



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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**"The case detection rate has been below 10 percent for four days in a row, which is a cause for relief."**  
LINE DIRECTOR (DISEASE CONTROL) DGHS NAZMUL ISLAM

**"If the influence of 'Taliban culture' is not prevented in Bangabandhu's secular Bangladesh, then our situation could be like that of Afghanistan someday."**  
PRESIDENT OF EKATTORER GHATAK DALAL NIRMUL COMMITTEE SHAHRIAR KABIR

**"No Phd degree, master's degree is valuable today. You see that the Mullahs and Taliban that are in the power, have no Phd, MA or even a high school degree, but are the greatest of all."**  
TALIBAN'S EDUCATION MINISTER SHEIKH MOLVI NOORULLAH MUNIR

## DHAKA-ASHULIA ELEVATED EXPRESSWAY

# Work to start next month

Uncertainty over funding goes as China EXIM Bank okays \$1.2b loan

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The physical work of another elevated expressway, which will facilitate vehicles' quick entry and exit to and from the capital, is likely to start next month as the uncertainty over Chinese funding is now over.

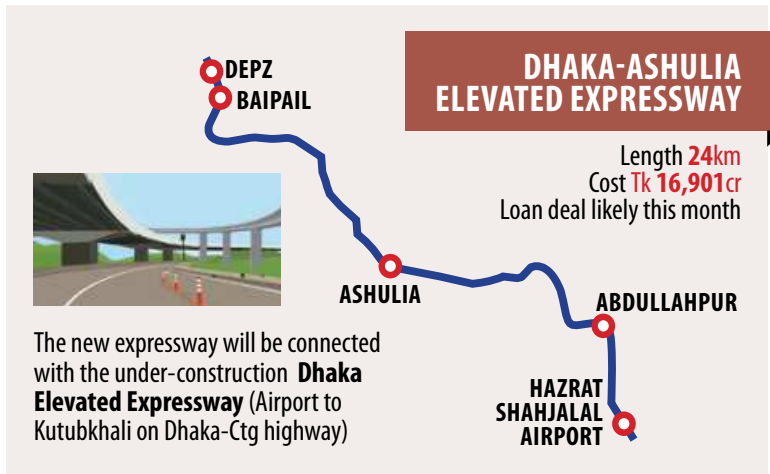
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last week gave the go-ahead to the draft loan agreement for the project called Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway. The development came after Chinese EXIM Bank approved the long-delayed loan of \$1.2 billion, or Tk 10,226.53 crore, for the expressway, said project officials.

China will provide 65 percent of the total project cost of Tk 16,901 crore, they said.

Project Director Shahabuddin Khan said the finance ministry's Economic Relations Division (ERD) and the Chinese bank were likely to sign the loan agreement this month. "We hope that the project's physical work will begin next month," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

A finance ministry official, who is aware of developments, also confirmed to this newspaper that the agreement was likely to be signed

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**Mahmudullah Riyad, left, scored an unbeaten 43 while Mustafizur Rahman took four wickets as Bangladesh beat New Zealand by six wickets in the fourth T20I at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday to win the series 3-1 with a match remaining.**

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# Tigers cruise to series victory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mahmudullah Riyad hit the runs shot as Bangladesh created history by winning their first bilateral T20I series against New Zealand, registering a six-wicket win in the fourth T20I at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday to seal the five-match series 3-1.

Yesterday's win was also Bangladesh's ninth T20I victory of the year, the most by any team this year.

The Tigers chased down the small

target of 94 runs with five balls to spare, continuing their dominance in the game's shortest format at home with a third successive T20I series, building on a maiden series win over Australia last month.

T20I skipper Mahmudullah guided his troops in the fourth T20I with an unbeaten 43 off 48 balls while opener Naim Sheikh added 29 runs.

However, it was not a straightforward chase, with Bangladesh at one stage struggling on 33 for three after Liton Das

(6), Shakib Al Hasan (8) and Mushfiqur Rahim (0) departed in quick succession before Mahmudullah steadied the ship.

Earlier, New Zealand skipper Tom Latham elected to bat but the visitors failed to capitalise in the face of a clinical bowling display by the Tigers.

Left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed and pacer Mustafizur Rahman shared eight wickets as the Kiwis were bundled out below 100 runs for the second time this series.

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## LAND MANAGEMENT Govt wants hassle-free system for people: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the government wants to develop a hassle-free land management system in the country so that common people do not suffer in any way.

"We want to develop a system so that people must not face unnecessary harassment and sufferings, and don't have to move from one office room to another," she said.

The PM was addressing a programme yesterday marking the inauguration of the Bhumi Bhaban of the land ministry, land office buildings at upazilas and making union-level activities online.

The event was organised at the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium, with the PM joining it from the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina asked the officials concerned to build every land office at the

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## SCHOOL REOPENING

# Cautious optimism all around

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Fourteen-year-old Shahabul Alam never thought a day would come where he would be impatient to get back into the classroom.

The daily grind of waking up early, attending the school assembly, concentrating for long hours, being called on in class and slogging through traffic to get back home is now seeming wholly inviting after about solitary 18 months at home with unrestricted access to video games, television and marathon online classes.

"I started to miss my school and seeing my friends. I couldn't be happier when the announcement came that we would be going back to school," said the Class-8 student of Shahid Police Smrity High School and College in Mirpur.

