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BORO FARMING IN BARIND

Hope lost in debt woes

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The yield was good, the weather was favourable for harvesting Boro paddy and the prices too were acceptable, if not fair, to farmers.

Still, the harvest failed to bring smiles to the faces of most small and marginal farmers in the Barind region as they can only expect to take less than one fifth of their harvest home after paying off loans and the landowner's share.

Alfaz Uddin, for example, harvested Boro paddy from 1.34 hectares of land at Kashimpur Beel. He owns only 0.27 hectares of it and the remaining 1.07 hectares he took on lease.

"My share of paddy is very little," the 50-year-old farmer told The Daily Star, while gazing at the heap of ripe Boro paddy on his land.

A small farmer, Alfaz hoped the total production would be around 8.21 tonnes from the land. "But I will be able to take home no more than 1.5 tonnes of paddy after paying all the expenses including loans and the landowner's share," he said.

"The lion's share will be spent on repaying loans."

He had to pay the wages of labourers with paddy, share paddy with the landowner, and repay high-interest loans he had borrowed for buying seeds, fertiliser and pesticides during cultivation.

"I have also taken a loan of Tk 40,000 from a bank. All these will take away 80 percent of my paddy," he added.

Asked how he is going to survive with this trivial share, Alfaz said, "I

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



Farmers thresh paddy with a machine at Kashimpur Beel in Rajshahi's Godagari upazila. Although the growers in the Barind region have got a good yield of Boro paddy this year, small farmers can only make a meagre profit. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANWAR ALI

Lawmaker stages demo in House demanding dam



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League MP SM Shahjada yesterday wrote "no more demands; don't want relief, just a dam" on a placard and hung it from his neck inside the House chamber in the hope that he would be heard.

This is the first time in living memory that a lawmaker protested in the Jatiya Sangsad in such a way, sources in parliament told this paper.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

SUDAN'S DEBT RELIEF

Bangladesh donates \$7.7m

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh on Tuesday provided about \$7.7 million to Sudan, which is rebuilding its \$30 billion battered economy from years of corruption and sanctions.

In December last year, the US, after almost three decades, removed the African nation from the state sponsor of terrorism list, a move that is helping the African nation access much-needed debt relief, multilateral lending and western investment.

Soon after, Sudan opened talks with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to write off \$60 billion in debts.

The help from Bangladesh came as part of the IMF's debt relief plan for Sudan, where a rise in food and fuel prices in 2019 sparked off street protests that went on to topple the three-decade-

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Indira Gandhi determined to send refugees back

JUNE 17, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJAN

"I AM JUST GOING TO SEND THEM BACK" Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today

reiterated that she would send back Bangladesh refugees as soon as normalcy was restored.

"I am just going to send them back, I am determined to send them back," she told a meeting of economic editors. She further said there had been no difference in India's attitude towards Bangladesh. Right from the beginning, India had been demanding a political settlement.

"I am sure if all the world powers had put the requisite pressure it [settlement] could have been possible. I think the possibility now is more remote."

SHARP FALL IN VALUE OF PAKISTANI RUPEE Islamabad's financial crisis was clearly reflected in the sharp fall in the value of the Pakistani rupee in the international market. The fall in the value of the Pakistani rupee was attributed to Islamabad's heavy drain on foreign exchange caused by its war in Bangladesh and the decline in the country's exchange earning through jute and tea exports.

AGA KHAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the UN High

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



EC director among 11 sued by ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday sued 11 people, including a director of the Election Commission (EC) in Dhaka, in two cases.

With the latest, ACC filed five cases this week accusing EC staffers, former ward councillor, former UP chairman, and Rohingyas.

Shuvash Chandra Dutta, deputy director (DD) of ACC Headquarters, and Sharif Uddin, deputy assistant director (DAD) of ACC's Chattogram

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING JUNE 17

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

Unholy nexus giving gas connections

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Despite being not directly linked to Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited, they would go to households to assist linemen and supervisors of the national gas distributor.

Having worked on a daily basis for a long time, they learnt how to fix different issues regarding gas connections. They also somehow got access to the Titas head office in the capital.

At one point, they stole from the office files with details of over 500 subscribers, who were failing to pay bills timely or had problems in their connections. They then carried out fake raids on many of those households identifying themselves as Titas

employees.

They took a huge amount of money from those subscribers illegally. They would charge extra to fix gas lines or provide them with illegal connections in different areas of Dhaka.

