

Bangladesh's

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 Child labour is more prevalent among boys than girls at every age, it says, adding the prevalence of child labour in rural areas (14 percent) is close to three times higher than in urban areas (5 percent).
 "We are losing ground in the fight against child labour, and the last year has not made that fight any easier," said Unicef Executive Director Henrietta Fore.
 To reverse the upward trend in child labour, ILO and Unicef called for adequate social protection for all, including universal child benefits.

Quader Mirza

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 against corruption and misdeeds committed by AL men in Noakhali and Feni for the last few months. He also repeatedly criticised his brother Obaidul Quader and his wife.
 This made the political situation in Companiganj upazila volatile, triggering multiple deadly clashes between two groups.
 One group was led by Mirza and the other by Badal, follower of a lawmaker of Noakhali-4 constituency.

12 Rohingyas

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 Elahi Dakkhin Ghat area yesterday morning and forced the Rohingyas to get off from the boat, they said.
 Abul Kalam Azad, inspector (investigation) of Companiganj Police Station, said locals suspected the Rohingyas because of their language and dress.
 A case would be filed against the Rohingyas and then they would be placed before a court, he added.
 Contacted, Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Bhasan Char Police Station, confirmed that the detainees were residents of cluster-24 of Bhasan Char refugee camp.
 Apart from them, a few more fled from the refugee camp. Police were working to trace them, he added.
 Earlier, between May 8 and May 23, some 16 Rohingyas fled Bhasan Char.
 Of them, 14 were detained by law enforcers and sent back to Bhasan Char.
 The government started relocating Rohingyas from Cox's Bazar refugee camps to Bhasan Char in December last year.
 A total of 18,347 Rohingyas have so far been relocated in six phases.

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Indonesia dengue fever study offers hope in disease battle

AFP, Jakarta
 Dengue fever infections dropped dramatically in an Indonesian study where a bacteria was introduced into disease-carrying mosquitoes, offering hope in the battle against an illness that sickens millions annually around the world.
 Results of the three-year study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine this week, found that infecting dengue-carrying mosquitoes with a harmless bacteria called Wolbachia led to a 77 percent drop in human cases.
 Infections requiring hospitalisation also fell by 86 percent in Wolbachia-treated areas of Yogyakarta, a city on Java island where the experiment was conducted, researchers said.
 The study was conducted by the World Mosquito Program at Monash University in Australia and Indonesia's Gadjah Mada university.
 "The 77 percent figure is honestly quite fantastic for a transmissible disease and we're very grateful with the result," said Adi Utarini, a public-health researcher from Gadjah Mada university who was a co-lead on the study.

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A girl plays with sand during a protest of the Cornwall Climate Youth Alliance in partnership with Fridays for Future and Climate Live, at Gyllyngvase Beach, in Falmouth, on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Cornwall, Britain, yesterday.
 PHOTO: REUTERS

River erosion may eat up 28sq km area

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 prolonged floods last year will have an impact on the erosion this year, the body warned.
 Sudipta Kumar Hore, associate specialist of river, delta and coastal morphology division at the CEGIS, said last year's floods were "extreme events".
 Such floods leave numerous channels flowing inland, making the banks more vulnerable to erosion in the next monsoon, he said, "That's why the prediction for riverbank erosion is higher this time."
 CEGIS developed a tool that uses a series of satellite images to predict the path of erosion by the Jamuna, the Ganges and the Padma.
 Since 2004, the methods have been applied to predict river erosion and morphological changes of the Jamuna, the Padma and the Ganges by officials of different projects of the Bangladesh Water Development Board and Water Resources Planning Organization.
 The latest CEGIS report said around 4 sq km of embankment and one and a half km of roads are vulnerable to erosion this year.
 "It was observed that erosion predictions made in the previous year showed a good match with the occurrences although there were few locations of slight riverbank erosion where erosion was not predicted.
 However, the overall accuracy of this prediction tool is approximately 70-80 percent," the report reads.
 This year's report predicted 20 probable vulnerable locations along the banks of the Jamuna, the Ganges and the Padma rivers.
 Of the locations, 14 are along the Jamuna, five along the Ganges and

one along the Padma.
 The report includes information about the vulnerability of land, settlement and other physical infrastructures at the locations.
 Experts say structural interventions to protect properties from riverbank erosion are very costly. As a result, structural measures, combined with non-structural ones like erosion prediction, can be used to reduce the loss and lessen the sufferings of people.
 Kabir Bin Anwar, senior secretary of the water resources ministry, said, "We are aware of the situation and have been working on it since April. Cyclone Yaas has damaged some embankments but we have started repairing those."
 Departments in the districts concerned are prepared to limit the damage.

