

'Formulate nat'l policy on childhood cancer'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Cancer Day was observed yesterday in the country as elsewhere in the world to create awareness among the people and highlight the preventive measures.

In the city, the day began with a colourful rally from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) in the morning.

Different social and voluntary organisations including Bangladesh Mahila Samity, Rotary Club and Bangladesh Childhood Cancer Society (BCCS) took part in the rally.

Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Department of BSMMU and ASHC Foundation jointly organised the rally supported by Sanofi-aventis Bangladesh.

Special foods, warm clothes and toys were distributed to cancer-affected children and patients at different hospitals and cancer shelters in the city.

Later BCCS and Paediatric Haematology and Oncology Department of BSMMU jointly organised a press conference on 'Childhood cancer campaign in Bangladesh-My child matters' in collaboration with the International Union Against Cancer and Sanofi-aventis Bangladesh.

Addressing the press conference, National Professor Dr MR Khan said in most cases people are affected by cancer due to lack of early diagnosis.

Cancer is curable if diagnosed during early childhood, he added.

Prof Khan emphasised the need for training of doctors and decentralisation of their posts so that cancer-affected patients across the country can get treatment easily.

He also urged the civil society to provide financial assistance for the treatment of cancer-affected patients as higher cost leads many to premature death.

Prof MA Mannan, president of

BCCS, stressed the need for mass awareness about the cross-infections of child patients to prevent different germs carried by the visitors.

Prof Mannan, also the BSMMU pro-vice chancellor, asked for formulating a national policy for the treatment of childhood cancer.

Dabir Uddin Ahmed, head of Oncology at Sanofi-aventis Bangladesh and Salma Chowdhury, coordinator of ASHC Palliative Care Unit also spoke at the press conference.

This year the slogan of the day was 'Today's children, tomorrow's world' focussing on cancer prevention.

Cancer is a leading cause of death around the world, and according to a World Health Organisation (WHO) survey, around 7.6 million people died of cancer in 2005.

It also estimated that 40 percent of all cancers is curable.

Court directives to Jugantor proprietor, editor, publisher

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday directed the Jugantor proprietor, editor and publisher to appear in person before it on March 13 following a defamation case filed by former BNP lawmaker MAH Selim for running a news item implicating him.

Metropolitan Magistrate AJM Abdullahel Baqui passed the order after Selim filed the case with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court against the daily's Proprietor Nurul Islam Babul, Editor Golam Sarwar and Publisher Advocate Salma Islam seeking an arrest warrant against them.

In his complaint, Selim, who is also the chairman of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA), mentioned that the daily ran a news item headlined "Manpower export broker Selim Dakua is a ferocious terror of Bagerhat" on January 29 this year.

The news item was false and fabricated and it was done to tarnish his image in the political arena as well as in society.



Vision Theatre stages a drama at Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday as part of street drama festival marking the Amar Ekushey. Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation organised the festival.



Diganta Memorial Cancer Foundation takes out a colourful procession in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday marking the World Cancer Day.

Bapa hails eviction drive at Jaflong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) yesterday hailed the caretaker government for the eviction drive at Jaflong in Sylhet.

During the eviction drive, the joint forces demolished illegal structures and removed excavator machines used for collecting stones from hills in Jaflong recently.

In a statement, Bapa said Jaflong is one of the popular tourist spots in the country, but a syndicate of land grabbers and stone traders has almost destroyed its beauty and the environment.

Although Bapa and other environmental organisations and local people have been protesting against the activities of the syndicate, the past governments did not pay heed, it added.

Bapa also urged the authorities to take necessary steps to protect other tourist spots such as Cox's Bazar, St Martin's Island, Kuakata, Rangamati and Kaptai Lake from the grip of unscrupulous syndicate and to stop hill cutting and other activities harmful to the environment.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT
Fast unto death at JU from today

JU CORRESPONDENT

The students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) under the banner of 'Jahangirnagar Against Harassment (JAH)' will observe fast unto death from today to press their three-point demand including, dismissal of the teacher suspended for alleged sexual harassment.

The JAH said the university authorities are prolonging the process of investigation to get the teacher exempt from the punishment.

The JAH also has been observing 'Black Day' since January 31 and continue to observe the day by hanging black cloths at different points on the campus to press the demands.

The JAH also held a solidarity meeting yesterday evening at Mukta Mancha followed by a cultural programme to drum up support for their demand.

The demand also includes formulation of policy against sexual harassment and establishment of allegation cell.

Reconstitution of PSC demanded

UNB, Dhaka

Leaders of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) yesterday demanded reconstitution of the Public Service Commission and suspension of its activities carried out by present authorities.

They also demanded a high-powered judicial probe body to investigate the irregularities and corruption took place during the last five years of BNP-Jamaat alliance regime.

"There had been various allegations in the last five years against the PSC authorities. All the allegations should be investigated fairly and the government should immediately postpone its all activities," Duta executive committee member Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said.

Dr Arefin, also former Duta

president, said there are allegations against the PSC members of leaking out question papers and appointing unqualified and political candidates by taking bribes.

"How such serious allegations can go without investigation? These allegations have destroyed the PSC's image as a constitutional body," Dr Arefin said.

Duta General Secretary Prof Mohammad Anwar Hossain told the agency that the government should form a high-powered judicial inquiry committee to probe the allegations.

"The corrupt PSC members and officials must be brought to justice through a judicial inquiry. The government needs to remove the incumbent PSC members immediately and start investigation," Dr Anwar said.

Five stolen motorbikes seized: 5 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized five stolen motorbikes and arrested five people in this connection on Saturday.

The Rab members during patrolling saw one Tajul pushing a motorbike and got suspicious.

When asked, Tajul failed to provide the Rab team the key and legal papers of the bike.

Posing as Tajul, the Rab team called Tajul's associates over cell phone and asked them to come to a place. As Tajul's associates Mohammad Ali and Abul Kalam Azad reached the spot, Rab arrested them for their involvement in motorbike hijacking.

Later basing on the arrestees' confessional statements, Rab conducted a raid in Faridganj of Chandpur and seized four more motorbikes from the spot.

Bikal Shaha and Abdur Rahman Jhantoo were also arrested in this connection.