FROM PAGE 1

## We have truth and justice

#### FROM PAGE 12

He further said the families of those who were killed in action would get an immediate cash grant and, in addition, the government would arrange for their accommodation and food. After the war they would be given a monthly grant. The government had already called for names from commanders in this regard. Those who became disabled would be physically rehabilitated and would also be resettled in society, added Osmany.

The commander-in-chief called upon the nation and Mukti Bahini members to step up the fight and said, "Wherever you are in Bangladesh, in the rivulets, lakes, fields and remote recesses of the rural interior, on the riverine highways, land routes, rural markets, industrial centres, towns and cities -- strike the enemy with whatever you can find. Strike him hard. Destroy him. Obliterate all semblance of his existence. [Go] Forward my countrymen to protect the lives and honour of our men and women, to secure the future of our citizens, whatever be their religion, caste or creed and to defend the independence of Bangladesh.'

#### ON THE WAR FRONT

In the Kushtia-Jashore-Khulna sector, Mukti Bahini ambushed a Pakistani patrol near Kutubpur and killed two

enemy soldiers. Earlier Mukti Bahini carried out a number of raids on Pakistani positions in Raghunathpur, Sarha and Churamankati in Jessore district killing 11 Pakistani troops including an officer.

In the Rangpur-Dinajpur-Rajshahi sector, Mukti Bahini shelled Pakistani positions at Sulipukar, Pakuriaghat, Pakijria, Thanthania, Balanoor and Manchosha killing 32 Pakistani soldiers and 21 razakars. In Pakuria alone the enemy troops suffered 16 casualties. Mukti Bahini destroyed seven enemy bunkers in the area. On the night of September 24, Mukti Bahini raided Pakistani positions near Chilahati, killing three Pakistani troops and injuring 52. Near Jabai, Mukti Bahini killed seven Pakistani soldiers in a fatal encounter.

STEPS TAKEN BY YAHYA NOT **ENOUGH: SIR ALEC** 

Sir Alec Douglas-Home, British foreign secretary, yesterday made a statement in the House of Commons that measures taken by Yahya Khan was not enough and that the international community should do far more than what it was doing to help India with her enormous problem with refugees from East Pakistan.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

Earlier on July 15, Education

Minister Dipu Moni said the

government wanted to hold the SSC

and its equivalent exams in the second

week of November and the HSC and

its equivalent tests in the first week of

The government said the students

would not have to sit for tests in

compulsory subjects like Bangla,

Since there will be no tests in the

compulsory subjects, the students'

GPA of the previous public exams will

be considered for the final results of

subjects and the Grade Point Average

(GPA) of the students' previous

public examinations, including Junior

School Certificate (JSC) tests, will

be taken into consideration while

The results of the three optional

English and Mathematics.

the SSC and HSC exams.

preparing the final results.

equivalent exams this session.

December.

# SSC exams likely to start

#### FROM PAGE 1

conduct some preparation works. All others boards will announce routines soon," he added.

Earlier this week, all education boards sent proposals of possible routines to the education ministry for its approval.

Asked, Prof Nehal Ahmed, chairman of Dhaka Education Board and the chief of Inter-Education Board Coordination Subcommittee, said they were yet to get any order from the ministry.

"Once we get the directives, we will make routines for SSC exams of all nine general education boards," he said.

Usually, SSC and its equivalent exams take place in February but the coronavirus pandemic forced the government to postpone the exams this time.

Around 21 lakh students are expected to take the SSC and its

# Half a crore Covid shots

### FROM PAGE 12

received the consignment at the airport, the notification reads.

Meanwhile, Covid-19 deaths, new cases and the positivity rate dropped yesterday, according to a DGHS press release.

In the 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, 24 more people died from Covid, the lowest in around four months

below five percent for two weeks at a stretch indicates the transmission is under control.

The months of June and July were the toughest months after the transmission of novel coronavirus broke out in the country on March 8 last year

From early August this year, the virus transmission started falling. So far, 15,48,320 people have

for the next year without permission from the lower court concerned. The HC bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice KM Zahid Sarwar Kajol passed the order following a petition filed by Jhumon

Das's mother Nibha Rani Das seeking his bail in the case. The petitioner's lawyer ZI Khan Panna told The Daily Star that there was no legal bar for Jhumon Das to be released from Sunamganj jail following the HC's bail order. He said Jhumon Das will be

released from jail when the jail authorities receive the bail order. Lawyers Tabarak Hossain, Subrata Chowdhury, Nahid Sultana Juthi

and Ashraf Ali also appeared for the petitioner, while Deputy Attorney General Yahiya Dulal and Assistant

Jhumon gets conditional bail from HC Attorney General Md Mizanur March 17. Rahman represented the state.

