

## WORLD HEART DAY TODAY

## More people prone to heart diseases

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

With the number of elderly people increasing due to higher life expectancy, more and more people in the country are now prone to heart diseases.

"Elderly people are more prone to heart risk factors. Before independence, life expectancy at birth was only 43 years, which has reached 67.8 years recently," said Dr Abdul Wadud Chowdhury, associate professor of the Department of Cardiology at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

He said that men above 40 and women above 50 mostly suffer from cardiac diseases in the country.

However, there is no nationwide survey in this regard.

According to the World

Heart Federation, cardiovascular diseases are the world's largest killers, claiming 17.1 million lives a year. Considering its severity, the last Sunday of September every year is observed as the World Heart Day.

The theme of this year's World Heart Day, which is taking place today, is 'Work with Heart'.

The risk factors for heart disease and stroke include raised blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose levels, smoking, inadequate intake of fruit and vegetables, overweight, obesity and physical inactivity.

Yet 80 percent of premature deaths from heart disease and stroke could be avoided by controlling the main risk factors: tobacco, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity, experts say.

"As we spend a lot of time at workplaces, the environment of the workplaces should be healthy and it would help increase the productivity of the people," said Prof Abdullah Al Shafi Majumder, president of Bangladesh Society of Geriatric Cardiology, at a roundtable in the city yesterday.

He also suggested that restriction should be imposed on smoking at workplaces and there should be a gymnasium in all corporate offices so that the employees could take physical exercise.

In 2003, a comprehensive study focusing on the economic return of workplace health promotion concluded that workplace programmes can achieve a 25-30 percent reduction in medical and absenteeism costs in an average period of about 3.6 years.

## 'Form farmers' cooperatives'

BSS, Dhaka

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanok yesterday directed the cooperatives department to form farmers' cooperatives society at grassroots level to ensure fair prices of agricultural goods, breaking the syndicate of middlemen.

He also sought cooperation of successful cooperative societies to rejuvenate the sick cooperatives.

The state minister was addressing as the chief guest a discussion organised by the Cooperatives Department at its conference room in the city.

The meeting discussed how to rejuvenate the sick cooperatives in light of the experiences of the successful cooperative societies, said an official release.

Nanok urged the successful cooperative societies to take special programmes to make the country's youth efficient and active.

He said the leaders and activists of Juba League would be given special training at Bangladesh Rural Development Academy (BARDA) in the first phase to make the disheartened and unemployed youth solvent and self-reliant.

## 140 policemen to join Congo peacekeeping mission

UNB, Dhaka

A 140-member contingent of Bangladesh police left for Congo on Friday night to join the United Nations peacekeeping mission.

The team, led by Police Superintendent Sheikh Mizanur Rahman, left Zia International Airport by a UN-chartered flight.

The contingent will join the newly formed BANFPU-3 unit in Congo.

Deputy Inspector General of Police (Training) Abdus Salam and other senior officials were present at the airport to see them off.



PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

LIVING GODDESS: Kumari Puja, an important part of Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of Hindus, was held at Ramakrishna Mission in the city yesterday.

## Move to settle cheque bounce cases

16,400 CR cases stockpiled in Magistrate's Court of Dhaka

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka Metropolitan Court has taken an initiative to settle the stockpiled cheque bounce cases that pushed the country's financial and banking institutions into a huge debt burden.

According to sources, the number of magistrate's courts dealing with cheque bounce cases legally known as Complaint Registrar (CR) cases under the Negotiable Instrument (NI) Act have been extended to four with Metropolitan Magistrates Ferdous Ara and Farhana Ferdousi taking charge of the newly constituted courts 14 and 25 respectively to hear and settle the CR cases.

Sources in the Magistrate's Court of Dhaka said as many as 16,400 CR cases have remained stockpiled in this court alone for a long period without hearing due to lack of adequate magistrate's courts.

The magistrate's courts which are to deal with other ordinary cases are also loaded

with huge number of CR cases, the filing of which is increasing every day, said an official of the CMM's Court.

The heads of the country's financial institutions are demanding setting up at least two exclusive magistrate's courts for quick disposal of pending CR cases or cheque bounce cases as it takes at least four years to settle a CR case.

On behalf of the financial institutions, a delegation headed by Managing Director of Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DBH) Q M Shariful Ala met the law, justice and parliamentary affairs minister on March 9 this year and submitted a petition requesting him to set up at least two exclusive courts to dispose of the pending CR cases.

"A loan default CR case takes at least four years to complete the entire judicial process," said Shariful Ala.

He said it takes as long as four months to get a date for a

case after it is lodged and a summons is issued at least after four months.

Shariful Ala added that in many cases, reports relating to summoning of the cases are deliberately removed by some dishonest court staff in connivance with loan recipients for their vested interest to prolong the process.

