



MATARBARI POWER PLANT Cox's Bazar

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MIGRANTS HEADING TO OMAN, KUWAIT

# 25,000 heave sigh of relief

RASHIDUL HASAN

Uncertainty over the return of around 25,000 Bangladeshi expatriates to work in Oman and Kuwait is over as Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh has lifted its restriction on travel to Oman, and Kuwait is allowing domestic workers to fly to that country.

Issuing a circular on Tuesday, the CAAB said the decision on lifting the travel restriction will come into force on June 4.

According to manpower recruiting agencies and former leaders of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira), around 22,000 to 25,000 Bangladeshi migrant workers, who have been stuck at home for the last one and a half months, will now be able to return to work in the two Gulf countries.

Oman in late April and Kuwait in early May imposed ban on entry of Bangladeshis and citizens of several other countries after the second wave of Covid-19 hit Bangladesh. Later, Bangladesh also imposed ban on travelling to Oman.

The CAAB's latest travel advisory contained a fresh list of 11 countries (Group A) from where no one will be allowed to travel to Bangladesh. The countries are: Argentina, Bahrain, Bolivia, Brazil, India, Malaysia, the Maldives, Nepal, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

No Bangladeshi is also allowed to travel to these

NO Bangladeshi is also allowed to travel to these SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



Motorcyclists riding their vehicles on the pavement in the capital's Tejgaon area, even though a sign right behind them urges bikers not to do so. By violating such traffic rules, they put lives of pedestrians at risk. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: **PALASH KHAN**  ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION
WAR HISTORY

## East Pakistan will eventually become independent: Kissinger



JUNE 3, 1971

Shamsuddoza Sajen

#### 'GIVE THE FACTS TIME TO ASSERT THEMSELVES'

A conversation was held on June 3, 1971 between US Ambassador to India Kenneth Keating, Assistant to the US President Henry Kissinger and NSC staff Harold Saunders about the situation of East Pakistan. Kissinger said he thought it would be useful to explain the president's views on what has happened in South Asia. He felt

NID SERVICES AT HOME

#### Move 'suicidal and irrational'

Says Mahbub Talukdar Staff Correspondent

The shifting of services related to National Identity (NID) cards from the Election Commission to the Ministry of Home Affairs means the nail in the coffin for the election system, said Election Commissioner Mahbub Talukdar yesterday.

He termed the move "suicidal and irrational" and he was concerned that such move was like a "funeral procession" of overall election management as voter lists and information of national identity cards are closely related to each other.

"I do not understand the purpose for which this suicidal and irrational decision was taken. This is against Article 119 of the SEE PAGE 13 COL 6



 PRAYER TIMING JUNE 3

 Fazz
 Zohr
 Asr
 Maghrib
 Esha

 AZAN 4-05
 12-45
 5-00
 6-45
 8-15

 JAMAAT 4-40
 1-15
 5-15
 6-50
 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Human Trafficking

## 3 victims share tales of horror

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After being held captive by a sex trafficking gang in India's Bengaluru for 77 days, three victims who managed to flee and return home told police of their ordeal and informed that many others are still being held by the racket.

One of them, a 16-year-old girl, filed a

case accusing 12 suspects under the human trafficking prevention act with Hatirjheel Police Station in the capital on Tuesday.

Officers then raided Dabokpara Kaliyani in Satkhira and arrested three suspects, said Deputy Commissioner Md Shahidullah of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Tejgaon division).

Five of the 12 accused are in the country, he told a press conference yesterday.

The suspects arrested on Tuesday are: Mehedi Hasan Babu, Mohiuddin, and

Abdul Quader.

Mehedi admitted to officers that he had

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### Haris dropped from police wanted list

Asifur Rahman

The name of Haris Ahmed, younger brother of army chief Gen Aziz Ahmed, has been removed from the list of "wanted person" in the police website following his application in March.

Haris, who was awarded life term in a murder case, applied to the home ministry to remove his name from the police website, saying the government had pardoned SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

#### RAPE AT MC COLLAGE

#### Principal, super negligent

HC observes; orders their suspension

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Negligence of Sylhet's Murari Chand College's principal and hostel superintendent "crumbled" the right to life and personal liberty of the woman raped on campus, the High Court observed yesterday, directing that they be suspended.

On September 25 last year, a group of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists --both current and former students of MC College -- raped a woman after tying up her husband.

Later that night, the husband filed a case accusing six named and two to three

unnamed individuals. Police later arrested eight accused.

Delivering its verdict on a suo moto

(voluntary) rule yesterday, the HC observed that for the downright negligence and inaction of Principal Prof Mohammad Saleh Ahmed and Hostel Superintendent Ziban Krishna Acharja, and their indulgence, the rapists were able to commit the crime on campus.

The rapists even dared to stay in the official residence of the hostel superintendent, from where various illegal arms were seized, the court said.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 3

## WHO narrows in on Indian variant

Says only one strain of Covid now 'of concern', downgrades two others

AGENCIES

The WHO said Tuesday that one strain of a Covid-19 variant first detected in India was now considered "of concern" and had been dubbed "Delta", while two other strains had been downgraded.

The B.1.617 variant of the virus, which has in part been blamed for India's explosive outbreak, has been called a triple mutant variant since it is split into three lineages.

The UN health agency last month declared the entire strain a "variant of concern", or VOC, but on Tuesday, it said only one of the sub-lineages deserved that

label.

"It has become evident that greater public health risks are currently associated with B.1.617.2, while lower rates of transmission of other lineages have been observed," the World Health Organization said in its weekly epidemiological update on the pandemic.

The B.1.617.2 variant remains a VOC, along with three other variants of the virus that are seen as more dangerous than the original version because they are more transmissible, deadly or have the potential to get past some vaccine protections.

In line with a decision announced SEE PAGE 13 COL 3



