

Pig hearts may

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different species - could potentially save thousands of lives each year that are lost due to a shortage of human organs for transplantation."

Dr Mohiuddin and colleagues used a previously established line of donor pigs with three genetic modifications that allowed for a degree of immune tolerance in recipient baboons.

A combination of antibodies and drugs were then used to help prevent rejection of pig hearts transplanted into five baboons.

The hearts did not replace those of the monkeys, but were connected to the circulatory system via two large blood vessels in the baboon abdomen.

The transplanted heart beat like a normal heart, but the baboon's own heart continued the function of pumping blood - a known method in studying organ rejection.

The median (or "middle") survival time was 298 days, while the maximum survival was 945 days - just over two-and-a-half years.

This exceeded previous records by the same group of researchers of 180 and 500 days, respectively.

Given their genetic proximity to humans, primates were initially thought to be the best donor candidates. But there is no large source of captive-bred apes - which take long to grow and mature, and some, like chimpanzees, are endangered.

Their genetic closeness also poses a higher danger of inter-species disease transmission, as well as ethical questions.

Pigs have since emerged as better donors. Their hearts are anatomically similar to ours, they pose a lower risk in terms of disease transmission and they mature fast.

The next big test will be full pig-to-baboon heart transplants, said Dr Mohiuddin.

Discussing the treatment programme to prevent rejection of the hearts in baboons, the authors of the paper wrote: "In our opinion, this regimen appears potentially safe for human application for patients suffering from end-stage organ failure who might be candidates for initial trials of xenotransplantation."

HC to hear

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Tarique is a fugitive in the eye of law, as he did not surrender to the lower court as per an HC directive, he added.

The anti-graft body filed the case against Tarique and Mamun in October, 2009 for syphoning off the money to Singapore between 2003 and 2007.

On November 17, 2013, a Dhaka court acquitted Tarique and sentenced Mamun to seven years' imprisonment and fined him Tk 40 crore in the case.

Later the ACC appealed to the HC, challenging Tarique's acquittal and the HC on January 19, 2014 ordered Tarique to surrender before the trial court.

The HC on January 12 this year directed its registrar to issue a notice asking Tarique, now in London, to surrender before the trial court by February 14 as per its January 19, 2014 order.

The money laundering case is one of the 16 cases, including the August 21 grenade attack cases, filed against Tarique. He was arrested on March 7, 2007 during a crackdown by a military-backed caretaker government.

On parole, Tarique went to London in September, 2008 for treatment and has been living there since then. Mamun is now in jail.

No entry

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customary procession brought out in the morning by students of Dhaka University's fine arts faculty. The masks, however, can be carried, he said.

"We have talked to the...students. They hold the masks in Mongol Shobhajatra. They do not wear the masks. So the ban is to make sure no outsider wearing a mask can take part in the procession," he said.

Commenting on Monday's killing of a muezzin inside an Old Dhaka mosque, he said the victim, Haji Maulana Belal Hossain, seemed to be a victim of personal enmity.

Ruling out possibilities of militant links, he said the crime's nature and timing do not resemble that committed by militant outfits in the past.

Khaleda unlikely

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On Tuesday, Khaleda spent the majority of her day appearing before five separate Dhaka courts and secured bail in five cases, including a sedition case, added Sanaulah.

She, however, remained absent from the hearing on the two cases several times citing physical illness.

According to the charge sheet, Khaleda and three others abused power to collect Tk 6.19 crore for Zia Charitable Trust during the BNP-led government's tenure between 1991 and 1996.

On the other hand, the statement of the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case says the BNP chief, her son Tarique Rahman and four others embezzled Tk 2.1 crore by forming the charity that exists only on paper.

Arrest order for Tangail

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The Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court passed the order after accepting a charge sheet against 14 people, including the fugitives. It fixed May 16 for delivering the next order in the case.

Faruk, a freedom fighter, was shot dead on the night of January 18, 2013. Police submitted the charge sheet on February 3 this year.

The accused are Amanur, AL lawmaker from Tangail-3 (Ghatail), his three brothers -- Shahidur Rahman Khan Mukti, former mayor of Tangail municipality; Jahidur Rahman Khan Kakon, former president of the Tangail Chamber of Commerce; and Sanjayat Khan Bappa, former vice-president of Bangladesh Chhatra League --, Amanur's aides Kabir Hossain, Babu Miah, Anisul Islam Raja, Mohammad Ali, Farid Miah and Samir Hossain, and the then Jubo League leaders Alamgir Hossain Chan, Nasir Uddin Nurh, Sanwar Hossain and Masudur Rahman, a former commissioner of Tangail Sadar municipality.

