



Railways way off track

Its ADP implementation was 24.55pc in July-May last fiscal year; most of 37 projects to miss target

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Being one of the top recipients of the government's development expenditures, railways ministry is lagging behind the average implementation rate of the annual development programme (ADP).

When the average ADP implementation rate was 57.37 percent during July to May of the just-concluded fiscal year, the progress of railway ministry was only 24.55 percent.

The government in 2014 approved the project to construct a dual-gauge double rail line and convert all existing rail lines into double line between Akhaura and Laksham, and it was supposed to be completed by June this year.

But, the Tk 6,504-crore project witnessed a 66 percent implementation until April this year. The project authorities targeted to complete 20 percent work during the last fiscal year but managed to achieve only 5 percent progress in the first 10 months.

The authorities are now seeking to extend the deadline.

Similarly, almost all of the 37 investment projects under the ministry are behind the fiscal year's target. The poor performance of the ministry

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Little Asma selling masks on Abdul Goni Road near the secretariat in the capital. She sells a mask for Tk 5. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, demand for face masks has increased. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Remains of ancient Aztec palace found in Mexico City



AFP, Mexico City

The remains of an ancient Aztec palace, which later was the home of Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortes, were discovered under a landmark building in Mexico City, the government said.

Basalt slab floors were found under the statly building of the Nacional Monte de Piedad, a historic pawn shop in the middle of the capital's central square, during building renovations.

The floors correspond to an open area in the palace of Aztec ruler

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Flight to Italy Bangladeshis didn't carry fake Covid certificates

Says foreign ministry

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladeshis, who flew to Italy earlier this month, did not carry fake Covid-19 certificates, Bangladesh's foreign ministry said yesterday.

"Some of these passengers carried Covid-19 negative certificates on their own just in case they required those subsequently. The Italian government has not yet set any condition to carry Covid-19 negative certificates for travelling to that country," the ministry said in a statement.

"That means there were no connections between the Covid-19 certificates and the flight suspension," a foreign ministry official told The Daily Star.

The statement comes days after Italy suspended

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Entry into UN almost certain



A Soviet delegation calls on Bangabandhu at his official residence on July 17, 1972.

July 17, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

SOVIET DELEGATION CALLS ON BANGABANDHU

Soviet Ambassador to Bangladesh Valentine F Popov calls on Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today at the Gono Bhaban. The Soviet ambassador is accompanied by the chief of the Soviet salvage team. The delegation apprises the prime minister of the work of the salvage team in the ports of Bangladesh.

DIPLMATIC OFFENSIVE ON Bangladesh is virtually assured of membership in the UN when its General Assembly meets in the third week of September, 1972. The foreign

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Girl gang-raped in Panchagarh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A 28-year-old female model has allegedly been gang-raped in Panchagarh's Boda upazila.

The woman filed a case with Boda Police Station against three named and 12/14 unnamed accused on Wednesday night.

Later, police arrested two of the accused, including a female Jubo League leader, in connection with the case.

Quoting the case statement, Inspector Abu Sayem Mia of the police station, also the investigation officer of the case, told The Daily Star that the victim met one Sazzad Hossain Milon, 33, of Jhinuknagar in Boda municipality, about five years ago in Gazipur's Kaliakoir.

At that time, Milon introduced himself as chief news editor and graphic designer of an online TV platform.

Recently, Milon offered

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Double trouble for flood-hit people

Many take refuge on dykes as shelters submerged

STAR REPORT

Flood-hit people in different districts are now being forced to take shelter under open sky as many flood shelters have been submerged.

Around 14 lakh people in 81 upazilas of 15 districts have so far been affected by the flood. Around 3 lakh of them are

still waterlogged, said a recent bulletin of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief.

Flood hit people of Kamalpur village in Shahzadpur upazila in Sirajganj were supposed to take shelter at the Kamalpur Government Primary School. But the flood shelter remained inundated this year.