The DBH top boss said if the accused is granted bail it takes nearly six to eight months to transfer a case from a magistrate's court to an assistant session judge's court.

Even if no stay order is there, the assistant session judge's court takes at least three years to settle the loan default case, he added.

"The problems of settling the CR cases will be resolved to a great extent with the enhancement of the number of courts," said Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Md Golam Rabbani.

He said the CMM's Court will continue its efforts to

mitigate the sufferings of the financial and banking institutions.

Although four magistrate's courts were exclusively engaged in settling the CR cases, the 13 judicial courts will also hear and settle the CR or cheque bounce cases along with the ordinary cases, he added.

Dhaka CMM's court has also reorganised the courts and given the responsibility to four magistrate's courts to receive the CR cases of different police stations of Dhaka Metropolitan city, the source said, adding, it has split the CR branch into four regions-east, west, north and south-to ease the sufferings.

Areas under Motijheel, Paltan, Khilgaon, Sabujbagh, Shyampur, Sutrapur, Demra, Jatrabari and Kadamtoli Police Stations have been included in the east region and the CMM's Court Number 5 under Metropolitan Magistrate Julfikar Hayat is receiving the

CR cases.

The west region includes areas under Mohammadpur, Pallabi, Adabar, Kafrul, Mirpur, Shah Ali, Tejgaon and Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Stations. Court Number 20 under Metropolitan Magistrate A E M Ismail Hossain is receiving the cases of this region.

Areas under Uttarkhan, Dakhinkhan, Airport, Turag, Uttara, Badda, Khilkhet and Cantonment Police Stations have been included in the north region while the areas under Ramna, Shahbagh, Dhanmondi, New Market, Hazaribagh, Kotwali, Lalbagh and Kamrangirchar have been included in the south region.

Court Number 22 under Metropolitan Magistrate Faisal Atiq Bin Qader and Court Number 6 under Metropolitan Magistrate A K M Emdadul Huq are receiving the CR cases in the north and south regions respectively.



PHOTO: STAR

International Burmese Monks Organisation stages a demonstration near the High Court in the city yesterday to mark the second anniversary of Saffron Revolution in Myanmar.

## GLOBAL CLIMATE POLICY

## Making people's views heard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A national meeting was held in the city yesterday to collect views and recommendations from common people over global warming issue to influence the global climate policy.

At the meeting titled 'Citizens' views on global warming' at Brac Centre Inn, around 100 representatives of common people from across the country upheld their views, needs and placed a set of recommendations to overcome the adverse impact of global warming.

Ahead of the 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference at Copenhagen, capital of Denmark, in December this year, Incidin Bangladesh in association with World Wide Views on Global Warming organised the meeting.

The main purpose of the meeting was to listen to general people's voice over the climate

change issue to influence the policy decision to be taken at the COP15 as the common people who are most vulnerable to climate change have no proper access to express their views regarding the issue.

Inaugurating the meeting as chief guest lawmaker Begum Sanjida Khanam from Dhaka-4 constituency said the government is working sincerely to adopt necessary policies to overcome adverse impacts of global warming.

"The government has allocated Tk 700 crore in the budget for the fiscal year 10 to mitigate the impacts of climate change, and it is also working at the global forum to create opinion on the issue," she added.

Sanjida said it is essential for government and non-government organisations working with climate change issue to take effective stand over global policy on climate change at the Copenhagen

conference.

"Though the developed nations are mainly responsible for global warming, least developed countries including Bangladesh are the most affected ones. So the Bangladesh delegation has to play a strong role in the Copenhagen conference," she added.

Presided over by AKM Mustaque Ali, executive director of Incidin Bangladesh, the inaugural session was also addressed by Dr Kazi Maruf Islam, associate professor of public administration at Rajshahi University, and AKM Masud Ali, one of the executive directors of Incidin Bangladesh.

In his speech Mustaque Ali said collection of views and recommendations from the common people started yesterday simultaneously in 68 countries which are badly affected by global warming.

## Workshop for veterinarians Sept 29

METRO DESK

A workshop on 'Public and Private Veterinarians Interaction and the prospect of roles delegation' will be held at Dhaka Westin Hotel on September 29, says a press release.

The PPP (Public Private Partnership) project of the Avian Influenza Technical unit of FAO is hosting the workshop.

A group of senior and prominent public veterinarians nominated by the Director General of Livestock Services and representatives from poultry associations, farms, and animal health companies will attend the event.

The main objective of the event is to identify and determine a set of roles in combating avian influenza and other animal health diseases.



PHOTO: STAR

A two-week Chinese Traditional Artwork Show by Rashida Akhter began at the National Museum in the city yesterday. The show will remain open from 11:00am to 5:00pm daily up to October 12.



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