

Rotary Pacemaker Bank for poor patients opens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel peace laureate and founder of Grameen Bank Prof Dr Muhammad Yunus inaugurated the country's first Rotary Pacemaker Bank at the National Heart Foundation in the city yesterday.

Speaking at the inaugural function as chief guest he said, "We have lots of opportunities to contribute to science and technology since the world is now open. We can create our own place by applying the technology to meet our own demand."

"While biotechnology is advancing rapidly, we can prove our worth in this field by providing modern medical treatment facilities to our patients," he added.

Prof Yunus thanked the National Heart Foundation to make such a platform through their good organisation to serve the people of the country.

The inaugural session was also addressed by President of the National Heart Foundation

Justice Chowdhury A T M Masud and Secretary General National Prof Brig (Retd) Abdul Malik, Rotary District Governor Rtn Syed Alamgir Haider and Muhammad Ali Bukhari, the initiator of the project now living in Canada.

Pacemaker is an electronic device to stimulate and regulate the heartbeat.

Heart disease is on the rise in our country and many deaths are caused by this disease.

Modern treatment of cardiac diseases is so expensive that the poor cannot afford it.

Although the price of cardiac pacemakers has been reduced, it is yet beyond the affordability of many poor patients of our country.

The Pacemaker Bank will extend the horizon of service of the Rotary Clubs to these poor people.

The Heartbeat International (HBI), a US-based free cardiac pacemaker consortium, has recently approved this Pacemaker Bank which will

receive 50 or more new cardiac pacemakers and related cardiac devices annually from the HBI for implantation among the poor heart patients through direct involvement of cardiologists of the National Heart Foundation.

Heartbeat International is a consortium of physicians, medical manufacturers, hospitals and Rotary Clubs working together to make cardiac pacemakers and healthcare education available to people in 28 countries through its 48 Pacemaker Banks.

Rotary Pacemaker Bank is a joint collaboration of Rotary Clubs of Dhaka, Dhaka Buriganga, Dhaka Cosmopolitan, Dhaka Midcity and Dilkusha with the assistance of the National Heart Foundation.

A board of 11 members has been formed to run the Rotary Pacemaker Bank in Dhaka comprising PP Rtn Syed Alamgir Haider and National Professor Brig (Retd) Dr Abdul Malik as chairman and medical director respectively.

Tribute paid to Waheedul Haque

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a memorial meeting yesterday paid tribute to Waheedul Haque, a renowned journalist and Tagore song specialist, saying that he was a man of vast knowledge, integrity and secular thinking.

A man of profound thought, he lived a simple life and dedicated his life to the welfare of the people, they said.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) organised the meeting in memory of Waheedul Haque, also an organiser of the Liberation War, who passed away on January 27.

The late journalist always expressed with confidence what he believed and he even donated his body for medical research, said Abed Khan, editor of the daily Shamakal.

Waheedul Haque also tried to raise social conscience among the people, said Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of The Bangladesh Observer.

Waheedul Haque's daughter Apala Farhat Naved, associate professor of Dhaka University, sought cooperation from all in setting up a library at her home village at Bhawal Monoharia, Keraniganj, which will be named after her father who dreamt of establishing a library there.

BFUJ President Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul said the BFUJ would collect various publications of journalists every year and provide them for that library.

Singer Mita Haque and Apala rendered Tagore songs at the programme.

BFUJ Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan delivered the welcome address. DUJ President Altaf Mahmud, Editor of the daily Jugantar Golam Sarwar, Editor of the daily Sangbad Bazlur Rahman and Editor of The News Today Reazuddin Ahmed also spoke.

Also, local journalists' unions held meetings in Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Narayanganj in memory of Waheedul Haque yesterday.

Khulna Union of Journalists held the meeting at Khulna Press Club with KUJ President Mamun Reza in the chair. Press club President Makbul Hossain Mintu, General Secretary Md Saheb Ali and KUJ General Secretary Anwarul Islam Kajal spoke at the programme.

Our staff correspondent in Rajshahi adds: Rajshahi Union of Journalists (RUJ) held a discussion in memory of Waheedul Haque at the GDRC auditorium, with litterateur Hasan Azizul Haq as the chief guest.

Describing Waheedul Haque as a 'roving encyclopaedia', Hasan Azizul Haq said he was renowned for his knowledge and understanding of almost all subjects and was an outstanding personality.

Waheedul Haque considered the entire Bangladesh as his family, he added.

He also made significant contribution to the Bengali culture, the speakers said.

RUJ president Hasan Millat presided over the discussion.

