FROM PAGE 1

three-day International Conference on Autism and Nuerodevelopmental Disorders at the Royal Banquet Hall in Thimphu.

Bhutanese Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay also spoke at the Recalling that Bhutan had recog-

nised Bangladesh as an independent country on December 6, 1971, Tobgay said they were confident that Bangladesh would have more successes in future.

Greeting Bangladeshis on the occasion of Bangla Noboborsho, he said hosting the conference was a "wonderful coincidence" in the Autism Awareness Month.

Tobgay praised the instrumental role of Saima Wazed Hossain in creating awareness about autism and congratulated her for being designated as "WHO Champion for Autism" in Southeast Asia.

Hasina said people with autism and neurodevelopmental disorders deserve to live with dignity and be loved by people around them.

Even some standard programmes

remain inaccessible to families living outside major cities and beyond their means, the PM observed. "Despite our commitments, there are no established guidelines or models to assist She said all governments of the

world should make policies and programmes to ensure that no individual was neglected. The PM regretted that people with

Autism Spectrum Disease (ASD) and their families were often subjected to stigma, discrimination and human rights violations. Talking about Bangladesh, she said

incorporating disability and autism into the mainstream national development agenda was one of the country's priority areas.

For the first time, she said, a nationwide census in Bangladesh had included information on people with disabilities, including autism. "We've taken a number of legislative, social and medical initiatives to address the issue of autism." She mentioned that an 8-member

Advisory Committee on Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, headed by Saima Wazed Hossain, helps the national steering committee develop priorities, design programmes, devise implementation strategies, identify necessary resources and provide guidance on the appropriate use of those resources.

She said Bangladesh played a crucial leading role in the formation of South Asian Autism Network and its charter.

The PM said Bangladesh's initiatives and leading role in the field of ASD could not have been generated without the efforts of Saima.

"Saima has not only raised awareness, but her efforts have contributed significantly to life-changing experi-

ences for many." In Bangladesh, Saima had been instrumental in getting recognition for ASD as a disorder and not a curse

as was often believed by many, the premier added. "Her work in this area has been

recognised by WHO through her appointment as a member of World Health Organization's 25-member Expert Advisory Panel on mental health."

Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO regional director for Southeast Asia, was present at the programme as the special guest. Bhutanese Health Minister Lyonpo Tandin Wangchuk delivered the welcome address.

Bhutanese Queen Jetsun Pema and Saima Wazed Hossain, chairperson of Suchana Foundation, were present.

Chairing a discussion at the Royal Banquet Hall, the Bangladesh PM said it was important for all to look for avenues to strengthen efforts to ensure inclusive development for all people, including those with ASD and neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs).

The discussion was titled "Enabling countries to successfully address autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders as part of their Sustainable Development

their families and community.

Unesco prize

AFP, Rome

crisis.

statement.

Migrant rescuers,

island mayor win

Unesco yesterday awarded its presti-

gious peace prize to migrant rescue

association SOS Mediterranee and the

mayor of Lampedusa, the tiny Italian

island on the frontline of the refugee

Prize goes to the European NGO and

mayor Giuseppina Nicolini "for their

work to save the lives of refugees and

migrants and welcome them with

dignity," the UN cultural body said in a

The Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace

arrested, the prosecution said. All the accused are from Kachua, Morrelganj and Sadar upazilas of Goals". Bagerhat, and they were involved with The PM said NDDs significantly impact mental, emotional, physical Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of and economic wellbeing of people,

the Pakistan occupation army, according to the investigators. On January 22 this year, tribunal's investigation agency completed its probe into the case and said to have found evidence against 14 Bagerhat

men, including the 13, over their alleged involvement in wartime crimes. But the prosecution yesterday

pressed charges against 13 people as another accused Abdul Ali Mollah, 65, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on March 27, Prosecutor Sabina Yesmin told The Daily Star. The seven charges are: killing 10

people, injuring two others and looting 40-50 houses in Capri and Teligati villages; murdering four people in Hajrakhali and Boikhali villages; killing two unarmed freedom fighters in Dhuligati village; murdering four people in Bilkul and Bichat villages; killing a man in Bilkul village; and raping four women for over a month.

