# First jab of Covid

Mohammad Khurshid Alam told The Daily Star vesterday.

The DGHS will receive one lakh doses of the Pfizer vaccine from the COVAX facility by May, he said.

Besides, China has offered five lakh doses of its Sinopharm vaccine which has already been approved Bangladesh's drug administration. Officials hope that these doses will arrive by May.

Delhi on Saturday told Dhaka that the supply of the oxford vaccine will be delayed due to a shortage of raw materials and massive demand in

Bangladesh foreign ministry wrote to the Indian high commission last week, seeking information about the

director of Beximco pharma, said, "We hope that we will get some vaccine. But I can't tell for sure.'

City

inoculation programme will suffer for a while unless a miracle happens.

"The government must manage the Oxford vaccine for those who took its first jab. And at the same time, they should find out other sources,' said Savedur Rahman, chairman of pharmacology at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

He added that China's Sinopharm and Russia's Sputnik V are good

Besides, a Bangladeshi drug maker has informed the government The Indian government had sent an supply of the vaccine as per a contract. that it can produce the Moderna additional 33 lakh doses as gift.

Nazmul Hassan Papon, managing and Jonson & Jonson vaccines and it had communicated both the companies.

"We asked the local company Health experts predict that the to submit the relevant documents mentioning the cost," Prof Khurshid told The Daily Star.

> The DGHS is trying to ensure the Sinopharm and Sputnik V arrive soon,

The government on December 13 last year signed a deal with Serum Institute of India on purchasing 3 crore doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine. As per the deal, Bangladesh was supposed to get 50 lakh doses a

As of yesterday, only 70 lakh doses have been shipped to Bangladesh.

## Govt paid no heed as stock plunged

price of rice, the government may start Open Market Sale (OMS) at reduced

Every year Bangladesh faces various kinds of natural disasters like floods, flash floods, cyclones, heavy rainfall or tornadoes, each of which carries the threat of damage to crops. If flash floods washes away paddy in the haor in one season, cyclones like Amphan ruins crops in another. This year, it was lack of rainfall and an unprecedented heat wave that damaged paddy.

Experts say the government should have a food grains stock of 24 to 25 lakh tonnes to tackle situations like

They say the minimum should be a stock of above 15 lakh tonnes and the price of rice would start rising in the market if the public stock fell down to lower than 12.5 lakh tonnes.

That is exactly what happened this

In the beginning of the current fiscal year, the public food grain stock was less than 12 lakh tonnes. And now the public stock of rice has come down to three lakh tonnes. Along with the stock of wheat, the total food grain stock is around 4.5 lakh tonnes.

As the government stock has reduced, the hoarders started to control the market, inflating the price of rice. The price of coarse rice has increased by Tk 13 to Tk 14 per kg in the last year and the price of rice has reached around Tk 45 per kg.

But the truth is there was no shortage of food till the last Boro season -- Bangladesh's total demand of food grains was 3.58 crore tonnes to import the rest because, with the

confirmed the retrieval of fragments

from the submarine and declared that

it had sunk, effectively ending any

Among the earlier items recovered

They also found a prayer mat

Warships, planes and hundreds of

world's most populous Muslim-

military personnel had led a frantic

search for the submarine since it

disappeared this week during training

exercises, hoping for a miracle rescue

before its known oxygen reserves ran out.

head Hadi Tjahjanto said there was

no chance of finding any of the crew

But yesterday, Indonesian military

"With deep sadness, I can say

that all 53 personnel onboard have

Relatives of First Lieutenant

Muhammad Imam Adi, a 29-year-old

father of a young son, clung to hope

"My wish now is that my son and

passed," he told reporters.

earlier yesterday.

GD-822

'FOLDING ACCORDION'

and a bottle of grease used to lubricate patriots".

were a piece of the torpedo system

chance of finding survivors.

periscopes.

majority nation.

All 53 crew killed

tonnes, according to various studies. Bangladesh became the third

largest rice producers, overtaking Indonesia. So, the country was selfsufficient last season.

