

'Local surgeons skilled enough to handle cardiac patients'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There are local cardiologists and cardiac surgeons who have excellent knowledge and skill to perform world class surgeries in the country, but what they lack is people's faith and confidence on them.

A large number of Bangladeshi cardiac patients go abroad for treatment, especially for by-pass surgeries and non-surgical interventions. With less expense, the same surgeries and interventions can be done in Bangladesh as advanced technologies are available here.

Speakers at a discussion meeting on 'Cardiovascular diseases: Emerging global problems' at Nagar Bhawan suggested that people should do regular exercise to keep their heart healthy.

Dhaka City Corporation in association with Education for Health, a voluntary doctors association organised the discussion and seminar yesterday.

Dr Ashok Seth, Senior Consultant of Escorts Heart Institute and

Research Centre in New Delhi, India was speaking as guest of honour and presented a scientific paper on 'Advancement in Management of Coronary Artery Disease' at the seminar.

Praising performance of Bangladeshi young cardiac surgeons and cardiologists, Dr Seth who has trained over 250 cardiologists including Bangladeshis at Escorts, told a packed audience that there is no dearth of skills here.

"I do not believe there should be a branch of Escorts here in Bangladesh but Bangladesh should develop its own centre for better treatment facilities," said Dr Seth, who has already committed himself to train local doctors to develop skills.

Dr Jahangir Kabir, one of the most successful cardiac surgeons in the country now working at the National Heart Foundation Hospital (NHFH) in Mirpur while presenting his paper said, "One of the major problem here is lack of people's confidence on us. We do not have many cardiac centres here, but we are doing well."

Giving statistics on the work of the NHFH, Dr Kabir said, "Out of a total of 216 cases of coronary artery by-pass surgery conducted at NHFH, 73 per cent were open heart and rest were closed heart surgeries which include paediatric (children) heart surgeries. There were only seven deaths."

He also said that out of the total, ten per cent were done successfully on beating heart which is a big achievement for a country like Bangladesh.

Dr Seth and his colleague, Dr N N Khanna, also from Escorts were honoured by the city corporation. DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif presented them crests.

Prof Abdul Malek, president of Bangladesh Cardiac Society and secretary general of National Heart Foundation, Prof M A Zaman, former director of National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD), Prof Sufia Rahman, senior consultant of cardiology and chief of cardiac cath-lab and intervention cardiology of NHFH also spoke on the occasion.

Convention to formulate code of conduct for teachers

BSS, Dhaka

A meeting of the national delegates of non-government college teachers at Bangladesh College Teachers Association (BCTA) here yesterday decided to hold a grand national convention to formulate a code of conduct for teachers, said a press release yesterday.

President of the association Principal A K M Zahur Islam chaired the meeting while general secretary of the association Qazi Faruque Ahmed presented the keynote paper.

The proposed grand convention of non-government college teachers will be held at 10:00 am on April 30 at the Engineers' Institution.

The BCTA meeting proposed formulation of a tripartite committee comprising teachers, guardians and representatives of the administration at national, district and thana levels to ensure the accountability of all concerned.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain forecast

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Sylhet division and northern part of Chittagong division and regions of Mymensingh and Dhaka and weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country in the next 12 hours till 6:00 pm today.

Rise in day temperature is expected over the country during the period, Met Offices said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 38.2 degree Celsius at Jessore and the lowest 20.4 degree Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:23 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:31 am.

Maximum and minimum 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	36.5	25.6	58	26
Chittagong	37.8	26.2	75	73
Rajshahi	37.6	22.0	33	26
Khulna	38.0	24.0	54	-
Barisal	36.8	22.5	69	48
Sylhet	34.0	23.8	73	62
Cox's Bazar	35.2	24.8	72	73

New technology for arsenic free water for villagers

MAHBUB ZAMAN, back from Chandpur

Experts on Friday inspected the Stevens Technology for Arsenic Remove (STAR) filter project, a simple, cheap and user friendly method to remove arsenic from the tube well water at the Golbar village under Kachua in Chandpur.

