

40,000 kidney patients die a year

Speakers say at seminar

UNB, Dhaka

About 40,000 kidney patients die every year in the country as the trend of posthumous kidney donation here is very low compared to the developed nations, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

The seminar was organised by Kidney Foundation, a non-profit organisation, marking the first anniversary of kidney transplant in its hospital.

Speaking as the chief guest, child specialist and National Professor Dr MR Khan stressed the need for posthumous kidney donation and urged the affluent to extend their hands to the kidney patients so that they can transplant their kidneys.

He also urged the private banks to come forward like Dutch Bangla Bank with more financial support to save the lives of kidney patients.

Dr MR Khan also urged the mass media to play their due role in creating awareness about posthumous kidney donation.

UNB Chairman Amanullah Khan described the Kidney Foundation as a centre of medical excellence dedicated to providing quality services to the poor patients at affordable prices. Such humanitarian initiative should be replicated throughout the country in a bid to boost the neglected and ill-equipped health sector.

"There are 2 crore patients who are suffering from kidney diseases in Bangladesh, which is about 14

per cent of the country's total population. More than 35,000 people are afflicted with kidney diseases every year and about 40,000 are dying due to kidney-related diseases. These alarming statistics call for urgent remedial actions by all concerned," he added.

He put forward a number of suggestions aimed at improving the country's chaotic healthcare system in general and upgrading the standard of treatment provided to the kidney patients in particular.

President of the foundation Prof Dr Harun-ur-Rashid said there are sufficient infrastructures in the country for posthumous kidney transplant.

He mentioned that 80-85 per cent kidneys of the patients are trans-

planted in the developed country through posthumous kidney donation, but Bangladesh is in a backward position as regards kidney donation.

The foundation president said death rate from kidney diseases would be reduced if cadaveric kidney transplant system (transplanting kidney from deceased body) is fully implemented in the country.

Managing Director of the foundation Tiny Ferdousi Rashid, Dutch Bangla Bank Additional MD AHM Nazmul Quadir, Foundation Secretary Prof Md Muhiyur Rahman, Urologist Prof Dr MA Salam and Dr Shohidul Islam Selim also spoke on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Anisuzzaman and Advocate Sultana Kamal launch a book titled "Bangladesher Swadhinata Juddhe Agartala-Tripura: Dalil Patra" by Dr Sukumar Biswas, *extreme right*, while Dr Syed Anwar Hossain, *second from right*, and Dr Abu Muhammad Delwar Hossain, *extreme left*, look on.

Recognise contribution of Agartala people during liberation war

Speakers tell book launching ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a book launching ceremony yesterday said the nation has failed to recognise the contribution of the people of Agartala who gave all sorts of supports to Bangladeshi refugees during the nine months of the Liberation War.

The people of Agartala, Tripura, despite their poverty, came forward to help the distressed people, they said, adding that we even could not erect any memorial in recognition of the contribution of Indian soldiers killed during the war.

The publication ceremony of the book entitled 'Bangladesher Swadhinata Juddhe Agartala-Tripura: Dalil Patra' (Agartala-Tripura in the war of independence: Documents), by Dr Sukumar Biswas was held at the Liberation War Museum in the city. Ittyadi Grantha Prokash, the publisher, organised the event.

SADARGHAT LAUNCH TERMINAL TRAGEDY

Parents of victim demand arrest of culprits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parents of Javed, who died in Sadarghat Launch Terminal tragedy in May, yesterday demanded arrest of the persons responsible for the death of their son.

Javed and nine others drowned in the Buriganga in the fallout from clashes involving two groups of picnickers and Ansars on board a launch on May 4.

Javed's parents alleged that their son was killed at the instruction of the launch owner.

Although four months have passed after the incident, the law enforcers could not arrest anybody in this connection, they said.

At a press conference in the city, the family members also alleged that the police did not arrest Salam Khan, owner of the MV New Sun-4, as the then officer-in-charge of Dakkhin Keraniganj Police Station took bribes from him.

Javed's father Abul Hossain said the launch carrying around 200 picnickers anchored at Sadarghat terminal instead of Farashganj Ghat on its return from a pleasure trip at the instruction of the launch owner.

The launch owner also asked some Ansars and workers at the terminal to attack picnickers who were locked in altercation with the launch staff during the trip, he said.

As soon as the launch reached the terminal, the Ansars and workers swooped on the picnickers, Abul Hossain said, adding that they also beat up Javed and threw him into the river after taking away his cellphone, watch and gold chain.

He also said that the attackers are still using the cellphone of his son.



Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met office said predicting that day temperature may fall slightly over the country. Highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 24.2 degree Celsius at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:13pm today and rises at 5:42am 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	30.7	26.0	89	87
Chittagong	30.2	26.1	80	79
Rajshahi	33.5	27.7	81	84
Khulna	31.5	26.6	97	90
Barisal	30.3	25.8	98	92
Sylhet	31.0	25.5	86	92
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.0	87	90

Seminar

Export Promotion Bureau organises a seminar titled 'One District, One Product movement spreading throughout the world'. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9:00am.

IBFB Discussion

International Business Forum of Bangladesh (IBFB) will hold a discussion on 'Industrial growth and the role of financial institutions'. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 11:00am.

Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Centre will be held. Venue: Brac Centre. Time: 6:00pm.

Film screening

Dhaka University Film Society and Goethe Institute will jointly organise a daylong film screening programme. Venue: Goethe Institute. Time: 12:00noon.

Discussion

A discussion titled 'Post-flood situation: National unity in facing the challenges' will be held. Venue: Engineers' Institution auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

Cultural festival

Dhaka Language Club organises the 3rd International Cultural Fest 2007. Venue: Biam auditorium. Time: 5:00pm.

Folk song

Bangladesh Loko Shongest Parishad organises a programme of folk songs. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra. Time: 5:00pm.

Obituary

A CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Prof Abdur Rob, a freedom fighter and former vice principal of Faridpur Yasin College, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Monday night at the age of 60.

During the War of Liberation, he was the deputy commander in Faridpur district.

He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Faridpur Sahitya Unnayan Sangstha expressed deep shock at the death of the valiant freedom fighter.

Alak Uddin Pramanik

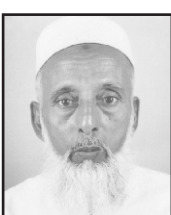
RU CORRESPONDENT

Alak Uddin Pramanik, father of Abul Hossain Malek, president of Rajshahi Editors' Forum and editor of local daily Sonar Desh, passed away at Pachbaria in Natore on Sunday at the age of 95.

He left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Journalists in Rajshahi expressed deep shock at his death and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Alhaj Anisur Rahman Falu



Monday at the age of 65, says a press release.

He has left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters, one sister and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

His Quikhwani will be held at Baridhara Mosque after Asr prayers on Friday.

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to join the programme to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) General Secretary Prof Dr Anwar Hossain and Dhaka University Social Science Faculty Dean Prof Harun-ur-Rashid are being taken to court in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Dhaka, Moscow to strengthen ties

Consular Convention signed

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Russia agreed to expand political and economic cooperation for mutual interests.

The broad-based understanding came during formal talks between Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow on Monday.

The talks covered issues of possible procurement of food grains, fertilisers and energy from Russia and export of a greater quantum of Bangladeshi manufactures like readymade garments and

pharmaceuticals.

Iftekhar told the Russian media that Bangladeshis and the Russians have emotional and intellectual relationships that go back centuries. "Today, we're eager to transform those linkages into effective cooperation," he said.

Sergey Lavrov told reporters that Bangladesh is an important member of the United Nations and a key international actor. "We're also close friends and Russia will lend support to Bangladesh in every possible way. We believe the relationship will be mutually beneficial."

After the talks, the two foreign

ministers signed a Consular Convention, which they hoped would be the first of several agreements the two governments will sign.

Lavrov hosted a dinner in honour of Iftekhar on Monday.

Earlier, the foreign adviser called on Deputy Prime Minister SE Naryshkin at his office. They underscored the importance of the new political relationship between their countries.