During the last Aman season, a portion of paddy was damaged due to Cyclone Amphan. The government should have taken desperate measures to purchase rice and paddy and increase its stocks, and they set a target to purchase 8.5 lakh tonnes of Aman rice and paddy.

But the government's initiative failed because, like the last boro season, it fixed the purchase price of paddy and rice lower than their production costs.

The government fixed the purchase price of paddy at Tk 26 a kg and rice at Tk 36 a kg, one taka less than the production cost. Farmers and millers were getting better price in the market and so the government could only procure 83,000 tonnes of rice in the last Aman season.

Later, this January, the food ministry took the initiative to import 20 lakh tonnes of rice. The government signed government-to-government deals to import of rice from India, Russia, Ukraine, and Vietnam. It also gave import approvals to private

But the process was delayed due to what they said was "international volatile situation". It took four months for the government to import 2.62 lakh tonnes of rice while private importers brought around 6.5 lakh

Although many importers got approval, they are now not willing and its production was 3.6 crore domestic Boro harvest having already

Edy Sujianto said from his home on

soldier since he was a child. That was

sadness over this incident, especially

Authorities have not given an

explanation for the accident, but said

that the submarine may have suffered

a blackout that left its crew unable to

however, saying Saturday that the

evidence suggested the submarine

came apart as it was crushed by

massive water pressure in the vast

but when they're breached then water

would come flooding inside," said

Wisnu Wardhana, a maritime expert

at Indonesia's Sepuluh Nopember

"Can you imagine if water with that

Retired French vice-admiral Jean-

Institute of Technology.

kind of pressure hits people?"

"Submarine hulls are pressurised...

They discounted an explosion,

his dream."

crew," he said.

resurface.

all the crew can be found," Adi's father Louis Vichot earlier told AFP that a accident.

commonly used in Indonesia, the to the families of the submarine

"My son had wanted to become a

the sailors as Indonesia's "best said

begun, they will not profit if they import rice at a 25 percent duty.

The food ministry had realised much earlier that they would fail to increase food grain stocks because, for the last few months, they were giving out cash instead of food grains under the popular Food for Work programme.

And now that rice hoarders and traders know that the government does not have the stocks to intervene in the rice market, they have increased the price. The food ministry should have realised that it would come to this juncture much earlier, but they could not tackle the situation.

This price hike has put an extra burden on people who do not have a stable income and are struggling to pay house rent or meet treatment costs amid a worsening pandemic.

The glimmer of hope now lies with the Boro harvest that has already

Also, the government has primarily decided to purchase 10 lakh tonnes of parboiled rice, 1.5 lakh tonnes of sunburnt rice and 6.5 lakh tonnes of

This time it may work as the government shows interest to pay more than the production cost. The purchase of paddy is likely to start from April 28 and rice from May 7.

But agro economists who are following the situation suggests purchasing more paddy from farmers it will help the government secure its stock and the marginal farmers will get a good price.

It is a better strategy than importing rice at the last moment. Certainly, it is better to pay our local farmers than farmers from other countries.

submarine's hull could collapse "like

a folding accordion" if it hits depths

Any salvage operation would be

"We'll discuss it to make a decision

"I want to lift it, but how do we

Neighbouring Malaysia, as well as

vessels, reconnaissance

the United States, India and Australia,

were among the nations helping in

aircraft and submarine rescue ships

had been deployed to scour a zone

of about 10 square nautical miles (34

Indonesia's fleet -- disappeared early

Wednesday while it was scheduled to

do live torpedo training exercises off

The crew asked for permission to dive. It lost contact shortly after.

Later, search teams spotted an oil

spill where the vessel was thought to

have submerged, pointing to possible

fuel-tank damage, and a catastrophic

The submarine -- one of five in

way beyond its limits.

President Joko Widodo described risky and difficult, navy chief Margono

"All Indonesians convey their deep on how to lift the submarine in this

the hunt.

Search

square kilometres).

SALVAGE OPERATION

condition," he said yesterday.

bring it up from (these depths)?"

### Another Bangalee

killing our own people". With his 20'year'old wife at his side, AH Mahmoud Ali read a statement at a news conference pledging allegiance to the Bangladesh government. He announced that he and his wife were asking the United States for political asylum. An official of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service said that the request would be considered.

