

JUST A HOOK TO SOME LOVED ONES' SAFETY TO US



Rooppur, Country's Largest and the First Nuclear Power Plant
Proud to be a part of a new era in progress



Rooppur project work in progress using Shah Cement



Striving to better rural healthcare

Start-up teams up with traditional care providers, uses digital tools to meet healthcare needs of the poor

BISHAKHA DEVNATH

Sixty-five-year-old Fatema Begum lives deep into Madan upazila of Netrakona, where formal healthcare is an inconceivable luxury. So, when an itch broke out all over her body, she ignored it at first. But things got severe; she found herself scratching her skin until it swelled and began aching.

The poor housewife then saw two "Palli Chikitschaks", meaning village doctors, and spent Tk 5,000 but in vain. When she stopped looking for relief, worrying about further expenses, she learnt from a neighbour about Projotno, a telemedicine service introduced by Jeeon.

A self-proclaimed "for impact" company, Jeeon bolsters healthcare providers already existing at union bazaars, instead of building new infrastructure like most other health organisations, so that they can provide better services to people living in remote areas at an affordable cost.

Indeed, Fatema had to pay only Tk 300 for consulting a doctor from Dhaka and Tk 500 for the medicines to become completely cured, and that was possible even without requiring her to travel miles of treacherous, village roads to places where formal health services are available.

To get the service, she only had to come to the nearest drug-shop-cum-Projotno-centre in Balali bazaar, less than 15 minutes from her home. Within minutes, she was connected to a dermatologist sitting in Dhaka, who after reviewing her symptoms and pictures of her skin, and talking to her, sent her a prescription over the internet. The prescription was printed out with the doctor's e-signature, and she could walk away with the required medicines within 30 minutes.

Not only that, her medical records would never be lost, and she could visit another Projotno centre after five years and the doctor would still be able to view her previous records.

This is how, Rubayat Khan, the startup's "Dreamer and Teambuilder", says, the organisation bridges the gap between rural patients and quality healthcare.

"I don't have any electronic medical record in Bangladesh. Yet, our patients in remote areas have their unique patient IDs and digitised records in the cloud," he says with pride.

Referring to the traditional practice popular at remotest corners of the country due to the unavailability of doctors, he says, "People often rely for their health completely on so-called village doctors who have no formal education in medicine, but know the

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PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA

Menoka Chakma and her daughter Bhanudebi Chakma, left, harvesting paddy on a hill in Kamilachhari area of Rangamati last week. Jhum farmers like them are now busy collecting the crop on which tens of thousands of indigenous people in Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban depend for their livelihood. Agriculturists say this year's yield in the regions is expected to be better than last year's because of timely rains.

BCL leader held while abducting univ girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Chhatra League leader was arrested in Narayanganj last night while he was taking away a female private university student he had just abducted, police said.

Asim Dewan, 26, general secretary of Barisal City Chhatra League, along with two of his accomplices had forced the girl into a car in the capital's Basundhara Residential Area, said Ismail Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rugganj Police Station.

As the vehicle was approaching a police check-post in Rugganj around 8:00pm, the girl cried for help, he said, adding that the law enforcers and locals rushed to the car hearing her scream.

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Trump slams UN for bloated bureaucracy

REUTERS, United Nations

US President Donald Trump yesterday criticised the United Nations for bloated bureaucracy and mismanagement on his first visit to UN headquarters, calling for "truly bold reforms" so it could be a greater force for world peace.

Ahead of his maiden speech to the annual UN General Assembly today, Trump hosted a short event to boost support for changes to the United Nations.

"In recent years the United Nations has not reached its full potential because of bureaucracy and mismanagement, while the United Nations on a regular budget has increased by 140 percent and its staff has more than doubled since 2000," Trump said.

"The United Nations must hold every level of management accountable, protect whistleblowers and focus on results rather than on process," Trump said.

"I am confident that if we work together and champion truly bold reforms the United Nations will emerge as a stronger,

more effective, more just and greater force for peace and harmony in the world," Trump said in his first remarks at the UN in New York since his inauguration as president in January.