Jhumon Das's mother Nibha Rani Das recently filed the petition saying he has been suffering in jail for a long period without any trial.

ZI Khan Panna told the HC that Jhumon Das is a patriot and not a traitor as he spoke out against communal forces.

The case should have been filed against those communal forces under the DSA, he argued.

Police, with the help of locals, detained Jhumon on March 16 to pacify agitated Hefajat supporters and avoid a possible attack on the village, but in vain.

They showed Jhumon, 25, arrested under section 54 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and produced him before a Sunamgani court on

## Bangladesh asks UN

FROM PAGE 1

And it is over this stretch of the Bay of Bengal that the two neighbours have been sparring over four decades.

Then on July 7, the UN's Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague awarded Bangladesh 19,467 square kilometres of the disputed waters.

The judgement, which is final and binding on both countries and cannot be appealed against, ensured Bangladesh's claims of an equitable solution to a full 200 nmi EEZ and a substantial share of the extended continental shelf beyond 200 nmi.

Thus, it provided Bangladesh with more than 118,813 sq km of water.

But India has been using a baseline that does not meet Article 7 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLO) and based on the baseline are the EEZ and continental shelf set.

The normal baseline for measuring the breadth of the territorial sea is the low-water line along the coast as marked on large-scale charts officially recognised by the coastal state.

In localities where the coastline is deeply indented and cut into, or if there is a fringe of islands along the coast in its immediate vicinity, the method of straight baselines joining

appropriate points may be employed in drawing the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

India's deployment of the straight baseline along its east coast does not meet the criteria stated in the UNCLO. Subsequently, on September 13,

Bangladesh made a formal objection to the UN Secretary-General over the matter.

In addition, some of the base points for the straight baselines are completely at sea without reference to any low-water mark of any "proximate area of terra firma" and are not grounded on any form of coastline, said the diplomatic letter handed over by Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the UN in New York.

For example, India's Base Point 87 is entirely at sea; the nearest Indian coast is approximately 10.5 nm distant.

The government of Bangladesh particularly concerned that India's base point 89 is located on Bangladesh's side of the maritime boundary with India, 2.3 miles inside Bangladeshi waters," it said.

Bangladesh bilaterally requested India to correct the mistake in 2014, but the neighbouring country has yet to do so, said Khurshed Alam,

secretary at the maritime affairs unit of the foreign affairs ministry.

The court later sent him to jail.

the mayhem in Noagaon village of

Sunamganj's Shalla upazila on March

17, which saw about 90 Hindu houses

On March 22, police filed the case

against Jhumon and 20-30 unnamed

people under DSA. In the case

statement, they attached Jhumon's

Facebook post and mentioned that he

intentionally spread information that

is aggressive, intimidating, false and

Facebook post attached a defamatory

placed Jhumon on two-day remand

in the DSA case. Police remanded him

into custody and sent him back to jail.

They also said Jhumon in his

A Sunamganj court on April 20

vandalised and looted.

disgraceful in nature.

photo of Mamunul Haque.

His Facebook post allegedly led to

"I don't know why India used its base point 89 some 2.3 miles inside Bangladeshi waters," said Touhid Hossain, former foreign secretary.

India's incorrect use of the base points has created a grey area in the sea, according to Alam.

The grey area is an area lying within 200 miles from the coast of one state but beyond a maritime boundary with another state.

The issue of the grey area does not arise in connection with the establishment of the outer limit of the continental shelf of Bangladesh if the normal baseline is used by India, the letter said.

In a bizarre move, India has objected to Bangladesh's base point 2 at Putney Island down the Sundarbans, which is on the land, Alam said, adding that it is beyond the legal purview of the UNCLOS.

Asked if the objections hamper Bangladesh's activities in the sea, Alam said it does not.

'But the issues of continental shelf and basepoints still need to be settled in line with the court verdict. We want what has been settled by the court not anything else."

