

## DNA test

FROM PAGE 12

to the investigation officer, the police officer added.

Citing the DNA test report, another police official involved in the probe said four accused -- Saifur Rahman, Tarequl Islam, Mahbubur Rahman Rony and Arjun Laskar -- raped the woman, while others abetted the crime.

Earlier, the four had confessed to the crime before a Sylhet court while two other accused -- Rabiul Islam and Mahfuzur Rahman Masum -- admitted that they aided them.

On September 25, some youths raped the woman at a hostel of MC College after they forcibly took the victim there and tied up her husband.

The husband filed the case on the same night with Shahporan Police Station mentioning names of six people and 2-3 unnamed ones.

Eight people, including all the six named accused in the case, were arrested.

## China defence

FROM PAGE 12

Nepal Army, General Purna Chandra Thapa.

The high-level visit from China, two days after Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla's Nepal visit that concluded on Friday, comes at a time when ruling Nepal Communist Party is mired in an internal conflict.

Quoting sources, the Kathmandu Post reported, Wei would visit Bangladesh and Pakistan after completing his tour of Nepal.

Bangladesh foreign ministry sources said it was not confirmed whether the Chinese minister's visit to Dhaka would take place immediately after his Nepal visit.

The sources could not say for sure if the suspension of Wei's visit was related to the fact that Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam and Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen were Covid-19 positive.

## Turkish ship leaves disputed waters in east Med

AFP, Ankara

A Turkish research ship at the centre of a row with Greece over potential gas riches in the eastern Mediterranean has returned to port, Turkey's energy ministry said yesterday.

The Oruc Reis seismic survey vessel has become a symbol of Turkey's growing appetite to find natural gas in the contested waters despite opposition by Greece and Cyprus.

Backed by Turkish navy frigates, the ship was first deployed in August and again in October to the waters south of Greece's Kastellorizo island, in defiance of calls to stop by the European Union and the United States.

Ankara says that with its long Mediterranean coastline, its claim to sovereign waters in the region is stronger than Greece's, which is based on the tiny island of Kastellorizo.

## HC grants 1-yr bail to rape accused

FROM PAGE 12

the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the bail order after hearing Zahirul's bail petition.

During the court proceedings yesterday, the HC expressed dissatisfaction as some media outlets and feminist leaders criticised the court over imposing the condition that the accused would be granted bail if he married the victim, Zahirul's lawyer Faruque Alamgir Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

He said the HC asked the jail authorities to allow Zahirul, 22, to marry the complainant, 18, at the jail gate as they were in a romantic relationship.

Whatever happened between the two happened by their mutual consent and it could not be termed rape, the lawyer argued.

He said Zahirul would be freed on bail once the jail authorities receive the HC order.

Meanwhile, Zahirul's father Abu Sufian said his family would recognise the complainant as their daughter-in-law and would treat her like their daughter.

He was speaking to reporters on the HC premises after the delivery of its order.

The HC bench on Sunday fixed yesterday for holding hearing and passing an order on Zahirul's bail petition. His lawyer Faruque placed the petition before the bench and prayed to it to grant bail to his client as he married the complainant in line with its directive.

The Feni jail authorities on Sunday submitted a report to the HC bench through its registrar's office saying that accused Zahirul has married the victim at the jail gate on November 19 in presence of local officials and distinguished personalities.

Zahirul allegedly raped the girl, a resident of Chardarbar area in Feni's Sonagazi upazila, on May 27, according to the case statement.

The following day, the girl filed the

case with Sonagazi Police Station.

Both the complainant and the accused said they were in a romantic relationship and became intimate with each other after Zahirul promised that he would marry her, according to documents annexed to the bail petition.

As Zahirul refused to keep his promise, she filed the rape case, said court sources.

Police on May 29 arrested Zahirul, who later filed the bail petition with the HC.

During the hearing on the bail petition on November 1, the HC bench set the condition that Zia would be granted bail if he married the complainant as they had been in a romantic relationship.

The same day, the HC ordered the jail authorities to allow Zahirul and the complainant to get married and submit a report to it in 30 days.

Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hossain Bappi represented the state during the court proceedings yesterday.

## 11 years on, petition still pending

FROM PAGE 12

November 14, 2009, issued a rule asking the government to explain why the amended CrPC rules giving judicial powers to executive magistrates should not be declared illegal.

The next hearing on the petition took place in April 2015, when counsels for the petitioner and the state, and two amici curiae (friends of the court) -- Dr Kamal Hossain and Ajmalul Hossain -- had placed their arguments before the HC bench of Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ashraf Kamal.

Justice Moyeenul retired on January 8 this year.

During the hearing, both Dr Kamal and Barrister Ajmalul told the HC that executive magistrates performing judicial functions was not lawful.

Opposing the petition, State counsel and the then deputy attorney general Motaher Hossain Sazu said

the executive magistrates have been given the powers to take cognisance of some offences for the time being to protect peace in the areas concerned.

But after that no hearing has so far taken place, writ petitioner's counsel, advocate Manzill Murshid, told The Daily Star last week.

He said two other amici curiae -- M Amir-Ul Islam and Rokanuddin Mahmud -- were scheduled to place their arguments before the HC on resumption of the proceedings.

"The hearing jurisdiction of three High Court benches had been reconstituted by the then chief justice before the bench led by Justice Moyeenul heard in part the same writ petition in April 2015. We will now place the case before another High Court bench for its hearing and disposal," the lawyer told The Daily Star on November 25.

He could not give details about the three HC benches which had been

scheduled to hold a final hearing on the matter and when their hearing jurisdiction was changed.

Manzill Murshid said they would take necessary steps for holding of the hearing before a High Court bench in January or February next year, subject to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic being over by then.

The amended CrPC rules, which empowered the executive magistrates to discharge judicial functions, are against the provisions of the constitution and the principles of the Supreme Court judgment in the Masdar Hossain case, popularly known as the Judiciary Separation Case, he added.

Contacted yesterday, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin, who was appointed on October 8 this year, said he could not make any comment about the case, as he had no information about it at that moment.

## Wading through sewage

FROM PAGE 12

"Several thousands of people walk through the road daily to go to their workplaces. We are now suffering from skin diseases as we have to walk through the filthy water, which also contains harmful industrial waste," said Parvin Akhter, a resident of the area.

Filthy water discharged from more than 50 factories located in the area falls into a roadside ditch. Eventually, the ditch gets overflowed and pollutes the road.

Seeking anonymity, an employee of a railgate level-crossing said there was a drain under the rail crossing. The factories used to discharge waste

and filthy water in the drain. But the drain was causing damage to the rail line.

Furthermore, construction of the Padma bridge rail line is going on in the area. That is why the drain has been shut. So, the filthy water pollutes the road now.

Contacted, Sarwar Hossain Khan, executive engineer of Pagla Sewerage Treatment Plant of Dhaka Wasa, said they don't have "any legal jurisdiction to take any measure to solve the problem". However, he said the Shyampur Shilpa Malik Samity has been informed to take the necessary steps for solving the problem.

Initiatives have been taken to construct a new drain in the area. But some officials of the Padma rail project said permission for the construction will be given after the completion of rail line work.

Sarwar Zaman, office secretary of Shyampur Shilpa Malik Samity, said permission will be sought from the Roads and Highways Department to clear the existing issues regarding the present sewerage system.

Contacted, Emdadul Haque, RHD's deputy-divisional engineer of Dhaka, said, "I know nothing about this issue. I will investigate it and take the necessary measures."

## First 3cr doses to be given

FROM PAGE 1

administration who are working on the ground will get the vaccines followed by the elderly and the children.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joined the cabinet meeting virtually from the Gono Bhaban. The health ministry apprised the update on vaccine procurement at the meeting.

Apart from the vaccine from SII, Bangladesh will buy 68 million doses from the Gavi under a global arrangement called COVAX. The first shipment of vaccine doses from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is likely to be made between February and June next year, said officials of the health directorate.

Each person will need two doses. The cost of each shot has been estimated at \$1.62 to \$2.

However, the government would pay \$5 for each dose from Serum once the vaccine is approved for human application. The three crore doses will be delivered in phases with 50 lakh doses every month.

Asked about the high price of the vaccine from Serum, Anwarul said the procurement contract was yet to be done. "It's too early to make any comment."

Besides, the health ministry is also in talks with some other manufacturers for vaccines, he added.

