

US delegation

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to them the future programme the government is planning towards for the reconstruction of the country.

BANGABANDHU, JACKSON TALK UN RELIEF EFFORTS
Bangabandhu and Sir Robert Jackson, UN assistant secretary general, today confer on the further UN relief efforts in Bangladesh during next year. The current UN relief efforts which began sometime last year are likely to be terminated by next March when it was proposed the UNDP should take over. In view of the crop difficulties due to drought and reduced rainfall this season, the government urged the UN to extend the relief operation. The secretary general of the UN had in response to the Bangladesh request appealed to member countries to assist in extending the UN operations in Bangladesh. The appeal had indicated that Bangladesh would need about seven lakh tonnes of food grains during the next year. The final decision on the appeal is expected to be taken on November 30, 1972, when the General Assembly takes up the issue.

BANGLADESH-INDIA JOINT RIVERS BODY STATUTE SIGNED
The statute of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission is signed today in Dhaka. The commission will be constituted with a chairman and three members. The chairmanship of the commission will be held annually in turn by Bangladesh and India. The function of the commission will be to maintain liaison between the participating countries in order to ensure the effective joint efforts in maximising the benefits from common river systems and to formulate detailed proposals on advance flood warnings, flood forecasting and cyclone warning.

SOURCES: November 25, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

ASI held

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Moniruzzaman was later taken to the office of Rangpur deputy commissioner where he was interrogated, said officials.

A case was filed with Rangpur Kotwali Police Station under the narcotics control act.

Ayub Ali, reserve inspector of Kurigram Police Lines, said Moniruzzaman was suspended five months ago as he violated the disciplinary code when he was attached to the police lines.

Skull, bones

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Nesha said her daughter went missing two months and 23 days ago after she had left for her grandmother's house in Sultanpur in the same upazila. Her parents then filed a general diary with the Mirpur Police Station over the matter.

The OC said one of her relatives, however, told them that the girl had eloped with a boy.

Police said locals found a skull and bones scattered on the banks of the Mathabhabha river at Wazirpur village of Damurhuda on Saturday afternoon. Upon receiving the information, the law enforcers recovered them from there. A vanity bag, some clothes, including a burqa, were also recovered.

According to the police, Mim was killed a few months ago and parts of her body, along with her belongings, were then dumped in garbage piled up on the river bank.

Police sent the bones and other body parts to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy on Sunday. The information was also forwarded to other adjacent police stations.

Being informed by Mirpur police, the victim's family went to Damurhuda Model Police Station and identified the belongings.

The OC also said a murder case was filed with his police station and that they were trying to arrest those involved in the murder.

"We are investigating the matter and trying to trace the boy with home the victim had allegedly eloped," he added.

Oxford vaccine

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The virus has killed almost 1.4 million people worldwide since emerging in China late last year.

'IMMEDIATE IMPACT'
The latest vaccine results are particularly important as the Oxford drug can be transported easily at normal refrigerator temperatures -- unlike some of the other candidates, which need extremely cold storage.

AstraZeneca chief executive Pascal Soriot said despite the vaccine's lower effectiveness compared with the other candidate drugs, it would still be highly effective and would have an "immediate impact".

The firm said it planned to develop up to three billion doses of the vaccine in 2021 if it passes the remaining regulatory hurdles.

Two other leading candidates -- one by Pfizer and German partner BioNTech and another by US firm Moderna -- reported 95 percent effectiveness in trials.

The European Union said it could approve vaccines for use by the end of the year, following a statement from US officials that a vaccination programme could be started as soon as next month.



An elderly woman carries a former white-red-white flag of Belarus as Belarusian pensioners parade through the streets during a rally to protest against police violence in Minsk, yesterday. For more than three months Belarus has been gripped by historic protests after a disputed presidential vote that saw strongman leader Alexander Lukashenko re-elected for a sixth term.

PHOTO: AFP

Incentive not reality yet

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scrutiny," Dr Enamul Haque, joint secretary (budget-1 and 2) of the health ministry, told The Daily Star.

Mohammad Shahadat Hossain, additional secretary (financial management and audit unit) of the health ministry, said they have received a list from other sources and forwarded it to the DGHS for scrutiny.

"We have asked the DGHS to make a final list. As soon as we receive the list, we will forward it to the finance ministry to allocate funds as per the list."

DGHS officials said the reason behind the delay is ambiguity over the definition of "directly deployed health workers", since there are many staffers working under Covid-19 control activities outside the dedicated hospitals.

Besides, all government healthcare staffers in other hospitals have been working despite risks during this Covid-19 situation, they said.

Dr Sheikh Mohammad Hasan Imam, director (administration) at DGHS, said, "After we asked for the definition, the ministry has directed us to prepare the list of health workers working in only the Covid-19 dedicated hospitals. It is not

completed yet and we are working on it."

Sources at the health ministry said many health staffers were assigned to the Covid-19 dedicated hospitals in deputation.

