



Winners (front row) of the Rise High Bangladesh competition with members of the jury panel and other dignitaries at the award giving ceremony at Senamalanchna in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Three honoured for rising high

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Tower, Aga Khan Award winning Jeddah International Airport and many other landmarks.

In the competition for best business ideas, team Brain Castamere from the Institute of Business Administration of Dhaka University became the champion. The team's project was on "bioplastic", a material made from sugarcane for the packaging industry.

Team Inspirebels became first runner-up with its project on growing mushrooms on discarded paddy straw. The team members said they want to export the mushrooms. They said their project would reduce air pollution and alleviate food shortages as well as bring in foreign currency.

The demand for mushrooms, grown on paddy straw, is high in the western world and some countries in Asia and this is the best time to grab the European, Russian and the US markets, they said. The project would reduce unemployment and help farmers get better prices for the straw, team members claimed.

Team Unpredictable from Rajshahi University was the second runner-up.

Its project was on farming edible insects to lessen food shortages, protect the environment, and earn foreign currency. The team members said the demand for edible insects in the western world was on the rise. Primarily, they would make food items from crickets, mealworms and grasshoppers.

The farming of edible insects would also create an opportunity for employment, they claimed. Around 10 crore people eat edible insects and its global market was worth \$15.9 billion, they said.

The dreams of today's youths are different, said Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Annisul Huq. "Don't undermine your ability," he asked the youth.

It is crucial to have confidence, he said, adding that dreams, not failures that matter. "Have conviction, you can be a champion ... start playing and trying until you get your way."

Syed Nasim Manzur, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said confidence and inspiration was needed to succeed in life. He mentioned the struggles of Square Group and Apex Group as examples.

He said the founder of Square Group -- Samson H Chowdhury -- started his pharmaceuticals business carrying medicine on his bicycle and now this company is US FDA certified and exporting to countries across the world.

Similarly, Apex Group's founder Syed Manzur Elahi started his business with only Tk 13,000 capital.

Of the country's population, 60 percent are aged below 30, which means, Bangladesh has the young demographic dividend, said Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The

AMAZING BANGLADESHIS

FAZLUR RAHMAN KHAN, architect and structural engineer

He was born on April 3, 1929 in Dhaka.

Considered the "Father of tubular designs" for high-rises, Khan more than any other individual, ushered in a renaissance in skyscraper construction during the second half of the 20th century.

He has been called the "Einstein of structural engineering" and the "Greatest Structural Engineer of the 20th Century" for his innovative use of structural systems that remain fundamental to modern skyscraper construction.

Although best known for skyscrapers, Khan was also an active designer of other kinds of structures including the Jeddah Hajj Terminal, McMath-Pierce solar telescope in Arizona of the US and several stadium structures.

FR Khan died on March 27, 1981 at the age of 52 in Jeddah of Saudi Arabia.

His important works include DeWitt-Chestnut Apartments in Chicago of US (1963), Brunswick Building in Chicago (1965), John Hancock Center in Chicago (1965-1969), One Shell Square in New Orleans of Louisiana (1972), 140 William Street (formerly BHP House) in Melbourne of Australia (1972), Sears Tower in Chicago (1970-1973) and US Bank Center in Milwaukee (1973).

RAFIQ AZAM, architect

His list of awards includes Emirates Glass Leading European Architects' Forum (LEAF) Award (2012) and World Architectural Community Award, 11th Cycle (2012).

OSAMA BIN NOOR, young leader

More than 100,000 youths from 192 countries are getting opportunity like scholarships, internships, conference, competition and more from www.youthop.com.

At present, Noor is doing his Bachelors in Dentistry and at the same time working with the largest volunteering organisation Volunteer for Bangladesh (VBD) as the president of its Dhaka district chapter.

He has been vibrantly active in the field of volunteerism over the last six years and has spent more than 2,000 volunteer hours in different public service activities across the country.

Recently he was awarded with the "2016 Queen's Young Leaders Award". He co-hosts a radio show called Teen Tekka at Colours FM 101.6.

Daily Star.

He said only education and skills could turn millions of hands, which would otherwise remain the hands of beggars, into hands for production.

How much job creation is possible for such a huge workforce, he asked, adding that self-employment is the answer.

But to achieve that, the youth must be accomplished with entrepreneurial skills to develop their creativity for wealth creation. And the idea of Rise High Bangladesh was based on this,

Anam noted.

"The amount of energy, creativity and dreams manifested in the youths' ideas inspired my own self."

Md Jahangir Alam, chairman of Crown Cement, said innovative ideas and creativity were keys to development across the world. He said his company manufactures cement with 96 percent imported raw materials and that it is crucial that such raw materials are available locally.

He demanded ensuring equal price for cement produced by local or foreign companies if those are of the same quality.

The aim of the campaign was to gather export-oriented business ideas from university students. Over 100 teams took part in the competition from across the country. The ideas were evaluated both by a jury panel and by The Daily Star readers.

