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18 KEY ROAD, RAIL PROJECTS

Physical work to go on amid lockdown

Govt aims to complete those within fresh deadlines

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Physical works of 18 major infrastructure projects under the road and rail sectors will continue amid the ongoing seven-day "strict lockdown" aiming to meet their fresh deadlines.

All but the Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project are being implemented with foreign funds. Deadlines of 15 of the projects have already been revised at least one or more times.

Officials involved with the projects said physical works of almost all projects remained halted for more than two months after the government had announced "shutdown" in March last year to contain the spread of Covid-19.

When the authorities were trying to revive the momentum of the project works, a second wave of the pandemic hit the country in March, slowing down the progress of the works.

The government now wants to continue these major projects, maintaining necessary health safety guidelines, the officials added.

The railways ministry on Wednesday issued an order to continue development works of six "public interest projects of the state", being implementing by Bangladesh

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Three restaurant workers leaving the capital for Habiganj as their owner closed the restaurant due to the ongoing lockdown. The photo was captured in front of the Secretariat while the three were in a rickshaw yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Leaving the glitzy city for now

Unemployed, they have no option but to head back to village homes

SAJJAD HOSSAIN and ZAHANGIR SHAH

Al-Amin worked at a metal ornament factory in the capital's Lalbagh area for 15 years. After the pandemic struck Bangladesh and the factory incurred losses due to a fall in sales, the factory had to eventually close down two weeks ago, leaving the 26-year-old unemployed.

"Since then, I have been searching for another job, but I am failing."

The sole earner in a family of five, Al-Amin lived with his family in a rented house at Tk 10,000 per month in the same area.

"After losing my job, I had to take loans to clear the rent and run my family. As another lockdown has been enforced, there is no chance of me finding another job anytime soon. So, it is not possible for me to stay in Dhaka."

And so, Al-Amin and SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

EVIDENCE ACT

Experts laud govt move to scrap section

NILIMA JAHAN

Rights activists and legal experts welcomed Law Minister Anisul Huq's announcement about removing from the Evidence Act a provision allowing "negative" remarks about the character of a rape victim in a rape case.

The law minister on Thursday talked about removing Sub-section 155 (4) of the Evidence Act, 1872, which says: "When a man is prosecuted for rape or an attempt to ravish, it may be shown that the prosecutrix was of generally immoral character."

Those welcoming the decision said it will help the rape survivors who are routinely blamed and shamed in courts about their character, social class, attire, past sexual history, and lifestyle.

However, repealing sub-section 146 (3) of the Evidence Act is equally important, as, during cross-examination, a witness may be asked any question which tends to "shake his credit, by injuring his character".

Section 146 is often used against victims of rape and other sexual offences. Legal experts and rights activists said legal reform alone cannot help survivors to get justice.

Sensitising the public and legal channels to the plight of the victims is of utmost importance to change the mindset that judges a rape victim's testimony by the patriarchal standard of morality and

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ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Yahya's plan a cruel joke: Muzaffar

JULY 2, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

NAP (WALI) REJECTS YAHYA'S CONSTITUTIONAL PLAN

Muzaffar Ahmed, president of the National Awami Party (Wali Group) rejected Yahya's plan to impose a government of Islamabad's choice on the people of Bangladesh. Talking to newsmen, he said, "Yahya's so-called constitutional plan is a cruel joke perpetrated on the 75 million people of Bangladesh against whom he has let loose his armed hordes."

"The political solution in Bangladesh will be enforced by the people of Bangladesh themselves, now united as never before, in the grim struggle for their self-determination," he declared.

YOUTH TRAINING CONTROL BOARD FORMED

The exiled Government of Bangladesh formed Youth Training Control Board to coordinate the activities of youth training camps. Professor Yusuf Ali was made the chairman of the board. Wing Commander Ahmed Reza played a key role in the coordination activities.

REPUBLICANS' MOVE TO STOP ARMS AID

Two Republican members of the US Congress announced that they would introduce a resolution in both Houses to have the US government stop all further shipments of military equipment to Pakistan. The joint resolution would seek to force the government to revoke licenses already granted for shipments of military items.

UN REFUSES TO EXPLAIN REPORTS

The United Nations refused today to explain the factual basis and the reports of its representatives in West Pakistan and East Pakistan on which the UNDP administration and the Secretary General U Thant concluded that work on UN developments projects could be resumed in East Pakistan. The refusal confirmed suspicions that the decisions were purely political.

BHUTTO CLAIMS HE CAN FORM GOVT

The Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party, ZA Bhutto, claimed that his party was in a position to form government in all the four

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GP sued for using native bird in ad

STAR REPORT

A case was filed on Thursday against Grameenphone by Wildlife Crime Control Unit of the forest department for using an indigenous bird in their advertisement.

