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A view of a cluster of houses in Rugganj's Murapara area, built under the Ashrayan-2 project. The government is building such houses for landless and homeless families to mark Mujib Borsho. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the virtual handover ceremony today. The photo was taken on Thursday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Offering a new life to homeless

Govt to provide houses to 2.93 lakh families in phases on the occasion of Mujib Borsho

JAMIL MAHMUD

Asia Begum's beaming face reflected her cherished dream of living in her own house, which may become a reality as the government pledged to provide land and houses to homeless and landless people to mark Mujib Borsho.

Asia's husband died years ago and the octogenarian woman of Narayanganj's Rugganj has since had to struggle to find shelter.

She lived in her daughter's house and her son, a cattle trader, has his own family. "Now, they [will] give me a home," she



Asia Begum

said.

She added that she wants her son, daughter-in-law and grandson to live with her.

"How can I live alone [at this age], and without them?"

For Nitai Chandra Das, 55, and his wife Bina Rani, a piece of land and a house of their own signifies self-esteem.

"Having my own house is like having a magic wand," said Nitai, a rickshaw-puller who lived in a rented house in Rugganj for more than two decades.

Both Asia and Nitai's families are hoping to get houses as part of the government's

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Dominant Tigers seal series



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's return to international cricket after over 10 months was a smooth one as Tamim Iqbal started his long-term ODI captaincy with a series win.

The Tigers registered a
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PHOTO ON PAGE 12

PREPARATIONS FOR VACCINE ROLLOUT Race against time

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

The government is yet to finalise the list of healthcare professionals and volunteers to be part of the Covid-19 mass inoculation campaign, whose piloting is likely to begin later this week.

Government officials said the piloting will take place at several public hospitals and the authorities there have also not finished preparing the lists of volunteers for it.

Bangladesh on Thursday received 20 lakh doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine as gift from the India government. Besides, it has

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Get ready to reopen

Education directorate asks all secondary schools, colleges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education yesterday asked all secondary schools and colleges to complete preparations for reopening.

In a notice, the DSHE instructed the

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WE DEEPLY MOURN

Mahbub Alam Mridul (1997-2021)

Director, Walton Group

Mahbub Alam Mridul, Honorable Director of Walton Group and a young Entrepreneur, has breathed his last on Thursday, 21 January, 2021, following a cardiac arrest. Innalillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajiun. His father S M Shamsul Alam is the Vice Chairman of Walton Hi-Tech Industries Limited. Walton Family deeply mourns his sudden demise and seeks salvation of the departed soul.

Walton Family

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