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WORLD HEALTH DAY TODAY

Mental health on decline

Globally 300 million people living with depression

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

More than 300 million people are now living with depression, a leading cause of ill health and disability worldwide, according to the latest estimates from the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The number of people with depression has increased more than 18 percent from 2005 to 2015, revealed the WHO ahead of the World Health Day today. The theme of the day this year is "Depression: let's talk".

In Bangladesh, 4.6 percent of the people, both male and female, suffer from depression, that is some 73.60 lakh out of 16 crore people, according to estimates from the National Mental Health Institute of Bangladesh and the WHO.

Lack of support for people with mental disorders, coupled with a fear of stigma, prevents many from accessing the treatment they need to live healthy and productive lives, the WHO notes.

A common mental disorder, depression is characterised by sadness, loss of interest or pleasure, and feelings of guilt or low self-worth, among other things. It is an important risk factor for suicide, which claims hundreds of thousands of lives each year.

According to WHO, close to 8,00,000 people commit suicide every year and there are many more who attempt suicides. It is the second leading cause of death among 15-29 year olds globally. An overwhelming 78 percent of global

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Participants waiting to enter the venue of yesterday's rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan. The programme was organised marking the 42nd founding anniversary of Bangladesh Islamic Foundation.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Delhi street named after Bangabandhu

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A prominent street in the heart of the Indian capital was yesterday named after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The decision to rename Park Street, stretching from Shankar Road-Mandir Marg traffic roundabout to Mother Teresa Crescent in front of Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, was taken by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) a day before Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was to arrive in New Delhi on a four-day visit.

NDMC Vice-Chairman Karan Singh Tanwar said, "The task of changing the signboards will be carried out tonight [last night] to ensure that it is completed before the Bangladesh PM's arrival tomorrow [today]."

The road named after Bangabandhu, the father of the nation, is over half a kilometre.

"It has been decided to rename Park Street after founder of Bangladesh -- Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

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Trump, Xi set to meet first time

AFP, Palm Beach

Donald Trump was set to host Chinese President Xi Jinping at his sun-kissed Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida late yesterday, a high-stakes first summit replete with pitfalls for both leaders.

The stage is set for a carefully choreographed dinners with family and displays of bonhomie, but beneath the facade runs a wary, almost palpable, anxiety -- as the men face a make or break moment.

Xi is arriving at the resort with a gift-basket of "tweetable deliverables", sources say, peace offerings on Trump's signature issues -- trade and jobs -- that he hopes will smooth over a relationship that began on shaky ground following disagreements over Taiwan.

In return, he hopes to get assurances from Trump on American sales of arms to the island, as well as trade. But what Trump wants is less clear.

No one -- neither diplomats nor aides -- can be sure what will happen when the most powerful Chinese leader in a generation meets a mercurial American president who has been in office less than 100 days



AFP, Yangon

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Suu Kyi denies ethnic cleansing

Brushes aside Rohingya killing, claims violence in Rakhine was partly down to 'Muslims killing Muslims'

AFP, Yangon

Aung San Suu Kyi has denied security forces have carried out ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, speaking to the BBC after the UN rights council agreed to investigate allegations of rape, murder and torture against the army.

Rights groups say hundreds of the stateless group were killed in a months-long army crackdown following deadly attacks on Myanmar border police posts.

Almost 75,000 Rohingya have fled to neighbouring Bangladesh where they have related grisly accounts of army abuse.

Myanmar's de facto leader Suu Kyi, a Nobel Laureate whose international star as a rights defender is waning over the treatment of the Rohingya, has not spoken out in defence of the persecuted minority.

She has also not condemned the crackdown, which UN investigators who spoke to escapees said likely amounted to ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Instead she has called for space to handle the incendiary issue in a country where the more than one million Rohingya are widely vilified as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

"I don't think there is ethnic cleansing going on," Suu Kyi said in a rare interview televised on Wednesday.

"I think ethnic cleansing is too strong an expression to use for what is happening."



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BD-MYANMAR BORDER Joint move to remove landmines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Myanmar will jointly work to remove the landmines and IEDs (improvised explosive devices) reportedly planted by separatist groups along the border.

