

3 Rohingya

FROM PAGE 12
through the border around 4:00am, the BGB men signalled them to stop. But the smugglers opened fire, forcing them to retaliate, triggering a "gunfight", said Haider.

At one stage, the yaba smugglers managed to flee the scene.

Later, BGB members found the trio with bullet wounds. They were declared dead after being taken to Ukhaia Upazila Health Complex, he added.

BGB members also recovered three lakh yaba pills, two pipe guns and five cartridges from the spot, the official said.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the BGB claims.

Rodents feel

FROM PAGE 12
One or two bystanders, who were rendered unhelpful by giving them a low dose of the anti-anxiety drug midazolam, were then added to the scenario.

In the presence of these unhelpful bystanders, a rat that had previously been helpful in a one-on-one interaction now stood by idly and did not rescue the subject.

On the other hand, when undrugged, helpful bystanders were placed at the scene, a rat that had been helpful one-on-one became even more keen on being a good Samaritan.

"I think this is a very apt study for the times," said Mason, pointing to how during recent US protests against police racism, protesters rushed to aid injured peers while police stood by.

"In the George Floyd case, there were three other police officers, including one who went into the police force to change the narrative about police brutality against black people -- and nonetheless, he stood by and did not intervene," she added.

Mason likened these officers to the drugged rats, "except they didn't take the chill pill, they took years of training."

If a person does not help, "that individual is less likely to be a bad apple and more likely to just be an apple in the orchard, the orchard of mammalian behavior. This is what we do."

The term "bystander effect" was first coined by psychologists after the 1964 murder of Catherine "Kitty" Genovese in New York, whose death was reportedly witnessed by more than 35 of her neighbors, none of whom intervened.

The story was later found to be highly misleading -- but the basic finding held up in controlled experiments where human subjects were placed in distressing situations, such as smoke entering the room or a person having a seizure.

When bystanders were added to these scenarios, members of the public who weren't a part of the experiment often failed to respond.

This led psychologists to hypothesize that perhaps people weren't willing to take responsibility when others were present.

Mason's team believes that in humans, as for rats, the decision to help or not is more likely linked to the brain's internal reward circuitry than it is to notions of who should be responsible.

10 more die

FROM PAGE 12
with cold, fever, chest pain, and breathing problems, said Assistant Surgeon Istiaque Zaman Chowdhury, adding that they were aged between 38 and 65.

The dead are residents of different parts of the district.

With the 10, 199 people have so far breathed their last at the hospital. Of them, 164 died with coronavirus symptoms and 35 after they tested coronavirus positive.

The authorities said 17 new patients were admitted to the hospital in the last 24 hours as of 8:00am Thursday. Twenty-four patients were discharged from the hospital during the period.

At present, there are 114 patients at the coronavirus unit. Of them, 26 are Covid-19 positive and 88 are with coronavirus symptoms.

So far, 1,000 patients have been admitted to the unit, and 700 of them were already released.

Bring back

FROM PAGE 12
only early recovery but also is making spectacular progress every month so far as its operational efficiency in respect of shipping and cargo-handling is concerned. This was possible due to relentless effort made by the port authority and gratuitous assistance given by the Soviet salvage team to bring back the port to normalcy. The Karnaphuli, which became blocked due to sunken vessels, has now almost been cleared for ships to navigate.

CHINA HAPPY OVER SIMLA AGREEMENT

Chinese Premier Chou En-Lai welcomes the India-Pakistan Agreement in Simla as an important development which would lead to peace and stability in the region.

SOURCES: July 11, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.



Medical volunteers wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) gear take temperature reading of a woman as they conduct a door-to-door medical screening inside Dharavi slums to fight against the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, in Mumbai, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

MP's arrest abroad

FROM PAGE 1
TDS: You recently said he was arrested as a businessman, not lawmaker. What did you mean by this?

AAM: According to our information, he was not travelling with a diplomatic passport. Our ambassador was aware that he was doing business in Kuwait. I did not say he is a Kuwait citizen.

When a lawmaker travels abroad, they usually carry a diplomatic passport. I don't know why he did not do that.

TDS: Regardless of the type of passport being carried, doesn't the identity as a lawmaker give one's actions some level of significance?

AAM: A lawmaker, elected by the people, is a respectable person. They have responsibilities. It is really unfortunate when such a responsible person gets involved in corruption. We have a zero-tolerance policy against human trafficking and money laundering.

TDS: You are talking about zero-tolerance. Is there any legal action being taken against Shahid Islam alias Papul?

AAM: You better ask the law ministry. The foreign ministry is involved here because he is now in a foreign country.

TDS: It is happening at a time when Bangladeshi expatriates are facing difficulties. Around 2.5 lakh of them face the grim prospect of being deported from Kuwait. You have spent most of your time abroad over the years. As the foreign minister, what will you do to overcome this crisis?

AAM: We are doing a lot. Most of our expats, nearly 80 percent, are in the Middle Eastern countries. We, along with the expatriates welfare and other ministries, have taken a number of steps.

Firstly, we have talked with the expatriates, and told them to stay put despite the difficulties posed by such trying times. We told them better days will come. We talked to the government of those countries. We requested them to ensure that these people do not die of hunger during the pandemic. They agreed to provide healthcare and food support [to our workers]. We have also sent money and relief goods for them.

TDS: How much money has been distributed so far?

AAM: Several crore Taka. Besides, the embassies have also distributed food... during lockdowns. Our migrants -- both legal or illegal ones -- never register their contact details with our foreign missions. Our mission officials worked day and night to reach as many people as they could and distributed the goods.

TDS: Bangladeshi expatriates largely remain detached from our missions across the world.

AAM: It is the responsibility of every migrant to register their name with our mission office in the country they have travelled to. For example, if you are an American and have travelled to another country, it is your responsibility to inform the mission office how long you will be staying there.

TDS: The US embassies take their citizens' responsibilities. There are

allegations that our embassies do not do that.

AAM: I think that is an exaggeration. You go to any of our foreign missions. You will get respect from them. The allegations are baseless. Anyways, let's talk about what we actually are doing.

We have told the government of those countries that if a worker gets fired, make sure the worker gets six months' salary and other benefits. And if possible, employ the workers in other jobs. After the pandemic, food crises might become an issue. Our workers can be employed in farming.

TDS: Please name the countries you have talked to and the ones that agreed to give what you asked for.

AAM: I have talked with most governments of the Middle Eastern countries. Talked with Malaysia and Singapore. We have also talked with countries where there is a large number of Bangladeshi expats.

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