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Your Right to Know

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"The very people who put the Holy Quran in the temple are the ones who vandalise temples."
LGRD MINISTER TAZUL ISLAM



"It is important that all voices and all political parties are able to participate in the elections and are able to have confidence in the electoral process."
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO BANGLADESH ROBERT CHATTERTON DICKSON



"The Taliban are eager to have dialogue with the world... China will host the third Neighbours of Afghanistan meeting at the appropriate time."
CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG YI

RAILWAY PROJECTS' FEASIBILITY STUDY

Starting point of cascading delay

Experts find it a common trend which extends project time, raises cost; BR officials blame lengthy process to hire consultants, changes in track alignments

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

More than two and a half years ago, Bangladesh Railway had launched a project to carry out a feasibility study and prepare a detailed design to set up



tracks for connecting Sunamganj district headquarters with the railway network.

The feasibility study project, worth Tk 9.88 crore, was supposed to be completed by October last year.

As the work could not be done within that time, the deadline was extended till June this year. Despite the time extension, only one fourth of the work ended as of August, forcing the authorities to revise the project once again. This time, the deadline was stretched till June next year.

This is not the only feasibility study project which has been revised more than once by the BR, going against the planning ministry's

guidelines on such matters. The BR has, in fact, revised five of its nine such ongoing projects more than once.

Of the nine projects, one has been revised once while another was cancelled after the end of its deadline. Only two are progressing on schedule, show project documents.

Talking on the matter, experts said the delay in completing the feasibility study projects is the reflection of BR's poor performance in implementing infrastructure and procurement projects.

BR officials blamed the lengthy process of appointing consultants and frequent changes in alignment of the proposed tracks for the delay. Experts said such practices are way too common and those eat up time causing escalation of project costs.

The project implementing agency has to

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Rescue workers on a speedboat near a ferry that tipped over on its side and lies half submerged in the Padma. The accident happened yesterday morning at Paturia ferry terminal in Manikganj. No casualties were reported.



PHOTO: ZAHANGIR SHAH

Ferry flips in Padma with 17 vehicles

At least 7 vehicles were still under water

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A ferry tipped onto its side in Manikganj yesterday and was lying half submerged in the Padma river more than 10 hours later, with at least seven vehicles still under water.

No casualties were reported in the accident that occurred at the Paturia Ferry Terminal around 9:35am, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) Chairman Tajul Islam told The Daily Star in the evening.

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SPECIAL CAMPAIGN

Over 66 lakh to get second jab today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 66 lakh people, aged 25 and above, will receive their second dose of Covid-19 vaccines in a special countrywide campaign today, officials said yesterday.

Those people received their first dose on September 28 in a special campaign marking the 75th birthday of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"Only second dose vaccines will be given. And no one will be allowed to get the vaccine by changing the centre [from where the first dose was received]," Dr Shamsul Haque, a director of the DGHS said in an online briefing yesterday.

There will be vaccinations centres up to union-level in rural areas while up to the ward-level in municipality areas.

On the first day of this special campaign last month, a total of 6,625,123 people received their first jabs, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) data.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Short syllabus, fewer subjects

Number of candidates rises by 1.8 lakh; SSC exams begin Nov 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of examinees for this year's Secondary School Certificate and its equivalent exams has increased from last year.

The government is all set to hold the exams from November 14, over nine months after the scheduled time due to the Covid-19 situation.

Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday said it would not be possible to hold next year's SSC exams in February.

She said this year's HSC and SSC tests will be completed by December and students will need to attend classes and take preparation.

"We will let students know when the exams will take place and what their syllabuses will be," she said while addressing a press conference on this year's SSC exams at her secretariat office.

NUMBER OF CANDIDATE RISES

Dipu Moni said a total of 22,27,113 students are expected to take part in this SSC exams. This year, the number of examinees has gone up by 1,79,334 from last year.

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SSC, EQUIVALENT EXAMS

- 22,27,113 candidates
- Exams only on 3 optional subjects
- Results within 30 days
- All coaching centres to be closed from Nov 8 to 25

CLASH WITH POLICE 1,600 BNP men sued

Top leaders of JCD, Jubo Dal named

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have filed a case against some 1,600 BNP leaders and activists over Tuesday's clash between the party men and law enforcers in the capital's Nayapalton.

