



PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY

Activists and ex-jute mill staffers staged a demonstration under the banner of Sammiito Nagorik Parishad in front of Khulna's Khalishpur Jute Mill yesterday. Along with reiterating their core demands of reopening the jute mills, they also called for the withdrawal of false cases filed against their fellows and leaders.

Mosque imam held on charge of molesting boy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

An imam of a mosque in Barishal was arrested yesterday on charge of molesting a seven-year-old boy.

Police arrested Abul Hasan Haoladar (31), imam of Banna Jame Mosque in Wazirpur upazila. He was sent to jail after he was produced before a court in the afternoon, said Ziaul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Wazirpur Police Station.

The official said mother of the boy filed a

case under section 9(1) of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act in the morning, accusing that Haoladar molested her son.

He said a team of police, led by Sub-inspector Robiul Islam, arrested the accused from his village home.

According to the case statement, the boy went to a maqtab (school) on the mosque premises on Saturday morning. The accused molested him there. The boy then told his family of the incident, it added.

Antimicrobial

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this global issue.

For nearly a century, bacteria-fighting drugs known as antibiotics helped control and destroy many harmful organisms that can make people sick. But in recent decades, overuse and misuse of antibiotics prompted some strains of bacteria to make a small change in their DNA and become antibiotic-resistant "superbugs", said experts.

Speakers at the event also spoke of how the germs were becoming drug resistant and entering the human body through medication habits and food chain.

Dr Bardan Jung Rana, WHO representative to Bangladesh, said, "Many governments and non-government stakeholders are collaborating to implement activities [strategies], however, more collaboration among developing partners and other stakeholders is needed to make an impact."

Addressing as the chair of the inaugural session, Dr Nathuram Sarkar, director general of Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI), said AMR is a more severe threat than Covid-19.

Robert Simpson, FAO representative to Bangladesh, and Prof Dr Nitish Debnath, team lead of the Fleming Fund Country Grant Bangladesh, also spoke at the session, where Dr Shahnila Ferdousi, director of CDC, gave the welcome address.

Later, researchers and experts from the Institute Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), BLRI, and the departments of fisheries and livestock presented papers in two plenary sessions.

Speaking as the moderator of the first session, Prof Dr Sabrina Flora, additional director general of DGHS, highlighted the importance of coordination among departments and stakeholders working on AMR.

Moderating the second session, Dr Mahmudur Rahman, former director of the IEDCR, said, "The AMR issue is very complex and it cannot be overcome soon... Though a lot of studies have been done, their implementation is too slow."

He stressed on adopting mechanism to disseminate updated study findings on the treatment protocol among physicians regularly and effectively.

WORLD CHILDREN'S DAY

Bangladeshi children call for climate action

CITY DESK

Bangladeshi children have sounded the alarm and called for urgent action on climate change at a historic Children's Climate Summit held on Friday.

The virtual summit was held as part of Unicef Generation Parliament digital platform, which connects children to policies and decisions that impact their future. It was broadcast from Unicef Bangladesh Facebook page, said a press release.

The summit, hosted by UNICEF, brought together 300 "child parliamentarians" representing all constituencies in Bangladesh to debate climate issues, policies, and actions to safeguard their future.

Together, the children delivered a clear message to Bangladeshi leaders, "Our futures are intertwined and our planet is shared. We must act now to confront the climate crisis and we, the children, must be part of the solution."

The summit culminated in the adoption of a Children's Climate Declaration. In it, the children call for decision makers to reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; to invest in education, training and a green economy; and to protect children against impacts of climate change, the release added.

"Our country is on the front line of climate change. Sea level rise, erosion, pollution and extreme weather jeopardize our survival, wellbeing and future. Children must be consulted on policies and decisions that impact our future," said 15-year-old



Ridwana Islam, a Child Parliamentarian.

"The climate emergency requires bold leadership as we battle against the clock. We must look to children and young people for inspiration, courage and vision," said Tomoo Hozumi, Unif Representative in Bangladesh.

The virtual summit was chaired by Shamsul Hoque Tuku, president of the parliamentary caucus on child rights, and attended by child climate activists, parliamentarians and climate stakeholders from across Bangladesh, the release added.

