



Bangladesh Down Syndrome Association brings out a procession, *top*, in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday while Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital, AMDA Bangladesh, and Cardiff International School Dhaka bring out another, *bottom right*, in front of the school's Dhanmondi premises and organise a dance routine, *bottom left*, by students with Down syndrome in the school yesterday marking World Down Syndrome Day 2015.

PHOTO: STAR

Down syndrome not a disease

Experts say it can be managed with care, marking World Down Syndrome Day; different organisations in capital observe the day celebrating affected children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Down's syndrome in children is not a disease and it can be managed with awareness and familial compassion, said experts at a discussion yesterday.

They said children with the syndrome are not dull, they are just different. Speakers also added that the children with Down syndrome can act and learn like other children if given proper care and nutrition.

Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital along with AMDA Bangladesh and Cardiff International School Dhaka organised the discussion on the school premises in observance of World Down Syndrome Day, said a press release.

Prof Sarder A Nayeem, chairman of the hospital, said Down syndrome can be managed with care, nutrition and speech and physical therapy.

On average, one in every 800 children is born with the syndrome and there are two lakh children with this syndrome in Bangladesh.

Growth of a child with Down syndrome is slower than other children. These kids are also slower in learning to sit, crawl, walk and speak.

A child with Down syndrome has 47 chromosomes in their cells, one more than the usual 46. Usually, a person gets 23 chromosomes from the mother and 23 chromosomes from the father and they pair up. A child with Down syndrome has one extra chromosome.

Psychiatrist Dr Mohit Kamal, among others, spoke on the occasion.

Model UN Confce concludes at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT

The three-day Model United Nations Conference concluded at Chittagong University yesterday.

The Daily Star was the media partner of the event organised by Chittagong University Model United Nations Association (CUMUNA).

Around 250 delegates from different institutions of Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, India, Nepal and Myanmar participated in the conference themed "Empowering youth for green diplomacy".

CUMUNA Organising Secretary Muhammad Siraj Uddin hoped that the participants would be able to solve problems through negotiations.

Nepalese participant Milipa Thapa said she learnt about leadership which would help her in future.

Ly Chhay Loem of Cambodia said she found the delegates there very confident in resolving problems.

The conference featured discussions on environment, human rights and development issues by five committees -- UNDP, UNHRC, UNSC, UNEP and WB.

Prizes were distributed among the delegates based on their performance.

CU Vice Chancellor Prof Anwarul Azim Arif was the chief guest while Proctor Siraj-Ud-Doullah and President of United Nations Youth and Students Association of Bangladesh Mohammad Mamun Mia were special guests.

Only 5pc parents discuss adolescence with kids

Congenial environment should be created to discuss the issue, say experts

BSS, Rajshahi

Only five percent of parents, particularly mothers, discuss with their teenage children about the changes they face during their adolescence.

About 95 percent of mothers hesitate to talk with their children about the issue which leaves a negative impact on the physical and emotional growth of the teenagers, revealed Dr Sabina Sultana, associate professor of the psychology department of Rajshahi University, mentioning different research papers' findings.

Adolescence is a remarkable sensitive period for both boys and girls. This is the time when most of them make mistakes due to curiosity and ignorance as changes in their body and hormones surprise them and a lack of proper knowledge leads them to believe various fallacies.

Therefore, rational interactions should take place between mothers and children in every family to give them proper knowledge on physiology, she suggested.

Dr Sabina, who teaches child and adolescent psychology, said the teenagers need decent approaches and support from their surroundings especially parents and other near and dear ones for sound grooming.

She also pointed that many families, even some educated ones, remain reluctant to discuss the matter with their children.

Alomgir Kabir, superintendent of police of Rajshahi, said such reluctance can result in various juvenile crimes and unexpected incidents like drug addiction, terrorism in the society and sexual harassments of school and college girls, extramarital pregnancy and suicides.

Juveniles can easily be lured into conducting illegal activities. A lack of self-control and insufficient control by the parents, guardians and the society also lead them to get off track.

He said over 15 percent of crimes are being committed by the teenagers. Initiatives of families, society and the media are needed to tackle the situation.

Some legal issues should be included in the textbooks and institution-level counselling for the adolescent children needs to be introduced on priority basis, he added.

Ensuring adolescent-friendly reproductive health services is a must as many rural adolescent girls are still ignorant. Besides, a congenial environment should be created to make the young generation feel free to speak about any queries, said advocate Abdus Samad, BLAST's local unit coordinator.



