

## BANGABANDHU BRIDGE Toll to go up around 17pc

Bridge authority also hikes toll of Mukterpur bridge to meet maintenance cost, repay loans

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) has decided to raise the toll rate of Bangabandhu Bridge by around 17 percent aiming to boost its income for covering maintenance costs and repaying loans.

The authority has also decided to increase the toll rate of Mukterpur Bridge in Munshiganj for the first time since its inauguration in 2008.

The BBA board, chaired by Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, made the decisions at its 110th meeting yesterday, officials said.

However, the revised toll rate has to be approved by the prime minister before being implemented. Once approved, the new rate may be introduced from October, they added.

The move comes at a time when the country is witnessing a second wave of Covid-19 and the fare of buses has already been increased by 60 percent to run those at half their capacity.

The fresh initiative may further increase fares of transport which would use the two bridges.

Meanwhile, the BBA board did not approve a toll rate proposal for the under-construction Padma Bridge as the project work has not been completed yet.

The meeting decided to fix the rate three or four months before the opening of the bridge to traffic, likely in June

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Two people of Pallipara Manikdipa Ashrayan project in Bogura's Shajahanpur waded through almost knee-deep water as rain inundated the road connecting their homes. In January, the local administration handed over nine houses to the same number of homeless families as a gift marking Mujib Borsho.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Slipping back to uncertainty

Houses given as PM's gift to nine homeless people inundated after moderate rain

MOSTAFA SHABUI, Bogura

A homeless freedom fighter and eight others, who have been blessed with a cluster of houses in Shajahanpur, Bogura, have found that even moderate rains can leave their new houses completely flooded.

Thanks to the rains last week, even the front and back yards of the houses, given to the homeless people as a gift from the prime minister, are still under water, causing unbearable suffering to the residents.

The houses were built under the Ashrayon Prokolpo-2 at a cost of Tk 15.39 lakh by the Department of Disaster Management in 2020. The nine individuals, including six widows, moved in six months ago.

Locals said it was no surprise that the houses have been flooded, because the low-lying piece of land, on which these have been built, always got flooded during monsoon. Some said they pointed this out to the officials at the outset, but the latter didn't pay heed to their advice.

"We are suffering a lot. There is water inside. Our toilets, and tube wells have been inundated. We have to wade through knee-deep water if we want to leave the neighbourhood," said 68-year-old freedom fighter Hujur Ali.

"We are homeless, the prime minister gifted us the houses, but they made these on a piece of land where nobody can live in monsoon. Where will we go now?" he asked.

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## CRIMINAL CASES

### Complainants have to provide proof of identity

HC issues five directives in full text of its order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court in a full text of an order has issued five directives to ensure that the identities of informants and complainants of criminal cases are recorded.

The informants and complainants must submit photocopies of their national identity cards, or passports and their numbers to the police stations or courts concerned when they file cases so that police can find them during investigation.

If any informant or complaint doesn't have national identity cards, the photocopy of the ID card of the person, who identifies the informant or complaint, must be submitted to the police station or court concerned during filing of the case, the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman said in the full text of the order.

The bench released the two-page order on Wednesday.

On June 14, the HC bench delivered

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

## 11 nations decline aid to Pakistan

**Demonstration before American Embassy in New Delhi on June 25, 1971, by Bangladeshis led by KM Shehabuddin, diplomatic representative of the exiled Bangladesh government.**

JUNE 25, 1971  
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**AID POSTPONED**  
The major aid-giving nations, led by the World Bank, quietly agreed to postpone indefinitely any new economic assistance for Pakistan.

The 11 donors reached a consensus at a meeting on June 21, 1971 in Paris, it was learned today. The informal decision was taken after a mission from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund reported after a visit that Pakistan was in administrative and economic shambles.

The agreement would not affect the humanitarian assistance

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### Journalist stabbed by 'followers of Quader Mirza'

2 family members  
beaten up

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A local journalist was stabbed and his mother and son were beaten up in Noakhali's Companiganj upazila yesterday.

The family alleged that the attackers were followers of Abdul Quader Mirza, brother of Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader.

Mirza's associates, however, claimed that they were not involved in the incident.

The injured are Prashanta Suvash Chandra, 47, his mother Baby Rani, 70, and his son Promit, 20. Suvash is Companiganj upazila correspondent of Dainik Bangladesh Samachar and chief reporter of a local online portal named Chalaman Somoy.

His family members said

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### Hubble Telescope spots distant galaxy with 'fascinating secret'



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The Hubble Space Telescope has captured an image of a spiral galaxy that is hiding a supermassive black hole at its centre.

Galaxy NGC 3254 is a "Seyfert galaxy", a collection of planets and stars defined by their extremely active centres, located approximately 118 million light-years from Earth.

The black hole at its core, with its huge gravitational power, can pull gas, dust, stars and planets, around in space - captured by Hubble using both visible and infrared light.

While one might assume that black holes, with

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### Man returns to world of crime after 23yrs in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After his 22-year sentence for murder ended, Rafiqul Islam was released in 2017.

But in 2019, he was arrested again in an arms case filed with Lalbagh Police Station in the capital and was sent to jail for a year.

Rafiqul, who goes by the alias Ratan, spent 23 years of his 45-year life behind bars. However, while investigating an incident of gun violence that took place earlier this month, the Detective Branch of police again arrested Ratan in Savar on Wednesday, said AKM Hafiz Akhtar, additional commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Police recovered a pistol with a magazine, a revolver, two bullets and a motorcycle from Ratan and his associate Arman's possession.

At a press briefing at DMP's media centre, Hafiz Akhtar yesterday

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A yellow-wattled lapwing spotted in the capital's Purbachal recently. It is found mainly on the dry plains and has a sharp call and is capable of fast flight. Around Dhaka city, the only reported place where this species is found is the Purbachal area.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SM BASITUR ROSHID

## DAILY COVID CASES Brazil sets record as 3rd wave breaks

Russia's daily infections, deaths hit six-month highs

AGENCIES

Brazil set a new record for Covid-19 infections with 115,228 new cases identified within 24 hours, the health ministry said on Wednesday, confirming the arrival of a third wave of the pandemic.

During the same period 2,392 new deaths were recorded, bringing the total to 507,109.

Brazil is the second worst-hit in the world in absolute numbers of fatalities, behind the United States which has suffered more than 600,000 deaths.

The largest country in Latin America, with 212 million inhabitants, Brazil has a total of 18,169,881 confirmed Covid cases, according to official figures, which many specialists considered an underestimate.

The number of daily infections has been rising steadily for more than a month and the average death rate has been around 2,000 per day since last week.

"With this continual acceleration in the number of cases, we are already in the third wave," said Carlos Lula, president of the National Council of Health Secretaries (Conass), which brings together health authorities from the countries various states, told the daily O Globo.

The country has been slow to roll out vaccines with only 12% of Brazilians fully immunized, according to the ministry data. Efforts have accelerated recently, with certain

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