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MEASLES OUTBREAK 5 kids die in Rangamati

130 children suffering from the disease in Baghaichhari upazila

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA and ANVIL CHAKMA

At least five Tripura children died of measles over last three weeks and 130 others were also infected in Rangamati's Baghaichhari upazila.

Besides, a mother who was also affected by this infectious disease lost her premature baby two days after delivery.

The disease broke out in five remote villages -- Arun Tripura Para, Lungthian Tripura Para, Tarun Tripura Para, Kamalapur Chakma Para, and Kaikhya Tripura Para under Sajek union, said Harin-Joy-Tripura, a health assistant at Baghaichhari upazila health complex.

The dead are Sagorika Tripura, Kohen Tripura, Dishan Tripura, Rujina Tripura, and Devi Tripura, said Harin, who is working in the affected villages.

The first death from measles was reported on February 26. The four others died on February 27, and March 15, 16, and 17, said Harin.

The community leaders alleged that doctors or community healthcare providers never visited the remote villages before the disease outbreak.

Hiranando Tripura, a ward member of the area, said, "The affected areas are out of vaccination coverage."

"The children of our para [village] were never vaccinated, and people of the area did not get any health service from the government," said Alo Kumar Tripura, headman of Arun Para.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



This price board at a wholesale onion shop in the capital's Karwan Bazar shows locally-grown onion was sold for Tk 70 a kg yesterday, up from Tk 40 a day ago. The price of the essential cooking ingredient has shot up due to panic buying over coronavirus fears.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Onion price shoots up amid panic buying

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka city dwellers continued to throng grocery stores, super shops and kitchen markets yesterday amid looming threat of coronavirus, causing a hike in prices of essential commodities.

Visiting several markets, this correspondent found most of the shoppers were purchasing goods more than their necessities.

Besides, prices of most of the essential commodities -- rice, onion, potato and lentils -- soared from Tk 5 to Tk 40 per kilogramme.

At places, the crowd was so high that they had to form long queues and wait for getting a chance of shopping.

Wasiqur Rahman, a shopper in Shukrabad area, said, "I had to wait for more than 15 minutes on the queue, then my turn came. But the price I had to pay, made me disappointed."

"The rice I bought at Tk 50 per kg about 10 days ago..." SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Bangladeshis now happier than before

The country moves up 18 notches in Happiness Index, ahead of India, Sri Lanka

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Bangladesh is now happier than before! At a time when the country is gripped by panic over coronavirus pandemic, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) has published its World Happiness Report 2020.

As per the Happiness Index of the report, released yesterday, Bangladesh moved 18 notches up and remained ahead of India, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

Bangladesh secured 107th place among 153 countries while Sri Lanka and India are at 130th and 144th positions respectively. Pakistan was ranked 66th while Nepal 92nd in the Happiness Index.

In the last year's index, Bangladesh was the 125th happiest country.

The global report was unveiled yesterday in conjunction with the International Day of Happiness.

Finland is the world's happiest country for the second straight year followed by Denmark, Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden, New Zealand,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Steps to halt smuggling



A group of students call on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to present him a copy of a souvenir brought out by them on the occasion of Bangabandhu's birthday.

MARCH 21, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

US SENATE OKAYS RECOGNITION RESOLUTION

The US Senate today unanimously approves a resolution calling for prompt US recognition of Bangladesh. The resolution, already approved by the Foreign Relations Committee, is adopted by the Senate by voice vote with no opposition heard.

INDO-BANGLADESH BORDER TRADE PACT SOON

India and Bangladesh will very soon sign a border trade agreement and a trade and payment agreement to regulate trade between the two countries, says Indian Foreign Secretary TN Kaul in a television interview. The border trade agreement is intended to stop smuggling and take care of various aspects of border trade. The

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

2012 GANG RAPE India hangs four Delhi rapists

AFP, New Delhi

India executed four men yesterday for the gang-rape and murder of a woman on a Delhi bus in 2012 that sparked huge nationwide protests and international revulsion.

The four were hanged before dawn at Tihar Jail in the Indian capital, prison chief Sandeep Goel told AFP.

"The beasts have been hanged," the victim's mother told reporters outside the jail.

The brutal attack on Jyoti Singh sparked weeks of demonstrations and shone a spotlight on the alarming rates of sexual violence and the plight of women in India, where around 95 rapes are reported daily.

"We are satisfied that finally my daughter got justice after seven years," Singh's mother Asha Devi said, as a small crowd

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

'Wonderchicken' fossil reveals dawn of modern birds



REUTERS, Washington

A fossil unearthed in Belgium dubbed the "Wonderchicken" is providing a rare glimpse into the early evolution of modern birds at the twilight of the age of dinosaurs, right before an asteroid impact altered the course of life on Earth.

Researchers on Wednesday described a partridge-sized bird named *Asteriornis mastrichtensis* that inhabited a seashore environment 66.7 million years ago.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Covid-19 hits Qatar migrant workers

REUTERS, Dubai

Qatar's old industrial zone has emerged as a hot spot for the coronavirus in the Gulf Arab state, putting at risk many migrant workers who live and work in the area of car service centres, warehouses and small shops.

The tiny country, where expatriates comprise the majority of the population, on Thursday reported eight more infections to take its tally to 460, the highest number among the six Gulf Arab states that have reported a total of more than 1,300 coronavirus cases.

Government spokeswoman Lulwa Rashed al-Khater told a news conference that the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



All shops at Shibchar Bazar of Madaripur were closed yesterday after the district administration ordered their closure over coronavirus. It also restricted the movement of people in some areas of Shibchar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR



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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 21
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-55 12-45 4-45 6-16 7-45
JAMAAT 5-30 1-15 5-00 6-20 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Call for Research Proposal

The Mujib 100 Health Research Grants for Women in Science in Bangladesh (Mujib 100 RGfW)

icddr, b has launched 'Mujib 100 RGfW' in commemoration of the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and in celebration of icddr, b's 60 years of scientific brilliance.

Eligibility:

- Bangladeshi women scientists/researchers/students under the age of 50
- Women working on issues relating to public health (e.g. maternal and child health, infectious diseases, malnutrition, universal health coverage, health consequences of climate change, non-communicable diseases, sexual and reproductive health and rights etc.)

Total Budget: Up to USD 50,000 per project for 8-10 projects

Submission Timeframe: 21 March 2020 to 21 May 2020

More Information, please visit www.icddr.org/Mujib100RGfW or e-mail Mujib100RGfW@icddr.org

