

**India's 2nd Covid vaccine cleared for human trials**

The Drug Controller General of India has approved pharmaceutical firm Zydus Cadila to start Phase I and Phase II human clinical trials of its Covid-19 vaccine. This is the second vaccine after Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech's COVAXIN to get the approval. Drug manufacturers around the world are racing to develop a vaccine against the novel coronavirus; a novel virus is one that has never previously been identified in humans, making the task of creating a vaccine that much harder. India, a leading manufacturer of vaccines and generic medicines, is expected to play a key role in this race, with several institutes working on different drugs. There are at least 17 vaccines being tested on humans across the world currently.

**Europe radioactivity likely linked to nuke reactor: UN**

Slightly higher levels of radioactivity detected in northern Europe last week are likely linked to a nuclear reactor, the UN nuclear watchdog said yesterday. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said it could not yet determine where the reactor was located after several northern European countries, including Finland and Sweden, noted elevated levels of radioactivity last week. One Dutch institute said the source was western Russia, while another theory was that it came from wood burned in Latvia that was still contaminated from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Russian nuclear power producer Rosenergoatom has denied any incident at its two plants, while a French NGO dismissed the Latvia theory.



**France gets new PM as Macron charts 'new course'**

French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday named a senior bureaucrat to replace Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, whose government resigned after a poor local election showing for the ruling party. The new premier, Jean Castex, officially a member of the right-wing opposition but in charge of overseeing the country's progressive emergence from coronavirus lockdown, is taking over as Philippe leaves the post after three years, the Elysee Palace announced. Macron has said he will set a "new course" for the government as the country grapples with the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic. A wider cabinet reshuffle could now come later in the day.

SOURCE: REUTERS, AFP, NDTV



Supporters raise white paper to avoid slogans banned under the national security law as they support arrested anti-law protester, as a prison van leaves Eastern court in Hong Kong yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

**Age of expansionism over**

*Modi tells troops during China border visit after clash*

AGENCIES

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing troops during a surprise visit to a forward post in Ladakh yesterday, said: "The weak can never accomplish peace, the brave do."

Describing the soldiers as "the braves of the soil", the Prime Minister said the "enemy has seen your fire and fury," delivering a strong, direct message to China after the June 15 clash in which 20 soldiers were killed in action.

"The age of expansionism is over, this is the age of development. History is witness that expansionist forces have either lost or were forced to turn back," said the Prime Minister, not mentioning China.

"Every single Indian across the world, especially in India, has the belief that you all can deliver and keep the nation strong and safe. Your courage is higher than the heights where you are stationed. Your arms are as strong as the mountains that surround you. Your confidence, determination and belief are as immovable as the peaks here."

The PM's visit served as a powerful statement against Chinese aggression at the Line of Actual

Control (LAC) since early May, which escalated to a deadly brawl on June 15 in which 20 soldiers were killed and over 70 injured. Army sources said 45 Chinese soldiers were killed or injured.

Chants of "Bharat Mata ki jai" and "Vande Mataram" broke out when he arrived at Nimu earlier yesterday. A video showed soldiers cheering as the Prime Minister walked amidst them, accompanied by Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, and Army Chief General MM Naravane. He was flown by chopper to Nimu, 11,000 feet up in the Himalayas and on the banks of the river Indus.

PM Modi first interacted with soldiers from the Army, Air Force and Indo-Tibetan Border Police, sitting in a camouflage tent. Later, he addressed the troops, reports NDTV.

"Our enemies have seen your Fire and your Fury," he said, addressing the XIV Corps of the Army in Leh. Modi also visited a hospital where several soldiers wounded in the clash are recovering. China and India have long had a prickly relationship.

Both sides have blamed each other for the clash and since sent thousands of extra troops to the region, reports AFP.



**JOURNALIST KHASHOGGI MURDER**

**Turkey opens trial of 20 Saudis in absentia**

AFP, Istanbul

Twenty Saudi suspects including two former aides to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman went on trial in absentia in Turkey yesterday, accused of killing and dismembering journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018.

Khashoggi, 59, was an insider-turned-critic who wrote for The Washington Post before he was killed inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2, 2018 where he had gone to obtain documents for his wedding to Turkish fiancée Hatice Cengiz.

Turkish prosecutors claim Saudi deputy intelligence chief Ahmed al-Assiri and the royal court's media czar Saud al-Qahtani led the operation and gave orders to a Saudi hit team.

They were formally charged in March with "instigating the deliberate and monstrous killing, causing torment".

Eighteen others suspects -- including intelligence operative Maher Mutreb who frequently travelled with the crown prince on foreign tours, forensic expert Salah al-Tubaigy and Fahad al-Balawi, a member of the Saudi royal guard -- were charged with "deliberately and monstrously killing, causing torment".

The prosecutor has already issued arrest warrants for the suspects who are not in Turkey. Cengiz, who is a complainant in the case, was attending the trial alongside the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Agnes Callamard.

