

Still waiting

FROM PAGE 12
"I took a leave from my office to get my vaccine, but now I have to go back without receiving it," said Aparna Das, a resident at Patharghata area who came to the same hospital.

The authorities said vaccination would resume soon for second dose seekers but what happens to those of us who are still waiting for the first dose?" she asked.

Contacted, civil surgeon Dr Sheikh Fazle Rabbi said vaccination for the second dose will resume as soon as they would receive more vaccines from the government.

Asked about the first dose aspirants, Rabbi said the first dose seekers will eventually get their vaccines when sufficient stock of vaccine is available, but said it might take some time.

The government decided to suspend administering the first dose of Moderna Covid vaccine from Thursday.

Issuing a circular, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) instructed those vaccination centres, which still have Moderna jabs in stock for first dose, to administer those soon and make preparations for administering the second one.

The government started inoculating people with Moderna vaccine in 12 city corporation areas last month.

Ghostly rings

FROM PAGE 12
The star has about half the mass of our sun.

The space-based Swift Observatory, launched in 2004, detected an X-ray burst from the binary system in June 2015. This burst actually created energetic rings that are visible in the X-ray images.

The phenomenon that created the rings are light echoes. They were created in this system when the burst of X-rays from the binary system reflected off of dust clouds scattered across space between the V404 Cygni system and Earth.

Overcoming all barriers

FROM PAGE 12

"I saw the untold miseries and violence transgender people face. The question of why transgender people should live by the grace of other people constantly troubled me."

After completing her diploma in 2010, she worked at local NGOs for a couple of years to save up before embarking on her dream of starting a business.

"But it was a difficult journey as I didn't have enough money, experience, or any other support to start a business. My first challenge was facing psychological barriers as many people and even hijra leaders didn't want a hijra running her own business."

Another challenge was to gain trust. "When I approached people with the business proposal, they didn't trust me or cooperate with me -- terming my efforts a hoax."

She was turned away several times when she approached factories about producing handicraft items. None of the handicraft factories even allowed inside.

Finally, Mayuri and some other transgender people were able to convince a handicraft worker, who trained the group in mid-2014.

"We started producing handicraft items, including bed sheets, pillow covers, and three-piece sets for women, in a small room which I had rented to live in," she said.

However, unsure of how to market her products, they would stand in front of handicraft sales centres to approach buyers. But no one took them seriously.

One day, a local buyer initially gave some orders after seeing their samples.

Siri Handicrafts kicked off in March 2016 and gradually, buyers started trusting the fledgling business as it produced quality work.

Initially, they only produced nakshi kantha, but soon expanded to nakshi chador, panjabis, fatuas, pillows and cushion covers, bedsheets, and three-piece sets. These products are now being sold to traders and clients in various districts of the country. Mayuri said.

Expanding her small group of trans-women, Mayuri now employs around 500 marginalised women who work from their homes in different villages. Besides, at least 150 hijras work permanently at her factory in the district town.

She said she received some support from some government officials and political leaders during her journey.

A TERRIFYING CHILDHOOD

Mayuri was born with the physical characteristics of a boy and was named Arif.

"But I wanted to dress like a girl. When I was six, my father, who was a government service holder, took me to a market to buy a shirt and a pair of pants. But I refused to and insisted on buying a frock. At one point, my elder brother slapped me."

During her adolescence, she realised that her inner needs were completely like a woman, she said. "I got my answers when I saw other people with similar characteristics to mine."

"I was humiliated and persecuted by my neighbours and relatives. Most of the people in my neighbourhood would stalk me and hurl abusive words. I would always be terrified.

That report said the virus jumping from bats to humans via an intermediate animal was the most probable scenario, while a leak from Wuhan's virology labs was "extremely unlikely".

Ma rejected suggestions of new lines of investigation.

"The conclusions and

recommendations of WHO and China joint report were recognised by the international community and the scientific community," he said.

"Future global traceability work should and can only be further carried out on the basis of this report, rather than starting a new one."

People would not even let their children play with me. I was confused, distressed and frightened," Mayuri continued.

Her family members also faced humiliation and harassment. She had to leave her family behind to save them from being harassed, she said.

