



A man tries to lift a woman that fainted after seeing the body of a relative who died from the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), at a crematorium in New Delhi, India yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Indian states run out of Covid jabs

FROM PAGE 12
crisis, with hospitals and morgues overwhelmed by the pandemic, medicines and oxygen in short supply and strict curbs on movement in the biggest cities.

Despite being the world's biggest producer of vaccines, India does not have enough stockpiles to keep up with the second deadly wave of infections, which deals a blow to its plans to vaccinate all adults, starting from today.

Only about 9% of a population of 1.4 billion have received a vaccine dose since January.

The original vaccination plan was to cover just 300 million of the highest-risk people by August, but India widened the target as infections flared.

However, its two vaccine producers were already struggling to increase capacity beyond 80 million doses a month, hit by a shortage of raw materials and a fire at the Serum Institute, the maker of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Inoculation centres in the financial capital of Mumbai will remain shut for three days from yesterday because of the vaccine shortage, authorities said.

Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind

Kejriwal urged citizens not to show up at vaccination centres, as doses had not yet arrived.

In Karnataka, home to the tech hub of Bengaluru, the southern state's health minister said its vaccination drive for adults would not begin today.

"The state government has not received any information from companies about when they will be able to supply these vaccines," said the minister, K Sudhakar.

In a first such move in the country, the southern state of Telangana will conduct experimental delivery of Covid-19 vaccine using drone.

India's Ministry of Civil Aviation and Directorate General of Civil Aviation have granted conditional exemption for drone deployment to the government of Telangana, an official statement said yesterday.

India's armed forces were granted emergency financial powers to augment their efforts in the battle against Covid-19, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said yesterday.

These new powers will help them operate facilities, procure equipment and resources, and perform any required urgent tasks, reports NDTV.

The West Bengal government yesterday announced a partial

shutdown in the state. While shopping complexes, beauty parlours, cinema halls, sports facilities and spas will remain shut, markets will be allowed to function for only five hours every day.

WORLD SENDS AID
World aid has started arriving to help India combat what has been described as a humanitarian disaster.

The first US flight carrying oxygen cylinders, regulators, rapid diagnostic kits, N95 masks and pulse oximeters arrived yesterday, in the capital, New Delhi.

Shipments from other countries poured in, with a third one from Britain arrived yesterday, while Ireland and Romania also sent supplies on Thursday.

India's severe medical oxygen supply crisis is expected to ease by mid-May, a top industry executive told Reuters, with output rising by 25% and transport arrangements ready to meet a surge in demand.

Brazil on Thursday became the second country to pass 400,000 deaths after the United States, and experts warned the daily toll could remain high for several months due to slow vaccinations and loosening social restrictions.

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 12
Khaleda tested Covid-19 positive on April 11 and in the follow-up test on April 24, she tested positive again.

Amid the coronavirus outbreak, the government on March 25 last year freed Khaleda from jail for six months through an executive order suspending her jail sentences in two graft cases.

She was released from the prison cell at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University the same day. Since then, she has been staying at her Gulshan residence.

On August 27 last year, the government extended Khaleda's release period for six months. It was extended for another six months on March 15 this year.

On February 8, 2018, the BNP chief was sent to the Old Dhaka Central Jail after a court sentenced her to five years' imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case. The High Court later doubled her sentence.

Khaleda was found guilty in another graft case the same year. Her party, however, claims both the cases are politically motivated.

With 'lollipops'

FROM PAGE 12
in several EU countries could spread more widely among young people and children.

This could contribute to another surge in cases and threaten progress with vaccination campaigns.

To "keep track of the infections" and to offer a "sensible alternative to other testing options," Austria's Burgenland province has already ordered 35,000 lollipop tests, a spokesperson for the regional government told AFP.

This follows the success of a pilot project with children in some kindergarten and day-care centres.

Letters have been sent to parents informing them that the Burgenland state will provide each child with three free tests per week.

The instructions read as follows: "Put the test in the mouth, suck for 90 seconds, dip the test in the container, wait 15 minutes, check the result."

After initial disappointment that the tests lacked the bright colours and the sweet taste of a real lollipop, instead resembling "an oversized cotton swab", father and graphic designer Dominik Krottschek says that his three-year-old has now taken well to the tests.

"It's unproblematic -- we just did it again today and it worked well," Krottschek told AFP.

"I think it makes sense to have stricter controls in the educational sector," he said.

The tests were invented by Manuela Foedinger, who leads the laboratory at Vienna's Kaiser-Franz-Joseph hospital and is credited with pioneering a similarly simple-to-use gargle test that is now widely used across the nation of 8.9 million.

