

# Nutrition remains a major concern

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"But keeping 40 percent of its child population [under-five] stunted, it can't achieve the goal of becoming a middle-income country by 2021."

Rice is the predominant staple food in at least 33 developing countries, providing 27 percent of dietary energy supply, whereas people in rural Bangladesh depend on rice for an astoundingly high percentage (71) of dietary energy.

Pointing to this statistics, Robson yesterday said efforts to ensure food security in Bangladesh need to focus on "nutrition-sensible solutions." A diverse diet containing balanced amounts of fresh fruits and vegetables, cereals, fats and oils, legumes and animal-source foods can provide the full range of nutrients needed for healthy growth, he added.

Globally, the World Food Day will be observed tomorrow with the theme "Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition". But Bangladesh has decided to observe the day on October 24 since the occasion coincides with Eid-ul-Azha this year.

A total of 842 million people, about one in eight people in the world, are still suffering from chronic hunger, regularly not getting enough food to conduct an active life, according to the State of Food Insecurity (SOFI) report.

The report was published ahead of the Food Day by three Rome-based UN food organisations -- FAO, World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Bangladesh will be celebrating the day in a befitting

manner this year because it is among the world's 20 countries that have been recognised by the United Nations for achieving the Millennium Development Goal to halve the incidence of hunger (known as MDG-1) well ahead of target year 2015.

The 2013 SOFI report stated, "Food security in Bangladesh is challenged by a host of factors ranging from the country's ever-increasing population density, climate change, scarce natural resources (with nearly no agricultural land left untilled), vulnerability to price shocks and persistent poverty.

"In spite of these constraints, Bangladesh has already met the MDG hunger target. This remarkable feat was achieved in the context of rapid economic growth in the 1990s spurred

by significant growth in agricultural productivity and driven by a combination of factors including macroeconomic stability, liberalization of input markets and opening up of the economy."

However, some 25 million people still remain undernourished, said the report.

The FAO representative underlined the need for further efforts to have the people at the bottom of the poverty line graduate to a food-secure level by providing them with nutritious diets.

He stressed a gradual shift towards surface water from groundwater for meeting irrigation requirements, as "winter rice [Boro] is very taxing on the groundwater reserve".

Robson observed that Bangladesh can do well

growing more maize and wheat in the north and thereby further diversify its range of cereal production.

He also cautioned against over-use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides and called upon policy makers to work on alternate livelihoods for the people in the south, whose croplands have been badly affected by saline water.

"Many croplands in the south may become unfarmable in 20 years' time," Robson warned, urging the policy makers to focus on the looming crisis.

The FAO is providing 25 million dollars' worth technical assistance to Bangladesh this year while remaining engaged in some other multi-stakeholders' programmes in the country, including the areas of climate change resilience and food security and safety.

## EU sees US default risk for world economy

AFP, Luxembourg

A possible US debt default would have "dramatic consequences" for the global economy, EU Economic Affairs Commissioner Olli Rehn warned yesterday.

"It is very important that the US overcomes its fiscal gridlock," Rehn said as he arrived for a meeting of eurozone finance ministers.

"Otherwise it could have potentially dramatic consequences on the world economy and on the still nascent recovery in Europe," he said.

His warning followed remarks in a similar vein by the governor of the French central bank, Christian Noyer, in the French newspaper Le Figaro on Monday.

Noyer, a former vice president of the European Central Bank who sits on the ECB's policy-making body,

said: "If we were to have ... an accident over the American debt it would be, as the IMF has said, a thunderbolt for the financial markets."

Noyer said that such an event would generate "extremely violent and profound" turbulence around the world.

An EU official speaking last week had warned too about the possible huge impact of a US debt default, saying there was very little that could be done to prepare for such an eventuality.

The United States faces the prospect of a first ever sovereign debt default on Thursday if no accord is found in Washington.

Republicans and President Barack Obama's Democrats have been at war over the country's finances, with some government services already shut down for want of funding.

## US trio win

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Americans have dominated the list of economics laureates, with 17 out of 20 laureates coming from the US in the past 10 years.

