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## REOPENING OF UNIVERSITIES

# Jab registration only key

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Although the government had planned to resume in-person classes at universities and their affiliated colleges from mid-October after vaccinating all students by September, about 60 percent of the tertiary-level pupils have not even registered for vaccination yet.

Now the government has moved away from the stance and said any university can resume in-person classes if all its students complete the online registration by September 27.

The development came as the Covid-19 infection rate has come down significantly. Once registered, university students will get the shots on a priority basis, said officials concerned.

The decision was made at a virtual meeting attended by officials of the education ministry, the University Grants Commission (UGC), vice-chancellors of public universities and health officials

» Registrations by Sept 27

» Birth certificates can be used

» 60% yet to get registered

» Academic council, syndicate to fix reopening date after registrations

yesterday.

Education Minister Dipu Moni presided over the meeting, two days after schools and colleges reopened across the country on Sunday following a Covid-induced closure of about 18 months. The meeting was held at a time when discussions are underway on whether universities can reopen ahead

of the scheduled date -- October 15.

UGC Member Prof Muhammed Alamgir, who attended the meeting, said students without national identity (NID) cards would be able to register for the vaccination using their birth certificates.

One-hundred and seven private universities, 50 public universities and their affiliated colleges have 44.34 lakh students in total, according to the latest UGC annual report.

Only around 17.50 lakh students have so far

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**UNDER A CLOUD CANOPY...** Boatmen on the bank of the Buriganga waiting for potential passengers under a sky darkened by heavy clouds. It had been drizzling since morning yesterday, and passengers to take to the other side of the river were few and far between. The photo was taken from the capital's Kamrangirchar.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



## PM reiterates call to follow health safety guidelines

Bss, Dhaka

Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina reiterated her call to the countrymen, particularly the lawmakers, to follow the health guidelines properly as she joined a discussion on an obituary motion at parliament.

"It is truly a matter of shock that we have lost so many lawmakers of the parliament. We don't want to take any such condolence motion," she said.

Taking part in the discussion on the obituary reference to the death of

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## Couriers in use to smuggle out forex



» HSIA &amp; customs officials shift blame over security loopholes

» Smugglers using int'l courier services over years

» Govt's postal service also used by syndicate

» 9 cases, four general diaries filed after DNC seized 14 consignments of drugs bound for KSA, USA by air in 5 months from June last year

RASHIDUL HASAN and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The Dhaka airport authorities have seized Saudi riyals and Singapore dollars worth about Tk 12.5 crore from a Singapore-bound garment consignment, in a first such incident of smuggling of foreign currency in recent memory.

On Monday evening, the aviation security (Avsec) at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport recovered about 54.75 lakh Saudi riyals and 20,200 Singapore dollars from cartons that were by Star Express Line, a freighter company, for loading onto Singapore Airlines flight SQ-447.

The foreign notes were wrapped in

carbon paper -- a common technique to dodge the gaze of the dual view x-ray machine, AHM Touhid-ul Ahsan, executive director of HSIA, told The Daily Star.

Gazi Quayyum, a member of Avsec, spotted suspicious components as the cartons were passing through the x-ray machine. He opened one of the cartons and found waist belts in them. Star Express Line did not mention waist belts in the declaration form.

The Avsec member then cut the belt and felt a hard object was stuffed inside it. When he pulled the object out, he found wads of Saudi riyals.

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**After nearly 18 months of separation caused by closure of educational institutions amid the Covid-19 pandemic, a group of SSC candidates of Barishal Model School and College celebrate the reunion with old friends. The photo was taken at a field next to the school yesterday.**

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## PORI MONI DETENTION 2 judges say sorry over remand orders

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Two lower court judges have apologised to the High Court for their "unintended mistakes and faults" in placing actor Pori Moni on remand in phases in a narcotics case.

The Metropolitan Magistrates (lower court judges) Devobrata Biswas and Atikul Islam offered the apology in two separate written explanations on September 9 to the Supreme Court registrar general's office.

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## CLIMATE IMPACT ON COUNTRY'S COASTAL REGION

# 13.3 million at risk of displacement by 2050

A global World Bank report reveals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Salinity, rising sea levels and other adverse climate impacts could cause as many as 13.3 million people to leave their homes in the coastal areas of Bangladesh by 2050, a global World Bank report reveals.

The Groundswell report part II, unveiled on Monday, showed around 37 percent of all South Asian climate migrants will be from Bangladesh.

The report is an updated version of the first one published in 2018.

In the update, it said reduced agricultural

production, water scarcity, rising sea levels and other adverse effects of climate change could cause up to 216 million people to leave their homes and migrate within their own countries by this period.