When her invention was recognised by the city of Vienna last year, the mayor of Vienna asked what could be done to test toddlers and Foedinger replied: "I have an idea for that, too."

In Vienna, Foedinger is now conducting a study with children between the ages of one and six across five kindergartens to show just how accurate the test results are and help decide whether lollipop tests can be deployed more broadly, a spokesperson said.

New curriculum

FROM PAGE 12
The NCTB has set 10 main competencies that a student will achieve after grade 12.

Those include a student's ability to communicate, collaborate, express themselves, honour other people's opinions, think critically and solve problems.

The curriculum also places emphasis on learning languages, communication, mathematics and reasoning, science and technology, the ICT, environment and climate, and values and morality.

In the new curriculum, NCTB did not make any proposals for holding Primary Education Completion Examinations (PECE) in grade 5 and Junior School Certificate Examinations in grade 7.

It also proposed to dissolve the science, humanities and business disciplines and suggested holding the Secondary School Certificate and its equivalent exams in just five subjects, based on the syllabus of grade 10 only.

The Higher Secondary Certificate exams will be held in two phases: in grades 11 and 12. The new curriculum also proposed a two-day weekend -- Friday and Saturday -- in schools, instead of just Friday.

The last time the curriculum was revised was in 2012.

Dhaka, Delhi need to get

FROM PAGE 12
difficult for Bangladesh and India to come to this stage of relationship following the partition in 1947, and they should not slide back.

The noted global strategist thinks the new area of cooperation can be the Bay of Bengal, and both the countries need to work together and use digital technology to find innovative ways.

He suggested that the think tanks come up with possible solution.

Former Indian foreign secretary Krishnan Srinivasan said Bangladesh-India friendship has been hostage to the vagaries of politics on both sides of the border. Now is time for looking at trade and connectivity that can lead the development without any detriment to sovereignty and independence.

"In a globalised world, every nation has multiple choices of friends, and India should accept that Bangladesh must have outreach to Southeast and Northeast Asia," he said.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Kumar Doraiswami said trade will be a key driver of Bangladesh-India friendship in future, and Bangladesh could provide India a key base for value addition, including in food production, RMG and textile.

He also talked about closer integration of transportation systems, cooperation on renewable energy, blue economy and health.

Bangladesh is interested to have connectivity with Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar through India, he said, adding, "It is a sustainable way to move forward if both sides see benefit in any initiative."

Doraiswami said there is a need for the two countries to do much on protecting the Sundarbans as well as check river pollution, especially around Dhaka.

Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies (BIPSS) President Maj Gen (Retd) ANM Muniruzzaman said it's necessary to analyse the current irritants of the bilateral relations and address those.

He said not signing the Teesta water-sharing deal, border killing, India's role on Rohingya issue, rise of fundamentalism in India, export ban of vaccine, National Register of Citizenship and Citizenship Amendment Act are some of the issues that developed wrong perception among public mind and need to be addressed.

Uttering negative words by top leadership on the people of another country is also a problem, he said, stressing on mutual respect.

Prof Imtiaz Ahmed said the two-nation theory will not work and this had not worked back in 1971. "Two-nation theory is really bad and we need to keep that in mind."

He said it will not work if

Bangladesh, India or any other country thinks that it will develop alone and will not allow others to develop.

Centre for Policy Dialogue Distinguished Fellow Debapriya Bhattacharya suggested that India continue to provide duty-free, quota-free access of Bangladeshi products to reduce the trade gap.

CPD Executive Director Fahmida Khatun said the potential of trade between the two countries is \$16 billion, but it is now less than \$10 billion.

India imports products from the world market worth \$45 billion, and regional trade could increase to a great extent if there was regional integration.

In response to India's role on Rohingya repatriation, former Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty said India, which shares a border with Bangladesh and Myanmar, cannot fully support Bangladesh over the Rohingya issue due to its internal problem and national interests.

"On Myanmar, my point is that India's ambivalence should be understood in the context of India's national interests. We can't swing into absolute support and favour for Bangladesh," he said.

"We have an insurgency problem in the northeast and we have our own problems and difficulties in dealing with Myanmar on the Rohingya issue," he said.

On the border killing, Vikram Doraiswami said it is a complex phenomenon that requires a far greater effort, including by district governance and border guards on both sides.

Pinak Ranjan said, "Alleging and pointing fingers at India all the time doesn't help resolve the problem and doesn't help create the public perception in India."

He said the main reason behind the border killing is that a huge smuggling network and the huge mafia operating on both sides of the borders which should be addressed jointly.

