

WORLD CANCER DAY OBSERVED

Cancer kills 1.5 lakh a year

Speakers tell rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations observed the World Cancer Day in the country yesterday as elsewhere across the globe to raise awareness of cancer and its preventive measures.

Experts at a rally said as the curative treatment of the disease is very expensive and most of the people of the country cannot afford the cost, it is important to take cautionary measures to prevent cancer.

Globally, one billion people are now suffering from cancer a day which means one in every six people suffer from the disease and it is time to raise awareness in the society, they added.

To observe the day, Bangladesh Cancer Society, Bangladesh Oral Cancer Society, Diganta Memorial Cancer Foundation, Dhaka Ahsan Mission (DAM) and Bangladesh Childhood Cancer Society organised a number of programmes, including rallies, discussions

and cultural programmes.

Bangladesh Cancer Society formed a human chain and also launched a poster with the call 'Avoid obesity in childhood which may increase one's risk of cancer in later life'.

It also called on the government to observe February 4 as the World Cancer Day officially and promote preventive activities against cancer throughout the country.

With the theme 'Today's children tomorrow's world,' DAM brought out a colourful procession from in front of the National Press Club that ended at the National Museum in the city.

A discussion was followed by the rally where Health and Family Welfare Minister AFM Ruhul Haque was present as the chief guest.

The experts said there are more than a million cancer patients in the country, while another 1.5 lakh victims die annually. But there is little scope for cancer treatment.

Cancer specialist Dr

Kamruzzaman Chowdhury said very few government and private hospitals have the capacity to treat only 25,000 cancer patients in the country, adding that approximately Tk 6,000 crore goes out of the country annually for the treatment purpose abroad.

The health minister said the government would extend support to DAM in establishing a nursing training institute, as qualified nurses are required along with doctors and other medical professionals.

"Cancer will have to be conquered instead of being afraid of it," the slogan of the day needs to be disseminated among the masses across the country. A mass awareness programme is needed to combat the deadly disease, he added.

DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam, Health Secretary Sheikh Altaf Ali, ADG of health directorate Dr Hosna Ara Tahmin, M Fazlur Rahman and Brig Gen (retd) Dr Syed Fazle Rahim were also present.

The experts further said that obesity increases the risk of cancer which should be taken care of. At the same time, smoking -- both active and passive -- increases the risk of cancer.

At a meet the press organised by Bangladesh Childhood Cancer Society, Prof MA Mannan, chairman of Pediatric Haematology and Oncology department at BSMMU and president of Bangladesh Childhood Cancer Society said 44 percent patients, who are admitted to the BSMMU hospital with childhood cancer, leave it without any treatment due to lack of money.

He also lauded the role of the immediate-past caretaker government for setting up child cancer units at eight medical colleges.

Diganta Memorial Cancer Foundation also took out a procession from the National Press Club and organised a meeting, a get-together of cancer survivors and a cultural programme on the foundation premises.

War criminals should be tried under due process of law

Says EC envoy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Ambassador and Head of the delegation of European Commission in Bangladesh Stefan Frowein has said the war criminals should be tried under due process of law.

"I think what is important is that due process is followed during the trial," he said.

"As far as I am informed, the prime minister has asked the United Nations to see to the matter and may get some support in selecting the right way of doing it," he added.

The EC ambassador told this to The Daily Star during his visit to Kumudini Hospital and Bharatshwari Homes at Mirzapur in Tangail on Tuesday.

He also hoped that the country would find out the right way of holding the trial with due process.

Managing Director of Kumudini Welfare Trust Rajib Prasad Saha and Director (education) Protibha Mutsuddi, Director of Kumudini Hospital Dr Dulal Poddar, Principal of Bharatshwari Homes Ulfatun Nesa and assistant administra-

Int'l Permanent Arbitration Court Secy Gen in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Secretary General of International Permanent Court of Arbitration Christian MJ Krone arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a two-day visit.

He was received at the airport by Ashraf Uddin, director general of the administration cell of the foreign ministry.

Krone will hold meetings with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Hasan Mahmud and Foreign Secretary Md Touhid Hossain at the ministry today.

Later in the evening, he will hold a meeting with Law Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed at the state guesthouse Padma.

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable

The weekly magazine Shaptak 2000 and Concern Worldwide jointly organise a roundtable on disaster management. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

Sandhani organises a seminar marking its 32nd founding anniversary. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

Flower show

The National Association of UNESCO Clubs in Bangladesh will hold a daylong flower show competition. BANBEIS Bhawan. Time: 10:30am.

Chinese Festival

The Chinese Spring Festival 2009 and the grand final of North South University Agro-Business Plan Competition 2008 will be held. Venue: NSU Banani campus. Time: 5:00pm.

Spring semester

The spring semester orientation programme of Darul Ahsan University will be held. Venue: Darul Ahsan University, Motijheel campus. Time: 3:00pm.

tor of Kumudini Medical College and Hospital Syed Haider Ali accompanied the ambassador during his visit.

Later, the ambassador attended a cultural function organised by Bharatshwari Homes at Ananda Niketan. The students of the institute performed at the function.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should make public the provisions of agreement on transit before any such agreement is reached, as the issue involves national interest, former law minister Moudud Ahmed said yesterday.

Moudud, also a member of the standing committee of BNP, said the government should explain everything about the transit issue and make them public for public opinion.

The government should take any decisions on the issue on the basis of public opinion, as it would not be right to take the decisions unilaterally, he said, adding that the issue is very important for the country.

The BNP leader further said the government should take the opposition parties into confidence and discuss the issue.

He also said the people who are saying that giving transit would go against national interest must spell out the logic of their arguments. At the same time, the government must also outline the pros and cons of the transit, he added.

On efforts to reduce trade gap with neighbours through road connectivity, Moudud said such steps may help facilitate more trade, but independence and national sovereignty must be given the first priority.

Asked about the stance his party will take in the event of the government taking any decisions unilaterally, he said his party would protest if the decision goes against national interest.

"We would mobilise public opinion and wage a movement, if needed," he added.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Dry weather is likely to continue over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during late night till morning. Met Office said.

Night temperature may remain unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 29.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 9.2 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:48pm today and rises at 6:37am 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	26.3	13.4	52	55
Chittagong	27.0	14.7	65	47
Rajshahi	26.0	09.5	95	60
Khulna	27.6	14.0	79	55
Barisal	27.9	13.0	75	62
Sylhet	27.9	13.8	65	56
Cox's Bazar	29.0	14.2	52	58

Free treatment by American surgeons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of renowned surgeons and gynecologists from the United States will see patients and perform operations on them free of cost at Gonoshasthaya Hospital near the National Memorial in Savar from February 24 to 29, says a press release.

The team will perform operations on patients with urinary incontinence, Rift Valley Fever (RVF) and Vesico Vaginal Fistula (VVF). Besides, they will also perform all types of abdominal surgical operations.

Interested patients are requested to register with Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital, House #14 A, Road # 6, Dhanmondi, immediately on payment of a fee of Tk 50.

PM invited to attend World Water Forum in Turkey

UNB, Dhaka

The Jatiya Sangsad and let the people know under which agreement it is going to give transit, he told reporters after a discussion on the transit issue organised by Nagorik Forum at the National Press Club.

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Visiting Danish Minister for Climate and Energy Connie Hedegaard calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the city yesterday.

DEATH OF JUI Arrest of responsible docs demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of Razia Sultan Jui, who died due to the alleged faulty surgery on her at a city hospital, yesterday formed a human chain in front of the Central Shaheen Minar demanding arrest of the responsible doctors.

Several socio-cultural organisations and a number of local people participated in the programme. The deceased's brother Asaduzzaman Swapan alleged that his sister, who was a fashion designer of Red Point Garments at DEPZ, died on January 24 due to faulty surgery by the doctors of Galaxy Hospital Pvt Ltd at Mirpur.

Bangladesh's medical aid for Palestinians

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday dispatched emergency medicines and medical equipment worth 20,000 US dollars for war-wounded Palestinians. The director general (West Asia) of the foreign ministry handed over the aid to the Palestine ambassador.

The medicines will be distributed through Egyptian Red Crescent to the Palestinian people wounded in the recent Israeli invasion in Gaza Strip.

High officials of health ministry were present on the occasion.

85th birthday of Father Rigon today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 85th birthday of Father Mario Rigon, an Italian priest, freedom fighter and litterateur, says a press release.

Father Rigon, who migrated to Bangladesh in the fifties, has dedicated his life to caring for others through constructive and creative activities.

During the Liberation War in 1971, he arranged treatment and food for the valiant freedom fighters.

Father Rigon has translated a number of publications of Tagore, Nazrul, Jasimuddin and Lalon into Italian.

Father Rigon, who helped establish 17 educational institutions in the southern region of the country, has been living in Shelabunia village in Mongla permanently.