Our actions are our future

SHYKH SERAJ

October 16 was the World Food Day. The theme of this year's World Food Day, "Our actions are our future," calls on everyone to be a food hero contributing to the transformation of agri-food systems for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind. The whole world is now looking at developments, but differently. If we look at the world's food and food production system right now, we can see that the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that 40 percent of the world's population or more than three billion people do not have access to healthy food. On the other hand, more than two billion people are overweight. As a result, it is feared that by 2030, the cost of healthcare will reach 130 billion US dollars.

There are now one billion people in the world who are involved in agriculture and food-related work, which is more than any other sector. Small and marginal farmers provide 33 percent of the world's food. About 20 percent of the world's women, aged between 25 to 34 years, live in extreme poverty. 16 percent of indigenous women earn less than two dollars a day.





Shykh Seraj talks with farmer Abu Bakr Siddiqui at his papaya orchard in Manikganj's Singair upazila.

responsible for 33 percent of greenhouse

gas emissions. About 14 percent of the

world's food is wasted due to errors in

harvesting, transportation and storage.

At the consumer level, 18 percent of

food is wasted. Fifty five percent of the

world's population now live in cities.

About 17 percent of the world's people

are constantly consuming unsafe food

with harmful effects of bacteria, viruses,

parasites and chemicals. Climate change

hits the rural poor. Not only is the

yield of the crop decreasing, but it is

also reducing all the essential nutrients

like vitamins and proteins of the crop.

Decreased soil fertility is having an

Overall, the food production sector is conventional statistics, it can be said

inclusive impact on biodiversity. Just when the world is calculating this situation, Bangladesh is talking about food self-sufficiency, progress and the best use of land. It is a revolutionary achievement in the production of highvalue fruit crops. We have unimaginable success in the production of animal protein. Our young entrepreneurs are building the food and nutrition belt global coalitions and partnerships, of the country by overcoming many reducing food waste through adversities. Without going into any collaboration among countries and

that our cultivable land is declining. As a result, land for basic food grains is also declining. Vertical production efforts have started in crop production, fish farming, livestock and milk production. The UN Food Systems Summit, held during the UN General Assembly in New York on September 23, 2021, set the stage for global food systems transformation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina presented a five-point suggestion for ensuring a resilient food system globally. It will be crucial in the coming days amid the falling food production due to climate change and growing global population. Describing the proposals, she said first there should be research, investment and advanced technology sharing for agricultural development, and then there should be increased funding for developing countries for achieving a sustainable food system. Her three other points include developing

disbursing the committed funds to adapt to the climate-led extreme events. She said access to adequate food is a basic right that is linked to the wellbeing and health of all citizens. "The global system has social, economic, political and environmental implications." The prime minister mentioned that food security is interconnected with climate change, and the global population is expected to be 10 billion by 2050.

HRIDOYE MATI O MANUSH

"Therefore, it's imperative for us to grow more food for the additional people." She said the growth rate of food production in Bangladesh exceeds the rate of population growth. Bangladesh has become self-sufficient in food production from a food deficit country, and the government has been working for long-term food security. She, however, said the greater frequency of extreme weather events due to climate change is affecting our momentum. As a global leader in addressing the challenges of climate change, Bangladesh is also working on climate-resilient agriculture and food systems, the prime minister said, adding that, "In addition to food security, we intensified our efforts for ensuring food security and quality food

This year on World Food Day, the context of climate change has been discussed more than anything else. The World Bank has prepared an important report assessing the climate situation over the past 44 years. The report says the temperature in Bangladesh will increase by 1.5 degrees Celsius while the rainfall will increase to 64mm by 2050. The most negative impact of climate change will be in the health sector. According to a survey, conducted among 3,600 households and 15,000 people, due to rise in temperatures and humidity, infectious diseases will increase in the dry season while 27 percent will fall ill in the rainy season. The respiratory inflammation will increase as well. It can be seen that if the temperature rises by 1 degree Celsius, 9.3 percent people will fall prey to various respiratory diseases, and if the humidity rises by 1 percent, 12.5 percent will be affected by respiratory diseases. People's frustration and anxiety are increasing in all seasons. The temperature of Dhaka city is increasing alarmingly. The impact of dengue also seeing a rise. The effects of dengue are exacerbated by excessive rainfall in February, and, increased temperatures and humidity in March-Temperatures in Bangladesh have risen by half a degree Celsius since 1980. During the summer here the temperature is rising, while the winter is getting warmer and rains are becoming longer and irregular. Rainfall is increasing in September-October. The overall situation is becoming difficult for public health. In such a situation, we need a

planned vision towards agriculture and diversity of life. For the last few years we have been giving efforts to expand agriculture in the city. Citizens are being encouraged to practice agriculture. They are aware of agriculture, safe food and climate change. Big entrepreneurs and large investments are now being made in production and trade. There is a need to build a balanced system so that our marginal and small farmers can survive. On the other hand, it is necessary to reduce the use of harmful chemicals in agriculture, follow the purity in food processing, and prepare a specific food list to ensure the nutrition of all. Our preparation and initiative today can be the foundation of the future.