Yasin Aktay, a close friend of Khashoggi and advisor to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ruling party, was also in the courtroom.

Erdogan has said the order to murder Khashoggi came from "the highest levels" of the Saudi government but never blamed Prince Mohammed.



**They don't deserve it**

FROM PAGE 1  
On Thursday, UNB reported that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina chaired a meeting that confirmed the decision.

Textile and Jute Minister Gazi on Monday said, during a virtual press briefing, "The step has been taken as Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) continues to incur heavy losses."

He also said the financial benefits of all retired workers, and wages and benefits of all current workers would be paid in due course. A Tk 5,000-crore fund will be allocated for this purpose.

"The mills will be modernised and re-opened under PPP [Public-Private Partnership], joint venture or lease process. And, these laid-off workers will be given priority while manning these modernised mills," said Gazi, who himself is a successful businessman.

That the BJMC has been a losing concern over the years and privatisation is a popular way out for the government is nothing new.

But the pertinent question is whether it was the right time for the government to make such a decision when protecting every job, be it in the formal or informal sector, should have been the utmost priority.

The government had announced a stimulus package of over Tk 1 lakh crore to revive an economy battered by the pandemic. The objective of the package was to keep the factory running and avoiding massive unemployment.

In that context, the decision to lay off jute mill workers was anything but protecting the working class. Rather, it amounts to throwing those workers into the deep end of poverty. Besides, it will also embolden private entities in the country to follow suit.

Reacting to the decision, Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir, a professor of Dhaka University's Economics department, told an English language daily on Monday, "If the government shuts down factories and terminates workers, it could encourage other sectors to fire workers."

The government should provide cash grants to people in need to contain the ballooning poverty; it cannot make people jobless, he added.

But the question is why was the government in a mad rush to close them down, going against an otherwise visibly generous approach of providing subsidies in some other sectors?

According to Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), in FY 2019, the government paid Tk 8,992 crore as capacity payments to the power sector -- a 398 percent increase from FY 2010, when the subsidy was Tk 1,790 crore.

And that astronomical figure (Tk 8,992 crore in FY 2019) is higher than the Tk 5,000 crore the government has offered to pay through what it called a "golden handshake".

For the deeply aggrieved jute mill workers, it was the final nail in the coffin. Mizanur Rahman, a worker of Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills in Khulna, summed up the grim prospect well.

"The government decided to sack us at a time when we are already in deep trouble due to the pandemic.

"We have been living in quarters for labourers at the jute mills for generations. Where will we go with our family members during this pandemic? Where will we get jobs when all the factories are firing workers?" Mizanur was quoted in a The Daily Star report titled "Workers protest jute mill closure" on June 30.

It means workers will not only lose their jobs, but will also be ejected from their homes and their children deprived of free education.

The coronavirus pandemic is showing no signs of slowing down and the World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Monday said, "We all want this to be over. We all want to get on with our lives. But the hard reality is that this is not even close to being over."

And this is more pertinent for Bangladesh where Covid-19 infections and deaths are still rising. Besides, the country's healthcare experts are not sure how long it will take to return to normalcy.

The jute and textile minister said the laid-off workers will get job 'priority' once factories are modernised and relaunched through public-private partnership or by private enterprises. It is not only a distant reality, but proved to be a hollow promise in the past, and has been well-documented.

The two investigative reports in The Daily Star in recent memory -- "JUTE DAY: Reality vs Labour law" and "Jute Workers: No pay scale in 9 years, no pay for months" -- have shed light on how the once topmost foreign exchange earning sector has faced a gradual decline and how the workers were deprived over the years.

However, who is responsible for the fall of the public jute mills is not an issue at the moment.

The issue is whether the jute mill workers deserve such harsh treatment from the government in such a trying situation. Do they deserve to be just thrown away only because they are not profitable? Do family members of workers deserve to be deprived of basic rights like accommodation and education?

We beg to differ.

**US logs record daily cases**

*UK eases quarantine as Beijing lifts virus curbs*

AFP, Miami

The United States posted a record 53,000 new coronavirus cases as the deadly pandemic accelerated across the Americas, but its slowdown in Europe led Britain to announce yesterday its first exemptions to its quarantine rules.

With Europe looking to turn the page on the biggest public health crisis in modern history, travelers arriving into Britain from Germany, France, Spain and Italy will no longer be required to self-isolate starting July 10.

Beijing has contained transmission of a new coronavirus outbreak and will lift travel restrictions on most residents at midnight, city authorities said yesterday, weeks after a new wave of infections broke out in the Chinese capital.

**E-waste levels surge 20pc in 5 yrs: UN**

AFP, Paris

Humans discarded more than 50 million tonnes of electronic waste last year -- an increase of 20 percent in just five years -- making tech refuse the world's fastest growing waste problem, the United Nations said Thursday.

In its annual report on e-waste -- tossed away smartphones, computers, white goods and electronic car parts -- the UN said that materials worth more than \$55 billion (50 billion euros) were being wasted every year.

