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# Padma bridge deadline now June next year

Opening delayed by a year due to pandemic

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government approved a proposal to extend the deadline for the much-talked-about Padma bridge project to June 23, 2022.

The planning ministry on Tuesday approved the proposal of Bangladesh Bridge Authority, seeking extension of the deadline because the pandemic slowed down progress.

June 23 is the founding anniversary of the Awami League.

The ministry, however, assured that the project cost will not exceed the current Tk 30,193 crore. The deadline was June this year.

Planning Minister MA Mannan told The Daily Star that he signed the proposal on Tuesday.

The pandemic has delayed the physical work by a year, he said.

"I have seen the video of the work. It [progress] is quite significant. Construction of the railway line up to the bridge is almost done," said the minister, adding that he was hopeful about the timely completion of the project.

"If the pandemic lingers, we will accept it and move on with our work, taking all the precautionary measures."

The ministry officials said the government planned to launch railway communications between Mawa and Bhanga on the day the bridge would be open to traffic.

But, there is scepticism over completing the work of the

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With Eid-ul-Fitr coming up, many factories in and around the city have gone into overdrive to produce the amount of "shemai (vermicelli)" needed during the festival. In almost every household across the country, vermicelli is made as a special dessert. For years, this dish has been a staple for big occasions. The photo was taken in Char Khalpar area of the capital's Kamrangirchar.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# Sundarbans fires still burning

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Forest fires are still burning in Sarankhola Range of the Sundarbans.

Firefighters suspended their operation for the night around 5:00pm yesterday before darkness fell.

Unless overnight rains put out the fires, the officials will resume the operation from this morning, firefighters said.

Forest department officials are staying in the Daser Bharani area, where the fires are, to watch over the situation, said Joyal Abedin, assistant conservator of forests at the Sundarbans East Forest Department.

"The fire that started around Monday noon was put out by Tuesday afternoon. But columns of smoke were billowing the next morning from several places a little south of the original site of the fire. Soon, the fires broke out in different places. The fires are still raging in many places," he added.

Golam Sarwar, assistant  
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# RAYHAN'S DEATH Charges pressed against 5 cops, one youth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) yesterday submitted a charge sheet against six people, including five police officials, in a case filed over the custodial death of Rayhan Ahmed.

PBI Special Superintendent Mohammad Khaled-uz-Zaman said that the charge-sheet was submitted to the prosecution section of the police, who will place it before a virtual court.

In the charge-sheet, PBI has accused Bandarbaraz police outpost's suspended in-charge and sub-inspector Akbar Hossain, assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Ashek-e-Elahi, constable Harunur Rashid, constable Titu Chandra Das, sub-inspector Hasan Uddin, and local youth Abdullah Al Noman.

Among the accused, all except Noman are in jail.

Rayhan Ahmed, 33, a youth of Neharipara area in Sylhet city, was tortured at Sylhet's Bandarbaraz Police Outpost on early October 11 and died an hour after he was admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical Hospital by police personnel.

WHAT'S IN THE CHARGE-SHEET

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# 100m-yr old dinosaur bones found in Meghalaya



INDIA TODAY ONLINE

Researchers have identified fossil bone fragments of sauropod dinosaurs dating back to about 100 million years from an area around West Khasi Hills District in Meghalaya.

The yet-to-be-published findings were made during a recent field trip by researchers from the Geological Survey of India's Palaeontology division in North-East.

The GSI researchers noted that this is the first record of sauropods of probable Titanosaurian origin discovered in the region.

Sauropods had very long necks, long tails, small heads relative to the rest of their body, and four thick, pillar-like legs. They are notable for the

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# 160 migrants return from war-torn Libya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One hundred and sixty Bangladeshi migrant workers, including a woman, returned home yesterday from war-torn Libya under a repatriation programme arranged by the Bangladesh mission there.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM), which facilitated the latest repatriation, says at least 2,942 Bangladeshi migrants have returned home from the North African country under its Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme since 2015.

A special flight of Buraq Air carrying the 160 migrant workers touched down at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka around 10:15am, said Fakhru Alam, assistant director of Probashi Kalyan Desk at the airport.

