

Launch mass awareness to check high incidence of heart diseases

President urges cardiologists

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday urged the cardiologists and cardiac surgeons to launch mass public awareness programmes to check high incidence of heart diseases in the country.

"Every year, the number of deaths are alarmingly increasing due to cardiovascular diseases," the president said at the inaugural session of the 2nd International Conference on Updates on Management in Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery at Sheraton Hotel.

Organised by Lab Aid Cardiac Hospital, the function was also addressed by Health Adviser Maj Gen (Retd) Dr ASM Mattur Rahman, Managing Director of Lab Aid Cardiac Hospital DR AM Shamim and its chairman Prof Dr M Jajuddin.

As the treatment of cardiovascular diseases are very expensive and



President Iajuddin Ahmed addresses the 2nd International Conference on Updates on Management in Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery yesterday.

most of the people of the country cannot afford the expenses, Iajuddin called for enhancing

research works on this particular issue to bring down the death rate caused by cardiovascular diseases.

He said South Asian countries are likely to be affected badly by increasing trend of cardiovascular diseases.

The president said modern medical sciences have discovered many new tools both for diagnosis and treatment of heart diseases as well as new pharmaceutical agents are being developed for treatment of heart diseases.

"As such drugs and technologies are essential, similarly information about the causes and preventive measures of these dreadful diseases are equally vital in battle against those," he said.

President emphasised on giving recognition to prevention of cardiovascular diseases as part of the strategy of primary health care for the betterment of the people of this region.

He hoped that cardiologists and cardiac surgeon would be able to explore new direction, scientific stimulation and positive reinforcement of newer ideas and information through the conference.

The president said, "You are involved in a noble profession and you have ample opportunities to serve the mankind," he said adding that people seek your service at the time of their critical moment when they stay in between life and death.

He noted that the patient and his family deserve doctors' precious advice and care at the very crucial moment. He hoped that the physicians would respond instantly to serve the patients.

The president urged all to come forward imbued with the sense of obligation and responsibility for the wellbeing of the have-nots section of the society.

Freedom Fighters Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 'Freedom Fighters Day' will be observed in the country today to pay tributes to the liberation war heroes.

The National Committee to Realise Demands of Freedom Fighters and Celebrate Freedom Fighters Day has taken up elaborate programmes to mark the day.

The programmes include placing of wreaths at the freedom fighters' graves at Mirpur in Dhaka at 8:00am and at Shika Chirantan at Suhrawardy Udyan at 2:30pm, a procession at Muktangan at 2:00pm and a rally at the Jatiya Press Club at 3:00pm.

Committee member Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiqullah Bir Uttam, Awami League president members Abdur Razzak and Tofail Ahmed, sector commander Maj Gen (Retd) CR Dutt Bir Uttam, Worker's Party President Rashed Khan Menon and JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu will take part in the rallies and procession.

Besides, rallies, cultural programmes and discussions will also be held at the district and upazilal levels.

Pro-liberation socio-cultural and political organisations, including Muktiyoddha Oikya Parishad, will also observe the day.

Workers Party will organise a discussion at Shaheed Asad auditorium in the capital at 11:00am today.



Air vice Marshal (retd) AK Khandaker speaks at a view exchange meeting on 'The trial of war criminals' at WVA auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiqullah and on his left are Maj Gen (retd) Masud and Dr MA Hasan. (Story on Page 16)

Relief distribution continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Distribution of relief among the cyclone-hit people continued yesterday to provide succour to them.

Apart from the government, different organisations distributed relief materials among the Sidr-affected people of southern region.

Rice, atta, salt and lentil were distributed among the 1000 families of Southkhali in Bagerhat.

A team of Bangladesh Steel Mill Owners' Association has left Postogola Ferrihat in the city with relief materials worth Tk 30,00,000 for cyclone victims.

Students, teachers and the management of Sunnysdale school distributed 34,500 packets of relief goods, 500 sarees and 500 lunges on November 27 to the people of Char Bhadrashon in Faridpur and Boroitola, Majher Char, Baklar and Dema in Borguna.

Workers Party of Bangladesh yesterday distributed relief among 700 people of Moreganj and Mongla.

