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PHQ wants taller cadre officers

Sends proposal to home ministry

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The Police Headquarters has recently proposed new specified heights for men and women to qualify as BCS police cadres as the authority wants its officers to be taller.

In the proposal sent to the home ministry, it asked for the revision of the existing minimum required height - 5ft 4in for men and 5ft for women - to recruit "physically fit and competent cadre officers" in the force.

The proposed heights are 5ft 6in for men and 5ft 4in for women.

"It is required to recruit officers with a good physique and ability, along with talent, sharpness and bravery, to provide expected services with professionalism to people," the proposal said.

It also proposed that the applicants be single.

The PHQ also sought the government's permission to hold medical test of police cadre officials at the Central Police Hospital in Dhaka and recruit the assistant superintendents of police through special BCS exams.

Officials at the PHQ said that as police have to work in different challenging situations and face serious crimes, the officers need to be physically more capable.

Right now, government hospitals under the Directorate General of Health Services conduct medical tests for police and different other cadre service-holders, and cadre officers in police services are recruited through general BCS exams.

"Since all BCS cadres are recruited through general BCS

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Exhausted, a child prepares an empty cement bag to sit on as he waits for his mother. The mother was yesterday standing in a long queue to purchase essential commodities from a TCB truck at reasonable prices in the capital's Sachibalay Link Road.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

Be proactive in Asean to convince Myanmar

Bangladesh asks Indonesia

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has requested Indonesia to remain proactive in Asean to convince Myanmar to create a conducive environment for a safe, dignified, and sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen made the request when outgoing ambassador of Indonesia to Bangladesh Rina Prihyasmiansri Soemarno met him yesterday.

Momen suggested that an Asean-led observer team may be deployed in the Rakhine State to oversee the repatriation process.

He added that since there was no major violence in the Rakhine State in the last four years, repatriation can start under the supervision of a neutral international body.

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Biman flights to India restart on Sunday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh has announced resumption of flights to India from Sunday.

The national flag carrier has initially planned to operate flights to Delhi on Sundays and Wednesdays and to Kolkata on Sundays and Tuesdays, Harun Khan, manager, sales, Biman Bangladesh's office at city's Motijheel, told The Daily Star.

Passengers will have to go through a series of formalities to buy tickets, Harun said.

For example, he said, a passenger will have to fill up a self-reporting form using a specific website, then register with Delhi Airport website, test for Covid-19 within 72 hours before departure and upload the report to a specific website.

To this end, Biman has sent letters and texts to its travel agents.

Mazharul Haque Bhuiyan, secretary general of Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh, said they have got Biman's texts about resuming flights to India from Sunday.

Asked, a top official of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) told this correspondent that they were yet to get any formal letter from India about resuming flights.

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Serious 'insurgency movement' in East Pakistan: Kissinger

AUGUST 18, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

KISSINGER'S MEMORANDUM TO NIXON

Henry Kissinger, the US president's assistant for national security affairs, today sent a memorandum to President Richard Nixon discussing implications of the situation in South Asia.

He said a serious "insurgency movement" was underway in the countryside and the Bangalee guerillas were beginning to penetrate the major cities in East Pakistan.

"This has been fed by the Indians in terms of logistics, training and some arms, but basically reflects a strong Bengali will to resist the West Pakistanis. This in turn provokes an army response which stimulates further refugee flow," he added.

Kissinger indicated a shift in India's policy towards Bangladesh and said, "The Indians before March preferred a united Pakistan when they thought the Bengalis might play a dominant role, but now that they judge this is no longer possible they would like to see an independent Bangla Desh as soon as possible."

"The problem with their policy," Kissinger continued, "is that they may be able through their support for the guerrillas to do enough to stymie a political settlement in East Pakistan but not enough to produce independence."

Against this backdrop, Kissinger recommended, "The only

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Teesta swells, floods low-lying areas

STAR REPORT

The Teesta river is dangerously swelling, with water flowing four centimetres above the safe level at Teesta Barrage in Hatibandha of Lalmonirhat yesterday morning. It has inundated villages in the low-lying areas.

This was an improvement from Monday when the water level went 10 centimetres past the safe level.

