



MUSEUM OR MOSQUE?
Top Turkey court to rule on Hagia Sophia
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Your Right to Know

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COMMITTEES TO TACKLE PANDEMIC

Too much hype, little outcome

Many of the committees hardly effective; their recommendations often ignored

WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The committees formed by the government to help it make policy decisions to put the brakes on the pandemic have not been working properly or their recommendations were ignored.

Since March, when the country started experiencing a gradual rise in the number of coronavirus cases, the government formed several "high-powered" and national-level committees to advise the government on how to stop the spread of the disease while others were tasked with implementing the decisions.

Many of the committees barely convened any meeting or they saw their recommendations ignored. The lack of coordination among the committees and among the government's implementing agencies made the situation worse.

But the government formed even more committees to plug the holes. Meanwhile, new cases kept multiplying.

"We have a law enacted in 2018 regarding pandemic [Infectious Disease (Prevention, Control and Elimination) Act, 2018] ...," said Prof Muzaherul Huq, former regional adviser, WHO, South East Asia Region.

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BANGLADESH
UPDATE



4,019
New cases in 24hrs



1,53,277
Total cases



1,926
Deaths



66,442
Recoveries



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Amid the sweltering heat, children have fun in the lake at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday. High temperature and humidity have been causing people across the country to suffer for the last few weeks.

Virus cases cross 150,000-mark

Country sees new daily record of 4,019 infections; 38 die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of Covid-19 patients in the country surged past the 1.5 lakh-mark as 4,019 new cases of infections were reported yesterday, so far the highest in a single day.

On the 116th day since the first case was confirmed on March 8, the total number reached 1,53,277.

Covid-19 cases had passed the 50,000-mark on June 1 and crossed the grim milestone of one lakh-mark on June 18. It means more than a half lakh new cases were reported in the 14 days alone.

Previously, the single-day record number of new cases -- 4,008 -- were reported on June 16.

The authorities said 38 Covid-19 patients died in the country in 24 hours till 2:30pm yesterday, taking the official death toll to 1,926.

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PM approves shutdown of 25 jute mills

Govt will need Tk 5,000cr to pay workers' dues

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to shut down production at 25 state-run jute mills under Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) by providing cent percent dues of some 25,000 workers.

The decision came at the end of a long process.

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OMS LIST ANOMALY

As weird as it gets

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Habiganj

Sunuj Ullah, Eshrak Mia, and Jamal Mia are the husbands of Mohesh Sarkar, Subol Sarkar and Kali Kanto Sarkar, respectively -- at least that's what a list of beneficiaries for a government food programme shows.

The list with 1,185 names was prepared in 2016 by Gajnaipur Union Parishad in Habiganj's Nobiganj upazila and then approved by the upazila food officer and upazila nirbahi officer (UNO).

The title on the third column of the list makes it look like all the beneficiaries, whether male or female, have husbands.

Not just this, the list also includes names of dead and non-existent people. Yet, it has been used in Gajnaipur union for the last four years.

The ultra-poor people on this list from Gajnaipur's 33 villages are supposed to receive 30kg of OMS (open market sale) rice at Tk 10 per kg four to five times a year under the government's food-friendly programme.

DEAD ON THE LIST

Hamdu Mia of Gajnaipur's Kandigaon village died in 2014, but is still on the list at serial number 420.

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BUSINESS World Bank keeps opening purses

The World Bank would continue making funds available for Bangladesh to help it pull out of the pandemic-induced wreckage. "We are working with the government on a robust pipeline for FY2020-21," Mercy Tembon, country director of the World Bank Bangladesh, told The Daily Star in an interview recently. In June, it approved \$1.5 billion in four projects.



STORY ON B1

Veg prices up as supply falls

Flood main reason, say officials

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Soaring prices of daily essentials are hurting low and middle-income families in the capital as they find it increasingly hard to pay for the same basic essentials amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Officials said prices have been on the rise over the last few weeks due to a shortage of supply as many farmers lost their produce to rain and flooding.

According to them, this happens during the monsoon season every year. But this year's situation has become unbearable for people on a low fixed income as the coronavirus outbreak has significantly slowed the country's economic activities.

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WE DEEPLY MOURN

Pioneer Leader of Entrepreneurs and one of the legendary personalities in the journey of prosperity of Bangladesh, our beloved guardian and honorable Chairman **Mr. Latifur Rahman** has passed away on July 1, 2020 (Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un). We deeply mourn his passing.

We pray to the almighty to bestow his blessings on the departed soul and express our heartfelt condolences to his family.

National Housing Finance and Investments Limited

www.nationalhousingbd.com

We Mourn

Our deepest condolences to the demise of Mr. Latifur Rahman, Chairman & Managing Director of Transcom Group. He will be remembered for his benevolence and extraordinary vision that moved the country forward.

- From the Managing Director & all the employees of Nestlé Bangladesh Limited and Head of Nestlé South Asia Region

Nestlé

LATIFUR RAHMAN
28 August 1945 - 1 July 2020

You are the true embodiment of ethics, integrity, strength, vision, courage and so much more...

You can't enlighten us with your presence but your learning is instilled in each one of us and will keep us striving the same essence and carry forward your never-ending legacy.

In memory of our beloved Chairman Sir

Transcom Limited Transcom Distribution Co. Ltd. Transcom Consumer Products Ltd.