Brig Gen Md Anisur Rahman, additional director general of Border Guard Bangladesh, made the remarks on the concluding day of the six-day border conference between BGB and Myanmar Police Force (MPF) in the capital yesterday.

"The mines and IEDs are buried along the border, and we will not be able to go to some certain places," said Anisur while addressing a press briefing at the BGB headquarters in the capital's Pikhana.

He said both countries already agreed to take necessary steps to remove the mines and IEDs for

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Engineer builds home inside Boeing 727



MAIL ONLINE

An ambitious engineer transformed a huge Boeing 727 into a 'bona fide castle', and has lived there for 15 years.

Bruce Campbell, 66, turned the imposing three-engine commercial airliner into an unusual home in the middle of the woods outside Portland, Oregon.

Complete with a modest futon, a kitchen, a laundry area and a shower, the self-confessed nerd lives in the remarkable aircraft for six months every year.

Campbell, who admits he is 'socially rather inept', bought the plane for \$100,000 in his early 20s after hearing about a Mississippi hairdresser who did the same thing.

He is still working to install a working lavatory in the aircraft and to restore some of the plane's

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EP for closing 'loopholes' in anti-child marriage law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The European Parliament yesterday called on Bangladesh government to close loopholes in a new legislation that provided legal authorisation for child marriage.

In a resolution passed yesterday, members of the European Parliament (MEPs) noted with concern the loopholes in the Child Marriage Restraint Act,

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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 7

Fazr Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-40	12-30	4-45	6-21
JAMAAT 5-15	1-15	5-00	6-24
			8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

RAUDHA'S DEATH Father to file murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Father of Maldivian medical student and model Raudha Athif yesterday said he was going to file a murder case with a court.

Raudha, 21, a second-year student of Islami Bank Medical College in Rajshahi, was found dead in her college dormitory room on March 29. She was featured as a model on the cover of Vouge India last year.

Earlier, her inquest, by police, and autopsy reports, conducted by a three-member medical board, said that she committed suicide by hanging.

Besides, the probe committee formed by the college authority found Raudha's death to be a suicide.

Meanwhile, Alamin Hossain, assistant commissioner of the Detective Branch of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, said

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WILD CATS RESCUED

These two leopard cats were rescued in a police raid at a house in Rudhrapur village of Mymensingh's Muktagachha upazila early yesterday. The owner of the house, Bahar Uddin, who had bought the animals from Tangail's Madhupur area a couple of days ago, however, fled sensing police presence.

PHOTO: STAR

Ragib jailed for tea estate land grabbing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday sentenced industrialist Ragib Ali to four concurrent jail terms, the highest six years, in a case filed for grabbing the endowed property of Tarapur Tea Estate by forging title deeds.

Moreover, four others -- his son, daughter and son-in-law and a relative -- will each be serving seven years, the maximum of four terms they have been handed down.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Saifuzzaman Hiru also fined each Tk 10,000, in default, they would serve another three months in jail.

Ragib, his son Abdul Hye and relative Dewan Mostaque Majid were present in court while his daughter Rozina Kadir and son-in-law Abdul Kadir are absconding.

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1st Death Anniversary of Al-Haj Tosrifia Khatun (1934-2016)



Today, 7th April 2017 is the first Death Anniversary of Al-Haj Tosrifia Khatun (W/O Late Al-Haj Shafiuddin Ahmed). She is fondly remembered as a great personality for her selfless contributions to her family, to her community and to her business as a whole. She has been the Chairperson of Northern Group and Shafiuddin Ahmed Foundation. A dua mehfil will be held in her remembrance on the 8th of April' 17 at 11.00 AM in Shafiuddin Ahmed Foundation and Eye Hospital, Mujiburah, Thakurgaon. This will be followed by another dua mehfil to be held on the 15th of April' 17 after Asr at House-3, Road-134, Gulshan-1, Dhaka. We pray to the Almighty Allah to bless her with a heavenly abode. Ameen.

We sincerely request all relatives, friends and well wishers to attend the above dua mehfls.

- BEREAVED FAMILY MEMBERS