Combined entry test for public univs

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 Earlier, the primary application process began on April 1 and was supposed to continue till April 15. Later, the time was extended for 10 more days after the lockdown ended.
 The 20 universities include Jagannath University, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Khulna University, Begum Rokeya University, Islamic University, Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University, Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, Noakhali Science and Technology University, Cumilla University, Jatya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Jashore University of Science and Technology, Pabna University of Science and Technology, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University,

Barishal University, Rangamati Science and Technology University, Rabindra University, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Digital University, Sheikh Hasina University, and Bangamata Sheikh Fojilatunnesa Mujib Science and Technology University.
 On December 1 last year, the 20 public universities finalised that they will enroll students through a centralised admission test for the next academic session to reduce hassles of the admission seekers.
 Earlier, the University Grants Commission announced that it would go for a uniform admission test for the 2020-2021 academic year.
 Five leading universities -- Dhaka University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), Rajshahi University, Jahangirnagar University and Chittagong University

-- have not taken part in the new system.
 Tight competition awaits admission seekers of public universities this year. A record-setting number of students got GPA 5 in the HSC examinations, thanks to the lack of actual exams and the results being reflections of each student's grades in public exams held before.
 Last year, for the first time in history, everyone who registered for the HSC cleared the tests as they were not arranged at all due to the pandemic.
 Over 1,53,610 students have been awarded GPA-5 under nine general education boards. The number was 41,807 in 2019.
 All boards combined, 13,67,377 students -- 7,06,885 boys and 6,60,492 girls -- who registered for the 2020 HSC-level exams from 9,063 institutions have passed the exams.

Khaleda has no post-Covid

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 Hospitals in Bangladesh are not enough for her treatment," he said.
 "Experts have repeatedly said that she [Khaleda] needs advanced treatment... We keep saying that too."
 Asked whether the BNP chairperson, now 76, would go to court seeking treatment abroad, Fakhrul said, "I have said it before. We have answered such questions before. Unfortunately, our biggest loss has been in court. The damage has been done in the court."
 "The court has done extreme injustice to Madam Khaleda Zia. No law can punish her in any way. We

have to think carefully before going to the court," Fakhrul also said.
 Khaleda was admitted to Evercare Hospital on April 27. She tested Covid-19 positive on April 14 at her home in Gulshan.
 She tested Covid-19 negative on May 19.
 Fakhrul yesterday blamed the government's "inactiveness" for the surge in Covid-19 transmission in the districts along the border.
 "Experts had warned that the Covid situation would turn serious in the bordering areas and we also talked about it, but the government did not take any steps," he said.

Alleging that people in those districts are suffering due to poor medical facilities, Fakhrul said the same things happened in West Bengal of India. "Even after that the government here seems reluctant to protect the people."
 "You are protecting those people... thieves and robbers ... this is very unfortunate," he added.
 Amid the coronavirus outbreak, the government on March 25 last year freed Khaleda from jail through an executive order suspending her jail sentences in two graft cases.
 The BNP claims both the cases are politically motivated.

Myanmar violence

FROM PAGE 12
HUMAN SHIELDS
 "State security forces have continued to use heavy weaponry, including air strikes, against armed groups and against civilians and civilian objects, including Christian churches," she said.
 "There appear to be no efforts towards de-escalation but rather a build-up of troops in key areas," she lamented.
 The UN rights chief pointed to "credible reports" that security forces have used civilians as human shields, shelled civilian homes and churches, and blocked humanitarian access, including by attacking aid workers.

Delta variant 60pc more

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 percent increased risk of household transmission" compared to the Alpha variant first identified in southeast England.
 So far there have been 42,323 identified cases of the Delta variant in the UK, according to Public Health England's data, up from 29,892 on June 2.

