



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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## Lockdowns do come but only too late

MOUJIB AHMED SUJAN

On May 29, the Epidemiology and Public Health Committee of DGHS recommended strict and immediate "lockdown" on seven districts where the Delta variant of coronavirus started transmitting in the communities.

But the government again failed to act on time and delayed implementing the recommendation.

Following the committee's recommendation, the cabinet on May 31 asked officials in the seven districts of Khulna and Rajshahi divisions to take measures. But enforcement of the lockdown was delayed again to save people's livelihood during the mango-harvesting season.

The lockdowns were imposed recently, but those seven districts and many others have turned into Covid-19 hotspots.

The districts recommended for lockdown were Naogaon, Rajshahi, Natore, Kushtia, Jashore, Khulna and Satkhira, and many of them have been under such restrictions for the last 10 days.

Meanwhile, the overall Covid situation across the country is worsening by the day.

Yesterday, 67 deaths -- the highest since May 2 -- were reported by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). The positivity rate rose to

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**KHULNA UNDER LOCKDOWN FROM TUESDAY**

Highest deaths in Khulna **24**

Positivity rate **38.5**

Lockdown in force in **12** districts/parts of districts



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

**A woman working on a massive pile of throwaway plastic bottles in the Notun Baklia Bridge area of Chattogram. Hazardous as the single-use bottles are for the environment, many people in the country make a living out of picking up, sorting out, and bringing the bottles to factories that melt them into tiny plastic beads that are used by different industries in China.**

## SINOPHARM JABS Vaccination begins on a limited scale

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the administration of the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine resumed yesterday after around two months, 2,956 students of public and private medical and dental colleges were given Sinopharm jabs in the capital, according to a DGHS press release.

The government had suspended administering the first dose on April 26 due to a shortage of the AstraZeneca vaccines. Recently, it decided to recommence the vaccination on a limited scale at 67 centres across the country, with around 11 lakh Sinopharm doses in hand.

As only medical and dental students were given the shots yesterday, others had to return from the centres without getting the vaccine. Health officials said only such students would be vaccinated for the next few days "to maintain

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## ONLINE GAMBLING Crores siphoned out of country

*Hundi, cryptocurrencies used for sending money abroad, MFS for local transactions*

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

An international gambling racket has been siphoning off crores of taka every day from the country and investing in cryptocurrencies, according to law enforcers.



The revelation came to the fore after the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) Unit of police arrested a man named Md Mohiuddin Parvez, 27, from his office in the capital's Badda area on June 14.

Six laptops and five mobile phones

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## Woman kills parents, sister, then calls 999

*Police say she 'drugged, strangled' them*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A couple and their 21-year-old daughter were found dead in a flat in Dhaka's Kadamtali area yesterday morning.

Police suspect that the three were strangled to death after being sedated. The legs and hands of the bodies were found tied up.

The deceased are: Masud Rana, 50, a Saudi expat, his wife Mousumi Islam, 45, and their daughter Jannatul Islam.

The couple's elder daughter Mehjabin Islam Moon, 30, has been taken in for interrogation. The police suspect she was involved, Shah Iftekhar Ahmed, deputy commissioner of Wari Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star.

Two more members of the family, Moon's husband Shafiqul Islam, 40, and their five-year-old daughter were found unconscious in the flat. They were undergoing treatment at city hospitals.

"The incident may have been the result of a family dispute," the police official said.

The DC said that Kadamtali police recovered the bodies from the first floor of a five-storied building on Rajjab Ali Sarder Road around 11:30am after Mehjabin called 999. "She admitted that she mixed sleeping pills with tea and later strangled them," he said.

He said that the deceased's hands and legs were tied and police found

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



## Khaleda now back home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia returned home from Evercare Hospital around 8:35pm yesterday.

The former premier has returned home after taking treatment at the hospital after around two months, Syrul Kabir Khan, member of Khaleda's press wing, said.

Khaleda was admitted to Evercare Hospital on

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## CORPORATE TAX HIKE FOR MFS PLAYERS

## Throttling industry growth for nothing

ZINA TASREEN

Don't kill the goose that lays the golden eggs -- suggests the famous Greek storyteller Aesop. And looking at Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal's proposed tax measures for the mobile financial services operators for the incoming fiscal year, one cannot help but recall the famous fable.

Introduced around the turn of the last decade as part of the Bangladesh Bank's financial inclusion agenda, the platform has been the perfect propellant of the Digital Bangladesh vision.

What was historically a long-winded exercise became an illustration of how technology can make people's lives simpler and better: by way of MFS, rural people, who mostly remain out of the purview of formal banking channels for geography


and a lack of a business case, could receive money from their friends and family in cities -- within moments.

But, MFS is more than just a conduit for urban-rural remittance -- and it is this latent potential that came to the fore during the global coronavirus pandemic.

Because of the contactless nature of its transactions, the platform came in handy for making payment at point-of-sale terminals, servicing utility bills and salary disbursements as fear of the coronavirus, which lingers on surfaces for hours, reigned supreme.

And because of the ease with which such transactions could be made, person-to-person transfers within the system took off in a big way amid the pandemic, going neck-and-neck with cash-out transactions,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



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**TWO TOWNS – ONE MEGACITY:**

**Tomorrow's Chattogram is being built connecting both sides of the river Karnaphuli**



## BANGABANDHU MULTIPURPOSE ROAD TUNNEL IS BEING BUILT WITH BSRM

When the Bangabandhu Tunnel is complete, the other side of the Karnaphuli will be a part of Chattogram city; communication routes will be easier between these regions and they will advance in trade and industry, elevating the standard of living for people in the area. Around

900 workers are involved in this Tk. 10,000 crore project, constructing this 3.43 km long and 150 feet deep tunnel, using steel from the steel expert BSRM. In this way, the Bangabandhu Tunnel shines a light of hope towards the path of a prosperous middle-income country.



## COP KILLING IN CTG

*Don't stop, run them over*

Bootleggers' gang leader told driver, say police; 3 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

Three persons were arrested yesterday on charge of killing an Assistant Sub-inspector (ASI), Kazi Md Salauddin, of port city's Chandgaon Police Station, who died after being run over by a microbus carrying alcohol in Chandgaon area on June 11.

A drug peddler, who smuggled homemade alcohol from Rangamati to Chattogram, told his driver to run over the police officer if they tried to stop the vehicle on the way, said officials after they arrested three members of the gang.

The arrestees are Uttam Biswas alias Belal (34), Md Rashed alias Rasel (26), and Shamsul Alam (60). Among them, Belal was driving the microbus which ran over ASI Salauddin.

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A worker loads a truck with leftover paper from printing presses in Chattogram city's Katalganj area. Traders buy these scrap papers for Tk 10-12 per kilogramme, these are sold back to paper producers for Tk 13-14, which is then composted and made into new pieces of paper.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Ex-VC's recruits lock up crucial buildings at RU

*Their goal to cancel meetings they fear could scrap their jobs*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, RU

Authorities at Rajshahi University (RU) were forced to suspend a financial committee meeting yesterday, after a number of the 137 staffers who were unlawfully recruited by former Vice Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan, locked administrative buildings, senate building and the VC's residence at the university.

University sources said a finance committee meeting was scheduled to be held around 10am yesterday, as well as a syndicate meeting scheduled for Tuesday.

But around 9:20am, some 30 staffers, mostly former and current Chhatra league leaders of the university, locked two administrative buildings, senate building and the VC residence to stop the meeting.

They also met acting VC Prof Ananda Kumar Saha at his residence for discussion around 9:50am, and demanded to allow them to join their posts. Later they took position before the administrative building.

Demonstrators said they fear their appointment might be cancelled at the syndicate meeting next Tuesday, unless they stop the meeting.

Former BCL leader Atiqur Rahman Sumon said, "We have heard the syndicate meeting may recommend the authority to cancel our recruitment. So we took position in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Toddler, his grandparents run over by bus in Bogura

*Six people including his parents injured*

STAR REPORT

In a tragic accident in Bogura's Shibganj upazila, a head-on collision between a bus and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw killed a two-month-old and his grandparents yesterday, reports our Bogura correspondent.

The parents of the toddler and four others were also injured in the accident.

The deceased are Parul Begum (42) and Ashraf Ali (50), and their two-month-old grandchild Rezowan, who were all in the three-wheeler.

Ashraf and Parul died on the spot while Rezowan died after being taken to Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Hospital. His parents are being treated at the same hospital, said police.

The accident happened when the family was taking Rezowan to the hospital as he was suffering from breathing issues, said Md

Khairul Islam, OC of Gobindaganj Highway Police Station, quoting family members.

The other injured were sent to local TMSS hospital, he said.

Belzar Hossain, station officer of Shibganj upazila fire service, said the accident occurred around 7:30am after the bus lost control and ran over the auto-rickshaw on the Dhaka-Rangpur highway near Hatibandha area.

The bodies were handed over to the family members, police said.

Meanwhile, the driver and helper of the bus managed to flee. Police seized the bus.

In Thakurgaon's Boda upazila, a pedestrian was killed on Boda-Debiganj road at Shimultali bazar yesterday.

The deceased is Mostafa Elahi (50), of Kherbari village under the same upazila, reports our Thakurgaon correspondent.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## 'Metro rail for Ctg'

*Obaidul Quader says govt has already done feasibility study*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

Road transport and bridges minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the government is working to introduce metro rail in the port city.

