

Saudi donation for ICDDR,B

STAFF CONFERENCE

Saudi Arabia donated 50,000 US dollar as the annual core contribution to International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) yesterday, says a press release.

Dr David Sack, executive director of ICDDR,B, received the contribution from Abdullah Bin Mohammed Al-Obaid Al-Namlah, ambassador of

Saudi Arabia to Bangladesh. Dr Ishtiaque Zaman, head of External Relations & Institutional Development of ICDDR,B, was present. Under a five-year agreement, Saudi Arabia is contributing 50,000 US dollar per year to ICDDR,B. "The Saudi government was happy to be a partner of ICDDR,B and will continue to extend this collaboration in the future as well," Saudi envoy said.



PHOTO: STAR
Cultural personalities Dilara Zaman and Masud Ali Khan and a model act out wedding rituals at a 'Wedding Festival' that began at the Spectra Convention Centre at Gulshan in the city yesterday. The Spectra Convention Centre organised the three-day festival.

Two lakh diagnosed with cancer a year

Experts tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a roundtable yesterday urged media and wealthy people to support cancer prevention campaigns and treatment of poor patients.

They said the country has only 98

medical oncologists (cancer specialists) and a total of 175 beds for cancer patients whereas around two lakh people are diagnosed with various types of cancer every year most of whom cannot afford the costly treatment.

Referring to low consciousness and knowledge about the development of the silent killer, the speakers said there is need for massive nation-wide campaign to raise awareness about various aspects of cancer.

Prof M A Mannan, pro-vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and a childhood cancer specialist, said, "Around 80 percent child cancer can be cured if diagnosed on time. But unfortunately majority of the patients seek treatment at the advanced stage when we can hardly do anything to help them."

"However, by extending generous help for poor cancer patients we can at least ensure their rights to live and treatment," he added.

M R Khan, national professor and noted child specialist, appealed to all wealthy people to come forward to serve the distressed humanity.

"I humbly appeal to all bankers to make generous donation to help poor cancer patients. We physicians would offer our labour and wisdom as part of our commitment to serve the humanity,"

he added.

Prof Khan also urged the media to raise awareness about the campaign saying if every citizen gives one taka each, there will be Tk 14 crore for the treatment of cancer patients.

Prof M A Hai, director of cancer hospital of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, said around one third of all cancers are preventable. "With more focus on cancer prevention campaigns and intensifying advocacy programmes we can save so many lives by simply motivating people to undertake early diagnosis whenever signs of cancer like, frequent fever, unusual loss of body weight, growth of lumps, abnormal internal bleeding, unusual bowel movement and sudden physical change appear," he said.

The roundtable was told that tobacco is responsible for about 50 percent of all lung cancer.

Information Minister M Shamsul Islam, British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury, Major General ASM Motiur Rahman, Major General (Retd) A R Khan, chief consultant of Birdem, and Lt Col (Retd) Mudassir Hossain Khan, chairman of MCCC also spoke.

The roundtable was organised by Mosabir Cancer Care Centre (MCCC) at a city hotel.