

# People

**FROM PAGE 16**  
for only 14 percent of total hospital expenditure." **PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE**  
It is an old saying that prevention is better than cure. But this is just the opposite for the health care expenditure. According to the report, one-fourth of the country's healthcare expenditure means that for preventive purposes while some 11 percent spent on prevention.

According to the BNIA report, expenditure on medicines and curative purposes accounts for 71.9 percent of the total healthcare expenditure.

The report said, "Disaggregation of expenditures by function shows that retail drugs and medical goods and services of curative care account for major share of The total health expenditure."

In 2015, total spending by the government on curative care was Tk 30 billion while it was Tk 84 billion by the private sector.

Ashtadil Khan said there was a "severe deficit in health care" at the national level and the focus should be on this point seriously.

**DHAKA GETS THE LION SHARE**  
According to the report, 46 percent of the total health expenditure of the country is spent for Dhaka.

11 percent for Chittagong, 11 percent for Rajshahi and 12 percent for Khulna.

In 2015, health expenditure in Dhaka division was Tk 207 billion while it was Tk 45 billion for Chittagong. Dhaka's share was 39 percent of the total expenditure in 2007 while it was 31 percent in 1997.

# Mexico quake

**FROM PAGE 16**  
volunteers wrestled with the wreckage through the night trying to extract a teacher and two students found alive beneath the rubble.

President Enrique Pena Nieto, who was in the quake zone, warned that the death toll could rise.

Suspicion was already mounting of shoddy building standards at the school. The three-story building "ought to have had in-built earthquake resilience," said a construction professional with the Open University in Britain.

"Had it been properly constructed it should not have collapsed, and I expect questions will be asked about whether the appropriate building codes were adhered to."

Parks and plazas in the center of Mexico City were meanwhile flooded with people unable or afraid to return home. The quake caused the quake caused their walls to sway and crack. At Parque Mexico, in the swank neighborhood of Condesa, nervous evacuees sent an improvised kitchen to people looking for rescue workers.

The destruction revived haunting memories in Mexico on the anniversary of another massive quake in 1985 that killed more than 10,000 people, and was the deadliest natural disaster in the country's history.

Tuesday's quake struck two hours after Mexico held a national earthquake drill, as it does every September 19 to remember the 1985 event.

Following the 1985 disaster, sense of vulnerability, the earthquake struck 12 days after another quake that killed nearly 100 people in southern Mexico.

Experts said the two quakes did not appear to be related, as their epicenters were miles apart.

**Mexico sits atop five tectonic plates**, making it particularly vulnerable to earthquakes.

The death toll as of early Wednesday was the head of the national disaster response agency, Luis Felipe Puente, wrote on Twitter.

There were 86 dead in Mexico City, 771 in Morelos, 43 in Puebla, 12 in Campeche, 10 in Guerrero and one in Oaxaca, he said.

Rescue workers reported that families were getting WhatsApp messages pleading for help from desperate relatives trapped under the rubble.

Patients were evacuated from the capital's hospitals, wheeled out on beds and wheelchairs.

Mexico City's international airport closed for more than three hours following the quake, but the airport was forced to shut, but was set to reopen yesterday.

In Puebla, a picturesque colonial city near the quake's epicenter, several high-rise buildings were damaged, including, killing 11 people, officials said.

Pope Francis said he was praying for Mexico.

"In this moment of pain, I want to pray for the people of Mexico," he said in the beloved people of Mexico," he said during his audience on Saint Peter's Square in the Vatican.

Even US President Donald Trump, who has a long antagonistic relationship with Mexico, tweeted his sympathies.

"God bless the people of Mexico City. We are with you and will be there for you," he tweeted.

And German Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokeswoman tweeted her condolences.

# Rice price shoots

RICE IMPORT DEALS IN FOUR MONTHS					
MONTH	VOLUME	PRICE	WHITE/PARBOILED	G2G/INTL TENDER	
June	50,000 MT	\$406.48	Parboiled	Tender	
June	50,000 MT	\$427.85	White	Tender	
June	200,000 MT	\$430	White	G2G (Vietnam)	
June	50,000 MT	\$470	Parboiled	G2G (Vietnam)	
August	50,000 MT	\$419.51	Parboiled	Tender	
August	50,000 MT	\$411.11	Parboiled	Tender	
August	250,000 MT	\$453	White	G2G (Cambodia)	
August	50,000 MT	\$407.89	Parboiled	Tender	
Sept	100,000 MT	\$442	White	G2G (Myanmar)	
Sept	50,000 MT	\$438	Parboiled	Tender	

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Market sources attributed the price fall to release of rice by many of the millers from their godown stocks.

Importers at Benapole land port told The Daily Star that the circular allowing use of poly-bags instead of jute sacks for rice packing reaches there, the prices would fall further.

Bangladesh Rice Millers' Association President Hossain said that the price at the retail level would get price fall benefits in three to four days.