He was virtually addressing the council of Chattogram city unit of Awami Swachhchasebak League as chief guest. "The people of Chattogram have some demands -- one is introducing metro rail service and another expanding Chattogram-Cox's Bazar Highway," he said.

"Feasibility study has been conducted to initiate metro rail project in the port city," he said. "Work on Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway will start soon," he said.

Addressing the council, he said no conspiracy could halt the country's march forward. "Bangladesh has become a state of loan giver from a loan receiver. We have given loans to countries like Sri Lanka and Sudan," Quader said.

AL joint general secretary Hasan Mahmud; president and general secretary of Swachhchasebak League Nirmal Ranjan Guha and AKM Afzalur Rahman; AL Chattogram city unit president and general secretary Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury and AJM Nasir Uddin also addressed the event, held at Institution of Engineers Chattogram.

## Monsoon brings misery for port city residents

*Heavy rainfall submerges low-lying areas*



Agrabad's Ma O Shishu Hospital is a regular victim of waterlogging in the city, and yesterday was no exception. The situation was so bad that patients had to be carried through the entrance by their relatives.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Residents of Chattogram city woke up to a bad day yesterday, as incessant rainfall brought back all-too-familiar problems.

In the 24 hours till 9am yesterday, the Chattogram Met Office recorded 121.2 mm of rain, said met officer Sheikh Harunur Rashid.

Most low-lying areas in the city -- Chawkbazar, West Bakalia DC Road, KB Aman Ali Road, Katalganj, Kapasgola, Bahaddarhat, Muradpur, Sholashahar, Halishahar, Agrabad CDA, Chandgaon and Shulakbahar -- went under knee- to waist-deep water, as streets got flooded by water mixed with filth, overflow from roadside drains.

Residents blamed authorities concerned for their sufferings, saying that they failed to bring about any improvement in waterlogging for over a decade, while continuing to point their fingers at the Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) mega project.

The submerged roads were not just a matter of inconvenience. For some, it

became a safety issue.

A CNG-run auto-rickshaw fell into a drain in Chandgaon residential area as the driver could not see it under water. An injured passenger had to be rushed to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, said Mustafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Chandgaon Police Station.

But beyond just commute issues, the never-ending problem is also posing health risks for the residents.

"It's a health hazard in my family," said Uzir Ali Shah Bylane's Sadhan Das. "Most of the 16 members of my family have been suffering from diarrhoea and upset stomach because filthy water has leaked into our ground floor water tank."

He went on to ask why the Chattogram Development Authority could not alleviate the situation in three years since its launching.

Abdul Hamid, a resident of West Bakalia DC Road also put the blame on Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) for not cleaning the drains and canals properly and regularly.

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## Four burglars arrested in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police early yesterday arrested four alleged burglars and seized electronic devices, gold ornaments and cash, after conducting drives at different areas of Chattogram city.

The arrestees are Md Imon (32), Md Asrab Khan (35), Imon's wife Sajada Akhter Sadia (20) and Anika Sultana Sony (19), said police.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Nezam Uddin of Kotwali police said, "Imon is an apparel worker in Chattogram EPZ and has been doing burglary for the last 12 years."

After looting valuables and cash, they deposited the money through booths of a bank, the OC said.

Sub-inspector Mominul of the station said the gang so far committed over 300 burglaries in the last 10 years in different areas of the city and nearby districts.

"During investigation of a case, police traced the gang and recovered electronics devices including laptops and expensive mobile phones from their possession," said the SI.

## 'Provide outline for inoculating migrant workers'

*Recruiting agencies urges govt*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A platform of recruiting agencies yesterday urged the government to give an "outline" while inoculating migrant workers with Covid-19 vaccine.

Forming a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club, members of Recruiting Agencies Oikya Parishad (RAOP) said the government earlier allotted 1.20 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccine for migrant workers on paper only.

In reality, no effective step was taken to vaccinate migrant workers with those doses, they said.

Recently, the health minister assured expatriates' welfare minister of providing migrant workers with vaccine on a priority basis. But, no specific outline was given to this end, they added.

They urged the government to immediately implement its measure to inoculate on a priority basis both migrant workers who are waiting to fly abroad with new employment visa and those who remained stuck after coming home on vacation.

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## Dhaka sees sporadic showers all day long

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka witnessed a drenched morning yesterday as intermittent monsoon rain continued across the country.

The monsoon trough is active over Bangladesh and moderate over North Bay, commencing at 9am yesterday, according to a Bangladesh Met Department weather forecast.

Meanwhile from 6am to 3pm, 28mm of rain was recorded in the capital.

"The axis of monsoon trough runs through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal to Assam across the central part of Bangladesh. One of its associated troughs extends up to North Bay," said the BMD's weather forecast.

Maritime ports were advised to lower the local cautionary signal-three for now.

According to the forecast, light to moderate rain/thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barishal and Chattogram divisions.

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From the classic "chin-mask" to hanging them by the wrists and ears, and putting them on the forehead, masks are sometimes everywhere except where they should be: over the nose and mouth. With low-priced face-masks swamping the market, they can even be seen in abundance on the roads, just lying there. Health measures, like the "no mask no service" signs in front of shops may have made the mask more common but not ever-present, as many don't even bother wearing them. These very same masks, when worn properly and regularly, can protect oneself and others around them from the deadly coronavirus. The photos were taken all over Dhaka in the last week.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Appeal for help

CITY DESK

Md Abdullah Sherdil is an ex-student of Dhaka University's linguistics department...



For his Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, he is now taking treatment under Dr Abu Zafar Md Saleh...



Almost half of the Fakirerpul Road -- one of the most important streets of South Dhaka -- has been taken up by development works...

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Better behaviour for better policing

Ctg police circle launches initiative

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

At a time when public trust in policing is windling, a circle of Chattogram police has taken up an initiative to find a way to improve the people-police relationship...

Kamrul Manir passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's adviser Kamrul Manir passed away in Rajshahi on Friday. He was 71. He breathed his last at his home in Rajshahi's Sagarpara area...



Toddler

FROM PAGE 3

Officer-in-Charge of Boda Police Station Abu Sayeed Chowdhury said Samsul was returning home from the bazar along the road around 10:30am. In the meantime, a Boda-bound truck hit him from behind...

Provide

FROM PAGE 3

Addressing the human chain, RAOP President M Tipu Sultan thanked the government for including migrant workers in the vaccination programme. He, however, said problem still remains since the government has taken an initiative to provide migrant workers with Sinopharm vaccine...

Kulsum Zaman no more

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Kulsum Zaman, wife of former Awami League lawmaker and first finance secretary late Khandakar Asaduzzaman, passed away yesterday while undergoing treatment at Evercare Hospital in Dhaka. She was 85.



Don't stop

FROM PAGE 3

"After killing ASI Salauddin, the three went into hiding and tried to go to Cox's Bazar from Chattogram. But police arrested them from Maijartek area after a frantic effort..."

Ex-VC's recruits

FROM PAGE 3

the campus and locked those buildings to stop the finance committee meeting, in order to stop upcoming syndicate meeting. Later around 11am, the administration suspended the finance committee meeting...

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Dhaka sees Many places over Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions are likely to see moderately heavy to very heavy falls including places over the country...

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Monsoon "Water cannot flow freely through the drains and canals due to the waste stuck in them," he said. Denying the allegations, CCC deputy chief conservancy officer Morshedul Alam Chowdhury said they clean up drains and canals regularly...

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# Patuakhali teacher finds success in commercial cultivation of tween fruit

SOHRAB HOSSAIN

A madrasa teacher has seen the face of success by commercially cultivating tween fruit, commonly known as fig, in Patuakhali during the Covid-19 pandemic situation. Notably, there is also surah in the Holy Quran—At-Tin (The Fig) asserting the wholesomeness of the fruit. Tween is a good source of both calcium and potassium and has a huge potential of export after meeting the of the country.

Jahnagir Hossain Manik, a lecturer of agriculture of a madrasa in Tengrakhalia area under Badarpur union of Patuakhali Sadar upazila, got inspired to commercially cultivate tween fruit from Facebook.

"I had a huge free time in my hand due to the closure of my madrasa and I was pondering to do something in this long hiatus. Then I came across some videos in the Facebook on the goodness of tween fruit and fixed my mind that I would cultivate the fruit," he said.

He elevated 30 decimals of low-lying area adjacent to the madrasa and purchased 200 tween plants at the rate of Tk 720 per plant from Maona of Gazipur in October last year. His dreams came true as the trees start bearing fruits from February this year after four months of intense care. He has already started to marketise the ripe fruits.

People from different districts are coming to see his orchard of the exotic fruits that are very juicy and can be consumed all the year round after drying and preserving in containers. Many visitors are also expressing their eagerness to learn the cultivation technique from Manik, he said.

"I was apprehensive about the cultivation of tween fruit at the beginning but I have gained success by dint of hard labour, intensive care and the advice of the officials of the agriculture department. I have started the sale from the month of Ramadan at Tk 1,000 per kg. Most of the buyers

**His dreams came true as the trees start bearing fruits from February this year after four months of intense care. He has already started to marketise the ripe fruits.**

buy the fruits directly from the orchard and local super shop also sells them," he also said.

"Hopefully, I will see the face of profit from the next year," he added.

An engineer came from the neighboring district of Barguna came to visit the orchard. "I want to cultivate the fruit commercially," Engr Imran said.

Md Hasan, who came from Kalapara upazila town of the district, said that he has also decided to cultivate this exotic fruit and came to visit the orchard to see

its cultivation method.

Dr Shamim Ahmed, additional deputy director of the Department of Agricultural Extension—DAE—(Horticulture Wing) of Dhaka said the fruit is rich in Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B2, as well as almost all essential nutrients such as calcium, magnesium, iron, phosphorus, sodium, carbohydrates, sugar, fat, protein and thiamine. It also has many medicinal properties.

It helps cure constipation, reduce weight, keep the heart healthy and controls high blood pressure. It also helps prevent cancer.

He further said each tree bears up to 1 kg in the first year, 8 to 11 kg in the second year and up to 25 kg fruits in the third year. In this way, it continues to bear fruit for 34 consecutive years. The lifespan of the tree is about 100 years. Tween fruits grow at the base of each leaf. Each tree is six to 30 feet tall and bears 60 to 70 fruits.



The madrasa teacher's tween fruit garden in Patuakhali Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN



A section of the damaged concrete slabs around the Muktijoddha Chatter on Sylhet-Dhaka highway in Sherpur Bazar of Moulvibazar Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

## Roundabout on Sylhet-Dhaka highway turns risky

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The roundabout at Muktijoddha Chatter on Sylhet-Dhaka highway in Sherpur Bazar of Moulvibazar Sadar upazila has turned hazardous to unsuspecting moving traffic. After two sections of concrete slabs over the circular drainage line of the roundabout were damaged recently, locals have been anticipating a severe accident at the spot any time, as the newly exposed holes cannot be seen by drivers from far due to the curve of the roundabout.

Some of the fixtures made with stainless

steel pipes have also been damaged on the southern side of the roundabout, built by Moulvibazar district council in 2006.

Nurul Haq, a resident of the area said, the exposed holes over the drain are putting lives of thousands at risk, as all sorts of vehicle, large and small, ply the road every day.

Misbahur Rahman, chairman of Moulvibazar district council, said they would soon send the engineer of the district council to assess the damage around Muktijoddha Chatter and make necessary arrangements for repair work.

## BARAPUKURIA COAL MINE EXPANDING NORTHWARD

More 300 acre land to be acquired

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

About Tk 300 crore is going to be spent on acquisition of at least 300 acres of land, mostly arable, to facilitate northward expansion of the Barapukuria coal mine in Parbatipur upazila.

The expansion of the country's lone active underground coal mine will ultimately result in an increase in its production cost by about 40 percent for each metric tonne of coal.

Officials of the mine's operating authorities, Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited (BCMCL), a subsidiary of Petrobangla, said keeping in mind that coal in the central reserve of the mine will end within the next two years, it has to be expanded to ensure uninterrupted supply of coal to Barapukuria 525 MW Thermal Power Plant in future.

The neighbouring power plant, operated by Bangladesh Power Development Board, is currently the sole user of most of the coal produced by BCMCL.

Coal from Barapukuria used

to be sold to brickfields for baking bricks, but the sale was suspended in March 2018.

The existing coal extraction contract between state-run BCMCL and China-based CMC-XMC Consortium expires on August 10 this year.

With that in mind and in line with the expansion plan, the BCMCL has already made all necessary preparations and extended its contract with CMC-XMC for six more years, effective from August 11 this year, said Kamruzzaman Khan, the managing director (MD) of BCMCL.

Under the six-year contract, CMC-XMC will develop new mines in the north of the existing central reserve and extract about 4.5 million tonnes of coal -- 1.3 million tonnes from the central reserve and 3.2 million tonnes from the northern reserve, he added.

The expensive and time-consuming task of linking the central and northern reserves with a minimum of 5.8 kilometres of underground roadways will likely raise the production cost of coal, said several BCMCL officials.

As opposed to the current production cost of around USD 100 per tonne, the same amount of coal might end up costing about USD 140 after the development of the northern reserve is complete, they also speculated.

Since its inception in 2005 till May this year, 12 crore tonnes of coal was extracted from the mine. In fiscal year 2019-20 alone, BCMCL earned Tk 271.50 in net profit.

In 2006, when incidents of land subsidence took place in surrounding areas, BCMCL paid Tk 191 crore to villagers, in compensation for acquisition of at least 646 acres of land.

BCMCL officials said the new land acquisition is a measure to avoid any loss of life or property in case of any land subsidence occurs during the development in the northern reserve of the mine.

The mine has been playing a significant role in the national economy by supplying its coal to the Barapukuria power plant, said Kamruzzaman, the MD of BCMCL.



Barapukuria coal mine in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

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# A focus on abnormal uterine bleeding

PROF DR HAMIDA BEGUM

By the age of 10-14 years, when a girl gradually becomes an adolescent, various physical and mental changes take place. One of the most important manifestations of these changes is 'menarche' or starting of menstruation. Usually, menstruation takes place for 3-7 days and the amount of bleeding varies anywhere from 30-80 ml. But this menstruation can have various aberrations from normal when it occurs irregularly or multiple times in a single month and the amount of bleeding varies from scanty to very heavy. When no demonstrable or definite organic cause of this abnormal bleeding is found, it is called dysfunctional or abnormal uterine bleeding (DUB or AUB).

For menses to occur regularly, some external and internal factors are intimately related. Among external factors, body weight, nutritional status and climate play a dominant role. Among internal, there is an intimate and rhythmic balance between secretions of different hormones from endocrine glands such as from the ovary, adrenal and thyroid glands. Abnormal uterine bleeding is categorised into 3 types.

**Puberty menorrhagia:** This may persist once it started for 3-6 months with heavy amounts of bleeding, putting girls and



their parents under tremendous pressure. Sometimes excess or continuous blood loss leads to absenteeism in educational institutions and workplaces or anaemic heart failure leading to hospitalisation for frequent blood transfusions. Most of the time their body build is either skinny or too obese with a high body mass index (BMI).

**Reproductive age:** These groups of women either suffer from cyclical heavy bleeding or periods every 10-12 days interval (polymenorrhoea or

polymenorrhagia) or small amount of bleeding throughout the whole month (metrorrhagia).

**Premenopausal menorrhagia:** Before established menopause, these groups of women with an age range of 45-50 years suffer from excess bleeding most of the time.

Normally there is an intricate system of balance between blood supply and stoppage of bleeding in the uterus. 2 types of prostaglandins are playing together to maintain haemostasis as thromboxane causes vasoconstriction and platelet

aggregation whereas the reverse is done by prostacyclin. Whenever there is an imbalance between these 2 types of prostaglandins, which may occur in case of sorrows, anxiety, any kind of stress, sexual disharmony of a couple or abnormal secretions from adrenal or thyroids can lead to abnormal uterine bleeding.

Appropriate history, proper examination and relevant investigations to rule out known causes are paramount to diagnose a case of AUB. Relevant investigations may include complete blood count,

thyroid function tests and ultrasonography to exclude tumours of the uterus or ovary and to see the thickness of the inner lining of the uterus (endometrium). The treatment for AUB depends on a few factors. Age-related appropriate counselling to a greater extent is needed to get relief from anxiety, tension, mood fluctuation and sexual dissatisfactions. Those who are obese need to lose weight. Underweight women will need a nutrition-rich balanced diet. Anaemic individuals need their anaemia corrected.

Some medications like Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) or antifibrinolytics may prove to be beneficial. Combined oral contraceptives as prescribed by a physician may bring comfort to the patient. Hysteroscopy can be done for both diagnosis and treatment. When different medications can not relieve a patient of her symptoms, they may require surgical intervention.

Abnormal uterine bleeding is common and is rarely a reason to be worried. But if one experiences other symptoms in addition to irregular bleeding, she must consult with a doctor as soon as possible.

The writer is a Gynaecologist and Obstetrician working at Widia University College, Malaysia. E-mail: hmdbgm01@gmail.com

## DISEASE FACTS

### What is sarcopenia?

DR GOLAM NABI

Many ageing people are facing thinning out of their arms and thighs including hip muscles along with a bulging belly, and they look like an orange on a stick. Medically it is called sarcopenia.



Sarcopenia is the loss of both muscle mass and function that occurs with advancing age. It is associated with multiple adverse outcomes, including frailty, disability and death. Older age, female gender and muscle disuse caused by low levels of physical activity or immobility is a well-defined risk factor, less use or no use of muscle result in a decrease in the size of muscle fibres and their total number.

Age related oxidative damage, low-grade chronic inflammation, nutritional factors, changes in the hormonal system are all responsible for the decrease in the size and number of muscle fibres. Sometimes sarcopenia is associated with coexisting diseases like diabetes, muscle diseases (myopathy), thyroid problems, low protein intake, prolonged fastings and overzealous dieting. Anthropometric measures such as mid-arm circumference and skinfold thickness can help diagnose sarcopenia. Dual-energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA Scanning) can also be done. CT scan and MRI are gold standards for estimating muscle mass.

You can prevent sarcopenia by regular physical exercise. Exercise has an impact on both cardiovascular fitness and increasing muscle mass and promoting muscle protein synthesis. Treatment to lower ammonia, hormonal treatment (testosterone), micronutrient supplementation including Vitamin D can also help prevent sarcopenia. Myostatin antagonists have been proven to increase muscle mass. Furthermore, the effect of behavioural and psychological support from the family is also important.

