

Call to raise awareness to prevent NCDs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday said there is a severe lack of awareness regarding prevention and diagnosis of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in Bangladesh.

Contrary to traditional beliefs that NCDs are most common in developed countries, most countries such as Bangladesh are also experiencing high number of patients suffering from these diseases, they added.

The speakers said this at the scientific seminar on 'Latest trends in lifestyle modification' jointly organised by Eminence and Non-Communicable Diseases Forum (NCD-F) in the city.

Non-communicable diseases are mostly lifestyle diseases that can be pre-

vented with simple modifications in the everyday lifestyles.

National Prof Brig Gen (ret) Dr Abdul Malik said, "NCDs are simply lifestyle diseases that are triggered by our diets, smoking habits and such."

"The treatments of these diseases are costly. Therefore, prevention should be prioritised," said Dr Malik, also former adviser to a caretaker government and secretary general of National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Institute.

Prof Emeritus Sufia Kamal called on all to adopt preventive measures in the daily life to avoid NCDs.

"We tend to spoil our children with junk foods and what not, which may eventually lead to heart diseases, said Prof Sufia, also a former adviser to a caretaker government and a former director

of National Institute of Cardio-Vascular Diseases (NICVD).

National Prof Dr Nurul Islam underscored the importance of curbing smoking habits, saying that smoking itself leads to many diseases.

He called on the organisers to spread the simple message that it is mandatory for everyone to eat a lot of vegetables to remain healthy and free from any heart diseases or surgeries.

Speaking as the special guest, State Minister Health Mozibur Rahman Fakir said ensuring healthcare to everyone is a part of the constitution and thus a national obligation.

Technology regarding healthcare has come a long way in the recent years, he said and hoped that such technologies would increase even further in future.



Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of Brac, hands over Shilu Abed Master Craftsperson Award 2010 to Rasheda Begum at an award giving ceremony at the city's Brac Centre Inn yesterday. On their left is Shahid Hossain Shamim.

Rasheda wins Shilu Abed Craftsperson Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rasheda Begum of Sribardi in Sherpur has won Shilu Abed Master Craftsperson Award 2010.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of Brac, handed over the award to Rasheda at an award giving ceremony at the city's Brac Centre Inn yesterday.

The award, made available courtesy of Shilu Abed Memorial Trust in association with Brac and National Crafts Council of Bangladesh (NCCB), carries a crest, a certificate and Tk1 lakh.

The award recognises outstanding contribution to the crafts industry.

To mark 12 years of the award, the organisers decided to present the award to a craftsperson for lifetime achievement from now onwards.

Chandra Shekhar Shaha, one of the members of the jury committee, spoke on the grave crisis of the crafts industry.

He stressed the need for proper patronisation and preservation of the works to save the country's glorious crafts industry from extinction.

He also suggested making a database of the craftsperson. Shahid Hossain Shamim, president of NCCB, said they have a plan to bring out a directory of the craftsperson from all over the country.

Educationist Suraiya Ahmed gave a brief account of the life and works of Shilu Abed, one of the pioneers of the country's crafts industry and former adviser to Aarong.

Receiving the award, Rasheda said a significant change had taken place in her life after she started doing craftwork.

She wants to continue working in the sector as long as she could, she added.

Rafiqul Islam of Shilu Abed Memorial Trust and Munira Imdan of NCCB also spoke.

Lady Abed, Managing Director of Brac Muhammad A (Rume) Ali, Mahin Khan, fashion designer and daughter of Shilu Abed, were also present.

An exhibition was also held at the Brac Centre Inn where craftworks of Rasheda and previous years' winners were put on display.



Thakurgaon Jubo League general secretary and his men erected this sign after occupying the home of Sadar Upazila chairman at College Para in Thakurgaon town yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Essay contest held for visually impaired students

METRO DESK

The Institute of Hazrat Mohammad (SAW) has organised an essay competition for visually impaired students of schools, colleges and universities recently as part of its month-long programme marking holy Rabi-ul-Awal.

The topic of the essay was 'Prophet Mohammad (SAW) as the Educator of Mankind'.

Eight students won the contest. They are Md Amir Hossain from Madrasahur Rahman Al Arabia, Yesmin Akhter from Salna Government Primary School, Proshanta Chandra Das from ABC, Mymensingh, Md Azizul Haque from ABC, Shikha Begum from Badrunnesa Government Women's College, Jahanara Dewan from Dhaka University, Sheema Iqbal from New Castle Law Academy and Salma from Eden College.

The prize giving ceremony was held at a city hotel, with President of the Institute Lt Gen (ret) M Nooruddin Khan in the chair. Deputy Speaker of Parliament Shawkat Ali was present as the chief guest.

Guard shot at for toll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed criminals shot a security guard of a construction firm at the city's West Tejkunipara yesterday after a contractor of the site refused to pay Tk5 lakh toll.

Mohammad Solaiman, 35, of Central Builders Ltd was in a critical condition when he was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with two bullet injuries in his chest and one in

the left hand.

"A gang of four armed criminals asked Solaiman about contractor Saidul Islam as he was not present there, suddenly one of them fired three bullets and they left the spot," supervisor Abu Bakar Siddiq told The Daily Star.

He said a general diary was filed with Tejgaon Police Station a month ago after criminals demanded Tk 5 lakh toll.

Clash halts traffic on Dhaka-Mawa highway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Vehicular movement on Dhaka-Mawa highway remained suspended for about four hours yesterday as a microbus driver and locals beat up Salam's nephew at Abdullahpur in Keraniganj during a bargain for renting a microbus. Hashem was beaten as he rebuked the driver for demanding excess fare.

The clash, however, ended when AL lawmaker Nasrul Hamid assured the locals of proper punishment to the responsible persons.

