

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Invisible they remain



- ◆ Farmers in the govt's digital database: **9,183,763**
- ◆ Number of female farmers: **3,791,272**
- ◆ % of female farmers in the database: **41.3%**
- ◆ DAE agricultural cards distributed: **20,599,869**
- ◆ Total female card holders: **1,365,230**
- ◆ % of female card holder: **6.6%**

NILIMA JAHAN

Sharifa Begum of Kapasia in Gazipur is the sole caretaker of her one-bigha homestead garden. In addition to doing all the household chores alone, 55-year-old Sharifa grows more than 20 species of pesticide-free fruits and vegetables -- mango, lychee, banana, palm, jackfruit, gourd, green chilis, garlic, pumpkin, cucumber and more -- every year.

After meeting household needs, she sells more than Tk 1,50,000 worth of fruits and vegetables in a year, through her husband. A major share of the family's income also comes from the milk and eggs her husband sells in the market every day.

She is also the one to look after their three cows and 16 chickens.

Although Sharifa grows fruits and

vegetables, rears livestock, and looks after the household, she is not considered a farmer or even economically active.

"It is their [husbands'] home, their land, their cows. We are just the keepers. When it comes to toiling away the whole day, it is us who do it, but the men who end up taking the money earned from our labour," said Sharifa.

Sharifa's neighbours and other female farmers tell of similar struggles in the agribusiness value chain, where their labour remains unacknowledged by the system.

"Women's agricultural work is part of the labour market but is not recognised as they are not officially listed as farmers," said Prof Sharminid Neelormi of the Department of Economics at Jahangirnagar

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurating one of several train services through video conference from the Gono Bhavan. Inset, locals celebrating the inauguration of the Dhalarchar Express at Dhalarchar station in Pabna yesterday. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: STAR

THE BUSINESS



'No prior notice from India'

In a frank interview with Star, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said the recent explosion of onion price was due to abrupt supply embargo by India without prior notice. But, he does not foresee any price spike of any commodity in the near future and particularly during Ramadan as his ministry is on the ball all the time.

He is also in favour of fresh incentives to garment exporters. "The garment sector will survive for now."

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'Let people decide'

Defence at Senate trial says ousting Trump would be 'massive interference' in election

AFP, Washington

White House lawyers began their defence of Donald Trump at his historic Senate impeachment trial on Saturday, saying the president did nothing wrong in his dealings with Ukraine and American voters -- not Congress -- should decide his fate.

White House counsel Pat Cipollone said it would be a "completely irresponsible abuse of power" if the Senate follows the lead of the House of Representatives and votes to remove the 45th US president from office. "They're asking you to do something that no Senate has ever done," Cipollone told the 100 senators gathered on a rainy Saturday morning for a rare weekend session at just the third impeachment trial in US history.

Democratic prosecutors from the House, which impeached Trump last month for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, had not convincingly made their case that the president had committed "high crimes and misdemeanours," as demanded by the Constitution, Cipollone said.

"We don't believe that they have come anywhere close to meeting their burden for what they're asking you to do," he told a hushed Senate chamber. "We believe when you hear the facts... you will find that the president did absolutely nothing wrong."

House prosecutors spent the previous three days laying out a detailed case that Trump withheld military aid to Ukraine and a White House meeting to pressure his Ukrainian counterpart to open an investigation into political rival Joe Biden and the former vice president's son Hunter, who served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company.

Adam Schiff, the chief House prosecutor, said the real estate tycoon turned politician poses an "imminent threat" to American democracy and his guiding principle is "Trump first, not America first."

Cipollone argued that Democrats were asking the Senate to



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12 lakh to get cholera vaccine in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 12 lakh people in Dhaka will get two doses of cholera vaccine next month, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) said yesterday.

The vaccine will be provided in Mohammadpur, Hazaribagh, Darussalam, Keraniganj, Lalbagh and Adabar areas of the capital tentatively from February 15, said Prof Sanya Tahmina, line director of Communicable Disease Control of DGHS, during a press briefing at Hotel Sonargaon.

