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## DHAKA-MAWA-BHANGA EXPRESSWAY Korean firm to be tasked with toll collection

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is set to give Korean Expressway Corporation the responsibility to collect toll from vehicles on the Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga expressway.

The South Korean company has already been assigned to collect toll on the Padma Bridge.

Apart from toll collection, the company would be appointed to operate an intelligent transport system (ITS) and the operation and maintenance of the country's first ever expressway.

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) yesterday gave approval in principle to a proposal in this regard.

No date was fixed to start toll collection on the 55km expressway. However, it may start when the Padma Bridge is open to public next year, officials said.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, who presided over the virtual meeting, briefed reporters about the development.

The company, which will use an automatic toll collection system, will give a detailed proposal, including the financial aspects, for approval by the Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase (CCGP).

The Road Transport and Highways Division has set a toll rate for the expressway but the rate for the Padma Bridge has not yet been finalised. The CCEA in August last year approved a proposal to appoint KEC for maintenance and toll collection once construction of the Padma Bridge is complete.

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A battery-run rickshaw is running dangerously in front of a bus on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway. Defying a ban, slow-moving vehicles like this rickshaw and other three-wheelers get in the way of fast-moving vehicles on the highway regularly. The photo was taken near Kanchpur Bridge in Narayanganj recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Tourist spots reopen after 5 months

Experts urge govt to ensure all follow safety measures against Covid

RASHIDUL HASAN and ARUN BIKASH DEY

People involved with tourism, hotel and motel businesses breathed a sigh of relief as all tourist spots and parks reopened yesterday, after almost five months, despite ongoing the Covid-19 pandemic.

Public health experts, however, urged the government to ensure proper health guidelines are maintained at tourist spots.

Staff members and officials of different hotels in Cox's Bazar, one of the most popular holiday destinations, said they are ready to welcome tourists in compliance with the government's health safety guidelines and regulations.

Advanced bookings have already started in hotels and motels, they added.

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## SEEKING REFUGE 218 Rohingyas died or went missing at sea

Says UN report

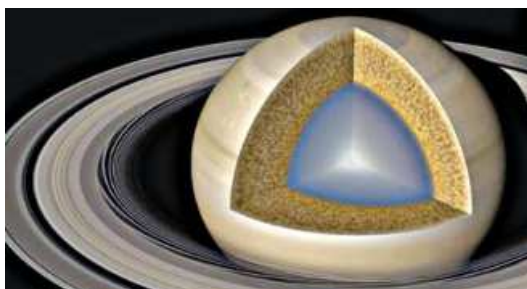
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

At least 218 Rohingyas died or went missing at sea in 2020 as they desperately sought refuge in the Southeast Asian countries either from Myanmar's Rakhine State or Bangladesh's Rohingya camps, a new UN report says.

They are part of 2,413 Rohingyas who are known to have travelled last year, making it the deadliest year on record for refugee journeys in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman

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## Ripples in Saturn's rings reveal its 'fuzzy' core



CNN ONLINE

A rippling detected within the rings around Saturn has helped scientists determine that the giant planet may be "fuzzy" at its core.

Previously, researchers believed Saturn's core

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## KAZI AREF MURDER Condemned fugitive held 22 yrs after the killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion yesterday arrested a death row convict for the murder of Kazi Aref Ahmed, a Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader and an organiser of the Liberation War, around 22 years after his killing.

A Rab team arrested Raushan alias Uday Mondal, 57, during a drive in Rajshahi, said Commander Khandaker Al Moin, director of Legal and Media Wing of Rab, at a press briefing at its media centre in Karwan Bazar.

Raushan, originally from Meherpur, was absconding for years assuming different names in different districts, Rab officials said.

Moin said they located him recently when he was paying his utility bill in Rajshahi, where he lived, as "Ali from Gazipur", with his family.

On February 16, 1999, five JSD leaders, including

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## ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### Yahya discusses trial of Bangabandhu

AUGUST 20, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

TRIAL OF BANGABANDHU

In a telegram sent today to the US Department of State, Joseph Farland, the US ambassador to Pakistan, provided an interesting detail of his discussion with Pakistan President Yahya Khan about the trial of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The one-on-one meeting took place on August 19, 1971.

Farland told Yahya that as a friend, he felt strongly obligated to suggest that Bangabandhu not be executed. Such an action, Farland continued, would be contrary to the best interests of Yahya's government as well as to his own "best personal interests".

Yahya replied that he wanted Farland to know (and for the US Government to know, but only on the highest levels) that the concern in that regard was unfounded. He said he had gotten the most qualified Pakistani attorney, AK Brohi, to act as defence counsel, that

the military tribunal had been advised that the trial must be conducted with the greatest care, without bias or prejudice, and that the record must be in full substantiation of whatever verdict was reached.

Yahya further stated that because the charge carried the possibility of a death sentence, it was his plan that if such the verdict be, a request for mercy would be made on Bangabandhu's behalf, and that Yahya would accept the petition. Yahya observed that when this request for mercy, as aforesaid, would reach him he would "sit on it for a few months" without making a decision until

power was turned over to a civilian government.

