

Family quarrels main cause of suicide

Reveals study conducted on rural Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family dispute is the main cause of suicide in rural Bangladesh where most of the people belong to lower or lower middle class, revealed a study yesterday.

It is also the main reason behind 53.3 per cent cases of suicide attempts in a certain locality, found the study.

Titled 'A community survey on the prevalence of suicide attempts and deaths in a selected area in Bangladesh', the finding was revealed at the National Press Club in the city.

The study was conducted at Mominpur union under Sadar Upazila of Chuadanga from December 15, 2009 to March 15, 2010 with the sample size of 3,551 households.

A total of 12,422 individuals of those households were surveyed. It revealed that 35 individuals attempted suicide in last one year and of them 16 died. The rest 19 however managed to survive.

The study was conducted by a group of teachers of Shaheed Suhrawardi Medical College in association with the Directorate General of Health Services.

Psychiatrist Mohit Kamal said we see family feud or poverty as the socio economic perspective

of suicide attempts but the number of those suffering from mental illness is unknown because of lack of mechanisms to address the illness.

So the government should employ psychiatrists at primary health care levels, said the experts, adding that understanding the risk factors of suicide, resisting violence against women and formulating strategies to prevent suicide in individual, family and social level is a must.

"When a person commits suicide in any society, it signifies presence of ten more who attempted and another hundred who thought of doing so," said Dr Syed Golam Mogni Mowla, co-investigator and assistant professor of the Shaheed Suhrawardi Medical College's medicine department.

BSMMU basic sciences faculty dean Prof Iqbal Arslan was present at the programme as the chief guest.

Shaheed Suhrawardi Medical College Principal Prof Dr ABM Maksudul Alam, Associate Prof of Medicine and Principal Investigator Dr A H M Feroz, Assistant Prof of Forensic Medicine and Co-investigator Dr AM Selim Reza, Dr Ridwanur Rahman and Dr AKM Jafarullah of the Directorate General of Health Services were also present among others.



This house 'Urban Olive' at Dhanmondi Road No 5 in the city is illuminated during National Electricity Week from December 8 to 14. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Four addl HC judges to be sworn in today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed four additional judges of the High Court will be sworn in today.

Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque will administer the oath at the Judges' Lounge of Supreme Court in the morning.

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) will not accord felicitation to the new judges, since the government has not yet formulated specific rules regarding appointment of judges in the High Court and Appellate Division of Supreme Court.

SCBA President Khandker Mahbub Hossain yesterday told The Daily Star that the government and the chief justice in convenience have appointed the new HC judges as per the government's own choice and without taking any of SCBA's consent.

"The SCBA has adopted a resolution in May this year that the bar will not accord felicitation to new judges until the government formulates a specific rule regarding their appointment," he said.

President Zillur Rahman on December 9 appointed four additional HC judges in accordance with Article 98 of the constitution.

The new judges are Bhabani Prashad Singh, district judge on leave prior to retirement (LPR); M Anwarul Haque, secretary to the law and justice department of the ministry of law, justice and parliamentary affairs; Deputy Attorney General Akram Hossain Chowdhury; and Supreme Court lawyer Md Ashrafur Kamal.

Obituary

METRO DESK

Sofia Monir (Reba), wife of Monirul Islam of Gopalganj, passed away at Square Hospital in the city last evening at the age of 79.

She had been suffering from cancer and liver cirrhosis.

She left behind her husband, three sons and grandchildren and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She is the younger sister of M Matiul Islam and late M Nurul Islam.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held after Zohr prayers today at Azad Mosque in Gulshan.

She will be buried at Banani graveyard today.

Delwar criticises Shahrukh's concert

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said the country is now falling victim to the aggression of foreign culture and urged all to stand against such 'bad' culture of India.

He made the remark hinting at Indian superstar Shahrukh Khan's concert held on Friday in the city.

"What could we learn from yesterday's [Friday] dancing? Earlier ballet dance was staged during Imam training programme. Introduction of such foreign culture will not be good for us," he said.

The BNP leader was addressing a discussion organised by Bhasani Smriti Sangsad on the occasion of Moulana Bhasani's 103rd birth anniversary.

Urging all to stand against corruption, he said Awami League pledged before the nation that the minister and lawmakers of the party will make disclosure of property but they did not do it yet.

"You should make disclosure of your property before asking anyone else to do it," he said to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The PM recently called upon Khaleda Zia to disclose her wealth report.

Mamatatz Chowdhury presided over the meeting.

Import more quality products

Dipu Moni asks Indonesian foreign minister

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister (FM) Dipu Moni requested her Indonesian counterpart to import more quality products from Bangladesh, including pharmaceuticals, jute and jute products and ceramics.

She made the request during a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister of Indonesia Marty Natalegawa on the sidelines of the Third Bali Democracy Forum on Friday.

Dipu Moni also proposed to simplify the visa procedure to enhance people to people contact and their movements especially the business communities.

Both the foreign ministers agreed to review the entire gamut of bilateral relations and look for new avenues of cooperation with each other.

