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COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT BSRM



GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES

World's Largest VRM

SHAH CEMENT

ICU INEQUITY

# Time lost, lives too

Some beds lie empty in Rajshahi city while some districts in the division got none for Covid-19 patients

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

When Hafizur Rahman was admitted to the General Hospital in Pabna with coronavirus-like symptoms on Friday afternoon in rapidly deteriorating condition, access to an oxygen cylinder was his only hope as there was no ICU support in the district.

The 47-year-old needed an ICU as he had visible symptoms of acute respiratory distress and high fever, said Dr Abul Hossain, assistant director of the hospital.

Doctors soon advised he be taken to Rajshahi city.

"He had been gasping for air. We put him on oxygen, but his condition was still deteriorating. He urgently needed a ventilator in an ICU, but we had none," said Dr Hossain.

An ICU equipped with ventilators is available nowhere in Pabna district, he added.

Hafizur, a 47-year secretary of Ataikula Union Parishad, had no other option but to embark on an uncertain journey of more than 100km to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

When he reached RMCH at 10:00pm on Friday, he was put on oxygen once again. An hour later, when his condition wasn't improving, the doctors decided to take him to the ICU.

He died on the stretcher while being taken to the ICU, said doctors and his relatives.

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Staffers of the capital's Birdem hospital yesterday going home after work in a bus designated for them. Public buses are only allowed to carry passengers at half capacity to maintain social distancing directives. In this case, it has been ignored.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## AL's 71st founding anniversary today

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Awami League, one of the oldest political parties of the country, is celebrating its 71st founding anniversary today on a limited scale amid the coronavirus outbreak.

Founded on this day in 1949, Awami League has been transformed into an organisation of the masses by leading all the democratic-political-social-cultural movements, including the struggle for freedom and the Liberation War.

To mark the anniversary, national and party flags will be hoisted atop all party offices, including the headquarters of the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue.

The day's programmes include placing of wreaths in the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the premises of Bangabandhu Bhaban in Dhanmondi in the morning.

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## 'DEFAMING THE PM' 14-year-old boy arrested under DSA

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police arrested a ninth-grader in Mymensingh's Bhaluka upazila on Saturday night allegedly for putting up a Facebook post "defaming" Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Md Emon, 14, is a student of Paragaon High School in the upazila, police said, adding that his father, Ismail Hossain, was a farmer from Kadighar Nayapara village.

Earlier on Saturday noon, Hanif Mohammad Nipun, secretary of Hobarbari union Jubo League, filed a case accusing the boy under the Digital Security Act with Bhaluka Police Station.

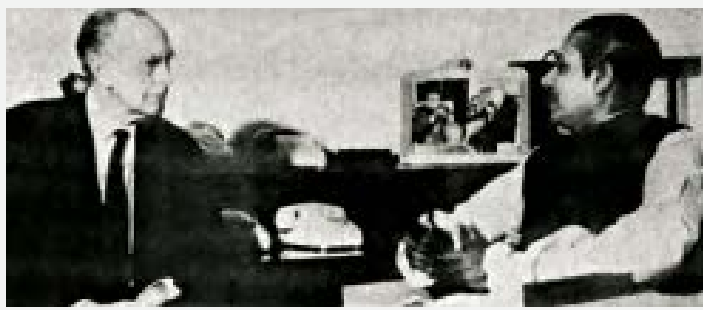
Police arrested the boy from his house around 10:00pm, said Mohammad Mainuddin, officer-in-charge of the police station.

In primary interrogation, Emon confessed that he wrote the post from his Facebook account on Friday, he said, adding that hours later the boy wrote another post offering an apology for his previous post.

Emon was produced before a Mymensingh court on Sunday and the court sent him to Juvenile Correction Center in Gazipur, the OC said.

## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

### 90-million-pound British aid for Bangladesh



British Foreign Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home calls on Bangabandhu at his official residence on June 23, 1972.

