

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

STAND-OFF AT INDIA-CHINA BORDER

3 Indian troops killed in brawl

Reports say 'casualties on both sides'; clashes come as talks continue to defuse tensions

Indian and Chinese troops fought each other with iron rods and stones at their disputed border, resulting in casualties on both sides including the deaths of three Indian soldiers, Indian officials said yesterday, in a major escalation of a weeks-old standoff.

Indian government sources said no shots were fired. The clashes follow weeks of rising tensions and the deployment of thousands of extra troops from both sides in the disputed border areas.

China blamed India for the fight in the snow deserts of Ladakh in the western Himalayas on Monday and the editor of the government-controlled Global Times also said the Chinese military had suffered casualties.

The deaths were the first since the last major border clash in 1967 between the nuclear-armed Asian giants and world's two most populous countries who have not been able to settle the dispute along their vast frontier.

Since early May, thousands of soldiers have faced off against each other at three locations, including along the banks of the Pangong Tso lake, each side accusing the other of trespassing.

AGENCIES

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



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.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

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

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

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.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

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 ticket counter of Qatar Airways in the city's Tejgaon area yesterday, the first day of resumption of international flight operations from Dhaka after nearly three months.

Qatar Airways is among the two airlines which primarily secured permission from the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) to operate flights on a limited scale.

Several people said they couldn't avail any ticket after waiting at the ticket counter of Qatar Airways for hours.

"I came to the ticket counter at 7:00am. After waiting for several hours,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

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.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

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

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



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.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1