Communist Party of Bangladesh has been providing coked food to 2800 people by running a gruel kitchen at the fishermen's village at Khetachhira of

Mothbaria.

Meanwhile, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Choudhury has handed over 45 litres of pure drinking water provided by British business house Duncans' Brother to Chief of General Staff of Bangladesh Army Maj Gen Sina Ibn Jamali.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Advocate Durgesh Patranabish, an organiser of anti-British movement, passed away due to old age complication on Thursday night at his residence at New town in Netrakona town at the age of 87.

Durgesh, also former general secretary of Nikhil Bharat Chhatra Federation, was president and secretary of Netrakona District Bar Council, general secretary of Netrakona District Public Library and president of Netrakona Diabetic Society.

He left behind his wife and two sons to mourn his death.

He was cremated at Netrakona Moba Shashan Ghat.

Leaders of Netrakona District Bar Council, Netrakona Press Club, Netrakona Diabetic Society, Netrakona Public Library, different political and social organisations consoled his death and pray for eternal peace of his departure soul.

Brig Gen Feroze Salahuddin BSS, Dhaka

Brigadier General (Retd) Feroze Salahuddin passed away at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in the city yesterday at the age of 82.

He has survived by his two daughters.

Hailing from Dohar in Dhaka, Salahuddin joined the 1st East Bengal Regiment under Colonel Osman. He served as military secretary to late president Abu Sayed Chowdhury and late president Ziaur Rahman.

Salahuddin, former chairman of Bangladesh Handloom Board and High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Singapore, was buried after Juma prayers at the Military Graveyard at Banani in the city.

His gulkhwani will be held at his residence at 6/1 Orphanage Road, Bakshibazar in the city after Asr prayers on Monday.

Death anniversary

Today is the 36th death anniversary of Shaheed Mizanur Rahman Mizu, freedom fighter and cultural activist, says a press release.

He was shot dead by the Pakistani occupation forces along with 95 others on this day in 1971 at Ghorashal National Jute Mill. The killing is known as 'Ghorashal Massacre' in the history of the War of Liberation.

Mizu, a student of Dhaka University, was born in Munshipara of Dinajpur district.

Syed Nurul Huda

Today is the 18th death anniversary of Syed Nurul Huda, a tax lawyer, social worker and politician of Bogra, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and discussion will be held on Nazir-Akhtar Govt Degree College premises today. The Syed Nurul Huda memorial scholarship introduced by Nurul Khadema Foundation will be distributed to the meritorious but poor students of the college.

Memo to UN secy general for punishment to war criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi expatriates in the United States (US) staged a demonstration in front of the United Nations (UN) headquarters on Thursday demanding punishment to war criminals of 1971, says a report of NewsWorld.

The demonstrators also announced a worldwide programme of forming human chain on December 15 to press home their demand.

They submitted a memorandum to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urging him to help bring the culprits to justice.

The memorandum mentioned that millions of people were killed and women raped due to collaboration of Jamaat-e-Islami with the Pakistani occupation forces in 1971.

The demonstration was arranged under the banner of Federation of Organisations Against Bangladesh War Criminals, a combined platform of Awami League and Jubo League in the US, Ghatak-Dalal Nirmul National Coordination Committee (GDNC), Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad and Udichi.

Chanting slogans against Jamaat and its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir the demonstrators also demanded a ban on religion-based politics.

The speakers urged the pro-liberation forces to spread out the movement against the war criminals across the world.

Sayed Mohammad Ullah, general secretary of GDNC, Fahim Reza Noor, Shitangsu Guho, Nobendu Dutta, Ratan Barua, Badal Khandaker, Abdul Musabbir, Chandan Dutta, Misbah Ahmed and Mujibur Rahman spoke on the occasion.



Expatriate Bangladeshis in the United States stage a demonstration in front of the United Nations headquarters in New York on Thursday demanding trial of the war criminals of 1971.

Taslima Nasreen withdraws controversial lines from her book

AFP, New Delhi

Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen, who was hounded into hiding by hardline Islamists, said yesterday she will remove a passage from an autobiography which some Indian Muslim groups found offensive.

