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No hands, so what?

Unvanquished, Bhanu fights on as she stands on her two feet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Born without hands, Bhanu Aktar does not want to be considered a burden. In fact, her willpower has brought her a feat only a few can achieve overcoming hurdles like hers.

The 30-year-old runs her family selling different items made of plastic pearls. She knits the pearls with her legs.

Right in front of your eyes, she can make attractive necklaces, handbags, earrings and tissue box with plastic pearls. She also does not charge much for the items she sells at different places.

Bhanu earns around Tk 7,000-8,000 a month.

Her husband, Korshed Alam, is also physically challenged. He is looking for a job.

"The amount is not much and I do face problems in running my family with that but I don't like asking others for help. It's quite disgraceful for me," said the woman, who has been making the items for the last eight years. "I learnt it all by myself."

Like her, many with such indomitable spirits, gathered on the premises of Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) in Savar on the outskirts of the capital yesterday. They showcased their products during an Open Day programme there.

Every year, CRP organises the programme with participation of the people with disabilities. Apart from a daylong fair, some cultural programmes are also organised.

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Left, physically challenged Bhanu Aktar with her products being showcased at the Open Day Programme of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP) in Savar yesterday. Top right, Bhanu, born without hands, uses legs to make ornaments. Bottom right, visitors and stalls at the programme.



PHOTO: AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

Secret of Big Ben's bong revealed



MAIL ONLINE

For the first time ever, researchers have vibration-mapped London's famous bell Big Ben to find out why it produces its distinct tone.

Researchers conducted the experiment without once touching the bell by using lasers to map the vibrations inside the metal bell as it chimed.

The researchers, working on a documentary with the BBC, were given exclusive access to measure Big Ben's vibrations.

The researchers, based at the University of Leicester's Department of Engineering, measured four of Big Ben's chimes at 9am, 10am, 11am and 12 noon.

They used a technique called 'laser Doppler vibrometry' which involved creating a 3D computer model of Big Ben and using lasers to map the vibrations as it chimed.

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Sessions steps aside from Russia probe

Denies any impropriety; Trump slams Democrats for 'witch hunting' over his attorney general's Russia links

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump accused Democrats late Thursday of conducting a "witch hunt" against Attorney General Jeff Sessions over contacts with Russia, as the veteran senator recused himself from any probe into the election campaign.

Sessions' announcement came as top Democrats called for him to resign after it emerged he had met with Russia's ambassador during the presidential election campaign, as the White House moved to forestall a snowballing controversy over its ties to Moscow.

Sessions denied any impropriety or that he lied about those encounters in his Senate confirmation hearing.

The attorney general told his confirmation hearing in January that he "did not have communications with the Russians" and did not know of any by other campaign staff.

Sessions on Thursday clarified that his denial referred to contacts made on behalf of the campaign. He said he met Kislyak in his capacity as a senator, and discussed

mainly global politics with him.

Trump declared his "total" confidence in Sessions -- while adding that he "wasn't aware" of contacts between Ambassador Sergey Kislyak and Sessions, who was a senator actively supporting Trump's campaign at the time.

He defended Sessions again in a statement late Thursday, calling Sessions an "honest man" and accusing Democrats of carrying out "a total witch hunt!"

Sessions "did not say anything wrong. He could have stated his response more accurately, but it was clearly not intentional."

Unswayed by Sessions's account of events, top Democrats are maintaining their calls for him to step down immediately, accusing him of perjury.

They also called for an independent prosecutor to investigate contacts between the Trump campaign and Moscow, which US intelligence says interfered in the election to hurt Trump's Democratic rival Hillary Clinton.

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Jeff Sessions

COMMONWEALTH YOUTH AWARD 2 Bangladeshis among finalists



Towfique



Ukhengching

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Bangladeshi youths are among the 17 finalists from 13 countries shortlisted for the 2017 Commonwealth Young Person of the Year award.

Ukhengching Marma and Towfique Ahmad Khan were named for their works that would contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), said a press release published on the Commonwealth website on Wednesday.

Ukhengching made it to the shortlist for her Menstruation Hygiene Campaign that reached out to around 700 girls to raise awareness about sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Towfique, on the other hand, is a social entrepreneur who founded the South Asian Society and launched the

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Son of SQ Chy returns home after 7 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Humam Quader Chowdhury, son of executed war criminal Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, returned home early Thursday, nearly seven months after he was allegedly picked up by unidentified men.

His uncle Gias Uddin Quader Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday that Humam was left near Sultana Kamal Mohila Krira Complex in Dhanmondi

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SIBL Social Islami Bank Limited
Prayer Timing March 4
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-15 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

'I have never seen such a war'

Says 90-yr-old rescued from Mosul

REUTERS, Mosul

Ninety-year-old Khatla Ali Abdallah has survived decades of turbulence in northern Iraq, but the frail grandmother who fled the battle for Mosul this week says the fighting there is the worst she has ever seen.

Carried across the desert by her grandsons, under sniper and mortar fire, she was one of thousands who braved the difficult and dangerous journey out of Islamic State's shrinking stronghold in the west of the city.

"I'm a 90-year-old woman and I haven't seen such a war," she said in a camp for displaced people south of Mosul, where she was taken by Iraqi security forces.

Khatla lived through Saddam Hussein's quarter century in power, when

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Khatla Ali Abdallah, 90, is embraced as she flees her home as Iraqi forces battle with Islamic State militants in western Mosul, Iraq, on February 27.

PHOTO: REUTERS

ROHINGYA ABUSE IN MYANMAR UN envoy for highest-level investigation

AFP, Geneva

The United Nations rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar called Thursday for the creation of a Commission of Inquiry (COI), the UN's highest-level probe, to investigate abuses in the country.

Rights envoy Yanghee Lee made the appeal in a report submitted to the UN rights council, currently holding its main annual session in Geneva.

She urged the 47-member body to establish a COI "to investigate the systematic, structural, and institutional discrimination in policy, law and practice, as well long-standing persecution, against the Rohingya and other minorities in Rakhine State."

She said the probe should focus on violence in 2012, 2014 and the army crackdown on Rohingya Muslims in northern Rakhine since October, which came in retaliation for attacks by militants on police border posts.

The UN expert said the episodes in question "may amount to crimes against humanity."

A UN rights office investigation accused Myanmar's security forces of murder, rape and torture in the Rakhine operation since October.

Myanmar has dismissed mounting international pressure over alleged abuses of Rohingya Muslims as "biased and unfair".

Escapees have given the UN chilling accounts of babies being stabbed to death, people being burnt alive and wide

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