The writer is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Z H Sikder Women's Medical College and Hospital, Dhaka.

## HEALTH bulletin



### Tai chi helps the waistline a little

Tai chi is the slow-motion exercise sometimes called "meditation in motion." Tai chi is popular for its dignified pace and low impact, but its claimed medical benefits have been difficult to pin down. In this assessor-blinded, three-way randomised trial, researchers compared regular tai chi practice, standard aerobic exercise, and usual care for reducing central obesity among adults older than 50.

The participants were mostly women, mean age was early 60s, mean body-mass index (BMI) was 25.6 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, and mean waist circumference was about 92 cm. About half of participants had dyslipidemia or hypertension.

After 38 weeks of thrice-weekly 1-hour tai chi or aerobic-exercise sessions, mean waist circumference in both groups had declined by 1 to 2 cm. In contrast, that measurement in a control group had increased by almost 3 cm. Mean values for weight, BMI, HDL cholesterol levels, and triglyceride levels were all slightly better in the tai chi group than in controls and were indistinguishable from those metrics in the aerobic-exercise group. At week 38, 10% to 15% of each exercise group no longer had formal diagnoses of central obesity, in contrast to 4% of the control group.

This rigorous study suggests that the modest metabolic benefits of regular tai chi practice approximate those of light aerobic exercise.

## Magnesium: the astounding mineral

DR TAUHIDA RAHMAN EREEN

Magnesium is an essential mineral in all living organisms, with 99% of the mineral residing within the tissue cells. It is a nutrient that the body needs to stay healthy. Over the past few years, I have learnt a lot about precious minerals for total wellness. I would like to share with you the importance of the marvellous mineral magnesium.

**How does magnesium improve health function?** Magnesium is an essential macromineral that helps the body inside and out because of its involvement in many significant processes within tissues throughout the human body. Naturally occurring alkaline mineral magnesium may play a role in nerve, muscle function and more. Adequate magnesium may also play a part in keeping our bones strong and staying energised.

Magnesium promotes vitamin D metabolism. It is a key macromineral for boosting immunity. It also contributes to constipation relief. Amazing mineral magnesium may prevent and manage hypertension and stabilise blood pressure. Magnesium deficiency may worsen insulin-resistant diabetes. Inflammation fighter magnesium helps with relaxing and opening your airways and relieves asthma symptoms. Some research has shown magnesium can reduce Premenstrual syndrome (PMS) symptoms. Doctors prescribe magnesium supplements for migraine sufferers, as it is a potential remedy for headaches.



**How does magnesium affect the skin?** Experts say that magnesium can be a big boost to your anti-ageing regime. It helps to repair, rejuvenate and regenerate cells. Additionally, this major mineral lessens stress and anxiety by reducing the stress hormone cortisol. One review concluded that supplementing with magnesium can improve sleep quality. A good night's sleep promotes the production of collagen and elastin in your skin. Miracle mineral magnesium is a fitness performance enhancer.

**Foods high in magnesium:** Diets high in magnesium-rich foods appear to be protective against chronic disease, and low magnesium status is increasingly being linked to disease risk and impaired disease management. Men should aim for at least 400-420 mg and while women only need 310-320 mg per day. Add magnesium-rich food to your diet

and you will be amazed by what happens next to your body and mind. Best foods with magnesium to enhance your well-being are whole wheat bread, brown rice, oatmeal, dark green vegetables, spinach, broccoli, cabbage, banana, sweet potato with skin, avocado, raspberries, low-fat yoghurt, almonds and beans. Supplementing is an effective way to meet your magnesium demand, especially if you are magnesium deficient.

After decades of research, it has become increasingly evident that magnesium, the fourth most abundant mineral in the human body, is absolutely essential for regulating hundreds of biochemical processes and several physiological systems that maintain metabolic and cardiovascular health. So do not ignore this vital mineral and enhance your healthy lifestyle with magnesium.

### Carotenaemia: does the skin tell us a story?

PROF M KARIM KHAN

A couple of weeks ago I saw two patients having similar problems. Both the patients were around two years old, had deep yellow colouration of palms and soles. There were no other complaints. Their parents thought that their baby has been suffering from jaundice. On examination other than deep yellow colouration of palms and soles, there was no yellow coloration of eyes but urine was a bit more yellow. Their appetite was good and both of them were playful. Their livers were not enlarged, no itching and other findings were normal.

Feeding history revealed that both the mother used to give carrots and pumpkins every day in their food. Carrots and pumpkins contain carotenoid, excess consumption of which developed this deep yellow colour of the palms and soles of their child. This condition is called carotenaemia.

Foods high in carotene are carrots, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, egg yolks and other orange-coloured foods. Carotenaemia is a harmless condition in which the palms and soles become deep yellow due to excess consumption of carotene-containing foods regularly.

The treatment for this condition is very simple. Just withdraw carotene-containing food for three to four weeks. The yellow discolouration will gradually disappear and no medication is needed.

Excess of anything is not good, rather it creates problems. Thus avoid excess consumption of any food whatever it may be.

The author is a Professor of Paediatrics at Community Based Medical College, Mymensingh. E-mail: mmukhkan@gmail.com



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**Men's Health Week**  
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## Don't ignore even the lightest symptoms

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## Police accused of torturing a minor into murder confession

Authorities must conduct urgent investigation of complicit officers

AS more details of the case of a 12-year-old boy from Bogura who was forced to confess to killing his younger brother in 2015 are being revealed, we are horrified to hear of the ordeal that this child and his parents have been put through for almost six years. This week, a video report from *The Daily Star* delved deeper into the case and revealed a shocking level of incompetence and potential corruption from the investigating police, as well as the torture of the minor suspect Sourav that continues to traumatise him, even today.

In the report, the statement from Sourav's father, day labourer Md Mohidul Islam, is truly heart-breaking. He struggled to hold back his tears while speaking of how, after the agony of losing his eight-year-old son, instead of receiving justice for his murder, he had to spend his remaining strength and resources in protecting his other child from a potential miscarriage of justice. It is clear from his tale that at every step of this case, there was a total disregard for the law—he could hear 12-year-old Sourav being tortured at the police station but was not allowed to see him; he did not receive any assistance from the police or local government actors regarding the case; and he was even forced to flee from his village after being threatened by the "influential" people who, he alleges, framed his son for the crime.

However, Md Mohidul refused to be intimidated and filed a no-confidence motion, after which the investigation was handed over to the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), which later arrested two persons in connection with the murder. In fact, the sub-inspector of PBI Bogura revealed that they did not find any evidence of Sourav even being near the scene of the crime. So based on what evidence did the local police arrest him? When questioned on this, the callous reply from the local police station was that they have "a lot of work to do" and new investigations can reveal new findings later.

The chief of the PBI has now suggested that to avoid further occurrences like this, higher officials should be involved in the process before any recording of a child's confessional statement. However, measures such as this will be far too little, too late for Sourav, who is still unable to hear from one ear due to the torture he was subjected to. This shameful police brutality as well as the possible police collusion with local influential actors to frame a minor are not an issue that can be taken lightly. It is symptomatic of a wider problem of law enforcers resorting to lawlessness and subverting the law to serve their own needs. For too long, we have seen violent and corrupt police officers escape accountability with little or no disciplinary action. We urge the government to recognise the gravity of the situation and take immediate step to investigate the police officers who tortured Sourav into confessing. The lack of a strong response from the authorities will only reduce people's confidence in their ability to protect minors from such abuse at the hands of law enforcers again.

## Recognising the contributions of sanitation and waste workers

Their health and safety should be our priority

A discussion held by *The Daily Star* with health policy experts has brought to light the utter neglect and apathy of our society towards one of the most essential groups of people: the sanitation and waste workers. These hidden and unsung heroes who risk their health and lives every day to clean the sewerage drains and other waste on a regular basis have little to no access to healthcare, even though they are most prone to illness due to their work in the most unhygienic conditions. The discussion is part of a campaign titled "The Untold Stories of Sanitation and Waste Worker", jointly organised by *The Daily Star*, WaterAid Bangladesh and the Embassy of Sweden. Experts have rightly pointed to the challenges in improving the health and healthcare condition of these workers.

According to experts, one of the major reasons why these workers are so neglected is the lack of recognition for their profession. They face social stigma, economic hardships and are also deprived of civic benefits. They are underpaid and cannot afford a decent lifestyle, especially quality healthcare. Due to a lack of affordable and comprehensive healthcare services for the country's urban poor—an economic cluster to which the sanitation and waste workers belong—it has become difficult to ensure even the basic healthcare services for these unsung heroes. While the DGHS runs around 35 urban dispensaries in Dhaka to provide outdoor patient services, more should be set-up with comprehensive healthcare facilities to cater to the primary healthcare needs of the urban poor, including these workers.

The government must implement universal healthcare coverage for the urban poor so that they can afford the medical care needed. In a nation where, according to World Bank, a staggering 74 percent of healthcare expenses have to be borne out of pocket by the patients, poor sanitation workers are deterred from seeking medical care even when they are seriously ill.

If the government is sincere in its efforts to ensure their proper healthcare, it needs to drive health insurance schemes for them. The government can collaborate with the NGOs working to ensure the rights of sanitation and waste workers through community partnerships to promote the insurance facility. Collaboration can also be made with the Municipal Association of Bangladesh (MAB), which has access to the 300 municipalities and their workers, to make sure every sanitation and waste worker has access to individual or even group health insurance policy. It is high time the government and the society as a whole recognised their needs and ensured their wellbeing. Providing access to healthcare would be the first step.



SHUPROVA TASNEM

corner, playing with a flammable item instead of a toy. Later, Amina's mother told me that she was hiding under the bed when the Myanmar military surrounded their household in Rakhine. She watched them kill her father and grandfather, and lay hidden while they gang-raped her mother. She hadn't said a word to anyone outside of her family since then.

Amina's mother also spoke of how lost she felt now that her parents and husband were dead. She lamented, "What will happen to my child?" During visits to the refugee camps, I have heard this refrain over and over again from Rohingya parents—"what will happen to my child?"

I started with this story because right after the 2017 refugee exodus from Myanmar—the result of military operations termed as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing" by the then UN human rights chief—there was a lot more interest in Bangladesh regarding the human faces of the Rohingya who fled here. The stories of brutal murders, rapes and villages being burned *en masse* stirred something in the hearts of a nation prone to feel empathy towards persecuted populations. However, after four years of hosting close to a million refugees and feeling the strain on our local resources, that empathy has fast changed into refugee fatigue, and often downright aggression.

If mainstream and social media is anything to go by, we are no longer interested in hearing the stories of religious and racial persecution of this minority. Instead, we have fallen into the habit of speaking in sweeping generalisations only. In such a huge and diverse population, the stories of courage and agency—the Rohingya social workers teaching women about birth control, the elders passing on their language to the young, the youth volunteers engaging in community service—these stories are of no interest either. The words of the day, when it comes to refugees, are "crime", "drugs" and, of course, "repatriation".

The final buzzword is one thing that we can all agree on at least—despite what many may think, most Rohingya refugees have no desire to spend their whole lives confined in camps, however improved their conditions may be. A common accusation that you often hear against refugees in Bangladesh is that they are living a life of "comfort" and they would much rather live here for "free" than go back home. These voices have become even louder in the wake of Bhashan Char, where the resettled refugees have better accommodation and facilities (although the recent deaths of three Rohingya children amidst an outbreak of diarrhoea on the island shows that all is not as well as it seems).

While there are definitely marginalised pockets of our own citizens who would consider a daily ration of rice and lentils and a plastic tarpaulin over their heads



JOHANNES VAN DER KLAUW

number of displaced persons recorded in recent history, equating to some half of the population of Bangladesh. There are more disturbing facts: 2020 also marks the ninth consecutive year of increased forced displacements worldwide.

Myanmar, which forced almost 1 million Rohingya people to flee violence and persecution in 2017, is one of the top five countries contributing to increasing global displacement.

In Cox's Bazar, almost 900,000 Rohingya refugees have been generously sheltered by the government and people of Bangladesh for almost four years.

The refugees wish to return home, but until it is safe to do so and they can be guaranteed their basic rights and a pathway to citizenship in Myanmar, they have no choice but to remain protected and assisted to live in safety and with dignity in Bangladesh.

Despite countless stories of personal tragedy, loss and suffering, on this World Refugee Day, we celebrate the resilience and determination of refugees to continue to live with dignity and keep their hopes high to one day be able to return home in Myanmar.

This year, we celebrate this day to help refugees "to heal, to learn and to shine", drawing attention to health, education and sports and arts being so important for their daily life and wellbeing.

The Covid-19 pandemic of the past year has shown us the spirit of Rohingya

a luxury, I can guarantee that the people who are repeating these xenophobic tropes are not one of them. And this perception of refugees as free-loaders completely erases their identities and personal histories. Do we really believe the Rohingya people would choose to live out the rest of their lives fenced in with barbed wire, without livelihoods, education and freedom of movement, a stone's throw from their homeland, simply for the sake of "free" shelter and rations?

There is no question that Bangladesh has acted magnanimously when it comes to hosting refugees. And at almost every event hosted in the refugee camps, such as the ones organised on Rohingya Genocide Remembrance Day every year, this gratitude towards the Bangladeshi authorities has been expressed by the Rohingya. Which makes it all the more depressing that when legitimate questions are asked about their current status—such as the right to education of over 450,000 Rohingya children in the camps who are being denied access to basic accredited education—our general reaction has been to shrug our shoulders and say "not our problem".

Time and again, Bangladesh has said that it cannot solely take responsibility for the Rohingya refugees, and the authorities are justified in saying so. But by failing to uphold their cause and create legitimate platforms where refugee voices can be amplified, we have made an error of judgment—because from the looks of it, the rest of the world, instead of stepping up in our place, have also washed their hands of the "refugee problem".

At the latest G7 meeting, global leaders met to discuss the pandemic, climate change and security issues—there was hardly a mention of the world's 26.4

million refugees (UNHCR estimate from mid-2020). Earlier this month, *The Guardian* reported that British foreign aid cuts of 42 percent will leave around 70,000 people without health services and 100,000 without water in Cox's Bazar, affecting not only refugees but host communities as well. Aid for Rohingya refugees has been dwindling by the year, with the latest Joint Response Plan receiving only 35 percent of the USD 943 million needed for 2021. Again, these funds are allocated not just to meet the needs of nearly a million refugees, but for almost half a million vulnerable Bangladeshis in Cox's Bazar as well.

Would things have been different if we had pushed a different narrative—if, instead of saying the Rohingya must return and the rest is not our concern, we had spoken up for a comprehensive solution that involved humane camp conditions, and donor investment in refugee training and education for third-country settlement, alongside dignified and safe repatriation to Myanmar? Could we have used our moral authority as the country with the largest Rohingya refugee population to remind other countries of their responsibilities, such as Japan and Saudi Arabia—who, according to the Norwegian Refugee Council, are guilty of taking in the least refugees despite having the best means? Bangladesh's presence in the region is no longer a minor one, as can be seen from the financial assistance we recently sent to Sri Lanka and the medical aid gifted to Nepal and India. So could we not have demonstrated that same leadership and diplomatic authority in denouncing the military coup in Myanmar and pushing other countries to do the same?

Earlier this month, ASEAN representatives met with the junta chief but failed to come up with a solution to

the crisis in Myanmar or even condemn the military's illegal takeover. At around the same time, Myanmar's shadow civilian government made a landmark announcement, pledging to amend the country's constitution and grant citizenship to the Rohingya if it regains power from the military. Which of these parties do our long-run interests coincide with? We need to carefully consider this while mulling our future diplomatic strategy concerning refugees.

The solution to the refugee crisis is not an easy one, but it will become even more difficult if Bangladesh and other refugee-hosting countries fail to play a leading role in engaging the international community and ensuring that donor support for the Rohingya does not continue to dwindle. And in order to play this role, we need to end the demonisation of refugees and see them for who they are—not free-loaders, not criminals, but a vast and diverse population struggling to survive and build a better life for future generations after being driven out of their native land.

To mark this year's World Refugee Day, Save the Children has released a report revealing that more than 700,000 Rohingya children across Asia are being denied their most basic rights. On this day, let us remember that we as a nation are well-aware of the fact that people can live through the most desperate situations, but what they cannot live without is hope. The Rohingya refugees are not here to snatch the bread out of the mouths of ordinary Bangladeshis, but for the most humane of reasons, as the question that is off-repeated in the camps show—"what will happen to my child?"

Shuprova Tasneem is a member of the editorial team at *The Daily Star*. Her Twitter handle is @shuprovatatsneem.



File photo of a Rohingya child at Unchiparang refugee camp, Bangladesh.

PHOTO: REUTERS/TYRONE SUI

## Together we heal, learn and shine

TODAY, there are more than 82 million people around the world fleeing war, violence, persecution, and human rights violations. This is the highest

number of displaced persons recorded in recent history, equating to some half of the population of Bangladesh. There are more disturbing facts: 2020 also marks the ninth consecutive year of increased forced displacements worldwide.

Myanmar, which forced almost 1 million Rohingya people to flee violence and persecution in 2017, is one of the top five countries contributing to increasing global displacement.

In Cox's Bazar, almost 900,000 Rohingya refugees have been generously sheltered by the government and people of Bangladesh for almost four years.

The refugees wish to return home, but until it is safe to do so and they can be guaranteed their basic rights and a pathway to citizenship in Myanmar, they have no choice but to remain protected and assisted to live in safety and with dignity in Bangladesh.

Despite countless stories of personal tragedy, loss and suffering, on this World Refugee Day, we celebrate the resilience and determination of refugees to continue to live with dignity and keep their hopes high to one day be able to return home in Myanmar.

This year, we celebrate this day to help refugees "to heal, to learn and to shine", drawing attention to health, education and sports and arts being so important for their daily life and wellbeing.

The Covid-19 pandemic of the past year has shown us the spirit of Rohingya

refugees and their host communities to prevent and protect from the spread of the virus like never before. At the onset of the pandemic, refugee and local Bangladeshi volunteers alike mobilised in huge numbers to protect their communities. Thousands of volunteers, including a network of 1,500 community health workers, worked day and night to spread awareness in the refugee camps and local communities on Covid-19, on how to keep themselves safe, refer cases for testing and support those who needed it. This has saved lives.

To heal from the pandemic, refugees have provided mental health and psychosocial support through the UNHCR's peer-to-peer mental health programme. They have gone door to door within their community to mentor peers on how to support themselves and their families to deal with stress, anxiety and anger. This kind of outreach and support not only empowers youth to teach one another, but also to build their leadership skills, self-confidence, and ability to cope with adversity.

Other refugees have taken it upon themselves to spread information in different ways—using videos and online information campaigns. A self-started refugee youth group known as Omar's Film School has been creating videos in the Rohingya language to raise awareness for refugees to share information about how to avoid the virus. These young people are stepping up in the face of adversity to protect their own communities despite the risks to themselves.

Access to school and learning facilities has been significantly impacted by the pandemic, not only in Bangladesh but globally, especially for 85 percent of refugee children who live in developing countries around the world. For refugees, going to school was already a challenge, but lockdowns have now made learning

almost impossible. Still, refugee Learning Assistants continue to spend their days going door to door throughout the congested refugee camps, to provide at least some kind of learning at home to students, and to support their parents. Resuming caregiver-led education in the camps would allow children to continue learning at home until it is safe for learning centres and schools to reopen. In parallel, continuing preparations to roll out the Myanmar Curriculum in the camps to allow for its rapid implementation, once the Covid-19 situation permits to reopen the learning centres, will help to ensure that a generation of Rohingya children is not left behind.

Sports has also proven time and again to be an excellent way for people to heal from trauma. In the Rohingya camps, however, access to open spaces is very limited. Still, many refugees can be seen every evening playing football, volleyball and traditional "Chinlone" from Myanmar. Young refugees here are motivated by the Refugee Olympic team and the remarkable challenges these athletes have overcome to compete at the top levels, while representing all refugees who have been forced to flee.

The recent news of the success of young Noor Kabir, who was born in the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar and has now become a bodybuilding champion in Australia, has encouraged young people to continue to dream big and work hard towards a brighter future. Noor Kabir is also studying to be a nutritionist and intends to share his knowledge with the refugees in the camps he left behind in Bangladesh. There are also many young refugees who have demonstrated resilience as budding artists. Following the devastating fire on March 22 in the camps, which destroyed 40,000 shelters and killed 11 refugees, a large mural of bright artwork painted by Rohingya youth remained intact, telling

the story of the hardships they went through to arrive in Bangladesh, and standing boldly among the ashes as a testament to how resilience through art can shine through even the most difficult of circumstances.

To add to the Covid-19 pandemic, Bangladeshis and Rohingya refugees alike face the annual threat of monsoon rains and cyclones. Again, it is the refugee and Bangladeshi volunteer "first responders" who are saving lives, raising awareness and protecting their communities. Braving bad weather, volunteers are out in force during heavy downpours and flooding, moving others to safety and ensuring that everyone has access to food and basic needs.

These are just a few stories of the incredible resilience that Rohingya—and other refugees around the world—continue to show in spite of the odds stacked against them. On the World Refugee Day, we celebrate refugees' resilience and support them in their hopes for a brighter future. On this day, we also acknowledge the dedicated humanitarians alongside whom I serve every day, colleagues from both Bangladesh and other parts of the world who work tirelessly and selflessly to create a better life for refugees, often far from their own loved ones.

Four years into the Rohingya crisis, we cannot lose focus on the need to find solutions for the Rohingya refugees by creating peace, stability and justice for them in Myanmar, with their rights fully restored and their living conditions improved. We must continue to stand with the Rohingya and with all refugees in the world, to support them, and to ensure that their hope and aspirations for the future are kept alive and allow them to heal, learn and shine.

Johannes van der Klaauw is the UNHCR Representative in Bangladesh.



# Amidst a faltering COVAX, time for world leaders to step up



**T**HE International Monetary Fund (IMF) in a May 19, 2021 note uploaded on its website stated that "Pandemic policy is also economic policy as there is no durable end to the economic crisis without an end to the health crisis."

The IMF then proposed three targets to that end: (1) vaccinating at least 40 percent of the population in all countries by the end of 2021 and at least 60 percent by the first half of 2022; (2) tracking and insuring against downside risks; and (3) ensuring widespread testing and tracing.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO) advised that at least 70 percent of the world population must be vaccinated in order to end the coronavirus pandemic. Even if this requirement cannot be fulfilled in the near future, the IMF's 40 percent vaccination target should cover a minimum of 3 to 4 billion people. According to an article published on The Conversation website on June 9, 2021, Professor Monica de Bolle of the Johns Hopkins University estimated that if 60 percent to 70 percent of 8 billion people need to be vaccinated to achieve herd protection, it would require 10 billion to 12 billion doses of a two-dose vaccine. If the global capacity for Covid-19 vaccine production is 2 billion to 4 billion doses annually, it could be 2023 or even 2024 before enough vaccines can be produced.

However, as well as the availability of vaccines, another major concern is the discrimination in vaccine access as rich countries are stockpiling most of the supplies. According to a report by *The New York Times*, till date more than 2.54 billion vaccine doses have been administered worldwide. While this may sound like a hopeful scenario, the

devil is in the details. "86 percent of the shots that have gone into arms worldwide have been administered in high- and upper-middle-income countries. Only 0.3 percent of doses have been administered in low-income countries," the report says. Because of the widespread discrimination in vaccine access, some countries are yet to get a single dose of vaccination.

The WHO, in a June 11 report, said that some 130 core people in the African countries severely lack access to vaccination. Many countries only received a fraction of what they need, with no guarantee for the rest. For instance, South Africa, which purchased vaccines from international market and are producing vaccines as part of a joint-venture arrangement, were able to vaccinate only 0.8 percent of its population. Another large African country, Nigeria could afford to vaccinate only 0.1 percent of its 200-million population.

As of June 11, Israel vaccinated 60 percent of its population, Bahrain 62 percent, Chile 60 percent, the UK 61 percent, and the USA



**'If one considers the entire scenario, one cannot help but worry if the COVAX can at all fulfil its objectives.'** PHOTO: REUTERS

*'86 percent of the shots that have gone into arms worldwide have been administered in high- and upper-middle-income countries. Only 0.3 percent of doses have been administered in low-income countries.'*

52 percent. On the other hand, India only vaccinated 14 percent, Indonesia 7 percent, Sri Lanka 9.6 percent, and Bangladesh 3.6 percent. According to a report in February, Bangladesh was in the 17th position in terms of vaccination. Now it dropped to the 117th due to having not received the vaccine as it was supposed to. Region-wise data also shows distinct levels of discrimination. As of June 17, North America administered vaccines for 68 percent of the entire population. Europe has vaccinated 58 percent, South America 34 percent, Asia 31 percent, Oceania 17 percent, and Africa 3.1 percent. Only 0.3 percent of doses have been administered in the low-income countries.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom

stated in a Geneva meeting on May 24 that more than 75 percent of the vaccines had been administered in only 10 countries. He termed this as a "scandalous inequality". He urged that at least 10 percent of the world population be vaccinated by September at any cost. Less than a month later, the reality hasn't changed much.

In April 2020, the COVAX initiative started with an aim to facilitate equitable access to vaccines for middle-income and poorer countries. The main two objectives were equitable access to diagnostics and treatment. However, despite initial promise, the arrangement has come to a halt of late.

Now the question is whether the COVAX was a meaningful initiative at all. WHO in

a joint statement with its partners has said: "Designed and implemented in the midst of an unprecedented global public health crisis, it has delivered over 70 million doses to 126 countries and economies around the world since February... Over 35 countries received their first Covid-19 vaccine doses thanks to COVAX." In the same statement, it also said that "if the world's leaders rally together, the original COVAX objectives—delivery of 2 billion doses of vaccines worldwide in 2021, and 1.8 billion doses to 92 lower-income economies by early 2022—are still well within reach."

Against this backdrop, the leaders of G-7, a coalition of powerful countries, committed 870 million vaccines for the third-world countries to be delivered by 2022. This is less than half of the original objective of the COVAX initiative. It can be assumed that the G-7 countries have more vaccines in their stocks.

If one considers the entire scenario, one cannot help but worry if the COVAX can at all fulfil its objectives, and if and how the IMF proposal to vaccinate 40 percent of the world population by 2021 and 60 percent by the first half of 2022 for greater economic recovery will be achieved. Ultimately, this is not just an economic issue; more importantly, it is also an existential one for all of us. As it was mentioned by the WHO director-general in May, 75 percent of all vaccines were administered in just 10 countries, but the question remains, can these 10 countries ensure their safety without helping ensure the safety of the people in other parts of the world? If world leaders don't come up with better solutions to cover the stark vaccination gap among different regions (and countries), what hope is there for us to defeat this deadly virus?

Amir Khasru is Chief Executive, Study Group on Regional Affairs, Dhaka.

# Building teacher leadership to navigate the new normal in education



**B**EING disconnected from school education since March 2020 has affected students in more ways than one. Although the learning gap is an inevitable outcome, its extent and nature remain unknown, while other skills such as collaborative and social-emotional skills are also bound to suffer. The nature and extent of discrepancies among students are unique to each community, with some commonalities across the region. Such a scenario demands teachers to design approaches based on individual student needs instead of applying generic or top-down solutions. Teachers need to act as leaders who can engage students, parents, the administration and other community members to co-create and implement community-rooted, learning-need-based solutions for equitable education.