Ensure support 2 Kishoreganj

As with the fugitive, it directed the

home secretary (public security divi-

sion) and the inspector general of

police to ensure his arrest, if needed,

filed against the two, expressed satisfac-

tion with the verdict while defence

counsel Abdus Sattar Palwan said he,

upon consultation with his client,

Moslem, would challenge the judge-

Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, a war

crimes convict can file an appeal with

the SC within 30 days from the date of

crimes tribunal have so far delivered 28

judgements against 53 people. Thirty-

one of them have been sentenced to

Hussain had originally been from

Machihata village (Pir Bari) in

Brahmanbaria sadar upazila but began

living with his family in Kishoreganj

sadar upazila since 1936 as his father

worked there, according to the investi-

vice-president of the then East Pakistan

unit of Pakistan Democratic Party

(PDP) and chairman of the Peace

Committee in Kishoreganj sub-

division in 1971. Both PDP and Peace

Committee worked against

Razakar force in Nikli upazila and was

known as "Razakarer Daroga", while

his brother Syed Hassan led Razakars in

Tarail upazila. Moslem, of Kamarhati

village in Nikli, was Hussain's associ-

The prosecution pressed six charges

The three-member tribunal led by

against the duo -- Hussain faced all the

Justice Anwarul Haque with members

Justice Md Shahinur Islam and Justice

Md Shohrowardi read out the sum-

Although, Justice Shohrowardi

Hussain and Moslem were given the

The duo face jail until death for

abduction and murder of freedom

fighter Abdul Malek, of Purbogram

The special court also awarded

Hussain death penalty for participating

in the killing of 34 Hindu men and

raping of Hindu women at Dampara in

Nikli; seven-year rigorous imprison-

ment for forceful conversion of Hindus

of Dampara to Islam; five-year jail for

abduction and confinement of four

people of Nikli; and 10-year jail for

mistreating the dead bodies of two

run concurrently and other sentences

will be merged with the execution of

RAPE: AN OFFENCE OF GENOCIDE

Among the six charges, one is linked

with the abduction of 39 Hindus, of

whom 34 were killed, and the rape of

several women from the minority

While adjudicating on the charge,

the tribunal said, "It stands proved that

rape upon Hindu women was commit-

ted in conjunction with the criminal

act of detaining the 39 Hindu male

and looting and arson attack on some

50 houses at Kachua and Morrelganj

upazilas in Bagerhat, according to the

Akram Hossain, 60; Sultan Ali Khan,

68; Rustam Ali Mollah, 70; Edris Ali

Mollah, 64; Moksed Ali Didar, 83;

Sheikh Mohammad Ukil Uddin, 62;

Sheikh Edris Ali, 61; Rafiqul Islam alias

Babul, 64; Moniruzzaman Hawlader,

69; Hashem Ali Sheikh, 79; Azhar Ali

Ukil Uddin and Mokbul Mollah are in

custody while the rest are yet to be

Of them, Akram, Edris Ali Mollah,

Sikder, 64; and Mokbul Mollah, 79.

They are Khan Ashraf Ali, 65; Khan

13 Bagerhat

death penalty, the tribunal said.

The sentences of imprisonment will

wrote a separate judgment, he was of

capital punishment for killing 26 people

in Gurui village of Nikli upazila and for

the same view regarding punishment.

ate, according to the prosecution.

charges while Moslem faced two.

mery of 563-page judgment.

plundering and arson attacks.

village.

freedom fighters.

community.

FROM PAGE 16

charges.

Hussain was the commander of the

Bangladesh's independence.

His father, Syed Musleh Uddin, was

CHARGES AND PUNISHMENTS

With the latest verdict, the war

According to the International

Tureen Afroz, prosecutor in the case

with the help of Interpol.

ment in the Supreme Court.

the verdict's pronouncement.

death.

gators.

FROM PAGE 16

"And thus, it was rather genocidal rape as it was chosen as one of the worst ways of inflicting 'serious bodily injury and mental harm' upon the women presumably due to their membership in Hindu religious group intending to cause destruction of religious belief, the will to live, and of life itself of the victims belonging to a protected group.

civilians of village Dampara that

eventually resulted in killing of 34

Hindus"

"Rape or sexual violence committed upon the Hindu women including PW [prosecution witness] 3 and PW 4 may thus be validly viewed as a crime perpetrated against a 'group' and not against an individual woman, and therefore, the rape committed upon Hindu women was 'genocidal rape' indeed," it added.

Justice Shohrowardi, however, did not agree with this observation made by two other judges. Although, he considered the killing of Hindus an act of genocide, he found the rape of Hindu women as crimes against humanity.

TRIBUNAL ABOUT GENOCIDE DAY On March 11, the Jatiya Sangsad passed a resolution to observe March 25 as Genocide Day to recognise the brutal genocide committed on this day back in 1971, which was later approved by the cabinet.

In its verdict, the tribunal said, "Finally, in remembrance of such horrific atrocious activities that resulted in 'genocide', mass killing, sexual invasion, torture, confinement, 25th March has been declared Genocide Day.

