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"They confirmed that everyone is fine. No one even noticed the earthquake as it was late at night and everyone was already sleeping."
BCB CEO NIZAMUDDIN CHOWDHURY ABOUT THE BANGLADESH CRICKET TEAM IN NEW ZEALAND FOLLOWING AN 8.1 MAGNITUDE QUAKE OFF THE COUNTRY'S COAST.



"It is the height of national shame for the armed forces of any country to turn its arms against its own people."
SINGAPORE'S FOREIGN MINISTER VIVIAN BALAKRISHNAN ON MYANMAR VIOLENCE



"We will remain highly vigilant against and resolutely deter any separatist activity seeking Taiwan independence."
CHINESE PREMIER LI KEQIANG

FIRST MONTH'S MASS INOCULATION PLAN

51pc of target achieved so far

Race against time to fulfil the target of giving first jab to 70 lakh people

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

The government is racing against time to achieve the lofty target of inoculating 70 lakh people in the first month of its Covid vaccination campaign.

As of Thursday, 35.81 lakh people got their first jab of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine. This means the government has so far achieved 51.15 percent of the target for the first month ending this week.

The low point of the inoculation campaign was lower participation of women compared to men. Of the vaccine recipients, 12,87,100 are women -- a little more than half the number of the men who got inoculated.

When it comes to registration for vaccination, a total of 47,70,953 people have signed up on surokha.gov.bd -- 65 percent of the government target for the first month.

In the global context, Bangladesh has fared well in terms of vaccination and management. It now holds the 18th position with 3.58 million people



Vaccination started	FEBRUARY 7
Vaccinated till March 4	35,81,169 PEOPLE (Male 22,94,069 Female -12,87,100)
Target in first month	70 LAKH PEOPLE

inoculated till Thursday.

The US tops the chart with 82.57 million people inoculated. The UK secured the second position (21.95 million) and India the third position (18.01 million).

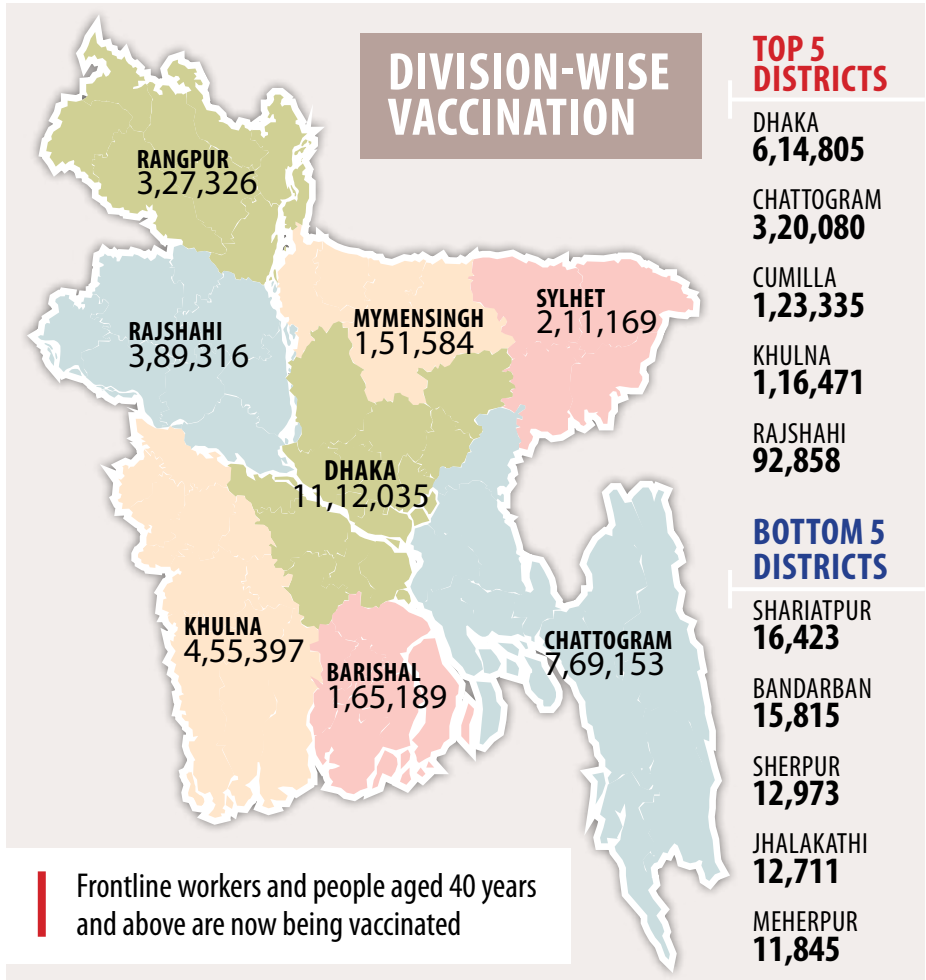
On the list of the number of vaccine doses administered per 100 people in a country, Bangladesh secured the 22th

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People live in an unsafe three-storey building along the Buriganga in the capital's Lalbagh area. Many buildings in the area were knocked down partially during eviction drives by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority in the last few months. But those are still occupied by residents. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



MUSHTAQ'S DEATH

Ensure justice, scrap DSA

7 victims of controversial laws urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven victims of the Digital Security Act and ICT Act yesterday demanded a judicial probe into the alleged brutal torture on writer Mushtaq Ahmed and cartoonist Ahmed Kabir Kishore in custody and trial of law enforcers accused of torture.

