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PADMA BRIDGE

Amphan still taking its toll

6 months after the cyclone, villages in Satkhira, Khulna remain inundated as WDB yet to repair damaged embankments

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Thirty-seven villages in Pratapnagar and Sriula unions of Satkhira's Assasuni upazila went under water when Cyclone Amphan broke major river embankments at several points in May this year.

Both the unions remain largely submerged, six months on, due to the breaches in the Kopotakkho and the Kholpetua river embankments.

Communications with the upazila headquarters have been cut off since then as tidal surges forcing through the breaches continue to keep the two unions inundated.

People are suffering from a lack of sanitation as well as an acute shortage of drinking water as all sources of potable water have been submerged in the brackish river water.

Amir Ali Sheikh of Tipna village in Pratapnagar told The Daily Star that these past six months have been "horrible" and he had not experienced anything like this in the last 40 years.

"When the first tidal surge hit after the embankments broke, the water rushed through the breaches and swept away everything. Some water receded at low tide, but there was no longer a liveable environment," said 68-year-old Amir Ali, describing the events of May 20.

"Up until last week, I received only 20kg rice from the union council, nothing else," Amir Ali said.

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Cyclone Amphan washed away several points of the Kopotakkho and Kholpetua river embankments in May this year. In the six months since, Pratapnagar and Sriula unions in Satkhira's Assasuni upazila continue to be largely inundated as tidal surges regularly force through the breaches, which are yet to be fully repaired. Road communication with around 37 villages has been cut off and people there are suffering from the lack of potable water and proper sanitation.

PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY

RUSSIA'S VACCINE WHO wants to see clinical, trial data

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization needs to see clinical data and information of good manufacturing practice to be able to evaluate Russia's Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine, WHO assistant director general Mariangela Simao said on Friday.

Russia's Sputnik V vaccine is more than 90 percent effective, a representative of the health ministry said this month, citing data collated from vaccinations of the public rather than from an ongoing trial.

Sputnik V's developers have touted it as easier to store than some alternatives and at less than \$10 (8.38 euros) per dose the cheapest among frontrunners in a global race to develop a vaccine.

Russia's military has started a mass coronavirus vaccination campaign which aims to inoculate more than 400,000 servicemen, Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu announced.

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RAIL BRIDGE OVER JAMUNA

PM to lay foundation stone today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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

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

According to rail officials, the bridge would be usable from August 2024 and would enhance the connection between the capital and western region.

Sheikh Hasina attend the event virtually from her official residence the Gono Bhaban whereas Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon would preside over the programme in Sirajganj.

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

In December 2016, the authorities approved the bridge project at a cost of Tk 9,734 crore and the project was scheduled to be completed within December 2023.

The project cost has gone up to Tk 16,781 crore from Tk 9,734 crore and the current deadline is December 2025.

Japan would provide lion share of the project cost as soft loan.

Costs of two main work packages saw a huge rise after the detailed design was made in September 2018.

Besides, costs of land acquisition, land

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Soviet-Bangladesh commodity exchange protocol signed



The members of the visiting Soviet trade delegation call on Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the secretariat on November 29, 1972.

November 29, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

MUJIB LEAVES FOR TOUR OF COASTAL AREAS

Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman leaves Dhaka today on a three-day tour to see the coastal embankment projects and arrangements for conservation of coastal forests.

SECOND COMMODITY EXCHANGE PROTOCOL WITH USSR Bangladesh and USSR sign the second commodity exchange protocol at the State Guest House in Dhaka today. The protocol is in accordance with the Bangladesh-Soviet trade agreement of March, 1972.

Under the protocol Bangladesh would export to the Soviet Union raw jute (20,000 tonnes), jute goods (hessian two crore metres and sacks one lakh piece), tea (1,000-2,000 tonnes), goat skins (one lakh pieces), spices (Tk 1,00,000), towels and sheets (Tk 3,00,000) and miscellaneous items (Tk 8,00,000).

The imports from the USSR would be kerosene, pig iron, steel billets, zinc ingots, cotton, ingot moulds, rolls, machinery

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AL picks runners for 25 municipal elections

UNB, Dhaka

The ruling Awami League yesterday picked its candidates for mayoral elections to 25 pourasavas.

The names of the contenders were finalised at a meeting of the party's Local Government Nomination Board, held at the Gono Bhaban with AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The division-wise names of the candidates are: Rangpur division -- Zakia Sultana (Panchagar), M Kashirul Alam (Pirganj), M Khawja Moin Uddin (Fulbari), M Ahsanul Huq Chowdhury (Badarganj) and M Kazul Islam (Kurigram).

Rajshahi division -- M Rabiul Islam (Puthia), M Abbas Ali (Katakhal), Monir Akther Khan Toru Lodi (Shahjapur) and Shakhwat Hossain Shakho (Chatmohor).

