

BANGABANDHU, MUKTERPUR BRIDGES

Toll to be raised up to 20pc

Bridge authority makes the decision to meet costs, repay loans

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) has decided to raise the toll rate of Bangabandhu Bridge and Mukterpur Bridge by around 20 percent aiming to increase its income for covering maintenance costs and repaying loans.

The BBA board, chaired by Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, made the decision 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 bus fare has already been increased by 60 percent. The fresh initiative is likely to further increase fares of transport using 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 next year, sources said.

Contacted, BBA Executive Director Abu Bakr Siddique, SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



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 9 homeless people inundated after a little 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.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 6

CRIMINAL CASES

Complainants have to provide proof of identity

HC issues 5 directives in full text of verdict

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 SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

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 SEE PAGE 12 COL 3

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 Chalamani Somoy.

His family members said SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

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 SEE PAGE 12 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING JUNE 25

Fajr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:05	12:30	5:00	6:54	8:17
JAMAAT 4:20	1:15	5:15	6:57	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

BUILDING COLLAPSE

One dead, 51 unaccounted for in Florida

REUTERS, Surfside

Hundreds of fire and rescue workers scoured through tonnes of rubble yesterday after a 12-storey oceanfront residential building partially collapsed in southern Florida, with at least one person dead and 51 still unaccounted for, officials said.

Sally Heyman, a Miami-Dade County Commissioner, said officials have been unable to make contact with 51 people who "supposedly" live in the building, home to a mix of people including families and part-time "snow birds" who spend the winter months in Florida.

"We have 51 people that were assumed to have been there, but you don't know between vacations or anything else, so we're still waiting," Heyman told CNN by phone. "The hope is still there, but it's waning."

A fire official said 35 people were rescued from the building in Surfside, SEE PAGE 12 COL 6



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 6-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 SEE PAGE 12 COL 3