

Set up cancer registry in all hospitals

Medical experts tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Medical experts at a seminar yesterday called for setting up cancer registry in all hospitals in order to ensure proper treatment for patients suffering from the deadly disease.

The exact number of cancer patients in the country is still unknown as most hospitals lack such a registration system, they said. It is estimated that around 13 to 15 lakh people are suffering from cancer and two lakh new patients

are diagnosed with cancer a year. At the same time, lack of diagnostic facilities in most areas of the country causes patients to seek treatment when they are in advanced stage of cancer, the experts added.

Bangladesh Cancer Foundation Hospital (BCFH) and Centre for Cancer Prevention and Research (CCPR) organised the seminar in the city, with Editor of The Independent Mahbubul Alam as the chief guest.

Prof Dr Golam Mostofa, Dr

Habibullah Talukder, Dr Mostofa Zaman, Prof Dr MA Salam, Dr Syeda Badrunnahar and AP Bureau Chief Farid Hossain took part in the discussion.

The experts also stressed the need to set up regional cancer centers at the divisional level and early cancer detection centers at the district level.

Besides, voluntary organisations should give priority to issues such as cancer awareness, screening, research activities and treatment, they added.

'Cancel int'l tender process for offshore gas exploration'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of different universities yesterday demanded immediate cancellation of the international tender process for offshore oil and gas exploration and all agreements on gas with multinational companies in order to ensure energy security in the country.

The government recently floated international tender for gas exploration in the Bay of Bengal without taking Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (Bapex) into consideration for such job, Prof MM

Akash said in a written statement at a press conference at the auditorium of Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh, in the capital.

"The government must cancel the tender process and should not take any initiative to export gas, as the country lacks adequate energy resources," he said.

The shortage of gas supplies has led to the suspension of production in two power plants in Chittagong, badly affecting the electricity generation, he said.

The government should involve Bapex in all types of exploration activities, Prof Akash said, adding

that national interest must be given priority while dealing with energy issues.

Prof Anu Muhammad said the government procured one tcf gas at Tk 300 from foreign companies while Bapex was able to provide the same at Tk 30.

He also said the government must consider people's opinions before making any deals with foreign companies.

Prof Abul Barakat, Prof Badrul Imam, Prof Akmal Hossain, Prof Hossain Mansur and Prof Ajay Roy were also present at the press conference.

STRANDED PAKISTANIS 'Those born here should get citizenship'

UNB, Dhaka

Former Justice Habibur Rahman Khan yesterday supported the cause of stranded Pakistanis saying that those who were born here should get the Bangladeshi citizenship.

"One has the right to get citizenship of a country where he was born," he told a roundtable at National Press Club on ID cards for Urdu-speaking people living in camps and human rights.

He said the problems of the stranded Pakistanis should have been resolved in the last 36 years. "These people are neither Pakistanis nor Bangladeshis, not even Indians. It should be settled now," he said.

Referring to a High Court verdict allowing Bangladeshi-born Urdu speaking people to be citizens of Bangladesh, he said all should comply with the High Court judgment.

Justice Habibur Rahman also referred to an opinion of an inter-ministerial meeting of September 5, 2007 to issue national ID cards to around 1.5 lakh Urdu-speaking people who were born here and expressed their allegiance to Bangladesh. But the matter is still hanging in the Ministry of Law.

JP leader Golam Quader, NAP General Secretary Abu Reza Khan Bhasani, journalists Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Sajjad Qadir and Abdul Quayum, dramatist Mamunur Rashid and poet Asad Chowdhury spoke at the roundtable with Stranded Pakistanis Youth Repatriation Movement President Sadakat Khan Faku in the chair.

Healthcare programme for farmers in Munshiganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A daylong healthcare programme for farmers was held at Tongbari in Munshiganj yesterday as part of awareness campaign initiated by 'Hridoye Mati O Manush' of Channel i and Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital.

A 30-member medical team from Dhaka went to Tongbari to provide healthcare service to farmers and sensitise them to health issues.

The programme began with administering polio vaccine to children at Dighirpar SE Institute School. Farmers and their wives also had check-ups. Blood grouping and measurement of blood pressure and electrocardiogram (ECG) were done at the programme.

Two training sessions were also held. A total of 50 farmers took part in the 'agricultural psychology and group psychotherapy' course while 50 children of farmers took part in primary healthcare training.

The experts observed that most farmers have gastric problems and skin diseases. Some of them are also suffering from heart diseases.

Media personality Shykh Siraj called on the farmers to become aware about HIV/AIDS.

He also urged the local health department to strengthen its activities for the welfare of farmers.

Two shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A garment accessories supplier and a security guard were shot by a gang of criminals and extortionists in separate incidents at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

Injured Joyal Abedin, 38, garments accessories supplier, and Abu Taher, 28, a security of Epsilon Knitwear, were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries.

A suspected criminal Ismail, 35, was also admitted to the DMCH as the locals captured one Ismail aged about 35 and gave him a good beating while he along with three others was trying to flee after shooting in the hand of Joyal. A homemade bomb was seized from the possession of Ismail, police said.

Witnesses said two criminals one armed with a bomb and the other with a pistol entered the office of Joyal at Mirpur-10 at around 9:00pm and shot

him while two others were waiting outside the office.

Hearing the gunshot, locals chased the criminals and managed to catch Ismail. To ensure a safe passage, the criminals hurled a homemade bomb that did not explode, the witnesses said.

Police said a gang of local criminals had demanded extortion from Joyal earlier but he refused to pay them toll.

Meanwhile, two youths shot a security guard of a garments factory as he prevented them to enter the factory at Pallabi in the city in the morning. The incident occurred when the youths forcibly tried to enter Epsilon Knitwear on Road No 6 at Pallabi to meet the owner of the factory.

The injured identified as Taher was shot in his right hand and abdomen.

Police could not arrest anyone in this connection.

Allow SCF to hold convention

Different bodies urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote yesterday expressed concern over the government's refusal to give permission to Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) to hold their national convention.

Criticising the government, Jote President Nasiruddin Yusuf and General Secretary Golam Kuddus, in a statement, said the trial of war criminals has become a national demand and the chief adviser and the chief of army staff also hold same views in this regard.

"So denying permission to hold a peaceful convention for the trial of the war criminals is mysterious and it needs an investigation whether the war criminals have any direct or indirect role in the decision," they said.

The Jote leaders also urged the government to give permission to hold the convention and initiate the trial of the war criminals immediately.

Bangladesh Islami Oikya Jote has also blasted the government for the decision saying the excuse that the law and order will deteriorate if the convention is held is conspiratorial, said a press release.

Jote Chairman Alhaj Michhabur Rahman Chowdhury said the comments of police commissioner would encourage the war criminals to attack.

Expressing solidarity with all programmes of SCF, he said the country is now united like 1971.

Samyabadi Dal also yesterday criticised the government saying that its decision would benefit the war criminals.

At a politburo meeting, the party leaders said it is very unfortunate that the government barred the SCF from holding the national convention to mobilise public support against the war criminals.

They said all people except the anti-liberation war elements have supported the SCF for its initiative to try the war criminals.

Samyabadi Dal also urged the government to give permission to SCF to hold the convention.

Titumir College students block road for footbridge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred students of Government Titumir College yesterday blocked the road in front of the college for two hours demanding speed breaker and a footbridge on the road and a canteen at the college.

Locals said the students took to the street at around 12:00pm and staged demonstration on the road stretching from Mohakhali to Gulshan-1 until 2:00pm in support of their demands, causing traffic congestion in the area.

Gulshan police said no unwanted incident could take place as their members were on alert.

Police said the students, however, left the road after the college authorities assured them of holding a meeting with them on Monday to resolve the problems.

MTBL-DUAA stipends for meritorious DU students

A CORRESPONDENT

Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTBL) and Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA) yesterday jointly launched a financial programme styled "MTBL and DUAA Jubilation" for meritorious students of the university.

Under the programme, a total of 50 students will get Tk 2500 annually for a period of five years on the basis of their results of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th years.

A high-powered selection committee headed by DU vice-chancellor will recommend for the stipends.

In this connection, an agreement was signed between MTBL and DUAA at Senate Bhaban auditorium of the university yesterday.

MTBL Managing Director Kazi Shafiqur Rahman and DUAA Secretary General Raquibuddin Ahmed signed the agreement on behalf of their organisations.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz and MTBL and Square Group Chairmen Samson H Chowdhury addressed the ceremony.

Samson Chowdhury said he will assist the pharmacy faculty of the university for the sake of conducting more research in pharmacy sector.

DUAA president and former adviser to the Caretaker Government Syed Manzur Elahi chaired the programme, which was also attended by senior teachers, deans, provosts, head of departments and institutes and distinguished alumni.

Manzur Elahi said along with the government, corporate world should extend hands for the development of public universities of the country.



Victims of acid violence pose with the guests at a discussion on 'We will resist acid violence in Sirajganj' organised by the Prothom Alo at Sirajganj Government College auditorium yesterday.

Election by end of this year

Iterates election commissioner

UNB, Dinaipur

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (Retd) M Sakhawat Hussain yesterday reiterated that elections would be held by the end of this year in accordance with the roadmap announced earlier.

Dispelling doubts of certain political quarters he said, "There should be no doubt about holding of election. EC is going ahead that end. Election will be held after completion of the voter list with ID card."

Speaking at a view-exchange meeting at Biral upazila parishad

auditorium Sakhawat posed a question why the election to the upazilas had not been held in last 15 years.

"We have talked to voters in different districts who said they want upazila polls before parliamentary election... Democracy cannot be rooted and strengthened without election to the local bodies," he added.

Sakhawat strongly differed with the political parties who questioned independence of the Election Commission. "EC is now taking decision in all matters of election, appointment and promo-

tion of its staff."

"Political parties are questioning the independence of the Election Commission. But the two major parties that ruled the country for 15 years had kept EC under their grip," he said pointing at BNP and Awami League, and added, "The Election Commission has got independence under the present caretaker government."

Earlier Sakhawat visited the voter listing and NID card programmes at Farakkabad Primary School and Damail Government Primary School.

Strong local govt system a must for sustainable democracy

Say Barisal UP chairmen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Union parishad (UP) chairmen and members of Barisal Division yesterday called for a strong, autonomous local government system to ensure sustainable democracy and promote good governance in the country.

They said lawmakers, ministers and administration officials have always wanted to keep local government bodies in their control in the past, rendering them incapable of working freely.

The UP officials were speaking at a meeting at Ashwini Kumar Hall in Barisal, organised by Bangladesh Union Parishad Oikya Jote.

Prof Dr Anisuzzaman, chairman of philosophy department at Dhaka University, was chief guest at the programme. He called for active participation of the armed forces in government for the sake of democracy.

About eight hundred chairmen and members from 339 union parishads of Barisal Division took part in the programme.

The UP officials complained that although the lowest tier of the local government system has been given budgetary power on paper, vested quarters have always stood in the way of implementing the provision.

They said they prefer local-

body elections before national polls because this would ensure elections free from political interference and administrative control.

Calling for the elimination of gender discrimination in status and power, female UP members said even though they represent three wards in a union parishad council, their roles have always been insignificant.

Dr Anisuzzaman said union parishads should be strengthened as democracy cannot survive without a powerful local government.

He put emphasis on the active participation of the defence force in a democratic government, saying development of the nation would not be possible otherwise.

They said they prefer local-

Bangladeshi shot dead by BSF in Sherpur

UNB, Sherpur

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) gunned down a Bangladeshi national at Kharamura frontier in Sribordi upazila early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Marak Sangma, 35.

BDR sources said BSF troops opened fire on Sangma near main pillar No.1098 of the border, at about 12:45am while he was collecting firewood, leaving him dead on the spot.

BDR sent a letter to their Indian counterparts protesting the incident.

Both the sides later agreed to hold a flag meeting to defuse tension in the border area following the killing.

Sandoz Gold Award for 3 physicians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sandoz Gold Award was conferred on three renowned physicians yesterday for their outstanding contributions to health sector.

The recipients are late Dr Mohammad Ibrahim, founder of Birdem (Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation in Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders), National Professor MR Khan and National Professor Brig (retd) Abdul Malik.

Managing Director of Novartis (Bangladesh) Limited and Head of Sandoz Ashfaqur ur Rahman handed over the award to the awardees and their representative at a symposium at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.

At the symposium organised by Novartis, findings of a clinical trial titled 'Azithromycin versus Ciprofloxacin for the treatment of Uncomplicated Enteric Fever in a Randomized Trial in Bangladesh' was also disseminated.

The study was done at the Chittagong Medical College and Hospital and at the private chamber of the investigators in the port city.

From the trial it was found that azithromycin is equally effective like ciprofloxacin for the treatment of uncomplicated typhoid fever in adults, said the experts.

Of the newer alternative drugs, azithromycin offers an easy treatment of typhoid fever, they added.

The antibiotic is also used for the treatment of upper respiratory tract infection, skin and soft tissue infection.

Dr Mohammad Mahtab Uddin Hassan and Prof Mohammad Redwanur Rahman delivered the keynote speeches at the symposium which was attended by around 800 medical professionals.

Prof Mohammad Hanif, head of the paediatrics department at Bangladesh Institute of Child Health, Prof Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman, director of the National Institute of Diseases of Chest and Hospital, Prof AZM Maidul Islam, chairman of the dermatology and venerology department at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), Prof M Alauddin, chairman of otolaryngology department at BSMMU, Prof AKM Rafique Uddin of medicine department at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, and Prof Latifa Shamsuddin were present at the symposium as panelists.

Obituary

Comrade Sayeruddin Ahmad, one of the organisers of the liberation war and a veteran leader of the 'Tevhaga Movement', passed away due to old age complications at his residence at Badarganj upazila in Rangpur yesterday at the age of 86, says a press release.

He left behind his daughter and son to mourn his death.

CPB, Left Democratic Front and Bangladesh Krishak Samity expressed deep shock at his death.



Bangladesh Chhatra League stages a token hunger strike in front of the Aparajeyo Bangla on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding unconditional release of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and her proper treatment abroad.

Export manpower from munga-prone areas

Speakers say at seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday urged the government to take special initiative to export manpower from munga-prone areas of the country to eliminate seasonal hunger from those regions.

They said people of the northern areas are still lagging behind others in going abroad for jobs. Therefore these people are facing an uneven socio-economic structure in terms of income generation.

The months of October and November are known as 'munga' period in Bangladesh when food stocks run out and job opportunities dry up in some northern districts before the main harvest in December.

People of the districts including Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari and Rangpur face munga, a famine like situation that prevails for a certain

period almost every year in these districts.

"The government should take measures to permanently solve the problem by launching a long term scheme. And exporting manpower from the munga regions could be a way to generate income in the household level," said economist Prof Mozaffar Ahmed at the seminar on 'Government and Non-government initiative on Combating Munga'.

Social Development Foundation (SDF) organised the seminar, chaired by its president Dr Akbar Ali Khan. Dr Quazi Mesbahuddin Ahmed, managing director of Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Rashidan Islam Rahman, research director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), Dr Lelin Azad, an independent researcher, also spoke at the seminar.

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky 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 35.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 17.5 degrees Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:08pm today and rises at 6:05am 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	33.4	23.6	56	41
Chittagong	29.8	22.3	90	83
Rajshahi	33.8	18.4	61	45
Khulna	34.5	22.4	67	55
Barisal	33.9	22.0	77	67
Sylhet	32.4	21.2	88	65
Cox's Bazar	30.0	21.6	88	87

DHAKA TODAY

Workshop
The opening session of a four-day international workshop on early childhood care and development will be held. Venue: Asia Pacific Blossom Hotel, Baridhara. Time: 9:00am. Plan International organises the workshop.

Discussion
Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) organises a discussion to mark the World Consumers Rights Day. Venue: Cirdap Auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

View exchange meeting
A view exchange meeting with eminent Pakistani columnist and Chief Editor of the Defense Journal Ikram Shegal will be held. Venue: Dhaka Reporters' Unity. Time: 3:30pm.

Discussion
Bangladesh Mohila Samity organises a discussion to mark the World Women Day. Venue: Mohila Samity auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

Publication ceremony
The publication ceremony of a memorial book on Prof Sitara Parvin will be held. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time: 4:30pm.