Mahmoud Ali was the first member of the Pakistani foreign service in the United States to come out in support of the Bangladesh independence movement.

Mahmoud Ali said at the news conference held at the Church World Center, 777 United Nations Plaza, that the Pakistan government ordered him to return home last week. He added that the likely reason was that he could not hide his sympathy for his fellow Bangalees. He said Bangalees at the consulate and others serving abroad had been kept from doing their usual work, prohibited from handling government business and were also spied upon when they visited other Bangalees.

Mahmoud Ali estimated that there were 200 Pakistani officials serving abroad and that 25 percent of them were Bangalees.

**UN SHOULD SEND OBSERVERS** TO BANGLADESH: MANN

Labour member of British Parliament Bruce Douglas Mann demanded that the UN immediately send an observer team to Bangladesh with full military protection. And if the Pakistan government refused to allow entry of any such team the UN should send an expeditionary force, as such procedures had international precedence.

Mann, who had been to Bangladesh and met Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad and General Osmany, told a news conference at Calcutta today that he would make attempts in London to organise an international brigade for fighting in Bangladesh along with the freedom fighters there. He would also urge his organisation in London to send arms to Bangladesh freedom fighters. NEW ZEALAND MP CALLS FOR ARMS EMBARGO

"All the nations should place an embargo on military hardware being carried to Pakistan. Any nation selling arms to that country will perpetuate a crime against humanity.

This was what TJ Young, a member of New Zealand Parliament told newsmen in Calcutta today. He wanted an international team of observers to visit Bangladesh immediately. "I shall ask my government to use its influence at international level in this regard," T J Young promised.

### INDIA RESTRICTS TRAVEL BY PAKISTANI AIDES

The Indian government imposed restrictions today on the travel of Pakistani diplomats and their families and servants, making it impossible for them to leave India without New Delhi's permission.

The Indian Government said it was doing this in retaliation for similar restrictions that Pakistan had allegedly imposed -- but not announced -- recently on the travel of Indian diplomats in Pakistan.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

# Muslim votes key

each in South Dinajpur and Malda, 11 in Murshidabad, nine in West Burdwan and four in Kolkata.

During the campaign, TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee sought support from the Muslim community and urged them to avoid any split in

The BJP, during its electioneering, blasted both the TMC and the Muslims, in its efforts to unite Hindu

Among the 36 seats in the last assembly polls in 2016, TMC got 14 seats and had secured 37 percent votes while the left-Congress combined won in 22 seats and had got 44 percent votes. BJP failed to win a single one.

But the picture was different in Lok Sabha elections (national polls) in 2019 when BJP got 37 percent votes, which was very close to TMC's 39 percent. If the 2019 Lok Sabha election is something to go by, BJP is leading in 16 assembly seats, TMC in 16 seats and Congress in the rest of the four seats.

In this phase of the polling, all eyes will be on the Bhabanipur assembly seat, which is the home turf of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

But Banerjee is contesting from Nandigram this time around and nominated one of her senior most party leaders and her cabinet member Sovandeb Chattopadhyay to contest from Bhabanipur.

The BJP has fielded actor-turnedpolitician Rudranil Ghosh, who left the TMC a few months ago to join the BJP, from this seat.

WB Chief Minister achieved a massive victory from Bhabanipur in the 2011 by-elections. Then in the 2016 assembly elections, she repeated her triumph.

But this time, Mamata contests

# against her once-trusted aide Suvendu

Adhikari of the BJP. Bhabanipur seat was earlier represented by Siddhartha Shankar Ray in 1957 and 1962. Later, he became the chief minister of West

Bengal in 1972. Kolkata Port seat is the stronghold of the TMC where Urban development minister and former Kolkata mayor Firhad Hakim, also a close aide to National Congress for patronising Mamata, is contesting. He won the

constituency twice since 2011. At Ballygunge, veteran minister and senior TMC leader Subrata Mukherjee is contesting against CPIM's Fuad Halim, a popular doctor, and the BJP's Loknath Chatterjee while at Rashbehari assembly seat, TMC has fielded Debasish Kumar, a Kolkata civic body leader, against the BJP's highprofile candidate, retired Lt Gen Subrata Saha, who served as deputy

Following the surge in coronavirus across India, Election Commission has banned roadshows and vehicle rallies in the state and noted that the Covid safety norms were being flouted in West Bengal during campaigning.

chief of the Indian army.

