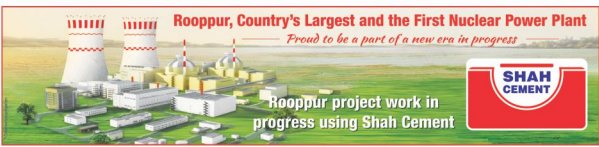


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Mexico quake toll hits 217

Frantic search on for survivors as 7.1 tremor flattens buildings, schools in and around capital and central Mexico; death toll may rise further

Rescue teams kept up a desperate search yesterday for survivors of a powerful earthquake that killed at least 217 people in Mexico on the anniversary of another massive quake that still haunts the country. Soldiers, police and civilian volunteers worked through the night after Tuesday's 7.1-magnitude quake, hoping to find survivors beneath the mangled remains of collapsed buildings in Mexico City and across a swath of central states.

"The armed forces and federal police will continue working non-stop until every possibility of finding more people alive is exhausted," Interior Minister Miguel Osorio Chong said on Twitter.

The most agonizing search was at a school in the capital where 21 children and five adults were crushed to death, and where at least 30 children were still missing. "No one can possibly imagine the pain I'm in right now," said one mother, Adriana Fargo, who was standing outside what remained of the school waiting for news of her seven-year-old daughter.

The nation's attention was fixed on the school, the Enrique Rebsamen elementary and middle school on Mexico City's south side.

Hundreds of soldiers, police and



Rescuers, firefighters, policemen, soldiers and volunteers search for survivors in a flattened building in Mexico City yesterday, a day after a strong quake hit central Mexico.

Six killed in factory fire

The Munshiganj textile mill lacked fire safety measures; four officials detained

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Six workers, including a woman, were killed, as a fire swept through a textile factory in the district town yesterday morning.

The victims are Babu Mia, 22, Ratan Mia, 22, Mohammad Sajeeb, 23, Mohammad Israfil, 23, Nazmul Hasan, 22, and Hasina Begum, 50.

They died of smoke inhalation, said police.

The fire broke out during welding work on the ground floor of the six-storey warehouse of Ideal Textile Mills at Char Muktapur around 10:00am and spread quickly after coming in contact with flammable chemicals stored there, said Jaynal Abedin, the in-charge of Muktapur Marine Police Outpost.

A black plume of smoke engulfed the whole building and killed the six workers before firefighters extinguished the blaze around 12:15pm.

The firefighters recovered three bodies each from the first floor and the third floor, said Shaakal Ali Joddae, senior station officer of Munshiganj Fire Station.

The fire official said the building has no adequate fire safety measures. It has a narrow exit. Chemical drums and clothes were strewn about on different floors of the building, which helped spread the fire rapidly, he added.

Police detained five officials of the factory, including General Manager Khitish Sarkar, from the spot.

Black smoke from the fire thickened the air in the neighbouring areas, making it difficult to breathe.

People fork out most

Govt report shows healthcare costliest in South Asia

MOHAMMAD AL-MASIM MOLLA

Two out of every three Taka of health care costs in Bangladesh is borne by the people while the rest by the government, NGOs and others.

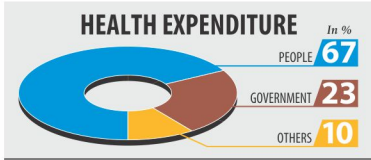
The out-of-pocket health expenditure paid by individuals in Bangladesh is one of the highest (67 percent) of the country's total health costs whereas it's 18 percent in the Maldives, 25 percent in Bhutan, 47 percent in Nepal, 56 percent in Pakistan, and 62 percent in India.

In the UK and the US, it is just 9 percent and 11 percent respectively.

A new government report on Bangladesh National Health Accounts (BNHA) also shows that per capita health expenditure of Bangladesh increased from \$16 in 2007 to \$37 in 2015.

The Health Economics Unit (HEU) of the health ministry prepared the report which is set to be released today.

Giving an estimation of 2015, the report said against a Tk 10, 200 crore



public health finance, people had to bear Tk 30, 200 crore as health care costs.

