

## Political will a must to free society from corruption

ACC chairman tells roundtable

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The biggest challenge facing the present anti-corruption drive is to create political will to curb corruption from the society, said Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (Retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday.

"We have taken the challenge and are working hard by visiting different districts for creating public opinion and forming corruption prevention committees," he said while speaking as the chief guest at a roundtable.

The roundtable titled 'Anti-corruption drive and way forward' was organised by Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) in association with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at BEI auditorium in the city.

UNDP Resident Coordinator Renata Lok Dessallien, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman, Danish Ambassador Einar H. Jensen, and Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett were present at the programme.



ACC Chairman Lt Gen (Retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury addresses a roundtable at BEI auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left is BEI President Farooq Sobhan and on his right is UNDP Resident Coordinator Renata Lok Dessallien.

## Conjoined twins die

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As it happens in most cases the conjoined twins born on Tuesday died at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) died yesterday morning.

Paediatricians had said the condition of the babies who were joined at the chest and abdomen was sound and their movement, breathing and other internal activities were going well.

But the babies died at 6:40am at the Department of Paediatric Surgery as their condition started worsening in the early hours yesterday. The babies were crying incessantly, they stopped taking food, and breathing problem developed, ward sources said.

Although examination of the internal condition of the babies did not take place, a medical officer at the ward said the twins may have died of congenital heart disease and other internal problems.

Hashu Begum, 30, gave birth to the conjoined twins at a clinic in Nawabganj upazila of Dhaka district on Tuesday.

Experts said conjoined twins are born once in every 1,50,000 to 2,00,000 live births in the world and it is three times likely to happen to females than males.

When an embryo begins to split into identical twins but stops midway leaving the partially separated egg to mature, it results in conjoined twins. Experts said chances of conjoined twins' survival depend on how they are joined. About 40-60 percent are stillborn and 35 percent survive 24 hours or less.

Of twins who undergo surgery, one often dies after the operation and the rate of survival beyond the age of two is just 20 percent, according to experts.

In Bangladesh, survival of conjoined twins is very rare. A total of three pairs of conjoined twins were admitted to DMCH in the last three and half years but none of them survived.

"Conjoined babies die because of lack of adequate intensive care. Investigation and surgery facility should be increased for their survival. At the same time, they should be brought to hospitals timely... In most cases conjoined babies born in remote areas die before being brought to hospitals," said a paediatric surgeon at a private hospital in the city.

Dr Ruhul Amin, associate professor of paediatric surgery at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, successfully separated a pair of conjoined twins at the Islami Bank Hospital a few years ago. One of the babies, however, died immediately after the operation, but its twin is living in good health.



UNB, Dhaka

Moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day/temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 33.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Ishwardi and lowest 24.6 degree Celsius at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:12pm today and rises at 5:42am tomorrow.

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	30.8	26.4	87	88
Chittagong	30.7	26.2	78	92
Rajshahi	31.4	24.8	99	98
Khulna	29.3	26.5	93	90
Barisal	29.0	25.5	—	88
Sylhet	32.6	25.7	80	93
Cox's Bazar	28.7	25.0	93	91

## Release Khaleda Demands US BNP

NEWS WORLD, New York

The US Chapter of BNP and its front organisations continued to stage demonstrations demanding release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for the third consecutive day while the US Chapter of Jubo Dal submitted a memorandum to the Bangladesh Consulate at New York.

Addressing the chief adviser, the memorandum said scores of people across the globe are disappointed and aggrieved over the 'conspiratorial' arrest of Khaleda Zia without any specific allegation.

Jubo Dal President Jakir H Chowdhury, General Secretary Abu Syed Ahmed and other leaders were present while submitting the memorandum.

Meanwhile, Washington BNP Vice President Sarafat Hossain Babu, in a press release, said he has sent letters to 10 senators, including US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Senate Foreign Relation Committee Chairman John Baiden protesting the arrest of Khaleda Zia.

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