

16 lakh become victims of hip fracture a year

Doctors tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Osteoporosis is a bone disease that endangers people's life silently as there is no specific symptom of the disease, said the doctors at a seminar yesterday.

They said around 16 lakh people are becoming victims of hip fracture every year and people who are above 30 years including women are the main sufferers of fracture.

Instead of taking the disease seriously, they take it as an accident due to lack of knowledge and awareness in this regard, said the doctors.

They said the main reason

behind the fracture is frail bone and it occurs due to lack of calcium, magnesium, zinc, protein, vitamin D and other proteins.

The seminar was organised by the New Zealand Dairy Products Ltd to mark the World Osteoporosis Day at Spectra Convention Centre in the city.

Dr Samina Chowdhury, professor of the Institute of Child and Mother Health, presented a keynote paper at the seminar.

Prof Shahela Khatun of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Prof Rawshan Ara Begum of Holy Family Red

Crescent Medical College and Hospital and Rheumatology and Medicine Specialist Dr Muhammad Nazrul Islam also spoke on the occasion.

Later, Prof Shahela and S A Mallick, managing director of New Zealand Dairy Products Ltd, jointly inaugurated the manufacturing of Aanlin milk in the country by unveiling its pack.

The milk packets weighing 400 gram and 900 gram will be available in the markets from now on, said the organisers.

Prior to the seminar, a procession was brought out.

CU REOPENS TOMORROW
Students asked to carry ID cards to avoid stern action

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) authorities have asked all the residential and non-residential students of the university to carry identity cards with them during their stay on the campus when the university reopens tomorrow.

Patrol teams of police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), and the university would stay at different spots on the campus and students failing to show ID cards would have to face stern action, they said.

Those who are allotted in the dormitories and got temporary permission from the authorities would get chance to enter the dormitories on condition of showing ID cards.

The decisions were taken at a follow-up meeting of the university authorities with the civil administration, intelligence, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police departments aiming to establish a congenial atmosphere on the campus.

CU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr M Badiul Alam presided over the meeting held at his office yesterday morning.

The authorities also directed the owners of cottages and privately owned rented hostels around the campus, to provide the photo and details of students and others dwellers.

Rab and police teams may conduct drives anywhere on the campus, including dormitories, cottages and shuttle trains to avert any untoward incidents, said the meeting sources.

Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Hossain Jamil, Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner Mainur Rahman Chowdhury, representatives from DGFI, Rab, Police and the university syndicate members were present in the meeting.

The university was closed following a government order to shut down all public universities on August 22. The classes will resume on Wednesday.

The dormitories were scheduled to be opened on Tuesday but in a meeting on September 27, the authorities decided to open the dormitories on Monday.

Masked criminals attack UNO's house in Ruma

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

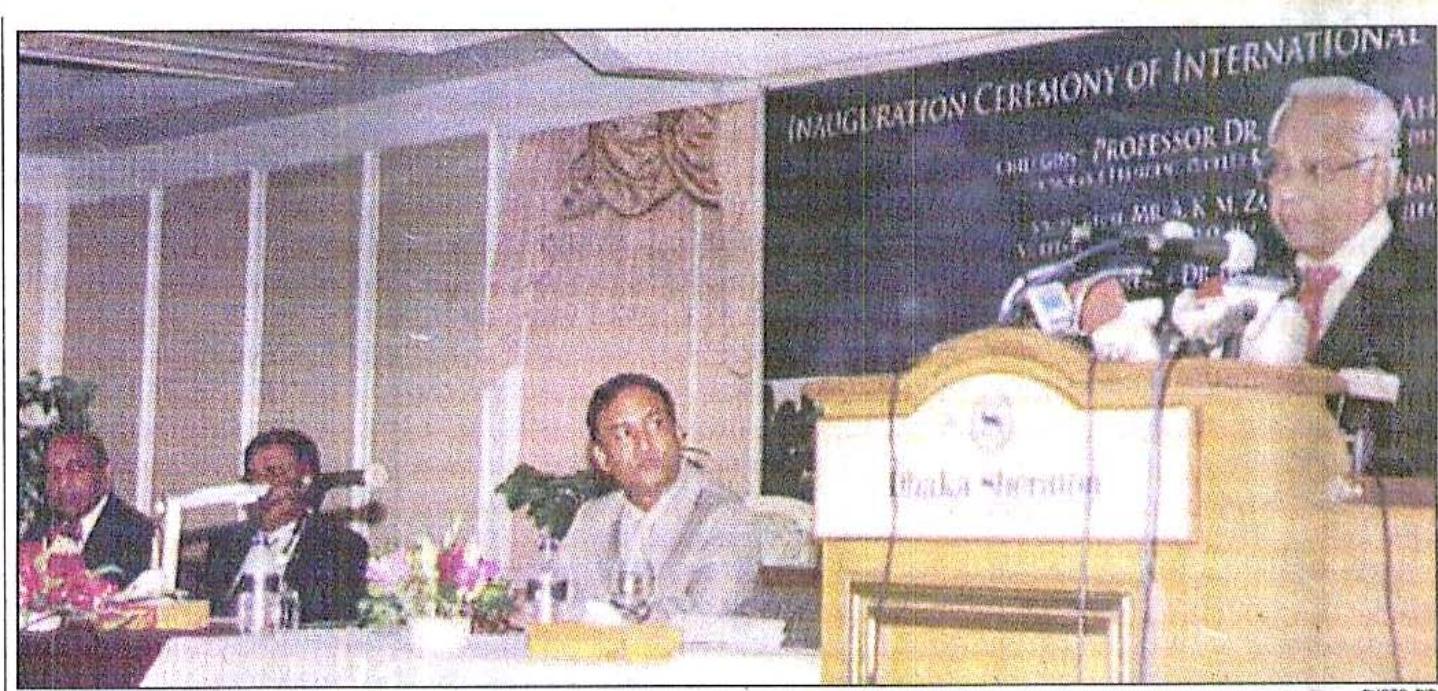
A group of masked criminals attacked the house of Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Ruma on Friday night.

