

Make success SNID

Rotary Clubs urge voluntary, social organisations

BSS, Dhaka

Rotary Clubs in Bangladesh yesterday called upon all voluntary and social organisations to make success the forthcoming Sub-National Immunization Days (SNID) to be observed on August 10 and September 14 across the country.

Addressing a press conference at Dhaka Club, Governor, Rotary International District 3280, Bangladesh K M Zainul Abedin said over 10,000 members of the Rotary family belonging to 114 clubs in the country would devote in the drive to make Bangladesh polio-free.

Chairman, National Polio Plus Committee (NPPC) Iftekharul Alam, Secretary, NPPC, Jalal U Ahmed, Treasurer, NPPC, Imdadul Haq, District Secretary, Lutfor Rahman Chowdhury, Member, NPPC, A G P Haran, Chairman, District Rotary Public Relations Committee, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Co-chairman Zaglul A Chowdhury and President Rotary Club of Paltan M A Marin and Secretary Mohammad Ruhul Amin were, among others, present at the conference.

The government is going to organise the SNID to give two drops of oral polio vaccine to all children up to five years of age.

It will cover 80 per cent of country including all city corporations and major municipalities

and districts bordering West Bengal.

Elaborating the significance of observing the SNID prior to organising the 11th National Immunisation Day on March 11 next, Zainul Abedin said it has become important because of the continuing transmission of the disease in northern India and the recent detection of six polio cases in West Bengal. Such incidents in our neighbouring country threatened the potential risk of cross-border transmission of the poliovirus into Bangladesh which is now free from this deadly disease.

Rotary International, which is fighting the disease with a view to making the world polio-free by the 2005 with an estimated budget of 1,000 million dollars, has provided Bangladesh Polio-Plus grants totaling around 15 million dollars for routine EPI NIDs and social mobilisation.

Rotary Club, Bangladesh has chalked out a massive programme including the mobilisation of support of the local leaders, holding of rallies and other publicity, setting up vaccination centres and providing volunteers and arranging vaccination for traveling people at launch ghats, ferry ghats and bus terminals and the homeless to make the SNID a grand success, the Rotarian leaders told the press conference.

Govt's resignation AL demand ridiculous, says Mannan Bhuiyan

BSS, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has said the Awami League's demand for resignation of the government over a "non-issue" is ridiculous.

"Awami League should take the opportunity to examine their popularity by waiting patiently till the next parliamentary elections, without issuing ridiculous statements and trying to fish in the troubled waters," Mannan Bhuiyan said in a statement yesterday.

It would be good for the AL not to indulge in daydream to oust this elected government through any conspiracy, he observed.

Mannan Bhuiyan condemned the statement made by Acting AL President Abdul Samad Azad at a rally at Muktangan in the city on Wednesday, and said the AL, which was rejected by the people, wanted to fish in the troubled waters, capitalising on the movement of the students of Dhaka University (DU), to reap political benefits.

"But the AL has now become perplexed as the conscious students did not step into its trap and as Anwarullah Chowdhury resigned from the post of vice-chancellor at the advice of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia," he said.

Create mass awareness about liver cirrhosis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop underscored the need for creating mass awareness about the deadly diseases like liver cirrhosis and hepatitis B, says a press release.

Organised by the Bangladesh Association for Prevention of Liver Cirrhosis Diseases, the workshop also suggested that the experts should go for extensive research on the disease that claims hundreds of lives every year.

Presided over by poet Al-Amin, the workshop was also addressed by Dr. Mahbub H Khan and child specialist Dr. Wahidullah, Poet Al-Amin who is also suffering from liver ailment, donated his assets for treatment of the disease.

The association would go for massive awareness programme and provide free treatment, the press release added.

Australian Film Festival begins August 15

BSS, Dhaka

A two-day Australian Film Festival will be held here on August 15 to celebrate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Australia and Bangladesh.

Seven Australian feature films and three short films will be screened in the British Council auditorium here.

This festival is organised as part of the Embassy Road show project presented by the Australian Film Commission and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, an Australian High Commission press release said yesterday.