Asked what would happen if there was any irregularity in the distribution of the vaccine, Anwarul said, "If anyone commits corruption, let us know and we will take action."

"Following the WHO Protocol is our primary condition to the manufacturers. Even an existing contract can be cancelled, if there is any major deviation from WHO guidelines."

In India, a 40-year-old volunteer for the candidate vaccine of Serum, sued the company for Rs 5 crore, alleging that the vaccine triggered an adverse reaction, which includes neurological impairment and an inability to get back to life before being inoculated, according to media reports.

He demanded, via a legal notice sent to the Serum, AstraZeneca and the Oxford Vaccine Group, that the vaccine trial, which is now being tested on 1,600 volunteers in India, be immediately halted. The legal notice was sent on November 21, according to Economic Times of India.

Refuting the trial participant's claims, Serum Institute yesterday said it would seek Rs 100 crore in damages for "malicious and misconceived allegations".

The company also said that while it sympathises with the volunteer's ailment, there is "absolutely no correlation with the vaccine trial and his medical condition".

The vaccine developed by the University of Oxford, UK, and pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca was found to be, on average, 70 percent effective in a preliminary analysis of phase III trial data, the developers announced in a press release on November 23.

But the analysis found a difference in efficacy depending on the amount of vaccine delivered to a participant.

**STRICTER PUNISHMENT FOR NOT WEARING MASKS**

The government is considering whether to increase fines from Tk 500 to Tk 1000.

"If people do not obey even after that, we'll have to go for imprisonment. We cannot take risks," said Anwarul.

"From this week, more strong action [against the persons who go outside without masks] will be taken. DCs from outside Dhaka informed us that people have become somewhat careful."

"People in Dhaka perhaps have not become completely careful... We've given directives to impose the maximum fines."

The government earlier asked all offices to implement a 'No Mask, No Service' policy.

## Australia bush fire rips through heritage island

AFP, Brisbane

Australian firefighters are struggling to control a massive bush fire that already destroyed 40 percent of the Unesco world heritage-listed Fraser Island before a heatwave hit yesterday.

The fire on the world's largest sand island, off Australia's east coast, has been raging for more than six weeks and is consuming large swathes of the island's unique forests.

## 2,525 cases

FROM PAGE 1

As the infections started increasing with cool weather sweeping across the country, they, however, said the daily detection rate is too little due to inadequate testing compared to the country's population.

With the latest figure, the total number of infected patients rose to 4,64,932 while the death toll reached 6,644.

Including yesterday's number, the death rate in terms of all confirmed cases remained stagnant at 1.43 percent like the previous few days.

"As the infections are increasing, we will see more loss of lives in the coming days. Infected people, especially those with comorbidities, need to be taken to hospitals," Prof Mushtaq Hussain, consultant of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, told The Daily Star recently.

Experts also stressed on more tests daily.

Prof Dr Ridwanur Rahman, an infectious disease specialist, said, "The figures we are getting daily are only a snapshot of the whole picture. To get the real picture, we will need at least five lakh tests daily."

Terminating the transmission control measures inadequate, he said, "There is no suppressive measures in the country. It is as like as the epidemic

situation like the Spanish flu in 1918. The infections will continue until either 60-70 percent population are infected or they are vaccinated."

Meanwhile, the positivity rate also increased in the 24 hours. It was 16.43 percent against 15,372 tests in 118 labs across the country.

In the previous day, the positivity rate was 13.02 percent.

At the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak, the daily positivity rate was comparatively low, but it rose to 25 percent of those tested in late May. Until the third week of August, the positivity rate was over 20 percent, which came down to 10 percent in October.

The positivity rate started to rise again since the beginning of November.

In the same 24 hours, 2,539 Covid-19 patients recovered, taking the total number of recoveries to 3,80,711. It is around 82 percent of all confirmed cases.

Of yesterday's deceased, 24 were males and 11 females.

All of them died in hospitals. Of them, 25 were from Dhaka division, two from Khulna division and four from Rajshahi division and one each was from Chattogram, Sylhet, Rangpur and Mymensingh divisions.

So far, Dhaka division saw more than half of the Covid-19 casualties, according to the DGHS data.

