

# Changes afoot

Young change makers tell BYLC talk

CITY DESK

The youth are bringing positive changes to the society through innovation, creativity, and community engagement, said a group of young leaders.

They made the observation at a programme titled "Youth Leading Change" at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) on Saturday.

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) organised the event, featuring experiences shared by ten young change makers, who have gone through BYLC leadership programmes that engaged them in impactful social initiatives to bring positive changes in the country.

Coming from different age groups and educational backgrounds, the young leaders discussed pressing challenges Bangladesh is facing and put forward new ideas and solutions to mitigate the problems.

Highlighting the power of technology in providing inclusive solutions for underserved communities, Tasnim Jara spoke about her initiative, Aroggo, a crowdfunding platform for the needy, said a press release.

Speaking about his company, Let's Learn Coding, Muhammad Sumon Molla Selim said coding has the power to solve the youth unemployment

problem in the country.

Anwar Ahmad, programme coordinator of Campaign RED, urged the youth to openly talk about topics -- such as menstruation -- that are considered taboo in the society.

Iffat Jahan Tusher, founder and head of operations of Ground Zero, highlighted the importance of talking to children about sexual abuse to help them protect themselves.

Imran Ahsan, founder of Think Twice Act Wise, spoke about his campaign of promoting positive content through social media platforms to combat extremism, while Monoshita Ayruani, director of WebAble Digital, highlighted her project, Made in Equality, which is changing perceptions through impactful storytelling.

Rubina Akter, senior protection assistant of UNHCR, highlighted how listening to refugee stories has contributed to ensuring peaceful coexistence of Bangladeshis and Rohingya communities in refugee camps and the surrounding areas.

Aflatun Kaesar Zilany, news editor of Nature Study Digest, underscored the importance of connecting urban youth to the nature.

Tasmiah Alam, co-founder and creative head of Hootum, stressed the need

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Participants at the event titled "Youth Leading Change" at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) on Saturday. Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) organised the event, featuring talks of ten young change makers.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Watermelon too pricey

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Mominul Islam, a resident of Rangpur city, was not happy after buying his daughters' favorite fruit -- watermelon.

Although he knew that the summer fruit will make them happy, Tk 140 for a 3kg fruit was too high, compared to the previous years despite an ample supply.

"I still bought the fruit for my girls," Mominul said rather dryly.

The juicy fruit, which is atop the list of favorites during summer, has already hit the market much earlier this year, said traders and consumers.

This correspondent found that there was enough supply of watermelons as vendors were seen selling those at different markets across Rangpur city.

Vendors said the price of the fruit

was higher due to transportation costs, as the fruits available in the markets now are coming all the way from the southern districts of the country.

"Price would go down when the harvesting of the watermelons in the northern districts including Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Nilphamari and Rangpur starts," Rostam Ali, a wholesaler opined.

The harvesting of the fruits will start in the northern territory by the end of this month or early next month, he added.

The prices of a small-sized watermelon in Rangpur city varies from Tk 25-30 per kg whereas those of bigger ones vary from Tk 35-40 in wholesale markets, while in retail markets the prices are higher depending on sizes, colour

and taste.

Rostom Ali also blamed the soaring transport costs for the higher prices, and alleged "truck drivers are charging Tk 12,000 to Tk 15,000 higher beyond the normal charges", which is affecting the prices of the fruits.

Meanwhile, Aslam Mia, a fruit trader in Co Bazar area of Rangpur city, said the sale of watermelon is good.

"The price would automatically go down after the locally produced watermelons hit the market," Aslam hoped.

Some 113 hectares of land has been allocated to Watermelon farming in Rangpur district, and once these fruits are harvested, the prices would go down, said Mezbaul Islam, a horticulturalist of Rangpur region.



Watermelons piled up at a wholesale market at Engineerpara in Ranpur city. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

## Freedom fighter Abdul Malek dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail



Freedom fighter Abdul Malek Miah, also former general manager of Bangladesh Bank, died yesterday while undergoing treatment at a city hospital, said a press release.

He was 70. He left three sons and a host of relatives and well wishers to mourn his death. Malek contested in Tangail-8 (Basail-Sakhipur) by-polls in 2014.

He will be buried in his family graveyard at Hatibandha village in Sakhipur upazila of Tangail with state honours following namaz-e-ajanaza after Asr prayers.

## Allegation of negligence over newborn's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A newborn died at a high-end hospital in the capital yesterday amid allegation of negligence.

