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Vaccine drive gathers steam

Serum Institute of India says it made 40m doses of AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine; global cases show no signs of slowing

AGENCIES

Serum Institute of India, the world's largest vaccine producer, yesterday said it has made 40 million doses of AstraZeneca's potential Covid-19 vaccine, and would soon begin making Novavax's rival shot, as a drive for vaccine around the globe gathered steam raising hope amid a raging pandemic.

While there are no Covid-19 vaccines approved yet and trials are still under way to prove they are safe and effective, leading drugmakers have been funded to begin production early to expedite deliveries.

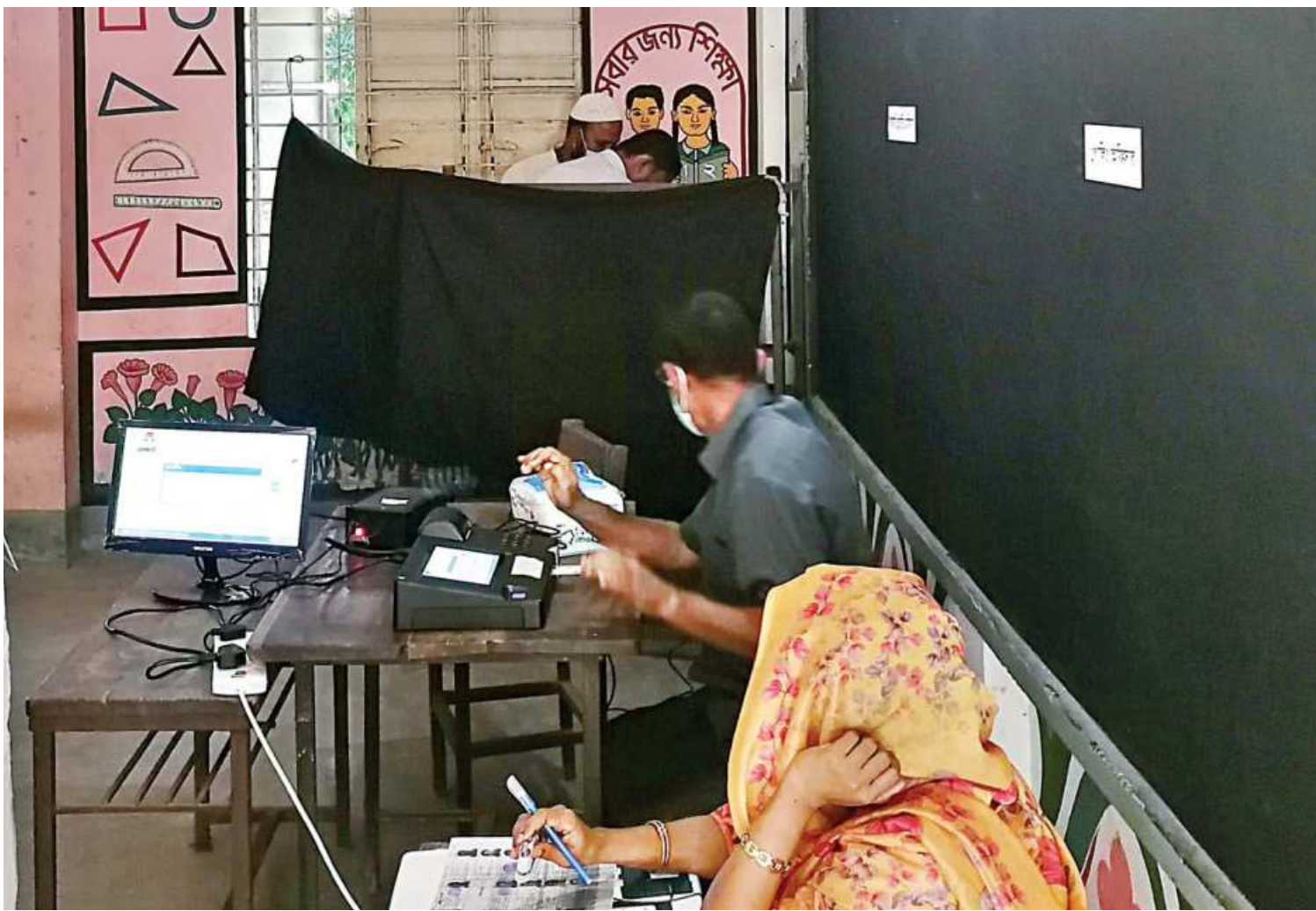
The virus has claimed at least 1,285,160 lives worldwide since it first emerged in China late last year, according to an AFP tally yesterday at 1100 GMT based on official sources. More than 52,151,589 cases have been registered across the globe.