"Until I met the people of my community, I had no friends, no relatives, no job, no shelter, and no food. I had nothing or no one except Allah."

Now, Mayuri knows her rights as a human being and can raise her voice if anyone wrongs her or her community.

Mayuri, however, doesn't like to be called "third gender".

"If we are third gender, then who will be the first and second genders? Women or men?" she questioned.

"If hijras are given space and rights, they too can contribute to society. Because they can work just like other people."

HER DREAMS

Mayuri dreams of establishing a Hijra Palli – a village to shelter floating transgender people. There will be 100 houses, livestock and vegetable farms, ponds, a mosque, and an open stage where they can share their joys and sorrows, she described.

"It will be a model for other transgender people, who can replicate it in different areas of the country."

"I want to be a parliament member from a reserved seat for women so that I can work for the development of my community and other marginalised women," said Mayuri, her eyes brimming with excitement and hope.

Pori Moni, 4 others

FROM PAGE 12
she was framed in the case.

The others sent to jail are Raz's associate Sabuj Ali, and Pori Moni's associate Ashraful Islam Dipu.

As different terms of their remand ended yesterday, investigators did not seek to place them on remand again.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Dhiman Chandra Mondol rejected bail petitions of Pori Moni and her associate Dipu after CID Inspector Kazi Golam Mostafa brought them to the court on completion of their six-day remand.

Mostafa, who is investigating the case, said in the forwarding report that officers are verifying the information Pori Moni and Dipu divulged about the drugs recovered from their homes. If they were granted bail they would interfere with the investigation and may leave the country.

He appealed to the court to keep them in prison until the investigation is complete.

Pori Moni's lawyers said that she had earlier signed up for several films which are not being filmed due to her confinement.

She should be granted bail so that she can finish the films, they added.

The same court sent Raz and Sabuj to jail rejecting the bail prayers after CID Inspector Md Ghaus Uddin produced them before it on completion of their six-day remand in two phases in the case.

Ghaus also prayed for keeping them in jail until the investigation is completed.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Sayeed rejected the bail petition and sent Mou to jail after CID Inspector Probir Kumar Ghosh, produced her before the court on completion of her nine-day remand in three phases.

On August 5, Pori Moni, Raz and their associates were arrested in two separate cases filed by Rab under the Narcotics Control Act.

The previous day, Rab detained them after raiding their houses. They seized foreign liquor and narcotics from there.

Detectives on August 1 arrested Mou at her Mohammadpur residence. They also seized 750 yaba pills and 12 bottles of foreign liquor from there.

What to do

FROM PAGE 12

innate and adaptive immune response, which can lead to abrupt systemic metabolic alteration. The Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported an elevated mortality rate from Covid-19 among individuals with diabetes, increasing from 2.3 percent in the general population to 7.3 percent in people with diabetes.

However, the American Diabetes Association reassures that chances of getting severely sick from Covid-19 are mitigated if diabetes is well-managed. The drill is simple, and perhaps obvious too: routine home exercise, maintaining a balanced diet of whole grains and vegetables. One addition

that is prescribed is to cut down on smoking since it can help provide the lungs with increased resilience during sickness.

Further, diabetic patients are asked to reduce their stress levels, even more so during the pandemic. Elevated stress can increase blood sugar in diabetic patients, making them more susceptible to severe Covid-19 symptoms.

Under the current circumstances, when many are in fear and stress of contracting Covid, it would help diabetic patients to secure themselves as best as possible with masks whenever they step outside, distancing, and a good disinfecting routine after they come back home.

China rejects WHO's call

FROM PAGE 12

motivated by politics instead of scientific inquiry.

"We oppose political tracing ... and abandoning the joint report" issued after the WHO expert team's Wuhan visit in January, vice foreign minister Ma Zhaoxu told reporters. "We support scientific tracing."

Nixon warns Yahya

FROM PAGE 12

"All of these measures will be important in countering the corrosive threat of insurgency and restoring peace to your part of the world. They will also hasten the day when the United States and other countries can resume, within a revised national development plan, the task of assisting your country's economic development which has been so tragically complicated and slowed by recent events. In addition, demonstrable progress on the political front will mean that our own counsels of restraint in New Delhi will have a greater chance of success," added Nixon.

