

**SEVERE COVID-19 CASES**  
Steroid proves first life-saving drug  
**SEE PAGE 12**

# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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**BANGLADESH UPDATE**

**3,862**  
New cases in 24hrs

**94,481**  
Total cases

**1,262**  
Deaths

**36,264**  
Recoveries

**GLOBAL UPDATE**

**443,281**  
Deaths

**8,196,052**  
Total cases

INDIA-CHINA BORDER STANDOFF

## 20 Indian troops killed in clashes

Says Indian army; media reports at least 43 Chinese soldiers also killed or injured

AGENCIES

At least 20 Indian soldiers have been killed in a violent face-off with Chinese forces on the disputed border, the Indian army has said, in a major escalation of a weeks-long standoff in the western Himalayas.

China's foreign ministry confirmed there had been a "violent physical confrontation" on Monday in the snow deserts of Ladakh. It made no mention of casualties but India's foreign ministry said there had been casualties on both sides.

Indian news agency ANI reported quoting unnamed Indian government sources that 43 Chinese soldiers were either killed or injured in the faceoff.

In a statement, the Indian army said that 17 "critically injured" Indian troops succumbed to their wounds, in addition to an officer and two soldiers who had died earlier.

The troops died "in the line of duty at the stand-off location and exposed to sub-zero temperatures in the high altitude terrain ... taking the total that were killed in action to 20," the statement said.



An Indian government source said the troops had fought with iron rods and stones, and that no shots had been fired.

Indian and Chinese troops have disengaged in the areas where the clashes took place, the Indian military statement

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Denied treatment by at least four hospitals and clinics, five-year-old Shaon lies dead on a gurney at Chattogram Medical College Hospital yesterday. A three-wheeler hit the child while he was playing along a road near his home in the city's Steel Mills area. Shaon's grandfather wails on the floor while his father tries to calm him. The child died after around 15 minutes of reaching the public hospital.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## TREATMENT AT HOSPITALS SC stays all but 3 HC directives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed all but three High Court observations and directives that concern ensuring treatment for patients at all government and private hospitals across the country irrespective of whether or not they are infected with coronavirus.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the SC Justice Md Nuruzzaman passed the order following a petition filed by the government, seeking stay on the HC orders and observations delivered on Monday.

The three HC directives that the apex court upheld are -- submission of a report by the health ministry and the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) by June 30 on whether the directives issued by the health ministry to public and private hospitals on May 11 and 24 have been implemented properly; the formation of a monitoring cell to ensure that private hospitals provide proper treatment to patients and that they do not charge extra or unreasonable fees; and fixing and displaying of retail and refilling prices of oxygen cylinders at outlets and shops so that the customers are not charged extra.

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## Caught in Shahid's web of deceit

Deportees from Kuwait describe how they were defrauded by Laxmipur MP's manpower agency

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

With eyes full of hope, a group of Bangladeshis reached Kuwait about two years ago. They made it to the oil-rich Gulf country after spending everything they had.

Some of them took loans from relatives and neighbours while some sold the only piece of their ancestral land. They paid hefty sums to a Bangladeshi manpower agency, owned by Laxmipur lawmaker Mohammad Shahid Islam, to pursue their dream of making a fortune on foreign soil.

But soon after they landed at the Kuwait International Airport, they were left in total dismay. They found they would not be getting the wages they were promised in Bangladesh. Besides, they would have to work many extra hours every day. Having no other option, they decided not to raise any objection.

But their struggle was not over yet. They lost their jobs after a few months and then started working on extremely low wages to survive.

Many of them were working as day labourers at the very airport they landed two years ago hoping to change their days. After the pandemic struck suspending flight operations, they again became jobless.

Their employers later took them to an area in the desert, where they



Alim

Sohag

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## Neighbourhood-based lockdowns still days away

Dhaka city corporations waiting for maps specifying areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two city corporations of Dhaka are awaiting maps specifying the areas where lockdown will be imposed from the authorities concerned to stem the transmission of Covid-19.

They said it would take a few more days to get the maps, and two to three more days are also needed after getting those to make necessary preparations.

"We have sought the maps from the authorities concerned before enforcing the lockdown. After getting these, it will take 48 to 72 hours more for implementing the decision in the specific areas," Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh told journalists at the Nagar Bhaban after a coordination meeting on the issue yesterday.

Taposh said even if they get a specific map of a particular area by tomorrow, they will take 48 to 72 hours to put the area under lockdown as they will have to prepare for this.

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## Doubts grow over coronavirus peak

Health officials' predictions appear to be off the mark; country sees record 53 deaths, 3,862 new cases in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the country moving closer to the 100,000-mark of Covid-19 cases, healthcare experts are yet to know when the outbreak will reach its peak.

Health officials predicting the course of the pandemic earlier said the outbreak would likely reach its peak by the end of May, only to shift to mid-June, after which there would be a decline in infections.

But the prediction did not match the reality in terms of infection rate. Every day the country is experiencing an explosion of cases and rising number of deaths.

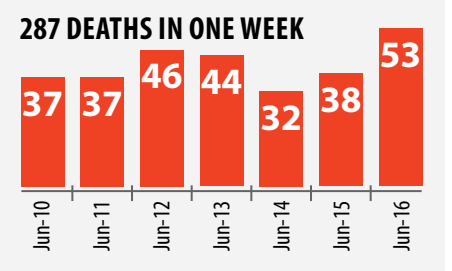
The country's tally of confirmed Covid-19 cases is now close to 100,000 as health authorities reported a record 3,862 fresh cases in the 24 hours till yesterday afternoon.

The total number of infections now stands at 94,481.

In the same period, 53 people have died from Covid-19, said the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). This is the highest number of Covid-19 deaths recorded in a day so far in the country.

The death toll is currently 1,262.

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## GONOSHASTHAYA KIT BSMMU again delays test results

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The submission of the report on Gonoshasthaya Kendra's rapid test kit for Covid-19 has been postponed for the third time in a row by BSMMU officials, frustrating the scientists who developed the kit well before most other countries.

"It is taking some more time to complete the whole work. The committee concerned is trying to submit the report to the drug administration by June 17 or 18," said Prof Dr Kanak Kanti Barua, vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, while speaking to The Daily Star yesterday.

BSMMU, which was chosen by the Gonoshasthaya Kendra for the performance trial of the GR Rapid Dot Blot, was first scheduled to submit the report by June 10. Later, the date was rescheduled to June 16, which has again been postponed.

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Cancer patient Amena Begum, 35, left, and her mother lie on the floor near the entrance to National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital in the city's Mohakhali yesterday. After reaching Dhaka from Tangail's Elenga on June 8, she managed to give a sample for Covid-19 test four days later. She is yet to get the result, which is required for her cancer treatment. They have been staying on the hospital floor unable to afford accommodation.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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## SHER-E-BANGLA HOSPITAL ICU needs ATTENTION

Lack of skilled manpower, necessary equipment making Covid-19 treatments difficult

SUSHANTA GHOSH

The shortage of trained manpower at intensive care units (ICUs) compromises proper treatment of Covid-19 patients, among others, at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) in Barishal.

In March, 150 regular beds and 18 ICU beds for Covid-19 patients were added to SBMCH, the only institution in Barishal division with ICU facilities.

Previously, the hospital had 1,000 regular and 10 ICU beds. Doctors also say the lack of necessary life-saving equipment is also making the fight against the coronavirus pandemic harder.

From March to June 13, a total of 954 patients were admitted at the coronavirus unit; 453 were released. A total of 52 patients have died; of them 17 were Covid-19 positive and the rest had coronavirus-like symptoms.

According to SBMCH Director Bakir Hossain, a 10-bed ICU needs at least one professor, two associate professors, three assistant professors, four consultants, 10 medical officers and 30 nurses.

But SBMCH only has one assistant professor, six medical officers and 16 nurses for its ICUs with a total of 28 beds, he said.

Only 96 of the 224 posts for doctors in the hospital are filled. Out of the hospital's 19 departments, only one has a department head. Besides, there are only five technologists for sample collection, he added.



## BSMMU again delays test

FROM PAGE 1

Gonoshasthaya Kendra scientists have expressed sheer frustration over the delay in submitting the report to the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), which is then supposed to authorise approval for mass production.

"We have nothing to say. We are just frustrated, especially when so many countries are using the rapid test kit and when the infection is rising exponentially in Bangladesh," a scientist of the Gonoshasthaya Kendra told The Daily Star.

The team of scientists -- Dr Bijon Kumar Sil, lead researcher, along with Nihad Adnan, Raed Jamiruddin and Firoz Ahmed -- developed the antibody kit and an antigen kit.

Dr Bijon Kumar Sil said results could be nearly 100 percent accurate if samples from each patient is run through both tests. Bangladesh could have gone for large-scale testing if the approval had come earlier and that could have helped stem the spread and rise in infections.

A Gonoshasthaya Kendra scientist said no one in the world uses more than 200 kits for a performance trial, but the BSMMU has used about 600. It should not have taken more than two weeks to complete the trial and submit the report.

Despite the outbreak of a pandemic, the authorities have been slow in approval of the kit when authorities in India, the US, UK and European Union have been issuing emergency authorisation approval for rapid testing kits.

The Indian Council of Medical Research and All India Institute of Medical Sciences have recommended

the use of the first antigen-based testing kit for Covid-19 to enable faster diagnosis at lower rates and without laboratory examinations of samples.

The kit, produced by Korean firm SD Biosensor, which has a manufacturing unit in Manesar of Gurugram, can be used in field settings, reported the Times of India yesterday.

Following a request on March 18, the DGDA approved imports of regents on April 5 and then Gonoshasthaya RNA Biotech Limited, a sister concern of Gonoshasthaya Kendra, developed the kit and first approached the DGDA on April 26 for validation.

On April 30, the DGDA allowed Gonoshasthaya to have the performance trial at the BSMMU, which then formed a committee and on May 12 wrote a formal letter asking Gonoshasthaya to supply kits.

Since May 13, Gonoshasthaya has supplied 600 antibody and 500 antigen kits to the BSMMU. The trial of antibody kit was over by June 5 but no report has yet been submitted. The trial of the antigen kit had been suspended as Gonoshasthaya Kendra found discrepancies in the process of saliva sample collection.

"We have since developed a device to properly collect saliva for the antigen kit. But as the antibody trial report is yet to be submitted, we have not supplied the device yet," said Dr Mohibullah Khondoker, GR-Rapid Dot Blot Project Coordinator.

Gonoshasthaya Founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, before he was infected with coronavirus, had told The Daily Star that the authorities were not realising how big of crisis period this is.

## 20 Indian troops killed

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said, adding that New Delhi is firmly committed to "protect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the nation".

The deaths were the first since the last major border clash in 1967 between the nuclear-armed neighbours - also the world's two most populous countries - which have been unable to settle the dispute along their lengthy frontier.

Thousands of troops from the two nuclear-armed neighbours, backed by armoured trucks and artillery, have been involved in the latest face-off since May in the Ladakh region, bordering Tibet.

China and India have traded accusations over who was to blame for Monday's clashes in Ladakh, which came after military commanders held meetings to resolve the situation.

Indian officials say Chinese soldiers crossed the boundary at three different points, erecting tents and guard posts and ignoring verbal warnings to leave. That triggered shouting matches, stone-throwing and fistfights.

Meanwhile, China accused India of crossing a "disputed border" between the two countries, according to a report by the AFP news agency.

Foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said Indian troops crossed the border line twice on Monday, "provoking and attacking Chinese personnel, resulting in serious physical confrontation between border forces on the two sides".

"We again solemnly request that India follows the relevant attitude and restrains its front line troops," he said. "Do not cross the border, do not provoke trouble, do not take any unilateral action that would complicate the border situation."

Beijing has lodged "strong protests and solemn representations" to New Delhi, Lijian said.

Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reviewed the current operational situation in eastern Ladakh along with Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat and the three service chiefs. External

Affairs Minister S Jaishankar was also present in the meeting, reported our New Delhi correspondent.

In early May, several Indian and Chinese soldiers were injured in two-day clashes involving fists and stone-throwing at Naku La in India's Sikkim state and Lakakh.

Army officers and diplomats from both countries have held a series of meetings to try to end the impasse, with no breakthrough.

After a series of talks, the Chinese foreign ministry said only last week that a "positive consensus" had been reached following "effective communication" through diplomatic and military channels.

India's foreign ministry also said the two sides would "continue the military and diplomatic engagements to resolve the situation and to ensure peace and tranquillity in the border areas."

However, Indian sources and news reports suggested that Chinese troops remained in parts of the Galwan Valley and of the northern shore of the Pangong Tso lake that it occupied in recent weeks.

Military experts say one reason for the face-off is that India has been building roads and airfields to improve connectivity and narrow the gap with China's far superior infrastructure. At Galwan, India completed a road leading to an airfield last October. China has asked India to stop all construction. India says it is operating on its side of the Line of Actual Control, the de facto border.

Relations between China and India have long been prickly.

The nuclear powers fought a brief war in 1962 in which China took territory from India. Further deadly clashes followed in 1967, but the last shot fired between the countries was in 1975.

In 2017 there was a 72-day showdown after Chinese forces moved into the disputed Doklam plateau on the China-India-Bhutan border.

## ICU needs attention

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"The situation is getting worse day by day as some of the physicians, nurses and technologists are in quarantine. We need doctors, nurses and technologists who have expertise in ICU management," said the director.

Assistant Professor Nazmul Alam of the department of anaesthesia, who is also the in-charge of the ICUs, said, "Only I have a six-month training on ICU management here. To operate the critical medical functions of an ICU, trained medical persons are needed. But we could not find anyone else."

While Nazmul and six medical officers are providing service for the ICU beds in the coronavirus isolation unit, an assistant professor is currently looking after the 10-bed ICU for non-Covid-19 patients.

"Since there is no ICU specialist, I have to do the duties of the ICUs as well as those in the operation theatre. I cannot even go into quarantine," said Nazmul.

A patient's relative, wishing anonymity, said mostly junior and untrained doctors remain on duty at the ICUs.

"If a patient's condition deteriorates, the junior doctors do not want to do anything and place a video call to the in-charge for instructions. This way a lot of time is wasted," said the relative.

Meanwhile, the poor functioning of the ICU facilities at SBMCH is reportedly forcing many in Barishal to seek treatment elsewhere.

Anwar Hossain, founder of Barishal's Rahat Anowar Hospital, was flown to Dhaka on June 8 with coronavirus-like symptoms. Hospitals with empty ICU beds were not instantly available there, and on June 9, he passed away.

Laskar Nurul Haque, legal advisor of Rahat Anowar Hospital, said, "If

the ICUs of SBMCH were functioning properly, we might not have needed to go to Dhaka and our patient could have been saved."

Prof Moniruzzaman Shaheen, assistant director of SBMCH and in-charge of the coronavirus unit, said sometimes they were unable to provide critical patients with oxygen support due to lack of high-flow nasal cannula (HFNC).

Besides, HFNC, plasma separator machines, and more ventilators are needed for saving lives, said doctors of SBMCH.

"We are appealing to the rich to donate life-saving medical equipment, such as high-flow nasal cannula system for oxygen delivery and breathing masks, to the hospital," said Sudip Haldar, president of Indoor Doctors Association, a SBMCH doctors' forum.

He said a critical patient is first sedated before putting into a ventilator. Sometimes, the procedure turns dangerous and deadly.

In such cases, high-flow nasal cannula (HFNC) oxygen therapy gives much better results.

Many rich people can afford the cost of one HFNC system which is around Tk 3 to Tk 4 lakh, the physician added.

Asit Bhushan Das, principal of Barishal Sher e-Bangla Medical College, said, "We sent a letter to the Department of Health Services and the secretary of the health ministry to solve the problem."

However, he feels donation of medical equipment to the hospital will improve the situation quickly.

On Monday, civil society members along with Bangladesh Samajrantik Dal from a human-chain demanded enhancement of ICU facilities to 100 beds and appointment of more trained manpower at SBMCH.



A niece of Fatema Begum, lying on a gurney, puts her mask on outside the coronavirus unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Fatema, a heart patient, was admitted to the hospital yesterday after she tested positive for Covid-19 while undergoing treatment at National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. The niece would not wear a mask and said she was not afraid of dying from the virus while taking care of her aunt.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## SC stays all but 3 HC directives

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The health ministry circulars on May 11 and 24 say: all private and government hospitals must have separate arrangements for treating suspected Covid-19 patients and private hospitals and clinics cannot refuse treatment to patients, Covid-19 or otherwise, if they have the requisite facilities or equipment.

It also said if a private hospital or clinic does not have the requisite facilities or equipment to treat a patient, then it may refer the patients to another hospital and the transfer can only take place after ensuring treatment in the other hospital in consultation with the Covid-19 hospital control room of DGHS.

During the virtual hearing on the government petition yesterday, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam and Additional Attorney General Murad Reza opposed the HC directives, saying that the government has been relentlessly working to provide treatment to patients whether they are infected with Covid-19 or not.

They argued there was no negligence on part of the government in providing treatment to patients and therefore, there is no necessity for such directives from the HC. They also opposed the HC observation that said "If a patient dies or is deprived of treatment at a hospital due to negligence, it would be considered a criminal and punishable offence".

If the HC observations remain in force, doctors cannot work properly out of fear, they said, adding that several doctors have already died from Covid-19 while treating patients.

Murad Reza told the court no victims have brought any allegations of denying treatment against hospitals.

The writ petitions were moved before the HC on the basis of newspaper reports on alleged negligence of treatment, and therefore those writ petitions are not acceptable, he said.

Murad Reza also argued that there were no specific allegations of violation of the health ministry directives.

Writ petitioners' lawyers opposed the government's stay petition, saying that the HC has issued the directives necessary to protect people's right to life in accordance with the constitution.

Advocate ZI Khan Panna, a lawyer for the writ petitioners, told the apex court that the directives issued by the HC were not against doctors, but for the protection of patients' health.

The mismanagement that takes place in private hospitals is because of their owners, he said, adding that doctors provide treatment to patients in the hospitals amid risk.

The lawyer said the writ petitions were filed as public interest litigation, which can be moved on the basis of newspaper reports, adding that the Indian Supreme Court has introduced the tradition of accepting public interest litigations based on newspaper reports.

The High Court directives need to be upheld to protect people's health, he argued.

He told The Daily Star that the authorities concerned must ensure treatment of patients at both government and private hospitals in accordance with the health ministry directives, although the SC stayed some of the HC directives.

The health ministry and DGHS have to submit a compliance report to the HC by June 30 in line with Appellate Division order, he said, interpreting the Apex court order.

Apart from Advocate ZI Khan Panna,

Advocate Manzill Murshid, Barrister Aneek R Haque, Barrister Mahfuzur Rahman Milon and Advocate Jamiul Haque Faisal appeared for the writ petitioners during yesterday's hearing.

Earlier, the HC bench Justice M Enayetur Rahim on Monday made a number of observations and issued a number of directives following five separate writ petitions filed recently as public interest litigation seeking necessary orders from it.

Rights organisation Justice Watch Foundation, Deputy Registrar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Dr Sheikh Abdullah Al Mamun, Supreme Court lawyers Mahbubul Islam and Aynunnahar Siddiqua filed a petition each.

**THE HC DIRECTIVES THAT WERE STAYED BY SC**

The HC directives stayed by the SC include: the death or denial of treatment to a patient due to negligence being a criminal and punishable offence; taking legal action against those displaying negligence while treating patients in a hospital; informing people of the number of ICU beds in government hospitals through media and regular bulletins; making ICU bed management more accountable and launching an ICU hotline; making a countrywide list of private hospitals with 50 or more beds and compiling information on the treatment given to Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 patients since the issuance of health ministry guidelines on May 24; taking necessary measures to stop the sale of oxygen cylinders without prescriptions from registered doctors; and engaging the commerce ministry and Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection to strengthen monitoring of supply and sale of oxygen cylinders.