In a building where long statements are commonplace, Trump spoke for just four minutes. More than 120 countries were invited to attend yesterday's reform meeting after signing on to a US-drafted 10-point political declaration backing efforts by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "to initiate effective, meaningful reform."

Businessman Trump, who complained during his 2016 election campaign about the United States paying a disproportionate amount of money to the United Nations, made the point again yesterday.

"We must ensure that no one and no member state shoulders a disproportionate share of the burden and that's militarily or financially."

The United States is the biggest UN contributor, providing 22 percent of its \$5.4

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Hefajat wants end to killing of Rohingyas

Submits memos to Myanmar embassy, UN office in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hefajat-e Islam, a Qawmi madrasa-based radical organisation, yesterday submitted memorandums to Myanmar embassy in Dhaka and office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh to stop ethnic cleansing of Rohingyas in Myanmar.

As per its scheduled programme, several thousand Hefajat men from the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque headed for Myanmar embassy to lay siege to it, but police intercepted them near Shantinagar in the capital.

Later, a 12-member delegation of Hefajat handed over the memorandums to the embassy and

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SHANGHAI TEMPLE 2,000-tonne hall moved on rails



AFP, Shanghai

The main hall and statues of a century-old Buddhist temple in central Shanghai have been moved 30 metres (100 feet) on rails to ease crowding at the popular site.

As many as 100,000 people visit the Jade Buddha Temple every day and Chinese authorities were concerned about overcrowding and the fire risk created by visitors burning incense.

The solution? To delicately place the 2,000-tonne Mahavira Hall on specially-constructed rails and move it slightly northwards to create

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Woman hurt in acid attack in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A woman suffered burn injuries in an acid attack carried out allegedly by a man as she refused to develop relationships with him in Mirashani village of Brahmanbaria's Bijoynagar early yesterday.

Rubina Akter, 25, wife of Saudi Arabia expatriate Reaz Uddin, is now undergoing treatment at Brahmanbaria

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 19
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-30 6-14 7-45
JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-45 6-17 8-15
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A trader busy making a drum at a roadside shop in Chowhatta area of Sylhet city recently. Such musical instruments are required for celebrating Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Bangali Hindus, beginning on September 26.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Low-cost device for securing homes

Kushtia university student makes advanced home security and automation system

AMANUR AMAN with ANDREW EAGLE

Regardless of culture or creed, around the world people commonly share a basic concern: they like to know that when they've gone out, their house is secure. Indeed, they like to feel safe while at home, too. Niaz Mustakim, a master's student of the applied physics, electronics and communication engineering department at Kushtia's Islamic University has designed an advanced home security system to give added reassurance to homeowners and tenants alike.

"We studied existing home security systems," says Niaz, "and then thought about what features could be added to create an improved, integrated system that was still affordable. In particular, I wanted to incorporate modern technology like social media applications."

The system Niaz has put together over the past two years, under the supervision of Professor Khalilur Rahman and Associate Professor Khalid Hossain Jewel from his university department, is called the Intelligent Smart and Versatile Home Security System. With inbuilt multi-functionality, it is far more than a standard

burglar alarm. It can be used for everyday tasks like opening and closing doors, switching lights and air-conditioning on and off, as well as warning of dangers such as gas leaks and fire.

Niaz's system incorporates fingerprint recognition technology, keypads, displays, signal lights, monitors, cameras and infrared motion sensors, as well as sound, smoke and gas detectors. Designed to immediately inform the system owner via social media of any unauthorised human presence or other dangers, it has potential application for commercial and industrial establishments too.

Through the use of wi-fi technology, home automation will also be possible when one is not at home. A window can be closed remotely if it starts to rain; the air-conditioning can be switched on before returning; outdoor and indoor lighting can be operated in advance.

"The system combines both security and home automation features," explains Niaz. "At the moment we have managed to incorporate around thirty percent of its potential functions. It took effort to synchronise all

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