

# Explore alternative sources of vaccine

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He said six Covid-19 vaccines were already in the market while another 14 were in the pipeline.

He mentioned that several of these vaccines would be safer, effective and viable for countries like Bangladesh in the coming days.

He recommended increasing the chances of getting vaccines from other potential sources. "Political, diplomatic, and economic drives increase the probability of getting vaccines ... This discussion is not under my jurisdiction. But from the scientific point of view, we can increase our potentiality to get

vaccines either by inventing locally or taking part in researches along with others ... Currently, Bangladesh is now among the 10 best countries worthy of conducting trials. We should make the best use of it."

In his presentation, Prof Sayedur, also member of the Ethics Committee of the Bangladesh Medical Research Council, lauded the government's National Vaccine Deployment Plan. "... But the success of the vaccination programme depends on the acceptability of vaccines. If the vaccination programme is not based on science and social context, it will

fail. Here, transparency is the key ...

"It is important that people don't think that there is any disparity in vaccination," he said.

Echoing the view, public health expert Abu Zamil Faisal said, "If we take part in phase-III vaccine trials, getting vaccines will be easier in future. The private sector can be encouraged in this regard."

"If a portion of the population do not want to take the vaccines, then what will be done? We should think of it now," he said.

Connecting to the event via online, Prof Meerjady Sabrina

Flora, additional director general of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), spoke about their preparation for vaccinating people upon availability of the shots.

"We have made the priority list considering different issues ... The making of an app for the registration was at the final stage. We've already provided necessary training to our manpower and procurement of logistics was underway," she said.

Commenting on Prof Flora's remarks, Prof Rashid-E-Mahbub, former president of the BMA, said, "We don't know when the app will

be ready. We also don't know whether people will be able to access the app."

Coming down heavily on the government's deal with Beximco Pharmaceutical Ltd on vaccine procurement, he said, "It is not clear who is bringing the vaccines -- Beximco or the government? The government said the vaccine will be free of cost. But for whom, please clarify."

Joining the event online, former health minister AFM Ruhul Haque also spoke in favour of exploring other sources of vaccines and more collaboration to implement the vaccine deployment plan.

Prof Syed Abdul Hamid of Dhaka University's health economics said, "The country has the financial capacity to procure vaccines. But it is important to think of whether people will take the vaccines or not."

Presided over by BHRF President Toufiq Maruf, BMA President Prof Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and Swachip president MA Aziz also spoke at the event, among others.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Zahid Maleque at another event yesterday said many countries were eager to give vaccines to Bangladesh. "We have kept our doors open for all," he said.

# Police looking for a missing security guard

FROM PAGE 1

where the girl was taken at first, said the accused and another young man brought the girl in a car.

Doctors said she died before they reached the hospital.

The girl's father filed a case with Kalabagan Police Station, accusing 18-year-old Fardin Iftekhar Dihan who recently passed A levels.

Meanwhile, grieving family members of the girl yesterday asked why three friends of the accused were released by police.

At his village home in Kushtia, the father told reporters that Kalabagan police didn't name the three friends as accused in the case, saying that the case would be "weak" if they did.

Abul Hasan said police released them because they didn't find any involvement of the trio. "We investigate all possible things linked to an incident. We have found evidence at the crime scene."

He added that officers might examine whether the accused took any drugs that day, he added.

Police have collected CCTV footage from all possible sources and are examining the mobile phones of the accused.

Sohel Mahmud, head of forensic department at Dhaka Medical College, told reporters that doctors found evidence of rape and injury marks on the girl's body. He added that the girl

died due to hemorrhagic shock and excessive bleeding.

A Dhaka court recorded Dihan's confessional statement on Friday and sent him to jail.

After her death, Kalabagan police requested the DMC forensic department to find out the age of the victim and mentioned in the inquest report that she was 19.

Her mother alleged that when she objected and showed police her daughter's passport, the policemen got angry and left the body at the morgue for hours.

Contacted, police said the hospital document mentioned her age as 19.

Mohammed Aseer Intisar Saarim,

emergency medical officer at Anwer Khan hospital, said, "She was brought dead. I asked the accused what happened to her. He said she was his girlfriend... he insisted that I write her age as 19... I said she looked younger. But he objected. Later, the victim's mother came and said she was 17."