Terming the DSA a "death trap", the seven, including a teacher, journalists and activists, in a statement also demanded scrapping of the controversial law and amendment to the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act by incorporating in it human rights-centric principles.

Mushtaq died in prison custody on February 25.

The statement said, "We are deeply concerned following the recent death of writer Mushtaq Ahmed in prison and are anxious about all those jailed under the law. At the same time, we learned through

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PK HALDER'S FINANCIAL SCAM

ACC to file 10 more cases

Investigators trace whereabouts of Tk 1,150cr out of Tk 2,500cr of ILFSL

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Investigators have so far been able to trace the whereabouts of Tk 1,150 crore out of about Tk 2,500 crore misappropriated allegedly by PK Halder and his accomplices from International Leasing and Financial Services Limited (ILFSL).

In January, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed five cases against Halder and 32 others for laundering about Tk 350 crore of ILFSL.

In a recent development, the investigators have found involvement of Halder, a former managing director of now-defunct NRB Global Bank, and 39 others in laundering another Tk 800 crore taken as loan from the non-bank financial institution (NBF).

This finding has already been submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission, an ACC official, familiar with the development, told The Daily Star.

Once the commission gives approval, 10 cases will be filed against the suspects, who include a former chairman, members of board of directors, managing director, and deputy managing directors of ILFSL, said the

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HC: Juvenile offenders can be jailed for max 10 years

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

A special High Court bench has observed that confessional statement of an accused child has no legal evidentiary value and such confessions cannot form the basis of finding him guilty.

The three-member bench has also ruled that the maximum term of imprisonment against a juvenile offender cannot be more than 10 years.

"Recording confession under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) is a part of adversarial trial system and a formal part of the procedures of the mainstream courts/tribunals. Its use against a juvenile offender is, therefore, contrary to the

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ATTACK ON US ENVOY'S CONVOY

Charge sheet names 9 AL, BCL men, excludes 'prime suspect'

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detectives did not include a prime culprit in the charge sheet submitted to a Dhaka court in January in a case filed over the attack on former US ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Bernicat's convoy, the complainant alleged yesterday.

On January 20, after around two and a half years' investigation, Investigation Officer Md Abdur Rouf, inspector of Detective Branch (DB) of police, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka against nine local leaders and activists of Awami League and Chhatra League.

They are Firoz Mahmud, Naimul Hasan Rasel, Mir Amzad Hossain Akash, Sazu Islam, Razibul Islam Razu, Shahidul Alam Khan Kajol, Mozahid Azmi Tanna, Siam and Oli Ahmed Jony.

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The Korotoa river in Bogura town is in a very bad state due to unabated pollution and grabbing of land. Sewage and liquid waste from households and factories is discharged into the water body, causing the pollution. The photo was taken in the town's Chalopara bridge area recently.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

TAQI MURDER IN NARAYANGANJ

Eight yrs' probe yields nothing

Family still waits for charge sheet

SANAD SAHA and SHARIFUL ISLAM

Rownak Rehana routinely dusts the trophies her son had won in different competitions and the books he used to read.

Tanwir Muhammad Taqi will never return. But she has to go through the keepsakes at a showcase in Taqi's room to feel his presence.

"She touches the mementos almost every day," Rownak's husband and Taqi's father Rafiqur Rabbi told The Daily Star.

Eight years after Taqi's murder, the pain of the grieving parents is as palpable as their agonising wait for justice is. The investigation into the killing stalled for reasons unbeknownst to people.

Days before March 6, 2014, the first death anniversary of Taqi, a draft of the investigation report got leaked and Col Ziaul Ahsan, then additional director general of Rab, told reporters that officers found evidence suggesting that Ajmeri Osman and 10 of his associates were involved in the murder.

Col Ziaul said the charges would be pressed any day. That day has yet to come.

Seventeen-year-old Taqi went missing soon after he left home on Shaista Khan Road for Sudhijon Pathagar, a local library, around 4:00pm on March 6, 2013.

His A-level results were out the next day and he had the highest score in the world in physics obtaining 297 out of 300 marks.

In chemistry, he got 294, the highest in the country. He was a student of ABC International School.

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