

Call to promote food safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is time to promote food safety, as increasing number of people have been suffering from various diseases in recent time due to widespread use of harmful chemicals in foods, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

They said chemicals and toxicity in foods such as the recent melamine contamination issue has once again reminded us that food safety has been a generally overlooked issue in the country.

The roundtable titled 'Food safety for Bangladesh' was organised by the Department of Applied Dietetics and Food Technology (ADFT) of

Daffodil International University (DIU) at Biam auditorium in the city. Highlighting the issue of general food safety, the speakers said diseases such as cancer, ulcer, diabetes, liver and skin problems are on the rise because of toxic contamination in foods.

They called on the government to step up its monitoring and supervision on the importers and exporters of food items, and demanded that all food production facilities must have food technologists.

Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) should play a bigger role in this regard, they added.

"The authorities should

guarantee that foods or raw materials for food items are free from chemicals, biological contamination and toxins," said Dr KM Formuzul Haque, former director of Bangladesh Institute of Food Science and Technology (BCSIR).

"The government should also ensure strict supervision and monitoring of food quality and safety programmes," he said.

According to data presented in the roundtable, 85 percent of consumers understand the importance of washing hands before handling foods. However, only 65 percent of them tend to follow the procedure.

Speaking as the chief guest, Industries Minister Dilip Barua said his ministry is taking initiatives to develop BSTI as a modern organisation.

The BSTI has been conducting regular drives against food adulteration since the month of Ramadan and the drive will continue as long as they are required, he added.

Md Sabur Khan, chairman of Daffodil International University presided the roundtable and Vice Chancellor Prof Aminul Islam, former BSTI director general Liakot Ali and Dean Mahoney of the Food Safety Unit, World Health Organisation also spoke.

e-health on the cards

Health minister tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has taken steps to introduce e-health or telemedicine system to increase people's awareness of healthcare and to give advice on health to people living in remote areas, Health and Family Welfare Minister AFM Ruhul Haque told the parliament yesterday.

"The civil surgeons of 64 districts have been provided with computers, internet connection and web cameras. Many of them have already started giving telemedicine services through video conference," he said while replying

to lawmakers' queries.

He said web cameras will be supplied to each hospital at upazila and district levels and other major hospitals in the current financial year so that they can provide telemedicine services to people living in remote areas through videoconference.

"Efforts are going on to introduce modern telemedicine services at eight hospitals in the current fiscal year," the health minister said.

He said computers with internet and web camera facility and mini laptops will be provided to each commu-

nity hospital in phases from the next financial year.

He also informed the House that the government has given mobile phone sets to each hospital at upazila and district levels so that local people can take medical advice round the clock by making phone calls.

The mobile phone numbers are shown at the website of the health directorate, he added.

The health minister said the government has taken necessary programmes to implement its dream of building a digital Bangladesh according to the party's electoral pledges by 2021.

Ershadnagar calm amid tight security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ershadnagar remained calm and quiet amid heavy deployment of law enforcers yesterday, the third day after Nippon Garments unrest on Saturday.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Tapan Saha of Tongi Police Station told The Daily Star that besides Tongi police additional 200 personnel from different law enforcement agencies were deployed at the factory where the unrest occurred leaving three people killed and over 100 injured.

The OC said though he filed a case accusing 3,000 unidentified people, police conducted no drives to arrest suspects having link with the incident.

"To avert further chaos in the area, we will not conduct drives for the time being," he said, adding that eight people were arrested during the unrest and they were sent to jail by a Gazipur court the next day.

Police said they had beefed up security at the garment factories of the district.

HC order on Babar's petitions likely today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court is likely to pass an order today on two writ petitions filed by former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar seeking directions upon the government to admit him to hospital and interrogate him at the jail gate in the August 21 grenade attack case.

The HC bench of Justice Nozul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Mamnoon Rahman yesterday held a hearing on the petitions, and also fixed today for further hearing and passing the order.

In a writ petition, it has been stated that Babar is seriously ill and the home ministry has informed the jail authorities and his wife about this. So, Babar should be admitted to hospital for treatment.

The other writ petition sought direction from the High Court upon the authorities concerned to interrogate Babar at the jail gate since he is very ill.



Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shahana Begum, mother of Md Sohuluddin, a student at the Department of Soil, Water and Environment of Dhaka University, has been suffering from kidney diseases for the last two years.

Doctors have recommended one of her kidneys be transplanted, which will cost more than Tk 15 lakh.

The family of Rasheda, whose husband works abroad, cannot afford to do that since they have spent all of their savings to meet the expenses of her treatment over the last two years, says a press release.

So, the family members of Shahana, who is undergoing treatment at the Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), have appealed to the affluent people of the society to extend their help and save her life.

Contributions can be sent to Md Sohuluddin, Savings A/C No 107.101.133416, Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd, Karwan Bazar Branch, Dhaka-1215.

Interested people can also dial 01553463906 to know details.



A procession was brought out from the National Press Club in the city yesterday, marking the first World Pneumonia Day.

