Grave diggers wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) lower a coffin while burying a person in the special purpose section of a graveyard for the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) victims on the outskirts of Saint Petersburg, Russia, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Gang-rape victim raped again

FROM PAGE 12

one stage, local Rabi Miah entered the house and raped her.

The following day, the tenth grader filed a rape case accusing Rabi, said Patgram OC Sumon Kumar Mahanta.

The accused is on the run.

On October 9, the schoolgirl had filed a gang rape case accusing 10 people, including a union parishad member, with Kaliganj Police Station in Lamonirhat.

According to the case statement, the girl reached Kakina Railway Station in Kaliganj upazila on that day on the way to her sister's house. She was gang-raped by some criminals after being tricked into going with them.

Police have arrested four of the accused so far.

In Noakhali, the arrestee, aged 27, along with three of his associates, allegedly attempted to gang-rape his former wife in Kabirhat upazila on Wednesday.

The 19-year-old woman lodged a case with Sudharam Police Station on Thursday night accusing the four.

Police said the arrestee from Nobogram village in Kabirhat upazila forcibly married the woman.

The man, an alleged druggie, used to physically torture the woman. They divorced about two months ago.

Later, the woman started working as an apprentice nurse at a private hospital in Maizdi town.

Around 8:00pm on Wednesday, the woman was returning home from work. The four accused intercepted her and forcibly took her to the arrestee's village home.

The four tried to gang-rape her, but failed. They beat her up brutally.

Early Thursday, the woman managed to flee.

Sudharam OC Nobir Hossain said they arrested the prime accused on Thursday night. A local court sent him to jail after he was produce before it yesterday.

[Our correspondents from Lalmonirhat and Noakhali contributed to this report.]

Country sees record rainfall in 9 months

FROM PAGE 12

This year, seasonal wind has lasted longer and that was why we have experienced excessive rain, he added.

The climate change expert said the pattern of seasons has been changing.

"Rain started early this year and even continued till the Bangla month of Ashwin [September]," he added.

Monowar Hossain, a BMD meteorologist, said the average rainfall recorded this year was so far the highest in terms of monthly average over the last 30 years.

"It was much wetter than normal this year," he said.

"It depends on various wind systems like the El Nino trade winds (easterlies), westerlies, ENSO (The El Nino Southern Oscillation), the Madden-Julian Oscillation (MJO), and Positive NAO (North Atlantic Oscillation)."

He added that these warm air masses contribute to storms forming over tropical oceans.

IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE

Excessive rains and long-standing floods have seriously affected agricultural production, which is already visible in the rising trend of rice and vegetables prices.

Experts fear that the price of vegetables will not fall anytime soon as fresh rain across the country due to low pressure in the Bay has rubbed salt in the wound.

"As the seasons are changing, there is an impact on agriculture. If the weather changes slowly, then nature will adopt it. But due to the rapid change, agricultural production will be hampered," said Ainun Nishat.

	MONTHLY AVERAGE in mm (1991-2019)	Monthly average in mm (2020)
January	9	41.23
February	25.5	6.14
March	52.4	28.13
April	130.2	218.57
May	277.3	435.90
June	459.4	642.6
July	523.0	747.161
August	420.4	532.096
September	318.2	620.77

M Anwar Faruk, former secretary of the agriculture ministry, said this year excessive rains severely hampered agricultural production, especially of vegetables.

"The last spell of rain washed away the vegetable fields. Usually, we see winter vegetables start arriving in the market at this time. But this year, production has been hampered due to rain," he told this correspondent late last month.

Although the government has been trying to stabilise the market price of daily essentials, the impact is yet to be visible.

The standard variety of rice is currently being sold at Tk 50-52 a kilogramme while fine varieties are sold at Tk 60-65 per kg. Vegetables are also sold at a higher price -- with eggplant selling at Tk 70-80 per kg and okra at Tk 60 per kg.

Dr Abdul Muid, director general of the Department of Agricultural Extension, said they were helpless against natural disasters.