### Bangladesh Bank

Human Resources Department-1  
Head Office, Dhaka  
[www.bb.org.bd](http://www.bb.org.bd)

Circular No. 62/2020 Date: 29/11/2020

### Vacancy Announcement for General Manager, Security Management Department, Bangladesh Bank

Bangladesh Bank is seeking suitable candidate for the post of General Manager for **Security Management Department, Bangladesh Bank** on contractual basis for 03 (three) years under the following terms and conditions:

- Maximum gross salary including tax will be Tk 2,00,000.00 (BDT two lac). No other benefits will be applicable.
- Retired Armed Forces Personnel ranked equivalent to Lieutenant Colonel/Colonel of Army having psc.
- At least 02 years work experience in any organization under Key Point Installation (KPI) preferably banks and financial institutions.
- Applicant's age must be within 50 to 60 years.
- Forcedly retired personnel will not be eligible.
- Third division/class at any level of education will not be considered.
- The service will be run through a bi-lateral agreement between the incumbent and Bangladesh Bank.

Interested candidates are requested to send a CV and related documents **no later than 20/12/2020** to the following address. Please note that only short-listed candidates will be notified and invited to participate in the selection process. Primarily selected candidates have to appear in a Viva-Voce process. Incomplete/application with wrong information will be rejected without any contact with the candidate. Bangladesh Bank reserves the right of final selection.

Signed/-

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ব্যক্তিগত ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হেরানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

DCP: 48/2020-3498  
Date: 30/11/2020  
GD-1908

## Scientist killed in 'complex'

FROM PAGE 12

on Saturday accused Israel of acting as a "mercenary" for the United States by carrying out the assassination.

'MARTYR'

Fakhrizadeh's funeral was attended by several high-ranking officials, including Defence Minister Amir Hatami and Revolutionary Guards commander Hossein Salami.

As the funeral got underway, a religious singer praised Fakhrizadeh and alluded to the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, the revered 7th century holy figure from whom Shia Muslims draw inspiration.

"If our enemies had not committed this heinous crime and spilled our dear martyr's blood, he might have remained unknown," Hatami said in a speech.

"But today, he who was only an idol for... his students and colleagues, is introduced to the whole world," he added, saying he would be an inspiration for "all who embark on the path to fight."

"The enemies should know that this is their first defeat."

## Human ageing reversed

FROM PAGE 12

old, malfunctioning senescent cells.

A clinical trial involving 35 adults over the age of 64 sought to understand whether a method called Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy could prevent the deterioration of these two hallmarks of the ageing process.

The subjects were placed in a pressurised chamber and given pure oxygen for 90 minutes a day, five days a week for three months.

At the end of the trial, the scientists reported that the participants' telomeres had increased in length by an average of 20 percent, while their senescent cells had been reduced by up to 37 percent.

This is the equivalent to how their bodies were at a cellular level 25 years earlier, the researchers reported.

"Since telomere shortening is considered the 'Holy Grail' of the biology of ageing, many pharmacological and environmental interventions are being extensively explored in the hopes of enabling telomere elongation," said Shai Efrati, a professor at the Faculty of Medicine and Sagol School of Neuroscience at Tel Aviv University, and co-author of the study.

"The significant improvement of telomere length shown during and after these unique HBOT protocols provides the scientific community with a new foundation of understanding that ageing can, indeed, be targeted and reversed at the basic cellular-biological level."

It is the latest in a series of radical anti-ageing treatments, which seek to increase life expectancy and even make people look and feel younger.

The idea is that ageing is a disease that can be cured just like any other.

## বিডিবিএল এর ডিজিটাল ব্যাংকিং

### দেশের যে কোন প্রান্ত থেকে ট্যাক্স দিন

লাইনে দাঁড়িয়ে পেমেট নয়  
বোতাম টিপলেই পেমেট হয়

এখন থেকে বিডিবিএল এর  
সকল শাখায় স্বয়ংক্রিয়  
চালান পদ্ধতিতে ট্রেজারী  
চালান, রাজস্ব ও অন্যান্য  
সেবা ফি জমা দিন

ব্যাংকায়োগ  
স্ট্রেন্ডেনিং, পাবলিক ফাইন্যান্সিয়াল ম্যানেজমেন্ট  
প্রোগ্রাম টু এনালিস সার্ভিস ডেলিভারি (SPFMS)  
অর্থ বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়

বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

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