



# The Daily Star

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PLUS 8 PAGES THE DAILY STAR PLUS ON BANGABANDHU'S BIRTH CENTENARY

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20 PAGES PLUS LIFESTYLE &amp; 8 PAGES TABLOID ON NATIONAL CHILDREN DAY &amp; MUJIB BIRTH CENTENARY PRICE: Tk 12.00

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Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib and their youngest son Sheikh Russel with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi during her visit to Bangladesh on March 17, 1972.

## BANGABANDHU'S BIRTH CENTENARY TODAY

# His legacy is our beacon of hope

WASIM BIN HABIB

"The killers' bullets took away the Father of the Nation. They tried to erase his name from the history of Bangladesh. But they could not. The killers could not realise that Bangabandhu's blood flowed down the stairs of the Dhanmondi-32 house and spread all over Bangladesh and gave birth to crores of Mujibs. And that is why, today, the people of Bangladesh are wide awake in search of truth."

This is how Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the daughter of the undisputed leader of the Bangalees, tried to introduce Bangabandhu to the children in a letter she penned on the eve of his birth centenary and National Children's Day today.

It is, however, very hard to describe in a few words the man who was larger than life in every sense of the phrase.

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## Bangabandhu's first birthday in free Bangladesh

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

MARCH 17, 1972

The birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is observed today in the country in simple fashion. The birthday of the father of the nation coincides with the arrival of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in Bangladesh. Indira Gandhi presents fruits and sweets to Bangabandhu on his birthday.

The day begins with special prayers held at the city mosques, temples, pagodas and churches wishing Bangabandhu good health and a long, happy life. Awami League volunteer corps present a guard of honour to the prime minister at his residence in the early morning.

The city newspapers, in their Friday

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## JOURNO TORTURE Kurigram DC, 3 other officials withdrawn

STAR REPORT

Kurigram Deputy Commissioner Sultana Pervin and three of her colleagues were withdrawn yesterday following their controversial role in the conviction of a journalist in the district.

The Ministry of Public Administration issued a gazette notification, saying the DC was withdrawn. Another notification said Mohammad Rezaul Karim, a deputy secretary at the ministry, has been appointed to the post.

The three others withdrawn were Senior Assistant Commissioner Nazim Uddin, and assistant commissioners Rintu Bikash Chakma and SM Rahatul Islam.

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## Rise in dengue cases rings alarm

263 admitted to city hospitals in Jan-Mar 16 this year; the number was 73 during same period last year

HELEMI ALAM

The number of dengue patients admitted to hospitals this year is already around four times higher than that of last year during this time, although the rainy season is still two months away.

Recently collected data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) shows that as of March 16, 263 patients have already been admitted to hospitals across the country, whereas till March last year, this figure was only 73.

Experts raised the alarm saying the country witnessed the worst ever dengue situation last year and that the authorities should take preventive measures right away to avoid a repeat of such an outbreak.

According to its data, a total 1,01,354 dengue cases were reported last year, of which 49,544 were outside Dhaka. The number of deaths from dengue was 179, said Dr Aysha Akhtar, assistant director of the health emergency operation centre and control room of the DGHS.

Jahangirnagar University (JU) entomologist Kabirul Bashar, who, along with a team of researchers, has been conducting surveys on Aedes mosquitoes under a three-year research project, said the density of Aedes mosquito larvae is higher than that of last year around this time.

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# Three more infected

Covid-19 cases now 8 in country; 95 return from Italy, Germany despite travel ban; DGHS officials say there could be some undetected cases

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN and RASHIDUL HASAN

Three more people have tested positive for coronavirus bringing the country's total to eight, according to Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research.

But the actual number of infected people could be much higher, Prof Abul Kalam Azad, DG of the Directorate General of Health Services, admitted while talking to The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, 95 Bangladeshis from Italy and other European countries

landed in Dhaka last night, despite the government's travel ban on all European countries except the UK. The supposed ban went into force at 12:00pm yesterday. Of the eight people tested positive so far, four were infected by family members who returned from Italy and Germany.

Yesterday's three new patients -- a woman and two children aged below 10 -- are family members of one of the two people who tested positive on Sunday.

