ALJAZEERA ONLINE

The Taliban has killed or wounded more than 400 Afghan security personnel over the past week, the interior ministry said, accusing the group of increasing attacks in the run-up to expected peace talks.

Violence dropped across much of Afghanistan since the Taliban announced a three-day ceasefire on May 24 to mark the Muslim Eid al-Fitr celebration, but officials have accused the group of stepping up attacks in recent days.

"In the past one week, the Taliban carried out 222 attacks against the Afghan security forces, resulting in the death and injury of 422" personnel, interior ministry spokesman Tariq Arian said at a news conference yesterday.

He also accused the Taliban of targeting religious scholars in a bid to put "psychological pressure" on the Afghan government.

Another killing

FROM PAGE 1

Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said she had accepted the prompt resignation of police chief Shields.

"I do not believe that this was a justified use of deadly force and have called for the immediate termination of the officer," Bottoms said at an afternoon news conference.

Brooks was the father of a young daughter who was celebrating her birthday on Saturday, his lawyers said.

Near the scene of the shooting, street protests began on Saturday, with more than 100 people calling for the officers to be charged criminally in the case. PARKING LOT

Friday's shooting came after police were called to the Wendy's over reports that Brooks had fallen asleep in the drivethru line. Officers attempted to take him into custody after he failed a field sobriety test, according to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

A bystander's video showed Brooks struggling with two officers on the ground outside the Wendy's before breaking free and running across the parking lot with what appears to be a police TASER in his hand.

A second videotape from the restaurant's cameras shows Brooks turning as he runs and possibly aiming the TASER at the pursuing officers before one of them fires his gun and Brooks falls to the ground.

Brooks ran the length of about six cars when he turned back toward an officer and pointed what he had in his hand at the policeman, Vic Reynolds, director of the GBI, told a press

"At that point, the Atlanta officer reaches down and retrieves his weapon from his holster, discharges it, strikes Mr. Brooks there on the parking lot and he goes down," Reynolds said.

Lawyers representing the family of Brooks told reporters that Atlanta police had no right to use deadly force even if he had fired the TASER, a non-

lethal weapon, in their direction. "You can't shoot somebody unless they are pointing a gun at you,'

attorney Chris Stewart said. Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard, Jr., said in an emailed statement that his office "has already launched an intense, independent investigation of the incident" while

it awaits the findings of the Georgia

Bureau of Investigation. Bottoms said Shields, a white woman appointed police chief in December 2016, would be replaced by deputy chief Rodney Bryant, a black man who will serve as interim chief.

War crimes trial

FROM PAGE 12 Liberation War. His songs inspired millions of Bangalees during the war. STRONG TIES WITH NEPAL Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad today calls on Nepalese King Birendra at his palace. In the 40-minute meeting they discuss various bilateral issues including

trade, cultural exchange and resumption of civil aviation services. The King also assures Nepal's support for Bangladesh's candidacy in the

GENERAL NIAZI'S CONFESSION It is reported in Indian newspaper Vikrant that General Niazi has confessed about the atrocities perpetrated by the Pakistan army during the Liberation War in his book written during his confinement in India as a prison of war. He accuses General Yahya Khan of the bloodshed in former East Pakistan. He also provides gory details of mass murder and brutality orchestrated by General Tikka Khan. Niazi reveals in his book that General Yahya insisted repeatedly that China send troops to the Western Front but China declined that request in fear of possible intervention by the Soviet Union in favour of India. SOURCES: June 16, 1972 issue of

Teacher held

Purbodesh.

FROM PAGE 12 about Nasim on her Facebook page soon after he died on Saturday.

She deleted the post soon afterwards and apologised for it in another post.

Police received a screenshot of the first post as evidence.



Tourists are seen at the Caffe Quadri at St Mark's Square yesterday, a day before Italy and neighbouring EU countries open up borders for the first time since the coronavirus outbreak.

Family planning disrupted

month. "We tried our best to use protection every time, but I don't know how the barrier failed."

Afia said having another child now is not an option with a young baby and with no domestic help at home. "At the same time, I cannot think of an abortion as I had one just two months ago."

This has also created tensions between her and her husband, she said, and affected their relationship.

Afia's situation depicts how the Covid-19 outbreak and shutdown has impacted family planning and women's reproductive health.

