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SHAH CEMENT

Coronavirus spreads further

Death toll 2,619; Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain, Afghanistan report first cases; 12 dead, 64 infected in Iran

AFP, Beijing

Fears of a global coronavirus pandemic deepened yesterday with a growing number of deaths in Iran and the worsening of other outbreaks across Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

Kuwait, Bahrain, Iraq and Afghanistan announced their first cases of the virus, bringing the total number of countries with infections above 30.

The number of fatalities in China -- where the virus emerged late last year -- also continued to soar, with 150 more confirmed deaths, taking its official death toll to 2,619.

Chinese authorities insist they are making progress in containing the virus, citing slowing infection rates thanks to unprecedented travel lockdowns and quarantines in or near the outbreak's epicentre.

But the spread of the virus in other parts of the world has accelerated over the past week, with Iran, South Korea and Italy emerging as the worst new hotspots.

In Iran, the confirmed death toll yesterday climbed by four to 12 -- the highest number of fatalities for any country outside of China.

There were also concerns the situation in Iran may be worse than officially acknowledged, with the semi-official ILNA news agency quoting a local lawmaker in hardest-hit Qom city that 50 people had died there.

The Iranian government denied there had been 50 deaths and pledged transparency.

Even so, authorities have only reported 64 infections

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



A pick-up carrying logs crossing a road through the hills in Lalbandari Ansar Camp area near Chattogram University. The 5km road was built after cutting hills allegedly by two local traders for transporting logs. The photo was taken a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Road made cutting hills, trees in CU

University fails to stop onslaught

MD ABBAS

Two traders have cut hills and trees at Chittagong University to build a dirt road through the campus for carrying logs of trees from a nearby area in Hathazari upazila.

Md Hanif and Bajal, local wood traders, had been felling trees in the area for about four years and carrying the logs in pick-ups, locally known as Chander Gari, through the campus, said witnesses.

Hills were partially cut in about one-kilometre long area stretching from Lal Bhandari Ansar Camp to the boundary pillars of the CU. Outside, hills were partially ruined in another 4-km long area in Hathazari.

Prof Touhid Hossain, former administrator (estate) of the university, said the trees on the campus were felled without taking permission from the CU authorities.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Hajj pilgrims to pay more this year

Cost of 2 government Hajj packages raised; new, cheaper third package introduced

RASHIDUL HASAN

Bangladeshis who wish to perform hajj will have to spend more for the pilgrimage this year, mainly due to the increase in airfare and visa fees.

The government yesterday approved three draft hajj packages.

Hajis will have to pay Tk 4.25 lakh for package-1 and Tk 3.60 lakh for package-2 to perform hajj under government management, which is Tk 6,500 and Tk 16,000 more than the corresponding packages of the previous year.

With affordability in mind, the government has also introduced package-3 for the first time, which hajis can avail at a cost of Tk 3.15 lakh.

Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam revealed the packages at a press briefing at the Secretariat following the Cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's Office with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The cabinet secretary said that the hajj packages were categorized according to the distance of the pilgrims' accommodations from Masjid al Haram.

"Intended hajis under package-1 will get accommodation within 700 metres of the boundary of Masjid al Haram while a pilgrim under package-2 will get accommodation facility within a distance

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

'Persuade Pindi to stop persecution'



M Hossain Ali, former head of mission of Bangladesh in Calcutta, presenting a cheque of Rs. 6 lakh to Bangabandhu for the PM's relief fund. The money was received by the mission as donation.

FEBRUARY 25, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU'S MESSAGE TO WALDHEIM

Paul Mark Henry, assistant secretary-general of the UN, today makes an unscheduled air-dash to his headquarters in New York following two consecutive meetings with Bangabandhu. He is believed to be carrying a personal message from the PM to the UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim. Although the content of the letter is not known it is understood that Bangabandhu once again requested the chief executive of the world body to immediately intervene to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

BNP picks Shahadat as CCC mayor candidate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Nationalist Party last night nominated Shahadat Hossain, president of the party's Chattogram city unit, to contest for the Chittagong City Corporation mayor post.

The BNP also nominated AKM Ahsanul Toyab Jakir for the Bogura-1 by-election and Abul Hossain Azad for Jashore-6.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir announced the names of the nominees after a meeting of the party's nomination board at its chairperson's Gulshan office.

Six BNP leaders collected their party's nomination forms to contest the upcoming CCC elections, slated for March 29.

Chattogram City unit BNP General Secretary Abu Hashem Bakkar, Vice-President Syed Azamuddin, former joint secretary Ershad Ullah,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Oxygen spotted in another galaxy for first time



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Astronomers have spotted molecular oxygen in another galaxy for the first ever time.

As well as being the gas that humans and other animals on Earth need to breathe, oxygen is one of the most common elements in the universe -- beaten only by hydrogen and helium -- and so scientists long thought it would be easy to spot it elsewhere in the cosmos. But attempts to discover it turned up nothing, until the latest discovery.