None was reported hurt in the attack.

It was the second such attack by masked criminals in a month at the upazila.

Talking to The Daily Star, UNO Mohammad Abu Noyeem said at about 1:00am the criminals attacked his official residence.

But they fled the scene when the on-duty police of Sonai Bank rushed to the spot, hearing his shouting, he added.



President Iajuddin Ahmed addresses the inaugural ceremony of International Eye Bank Symposium as the chief guest at Hotel Sheraton in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Launch social movement for cornea donation

President urges conscious sections of society

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed called upon the conscious sections of society to come forward to launch social movement in favour of cornea donation among the mass people for restoring sight of the blind.

"Eye professionals, community opinion leaders and people from all sections of society, including religious leaders, can play important roles in building mass awareness about cornea donation," he said.

The president was addressing the inaugural ceremony of an international Eye Bank Symposium as the chief guest at Hotel Sheraton in the city yesterday.

Health Secretary AKM Zafarullah Khan attended the programme as the special guest while President of the International Agencies for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) Dr GN Rao presented the keynote paper.

Country Director of ORBIS International Dr Abu Raibah and General Secretary of Sandhani National Eye Donation Society Prof Abul Kalam Azad were present.

The president thanked ORBIS International for providing technical and financial support to local organisations and institutions in establishing eye-care facilities, which will play vital roles in reducing blindness in the country.

He hoped that this experience and success would inspire others to establish more eye banks in Bangladesh as well as in other countries.

The president said access to eye-health information and education needs to be expanded for all in order to preserve and save sight for those who are suffering from avoidable blindness. Media, both electronic and print, can play very effective role in this regard.

He also stressed the need for reduction of sight restoration by corneal transplant through taking appropriate measures that include public health education and early treatment of eye diseases and infection.

Valuables worth over Tk 50 lakh gutted in Motijheel bldg fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Valuables worth over Tk 50 lakh were gutted in a fire at a commercial building at Motijheel in the city yesterday.

The fire also left five people, including two firefighters, injured.

The injured firemen were identified as Afzal Hossain and Nurul Islam but the identities of the three injured shop employees could not be known immediately.

Eight warehouses of as many local stationery shops, housed on the third floor of the five-story building, were completely gutted in the fire.

Electronics goods kept at a ware-

house at an adjacent building were also gutted partially.

The central stationary department of Janata Bank, housed on the ground and first floors of the building, were safe.

Locals informed fire brigade officials soon after they found smoke emitting from the third floor of the building at around 9:00am.

Fire brigade officials said 13 fire-fighting units rushed to the spot on receiving the information.

However, they said it took more time to douse the fire as all doors and

windows of the building were closed since it was a weekly holiday yesterday.

Following the incident, members of law enforcement agencies, including army personnel also rushed in and cordoned off the building.

The fire in the commercial hub spread panic among the businessmen in the nearby buildings.

Fire brigade officials also said that the fire spread rapidly as the godowns were packed with flammable chemicals.

Fire brigade officials could not identify the reason behind the fire.

30 injured as storm damages 70 houses in Narayanganj

UNB, Narayanganj

A storm swept over a village in Araihazar upazila early yesterday, injuring 30 people.

The storm that struck Mollar village at about 3:30am also damaged about 70 houses and a mosque.

