

10TH CONVOCATION OF BCPS CA calls on physicians to practise medical ethics

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday called on the physicians for practising key principles of medical ethics saying "welfare of patients should be their ultimate goal of professional efforts."

"It is essential to treat patients with compassion and good conduct... You will have to follow the principles of equality and fairness in providing your services and protecting dignity and privacy of the patients," he added.

He also called for maintaining transparency and professional efficiency while treating patients.

The chief adviser was addressing the 10th Convocation of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.

A total of 557 physicians got FCPS (Fellow of the College of Physicians and Surgeons) and MCPS (Member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons) degrees for the years 2005, 2006, 2007 and

2008 at the convocation. Of them, 443 physicians got FCPS degree while 114 received MCPS.

The chief adviser distributed certificates to some of them while the rest will be distributed by the BCPS.

He also distributed Ashab Memorial Gold Medal to three physicians for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 for their extraordinary academic performance in medicine and Dr Sheikh Humayun Kabir Memorial Gold Medal to three physicians for the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 for their extraordinary performance in surgery.

BCPS President Prof Mobin Khan delivered the convocation speech and presided over the function.

Health Adviser Dr AMM Showkat Ali, Health Secretary AKM Zafar Ullah Khan, BCPS president AKM Mahbubur Rahman and Vice-president Prof MA Majid also spoke on the occasion.

National professors in medical field, fellows and members of BCPS

and noted personalities were present at the function.

The chief adviser urged new postgraduate degree holders to be active in facing the new threats of diseases like reappearance of TB, spreading of HIV/AIDS, Arsenic contamination, outbreak of cancer, cardiovascular diseases, gout and lung diseases including bird flu.

He said the physicians will have to work out proper strategy and make best utilisation of their professional knowledge to face the challenges.

Fakhruddin urged the new fellows and members of BCPS to apply their professional skills in the service of distressed humanity and ensure an effective and people-oriented health service system in the country.

He said in a developing country like Bangladesh mutual cooperation and coordination among government, private and professional organisations is important to expand health services among the common people.

Earlier, the chief adviser joined the convocation procession.

Japan pledges extra funds to fight AIDS, TB, malaria

AFP, Tokyo

Japan on Friday pledged a fresh 184 million dollars to combat AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria ahead of hosting a Group of Eight summit set to focus on global health.

The aid will be donated to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, established in 2002 by the Group of Eight major industrial countries.

The diseases together kill six million people a year, mostly in the developing world, Japan's foreign ministry said, adding the donation brought Tokyo's total contribution to the fund to 850 million dollars.

"Japan continues to support measures against infectious diseases on a global scale and to stress the role of the global fund to strengthen those measures towards developing countries," it added.

Japan has said it wants to put global health high on the agenda of the Group of Eight summit to be held in July in the northern mountain resort of Toyako amid concern that the world will not meet the UN Millennium Development Goals.

The goals, set out by a UN summit in 2000, seek progress in eight areas by 2015 including reducing child mortality rates and halting the spread of AIDS.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was the brainchild of the Group of Eight leaders at their last summit in Japan, held in 2000 on the southern island of Okinawa.

The Geneva-based fund, a partnership including governments and the private sector, dispenses financing to local leaders to fight diseases. It does not administer projects by itself.

The fund says it has approved more than 10 billion dollars in funding for projects in 136 countries.



Family members of Comrade Tajul Islam place wreaths at his portrait at the office of the Communist Party of Bangladesh in the city yesterday to mark his 24th death anniversary.

Series of important political events

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polls to the corporations are scheduled to be held in April.

It will also discuss the EC's demand for lifting the restrictions on 'indoor politics' countrywide allowing resumption of political activities to facilitate political party reform.

Law Adviser Hassan Arif on last Thursday said some sections of the Emergency Power Rules, that bar electioneering, will be nullified in March as the EC decided to announce a timetable this month for elections to city corporations.

Sources in the interim government said the council of advisers might discuss within a week, before the chief adviser leaves town for Senegal on March 10, lifting of the restrictions on 'indoor politics' countrywide, and lifting or relaxing of the state of emergency.

