

MODERNA SHOTS Inoculation begins in 12 cities tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will start inoculating people with Moderna Covid-19 vaccine in the 12 city corporation areas from tomorrow and with Sinopharm vaccine across the country from today.

Issuing a press release yesterday, the Directorate General of Health Services said migrant workers are being given Pfizer vaccine at seven centres in the capital.

It added that the migrants can have the Moderna vaccine in the city corporation areas from tomorrow and they need not come to the capital for taking the jabs.

Others can also get the jabs in the city corporation areas, it said.

Shamsul Haque, line director of DGHS, said those who were administered the first jabs of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine will have to wait a few more days.

"The Oxford vaccine is likely to arrive in the country by this or next month."

Bangladesh already received 45 lakh doses of Covid vaccines from two sources -- 25 lakh Moderna vaccine jabs provided by Covax, a global vaccine alliance, and another 20 lakh shots of Sinopharm vaccines bought from China recently.

The efficacy rate of Moderna vaccine is over 94 percent in trials.

Like Pfizer, Moderna uses the same mRNA technology. The doses need to be stored at minus 20 degrees Celsius, but those can be kept at 2-8 degrees Celsius for up to a month. A recipient has to take two shots of the Moderna vaccine -- 28 days apart.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Journalist Tanvir Hasan Tanu, who was arrested on Saturday night in a case filed under the Digital Security Act, being taken to the court inspector's office for completing his release procedure after he was granted bail by a Thakurgaon court yesterday.

PHOTO: QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT

Journo Tanu gets bail in DSA case

STAR REPORT

His report was on alleged irregularities in food given to Covid-19 patients in Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

But the hospital authorities alleged that journalist Tanvir Hasan Tanu did the report with false information with the intent to deteriorate the law and order, push the government in danger, and tarnish the image of the hospital and its staffers.

For this, the hospital's superintendent Mohammad Nadirul Aziz on Friday filed a case against him and two other journalists with Thakurgaon Sadar Police Station under the Digital Security Act (DSA).

The two other correspondents are Rahim Shubho, of online news portal News Bangla, and Abdul Latif Litu, of Bangladesh Pratidin.

Police arrested Tanu, the district correspondent of Jagonews24, after he went to the police station upon knowing about the case on Saturday night. As he fell

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

ILLEGAL MIGRATION 2 Bangladeshis among 12 dead in Turkey bus crash

REUTERS, Ankara

A bus carrying Afghan, Pakistani and Bangladeshi migrants crashed in eastern Turkey early yesterday, killing at least 12 people and injuring 26 others, local authorities said.

The crash occurred in Van province's Muradiye district near the Turkish border with Iran, where the vehicle caught fire after tumbling into a ditch, two local sources with information on the matter told Reuters.

The identities of those killed in the accident were not immediately clear, both sources said.

However, two have been identified as Bangladeshis, an official at Bangladesh mission in Ankara told The Daily Star via WhatsApp text.

The sources said the owner of the bus was detained.

Among the dead were 11 migrants and a person who helped organise their illegal transport, the authorities were quoted as saying.

The injured were taken to hospital, they added.

Medical teams, firefighters, security forces as well as emergency personnel

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

'Arms shipment is condoning genocide'

JULY 12, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

SWARAN SINGH CONDEMNS ARMS SHIPMENT TO PAKISTAN

The Indian External Affairs Minister Swaran Singh told the Lok Sabha today that supply of arms to Pakistan by any country in the present context "amounts to an intervention on the side of the military rulers of West Pakistan against the people of Bangladesh".

The Indian government felt that such supply amounted to condoning "genocide in Bangladesh and encouragement to the continuation of the atrocities by the military rulers of Pakistan," he added.

The minister was replying to a call-attention notice on the reported US government decision to supply arms to Pakistan under personal orders of US President Richard Nixon. "We have left the US Government in no doubt," Swaran Singh said, "about the dangerous implications of such a policy on the situation in Bangladesh and on the peace and stability of the subcontinent and the region as a whole."