Nargis Sultana, inspector of WCCU, filed the case at Dhaka's Chief Judicial Magistrate Court under section 38(2), 41 and 46 of the Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act-2012, reports our Bogura correspondent.

"Grameenphone Ltd used a rose-ring parakeet which is an indigenous bird. By showing this bird in a cage in their commercial advertisement, the mobile operator violated the aforesaid sections and inspired people to catch indigenous birds from nature, put them in cage and display them," she told The Daily Star.

This advertisement went viral on social media, prompting people to criticise it, drew the WCCU's attention, said Sultana.

When contacted, Jahir Uddin Akon, director

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Largest comet ever seen is heading towards the Sun



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

An enormous asteroid from the outskirts of the solar system is heading towards the Sun.

Comet Bernardinelli-Bernstein is 1000 times larger than the average comet and was first spotted 4 billion kilometres from our solar system in 2014, roughly the same distance as Neptune; between its first sighting and this month, it has travelled another billion kilometres closer to us.

The comet's orbit is perpendicular to the plane of the Solar System, and it will reach its closest point to the Sun (known as the perihelion) in 2031 - but despite its size and proximity to our closest star, amateur astronomers will only be able to see it with a large telescope, even at its brightest.

"We have the privilege of having discovered perhaps the largest comet ever seen - or at least larger than any well-studied one - and caught it early enough for people to watch it evolve as it approaches and warms up," said the University

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SUNDARBANS

Govt bans fishing for 2 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Fishing in all the rivers and canals in the Sundarbans has been banned for two months from yesterday due to the fish breeding season.

Confirming this, East Sundarbans Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Mohammad Belayet Hossain said the ban will end at midnight on August 31.

He said the Sundarbans Forest Department has made an agreement in 2019 as per the recommendations of the Integrated Resource Management Plans (IRMP) to protect fishery resources in the Sundarbans. As a part

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 2

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-10 12-30 5-00 6-55 8-17
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

NATURE QUEST

A pheasant-tailed jacana, popularly known as Jal-mayur, spotted in Hatimara beel in Nature recently. The bird, which is found in small and large lakes, lives on insects, molluscs, and other invertebrates.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF M MURTOZA SARWAR

Covid cases rising again in Europe

Says WHO, sounds alarm on Euro 2020, travel pass

AFP, Copenhagen

The World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday called for better monitoring of Euro 2020 football matches as Covid cases rise again in Europe, fuelled by the deadly Delta variant that is racing around the globe.

Hundreds of cases have been detected among spectators attending Euro matches taking place across Europe, with carriers of the Delta strain detected in Copenhagen, and infected Scots and Finns returning from London and Saint Petersburg respectively.

Russia posted record virus deaths for the third day running yesterday, while in Britain -- where

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বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল

২০৩, শহীদ সৈয়দ নজরুল ইসলাম সরণী
পুরাতন ৮৬ বিজয়নগর, ঢাকা-১০০০।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল (বিএমএন্ডডিসি) ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ বিনির্মাণের প্রত্যয়ে এবং বিএমএন্ডডিসি কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত বিভিন্ন সেবা সহজতর ও দ্রুততম সময়ে প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে অনলাইন ই-পেমেন্ট ব্যবস্থা চালু করতে যাচ্ছে। আগামী ১৫ জুলাই ২০২১ ইং তারিখ হতে বিএমএন্ডডিসিতে নিবন্ধিত চিকিৎসকগণ নিম্নের ওয়েব ঠিকানায় প্রবেশ করে বিবিধ আবেদনের ফি অনলাইনে প্রদান করে সেবা গ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।

বিএমএন্ডডিসি ই-পেমেন্ট সিস্টেম

<https://payment.bmdc.org.bd/>

আবেদনকারীগণ উপরোল্লিখিত ওয়েব ঠিকানায় প্রবেশ করে ব্যবহারকারী হিসেবে নিবন্ধনপূর্বক লগইন করে বিভিন্ন সেবার জন্য আবেদন ও অনলাইনে ডেবিট কার্ড/ক্রেডিট কার্ড অথবা মোবাইল ব্যাংকিং সেবার মাধ্যমে ফি প্রদান করতে পারবেন।

অনলাইন ব্যবহারকারী নিবন্ধন বা ফি জমা দান সংক্রান্ত সহায়তার জন্য ০১৭১৩-১৬২৯৭৯ নাম্বারে কল করুন (সকাল ০৯:০০ থেকে বিকাল ৫:০০)

(ডাঃ মোঃ লিয়াকত হোসেন)
ডেপুটি রেজিস্ট্রার
বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল