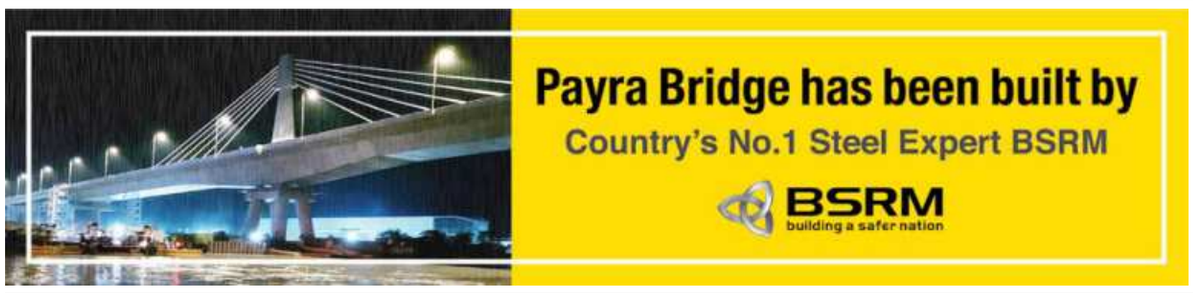

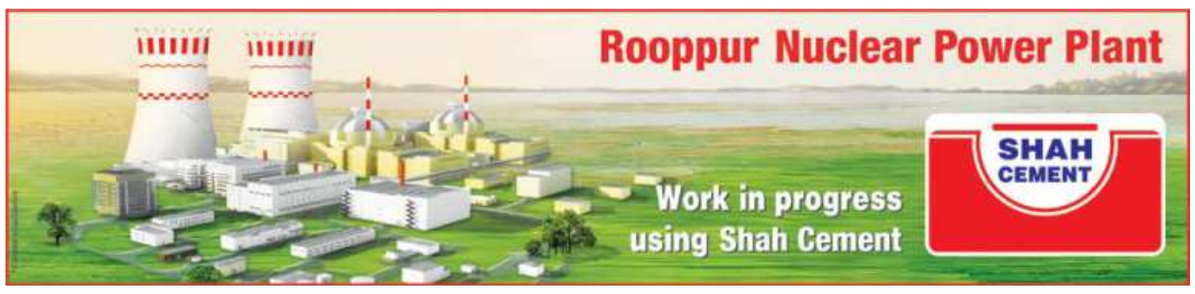

Europe faces Covid freeze

Austria locks down as cases surge; Australia to re-open borders to students, workers

AGENCIES

Austria yesterday became the first country in western Europe to reimpose lockdown since vaccines were rolled out, shutting non-essential shops, bars and cafes as surging caseloads raised the prospect of a third winter in deep freeze for the continent.

Germany will also need tighter restrictions to control a record-setting wave of infections, outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel was quoted as saying, remarks that erased gains on European stock markets and sent bond yields down.

With Europe once again the epicentre of the global pandemic, new restrictions and vaccine mandates are expected to spread nearly two years after the first Covid-19 case was identified in China.

"We are in a highly dramatic situation. What is in place now is not sufficient," Merkel told leaders of her German CDU party in a meeting, according to two participants, confirming comments first reported by Bloomberg.

Austria told people to work from home if they can, and shut cafes, restaurants, bars, theatres and non-essential shops for 10 days. People may leave home for a limited number of reasons, such as going to workplaces, buying essentials or taking a walk, reports Reuters.

The Austrian government has also announced it will make it compulsory to get inoculated as of February 1. Many Austrians are sceptical about vaccinations, a view

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NORMALCY RETURNS...Schoolbags hanging outside the exam centre at the Dhaka Polytechnic Institute, as examinees are not allowed to carry bags or any other material, except for stationery, inside. With the situation finally coming back to normal, educational institutions have started taking their session exams, which were postponed due to the pandemic. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

POLLS VIOLENCE

Five hit by bullets in Munshiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Munshiganj*

Five people sustained bullet injuries as supporters of ruling Awami League chairman nominee in Char Kewar Union Parishad polls and his rival candidate clashed in Munshiganj Sadar upazila on Sunday night.

The clash took place between followers of AL candidate Afsar Uddin Bhuiyan and party rebel Akhtaruzzaman Jibon in Khaskandi and Chhoto Mollakandi villages, said Abu Bakkar Siddique, officer-in-charge of Munshiganj Sadar Police Station.

Shots were fired and crude bombs exploded during the clashes, he added.

The five injured were rushed to Munshiganj General Hospital.

Three of them, Saiful Sardar, 22, Sharif Bepari, 32, and Babu Hawlader, 22, were shifted to Dhaka for better treatment. The

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COVID VACCINATION

15m to get jabs in next 10-15 days

Says health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 15 million people will be given Covid-19 vaccines within the next 10-15 days, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said yesterday.

