



PEOPLE WITH DOWN SYNDROME

# Hardly any protection, inclusion

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Zaheda was rushed to a private clinic in Chandpur district's Shahrasti upazila on May 24 last year.

The 24-year-old has Down Syndrome, and due to the genetic disorder, she has speech impairment. Her lean body and deformed limbs obstruct her physical development and mobility.

However, these were not the reasons why she was taken to the hospital. The doctors at the clinic found that Zehada was 36 weeks' pregnant and she would require a caesarean section for safe delivery of her child. She was not married and could not tell how she got pregnant because of her impaired speech.

Zaheda used to live with her elder brother, Manik Mia, a rickshaw puller. Her parents were dead.

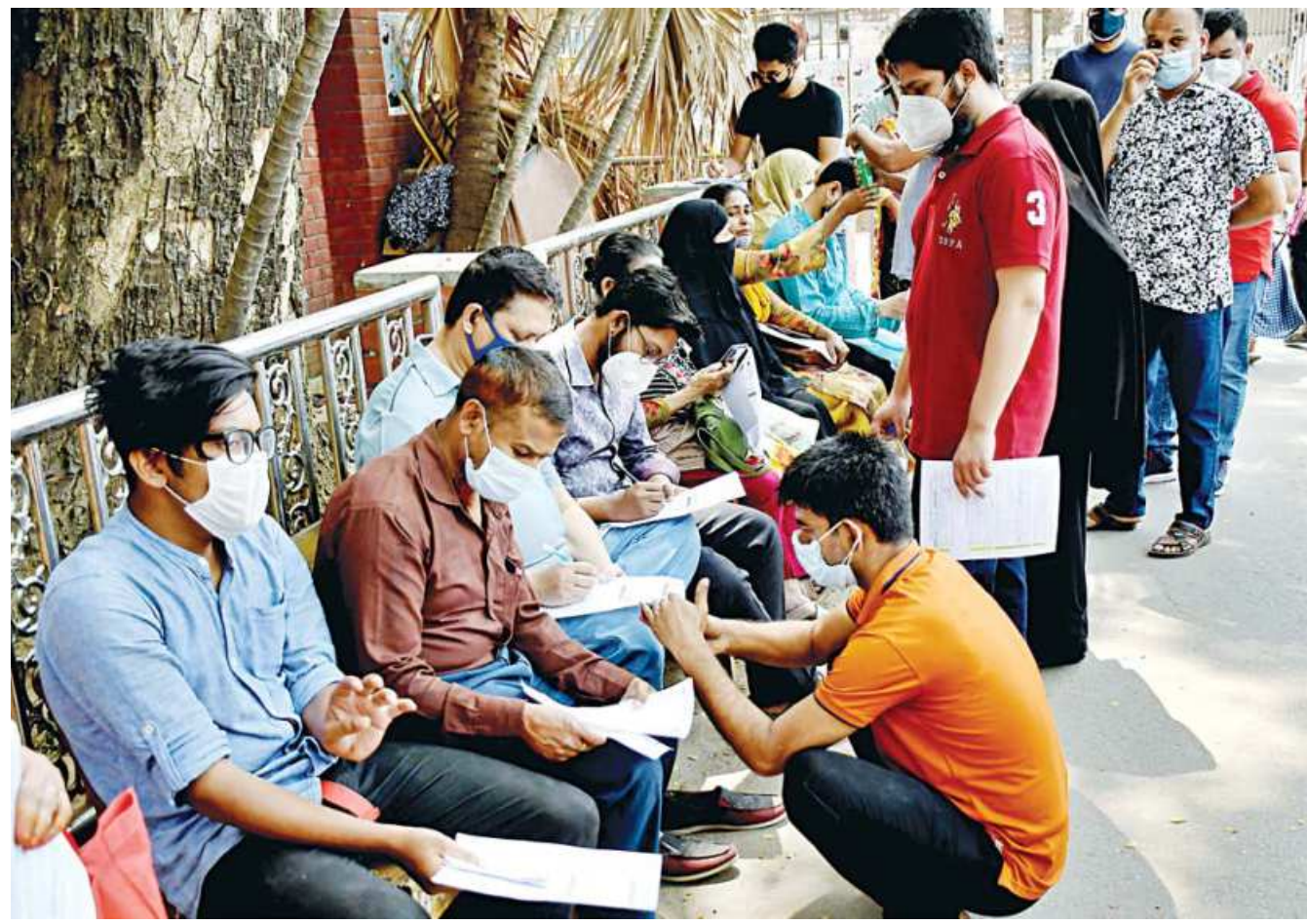
Manik said his sister used to stay at home all day, but sometimes she used to go for walks in the village. He thinks she might have been raped during one of her excursions.