'Health circle' to be formed to eradicate pneumonia

UNB, Dhaka

The government has planned to form a 'health circle' for children to eradicate pneumonia from the country, Prime Minister's Adviser for Health Dr Syed Modasser Ali said yesterday.

"Economic development of a country is quite impossible without ensuring the health security of its citizens. So, the government's focus is on that right now," he told a daylong symposium.

A coalition of leading Bangladeshi health organisations jointly organised the symposium at a city hotel, marking the first ever World

Pneumonia Day.

National Professor MR Khan, Executive Director of Child Health Research Foundation Dr Samir Saha, Member of British Parliament Dr Desmond Turner, Head of the Division of Maternal & Child Health of Aga Khan University Medical Center of Pakistan Dr Zulfiqar A Bhutta, Pro-Vice Chancellor of BSMMU Prof Mohammad Shahidullah, Bangladesh Pediatric Association Secretary General Prof Md Ruhul Amin and public health specialist Dr M Tajul Islam A Bari also spoke on the occasion.

Dr Modasser Ali said the government will take neces-

sary steps to provide the poor people with vaccines to eradicate pneumonia.

"We'll ensure health security through enhancing the quality of our existing community-based clinics."

Bangladesh ranks fifth in pneumonia ratings in the world with an estimated 6 million cases, and it takes a devastating toll on Bangladesh, despite the fact that it is the most solvable problem in global health.

Prof Dr Md Ruhul Amin said vaccine can be a safe solution to the disease, but breastfeeding is the natural medicine for children.

SC clears way for BMA election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for holding election to Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) on November 5.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice Muzammel Hossain yesterday stayed for four days a High Court order that prevented the BMA authorities from holding the election on the basis of supplementary candidates' list.

The judge passed the order upon a petition filed

by the government, and also asked the government to file a regular leave to appeal petition against the High Court order within four days.

Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (SCP) submitted the supplementary candidates' list to the election commission of BMA.

Deputy Attorney General Morshad Hossain 'Saju' told The Daily Star yesterday that there is now no bar to holding election of BMA on November 5 following the chamber judge's order.

On November 1, the High Court upon a petition filed by Anisul Haque, a BMA member, stayed the operation of candidates' list submitted by SCP and prevented the BMA authorities from holding election on the basis of this candidates' list.

The government yesterday filed a petition with the chamber judge's court for staying the high court order.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam appeared for the government while Barrister Rafique-Ul Huq stood for Anisul Haque.

Jail Killing Day today

FROM PAGE 1

acting president of Bangladesh government in exile in 1971, Tajuddin Ahmed, prime minister of the same government, M Mansur Ali, finance minister, and AHM Qamaruzzaman, minister for home affairs, relief and rehabilitation -- were killed in captivity by some Army officers.

They were assassinated 79 days after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members were killed on August 15, 1975.

Ruling Awami League and many other organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to commemorate the leaders.

President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have conveyed separate messages to mark the day.

President Zillur Rahman in his message said, "The anti-liberation forces killed the four national leaders on November 3 after they had killed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15 in 1975."

"The day has been a black episode for the nation," he said.

Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina said, "November 3 is a black day in the history of humanity and democracy. The conspirators killed the national leaders to delete the name of Awami League from Bangladesh and create a vacuum in the leadership of Bangladeshes."

She said the conspirators who had killed Bangabandhu and the four national leaders are still active and the August 21 grenade attack and bomb attack on lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh are parts of their conspiracy.

Though long 34 years have past, the family members of the assassinated national leaders are yet to get justice as the case is pending in the Supreme Court following government's appeal against a High Court (HC) verdict on the case.

A murder case in connection with the jail killings was filed with Lalbagh Police Station on November 4, 1975, but the then government halted the trial process by promulgating an ordinance that indemnified the assassins. The case is now pending in the Supreme Court's appellate division.

The investigation and trial of

the killings remained blocked for about 21 years until the law was scrapped during the 1996-2001 rule of Awami League.

The trial was also delayed due to judicial tangles.

Finally, in 2004 a Dhaka court sentenced three to death and 12 others to life imprisonment for abetting the murderers and acquitted five persons.

But the HC on August 28 last year acquitted six accused persons including Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooq-ur Rahman, Lt Col (retired) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Major (retired) AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed and Major (retired) Bazul Huda.

It upheld the death sentence of Risalard (retired) Muslemuddin, who is still on the run.

Of the acquitted, Dafadar (dismissed) Marfat Ali Shah and Dafadar (dismissed) Abdul Hashem Mridha were sentenced to death by the trial court. The other four -- Farooq, Rashid, Huda and Mohiuddin -- were given life imprisonment.

The government on September 14 filed five separate leave-to-appeal petitions with the Supreme Court against the HC verdict.



Anniversary of death of Qudrat-I-Khuda today

METRO DESK

Today is the 32nd death anniversary of Dr Qudrat-I-Khuda, a noted scientist and educationist.

Dr Khuda hailed from Rampurhat at Birbhum district in West Bengal, says a press release.

He is the founder of Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (BCSIR).

He also shouldered the responsibility to be the chairman of the first Education Commission in the post-liberation era. The report published is well known as Kudrat-I-Khuda Education Commission Report.

