



আবাস বাংলাদেশ!



HIGHEST SELLING 15 CEMENT for more than years

SHAH CEMENT

ACCUSED, CONVICTS, FUGITIVES OF NON-BAILABLE OFFENCES

## No media can air, publish their comments: HC

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Referring to Ekattor TV allowing Proshanta Kumar Halder to participate in a live talk show and interview, the High Court has observed that no one accused or convicted of non-bailable, cognisable offences is entitled to any comment or interview through the media.

PK Halder, former managing director of NRB Global Bank, is a fugitive accused in a money-laundering case.

The HC also directed the private television channel to submit on January 10 the video clips of the interview and conversations PK Halder, who fled the country after allegedly siphoning off around Tk 10,200 crore from some non-banking financial institutions, had with the channel on December 28.

"Our concrete and considered view is that the accused, the convict, the fugitive and convicted accused of non-bailable and cognisable offences who are wanted by the court are not entitled to make any comments or interviews before TV channels, electronic media, print media, social media or any other media in respect to the case during its pendency for trial and investigation because it may create confusion, affect the merit of the case and also lower the image and sanctity of the judiciary and the investigating agency," the HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Ahmed Sohel said.

The HC bench made the observation in the full text of an order issued on December 30 last year following a petition filed by the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) seeking

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The laundry put out to dry is the telltale sign that people are still living in the almost destroyed shanties in Old Dhaka's Islambagh. The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority knocked down several shanties in the slum on Tuesday. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Mirza stirs up debate once again

Asks jurnos to check PM's wealth statement before asking about his

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Abdul Quader Mirza, younger brother of Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, yesterday urged journalists to look into the wealth statement of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina before checking his.

Mirza, who has stirred up a debate in the country's political arena with some of his recent remarks, made the comment while addressing a street rally in Noakhali's Companiganj upazila.

Citing the name of a national daily, he said, "They have asked me to reveal my wealth statement. Why would I do this? Thousands of people are the sources of my wealth. Thousands of my supporters are across the world. They give me money. Should I unveil this to you [journalists]?"

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DHAKA METRO RAIL

## Rollout likely this year

Says Japanese envoy in New Year message

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japan expects Bangladesh's first metro rail service to be operational in the capital by this year despite setbacks caused by the pandemic.

"I am delighted to share with you that Dhaka MRT Line 6 is expected to start operation within this year," Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh ITO Naoki said in a new year message yesterday.

Japan is funding the Dhaka MRT Line 6, which costs \$2.8 billion. About 60,000 people will be able to commute per hour using the 20.1-km route. It will reduce travel time from Uttara to Motijheel from at least two hours to less than an hour.

Japan also funds other mega projects including the Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit, Third Terminal of Dhaka Airport and Matarbari Deep Sea Port.

MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL), the implementing agency of the project, said the MRT-6 progressed 55.19 percent as of December last year.

The first phase, between Uttara and Agargaon, progressed 78.38 percent while the second phase, between Agargaon and Motijheel, progressed 9.47 percent, he told reporters at his office yesterday.

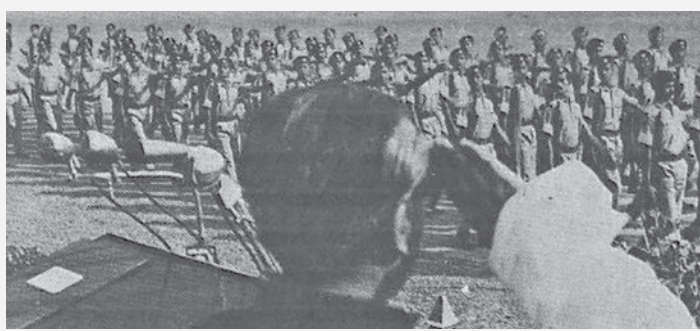
Viaducts in 11.30 km of the 11.73-km first phase have been constructed and the rest would be done by this month, he said.

He added that it would be possible

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BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

## First industrial and investment policy announced



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman inspecting a parade of Bangladesh Rifles at Peelkhana on January 8, 1973.

January 8, 1973

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

TK 25 LAKH PRIVATE INVESTMENT ALLOWED

The first industrial and investment policy of the country is announced by Industries Minister Syed Nazrul Islam today. The policy provides for private investment in medium and small industries with a maximum ceiling of Tk 25 lakh and grants moratorium on nationalisation of such industrial units for 10 years. The government will, however, have the right to nationalise any industrial unit even during the moratorium in the case of underutilisation of the installed capacity due to neglect or mismanagement. The industrial policy makes provision for foreign investment only in collaboration with the government. The foreign investors shall be able to remit all post-tax dividends of foreign capital in Bangladesh.