"This laudable recognition obviously will make especially the new generation enthused to go with the spirit of the war of liberation and it shall inspire them to be acquainted Athen history of burlhard-earned the

FROM PAGE 2 Going through a financial crisis, he

could not properly feed the animals, leading to a decrease in milk production and him missing the daily install-"For this I sold those at the purchase

price," he said, reasoning that market prices were low now as the haats had double the usual number of cattle. Munjur Hosain of Nowapara village

said he was making do with water hyacinth as an alternative to the usual fodder "I think I have to sell my cattle this

week amidst the food crisis and floods damaging all the grass," he said.

Another farmer, Sajon Mia of Naraontola village, said he had sold his cattle at a low price for the grass crisis, a hike in the prices of hay, oilcake and bran and fears over any illness they might contract.

A large bundle of hay, usually priced around Tk 250-300, is selling for Tk 160-170 higher, said a trader in the Tahirpur bazar, Moin Uddin.

Dr Md Gias Uddin, divisional deputy director of the Department of Livestock Services, said he had held a meeting with the district's relevant officers and asked to assess losses so that low loans at low interest rates could be given out.

Raudha

FROM PAGE 1

autopsy. We will need a different team for the second one," he said, adding that they had already contacted a number of experts for the task. Criminal Investigation Department

(CID) yesterday requested the medical college to arrange an autopsy today, but the college authorities sought some time, CID Inspector Asmaul Hoque said.

"We will reschedule and exhume the body later," Asmaul, also the investigation officer of the case, told The Daily Star.

Raudha Athif, a 2nd year student o Islami Bank Medical College in Rajshahi city, was found dead at her dormitory on March 29.

The first autopsy report that said the model and medical student from the Maldives committed suicide was rejected by her family.

The 21-year-old, who was featured on the cover of Vogue India magazine, was buried at Hetomkhan Graveyard in Rajshahi city on April 1.

Police recorded an unnatural case filed by the college authorities on the day of her death, while her father Mohamed Athif lodged a murder case on April 10 with a Rajshahi court accusing one of her classmates and demanding a fresh autopsy. Later, the murder case was handed

over to the CID.

Meanwhile, Athif, who is a physician, met Special Superintendent of Rajshahi CID Nazmul Karim Khan yesterday. He handed the police officer a

statement explaining why he believed Raudha didn't commit suicide. The grieving father told The Daily

Star that in the pictures of Raudha's body, he saw no trace of saliva on her face, which was not normal in a case of suicide. He added that he thought a metal

object was used to choke her to death.

Athlif's lawyer Manir said Raudha's inquest report mentioned some marks around her neck, but the first autopsy report did not mention anything about

those.

India, China

FROM PAGE 16 capital of China's southwestern border state of Yunnan, with Kolkata in West Bengal via Mandalay in

Myanmar and Dhaka and Chittagong

in Bangladesh. The idea of creating a corridor of regional integrity was first floated in 1999 but there has been little prog-

ress in implementing the grand plan. Officially, China and India say the process of finalising the BCIM is not easy because of several reasons, including the restive nature of the region the

planned corridor will pass through. Privately, diplomats and bureaucrats from the two countries blame each other for the tardy progress.

Though it predates President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by several years, the Chinese government made BCIM part of the BRI, further increasing India's unease. "BCIM-EC predates BRI and it

should be pursued as an autonomous initiative rather than as a subset of BRI. All four BCIM-EC partners should continue to have coownership of this project, which should not be subsumed under another construct," said a former Indian diplomat.

Chinese experts feel that holding of the meeting in Kolkata indicates progress.

"India's attitude towards OBOR (One Belt, One Road) is clear - support some parts of OBOR, oppose and hedge the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and the 21st Maritime Silk Road and delay and change BCIM, Liu Zongyi from the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies said at the "BRI Initiative South Asia" seminar organised by the China West Normal University on Tuesday.

"Though the JSG dialogue didn't take place, but the door for Track II dialogue between China and India has never been closed. Several academic seminars were held and information and views were exchanged," Guo Suiyuan, associate professor at the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, told Hindustan Times.

"At this particular point of time, we need to re-emphasise that BCIM-EC is a cooperation platform for economic development and prosperity of the region and does not involve some of the sensitive issues that exist between China and India," Guo said.

Girl killed

president of the district unit of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

Marufa's father late Manik Howlader, of Parmhar village of Nalchity, married her off to Sumon Howlader, 42, son of Sultan Howlader of Baharampur village of Nalchity, when she was studying in class eight.