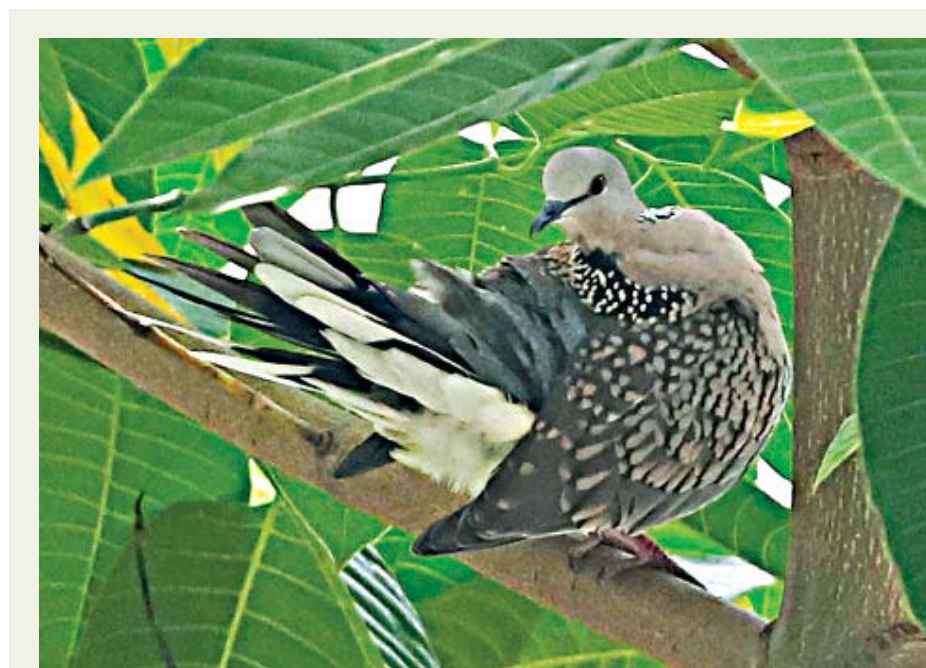
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PRAYER TIMING JULY 17

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:15	12:30	5:00	6:54	8:15
JAMAAT 4:50	1:15	5:15	6:58	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A spotted dove, rarely seen in the capital, settling to roost on a tree branch in city's Eskaton. The bird is recognisable by its black patch and white spots at the back of its neck.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Resurgent virus stalks globe

India locks down more than 125m as cases near 1m

AFP, Patna

More than 125 million people in India were put under a new lockdown yesterday, as international dignitaries gathered in Spain to honour coronavirus victims while infections surged across the world.

Governments in many countries have been forced to reimpose restrictions as COVID-19 refuses to fade, having officially infected nearly 13.6 million people, killed more than 584,000 and crippled the global economy since it emerged late last

year.

The virus has been running rampant through the United States and Latin America, and the Red Cross has warned that South Asia is fast becoming the next epicentre.

"While the world's attention has been focused on the unfolding crisis in the United States and South America, a concurrent human tragedy is fast emerging in South Asia," said John Fleming, Asia-Pacific head of health for the organisation.

After India registered more than 600 deaths in a single day, the 125

million people in impoverished Bihar state, neighbouring Nepal, started a new 15-day lockdown yesterday.

"We have not faced such a situation in my life before, it is really a horrible experience," housewife Radhika Singh said in Bihar, where all schools, clubs, temples and non-essential businesses were ordered closed.

Badly-hit Spain honoured its more than 28,000 virus dead at a solemn state ceremony joined by bereaved families and top EU and World Health Organization figures on Thursday.