The United States is the worst-affected country with 241,808 deaths, followed by Brazil with 163,373, India with 128,121, Mexico with 96,430 and the United Kingdom with 50,365 deaths.

AstraZeneca said last week that it was holding back deliveries of its Covid-19 vaccine candidate while it awaits the data from late-stage clinical trials, which got delayed due to a summer dip in UK coronavirus infections.

Serum declined to comment on whether the 40 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine were meant for global supply or only for India.

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Two election officials watch as a voter casts his vote in the designated area of a polling booth in Baunia Abdul Jalil High School centre in the capital yesterday. The man, wearing a cap, inside the designated area is the so-called helper who makes sure that votes are cast for the ruling party candidate. Electoral rules say no body but the voter is allowed in that private space.

PHOTO: MAHBUB KHAN

Missing JnU student 'faked' her abduction

CID claims, arrests Tithy Sarker, husband

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jagannath University student Tithy Sarkar faked her own abduction to divert attention from the allegations that she had hurt religious sentiment, Criminal Investigation Department officials said yesterday.

"After leaving her Pallabi home on October 25, Tithy contacted her boyfriend Shiplu Mallik and went to Bagerhat where they got married. They came back to Dhaka on November 9. Tithy later went to an in-law's house in Narsingdi," Deputy Inspector General Jamil Ahmed told a press conference at the CID office in the capital's Malibagh.

On Wednesday, CID officials arrested Tithy in Madhabdi area of Narsingdi around 3:45pm and Shiplu in Kaptan Bazar area in the capital around 11:45am, he said.

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Bangabandhu was one of few outstanding statesmen

Lawmakers say in parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers yesterday told parliament that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was one of the few statesmen in the world who made the supreme sacrifice for the people of his country.

Highlighting various initiatives taken by Bangabandhu before and after the country's independence, the MPs said he couldn't turn Bangladesh into "Golden Bengal" as per his dream, but he built the structure to make it "Sonar Bangla".

The lawmakers were addressing the House on a resolution tabled by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday.

The PM placed the resolution before the Jatiya Sangsad under section-147 of the Rules of Procedure to pay tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman through holding a special discussion on his colourful political life, activities, and philosophy.

Participating in the discussion, senior Awami League lawmaker Amir Hossain Amu yesterday said although Bangabandhu couldn't turn the

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Govt to build memorial honouring martyred intellectuals

November 13, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

MEMORIAL TO BE ERECTED

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today asks Works Minister Matiu Rahman to visit Katabari in Rayerbazar area to select a site for a memorial plaque bearing the names of the intellectuals who had been brutally murdered there by the Pakistan Army and their collaborators Al Badr on the eve of the surrender by the enemy in December, 1971. Bodies of some of the intellectuals were recovered from Katabari area, which the murderers had used as their slaughter ground. As the murderers had inflicted inhuman torture before killing their innocent victims the bodies were mostly mutilated beyond recognition.

Earlier, a delegation of the Bangla Department of Dhaka University called on the prime minister and suggested that the slaughter ground at Katabari be preserved as a historical site and a memorial plaque be erected there as a reminder to the nation of the great sacrifices that led to the independence of Bangladesh.