## Caught in Shahid's web of deceit

FROM PAGE 1

were hiding when MP Shahid, also known as Kazi Papul, got arrested by the Criminal Investigation Department of Kuwait on charges of human trafficking and money laundering last week.

Twelve of the Bangladeshis were nabbed by the Kuwaiti police. Later, they were asked to give deposition in an investigation against Shahid, with promises that they would be compensated and sent back home.

They assisted the police and were deported subsequently.

They came back almost empty-handed.

The Daily Star spoke to four such returnees yesterday and learnt how they were deceived all along.

They said the Kuwaiti authorities had promised them of full compensation, but they were handed only 150 Kuwaiti Dinars (1 KWD=Tk 276) before they boarded a flight that reached Dhaka yesterday morning.

Abdul Alim is one of them. The 43-year old man from Noagaon reached Kuwait after paying around Tk 7.5 lakh to Shahid's agency, housed in a building in the capital's Fakirapool area, he said.

"It was a work visa for the job of a cleaner. I was told that my job would have an eight-hour shift and I would be paid 140 dinars a month," Alim, a father of two, told this correspondent over phone.

He said when he landed, he found his shift would be 16 hours a day and his monthly salary 100 Kuwaiti dinars.

"From the factory where I worked, I was sent to the airport to work as a day labourer."

There, Alim was allowed to do odd jobs but in exchange he had to pay 8 dinars every day to Shahid's men, he alleged. Two men named Aman and Mahbub would collect the money from him.

Once the coronavirus-driven lockdown began, Alim was sent to a building, owned by the company, in Abbasid area of Kuwait. After a few days, he was sent to a desert camp, belonging to the company.

"Around 9:30pm on Monday, Kuwaiti CID police raided the camp and took us to the CID office. I found 11 others there. We were kept there for five to six days," Alim recalled.

It was at the CID building where they saw Shahid and his associate Rashed. The CID officials told them that their company was illegal and that their stay in Kuwait was also illegal.

"At the CID office, the officials asked how much we had given to Shahid, what we were doing and how much we were paying Shahid. We told them everything and then the official said they would give us the money we spent and send us back."

But then all of a sudden on Saturday night they took the 12 people back to collect their belongings and took them to the airport on Monday night.

"A CID policeman and some people of the company were at the airport. They gave each of us 150 dinars and said the rest would be paid later," he said.

Alim said he had lost everything and demanded Shahid's punishment. He said he wanted proper compensations.

Similar is the case of Shah Alam.

Hailing from Mallick Bari area of Mymensingh, the 29-year-old went to Kuwait on work visa through the company that sent Alim. He also had to spend Tk 7.5 lakh.

Alam was told that he would get a cleaner's job there and earn 150 dinars a month.

"But I did not get the job. The company arranged food and accommodation for us for two months and then sent me to an airport. I worked there as a porter and I had to give 10 dinars a day to the men of Shahid for managing the job at the airport," he said.

He alleged that there had been a nexus between CID officials and the men of Shahid. "They all fooled us. We have lost everything."

Mohammad Sohag Mia, another deportee, shared a similar story.

According to a report published in Kuwaiti newspaper Al Rai on Sunday, certain Kuwaiti quarters within the government were involved in residency trade which paved the entry of Bangladeshi workers to the Arab country in exchange for money.

Papul (Shahid) and a Kuwaiti citizen co-own a big recruitment company named Marafie Kuwaitia.

He is accused of charging each foreign worker, mostly Bangladeshi ones, up to 3,000 dinars in exchange for going to Kuwait.

The workers also paid huge sums to the company for renewing their residency every year, said the report.

Following a complaint filed on February 16, the Anti-Corruption Commission of Bangladesh began an enquiry into an allegation that Shahid amassed Tk 1,400 crore by trafficking people to Kuwait and laundered the money to different countries.

## Assailants storm hut, kill pregnant woman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police yesterday recovered the body of a two-month pregnant woman from a hut inside a brick kiln at Khajura in Jashore Sadar upazila.

The victim -- Razia Khatun, 22, wife of Shahid Biswas -- was found dead around 5:00am, said police.

Syed Al Mamun, officer-in-charge of the police station, said the victim's husband was the prime accused in Chunnur murder case and got arrested from the spot.

A case was filed in connection with the murder of Razia with Bagharpara Police Station.

According to the case statement, a group of people intruded into the hut and started beating Shahid. At one point, he escaped the scene and sought help from the night guard of the brick kiln.

Returned, they found the naked body of Razia was lying on the ground. The couple used to stay there as Shahid was a worker at the brick kiln.

SI Jumman Khan, in-charge of Khajura police camp, said they recovered the body on information and sent it to Jashore Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The husband alleged that Razia was gang-raped before being murdered. On the other hand, police suspected that Shahid might have killed Razia.

## Doubts grow over

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Experts said that unless the transmission of the virus is stopped through active measures, the outbreak will continue.

Based on experiences of other countries, they also said the nature of the novel coronavirus is not like any other virus as it undergoes changes every day.

There has been no instance in any country of the virus going away after reaching the peak.

In many countries, infection rates rose again even after reaching the peak and witnessing a downward trend.

"There is only one option to tackle the virus and that is taking active measures -- maintaining physical distance, early detection, contact tracing and treating infected patients in isolation," Prof Mushtaq Hussain, consultant of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Prof Saif Ullah Munshi, chairman of virology at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said, "Even after full implementation of the zone-wise approach, it will take a minimum of two weeks to observe a downward trend in transmission."

Echoing the virologist, Prof Abul Kalam Azad, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services, said, "We are observing a static trend in infection for the last few days. If it continues for a week, then we may see a downward trend."

Official data shows that the growth rate for Covid-19 infection in the country is now 1.25, which means every confirmed patient is infecting 1.25 persons on an average.

**DAILY UPDATE**

At the daily virtual briefing yesterday, Prof Nasima Sultana, additional director general (admin) of the DGHS, said 17,214 samples were tested in 61 labs across the country in 24 hours till yesterday afternoon.

On the other hand, 2,237 Covid-19 patients recovered in the same period, taking the total number of recoveries to 36,264, she added.

The current recovery rate is 38.38 percent, the DGHS official said, adding that 635 people were put in isolation over those 24 hours.

Of the dead, 47 were male and six female, she said adding that 30 were from Dhaka, 14 from Chattogram, four from Rajshahi, three from Khulna, one from Barishal and another was from Mymensingh divisions.

Of them, one was aged between 11 and 20, three between 21 and 30, two between 31 and 40, nine between 41 and 50, 19 between 51 and 60, 10 between 61 and 70, eight between 71 and 80 and another was between 81-90, Dr Nasima said.

**21-DAY LOCKDOWN**  
The government will impose a 21-day lockdown in red-zoned areas instead of the earlier announced 14-day one.

"The red zone status will be lifted when the situation improves," said a press release issued by the DGHS on Monday.

The residents in red zones will have to work from home and all kinds of public gatherings will be restricted in those areas, it said.

However, healthcare centres, hospitals and institutions with emergency services will remain open.

Adequate testing arrangements will be made for Covid-19 suspects and people who test positive will be kept in home or institutional quarantine.

Only grocery shops and pharmacies of these zones will remain open, while restaurants and food shops will remain open for home delivery services only.





A display board captures photos and records body temperatures of passengers arriving at the Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital. Two scanner archways have been set up at the station recently, inset, to make sure people leaving the capital via train do not have fever, a common symptom of Covid-19 infection. The photos were taken on Monday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Migrants, families need help now more than ever

Says IOM on Int'l Day of Family Remittances

DIPLomatic CORRESPONDENT

UN Migration Agency, IOM, has called for supporting migrants and remittance-dependent communities affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

"Now more than ever we need to focus on supporting remittance-dependent communities who are impacted by the recession," said IOM Bangladesh Chief of Mission Giorgi Gigauri in a statement yesterday on International Day of Family Remittances.

Due to the economic and labour crisis created by the Covid-19 pandemic, hundreds of thousands of migrant workers are expected to return by the end of the year. Recession-related job losses will impact not only remittance-receiving households but their extended communities, IOM said.

The UN agency has urged communities to support the reintegration and combat stigmatisation of returning migrant workers to Bangladesh.

Fearing several lakh Bangladeshi migrants could return in the coming months, the government has announced Tk 700 crore for low interest loans to the returnees so they could start new businesses. Besides, the government also planned re-skilling of the jobseekers for overseas employment.

Activists say the amount is inadequate, and demanded that migrants and their families be incorporated in the social safety net programme for social and economic reintegration.

### ECONOMIC RETURN ON MIGRATION LOWER IN BANGLADESH

Meanwhile, an IOM study finds the economic return on migration is lower in Bangladesh than the countries with a skilled-migrant workforce because the

amount that unskilled and lower-skilled workers remit is much lower than that of skilled workers.

The survey report on Migration, Family Remittances, Assets and Skills Categories in Bangladesh conducted on 1,000 remittance-dependent households in 2019 across the country found an increase in skills corroborated to an increase in the amount remitted by up to US \$255 per month between 2009 and 2019, it said.

"Migrants' skills determined how remittances were invested and saved, with skilled migrants requesting family members to invest remittances into savings accounts whereas unskilled migrants generally used remittance to pay off loans," the study said.

Higher skilled migrants were employed in better paid jobs and were more likely to send higher remittances for longer periods than lower skilled migrant workers, it added.

In 2019, \$18.32 billion was remitted to Bangladesh, the third highest recipient of remittance in South Asia, by an estimated one crore Bangladeshi migrants.

Over 73 percent of remittances were sent from Gulf Cooperation Council countries, according to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET).

The study found Bangladeshi migrant workers were overwhelmingly men (98pc), about 12 percent of migrant workers did not attend school at all and nearly 80 percent did not continue studying after secondary school.

About 49 percent Bangladeshi migrants worked as employees for a firm and 26 percent as labourers -- daily wage (14pc), part time (12pc), and construction (15pc).

Dhaka and Chattogram divisions had the highest concentration of remittance-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## 55 educators decry arrests made under Digital Security Act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-three professors and teachers from universities across the country and beyond yesterday decried the arrest of Sirajum Munira, a teacher from Begum Rokeya University Rangpur.

Munira was arrested last Sunday for posting on social media about deceased former health minister Mohammed Nasim.

"The enthusiasm of the university administration and the ruling party student group, and the proactive role of the law enforcers in arresting this teacher, was very apparent," said a joint statement, calling the arrest the latest example of shrinking democratic rights.

In addition, two students -- one from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in Sylhet and another from Islamic University in Kustia -- were arrested and suspended for similar reasons, noted the statement.

They pointed that these arrests have been a defining feature of this pandemic -- since the pandemic started, the Digital Security Act has been used indiscriminately to target bloggers, cartoonists, journalists, teachers from schools, colleges and universities, and even relief-distributing volunteers.

"We want to make it clear that threatening, prosecuting or arresting citizens for stating their political opinions is a violation of Article 39 of the constitution, and therefore, this is not a right possessed by the state, government or the ruling party," it said.

Maintaining etiquette in cyberspaces can only be done through community management, not through the use of any "illogical, malicious criminal law," the statement observed.

The professors stated that the aim of the Digital Security Act is not to make safe cyberspaces, but rather to restrict platforms that can be used by citizens to demand their rights or critique the government.

"Arresting people for criticising the government on

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## COVID-19 Two more lawmakers test positive

STAR REPORT

Two more lawmakers yesterday tested positive for Covid-19.

Sylhet-2 MP Mukabbir Khan, who was admitted to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka on Monday, tested positive yesterday, his personal assistant Koyes Miah told our Sylhet correspondent.

"The MP is at intensive care unit of CMH, but he is feeling better than Monday," he said yesterday afternoon.

Mukabbir, also a member of Gonoforum's central convening committee, was admitted to CMH with breathing difficulties.

Meanwhile, ruling Awami League MP and former chief whip of parliament Abdus Shahid, who was also hospitalised on Monday night, tested positive yesterday.

Ahad Md Sayed, personal secretary of Abdus Shahid, said the AL MP was admitted to a hospital on Monday night as he had fever and cough.

"Today we got report that confirmed sir is infected," he said yesterday.

## 100,000 trees to be planted along marine drive road

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A massive plantation drive is underway along the 50km stretch of scenic Cox's Bazar marine drive road led by Cox's Bazar Development Authority, in a bid to restore the nature of the tourist destination.

The authority, which aims to plant 100,000 trees along the stretch, began the work on June 7 from Patuarterek area to Teknaf upazila.

So far, they have planted 10,000 trees, said Lt Col (ret'd) Forkan Ahmed, chairman of Cox's Bazar Development Authority.

Among the trees being planted are Krisnochura (delonix regia), Sonalu (Golden Shower Tree), Kodom (Neolamarckia cadamba), Bokul (Mimusops Elengi), Champa (Magnolia Champaca) and Katbadam (Indian Almond).

He said Cox's Bazar is a unique beauty with forest, sea and hills, but it is also exposed to various man-made hazards. So, they will plant trees not only along the stretch, but also bring 690 square miles area which fall within Cox's Bazar Development Authority's jurisdiction, in phases.

He also emphasised engaging other stakeholders including Bangladesh Army, Forest Department and Department of Environment to ensure uninterrupted growth of the plantation.

Ibrahim Khalil Mamun, chief executive of Youth Environment Society (YES), a Cox's Bazar-based environmental organisation welcomed the initiative urging authorities to be more stringent in conserving existing nature alongside plantation.

Cox's Bazar has seen a tremendous comeback of flora and fauna, including railroad vine (Sagorlotha) and dolphin, in the last few months as tourism remains suspended.

The government ordered concerned authorities to conserve the flora and fauna of Cox's Bazar, after The Daily Star ran several reports on Cox's Bazar environment.

## Cop caught red-handed selling yaba in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police sub-inspector and his associate were caught red-handed with 11,600 pieces of yaba while selling the drugs to narcotics dealers in Mohamamdpur area of the capital yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Atikul Islam, a sub-inspector of Bandaban District Court, and his associate Rezaul Rob, said Abdul Latif, officer-in-charge (OC) of Mohamamdpur Police Station.

Based on information that narcotics dealers are selling yaba tablets from a pickup van at Shahjahan Road of Mohamamdpur area, a police team conducted a drive there yesterday evening and made the arrest, OC Latif told The Daily Star yesterday.

Searching the arrestees' bodies and the pickup van, the police team recovered 11,600 pieces of yaba pills and seized Tk 5.25 lakh, which the arrestees had collected after selling yaba tablets, said OC Abdul Latif.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## DIGITAL SECURITY ACT Cartoonist Kishore, writer Mushtaq denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A virtual court in Dhaka yesterday rejected both the remand and bail petitions of four accused, including cartoonist Ahmed Kabir Kishore and writer Mushtaq Ahmed, in a case filed under the Digital Security Act.

The court, however, allowed police to interrogate the accused at jail gate for two days, within seven working days.

The two other accused are: Didarul Islam Bhuiyan, an activist of a platform called "Rastrachinta", and businessman Minhaj Mannan Emon.

On completion of the interrogation, the defence lawyers can again submit bail petitions for their clients, court sources said.

Before the hearing yesterday, Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Jasim sent a video link to the authorities of Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj, who are the custodians for the accused.

The conducting magistrate then witnessed the accused through videoconferencing and then held hearings on the prayers submitted on May 7.

Defence lawyers submitted two separate bail petitions along with cancellation of the remand prayers through email, and took part in the hearing through videoconferencing.

Eleven people -- including the four arrestees -- were charged with "spreading rumours and carrying out anti-government activities" on May 6.

Swedish-Bangladeshi journalist Tasneem Khalil, who runs Netra News, US-based journalist Shahed Alam and blogger Asif Mohiuddin are also among those named in the case.

Sub-inspector Md Jasshedul Alam of Ramna Police Station, also the case's investigation officer, submitted the two remand prayers for interrogating the detained accused.

## Ctg police station home delivering medicines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Taking advantage of the current crisis, a section of unscrupulous port city pharmacies has created an artificial shortage of life-saving medicines for treating Covid-19. Despite repeated drives and warnings in the last few days, the medicine sellers are desperate to make a quick buck, holding the general people hostage.

In this situation, Kotwali Police Station under Chattogram Metropolitan Police has introduced a mobile medicine service titled "My Pharmacy" for city dwellers, to fight the artificial price hike.

anyone can get medicine via home delivery for a fair price, after calling the hotline and showing doctor's prescription through digital communication channels.

Officer-in-Charge Md Mohsin came up with the initiative, that started yesterday.

With help from BM Riders, a group of motor

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Bidyanondo setting up field hospital for Covid-19 patients

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bidyanondo Foundation has started preparing a facility to turn it into a field hospital to treat increasing numbers of Covid-19 patients in Chattogram.

The hospital, which is being readied at Patenga, will accommodate 100 beds.

This would be the first hospital in Chattogram with a central oxygen system. Shortage of oxygen cylinders put hundreds in immense sufferings, even causing dozens of deaths in Chattogram.

Jamal Uddin, a volunteer of the foundation in Chattogram who is coordinating the preparations, told The Daily Star that they were given the facility by a benevolent person.

They have started readying the facility and will be able to open the hospital in the beginning of July.

"We will start with 50 beds and gradually will increase it to 100 beds. Now we are procuring necessary medical equipment to set up the central oxygen system. We want to ensure life-saving oxygen for Covid-19 patients," he said.

Chattogram Metropolitan Police has extended their all-out support in the initiative, he said.

Jamal said the facility will have 12 doctors, 18 nurses and 50 volunteers to take care of patients.

When asked what prompted the foundation to take such initiative in Chattogram, Jamal said some recent incidents of death due to the lack of oxygen drove them to come up with the initiative.

"We have seen people being turned away from hospitals -- imploring for treatment -- subsequently losing their lives. Particularly in Chattogram, such cases are rising. So, we wanted to do something. Our hospital would be able to give at least some relief to people in need of medical attention," he added.



FORAGING FOR SURVIVAL... Rizia Akhter looks for leafy vegetables amid the growth of grass along the rail lines in the capital's Tejgaon. With earning sources severely hampered, many of these low-income people have been struggling to put food on the plate. Rizia said sometimes throwaway seeds of vegetables grow on the patches. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



## SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF PATIENT Hospital staffer held, case filed in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police yesterday detained and filed a case against a hospital staffer who was accused of sexually harassing a Covid-19 patient from Khulna city's Hafiz Nagar area.

The incident took place on Saturday, when Nazrul Islam, a ward boy of Khulna Diabetic Hospital, reportedly sexually harassed a 25-year-old woman who was being treated there.

Md Momtazul Haq, officer-in-charge of Sonadanga Model Police Station, confirmed his detention to The Daily Star.

The victim lodged a complaint yesterday, and a case was filed under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

Nazrul was scheduled to be presented before a court on the same day.

According to hospital sources, the woman was admitted to the hospital on June 6, after testing positive for Covid-19.

On the night of June 13, Nazrul went to the women's ward area and sexually harassed the patient.

After nurses noticed what was happening, Nazrul fled the scene. The victim later informed authorities citing the incident.

Khulna Diabetic Hospital is run by Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) authorities.

KMCH Director Munshi Md Reza Sekender said the patient was sent for home isolation on Monday, and Nazrul was sacked immediately after receiving verbal complaints from the patient's relatives.



**This cremation site at Chattogram city's Kattali, which gets frequently overflowed with seawater, is being renovated so the deceased can be put to rest properly. The site was designated for those who died from Covid-19, but earlier, volunteers had to move bodies while traversing knee-deep water, inset. The photo was taken yesterday.**

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Chinese national dies falling from resort building

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A Chinese national died after he had fallen from a six-storey resort building at Kuakata tourist centre in Patuakhali on Monday afternoon.

The deceased -- Li-Heng (32) -- was working as the business manager of an under-construction coal-fired thermal power plant in Taltoli upazila of neighbouring Barguna, said Additional Superintendent of Police (Kalapara Circle) Ahmed Ali.

