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# Students serving free sehri, iftar

1,000 hungry people get food on DU campus every day

SAYYED MOHMUD ULLAH and ASIFUR RAHMAN

Hungry people, some with children, begin to gather near Raju sculpture on Dhaka University campus after midnight, and by 3:00am, there are almost 400 of them sitting down expectantly on the street.

Soon, DU student Tanbir Hasan Shaikat and four of his friends start handing out food packets among them.

"On the first day of the shutdown, I arranged some food for about 50 homeless people on campus. Then several professors, politicians, DU alumni members and my friends started chipping in and now we are feeding sehri and iftar to nearly 1,000 people each day," Shaikat, also a member of Dhaka University Central Students Union (Ducus), told The Daily Star last week.

Initiatives like this by individuals, associations, voluntary organisations, and student bodies are much needed because the nationwide shutdown

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Tanbir, a student of Dhaka University, raises a megaphone to ask some underprivileged people if all of them have received iftar packets. Tanbir and his four friends now provide sehri and iftar to about 1,000 underprivileged people daily to ease their sufferings caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The photo was taken in the university's TSC area late last month.

PHOTO: SAYYED MOHMUD ULLAH

# Air pollution raises risks, vulnerability

Researchers say about Covid-19 in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 as thousands of Bangladeshis are already suffering from chronic diseases because of their past exposure to air pollution, according to the study conducted by Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

"Past air pollution exposure has made people much more vulnerable to COVID-19 and is now contributing to the death toll and the enormous pressure on healthcare systems from the disease", said Lauri Myllyvirta, the lead analyst of CREA citing multiple studies.

The research, titled 'Air Quality, Health and toxic impacts of the proposed coal power cluster in Payra, Bangladesh' released in a virtual press conference yesterday jointly organized by CREA - an independent research organization focused

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## Govt active on TV only

Says BNP about Covid-19 response

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday alleged that the government completely failed to contain the spread of Covid-19 and it was only active on television.

"Where is the government? The government is not on the field. If you see carefully, you will find everybody is on television," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

Addressing a press conference at party Chairperson Khaleida Zia's Gulshan office, Fakhrul criticised the government for not responding to the BNP's call to form a taskforce comprising all political parties and renowned economists of the country to fight against coronavirus.

"We repeatedly asked but they [government] did not do it," he said, adding that the technical committee formed on

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

### Ducus honours Bangabandhu with lifetime membership



**Bangabandhu signing the lifetime membership form of Ducus at Dhaka University on May 6, 1972.**

May 6, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**BANGABANDHU GIVEN LIFETIME DUCSU MEMBERSHIP**

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is today given lifetime membership of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducus). Addressing a large gathering of students at the Dhaka University premises, Bangabandhu says that imperialist forces and their local agents will never succeed in their attempts at damaging Bangladesh's friendship with the Soviet Union and India. He recalls with

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## STRANDED IN INDIA AMID SHUTDOWN

# No plan yet to bring home 313 devotees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 313 Bangladeshi followers of Tablighi Jamaat, according to the religious organisation, are stuck in India and living in dire straits following a nationwide manhunt by the Indian authorities.

Many of them are living in fear of detention after Indian police arrested

several Bangladeshis from different states for the violation of the Foreigners Act and the Epidemic Diseases Act.

At least 9,000 people had participated at a congregation at the Nizamuddin Markaz Mosque in March, after which many travelled to various parts of India for missionary work. The Tablighi Jamaat event

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# Probe early virus cases

WHO urges countries after French study

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization said yesterday that a report that Covid-19 had emerged in December in France, sooner than previously thought, was "not surprising", and urged countries to investigate any other early suspicious cases.

The disease later identified as Covid-19 was first reported by Chinese authorities to the WHO on 31 December and

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## Buddha Purnima today

UNB, Dhaka

Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community, will be celebrated across the country today.

Buddha Purnima marks the birth, enlightenment, and death of Gautama Buddha. On this day in 563 BC, Buddha was born as Siddhartha Gautama in Kopilabostu at the foothill of the Himalayas.

He attained supreme enlightenment at the age of 35 and finally departed into "nirvana" at the age of 80 in 483 BC.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages greeting the Buddhist community on the occasion.