It also restricted any public meeting with more than 500 people.

Top leaders of TMC, BJP, Congress and CPIM decided not to hold big rallies and public meetings and conducted electioneering through electronic devises.

In this phase, a total of 86,78,221 voters will determine the fate of 284 candidates while 653 companies of central forces will guard 12,068 polling stations to ensure free and fair voting.

The 8th and last phase of the assembly election will be held on April 29 and votes will be counted on May 2, according to the polls schedule.

## India shaken

let its guard down earlier this year, allowed big religious and political gatherings to take place when India's cases fell to below 10,000 a day and did not plan for boosted healthcare systems.

Hospitals and doctors have put out urgent notices saying they are unable to cope with the rush of patients. Outside a Sikh temple in Ghaziabad

city on the outskirts of Delhi, the street resembled an emergency ward of a hospital, but crammed with cars carrying Covid-19 patients gasping for breath as they were hooked up to hand held oxygen tanks. Elsewhere, people were arranging

stretchers and oxygen cylinders outside hospitals as they desperately pleaded for authorities to take

"Every day, it the same situation, we are left with two hours of oxygen, we only get assurances from the authorities," one doctor said on television.

### Migrants

"The ban 'begins at 6:00pm on Saturday [April 24, 2021] and continues till further notice," News reported on Thursday, citing Oman News Agency. In a video message, Tipu Sultan also

said that they were unable to continue visa procedure since different foreign mission offices, including the Saudi Arabian embassy in Dhaka, remained closed amid "strict lockdown".

Moreover, other government and private offices related to the labour migration sector remained closed which hindered taking full advantage of the government decision to run special international flights, he added.

He urged the government to keep the labour migration sector out of its Covid-19 restriction measures.

He also said the price of plane patients in, Reuters photographers tickets on different international routes has gone "out of control" at present, adding the authorities should look into the matter seriously.

> "We expect a 'labour fare'. Hopefully, the government will take initiative in this regard," he said.

## বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান অ্যাভিয়েশন অ্যান্ড অ্যারোস্পেস বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

পুরাতন বিমানবন্দর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস, ঢাকা-১২১৫।

### INVITATION FOR TENDERS

No: BSMRAAU/Registrar/163/2021/Part File-20/OTM-20/03

Date: 26 April 2021

Ministry / Division		Ministry of Education		
Procuring entity name		Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation and Aerospace		
		University (BSMRAAU)		
Procuring Entity District		Dhaka, Bangladesh		
Tender Invitation For		Procurement of Accident Investigation Lab Items for		
		BSMRAAU, Dhaka Campus.		
Invitation Reference No		BSMRAAU Open Tender No: OTM-20/2020-2021		
Date		26 April 2021		
KEY INFORM	MATION			
Procurement Method		Open Tender Method (National)		
<b>FUNDING IN</b>	FORMATION			
Budget and Source of Funds		Government of Bangladesh		
<b>PARTICULA</b>	R INFORMATION			
Tender Last Selling Date & Time		06 May 2021; 16:00 PM		
Tender Submission Date and Time		09 May 2021; 02:30 PM		
Tender Opening Date and Time		09 May 2021; 03:00 PM		
Name & add	ress of the office selling, rec	eiving and opening tender document:		
Registrar offi	ce, BSMRAAU, Old Airport Bui	lding, Dhaka-1215		
INFORMATION	ON FOR TENDERER			
Eligibility of	1. The Tenderer must possess a valid trade license, updated VAT and TAX certificate, up-to-			
Tenderer	date bank solvency and other documents as per tender document.			
	2. A pre bid meeting shall be	e held on 11:30 AM, April 2021 or later, tenderers are advised		

