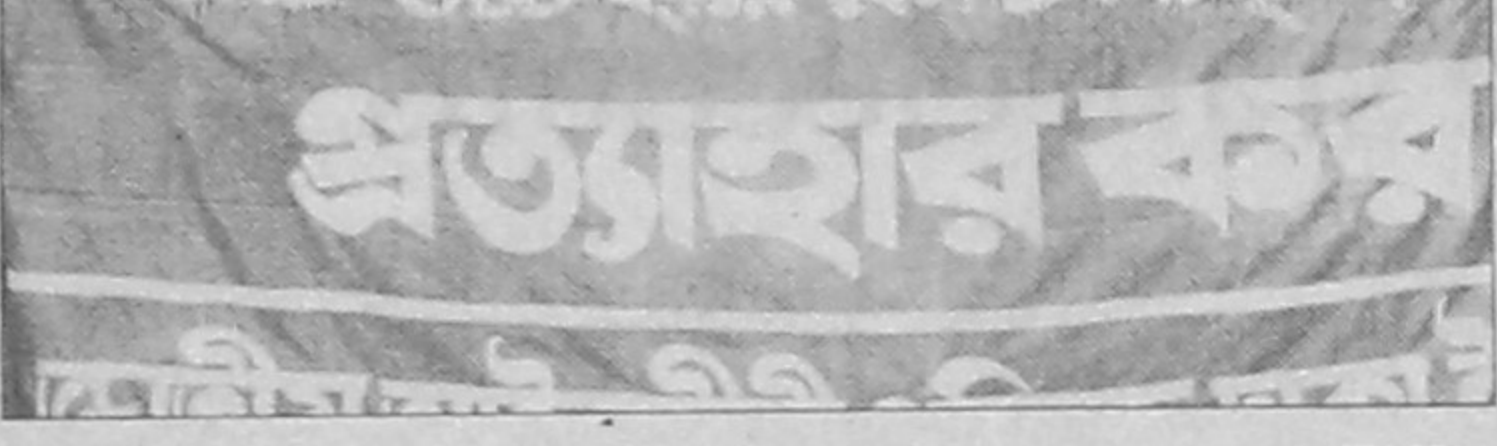
"Collection of Tk 25 lakh is not possible for me without public donation" said Anup's father, Dilip Bhattacharya.

In bone marrow transplant, healthy marrow is infused into the blood-stream of the patient and such a high-tech medical intervention is not available in Bangladesh, sources say.

He said we have now decided to seek the help of the mass-media instead of 'street collection' programme to raise fund for Anup. I am sure people will help if media joins the campaign.

So Anup has to be shifted either to Chennai in South India or to Bangkok in Thailand provided sufficient fund is available.

Anyone willing to donate for the treatment of Anup can send their contributions to Uma Bhattacharya, Savings Account No. 5705, Rupali Bank, Rathkhola Branch, Nawabpur Road, Dhaka.



The Jatiya Ainjibi Parishad staged a demonstration in the city yesterday protesting court fee hike.



Azim Uddin Ahmed (R), Chairman of North South University (NSU) Foundation, giving away the crest to the joint winner 'Sarat Das and Design Consortium' of India at the concluding ceremony of two-day long exhibition of architectural designs for non-residential university campus Tuesday. Members of the NSU Foundation are also seen in the picture.

Appointment of pry school teachers Quota system for women to continue, JS told

BSS, Dhaka

Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, Minister in-charge of Primary and Mass Education Department in the Jatiya Sangsad, told the House yesterday that quota system for women in the appointment of primary school teachers would continue until a balance was established.

teacher appointment rules of 1991 reserved 60 per cent quota for women to empower them. If the quota is withdrawn now, it may leave adverse effect on society, dampen the country's image abroad and stop assistance from development community. It is also against the policy of the government, he stressed.

The minister was replying to a call attention notice by Sarwar Jamal Nizam (BNP-Chittagong) on giving equal opportunity to all for educating the nation.

He said although there was quota for women, the appointment of female school teachers were made on the basis of their merit and skills.

Dr Hossain, who is also the Health and Family Welfare Minister, said the primary school

Another report adds: State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Amanullah Anan told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that the government would take all necessary measures to resolve the problems of Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

Acid attack on girl in Bhola

UNB, Bhola

A teenage girl suffered severe burn injuries in an acid attack at Hamidpur village in Charfashion upazila on Monday.

The minister was making a statement on a call attention notice by Golam M Kader (JP Rangpur) on manifold problems of Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Aman said the old lifts of the hospitals would be replaced when the fund is available.

Villagers said Kabir Hossain, who had an affair with Tupuri Begum, 15, of the village threw acid on the girl as she agreed to marry another man of her father's choice turning down Kabir's offer for marriage.

He also said a cobalt machine would be procured for the radiology department of the hospital. Regarding the appointment of staff, the minister said 63 posts of fourth class employees are now lying vacant at the hospital.

'Telecom Regulatory commission formed to ensure balanced competition'

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission was formed on January 31 this year to ensure a balanced competition among the telecom operators and regulate their activities.



The Bangladesh Students Welfare Association formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday calling upon all to extend financial help for the treatment of Mehedi Reza Aankhi, a former student of Bangladesh Rifles College, who is suffering from blood cancer.