Last year, US scholars Alvin Roth and Lloyd Shapley won for their work on the functioning of markets and how best to match supply and demand.

The economics prize winds up this year's Nobel season, marked by awards in physics to the fathers of the Higgs boson, the literature prize to Canadian short story author Alice Munro and the peace prize to the UN-backed Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

## Cattle sales

FROM PAGE 2

Mahbubur Rahman, manager of counter No.-2 of Taltala cattle market, said they had received Hasil (service tax to be paid by buyers) on 300 bulls in one out of seven counters by noon.

He thought that the amount would go up with the day advancing.

Meanwhile, the sale of goats had come down this year, the traders said.

"I brought six goats to the Agargaon cattle market three days back, but could sell only one to this day [yesterday]," said Abu Samad, a trader.

## IAEA to advise Japan on Fukushima clean-up

AFP, Tokyo

Experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency met Japanese officials yesterday as part of a mission to assess clean-up efforts at the crippled Fukushima nuclear power plant.

The UN atomic agency began the nine-day mission at the request of the Japanese government, as it did in 2011 following a powerful earthquake and tsunami that sparked reactor meltdowns at Fukushima.

The plant's operator has struggled to contain radioactive contamination, admitting in July that highly toxic water from the site may have leaked out to sea.

"The international community and the agency in particular are very interested in following the recovery activities in Japan," Juan Carlos Lentijo, director of the IAEA's nuclear fuel cycle and waste technology division, told Japanese officials at the environment ministry.

Lentijo will lead a 16-member team of experts to tour polluted areas near the stricken Fukushima plant, some 220 kilometres (140 miles) northeast of Tokyo.

Lentijo told reporters the team hoped to advise on the clean-up as well as ways of dealing with radioactive waste.

## UN agency urges China to drop HIV spa ban

AFP, Beijing

China plans to ban HIV-positive people from spas, hot springs and public bathhouses, provoking condemnation from the United Nations' AIDS agency and outrage from campaign groups.

The proposed Ministry of Commerce rule is the latest instance of enduring discrimination against HIV carriers in the world's most populous country.

China bans those with the virus from becoming civil servants, and HIV-positive people face the possibility of losing their jobs if their employers discover their status, while some have sought hospital treatment only to be turned away.

The draft regulation

posted online by China's State Council, or cabinet, orders spas and similar establishments to prominently display signs prohibiting "people with sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS and infectious skin diseases".

Hedia Belhadji, China country coordinator for UNAIDS, said Monday the organisation was concerned by the provision, and called for it to be removed.

She pointed out there is no risk of transmission of HIV in a spa or bathhouse setting.

"UNAIDS recommends that restrictions preventing people living with HIV from accessing bath houses, spas and other similar facilities be removed from the final draft of this policy," Belhadji told AFP.

She urged that "any other policies preventing people living with HIV from accessing public or private services also be revised".

UNAIDS estimates that there are 780,000 people living with HIV in China.

Chinese campaign groups blasted the proposed rule.

"The only value of this draft law is in discriminating against those with AIDS," Yu Fangqiang, director of the Nanjing-based anti-discrimination NGO Justice for All, told AFP.

His organisation and five other domestic NGOs are seeking to collaborate on a response, he added.

"This law must be changed. All the HIV NGOs know this new rule, and they want to fight it," Yu said.

## Joy of Eid all around

FROM PAGE 1

holiday, the hustle and bustle of the busy capital virtually stopped and the city turned almost congestion-free.

At the bus and train stations, the home goers seemed to be indifferent to the sufferings that could be waiting along their way, in the form of traffic jams and other delays.

Train compartments were full with standing passengers. Those who got tickets were caught up in the holiday spirit and many of them were seen sharing seats with those who were less fortunate.

Buses and trains were seen carrying passengers even on their roofs. Launch passengers at Sadarghat were also seen risking their lives by getting on the roofs of launches. Going home for Eid seemed to be the most important thing in

their lives.

A large section of the people going home yesterday was garment workers, who got off work yesterday.

Abbasuddin, a garment worker, was seen at Sadarghat trying to go to Bhola. "It is difficult to make the journey back home because of the rush of people. But go I will, I want to see my parents," he said.