Double blow for coastal

FROM PAGE 3
 in their village had their houses swept away by the cyclone.
 Char Kukri Mukri Union Parishad Chairperson Hashem Mahajan said their union got submerged under six feet of water. Many have lost their fishing gears, including nets, and are now living in distress. The situation is similar across different chars of Monpura upazila.
 Mostafa Golam Kabir, chairperson of Patharghata upazila, said, "At least half a lakh anglers of the upazila are currently suffering. Houses of at least 500 fisher families have collapsed. More than a thousand homes have been partially damaged too."
 "More than a thousand acres of cultivating land have been submerged and a total of 50,000 anglers are in crisis," he added.
 Contacted, Anisur Rahman Talukder, Barishal divisional fisheries officer, said fisher families in the division have lost around Tk 95 crore due to the cyclone. "If we can get this money allocated, we can rehabilitate the sector," he said.
 According to local anglers, those who have their name on the VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding) list are eligible to get 70kg rice, but there are many whose names are not on the list.
 According to fisheries office sources, out of the 3,63,000 anglers in the division, around 1,46,000 will get their VGF cards soon.

Bangladesh issue will linger

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 An early political settlement of the Bangladesh issue was ruled out by Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today.
 She told a press conference at Silchar, Assam that Pakistan might ultimately bow to mounting world pressure to decide on some sort of political settlement with the people of Bangladesh rather than snap all ties with them.
 "But a political settlement is not very likely now, though nothing in the world is impossible," she said.
 As to the recognition of Bangladesh, India Gandhi said a decision about recognition of the provisional government of Bangladesh might be taken after the return of the External Affairs Minister Swaran Singh from abroad.
 She hoped, however, that conditions would soon be created for return of the refugees to their homeland.
KAMARUZZAMAN VISITS LIBERATED AREAS
 AHM Kamaruzzaman, the home minister of Bangladesh Provisional Government, told reporters today that the Pakistani troops had so far suffered 40,000 casualties -- 13,000 killed and the rest injured -- since the beginning of the liberation struggle.

He said the army was no more sending injured troops back to West Pakistan as the presence of a large number of crippled soldiers might give out the real situation in Bangladesh to people in West Pakistan.
 The home minister, who was now touring different liberated areas, said he had found the morale of the Mukti Foj and the people very high everywhere notwithstanding the inhuman atrocities perpetrated by the occupation army. He also visited some of the guerilla training camps.
CALCUTTA MAYOR SEEKS TO HALT REFUGEE INFILUX
 The mayor of Calcutta today demanded a cordon around the already overcrowded city "to prevent the further influx of refugees from East Pakistan".
 The mayor, Shyam Sundar Gupta, reported that 100,000 refugees so far had reached the city and warned that law and order might be affected if they continued to flow in.
 "If they come to Calcutta, how will their bellies be filled?" he asked. "They are hungry people and there is bound to be a security problem as a natural course of things."
 Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

Trafficked by husband

FROM PAGE 12
 nine people, including her husband, with Hatirjheel Police Station under the human trafficking act.

She is one of the three victims, who fled India and returned home recently.
 In the case statement, she described a horrid tale of being prey to human trafficking and being physically, sexually assaulted and raped in the foreign land.
 Tania said she and her husband used to live in a rented house in Demra's Kaja.
 On January 2 this year, Rony brought Tania to one "Nodi Madam" in Hatirjheel area and introduced her as a "lady officer" of the old age home in Chennai, which is recruiting nurse. She told her that she would go to India on January 6 and if she wanted the job, she had to go with her.
 On January 6 evening, Tania, Nodi along with another girl, who too aspired to work in India, started their journey from Kalyanpur bus stand. The next morning, they reached a house near Satkhira border, a transit point for human trafficking.
 There, Tania saw five-six other girls waiting to cross the border. Around 11:00pm, six of them crossed the border. Five hands were changed to reach a West Bengal house. To get there, they had to walk for six hours.
 After 30-40 minutes, a man came with a camera to take their photos to make Indian National Identification Card. At night, they were given Aadhaar cards along with flight tickets to Chennai, reads the statement.
 The following morning, Tania was taken to Chennai by air and kept at a house in Pakkam area where she found four-five more girls. After two

days, Tania was shifted to another house where two members of the racket named Beauty and Azharul kept the girls under watch.
 "The next day, Beauty and Azharul told me that a guest would visit my room and that I should get ready. I could sense what was going to happen with me ...," she said in the case statement, adding that when she wanted to contact Nodi, they made her naked, filmed the scene and threatened her to act accordingly.
 "They told me that my husband sold me to Nodi for Tk 40,000 and Nodi resold me to them for Tk 70,000," she said in the statement.
 There, Tania sought help from a client, hailing from Kolkata, who gave her Tk 20,000. On May 3, when she was sent to a massage parlour for prostitution for 10 days, she fled the place on the first day by breaking a glass of the window. She got a train from Chennai and reached Kolkata.
 On May 10, she was able to return Bangladesh through Satkhira border.
 Earlier, an eighteen-year-old woman, who was trafficked to India, fled Bengaluru on May 7 and lodged a case with Hatirjheel Police Station on June 1 against 12 members of the gang, including Rifadul Islam Ridoy, 26, also known as Ridoy Babo on TikTok, a popular video-sharing app.
 Police are also investigating whether Ridoy's racket has any connections with Tania's trafficking to Chennai.
 "We are looking for the husband and trying to trace other members of the gang," Hafiz Al Faruk, additional deputy commissioner (Teigaon division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star.

New 'weird' planet with

FROM PAGE 12
 The planet, a temperate sub-Neptune sized body with a 24-day orbit, is eight times closer to its star than the Earth is to the sun, but its temperature is similar to our home planet because the red dwarf itself is less potent.
 Its atmosphere is approximately 330 Kelvin or 140 degrees Fahrenheit, making TOI-1231b one of the coolest, small exoplanets accessible for atmospheric studies discovered yet. It is possible that there may be clouds present high in the atmosphere, and possibly evidence of water.
 "Future observations of this new planet will let us determine just how common (or rare) it is for water clouds to form around these temperate worlds," said Nasa JPL scientist Jennifer Burt, with assistant professor in UNM's Department of Physics and Astronomy Diana Dragomir adding that further study will be necessary to understand precisely how it is composed.

"The low density of TOI 1231b indicates that it is surrounded by a substantial atmosphere rather than being a rocky planet. But the composition and extent of this atmosphere are unknown!" said Dragomir.
 "TOI1231b could have a large hydrogen or hydrogen-helium atmosphere, or a denser water vapour atmosphere. Each of these would point to a different origin, allowing astronomers to understand whether and how planets form differently around M dwarfs when compared to the planets around our Sun."
 Scientists can do this by investigating whether gas is being blown away and looking for evidence of hydrogen and helium atoms -- something that is usually impossible because their presence is masked by interstellar gas. However, since this planet-star system is moving quickly away from Earth, scientists have hope that it can be achieved.

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়
 ধানমন্ডি রবার্ট গ্রেট দক্ষিণ পূর্ব্বী মঠ ও লেক ডিউ, ৪১১৫ বর্গফুট দ্বিমস্তরী ইন্সট্রোরিট, রুপিস গার্ডেন জি.ম. সুইমিংপুল, সকল আধুনিক সুবিধাসহ ডুপ্লেক্স ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয়।
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Tenders are hereby invited from reputed manufacturers for the supply of 49891MT cement (Portland Composite Cement in accordance with BS EN 197-1 strength grade 42.5N) and 9639 MT of TMT Rebars (Yield strength:-500Mpa, conforming to BS4449). Material will be used in the Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of the Rooppur-Dhaka 400 KV Double Circuit transmission line on Turnkey Basis (Package – 2), NOA No:- 27.21.0000.101.07.301.21.373 dated January 18, 2021, Contract Agreement No :- PGCB/EXIM BANK/LOC-3/400KV/TL/RPP-DHA dated Feb 17, 2021. The payment shall be made in USD. The price shall remain firm for a period of 30 months. Tenders shall be received upto 20:00 Hrs of 30-June-2021 at the project office of Larsen & Toubro Limited Flat No- A1 & A2, Ground Floor, P.I Road, Balia Halt, Opp. BADC office, Pabna Sadar, PS – Pabna, Bangladesh – 6600. We reserve the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Subrata Bhunia
 Project Manager
 Larsen & Toubro Limited,
 Pabna

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