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"We have a conversation with Indian high commissioner and the [officials of] Beximco Pharma. They informed us the vaccine may arrive in October."
HEALTH MINISTER ZAHID MALEQUE



"... The Afghan people's gains must be protected including women's rights and their role in the development of Afghanistan."
QATAR'S FM SHEIKH MOHAMMED BIN ABDULRAHMAN AL-THANI



"... Reject bravely all those lies, and I 100 percent confirm to you there is no issue and we have no problem."
TALIBAN CO-FOUNDER ABDUL GHANI BARADAR ON HIS DEATH RUMOURS

PRIMARY-HIGHER SECONDARY EDUCATION

Major reforms on the horizon



- No public exam before grade X
- No exam till grade III
- Science, business, humanities streams from class XI
- SSC exam on five subjects
- Public exams after XI and XII
- HSC result combining results of XI and XII
- New curriculum implementation to begin January 2023

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government will do an overhaul of the education system which, among other changes, will scrap any public exams before class 10 and also ensure no exams of any kind for students up to class 3.

The new curriculum will reduce emphasis on memorisation and prioritise experiment- and activity-based learning.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday approved the outline of the new curriculum, which is set to be implemented in phases from January 2023, and will be

fully implemented by 2025.

The government is also going to introduce streams -- science, humanities and business studies -- from class 11. In the existing curriculum, students had to choose the streams in class 9.

After getting the PM's approval, Education Minister Dipu Moni said the government wants to change the current education system.

"We do not want that students go through the pressure of education. We want to give students education amid fanfare,"

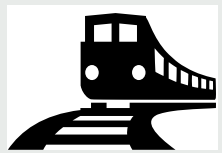
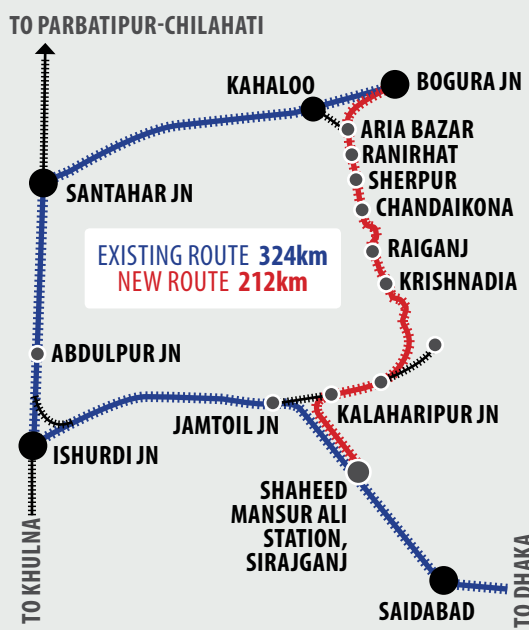
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Dyed pieces of cloth left in the sun to dry at a dyeing factory in Narayanganj's Hajiganj area. The local dyeing industry continues to recover from losses as garment work orders pick up with improvement in the Covid-19 situation. With much less work orders, such colourful scenes at the factories were rare even a few months ago. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

DHAKA-BOGURA RAIL LINK



ESTIMATED COST
Tk 5,580 crore
WORK TO START BY
JUNE 2023

Detour no more

Trip from Dhaka to Bogura to take 3hrs less; new line to cut distance by 112km; Indian consultant to do detailed design, review feasibility study

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

A long-awaited railway project for setting up a direct rail line between Bogura and Sirajganj, ultimately shortening Dhaka-Bogura travel distance by 112 kilometres and time by three hours, has finally seen some progress.

Bangladesh Railway has been able to select consultants for the Tk 5,579.70 crore project. It is set to sign a contract later this month with an Indian joint venture firm for updating the project's feasibility study, detailed design, and preparing tender documents, sources aware of the development confirmed to The Daily Star.

The development comes around three years after the government approved the project for constructing the 86.51km dual gauge rail line from Bogura to Shaheed M Mansur Ali Station in Sirajganj.

