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## MISSING JOURNALIST SHAFIQU Police stations pass buck, yet to record case

RAFIUL ISLAM

Although a week has passed since journalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol went missing, his family could not file a case in this regard as two police stations in the capital are passing the buck on each other.

The family questioned the sincerity of police to locate Kajol as their repeated attempts to file a case with Chawkbazar and New Market police stations went in vain.

"We went to Chawkbazar Police Station several times in the last few days. They asked me to file a case with New Market Police Station, saying that my father was last seen in the area. When we went to New Market Police Station, officials there directed us back to Chawkbazar since our house is in the area," Kajol's son Monorom Polok told The Daily Star.

The family said they could take further steps if police record the case instead of trying to pass the responsibility to each other. They were also not sure why police are refusing to take the case.

Kajol, editor of the daily Pokkhokhal, went missing on March 10. He left home and went to his office in Hatirpool.

He was last seen leaving his office on his motorbike, which falls under New Market Police Station, around 7:00pm, police said.



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A husband and wife battle the elements in windswept Kazlar char of the Jamuna river in Bogura's Sariakandi upazila as they take horse drawn carts of red chilli to their village. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

## India low on Covid-19 test kits

It can't get them from abroad due to cancelled flights, travel ban

NEWS18, Mumbai

Obtaining test kits to diagnose Coronavirus cases from abroad has been a challenge for India because of the airlines being in lockdown and travel bans imposed by the government for several nations, Thyrocare Technologies Ltd, a chain of diagnostic and preventive care laboratories, has said.

Speaking to CNBC-TV18, the company urged the government to allow airlifting of Covid-19 test kits considering the health emergency and to increase the scale of testing to cover thousands of people.

Until now, India has had a very restrictive testing policy, which has resulted in among the lowest testing rates in the world. This despite the World Health Organisation urging all countries to ramp up their coronavirus testing to try to reduce the severity of the pandemic. The Indian Council of Medical Research had said on March 13 that 5,900 people had been tested in India.

But considering the rising number of cases and fears of community transmission of the virus, the testing protocol may change in the coming days. According to a report in the Times of India, 50 to 60 private labs accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Laboratories (NABL) will be allowed to do the tests.

Thyrocare officials said that the government will first have to clear the material required for Covid-19 tests. They said that the Mumbai civic body, BMC, has already written to ICMR to allow 10 private labs to start testing. "Discussions with vendors are underway with respect to private labs testing for Covid-19," an official said.

The official also voiced concern about the low testing in India, saying that

## Four killed as college gate collapses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Four people were killed and 10 others injured after a portion of an under-construction college gate fell on them in Tarash upazila of Sirajganj yesterday.

Three of the four dead are Tozam Ali, 65, of Tarash upazila, Rashedul Islam, 25, of the same upazila, and Md Ashif of Natore's Singra upazila. The identity of the other could not be known immediately.

The gate of Shahid M Mansur Ali College, adjacent to Gulta Bazar, collapsed around 3:00pm when many, who went to the village market, were near the gate, said Mahabubul Alam, officer-in-charge of Tarash Police Station.

"... the top portion of the gate made of bricks and tiles fell on the people. Three people died on the spot and another on the way to hospital," the OC said. The injured were admitted to different hospitals.

The college authorities were building the gate as per their design, said Md Moniruzzaman, Tarash upazila chairman.

He blamed faulty construction work for the accident.

Talking to The Daily Star, Rezaul Karim, officer of Tarash upazila fire station, said there was a huge gathering of people in the

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

## Benefit of freedom must be shared



Minister for Rural Development Shamsul Huq presenting a replica of a silver boat to Indira Gandhi at a civic reception at Bangabhaban on March 18, 1972, while Bangabandhu looks on.

MARCH 18, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

INDIRA-MUJIB TALKS

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, their foreign minister and aides have the final round of talks for six hours when they go on a river cruise on River Sitalakhya. They discuss various bilateral

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## MUJIB BORSHO EVENT 3 schools defy govt directive, call in all their pupils

STAR REPORT

Defying government instructions, at least three schools in Gazipur and Narayanganj yesterday held programmes marking Bangabandhu's birth centenary with the participation of almost all their students and also guardians amid coronavirus scare.

The education ministry on Monday asked all secondary schools to celebrate the day by planting 100 trees on and around school campuses with maximum 25 people taking part in each programme.

Earlier on that day, the government had announced that all educational institutions would remain closed till March 31 as part of measures to contain the spread of the novel

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## Oldest 'mammoth house' discovered in Russia



CNN ONLINE

Around 25,000 years ago, hunter-gatherers used the bones from 60 mammoths to build a large circular structure in Russia. And no one knows why.

Researchers have excavated the site in an attempt to understand it, but they don't know why the structure was built, according to a new study.

This isn't the first "mammoth house" to be found in Russia, but it is the oldest and largest,

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This large chunk of an under-construction college gate, inset, in Tarash upazila of Sirajganj fell yesterday killing four people and injuring 10 others. Shoppers at the nearby Gulta Bazar were standing beneath the gate for shelter when it collapsed and killed three on the spot, while another victim died on way to the hospital.

PHOTO: STAR

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 18

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5:00 12:45 4:30 6:14 7:45  
JAMAAT 5:35 1:15 4:45 6:18 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

**গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি**

করোনা ভাইরাস সংক্রমণের ঝুঁকি এড়াতে ইতালি ও অন্যান্য দেশ থেকে যারা সম্প্রতি দেশে ফিরছেন তাদের কর্তৃপক্ষের নজরদারিতে ১৪ দিন কোয়ারেন্টাইনে থাকা বাধ্যতামূলক।

কোয়ারেন্টাইনকৃত ব্যক্তি ১৪ দিন ঘরের বাইরে বের হবেন না এবং নিজ বাড়ির নির্ধারিত একটি কক্ষে অবস্থান করবেন। কোয়ারেন্টাইনকৃত ব্যক্তির আত্মীয়-স্বজন, বন্ধু-বান্ধব, উক্ত ব্যক্তির সংস্পর্শে আসতে পারবেন না।

এ নিয়ম ভঙ্গ করলে সংক্রামক রোগ (প্রতিরোধ, নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও নির্মূল) আইন, ২০১৮ অনুযায়ী তাদের জেল বা জরিমানা বা উভয় দণ্ড হতে পারে। সাধারণ নাগরিকদেরও এ ব্যাপারে প্রশাসনকে সাহায্য করার অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

**স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর**  
স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়