City

15,32,366 Total cases

NEWS

26,972

Deaths





CONSTABLE RECRUITMENT Standard must be maintained strictly

BANGLADESH UPDATE 1,953 New cases in 24hrs

Senior police officials say at crime conference STAFF CORRESPONDENT fair.

Senior police officials have discussed strict measures for the hiring of right and competent candidates during the upcoming constable recruitment test to be held in seven phases.

They discussed the matter in the presence of Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed yesterday, which was the second day of the three-day crime conference.

The conference began at 11:00am on Sunday at the Hall of Integrity of the Police Headquarters. It is happening after nearly a year and a half due to the pandemic.

The conference started at 2:30pm and continued till 6:00pm yesterday. It will end today with the concluding remarks of the IGP.

The police officials suggested that the Police Headquarters forms a committee to set the questions for the recruitment test and then send them to districts.

The answer scripts should be sent to the PHQ for evaluation. Additionally, candidates' medical and psychological state, education background and height should be checked strictly as per the requirements to make the recruitment

Additional Inspector General (media) Kamruzzaman Rassel said the respective officials of different sections yesterday gave presentations on the activities of operations wings, functions of Bangladesh Police Welfare Trust, development wing, pending departmental cases against police members, vehicle maintenance, budget management, appointment of constables under new rules, posting and creation of police posts, media management etc.

As part of development work, various buildings are being constructed on different police compounds. Police officials also suggested that an instruction should be given to SPs concerned to monitor the work.

The AIG gave a presentation on appropriate police behaviour with the media and the journalists.

On the first day of the conference, the overall crime situation of January-June this year, including issues related to robbery, murder, speedy trial cases, women and child abuse cases, kidnapping, burglary, riot, drugs, weapons and car recovery, was raised for discussion.

setting the price, but also components

The transportation costs would be

different for every company as they

do not collect the same quantity from

the international market, according to

near about the same, whereas the Saudi

contract price has doubled, he said.

In 2016 and 2021, the price of LPG is

Ahmed demanded fixing the LPG

price based on the Saudi CP of the same

month and not on the previous month

along with consideration of other issues.

small LPG providers as they are at loss

with high bank loans, said Zakaria Jalal,

executive director of Basundhara LPG,

The profit is marginal under the

price fixed by the BERC, as a result of

foreign investors are losing interest,

said Mohammed Mujibur Rahman,

chief of marketing and sales at Totalgaz

committee member of the Communist

Party of Bangladesh; MM Akash, a

professor of Dhaka University; Barrister

Tureen Afroz; Zonayed Saki, chief

coordinator of Ganasanghati Andolan;

and Mohammad Sirajul Mawla,

president of the Autogas Station Owners

The implementation of the BERC's

Association, spoke at the event.

Ruhin Hossain Prince, central

The BERC pricing is affecting the

like transportation costs."



14,82,933

Recoveries

With her child, a mother along with others waits in a queue to buy daily essentials at subsidised prices from a truck of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) in Kamalapur area of the capital yesterday. The woman had been waiting since 10:00am and the photo was taken around 1:00pm. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Major reforms on the horizon

FROM PAGE 1

replace the memorisation-based system with experiment- activitybased education," she said during a press conference at the Secretariat. EVALUATION PROCESS

She said students would be evaluated based on continuous assessment until class 3 at schools.

Currently, these students need to sit for half-yearly and final exams every vear.

Dipu Moni said for students of classes 4 to 8, 60 percent of evaluation in Bangla, English, mathematics, social sciences and science will be done through continuous assessment, and the rest through "overall evaluation."

For other subjects, students of these classes will be evaluated based on continuous assessment.

Contacted, National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) Member (Curriculum) Prof Md Moshiuzzaman explained that "overall evaluation" means exams and continuous assessment means evaluation of regular school work.

Half the evaluation of Bangla, English, mathematics, social science and science of students of classes 9 and 10 will be done through continuous assessment, and the rest will be done through exams.

Dipu Moni said students will need to take public exams after class 10, based on the curriculum of that grade only.

"The SSC exams will be held on Bangla, English, mathematics, social of continuous assessment and exams. new books in January 2025. science and science subjects," said an But details are vet to be finalised.

and the JSC exams a year later. Many NO STREAM BEFORE CLASS 11 educationists frequently termed the exams unnecessary and slammed those for stressing out the students.

"There was nothing about PECE and JSC exams in the existing curriculum. But the government decided to hold the exams," an NCTB member said. The curriculum was last revised in 2012.