According to Li-Heng's passport, he hailed from Heilongjiang area in Beijing, he said.

He was staying in Room-1011 of the building belonging to Sikder Resort and Villa on the northern side of the resort, he said.

An official of the resort company said he rented the room in November last year and used to go to Taltoli from Kuakata for work.

At noon on that day, the hotel staff heard a loud thud, and found the man lying on the ground, said the official, seeking anonymity.

ASP Ahmed Ali said the Chinese national died on the spot. An inquest report was made and the body was sent to Patuakhali General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

## Ctg police

FROM PAGE 3

bikers, medicines will reach people's doorsteps.

CMP Deputy Commissioner (South) Mehedi Hasan inaugurated the service.

OC Mohsin told this newspaper, "Many unscrupulous pharmacy owners are hiking up prices artificially, leaving citizens helpless. To beat the syndicate, we have adopted this idea, so that people can get their required medicines from us at a reasonable price."

He said primarily, medicines will be provided in the city's Kotwali area at 15 percent lower than market price.

Police sources said currently, they have contacted 15 pharmacies to get medicine supply. Anyone wishing to avail the service can call the hotline: 01870700700.

## Authorities in Ctg move against unlicensed hand sanitiser sellers

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Ctg

Multiple drives are underway in the port city against shops selling fake hand sanitisers. In many cases, the traders are making the product themselves and selling them, without approval of drug administration department.

On Monday, a perfume trader was selling hand sanitiser at Khatunganj area of the city, charging Tk 250 for a 500 ml bottle. When a mobile court team of Chattogram District Administration entered the lane, the man attempted to close the shop immediately, but the court got there in time and seized fake hand sanitisers.

The local administration has found that fake hand sanitisers are being sold at multiple areas of Chattogram city, including Kalur Ghat, Sadar Ghat, and Hazari Lane. A huge quantity of fake sanitisers has been seized and Tk 75,000 has been collected as fine from seven traders.

Executive Magistrate Shirin

Akter told The Daily Star, "Harmful sanitisers, raw materials and expired hand-washing products were seized during the raids. We conducted several drives and fined sellers for exploiting people amid a crisis."

"During the drive we found three perfume sellers in Khatunganj area selling fake hand sanitisers, although they have a license for selling perfume," said the magistrate.

"They produce and sell sanitiser but they don't use the right ingredients and they don't have permission from drug administration department to produce it," she added.

Omar Faruque, executive magistrate of Chattogram District Administration told The Daily Star, "Some seasonal traders have taken advantage of this opportunity to become hand sanitiser manufacturers themselves. Pharmacy owners, cosmetics traders, perfume traders are making these without license. We have

tested these fake sanitisers in the lab and found that they contain harmful ingredients which can be carcinogenic instead of disinfecting."

A mobile court on Sunday fined Rupsazza cosmetics shop in Hazari Lane Tk 20,000 for selling fake hand sanitiser.

Owner of the shop, Aminul Islam, told The Daily Star that the hand sanitiser was made using the right ingredients. "Due to the crisis in the market, we bought various chemicals and made them ourselves," he claimed. However, he admitted that they do not have a license to make hand sanitiser.

Hossain Mohammad Imran, assistant director of Directorate of Drug Administration, Chattogram, said, "A hand sanitiser is prepared in a laboratory by mixing different chemicals in certain proportions. If the proportions are not maintained, then it can prove harmful."

## MONEY LAUNDERING Suspended jailer Sohel Rana granted bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted bail to Sohel Rana Biswas, suspended jailer of Chattogram Central Jail, in a money laundering case.

The bail was granted until Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) submits charge sheet to the trial court, on condition that he must surrender his passport to the lower court.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder passed the order, after virtually hearing a petition filed by Sohel, seeking bail.

Law enforcers arrested Sohel from Kishoreganj on October 27, 2018, with over Tk 44 lakh, fixed deposit receipts worth Tk 2.5 crore and Phensedyl.

## 55 educators

FROM PAGE 3

social media is having the opposite effect of hampering the government's image in the international sphere," said the professors.

"We are not just angry because the teacher was our colleague, but because this arrest will hamper the platforms of online education, and impact the students. The law enables prosecution for general disagreements between students and teachers during virtual discussions, and destroys the psychological space needed for teaching and learning," the statement said.

"We fear that DSA is being used as an attempt to hide lawlessness. As an example, we can say that the promptness with which action was taken against Munira was completely nonexistent in the case of the university's own vice-chancellor who had in the past gained media notoriety for being absent from the premises for a record number of days," observed the teachers. They demanded the immediate release of all those arrested under the law.

The statement was signed by Prof Anu Muhammad, Prof Sayeed Ferdous, Prof Mahmudul Sumon, Prof Swadhin Sen from Jahangirnagar University; Prof Kamrul Hasan, Prof Gitara Nasreen, Prof Kajali Shehreen Islam, Prof Fahmidul Haq, Prof Samina Luthfa from Dhaka University; Prof Dina M Siddiqui from New York University, as well as teachers from University of Chittagong, University of Rajshahi, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, North South University, Cumilla University, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet Agricultural University and East West University.

## Migrants, families

FROM PAGE 3

receiving households (76pc).

The survey found remittances were generally used to meet short-term needs and were rarely used to diversify assets or build financial resilience, which further increased the households' dependence on remittances.

"Low financial literacy of the migrants and their families placed them in a precarious situation in terms of income stability, remittance management, and assets building."

The report recommends investment in gender-responsive skills development, promoting financial literacy and remittance management capacity of households.

"There should be investment in education and skills upgrade so that lower skilled migrant workers can earn more and break the cycle of debt," the IOM study said.

It also recommended improving measures for debt management and formalising savings to mitigate vulnerability and promoting policies that increase women's financial inclusion.

Giorgi Gigauri said, "We need to support the government to prioritise skills development of migrant workers so they can increase remittance flow to Bangladesh."

"We also need to focus on providing financial literacy training, particularly to women, to improve productive investment of remittances and to build the resilience and financial independence of remittance-reliant households."



**Zonayed Saki, chief coordinator of Ganasamhati Andolon, speaks at the rally.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Begin mass testing for Covid-19 now

### Ganasamhati Andolon urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ganasamhati Andolon yesterday demanded the government's approval of a coronavirus testing kit developed by the Gonoshasthaya Kendra and starting of mass testing immediately to reduce people's sufferings.

The demand was made by the left-leaning political party at a demonstration organised in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital. Presenting a seven-point demand, leaders and activists of the party later brought out a procession and started to march towards the health ministry at secretariat.

However, after being restricted by the police on Topkhana Road, they held a short rally there.

The party's chief coordinator Zonayed Saki said 20 percent budgetary allocation should be given in the health sector. "Timely allocation of money and proper implementation must be ensured," he said.

Their other demands include establishing adequate quarantine and isolation facilities in densely populated areas; adequate oxygen support at hospitals; providing health card to every citizen to implement universal healthcare; establishing accountability in health sector by forming an independent constitutional commission and forming an independent judicial commission to investigate and prosecute all corruption in the sector.

"The first coronavirus patient was identified on March 8. But the government did not take it seriously then; rather its primary task was to observe Mujib's centenary programmes," said Zonayed Saki.

He also said that the government had failed to continue lockdown to contain the coronavirus properly due to severe corruption over relief, and failure to feed poor communities.

## Road crash in Faridpur claims a life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Barishal highway in Nowpara bus stand area under Bhanga upazila in Faridpur yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Musa Munshi (48), son of late Sattar Munshi of Uzirkhanda village in Sadarpur upazila.

Quoting locals, Anisur Rahman, sub-inspector of Bhanga Highway Police Station, said, "The accident took place when a truck from behind hit a motorbike Musa Munshi was riding. As a result, he died on the spot."

Police seized the truck from the spot, but the driver managed to flee the scene, said the SI.

### Juice Factory for Sale

Madhupur, Tangail  
166 Decimal Land Area,  
Duplex Building with Juice  
Processing Plant.  
Mobile: +8801718559418  
D-83

## Cop caught

FROM PAGE 3

"We had information that these syndicates were involved in yaba smuggling and selling the drugs in the area, after bringing them in from Cox's Bazar," said OC Latif.

OC Latif said Atikul identified himself as a member of police after the arrest. Atikul was on leave from March 23 and got involved in yaba smuggling instead of joining his workplace, the OC said.

A case was filed against Atikul and his associate and they were placed on a two-day remand for interrogation, he said, adding that they would be interrogated for further details.

According to police sources, Atikul, hailing from Panchagarh district, joined as a police sub-inspector in 2001 after completing his training the previous year.

Majority of his batchmates have already received the promotion to inspector grade, but he remained in the same post due to multiple irregularities in his work, sources added.



## JAMUNA BANK

Head Office: Jamuna Bank Tower, Plot-14,  
Block-CWS(C), Bir Uttam A.K Khandakar  
Road, Gulshan Model Town, Dhaka

### Price Sensitive Information

### DISCLOSURE ON UN-AUDITED QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This is for kind information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Jamuna Bank Limited in its 368th meeting held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. at the Bank's Head Office, Dhaka adopted the 1st Quarterly Financial Statements (Un-Audited) of the Bank as at March 31, 2020 and also disclosed the following financial indicators:

Particulars	As on 31.03.2020		As on 31.03.2019	
	Jamuna Bank	JBL consolidated	Jamuna Bank	JBL consolidated
Net Asset Value (NAV) in BDT million	18,480.75	18,357.56	18,426.92	18,388.55
Net Asset Value Per Share in BDT	24.67	24.50	24.59	24.54
Earnings Per Share (EPS) in BDT	1.45	1.42	0.71	0.70
Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS) in BDT	10.75	10.76	(6.92)	(6.83)

Note: Previous quarter's figures have been rearranged to conform to the current quarter's presentation.

The details of the 1st Quarterly Financial Statements (Un-Audited) of the Bank as at March 31, 2020 are also available in the website of the Bank at [www.jamunabankbd.com](http://www.jamunabankbd.com)

By order of the Board

Sd/-  
M. A. Rouf  
Company Secretary

Date: Dhaka  
June 16, 2020

**Engineering Division**  
Khulna University, Khulna  
[www.ku.ac.bd](http://www.ku.ac.bd)

Tender No. KU/ENGG/94/09(02)-49 Date: 15/06/2020

### e-Tender Notice No. 07/2019-2020

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of the works	Tender closing and opening date & time
471123	KAH-01	Renovation and Repair Works of Khan Jahan Ali Hall at Khulna University, Khulna.	05 July 2020 13:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to banking hours on e-GP System.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Md. Abdur Razzaque**  
Chief Engineer  
Khulna University, Khulna  
E-mail: [chiefengineer@ku.ac.bd](mailto:chiefengineer@ku.ac.bd)  
Tel: 041-751057

GD-999



TANGAIL, KURIGRAM

# People losing dwellings, croplands as Jamuna, Brahmaputra turn furious

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Serious river erosion at the onset of the monsoon brings woe to people living on the bank of the Jamuna and Brahmaputra rivers in Tangail and Kurigram districts.

Erosion by the Jamuna has turned serious, devouring dwelling houses, other structures as well as croplands in Nagarpur, Kalihati and Bhuapur upazilas in Tangail, reports our correspondent.

At least 50 dwellings, a primary school and vast tracts of croplands were devoured by the river during the last few days.

The worst affected areas are Solimabad union in Nagarpur, Gohaliabari union in Kalihati and Govindasi union in Bhuapur.

Many houses, educational and religious institutions, markets and other structures are facing erosion threat, said locals and public representatives.

The building of Paisha Majhail Government Primary School at Solimabad in Nagarpur was destroyed by the strong current of the river on Sunday, said Azizul Haque Babu of the area.

The people in the riverside area are passing sleepless nights fearing erosion and many of them started shifting their houses to other places.

Syed Faijul Islam, upazila nirbahi officer in Nagarpur, along with others visited the area on Sunday and told the affected people to take shelter at nearby Janata Degree College.

The river erosion is affecting localities near the east end of the Bangabandhu Bridge at Alipur village under Gohaliabari union in Kalihati and Khanurbari, Kostapara, Bhalkutia



and Chituliapara Govindasi in Bhuapur for the last few weeks.

Contacted, Md Sirajul Islam, executive engineer of Water Development Board in Tangail, said they have already done some emergency works at Govindasi in Bhuapur to save a local primary school and are making preparations to dump GEO bags at Alipur in Kalihati to save a local school and a madrasa.

"It is hardly possible to check the erosion by the mighty Jamuna river with emergency works. We have sent project proposals for permanent works to the higher authorities and waiting for their approval," he added.

Our Lalmonirhat Correspondent reports: At least 47 families have become homeless as their homesteads were devoured by the Brahmaputra at Dhanarchar Nutangram village of Jadurchar union under Roumari upazila in Kurigram in the last two weeks.

Many villagers are shifting their houses to safe places as the river continued eroding homesteads and arable lands.

Public representatives and Water Development Board (WDB) officials visited the erosion-hit area but no step is yet to be taken for checking the erosion, locals said.

"I with six family members took shelter in a relative's house as my house and three bighas of arable lands have gone into the Brahmaputra River. I don't know how I will manage our livelihood," said Khadem Ali, a farmer of the village.

Jaynob Bewa of the village is also staying at a relative's house, having lost her homestead on seven decimals of land and one bigha of arable land to the Brahmaputra.

"Illegal extraction of sand from the river with dredger is the main reason behind the serious erosion that made us homeless. We made protest against illegal sand lifting but didn't get any result as politically influential musclemen were involved in the act," she said.

Mati Miah, another erosion-hit farmer of the village, said he lost five bighas of arable lands in the last ten days while at least 250 bighas of arable land have already been eroded.

"Some people illegally lift sand from the river during dry season, which later causes erosion of nearby homesteads and arable lands. Local MP, upazila chairman, union chairman and WDB engineers visited our village but we do not see any step for checking the erosion," he said.

WDB Executive Engineer in Kurigram Ariful Islam told The Daily Star, "We are preparing to take primary steps for checking the erosion by the Brahmaputra. Local administration has to take action against illegal sand extraction from rivers, which is the cause of the erosion."



Paddy plants dry out and turn sterile under the impact of toxic smoke emitted from a brick kiln at Nawdabas village in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Toxic smoke from brick kilns damages crops

Leaves of mango, jackfruit, litchi, coconut and betel nut trees also turned brownish due to the smoke emitted from nearby kilns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Farmers at Nawdabas village in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram are worried as Paddy, fruit trees, bamboo clusters and betel nuts have been severely damaged due to toxic smoke from nearby brick kilns.

The aggrieved farmers have already written to the upazila administration to remove brick kilns from the middle of a vast tract of cropland because it damaged crops every year.

The paddy plants on 25 bighas of land near Kharibari Saifur Rahman Government College in the area has dried out and turned sterile under the impact of smoke emitted from Messrs Altif Bricks Fields, said local growers.

The leaves of mango, jackfruit, litchi, coconut and betel nut trees had turned brownish due to toxic smoke from the brick kilns, said Mukul Chandra Roy, Bishwanath and Tajul Islam, farmers of Nawdabas village.

Farmer Sukumar Roy of the village alleged that a vast tract of cropland has been damaged by toxic smoke every year but nobody dared to protest against the brick kiln owners as they are very powerful. Mozammel Haque, member of Nagdah union parishad, said the toxic smoke from brick kilns damaged plants and crops in the area. He has already talked to the brick kiln owners about the matter but to no response from them yet.

Altif Hossain, owner of Messrs Altif Bricks, said some plants and crops in the area have been slightly damaged. Farmers who suffered will be compensated soon.

Deputy Director of Department of Environment (DoE) in Rangpur Mezbah Ul Alam said six brick kilns in the upazila are being operated without any approval from DoE.

Phulbari Upazila Agriculture Officer Mahbubur Rashid said immediate action will be taken in this regard.



Paisha Majhail Government Primary School at Solimabad in Tangail's Nagarpur lies ravaged due to erosion by the Jamuna river on Sunday. Above, a scene of erosion by the Brahmaputra at Dhanarchar Nutangram village of Jadurchar union in Kurigram's Roumari upazila. PHOTO: STAR

বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়	
সদস্য ভবন শাখা	
www.parliament.gov.bd	
পুনঃ উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
১. প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়।
২. অর্থের উৎস	স্বিঃবি।
৩. দরপত্র আহ্বানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর ও তারিখ	১১.০০.০০০০.৬০৯.০৬৯.০৫৬.২০২০.২৯৬ তারিখঃ ১৬ জুন ২০২০।
৪. দরপত্রের ধরণ	গুপেন টেন্ডার।
৫. প্যাকেজ নম্বর	প্যাকেজ-১।
৬. মালামালের সর্বমোট বিবরণ	শেরেবালা নগর সদস্য ভবনের অফিস কক্ষ ও মানিক মিয়া আভিনিউজ ০১নং সংসদ-সদস্য ভবনের ৩৬টি ফ্লোরের জন্য আসবাবপত্র ক্রয়।
৭. দরপত্রের সংখ্যা	০১টি।
৮. সরবরাহের সময়	চুক্তি অনুযায়ী।
৯. দরপত্রাদানের যোগ্যতা	(১) দরপত্র তফসিলের সাথে ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বছরের ট্রেড লাইসেন্স এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, (২) ২০১৯-২০২০ কর বছরের আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি (কোম্পানির ক্ষেত্রে তার সর্বশেষ আর্থিক বছরের পরিশোধিত আয়কর সনদপত্র), (৩) বিন সাটফিক্রেট (১৩ ডিগ্রি) এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, (৪) আইএসও সাটফিক্রেট (৯০০১ : ২০১৫) এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, (৫) ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সাটফিক্রেট এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, (৬) ব্যাংক সর্বমিল্ল এক কোটি টাকা আছে মর্মে ব্যাংক স্টেটমেন্ট (অরিজিনাল) (১৭ জুন ২০২০ হতে ৩০ জুন ২০২০ তারিখ পর্যন্ত), (৭) সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত/কর্পোরেশন অফিসে আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহ সক্রান্ত কাজের ৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, (৮) সর্বমিল্ল এক কোটি টাকার আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহ কাজের কার্যদেপের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, (৯) কার্যসম্পাদন সাটফিক্রেট এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, (১০) দরপত্র তফসিল ক্রয়ের মূল রশিদ দাখিল করতে হবে, (১১) ম্যানুফ্যাকচার প্রান সাটফিক্রেট এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, (১২) উড সিজনিং অ্যান্ড ট্রিটমেন্ট সাটফিক্রেট এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, (১৩) লেকচার সাটফিক্রেট এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, (১৪) এফএসসি (FSC) সাটফিক্রেট এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, (১৫) আইআরসি (IRC) সাটফিক্রেট এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি এবং (১৬) দরপত্র তফসিল এর সাথে মূলকপি ও ডুক্লিকেট কপি দাখিল করতে হবে। বর্ষিত শর্তাবলী ছাড়াও দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লিখিত অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী এক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য হবে।
১০. দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য	২০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
১১. দরপত্র জামানত	দরপত্র তফসিলের সাথে সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব (সদস্য ভবন শাখা), বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা এর অনুকূলে ২,৫০,০০০/- (দুই লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (ফেরতযোগ্য) দাখিল করতে হবে।
১২. টেন্ডার জার্নালিটি	টেন্ডার জার্নালিটি দরপত্র তফসিল দাখিলের দিন থেকে ১২০ (একশত বিশ) দিন।
১৩. প্রি টেন্ডার মিটিং	২২ জুন ২০২০ তারিখ, রোজ সোমবার, সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকায় উপসচিব (প্রশাসন-২), বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সচিবালয়, ঢাকা এর অফিস কক্ষে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।
১৪. দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের স্থান ও ঠিকানা	সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব (অর্থ-১), (দক্ষিণ পশ্চিম ব্লক, লেভেল-৫, কক্ষ নম্বর-৫২৩), বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।
১৫. দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়	১৭ জুন ২০২০ তারিখ সকাল ০৯-০০ ঘটিকা হতে ৩০ জুন ২০২০ তারিখ অপরাহ্ন ৫-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে)।
১৬. দরপত্র দাখিল এবং খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	দাখিল : ০২ জুলাই ২০২০ তারিখ, রোজ বৃহস্পতিবার, সকাল ০৯-০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। খোলা : ০২ জুলাই ২০২০ তারিখ, রোজ বৃহস্পতিবার, বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটিকা। স্থান : উপসচিব (প্রশাসন-১) এর কার্যালয়, কক্ষ নম্বর-৭৪১, ব্লক-পূর্ব, লেভেল-৭।
১৭. বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
১৮. টেন্ডার আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম, পদবী, ঠিকানা ও ফোন নম্বর	আবদুর রহমান, সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব (সদস্য ভবন শাখা), বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়, শেরেবালা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭, ফোন নম্বরঃ ৯১২৪৭৬৩।
২. দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় সংসদ সচিবালয়ের <a href="http://www.parliament.gov.bd">www.parliament.gov.bd</a> ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।	

জিডি-১০০১

আবদুর রহমান  
সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব  
ফোনঃ ৯১২৪ ৭৬৩

## Man found murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Unidentified criminals killed a man in Baraigram upazila on Monday.

