

An effort to bring children back to school

19 dev partners providing support to recover from learning loss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nineteen development partners are providing Covid-19 safety training for teachers of remote schools and are assisting children of families in extreme poverty to get back into education.

Organisers of the "Safe Back to School" campaign yesterday said alongside the awareness campaign, the alliance members are also implementing diverse activities, with special focus on schools in remote areas.

They said this at a press conference at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

The activities include distributing masks, educational materials, products for hand-washing, and thermal detectors at schools; providing advice on keeping schools clean; advocacy with school management committees and community leaders on school safety; door-to-door campaign; and courtyard meetings with guardians to send children to school.

The joint campaign on children's safety covers more than 10,000 schools, they said.

Brac's senior director KAM Morshed, on behalf of the implementing partners, said the campaign has been designed to disseminate messages to all children and their families through all possible communication channels.

"We are using all available mediums of communication -- mass media, social media and word-of-mouth. These messages are promoting behavioural changes in children to help them adopt Covid-19 precautions of handwashing, mask-wearing and social distancing as habits," said Morshed.

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ALL FUN AND GAMES UNTIL... On the capital's CR Dutta Road, these concrete pipes have become an obstacle course for children. The little ones, however, are unaware of the risk of injuries they pose. Amid Dhaka South City Corporation's development work, the pipes have been lying there haphazardly for some time now. Besides pedestrians and vehicles being inconvenienced by this whole situation, the kids often get hurt while playing with the pipes as seen in the background. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



Khurshida Rahman passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khurshida Rahman, wife of Transcom Group Director Atiqur Rahman, died at Evercare Hospital in Dhaka yesterday morning.

She breathed her last at 6:30am.

Khurshida left behind her husband, sons -- Ahmed Atifur Rahman and Omar Asifur Rahman -- and daughter Zeeshan Rahman, and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

She was buried at her family graveyard at United City, Dhaka.

A doa mahfil will be held on November 5 after Asr prayers at the residence of her brother at Satarkul.

'Killing in Rohingya camps, repatriation two separate issues'

In conversation with Prof Imtiaz Ahmed

It can be understood that a force is trying to create a negative image of the Rohingya and posing obstacles so that effective leadership cannot be formed.



MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Myanmar is still a big force standing in the way of effective Rohingya leadership, and international communities including the UN should play a significant role in fostering strong Rohingya leaders, said Dhaka University's International Relations professor Imtiaz Ahmed.

In an interview with The Daily Star, he proposed that leadership should come from various people, including those living in the diaspora.

The international relations expert argued killing and criminal activities in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar and repatriation are two separate issues.

"Repatriation is largely dependent on the Myanmar government. Whether the Rohingyas have a leader is not the main factor affecting repatriation," said Prof Ahmed.

"In the 1970s and 90s, we saw Rohingya influxes and there were no significant leaders at the time. Repatriation does not depend on who will go and who will not go," he added.

Regarding the recent killings in Rohingya camps, Ahmed said the international community relied too

heavily on a single leader instead of encouraging multiple leaders.

"It is easy to target a single leader. I think the role of the international community was wrong in this regard," he said.

The IR professor said instead of a single leader, leadership ought to come from various sections of the Rohingya, including people living in the UK, US, Australia, Japan and elsewhere.

"But we don't see any such initiative from the international community to organise them," he added.

Regarding the presence of militant organisation Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), Prof Ahmed said there might be a presence of ARSA in the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar but it is not clear who created the organisation.

"Myanmar military has been spreading propaganda against ARSA for a long time, but we don't know whether that ARSA has any connection with Rohingyas living in the camps," he said.

"If ARSA does not serve the interests of the Rohingyas, then why does the name of this organisation come up again and again, particularly in relation to criminal activities?" he asked.

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Propaganda BNP's last resort: Quader

Plan to destroy communal harmony devised in London, says Hasan Mahmud

BSS, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP's only plan is to spark controversy on any issue to create a political confusion in the country.

"BNP's last resort is to disseminate negative propaganda," he said while addressing a press conference at his official residence in the capital.

As BNP believes in the politics of blame game, it is quite natural that they would say something against the government, Quader said.

Quader, also general secretary of ruling Awami League, rejected the allegation of BNP leaders that the recent attacks on puja mandaps in different places, including Cumilla took place as part of a blueprint of the government and the government didn't take any measure to bring the perpetrators to book.

"These allegations are completely false," he said.

"Why will the government make the country unstable? What is the benefit of the government to create such unrest," he questioned.

Terming BNP an irresponsible party, Quader said none on behalf of the party stood beside the Hindu community immediately after the attacks. A team of BNP visited different temples after two weeks of the incidents.