Australian Films are renowned in the international market, winning many accolades and introducing talented actors, directors and technicians in the world.

Death anniversary

The 3rd death anniversary of Prof Mohammad Faruque, a former teacher of Jahangirnagar University and head of Bengali Department of Karachi University, will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

On the occasion, Khatme Quran, and milad mahfil will be held. Food will be distributed among the destitutes and in orphanages and special munajat will be offered in the mosque. A milad mahfil will also be held at his younger brother's residence.

All friends, relatives, admirers and students of Prof Faruque have been requested to pray for the salvation of his departed soul.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia distributing stipends to the HSC level girl students at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in the city yesterday.

Govt keen to develop, conserve marine, coastal ecosystem

BSS, Dhaka

Minister for Environment and Fisheries Shahjahan Siraj yesterday underlined the need for proper management of marine and coastal ecosystem for preserving this fragile system and to derive optimum benefit from the vast resources.

"The government is very keen to develop and conserve the marine and coastal ecosystem for sustainable development of the country."

The environment minister was speaking at a brain storming session on "Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Management" here at a local hotel. "There is a great potential in Bangladesh for bio-diversity based sustainable development," Siraj said and reminded all that efforts should be taken in such a manner that "biological resources are not over exploited". He, however, maintained that sustainable management plans need to be formulated and implemented keeping in view the cardinal principle of preserving the bio-diversity.

Coastal Area Resource Development and Management Association (CARDMA) organised session with CARDMA president Hasna J. Moudid in the chair.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman, Resident Representative of UNDP Jorgan Lissner and Prof Moniruzzaman Miah, former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University addressed the session.

Siraj said the coastal zone of Bangladesh is endowed with enormous natural resources having immense value for environmental and socio-economic reasons. He said the major areas of concern are the conservation and development of natural resources which are coming under increased pressure of population, degradation of ecosystem, habitat and natural environment. The protection of life and property at the

time of cyclones and tidal surges are also matter of great concern, he added.

The government has taken various steps for conservation and management of coastal and marine bio-diversity which include coastal and wetland bio-diversity management in Cox's Bazar and Hakaluki Haor, bio-diversity conservation in Sundarbans Reserve Forest and establishment of Marine Park in Saint Martin Island, he said.

Siraj said the coast of Bangladesh is 730 km long encompassing vast area at the land and water interface, adding resource utilisation offer enormous opportunities as well as resource management challenge. Over exploitation of resources, complex resource utilisation patterns, population pressure, exposure to natural hazards such as cyclone and tidal surge, salinity and marine pollution, he added.

Abdus Salam's anniversary of birth today

BSS, Dhaka

Different socio-cultural organisations will observe the 91st birth anniversary of noted thinker, Language Movement activist, lawyer, journalist and former editor of The Bangladesh Observer late Abdus Salam today.

Family sources said programmes of the day include placing of wreaths at his Banani graveyard, milad mahfil at his Dhanmondi residence and discussion on his life and contribution towards society.

Dhaka Mohanagar Zia Moncho (DMZM) will observe the day through a discussion at 5 pm in the Deshbandha auditorium in the city.



A scientific seminar on Ramipril, a new antihypertensive, was held in the city yesterday. The seminar was organised by Opsonin. (From left) Dr. Mezbahul Karim, Dr. M Shahid Iqbal Sarkar, M Halimushsan, Prof Zafar A Latif, Major Gen (ret'd) Prof A R Khan, Dr. Mahmudul Haq, Dr. M A Rashid and Dr. Nurul Islam are seen in the picture.

50 hurt as villagers clash with police in Sirajganj

UNB, Sirajganj

At least 50 people, including five police personnel, were injured in a clash between the villagers and police at Chandidasgati Bazar in sadar upazila yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the villagers of Chandidasgati beat up two JCD activists Wednesday over previous enmity.

Following the incident, some

villagers of Chandidasgati yesterday caught and beat up one Ameer Hossain of Selunda village.

On information, police rushed to the market and rescued Hossain. At that time, a group of BNP supporters attacked the police.

At one stage, police lobbed 5 rounds of tear gas shell and fired several rounds of bullet. They also charged baton to disperse the angry people.