Although government funding in healthcare increased, its share in total healthcare expenditure kept on declining over the years. In 1997, the government share was 37 percent, which came down to 23 percent in 2015, shows the report.

Seventy percent of the health expenditure is spent on drugs, health care services, curative health care while just 10 percent accounts to preventive care. Only two percent of

the government's health spending goes to education and training of medical personnel.

HEU Director General Ashadul Islam identified a number of reasons for the rise in the out-of-pocket health expenditures. Changes in disease pattern, expensive and long treatments, medicines getting costlier are among them.

He also referred to easy use of technology, for example unnecessary pathological tests for normal fever, for the cost escalation.

In 2015, pharmacy was the largest

provider of healthcare services accounting for Tk 196 billion. Pharmacy as a provider had been the largest entity since 1997.

Hospital was the second largest provider of healthcare services, accounting for Tk 115 billion in 2015.

According to the report, in 1997 government expenditure in public hospitals was Tk 7.6 billion, accounting for 70 percent of total hospital expenditure.

However in 2015, the amount came down to Tk 42 billion, which was 37 percent of the total expenditure.

"Although hospitals at the upazila level and below are enjoying the highest share of public funding, the overall share of hospital spending at the upazila level is declining," the report said.

"In 1997, hospital facilities at upazila level and below was 43 percent of the total hospital expenditure which came down to 22 percent in 2007. Currently, it accounts

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Euro-English

Brexit could create a new 'language'

Grammatical grammar could be a thing written or recorded to certain ways (grammar, epigram, grammar, thing we like grass, Latin graminaceous, graminivorous, graminivore feeding on grass, cereals, etc. grammar /'gramər/ n. 1. the rules of a language's inflections means of showing the relation words. 2. observation or application of the rules of grammar (that error

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Brexit could lead to the development of a new form of the English language, according to a new academic paper.

Dr Marko Modiano, of Gavle University in Sweden, said there were already signs that "Euro-English" was developing its own distinct way of speaking.

And this could eventually be codified in a dictionary and taught in schools in much the same way that American or Australian English is today if English is retained as the lingua franca of the European Union after the UK leaves.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Schoolgirl 'kills herself over stalking'

Police arrest 3 accomplices of the alleged stalker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Failing to endure insults by her 'stalker', a schoolgirl allegedly committed suicide by taking toxic chemical in Gaibandha's Sadullapur on Tuesday night.

Ayesha Siddiqui Misty, 14, daughter of Mostafizur Rahman of Chaik Durgapur village, was a class nine student of Motherhat Girls High School.

Quoting the victim's family, Inspector Motiur Rahman, in-charge of Dhaperhat Police Investigation Centre, said Soheli Mia, 20, of the same village, had been stalking Ayesha on her way to and from school for the last two years. Guardians of both families sat several times to stop it, but to no avail, the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Children waded through muddy water of Popa river to Hossain Para Primary School in Bandarban's Lama recently. Villagers saved a student from drowning here last month. Residents of six villages, having to go through the trouble, have been demanding a bridge for years.

Over 40m people trapped in slavery

Reveals new global estimate

REUTERS, New York

More than 40 million people were trapped as slaves last year in forced labour and forced marriages, most of them women and girls, according to the first joint effort by key anti-slavery groups to count the victims of the often hidden crime worldwide.

The International Labour Organization (ILO), human rights group Walk Free Foundation and International Organization for Migration said 40.3 million people were victims of modern slavery in 2016 - but added this was a conservative estimate.

They estimated 24.9 million people were trapped working in factories, on construc-

tion sites, farms and fishing boats, and as domestic or sex workers, while 15.4 million people were in marriages to which they had not consented.

Almost three out of every four slaves were women and girls and one in four was a child, with modern slavery most prevalent in Africa followed by Asia and Pacific, said the report released on Tuesday.

"It's a conservative number," Andrew Forrest, founder of Walk Free, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "It cannot capture the full extent of the horror of modern slavery."

In the past five years, 89 million people

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United Hospital

SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Centre

PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 21
Fazl Zahir Ashr Maghribi Esha

AZAN 4:40-12:45 4:30 6:05 7:30
JAMAAT 5:15-1:15 4:45 6:10 8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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