

SDG INDEX Bangladesh in top form due to proper planning: PM

UNB, Dhaka Bangladesh has been one of the top three performers on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Index due to the government's prudent planning with specific directions, said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday. "We've taken proper planning with specific directions, and we're moving ahead in a planned way for implementing the SDGs and included those in the [8th] Five Year Plan," Hasina said. The premier said this when Planning Minister MA Mannan, in the beginning of the weekly Ecneec meeting, informed her about Bangladesh's success in remaining in the top three positions in SDGs' implementation. SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Dhaka residents had to bear yet another day of waterlogging yesterday, as continuous rainfall submerged many roads. As a result, pedestrians had to tuck their clothes to walk to their destinations, and vehicles had to tackle the waves of murky rainwater. This photo was taken from Jatrabari.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Omi amassed millions from human trafficking

CID says about businessman arrested in case filed by Pori Moni

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Tuhin Siddiqui Omi, who was arrested following an attempted rape and murder case filed by actor Pori Moni, has trafficked several hundred people abroad and amassed huge money and wealth at home and abroad, said officials of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday. "Omi has 50 to 60 agents across the country who lure people with promises of better jobs in Malaysia, Singapore, Dubai of United Arab Emirates and some other countries," CID additional deputy inspector general Sheikh Omar Faruk told a news briefing. "People got stranded abroad without jobs. Millions of taka were also scammed from job seekers after promising to send people to Dubai, Malaysia, Singapore and other countries," he added. CID came up with the information after arresting nine accomplices of Omi in connection with a human trafficking case filed with Dakshinkhan police station on Thursday. The arrestees are -- Omi's close associate Jashim Uddin, brother-in-law Rakibul Islam Rana, driver Salauddin, and other associates Md Musa, Golap Hossain Bulbul, Zakir Hossain, Md Nazmul, Md Alam, and Shahjahan Sarkar. They were arrested from different parts of the country, but dates of their arrests were not disclosed at the briefing. Police seized four luxurious cars owned by Omi, 395 passports, documents of assets, credit cards, 22 hard discs of computers and some stamps. CID officials, however, could not confirm whether Omi SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

BAN ON BATTERY-RUN VEHICLES

Three-wheeler drivers take to the streets in Barishal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal Drivers of battery-operated three-wheelers yesterday protested against the government's recent announcement of banning the vehicles. During the protest, Sadar Road in Barishal was blocked, stopping traffic for two hours from 11 am. Workers and drivers from 30 wards of Barishal city occupied the road during a procession. The protest rally was held in front of the city's Ashwini Kumar Hall and was organised by Battery Rickshaw, Easy-bike Driver Sangram Parishad, Barishal district unit. At the time, speakers there said the battery-operated vehicles should be licensed by modernising the design and SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

formulating policies. Speakers demanded immediate withdrawal of the home minister's announcement of banning battery-operated rickshaws, vans and easy-bikes. Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) member secretary Dr Manisha Chakraborty, BSD district convener Imran Habib Rumon, Rickshaw Sramik Federation's president Master Abul Hashem and other members including Dulal Mallick, Manik Mia, Mohsin Mir, Shahidul Islam and Zakir, addressed the protest. Speaking as chief guest, Dr Manisha said, "The home minister had enacted a law to deprive five lakh people of their livelihood. But did he legislate to stop those people's hunger?" SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

'Ban battery-run rickshaws, easy bikes in Dhaka'

Quader asks city corporations, police to take strict measures

UNB, Dhaka Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday asked Dhaka Metropolitan Police and the city corporations to be strict in banning easy bikes and battery-powered rickshaws in the capital. The minister was addressing virtually a board meeting of Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA). He advised the DTCA to finalise the project proposal in consultation with two Dhaka city corporations for upgrading the Eastern Bypass and Western section of Inner Ring Road. DNCC Mayor Md Atiqul Islam, DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, Narayananj city Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy and MP Nazrul Islam Babu, among others, were virtually present at the meeting.

30 children die daily from drowning: study

Experts suggest national strategy, collaborative action for prevention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Drowning accounts for 43 percent of deaths among children between the ages of one and four in Bangladesh, found a recent study. Every day, 30 children under five, who haven't even grown enough to learn swimming, die from drowning, it found. The study also revealed that Bangladesh has one of the highest fatal drowning rates in the world, where every year almost 13,000 children die from drowning. The data were presented yesterday at an online event titled "National Dialogue on Drowning Prevention", jointly organised by Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), Bangladesh ECD Network, Centre for Injury Prevention and Research Bangladesh (CIPRB) and SoMaSHTe with support of Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHA). The chief guest of the event, Fazilatun Nessa Indira MP, said, "The government has already identified the child drowning deaths as a serious concern and prioritises prevention." "Some isolated initiatives were started at different times in some districts. My ministry has submitted a DPP (Detailed Project Pro-forma) in relation to saving our children from drowning. It will be approved shortly," she said. SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Morning showers drown Dhaka again

UNB, Dhaka Copious seasonal showers led to waterlogging and traffic congestion in several parts of the capital on Tuesday morning, washing away the tall claims of monsoon preparedness by the civic bodies. According to Bangladesh Meteorological Department, the metropolis received 18 mm of rainfall from 6am to 9am. Several areas of the city faced waterlogging problems -- Mirpur, Kazipara and Shewrapara being the worst hit. Busy roads and office areas of Tejgaon, Satrasta, Motijheel, Dainik Bangla, Fakirapal, Kakrail, Shantinagar, Nightingale crossing and Bijaynagar also bore the brunt of the rains. Light to moderate rains/thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty winds are likely to occur at most places over Khulna division in next 24 hours, according to BMD's weather forecast. Many places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Khulna, Barishal, Chattogram and Sylhet divisions are likely to witness similar weather conditions, while moderately heavy to heavy falls at isolated places may occur over the country, said the forecast. As the synoptic situation in the forecast shows the monsoon trough is fairly active over Bangladesh and moderate over North Bay, there is no likelihood of rainfall activity stopping in the next 72 hours in the country.