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গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

যবের বাইরে অবশ্যই মাস্ক পরুন

- ◆ সন্মেলনকর বা পরীক্ষার মাধ্যমে নিশ্চিত করোনা আক্রান্ত ব্যক্তিকে উপসর্গ শুরু হওয়ার বা উপসর্গ না থাকলে পরীক্ষার নমুনা দেয়ার দিন থেকে ১৪ দিন অবশ্যই আইসোলেশন থাকতে হবে। তবে ১৪ দিন শেষ হওয়ার শেষ ৩ দিন ঐ ব্যক্তিকে ঐকম সেকেন ব্যক্তিকে অবশ্যই উপসর্গ বিহীন থাকতে হবে। উপসর্গ থাকলে আইসোলেশনের মেয়াদ বাড়বে। ঐকম সেকেন ব্যক্তিকে পরপর ৩ দিন উপসর্গ না থাকলেই কেবল আইসোলেশন শেষ করা যাবে। পর্যাপ্ত ব্যক্তিগত সুরক্ষা ছাড়া আইসোলেশনে থাকা ব্যক্তির নিকট সংস্পর্শে আসা ব্যক্তিকে অবশ্যই কোয়ারেন্টাইনে থাকতে হবে। সুবিধা থাকলে ব্যক্তিকেও আইসোলেশন বা কোয়ারেন্টাইনে থাকা যাবে।
- ◆ নিয়ন্ত্রণকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ আইসোলেশনমুক্ত কর্তৃকর্তা/কর্মসূচীকে কাজে যোগদানে সহায়তা করবেন। কোভিড-১৯ নিষেধাজ্ঞা সংক্রান্ত সনদের প্রয়োজন নাই।
- ◆ করোনা মহামারীতে মানসিক স্বাস্থ্যের যত্ন দিন। মানসিক প্রশান্তির জন্য শরীর চর্চা, ধর্ম চর্চা এবং চিঠি বিনোদনমূলক কাজে সম্পৃক্ত থাকুন।
- ◆ কন্যাসূর্য্যত এলাকায় নিরাপদ পানি পান ও খাদ্য গ্রহণ নিশ্চিত করুন। সাপের কামড় ও পানিতে ডুবে যাওয়ার থেকে সতর্ক থাকুন।
- ◆ গ্রহণ মশার প্রজনন স্থল (ফুলের টব, ভাস্কের খোঁস, পরিত্যক্ত টায়ার, ফ্রিজের তলা বা পরিত্যক্ত পাত্রে জমে থাকা পানি) নিয়মিত পরিষ্কার করুন। দিনে বা রাতে ঘুমোবার সময় মশারি ব্যবহার করুন। তেল প্রতিরোধ করুন।
- ◆ আপনাদের শিশুকে সময়মত টিকা দিন। গর্ভবতী মাকে নিয়মিত চেক আপ করুন। মা ও শিশুর পুষ্টি নিশ্চিত করুন। শিশু ও ব্যক্তিদের যত্ন দিন।
- ◆ যাত্রা বিধি মেনে চলুন। সাময়িক দূরত্ব বজায় রাখুন। অসাবধানতায় আপসিত করোনা ভাইরাসে আক্রান্ত হতে পারেন। মৃত উপসর্গে বাসায় চিকিৎসা দিন এবং যে কোন সমস্যা দেখা দিলে সাথে সাথে হাসপাতালে ভর্তি হোন
- ◆ প্রয়োজনে করোনা বিষয়ক হটলাইনে ফোন করুন ১৬২৬৩; ৩৩৩; ১০৬৫৫; ০১৯৪৪৩৩৩২২২
- ◆ হাসপাতালে চিকিৎসা পেতে অসুবিধা হলে কল করুন ০১৩১৩৭৯১১৩০, ০১৩১৩৭৯১১৩৮, ০১৩১৩৭৯১১৩৯ এবং ০১৩১৩৭৯১১৪০
- ◆ যাত্রা অবদানের ওয়েবসাইট www.dghs.gov.bd এর CORONA কর্তৃক "করোনা বিষয়ক অভিযোগ প্রেরণ" লিংক অথবা <http://app.dghs.gov.bd/covid19-complaint> লিংক ব্যবহার করে অভিযোগ প্রেরণ করতে পারবেন।

আপনার সুরক্ষা আপনার হাতে

স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর

স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়