

Not even

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physically, they pressed for the need to protect girls.
They were addressing a discussion with the motto 'Let's Ensure Equal Rights, Build Women Friendly World' organised by National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF) at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) to mark International Women's Day 2017.

"The country is doing well in various fields but discrimination against women is hampering its progress, which is not acceptable," said Badiul Alam Majumdar, President of NGCAF.

Addressing girls who were present at the programme, he said, "Equal rights will be established. We'll have to achieve it."

But for that women have to be courageous, he said.

Gender specialist Farzana Shahnaz Majid advised girls to be vocal and protest whenever and wherever they face abuse and teasing. She also asked young women to change their mentality and be more liberal and respect everyone.

No woman will marry before reaching the age of 18, she said adding that activists will continue their efforts to press the government into scrapping the special provision in the Child Marriage Restraint Act-2017 bill.

Among others, Wahida Banu, executive director of Aparajeyo-Bangladesh and secretary of NGCAF Nasima Aktar Jolly also spoke at the discussion.

Earlier, the forum handed over a crest to Manju Samaddar, former principal of Baptist Sangha School for Blind Girls (BSSBG) and Salma Khatun, the first female train driver of Bangladesh for outstanding contribution in their respective areas.

'Drug dealers'

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from Rajshahi's Godagari.

Sohel Rana, assistant commissioner of Feni district administration, is now undergoing treatment at Feni Sadar Hospital.

Kissing Chakma, Phulgazi upazila nirbahi officer, said the mobile court, led by Sohel, began the drive in Badarpur village around 9:00pm. Police and Ansar members were with the team.

Around 10:00pm, some drug dealers suddenly swooped on them and stabbed Soheli and Nowshad with sharp weapons. Nowshad died on the spot. His firearm was also snatched, the UNO said.

Police opened fire to bring the situation under control.

The attackers also abducted Mohammad Sumon, 30, an informant of police, and they fled to India with the body of Nowshad, the UNO added.

Border Guard Bangladesh informed Indian Border Security Force of the matter at night.

Yesterday, a flag meeting was held between 4 BGB Battalion in Feni and 86 BSF Battalion in Belonia of Tripura state along the Badarpur border.

After the meeting, BSF handed over the body of Nowshad to BGB. But Sumon was not handed over yet.

PM raps Yunus

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rejecting the allegation of corruption conspiracy in the project, Hasina said people's dignity and image would never be tarnished either by herself or by her family members.

"Many ill-attempts were made to implicate my family members and me [in the allegation]. I can't describe in words the extent of [mental] torture inflicted on my sister, son and daughter.

"By the grace of Almighty Allah, we'll definitely build the bridge and the country's image would be brightened through this," she added.

The premier said the World Bank gave many suggestions, and reacted differently if those went unheeded.

Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu, State Minister for Textiles and Jute Mirza Azam and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing

Committee on the Textiles and Jute Ministry Saber Hossain Chowdhury spoke at the programme, among other, with Textiles and Jute Minister Emaj Uddin Pramanik in the chair.

The Canadian court last month acquitted three business executives of charges that SNC-Lavalin Group Inc staff had planned to bribe

Bangladeshi officials in a bid to win a \$50 million contract to supervise the construction of Padma Bridge.

The three are former SNC-Lavalin vice-president (energy and infrastructure) Kevin Wallace, its another former vice-president (international development) Ramesh Shah and Bangladeshi-Canadian businessman Zulfikar Ali Bhuiyan.

The charges against two other accused, Mohammad Ismail and Abdull Hasan Chowdhury, had been dismissed earlier.

82pc of them radicalised

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percent of them became radicalised from propaganda materials on social media platforms," Mohammad Moniruzzaman, assistant inspector general (confidential) of police headquarters, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The "militants" are from Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), Ansarullah Bangla Team, Ansar al Islam, Hizb ut-Tahrir and Neo JMB.

Police would seek help of the Facebook authorities for curbing militancy in the upcoming conference of police chiefs of South Asia and neighbouring countries, said the police official.

He hoped that Facebook's assistance would be very helpful to rein in the spread of misinformation.

