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16 PAGES PLUS TOGGLE: Tk 15.00



P6 Tele-queens of this generation



P7 Climate change made drought '20 times likelier'



P11 Haaland continues goalscoring spree



B1 Loan write-off declines

Police torture victims of robbery

Family alleges Savar DB personnel out to frame them instead of going after the culprits, also forced them to pay Tk 1.5 lakh

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

After they were robbed, they went to the police and lodged a complaint. But the law enforcers, instead of giving them the support they sought, brutally tortured them.

The allegations were made by the family of Godadhar Malo, a 68-year-old farmer of Majhipara area of Dhaka's Dhamrai upazila.

He filed a case with Dhamrai Police Station on June 18, accusing five to six unnamed individuals of entering his house and taking away cash, gold jewellery, and other valuables.

About a month later, the Detective Branch of police got the charge to investigate the case, and on September 6, the officers asked Godadhar's daughter-in-law Shyamoli Halder Rupa and her 14-year-old son Diganta Halder to go to the office of Dhaka District (north) DB in Savar.

Rupa, 35, alleged that when she and her eighth grader son went there, the officers tortured her for three days in custody and her son for one day.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



People carefully stepping around large pools of water beneath the BRT flyover in Gazipur. The rainwater gathers in the shallow areas created when the BRT was erecting pillars for the flyover, locals said. The poor state of the road also leads to congestion, as can be seen in the long queue of vehicles on the left. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Govt wants all parties to join nat'l polls: PM



UNB, BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the government wants all political parties to join the next parliamentary election, but it was up to them whether they would take part or not.

"A political party is to decide whether to participate in the election or not. We can't impose anything on them... Yes, we definitely want all parties to join polls," she said.

The premier was speaking at a press conference at the Gono Bhavan yesterday. The event was organised to inform the media about the outcome of her recent official visits to the UK and the USA.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

WB lowers GDP growth forecast for Bangladesh

Economy to grow 6.1pc in FY23, not 6.7pc projected in June

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank has slashed its economic growth projection for Bangladesh for the current fiscal year to 6.1 percent because of higher inflation, energy shortage, slowdown of the recovery from the pandemic, and the war in Ukraine.

The new forecast is 0.6 percentage points lower than its previous projection of 6.7 percent made in June, according to the WB's South Asia Economic Focus titled "Coping with Shocks: Migration and the Road to Resilience" yesterday.

The projected growth is the lowest since 2019-20 when it fell to 3.45 percent as the pandemic brought the economies around the world to their knees.

Last month, the Asian Development Bank also cut its projection for Bangladesh's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to 6.6 percent this fiscal year from 7.1 percent.

The government had set an ambitious economic growth target of 7.5 percent for the current fiscal year.

According to the World Bank report,

GDP growth is projected to decelerate slightly in 2022-23 due to the slowdown of post-Covid recovery in consumption and investment.

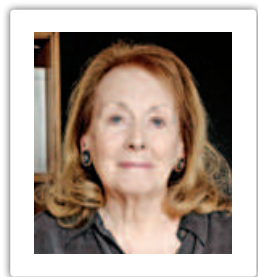
"Higher inflation is expected to dampen private consumption growth, following substantial energy price increases.

"Export growth is expected to slow as economic conditions in the key export markets deteriorate, while rolling blackouts, gas rationing, and rising input costs weigh on manufacturing output."

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The WB also cut its growth forecast

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



French author Ernaux wins Nobel Prize in literature

REUTERS, Stockholm

French author Annie Ernaux has won the 2022 Nobel Prize in Literature for "the courage and clinical acuity" in her largely autobiographical books examining personal memory and social inequality.

In explaining his choice, the Swedish Academy yesterday said Ernaux, 82, "consistently and from different angles, examines a life marked by strong disparities regarding gender, language and class".

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

PVT HEALTHCARE FACILITIES Govt to regulate service charges

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

The government will fix charges and set the services that private healthcare organisations can provide based on their capability, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said yesterday.

"We will divide all private healthcare organisations into A, B, C [and D] categories based on their number of beds, human resources and equipment. None will be allowed to provide treatment going beyond their category," Maleque said at a press conference following a meeting in this regard at the Secretariat.

The ministry did not follow through with a similar initiative to regulate service charges in 2019, but it revived the project again yesterday to regulate health service charges.

As the Covid-19 emergency began in early 2020, the 2019 initiative could not go ahead, health officials said.

