YESTERDAY'S

TEMPERATURES

DHAKA

H 20.0 L 14.8

H 23.8 **L** 17.5

Internal Annual Planning and Evaluation Meeting)

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

RAJSHAHI

H 18.3 L 11.5

H 20.0 L 12.5

BARISAL

ATTACKS ON SAUDI MISSIONS

condemnation

Dhaka reiterates

Foreign minister joins OIC meeting

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has con-

demned the attacks on Saudi missions in Iran earlier this

embassy in Tehran and its consulate in Mashhad, has fully

endorsed the OIC joint communiqué issued yesterday in

Jeddah saying such attacks are clear violation of the Vienna

of the Council of Foreign Ministers at the headquarters of

the OIC General Secretariat on Thursday, reiterated

Bangladesh's condemnation in such attacks and urged Iran

to take urgent necessary measures to stop recurrence of such

inflammatory statements" over the executions, "considering

those statements a blatant interference in the internal affairs'

of Saudi Arabia, according to an OIC press release available

Iran, however, "rejected" the communiqué while

The 57-member OIC said it "rejects and condemns Iran's

Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali attended the meeting

Dhaka earlier condemned the attacks on the Saudi

month and denounced Tehran's regional "interference".

Convention on Diplomatic and Consular Relations.

incidents, said foreign ministry officials.

Subcontractor killed for 'refusing to pay extortion'

One attacker arrested STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A construction subcontractor was killed after being shot twice and hacked by some six men, one of whom was caught with a gun and two bullets on his person by police who allegedly gave chase with locals last night in the capital's Rampura.

Bashai Shikder, 26, was at his construction site at Mollah Bari area of East Rampura around 7:30pm when the attack took place, locals who took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) told The Daily Star.

He succumbed to his injuries around 11:20pm, said Inspector Mozammel Haque of DMCH police camp. SEE PAGE 5 COL 7

over torturing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A policeman was closed on

Thursday for torturing one

Md Solaiman and realising

Chittagong city's Beribandh

Assistant Sub-inspector

Police Station was attached to

Emdadul Haque of EPZ

Bandar Police Lines, said

Bandar) Joynul Abedin of

Chittagong Metropolitan

Further action will be

taken against him after an

The action came follow-

Solaiman, said the ADC on

investigation, he said.

ing a complaint from

Wednesday.

money from him in

area on Tuesday.

Additional Deputy

Police.

Commissioner (ADC-

ASI closed

Ctg man



Norwegian ambassador tells Mahila Parishad meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Childhood must be allowed till the age of 18, when maturity is reached and before which marriage should not be allowed, said Norwegian Ambassador in Bangladesh Merete Lundemo yesterday. She also recommended that the govern-

ment adheres to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which recognises everyone below 18 years as children.

"There remains much to be done in all countries to establish fair societies where everyone is represented equally. Everyone much struggle to increase women's participation in decision making and promote women empowerment," she said.

"With economic empowerment of women, we all win," she told the inaugural session of a two-day Internal Annual Planning and Evaluation Meeting of

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

The draft of the proposed Child Marriage Restraint Act-2014 has a special provision stipulating that under special circumstances, marriage of 16-year-old girls to men above 21 years, with permission of parents or courts, would not be considered as "child marriage".

However, the same law defines minimum legal marriageable age of girls as 18 years.

Christine Hunter, country representative of UN Women in Bangladesh, said Bangladeshi women were facing "cumulative systematic exclusion" while their rights were diminishing.

She suggested collecting knowledge from different disciplines to address gender inequality.

Stating that BMP has been working for SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Malaysian job market for Bangladeshis reopens soon Says Nurul Islam

BSS, Nilphamari

in this regard.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam yesterday said Malaysian job market will reopen soon for Bangladeshis and discussion is going on with the Malaysian government

"Before sending our workers there, we have to make sure of their employment and other facilities in that country," said the minister while inaugurating a vocational training centre in Nilphamari yesterday. Cultural Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, and Director General of BMET Shamsun Nahar also spoke.