# 'SBAC Bank chief flexed muscles to get loans'

### FROM PAGE 12

Rafiqul Islam and eight incumbent officials to appear at the graft watchdog's headquarters in the capital's Segunbagicha on September 26 morning. They will be quizzed there.

The eight officials are: SBAC's Management Trainee Officer Topu Kumar Saha, Senior Officer Biddut Kumar Mandal, Operations Manager Manjurul Alam, Vice President SM Igbal Mehedi, Senior Executive Officer Khaled Mosharraf, First Vice President Ziaul Latif, Senior Executive Vice President Mamunur executive officer (CEO) of Lockpur Group, an exporter of frozen seafood. Sources said Amzad produced one of his staffers from Lockpur Group as a supplier to the Al-Amin Construction and withdrew Tk 7.5 crore. The incident took place in June, 2019.

Amzad along with SBAC Director Capt M Moazzam Hossain approved a Tk 3 crore SOD to one Ador Enterprise.

Johirul Islam, a staffer of a brokerage house E-Securities owned by Moazzam, was shown as proprietor of Ador Enterprise.

Amzad is also president and chief was supposed to keep cent percent collateral against the loan.

But he kept only 5 percent collateral. On top of that, the 5 percent margin was returned to Amzad within a few days of opening the letter of credit.

As a chairman of the bank, Amzad was supposed to take permission from the central bank for this, but he did not.

Preferring to be unnamed, an ACC official said they would soon submit an enquiry report before the commission in this regard.

On September 7, Amzad expressed his intention to resign from SBAC. against then-dictator Desi Bouterse. Citing illness, he wrote to the Today Brunswijk is a wealthy board of the private commercial businessman as well as a politician, lender expressing the intention but in 1999 he was found guilty to step down. He also requested in absentia of drug trafficking and the board to begin the process of sentenced to eight years in prison by selecting a new chairman by October. a court in the Netherlands, Suriname's On March 11, the BFIU had asked former colonial power. A French court found him guilty for banks to freeze the accounts of the same crime and in 2000 sentenced Amzad, his wife Begum Sufia Amzad him to 10 years prison. and their daughter for 30 days.

AL men stage

### FROM PAGE 12

up garbage at different places on rail lines to set fire to those.

As a result, rail communications remained suspended for around one and an half hour. At least, eight trains were delayed for this, said Rakibur Rahman, station master of Tongi Railway Station.

Rail communications became normal around 7:00pm after police rushed to the spot, drove out the demonstrators from the area and brought the situation under control, he added.

Besides, vehicular movement on Fongi-Ghorashal Road was suspended for an hour. But the vehicles, which were supposed to ply this route, used Shaheed Ahsanullah Master Flyover to avoid troubles.

However, Mayor Zahangir termed the video's content false and fabricated.

In another video statement yesterday, he also claimed that his rivals released the video by editing it's content in social media to make him, his party and the government "questionable".

### Bashundhara MD

FROM PAGE 12

Contacted, Anvir's lawyer Imam refused to talk about the issue.

An accused petitioner who seeks anticipatory bail from the HC has to appear in person before the bench concerned during the hearing of the anticipatory bail petition in a case, HC sources said.

On April 26, police recovered the body of the 21-year-old college student hanging from the ceiling fan of her bedroom in a Gulshan flat.

On September 6, the victim's elder sister filed the case with a Dhaka court against Anvir over the rape and murder of the college student.

Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam and six others were also made accused in the case on charge of abetting the rime.

The six other accused are Shah Alam's wife Afroza Begum, Anvir's wife Sabrina Sayem, model Faria Mahbub Piyasha, Saifa Rahman Mim, the flat's owner Ibrahim Ahmed Ripon and his wife Sharmim.

The elder sister of the victim filed the case with the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-8 of Dhaka.

### Suriname VP

FROM PAGE 12

in the forward position alongside Damian Brunswijk, who happens to be his son.

'Ronnie Brunswijk (Vice-President of Suriname and President of Inter Moengotapoe) becomes the oldest player (60 years and 198 days) to play in an international club match," the sports commentator known as "MisterChip" tweeted.

A former army sergeant and exrebel leader, Brunswijk participated in Suriname's civil war in the 1980s

The previous day, the figure was 36. On May 27, DGHS reported 22

deaths from the disease. In the same 24 hours yesterday, 1,144 new cases were detected countrywide. The previous day, the number of confirmed cases was 1,376.