About Bangladesh, the report mentioned findings from the 2018 report which said climate migration could outpace other internal migrations which drives the pessimistic reference scenario of South Asia. The region is projected to have 35.7 million climate migrants by 2050 (around

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## Ban illegal news sites

HC asks govt; only 92 sites registered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to ban operations of all unregistered online news portals across the country as they allegedly run defamatory photos of people and reports on them.

The chairpersons of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission

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## Got to win even before the polls

A section of BNP leaders say as party begins series of meets

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP must be well ahead of the other parties in the months running up to the national polls if it is to win the election, a section of BNP leaders said yesterday.

They said the opposition party must wage a movement to dislodge the ruling Awami League from power, or else the AL will form government again like it did through an election in 2018.

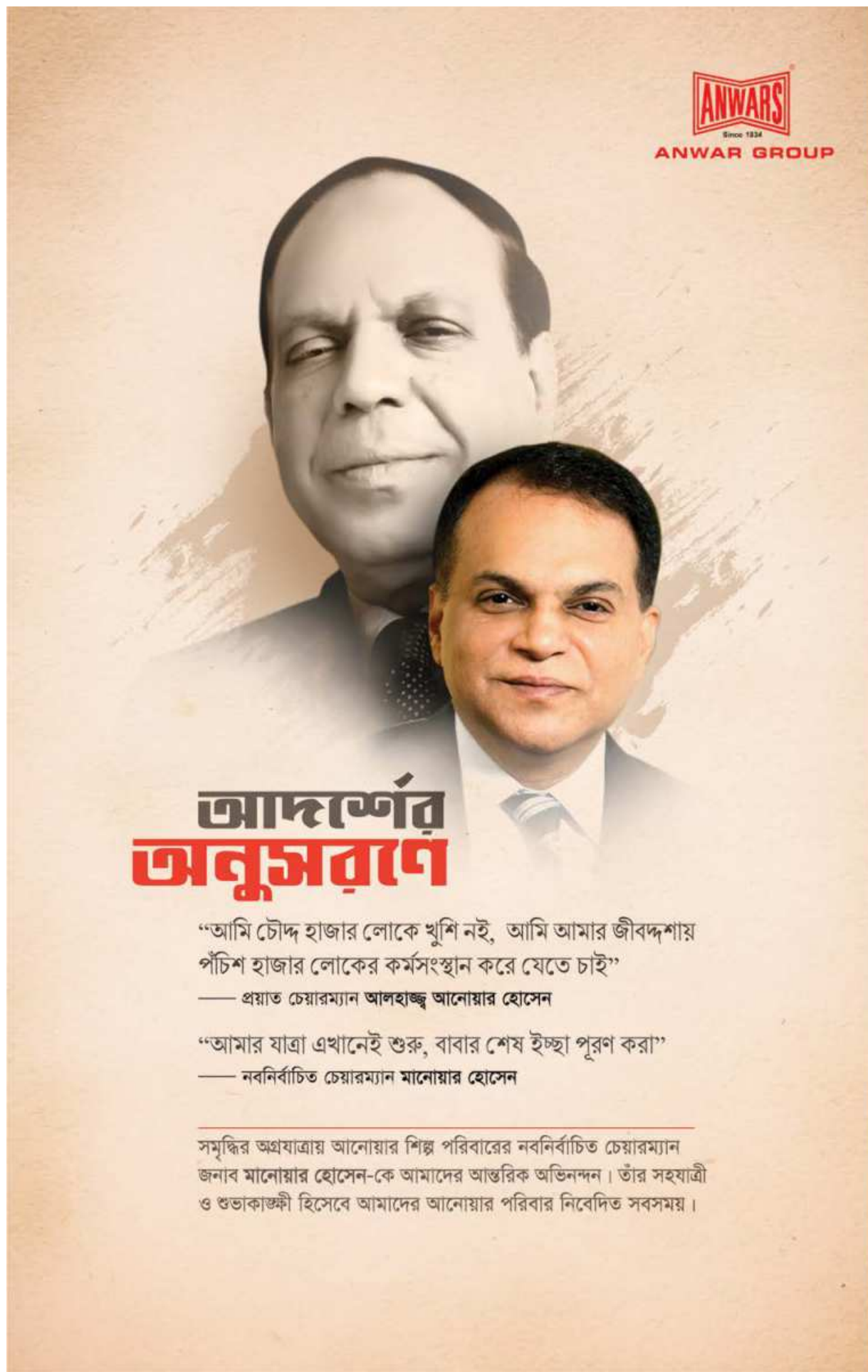
BNP vice chairmen and advisors to the BNP chairperson said that the party

has no choice but to launch a movement demanding an atmosphere congenial to hold a free and fair election.

They expressed this view at the first of the three closed-door meetings the party convened to learn what the grassroots activists think should be their strategy ahead of the next parliamentary polls.

The meetings are taking place as the party rank and file have long been frustrated in the absence of any directions from the leadership.

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