

EVERYONE CAN MAKE ROADS, BUT **THERE'S ONLY 1 EXPERT** SO CHOOSE BSRM TO BUILD SAFER HOMES

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BSRM building a safer nation

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Dense fog deals blow to ferry services



STAR REPORT

Ferry services on two major routes were disrupted for more than six hours from the early hours yesterday due to dense fog.

Hundreds of travellers were stranded on both sides of the Padma river on the Paturia-Daulatdia and Shimulia-Banglabazar routes -- considered gateways to the country's 21 southern districts.

Services were suspended on the Paturia-Daulatdia route for around 10 hours and on the Shimulia-Banglabazar route for more than six hours.

The bitter cold and gusts increased the passengers' and transport operators' sufferings at the terminals.

On the Paturia-Daulatdia route, ferry services were disrupted since around 12:30am.

"My bus reached Daulatdia terminal around 11:00pm on Wednesday night. But it is now around 1:00am on

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A tired protester lying on the street in Khalishpur, Khulna, yesterday during demonstrations by jute mills workers demanding payment of arrears and reopening of 25 state-owned jute mills.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

MONEY LAUNDERING A serious offence nowadays

Says SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court in the full text of an order released recently observed that money laundering is "a serious offence nowadays".

A five-member bench of the Appellate Division led by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud said the High Court Division allowing appeals and granting bail to Joy Gopal Sarkar, general secretary of Dhaka Wanderers Club, in money laundering cases were not justified.

The apex court delivered the short version of the order on November 2.

That same day, the Appellate Division scrapped the HC orders that granted bail to Joy Gopal in four separate money laundering cases. He allegedly had links with illegal casino businesses.

The full text further said, "Having gone through the first information report, it appears that the allegation

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Star HEALTHLINE

ELECTROLYTE IMBALANCE: WHAT WE CAN DO

STAR HEALTH DESK

Electrolytes are existing minerals in the blood, tissues and other parts of the body.

They include sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, phosphate, chloride and bicarbonate. These electrolytes have a positive or negative electrical charge, as the name indicates.

An electrolyte imbalance may occur when the body has too much or too little water turning its mineral levels too high or too low.

We should watch out for electrolyte imbalance as it can sneakily upset the normal functions of the body, sometimes leading to serious complications.

Its effects depend on various things like which

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Japan professor creates 'tele-taste' TV screen



REUTERS, Tokyo

A Japanese professor has developed a prototype lickable TV screen that can imitate food flavours, another step towards creating a multi-sensory viewing experience.

The device, called Taste the TV (TTTV), uses a carousel of 10 flavour canisters that spray in combination to create the taste of a particular food. The flavour sample then rolls on hygienic film over a flat TV screen for the viewer to try.

In the Covid-19 era, this kind of technology can enhance the way people connect and interact with the outside world, said Meiji University

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HABIGANJ CLASH 2,000 BNP men sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police yesterday sued some 2,000 BNP leaders and activists over Wednesday's clash with police in Habiganj town.

Among the 65 named accused are Habiganj BNP Convener Abdul Hashem and Senior Joint Convener GK Gaus, said Masuk Ali, officer-in-charge of Habiganj Police Station.

Sub-Inspector Nazmul Hasan of the police station filed the case accusing them of obstructing police from carrying out their duties, assaulting police personnel, and holding a rally without permission, halting traffic movement.

"Six or seven individuals have been arrested," the OC said.

At least 100 BNP leaders and activists were injured in Wednesday's clash with police during a procession demanding the release of Khaleda Zia.

According to locals,

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MIGRANT INTEGRATION Most returnees find employment

Says IOM report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As much as 65 percent of the returnee migrants in Bangladesh have managed to find employment, found a study by the International Organisation for Migration.

The share of returnees that are employed are lower for both forced returnees (31 percent) and female returnees (19 percent), said the report styled "Comparative Reintegration Outcomes between Forced and Voluntary Return and through a Gender Perspective".

The study is coordinated by the EU-IOM Knowledge Management Hub (KMH) with the financial support of the EU and conducted by the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance of Maastricht University, the Netherlands.

Overall, female migrants returning to their countries of origin had more difficulty than men reintegrating long-term into the community, the IOM said.

Women reported more challenges in accessing employment and training opportunities as well as healthcare services, often following abuses and exploitation during their migration journey, said the study, which was unveiled on Tuesday.

The surveyed Bangladeshi respondents include 84 percent males and 16 percent females.

Of the 1,318 surveyed, 39 male migrants and 117 female migrants were forced to return to Bangladesh, while the rest were voluntary returnees.

The returnees received main types of reintegration assistance including counselling and medical support, microbusiness, material assistance and financial literacy training.

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SALINITY TOLERANT RICE Full genome sequence unveiled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A complete genome sequence of salinity and submergence tolerant rice has been unveiled by the scientists of the Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA) and Bangladesh Agricultural University for the first time in Bangladesh.

This will open a new horizon in salinity and submergence-tolerant rice research in the country, the researchers said while disclosing the matter at a press conference in the BINA headquarters in Mymensingh yesterday.

The scientists of BINA and BAU said they have identified three advanced mutants in M6 generation after various tests by applying different levels of gamma radiation and producing more than 50,000 mutants.

The obtained mutants have advanced features than the parent and tolerate salinity of 8 dS/m (decisiemens per metre) and 15 days submergence, they said.

From the beginning of its journey, BINA has developed various varieties of crops through imposed mutations. In such studies, improved mutations were identified by looking at the desired

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HygineX Instant hand sanitizer

HygineX spray

Instant hand sanitizer with moisturizer

50 mL

BEACON Pharmaceuticals Limited

NATURE QUEST

PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 24

Fajr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-25 12-30 3-45 5-24 7-00

JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-00 5-27 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A pair of Ruddy shelduck taking flight from the Padma river. The migratory waterfowl spend winters in the Indian subcontinent and can often be seen in Bangladesh between December and April. The photo was taken on December 18 in Rajshahi.

PHOTO: COURTESY BY SOFIA ZAMAN

Boosters may prolong Covid

Warns WHO; India imposes fresh curbs for Christmas, New Year

AGENCIES

The WHO warned that rich countries cannot use boosters to escape the coronavirus, as nations scrambled to contain Omicron surges.

"No country can boost its way out of the pandemic," said the World Health Organization's Secretary General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Wednesday evening.

"Blanket booster programmes are likely to prolong the Covid-19 pandemic, rather than ending it, by diverting

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Today is the 48th Death Anniversary of Begum Firdaus Rizvi

We request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember her in their prayers and to pray for eternal peace of her soul