

Long-term

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opinion of the public on the recommendations of the conference. The main goal of the long-term plan will be to achieve socialism keeping in consideration the social and economic reality of Bangladesh.
BANK ROBBERY IN THE CAPITAL
In a broad daylight robbery, six unidentified men loot Tk 42,000 at gunpoint from a branch of Janata Bank near Dhaka Medical College today. The local police station is only 200 yards away from the bank.
25 HOARDERS ARRESTED
The police today arrest 25 hoarders in a sudden raid in Kushtia and recover huge amount of essential goods. The anti-hoarding operations are run following Bangabandhu's ultimatum to hoarders to return stocked goods to market.
SOURCES: June 20, 1972 issue of Purbodesh.

4 more die

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man, of Uttar Keroa village of Raipur upazila of neighboring district Laxmipur, was admitted to the hospital around 6:00am yesterday with fever and respiratory issues.
He died with around 30 minutes later, said the RMO.
In Faridpur, a 45-year-old man died with coronavirus-like symptoms while undergoing treatment at the Coronary Care Unit of Faridpur Medical College Hospital early yesterday.
The victim, of Binodpur area under Mohammadpur upazila of Magura, was admitted to the hospital with fever and breathing difficulties on Tuesday.
He died around 3:30am yesterday, said Saifur Rahman, superintendent of the hospital. His sample for Covid-19 test was collected.
Our Correspondents Chandpur and Faridpur contributed to the story.

Another doctor

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Chattogram. He was a student of 23th batch at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College. After achieving his MBBS degree, he joined Enam Medical College Hospital and had served the hospital ever since.
The Daily Star, however, could not contact the hospital's Chairman Dr Enamur Rahman and CEO Dr Anawarul Quader Nazim over phone after repeated attempts.
According to Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), a total of 44 doctors died of Covid-19 as of yesterday. Besides, a total of 1031 doctors were infected with this virus.

Youth killed

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upazila's Habibpur area, the OC added.
Hanif, son of Kanchan Sikdar of Rampur area under Kalkini upazila in Madaripur, used to live at his in-law's house in Habibpur area, the police official further said.
Police conducted a raid near Jhikjhak ground around 3:00am to arrest Hanif, who was there with his cohorts, said the OC.
Sensing police presence, criminals opened fire on the law enforcers, forcing them to retaliate, he claimed.
Police found bullet wounded Hanif at the spot but his cohorts managed to flee, OC Alamgir said.
Doctors of Kaliakair Upazila Health Complex declared him dead when he was rushed there, he added.
Four policemen, who were injured during the "gunfight" were undergoing treatment at the health complex, the OC said.
Police also claimed to have recovered two locally made firearms and three bullets from the spot.
The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the police claims.

New Zealand gun laws tightened again after shootings

AFP, Wellington

New Zealand further tightened its firearms laws yesterday in the wake of the last year's Christchurch mosques massacre, when a lone gunman murdered 51 Muslim worshippers.
Parliament passed legislation to establish a firearms registry to track every gun in the country and ensure only a "fit and proper person" can hold a firearms licence.
It follows a ban on military-style semi-automatic rifles and a nationwide gun buyback enacted shortly after the March 2019 killing spree by Australian national Brenton Tarrant, a self-avowed white supremacist.
Police Minister Stuart Nash said the legislation was an important step in making New Zealand a safer place after last year's "devastating" killings, the worst mass shooting in the country's modern history.
"But it does not define us, what defines us is the actions we took to stop such a terror attack happening again," he said.



Visitors take photos in front of the Castle of Magical Dreams at Hong Kong's Disneyland yesterday, after the theme park officially reopened following nearly five months of closure in a fresh boost for a city that has largely managed to defeat the Covid-19 coronavirus.

PHOTO: AFP

Govt to buy more from farmers

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to sell their produces in local markets this year as the gap between market prices and the prices offered by the government has narrowed.
He said the ceiling was lifted to attract the farmers as selling a bulk amount would reduce their incidental costs.
Food officials earlier said growers were opting not to supply the crop to public warehouses as the government does not buy paddy having over 14 percent moisture, whereas they can sell the paddy at markets where the moisture content is not taken into consideration.
A senior food official in Rangpur said farmers were getting Tk 800 for each maund of paddy with 20-21

percent moisture in the grains.