All the roads towards the Sadarghat launch terminal were jam-packed with home-goers. A seemingly unending stream of people proceeded from Gulistan to the terminal.

People were seen waiting for a launch since the morning. In the afternoon, there was a mad rush in the terminal. As soon as a launch reached the terminal, the home goers made a dash for it. As the passenger number was several times higher

than the capacity, many failed to get on board.

Shamim Akhter, heading for Barguna, became one of the extra passengers of a launch. Talking to Daily Star he said all of his family members left Dhaka four days ago and he was going to join them.

Almost every launch departed Sadarghat with twice the passengers of its capacity, sources said.

The authorities concerned were seen facing difficulties to deal with the crowd.

One of the traffic inspectors of BIWTA, who was "clearing" launches for journey, said they were allowing the launches to carry additional passengers considering the rush.

"We are doing so to facilitate them in celebrating Eid with their families. But we are not allowing them

[launches] to cross the load lines [the line on the hull indicating maximum load]," he added preferring to be unnamed.

The passengers, however, expressed satisfaction over the management.

Meanwhile, 16 ferries struggled to carry passengers and vehicles between Mawa and Kawrakandi throughout the day yesterday, our correspondent reported.

Several hundred vehicles were in queues on the highway waiting for their turn to cross the river.

Taking the advantage, speedboats and launches continued to overcharge passengers yesterday. Speedboats charged around Tk 200 instead of the usual Tk 130, alleged passengers.

Traffic on other major highways seemed to be going smoothly as of yesterday evening.

## No church funeral for Nazi criminal

FROM PAGE 2

been living under house arrest in the city, died last week aged 100.

As his body lies in a Rome hospital morgue, debate rages over what to do with the mortal remains of a man who never expressed any regret, insisting to the end that he was just following orders.

The Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Centre, which hunts Nazis around the world, said the body should be sent back to his native Germany which has laws that would prevent a neo-Nazi gathering.

Tensions are running particularly high ahead of the 70th anniversary of the deportation of thousands of Jews from Rome's ancient Jewish Ghetto by Nazi troops on October 16, 1943.

There is concern that any ceremony could draw far-right sympathisers after a group tried to lay flowers at the house where

he died and a scrawl reading "Honour to Priebke" next to a black swastika symbol appeared on a wall nearby.

Priebke's lawyer Paolo Giachini had initially said that the former SS officer would be buried near his wife in Argentina, where he lived for 40 years after the war -- but Argentina refused.

Rome religious authorities have also said there can be no church funeral for him in the city.

Giachini yesterday threatened to hold a ceremony in Rome's Villa Borghese park, or "in the street if the church will not agree to hold a funeral".

"His children want him to have a Catholic funeral. They want the wishes of their father, who was always a Christian man, to be respected," he said.

"The age of the catacombs is over. You cannot ban or hide a funeral, it is a right."

After the war, Priebke

escaped from a British POW camp and was supplied with Vatican travel documents by a Catholic bishop.

He lived for nearly 50 years in Argentina, before being arrested in 1994 and then extradited to Italy in 1996 for trial.

He was sentenced to life in prison in 1998 for his role in the bloodbath at Rome's Ardeatine caves that left 335 people dead, including 75 Jews. But because of his age and ill-health he was allowed to serve out his life sentence at Giachini's home.

Wiesenthal Centre said he should be sent to Germany and cremated.

"That would be the most efficient way to leave no trace of a Nazi criminal like Priebke," director Efraim Zuroff told La Stampa daily.

"Hitler's body was also burnt and that was the best solution because it

allowed the destruction of everything Nazism represented," he said.

Relatives of Priebke's victims said he should be cremated and the ashes scattered in secret.

"He was a man without pity," Amedeo Tedesco, whose father was killed aged 31 in the massacre, told Il Messaggero.

"The best thing would be to cremate him and scatter the ashes to the wind without revealing where," he said.

"He should be forgotten and never spoken of again. Burying him in Rome would bring fanatics to his tomb."