"For this reason, we decided to hold a bilateral meeting with Facebook officials, who are coming to Dhaka to join the conference of police chiefs of South Asia and neighbouring countries next week," said Moniruzzaman.

The conference, scheduled to be held between March 12 and 14, would be the first of its kind in Dhaka.

Facebook Trust and Safety Manager Vikram Lengeh is expected to attend the conference.

Top officials of police headquarters said they would seek permission from the Facebook authorities for access to the online activities of any suspected user.

According to sources, the use of Facebook began in Bangladesh in the middle of 2006. There are now over 2 crore Bangladeshi Facebook users.

Citing security reasons, Bangladesh government kept Facebook along with some other social media blocked from 18 November to 10 December in 2015. Later, the government held a meeting with senior officials of Facebook Southeast Asia.

Apart from the Facebook officials, some 58 other foreign delegates, including police and law enforcers from 14 countries and high officials of Interpol, IGCI, FBI, ASEANPOL and ICITAP, would join the conference.

The 14 countries are Afghanistan, Australia, Bhutan, Brunei, China, India, Indonesia, the Maldives, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, South

Salman

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Last year, the research firm published a list of 2,188 billionaires from across the world.

From mundane

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Inside the café, one can get motorcycles serviced, hang out with other bikers and become a part of a community that talks about the latest trends in motorcycle designs and different modification ideas.

The owner of Moto Café, Farhan Imtiaz, pointed out that the key feature of his place is the "one-stop" service centre for bike lovers.

"What I faced when I made my first custom bike is that I had to go to different mechanics' workshops [to get the work done]," he said. This wasted a lot of his time, money and effort.

"So I took a plan to build a place where people can share their ideas of modifications and can have all the support in one place," he said.

Police asked to report

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"Responding to people's demand, the government is mulling enactment of a law to confiscate the properties of the convicts. I am requesting you [officials concerned] to give a report on the assets of fugitive accused after carrying out investigation by at least an inspector-level officer. You are requested to consider the matter as an urgent one," the letter added.

Different pro-liberation organisations, including Ekatturer Chatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, freedom fighters and martyred families have been demanding confiscation of properties of the convicted war criminals and distributing the wealth among the victim families.

On September 7 last year, Law Minister Anisul Huq said the government was considering the formulation of a new law to deal with the properties of convicted war criminals.

On December 15, the minister said the government would formulate a law to confiscate the properties of war criminals as they had not accumulated the properties in a fair way.

"NO PROGRESS IN ARREST" According to the letter, 22 convicted war criminals were on the run while 53 accused, whose cases were on trial or at the pre-trial stages, were fugitives.

"We assume that some of the fugitives are abroad but most of them are still in the country," Sanaul said.

The trial of the perpetrators of the crimes committed during the Liberation War in 1971 is one of the main political pledges of the government and the prime minister on

Korea, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

Bangladesh police would also hold bilateral meetings with delegates of several countries, including India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, South Korea, China, Brunei and Myanmar.

South Korea has expertise in cyber crime investigation and detection, while China is very good at making arms and ammunition, according to sources in the police headquarters.

Police would also raise militant hideout issues while holding a bilateral meeting with Malaysia and yaba issues while holding a bilateral meeting with Myanmar.

AKM Shahidul Hoque, inspector general of police, said the main theme of the conference is regional cooperation in curbing violent extremism and transnational crime.

Although Bangladesh police have a great success in combating militancy, the country is still not safe from threats of militancy, he said.

"We hope that the conference would give us a clear idea about extremism and organised crime of the region and help build a strong network among the police chiefs of neighbouring countries," said the police chief while addressing a briefing at the police headquarters conference room yesterday.

The IGP said they would prepare a work plan for combating transnational crimes and sign a joint declaration.

In the conference, police would also try to sign a memorandum of understanding with the 14 countries for exchanging criminals, said the police chief. "If these countries do not agree to sign it, we will try to establish a relationship with them so that we can deal with such issues."

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal will inaugurate the conference at Sonargaon Hotel on March 12, while Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali will be the chief guest at the concluding session.