Teacher sued

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former lawmaker, were arrested a few days after the incident over the murder.

She also came on Facebook Live and spread provocative information.

With the help of information technology, the elite force has come to know that the video clip of Shahinuddin's murder was first spread on Facebook Messenger by an individual named Devdrita Bhowmik from Kolkata; then another Devdas Mandal, also from Kolkata, uploaded the same video on Twitter.

"Ruma shared the fake video and made provocative speeches, which may hurt religious sentiment and deteriorate the law and order. So, we have arrested her," Khandaker Al Moin, Rab's director for legal and media wing, told The Daily

Investigation Officer Shofiqul Islam Shofiq, also a sub-inspector of Ramna Police Station, produced Ruma before the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Masud-Ur-Rahman with a seven-day remand prayer, court sources said.

In the remand prayers, the IO said the accused spread propaganda and made provocative speeches on Facebook to tarnish the image of the state as well as deteriorate the law and order across the country.

The accused should need to be remanded to quiz why she did such activities on Facebook, he added.

The defence also filed two separate petitions with the court in favour of Ruma: one for seeking bail and another for seeking cancellation of the remand

However, the magistrate rejected the petitions and granted her the remand.

Health sector plagued with

Mentioning that the issue has already been identified, he said, "We prepared a new organogram in 2020 and have sent it to Prime Minister. The required number of healthcare staffers has been mentioned in that organogram."

In the same event, Zahid Maleque said the child vaccination drive would be started soon.

"The education ministry is supposed to send schoolchildren's list aged between 12 and 17 by October 30 to the ICT ministry [for registration process]. Once received, vaccination for this age

group will be started," the minister said. On October 14, the health directorate inoculated 120 schoolchildren, aged between 12 and 17, with Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine in Manikganj as part of the trial run before the largescale campaign.

Meanwhile, the minister in another

centring Durga Puja shows their weakness

that some identified radical communal

groups have been carrying out the

incidents cashing on in religion," the

The alliance urged the state,

"It is clear from the series of events

and inability, the statement read.

statement further reads.

event on Wednesday, said that vaccinating at least 50 percent of the targeted population by December is possible as the vaccine supply is smooth

"Even though Bangladesh itself has not produced any vaccine it now has almost all types of vaccines that have been produced in the world," he said addressing a discussion organised by UHFPO -- an organisation of upazila health officers, in Dhaka.

The event was sponsored by Beacon Pharmaceuticals Limited.

Presided over by Prof Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, the director general of the health directorate, Md Ebadul Karim, lawmaker and managing director of BEACON Pharmaceuticals Limited, and Lokman Hossain Miah, senior secretary of the health service division of the ministry, attended the event among others.

Executive Director Shaheen Anam,

Measles unusual before 9 months of age

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situation.

collapsed.

at 9:00am yesterday.

transmitted via droplets from the nose, mouth or throat of infected persons. Initial symptoms usually appear after 10-12 days of an incubation period. It can start out with rashes, but can escalate very quickly to dangerous complications.

Pneumonia is the most common fatal complication of measles and accounts for 56-86 percent of measles-related deaths, and other complications include infected people sneeze or cough. middle ear orai uicer, secondary bacterial infections, flaring of dormant TB, encephalitis and depletion of vitamin A with passing the virus on to her fetus,

24 hours," said the bulletin, released

correspondents

different districts reported on flood

Lalmonirhat,

communication with Rangpur has

been remaining suspended since

Wednesday night as around a

300-meter-long portion of the road

rising abnormally due to an onrush

of water from the upstream, said

kilometers further [than we used

to] to cross the route. Normally, we

The water level of the Teesta is

"We have to travel around 60

followed xerophthalmia blindness and malnutrition.

Long-term effects of measles are hearing loss, brain damage and immune suppression. Deaths may occur in up to 5-10 percent of infected children in the developing countries.

