

## Red alert for child health Largest sustained decline in childhood vaccination in 30yrs, reveals WHO, Unicef

UNB, Dhaka

The largest sustained decline in childhood vaccinations in approximately 30 years has been recorded in the official data published by World Health Organization (WHO) and Unicef yesterday.

The percentage of children who received three doses of the vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTP3) – a marker for immunisation coverage within and across countries – fell 5 percentage points between 2019 and 2021, to 81 per cent.

Twenty-five million children missed out on one or more doses of DTP through routine immunisation services in 2021 alone.

The decline occurred due to many factors, including an increased number of children living in conflict and fragile settings where immunisation access is often challenging, increased misinformation and Covid-19 related issues such as service and supply chain disruptions, resource diversion to response efforts, and containment measures that limited immunisation service access and availability.

"This is a red alert for child health. We are witnessing the largest sustained drop in childhood immunisation in a generation. The consequences will be measured in lives," said Catherine Russell, Unicef Executive Director.

Up to 18 million children of the 25 million did not receive a single dose of DTP during the year, the vast majority of whom live in low- and middle-income countries, with India, Nigeria, Indonesia, Ethiopia and the Philippines recording the highest numbers.

WHO and Unicef are working with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and other partners to deliver the global Immunisation Agenda, a strategy for all countries and relevant global partners to achieve set goals on preventing diseases through immunisation and delivering vaccines.

"It's heartbreaking to see more children losing out on protection from preventable diseases for the second year in a row. The priority of the alliance must be to help countries to maintain, restore and strengthen routine immunisation alongside executing ambitious Covid-19 vaccination plans," said Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi.



A toddler pulls one end of a coconut tree leaf, while his sister sits on the other end -- treating the large leaf like a sleigh. Even in the modern day, this age-old traditional game remains ever popular in the rural regions of the country. This photo was taken from Muslim Para in Pirojpur yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## 2 Bangladeshis shot near Sylhet border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two Bangladeshi nationals were injured, after allegedly being shot by the Indian Khasi people inside Indian territory, near Majhergaon area in Companiganj upazila of Sylhet on Thursday.

The injured were identified as Sudhangsu Das (45) and Mukhlesur Rahman of Majhergaon village.

They were treated at a local hospital with bullet wound in legs, said Lieutenant Colonel Saiful Islam Chowdhury, commanding officer of the 48 Battalion of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

"They claimed to have entered Indian territory for grass cutting, which is when the Khasi people opened fire, injuring the two. Officially we'll write to India's Border Security Force [BSF] regarding the matter," he said.

Illegal entry of Bangladeshis into Indian territory has turned into a serious issue in Sylhet region over the years. Many people were shot by the Khasi people, and some have died.

Regarding this matter, Colonel Saiful said, "We have continuous patrol duty in the border, but still, some manage to cross it, and such incidents take place."

## Spreading light in remote area

MIRZA SHAKIL

A library was set up at Kachua village in Tangail recently in the name of the late Selim Al Deen, a playwright and theatre artist as well as founding chairperson of Jahangirnagar University's Department of Drama and Dramatics.

Dr Harun Rashid, a journalist and columnist, set up the library at his village on his family's land in Sakhipur upazila, with a slogan of "Boi Pori, Nijeke Gori (let us read books and build ourselves)".

The tin-roofed library is open from dawn to dusk for locals, especially students of local educational institutions. There is also a playground and coffee shop adjacent to the library.

Saiful Islam, a school student, said they can use library resources for free and check out books to read at home.

Besides, different activities, including, publishing a literary paper named "Roddur", also take place at the library.

## Kazi Ebadul

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Ebadul became a High Court judge in 1990 and set himself apart by writing judgments in Bangla.

After 10 years at the High Court, he was appointed to the Appellate Division.

Ebadul was awarded Ekushey Padak in 2016 for his contribution to the Language Movement.

His daughter, Kazi Zinat Hoque, is a High Court judge.

## Sylhet's shital pati makers in dire straits after floods

MINTU DESHWARA

Standing under the rain with an umbrella, 60-year-old Nirendra Kumar Das, a resident of Gagra village in Hakaluki Haor area, waited for customers. Hours went by, and yet, not a single buyer came in sight, possibly because the market was submerged.

Woefully, he looked toward Farindra Das, a fellow shital pati maker. His eyes, without any words, let her know – times are getting tougher from now on.