At least 42 people were injured during the clash.

Of the injured people, 21 were admitted to sadar hospital, Gonoshasthya Hospital and local clinics.

Police arrested local BNP leader Matiuir Rahman and former UP Chairman Abdur Razzak.

Soon after the incident at Chandidasgati Bazar, one Rezaul Karim was caught and beaten up by the villagers of Selunda at Shialkol Bazar.

Hearing the news, OC of Sadar thana rushed to the spot and rescued him.

Police led by a magistrate were deployed in the area to avert further clash between the villagers.

Young man shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An armed gang shot a young man at Shewrapara in the city yesterday evening.

The victim, Swapon Mollah, 27, said he is an auto-rickshaw driver. But police claimed he is a gang member in the area.

Swapon said a gang suddenly turned up in front of him, shot him and fled. He could not identify any one of them. He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

DHAKA TODAY

Film show: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra (BSK) will screen a film titled 'Sei Rater Katha Baite Esehchi' directed by Kaosar Chowdhury. Venue: BSK auditorium, 14 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 5:00pm.

Founding anniversary: In observance of its first founding anniversary, a voluntary organisation BANDHU will organise a slide show on environment and film show on child rights. Venue: CDL auditorium, House-39, Road-14A, Dhanmondi. Time: 2:45pm.

Seminar: The College of General Practitioners of Bangladesh (BCGP) organises a seminar on 'Recent Trends in Management of Diabetes Mellitus'. Venue: BCGP auditorium, 215/A Outer Circular Road, Boro Maghbazar. Time: 9:00am.

Discussion: The Institute of Child Health and Shishu Hospital will organise a discussion meeting and cultural function in observance of the birth anniversary of National Prof. DR. M R Khan. Venue: 6/2, Borobagh, Section-2, Mirpur. Time: 4:30pm.

Boat procession: Bangladesh Environment Movement organises a boat procession in the river Turag to protect the river from illegal occupation and dumping of industrial waste. Venue: River Turag at Tongi Bridge. Time: 8:30am.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions today.

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Dinajpur and the lowest 24.5 degree at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:41 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:29 am.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Bottle-feeding of babies for HIV infected mothers suggested

BSS, Dhaka

Since mother-to-child HIV infection is a growing problem worldwide, UN agencies now suggest that bottle-feeding starting at birth may be a safer choice than breast-feeding for an HIV infected mother.

They stressed for serious carefulness to ensure adequate nutrition and safe preparation of bottle-feeding for the babies of HIV-infected mothers side by side with uninterrupted supply of alternative foods for them.

While there is a debate globally about whether and when to recommend breast-feeding versus bottle-feeding, especially in the countries where poor sanitation makes bottle-feeding risky, the Bangladesh government is relentlessly promoting it at all levels.

Experts here say that breast-feeding protects the new-born babies from a good number of dangerous diseases.

As HIV can be transmitted from a woman to her baby during pregnancy, birth or through breast-feeding, the experts suggest prevention as a high priority in case of mother-to-child-transmission of HIV.

In last year's UN special session on HIV/AIDS in New York experts said nearly five million children before reaching their 15 years had so far died from AIDS since the onset of this epidemic. They said an estimated 2.7 million children were living with HIV and another 800,000 were infected in 2001 alone globally, about 90 per cent in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The experts in the first ever such meet said HIV spreads fast to

the areas stricken by poverty, powerlessness and lack of information. Thus, AIDS becomes largely a disease of marginalised people in the poorest countries, where disadvantaged people are at the greatest risks with few opportunities, services and support systems.

The Population Reports in its November 2001 issue said that many adolescents around the globe were at risks due to lack of education or proper awareness about HIV/AIDS. None, including parents, educators, counsellors, health care workers or the media have taught them about HIV/AIDS or how to protect oneself from this disease, it said.

UNICEF, based on 1994-99 surveys, disclosed that 88 per cent males and 96 per cent females

ranging from ages 15 to 19 in Bangladesh did not know any way to protect themselves from this killer disease.

