



PHOTO: STAR

Rickshaw-Van Malik Sangram Parishad stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday to press its nine-point demand, including licence for the rickshawpullers.

Enjoy press freedom with responsibility

President reiterates

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed called upon all concerned to enjoy the

press freedom with responsibility and help foster respect and tolerance to opinion of others. He made the call when

Executive Committee member of the World Press Council Moinudin Qaderi Shawkat called on the President at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

Iajuddin said that the newspapers and media in the country are now enjoying "full freedom".

Congratulating Shawkat on his election as executive member of the WPC, he said those Bangladeshi nationals who have been elected to different international organisations "should uphold nation's image by working like country's envoys".

Shawkat submitted a list of the executive committee of the World Press Council and copies of its constitution and synchronisation of some clauses of the Bangladesh Press Council Act with the WPC constitution to the president.

A copy of "The Right to Information Act" constituted by the Bangladesh Law Commission in 2003 was also submitted to the President.

Shawkat said he is determined to protest "anti-Bangladesh propaganda by different media abroad and protect country's image".

World Press Council is working for ensuring media's freedom, responsibility and accountability worldwide.

Chinese most prone to colorectal cancer in Asia

REUTERS, Hong Kong

A study spanning 14 cities across Asia has found the highest incidence of colorectal cancer among ethnic Chinese, a trend which researchers in Hong Kong on Monday blamed on a more westernised diet.

Between October 2004 and April 2005, doctors performed colonoscopies on 5,055 people and found polyps in 19.4 percent of the subjects. Of these, four percent had cancer.

A further analysis found that colorectal polyps and cancers were found in more than 18 percent of ethnic Chinese, followed by just over 12 percent of Indonesians, 12 percent of Malaysians, 10 percent of Thais and eight percent of Filipinos.

Ethnic Indians were the healthiest in this regard, with only five percent suffering the same condition.

A leading researcher in the study blamed the phenomenon on the genetic makeup of ethnic Chinese and their changing diet.

"The prevalence of colorectal polyps and cancer among ethnic Chinese is very high, as high as in Caucasian populations," Leung Wai-keung, professor at the Chinese University's Institute of Digestive Diseases, told Reuters in an interview.

"Our belief is that the Chinese genetic makeup is very susceptible to colorectal cancer but this race has been protected by traditional Chinese diet."

"But now, with lifestyle changes, a westernised diet, this genetic susceptibility has been brought out," he said, adding that diets rich in fat and red meat were the chief culprits.

Asked about the growing popularity in Asia of weight-loss programmes from western nations, which advocated diets that were low in carbohydrates and high in fat and meat, Leung said they would have to be followed over the long term to be harmful.

The study covered the cities of Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Delhi, Jakarta, Fukuoka, Kitato, Kurume, Seoul, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Singapore, Taipei, Kaohsiung and Bangkok.

Among ethnic Chinese examined in the survey, researchers found those in Hong Kong the most susceptible to advanced colorectal polyps and cancer — 11 percent of them were diagnosed with the condition.

Eight percent of Chinese in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou were found with the illness, compared to four percent of ethnic Chinese in Singapore and just over two percent of ethnic Chinese in Taiwan.

The study also found that the incidence of colorectal problems was highest among people over 50 years old.

"If you are above 50, we would advise some kind of screening," Leung said.

German cooperation in RMG assured

Bss, Dhaka

Outgoing German Ambassador to Bangladesh Deitrich Andreas yesterday called on Textiles and Jute Minister Shajahan Siraj at his office.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of mutual interest, including expansion of trade and business between the two countries, a ministry press release said.

The German ambassador assured his country's cooperation to the readymade garment sector of Bangladesh.



Prof Syed Abdul Kalam Azad, treasurer of National University, speaks as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of newly established Bangladesh Commerce College at Khilgaon Taltala in the city on July 15. Principal Prof Abdul Mottalib presided over the function.