





# Toxic ship heading for Bangladesh

Could reach country's coast on May 7

PINAKI ROY

A shipbreaking company is set to illegally import a highly toxic ship for scrapping, risking workers' health and environmental damage.

The ship, once used for storing oil by offshore oil and gas companies, is an end-of-life floating storage and offloading (FSO) vessel named J Nat.

Now it is coming to Bangladesh from Indonesia carrying toxic waste contaminated with mercury, according to lab results obtained by the NGO Shipbreaking Platform.

It left Batam, Indonesia, on April 18 and is due to reach the Bangladeshi coast on May 7, according to satellite information sent by the ship and published on maritime databases.

The vessel is flying the flag of convenience of Palau, an offshore tax haven in the Pacific Ocean.

It is being towed by Indian company Prayati Shipping Pvt Ltd's tug S CAS (IMO 8411047), said the Platform.

Documents obtained by The Daily Star



show the vessel contains around 1,500 tonnes of mercury-contaminated waste, 60 tonnes of sludge oil, 1,000 tonnes of slop oil, and 500 tonnes of oily water on board.

Samples of this sludge have revealed mercury levels of 395mg/kg, according to lab results obtained by NGO Shipbreaking Platform. The Hazardous Waste and Ship-breaking Waste Management Rules list mercury and mercury compounds as hazardous if their concentration exceeds 50 mg/kg.

If dumped in Bangladesh, the waste will pose a serious threat to environment.

Like other end-of-life ships, J Nat also has toxins such as Polychlorinated Biphenyls, asbestos and other different heavy metals within its structures.

NGO Shipbreaking Platform issued a briefing paper on J Nat titled "Export of toxic vessel in breach of international law" on April 19.

The paper states that Indonesian authorities appear not to have informed Bangladesh about the presence of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Four customers, two of them in personal protective equipment, stand on marked spots to get take out iftar items at Star restaurant on Dhanmondi-2 in the capital yesterday. Sales of iftar items at the popular restaurants have started after the authorities announced that takeaways would be allowed.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



## Bollywood icon Irrfan Khan dies

AFP, Mumbai

Acclaimed Indian actor Irrfan Khan, whose international movie career included hits such as "Slumdog Millionaire", "Life of Pi" and "The Amazing Spider-Man", has died aged 53, his publicist said yesterday.

The Bollywood star, who was diagnosed with a neuroendocrine tumour in 2018, was admitted to a Mumbai hospital earlier this week with a colon infection.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to the award-winning actor, tweeting "Irrfan Khan's demise is a loss to the world of cinema and theatre."

Funeral rites for the actor were under way at a graveyard in Mumbai, with only immediate family allowed to attend in keeping with India's strict lockdown to curb the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



### PRAYER TIMING APRIL 30

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:00	12:45	4:45	6:30	8:00
JAMAAT 4:10	1:15	5:00	6:40	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



### SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING RAMADAN APRIL SEHRI IFTAR

6	30	6:30
7	MAY 1	3:59 6:31
8	MAY 2	3:58 6:31

## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

### UN Mission praises Bangladesh people's resilience



Bangabandhu inspecting the Lalbahini in front of Gonobhaban on May 1, 1972.

April 30, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### FRANKFURT DELEGATION CALLS ON BANGABANDHU

An economic delegation from Frankfurt calls on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today at his official residence. They discuss various economic issues related to the reconstruction of the economy of Bangladesh and trade between the two countries.

#### UN REPORT ON BANGLADESH

The UN Mission to Bangladesh headed by the Austrian diplomat Erna Sailer has stated in its report that despite the disruption of life in the last 12 months, "the Bangladesh people have shown remarkable objectivity and attained a degree of unity."

"They have shown remarkable resilience and inborn capacity to help themselves

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## 13 prison guards, 1 inmate test positive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 13 prison guards, who watched over inmates at hospitals, tested positive for the coronavirus.

A hospitalised inmate also tested positive, Mohammad Monzur Hossain, assistant inspector general (admin) at the Department of Prisons, told the Daily Star yesterday.

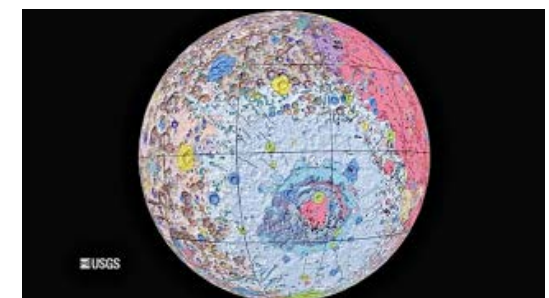
"The infected prison guards were discharging duties with ailing inmates at different hospitals in Dhaka," he said.

In different prisons across the country, 55 other officials and inmates are in quarantine with Covid-19 symptoms, he added.

The guards who tested positive are from a barrack near the old jail in the capital's Bakshibazar, he said, adding that they are now admitted to a hospital in Zinzira area.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

## First map of lunar surface made



MAIL ONLINE

Nasa will have a new resource to help it plan future missions to the Moon - after geologists create the first map of the rocks on the lunar surface.

The lunar map, called the Unified Geologic Map of the Moon, has been created by the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Nasa and the Lunar Planetary Institute.

The colourful map is designed to act like a blueprint of the Moon's surface geology and will be "invaluable to the scientific community, educators and the public".

It was created using information from six Apollo-era regional maps and updated information from more recent satellite missions to the Moon.

The different coloured regions show elevations, rock types and specific surface features to help aid future explorers and researchers.

The USGS digital map is available online for free and shows the geology of the Moon in "incredible detail" at a scale of one to five million.

## Save civilians in Rakhine, Chin states

UN human rights expert Yanghee Lee urges

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN human rights expert Yanghee Lee has called upon the United Nations to step up its efforts to protect civilians in Rakhine and Chin states of Myanmar, alleging ongoing war crimes and crimes against humanity being committed by the Myanmar military there.

She called for investigations into the crimes and actions to ensure that there is not another systemic failure like in 2017 when a military crackdown led to the killings of thousands of Rohingyas and an exodus of some 750,000 Rohingyas to Bangladesh.

The International Court of Justice on January 23 ordered for provisional measures to prevent crimes of genocide against Rohingyas in Rakhine State and submit reports

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



A woman is being taken to hospital by a rickshaw-van on an otherwise empty Old Elephant Road in the capital. As the income of poor people falls significantly, those needing medical attention have become particularly vulnerable. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Economic cost of pandemic mounts

Europe struggles to ease lockdown as US deaths surpass Vietnam War toll

AFP, Berlin

European countries tried to balance how far to ease coronavirus lockdowns yesterday, with Germany enforcing mandatory masks in shops, as the crushing global economic cost of the pandemic became clearer.

Excitement over moves towards normality is being tempered by fear of fresh outbreaks of a disease that has already killed more than 217,500 people worldwide and infected more than three million.

China said its legislature would hold its annual session in May after being delayed by the coronavirus, signalling the communist leadership's growing confidence in taming the disease that emerged in the country late last year.

But with forecasts predicting the worst recession in a century, the world was anxiously looking to the United States where the first economic growth figures from the pandemic era were due to be published and the death toll exceeded that from the Vietnam War.

From yesterday in Germany, masks were needed to enter shops, which began to open last week after the government declared its outbreak under control. Nose and mouth coverings are already compulsory on buses, trains and trams.

"I think it's great, it's the right thing," said Heike Menzel, 54, who was stacking shelves in Bio Company supermarket, wearing a simple black fabric mask: "You're protecting

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8