



Letters will only be considered if they carry the writer's full name, address and telephone number (if any). The identity of the writers will be protected. Letters must be limited to 300 words. All letters will be subject to editing.

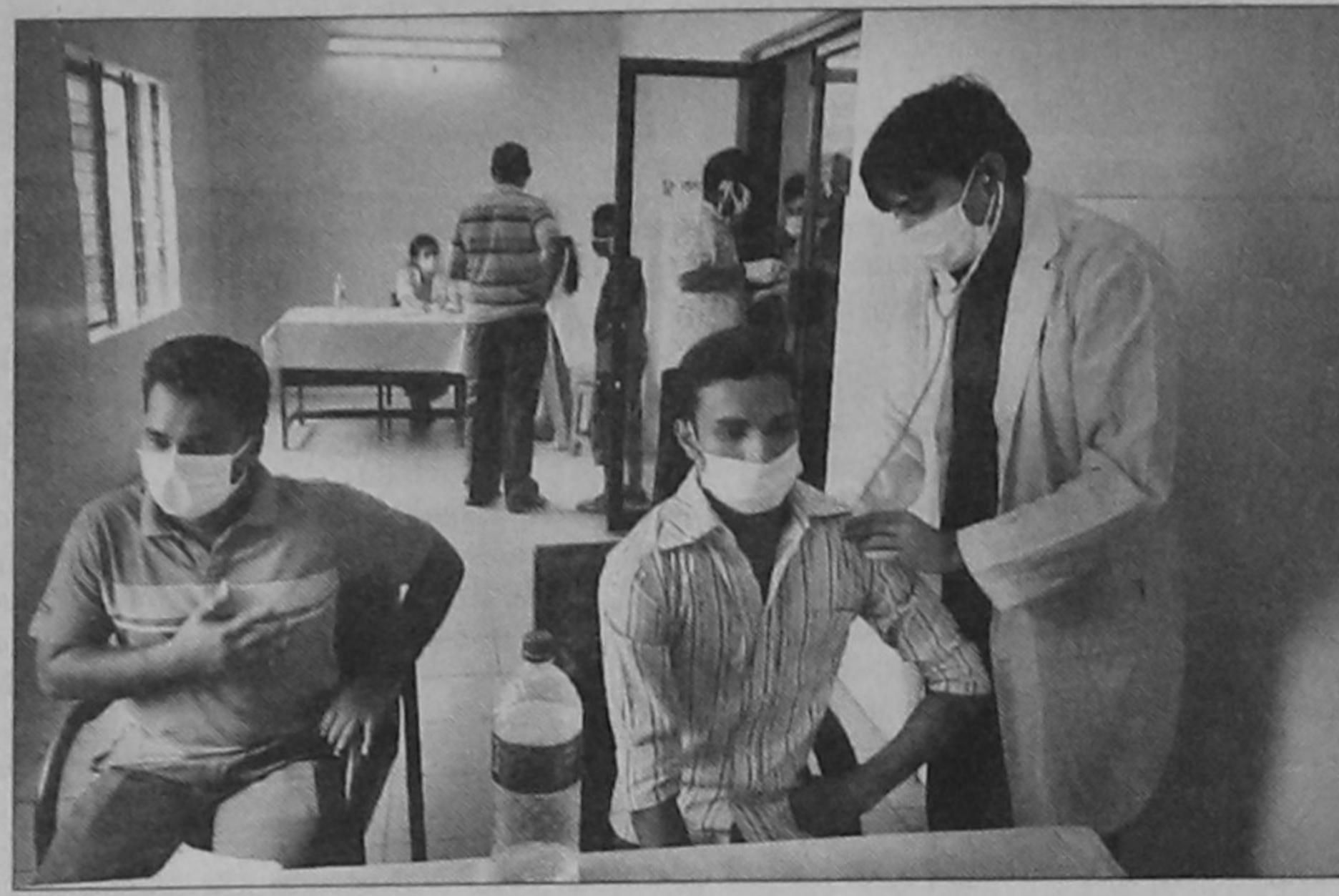
Swine flu vaccine

American authorities are much concerned about the possible outbreak of Swine flu in the coming winter. The assuring news is that a vaccine for Swine flu is almost ready for inoculation. A number of pharmaceutical companies are working on swine flu vaccine. The US Food and Drug Administration has given Novartis and Sanofi-Aventis the green signal to start producing their vaccine strains. The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has also prepared guidelines indicating five key populations that should be vaccinated against the Swine flu (H1N1) virus. But doubts have also been generated concerning the side effects of the swine flu vaccine. Some in-line experts have expressed fear that the vaccine might weaken the receiver's immune system

and even cause brain damage. As medical case history reveals, in 1976, nearly 40 million people were inoculated with then produced swine flu vaccine but the side effects were of high magnitude which claimed a number of lives and caused huge damage to those who got inoculated. The US government had to pay millions of dollars in liability claims. True, the present vaccine has been said to be safe and with less side effects. Let's hope for the best result.

May Allah protect the human beings against natural calamities and diseases.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Chairman
Department of Agricultural Extension & Information System
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Dhaka



renowned public college of Chittagong under the National University. Just then, I faced a bizarre situation. First and foremost, the awful atmosphere of the exam hall. Though hundreds of candidates were taking the exams, there was no special arrangement for instant power supply. As a result, frequent power outages made the hall atmosphere intolerably hot. Furthermore, the exams were taken in a room without good natural light. Secondly, the invigilators did not seem to be dutiful. They did not appear to be helpful either.

S.M. Rumen
Pahartali, Chittagong

Directive misunderstood!

Yesterday the PM asked the communications minister to ease the traffic jam in Dhaka city. The PM sent this instruction from the Dhanmondi AL office. This (5 Oct) morning I could not come to school on time due to a huge new traffic jam on Mirpur Road because traffic police blocked/fenced the road # 6 yesterday (as a result there was no movement of vehicles between West - East - West. I think without knowing the consequences, the traffic police took this action.

It seems nobody is responsible for the decision. It's completely a misapplication of the PM's directive! It seems the authorities took some action but the result was negative! The authorities should rethink the decision.

Please think twice before making such moves.

Tumpa Datta
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

PM's US trip

The year 1601 chronicles the birth of the lofty "Buland Darwaja" to commemorate the conquest of Gujarat by the great Akbar. No - it was no fulfilled trip flanked by a dear sister or spearheaded by an expatriate IT-expert son. Yes, he had his minions, but he knew their exact nature. The trip was incarnadine with real jostling and he really did own. Thus this majestic sandstone gate stands for something real.

Well, our prime minister also returned after a victorious blitz (!) on the banks of Hudson. Let's count the victories:

She spoke in Bangla at the highest of the world forums.

Yes, it is a proud moment but I hardly can call it a victory.

Millennium Fund remains in the yonder, thanks to the rampant corruption (Tarique is not to blame any more).

Free access again a "NOTYET..."

And while she was busy with her dizzying victory lap and having quality time with family and cutting her B-Day Cake, one little girl lost her "Nakful" in the hands of a few lustful BCL goons (abetted and sheltered by none other than her own AL-men).

Politicians while campaigning before elections give lots of assurances and make many promises to woo the voters and win. Getting elected some fulfil those promises some do not, because making and keeping promises are two different matters. Mario Cuomo, a

And yet, as the Qatari aircraft (I wish, it is Bangladeshi) landed at Zia, throngs of AL-activists inundated the vicinity of the airport, chanting frantically for a little attention from their dear leader never minding the plight of mourners.

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