The deceased, Mubarak Hossain, 45, a farmer was son of Khair Uddin of Ikri village.

Officer in Charge of Baraigram Police Station Dilip Kumar Das said villagers found his body lying in a jute field at the village in the evening and informed the police.

His body bore injury marks on the neck, he said, adding that criminals might have strangled him to death.

Mubarak went out of his on Monday afternoon to go to adjacent Sunabaju Bazar.



A pregnant woman receives health consultancy and treatment at a daylong free medical camp, organised by 15 East Bengal (Mechanised) of Bangladesh Army, at Sadar Uddin College premises in Manikganj's Shivalaya upazila recently. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Newlywed couple found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A newlywed couple reportedly died by suicide at Chapur Parbotipur village in Ranishankoil upazila early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Bipur Kumar Roy, 23, a tailor and son of late Sheth Kumar, and his wife Parul Roy, 20.


The couple got married only a few months ago.

Officer in Charge (OC) of Ranishankoil Police Station Abdul Mannan told this correspondent over phone that the couple used to live with Bipul's foster mother Momita Bala.

The duo went to sleep on Monday night, but as they didn't woke up yesterday morning, Momita first knocked the door and then peeped through a gap between the fences and found them hanging from the same rope.

Hearing Momita's screams, neighbours rushed to the spot, entered the room by breaking the room and found them hanging.

Today is the 14th Death Anniversary of  
**M. A. Bari Talukder**



We request all relatives, friends and well-wishers to remember him in their prayers and to pray for eternal peace of his soul

**-Rokeya (Meena), Ruba, Farhan & Zain**



### NY City police disband rough street unit

The New York Police Department is disbanding its aggressive anti-crime unit, a move aimed at turning alienated residents into crime-stopping allies, part of a nationwide push for policing reforms following the killing of George Floyd.

### Editors at VOA resign as Trump appointee arrives

The top two directors at Voice of America resigned on Monday, just as President Donald Trump's appointee began his role as chief executive of the parent organization of the US government-run international broadcaster.

### Trump seethes as FDA bans use of anti-malaria drug



The US Food and Drug Administration on Monday revoked its emergency use authorization for hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19, but quickly came under fire from President Donald Trump, who said only US agencies have failed to grasp its benefit in fighting the coronavirus.

SOURCE: REUTERS, AFP



Nathan Hale High School seniors join with others to protest against racial inequality in the aftermath of the death in Minneapolis police custody of George Floyd on their graduation day in Seattle, Washington, on Monday. Inset, A student holds a sign saying that Tamir Rice, killed by Cleveland Police in 2014, would have been a 2020 graduate with them.

## North Korea blows up liaison office with South

REUTERS, Seoul

North Korea blew up an office set up to foster better ties with South Korea in its border town of Kaesong yesterday after it threatened to take action if North Korean defectors went ahead with a campaign to send propaganda leaflets into the North.



cut ties with South Korea and retaliate over the propaganda leaflets, which carry messages critical of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, including on human rights.

North Korea's KCNA state news said the liaison office, which had been closed since January over fears of the novel coronavirus, was "tragically ruined with a terrific explosion".

South Korea also said the office had been blown up. Its media reported that an explosion was heard and smoke could be seen rising over Kaesong.

The office, when it was operating, served as an embassy for both of the old rivals and its destruction represents a major set-back for efforts by South Korea's President Moon Jae-in to coax the North into cooperation.

Tension has been rising over recent days with North Korea threatening to

surveillance imagery as the building was blown up.

The first diplomatic mission of its kind, the inter-Korean liaison office was established in 2018 as part of a series of projects aimed at reducing tensions between the two Koreas.

Earlier yesterday, North Korean state media quoted the military as saying it has been studying an "action plan" to re-enter zones that had been demilitarized under a 2018 inter-Korean pact and "turn the front line into a fortress".

South Korea's defence ministry called for North Korea to abide by the 2018 agreement, under which both sides' militaries vowed to cease "all hostile acts" and they dismantled a number of structures along the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone between the two countries.

South Korea's President Moon urged North Korea on Monday to keep peace agreements reached by the two leaders and return to dialogue.

## Opponents of security law are 'enemy of the people'

Says Hong Kong leader; N Korea backs China

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam yesterday urged opponents of Beijing's plan to impose national security legislation in the financial hub to stop "smearing" the effort, saying those who did were "the enemy of the people".

Beijing last month announced a plan to introduce legislation in Hong Kong to tackle secession, subversion, terrorism and foreign interference. The law could see Chinese security agencies set up bases in the city for the first time.

Critics see the law as the most serious threat to a "one country, two systems" formula, agreed when the former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997 to protect its freedoms and role as a global financial centre.

The Chinese government and Lam's Beijing-backed city administration say the law will not curtail freedoms and will only target a small number of "troublemakers" and help bring stability after a year of anti-government protests.

The government has mounted a campaign to rally public support for the legislation, with billboards, a booklet with questions and answers and a video of Lam defending the law "in the public interest".

Meanwhile, Britain yesterday said that China's plan to impose national security legislation on Hong Kong would undermine the autonomy of its former colony and could threaten rights and freedoms there.

A diplomat from North Korea then took the floor to voice concern at "certain countries' attempt to use Hong Kong-related issues to interfere in China's domestic affairs". Hong Kong was "an inseparable part" where China's sovereignty is exercised and its constitution is applied, he said.

## UN slammed for taking Saudi coalition off blacklist

Israel, Myanmar also escape the 'list of shame'

AGENCIES

Campaigners have criticised the UN for removing the Saudi-led military coalition in Yemen from a list of groups violating children's rights, adding that the coalition had been responsible for the death or injury of 222 children last year.

"The Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen will be delisted for the violation of killing and maiming, following a sustained significant decrease in killing and maiming due to air strikes," said the UN's newly-published annual report on children in conflict zones, adding that the death toll had fallen since an agreement signed in March 2019.

The report was issued as Houthi rebels reported that an airstrike from the Saudi-led coalition struck a vehicle carrying civilians in northern Yemen on Monday, killing 13 people, including four children.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) denounced Guterres for dropping the coalition from

the "list of shame," saying he was "ignoring the UN's own evidence of continued grave violations against children."

Inger Ashing of Save the Children called it a "shocking decision" by Guterres.

HRW and the Watchlist also criticised the secretary-general for leaving Israel off the blacklist despite it being responsible for 1,525 casualties among Palestinian children last year, including 29 deaths.

The report, which reviews several conflicts worldwide each year, said 4,019 children were verified as having been killed and more than 6,000 maimed in 2019. The numbers were similar to 2018, according to the UN.

The report also partially removed the Tatmadaw, Myanmar's armed forces, from the blacklist. They no longer appear for recruitment of children but remain on the list for sexual violence, killing, and maiming.

Save the Children described the move as "premature and dangerous".

### CHILD RIGHTS VIOLATIONS



Relatives of missing people take part in a protest outside the 26-A Military Camp, where Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador holds a news conference, in El Lencero, Veracruz state, Mexico, on Monday.

## Saudi faces perilous hajj call amid pandemic

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia is expected to scale back or call off this year's hajj pilgrimage for the first time in its modern history, observers say, a perilous decision as coronavirus cases spike.

Muslim nations are pressing Riyadh to give its much-delayed decision on whether the annual ritual will go ahead as scheduled in late July.

But as the kingdom negotiates a call fraught with political and economic risks in a tinderbox region, time is running out to organise logistics for one of the world's largest mass gatherings.

A full-scale hajj, which last year drew about 2.5 million pilgrims, appears increasingly unlikely after authorities advised Muslims in late March to defer preparations due to the fast-spreading disease.

A Saudi official told AFP: "The decision will soon be made and announced."

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, withdrew from the pilgrimage this month. Malaysia, Senegal and Singapore followed suit.

Many other countries with Muslim populations -- from Egypt and Morocco to Turkey, Lebanon and Bulgaria -- have said they are still awaiting Riyadh's decision. In countries like France, faith leaders have urged Muslims to "postpone" their pilgrimage plans until next year due to the prevailing risks.

But any decision to limit or cancel the event risks annoying Muslim hardliners for whom religion trumps health concerns. It could also trigger renewed scrutiny of the Saudi custodianship of Islam's holiest sites -- the kingdom's most powerful source of political legitimacy.

A decision to cancel the hajj would be a first since the kingdom was founded in 1932.

## More than 30 'active' alien civilisations in our galaxy!

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

There could be more than 30 alien civilisations in our galaxy, researchers have found in a major study.

A new paper looked to understand how many planets in our neighbourhood could be home to alien life, by assuming that life develops on other planets in a similar way to how it develops on Earth, and matching that to planets that could be home to similar evolution.

It found that there could be dozens of active civilisations waiting to be found in our Milky Way. But it could also shed light on our own fate, and suggest our prospects for long-term survival are lower than we may have thought.

"There should be at least a few dozen active civilisations in our Galaxy under the assumption that it takes 5 billion years for intelligent life to form on other planets, as on Earth," Christopher Conselice of the University of Nottingham said in a statement.

"The idea is looking at evolution, but on a cosmic scale. We call this calculation the Astrobiological Copernican Limit."

The Astrobiological Copernican limits come in two forms. One is the 'weak' limit, which suggests that intelligent life forms on a planet any time after 5 billion years. The other is the 'Strong' limit where life formed between 4.5 billion and 5 billion years ago.

## Worry more about climate, not COVID-19

Says James 'Gaia' Lovelock as he talks about humanity's existential threat

AFP, Paris

James Lovelock -- founder of the Gaia theory and, arguably, the field of Earth system science -- thinks the world has lost perspective in responding to the new coronavirus, and should focus on a far more formidable foe: global warming.

"My impression is that we have overreacted almost everywhere to the pandemic," he told AFP by phone from his home in southern England, where he has been in lockdown with his wife.

Lovelock, who will be 101 next month, has had the disconcerting habit in his 75-year career of being right about important things.

"Disconcerting" because his ideas have often been at odds with conventional wisdom, ahead of their time or, in the case of climate change, unbearably grim.

In the early 1960s, for example, when Nasa was determined to find life on Mars, Lovelock -- under contract at the Jet Propulsion Lab in California -- told his employers there almost certainly wasn't any, and then designed the experiment to prove it.

When he announced a decade later that Earth is best understood as a single, self-regulating superorganism, the notion was at first ridiculed by his peers.

By the 1990s, however, the complex interplay of all life forms with the water, air and rocks around them -- Earth's geo-bio-chemical balancing act -- was accepted as self-evident.



"At the same time, it is relatively harmless to the young."

The far bigger threat to humanity in the early 21st century is global warming, Lovelock insisted. "Climate change is more dangerous to life on Earth than almost any conceivable disease," he said. "If we don't do something about it, we will find ourselves removed from the planet."

With his 2006 book "The Revenge of Gaia" and its 2009 sequel "The Vanishing Face of Gaia", Lovelock became known as a prophet of climate doom, though he later walked back his most dire predictions, at least in terms of how quickly they might befall us.

But an uncharacteristic note of optimism has since crept into his analysis.

But if the glimmer of hope he offers will be welcomed by many climate activists who had written him off as a climate Cassandra, his solutions probably won't.

Even if humanity knows the causes of climate change, Lovelock doubts we can switch from dirty to clean energy quickly enough to avoid a scenario in which Earth itself -- via melting permafrost, the shrinking Arctic ice cap -- begin to drive global warming as well.

To buy time, he argues, we need to turn to technology.

"Many different ways to keep Earth cool have been suggested. One idea I find attractive is a sunshade in heliocentric orbit -- essentially a giant sun umbrella in space.





## EXCLUSIVE MODEL TEST 2020 ON ENGLISH FIRST PAPER

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### PART-I: READING (60 MARKS)

#### 1. Read the passage and answer the questions A and B.

Conflict can be described as a disagreement among groups or individuals characterized by antagonism and hostility. This is usually fueled by the opposition of one party to another in an attempt to reach an objective different from that of the other party. The elements involved in the conflict have varied sets of principles and values, thus allowing conflict to arise. Conflict can be defined in many ways but one of the simplest is that it pertains to the opposing ideas and actions of different entities, resulting in an antagonistic state. Conflict is an inevitable part of life. All of us possess our own opinions, ideas and sets of beliefs. We have our own ways of looking at things and we act according to what we think is proper. Hence, we often find ourselves in a conflict in different scenarios; it may involve other individuals, groups of people, or a struggle within our own selves. Consequently, conflict influences our actions and decisions in one way or another. Conflict comes naturally; the clashing of thoughts and ideas is a part of the human experience. It is true that it can be destructive if left uncontrolled. However, it shouldn't be seen as something that can only cause negative things to transpire. It is a way to come up with more meaningful realizations that can certainly be helpful to the individuals involved. Conflict can be seen as an opportunity for learning and understanding our differences. We can all live harmoniously despite conflicts as long as we know how to responsibly manage these struggles.

#### A. Choose the correct answer from the alternatives.

1×5=5

(a) Conflict is \_\_\_\_\_ among groups or individuals.

- (i) an conformity (ii) discrepancy  
(iii) an indenture (iv) a concordat

(b) What could be the closest meaning for conflict in the paragraph?

- (i) proper agreement between opposite parties  
(ii) a situation in which people groups or countries are involved in a serious disagreement  
(iii) a congenial situation  
(iv) an authentic agreement between two groups

(c) The word 'antagonism' in the passage refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (i) feelings of good faith (ii) feeling of amiable relationship  
(iii) feelings of derision (iv) a very friendly relationship

(d) Which one of the following is true?

- (i) Conflict always does harm (ii) Conflict comes automatically  
(iii) Conflict is an unavoidable part of life (iv) Conflict has no action on our actions

(e) What is the main purpose of the author of the passage?

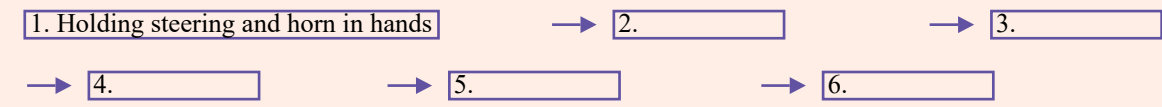
- (i) to show the merits of conflict (ii) to show the demerits of conflict  
(iii) to inform about conflict (iv) to show feelings of hostility

#### B. Answer the following questions.

- (a) What, according to the passage, does the term 'conflict' refer to?  
(b) Why is conflict an inevitable part of life?  
(c) What are some of the major causes of conflict?  
(d) "The clashing of thoughts and ideas is a part of the human experiences." Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.  
(e) How can conflict be seen as an opportunity? How can we live harmoniously despite conflict?

#### 2. Read the following text and make a flow chart highlighting the functions of a driver. (No. 1 has been done for you) 2×5=10

When you are in the driving seat of a car, you have the steering and the horn in your hands, the brake and accelerator under your feet, eyes open looking ahead, left and right. The same can be said about a motorcycle rider, with some modifications. These are all very visible. But, behind all, there is something that keeps working unseen. And that is the Central Processing Unit (CPU), your brain. CPUs are artificially intelligent machines that are programmed to do specific jobs under fixed conditions and judgments. But the human brain is intelligent by nature. It is the most sophisticated machine that is able to operate on ever-changing conditions and standards of judgment. As conditions in the traffic keep invariably changing, this virtue of sophistication of your brain must be at work when you are driving. The difference between traffic on the roads and highways and racing circuits must not be blurring inside you. Never imagine yourself to be a Michael Schumacher driving an F-1 at 300 mph. Leave no room for fantasy. You must always be ready to encounter unexpected behavior from any vehicle or pedestrian. 'Keep your cool' is easy to advise but difficult to maintain. Still, you must always restrain yourself because, at the end of the day, you don't want to be regarded as a killer. Now you see, the last thing that differentiates you from a computer is your conscience.



#### 3. Read the following text and fill in the blanks with suitable words from the box. There are more words than necessary. You may change the form of the words if necessary. 0.5×10=5

- eloquent darkness awareness learn intellectual attain  
enlighten choice sensibilities purpose human parochialism

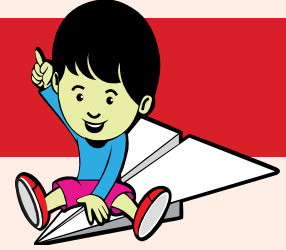
Education is the process by which our mind develops through formal (a) \_\_\_\_\_ at an institution. It is mental and (b) \_\_\_\_\_ training. It provides opportunities of growth and helps to meet challenges to (c) \_\_\_\_\_ success. Moreover, the purpose of education is to (d) \_\_\_\_\_ an individual. The aim of education is also to train individuals to make right (e) \_\_\_\_\_. It ennobles our mind and refines our (f) \_\_\_\_\_. It broadens our outlook and removes (g) \_\_\_\_\_. It helps us to be (h) \_\_\_\_\_ of rights and responsibilities. Education furnishes us with an (i) \_\_\_\_\_ in expressing truth. Therefore, it is compared to light which dispels the (j) \_\_\_\_\_ of ignorance.



#### 4. Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word in each gap. 1×10=10

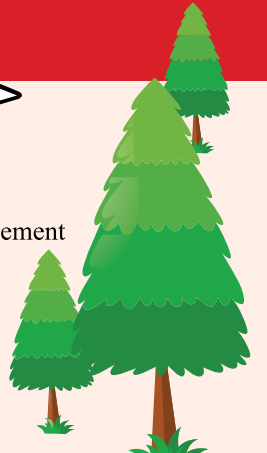
The absence of a (a) \_\_\_\_\_ tie does not mean that the Bangladeshi (b) \_\_\_\_\_ is completely detached from their (c) \_\_\_\_\_. In the era of (d) \_\_\_\_\_ and social (e) \_\_\_\_\_ like other Diaspora communities, British-Bangladeshis are also (f) \_\_\_\_\_ to their countries of (g) \_\_\_\_\_ by phone, mail, Internet and television. By (h) \_\_\_\_\_ of (i) \_\_\_\_\_ advancement, communication of news is rapid and sustained, which gives migrant communities a sense of belonging to multiple homes. Indeed, the first (j) \_\_\_\_\_ of migrants continues to regard Bangladesh as central to their identity.

