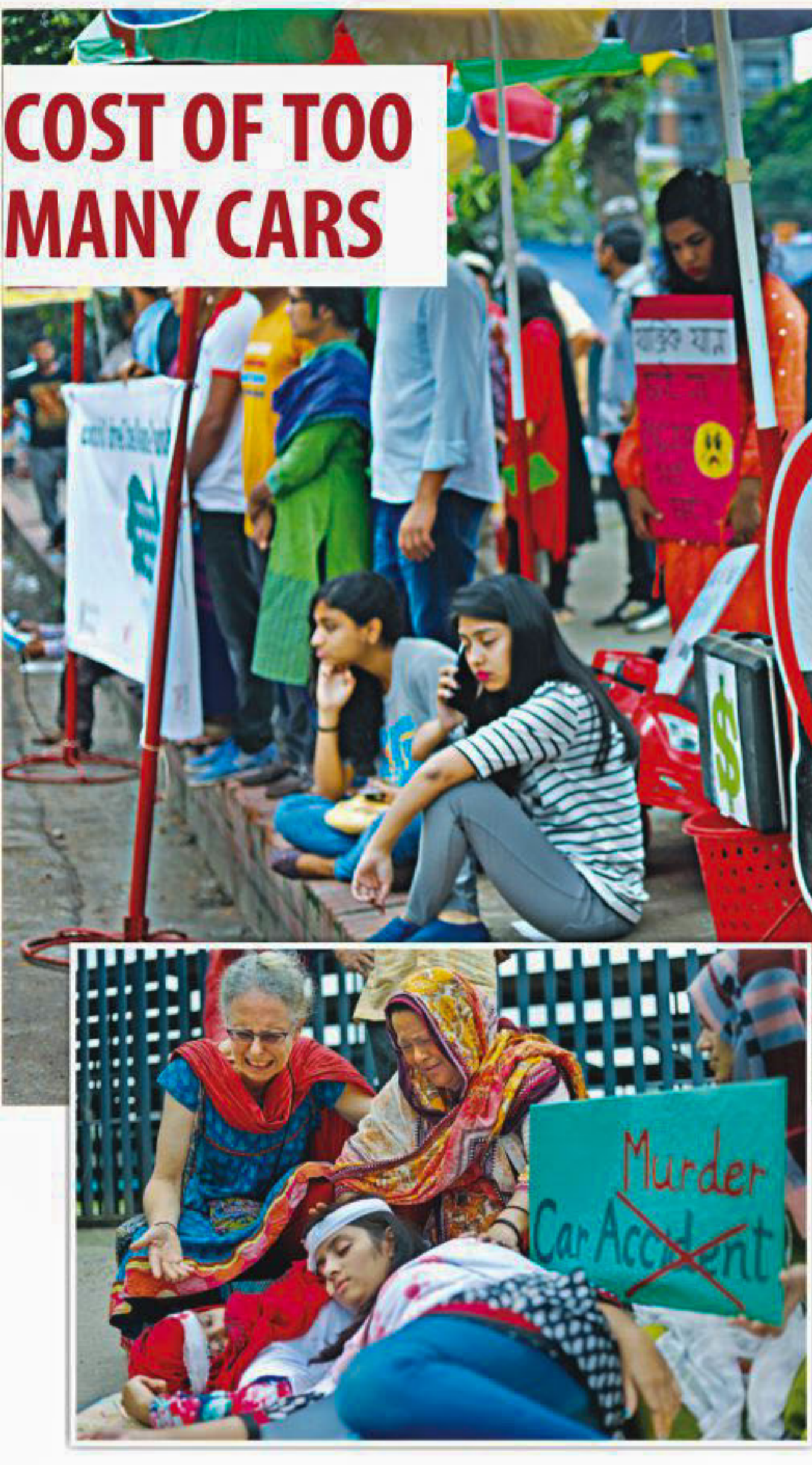


WEATHER FORECAST

YESTERDAY'S TEMPERATURES	DHAKA	MYMENSINGH	CHITTAGONG	SYLHET	RAJSHAHI	RANGPUR	KHULNA	BARISAL	COX'S BAZAR
	H 30.2 L 25.7	H 30.4 L 25.5	H 29.4 L 24.7	H 31.8 L 26.2	H 33.0 L 26.1	H 31.2 L 26.0	H 31.0 L 25.5	H 27.8 L 26.0	H 27.1 L 25.3

