



Prof MA Hye speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is cancer survivor Shirin Akhter and on his right is Prof SM Anisur Rahman.

First ever sports competition for cancer survivors Nov 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation is going to witness the first ever sports competition for cancer survivors on November 26.

With a view to celebrating the spirit of the cancer survivors, Sanofi-aventis Bangladesh and National Sports Council will jointly organise the event titled 'Spirit to Survive' at Women Sports Complex at Dhanmondi in the city.

The organisers said these at a press conference at National Press Club in the city yesterday.

The competition will feature various events, including athletics, archery, shooting, swimming, paddleboat racing, etc, said the organisers.

Interested cancer survivors are requested to enrol their names for the competition.

They can dial 01711600652 (Dr M Ashaduzzaman) or 01711635448 (Dr

Mesba Faruqui) for further details.

A three-day programme will be held on November 12-14 ahead of the competition marking the Olympic Day Run 2008. Two cancer survivors from Teknaf and Tetulia will come to the city with the 'Flame of Hope', a torch like the one of the Olympics.

One of them, Shirin Akhter, a cancer survivor from Khulna, shared her experiences at the conference.

"It was a great challenge for me to defeat cancer. Encouragement from my family and friends and continued support from the doctors helped me win this battle."

"I am going to take this challenge to relay the 'Flame of Hope', because I want all the cancer survivors in the country to join this sporting event," she added.

"Cancer can be cured if detected earlier and treated properly," said Prof MA Hye, a noted cancer special-

ist, adding that mental strength and courage help cancer survivors fight against the disease.

Dr Rezaul Farid Khan said, "This type of sporting activities will definitely minimise physical and mental stress of the patients and eliminate the social stigma regarding cancer."

Col (Retd) M Wali Ullah, director and CEO of Bangladesh Olympic Association, called upon other sponsors to patronise more of such programmes for cancer survivors to boost their spirit.

He also stressed the need for taking initiatives for integrating the cancer survivors in the mainstream.

Muhammad Akbar Husain, secretary to National Sports Council, and Prof Dr SM Anisur Rahman, cancer specialist to National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital, also spoke at the conference.

Community teachers demand pay scale

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Community primary teachers yesterday demanded that they be brought under the national pay scale instead of being provided with only Tk 1200 a month.

The demands came at a rally of the Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers' Association at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

"All the governments, including the caretaker government, have taken various steps in the education sector since 1995 but they are showing a step motherly attitude to 9,968 teachers of 3,778 community primary schools," said Hafizur

Rahman, general secretary of the association.

Annually Tk 42 crore is spent for more than 8 lakh students of community primary schools and this amount is very meager in comparison to other government and non-government primary schools, he added.

As a result, the teachers of the community primary schools have lost their interest in taking classes.

They are taking classes only for two hours a day since August 26, whereas they are supposed to take classes 7 hours a day.

Habibul Ahsan Bablu, president of the association, demanded the government meet their demand immediately.

For the sake of the annual examinations and junior scholarship examinations, he urged the teachers to take classes for 7 hours a day.

If the government does not accept their demand by November 30, they would again take classes for two hours a day from December 1.

Ramzan Ali Mondol, AKM Emdad, Nadira Sultana, Abu Hanif, Mozammel Haque, Tariqul Islam, Nurul Islam, Ashraf Hossain, Asaduzzaman, Salma Begum and Bhabna Rani also spoke.

A procession was brought out following the rally that paraded different city streets.

Ex-DCC commissioner jailed for five years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday sentenced former Dhaka City Corporation ward-37 councillor Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan to five years' rigorous imprisonment for misappropriating government relief materials.

Judge Ashraf Hossain of the Special Court-5 also fined Ruhul Amin Tk 6.40 lakh in default of which he is to serve term for one more year.

The court set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises, how-

ever, acquitted Sujat Ali and Manjur Alam, two fugitive private secretaries of the ward commissioner, since charges brought against them were not proved.

Abdus Samad, assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), filed the case with Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station on March 2 last year against Ruhul Amin and his accomplices in connection with misappropriating corrugated iron (CI) sheets meant for government relief.

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