As a result, the hospital where they actually worked did not include the names of those working at Covid-19 hospitals in the list. At the same time, dedicated hospitals did not enlist their names since they work on government payroll at different hospitals, these sources said.

Healthcare professionals' representatives, meanwhile, said such a delay was "unacceptable" and it "demoralised" the healthcare professionals fighting on the frontline.

"We are hopeless. Many employees of different government departments, such as those working in the administration cadre, have received the money. But ours remains a far cry," said Ehteshamul Haque Chowdhury Dulal, secretary general of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA).

"We think this has been delayed because of bureaucratic tangles," he told The Daily Star.

Despite the prime minister directing the authorities concerned in April on the incentives, there seemed

to be sluggishness on the part of the administration, Ehteshamul said.

SLOW PROGRESS ALSO IN INSURANCE COVERAGE LIST

Since the first three cases were reported on March 8, a total of 42 healthcare staffers have died of Covid-19 and 10,888 others have been infected across the country, according to the DGHS as of November 15.

According to the data, among the deceased healthcare workers are 10 doctors, five nurses, nine field staff, three medical technologists, two support staff, and 13 other staffers.

Among the infected health staffers were 2,302 doctors, 2,726 nurses, 887 field staff, 702 medical technologists, 1,376 support staff, and 1,895 other staffers.

In July, the government also announced that health professionals, other government officials, and law enforcers who are putting their lives at risk to fight Covid-19 will each get insurance coverage of up to Tk 10 lakh.

Finance ministry officials at that time said if any healthcare professional caught the infection, there would be health insurance coverage of Tk 5 lakh, Tk 7 lakh, or Tk 10 lakh, depending on rank, position, and grade. If anyone

Biden to name Blinken

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Biden aide known for his mastery of policy detail and lack of personal drama.

Ron Klain, the incoming White House chief of staff, told ABC News that Biden would make his first cabinet announcements today.

Blinken, who would need Senate confirmation, could help reassure the United States' allies that have been shunned and at times insulted by Trump.

A committed Europhile, the New York-born Blinken went to high school in Paris -- where his stepfather, a Holocaust survivor, practiced law -- and later worked himself as an attorney in France.

Polished and courteous, he could hardly be more different in personality than the hard-charging outgoing secretary of state, Mike Pompeo.

But one common trait would be their close alliances with their bosses, with Blinken advising Biden since the president-elect's time as a senator.

Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, wrote on Twitter that Blinken would be a strong secretary of state.

Besides thorough knowledge of foreign policy, Blinken has "a relationship with his boss that allows him to speak truth to power and the

authority to speak for his boss," Haass wrote.

Pompeo, a steadfast loyalist of Trump even as the president refuses to concede defeat, has put a priority on a more confrontational approach to China and containing Iran.

In remarks during the campaign, Blinken said he also saw China as a competitor but was willing to find areas on which to work with Beijing, including in fighting climate change and global pandemics such as Covid-19.

He faulted Trump's approach, saying that the president needlessly alienated US allies and had reduced American credibility by challenging democratic norms at home.

"We need to be standing up for our values and put them back at the center of our foreign policy, not walk away from them," Blinken told the Hudson Institute.

Blinken was closely involved in the Obama administration's sealing of a landmark 2015 nuclear accord with Iran that Trump exited.

Blinken has strongly criticized Trump's withdrawal, noting that Iran has since boosted its nuclear program and stepped up its support for regional proxies, even as its economy takes a hit from US sanctions.

ACC seeks

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intelligence agencies to take appropriate steps to stop the laundering of money.

Prashanta Kumar Halder alias PK Halder, who along with others misappropriated at least Tk 10,200 crore from four non-banking financial institutions, bought properties and launched a business in Canada, ACC sources said.

Like him, many Bangladeshis have bought luxurious homes in "Begum Para", spending millions laundered out of Bangladesh. Mainly, the wives and children of Bangladeshi millionaires live in these homes in an area in Toronto, hence the name Begum Para.

According to a report published in this newspaper on November 20, the "Begum Para" has come up in numerous political discussions in Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen recently raised eyebrows saying that government officials are forging ahead of politicians in the race to purchase luxurious homes in Begum Para. The minister spoke to The Daily Star on this issue over the phone on November 19.

Guatemalans protest for second day to demand president resign

AFP, Guatemala City

Hundreds of Guatemalans took to the streets for a second day Sunday to demand the resignation of President Alejandro Giammattei, following the passage of a budget that has sparked outrage in the impoverished Central American nation.

Masked protesters filled the central square in front of the old government palace in the historic center of the capital. They carried signs with slogans including "I would rather die as a rebel than live as a slave" and "Giammattei out."

Sunday's peaceful protests came the day after demonstrators partially burned down the Congress building.

Giammattei issued a statement Sunday afternoon reproaching Saturday's violent demonstrations, saying he considered the protesters to be "minority groups that seek to force a true coup d'etat."