The chartered flight also carried the body of a migrant worker. Fakhru,

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# ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## US Senate unit asks Pakistan arms cutoff

MAY 6, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BATTLE OF TELIAPARA

A heavy fight broke out today at Teliapara, Sylhet. Pakistani Army in the guise of Indian BSF breached the defences of Bangladesh force and were in firing position. They formed an inner circle. However, the Bangladesh force, under the command of KM Shafiqullah Bir Uttam, fought the Pakistan army back. The enemy, over two companies strong, made a hasty retreat. The battlefield of Teliapara was left littered with dead bodies of the enemy. The Bangladesh force also lost a number of men.

STOP ARMS AID TO PAKISTAN, SAYS SENATE BODY

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee called unanimously for an immediate suspension of American military aid and arms sales to Pakistan until the conflict there was resolved and the distribution of relief supplies was resumed.

By a voice vote the committee approved a resolution sponsored by Senators Clifford P Case, Republican of New Jersey; Walter F Mondale, Democrat of Minnesota, and 14 other senators. In so doing it overrode state department objections that the language of the resolution was too imprecise to be applicable.

The resolution, which would now go to the Senate, had no force in law. However, if approved, it would reflect growing concern in Congress over the protracted fighting in East Pakistan during which,

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# HEFAJAT'S 2013 MAYHEM Took 8yrs to find evidence as it was 'big incident'

DB official claims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives took around eight years just to analyse footage and collect evidence of the mayhem Hefajat carried in 2013 as it was a "big incident", said AKM Hafiz Akter, additional commissioner of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

He said this while responding to a reporter's query at the media centre in the capital's Minto Road yesterday.

The accused in the cases related to the incident are now being arrested in the wake of the investigation, but it may take some more days to complete the probe, said Hafiz, also the chief of DMP DB.

He said, "We did not want any innocent person to face punishment. Therefore, we are investigating the cases after analysing all confessional statements."

However, investigation of the cases has speeded up and will be complete soon, he said.

Regarding the ongoing drive, he said Hefajat has been carrying out violence in different places, including Dhaka and Brahmanbaria, centring Indian Prime

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Most of the people at this street shop in the capital's Baitul Mukarram Mosque area are seen without face masks. Although a mobile court has fined various shopping malls for not complying with hygiene rules and social distancing, many people, mostly customers, are still not maintaining any of those. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# PUBLIC UNIVERSITY ADMISSION TESTS VCs' panel delays them

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Admission tests of public universities would be delayed due to the country's coronavirus situation.

Earlier, the majority of the public universities had decided to hold honours first-year admission test for 2020-21 academic session in June-July.

Bangladesh Bishwabidyalaya Parishad, an association of vice-chancellors of public universities, yesterday sat in a virtual meeting and discussed delaying of the entrance test. Barisal University VC Prof Sadequul Arefin and Shahjalal University of Science and Technology VC Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed said holding of the test would be deferred.

"We [Bangladesh Bishwabidyalaya Parishad] will sit for another meeting after Eid to fix the admission [test] dates of public universities," said Prof Farid.

Usually, the parishad sits and fixes tentative dates for the tests so that the dates do not conflict with those of other universities.

Public universities usually follow that tentative dates while finalising their admission test procedures. The parishad in February sat and set tentative dates for the entrance test of all public universities.

Most of the universities started their admission form distribution and submission process.

But as the Covid-19 situation worsened in the country, Dhaka University has already deferred their admission test dates.

On April 29, the DU authorities said the admission test for "Ka" unit will be held on August 6, "Kha" unit on August 7, "Ga" unit on August 13, and "Gha" unit on August 14, said a press release.

Earlier, it was decided that the admission test for "Ka" unit

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## PRAYER TIMING MAY 6

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
3:58	12:45	5:00	6:33	8:00
JAMAAT	4:08	1:15	5:15	6:43
				8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**evaly**

## SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN MAY SEHRI IFTAR

23	6	6:33
24	7	3:52 6:34
25	8	3:51 6:34