Light to moderate rain/thundershowers with gusty wind may occur at most places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Sylhet, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions with moderate heavy to very heavy falls at places over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today, UNB said quoting the Met Office. The sun sets in the capital today at 6:43pm and rises tomorrow at 5:27am.



Campaigners take part in a performance to demonstrate how passengers are forced to kill valuable time on the road due to traffic jams. Inset, a car accident scene is enacted. The event is a symbolic representation of the present traffic situation in Dhaka city, which is aggravated by a large number of private cars. It was organised at Abahani playground by Car-free Cities Alliance Bangladesh, a campaign launched by the Institute of Wellbeing yesterday. In Dhaka city, people lose 32 lakh work hours to traffic jams every day, and its economic cost is Tk 30,000 crore, says a press release.

Aug 21 grenade attack trial nearing end

BSS, Dhaka

The two cases filed over the August 21 grenade attack are nearing their end despite the defence's alleged repeated attempts for wasting time.

"They [defence] are continuing their all-out efforts to waste time and hinder the trial process. The defence is enjoying all the legal benefits in the cases. In spite of all these, they are trying to hinder the justice. In the arguments, they are bringing out issues which are not relevant at all," chief prosecutor and senior jurist Syed Rezaur Rahman told the news agency.

The trial process of the cases, one filed for murder and another lodged under explosives act, is going on simultaneously at the Dhaka 1st Speedy Trial Tribunal, where arguments for 43 accused have been completed so far.

The court is scheduled to hear arguments for two more accused.

"The court has been adjourned till July 30. The total number of the accused in the cases is 52. Of those, three were executed in other cases and their names were dropped. Of the 49 accused, 18 are yet to be arrested and being tried in absentia," said prosecutor Akram Uddin Shyamal.

Of the accused, 23 including former state minister Lutfozzaman Babar and deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu are in jail.

The prosecutor said the court ordered the counsel for accused BNP leader Abdus Salam Pintu to argue for his client on July 30 and 31.

"The court has asked counsels for another accused and BNP leader and former state minister for home affairs Lutfozzaman Babar to be ready to start their part of arguments," Shyamal added.

Another prosecutor Farhana Reza too echoed her senior Rezaur Rahman's allegation, saying the defence is trying to waste time deliberately from the very beginning of the trial.

While talking about the legal benefits extended towards the accused, the prosecutor said the court appointed state defence to defend all fugitives except four.

"All the fugitives, who have been charged for maximum punishment, have got state defence to defend their cases. Only fugitives ATM Amin, Saiful Islam Joarder, Obaidur Rahman Khan and Khan Sayeed Hasan haven't got any counsels to defend," she added.

The vicious attack was carried out on an Awami League rally.

A total of 24 AL leaders and activists including the then Mohila Awami League president and wife of late president Zillur Rahman, Ivy Rahman, were killed and 500 others were injured.

A total of 225 prosecution witnesses testified in the case, while 20 witnesses were produced by the defence.

CLOSURE OF GLAXOSMITHKLINE OPERATION Employees continue demonstration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

About 500 employees of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Bangladesh Limited, a UK-based multinational company, staged a demonstration in front of the factory in Faujdarhat area under Sitakunda upazila yesterday morning, demanding resumption of production.

