TEJGAON WORKERS DEMONSTRATE IN FRONT OF THE **GONO BHABAN**

A large number of workers from the Tejgaon industrial area stage a demonstration today in front of the Gono Bhaban, official residence of Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, demanding trial and punishment of a labour leader for his alleged anti-social activities. Bangabandhu walks down to the gate amidst slogans and addresses the

GHANA ACCORDS RECOGNITION Ghana officially recognises

Bangladesh today as an independent and sovereign state. Quoting an official report from Accra, the capital of Ghana, BBC further says Ghana would look into the interest of Bangladesh both in the fields of economic and post-war reconstruction and the country would hold a similar stance in the case of prisoners of war.

SOURCES: December 9, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Titas sues

FROM PAGE 12

Yesterday, they were shown arrested in the case and were sent to jail.

The police inspector said they were conducting drives to arrest the other accused.

On Sunday noon, Executive Magistrate and Assistant Commissioner Uzzal Hossain had led the drive in Jhaugora Uttarpara area to snap illegal gas connections.

Three Titas Gas officials and eight policemen sustained minor injuries during the attack, said police.

Biden names

FROM PAGE 12 highest level of integrity, scientific rigor, and crisis-management experience to one of the toughest challenges America has ever faced," Biden said.

Biden, who has said he would ask Americans to wear masks for 100 days when he moves into the White House, vowed his administration would "ready on day one to mobilize every resource of the federal government" to lower the soaring daily death toll from Covid-19.

President Donald Trump's administration has been widely criticized for its response to the pandemic, with Trump downplaying the risks and ignoring basic measures such as mask-wearing and social distancing to prevent spread of the deadly virus.

Biden confirmed that the government's respected top infectious disease specialist Anthony Fauci would remain in his post as director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases -- and will also serve as Biden's chief medical adviser on Covid-19.

Biden has stressed that he would strive for diversity when choosing

During Becerra's 12 terms in Congress representing Los Angeles, he was an outspoken advocate of Latino rights and a vigorous defender of Obama's signature health care program -- a policy that has been much attacked by Trump.

Akram Ahmed

FROM PAGE 12 brave role as a fighter pilot during the Liberation War, Caab said in a press

He left behind his wife, daughter

and a host of relatives and wellwishers to mourn his death. Captain Akram was hospitalised

in early November with Covid-19. He had also been suffering from pneumonia.

He was one of the nine pilots who joined the "Kilo Flight", which caused havoc in enemy territory during the war. On the night of December 3,

Squadron Leader Shamsul Alam and Captain Akram attacked the eastern refinery in Chattogram and destroyed the oil depot.

Simultaneous attacks in Chattogram and Dhaka were made by the valiant "Akash Shainik", in conjunction with the Indian military, against the Pakistan occupation

After the war, Akram joined Biman Bangladesh Airlines as a pilot, flying Dakota DC-3. Later, he flew the F-27 and Boeing 707. He retired when he

was a DC-10 pilot. He was awarded the title of Bir Uttam for his contribution to the Liberation War.

He will be buried at Banani graveyard today after Zohr prayers, with a guard of honour from the

Bangladesh Air Force State Minister for Civil Aviation M Mahbub Ali and Caab Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidir Rahman expressed deep shock at the demise of the brave freedom fighter.



Employees of Austria's railway operator OeBB shovel snow from a train in Lienz, eastern Tyrol, yesterday, as winter sets with heavy snowfall.

Remembered forever

MAG Kabir Vulu, who was captive there, said, "We were sent to the Wapda Pakistani army camp in Barishal town in July 1971."

He had previously been incarcerated at Gournadi Pakistani army camp in Barishal, where he had been severely tortured. "Both my legs were severely injured by bayonets. I did not know the reason for my transfer from Gournadi to Barishal town," he said.

"My friend Anwar, who was bigger and stronger looking, had been brought with me. One morning, he was picked up and dragged away. Then I heard the sound of gunfire. In the same way, the then student leader Firoj Kabir was also shot dead."

