

## LACK OF EXERCISE 1.4b adults at risk of deadly diseases

AFP, Paris

More than 1.4 billion adults are putting themselves at heightened risk of deadly diseases by not getting enough exercise, doctors are warning, with global activity levels virtually unchanged in nearly two decades.

With richer nations enjoying an increasingly comfortable, sedentary lifestyle, a study by the World Health Organization said a third of women and a quarter of men worldwide are in the firing line for killer conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer unless they up their physical activity.

## There's good

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Muhith made the comments while talking to reporters during his meeting with the newly elected Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury at the Secretariat.

"There's a good chance of holding the upcoming national election on December 27...I've also discussed [the possible date] with the Election Commission and they've informed me that they're proposing a date like this," he said.

The minister further said that there were not many dates, except two or three, for holding the election due to various special days such as the Victory Day, Martyred Intellectuals' Day and Christmas.

He, however, said the date could be known once the Commission announced the election schedule.

Asked about the election-time government, he said it would be a small cabinet with some changes from the existing one, adding it would be formed according to the model suggested by Sheikh Hasina.

Muhith, however, said chances of bringing a change to the cabinet was slim this time compared to the Sheikh Hasina-led interim government before the 2014 election.

"Practically there is no party in the present assembly [parliament] outside the government. Therefore, I think no new character [minister] will be included [in the polls-time cabinet]. Some [ministers] might be dropped," he said.

Responding to another query on who will be members of the small cabinet, Muhith said no members of BNP or from the civil society would be in the cabinet.

The name of the cabinet will be "Cabinet of Election-time Government" and its chief will be Sheikh Hasina, said the finance minister.

Asked whether the current parliament would be dissolved before the election, he replied in the negative.

About the election atmosphere, he said it would be free and fair as rigging the election would be very tough because the EC had been reformed a lot.

Muhith said he hoped the BNP would participate in the next election, adding, "Otherwise BNP will definitely disappear".

Last week, the EC Secretary Helaluddin Ahmed said the election could be held in the last week of December.

## MP Rana

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Rana was taken to the court from Kashimpur Central Jail in Gazipur around 10:30am. Taking permission, Rana told the court that he wanted bail in the case and that he would not jump bail.

Since no witnesses were produced before the court, the judge fixed September 27 for recording witnesses' depositions following a prayer of prosecutors, Anwarul said.

Rana had earlier been denied bail on several occasions both by lower and higher courts.

On August 5, lawyers of Rana, AL lawmaker of Tangail-3 (Ghatail) constituency, sought his bail, and the court on August 8 fixed yesterday for delivering an order after a hearing on the bail.

Yesterday, the situation in and around the court area became tense when supporters of Faruk brought out a procession demanding punishment of Rana, and followers of Rana brought a procession seeking his release.

At least 10 supporters of Rana were hurt as police fired teargas canisters and charged truncheons on them when they were agitating in District Gate area near the court around noon, witnesses said.

Police detained 11 people from the spot, two of them with a foreign pistol and bullets, said Mohammad Ahaduzzaman, additional superintendent of police (crime) in Tangail.

The bullet-hit body of district AL leader Faruk was found near his College Para house in Tangail town on January 18, 2013.

Four of the 14 accused, including Rana, are in jail while three are on bail. Seven others, including three of Rana's brothers, are still on the run.

In September last year, charges were framed against the accused.

## No scope

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"Nobody wants the massive use of EVMs in the upcoming election. The EC can use EVMs as a pilot project but PM's directives are needed in this regard."

Currently, the planning ministry is awaiting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's directives to approve a proposal from the EC to purchase 1.5 lakh EVMs at a cost of Tk 3,829.07 crore, said sources at the ministry.

Under the five-year proposed project, the money will be spent on purchasing the machines, training up election-related officials, introducing voters to the machines through different orientation programmes and establishing relevant infrastructure.

The EC forwarded the proposal to the planning ministry without conducting any feasibility study. Besides, there was no budget allocation for the EVMs.

Asked about the feasibility study, he said, "Yes, there was no feasibility study but the EVM is nothing new as it was used in some [recent local government] elections. But still, it requires a feasibility study and that's why we are yet to give the approval."

He said his ministry would decide on going ahead with the project after the upcoming Ecnc meeting. "It's a big project. We need Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's directives to move forward with the project."

According to the project proposal, Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory (BMTF) prepared "high-quality" EVMs in the past in consultations with a technical committee, headed by eminent engineer Prof Jamilur Raza Chowdhury.

Asked whether the BMTF, a state-owned organisation, would be given the task of making EVMs under the proposed project, the minister said the procurement entity would finalise the issue.

After EC Secretary Helaluddin Ahmed disclosed the EC's plan on using EVM on a large scale, Election Commissioner Mahub Talukder strongly opposed it, saying, "It alone might plunge the polls into controversy".

Soon after, the prime minister said the machines should not be

## Cop amasses wealth

FROM PAGE 1

It comes just a week after a survey by the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) revealed law enforcement agencies are the most corrupt among 18 service-providing departments and sectors.

Earlier in May, the ACC quizzed an additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), also named Mizanur Rahman, over his "illegal wealth".

He was withdrawn from the post following reports of extra-marital affairs.

Last year, the ACC filed a case against another SP, Subhash Chandra Saha, and his wife Rina Chowdhury for amassing over Tk 8 crore beyond known source of income.

For his part, SP Mizan, from Tungipara of Gopalganj, made headlines several times for alleged corruption and violation of service rules.

In 2010, he was removed from the post of Bagerhat SP following media reports that he tried to grab some land there.

On August 25, 2016, Bangla daily Kaler Kantha reported that he engaged about 60 policemen of his unit, including sub-inspectors, in the construction work of his luxury home on 84 decimals of land in Hemayetpur, on the outskirts of the capital.

It prompted the ACC to open an investigation that revealed that he and his wife abused their power to amass huge wealth.

Among Mizan's properties are a two-storey building on 18-decimal land in his village home at Tungipara; two flats (1,718 square feet and 1,800 square feet) in the city's Tejkunipara; a shop in Jurain; 15-decimal land in Dhaka; a three-katha plot of Rajuk (Uttara third phase); and 1,295.96 decimal agricultural land in Gopalganj.

He also co-owns, along with his wife and daughter, four factories in different parts of the country.

All the four factories -- Meghna Fertiliser, Khoyaz Fertiliser, Mollah NPKS and Farm Nest and Milk Products -- were set up without government permission, a violation of service rules, according to the case document.

Some other properties partly or fully owned by his wife are a three-storey building on 5-katha land on Mirpur's Mazar Road; a shop on two-katha land; a three-storey building in Keraniganj; 20-decimal farm land; 46-decimal land in Dhaka and 538-decimal land in Tungipara.

The total value of the properties (both legal and illegal) in her name is Tk 7.49 crore, as against Tk 3.51 crore owned by her husband. The couple married in 2003.

Mizan joined the police in 1989 as a

sub-inspector. Later, he sat the 17th BCS exam and passed. Subsequently, he was promoted to the post of assistant superintendent of police in 1998 and then to the post of SP.

The Daily Star called Mizan several times for his comment, but he did not pick up the call. He also did not respond to a text message, requesting his comment.

Brighten image

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modernisation of Sylhet airport has been completed. The work on Terminal-3 of Shahjalal International Airport will begin soon.

The prime minister added that the construction of a new airport in Bagerhat was ongoing.

Saying that connectivity was very important for a country, the PM further said, "Keeping that in mind, the government is working hard to improve air, rail, road and waterway connectivity."

She said a democratic process was continuous in the country as it advances towards the path of development.

"Bangladesh has earned the recognition as a role model of development in the world, we have to move further to uphold the achievement," she said.

For this purpose, Hasina said, the government was implementing a five-year plan, a 10-year perspective plan while Delta Plan-2100 had also been approved to develop the country over the next one hundred years.

Hasina stated that Bangladesh was marching ahead and sought cooperation of all in maintaining the ongoing trend of development.

Civil Aviation and Tourism minister AKM Shajahan Kamal; Board of Directors of Biman Bangladesh Airlines chairman Air Marshal (ret'd) Muhammad Enamul Bari; Civil Aviation and Tourism secretary Mohibul Haque; and Biman Managing Director and CEO AM Mosaddique Ahmed also spoke at the inauguration.

"Akashbeena" is equipped with an in-flight entertainment system and onboard Wifi. Biman will allocate 10MB of free Wifi to each passenger, and they can buy more data if required.

The Dreamliner is a long-haul, mid-size, wide-bodied and twin-engine aircraft. It has the capacity of 271 seats and comes with state-of-the-art technology.

## 19 fall ill on emirates flight to New York

REUTERS, New York

At least 19 people aboard an Emirates flight from Dubai to New York were confirmed ill when the aircraft landed yesterday at John F Kennedy International Airport, after as many as 100 passengers and crew reported feeling sick, authorities said.

Ten of the 19 people on Emirates airline Flight 203, which landed with at least 521 passengers around 9:00am EDT (7:00 pm Bangladesh time), were taken to hospitals, while the other nine declined treatment, said Raul Contreras, a spokesman for the New York City mayor's office.

"Everyone else was clear," he said in an interview.

All passengers aboard the plane were allowed to leave by yesterday afternoon, according to an Emirates spokeswoman, who said three passengers and seven crew members were being treated at a hospital.

"Nine passengers underwent additional medical screening at the site near the aircraft and were released afterwards," said the spokeswoman for Dubai-based Emirates. "The rest of the passengers were allowed to leave and clear customs."