The method reduces arsenic level from 100 parts per billion (ppb) to less than 5 ppb, which is below the WHO limit of 50 ppb.

The technique has been approved by the Technical Advisory Group under National Steering Committee on Arsenic.

A total of 184 families have so far adopted this easy and affordable technique to fight rid of the epidemic problem of the country.

Earth Identity Project (EIP), a Non Government Organisation (NGO) introduced the technology in the village with technical assis-

tance from Stevens Institute of Technology (SIT) of New Jersey, USA.

Scientists of the SIT evolved the technique through laboratory experiments and field tests in the village for over a year.

EIP has also begun a training programme on arsenic awareness and to explain the easy handling of the filter to the villagers.

About 30 women take part in the two-hour training programme each day, which is being held at Ashak Ali Khan High School and College in the village.

During this process two milligrams of iron powder with other chemicals are mixed with about 20 litres of arsenic contaminated water in a bucket. The iron powder dissolves and absorbs the arsenic molecules within two minutes.

The water is then filtered through a highly absorptive common sand filling one third of an-

other bucket with a hole at the bottom. The arsenic-free water passes to the container through a tube, connected with the hole.

The arsenic containing particles remain in the bucket as they cannot pass through the sand.

The whole process about 20 minutes.

The initial cost of the filter is around Tk. 2000, which includes the cost of buckets, buckets, tube and the iron mixture. The yearly cost of for filtering arsenic contaminated water is only Tk. 140 for a family of five.

Talking to The Daily Star, an official of EIP said, "we are still providing the filter at free of cost and the iron mixture is being supplied by SIT." She also said that the mixture would be produced locally in future and the villagers will then have to purchase the filter.

Death anniversary

The first death anniversary of journalist Nazim Reza Razi will be observed today, says a press release.

Ruber died of cancer last year. To mark the day Dhaka Reporters' Union held a memorial meeting yesterday. DRU president M Anwarul Haq presided over the meeting which was addressed, among others, by DUJ president Altaf Mahmud and DRU general secretary Motahar Hossain Masum.

Obituary

Surendra Nath Halder, father of the court correspondent of The Daily Star Chaitanya Chandra Halder, died of old age complication at his village home on Friday at Nanyakandi Bajitpur under Rajor thana in Madaripur district. He was 90, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, four sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

JCD demands release of its arrested activists

DU CORRESPONDENT

Opposition BNP-backed students' body Jaiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out a procession and held a rally on the Dhaka University campus yesterday in support of the four-party alliance sponsored 72-hour hartal and demanded immediate release of JCD general secretary Shahabuddin Ahmed Lahu.

Beginning from the Madhu's Canteen, the procession paraded the campus streets and held a rally in front of DUCSU building at around 11:30 am.

Addressing the rally, JCD leaders said that the Prime Minister and her government had failed to run the country in each and every sector and it was wise for her to quit power and hand over it to a non-party caretaker government immediately.

Demanding immediate release of all arrested JCD activists, JCD leaders urged all to make the opposition called 72-hour hartal a

success which will begin tomorrow.

Presided over by Monir Hossain, the rally was also addressed, among others, by Mostafizul Islam Mamun, Haider Ali Larin, Nurul Islam Noyon, Omar Faruk Shafin, Sardar Mohammad Nuruzzaman, Golam Hafiz, Abdul Bari Danny and Saidur Rahman.

CAT hails Biman for making flights smoking-free

UNB, Dhaka

Coalition Against Tobacco (CAT), a combined platform of anti-smoking organisations, thanked the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and Biman Bangladesh Airlines for declaring Biman's all international flights smoking-free.

It also urged all foreign airlines who have not already done so to take similar steps.

DHAKA TODAY

Lecture
Centre for Advanced Research in Social Science of Dhaka University will hold a lecture. Keynote speakers Prof Sharif Ullah Bhuiyan and Ashraf Hossain. Venue: Lecture theatre (room no 401) of Arts Building, DU. Time: 11:00 am.

