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INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Pandemic paused their education

Mohiuddin Alamgir and Nilima Jahan

Mohammad Alif's life has utterly changed. The sixth grader was a resident of Blind Education and Rehabilitation Development Organisation (BERDO) in the capital's Mirpur. He was fond of his fellow students who also lived at the facility. After the school closed late March due to the pandemic, his father Joyal Abedin, a police constable, took him back home, which is also in Mirpur. "My son's studies came to a complete halt in the first three months. He got depressed. Although she has to take care of the younger children, my wife learnt to read Braille and started teaching him at home," said Joyal. Since the family does not own any smart device, Alif has not attended the classes his school has been giving twice a week for the last few months. His hardship is multiplied by the thousands of students with disabilities either in mainstream or special schools. Rights activists say these students lack access because of a lack of study material in format suitable for children with special needs. Students with hearing impairment miss out on lessons because of the absence of sign language interpreters. Society for the Welfare of the Intellectually Disabled, Bangladesh, widely known as SWID Bangladesh, has 539 special schools with over 27,000 students.

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Men drying and sorting out plastic sheets discarded from re-rolling mills in Bayejid area of Chattogram city as a white cloud of chemical residues from the sheets covers the area. Even the risks involved with prolonged inhalation of the chemical and coronavirus have not been able to make two of them wear a face covering.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Selim Prodhan amassed Tk 57.79 crore

Says ACC source about casino 'kingpin'

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

It was Tk 12.27 crore illegal wealth mentioned in a graft case filed against online casino "kingpin" Selim Prodhan. But during investigation, it was revealed that Selim's illegal wealth was five times higher than that mentioned in the FIR. An Anti-Corruption Commission source said Selim amassed about Tk 57.79 crore illegally and laundered about Tk 22 crore to Thailand and the US. The source said the investigators have summed up their findings and will submit it before the commission. In September, the Criminal Investigation Department submitted a charge-sheet against Selim in another case for siphoning off about Tk 13.28 crore. Selim, who came to the fore last year when the law enforcement agency conducted drives against

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DIGITAL SECURITY ACT Arrest warrant issued against Baul Rita

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant for Baul singer Rita Dewan for "hurting religious sentiments". Dhaka Cyber Tribunal Judge Mohammad Ash Sams Joglul Hossain issued the order, Shamim Al Mamun, bench assistant of the tribunal, told The Daily Star. Two others, Shahjahan and Md Iqbal Hossain, who had uploaded Rita's songs to their YouTube channels, were also ordered to be arrested. Rita Dewan was sued on February 2 by a lawyer named Advocate Imrul Hasan. The case was filed with the cyber tribunal in Dhaka. On February 3, another case was filed against her by short filmmaker Rasel Mia with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court in Dhaka. The arrest warrant

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Bangladesh will work for durable peace



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman offering prayers at the mass grave at Jhalokati on December 3, 1972.

December 3, 1972
 SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN
PRESIDENT ASSURES ALL COOPERATION TO INDIA
 President Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury today says that the new nation Bangladesh would extend full cooperation to India for establishment of durable peace in the subcontinent to make it an abode of peace. Speaking at a civic reception given in his honour by the sheriff of Calcutta, President Chowdhury says Bangladesh is following a policy of non-alignment to have friendship with all countries of the world and help establishment of peace in the subcontinent. He further says Bangladesh is also ready to cooperate with Pakistan for the cause of peace in the subcontinent. He, however, regrets that no response has yet been received from Pakistan for establishment of peace in the region.



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Bag with fake IED hurled at US embassy security guard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two youths yesterday threw a "suspicious black bag" at a security guard of the US embassy in the capital, following an altercation. The incident took place around 3:30pm. Police later called the bomb disposal unit of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit to check the contents of the bag. The bomb disposal unit members found a match box, a cup wrapped with black tape, some wire and a knife inside the bag. Rahmatullah Chowdhury, chief of the bomb disposal unit, told The Daily Star that it was a fake improvised explosive device-type object. "We are suspecting that the youths wanted to draw international attention ...," said a high police official, requesting anonymity.

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S'pore allows sale of lab-grown meat



REUTERS, Singapore

Singapore has given US start-up Eat Just the greenlight to sell its lab-grown chicken meat, in what the firm says is the world's first regulatory approval for so-called clean meat that does not come from slaughtered animals. The meat, to be sold as nuggets, will be priced at premium chicken prices when it first launches in a restaurant in Singapore "in the very near term", co-founder and CEO Josh Tetrick said. Demand for alternatives to regular meat is surging due to concerns about health, animal welfare and the environment. Plant-based substitutes, popularised by the likes of Beyond Meat, Impossible Foods and Quorn, increasingly feature on supermarket shelves and restaurant menus.

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Shahzaman Mozumder Bir Protik passes away

STAR REPORT

Valiant freedom fighter Shahzaman Mozumder Bir Protik breathed his last at a clinic in the capital yesterday. With his death, the country has lost a war hero, and the ICT industry an entrepreneur. He had been suffering from dengue fever. Born in Dinajpur, Shahzaman went to war when he was 16 and fought in the Sylhet region. Popularly known as the King of Dhaka, he wrote the book "The Guerrilla" and maintained an immensely popular blog, "What I am wearing today", which ran with the slogan, "Style is knowing who you are, what you want to say, and not giving a damn."

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Bangabandhu sculpture to be installed in Ankara

BSS, Dhaka

A sculpture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be set up in Ankara, the capital of Turkey, Turkish Ambassador to Bangladesh Mustafa Osman Turan yesterday said. The ambassador informed this to newsmen after paying a courtesy call on Information Minister Hasan Mahmud at his office. Turan also said another sculpture of Kemal Ataturk, father of modern Turkey, will be set up in Dhaka. State Minister for Information Murad Hasan, Information Secretary

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Over one lakh people of 15 villages in Aruail and Pakshimul unions of Brahmanbaria's Sarail depend on this six-foot wide bamboo bridge over the Chetra River. Their only other option is to use boats, but that too becomes impossible in winter. A proper bridge would hugely benefit the residents of the area.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDYOY

More than 2,500 die in US in 24 hrs

England leaves lockdown but sees new Covid curbs

AGENCIES

The United States, the country hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic and in the throes of a surge in cases, registered more than 2,500 deaths in a 24-hour period, the highest total since late April, Johns Hopkins University said. More than 180,000 new infections were recorded, according to real-time data provided by the Baltimore-based university at 8:30 pm (0130 GMT yesterday). The last time the daily death toll was higher than Tuesday's total of 2,562 was in late April, at the height of the pandemic's first wave. The number of hospitalizations in the United States hit 99,000 on Tuesday, a new record, according to the Covid Tracking Project. The situation is particularly dire in several Midwestern states, including Indiana and South Dakota. Experts fear a new surge in the number of infections now that several days have passed since the Thanksgiving holiday, which saw millions of Americans travel to see loved ones despite recommendations to skip festive gatherings. For now, the number of new daily infections is still high, but more or less consistent with the figures seen in recent weeks. The United States regularly saw 2,000 deaths a day in the spring, but has hit the number several times in the past two weeks. In total, the US now has registered more than 13.7 million coronavirus cases and more than 270,000 deaths.

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 3
 Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
 AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00
 JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30
 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION