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SHAH CEMENT

CMC aims to make antivenom locally

First venom research starts in the country

ARUN BIKASH DEY and FOISAL AHMED

A research team, for the first time in Bangladesh, is studying native snake species aiming at mass-scale production of effective antivenom for local patients.

As part of the initiative, they are rearing and hatching poisonous snakes in a laboratory of the Venom Research Centre, being operated by the medicine department at Chitta-gong Medical College (CMC).

The researchers would collect venoms from the snakes, analyse their properties, and develop techniques to produce the antidote. If the sample antivenom meet the WHO standards, the government would go



for mass production. A total of 15 researchers from CMC, Chittagong University (CU), Goethe University of Germany, and Toxicology Society of Bangladesh are involved with the five-year project, which was launched in March 2018.

The centre is also breeding rats and lizards to feed the snakes with, and often adds one-day-old chickens to the reptiles' diet. The researchers have collected 60 snakes of three species (viper, cobra and krait) from different parts of the country.

Mizanur Rahman, an assistant researcher and zoology graduate of CU, said, "Apart from collecting snakes, we have hatched 34

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Activists of Chhatra League wield sharp weapons and sticks during a factional clash on Jahangirnagar University campus yesterday. At least 60 people, including two teachers, a reporter, and a police officer were injured. Story on page 5.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Rahul resigns as Congress party leader

AFP, New Delhi

Rahul Gandhi yesterday quit as head of India's main opposition Congress party, taking the blame for a second-straight election humiliation by right-wing Hindu nationalist Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Accountability is critical for the future growth of our party. It is for this reason that I have resigned as Congress president," he said in a statement on his official Twitter account.

The 49-year-old, who was seeking to become the fourth member of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty to become prime minister, had been Congress president since December 2017.

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Biman to further spread its wings

Plans to fly to China's Guangzhou and reopen flights to other cities as 2 more Boeing 787-8 Dreamliners set to join fleet

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Biman is hoping to fly to China's Guangzhou from this September and two new destinations in Europe and Saudi Arabia by this year end.

The move comes as two Boeing 787-8 Dreamliners Biman had bought are to join its fleet by September.

The national flag carrier is also considering reopening flights to Sri Lanka's Colombo and Male in the Maldives and increasing flight frequencies on existing routes, said a top marketing department official of Biman.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

City doctor dies from dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female doctor died of dengue fever at a city hospital yesterday. She is the third patient to have died of the disease in the country since January.

Nigar Nahid Dipu, junior consultant of the radiology and imaging department at Kuwait-Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital in the capital's Uttara, breathed her last at the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Wasa water has arsenic, chlorine

Water in 4 out of 10 Wasa zones contaminated, govt test finds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wasa water in the capital's four out of 10 zones are contaminated with arsenic and chlorine, according to a government report submitted to the attorney general's office.

The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development collected Wasa water samples from 34 areas in 10 zones and had them tested at the laboratories of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Dhaka University and International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Re-search, Bangladesh.

Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sazu, who received the test findings, told The Daily Star last night that the water supplied to the rest

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6



China builds world's first intelligent tanker

MAIL ONLINE

A Chinese state-owned shipmaker has built an enormous oil tanker which has a "smart" system to manage its liquid cargo.

The ship's advanced on-board system is capable of carrying out various tasks, from mapping out

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING JULY 4

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-10	12-45	5-00	6-55	8-17
JAMAAT 4-45	1-15	5-15	7-00	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

TOMORROW

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18th

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DHL The Daily Star

AWARDING EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



N. R. Narayana Murthy
Founder, Infosys Limited

Narayana Murthy has been listed among the 12 greatest entrepreneurs of our time by Fortune magazine. He has been described as the "Father of the Indian IT sector" by Time magazine due to his contribution to outsourcing in India. Murthy has also been honoured with the Padma Vibhushan and Padma Shri awards. He is also the author of many notable books including The Wit and Wisdom of Narayana Murthy, Mere Business Mantra, A Better India, Behtar Bharat : Behtar Duniya, A Clear Blue Sky, Pudhiya Kanavugal, Pudhiya India, Mikacha India Mikavutta Lokam.

Marking the 18th anniversary of Bangladesh Business Awards, we will once again recognize the best in our business world. We are proud to be partners of our corporate world's rise to global recognition.

Join us as we celebrate their success.*

*Attendance by invitation