"Marufa and I opposed the marriage but her father didn't listen to us. Now the marriage took her life," the grieving mother said.

The 19-year-old girl had strong willpower, which was why she could continue her studies after marriage. Marufa scored GPA 4.50 in

Secondary School Certificate exams and got admission to Nalchity Degree College in business studies in 2015. Her education was stopped several

times in the last four years by the inlaws' family, but Marufa was determined to continue her education, said Ruma Akhtar, a cousin of the victim. And she had the support of her

husband, who works in the Middle East, to her endeavour, she added. Marufa was a regular student who

was taking HSC exams this year, said Shamsul Alam Bahar, principal of the college. "Being illiterate, they [in-laws] all

wanted to stop my daughter's education," Lucky said. They suspected that if Marufa

continued to go to college, she would get chances to mix with boys, she said, adding that her daughter had not been allowed to talk to her on the phone for the last three months. "My daughter had been tortured

continuously, which I came to know after her death.

"I urge all parents not to marry their daughters' early," Lucky said. The reporter could not reach the

in-laws as their contact number was found switched off.

Heart patients

FROM PAGE 1

got to know about the strike and the doctor could not implant the stent."

He said some traders played with the life and emotions of patients and their relatives by holding them hostage. "None has the right to play with life ... I am deeply saddened and frustrated by it."

The government must take action against those responsible for this, he said.

A relative of Sheuly Begum, a patient who had been scheduled to have a stent implanted at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) yesterday, echoed the same.

Prof ASM Mustafa Zaman of cardiology department at BSMMU, who was scheduled to implant stents in at least 10 patients' hearts at the BSMMU yesterday, said he had carried out angiograms on five patients before he was told the stents had not been delivered. The professor called one of the

suppliers but the supplier said they were on "strike" and that there would be no deliveries. "I requested the supplier repeatedly to

emergency needs but the supplier declined," Prof Zaman told The Daily Star. He said the patients who had already undergone angiograms were sent back without their stents implanted. Patients in queue for the angiogram and the

provide at least a few stents to meet the

implant returned home. A cardiologist at the NICVD shared a

similar experience. "Heart patients had to suffer a lot. This is quite absurd," the doctor said requesting anonymity.

The situation was the same in other major public hospitals.

According to cardiologists, over 100 patients get stents implanted every day. The "strike" comes after the govern-

ment moved to fix the prices of stents, as high prices of stents in Bangladesh was affecting poor patients. Some patients opted to go to India to get their stents implanted as it was much cheaper there. Director General Mustafizur

Rahman of the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) on April 18 told journalists that four stent supplying companies said they would sell one type of stents for Tk 25,000 and another type for Tk 50,000. However, some media outlets reported that the lowest price of stents was

fixed at Tk 25,000 and the highest at Tk 50,000. This created confusion among stent suppliers, he told this newspaper. He said stent importers met them at the DGDA office and they clarified the

matter. They asked suppliers not to do anything that could hamper treatment of patients. "There was no problem with supply

after 12 noon," he claimed

Bangladesh Medical Device Importers Association President Gazi AK Shaheen refused to admit that the stent suppliers went for an undeclared strike.

He said there was a misunderstanding over the fixing of stent prices and their leaders had a meeting with DGDA officials yesterday. "Everything was clarified. We are supplying stents," Shaheen told The Daily Star.

Currently, patients have to pay between Tk 80,000 and Tk 1.5 lakh for a single drug-eluting stent at a public hospital while some private hospitals charge almost double, according to cardiologists. India in February slashed stent

prices and fixed maximum Rs 30,000. Cardiologists feared heart patients needing stents would be now rushing to India for the treatment. There are 47 types of registered

stents implanted in Bangladesh. Twenty one companies import those. The DGDA recently formed a committee on fixing their prices.

The DG of DGDA said, "We are in the process of fixing prices of all these brands based on their import cost."

Hasina

FROM PAGE 2

Hasina for attending the conference despite her busy schedule and acknowledged Bangladesh's leading role in creating awareness about autism worldwide under her leadership. The Bhutanese premier also praised

the instrumental role of Saima Wazed Hossain in building awareness about autism and congratulated her on being designated as 'WHO Champion for Autism' in South-East Asia Region. The Ministry of Health and Family

Welfare of Bangladesh and the Ministry of Health of Bhutan are jointly organising the conference with the technical support of Shuchona Foundation (previously known as Global Autism), Ability Bhutan Society (ABS), and World Health Organization South-East Asia Regional Office. The theme of the conference is

"Developing effective and sustainable multi-sectorial programs for individuals, families and communities living with ASD and other neurodevelopmental disorders."

