

Pabna-4

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Commission has already taken necessary steps to hold a free, fair and credible election," he said, adding that the ballot papers would reach the polling centres in the morning.

Nuruzzaman Biswas from the AL, Habibur Rahman Habib from the BNP and Rejaul Karim from the Jatiya Party are participating in the by-polls, according to the district election office.

In the last five national elections, AL candidate Shamsur had secured victory in Pabna-4 constituency.

Indian farmers

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The government insists the new rules give farmers the option to sell their produce to private buyers while it would still purchase staples such as rice and wheat at guaranteed prices.

But such assurances have failed to mollify millions of farmers who make up an influential voting bloc in states such as Punjab and Haryana - India's northern farm belt which borders the capital New Delhi.

Modi, who was re-elected with an overwhelming majority in 2019, now faces the biggest farmers' protest just weeks before an assembly election in Bihar, India's third-most populous state.

As part of a nationwide shutdown called by India's leading farmers' organisations, growers held demonstrations in many parts of the country and blocked highways leading to New Delhi using trucks, tractors and combine harvesters.

Farmer Karam Singh accused the government of trying to make traditional wholesale markets redundant. Farm leaders say India's more than 7,000 regulated wholesale markets have played a crucial role in ensuring timely payments to growers.

Singh said the new law has made nearly 85% of India's poor farmers, who own less than 2 hectares (5 acres) of land, vulnerable to being shortchanged by private buyers.

"The private sector will give us a good price for one or two years, but what about after that?" he asked. "The government should guarantee the private sector will give us more than the government price."

As well as in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, farmers held protests in the eastern states of Odisha and West Bengal.



Palestinians run away from tear gas fired by Israeli forces during a protest against Jewish settlements, in Asira al-Qibliya in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Flood ravages North for 4th time

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Many houses have already been inundated, while several hundred houses and many institutions are still facing threats of flooding and erosion.

"Erosion devoured my and some other houses in the last few days," said Yeasin Pramanik, of Pukurtola village in Chowdhali.

In Thakurgaon and Panchagarh, around 1,500 families have been waterlogged as some 20 villages are flooded.

Many mud houses also collapsed.

"Floodwater entered my house last night for the fourth time this year," said Adam Ali, of DC Slum area in Thakurgaon town.

A huge area of land in Bogura has been submerged as the Jamuna was flowing 3cm above the danger mark yesterday.

Sultan Ahmed, a farmer of Char Batiya, said, "Flood struck us for four times this year. I have six bighas of paddy that has been flooded in the last two days. If the paddy is damaged, I have to suffer in the winter for the shortage of rice."

Abdul Halim, agricultural officer of Sariakandi upazila, said, "In the last two-three days, water of the Jamuna inundated over 277 hectares of crops, including 250 hectares of Aman paddy, in the upazila."

In Gaibandha, the Teesta was flowing 22cm below the danger level and the Brahmaputra 22cm below the danger level, while the Korotoa and Ghaghot rivers were flowing 23cm and 16cm below the danger mark respectively as of 6.00am yesterday, said Water Development Board (WDB) officials.

Mokhlesur Rahman, executive engineer of Gaibandha WDB, said, "Water will increase the next two days, but there is no possibility of a devastating flood this time."

Fourth spell of flood hit Dimla and Jaldhaka upazilas of Nilphamari as the Teesta started swelling again, inundating vast areas of its basin and leaving thousands of people in 20 char areas waterlogged.

Shahidul Islam, a flood victim of Kismoter char, lamented saying that they had just returned to their damaged houses from makeshift shelters at the end of last month.

He said as flood struck them again, they had to leave houses to take shelter elsewhere.

[Our correspondents in Lalmonirhat, Bogura, Thakurgaon, Pabna and Nilphamari contributed to this report]

Allow Bangalees

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objective of their life to perform the Hajj. Every year thousands of our people have gone to your great country for this most sacred pilgrimage. I am very anxious to send them to perform Hajj this year also.

"To enable these people to fulfil their long ambition of performing this sacred pilgrimage I request Your Majesty to allow them to visit your country so that they could go to the holy cities and be in Kaaba, the house of Allah, where all Muslims are equal and universally accepted.

"My foreign minister had already sent a similar request to Your Majesty's foreign minister on the 12th September. If Your Majesty is agreeable to send an official to my country to grant visas to the intending pilgrims prior to their departure he would be received most warmly and all facilities will be extended to him. If Your Majesty has no objection, we would also like to send a small team of officials to your country before the Hajj season commences to look after the welfare of our Hajjis."

