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# Give migrants jobs with priority

Recruiting agencies ask govt, say it'll save their money, time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A recruiting agencies' platform yesterday demanded that the government immediately arrange Covid-19 vaccines for migrant workers to ensure their smooth migration and save money spent on hotel quarantine.

Female Worker Recruiting Agencies Association of Bangladesh (FWRAAB) demanded that the government immediately import Johnson and Johnson or a similar kind of vaccine and initiate the inoculation process for migrant workers.

Moreover, they also wanted allocation of at least 50,000 doses of the recently imported Pfizer vaccine for migrant workers for emergency use.

The platform held a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the capital to press home their demands.

Remittance sent by migrant workers is considered to be one of the main economic pillars of the country. More than one crore Bangladeshi migrant workers live in over 160 countries.

Last month, Saudi Arabia, the biggest job market for Bangladeshi migrant workers, in a travel advisory asked passengers from non-restricted countries, including Bangladesh, to be vaccinated to avoid a seven-day institutional quarantine in the kingdom.

Talking to this newspaper over phone, FWRAAB President Abdul Alim yesterday said at least 50,000 people

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Without a harness or any other safety measures, two electricians are working on a very high volt transformer in the capital's Farm Gate area. A momentary lapse in concentration or loss of footing can lead to tragedies in such situations.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# Report meant to help govt deal with pandemic

Says TIB; stands by its survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday said instead of terming its report on the government's Covid-19 response "false and motivated", the government could better combat the pandemic by taking the measures recommended in the report.

The graft watchdog said its main objective is to support the government with analysis of research findings on how the government's measures can be more transparent and accountable.

TIB hopes that the authorities concerned will accept the findings of the report by adopting a neutral and impersonal perspective, said a statement.

The authorities can dedicate themselves to enhancing their capacity, transparency and accountability so that the government's pandemic response become a success, it added.

The TIB report titled "Tackling Coronavirus Pandemic: Governance Challenges in Covid-19 Vaccine Management" was released on June 8.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque at a later event reportedly said the report was "false information from the beginning to end". The health minister also said TIB officials' criticisms were fiction because they were "sitting inside air-conditioned rooms".

In yesterday's statement, TIB said one could not say that the report was false, adding that TIB collected data from both primary and secondary sources while adhering to internationally recognised research methodology in

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# ASI Shoumen confesses to triple murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police Assistant Sub-Inspector Shoumen Kumar Roy, accused of triple murder, yesterday confessed in a local court to committing the crime.

He told the court that he carried out the killing out of anger. He, however, regretted killing a 7-year-old child.

Shoumen made the confessional statement to Kushtia Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Rezaul Karim from 1:30pm to 4:30pm, said Nishikant Saha, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Kushtia Model Police Station, and also the investigation officer of the two cases filed in connection with the incident.

The court recorded the statement under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The judge later sent the accused to jail.

Kushtia Additional Superintendent of Police (Special Branch) Farhad Hossain Khan said the ASI was produced before the court in connection with two murder cases filed over Sunday's triple murder.

Shoumen shot dead Asma, 25, her son Robin, 7, and Shakil Khan, 26, in front of the customs office in Kushtia town around 11:45am on Sunday.

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**ROAD TO FREEDOM**  
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## Indian MPs want military action

JUNE 15, 1971  
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**INDIRA GANDHI SAYS PAKISTAN SOLUTION GROWS REMOTE**

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said in parliament today that the possibility of a political settlement in East Pakistan was "becoming more remote" every day. She also declared that India was prepared to make "all the sacrifices" and would have to "go through hell" to look after the six million Pakistani refugees in India. But she said India expected the nations of the world to share the responsibility.

"We are looking after the refugees on a temporary basis," Indira Gandhi said. "We have no intention of allowing them to settle here neither have we any intention of asking them to go back merely to be butchered."

In a four-hour debate in parliament, a significant number of parliament members suggested that India should send the military into East Pakistan to help the Bangalee freedom fighters. Indira Gandhi did not comment on these suggestions. She said a political settlement had to come sooner or later -- "better sooner than later."

She declared, however, that India would "never acquiesce" in a political settlement "at the cost of democracy and the rights of people fighting there."

"Any settlement must be arrived at with those people who are today being suppressed," she said. "We shall not for a moment stand for a political settlement that means the death of Bangladesh and the ending of democracy and of the people who are fighting for their rights."

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# Khaleda's kidneys, liver not working properly

Says Fakhrul citing medical board

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's health condition, the party said her kidney and liver is not functioning well; that's why she is suffering from fever repeatedly.

"Although Khaleda Zia recovered from coronavirus, she has been suffering from post-Covid complications," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

He added that from the medical board he learnt that Khaleda has heart complications and that the board thought her kidney and liver were not functioning properly.

"That's why she is

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# Songbirds act as one when singing duets



CNN ONLINE

Singers performing a duet, jazz players riffing together effortlessly, paired-up dancers never skipping a step: great performers are so coordinated, they become one.

What are the mechanisms that regulate coordination and cooperation? Neurobiologists are learning more from some of nature's foremost musical performers: songbirds.

The brains of duetting songbirds are linked together during performances, a new study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences has found.

The exchange of auditory feedback between the birds "momentarily inhibits motor circuits

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 15

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:05 12:45 5:00 6:50 8:15  
JAMAAT 4:40 1:15 5:15 6:55 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Village chief shot dead in front of family

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, Rangamati

A karbari (village chief) was shot dead in front of his family in a remote village of Jurachhari upazila of Rangamati Sunday night.

Deceased was Pathormoni Chakma, 63, of Lulangchhari Chakma Para said Shafiu Azam, officer-in-charge of Jurachhari Police Station.

Quoting Pathormoni's wife, the OC Shafiu said, "Some unidentified criminals surrounded Pathormoni's house around 9:00pm and shot him dead in front of his family members.

"We recovered the body and sent it to Rangamati Sadar hospital yesterday morning" said the OC.

"We are not able to make any comments about the killers while we are investigating," the OC added.

A union parishad member was gunned down by unknown criminals in Jurachhari upazila on April

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Faruk Talukder, 60, a Covid-19 patient with severe breathing problems, is waiting outside the 100-Bed Dedicated Coronavirus Hospital in Khulna. The hospital had no empty beds when he was brought there by his family members around noon yesterday.

PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY

# India gingerly eases curbs

UK study says Delta variant mutates, drug cocktail may not work

AGENCIES

Many Indian states eased coronavirus restrictions yesterday including the capital Delhi, where authorities allowed all shops and malls to open, as the number of new infections dropped to the lowest in more than two months.

Experts have cautioned against a full re-opening as India has vaccinated only about 5% of its estimated 950 million adults with the necessary two doses, leaving millions vulnerable.

Infections peaked in India in May with about 400,000 new cases a day but that dropped to 70,421 new infections reported yesterday, the lowest daily increase since March 31, health ministry data showed.

The number of deaths went up by 3,921, the data showed.

India has had the second-highest tally of Covid-19 infections in the world after the United States, with 29.51 million cases and 374,305 deaths, according to ministry data.

Authorities in Delhi allowed all shops and malls to re-open although bars, gyms, salons, cinemas and parks remained shut.

City chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said that markets and restaurants would be carefully watched this week. "If we see coronavirus cases are going up, we will have to reimpose strict restrictions," Kejriwal said in a televised address on Sunday.

India's top tourist attraction the Taj Mahal will reopen

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