In April, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) projections predicted that more than 47 million women in low- and middle-income countries will be unable to access modern contraceptives, leading to seven million additional unintended pregnancies, as a result of lockdownrelated disruptions to health services over six months.

During the shutdown, fear of contracting the virus by visiting health facilities or urgent domestic and financial concerns, meant many women went without contraception.

This correspondent spoke to several women who said their birth control methods were interrupted during the

Fire Service and Civil Defence said

in its report that there were no staff

members on duty to ensure fire

safety when the fire broke out in the

already passed their expiry dates,

Talukder said, adding that the Fire

Service and Civil Defence found

that there was an approval from the

Directorate General of Health Services

to build the Corona Isolation Unit at

DMP found that the authorities

concerned of United Hospital had

not taken proper steps to rescue the

victims and douse the fire, although

the victims had sought help, DAG

Talukder added, citing the DMP probe

Most of the fire extinguishers had

isolation unit of the hospital.

Five of seven women who use the injection method -- which needs to be taken every three months -- said they didn't go to a health facility for their shots in April and May.

Of them, 38-year-old Rahima Begum, mother of four, didn't go get her injection in April and is uneasy because she missed her last period.

"I didn't take any other precautions as I had too many worries," she said. As a domestic help in Kazipara, Mirpur, she lost her position in several homes at the time as employers didn't want outsiders coming in to work in their homes and other families returned to their village homes during the shutdown.

Worried about how to pay rent and afford food at home, she neglected her birth control.

"If I get pregnant now, I won't be able to show my face to my grown sons. I would also have to give up my income," said Rahima

Marie Stopes Bangladesh, a wellknown organisation providing reproductive health and family planning services, noted that the number of people accessing services declined drastically during the Covid-19 shutdown.

Isolation unit had no Rajuk approval

Meanwhile,

According to the organisation, the

authorities submitted their report to

the High Court through their lawyers

Barrister Mustafizur Rahman Khan

and Barrister Kazi Ershadul Alam,

saying that the fire at the Corona

Isolation Unit of United Hospital was

merely an accident and there was no

negligence on the part of the hospital.

told The Daily Star that a criminal case

has been filed on June 3 in connection

conducting the investigation into

the case, he said, adding that the

investigation will uncover the reasons

barrister also told this

Barrister Mustafizur Rahman Khan

An investigation officer has been

United Hospital

average number of patients visiting its facilities before the shutdown was 23,000 per month; during the shutdown, this figure was 7,000.

This is despite the fact that most of its 49 clinics countrywide were open during the shutdown, according to the organisation, though these were not fully operational, especially in April.

The situation is likely to be as grave in rural areas, say NGO medical officers, where facilities are fewer and further away for villagers.

On a popular pregnancy support group with over 56,000 members on Facebook, "Pregnancy journey & motherhood", several women spoke about their unintended pregnancies and asked advice on what options they had and where they could seek safe abortions amidst the shutdown. Members include women from across the country -- in both cities and

Some said they resorted to using abortion pills at home, though they would have preferred a safer, supervised procedure, due to restrictions on mobility and fear of visiting crowded health facilities.

Tawfika, who got pregnant in April, took abortion pills which eventually didn't work and she was uncertain of what to do next. She can't take the

newspaper that United Hospital's

authorities could not take permission

from Rajuk to build its Corona

Isolation Unit because of time

constraints as the unit was built in

quick time to provide urgent treatment

adequate fire extinguishers in the

unit but could not find technicians

instantly due to the ongoing

coronavirus pandemic, the lawyer

bench sought separate probe reports

-- from Rajuk, Fire Service and Civil

Defence, DMP and United Hospital.

They were ordered to submit their

respective probe reports to the court

On June 2, the same High Court

The authorities had tried to install

to Covid-19 patients.

added.

pills again and now that three months have passed, she cannot have an MR procedure performed.

She is keeping the baby for now but is worried of the effects of the abortion pills on the development of the fetus.

Two newly married women who learned they were pregnant said they were unable to consult a gynecologist about family planning before the shutdown.

Both women said they were financially and mentally unprepared to have a child now -- one woman is currently an undergraduate student, while the other's husband is uncertain of his job and receiving half-pay at the

Family planning should be ensured as an essential service amidst this fear of coronavirus so people aren't deterred from accessing these services right now, said Monjun Nahar, advocacy and communication manager at Marie Stopes Bangladesh.