The project authorities now hope to begin the project's physical work within the first half of 2023, meaning the current deadline, which is June 2023, will have to be extended by at least two years, said sources.

The existing railway distance from Dhaka to Bogura is 324km and once the

proposed rail line is built, the distance will be cut short to 212km, said project officials.

It will also cut the distance and travel time between Dhaka and other northern districts, including Gaibandha, Rangpur, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat, they said.

This is one of the six projects being implemented under the Indian Line of Credit. India would provide Tk 3,146.59 crore or 56.39 percent of the total project cost in soft loans.

Under the project, seven new stations would be built at Kalia Haripur, Krishnadia, Raiganj, Chandaikona, Sherpur, Aria Bazar and Ranihat. Besides, the new line will connect three existing stations -- Shaheed M Mansur Ali, Kahaloo and Bogura.

BR Director General Dharendra Nath Mazumder said the contract with the Indian joint venture is likely to be signed on September 27. However, it will depend on the arrival of officials from the Indian side, he said.

The rail line will significantly reduce the travel time between Dhaka and northern districts like Lalmonirhat and Rangpur, he also said.

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Personal conversations must stay private: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday said all concerned should be sincere about protecting the private communications of citizens.

The incidents of eavesdropping on personal conversations, which were later passed on to the media, is not fair as they cause damage to the persons concerned, said the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman during the final hearing on a writ petition that sought its directive for preventing such episodes.

The Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) needs to find out who are responsible for the

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NATIONAL EDUCATION FRAMEWORK Make it modern for new world

Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday underscored the need for modernising the national education framework further to cope with the technology-driven competitive world.

She said this while witnessing a PowerPoint presentation on the draft outline of the "National Education Framework" at the Gono Bhaban.

The Ministry of Education prepared the draft outline. Hasina said technology is advancing and Bangladesh must move ahead keeping pace with the advancement of the world and technology; and the country's education framework needs to be befitting of the time.

Mentioning that the education framework is being modernised following the policy of the government, she said Bangladesh must not lag behind as the world is advancing in terms of knowledge, science and technology.

She expressed satisfaction over yesterday's presentation saying measures were highlighted there to make academic

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Covid shots may arrive from India in October

Maleque says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The supply of Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covid-19 vaccine from India may resume next month, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said yesterday.

"We have had conversations with the Indian high commissioner and the [officials of] Beximco Pharma. They informed us that the vaccine may arrive in October. We are also in contact with our foreign minister. We hope [vaccines] will be supplied in October," he told journalists following an ambulance handover ceremony in the capital.

At the event, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram Kumar Doraiswami handed over 41 ambulances as a donation from the Indian government. He also assured of donating 68 more ambulances soon.

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Students getting out of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College on the capital's Bailey Road through a crowd of guardians waiting to receive them after the end of school hours yesterday. Such gathering of guardians at the school gate makes it impossible for the school authorities to maintain physical distancing which was one of the main conditions for the recent reopening of the educational institutions after a closure of 18 months.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

LPG costlier in Bangladesh than in India

Says CAB at public hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in Bangladesh is higher than the price in India, so the operators' demand for a higher price does not hold water, said the Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB) yesterday.

Earlier in April, the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) had for the first time fixed the retail price of LPG, progressively becoming the fuel of choice for cooking and running vehicles.

Then, the BERC stipulated that a 12 kg cylinder, the most form for marketing the fuel, would sell for Tk 975 -- an amount that did not go down well with the industry stakeholders.

At that time, it also said that the prices would be adjusted based on the contract prices with Saudi Arabia for propane and butane.

Since April, the BERC has revised upwards the price three times and yet the industry stakeholders, which include LPG cylinder manufacturers, bottling plant owners, importers and traders, remained dissatisfied.

They demanded a public hearing to press home their demand for an extra Tk 224 for a 12 kg LPG cylinder as the BERC's pricing formula did not incorporate all aspects of the cost components for the sellers.

In India, the average price of a 12 kg cylinder is about Tk 875, said Shamsul Alam, energy adviser of CAB, at the hearing yesterday, which was conducted by BERC Chairman Md. Abdul Jalil.

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