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SHAH CEMENT



A view of the capital's 300-foot Purbachal highway, 70 percent work of which is already completed. The expressway is being constructed to connect Kuril with Kanchan bridge via Purbachal, and officials expect construction to be finished by March. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



Know your deshi
superfoods
NEEM

STAR HEALTH DESK

Almost all parts of the neem tree, also known as *Azadirachta indica*, have medicinal properties and have been used in traditional home remedies for centuries.

Not only neem leaves, but seeds, roots and bark contain important compounds that have medicinal properties.

Neem leaves are known as an effective pest repellent. People also use it in hair and dental products.

The leaves are also used to treat fungal and bacterial infections and contain calcium and mineral content which may help in reducing inflammation.

Many Ayurveda experts recommend daily intake of neem capsules. Neem tea is also widely prescribed to reduce fever.

Chewing neem twigs may ensure good dental health and can cure mild gum diseases.

Applying neem extract shampoo to the scalp can

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Hyginex
spray
Instant hand sanitizer
with moisturizer

BEACON
Pharmaceuticals Limited

Youngsters hardly off beaten track

Govt study finds most of them aspire to pursue mainstream career

REJAUL KARIM BYRON AND ASIFUR RAHMAN

Although the pressure to become a doctor or an engineer is gradually dissipating, the two professions still rank on the top among the youths, found a first-of-its-kind study by the government.

In most cases, they wanted to follow all the mainstream professions like doctor, engineer, teacher, banker, lawyer, mawlana [religious preachers].

According to the study, adolescents are dreaming about various off-track professions like YouTubers, professional gamers, content creators, voice artists, philanthropists, cricketers and so on.

"Yet they were trapped in the traditional classroom-learning structure, which has little or no significant role in fulfilling their dreams," said the report titled "Advancing Human Development in Bangladesh: Looking Ahead", prepared by the Economic Relations Division.

To get an understanding of the adolescents' minds regarding their dreams about the future, ERD researchers conducted an explorative survey among 145 adolescents at all eight divisions between August and September last year.

As many as 33 percent of the surveyed

adolescents, which comprised of students from both Bangla- and English-medium schools and Madrasas, harboured off-track dreams.

They expressed their desire to study specific subjects that can serve their purpose to pursue their dreams like fine arts and painting, content creation, and social media growth or ICT.

"Some were even ready to quit from this traditional mainstream schooling system that is not modern and unable to

"Yet they were trapped in the traditional classroom-learning structure, which has little or no significant role in fulfilling their dreams."

accommodate the arrays of dreams and goals of their lives," it said.

However, the most common dream of the parents is to see their children in teaching or to get into a government job, the study found.

Becoming doctors, engineers, bankers or lawyers were also the parents' aspirations.

Helping people was the adolescents' topmost aspiration, followed by simply

becoming successful.

"Another significant area of their dreams and aspirations are related to the prosperity of society and the country. Their enthusiasm to engage in the humanitarian cause and to work for the disadvantaged people is widely apparent," it said.

Becoming doctors, entrepreneurs and engineers were also coveted professions.

Only a small percentage wanted to go abroad for higher studies, while a bigger percentage wanted to become travellers.

There is no other alternative but to create an environment where the next generation of future Bangladesh can raise their voice, make them heard and exercise their agency.

"This is the key to the future trajectory of the adolescents in Bangladesh," said the report, which was published yesterday.

The Madrasa-going adolescents also had a diverse range of dreams.

Many of them want their future to be constructed around their academic knowledge like becoming a Madrasa teacher, mawlana, attaining higher degrees, joining the religious universities aboard, or writing about Islam.

"Simultaneously, some of them are focused on dreams like becoming doctors, and so on," the report said.

COVID RELIEF NGOs faced pressure from local politicians

TIB study finds; 54pc had difficulty listing beneficiaries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nearly 54 percent of the non-government organisations involved in relief programmes during the pandemic faced challenges in preparing a list of beneficiaries, found Transparency International Bangladesh.

The NGOs were forced to include beneficiaries who were not eligible for relief due to the influence of local public representatives and politicians, said the study titled "The Role of Non-government Organisations in Response to Covid-19 Pandemic: Challenges and Way Forward".

In some cases, the local administration made the NGOs exclude the left-behind people, found the study, which was unveiled yesterday.

As many as 66.2 percent of the NGOs surveyed faced challenges at the field level in undertaking and implementing various Covid-19 response initiatives.

The initiatives include awareness programmes, distribution of health safety kits, relief distribution, emergency cash assistance, food assistance and relief, Covid-19 related healthcare services, and burial and funeral of the dead.

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Three killed in Narayanganj 'mob beating'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, NARAYANGANJ

Police yesterday recovered the bodies of three people in Narayanganj's Araihaazar.

Suspecting them to be robbers, locals beat them to death, police said.

But the victims' families claimed that they were drivers and owner of a leguna, a locally-made motorised four-wheeler, and that they were killed in a planned way.

The victims are Mofizul Islam, 26, and Jahirul Islam Jesnu, 27, of Bostul Boubazar area of Sonargaon upazila, and Nobi Hossain, 30, of Madhabdi village in Araihaazar upazila.

Mofizul and Jahirul were drivers of the leguna and Jesnu was the owner, said family members.

Quoting locals, police said the three youths tried to rob a bus, which was carrying garments workers, in Singhodi area of Araihaazar around 5:00am.

But the workers foiled the robbery attempt and caught the three, who were later taken to Ilomdi Bazar area. Locals beat them up, said Anichur Rahman Mollah, officer-in-charge of Araihaazar Police Station.

The three died on the spot.

Contacted, victim Mofizul's mother said like other days, her son went out of home with the leguna around 4:00am. Leguna's owner Jesnu was with him. "Hours later, I came to know that my son was killed."

Another deceased Jahirul's younger brother Tareque said her brother went out of home with

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TRAIN DERAILMENT 5 killed, 45 hurt in West Bengal

Death toll likely to rise

HINDUSTAN TIMES ONLINE

Twelve coaches of the Guwahati-bound Bikaner Express derailed in the Moynaguri region of Indian state of West Bengal yesterday, leaving five passengers dead and many injured.

Jalpaiguri district magistrate Moumita Godara Basu said five bodies have been found till 7:00pm and 45 passengers with injuries rushed to Jalpaiguri district hospital and Moynaguri government hospital.

Many of the injured passengers were in a critical condition and the death toll may increase.

A railways spokesperson said the accident took place at 5:00pm, nearly seven minutes after the express train passed the New Domohani station. "12 coaches jumped off the tracks of which two capsized," Guneet Kaur, chief public relation officer of Northeast Frontier Railway said.

Railway officials, who rushed to the spot from different locations, said it was getting dark by the time the initial team of rescue workers reached the site.



NATURE QUEST

A wagtail sitting on a boundary wall in the capital's Mirpur. The bird, which inhabits grasslands, seashores, farmlands, gardens, and parks, lives on insects and their larvae, small molluscs, worms and seeds.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