President Hamid called upon the Buddhists to celebrate their holy religious festival at their respective homes due to Covid-19 outbreak in the country.

Due to the coronavirus

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PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

A horse-drawn carriage on RK Mission Road in the capital yesterday carries 12-15 passengers on Gulistan-Jatrabari route. Such carriages are banned on the particular road but since traffic was light due to Covid-19 shutdown, it took a direct route. The passengers were crammed into the vehicle violating social distancing guidelines.

# US forecast sees virus death surge

Researchers blame eased restrictions

AFP, Washington

The global death toll from the coronavirus pandemic topped a quarter of a million yesterday, with the US government predicting a further surge in fatalities as an international vaccine drive garnered \$8 billion in pledges.

The dire forecast from the United States came as much of the Western world emerged from weeks of lockdown, with hopes that the disease may have peaked in Europe after nearly two months of

confinement.

Financial markets saw a light at the end of a tunnel as businesses in Europe and the United States tentatively reopened, and stocks and oil prices rallied yesterday.

But the global progress did little to cool a war of words between the US and China - fuelled by American claims the virus originated in a Chinese laboratory, a theory the World Health Organization (WHO) labelled "speculative."

Since the disease first surfaced in China

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 6

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 3:53	12:45	5:00	6:33	8:00
JAMAAT 4:03	1:15	5:15	6:43	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING			
RAMADAN MAY SEHRI IFTAR			
12	6	6:33	
13	7	3:52	6:34
14	8	3:51	6:34

**গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি**

কোভিড-১৯ থেকে বাঁচতে হলে ঘরেই থাকি, সুস্থ থাকি

- করোনার সারা বিশ্ব আজ বিপর্যস্ত।
- মানুষ বাসা-বাড়ি থেকে বের না হলে সংক্রমণের ঝুঁকি কমাতে পারে।
- মনে রাখবেন, অস্বাস্থ্যকর হলে কেউ যে কোন সময় করোনা ভাইরাসে আক্রান্ত হতে পারে।

**কাজেই ঘরেই থাকুন, সুস্থ থাকুন**

- সামাজিক দূরত্ব বজায় রাখুন, পরস্পরের মধ্যে কমপক্ষে তিন (৩) ফুট দূরত্ব বজায় রাখুন।
- একান্ত প্রয়োজনে বাইরে গেলে অবশ্যই মাস্ক পড়ুন।
- স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সব স্বাস্থ্যবিধি অবশ্যই মেনে চলুন।
- বারবার সাবান পানি দিয়ে কমপক্ষে ২০ সেকেন্ড হাত ধোবেন। অপরিস্কৃত হাত দিয়ে মুখ, নাক ও চোখ ছোবেন না।
- ব্যক্তদের স্বাস্থ্য বিধি শিখান এবং তাদেরকে ঘরে রাখতে খেলাধুলা, গল্প, ছড়া, শিক্ষা ও বিনোদনমূলক কাজের সাথে সম্পৃক্ত রাখুন।
- নিয়মিত কুসুম গরম পানি, আদা চা এবং গরম সূপ পান করুন। লবণ মিশ্রিত কুসুম গরম পানি দিয়ে দিনে ৩-৪ বার গড়গড়া করুন, নাকে মুখে গরম পানির ড্রপ দিন।
- জ্বর, সর্দি, কাশি, গলা ব্যথা হলে বাড়িতেই আলানা থেকে চিকিৎসা নিন।
- জ্বর কমানোর জন্য প্যারাসিটামল ও সর্দি-কাশির জন্য এন্টিবায়োটিক (যেমন ফ্লোক্সেসিট্রিন, ক্লোরফেনিগ্রামিন ইত্যাদি) খেতে পারেন।

প্রয়োজনে করোনা বিষয়ক হটলাইনগুলোতে ফোন করুন: ১৬২৬৩; ৩৩৩; ১০৬৫৫; ০১৯৪৪৩৩৩২২২ অথবা নিকটস্থ স্বাস্থ্যকর্মী বা হাসপাতালে যোগাযোগ করুন।

**মনে রাখবেন আপনার সুরক্ষা আপনারই হাতে**

**স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর**  
স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়