



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits a stall after inaugurating the Ekushey Book Fair at Bangla Academy in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

## Ensure facilities for early diagnosis of cancer at UZ level

Experts tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pointing out the inadequate treatment facilities of cancer, experts at a roundtable discussion yesterday emphasised on ensuring facilities of early diagnosis tests of the disease at district and upazila level hospitals.

They also stressed the need for creating awareness among the people to prevent cancer.

In Bangladesh every year around 2 lakh people are diagnosed with cancer and 1.5 lakh die of the disease, they told the discussion at the National Press Club in the city.

Referring to the Cancer Control Act enacted by some developed countries, they urged the government to formulate such an Act as the disease is caused by exposure to air pollution, water pollution, consumption of adulterated food etc.

Bangladesh Cancer Society and Bangladesh Cancer Hospital and Welfare Home organised the discussion on the eve of the World Cancer Day 2010 to be observed on Thursday (Feb 4).

The day will be observed in the country, as elsewhere in the world with the theme 'Cancer can be prevented too.'

Though earlier cancer was considered as deadly and not curable, now the WHO says 40 percent of the cancer can be prevented, Mollah Obayedullah Baki, director of the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital, mentioned.

"As diagnosis of cancer and its treatment are highly expensive, we should pay attention to boost preventive measures against cancer," he said.

Bangladesh has found highest number of lung cancer among men. Such cancer could be prevented by avoiding tobacco, as 90 percent of the lung cancer is caused by consuming tobacco.

Cervical cancer of women could also be prevented by making them aware of getting married after 20 years of age, avoiding taking babies frequently and extra marital sex as well as maintaining personal hygiene, Prof Mollah, also the president of Bangladesh Cancer Society, said.

While presenting the keynote paper, Prof Shah Mohammad Keramat Ali said tobacco is responsible for 30 percent of cancer in the world while 50 percent of cancer is diet related but causes behind the 20 percent are yet to be identified.

Prevention measures include cancer prevention, detection of the disease at early stage and relief to the terminally ill patients from pain, said Prof Ahmed Sayeed, secretary general of the society.

He said cancer awareness messages can be included in school textbooks to prevent the disease.

They suggested dissemination of awareness messages on consumption of balanced diet and more vegetables and fruits, doing regular exercise, reducing intake of foods that are high in fat and sugar, avoiding mental stress etc to prevent cancer.

Prof Abdul Awal Rizvi, director of NITOR, Prof M A Hai, Dr M Mostafa Zaman, Dr AM Nuruzzaman of the Directorate General of Health Services, Ahad Chowdhury, chairman of Muktiyoddha Command Council and Abu Naser Khan, among others, spoke at the discussion.



### Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, former prime minister and an organiser of the Liberation War, says a press release.

Also, the first death anniversary of his eldest son Abdullah Mizan will be observed the same day.

On the occasion, wreaths will be placed at the grave of Mizanur Rahman at 7:00am. Milad mahfil and doa will be held at his residence and at all mosques in Chandpur after Asr prayers.

Relatives, admirers and colleagues are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

### Debesh Bhattacharya

METRO DESK

Today is the sixth death anniversary of eminent jurist and human rights leader Justice Debesh Bhattacharya, says a press release.

On the occasion, Justice Debesh Bhattacharya Foundation has organised religious and social events in Ellenga, Tangail. Last week, medals were distributed among meritorious students and warm clothes among the destitute.

Justice Bhattacharya is widely remembered for his involvement in defending democratic and human rights. Because of his involvement in political activism, Debesh Bhattacharya, then an advocate in the Mymensingh District Court, was put in jail by the Muslim League government as a security prisoner during 1949-50.

He was appointed a Judge of the newly established Bangladesh High Court in January 1972. He was elevated to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in June 1975 and retired from the bench in December 1977. He proved himself to be an outstanding jurist and some of his verdicts had been historically precedent setting judgments.

Justice Bhattacharya was involved with various social and civil society organisations. He was a member of the Gono Adalat (people's court) set up to put on trial the war criminals of 1971.

He had established a number of educational institutions in his own village where he carried out philanthropic activities. He also published a number of monographs, including an anthology of poems.

Quamrul Hassan, who designed the national flag of Bangladesh, played an important role in the establishment of the Institute of Fine Art, now a faculty of the Dhaka University.

He also made outstanding contribution to the development of folk art.

Patua Quamrul Hassan Art School will place wreaths at the grave of the artist on the occasion.

Dr AKM Abu Zafar, a freedom fighter and eminent eye specialist, says a press release.

He served at Harina Camp as a doctor during the liberation war. He was also a president of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and Bangladesh Medical Association and a founder member of Lions Eye Hospital, Chittagong.

Friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

## Mass transit system can resolve traffic mess

Say transport experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Public transport comprising mass transit system and organised quality bus service is the answer to traffic mess in the capital, said transport experts at a discussion yesterday.

Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) organised the public consultation on Dhaka Urban Transport Network Development Study (DHUTS) at Brac Centre Inn in the city.

Rail-based mass rapid transit system (metro rail) along with efficient bus service can resolve the high transport demand in the capital, said Dr M Rahmatullah, a former director of UN-ESCAP.

Discussions in the audience, however, recommended that the study must look into how to make the mass transit system affordable for the mass people.

They also demanded provision for pedestrian facilities and bicycle lane in the transport plan, relocation of factories and industrial units from the city heart, control over use of private cars, feasibility of mass transit system and integration of circular waterway in the urban transport system.

In a keynote presentation, Additional DTCB Executive Director SM Salehuddin said that over 6,000 buses operate on 150 routes in the capital city in a disorganised manner.

Dhaka is a city of nearly 1.5 crore population without a mass transit system, he said, adding that lack of coordination of actions by different agencies is responsible to a great extent for traffic disarray in the capital.

A total of 23 million trips take place in the city everyday by rickshaws, buses, walking, autorickshaws, private cars and others, said Salehuddin.

Of the trips, 38 percent are made by rickshaws, 20 percent by walking, 19 percent by public buses and 5 percent by private cars, he said. Technical study for Moghbazar Flyover starts in a month or two.

Total number of vehicles plying the city streets was 4,72,159 as found in the Strategic Transport Plan in 2004 while DHUTS found it at 4,81,408 in 2009.

The number of buses increased to 72,037 in 2009 from 61,751 in 2004 while the number of private cars increased to 1,24,134 from 1,04,923.

DHUTS team leader Toshio Kimura said they would come up with a plan on Dhaka's urban transport infrastructure for metropolitan area surrounded by rivers Buriganga, Turag and Balu by March next year.

DTCB Executive Director Md Moshir Rahman was also present at the discussion.

### English Speaking Union launches Bangladesh chapter

BSS, Dhaka

The UK-based English Speaking Union (ESU) has launched its Bangladesh chapter on Sunday with a goal to create global understanding through English and promote the language as the medium for the country's interaction with the outside world.

British High Commissioner Stephen Evans hosted the launching ceremony at his residence as ESU Bangladesh's chief patron while a delegation from the ESU's International Headquarters in London joined the function along with a number of distinguished Bangladeshis.

ESU Bangladesh chapter was floated earlier last year with Asif A. Chowdhury as its chairman and Maj Gen (retd) Jiban Kanai Das as the secretary general.

"The case for communicating in English rests, however, on more than practical and social benefits," Evans told the function.

He called the launching of the ESU's Bangladesh Chapter as "a welcome development", saying it affirmed the role of English in Bangladeshi national life.

"[But] English will not, and should not, replace Bangla -- the medium of communication that so perfectly expresses the spirit of a new country with age-old cultural and social traditions," the envoy said.

ESU is an international voluntary organisation founded in 1918 under a Royal Charter and the International Council of ESU ratified its Bangladesh chapter as its 51st chapter at its global conference in London in October 2009 along with Malta and Turkey.

## Accused dies in custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An accused in a murder case committed suicide in Keraniganj Police Station yesterday.

The accused, Manik alias Lutfur, 38, of Noarda village, was arrested on Sunday.

He committed suicide by hanging himself with a shawl from the ventilator of the bathroom inside the lockup of the police station sometime between 4:30am and 5:30am, Sub-Inspector Md Mizanur Rahman said.

"When other accused in the custody told the duty officer Assistant Sub-inspector (ASI) Harun-or-Rashid that Lutfur did not come out of the bathroom even about one hour

after he went inside, the ASI with other constables broke open the door only to find the body of Lutfur hanging from the ventilator," he said.

The body was sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College Morgue for autopsy.

Morgue sources said the body bore an injury mark in the neck.

The SI said the police picked up Lutfur on Sunday afternoon for interrogation in connection with a murder case and later he was shown arrested.

But Lutfur's father Adhu Mia told reporters that the police arrested his son on January 27, but they did not produce him before the court even after five days.

### Orthopaedic emergency unit reopens at BSMMU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) restarted the orthopaedic emergency unit yesterday to provide round the clock emergency service to the trauma patients.

Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhul Haque inaugurated the 15-bed unit on the ground floor at Block D. The unit has two operation theatres and necessary equipment and manpower.

Vice Chancellor Prof Pran Gopal Datta and Secretary General of Bangladesh Medical Association Prof Dr Sharfuddin Ahmed were present on the occasion.

While talking to reporters after inaugurating the unit Prof Ruhul said the government is giving priority to ensuring emergency services at all the public hospitals.

He said the government has taken steps to expand emergency services to the district sadar hospitals. To assess the requirements for strengthening emergency services at the hospitals, World Health Organisation (WHO) is providing technical support to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital and two district sadar hospitals, he added.

Prof Pran Gopal said the trauma patients at the orthopaedic emergency unit would also get other specialised services if needed.