On Saturday and Sunday, at least 349 other Bangladeshis who arrived

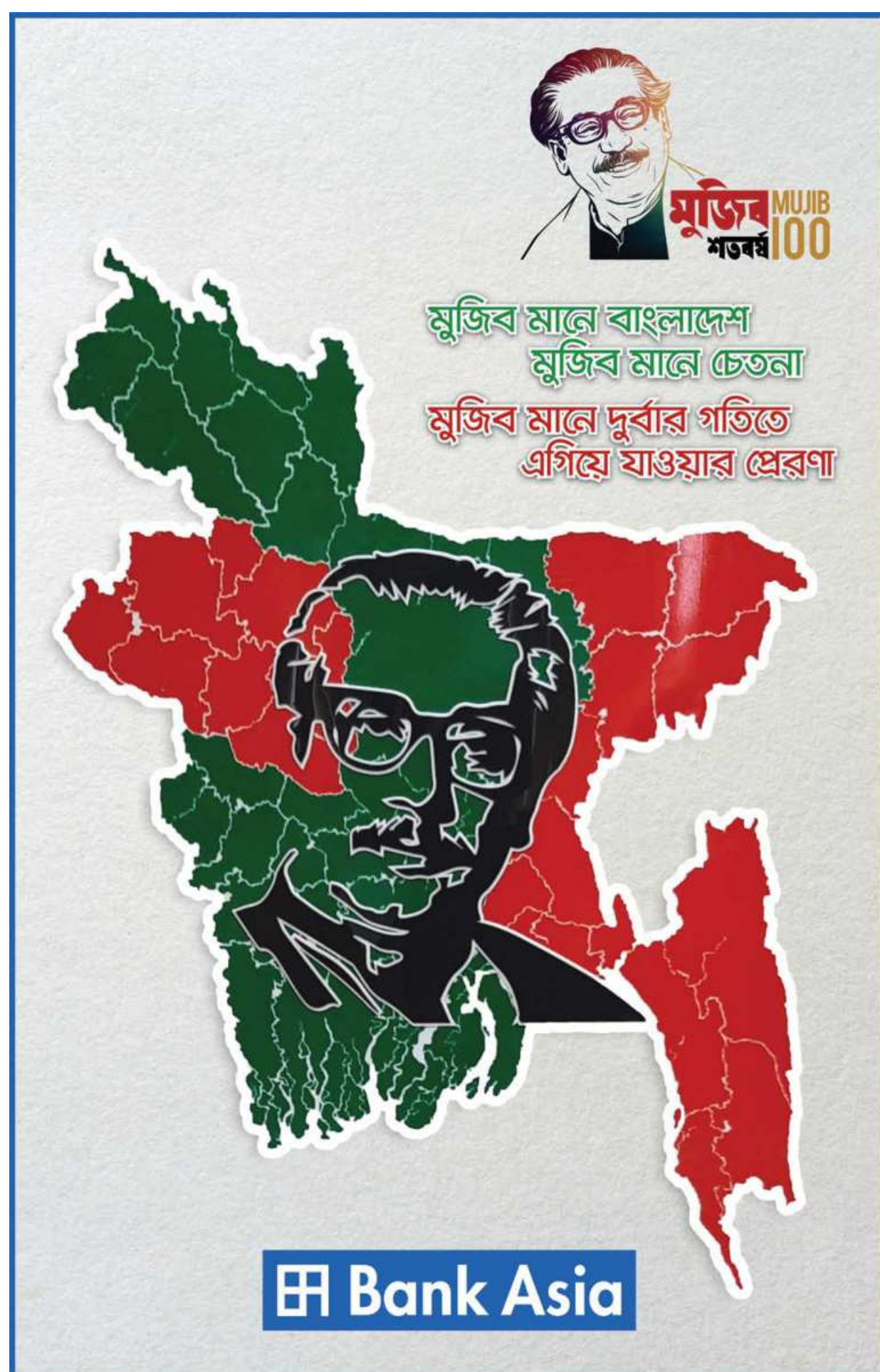
from Italy were allowed to go home and asked to be in self-isolation. However, it has been reported that many people "in quarantine" were roaming around in their neighbourhoods.

Italy is the worst affected country in Europe, which is the new epicentre of the coronavirus pandemic.

Asked how far the reported number was from the number actually infected, Prof Azad last night said, "There might be more patients."

He added that icddr, b and Institute of Public Health in the capital and

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