Development

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"Did they eliminate poverty or nurture?" she questioned.

Hasina reiterated her government's firm stance against terrorism and militancy and said that there wouldn't be any room for these social vices in the country.

She said law enforcement agencies remain alert to eliminate terrorism and militancy and these evils would be stamped out at any cost.

"Other countries have lounges for bikers where bikers get together and build their own bikes with their friends. They get all the help from there. We didn't have anything like that in Bangladesh," he added.

Custom modification can be a very costly affair in Bangladesh.

Moto Café gives a solution regarding the cost. With a policy of cut your coat according to your cloth, Moto Café would start with your budget and modification plan and then would offer a balanced solution.

This means, if a biker comes up with a very low budget, the modification uses cheap products -- while trying to ensure that the end product does not look cheap. Till date, the shop conducted modifications ranging from Tk 5,000 to Tk 1,20,000.

several occasions at home and abroad and even in parliament vowed to ensure trials and punishment of these perpetrators, read the letter.

"Although, a monitoring cell has been set up in police headquarters as per the directive of the honourable tribunal, but no progress has been made in arresting fugitive accused. Grievance and frustration of victim families of these cases often come to the fore through the media," it said.

"Against this backdrop, arresting fugitive accused should not be considered only as a routine work, rather, it should be considered a national duty," the letter added.

On many occasions, the tribunal expressed displeasure with law enforcers' failure to arrest war crimes accused and convicts.

Following tribunal's directive, the government in May 2015 formed a five-member committee, led by a deputy inspector general of police, for ensuring arrest of the fugitives.

Another monitoring committee, consisting eight members, had been formed in 2014 to have the fugitives arrested. That committee too failed to make any headway.

Last month, the tribunal asked the IGP and SP of Mymensingh to explain police's "blatant inefficiency and negligence" in communicating timely the death of a fugitive war crimes accused, which led to his indictment after death.

The tribunal eventually exonerated the SP as he apologised unconditionally and the IGP said police would be more cautious henceforth.

Boy slips

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The teenage boy fell to the ground and the bus ran over him, police said.
Police seized the bus and detained the driver.

However, the father of the victim, Shah Alam, doesn't want to file a case since, he said, "I know nothing will happen to the reckless driver."

"Everything is over now."
"He [Shuvo] wanted to study engineering in Australia. We were giving all the support. We even thought of selling my properties to send him abroad," he choked.

The father was supposed to help him fill out forms yesterday afternoon for his "A" level exams to be held in May. But they deferred it to Saturday for his coaching class.

"I have kept Tk 51,600 aside for his form fill-up. What will I do with the money?" said Shah Alam, editor of a monthly magazine named "Kasba Barta".

Shuvo seemed to have been on the right track to reach his destination. He passed "O" level exams and prepared well for "A" level.

He talked to his father yesterday morning and took Tk 150 from him before leaving their Goran residence.

He attended a coaching class at Arambagh and then went to the friend's house in Shantibagh. From there, they headed to Dhanmondi.

"Had he died of illness, I could have consoled myself... I never thought that he would leave us this way," the father said.

He pleaded with the government to take measures to punish reckless drivers so that no parents would have to lose their beloved children like he did.

Neanderthal

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"Apparently, Neanderthals possessed a good knowledge of medicinal plants and their various anti-inflammatory and pain-relieving properties, and seem to be self-medicating," said study co-author Alan Cooper of the University of Adelaide's Australian Centre for Ancient DNA (ACAD).

"Certainly, our findings contrast markedly with the rather simplistic view of our ancient relatives in popular imagination," he added.

The study is the latest to recast our long-extinct cousins, long thought of as thick-skulled and slow-witted, in a more positive light.

Other recent findings have started to paint a picture of Neanderthals as sophisticated beings who made cave art, took care of the elderly, buried their dead and may have been the first jewellers -- though they were probably also cannibals.

In 2012, a study in the journal *Naturwissenschaften* said Neanderthals appeared to have used medicinal herbs such as yarrow and chamomile.

