

# WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY TODAY Frame law to ease sufferings of 1.4cr mentally ill people

Rights activists urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Mental Health Day will be observed today in the country as elsewhere in the world with rights activists urging the government to enact a law immediately to ease the sufferings of the country's over 1.4 crore mentally ill people.

Different socio-cultural organisations took elaborate programmes to observe the day focusing on this year's theme, "Mental health and chronic physical illness: The need for continuous and integrated care".

Speaking at a press conference at the National Press Club, Director of the National Institute of Mental Health M Golam Rabbani said, "People with mental disorders are often stigmatised and subject to neglect and abuse".

He called for a concerted effort to combat this deeply rooted problem.

People suffering from chronic diseases like heart diseases, diabetes, cancer and

high blood pressure are more prone to mental health problems, he added.

National Mental Health Institute is hosting a discussion meeting on the occasion at the Bangladesh Medical Association auditorium today.

On the eve of the day, World Health Organisation (WHO) launched new simplified diagnosis and treatment guidelines for people with common but untreated mental and neurological disorders.

A WHO study shows that over 16 per cent people aged above 18 are suffering from different mental disorders in the country while the rate is 26 per cent among children and teenagers.

It estimates that one in four people globally in their lifetime will experience a mental health condition that can be prevented through social awareness.

At Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday, leaders of the National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled at a press conference demanded expeditious

the process of enacting mental health law and make it public so that people can benefit.

BSS adds, in a message on the eve of the day, President Zillur Rahman said modern and quality healthcare facilities need to be ensured for all to make the society happy and prosperous.

Any illness makes people mentally upset, he said.

The president said an integrated healthcare service is a must to make the people healthy, wealthy and wise.

He wished the day's programmes a total success.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in another message, said adequate care for mental health along with physical health is necessary to make a happy and prosperous society.

The government is committed to reach quality healthcare facilities to the doorstep of all, said the prime minister.

She wished programmes of the day a success.

# Ban tobacco cultivation in farmland

Demand NGOs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Activists of some NGOs yesterday demanded necessary measures to review the Tobacco Control Act 2005 for its proper implementation and to ban tobacco cultivation in farmlands.

They said people do not get the fruit of the act because of its loopholes. The act should be reviewed immediately for its proper implementation and thereby control the widespread use of tobacco and to ensure public health safety, they added.

They placed the demands at a human chain jointly organised by Work for Better Bangladesh (WBB) Trust, Prottasha, Manobik, Alliance for Cooperation and Legal Aid Bangladesh (ACLAB) and National Anti-Tuberculosis Association of Bangladesh (Natab) in front of

the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

They also blamed the tobacco companies for circulating their advertisements strategically, encouraging people to smoke.

Their other demands are inclusion of the definition of jarda (tobacco leaf), sada pata (tobacco leaf), gul (grains of tobacco) and other types of tobacco products in the act, attachment of cautionary message covering at least 50 per cent space of the packet, declaring workplaces, offices in the private sector, restaurants and barber shops as public places and imposing health tax on the tobacco companies.

WBB Trust National Advocacy Officer Syeda Anonna Rahman, ACLAB Project Co-ordinator Emdadul Haque, Sirak Bangladesh Executive Director SM Saikat, among others, spoke at the function.



# SM Sultan's anniversary of death today

BSS, Narail

Sixteenth death anniversary of artist SM Sultan will be observed in a befitting manner here today.

SM Sultan Foundation and the district administration have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

The programmes include placing of wreaths at the grave of SM Sultan, offering fetaha, Qurankhwani, milad fahfil, art competition for children at Sishu Swarga auditorium, prize distribution and discussion on Sultan's life and works.

Deputy Commissioner and president of SM Sultan Foundation Mohammad Anwar Hossain told the agency that all preparations have been completed to observe the day.

# DU dean election tomorrow

DU CORRESPONDENT

Elections for deans in ten faculties of Dhaka University will be held tomorrow between 10:00am and 2:00pm at Teachers Students Centre (TSC).

Awami League backed Blue panel and left-leaning Pink panel aligned will compete against BNP-Jamaat backed White panel in the polls in nine faculties.

White panel is set to get an uncontested victory in law faculty, as the Blue one has no candidate there.

Blue Panel Convener Dr Anwar Hossain said they are not contending in law faculty, as no professor of the panel is willing to vie.

The required minimum for candidature in the polls is to be an associate professor.

White Panel Convener Dr Sadrul Amin said white panel had won the last deans' election 8-2, hoping an even better result this time.

