

Back to roots to set up agro farm

DU graduate stops chasing jobs in cities, returns to village to make vermicompost

MOSTAFA SHABUI, Bogura

It is expected that a student graduating from a reputed university would want a good job in the big city.

A female Dhaka University graduate in Bogura, however, broke the stereotype to become an entrepreneur, finding success in cultivating vermicompost and helping her fellow villagers learn the business.

Twenty-six-year-old Razia Sultana Sumi, of Goriapara village in Shibganj upazila, completed her honours and master's degrees in social welfare at DU in 2018 and 2020 respectively.

"Like every student of DU, I also dreamed of being a BCS [Bangladesh Civil Service] cadre or getting a good job in a reputed organisation but the urgency of life returned me to the village."

While many fellow graduates were



CHANGE MAKER

preparing for exams and struggling to land government jobs, Sumi said she did not want to waste time.

"After finishing my master's degree with good results, I came straight back to my village and started helping my father in the fields," said Sumi.

Her journey was not easy. She was initially shamed and verbally insulted by neighbours and villagers, mostly boys

and men, while harvesting paddy in the fields with her father and sister last year.

They said that a girl who graduated from Dhaka University harvesting paddy in the fields was such a shame -- that she had wasted her parents' money and efforts, Sumi recalled.

"Every profession is great if you take it to heart. Agriculture is my father's profession. I wanted to find greater success in agriculture," said Sumi.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Amid heavy rain, people queue up and wait for a TCB truck so that they can buy essentials at reduced prices. After a few days break, the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) started selling essential commodities from their trucks. The photo was taken in Chattogram city's Jamal Khan area around noon yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Dead, retired doctors get mistakenly promoted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The name of a doctor, who recently died, was found in a list, prepared by the health ministry, of promoted medical workers posted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

They are supposed to join their new workplace today.

The Health and Family Welfare Ministry promoted the doctor, along with 64 others, posting them to the hospital to increase the workforce and deal with the surge in Covid-19 patients in the division.

However, due to a mistake it turned out that one of the doctors, who was even notified to join her new workplace today, had passed away months ago.

Another such promoted doctor has already retired.

A letter with the list of promoted doctors, signed

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Smart foam gives robotic hand ability to self-repair



REUTERS, Singapore

Singapore researchers have developed a smart foam material that allows robots to sense nearby objects, and repairs itself when damaged, just like human skin.

Artificially innervated foam, or AiFoam, is a highly elastic polymer created by mixing fluoropolymer with a compound that lowers surface tension.

This allows the spongy material to fuse easily into one piece when cut, according to the researchers at the National University of Singapore.

"There are many applications for such a

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

BR to run cattle trains ahead of Eid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway will again operate "special cattle trains" to bring sacrificial animals to Dhaka from different regions ahead of the Eid.

Between July 17 and 19, the special trains will bring the animals from Dewanganj Bazar, Jamalpur, to Dhaka, said Shariful Alam, senior information officer of Railways Ministry.

BR will also arrange cattle trains from Khulna and Chapainawabganj, if there is demand from the cattle traders, he added.

Similar arrangements were also made last year following the request of fisheries and livestock ministry to provide safe and cost-effective services amid travel restrictions imposed because of the pandemic.

But this year's restrictions on transport services are enforced

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

One evacuee every second

JULY 4, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZZA SAJEN

CANADIAN MPS PREFER AUTONOMY TO RECOGNITION

A three-man Canadian parliamentary delegation was convinced that autonomy in Bangladesh was preferable to recognition, and a situation should be created where the elected representatives of the people would be allowed to fulfil their duties.

The delegation told newsmen today in Calcutta that they had no doubt that the 6.5 million evacuees were forced to flee their homes only because of a violent military action. Having returned from a trip in the morning to three refugee camps, they said they were deeply moved by the human tragedy.

BANGLADESH REFUGEE CRISIS

India was receiving one evacuee from Bangladesh every second according to an official report. Everyday some 100,000 people are driven out from Bangladesh to the India side of the border. The cost of food and shelter for each evacuee was estimated at four rupees a day.

NIXON CRITICISED BY SENATOR ON AID TO PAKISTAN Senator Frank Church, Idaho Democrat and a member of the senate foreign relations committee, charged in a Senate speech today that \$35 million worth of military equipment was still in the "pipeline" for delivery to Pakistan.

He said President Richard Nixon "refuses to stop the flow" despite recommendations from the "bureaucracy" for the cancelling of outstanding licenses for equipment destined for the Pakistani

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Malaysia extends amnesty for illegal workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaysia has extended its recalibration programme till December 31 this year for illegal migrants living in the country.

The programme consisting of two schemes -- return recalibration and labour recalibration -- is expected to help many undocumented Bangladeshi workers get regularised in the Southeast Asian country.

Under the schemes, an illegal migrant worker gets the opportunity to become regularised or return to his or her home country without facing any legal action.

According to Malaysia's national news agency Bernama, the country's cabinet agreed to extend the Recalibration Plan to support the implementation of the "National Covid-19 Immunisation Programme" till December 31 or until the vaccination programme ends.

In a statement yesterday, Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz, Secretary General of Malaysian home ministry, said the decision came at a cabinet meeting on June 23.

The meeting also agreed to expand the Recalibration Plan to Sabah and Sarawak, subject to the approval of the respective state governments.

The Recalibration Plan was initially implemented from November 16 last year

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

PFIZER SHOTS Outbound migrants face trouble registering

JAMIL MAHMUD

A number of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait bound migrant workers yesterday failed to register with Surokkha app for Covid vaccine, even though they said to have completed the prerequisite Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training registration.

The workers said they faced problems regarding passport "verification", which is required for further progress during the vaccine registration. Some also lacked technical knowledge. The government

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING JULY 7

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



People of 10 villages of Satmera union in Panchagarh's Sadar upazila suffering immensely as a wooden bridge that is regularly used by the villagers partially collapsed last Saturday due to heavy flow of water.

PHOTO: QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT

TALIBAN ASSAULT IN NORTH Afghan forces vow to retake all districts

Authorities deploy commandos to counter the insurgents' offensive

AFP, Kabul

Afghan authorities yesterday vowed to retake all the districts lost to the Taliban as hundreds of commandos deployed to counter the insurgents' blistering offensive in the north after more than 1,000 government troops fled into neighbouring Tajikistan.

Fighting has raged across several provinces, but the insurgents have primarily focused on a devastating campaign across the northern countryside, seizing dozens of districts in the past two months.

Last week, all US and Nato forces left Bagram Air Base near Kabul -- the command centre for anti-Taliban operations -- effectively wrapping up their exit after 20 years of military involvement that began in the wake of the September 11 attacks.

"There is war, there is pressure. Sometimes things are working our way. Sometimes they don't, but we will continue to defend the Afghan people," National Security Adviser Hamdullah Mohib told reporters.

"We have plans to retake the districts," he added. Troops and pro-government militiamen were deployed in the northern provinces of Takhar and Badakhshan where the Taliban have captured large swathes of territory at lightning speed, often with little resistance.

Afghan defence officials have said they intend to focus

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1