Mohammed Ilias, president of the employee union of GSK in Bangladesh, said when the authorities announced closure of the operation of the factory on Thursday, they started demonstrating. As Head of Regional Supply Chain Raju Krishnaswami told them that they would get to know more

In capitalist patriarchy, women are treated as commodities: Kamla Bhasin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A room packed with audience -- young and old -- applauded Kamla Bhasin, the noted Indian feminist, when she urged to ensure gender equality in the society.

Kamla was talking yesterday at a discussion titled "An evening with Kamla", jointly organised by One Billion Rising, a global movement fighting to end rape and sexual violence against women, and Christian Aid, a British development organisation, in association with SANGAT, the South Asian Feminist Network, at Chhayanaut auditorium in the capital yesterday.

Kamla said feminism has no gender. She mentioned that many men support feminism.

Kamla spoke about Zafrullah Chowdhury, a Bangladeshi public health activist, who was a firm believer in feminism and had employed women as guards and drivers back in the 1970s.

She said, "I don't think you need to know the word feminism to be a feminist. All you need to know is that you are a human and have freedom, right to mobility and self-respect."

Kamla, an author of children's books, also said, "I try to familiarise children with gender equality by using simple and rhyming sentences in my writings."

Stating that she celebrates her womanhood every day, Kamla said, "After the death of my daughter, I am spiritually alive because of the feminist movement that I have been a part of. It has created a community based on love."

The social scientist observed that patriarchy keeps changing its face. Earlier it was culture and religion, but now it is more of a capitalist patriarchy where women are treated as commodities.

She said cosmetics industries are selling beauty products promising to make women "fairer and prettier". Their campaigns are leading to women feeling inferior about their appearance.

The Indian rights activist said that most families are unhappy whenever a girl child is born. Even today, girls are raised as burdens and told that they are liabilities belonging to others' households. This creates an imbalance in the society, Kamla said, adding that each member in a family is responsible for creating an equal society.

About her personal life, Kamla said, "I never followed gender norms."

Feminist activists Khushi Kabir and Shireen Huq were also present at the programme, among others.

Two toddlers die falling in sewer

UNB, Dinajpur

Two toddlers died after falling in a drain near their house at Khansama upazila in Dinajpur yesterday.

The deceased are 19-month-old Juthi Rani Roy, daughter of Tapos Chandra Roy, and her cousin 15-month-old Niloy Chandra Roy, son of Shaymol Chandra Roy of Kedarpara village in the upazila.

According to neighbours, the duo went out of their house while Juthi's mother was busy working in the kitchen around 8:30am.

The family members started searching for them, and later they spotted the children inside the drain made for disposing of waste.

They were rushed to Pakerhat Health Complex where the doctors declared them dead.

Port city faces gas crunch

Residents allege they were not properly notified about pipeline maintenance work

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Since Friday, many port city residents have been suffering from an acute gas shortage as Karnaphuli Gas Distribution Company Limited (KGDL) has started its pipeline maintenance work.

Though KGDL issued a notice on July 24, most of the residents said they were unaware of it as, according to them, KGDL ran a "poor campaign" in this regard.

Meanwhile, people in the affected areas have been relying on restaurants or alternative methods of cooking. The shortage of gas in CNG stations also left CNG-run vehicles in crisis.

Residents of Bandar, Halishahar, Nayabazar, Double Mooring, Agrabad, Chowmuhani, Kazir Dewri, Lalkhan Bazar and many other areas have been facing the gas crisis since Friday morning, they said.

According to KGDL officials, the maintenance works would be finished by today.

Mamun Mia, a resident of Port North Colony of Bandar, said "There has been no



Faced with an acute shortage of gas, people jostle to buy food at a restaurant in port city's Agrabad area on Friday.

'The good doctor'

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Dr Pradip Kumar Dutta maintains quite a busy schedule.

Every day, the 58-year-old professor and head of Nephrology department at Chittagong Medical College Hospital wakes up around 6:30am to head out for work.

In between getting ready, he also receives calls from patients and gives them appointment for consultation at his private chamber.

After performing his duties at the hospital, he attends patients at his chamber in Panchlaish Residential Area near CMCH from 3:00pm. He sees patients six days a week at CMCH and four days a week privately.

According to Wikipedia, nephrology is a specialty of medicine and paediatrics that concerns itself with the kidneys -- the study of normal kidney function and kidney disease, preservation of kidney health and treatment.

The doctor is also vice-principal of Chittagong Medical College and per-



Dr Pradip Kumar Dutta

forms his duties there on a regular basis, according to his students and colleagues.

Up to now, this might as well be a story about a doctor who remains extremely busy with work. But what sets Dr Pradip apart is his passion and dedication towards helping others and steps he has been taking for many years in this regard.

When most of the consultant doctors (many of whom are his students) in Chittagong take Tk 800 to Tk 1,000 from patients at their private chambers, Dr Pradip charges Tk 300 per patient for consultation.

He has not increased his fee in the last 15 years. Moreover, after the first Tk 300, he does not charge a patient for seeking his consultation again -- how many times or whenever that might be.

Many of his patients said he also requests diagnostic centres to give the highest concession possible to patients for tests.

Last week, Titu Chakraborty took his

mother to see Dr Pradip as she was suffering from kidney disease.

Titu said this was the third time he took his mother to Dr Pradip's chamber. "We paid Tk 300 during the first visit around eight months ago. He did not take any fee from us afterwards," he said.

"We had visited many doctors but Dr Pradip was unlike anyone else. He never rushes while seeing a patient," said Titu. He said with Dr Pradip's help his mother's condition is improving gradually.

Kidney patient Roksana Akter, 22, wife of an auto-rickshaw driver, said hearing about their financial problem, Dr Pradip helped her get admitted to CMCH's nephrology ward recently.

"I was concerned about my wife. But the good doctor asked me not to worry as her condition is not serious," said her husband Md Afsar.

This correspondent also met 60-year-old Tahmina Khanam, who has been suffering from severe breathing problem, at the doctor's chamber recently.

"I had visited a number of doctors earlier; they charged me Tk 800 to Tk 1,000 on every occasion and advised me to perform expensive tests. But despite being a senior specialist, Dr Pradip took Tk 300 from me and said I don't have to pay any fee for next visits," said Tahmina.

"He also requested the diagnostic centres to give me concession for the tests," she added.

The Daily Star spoke to the busy doctor at his chamber on a Tuesday afternoon.

He said, "I always advise patients to go to a government hospital as they can get treatment from a number of specialists there free of cost. In a private clinic, a patient has to wait for specialist doctors and spend a good amount of money."

Dr Pradip said considering financial condition of the patients he decided not to increase his fee.

"I don't see more than 20 patients per day in my chamber. I take time to examine them... if I see more patients, I don't think I would be able to do justice to all of them," he said.

Dr Pradip obtained FCPS degree in medicine in 1991 and doctor of medicine degree in nephrology in 1998. He has published over 60 research articles in medical journals.

"I am proud to say I'm an alumnus of the same medical college I have become a vice principal of. Though I got selected at Dhaka Medical College, my parents at Dhaka Medical College, my selected

Madrasa

FROM PAGE 4

Md Abul Bashar, 35, a madrasa teacher, both hailing from Maheshkhali upazila.

On a tip-off, police arrested the duo in front of Hotel Manila in Station Road area around 9:30pm, said Mohammad Mohsin, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station.

After interrogation, they confessed to their involvement with yaba peddling, said OC Mohsin.

A case was filed against them, he added.

In Comilla, police arrested a mason with 2,625 pieces of yaba pills hidden in the hollow of a levelling bar yesterday.

Detainee Mohammed Rafiq, 28, lives in Raozan upazila of Chittagong, said Sub-inspector Shahadat Hossain of Debpur Police Outpost.