Chosen as the election commissioner, Prof Mizanur Rahman vowed to carry out a fair election.



Water from rain during the last two days could not drain out resulting in the waterlogging of Govindpur Bazar at Shanir Akhra in the city yesterday.

# REB services deteriorate Says state minister

UNB, Dhaka

Expressing concern over the deteriorating services of Rural Electrification Board (REB), State Minister for Power and Energy Enamul Haq yesterday said this happens as the present management of the utility body has become more bureaucratic than public service oriented.

This bureaucratic mentality of the management of the state-owned REB deteriorates its services, he said while addressing a workshop titled "Strengthening of Rural Electrification Board to achieve vision 2021" at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city.

Enamul Haq, who once served as the REB chairman, said, "In the past, REB top officials were always busy serving the rural grassroots people. People had easy access to the top... but now it has become rare for an ordinary people to get an audience with the REB bosses."

He said once REB was the best development model but now it is losing its bright image.

He directed the authorities concerned to

find out ways to improve the REB services and restore the past glory of the organisation.

The state minister's comments came at a time when allegations are rife about the deteriorating services of the REB, which prompted a thought that the operations of REB and its cooperatives should be squeezed.

However, opposing such an idea, Enamul Haq said the PBS (rural electricity cooperatives) has been a proven and best-adopted system in the country to reach electricity to the rural people.

Power Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, PDB Chairman ASM Alamgir Kabir, Janata Bank Chairman Prof Abul Barakat and World Bank expert Malcom Cofgrove Gavies also spoke at the function presided over by REB Chairman Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam.

The Power Secretary proposed to form a high level committee headed by a joint secretary of the power division to review REB operations and adopt recommendations for further improvement of its services and operations.

# FM's China visit postponed

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni has postponed her China visit, scheduled to begin today, due to illness, official sources said.

A close aide to the foreign minister told The Daily Star that she was suffering from severe back pain and doctors advised her to take complete rest as her condition is not suitable for air flight.

She was scheduled to attend the celebration of 35 years of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and China and hold meetings with Chinese vice-president and her counterpart.

# Independent relaunched

BSS, Dhaka

The Independent, an English daily, was relaunched yesterday with a new look to fulfil the demand for access to information of the people in a more accurate way.

The Independent will have a 32-page regular issue from today. Today's issue will also include a 40-page supplement.

Editor of The Independent Mahbubul Alam formally declared the relaunching at a ceremony at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city.

Alam said "The changeover is not merely in form and format, we have to report with integrity, remain committed to the principle of unalloyed truth, and not be swayed by any interests other than those that will aid in the promotion of rights and liberty, and the nation's welfare."

# Free treatment for poor cleft lip patients

METRO DESK

Dhaka Community Hospital in collaboration with MERCY Malaysia launched a plastic surgery programme of cleft lip and palate reconstruction from October 8 to 15 of 2010, says a press release.

The operation is free of cost and only for 60 poor patients registered by the hospital from different areas of Bangladesh through its rural health centres.

A 12-member voluntary medical team of MERCY Malaysia headed by Prof Dr Ahmad Sukari-bin-Halim will work on this purpose.

Patients and their attendants will be provided with food, accommodation and travel cost.

First Secretary of Malaysian High Commission in Bangladesh James Koh inaugurated the programme yesterday.



Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses the party's central working committee meeting at her political office at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

# 'Formulate effective child policy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday stressed the need for coordination among different government agencies to formulate an effective child policy to protect child rights.

Coordination among government's education policy, health policy and other policies is important to formulate an effective child policy in the country, they said.

They were addressing the roundtable titled "Role of civil society in formulation and implementation of National Child Policy, 2010" in observance of Child Rights Week-2010 at the Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) in the city, says a press release.

Speaking as the chief guest, Meher Afroz Chumki, president of parliamentary standing committee on women and child affairs, emphasised the need for creating mass awareness about different child issues to implement the policy properly.

She said there are 6.3 crore children in the country. Moral education should be included in the child policy to transform this huge number of children into human resource, she added.

DAM Executive Director M Ehsanur Rahman urged the NGOs to play a significant role in implementing the policy.

ActionAid Bangladesh Country Director Farah Kabir, National Girl Child Advocacy Forum's President Badiul Alam Majumder, Mass Literacy Campaign's Vice Chairman Manjur Ahmed, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum's General Secretary Sanjeeb Drong were present at the meeting.