HIV/AIDS has not yet taken a serious turn in Bangladesh but UNICEF says the country faces a potential threat, especially in the context of favourable environment as well as inadequate surveillance reporting and control measures. It was pointed out that Bangladesh is in the midst of the countries, where HIV/AIDS has already taken a volatile form.

According to several US and European studies, the rate of HIV transmission from mother to child without treatment is between 15 per cent and 20 per cent. An African study report says that breast-feeding can lead to an additional 10 per cent to 20 per cent risk of

HIV transmission. World Health Organisation (WHO) has recommended a three-sided strategy to prevent transmission of HIV from mother to child.

The first one is to prevent the mother's infection, especially among the young women. The second one is to prevent unintended pregnancies among the HIV-positive women and the third one is to expand access to anti-retroviral therapies.

WHO says education programmes can reduce HIV transmission from mother to child by helping young people understand and avoid the risks of HIV infection and pregnancy. These programmes can reach youth in schools, preferably before the start of sexual activity.

HIV for avoiding unintended pregnancy. Young women who are contemplating pregnancy should consider being tested for HIV. For young pregnant women who are infected with HIV, a health care provider should discuss feasible feeding options, says the US and European studies.

WHO referred to the intense study on the use of anti-retroviral drug NEVIRAPINE and said it should be made available to reduce the risk of HIV transmission from mother to child by nearly 50 per cent.

In the developed countries, the Population reports said, the combined use of anti-retroviral drugs and bottle feeding from birth has reduced the risk of HIV transmission from infected mother to child to less than 2 per cent.



Justice Abu Sayeed's death anniversary today

The fifteenth anniversary of death of former president Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion milad mahfil and quankhwani will be arranged at his Mazar at Nagbari in Tangail.

Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury National Memorial Council has arranged a memorial meeting at the National Press Club VIP lounge at 4:30 pm on Saturday. Stipends will be distributed among the meritorious students there.

Presided over by former chief justice Kemaluddin Hossain the function will be attended by former Chief Advisor Justice Md Habibur Rahman as chief guest. Advocate Ozair Faruque, Dr Enamul Haq and Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury will participate in the discussion.

Sit-in at Central Shaheed Minar today

Under the banner of 'We want to watch Ekushey Television,' a sit-in will be held at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city today, says a press release.

The sit-in will start at 10:00 am and continue till 12:00 noon.

Artists, technicians and viewers have been requested to take part in the sit-in.

Obituary



Al-haj S M Mansur Ali, secretary general of SAARC-ASEAN Businessmen's Forum died of a cardiac arrest at Gulshan unit of Sikder Medical College in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Late Mansur Ali who hails from Shahidnagar of Narayanganj was a leading businessman, political figure and renowned social worker.

Mansur Ali was the VP of Tolaram College students' union in fifties. He took active part in language movement and student movements. He was the president of Bangladesh Indenting Association.

He left behind his wife, two sons, three daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death. His first namaj-e-janaza was held at Banani mosque and the 2nd one at Narayanganj. He was laid to rest at his family graveyard.

His quawkani will be held at his Banani residence at Road No. 1, House No. 66, Block-1, after Asr prayers on August 4.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the quawkani.

Shahabuddin

BSS, Dhaka

A T M Shahabuddin, director (Traffic), Bangladesh Railway died of acute hepatic failure on Tuesday morning.

He was 50. Shahabuddin left behind his wife and two sons.

His namaj-e-janaza was held at Kamalapur Railway Station platform after Asr prayers and he was buried at Mirpur Shaheed Internationals Graveyard in the evening, said a BR press release.

His quawkani will be held at Shahjahanpur Railway Officers Club auditorium at 5:15 pm today.

Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend it.

Dr Syed Badrul Alam

BSS, Khulna

Eminent homeopath Dr Syed Badrul Alam died of a heart attack in Khulna General Hospital on Monday midnight. He was 84.

Namaj-e-janaza of Dr. Alam was held at Munshipara Jam-e-Mosque after Zohr prayers Tuesday. He was laid to rest at the Toot Para Graveyard.

Dr S B Alam left behind four sons, three daughters and a large number of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.