### Money

FROM PAGE 3 Section 4 also explicitly criminalises money laundering and lays down punishment.

Under the same section, any person who commits or abets or conspires to commit money laundering, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term of at least four years but not exceeding twelve years and, in addition to that, a fine equivalent to twice the value of the property involved in the offence or Tk 10 lakh, whichever is greater.

The act suggests that the court may also pass an order to forfeit property of the convicted person in favour of the state. Moreover, under section 14, the court may issue an order to freeze or attach the property, within or outside the country, involved in money laundering or any other offence. Under section 17, if any person or entity is convicted of money laundering, the court may pass an order for confiscation of any property, within or outside the country, involved directly or indirectly in money laundering or predicate offence in favour of the state.

The most important section of the act, which makes the ACC immensely important is section 12. It lays down the inevitability of the approval of ACC by providing that notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure or any other law, no court shall take cognisance of any offence under the Money Laundering Prevention Act of 2012, except with the approval of the ACC.

The section also explicitly says that after concluding the investigation under this act, the investigation officer shall take prior approval of the ACC before submitting his/ her report and shall submit a copy of the approval before the court along with the

# No problems

said, "Every year, I say that I don't want to stay in the post anymore. This time we have to find out new leadership."

Asked about protests against construction of Bangabandhu's sculpture, he said it is abuse of religion, Several senior leaders of Gonoforum including Reza

Kibria, Subrata Chowdhury, and Prof Abu Sayeed were absent at the press conference. Asked about their absence, Dr Kamal said: "Prof Abu Sayeed, Subrata Chowdhury, Reza Kibria are in isolation, and thus could not attend.'

At the briefing, Mostafa Mohsin Montu said, "The misunderstanding that had existed among them was like a quarrel among brothers in a family."

"We have a guardian [Dr Kamal] and we have resolved our problems keeping him in front of us," he added.

Gonoforum MP Mokabbir Khan, the party's convening committee members SM Jaglul Haider Afrik, Shafiq Ullah, Mohsin Rashid, AR Jahangir, Mohiuddin Abdul Quader, Mostag Ahmed, among others, were present at the briefing.

The last council of Gonoforum was held on April 26, 2019. Reza Kibria, who joined the party before the 2018 parliamentary elections, was made the party's general secretary, a move that surprised many.

Conflict started in Gonoforum following that council, causing expulsion and counter-expulsion of party leaders. A meeting was held on September 26 under the leadership of Mostafa Mohsin Montu, former general secretary of Gonoforum. They announced to hold the party's council on December 26.

They also expelled Reza Kibria, general secretary of the convening committee of Gonoforum; Mohsin Rashid, Shafiq Ullah and Mostaq Ahmed, for their activities against the unity and interests of the organisation.

On October 17, Reza Kibria announced to expel Montu, Subrata and six others from the party. They also announced to hold council on December 12.

Amid this situation, Dr Kamal Hossain on December 13 in a statement said the expulsion and counter expulsions that took place in the party so far will be considered invalid from now on.

He also said that there will be a national council to solve the ongoing problems.

### Bangladesh

has significantly contributed to a reduced score for the country in the scorecard," said Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, eminent economist and convener of National Anti-Tobacco Platform.

Bangladesh must reduce the number of tiers for cigarette taxation, introduce specific excise taxes and significantly increase its existing excise taxes on all tobacco products to save lives and raise much needed revenue, he said.

Increased taxes on tobacco products will reduce consumption and generate revenue to bear coronavirus-related medical expenses and implement government stimulus packages, said Mahfuz Kabir, research director of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies.

In Bangladesh, 37.8 million adults use tobacco and 41 million fall victim to second-hand smoke in their own homes, said the release. About 1.26 lakh people die every year in Bangladesh from tobacco use, and the economic burden from tobacco use amounted to Tk 30,500 crore in 2017-18, according to Progga.

Tobacco taxes are the single most effective way to minimise negative health and economic impacts of tobacco consumption, it said.

The "Cigarette Tax Scorecard" has been created by University of Illinois Chicago's Institute for Health Research and Policy, where Tobacconomics is based in

"The Scorecard shows considerable untapped potential for cigarette tax increases to raise revenue for a Covid-19 recovery and importantly, prevent premature deaths and promote a healthy and productive workforce," said Tobacconomics director and lead author of the scorecard Frank J Chaloupka.

# IUB student to vie for int'l award in entrepreneurship

Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) student Efaz Ahmed is going to participate in the prestigious Global Student Entrepreneur Awards after winning its local chapter. At the GSEA Global Phase, he will have the opportunity to win USD 40,000 in grants and awards for his start-up "Let's Furnish".

Efaz, from the university's biochemistry department won the competition after overcoming five other competitors in the final, said a press release.