In the wake of the pandemic, teachers took several initiatives to stay connected to their students and teach them. They took live classes on Facebook, created WhatsApp groups and phoned or texted students who did not have the internet. The pandemic suddenly gave them a license to innovate. However, many teachers have either been laid off with the prolonged school closure or face the risk of termination. Most teachers now feel demotivated and many have switched their field of work entirely. The initial momentum in initiatives and innovations got primarily disrupted by the inability of many teachers to cope with the new skill sets required to overcome the digital divide, stay connected and teach in the new normal. Empowering individual teachers to lead these unprecedented times can reinstate a sense of purpose into them and drive them to engage deeply within their schools' communities.

**LEADERSHIP IN TEACHING-LEARNING**  
For starters, it is essential to equip the teachers with a repertoire of skills on blended learning approaches that have worked within and outside the country in similar contexts. The existing general ICT training for the primary and secondary government school teachers merely introduces them to some hardware and software, with little hands-on knowledge of integrating technology with pedagogy. Hence, a tech-phobia among many teachers prevents them from confidently taking the lead. Once they have the basic understanding of the blended pedagogy and can tango smoothly between tech, low-tech and no-tech approaches, they can create the recipes that best fit their case for equitable education. If given a clear understanding of the nuances of varying pedagogies—the science behind learning and learning in the new normal—teacher leaders can propose pedagogies of

change as a response to specific students' contexts, needs and vulnerabilities, and engage relevant members of the community in the process.

**ANYONE CAN LEAD**  
We must promote a culture that believes anyone, whether in formal or informal roles, can practice leadership by actively driving change towards a shared purpose. Often, it is assumed that leadership will be exercised only by those in the role of formal leadership, typified by positions such as head teachers, teacher officers, principals and school leaders. However, if we shift away from this top-down, hierarchical model, we can promote the agency and capacity of others to lead. Teachers who are empowered by their principals and school communities to make decisions both autonomously and collaboratively, and are involved in decision-making, will practice



PHOTO: RASHED SUMON

*In the wake of the pandemic, teachers took several initiatives to stay connected to their students and teach them. They took live classes on Facebook, created WhatsApp groups and phoned or texted students who did not have the internet.*

leadership not only for the development of the students and the school but also the community. It is essential to trust teachers to make autonomous decisions and lead change fully. Mutual trust needs to be complemented with a safe environment that accepts failure, and redefines it as a learning opportunity.

In a study by McKinsey, it was said: "Human nature being what it is, risk aversion (even fear) will rule people's actions if they do not actually believe it is safe to fail." Teachers will not be motivated to work as agents of change without the option to fail. However, the opportunity cost for failure is relatively high in education as children's future is involved. So, it is also essential to cushion the students from any fallout and prioritise their well-being.

**COLLABORATIVE REFLECTION**  
Reflection is more than mulling over one's decision; it is an analytical process with purpose at its core that begins with diagnosing the problem, defining and redefining it, designing and redesigning the solution, and evaluating the impact to make informed

choices. When this is done with colleagues in a safe and constructive environment that promotes critical evaluation of one's work to unlock new learning opportunities, it is called collaborative reflection. Teachers can allocate short periods of time during the week when they work with each other and other community members, like parents and local education authorities, to understand the nature of the problem in their schools, co-create a solution, and distribute responsibilities—and then reconvene to evaluate the impact and re-design the solution for greater efficacy. The colossal nature of the challenges we face demands that we engage all the relevant stakeholders to drive change through distributed leadership and collaborative reflection.

**REMOVING EXISTING BARRIERS**  
On regular days, teachers are swamped with administrative duties. In government schools, teachers have to enlist voters, map catchment areas, in addition to performing their regular work, which makes it challenging for them to take on new roles and initiatives. Remote learning has reduced many of these added tasks and given them a scope to be at the forefront of innovative change. In some government schools located in remote areas, the number of teachers is insufficient. This overburdens the existing teachers. For them to move beyond their traditional roles, they need to be given room and flexibility.

So recruiting sufficient and qualified teachers to ensure a 1:28 teacher-student ratio is paramount to enabling teachers to practice the art of leadership. There is limited scope for career progression in the teaching profession in the country. By opening the doors to promotion into Zila and Upazila teacher officer positions and tying it with teacher performance and their leadership skills, community-rooted leadership practices can lead to equitable education across the country.

Azwa Nayeem is the Chairperson of Alokito Teachers and Alokito Hriday Foundation.

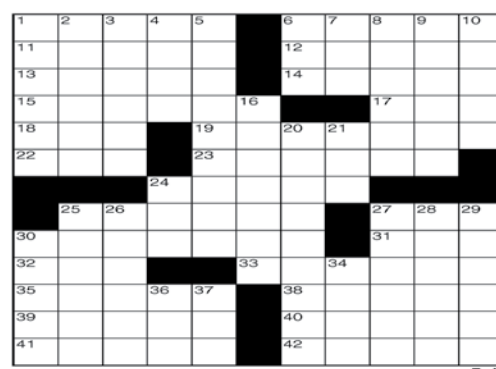
## QUOTABLE Quote



**BEVERLY CLEARY**  
American writer (1916-2021)  
*Children should learn that reading is pleasure, not just something that teachers make you do in school.*

## CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- |                          |                            |                        |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>            | 27 By way of               | 6 Pillbox, for one     |
| 1 Syrup source           | 30 Vulcan's lookalike      | 7 Israeli gun          |
| 6 Rabbit's home          | 31 Sphere                  | 8 Rutabaga's cousin    |
| 11 Heavens supporter     | 32 Binary digit            | 9 Defeats decisively   |
| 12 Blue hue              | 33 Remain for a bit        | 10 Yard border         |
| 13 Decade divisions      | 35 Conference site of 1945 | 16 Helium, for one     |
| 14 Spent                 | 38 Ridiculous              | 20 Latent promise      |
| 15 Anger, informally     | 39 Enjoyed avidly          | 21 Gift from Santa     |
| 17 Pester                | 40 Wrath                   | 24 Nittany Lions' sch. |
| 18 Enzyme suffix         | 41 Not bother              | 25 Give                |
| 19 Kid's afternoon break | 42 Lusty looks             | 26 Brunch dish         |
| 22 "You bet!"            | <b>DOWN</b>                | 27 Trip                |
| 23 Army makeup           | 1 Distress call            | 28 Laundry worker      |
| 24 Virtue                | 2 Relaxed                  | 29 Doubleday et al.    |
| 25 Rx amount             | 3 Runway sights            | 30 Fit for a king      |
|                          | 4 Cooking fat              | 34 Writer Rice         |
|                          | 5 Needed                   | 36 Old boat            |
|                          |                            | 37 Zoo beast           |



## YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

B O R I S H A L A S  
I N A N E E V O K E  
B E I G E N O W I N  
S O M E C E N T  
S U E T G E A R  
A S S H O L D S O N  
R E T R O M O T T O  
A D H E R E S H I D  
E D A M M E S S  
G E R M S W A B  
A L O E S E L O P E  
U B O A T S T O O L  
L E F T Y T A M P S

## BEETLE BAILEY



## BY MORT WALKER



## BABY BLUES



## BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com.





# ARGENTINA get off the mark

## AGENCIES



COPA AMERICA 2021

A first half goal from

Guido Rodriguez, his

first in 11 international

appearances, gave

Argentina a 1-0 win over

Uruguay in a leaden

Copa America clash on Friday.

The Real Betis midfielder started for

his country for the first time since June

2019 and he justified that decision when

he converted a cross from Lionel Messi

after 10 minutes.

After the game, an elated Lionel Messi

reacted and pointed out the importance

of the win and the fact that there is

finally some peace of mind, but he also

cautioned his teammates of complacency

and there is a long way to go.

"Come on!!! It was important to win

today. This will give us peace of mind

for what is coming will continue to be

hard," tweeted an elated Messi after their

win.

"We've lacked a bit of luck to get

victories (recently)," said Argentina's

second half substitute Angel Di Maria.

"Today we managed to do that against

a direct rival who are always contenders

for the Copa America."

"Brazil are the best team (so far),"

he added. "We're taking it step by step

and the dream is alive, I hope we can

make it come true. Argentina are always

a candidate (for the title) but Brazil are

at home and are doing things very well."

Argentina's next game is against

Paraguay on Tuesday 6am (Bangladesh

Time) while Brazil will meet Colombia

in their next match on Thursday at 6am

(Bangladesh Time).

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The result extended Argentina's unbeaten run to 15 games since they lost in the semi-final of the last Copa America in 2019.
- Argentina are now undefeated in 5 games against Uruguay in the Copa America (4 wins, 1 draw). Uruguay's last win was 2-0 in the 1989 edition.
- With this important win Argentina move on to 4 points to sit joint top with Chile in Group A. Brazil are leading Group B with maximum six points and Colombia are in second position with four points. The top four teams of each group will advance to the knockout stages of the 10-team competition.



## THE FLYING SIKH NO MORE

Indian athletics trailblazer Milkha Singh, the man dubbed "The Flying Sikh" for his Olympic and Asian Games exploits, died Friday at the age of 91 after contracting Covid-19. Singh won gold medals at the 1958 and 1962 Asian Games. However, he shot to fame at the 1960 Olympics in Rome when he finished fourth in the 400m after a photo-finish was required to decide the winner.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ THE STORY

## Rain ruins BDPL games

The Super League stage of the Bangabandhu Dhaka Premier Division T20 League (BDPL) was scheduled to kick off yesterday but unfortunately all three Super League matches at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur and one match of the relegation league in Savar were abandoned due to incessant rain. Only Prime Doleshwar and Gazi Group shared points but the other matches were abandoned without a ball being bowled and are set to be rescheduled soon.

