



World Food Programme (WFP) Bangladesh organises a walk in the city yesterday.

'END HUNGER- WALK THE WORLD'

50pc under 5 children underweight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of children, UN officials and their partners yesterday walked the streets of the major cities, including the capital of the country calling for national and global efforts to end hunger and malnutrition of children.

Holding colourful festoons and banners and wearing T-shirts that carried slogans 'End Hunger-Walk the World', they walked to raise awareness and funds for WFP to provide school meals to the millions of children who attend schools hungry everyday.

The walk was organised by World Food Programme (WFP) Bangladesh and its partners TNT and Unilever.

According to a WFP news release, about 50 percent children of Bangladesh under the age of five

are underweight and stunted that results in a reduced mental capacity and physical development.

The global campaign aims at raising resources for WFP to provide school meals for some 59 million children who attend school hungry everyday.

Hunger continues to be the greatest threat to health worldwide, killing a child every six seconds, while high commodity and fuel prices coupled with an increase in natural disasters threaten to wipe out any gains made against hunger in recent years, it added.

In the capital, the children accompanied by the officials and employees of WFP, its partners Helen Keller International (HKI), Standard Chartered Bank and TNT Express also joined the walk from IDB Bhaban to Chandrima Udyan. Similar walk programmes were

also held in Chittagong, Jessore, Comilla, Gazipur, Khulna, Chandpur and Narayanganj.

Talking to newsmen after the end of the walk near Chandrima Udyan, WFP Acting Representative in Bangladesh Edward Kallon said, "We are here to stop hunger, especially of the children."

Bangladesh achieved good success in Boro production this season, but rice price is not likely to come down shortly, he said, adding that safety net programmes should be there to help poor people and children.

In collaboration with the government, the WFP under its school feeding programme provides a 75 gram packet of biscuits fortified with vitamins and minerals to six lakh poor children in six districts.

"WFP has plans to expand the programme for five million children," Edward added.

Standard Chartered Bank Chief Executive Officer Osman Murad, TNT Country Manager Turab-ur Rahman and WFP Head of External Relations Enamul Haque also spoke.

End Hunger-Walk the World was evolved from an initiative of TNT employees in Asia in 2003, with Unilever joining as key organiser in 2007.

Over the past five years, the event mobilised around one million participants and raised funds to feed over one lakh children in schools for one year.

Deputy attorney general resigns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Attorney General Md Anwarul Azim Khair, who was appointed by the previous BNP-led four-party-alliance government, resigned from his post yesterday.

He has sent his resignation letter to the President through the attorney general.

In his letter, Anwarul said he tendered his resignation due to personal difficulties.

WORLD CANCER SURVIVORS' DAY OBSERVED

1.5 lakh die of cancer a year

Experts tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a discussion yesterday said there are around 12 lakh cancer patients in the country and two lakh new patients are added annually of which 1.5 lakh patients die due to the disease.

If detected earlier, 90 percent cancer is curable especially in the case of cervical and breast cancer, they added.

Experts said this at the discussion organised by Dhaka Ahsania

Mission (DAM) at the National Museum auditorium to mark the World Cancer Survivors' Day.

They further said though treatment of cancer is available in the country and it can be cured if diagnosed early, still a large number of people seek treatment at the advanced stage of the disease.

Lack of awareness among the people and absence of expert oncologists in peripheral areas hinder cancer patients to be diagnosed and treated earlier, they

added. Presided over by DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam, the discussion was attended by Amsterdam University Prof Emeritus ABMF Karim and National Professor MR Khan as the special guests.

Bangladesh Scouts, Girls Guides, Red Crescent, doctors, nurses and civil society members took part in it.

DAM has been observing the day since the last five years with a view to building awareness in the society for the prevention and early detection of cancer and also to develop the treatment facilities for cancer patients.

World Cancer Survivors' Day is a worldwide annual celebration of cancer survivors. During the event, participants unite in a symbolic way to show the world that life after a cancer diagnosis even can be a hopeful reality, the speakers added.

There is a scarcity of oncologists, well-trained nurses and technician and of course the instrumental support for the treatment of cancer patients in our country.

"The government has donated Tk 10 crore for establishing the Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH). It has also planned to provide Tk 39 crore through a project to facilitate treatment of the poor people," said Brig Gen (Retd) MA Malek, adding that the well-off section of the society should also come forward to support the treatment of the patients.

The experts recommended to maintain personal hygiene, avoid the use of tobacco, take high fibre-rich diet, avoid rich food, take green leafy vegetable, regular screening of breast and cervical cancer at appropriate age and take early step for the detection of cancer.

AMCH Senior Registrar Dr Subrata Mistry presented the keynote paper, while AMCH Joint Director Brig Gen Dr Syed Fazle Rahim and AMCH Managing Director M Fazlur Rahman also spoke.

The discussion was followed by a procession that started from in front of the High Court Mazar and ended at the National Museum.



Bangladesh Scouts and Dhaka Ahsania Mission jointly take out a colourful procession in the city yesterday marking the World Cancer Survivors' Day.

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