

Number of liver patients on rise

Health minister tells international conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 80 lakh people with hepatitis B are prone to serious kind of liver diseases, which should be handled by skilled hepatologists, said hepatologists at the inauguration of Livercon 2010, the 9th biannual international conference of Association for the Study of the Liver, Bangladesh (ASLB) held at a city hotel yesterday.

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque in his speech as the chief guest called upon the hepatologists to come forward to work in the area of liver transplantation, which is crucial for the moment as the number of liver patients increasing rapidly.

"The rich people can go abroad for the transplantation but the poor and middle

income group can not afford the expenses of the treatment. If we can provide the treatment in our hospitals that costs would be affordable for all class of people", he said.

At least 80 lakh people with hepatitis B are prone to serious kind of liver diseases

He said the government would provide all supports to the hepatologists for liver transplantation and other form of liver treatment for the poor patients.

The main reason of the liver cirrhosis or

other form of severe liver diseases are caused from the hepatitis B, so people should be careful about the causes of the HBV, said ASLB Secretary General Dr Mamun-Al-Mahtab.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mujibur Rahman Fakir also spoke at the inaugural ceremony with ASLB President Prof Salimur Rahman in the chair.

Hepatology as an independent department is now functioning at only eight public and one private medical colleges other than Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

A number of pharmaceutical companies took part in the daylong conference and showcased their products used for liver disease treatment.



The 28th BCS candidates, who passed the written exam but were excluded from viva, form a human chain at the base of Aparajeyo Bangla at Dhaka University yesterday, demanding their immediate appointment to non-cadre posts.

WAR CRIMES

Call to involve 20 more expert, skilled lawyers to make trial a success

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Writer Shahriar Kabir yesterday stressed the need for involving at least 20 more experts and skilled lawyers to carry out the trial of war criminals.

"I don't undermine the present lawyers and experts but I think the War Crimes Tribunal needs at least 20 more skilled lawyers as we don't want to see a trial held perfunctorily," said Kabir, executive president of Secular Voice of Bangladesh.

He was speaking at a national convention of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh titled "Trial of war criminals and restoration of 1972's Constitution", held at the auditorium of the city's Engineer's Institute, Dhaka.

Chief guest at the convention, Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam said the lack of experience of the government and the probe committee and lawyers involved with the War Crimes Tribunal was due to the fact that they are facing the matter for the first time.

The minister, however, said the government is committed to try the war criminals.

"We will go ahead and gain a new experience. Any obstacles or national and international conspiracy can not avert us from conducting the war crimes trial," said the minister.

Kabir, also leader of Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, suggested the government to not linger the trial process.

"If they (government) delay the process to gain an upper hand in the next election, it may boomerang against them," said Kabir.

He claimed that followers of



Rashed Khan Menon speaks at a national convention of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh at the auditorium of the city's Engineer's Institute yesterday.

Jamaat-e-Islami are at every level of the administration. "The trial of Jamaat will not be possible if they (the followers) are not removed from the administration," he observed.

Kabir called upon the government to restore the 1972's constitution within its tenure.

"The trial of war criminals could not be possible if we mix all common problems (price hike, power shortage, water and gas crisis etc) with the War Crimes Tribunal," said Ashrafur.

Syed Ashrafur Islam, also general secretary of Bangladesh Awami League, mentioned that the constitution's revision is an extra task for the government as it was not included in their election manifesto.

He said the government does not

want to revise the constitution in a hasty manner as its past revision often brought curse upon the nation.

Rashed Khan Menon, president of Workers' Party of Bangladesh, presided over the programme.

Mentioning that the demand to try war criminals is not out of dangers, Menon, in his welcome speech, said Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP are formulating different strategies to hinder the War Crimes Tribunal.

They (BNP-Jamaat) are trying to retain the 5th, 6th and 7th amendments, he claimed.

Workers' Party of Bangladesh placed 10-point demands at the convention.

The party called upon the government to take effective steps to

strengthen the War Crimes Tribunal, arrest the marked war criminals and impose ban on their migration from the country.

According to the constitution of 1972, the government should impose ban on religion-based politics in the country, it also demanded.