"Russia today has a huge role to play in the global arena. As a friend Bangladesh will walk with Russia," the adviser said.



PHOTO: BANGLADESH EMBASSY IN MOSCOW

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov sign a Consular Convention in Moscow on Monday.

Fight for control intensifies in BNP

FROM PAGE 1
the new secretary general just after a court had sent her to a sub-jail.

He also said the expulsions surprised not only Bhuiyan and Ashraf, but it also astonished the pro-Bhuiyan leaders as they had thought if Khaleda would be put behind bars she would appoint someone as an acting chairperson instead of expelling any top echelon leader.

Party insiders said the de facto chiefs of both the factions yesterday talked to many district level leaders seeking their support.

"Yes, I have been informed about the meeting and I will attend," Amjad Hossain, general secretary of Meherpur district unit of BNP told The Daily Star last night about Bhuiyan faction's meeting scheduled for today.

When contacted, Iqbal Hossain Sikdar, president of the Narail district unit said, "We hope the chairperson will be freed soon."

Party leaders said both Bhuiyan and Delwar, while talking to them, explained their roles and urged field level leaders to remain united for bringing democratic reforms to the party. Bhuiyan also invited the presidents and general secretaries of district units, and former lawmakers to attend today's meeting.

Many field level leaders willingly called either Bhuiyan or Delwar to express their support for one or the other faction.

Meanwhile, senior leaders of the party are observing the situation considering the expulsions as an extreme decision, which the expelled leaders termed as 'a violation of the party constitution'. Some others however think that the activities of Mannan Bhuiyan and his followers have been damaging to the party and that Bhuiyan is operating with blessings of the military backed caretaker government.

The pro-Khaleda leaders also raised questions about the accuracy of the pro-Bhuiyan leaders' Monday's claim that 130 leaders of the party's executive committee had signed a statement condemning the expulsions by Khaleda Zia.

"Many leaders informed me that they didn't even know that their names had been put on the statement while some others told me that they had signed onto it in light of the special situation, but now they are all with Khaleda Zia," Delwar told reporters.

Echoing the controversially appointed secretary general, Brig Gen (ret'd) Hannan Shan said five lakh BNP leaders and rank and file

activists of different levels across the country are with Khaleda.

On the other hand, Ashraf Hossain, the expelled joint secretary general, yesterday once again said district level leaders had already talked to Bhuiyan and expressed their support for his faction.

Meanwhile, urging party members to remain united at this crucial juncture, Khandaker Delwar, at a news briefing in his NAM apartment in the capital said, "There is no provision in the BNP constitution for accepting or rejecting a notice of expulsion."

The chiefs of the rival factions called party members of all tiers and urged them to remain united behind the caller.

Khandaker Delwar at his briefing urged field level leaders not to be confused by the activities of the dissident leaders and said the chairperson has the power to expel and appoint anyone according to the party constitution. He said now the party members should be united behind the demand for an immediate release of the party chairperson, the sources added.

Rejecting the notion that BNP has been split by the expulsion of Bhuiyan, he said, "Those who want to bring about a split in the party don't know about its consequences on themselves."

"I have contacted the members of the standing committee, the central committee, former lawmakers, and district level leaders and activists after assuming the new responsibility," Delwar said.

Demanding withdrawal of the state of emergency and lifting of the ban on indoor politics for holding a meaningful and neutral election, he said, "According to the constitution it is the duty of the Election Commission to make sure that we may participate in the electoral process."

The Election Commission has already started many activities including the production of voter ID cards, without consulting the political parties, Delwar added.

He also said it remains to be seen whether the Election Commission will give us an election according to its own announced timeframe.

BNP Chairperson's Adviser Hannan Shah yesterday said the government cannot arrest anyone on the basis of mere complaints without getting specific proofs through inquiries.

Welcoming Khandaker Delwar Hossain as the BNP secretary general, he said Chairperson Khaleda

Zia did the right thing by giving the responsibility to 'an efficient leader'.

FLORAL WREATH AT FOUNDER'S GRAVE
Newly appointed Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday placed a wreath at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman, the founder of BNP.

