

'Ensure implementation of code of ethics for doctors'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday called for strict implementation of the 'code of ethics' for physicians to improve the relationship between doctors and patients.

They said most patients, who pay a hefty fee to doctors, are not satisfied with the way they are treated.

They also alleged that a section of doctors has become so commercial-minded that they often ask the patients to have unnecessary tests done at certain diagnostic centres, which pay a commission to the doctors.

Leading physicians, academicians and civil society members took part in the roundtable titled 'How the patient-doctor relationship should be' at the National Press Club in the city.

Dr Shaheed Milon Sangsad organised the discussion to mark the 48th birth anniversary of Dr Milon.

Eminent jurist and President of Gono Forum Dr Kamal Hossain said, "We need to bring changes to the society before we can expect the positive attitude of doctors towards

patients."

As money dominates almost everything today, the attitude of the doctors has also turned commercial, he added.

Appreciating the young doctors' attitude towards poor patients, Dr Kamal said, "Such a positive attitude is rarely noticed today but it must continue."

Referring to the politicisation of medical profession, he said, "Politics has destroyed our moral consciousness. And it is time we must do something to stamp out politicisation."

Prof Rashid-e-Mahub, former president of the Bangladesh Medical Association, said the question of doctors' service would not have been raised today if they had followed the code of ethics properly.

Prof Sirajul Islam Choudhury said it is unfortunate that most doctors appear to be motivated by profit, often forgetting their duty to serve humanity.

"I strongly suggest that the Bangladesh Medical Association should take up the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the code of ethics in order to protect

the patients' rights," he said.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haq Inu said the relationship between doctors and patients has been declining and the government should act now to improve the situation.

He called on the health ministry to form a cell to monitor the activities of the doctors.

Dr Afsana Karim Shanti said the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC) has a major role to play in ensuring the implementation of the code of ethics. "But it is very sad that the BMDC has not been playing its role."

Dr Moazzem Hossain, dean of the faculty of medicine, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Prof MA Majed, president of Dr Shaheed Milon Sangsad, Dr M Mushtaq Hussain, journalist Ataus Samad and Prof Arefin Siddique also spoke.

Prof Mahbubur Rahman Choudhury, general secretary of the Sangsad, moderated the discussions.

Duta president gets another death threat

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique received on Saturday night another death threat, twice in a month, through a letter asking him to pay Tk 1,00,000, otherwise he will be blown up.

Claiming him as an accomplice of Bangla Bhai, the letter sender asked Prof Siddique to pay the cash to a person mentioned in the previous letter at Hatopara in Gazipur within 10 days.

The letter reads "You have failed to pay the money earlier and it is the last time for you. If you do not pay the money, you would not survive anymore. Your condition will be that of Prof Humayun Azad."

The letter also claimed that his group blasted bombs across the country including on the Dhaka University campus on August 17.

Earlier, the same person issued threats to Prof Siddique at least five times.

Serial bomb blasts aimed at creating rift in 4-party alliance, says Amini

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Oikya Jote (IJO) Chairman Fazlul Huq Amini yesterday said the relationship among the Islamic parties in Bangladesh have become more stronger following the series of bomb blasts across the country on August 17.

"There were some differences of opinion between Islami Oikya Jote and Jamaat, but after the country-wide bomb attacks we are now more closer to each other," said Amini while addressing a rally organised by the IJO at Baitul Mukarram gate in protest against August 17 bomb blasts.

The IJO chairman said the serial bomb blasts across the country was aimed at creating division among the BNP-led four-party alliance.

Blaming the main opposition Awami League (AL) for the bomb blasts, Amini said, "Awami League is trying to portray Bangladesh as a fundamentalist state in order to dislodge the coalition government from power with the help of foreign countries."

He said if the AL is voted to power in the next general election, the existence of Kowmi madrasas would be at stake.

IJO Senior Vice-president Mohiuddin Khan said through the countrywide bomb blasts on August 17 a vested quarter is trying to portray Bangladesh as a fundamentalist country.