The government should face the propaganda on war crimes trial both politically and diplomatically, the party said.

Awami League (AL) presidium member Abdur Razzak, Industries Minister Dilip Barua, lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badshah, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique also addressed the programme.

HR VIOLATION BY RUSSIAN OFFICIALS

Bangladeshi seeks UN intervention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi citizen sought the intervention of the United Nations for violation of his human rights by some Russian government officials in Moscow recently, says a press release yesterday.

In this respect, a petition was filed before the United Nations Office in Geneva on behalf of Dr Ashok Gupta, a lessee of Russian government properties in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Supreme Court lawyer Manzill Murshid filed the petition on September 22 at the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva.

In the petition, he prayed for necessary steps, under the provisions of the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, against Polikarpov EV and Volkhavitin CN, General Management Department, under the President of Russian Federation.

According to the case history, Dr Ashok Gupta signed a lease agreement as a lessee for 20 years of the property at 51 Siddeshwari along with two other premises situated in Bangladesh, owned by the Russian government.

Possession of the premises was handed over on December 25 of 2002.

Usually the lessee paid the rent in Russia since June 2005, but Bangladesh Bank did not allow the lessee to pay the rent when he tried to pay from a bank in Dhaka.

Meantime, the Russian government on March 11 of 2009 cancelled the agreement and subsequently the lessee (Ashok Gupta) filed a suit in civil court.

After that, a delegate from Russian Government Company met with the lessee at his office in Dhaka on April 26 this year and proposed to solve the problem with mutual conversation and invited him to visit Russia.

In response to the invitation, the lessee went to Russia on June 20. He went to the office of the Deputy Managing Director, General Management Department and International Relationships in Moscow.

Some people, including General Director Polikarpov EV and Deputy Managing Director Volkhavitin CN, then confined the lessee. At one stage they tortured the lessee and threatened to kill him unless he signed a written document in Russian language. The lessee was compelled to sign the document on the face of torture.

The lessee failed to lodge a complaint in any police station in Moscow as they refused to receive the case.

After returning to Dhaka, the lessee filed a general diary (GD) on June 29 with the Paltan Police Station, stating the way he was tortured, and sought punishment of the Russian officials.

Conference on prison reform on Oct 6-7

METRO DESK

An international conference on prison reform in developing countries titled "Locked up and forgotten?" will be held at the Police Staff College at Mirpur Section 14 in the city on October 6-7, says a press release.

Ministry of Home Affairs, German Technical Cooperation will jointly host the conference with the support of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, BRAC and Madaripur Legal Aid Association.

Home Minister Shahara Khatun and Law Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed will open the conference.

Dr Kiran Bedi, a renowned prison reformer from India, will deliver the keynote speech followed by presentations on 'Overcrowding in Prisons' by Promita Sengupta, 'Prison Legislation' by Barrister Adam Stapleton and 'Legal Aid' by Barrister Sara Hossain.

Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder, IG Prison Brigadier General (Retd) Md Ashrafur Islam Khan, Federal Republic of German Ambassador to Bangladesh Holger Michael will speak at the conference.

College student dies in wall collapse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A college student was killed when the boundary wall of an under-construction building collapsed on him at the city's Kalyanpur area yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Prasanta Kumar Pandey, 22, a honours 3rd year student of Accounting Department at the Government Kabi Nazrul College in old Dhaka.

Sub-Inspector Abu Bakir Siddique of Mirpur Police Station said huge brickbats were kept inside the boundary wall of the four-storey under-construction building, and the wall suddenly collapsed under the pressure of the brickbats.

Pandey, who was walking by the wall, met with the accident, police said.

Spot witness Rabiul Islam Rony said he allegedly found injured Pandey laying on the pavement and rushed him to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD), where doctors declared him dead.

Police recovered the body from NICVD and sent it to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Rony said Pandey lived in a mess house in road 8 of Kalyanpur.



Shykh Seraj honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shykh Seraj has achieved the Golden Jubilee Honour Awards for his contribution to increasing public awareness about agriculture and development through both print and broadcast media in Bangladesh, says a press release.

Bangladesh Caterers Association (BCA), UK's only governing body for the industry, will present the award at the BCA Awards 2010 ceremony on October 10 in London.