"Due to excessive rains, agricultural production has already been severely impacted. In many places, farmers who have sown vegetable seeds two to three times saw their fields washed away by rain," he said.

Department of Agriculture Extension officials said a total of 5.82 lakh hectares of land was targeted for cultivation to produce 1.84 lakh tonnes of vegetables this year.

"We have already seen 20 percent loss of production. So, the vegetables market is less likely to be stable anytime soon," the DG added.

Covid cases hit new record in US

FROM PAGE 12

and regions are again warning that intensive care units are filling rapidly.

Another 445 new coronavirus deaths were recorded nationwide Thursday, along with 34,505 new cases.

Five "red zones" in the north -- plus Calabria in the country's "toe" -- shut non-essential businesses from midnight Thursday, affecting 16 million people.

In the northern city of Bergamo -- the epicenter of Italy's coronavirus crisis earlier this year -- several hundred people, including restaurant and shop owners as well as members of the far-right, protested the new curbs.

- 'More distrust' -

The protesters gathered outside the mayor's home after a nighttime demonstration Thursday, waving flags, shouting "Liberty," and hurling smoke bombs.

Bergamo mayor Giorgio Gori said that compared to Italy's more than two-month lockdown from March -- when images of army trucks transporting coffins from the city's inundated morgue went around the world -- "there is more tiredness and more distrust around".

"At a time like this, with so many people distressed about their future, throwing gasoline on the fire... is in my opinion serious and rather dangerous," Gori wrote on Facebook.

Italy's regions follow 56 million people in England who went into a second lockdown on Thursday.

Tourist destinations such as London's Buckingham Palace and Trafalgar Square were deserted, and normally bustling cities including Manchester and Liverpool fell quiet.

Liverpool yesterday began England's first city-wide trial of coronavirus testing in an attempt to prevent hospitals becoming overwhelmed.

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NATIONAL CREDIT AND COMMERCE BANK LIMITED
COMMON SERVICES DIVISION
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed quotations are hereby invited from eligible Vendors as mentioned in the tender documents for the following solution for the use of NCC Bank Ltd. The Schedules containing detailed Terms & Conditions.

SL	Name of the work	Price of the tender document	Sale start date of the tender document	Sale end date of the tender document	Date and time for Tender Submission on or before	Opening of the technical submission
01	Anti-APT (Advance Threat Detection & Response Platform)	Non-refundable Tk.4,000/-(Four Thousand)	November 08, 2020	November 26, 2020	December 01, 2020 at 02:45 PM	December 01, 2020 at 03:00 PM
02	DATA LOSS PREVENTION (DLP)	Non-refundable Tk.2,000/-(Two Thousand)	November 08, 2020	November 26, 2020	December 01, 2020 at 02:45 PM	December 01, 2020 at 04:00 PM
03	Panorama Management tool	Non-refundable Tk.1,000/-(One Thousand)	November 08, 2020	November 26, 2020	December 01, 2020 at 02:45 PM	December 01, 2020 at 05:00 PM

The schedule may be collected from the Common Services Division (Level-5), NCC Bank Ltd. Head Office, Dhaka and submit the same under sealed envelope to the Tender Box placed at Common Services Division. Technical Tender will be opened in presence of the bidders or their representatives (if any). The Bank authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sr. Executive Vice President
Common Services Division

Recognition

FROM PAGE 12

and economic stability under its leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, observes a number of delegates attending the 27th session of the UN General Assembly.

They feel that those adversaries of Bangladesh who used to take pleasure in their belief that Bangladesh, which emerged from a grim Liberation War with its economic life completely shattered, could possibly not survive will now be shocked to find that this newborn state is progressing in various fields day by day.

DRIVE AGAINST ANTI-SOCIALS

Dhaka city police have arrested 105 persons on various charges from different parts of the city during the past four days. They have also recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunitions.

SOURCES: November 8, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Birangana

FROM PAGE 12

unit and also district council member, were present during the burial of the freedom fighter.