Of them, Anisul Islam Raja, Mohammad Ali, Samir Hossain and Farid Miah are now in jail.

As the court proceedings ended yesterday, Faruk's wife Nahar Ahmed told reporters that she had information Amanur and Shahidur were now in Dhaka while his two other brothers had already left the country.

Amanur last attended parliament on July 5 last year.

Nahar demanded that the case be transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal for quick disposal of the case and the

No trace of friend

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watching Rubel's interview on television on the murder, according to his family members.

No law enforcement agency has yet admitted to detaining Mizanur.

Amid such a situation, the family is waiting for his safe return.

Talking to The Daily Star over the phone yesterday, Khaleda Akhter, sister of Mizanur, said the abductors had identified themselves as members of the Rapid Action Battalion and the Detective Branch of police before taking Mizanur with them.

"We went to the local offices of the Rab and DB but they denied picking up my brother. Where will we go now? Will we lose my brother this way?"

Khaleda demanded immediate rescue of his brother.

"My parents have already fallen sick," she said.

Meanwhile, protests continue across the country, demanding immediate arrest and the speedy trial of the killers of Tonu, a second year student of Comilla Victoria College. Her body was found in Comilla Cantonment on March 20.

Investigators of the Criminal Investigation Department have been quizzing people to find clues to identify and arrest the killers but are yet to make any headway, said a CID official.

They are also analyzing the call lists on Tonu's cell phone to categorise people

8m people suffer

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a press conference at his ministry yesterday.

The programme was organised to inform journalists about the preparations for observing this year's World Health Day today with the slogan -- "Make healthy choices every day: Keep diabetes at bay".

WHO statistics also show that 80 percent of the diabetes patients are from lower and lower middle income countries, Zahid said.

"It is estimated that diabetes will be in the seventh place on the list of causes of death by 2030."

Replying to a query, the state minister said, "Balanced food, physical exercise, weight control, mental refreshment, quitting smoking, taking proper medicine and regular body check-up can control and prevent diabetes."

He also said to prevent diabetics, it is very important to maintain a healthy lifestyle, play regularly, take necessary

Tanners take rawhide

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tanners relocate there as soon as possible," said Abdul Qaiyum, project director of the tannery estate under Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation.

Out of the 152 factories, only 62 have so far applied for gas connections and 30 for water. One of the tanners has already got water connection, added Qaiyum.

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company has asked the tanners to submit 12 documents each. The documents include trade licence, tax identification number (TIN), and the layout design of the factory. The tanneries will get gas connections upon meeting the requirements, the project director said.

"Underground pipelines have already been laid for supplying gas and water to the factories. Electricity is also there," Qaiyum said.

Visiting some factories at the industrial estate yesterday, this correspondent found that Reliance Tannery was storing rawhide at the factory.

"We have stored 1,970 pieces of rawhide in the last couple of days. We are not storing rawhide at our Hazaribagh fac-

killers be awarded the capital punishment.

On February 8, Tangail police wrote a letter to the district magistrate to take steps for transferring the case from the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court, considering the "sensitivity of the case," police sources said.

The magistrate forwarded the letter to the home ministry but there has not been much progress in this regard since then, they said.

According to the charge sheet, freedom fighter Faruk decided to contest the post of Tangail AL general secretary in 2012 when he was the unit's publicity secretary.

Amanur and his family were against it as his younger brother Shahidur was preparing to run for election to the post.

Amanur tried to persuade Faruk into quitting the race but failed. The MP and his brothers then ordered their accomplices to kill him, police said in the charge sheet.

Three days after the killing, Nahar filed a case with Tangail Model Police Station against unidentified criminals. Police initially investigated the case that was later shifted to the Detective Branch of police.

Law enforcers arrested Anisul Islam Raja and Mohammad Ali in March 2014. During their interrogation, they named Amanur and his three brothers among those involved in the murder.

Former president and general secretary of Tangail district unit Chhatra League, Faruk was involved with the publication of "Ranagan", a newspaper published from Muktanchal during the Liberation War in 1971.

2 'outlaws' killed in 'Rab encounter'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Two alleged members of an outlawed party were killed in an "encounter" with members of Rapid Action Battalion at Jugni Haat in Tangail early today.

The dead are identified as Fazlu and his associate Uzal.

An incident of robbery took place in the area a few days ago, locals said.

On information that a gang of criminals was making preparation for committing another robbery in the area, a Rab team raided the village around 1:00am, said Mohiuddin Faruq, Rab-12 company commander in Tangail.