## ANSWERS



#### Answers to the question number 1 (A):

- (a) (i) a discrepancy  
(b) (ii) a situation in which people, groups or countries are involved in a serious disagreement  
(c) (iii) feelings of derision  
(d) (iii) Conflict is an unavoidable part of life  
(e) (iii) to inform about conflict



#### Answers to the question number 1 (B):

(a) According to the passage, the term, 'conflict' refers to a disagreement among groups or individuals characterized by antagonism and hostility. The opposition of one party to another in terms of achieving an objective is the main cause of conflict.

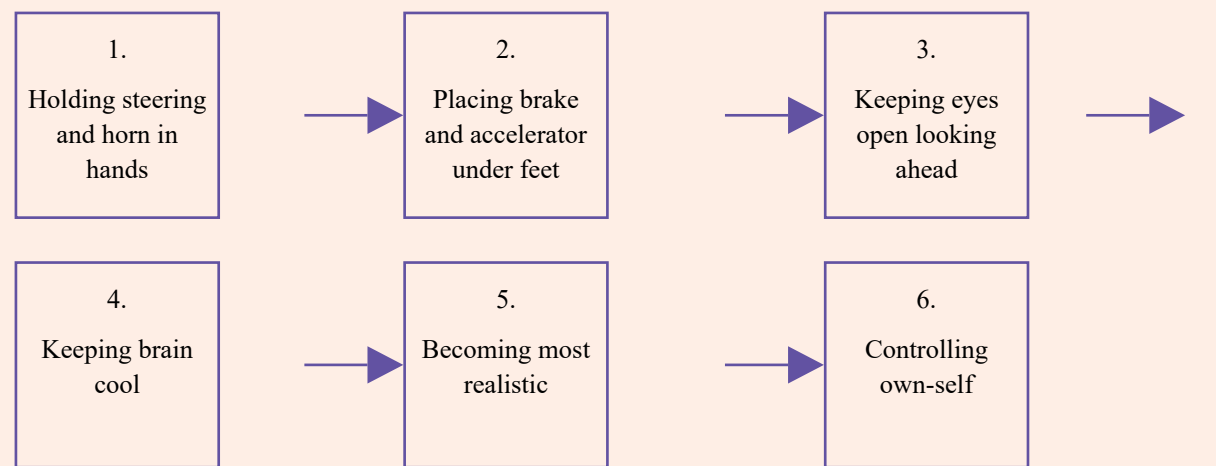
(b) Conflict is an inevitable part of life because all of us possess our own opinions, ideas and sets of beliefs. We have our own ways of looking at things and act according to what we think is proper. Hence, we often find ourselves in conflict with other individuals, groups of people or within our own selves.

(c) Some of the major causes of conflict are a clash of thoughts and ideas, differences of opinions, differences in principles, values and beliefs.

(d) I agree that the clashing of thoughts and ideas is a part of human experience. Whenever we act according to what we think in our own ways of looking at things, we, every now and then, find ourselves in conflict in different scenarios among individuals, groups of people or a struggle within our own selves. In addition, since conflict comes naturally, we cannot easily fight shy of the clashing of our thoughts and ideas that indicates part of human experiences.

(e) Conflict can be seen as an opportunity for learning and understanding our differences. Despite conflicts, we all can live harmoniously if we know how to manage the struggles responsibly as it is inevitable in our life.

#### Answers to the question number 2:



#### Answers to the question number 3:

- (a) learning (b) intellectual (c) attain (d) enlighten  
(e) choice (f) sensibility (g) parochialism (h) aware  
(i) eloquence (j) darkness

#### Answers to the question number 4:

- (a) strong  
(b) community  
(c) homeland  
(d) globalization  
(e) networking  
(f) linked/connected  
(g) origin  
(h) virtue  
(i) technological  
(j) generation





## Education sector needs a recovery plan

*Mere extension of closures of schools, colleges won't help*

THE government has once again extended the closure of all educational institutions including schools and colleges to August 6, in line with ongoing efforts to contain transmission of the coronavirus. A decision in this regard was imminent, and expected by the education sector, with the previously announced closure period expiring on June 15. All educational institutions in the country have been closed since March 17. If current trends in infections and deaths from the coronavirus continue, the closing period may extend well beyond September, which was when the prime minister earlier said might be a possible time for considering a reopening. In fact, experts predict that things will further deteriorate in the coming days. While saving lives without ignoring the economic exigencies of the people is our number-one priority at the moment, one fears the decision to keep students at home for a long time, without coming up with a comprehensive rescue and recovery plan for the education sector, will create formidable challenges.

The government's interventions in education so far have been mostly limited to extending closures and providing basic guidelines and edicts on how to continue virtual learning. The idea of virtual learning worked to some extent but risks falling by the wayside as many students, especially those from poorer families and disadvantaged groups, are finding it difficult to cope with. While universities are devising their own plan to resume semesters, how do we make up for the loss in the studies of the vast number of school and college going children? How do we reduce the inequalities sparked by unequal and insufficient access to online classes and tutorials? What about the mid-year exams, or the HSC exams which have been deferred for an indefinite period? We need an urgent rescue and recovery plan to offset the impacts of the pandemic on education. Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), a civil society forum of education NGOs, warned that progress made in the last two decades in education is in danger of being lost due to the immediate and longer-term consequences of Covid-19. Similar alerts have been raised by UNESCO for low and middle income countries. To address this threat, CAMPE had urged the government to initiate a three-year education recovery plan.

Surely, there is a surfeit of ideas about what could be included in such a plan. The government can begin by having experts devise a comprehensive plan that will include our ICT infrastructure, connectivity, broadband access, educational technology support and training for teachers, among other priorities, as necessary components. Some form of selective reopening may be considered in the near future. And of course, the proposed education budget should be reviewed and changed to allocate at least 15 percent of the total budget for education, as experts have demanded, to recover from the learning loss created by Covid-19.

## Great strides in producing renewable energy

*But reliance on biomass continues*

FINDING alternative sources of energy, which would not deplete too quickly over time and would not impose adverse consequences on the environment, has been at the top of the list for our planners; and all the more so since Bangladesh happens to be one of the five fastest growing economies in the world, with an increasing need for energy. Renewable and climate friendly sources of energy are also linked with reducing the greenhouses gases effect and the resultant damaging consequences of climate change, and has, since our Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan was formulated, been identified as one of the goals of Bangladesh, which aimed to generate five percent of its power needs from renewable energy sources by 2015, and 10 percent by 2020.

And a good strategy has borne fruit. According to REN21's Renewables 2020 Global Status Report (GSR) which was released on Monday, Bangladesh has achieved quite a distinction with respect to producing renewable energy, becoming one of the top six countries in terms of generating electricity using solar solutions, and, as of 2017, around eight percent of the country's total power generation capacity was sources from off-grid solar. According to the same, the electricity access in Bangladesh has almost doubled, from only 47 percent in 2010 to about 95 percent in 2019.

But that, unfortunately, is not enough. Even now, more than 80 percent of the households in Bangladesh depend on traditional sources of energy like biomass, coal and kerosene, all having serious consequences on the environment. Therefore, we believe that extra emphasis should be put on, what experts call, renewable pathways. The moot point is whether we can transit to 100 percent renewable sources in a relatively short time. A study in this regard recently has suggested that a shift to 100 percent renewable energy can provide sufficient energy for all at the lowest possible costs. The findings also unveil a high potential for reducing carbon emissions. Meanwhile, the focus of the government should be on ensuring extensive use of off-grid solar and mini-grid technologies, as well as environment friendly, clean cooking facilities.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

### Higher cost of phone usage

Following the proposed budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year, mobile phone users will have to pay higher bills as supplementary duty is set to increase to 15 percent from the existing 10 percent. As a result, users will be charged extra for SMS, voice calls and internet usage. During this pandemic, we have been heavily dependent on mobile usage. People from all walks of life are performing their day to day activities using e-commerce, online banking, online classes, online office, etc. If this proposal is passed, the higher costs will harm everyone, from farmers to students and businessmen, and impede the flow of development and the digitalisation of Bangladesh. I humbly urge the respective authorities to rethink the incremental supplementary duty on mobile phone usage.

MA Hafez, Dhaka



BADUZZAMAN BAY

“THERE are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen.” This comment by Vladimir Lenin, describing the Bolshevik revolution over 100 years ago, serves as an apt metaphor for the journey Bangladesh has had since March 8, when the country confirmed its first Covid-19 case. It's been 100 days since that fateful spring day—and three months since the day its first Covid-19 death was reported. The official death toll so far from the pandemic has topped 1,200 and the number of infections has crossed 90,000. Bangladesh is now the eighteenth worst-affected country in the world, even ahead of China, where the pandemic began.

These figures help us understand our position in a world ravaged by the coronavirus. What the “curve” doesn't tell you is the price paid in sufferings: the decades' worth of pain, chaos and uncertainty, all endured in just months. For the ordinary folks, there seems to be no end to this Herculean test of endurance. For them, there is only the next turn in the road. The next batch of unaided, unrecognised victims. The next bureaucratic screw-up, leading to even bigger screw-ups.

Any analysis of how the crisis has evolved in the 100 days since the first case will illustrate how Bangladesh's response, like that of most countries, has been shaped by a persisting conflict between opening up the economy and saving lives. As one of the most densely populated countries and simultaneously one of the poorest, it's naturally getting the worst of both worlds: a higher infection rate than comparable countries and a more ravaged economy. With the country's historically underdeveloped and underfunded healthcare system, no one, frankly, expected the government to be fully prepared for a crisis of this magnitude. We have seen stronger systems than that falling apart. But it was, at the least, expected to learn from its mistakes as it went along and judiciously use its limited capacity and resources for a better response. As it turned out, even a lowered expectation was one too many.

So how did a country otherwise used to frequent natural calamities fail so badly in dealing with this disaster? Let's consider four key factors that might explain this.

### Ossified bureaucratic/political institutions

After the March 8 disclosure, the government's lukewarm response to the initial warnings about imported Covid-19 cases and a possible spread at the community level served as a sign of things to come. In the subsequent days, we began to see frequent shifts in strategy: a countrywide lockdown imposed; stimulus packages announced and food (and cash) relief distributed; factories allowed to reopen; lockdown withdrawn amid soaring cases. These decisions, suffice to say, were meant to merely ride the beast—not to tame or direct it. There was no carefully laid out plan, no vision for the future.

A big part of why these decisions failed to contain the outbreak is the government's bureaucracy-driven approach with poorly-crafted targets and their equally poor execution. At a time when the system was supposed to be flexible

and more accountable and place itself on a war footing, given the extraordinary circumstances, it allowed itself to be tied down by bureaucratic deadweight, corruption, narrow political interests, and obsessions with pettifogging rules. Meanwhile, it continued to rule out any involvement of private-sector experts at any stage of policy development and execution. Consider, for example, how the Gonoshasthaya Kendra's coronavirus testing kit has been kept in limbo even after three months of its development, or how the voices of reason were snubbed in preparing the proposed budget which, if done right, could give Bangladesh's rescue and recovery plan a big push forward.

### TTI and treatment debacles

On April 5, Bangladesh was ranked 117th in the list of countries with the highest cases in the world. Today, within two and a half months, it finds itself in the 18th position. In simple terms, this means those hundred countries that were above us in the ranking have done a better job of containing the spread of the virus. How much of this downward

is crumbling. After mounting reports of Covid-19 and general patients, and those with suspected Covid-19 symptoms, dying without treatment, the High Court, on June 15, ruled that denying treatment to patients would be considered a criminal offence. As well as these TTI and treatment debacles, the government has also drawn sharp criticism for its failure to provide adequate protective equipment for fmedical staff and other frontline workers.

### Evasive communication

The other side of this dismal coin is the lack of communication. Communication is highly important in a pandemic situation. Information saves lives. But the government's communications have been mostly evasive and shambolic. From day one, it has failed to provide a coherent account of its plans, policies and capacities. Contradictory numbers of infections and deaths were sometimes given. Then confusion reigned when the nationwide lockdown was imposed, which the government promoted as a “general holiday”. By doing so, it created a perception that emergency lockdown

messaging from the government are vital to create public awareness, which has been key in battling Covid-19 with relative success in Southeast Asian countries like Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam, as a recent report by Reuters has shown.

### Lack of national unity

Could a united health response through public-private partnerships or collaborative policy efforts by major political parties produce a better result? It most certainly could. So far, there has been no sign of such a thing happening. Politicians, like in normal times, continue to bicker over petty issues. People, like in normal times, continue to be divided or disengaged. The administration, like in normal times, continues to cavalierly dismiss scientific solutions. Perhaps the biggest barrier to Bangladesh's success is this business-as-usual approach to the pandemic. Even four months into the outbreak, the ruling Awami League and BNP have failed to find common ground for much-needed national unity. Until they do so, the very urgent need for the creation of a national council or committee on the Covid-19



People disregarding social distancing advice and crowding a street in Fatullah in Narayanganj during the unofficial lockdown in late April.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

plunge for Bangladesh is an organic development, following the natural laws of viral transmission, and how much of it is because of our policy failures and execution blunders is anybody's guess.

Experts say there is a two-stage optimal strategy for dealing with Covid-19: The first stage is a lockdown to stop the spread of the virus; the second involves ending the lockdown step by step. A number of conditions have to be met to graduate from stage one to stage two (and to remain there). Bangladesh has ticked both boxes, but without meeting any of the conditions. The stress is on “any”. For example, one of the conditions for lifting lockdown is building up a decent test, trace and isolate (TTI) infrastructure. Ours is not even remotely comparable. Our stubbornly low levels of testing mean that the actual numbers could be far worse (only around 15,000 samples are tested every day in around 60 labs across the country). Of the 18 countries at the top, only Mexico is conducting fewer tests than Bangladesh. How can we ever hope to check the virus with such a pathetic TTI regime? The healthcare system, meanwhile,

measures were not essentially enforceable. Many people were, and still are, in the dark about what to do when, for example, someone needs to get tested. Or think of the time when garments workers were given mixed messages about resuming work, taking them on a desperate trip through overcrowded ferries that both risked their safety and likely helped spread the virus in far-flung corners of the country. Even now, when the government has reportedly prepared a list of 55 virus hotspots to be categorised as “red zones” and placed under lockdown, there seems to be confusion all around.

Instead of establishing a channel of communication that inspires trust and dispels confusion, the authorities have rather taken regressive measures to curb the free flow of information. Activists, doctors, academics, and journalists are justifiably afraid to speak up, thanks in no small part to the recent spike in lawsuits and other harassment and scare tactics against critics. The cumulative effect of this climate of panic, confusion and distrust amidst a raging pandemic is deeply disconcerting. Free flow of information and clear, effective

emergency would remain unfulfilled. Such a bipartisan council could do a much better job of handling the crisis than the current bureaucracy-led response mechanism. A national unity that brings together citizens and political rivals to face this emergency head-on is an urgent need of the hour.

### Endgame

Bangladesh, with its large population and grinding poverty, may seem like a perfect nursery setting for a new virus to take seed and spread uncontrollably. But this doesn't have to be the case, as some cramped cities and relatively poor countries with a better TTI regime and better policies than ours have shown. A properly enforced lockdown, zonal or national, is still our best chance to fight the virus. As a study by a research team at the Imperial College London has recently shown, lockdowns have saved more than three million lives from the coronavirus in Europe. Whatever course Bangladesh takes going forward, one hopes that mistakes made in the first 100 days of Covid-19 will not be repeated in the second.

Baduzzaman Bay is a member of the editorial team at The Daily Star.  
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# Bangladesh can share crucial knowledge on locally led adaptation



SALEEMUL HUQ

LAST week, Bangladesh formally took over the leadership of the group of nearly 50 countries in the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) for the next two years. The governance of the CVF is through a Troika system, with the current chair and the two previous chairs making collective decisions. Thus, the Minister of Marshall Islands as the previous chair and the Minister of Ethiopia as the chair before, met virtually with the Bangladesh Foreign Minister to formally announce Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as the new leader of the CVF as well as the V20, which is the group of the Finance Ministers of the CVF countries.

At the same time, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has also announced the appointment of Abul Kalam Azad, her previous Principal Secretary, as her Special Envoy for the CVF. This is indeed an excellent decision.

One of the new developments that is also planned during Bangladesh's tenure as chair of the CVF is to set up a regional centre on climate change adaptation in Dhaka, in collaboration with the Global

Centre on Adaptation (GCA) based in the Netherlands.

Over the years, each country that has led the CVF has initiated a centre of excellence to share their knowledge and help in capacity building of other CVF countries, such as a centre on renewable energy in Costa Rica, one on typhoon tracking in Philippines and another one on climate diplomacy in Ethiopia. Bangladesh now has the opportunity to make its Climate Change Centre into a major South-South centre on adaptation, but specifically on locally led adaptation.

Bangladesh was one of the first countries in the world to recognise the importance of climate change to our development. Under the Prime Minister's leadership in 2009, we developed the first Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP), which had six pillars and over forty actions identified. Then the Bangladesh Finance Minister set up the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCSTF) to support the actions of the BCCSAP, and each year, has allocated the equivalent of approximately USD 100,000,000 to support the different activities of government agencies as well as civil society groups. Over the last decade, Bangladesh has invested hundreds of millions of its own funding in hundreds of activities around the country, with a special emphasis on supporting the

most vulnerable communities in the most vulnerable regions. Government agencies as well as NGOs in Bangladesh have gained a significant knowledge of planning, as well as implementing, adaptation at the local level for different kinds of climate hazards, from floods and cyclones to droughts.

The second body of knowledge and experiences that Bangladesh has developed and can share with other countries is on cyclone disaster preparedness and developing climate change resilient strategies to deal with the aftermath of cyclones. Bangladesh can continue to develop its expertise in dealing with the loss and damage associated with climate change in post-cyclone recovery and rehabilitation, and adaptation to future climate change impacts.

The third foundation that Bangladesh has already established is the setting up of the Gobeshona network of over 50 universities and research institutions in the country, which has been developing research into action for decision-makers from the national government as well as sectoral and local government, and for NGOs and the general public. The annual Gobeshona conference held every January for the last six years has become a globally recognised event. In fact, the next conference, to be held in January 2021, can be joined with the Proposed Adaptation

Summit event that is now being planned to be held on January 25, 2021.

A fourth advantage that has been established is the Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC), which is an official South-South knowledge sharing and capacity building initiative coordinated from the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) in Bangladesh. This can be built upon for the CVF countries.

Finally, Bangladesh has been one of the global leaders on Community Based Adaptation (CBA) over many years and will be hosting the 15th annual International Conference on CBA in June 2021, to be hosted by BRAC. It will be an excellent opportunity for the government to collaborate with BRAC to make this a major global event next year.

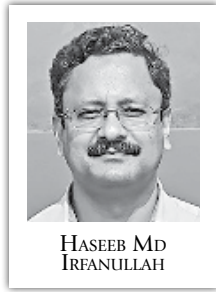
All of these foundations that have been laid down by Bangladesh over the years will work in our advantage as the chair of the CVF. The two year tenure as CVF chair will be an opportunity for Bangladesh to establish its leadership on the topic of locally led as well as community based adaptation, and will allow us to share our experiences and knowledge with the other CVF countries.

Saleemul Huq is Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development at the Independent University Bangladesh.



# DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT DAY

## The threat of parched land



HASEEB MD IRFANULLAH

**B**ARSHA-KAAL, or the rainy season, has officially arrived this week. If we were not shackled by Covid-19, we would have been welcoming monsoon with

singing and dancing at public gatherings, arranging tree fairs, and planting hundreds and thousands of saplings all over the country. A perfect time to make our country greener!

It may therefore sound a bit strange to observe Desertification and Drought Day today, on June 17. We may even wonder—does this day have anything to do with luxuriant, riverine Bangladesh?

Before answering this question, let's quickly look back at the 1970s. The year 1973 saw the end of a five-year-long drought in Sub-Saharan Africa that killed more than 200,000 people and millions of animals. The severity prompted numerous global discussions and initiatives over the next two decades to address these grave societal challenges—drought and desertification.

