

5 lakh women suffer from breast cancer

Brig Gen Suraiya tells seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Raising awareness among the people is a must to combat cancer along with its early diagnosis and proper treatment facilities, said the speakers at a seminar yesterday.

They said women aged over 18 should examine their breast regularly while early marriage should be discouraged to prevent cervical cancer.

The seminar was organised jointly by the Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB) and Bangladesh Friendship Education Society (BFES) at Dhaka Club.

The theme of the seminar was 'Cancer awareness, prevention and control programme in Bangladesh: Focus on Cervical and Breast Cancer'.

Quoting a recent study Brig Gen Suraiya Rahman said of the 11,000 women some 7,982 were diagnosed with breast cancer following an examination.

"It was also found that among the diagnosed, 98 percent were aged above 50 and five to 10 percent of the cases are hereditary," she said, adding that it is estimated that

some 5,00,000 women have been suffering from breast cancer, a figure which is not at all insignificant.

While speaking on cervical cancer Prof Sultana Razia Begum of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) said early marriage and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are mainly responsible for cervical cancer.

In November 2005 some 11,000 women went through

VIA test and nine percent of them were diagnosed with cervical cancer or at risk of cervical cancer, she added.

Dr Richard R Love, professor of medicine and public health of Ohio State University of the USA, and scientific director of International Breast Cancer Research Foundation, also spoke as guest speaker while Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly, chairman of CDRB, presided over the discussion.



Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly speaks at a seminar at Dhaka Club in the city yesterday. On his left are Prof Sultana Razia Begum and Prof Richard R Love and on his right are Dr Maswoodur Rahman Prince, Brig Gen Suraiya Rahman and Md Enayet Karim.

QAU MI MADRASA CURRICULA Govt urged not to include 'controversial' Ulemas in commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alin O Salish Kendra (ASK), a human rights and legal aid resource centre, yesterday hailed the government plan to set up a commission with some Ulemas to modernise the course curricula of Qau mi madrasas.

But the ASK leaders called on the government not to include some 'controversial' Ulemas in the proposed commission who have alleged links with militants, says a press release.

Mentioning the meeting between the prime minister and madrasa leaders, ASK said though the announcement of cancelling pre-scheduled rally by madrasa leaders is a temporary sigh of relief, but some questions may still raise.

"Some of the Qau mi madrasa leaders who sat with the prime minister in the meeting are accused of their alleged involvement in militancy," it said in a statement.

The ASK leaders said how could the people modernise the curricula of Qau mi madrasas who use religion as a political tool.

They urged the government not to accuse anybody grossly and take any steps which would raise questions in the people's minds.

'Steps to be taken to rescind anti-people laws'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Chairman of the Law Commission Justice Md Abdur Rashid yesterday said that he would take initiative to rescind the anti-people laws.

"There is no definition of black law, but there are some laws which are still now in force against peace, progress, welfare and interest of the people," he said.

Justice Abdur Rashid, who got the appointment letter yesterday afternoon, will join the new office today morning.

The law commission chairman said he might face a serious challenge at the first stage in performing the tasks of modernising the country's law and judicial system, since there is a shortage of manpower and logistic supports in the law commission and there is no specific organogram or rule there on conducting research on the laws.

Justice Rashid said that he is very optimistic to tackle challenges, since the government has assured him of providing all kinds of assistances and supports to make the law commission vibrant and active.

The prime minister has recently appointed former High Court judge Abdur Rashid as chairman of the law commission as per the Law Commission Act 1996.

The post of chairman of the commission had been lying vacant since December 5, 2007 when the term of the then chairman Justice Mustafa Kamal expired.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina calls on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Road accidents kill 8

METRO DESK

Eight people were killed and 96 others injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj, Mymensingh, Comilla and Brahmanbaria in the last two days.

Our correspondent in Sirajganj reports: Four people were killed and 35 others injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Bogra highway in the district's Koddar Morh area yesterday.

The accident took place at around 1:30pm when a Dhaka-bound bus rammed a passenger's shade while trying to give side to a motorbike.

Three people died on the spot while another succumbed to his injuries at Sirajganj Sadar Hospital.

Two of the dead were identified as Shahjahan Ali, 30, and Islam, 28, but the identity of the other two could not be known immediately.

The injured were admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital and

Kamarkhanda Upazila Health Complex.

Among the injured, condition of two is stated to be critical.

Our correspondent in Mymensingh adds: A man was killed and 50 others were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Beltali yesterday noon.

The accident took place at around 12:30pm when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Mymensingh collided head-on with another bus.

The victim was identified as Abul Quasem, 40, the driver of the Dhaka-bound bus.

Among the injured, 31 were taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) while the rest were treated at local clinics.

A correspondent in Comilla adds: An elderly woman was killed in a road accident on Companyganj-Ramchandrapur highway at Rahimpur at Muradnagar yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Ayina Begum, 60.

Sources said the accident occurred when a passenger bus knocked her down while she was going to the residence of her son-in-law.

He was rushed to Muradnagar Health Complex in a critical condition where on duty doctors declared her dead.

Our correspondent in Brahmanbaria adds: Two people were killed and eleven others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Shahbajpur First Gate Point at Sarail in the district on Sunday night.

The dead were identified as motorcyclists Md Raseel, 28, and Md Nurullah, 35.

The accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound bus from Sylhet dashed a motorbike.

Raseel died on the spot while Nurullah succumbed to his injuries at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

New timing in educational institutions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Timing in all single shift government and non-government primary, secondary, higher secondary schools, colleges and equivalent madrasas outside the metropolitan cities has been rescheduled yesterday.

The new timing of 10:00am to 4:00pm will be effective from now on, says a government handout. Earlier, the timing was from 8:30am to 2:00pm.

The double-shift educational institutions will hold classes for at least five hours each shift. The managing committees of the concerned institutions will fix timing of the both the shifts considering the local conditions.

But the morning shift must be started at 8:00am, the handout said. The existing school timings, however, will remain unchanged in the metropolitan cities.

The managing committee of the educational institutions in the metropolitan areas can reschedule the timing considering local conditions, if needed. But they must keep unchanged the total duration of school hours.

12 ministries, depts start E-service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 12 ministries and departments of the government have already started to provide E-service to the people, says a press release.

It was told at a review meeting on "E-governance quick win" at the Prime Minister's Office in the city yesterday. Around 50 officials of different ministries and departments attended the meeting.

Access to Information Programme funded by UNDP organised the meeting with Mollah Wahiduzzaman, secretary to the Prime Minister's Office, in the chair.

The meeting was also told that the people from rural areas have started to get information related to livelihood through Union Information Centre (UIC) and Agriculture and Communication Centre (AICC).

The people now can pay their electric and gas bills through internet as the Power Development Board (PDB) and Titas Gas have already launched the electronic bill payment system, the meeting was also told.

Besides, the people can pay their land phone bills through SMS and know information about railway, polling centres and market prices through internet and necessary government forms are also available on internet.

Alert int'l allies about falsehood Hasina urges expatriates

ANA from New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina sought all out cooperation from the expatriates in implementing the plan of establishing digital Bangladesh.

She said this in a telephonic speech to a rally of Awami League USA chapter on the occasion of 100 days of the grand alliance government.

She also urged them to keep international allies alert about the quarter which is

engaged in falsehood against the country.

The rally was held at Banaphool restaurant at Astoria in New York yesterday morning (Bangladesh time).

Chairman of Department of Economics at Boston Framingham College Prof Dr AKM Momen coordinated the speech. Dr Siddiqur Rahman, Dr Nurun Nabi, Nizam Chowdhury, Nazmul Islam, Abdus Samad Azad and Tayebur Rahman Tony also spoke.



Chinese Ambassador Zhang Xianyi meets Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni at her office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 5)

Death of patient at correction centre sparks protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mystery shrouded the death of a patient at a drug cure and correction centre at Green Road in the city that sparked a storm of protest by locals yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Arman, 19, son of Md Sirajul Islam in the Moghbazar area.

As the news of his death spread, local people thronged the hospital and chanted slogans protesting the death.

Tejgaon police said they recovered the body which was hanging from a ceiling fan at a room at Brain and Life Hospital and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Sirajul Islam told The Daily Star that, "I got my son admitted to the correction centre as a drug addict on April 15, but he suffered gruesome torture and they used wrong treatment, causing him death."