"Everybody used to treat my sister with sympathy. I never thought someone could be so vile as to do this to her," said Manik.

On May 25, Zaheda was transferred to Cumilla Medical College Hospital where she gave birth to a healthy baby boy. She got some financial and medical assistances from Down Syndrome Society of Bangladesh (DSB).

A case has also been filed seeking protection for Zaheda and her child.

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People queuing up in front of Shaheed Suhrawardi Medical College Hospital for Covid-19 test. Sample collection centres are seeing a rise on the number of test seekers as the country witnesses a sharp rise in the number of new coronavirus cases. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Bangladeshi killed allegedly in BSF firing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

With marks of bullet wounds, the body of a Bangladeshi man was seen lying on the Indian side of the border near Juri upazila of Moulvibazar yesterday, said locals.

The locals identified the deceased as Bappa Miya, 30, a cattle trader, who lived in a village of the district's Fultala union. They suspect that he was shot dead by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF).

Talking to this correspondent, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members, however, said they were yet to confirm whether the man was a Bangladeshi and how he died.

Subedar Delwar Hossain, commander of BGB-52 Battalion's Fultala camp, said communications between SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

## Huji set up 'madrasa' to train children

Finds CTTC investigation

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Investigators have found that banned militant outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami (Huji) was giving training to children in the guise of running a madrasa.

For this purpose, Huji had taken lease of a piece of land in a remote hilly area of Bandarban after collecting funds from sympathisers.

The Huji's "operations wing" head, Mohammad Mainul Islam alias Mahin alias Mithu alias Hasan, used to operate the training activities. Identifying himself as a "journalist", he took lease of the land, said investigators of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit.

Mainul had managed an identity card from a media outlet in Dhaka. He used to collect information about Huji's target using the identity.

CTTC officials claimed to have discovered the Huji training camp and learnt about its activities following the arrest of Mainul and his two associates

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## ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### Bhutto faces mass opposition in Dhaka



Protest against Bhutto's visit in Dhaka on March 21, 1971.

MARCH 21, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### MUJIB-YAHYA UNSCHEDULED MEETING

In an unscheduled meeting, Yahya today told Mujib and Tajuddin that Bhutto had been informed that the representatives of the Awami League and the government had reached an agreement on the

formation of central cabinet and that Bhutto should be present for discussion on the interim constitutional instrument and cabinet formation. Mujib in reply told that if Bhutto were going to become a part of the discussion, the AL no longer wanted a cabinet at the national level. However, Bhutto's involvement in the appointment

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## COUP IN MYANMAR

### Protests on defying campaign of fear

One more killed

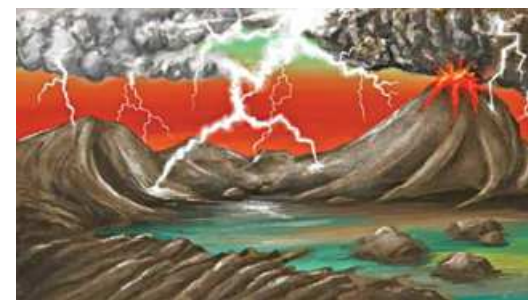
AGENCIES

Protesters returned to the streets across Myanmar yesterday, defying a junta-led campaign of fear as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres again condemned the killing of demonstrators and arbitrary arrests there.

A young man was shot and killed in one of the most turbulent neighbourhoods of the main city of Yangon, a resident and media reported, taking the death toll since the Feb. 1 coup to 238, according to a tally by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners activist group.

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## Lightning may have sparked life on Earth



CNN ONLINE

Millions of lightning strikes may have been just what life needed to begin on Earth, according to a new study.

One of the key ingredients needed for life as we know it is phosphorus -- and the multitude of lightning strikes that happened when Earth was young 4 billion years ago may have unlocked the necessary amount of phosphorus to create the foundation for life.

Phosphorus is needed in the molecules that SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Man held for raping girl with challenges

Teen accused of rape in Jashore

STAR REPORT

A teenage boy was sued over the rape of a minor girl in Jashore yesterday, while a man was arrested on charge of raping a mentally challenged girl in Noakhali.

In a separate incident, a private tutor was arrested on Friday night for raping his female student in Sirajganj.

The accused of Jashore is a 12-year-old resident of Chhoto Haibatpur village in the district's Sadar upazila, said police.

The victim's family members alleged that the neighbouring boy took the 5-year-old girl to his home luring her with chocolate SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Gas being discharged from AC compressors at a store in the capital's Dholaikhal area yesterday. The people who are doing it seem to care little about the environment and run their recycle and repair businesses occupying pavements and streets.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Modi wishes Imran Khan 'speedy recovery'

AFP, New Delhi

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished his Pakistani arch-rival Imran Khan a "speedy recovery" from Covid-19 yesterday, in a new sign of a thaw between the neighbours.

