

# 50 lakh suffering from diabetes in Bangladesh

## Experts call for immediate intervention to prevent the disease

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Immediate intervention is needed to tackle diabetes, which is reaching epidemic proportions in developing countries like Bangladesh, experts said yesterday.

Around 20 crore people have been suffering from this non-communicable disease globally and the figure would stand at 33 crore by 2025 while 60 lakh people are diagnosed with diabetes every year, Programme Coordinator of World Diabetes Foundation (WDF) Ulrik Uldall Nielsen said at 'Meet the Press' programme.

Diabetes is going to reach epidemic proportions in developing countries where 80 percent of all diabetic patients are living, said Ulrik quoting the statistics of World Health Organisation (WHO). The

deaths from this non-communicable disease alone is equal to the total deaths from malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

Diabetes Association of Bangladesh (DAB) organised the programme at its office at Birdem Hospital with a view to disseminating information about its new projects to tackle diabetes in the country.

It is estimated that 50 lakh people are suffering from diabetes in the country, but only 10 lakh patients could be provided with primary care and treatment, the speakers said.

A total of 85 centres have been providing diagnostic and treatment facilities to the diabetics across the country, which is too inadequate, they said, adding that cooperation between the government and non-government organisations to

address the issue properly is a must.

Prof Hazera Mahtab, member of National Council, DAB, and chairperson of National Health Network, said unplanned urbanisation is causing people to do less physical activities. At the same time, increasing fast food habit is also responsible for obesity that put the people at the risk of having diabetes.

DAB Secretary General M Saifuddin, Prof Liaquat Ali and Dr Tofail Ahmed were also present.

World Diabetes Foundation (WDF) has extended cooperation in providing primary care, formulating a strategy and creating diabetes educators in every district town in the country.

## President, CA condole death of Yeltsin

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed expressed deep shock at the death of the first elected President of Russia Boris Yeltsin.

The president, in his message to his Russian counterpart Vladimir V Putin, said that Yeltsin was a great leader in initiating reforms and institution building in Russia.

In separate message to Vladimir V Putin, the chief adviser said, "Yeltsin will be remembered in the Russia as well as all over the world as a great president and world leader, who led your country and guided the world politics at a critical period of world".

The president and the chief adviser prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and hoped that the family members of Yeltsin and people of Russia will be able to bear the loss with fortitude.

Foreign Adviser

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury also expressed his deep sorrow at the death of Yeltsin.

He visited the Russian Embassy in Dhaka yesterday to express his condolence in person to Russian Ambassador Gennady P Trotsenko.

The foreign adviser also signed the condolence book expressing sympathy to the people and government of Russia on behalf of the people and government of Bangladesh.

## Gonoshasthaya to honour 35 dignitaries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four-day long 35th founding anniversary of Gonoshasthaya Kendra will begin on April 28 at PHA Building in Savar Gonoshasthaya Kendra where 35 dignitaries will be awarded for their outstanding contribution in different fields.

They are Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Abu Osman Chowdhury, sector commander of Sector-8 during the liberation war, Wing Commander (Retd) M Hamidullah Khan Bir Pratik, sector commander of Sector-11, Nurjahan Begum (Kakon Bibi), Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Freedom Fighter Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Major General (Retd) CR Dutta Bir Uttam, sector commander of Sector-4, Begum Mushtari Shafi, Dr Azizur Rahman, Sujaya Shyam, Shree Kartik Sheel, Mahabub-ul-Alam Chowdhury, Colonel (Retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman, sector commander of Sector-7, M Harej Uddin Sarkar (Palan), Motia Chowdhury, Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC) Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma (Santu Larma), Ferdousi Priyobhashini, M Nurul Alam, Haripad Kapali, Selina Hossain, Mahiuddin Ahmed, Major (Retd) Rafiqul Islam Bir Uttam, Major General (Retd) KM Saifullah Bir Uttam, Lieutenant General (Retd) Mir Shawkat Ali Bir Uttam, Air Commodore (Retd) AK Khandakar, Shykh Seraj, Shree Narendra Nath Dev, Nirmal Sen, Dr Halima Khatun, Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) Ziauddin Bir Uttam, Farhad Mazhar, Engineer AKM Nurul Huda, Dr Flora Jebun Majid, Artist Quayyum Chowdhury, Dr Nayla Khan, Abdul Matin and Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam.