Neanderthals lived in parts of Europe, Central Asia and the Middle East for up to 300,000 years but appear to have vanished some 40,000 years ago.

This coincided more or less with the arrival of homo sapiens out of Africa, where modern humans emerged some 200,000 years ago.

Rare mole

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Sharif said mole is classified as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and their population is declining.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the English name of mole is Himalayan mole or Eastern mole. Its scientific name is *Euroscaptor micrura*.

This species -- found in Nepal, Bhutan, India and Bangladesh -- is very secretive, nocturnal and fossorial. It is purely a forest floor dwelling mammal, it says.

Football's greatest miracle

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Gary Lineker all jumping for joy as Michael Owen went running off around the studio.

Those who did not believe Barcelona could achieve the impossible against Paris Saint-Germain included former German international and ex-Barcelona star Bernd Schuster, who fulfilled his weird promise of appearing at his regular Spanish radio show in a thong after the result. Barcelona's former president Joan Gaspart, also went for a midnight dip off Barcelona's main beach after the game, fulfilling his promise to take an icy swim if his team did the impossible.

"There are many words one could use to describe what happened at the Nou Camp on Wednesday night, but none seem to do justice to what is surely the greatest climax to a football match there has ever been. It was THAT good," read a Mirror report while explaining why the Barcelona victory was greatest of them all with seven points.

"For Barcelona to come back from a 4-0 from a first leg hammering to beat Paris Saint-Germain and win the tie was remarkable enough. That alone -- an unprecedented Champions League achievement -- would have gone down in the annals of football history. But to do it the way they did -- to clinch an astonishing 6-1 victory with three goals in a crazy last seven minutes -- means plenty of people are suggesting this was the finest game of football they have ever seen," the paper added.

It was an emotional rollercoaster for Barcelona and for Neymar it was seven minutes in heaven. After 88 minutes of the match, Neymar underwent a transformation. The Brazilian suddenly went from a mere world class footballer to a superhuman, extra-terrestrial super-footballer. Suddenly, he was unstoppable.

In the space of seven magical minutes, he scored twice and set up the vital winning goal. And like every great story, the match also had its villain and a bit of controversy and Uruguayan striker Luis Suarez, who scored the opening goal, fulfilled that role -- winning the penalty for the fifth goal with a dive.

After that 4-0 defeat two weeks ago, Barcelona coach Luis Enrique came under attack so much so that he decided to quit the club at the end of the season. But he was spot on when he said: "If they can score four goals against us, we can score six." Twenty four hours later, he was looking like Nostradamus.

The whole game and its aftermath were summed up nicely by The Guardian.

"Suddenly there were people running across the pitch, bodies cascading down the stands, a collective hysteria taking hold of the Camp Nou, and the kind of noise that even this famous arena, the biggest football stadium in Europe, had never heard before.

Equivalent

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The military junta was unable to enforce their limited military plan -- Operation Blitz-in the face of a large-scale opposition. They started preparing for launching Operation Searchlight as Mujib was preparing for his historic March 7 rally.

Documents recently declassified by the CIA shed light on those days. The Daily Star today publishes one such document that claims Bangabandhu on March 3 told journalists "off the record" that he would announce at the rally "the equivalent of independence" for East Pakistan.

Something magical had just happened, something utterly implausible. Football, bloody hell?" read the match report of the famed newspaper.

"How inadequate those two words sound now. All the expletives on Earth would struggle to do justice to this. Barcelona are where they have been every year for 10 years now, into the quarter-finals of the Champions League, but they got there in a way they never have; a way that no one ever has. Not just one comeback, but two. Dead, revived, dead, revived. Somehow, they are still standing," it added.

They came into the game dead. They were revived when they took a 3-0 lead with Messi converting a spot-kick after Suarez had been fouled by a PSG player on the ground led the ground to erupt as fans and the rest of the world began to believe in the impossible.

However, Edinson Cavani's sweetly-struck volley in the 62nd minute sent them back to the grave yet again. With an aggregate score of 5-3, it meant the Spanish side would need to repeat their Herculean feat and score three goals yet again to win the match.