Barishal town.

Every day, people were brought by trucks from different parts of Barishal, Jhalakati, and Pirojpur. "In the early morning the next day, they were taken to the banks of the river and after that I would hear gunshots."

Barishal Sangskritik Sangathan Samannay Parishad has been calling for initiatives to preserve the memories of the Liberation War at Wapda since 1996, said Syed Dulal, former president of the organisation.

After a few delays, it will finally be inaugurated for the public today, the day the city of Barishal was liberated from Pakistani occupation forces, as a significant reminder of sacrifices in the war.

on the banks of Kirtankhola river in help of the Liberation War Museum, visited here and recovered human has preserved and restored the Wapda compound as the largest memorial of the Liberation War and genocide in the south.

The compound includes two wartime torture cells and two bunkers, as well as an open stage, auditorium, and a walkway which have been constructed so that visitors can tour the compound and pay their respects.

BCC sources said the preservation and restoration work started in 2017 at a cost of Tk 3.31 crore.

The bridge, the site of many killings during the period, has also been preserved so that the youth and children can get an idea of what took place here, BCC Mayor Serniabat Sadik Abdullah, who will inaugurate the site, told The Daily Star.

"On December 18, 1971, we first

bones, and materials and other documents related to the killings," said Mahafuz Alam Beg, sub-sector commander of the ninth sector.

On April 25, 1971, the Pakistan occupation forces first entered Barishal district town and set up an army camp in the Wapda area.

"From then till December 7, they killed innocent Bangalees here every day," said Mahafuz.

Surrounded on land, the Pakistan army left Barishal on December 8 by water on several launches and was met by Indian Air Force fighter planes which sank these, killing most of the Pakistan military personnel.

Freedom fighters entered the city and captured Barishal Kotwali Police Station, liberating the city that very

Kabir, who had been spared, also PRESERVATION described the other killings at Wapda Barishal City Corporation, with the

despite being only 25 centimetres assassination. (10 inches) away, was not shot,"

It was being "controlled online" via a satellite and used an "advanced camera and artificial intelligence(AI)" to make the target, he added.

Fadavi said that Fakhrizadeh's head of security took four bullets "as he threw himself" on the scientist and that there were "no terrorists at the scene".

Nuke scientist killed by 'AI' machine gun

FROM PAGE 12 Mujahedeen of Iran (MEK) for the and Innovation Organization, (JCPoA), is "the best and currently the

State-run Press TV had previously defence". Mehr news agency quoted him as said "made in Israel" weapons were Meanwhile, plans by Iran to countries said. found at the scene.

Various accounts of the scientist's death have emerged since the attack, with the defence ministry initially saying he was caught in a firefight with his bodyguards, while Fars news agency claimed "a remote controlled automatic machine gun" killed him, without citing any sources.

According to Iran's defence Iranian authorities have blamed minister, Amir Hatami, Fakhrizadeh arch foe Israel and the exiled was one of his deputies and headed opposition group the People's the ministry's Defence and Research

install advanced centrifuges at its in Natanz are "deeply worrying", France, Germany and the UK said yesterday.

The three governments, dubbed the E3, said the plans were contrary to a 2015 agreement between Tehran and world powers that aimed to restrain Iran's nuclear programme.

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action said.

focusing on the field of "nuclear only way to monitor and constrain Iran's nuclear programme," the three

The UN's nuclear watchdog, main nuclear enrichment plant the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported last month that Iran had installed and begun operating advanced centrifuges at an underground section at Natanz.

'Iran's recent announcement to the IAEA that it intends to install an additional three cascades of advanced centrifuges at the Fuel Enrichment Plant in Natanz is contrary to the The deal, officially called the JCPoA and deeply worrying," the E3

India's Serum Institute seeks urgent approval

supplies for a domestic coronavirus outbreak that is the world's second biggest, has said an emergency use approval could preface a full rollout by February or March. Serum Institute CEO Adar

Poonawalla tweeted that the move to apply for emergency use "will save countless lives," but did not give any other details.