Sensing the presence of the Rab members, criminals opened fire on them, prompting them to retaliate, he added.

Two Rab members suffered injuries and two firearms were recovered from the spot, the Rab official claimed.

Fazlu stands accused in at least 20 criminal cases, said Mohiuddin.

who contacted the girl, he said.

Protestors rejected the first autopsy report with no sign of rape in the body and no specific cause of death mentioned.

The report of the second autopsy conducted on March 30 following a court order is pending.

Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation yesterday burnt down an effigy of home minister Asaduzzaman Khan at TSC on Dhaka University campus, protesting what they said was his failure to unearth the mystery of the murder and to arrest the killers.

Prior to that, they brought out a torch procession on the campus.

Forming a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club, eminent citizens demanded immediate arrest and speedy trial of Tonu's killers.

There have been attempts from vested quarters to change the course of the case's investigation, they said in the protest programme organised by the Women for Good Governance (WGG).

The army's reputation will be damaged if a fair trial of the murder is not ensured, said Prof Dilara Chowdhury.

WGG Chief Co-coordinator Ruby Amatulla demanded prime minister's intervention in the matter and assurance of exemplary punishment to the killers.

The development of a society depends on how women in that society are treated, she said.

exercises, and develop a habit of balanced diet.

He also said more than 50 percent women in Bangladesh are obese.

Experts said diabetes is a condition in which the level of sugar (glucose) in the blood is high. The body produces insulin, a hormone secreted by the pancreas, which breaks down the sugar consumed in food. A reduction in the production and/or utilisation of insulin causes the disease.

If left untreated or uncontrolled, diabetes can lead to serious problems such as heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney failure, among others. Some of these may be life-threatening, they added.

Meanwhile, citing a Bangladesh government survey conducted in 2010, N Paranietharan, WHO representative of Bangladesh, said 83 percent population of age group 25-65 never checked their diabetes.

"If diabetes is diagnosed at an early stage, it can be controlled," he said.

Researcher of the study, Prof Md Rezaul Karim, said many employers were unwilling to let their child employees take part in the survey.

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The most common type of punishment was scolding, reported by 65.8 percent, and the most common reason for punishment was mistakes made in work. Bad behaviour by the wife of the house owner was reported by 67.9 percent of CDWs.

One-third of the children surveyed had no education, 55.9 percent had both parents alive, while 12 percent were orphaned.

Financial benefits received by CDWs ranged from Tk 500 to Tk 5,000 per month and the majority, 34 percent, received monthly salaries between Tk 501 and Tk 1,000, while 26 percent received Tk 1,001 to Tk 1,500. However, 7.5 percent received no financial benefits.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice chancellor of Dhaka University, was the chief guest at the programme, chaired by Md Emrabul Huq Chowdhury, chairperson of BSAF.

Arsenic scourge may claim

FROM PAGE 16
Pearshouse said Bangladesh maintains a standard of 50 micrograms of arsenic per litre of water. However, evidence shows that there is a rise in deaths and illnesses from exposure to arsenic in drinking water containing arsenic between 10 and 50 micrograms a litre.

Scientists in the early '90s drew the world's attention to the problem of naturally occurring arsenic in groundwater.

From 1999 to 2006, the government, donors and NGOs made a concerted effort to mitigate arsenic contamination. They installed a few hundred thousand safe water devices -- mostly deep tube-wells that reach groundwater of better quality.

However, mitigating arsenic remained negligent for about a decade, the HRW said.

"Bangladesh isn't taking basic, obvious steps to get arsenic out of the drinking water of millions of its rural poor," said Pearshouse, author of the report.

The HWR conducted a survey in five villages across Bangladesh, interviewed 134 people suspected of having arsenic-related diseases and government and NGO officials, and analysed data on around 125,000 government water points installed between 2006 and 2012.

The HRW found some 5,000 of the wells that were supposed to be arsenic-



Richard Pearshouse

are actually contaminated by arsenic, Pearshouse said.

He cited "less transparent process of installation and political influence" as the main reasons behind this.

Though deep wells can often reach groundwater of better quality, government programmes don't make it a priority to install new wells in areas where the risk of arsenic contamination is relatively high, he said.

"Moreover, some national and local politicians divert these new wells to their political supporters and allies, instead of the people who need them most," the HRW said.

This is because the lawmakers get half of the allocation of new tube-wells

and the upazila chairmen the rest, it said.

The Unicef, which supported projects to install 20,000 tube-wells between 2006 and 2012, rehabilitated 1,733 arsenic-contaminated tube-wells.

