



ANTIBODIES FROM LLAMAS CAN HELP TREAT COVID-19 PATIENTS
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The Daily Star

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BANGLADESH UPDATE 3,163 New cases in 24hrs | 1,90,057 Total cases | 2,424 Deaths | 1,03,227 Recoveries | **GLOBAL UPDATE** 577,984 Deaths | 13,344,199 Total cases

BANGLADESHI WORKERS

Around 2 lakh may have to leave Kuwait

JAMIL MAHMUD and RASHIDUL HASAN

When the coronavirus pandemic is already dealing a heavy blow to the country's overseas job markets, Kuwait has approved a bill that, once passed, may force about two lakh Bangladeshi migrant workers out of the Gulf country.

The bill, submitted by five MPs, calls for an expatriate quota system in Kuwait, one of the major sources of Bangladesh's remittance inflow.

It proposes Bangladeshis must not exceed three percent of Kuwait's total populace, which now stands at about 48 lakh.

Currently, around 3.5 lakh Bangladeshis are employed in different sectors of the oil-rich country. Once the bill is passed and turns into a law, only about 1.5 lakh Bangladeshis will be allowed to stay there.

The bill came after several Kuwaiti MPs said the current ratio of Kuwaiti citizens and foreign workers created "a great imbalance in the country's demography".

Last month, Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah said the Gulf state would like the expat ratio to reduce to 30 percent of the country's populace -- down from 70 percent at present, reported local daily Kuwait Times.

Bangladesh's remittance inflow may take a hit if the bill is passed into law.

Last year, Bangladeshi migrant workers sent more than \$1.5 billion in remittance through authorised channels from Kuwait, which was the fourth highest in terms of remittance into Bangladesh, according to the website of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training.

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Shamsunnahar came to Sonali Bank's Tejgaon branch around 10:00am yesterday to collect her old-age allowance. She submitted all her documents upon reaching there but was found empty-handed even at 1:00pm. As the bank was overloaded with service seekers, many elderly people had to wait for long, agonising hours to receive their allowances. Almost none of them wore a face mask to protect themselves and others from the coronavirus.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

BIBES BY MP SHAHID

Kuwait now reviewing visa docs of Bangladeshis

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Kuwait authorities are reviewing the procedures for visa approval for thousands of Bangladeshis between 2014 and 2018 following suspension of an interior ministry official over allegations of bribery involving Bangladeshi lawmaker Shahid Islam Papul.

Maj Gen Mazen Al-Jarrah, assistant undersecretary at Kuwait interior ministry, was suspended on June 30 for allegedly accepting bribes and making financial transactions linked to Shahid's company.

Shahid, a lawmaker from Laxmipur-2 constituency, was arrested in Kuwait on June 6 and sent to jail.

During interrogation, he admitted paying millions of dollars in bribes to some lawmakers and Kuwaiti officials for securing visas and job contracts for his

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SHAJAHAN SIRAJ (1943-2020)

Man who read independence manifesto dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shajahan Siraj, one of the key organisers of Liberation War in 1971, passed away at a hospital in Dhaka yesterday. He was 75.

The veteran politician, who read the manifesto of the country's independence in presence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and millions of others on March 3, 1971, was suffering from lung cancer.

He breathed his last around 3:30pm while receiving treatment at a city hospital, said Omar Sadat, Siraj's son-in-law.

Siraj was known as one of the "four

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REGENT HOSPITAL SCAM

Minister passes buck to DGHS

Rights body concerned over corruption in health sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday said he attended a ceremony marking a government deal signing with Regent Hospital at the request of the director general of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

He, however, apparently tried to ease the ongoing rift between his ministry and the DGHS over the issue, as he insisted that there was no disagreement between them.

"The ministry can ask for any explanation from the DGHS. It's a part of government activities," the minister told reporters at his office.

"There could be some misunderstandings for a temporary period, but there is no disruption in the health services for that," he said.

