

Changing lifestyle can prevent 70pc cancer cases

Medical experts tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 70 percent of cancer cases can be easily prevented through changing personal lifestyle, which is also the cheapest way to fight the deadly disease, cancer specialists said at a seminar yesterday.

They also stressed the need to raise awareness among the people about changing lifestyle.

Addressing the seminar, renowned cancer specialist Prof Dr ABM Fazlul Karim said knowing about the symptoms of cancers that are prevalent in Bangladesh and its early detection could save many lives.

He also called for concerted efforts by the government and private sectors to raise awareness in this regard.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra organised the seminar on 'Awareness about cancer,

prevention and cure: Bangladesh perspective' on its premises at Dhanmondi in the city.

Dr Karim said that Bangladesh has a high prevalence of lung cancer, oral cancer, gall bladder cancer, colon cancer.

Prevalence of cervical cancer, breast cancer and ovarian cancer among women is tremendously high while many men suffer from prostate cancer and testicular cancer. Leukaemia is quite prevalent among children, he added.

According to an estimate of Bangladesh Cancer Society, there are about 14 lakh cancer patients in Bangladesh. About 1.5 lakh people die of cancer and two lakh are diagnosed with cancer a year.

Use of tobacco products is the single most important cause of large variety of

cancers such as lung, larynx, oesophagus (food pipe), stomach, bladder and oral cavity, Dr Karim said.

At least 50 percent of cancer cases can be prevented with proper control on tobacco, he pointed out.

He urged the government to take measures to stop the promotion of tobacco products.

He also suggested increasing price and tax on tobacco products, raising awareness about exposure to second-hand smoking and enforcing strictly the law against smoking in public places, discouraging tobacco cultivation.

Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury of Gonoshasthaya Kendra, Dr SA Hafiz, head of medicine department at Gono Bishwabidyalaya, and Dr Laila Parveen Banu, principal of Gonoshasthaya Community-Based Medical College, took part in the seminar.



Foreign Minister Dipu Moni speaks at a roundtable on 'Bangladesh-India relations: Exploring new horizon' at BISS auditorium in the city yesterday. On her right is Prof Rehman Sobhan. BISS organised the event. (Story on Page 16)



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is seen at an airport at Nicosia in Cyprus on January 9, 1972 on his way from London to Dhaka. From left are Air Commodore David B Craig of the Royal Air Force, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Dr Kamal Hossain, the then minister for law and parliamentary affairs, and Golam Mowla, then managing director of Great Eastern Insurance Company Limited.

Sea level rise to damage Halda's fish breeding grounds in two decades

Say experts

UNB, Dhaka

The Halda river in Chittagong, considered as the major source of Indian carp, is going to lose its fish resources over the next two decades due to intrusion of saline water apprehended to be caused by sea level rise.

"The Halda will lose its sweet water flow eventually damaging the breeding grounds of Indian carp, as the sea level is likely to rise by 2-3 meters within 2050 brining in saline water," Prof Abdul Kader of the Institute of Marine Science and Fisheries at Chittagong University told UNB.

Prof Kader said the Halda is the richest spawning ground of Indian major carp, including Catla fish (Catla catla), Ruih fish (Labeo Rohita), Mrigal fish (Cirrhinus Marigala) and Kalbaoush (Labeo Calbasu) in Bangladesh. "Besides, 60 percent of the country's pond carp culture is dependent on the fish fry naturally produced in the river."

He said it is not only the sea level rise, but there are also other reasons like over-fishing, massive sand lifting, water contamination by industrial wastes, destruction of

various species of fish, including fry and mother fishes and geographical change and unchecked river erosion are taking their toll on biodiversity of the important river.

Prof Noman Ahmed Siddiquie, a marine scientist and researcher, said the river is the country's major source of fish fry, as mother fishes of indigenous species like Ruih, Catla, Mrigal and Kaliboush migrate to Halda from different rivers and lay eggs during March-June period every year.

"If salinity affects the river by 8 ppt (parts per thousand) in the future, it'll lose its ideal atmosphere for the breeding of Indian carp apart from the biodiversity. The downstream of the river is already affected by salinity, particularly during winter season," Prof Noman apprehends.

A recent study by the Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) shows the salinity level in the river rose to 8 ppt in dry session in 2005 and it may rise sharply in the future, as the sea level will rise by around 2-3 meters by 2050, destroying its fresh water pockets.

Enaduddin Ahmed, executive director of the IWM and a climate expert, said the country's most rivers are losing their breed-

ing grounds of fish because of poor flow of water caused by climate change apart from water contamination.

He suggested taking effective measures for maintaining the fresh water flow in the Kaptai Lake during monsoon to release it to the Halda during winter and thus resist the intrusion of saline water.