Nirendra has been making shital pati – a plant fibre mat that feels cool on the surface – for a living. It's a skill that has been handed down to him by his father, using which he earned bread for his family. But ever since the floods drowned vast areas of the Hakaluki Haor region, business has seen a downfall and so have the lives of shital pati makers like him.

Because of the floods, at present, more than 300 shital pati makers like Nirendra in Moulvibazar's Barlekha upazila and Sylhet's Beanibazar and Balaganj upazilas can neither weave new shital pati nor sell them. And ever since the Bangla Bazar market in Hakaluki Haor was inundated, their fates have been further marred, as there are no buyers there.

Thus, these makers and their families are spending their days living from hand to mouth.

Nirendra said, "Once there was great demand for shital pati. But it's diminishing as days go by. Even then, somehow my family and I managed to eat."

"The financial hit of Covid and zero sales due to the floods have left



us struggling for our lives every day. That's why I'm standing here. If I can just get one buyer, I can at least buy some rice and pulses for home," he added.

Besides, if the water rises, Nirendra and his family would have to find shelter somewhere else, he further said.

Rishi Kanta Das (55) was also waiting for buyers in the market with a shital pati wrapped in polythene. His face too read of worry, with no buyers in sight.

Bidyut Kanti Das, former Talimur union chairperson, most of the people of the union are suffering, and many of them are shital pati makers. The waters in Hakaluki couldn't recede properly due to the rain, and thus the people live in constant fear.

Another shital pati maker Shanku Das said every week, a family makes one or two shital pati. Even though the makers don't

make much, their families would get by.

"Besides, new shital pati could only be made if the existing ones are sold, since our earnings don't let us save much," Sanku said.

Meanwhile, most "Murta" trees (a kind of cane tree), which is the main raw material for shital pati, have been submerged in water due to the floods, which is also another reason why production has halted almost entirely, he added.

Barlekha Upazila Nirbahi Officer Khandaker Mudassar Bin Ali said, "At first, we're trying to provide food assistance to the flood affected, including shital pati makers. After the water recedes, we'll take extra measures for the makers."

He said if the upazila administration steps in, there's an opportunity to create a market – by providing capacity building training to shital pati makers and preserve local heritage.

## Global solidarity key

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"We rolled out \$22 billion of stimulus to keep our economy afloat. The social safety net was extensively expanded. Besides, we also spent billions of dollars on vaccines," he said.

The state minister said Bangladesh's "whole-of-society" approach,

national data repository system, SDG tracker, and localisation efforts have paved the way to accelerate the SDGs' implementation.

Putting the spotlight on Bangladesh's innovative, inclusive, and people-centric adaptation strategies, Shahriar Alam stressed on the high

importance of global solidarity and partnership to tackle the adverse impacts of climate change.

In this connection, he mentioned that Bangladesh has emerged as a role model for disaster risk response and crisis management.

## The ungovernable

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bring in someone from the outside to fill in for them. Both DNCC and DSCC have fired these drivers on grounds of negligence in duty several times.

But these measures fell short when it comes to ensuring the safe plying of city corporation trucks on the streets. Many cases of road accidents caused by these garbage trucks remain uninvestigated, and the accused get bail immediately, setting a precedence of unaccountability.

Another underlying reason is the failure to implement recommendations to lower the number of such cases. In November 2021, an expert committee formed after two consecutive deaths by garbage trucks, made several recommendations to prevent such accidents.

The recommendations included three major points: making professional drivers drive all the vehicles, barring cleaners and other staffers from driving them, and hiring adequate number of skilled drivers fit for the job. In the last six months, DSCC has been able to recruit 19 and 28 drivers in two phases. DNCC also appointed only

46 heavy motorists during this period. There was not much done after that.

None of the two city corporations could fully implement the recommendations as of yet.

**WHAT DO THE CITY CORPORATIONS HAVE TO SAY?**

Farid Ahmed, DSCC chief executive officer, said, "We have hired new drivers in two phases. We renewed our vehicle's fitness certificate by spending Tk 4 crore."

"We are trying our very best to solve the problems. If we can hire all the drivers required, I think the number of accidents could be lower," he added.

Contacted, Selim Reza, DNCC chief executive officer, said, "We have taken various initiatives to reduce these accidents. We have taken action against the drivers involved. The appointment of licensed drivers for heavy vehicles is also under process."

Dr Md Hadiuzzaman, director of Buet's Accident Research Institute (ARI), said, "It is albeit saddening when government vehicles cause such accidents. Because the management of these vehicles should be a role model for others

in the transport sector. But when unlicensed drivers drive unfit city corporation vehicles, it sets a bad example for drivers working in the private sector."