The company declined to reply to Reuters' follow-up questions about the process.

AstraZeneca's vaccine, called "Covishield" by Serum Institute, can be stored at two to eight degrees Celsius and distributed more easily in India, which lacks cold chain capabilities that the vaccine developed by Pfizer requires.

Poonawalla has said the company will first focus on supplying the vaccine in India before distributing it to other countries, pricing it at 1,000 rupees per dose (\$13.50) for private markets.

Governments signing large supply deals will likely buy it at lower prices. In Europe, AstraZeneca has pledged to supply 300 million doses of the vaccine for 750 million euros, pointing to a per-dose price of 2.50

Meanwhile, Britain yesterday prepared to start its biggest ever immunisation campaign health officials warned the drive to inoculate millions against Covid-19 would be a "marathon" stretching well into next year.

Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is due to the start today -- dubbed "V-Day" by Health Secretary Matt Hancock, who has volunteered to take it live on television to assuage any public doubts over the rapid approval

Croydon University Hospital in south London is one of 50 clinical hubs that started receiving the country's initial consignment of 800,000 doses over the weekend, from a Pfizer plant in Belgium.

The vaccine rollout coincides with the end-game of Brexit talks on Britain's future trading relationship with the European Union, reports

In China, Sinovac Biotech has secured \$515 million in funding from a local firm to double production The world-first rollout of the capacity of its coronavirus vaccine,

companies said yesterday, as it expects efficacy data of its experimental shot this month.

The investment deal also comes as Sinovac expands supply deals and trials of its experimental Covid-19 vaccine CoronaVac with more countries following positive results from early to mid-stage clinical trials.

China's Sino Biopharmaceutical Limited said yesterday a business unit will invest \$515 million in Sinovac Life Sciences, a subsidiary of Sinovac, to help development and production of CoronaVac.

The investment will give Sino Biopharmaceutical a 15.03% interest in Sinovac Life Sciences, Sino Biopharmaceutical said in a filing to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

'We're beaten mercilessly'

FROM PAGE 1

Jorina Begum, another injured worker of Tazreen Fashions, said, "Our female workers were brutally beaten by male police members. They also groped them, ripped off their clothes, snatched their scarves, and called them 'whores'. Even elderly workers and children weren't spared.

Eighteen of the injured Tazreen workers had to take treatment from the Mitford Hospital," she added.

'We couldn't even take our medical certificates and documents, phones and the few belongings we had left," she further added.

Among the more than 300 workers of A One BD Ltd at Ashulia EPZ, who were sacked 11 months ago, 25 were also injured in the attack yesterday, the former garment workers said in a joint press conference later yesterday.

A One BD LTD workers had joined the Tazreen Fashion workers on December 1, demanding arrears, other allowances and Eid bonuses

"In the last 11 months, BEPZA [Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority] has promised to pay our dues at least 22 times, but they didn't do that. Rather, we were beaten twice at BEPZA. Finally, we came here, but now we're beaten mercilessly by the police," said Ashraf Ali, a former worker of A One BD Ltd, said during the press conference.

Garment Sramik Mukti Andolon President Shabnam Hafiz said she was assaulted both physically and verbally, and forcibly picked up in a prison van. She was released after 6:00am. Apart from the garment workers,

around 10 teachers of independent

Ebtedayee madrasas were also injured

by the brutality, said Kazi Abu Musa Bhuiyan, central committee joint secretary general of Bangladesh Independent Ebtedayee Madrasa Teachers Samity.

According to him, they were all sleeping as they were not asked to leave. "We never expected that police could beat teachers like us. We were protesting peacefully for the past 22 days, demanding nationalisation of our madrasas," he told The Daily Star.

Oliul Islam, a head teacher of one such madrasa of Parbatipur, Dinajpur, said he was beaten when he went back to collect his bag. "My feet have swollen due to the baton charging and I am not able to walk. One of my fingers might be broken. I took primary treatment from a nearby dispensary," he said.