The final round of EOGSEA Bangladesh phase, hosted virtually this week, was attended by State Minister of Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam as chief guest

The minister said initiatives like this will inspire youths to develop entrepreneurial skills, the press release said.

Among others, Tina F Jabeen, managing director of Startup Bangladesh; Prof Sarwar Uddin Ahmed, dean, School of Business and Entrepreneurship, IUB and board member of EO Bangladesh; Zareen Mahmud Hosein, President of EO Bangladesh and director, Shasha Denims Limited also spoke on the occasion as guest speakers.

### Flag girl Najmun at Abinta Kabir school

CITY DESK

Najmun Nahar, also known as "Bangladeshi Flag Girl". visited Abinta Kabir Foundation School on December 17. The institution for underprivileged girls accorded her a reception for her achievement of travelling 144 countries of the world.

She shared stories from her travels in front of the 90 students of the school and exhibited a short video about her journey and her motivations for it, a press release said.

# Public hearing

A WITNESS TO HISTORY For over a hundred years, Birchandra Ganapathagar (public library) has been a centre for educational, cultural, intellectual and socio-political activities in Cumilla city.

It was constructed by then Tripura King Birchandra Manikka Bahadur. A library and a two-storey auditorium were also built on the

A witness to some of the most important events in our history such as the Language Movement and Liberation War, this town hall has been graced by the presence of distinguished individuals including Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Mahatma Gandhi, Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul and Haque Husevn Suhrawardy, Shaheed among others.

Cumilla Theosophical Society, Cumilla Club and Ministerial Officers' Club were also established on the Town Hall premises -- in 1889, 1917 and 1920 respectively.

### Covid-19 positivity rate September and October.

From November, however, it started rising again.

A high percentage of positive cases means that more testing should probably be done -- and it suggests that it is not a good time to relax restrictions aimed at reducing coronavirus transmission, according to John Hopkins University

As a rule of thumb, the positivity rate is thought to be "too high" if it is more than five percent.

In May, the World Health Organization recommended that the positivity rate should be below five percent for at least two weeks before governments considered reopening.

With yesterday's 1,267 new infections, the total number of cases in the country rose to 4,99,560, according to a press release from the Directorate General of Health

Besides, the death toll due to the highly transmissible virus rose to 7,242 with yesterday's 25 deaths.

With this, the death rate stood at 1.45 percent. Compared to the previous week, the number of Covid-19 deaths has increased by 4.23 percent last week ending on Saturday.

In the same 24-hour period, 1,987 Covid-19 patients recovered from their illnesses raising the total number of recoveries to 4,35,601. This was around 87.20 percent of all confirmed cases

Of the yesterday's deceased, all of them died in hospitals while 17 of them were males.

Three were aged between 31 and 40, two between 41 and 50, five between 51 and 60 and the rest 15 were above 60 years, according to the press release.

### Ex-PBCP man killed

Phultala Police Station

Program features:

গাড়ির ধরন

টয়োটা নোয়া

KR 42 মাইক্রোবাস

They were arrested in Phultala soon after the killing, he

They were also among the 35 people who surrendered to the authorities, he added.

Police applied to a court to place the arrestees on a seven-day remand yesterday.

Witnesses told police that four or five men appeared on the scene on two motorcycles and shot Lipu before fleeing. Police found three shells of shotgun bullets at the scene. Locals took him to Upazila Health Complex where a doctor declared him dead.

An autopsy was done at Khulna Medical College.

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#### Rajshahi Zilla FROM PAGE 12

drinks at Lazuk's leg space, said the DNC official.

Nuruzzaman identified himself as a Deputy Secretary of the government and Lazuk as one of his friends, the DNC official

After he was detained at 8:30pm, Md Nuruzzaman was taken to Chapainawabganj circuit house for confirmation of his identity from local government officials.

Since then, he was staying at the circuit house as the local government officials were not allowing the department officials to take him to the police station, claimed the DNC

Contacted, Chapainawabganj's Deputy Commissioner Manjurul Hafiz denied that there was any pressures on DNC officials

"Law has its own course, have no authority to hinder the legal process. It is totally a false claim that we are trying to stop the arrest," said the DC.

However, the DC said, the detained official was still staying at the circuit house and the narcotics control officials were also at the circuit house, to take him to police station.

Meanwhile, Saiful Islam, inspector of DNC's Chapainawabganj office, filed a case against the duo with Chapainawabganj Sadar Police Station this afternoon, said Mozaffar Hossain, officer-in-charge of the police station.

The officials of the Department of Narcotics Control will investigate the case, added the police official.

DNC official Kazal further said the arrestees were taken to the district court around 2:30pm to produce before magistrate.



## Mujib felicitates

Maulana Bhashani and the editors, printers and publishers of The Sangbad and The Gonokantha to 'issue retraction' and apologise within 24 hours for the allegations of misappropriation of public funds and acquisition of property.