INDIAN, GDR ENVOYS CALL ON BANGABANDHU Indian High Commissioner Subimal Dutta and German Democratic Republic (GDR) Ambassador to Bangladesh Winzel separately call on Bangabandhu at the Gono Bhavan today. Both

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KILLING OF ASP Another Mind Aid director arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested another director of Mind Aid Psychiatry and De-addiction Hospital in connection with a case filed over senior ASP Anisul Karim's death on Monday.

Fatema Khatun Moyna, 41, was arrested at her home in Dhanmondi around 12:00pm, DMP Deputy Commissioner (Tejgaon) Harun-Ur-Rashid told The Daily Star.

She is the second director to be arrested, bringing the total number of arrests in the case to 12.

The other directors -- Abdullah Al Mamun, Sakawat Hossain, and Sazzad Amin -- are still on the run.

Dr Md Niaz Morshed, was arrested on Tuesday night from the capital's National Institute of Neurosciences and

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Remains of flying lizard found in museum drawer



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A fossil belonging to a new species of flying lizard has been discovered among a century-old collection at a museum in Brighton.

PhD student Roy Smith found the mystery species of pterosaur among fossil collections housed in the Sedgwick Museum of Cambridge and the Booth Museum at Brighton.

He realised that what were believed to be the fossils of spark spines were actually fragments of jaws belonging to the toothless pterosaurs.

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JEWEL'S MURDER

He did not demean the Holy Quran

Finds another probe body
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The Holy Quran was not demeaned before Shahidunnabi Jewel was beaten and burnt to death in Burimari of Lalmonirhat's Patgram upazila on October 29, an investigation by the district administration has found.

It was just a rumour about desecrating the Holy Quran that led to the brutal killing of 50-year-old Jewel, according to the probe.

A three-member investigation committee, formed by the district

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 13
Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:00 12:30 3:45 5:25 7:00
JAMAAT 5:35 1:15 4:00 5:30 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

RAIL BRIDGE OVER JAMUNA

PM to lay foundation stone on Nov 29

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would lay the foundation stone of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Railway Bridge over the Jamuna on November 29.

"All necessary procedures, including the tendering processes, were completed. The prime minister would lay the foundation stone on November 29. With this, works of the bridge would start formally," Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan said.

He was speaking at a press conference at Rail Bhavan in the capital to discriminate information about the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Railway Bridge Project.

He said trains would be able to use the new bridge from August 2024 and it would bring a major change in railway services between Dhaka and western region.

The 4.8km-long bridge will be built some 300 metres upstream of the Bangabandhu Bridge which has a single rail line.

Once built, the dual-gauge double-track bridge would be the largest dedicated rail bridge in the country.

In December 2016, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council passed the bridge project at a

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The Sand Martin is a migratory bird of the swallow family known for its quick jerky flight. They prefer to visit the region during cooler weather. The photo was taken in Rajshahi.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



TRUMP'S TRANSITION DISRUPTION State Dept blocking world leaders' from reaching Biden

President-elect names longtime adviser as chief of staff

AGENCIES

US President-elect Joe Biden was pressing ahead with building his governing team yesterday, ignoring President Donald Trump's refusal to accept defeat and the present administration's efforts to block a smooth power transmission.

On Wednesday, Biden, who has shrugged off Trump's challenge to his victory, named long-time adviser Ron Klain as his White House chief of staff, his first major appointment.

The appointment came as CNN reported that the State Department, in an unprecedented move, was preventing Biden from accessing a stack of messages from foreign leaders.

Traditionally, the State Department supports all communications for the president-elect, which is why many countries began sending messages to State over the weekend. But with Biden prohibited from accessing State Department resources by the Trump administration, because President Donald Trump refuses to accept Biden's victory, dozens of incoming messages have not been received.

Biden's team is in touch with foreign governments without State Department involvement, and he has held numerous calls with leaders, including Germany's Angela Merkel and Canada's Justin Trudeau. But they are operating without the logistical and translation support that the State Department operations center provides.

Not only is Biden being blocked by the State Department from receiving messages and assistance facilitating and from preparing for calls, on Tuesday Secretary of State Mike Pompeo refused to acknowledge Biden's

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