## BPL to resume sans spectators

Following the suspension after May 11 due to Eid ul Fitr and the national football team's international engagement, the second phase of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) will resume from June 25 at four different venues (Dhaka, Tongi, Munshiganj and Cumilla) but will be held without spectators maintaining Covid-19 protocols- as decided in an emergency meeting of the league committee chaired by BFF's senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedy at the Bangladesh Football Federation House yesterday.



## KOHLI HELPS INDIA REBUILD

Skipper Virat Kohli led India's revival and steered his team to 146-3 against New Zealand before bad light stopped play in the weather-marred World Test Championship (WTC) final on Saturday. Kohli had raised 58 runs with Ajinkya Rahane when the players were forced off amid fading light at the Ageas Bowl with only 9.1 overs played in the final session. The India captain, like several of his team mates, stood outside the crease to try to negate any swing and played the moving ball quite late for his unbeaten 44. Rahane, batting on 29, looked cagey initially but gamely hung on to feature in India's second 50-plus partnership. After persistent rain washed out the entire opening day on Friday, New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson unsurprisingly elected to field after winning the toss. Only 64.4 overs have been played in the first two days of the weather-hit contest which has a reserve day to make up for lost time.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## EURO 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

## Hungary ready to surprise Germany, says Rossi

REUTERS, Budapest

Hungary coach Marco Rossi was not sure his team would achieve much against world champions France in their Euro 2020 Group F match on Saturday but after they came away with a 1-1 draw he wants them to spring a surprise against Germany as well.

After a heartbreaking late meltdown in Hungary's first game on Tuesday which they lost 3-0 to defending champions Portugal, a team Rossi thought would be easier to face than France, the coach said he was happy for them to be the protagonists now.

"This is incredible, it is exceptional," a joyful Rossi told a news conference, stressing that besides the result against France the effort was laudable as well. "We have to be happy about the

performance. It should make our guys proud."

Attila Fiola put the hosts ahead just before halftime but Antoine Griezmann equalised in the 66th minute to move France on to four points after two games and on track for the last 16.

Hungary's unexpected point kept alive their slim hopes and they must now beat another heavyweight, Germany, on Wednesday to have a chance of advancing to the knockout stage.

"We need to keep our feet on the ground. I'm not arrogant and saying we'll win in Munich, but we will do our best to make it a match," said Rossi, who took a swipe at critics who said he should have called up different players for the finals.



Attila Fiola

PHOTO: TWITTER



PHOTO: REUTERS

## Germany sink Portugal in six-goal thriller

REUTERS, Munich

Three-times European champions Germany shrugged off their opening game loss and announced their arrival as serious contenders at Euro 2020 with an emphatic 4-2 win over highly-rated Portugal in their Group F match on Saturday.

Cristiano Ronaldo had given the defending champions a 15th minute lead but Germany went in at the break 2-1 up thanks to own goals from Ruben Dias and Raphael Guerreiro.

The Germans turned on the style in the second half with goals from Kai Havertz and the impressive Robin Gosens making it 4-1 before Diogo Jota pulled a goal back for Portugal.

The win moves Germany, who face Hungary in their final game, into second place in the group on three points, a point behind leaders France and level on points with the

Portuguese. Hungary drew 1-1 with France earlier on Saturday.

Germany coach Joachim Loew punched the air when Robin Gosens headed in their fourth goal at the far post in their Euro 2020 Group F 4-2 win over Portugal on Saturday, knowing his attacking gamble with his in-form left back had paid off in spades.

Gosens played a sensational game on the biggest stage, intimidating the Portuguese defence with his speed and power down the left wing as he charged through again and again to set up two goals and score another.

"I don't know if it was the game of a lifetime for him, maybe he still has to play that," Loew said.

"But an amazing performance from him. He worked very hard and on top of that he was a constant threat up front as well. That is exactly what we needed today."



## ASHRAYAN-2 PROJECT 20 families now all smiles

ASHUTOSH SARKAR, from Brahmanbaria

Surobala Das, 60, a landless single mother of three from Brahmanbaria cannot believe her luck.

Her family is one of the 20 to have received a brick house at the Jangal village of Sultanpur union under Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila under the second phase of the Ashrayan-2 project.

"Even a few months back, we did not imagine that we could live in a pucca house. My endless blessings are for the Prime Minister," an elated Das told the Daily Star on Friday.

The family of Surobala, now 60, is one of 20 families at Jangal village of Sultanpur union under Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila, which were given a pucca house each under the second phase of the Ashrayan-2 project.

She said her husband Diresh Chandra Das died from cancer 12 years back and since then she with her son and two daughters had been living in a place given by her husband's brother Girendra Das at Birampur village, where they did not feel comfortable.

The family arrived at the Jangal village two months ago, where a local representative proposed their name in the list of people who will get houses from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



A teenage girl named Onamika and her grandmother Surobala Das smiling in front of their new home at Jangaal village in Brahmanbaria's Sultanpur union. The government distributed 20 houses among the homeless people there.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

ROAD TO FREEDOM  
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## A new campaign of terror

JUNE 20, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN



PAK ARMY  
ELIMINATING  
PROFESSIONALS

The Sunday Times (London) alleged that the professional classes in Bangladesh were being eliminated in a new campaign of terror. The newspaper said that their information had come from 'academic and professional sources we know to be unimpeachable'. It claimed that all public servants, teachers, writers, journalists and industrialists were being screened and the 'dangerous' were being eliminated. The newspaper said the Pak Army was creating three lists -- white, grey and black. Those on the white list would be given clearance, those on the grey list would probably lose their jobs and be imprisoned, and those on the blacklist would be shot. The report also included details of what it called a new element in East Bengal, a secret force called Razakars. NO SUMMIT TILL PAK BUTCHERY ENDS: INDIRA GANDHI

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## DU students charged dorm, transport fees despite closure

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Though they didn't use dormitory and transport facilities for around a year and half, Dhaka University students will have to pay for those.

Many students, much to their frustration, claimed this was an extra burden for them.

DU authorities, however, said though the university remained shut down, its transport and hall services are continuing on a limited scale and they are charging fees.

Considering the pandemic, the authorities have decided to waive the "admission delay fee" this time. Earlier, they slashed the departmental

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

## Space reproduction research yields baby mice



REUTERS

Trail-blazing space reproduction research that yielded healthy baby mice produced using freeze-dried sperm stored for years in orbit is showing the possibilities of procreation beyond Earth, with future implications for humans exploring the cosmos.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

## ADNAN MISSING Police claim he was in Gaibandha

Adds to confusion

MOSTAFA SHABUI from Gaibandha

The hearsay of young Islamic preacher Abu Taw Haa Muhammad Adnan hiding in one of his friend's house in Gaibandha created confusion.

Adnan, along with the associates and the driver, left Dhaka's Gabtoli for Rangpur on the night of June 10. They went to the house of Adnan's friend Siam Ibn Sharif in Gaibandha Sadar upazila, said police.

In a press briefing, Abu Maruf Hossain, DC (crime) of Rangpur Metropolitan Police, also told journalists that after reaching Trimohoni in Gaibandha,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## S Asia failed to play due role

Prof Rehman Sobhan, Prof Deepak Nayyar say about Covid prevention, recovery plans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The governments of South Asian countries including Bangladesh have failed to play their roles in controlling the spread of the coronavirus and come up with sustainable and effective recovery solutions to the pandemic-induced crisis.

Two eminent economists -- Prof Rehman Sobhan, chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), and Prof Deepak Nayyar, emeritus professor of Economics Department at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University -- shared the view yesterday at a discussion on "COVID-19: SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING  
JUNE 20

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-05	12-45	5-00	6-52	8-17
JAMAAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



It is illegal to set up markets or commercial establishments within 10 metres of a highway area, reads a signboard that is ironically placed in the middle of an illegal market that sprouted on a highway in Ashulia of Dhaka.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (স্রেডা)  
বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ

জ্বালানি দক্ষ যন্ত্রপাতি স্থাপনে,  
৫% হারে ঋণ গ্রহণ করুন।

জ্বালানি সাশ্রয়ের মাধ্যমে নিজে লাভবান হউন  
এবং দেশকে উপকৃত করুন।

সাশ্রয়ে জ্বালানি, সমৃদ্ধ আগামী

SREDA  
Sustainable and Renewable  
Energy Development Authority

"জ্বালানি দক্ষতা ও সংরক্ষণ বৃদ্ধি কার্যক্রমে অর্থায়ন প্রকল্প"

website: www.sreda.gov.bd

## WE MOURN

**Mrs. Marina Yasmin Chowdhury**

With profound grief, we share with you that Mrs. Marina Yasmin Chowdhury, Sponsor Director, Prime Bank Limited and Vice Chairperson, East Coast Group, breathed her last on June 19, 2021 at Square Hospital in Dhaka (Inna lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Raji'un). She is the wife of **Mr. Azam J Chowdhury**, renowned industrialist and mother of **Mr. Tanjil Chowdhury**, Chairman of Prime Bank Limited.

The Prime Bank Family is deeply mourning the sad demise of their revered guardian. She has been an inspirational icon to the Bank, supporting the entity for long years with her valuable vision and foresight. We pray to the Almighty for the salvation of the departed soul and convey our deepest condolences to the bereaved family.