

4-LANE DHAKA-BHANGA EXPRESS HIGHWAY BUILT WITH BSRM XTREME

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT BSRM

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES

World's Largest VRM

SHAH CEMENT

'Vast global gap' in funds to fight virus

Says WHO chief

REUTERS, Geneva

There is a "vast global gap" between funds needed to fight the coronavirus pandemic and funds committed, World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said yesterday, and the WHO was only "10% of the way" there.

More than 19.92 million people have been reported to be infected by the coronavirus globally and 729,883 have died, according to a Reuters tally.

Infections have been reported in more than 210 countries and territories since the first cases were identified in China in December 2019.

"The coming three months present a crucial window of opportunity to scale-up the impact of the ACT Accelerator for global impact," Tedros told a briefing in Geneva, referring to the "Access to Covid-19 Tools" initiative.

"However to exploit this window, we have to fundamentally scale up the way we are funding the ACT Accelerator and prioritise the use of new tools. There is a vast global gap between our ambition for the ACT Accelerator, and the amount of funds that have been committed."

He said the WHO was only "10% of the way" to funding the billions of dollars required.



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Children returning home after fishing at Jilkar haor in Sylhet's Sadar upazila. It has become a pleasant activity for people of all ages in the vicinity as more fish are being caught with the floodwater started recede. People in rural areas often go fishing as a community.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



Janmashtami today

BSS, Dhaka

Janmashtami, the birth anniversary of lord Sri Krishna, one of the major festivals of the Hindu community, is being celebrated across the country today with due religious fervour.

The day is a public holiday.

Amid the Covid-19 outbreak, this time all rituals and programmes will be arranged inside temples maintaining health guidelines as a decision has been taken to cancel all types of processions and rallies marking the festival.

The decision was made recently at a virtual meeting of the district and city units of Bangladesh Puja Uddhapan Parishad.

In separate messages, SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Farmers lose crops, seedbeds

Devastated by floods, many fear they won't be able to grow Aman

STAR REPORT

Tens of thousands of farmers across the country suffer a double blow due to the prolonged flood that has damaged matured crops as well as seedbeds on vast swathes of land.

Many farmers are fearing that they would not be able to cultivate Aman paddy in the upcoming months as most of their seedbeds have been destroyed.

Besides, those who started cultivation with loans have been plunged into further trouble as they are in no situation to repay the loans.

Floods have damaged crops worth nearly Tk 350 crore till mid-July, said officials of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

The latest estimation is yet to be made available.

Over 54 lakh people under 163 upazilas in 33 districts have been affected by floodwater, said a report of National Disaster Response Coordination Centre.

Our correspondents from different districts reported on the plight of flood-hit farmers.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

UN Council strives to avert Chinese veto

August 11, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

MEMBERSHIP ISSUE DEFERRED TILL AUGUST 21

Security Council members, striving to avert a Chinese veto, today agree to defer until August 21 further consideration of Bangladesh's application for the UN membership. The 15-member council's committee on admission also agrees to waive the rule requiring 35 days' notice for the admission of a new state by the General Assembly. The Assembly begins its 27th session on September 19. Bangladesh submitted its membership application on August 8, 1972 and the Security Council voted to place it on its agenda yesterday, overriding strong objection by China.

BANGABANDHU CONFERS WITH AIDES

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who has been recovering from a gallbladder operation at London Clinic, this morning for the first time comes out to the corridor, goes to the room where his personal staff are staying, and has a meeting with them. Bangabandhu is recovering satisfactorily, informs a health bulletin issued today by his personal physician Professor Dr Nurul Islam.

BANGABANDHU THANKS SUHARTO

Bangabandhu today thanks Indonesian President Suharto for his message wishing him an early recovery. Bangabandhu says, "Thank

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Internet speed back to normal

2 held for digging up submarine cable

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Internet services across the country returned to normal early yesterday after 12 hours of disruption due to damage caused by an excavator to the country's second submarine cable on Sunday.

Two of five accused, including the brother of a union parishad chairman, in a case filed over the incident were arrested yesterday.

Normal services resumed around 12:17am Monday morning after the damaged part near Kuakata submarine cable landing station in Patuakhali district were repaired, said Moshir Rahman, managing director of Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited (BSCCL).

"We were able to fully SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Mystery of ancient reptile solved



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have solved the mystery of how a 242-million-year-old reptile with a neck three times the length of its torso moved around, discovering that it lived in the ocean.

Paleontologists have been puzzled ever since fossils of the creature, which is part of the Tanystropheus genus, were first discovered in 1852, as they were unable to work out how the animal could have supported the weight of its neck.

The creature's "bizarre body didn't make things clear one way or the other", researchers said, and its giraffe-like neck left scientists unsure over whether it lived on land or in the sea.

The puzzle was solved when a new study by the University of Zurich reconstructed the reptile's SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Noab worried at CUJ protest around editor's house in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) has expressed deep concern over Chattogram Journalists' Union staging protests surrounding the residence of Dainik Azadi editor.

On July 29, 2020, Chattogram Journalists' Union [CUJ] surrounded the house of editor MA Malek at Ghat Farhadbagh with some demands, Noab said in a statement, circulated to the media yesterday.

Publication of five newspaper in Chattogram has remained halted since that day. The publication has not resumed even after Eid, the statement said.

"Occupying the streets outside the editor's residence, instead of protesting at the Press Club, or at the newspaper's office is unprecedented. The residence also SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Ex-Indian president Pranab Mukherjee infected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's former president Pranab Mukherjee yesterday tested positive for coronavirus infection and was admitted to the Army's Research and Referral (R&R) Hospital in New Delhi.

Mukherjee himself broke the news about his testing Covid-19 positive yesterday afternoon after he went to a hospital for a routine check-up.

"On a visit to the hospital for a separate procedure, I have tested positive for Covid19 today," the 84-year-old leader tweeted.

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 11

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-41 8-00
JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-44 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Day labourers having an afternoon nap near the capital's Chandrimal Udyan. A large number of them do not get work every day as many construction works have been stalled since the outbreak of coronavirus in the country. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Outbreak shows signs of peaking

Says Australia; global cases pass 20 million

AGENCIES

Australia recorded its biggest one-day rise in Covid-19 deaths yesterday although a slowdown in new cases gave hope that a second wave of new infections in the state of Victoria may have peaked.

Nineteen people had died from the virus, all in Victoria, in the past 24 hours, a national daily record. However only 337 people had been diagnosed with Covid-19 across the country, the lowest one-day rise since July 29, officials said.

"This is an agonising day for the members for the 19 families who have lost a loved one to Covid-19 today," Michael Kidd, Australia's deputy chief medical officer, told reporters.

"We are now seeing the first promising signs of a significant decline in the number of cases."

The slowdown in cases comes more than a month after the nearly 5 million residents of Melbourne, the capital of Victoria, were told to stay home, and a week after most businesses in the country's second-largest city were ordered to close in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus.

With about 21,000 Covid-19 cases and 314 deaths, Australia has still recorded fewer infections and fatalities than many other developed nations. Outside the two largest states of Victoria and New South Wales, the virus has been effectively eliminated.

Globally, 20 million cases have been officially registered.

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