And what happened in the last 10 minutes surpassed even the great comebacks from Liverpool in the Miracle of Istanbul against AC Milan in 2005 and Manchester United's two last-gasp goals at the very same ground against Bayern Munich in 1999.

Busted Ctg

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An A-level student at a reputed English medium school in the capital, Omi had left home out of frustration over separation of his parents. He used to translate Bengali write-ups of militants into English, the official said quoting Omi.

Although he is only 19, he worked at the outfit's policy level and had close links with top "Neo JMB" leaders.

He had been in touch with "Neo JMB" chief coordinator Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury. He visited Bangladeshi-Canadian Tamim's Narayananj den where the latter was killed during a drive by law enforcers on August 26 last year.

He also maintained close links with "Neo JMB" military commander Maj (ret'd) Jahid, who was also killed in an operation in the capital's Rupnagar last year.

Omi told interrogators that the "Neo JMB" would carry out fresh attacks in an organised way.

The other arrestee, Mahmud Hasan, used to make grenades.

TRICK TO RENT HOUSE

According to investigators, Mahmud hired a couple at Tk 6,000 for two days to rent two units in Chittagong's Mirsharai upazila.

As people are reluctant to rent out flats to youths, they hired the couple. Mahmud introduced them as his sister and brother-in-law to the landlord and said they would stay at one of the two adjacent units.

As per the agreement, the couple later left the area, added the investigators.

The CITC official said they came to know about Mahmud during the raid at the "Neo JMB" den in the city's Ashkona on December 24 last year. The arrested wife of Mainul Islam Musa, a key leader of the militant outfit, told law enforcers that a youth named Mahmud used to visit the den with Musa.

Mahmud hailed from Chittagong. However, an official at the police headquarters said the arrestee was a Rohingya who later managed Bangladeshi citizenship.

Meanwhile, Redwanul Huq, owner of the Mirsharai house, was shown arrested in the case filed under the anti-terrorism act yesterday, hours after he was detained for questioning, reports our staff correspondent in Chittagong.

He was later sent to jail through a Chittagong court.

Façade Glass work of corporate Head Office Building

Notice for Expression of Interest of Design built Façade Glass Contractors

MJL Bangladesh Limited management intends to commence the Façade glass work for its Corporate Head Office Building at 13A Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan Model Town, Dhaka 1212. This is a 15 storied superstructures above ground along with four basement floors for parking and other services.

Applications are hereby invited from the reputed façade glass companies / contractors (local or joint ventured with foreign) for the Prequalification for the façade system work of MJL Bangladesh Limited Corporate Head Office Building Project.

Minimum Eligibilities of the Bidders intends to apply for the Pre-qualifications are:

- i. Companies having minimum 5 (Five) years working experience, who have successfully completed at least three commercial building with minimum 1500 sqm of double glazing façade work.
- ii. Average yearly Turnover of BD Taka 50.00 (Fifty) million from façade glass installation business in the last 3 years.

Interested companies are requested to collect the Expression of Interest document from the Head Office of MJL Bangladesh Limited, Mobil House, CWS (C) 9, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212 from 12th March 2017 to 23rd March 2017 during office hours (10:00 AM to 5:00 PM) by providing the following instruments:

- a) Formal request for issuing Expression Of Interest Documents in the company's letterhead along with non-refundable pay order of Tk. 10,000/- (ten thousand only) in favor of "MJL Bangladesh Limited".
- b) Valid registration and track record of last 3 years in façade glass installation and Documentary Evidences of the eligibility of the participating Bidder in reference to the Expression of Interest are the requirements mentioned under i. to ii. in paragraph 3 above.

Application for Expression of Interest, duly filled in prescribed format shall be received in the head office of MJL Bangladesh Limited at the address mentioned above on all working days up to 27th March 2017. The bidders who have records of litigation, delaying the work due to increase in material price and also have record of injury, accidents including the casualty at site due to inappropriate safety practice need not to apply for the Expression Of Interest. The management of MJL Bangladesh Ltd reserves the right to accept or reject any of or all the applications without assigning any reason whatsoever.

MJL Bangladesh Limited

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