Nasreen, who had been living in Kolkata since 2004, said she hoped the move would enable her to live in peace in India.

"I am withdrawing the controversial lines from my book Dwikhandito (split into two)," she told NDTV news channel.

"The book was written in 2002 based on my memories of Bangladesh in the 1980s," she said.

She was accused of hurting religious feelings and the book was banned in Bangladesh and India's West Bengal state.

"I didn't write the book to hurt anybody's sentiments," the 45-year-old said without giving details of exactly what the passage mentions.

"Some people claim that sentiments have been hurt. It was not intended. I hope there will be no controversy anymore and I will be able to live peacefully in India."

The federal government has pledged to protect Nasreen and moved her to a safe house outside New Delhi at the weekend after thousands of Muslims took to the streets in her adopted home Kolkata demanding her expulsion.

Youngone provides medical care, relief for cyclone victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Youngone Corporation, a multinational company in the readymade garment (RMG) sector, has been providing medical care and relief materials for the distressed people in cyclone-affected districts since November 25 and it will continue till December 5.

The company yesterday distributed Khichuri, Chira, Gur, clothes, sari, lungi and tubewells among the cyclone victims in two remote villages -- Chorkhali and Golkhali -- in Mirzaganj, Patuakhali.

Its medical teams also treated about 250 people and gave them medicines.

Youngone has set up a temporary medical camp and relief camp at Subidkhali Model Government Primary School field at Chorkhali.

In last few days, it distributed Khichuri among around 12,000 people, sari and lungi among 3000 people at Chorkhali, Golkhali, Toklakhali, Chorka and Monohordi in Patuakhali and at Saint Alfred High School in Bakerganj, Barisal.

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 16th edition of BBC Bangladesh Sanglap will be held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city at 5:45pm today.

Awami League President member Motia Chowdhury, BNP chairperson's adviser and former chairman of Privatisation Commission Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, former army chief Lt Gen (retd) Harun-Ar-Rashid and President of Bangladesh Economic Association Dr Qazi Khulquzzaman Ahmad will feature in today's Sanglap.

The recorded programme will be aired on BBC Bangla Radio at 8:00pm on Sunday and on Channel i at 8:00pm on Monday.

15 deer hides, 1296 Zarda containers seized at ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials yesterday seized 15 deer hides and 1296 small containers of Zarda kept in four large suitcases lying abandoned at Zia International Airport (ZIA) in the city.

The luggage had been lying abandoned from 12:00 pm to 6:00pm, but nobody came to collect them, the officials said.

Later, customs officials took the luggage to the Customs hall room and opened them only to find the deer hides and containers of Zarda.

Investigation has been going on to find out who brought the suitcases to the airport and what was their destination, the officials told The Daily Star last night.

'Form groups of edn volunteers to reduce drop-out rate'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Engaging education volunteers in teaching students after school hours in each localities, especially in the poverty-stricken rural areas, would help reduce the drop-out rate among schoolchildren to zero, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

As the teacher to student ratio in public schools is 1:61, the teachers find it difficult to pay attention to each student and help them complete their task in the class, they said.

On the other hand, the parents who are illiterate could not help their children do their homework, resulting in the students being reprimanded by teachers. These students gradually lose interest in going to school and finally drop out of schools, they added.

To discourage students from dropping out of schools, groups of education volunteers should be formed in each localities, the speakers said highlighting the success of such a programme of Centre for Development Innovation and Practices.

The University of Manchester Alumni Association, Bangladesh (UMAAB) in association with the Centre for Development Innovation and Practices organised the seminar titled 'School dropout and its remedies in rural areas' at the National Press Club in the city.

DHAKA TODAY

14th Dhaka Book Fair 2007 will be inaugurated. Venue: National Parade Square, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 3:00pm.

Role of the civil society in controlling AIDS. Venue: Naem Auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar on climate Bangladesh National Geographical Association will hold a seminar on climate change. Venue: Chhayannaut Cultural Bhaban, Shankar. Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable Save The Environment Movement organises a roundtable on 'City biodiversity: Present status and our responsibility'. Venue: Auditorium of the Movement, Kalabagan. Time: 11:15am.