BNP Chairperson's Adviser Brig Gen (ret'd) ASM Hannan Shah, and former lawmaker Maj (ret'd) Akhteruzzaman along with a large number of party leaders and activists accompanied the new secretary general.

They also offered fataha there for salvation of the departed soul.

Minor girl drowns in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A minor girl drowned while swimming in a pond here yesterday.

The victim, identified as Farida Akhter, 11, daughter of Md Ruhul Amin, was residing at Ruby Colony near Chittagong Polytechnic Institute.

Sources said Farida went to a pond nearby her house for swimming along with other girls at around 11:00am and eventually drowned.

Locals recovered unconscious Farida from the pond and rushed her to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) at around 12:00 noon when the on-duty doctors declared her dead.

Painting contest held

On the occasion of World Children's Day, a painting competition was held at Bangladesh Shishu Academy in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Organised by Children's Council and MS Creation Council, the theme of the competition was 'Child Labour and Environment'.

TV artist Nader Chowdhury presided over the programme.

Additional Secretary to environment ministry Khondkar Rashedul Hoque, Mustafizul Huq of the Institute of Fine Arts, General Manager of Dainik Samakal Abul Khair Chowdhury, President of Nari O Shishu Unnayan Parishad Shafiq Ahmed and Abul Saidul Huq Milki of Unicef were present on the occasion.

Int'l body formed to secure release of Khaleda

STAR REPORT

Expatriate BNP leaders and supporters have formed a 501-member committee titled 'Khaleda Zia Antorjatik Mukti Andolon' to wage movement worldwide against the arrest of the former prime minister and secure her release.

The committee, which was formed at a meeting of the BNP leaders, supporters and well wishers in New York on last Monday, decided to hold agitation programme in front of the United Nations on next Friday, reports News World from New York.

Presided over by BNP leader Abul Hashem Bulbul, the meeting was attended by BNP US Branch General Secretary Zillur Rahman Zillu as chief speaker.

The meeting was moderated by Organising Secretary Belal Mahmud.

The BNP leaders and supporters at the meeting said they would wage the movement worldwide including Canada, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, Belgium, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Kuwait, Qatar and Australia.

Besides lobbying, Khaleda Zia Antorjatik Mukti Andolon will also stage agitation and protest meeting in front of White House and State Department, they said.

Demanding immediate release of Khaleda, her sons Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko, the speakers said these arrests were part of conspiracies to destroy the nationalist politics.

They also conducted a teleconference with BNP leaders and supporters in various states of the United States.

BNP US Branch Vice-president Sarafat Hossain Babu and Organising Secretary Belal Mahmud coordinated the teleconference.

Meanwhile, a meeting presided over by Sarafat Hossain Babu during the conference of Federation of Bangladeshi Associations in North America (Fobana) at Mariot Hotel decided that Jubo Dal, the youth wing of BNP in the USA, will submit a memorandum to the Bangladesh Consulate protesting the arrest of Khaleda.

BNP leaders in the USA Solaiman Bhuiyan, Kazi Azam, Aleya Hossain, Maznu Mia, Sayeed Chowdhury, Mohammad Jahangir, Mohammad Hossain, Dr AKM Tareque, Dr Karim and Dr Rouf spoke at the meeting.



Death anniversary

Today is the 33rd death anniversary of famous folk singer Abdul Alim.

Various social and cultural organisations have chalked out different programmes to celebrate the occasion.

Bangladesh Folk Music Foundation will place wreath at his grave in the morning.

The organisation will also hold Qurankhwani and milad mahfil later in the evening.

Bangladesh Television and other TV channels will air special programmes on his life and achievements.

Muslima Allahma



Cup Foundation, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at the residence of her son in Dhaka and at her village home at Deulgram Allahma Nagar at Beanibazar, Golapganj and Shilghat in Sylhet.

Sayed Shahidul Islam Titu



Today is the 11th death anniversary of Chowdhury Muslima Allahma, ex-chairman of Mustafa Allahma Gold Photojournalists' Association, says a press release.

On this occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his Mirpur residence in the city after Zohr prayers.