



The Daily Star

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"We have sent a letter to the Rajuk, asking it not to approve any plan to construct buildings in the 18 expanded wards of the DNCC."
DNCC MAYOR MD ATIQUIL ISLAM

"A tyrant's era came to an end and today is the final day of his ominous reign. ... He did all he could to destroy the JCPOA (Iran nuclear deal) but could not."
IRAN'S PRESIDENT HASSAN ROUHANI ON TRUMP'S DEPARTURE

"After four long years, Europe has a friend in the White House."
EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT URSULA VON DER LEYEN WELCOMES BIDEN'S PRESIDENCY

DEMOCRACY has prevailed

Says Biden, calls for unity, vows to end 'uncivil war' in first speech as president; Kamala Harris makes history as first woman and first black VP

AGENCIES
Joe Biden yesterday became the 46th president of the United States with a call to unity, vowing to bridge deep divides and defeat domestic extremism two weeks after a mob attack tried to undo his election victory.
On a frigid but sunny day at the very Capitol building that was assaulted on January 6, Biden swore the oath of office moments after Kamala Harris, who became America's first woman vice president, turning the page on Donald Trump's tumultuous four years.
"Democracy is precious, democracy is fragile and at this hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed," Biden said before a National Mall that was virtually empty due to the ultra-tight security and a raging Covid-19 pandemic that he vowed to confront immediately.

"We must end this uncivil war that pits red against blue, rural versus urban, conservative versus liberal. We can do this if we open our souls instead of hardening our hearts, if we show a little tolerance and humility and we're willing to stand in the other person's shoes."
"Together we shall write an American story of hope, not fear, of unity, not division, of light, not darkness. A story of decency and dignity, love and healings and goodness."
But Trump, who falsely said that he was cheated out of a second term and egged on his supporters before their rampage at the Capitol, broke 152 years of tradition by refusing to attend his successor's inauguration.
Biden appealed to Trump's supporters, pledging to listen to all sides after four years of deep polarization in which Trump



Joe Biden is sworn in as the 46th President of the United States as his spouse Jill Biden holds a bible on the West Front of the US Capitol in Washington, US, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

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WORLD LEADERS' REACTION TO BIDEN'S PRESIDENCY
BIDEN'S CABINET NOMINEES LAY OUT US FOREIGN POLICY
SENATE LEADERS DISCUSS POWER-SHARING DEAL

PRIORITY LIST FOR VACCINE Include those aged 50 and above: experts

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN
Experts have stressed the need for including all aged 50 and above in the priority list for the first phase of Covid-19 vaccination to maximise the effectiveness of the inoculation campaign.
Besides, they have suggested a longer gap between the administration of the first and second shots, arguing that it will make the vaccine more efficient.
The government is set to roll out its coronavirus vaccination programme in the first week of next month. It has purchased 3 crore shots of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, branded Covishield, from Serum Institute of India, and plans to vaccinate 1.5 crore people in the first phase.
The first consignment of 50 lakh doses is expected to arrive next week, and online registration for the campaign starts on January 26.
Ahead of the inoculation campaign, the government has prepared a priority

GIFT FROM INDIA 20 lakh vaccine doses arrive today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
India's gift of 20 lakh doses of Covishield is likely to arrive in Bangladesh today.
Besides, the first shipment of the doses bought by Bangladesh is scheduled to arrive on January 25, Health Secretary Abdul Mannan told a press conference at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.
Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd Managing Director Nazmul Hassan Papon told The Daily Star that details of the flight schedule will be known by today.
Bangladesh purchased three crore doses of Covishield, the coronavirus vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and drugmaker AstraZeneca and manufactured by Serum Institute of India.
The procurement was done through a tripartite agreement signed between the government, Serum and its local partner Beximco Pharmaceuticals on November 5 last year.
The first shipment will contain 50 lakh doses.
Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said several other countries, including Russia and China, were interested in sending vaccines to Bangladesh and some private companies were willing to import them.
There will be plenty of vaccine doses in the coming days, he added.
Health Secretary Abdul Mannan said the 20-lakh dose gift would reach the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 1:30pm today.
Health Minister Zahid Maleque, Indian High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami, and other government officials will be at the airport at the time.