The allegations against Abdul Mannan were attributed to Maulana Bhashani and were published in the Sangbad and The Gonokantha on December 19, 1972. TRADE AGREEMENT WITH BULGARIA

Bulgaria and Bangladesh have signed a trade agreement for 1973 envisaging an increase of 30 percent in commercial

Source: December 21, 1972 issues of Dainik Bangla, The Bangladesh Observer and Ittefaq.

### Jubo League leader

three were arrested in a case, filed by the college principal on Friday morning under the Special Powers Act.

The arrestees are: Anisur Rahman, 35, Sabuj Hossain, 20, and Hridoy Ahmed, 20. Anisur is the president of Kaya

The three were picked up from different places in Kumarkhali upazila early yesterday.

The SP said another accused named Bachchu was on the run. He said the four were directly involved in the incident. Tanvir said the college night guard witnessed the incident. "Vandals took position near the sculpture around 11:00pm on Thursday. Around two hours later, Anis hit the sculpture three times with a hammer. Then they left the place on a motorcycle."

Jubo Leage leader Anis is from Raydanga village, which is adjacent to the college. He had long been lobbying for the post of the college governing body president, said

Wishing anonymity, a member of the college governing body said some teachers were appointed to the college last year. There were allegations that the recruitments were made in exchange of money. Nizamul, also a vice president of Awami Tanti League,

has been the governing body president for about five years. Meanwhile, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal staged a protest rally and formed a human chain in Kumarkhali town yesterday over the vandalism of Bagha Jatin's sculpture.

On December 4, vandals damaged an underconstruction sculpture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Kushtia town.

### MP Aslamul seeks SC

FROM PAGE 12 the possession of three companies of his group.

He submitted the petition to the apex court last week,

his lawyer Mohammad Ozi Ullah told The Daily Star Citing the stay petition, the lawyer said Aslamul Haque's

companies have obtained all relevant clearance certificates

required for establishing industries, and they have not

grabbed land of any river. He said in addition to submitting the stay petition to the Appellate Division, Aslamul Haque has also lodged cases

with the civil courts seeking remedy on the same issue. Lawyer Ozi Ullah could not say specifically when the

hearing of the stay petition will be held. Meanwhile, the National River Conservation Commission's (NRCC) lawyer Manzill Murshid told this correspondent that he received a copy of the petition on

He said he would oppose the stay petition during its hearing before the Appellate Division.

On December 10, the HC cleared the way for the government to carry out eviction drives and recover the Buriganga's land in Keraniganj from the possession of three companies of Maisha Group.

The court rejected a writ petition collectively filed by the three companies challenging the eviction activities of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA). The three companies are CLC Power Ltd, Dhaka West

Power Ltd and Dhaka North Power Utility Company Ltd. Delivering the verdict on the petition, the HC said the rivers of the country must be protected at any cost.

A government probe, led by the NRCC, has found that Aslamul, lawmaker of Dhaka-14, filled up more than 54 acres from the Buriganga and wetland to construct a power plant and a private economic zone in Basila of Keraniganj. The MP started the illegal activity in 2010, according to the probe report.

#### Severe Covid variant found FROM PAGE 12

including London, and the rest of the country, the newspaper said.

Britain's government on Monday said a rise in new infections might be partly linked to the new variant as it moved its capital city and other areas into the highest tier of Covid-19 restrictions.

Johnson said on Friday he hoped that England would not need to go into a third lockdown after Christmas.

# AI flies military jet for first time

Given the high stakes of global AI, surpassing science fiction must become our military norm.

Dr Roper, who serves as the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, said that the mission was a demonstration of "how completely our military must embrace AI to maintain the battlefield decision advantage". He concluded: "Algorithmic warfare has begun."

The mission comes just four months after an AI pilot defeated a US Air Force pilot in a virtual F-16 dogfight, fought over several rounds on a computer simulation.

The human pilot was unable to match the innovative twisting techniques adopted by the AI pilot, which was not limited by physical constraints like the amount of G-force a human can withstand.

Earlier this year, the US Department of Defense announced plans to adopt ethical principles in order to lay the foundation for artificial intelligence to be used in warfare. The principles called for "appropriate levels of judgement and care" when deploying AI systems, while also making them "traceable" and "governable".

Arms control advocates warned that more needed to be done to prevent AI from making life-or-death decisions on the battlefield, calling for stronger restrictions on the technology

"I worry that the principles are a bit of an ethics-washing project. The word 'appropriate' is open to a lot of interpretations," said Lucy Suchman, an anthropologist who specialises in AI in warfare. An open letter from leading AI and robotics researchers in 2015 warned that "a

global arms race is virtually inevitable" if major military powers continue to push ahead with AI weapon development. "We believe that AI has great potential to benefit humanity in many ways, and that the goal of the field should be to do so," the letter stated, whose signatories also included

Stephen Hawking, Tesla CEO Elon Musk and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak. "Starting a military AI arms race is a bad idea, and should be prevented by a ban on offensive autonomous weapons beyond meaningful human control."