June 23, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### BRITISH FM CALLS ON BANGABANDHU

British Foreign Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home calls on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today at his official residence. In the hourlong meeting they discuss various bilateral and international issues. Douglas-Home praises Bangladesh's decision to join the Commonwealth.

Later, at a dinner hosted by the Bangladesh government in honour of the British foreign minister, Sir Douglas-Home says that

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## Univ teachers demand DSA abolished

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of university teachers yesterday demanded abolition of the Digital Security Act (DSA) saying the government is "applying the law only against those who have been outspoken about corruption, abduction and killing."

They also called for the immediate release of all those arrested under the DSA.

University Teachers' Network, a platform for private and public university teachers, yesterday staged a sit-in to protest against the law at the base of Central Shaheed Minar.

Some 30 protesters joined the programme. Speaking at the programme, Md Tanzimuddin Khan, an associate professor of international relations at Dhaka University (DU), alleged that recently there

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## DAUGHTER'S BIRTHDAY NZ PM makes 'imperfect' piano cake



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Jacinda Ardern has celebrated her daughter's second birthday by making an "imperfect" homemade cake.

On Sunday, the New Zealand Prime Minister marked the milestone occasion with her partner, Clarke Gayford, at their home in Wellington.

To celebrate, Ardern decided to make her daughter, Neve Te Aroha Ardern Gayford, a cake in the shape of a piano using a recipe from the Australian Women's Weekly Birthday Cake Book.

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## WATER TARIFF HIKE HC issues injunction until Aug 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued an injunction till August 10 on the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority's decision of hiking water price by 25 percent from April 1.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim passed the order after holding a virtual hearing on a writ petition filed on June 15 seeking the injunction on the Wasa decision.

Writ petitioner Advocate Tanvir Ahmed placed arguments in support of the petition, while Attorney

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#### PRAYER TIMING JUNE 23

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-52 8-17  
JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## A doctor dies from Covid-19

Another with symptoms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A retired ENT Professor at Chattogram Medical College Hospital died of Covid-19 on Sunday.

Lalit Kumar Dutta, 77, had been undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit of CMCH since Thursday.

He breathed his last around 11:45pm, said Golam Mostafa Jamal, a resident surgeon of the hospital.

Meanwhile, another doctor with coronavirus symptoms died at Green Life Hospital in Dhaka on Sunday.

Sunil Kumar Sarker, a cardiac surgeon, was kept in isolation at home. He was declared dead soon after his family members took him to the hospital on Sunday night, said Salahuddin, a customer care official at the hospital.

"He was a Covid-19 suspect, but we did not get the test result yet," he said.

With them, at least 45 physicians have so far died

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Villagers look on as the mighty Dharla river devours their land in Kulur area of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila yesterday. The river has been eating their land for the last three days as the flood water receded. Every year hundreds of families lose their homes and livelihoods to such river erosion.

PHOTO: DILIP ROY

## S Korea battles second wave

Americas report record daily case increase

AGENCIES

South Korea said for the first time it is in the midst of a "second wave" of coronavirus infections as World Health Organization (WHO) reported a record increase in global cases, with the total rising by 183,020 in a 24-hour period.

The biggest increase, of more than 116,000, was from North and South America, WHO said in a daily report. Total global cases have passed 8.9 million with more than 468,000 deaths, it added.

The Korea Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) had previously said South Korea's first wave had never really ended.

But KCDC director Jeong Eun-kyeong yesterday said it had become clear that a holiday weekend in early May marked the beginning of a new wave of infections focused in the greater Seoul area, which had previously seen few cases.

Seoul Mayor Park Won-soon told a briefing that while daily numbers may be at manageable levels, if recent infection rates continued the city could soon see hundreds of cases a day.

As of midnight Sunday, South Korea reported 17 new coronavirus cases, the first time in nearly a month. The country has reported a total of 12,438 cases, with 280 deaths.

Cases around the world are rising especially in Latin America with Brazil now registering over 50,000 deaths. There are also fears of a second wave with Australians being warned against travelling to Melbourne.

Brazil falls into that bracket with President Jair Bolsonaro comparing the virus to a "little flu" and arguing

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