"We did not propose any public exams before class 10 [in the outline of the new curriculum]," Moshiuzzaman told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon following the press conference at the Secretariat.

Students of grades 9 and 10 will study 10 subjects -- Bangla, English, mathematics, science, social science, ICT, religion, health studies, life and livelihood education, and art and culture studies.

HSC EXAMS IN TWO PHASES

Dipu Moni said students would need to sit for public exams after classes XI and XII based on the curriculum of the respective classes. The HSC exams will take place in two phases, and the final result will be determined by combining results of both phases.

NCTB officials said 30 percent evaluation of compulsory subjects --Bangla, English, mathematics and ICT -- of classes 11 and 12 will be done through continuous assessment, and the remaining 70 percent will be done through public exams.

For optional subjects, students will in 2024. be evaluated based on a combination

Dipu Moni yesterday also said the government is going to introduce streams -- science, humanities and

business studies -- from class 11. She said since the period of Ayub Khan, secondary schools have been requiring students to choose among science, humanities and business studies when they are in class 9.

Officials said most countries around the world do not have science, humanities and business disciplines at the school level. All schoollevel students should have similar knowledge, they said.

Students of classes 11 and 12 will study the compulsory Bangla, English and ICT. And they will be able to choose three other subjects from any of three disciplines of science, humanities and business. They will pick another subject from vocational courses

NEW BOOKS TO ALL BY 2025

education minister said The government will begin the implementation of the new curriculum from 2023 in phases. She said they will start piloting of the new curriculum for class 1 students at 100 primary schools and at 100 secondary schools from January 2022.

Students of classes 1, 2, 6 and 7 will get new books based on the new curriculum, in January 2023. Students of classes 3, 4, 8 and 9 will get books

Students of grade 5 and 10 will get

The NCTB started the proc

Cop dies of bullet wounds in Rab HQ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Rab member died with bullet wounds at the elite force's headquarters in Dhaka's Kurmitola area yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Shuva Malla, 26, a constable of Bangladesh Police.

Khandaker Al Moin, Rab's legal and media wing director, said Shuva sustained bullets wounds while discharging duty around 2:30pm at the Rab headquarters.

"He was alone during the incident. We can say after investigation whether he was shot accidentally or if it's a case of death by suicide," he said.

Critically injured Shuva was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Doctors at DMCH declared him dead around 5:15pm.

Hailing from Chattogram, Shuva was deputed to Rab from Police a couple of months ago.

Correction

The Daily Star yesterday ran a story on page 1 titled "Personal Data Protection Law: Door ajar for misuse' where Md Saimum Reza Talukder. an advocate who specialises in law, privacy and digital technologies, was quoted as saying, "With this section, it is completely exempting government agencies, or state forces who are functioning as data controllers."

Talukder was misquoted in the story. We apologise for any inconveniences caused and regret the error.

KARNAPHULI TUNNEL

Same Chinese firm to do maintenance, toll collection TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Chinese contractor that has been building the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel under the Karnaphuli river in Chattogram is also set to be responsible for its maintenance and toll collection.

Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA) has selected China Communications Construction Company Limited (CCCC) for the maintenance and toll collection work under direct procurement method for five years after the tunnel is completed.

The proposal would be placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs today for approval, BBA Executive Director Abu Bakr Siddique told The Daily Star yesterday.

As per the proposal, the company would get the duties for five years from the start of the tunnel's operation, he said. However, neither the contract price nor the toll rate has been fixed yet, he added. The 9.1km tunnel, the first of its kind in South Asia, is being built at a cost of Tk 10,374.42 crores. It will help develop a modern communication system between Dhaka, Chattogram and Cox's Bazar, and also be linked to the Asian Highway. The project has witnessed 72 percent progress so far, Project Director Harun-or-Rashid told The Daily Star yesterday. The deadline of the project is December next year, he said, adding that although the Covid-19 pandemic has caused some delay, they would try to meet the deadline. Abu Bakr Siddique, also the secretary of Bridge Division, said the tunnel would be the first of its kind among South Asian countries and it is a highly technical matter. So, they found it would be better if the construction company provides maintenance services for the tunnel in the initial stage, he said.

LPG costlier in Bangladesh FROM PAGE 1 price be in the consideration when

Ahmed

In September, the BERC fixed the price of the 12 kg cylinder, the most common form for selling the fuel, at Tk 1,033 based on the month's contract price with Saudi Arabia.

But the LPG Operators Association of Bangladesh (LOAB) has demanded Tk 1,372 and Beximco Tk 1,381.

The facts and proofs do not support the LOAB's pricing demand, so the latest price of LPG should be at Tk 997 instead of Tk 1,033, Alam said.

Besides, the application to reform the pricing does not have legitimacy as the LPG operators did not apply within the month of the BERC's fixing the price as specified, according to Alam.

"The prices were not implemented anywhere," he said, adding that the retailers were selling LPG at least Tk 100-250 more than the price set by the BERC.

But the LPG operators said the price fixed was untenable for them.

In Bangladesh, the LPG's market size is \$2.5 billion and 27 players are in operation, said Shamsul Haque Ahmed, chief executive officer of Omera Petroleum, who presented the demands on behalf of the LOAB.

"But due to the non-methodical approach of LPG pricing by the BERC, the industry has become unhealthy."

He went on to call for a floor and ceiling for the prices of LPG rather than

a set price.

pricing is more important than the "Not only should the Saudi contract announcement, they said.

the market leader.

Bangladesh.

Make it modern for new world

FROM PAGE 1

activities more attractive to students alongside teaching them on life and livelihood

Hasina regretted that educational institutions had been closed for more than one and a half years due to the Covid-19 pandemic although educational activities continued online during this period.

She said the children were deprived of enjoying their academic life and environment in educational institutions, including colleges and schools.

About reopening of the educational institutions, the premier hoped that the situation would become normal in the davs ahead

She said the government introduced pre-primary education to attract the children to schools through games and amusement.

Terming Bangladesh a country of rivers, canals and swamps, she said the Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

incidents of eavesdropping, said the

bench, which fixed September 19 for

During the hearing, petitioners'

lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir told

the court that the BTRC is responsible

for ensuring private communication of

citizens under the relevant provisions of

Uddin opposed the writ petition as

the petitioners, who are lawyers by

profession, were not the aggrieved party

in any of the incidents of eavesdropping

and recording of private phone

If any person becomes aggrieved, he

In response, the petitioners' lawyer

Shishir Manir said his clients as lawyers

have the right to move a writ petition

to protect the people's legal and

lawyers submitted the writ petition as

public interest litigation to the HC,

seeking its directive on the government

steps have been taken to prevent

On August 10, 10 Supreme Court

as to inform what necessary

incidents of eavesdropping

But the BTRC has failed to carry out

General AM

the constitution and the law.

its duties properly, he said.

or she can file a case, he said.

constitutional rights.

as well

Attornev

conversations.

delivering its order on the petition.

Personal conversations

Amin

government is constructing schools and colleges across the country keeping this reality in mind.

Besides, necessary steps have been taken to build roads and paths towards the schools in villages to ensure easy communications of the students, she added

Hasina said children in the past were not interested in science education and her government took steps to establish 12 science and technology universities in the country to attract them into science education.

Besides, the government also established specialised universities in the country on some specific subjects, she said.

About primary education, the PM said the government nationalised primary schools and gave the highest importance to technical education following the footsteps of Bangabandhu

NCTB officials said that would mean that there will be no more Primary Education Completion Exam after class 5 and no Junior School Certificate exams for class 8.

The PECE was introduced in 2009

NCTB officials said.

Under the existing system, students of classes 9 and 10 take the SSC exam on 10 papers after studying a syllabus for two years. They sit for the HSC exams on 12 papers after studying a two-year syllabus in classes 11 and 12.

revising the current curriculum in 2018. NCTB was supposed to begin phase-wise implementation of the new curriculum from January 2021.

But the introduction of new curriculum was delayed by two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Covid shots may arrive from India in October

FROM PAGE 1

NCTB official.

Besides, 81 more ambulances, purchased by the government, were distributed among different hospitals and upazila health complexes across the country.

Addressing the event as the chief guest, Zahid said, "India was the first country to give us vaccine. As the situation became worse in India, they could not supply the vaccine as per the contract. I hope that the supply will resume within a very short time."

Thanking the Indian government, the minister said, "India has always been a trusted friend of Bangladesh. This relation as it is today will be strengthened in the days and decades to come.

Institute of India to purchase three crore doses of AstraZeneca vaccine.

As per the deal, the government was supposed to get 50 lakh doses a month. But until yesterday, it only received 70 lakh shots in two instalments.

The Indian government had also sent 33 lakh jabs as gift.

Amid a steep rise in Covid cases in India and reports of shortage of vaccine doses, the Indian government stopped vaccine exports in March to meet the domestic demand.

At yesterday's event, the minister also recalled the contribution of the Indian government in Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971.

Meanwhile, the country logged

Detour no more

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan and Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vikram K Doraiswami are expected to join the programme, said BR sources.

WHY THE PROJECT?

Construction of a direct line between Bogura and Sirajganj has been in discussion for the last three to four decades as the current route is a lengthy and time-consuming one.

Currently, if anyone wants to go to Bogura from Sirajganj, they have to travel via Iswardi, Santahar and Kahaloo.

The BR did a feasibility study and then a final local survey in the early 1990s to establish the direct link. A follow-up study conducted by CANARAIL in 1996 also recommended the establishment of the direct line, showrailway documents.

Call for the direct line got louder when the rail link between Dhaka and BR's west zone was established with the construction of Bangabandhu Bridge in 1998. However, no project for setting up the direct line was taken

until October 2018 over unknown Tk 72 crore. reasons.

Asked about the reasons, railway sources said many believe a strong syndicate of bus owners could be behind the delay. The sources did not go into the details.

Around 20 passenger trains are being operated on the Sirajganj-Iswardi-Santaha-Bogura route, BR sources said.

On October 30, 2018, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) approved the project and the work was supposed to be completed between July 2018 and June 2023.

But the project authorities have so far been able to select consultants following lengthy tender and approval processes involving several authorities from both Bangladesh and India. The Covid-19 pandemic only aggravated the delay.

The Cabinet Committee on Government Purchase on July 29 approved a proposal for selecting an Indian joint venture company, led by RITES Ltd, as consultant at a cost of

government signed a deal with Serum 1,953 new Covid cases yesterday, according to a press release of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)

In the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, 41 more people died from Covid.

With them, the total number of fatalities rose to 26,972 and the total cases to 15,32,366.

However, the positivity rate continued to rise for the straight second day.

Yesterday, the positivity rate was 7.69 percent, up from the previous day's 7.46 percent.

Of yesterday's deceased, 25 were men and 16 women, said the press release.

As per the proposal, the firm will

update the feasibility study within six

months of signing of the contract and

prepare a detailed design within the

next seven months, project sources

said. The tender process for hiring the

work within 18 months after signing

of the contract, meaning within the

first half of 2023," a BR official said

However, starting the physical

Once the contraction work starts,

work would depend on how quickly

they would be able to complete the

the consultant would provide services

for two and a half years as construction

supervisor, he said, meaning the

construction work would take at least

has to be extended. "Yes, the project

deadline has to be extended for sure.

However, it is not possible to say

whether the project cost would go up

or not," the official said.

In that case, the project deadline

two and a half years to complete.

'So, we hope to start the physical

contractor will start then.

wishing not to be named.

bidding process, he added.

BB recommends audit into 9 errant e-commerce firms STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank has requested the commerce ministry to appoint firms to conduct financial audits of nine errant e-commerce organisations.

"We have received a letter in this regard from BB on Sunday," Hafizur Rahman, additional secretary to the ministry, told The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

In the letter, BB wanted to know whether the e-commerce platforms faked any audit reports, Hafizur added.

Evaly, eorange and Dhamaka are three of the platforms.

He also said a high-level meeting would be held today to make a final decision about Evaly.

The audit firms will work to find out the financial health of the companies as a lot of people are suffering due to their anomalies. Those people alleged that they did not get delivery of products in time.

Moreover, the ministry is taking steps to formulate a policy on food delivery as many food delivery companies charge unusual commissions on restaurant food, said sources.

conversations and to ensure the right to privacy of telecommunication. FROM PAGE 1 In recent years, they have come across numerous incidents of eavesdropping and recording of private telephone

conversations from various reports published in national dailies, including

As per its constitutional statute, the BTRC is delegated with the responsibility of ensuring the privacy of telecommunication and upholding the sanctity of Article 43 of the constitution.

However, the newspaper reports demonstrate the continued failure of the BTRC in carrying out its constitutional duties.

The Daily Star.

Such regular incidents of eavesdropping and recording of private telephone conversations show that the BTRC is failing to take any necessary actions or preventive measures or carry out investigations to prevent such breach of privacy of telecommunication, the petition said.

The lawyers who submitted the petition are Rezowana Ferdose, Uttam Kumar Banik, Shah Navila Kashphi, Farhad Ahmed Siddiky, Mohammad Noab Ali, Mohammed Ibrahim Khalil, Mustafizur Rahman, GM Muzahidur Rahman (Munna), Imrul Kayes and Ekramul Kabir.

On December 13 last year, the

and recording of private phone