

“Greek” Nutrition Protection for Premature Babies

Researchers in Adelaide, Australia said they found a method for nutrition protection of premature babies leading to impaired mental development. Specifically, a six-year study led by Dr Maria Makrides from the Women's & Children's Health Research Institute and Professor Bob Gibson from the University of Adelaide has indicated that high doses of fatty acids administered to pre-term infants via their mother's breast milk or infant formula can help their mental development.

Researchers found that a major lipid in the brain - the omega-3 fatty acid (DHA) - is not developed suffi-

ciently in babies born before 33 weeks' gestation, leading to possible impaired mental development.

To counter this, increased doses of DHA were administered to lactating mothers with pre-term infants, in the form of tuna oil capsules. If required, infants were given supplementary formula with matching DHA levels. Of 657 premature babies tested in a trial involving five Australian hospitals, about 50% fewer infants on high-DHA diets had significantly delayed mental development compared with low DHA diets. Premature girls in particular who were exposed to

DHA-rich diets showed much better mental development than girls fed the low DHA diet.

Researchers were at a loss to explain why premature male babies - who are more susceptible to cognitive problems - did not respond to the same extent, with no obvious differences in mental development between the control group and those administered high doses of DHA. A possible explanation might be that boys may have a faster metabolic rate than girls and need higher doses of DHA to make a difference, professor Gibson said.

Farmers Block Roads

Farmers blocked many roads using their tractors as they protest for low prices of products. Nikaia node, Thessalia, the national road of Kavala-Xanthi was blocked. Representatives of farmer's co ordination committees intent to "cut" Greece in two, blocking nodal spots of the national axon Athens-Thessaloniki. Farmers from Larissa, Karditsa, Trikala, Pthiotida, Voiotia and Argolida estimate that the mobilization will be one of the biggest that has ever taken place in recent years. Farmers demand the reduction of the returnable amount of VAT and the increase of pensions. Minister of Agricultural Development said that he is open to discussions and that new measures are expected to be announce within the next week.

New Driving Licenses

Minister of transport and communication Mr. Prokopis Pavlopoulos and Athens prefect Mr. Giannis Sgouros presented today the new driving licenses. In order for the new license to be issued, a β-30, 00 fiscal stamp as well as a print application of the driving license must be submitted to the Services of Transport and Self administration of the country. It must be noted that drivers are not obliged to change the old driving license into a new one as old driving licenses will expire at 2033. It must be noted that drivers are not obliged to change the old driving license into a new one as old driving licenses will expire at 2033. Those who wish to replace their licenses they can submit the necessary documentations in Prefect Services of Transport from 1-4-2009.

Minister of transport Mr. Stylianidis said that the benefits are many as the new driving licenses are safer; the procedure of issuance is quicker, transportation abroad is conducted smoother and the registration of the blood group is very useful in case of accidents.

Indian artist S. H. Raza finds exhibition of his work full of fakes

India's art world is reeling from one of its most embarrassing forgery cases today after S.H. Raza, one of the country's foremost artists, inaugurated an exhibition of his paintings in Delhi - only to discover that most were fakes.

Mr Raza, who is based in Paris, had contributed some drawings to the show at the Dhoomimal Gallery while the gallery had borrowed about 30 more paintings - supposedly his early works - from his nephew.

"When I reached the gallery and started looking at the canvases on the walls, I was stunned," Mr Raza wrote in an Indian newspaper.

"As I moved from one canvas to the other, I realised that the works were just not mine, they were all fakes," he said. "I will turn 86 next month. At this stage of my life, this was the last thing I wanted to do - grace an exhibition of my own fake paintings."

Mr Raza is one of India's most famous



living artists and his works are in high demand internationally, with one painting selling for about £1.3 million at a Christie's auction in London last year.

Guests at the inauguration on Saturday night described how Mr Raza had quietly inspected the paintings, with his nephew and the gallery owners, before informing them that they were forgeries.

Uday Jain and Uma Jain, the gallery owners, apologised to the veteran artist, saying that they had been duped, and cancelled the show half an hour later.

"I was very upset that it happened at my gallery," Mrs Jain told The Times. "But the fact that we invited Raza to attend clearly shows our commitment to showing only authentic art."

She said that she had borrowed the paintings from the nephew, Z. H. Zafri, and had told him clearly that his uncle would be inaugurating the exhibition.

She also said that Mr Zafri had told her that the paintings came from Raza's former home in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh.

"All I know is that these paintings were loaned to us by Zafri, and when Raza saw them he expressed doubts about them," Mrs Jain said. "He was very angry, but that is between him and his nephew."

Mr Raza has since filed a lawsuit against Mr Zafri. Neither man was immediately available for comment.

The scandal highlights the lucrative opportunities for forgers in India, which has witnessed an unprecedented boom in demand for local modern and contemporary art over the past few years.

The value of Indian art sold at auction has risen from about \$5 million (£3.4 million) in 2003 to \$150 million last year and the local art market in India is now estimated to be worth around £200 million.

But art experts and dealers say that one of the main risks for buyers is that India does not have any fixed mechanism for authentication of art works.

"Forgery is a tremendous problem now," said Mrs Jain. "In the last 10-15 years, so much money has come into the art market and a lot of people who are buying don't have much experience."

Obama fever hits Australia

Americans living in Australia and local fans of Barack Obama will mark the inauguration of the new US president in their own special way.

Obama will be sworn in on Tuesday in Washington, with events to celebrate the historic moment planned across most of the week in Australia.

The occasion will be marked with everything from Obama burgers and night-clubs parties to dignified breakfasts. Inauguration breakfasts will be held at the US embassy in Canberra and at consulates in Melbourne and Perth on Wednesday, for dignitaries and invited guests.

In Sydney, a reception will be held for about 200 invited guests at the home of the consul-general on Friday.

The Melbourne branch of Democrats Abroad Australia will hold a Bye Bye Bush ball at the Bell's Hotel on Friday.

The political organisation is also planning celebrations in Sydney.

An inauguration ball will be held at Slide nightclub in Sydney on Wednesday, where 100 guests will watch a rebroadcast of Mr Obama's swearing-in and inaugural address. Organiser Carmelan Polce said the event had sold out and the doors would be opened to those who hadn't managed to get tickets after the official proceedings ended. "I think a lot of people will get up in the wee hours and watch it," she said. "But it's something you will want to hear again and again."

"I think you will be able to hear a pin drop during the speech."

She said there was an air of excitement and hope surrounding Mr Obama's swearing in, which transcended party lines.

"It's going to be a really big moment," she said.