The council of advisers are scheduled to meet today in the capital and in Barisal on March 6, sources said. As the chief adviser is scheduled to stay abroad for over a week, the council is also scheduled to meet for the third time on Saturday, prior to his departure, the sources added.

Once the restrictions on 'indoor politics' are lifted countrywide, political parties will be able to resume their activities, after a year of hiatus, to discuss proposals for party and electoral reforms. The government slapped a ban on 'indoor politics' countrywide on March 7 of last year.

Besides, the government is likely to begin its dialogues with political parties by the end of this month or in early April, as the EC already completed its second round of electoral reform talks with all the invited parties except with BNP, with which also the commission hopes to have its talk soon.

The dialogue parties also have already started holding inter-party

talks to figure out common strategies on some issues before sitting in dialogues with the military backed caretaker government, which had declared the state of emergency over a year ago postponing holding of the ninth parliamentary election.

The EC is scheduled to send its finalised electoral reform proposals, for amending electoral laws, to the government this month, with recommendations regarding some crucial national issues including trials of war criminals, article 70 of the national constitution, increasing the number of parliamentary seats, etc.

Once the EC's proposals are made into laws, the political parties will have to be registered with the commission by June to be eligible to contest in the next parliamentary election, as the EC proposed to make the registration mandatory for parliamentary parties.

To be registered with the commission, all political parties will have to hold their national councils electing new committees, and must bring amendments to their constitutions in line with the EC's proposed criteria for registration.

But the political parties already said it is not possible for them to hold their national councils without resuming political activities countrywide, which is currently banned under the state of emergency, and under the restrictions on 'indoor politics' countrywide with an exception in the capital.

The EC is also to begin the final round of field level work of voter listing this month with a confident hope of completing the job by mid-July, since it already succeeded in registering four crore voters three weeks ahead of schedule, which is about a half of the estimated number of voters to be registered.

Meanwhile, Sector Commanders' Forum, a platform

of sector commanders in the liberation war of 1971, is scheduled to organise a citizens' convention on March 15, in an effort to put pressure on the government to begin a process for trying war criminals.

"After the convention, we will hold dialogues with political parties to pressure them in taking clear positions against war criminals and anti-liberation forces," Air Vice-marshal (ret'd) AK Khandaker, leader of the forum, said yesterday.

Workshop on effective team building and leadership

The Professional Development Programme Unit of Moazzam Hossain School of Business of Presidency University organised a daylong workshop on 'Effective team building and leadership' recently.

The workshop was designed for business executives, business professionals, entrepreneurs, NGO personnel and senior students, says a press release.

A group of mid-level and senior executives from Green Delta Insurance Co Ltd, Dhaka Rubber and Tyre Mfg Ltd, JRC Power Tech Ltd, Golden Trade Ltd, Social Development Foundation (Under Ministry of Finance) and Narayanjan Manab Kalyan Society participated in the workshop.

Prof M Harunur Rashid, vice chancellor of the university, distributed certificates among the participants.

Dr Mahfuzul Haque, head of Moazzam Hossain School of Business, Dr Tapan K Chakravarty, Dean, School of Engineering, and Dr Md Nazmul Islam, head of Civil Engineering, were also present on the occasion.



Anwarul Huq, chairman of IDLC Finance Ltd and Honorary Consul General of Greece, hands over a cheque for Tk 10 lakh to M Abu Bakar Siddique of Bangladesh Insurance Academy in Dhaka recently for instituting a scholarship named after his father late AKM Fazlul Huq (Mowla), a renowned insurance personality. Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain was present on the occasion.

Gas crisis for next one decade

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years to get gas from any block to be allocated through the latest bidding.

Despite such a situation in view, the country does not have any dependable option to rapidly increase production to cope with the demand.

Particularly, the recent major failure in Cairn's exploration in the offshore Magnama field has extremely frustrated the state-owned corporation Petrobangla about possibility of gas-production enhancement in the near future.

Petrobangla landed in such a quandary as its authorities had a belief that there might be a reserve of 3.5 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gas in the Magnama belt. But, to their dismay, the field was found dry after having dug 4,000 metres down the seabed.

Following the failure in Cairn's operation, the government is now considering the gas-import option.

Chief Adviser's Special Assistant for Power and Energy M Tamim has already announced that the caretaker government will initiate a move for import of gas from Myanmar to cater the growing demand.

But experts in the hydrocarbon industry appeared skeptical about success of the move for import from the eastern neighbour as a number of other influential neighbours have already queued up for the Myanmar gas.

They said China, India and Thailand are keen to import gas from Myanmar. Among the gas-hungry trio, China and Thailand have already gone far to make their

move a success as Chinese and Thai companies are working over there.

However, India's move could not see any breakthrough, as Bangladesh did not agree with the proposed tri-nation gas-pipeline project, which India envisioned to take gas to India through Bangladesh.

On the other hand, Bangladesh is yet to make any physical move towards importing gas from Myanmar. Even, it's not clear how much response Bangladesh will get from Myanmar when it approaches for the proposed import.

Secondly, Myanmar's gas might not be affordable for Bangladesh in terms of price when there are a number of buyers like China and Thailand negotiating with Myanmar on the issue.

Thirdly, Bangladesh would need to build a pipeline to carry the Myanmar gas into the country, which is a costly and time-consuming undertaking.

Tamim also admitted that it would take huge time to get gas from Myanmar as he said the government just started thinking about the option.

"But, this is a big project and it needs huge time—even a few years—to get gas from Myanmar," he said.

In such a critical situation, the experts said the only option left for Bangladesh is to increase the gas production within the country from the existing fields.

They said the country could augment the production from Chevron-operated Bibiyana field, which is now producing 475

mcmd. The production can be enhanced to 600 mcmd, they said.

But, despite this option, the country will not get the Bibiyana gas soon as it needs to install a huge compressor to carry the gas into the downstream areas.

Chevron's Bangladesh chief Steve Wilson told UNB that his company is thinking about production enhancement, but there is no request from Petrobangla.

"If we get a request from Petrobangla, then we'll obviously consider the matter," he said.

Tk 1.5 cr Indian clothes seized

UNB, Comilla

BDR members seized Indian clothes worth Tk 1.50 crore in the district during separate drives on Friday midnight and yesterday morning.

BDR sources said a team of 33 Rifles Battalion chased and intercepted a covered-van on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Hansardar in Chouddagram on Friday midnight.

Clothes worth Tk 1.25 crore were seized from the van, the sources said. However, the smugglers managed to flee away.

The same battalion seized Indian sarees and sets of three-piece worth Tk 25 lakh in an abandoned condition from an area known as 'July' in Sadar Dakkhin pazzila yesterday morning.

Fazlul Huq scholarship in Insurance Academy

The children of late AKM Fazlul Huq (Mowla), a renowned insurance personality, have donated Tk 10 lakh to introduce a scholarship programme to be named after their father for students studying in the Bangladesh Insurance Academy (BIA).

Under the programme, BIA will offer scholarships to students studying Chartered Insurance Institute and Actuarial Science courses.

The Director of BIA will chair a committee, which includes IDLC Finance Limited's CEO and managing director to manage the scholarship fund.

To this end, his daughters Dr Rokeya Huq and Rabeya Khan recently signed an MOU on behalf of the family with BIA.

His son Anwarul Huq, chairman of IDLC Finance Ltd and Honorary Consul General of Greece, handed over the cheque to M Abu Bakar Siddique of BIA on the occasion.

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain, senior officials of BIA, family members of late AKM Fazlul Huq (Mowla) and distinguished personalities were also present.



Md Arifur Rahman, assistant brand manager, Marketing, PRAN-RFL Group, hands over fund collection boxes to Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqi, vice chancellor, North South University, at the inaugural ceremony of a fund raising campaign for Sidr victims, organised by NSU-MBA Club in the city recently.



Apollo Hospitals Dhaka organised a healthcare awareness programme at Dhaka Club for its members recently. Cardiology consultant Dr Syed Sakib Nazir conducted the programme.

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