On June 17, 1994, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was adopted in Paris as a global effort to fight desertification and drought, primarily in Africa. Six months later, the UN General Assembly decided that, from 1995, June 17 would be observed as The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought to increase public awareness of these vital environmental concerns. Twenty-five years later, this year, the day has been renamed as Desertification and Drought Day.

Just to clarify, desertification does not mean expansion or creation of deserts. It is in fact a process where the quality of land gets degraded—through clearing of tree covers, unplanned and over-exploitation of land resources, erosion of hills and river banks, chemical pollution of land, and salinity intrusion, for example. Back in the 1990s, Bangladesh

did recognise land degradation as a growing concern, as well as seasonal and long rainless spells, especially in the north-western part of the country.

Bangladesh signed the UNCCD in 1996. This UN convention is rather less known than its two sister conventions—the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These three UN conventions together are called the Rio Conventions—as they were the direct outcomes of the UN Conference on Environment and Development or the Rio Earth Summit held in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Prepared in line with the UNCCD, the National Action Programme (NAP) for Combating Desertification (2005) was Bangladesh's first comprehensive attempt to tackle land degradation. This enthusiasm gradually dried out over the following years, and land degradation in Bangladesh continued. From 2000 to 2010, for example, 334 square kilometres of forest land in Bangladesh was converted to shrub/grass land or cropland.

There are a few possible reasons for the UNCCD implementation getting sidetracked. First, overwhelming global attention to and resources for climate actions and biodiversity conservation, facilitated by the UNFCCC and the

CBD processes, respectively, made the UNCCD a backbencher. Those two conventions also deal with land degradation and drought as a part of changing climate, carbon emissions, over-exploitation of natural resources, and destruction of ecosystems discourses—the second reason for the UNCCD struggling to find its unique niche.

Thirdly (although this is up for

land. More specifically, the convention deals with target 15.3—one of 169 SDG targets—which says “By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world”.

“A land degradation-neutral world” is indeed a very ambitious vision. Nevertheless, if we move towards



PHOTO: AFP/GETTY

*As we get ready to revive our economy after the pandemic, we need to stop seeing land only as a source to generate revenue, a space for rampant agro-chemical application, and a resource to abuse.*

debate), the leadership—both at national and global levels—could also be responsible for limited attention and action to tackle land degradation. In Bangladesh, for example, while the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is accountable for implementing the UNCCD decisions, more resourceful ministries, like agriculture, land, local government, and road transport and bridges, are managing the country's land resources according to government priorities.

In 2015, the fight against land degradation was rejuvenated globally as the UN General Assembly approved the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Out of 17 SDGs, the UNCCD started focusing on SDG 15—life on

such “neutrality”, the concept of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) can help us to measure our progress. LDN talks about a condition where the amount and quality of land needed to support ecosystem's functions and to improve food security remains at least stable. In other words—no more degradation occurs in a given piece of land, over a period of time.

In 2018, Bangladesh voluntarily set six targets towards LDN to be achieved over the next 12 years. In the National Report on Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme submitted to the UNCCD, the country promises to increase soil fertility and carbon content in 2000 square kilometres of cropland, to protect 1200 square kilometres of

non-saline coastal land from salinity intrusion, and to reduce conversion of 600 square kilometres of forest area, waterlogging in 600 square kilometres of area, soil erosion in 600 square kilometres of hilly areas and river bank erosion in 100 square kilometres of area—all by 2030, in line with the SDGs.

To meet these targets, the government has proposed a number of nature-based solutions—afforestation, reforestation, green-belt creation, village forestry, agro-forestry, slope stabilisation with vegetation, and river bank protection and charland stabilisation with plantation—many of which have long been practiced in Bangladesh for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and ecosystem management.

We should now bring our experiences together and invest our limited financial resources in nature-based solutions that will not only reduce land degradation, but also fight the climate crisis and biodiversity loss in a cost-effective and efficient manner, with the people.

As we get ready to revive our economy after the pandemic, we need to stop seeing land only as a source to generate revenue, a space for rampant agro-chemical application, and a resource to abuse. We need to see soil as a living entity that feeds us, that shelters biodiversity, and that has the tremendous potential to store carbon, large enough to keep the global temperature increase below 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030.

It is time for the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to take the lead and push for Land Degradation Neutrality as a priority in Bangladesh's land use sector. As the ministry is responsible for strategies and actions against land degradation, climate change and biodiversity loss, it needs to coordinate its efforts and investments around nature-based solutions to address all three societal challenges together. We should not miss this opportunity.

Dr Haseeb Md Irfanullah is an independent consultant working on environment, climate change, and research systems. His Twitter handle is @hmirfanullah.

# Using satellites to get the real picture of development

## The untold story of remotely sensed data

TANVIR KABIR and IFTEKHAIRUL ISLAM

**H**OW can you tell if the nearest drinking water source is safe? What would be the agriculture yield this year, factoring in all the variables? How can we identify the optimum location for a rural healthcare facility? We can follow conventional approaches to look for the answers, but if we need a consistent, timely and cost-effective solution, we must take the help of what is known as Remotely-Sensed (RS) data. Analysing RS and geospatial data has become the latest innovation in data generation. RS data comprises the images taken by satellites and UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) that can be processed and modified to obtain critical information. The enormous scope of this unique source of intelligence has amazed stakeholders from science, technology, geology and policymaking alike. The easy-to-access nature of such data is unfurling new avenues of opportunity every day. In the last several years, it has made its foray into the monitoring and evaluation of development goals advocated by the United Nations (UN).

Assessing the outcomes of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the UN came up with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. These goals underscore a triple bottom line approach of human wellbeing by integrating agreed synergies and trade-offs among economic development, environmental sustainability and social inclusion, adopted by world leaders and development partners. This time around, the objectives are much broader

in scope, with 17 goals and 169 target areas. One compelling dimension of the SDGs is keeping in mind “the health of the Earth” while pursuing development goals. This makes the implementation and monitoring part all the more complex.

Collecting data continuously and on a significant scale is the basis of success in achieving these goals. That is where the whole initiative faces a considerable challenge. Development experts believe that conducting the census every ten years is not enough to detect the latent yet critical changes in socioeconomic indicators. Along with this regular practice, every country must portray an accurate and consistent picture of the indicators. According to estimates, it could cost up to USD 253 billion to monitor socioeconomic targets through household survey data on a broad scale for the entire lifetime of the SDGs.

The application of RS data can play a critical role here. There are several Earth Observation (EO) satellite programmes like Landsat by NASA and Sentinel by ESA (the space agencies of the USA and European Union) that provide free access to high-resolution images and a wide variety of updated information. A developing country could save a ton of money and time and still extract relevant insight out of these data. With the recent development in big data analysis assisted by state-of-the-art software and cheap computing power, satellite images can aid in detecting suitable agricultural land or safe water sources, predicting floods and volcanic eruptions, or managing evacuation in a wildfire or cyclone.

RS data could provide more specific recommendations suitable for targeted SDG interventions and local execution as well. As the methods of data collection from census and yearly surveys are different from country to country, RS data could support a standardised platform for analyses and policy suggestions. It can help solve the perpetual problem of infrequent and insufficient conventional data sources. These compelling features of RS data in measuring development factors has recently caught the attention of the UN's High-Level Political Forum to kickstart a conversation on “Data for Sustainable Development”.

So how exactly can RS data help achieve the SDGs? The UN Statistics Division estimated that approximately 20 percent of the SDG indicators could be translated and determined either through direct use of geospatial data itself or through integration with other statistical data. Indonesia has been using a GIS-based poverty map as a tool to detect inequality and disparity within the country. Many of their social protection programmes are hinged on such data. Geospatial analysis could further offer intelligence on the precise level of irrigation, fertilisers, pesticides and seeds required for optimum yield. The Indian state of Kerala has been analysing satellite images for making accurate agricultural decisions. Vietnam has also been using RS data to fight arsenic contamination and land subsidence issues in the Mekong delta. Many countries from Africa are applying satellite imagery to institute a substantive healthcare system

*With the recent development in big data analysis assisted by state-of-the-art software and cheap computing power, satellite images can aid in detecting suitable agricultural land or safe water sources, predicting floods and volcanic eruptions, or managing evacuation in a wildfire or cyclone.*

like finding the optimum location of healthcare facilities, predicting patterns and distribution of diseases, monitoring the quality of air, and identifying sources of safe drinking water.

RS data can also be applied to track and control unbridled urbanisation, deforestation and desertification. South American countries are benefitting exceptionally in the battle against illegal cutting and land-grabbing as they turn actionable insights out of satellite imagery. Countries that bank heavily on the blue economy utilise bathymetric data from satellites and sensors. They can take practical measures to maximise fishing output. These data

also help predict the contamination of the river and sea by analysing the colour and texture of the surface water. One geospatial study projects that the entire coastal region of Bangladesh could drown if the sea level rises 18 inches due to global warming. It would affect more than 15 million people. RS data could help to formulate a secure and robust relocation programme for them if necessary.

The potential for applying GIS data in the development sector of Bangladesh is enormous. Being a signatory of the SDG protocol, Bangladesh must take advantage of this technology to keep up with monitoring and evaluating the indicators. For example, India has its programmes for auditing and assessing SDGs promoted by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). As Bangladesh has already entered into the prestigious league of flying its own satellites, it is high time to move forward with new satellites equipped with sophisticated sensors and cameras. The Prime Minister recently mentioned in a speech that we must ensure the optimum use of land and resources to fight the economic fallout from the pandemic. Cutting edge geospatial and big data analysis, and state-of-the-art facilities for space and geo sciences, hold the key to this end.

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### QUOTABLE Quote



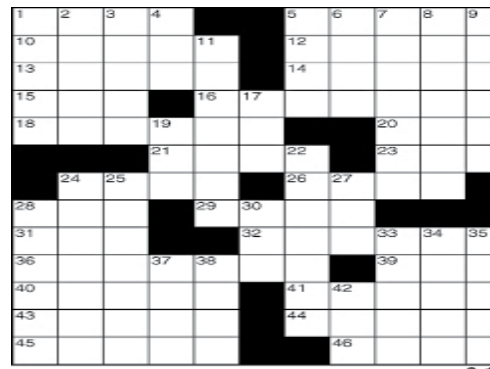
ROBIN DIANGELO (Born 1956)

American academic, lecturer, and author.

*Like a nontechnical user trying to understand a technical problem, our racial illiteracy limits our ability to have meaningful conversations about race.*

### CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- |                    |                                |                             |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>      | 36 China's region              | 9 Chambers for women        |
| 1 Does a yard job  | 39 Verb for you                | 11 Prepares a fillet        |
| 5 Secret store     | 40 Showy detail                | 17 Gifted                   |
| 10 "To repeat ..." | 41 Consumed                    | 19 Deli choice              |
| 12 Turkish bigwig  | 43 Make blank                  | 22 Manor settings           |
| 13 Dull finish     | 44 Book part                   | 24 "Smiley's People" author |
| 14 Church feature  | 45 Zellweger of "Judy" husband | 25 From Portugal or Spain   |
| 15 Mamie's husband | 46 Frost, e.g.                 | 27 That woman               |
| 16 Scanner target  |                                | 28 Disagree                 |
| 18 Drive-in server | <b>DOWN</b>                    | 30 "- a deal!"              |
| 20 Crater part     | 1 Parrot                       | 33 Cookout site             |
| 21 Hand cost       | 2 Honshu city                  | 34 Dancer Castle            |
| 23 Powerful people | 3 Bottled buy                  | 35 Principle                |
| 24 Green shade     | 4 Canine command               | 37 Otherwise                |
| 26 Carpet type     | 5 Ship pole                    | 38 Out of the wind          |
| 28 Cottillion girl | 6 Soft mineral                 | 42 Phone download           |
| 29 Spot            | 7 Oregon city                  |                             |
| 31 Water cooler    | 8 Slight variation of color    |                             |
| 32 La Brea sight   |                                |                             |



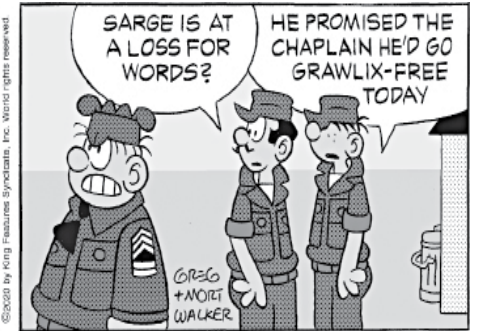
### YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

R A P P E L D E E R  
E V O L V E E Y R E  
D E T A I N S E R F  
C L A S P S  
W I S E P O O C H  
I N K I G O T C H A  
S L Y C A R K I N  
P E R S I S T E N D  
S T O N E S T A Y  
C E R E A L  
P E K E A R A B I A  
O V E R R E T U R N  
P E T S P A S T E D

### BEETLE BAILEY



### BY MORT WALKER



### BABY BLUES



### BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com.



### 13 judges

FROM PAGE 12 admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The other infected judges and staff members are receiving treatment at their residences, according to the sources.

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain has talked to all the infected judges and asked officials concerned to take necessary actions to ensure proper treatment of the judges.

The chief justice also asked the district judges concerned to take appropriate measures for the treatment of the infected staff.

Two separate committees have recently been formed to ensure the treatment of the infected judges across the country.

Earlier last month, the law ministry set up a monitoring cell to ensure treatment of the lower court judges.

Law Minister Anisul Huq is giving necessary directives to the monitoring cell to this effect, law ministry sources said.

### Bolivia

FROM PAGE 12 "We were overwhelmed," said Villazon, likening the incident to a "terrorist attack". No serious violence was reported by police.

The villagers had previously held protests demanding the mayor take down the masts over fears that they could spread Covid-19, according to the newspaper.

Interior Minister Arturo Murillo said on Twitter that people loyal to former president Evo Morales were destroying masts in Yapacani as well as San Julian and Ichilo, two other eastern towns.

Bolivia's communications ministry issued a statement reminding people that 5G technology is not available in the country and that it is not linked to the respiratory illness.

### Virus clusters

FROM PAGE 12 While these cases have caused concern about a resurgence in countries that had suppressed their outbreaks, the disease is gaining momentum in other regions with massive populations.

Known infections in India have crossed 330,000, and already stretched authorities are bracing for the monsoon season, which causes outbreaks of illnesses such as dengue fever and malaria every year.

### People rush

FROM PAGE 12 several hours for a ticket, but in vain. A staffer at the counter said all tickets until the middle of next month were booked. I will lose my job if I fail to fly to Italy within next two weeks," said expatriate Bangladeshi Shamim Hossain who came home in January.

Like Shamim, some others complained that they didn't get tickets of Qatar Airways flights to travel to different Middle Eastern countries. They said they were also at risk of losing their jobs if they failed to reach their destinations within the next couple of weeks.

Speaking to this correspondent on condition of anonymity, a Qatar Airways official said they were issuing tickets considering the priorities of passengers.

"Our priority is to give tickets to passengers whose visas will expire soon and who are at risk of losing jobs," added the official.

Flight operations on all international and domestic routes, except for China, remained suspended since March 21 to curb the spread of Covid-19.

Flight operations on domestic routes resumed on June 1 on a limited scale. Carriers were allowed to operate flights on three domestic routes out of seven.

CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman said a Qatar Airways commercial flight, carrying 33 transit passengers from Doha, touched down at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 2:10am yesterday. It left for Doha with 274 transit travelers.

On June 11, the government decided to resume operations of Biman Bangladesh Airlines flights on Dhaka-London-Dhaka route. It granted permission to Qatar Airways to operate three flights a week from yesterday on Doha-Dhaka-Doha route on the condition that those would carry only transit passengers.

The CAAB chairman said they made all preparations to resume operations of international flights in line with health guidelines, prepared following instructions of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

The CAAB installed a disinfectant tunnel at a boarding gate of Dhaka airport for arriving passengers.

Qatar Airways will operate flights on Doha-Dhaka-Doha route on every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

However, Biman has decided to operate Dhaka-London-Dhaka flights from June 21.

Tahera Khandaker, deputy general manager (public relations) of Biman, said they would initially operate one flight to London from Dhaka on every Sunday.

The CAAB chairman said they want to reestablish air links with different other countries considering the demand for flight tickets.



Ratan, a seventh grader, carrying grass to his home on Shalukha char of Bogura's Sariakandi upazila. He helps his parents with work on the char as his school remains closed on account of the Covid-19 outbreak. While students from primary to college level have been trying to study at home or take online classes, those in areas with no electricity or limited internet access are not being able to keep up.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHOBUJ

## Shutdown stopped their lessons

FROM PAGE 12 Young children and teenagers, from primary to the college level, were seen whiling away the time playing with their friends. Some were working in the fields or otherwise helping their parents.

Eighteen-year-old Md Shakil Mia, from Char Batiaya in Bogura's Sariakandi upazila, is in the first year of HSC at Sariakandi Degree College.

For a teenager on the chars, access to the outside world is limited anyway. Shakil's family has no television at home and no one owns a smartphone -- meaning he cannot take advantage of remote learning at home as others.

"Since the college closed, I am either sitting at home or playing cricket with others. I heard TV classes are going on, but I don't have that opportunity," said Shakil.

Md Tarek Sarker, a fourth-grader from Char Batiaya, said, "The school is closed and I am doing nothing except playing with my friends all day long. There is no one at my home to teach me."

On the chars, there is no alternative to school education -- digital or otherwise.

A parent on Kuripara char, with a population of 3,000, 38-year-old Bablu Mia's two children study at the local government primary school.

"After the school closed, they have no opportunity to learn to read and write at home as my wife and I are

both illiterate."

Poor families on the chars have also come to depend on the stipends their children receive for attending school, under the government's Primary Education Stipend Programme.

On Moiyurer Char, 40-year-old Kohinoor Begum has two children in the local government primary school.

"My elder son Alam is in class five and he would get Tk 300 and my daughter in class one would get Tk 150 each month. These last two months, they are not getting this money from the school after it was closed."

According to the Gaibandha district primary education office, there are around 100 primary schools in char areas under Gaibandha Sadar, Saghata, Fulchari, and Sundarganj upazilas. There are around 15,000 students studying in these primary schools.

There are also over 5,000 schoolchildren from the chars who study in schools on the mainland, said Md Hosen Ali, Gaibandha district primary education officer.

"Electricity and TVs are rare in the char areas of Gaibandha. In very few houses, you can find a TV run by solar power or charger-battery," Hosen Ali told The Daily Star.

"It's difficult to arrange online education for char students, but the government is trying to provide online education for every student who lives on the mainland."

There are also eight high schools and three madrasas in the char areas of Gaibandha district, where the number of students is more than 5,000, said Md Enayet Hossain, district secondary education officer.

In Sariakandi upazila of Bogura, there are 47 primary schools, six high schools and four Ebtedayee madrasas in the Jamuna chars, according to the upazila primary and secondary education office. Students number more than 10,000 in total.

Additionally, around 2,000-3,000 students from the chars regularly attend upazila town educational institutions, said Md Shahidul Islam, secondary education officer of Sariakandi upazila.

He, however, claimed many students on the chars have TVs and access to the internet and if interested, can access the government's online education programme.

"Students who are living on the mainland are also showing less interest in online education," said Shahidul.

In chars under Bogura's Sonatala upazila, there are 10 government primary schools and a Dakhil madrasa where around 1,000 children study.

This is in addition to around 400 students who live on the chars but attend schools and college in the upazila town, said Md Azizur Rahman, secondary education officer of the upazila.

## Israeli firm monitors sewers in fight against coronavirus

AFP, Ashkelon

An Israeli company is monitoring coronavirus traces in a coastal city's sewers and hopes to deploy its technology more widely to provide early warning of future concentrations of the respiratory disease.

Ari Goldfarb saw a unique opportunity to test the limits of underground technology developed by his firm when coronavirus patients were moved into a hotel in Ashkelon taken over by the government.

