

# 'One baby in every 500 may develop cancer in Bangladesh'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One baby in every five hundred may develop cancer in the country, said a leading child cancer specialist at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Prof M A Mannan of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and Hospital said, "It's a good news that when we treat children with cancer, 54 per-

cent on an average are completely cured. The rest do not survive due to drop out, financial scarcity, detection at late stage and other reasons. But the fact is that we have the technology to treat childhood cancer and there is no need to cross the border for treatment."

He said despite having graduate medical oncologists it is very unfortunate that the government is yet to create posts of oncologists who could contribute to a great extent to the treatment of paediatric oncology.

Prof Mannan was speaking on the occasion of an announcement for an international project that calls

for awareness campaign and early detection and treatment of childhood cancer.

The speakers said the projects will be launched in ten countries including Bangladesh.

Relevant organisations can submit project proposal to receive the fund, they added.

Funding of up to € 50,000 (Euro) in national currency will be available for projects selected by the International Union Against Cancer in partnership with sanofi-aventis, Childhood Cancer Campaign Advisory Steering Committee.

The Childhood Cancer Awareness Campaign is being launched under the banner 'My Child Matters' to develop special attention towards prevention of childhood cancer.

Speaking on the occasion, National Professor and Child Specialist M R Khan said, "We need to mobilise more resources in the struggle against the disease and to promote education and training, especially for prevention, early detection and treatment so as to change individual and social patterns of behaviour."

Dr Dabir Ahmed, manager of Oncology Unit, sanofi-aventis Bangladesh, welcomed the audience and discussed various aspects of the campaign.

Dr Rezaul Farid Khan, director of Medical and Regulatory Affairs, and M Nasiruddin, director of Business Development and Support, were present.



## Death anniversary

Today is the first death anniversary of Ferdousi Begum, wife of renowned politician of the sub-continent, Yusuf Ali Choudhury (Mohan Miah) and daughter of Pir Badsha Miah, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and Quranic recitation will be held at her Moaz Monjil residence in Faridpur tomorrow.

Besides, Faridpur Islamic Foundation, Kanaipur Jame Mosque and Faridpur Muslim Mission Orphanage will hold a milad mahfil in observance of the day.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the functions.

## Photo exhibition to raise fund for acid survivors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A series of photo exhibition begins in the city on August 25 with a view to raising funds for the survivors of acid violence and creating awareness about acid attacks.

The Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) in collaboration with the Junior Chamber Bangladesh has organised the show, which will be held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel from August 25 to 27, at Sonargaon Hotel from September 2 to 4 and at Spectra Convention Centre in Gulshan from September 8 to 9. The exhibition will remain open from 10:00am to 9:00pm daily.

Photographs by around 100 photographers and photojournalists will be put on display for sale and the proceeds will be used for the welfare

of acid survivors, the organisers said at a press conference yesterday.

They called on all to come forward and buy a photograph, which could change the life of an acid survivor.

Shawkat Hossain, Niharika Momtaz and Mahbuba Kumkum of ASF spoke at the press conference.

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, Sonargaon Hotel, Spectra Convention Centre, Intelab, Kodak, Bangla Link, Nascom Ltd., TACK Training, Express One, North South University Social Services Club and Linkers have sponsored the show.

Established in 1999, the ASF provides medical treatment, legal aid and social rehabilitation support to acid survivors.

## CROSSFIRE KILLING Cops decline to record it as murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammadpur police yesterday declined to record a case that the father of slain Jagannath University student Iqbal Hossain Masum wanted to file for the killing.

Instead, the police took a general diary (GD) and said claims made in the GD will automatically be added to the case they had earlier filed in connection with Masum's death.

Masum was killed on August 8 in "crossfire" with crime-busting force Cheetah of Detective Branch (DB) of police.

At about 11:30am yesterday, Masum's father Khandaker Abul Khaer and his eldest sister went to the Mohammadpur Police Station and requested the officer-in-charge (OC) to take their case on Masum's death.

But the OC said they are unable to take the case as a case on Masum's death had already been filed.

At the OC's suggestion, Khaer later filed a GD.

"I will go to courts and if necessary, all other places for the arrest and punishment of the killers of my son," Khaer said while coming out of the police station.

Inspector Nurul Alam, Sub-Inspectors Shafiuddin Sheikh, Badiuzzaman, Afan Ullah, Irfan Hossain, Abdul Hakim, Bazlur Rahman and constables Abul Hashem and Ali Haider of team No 4 of DB killed his son Masum in cold blood in a planned way, Khaer said in the GD.

Masum's dress was clean and the sandals he wore were still on even when he was lying in the hospital morgue that suggests he was killed in cold blood, he said.

After the killing the law enforcers staged a drama of "crossfire" and tried to brand Masum as a notorious criminal, he added.

Mentioning a dispute with Iqbal Hossain Likhon, chairman of Nilkomol union of Charfashion upazila in Bhola, he said Likhon might have a hand behind the murder.

"The accused are constantly threatening over telephone to kill me and my younger son if I file a murder case," Khaer said.



The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday demolishes Pulab Khan Rice Mills on the bank of the river Turag at Jhohurabad area at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

## BANGABANDHU MURDER

# Children express hatred towards killers through paintings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sadia, a ten-year-old girl, does not know much about Bangabandhu and his assassination but her hatred towards the killers was evident in her painting.

"Some wicked people had brutally killed Bangabandhu and his eight-year-old son Sheikh Russell," said Sadia Arefin Nishat, who took part in an art competition yesterday.

"The persons who killed Russell are not good and they should be punished," added the grade-III student from Mohammadpur.

Sadia, who heard of the assassination of Bangabandhu from her parents and teachers, has painted a

picture depicting the execution of the assassins.

Around one thousand school students like Sadia expressed their hatred towards the killers and demanded execution of the verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case through their paintings.

Sheikh Russell Shishu Sangsad arranged the art competition for the children outside the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi in commemoration of the 30th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the architect of independent Bangladesh.

Inaugurating the competition, Poet Shamsur Rahman said, "The name of Bangabandhu can never be erased from history and the new

generation will surely find out their roots."

Those who killed Bangabandhu and his son Sheikh Russell along with other family members are the enemy of both Bangladesh and humanity, he said.

He called on the children to uphold the ideology of Bangabandhu.

The participants were divided into three categories -- students of Nursery to class two are under one group, from class three to five under the second group and class six to nine under the group three.

The prize giving ceremony will be held on August 28 where the best of each group will receive a special prize.

## 120 structures demolished on bank of river Turag

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday demolished 120 illegal structures including three pucca and 13 semi-pucca houses and 104 thatches on the bank of the river Turag.

During the drive led by Magistrate Mofidur Rahman in Shinnirtek, Horirampur and Jhohurabad areas in Mirpur, the eviction team didn't face any resistance from the grabbers, BIWTA officials said.

Some 100 police personnel were deployed during the eviction drive yesterday.

Demolition of about 400 identified illegal structures that include semi-pucca houses and shops on the banks of the Buriganga and Turag rivers will be completed with today's drive, BIWTA sources said.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding effective steps to protect water bodies from land grabbers.

PHOTO: STAR