Of the accused, 97 were named in the case, including 50 arrestees, said Salahuddin Mia, officer-in-charge of Paltan Police Station.

Sub-Inspector Asaduzzaman Masum of the police station filed the case yesterday.

Among the accused are top leaders of Jubo Dal, Chhatra Dal, Swachhasebak Dal, and BNP Dhaka city and thana units. They include Jubo Dal President Saiful Islam Nirob, General Secretary Sultan Salahuddin Tuku, Chhatra Dal President Fazlur Rahman Khokon and General Secretary Iqbal Hosen Shyamol.

The case was lodged on charges of assaulting police, obstructing cops from carrying out duties and holding a rally illegally, said the OC.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Myanmar doing little to stop drugs smuggling

Dhaka seeks Delhi's support, proposes tripartite summit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yaba and crystal meth, popularly known as "ice", have still been pouring into the country from Myanmar, despite several bilateral talks and assurances.

Narcotics officials in Bangladesh think that the Myanmar government was not checking the drug influx into Bangladesh from their country. If it was helpful and taking actions, such a menace would not have been raging in Bangladesh.

Amid such a situation, Bangladesh made a proposal to India to hold a tripartite meeting with Myanmar to put diplomatic pressure on its government to curb drug trade in the region.

"India's Narcotics Control Bureau agreed to proceed with our request. They told us to send a proposal," Abdus Sabur Mandol, director general of Department of Narcotics Control (DNC), told a press briefing yesterday after the seventh DG-level talks between the two agencies on narcotics control between Bangladesh and India, on a virtual platform.

At the sixth DG-level meeting in October 2019, they had a similar discussion.

"If the Myanmar government was helpful and taking actions, such a huge quantity of yaba would not come into Bangladesh," the DG said, adding that he does not know whether Myanmar is patronising it.

He said that waterways are being increasingly used for smuggling drugs into the country and in many cases, Myanmar's yaba consignments are being smuggled through Indian routes.

"It's not a problem only for Bangladesh, rather it's a regional one," Mandol said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

World set for 2.7C rise in temperature

UN warns ahead of COP26 conference as climate commitments fall far short

REUTERS, London

Current commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions put the planet on track for an average 2.7 degrees Celsius temperature rise this century, a United Nations report said on Tuesday, in another stark warning ahead of crunch climate talks.

Governments will be in the spotlight at the COP26 conference next week to meet a deadline of this year to commit to more ambitious cut pledges, in what could be the last chance to put the world on track to limiting warming to below 2C above pre-industrial levels and ideally to 1.5C (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

As extreme weather events from wildfires to floods have hit countries around the world, a UN report in August warned that global warming due to greenhouse gas emissions could breach 1.5C in the next two decades.



England opener Jason Roy shapes up to play a switch-hit during his 61-run knock against Bangladesh in their T20 World Cup fixture at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday. Roy's knock helped England to an eight-wicket victory.

PHOTO: AFP

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Tigers surrender meekly to England

NAMIBIA BEAT SCOTLAND BY FOUR WICKETS

The African side chase down 110 with five balls to spare

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MAZHAR UDDIN from Abu Dhabi

Bangladesh's six-run defeat against Scotland in the opening game of the qualifying stage came as a shock while the defeat to Sri Lanka in first the Super 12 game was perhaps a result of lack of execution and poor fielding.

But the defeat against England in their second Super 12 game yesterday revealed the real picture of Bangladesh cricket, with the Tigers' limitation in skill and preparation in the shortest format of the game brutally exposed by a top-quality opponent.

The stark difference between the top-ranked side and a rather weak and demoralised one was evident as England thrashed Bangladesh by nine wickets at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

The enthusiasm and excitement among the huge number of Bangladeshi fans, who had travelled from various parts of the UAE ignoring the hot and humid weather in hope of a better show from the Tigers, had to return again empty-handed.

Bangladesh never looked like putting up a fight since skipper Mahmudullah Riyad elected to bat first and all that they managed in the end was 124 for nine in 20 overs. The strong English batting line-up had no problem whatsoever in chasing down the target as it seemed they were practising for their next big game against Australia in a couple of days.

Opener Jason Roy smacked the Bangladesh bowlers all