Rajshahi University teacher Subrata Majumder, Gono Khabar Editor Mahtab Uddin, Mustafizur Rahman Khan Alam, Bulbul Chowdhury, Sammita Sangskritik Jote Secretary Dr Sayed Shafikul Alam and RUJ Secretary Zahangir Alam Aakash also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

Sangbad Editor Bazlur Rahman speaks at a memorial meeting on journalist and Tagore song specialist Waheedul Haque at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are the daily Jugantar Editor Golam Sarwar and columnist Rezaul Haque Bachchu and on his left is Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul.

NGO official robbed of Tk 70,000 in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An accounts officer of an NGO was robbed of Tk 70,000 in cash including a mobile set and left unconscious at a city bus stand yesterday.

Golam Mostofa Nizam, accounts officer of Setubandhan Prakalpa of NGO Broti, went to Gulshan branch of Arab Bangladesh Bank to draw Tk 66,525 as salaries of the grassroots

POLIO 4 cases detected in Banshkhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Bangladesh witnessed an unexpected comeback of polio virus after more than five years in 2006 and four of the 17 new cases have alone been detected at Banskhali in Chittagong, officials of civil surgeon office here revealed yesterday.

"The four were identified as Rumi Akhtar, aged one year and two months, Ershadul Karim, one year and seven months, Mohammad Ershad, one year and five months, and Sohel, one year and nine months, detected in May 25, June 17, July 22 and August 23 last year respectively," said Dr Md Hasanuzzaman, divisional coordinator, Chittagong at a briefing organised on the eve of the 15th National Immunisation Day (NID).

Civil Surgeon Dr Md Abdul Jalil informed that the four were recovering fast following regular medication and monitoring by the physicians and other people concerned.

level employees at 11:30am.

After encashing the cheque, he came out of the bank to send the money through telegraphic transfer (TT) to Tanor Sonali Bank branch, Rajshahi.

But on the way, some unknown people took away all the money he had with him including the mobile set making him unconscious, says a press release signed by Shashanka Baran Roy, publication and public relations officer of Broti.

After receiving an anonymous phone call at 2:00pm, Broti officials rescued him in an unconscious state from Kakoli bus stand and got him admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

DETENTION OF LALOO HC rule on govt

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain why the detention order of Helaluzzaman Talukder Laloo, a former BNP MP, should not be declared illegal.

The rule, returnable in two weeks, came following a habeas corpus petition filed by Laloo's sister, Dr Sujatunnahar, challenging the government action.

On February 14, law enforcers arrested Laloo from his residence in Bogra. He was later sent to jail with a 30-day detention under the Special Powers Act 1974.

Barrister Ruhul Quddus Kajal appeared for the petitioner.

Education UK Exhibition 2007 begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy High Commissioner of Britain to Bangladesh Stephen Bridges yesterday said his country wants to promote the linkages with Bangladesh through education.

"Education is a serious business in the UK," he said at the inaugural ceremony of the three-day Education UK Exhibition 2007 that began at Winter Garden of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

Twenty-eight British universities and colleges are participating at the exhibition to attract the Bangladeshi students for higher education in the UK.

The exhibition organised by British Council will remain open to the public from 3:00pm to 9:00pm today, and from 1:00pm to 7:00pm tomorrow.

British High Commission has a stall there to provide information on UK visa services, as a lot of people have no idea regarding this.

The UK wants genuine students for quality education, Stephen Bridges said, adding that the myth that the Bangladeshis have that the UK visa is very difficult and education there is very expensive is not true.

Referring to the British Prime Minister Tony Blair who put education as number one priority, Bridges said, "Foreign students are the lifeblood of education in the UK."

Inaugurating the exhibition, Dhaka University (DU) Vice Chancellor Professor SMA Faiz said education in the UK is better than most other parts of the world if the students really want to train their minds, build career and fulfill their expectation.

"The education in the UK is also more effective back here in Bangladesh," he said, adding that there are many teachers in Dhaka University who have pursued higher studies in the UK.

Director of British Council Dr June Rollinson said Bangladeshi students are very keen and best performing ones in English Language skills, which creates opportunities for them to pursue higher education abroad.

British Council's Education Promotion Officer Shajeda Khatun told The Daily Star that what the students need for securing a UK visa is genuine documents. "One can even get a visa without facing the interview," she said.

Interested students can easily get the services on these matters from the British Council free of cost, Shajeda noted.

ntv transmission to resume soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Managing Director of ntv Enayetur Rahman yesterday said the transmission of the private TV channel will resume soon although its equipments and machineries were destroyed by an inferno at Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation Bhaban in the city on February 26.

At a consultation meeting participated by people from various walks of life at a city hotel he said, "We have already rented two floors at Progoti Tower in the city to begin our work on temporary basis."

The transmission is likely to continue for six to eight hours a day in the beginning, he said, adding, "Though we were frustrated earlier, now we have started dreaming again due to your all-out support."

Executive Director of ntv Hasnain Khurshed said, "Fire has burnt everything of ntv but not our dreams. We are united, and thanks to your love we can start anew."