They would lose five to six kilograms in each maund if the moisture level is brought down to 14 percent, he said.
Moreover, many traders buy the paddy from the farmers' yards whereas the government procurements take place at designated depots, which involves a carrying cost.
"So if all these factors are taken into account, prices the farmers get from market have become close to the prices offered by the government," the official said.
The government is paying Tk 1,040 for each maund of paddy this year.
Asked about the risk of traders supplying paddy to public depots, Sarwar said no one, except the

farmers enlisted by the Department of Agricultural Extension, would be able to supply paddy at the government storages.
The food ministry notification said medium and large farmers should be selected through lotteries from the actual list of farmers.
"And in no way, paddy can be procured from traders or middlemen," it said.
A recent study by International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) recommended that the government should purchase paddy irrespective of moisture level.
The study, commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture, said paddies usually have a higher level of moisture and it is difficult for farmers to dry

their produces and maintain the required moisture level before selling.
"Therefore, the procurement price would be adjusted based on the moisture of farmers' paddy," it said, adding that paddy with higher moisture contents could be bought at relatively lower prices.
On the issue, DGF Chief said it was not easy to implement the recommendation as there is no drier at the depots and no separate storages to store the moist paddy.
It will be possible to buy paddy irrespective of moisture content when paddy silos will be set established, said Sarwar, adding that the DGF has submitted a proposal to Planning ministry to establish 30 paddy silos.

Standing by red-zoned residents

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were provided with phone numbers to communicate with the volunteers.
"We are trying our best to stand beside the people. Sometimes, we can tell some of them are pulling pranks on us but we entertain them with a smile on our face," he told The Daily Star.
This correspondent spoke to a number of volunteers with similar experiences, but such incidents were not frequent.
"Most people genuinely call for help and we extend our support. But some people call to have fun and we take it with the same spirit," said volunteer Bayezid Hossain Sujan.
Two days ago, he received a call from an 80-year-old man, who developed a fever and breathing problems but his family members kept him locked in a room. When the volunteers were contacted, they went there and took the man to hospital in an ambulance.
"Not a single family member stepped forward to help. But our people did."
Rabiul Islam Shawon, another volunteer, said that a few days ago, a request for medicines reached the control room.
"When we called them [the resident making the request] back, they asked for the prices of local onions and coarse rice," he said.

Another call at 12:00am asked for emergency medicine supply. "When the volunteers went to Lazz Pharma with the prescription, they found that the medicine was for acne treatment."
Rezaul Islam Raz received a phone call at 11:00am a couple of days ago, with a resident asking for some garlic pizza. Another caller asked for samosas and nuggets.
"We contacted a shopkeeper and delivered the items to the callers," Raz added.
Coordinator Suman said, "We have announced that no one should step out of their homes. If anyone needs even a needle, we will bring it to them."

He added that Tk 5,000 cash is always stored in the control room to provide emergency services.
"Upon receiving a call, we use that money to purchase the necessities first, in order to save time. We later inform the residents how much money was spent in processing their request," he explained.
About the prank calls, Faridur Rahman Khan Iran, ward councillor of the area, said, "People are frustrated under lockdown. Most people are well behaved with just a few exceptions. But we are considering their difficulties and trying our best to support them. We have asked the volunteers to stand by the residents without expressing any disdain."