Minister for Post and Telecommunications Barrister Md Aminul Haq said this while replying to a question from Delwar Hossain Sayeedi of Jamaat (Pirojpur) in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

Drug traffickers use Bangladesh as intermediate channel: Altaf

BSS, Dhaka

Home Minister Air Vice Marshall (Retd) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury yesterday said international terrorist networks are integrally linked with illicit trafficking of addictive drugs and drug abuse is responsible for social instability.

Director general of DNC Muhammad Salam addressed on the occasion. The home minister said the government has taken steps to halt supply of addictive drugs apart from reducing internal demands. If the users mostly young people, can learn the benefits of living a healthy life they will be away from these deadly substance. He said young people should be made aware of the fact that injecting drug use makes individuals vulnerable to HIV infection.

"Bangladesh is not producer of addictive drugs but often international traffickers use the country as intermediate channel. Abuse of drugs not only destroys the golden dreams of the young people but also contributes to social chaos and this phenomena serves as a ominous curse for any developing nation," the minister said while he was addressing a function at Osmani memorial auditorium here.

He said the addicts should be treated with love and care. Employment opportunities for the young should be created to free them from all types of frustration. The special youth ministry campaign will be launched soon to address the issue, he added.

Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) organised the function to bolster campaign among students and youth people as part of celebration of International day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The theme of the day was 'Substance abuse and HIV/AIDS.'

Referring to spontaneous participation in the rally against drug abuse and illicit trafficking the minister said it is a positive sign

that hundreds of boys and girls took part in the rally in a disciplined way and they are determined to participate in the collective war against abuse of drugs. The home minister later distributed certificates and trophy among winners of walkathon, painting and essay competitions organised by DNC highlighting significance of the campaign. Hundreds of students and young people holding banners and festoon with messages against abuse of drugs, brought out a procession in the city led by the home minister.

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SAARC secy-gen visits SAIC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SAARC Secretary General QAMA Rahim visited SAARC Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) in the city yesterday, said a press release.

Govt urged to take steps to check air pollution

BHEJNET, Dhaka

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged the government to stick to restrictions on import of old and reconditioned vehicles and also take other measures to check air pollution in Dhaka.

He said the non-government organisations can play significant role in anti-drug campaign and rehabilitation programmes for the adolescent and young population. Referring to spontaneous participation in the rally against drug abuse and illicit trafficking the minister said it is a positive sign

Organised jointly by the Society for Urban Environmental Protection (SUEP) and the Bangladesh Health and Environment Journalists Network (BHEJNET), the seminar was aimed at raising awareness about the impact of polluted air on human health, says a press release. Presenting a recent survey findings, general secretary of SUEP Aktar Hossain Babu told the seminar that the city's air contained higher level of suspended particles that causes various respiratory problems.

He put forward a 14-point proposal for the mitigation of air pollution in urban areas. The suggestions included import of new car with in-built CNG and catalytic converter system, restrictions on old and reconditioned cars, introduction of mass transport system and regular maintenance of motor vehicles.

He held at National Press Club, the seminar was also addressed by Abdur Rahman Khan, president of

A total of 19 architectural works of India, Pakistan, Thailand, Malaysia and Bangladesh were put on display at the exhibition. The jury board consisting of a South Asian panel of judges chaired by Prof. Bal Krishna Doshi, a world famous architect, made the evaluation from the 19 works of architectural models.

Exhibition of architectural designs ends

The best three structural designs for non-residential campus for private university were awarded at the concluding ceremony of two-day long exhibition at the North South University Tuesday, says a press release.

Azim Uddin Ahmed, Chairman of NSU Foundation, gave away crests and Tk 300,000 cash honorarium to the joint winners - 'Sarat Das and Design Consortium' of India and Haq-SNAL Consortium of Bangladesh.



A number of kutcha houses blew down during a storm at Tallapara in Fatulla, Narayanganj, on Tuesday night.

JA Architects and Architecton, a local firm, was selected as the third best designer.

Obituary

Begum Saleha Kabir, wife of late Kabiruddin Ahmed, died of a cardiac arrest on June 25 at the age of 72, says a press release.

She is survived by three sons, one daughter and eight grand children.

She was the founder president of Mou-mita Samity.

3245 college teachers to be recruited: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday told the House that her government was determined to improve the quality of education.

of 1100 computers is under process and the government has plan for distribution of 20 thousand computers in phases to secondary schools, colleges and madrassahs in next four years.

In reply to a question from Prof. Shahidul Islam (BNP-Kushtia), she said to achieve the goal 3245 teachers would be appointed against vacant post at government colleges and the Public Service Commission would take necessary steps in this regard.

She said the formation of a service commission for recruitment of teachers for private educational institutions is under process. Moreover, steps have been taken, she said, to modernise the existing curriculum. Khaleda Zia said a 49-member expert committee headed by former vice chancellor MA Bari has been formed to identify the reform measures which can be implemented smoothly in the education sector. The committee is expected to submit its report soon, she said.

She said 1072 assistant teachers have been recruited against vacant posts for 317 government secondary high schools. She said steps have been taken for reforms of public examination system for removing the trend of adoption of unfair means in the examinations.

Meanwhile, the committee headed by vice chancellor of Islamic University Dr M Mustafizur Rahman has already submitted its report for reforms of madrassah education making it time befitting.

She said 873 computers have been provided to different educational institutions to make the country's education time befitting. Besides, she said the distribution

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