On the occasion, BCSIR will hold programmes, including a doa mahfil at its auditorium in the city at 3:00pm today.

Mezbah Uddin Sabu

DU CORRESPONDENT

Today is the sixth death anniversary of Mezbah Uddin Sabu, a freedom fighter, politician and sports organiser, says a press release.

Muktijoddha Mezbah Uddin Sabu Smriti Sangsad will place wreaths at his grave in the morning and hold a milad mahfil at Motijheel Colony Physical Exercise Centre.

A discussion and milad mahfil will also be held on the Motijheel Model High School and College premises.

His family will hold another milad mahfil at 54/4, South Mugda after Asr prayers.

Alhaj Afzalur Rahman

METRO DESK

Today is the first death anniversary of Alhaj Afzalur Rahman, an eminent business personality, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at his Gulshan residence in the city after Maghrib prayers today.

Relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Begum Habibunnesa

DU CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 10th death anniversary of Begum Habibunnesa, a mother of popular singer Fakir Alamgir, says a press release.

On the occasion, Quran-khwani, milad and doa mahfil will be held at Chowdhurypara Matir Masjid in the city after Asr prayers today.

A milad mahfil and a special prayer session will also be held at Hachchen Fakir Garden at Bhanga in Faridpur.

JU ADMISSION TEST Ka unit results published in one & half hrs

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities yesterday published results of the first year admission test under 'Ka' unit after one and a half hours of examinations yesterday.

Results of the examination are available at the website: www.ju.edu.

Candidates can also get results by sending SMS (short message service) to 9934 by typing ju-space-roll no, says a university press release.

SC upholds HC bail to Mamun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the High Court verdicts that granted bail to controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun in four extortion cases.

The six-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, upheld the verdicts and dismissed four leave-to-appeal petitions filed by the government against the HC verdicts.

Meanwhile, the apex court adjourned until November 5 the hearing on a petition filed by Mamun for vacating its chamber judge's order that stayed a High Court order granting him bail in a tax evasion case.

The court also asked the government to file a regular leave-to-appeal petition with this court against the High Court order.

Obituary

DU CORRESPONDENT



Dr Mohammad Nurul Islam, a freedom fighter and former joint chief of planning commission, passed away at a city hospital on October 31, says a press release.

He was also a high official of the Mujibnagar Government and the treasurer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agriculture University.

Monwar Ahmed

METRO DESK

Monwar Ahmed, former deputy regional director of Bangladesh Betar, Sylhet centre, passed away due to cancer at a hospital in Sylhet on Sunday at the age of 74, says a press release.

He left behind his son, three daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death. He was buried at his family graveyard at Khotira Jalalpur in Dakshin Surma in Sylhet.

3 Bangladeshi hajj pilgrims die in Saudi Arabia

METRO DESK

Three Bangladeshi pilgrims, who went to perform holy hajj in Saudi Arabia, died there recently.

UNB reports: Two of the deceased were identified as Moghul Ahsan, hailed from Armani Street of Lalbagh in Dhaka, and Asimuddin Shah.

Moghul was admitted to King Faisal Hospital on October 25 due to her heart ailment.

She died on October 31, said Hajj IT help desk under ministry of religious affairs here.

Asimuddin was admitted to King Fahad Hospital on October 22 due to his old age complications.

He died the same day. Our Correspondent from

Thakurgaon adds: Sekander Ali, former headmaster of Ranishankoil Abu Taher High School in the district, passed away due to a cardiac arrest in Medina on Sunday at the age of 70.

He left Dhaka for Saudi Arabia on October 22 to perform Hajj.

Quoting his fellow pilgrims, family members said Sekander felt sick while saying the Maghrib prayers.

He was immediately rushed to a hospital where the on duty doctors declared him dead.

He left behind his wife, seven children and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest in Saudi Arabia.

UTTARA-PURBACHAL PLOTS Lottery tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha will hold lottery draws tomorrow at Osmany Memorial Auditorium to pick winners for plots in Purbachal and Uttara (third phase).

In the lottery for Purbachal New Town Project, there will be two categories--journalist and others--and in that for Uttara Model Town Project, there will be six categories--journalist, wage earner, freedom fighter, artist/sportsman, industrialist and businessman, and private jobholders.

Rajuk is distributing 6000 plots in Purbachal and 600 plots in Uttara, said an official

of Rajuk.

In each project, two percent plots will be allotted to journalists, he added.

Rajuk has already announced the winners of 2250 plots in seven categories under Purbachal project.

In two categories--one for ministers, state ministers, deputy ministers and members of parliament and persons of same status, and the other for judges--plots will be awarded directly for both the projects.

Plots in three categories--government job holders, service holders of autonomous bodies, and the armed forces--will be allotted based on seniority and salary scale.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

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

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:18pm today and rises at 7:06am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 17.4 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

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	32.9	21.6	62	58
Chittagong	33.3	23.3	72	69
Rajshahi	29.8	21.4	94	85
Khulna	32.0	21.8	81	75
Barisal	32.5	20.3	80	91
Sylhet	32.2	21.7	62	70
Cox's Bazar	34.5	24.2	67	76