Carlo Stilli, whose father-in-law was killed, said the wounds were still too fresh to consider Rome housing Priebke's body.

"How can the city take in the body of its enemy? There is no room here for a creature so utterly obscene," he said.

## Padma bridge

FROM PAGE 2

The government decided to construct the 6.15-kilometre bridge with its own fund after the World Bank and three other international donors had cancelled their credits for it in June last year on an allegation of a corruption conspiracy. That has delayed construction of the road-rail bridge.

On June 26, the government floated tenders for construction of the main bridge and asked the pre-qualified firms to submit bids by November 4. The estimated construction cost of the main bridge is Tk 11,829 crore or \$1.18 billion while the total cost of the project will be \$2.97 billion.

A tender for river training work, the second largest component of the project, has already been floated. The last date for bids submission is November 25.

The government has, meantime, completed rehabilitation and resettlement works, spending about Tk 1,500 crore.

## UK police issue images of man in Madeleine McCann case

AFP, London

British detectives investigating the 2007 disappearance of Madeleine McCann in Portugal yesterday published two new electronic images of a man they want to contact, in a major appeal which will also be shown in Germany and the Netherlands.

Police said the man is of "vital importance", with the images having been drawn up based on descriptions from two witnesses who saw the man in the area of Praia da Luz town the night Madeleine went missing.

A primetime British television programme will also present a fresh timeline of events surrounding Madeleine's disappearance from her family's holiday apartment in the Portuguese resort just a few days before her fourth birthday.

The witnesses described

the man in the e-fit as being white, aged between 20-40 years old, with short brown hair, of medium build, medium height and clean shaven. One image shows him with a fuller jaw than the other.

Portuguese authorities closed their investigation in 2008, but London's Metropolitan Police spent two years reviewing the evidence and opened their own probe in July this year.

"Whilst this man may or may not be the key to unlocking this investigation, tracing and speaking to him is of vital importance to us," said Detective Chief Inspector Andy Redwood, Scotland Yard's senior investigating officer in the case.

"We have witnesses placing him in the resort area around the time of Madeleine's disappearance."

## Syria war 'devastating Palestinian lives and homes': UN

AFP, Beirut

The Syrian conflict is "devastating" the lives of Palestinian refugees in the country, a UN agency said yesterday, after weekend shelling of a Palestinian camp in the southern province of Daraa.

"Initial reports indicate the (Daraa) Palestine refugee camp was directly affected by intensive armed conflict on October 12, 2013, alleging that seven Palestine refugees were killed and 15 others injured," said the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

"The armed conflict is devastating Palestinian lives and homes," it said, adding that Saturday's violence in

Daraa also damaged a health centre and a women's programme centre.

Michael Kingsley-Nyinah, director of UNRWA affairs in Syria, also urged an end to fighting in the camps.

"UNRWA repeats its calls on all parties to desist from conducting armed conflict in Palestine refugee camps and other civilian areas and to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law," he said.

UNRWA's statement comes two days after government warplanes and tanks pounded parts of the Daraa camp amid fierce clashes pitting rebels against regime loyalists, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Other Palestinian camps

in Syria have also suffered extensive damage during the 31-month conflict.

But because of ongoing violence there, UNRWA says it is very difficult to assess the damage.

Among the affected camps is Yarmuk, in southern Damascus, which was once home to some 150,000 people.

After all-out violence broke out there late last year, tens of thousands fled.

According to activists, some 30,000 people remain in Yarmuk, which is heavily besieged by troops loyal to President Bashar al-Assad.

The camp is scene of frequent violence and shelling, as pro- and anti-regime groups fight for control over it.

**17 OCTOBER**


## We Remember on his 8th Death Anniversary

*"Whoever works righteousness, male or female, and has Faith, Verily, to him will we give a new Life, a life that is good and pure and we will bestow on such their reward according to the best of their actions."*


**Al-Koran; Sura Al-Nahl: verse-97**

*A friend philosopher and guide to us  
You had been with loving care.  
And now that to infinity you have journeyed  
Your teachings and wisdom we cherish and share.*

**BGIC Family.**



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(1923 - 2005)  
**Founder of BGIC**