



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

SHAWWAL 16, 1442 HIRI

12 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXI No. 129

JAISHTHA 15, 1428 BS



"My first season as a manager has ended. It has been an intense, complicated but in any case wonderful year."
ANDREA PIRLO AFTER JUVENTUS SACK HIM AFTER ONE SEASON



"We will now officially refer to these events as what they are from today's perspective: genocide."
GERMAN FM HEIKO MAAS ON COLONIAL-ERA CRIMES IN NAMIBIA



"Isn't that great? I will work out and read in jail then I will be a better man when I am out."
HONG KONG DEMOCRACY CAMPAIGNER FIGO CHAN AFTER RECEIVING JAIL TERM FOR TAKING PART IN 2019 PROTESTS

COVID VACCINATION

Govt plans to ease age bar

Target to bring univ students under mass inoculation

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The government plans to lower the age limit for Covid-19 vaccination as it wants to inoculate students aged above 18 and take them back to classrooms by reopening universities.

"Now the age limit is 40. We're planning to bring it down to 18-20. We will make the final decision in consultation with the education ministry," said ABM Khurshid Alam, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Teachers who have not got the jobs yet will also be included in the vaccination campaign, he told The Daily Star.

"We are in close contact with the education ministry. But everything depends on the availability of vaccines. We have made good progress on vaccine procurement. We are hopeful that we can start vaccinating university students within a month."

The DG said the coronavirus positivity rate was coming down and it would dip further if everyone followed the health safety guidelines.

Last week, Education Minister Dipu Moni said they were relying on the suggestions of the National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) on Covid-19, which has recommended reopening educational institutions once the infection rate drops below 5 percent.

The positivity rate stood at 9.30 percent yesterday, while the overall positivity rate was 13.49 percent, shows DGHS data.

Contacted, NTAC member M Iqbal Arsalan said they were yet to hold any meeting on the issue.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Holding a photo of her missing father Parvez Hossain, Adiba Islam Hridi along with her mother joins a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Parvez, who was allegedly picked up by law enforcers from the capital's Shahbagh, has been missing for about seven and a half years. Mayer Daak, a platform of family members of the victims of enforced disappearance, staged the protest demanding safe return of the victims.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE

Unchanging pictures, unending wait

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the past five years at least, The Daily Star has been documenting little Adiba Islam Hridi on the streets and in conference rooms, holding a photo of her missing father Parvez Hossain.

Every year, the photo is the same -- Parvez in an orange tee-shirt, sporting aviators and sitting jauntily on a red motorbike. It is the last photo his family has of him.

Parvez, a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader from the capital's Bangshal, was picked up from Shahbagh by members of a law enforcement agency on December 2, 2013, claimed his family and friends, who were present when he was taken.

"I have been coming back for the last eight years," Hridi, sitting on the curb in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, told this correspondent.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Edible oil gets pricier again

Prices increased for 5th time in last 5 months

AKANDA MUHAMMAD JAHID

The price of soybean oil goes up again in the country today, with each litre to be sold for Tk 153, up from the previous price of Tk 144 set barely two weeks ago.

With this latest hike, the price of the essential cooking ingredient has gone up five times in the last five months. The price of each litre of bottled soybean oil has soared by Tk 38 (33 percent) since December 30 last year when the price was Tk 115 a litre.

The new price rate becomes effective from today, Bangladesh Vegetable Oil Refiners and Vanaspati Manufacturers Association said in a circular on Thursday.

The price hike comes at a time when people are struggling to keep up with the rising prices of essentials amid the pandemic.

According to the new price rate, the price of five-litre bottled soybean oil has been fixed at Tk 728, up by Tk 43 from the previous price of Tk 685. Loose soybean oil will be sold for Tk 129 a litre, up from Tk 122.

However, the price of loose palm oil has been reduced to Tk 112 per litre from Tk 113.

In the last week of December 2020, bottled soybean oil was sold for around Tk 115 per litre while loose soybean oil for around Tk 110, up by Tk 10 to Tk 15 per litre from the previous month.

Many consumers blamed the government's lack of price monitoring and arbitrariness on the part of edible oil

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

QUARANTINE COST OF KSA-BOUND WORKERS

If vaccinated, Tk 260cr could've been saved

RASHIDUL HASAN

Around 40,000 expatriate workers waiting to go to Saudi Arabia in the next one and a half months could have saved almost Tk 260 crore in hotel expenses had the government prioritised inoculating them against Covid-19.

As per the new travel advisory that has been in effect since May 20, a worker has to stay in a hotel for a week upon reaching Saudi Arabia, spending about Tk 65,000, said the leaders of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira).

"The nearly 40,000 workers will be spending a total of Tk 260 crore," Mohammad Faruk, former senior vice president of Baira, told The Daily Star.

Saudi authorities said those who had been inoculated against the coronavirus at least 14 days before reaching Saudi Arabia would not be required to be in quarantine, according to a new travel advisory.

Faruk said the large sums of money would not have gone to Saudi Arabia "had the government heard our repeated calls for prioritising the inoculation of migrant workers all set to join their workplaces in Saudi Arabia".