Tensions still run high

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sovereignty of Galwan Valley "belongs to China".
"Making exaggerated and untenable claims is contrary to this understanding," Srivatava said in his rebuttal.
The Galwan Valley - the site of the bloody clash between soldiers from both sides - has been one of the few areas along the Line of Actual Control where the difference in perception of the boundary between the two sides was minimal.
The two countries have been trading charges of what triggered Monday night's face-off in Galwan Valley that left 20 Indian soldiers dead and 76 more wounded including 18 with serious injuries.
Indian Army officials claimed 43 Chinese were killed or seriously injured, citing radio intercepts and

other intelligence, reports Hindustan Times.
Meanwhile, high resolution satellite images procured by NDTV indicate Chinese efforts to block or disturb the flow of the Galwan river, less than a kilometre from the site of the deadly clash.
The details emerged as an Indian Major General and his Chinese counterpart met for the second consecutive day near Patrol Point 14 in the Galwan Valley. The talks on Wednesday were inconclusive with the Chinese side showing no sides of disengaging from the area.
FUNERALS FOR SOLDIERS
India prepared to hold funerals yesterday for some of the 20 soldiers killed in brutal hand-to-hand fighting with Chinese troops in the disputed mountainous border region.

Dozens of people lined the street in the southern Indian town of Suryapet as the body of army Colonel B.Santosh Babu was brought home, wrapped in the Indian flag, reports Reuters.
Funerals of other soldiers also took place in their hometowns and villages, including several in the eastern state of Bihar.
Hardline nationalist groups with ties to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party have stepped up calls for a boycott of Chinese goods and a cancellation of contracts with Chinese firms.
China's Oppo cancelled the live online launch of its flagship smartphone in India.
In the western Indian city of Surat, a group of people gathered on Wednesday and threw a Chinese-made television set on the ground and

stomped on it in a show of protest.
India has told two state-run telecoms firms to use locally-made rather than Chinese telecom equipment to upgrade their mobile networks to 4G, a senior government source said yesterday.
The instruction is aimed at Chinese telecom gear makers Huawei and ZTE, the source said, after India last year announced an almost \$8 billion plan, some of which was earmarked for network upgrades, to help loss-making operators Bharat Sanchar Nigam (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam (MTNL).
"Since that plan will be funded by public money they (BSNL, MTNL) should try to ensure they buy made in India equipment," the government source, who declined to be named as the order was not public, told Reuters.

UN urged to hold US 'accountable' over racism

AFP, Geneva

The UN yesterday wrapped up a historic debate about structural racism and police brutality in the United States and beyond -- but rights groups voiced concern that countries might be backing away from committing to concrete action.
The urgent debate at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva went into a second day, with numerous countries and organisations outraged over police killings of African Americans like George Floyd.
But rights groups noted that a draft resolution that initially called for a high-level international investigation into police violence against people of African descent in the United States had been watered down and risked becoming just a general condemnation of racism globally.
"Some states are seeking to strip all references to the United States

from the resolution," Human Rights Watch's Geneva director John Fisher told the council.
Doing so, he warned, "would transform it into an 'all lives matter' text, and risk making it so vague as to be meaningless."
The American Civil Liberties Union meanwhile warned countries that "partial or half-baked measures of accountability won't remedy structural racism."
The council will vote on the draft resolution, presented by African countries, today or Monday, its secretariat said.
The United States withdrew from the council in 2018 but keeps a wary eye on its deliberations. Washington complained of being singled out in the draft text, and a number of its allies, including Australia and Israel, spoke out against the US focus during the debate.
In its current form, the text calls for

UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet to investigate racism and civil liberties violations by the police against people of African descent in the United States.
The UN debate began on Wednesday, shortly before sacked Atlanta police officer Garrett Rolfe was charged with murder for shooting a fleeing 27-year-old black man in the back.
US President Donald Trump appeared in an interview Wednesday to defend the officer who shot Rayshard Brooks, saying "I thought it was a terrible situation, but you can't resist a police officer. I hope he gets a fair shake because police have not been treated fairly in our country."
Brooks's shooting came less than three weeks after Floyd, 46, died in Minneapolis after a white police officer -- since charged with murder -- pressed a knee on his neck for nearly nine minutes.
Floyd's death on May 25 fuelled

a national and global uproar over racism and police brutality.
On the first day of the UN debate, which began with a minute of silence for Floyd, his brother Philonise made an impassioned speech via video link, saying his brother had been "tortured to death" as witnesses begged the officer to stop.
He urged them to establish an independent international commission of inquiry -- one of the UN's highest-level probes, generally reserved for major crises like the Syrian conflict.
An initial resolution text presented on Tuesday had proposed such an investigation.
The son of Martin Luther King Jr. also sent a letter to several embassies seeking support for the demand.
But the proposal was dropped and the resolution heavily watered down following stark opposition from Washington and some of its allies.