Widespread awareness campaigns about the importance of family planning should be undertaken and protective gear issued to field workers so they can continue to promote family planning services especially in urban slums and rural areas, she said.

[Names have been changed to protect the privacy of the interviewees]

The HC bench issued the order

Mahboob

Advocate Niaz Mohammad

submitted the writ petition as a

public interest litigation to the

High Court on May 31, seeking

its directives on the authorities

concerned to give Tk 5 crore to the

family of each victim and to take

necessary action against the persons

the reports published in The Daily

Star and the Prothom Alo, saying that

there was negligence on part of the

authorities concerned in rescuing the

In the petition, the lawyer included

responsible for the incident.

seeking

following a writ petition filed

by Supreme Court Lawyer Niaz

Mohammad

necessary orders.

Protecting people

DHAKA MONDAY JUNE 15, 2020, ASHAR 1, 1427 BS

Hasina said deaths of her two cofighters -- Nasim and Abdullah -- were very much painful to her as both of them were always beside her in all

movements and struggles.
She said Covid-19 brought the whole world to a standstill.

"The world is now under the grip of panic of death. This is very much strange. We've never seen this kind of situation in the past," she said.

In this connection, she said when she was coming to parliament yesterday, many of her well-wishers requested her not to go there.

But she turned down their requests, saying that she had faced bullets, bombs and grenades, and she would not sit idle, fearing the virus.

"This fear has clutched the whole world, whether it is a developed, developing, poor country or a powerful one in terms of arms and money. The situation is the same everywhere," she said.

The PM said the spread of this virus and deaths started to go up in one place and then it stopped at one stage.

"The wave of this virus has entered South Asia after travelling to western countries," she said.

She mentioned that the government was trying its best to convince the people to maintain health guidelines properly.

This is a deadly infectious virus; all have to follow the health guidelines to save themselves," she said.

Hasina said this was the reality that people could not be left out without feeding them in fear of coronavirus. "We have to look after their livelihoods.'

"We have decided to lockdown the particular places where the infection spread widely so that this spreading could not infect new places," she said.

In an emotion-choked voice, the PM recalled her memories with Nasim and Abdullah. She termed their deaths irreplaceable loss for the country and

Deputy Leader of the Opposition GM Quader, Matia Chowdhury, Kazi Firoze Rashid, Mrinal Kanti Das, Mostafa Lutfullah, and M Habibe Millat also participated in the condolence motion.

A one-minute silence was observed and a munajat offered seeking eternal peace of the departed souls. Deputy Speaker M Fazle Rabbi Miah conducted the munajat.

BSMMU

FROM PAGE 12

Asked whether they would conduct the performance trial of antigen kit if the organisation resubmits samples with modification, the VC said, adding that they were unlikely to do that.

"They [Gonoshasthaya] submitted the kit on May 20 and withdrew it on June 2. We won't wait for an unlimited

According to Gonoshasthaya, its antibody kit will help identify whether people have been infected with coronavirus in the past and the presence of antibodies or resistance power in their bodies. It will also help collect plasma of those who have recovered.

In a press release on June 2, the organisation requested the BSMMU authorities to suspend the performance study of its coronavirustesting antigen kit due to the detection of some inconsistencies in sample collection procedure.

The organisation added that it was upgrading the sample collection

On March 17, Gonoshasthaya announced that they developed a testing kit that could examine samples to detect Covid-19 within 15 minutes, but the kit was still not approved by the authorities concerned.

The DGDA on April 30 permitted Gonoshasthaya to get its kits tested. The DGDA informed Gonoshasthaya that the performance study of the kits could be done either at the BSMMU or IEDCR.

Global fears of second wave grow

for the fire.

with the fire.

United Hospital.

prepare to reopen borders at the beginning of the summer holiday season after an encouraging drop in contagion.

Of the 57 new cases in China, the highest daily figure since April, 36 were domestic infections in Beijing, where a large wholesale food market at the centre of the outbreak has been closed and nearby housing estates put under lockdown.

"People are scared," a fruit and vegetable trader at another local market in central Beijing told AFP.

