





COVID-19 FALLOUT

Double blow for boutique houses

Almost no sales ahead of Baishakh, Eid; thousands left jobless



QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

Female small entrepreneurs running boutiques in eight northern districts are counting heavy losses after missing out on the year's two most lucrative selling periods due to the Covid-19 shutdown.

Many are worried about recovering the capital they invested, which forms a bulk of their year's investment, as they were unable to sell the clothes they had made targeting customers on Pahela Baishakh in April and Eid.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Holding a jackfruit to perhaps eat later, a homeless girl sits under a tree (not in picture) to take shelter from the driving rain yesterday afternoon. The picture was taken on a footpath of a rather empty VIP street in the capital's Bailey Road.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

MURDERED IN LIBYA

Cops to seek Interpol help to nab traffickers

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Police suspect as many as 120 people were involved in the trafficking of 38 Bangladeshis -- of whom 26 were killed by criminals on May 28 -- to Libya in the last two years.

Police also believe that they all have connections with transnational human trafficking syndicates.

These traffickers have been operating mainly in nine districts, but they have agents in other districts, said police.

They initially send the aspiring migrants somewhere out of the country -- mostly in the UAE or India -- by arranging tourist or on arrival visas and then to Libya via Jordan's capital Amman. International members in the syndicates cooperate in the whole process.

Police found that members of these syndicates belong to different nationalities.

A Bangladeshi man living in Libya nicknamed "Goodluck Bhai" was found to be a linchpin of one of the syndicates.

For the whole journey, the traffickers used to collect a hefty sum of around Tk 8-9 lakh from each migrant.

Law Enforcers has come up with the findings following the recent arrests of 39 people who were allegedly involved in the trafficking of the 26 victims.

Of them, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) arrested around 22 people, Rab arrested around 11 people and Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police arrested six people till date.

"We have got some information about the operation of some of these

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING JUNE 14

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-05	12-45	5-00	6-50	8-15
JAMAAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SHEIKH RUSSEL GASTRO LIVER Hospital finally starts treating Covid-19 patients

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

More than two and a half months after the government declared Sheikh Russel Gastro Liver Institute and Hospital at the capital's Mohakhali a designated hospital to treat Covid-19 patients, hospital authorities said they have started providing treatment since Wednesday.

While other dedicated hospitals fighting Covid-19 are struggling to treat patients, especially to provide ICU support, as the country is witnessing sharp rise in cases, the hospital, with 13 ICU beds, has so far admitted only one patient till 5:00pm yesterday.

"One patient was admitted to ICU of the hospital. However, no other general patient was admitted till now," hospital director Prof Faruque Ahmed told The Daily Star yesterday, adding, "We will admit any Covid-19 patient who requires hospitalisation."

Health authorities, along with several other hospitals, in March declared the 250-bed new health care centre as a dedicated hospital to treat coronavirus-infected patients.

In the meantime, several media ran reports that the government is going to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Screening boards formed to eliminate bad elements



Bangabandhu visits Tofael Ahmed who is undergoing treatment at Holy Family Hospital in Dhaka on June 14, 1972.

June 14, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

TWO BOARDS FOR SCREENING GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

President Abu Sayeed Chowdhury today issued an order to institute two boards to scrutinise activities of government officials on a regular basis and take action against those who are involved in corruption and anti-Bangladeshi activities.

DHAKA TRANSPORT MASTER PLAN

The government is formulating a master plan to resolve the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



Journalist Moazzem dies from burn injuries

Police launch fire probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man, who witnessed his only son burning to death in a fire at his home five months ago, met the same tragic death yesterday morning after suffering burn injuries from a fire that occurred in the same room of the same house early Friday.

Moazzem Hossain Nannu, chief of the crime beat at Bangla Daily Jugantor, passed away from burn injuries around 8:20am yesterday, while undergoing treatment at the Intensive Care Unit of Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute, Dr Samanta Lal Sen, national coordinator of the burn institute, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The fire broke out inside his house in the capital's Aftabnagar area around

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Astronauts create 'exotic matter' in ISS



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Astronauts have created "exotic matter" on board the International Space Station.

The experiment used the microgravity of space to generate and study matter in ways that would not be possible on Earth.

And the findings could change our understanding of physics at a fundamental level.

The research saw astronauts generate the fifth state of matter, Bose-Einstein condensates. Those are made when a gas of bosons is cooled down nearly to absolute zero.

At those extreme temperatures, the matter begins to behave oddly: the atoms become one single entity, which show quantum properties.

As such, they are a bridge between the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Going beyond the call of duty

Doctor cuts maternity leave short to help Covid-19 patients

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Cg

A doctor of Chattogram Maa O Shishu Hospital has applied for cancellation of her maternity leave to serve Covid-19 patients at her hospital.

Dr Mahmud Sultana Afroza wants to rejoin her work almost one-and-a-half-month before her leave ends, leaving her 4-month-old son at home.

Talking to The Daily Star, she said, "On television and newspapers I see news of helpless people being deprived of proper treatment every day. I previously thought of cancelling the leave but my son was born prematurely and weighted only 1,200 grams.

"So, I forced myself to stay home for taking care of my baby. But the pandemic situation is worsening day by day. I can no longer keep myself at home."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Pedestrians can seldom use the walkway below Amin Bazar Bridge in Savar as anchoring lines of cargo vessels obstruct them. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Curbs imposed in parts of Beijing

Brazil death toll now world's second highest

AGENCIES

Lockdowns were imposed in parts of Beijing yesterday to try and prevent the spread of a new coronavirus cluster, highlighting the challenges that lie ahead even for places where outbreaks are under control.

It came as Brazil claimed the unenviable position of having the second-highest virus death toll worldwide behind the United States, with no sign the infection rate is slowing in Latin America.

Some of Europe's hardest hit countries meanwhile are further emerging from lockdown, even as fingers are being pointed at who is to blame for the health and economic crisis.

India reported its biggest single-day jump in cases yesterday, adding 11,458 confirmed infections and taking its total count to more than 300,000, according to data from the federal health ministry.

The respiratory disease was first detected in central China last year, believed to have jumped from an animal to humans at a market that sold wildlife.

China largely eliminated transmission within its borders through hyper-strict lockdowns that were emulated across the globe.

But after mass testing at a wholesale food market in southern Beijing this week detected more than 50 new infections, people were forced indoors at 11 nearby residential estates.

It has fuelled fears of a resurgence in local transmission and marks a painful step backwards in the capital's return to normality.

Officials said the district has established a "wartime

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4