Apart from opening and closing ceremonies, a number of technical sessions will be held in the conference.

Government leaders, policymakers, experts and activists from around the globe will discuss strategic viewpoints to spread awareness about autism in the conference.

Bubbles burst

FROM PAGE 16 name of "special" services from Sunday.

The same day, the BRTA launched the drive against the services with which bus operators have long been charging passengers extra. Soon after the drive began, many

transport operators withdrew buses from the road to artificially create a transport crisis in the capital. As a result, the commuters suffered badly for the last four days.

They did it to mount pressure on the authorities to stop the drive, said one of the members of Dhaka Sarak Paribahan Malik Samity, wishing not to be named.

As of January, the city had some 6,000 buses run by private operators. In addition, the state-run BRTC operates about 100 buses.

Following the drive, private operators took some 25 to 30 percent of their buses off the roads, Iqbal Ahmed, a traffic inspector (Tejgaon) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said on Tuesday.

Amid this, Obaidul Quader, while talking to reporters at the secretariat, expressed helplessness, saying, "What can I do? If someone keeps his buses off the road showing various excuses, can we bring them back on the street forcibly?" Even after that, many hailed the

drive hoping it would bring a "positive

change" in the transport sector. YESTERDAY'S MEETING

The BRTA yesterday held the meeting at its office in the capital's Elenbari in the wake of the transport crisis.

Of the participants, 40 were representatives of the bus owners while four were from the police. The civil society had just one representative, said meeting sources.

From the very beginning, some of the bus owners behaved as if the BRTA drive had already been over, said the sources, adding some of them sug-

gested suspending the drive. At one stage, BRTA Chairman Mashiar Rahman left the room. He, however, returned after some time and declared that the drive had been

suspended for 15 days. Mashiar said they would continue their drive against unfit vehicles and

drivers without licences. He also said the bus operators would have to follow the fare fixed by the government during the period. Otherwise, they would be punished, added the sources.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, Abul Mansur Bulbul, publicity secretary of Dhaka Sarak Paribahan Malik Samity, said, "The BRTA took the decision in the face of the transport crisis that surfaced after many owners kept their buses of the streets amid the BRTA drive."

He said the crisis deepened as drives against unfit vehicles and drivers without licence had already been underway.

Red-eyed wasp FROM PAGE 16 very fine needle and a micro-

how they "can somehow kill the female embryos and create only males".

"To understand that, we

need to pursue their paternal sex ratio (PSR) chromosomes, perhaps by mutating regions of the PSR chromosome to determine which genes are essential for its functionality," he said.

putting it back into the

bigger egg to develop,"

"You have to use a very,

Professor Akbari said.

The study, described in the journal Scientific Reports, was technically difficult because the wasps' eggs are only about a quarter the size of a grain of rice and are contained within a larger egg sac.

and we knew from previous "You're essentially pulling studies that if the gene for eye a small egg out of a larger egg, injecting it with components to mutate the DNA and then

pigmentation was knocked out, they would have red eyes, so this seemed like a good target for gene disruption," Professor Akbari said.

this organism and we "You need a really steady hand and it requires a lot of

patience in micro manipulation that one can learn overtime." The colour of their eyes was changed from black to red, using

scope and individually inject

hundreds to thousands of

embryos, but in the end, we

developed a protocol that

can be used to cut the DNA in

showed that it works.

the CRISPR gene editing technique, to give a striking example of what could be done. "We wanted to target a gene that would be obvious,

HIGH COURT DIVISION (Statutory Original Jurisdiction) **COMPANY MATTER NO. 121 OF 2017**

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH

IN THE MATTER OF: An Application under Section 233 of the Companies Act, 1994

AND IN THE MATTER OF:

Md. Mobarak Hossain Petitioner

Paradise Metallurgical Complex Ltd. and Others ... Respondents Notice is hereby given that an application under Section 233 of

the Companies Act, 1994 was admitted for hearing by Mr. Justice Md. Rezaul Hasan, the Hon'ble Company Judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh upon hearing the petitioner by an order dated 27.03.2017. The matter has been fixed for hearing on 14.05.2017. Any person interested in the aforesaid matter may appear on the

date fixed for hearing either by himself or through his Advocate. A copy of the Application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of usual costs.

Nahid Sultana Jenny Advocate

For: ROKANUDDIN MAHMUD & ASSOCIATES Delta Dahlia (Level-8), 36, Kemal Ataturk Avenue Banani, Dhaka-1213, Phone: 9822315, 9822317