"When this Covid-19 pandemic came, it was clear to us that we can use this system, or this knowledge, to give a better insight" into the virus, he told AFP.

Fixated by wastewater since seeing raw sewage streaming into the sea while surfing as a teenager, Goldfarb founded the firm Kando initially to pinpoint industrial waste in the city's labyrinthine municipal sewage system.

Eight years on, the company's network of sensors, autosamplers and controllers placed under manholes in Ashkelon are tracing coronavirus.

In May, Kando partnered with scientists and mathematicians in Israel, Europe and the United States to embark on a month-long pilot to determine the accuracy of their technology.

The findings, said Goldfarb,

conformed with the health ministry's data showing the breadth and the near-exact location of confirmed virus carriers, including the hotel used by patients.

"We're the only one who can tell where the outbreak is and how big the outbreak is in the city," said Goldfarb.

Sewage has also been tested in cities like Melbourne, Paris, Tokyo, Amsterdam, Valencia and the US state of Massachusetts -- although mostly on a small scale and without precision.

Kando's manhole sensors can measure the flow of wastewater and how far it has travelled, using algorithms to determine the best moment to automatically collect samples.

They are then analysed at a number of laboratories, with the findings instructing the firm on the direction to follow within the sewage system's pipes to reach the source of the virus, Goldfarb said.

Scientists around the world have already detected Covid-19 in patients' stools within sewage systems, but can only provide a general reading of the presence of the virus in a community.

Kando's technology can go further, according to Goldfarb, by giving a more precise location of an outbreak, potentially helping authorities control diseases.

## Steroid proves first

FROM PAGE 12

to save lives worldwide."

There are currently no approved treatments or vaccines for Covid-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus which has killed more than 431,000 globally.

**SAVING COUNTLESS LIVES**

The RECOVERY trial compared outcomes of around 2,100 patients who were randomly assigned to get the steroid, with those of around 4,300 patients who did not get it.

The results suggest that one death would be prevented by treatment with dexamethasone among every eight ventilated Covid-19 patients, Landray said, and one death would be prevented among every 25 Covid-19 patients that received the drug and are on oxygen.

Among patients with Covid-19 who did not require respiratory support, there was no benefit from treatment with dexamethasone.

"The survival benefit is clear and large in those patients who are sick enough to require oxygen treatment, so dexamethasone should now

become standard of care in these patients," Horby said.

Nick Cammack, an expert on Covid-19 at the Wellcome Trust global health charity, said the findings would "transform the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on lives and economies across the world."

"Countless lives will be saved globally," he said in a statement responding to the results.

The RECOVERY trial was launched in April as a randomised clinical trial to test a range of potential treatments for Covid-19, including low-dose dexamethasone and the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine.

The hydroxychloroquine arm was halted earlier this month after Horby and Landray said results showed it was "useless" at treating Covid-19 patients.

Global cases of infection with the novel coronavirus have reached over 8 million, according to a Reuters tally, and more than 434,000 people have died after contracting the virus, the first case if which was reported in China in early January.

## Bangladesh gets IMF

FROM PAGE 12

Monetary Fund. Among the 119 members, 88 countries voted in favour of Bangladesh's membership. Six countries including Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Jordan abstained from the voting process. Only Sudan voted against Bangladesh's entry into the IMF.

**BANGLADESH-NEPAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE**

Bangladesh and Nepal issue a joint communique today which stipulates the signing of a trade treaty between the two neighbours soon. It further says that trade relations will get a boost following the improvement of transportation and communication facilities between the two countries.

**FOOD SITUATION IMPROVES**

United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim today says that the food situation in Bangladesh has improved in recent times. However, he fears that early rain this year may badly affect the harvest. He identifies lack of transportation as a bigger problem than the food crisis.

**SEPARATE MINISTRY FOR JUTE**

The government is actively considering the formation of a separate ministry for jute. It has long been a demand of the people of Bangladesh. Currently, jute is the main cash crop of the country. Bangladesh has exported 87,000 tonnes of raw jute in the first five months of this year and earned Tk 69 crore.

**SOURCES:** June 18, 1972 issue of *Purbodosh*.

## 13 die after showing

FROM PAGE 12

(RMO) of the hospital, adding that samples of the two were collected but the hospital authorities were yet to receive the test results.

In Madaripur, a 55-year-old man died of Covid-19 symptoms while receiving treatment at the isolation ward of Madaripur General Hospital on Monday night. He was admitted to the hospital in the evening with fever and respiratory problems, said Akhil Sarkar, RMO of the hospital, adding that samples of the deceased were collected for Covid-19 test.

In Chandpur, at least six people died with Covid-19 symptoms in five upazilas since Monday.

Of them, a 55-year-old local Awami League leader died with fever and respiratory problems at his house in Haimchar upazila yesterday noon.

Another 70-year-old man died with similar symptoms at his residence in Randhunimura area under Haziganj upazila yesterday noon, said Shoyeb Ahmed, Haziganj upazila health officer.

In a separate incident, an 82-year-old man from Matlab Uttar upazila died at the isolation unit of Chandpur Sadar Hospital on Monday, said Sujauddowla Rubel, RMO of the hospital.

Besides, a 50-year-old man died with coronavirus-like symptoms at Desh Khaguria area of Haziganj upazila, an employee of local union parishad land office died in Shaharaj upazila and a youth died in Faridganj upazila on Monday, said local health

officers.

In Pirojpur, a 55-year-old high school teacher died with coronavirus-like symptoms at Bhandaria upazila early yesterday.

The man was suffering from respiratory diseases and died while being taken to the hospital, said Najmul Alam, Bhandaria upazila nirbahi officer.

In Moulvibazar, two people, including a child, died of Covid-19 symptoms on Monday.

The five-year-child from Kalimabad village under Kulaura upazila had been suffering from fever, cold and breathing problems for the last one week, said Nurul Haque, Kulaura upazila health officer, adding that the child died before being taken to the hospital.

Another 58-year-old man from Konagaon village under Juri Upazila, died at Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital after suffering from respiratory problems.

In Habiganj, a 48-year-old local Juba League leader died with coronavirus symptoms in Shayestaganj upazila yesterday morning.

The victim was suffering from fever and breathing problems for the last few days. He was admitted to Habiganj Sadar Modern Hospital on Monday evening.

But he died yesterday morning while undergoing treatment, said Moklesur Rahman Ujjan, the district's deputy civil surgeon.

Our correspondents from Patuakhali, Faridpur, Chandpur, Moulvibazar and Pirojpur contributed to this report.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
এডিশনাল ইন্সপেক্টর জেনারেলের কার্যালয়  
সিআইডি, ঢাকা

পুলিশের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১(১)/২০২০-২০২১ খ্রিঃ

সিদ্ধান্তিত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, সিআইডি, ঢাকা রেনেসে টোরে ২০২০-২০২১ অর্ধবছরের ১ম কোয়ার্টার (ফেব্রু, মার্চ, এপ্রিল/২০২০ খ্রিঃ) এর জন্য মন্বরা ডান (ডায়রাম, স্ট্রেট নামা), সফটওয়্যার ও পেমেন্ট এর মাস জরিপ, পেমেন্ট করা, রেনেসে সার্ভী পরিবহন কাজ ও কুলি/সেবা নিয়োগের বিভিন্ন নীল মোহরকৃত প্যামে প্রোগ্রামের যোগ্যতা সম্পন্ন দরদারগণের নিম্নে হতে পুনঃনির্বাচন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১।	সফটওয়্যার উদ্ভাবন	৪।	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, সিআইডি, ঢাকা।
০২।	সফটওয়্যার উদ্ভাবন	৫।	সিআইডি
০৩।	মন্বরা প্যাকেজ মন্বরা	৬।	১(১)/২০২০-২০২১ খ্রিঃ অর্ধবছর।
০৪।	মন্বরা মোহরকৃত সফটওয়্যার ও সার্ভিস	৭।	সফটওয়্যার/১২-২০২০/১৫/১৬/১৭/১৮/১৯/২০/২১/২২/২৩/২৪/২৫/২৬/২৭/২৮/২৯/৩০/৩১/৩২/৩৩/৩৪/৩৫/৩৬/৩৭/৩৮/৩৯/৪০/৪১/৪২/৪৩/৪৪/৪৫/৪৬/৪৭/৪৮/৪৯/৫০/৫১/৫২/৫৩/৫৪/৫৫/৫৬/৫৭/৫৮/৫৯/৬০/৬১/৬২/৬৩/৬৪/৬৫/৬৬/৬৭/৬৮/৬৯/৭০/৭১/৭২/৭৩/৭৪/৭৫/৭৬/৭৭/৭৮/৭৯/৮০/৮১/৮২/৮৩/৮৪/৮৫/৮৬/৮৭/৮৮/৮৯/৯০/৯১/৯২/৯৩/৯৪/৯৫/৯৬/৯৭/৯৮/৯৯/১০০/১০১/১০২/১০৩/১০৪/১০৫/১০৬/১০৭/১০৮/১০৯/১১০/১১১/১১২/১১৩/১১৪/১১৫/১১৬/১১৭/১১৮/১১৯/১২০/১২১/১২২/১২৩/১২৪/১২৫/১২৬/১২৭/১২৮/১২৯/১৩০/১৩১/১৩২/১৩৩/১৩৪/১৩৫/১৩৬/১৩৭/১৩৮/১৩৯/১৪০/১৪১/১৪২/১৪৩/১৪৪/১৪৫/১৪৬/১৪৭/১৪৮/১৪৯/১৫০/১৫১/১৫২/১৫৩/১৫৪/১৫৫/১৫৬/১৫৭/১৫৮/১৫৯/১৬০/১৬১/১৬২/১৬৩/১৬৪/১৬৫/১৬৬/১৬৭/১৬৮/১৬৯/১৭০/১৭১/১৭২/১৭৩/১৭৪/১৭৫/১৭৬/১৭৭/১৭৮/১৭৯/১৮০/১৮১/১৮২/১৮৩/১৮৪/১৮৫/১৮৬/১৮৭/১৮৮/১৮৯/১৯০/১৯১/১৯২/১৯৩/১৯৪/১৯৫/১৯৬/১৯৭/১৯৮/১৯৯/২০০/২০১/২০২/২০৩/২০৪/২০৫/২০৬/২০৭/২০৮/২০৯/২১০/২১১/২১২/২১৩/২১৪/২১৫/২১৬/২১৭/২১৮/২১৯/২২০/২২১/২২২/২২৩/২২৪/২২৫/২২৬/২২৭/২২৮/২২৯/২৩০/২৩১/২৩২/২৩৩/২৩৪/২৩৫/২৩৬/২৩৭/২৩৮/২৩৯/২৪০/২৪১/২৪২/২৪৩/২৪৪/২৪৫/২৪৬/২৪৭/২৪৮/২৪৯/২৫০/২৫১/২৫২/২৫৩/২৫৪/২৫৫/২৫৬/২৫৭/২৫৮/২৫৯/২৬০/২৬১/২৬২/২৬৩/২৬৪/২৬৫/২৬৬/২৬৭/২৬৮/২৬৯/২৭০/২৭১/২৭২/২৭৩/২৭৪/২৭৫/২৭৬/২৭৭/২৭৮/২৭৯/২৮০/২৮১/২৮২/২৮৩/২৮৪/২৮৫/২৮৬/২৮৭/২৮৮/২৮৯/২৯০/২৯১/২৯২/২৯৩/২৯৪/২৯৫/২৯৬/২৯৭/২৯৮/২৯৯/৩০০/৩০১/৩০২/৩০৩/৩০৪/৩০৫/৩০৬/৩০৭/৩০৮/৩০৯/৩১০/৩১১/৩১২/৩১৩/৩১৪/৩১৫/৩১৬/৩১৭/৩১৮/৩১৯/৩২০/৩২১/৩২২/৩২৩/৩২৪/৩২৫/৩২৬/৩২৭/৩২৮/৩২৯/৩৩০/৩৩১/৩৩২/৩৩৩/৩৩৪/৩৩৫/৩৩৬/৩৩৭/৩৩৮/৩৩৯/৩৪০/৩৪১/৩৪২/৩৪৩/৩৪৪/৩৪৫/৩৪৬/৩৪৭/৩৪৮/৩৪৯/৩৫০/৩৫১/৩৫২/৩৫৩/৩৫৪/৩৫৫/৩৫৬/৩৫৭/৩৫৮/৩৫৯/৩৬০/৩৬১/৩৬২/৩৬৩/৩৬৪/৩৬৫/৩৬৬/৩৬৭/৩৬৮/৩৬৯/৩৭০/৩৭১/৩৭২/৩৭৩/৩৭৪/৩৭৫/৩৭৬/৩৭৭/৩৭৮/৩৭৯/৩৮০/৩৮১/৩৮২/৩৮৩/৩৮৪/৩৮৫/৩৮৬/৩৮৭/৩৮৮/৩৮৯/৩৯০/৩৯১/৩৯২/৩৯৩/৩৯৪/৩৯৫/৩৯৬/৩৯৭/৩৯৮/৩৯৯/৪০০/৪০১/৪০২/৪০৩/৪০৪/৪০৫/৪০৬/৪০৭/৪০৮/৪০৯/৪১০/৪১১/৪১২/৪১৩/৪১৪/৪১৫/৪১৬/৪১৭/৪১৮/৪১৯/৪২০/৪২১/৪২২/৪২৩/৪২৪/৪২৫/৪২৬/৪২৭/৪২৮/৪২৯/৪৩০/৪৩১/৪৩২/৪৩৩/৪৩৪/৪৩৫/৪৩৬/৪৩৭/৪৩৮/৪৩৯/৪৪০/৪৪১/৪৪২/৪৪৩/৪৪৪/৪৪৫/৪৪৬/৪৪৭/৪৪৮/৪৪৯/৪৫০/৪৫১/৪৫২/৪৫৩/৪৫৪/৪৫৫/৪৫৬/৪৫৭/৪৫৮/৪৫৯/৪৬০/৪৬১/৪৬২/৪৬৩/৪৬৪/৪৬৫/৪৬৬/৪৬৭/৪৬৮/৪৬৯/৪৭০/৪৭১/৪৭২/৪৭৩/৪৭৪/৪৭৫/৪৭৬/৪৭৭/৪৭৮/৪৭৯/৪৮০/৪৮১/৪৮২/৪৮৩/৪৮৪/৪৮৫/৪৮৬/৪৮৭/৪৮৮/৪৮৯/৪৯০/৪৯১/৪৯২/৪৯৩/৪৯৪/৪৯৫/৪৯৬/৪৯৭/৪৯৮/৪৯৯/৫০০/৫০১/৫০২/৫০৩/৫০৪/৫০৫/৫০৬/৫০৭/৫০৮/৫০৯/৫১০/৫১১/৫১২/৫১৩/৫১৪/৫১৫/৫১৬/৫১৭/৫১৮/৫১৯/৫২০/৫২১/৫২২/৫২৩/৫২৪/৫২৫/৫২৬/৫২৭/৫২৮/৫২৯/৫৩০/৫৩১/৫৩২/৫৩৩/৫৩৪/৫৩৫/৫৩৬/৫৩৭/৫৩৮/৫৩৯/৫৪০/৫৪১/৫৪২/৫৪৩/৫৪৪/৫৪৫/৫৪৬/৫৪৭/৫৪৮/৫৪৯/৫৫০/৫৫১/৫৫২/৫৫৩/৫৫৪/৫৫৫/৫৫৬/৫৫৭/৫৫৮/৫৫৯/৫৬০/৫৬১/৫৬২/৫৬৩/৫৬৪/৫৬৫/৫৬৬/৫৬৭/৫৬৮/৫৬৯/৫৭০/৫৭১/৫৭২/৫৭৩/৫৭৪/৫৭৫/৫৭৬/৫৭৭/৫৭৮/৫৭৯/৫৮০/৫৮১/৫৮২/৫৮৩/৫৮৪/৫৮৫/৫৮৬/৫৮৭/৫৮৮/৫৮৯/৫৯০/৫৯১/৫৯২/৫৯৩/৫৯৪/৫৯৫/৫৯৬/৫৯৭/৫৯৮/৫৯৯/৬০০/৬০১/৬০২/৬০৩/৬০৪/৬০৫/৬০৬/৬০৭/৬০৮/৬০৯/৬১০/৬১১/৬১২/৬১৩/৬১৪/৬১৫/৬১৬/৬১৭/৬১৮/৬১৯/৬২০/৬২১/৬২২/৬২৩/৬২৪/৬২৫/৬২৬/৬২৭/৬২৮/৬২৯/৬৩০/৬৩১/৬৩২/৬৩৩/৬৩৪/৬৩৫/৬৩৬/৬৩৭/৬৩৮/৬৩৯/৬৪০/৬৪১/৬৪২/৬৪৩/৬৪৪/৬৪৫/৬৪৬/৬৪৭/৬৪৮/৬৪৯/৬৫০/৬৫১/৬৫২/৬৫৩/৬৫৪/৬৫৫/৬৫৬/৬৫৭/৬৫৮/৬৫৯/৬৬০/৬৬১/৬৬২/৬৬৩/৬৬৪/৬৬৫/৬৬৬/৬৬৭/৬৬৮/৬৬৯/৬৭০/৬৭১/৬৭২/৬৭৩/৬৭৪/৬৭৫/৬৭৬/৬৭৭/৬৭৮/৬৭৯/৬৮০/৬৮১/৬৮২/৬৮৩/৬৮৪/৬৮৫/৬৮৬/৬৮৭/৬৮৮/৬৮৯/৬৯০/৬৯১/৬৯২/৬৯৩/৬৯৪/৬৯৫/৬৯৬/৬৯৭/৬৯৮/৬৯৯/৭০০/৭০১/৭০২/৭০৩/৭০৪/৭০৫/৭০৬/৭০৭/৭০৮/৭০৯/৭১০/৭১১/৭১২/৭১৩/৭১৪/৭১৫/৭১৬/৭১৭/৭১৮/৭১৯/৭২০/৭২১/৭২২/৭২৩/৭২৪/৭২৫/৭২৬/৭২৭/৭২৮/৭২৯/৭৩০/৭৩১/৭৩২/৭৩৩/৭৩৪/৭৩৫/৭৩৬/৭৩৭/৭৩৮/৭৩৯/৭৪০/৭৪১/৭৪২/৭৪৩/৭৪৪/৭৪৫/৭৪৬/৭৪৭/৭৪৮/৭৪৯/৭৫০/৭৫১/৭৫২/৭৫৩/৭৫৪/৭৫৫/৭৫৬/৭৫৭/৭৫৮/৭৫৯/৭৬০/৭৬১/৭৬২/৭৬৩/৭৬৪/৭৬৫/৭৬৬/৭৬৭/৭৬৮/৭৬৯/৭৭০/৭৭১/৭৭২/৭৭৩/৭৭৪/৭৭৫/৭৭৬/৭৭৭/৭৭৮/৭৭৯/৭৮০/৭৮১/৭৮২/৭৮৩/৭৮৪/৭৮৫/৭৮৬/৭৮৭/৭৮৮/৭৮৯/৭৯০/৭৯১/৭৯২/৭৯৩/৭৯৪/৭৯৫/৭৯৬/৭৯৭/৭৯৮/৭৯৯/৮০০/৮০১/৮০২/৮০৩/৮০৪/৮০৫/৮০৬/৮০৭/৮০৮/৮০৯/৮১০/৮১১/৮১২/৮১৩/৮১৪/৮১৫/৮১৬/৮১৭/৮১৮/৮১৯/৮২০/৮২১/৮২২/৮২৩/৮২৪/৮২৫/৮২৬/৮২৭/৮২৮/৮২৯/৮৩০/৮৩১/৮৩২/৮৩৩/৮৩৪/৮৩৫/৮৩৬/৮৩৭/৮৩৮/৮৩৯/৮৪০/৮৪১/৮৪২/৮৪৩/৮৪৪/৮৪৫/৮৪৬/৮৪৭/৮৪৮/৮৪৯/৮৫০/৮৫১/৮৫২/৮৫৩/৮৫৪/৮৫৫/৮৫৬/৮৫৭/৮৫৮/৮৫৯/৮৬০/৮৬১/৮৬২/৮৬৩/৮৬৪/৮৬৫/৮৬৬/৮৬৭/৮৬৮/৮৬৯/৮৭০/৮৭১/৮৭২/৮৭৩/৮৭৪/৮৭৫/৮৭৬/৮৭৭/৮৭৮/৮৭৯/৮৮০/৮৮১/৮৮২/৮৮৩/৮৮৪/৮৮৫/৮৮৬/৮৮৭/৮৮৮/৮৮৯/৮৯০/৮৯১/৮৯২/৮৯৩/৮৯৪/৮৯৫/৮৯৬/৮৯৭/৮৯৮/৮৯৯/৯০০/৯০১/৯০২/৯০৩/৯০৪/৯০৫/৯০৬/৯০৭/৯০৮/৯০৯/৯১০/৯১১/৯১২/৯১৩/৯১৪/৯১৫/৯১৬/৯১৭/৯১৮/৯১৯/৯২০/৯২১/৯২২/৯২৩/৯২৪/৯২৫/৯২৬/৯২৭/৯২৮/৯২৯/৯৩০/৯৩১/৯৩২/৯৩৩/৯৩৪/৯৩৫/৯৩৬/৯৩৭/৯৩৮/৯৩৯/৯৪০/৯৪১/৯৪২/৯৪৩/৯৪৪/৯৪৫/৯৪৬/৯৪৭/৯৪৮/৯৪৯/৯৫০/৯৫



## Tibet's only football club folds over altitude row

Tibet's first and only professional football team has become the latest in a string of Chinese clubs to fold, following a row over hosting matches in one of the highest cities in the world. Lhasa Chengtuo played only two games in the Tibetan capital -- which sits at an oxygen-sucking altitude of 3,650 metres (12,000 feet) -- and on both occasions the referee had to suspend play every 15 minutes to let the players breathe bottled oxygen, Xinhua news agency said. The demise of the club, just three years after it was founded, is a blow to the ruling Communist Party's hopes of having a team in the professional leagues to make Tibetans feel more integrated into China. Lhasa Chengtuo finished last season 26th of 32 teams in China's third division and had been playing their home matches thousands of kilometres (miles) away.

