

Ensure support

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

Bhutanese Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay also spoke at the event.

Recalling that Bhutan had recognised Bangladesh as an independent country on December 6, 1971, Tobgay said they were confident that Bangladesh would have more successes in the 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 them."

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 experiences 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 Goals".

The PM said NDDs significantly impact mental, emotional, physical and economic wellbeing of people, their families and community.

Migrant rescuers, island mayor win Unesco prize

AFP, Rome

Unesco yesterday awarded its prestigious peace prize to migrant rescue association SOS Mediterranee and the mayor of Lampedusa, the tiny Italian island on the frontline of the refugee crisis.

The Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace 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 statement.

2 Kishoreganj

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As with the fugitive, it directed the home secretary (public security division) and the inspector general of police to ensure his arrest, if needed, with the help of Interpol.

Tureen Afroz, prosecutor in the case filed against the two, expressed satisfaction with the verdict while defence counsel Abdus Sattar Palwan said he, upon consultation with his client, Moslem, would challenge the judgement in the Supreme Court.

According to the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973, a war crimes convict can file an appeal with the SC within 30 days from the date of the verdict's pronouncement.

With the latest verdict, the war crimes tribunal have so far delivered 28 judgements against 53 people. Thirty-one of them have been sentenced to death.

CHARGES AND PUNISHMENTS
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 investigators.

His father, Syed Musleh Uddin, was 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 Bangladesh's independence.

Hussain was the commander of the Razakar force in Nikli upazila and was known as "Razakar Daroga", while his brother Syed Hassan led Razakars in Tarail upazila. Moslem, of Kamarhati village in Nikli, was Hussain's associate, according to the prosecution.

The prosecution pressed six charges against the duo -- Hussain faced all the charges while Moslem faced two.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque with members Justice Md Shahinur Islam and Justice Md Shohrawardi read out the summary of 563-page judgment.

Although, Justice Shohrawardi wrote a separate judgment, he was of the same view regarding punishment.

Hussain and Moslem were given the capital punishment for killing 26 people in Gurui village of Nikli upazila and for plundering and arson attacks.

The duo face jail until death for abduction and murder of freedom fighter Abdul Malek, of Purbogam village.

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 imprisonment 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 freedom fighters.

The sentences of imprisonment will run concurrently and other sentences will be merged with the execution of death penalty, the tribunal said.

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 community.

While adjudicating on the charge, the tribunal said, "It stands proved that rape upon Hindu women was committed in conjunction with the criminal act of detaining the 39 Hindu male

13 Bagerhat

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and looting and arson attack on some 50 houses at Kachua and Morrelganj upazilas in Bagerhat, according to the charges.

They are Khan Ashraf Ali, 65; Khan 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 Sikder, 64; and Mokbul Mollah, 79.

Of them, Akram, Edris Ali Mollah, Ukil Uddin and Mokbul Mollah are in custody while the rest are yet to be arrested, the prosecution said.

All the accused are from Kachua, Morrelganj and Sadar upazilas of Bagerhat, and they were involved with Razakar Bahini, an auxiliary force of 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 Hajrakhal 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.

India, China

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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 progress 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 co-ownership 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.

Another blow

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Going through a financial crisis, he could not properly feed the animals, leading to a decrease in milk production and him missing the daily installments.

"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 exhumate the body later," Asmaul, also the investigation officer of the case, told The Daily Star.

Raudha Athif, a 2nd year student of 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.

Athif'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.

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 provide at least a few stents to meet the 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 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 government 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

Girl killed

FROM PAGE 16

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 in-laws' 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.

Red-eyed wasp

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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.

India, China

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capital of China's southwestern border state of Yunnan, with Kolkata in West Bengal via Mandalay in Myanmar and Dhaka and Chittagong in Bangladesh.

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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

Heart patients

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YESTERDAY'S MEETING

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH
HIGH COURT DIVISION**
(Statutory Original Jurisdiction)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 121 OF 2017
IN THE MATTER OF:
An Application under Section 233 of the Companies Act, 1994
AND
IN THE MATTER OF:
Md. Mobarak Hossain **Petitioner**
Versus
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