These criminals are members of three to four syndicates, who include several current and former employees of Titas.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) claimed to have gleaned the information from three members of one such syndicate. The three have been arrested recently.

"Because of these syndicates, the government is losing a huge amount of money in revenue," Mohammed

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

MISSING PREACHER

Wife asks him to be returned immediately

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The wife of Abu Taw Haa Muhammad Adnan, a young Islamic preacher who remained missing for six days along with three others, again urged the authorities to take steps for their immediate safe return.

"I am not doing well physically and mentally. I do not know what to say at a press conference... I want my husband's safe return," Adnan's wife Sabikunnahar said.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Sitting precariously on a pile of bamboos, people travel on a makeshift three-wheeler on Khulna-Jashore highway. Movement of three-wheelers on this road defying a ban poses risk of accidents. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

US tops 600,000 Covid deaths

New York, California drop curbs after hitting vaccination milestone

AGENCIES

The US death toll from Covid-19 surpassed 600,000 on Tuesday, although officials hailed progress towards a return to normality as its world-leading vaccination program promised to turn the page on one of the worst health crises in American history.

The United States has racked up by far the largest national death toll -- ahead of Brazil and India -- after a heavily-criticised early response to the pandemic, but has since organised

among the world's most effective immunization drives.

Progress against the coronavirus was underlined as New York announced more than 70 percent of adults had received at least one vaccine dose and the last of the state's restrictions could be lifted.

"There's still too many lives being lost," President Joe Biden said, noting that despite the daily number of dead dropping sharply, the continuing loss of life was still "a real tragedy."

"My heart goes out to all those who have lost a loved one," he said,

speaking on Monday in Brussels as the Johns Hopkins University tally ticked close to 600,000.

Biden has set July 4 as the target date for 70 percent of US adults to have received at least one dose, but several states in the South are lagging far behind and the country might miss that goal.

In New York city -- where more than 33,000 died from Covid -- life took a major step forward as almost all restrictions were lifted.

"We have hit 70 percent vaccination,"

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Debt Management Department
Bangladesh Bank
Head Office
Dhaka

"মুজিববর্ষের অঙ্গীকার
দেশী পণ্যের ব্যবহার"

"Invest in Government Bond,
Participate in our country's development"

Opportunities to Invest in Risk-Free Government Treasury Bills and Bonds!

By investing in the 100% risk-free Treasury Bills and Bonds through the banks and financial institutions regulated by Bangladesh Bank, along with earning profits, you can take part in our economic development. The features of treasury bills and bonds and the investment process are the following:

- Tradable Government Treasury Bills and Bonds:** At present, 14, 91, 182 and 364-day Treasury Bills (T-Bills) and 2, 5, 10, 15 and 20-year Treasury Bonds (T-Bonds) are available.
- Who can invest:** Resident Bangladeshi individuals and institutions (e.g. banks, financial institutions, insurance companies, mutual funds, provident funds, pension funds, etc.) can purchase T-Bills and Bonds. Non-resident individuals and institutions are also eligible to purchase T-Bonds.
- Investable Amount:** In the face value of a minimum of taka 1.00 lac or any multiple amounts of 1.00 lac.
- Profit/Coupon Facilities:** The investors would generally receive coupons semiannually on T-Bonds. Coupons are fixed throughout the lifetime of each T-Bond, which is displayed on the website of Bangladesh Bank (<https://www.bb.org.bd/monetaryactivity/tbillbond/tbillbondindex.php>). In contrast, T-Bills are zero-coupon bonds as one can buy at a discount (less than the face value) and receive the face value at maturity.
- Opportunities to Buy and Sell Freely:** By opening a 'securities account' in the system maintained by Bangladesh Bank through the treasury division of a bank/financial institution (FI), investors can purchase T-Bills/T-Bonds from the primary or secondary market. Afterward, T-Bills/T-Bonds can be freely sold to other investors in the secondary market at any time before maturity.
- Tax Rebate Facilities:** Similar to savings certificates, at present, individual investors are enjoying tax rebate facilities against investments in T-Bonds.
- Investment Process for Non-Resident/Foreign Investors:** Non-residents/foreigners can purchase T-Bonds. Bonds purchased by a non-resident may freely be resold to any resident or non-resident investor. Furthermore, coupon payments and resale/redemption proceeds are freely repatriable abroad in foreign.

For further queries, please contact
General Manager, Debt Management Department, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.
Phone: +88029530511; Email: gm.dmd@bb.org.bd