## DHAKA TODAY

**Discussion**  
Ain O Shalish Kendra will organise a discussion. Venue: Dhaka City Corporation auditorium, Time: 12:00pm.

**Rally**  
Gorbo Bangladesh will arrange a rally. Venue: Paltan Maidan, Time: 4:25pm.

**Meeting**  
National Institute of Mental Health will organise a meeting. Venue: BMA auditorium, Time: 10:00am.

**Discussion**  
Bangladesh-China Cultural, Economic & Mass Communication Centre will organise a discussion. Venue: Hotel Abakash, Mohakhali, Time: 5:00pm.

**Debate**  
Bangladesh Shishu Academy and National Girl Child Advocacy Forum will jointly organise a debate competition. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy auditorium, Time: 10:15am.

**Meeting**  
Surid will organise a meeting. Venue: C R Mozumdar auditorium, Dhaka University, Time: 2:30am.

**Moments celebration**  
Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services and Math Olympiad Bangladesh will jointly celebrate a Binary moments. Venue: Café premises, Buet, Time: 10:10

**Theatre show**  
Protection of Children at Risk, Ministry of Social Welfare and Unicef will jointly organise a theatre show and meeting. Venue: Directorate of Social Welfare, Agargaon, Time: 3:00pm.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:37pm today and rises at 5:54am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 31.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Feni and lowest 19.8 degrees Celsius at Rangpur.

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	27.6	23.5	87	82
Chittagong	29.5	24.1	77	85
Rajshahi	29.4	21.8	95	90
Khulna	27.0	23.5	98	91
Barisal	30.2	24.5	87	87
Sylhet	28.8	22.0	91	91
Cox's Bazar	30.4	25.8	90	88

# Successful BCS applicants want non-cadre job

DU CORRESPONDENT

The applicants, having passed the 28th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations but not appointed yet, reiterated their demand yesterday for immediate recruitment to non-cadre posts as first class officers.

They also sought prime minister's intervention to recruit them before publishing the final result of the 29th BCS examination, because opportunities to get recruited will be lost as per rules after the result is out.

To press home the demand, the job seekers brought out a procession and formed a human chain at the base of Aparajay Bangla at Dhaka University.

LGRD Minister Ashrafur Islam in the parliament said that in different ministries remain vacant 35,460 non-cadre posts, one of the candidates told The Daily Star.

A total of 5,105 applicants passed the 28th BCS exams, and Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC) recruited 2,190 to different cadre-posts, says a press release.

# Impartial newspaper columns stressed

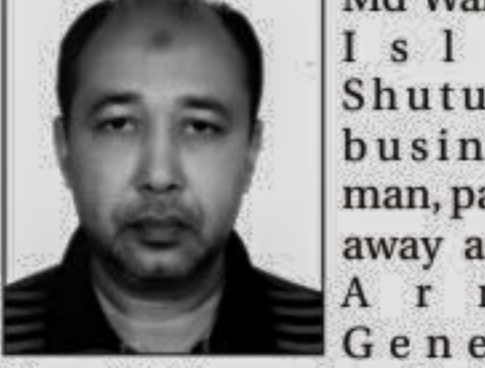
DU CORRESPONDENT

Newspaper columnists should avoid slanted views and give correct information to enhance quality of their writings.

Some distinguished personalities expressed the opinion

# Obituary

METRO DESK



Md Wahidul Islam Shutul, a businessman, passed away at the Army General Hospital Guangzhou in China due to a cardiac arrest on October 4 at the age of 55, says a press release.

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

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque in the city after Zohr prayers on October 11. He will be buried at Banani Graveyard.



Dhaka Community Hospital in collaboration with MERCY Malaysia launches an October 8-15 plastic surgery programme of cleft lip and palate reconstruction at the hospital in the city.

# Woman strangled in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An unidentified woman aged about 32 was strangled allegedly by her husband at her residence at city's South Mugda on Friday night.

Sabujbagh police said they recovered the body at around 11:30pm on Friday from a house of South Mugda after breaking open the door. The body has been sent to the Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy, police said.

Quoting owner of the house, police said a man and the woman rented the house on October 2 identifying

themselves as husband and wife and used to stay in it at night only.

Neighbours saw the couple entering the house at around 8:00pm on Friday night, police said. And at around 10:00pm, they found the door locked from outside and a body lying on the floor, police said, quoting the neighbours.

The man was absconding since the incident, police said. Later, police recovered the body, Kamal Faruk, sub-inspector of Sabujbagh police station said.

Morgue sources said the woman was strangled.

## STUDY IN CANADA

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