



Zakaria of Dakkhin Sonakhuli village in Nilphamari's Dimla upazila is seen standing in front of the school called 'Co-ordinated Education Programme for Visually Impaired' run by the Social Welfare Department. He has served the institution as a part-time teacher for five years with a hope to be permanent.

PHOTO: STAR

Zakaria's quest for self-dependence still elusive

EAM ASADUZZAMAN

Thirty-two-year-old Zakaria Hossain, a resident of Dakkhin Sonakhuli village in Nilphamari's Dimla upazila, was not born blind.

He lost his eyesight in 2007, in the final days of preparation for his HSC exams, after he was hit in the eyes by a stray cricket ball. But his indomitable desire for education brought him distinction in his BSS examination and he also went on to achieve a master degree learning to read in the Braille method.

"People look at the blind with pity but I want to change this outlook and I chose the path of education to be self-dependent," Zakaria said.

Through perseverance and generous people's support, he attained first-class, a rare distinction in BSS and MA degrees from the National University in 2015 and 2017 respectively appearing in the Braille method.

The Daily Star published a report on him in 2015 reflecting his eagerness to pursue masters after his remarkable feat in graduation. Following the publication of the report, the then Nilphamari deputy commissioner (DC) arranged him a part-time teaching job at a new project of the social welfare department titled 'Co-ordinated Education Programme for Visually Impaired' and assured him of making the job permanent if the project came under revenue.

Business farms Nilsagor Group and Kedarpur Tea Company Ltd and Bangla daily Prothom Alo also extended financial support to him.

Zakaria has served the post for five years hoping to be permanent as the project came under revenue in 2017.

However, the Social Welfare Department recruited manpower in the vacant posts namely 'Parents cum teacher' all over the country including Nilphamari where Zakaria's name

was not included and his five-year service as a part-time teacher was not counted either.

This incident shattered Zakaria's hopes to become self-dependent and he is going to cross the maximum age limit for entering a government job next December.

"Where shall I go now?" Zakaria said with tears rolling down his cheek.

Prof Zillur Rahman of Rangpur Carmichael College, who taught Zakaria during his master degree programme, said "Visually impaired Zakaria has proved that perseverance and little support from the society can turn a so-called burden of the society into an asset."

Zakaria said, "I don't have lights not only in my eyes but also in my life. Yet a ray of hope keeps me going if honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina salvages me by employing me at a job especially on the occasion of Bangabandhu's birth centenary."

Pest attacks in Kushtia Aman fields raise alarm

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Farmers in Kushtia exceeded the targeted cultivation of Aman rice in the district this year, but they are getting increasingly worried about reaping a good harvest due to a rise in pest infestations at some rice fields.

Against the targeted Aman cultivation on 88,885 hectares of land in all six upazilas of Kushtia this year, the crop has been cultivated on 88,895 hectares, according to data from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in the district.

While rice fields in many places are budding with flower and grain, panicles of flowers in many plants -- in Kumarkhali, Mirpur and Daulatpur upazilas -- have started to turn whitish due to pest attacks, said a number of Aman farmers in the upazilas.

Harunur Rashid Askari, a rice farmer from Mirpur, said compared to neighbouring areas, his Aman field appeared to be more affected by the pest attack.

Almost 12 to 14 percent of the panicles in his field has turned white and those will develop empty hulls, said the frustrated farmer.

Similar problems have developed in his Aman field, said another farmer, Abdul Mannan, from Jadubaira village in Kumarkhali upazila.

Confirming pest infestation in transplanted Aman rice this year, Mirpur Upazila Agriculture Officer Ramesh Chandra Ghosh said higher temperatures due to climate change might have contributed to the problem.

However, this will not have too much negative impact on the production of the crop as they have been able to keep the infestations under control by educating the farmers on identifying pests, following modern farming methods and using effective organic pesticides in place of chemical pesticides, he added.

Contacted, Hayat Mahmud, DAE's deputy director in Kushtia, said there is no possibility of a major catastrophe due to the pest attacks and a good harvest will be reaped as they had anticipated before.

Man found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The body of an unidentified youth was recovered from beside the Panchagarh-Banglabandha highway in Panchagarh's Tentulia upazila yesterday morning.

