



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

RABUL AWAL 2, 1443 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00



"Five crore people have been vaccinated ... 50 percent of the population will be jabbed by December and 70-80 percent by March next year."
HEALTH MINISTER ZAHID MALEQUE



"Lots of forces are working in the [Rohingya] refugee camps, so how are the arms and drugs going there?"
QUESTIONS SECURITY ANALYST M SAKHAWAT HOSSAIN



"We'll create a greater united platform on one-point demand to restore democracy by ousting the current government through a strong mass movement."
BNP LEADER KHANDAKER MOSHARRAF

Bhasan Char impasse UNTANGLED

Finally, the govt, UN sign MoU on humanitarian services to Rohingyas relocated to the island

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The stalemate over the United Nations' involvement in humanitarian support to Rohingyas in Bhasan Char is finally over with the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the UN and the government yesterday.

The agreement would facilitate a close operation between the global body and the government on providing the Rohingyas with different services on the remote island, officials said.

Rohingyas have hailed the development. "We are extremely happy," Abdul Hamid, a Rohingya man living in Bhasan Char, told The Daily Star over the phone.

The UN engagement will boost the assistance handed to Rohingyas, he said.

"We will get more food and better facilities. We will get more opportunities to earn as well," he added.

After the government began relocating Rohingyas to Bhasan Char from the camps in Cox's Bazar, the UN was keeping itself aloof from the move, citing various reasons,



including the absence of an independent assessment of the housing facility built for Rohingyas on the island.

The impasse has been untangled after over a year of stalemate. **THE MOU**

The agreement has established a common protection and policy framework for the Rohingya humanitarian response in Bhasan Char, officials said.

UNHCR Bangladesh representative Johannes van der Klaauw and Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief Secretary Md Mohsin signed the MoU on behalf of the two sides at the Secretariat.

"It [the agreement] is a recognition from the UN. It also highlights that the Bangladesh government took the right decision [on the relocation of Rohingyas to the island]," Md Mohsin told The Daily Star last night.

UN activities on Bhasan Char have begun with the deal signing, he mentioned.

The UNHCR -- the UN refugee agency -- signed the MoU on behalf of UN agencies working on the Rohingya response in Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Construction work of a reactor in unit-1 of the Rooppur nuclear power plant is in progress. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will remotely inaugurate today the installation of the reactor pressure vessel at the power plant in Pabna. The pressure vessel is where electricity is generated from nuclear fuel, officials said.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Don't let it hurt bid for repatriation

Speakers ask stakeholders over Mohib Ullah murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The assassination of Rohingya leader Muhib Ullah is an isolated incident, and it should not be an issue in the efforts to repatriate the Rohingya refugees, former diplomats and civil society members told a webinar yesterday.

The discussion titled "The Challenges of Rohingya Repatriation" was organised by Study Group on Regional Affairs.

Former foreign secretary Touhid Hossain said, "We have made almost no progress in the repatriation process. No one can say the killing of Muhib Ullah would affect the procedure."

He then said criminals may take over the refugee camps if proper leadership is not there. "And in many cases, the control is in their [criminals'] hands already."

Director of the Centre for Genocide Studies at Dhaka University Prof Dr Imtiaz

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Taiwan 'reunification' will be realised: Xi

Holds off threatening force; Taiwan president's office slams 'coercion'

AGENCIES

Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday vowed to realise peaceful "reunification" with Taiwan, though did not directly mention the use of force after a week of tensions with the Chinese-claimed island that sparked international concern.

Taiwan responded shortly after by calling on Beijing to abandon its coercion, reiterating that only Taiwan's people could decide their future.

Self-governed Taiwan, which has never formally declared independence, lives under the constant threat of invasion by China, which views the island as its territory and has vowed to one day seize it, by force if necessary.

"Realising national reunification by peaceful means best serves the interests of the nation as a whole including our brethren in Taiwan," Xi said in a speech marking the 110th anniversary of a revolution that ended millennia of imperial rule and led to the founding of the Republic of China.