"The meat sellers have had to close. This disease is really scary," said the man surnamed Sun, adding there were fewer customers than normal.

More than 430,000 people worldwide have died from the respiratory illness, nearly halfway through a year in which countless lives have already been upended as the pandemic ravages the global economy.

cases has doubled to 7.8 million in slightly over a month and the disease is now spreading most rapidly in Latin America, where it is threatening healthcare systems and sparking political turmoil.

Brazil now has the second-highest number of virus deaths after the United States, surpassing Britain's

toll, and the Chilean health minister resigned on Saturday amid a furore over the country's true number of

India reported a record single-day jump in cases yesterday, adding nearly 12,000 confirmed infections and taking the total to more than 320,000, according to health ministry data.

Pakistan recorded its highest number of cases in a single day with 6,825 new patients, taking the tally to 1,39,230, while more than 80 people lost their lives in the last 24 hours, the health ministry said yesterday. Former Pakistani prime minister

Yousuf Raza Gilani has tested positive for the coronavirus, his son confirmed There is still no treatment for

Covid-19, but pharmaceutical group AstraZeneca said it has agreed to supply an alliance of European countries with up to 400 million doses of a possible vaccine.

German government sources told The total number of confirmed AFP a vaccine could be developed by the end of the year. **EUROPE REOPENS**

Many European nations are further

lifting painful lockdowns that have saved lives and forced caseloads down, but have also caused their economies to shrink and caused misery for millions.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos

Mitsotakis travelled to picturesque Santorini island on Saturday to open his country's tourism season.

After the European Commission urged a relaxation of restrictions, a number of nations are preparing to reopen borders today -- while some like Poland have done so already, with people from other European Union countries allowed to visit.

Germany said it would end land border checks today, and France said it would gradually reopen its borders to non-Schengen countries from July.

In Iran, daily virus death toll has exceeded 100, for the first time in two months. In televised remarks, health ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari announced 107 Covid-19 fatalities in the past 24 hours, raising the overall toll to 8,837.

President Vladimir Putin has said that Russia is emerging from the crisis with minimal losses, having handled it better than the United States where party political interests got in the way.

In another joyful return to seminormality, football superstar Lionel Messi took to the pitch again in Spain as Barcelona resumed their La Liga title challenge and thumped Real Mallorca 4-0 in an empty stadium.

The World Health Organization said this week the pandemic is accelerating in Africa. Botswana's capital Gaborone was locked down said state premier Daniel Andrews.

after new cases were detected.

And in the US, which has seen the most Covid-19 deaths with over 115,000, more than a dozen states including populous Texas and Florida -- reported their highest-ever daily case totals in recent days.

Australia's two largest states will further ease public coronavirus restrictions at libraries, community centres and nightclubs, officials said yesterday, despite recording increases in new infections.

New South Wales (NSW), the most populous state, said that from July 1, a 50 person limit on indoor venues such as restaurants and churches would be scrapped, so long as the venues observed a one person per four square metre rule.

Nightclubs and music festivals would also be allowed to operate from August if new cases remain low, NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian

The state on Saturday reported the first locally transmitted Covid-19 case in weeks, and state officials yesterday said there had been nine new infections since late Friday.

In neighbouring Victoria, where pubs and other venues are currently limited to 20 people, indoor businesses will be allowed to have up to 50 seated patrons from June 22,

Radar reveals

FROM PAGE 12

The technology can "see" beneath the surface using a radar antenna that sends a pulsed radio signal into the ground and listens for the echoes bouncing off objects. The GPR equipment was pulled over the surface using an all-terrain vehicle.

"This took one person about three to four months in the field," said Martin Millett, a University of Cambridge classical archaeology professor who helped lead the study published in the journal Antiquity. This really does change how we can study and understand Roman towns the way of the future for archaeology."

Actor Sushant

FROM PAGE 12

Bollywood with director Abhishek Kapoor's KaiPoChe, based on the book by Chetan Bhagat.

His stardom came with MS Dhoni: The Untold Story, in which he played former India cricket team captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni. Soon after the actor's sudden

took to social media to express shock and condole Rajput's death. Singer and music composer Vishal Dadlani and actor Riteish Deshmukh

demise, his friends from the industry

were among the first ones to share the news on Twitter.

Rajput was seen in the Netflix film