He said this while speaking as the chief guest at an event, organised by the Bangladesh Society of Medicine, in Dhaka for a felicitations programme for new intern doctors.

"We will undertake 2-3 programmes within next 10-15 days and will administer 1.5 crore doses of vaccines. Meanwhile we have been continuing the vaccination campaign in schools and community clinics."

He said nine crore vaccine doses have already been administered so far, making up around 40 percent of the target to inoculate 80 percent of the population.

The government aims to vaccinate around 14 crore people.

"The rush for taking vaccines, however, has declined nowadays," the minister said.

Urging people to get the jabs, Maleque said, "Covid-19 is an unpredictable

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

National emergency declared in Pakistan

NOVEMBER 23, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

TAJUDDIN'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION

Bangladesh Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmed today called upon the people of Bangladesh to turn the current phase of the Liberation War into a decisive one.

In his address to the nation the prime minister stated, "The Bangabandhu, the leader of the Bengalis, is still a captive of the Pakistani generals. We are convinced that the military junta will see reason and free him only when the exit routes of the occupation army are cut. This is what we are now able to do and intend to do. We shall take on the enemy on land, sea and air and force upon General Yahya Khan the moment of truth he has been waiting for."

He asked the willing collaborators to desist from their acts of betrayal against the country. "We promise the unrepentant collaborator and his alien master the same fate: death with ignominy," he added.

Tajuddin criticised Nixon's plan for sending a fact finding mission to inquire about the Bangladesh situation and said, "The administration he heads failed to express any horror for the blackest crime of his time, namely, the planned extermination of a million Bengalis or for the brutal uprooting of nearly ten million human beings from their homes. Whatever the US government wishes to achieve through this move, it will not make any

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'Democratic erosion'

Sweden-based body terms Bangladesh an authoritarian regime in new report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh was classified as an "authoritarian regime" in a new report released by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, a Sweden-based intergovernmental organisation.

Since 2014, Bangladesh has consistently been ranked as an authoritarian regime. From 2008 till 2014, it was classified as a "weak democracy".

"More countries than ever are suffering from 'democratic erosion'," IDEA said in its 2021 study on the state of democracy, relying on data compiled since 1975.

The other years, apart from since 2014, that Bangladesh was classified as an authoritarian regime include the year 2007, the years 1975-78 and 1981-85.

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Clapton guitar tops $600,000 in rock memorabilia auction

AFP, *New York*

A vintage Eric Clapton guitar sold for $625,000 in New York at a weekend auction of rock memorabilia that fetched nearly $5 million in total, Julien Auctions announced.

Heralded as the highlight of the sale that concluded late Saturday at the city's Hard Rock Cafe and which also took bids online, the acoustic 1968 Martin D-45 instrument was played by Clapton in 1970 during the debut live concert of his band Derek and the Dominos.

The group was behind the classic song "Layla."

Julien's had estimated the instrument would

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Acid attack on HSC examinee

Accused lands in Natore jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Natore*

A stalker threw acid in the face of a female Higher Secondary Certificate examinee in Dangapara area of Natore on Sunday afternoon, leaving her badly injured.

A student of Rajshahi City College, the 19-year-old victim is now undergoing treatment at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in the capital.

Quoting locals, Mohsin, additional superintendent of Natore police, said one Mahin Hossain, who used to stalk the victim, intercepted her at Dangapara around 5:15pm and threw acid in her face when she was returning home after attending private tuition classes.

The attacker fled the area immediately.

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Bangladesh whitewashed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh had almost pulled a rabbit out of the hat in a sensational final over when skipper Mahmudullah Riyad picked up three wickets, with Pakistan needing eight runs for victory. But Mohammad Nawaz's boundary off the last ball took Pakistan over the line as the visitors chased down 125 runs with five wickets in hand and completed a whitewash over the Tigers in the three-match T20I series in Mirpur yesterday.

Mahmudullah, who didn't bowl until the 19th over of the innings, decided to bring himself on for the last over and was on a hattrick after removing Mohammad Sarfaraz and Haider Ali off the

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Mahmudullah Riyad (C) could not hide his frustration as Pakistan eked out a five-wicket victory and a clean sweep of the three-match series despite a three-wicket haul from the Bangladesh skipper in the final over of the third T20I at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 23

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5-05	12-45	3-45	5-21	7-00
JAMAAT	5-40	1-15	4-00	5-24	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Star HEALTHLINE

Winter can trigger DANDRUFF

STAR HEALTH DESK

It is normal for our skin to exfoliate. But it becomes annoying and difficult to manage when the skin peels off at an excessive rate. Dandruff is a chronic condition of the skin, commonly the scalp.

There are various reasons behind the development of dandruff. Malassezia fungus on the scalp, stress or illness and seborrheic dermatitis are some of the common causes.

PREVENTION

Winter can trigger dandruff or make it worse. Although dandruff is not due

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Hyginex
Instant hand sanitizer

BEACON Pharmaceuticals Limited

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