Sub Inspector (SI) of Tentulia Highway Police Ashrafur Islam said identity of the youth, aged around 23 years, is yet to be ascertained.

Local people saw the blood-stained body of the youth lying beside the highway at Ranchandi Bhadrupara village around 7:30am and informed them, the SI said, adding that, being informed, they recovered the body and sent it to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Tentulia OC Abu Sayem Mia said criminals might have killed the man somewhere else and later dumped the body there.

NEWS

Australia for forcing parental consent

FROM PAGE 12 and prioritise children's interests when collecting data.

If made law, the Online Privacy Bill would put Australia among the most stringent countries in terms of age controls for social media, and build on the country's efforts to rein in the power of Big Tech. The government

has already introduced mandatory licencing payments for media outlets and plans to toughen laws against online misinformation and defamation.

"We are ensuring (Australians') data and privacy will be protected and handled with care," said Attorney-General Michaelia Cash in a statement.

"Our draft legislation means that these companies will be punished heavily if they don't meet that standard."

Facebook Inc this month faced the ire of US lawmakers after a former company employee, Frances Haugen, leaked documents that highlighted concerns the company harmed children's mental health in pursuit of profits.

Body bore injury marks

FROM PAGE 12 head, said the court source, quoting Aminul as saying.

Judge Mohammad Ismail of the Cox's Bazar court recorded the statement, said the court's Public Prosecutor Faridul Alam.

The court proceedings began around 10:25am and continued till 5:00pm. All 15 accused in the case were present, he said.

The court began recording statements of witnesses in the sixth phase yesterday and it will continue till tomorrow. Nine witnesses gave their testimonies yesterday.

So far, 34 witnesses have placed their testimonies in five phases since August 23 when the court began the trial through recording testimony of Sinha's sister and the complainant

Sharmin Shahriar Ferdous.

According to the charge sheet, 83 people are witnesses to the incident.

On June 27, the court framed charges against the 15 accused. Of them, 12 are police personnel, including former officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station Pradeep Kumar Das, former inspector Liaqat Ali, sub-inspector Md Shahjahan, and assistant sub-inspector Liton Mia, who were all suspended from their posts.

Sinha, 36, was killed in police firing at a checkpoint of Armed Police Battalion (APBn) on Marine Drive Road in Teknaf's Shamlapur area on July 31 last year. Later, on August 5, Sharmin filed the murder case with Cox's Bazar Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court.

66 lakh

FROM PAGE 12 With this, the total number of deaths from the disease reached 27,828.

At least 289 new infections were recorded during the period, taking the total number of confirmed cases to 15,67,981.

The new cases were detected after testing 20,773 individuals. The positivity rate was 1.39 percent and the overall positivity rate was 15.31 percent.

In those 24 hours, at least 413 Covid-19 patients recovered taking the total number of recoveries to 15,31,740.

Of the five reported dead, two were men and three women, two were aged between 51 and 60 years, and three between 61 and 70, added the release.

UTI more common in women than men

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abdominal pains and urine that appears cloudy and has a strong smell.

Women are at greater risk of developing UTI than men. Women suffer pelvic pain, especially in the centre of the pelvis and around the area of the pubic bone.

Sexual intercourse may lead to infection of the bladder, which is called cystitis. All women are at risk of cystitis because of their anatomy -- specifically, the short distance from the urethra to the anus and the urethral opening to the bladder.

Infection of the urethra (urethritis) is a type of UTI that can occur when GI bacteria spread from the anus to

the urethra. Also, because the female urethra is close to the vagina, sexually transmitted infections can cause urethritis.

When treated promptly and properly, lower urinary tract infections rarely lead to complications. But if left untreated, UTI can have serious consequences.

Anyone with the symptoms should visit a doctor, who may treat the patient with antibiotics.

Complications of a UTI may include recurring infections, especially in women who experience two or more UTIs in a six-month period or four or more within a year.

The factors that can also increase

the likelihood of developing a UTI include diabetes, poor personal hygiene, problems with emptying bladder completely, having a urinary catheter, incontinence, blocked flow of urine, kidney stones, some form of contraception, pregnancy, menopause, suppressed immune system, immobility for a long period and heavy use of antibiotics.

