




Nitor struggles with bike crash victims

Empty roads amid shutdown lead to high-speed crashes

SHAHEEN MOLLAH AND RAFIUL ISLAM

Abul Hashem was going to his betel leaf field in Kushtia's Daulatpur upazila as a pillion passenger of his son's motorcycle on May 10. To avoid a possible clash with a locally made three-wheeler, his son lost control over the bike. The three-wheeler, which suddenly appeared from a brick kiln, ran over and crushed Hashem's right hand. The 65-year-old man was taken to the capital's National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) where his right hand had to be amputated to save his life. "We were carrying a sack of oilcake on the motorcycle for the betel leaf field, around seven kilometres away from home. We go to the field on motorcycle as a small number of vehicles ply the road due to the shutdown," said Hashem lying on a sickbed at the hospital's emergency ward. "Doctors first wanted to save my hand by conducting two surgeries, but they were forced to amputate during the third one," he said. Like Hashem, many people are taking motorcycle ride as their means

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Rokeya and Kohinoor heading out from the city's Mugdapara to search for work. For over a month, the two labourers ventured out every day but mostly in vain. Like them, many in the lower-income group are struggling to find work due to the ongoing shutdown. The photo was taken yesterday morning. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

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RMG workers demonstrate for work, pay, bonus

STAR REPORT

Several thousand workers of at least 10 garment factories in Ashulia, Dhamrai, Gazipur, Narayanganj and Chattogram industrial belts demonstrated demanding to reopen their factories, salaries for May and Eid bonus. Of the factories, five were in Ashulia and Dhamrai, three in Gazipur and one each in Narayanganj and Chattogram. The agitating workers vandalised a few cars. Police used water cannons and tear gas. The workers demanded partial salary for May and full payment of Eid bonus, instead of 50 percent announced by the government. The government on Saturday asked the factory owners to pay the full bonus to the workers, but 50 percent before Eid and the rest later. Some 1,000 workers of Momo Fashions Ltd in Dhaka's Dhamrai upazila and took to the streets demanding to reopen of the factory. Police said as the workers protested for their salaries inside the factory on Monday, the authorities announced the closure of the factory yesterday, to the dismay of the workers.

Shab-e-Qadr tonight

STAR REPORT

Muslims across the country are set to observe the holy Shab-e-Qadr or Lailatul Qadr tonight. The night marks the revelation of the first verses of the holy Quran to Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH). According to the holy Quran, Lailatul Qadr or the Night of Decree is better than a 1,000 nights as the angels and the spirits descend therein with the permission of Almighty Allah. Muslims traditionally observe the occasion through nightlong prayers, milad mahfils, Quran Khwani, and religious discussions at homes and mosques. Devotees also visit graveyards to seek eternal blessings for the departed souls of near and dear ones. Newspapers publish special articles while the state-run radio and television, and other private TV channels air special programmes to highlight the significance of the night. Thursday will be a public holiday.

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Ensure peace in industrial areas



Bangabandhu speaking at the inaugural session of Jatiya Sramik League's two-day convention on May 20, 1972 at the premises of Dhaka Cotton Mill.

May 20, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU'S MESSAGE TO WORKERS

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today calls upon workers to maintain peace in the industrial areas and devote themselves to the task of reconstruction of the country's war-ravaged economy. Speaking at the inaugural session of the two-day convention of Jatiya Sramik League the prime minister says that a lot of sacrifice is required to establish socialism.

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4 die after showing Covid-19 symptoms

STAR REPORT

At least four people with Covid-19 symptoms died in two districts since Monday evening. Of them, three were from Cumilla's Muradnagar and Nangolkot upazilas while the other was from Noakhali's Begumganj upazila. One of the deceased -- a 70-year-old man -- had been suffering from fever and diarrhoea for the last couple of days. Locals said some of his relatives from Narayanganj visited his home a few days ago and he started showing Covid-19 symptoms since then. He died on Monday night at his residence which has been put under lockdown after the death, said Avishek Das, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Muradnagar. Another deceased aged about 50 returned his village home in Nangolkot

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Baul Ranesh's music room torched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The music room of Baul Ranesh Thakur of Sunamganj's Derai upazila -- a notable disciple of Baul Shah Abdul Karim -- has been burnt down allegedly by unidentified miscreants. The fire started at the room adjacent to Ranesh's house at Ujandhal village on Monday around 1:40am, said KM Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Derai Police Station.

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 20

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
3:44	12:45	5:00	6:40	8:00	
JAMAAT	3:54	1:15	5:15	6:50	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MAY	SEHRI	IFTAR
26	20	6:40	
27	21	3:44	6:40
28	22	3:43	6:41



Lychee traders sorting out the fruit while buyers examine the quality of this year's harvest in Rangamati's Samataghat area. Growers and traders in the district have been frustrated by the falling prices amid a shutdown in force to slow the spread of coronavirus.

PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA

COVID-19 RESPONSE

WHO states agree to probe

China accuses US of smear

AFP, Geneva

World Health Organization member states yesterday agreed to an independent probe into the UN agency's coronavirus response as US criticism mounted over its handling of the pandemic. Countries taking part in the WHO's annual assembly, being held virtually for the first time, adopted a resolution by consensus urging a joint response to the crisis. The resolution, tabled by the European Union, called for an "impartial, independent and

comprehensive evaluation" of the international response to the pandemic, which has so far infected more than 4.8 million people and killed over 319,000. It said the investigation should include a probe of "the actions of WHO and their time-lines pertaining to the Covid-19 pandemic". The United States did not disassociate itself from the consensus as some had feared after Washington chastised the WHO on the first day of the assembly Monday and lashed out further against China over its role in the outbreak.

US President Donald Trump threatened late Monday to pull the United States out of the WHO, accusing it of botching the global coronavirus response and of being a "puppet of China". His comments, which drew a harsh rebuke from Beijing, came after his health secretary Alex Azar earlier in the day insisted the WHO's "failure" to obtain and provide vital information on Covid-19 had proved deadly. "We must be frank about one of the primary reasons this outbreak spun

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