

KIDS WITH AUTISM PM for efforts to help flourish their talents

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday emphasised bringing children with special needs and autism into the mainstream of society giving them opportunities to flourish their hidden talents.

“I believe we will be able to incorporate persons with autism syndrome in the mainstream of the national life with the united efforts of all including our [government’s] diversified ones,” she said.

She said this while addressing the 15th World Autism Awareness Day 2022 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) organised by the social welfare ministry.

She joined the programme virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

The theme of this year’s day is: “Make such a world: explore the talents of people with autism”.

Regarding the demand for providing



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accommodation with training facilities for persons with autism after the demise of their parents and guardians, Sheikh Hasina said that the government would do that.

“Initially we will arrange accommodation with training facilities in the divisional headquarters while gradually in all districts through Neuro-Developmental Disability Protection Trust,” she said.

She asked the social welfare minister to take a project for this purpose.

Social Welfare Minister Nuruzzaman Ahmed, State Minister Ashraf Ali Khan Khasru and Secretary Mahfuza Akhter spoke at the programme.

Hasina also inaugurated “Bolte Chai” and “Smart Autism Barta” applications at the programme.

In 2007, the United Nations declared April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day, aiming to improve the quality of life of those with autism.

In Bangladesh, different programmes have been taken to mark the day.



Parents arriving with their sick toddlers at the icddr,b Dhaka hospital yesterday amid an outbreak of water borne diseases like diarrhoea and cholera.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION TO OUST PAK PM

Khan suggests he might not accept vote result

Accuses US of trying ‘regime change’, calls for street protests; Pak army chief urges closer ties with Washington

AGENCIES

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan yesterday suggested that he might not accept a vote to oust him and called on his supporters to take to the streets today ahead of a parliamentary no-confidence vote that could see him thrown out of office.

No Pakistan premier has ever completed a full term, and Khan is facing the biggest challenge to his rule since being elected in 2018, with opponents accusing him of economic mismanagement and foreign-policy bungling.

Parliament is due to debate the motion today – with a vote possibly the same day. Khan’s Pakistan



Tehreek-e-Insaf party (PTI) effectively lost its majority in the 342-member assembly last week when a coalition partner said its seven lawmakers would vote with the opposition.

More than a dozen PTI lawmakers have also indicated they will cross the floor, although party leaders are trying to get the courts to prevent them from voting.

“How can I accept the result when the entire process is discredited?” Khan told a select group of foreign journalists at his office.

“Democracy functions on moral authority – what moral authority is left after this connivance?”

“The move to oust me is blatant interference in domestic politics by the United States,” he said, terming it an attempt at “regime change”.

Earlier this week he accused

the United States of meddling in Pakistan’s affairs, with local media reporting he had received a briefing letter from Islamabad’s ambassador to Washington recording a senior US official telling him they felt relations would be better if Khan left office.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters there was “no truth” to the allegations.

“I want you all to protest for an independent and free Pakistan,” he said yesterday during a public question and answer phone-in broadcast by state media.

Khan has accused the opposition of conspiring with Washington to remove him because he won’t take the West’s side on global issues against Russia and China. He called his opponents “robbers, cowards, deceivers”.

The opposition is headed by the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N)

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Brutality

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The patient was suffering from breathing difficulties; his belly had swelled abnormally and his pulse rate was too low, said Mohammad Zabeed Kawsar, physician of Sreepur Upazila Health Complex.

Apu, who joined the factory to help his poverty-stricken family amid the pandemic, was referred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital since his condition was critical. He died on the way.

Family members have not filed a complaint yet, Bhuiyan said.

Holy Ramadan

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9:00am to 3:30pm for all government, semi-government, autonomous and semi-autonomous institutions.

Besides, secondary and higher secondary institutions have been requested to continue in-person classes till April 26 to make up the academic losses that occurred during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Southern insurgent group to halt violence

REUTERS, Bangkok

The Thai government yesterday hailed “significant progress” in the latest talks with the main group fighting an insurgency in Thailand’s Muslim deep south after the sides agreed to stop violence during the upcoming holy month of Ramadan.

City braces for crippling traffic jams

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Usually, city roads see most traffic for 18 hours of the day. But in Ramadan, the time reduces to 13-14 hours, he said, adding that it intensifies the load on the roads.