It was Yahya's further observation that once the problem of Bangabandhu's mercy petition became the problem of a civilian government, there was little or no possibility that he would be executed, reported Farland.

The American Ambassador finished his comments with the remark: "From

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## NGO official sued over rape of girl

STAR REPORT

An NGO official was sued in Bandarban's Rowangchhari upazila yesterday on charges of raping a schoolgirl.

Meanwhile, police arrested three men in connection with separate rape cases in Bandarban, Faridpur and Panchagarh.

A four-year-old indigenous girl in Bandarban, a six-year-old girl in Faridpur, and a 14-year-old girl in Panchagarh are among the victims.

In Bandarban's Rowangchhari upazila, an NGO official raped the schoolgirl at her relative's place on August 15, said Towheed Kabir, officer-in-

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বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

“মুজিববর্ষের অঙ্গীকার দেশী পণ্যের ব্যবহার”

বিদেশ থেকে আগমনকালে আনীত বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা সংরক্ষণ প্রসঙ্গে

বিদ্যমান বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা লেনদেন ব্যবস্থায় শুষ্ক কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট এফএমজে ফরমে ঘোষণা প্রদান করে বিদেশ থেকে আগত যাত্রী যে কোনো পরিমাণ বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা বাংলাদেশে আনতে পারেন। তবে আনীত বৈদেশিক মুদ্রার পরিমাণ অনধিক দশ হাজার মার্কিন ডলার বা সমমূল্যমানের হলে শুষ্ক কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট ঘোষণা প্রদানের প্রয়োজন নেই।

বাংলাদেশে নিবাসী কোনো ব্যক্তি বিদেশ থেকে সঙ্গে আনীত অনধিক দশ হাজার মার্কিন ডলার বা সমমূল্যমানের বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা যে কোনো সময়ে নগদায়ন বা অনুমোদিত ডিলার ব্যাংকে রেসিডেন্ট ফরেন কারেন্সি ডিপোজিট হিসাবে জমা রাখতে পারেন, পরবর্তী বিদেশ যাত্রায় সঙ্গে নিয়েও যেতে পারেন। দশ হাজার মার্কিন ডলারের অতিরিক্ত পরিমাণ আনীত বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা দেশে আসার ৩০ দিনের মধ্যে অনুমোদিত ডিলার ব্যাংকে/লাইসেন্সধারী মানিচেঞ্জারের নিকট টাকায় নগদায়ন বা রেসিডেন্ট ফরেন কারেন্সি ডিপোজিট একাউন্টে জমা রাখা নিবাসী বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের জন্য বাধ্যতামূলক।

বিদেশ থেকে আগত অনিবাসী বাংলাদেশীরা আনীত (দশ হাজার মার্কিন ডলার বা সমমূল্যমানের বৈদেশিক মুদ্রার বেশী হলে শুষ্ক কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট ঘোষণা প্রদান সাপেক্ষে) বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা বাংলাদেশে আগমনের পর যে কোনো সময়ে নগদায়ন বা অনুমোদিত ডিলার ব্যাংকে নন রেসিডেন্ট ফরেন কারেন্সি ডিপোজিট একাউন্ট/প্রাইভেট ফরেন কারেন্সি হিসাবে জমা রাখতে পারেন। বিদেশী নাগরিকগণ আনীত বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা (দশ হাজার মার্কিন ডলার বা সমমূল্যমানের বৈদেশিক মুদ্রার বেশী হলে শুষ্ক কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট ঘোষণা প্রদান সাপেক্ষে) বাংলাদেশে ত্যাগকালে সঙ্গে নিয়ে যেতে পারেন। বিদেশী নাগরিকগণ উক্ত বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা বাংলাদেশে আগমনের পর যে কোনো সময়ে নগদায়ন বা ফরেন কারেন্সি হিসাবে জমা রাখতে পারেন।

জনস্বার্থে বিজ্ঞপ্তিটি জারি করা হলো।

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হইরানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

**NATURE QUEST**

A great egret, locally known as boro bago, sitting on a branch in Rangpur's Pargachha upazila. It is the breeding season for the bird. This large heron, which is seen across the country, builds nests on trees close to water. It mainly lives on fish, frogs and small mammals.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF TUHIN WADUD

**Star HEALTHLINE**

**Covid risk: Give your body A BETTER FIGHTING CHANCE**

STAR HEALTH DESK

The delta variant's rampage throughout the world has created an uptick in hospitalisation cases in the 20-54 age group.

While there does not seem to be solid data to suggest increased virulence of the delta variant among young people, numbers of hospitalisation cases and breakthrough infections in the age group is an indication of the risks younger people face.

At the same time, research in the British Journal of Sports Medicine

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**Hyginex** Instant hand sanitizer

**BEACON** Pharmaceuticals Limited