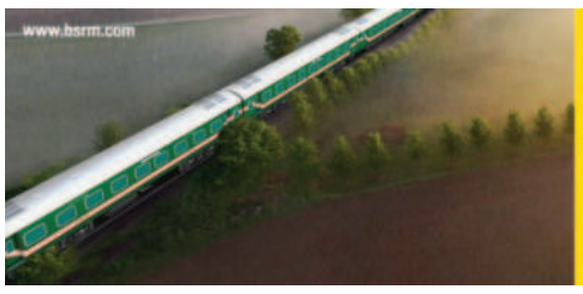

PADMA BRIDGE RAIL LINK PROJECT
IS BEING BUILT WITH BSRM
COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT
BSRM
building a safer nation

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES
World's Largest VRM
RECORD HOLDER
SHAH CEMENT

MALNOURISHMENT RESEARCH

icddr,b finds homemade solution

Wins US science journal award for discovery

MOUDUD AHMMED SUJAN

If you have a child who struggles to recover from malnourishment despite being well fed, here is some good news for you.

A team of scientists at the capital's icddr,b says the situation could be caused due to the presence of immature bacteria in the stomach and it could be overcome by feeding children a low-cost, easy-to-obtain food supplement made from banana, soya, Chinese nuts and chickpea.

This supplement could be made at home just like the Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) that saves millions of lives globally, according to the scientists.

In a decade-long research and clinical trial, they found that if the certain types of immature microbiota are fed with specific food combination, those get mature, resulting in the end of malnutrition in children. This could overcome stunting, improper brain development or wasting (low weight-for-height), they said.

This finding, first of its kind, has won the Breakthrough of the Year 2019 award by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) journal. This finding is among the ten most significant developments in scientific research last year, said the journal.

"The supplements performed well during a small trial,

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Firefighters tackle a bushfire in thick smoke in the town of Moruya, south of Batemans Bay, in New South Wales, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

AUSTRALIA BUSHFIRES

Military reservists called up as people flee

AFP, *Batemans Bay*

Up to 3,000 military reservists were called up to tackle Australia's relentless bushfire crisis yesterday, as tens of thousands of residents fled their homes amid catastrophic conditions.

Temperatures soared above 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) and gale-force winds fanned hundreds of fires, many of which are already burning out of control across the country.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the largest military call-up in living memory to assist thousands of volunteer firefighters who have been battling blazes for months on end.

"Today's decision puts more boots on the ground, puts more planes in the sky, puts more ships at sea," said Morrison, who made the announcement after being pilloried for his response to the deadly disaster.

A state of emergency has been declared across much of Australia's heavily populated southeast and more than 100,000 people have been told to leave their homes across three states.

Thousands heeded that call Friday, abandoning summer holidays and piling into cars that clogged the highways linking southeastern coastal towns with the relative safety of Sydney or larger towns.

"In relation to the (worst-case scenario) projections we had this morning, unfortunately they are coming to fruition," New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian told reporters.

New South Wales Rural Fire Service commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons added that "strong winds and hot temperatures" were

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Fewer running for city offices

Party candidates dissuade independents from race

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The number of aspirants for the mayor and councillor posts in the two upcoming Dhaka city elections has seen a sharp fall compared to 2015.

Five years ago, 1,681 aspirants collected nominations forms to take part in the election, but this year it is 1,039.

This time, there are fewer contenders for all three posts -- mayor, general ward councillor and reserved woman ward councillor -- of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), shows Election Commission data.

Although the inclusion of new wards in DNCC and DSCC in 2017 added 48 new posts, the number of aspirants did not increase in relation to that.

Abdul Baten, DSCC returning officer, said this was the first time political parties were nominating mayoral candidates and they had also extended support to the ward councillor and reserved ward councillor posts. "It is a big reason for reduction of aspirants," he said.

In the previous local government elections, political parties could not nominate candidates directly as per the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

BIWTA salvage wing needs salvaging

With only 4 low-capacity ships, it struggles to recover sunken vessels

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL *and* MD FOISAL AHMED

MV Dudu Mia-1, a clinker-loaded cargo vessel, sank in the Kirtonkhola river in Barishal on December 14 after a head-on collision with a passenger launch. It has not been salvaged yet.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), armed with four rescue ships, including two older ones, desperately tried to pull the 2,000-tonne cargo vessel close to shore. The combined capacity of its four rescue ships is far less than the weight of the sunken vessel.

The BIWTA's rescue ships Hamza and Rustam, commissioned back in 1964 and 1983 respectively, have gradually lost their efficiency. Both have a lifting capacity of 60 tonnes each.

Bought from South Korea in 2013, the two new ships -- Nirbhik and Pratyay -- have a lifting capacity of 250 tonnes each, according to BIWTA officials.

"We tried to pull the cargo near the shore so that navigability along that route wasn't disturbed. But the cargo was too heavy to be moved," Md Rafiqul Islam, BIWTA joint director of rescue, told The Daily Star on December 26.

He also admitted that the BIWTA doesn't have the capacity to rescue a sunken vessel over 500 tonnes.

"Besides, it is not possible for us to take all four rescue vessels to the rescue site for various reasons. For example, when there is a narrow

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

BCL leader sent to jail for rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

A Tangail court yesterday sent a Chhatra League leader to jail for allegedly raping a college student.

Police arrested Asifuzzaman Mondol alias Hridoy, 25, president of Ibrahim Khan Government College BCL unit, on Friday night in Matikata area of Bhuapur upazila.

According to case statement, Hridoy allegedly raped a student of the college on several occasions and threatened to kill her husband.

Police arrested him after the victim filed a case with Bhuapur Police Station on Friday night, said Officer-in-Charge Rashidul Islam of the station.

The girl was sent to Tangail General Hospital for medical tests yesterday, he said, adding that she was traumatised.

Police said the arrested was also accused in two other cases -- one for

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Canadian military police assigned to play Pokemon Go!

AFP, *Montreal*

At least three military police officers were ordered to play Pokemon Go in Canadian bases across the country, after players invaded the facilities in a quest to catch them all.

The interlopers were not foreign agents but fans of the wildly popular Pokemon Go app -- launched in 2016 -- trying to capture as many of the game's virtual characters as possible and even wandering into restricted army areas.

A surge in the number of suspects being apprehended in the summer after the game's release puzzled the army, according to internal documents obtained by Canadian public television channel CBC.

"Plse advise the Commissionaires that apparently Fort Frontenac is both a PokeGym and a PokeStop," Major Jeff Monaghan at Canadian

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 5

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5-30	12-45	4-00	5-30	7-00
JAMAAT	6-05	1-15	4-15	5-35	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Visually impaired students reading their new books in class at the Sarkari Dristy Pratibandhi Bidyalay Barishal. Students, *inset*, rejoice after receiving braille books in time.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

In bliss with braille books

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barishal*

The distribution of braille books has brought immense happiness among the visually impaired students in Barishal.

Sarkari Dristy Pratibandhi Bidyalay Barishal, known as the only specialised schools for visually impaired students in the country, has distributed braille books among its students on the first day of this year.

Visiting the school on Wednesday and yesterday, this correspondent found students delighted with their new books.

Some of them were touching their new books, some were taking the smell and some were running inside the school compound.

A fifth grader of the school, Jui, said she understood her whole world through the braille books.

A second grader, Lamia, said new books were like dreams becoming true for her.

Parvez, a ninth grader, said he was anxious that he could not have received

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
পরিচালকের কার্যালয়
ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইএনটি
তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৮
ফোনঃ +৮৮-০২-৮৮৭৮১৫৫, ফ্যাক্সঃ +৮৮-০২-৮৮৭৮১৫০
Web: www.nationalinstituteofent.webs.com
e-mail: nient@hospi.dghs.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-এনআইইএনটি/প্রশাসন/২০২০/০৪ তারিখঃ ০৪/০১/২০২০

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

"সম্পূর্ণ শ্রবণ প্রতিবন্ধীদের কক্লিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট ডিভাইস প্রাপ্তি আবেদন"

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশে ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইএনটি-তে গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের অর্থায়নে এবং স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের সার্বিক সহযোগিতায় শ্রবণ প্রতিবন্ধীদের কল্যাণে ***কক্লিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট কার্যক্রম*** চালু করা হয়েছে। এই কর্মসূচির মাধ্যমে শ্রবণ প্রতিবন্ধীদেরকে সার্জারীর মাধ্যমে সরকারি অর্থে **কক্লিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট ডিভাইস (যন্ত্র)** প্রদান করা হবে। সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়ের অনুমোদিত কক্লিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট বরাদ্দ নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদেরকে ডিভাইসটি বিনামূল্যে/আংশিক মূল্যে প্রদান করা হবে।

কক্লিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট ডিভাইসটি বরাদ্দ পাওয়া ও সার্জারীর মাধ্যমে কানে স্থাপনের জন্য আগ্রহী শ্রবণ প্রতিবন্ধী শিশু রোগীর অভিভাবকগণের পক্ষ থেকে আবেদন আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। উল্লেখ্য ০৫ বৎসরের নীচের শিশুদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে। আবেদনপত্র ও বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন- সকাল ৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে দুপুর ১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (বন্ধের দিন ব্যতিত) রুম নং-৭০৯ (৭ম তলা), কক্লিয়ার ইমপ্লান্ট, ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইএনটি, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা। আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহ এবং আবেদনপত্র জমা দেওয়ার শেষ তারিখ ৩০ জানুয়ারি ২০২০।

অধ্যাপক ডাঃ মোঃ আবু হানিফ
পরিচালক কাম অধ্যাপক
ন্যাশনাল ইনষ্টিটিউট অব ইএনটি
তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা

জিডি-৩৩

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