

POVERTY HITTING HARD Deprived of proper diet, slum children face risks of physical, psychological disorders SEE PAGE 12

The Daily Star SECOND EDITION



REGD. NO. DA 781 | Vol. XXX No. 139 | JAISHTHA 25, 1427 BS | Your Right to Know | SHAWWAL 15, 1441 HURI | 16 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00

GLOBAL UPDATE 2,743 New cases in 24hrs 65,769 Total cases 888 Deaths 13,903 Recoveries 403,573 Deaths 7,047,996 Total cases

COVID-19 RED ZONES

Strict rules for stay at home

Govt to enforce zoning in a day or two

- Slum dwellers in locked down areas will be given food for two weeks People will not be allowed in mosques in red zones A person will get mobile alert if he/she enters Covid-19 prone area A person will get mobile alert if she/he come close to Covid-19 patient Sample collection booths will be set up in locked down areas Covid-19 patient to be kept in govt designated isolation centres Each red and yellow zones will have a doctors' pool for telemedicine

PARITHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Facing setbacks in its plan to enforce containment zones in four districts from yesterday, the government is now working to impose a total lockdown in areas that will be marked red and partially in the ones marked yellow in a day or two.

There will be strict stay-at-home orders for 15 days while groceries, drugs and other essentials will be delivered to people's homes in the areas marked red.

And no educational institution will reopen anywhere in the country until further orders.

The steps come amid continued spike in coronavirus cases. SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



A convenience store owner of Old Dhaka pushes his bicycle loaded with goods bought from Karwan Bazar. Due to restrictions on three-wheelers at some neighbourhoods and streets in the capital, he has to do this laborious task himself. The photo was taken near Matsya Bhaban yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'HUMAN TRAFFICKING LINKS' Bangladesh MP held in Kuwait

Foreign minister calls it a 'matter of shame'

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi lawmaker has been arrested in Kuwait over alleged involvement in human trafficking and money laundering.



Mohammad Shahid Islam, independent lawmaker from Luxmipur-2, was held by Kuwait's Criminal Investigation Department on Saturday night.

"Our ambassador to Kuwait informed us that the MP was arrested by the Kuwait CID over allegations of money laundering and human trafficking," Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

"It's a matter of regret and shame for us that a lawmaker has been arrested on foreign soil," he said.

The arrest comes more than a week after the killing of 26 Bangladeshis by human SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Cop arrested over death of farmer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A police official was arrested in Gopalganj's Kotalipara upazila last night for allegedly assaulting a farmer who died of his injuries on Wednesday evening at the Dhaka Pangu hospital.

The arrested police official - who was suspended on Saturday evening - is Shamim Hasan, assistant sub-inspector of Kotalipara Police Station.

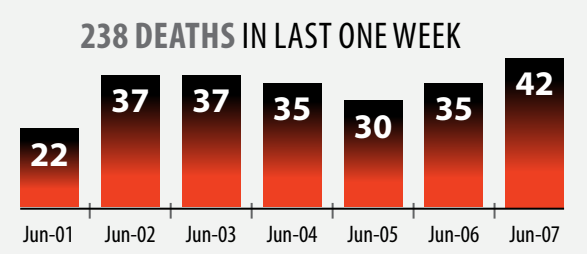
Md Lutfar Rahman, officer in-charge of the police station, said that Shamim was closed to Gopalganj Police lines on Saturday evening and arrested last night, along with Md Rezaul Islam, son of late Kader Ali of the area.

ASI Shamim will be produced before the court today, the OC said.

A case was filed at 9:30pm last night by Mintu SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Country now 20th worst-hit

Logs 42 deaths, 2,743 new cases



MOUJIDUDDIN AHMED SUJAN

The country yesterday recorded 42 deaths due to Covid-19 - the highest in a single day.

The death toll now stands at 888, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

In the past 24 hours till 2:30pm yesterday, 2,743 more people tested positive for coronavirus.

With 65,769 confirmed cases, Bangladesh now stands 20th among the virus-hit countries, according to www.worldometers.info.

In Asia, seven countries -- Qatar, China, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan India, Iran and Turkey -- have more confirmed cases than Bangladesh.

The United States remains by far the worst affected country with 1,988,700 confirmed cases, followed by Brazil with 676,494 cases.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

BUSINESS

Pandemic to push income inequality to all-time high: CPD

Income inequality is set to blow up to a record high this year, as the coronavirus pandemic continues to wipe out jobs and sweep away livelihoods, said the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) yesterday. "It is an ominous sign from the societal point of view," said Mustafizur Rahman, a distinguished fellow of the CPD. The think-tank conducted the analysis that shows inequality is deepening. The think-tank also said the Bangladesh's economy would grow at best 2.5 per cent this fiscal year because of the coronavirus pandemic, which, if materialises, would be the lowest in Bangladesh's history. The revenue earnings in fiscal 2019-20 are likely to record a minuscule growth of 0.4 per cent, and there would be record shortfall. "There is no beacon of hope in terms of revenue mobilisation," it said.

STORY ON B1

9 local rings in league with int'l traffickers

13 arrested in different districts over the murder of 26 Bangladeshis in Libya

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Transnational human traffickers used the United Arab Emirates as a major transit point to send Bangladeshi job-seekers to Libya via Amman, according to officials of the Detective Branch of police.

Once the migrants reach Libya, the traffickers send them to Europe via Malta through the Mediterranean Sea.

Law enforcers claim to have traced nine local syndicates who were working closely

with international traffickers.

"These syndicate members work individually in different districts, but we are suspecting they are all linked with each other," a DB high official told The Daily Star yesterday.

Of the syndicates, four are active in Netrakona, Kishoreganj, Narsingdi and Brahmanbaria districts, three in Madaripur, Gopalganj and Shariatpur, one in Chattogram and one in Magura, said the official.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

CHT affairs minister tests positive for Covid-19

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Chattogram Hill Tracts Affairs Minister Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing, who tested Covid-19 positive, was admitted to Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka yesterday, said Aung Swi Prue Marma, civil surgeon of Bandarban.

Maung Ting Neo, deputy civil surgeon of the district, said his condition was good. He had only a slight cough.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Demonstrators yesterday march on Black Lives Matter Plaza near the White House, during a protest against racial inequality in the aftermath of the death in Minneapolis police custody of George Floyd.

PHOTO: REUTERS

POLICE BRUTALITY IN US

Anti-racism protests spread around world

Trump orders National Guard to withdraw from Washington DC

AGENCIES

Demonstrators filled the streets in major cities around the world yesterday, staging some of the most peaceful protests against racism following the death of unarmed African American George Floyd at the hands of police.

People marched in Washington, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, London, Berlin, Paris, Madrid, Rome, Sydney

and elsewhere, with turnout reaching the tens of thousands in some cities.

In United States, Washington was at the epicentre, as thousands of people -- black, white and brown -- flooded downtown streets surrounding the White House on Saturday.

"This fight has been happening for many, many decades, hundreds of years, and at this point it's time for a change," said Washington native

Christine Montgomery.

"I'm here so my son is not the next hashtag that is circulating worldwide," she added, indicating her 10-year-old child standing next to her.

On a sunny but oppressively hot day, many people wore masks because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Volunteers gave out water, hand sanitizer and other supplies as the SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Advertisement for 'মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা সমীপে' (Near the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina) with details about a 2020-2021 national education conference.