

1.20 lakh women suffer from breast cancer

Media urged to help raise awareness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a roundtable yesterday called for raising awareness about breast cancer to protect women from the growing menace.

Around 1.20 lakh women have been suffering from breast cancer in the country, but the tendency to keep the disease a secret allows the cancer to spread, they said, adding that it is curable if detected at early stage.

They also urged the media to play a major role in raising awareness among women through different programmes, such as campaign on television.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission and the Bangladesh Forum of Journalists for

Women and Children Affairs jointly organised the roundtable titled 'Role of the Media in Breast Cancer Awareness' in the city as part of the Mission's month-long awareness programme.

Presenting a keynote paper, Vice-President of the Forum Nasrin Nisir said government and private hospitals should make concerted efforts to provide better treatment facilities for the patients with breast cancer.

Lack of awareness and treatment facilities in the country compels many patients to go abroad, she said, adding that they spend a huge amount of foreign currency.

Prof M A Hai, director of Ahsania

Mission Cancer Hospital, stressed the need for registration of cancer patients in different hospitals and clinics.

Raising awareness is a must to protect women from breast cancer, he said, adding that if the breast cancer is detected at an early stage, the survival rate is 98 percent in America.

Chief Advisor of ATN Bangla Saiful Bari, President of Dhaka Reporters' Unity M Shafiqul Karim, Regional Fellowship Officer of WHO-New Delhi Dr M Khalilullah and Director of National Cancer Institute Dr Shafiu Alam also spoke at the roundtable moderated by Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam.

PM's speech to nation false, deceiving: B Chowdhury

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bikalap Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) chief AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday termed prime minister's speech to the nation as 'false and deceiving'.

The former president ruled out her claim of peaceful situation prevailing in the country.

Badruddoza, who was one of the founders of BNP, also said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia had confessed her failure and incapability to govern the country.

He also criticised her for the administration's and intelligence agency's failure in resisting series bomb blasts.

Badruddoza was addressing as the president at the two-day executive committee meeting of his party at Banani in the city.

He also outright rejected the government's claim of incessant steps to curb violence saying: killing of some outlaws by the law enforcers is not a sufficient measure for the purpose.

Joint Secretary General Firoz M Hasan and other leaders also addressed the meeting.

BDB Organising Secretary Mahi B Chowdhury, MP, demanded the arrest of the State Minister for Land Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu terming him as the 'leader' of the Islamic militants.

Dulu, however, ruled out the allegations.

Mahi was addressing at a demonstration organised by the party's city unit demanding punitive actions against the government high-ups who are allegedly patronising the militants.

The activists of BDB burnt an effigy of Dulu.



Appeal for Help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Runa Laila, 22, has been suffering from a complicated disorder of the heart and lungs known as primary pulmonary arterial hypertension for last 12 years.

She was diagnosed several times to confirm the illness at home and in neighbouring India where doctors said she has to undergo difficult surgeries to heal the disorder.

It is estimated that the total cost of the surgery, available either in the UK or the USA, would be around Tk 3 crore.

Runa, who hails from Khalishpur of Khulna, has made a fervent appeal for generous help to save her life and lead a normal life.

Contributions can be sent to Md Mahmudunnabi, Savings Account No 55322, Islami Bank (Local Office), Motijheel, Dhaka 1000.

Runa can also be reached by phones 041-763102 (Khulna) and mobile phone 0176-478257.

DU Mourning Day observed

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka University Mourning Day was observed yesterday commemorating the tragic death of 39 students and employees in a building collapse on this day in 1985 at Jagannath Hall.

On the occasion, the DU authorities took various programmes, including placing wreaths at the memorial plaque at Jagannath Hall, wearing black badges, hoisting black and university flags atop all dormitories and administrative buildings.

Jagannath Hall authorities arranged a blood donation programme at 11:00am and an oil-painting exhibition on those who were killed in the tragic accident.

A mourning procession, led by Vice-chancellor Dr SMA Faiz, marched towards the memorial plaque and placed wreaths.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union also placed floral wreaths in the plaque and observed one-minute's silence commemorating the victims.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Chowdhury Motiur Rahman will be held at House-8, Road-107 at Gulshan in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow, says a press release. Chowdhury died on Friday at the age of 78.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Kishani Sava took out a procession in the city yesterday to mark the World Rural Women's Day.

4 years of coalition a black chapter in history

Speakers tell JSD roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday termed the four years of BNP-Jamaat-led coalition in power as 'black chapter' in the history of the country.

They also asked the ruling alliance to admit their failures and resign immediately.

The roundtable was organised by Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) at its office in the city marking the four years of the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition in power.

JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu moderated the programme addressed by opposition leaders, academics and lawyers.

