# heart attack risk for women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Risk of heart attack is two times higher for women taking tobacco and it gets even bigger for those who take contraceptive pills and tobacco simultaneously, Dr Arup Ratan Chowdhury said yesterday quoting from a study.

Tobacco also threatens women with higher risk of diabetes and cancer, said Dr Arup, president of the Madakdrabba O Nesha Nirodh Shangstha (Manas), an organization to prevent drug and drug addiction.

Women are affected directly and indirectly by tobacco, he said in his keynote presentation at a press conference in the city. Manas organised the conference at the Dhaka Sheraton

Hotel to mark the World No Tobacco Day 2010 to be observed globally tomorrow with the theme 'Gender and Tobacco with an Emphasis on Marketing to Women'. Presently more than 1 crore women are taking tobacco in

different styles and over 7 lakh of them are smoking, said Dr Ratan. Women are giving birth to children with disability and less weight due to the use of tobacco, he said.

According to a research by the World Health Organisation, currently around 111 crore people across the globe are smokers and of them 20 crore are women. Every year around 5 million people die due to tobacco.

The anti-drug organisation demanded the government increase tax on tobacco and tobacco products.

Eminent film actor Elias Kanchan, Manas Organising Secretary Matiur Rahman Talukder, Treasurer Hosne Ara Lina and Executive Member Masuma Akter were present at the press conference.

# Tobacco doubles Work hard to uphold nation's image

### Hasina urges peacekeepers

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the Bangladeshi peacekeepers working under the UN umbrella to carry out their missions with utmost sincerity, upholding the dignity of the national flag and brightening the image of the motherland.

Addressing a function marking the International Day of the UN peacekeepers at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday afternoon, she also urged the blue helmets to ensure their effective participation in the worldwide peacekeeping activities and earn more fame and pride for the nation.

The premier assured that her government would provide all out assistance to the armed forces-whatever they need to improve their standard and image.

"We'll generously provide all sorts of assistance to you. I know this has risk... but I don't care as I will do this for the interest of the nation," she said. "We'll deliver what the three forces need to improve. We won't take long to take decisions, I can assure you that."

Hasina said her government would provide modern training for the peacekeepers so that they could match step with the peacekeepers from other countries.

She said her government has taken initiatives to procure some more Armoured

Personnel Carriers for Bangladeshi peacekeepers so that the armed forces and police personnel from the country could be included in the peacekeeping missions with increasing

She mentioned the capability of sending forces and modern training will be the key factor for participating in the peacekeeping

The PM said Bangladesh is now capable to send peacekeeping personnel to any part of the world at any moment. "We are always ready to establish peace in any country under the UN Security Council."

She said the peacekeepers have brightened Bangladesh's image in the world and the money they earned with hard labour would help the country's economy to stand on solid

Hasina mentioned that due to the contribution of the peacekeepers, the country could make good relations with the stronger countries around the world, in terms of military and economical strength.

She said, "You'll be happy to know that after we assumed power, our position strengthened further in the UN peacekeeping missions." Earlier, the PM handed over plagues to the

family members of the Bangladeshi peacekeepers, who died after June 2009, and also to the injured peacekeepers.



Family members of the dead or injured peacekeepers pose for photograph with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a function at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

photo exhibition arranged to mark the occa- at-large M Ziauddin and Chief of Army

UN Resident Coordinator in atthefunction.

After the ceremony, Hasina went round the Bangladesh Arthur Erken, Ambassador Staff General M Abdul Mubeen also spoke

# (a) ব্রিগেডিয়ার মাহাদী কিপাহী মাহাদা @ ঈমাম হোসেন @ রডিন আল @মোহাম্মদ আল মাহাদী @জুনাইরা খোন্দকার জিহান

Mahbub Alam Rodin, detained on charges of posting offensive images of politicians on the internet, was paraded before the media at Rab headquarters yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

## Mayoral candidates seek Call for social movement to votes amid drizzle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Amid daylong drizzle, almost all the candidates vying for mayor or councillor posts in the June 17 Chittagong City Corporation elections were busy campaigning in the port city.

Family members and well-wishers of different candidates also took part in the campaigns yesterday.