During the previous Awami League government Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the unit in April in 2001 but the BNP-led four-party alliance government did not continue its activities, Prof Pran Gopal said.



### BCS 9th Batch Forum executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Nurul Islam, private secretary to the state minister for housing and public works, and AFM Aminul Islam, a senior information officer, have been made president and secretary general of the BCS 9th Batch Forum respectively.

The 31-member executive committee has been formed for two years.

The committee was formed unanimously at the annual general meeting of the Forum held at Gazipur on January 29.

### Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Ashraf Ali, an educationist and senior teacher of Dhara High School of Haluaghat in Mymensingh, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his residence on Sunday at the age of 58, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son and three daughters to mourn his death.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Advocate Pramod Mankin and Swechchha Sebak League leader Sakhawat Hossain Kabir condoled his death. They also conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

### Anwarul Islam

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira.

Anwarul Islam, Organising Secretary of Sathkira district Awami League (AL) and son of Abdul Hamid of village Daluipur, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Kalaroa upazila health complex early morning yesterday at the age of 43.

Anwarul Islam, also incumbent chairman of Deara union parishad (UP), was taken to Kalaroa upazila health complex due to a massive cardiac arrest on a January 31 night.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter to mourn his death.

Sathkira AL Vice-president and Health and Family Welfare Minister Prof Dr AFM Ruhul Haque, President Engineer Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and General Secretary Alhaj Nazrul Islam, former member of legislative assembly Momtaz Ahmed and Kalaroa Upazila Chairman BM Nazrul Islam expressed profound shock at the sad demise of Anwarul Islam.

They also prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

### SEDITION CASE AGAINST TWO LAWYERS Judgement tomorrow

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Judgement in a sedition case filed against two lawyers on charges of vandalism on the Supreme Court premises on November 30, 2006 will be delivered tomorrow.

On completion of arguments, Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court set the date for delivery of the judgment.

The accused lawyers -- Subrata Chowdhury and Sheikh Awasfur Rahman -- were present in the court during yesterday's hearing.

During the hearing, defence lawyers told the court that the charges brought against the two lawyers were not proved. The case was brought against

them only to tarnish their image and to harass them. So they prayed to acquit the two lawyers of the charges.

Earlier, twenty prosecution witnesses including complainant and investigation officer (IO) of the case gave their statements before the court on different dates.

On December 5, 2006, Rafiqul Islam filed the case with Shabbagh Police Station accusing 200 people, also including noted jurists Dr Kamal Hossain, Amir-Ul Islam, Rakanuddin Mahmud and Tania Amir, of vandalism and tearing off the national flag.

However, the IO submitted charge sheet only against Subrata Chowdhury and Sheikh Awasfur Rahman on January 6 last year.



BNP leader Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain speaks at a meeting in front of the party's central office at Naya Paltan in the city yesterday. Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha organised the meeting to protest the killing of its activist in the police custody.

### BAKIR'S DEATH Judicial probe demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leaders at a condolence meeting yesterday demanded judicial investigation into the death of BM Bakir Hossain, joint secretary of Jatiyatabadi Samajik Dal, in police custody.

They made the demand in a meeting organised by Bangladesh Banks Employees Federation at the National Press Club.

Speaking as the chief guest, BNP standing committee member and former law minister Moudud Ahmed termed the death a clear violation of human rights and against the rule of law.

He said if the government does not initiate a judicial investigation into the death, it would make clear to all that the government is involved in it.

Termining the immediate past caretaker government illegal and unconstitutional, he also demanded trial of the former army chief General Moeen U Ahmed and chief adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed. He also said 129 people

were killed in police custody and crossfire during the last one year of the Awami League government.

Another member of BNP standing committee Nazrul Islam Khan, also the president of Jatiyatabadi Samajik Dal, urged the members and leaders of the federation to provide financial assistance to Bakir's family member for their survival.

He also stressed publishing a biography of Bakir. Bakir, president of Bangladesh Banks Employees Federation and member of the newly announced national executive committee of BNP, died in custody at a local hospital in the capital on January 7.

On December 22 last year, he was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital after he fell unconscious in jail.

Federation's acting president Mehedi Ali Khan presided over the meeting while Samajik Dal general secretary Jafrul Hasan and a number of federation leaders also spoke.



### Temperature may rise

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country and cloudy sky over Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Iswardi, Jessore, Chuadanga, Tangail and Srimongal may continue, Met Office said.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning.

Night temperature may rise slightly over the country. The sun sets in the capital at 5:45pm today and rises at 6:39am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 29.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 6.4 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	27.0	12.8	40	27
Chittagong	26.5	13.6	65	54
Rajshahi	27	59.0	75	50
Khulna	27.5	12.4	69	43
Barisal	27.5	12.2	69	54
Sylhet	28.5	13.0	64	44
Cox's Bazar	27.0	15.0	44	54