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PRIVATE UNIV CLASSES

No date fixed for reopening

Majority of students yet to be vaccinated

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Private university authorities have yet not been able to finalise when in-person classes will resume because a majority of their students are yet to be vaccinated against Covid-19.

More than 70 percent of students have completed registration for the jobs, but only around 40 percent of them received the first dose of the vaccines, according to an estimate of the private university authorities.

Talking to The Daily Star, top officials of 10 private universities said they do not want to take any decision about returning to on-campus classes "in haste" as it involves students' safety, which is their primary concern.

Even after finalising the dates, the universities would continue to hold classes and exams online for several more months, they said.

"We will resume face-to-face classes when we feel the situation is safe for students, with a significant number of students vaccinated," said North South University Vice-Chancellor Prof Atiqul Islam.

On-campus classes at the private universities have been closed for more than a year and a half due to the pandemic. However, universities took classes and exams online and completed two semesters. Most are set to start another semester by the end of this month.

There are 108 private universities in the country, 98 of which are currently operational with around 3.5 lakh

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Hindu devotees carry an idol of Goddess Durga to the beach in Chattogram city's Gongosan area to immerse it into the Bay yesterday, the last day of the five-day Durga Puja. Devotees bade farewell to the deity and her children through the immersion of their idols, wishing her return next year.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



British MP stabbed to death in church

Police arrest suspect; fellow politicians express shock

AGENCIES

A British lawmaker from Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative Party was stabbed to death yesterday in a church by a man who attacked him at a meeting with voters from his electoral district.

David Amess, 69, the member of parliament for Southend West in Essex, eastern England, was targeted at around midday at a meeting at the Belfairs Methodist Church in Leigh-on-Sea.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

New protein could help erase bad memories



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Researchers have discovered a protein that could be used to indicate whether people's emotions and their memories can be changed or even forgotten.

Long-term memories are divided into two categories: fact-based memory, such as names, places, and events, and instinctive memory such as emotions or skills.

Instinctive memories can be modified, scientists believe, and such research may be able to help people suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The scientists at Cambridge

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

Four of a family killed in Magura polls violence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Four of a family were killed and several others injured as supporters of two UP member hopefuls in the Jagdal Union Parishad elections clashed in Magura Sadar upazila yesterday.

Police and locals said there had been a long-standing conflict between Nazrul Islam, incumbent member of ward-3 (Dakshin Jagdal), and Syed Ali over becoming candidate of the ward.

Around 4:00pm, Nazrul and Ali locked into an altercation when Ali declared himself as the member candidate for the ward in the UP polls, scheduled to be held in the second phase on November 11, they said.

Both are inhabitants of Dakshin Jagdal village.

Following this, supporters of Nazrul attacked those of Ali around 5:00pm. The two groups then attacked each other with sharp weapons and iron rods in Dakshin Jagdal village, injuring 20 people, they added.

Four of them died on the way to Magura Sadar Hospital, said on-duty doctor Rafikul Islam, adding that the others were undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Kamrul Hasan, additional superintendent of Magura police, confirmed the incident.

Additional police personnel have been deployed in the area to avoid any further untoward incidents, he added.



SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Woman, two children found dead in Ctg flat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The bodies of a woman and her two children were recovered from their flat on the fourth floor of a building in Muradpur area of Chattogram city yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Sumita Khatun, wife of Sohel Rana, her seven-year-old daughter Jannatun Maimun and two-and-half-year old son Shan Babu.

Their bodies were recovered from the fourth floor of one SS House breaking open the main door of the flat following a phone call of the relatives, said police.

Failing to get response from inside at night, Sohel Rana informed the relatives about the incident, police added.

Arafatul Islam, additional deputy commissioner (North zone) of Chattogram Police, said the law enforcers found the bodies of the mother and the son hanging from the ceiling with ropes while the body of the daughter was found lying on the bed.

Sumita's husband Sohel Rana, an herbal medicine trader, was detained for interrogation in this connection, said the ADC.

While visiting the spot, neighbors and relatives thronged in front of the flat

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Yahya-Podgorny meeting in Iran

OCTOBER 16, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

YAHYA CUTS SHORT IRAN VISIT

Pakistan President Yahya Khan returned today from Tehran after cutting short his stay for the Iranian anniversary celebration.

It was reported that the Pakistan president had a talk with Soviet Premier Nikolai Podgorny in Iran. Radio Pakistan said Podgorny expressed concern over the situation in the subcontinent. It also claimed that the Soviet premier "expressed the Soviet Union's keen interest in the unity and integrity of Pakistan". The Pakistani president, according to Pakistan Radio, told Podgorny that he was prepared to withdraw from the "defensive positions" at the border if India withdrew forces and stopped aiding the Bangladesh guerillas.

'DESPERATE' SITUATION IN EAST PAKISTAN

The Washington Post reported that there had been some progress on humanitarian relief in East Pakistan but none on the political and military sides. Quoting UN sources, the paper said the situation remained "desperate".

It further reported that 47 speakers in the annual UN general debate called for political reconciliation but none moved to put the problem on the agenda of the General Assembly or the Security Council. UN officials, according to the Washington Post, suggested two causes: "One was collective fatigue from involvement in Chinese representation and the Middle East conflict and other was fear of involvement in a great power conflict."

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DAULATDIA-PATURIA Travellers suffer due to long tailback

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

The traffic at Paturia ferry terminal in Manikganj further increased yesterday as the movement of heavy vehicles remained shut on Banglabazar-Shimulia naval route.

At least 150 buses, 300 private vehicles, and 700 goods-laden trucks remained stranded in the tailback at Paturia, causing immense suffering to people.

Both goods-laden trucks of the Banglabazar-Shimulia route and an additional number of private vehicles moving during the puja holidays

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 16

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:50 12:45 4:00 5:38 7:15
JAMAAT 5:25 1:15 4:15 5:41 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Traffic lights in the capital's Gulistan are out of order for long. The authorities instal the lights spending public money, but those are rarely used as police mostly direct traffic manually in the city. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Star HEALTHLINE

Insomnia: WHAT'S KEEPING YOU UP?

STAR HEALTH DESK

In today's world with so much day-to-day stress, insomnia presents itself as a quiet irritant -- keeping us awake at night, waking us up every time we close our eyes, and making us feel fatigued during the day.

The symptoms are hard to diagnose, but they are consistent.

As adults, we are expected to sleep between 7 to 9 hours to get a complete rest before the new day starts, but common causes like stress, anxiety, depression,

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