"Today children have taught us that our youngest citizens should play key role in shaping climate policy. It will be my pleasure if I could make a commitment to the Children's Climate Declaration in the near future at the Parliament," said Deputy Speaker of the Parliament Fazle Rabbi Miah.

The Summit was the first gender-equal child parliament in Bangladesh, with an equal representation of girls and boys aged between 13 to 17 years, said the press release.

Support packages

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ADD International Bangladesh Country Director Shafiqul Islam said persons with disabilities were the worst sufferers of the pandemic. They lacked sufficient capacity to tackle adversity, he said.

The society has to be friendly towards persons with disabilities, said Samakal Editor Mustafiz Shafi.

Otherwise, their sufferings will only worsen in any other disaster in future, he said.

Shobnam Mushtary, deputy secretary to the social welfare ministry, said the ministry through its social services department distributed Tk 3 crore as immediate support including food and cash among the poor, destitute and persons with disabilities at the initial stage of the pandemic.

Besides, Tk 1.10 crore was distributed from Jatiya Protibandhi Unnayan Foundation, and Tk 25.67 crore from Bangladesh National Social Welfare Council, she said.

She added the ministry sent letters to different government authorities, including the deputy commissioners in April, to give priority to persons with disabilities while providing Covid-19 supports.

The number of persons with disabilities in country is about 21 lakh at present. Of them, 78,232 are in employment including about 60,000 in different trades, she said.

Additional Secretary Ali Reza Mazid of disaster management and relief ministry said since March 24, the ministry has distributed about 2.11 lakh tonnes of rice, Tk 95.83 crores in cash, and child food of Tk 27.14 crore across the country as humanitarian support.

The beneficiaries included homeless, slum-dwellers, persons with disabilities, elderly, beggars, and unemployed working-class people, he added.

Bogura road crash kills 3

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Three auto-rickshaw passengers were killed and at least two injured as a bus hit it from behind on Dhaka-Bogura highway in Aamtali area of Bogura in Sherpur upazila yesterday.

Abdul Hai (60), Al Amin (30), auto-rickshaw driver; and Shah Sultan (9) from Ghasuria village in the upazila died on the spot when the accident occurred around 1pm, said Roton Hossain, station officer of Sherpur upazila fire station and civil defence.

The injured were sent to Bogura Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital. Among them, a woman's condition is critical, said Raton.

Highway police at Hatikumrul station seized the bus, said Shahidul Islam, OC of Sherpur Police Station.

Poet Himel

FROM PAGE 3

Jahangirnagar University.

He started his career there as a lecturer in 2006. He was a member of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB).

He was also the younger brother of noted Bangladeshi poet Rudra Mohammad Shahidullah. Just recently, he had written a write up on his brother titled 'Amar dada Rudra'.

A noted poet himself, Prof Barkat has three anthologies to his name -- 'Chokhe O Chowdike', 'Doshmatrik Drishaboli', and 'Boishobiddalay'. His research interests were literary theory and criticism, post-colonial theory, poetry of Bangladesh, street literature and poetry of aboriginal people. He had recently completed a research work on Bengali street poems.

The untimely death of Prof Barkat has cast a shadow of mourning over Jahangirnagar University. Teachers, students, and officials alike have expressed their grief over his passing.

"He was a bright name among young Bengali researchers," said eminent educationist Prof Anu Muhammad while attending his namaz-e-janaza yesterday afternoon.

Prof Sumon Sazzad, Barkat's colleague at the Bangla Department, said, "He could contribute to any issue with his sharp analytical and creative prowess. As a colleague, he was amicable, friendly and helpful. He was really popular among students too."

Expressing grief, Jubayer Ahmed, a master's student of the department, said, "We have lost a good teacher as well as a good human being. He was greatly helpful and cordial to the students."

"The untimely death of Himel Barkat is an irreparable loss to Bengali literature and the university," JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam said in her condolence message.

He left behind his wife, a daughter, and numerous well-wishers.

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Nat'l FROM PAGE 3 The minister also said implementation of DAP requires the views of public representatives, government officials, architects and planners. "It is difficult to do that without concerted efforts of all concerned. We want to build Dhaka as a dream city..."

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