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SHAH CEMENT

# Global leaders raise \$6.9b for vaccine

Bangladesh pledges \$50,000 to fundraiser

REUTERS, Brussels

A global fundraising meeting has raised 6.15 billion euros (\$6.9 billion) from the United States, the European Commission and numerous countries including Bangladesh to fight Covid-19, with many participants stressing that an eventual vaccine should be available to anyone who needs it.

The pledging summit, part of a joint initiative by the EU executive and advocacy group Global Citizen, also included a globally televised and streamed fundraising concert featuring Miley Cyrus, Justin Bieber, Shakira, Chloe X Halle, Usher and others.

The Commission together with the European Investment Bank pledged 4.9 billion euros (\$5.50 billion), the United States \$545 million, Germany 383 million euros, Canada C\$300 million (\$219 million) and Qatar \$10 million. Forty governments took part in the summit.

Bangladesh has made a contribution of US\$50,000 expressing solidarity with the cause.

"I am pleased to announce a contribution of USD 50,000 for supporting development and availability of safe and effective vaccine," said Foreign Minister Dr A K Abdul Momen addressing the virtual summit on Saturday.

The money will be used for Covid-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, and also to support the world's poorest and most marginalised communities.

Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said it was

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People move to higher grounds with their dismantled house on a boat yesterday as a vast low-lying area of Rangpur's Gangachara upazila goes under flood water. Rise in the water level of the Teesta and rain are causing the flooding there. The photo was taken in Laxmitari area.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

# Flooding worsens in the North, Northeast

STAR REPORT

Flood situation in different districts worsened further yesterday as the rivers in these regions -- swelled by torrential rains in the last few days and onrush of water from the upstream rivers -- were flowing above the danger level.

Hundreds of households and vast croplands in low-lying areas were inundated, causing immense sufferings to people.

Many people have left their houses and taken shelter on roads or high safe places. The flood-hit people are passing hard days due to shortage of food and drinking water.

Local administrations in many affected areas have started distributing relief while government officials in some other areas were preparing for relief distribution.

Bangladesh Meteorological Department forecast that light to moderate rains are likely to

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# SUED UNDER DSA Journo Kajol placed on 2-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A virtual court in Dhaka yesterday placed photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol on a two-day remand in a case filed under the Digital Security Act.

Earlier in the day, Kajol was also shown arrested in the case filed with Hazaribagh Police Station.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Debdash Chandra Adhikary passed the remand order after a hearing through videoconferencing with authorities of Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

During the yesterday's hearing, Sub-Inspector Mohammad Rasel Mollah of the Detective Branch of police and also investigation officer of the case, prayed for a 10-day remand.

In the remand prayer, SI Rasel said Kajol should be placed on remand

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

# Stalemate at Simla talks



Bangabandhu visits ailing NAP (Muzaffar) leader Mohiuddin at the PG Hospital on June 30, 1972

June 29, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

POPOV CALLS ON BANGLABANDHU Soviet Ambassador to Bangladesh Valentin Popov calls on Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today at his official residence. He hands over a letter from the Soviet leaders to Bangabandhu.

Later, Popov tells journalists that the letter is about maintenance of peace and stability in the South Asian region. BHUTTO-INDIRA DIALOGUE POSTPONED

Talks between India and Pakistan in Simla enter second day with divisions emerging over several key issues. Pakistan places emphasis on handing over of prisoners of war and withdrawal of forces of both countries to their respective

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

# 3 'robbers' killed in 'gunfight' in Sundarbans

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three alleged robbers were killed and two others injured in a "gunfight" with Rab in the Sundarbans early yesterday.

Two of the dead were identified as Shariful Islam, 24, of Sadar upazila in Satkhira, and Habibur Rahman, 24, of Asashuni upazila of the district. The identity of the other could not be known immediately.

The "gunfight" took place in Ferengi area when a Rab team was conducting a drive in Satkhira range of the West Sundarbans from Saturday night to early yesterday.

During the raid, Rab members also rescued two fishermen.

Rab Director General Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun, who went to Khulna yesterday, said this at a press conference at Rab-6 office.

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# Astronaut drops mirror into space



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

An astronaut has dropped a small mirror into space by accident, Nasa has said.

Commander Chris Cassidy lost control of the mirror while leaving the International Space Station for a spacewalk to work on batteries, and it floated away at about a foot per second, the space agency said.

The object is now just one part of the vast amount of space junk that is in orbit around the Earth.

Cassidy had been conducting an otherwise uneventful spacewalk with Bob Behnken, who arrived at the space station on board a SpaceX craft last month.

Mission Control said the mirror somehow became detached from Cassidy's spacesuit. The lost

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# Another cop dies from Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another policeman, who was infected with Covid-19, died at Central Police Hospital in the capital on Saturday night.

Atiar Rahman, a constable of Manikganj district police, breathed his last around 10:00pm on Saturday, said a press release of Police Headquarters.

He joined the force on November 26, 1984. He left behind his wife, two daughters, and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

His body was sent to his village home in Faridpur for burial.

With Atiar, 40 police personnel have so far died from coronavirus infections while discharging their duties.

Meanwhile, the number of Covid-19 cases in police force crossed 10,000 till yesterday, according to Police Headquarters.

Of the infected, 6,045 have so far recovered, and many of them already joined work, it added.

# UPDF man shot dead in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A member of United People Democratic Front (UPDF) was reportedly shot dead at remote Hajachhara in Dighinala upazila of Khagrachhari yesterday.

In a press release, UPDF claimed the dead -- Dhormojoy Tripura, 30 of Bishnu Karbari Para -- was a member of their group.

One Niron Chakma of UPDF sent the press release.

MM Salauddin, additional superintendent of the district police, said they recovered the body.

In the statement, UPDF claimed Dhormojoy left JSS (faction) two years ago and joined UPDF.

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Without maintaining social distancing, people stand in queues to pay their water bills at the Jatrabari Wasa office in the capital yesterday. Social distancing goes a long way in slowing the spread of coronavirus, according to health experts.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

# Thousands in Rakhine flee

Say monitors as Myanmar army plans 'clearance operations' against insurgents

REUTERS

Thousands of villagers have fled their homes in Myanmar's Rakhine state after a local administrator warned dozens of village leaders that the army planned "clearance operations" against insurgents, a lawmaker and a humanitarian group said.

But a government spokesman said late on Saturday an evacuation order issued by border-affairs officials had been revoked. Border affairs acknowledged issuing the order through the local administrator but said it affected fewer villages.

The warning to the village leaders came in a letter written on Wednesday, which was seen by Reuters and verified by a state government minister, Colonel Min Than.

The letter, signed by the administrator of Rathedaung township, Aung Myint Thein, told village leaders he had been informed the operations were planned in the township's Kyauktan village and nearby areas suspected of harbouring insurgents.

The letter does not specify where the order came from, but Min Than, Rakhine state's border affairs and security minister, told Reuters it was an instruction from his border affairs ministry, one of three Myanmar government ministries controlled by the army.

"Clearance operation will be done by forces in those villages," the letter from the administrator said.

"While this is being done, if the fighting occurs with AA terrorists, don't stay at the villages but move out temporarily," it said, referring to the Arakan Army, the name of the Rakhine state insurgents.

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 29

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION