

Website for people living with HIV/AIDS launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ashar Alo Society (AAS) yesterday launched its HIV Help Line Project and a website to provide treatment and other support for the people living with HIV/AIDS maintaining confidentiality.

The speakers at the press briefing organised by AAS at the National Press Club in the city said very few people in the country know detailed about HIV/AIDS and how it spreads.

People's knowledge about HIV/AIDS is still limited with the jingle of the advertisement 'Bachte Hole Jante Hobe' (You should know if you want to live), they said, adding that people are yet to know which information they should know, where and how to get that information. People hardly ask about the disease or go to the organisations working on HIV/AIDS due to a cultural barrier.

So, the project has been taken to provide services and information maintaining privacy of the service recipients. If anyone wants any information, he or she can dial 01732801001 or 8153042 or can e-mail to 'hivhelp@yaho.com' to get information or counselling services. People can also visit the website 'www.asharalosocietybd.org' to know about the society and the services it provides.

Ashar Alo Society Executive Director Habiba Akter said, "Social acceptability regarding the people living with HIV/AIDS is yet to take place. That is why, AAS has taken up the project to disseminate information on HIV/AIDS, how the disease spreads, how and where the people living with HIV/AIDS would receive their treatment through the help line."

Still a large number of people do not want to come to the service providers fearing a social stigma that leads to spread the disease silently, she added.

The society has been working with the people living with HIV/AIDS since 1998. It also provides them with treatment support maintaining confidentiality. HASAB Executive Director Dr Nazneen Akter, Voluntary Service Overseas Bangladesh Programme Manager Sarker Faisal Khaled and AAS Medical Consultant Dr Nilufar Begum also took part in the press briefing.

KILLING OF TRANSPORT WORKER
6 robbers to die

UNB, Chuadanga

A Chuadanga court yesterday sentenced six robbers to death and another robber to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for killing a transport worker during a highway robbery about two years ago.

The condemned convicts are Abul Bashar, Khokon and Joad Ali of Chuadanga, Manik of Kushtia, Alamgir of Jessore and Jahangir Alam of Rajbari.

The other convict who was jailed for 10 years is Abdur Rashid. Additional District and Sessions

Judge Motahar Hossain handed down the verdict.

Five other accused, however, were acquitted as the charges brought against them could not be proved. One of them has already died.

According to the prosecution, the inter-district gang of armed robbers swooped on Alamdanga-bound Ekata Deluxe bus from Dhaka on December 28, 2006 and started robbing the passengers when the bus reached Ruakuli.

They also stabbed the bus supervisor, Azad, to death during an altercation with him.



A broken manhole without cover on a road in Purana Paltan poses danger to pedestrians as well as passengers. Local people have put up a pole with red cloth to make passers-by aware of the danger. The photo was taken yesterday.

Tk 3cr Indian clothes seized in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday seized a huge quantity of Indian clothes worth around Tk 3 crore from a market in Chittagong.

The BDR men claimed that the seized clothes were smuggled from India.

Acting on a tip-off, a BDR team during a seven-hour drive raided some six godowns on the 3rd floor of Khaza Market near the Station Road adjacent to Reazuddin Bazar and seized the clothes.

Around 1000 general traders and staff of the market staged a demonstration during the raid claiming that those clothes were legally bought.

Sources said BDR members cordoned the market at 5:00am and started the raid at around 10:00am with the help of a magistrate.

They broke open the locks, entered the six godowns and seized the huge quantity of Indian clothes, mostly sarees and ready-made garments, worth around Tk 3 crore, a BDR official said.

At one stage, traders staged a demonstration protesting seizure of the clothes. However, police and Rab officials were deployed on the spot.

President of the traders' association of the market Mahmudul Hoque told The Daily Star that not a single piece of the seized clothes were illegally stored in the market.

Deputy Commander of 28 Rifles Battalion Maj AKM Nurul Bahar said nobody came to us claiming possession of the clothes, adding that the association leaders also could not show any valid document in this regard.

"We told them to bring valid documents within 24 hours," the official added.

Bangladesh's role in health sector lauded

METRO DESK

Sarah Sullivan, an expert of World Health Organisation, yesterday lauded the role of Bangladesh in the health sector for achieving targets in major areas with sustained efforts continued by the health related workforce.

She was addressing a seminar at International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) in the city organised by its College of Nursing, says a press release.

The seminar threw a light on WHO activities in the country's health sector by way of promoting development in all important areas, including health security programme, performance in core areas and strengthening research, information and system development works.

Dr Karen Lund, chair of the nursing programme, was also present on the occasion.

Sara Sullivan also expressed her observation in the area of nursing and stressed the need for strengthening training facilities and improving the working atmosphere of nursing professionals.



BMF Chairman Maj Gen (Retd) KM Shafiqullah speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Col (retd) Shawkat Ali and journalist Shahriar Kabir and on his left is Prof AK Azad Chowdhury.

Preserve history of liberation war
Freedom fighters urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighters yesterday called on the government to preserve the history of the liberation war and try the war criminals in a special tribunal.

They also called for steps to build a memorial to the Indian soldiers killed in the liberation war at Suhrawardi Udyan in the city.

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Foundation (BMF), a platform for freedom fighters, placed the demands at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city where they also paid tribute to late Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, who was the Indian army chief during the liberation war.

In a written speech, BMF Chairman Maj Gen (Retd) KM Shafiqullah said, "India had helped us a lot during our liberation war. Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw's war strategy helped us achieve our independence easily."

He also urged the government to name the road from Paltan intersection to Kadam Phoara (fountain) after Manekshaw, the DIT Avenue after former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi and the road alongside Suhrawardi Udyan as General Aurora Square.

Replying to a question, Shafiqullah said the government, the Election Commission and the army chief all are saying that the war criminals must be tried, but no specific steps have been taken to this end.

Maj Gen (retd) CR Dutta said the freedom fighters should now be united to realise their demands -- the trial of war criminals and preservation of the correct history of the liberation war.

The BMF will hold a memorial

Urs

METRO DESK

The annual Urs of Hazrat Shah Syed Azizul Bari (RH) Shah Saheb of Paribag will be held on Friday on the Mazar premises at Shahbagh in the city, says a press release.

Munajat will be offered at 11:00am.

Govt subsidy at DU canteens demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Chhatra Odhikar, a platform of Dhaka University (DU) students, yesterday staged a demonstration on the campus to realise their three-point demand, including the government subsidy on food items at the hall canteens.

Around 50 students of different dormitories formed a human chain in front of the arts building at around 12:00pm to press home their demands.

Later, they took out a protest procession that paraded different streets on the campus and held a protest rally in front of the central library.

Students demanded reducing prices of food items and ensuring quality of foods at the canteens, adding that the price of per meal at the canteens is increasing day by day due to increasing prices of essentials, but the quality of food is not up to the satisfactory level.

They alleged that house tutors of the halls never pay their attention to the quality of food items and environment of the canteens.

The students called on the university authorities to take necessary steps immediately to fulfil their demands. They will submit a memorandum to DU Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz on Saturday to press home their demands.

Kamal Uddin of Bangabandhu Hall, Omar Faruq Shaon of Muhsin Hall, Amirul Islam of Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall and Ashraf Alam Bokul of Jahurul Haq Hall spoke at the rally.

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দুর্জয় তারুণ্য দুর্নীতি রুখবেই

দুর্নীতিবিরোধী ছায়া সংসদ বিতর্ক প্রতিযোগিতা

ট্রান্সপারেন্সি ইন্টারন্যাশনাল বাংলাদেশ (টিআইবি) বিশ্বাস করে শাসন ব্যবস্থার প্রতিটি ধাপে সততা প্রতিষ্ঠায় জাতীয় সংসদ অন্যতম একটি প্রধান স্তম্ভ। সংসদ সদস্যদের দায়বদ্ধতা ও জবাবদিহিতা নিশ্চিত করার মাধ্যমে কার্যকর জাতীয় সংসদ প্রতিষ্ঠা করা সম্ভব যা সততা প্রতিষ্ঠায় গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা রাখবে। দেশের সাধারণ মানুষের অনেক দিনের প্রত্যাশা এমন একটি কার্যকর সংসদের। জনগণের এই দাবিকে বাস্তবে রূপ দিতে অগ্রণী ভূমিকা পালন করবে দেশের তরুণ সমাজ। তাই দুর্নীতিবিরোধী মূল্যবোধ ধারণকারী ও স্বদেশপ্রেমে উদ্ভুদ্ধ তরুণদের অংশগ্রহণে একটি কাল্পনিক সংসদের উদ্বোধন তুলে ধরতে টিআইবি আয়োজন করেছে দুর্নীতিবিরোধী ছায়া সংসদ বিতর্ক প্রতিযোগিতার।

প্রতিযোগিতা ও অংশগ্রহণের নিয়মাবলী:

- যেকোনো কলেজ ও বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষার্থীরা এককভাবে নিজস্ব উদ্যোগে প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবে। তবে শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ একাধিক সদস্যের বিতর্কিক দল নির্বাচিত করে পাঠাতে পারবে। ২০০৮ সালের এসএসসি পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ শিক্ষার্থীরাও প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবে। সকল ক্ষেত্রে প্রতিযোগীদের মূল্যায়ন ব্যক্তিগত যোগ্যতার ভিত্তিতে করা হবে।
- প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রত্যেক প্রতিযোগীকে সংশ্লিষ্ট শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান/ বিভাগীয় প্রধান কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত প্রত্যয়ন পত্র/ পরিচয় পত্র/ নম্বর পত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, এক কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজ ছবি ও টেলিফোন নম্বর (যদি থাকে) টিআইবি বরাবর আবেদন করতে হবে। নামের উপরে 'বিতর্ক প্রতিযোগিতা' উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- টেলিফোনে বা ই-মেইলের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করা যাবে। এ ক্ষেত্রে আবেদনকারীকে প্রতিযোগিতার পূর্বে প্রত্যয়নপত্র/ পরিচয় পত্র/ নম্বর পত্র প্রদান করতে হবে।
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