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Hefajat chief hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

Hefajat-e-Islam's amir Mohibullah Babunagari has been hospitalised after being infected with viral fever.

He is undergoing treatment at Nazirhat Sheba Clinic in Chattogram's Fatickchhari upazila after family members and fellows rushed him to the hospital on Saturday.

"Babunagari has been undergoing treatment at the hospital since Saturday after developing fever," Md Idris, organising secretary of Hefajat-e-Islam, told The Daily Star confirming the development.

"The doctors at the hospital said he got infected with viral fever after examining his condition. Now his condition is improving and we hope he will be released from the hospital by next couple of days," he said.

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Better care for stroke patients

CMCH launches country's second specialised unit

ARUN BIKASH DEV, Cg

A week ago, when his father had a stroke, Md Rafiq was frantically looking for a healthcare facility to admit him, as he had no idea where to go.

"We first took him to a local doctor at Chattogram city's Pahartali area, and the doctor advised us to admit my father at a hospital. After going from one place to another, we finally ended up at CMCH, but this took a lot of time," Rafiq said.

Rafiq's father is now lying unconscious at the hospital. "Doctors said if treatment had started within three hours after he had the stroke, the damage could have been prevented," he said.

Like Rafiq, many don't know what to do or where to go when a close one has a stroke -- a condition

for which time is of essence. Amid this situation, Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) launched a stroke unit at its neurology ward yesterday, to provide comprehensive treatment for stroke patients.

The 12-bed unit would be run under the neurology ward, said Dr Farhana Moslehuddin, assistant professor of neurology at CMCH, adding that trained doctors, nurses and physiotherapists will provide services.

Stroke patients can be saved from being paralysed, if treatment starts within three hours of the stroke's onset, she said, adding that the new unit could save many patients from paralysis.

Before the launch, stroke patients received treatment either at the

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The newly launched unit is equipped with specialised devices, and workforce has been expanded to provide health services to stroke patients.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Dengue claims another life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least one more dengue patient died while 182 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the new cases, a total of 4,673 were diagnosed during the current month out of a total 22,870 infected. Of the total infected, 3,257 are from outside Dhaka.

According to the DGHS, 88 people have died of dengue infection in the country this year. Twelve people died in July while 34 have died in August, 23 in September and 15 in October so far.

Among the deaths, 81 have died in Dhaka

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KARNAPHULI MULTI-PURPOSE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY

'Owner swindled over Tk 100cr'

Says Rab after arresting 10 staffers of MLM company

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In 2003, Jashim Uddin, formerly a representative of an insurance company, established the Karnaphuli Multi-purpose Co-operative Society and started collecting money from customers as DPS and FDR, promising to return high interest like banks.

Over the years, he collected over Tk 100 crore and then went into hiding, after customers started demanding their money back recently.

Mozammel Haque, commanding officer of Rab-4, said this after arresting 10 staffers of the MLM company during a raid at its office in Mirpur yesterday.

The raid was carried out after several companies complained against them to

Rab, said Mozammel.

Karnaphuli Multi-purpose has about 25,000-30,000 customers, and the amount of their investments is over Tk 100 crore, he told reporters at a press conference at Rab media centre.

Jashim used to transfer the money to his personal accounts, soon after depositing the customers' money at the company's bank accounts.

He invested the money in flats, plots and houses, said the official.

The arrestees are Shakil Ahmed, managing director of the company; Chan Mia; Ak Azad; Md Rezaul; Tajul Islam; Shahabuddin Khan; Abdus Sattar; Masum Billa; Titu Mia and Atikur Rahman.

The Rab official said mostly low-income

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NAGAD-DRU Star journo wins best reporting award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star journalist Rashidul Hasan yesterday received Nagad-Dhaka Reporters



Rashidul Hasan

Unity Best Reporting Award-2021 in the crime and law and order category.

A total of 22 journalists -- 13 under the print and online category and nine under the television and radio category -- received the award at a ceremony at Krishibid Institute auditorium in Dhaka.

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A group of people under the banner of "Indo-Bangla Friendship Association" staged a protest in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh in the capital yesterday, condemning the recent communal attacks in the country.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Pori Moni gets bail in drug case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to film actress Pori Moni and her two associates in a narcotics case.

The aides are Ashraful Islam Dipu and Kabir Hossain.

Judge (in-charge) Md Rabiul Alam of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after the three surrendered before the court and sought bail, said Additional Public Prosecutor Tapash Kumar Pal.

The court also set November 15 for hearing on the acceptance of the charge sheet in the case.

On October 4, Inspector of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Investigation Officer of the case Kazi Golam Mostafa submitted the charge sheet

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