POLITICAL SOLUTION OF BANGLADESH MEANS INDEPENDENCE: RAM

India's Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram emphatically told the Rajya Sabha today that the political solution for Bangladesh meant nothing but independence of that territory. The elected representatives of Bangladesh, he said, had made it clear in unmistakable terms that nothing less than independence would satisfy them.

He further said that India had received seven to eight million people of Bangladesh forced out by the military junta of Pakistan. The only condition to which they could go back to their homeland would be an assurance that their life and property would be safe in Bangladesh.

"That assurance can be there only when they [the refugees] know that Bangladesh is not going to be ruled any more by the military junta of West Pakistan," he emphasised.

As to the Indo-Soviet treaty, the minister told the House that the treaty would serve as a positive deterrent to Pakistan in its act of madness.

PAKISTAN RESENTS THANT'S REMARK ON BANGABANDHU TRIAL

Pakistan protested to the UN Secretary General U Thant that his remarks on the trial of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had exceeded "the bounds of humanitarian concern and competence of the United Nations".

It may be mentioned here that on August 10, 1971, the secretary general said he shared the feelings of many UN representatives that the fate of Bangabandhu was bound to have repercussions outside Pakistan.

In a protest note Pakistan said today that the UN had never expressed feelings about the repercussions of "sentences after summary trials of political leaders in various countries". Pakistan cannot accept the proposition that any judicial decision on the individual case of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will have any repercussions outside the border of Pakistan unless Pakistan's hostile neighbour India encouraged to make them," the protest note said.

The note was the first official reaction by the Pakistan government to international pressure regarding the trial of Bangabandhu.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com



তারেক স্মৃতি স্বরণে

আজ শোকাত সেই ১৪ই আগস্ট রাত। ১৯৯৬ সালের এই রাতে আমাদের একমাত্র পুত্র মন্দিন উদ্দিন কাশেম তারেক এর অস্তরানের পর আজ পূর্ণ হলো ২৫ বৎসর। আজও আমরা পুত্র হারানোর একবুক যন্ত্রণা বয়ে দেড়াচ্ছি। আমরা পরম করণাম্য আল্লাহ তালার কাছে প্রার্থনা জানাই তারেক করেন। আমিন।
শেকাত বাবা-মা এম. এ. কাশেম ও জ্যোতি আরা কাশেম।

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

নির্বাচী প্রক্রিয়ালীক কার্যালয়
সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তর
সড়ক বিভাগ, সিলেট

স্মারক নং-৩৫.০১.৯১৬২.৮৭০০.০০.১১-৬৫২

তারিখ: ১২/০৮/২০২১

সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে (LTM) ঠিকাদার তালিকা ভূক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি (সংশোধিত)

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবস্থার জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সড়ক বিভাগ, সিলেট কৃতক পাবলিক প্রক্রিয়ামেন্ট বিধিমালা-২০০৮ এর আলোকে সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের পরিচালন (রাজস্ব) বাজেটের আওতায় সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতিতে (LTM) ঠিকাদার তালিকা ভূক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে আবেদনপত্র (ডকুমেন্ট) সংযোগ ও জমা প্রদান করার তারিখ ও সময় নিম্নোক্ত ভাবে সংশোধিত করা হচ্ছে।

বর্ণনা	প্রক্রিয়া	সময়সূচি
০১। আবেদনপত্র (ডকুমেন্ট) : সংযোগ ও জমা প্রদান করার তারিখ ও সময়	২৩/০৮/২০২১ ইং শ্রীস্টার্ট তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ পর্যন্ত।	৩০/০৮/২০২১ ইং শ্রীস্টার্ট তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ পর্যন্ত।

নির্বাচী প্রক্রিয়ালী,
সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তর,
সড়ক বিভাগ, সিলেট।
টেলিফোন-০৮২১-৭১৬৩০৯

মার্কেন্টাইল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

Mercantile Bank Limited

General Services Division

61, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000, www.mblbd.com

INVITATION FOR TENDER