About 100 people complained of feeling ill on the flight from the Middle East, with symptoms including cough and fever, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said in a statement.

The plane -- a double-deck Airbus 380 -- was taken to a location away from the terminal so emergency officials could evaluate the situation, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey officials said in a statement. The A380 is the world's largest passenger aircraft.

The White House was monitoring the situation, spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said, and President Donald Trump was being updated as new information became available.

Diala Makki, a television host from Dubai, was traveling first-class on Flight 203 en route to New York Fashion Week when she learned from flight crew that a number of people had become sick onboard and passengers were to be detained until officials made checks.

## Five JMB men

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chief of Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions and Bulbul is the Isaba chief of Rajshahi division, reports our Bogra Correspondent.

Bulbul's name surfaced after four members of mainstream JMB had given confessional statements before a Rajshahi court between March 24 and April 30.

At that time, police claimed Bulbul led a group of 10 people, who were directly involved in robbery to collect funds especially for fighting legal battles and supporting the families of JMB men behind bars.

Even an intelligence report also mentioned Bulbul's name in May that said mainstream JMB men were monitoring a top leader of a faction of Gonojagoron Mancha and sending reports to Bulbul with an aim to kill the leader.

A high official of Bogra police, who has been dealing with militancy, told The Daily Star that Bulbul during primary interrogation admitted his involvement in a robbery attempt in which two bKash staff members were shot in Rajshahi city's Choddopai area on August 10, 2016.

Rabiul Islam, one of the injured, died four days later, the official said requesting anonymity.

A case was filed yesterday against the five arrestees with Sherpur police, who produced them before a Bogra court and sought 10 days remand for each of them. After hearing, Senior Judicial Magistrate Abu Raihan granted three days' remand.

Of the other arrestees, Atikur Rahman graduated from Rajshahi University in journalism and mass communication in 2010, while Masud Rana completed master's in Islamic studies from Rajshahi College in 2013.

The police claim the firearms recovered from the arrestees were delivered by senior leader of mainstream JMB Khorshed Alam alias Master Zia alias Uday (head of the media wing of Bangladesh) in Gazipur.

The law enforcers had intelligence that the alleged members of JMB were coming from Gazipur after holding a secret meeting with Khorshed and his associates Hasan alias Esha and Sadekul Islam alias Omayer about their next plans and activities on Tuesday.

District police chief Ali Ashraf further said primary interrogation revealed the JMB men had collected the firearms to use those in their future operations.

Earlier on October 5 last year, a robbery case was filed against Bulbul, Atikur, Masud and Mizanur with Matihar police in Rajshahi. The Detective Branch of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police has been investigating the case.

The case statement says the accused robbed Rahman Jute Mill in Matihar upazila of Tk 17.5 lakh to bear their organisational expenses, the Bogra SP added.

## Give Shahidul

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to the home secretary and jail authorities to provide Shahidul Alam with first-class division facilities.

The division facilities would include a bed, a table, a chair, a mosquito-net, a newspaper and better food, a jail official told The Daily Star.

After the HC passed the order, Rahnuma's lawyers, Sara Hossain and Jyotirmoy Barua, told reporters at the Supreme Court Bar Association office premises that the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) in Dhaka on August 27 ordered the authorities concerned to provide Shahidul with first-class division facilities.

They added that Shahidul, however, was not given the facilities and, therefore, the writ petition was moved before the HC yesterday for necessary orders to this effect.

During a hearing earlier in the day, Attorney General Mahubey Alam, representing the government, opposed the writ petition, saying the CMM's court had already ordered the authorities concerned to give first-class division facilities to Shahidul Alam.

"If that order is not executed,

Shahidul can submit an application to the CMM's court about the non-implementation of its order," he said.

The 63-year-old internationally acclaimed photographer is now in Dhaka central jail in a case filed under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act for "spreading propaganda and false information against the government".

Shahidul was picked up by law enforcers from his home in the capital's Dhanmondi area on the night of August 5. The following day, police filed the case against him.

He was placed on a seven-day remand after police produced him before a Dhaka court the same day, seeking a 10-day remand.

In court, Shahidul said he was tortured in custody. Police, however, denied the allegation.

Upon completion of his remand, he was sent to jail on August 13.

On September 4, a judge of the HC bench felt "embarrassed" to hear Shahidul's bail petition in the case against him.

The bench, however, did not disclose a reason for it.

## Detecting cancer

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The team behind the breakthrough is also making a prototype of the device and expects it to be ready next year.

This is the first time in the world that nonlinear optics is being used for diagnosing cancer, said Prof Yasmeen Haque, who led the team, while presenting the details of the technology at a press conference yesterday.

Nonlinear optics deals with the fundamental studies of the interaction of matter with intense light. After the discovery of lasers, this field flourished.