Inauguration
Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim will inaugurate the National Nutrition Week 2001. Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Time: 2:00 pm.

Consultation meet
Asian Network for the International Criminal Court (ANICC), with cooperation of Bangladesh Coalition for the International Criminal Court (BICC) will hold a Consultation Meeting on the 'International Criminal Court and Ratification by Bangladesh'. Time: 2 pm to 5 pm. Venue: Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD) conference room, House No 40C, Road No. 11, Dhanmondi RA.

Views exchange meeting
Committee for the Annihilation of the Collaborators of 1971 will hold a views exchange meet with leading personalities of the civil society. Venue: WVA auditorium, House no 20, Rd no 27, Dhanmondi RA.



Former Chief Justice A T M Azal awarding Khanbahadur Ahsanullah Gold Medal-2000 to National Professor Mohammad Shamsul Haque at a programme yesterday. Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised the function.



Participants at the launching ceremony of the Esho Bangla Shikhi Project held at the Goethe Institut in the city on Friday.

TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES APRIL 21, 2001

Company	DSE			CSE			Financial Performance		
	Price	Change	Turnover	Price	Change	Turnover	Last	EPS	DPS
BANK									
AB Bank Ltd.	1005	17325	221	16050	13446	16000	455	17600	20
Crb Bank Ltd.	1005	18700	1000	17000	30	12000	0	Not Traded	---
FCB Bank Ltd.	1005	21000	8.81	10300	3586	20100	0.64	168	5
Idara Bank Ltd.	1000	23750	0.54	23625	276	24000	0.81	21.0	27
National Bank Ltd.	1000	20575	1.40	23250	3269	20000	1.61	232.25	13480
Pubali Bank Ltd.	1005	22325	17.50	19000	490	11500	0	Not Traded	---
Rupali Bank Ltd.	1000	81.50	4.82	77.50	400	75.00	0	Not Traded	---
UB Bank Ltd.	1005	110.00	4.02	105.75	1120	110.00	0	Not Traded	---
United Bank Ltd.	1005	270.00	0.00	270.00	1975	---	---	---	---
At Baraka Bank Ltd.	1000	2585.00	2.07	1259.00	1	---	---	---	---
DLI Ltd.	10020	494.00	1.86	485.00	20	452.00	0	Not Traded	---
United Leasing Co. Ltd.	1000	570.00	7.01	673.00	80	---	---	---	---
Utara Finance and Inv.	10050	239.75	0.74	238.00	1150	232.00	0	Not Traded	---
N.A. Arala Islami Bank	1005	425.50	2.33	1330.00	1160	1474.50	2.61	1396.00	125
Prime Bank Ltd.	10050	360.00	0.74	302.50	1100	110.00	0	Not Traded	---
Southeast Bank Ltd.	10050	236.75	0.00	236.75	9000	236.50	0.53	237.75	1900
Dhaka Bank Ltd.	10050	255.00	0.20	254.50	2650	253.00	0	Not Traded	---
N.C.C. Bank Ltd.	10050	160.00	0.94	159.50	850	160.00	0.63	139.00	12350
Social Investment	10050	1035.00	0.67	1042.00	41	---	---	---	---
Investment	10050	314.25	0.32	315.25	2550	---	---	---	---
INVESTMENT									
ICI BCB Mutual Fund	10050	407.00	0.73	410.00	10	335.00	0	Not Traded	---
