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Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

Work in progress using Shah Cement

SHAH CEMENT

Moderna vaccine gives more hope

Drugmaker says it's 94.5pc effective against Covid, won't need supercooling

AGENCIES

Moderna Inc's experimental vaccine was 94.5 percent effective in preventing Covid-19 based on interim data from a late-stage trial, the company said yesterday, becoming the second US drugmaker to report results that far exceed expectations.

Together with Pfizer Inc's vaccine, which is also more than 90 percent effective, and pending more safety data and regulatory review, the United States could have two vaccines authorized for emergency use in December with as many as 60 million doses of vaccine available this year.

Next year, the US government could have access to more than 1 billion doses just from the two vaccine makers, more than needed for the country's 330 million residents.

The vaccines, both developed with new technology known as messenger RNA (mRNA), represent powerful tools to fight a pandemic that has infected 54 million people worldwide and killed 1.3 million.

The news also comes at a time when Covid-19 cases are soaring, hitting new records in the United States and pushing some European countries back into lockdowns.

"We are going to have a vaccine that can stop Covid-19," Moderna President Stephen Hoge said in a telephone interview.

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Residents of Old Telegraph Road in the port city's Andar Killa area collecting water from a deep tube-well that the locals have installed themselves, as the water provided by the Chattogram Water Supply and Sewerage Authority has become undrinkable. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

UNDOCUMENTED IN MALAYSIA

Workers to get regularised, recruited

JAMIL MAHMUD

Undocumented Bangladeshis living in Peninsular Malaysia will get a chance to be regularised and recruited under a new programme.

The Labour Recalibration Plan would allow employers in construction, manufacturing, plantation, and agriculture sectors to legally employ undocumented foreign workers, Malaysian media reports, quoting the home ministry as saying on Thursday.

Only the employers will apply for direct immigration mentioning the names of their illegal employees via a designated email, says the Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia in its posts on social media.

The Malaysia government took the initiative to validate the migrants from 15 countries, including Bangladesh, it says.

Another initiative titled Repatriation Recalibration Plan will let undocumented migrants be regularised and return home voluntarily.

The authorities began implementing the plans yesterday and the windows would remain open until June 30, 2021,

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

New pay scales on December 16



Swedish Foreign Minister Krishter Wickman presenting a gift to Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Gono Bhaban on November 17, 1972.

November 17, 1972
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

ONLY SEVEN PAY SCALES

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is expected to announce the new pay scales of the government on Victory Day, to be celebrated on December 16, 1972. The National Pay Commission set up by the government has almost completed framing the new pay scales. There will be seven pay scales according to the new structure. It may be recalled here that a few days ago Bangabandhu hinted at the new scales of pay. Bangabandhu also said that the number of pay scales would be reduced to seven. At present there are more than 500 scales of pay besides 74 fixed pays. There are several instances where the Pakistani government

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Marriott hotel construction in Bandarban against laws

62 eminent citizens say in statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixty-two eminent citizens yesterday issued a statement against the construction of the Marriott hotel and resort at Bandarban's Chandrapahar, popularly known as Chimbuk.

Sikder Group's subsidiary R&R Holdings Ltd and the security forces have taken the initiative to build a five-star hotel and amusement park at Kaprupara, Dolapara and Shong Nam Hung of 302 Lulaing Mouza and 355 Sepru Mouza, said the statement.

The statement pointed out that the organisation was building the resort without the free, prior and informed consent of people of the Mro community. This is in violation

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SpaceX-Nasa launch first astronaut mission to ISS



REUTERS, Cape Canaveral

Elon Musk's rocket company SpaceX has launched four astronauts on a flight to the International Space Station, NASA's first full-fledged mission sending a crew into orbit aboard a privately owned spacecraft.

SpaceX's newly designed Crew Dragon capsule, which the crew has dubbed Resilience, lifted off atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket at 7:27 pm eastern time (0027 GMT on Monday) from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida.

"That was one heck of a ride," astronaut Mike Hopkins said from Crew Dragon to SpaceX mission control about an hour after liftoff. "There was a lot of smiles."

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JS body backs death penalty for rape

Places report on amendment bill
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary body on Women and Children Affairs yesterday placed its final report on the Women and Children Repression Prevention (amendment) Bill 2020 before the House keeping the provision of death penalty for rape.

Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee Meher Afroze Chumki placed the report in parliament yesterday after it was scrutinised by the committee members.

There were no major changes in the bill made by the parliamentary body.

The committee recommended shunning the use of the word dhorshita, the feminine form of the word raped in Bangla, to refer to women who have been raped. "Victim of rape" should be used instead, it said.

The bill proposes amendments to the previous law to incorporate death penalty as the maximum punishment for rape.

According to Article 9 (1) of the existing Women and Children Repression Prevention Act-2000, the maximum punishment for rape is life imprisonment.

This was promulgated through an ordinance on October 13 in the face of popular demands to ensure death penalty for rapists.

The ordinance was placed in parliament on November 8 for its approval by Law Minister Anisul Huq. The bill was also placed there the same day and it was sent to the committee for scrutiny.

The committee was asked to submit its report before the House in seven work days.

The ordinance was issued amid widespread outrage

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 17

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:00 12:45 3:45 5:25 7:00
JAMAAT 5:35 1:15 4:00 5:30 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Kathalbari ferry terminal being moved

Certain to increase crossing time

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Kathalbari Ferry Ghat in Madaripur is being shifted to Banglabazar, 500 metres upstream of the Padma, for facilitating construction of the Padma Bridge and protecting the river bank.

With this relocation, ferries and launches from Shimulia Ghat on the other side of the river have to cross 13 km, instead of 12.5 km now, to reach the new ghat.

A ferry now takes about one and a half hours to reach Kathalbari from Shimulia. It will take 10-15 minutes more to reach the new ghat, Shafayet Ahmed, BIWTC manager at Shimulia Ghat, told this newspaper.

Two ferry terminals at Kathalbari Ghat have already been shifted to the new site. Two other ferry terminals and the launch and speed boat terminals will be relocated within a week, said officials of Bangladesh Inland Water

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Sewage water flowing behind a slum in Shyampur's Baraitala in the capital. Toxic waste from the dyeing factories in the area is constantly being dumped in the Buriganga and is a major pollutant there. The picture was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

AMPHAN, FLOOD DAMAGE

Govt to spend Tk 5,905cr to repair roads

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to take up a Tk 5,905-crore project to repair rural roads and fix infrastructure damaged by Cyclone Amphan, floods and heavy rains this year.

The three-year project, which will be implemented with the government's own funds, is expected to be placed at today's meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecne) for approval.

The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) of the LGRD ministry will implement it by December 2023.

"The objective of the scheme is to fix and maintain rural road network and also save transportation cost and time. The roads, bridges and culverts that got damaged by Cyclone Amphan and floods will be repaired," according to the project documents.

Once the project is completed, it will help facilitate trade, create direct and indirect employment in both agricultural and non-agricultural sectors and boost the rural economy, said the documents.

Cyclone Amphan, formed in the Bay of Bengal, hit the south-western coastal districts on May 20, causing severe damage to the road communication system.

The cyclone affected 69 upazilas of 14 districts in Khulna, Barishal, Chattogram and Dhaka divisions. The project will cover those areas.

In late June, the country started experiencing severe floods.

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