"Indian intelligence agency Raw (Research and Analysis Wing) and American intelligence agency CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) are associated with the August 17 bomb attacks," he claimed.

Abdul Latif Nazami, Mohammad Taimur, Abdul Karim and Abdul Kaium also spoke.

Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh and Khelafate Majlis Andolon also held separate rally at the same spot protesting the countrywide bomb blasts.

Stockholm Water Prize for CSE

The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a New Delhi-based non-governmental organisation headed by Sunita Narain, was honoured with the 2005 Stockholm Water Prize during a gala ceremony at the Stockholm City Hall on August 26, says a press release.

Sunita, a dynamic advocate for water and the environment, human rights, democracy and health, received the \$150,000 prize and a crystal sculpture from King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.

The ceremony was a part of the ongoing World Water Week in Stockholm.

The prize has been awarded for efforts made by Narain and CSE that include fighting powerful, top-down bureaucratic resource control, empowering women in water and rejuvenating traditional rain-water harvesting.

In her acceptance speech, Sunita said, "I accept this award on behalf of thousands of water engineers and water managers all over the world, especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America. These people are discounted in the formal knowledge system of the world." Sunita has been with CSE since 1982 and is currently the editor and publisher of the environmental magazine, Down To Earth.



Jamaat-e-Islami, a partner of the ruling coalition, held a rally at Paltan in the city yesterday, blocking the road to traffic movement.

PHOTO: STAR

Boy killed in road accident on CU campus

Students ransack bus

CU CORRESPONDENT

A boy was killed in a road accident on the Chittagong University (CU) campus yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mohammed Mizan, 10, son of Shafi Alam, a rickshawpuller of Latif Para area near CU campus.

The accident occurred when Mizan was going to his residence on his father's rickshaw at around 2:00pm.

A city bound bus knocked the rickshaw from behind at Gate No-1 area of the CU and ran over the boy. Mizan died on the spot.

The victim's father was also injured. A group of students ransacked the bus following the accident. Police seized the bus and arrested its driver Mohammed Karim, 35.

A case was filed with Hathazari Police Station in this connection.

Moinuddin Maizbhandari receives int'l peace award

BSS, Accra (Ghana)

Leading religious personality Syed Moinuddin Ahmed Maizbhandari yesterday received an international award for his outstanding contribution as a "worthy grand ambassador for Islam and peace" in Accra, Ghana.

Vice-President of Ghana Alhaj Ali Mohammed handed over the "international award of the decade for the year 2005" presented jointly by Ghana National Council for Islamic Celebration and the US-based Universal Islamic Centre.

The citation of the award highly praised Syed Moinuddin Ahmed for his extraordinary contribution to the "establishment of peace, reconciliation, spiritual uplift and development of humanity" as a religious leader of Bangladesh.

The award giving ceremony was held at the end of a three-day conference joined by professional and civil society leaders, imams and spiritual personalities from across the globe.

Smuggled Indian sarees worth Tk 88 lakh seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs intelligence officials yesterday seized a huge quantity of smuggled Indian sarees worth around Tk 88 lakh on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Daudkandi in Comilla.

Acting on a secret information that a truck was coming from Comilla with smuggled saris, the intelligence officials were waiting at Daudkandi and began to follow the truck when it reached there at 5:15am, says a press release.

As soon as the truck passed the Daudkandi bridge, the officials gave signal to stop but the driver and helper fled away jumping from the speeding vehicle.

The truck has been brought to

Dhaka Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate Office.

Bomb recovered from Madrasa

BDNEWS, Jessore

Police recovered a live bomb from the classroom of a madrasa at Abhoyganj upazila of Jessore yesterday.

The bomb was recovered from Hijjullah Madrasa at Noapara at 10:00am.

The bomb resembles those used in nationwide attack on August 17. Later the bomb was defused by the experts.

Worker killed in Ctg steel mill blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A worker was killed in an explosion at BR Steel Mill yesterday at Sitakunda here.

The dead was identified as Shibu Chakraborty, 40, a worker of the mill at Madam Bibirhat in Sitakunda.

He was seriously injured when a gas cylinder exploded suddenly with a big bang. Other workers rushed Shibu to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) in a critical condition where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

The mill authorities denied the incident of explosion saying it was an accident.

"Shibu got critically injured when a piece of iron fell on him and succumbed to his injuries at the CMCH," said an official on condition of anonymity.

A case was filed with the Sitakunda Police Station in this regard.

Nasim Khan passes away

BSS, Rangpur

Chief Patron of the Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) Alhaj Nasim Khan passed away due to old age ailments at the Islami Bank Community Hospital (IBCH) here yesterday at the age of 85.

Nasim Khan was admitted to IBCH on August 3 with old-age complications, including heart disease, asthma, and liver problems.

His body was taken to his residence at Muslim Para Moholla of Alamnagar in the town.

The stranded Pakistanis, popularly known as Biharia, in Rangpur, Syedpur and other areas were deeply shocked at his death.

Nasim Khan served the then Pakistan Railway as a guard for many years. After the War of Independence in 1971, he began working for repatriation and welfare of the stranded Pakistanis, sources said.

Khaleda's China visit historic: Envoy

BSS, Dhaka

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Chai Xi yesterday described the recent visit of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to China as historic and highly significant.

Chai Xi made this observation when he called on State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin at a local hotel. During the meeting, they also discussed matters related to bilateral interests between the two countries.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) signed between the two countries during Khaleda Zia's visit to China and various aspects of their implementation also came up for discussion in their meeting, an official handout said.

They particularly underlined the importance of meetings between the delegations of both the countries and also visit to each other country for expansion of tourism industry.

Besides, they expressed their sincere pledge to work jointly for the development of tourism industry and to increase the flight frequency between the two countries, the handout said.



PHOTO: STAR

Winners of the essay competition titled "Violence-free Bangladesh and Trial of Political Killings" pose for photograph with the guests at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. Sitting from left are Asma Kibria, National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, Poet Shamsur Rahman, Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain and former Dhaka University vice chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury.

CDA plans to set up Butterfly Park, sea life aquarium

BDNEWS, Chittagong

The Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) has taken a project to set up a Butterfly Park and sea life aquarium, first of its kind in the country, beside the city's newly built Patenga area.

Philosophical confce begins

JU CORRESPONDENT

The 8th International General Conference of Bangladesh Philosophical Congress (BPC) began at Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday.

The two-day conference, organised by the Philosophy department of JU, will focus on 'Utilitarianism and contemporary moral philosophy' and 'Political thought of Bangladesh.'

Speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Hoque said many of the problems of the modern world need reassessment and philosophy can give valuable direction in this regard.

He hoped that the deliberation of the conference would provide new ideas, guidelines and suggestions to meet the need of the hour.

"No nation can survive for long if it avoids hard and logical thinking and we want to send this message through this conference to everybody who things about the welfare of this nation," said Prof A F M Obaidur Rahman, president of BPC.

JU Vice-chancellor Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman, Pro-vc's Prof Enamul Huq Khan and Prof Imamuddin, Treasurer A B M Enayet Hossain, and Prof Abdul Matin were present on the occasion.

About 75 participants from different colleges and universities across the country including Dr Md Sirajul Islam of Bishwa Bharati, Shantiniketan, and Dr Rajat Bhattacharya of the University of Burdwan are taking part in the conference.

A number of papers on 'utilitarianism and moral philosophy' were presented yesterday while papers on 'political thought of Bangladesh' will be presented today.

The conference will be rounded off with a cultural programme at 7:00pm.



Moderately heavy falls likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at few places over the country till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also expected at places during the period, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 23.8 degree Celsius at Srirongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:19pm today and rises at 5:39am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.3	27.0	80	70
Chittagong	29.0	24.8	93	79
Rajshahi	35.6	26.3	78	80
Khulna	33.6	26.6	90	80
Barisal	32.5	25.7	92	90
Sylhet	31.7	24.8	91	75
Cox's Bazar	28.6	25.0	100	93



Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman speaks at a meeting on food adulteration-free Bangladesh at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Lions Clubs International organised the meeting.

PHOTO: STAR