—AFP



Arsenal frontman Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (L) and Manchester City striker Raheem Sterling were in jovial mood in training as the defending champions prepare to take on the Gunners when the English Premier League resumes today.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Can the money-spinners get it right?

### Premier League returns tonight

SAMAMA RAHMAN



After 100 days of inactivity, England's Premier League will return to eerily empty stadiums across the country tonight, with clubs playing each of their remaining nine league fixtures in the space of 37 days to meet the provisionally scheduled finish on July 26 -- a game every four days for clubs no longer in the FA Cup.

There will of course be the strict protocols that have to be maintained in order to negate the threat of coronavirus infection, such as no handshakes, no spitting, no mass confrontations and no surrounding match officials. In the absence of ball assistants, spare balls will be placed around the pitch and, in a commercialisation of the game perhaps only possible in

the climate of English football, players will even be directed by broadcasters towards a 'celebration camera' after scoring a goal.

But that run of fixtures, coupled with the fact that players will be returning to competitive football less than three weeks after beginning contact training and only a few days removed from their first taste of competition in friendly matches, will serve only to exacerbate the risk of injuries that has been highlighted in sport worldwide.

The Premier League will need its restart to go without a hitch in order to preserve its glamorous image above all else, and for that they will need to heed the warning signs from Germany's Bundesliga, Europe's first major league to resume their season.

There were a total of 12 injuries in Germany's top tier over the opening weekend as

the Bundesliga returned to action despite the number of substitutions being upped from three to five on a temporary basis. Players there could not cope with the demands of the game after 66 days without football and the 'mini pre-season' had not done enough to get them back in shape. Whether the extra 24 days in England will make a difference, only time will tell.

Another observation that can be made from the restart of the Bundesliga is that home advantage has taken on less significance than ever before. Data from Gracenote shows that before the postponement of the Bundesliga, home teams won 43 percent of the 223 games played, with 35 percent being away wins and 22 percent draws. In the 55 games since the restart, home wins have plummeted to 20 percent while away teams have won 50 percent and draws have

gone up to 29 percent. Prior to the lockdown, over 43 percent of matches ended with the home team victorious.

That will perhaps not be a problem when Arsenal and Manchester City face off tonight, with their stadiums usually having the atmosphere of a library, but it will affect teams lower down the ladder -- whose supporters are less 'prawn sandwich brigade' -- such as in the earlier kick-off, when Aston Villa face Sheffield.

Lessons can be learnt elsewhere as well, such as in Italy, where Maurizio Sarri was unimpressed by his side's showing on their return to football in the Coppa Italia, commenting that the players 'faded after 30 minutes' and that the situation was 'worse than in pre-season'.

If those observations were made by the veteran following a clash as important as the

semifinal of a tournament, the Premier League will not be able to pride itself on providing 'the most entertaining brand of football' that it claims when most of its teams -- barring those in the race for the top four -- have nothing to play for. Sarri also had another cautionary tale, saying that he had been overzealous with the five substitutions, thereby disrupting the flow of the game.

With Liverpool on top by an unbelievable 25-point margin, needing just two wins from their remaining fixtures to secure the title, some may question why the league has restarted at all. But with losses already amounting to over 500 million pounds and some projecting it to climb over a billion, 'Project Restart' became almost the need of the hour. Whether it will pay off on the field is another question altogether.

## Day signs two-year extension

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) retained the services of Jamie Day as head coach of the national team for the next two years.

The 40-year-old British national signed the contract online yesterday, just over a month after his previous contract expired on May 15.

However, the two-year contract with Jamie will come into the effect two months later, from August 14, as BFF wants Jamie to resume work from the middle of August following the coronavirus pandemic that forced FIFA and AFC to suspend its World Cup and Asian Cup qualifiers campaigns, as well as club competitions while the various football associations also halted their domestic competitions.

"I just want to confirm I have agreed to a new two-year deal as the head coach and am really looking forward to working with BFF again. I am obviously excited about getting back and working with the national team players," Jamie said in a video message sent by the BFF yesterday.

"I am now looking to developing and progressing further as a national team. We have four tough games [of World Cup and Asian Cup Qualifiers] in October and November but ones we are really looking forward to, and I can't wait to get back with the boys in the camp and get them fit and ready for the games," added Jamie, who has been in charge of the boys in red and green for the last two years on the basis of one-year contracts.

Ahead of the World Cup Qualifiers, Jamie wants to start the national camp from August 22. "It's an exciting year. I'm looking forward with delight now that we have agreed to a new deal and now hopefully we can get ball rolling to get the players back [into football] and have a really good year with results," said Jamie.

"We have signed a contract with Jamie on a virtual [platform] and the contract remains almost the same as last year's contract, but the vacations have been reduced in the new one," said BFF general secretary Abu Nayem Shohag, adding that the national teams committee will sit today to discuss the different issues.



## Sarri targets first Juventus trophy

AFP, MILAN

Maurizio Sarri takes on his former club Napoli in Wednesday's Italian Cup final looking for his first trophy as Juventus coach days before Serie A resumes after a three-month shutdown.

Juventus are chasing a record-extending 14th Italian Cup against five-time winners Napoli in Rome, after the Turin giants' four-year cup-winning streak was ended last season.

Sarri took over at Juventus one year ago after a season with Chelsea.

## 'Staging T20 WC this year is unrealistic'

AFP, SYDNEY



Staging the Twenty20 World Cup in Australia this year is "unrealistic" in the midst of a global coronavirus pandemic, Cricket Australia chairman Earl Eddings admitted Tuesday.

The tournament is scheduled to take place from October 18 to November 15, and officials have previously said they are planning for it to proceed on those dates.

But with many global borders still shut due to virus-related travel restrictions, Eddings conceded that was looking increasingly unlikely.

"While it hasn't been formally called off this year, or postponed, trying to get 16 countries into Australia in the current world, where most countries are still going through COVID spiking, I think it's unrealistic, or it's going to be very, very difficult," he told reporters.

Eddings said Cricket Australia had put forward a number of options to the International Cricket Council (ICC).



Although sport around the world is only now re-emerging after being halted for three months because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Bangladesh national football team have been given a strict prescription on how to maintain fitness during the lockdown by coach Jamie Day. Midfielder Sohel Rana has had the privilege of getting his workouts done at the Abahani ground in Dhanmondi as he has been staying at the club dormitory since the shutdown began in March and he continued to work in line with instructions. Bangladesh are supposed to resume their World Cup and Asian Cup Qualifiers on October 8, when they play host to Afghanistan, before travelling to Qatar to play their away match against the defending Asian champions on October 13. Although Sohel was a fair distance away, he did not have the field to himself as some Somali students from Daffodil University were also playing at the same ground.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



PHOTO: COLLECTED

PSG talisman Neymar could not resist sneaking out to the beach, the day after returning to Paris following a three-month stay in his native Brazil.

## From badminton to cricket

While much fandom surrounds Bangladesh's male cricketers, the story is not yet the same for women cricketers who have nonetheless been growing in stature on the international arena. Since the halt in cricketing activities The Daily Star has been talking to women cricketers to learn stories of their early days. In today's instalment, we talk to batter Sharmin Akhter, who scored the first ever half-century for the country against Ireland during their World Cup qualifier fixture in 2011.

MOSTAFA SHABUJ

Most cricketers usually dream of playing cricket on the biggest stage due to their admiration for someone who has excelled in the sport.

It is also usual to see a cricketer discovered by some local or international coach after an excellent display in a local tournament. However, Bangladesh opener Sharmin Akhter's cricketing journey is different as the right-handed batter's cricketing ability was first noticed by a local coach when she was playing a different sport.

"I once participated in a local badminton tournament when I was in the seventh or eighth grade. A lot of people, including some local cricket coaches, also used to come and watch those tournaments. One such coach, Bablu bhai, after seeing me play asked me, "You seem to have good strength in your hands.



Would you like to play cricket?" I agreed and started going to the stadium to practise. But after practising cricket for a few days with the boys, I kind of lost interest," said Sharmin, who hails from Gaibandha.

Having come to cricket from a different sport, Sharmin's interest for the game was yet to grow. That was soon to change as Sharmin

recalled the time she was first fascinated by the cricket.

"In 2008, I went for a trial at the BKSP in Savar after coming to know about it from Bablu bhai. Just as I entered the BKSP premises, I saw a number of girls and boys, wearing white jerseys, divided into two teams and playing cricket. I found the environment to be very appealing and that is when I

decided that I have to get admitted here," said the 24-year-old.

Sharmin had impressed during the trial and got herself admitted at the BKSP in 2008. But she still had a long way to go. And according to her, it was the environment in BKSP that made her realise that she too can make it big and take up cricket as a profession.

"Rashed sir in BKSP taught me everything about cricket. It was Rashed sir who had instilled in me the idea that cricket can be taken up as a profession and can be a way of achieving greatness in life.

"Actually, BKSP was the basic foundation of my cricketing career. I don't think I would have made it this far had it not been for BKSP. I think BKSP's environment, discipline and lifestyle is ideal for a girl to become a cricketer," explained Sharmin, who now only hopes to get back to the field as soon as possible and contribute for the country.

### WHAT TO WATCH

#### FACEBOOK

##### LA LIGA

Eibar v Athletic Club  
**Live from 11:30pm**  
Real Valladolid v Celta Vigo  
**Live from 11:30pm**  
Osasuna v Atletico Madrid  
**Live from 2:00am** (Thursday)

##### BUNDESLIGA

Star Sports Select 2 Eintracht Frankfurt v Schalke  
**Live from 10:30pm**  
Borussia Dortmund v Mainz  
**Live from 12:30am** (Thursday)

##### ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Star Sports Select 1 Aston Villa v Sheffield United  
**Live from 11:00pm**  
Man City v Arsenal  
**Live from 1:15am** (Thursday)





**PADMA BRIDGE RAIL LINK PROJECT IS BEING BUILT WITH BSRM**  
COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT **BSRM** building a safer nation

**GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES**  
World's Largest VRM  
**SHAH CEMENT**

## SEVERE COVID-19 CASES Steroid proves first life-saving drug

REUTERS, London

Dexamethasone, a cheap and widely used steroid, has become the first drug shown to be able to save lives among Covid-19 patients in what scientists hailed as a "major breakthrough".

Results of trials announced yesterday showed dexamethasone, which is used to reduce inflammation in other diseases, reduced death rates by around a third among the most severely ill Covid-19 patients admitted to hospital.

The results suggest the drug should immediately become standard care in patients with severe cases of the pandemic disease, said the researchers who led the trials.

"This is a result that shows that if patients who have Covid-19 and are on ventilators or are on oxygen are given dexamethasone, it will save lives, and it will do so at a remarkably low cost," said Martin Landray, an Oxford University professor co-leading the trial, known as the RECOVERY trial.

"It's going to be very hard for any drug really to replace this, given that for less than 50 pounds (\$63.26), you can treat eight patients and save a life," he told reporters in an online briefing.

His co-lead investigator, Peter Horby, said dexamethasone was "the only drug that's so far shown to reduce mortality - and it reduces it significantly."

"It is a major breakthrough," he said. "Dexamethasone is inexpensive, on the shelf, and can be used immediately"

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Men from Al-Markazul Islami, a social service organisation that has dedicated itself to burying Covid-19 victims for free, on the way to perform the last rites and burial of another dead. While even families and relatives are afraid to approach the bodies due to fear of infection, employees of Al-Markazul Islami have been working selflessly to ensure proper burial of the dead. So far, they have performed the last rites and burials for 680 suspected and confirmed Covid-19 victims. The photo was taken yesterday at Rayerbazar burial grounds.

## 13 judges infected with Covid-19

26 court staffers also have the disease

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen judges and 26 staff of lower courts across the country have so far been infected with Covid-19.

Four lower court judges with Covid-19 symptoms are receiving treatment in isolation, Supreme Court sources said yesterday.

District and Sessions Judge of Netrokona Shahjahan Kabir and Chief Judicial Magistrate of Munshiganj Begum Rokeya Rahman, who were the first among the judges to have been infected with the virus, have already recovered and joined their offices.

Ferdous Ahmed, judge of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal in Lalmonirhat, has been admitted to the ICU at Combined Military Hospital, sources said, adding that he has been given plasma therapy.

Begum Shamim Ahmed, Judge of Special Judge Court-8 of Dhaka, has been

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## Shutdown stopped their lessons

Children of chars with no access to electricity or TV deprived of remote learning

MOSTAFA SHABUI, Bogura

Schoolchildren in char areas do not even have the chance of accessing the government's remote education programme because their families don't own televisions or have electricity.

After educational institutions countrywide were indefinitely closed in mid-March due to the coronavirus outbreak, the government introduced televised learning from March 29 for classes six through 10 -- later expanding it to include primary students as well.

Char students, however, are deprived of their daily lessons as entire chars on the Padma, Jamuna, Teesta and other major rivers are not under electricity coverage. Televisions, therefore, are rare in these communities.

This correspondent visited five chars on the Jamuna river last month, none of which had electricity. Only several families on each had solar panels, which they use to charge mobile phones and power fans and TVs for those who have them.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

## Bangladesh gets IMF membership



A five-member Egyptian delegation calls on Bangabandhu at his official residence on June 17, 1972.

June 17, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### EGYPTIAN DELEGATION CALLS ON BANGABANDHU

A five-member Egyptian delegation today calls on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at his official residence. They hand over a letter from Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to the Bangladesh prime minister.

Later, referring to the question on Egypt's recognition of Bangladesh, Mohammad Tawfiq Obeida, leader of the delegation, tells journalists that Bangladesh is now a reality. He expresses his confidence in the leadership of Bangabandhu and says that under his able leadership Bangladesh will be a happy and prosperous country.

BANGLADESH BECOMES A MEMBER OF THE IMF

Bangladesh today becomes a member of the International

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

## People rush for tickets as int'l flights resume

Many wait in queue for hours but get no Qatar tickets

RASHIDUL HASAN

Many people were seen waiting in a long queue at a Qatar Airways ticket counter in the city's Tejgaon area yesterday, the first day of resumption of international flight operations to and from Dhaka after nearly three months.

Several of them said they couldn't buy any ticket after waiting at the counter for hours.

Qatar Airways and Biman Bangladesh Airlines are the two airlines primarily granted permission by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) to operate international flights on a limited scale.

"I came to the counter at 7:00am and waited

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## Bolivia villagers destroy 5G masts over virus fears



AFP, La Paz

Multiple telecoms masts were destroyed Monday by Bolivian villagers who feared that 5G technology could transmit coronavirus, media reports said.

The South American country does not yet have 5G wireless infrastructure, which has been linked to the pandemic in viral posts on social media.

According to the conspiracy theory, electromagnetic radiation causes the symptoms of Covid-19, not a virus -- an idea debunked by scientists.

Four communications towers were destroyed in Yapacani, near the city of Santa Cruz, local police chief Franklin Villazon was cited as saying by the newspaper El Deber.

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## 13 die after showing Covid-19 symptoms

STAR REPORT

At least 13 people died with Covid-19 symptoms in six districts since Monday.

In Patuakhali, two people, aged between 60 and 65, died with coronavirus-like symptoms while undergoing treatment at the isolation unit of Patuakhali 250-bed Hospital.

They were admitted to the hospital with Covid-19 symptoms a few days ago, said Kamruzzaman, resident medical officer

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### PRAYER TIMING JUNE 17

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

## UP member shot dead in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A union parishad member died of bullet wounds at Chattogram Medical College Hospital late on Monday night, hours after unidentified criminals shot him at his Bandarban home.

The dead is Chain Chahla Marma, 35, a member of Kuhlalong Union Parishad under Bandarban Sadar upazila.

Sanu Prue Marma, chairman of the union parishad, said a group of criminals went to Chain Chahla's home around 7:00pm on Monday and shot him. The criminals soon left the scene.

Locals rushed the UP member to Bandarban Sadar Hospital. He was later shifted to Chattogram Medical College Hospital where he breathed his last, said the chairman.

Shahidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Bandarban Sadar Police Station, said they were trying to identify the criminals.



Nikhil Talukdar, George Floyd -- faces of two victims of police brutality from two sides of the world are graffitied side by side on the Dhaka University campus. Nikhil, a Gopalganj farmer, was allegedly assaulted by an assistant sub-inspector and later died in a Dhaka hospital. George Floyd was murdered by a police officer in Minneapolis last month. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Virus clusters in China growing

NZ reports first new cases in almost a month as infections surge in LatAm, S Asia

AGENCIES

China's capital was facing an "extremely severe" coronavirus threat yesterday, as New Zealand reported its first new infections in almost a month and fears mounted that the deadly pandemic is still far from under control.

More than eight million people have now been infected with the virus worldwide since it first emerged in China late last year -- with more than 437,000 deaths -- and the tolls are still surging in Latin America and South Asia.

Even without an effective treatment, caseloads and death rates have declined across Europe.

The UK, however, is still struggling with the world's third largest outbreak and New Zealand said the two new cases reported there were recent arrivals from Britain.

The South Pacific nation had declared last week that it had ended community transmission of the virus.

European countries are eager to drop coronavirus restrictions to save the imminent summer tourist season, but Spain warned that it may quarantine British visitors should the UK persist with its plan to quarantine all overseas arrivals.

And the latest reminder of the threat came from China, which had largely brought its outbreak under control, as 27 new infections were reported in Beijing, where a new cluster linked to a wholesale food market has sparked mass testing and neighbourhood lockdowns.

"The epidemic situation in the capital is extremely severe," Beijing city spokesman Xu Hejian warned, as the number of confirmed infections soared to 106.

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