The girl was laid to rest at a graveyard in Gopalpur, Kushtia, following a namaz-e-janaza attended by thousands of people.

Locals formed a human chain on both sides of the road in Kamalapur Bazar demanding justice.

Grieving friends of the girl lit candles in her memory on Dhanmondi-27 and demanded changes in education.

"We want everyone directly or indirectly linked with the rape to be investigated," said Neha Zaman, a friend of the girl.

Besides demanding justice, the students and parents also demanded sex education and institutional interventions to teach boys about respect and gender.

"Sex education is a taboo in our school. The teachers feel awkward," said Neha.

Her friends Rudmila and Afrin said the educational institutes have not been their allies while some teachers were victim-blaming by questioning why the girl went to the boy's apartment.

Mumtahina Ritu, a parent with two children in the school, said, "Sex education in schools is needed in this day and age. Secrecy is of no use, because our children learn about sex from other sources. Guardians need to talk to their children about sex."

Boys and girls also need to be taught about abuse at the schools, she added.

Sharmin Iffa, whose son was a close friend of the girl, stated that parents needed to be more involved in their children's lives. "The girl used to come to my house as well, because she was friends with my son. It was up to me to make sure that they were all safe."

## Parvej Akon passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Parvej Akon Biplob, a well-known politician in Barishal, died of cardiac arrest early yesterday, aged 50.

He was president of Barishal city unit of Jubo Dal, youth wing of BNP. Former vice president (VP) of Government Barishal College, Parvej had long been involved in "Khelagar".

His namaz-e-janaza was held on Manik Mia School premises on Sadar Road in Barishal at 2pm. He was later buried in his family graveyard at "Akon Villa" on the city's Kawnia Main Road.

During the ongoing pandemic, Parvej provided oxygen cylinders, relief materials, masks and sanitizers to the people in need.

BNP district and city units, Barishal Bar Association, Khelaghor, Barishal Reporters Unity and many other organisations have expressed condolences over his death.

## A leading

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Muniruzzaman died on November 24 last year at the age of 71, while undergoing treatment at his Shantinagar home in the capital after he tested positive for Covid-19.

"Muniruzzaman was an honest and devoted journalist, and a person of great wisdom. Had he been alive, the newspaper industry, as well as the media, might have gotten even stronger," said Information Minister Hasan Mahmud.

He remembered contributions of Muniruzzaman, a freedom fighter, in the process of formation of the nation and state.

The minister also urged the parishad to take steps to keep Muniruzzaman's memory alive.

Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiuur Rahman, who initiated Muniruzzaman into left-leaning politics during his student life, said Muniruzzaman was a "brave activist" of student and trade union movements as well as in national politics.

He said Muniruzzaman was always involved in movements for establishing an exploitation-free society and democracy. "Losing such a person is a great loss for all of us," he said.

The Daily Sangbad Editor Altamash Kabir said Muniruzzaman made a significant

contribution to the society. He was a brave and non-communal editor and an out-and-out gentleman. "His passing away is an irreparable loss," he said.

Founding member of the parishad Reazuddin Ahmed termed Muniruzzaman a devoted and honest person.

"He tried to take journalism ahead with his integrity and honesty. During and after the formation of Sampadak Parishad, we took his help in preparing drafts of various critical and tough subjects," he said.

His childhood friend Mujahidul Islam Selim, now president of Communist Party of Bangladesh, recalled his contributions to the country's Liberation War and how he performed vital duties during the war.

"Muniruzzaman was a poet; he always inspired his friends... He always remained at the frontline of movements," Selim said.

Liberation War Museum Trustee and Publisher Mofidul Hoque, another childhood friend of Muniruzzaman, said he was a responsible journalist and editor.

He expressed his gratitude towards Sampadak Parishad for arranging such a memorial meeting.

Muniruzzaman's wife Rukia Khatoon said her husband was a versatile man. "The Daily Sangbad was his life. He always upheld the values of our Liberation War," she said.

"He was an advocate of freedom of speech and always thought about the betterment of journalism. He was also upset about the passage of the Digital Security Act," she said.

She sought write-ups on Muniruzzaman, as the family is planning to publish a memorial book on the veteran journalist in March.