The participants including journalists, artists, lawyers, academics and businessmen called for resuming the transmission of the TV channel as soon as possible and assured the ntv authorities of financial, legal and any other assistance for making it functional.

They also suggested media campaign for strict compliance of building code and adequate safety measures in high-rise buildings.

Responding to a proposal for its own investigation into the fire, ntv Director Anjan Chowdhury said as it is a technical matter the law enforcement agencies will do the job as per rule, while the insurance company will assess the loss caused by the fire.

The participants included former advisers to caretaker government Dr Akbar Ali Khan and M Hafizuddin Khan, Prof Moniruzzaman Miah, Dr Sadat Hossain, lawyers Barister M Amir-Ul Islam, Rokanuddin Mahmud, Zi Khan Panna, Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Professors Imitaz Ahmed, AAMS Arefin Siddique, Asif Nazrul, Abu Ahmed, Journalists Bazlur Rahman, Matlur Rahman Chowdhury, Golam Sarwar, Reazuddin Ahmed, Nayeemul Islam Khan, Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Shawkat Mahmud, Writer Imdadul Haque Milon and Anisul Haque, Artists Alamgir, Afzal, Runa Laila, Shameem Ara Neepa, Shami Kaiser and Afsana Mimi.

Public Library hours cut

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Public Library authorities in a sudden move yesterday reduced the library opening hours, sparking off protests from readers.

The authorities issued a notice saying that library service will now be available to readers from 8:00am to 8:00pm daily. Earlier, the library remained open round the clock.

Protesting the decision, the readers who were inside the library yesterday refused to leave after 8:00pm despite the library staffs' repeated appeal.

The library authorities then called in the police to tackle the situation.



PHOTO: STAR

Visitors flip through prospectuses of British universities and colleges at a stall at the Education UK Exhibition 2007 at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

Transport waives 50pc fare for people with disability in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi Sarak Paribahan Group and Motor Sramik Union have decided to waive 50 percent fare and keep two seats reserved for people with disability.

The decision came during a meeting between the Action on Disability and Development (ADD) and the associations of transport owners and workers, a press release said yesterday.

The meeting was held at the federation office of Rajshahi Seroil Bus Terminal on Wednesday to facilitate the communication of people with disability.

ADD Human Rights Affairs Officer Joychad Karmakar, Human Resources Affairs Secretary Pankaj Chowdhury, Protibandhi Odhikar Federation Convener Nazrul Islam, Rajshahi District Motor Sramik Union President Rafiqul Islam Tota and more than 250 physically challenged male, female and students attended the meeting.

The decision will be effective soon, said Shahidur Rashid Mantu, general secretary of Rajshahi Sarak Paribahan Group. Protibandhi Swetchhasebok Sangstha Director Mizanul Huda said they had been appealing to transport owners for fare concession and reserved seats for help-less people.

He said they have already

submitted memorandum to Rajshahi Railway West Zone Authority to make disabled-friendly platform for easy movement of the physically challenged people.

Cable TV Show begins March 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cable Operators Association of Bangladesh (Coab) will organise Cable TV Show 2007, first of its kind in the country, from March 10 in the city.

The two day-long programme aims at familiarising cable operators with modern technologies and making people conscious about cable television, said Coab Secretary General Nazim Uddin Masud at a press conference at its office in the city.

A number of national and international satellite television channels, renowned high-tech equipment distributors and manufacturing companies will participate at the programme, which will also organise separate seminars and workshops on six different topics.

To entertain the cable TV subscribers, the programme would also organise cultural programmes and raffle draws.

Public participation at the show is open and free of cost. It would begin at 11:00am and run till 7:00pm each day.

McKinnon due on Mar 20

BSS, Dhaka

Commonwealth Secretary General Donald C McKinnon is scheduled to arrive here on a two-day official visit to Bangladesh on March 20.

He will call on Chief Adviser to the Caretaker Government Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, Adviser for Ministry of Foreign Affairs Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury and Chief Election Commissioner Dr Shamsul Huda on March 20, official sources said yesterday.

He is expected to call on BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina.

McKinnon will end his tenure after a new Secretary General of Commonwealth is elected at the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kampala in November this year.

McKinnon's visit can be described as a farewell visit to Bangladesh, the sources said.

JMB cadre gets 30 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A special tribunal in Rajshahi yesterday sentenced JMB cadre Abdur Rahman alias Khalid to 30 years' imprisonment.

Fourth Special Tribunal Judge Abu Saleh Sheikh Md Zahurul Haq handed down the verdict.

Khalid, a member of outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), was arrested with huge bomb-making materials and explosives from a rented house at Chhoto Banagram in the city in November 2005.



PHOTO: STAR

Kendriya Khelaghar organised a painting competition for children and exhibition of the paintings at the Institute of Fine Arts on Dhaka University campus yesterday.