Managing Director of the hospital Md Fakrul Hossain said Arman committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling fan, while his two roommates went to the adjacent room to have breakfast.

Arman took treatment at the hospital for two months and a half last year, he added. Police said though the room has a CCTV camera, there was no video footage of

the incident.

Fakrul said they do not record footage as they use CCTV to allow the relatives of the patients to see the patients' condition from the office room of the hospital.

BHPI students demand publication of results

JU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Bangladesh Health Professions Institute (BHPI), a sister concern of Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP), yesterday staged a demonstration in front of the campus to press home their five-point demands, including publishing result and removing of session jam.

Witnesses said the students brought out a procession and held a rally demanding publication of their results, removal of session jam and stopping misbehaviour with them.

Sources said students of Physiotherapy department had been suffering from a severe session jam since their admission.

Earlier, BHPI Principal Prof Hasan Ali had told the students that their results will be published by April 15.

Allotment of four DU guestrooms cancelled

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University (DU) authorities have cancelled allotment of four guestrooms on Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) premises to three teachers and an official on Sunday and asked them to vacate the guestrooms within four weeks.

DU Treasurer Prof Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday that the rooms cannot be allocated permanently.

Three of these people failed to pay rents regularly and the university owes them around Tk two lakh, he added.

"These four rooms were supposed to be used as guestrooms for the university's local and foreign guests. But, the last vice-chancellor allocated these rooms to three teachers and an official in 2006," said the treasurer.

"We have also asked the departments concerned to cut out the dues from their salary," Prof Mizan said adding that those rooms would be redecorated and used as guestrooms.

New charges will also be applicable.

One of the rooms was allotted to Mohammad Ilias, a lecturer of world religion department, at Tk 70 per day and the university owes him Tk 44,800, said Prof Mizan.

Two other rooms were allotted to ATM Abdullah Hel Shafi, a teacher of peace and conflict department, and Sharmin Ruma, an administrative officer of fine arts faculty, to whom the university owes Tk 58,310 and Tk 93,200 respectively, he added.

Assistant Professor Mafizur Rahman of Islamic history and culture department was also allotted a room but he paid the rents regularly.

Prof Mizan added the authorities previously temporarily allotted a room to Nazim Ahmed Seemap, a TSC official, who is still staying there without any payment.

Norwegian state secy visits Brac's work

METRO DESK

Norwegian State Secretary for International Development Hakon A Gulbrandsen undertook a field trip to Patharghata in Barguna on Sunday to observe the Sidr rehabilitation works of Brac, says a press release.

Norwegian ambassador and executive director of Brac accompanied him.

He observed the activities of Brac on improved housing for the homeless people.

The state secretary spoke to the victims about their Sidr experience and learnt how they were gradually resuming normal lives. He also talked to the local people about climate change and how they perceived its impacts.

He was impressed seeing demonstration projects of Brac on agriculture and the way it was preparing communities to adapt to climate change.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the eighth death anniversary of Surendra Nath Halder, father of Chaitanya Chandra Halder, court correspondent of The Daily Star, says a press release.

On the occasion, recitation from the Geeta, Kirtan, discussion and a prayer session will be held at his village home at Nayakandi Bajitpur under Rajoir upazila in Madaripur district.

Qulkhwani of Prof Husne Ara Kamal, wife of former Chief Justice Mustafa Kamal, will be held at the Spectra Convention Centre, Road # 7, Gulshan 1 in the city after Asr prayers on April 24, says a press release.

Friends and admirers are requested to attend the qulkhwani.

Prof Husne Ara, former director of Social Welfare Institute of Dhaka University, passed away on April 16.

She is survived by her husband and three daughters to mourn her death.

BSF returns 6 Bangladeshi boys, girls

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Six Bangladeshi adolescent boys and girls returned to Bangladesh yesterday after they had spent a long time in Indian jail.

Border Security Force (BSF) have handed the girls over to Bangladesh authorities in the evening.

Officials of Bangladesh Rifles, police and Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) were present during the handover.

The returnees were identified as Sufia Khatun, Monwara Khatun, Jashimuddin, Milon Hossain, Rasheda Khatun, Tasmina Khatun. They hailed from Jessore and Dinajpur.

The boys and girls are now under the protection of BNWLA who would later help them reunite with their families.