The Halda flows through Raozan, Hathazari and Fatikchhari of north Chittagong while 10km of it runs through Satterghat to Madunaghat, which is known as a fish sanctuary.

During the Bangla months of Baishakh and Jaishtha (April and May) every year, different species of mother fishes like Ruih, Catla, Mrigal and Kaliboush start migrating to the spawning ground of the Halda river from rivers like Karnaphuli, Matamuhuri and Sangu.

At a suitable juncture of dark fortnight or full moon and in congenial weather, particularly at the first shower of the monsoon, they start releasing fertilised eggs (locally known as Swarna Renu - gold sperm) over the 10km stretch from Satterghat to Madunaghat of Raozan upazila.

Collaboration between rich, poor states stressed

BSS, Dhaka

Dr Syed Gowher Rizvi, international affairs adviser to the prime minister, yesterday said that the developing and developed countries must have mutual respect for each other and engage in meaningful dialogue as the future of knowledge depends on collaboration.

He said policy makers around the globe should approach problems and solutions by looking at them globally and comparatively.

"In the past, it was perceived that the West was the producer of knowledge and the developing world was a user of this knowledge. Now, innovation, creativity, and new knowledge are being generated globally," Dr Rizvi said.

The scale and scope of problems facing the society are global," he observed and said that issues are no longer local, they are transnational.

Dr Rizvi made these observations while a delegation of faculty members and students from the United States called on him yesterday morning at the Foreign Service Academy.

Director of the School of Social Work at

Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) Dr Mizanur Rahman Miah led the delegation, which comprised of students and faculty members from SIUC, Case Western Reserve University in Ohio and Millsaps College in Mississippi.

Chairperson of the Bio-Chemistry Department at Case Western Reserve University Dr Michael Wiess and Director of the Internationals Programme at the same university Dr Deborah Jacobson were also in the delegation, which has been visiting Bangladesh as part of the Study Abroad Programme under the School of Social Work at SIUC.

Abu Naser Rajib, a doctoral student and teacher on record at the College of Mass Communication and Media Arts at SIUC, is coordinating the two-week long study abroad programme to learn the social development efforts in Bangladesh by the government, NGOs and the private sector.

Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Labor and Employment, Israfil Alam, MP, also attended the view exchange meeting.

Programme on Binod Bihari today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangalisamagra Jadughar will hold a programme marking the 100th birth anniversary of anti-British movement veteran Binod Bihari Chowdhury at Madhur Canteen on the Dhaka University campus today.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique will launch a book titled 'Agnijhara Dingulo' by Binod Bihari at the programme beginning at 11:00am.

Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury will deliver a speech. A poster will also be published on the occasion.

Highlights of a documentary on the life and works of Binod Bihari will also be screened at the programme.



As part of Aarong's 30th Anniversary Exhibition Series, an exhibition of Jamdani sarees titled 'Story of Pride' was inaugurated at the Shipakala Academy in the city yesterday. Geeteara Safiya Choudhury, chairman and managing director of Adcomm Ltd., 2nd from left, was present as special guest while Fazle Hasan Abed, chairperson of Brac, 2nd from right, presided over the inaugural ceremony. Fashion designer Chandra Shekhar Shaha, extreme right, and Tamara Abed were also present. The exhibition will remain open up to January 20 from 11:00am to 7:00pm daily, except Friday when it will open at 3:00pm.

Dissolution of JCD body demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A faction of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) staged a demonstration on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding dissolution of the new committee of the associate body of BNP.

JCD dissolved its full committee on January 1. On July 1, 2009, a five-member committee was declared for tenure of six months.

Soon after the committee was declared, a faction of leaders deprived of posts started

demonstrating on the campus. They have also beaten up three leaders of the new committee on January 2 at Madhu's Canteen.

The rebel faction, led by Abdul Halim Khokon and Ahsan Uddin Khan Shipon, termed the new committee illegal and termed its president Sultan Salahuddin Tuku a patron of militancy.

They also termed the committee a committee of 'uncles' as most of the leaders are aged. They demanded that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia form a fresh committee with young and fresh students, as JCD is a student body.



Chief Operating Officer of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka Shahjahan Majumder shakes hands with Egyptian Ambassador Fayeze Noseir after signing a corporate agreement with the Embassy of Arab Republic of Egypt in the city recently to provide priority corporate benefits and medical services for their employees.

IER extends time for collecting forms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Institute of Education and Research (IER) of Dhaka University has extended its time for collecting and submitting application forms for admission test of the first year for the session 2009-10.

Now, the last date for collecting and submitting forms are January 13 and January 14 respectively, says a press release.

However, the admission test will be held on January 22 as was scheduled earlier. The forms can be collected from Janata Bank, TSC Branch and be submitted to the Room No. 5 at the ground floor of IER.

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