UTI can be prevented following some simple steps like staying hydrated, urinating right away when the need arises, using probiotics, getting enough Vitamin C, cleaning from front to back after urinating and bowel movement, avoiding alcohol and caffeine and practising good sexual hygiene.

Sudan

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Khartoum. At least 12 people were injured in clashes, a doctors' committee said on its Facebook page, without providing further details.

In Khartoum's twin city Omdurman, young protesters barricaded streets and chanted in support of civilian rule, though blockages of phone and internet networks appeared to limit their ability to coordinate large gatherings.

"We will defend democracy until the end," said one protester, 21-year-old Iman Ahmed.

"Burhan cannot deceive us. This is a military coup," said another young man who gave his name as Saleh.

Sudan had been on edge since a failed coup plot last month unleashed recriminations between military and civilian groups sharing power uneasily following the toppling of long-serving ruler Omar al-Bashir two years ago.

Since Bashir was brought down by street protests, the political transition had seen Sudan emerge from international isolation under his nearly three-decade rule.

The director of Hamdok's office, Adam Hereika, told Reuters that the military had mounted the takeover despite "positive movements" towards an agreement with Hamdok following meetings with a visiting US special envoy, Jeffrey Feltman.

Joint forces from the military and from the powerful, paramilitary Rapid Support Forces were stationed in the streets of Khartoum.

Feltman, the US special envoy who had been visiting Sudan on Saturday and Sunday, tweeted that a military takeover would put US aid at risk. The US embassy urged people disrupting the transition to democracy to stand down and let the civilian-led government continue its work.

The United Nations, Arab League and African Union all expressed concern. Sudan's political leaders should be released and human rights respected, the AU Commission Chair Moussa Faki Mahamat said in a statement.

Will continue our fight for justice

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Meanwhile in Dhaka, participants at a rally said the country might turn into a communal state, if the perpetrators are not tried and punished.

Addressing the rally at Central Shaheed Minar, speakers questioned how the attacks took place despite clear directives from the prime minister to prevent such incidents.

Around 500 people and 50 organisations participated in the rally, organised under the banner of "Shampriiti Bangladesh".

Another 30 organisations expressed solidarity with the initiative.

Addressing the rally, Shampriiti Bangladesh Convener Pijush Bandyopadhyay said they believe in the spirit of the Liberation War, upholding ideals of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman, and practicing traditional culture.

However, a vested group is involved in harming the country's harmony, he said, calling upon everyone to be united against those who want to tarnish secular ideals.

Prof Nizamul Hoque Bhuiyan, general secretary of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), demanded a special tribunal be formed to try the perpetrators.

Nuzhat Choudhury, daughter of martyred intellectual Dr Alim Choudhury, said the country's people traditionally uphold secular ideals, and many even sacrificed their lives for them.

Among others, former vice chancellor of Noakhali Science and Technology University Prof Wahiduzzaman, DU Proctor Prof Golam Rabbani, and martyred intellectual Munier Chowdhury's son Asif Munier spoke at the rally.

Tajuddin hopeful of Chinese support

FROM PAGE 12

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said in Brussels today that there was nothing unusual in receiving "massive arms deliveries" from the Soviet Union.

As to the possible Indian intervention in the East Pakistan crisis, India Gandhi said India had no desire to force a solution on the inhabitants of East Pakistan. They should be allowed to decide their own future, she added.

She urged the rich nations to come forward to support the refugees, adding that they weren't doing enough to help the refugees. Of an estimated \$800 million required, she shared, \$140 million had been promised and no more than \$30 million provided.

BANGLADESH DELEGATION IN THE UN

The Bangladesh government, in a press release issued today, stated that the 16-member Bangladesh delegation to United Nations General Assembly session had effectively presented to the international community the background and the current position of the Bangladesh movement for total independence from the colonial rule of West Pakistan. The members of Bangladesh delegation also contacted the American intelligentsia and received overwhelming support from them. The Pakistani attempt to prevent the delegation from lobbying in the UN proved futile, claimed the press release.