Another contagious infection that is often confused with measles is rubella or German measles. It is also transmitted through airborne droplets when

Though milder than measles, if infection (otitis media), laryngitis, rubella infects a pregnant woman during the first half of her pregnancy, she may have a 90 percent risk of

need around 20 minutes to go from

Lalmonirhat to Rangpur. But now,

we need over three hours," said

Nazrul Islam, a resident of Kakina

Local Government Engineering

Department (LGED) and Water

Development Board's (WDB) said

the road would be repaired after the

Nilphamari,

communications with Burimari

land port of Lalmonirhat remained

snapped as around 400-meter-long

road was washed away by the flood

suffering. We are now crossing the

"Hundreds of people like me are

on Wednesday afternoon.

Contacted, officials of the

area in Kaliganj upazila.

flood recedes.

North flooded, rivers swelling

road

by which may cause miscarriage, stillbirth or severe birth defects that especially affect the eyes, ears, heart, and brain known as Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS). Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect against measles and rubella.

There are nationwide measlesrubella follow-up campaigns that target children aged 9-59 months every 2-5 years. There is no specific treatment for measles and rubella, it is necessary and wise to get children raccinated to prevent to through immunisation.

[Dr Rukhsana Parvin is an assistant professor at Department of Pediatrics, Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College]

area on boats," said Taufiquzzaman

Jewel, a government employee, who

Imports and exports are also being halted due to the snap

in road communications, said

Farhanul Huque, vice president of

Nilphamari chamber of commerce

In Rangpur, low lying areas of

Around 20,000 people of those

Gangachara, Pirgachha and Kaunia

upazila have been flooded as the

areas have been affected, while

several hectares of crop land have

been inundated and fish of several

ponds were washed away, said

Teesta continues to swell.

uses the route daily.

and industries.

PM wants

Secretary Abu Sayeed Al Mahmood Swapon and local AL MP AKM Bahauddin and other local AL leaders joined the event virtually from the new office building.

Yahya urges

Mujibur Rahman can play a part in forging a political settlement, informed

YAHYA'S REPLY TO THANT

Pakistan President Yahya Khan, in reply to a letter from the UN Secretary General U Thant, urged him to pay an immediate visit to Pakistan and India to discuss the issue of withdrawal of forces from the India-Pakistan border.

He further recommended deployment of UN observers on both sides of the border to "oversee the withdrawal and supervise the maintenance of peace".

It may be noted here that U Thant had sent appeals to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Yahya on October 20 offering his personal mediation assistance to head off a conflict between the two countries.

ON THE WAR FRONT

Mukti Bahini today attacked Pakistani troops near Barakhata in Rangpur district, killing two and injuring three enemy soldiers. Another group of freedom fighters raided the Pakistani occupation troops in Bhurungamari area of Kurigram district. Twenty Pakistani soldiers were killed in the operation.

On the same day, Mukti Bahini ambushed enemy troops in Mirdarbazar inflicting 10 casualties on them, including one officer. In reprisal, the Pakistan army burnt the houses of the villagers.

Mukti Bahini ambushed razakars patrol in Munshirhat area in Feni, capturing 15 of them. Four rifles were also captured by the freedom fighters

during this operation.

WILLY BRANDT CONGRATULATED

Syed Nazrul Islam, the acting president of Bangladesh, sent a telegram to Willy Brandt, the chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, congratulating him upon receiving the Nobel Prize for

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

Big John

"It's a record for Europe," said auctioneer

The first piece of bone from the supersized skeleton - the skull alone is 2.62 meters long and two meters wide was found in 2014.

2015, paleontologists had unearthed 60% of the skeleton, a rare feat, made of over 200 pieces which

As marginalised

He said such a mentality by the teachers institutionalises the racist behaviour towards the marginalised

NO SOLUTION TO COMPLAINTS The research has found that allegations of racist behaviour "mainstream" classmates and teachers in schools are not resolved.

Rather, some students and parents have also been made victims of negative comments from teachers in the wake of the allegations.

In one place, there were

allegations of Dalit students failing exams due to protests by them against their teachers who made them clean school toilets. After filing of a written complaint

with the upazila nirbahi officer concerned regarding the incident, the UNO formed an investigation committee comprising the upazila education officer and the upazila social service officer.

The officials threatened the parents that filing a complaint against a government official would not produce any good results. The matter remained unresolved, said the TIB.