His father, Md Jahurul Alam, is not as

excited about the return to the classroom from September 12: he is worried whether the school would be able to maintain the health protocols needed to keep the mutating coronavirus at bay.

"Coronavirus has not stopped spreading yet. I know it is extremely important for our children to return to school as their lifestyle has been greatly disrupted by this long vacation. But maintaining the health guidelines is paramount," Alam said.

Shahabul's school is taking the matter just as seriously. It has formed several committees to monitor the implementation of the education ministry's directives including ensuring social distancing, mask use and sanitisation facilities.

Sinks have been placed in different corners, an isolation room has been readied and disinfectant chambers installed at the

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# World wary of Taliban govt

West expresses concern; women banned from sports

AGENCIES

World powers yesterday urged the Taliban to act on their promises, saying they are monitoring developments in Afghanistan after the Islamist group announced a headline interim government drawn exclusively from its inner echelons.

The names announced for the new government on Tuesday, three weeks after the Taliban swept to military victory as US-led foreign forces withdrew, gave no sign of an olive branch to its opponents.

Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, who is on a UN sanctions list, was named as the acting prime minister, while the group's co-founder Abdul Ghani Baradar, who oversaw the signing of the US withdrawal agreement in 2020, was appointed deputy leader.

FBI designated global terrorist Sirajuddin Haqqani has been appointed as the interior minister of the new government.

The structure of the new government runs counter to

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## Bangladesh to join UN, EU in talks with Taliban

Says Shahriar Alam

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has decided to join a dialogue, initiated by the United Nations and European Union, with the Taliban in the wake of a humanitarian crisis after it seized control of Afghanistan.

"The UN and EU have asked us if we want to be a part to the dialogue. We have agreed to it," Shahriar Alam, state minister for foreign affairs, told reporters at his ministry yesterday.

He said there is a humanitarian situation, including a food crisis, with

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## PLACING PORI ON REMANDS HC censures two judges, IO

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court has said the investigation officer disregarded the Supreme Court guidelines and laws in seeking remand for actor Pori Moni for the second and third time in a narcotics case.

It also criticised two lower court judges for granting the remand prayers.

The full text of the HC order, which was released yesterday, said, "Moreover, crime is not a problem solely for the police only, rather it is a community problem. The police department must believe that human life is very precious. A police officer has to think about the legal and basic issues before taking an accused on remand."

The society vests the highest level of trust in the police department. But in the recent case, it seemed the IO to some extent disregarded the guidelines of the apex court as well as the laws, resulting in an obstacle to a smooth functioning of criminal justice system.

"We believe that justice would be met if the investigating

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The playground and much of the lower levels of a government primary school in Gala union in Tangail Sadar remain under flood water. In view of Covid-19 infection rates going down, the government has directed that schools open in phases from September 12. However, flood-affected schools will not be opening on that day.

## SUED UNDER DSA Court accepts charges against journo Kajol

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday accepted the charges pressed against photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol in another case filed under the Digital Security Act.

After accepting the charge sheet, Judge Mohammad Ash Sams Joglul Hossain of Dhaka Cyber Tribunal fixed October 20 for charge framing hearing against Kajol in the case, said Shamim Al Mamun, bench assistant to the tribunal.

Earlier on the day, Kajol was granted bail as he was on High Court bail.

On March 11 last year, Sumaiya Chowdhury

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## Shwapno received 'The Asia Marketing Excellence Award'

Shwapno, the largest retail chain in the country, won the prestigious 'The Asia Marketing Excellence Award', which is also known as Asia's Marketing Company of the Year 2020. After a rigorous selection process, members of the jury board of A.M.F (Asia Marketing Federation) selected 'Shwapno' as the winner last November. Last day, representatives of A.M.F, President of Marketing Society of Bangladesh (MSB) Ashraf Bin Taj, and COO of Bangladesh Brand Forum (BBF) Sajid Mahub handed over the award to the Executive Director of Shwapno, Sabbir Hasan Nasir at Shwapno's head office at Tejgaon.

Among others, Shwapno's Business Director Sohel Tanvir Khan, Operation Director Abu Naser, Head of Marketing Mahadi Faisal, Head of Human Resource Shah Md Rjivi Rony and other officials were also present on the occasion. The award ceremony was scheduled to be held in Singapore in this year, however, due to the ongoing pandemic, the program was cancelled. Later, the award was shipped to Marketing Society of Bangladesh's (MSB) office. In this regard, Marketing Society of Bangladesh (MSB) President Ashraf Bin Taj said, "Shwapno won the award after contesting with organizations from strong 17 nations like Japan, South Korea, Singapore, China, Thailand, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Malaysia. After the rigorous assessment conducted by a strong jury board, Shwapno won 'The Asia Marketing Excellence Award', which is also recognized as Asia's Marketing Company of the year 2020. My heartfelt congratulations to Shwapno."



After receiving the award, Shwapno's Executive Director Sabbir Hasan Nasir said, "Thanks to Marketing Society of Bangladesh (MSB) and Bangladesh Brand Forum for nominating us to compete and represent Bangladesh in this most prestigious program. Our responsibilities increased after getting this recognition. AMF honored us for the unconditional love and expectation from our consumers, the overall support we got from our partners, for the relentless effort & sweat of all Shwapno employees deployed in different parts of the country, and for the fundamentals of the business philosophy of Shwapno as a humane, conscious & responsible brand. My heartfelt gratitude towards the jury board for awarding us this prestigious title."