It has also been stated in the policy that a Cottage Industry Corporation will be set up which shall endeavour to promote

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ONION IMPORT

## Govt slaps 10pc tariff to protect growers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has imposed 10 percent tariff on onion import to protect interests of local growers, read a notification issued by National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday.

The revenue administration slapped 5 percent regulatory duty and re-imposed 5 percent customs duty on import of the essential cooking ingredient.

The move came less than a week after the Ministry of Commerce requested for imposition of import tariff as prices of onions started falling due to import of early varieties of onions from India.

The neighboring country withdrew ban on import by the end of the last month and onion import from India began from early this month, raising concerns among local farmers for ample supply of the perishable during the current harvesting period.

Farmers have been expanding the cultivation

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## Robot dog gains ability to fend off human attackers



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A robot dog has been taught how to defend itself if it is antagonised by a human.

The mechanical animal, called Jueying, was developed at China's Zhejiang University, and through a collaboration with researchers from the University of Edinburgh let the mechanical canine learn what to do when it was assaulted.

Robotics used a deep neural network - an algorithm that is designed to mimic the human brain - to train a computer model of the robot dog. This gave it the ability to trot, or stand up again if it fell over.

If the robot did something beneficial to its task, it was rewarded, and if it did not it was digitally noted as a negative behaviour - essentially a more sophisticated trial-and-error method that researchers use to train robots to learn.

"The AI approach is very different in the sense that it captures experience, which the robot has tried hundreds of thousands of times, or even

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## 3 BR officials suspended over graft

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Railways Ministry has suspended three railways officials - two mid-level and one junior - for their direct involvement in irregularities and corruption while purchasing materials for the Bangladesh Railway (BR).

The ministry took the decision following the recommendations of a probe committee, formed in September last year, after a newspaper report on rampant corruption in purchase in the BR's west zone during 2018-19 fiscal year.

The three officials are AMM Shahnewaz, an officer on special duty (OSD), Belal Hossain Sarker, controller of stores

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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 8

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5:30 12:30 4:00 5:30 7:00  
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:35 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Two pied avocets spotted in the Padma river in Rajshahi. They are striking white waders with bold black markings. This migratory bird mainly eats crustaceans and insects.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ZABER ANSARY

## 'Hard road ahead' to beat Covid

Warns WHO, calls for measures over 'alarming' virus variant

AFP, Geneva

World Health Organization experts warned Wednesday there could be six months of "hard, hard road ahead" in 2021 before vaccines turn the tide against the coronavirus pandemic.

Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO's technical lead on Covid-19, said that in many countries, the situation was very worrying - and would get worse.

"A handful of countries are really seeing incredibly intense transmission," notably in Europe and North America, with "some really scary numbers in terms of cases, hospitalisations and

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যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের সংবাদ সংস্থা রুমেবার্গের এক সূচকে 'কোভিড সহনশীল ব্যাঞ্ছিত'-এ

### শীর্ষ ২০ এ বাংলাদেশ

বৈশ্বিক মহামারি করোনা ভাইরাস মোকাবিলা করে আর্থ-সামাজিক উন্নয়নসহ বসবাস উপযোগী নিরাপদ শীর্ষ ২০ দেশের তালিকায় বাংলাদেশের অবস্থান এবং দক্ষিণ এশিয়ার মধ্যে শীর্ষ স্থান অর্জন করায়

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের  
মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী  
জননেত্রী শেখ হাসিনা

এবং

জনাব জাহিদ মালেক, এম পি  
স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়, সহ সকল স্বাধীনতামন্ত্রী পরিষদ সচিব, মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রীর মুখ্য সচিব ও মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রীর অফিসের সচিবগণ, স্বাস্থ্য মন্ত্রণালয়ের সকল সচিব এবং মন্ত্রণালয়ের কর্মকর্তা-কর্মচারী, চিকিৎসক, নার্স, স্বাস্থ্যকর্মী সকলকে বাংলাদেশ প্রাইভেট মেডিকেল কলেজ এসোসিয়েশনের পক্ষ থেকে শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন।

ডঃ আনোয়ার হোসেন খান, এম এম এ  
সভাপতি

এম এ মুবিন খান  
সম্পাদক

Bangladesh Private Medical College Association (BPMCA)