In reply to a comment that "vaccine diplomacy" is going on in reference to India's halt of exporting vaccines, Doraiswami said India has tried its best to supply vaccines to its neighbours.

Also, it should be recognised that there is a major crisis underway in India. Alternatively, he said India had offered third stage trial of Covaxin and subsequently its co-production, but that remains on table. "Of course, this is Bangladesh's decision."

Security analyst Brig Gen (Retd) Shahedul Anam Khan and Cosmos Foundation Chairman Enaytullah Khan also spoke at the event chaired by former foreign affairs adviser to a caretaker government Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury.

Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation
Kaptai Lake Fisheries Development & Marketing Center
Rangamati Hill District Phone: 0351-62236

দরপত্র স্থগিতকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অত্র কার্যালয়ের গত ০৬/০৪/২০২১ইং তারিখে ৩৩.০৩.৮৪৮৭.০০৫.০০২.২১-২২৫ নং স্মারকে 'Building Sustainable Packing shed & Businessman office, শিরোনামের প্রকাশিত দরপত্র প্রক্রিয়াটি অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ স্থগিত করা হলো।

Md. Touhidul Islam
Lt. Commander (TAS), BN
Manager
BFDC, Rangamati

GD-868

কৃষি সমৃদ্ধি

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
কৃষি আবহাওয়া তথ্য পদ্ধতি উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প
কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তর
খামারবাড়ি, ফার্মগেট, ঢাকা-১২১৫।

আরক নং- ১২.০১.০০০০.০১৮.০১.০০১.২১.৫৪৩৫ তারিখ: ২৯-০৪-২০২১ খ্রি

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নীয় "কৃষি আবহাওয়া তথ্য পদ্ধতি উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প" এর প্রকল্প মেয়াদকালীন সময়ের জন্য সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে নিম্নলিখিত পদসমূহে নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে আবেদনপত্র আদান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্র.নং	পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	বেতন-গ্রেড	বয়স	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
(১)	হিসাবরক্ষক	১ (এক)	গ্রেড-১৩	১৮-৩০ বছর	স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে বাণিজ্যে স্নাতক স্নাতক। হিসাব রক্ষণ সহায়ক এমএস ওয়ার্ড, এয়েল, পাওয়ার পয়েন্ট জানা থাকতে হবে। একাউন্টিং বা ফিন্যান্স, পাবলিক প্রক্টিসেট, সরকারী অডিট ব্যবস্থা, এডিপি ও আইডিএ ফিন্যান্স সিস্টেম সম্পর্কে অভিজ্ঞদের আধিকার পেওয়া হবে। অধিকতর অভিজ্ঞদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য।

**পরিচয় বোঝানো গ্রেড অনুযায়ী সাক্ষর বেতন ও সরকার কর্তৃক ঘোষিত জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল, ২০১৫ প্রযোজ্য হবে।
*কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক, অর্থ বিভাগ এর পরিপত্র নং ০৭/১১.০১.০১.০১.০০৫.২০১০.১৫, তারিখঃ ১৪/০১/২০১৬ খ্রি অনুযায়ী (১) হিসাবরক্ষকের সাক্ষর বেতন (গ্রেড-১৩)- ১৯৩০০/- টাকা।