Lebanon also "distanced itself" from the OIC statement. The statement denounced "Iran's interference in the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam delivers a speech at the inaugural session of a two-day Internal PHOTO internal affairs of the states of the region and other member STAR SEE PAGE 4 COL 6 Household piped gas to

on its website.

Three bodies formed to resolve delicate issues; LPG for motor vehicles also under consideration

be replaced with LPG

UNB, Dhaka

Against the backdrop of the country's fast declining gas reserve, the energy division has initiated a strong move to introduce liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) within the next two or three years by phasing out the existing piped natural gas for household consumption.

According to the energy division, the gas reserve, which now stands at 14 trillion cubic feet (tcf), will start declining from 2017 if no new discovery is made.

"The natural gas will completely get exhausted by 2031 if no substantial reserve is discovered," said a top energy division official.

Under the circumstances, the official

said, LPG is considered as the most suitable alternative to natural gas for household purpose as 2.8 million household consumers are now using 330 million cubic feet per day (mmcfd) gas - 13.06 percent of the total gas production.

According to power and energy ministry, the country's total gas reserve (proven plus probable) is 27.12 tcf. Of this, 13.032 tcf gas has been extracted until June 2015, with 14.088 tcf remaining.

Energy ministry officials said the gas sector did not see any new discovery in the last 7-8 years although the state-owned Petrobangla made announcement on sev-

eral occasions of new gas reserves. The government has already stopped

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4





In our society autism is considered as a curse and many parents hesitate to admit if there is autism in their child. It is also one of the reasons to delay receiving the treatment for autism. A lifelong developmental condition that affects the way an individual behaves with his or her environment and their interaction to other people on regular situations is autism. Basically the areas to identify autism in a child are in social and communication skills, and restricted or repetitive behaviors. By 18-24 months of age, there are certain 'milestones' that a child should be meeting if autism is there in him or her. It is better to pick the signs in the child early. Someone with autism may seem different, especially when compared to other children at their own age, although there is no other indicator; there are several signs that could signify autism.

Family Issues:

A child's autism affects every member of the family in different ways. Parents or other family members focus on helping their child with primary consultations, which may put stress on their marriage, other children, work, finances, and personal relationships and responsibilities. Parents should allocate much of their resources, time and money towards providing treatment for their children, to the exclusion of other priorities. The needs of a child with autism are familial relationships or affection, especially with siblings or other child in the family. However, parents can help their family by telling their other children about autism and the complications it makes, understanding the challenges siblings face and helping them to cope, and involving members of the extended family to create a cordial bonding of help and understanding.

Identifying autism:

- If by six to nine months your baby fails to make eye contact or smile with you
- If after one year of age your baby fails to recognize or respond to her name when called for/not achieved single meaningful word without imitating or repeating.
- Your baby just plays by her/himself and is not responsive to you or doesn't care much for your attention.
- Even after the first birthday your baby shows no gesture of verbal or sign communication. At times a baby can have delayed speech but will start to point to toys and things.
- Even after 18 months your baby fails to show any meaningful gesture or throws blank expressions when you talk or try to communicate.

If you notice any of these signs in your baby talk to a pediatrician and get a detailed status on your baby's neurological wellbeing. Get a consultation done with a pediatric psychologist to evaluate.

Limit use of audio visual devices:

If you know that your baby has autism it is even more necessary to limit usage of all the electronic devices like the smart phones, iPhones,iPads or even television viewing. 'These devices are known to hamper mental development in a child. These devices are passive medium of entertainment and don't help in normal brain development of a baby. Instead invest in toys that are interactive like push button toys that have lights, music, rhymes for specific ones. These interactive ones can help in developing the brain normally.