On the occasion of its 50th anniversary this year, the BCA will present the award also to Rushnara Ali, MP; Anne Main, MP; and late Alhaj Tara Miah Khan.

Only JS can amend constitution: Delwar

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said none other than the parliament has any authority to amend the constitution.

"Only the parliament has the jurisdiction to make any amendment to the constitution," he said while addressing a meeting at the National Press Club in the city organised by National Democratic Party (NDP) in observance of its 21th founding anniversary.

Earlier, on Thursday, new Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque called upon the government to reprint the constitution in the light of the Supreme Court verdict that upheld the High Court order invalidating the Fifth Amendment.

"Soon after pronouncing the judgment by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on the

Cargo ship catches fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A fire broke out at a cargo ship of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC), which was being repaired at Chittagong Dry Dock last night.

Originated from sparks on the 4th floor of BSC-owned Banglar Shikha around 7:30pm, the fire spread fast to the 3rd floor, said Senior Station Officer Abdul Malek of CEPZ Fire Station.

Woman murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was strangled in her own flat at the city's Mirpur Shah Ali yesterday afternoon.

Aleya Begum, 35, wife of late Akkas Ali, a forest official lived in a flat on the top floor of a six-storey building at Mirpur Section-1.

A woman living on the third floor said she saw three people were coming out of the house at around 12.30pm. Later, she heard Aleya's daughter, Barna screaming and called the police.

Babu Kumar, sub-inspector of Shah Ali Police Station told The Daily Star that, Barna, a student of class ten of Shah Ali High School went to school around 10am. She found the door of their flat bolted from outside when she returned home around 12.45m. Her mother's lifeless body was lying on the floor with a scarf around her neck, when she opened the door. Her hands and legs were also tied up.

Aleya's husband who died of cardiac arrest a few months ago bought the flat.

Abdul Latif, officer-in-charge of Shah Ali told The Daily Star that Aleya and Barna were the only residents of the flat.

He said they have not been able to ascertain whether any valuables were missing from the house. Police are investigating into the matter.

Mediators Assoc formed to improve ADR practice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mediators Association, a fresh union of trained mediators, made its appearance in the city yesterday with a view to improving the alternative dispute resolution (ADR) system.

At a seminar at the CIRDAP auditorium, the new association declared its 27-member executive committee with Dr Barrister Belal Hossain Joy as president and Advocate Md Bashir Uddin as general secretary.

Belal Hossain in his keynote paper hailed the government for taking initiative to launch ADR to dispose of civil and criminal disputes.

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over all the seven divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:44pm today and rises at 5:51am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 25.0 degrees Celsius at Chuadanga, Mymensingh and Rangamati.

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 | 34.3 | 26.8 | 69 | 69 |
| Chittagong | 34.5 | 26.4 | 72 | 68 |
| Rajshahi | 35.8 | 25.8 | 88 | 81 |
| Khulna | 34.5 | 26.6 | 76 | 75 |
| Barisal | 35.1 | 25.5 | 77 | 88 |
| Sylhet | 34.7 | 25.6 | 73 | 71 |
| Cox's Bazar | 35.0 | 27.6 | 70 | 73 |

DRU Society's audit begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Reporters Unity Bahumukhi Samabay Samity (Multipurpose Cooperative Society) Limited requested members, persons or organisations to solve any due transaction with the Samity.

The audit for 2009-10 fiscal of the Samity kicked off recently and will continue till October 12, says a press release.

All members are also asked to come to the Samity's office and check their balance.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion
Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum will arrange a discussion. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 10:30am.

Debate
Stamford Debate Forum will organise a debate. Venue: Siddeshwari, Time: 10:30am.

Meeting
France-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry will hold a meeting. Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Time: 12:30pm.

Conference
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs will arrange a 7th South Asia ministerial conference. Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Time: 9:30am.

Seminar
Dhaka Medical College Teachers Association will organise a seminar. Venue: Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Time: 12:00pm.

Hunger strike
Standard Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee will observe a token hunger strike programme. Venue: Geneva camp, Mohammadpur, Time: 9:00am.