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## Regular classes not for all now

Only PECE, SSC, HSC examinees to have daily in-person classes from Sept 12; others to attend classes once a week

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Examinees of PECE, SSC and HSC will have to attend in-person classes every week day while the rest of the students will go to school once a week after schools and colleges reopen on September 12.

However, students of pre-primary sections like play group and nursery will not have to return to classrooms right now, officials of primary and mass education ministry said.

The government yesterday unveiled the details of the reopening, which would bring to an end a near 18-month closure of educational institutions due to the pandemic.

An inter-ministerial meeting at the Secretariat decided that examinees of Higher Secondary Certificate, Secondary School Certificate of 2021 and 2022 and candidates of this year's Primary Education Completion Exam (PECE), would attend classes every day after schools and colleges reopen.

Students of classes 1 to 4 and 6 to 9 will have in-person classes once a week.

The frequency of classes for these students would be increased depending on the Covid situation in the country.

"We have decided to resume classroom teaching at all primary, secondary and higher secondary educational institutions on September 12," Education Minister Dipu Moni said after the inter-ministerial meeting.

She said they took the decision as the Covid-19 infection rate has come down significantly and taking into considering the fact that the infection rate in November-December last year was significantly low. Besides, substantial numbers are being vaccinated against the highly transmissible disease, she said.

"We have already taken preparations for resuming teaching in classrooms. But if there is anything [else] that needs to be completed, it will be done by September 9," she added.

She said all would need to wear masks, students' body temperatures would be screened before they are allowed to enter classrooms and that physical distancing

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A hill cut down in half to make room for the construction of a building in Khulshi VIP area of Chattogram city. Locals said the real estate owners "managed" the Department of Environment, which has an office nearby, before they proceeded with such blatant violation of the law.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Pull down defamatory materials from online

HC asks BTRC, blasts it for failure



"BTRC can instantly stop defamatory materials from spreading online. But it doesn't — as if it enjoys them."

HC observes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday blasted the Bangladesh Telecommunication and Regulatory Commission (BTRC) for its failure to stop the spread of defamatory media reports, videos and pictures from online platforms.

"Do we need to continuously give directions to the BTRC to stop such viral videos? It seems that the BTRC feels pleasant about seeing such character-assassinating materials. Why do such videos go viral?" said the HC bench.

The observation was made by the bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah while hearing a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Tasmiah Nuhia Ahmed on August 25.

The writ petition, which was submitted as public interest litigation, sought an HC directive to get the BTRC to take all necessary steps to remove and stop the further spread of materials assassinating individuals' characters from all platforms.

Such materials assassinate individuals' characters by breaching their right to privacy and exposing their private life in public, the petition

said, citing incidents of actor Sahmsunnahar Smriti alias Pori Moni, college Student Mosarat Jahan Muniya, JKG Healthcare Chairman Sabria Arif Chowdhury.

For instance, earlier in August, the Rapid Action Battalion has filed a case with Banani Police Station against Pori Moni under the Narcotics Control Act 2018.

Since then, several media reports have come up humiliating Pori Moni's character and exposing her private life in public.

Where Pori Moni is accused in a narcotics case, the media reports are focusing on her relationships in an attempt to assassinate her character, the petition said.

That law enforcement agencies are also not taking into account the honour of a woman in a sufficient manner while briefing media as prescribed under the constitution.

"This has happened with other women of our society as well, when they were made accused of committing any offence in any case," Ahmed said in the writ petition.

In response, the HC bench said: "The BTRC can instantly stop defamatory materials from

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E-ORANGE SCAM

## Bringing back Banani cop from India won't be easy

Says DMP commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bringing back Inspector Sheikh Sohel Rana of Banani Police Station from India, where he has been arrested for trespassing, won't be easy as there is a case filed against him there, said DMP Commissioner Shafiqul Islam yesterday.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Shafiqul said police are trying to bring Rana back as he is an accused in a case here. He left work on Thursday without permission after e-commerce platform e-orange customers filed a case accusing Rana and nine others.

If it is not possible to bring him back right now, police will have to wait until the completion of his trial there, he added.

Asked about possible actions against Rana, the city police chief said the court would try him in the case filed against him. Besides, police will take departmental action based on an investigation being done by Gulshan Division Police, as he was absent at work without permission.

Rana, who was detained by India's Border Security Force on Friday, had paid a broker Tk 10,000 to illegally cross the Lalmonirhat's Patgram border, said officials here. He was held at the Changrabandha border in Cooch Behar in the Indian state of West Bengal, when he was on his way to Nepal.

On Saturday, a Cooch Behar judicial magistrate's court placed him on three-day remand in the trespassing case.

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## Poor batting approach costs Tigers third T20I

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than the slowness of the pitch, it was the unorganised batting approach that led to Bangladesh being bundled out for their lowest-ever T20I total at home and losing the third T20I against New Zealand by 52 runs at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Chasing a total of 128 for five, a competitive score on a slow Mirpur pitch, Bangladesh were bundled out for 76 in 19.4 overs, their lowest T20I total at home and joint second-lowest overall. The result also meant the visitors bounced back after losing the first two T20Is,

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## INOCULATING CHILDREN No plan drawn up yet

Says DGHS a day after health minister says govt was planning it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health directorate yesterday said there is no plan to inoculate children under 18 against Covid-19.

The statement came a day after Health Minister Zahid Maleque said the government was planning to inoculate children as young as 12.

"We have no knowledge of the plan to vaccinate students below 18 years right now. Since the government is thinking about it, we will be able to inform you once any plan is finalised," said Md Shamsul Haque, secretary general of Covid-19 Vaccine Management Taskforce Committee of the health directorate, at an online briefing yesterday.

However, the National Immunization Advisory Group (NITAG) in a meeting last week recommended the health ministry not to offer Covid-19 vaccines to children, a member of the group told The Daily Star.

The NITAG makes recommendations to the government on issues involving vaccination.

"We clearly conveyed the message that the government should not vaccinate children right now," the NITAG

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New Zealand players celebrate the dismissal of Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, centre, who departs with his head bowed as Mahmudullah Riyad looks on during the third T20I at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

### আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত

পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড পরিচালনা পর্ষদের প্রাক্তন চেয়ারম্যান ও পরিচালক মরহুম শেখ ওয়াহিদুর রহমানের সহধর্মিণী ও পরিচালনা পর্ষদের বর্তমান পরিচালক আজিজুর রহমানের মাতা

### হালিমা রহমান

০৪ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১ শনিবার বাংলাদেশ সময় সকাল ১১.৪৫ ঘটিকায় যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের নিউইয়র্কের একটি হাসপাতালে চিকিৎসাধীন অবস্থায় ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইল্লা লিল্লাহি ওয়া ইল্লা ইলাইহি রাজিউন)। তাঁর মৃত্যুতে পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর পরিচালনা পর্ষদ এবং সকল স্তরের নির্বাহী, কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দ গভীরভাবে মর্মান্বিত ও শোকাহত।

আমরা মহান আল্লাহ রাব্বুল আলামীনের কাছে মরহুমার বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি এবং মরহুমার শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবার পরিজনদের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন করছি।

মহান আল্লাহ রাব্বুল আলামীন যেন তাঁর পরিবার পরিজনকে এই অপূরণীয় ক্ষতি সহ্য করার ক্ষমতা দান করেন।



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