Speaking at the roundtable, opposition leaders said they are now working out a minimum national programme for the welfare of people.

The programme will be implemented if they are voted to power, they added.

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil said the opposition leaders would announce the programme from a common podium in Dhaka on November 15.

The anti-government agitation in future will be geared up on the basis of the programme, he added.

"We will not allow to hold any election in the country without the proposed reforms in the caretaker government and the Election Commission," Jalil said.

He said four years of alliance

regime is marked by lawlessness, unabated corruption, emergence of militant forces and repression on opposition parties.

"Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, her families and cabinet members have amassed huge illegal money through corruption and smuggled those out of the country," Jalil said.

He said there is no other way but to oust the present government through united movement of all progressive, secular and democratic forces.

Supreme Court Bar Association President Mahbub-e-Alam said intervention of the government in higher judiciary has tarnished its integrity.

He asked the government not to confirm appointment of the controversial judges including Faisal Mahmud Faizee in the High Court.

Economist Dr Atiur Rahman identified government's negligence to agricultural sector as one of the main reasons for poor economy in last four years.

"Agriculture is the life blood of our economy, but the present coalition totally ignored the reality," he said, adding price spiral of essentials is the outcome of ignoring the agriculture.

He also criticised the government for large-scale closure of state-owned mills and factories leaving thousands of workers jobless.

Prof Muntasir Mamun said rightists have established their strong presence in public universities under

the patronisation of the present government.

He referred to the distortion of the history of Liberation War in school textbooks and said the government is doing this in a planned way so that the children do not get the true history of country's independence.

Prof Mamun alleged that private universities and colleges under the national university have been producing poor quality graduates as there is no atmosphere of proper education in those institutions.

He said as people want a change, the mainstream opposition parties should monitor their expectations and gear up the anti-government movement accordingly.

Hasanul Haq Inu underscored the need for immediate reforms in the Election Commission to safeguard the electoral system and democracy.

JSD leader Syed Zafar Sazzad placed the keynote paper that underscored the need for forming a three-tier unity of opposition parties united movement, joint participation in election and formation of a national government with the participation of all progressive parties.

Pankaj Bhattacharya of Gono Forum, Dilip Barua of Samyabadi Dal, Sheikh Shahidul Islam of Jatiya Party (Manju), Journalist Harun Habib and Prof Nim Chandra Bhowmik of Dhaka University also addressed the roundtable.

'Declare World Rural Women's Day as national day'

BDNEWS, Dhaka

World Rural Women's Day Observance committee (WRWDOC) demanded of the government to declare the World Rural Women's Day as the National Day of Bangladesh.

On the occasion, WRWDOC, organised a seminar at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

Four women of Dhaka district were given crests and certificates in recognition of their special contribution to the development of women.

Awarded women are: Morsheha Begum of Chaipal village in Savar for her songs during the War of Independence to encourage the people, Palash Rani Sarker of Dhamrai for her success through micro credit, Kaundia UP member Marzina Sikdar for her contribution to women empowerment and Kangalini Sufia for her folk songs.

Sharmin Islam Daisy, who presided over the seminar, said women are becoming successful in the national labour markets.

Some 76 percent of the export earning comes from the garments industry where rural women do 90 percent works, she said.

Despite this huge contribution to the development activities, women are not given due recognition, she added.

She said women have their contribution in all sectors including agriculture, education and health.

Swadhin Bangla Garments Sramik Karmachari Federation President Shamima Nasrin, Jubo League leader Biplobi Al Majid, Jatiya Party women affairs Secretary Nazmunahar Baby also spoke on the occasion.

2 construction workers killed in accidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two construction workers died in separate incidents while working at construction sites in the city yesterday.

Md Rana, 22, was working in a five-storied under-construction building at Road No.-5, DOHS, Mohakhali, in the morning, but he suddenly fell from the roof.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead.

In the other incident, Md Rashed, 20, was engaged in piling work at an construction site at Bashundhara in Badda and all of a sudden a pile of iron rods fell on him.

He was rushed to the DMCH but died soon after he reached there.

World White Cane Safety Day observed

BSS, Dhaka

The World White Cane Safety Day was observed in the country yesterday in a befitting manner to ensure safe movement of those lacking eyesight.

The day is being observed worldwide since 1969 following a decision taken in Sri Lankan capital of Colombo.

Different socio-cultural, voluntary and non-government organisations observed the day by holding different programmes.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia issued separate messages on the eve of the day.

National Disabled Forum (NDF) yesterday organised a discussion and distributed white canes in the auditorium of Social Welfare Directorate.

Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Muzahid addressed the function as chief guest with NDF President Khandaker Zuhurul Alam in the chair.