Abdus Salam led the side of Sirajdikhan and Berek Madbor led the other side. At least five thousand people clashed with locally made lethal weapons.

The feud developed after a microbus driver and locals beat up Salam's nephew at Abdullahpur in Keraniganj during a bargain for renting a microbus. Hashem was beaten as he rebuked the driver for demanding excess fare.

The clash, however, ended when AL lawmaker Nasrul Hamid assured the locals of proper punishment to the responsible persons.

SUICIDE ATTEMPT

Injured garment worker dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage garment worker who was seriously injured after falling from the rooftop of a six-storey factory building in Dhaka on January 2 died at Khulna Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Ruma, 17, a worker of Solar Garments, had jumped from the rooftop in a bid to commit suicide as she was under mental pressure from a supervisor and an accounts officer of the factory who made an indecent proposal to her, Ruma's father Rafiq Sikder said yesterday.

The two also warned her that if she does not accept the proposal, her job will be at stake.

Ruma told all this to her father before her death, Rafiq told The Daily Star over telephone.

"A severe mental pressure forced my daughter to make a suicide attempt," he said and added that Ruma succumbed to her injuries without proper treatment.

When contacted, Managing Director Nazrul Islam of the factory, however, denied the allegations against his officials.

"We also provided treatment cost when she was undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital after the accident," he added.

After 24 days of treatment at DMCH, Ruma was taken to her residence at Khalishpur in Khulna as her family could not afford her treatment there.

When her condition deteriorated on March 2, she was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital where she died yesterday morning.

LOCAL GOVT SYSTEM

'Implement constitutional provisions fully'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Full implementation of the constitutional provisions relating to the local government system can help eradicate the existing caste-based discrimination in society, said Justice Gholam Rabbani yesterday.

"If the government develops the local government system fully as enshrined in the constitution, discrimination on grounds of caste and profession can easily be eradicated. Our constitution has this arrangement and we must use this provision," he said at a seminar as the chief guest.

Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (BDERM) and Nagorik Udyog jointly organised the seminar titled 'Draft

policy and directives of United Nations in effective eradication of discrimination based on caste and profession' at the National Press Club in the city.

Prof Mesbah Kamal said that if a group of people can be alienated anyhow from society, it is easier for the ruling class to rule the group. The caste system was created to oppress the group.

BDERM President Mukul Sikder presided over the seminar, which was moderated by Nagorik Udyog Chief Executive Zakir Hossain.

Advocate Tajul Islam and Majharul Islam jointly presented a keynote paper.

Prof HKS Arefin, general secretary of Bothanki Solomon, and other Dalit leaders were present at the seminar.

N-treatment centres to be set up

BSS, Bogra

Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) will set up a number of nuclear treatment centres to reach nuclear treatment facilities to the doorsteps of the people in remote areas of the country.

Nuclear healthcare facilities are being given to the people of the country through 14 nuclear treatment centres, including an institute, said BAEC Chairman Dr Md Mosharraf Hossain yesterday.

The BAEC chief said this at the inaugural function of the 15th national conference of Society of Nuclear Medicine Bangladesh at a local hotel.

Director of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, Bogra Brig Gen Md Shafiqul Islam was present as the special guest at the function with Chairman of the society Prof MA Kabir in the chair.

Vice Chairman of the society Dr Rokan Uddin, General Secretary Dr Rayhan Hossain and Director of Nuclear Treatment Centre, Bogra Dr Selim Ansari also spoke.

Dr Mosharraf said one nuclear treatment centre will be set up on the premises of Bogra medical college hospital to make available the treatment in the region.

The conference was held with a slogan 'Nuclear treatment for improved life'.

A total of 150 physicians, scientists and technologists from the country took part in the conference.

Fifteen keynote papers by local and foreign physicians also were presented at the scientific session of the conference.



Bangladesh Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad takes out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting the attacks on indigenous people in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by gusty wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period, Met office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:04pm today and rises at 6:16am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Iswardi and Chuadanga and the lowest of 17.5 degrees at Sayedpur.

The 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	34.0	24.8	78	65
Chittagong	28.6	23.5	71	82
Rajshahi	35.5	17.8	75	42
Khulna	33.6	25.2	74	62
Barisal	32.8	24.5	81	65
Sylhet	31.0	21.4	89	77
Cox's Bazar	31.0	23.2	73	75

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the fifth death anniversary of Farida Sarkar, wife of former power and energy minister and Jatiya Party Presidium Member Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu.

A former newscaster of Voice of America and an English teacher at the North South University, Farida Sarkar, died of cancer on this day at the age of 48.

A Fulbright scholar, Farida left behind her husband and only son.

Prayers will be offered at the orphanage where food will also be distributed amongst the orphans.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul, says a press release.

মেতে উঠুন আনন্দ ভ্রমণে
!!! কর্পোরেট ও প্যাকেজ ট্যুরের জন্য রয়েছে বিশেষ ছাড় !!!
ঢাকা-কক্সবাজার-টেকনাফ-সেন্টমার্টিন-হেট্টা দ্বীপ-ঢাকা
এছাড়াও রয়েছে ঢাকা থেকে সেন্টমার্টিন/কক্সবাজারের হোটেল বুকিং এর সুবিধা।
যোগাযোগ: ০১৬৭০৭৭৭৬৬৪, ৭১২৪৫৭৩, ০১৯১৪৪৯৬৬৯৯

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Last date of submission of nominations:
March 20, 2010

For details and submission of your nominations
www.eaward.org.bd
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Third Prize Tk 70 thousand
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Fifth Prize 3 Tk 10 thousand each
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Seventh Prize 50 Tk 2 thousand each
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Buy a Tk10 ticket and contribute in building the hospital

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