Sampadak Parishad Secretary General and Bangladesh Protidin Editor Naem Nizam said, "Muniruzzaman was a positive thinker. He was always there to extend help and encouragement."

The parishad's President and The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said they will think of steps to keep the memory of the predecessor editors alive.

"Muniruzzaman never thought about himself; rather he always thought about an exploitation-free, democratic and non-communal society," he added.

At the onset of the meeting, organisers held a minute's silence and aired a brief photo documentary on the life of the celebrated

journalist.

The Daily Samakal Acting Editor Mustafiz Shafi; Editor and Publisher of Bonik Barta Dewan Hanif Mahmud and Dhaka Tribune Editor Zafar Sobhan, also spoke at the event.

They said Muniruzzaman was a genial, approachable and compassionate person. He was a skilled editor.

The Daily Ittefaq Editor Tasmima Hossain and New Age Editor Nurul Kabir, among others, also participated in the meeting.

Born on March 12, 1948 in Dhaka, Muniruzzaman started leftist activism in his student life and took part in the movement opposing Ayub Khan and other Pakistani rulers. He started his career in journalism in 1970 as a reporter of Weekly Ekota, the mouthpiece of the Communist Party of Bangladesh.

He was one of the founding members of Trade Union Centre and later became CPB Dhaka committee's general secretary.

He was in-charge of the editorial department of the Daily Sangbad for many years and was the acting editor of the newspaper since January 2010.

Muniruzzaman was also famous for his well-written columns and political analyses.

## Vehicle registration

FROM PAGE 3

Truck registration saw the highest decline. Some 3,900 trucks were registered across the country while it was 5,293 in previous year.

A total of 3.11 lakh motorcycle were registered across the country last year while the number was four lakhs in 2019.

Ibrahim Khalil, assistant director of BRTA, said registration process of vehicles remained halted completely for more than two months during the shutdown, and later they resumed the operation gradually.

Owners of private cars have to pay more than previous years as advance income tax, he said. Besides, people's overall economic condition deteriorated due to the pandemic, he added.

"All these reasons are to blame for the decline of the vehicle registration," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Noted economist Ahsan H Mansur said there was a declining trend of registration of private cars and microbuses in the country for last few years.

New and reconditioned cars and microbuses getting registered with BRTA continued to drop across the country for the third consecutive year.

Ahsan, also the executive director of Policy Research Institute of Bangladesh, said high import tax and maintenance cost, lack of parking facilities and growing popularity of ridesharing services are reasons behind the drop in car and microbus registration.

Transport experts, however, see the trend as a ray of hope for reducing the capital's traffic congestion. They blame cars for taking up road space while carrying fewer people than larger vehicles.

## 626 children

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exams, anger, problems in relationship, harassment, rape or attempted rape, and cyber blackmailing.

MJF analysis of news reports consisted of 330 positive news in 12 categories and 1,361 negative news items in 28 categories.

The press conference titled "Bangladesh Child Situation 2020" was moderated by MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam. She said according to MJF analysis, children are not safe in their own homes.

Shaheen Anam called upon all government agencies engaged in child protection to be more responsible and work together for protection of children's rights.

Muhibuzzaman, joint secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs,

was a special guest at the conference. He said the crisis in child safety is worrying. He suggested addressing the existing problems through social mobilisation.

Member of the Caucus on Child Rights of the Bangladesh Parliament, Aroma Dutta MP, -- the chief guest -- highlighted the need for a separate ministry or department of child affairs to work closely for the protection of children's rights.

Dutta called upon all to work together for policy formulation, performance and intensive supervision of work.

Fatema Yusuf, MJF governing board member; Rafeza Shaheen, coordinator, Child Protection Division, MJF; various MJF partners, among others, spoke at the event.

## Listed

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ties with local influential people including politicians.

Police are also looking for Nuru's accomplices and those who sheltered him, said the official.

DC Faruque said eight cases against Nuru are currently under investigation.

Asked about the "mysterious disappearance" of the court's conviction warrant, he said police are looking into it.

## US envoy

FROM PAGE 3

which is being seen as the blackest day for democracy in US history. In the follow up, US lawmakers are demanding impeachment of the Republican President, while some cabinet members and officials of the Trump administration have resigned in protest of the violence.