EWU scholarship award ceremony

East West University (EWU) held a merit scholarship award ceremony for Spring Semester 2007 at its auditorium in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Prof Dr M Asaduzzaman, chairman of University Grants Commission, was present as the chief guest and distributed certificates among the winners of the merit scholarship.

Jalaluddin Ahmed, president, Board of Directors, East West University, presided over the ceremony.

A total of 45 students received merit scholarship for this semester. Dr Mohammad Musa, acting vice-chancellor, greeted the recipients of the scholarship while Suraiya Ahmed, joint registrar, gave the vote of thanks.

Founder vice-chancellor Dr Mohammed Farashuddin, deans, faculty members and guardians were also present at the ceremony.

Discussion

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold a discussion to mark the International Mother Language Day. Venue: Parishad auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Prize giving ceremony

Prize giving ceremony of Maggi Soup Winter Contest 2007 will be held. Venue: Emmanuelle's Banquet Hall. Time: 3:00pm.

Certificate awarding ceremony

A certificate awarding ceremony of Omni School of Music will be held. Venue: House 4 G, Road 104, Gulshan-2. Time: 6:00pm.

Seminar

Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital, Bangladesh Scouts and National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital jointly

organise a seminar on 'Cancer: Prevention and control strategies'. Venue: Bangladesh Scouts Bhaban. Time: 10:00am.

Discussion

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) will hold a discussion to mark the National Flag Hoisting Day. Venue: JSD office, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 4:00pm.

Film screening

Alamgir Kabir Chalachitra Kendra will screen the films 'Postman' and 'Selvia'. Venue: Kendra auditorium. Time: 4:30pm and 6:30pm.

Roundtable

The Consumers' Trust organises a roundtable on 'Consumers' Right in Bangladesh: Effective laws needed'. Venue: National Pres Club. Time: 10:00am.

Conjoined twins die at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The conjoined twins that were born at Jobaida Memorial Hospital in Gazipur on Sunday breathed their last at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) on Wednesday night, as their eight-chambered heart was not functioning well.

Although specialists said that the chance of survival of such twins is almost nil, a medical board was formed and the twins were kept at Special Baby Care Unit at DMCH for close observation.

They were kept under the supervision of Professor Abid Hossain Mollah and Professor Shah Alam Talukder of Pediatric Surgery department.

Professor Shah Alam Talukder said the number and outline of the chambers of their heart was not well delineated.

"Even their blood circulation was not adequate. Besides, the condition of the baby on the right was deteriorating from the very beginning," he said adding that the doctors tried heart and soul for the survival of the twins.

The twins were provided with saline, injections and oxygen and even allowed for free blood tests at DMCH, but they did not survive, he added.

The twins were joined at their chest and abdomen.

The newborns, weighing five kilograms, had separate heads, four legs and four hands, but a single anus and genital with a liver and two kidneys. Yet they had eight chambers in their heart and that is why the doctors were considering them as two babies although their internal blood circulation is not separated.

Bilkis Begum, 30, gave birth to the caesarean conjoined twins on Sunday. Their father Joinal Abedin, 32, is a farmer.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Today is the 5th death anniversary of journalist Shaikh Harun-ar-Rashid Khokan.

Khulna Press Club and Khulna Union of Journalists (KUJ) have chalked out separate programmes to observe the day.

Khulna Press Club will hold a discussion at its auditorium at 11:00am, followed by a milad mahfil.

KUJ will also hold a discussion at 12:00noon and a milad mahfil after Zohr prayers at its office.

Shaikh Harun-ar-Rashid, senior crime reporter of Dainik Purbanchal, was gunned down by extremists on the evening of March 2 in 2002 at Mujgunni in Khalishpur, Khulna.

Altaf Ali Hasu



says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 336/7 TV Road, West Tampura in the city after Maghrib prayers today.

Besides, Wrishiz Shilpi Gosthi has announced Altaf Ali Smriti Padak in his memory this year.

Advocate Syed Rezaur Rahman will receive the award this year for his contribution to the War of Liberation and social activities.

Afia Khatun



Today is the fourth death anniversary of Afia Khatun, wife of Fakhru Islam, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad

mahfil and Qurwankhwani will be held at Daudpur village.

Chehlum



press release.

On the occasion, Qurwankhwani, milad and doa mahfil will be held at Rangs Water Front, Plot no-1, Road no-15, Gulshan-1 in the city.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the chehlum and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Qulkhwani



Qulkhwani of Prof Abu Imam, founding chairman of archeology department of Jahangirnagar University, will be held at

House no-14, Road no-09, Sector no-04, Uttara after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the qulkhwani.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places elsewhere over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 32.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 14.0 degree Celsius at Sirimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:02pm today and rises at 6:19am tomorrow.

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