Pearshouse said they found that government doctors currently don't conduct arsenic screening in villages. And those suffering from arsenic-related diseases don't get services or even multivitamin and ointment they used to receive from the government earlier.

He suggested that the government and international donors should immediately take initiatives to mitigate arsenic contamination by installing tube-wells wherever necessary.

They should also support the communities to use appropriate filters to purify water and encourage them to harvest rain and surface water for drinking, he said.

Contacted, an official of the Department of Public Health Engineering said arsenic mitigation programmes are going on, and some 25,000 tube-wells are installed in rural areas a year so that they can access arsenic-free water.

On allegations of nepotism by MPs and upazila chairmen in distributing tube-wells, he said there might be a few such cases.

Next hearing on May 10

FROM PAGE 16
Mahbubey Alam and Deputy Attorney General Khondker Diliruzzaman appeared for the state.

The hearing started around 9:15am and continued till noon with a half-an-hour break.

The apex court heard the evidence on which the trial court delivered its verdict. The evidence was considered by the High Court too.

The SC also held hearing on the statements of some important witnesses, confessional statements of the accused and the autopsy report.

Towards the end of the hearing, the SC set May 10 for hearing from the state counsels on some law points.

On March 29, nearly 18 years after Shazneen was killed, a three-member bench of the Appellate Division led by the chief justice started hearing the appeals of five convicts who challenged their death sentences in the case.

The other two bench members were Justice Hasan Foez Siddique and Justice Mirza Hussain Haider.

On Tuesday, a five-member larger bench was formed by including Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana and Justice Md Imman Ali in it. Yesterday's hearing was held before that bench.

EIGHTEEN YEARS' WAIT FOR JUSTICE
According to the case documents, Shazneen Tasnim Rahman was brutally murdered at her house in the capital's Gulshan area on April 23, 1998.

The following day, her father Latifur Rahman filed a murder case with Gulshan Police Station under section 302 of Penal Code.

On September 4 the same year, the CID filed a case under Women and Children Repression [Prevention] Act for rape and murder.

After investigations, police submitted a charge sheet in the first case to the Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court-1 in Dhaka and another charge sheet in the second case to the Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression.

The courts framed charges in both the cases.

The accused are Syed Sajjad Mainuddin Hasan, who was a contractor for renovating Latifur Rahman's house, and his accomplice Badal, domestic help Shahidul Islam Shahid, housemaids Estema Khatun Minu and Parvin who are sisters, and carpenter Shaniram Mandal.

Later, four of the five accused -- Sajjad, Badal, Minu and Parvin -- filed separate leave-to-appeal petitions, seeking permission for filing regular appeals against the HC verdict.

On April 26, 2009, the Appellate Division accepted their leave-to-appeal prayers.

Later, the four lodged appeals with the SC. Shahid also filed an appeal with the apex court through the jail authorities.

Around seven years after the filing of the appeals, the Appellate Division started hearing those together on March 29.

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Jagannath univ student

FROM PAGE 1
Mizanur Rahman, vice chancellor of the university.

The gun and machete attack happened around 8:00pm, when the victim was walking on the road with a classmate, Soheli, said Tapan Kumar Saha, officer-in-charge of Sutrapur Police Station.

The motive of the murder was not clear, but the wounds from hacking had similarities with those sustained by bloggers and free-thinkers, who came under attacks by suspected militants in recent months.

Soheli, who was being quizzed by law enforcers, told police that a group of four to five assailants came near them in guise of bystanders and melted into the crowd after the attack.

Locals rushed critically injured Nazim to Mitford Hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead.

Originally from Bianibazar in Sylhet, he was an LLM student of the evening shift, said the VC.

Asked about possible militant link, the OC said they were yet to ascertain any motive or link.

According to Nazim's Facebook page, he was the information and research affairs secretary of Bangabandhu Jatiya Juba Parishad, Sylhet.

Debashish Debu, spokesperson for Sylhet Gonojagoron Mancha, said he did not know Nazim personally but activists of the platform told him that he used to join the Gonojagoron Mancha programmes whenever he went to Sylhet.

Going through his Facebook timeline last night, it was seen that his friends, many of whom are bloggers, expressed outrage over the murder.

Debjyoti Debu in a post on Nazim's timeline said he was one of his favourite faces who walked shoulder to shoulder in the processions of Gonojagoron Mancha, which demands maximum punishment for the war criminals, in Sylhet.

"I liked him because he had always been vocal against fundamentalism," read the post.

Nazim's Facebook posts also show that he had been vocal against the government failure to tackle crime and recent killings.