'It's a threat

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went against public interest.
"Now, questions might arise whether a professional force like the police want to prevent organisational corruption at all," said Iftekharuzzaman, adding that TIB holds journalists as co-fighters against corruption.
He said the DMP commissioner brought allegations against a police high-up and that should be the main concern for the force. Police should prioritise the investigation over the allegation and ensure exemplary punishment of anyone found guilty.
Instead, it has become busy in finding out how the letter was leaked, which could be found through an internal probe.
This is tarnishing the image of the police force and putting their actions to question, he said.
"The way of mounting pressure on the media personnel is making common people like us panic," said the TIB executive director.
Mentioning that the police did not refute the veracity of the letter, Iftekharuzzaman said if the letter was authentic, then "one of the parties was to be blame."
"But the commissioner requested a transfer of the accused officer, which cannot be a punishment for corruption. Rather, police were trying to harass journalists," he added.
"Against this backdrop, the ACC should investigate the matter and find out who else is involved and ensure their punishment," read the statement.

On May 30, DMP Commissioner Shafiqul Islam in a letter to the inspector general of police sought the transfer of Md Imam Hossain, joint commissioner, for "offering the DMP commissioner bribe".
In his letter to the IGP, the commissioner termed the joint commissioner "a corrupt officer" and said there were various graft allegations against Imam over various purchases.
"Imam even offered the commissioner a percentage from procurement. And, that is why, he should not be working in the DMP," the DMP chief said in the letter.
Imam was later transferred.
Later, the DMP wrote to some journalists asking them to appear before an enquiry committee "enabling it to conduct a proper investigation".

Biden says Trump is 'surrendering' to coronavirus, putting lives at risk

REUTERS, Darby

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden on Wednesday accused President Donald Trump of "surrendering" to the coronavirus pandemic and failing to stay prepared for a resurgence that could put a U.S. economic recovery at risk.
"American people sacrificed so much to fight this virus... we may lose some the progress we've begun to make. All because he's lost interest," Biden said. "Now he's just flat surrendering the fight."
Trump is eager to reopen the economy and resume political campaigning even as coronavirus cases have started to rise again, with record increases reported this week in Oklahoma, Texas and Oregon.

The president is planning his first rally since the coronavirus forced people to stay at home three months ago on Saturday in heavily Republican Oklahoma, over the objections of public health officials.
"He's so eager to get back to campaign rallies that he's putting people at risk," Biden said in a speech near Philadelphia, his third visit to the key battleground state of Pennsylvania this month.
A spokesman for Trump's campaign, Ken Farnaso, called the speech a "rehash" of "failed attacks" on Trump's bipartisan approach to fighting the coronavirus.
"President Trump and the nation's governors have partnered up in the greatest public and private sector mobilization effort since [World War Two], while Biden has done nothing but sit on the sidelines fear-mongering and rooting against America's success," he said.

Biden is seeking to capitalize on a growing lead in national polls and to diminish Trump's advantage of being seen by voters as best equipped to rebuild the coronavirus-scarred economy.
A Reuters/Ipsos poll on Wednesday showed the Democrat with a 13-percentage-point lead. Still, 43% percent of registered voters said they thought Trump would be a better steward of the economy than Biden, against 38% who said Biden would be better.
Commerce Department data on Tuesday showed U.S. retail sales rising by 17.7% last month, the most on record, after two straight months of sharp declines. That rebound is threatened by certain regions seeing a resurgence of the virus.
Biden has put forward a plan to reopen the economy including expanded coronavirus testing and protective equipment for people who go back to work, as well as paid sick leave, small-business grants and hiring a workforce to chart the disease's spread.