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BANGLADESH'S CHOICE
2018

Of a farmer with passion for education

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Abdur Rashid is a marginal farmer revered and respected for a completely different role he has been playing for the last nine years in the remote village of Lalmonirhat's Dakkhin Dalgram Parshurampara.

The 60-year-old set up a school for children with special needs in 2011.

To do that, he gave up 20 decimal of his 35 decimal home-land, the only property he owns.

He built a tinted house with three rooms from his own coffer and with the support of locals, arranged specialised teachers motivated enough to volunteer like him for a "feel very happy" cause.

Rashid named it Kaliganj Pratibandhi Bidyalay, which is now bustling with 110 children; 25 mentally, 35 speeches and hearing, 20 visually and 25 physically challenged.

"I spend four to five hours in the school every day. When I sit with the children and teach them something new, they become extremely happy. It makes me happy too," Rashid said, adding that the time he passes with the kids gives him an unparalleled peace.

Festivity was all around when this reporter reached the farmer's school after a 40-kilometre ride from the district headquarters. The children were in the assembly and singing the national anthem before enjoying their education in those not too specious yet festive ambiances.

There are 20 teachers, including nine females, and 15 teacher's assistants, all provide voluntary service and

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Farmer Abdur Rashid taking care of and teaching children with physical and mental disabilities at the school he founded in 2011 at a remote village in Lalmonirhat's Kaliganj Upazila. The picture was taken recently.

PHOTO:
S DILIP ROY

Quader gradually improving

Doctors say

UNB, Dhaka

Condition of Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, who is undergoing treatment at Singapore's Mount Elizabeth Hospital, is gradually improving, said a Bangladeshi physician yesterday.

"His blood pressure has become normal while his kidneys are functioning normally and infections have come under control," said Prof Abu Nasar Rizvi of neuromedicine department at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), quoting a member of the medical board treating Quader.

Rizvi said Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, is now much better than Thursday as his condition was improving day by day. "Besides, his respiratory system is working without any artificial support."

Earlier, cardiothoracic surgeon Dr Sivathasan Kumaraswamy, a medical board member, held a briefing on the treatment of the ailing minister.

Quader's wife Isratunnesa Quader, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Singapore Mostafizur Rahman and Sheikh Helal, MP, were present at the briefing.

Medical board chief Dr Koh Siam Soon Philip, a senior consultant of cardiology department at Mount Elizabeth Hospital, will

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BANGLADESH-NZ 2ND TEST

Rain washes out Day One

SPORTS REPORTER

The first day of the second Test between Bangladesh and New Zealand was washed out without even the toss taking place at the Basin Reserve Stadium in Wellington yesterday. The match will now be a four-day affair which, among other implications, means that the margin to enforce the follow-on -- should the occasion arise -- will now be 150 rather than the

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Just a tap away

Drug admin app to help people find if medicines are fake or genuine; it can also be used to check prices, expiry date

MD FOISAL AHMED

With an app launched by the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), one can now find out if a drug is genuine or fake before purchase.

Not only that, the app will also help them know the actual price and date of expiry of the medicine.

The DGDA launched the app, made by Techno Vista, on January 7 as part of the government's Access to Information or a2i project. The app "DGDA Drug Verification" can be downloaded from the Google Play Store on android devices.

The authority is currently running the app as an experiment. It will be finalised after six months, said Md Mohid Islam, superintendent of drugs at the DGDA.

"A QR code generated by the DGDA is being placed on most-sold and anti-biotic

drugs of all pharmaceutical companies. One can scan the code with the app to find out the details [e.g. price, expiry date]," said Md Ruhul Amin, director at the DGDA.

"With this app, one can also inform the DGDA about any abnormality, for example, unusual side-effects," Ruhul told this paper, adding, "The idea dates back to 2014. It has been designed in line with the FDA guidelines of the USA."

"This app will raise consumer confidence. By scanning the code one can detect fake medicine and the findings are automatically saved in our servers. We will take prompt action following reports."

The app aims to make the market free of counterfeit drugs, he added.

Md Mehedi Hasan, national consultant of essential drugs and medicines at the World Health Organisation, said, "The app

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2 killed as picnic bus slams lorry

4 others hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Bagerhat

Two people were killed and four others injured as a bus carrying picnickers smashed into a lorry from behind on Khulna-Bagerhat highway in Bagerhat early yesterday.

The two dead are Garib Ullah, 40, and Kibria, 22, passengers of the bus that was heading towards Shaat Gombuj Mosque.

Sardar Masudur Rahman, deputy assistant director of Bagerhat fire service, said Garib died on the spot while Kibria breathed his last at Khulna Medical College Hospital.

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Bacteria that emit power captured



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Tiny creatures that can "eat" pollution and generate electricity in the process have been captured for the first time.

Scientists trekked into the depths of Yellowstone National Park to extract these bacteria, which are adapted to living in geysers and hot springs that can reach over 90C.

The so-called "electrogenic" microbes were targeted due to their ability to produce power, which experts hope could be harnessed in the

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 9

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-15 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30

JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Indigenous village chiefs of Bohmong Circle in Bandarban offering gifts to their king U Chaw Prue as they celebrate Raj Punnah, an annual revenue-collection programme.

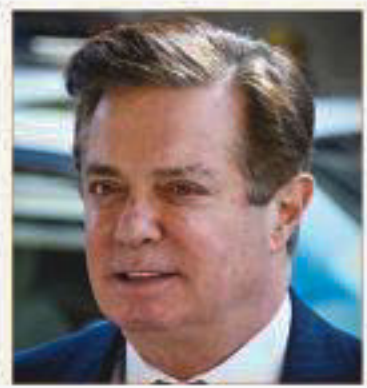
PHOTO:
SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

Ex-Trump campaign chief Manafort jailed for fraud

AFP, Alexandria

US President Donald Trump's former campaign chief Paul Manafort was sentenced to nearly four years in prison by a federal judge on Thursday for tax crimes and bank fraud in the highest profile case yet stemming from Special Counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation.

Judge TS Lewis immediately came under fire from Democratic lawmakers for



imposing what they described as a relatively light sentence on the 69-year-old Republican political consultant and lobbyist.

Prosecutors from the Special Counsel's office had argued for a stiff prison term for Manafort, the first target of the Mueller probe to be convicted in a criminal trial.

Ellis said that while Manafort had committed "very serious crimes," he had previously led an "otherwise blameless life" and

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