A visiting Myanmar official delegation on Monday agreed to provide Bangladesh with just one lakh tonnes of white (Aro) rice at \$442 a tonne but didn't budge from their asking price of \$485 per tonne for parboiled rice.

Amid a spiraling of rice prices in international markets, the circular struck deals with both through tenders and government-to-government arrangements (G2G), to import as much as 9 lakh tonnes of the staple, two-third of which would be white rice.

While allocating this white rice for an extended Open Market Sale (OMS) operation, the government found that the sale of subsidised food grains drew much more so far, reaching people who prefer parboiled rice to white one.

Food Secretary Kaikab Hossain told reporters in Dhaka that the total expected import volume, two lakh tonnes, would be split between the two granaries while another 1.5 lakh tonnes were expected to reach land ports soon.

Some 5.5 lakh tonne more rice would be brought in by November, Kaikab said.

The government had decided to import as much as 20 lakh tonnes of food grains (15 lakh tonnes of rice and 5 lakh tonnes of wheat) in the ongoing fiscal year following crop loss caused by 20 lakh tonnes due to hail flashfloods and rice blights.

Though it succeeded striking G2G deals with Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar for importing rice, most of it

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was white rice. Government efforts to sign deals with India and Thailand for import of parboiled rice did not yield results as both the countries asked for exorbitant prices - over \$500 per tonne.

Asked why the government went for relatively pricey imports through G2G arrangement while rice is available at cheaper rates through open tenders, the food secretary noted that reports of that there was no quality control in case of G2G rice, while private parties on winning bids sometimes tended to compromise the quality.

Besides, the government-to-government deals guarantee quicker shipment, he added.

**OMS & FOOD FRIENDLY PROGRAMME**  
A day after the food minister's announcement that the OMS programme would be extended from district to upazila level, the subsidised food grains sale programme could not be launched in most upazilas yesterday.

In most of the areas, dealers selected by the food department for OMS programme were busy depositing money in banks and collecting the rice allocated from the government silos in their respective districts.

Our correspondents from Rajshahi, Dinapur, Natore sent dispatches that dealers would begin the OMS operation in their respective districts.

In another development, the government postponed distribution of rice at Tk 10 a kg among 50 lakh ultra poor across the country due to insufficient rice stock officials said the priority was to operate OMS programme on a wider scale now over Food Friendly Programme. Together these two programmes would require more than 6 lakh tonnes of rice but the government's food reserve currently has only 3.4 lakh tonnes of rice.

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# Over 40m

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suffered in some form of modern slavery, laboured from days to years, the report estimated.

"Forced labourers produced some of the food we eat and the clothes we wear, and they have cleaned the buildings in which many of us live or work."

The group called on the report, stressing that the issue was prevalent in all nations or regions.

The findings mark the first time the groups collaborated on an international estimate and prompted calls for stronger labour rights, improved oversight of migration, action to address root causes of debt bondage and better victim identification.

**IMPUNITY**  
"Having a global number shows the prevalence of the issue of modern slavery. It shows there is impunity around the world where people are being treated by organized criminals, who are being let down by systems," said Kevin Hyland, Britain's Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

"We need to see this translated into action that develops a response about how we safeguard people, how we protect them in a far more sophisticated way than what we have done."

Previously the data analysts had used different data, definitions and methodologies to reach separate global estimates, said Kevin Bates, professor of contemporary slavery at Britain's University of Nottingham and a member of Walk Free's statistical team.

**Trump urges**  
**FROM PAGE 1**  
last month and has forced 422,000 Rohingya Muslims into Bangladesh fleeing a military offensive against the United Nations has branded ethnic cleansing.

Pence called the violence and the "historic exodus" of Rohingya, including tens of thousands of children, "one of the great tragedies of our time."

The violence began on August 25 when Rohingya insurgents attacked about 30 police posts and an army camp, killing about 12 people.

Unless the violence was stopped, it would only encourage the army to "consume the region for generations to come" and threaten the peace of us," the vice president said.

"The images of the violence and its victims have shocked the American people and decent people all over the world," he said.

**UK trade union**  
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plight of Rohingya Muslims on Tuesday after Myanmar blocked a resolution authored by Indonesia, reports Philippine-based online news portal Rappler.

The union expressed concern over the humanitarian crisis in the region and urged all parties to respect the rule of law, exercise maximum self-restraint and stop the ongoing violence against the Rohingya in Rakhine State," said a joint statement issued at the end of the 38th ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) in Manila signed by representatives of the 10 ASEAN nations.

Based on the ASEAN spirit of solidarity and unity, Indonesia supports the effort of Myanmar to restore peace and stability and provide security and assistance to all those in need irrespective of ethnicity, race, religion and beliefs," the statement said.

However, the Rohingya crisis was not discussed as Myanmar objected to the proposal, Deputy Speaker Ferdinand Hernandez, chairman of the AIPA joint communiqué committee, said.

"There was a resolution introduced by Indonesia regarding the humanitarian issue in Rakhine. However, based on the rules of AIPA, every decision to be made must have consensus, and Indonesia was not a part of Myanmar," said Hernandez.

**Schoolgirl**  
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poor official added.

On Tuesday afternoon, when Ayesha was returning home from school, Sohail along with some associates intercepted her on a motorbike and asked her to get on an affair with him. Refused, Sohail assaulted her and also threatened to kidnap her.

Hearing her screams, locals came to the rescue, but the 'stalker' and his associates fled.

Following this, Ayesha took a bottle of oil meant for dyeing hair around 8:00pm and died on the way to her home, near the Sadiq Khan Complex. The oil contained poisonous substance, said Farhad Emul Kayes, officer-in-charge of Sadulpur Police Station.

A case was filed against six people including Sohail, with the police station.

Police arrested Sohail's three associates - Ashraful Islam, Majed and Farhad - and made immediate Sohail was on the run.

Locals demanded immediate arrest of the 'stalker' and all his associates and sought exemplary punishment for the crime.

Police were trying to arrest Sohail, OC Farhad said.

# Nobel laureate

**FROM PAGE 1**  
was holding his grandchild," said a family friend.

Ko Ni was also a prominent human rights campaigner and legal adviser to Aung San Suu Kyi. But he needs to be remembered for many more reasons.

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# away, he shot dead a taxi driver, U Nu

Win, who had tried to stop him. Other taxi drivers tried to restrain him. Other taxi drivers tried to restrain him.

U Nu was an ordinary Burmese who didn't need to know whether the victim was a Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist or atheist and what was the colour of his skin. He was a Burmese.

He acted against a crime, the killing of a 65-year-old man who was holding his grandchild, though he could have very well ignored it and saved one life.

This simple man did what the Nobel Peace prize winner Suu Kyi and her government should be doing right now. She needs to go after the killers and stop the killing of innocents - doesn't matter if the victims are Rohingya, Kachin or Bamar.

Don't know, as she is known, did not even visit the trouble-torn areas or speak out in defence of the minorities being persecuted in Rakhine State and fleeing to Bangladesh.

U Nu was not the kind of public gestures in support of Muslims made by her not Mahatma Gandhi and his colleague Jawaharlal Nehru during the violence of India's partition," writes BBC's Fergal Keane.

Cavalli has an answer to this. The leaders did not seem to be ending the slaughter. But both men laid down a marker about the values of the India they wished to see emerge from partition.

It is argued that Suu Kyi can do little about the Rakhine crisis and she has to deal carefully around a military that still looms large in the fragile democracy. In other words, whatever powers she has, are not enough to yield results.

"It's the action, not the fruit of the action, that's important," argued the Mahatma. "You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in the power of the other people, but do it anyway. But do it, and then you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result."

U Nu was already late. But if anyone wanted to take lessons from history or heroic acts of great men, it's never too late.

The acts of Ko Ni tried to run

**FROM PAGE 2**  
another was thrown to the ground and is now brain damaged," she added.

The women also reported seeing at least two women and girls being raped, taken away to be raped or were found after being raped.

"They told me that most rapes took place when the women were forcibly gathered outside their villages during security operations."

In Yae Khat, Ching Gwa Son village, groups of soldiers pulled young women away to be raped. Some were just 10 or 12 years old," she said.

In her presentation, she said the women and girls were being raped by over 30 soldiers and men in civilian clothes.

"They were gang raped. Each girl was raped by five to six men in turn. They took their clothes and used the knife to their mouths so they would not shout," Razia said, recalling her interview.

The women were then forced to deny these violations by the Myanmar police and soldiers in front of the camera.

"They were rounded up in a field at a police station and guns were pointed at them. They were asked, 'Who burned your houses? We'll (RSO) (Rohingya Solidarity Organisation) (Did RSO kill your parents and children?'"

Afraid they would be shot if they did not, the women had to say it was the RSO who burned their homes and committed the killing."

According to Razia, in January, an interim report of the National Investigation Committee into the Maungdaw Attacks, led by the vice president and former army general, Myint Swe, found "insufficient evidence" to make any arrests.

In February, the United Nations in its Special Rapporteur after a visit to the Bangladesh border found "allegation after allegation of horrific events" having taken place in the Rakhine state.

However on March 10, the National League for Democracy-led government spokesperson in response said that the United Nations' claims of crimes against humanity in Rakhine state were "unsubstantiated."

In her presentation, Razia also called on the international community to use every means, including diplomatic and economic sanctions, to pressure the Myanmar government.

She also called on the international community to pressure the Myanmar government to secure forces accountable for the recent atrocities in Maungdaw. We must also end the systematic persecution of the Rohingya," she said.

The tribunal, taking place today on Friday, is held in a room at the Myanmar government's headquarters in Yangon against humanity that were carried out by the government forces in Myanmar on the Rohingya and other minority ethnic groups.

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The Europeans might also decide to use American spellings, Dr Modiano said, which would add about 443 million to the total population using that system.

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