The comments came two days after the ministry asked DGHS DG Prof Abul Kalam Azad to explain his statement that the directorate signed the memorandum of understanding with Regent Hospital on directives from "the higher authorities of the ministry".

Recently, a mobile court sealed off the private hospital's Uttara branch on charges of issuing fake Covid-19 test reports and illegally charging coronavirus patients for treatment, breaching the agreement.

The DG did not submit his explanation till this report was filed last night.

Speaking on the MoU signing ceremony, the minister said, "We went to the DG's office for a meeting. There was an inter-ministerial meeting. There were some secretaries and others.

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Shahed was talking on the phone during raid

Regent MD held in Gazipur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Regent Group chairman Md Shahed's cell phone was switched on when a mobile court raided one of his hospitals in Uttara on July 6.

Shahed was responding phone calls from journalists until the night, though Rab officials by this time had detained eight staffers at the hospital and claimed Shahed was the mastermind of Covid-19 test report forgery.

But after midnight, his cellphone was found switched off and he apparently went into hiding.

Since then he remained traceless for more than a week. He even did not communicate with his

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REMEMBERING LATIFUR RAHMAN

A patriot, a symbol of ethical business

His legacy is that of a torchbearer of free media, discussants tell memorial session

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It took three decades of sacrifice, unimpeachable integrity and firm determination for Latifur Rahman to build a business empire. But his legacy is that of a torchbearer of independent media.

This is how speakers remembered the late business mogul at a virtual memorial session organised by The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo yesterday.

"If you want to create an independent media, in which you are a major investor, then you have to make yourself invulnerable to pressure. Most businesses leave room for leverage," said Rehman Sobhan, chairperson of the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

"When governments want to put



pressure on newspapers, they do not need to pressurise the editors, they can simply go to the businesses and remind them of some unattended issues of their tax files for example. The independence of newspapers depends on the independence of the businesses financing it.

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OB-GYN

Many not helpful, offensive instead

Claim patients on Facebook

ZYMA ISLAM

Over the last 48 hours, young women have been taking to social media to talk about a rare topic -- how women seeking gynaecological help often receive insensitive, traumatising and humiliating "advice" from doctors.

A young woman recently reported on social media a traumatic ordeal at a gynaecologist's office.

What followed was a "coming-out" of women sharing their horrific experiences while seeking medical advice for sexual and reproductive health.

For most women, the visit to the ob-gyn is the first time in their teenage/adult life that any person -- a stranger at that --

would be inspecting a very intimate part of the body. It is an invasive procedure

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Testing booths set up by JKG Healthcare lie abandoned on the premises of Mohakhali's Titumir College for over a month. The organisation has been under investigation for issuing fake Covid-19 certificates. Its chairman and some others are now behind bars.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

JKG LICENCE

DGHS didn't bother to check

MUNTAKIM SAAD

When JKG Health Care got the job of collecting Covid-19 test samples from booths back in April, the Directorate General of Health Services didn't even check its licence.

Two months later -- just a week before the fake test report scam surfaced -- JKG Health Care got a trade licence from Dhaka North City Corporation on June 16 under the business category of health service and consultancy, police probe found.

The DGHS, however, said they gave permission to JKG only for voluntary services -- to set up booths and collect samples from the booths.

It has been found in police investigation that the organisation started collecting samples from homes in exchange for money despite having no trade licence or the permission to do that.

"They [JKG] showed us a South Korea-like model through a video presentation. We gave them training and logistical support. Their job was only to collect samples from booths. We didn't even give them permission to collect samples from home," Prof Dr Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of the DGHS, told The Daily Star yesterday.

She said they didn't check the organisation's licence at that time.

JKG Health Care, a sister concern of Oval Group, started its journey in 2015 as a non-profit organisation.

According to the trade licence issued on June 16, the owner of JKG Health Care is Jebunnessa Reema, sister of Ariful Chaudhury, CEO of Oval Group.

"When we were investigating the documents of Oval Group, we found JKG Health Care's trade licence was issued this June," Mahmud Khan, assistant commissioner of DMP (Tejgaon Zone), told The Daily Star.

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