The graft watchdog said access to services and accountability structures of healthcare institutions

is hampered due to Dalit identity and it becomes more difficult for them to file a complaint if they do not receive services. According the

transgender people were not allowed to stand in queues for the government's relief assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic. When they wanted to file a complaint with the elected

representatives about this, the staff of the ward commissioner's office concerned did not let them do that. COMPLAINTS NOT ADDRESSED During the pandemic, not all families living in a Dalit colony

received relief assistance, the TIB

There are instances where no solutions were being found by complaining to the deputy commissioner about the lists for relief. In this regard, the deputy commissioner concerned said, "I am here to support the elected representatives. I cannot interfere in the list made by the elected representatives.'

The research also found that marginalised people have negative experiences after filing complaints.

For example, a local UNO gave written instructions to owners of a restaurant to arrange separate communities.

seating areas and utensils for Dalits in the wake of allegations that they were prevented from entering and eating at restaurants. LACK OF SUPERVISION

The TIB research further found that supervision of the complaint system is not integrated. People from the indigenous community filed written complaints about education, land social security programmes with the offices concerned. But due to their indigenous identities, there are instances of complaints not being recorded, preserved in the register and followed up.

The lack of precise data on marginalised people is a major obstacle to providing access, the study added.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The TIB made 10 recommendations, including eliminating barriers to the inclusion of marginalised people in various services, ensuring nondiscriminatory and accountable services and enacting discrimination act.

It also suggested ensuring proper and regular publicity of the services and accountability system of the government agencies at the field level and in all media in the language of marginalised

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Alexandre Giquello, who described exponential growth in the relatively new market of dinosaur fossils. "We're creating a market."

were painstakingly put together in Italy, to prepare for the Paris auction.

government, local representatives and administration to take effective steps so that such incidents are not repeated. The alliance also assured to provide

Initiate judicial probe

all-out cooperation to stop such violence The 26 eminent personalities who signed the statement include CSO

Convener Rasheda K Choudhury, General Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Maleka Banu, Action Aid Bangladesh Country Director Farah Kabir, Executive Director of CPD Fahmida Khatun, President of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (BAPA) Sultana Kamal, Coordinator of Nijera Kori Khushi Kabir, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)

Executive Director of BELA Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Chairman of JAAGO Foundation Trust Korvi Rakshand, Regional Director of Water Aid Khairul Islam, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Executive Director (ED) M Ehsanur Rahman, Executive Director of Dushtha Shasthya Kendra (DSK) Dibalok Singha, General Secretary of Adivasi Forum Sanjeeb Drong, Executive Director of Brac Asif Saleh, Executive Director of Center for Disability in Development AHM Noman Khan, Chairperson of FNB Jakir Hossain, Chairperson of Sajeda Foundation SN Kairy, Country Director of ADD International Shafiqul Islam, Founder of Protibondhi Kalyan Foundation Mansur Ahmed Chowdhury, Executive director of ALRD Shamsul Huda, Chairperson of Credit and Development Forum Morshed Sarkar, Executive Director of SKS Rasel Ahmed Liton, Executive Director of Sushilon Mostafa Nuruzzaman, Executive Director of BYLC Ejaj Ahmad, Executive Director

Another rider sets bike on fire

documents, the sergeant saw that the driver had not yet paid the fine of Tk 4,000 in previous cases, said the DC, adding the sergeant then fined the driver Tk 1,000 and filed another case for not submitting the previous fine.

After an hour of the incident, Ilias moved around 200 yards forward from the traffic check post and set fire on his motorbike, said Mehedi. An eyewitness said Ilias set fire on his

motorbike after pouring petrol from its oil tank. Sushanta Shil, a roadside barber, has tried to douse the fire of the motorbike.

"But the rider has asked me not to douse the fire," Sushanta told this newspaper.

"The rider with tears on eyes was saying that he set fire on his bike on after a traffic sergeant "attempted to file a frustration as traffic police repeatedly

filed cases against him." Around 10-minutes later, a police patrol team appeared at the spot and take

of Faria Lara Foundation Selina Hossain.

Ilias away with them, witnesses added. Jashim Uddin Molla, commissioner of Lalbagh crime division, told The Daily Star that, "We have brought Ilias in the police station for interrogation. A general diary was filed regarding the incident."

"We have already asked Ilias's relative to come to the police station and we would hand him over to them," added

Hailing from Kishoreganj, he is living in a rented house in the Demra area of Dhaka. Recently, he has started working for the ride-sharing service, said police.

On September 27, another biker, Shawkat Ali, set his motorcycle on fire case" in the Badda area of Dhaka.