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SHAH CEMENT

# Giving it all to others in pandemic

Mymensingh's poet distributes food, donates blood, arranges burial or cremation of the dead

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Ali Yusuf is always there to lend a helping hand. The 49-year-old poet from Mymensingh has been tirelessly performing humanitarian activities since the coronavirus pandemic hit the country. Ali is the coordinator of one of the three teams of 25 volunteers who bury or cremate deceased Covid-19 patients in Mymensingh city, said Md Anwar Hossain, chief executive officer of Mymensingh City Corporation, who supervises the work.



Hafez Mohammad Emdadul Haque and freedom fighter Bimol Pal lead the other two teams, and volunteers work in groups of five by rotation, Anwar said, terming them as "frontline soldiers".

Till date, the groups have performed the burial of eight Muslim and cremation of one Hindu coronavirus patients, and Ali was present in all nine instances, said Mohammad Rajon, who volunteered at one burial.

"Volunteers led by Ali distributed relief materials to 600 families and powder milk to 400 poor children in the city. They also provided 100 families with special food during Eid-ul-Fitr," said Rajon.

Rajon has also been working with Ali in distributing relief among the poor since April.

During one relief work, the volunteers once came across a seven-year-old boy, Abdul Ahad, who was suffering from heart disease. His van-puller

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The swelling Jamuna devouring a flood protection embankment at Shubhogachha village in Sirajganj's Kazipur upazila yesterday. People who live near the embankment have started dismantling their homes and moving elsewhere fearing that they would be marooned or their homes destroyed.

PHOTO: AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

## FIRE SERVICE

### Divers stretched to their limits

Get very brief rest during rescue operations due to manpower shortage

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A diver has to take a break for about three hours after working under water for an hour.

But the members of the fire service diving unit, a very important unit for rescuing accident victims, get a break for only 20 to 30 minutes.

Sharing his experience with The Daily Star, Abul Khayer, team leader of Divers of Fire Service and Civil Defence, said they endure the workload as they cannot just sit back and watch people crying for help to find out their missing relatives.

"We are suffering from a manpower shortage. That's why we have to shoulder the extra burden to continue rescue operations," said Khayer, a winner of several awards, including the prime minister's award for showing courage during rescue operations.

According to officials, the fire service diving unit had started its journey with only 25 divers in 1990.

It has sent many letters to the home ministry over the years, requesting an

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

### Trials shall be held



Bangabandhu addressing a mammoth public meeting in Kushtia on July 2, 1972.

July 2, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZZA SAJEN

#### INDO-PAK ACCORD SIGNED

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto signed an agreement for peace today. The agreement is described as a decisive breakthrough towards the objective of a durable peace. The agreement has to be ratified by both countries.

It is reported that Indira Gandhi talked to Bangladesh Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman over the telephone yesterday night. Indira Gandhi is understood to have informed Bangabandhu of the trend of Indo-Pak talks and also Pakistan's view on recognition of Bangladesh and normalisation of relationships between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

#### BANGABANDHU VISITS KUSHTIA

Bangabandhu today reiterates his firm resolve to try the war criminals on the soil of Bangladesh. Addressing a big meeting in

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## A DEADLY MISTAKE

### Girl dies after being given acid instead of water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A 5-year-old girl died after drinking water mixed with acid when she asked for some water at a jewellery shop in Dinajpur's Nawabganj upazila.

Police arrested the jeweller Md Saiful Islam, 34. Saiful mistakenly poured from a bottle of water mixed with Nitric acid, which jewellers use to purify gold, when the girl, Meftaul Zannat, 5, from the upazila, asked for some water.

Morsheda Begum, 34, took her youngest daughter Meftaul to Soma Jewellers in Nawabganj bazaar yesterday noon to buy some gold ornaments.

Meftaul's grandmother Razia Khatun was also there.

At the shop, the girl was playing around and, at one point, asked her mother for some water.

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## Japan city bans smartphone while walking



AFP, Yamato

A Tokyo suburb yesterday imposed Japan's first ban on a habit seen around the world: pedestrians glued to their phone screens while walking, sometimes dangerously oblivious to their surroundings.

Visitors arriving at the railway station in Yamato City were greeted with banners announcing the new prohibition, which applies to all foot journeys around the neighbourhood's public roads, squares and parks.

"Using smartphones while walking is banned. Please operate your smartphones after you stop walking," a recorded female voice cautioned travellers.

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## Miseries pile up for flood-hit people

Many yet to get relief in Kurigram, Lalmonirhat

STAR REPORT

Flood situation has worsened in several districts and caused sufferings to people as their houses, croplands, ponds and livestock have been damaged.

Fish farmers in the districts are in fear of incurring huge losses this season as their fishes have been washed away after the ponds were inundated.

Many flood-hit people are yet to get any relief or food assistance from the government and passing days with starvation.

In Sunamganj, some 2,846 ponds -- covering around 529 hectares lands -- were washed away by the flash flood, causing damage worth around Tk 21.45 crore to the fish farmers, according to local fisheries officers.

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## 10 more die with Covid-19 symptoms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Ten people have died with Covid-19 symptoms since Monday in Cumilla.

Dr Mukta Rani, assistant surgeon at Cumilla Medical College Hospital, said of the dead seven were males, two females and one child.

All of them, aged between eight and 80, were admitted to the hospital with cold, cough, fever, chest pain and breathing issues, she added.

She also said that samples were collected from the patients' bodies for Covid-19 tests.

A total of 105 patients were admitted to the isolation unit of the

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### PRAYER TIMING JULY 2

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 7-17  
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Riot police use pepper spray toward journalists as protesters gathered for a rally against a new national security law in Hong Kong yesterday, on the 23rd anniversary of the city's handover from Britain to China.

PHOTO: AFP

## HONG KONG'S NEW SECURITY LAW

# Hundreds of protesters arrested

Pro-Beijing politicians welcome city's 'second return' to China amid condemnations from West

AGENCIES

Hong Kong police fired water cannon and tear gas and arrested more than 370 people yesterday as protesters took to the streets in defiance of sweeping security legislation introduced by China to snuff out dissent.

Beijing unveiled the details of the much-anticipated law late on Tuesday after weeks of uncertainty, pushing China's freest city and one of the world's most glittering financial hubs on to a more authoritarian path.

As thousands of protesters gathered for an annual rally marking the anniversary of the former British colony's handover to China in 1997, riot police used pepper spray and fired pellets as they made arrests after crowds spilled into the streets chanting "resist till the end" and "Hong Kong independence".

"I'm scared of going to jail but for justice I have to come out today. I have to stand up," said one 35-year-old man who gave his name as Seth.

Police said they had made more than 300 arrests for illegal assembly and other offences, with nine involving violations of the new law.

The law punishes crimes of secession, subversion,

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