List finalised to fill up 85 ACC posts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A list was finalised yesterday to fill up 85 vacant posts of officer through promotion at the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) at a meeting finalised the list and is likely to place it before the Commission today, said ACC Secretary Khandaker M Asaduzzaman, who is also the chief of DPC.

The posts include director, deputy director and assistant director.

This will be the first massive promotion of officers at ACC since the Commission was constituted in 2004.

94 jr attorneys appointed

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday appointed 94 junior attorneys, including 24 female, to the Attorney General Office to help dispose of both criminal and civil cases facing the government in higher courts.

With the appointment of 94 junior attorneys, the strength of law officers of the new government stands at 147, including the attorney general, three additional attorneys general and 33 deputy attorneys general. Sixteen junior law officers appointed during the past BNP-led alliance government and emergency period are still working, sources at the Attorney General Office said.

Dr Nahar made BCPS president

DU CORRESPONDENT



Prof Dr Najmun Nahar, a pediatrician, has been elected the first female president to the executive committee of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) for 2009-10, says a press release.

The new executive committee led by Dr Nahar took over the charge on Sunday.

College student hacked to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Titumir College Student was hacked to death at Mohakhali in the capital yesterday by unknown criminals.

The dead was identified as Zahirul Islam, 22, a first year BA student of the college and was a resident of Mohakhali Staff Quarter.

Gulshan police recovered his body wrapped in a sack lying near Livestock Research Centre at Mohakhali around 11:30am yesterday and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy.

Morgue sources said the body had several injuries at head and other parts of the body.

Abdul Zabbar, brother of Zahirul said, "Zahirul went missing since Sunday noon

after he left his residence."

He alleged local criminals - Milon, Jalil, Rafiq, Karim and their associates - might have killed his brother with a connection of previous enmity.

He also said his brother was running a telephone shop at Sattala Basti Bazar in Mohakhali from where two criminals - Karim and Milon - were arrested by Rab last year.

Later the two criminals attacked Zahirul at his shop on November 26 being freed on bail as they suspected him behind their arrest.

Zahirul's mother Zulekha Begum filed a case against them with Gulshan Police Station and following the case police arrested them but they were freed on bail in the first week of April.

EC mulls server stations across country

UNB, Dhaka

The Election Commission (EC) plans to buy a flat at each thana in the city and a plot at each upazila for setting up its permanent server stations across the country to easily update the digital voter list in future.

Officials said EC has already started looking for flats in the city at an acceptable price for the stations to preserve data of all voters for updating the voter list and preparing national ID cards.

They said the EC is also looking for suitable places to set up offices in 503 thanas across the country to locally preserve the data of voters.

Talking to reporters on Sunday, Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hossain said voters would find solutions to their problems relating to their ID cards and updating the data in the voter list in those stations.

Sources said EC is working to set up the permanent offices at all upazilas, districts and divisional headquarters under an important project with assistance from different countries,

including the Netherlands.

They said it would start updating the voter list with photographs in May across the country along with preparing new ID cards for the left-out voters.

Retired army man crushed under wheels of a train

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A retired army person was crushed under the wheels of a train on rail track at Banani in the city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Harun-or-Rashid, 45, a warrant officer and a resident of Shaheed Yousuf Road area in the city.

Government Railway Police (GRP) of Kamalapur Railway Station recovered his body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Family sources said he went out of house for morning walk around 7:30am and fall victim to the accident.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Sylhet division and the regions of Noakhali and Comilla.

Prevailing moderate to severe heat wave over Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi, Ishwardi and Bogra may continue, Met office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:23pm today and rises at 5:31am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 40.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 20.1 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

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	36.1	26.8	73	65
Chittagong	31.3	27.8	73	83
Rajshahi	38.8	26.8	77	57
Khulna	37.8	27.6	71	71
Barisal	34	126.6	76	75
Sylhet	30.0	20.1	87	66
Cox's Bazar	32.8	28.2	73	78



Workshop

Centre for Disability in Development organises a workshop on assistive technology. Venue: LGED Bhaban. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

ADD in collaboration with Banglalink organises a seminar on 'Capacity building of persons with disabilities in Bangladesh: step towards making a difference'. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre. Time: 10:30am.

Workshop

South Asians for Human Rights Organisation, Bangladesh Chapter organises a workshop on rights to transparent governance. Venue