Overseas recruiting agencies also wrote a letter in this regard to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina several months ago, he said. "We also sent several letters to the expatriates' welfare minister and met him in person to urge him to include migrant workers among the sections of people prioritised for vaccination," Faruk said.

The government praises the remittance earners for their contribution to the country's economy, but had not ensured vaccines for them in the five months since the inoculation programme was launched in February, he said.

In the last four days, an estimated 1,000 workers who failed to book a hotel in Saudi

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

UN honours eight fallen Bangladeshi peacekeepers

UNB, Dhaka

The United Nations has awarded eight fallen peacekeepers from Bangladesh with the "Dag Hammarskjöld Medal".

As many as 129 peacekeepers from 44 nations were honoured at a virtual ceremony on the occasion of the International Day of the UN Peacekeepers on Thursday.

All the recipients lost their lives while rendering duties in different peacekeeping missions in 2020.

This medal commemorates the strength, purity and fragility of the lives lost in the cause of peace.

The fallen Bangladeshi peacekeepers awarded with the medal are WO Abdul Mohammad Halim from Mali; WO Mohammad

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Big blow to fish farmers

Yaas destroys 4,830 fish, shrimp enclosures in Bagerhat alone; loss estimated at Tk 4.5cr

PARTHA CHAKRABORTY and DIPANKAR ROY

Fish, shrimp enclosures and other structures in coastal areas surrounding the Sundarbans were damaged by tidal surges and storms due to the impact of cyclone Yaas, causing a loss of over Tk 5 crore.

Around 4,830 fish and shrimp enclosures were washed away by tidal surges on Tuesday and Wednesday in Bagerhat. The losses can roughly be estimated at around Tk 4.5 crore, said ASM Russell, district fisheries officer.

Fish farmers of Rampal, Mongla, Sharankhola and Morrelganj upazilas of Bagerhat are the worst victims of the disaster, he added.

"It was raining incessantly on Tuesday night, making the surrounding bank of my shrimp enclosure vulnerable. When tidal water came, the surrounding bank collapsed and all of my fish got washed away. I suffered a loss of around Tk 5 lakh," said Shahriar Hossain, a shrimp farmer in Rampal upazila.

Several hundred fish farmers experienced a similar situation in the district, said Mahtab Hawlader of Teligati village in Morrelganj upazila.

Government officials are now preparing a list of affected fish farmers to provide with assistance, said ASM Russell.

There are 67,000 shrimp and other fish farms in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

A lot of work to be done

Tamim says after Tigers lose the 3rd ODI by 97 runs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh were unable to execute the perfect game as Sri Lanka bounced back from two defeats with a convincing 97-run win in the third and final ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Skipper Kusal Perera's magnificent hundred helped the tourists post a fighting total of 286 for six before a maiden five-wicket haul from young pacer Dushmantha Chameera bundled out the hosts for 189 in 42.3 overs.

Having lost the series already, the visitors had made four changes to the side while the hosts went in with one change, left-hander Naim Sheikh replacing Liton Das at the top of the order.

However, the change did not pay any dividend for the hosts as Naim managed only one run before becoming the first victim of Chameera. The lanky fast-bowler went on to pick up two more wickets soon -- Shakib Al Hasan (4), who was unable to make an impact throughout the series, and Tamim Iqbal (17) -- as the Tigers were reduced to 28 for three.

Player-of-the-series Mushfiqur Rahim and Mosaddek Hossain tried to build a partnership, adding 56 runs for the fourth wicket, but Mushfiqur's dismissal for 28 signalled the start of the end for the Tigers.

Mosaddek and Mahmudullah scored

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Sri Lanka pacer Dushmantha Chameera (C) celebrates dismissing Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal -- one of his five wickets -- during the third ODI at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The youngster's efforts helped bowl Bangladesh out for 189 for a 97-run victory for the visitors, who had earlier scored 286 courtesy of a 120-run knock from Kusal Perera.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

ARREST OF 5 BANGLADESHIS 2 suffer bullet wounds during escape attempt

Say Indian police; they raped, tortured a woman

STAR REPORT

Two of the Bangladeshis arrested in India on charges of raping and assaulting a woman were shot in the leg during what Indian officials said was their attempt to flee yesterday.

Around 5:00am local time, police took four of the five Bangladeshi arrestees to the crime scene in K Channasandra, Bengaluru, to "reconstruct the sequence of events relating to the crime", reports our correspondent in New Delhi, quoting Shranappa SD, deputy commissioner of police (Bengaluru East), as saying.

During an inspection of the crime scene at a house in Karegowda Layout, suspects Ridoy Babu, 25, and Sagar, 23, tried to attack the policemen and flee, prompting the law enforcers to shoot them, reports Indian newspaper The Hindu, adding that both the suspects were shot in the leg and apprehended.

They are now being treated at a government hospital, it said.

Efforts are on to track down the victim who is said to be a 22-year-old Bangladeshi woman currently staying in another Indian state, the newspaper said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6