



COUNTRYWIDE BORO HARVEST

# Hope there, worry too

*Almost done in haor region; labour shortages worry farmers in other parts where it just began*

STAR REPORT

Labour shortage due to the countrywide shutdown is making many farmers anxious about completing Boro paddy harvest before heavy rain damages the crop.

Except in the haor regions, where Boro harvest is almost complete, farmers in other parts of the country have recently begun harvesting this year's bumper Boro production.

Normally, itinerant day labourers do harvest work. But this year, to control the coronavirus outbreak, the government is allowing only restricted movement of agricultural labourers.

Local administrations in different districts are bringing in farm labourers from other places, following health and safety guidelines.

Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) is trying to provide farmers with agricultural machines such as the combined harvester and reaper to fill up the labour shortage.

Such measures worked successfully in the haor regions, where the people, who lost jobs or returned from cities because of the shutdown, also joined in to complete the harvest within four weeks.

However, many farmers from areas, where harvesting has just begun, still cannot feel reassured.

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Chairman of Jashore education board Mollah Amir Hossain, left, along with several school teachers harvesting paddy at Barakpur village in Bagerhat yesterday. They lent a hand to the farmers to encourage students to do the same as there is a shortage of workers amid the shutdown.

PHOTO: PARTHA CHAKRABORTY

# 'Absolute chaotic disaster'

Obama slams Trump's response to coronavirus

AFP, Washington

Former president Barack Obama has launched a scathing attack on Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, calling it an "absolute chaotic disaster."

In a leaked web call Friday night with former members of his administration, Obama also said the Justice Department's decision to drop charges against Michael Flynn, the former Trump national security adviser who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI in the Russia probe, endangers the rule of law in the US.

In the audio, first obtained by Yahoo News, Obama urges former staffers to join him in rallying behind Joe Biden as he prepares to take on Trump in the November presidential election.

The United States by far leads the world in the number of coronavirus infections, at nearly 1.3 million, and deaths, with more than 77,000.

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## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

### No dialogue before recognition



Bangabandhu addressing a large crowd at Rangpur Collectorate Maidan on May 11, 1972.

May 11, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### BANGABANDHU'S RANGPUR SPEECH

On the last day of the four-day tour of North Bengal, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today visits Rangpur. Addressing a large crowd at the Collectorate Maidan he reiterates his firm stance against any sort of dialogue with Pakistan before the country recognises Bangladesh. It doesn't matter whether Pakistan recognises us or not, he adds.

The prime minister regrets that Pakistani President ZA Bhutto is trying to pressurise Bangladesh to agree to the outrageous formula of exchanging Pakistani war criminals with four lakh Bangalees stranded in Pakistan. He wonders, "How can one equate an innocent person with a war criminal? Bangalees didn't commit any crime in Pakistan but the members of the Pakistan army committed crimes against humanity."

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## Wife, son kill man in Dhamrai

Both confess to killing before court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A man was strangled to death by his wife and son in Shutipara area of Dhamrai upazila in Dhaka early yesterday, said police.

Police arrested the man's wife Kajoli Begum, 37, and his son Robin, 18, after the incident.

The deceased was identified as Motiar Rahman, 47, a garments sweeper by profession and a resident of Dhamrai's Shutipara area.

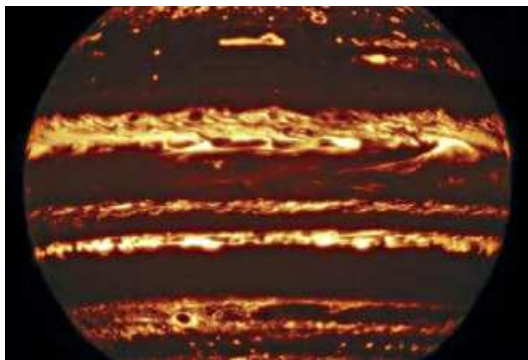
Kamal Hossen, inspector (investigation) of Dhamrai Police Station, told The Daily Star that Kajoli and her son Robin strangled Motiar to death around 2:00am over a family feud.

Hearing the news, police rushed to the spot and detained the mother and son, the police official said.

In primary interrogation, they admitted to the crime,

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## Scientists get new image of Jupiter



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have got "lucky" with new pictures of Jupiter that could help solve the mystery of its swirling storms.

The new images used special techniques to allow the researchers to take some of the best infrared images of Jupiter ever taken from Earth.

They have been combined with other pictures of the planet, taken from space using technology such as the Hubble Space Telescope, to show that the lightning strikes and storms that create them on Jupiter are formed over huge clouds of water ice and liquid.

They also show that the dark spots seen in the planet's famous Great Red Spot are actually holes within the cloud cover, rather than changes in the colour of the clouds themselves.

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## AL leader, husband held for rape of niece

Youth arrested for raping a 4th-grader in Lalmonirhat

STAR REPORT

A union level Mahila AL leader and her husband were arrested on Friday night for raping their niece, who is a private university student, and recording the incident, at Sylhet's Jaintipur upazila.

The arrestees are Sumi Begum, 30, president of Nijpat union Mahila Awami League, and her husband Koyes Ahmed, 35, from Mokamtala area of the upazila.

Citing the cases filed, Shyamal Banik, officer-in-charge of Jaintipur Police Station, said, "The university student was on vacation at her home in the upazila. She was invited for Iftar at her aunt Sumi's home on May 2. There, Sumi and her husband mixed drugs in her food to make her unconscious. While the victim was

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Scores of vehicles near Motijheel Shapla Chattar in the capital yesterday. The country is under a shutdown to slow the spread of Covid-19 and there are other restrictions in place. But people do not seem to care about social distancing there.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## S Korea's virus cases rebound

President Moon warns of second wave; France, Spain inch towards re-opening

AGENCIES

South Korea yesterday warned of a second wave of the new coronavirus as infections rebounded to a one-month high, just as some of the hardest-hit countries readied to lift lockdown restrictions.

"It's not over until it's over," President Moon Jae-in told the nation, saying a new cluster shows the virus can spread widely at any time, and warning of a second wave late this year.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) reported 34 new infections, the highest since April 9, after a small outbreak emerged around a slew of nightclubs, prompting the authorities to temporary close all night entertainment facilities around the capital.

The death toll remained at 256.

Health Minister Park Neung-hoo said the government will decide on whether it will reopen schools in stages starting from May 13 as planned after examining the impact of the nightclub cases for two to three days.

Battling the first major coronavirus outbreak outside China, South Korea brought infections of the virus, and the disease Covid-19 that it causes, down drastically through widespread testing, aggressive contact tracing and tracking apps. The response has helped Asia's fourth-largest economy come to grips with the pandemic without extensive the lockdowns seen elsewhere.

The daily tally of new infections had hovered around 10 or less in recent weeks, with no or very few domestic cases over the past 10 days.

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