Awami League-backed and Nagorik Committee nominated mayoral candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury visited Steel Mill and Kathgar areas of Patenga ward and Panchlaish and Oxygen areas in the morning.

He promised to work hard for the welfare of workers in Chittagong Port.

In a press briefing at the main office of Nagorik Committee in the afternoon, Mohiuddin said development of the region would be faster if transit facilities were given to neighbouring countries through Chittagong

He said a section is misguiding people saying that the present government is plotting to "sell the country" using transit as an excuse.

Family members of Mohiuddin were with him during yesterday's campaign in different areas. Mohiuddin's wife Hasina Mohiuddin and their three daughters Zebunnesa Chowdhury, Israt Sharmin and Nusrat Sharmin made door to door visits at Sholoshahar in the morning while Mohiuddin's son Chowdhury Mohibul Hasan Nowfel was seen in Mohammadpur in the afternoon.

The BNP-backed mayoral candidate Mohammad Manjur Alam held viewsexchange meetings with BNP leaders of Kattali and Bandar wards at his Kattali home in the morning due to the bad weather.

He joined a views-exchange meeting with Bangladesh Teachers' Association at Pologround and visited Dhanialapara area in the afternoon.

Seeking votes, Manjur promised voters that taxpayers money would be properly used for their welfare if he is elected. Several ward-councillor candidates also

ignored the rain and went ahead with their campaign plans.

# combat maternal death

#### 12,000 die during childbirth a year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A social movement is a must to reduce maternal mortality in the country, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

An estimated 12,000 women die during childbirth a year, they said, adding that lack of awareness and access to healthcare and negligence towards women are responsible for maternal deaths.

Highlighting the vulnerability of women in society, the speakers placed some recommendations at a discussion organised by the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

At the discussion titled 'Maternal Health Services: Perspective, reality and our duties', the women leaders and gynecologists said still 85 percent of deliveries take place at home and with the help of unskilled birth attendants, which is one of the reasons of high maternal mortality rate in the country.

A large number of girls gets marry and become pregnant before their 19s when she is not biologically fit to be a mother, they said, adding the men should be made aware of the maternal health.

At the same time, education for all, maternity leave for working women, antenatal and postnatal care and skilled birth attendants should be ensured. Violence against women and early marriage

should be stopped in any way. The empowerment of women also needs to be ensured in this regard, they added. Acting President of Bangladesh Mahila

Parishad Fawzia Moslem presided over the session. Secretary General of Bangladesh Medical

Association Prof Sharfuddin Ahmed, Laila Arjumand Banu, Dr Rowshan Ara, Dr Iffat Ara, Dr Farhana Dewan, Dr Layla Anjuman Banu and General Secretary of the parishad Maleka Banu also spoke.

BANGABANDHU AWARD FOR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION'

## Nationwide tree plantation campaign starts June 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government this year introduced an award titled 'Bangabandhu Award for Wildlife Conservation' as part of its efforts to preserve rare animal and plant species on the verge of extinction.

"The award will be given to those making special contributions to save wildlife," State Minister for Environment and Forests Hasan Mahmud said at a press briefing at the ministry.

He said this ahead of the month-long countrywide National Tree Plantation Campaign and Tree Fair starting on June 1. The slogan of this year's campaign is "Green towns, green country will change Bangladesh."

Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina, who is due to inaugurate the fair at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center in the city, will confer the awards in three categories. Each award will include a crest of two bhoris of gold, a cheque for Tk 50,000 and a certificate. At the same programme,

she will also present Prime Minister's National Award to 48 in 16 categories for their contributions to the success of tree plantation move-

"The Department of Forest is organising the campaign in divisional, district and upazila levels to create more awareness of environment and tree plantation in particular," Hasan Mahmud

government set a target to produce 10 crore of tree seedlings, which is a record so far in the history of the country.

Afforestation by the forest department on 1.7 lakh hectares of lands in the coastal char area is accelerating rise of char lands and creating scope for farming and fisheries and human habitation, he

In the previous years, vast areas in char lands in Noakhali were leased out to the influential people, Hasan Mahmud said, adding the government took an initiative to cancel the leases.

Forest and Environment Secretary Mihir Kanti Majumder and other officials of the ministry were present

Humidityin

He said this year the atthepress conference.