Now researchers say they have found signs of oxygen in a galaxy called Markarian 231, 560 million light years away. That galaxy lies in the constellation Ursa Major and was already notable because it contains a bright quasar, where gas

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Shab-e-Meraj on March 22

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Shab-e-Meraj will be observed in the country on the night of March 22.

The National Moon Sighting Committee made the decision at a meeting held at the Baitul Mukarram office of Islamic Foundation yesterday evening.

On the night of 26th Rajab every year, Muslims observe Shab-e-Meraj when Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) embarked on a special journey to meet Allah.

In the journey, the Prophet travelled on the "Buraq" to Heaven where Allah gave him some instructions to take back to the faithful regarding the details of prayers.

Different Islamic organisations will arrange special prayers and milad mahfils in mosques and other places to seek blessings of the Almighty Allah.

Devotees offer special prayers all the night in mosques and at home to seek blessings of Allah for the welfare of the entire nation and the Muslim Ummah.

বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষ
Bangladesh Food Safety Authority

জীবন ও স্বাস্থ্য সুরক্ষায় নিরাপদ খাদ্য

খাদ্যের মোড়ক ও স্পর্শক উৎপাদন ও ব্যবহার সম্পর্কিত সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের জ্ঞাতার্থে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক খাদ্যস্পর্শক প্রবিধানমালা, ২০১৯ (এস.আর.ও নং ২৫৭-আইন/২০১৯ তারিখ: ২১ শ্রাবণ ১৪২৬ বঙ্গাব্দ/০৫ আগস্ট ২০১৯ খ্রিস্টাব্দ) প্রকাশিত হয়েছে। নিরাপদ খাদ্য নিশ্চিতকরণের লক্ষ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ট খাদ্যস্পর্শক ব্যবসায়ী, খাদ্য ব্যবসায়ী ও জনগণকে উক্ত বিধিমালা (www.bfsa.gov.bd হতে ডাউনলোড যোগ্য) সম্পর্কে অবহিত হওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। খাদ্যের নিরাপদতা এবং জনস্বাস্থ্য সুরক্ষায় খাদ্যস্পর্শক প্রস্তুতকারী ও ব্যবসায়ী, খাদ্য মোড়কাজাতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান, খাদ্য ব্যবসায়ীসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে নিম্নোক্ত নির্দেশনা প্রদান করা যাচ্ছে।

- খাদ্যস্পর্শক ও খাদ্যের মোড়ক উৎপাদনে ব্যবহৃত কাঁচামাল স্বাস্থ্যসম্মত ও যথাযথ মানসম্পন্ন (Food Grade) হইতে হইবে;
- খাদ্যের মোড়ক/প্যাকেটে ধাতব স্ট্যাম্পার/পিন/সেফটি পিন বা ধাতব বস্তু ব্যবহার করা যাইবে না;
- খাদ্যের মোড়ক হিসেবে নিম্নমানের ও রিসাইকেলড পলিথিন, পুরোনো খবরের কাগজ/লিখিত কাগজ ইত্যাদি ব্যবহার করা যাইবে না;
- চা/কফি বা গরম খাবার/পানীয় পরিবেশনের ক্ষেত্রে নিম্নমানের ও রিসাইকেলড পাস্টিক কাপ/বস্তু/পাত্র ব্যবহার করা যাইবে না।

জনস্বাস্থ্য সুরক্ষায় নিরাপদখাদ্য আইন, ২০১৩ এবং এর অধীন প্রণীত বিধিমালাসমূহ মেনে চলুন এবং স্বাস্থ্যসম্মত নিরাপদ খাদ্য নিশ্চিত করুন। নিরাপদ খাদ্য আইন, ২০১৩ এর লংঘন শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ। এ শাস্তি সর্বোচ্চ ৫ (পাঁচ) বছর পর্যন্ত কারাদণ্ড বা ২০ (বিশ) লক্ষ টাকা পর্যন্ত অর্থদণ্ড হতে পারে।

GD-358

VIOLENCE OVER CAA

One killed, 35 hurt in Delhi

REUTERS, New Delhi

A policeman was killed and dozens of people injured amid clashes in New Delhi yesterday as thousands demonstrating for and against a new citizenship law rioted for several hours before US President Donald Trump's maiden visit to the city.

Police used tear gas and smoke grenades but struggled to disperse the crowds, as both sides hurled stones and turned a wide boulevard into a rock-strewn battle zone, about 11 miles from where Trump will meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for talks today.

One police constable was killed, a police official told Reuters, declining to be named since he isn't authorised to speak to media.

An official at Delhi's CTB Hospital said more than 35 people injured in the clashes were undergoing treatment. Reuters partner ANI reported that one civilian had also died, but Reuters was unable to confirm it.

Reuters reporters saw multiple vehicles set on fire, metal barricades torn down and thick smoke billowing as supporters of the new law clashed with opponents. A small contingent of police was vastly outnumbered.

India's capital has been a hotbed of protests against the law, which eases the path of non-Muslims from three neighbouring Muslim-dominated countries to gain Indian citizenship.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 25

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AZAN 5-15 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30

JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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