Since agreeing to halt hostilities on their disputed Kashmir border last month, the nuclear-armed rivals have shown signs of wanting to improve relations.

Earlier, Pakistan's Health Minister Faisal Sultan said Khan was "in good health" with a mild cough and fever and was self-isolating at home.

The 68-year-old former top cricketer received a shot of the Chinese-produced Sinopharm vaccine on Thursday, as the country battles a third wave of the virus.

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**PRAYER TIMING MARCH 21**

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-55 12-45 4-45 6-16 7-45

JAMAAT 5-30 1-15 5-00 6-20 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**মুজিব চিরন্তন**

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের  
জন্মশতবার্ষিকী ও স্বাধীনতার সুবর্ণজয়ন্তী  
উদযাপন উপলক্ষ্যে অনুষ্ঠানমালা  
স্থান: জাতীয় প্যারেড স্কয়ার  
২১শে মার্চ ২০২১, রবিবার

**থিম (Theme): ধ্বংসস্তুপে জীবনের গান**

সময়	কর্মসূচি
বিকাল ৫:১৫	জাতীয় সংগীত পরিবেশনা মুজিব চিরন্তন থিমের ওপর টাইটেল এ্যানিমেশন ভিডিও আবহ সংগীত (থিম সং ভিডিও প্রদর্শন) স্বাগত সম্বাষণ ও সম্মেলনা: ড. হাছান মাহমুদ এম.পি, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী, তথ্য ও সম্প্রচার মন্ত্রণালয় থিমভিত্তিক ভিডিও প্রদর্শনী থিমভিত্তিক আলোচনা: জনাব ওবায়দুল কাদের এম.পি, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী, সড়ক পরিবহন ও সেতু মন্ত্রণালয় থিমভিত্তিক আলোচনা: ড. সৈয়দ আনোয়ার হোসেন সম্মানিত অতিথির ধারণকৃত বক্তব্য: জর্ডানের মহামান্য বাদশাহর পক্ষে উপপ্রধানমন্ত্রী এবং পররাষ্ট্রমন্ত্রী আইমান সাফাদি আলোচনা পর্ব সমাপ্তি
সন্ধ্যা ৬.০০	সংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান
সময়	কর্মসূচি
সন্ধ্যা ৬.৩০	বঙ্গবন্ধুকে উৎসর্গ করে বন্ধু রাষ্ট্রের সংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠানের ধারণকৃত ভিডিও পরিবেশনা (চীন) মুজিব চিরন্তন থিমের ওপর টাইটেল এ্যানিমেশন ভিডিও থিমভিত্তিক সিজি এ্যানিমেশন ভিডিও ক্যানভাসে বঙ্গবন্ধুর সাড়ে তিন বছর: শূন্য থেকে মহাশূন্যে (কাব্য, সুর ও ছন্দে কোরিওগ্রাফি) বঙ্গবন্ধুর নবজীবনের ডাক: ধূসর বাংলা থেকে সবুজ বাংলা (পালা, জারি ও গম্ভীরা পরিবেশনা) বিশ্বনেতা ও বিশ্বনাগরিকের সাথে মেলবন্ধন- (মিউজিক কোরিওগ্রাফি) নারী জাগরণ ও নারীর ক্ষমতায়নে বঙ্গবন্ধু- (থিয়েট্রিক্যাল কোরিওগ্রাফি) শিশু বিকাশে বঙ্গবন্ধু: আলো আমার আলো- (১০০ জন শিশু শিল্পীর পরিবেশনায়) শিল্প-সাহিত্য ও সংস্কৃতির ক্ষেত্রে নবজাগরণ: শিল্পের সকল বাহনের উৎকর্ষ সাধন বঙ্গবন্ধুকে নিয়ে নাটক: ২৮৮ দিন আন্তর্জাতিক সংগীত ধারার সাথে সমন্বয় রেখে ব্যাত সংগীতের জাগরণ

জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের জন্মশতবার্ষিকী উদযাপন জাতীয় বাস্তবায়ন কমিটি

## SURGE IN COVID CASES

# Fresh lockdowns in Europe, Asia

France, Poland and Ukraine announce new curbs; India reports 40,953 new cases; Brazil shuts beaches

AGENCIES

France, Poland, Ukraine and parts of India introduced new lockdown measures yesterday to fight a surge in coronavirus infections, as the European Union threatened to block exports of AstraZeneca jabs in an escalating row over vaccines.

In Poland most shops will be shut for the next three weeks along with hotels and cinemas, with similar measures introduced in Ukraine's capital Kiev.

A third of France's population also woke up to new restrictions, with non-essential shops shut in Paris for at least a month, SEE PAGE 10 COL 3