"Those who committed violent, criminal acts of terror against our democracy are being arrested and will be held accountable in accordance with the rule of law," the Ambassador said.

Miller thanked those citizens of Bangladesh who have sent messages of support during this difficult time.

"Thank you for your friendship and partnership and our shared commitment to democracy," he said.

"Together we respect to charting a path toward justice, lawfulness and respect for each other and the nation we love," he said.

## 6,686 people

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transport for more than two months in 2020. If we take this into consideration we can see the situation has not really improved," he said.

In the absence of heavier public transport, small vehicles like battery-run easy-bikes dominated the highways, resulting in relatively more accidents, he added.

However, the numbers reported by Jatri Kalyan Samity is significantly higher than a report by Nirapad Sarak Chai, the pioneering road safety campaign in Bangladesh.

According to Nirapad Sarak Chai, at least 3,800 people were killed and 4,954 were injured in 3,232 road crashes.

Samity's report blamed reckless driving, risky overtaking, fault in road design, unfit vehicles, passengers and pedestrians' ignorance, use of mobile phones or headphone while driving vehicles, drunk driving, occupied footpaths and poor enforcement of law for the road crashes.

According to the report, road crash victims include 1,392 pedestrians, 1,390 drivers, 375 students, 355 transport workers, 92 teachers, 418 children, 15 army and 52 police personnel.

A total of 6,736 vehicles were involved in the crashes. Of them, 13.12 percent were buses, 28.39 percent trucks and covered vans, and 24.80 percent were motorcycles.

In the report, the platform provided several recommendations to prevent road accidents.

Invitation for Re-Tenders				
Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka				
1	Procuring entity name	Program to Support Safety Retrofits and Environmental Upgrades in the Bangladeshi Ready-Made Garments (RMG) Sector Project (SREUP), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.		
2	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.		
3	Invitation for	Procurement of IT Equipment for SREUP, SMESPD, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office.		
4	Invitation Ref. No.	SMESPD/(SREUP)/714/08/2021-01		
5	Date	10/01/2021		
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
6	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.		
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
7	Budget and source of fund	SREUP.		
8	Development partners (if applicable)	EU, AFD, KfW and GIZ.		
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
9	Project/program code (if applicable)	2230322		
10	Project/program name (if applicable)	Program to Support Safety Retrofits and Environmental Upgrades in the Bangladeshi Ready-Made Garments (RMG) Sector Project (SREUP).		
<b>Date</b>				
11	Tender publication date	Date	Time	
12	Tender closing date and time	19/01/2021	03:00pm	
13	Tender opening date and time	19/01/2021	03:15pm	
<b>Address</b>				
14	Name and address of the office(s)	<b>Address</b>		
	-Receiving tender document	Hard Copy Document, SREUP, SME & Special Programmes Department, 21st Floor, 2nd Annex Building, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.		
	-Opening tender document	SREUP, SME & Special Programmes Department, 21st Floor, 2nd Annex Building, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.		
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>				
15	Brief eligibility of tenderer	Tenderers having 3 years overall business experience and minimum specific experience as supplier in supply of similar goods of at least two (2) contracts of similar nature successfully completed within the last three (3) years.		
16	Brief description of goods of works	Supply, Installation, Commissioning of Seven (07) Laptops, Five (5) Desktop Computers, Two (2) Laser Printers, One (1) Legal page scanner with ADF facility, One (01) Multimedia projector, One (01) Photocopier, One (01) Shredder and applicable Consumables & Accessories for SREUP PMU, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.		
17	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Completion time in weeks/month from the date of contract signing
	01	(a) Laptop (b) Desktop Computer (c) Laser Jet Printer (d) Legal Size Scanner (e) Multimedia Projector (f) Photocopier (g) Shredder (h) Consumables & Accessories	SREUP PMU	30,000/- 8 weeks
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>				
18	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Abdul Mannan.		
19	Designation of official inviting tender	General Manager & Project Director (SREUP).		
20	Address of official inviting tender	SREUP PMU, SME & Special Programmes Department, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.		
21	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel: 9530715	E-mail: abdul.mannan@bb.org.bd	
22	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders or annul the tender proceedings.			
DCP: 48/2021-70 Date: 07/01/2021				
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