নিয়োগের শর্তাবলীঃ

- আম্রী ও যোগ্য প্রার্থীকে <https://www.bamis.gov.bd/apply/>-তে প্রদত্ত অনলাইন আবেদন ফর্ম নির্দেশাবলী অনুসরণ করে যথাযথভাবে পূরণ ও প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্র সন্ধান করে পিডিএফ ফাইল তৈরীপূর্বক আপলোড করে সার্বমি/দাখিল করার মাধ্যমে আগামী ১৭/০৫/২০২১ খ্রি: (সোমবার) বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে আবেদন করতে হবে। নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ের পর কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- প্রকল্প পরিচালক, "কৃষি আবহাওয়া তথ্য পদ্ধতি উন্নয়ন প্রকল্প" এর অনুকূলে পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ ১০০/- (একশত) টাকা, ১-৪৩১-০০০০-২০৩৩ কোড নম্বরে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক/সোনালী ব্যাংক এর অনুরোধিত শাখায় ট্রেজারী চালানো জমা দিয়ে চালানোর মূল কপি সন্ধান করে জীবন বৃত্তান্তের সাথে পিডিএফ ফাইল তৈরীপূর্বক অনলাইন আবেদনের সময় আপলোড করতে হবে।
- আবেদনকারীর বয়স ১৭/০৫/২০২১ খ্রি: তারিখে সর্বনিম্ন ১৮ (আঠার) এবং সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ (ত্রিশ) বছর হতে হবে। মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/ শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুর-কন্যা/ পুর-কন্যার পুর কন্যা ও প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থীর ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ (বত্রিশ) বছর পর্যন্ত গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে। বয়সের ক্ষেত্রে এমিগ্রেশন প্রমাণপত্র প্রমাণযোগ্য হবে না।
- মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুর-কন্যা ও পুর-কন্যার পুর-কন্যা কোটায় নির্বাচনের পূর্বে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল সার্টিফিকেটের মূল কপি যাচাই করে সত্যতা সম্পর্কে নিশ্চিত করা হবে এবং নিয়োগের পূর্বে নীজ থানা (পুলিশ স্টেশন) হতে প্রদত্ত প্রত্যয়ন পত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
- মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত সকল সন্দেহের মূল কপি দেখাতে হবে।
- অসম্পূর্ণ/ত্রুটিপূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- আবেদনকারীকে লিখিত/ ব্যবহারিক/মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে এবং এর জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
- প্রকল্পের মেয়াদ সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্মচারীর পদ স্বয়ংক্রিয়ভাবে বিলুপ্ত হবে এবং চাকরির অবদান হবে। এ জন্য আদানাতাবে চাকরিত্যুতির কোন নোটিশ বা পর দেয়া হবে না।
- কোটা সংক্রান্ত সর্বশেষ সরকারি বিধিমালা অনুসরণ করা হবে এবং
- নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

(ড. মোঃ শাহ কামাল খান)
প্রকল্প পরিচালক

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GD-867

Teenage girl

FROM PAGE 12
Later, on the same night, the victim's father filed a case against the trio with Sonaimuri Police Station.

The victim was produced before a court yesterday where a judicial magistrate recorded her statement.

She was then sent to the hospital for medical tests. Police were trying to arrest the accused, said Gias Uddin, officer-in-charge of Sonaimuri Police Station.

In Tangail, police yesterday arrested a man on charges of raping a neighbouring minor girl in Kalihati upazila.

The arrestee is Nosu Mondol, 65, of the same upazila.

Quoting the victim's family members, police said the five-year-old girl was playing near a local mosque on Thursday afternoon with other children.

At one stage, other children went to their homes leaving the girl alone there. Taking the chance, Nosu called the girl, then took her to his room and raped her.

Returning home, the girl shared her experience with her family members and became sick. Around 10:00pm on the same night, the girl was admitted to a local hospital.

The victim's family filed a case against Nosu with Kalihati Police Station yesterday morning.

Following the case, police arrested Nosu yesterday noon, said Saogatul Alam, officer-in-charge of Kalihati Police Station.

Our Noakhali and Tangail correspondents contributed to this report

An unprecedented move by

FROM PAGE 12
Urban Service Consortium, who had just returned from an extensive visit to the outlying parts of Bangladesh. He estimated that almost a million Bangalee refugees had crossed the frontier into India and thought that the number could rapidly increase to two million. Over 60 per cent of the refugees were Muslims.

War on Want and Oxfam both launched campaigns for massive funds to assist the refugees. The first British relief plane to Calcutta would leave London on May 4. Although British relief organisations still hold £1,500,000 of the funds raised at the time of the flood disasters in the Bengal delta, they had been told by the commissioner of charities that this money could be used only in that area.

ABU SYED CHOUDHURY BANGLADESH'S UN ENVOY
The Bangladesh government appointed Justice Abu Syed Choudhury, the senior-most judge of Dhaka High Court and vice chancellor of Dhaka University, its emissary at the United Nations. Justice Choudhury, now in London, had been abroad attending

ironically, a meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission when the Pakistan army commenced the savage attack on unarmed civilians in Bangladesh. The directive to Justice Choudhury from the Bangladesh government was to present the case on behalf of the government to all member states and to the secretariat of the United Nations and help create a lobby in favour of the people now fighting for freedom.

SOVIET UNION CONDEMNNS PAKISTAN'S POLICY
The Russians for the first time officially condemned Pakistan's policy in Bangladesh. Pravda expressed skepticism about official Pakistani claims of stability in the rebel territory. It reflected the grave concern felt in high Russian official circles that the tragedy of Bangladesh could lead to a larger conflict between India and Pakistan, with possible involvement of China, and warned that continuing bloodshed not only harmed the interests of the Pakistani people but "also harms the cause of peace in Asia and all over the world."

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