



4-LANE DHAKA-BHANGA EXPRESS HIGHWAY BUILT WITH BS RM XTREME

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT BS RM building a safer nation



GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES

World's Largest VRM

SHAH CEMENT

NON-MPO SCHOOLS, COLLEGES

Govt allocates Tk 46.63cr for teachers, staff

Aims to ease their financial hardship during pandemic

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government has doled out a package to tide over about one lakh teachers and staffers of non-government schools and colleges that are outside the purview of the monthly pay order (MPO) scheme.

Many non-MPO teachers and staffers have not received any salary since the government closed down all educational institutions on March 17 to stem the spread of Covid-19.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has granted a special allocation of Tk 46.63 crore for providing financial assistance to 80,747 teachers and 25,038 staff who are outside the purview of MPO facilities," Deputy Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the list of teachers and staff was prepared by the district administrations and that the fund has already been disbursed to the district deputy commissioners.

So far, this is a one-time grant, Mohibul said, adding, "We may have more depending on the overall Covid-19 situation".

Each teacher will receive Tk 5,000 under this package, while a staffer will get Tk 2,500.

Considering their hardship, the education ministry

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Two cars kick up a cloud of dust in Bhakurta area of Savar on the outskirts of the capital. Many parts of the 16km Aminbazar-Keraniganj road are in a dilapidated state. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

MP Shahid imprisoned for 21 days in Kuwait

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The attorney general of Kuwait has decided to keep Bangladeshi lawmaker Mohammad Shahid Islam, accused of money laundering, human trafficking, visa trading and bribery, incarcerated for 21 days, reports the Arab Times.

It said the public prosecutor decided to continue the imprisonment of the remaining accused and to release the owner of a company on bail of 2,000 dinars.

Earlier, Kuwait public prosecution approached the Central Bank of Kuwait to freeze the bank accounts of Shahid and his company Marafie Kuwaitia.

Informed sources had stated that the financial balance of the company amounts to about 5 million dinars, including 3 million as company's capital.

On June 6, the Criminal

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CLOSURE DUE TO COVID-19

UGC again urges public univs to ensure online edn

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The University Grants Commission has urged the public universities to ensure online education for the third time to avoid possible session jams for Covid-19 shutdown.

A top UGC official made the call in a virtual meeting with vice-chancellors of public universities that held yesterday evening.

In response, almost all the vice-chancellors agreed with the decision.

Talking to The Daily Star, UGC Chairman Prof Kazi Shahidullah said, "They [public university VCs] agreed that they would try their best to introduce online classes on their capacities."

The authorities of public universities would take online classes to cover up their syllabus and negate the possibilities of session jams.

"Exams and practical classes will take place after normalcy returns," Shahidullah said.

This is the third time UGC urged all public universities to introduce online classes. Previously, UGC made the same call on March 23 and April 30.

Most of the public universities earlier

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Flood situation deteriorates

June 26, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

CABINET DECIDES TO RENT OUT ABANDONED PROPERTIES The cabinet meets today for several hours. The meeting presided over by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman takes some important decisions about utilisation of abandoned properties. The government decides to rent out abandoned properties to various government offices, government employees, missions and public institutions. A cell will be formed for maintenance of these properties. Dhaka city development authority and public works department will prepare a complete list of abandoned properties located in the capital.

FLOOD INUNDATES MYMENSINGH AND NARAYANGANJ

The flood situation in the country deteriorates as two new districts -- Mymensingh and Narayanganji -- go under water. Heavy rains and onrush from Assam reach these low-lying areas following inundation of most of Sylhet. Bangladesh Water Development Board fears that the flood situation may deteriorate further as all major rivers in the country are gradually swelling and the water level in Padma and Brahmaputra are close to dangerous levels.

TISTA AND HARDINGE BRIDGE WILL BE READY SOON

The repair works of Tista and Hardinge Bridge are going on full swing. It is hoped that the two most important communication channels of the country will be reopened soon. Both bridges were badly damaged during the Liberation War. Britain and India are providing extensive support for the repair work.