Among the ideas received, three were short listed and presented before an expert jury and awarded at the ceremony. The jury had 70 points to give to each team, while the rest 30 points came from readers' vote.

The champion team would have the opportunity to have training on their business idea in India with the sponsorship of Crown Cement.

10 Hindu

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Junarobi Lal Basfor said the fire engulfed everything fast as the criminals splashed petroleum all over the area. "We are just alive and unhurt but could not save anything," he added.

Rashidul Islam of neighbouring Bakultola village said he had seen the flames from a kilometre away.

Firefighters from Bochaganj Station rushed to the spot and doused the fire around 5:00am.

Jahangir Alam Liton, councillor of ward No 7 of Bochaganj Municipality, said the victim families had been living on a 20-decimal piece of railway land for long.

He added property worth around Tk 50 lakh was reduced to ashes.

Locals said they caught Jewel, son of Ayub Ali of Stationpara area, from the spot and handed him over to police.

Munir Lal Basfor, leader of the community, said Jewel went to the mandap area during the Durga Puja on October 10 and locked in an altercation with the Hindus.

There was a scuffle as Jewel tore up banners as he could not extort money from the puja organisers, he said, adding, "Since then he has been threatening us with dire consequences."

Habibur Islam, officer-in-charge of Bochaganj police, said Jewel was an accused in several cases for stealing motorcycles.

Shilapada Karmaker, UNO of Bochaganj, said they had distributed relief among the affected families, who have also been shifted to a government auditorium.

World's

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Northamptonshire, UK who built it in the 1870s.

Original owner Janet Peck, 81, sold the tree to an antiques dealer ten years ago, along with a number of other items.

Peck, from Burton Latimer, Northamptonshire, said: "We had the tree in our family for generations but were forced to put it away when we had small children for safety reasons because it had candle holders on it."

"My grandmother told me it was probably made by her brother Robert who was a carpenter. He was born in the mid-1800s and would certainly have carved it around 1870."

"I remember it on display as a child in my grandmother's large three-storey home in Desborough and when she died I inherited it."

"We tried to get it restored in the 1960s but it was a bit too dangerous to have as we had small children running around so we put it in a trunk away in the attic."

Double blow

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upazila's Bhadeshwar union was raped allegedly by two men on July 20.

After the incident, the school authorities asked her not to come to school. Then they refused to take fees for her final exams that started on November 29.

"What is my fault?" she asked while talking to this correspondent. "My friends and neighbours started treating me as a 'bad girl'. Some people made insulting comments whenever they saw me out in the village. My family is worried about me. I don't know what to do now."

The girl now keeps to herself and avoids meeting her friends and neighbours.

Asked, headmaster Ayub Ali stood by the school authorities' decision and said they would not accept her in the class as "she is a girl of bad character and there will be a negative impact on other students".

The school authorities decided not to take her back to the school, he added.

Contacted, National Human Rights

Commission Chairman Kazi Reazul Hoque said, "It is a gross violation of human rights. She has the right to education, attend her classes and sit for exams."

"I think the education ministry should investigate the incident and take necessary actions against those responsible."

Bhadeshwar UP Chairman Kamruzzaman Bashir told The Daily Star, "I requested the school authorities, including the headmaster, several times to allow the girl. But they didn't pay heed."

Quoting the victim, he said one Fatema Akter from a neighbouring village lured the girl with the promise of a job in Habiganj town in July.

On July 20, Fatema took her on a human haulier and the two alleged rapist -- Zakir Hossain, 35, and Shomsher Uddin, 32, -- joined in. The vehicle plied different roads the whole day.

The two men took the girl to an unknown location and took turns to rape her. They dropped her in her village in an unconscious state the next day, he said.

The victim's father later filed a case with Bahubal Police Station. Police arrested Zakir and Fatema. Shomsher is on the run.

"My family is extremely poor. I just wanted to help my family by earning some money while continuing my studies," said the girl.

Hasim Mia, president of the school management committee, said, "We've decided to issue a transfer certificate to the victim."

"Some people, who are out to tarnish my reputation, are insisting on allowing her to sit for the final exam. But it is not possible now as the exams have already started," he said.

A friend of the victim said she is a very good girl. "When I came to know about it [rape], I asked her but she was not in the state to say anything," she added.

"It is a matter of sorrow that our teachers did not allow her to sit for the exam."

Bahubal Police Station's Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Moniruzzaman said he did not receive any complaints over the school authorities' decision.

The president will make the decision

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She added that according to the rules, the president would consider their proposal.

Hasina, however, said there was nothing important in Khaleda's proposals.

She said the EC was constituted in 2008 by the then president in line with the BNP's demand, while the current commission was also constituted by the president through a search committee.

"The same procedure is being followed this time. Here the government has nothing to do in the process ... I don't know whether her [Khaleda's] proposals contain any substance at all."