Construction work taking place on the roads should be paused for the month and the authorities should make as much room as possible for vehicles. Through constant vigilance, the authorities should free the footpaths from vendors, crack down on illegal parking, and buses should not be allowed to block traffic by stopping at the intersections.

Abul Kalam, of Mirpur, said it took him almost two

and a half hours to reach his office in Paltan over the last two weeks.

The scorching heat adds to the woes, he added. “Things will be even more unbearable this week.”

Miroza Parvin, mother of a third grader in Senpara, said for the last few days walking to school has been faster than taking the car.

“We don’t want disruption to our children’s education. But considering the traffic situation, the government could have adopted a hybrid of online and in-person classes,” said Miroza, whose son’s school is in the cantonment area.

With no restrictions in place, more people are expected to go out

shopping during the Ramadan while businesses would be looking to make up for losses incurred over the last two years.

On the other hand, many people would come to the capital from outside Dhaka to look for work and for business purposes.

Wahidul Islam, a rickshaw puller, said there are 40 rickshaws in his garage. Of them, 12-15 rickshaws remain unused in normal times due to shortage of rickshaw pullers. But for the last two days, all the rickshaws are being used.

“There are already more rickshaws on roads,” he pointed out.

Contacted, Abu Raihan Mohammad Saleh, joint

commissioner (Traffic North) of DMP, said police have plans to deploy additional forces from the crime divisions to ensure motorists are following rules.

Police will also launch a special operation against vehicles which will breach traffic rules. “We’ll give special focus on passenger buses that stop wherever the driver wishes,” he told The Daily Star.

He said they will hold meetings with owners of city service buses and request them to instruct transport workers to follow traffic rules and maintain discipline on roads.

“We’ll take drastic action if anyone violates traffic

rules and stops vehicles to pick up and drop off passengers on the roads,” said Raihan.

Traffic jams at certain hours are quite common in megacities around the world and Dhaka is among the worst.

In the World Traffic Index 2020, Dhaka ranked 10th in terms of poor traffic management among 228 cities.

The major factors behind this are shortage of roads and inefficient traffic management. Besides, the existing public transport system fails to address the desirable mobility needs of the people in terms of reliability, comfort, speed, and safety.

Strings pulled

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They thought removing Tipu would get them off the murder case and planned to murder him three months ago.

The arrestees also admit that Palash, a witness to Rizvi murder, was paid to not testify but Tipu made sure he gave his statement before the court, said Rab.

Tipu has a hotel in Ward-10, in Farooq’s area. He was also a contractor there and a member of a renowned school’s managing committee.

On March 24 around 10:15pm, Tipu was returning home in his microbus from his hotel. As the car was stuck in traffic at Khilgaon Bagichha, one person fired shots through the window. Tipu, his driver Monir Hossain, and rickshaw passenger Samia Afran Jamal Prity, 22, were hit.

Tipu and Prity died.

Tipu’s wife Farhana Islam Doly, who filed a murder case, told The Daily Star yesterday that the arrestees were low-profile criminals. “They may be involved in the killing but it needs to be ascertained who is the actual mastermind.”

Six people have so far been arrested in the case. Masum Mohammad Akash and Arfan Ullah Damal, a local Jubo League leader, are the other arrestees.

EXECUTED FROM DUBAI

Musan Sikder Musa, another accused in the Rizvi murder case, coordinated the Tipu killing mission. He left

the country for Dubai on March 12, Moin said.

Commander Moin said the murder contract was Tk 15 lakh, most of which was paid by Farooq.

Musa planned and appointed the hitman for the murder, said Moin.

Moin said they have so far found the involvement of several top underworld criminals, who stay in the UAE and France.

Asked who actually shot Tipu, Moin said that only Musa knew who the person was.

ARRESTEES’ ROLE

According to Rab, Nasir monitored Tipu during the murder mission, CCTV footage shows. He also paid part of the blood money.

After the killing, he destroyed his SIM card and sold his phone.

Palash introduced Farooq and Musa to people who could supply the firearm and backups, said Rab.

He was arrested earlier in an arms case filed with Motijheel Police station.

Saleh is accused in 12 cases and a charge-sheeted accused in the Rizvi murder case.

Nasir and Palash had been sending information to Musa in Dubai for several days ahead of the murder. On the day of incident, Nasir notified Musa about Tipu’s location four times.

A text was also sent to Musa after the murder saying, “It is done”.

Bangladesh Awami League has expelled Farooq yesterday afternoon.