In this regard, Dipu Moni invited Marty to visit Bangladesh to lead his side in the next round of Joint Commission Meeting between Bangladesh and Indonesia.

Dipu Moni also proposed to revise the present Air Services Agreement between Bangladesh and Indonesia to allow the private airlines to operate between the two countries since the national carriers cannot utilise the existing provision.

Marty appreciated the proposal and agreed to review the present visa regime.

Bangladesh foreign minister also met with Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki during another bilateral meeting.

Riyad requested Bangladesh's support in its political quest for an independent Palestine and also cooperation in capacity building and human resource development.

Dipu Moni reiterated Bangladesh's unflinching support towards establishing a viable and independent Palestinian state.

Earlier, she held bilateral meeting with the Foreign Minister of Australia and Deputy Foreign Minister of Maldives.

Two leaders blamed for failure to run JCD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Central leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday expressed deep resentment against its two top leaders, accusing them of failing to run the organisation efficiently.

Some of the leaders demanded declaration of a new central committee on January 1, the founding anniversary of the associated student body of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), at the central committee meeting at the Bhashani Hall in the city.

Md Adnan Alam Khan Babu, a member of the central committee who attended the meeting, told The Daily Star that BNP's Student Affairs Secretary Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anneechoed the JCD leaders.

Annee, quoted by Adnan, said he has not heard of any success of this central committee but certainly knew about its failures.

Adnan said, "Annee bhai expressed resentment on the top leaders of JCD for their poor performance during the BNP called hartal on November 30."

"I told the meeting that in spite of being a central committee member I did not know the spot for JCD to enforce the hartal. We don't know where the top leaders were staying during the hartal hours."

Annee also expressed resentment as the JCD leaders could not establish coexistence on the Dhaka University campus and there was no certain move from the central leaders in this regard, said Adnan.

"He [Annee] also expressed anger as full-fledged committees in most of the district and unit including the most vital committee that is the Dhaka University committee were not declared."

JCD General Secretary Amirul Islam Khan Alim, however, denied the allegations of any resentment against their leadership in the meeting.

He said the JCD at the meeting decided to hold a rally at city's Muktangan on December 15 protesting recent remarks by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the parliament about opposition leader Khaleda Zia.

Alim said they would also stage a demonstration on the Dhaka University campus on December 13 demanding coexistence on the campus.

KHALEDA'S 5-DAY CHINA TOUR BEGINS DEC 18 BNP move to strengthen relations with CPC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will leave Dhaka on December 18 on a five-day visit to China to strengthen ties with the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The visit is being considered important as relationship with Chinese government became uneasy during BNP's previous term in power due to allowing visa office of Taiwan in Dhaka. A number of scheduled business deals were not signed at that time, sources said.

Moreover, pro-Chinese leaders within the main opposition party have been sidelined during the last three years, they added.

BNP Standing Committee member Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman said it was a wrong policy of the then government as BNP always believes in one China policy.

"The problem is already solved and now BNP has a warm relation with China. The upcoming visit of the chairperson will make the ties stronger," he said, adding China made a lot of contributions to the economic advancement of Bangladesh.

Maruf Kamal Khan, chairperson's press secretary, yesterday said they are still working with Chinese officials to finalise the programme schedule.

The former prime minister will also hold meetings with leaders of the Chinese government and the CPC from December 19 to 21, he added.

The opposition leader may visit deep sea port and high-speed train in China, sources said.

After attending receptions and sight seeing programmes, she will return home on December 23.



Rabab Fatema speaks at a workshop titled 'Implementing CEDAW's general recommendation 26 throughout the migration cycle for women' organised by Unifem at Brac Centre Inn in the city yesterday. On her left are Naheed Ahmed and Salma Khan.

PHOTO: STAR

Anniversary of death of 5 martyrs today



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 39th death anniversary of four martyred brothers -- Mukarram Hossain Mukul, Mansur Hossain Manju, Mastaque Hossain Anju, and Mosharraf Hossain Ranju -- and their brother-in-law, Yusuf Ali.

On the occasion, a qurankhwani, milad mahfil, and feeding of the destitute will be held at Baitus Mozammel Jame Masjid in Hossain Nagar, Savar, says a press release.

Family members of the martyrs have requested the friends, relatives, and well-wishers to attend the programmes to pray for the salvation of the departed souls.

The five sacrificed their lives for the country in the War of Liberation.



Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain is likely to occur at one or two places over Chittagong division and weather may remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country during morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may fall by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:13pm today and rises at 6:33am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 29.9 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 14.8 degrees Celsius at Sayedpur and Dinajpur.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.0	19.8	69	65
Chittagong	27.2	21.4	84	64
Rajshahi	27.5	16.5	86	62
Rangpur	27.3	15.4	79	54
Khulna	28.5	19.5	76	77
Barisal	28.8	18.8	76	73
Sylhet	29.9	18.5	74	76
Cox's Bazar	28.5	22.5	91	69

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