Prof Abul Qasem Chowdhury briefed the media about the programme at a press conference on the eve of the founding anniversary at Dhaka Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK) central office in the city yesterday.

## DRU concerned over criminal activities

Dhaka Reporters' Unity have expressed deep concern over the presence of armed criminals on its canteen premises, says a DRU press release.

The press release stated that a group of armed criminals entered the houses adjacent to the canteen at around 1:30am on April 23 after breaking the locks and carried out criminal activities that also left DRU Executive Member Aminul Haq Bhuiyan injured. They also hung a signboard of a youth association named as 'Dipali Jubo Sangha'.

In the past, the Dipali Jubo Sangha signboard was also hung by force in the same place at the direct instruction of an influential quarter where unsocial activities such as gambling and alcohol drinking as well as use of phensidyl took place.

Rab members raided the place on February 23 and found cash and things needed for gambling. The group associated with Dipali Jubo Sangha went hiding after Rab members filed a case in this connection.

But the peaceful atmosphere in

## BOU SSC Exams begin tomorrow

The first and second year SSC final examinations of 2006 under Bangladesh Open University (BOU) will begin tomorrow with 1,10,606 examinees appearing at 274 centres across the country.

A number of 67303 students will appear at the first year while 43,303 students will sit for the second year examinations.

The examinations will be held on Fridays and continue till June 15.

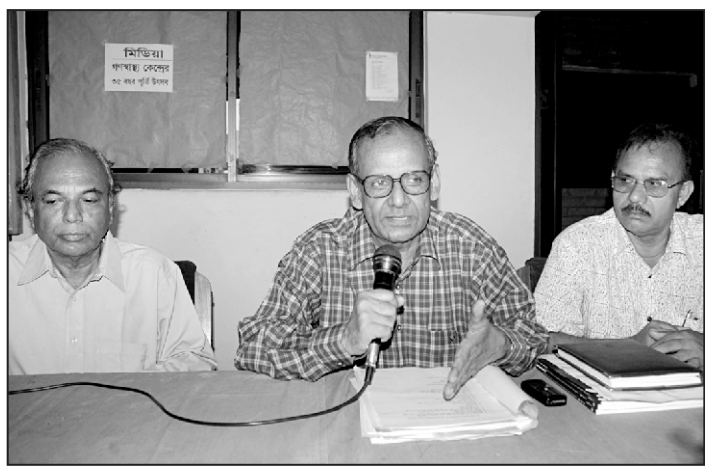


PHOTO: STAR

Prof Abul Qasem Chowdhury speaks at a press conference at Gonoshasthaya Kendra in the city yesterday.

WEATHER TODAY				
Rain likely				
UNB, Dhaka				
Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions with isolated hails in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.				
Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.				
Highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 18.5 degree Celsius at Sylhet.				
The sun sets in the capital at 6.25pm today and rises at 5.27am 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	33.0	21.5	74	69
Chittagong	32.2	22.2	75	82
Rajshahi	35.0	21.9	76	76
Khulna	34.0	21.7	79	66
Barisal	32.5	22.5	83	69
Sylhet	26.9	18.5	69	76
Cox's Bazar	33.0	24.0	91	76

## HASINA'S RETURN UK AL to file case with UN HR Council

UNB, London

The UK chapter of Awami League has decided to file a case with the UN Human Rights Council in Brussels to challenge what it called violation of human rights of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina by blocking her return to Bangladesh.

The UK Awami League at a meeting at its office in East London on Tuesday would appoint legal and human rights experts to deal with the matter. British MP and human rights expert Emily Thornberry has already offered her assistance to move the case.

Chaired by UK Awami League President Shamsuddin Khan, the meeting also decided to set up a fund to support Hasina's livelihood and her tour to Europe and America. An amount of 22,000 pounds was instantly deposited by party leaders to the fund.

The UK Awami League leaders include Jalaluddin, Sultan Sharif, Prof Abul Hashem, Syed Farooq and Asaduzzaman Chowdhury.

Hasina, now staying in an apartment in Paddington area, was stranded in London on her way back home from Washington as the British Airways declined to issue her boarding pass on April 22 on a written advice from the Bangladesh Civil Aviation Authority.

