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The unvanquished

NAIMUL KARIM

Exactly five months ago, a correspondent from this paper spotted a teenage boy mesmerising the folks of Mazarbari, Kamalgate with some towering sixes at their local play ground. Not that whacking tennis balls over the pavement is an uncommon scenario in a cricket-crazy nation, but that it came from the bat of the 16-year-old Mohammad Sharif -- whose legs and right hand had to be amputated after an electrical accident -- was a sight to behold.

Sharif, who displayed immense courage as both the leader of his team and a human being, soon received acclaim from all over the country after his story was published the following day.

One thing led to another and a week later non-governmental organisation Center for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP), approached to help Sharif.

Five months on, Sharif today can walk with the help of two artificial legs and shake hands with his friends with the artificial hand provided by the CRP.

After undergoing three months of physiotherapy at the CRP, Sharif walked out of the NGO yesterday along with his teary-eyed parents, who were still in the process of coming to terms with the immense change in their son.

"I am really happy, I can walk now and most importantly, I can finally wear pants," was the first thing that he said. "I bought new clothes today because this is a new start to my life. There is so much that I feel like doing now."

Sharif, who earlier used to help his father by selling fruits, wants to take things a step further.

"I can walk now and I can be of more help to my father. I hope to get a job. Secondly, I want to get back to playing cricket. I know that this is going to be difficult, but I will work hard for it," he said.

Working hard is something that goes with Sharif's character. As CRP's prosthetic department head Sumon Das put it, Sharif's work ethic was the main reason why they could complete their most 'intense' project in good time.

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Sharif, an amputee, was seen playing with other kids at the dusty Collegiate School ground in Chittagong only five months ago. His indomitable spirit and love for sport touched a lot of hearts as The Daily Star ran a report on him along with his photo. And yesterday when he walked out of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP) in the port city, it was a dream come true for him and a triumph of human endeavour.

PHOTOS: ANURUP KANTI DAS



PRICE HIKE OF ESSENTIAL DRUGS

The poor bear the brunt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) yesterday demonstrated in Dhaka in protest at the recent increase in the prices of essential drugs.

Through interviews with patients, the organisation had found that prices of a number of medicines for gastric and ulcer and antibiotics rose up to 20 percent in the last six months, said Humayun Kabir, general secretary of CAB, at a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

"With such an irrational price hike of medicines, the poor patients are struggling to bear their healthcare cost," he added.

Golam Kibria, director of the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), however, told The Daily Star that there was no scope for a price hike, as a committee was designated to determine prices of such drugs.

Humayun said the pharmaceutical companies were so influential that they cared none before hiking the prices.

Lax government regulation also leads to such price hikes, he said. "In reality, the drug administration serves the interests of the medicine companies, not of the people."

Adulterated and counterfeit medicines are flooding the market but the drug administration is not taking stern actions against the manufacturers, speakers at the human chain said.

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Shahidullah
defends
Bangla

SYED BADRUL AHSEN

There is little question that the death of Mohammad Ali Jinnah in September 1948 created a vacuum in Pakistan's politics. For decades Jinnah had been the spokesman of the Muslims of India and had, in almost single-handed fashion, created Pakistan. None of the Muslim League politicians around him matched him in talent

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Prof Rangalal Sen no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

National professor and internationally renowned social scientist Prof Dr Rangalal Sen passed away at a hospital in Chittagong city yesterday.

The 81-year-old educationist had been suffering from kidney disease and old age complications. He left behind two daughters, a son and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Former chairman at sociology department of

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PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

TEARS FOR TAMANNA ... After 17 long days of searing pain, little Tamanna breathed her last at the burn unit of Chittagong Medical College Hospital early yesterday. At an age when kids go to school and play, she had to toil as a domestic help at a house in the port city's Shulakbazar area. This photo was taken on January 25, a day after the 10-year-old girl suffered severe burns while lighting a gas oven to boil water for her employer.



Art you can eat!

MAIL ONLINE

An alternative artist uses popcorn, nuts and grape stems to create incredible portraits.

Victor Nunes, 65, from São Paulo, Brazil makes creative pictures of faces, people and animals by combining pen and paper with household objects.

The artist takes inanimate, mundane objects like nuts, scissors, fabric, foam, and food -- and then doodles



ONLINE POLL

Do you think the international cricket will be benefited from the ICC revamp proposal by India, Australia and England?

Yes (18%)

No (82%)

TOTAL VOTES: 193

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think it was justified for BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to give false figures on the killing of BNP-led alliance leaders and activists between December 26 and January 27 this year?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

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PRAYER TIMING February 11

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-6:05
Zahr	12-45 1-15
Asr	4-15 4-30
Maghrib	5-52 5-56
Esha	7-15 7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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