Only those aged above one will get the free vaccine, which will make them immune to the virus for three years, the official added.

Annually, one lakh people are affected by cholera in Bangladesh, according to patient data from different hospitals, Sanya revealed.

Among them, nearly 3,500 to 4,500 die of the disease each year.

Cholera outbreaks mainly occur twice a year and vaccinations can help control that, she added.

The campaign is funded by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance -- a public-private global health partnership committed to increasing access to immunisation in poor countries.

Earlier, International Centre for

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Foldable Boeing takes to the sky



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Aviation history was made in the skies of Washington State on Saturday 25 January when the biggest twin-engine jet ever built touched down safely after its maiden flight.

The brand-new Boeing 777X is designed to carry up to 426 passengers in a two-class configuration, and has been ordered by British Airways as a replacement for the 747 Jumbo.

It was third time lucky for the test flight. The maiden take-off from the factory at Everett in Washington State was due to happen on Thursday, then Friday, but both departures were cancelled because of adverse winds; the plane needed to take off to the north to avoid populated areas.

Finally, at 10:07am local time on Saturday, Flight BOE1 took off under the command of chief test pilots Van Chaney and Craig Bomben. The Boeing 777X flew east and stayed aloft for around four hours.

It made some turns, flew southwest to the Mount Rainier area to do a circuit for publicity photos and

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INDIA'S NRC, CAA Dhaka closely observing situation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is closely observing Indian's internal situation regarding the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told parliament yesterday.

In reply to a query from ruling Awami League lawmaker Ashim Kumar Ukil, he said the government would take measures in line with the international and border laws if any tension arose in border areas.

In his question, Ashim wanted to know whether there was any reason for Bangladesh to be worried about India's NRC and the CAA.

He also wanted to know the Bangladesh government's measures in this regard.

In reply, the minister said the Bangladesh government

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93k migrants abroad have expired visas

Foreign minister tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The validity of visas of over 93,000 Bangladeshi migrant workers in the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Egypt, South Korea and Iran has expired, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen informed parliament yesterday.

In reply to a query from ruling Awami League MP M Abdul Latif, the minister also said there are Bangladeshi workers in other countries whose visas have also expired.

"But the government

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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 27

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
5:35	12:45	4:15	5:46	7:15
JAMAAT	6:10	1:15	4:30	5:50

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



SSC examinee Mokbul Hasan, right, has been brought to Dhaka by father Habibur Rahman, left, for treatment after Mokbul was diagnosed with blood cancer in their native Narshingdi. The father, who has saved Tk 70,000 over the last six months for the treatment, and son have been spending the last two days near the Shaheed Minar and nights in the DMCH balcony. They were doing this as they have nowhere else to go and doctors would see his medical reports today.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

ILLEGAL STONE EXTRACTION Workers, law enforcers clash

One dead, 20 injured in Tentulia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A stone extraction worker was killed and about 20 others were injured in clashes between workers and law enforcers in Bhajanpur area of Panchagarh's Tentulia yesterday.

Jumar Uddin, 60, suffered excessive bleeding and there were multiple holes in his body, said doctors at Panchagarh Modern General Hospital, where he died.

Several workers told reporters that police opened fire on them. But police said the law enforcers only lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the crowds.

The clashes started around 9:45am when the workers, demanding permission for extracting stones from underground, blocked Panchagarh-Banglabandha highway in Bhajanpur.

The administration banned stone extraction about six months ago to prevent potential landslides.

The workers vandalised three police vehicles and hurled brickbats at policemen, officials said.

Sporadic clashes continued until around 2:00pm.

For years, locals have been extracting stones using excavators and improvised apparatuses in Tentulia, officials said.

Frustrated stone extractors gathered at Bhajanpur Bazar Saturday night and announced that they would block the road.

After the workers blocked the highway yesterday morning, police rushed to the scene and tried to disperse the crowd.

But the protesters started hurling brickbats, triggering a clash. To calm the situation, a team of Rab-13 from

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