GOVT TAKES OVER TV CORPORATION

The government has taken over the Pakistan Television Corporation Limited in Bangladesh to ensure better operation of television services. The president has in this connection promulgated the Pakistan Television Corporation (Taking over) Order 1972 which comes into force at once.

SOURCES: September 27, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

New onion variety ushers

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have been brought under experimental cultivation under the supervision of station offices of BARI.

Additionally, test cultivation is taking place in three sugar mills alongside sugarcane cultivation, he said, to test what other vegetables onion can be inter-cropped with.

Besides farmers in the selected districts, many in Pabna, Kushtia and adjoining districts have also started test cultivation of the new variety of onion under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Dr Hamim added.

The BARI-5 seeds were distributed among the selected farmers in early June this year and they produced seed beds for making saplings.

Farmers like Shahinur then planted 40-45-day-old onion saplings in their selected fields in August and early September -- which will be ready to harvest after 60 days.

When this correspondent visited Mohadebpur village, he found several farmers cultivating BARI-5 as a test case, they are now waiting to harvest the crop.

Talking with the Daily Star, Md Azhar Ali, deputy director of Pabna DAE, however, said like Shahinur, many farmers were interested in test cultivation of this variety this year.

It can be cultivated everywhere where the soil is dry and no stagnant water collects, Azhar said, adding that they are expecting production of over 40 mounds of onion from each bigha.

Dr Hamim added if experimental cultivation is successful and all the departments concerned work together, they can proceed with commercial cultivation of BARI-5 -- targeting the crucial gap between the two current seasons of onion production.

US Covid-19 cases surpass

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government announced new restrictions on bars and restaurants in major cities.

Figures from Public Health France showed that 16,096 people had tested positive for Covid-19 over the last 24 hours, a record—even though experts advise that testing during the first coronavirus wave in March-April captured only a fraction of cases.

Hundreds of restaurant and bar owners protested in the southern French city of Marseille yesterday against new shutdown orders.

Madrid's regional government expanded the number of areas under partial lockdown yesterday in a move now affecting a million people, but ignored a central government plea for restrictions across the capital.

The city and the surrounding region is at the epicentre of a second wave of coronavirus that is sweeping Spain, which has claimed more than 31,000 lives and infected over 700,000 in the highest infection rate in the European Union.

From Monday, another 167,000 people will be confined to their neighbourhoods and unable to leave except for work, school or medical reasons although they will be able to move freely within their own areas.

Poland yesterday reported a record spike of 1,587 new cases over a 24-hour period, in line with a rise in other parts of eastern Europe where numbers have been relatively low.

In Asia, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said yesterday the government will ease strict coronavirus border restrictions from October to allow more foreign nationals to enter the country.

The country banned entry for most foreigners this year in the wake of the pandemic, but has been negotiating the gradual resumption of cross-border business travel, reports AFP.

Brazil has postponed Rio de Janeiro's famed carnival for next year, the latest spectacle hit by the pandemic.

Rio's carnival, famous for its gyrating Samba dancers, drummers and dancing crowds, draws millions for all night parties in packed streets, making social distancing all but impossible.

It was the first time the carnival had been postponed since 1912, joining a growing list of major entertainment and sporting events disrupted by the pandemic with the virus showing no signs of slowing its track across the globe.

Australia also postponed plans to host a Test cricket match against Afghanistan and a one-day series against New Zealand yesterday, saying the pandemic had made arranging the matches too difficult.

French Open tennis tournament will now allow only 1,000 spectators each day in line with tougher restrictions introduced this week by the French government.

EXPERIMENTAL VACCINES
China's Covid-19 vaccine development programme is in a "leading position" and Beijing expects annual production capacity to reach over 610 million doses by the end of the year, officials said yesterday.

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Invitation for Tender (IFT) for VTM (Viral Transport Medium)

Project name	TB Control Programme
Source of Funds	Global Fund
Tender package no.	BPD-TB/03-2020
Reference no. and date	IFT/BRAC/ BPD-TB/20-06 Date: 16 September 2020
Tender name	Procurement of VTM (Viral Transport Medium)
Time of delivery	As per Tender Documents.
Price of the tender documents	BDT 1,500.00 (Non-refundable).
Tender security	As per tender documents.
Availability of Tender documents	Procurement Department (Ground floor), BRAC Center, 75, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212. For study purpose please visit procurement.brac.net.
Date & time of Selling Documents	20 September to 03 October 2020 Between 11.00a.m to 3.00p.m
Tender dropping place, date & time	Tender Box-3, BRAC Procurement Department (Ground floor), BRAC Center, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212. 04 October, 2020 Between 10.00am to 1.30 pm
Tender opening place, date & time	BRAC Staff Canteen (4 th Floor), BRAC Center 04 June'2020 at 3.30pm

BRAC procurement Department, BRAC Centre, 75, Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212 Phone: 9881265 Ext 3033

Helsinki Airport deploys

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during the test. If the test result is positive, the individual will be directed to a health information point inside the airport.

All of the tests are processed anonymously, Helsinki Airport said.

"We are among the pioneers. As far as we know no other airport has attempted to use canine scent detection on such a large scale against Covid-19," airport director Ulla Lettjef said in a statement. "This might be an additional step forward on the way to beating Covid-19."

19 sued for helping OC

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Journalist Faridul Alam was made accused in a false and fabricated case for writing against the spread of yaba pills in Cox's Bazar that destroyed the youth in the district.

"They looted our house, vandalised furniture and physically assaulted us and took our signatures on a blank paper warning us of not to speak out about what happened in last year", the victim's sister said.

Masum Khan, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, told The Daily Star that they received the case and were on hunt to arrest the accused named in the case.

Pradeep filed six cases against Faridul Islam last year for writing about the network of yaba syndicate in Cox's Bazar. Arrested from Dhaka, Faridul was tortured in police custody for two days and sent to jail for those fabricated cases.

Court granted him bail after Pradeep was arrested in major (ret'd) Sinha murder case in August.

brac

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) for Printing BRAC Diary

Project & Tender Name	BRAC Diary Printing and Supply
Source of fund	Own fund
Tender Items	Lot 01: BRAC Staff Diary-2021 Lot 02: Complimentary Diary-2021
Reference no & date	IFT/BRAC/BPD/FWA/20-05 dated : 16 September, 2020
Time of delivery	All Diary to be delivered within 45 days from the date of signing Contract Agreement
Price of the tender documents	BDT 1,000.00 (Taka one thousand only) non refundable
Tender security	As per tender documents
Tender document available	BRAC Procurement Department 4th Floor, Gulshan Tower, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 (Opposite of BRAC Center). For study purpose please visit procurement.brac.net
Date and time for selling documents	27 September, 2020 to 12 October, 2020 between 10:00am to 4:00pm
Tender dropping place, date and time	Tender box-3, Procurement Department, (G.F.) BRAC Center, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. 13 October, 2020 between 10:00 am to 2:00pm
Tender opening place, date & time	BRAC staff canteen (4th floor), BRAC Center, 13 October, 2020 at 3:00 pm

BRAC, 75 Mohakhali Dhaka-1212 Ph: 02222281265-72 Ext: 3786

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Public Health Engineering
Office of Executive Engineer
Research and Development Division
DPHE Bhaban, 14, Shahid Captain
Monsur Ali Sarani, Kakrail, Dhaka

Memo No. 46.03.2600.083.07.027.20-625 Date: 24/09/2020

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following package:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description	Online publication date and time	Online closing date and time
448552	VWSP-1767	Construction, installation and supply for piloting of Vessel and Box type AIRP.	24-Sep-2020 22:00	12-Oct-2020 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to date & time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

A.H.M. Khalequr Rahman
Executive Engineer (CC)
GD-1525 Phone: 02-55130711

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
The Pilot Project in different areas of Bangladesh using Bamboo Bundling Structures to reduce river bank erosion, land reclamation and increase navigation
River Research Institute, Faridpur
Phone: +880-631-63465 Fax: 0631-63065 Website: www.rrri.gov.bd

Ref. No. Ba.Ba.Sa.Ba-1315-RRi-2018-251 Date: 24-09-2020

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concerned that the following tenders are invited in the National e-GP Portal:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Last selling date	Opening date
1	488832	13/09/2020	14/09/2020
2	497320	13/09/2020	14/09/2020
3	497324	13/09/2020	14/09/2020
4	497325	13/09/2020	14/09/2020

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Kazi Rezaul Karim
Chief Scientific Officer & Project Director
Bamboo Bundling Pilot Project
River Research Institute, Faridpur

GD-1527

শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ
জনাবায় সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ।

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
Coastal Forest Division, Noakhali
cfdnkl@gmail.com

Memo No. 22.01.7500.579.29.20.1372 Date: 24/09/2020

Invitation for e-Tender
Invitation Reference No. CFDN/SUFAL/2020-2021/GD-1

e-Tenders (OTM) is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods:

e-Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of goods	Last date & time for selling/downloading	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
497594	CFDN/SUFAL/2020-2021/GD-1	Supply of Materials for Mangrove Nursery Raising	11/10/2020 16:00	12/10/2020 15:00	12/10/2020 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Bipul Krishna Das
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GD-1526