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LABOUR MARKET Govt now looking for alternatives PM tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Mentioning that the employment situation in different countries, especially in the oil-dependent Middle Eastern states, might not remain the same as before due to the pandemic, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government was working to explore alternative labour markets and send workers there.
"New labour markets are being explored through

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Project director hardly at the site Payra port along with many of 66 other projects in Barisal limping

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON
In 2019, the government took up a project to construct the first terminal of the Payra Sea Port and its related infrastructure.
The project was supposed to be completed by December 2021, but it has progressed only 8.17 percent till date.
The Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) has found that the project directors spent most of their time in Dhaka instead of project areas.
"They seldom visit the site for inspection," said an IMED report.
Other than the Payra Sea Port, implementation of 66 other annual development projects has stumbled.
The IMED has found several irregularities in the implementation of 67 projects undertaken in Barisal division.
Planning Minister MA Mannan will hold an evaluation meeting with project directors today on the progress of implementation of the 67 projects.
A total of Tk 7,103 crore was allocated for the projects, according to the IMED report.
Of the projects, the progress of implementation of 29 is above 51 percent while the progress of 19 others ranged between 26 percent and 50 percent.

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BCL men to get top priority for univ jobs

ARAFAT RAHAMAN, RU
Rajshahi University Vice-Chancellor Prof M Abdus Sobhan has "assured" Chhatra League men that they would get the "highest priorities" in getting jobs at the university.
Prof Sobhan, while talking to a group of BCL leaders who kept him confined to his residence on the university campus demanding jobs at the university, also said BCL men would "not miss" jobs at the university.
The Daily Star obtained an audio clip of the conversation in which he was assuring the protesting BCL men in the early hours of January 12.
The BCL men confined

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Tigers return in style



SPORTS REPORTER
Bangladesh were hardly tested upon their return to international cricket after more than 10 months as Tamim Iqbal's side registered a comfortable six-wicket win against an inexperienced West Indies side in the first of three ODIs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.
There was double delight for Bangladesh fans as the match also marked the return to international cricket of Shakib Al Hasan following a one-year ICC-imposed ban, and Bangladesh's most consistent performer, as has come to be expected,

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SIGHT FOR SORE EYES... Bangladesh's star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan celebrates one of his four wickets during the first ODI against the West Indies at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. It was Bangladesh's first international match in more than 10 months, and Shakib too was returning in Bangladeshi colours after serving out a one-year ban imposed by the ICC.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

MISBEHAVIOUR WITH MAGISTRATE Kushtia SP tarnished image of judiciary

HC says he committed contempt of court, asks him to appear before it Jan 25 for explanation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The High Court yesterday observed that the superintendent of police in Kushtia committed serious contempt of court and made a severe attack on the administration of justice.
SM Tanvir Arafath's behaviour with Judicial Magistrate Mohsin Hasan has also tarnished the image of the judiciary as a whole, the court said.
The observations came amid allegations that the SP misbehaved with the judicial magistrate in Bheramara, Kushtia, during the municipality election on January 16.
"The action of the superintendent of police, Kushtia, namely, SM Tanvir Arafath cannot be taken lightly as he has not only committed serious contempt of court, but has also tarnished the image of the judiciary as a whole with his contemptuous remarks, behaviour and attitude," the HC said.
The HC bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khizir Hayat also issued a summons order on a suo moto (voluntary) move after a report on the incident was published on amadershomoy.com, according to Deputy Attorney General Taherul Islam.
SP Arafath was asked to appear before the court on January 25 and explain why policemen misbehaved with the judicial magistrate.
The order said, "The behaviour and the attitude of the said superintendent of police to an officer of the

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