





# DHAKA-MYMENSINGH HWY Govt mulls turning 87km stretch into expressway

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The government is planning to turn a major section of the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway into an expressway to ensure better connectivity between the capital and Mymensingh division, where 10 economic zones will be established.

The 87-kilometre expressway from Gazipur's Joydevpur to Mymensingh will be implemented under Public Private Partnership (PPP). South Korea has accepted the project for implementation under government-to-government (G-to-G) initiative, Roads and Highways Department (RHD) officials said.

Once complete, this would be the first expressway in Bangladesh with eight lanes – four main lanes, two emergency and two service lanes, they said.

It will be the first road in the country with dedicated emergency lanes, the RHD officials added.

Between 2011-2016, the government had upgraded the two-lane Dhaka-Mymensingh highway to a four-lane one spending Tk 1,800 crore.

At least 193 intersections, 28 school

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Clockwise from left, employees at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital stretcher an elderly patient to the ambulance but would not touch the man. Instead, they call his attendant, who did not have any protective equipment, to carry him into the ambulance yesterday. The man was taken to the hospital with fever and breathing difficulties and kept in isolation for 10 minutes, before he was referred to the Kurmitola General Hospital.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# 17 years old raped in Habiganj Man lands in jail for rape of schoolgirl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A girl was allegedly raped in Habiganj's Nabiganj upazila on Saturday, while a man was yesterday sent to jail on charge of raping a schoolgirl.

A man allegedly raped a 17-year-old girl on Saturday afternoon.

Victim's mother filed a case against Sayeed Mia, 21, of Kurishail village, with Nabiganj Police Station at night.

The victim is under treatment at Habiganj Sadar Hospital, said Rajib Chowdhury, a duty doctor of the hospital.

The victim's neighbours told The Daily Star that Sayeed had been stalking the girl for a long time.

Quoting the case statement, Atikur Rahman, sub-inspector of Nabiganj Police Station, said the girl was alone at home in the afternoon. Sayeed entered the house and raped her at knife point.

The accused went into hiding after the incident, the police official added.

In another incident, a Habiganj court yesterday sent Jewel Mia, 26, of Kazirgaon village in Nabiganj upazila, to jail in a case lodged over raping an eighth grader.

The victim's father told this correspondent that locals rescued her

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES Constituent assembly order promulgated



Members of the West Germany youth delegation call on Bangabandhu on March 23, 1972.

MARCH 23, 1972  
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF BANGLADESH ORDER, 1972

The president of the People's Republic of Bangladesh today promulgates "The Constituent Assembly of Bangladesh Order, 1972". The Order comes into force at once and shall be deemed to have come into force from March 26, 1971. The Order provides that the Constituent Assembly of Bangladesh shall consist of the elected representatives of the people of Bangladesh who returned to the National and Provincial Assembly seats in the elections held between December 7, 1970 and March 1, 1971.

The Order also provides for holding by-elections in the vacant

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



# Maoist rebels kill 17 Indian policemen

AFP, Raipur

Hundreds of Maoist rebels gunned down 17 Indian security forces in one of the deadliest ambushes in recent years by the militants, a police spokesman said.

More than 300 armed rebels took part in the attack on a police commando patrol in the jungles of Sukma district of Chhattisgarh state in central India, police superintendent Shalab Sinha told AFP.

Large numbers of reinforcements were sent to the district yesterday.

"We have recovered 17 bodies and another 15 police are being treated for injuries," he said.

"We believe the ambush was carried out by between 300 and 350 attackers."

Other officials said four Maoists were killed in the battle on Saturday.

The toll was the worst for Indian security forces

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

# Diamond samples reveal size of lost continent



MAIL ONLINE

Diamond-encrusted rock samples that have been found on a Canadian island fill "a piece in the puzzle" to reconstruct an ancient part of Earth's continental crust.

A fragment of the North Atlantic Craton (NAC) was found by geologists who were sifting through diamond exploration samples from the southern Baffin Island, Canada.

The NAC is an ancient part of Earth's continental crust that reaches around the top of the northern hemisphere, from Scotland to the Canadian region of Labrador, deep underground.

Researchers believe the NAC is up to 2.7 billion years old before its continental plate broke up around 150 million years ago.

Evidence of the ancient crust – which has previously been found in Scotland, Greenland and Labrador – is much sought after.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

# Emirates to suspend all passenger flights

AFP, Dubai

Dubai carrier Emirates yesterday announced it will suspend all passenger flights from March 25 amid the novel coronavirus outbreak.

"By Wednesday 25 March, although we will still operate cargo flights, which remain busy, Emirates will have temporarily suspended all its passenger operations," the airline's chairman and CEO Sheikh Ahmed bin

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



## PRAYER TIMING MARCH 23

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-55 12-45 4-45 6-16 7-45  
JAMAAT 5-30 1-15 5-00 6-20 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Man killed in 'gunfight' with police

Family claims foul play  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed in an alleged gunfight with police in the capital's Khilgaon area early yesterday, hours after he was arrested from Airport Road area.

The dead, Sohel Hawlader alias Juna, 30, was an accused in 17 cases, including for murder and drug trade, filed with different police stations, police claimed.

His family members, however, alleged that police killed him and cooked up the story of a shootout to cover up the murder.

Mashiure Rahman, officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station, said a police team, in association with Airport Armed Police Battalion, arrested Sohel from the Airport area yesterday evening after he reached Dhaka from Cox's Bazar.

Later, based on his information, police took him to Nagdarpar area in Khilgaon around 3:00am to recover hidden firearms

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



The mother of Sohel Hawlader Juna, who was killed in a "gunfight" whilst in police custody, is grief-stricken when she sees her son's body at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# What happens after virus peaks?

AFP, Paris

Like a giant tidal wave, the Covid-19 pandemic is battering the health systems of several European countries, leaving experts scrambling to know when it will reach its peak.

What will the aftermath of this "tsunami", as Italian health workers have called it, be like? A general receding and a return to normality, or regular recurrences that will overwhelm hospitals?

CALM BEFORE THE STORM?

The wave seems to have already subsided in China, where the novel coronavirus first broke out late last year: over recent days no new local cases have been recorded.

But French public health specialist and epidemiologist Antoine Flahault in the Lancet medical journal wonders if the worst is yet to come.

China could so far have "experienced a herald wave, to use terminology borrowed from those who study tsunamis, and is the big wave still to come?" he wrote.

To understand the complexity of how epidemics evolve it is necessary to go back to the post World War I period, when in three waves the Spanish Flu killed nearly 50 million people -- more than the Great War itself.

Then it disappeared.

The question of why has tormented mathematicians. In the late 1920's Scotland's William Ogilvy Kermack and Anderson Gray McKendrick developed models in a bid to understand the dynamics of epidemics.

IMMUNITY THRESHOLD

Kermack and McKendrick discovered that an epidemic does not end because it runs out of vulnerable people, but because as the number of infections increases a so-called "herd immunity" threshold is reached.

"Herd immunity is the proportion of people immunised against the virus (either through infection or vaccination when it exists) that needs to be achieved to stop any risk

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5