Thousands of trees were uprooted during the strong twister that lasted for only 4/5 minutes.

Voter registration begins in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The task of preparing voter list with photo and National Identity Card in Sylhet City Corporation began yesterday.

The programme was launched at the Police Line High School.

Brig Gen Mosharraf Haque, Lt Col Mosharraf Hossain of Joint Forces, Commanding Officer of Rab-9 Lt Colonel Ferdous Khan, Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet Harun Ur Rashid Khan, Acting mayor of Sylhet City Corporation Azam Khan, Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police Mahbub Alam and Deputy Election Commissioner in Sylhet division Khondaker Mizanur Rahman were present on the occasion.

The officials later visited some other centres in other wards in the city.

Tk 41.44 lakh donations for cancer hospital in September

Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital (AMCH) received about Tk 41.44 lakh as donations from various quarters of the society in the month of September, says a press release.

The donors are Shirin Ahmed and Nurjahan Sultan (Tk 10 lakh each), The Acme Laboratories Ltd, Khalilur Rahman and Chowdhury Ataur Rahman Sakru (Tk 5 lakh each), SE Kabir (Tk 2 lakh), Gul Anar Begum and an anonymous person (Tk 1 lakh each), Nazma Islam (Tk 50,000), Zinia Parveen (Tk 395,000), Karim Spinning Mills Ltd, Sohagpur Textiles Mills Ltd, Purbani Fabrics Ltd, Purbani Yarn Dyeing Ltd, Karim Textiles Ltd and Purbani Synthetic Ltd (Tk 16,500 each), Hosne Ara Begum (Tk 15,000), Ferdous Ara Rahman and Sarwar Binte Islam (Tk 10,000 each), Kamal Ahmed (Tk 6,000), HN Rahman (Tk 5,000), on behalf of late MA Ohadud, Lutful Haque and Iftekhar Chowdhury (Tk 2,000 each), Nasiruddin Ahmed (Tk 1,500), Md Muhibur Rahman 1,000 and an anonymous person who donated Tk 400.

Build on a plot of three acres at Uttara in the city, so far AMCH received Tk 5.2 crore as donations. However, for timely and total completion of this health project Tk 200 crore is needed.



MUDY DELIGHT: Unhygienic atmosphere at the Shishu Park couldn't refrain children from enjoying different rides during the holidays. The authorities, however, have turned a blind eye to the deteriorating condition of the country's major children's park. The picture was taken on Friday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Turn visually impaired people into human resources

Speakers say at discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday reiterated the need for building awareness about the use of white cane by visually impaired people to ensure their safe movement.

They also called for adequate supply of necessary equipments for blind people to help turn them into manpower.

The discussion was organised jointly by the Ministry of Social Welfare, National Foundation for the Development of Disabled Persons and National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFWOD) at the auditorium of the Directorate of Social Services marking the World White Cane Safety Day.

In his welcome address, AHM Noman Khan, general secretary of NFWOD, said the celebration of the Day across the world symbolises a common platform for people with all forms of disabilities along with visually impaired to raise voice for their rights.

He urged all to extend their helping hands in ensuring adequate supply of equipments like braille books, special educational institutes, white canes and reservation of seats in public vehicles.

He congratulated the young people with disabilities who earned laurels through their outstanding performances at the special Olympic held in China recently.

In his keynote paper, Monsur Ahmed Chowdhury, NFWOD chairman of Policy and Legal Affairs Committee, explained the background of the Day.

He said leaders of the International Federation of the Blind organised an international conference for the first time in 1969 in Colombo, Sri Lanka where different proposals were adopted regarding social development, education, training, and safe move-

ment of the blind people.

One of the proposals was to observe the World White Cane Safety Day every year on October 15 to promote awareness about the basic needs of people with visual impairment, he added.

The Ministry of Social Welfare has been observing the Day since 1996 in association with the NFWOD.

Hafizul Islam Mia, director general of social services director-

ate, laid emphasis on raising awareness about the use of white cane.

He also called for comprehensive approach for the overall development of people with disability.

Social Welfare Secretary MA Hai Howlader, Bangladesh Blind Mission Visual Trainer-cum-Braille-in-charge Fahima Khatun and NFWOD Assistant General Secretary M Khalilur Rahman also took part in the discussion pre-

sided over by NFWOD President Khandaker Zahirul Alam.

A total of 200 white canes were handed over to 12 member organisations of the Directorate of Social Services, University of Dhaka and NFWOD for distributing among the blind students and persons on the occasion.

On account of Eid-ul-Fitr vacation, the World White Cane Safety Day was not observed on the due date.



PHOTO: STAR

Visually impaired people attend a discussion at the Directorate of Social Services auditorium in the city yesterday