Workers of five garment factories -- ATN Fashion, Sun Garments, Camarina Composite, and Success Fashion -- demonstrate in front of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association building in the capital yesterday, demanding arrears and reopening of recently shut factories.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

WOMAN'S MURDER IN MOTIJHEEL Prime suspect held

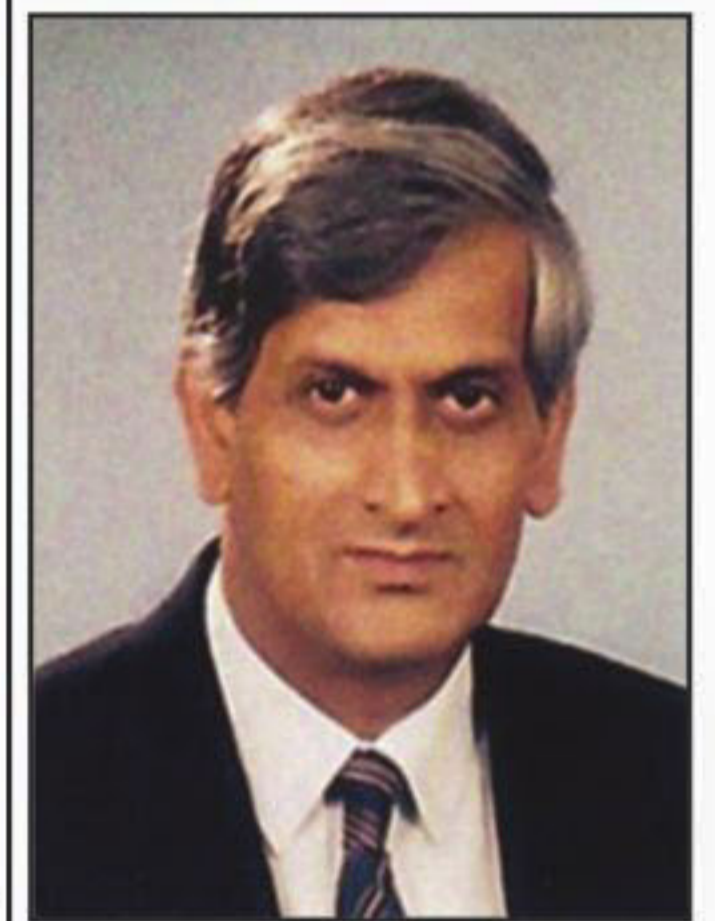
Confesses to killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested at the capital's Fakirapool the prime suspect of the killing of a woman, whose seven dismembered body parts had been found in Motijheel on March 11.

During primary interrogation, Jahangir Hossain Sohel, 28, admitted that he and three to four others killed Sumi Begum on a rooftop and threw the body parts from there, said Assistant Superintendent of Police Saiful Islam of Rab-3. She was killed following a row over drug peddling, Saiful quoted Sohel as saying. Sumi was also a source of police which was another reason behind the murder, the Rab official said.

OBITUARY



Ahmed Hasan Khan, son of Late Abdur Rakib Khan and Zaheda Khatun, expired on the 19th of March 2015 at 2:30 a.m. (Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raaziun). He was a loving husband and father and left behind his beloved wife, a son and two daughters, two sons-in-law and a granddaughter. Please pray for his departed soul.

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Just a government trick

FROM PAGE 3
The girls, who are married off before 15, become mothers of two or more children before the age of 24 and this is why the number of maternal deaths and malnourished people are rising, it added.

Prof Amena Mohsin of the international relations department of Dhaka University said none of the mainstream political parties are paying heed to the government move.

Noted columnist Syed Abul Maksud said it would be appropriate to name the "Child Marriage Restraint Act" as "child marriage encouraging act".

Journalists Abu Sayeed Khan and Sohrab Hossain and Sikshya Barta's Editor AN Rasheda also spoke at the event chaired by Rawshan Ara Rusho, the forum's president.

Two found dead

FROM PAGE 3
Meanwhile, police found the body of a four-year-old girl in a ditch in the capital's Manikdi on Friday night.

Muskan, daughter of Iqbal Hossain of the same area, went missing in the afternoon, said her relative Omar Faruk, who lives with the family and works at her father's computer composing shop at Mirpur-10.

DMC morgue sources said bruises were found in the head and throat.

Youth's body with slit

FROM PAGE 3
autopsy.

Following the incident Jalal's foster mother Alimunnesa and her son Shariful went into hiding. The trio used to stay at the house, police added.

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