## Yusuf Abdullah Harun, 13 others sued in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

A case was filed against central Awami League leader Yusuf Abdullah Harun and his 13 associates with No.4 cognizance court here on Tuesday.

Mohammad Manirul Islam, resident of Siddeshwari village in Muradnagar upazila, filed the case.

Magistrate of the cognizance court directed Muradnagar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) to investigate the case.

In the petition, Manirul alleged that Harun, also former president of Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), had filed false cases against his rivals and put pressure on him and his younger brother Ali Akbar to give deposition in those cases.

As they did not agree to do so, Ali Akbar was implicated in another false case, he added.

The complainant said the supporters of Harun confined Ali Akbar at Bhuvan Ghar village and beat him mercilessly, leaving him seriously injured on April 19.

He said the attackers also looted Tk 15,000 in cash from the victim, adding that later Muradnagar police rescued Ali Akbar in a critical condition.

## Train passengers robbed of cash, valuables worth Tk 25 lakh in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

Robbers looted cash and valuables worth Tk 25 lakh from the passengers of an inter-city train near Chitoshi Railway Station in Shahrasti upazila on Tuesday night, injuring 15 people.

Witnesses said the robbers swooped on the Chandpur-bound inter-city express train 'Meghna', from Chittagong, and looted valuables and cash from the passengers at about 10.45pm.

The miscreants injured 15 passengers when they tried to resist them. Later, they jumped from the train with the booty.

Angry mobs caught and beat up railway staff Khorshed Alam for his alleged involvement with the robbery and handed him over to the Sadar police.

Train driver Maqbul and Railway guard Ismail reportedly went missing after the train reached Chandpur railway station.

Of the injured, Shilpi, 20, and Deen Mohammad Monir, 35, were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

Police super M Obaiur Rahman Khan confirmed the incident. A case was filed.

## Banker killed in city road crash



Md Zaid Hossain, senior principal officer of International Banking Wing of Head Office of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, was

killed in a road accident at Jatrabari in the city on Tuesday, says a press release.

M Fariduddin Ahmad, Executive President (Acting) of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited condoled his death and prayed salvation of his departed soul.



PHOTO: STAR

People buy rice at a BDR-run fair price sales centre at Azimpur colony in the city yesterday.

# 'Incorporate mental health into nat'l disaster plan'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mental health issue of disaster-hit people should be incorporated into national comprehensive disaster management plan, since psychological trauma of disaster-victims, if untreated for long, can seriously hinder national development, said experts at a seminar yesterday.

They also stressed better coordination among the ministries for quick rehabilitation of disaster

victims.

The seminar titled 'Disaster, Mental Health and Development' jointly organised by Network for Information, Response and Preparedness Activities on Disaster (Nirapad), Department of Development Studies (DDS) and the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Sciences of Dhaka University (DU) was held at CoE auditorium on DU campus in the city.

Speaking at the programme, Shuchita Sharmin of DDS said evidences show that disaster has mental health implication, which the policymakers should also recognise.

Since poor and ultra-poor people are the worst victims of any disaster, and cannot afford treatment, rehabilitation should primarily focus on them, she added.

Mental health victims of the disaster must be identified as quickly as possible and appropriate psychiatric, clinical psychological, psychotherapeutic or counselling services should be rendered to them, she said.

Prof Mahmudur Rahman, coordinator of Psychological Assessment and Management Laboratory (PAML), said unless disaster victims are provided proper treatment, community-psyche would be negatively affected, productivity would decline and development process would be thwarted.

Dr Atiur Rahman of DDS said post-disaster rehabilitation begins at the family and then at community level. He emphasised use of local wisdom in rehabilitation process.

Chairman of Nirapad Abdul Haseeb Khan conducted the seminar while Chairman of DDS Dr Taiabur Rahman, Prof Dara Samsuddin of Department of Geography and Environment of Jahangirnagar University, Md Rafiqul Alam, executive director of Dwp Unnayan Sangstha and Coordinator of Nirapad Palash Mondal were also present on the occasion.

## First Women Debate Competition today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first Women Debate Competition 2007 will be held at Eden Girls' College in the city today.

A total of 1000 women debaters from 16 women colleges and different halls of Dhaka University will participate at the daylong programme.