A large portrait of Sun Yat-sen, the western-educated doctor who founded the Republic of China, which remains the formal name of Taiwan, towered over the stage as Xi spoke.

Sun led the 1911 toppling of the Qing empire, seen as the forerunner to the eventual Communist revolution, making him one of the few figures revered on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Serum resumes vaccine supply

Sends 10 lakh doses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Serum Institute of India yesterday resumed its vaccine export to Bangladesh after a pause of about eight months, sending 10 lakh doses of its Covishield jabs.

In November last year, the Pune-based biotechnology and biopharmaceuticals firm was contracted by Beximco Pharmaceuticals to supply three crore doses of the Covishield vaccine, which it developed with Oxford University and AstraZeneca, between January and June.

Serum was supposed to provide 50 lakh doses each month to Bangladesh, but it managed to provide that quantity in January only.

In February, it provided 20 lakh doses, as the world's largest vaccine manufacturer struggled to keep up supplies following

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

DEPRESSION IN PANDEMIC Cutting deeper thru the youth

Md SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Imrul Kayes, a student of mass communication and journalism at Rajshahi University, was suffering from severe depression.

When his friends noticed this, they took him to a psychiatrist in Rajshahi. His mental health started improving.

But the student had to return home in Jashore after the university was closed for an indefinite period in March last year due to the pandemic.

"His condition deteriorated then," said one of his friends requesting anonymity.

According to his mother, Imrul had planned to purchase a DSLR camera and a motorbike. He became very disappointed that he could not arrange the money. "He used to press us to buy him those, but also realised that it was very difficult for us to fulfil his wish."

His parents eventually bought him a motorbike but it made him even more frustrated when he learned that they had to borrow money.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

ROOPPUR PLANT PM opens installation of reactor vessel today

Bss, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the reactor pressure vessel installation work in the first reactor building of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant today.

She will launch the work virtually from the Gono Bhaban at 10:00am.

The main unit of the nuclear power plant in Pabna's Rooppur will be installed in the first unit of the reactor pressure vessel or nuclear reactor.

Science and Technology Minister Yafesh Osman said it is the most important chapter in the construction of the nuclear power plant and with this, the project is moving forward on time.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Award for all journos

Says Nobel Prize winner Ressa

AFP, Manila

Veteran Philippine journalist Maria Ressa yesterday said her Nobel Peace Prize was for "all journalists around the world", as she vowed to continue her battle for press freedom.

Ressa, co-founder of news website Rappler, and Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov were awarded the prize on Friday for their efforts to "safeguard freedom of expression".

"This is really for all journalists around the world," Ressa, a vocal critic of Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte, told AFP in an interview.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Construction worker Hussain breaks down in tears seeing the body of his four-year-old daughter wrapped in a shroud at Amin Bazar River Police Station in Savar. Five bodies were found in the Turag river after a dinghy collided with a larger vessel and capsized yesterday. Story on page 2

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

MIDDLE CLASS Growing in number, but clout waning

Say speakers at a webinar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of middle-class people is growing, but they are not in the leadership of politics and their intellectual contribution to society is inadequate, eminent citizens said at a webinar.

Middle class people were five percent of the population in the 60s. Now they account for 30 percent of the population as the poverty rate continues to decline, they told the discussion organised by Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC).

Renowned economist Wahiduddin Ahmed said, "People becoming political leaders are from the moneyed class. Many of those who join politics become rich soon."

In the context of the discussion, middle-class refers to people who seek knowledge, are thoughtful, play a role in formation of opinion in the society, and lead towards the creation of a highly moral society, he said.

"A developed society will not be built if economic progress takes place without intellectualism, thoughtfulness, and cultural activities."

Middle-class people's inadequate intellectual contribution to society can be attributed to a gradual decline in the quality of education, he said, adding that the educated and meritorious individuals are leaving the country.

He added that merit is unappreciated in all spheres of life.

Binayak Sen, director general of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, said in the 60s, 5 percent of the population was middle class. But the middle-class of that era helped create the mass upsurge in 1969.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6