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Breaking the barrier

Chapainawabganj girls find confidence and success in karate

RABIUL HASAN with ANDREW EAGLE

A first-year student of philosophy at Chapainawabganj Government College, Farida Khatun believes that in Bangladeshi culture, females are too readily thought of as representatives of the moral values held by their family. "If I do anything contrary to social norms," says the confident young woman, "it will reflect badly on my relatives." It's an issue she has had to face head on, for the simple reason that, along with around seventy other girls in the town, Farida practices karate.

"My father died four years ago," she explains. "Yet I am fortunate because my mother eventually understood the importance of physical activity to my health. Nowadays she encourages me. I am poor but mentally strong. One day I will win national and international medals in the sport."

Most of Farida's karate classmates have similar stories of discouragement to tell. Commonly the girls are warned that if they pursue karate it will be impossible for them to find husbands later.

"Martial arts teach me discipline and patience which I can use in my life," says Saima Zaman, a tenth-grade student at Kamaluddin Girls High School who practices both karate and judo. "It's about much more than learning how to throw a punch. Martial arts are stoking a fire within, to build a full and meaningful future, to succeed."

In the past three years, Saima has won three gold medals

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Girls along with boys learning martial arts at the Chapainawabganj Stadium recently.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN

AL to serve show-cause notice on MP Enamur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League yesterday decided to issue a show-cause notice upon lawmaker Enamur Rahman of Dhaka-19 for his recent remarks on "crossfire".

"We have received complaints and criticisms from different quarters regarding an interview of our lawmaker Enamur Rahman. We have taken the issue seriously," said Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader.

Quader, also the minister for roads, highways and bridges, was briefing reporters after a meeting of AL secretaries at the party president's Dhanmondi office yesterday.

Enamur received flak for his interview to Bengali daily Manabzamin on July 18 in which he had said there were many cadres and goons in his area but all had become silent. No one dares to do anything as five people had been killed in crossfire

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'It's murder, not suicide'
Say police quoting doctors after 2nd autopsy on Diaz's body

CU CORRESPONDENT

Diaz Irfan Chowdhury, assistant secretary of Chhatra League central committee, whose body was found hanging in his house near Chittagong University on November 20 last year, was "strangled to death".

Humayun Kabir, investigation officer of the case, told this correspondent over phone, quoting Sohel Mahmud, head of forensic medicine department at Dhaka Medical College, who along with two other doctors conducted the second autopsy on Diaz's body.

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES

Conviction rate keeps falling

Faulty case filing, lengthy process, fear of reprisal among reasons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prosecutions over human trafficking related cases in the country have been reducing each year and came down alarmingly last year mainly because of faulty case filings, inappropriate victim identification and lack of allegations raised by victims.

The authorities prosecuted 302 alleged traffickers in 2016, compared to 481 in 2015. Only three traffickers were convicted in 2016, down from four in 2015 and 15 in 2014, according to a US State Department report.

On many occasions, either the cases were withdrawn or both parties settled the matter out of court to avoid lengthy proceedings, obstacles arising from appearing before distant court, inability to bear expenses and lack of security for victims and witnesses.

These findings were shared yesterday in the capital during a series of events organised by 17 organisations and educational institutions, working for ensuring migrant

rights, marking the World Day against Trafficking in Persons says a press release.

The organisers called for proper implementation of relevant laws, rules and the national plan of action to eliminate human trafficking from the country.

The 17 organisations and institutions are: BRAC, INCIDIN Bangladesh, Centre for Women and Children Studies, Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers' Association, Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights, Obhibashi Kormi Unnayan Programme, WARBE Development Foundation, Anirban Survivor Voice, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), USAID Bangladesh, Winrock International, Solidarity Centre Bangladesh, Justice and Care, TDS-Netherlands, Witness, PCTNCN, ATSEC Bangladesh and Dhaka University.

The programmes included three panel discussions at Dhaka University's Faculty of

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Biman cancels another hajj flight

Blames hajj operators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday cancelled another hajj flight thanks to failure of private hajj tour operators for not confirming visas and air tickets of the pilgrims.

Earlier on Saturday, the national airliner was forced to cancel two hajj flights on the same ground, Shakil Mera, general manager, public relations, Biman Bangladesh Airlines, told The Daily Star.

He said cancellation of three dedicated hajj flights caused uncertainty over performing hajj by 1,244 pilgrims apart from image and monetary loss of the national flag carrier.

"We need to buy slot [permission and charge for landing at Jeddah and Makkah airports] from the Saudi Aviation Authority in advance. Biman needs to

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Innovative protest against bad roads



NDTV ONLINE

After their online campaign to protest against a stretch of road being dug up in Hyderabad failed to attract the attention of tech-savvy IT minister KT Rama Rao and the municipal administration department, a group of techies have taken up an innovative method to register their protest - ride horses to work.

The Financial District Road is said to be one of the best in the city, and IT professionals say it would not have required any maintenance for the next three to four years. Despite that, they say the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation or

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Ex-MP's son shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Unidentified criminals shot dead the son of a former BNP lawmaker in Kaliganj upazila of Gazipur last night.

Faisal, 28, was the son of late Mukhlesur Rahman Jitu, an ex-MP of Gazipur-5 constituency during Ziaur Rahman's regime.

Officer-in-Charge Alom Chand of Kaliganj Police Station said the criminals attacked him while he was returning to his home in Bhatgati village. When he got near a banana orchard,

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 31

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-20 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15

JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Khaled Mahmud hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Bangladesh cricket team captain Khaled Mahmud Sujon, who is currently a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director, suffered a stroke and is in the Intensive Care Unit of United Hospital, BCB media committee chairman Jalal Yunus said yesterday.

"The members of the BCB learnt of his condition after making enquiries into why he was absent from today's [Sunday's] board meeting. He was admitted to hospital yesterday morning and is currently in the ICU," Yunus told The Daily Star over phone.

"He is in a semi-coma, but the CT scan has not revealed anything too serious," Yunus quoted a doctor as saying.

He said the 46 year old would be taken to Singapore for better treatment if required.



The flood in Moulvibazar has left many roads in an appalling state. Vehicles often breakdown and get stuck in large potholes. The photo was taken in TND area on the Kulaura-Baralekha Road yesterday.

PHOTO: MINTU DESWARA

Australia thwarts plane attack plot

Police suspect 'Islamist-inspired' terrorism; four arrested in raids across Sydney

AFP, Sydney

Australia has foiled an Islamist-inspired terrorist plot to bring down an aircraft with an improvised explosive device, authorities said yesterday, after four people were arrested in raids across Sydney.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said the plot appeared to be "elaborate" rather than planned by a lone wolf, as security was strengthened at major domestic and international airports across the nation.

"I can report last night that there has been a major joint counter-terrorism operation to disrupt a terrorist plot to bring down an airplane," Turnbull told reporters.

"The threat of terrorism is very real. The disruption operation, the efforts overnight have been very effective but there's more work to do."

Officials did not specify if the alleged plot involved a domestic or international flight, but Sydney's Daily Telegraph reported that a local route had been the objective.

Australian Federal Police Commissioner Andrew Colvin described the plot as "Islamic-inspired" and said four men had been arrested in a series of raids across Sydney on Saturday.

"We do believe it is Islamic-inspired terrorism. Exactly what is behind this is something we need to investigate fully," he said.

Colvin added that local authorities had received "credible information from partner agencies" about the claims but would not elaborate further or say if the men had been on any watch list.

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