Secretary of the ministry Kazi Monowarul Haque, Director General of Social Welfare Directorate Hafizul Islam Miah and Managing Director of National Disabled Development Foundation M Didarul Anwar also spoke on the occasion.

A total of 272 white canes were handed over to 27 organisations to distribute them among the students.

The minister stressed the need for creating mass awareness to ensure safe movement of the people lacking eyesight. He urged professionals, non-government organisations, politicians and media personalities to play effective role in this regard.

The minister said the present government is working relentlessly to ensure welfare and development of those lacking eyesight and suffering from other disabilities taking it as a moral and constitutional responsibility.

Country on verge of ruin due to misrule, corruption

Speakers tell AL seminar

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Misrule, corruption, mismanagement, looting and incompetence of the alliance government have taken the country on the verge of ruin.

Speakers said this at a seminar organised by Awami League titled 'Battered Economy and Unemployment' yesterday.

They said people want to know the amount in the foreign exchange reserve, adding, the commoners want to buy things at cheaper rates.

The government will have to answer as to why the price of rice has shot up to Tk20.00 a kg from Tk10.00.

Member of AL advisory council and chairman of the sub-committee on economic affairs Abdul Maal Abdul Muhit chaired and presented the keynote paper at the seminar.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil MP, presidium member Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) President Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Abul Bayes, renowned economist and researcher Dr Atiur Rahman, AL leader Nurul Islam Nahid, Dr Abdur Razzak MP, Prof Ali Ashraf and former secretary Abdul Mobin took part in the discussion.

Jalil said it is not the development of the country that the alliance government is busy with rather they are busy with their own development, plundering and siphoning out national assets and resources.

Muhit said the economic condition of the country could be well understood if one looks at the unbridled price hikes of the essentials.

The seminar recommended the 16-point proposals of AL President Sheikh Hasina to overcome the crisis and take up the future programmes of the party.

PBCP man arrested in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira.

Police arrested a member of the outlawed Purbia Banglar Communist Party (PBCP Janajuddha) at Sadar Hospital gate in the town yesterday.

The arrestee was identified as Al Amin of Pirojpur district. He was taken to Jessore to arrest the ring leader of the outlawed party, police sources said.

Quoting the victims, police said one Haroon Ur Rashid introducing himself as the regional commander of the PBCP demanded toll of Tk 2 lakh from Satkhira district Awami League (AL) General Secretary Alhaj Nazrul Islam over phone yesterday morning and threatened him with death for noncompliance.

After a long bargain, the outlawed leader asked him to come with Tk 10,000 at Sadar Hospital gate at about 1:00pm.

Plainclothes police lied in wait at the gate and arrested the activist. According to his statement, police took him to Jessore to arrest the ring leader of the outlawed party.

Al Amin also demanded Tk 2 lakh each from journalist AKM Shahidullah of Bangladesh Betar and Satkhira district Mahila AL President Rifat Amin on Friday night over phone and threatened them with death for noncompliance, police said.

He over phone said that his party needed huge money for treatment of injured leaders and activists being treated abroad. He is demanding toll from them as they have ability to help the outlaws, he added.

Panic has gripped the political leaders and journalists as the outlaws have demanded toll from them and threatened with death for noncompliance.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Atiur Rahman, chairman of Shamannay, speaks at a seminar on the country's economic situation at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. The Awami League organised the seminar.

WEB SITE LAUNCHED

'Link among scholars will help dev nation'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is a great initiative and a dream indeed to unite the Bangladeshi scholars at home and abroad through a network to exchange their ideas and knowledge for the development of the motherland.

With that view in mind, M E Chowdhury Shameem, a Bangladeshi expatriate in New York, USA launched a web site, named www.scholarsbangladesh.com and designed by his sole effort of last 10 years, at a function in the city yesterday.

Briefing the contents of the web site, Shameem said Bangladeshis living around the world can find out the names, contact addresses and notable works of the scholars of this land in the web site.

All other information including job opportunities at home and abroad including scholarships will be available there, he added.

The web site will also help recognise the individuals for their extraordinary contribution to education, research, science, technology, arts and culture, medicine and politics, Shameem noted.

Lauding the project Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan said the web site will play a pioneering role in bridging the gap between the Bangladeshi scholars at home and abroad.

"We do not have the lack of scholars, but of their coordination around the globe, and I hope Shameem's initiative will reduce the gap and help the nation bloom with its full potentials," Dr Moyeen added.

Inaugurating the web site at Brac Centre Inn,

Vice-chancellor of Brac University Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury said there were some efforts in the past to bring together the expatriate scholars of Bangladesh, but in vain.



PHOTO: STAR

Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of Brac University, launches a web site -- www.scholarsbangladesh.com -- at a ceremony at the Brac Centre Inn in the city yesterday.