Keep off processed foods:

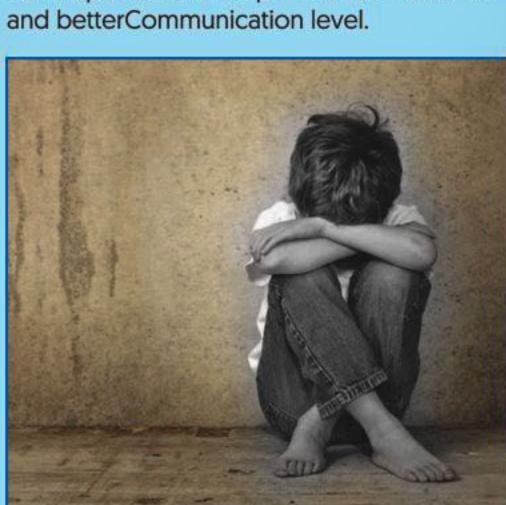
Don't allow or overload your baby's plate with junk or processed foods (such as canned juice/colored drinks, crackers/candy]. The chemicals present in the processed and canned foods can have an effect on the neurological development of the babies suffering from autism/ any others behavioral disorder (such as attention deficit) also.

Encourage Interaction:

Talk to your baby and do that often. Human interaction is more necessary in children suffering from autism. Tell stories, rhymes or just talk to your baby. This provides a lot of stimulation to the baby and helps to encourage social behavior. These actions will do your baby a great deal of good to help brain development.

Allow the child to socialize:

The best way to help in brain stimulation of your special child is by helping socialize more. Get your child admitted to a play school where enough emphasis is added to knowledge development using toys of different colors, shapes and make believe games. All this helps foster better brain development and cope with the disorder-



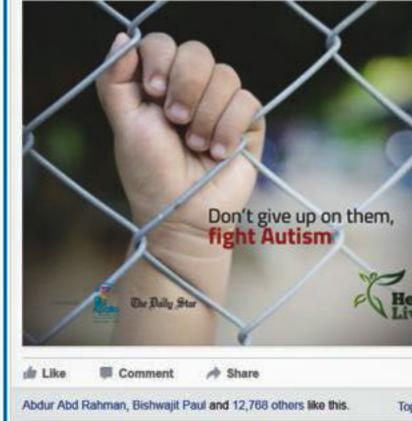
Practice the therapy at home:

The best way to treat autism is with help of therapies and not medications. Not only the child but also the caregiver needs to learn the techniques and nuances of the therapy. The mother or the active parent, who is supposed to take care of the kid, should practice the techniques at least four to five times a day to encourage alteration in behavior and help in skills development. Medication has minimal role to overcome these problems. Regular follow up by therapist and by child psychologist is the main key option to treat a child with Autism as well as other developmental delay child.

Unfortunately many pediatrician in our country show less interest to refer a child in child development center and advice parents to wait up to child's two / three years of age. Many believe that if the communications skill, social interaction, hyperactivity, eye contact, attention span and self-stimulatory behavior can be nurtured the expected improvements in autistic children can result better. Depending on conditions or difficulties, some individuals may be able to live independent lives while others will always need assistance and support.



know, the better care you can give to them. #HealthyLiving is a platform where all your disease-related queries will be answered by expert doctors of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka. This week's topic is "Autism". If you have any query on this topic write that in the comment field and look for reply in the



What are the symptoms of autism? Apollo Hospitals Dhaka Though symptoms vary for every child, the following are the primary symptoms: Not communicating verbally and non-verbally Not relating to others and the world around them

Not thinking and behaving flexibly Doesn't make eye contact (e.g. look at you when being fed)

Doesn't point or wave goodbye, or use other gestures to communicate

Doesn't follow the gesture when you point things out Doesn't make noises to get your attention Doesn't initiate or respond to cuddling Doesn't imitate your movements and facial expressions

Doesn't reach out to be picked up Doesn't play with other people or share interest and enjoyment Doesn't ask for help or make other basic requests

Thank you for your answer.

Like Reply 1 - Yesterday at 01:10 Like Reply 1 Yesterday at 10:05

symptoms and take their children for assessment. Early assessment and management is beneficial for such special children.

an initiative of:



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* This information is for public awareness only. Advice should be sought from qualified doctors.