SOURCES: June 27, 1972 issue of Purbodosh.



3 robbers killed in 'gunfight' with cops

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Three robbers were killed and another was injured in a "gunfight" with police following a robbery incident in Feni's Daganbhuiyan upazila early yesterday.

The robbers also murdered a night guard before the "gunfight" took place at Bekerbazar in the upazila.

The three robbers have been identified as Dulal Matobbar, 45, Babul Molla, 40, of Barguna district, and Md Bidyut, 32, of Naogaon district, while the night guard was Abdul Mannan, 40, of Ashrafpur village.

Police seized a pipe gun, two sharp knives and a truck loaded with looted items from the place.

According to police and locals, a truck carrying a group of robbers reached a shop named B Shariat and Brothers on Feni-Noakhali

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Nasa prepares to fly helicopter on Mars



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Nasa has announced how it plans to fly a helicopter on Mars in an attempt to prove that powered-flight is possible on another planet.

The Ingenuity Mars Helicopter will launch from Earth this summer attached to the belly of the Perseverance rover as part of the space agency's next mission to Mars.

After landing on Mars on 18 February 2021, the helicopter will then need to safely detach and navigate the 5-inch journey from the rover to the surface of Mars before attempting lift off.

"Ingenuity is unlike any other helicopter ever built because powered controlled flight at Mars is

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3 more die with Covid-19 symptoms in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three men died with symptoms of Covid-19 at the Khulna Medical College Hospital's flu corner early yesterday.

The youngest of them, a 40-year-old man, died a little past midnight about an hour after he was brought to the hospital. He was a resident of the city's Khalishpur.

He had a fever, cough and breathing difficulties, said Resident Medical

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 26

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-30 5-00 6-54 8-17
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-57 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Monkeys eating chickpea inside Sadhana Aushadhalaya, a herbal medicine manufacturer, in the capital's Gendaria. They live on what people give them. Due to the pandemic, fewer people feed them now.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

WHO warns of global shortage of oxygen

Says virus resurging in Europe as restrictions ease; cases set to top 10m

AGENCIES

The world faces a shortage of oxygen concentrators as the number of worldwide cases of coronavirus infection nears the 10 million mark, the World Health Organization head said.

"Many countries are now experiencing difficulties obtaining oxygen concentrators," WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a news conference on Wednesday. "Demand is currently outstripping supply."

The new coronavirus has hit 9.3 million people and killed more than 480,000 so far and is rising by about 1 million cases per week. This has pushed oxygen demand to 88,000 large cylinders per day, or 620,000 cubic metres of oxygen, Tedros said.

The sudden rise has created a dearth of oxygen concentrators needed to support breathing of Covid-19 patients suffering from respiratory distress.

The health agency has purchased 14,000 oxygen concentrators from manufacturers and plans to send them to 120 countries in coming weeks, Tedros said. A further 170,000 concentrators - valued at some \$100 million - will be potentially available over the next six months.

WHO's regional director for Europe Hans Kluge said Europe has seen a surge of cases

since countries began easing restrictions.

"Last week, Europe saw an increase in weekly cases for the first time in months," Kluge told reporters yesterday. He warned that health systems in some European countries would once again be pushed to the brink.

But the number of new cases in Europe is dwarfed by the Americas, where Brazil and the United States recorded almost 80,000 infections between them on Wednesday.

While some US states have moved to re-impose lockdowns, Brazilian expert Domingos Alves warned that his country was sending people "to the slaughterhouse" by reopening its economy too soon.

Governments are still struggling to balance public health needs of fighting a virus that has infected almost 10 million people and killed almost 500,000 with the damage that lockdown measures are doing to their economies.

TEARS OF JOY

France reopened the Eiffel Tower to tourists yesterday after three months of closure because of the coronavirus, ramping up attempts to return to normality.

A few dozen mostly French tourists braved scorching heat in Paris to climb the Eiffel Tower's iron stairs as the lifts were deemed too small for social distancing.

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