During the Liberation War in 1971, the Pakistan occupation forces shot dead Parul's husband Manohar Mistry, his brother Karnadhar Mistry and their neighbour Matiur Rahman. They also set fire to their houses. Her son Manmath survived as he was not at home at that time for taking part in the Liberation War.

Manmath said his mother had been bedridden for a long time.

She had been receiving the Birangana allowance since November 25, 2018.

Four of a family

FROM PAGE 12

The deceased are Nabalok Mia, 62, his wife Ayesha Khatun, 58, younger brother's wife Fatema Begum, 50, and his granddaughter Nadia Akter, 5. They are from Jatrapur village in Cumilla's Muradnagar upazila.

Pvt medical

FROM PAGE 12

On October 25, officials at a meeting at the health ministry decided to close the college, it added.

Contacted, the college's Managing Director Moniruzzaman Swadhin said the government decision was based on "fabricated reports".

The college had been adhering to the conditions given the government. "We are the victims of a conspiracy which will hurt the future of our students and employees," he said.

The college has 225 students and 200 staff members, he added.

As per the government policy, a private medical college and hospital requires 2,00,000 square feet of space. Shah Makhdum has 180,000 square feet, an official said.

The government reports also mentioned shortage of teachers, classrooms and equipment.

Little response to loan

FROM PAGE 1

the government's initiative to provide the returnees with special loan for their economic reintegration saw poor response.

Rights activists said the four percent interest rate for a loan up to Tk 5 lakh is high considering the financial condition of the returnees, many of whom face risks of slipping into poverty.

Besides, the grace period against loan in most ventures is limited to one month only. Therefore, returnees have to start paying instalments almost immediately after taking the loan, they added.

"The four percent interest rate is high for the migrants who came home after losing almost everything and are in a disadvantaged situation now," migrant rights activist Prof CR Abrar told The Daily Star.

About 2.25 lakh migrant workers, including 25,436 women, returned between April 1 and October 24, according to expatriates' welfare ministry data. Most of them came home either after losing jobs or there was no prospect of a job in the host countries, it says.

RESPONSE FROM RETURNEES

The expatriates' welfare ministry created the Tk 200 crore special fund with money from Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB). Probashi Kallyan Bank started disbursing loan from the fund from September 21, said bank officials.

The loan is being disbursed among the returnees who lost jobs, or the family members of migrants who died due to Covid-19, so they can start small ventures like cattle, fish, or poultry farming, dairy, small cottage, and small-scale trade.

In the first three weeks since its launch on September 21, a little over Tk 1 crore from the special fund has been disbursed. About 60 out of 400 applicants received the money while the rest of the applications were under process, according to Probashi Kallyan Bank.

Seeking anonymity, an official of the bank said about 8,000 returnees enquired about the special loan facilities. Bank officials provided them with counselling on different terms and conditions.

However, about half of them did not contact later, the official said.

Most returnees had no clear idea about what type of venture they want to start or where to invest the money, said the official.

After the Covid-19 pandemic hit the global economy early this year, many Bangladeshi migrants started returning home empty-handed after losing jobs.

Expatriate Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad after an inter-ministerial meeting on April 5 announced the decision of providing loan support to returning migrant workers for their reintegration.

On July 12, Probashi Kallyan Bank signed an agreement with WEWB under which the bank took Tk 200 crore from the board to create the fund.

The bank with the help of the ministry prepared the "Policy for reintegration loan for the Covid-19 affected migrant workers-2020" for the loan disbursement.

Later, some clauses were amended to "make the process easier" and allow more returnees, and an amended copy was published on September 17.

As per the new rules, migrants who returned home since January 1 are eligible for the loan. Earlier, returnees from March 1 were eligible only.

ONLY LOANS NOT ENOUGH

Prof CR Abrar said while the fund is one important element for returnee reintegration, it is also essential for them to have knowledge on various other things like financial literacy, training, and marketing.