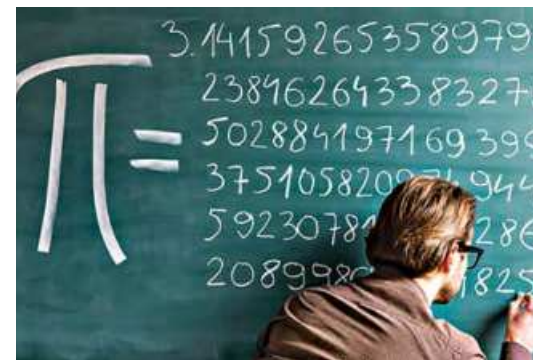
Increased water flow from India has been causing the swelling.

Mizanur Rahman, executive engineer of Lalmonirhat Water Development Board, said the water level would drop if there is no further onrush of water from India.

Meanwhile, the floods have affected over 5,000 families in Char Gaddimari, Char Sindurna, Char Dawabari, Char Sholmari, Char Narsingh, Char Milon Bazar, Char

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Swiss declare new record for exact pi figure



AFP, Geneva

Swiss researchers said Monday they had calculated the mathematical constant pi to a new world-record level of exactitude, hitting 62.8 trillion figures using a supercomputer.

"The calculation took 108 days and nine hours" using a supercomputer, the Graubunden University of Applied Sciences said in a statement.

Its efforts were "almost twice as fast as the record Google set using its cloud in 2019, and 3.5 times as fast as the previous world record in

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Two youths killed in 'gunfight' with Rab

UNB, Keraniganj

Two youths, who sustained bullet injuries in a "gunfight" with the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) late last night, died during treatment at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital yesterday.

The identities of the deceased are yet to be confirmed.

Bacchu Mia, of DMCH police outpost, said that the two youths were admitted to the hospital around midnight on Monday with bullet wounds.

They died around 10:00am yesterday, he added.

Sources within the elite force told UNB that the "gunfight" took place between Rab and a local gang in the Jhilmil residential area of Keraniganj on Monday night.

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BOAT CAPSIZE Seven more bodies of Rohingyas recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Coast Guard officials of the East Zone yesterday and police recovered seven more bodies of Rohingyas from the coastal parts of Sandwip upazila of Chattogram, raising the death toll to 11 so far from Saturday's boat capsizing of Rohingyas in the Bay of Bengal.

A boat carrying 30 Rohingyas capsized in the Bay of Bengal while fleeing from Bhasan Char; 11 were rescued alive from the sea by a fishing trawler on Saturday.

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 18

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:25 12:45 4:45 6:38 8:00
JAMAAT 5:00 1:15 5:00 6:41 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Some locals in the capital's Jurain area install unauthorised pipelines to get supply water to homes beside the Shyampur canal. The canal is also in a sorry state with garbage obstructing the flow of water, creating an idea breeding ground for mosquitos. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

MYANMAR ARMY PROBE Rohingyas to testify before Argentina court

AFP, Yangon

Rohingya refugees expelled from Myanmar in a bloody crackdown were set to testify in a court in Argentina for the first time yesterday to urge a full judicial investigation into allegations of war crimes committed against them.

A military campaign in Myanmar in 2017 is believed to have killed thousands and forced some 750,000 members of the Muslim minority to flee to refugee camps in Bangladesh, bringing accounts of rape, murder and arson.

The witnesses will testify remotely to a court in Argentina, which is considering invoking the principle of "universal jurisdiction" to bring a case against Myanmar's leaders for genocide and crimes against humanity.

The legal premise holds that some acts -- including war crimes and crimes against humanity -- are so horrific they are not specific to one nation and can be tried anywhere.

Argentina's courts have taken up other universal jurisdiction cases in the past, including in relation to ex-dictator Francisco Franco's rule in Spain and the Falun Gong movement in China.

Proceedings against Myanmar and its leaders are already under way at the International Criminal Court and the UN's International Court of Justice.

But the hearing at Argentina court "will be the first time... that the Rohingyas will have the opportunity to tell a court of all the atrocities they suffered", former UN Special Rapporteur on Myanmar Tomas Ojea told AFP.

Five survivors of sexual violence will testify to the

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