"In a few journals, we have seen detection of glucose or lipid concentrations in nonlinear way, but no one did it on cancer," Yasmeen said.

Prof Yasmeen, a physics teacher at SUST, said they have already applied for patents in the US and Bangladesh for "Method and system based nonlinear optical characteristic of body fluid for diagnosis on neoplasia".

Their applications had been accepted and the process for getting the patents has begun.

The team is part of a programme titled "Innovative Biomarker Detection System Using Nonlinear Optics" under Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) of the University Grants Commission. It was funded by the government and the World Bank.

At the press conference, organised by HEQEP and the education ministry at the International Mother Language Institute auditorium in the capital, team member Manash Kanti Biswas said when the laser hits the blood sample they pass an intense laser beam through the blood samples, serum, and observe if anything changes. There would be changes only if the person has cancer, he added.

It would take a few seconds to see the changes and around five minutes to get the results, said Manash, an associate professor of physics.

"It is instantaneous," he said, adding that the cancer detection using nonlinear optics method has not been done before.

He said they carried out experiments on blood samples from 40 people -- 30 cancer patients and 10 healthy people -- and the results were spot on.

"We would be able to detect cancer at the earliest," said Manash. If a person comes to know about the disease, he or she could take steps, he added.

The cost of the prototype device would be around Tk 25,000 and it would be a desktop device, he said.

Since 2016, a group of 25 researchers has been working on the project spending Tk 9 crore.

During the research, the university

## Detecting cancer

formed a dedicated team and now has a nonlinear optics research laboratory providing opportunities for physicists to conduct optical experiments.

Prof Yasmeen said all technologies related to this research, including the device, had been developed by her team. They even developed a disposable sample holder for Tk 500. They used to import it spending Tk 27,000, she said.

She said the method could be used for detecting other diseases too.

Prof Sharif Md Sharafuddin, another team member, said, "We cannot prevent deaths from cancer as the disease is detected at the last stage. But now maybe we would be able to detect cancer at early stages and therefore reduce the rate of deaths."

Addressing the press conference, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said, "Today is a historic day for Bangladesh ... it is a day to be proud."

A person needs to spend Tk 8,000 to Tk 10,000 for cancer diagnosis that takes 5 to 7 days. "But with the new invention, cancer detection will require only a few minutes ...," Nahid said.

This technique has not been tried before, the minister said hoping that this would lead to an entirely new way of investigating cancer.

The researchers said they would go for publications of their method in national and international journals soon.

UGC Chairman Prof Abdul Mannan, SUST Vice-Chancellor Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed, HEQEP Project Director Gauranga Chandra Mohanta, among others, addressed the press briefing.

## Govt ensured

FROM PAGE 1

The PM was addressing the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected mayors and councillors of Rajshahi and Sylhet city corporations at her office.

Hasina said Awami League mayoral candidate AHM Khairuzzaman Liton secured victory in Rajshahi, while BNP's Ariful Haque Chowdhury won in Sylhet. "Both have been sworn in at our function," she said.

The premier, also the AL chief, said people have achieved their voting rights and can elect candidates of their choice which has been proved now.

Noting that democracy means the voting rights of people which is a constitutional right, she said her government wants people to have their rights.

The government takes actions if any minor incident happens during an election, the PM said.

Hasina called upon the newly elected public representatives to work properly for the overall development of their respective areas.

She assured the mayors and councillors, irrespective of their political affiliations, of extending her all-out cooperation to them.

The premier, however, said no one would be spared on political consideration if any irregularities and corruption, instigation to militancy and terrorist activities take place.

Mentioning her government's plan to set up a medical university in Sylhet, she said her government never allocated budget for local bodies on political considerations.

She said the government made huge allocations for Sylhet City Corporation as well.

Stressing the need for a sustainable democratic system in the country, Hasina said a country can prosper under a democratic rule. Over the last 10 years, Bangladesh has been able to achieve tremendous success in every sector due to uninterrupted democracy, she added.

"Today, Bangladesh is recognised as a role model of development," the PM said, highlighting different socioeconomic development projects taken by her successive governments since 2009.

## BNP, Juktafront

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Badruddoza urged the government to deploy armed forces 30 days before the election and continue the deployment 10 days afterwards.

The government should scrap the requirement of permission for holding rallies in the country, he said.

Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain urged all democratic and non-communal forces to unite in effort to establish democracy.

"Those who gathered on this stage want to forge a national unity so that we can establish a pure democracy, an effective parliament and an accountable government.

"We'll unite against injustice. It is the nature of the Bangalees not to bow down to injustice. We must free ourselves from injustice," he said.

ASM Abdur Rob of JSD and Mahmudur Rahman Manna of Nagorik Oikya agreed to announce joint programmes soon.

Maj Gen (ret'd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim, Prof Dilara Chowdhury and Prof Asif Nazrul also spoke at the event.