"Drivers of the city corporations should be held accountable. There should also be transparency in the recruitment process," he added.

## Fugitive

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Alauddin, said Bogura District ASP Ali Haider Chowdhury.

On December 9, 2012, tailoring shop employee Biswajit was murdered by some BCL activists near Old Dhaka's Bahadur Shah Park during the BNP-led alliance's countrywide road blockade programme.

On December 18, 2013, a tribunal sentenced eight BCL activists to death and 13 others, including Alauddin, to life imprisonment in the case.

On August 6, 2017, the High Court upheld the death sentences of convicts Rafiqul Islam Shakil and Rajon Talukder. The punishment of four other death row convicts was reduced to life imprisonment.

**প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়**

"খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের  
সম্প্রসারণ" প্রকল্প।  
খুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়  
খুলনা-৯২০৩, বাংলাদেশ।

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"Expansion of Infrastructure and Academic  
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Memo No.: KUET/EIAA/2022/06/916 Date: 15/07/2022

**2nd Corrigendum Notice of International Tender**

Invitation for International tender Notice Published in different national dailies in 23 June 2022 as per Invitation Ref. No.: KUET/EIAA/2021-22/DG-21-79/80/81/82, Date: 12/05/2022 for Procurement of following description is hereby amended as follows:

**Package No.: DG-2181/2022**

Sl No	Description of Goods	Published	Revised
13	Tender Last Selling Date	17-07-2022, 1:00PM	21-07-2022, 1:00PM
14	Tender Last Submission Date & Time	18-07-2022, 1:00PM	24-07-2022, 10:00AM
15	Tender Opening Date & Time	18-07-2022, 3:00PM for DG-2181/2022	24-07-2022, 11:00AM for DG-2181/2022

**Dr. Md. Julfikar Hossain**  
Project Director (EIAA)  
Khulna University of Engineering & Technology  
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GD-1377

## Tidal water submerges 30 Bagerhat villages

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Bagerhat WDB, said water level of all rivers has increased more than normal due to the full moon. As a result, several areas of Morrelganj and Rampal upazilas, including the municipal area of Morrelganj, have been inundated with tidal water.

"Due to the lack of embankments in these areas, tidal water is easily entering the locality. Project proposals will be made to identify the affected areas and prevent tidal water from submerging them. If the project is approved, work will be started as soon as possible," he added.

Meanwhile, four villages of Satkhira's Shyamnagar upazila have been flooded, as an embankment collapsed at Durgabati point in Kholpetua River.

The collapse of the 150-foot embankment of Water Development Board (WDB), on the eastern side of Durgabati Cyclone

Shelter, on Thursday night led hundreds marooned, inundated croplands and washed away shrimp enclosures, because of the heavy water pressure from the river during high tide, said Nazrul Islam, chairperson of the upazila's Burigoalini union parishad.

The marooned people are preparing to take shelter on nearby highlands. If repair work is not done immediately, the floodwater will inundate the entire upazila, he said.

East Durgabati, West Durgabati, East Purakathla and West Purakathla villages have been flooded. Water started entering Datinakhali village as well. Madiya and Arpangasiya villages are also feared to be submerged due to the inflow of tidal water, according to locals.

Neelkanto Raptan, former member of Burigoalini union parishad, said the embankment was

in good condition even in the morning. He claimed there was allocation for maintenance works for the embankment at that point, but they didn't proceed. Around 10:00pm, the embankment collapsed. He said Cyclone Yaas hit the area in May last year. Locals have not yet recovered from the loss caused by the calamity. Their main occupation is shrimp and crab farming.

Only three months ago, these people prepared a new enclosure and started shrimp and crab farming after receiving loans. Some enclosure owners have just started selling prawns. And now, the dam broke, he added.

Former district council member Dalim Ghorami said thousands of shrimp and crab farms, covering 2,500 bighas, have been submerged in water.

Masud Rana, branch officer of WDB's Shyamnagar upazila, said

they have started collecting equipment to repair the embankment. They hope to be able to start work from today. He claimed that there was no allocation for work at that place.

Ensure justice

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involvement with the movement, a group of settlers attacked him, while he was at work in Dolanchhari union on Wednesday evening. Attackers beat him up with a stick," the statement further read.

They mentioned that, on April 26, around 300 acres of ethnic farmland were torched. They brought out allegations against the same industry.

"The authority should take punitive steps against those involved in attacking or harassing any ethnic minority group, as well as Rongdajan," said the statement.