ICI BCB Mutual Fund	10010	365.00	0.00	365.00	20	320.00	0	Not Traded	---
ICI BCB Mutual Fund	10010	230.00	4.31	230.00	70	196.50	0	Not Traded	---
ICI BCB Mutual Fund	10010	153.00	0.65	154.50	830	150.00	0	Not Traded	---
ICI BCB Mutual Fund	10050	159.00	3.25	154.00	250	144.00	0	Not Traded	---
ICI BCB Mutual Fund	10050	144.00	1.05	142.50	150	132.00	0	Not Traded	---
ICI BCB Mutual Fund	10050	70.00	0.71	70.50	150	71.00	0	Not Traded	---
ICI BCB Mutual Fund	12500	0.97	0.00	0.97	435000	0.98	1.03	0.97	10000
ENGINEERING									
Altab Automobiles Ltd.	1005	209.00	0.73	207.50	20	207.50	1.22	205.00	20
Azar Pipes Ltd.	1000	226.50	7.71	228.00	280	274.00	0	Not Traded	---
Olympic Industries Ltd.	1005	114.00	3.40	110.00	6385	112.50	0.67	117.75	40
Bangladesh Lamps Ltd.	1005	499.00	0.20	500.00	65	500.00	0	Not Traded	---
Eastern Cables Ltd.	1005	135.00	0.38	132.50	3540	132.00	0	Not Traded	---
Karmic Pipe Ltd.	1005	36.00	0.48	37.50	100	---	---	---	---
Sonargangladesh Ltd.	1005	21.00	0.58	20.00	145	21.00	0	Not Traded	---
QD Airways Ltd.	1005	19.00	0.59	21.25	500	18.00	0	Not Traded	---
Ban. Distillers Ltd.	1050	18.20	1.11	18.00	11660	18.20	0.55	18.01	13850
National Tubes Ltd.	10010	52.75	0.43	52.50	70	---	---	---	---
BD Thermal Aluminums Ltd.	10010	199.00	0.50	199.00	30	200.00	0	Not Traded	---
Tejgaon Engineering Ltd.	10050	14.50	0.69	12.90	26600	12.90	0.84	11.90	40950
Key & Que (BD) Ltd.	10050	11.75	2.61	11.75	2100	10.75	0	Not Traded	---
Wonder Land Toys Ltd.	10050	25.50	0.97	25.50	250	24.25	0	Not Traded	---
Rangpur Foundry Ltd.	10500	22.80	0.00	22.80	52000	22.90	0.44	22.80	12500
FOOD & ALLIED									
Alpha Tobacco Ltd.	10050	54.30	0.37	54.00	60	62.00	0	Not Traded	---
Azar Pipes Ltd.	1005	369.00	0.55	366.00	360	365.00	0	Not Traded	---
Triphi Industries Ltd.	1005	47.75	3.80	46.00	350	45.00	0	Not Traded	---
Rangpur	1005	194.00	0.00	194.00	10	---	---	---	---
BLTC	1005	47.50	10.00	52.50	10	---	---	---	---
BATBCL	10050	104.00	0.66	105.50	4020	104.00	0	Not Traded	---
Dhaka Vegetable Ltd.	1005	14.25	0.98	15.50	40	---	---	---	---
Zeeal Bangla Sugar Mills	1050	13.60	2.70	13.90	100	---	---	---	---
Hemco Fisheries Ltd.	10020	70.75	0.47	70.00	400	70.00	0	Not Traded	---
Bengal Brocarts Ltd.	10020	44.75	2.87	43.50	1200	44.50	4.09	42.75	660
Meghna Shrimp	10020	116.75	0.43	116.25	2740	117.50	0.43	117.00	200
Tejgaon Ice (BD) Ltd.	10050	12.00	0.60	12.90	23600	12.90	0.84	11.90	40950
Amica (Iran)	10010	382.25	0.07	382.00	250	395.00	0	Not Traded	---
Dhaka Fisheries Ltd.	10050	66.75	9.43	61.00	550	83.00	0	Not Traded	---
Shampur Sugar Mills	10100	2.70	0.00	2.70	100	---	---	---	---
Meghna Vegetable	10100	43.50	1.14	44.00	50	44.00	0	Not Traded	---
Key Food Ltd.	10050	58.00	7.41	54.00	350	58.50	0	Not Traded	---