It further said many delegations expressed their support for the cause of Bangladesh during their speeches in the General Assembly session which proved that Bangladesh is not an internal affair of Pakistan.

ON THE WAR FRONT

In the Kushtia-Jessore-Khulna sector, freedom fighters fired on Pakistani soldiers at Goalthi, killing one, and injuring several soldiers. Mukti Bahini blew up the railway track between Godkhali and Nabharan, disrupting the enemy's communication line. On the same day, freedom fighters captured 18 razakars along with 14 rifles at Churamankati.

In the Dhaka-Cumilla-Chattogram sector, Mukti Bahini attacked Pakistani troops with mortars near Kaipur area and killed six enemy soldiers. One Pakistani army truck was destroyed in Chhagalnaiya by mines planted by freedom fighters. Seven Pakistani regulars and five irregulars were killed in the action.

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

Hundreds of Mayan artifacts discovered

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and LIDAR sensors in the periphery of just one of the sections of the project, which runs from the cities of Palenque, in Chiapas to Escárcega, in Campeche.

Discoveries ranged from mounds

to bases with complex architecture, INAH archaeologists Ileana Echaury Pérez and Iliana Ancona Aragón said. The pair also worked with INAH investigator Silvianna Boucher Le Landais.

"Both the immovable archaeological artifacts and the movable ones expand the knowledge about daily life, and trade and cultural exchange relations that existed centuries ago in the Mayan area," the researchers said.

Govt to cancel licences for failure

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Millers, who supplied rice less than 80 percent of the contract quantity, will face confiscation of their security deposits. The security deposits will be confiscated in proportion to the supply.

"The ministry has decided it as they [millers] did not comply with the government's decision," said Raihanul Kabir, director (procurement) of the Directorate General of Food. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics says

about 198 lakh tonnes of Boro paddy were harvested in 2020-21 fiscal year. It was 196 lakh tonnes in 2019-20 in fiscal year.

According to the food ministry data, around 3.62 lakh tonnes of Boro paddy were procured till August this year. Besides, about 10.60 lakh tonnes of Boro parboiled rice and 85,503 tonnes of Boro atap rice were procured during the period.

The ministry initially targeted to procure 6.5 lakh tonnes of Boro paddy and 10 lakh tonnes of Boro rice

and inked deals with the millers to this end in May this year.

Kabir said rice procurement drive of the government was hampered due to the millers' non-compliance.

He, however, could not confirm immediately how many millers have failed to comply with the ministry's decision.

In reply to a query, he said they, with the help of local administration, would take steps to revoke licences of the millers and cut off power connections to their mills.

EDCL ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208

LOCAL TENDER NOTICE

Ref. No. EDCL/PUR/Vehicle/LT/2021/392 Dated: 25.10.2021

Purchase of Vehicles for EDCL, Dhaka Plant

Well reputed authorized Vehicle dealers/importers/manufacturers are invited for submission of best competitive price offer for supply of following vehicles on urgent basis.

Sl.	Name of vehicle	Qty.
01.	Private Car (Recondition)	04(Four) Nos.
02.	Microbus (12 seated Recondition)	01 No.

Tender schedule will be sold from the Accounts Department of Essential Drugs Company Limited (EDCL), Dhaka on cash payment basis @ schedule value Tk. 1900.00 only as stated above during office hours on all working days from 27/10/2021 to 14/11/2021 (except Friday, Saturday and Govt. Holidays). No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender

The offer with required papers may be dropped in the tender Box kept at the Procurement Departments, EDCL, Dhaka office till 12.00 PM on 15/11/2021 which will be opened on same day at 12.30 PM. Price should be kept valid for 60(sixty) days from the date of opening of the tender. Tender should accompany an Earnest Money @ 2.5% through Pay Order/Bank Draft in favour of Essential Drugs Company Limited, Dhaka from any schedule Bank. The successful bidder shall furnish an unconditional performance Bond/ Bank Guarantee to the tune of 10% of the contract price within 03(three) days after the receipt of Purchase order. It shall remain valid for 12(twelve) months after the completion of the contract.

EDCL authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

(Syed Jahir Uddin Zamal)
General Manager
Procurement Dept.
For : Managing Director.

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