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SHAH CEMENT

Turning a lofty idea into reality

Entrepreneur sets up apple orchard on a Sirajganj shoal after bringing saplings from India's Himachal Pradesh

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, back from Sirajganj

While quite a popular fruit in the country, the apples we eat are almost entirely imported from various countries abroad.

Now, the winter fruit is being cultivated in the remote shoal area of Khas Char Jamalpur in Sirajganj's Ullapara upazila where entrepreneur Borhan Uddin has been making the impossible possible.

Despite the challenges of apple cultivation in the weather and terrain of Bangladesh, Borhan Uddin, an executive of a multinational company, undertook a fruitful field trip -- visiting several apple orchards in India two years ago for training on its cultivation.

Borhan said he had been discouraged by those who cultivated apples in other countries, who said Bangladesh's weather would not favour apple cultivation.

"At last, a researcher in Himachal Pradesh of India asked me to do test cultivation of a few varieties after he saw my interest."

On his three bigha shoal land in Khas Char Jamalpur, he planted a few apple trees in 2018 with saplings he collected from his Himachal Pradesh visit.

While a few of the plants died, most



grew -- inspiring Borhan to plant more. He eventually planted over 200 apple trees and was able to harvest apples from 35 of those in his orchard this June.

This caught him by surprise -- apple trees usually flower after two years in colder temperatures -- as this came within 15 months of planting the trees.

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Locals enthusiastically participating in a game of cricket surrounded by mounds of stones in Chattogram's Cement Crossing area yesterday. Because of the march of development, city dwellers find few areas for such recreation and so have to settle for any open patch of land.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Wait for Covid vaccine to get a bit longer

US health expert says about vast majority of people in Bangladesh

UNB, Dhaka

As the world awaits a Covid-19 vaccine, a US public health expert says the vast majority of people in Bangladesh and other parts of the world will have to wait a bit longer than expected due to limited global capacity of vaccine production.

"It's going to take time for the vaccine production to get a level where you can see a real impact," Country Director of Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Dr Michael Friedman told UNB in an interview.

He said the vast majority of people have to wait a while -- a long while, which he says, is a little bit unfortunate but that is the reality of the world.

Friedman, having a diverse 27 years of work experience in the US and on the global stage, said vaccine is becoming very interesting globally, and three vaccines are showing very positive results.

"This is very exciting news for the world. Unfortunately, I still believe that

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Nation pays homage to Suhrawardy



President Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury and Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with other political leaders offering prayers at the mazar of Hussein Shaheed Suhrawardy on December 5, 1972.

December 5, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

SUHWARDY'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED

Bangladesh, a nation freed from the occupation of Pakistan rule, pays warm and rich tribute to the memory of Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy, whose contributions to democracy are deeply cherished by the people of this country. Today his ninth death anniversary is observed.

To observe the occasion, different programmes are organised by various social, political and student organisations. Prime Minister

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Man gets death for raping and killing girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A Barishal court on Thursday afternoon sentenced a man to death for killing a school girl after rape.

Judge Abu Shamim Azad of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal delivered the verdict after examining 10 witnesses and other documents.

The convicted person is Abul Kalam Azad Kalu, 35. He was already awarded with life imprisonment for concealing the dead body and fined Tk 1.5 lakh or additional seven years' imprisonment in default.

Public prosecutor of the court advocate Faizul Huq said the victim was eight-year-old Shima Akter.

On her way to school, she went to the toilet of neighbouring Kalu's house. At that time, Kalu

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New artificial skin can feel real pain



CNN ONLINE

Pain may not be desirable, but it's essential for survival. An effective and sophisticated defense mechanism, pain is our body's way of telling us that something's wrong and that we should take immediate action to avoid injury.

Skin -- the body's largest organ -- is constantly monitoring for pain. It can trigger pain-avoiding actions automatically through reflexes, for example when we touch something dangerously hot.

Now, researchers at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia, have created an artificial skin that mimics this mechanism and reacts to pain stimuli.

Made of silicone rubber, it has the texture of real skin and is also "very similar to skin in its mechanical properties," says Madhu Bhaskaran, an

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PENNSYLVANIA Trump allies move SC to block Biden's election win

AFP, Washington

Allies of President Donald Trump have sought an emergency order from the US Supreme Court blocking the certification of election results in Pennsylvania, a key state won by President-elect Joe Biden.

The move follows the Pennsylvania state supreme court's rejection Saturday of a suit challenging expanded mail-in voting in the key northeastern state.

In the motion filed Thursday the top US court is not asked to rule on the merits of the case at this point.

Rather, the plaintiffs ask the court for an injunction to halt any remaining steps in the election certification, which was actually done last week, so the plaintiffs can develop their arguments. They include Mike Kelly, a Republican member of the

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Two killed in train accidents

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Two people were killed after being run over by a train on two unmanned level crossings in Lalmonirhat's Kaliganj upazila yesterday.

One of the dead is Rahidul Islam Emran, 27, of Dalgram village in the same upazila. The identity of the other victim, aged about 38, could not be confirmed until last night.

Quoting locals, police said a mentally-impaired man was killed around noon when a local train bound for Burimari from Lalmonirhat ran him over on an unmanned level crossing on Lalmonirhat-

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A truck that rear-ended a standing bus being lifted by a crane off the Dhaka-Tangail highway in Tangail's Mirzapur upazila yesterday morning. At least six people died and 10 were injured because of the accident.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Poor could be 'trampled' in vaccine push

Warns WHO chief as global Covid cases top 65 million

AGENCIES

The head of the World Health Organization yesterday warned that the poor risk being "trampled" as wealthy nations roll out Covid-19 vaccines, which he said should be a public good.

Speaking at a virtual UN summit on the pandemic, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the world was seeing "light at the end of the tunnel" in the nearly year-long Covid crisis.

"But let me be clear. We simply cannot accept a world in which the poor and marginalized are trampled by the rich and powerful in the stampede for vaccines," Tedros said.

"This is a global crisis and the solutions must be shared equitably as global public goods. Not as private commodities that widen inequalities and become yet another reason some people are left behind," he said.

He also warned that the world has plenty of other challenges, saying: "There is no vaccine for poverty, no vaccine for hunger. There is no vaccine for inequality. There is no vaccine for climate change."

His comment came as global coronavirus infections passed 65 million yesterday and countries doubled down on restrictions, even as plans to roll out vaccines gathered pace.

The pandemic is showing little sign of slowing, with the daily global death toll in recent weeks reaching its highest rate since the virus emerged in China late last year.

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 5

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5:15 12:45 3:45 5:19 7:00

JAMAT 5:50 1:15 4:00 5:22 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION