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NON-MPO TEACHERS

Eid will bring them no joy

Private education institutions struggle with salary payments

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Shahadat Hossain, principal of Nikunja Model College in the capital, was able to pay for family expenses for the first 10 months of the pandemic, with the money he got from selling some of his ancestral land.

After the amount was exhausted, he had to take loans from relatives for himself and his family to survive as the college could not pay his or other teachers' salaries due to the financial hit it took since its closure in March last year.

The loaned money too is almost finished now. Although the government is now providing a one-off cash assistance of Tk 5,000 to teachers of the private educational institutions, the future he sees is bleak.

"If the situation remains the same, I don't know how I will run my family. I cannot even think of buying anything new for my children for Eid. Our situation is very grave," said Shahadat.

His institution runs on the tuition fees. However, citing financial strains, less than five percent of the guardians, of the college's 470 students, paid the fees, while some were irregular in paying.

"If we do not get tuition fees, how would we pay salaries? I can't express in words how it feels when you cannot pay your teachers," he said.

The coronavirus pandemic and subsequent closure of educational institutions have thrown into disarray the lives of many teachers, especially of private schools and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Muslim pilgrims pray on Mount Arafat, also known as Jabal al-Rahma (Mount of Mercy), southeast of the holy city of Makkah in Saudi Arabia, during the climax of the hajj pilgrimage amid the Covid-19 pandemic yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

A startling goof-up

MRP machine lies idle for 18 months in Tashkent as secret passcode missing

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday spoke of a goof-up involving the passport department that let down Bangladeshi expatriates in Uzbekistan.

The minister said that when he visited Uzbekistan in 2019, the Bangladeshi expatriates there requested that a machine-readable passport (MRP) machine be installed at Bangladesh embassy in Tashkent.

The expatriates said they had to contact Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi for renewing passports as there was no MRP machine at the embassy in Tashkent.

"I had asked the officials concerned to immediately send an MRP machine to Uzbekistan the same year," Momen told reporters yesterday at his residence upon his return from a five-day official visit to Uzbekistan.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

World's first 3D-printed steel footbridge unveiled



MAIL ONLINE

The world's first 3D-printed steel footbridge, measuring 40 feet (12 metres) in length, has been installed in Amsterdam.

The bridge, created by a Dutch company called MX3D, has been installed over the Oudezijds Achterburgwal canal in Amsterdam's Red Light District.

More than four years in the making, the S-shaped bridge will act as a "living laboratory" in the Dutch capital as it handles

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Left unpaid, living in misery

Over 34,000 workers yet to get dues even after a year after closure of their jute mills

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Around 34,000 temporary and substitute workers of state-run jute mills shut down in July last year have been living a miserable life as they are yet to get their dues.

The government promised to clear their payments "within the shortest possible time" when it closed all the 25 jute mills, citing heavy losses and excessive production costs.

Around 31,000 of the total 34,757 permanent workers have received their dues and the rest have not -- because of problems with their paperwork, said Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) Chairman Abdur Rouf yesterday.

"And fifty percent of around 21,000 temporary and substitute workers will receive their arrears in their bank account by 5:00pm today [yesterday]," he told this correspondent.

Contacted around 6:00pm, workers' leader Ruhul Amin said, "Only a few hundred workers of Amin Jute Mills, Karim Jute Mills, Latif Bawani Jute Mills and UMC Jute Mills received their arrears today."

The payment started for only four out of 25 state run jute mills, he added.

It was only on July 13, the finance ministry allocated Tk 212.08 crore to pay the arrears of 21,552 temporary and substitute workers of the jute mills. But many aggrieved workers feared that they would not receive anything before the Eid-ul-Azha.

Due to the long wait for dues and without any stable job for one year during the coronavirus pandemic, many of these workers have been begging to earn a square meal, while many others are working as day labourers.

"I have applied to hundreds of offices in the last one year for a job but I

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Form ministry to protect wetlands

HC urges; asks for law to develop them as public property

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has directed the authorities concerned to formulate a specific law and establish a separate ministry in order to protect and develop the wetlands across the country as public property.

The court came up with the order while declaring illegal the grabbing and filling up of water bodies, wetlands and farmlands by two companies of businessman Mohammad Noor Ali to set up a resort and an economic zone in Narayanganj's Sonargaon upazila.

No development that is done by damaging nature, environment and ecology can be sustainable, the court observed.

The economic development that takes place protecting, preserving and developing nature, ecology and environment becomes longstanding and brings equality, amity, and peace, the court added in its full text of verdict.

The verdict was released on Sunday.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Yahya trying to hide his shame: Shehabuddin

JULY 20, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZZA SAJEN

BANGLADESH'S REPLY TO YAHYA'S THREAT
KM Shehabuddin, diplomatic representative of Bangladesh, described Pakistan President Agha Mohammad Yahya Khan's threat of declaring war against India as a "desperate and heinous attempt to hide his shame and hoodwink the world opinion by implicating India."

Had India intervened at any moment in favour of Bangladesh, Shehabuddin said, Yahya would have met his end long ago. He should have known that it was the exploited and suppressed people of Bangladesh who were fighting his barbarous army successfully.

Shehabuddin advised President Yahya Khan to find "an honourable way of getting out of the death trap laid by himself for him and his military junta."

Referring to the report of the military rulers' decision to try Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a military court, he said, "We will never forgive and forget anyone doing harm to our undisputed leader. Blood will be taken for blood, tooth for tooth."

INDIA READY TO MEET WAR THREAT, SAYS SINGH
The Indian External Affairs Minister Swaran Singh told the Lok Sabha today that if Pakistan used as pretext the success of the Bangladesh Mukti Foj in liberating certain areas to declare war against India, "we are ready to defend ourselves". While welcoming

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



Khaleda gets her first Moderna shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia took her first dose of Moderna Covid-19 vaccine at the capital's Sheikh Russel National Gastroenterology Institute and Hospital yesterday.

Accompanied by the party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, Khaleda left her Gulshan home around 3:30pm and was given the shot around half an hour later, her personal physician AZM Zahid Hossain told journalists. Khaleda took the jab

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING JULY 20

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-15
JAMAA 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Due to rain and the Eid rush, heavy traffic ran from Banani all the way to Tongi bridge. Many roads along the route remained gridlocked from morning to late afternoon. The photo was taken at Kawla bridge near the airport.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

QAWMI MADRASA IN CAPITAL Hefajat's Mamunul, brother lose sway

RASHIDUL HASAN

Control of the Jamia Arabia Madrasa, one of the largest Qawmi madrasas in the country, was yesterday handed over to the new Waqf committee from the hands of former Hefajat-e-Islam leader Mamunul Haque and his brother Mahfuzul Haque.

Mamunul, former joint secretary general of Hefajat, has been in jail since April in different cases, including the mayhem the outfit unleashed in late March while protesting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

MYC FOUNDATION

A subsidiary of East Coast Group is interested to set up a modern Old Home for homeless. Proposals are invited from interested consultants / architectural firms. Upon receipt of proposals, further details will be provided.

Consultants/firms who would also show interest to implement the project with turn-key will be given priority in selection.

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