

Nation Pays Homage to Liberation War Martyrs



Different socio-political organisations and individuals place wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar yesterday to pay homage to the martyrs of the War of Liberation on the occasion of the Victory Day. 1) President and Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed, 2) BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, 3) Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, 4) Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, 5) Liberal Democratic Party, 6) Jatiya Party (Ershad), 7) War-wounded freedom fighters, 8) Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad, Kendriya Command Council, 9) Jatiya Party (Manju), 10) Left Democratic Front, 11) 11 Party, 12) Australian Bar Association, 13) Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, 14) Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad, 15) Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, 16) ADAB and 17) Karmojibi Nari. 18) Members of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad (Ahad) wash the National Memorial with their blood in a symbolic gesture to sanctify it as they said the memorial has been defiled by the anti-liberation forces during the rule of BNP-Jamaat government.

WASIM BIN HABIB

While most people perceive cancer as an incurable deadly disease, 43 cancer survivors have demonstrated that cancer can be cured if diagnosed and treated early and the patients fight courageously against the disease.

'Don't give up hope' was the message they delivered to cancer patients during a daylong river cruise styled 'Sail to survive' from Ashulia in Dhaka on Friday.

They said their mental strength and courage and living with happiness helped them win the fight against cancer.

Sanofi-Aventis Bangladesh, a leading pharmaceutical company, organised the river cruise by Sarina Cruise ship. Apart from the cancer survivors and their family members and friends, doctors, celebrities, officials of Aventis and the media people joined the programme.

Describing the journey as a wonderful experience, Akram Hossain Khokon, the youngest among the cancer survivors, told The Daily Star, "It is sort of a get-together of us. Travelling in the ship dancing and singing and lots of love from all have filled my heart with joy and happiness."

Khokon, who is now taking

Don't give up hope

Cancer survivors' message to patients

regular follow-up treatment, said, "When I was a cancer patient, I sometimes felt extremely depressed as many of my near and dear ones avoided me thinking it is a contagious disease." So, mental strength is very important in the fight against such a deadly disease, he added.

Dr Dabir Uddin Ahmed of Sanofi-Aventis Bangladesh said the main objective of the programme is to provide the cancer survivors an opportunity to enjoy an outing and to hear from them that cancer is not a deadly disease.

"We arrange such programmes every year as part of our social responsibility to encourage the cancer survivors, which also inspires us," he added.

Eminent artist Mustafa Monwar conducted a painting workshop titled 'Healing through painting' for the cancer survivors. They painted vividly col-

oured flowers, nature, rural scene and the national flag on white canvas.

An exhibition of the paintings will be held soon, said the organisers.

Such workshop is a unique initiative to encourage the cancer survivors and through their artworks they may get the strength and hope they need to fight cancer, said Mustafa Monwar.

Prof Anisuzzaman said the event is a living example that cancer is curable if detected and treated in the early stage.

He also stressed the need to raise awareness about cancer.

Talking to The Daily Star, several cancer survivors said the treatment is very expensive as many tests and supportive medicines are needed for the treatment.

Principal Dr Marufi Khan, a cancer survivor, said the cost of treatment and medicine is too high

for middle-income people to afford. She urged the government to give cancer patients concessions such reduced fares on buses, trains and planes.

Ittekarul Islam, managing director of Sanofi-Aventis Bangladesh, said these cancer survivors have proved that cancer is a curable disease.

He also said a huge advancement in cancer treatment has been made in the country and drugs are also available now.

A book entitled 'Holud Patai Sabuj Rang' (green paint in yellow leaf) by Prof Rowshan Ara Firoz, a cancer survivor, was also launched in the ship. Shirin Akhter, another survivor who has been leading a normal life for the last couple of years, handed over a manuscript titled 'Katha Dilam', to the organisers for publication.

Director (medical affairs) of Sanofi-Aventis Bangladesh Rezaul Farid Khan, oncologist Prof ABMF Karim, television actress Dilara Zaman and actors Ilyas Kanchan and Shahiduzzaman Selim also spoke at the programme.

There are more than one million people living with a history of cancer in the country, the organisers said.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins of the country during early morning, Met Office said in a forecast.

Light rise in the night temperature is expected over the counter, it also said.

Highest temperature 29.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 9.9 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:14pm today and rises at 6:35am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature	Humidity in in celsius		
percentage	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.2	14.8	79	65
Chittagong	29.0	14.5	66	76
Rajshahi	26.6	13.2	83	83
Khulna	25.6	15.0	-	82
Barisal	26.8	13.2	89	89
Sylhet	29.2	15.0	69	55
Cox's Bazar	28.4	14.5	66	77

Duta elections Dec 23

DU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of both White and Blue panels have started campaigning ahead of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) election to be held on December 23.

Blue Panel's Prof Sharif Ullah Bhuiyan and Prof Anwar Hossain will contest against Prof Sadru Amin and Prof Sirajul Islam of White Panel for the posts of president and general secretary.

Prof ABM Faruque, Prof Maksud Kamal and Prof Ashraf Uddin Chowdhury of Blue Panel will vie for the posts of vice president, joint secretary and treasurer against White Panel nominees Tazmeri SA Islam, Dr Munir Ahmed and GM Chowdhury.

Member candidates of Blue Panel are Prof AAM Arefin Siddique, Prof Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman, Prof Amrin Rashid, Prof Hossain Mansur, Prof Syed Monjurul Islam, Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Prof Sadeqa Halim, Prof ASM Mahfuzur Rahman, Dr Zinat Huda and Dr Jorina Akhter.

Member candidates of White Panel are Prof Abu Ahmed, Prof Taslima Monsur, Prof Obaidul Haque, Prof Syed Salehin Kadri, Laila Noor, Dr Sukomol Borua, Prof Abdul Bashar, Prof Shahjahan Mia, Prof Shamsuddin Ahmed and Prof Razia Akhter Banu.