"Returnee reintegration is a much more complex thing," said Prof Abrar, adding various services are required to ensure returnee reintegration.

Shariful Hasan, head of Brac Migration Programme, said, "Only giving loans to the poor returnees might not help them much."

He said many returnees had been in debt for long and without income for the past seven to eight months.

Their reintegration could be sustainable if initiative is taken on "need basis" and giving priority on their skills and their desire to do something, he added.

Contacted, Mahtab Zabin, managing director of Probashi Kallyan Bank, said they were making progress on the loan disbursement and that they would get a good result by December.

Pointing to lack of manpower, she said the bank has submitted requirements for additional manpower which is at the final stage.

"Once we get the manpower, we will be able to fulfil all targets swiftly," she said.

Dinosaurs travelled

FROM PAGE 12

Duckbill dinosaurs evolved in North America, and later spread to South America, Asia and Europe.

Nicholas Longrich, a senior lecturer at the Milner Centre for Evolution at the University of Bath, who led the study, described the discovery of the fossil as "about the last thing in the world you would expect."

"It was completely out of place, like finding a kangaroo in Scotland. Africa was completely isolated by water -- so how did they get there?" Longrich said in a statement.

After studying Ajnabia's teeth and jawbones, experts determined that it belonged to the Lambeosaurinae subfamily.

Experts say the lambeosaurs evolved in North America, before spreading over a land bridge to Asia, and colonized Europe and then Africa, which was surrounded by deep oceans.

Experts believe the duckbills, with their large tails and powerful legs, must have crossed hundreds of kilometers of open sea to reach the continent, by rafting on debris, floating, or swimming.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Executive Engineer
District: Shariatpur
www.lged.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.02.8600.000.07.009.2020-2256 Date: 05-11-2020

e-Tender Notice No. 06/2020-21

e-Tender is invited the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of

Sl. No.	Tender/ Proposal ID	Name of Scheme with Package No.	Last selling date and time of tender document	Last date and time for submission tender
1	506858	MSRDP/S/20-21/BC/Maint-18 Maintenance of Haturia-Moheswarpotty Road at Ch 0.00-1390.00m under Goshairhat Upazila District Shariatpur Road ID No. 386364001	25-Nov-2020 16:00	26-Nov-2020 13:00
2	506859	MSRDP/S/20-21/BC/Maint-19 Maintenance of Kodalpur Goribarchar GCCR-Bakaulpara Road at Ch 0.00-816.00m under Goshairhat Upazila District Shariatpur Road ID No. 386364024	25-Nov-2020 16:00	26-Nov-2020 13:00
3	506860	MSRDP/S/20-21/BC/Maint-20 Maintenance of Idulpur Natun Bazar-Itaikua Join Bridge Road at Ch 0.00-1650.00m under Goshairhat Upazila District Shariatpur Road ID No. 386364035	25-Nov-2020 16:00	26-Nov-2020 13:00
4	506863	MSRDP/S/20-21/BC/140 Improvement of Atimkhana-Malgaon Road via Talukder Kandi by BC at Ch 1000.00-2173.00m under Damuddya Upazila District Shariatpur Road ID No. 386254030	25-Nov-2020 16:00	26-Nov-2020 13:00
5	506865	MSRDP/S/20-21/BC/142 Improvement of Gorya-Ghar Nayarayanpur via P. Damuddya A/S Road at Ch 0.00-800.00m under Damuddya Upazila District Shariatpur Road ID No. 386255056	25-Nov-2020 16:00	26-Nov-2020 13:00
6	506866	MSRDP/S/20-21/BC/143 Improvement of Damuddya Bhedargonj UZR-Nandra GPS via H/O Goni Master at Ch 0.00-671.00m under Damuddya Upazila District Shariatpur Road ID No. 386255061	25-Nov-2020 16:00	26-Nov-2020 13:00

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 up to 16:00 on 25-11-2020.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) and also for e-mail: xen.shariatpur@lged.gov.bd or call to: 0601-61454.

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