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SHAH CEMENT

PRICES OF ESSENTIALS Going up as supply runs low for lockdown

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and SUKANTA HALDER

Prices of essential goods are on the rise as the supply of goods in the market is comparatively low during the lockdown.

Tomatoes are now being sold at Tk 110-120 per kg, compared to the Tk 65-70 per kg. Green chilies, which were sold at Tk 40 per kg, are now being sold at Tk 100.

Vendors said the consignments of tomatoes and green chilies after Eid were small from outside of Dhaka, due to which their prices have gone up.

Talking to traders in different parts of the capital, it was learnt that the prices of other vegetables and fishes have also shot up.

They said the sales have come down to one-fourth after Eid.

Many products went rotten as they were not sold, which is why traders have increased the prices to recoup their losses.

Most kitchen markets in Dhaka were closed since day before yesterday due to the post-Eid lockdown.

Even small neighbourhood shops did not open their shutters.

The prices of spotted gourd, gourd, asparagus, courgette and bitter melon have gone up by Tk 5-10 per kg yesterday. Most shops are, however, selling fading vegetable at low prices.

Meanwhile, the prices of fish, such as rui, katla, pangush and tilapia, among the cultivated fish, have gone up by Tk 20-30 per kg, while the prices of shrimp, tangra and fali

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Amid a lockdown enforced to curb Covid-19 surge, people in the hundreds cross the Padma by a ferry without maintaining social distancing. The photo was taken from Paturia Ferry Terminal in Manikganj yesterday.

PHOTO: ZAHANGIR ALAM BISWAS

COVID VACCINATION Frontliners' loved ones above 18 to get shots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From now on, Covid-19 frontline health workers' family members -- aged 18 and above -- will get vaccines, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said yesterday.

"We have received permission from the prime minister in this regard," he said while addressing a virtual discussion organised by Bangladesh Private Medical College Association.

The minister said, "We had decided to vaccinate frontline doctors, nurses, other healthcare staffers and teachers. Their family members, who are aged 18 and above, will also get vaccines from now on," he said.

"We have already received an adequate number of vaccine jabs and another 30 lakh doses of Sinopharm vaccine will arrive either on July 26 or 27."

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Fewer cattle sacrificed this Eid too

MAHMUDUL HASAN

The number of cattle sacrificed on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha dropped for the second year as the ongoing second wave of coronavirus cases and the growing economic costs of the pandemic dampened the spirit of the religious festival.

A total of 90.9 lakh cows, buffalos, goats, sheep and other animals were sacrificed this year, down about 3.8 percent from a year earlier, according to data from the Department of Livestock Services (DLS).

Many well-offs who used to slaughter two to three cows opted for just one cow this time for the sake of rituals, said Debashis Das, a director at the DLS.

In 2019, 1.06 crore animals were sacrificed on the occasion, the second biggest festival in the country and the major source of raw material for the country's promising leather and leather goods industry.

Small cows were in high demand during the last two Eid-ul-Azha, while the demand for big bulls plummeted, according to Das.

These trends may have been brought on by the financial hardship brought on by

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Massive offensive against Pak Army

JULY 25, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

TIKKA KHAN ADMITS BLOWING UP BRIDGE
East Pakistan Governor Lt Gen Tikka Khan today admitted that a railway bridge in Cumilla had been blown up by the Mukti Foj recently. He visited the site of the bridge and claimed that the bridge connecting Laxam and Feni was in the final stage of reconstruction, said Radio Pakistan. He was accompanied by the Jordanian Ambassador to Pakistan Syed Kamal el Sharik, now on a visit to East Pakistan.

Powerful hidden mines laid by the Mukti Bahini guerillas blasted off a passenger train, near Gochihata station, between Bhairab Bazar and Kishoreganj in Bangladesh recently killing at least 30 persons including 10 Pakistani troops and the driver.

In a massive offensive on the Pakistani Army position at Shahbajpur railway station in Sylhet Sector, the Mukti Bahini guerillas killed at least 40 of the enemy army.