The incident caused an uproar on the social media. Family of the newborn alleged that doctors' negligence played a role in death.

However, the hospital authorities said they did not receive any complaint in this regard yet.

Taslima, the mother, in a video that went viral on the social media, alleged that she went to the hospital around 9:00pm on April 5, at the start of 39th week of pregnancy as she faced difficulties sensing movement of the baby.

She was admitted to the hospital after the doctor in the emergency department, following ultrasonogram, said that there was no problem with the baby's movement and she should be admitted for delivery.

"I didn't want the delivery at the time since I did not feel any labour pain...", Taslima said in the video.

However, the doctors there admitted her against the will of her and her husband and gave her medication multiple times to induce labour pain.

The next day, unable to bear excruciating pain, Taslima requested the doctor concerned to conduct a C-section.

The doctor however misbehaved with her and insisted on a normal delivery, she said.

"When the pain was so extreme and I could not take it [anymore], the doctor [finally] conducted the C-section," Taslima said.

"The baby was kept at the ICU," she said. The newborn died early hours yesterday.

Contacted, Taslima's maternal uncle Reza Ul Karim said they were preparing to take legal action against the hospital authorities over the negligence.

## Tanzir Fahim's death anniversary

CITY DESK



Today is the 8th death anniversary of Tanzir Fahim Jumma (Ovi),

eldest son of Sajjatuz Jumma, the founder chairman of Shahjalal Islami Bank Limited and former senior vice president of DCCI, said a press release.

Tanzir passed away in Fort Lauderdale, USA on April 10, 2010 aged 29. He obtained degrees in management and marketing from the US and was employed in an investment company as a senior executive. He is the grandson of late national leader AHM Quamaruzzaman, one of the organisers of the Liberation War.

## INTERN DOCTORS' CONDUCT HC questions 'inaction' in implementing provisions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of "inaction" of the authorities concerned to properly implement the provisions of professional conduct of the intern doctors at hospitals across the country.

The court issued a rule asking the respondents to explain in four weeks why their inaction to properly implement the provisions should not be declared illegal.

Secretaries to the ministries of health, education and law, director general of Directorate of Health Services, secretary to Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council, vice chancellor of Rajshahi University and dean of its medicine faculty, principal of Rajshahi Medical College (RMC), director of RMC Hospital, deputy inspector general of police of Rajshahi, have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury

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## ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

# India should go for diplomatic offensive

Indian security experts tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India should start a diplomatic offensive globally to support Bangladesh in tackling the Rohingya crisis, said a former Indian military secretary and international relations expert.

"India should go for a diplomatic offensive, go around the world and tell that we have to overcome this problem. Bangladesh has neither means nor resources," said Lt Gen (retd) Ata Hasnain, a teacher at S Rajaratnam School of International Studies and Institute of South Asian Studies in Singapore.

He made the remarks yesterday at a panel discussion on security, counter terrorism and cross-border cooperation organised by Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance in the city's Sonargaon Hotel.

No one in India should be in denial over the Rohingya crisis, Lt Gen (retd) Ata also said.

The remarks came at a time when India remains lenient on putting pressure on Myanmar although allegations are being raised against the latter for committing genocide and ethnic cleansing that has forced over 700,000 Rohingyas to take shelter in Bangladesh since August last year.

Dr Pushpita Das, a research fellow and coordinator of Internal Security Centre at Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

(IDSIA) in New Delhi, said India should support Bangladesh in addressing the humanitarian crisis.

"We can also use our diplomatic initiatives and to some extent put pressure on Myanmar for the repatriation of the Rohingya," she said expressing caution that the pressure should not push Myanmar away from India and into the lap of China.

The speakers at the discussion said there are security risks in the region for insurgent groups that might use territories in the region to serve vested interests.

General (retd) Abdul Mubeen, former Bangladesh Army chief of staff, said authorities need to be cautious about making remarks over sensitive issues relating to India and Bangladesh since the two countries enjoy a strong friendship.

General (retd) Mubeen made the comment in reference to Indian Army Chief General Bipin Rawat's recent remark about a "planned" influx of people from Bangladesh into the Northeast is taking place as part of a proxy warfare by Pakistan with support from China.

In response, Lt Gen (retd) Ata Hasnain said India is extremely sensitive to Pakistan's activities as Pakistan has been fighting a proxy war in India.

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