In 2019, there was a meeting at the health ministry where representatives of owners of private healthcare organisations had opposed capping service charges, instead preferring a competitive market price policy from the government, health officials said.

The owners opposed the initiative yesterday too as officials of the Directorate General of the Health Services (DGHS) placed a proposal regarding the categories and charges for different services, multiple sources who attended the meeting told The Daily Star.

Owners of top healthcare organisations including LabAid and Popular Diagnostics, Universal Medical College Hospital, and representatives from Bangladesh Private Clinic Diagnostic Owners Association and Bangladesh Private Medical College Association attended the meeting, among others.

One of them argued that the current cost of health services at

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

THAI NURSERY MASSACRE Ex-cop kills 38 in a knife and gun rampage

22 children among dead; suspect takes own life after killing wife, child

REUTERS, Bangkok

A former policeman killed 38 people, including 22 children, in a knife and gun rampage at a nursery in Thailand yesterday, later shooting dead his wife and child at their home before turning his weapon on himself, police said.

The children at the nursery in Uthai Sawan, a town 500 km northeast of Bangkok, were mostly stabbed to death, they said.

Police identified the attacker as a former member of the force who was dismissed from his post last year over drug allegations and he was facing trial on a drugs charge.

The man had been in court earlier in the day and had then gone to the nursery to collect his child, police spokesperson Paisal Luesomboon told broadcaster ThaiPBS.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

KINETIC CRICKET HITS THE STANDS TODAY

Your ICC T20 World Cup 2022 guide hits the stands today. Contact your hawker for a copy of KINETIC CRICKET, a special 72-page magazine from The Daily Star, to know in detail about the 16 participating teams with gleaming pictures. Also, this magazine features special articles on the mega event as well as the shortest format of the game.

The Daily Star

Alarming trend of rising dengue cases!

New cases of dengue are on the rise once again all over Bangladesh, with the first death of 2022 from dengue recorded on June 21. In September alone, a reported 9,911 people got admitted in hospitals suffering from dengue. In total, 16,727 people have been affected by dengue in Bangladesh from January 2022 till October 01. And the number of deaths from dengue this year is 56. Officials say Dhaka is at risk of a major outbreak this year compared to the last couple of years, as clear, stagnant water is abundant around the breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes. The scenario came to light after the DGHS conducted a pre-monsoon survey between March 23 and April 4. The survey found three Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) wards to be at 'high risk' and ten at 'medium risk' of an outbreak. Nine wards in Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) are at medium risk. Experts have asked authorities concerned to take immediate steps to address the matter. And not just dengue, mosquitoes can spread other deadly diseases like malaria and chikungunya. The entire nation is trying to protect themselves from the attacks of these deadly mosquitoes at home, workplaces and outdoors. Not just Dhaka, mosquitoes have become a major concern for everyone all over the country. If the global pandemic Coronavirus were not enough, now these mosquito-related diseases have added more anxiety among people. Many specialists are saying the situation had never been this bad before. And it's getting worse over time. Never before have people suffered so much due to mosquitoes. Scattered constructions and crowded localities are often blamed for creating the breeding grounds for mosquitoes. The water bodies used for drainage for these sites have become extremely polluted, producing thousands of mosquitoes from the stagnant water. As there are no vaccines to such mosquito borne diseases, experts suggest that prevention is the best way to tackle this problem. Some of the best ways to protect oneself and loved ones are to make sure that there is no stagnant water or clogged drainage near our homes and to take preventative measures such as using coils, aerosols and mosquito nets.

The nation is asking for viable solutions to this problem. We need to keep our localities clean and hygienic from dirt, garbage and stagnant water. But such actions require time, money and joint effort of many people. For the time being, people need instant sale solutions like mosquito repellents that don't have any harmful side effects on health or skin. The fight against mosquitoes and the deadly diseases is not an easy one. But we believe that like always, we shall overcome this crisis too, protecting ourselves and our loved ones.

Introducing a new way of protection against mosquitoes!

Vaseline Mosquito Defence Lotion Mosquito Repellent

This new lotion protects you and your family from mosquitoes that carry diseases like dengue, chikungunya and malaria. It is infused with Vaseline Jelly that protects your skin from dryness. The lotion is safe and the light formulation makes it easy to apply on skin.

- Safe even for pregnant women and babies*
- Up to 8 hours* of protection
- Dermatologically tested
- New non-sticky formulation
- Can be used throughout the year

*Based on lab studies *Creative visualization

SCAN TO SEE VIRTUALLY