TUNKU TO HELP RETURN OF REFUGEES
Former prime minister of Malaysia Tunku Abdul Rahman, now secretary general of the Islamic Secretariat, said today that the Islamic Summit countries would move in to do their best to help refugees from Bangladesh now sheltered in India. Tunku returned to Kuala Lumpur yesterday after his visit to East Pakistan where he led a delegation of representatives of the Muslim nations including Jordan, Afghanistan, Iran and Kuwait. Tunku added that Pakistan government assured his delegation that they would welcome all refugees back and "I am going to convey this assurance to India

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FERRY RAMS BRIDGE Probe body finds two employees responsible

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

A probe committee formed after a ferry on Friday rammed a pillar of the under-construction Padma Bridge found that the master and quartermaster of the vessel were responsible for the mishap that left 20 people injured.

The four-member committee, which is expected to submit its report today, will recommend departmental action against the two employees of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC), said sources familiar with the development.

The committee will also recommend placing rubber tenders around the pillars of the bridge to reduce impact in case of such crashes, they added.

At least 20 people

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Scientists find tiny mountains on neutron stars



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Neutron stars have mountains that are only a fraction of a millimetre high due to their extreme density, according to a new scientific model.

The stars are some of the densest objects in the universe, weighing as much as the Sun while only being around 10 kilometres wide.

Neutron stars are formed when a massive star runs out of fuel and collapses, with every proton and electron in the object forming a neutron -- a neutrally charged subatomic particle.

If the star is between one and three times the mass of our Sun, then it will turn into one of

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Govt plans to launch local social media platforms

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh is going to develop its own social media platforms called "Jogajog" and "Alapon" as alternatives to Facebook and WhatsApp, State Minister for Information and Communication Technology Zunaid Ahmed Palak has said.

He was speaking at the inaugural function of "Entrepreneurship Masterclass Series 2", organised by Women e-Commerce.

"Using this [Jogajog app], the entrepreneurs of the country will be able to create their own online marketplace and group for information, data and communication."

Palak explained how his ministry successfully developed "Boithok" app as an alternative to Zoom online and "Surokha" app

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Teen rape victim dies by suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A gang-rape victim died by suicide in Pekua upazila of Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

The dead is Tabassum Jannat Rekha Moni, 14, of the upazila's Hazirpara village. She was a student of grade VIII at a local madrasa.

The victim's father Ayub Ali filed a rape case against three local youths -- Alamgir, Robi Alam and Abul Kashem. Police, however, recorded an unnatural death case later.

According to the father, he and his wife went to visit a relative's house on Friday, keeping Rekha and her sibling Rashel at home. Taking the chance, the

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 25

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-17

JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-57 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Asma Khatun trying to protect herself and her three children from rain with a large polythene sheet. Despite a lockdown, they came to the capital from Sirajganj yesterday. The photo was taken in the capital's Shishu Academy area.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

PEGASUS SPYWARE Millions sleep well because of such tech

Claims maker NSO Group

PTI, Jerusalem

Amid the raging controversy over its surveillance software Pegasus, Israeli cybersecurity company NSO Group has defended itself by saying that millions of people around the world sleep well at night and walk in the streets safely due to such technologies available with intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

The company also stated that it does not operate the technology nor does it have access to the data collected by its clients.

The alleged use of the Pegasus software to spy on journalists, human rights defenders, politicians and others in a number of countries, including India, has triggered concerns over issues relating to privacy.

Politicians, rights activists and journalists were among those targeted with phone spyware sold to various governments by the Israeli firm, according to an international media consortium.

"Millions of people around the world are sleeping well at night, and safely walking in the streets, thanks to Pegasus and similar technologies which help intelligence agencies and law enforcement agencies around the world to prevent and investigate crime, terrorism, and paedophilia rings that are hiding under the umbrella of end-to-end encryption apps," a spokesperson for NSO said.

"NSO, together with many of the other cyber intelligence companies in the world, provides cyber intelligence tools

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