Against a total of 24,820 tests, the positivity rate was 4.61 percent. The rate was 4.79 percent the previous day.

This marked the below-five-percent positivity rate for three straight days.

Organization, the positivity rate

tested positive for the viral infection in the country.

Of them, 27,337 died, which is around 1.76 percent of all confirmed cases.

Among yesterday's deceased, 10 were men and 14 women.

Of them, highest 11 died in Dhaka division, six in Chattogram, three each in Khulna and Sylhet, and one in Rangpur divisions.

No Covid deaths were recorded in According to the World Health Rajshahi, Barishal, and Mymensingh divisions yesterday.

Rashid Molla and Deputy Managing Director Shawkat Ali.

Sources said the ACC has already collected necessary documents and intelligence report on the alleged scam.

On August 22, an application was submitted to the governor of Bangladesh Bank detailing alleged loan forgeries by Amzad.

People aware of the investigation say that a client of SBAC's Motijheel branch, Al-Amin Construction's owner Masudur Rahman, had a Secured Over Draft with the bank.

The SOD allows a contractual firm to execute work awarded by the government, semi-government and autonomous bodies. It is one kind of loan in which disbursement is made with the progress of execution of the work given.

About Tk 2 crore was transferred to Khulna Printing and Packaging owned by Amzad. Another Tk 1 crore payment order was issued to Fareast Social Foundation.

Amzad and Moazzam Both members of Fareast Social are Foundation.

SBAC also approved an SOD of Tk 3 crore to Rafi-Mahi Corporation owned by one AKM Asif Uddin. The SOD limit was gradually increased to Tk 9.15 crore.

Asif Uddin is also a staffer of Lockpur Group, investigators have found.

Besides, Amzad allegedly opened a letter of credit worth Tk 374 crore for his company Rupsha Fish and Allied Industries Ltd with the SBAC.

According to the decision of the SBAC board of directors, Amzad

The agency also sought the details of their accounts.

On January 7, the ACC urged the Special Branch of police to impose a ban on Amzad's travel.

Amzad holds 3.21 percent share in the bank.

Despite repeated attempts, he could not be reached yesterday for comments on the matter. His mobile phone was found switched off.

We have seized two foreign

Brunswijk however is safe at home. as Suriname does not extradite its citizens.

> First elected to parliament in 2005, Brunswijk formed an alliance with the head of the main political opposition, former justice minister Chandrikapersad Santokhi.

In July 2020 Santokhi was elected president for a five year term, with Brunswijk as his vice-president.

Brunswijk will not join in his team's second leg tournament game in Honduras, since he cannot leave the country without risk of facing legal trouble.

### Two killed

#### FROM PAGE 12

The robbers had been on the roof for some time and posed as passengers, the OC said.

The bodies of the two victims were recovered after the train reached Dewanganj and were kept at the morgue of the hospital, added the OC.

### **US authorises Pfizer** Covid booster for the elderly, high-risk

### AFP, Washington

The United States on Wednesday authorised the use of boosters of Pfizer's Covid-19 vaccine for people aged over 65, as well as adults at high risk of severe disease and those in nigh-exposure jobs.

The announcement means a significant part of the population - amounting to tens of millions of Americans -- are now eligible for a third shot six months after their second.

"Today's action demonstrates that science and the currently available data continue to guide the FDA's decisionmaking for Covid-19 vaccines during this pandemic," said Janet Woodcock, acting head of the Food and Drug Administration, in a statement.

## Tuberculosis not a death

### FROM PAGE 12

droplet is enough to cause TB? The answer is no.

Although TB spreads in a similar way to a cold or flu, someone has to be in prolonged contact with a person with active TB to catch it themselves. So, if you travel on the bus with a TB-infected person, you're not likely to catch it.

There's another catch: many might even have the TB bacteria in them, but they will not be sick, neither will they spread. The primary differences between active TB and latent TB are that the latter does not have any symptoms, does not spread, chest X-ray scans will return normal, but a TB skin test will come out positive.

This means, you will not show symptoms, you will not feel sick, you will not cause harm to others, but you will test positive. Expert physician advice is always encouraged, even to treat cases of latent TB.

Active TB, however, will come with

chest pains, fever, night sweats, loss of appetite, fatigue, weight loss, and a persistent cough that comes with blood or sputum. If you have been coughing for more than two weeks, it is best to test for TB. The faster you start the treatment, the better.

Treatment and management of TB is at least a year-long process, but results start to show within weeks. Doctors usually prescribe a combination of antibacterial medications.

While you will start to feel significantly better, it is important to continue taking your medication as any disruption to the course runs the risk of relapsing. However, this time, it might be harder since the bacteria will have become drug-resistant.

TB is not a death sentence anymore; neither is it easily transmissible. Managing the disease is easy with a little dedication, timely checkups, and an outlook to never give up on the medication.

# Targets precise in weekend robberies

light on the day and the agents shift the cash from home to office after the weekly holiday on Friday.

They used to visit the capital from Barishal every week, rob victims on Saturday and then return to Barishal, Mishu Biswas, additional deputy commissioner of DB, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The gang mainly chose the time between 11:00am to 2:00pm on Saturday to conduct the robbery," he said.

Police made the arrests while conducting a shadow investigation of a case filed with Ramna Police Station regarding a robbery of Tk 60 lakh from Mouchak flyover on August 28. A businessman was going towards

Gulshan after converting around 29,000 euros into Bangladeshi taka from Motijheel's Nihan Money Exchange

DB chief Hafiz Akter said members of the gang first intercepted the businessman's car on the flyover around 1:20pm with a private car and two motorcycles. To intimidate the businessman, the robbers fired two shots in the air and broke the car window with a hammer, he said.

Another group opened the back door of the car, seized the cash and left the scene, added Hafiz.

A week later on September 4, the same gang again looted Tk 25 lakh in the police official.

within the gang's preferred time of day, around 1:50pm. As locals tried to stop the robbers, they fired shots, one of which wounded a passer-by, said police.

five to six years, the gang has been conducting robberies every Saturday.

in their racket. Three to four of the racket are now in jail and three others have been arrested. But some six to eight others are on the run," he said.

tail targets as the perpetrators could be identified if they were on motorcycles. During the operation, however, they used motorcycles to flee the scene, he added.

serving time in jail, the ADC said.

Jalil is the ringleader and used to secrecy about the operation and the evidence," added ADC Mishu.

revealing the identities of the people who supplied the weapons," he said. "We are suspecting a top gun supplier of the country might have links with this. Through their weekly robberies, the gang members have amassed

substantial property. Jalil is an owner of around 100 decimals of land and a farm in Barishal, said the official.

Another gang member -- who is on the run -- also has a farm with around 80 cattle. The member also owns a sweetmeat shop. Another arrestee, Liton, is renowned in his locality and his wife is a teacher at a government school.

Jalil was an accused in around four cases, Riaz in two cases and Liton in one case, said police.

"Some hundi traders, who often convert foreign currency to local cash, were also targeted by the gang," ADC Mishu said, adding that hundi members were easy targets as they did not file cases after such incidents.

"We have got some information about the absconding members. We are also tracking property details of take any new recruits to a mazar in the arrestees and gang members and Sylhet and make them take an oath of a case will be filed after collecting

# Congolese reporter charged over UN experts' murder

### AFP, Kinshasa

A Congolese journalist suspected of having information about the 2017 killing of two UN experts in central Democratic Republic of Congo was charged on Wednesday, the military prosecutor's office said.

Sosthene Kambidi, who has been held since his arrest in the capital Kinshasa on Monday night, "is no longer being questioned as a witness, but as an accused," a senior prosecutor told AFP, declining to be identified.

"The interrogation is continuing," the prosecutor added, declining to say what the journalist had been charged with.

American Michael Sharp and Swedish-Chilean Zaida Catalan, had been hired by the United Nations to probe violence in the Kasai region of central DRC. They were kidnapped and murdered in March 2017.

At the time, authorities said they were killed by members of the Kamuina Nsapu rebel group, which was at war with the state army.

cash by stopping the car of another gang members, Mishu said. businessman, who had just made a transaction at a Motijheel money firearms, which the arrestees said they got from Jashore. But they are not exchange, in Sanarpar area on the way to Narayanganj from Motijheel, said

This robbery was also conducted

ADC Mishu Biswas said for the last

The gang has around 15 members

The gang members only chose areas without CCTV coverage to conduct the robberies, Mishu said.

The members always used cars to

All of the members are from Barishal and met each other when