She said Khaleda first had made the decision to stay away from the election, then she waged a violent nationwide campaign to unseat the government and now she came up with the proposals. "She didn't participate in the election ... being a leader of the party she refrained from the election by making a wrong decision."

The prime minister said BNP leaders also should recall their "ploy to manipulate polls when they were in power".

Recalling the days when BNP and its allies waged a movement, Hasina said, "Let's count carefully how many people she killed."

Talking about the incidents after the death of Khaleda Zia's son Arafat Rahman Koko, the prime minister said, "I went there to console her, but I was not allowed to enter her home. Both the doors of her home were shut. What an audacity!"

Hasina said she has no interest in the proposals placed by such people.

She also mentioned that BNP was still in a dilemma whether to participate in the election. "Today, they'll participate in one election and boycott another tomorrow ... they have no consistency in their decisions."

NO SPECIAL AIRCRAFT

The prime minister ruled out the possibility of procuring any special aircraft

for her safer journeys, saying there is no scope in Bangladesh to go for such luxury at this moment.

"Any scope of showing luxury of having dedicated aircraft for the president and the prime minister is yet to come here for our country. It's not necessary. I myself even don't want it."

Hasina said she walks with common people and she does politics taking people with her. "If I don't feel secure while travelling on the aircraft used by our people, what is the benefit of having separate aircraft?"

A VVIP Biman aircraft carrying the PM to Hungary had developed a technical glitch and made an emergency landing in Turkmenistan, raising concern over her personal security.

Following the incident, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon said the government would procure an executive aircraft for the travel of the president and the prime minister.

Describing the emergency landing as an accident due to a technical glitch, Hasina said, "There could be an accident any time, this is not a matter. There might be some technical glitches, probe committees have been formed and they'll investigate it."

Referring to the Colombia plane crash in which Brazilian football players were killed, she said, "An accident may take place any time ... accident is accident."

Replying to another question about airport security, the PM said the government has taken appropriate measures following complaints by two countries over the matter.

ROHINGYA CRISIS

Hasina said the world leaders should have been more vocal on Myanmar issue, on identifying the handful of October 9 perpetrators that led to the sufferings of thousands of men, women and children along the border.

"If we want to blame, we need to think of more about those who triggered it and killed border guard police, and it's needed to identify where they're [perpetrators] now and they

should be held," she said, referring to those who killed nine border guards in Myanmar's Rakhine state on October 9.

Hasina said thousands of people are now suffering as the attacks by the perpetrators led to the current situation. "It's very unfortunate that for a handful of people, many men, women and children are suffering. It's the most worrying matter."

Bangladesh's intelligence has already been informed and Bangladesh will not give them shelter, she said, adding, "Instead, they'll be caught, if found, and be handed over to Myanmar authorities."

Though it is Myanmar's internal affairs, she said, necessary steps have been taken by the foreign ministry. "Members of Border Guard Bangladesh are on high alert ... the reality is that people have no option but to look for shelter once they become helpless."

TEESTA TREATY

Hasina said she was still hopeful about the Teesta water-sharing agreement with India.

"I'm going to India, I'm not going with any condition ... discussion is on for Teesta river water sharing and we're hopeful."

HUNGARY TOUR

The PM said her recent visit to Hungary has infused new dynamism in the stagnant bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Hungary and opened up a new horizon of potentials to elevate the existing relations to a new height.

She said through her participation in Budapest Water Summit and Marrakech Climate conference, Bangladesh has been able to highlight its strong leadership in the international arena on water management as well as the country's firm resolve to face climate change.

About the talks with the Hungarian prime minister, she said they held discussions on various bilateral, regional and international issues, including water resources management, trade and commerce, agriculture and education.

against the constitution.

Interestingly, the original ICT Act of 2006 here did not give the police the sweeping authority to arrest anybody without warrant. Police had to seek permission from the authorities concerned to arrest any person under the law. But a change in the law in 2013 cut people's protection and empowered police.

Empowered by the amendment, Brahmanbaria police did not think twice before arresting Rasraj under section 57 of ICT Act and putting him behind bars.

Arrest of Rasraj plunged his family in a crisis no ordinary family could handle. His father on Friday narrated how they have been on the run for the last one month.

His father, mother and two brothers went into hiding following the attack on Hindus in Nasirnagar. They had been fleeing from one village to another for a month. Their fear was more real than others in their community.

Should Rasraj and his family wait for another month for his release from jail? Shouldn't the court re-fix the date for hearing of his bail prayer to ensure his release as soon as possible?

The other crucial question is: will anybody be held responsible for the untold suffering of Rasraj and his family members? If those who are responsible for it are not held accountable, such incidents may continue.

Many people like Rasraj may have to suffer from the arbitrary use of police powers under section 57 of the ICT Act as it happened in the past under the controversial section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure that had empowered police to arrest anybody on suspicion.

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For appointment, please call 01730 72 72 72 by 7 December 2016 Email: enquiries_bangladesh@raffleshospital.com

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