Seminar on religion Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities of Dhaka University organises a seminar on the Baha'i faith and world peace. Venue: 435 Lecture theatre. Time: 3:00pm.

Lecture A memorial lecture on Selina Bahar Zaman will be held. Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh. Time: 4:00pm.

Publication ceremony The publication ceremony of book titled 'Jibon-Sandhyar Sandhyatara' by HM Ershad. Venue: Sundarban Hotel. Time: 3:00pm.

Rotary Dhaka Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club Ltd. Time: 1:30pm.

Rotary Dhaka North Weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club Ltd. Time: 5:30pm.

Discussion Bangladesh Mahila Parishad organises a discussion titled 'Resist repression on girl child'. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium, Topkhana Road. Time: 3:30pm.

Seminar on AIDS Bangladesh Unesco National

University of Cambridge International Examinations organises Brilliance in Bangladesh Award Ceremony. Venue: British Council. Time: 10:00am.

Talk A talk on the Outcome of Kampala Commonwealth Summit will be held. Venue: BEI conference room, Gulshan-1. Time: 4:00pm.

Get-together A get-together of heroic freedom fighters will be held. Venue: National Press Club Auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Conference on Rumi An international conference to celebrate the 800th birth anniversary of Mawlana Jalal-ud-Din Balkhi-Rumi, the Messenger of Love. Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Time: 10:30am.

Cardiovascular conference A national conference on cardiovascular diseases will be inaugurated. Venue: National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Institute, Mirpur. Time: 4:00pm.

Award ceremony

A talk on the Outcome of Kampala Commonwealth Summit will be held. Venue: BEI conference room, Gulshan-1. Time: 4:00pm.

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Get-together

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 30.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 14.2 degrees Celsius at Iswardi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:10pm today and rises at 6:25am tomorrow.

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

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.



Alamgir, Elias elected DRU president, secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alamgir Hossain of the daily Ittefaq was reelected president while Elias Khan of the Amar Desh was elected general secretary of Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) yesterday for 2008.

Alamgir was elected unopposed this time.

Elias secured 308 votes to become general secretary while his rival Shakawat Hossain Badsha of the Inqilab bagged 298 votes.

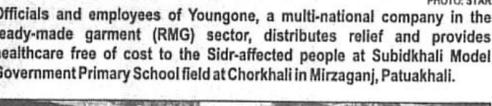
Nazrul Kabir of Ekushey Television was elected joint secretary, Masudul Alam Tusher of the Jai Jai Din organising secretary and Sazzadur Rahman of Bdnews24.com finance secretary.

Other office-bearers are vice-president -- Parvez Khan, publicity and publication secretary -- Abdul Bashir Nuru, office secretary -- Syed Ahmed Atal, cultural secretary -- Shafiqul Alam Raza, training and research secretary -- Fazlul Haque Shaon and sports secretary -- AKM Kamruzzaman Hiru.

The executive committee members are Alpha Arzu, Khokon Barua, Arif Sohel, Hakikat Jahan Haki, Amaresh Roy, Sontosh Kumar Mondol, Md Azizur Rahman, Aminul Haque Bhuiyan, Ataur Rahman and Sohel Sunny.



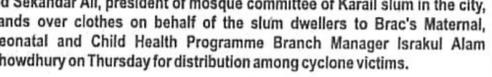
Officials and employees of Youngone, a multi-national company in the ready-made garment (RMG) sector, distributes relief and provides healthcare free of cost to the Sidr-affected people at Subidkhali Model Government Primary School field at Chorkhali in Mirzaganj, Patuakhali.



Md Sekandar Ali, president of mosque committee of Karall slum in the city, hands over clothes on behalf of the slum dwellers to Brac's Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health Programme Branch Manager Israkul Alam Chowdhury on Thursday for distribution among cyclone victims.



Cyclone 'Sidr' Relief Operation



CEMEX, a global leader in building solutions, distributes relief among more than 1,000 cyclone-hit families at Kolapara in Patuakhali on November 26. CEMEX Bangladesh Commercial Director Md Enamul Islam was present on the occasion.