### US approves Moderna's vaccine

Bharat Biotech.

FROM PAGE 12 join a national effort to halt a pandemic that has killed at least 1.66 million people and infected more than 74 million worldwide.

President-elect Joe Biden, who will take office on January 20, announced he would take the vaccine, also in public, tomorrow.

In hard-hit Europe, unease mounted after Slovakian Prime Minister Igor Matovic tested positive for Covid-19 a week after attending a European Union summit in

The summit is believed to be where French President Emmanuel Macron caught the

virus. Macron's diagnosis has led to a host of European leaders and French officials rushing into self-isolation. The French leader acknowledged Friday he had been "slowed down" by his infection, but insisted he was still actively involved in government business including Brexit trade

US President Donald Trump, who may be currently immune after recovering from Covid-19, has also signaled he would be willing to take the vaccine. He was notably absent from Pence's vaccination event, but he has been eager to

take credit for record-fast vaccine breakthroughs despite more than 310,000 American deaths from the virus. The United States is the first nation to authorize the two-dose regimen from Moderna, now the second vaccine to be deployed in a Western country after the one

developed by Pfizer and BioNTech. Millions of doses will start shipping out as early as this weekend from cold-storage sites outside Memphis and Louisville.

The European Union, facing pressure to approve vaccines, intends to begin its inoculations with the Pfizer-BioNTech dose before the end of the year, with some countries naming December 27 as a start date.

Poorer countries meanwhile received a boost Friday when the World Health Organization and partners said vaccines would be distributed early next year to the 190 countries in its Covax initiative, a pooling effort formed to ensure equitable

"The light at the end of the tunnel has grown a little bit brighter," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a virtual press conference.

Two billion doses have been secured from developers AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, Novovax and Sanofi/GSK, though none of their candidates have so far received authorization for use.

With the vaccine rollout only just beginning however, infection rates continue to surge in many countries and a number are tightening restrictions. In Australia a cluster of cases on Sydney's northern beaches grew to 38, with residents

ordered to stay home from late yesterday other than for essential reasons. New South Wales (NSW) state government is to announce today whether further restrictions will be imposed on the rest of Sydney, home to around five million people.

In India the total number of cases moved past 10 million yesterday, the second highest in the world, although new infection rates appear to have fallen sharply in In September the vast nation looked on track to surpass the United States as the

worst-hit country. But the outbreak appears to have lost momentum in India, despite the country being home to some of the most crowded cities on the planet. India reported 25,152 new infections and 347 deaths in the past 24 hours, data from the health ministry showed. The virus has so far killed 145,136 people in the

country. India took 30 days to add the last million cases, the second slowest since the start of the pandemic. The country expects to roll out vaccines soon and is considering emergency-use request for three types, developed by Oxford/AstraZeneca, Pfizer and local company

But some health experts say the fall in cases suggests many Indians may have already developed virus antibodies through natural infection.

"Herd immunity is a huge part of it ... which is helping us to break the transmission," said Pradeep Awate, a senior health official in India's worst-hit state of Maharashtra, home to Mumbai.

In Latin America, Mexico City's mayor announced that the capital and neighboring state would suspend almost all activities from this weekend as virus cases rise allowing only such essentials as the sale of food, energy, transport, manufacturing and financial services.

#### Pathshala Department of Film and Television Last date of submission: 14 January 2021 or further information please contact +8801780379399, 8801844144044, Email: pathshala.dft.coordinator@gmail.com

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(অফেরতযোগ্য) প্রদান সাপেক্ষে ২০ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২০ ইং হতে ২৪ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২০ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত সকাল ১১.০০ টা হতে বিকাল ৪.০০ টা পর্যন্ত ব্যাংকের জেনারেল সার্ভিসেস ডিভিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ৬১ দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০ থেকে সিডিউল ক্রয় এবং গাড়ি পরিদর্শন করা যাবে।

**দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ও স্থান ঃ** ২৮ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২০ ইং বিকাল ৩.০০ ঘটিকা। মার্কেন্টাইল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড,

সিডিউল ক্রেয় এবং গাড়ি পরিদর্শনের তারিখ ও স্থান ঃ গাড়ি প্রতি নগদ ১,১৫০.০০ (এক হাজার একশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা

প্রধান কার্যালয়, জেনারেল সার্ভিসেস ডিভিশন, লেভেল-৭, ৬১ দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০। উক্ত তারিখে (২৮ ডিসেম্বর, ২০২০ ইং) উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকে) বিকাল ৩.৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রসমূহ খোলা হবে । গাড়ি হস্তান্তর বাবদ যাবতীয় ব্যয়ভার ক্রেতাকে বহন করতে হবে ।

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