



## Lost shipwreck found after 100 yrs

AFP, Johannesburg

One of the famous shipwrecks in history, Ernest Shackleton's Endurance, has been discovered off the coast of Antarctica more than a century after its sinking, explorers announced yesterday.

Endurance was discovered at a depth of 3,008 metres (9,869 feet) in the Weddell Sea, about six kilometres (four miles) from where it was slowly crushed by pack ice in 1915.

"We are overwhelmed by our good fortune in having located and captured images of Endurance," said Mensun Bound, the expedition's director of exploration.

"This is by far the finest wooden shipwreck I have

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



## BANGABANDHU SATELLITE-2

# War casts uncertainty over timely launch

MAHMUDUL HASAN

The timely launching of the country's second satellite by a Russian company could face uncertainty amid sanctions imposed by the US and its allies to punish Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

The Bangabandhu Satellite-2 project could face financial and technological hurdles.

In the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on February 24, global payments messaging network SWIFT has asked Bangladesh's banks to suspend transactions with most Russian

lenders.

The technological hurdle comes in the form of the US and its allies imposing a sanction on Russia's import of microchips.

"In the current situation, there could be an impact on launching the satellite within our targeted time," said Shahjahan Mahmood, chairman of the Bangladesh Satellite Company Ltd (BSCL).

The state-run BSCL, on February 2, signed a cooperation contract with Russian company Glavkosmos with the aim of launching the satellite by 2023.

Under the contract, Glavkosmos was tasked with

manufacturing and launching the earth observation satellite for over \$430 million.

"We are keeping this issue under observation. Since the entire scenario has not been totally revealed."

However, he said Moscow assured that the current crisis will have no impact on the project since most components are built by Russia internally.

Mustafa Jabbar, telecom minister, said they are evaluating the situation.

"After the evaluation, the decision will be made regarding

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

## COVID INOCULATION

# Special drive for 2nd shots begins Mar 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second round of the three-day-long countrywide Covid-19 special inoculation campaign will be started from March 28, read a DGHS circular.

Around 1.2 crore people, aged 12 years and above, who received their first jabs of Covid-19 vaccines on February 26 during the first round of the campaign, will get their second jabs in this campaign.

"It has been asked to arrange additional booths in those centres where people gathered en masse on February 26," read the circular signed by Dr Shamsul Haque, member-secretary of the Covid-19 Vaccine Management Taskforce Committee of the Directorate General of Health Services.

On February 26, the Directorate General of Health Services vaccinated 1.2 crore people with the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine through a special campaign.

Around 24,500 vaccination centres were set up countrywide during the campaign. Due to the heavy rush of people, the campaign was extended for two days. Hundreds of people were seen thronging the vaccination centres countrywide.

During the three-day-long campaign, around 1.64 crore people were jabbed with first dose of Covid-19 vaccines countrywide, surpassing the 70 percent targeted population, according to the Directorate General of Health Services data.

Earlier on February 16, the Directorate General of Health Services scrapped the requirement to show national identity cards or birth certificates or any document to get Covid-19 vaccines, which resulted in the heavy rush for vaccines during the campaign.

As of Tuesday, around 12.57 crore or around 74 percent of the total population received their first dose while 8.78 crore or around 52 percent of the total population have received second dose Covid-19 vaccines.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4



An SUV, apparently belonging to the government, goes against heavy traffic on a street near Khamar Bari in the capital yesterday. The street has already become significantly narrow there due to the construction work of metro rail.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Man dies in Rab custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A BNP activist of Chattogram's Rangunia upazila died yesterday, hours after a team of Rab-7 arrested him in connection with a murder case.

The dead is Nazrul Islam, 60, of the same upazila, said police.

According to the victim's family, he was accused in multiple politically motivated cases.

"He was arrested in front of my eyes. Now he is no more..." a wailing family member said, seeking anonymity.

The wailing family member said s/he feared for life and did not want to disclose identity. "You, media, never stand by us," the person said.

According to Rab, the victim was suffering from the heart- and age-related complications.

Contacted, Rab-7 Commanding Officer Lt Col MA Yousuf said Nazrul was a fugitive. He had an FIR filed against him in connection with a murder case in 2012 and a court-issued warrant.

"On information, Rab detained him in front of Chevron Clinical Laboratory Limited in Chattogram city around 10:00pm Tuesday. He later fell sick in custody."

He was rushed to Chattogram Medical College Hospital around 12:30am yesterday as he started having chest pain. He breathed his last at the

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

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# Pandemic not over

Warns UN chief, decries vaccine inequality

AFP, United Nations

After two years the Covid-19 pandemic is not yet over and could be prolonged further due to "scandalously unequal" vaccine distribution, the UN secretary-general warned yesterday.

"The pandemic's most tragic toll has been on the health and lives of millions, with more than 446 million cases worldwide, more than six million deaths confirmed, and countless more grappling with worsening mental health," said UN chief Antonio Guterres in a statement marking the second anniversary of the global crisis.

"Thanks to unprecedented public health measures, and the extraordinarily rapid development and deployment of vaccines, many parts of the world are bringing the pandemic under control," he said.

"But it would be a grave mistake to think the pandemic is over."

Guterres noted that the "distribution of vaccines remains scandalously unequal," and that while 1.5 billion doses of vaccine

are produced each month, "nearly three billion people are still waiting for their first shot."

"This failure is the direct result of policy and budgetary decisions that prioritize the health of people in wealthy countries over the health of people in poor countries," said Guterres.

He added that the two-tiered recovery is "a recipe for more

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