According to Musa, although currently more than 8,000 independent he told The Daily Star.

Ebtedayee madrasas have around 40,000 teachers, 1,519 of the madrasas pay Tk 2,300 to its assistant teachers and Tk 2,500 to the headmasters.

Contacted, a duty officer of Shahbagh Police Station, wishing not to be named, said that the garment workers were dispersed last night. He, however, did not want to speak about

the matter further. Sazzadur Rahman, deputy commissioner (Ramna Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the DMP commissioner recently said that no meeting and rallies could be held here without prior permission.

"Since they have been here for some days without permission, we repeatedly told them yesterday to leave the place. They left the place this morning. We just did the monitoring,'

Cybercrime costs to top \$1 trillion this year

Say researchers

DHAKA TUESDAY DECEMBER 8, 2020, AGRAHAYAN 23, 1427 BS

AFP, Washington

Cybercrime is expected to cost the global economy more than \$1 trillion this year, up more than 50 percent since 2018, a research report said vesterday.

The report by McAfee Corp. with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) concluded that the cost of online criminal activity is more than one percent of global economic output, and also had significant nonmonetary impacts.

The researchers noted a surge in a range of attacks including ransomware, phishing, business email takeovers, spyware and crytpocurrency

Some of the increase can be attributed to weaker security with more people working remotely outside their workplace.

"The severity and frequency of cyberattacks on businesses continues to rise as techniques evolve, new technologies broaden the threat surface, and the nature of work expands into home and remote environments," said Steve Grobman, chief technical officer at McAfee.

"While industry and government are aware of the financial and national security implications of cyberattacks, unplanned downtime, the cost of investigating breaches and disruption productivity represent less appreciated high impact costs."

The report was based on a survey of 1,500 technology professionals in government and business in the US, Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Japan and Australia.

The impact of cybercrime included the loss of intellectual property and monetary assets, but also system downtime and damage to an organization's reputation, according to the report.

"It is no secret that cybercrime can harm public safety, undermine national security, and damage economies," the researchers wrote.

Giant vertical

FROM PAGE 12

1,000 tonnes annually when the farm is running at full capacity by the end of 2021, explains Anders Riemann, founder and chief executive of Nordic larvest.

That would make the Taastrup warehouse one of Europe's biggest vertical farms.

These urban facilities have unsurprisingly received a cool welcome from rural farmers, who have questioned their ability to feed the planet and criticised their electricity

consumption. But Riemann stresses environmental benefits of his farm, with produce grown close to consumers and its use of green

electricity. "A vertical farm is characterised by not harming the environment by recycling all the water and nutrition or fertiliser," says Riemann, who uses no

pesticides. In Denmark, a world leader in wind farms, about 40 percent of electricity consumption is wind-based.

"In our case, we use 100 percent energy from windmills which makes us CO2-neutral," he adds.

First developed around a decade ago, vertical farms have taken off in Asia and the United States. The idea has slowly started to catch on in

Urban farming could even allow and exploited by single-culture farming to be reforested, Riemann

"We moved the forests in order to have fields," he laments, noting that now farmers like him can bring "some of the food production back into the cities where you can grow on much smaller land and space optimised in height".

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 12

Aftab ul Islam said he was aware of the issue of conflict of interest and that was why he left the BB board meeting when the approval was given yesterday.

"There has been no conflict of interest as I was not present during the discussion on the issue at the board meeting," he said. When her attention was drawn

to the matter, Fahmida Khatun, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said conflict of interest was a regular phenomenon in the country's banking sector.

The latest decision is continuation of existing practices, she said.

The new bank is set to join the others at a time a when the banking and financial sector is riddled with a number of loan scams and bad loans due to a lack of good governance.

Khaled said the existing banks were

already struggling to survive amid the current situation over business activities. In addition, new banks seem reluctant to expand their business to rural areas as they mainly focus on urban areas.

This means they have had little impact on the expansion of the county's financial inclusion, he added.