Khulna division -- Al Masum Murshed (Khoksha), Sajat Kumar Biswas (Chalna), and Reazul Islam Zoardar (Chuadanga).

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Melting mountain ice reveals ancient artefacts



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

An archaeological survey of an ice patch in Norway's Jotunheimen mountains has led to a haul of ancient artefacts.

The survey, which was conducted on the Langfonne ice patch in 2014 and 2016, discovered Iron Age scarring sticks used in reindeer hunting, reindeer antlers, a 3,300-year-old shoe from the Bronze Age, and 68 arrows.

The report's authors have hailed the discovery of the arrows as the earliest ice finds in northern Europe. Global warming has caused the ice patch to retreat by more than 70 percent over the past two decades, the study found.

"With the ice now retreating due to climate change, the evidence for ancient hunting at Langfonne is reappearing from what is in essence a frozen archive," said Lars Pilo, the study's lead author and an archaeologist from the Innlandet County Council.

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Pump worker dies after co-worker sets him alight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A filling station worker died of his burns at a city hospital early yesterday, four days after he was set on fire allegedly by one of his co-workers.

Riad Hossain, 20, breathed his last at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery around 12:30am, his father Farid Mia said.

A student of Siddheswari College in the capital, the youth took the part-time job a few months ago with a monthly salary of Tk 5,000 to support his family.

He sustained 40 percent burns to his body on Tuesday after another worker Mahmudul Hasan

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 29

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:05 12:45 3:45 5:21 7:00
JAMAAT 5:40 1:15 4:00 5:24 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A Dhaka-bound bus from Pirojpur turned turtle in a road-side canal near Maleker Bazar in Gopalganj's Tungipara upazila around 11:00am yesterday. The bus hit a rickshaw-van and fell into the canal breaking a guard rails beside the highway. Four people were killed and 20 more injured.

PHOTO: SUZIT DAS

4 killed in Gopalganj bus crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least four people were killed and 20 others injured when a bus hit a rickshaw-van on Gopalganj-Pirojpur highway before crashing into a canal in Malekbar area of Tungipara yesterday morning.

Of the four, Akamuddin Mollah, 50, and Krishna Kitionia, 32, of Tungipara upazila, and Sanjit Dhar, 40, of Maksudpur upazila, were in the rickshaw-van and Thanda Khan, 50, of Bagerhat's Chitalmari upazila, was the helper of the bus.

"The bus of Dola Paribahan, coming from Pirojpur, hit the rickshaw-van and fell into a roadside canal upside down, breaking the railing of a culvert. Four people, including the van puller, died at the scene and 20

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Reply to Advertisement Notice dated 22.11.2020

This is reply to the 'Advertisement Notice' published on 'The Daily Star' on 22 November 2020 at the back page. A legal notice dated 14 November 2020 was served by both by (i) Mr. Werallapatha Ralalage Dissanayake (ii) Mr. Malinda Asanka Amarasuriya on Europtex Fashion Limited, its parent company Top Grade International Ent Ltd, Country Manager Mr. Abeysinghe Weerakoon Hettige Vijitha Prasanna Gomes, Manager Admin and Account Mr. Manuel De Costa, Managing Director Ms. Mandarin Lui and Chief Executive Officer Mr. Thomas Hans Hebestreit.

Mr. Dissanayake filed two general diaries bearing no.1100 and 1068 dated respectively 13 October 2020 and 14 November 2020 and Mr. Amarasuriya filed general diary bearing no.1173 dated 14 October 2020. A legal reply dated 03 November 2020 was also sent to the respective parties contesting their legal notice. This notice has come as shock to (i) Mr. Werallapatha Ralalage Dissanayake (ii) Mr. Malinda Asanka Amarasuriya as the notice was published as result of instruction of Europtex Fashion Limited's alleged Country Manager Mr. Abeysinghe Weerakoon Hettige Vijitha Prasanna Gomes. This damages the personal and professional image and status of Mr. Dissanayake and Mr. Amarasuriya, who are respected figures in the business fraternity.

Mr. Dissanayake and Mr. Amarasuriya who served as the Country Manager and Senior Merchandising Manager of the respective company, until their employments were terminated respectively on 18 September 2020 and 20 September 2020 without an opportunity to be heard despite working only for the best interest of the Company with utmost sincerity, honesty and dedication as reflected on the year on year increase of the profitability and turnover of the Company.

In above premise, all concerned are hereby notified regarding the statement of Europtex Fashion Limited and its concerned personnel and refrain from committing and being misguided into any transactions. Our Client will not take any responsibility in regard to any communications or any action taken by the same.

Fazle Elahi Reza
Barrister at Law, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Supreme Court Bar Association Membership No. 4781
For and On behalf of
(i)Mr. Werallapatha Ralalage Dissanayake, (ii) Mr. Malinda Asanka Amarasuriya