Washington congratulates Dhaka on arrest of JMB chief

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States has congratulated the Bangladesh government on the arrest of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Maulana Saidur Rahman.

"We congratulate the Government of Bangladesh on the arrest of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) leader Saidur Rahman in Dhaka on Sunday (May 23) evening," Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Robert Blake said in a statement.

The JMB has been responsible for numerous acts of indiscriminate violence against Bangladeshi civilians, including a coordinated series of bombings in August 2005 that affected 63 of the country's 64 districts, as well as attacks on judges, police and ordinary citizens, Blake said in the statement issued in Washington DC on Friday.

"Sunday's arrest is the latest in a series of highprofile success stories in which local Bangladeshi law enforcement officers have arrested terrorist leaders who threaten the country's democratic institutions and secular traditions," he said.

Blake said the United States looks forward to continued partnership with the Bangladesh government to deny space to terrorists and to promote regional peace and secu-

On May 25, the law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh disclosed the arrest of the JMB leader to the media.

ADMISSION TRADE, IMMORAL ACTIVITIES

## Sahara warns students of stern actions

BSS, Dhaka

Home Minister Advocate Sahara Khatun yesterday warned that stern actions would be taken against those students who would be involved in terrorist and immoral activities in the name of politics.

"No one will be spared from the action if he or she gets involved in extortion, illegal capturing of seat or hall and admission trade in the educational institutions," she said while addressing the freshers' reception of Eden College as the chief guest.

Sahara Khatun said that the government will not allow any sorts of terrorist activities, extortion, illegal capturing of seat or hall in the educational institutions in the name of students' politics.

organisations, she said that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has clearly instructed her to take stern actions against the students who would be involved in such heinous activi-

"We feel sorry when we see the news or

photographs of such terrorist or immoral activities or admission trading of the students in the name of politics," she said adding, "I am sure that your parents did not send you to Dhaka to get involved in such acts."

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Deputy Leader of the Parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury were also the students of this college but they never got involved in such activities, Sahara Khatun added.

The Home Minister said that the government has also taken up various initiatives to stop eve-teasing in the country to ensure congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions.

She called upon the teachers and stu-Warning the student leaders of different dents to come forward to stop eve-teasing or other terrorist and immoral activities.

Prof Mahfuza Chowdhury, the Principal of the college, chaired while Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, MP; and eminent singer Momtaz Begum, MP, among others, addressed the function.

#### AL, Grand Alliance leaders meet on June 1

UNB, Dhaka

Leaders and MPs of Bangladesh Awami League and its partners in the Grand Alliance will hold a meeting on June 1 at Gono Bhaban to discuss the prevailing political and socio-economic situation of the country.

A party press release said the joint meeting, scheduled to start at 7:00pm, will be presided over by the Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Awami League General Secretary and LGRD Minister Sved Ashraful Islam has requested members of Awami League Central Working Committee, Advisory Council and Parliamentary Party as well as the leaders of all other parties in the Grand Alliance to present at the meeting in

time.

#### BDR man dies while on duty at border

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) commander posted at 25rifle battalion in Panchagarh died of acute myocardial infarction (AMI) at Panchagarh Sadar Hospital on Friday night.

A BDR press release says BDR commander Mohammad Delwar Hossain fell ill while he was discharging his duty in the bordering area Bhajanpur in the district around 9:00pm.

on duty said he died of AMI.

Delwar was immediately shifted to the hospital where he died at 9:40pm. Doctors His body was sent to his village home in Chandpur for burial.



UNB, Dhaka

City/Town

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. The sun sets in the capital at 6:41pm today and rises at 5:11am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Satkhira and lowest 21.8 degrees Celsius at Rangamati. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded

in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in

Celsius percentage Evening Morning Max Min 33.2 Dhaka 26.2 75 71 Chittagong 31.1 26.0 71 90 Rajshahi 35.3 25.8 89 63 83 Khulna 35.4 27.0 Barisal 33.2 27.8 74 Sylhet 79 25.3 30.0 Cox's Bazar 81 33.0 25.0 68



Teachers, students and employees of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) form a human chain on the campus yesterday to mourn the death of Khandaker Khanjahan Samrat, a first year mechanical engineering student. (Story on Page 16)