to use Covid-19 protective measures. Lot No. Item Description Quantity Location **Tender Security** Completion Time Camera Drone Tk. 38,000.00 (Taka System with 01 **BSMRAAU** Thirty Eight Simulator and campus, Thousand only) accessories 21 Days after Lalmonirhat Tk. 18,000.00 (Taka As per awarding Airport at Video and Purchase tender 02 **Eighteen Thousand** Lalmonirhat **Photography Devices** schedule Order/signing only) Sadar, of Contract Lalmonirhat-Tk. 35,000.00 (Taka Miscellaneous Lab 5500 Bangladesh 03 Thirty Five Thousand only)

**Tender Document Price** Tk 700.00 (Taka Seven Hundred Only) in the form of pay order / bank draft (nonrefundable) from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation and Aerospace University' (BSMRAAU). PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

Name Designation of Official Involving Registrar, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation and Aerospace University Address Of Official Inviting Tender Registrar Office, BSMRAAU, Dhaka Campus, Old Airport Building, Tejgaon, Dhala-Tel No: 55065059 Contact Details Web: www.bsmraau.edu.bd Official Inviting Tender Mobile: 01769995061 Email: procurement@bsmraau.edu.bd

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

Procurement Section **BSMRAAU** 

শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ জলবায়ু সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director Preparation of Master Plan and Feasibility Study for Establishment of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park at Moulvibazar Borsijora Eco Park, Moulvibazar, Sylhet Date: 22 April 2021 Memo No. 22.01.0000.135.29.601

### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for

the production of goods as stated below.					
SI. No.	Tender ID, Package No., Name of Packages	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time		
1	Tender ID: 571748, (Package # SylWLMNCFD/Feasibility study/2020-21/GD-02), Supply of Laptop, Desktop and Printer	11-May- 2021, 05:00pm	12-May- 2021, 12:00pm		
2	Tender ID: 572393, (Package # SylWLMNCFD/Feasibility study/2020-21/GD-03), Supply of GPS with battery, bag and air cooler.	11-May- 2021, 05:00pm	12-May- 2021, 12:30pm		
Th	This is an antine tender where only a Tandar will be accepted in the				

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</a>) is required. Further information and guidelines ole in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Md. Rezaul Karim Chowdhury

Divisional Forest Officer Wildlife Management & Nature Conservation Svlhet-HQ Moulvibazar

Project Director
Master Plan and Feasibility Study for Establishment of
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park at Moulvibazar

### SC upholds Erfan

SC order reaches the jail authorities.

the ground that the charge brought against him is bailable and he has been suffering in jail for around six months.

During yesterday's hearing, Additional Attorney General Sk Md Morshed opposed the HC bail for Erfan, saying that he has committed a heinous offence by attacking and injuring Lt Wasif Ahmed Khan, an official of Bangladesh Navy.

The trial proceedings of the case against Erfan is underway and therefore, he may not be granted bail at this Erfan's principal counsel Abdul Baset Majumder told

the apex court that his client has been languishing in jail for around six months. Erfan's mother died in November last year and his father is infected with Covid-19 and therefore, the Appellate

Division's stay order on his HC bail needs to be vacated for his release from jail, the lawyer said. Following a bail petition filed by Erfan, the HC on

The SC chamber judge also asked the state to move a regular leave to appeal petition before its full bench in four

Dhanmondi Police Station against Erfan, 37, and three others AB Siddique Dipu, 45, Md Zahid 35, and Md Mizanur Rahman, 30, for attacking him.

On October 25, the navy officer filed the case with

FROM PAGE 12

He said Erfan would be freed from jail after the copy of the The Appellate Division upheld the HC bail for Erfan on

The lawyer said other accused of the case are now in prison.

March 18 granted him permanent bail in the case.

Later, the state filed a petition with the SC seeking stay on the HC verdict that granted bail to Erfan in the case and after hearing the stay petition, the apex court chamber judge on March 28 stayed for four weeks the HC verdict.

weeks against the HC verdict.

A Rab team conducted a drive at Erfan's house in Old Dhaka and arrested him the same day.