SAMAR SEN CALLS ON THANT

The Indian Ambassador to the UN Samar Sen called on the UN Secretary General U Thant today and discussed with him the Bangladesh situation and the refugee problem in India.

Samar Sen was reported to have impressed on U Thant the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



Explosion in Sudan port city kills four

AFP, Khartoum

An explosion has killed four people in a Sudanese Red Sea port city, officials said yesterday, the latest in a series of violent incidents in the area.

Tensions have been simmering in recent days in Port Sudan, where anti-government protesters have reportedly blocked roads over rising insecurity.

Local media have linked the unrest to rejection by the Hadendoa tribe of the Beja people in the region, fear their tribe will be under-represented in regional legislative and executive bodies under the agreement.

The Hadendoa, the largest subdivision of the Beja people in the region, fear their tribe will be under-represented in regional legislative and executive bodies under the agreement.

Saturday's blast took place late in the evening at a busy sporting club in Port Sudan, the provincial capital of the Red Sea state

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

Glass-bottomed panda train debuts in China



CNN ONLINE

Chengdu is famous for being the home of China's panda breeding program, so it seems only fitting that the southwestern city should have a panda train to welcome international tourists when they return.

On June 26, the capital of Sichuan province debuted the Zhongtang Air Railway, a sky train with a "glass" bottom riders can see through. It has 270-degree visibility as the top is not transparent. Travelers who look at the train head-on will notice that it is painted to resemble a panda.

The Dayi Air Rail Project is the world's first new energy tourism air rail test line (translation: an aerial suspended rail train using lithium battery

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

UK envoy summoned over rights report

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The foreign ministry yesterday suggested that the UK refrains from using an form of insinuating and misleading statements about Bangladesh government or the ruling party, Bangladesh Awami League.

It summoned acting British high commissioner Javed Patel to convey the message, along with the government's views and disappointment with certain issues mentioned in the Bangladesh chapter of the Human Rights and Democracy Report 2020 released by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) on Thursday.

According to the report, there was no overall improvement in the human rights situation in Bangladesh in 2020.

It noted concerns over

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

2 land in jail over rape charges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Two persons were sent to jail yesterday over separate rape charges in Manikganj.

Of them, Bayat Hossain, 50, a resident of Harirampur upazila's Loha Chala village, was accused of raping a speech-impaired girl.

Quoting the victim's family members, police said the 18-year-old was sleeping at home Wednesday morning when her parents went to a nearby cropland to work.

Bayat entered the house and raped her. The victim's two cousins witnessed the incident and later informed the girl's parents.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING JULY 12

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 crowd at Dhaka Medical College Hospital vaccine centre for taking Covid shots yesterday. Social distancing was not followed there which is one of the important health safety rules to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Taliban widens control in Afghanistan

India pulls officials from Kandahar as Australia withdraws last troops

AGENCIES

India said yesterday it had temporarily brought back officials from its consulate in Kandahar, a major city in southern Afghanistan, as Taliban fighters continue to gain control amid the withdrawal of international forces.

"Due to the intense fighting near Kandahar city, India-based personnel have been brought back for the time being," Arindam Bagchi, chief spokesperson at India's foreign ministry, said in a statement.

"India is closely monitoring the evolving security situation in Afghanistan," Bagchi said, adding that India's consulate in Kandahar was being run by local staff temporarily.

Australia's defence minister yesterday confirmed the end of his country's involvement in the 20-year Afghanistan war, saying the troop withdrawal had taken place "in recent weeks".

Australia announced in April that it would remove its remaining troops by September in line with the US decision to end its military operations in the war-torn country.

Defence Minister Peter Dutton told Sky News that the country's last 80 support personnel had left Afghanistan "in recent weeks".

"That doesn't mean we won't be a part of campaigns with the United States... where we deem that to be in our national interest or in the interest of our allies," he added. "For now, though, that campaign has come to an end."

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5