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Poverty taking toll on slum children

Experts say without balanced diet, mental nurture, they may experience psychological, physical disorder

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

With no work for two months now, domestic help Bibi Rupban has been struggling to feed her five children three meals a day. Her husband, a rickshaw-puller, can hardly scrounge up enough for the family to live on.

In their small shanty in a Mirpur slum, Rupban now feeds her children two times a day and gives them more water to fill up on so they do not feel as hungry, she said.

The parents cannot also afford to grant their children's small wishes as before -- a few takas of pocket money to buy sweets, ice-creams, and roadside snacks.

"What can I do? The rice and other things we got as aid was finished within a week. I have been compelled to give my children less food... I can't afford it," Rupban told The Daily Star.

She now borrows money from neighbours to buy food for her children.

Without adequate food and stuck at home with nothing to do, the children have grown more obstinate and aggressive, said Rupban, expressing her helplessness.

In the coronavirus-caused shutdown for over two months and in the days afterwards, such low-income families have struggled to give their young children a balanced diet and proper nurture.

Health experts say this will lead to long-lasting impact

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Mohammad Badal Miah rests his head on his daughter's lap around 11:00am yesterday in front of Mugda General Hospital in the capital. A fruit seller in Shaheb Bazar, Badal has had a fever and cold since Eid and came to the Mugda General Hospital at dawn, but was yet to get a ticket at 12:00pm.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Nasim in a 'very critical state'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former health minister and Awami League lawmaker Mohammed Nasim's health condition remains unchanged and he is in a "very critical state" now.

"He cannot breathe on his own. He is now taking his breath with ventilation support," Dr Kanak Kanti Barua, vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and also the chief of medical board formed to oversee the treatment of Nasim, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"I visited Mohammed Nasim around 2:30pm today [yesterday]. He is totally unconscious, meaning that he is in a deep coma," said Kanak, also a renowned neurologist of the country.

He will carry out several tests of Nasim.

"If the situation remains unchanged, we will consult with the family members of Mohammed Nasim whether they want to take off his ventilation support," he added.

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1,011 Bangladeshi workers return by special flights

Around 250 of them were in prison in Qatar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 1,011 Bangladeshi migrant workers returned home from Qatar, Kuwait, Maldives and Nigeria by five special flights on Saturday and Friday.

Of them, 250 people who were staying in either prisons or detention camps in Qatar landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) around 9:30pm on Saturday by a special flight of Qatar Airways, said Akram, a doctor at the health desk of HSIA.

Besides, 265 people who were stranded in Maldives due to suspension of regular passenger flight operations returned home on the same evening by a special flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

Tahera Khandaker, deputy general manager (public relations) of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, said the flight from Malé landed at 6:18pm on Saturday.

Earlier on Friday, a total of 493 Bangladeshis returned home from Maldives and Kuwait by two separate flights, sources at the Dhaka Airport said.

A special flight of Ethiopian Airways brought back eight Bangladeshis from

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

High-powered Bangladeshi delegation visits India



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman inspects a Lal Bahini procession at Suhrawardy Uddyan on June 7, 1972.

June 8, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU ORDERS INQUIRY INTO KILLING OF MCA

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today expresses his deep condolences to the bereaved family of Member of Constituent Assembly Abdul Gafur, who was abducted and killed on June 6, 1972. Abdul Gafur was an elected parliament member from Khulna. He actively participated in the Liberation War and played a great role in organising freedom fighters. The prime minister orders immediate inquiry into the ghastly incident. He assures that the government

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Rohingya 'robber' killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Rohingya man, suspected to be a robber, was killed in a "gunfight" with police near Shalbagan Rohingya camp at Hnila union in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar on Saturday night.

The dead -- Md Sharif, 28, son of Md Salam -- was an active member of top-notch robber group Zakir, claimed Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station.

On information, a police team conducted a drive in the area to arrest the robbers of Zakir Group around 9:30pm. Sensing police presence, robbers opened fire, forcing the police personnel to retaliate, he added.

After the "gunfight", police found a bullet-hit body lying on the ground while rest of the group members managed to flee, the OC said.

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Harvard builds robot that's the size of a penny



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists at Harvard have copied their large, insect-inspired robot HAMR (Harvard Ambulatory Microrobot) into a smaller form factor. The new robot, HAMR-JR, is the size of a penny, measuring 2.25 centimetres across.

The robot is capable of quick movement, able to travel 14 times the length of his body in a single second, which makes it one of the smallest and fastest robots currently made, according to Harvard. While it might be the size of a penny, it is significantly lighter, weighing only 0.3 grams.

The ability to keep the familiar design, but change the scale of the robot, means that it can be used in a variety of purposes, including surgeries

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Correction

A caption published on the back page of The Daily Star yesterday erroneously mentioned that unknown artists paid tribute to the frontline warriors of Covid-19 with graffiti painted on the wall of DCC market in the capital's Gulshan. Actually the graffiti was part of a joint initiative of Dhaka North City Corporation, UNDP and Aqua Paints to appreciate and recognise the frontline workers. A group of artists, led by cartoonist Morshed Mishu, painted the graffiti on the wall of DNCC market in Gulshan on behalf of The Cartoon People. We regret the inadvertent mistake.



PRAYER TIMING JUNE 8

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:05 12:45 5:00 6:45 8:15
JAMAAT 4:40 1:15 5:15 6:50 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Zafrullah's condition now stable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health condition of Gonoshasthaya Kendra Founder and Trustee Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, who tested positive for Covid-19 on May 24, is now stable.

"Oxygen is being given to Dr Zafrullah. As his condition is not deteriorating, we are hopeful of his recovery," Dr Mohib Ullah Khondoker, vice principal of Gonoshasthaya Samajvittik Medical College, told The Daily Star yesterday.

However, he said, as the condition of his lungs is not good, he is not totally out of danger.

Zafrullah, 79, was facing breathing difficulties on the night June 4th. He was then given oxygen. The next day, he was put on dialysis. His condition improved and has remained stable. He was then given plasma therapy for the third time.

Since the detection of his infection, he has been undergoing treatment at the Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital.

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READY FOR BUSINESS... Vessels laden with sand line the Dhamrai shore of the Bangshi River. After two months of closure, the country opened up this month and construction work has resumed in the city, lending a bustling air to places that looked deserted not too long ago. This photo was taken at Dhamrai's Islampur on Friday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Global virus death toll tops 400,000

India overtakes Spain as 5th worst-hit country; Brazil takes down Covid-19 data

AGENCIES

The global death toll from the coronavirus crossed 400,000 yesterday with fatalities accelerating in Latin America, as India overtook Spain to become the fifth worst-hit country by the outbreak.

Brazil removed from public view months of data on its Covid-19 epidemic on Saturday, as President Jair Bolsonaro defended delays and changes to official record-keeping of the world's second-largest outbreak.

Brazil's health ministry removed the data from a website that had documented the epidemic over time and by state and municipality.

The ministry also stopped giving a total count of confirmed cases, which have shot past 672,000 -- more than anywhere outside the United States -- or a total death toll, which passed Italy this week, nearing 36,000 by Saturday.

OPEC agreed to extend an April deal to cut production through July, aiming to foster a recovery in oil prices after they were pummeled by slumps in demand caused by virus restrictions.

Governments are also increasingly focused on repairing the economic damage, and even hard-hit European countries are now opening their borders and allowing people to return to work.

But gloomy data from Asia's two largest economies

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