

Kidney donation after death can save 30,000 lives

Say experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 30,000 lives could be saved if people start donating kidneys after their deaths, said experts at the 6th national conference of Kidney Foundation held in the city yesterday. They said every year around 1.80 lakh people are diagnosed with kidney diseases in the country. Of them, 40,000 suffer from kidney failure while three fourth of them die as the people are still reluctant to donate kidneys. Like eye donation after deaths, people can start donating kidneys. In developed countries, around 85 percent kidney is collected from the deceased donors and the success rate at this type of kidney transplantation is also high, they mentioned. The Kidney Foundation has been trying to save lives of people with the kidneys collected

from the deceased donors for last two years, the organisers said.

But due to lack of donors and apathy of the people for lack of awareness it cannot move forward much, they told the conference at the Convention Hall of the Kidney Foundation Hospital and Research Institute.

President of the foundation Prof Dr Harun ar Rashid presided over the conference while Health Adviser to the Prime Minister Syed Modasser Ali was present as the chief guest.

National Professor MR Khan was present as the special guest.

Secretary General of the foundation Dr Muhibur Rahman, Vice President Dr MA Wahab and Managing Director Tini Ferdous Rashid also spoke.

Around 300 nephrologist, urologist and transplant experts took part in the conference.

Street drama on corruption concludes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two daylong street rally and street drama to motivate youths for preventing corruption has ended in Savar yesterday.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Socheton Nagorik Committee (Sonac) in association with Youth Engagement Support (YES) organised the programme, says a press release.

Anti-corruption based drama "Sonar Bangladesh Chai" was staged at the seven important places -- Savar Upazila Complex, Purba Rajshon, Katlapur, Savar Thana Stand, Dendabor Stand, Bolivdro Bazar and at the premises of Bangladesh Krira Shikha Pratishthan (BKSP).

Transparency crucial to combat graft

Say anti-corruption activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Accountability and transparency at all levels of governance are crucial to prevent corruption in the society, said anti-corruption activists at a debate competition in the city yesterday.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organised the two-day shadow parliamentary debate competition on Environment and Corruption at Brac University to mark the International Corruption Day on December 9.

Corruption will engulf the issues of environment in absence of transparency and accountability, as it involves water, forests and mineral resources, said Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB, at the inaugural session.

Corruption occurs in different man-

ners at different levels of the society with abuse of power, absence of accountability, transparency, enforcement of law and institutional weaknesses, he said.

Incorporating tolerance to and accommodating other's views in exercising democracy is essential for the success of democratic politics, said Iftekhar adding that it would be easy to prevent corruption if the law enforcement agencies have the integrity and they can work free from political influence.

According to TIB estimate, a total of Tk 6,796 crore is wasted every year in the country due to corruption, which could be utilised to set up eight thousand hospitals.

Dr Shahdeen Malik, director of School of Law of Brac University, said that it is vital how one perceives corruption.

Entertaining unjust requests abusing

an organisational position, without taking direct benefit, is even a kind of corruption, said Dr Malik, also an eminent lawyer of the Supreme Court.

However, he said, by the time today's youths take on professional life in next one decade, a tangible progress will take place in the society in preventing corruption.

"In fact, the corruption itself has prompted the society to react and resist the menace," he said.

Over 300 university debaters from across the country are taking part in the competition at Brac University and East West University.

TIB event has been funded by UNDP with The Daily Star, ABC Radio and private television channel Bangla Vision as media partners.

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one step ahead/PA08/2010

'WikiLeaks puts US diplomacy in embarrassing state'

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

WikiLeaks' release of classified US State Department reports puts the US diplomacy in an embarrassing situation.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni made the remark when reporters sought her opinion about the impact of the leak.

"It is true that it is an era of free flow of information but at the same time national interests also need to be protected," she said. The foreign minister said it is the diplomatic practice for ambassadors to keep their headquarters informed of any event along with their perception.

However, she agreed that WikiLeaks' disclosure of US State Department cables puts international diplomacy, particularly US diplomacy, in an awkward situation.

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