Eden Girls' College Debating Club (EMCDC) organises the competition in association with National Debate Federation Bangladesh (NDF BD).

Speaking at a press conference at Eden Girls' College auditorium yesterday, Dr Dilara Hafiz, moderator of EMCDC, said debating is the best way to practice freethinking to flourish the latent talents of a student.

Dr Dilara hoped EMCDC will play a significant role during the country's critical condition by creating meritorious debaters through arranging debate competitions regularly.

The daylong programme includes rally, public speaking competition, workshop, NDF BD model debate, multimedia presentation, plan chat debate and cultural programme.

Save the Children, USA, Ambition Plus Consultant Ltd, J&J Essential Products Ltd and Banglalink are the sponsors of the function while ATN Bangla and Radio Today are media partners.

Hudaba Naushin, president of EMCDC, AKM Shoeb, chairman of NDF BD and members of EMCDC advisory council Prof Nargis Jahan and Prof Sabrina Ahmed were also present at the press conference.

## EFA Global Monitoring Report 2007 launched

The EFA (Education for All) Global Monitoring Report 2007 was launched at the Spectra Convention Centre in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The launching of the report was part of Global Action Week (GAW) that is being celebrated from April 23-29.

The theme of GAW 2007 is 'Education as a Human Right'.

To mark the occasion, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) along with Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) and Institute of Educational Development of Brac University (BU-IED) organised a series of thematic forums yesterday that will end today.

Rasheda K Chowdhury said the launching of the GMR every year provides a good opportunity to remind the national and global leaders of their commitments to ensure 'education for all' that they made in Dakar in 2000.

Malama Meleisea, UNESCO Representative in Bangladesh, in his welcome speech said, 'We need to ask (ourselves) how much development we have made in carrying forward the EFA movement. The GMR can give us direction for the future and help us re-focus on our endeavours to provide education to all.'

Programme Socialist of UNESCO Dhaka Hassan A Keyman made a presentation highlighting on some of the key aspects of the report while Secretary to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan discussed the findings of the report.

The theme of the first forum was 'Pre-school and Primary Education', Dr Ali Akbar Khan, former member, Council of Advisers, commented on the issue and GMR in relation to achieving the six EFA goals by the year 2015.

## PIB course renamed as Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism

The 'Diploma in Journalism Course' offered by the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) has finally been recognised as 'Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism Course', says a PIB press release.

This decision was taken at the 60th meeting of the Academic Council of the National University, held on April 12.

This decision has brought an end to the six-year administrative complications surrounding the naming of the diploma course offered by PIB.

Academic Council made the decision at the recommendation of a committee set up at the Council's 59th meeting on February 7 that reviewed PIB's petition to rename their 'Diploma in Journalism' course as 'Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism Course'.

As per the Council's decision, PIB has to make necessary amendments to its current syllabus and regulations and administer their examinations starting from 2007-2008 academic years as per the updated syllabus.

The Council also said previously held exams and those that will be held in the 2006-2007 academic year will follow previously approved regulations and syllabus.

## Obituary

Dr Abu Solaiman Mandol, an organiser of the War of Liberation and former lawmaker, passed away due to liver cirrhosis at his Mirpur residence in the city early hours yesterday at the age of 64, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son and two daughters to mourn his death.

He was buried at his village home.

## Shamsunnahar Begum

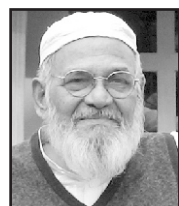
Shamsunnahar Begum, mother of Shaiful Alam Raja, staff reporter of Bangla daily the Jugantar, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at the age of 60 on April 13, says a press release.

She left behind her eight sons and one daughter to mourn her death.

She was buried at the family graveyard in Shabujpara village in Kurigram.

Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) President Alamgir Hossain and General Secretary Shahed Chowdhury expressed deep shock at her death and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family. They also prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

## Namaz-e-janaza



Namaz-e-janaza of Capt (Retd) M u h a m m a d Shujat Ali will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque after Zohr prayers today, says a press release.

Capt Shujat Ali, a freedom fighter and businessman, passed away in Texas, USA on April 20 at the age of 81.

He is survived by his wife, six sons and two daughters to mourn his death.