

BUILD YOUR HOME FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS WITH THE TOUGHEST STEEL

BSRM treme B500 DWR the tough steel

PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE

SHAH CEMENT

Looking for way back

Returnee migrants seeks to re-migrate amid lack of jobs, insufficient income at home

JAMIL MAHMUD

Mustakim Alam quit his job and came home from Kuwait amid the Covid-19 pandemic in May last year after living there for over seven years, working at a printing press.

The 30-year-old Murad Islam said he unsuccessfully looked for a job this last one year.

"I don't have enough cash to start a business. The savings that I brought home has already been spent on family expenses," he said.

Now Mustakim is trying to re-migrate to overcome financial hardship. He has already asked one of his acquaintances in Kuwait to secure a new work visa, for which he will have to pay between Tk 2-3 lakh, depending on the job type.

Mustakim's experience is shared by other migrant workers who find themselves unemployed back in Bangladesh. Surveys suggest people wishing to re-migrate abroad are forced by several socioeconomic drivers, including lack of job opportunities, and consider a life abroad as offering better opportunities than what can be achieved at home.

Upon returning home from Qatar in February last year, 40-year-old Murad Islam said he unsuccessfully looked for a job at local factories in Munshiganj where he lives.

He had lived in the Gulf country for seven years; earlier, he worked in Saudi Arabia from 2000 to 2005 after which

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



Amid strict lockdown, people in the hundreds cross the mighty 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."

SEE PAGE 13 COL 3

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

SEE PAGE 13 COL 3

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Massive offensive against Pak Army

JULY 25, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZZA 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

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



FERRY RAMS BRIDGE Probe body finds two employees responsible

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

A probe committee formed after a ferry on Friday rammmed a pillar of the under-construction Padma Bridge found that the master and quarter master 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

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

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

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

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

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6

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 upazil'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

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING APRIL 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. Amid the strict lockdown, they came to the capital from Sirajganj yesterday. The photo was taken in the capital's Shishu Academy area.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

FLOODS, LANDSLIDES IN INDIA Death toll rises to 138

AGENCIES

Rescue teams in India struggled through thick sludge and debris yesterday to reach dozens of submerged homes as the death toll from landslides and accidents caused by torrential monsoon rain rose to 138.

Maharashtra state is being hit by the heaviest rain in July in four decades, experts say. Downpours lasting several days have severely affected the lives of hundreds of thousands, while major rivers are in danger of bursting their banks.

"138 accidental deaths reported in Maharashtra due to rain and other monsoon-related incidents," Maharashtra Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation Vijay Wadettiwar said yesterday.

In Taliye, about 180 km (110 miles) southeast of the financial capital of Mumbai, the death toll rose to 42 with the recovery of four more bodies after landslides flattened most homes in the village, a senior Maharashtra government official said.

"About 40 people are still trapped. The possibility of rescuing them alive is thin as they've been trapped in mud for more than 36 hours," said the official, who declined to be identified as he is not authorised to talk to the media.

Harsh weather has hit several parts of the world in recent weeks, with floods in China and Western Europe and heat waves in North America, raising new fears about the impact of climate change.

Parts of India's west coast have received up to 594 mm (23 inches) of rain, forcing authorities to move people out of vulnerable areas as they released water from dams about to overflow. The hill station of Mahabaleshwar recorded its highest ever rainfall - 60 cm in 24 hours.

Rescuers were searching for victims of landslides in four other places in the state, the official said.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 6