All above 10yrs to get smart NID cards

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citizens by 2030," he said.

IDEA Project Director Brig Gen Mohammed Saidul Islam said they were planning modernisation of the server and data centre, aiming to have a secure, accurate and reliable national identification system in the country which is critical to fighting corruption and providing more efficient services to the people.

Squadron Leader Kazi Asikuzzaman, IDEA project officer in charge of operation, planning and communication, said they would hand smart NID cards to all citizens above 10 as part of the project.

Till now, the EC have given smart NID cards to citizens aged 18 and above.

Asikuzzaman said there are lists of 10.98 crore voters in the server. The EC

estimates that another 3.93 crore will be eligible for enrolment as voters and about 2.84 crore will be aged between 10 to 17 by 2025.

The commission will need to produce another 10 crore NID smart cards till 2025 for achieving their target.

The second phase of the IDEA project will be implemented between July 2020 and June 2025.

Others targets of the project include expansion of NID database and its updation to make the existing server more efficient, and helping the EC have a flawless voter list.

"We will need to modernise and enhance the database and server as the number of people and voters are increasing every day. Although the target was set at distribution of 9 crore NID cards, we now have 10.98 crore

voters," said Saidul.

DELAY

Five-year-long first phase of IDEA project had started in 2011, aiming at establishing a secure, accurate and reliable national identification system in Bangladesh. It targeted at providing smart NID cards to about 9 crore adult people, who were enrolled in the voters list.

Alamgir said they were preparing a new project since 2017 which it was delayed for different reasons and that eventually deferred the implementation of the first phase of the project.

About the delay, Saidul said they had to scrap a deal with French firm Oberthur Technologies (OT) for its failure to complete the production and supply of all NID cards on time.

Jihadist threat keeps 300,000 voters from Burkina polls

AFP, Ouagadougou

Hundreds of thousands of voters in Burkina Faso were unable to cast ballots in Sunday's general election due to security threats, officials said, as the West African nation grapples with a growing jihadist insurgency.

An undisclosed number of troops were deployed for the presidential and parliamentary polls, which are widely expected to see President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré re-elected.

But no votes were cast in one-fifth of the country, where large swathes of territory remain outside the state's control and jihadists strike almost daily.

Promote them without

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will be promoted to higher classes without exams.

The government has extended the closure of all educational institutions until December 19 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The government closed all schools on March 17. Academic activities of around four crore students are being affected due to the pandemic.

The long closure has led to cancellation of exams and left academic calendars in disarray.

This year's Higher Secondary Certificate and equivalent exams, Primary Education Completion and its equivalent exams, and Junior School

Certificate and equivalent exams got cancelled.

In place of HSC exams, candidates will be evaluated based on their results in JSC and SSC tests.

More than one crore students of classes 6 to 9 will be promoted to the next classes this year without any annual examinations, the government announced. Instead, school authorities will give assignments to students.

The government launched educational programmes on Sangsad TV for primary students on April 7, and for technical and madrasa students on April 19 to help them make up for the losses due to the closure of educational institutions.

The land was taken on false

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here. All of these were lies," Mendon Mro, son of Ruiton Mro, Karbari of the para, told The Daily Star.

Singpas Mro, headman of Lulaing Mouza under which the para falls, said, "The chairman has betrayed us. Initially, he planted some fruit trees. But it was nothing but an eye-wash. He later handed the land to an organisation for tourism purposes."

Some 20 Mro families used to live in the land in the Naitong hilly area. After losing their land, they moved to nearby areas, said Singpas. "We want our land back," he said.

Meanwhile, the chairman yesterday addressed a press conference where he claimed that land was taken following discussion with the Mro community.

In 2016, the land was leased out to an organisation for 40 years.

"As no one lived in the area, no Mro people will be affected for this," said the chairman, reading out a reading statement.

He, however, admitted that when the district council applied to the Ministry of Chattogram Hill Tracts Affairs seeking ownership of the land, their application was rejected for failing to meet "required conditions."

The Daily Star's correspondent repeatedly tried to talk to the chairman over phone for comments on the allegation against him, but he did not pick up the phone calls.

Contacted, the district council's member Kyaw Sa Prue Marma said the land was taken for tourism, not for gardening.

Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, DPHE Noakhali Division, Noakhali.



Memo No : 46.03.7500.061.19.01-20/2425

Date: 23/11/2020

e-Tender Notice

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

Sl No	Tender ID	Name of Work	Closing Date & Time
	514961, 516209 516210	Construction of 2 storied RCC WASH Block for MT & boys and FT & girls including all associated construction sanitary plumbing & electrical works Under Need Based Infrastructure Development of Newly Nationalized Government Primary Schools Project at Different Upazilla in Noakhali FY 2020-2021.	As Per Tender ID

This is online Tender where only e-Tenders 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. Further information & guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

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