'Violence weighs heavier on indigenous women'

Speakers tell national-level dialogue While violence against women increased nationally over the pandemic, the burden weighs heavier on indigenous women, said speakers at a conference yesterday. "While all the cameras were turned towards the sexual harassment incident of a celebrity, nobody noticed that at the same time, a Koch woman was brutally raped in Tangail," said Chanchana Chakma, member secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network (BIWN). Not only did the attackers rape her, but they also completely mutilated her genitals, leaving her critically injured, she said. All three attackers of the Koch woman were Bengali. "We do not know how far the justice process will go when there is no monitoring by anyone," she added. Falguni Tripura of Kapaeng Foundation said even though the attackers tortured her and broke her teeth, the media's reaction and public outcry were different from when such incidents centre mainstream women. "The situation of violence is such that when there is talk of building a five-star hotel on indigenous property, the indigenous woman is the first to feel afraid," said Jona Goswami, director at Bangladesh Mahila Parishad. The conference titled "National dialogue on the human rights situation SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

POLLS TO 204 UPs AL wins 73pc chairman posts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The ruling Awami League has won 73 percent chairman posts in 204 Union Parishad polls held in the first phase on Monday. Independent chairman candidates won 24 percent posts and independent mayor candidates, candidates from Jatiya Party, Jatiya Party (Manju) and Islami Andolon Bangladesh won the rest three percent posts. According to the Election Commission statistics, Awami League candidates won in 148 UP chairman posts. Twenty eight AL candidates were elected unopposed. It also shows that 49 independent candidates, three each from Jatiya Party and Jatiya Party (Manju), and one from Islami Andolon Bangladesh, won the elections. Voter turnout in Monday's UP elections in 13 districts was 64.73 percent, according to the EC. At least three persons were killed and dozens injured in violence in six districts in the first phase of the elections.

KILLING OF 9-YR-OLD IN SYLHET HC confirms death for sacked cop, 2 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The High Court yesterday confirmed death penalty of three persons, including a sacked police constable, for killing nine-year-old Abu Sayeed for ransom in Sylhet in 2015. Abu Sayeed, a fourth grader at Shah Mir Govt Primary School in Sylhet, was abducted by the convicts on March 11, 2015. They had demanded Tk 5 lakh as ransom from his family. Three days later, Sylhet police recovered Sayeed's body in a sack from the attic of constable Ebadur Rahman's house at Kumrapara in the city. Outraged by the incident, locals protested and demanded punishment of the killers. The victim's father, Abdul Matin, filed a murder case against the arrestees and three other unidentified people. Yesterday, the HC confirmed death penalty -- given by a Sylhet court -- of Abdur Rakib, the then general secretary of Sylhet district unit Awami Olama League; Ebadur Rahman, a sacked constable of Sylhet airport police; and Ataur Rahman Geda, a police informant. The HC bench of Justice Shahidul Karim and Justice Md SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

AMASSING ILLEGAL WEALTH Travel ban imposed on whip Shamsul, two more lawmakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT A Dhaka court has imposed travel ban on six people including Whip Shamsul Haque Chowdhury and Bhola-3 Awami League lawmaker Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon, in order to investigate their links with amassing wealth beyond known sources of income. The others are Sunamganj-1 AL lawmaker Moazzem Hossain Ratan, Joint Chief of Ministry of Housing and Public Works Sajjadul Islam, former Additional Chief Engineer Md Abdul Hye and Dhaka Wonders Club employee Abul Kalam Azad. Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of Senior Special Court of Dhaka on Thursday passed the order, after Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Director Syed Iqbal Hossain, who is also head of the inquiry team, submitted an application on June 13, seeking ban on them from travelling abroad. The court also directed the anti-graft body to send its order to the special superintendent of police (immigration branch) of the Special Branch. In the application, ACC said investigation related to their corruption is underway, and travel ban on them is necessary.



Demanding an end to harassment over vaccination and simplification of all guidelines, expatriate workers stuck in Bangladesh demonstrated in front of the expatriates' welfare ministry's office at Chattogram city's Agrabad yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Tofail Ahmed to give away all his property to charity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Awami League leader Tofail Ahmed, lawmaker of Bhola-1, has announced that he will donate all his movable and immovable property to Tofail Ahmed Foundation. Tofail confirmed his decision to The Daily Star yesterday. The foundation, established by him in 2016, will work to provide the underprivileged with hospital, old home, and stipend facilities, the veteran politician said. Born in Bhola, Tofail Ahmed remains one of the most influential political leaders in the history of Bangladesh and is an ideal follower of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He is one of the organisers of Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971 and acted as one of the chiefs of Bangladesh Liberation Front (Mujib Bahini). Tofail was the Minister for Commerce and Industries from 1996 to 1999, Minister for Industries up to 2001, Minister for Housing and Public Works and Industries in 2013-2014 and Minister for Commerce from 2014 to 2019.