In 2019 only 17 percent of the year's 53 million tonnes of e-waste was recycled, with the rest ending up in scrapheaps or landfill.

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Liaison Office: Old Airport, Tejgaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh

**Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)**

No. BSMRAAU/Registrar-172/2020/34 Date: 04/07/2020

Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Education (MOE)/Secondary and Higher Education Division.
Agency	: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation & Aerospace University (BSMRAAU)/University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC).
Procuring entity name	: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation & Aerospace University (BSMRAAU), Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Procuring entity code	:
Procuring entity district	: Dhaka.
Expression of Interest for Selection of	: Local Consulting Firm having foreign consultant is preferred.
Title of service	: Feasibility Study for the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation & Aerospace University Development Project.
EOI Ref. No.	: BSMRAAU/Registrar-172/2020/34
Date	: 04/07/2020.
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>	
Procurement sub-method	: Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS).
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>	
Budget and source of funds	: GOB (Development Budget).
Development partners	: GOB.
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>	
Project/programme name	: Feasibility Study for the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation & Aerospace University Development Project.
EOI closing date and time	: 25/07/2020, 02:00pm.
<b>INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT</b>	
Brief description of assignment	: a) Different types of survey such as digital, topographical, land use, physical feature, hydrological, archaeological, accommodation, geological, traffic and transportation, drainage, existing flora and fauna and other relevant surveys of 638.5428 (six hundred thirty-eight and point five four two eight) acres land for the preparation of master plan. b) Conducting detailed impact assessment (i.e. need analysis, financial, environmental, social, vehicle movement, implementation plan etc.). c) Preparation of a Master plan including 2-D and 3-D view with animation for at least next fifty years or above of BSMRAAU. Consultant has to submit a preliminary conceptual layout with soft & hard copy including 3D view with animation. d) Guideline of optimum use of land. e) Sub-soil investigation. f) Summarized related infrastructure of BSMRAAU for at least next fifty years. g) Feasibility Study with Conceptual Architectural 3D View (for each building four images) of proposed 116 or more numbers of buildings/structures for preparation of BSMRAAU development project. h) Project cost estimation including construction, land acquisition, resettlement/compensation and other related costs. i) Preparation of DPP for BSMRAAU Development Project by the instruction of BSMRAAU Authority, UGC and MOE. The number of DPP copy should be ensured as needed. j) Preparation of waste management plan for BSMRAAU. k) Discussion about scope of job opportunity for aviation and aerospace graduates, demand of aviation and aerospace graduates, present and future status of research in aviation and aerospace sector, socio-economics condition of Bangladesh and in the project area. l) All reports and document to be supplied in hard & soft form. The number of supplied copies to be defined by the BSMRAAU authority.
Experience, resources and delivery capacity required	: a. Background of the firm with brochure. b. Minimum 10 years' experience of the firm for preparation of digital master plan, different survey and assessment, preparation of DPP, architectural & engineering design, drawings, estimation and supervision of construction works. The firm must have the experience of consultancy service of minimum 03 (three) public university/institute (aviation and aerospace university is highly preferred). c. Particular experience in design & drawings of Academic/Institutional facilities under any public University/institute (aviation and aerospace university is highly preferred) and at least one contract value of Taka 1.00 (one) crore. d. Specific experience in preparation of a complete and full-fledged master plan including rehabilitation plan for a whole complex showing proposed structure under any public University/institute (aviation and aerospace university is highly preferred). e. Availability & summary of qualification of key professional and experience of technical staff. f. Up-to-date trade license, TIN certificate, VAT registration and other necessary relevant documents. g. Minimum 03 (three) years audit report & bank solvency certificate of the firm.
Other details (if applicable)	: Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications. Consultant will be selected in accordance with PPA/2006 and PPR/2008 and Public Procurement Procedures issued by GOB with its updated amendment. b) Interested consultant may obtain further information at the address below during office hour. c) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs without assigning any reason whatsoever. d) EOI shall be submitted in sealed envelope, delivered to the address of the undersigned.
Association with foreign firms is	: Encouraged.
<b>EOI DETAIL INFORMATION</b>	
Ref No.	: NA
Phrasing of services	: BSMRAAU Liaison Office, Old Airport, Tejgaon, Dhaka
Location	: BSMRAAU Liaison Office, Old Airport, Tejgaon, Dhaka
Start date	: 04/07/2020
Completion date	: 25/07/2020
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>	
Name of official inviting EOI	: Air Commodore Md. Zahidul Sayeed.
Designation of official inviting EOI	: Registrar, BSMRAAU.
Contact details	: Group Captain Md. Maksudul Alam, Project Director (Acting), Mobile: 01769995054, maksudul815@bsmraau.edu.bd
Address of the office inviting EOI	: BSMRAAU, Liaison Office, Old Airport, Tejgaon, Dhaka.
Email address of office inviting EOI	: E-mail: registrar@bsmraau.edu.bd
<b>Registrar</b> Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation & Aerospace University	

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