



**REDS GRAB COVETED TROPHY**  
Liverpool formally receive the Premier League trophy for the first time at an empty Anfield.  
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# Reshuffle slows Covid-19 response

High officials obsessed with posts don't have eye on the ball

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

As the government brings changes at the DGHS top end to improve the image of the health sector, tension among officials is apparently causing sluggishness in Covid-19 response and hampering daily activities of the directorate.

Many DGHS officials said some high-ups at the directorate were obsessed with "what was going to happen", "where they would be positioned", and were not completely focused on the job in hand.

Director General of the DGHS Prof Abul Kalam Azad resigned on Tuesday following a blame game between the DGHS and the ministry over signing a deal with Regent Hospital. He mentioned deteriorating health as reason for quitting.

The health ministry yesterday appointed Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, a professor of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, as the new DG of DGHS.

Yesterday, the health ministry also named Farid Hossain Miah, the current programme manager of National Tuberculosis Control Programme of DGHS, as the new director (hospitals and clinics) of the Directorate General of Health Service (DGHS).

He replaced Aminul Hasan, who was made Officer on Special Duty (OSD), on Wednesday.

According to insiders, there would be more changes in the DGHS soon and at least two more directors were likely to be shown the door within days.

"Obviously there is a deep but silent worry among different line directors. So, all activities have come to a halt here," a top official involved in Covid-19 containment activities told The Daily Star seeking anonymity.

The lack of work getting done at the directorate has become all too apparent.

## DAILY TESTS DECLINE

Since the beginning, different expert committees, including the National

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The three-storey building of Nuruddin Matborerandi Model High School is warped out of shape as the ground on which it stood is being washed away by the Padma. The building was barely visible soon after the photo was taken around 5:30pm yesterday in Bandarkhola union of Madaripur's Shibchar upazila. When schools reopen, students of at least 24 villages will have to travel to schools far away from their homes.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Govt to provide homes to the homeless in flood, erosion  
PM says, opens govt shelters for 600 climate refugees

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government would arrange housing for those losing their homes in flood and riverbank erosion alongside rehabilitating the landless and homeless people across the country.

"This time the flood looks to be serious... more floods are likely to occur in August and September. We have preparations to face these. We will also arrange accommodations and land for those losing their homes in flood or river erosion," she said.

The PM was addressing

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## BANGLADESH UPDATE



2,856 New cases in 24hrs



2,16,110 Total cases



2,801 Deaths



1,19,208 Recoveries

## GLOBAL UPDATE



624,370 Deaths



15,265,081 Total cases

## Prof Khurshid made new DG of DGHS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, a professor of Dhaka Medical College (DMC), has been appointed as the new and 27th director general of the Directorate General of Health Services.

The Health Services Division of the health ministry issued a circular in this regard yesterday.

Prof Abul Bashar, chairman of the surgery department at DMC, has been asked to join the post immediately.

His appointment came a day after Prof Abul Kalam Azad resigned from the post on Tuesday.

His resignation came after a rift between the ministry and the directorate over the signing

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## Reality doesn't bear out his claim

Health minister claimed pandemic tackled well, though govt's virus response is plagued by scams, mismanagement

WASIM BIN HABIB

Although government efforts to contain Covid-19 are plagued by various scams and sheer mismanagement, Health Minister Zahid Maleque thinks his ministry has performed well in handling the crisis.

Mortality rate is the yardstick he used for evaluating the performance.

"How well you fare in exams depends on the marks you get. I think the health ministry has got good marks," the minister told reporters on Wednesday.

"What is the number? Our death rate is only 1.5 percent, and that is the biggest mark. The number is 6 percent in the US, 10 percent in Europe and 6 percent in the whole world. This is the biggest yardstick to decide whether we have done well or not," Zahid said.

But as soon as he made the comment, a few questions began swirling around: How has the ministry really done and is the yardstick appropriate to measure its performance.

Ever since Covid-19 outbreak in the country, the virus has been exposing the systematic ills plaguing the already-fragile healthcare system. The ministry was blamed for failing to play a robust role in tackling the coronavirus outbreak.

The ministry, among other relevant authorities, had at least three months to prepare, but they apparently failed to grasp the gravity of the situation. They did very little to prevent the virus from entering the country.

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## Provide list of errant pvt hospitals, test centres

Health ministry asks DGHS on renewal of licence

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

With the government's efforts to contain Covid-19 already marred by scams and mismanagement, the health ministry appears to have finally woken up and started taking some steps to avert further controversies.

Apart from some reshuffling at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the ministry gave several directives to its subordinate agencies to bring discipline in the otherwise unregulated private clinics and hospitals and their Covid-19 testing facilities.

It asked the DGHS, the implementing agency, to give a complete list of the private hospitals, clinics

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## PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES' SUMMER SEMESTER

# Enrolment far lower than usual

50-80pc fall despite waiver offers

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Student admission in the summer semester at most of the private universities has dropped by a staggering 50 to 80 percent, putting these higher education institutions on a razor edge.

This would make it more difficult for the authorities of these universities to pay salaries of their teachers and other staffers as tuition and other fees collected from students are the only source of revenue for these institutions.

Private universities authorities said the rate of enrollment fell as parents of the students either lost their income source or are experiencing a pay cut, while some of them might not have confidence in online education offered by private universities.

The authorities also said they were heading toward an uncertain future if the coronavirus situation lingers.

"Almost all private universities, but for a few reputed and old ones, are heading toward a catastrophic situation in absence of enough students", said Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh (APUB) Chairman Sheikh Kabir Hossain, adding many universities may face closure if the situation does not improve.

Private universities enroll students in three semesters -- spring, summer and fall.

About 50 percent of the students get enrolled in the spring semester, around 20 to 25 percent in the summer while the rest in the fall semester.

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## No decision yet on reopening of schools

Clarifies edn ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry is yet to make any decision on reopening schools, which has remained closed since March due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Following a rumour that all educational institutions will reopen after Eid-ul-Azha, the ministry in a press statement issued on Wednesday late night clarified that the government did not make any decision in this regard yet.

A Facebook page is circulating that all educational institutions will reopen after Eid, this is baseless and rumour, said the statement, signed by Mohammad Abul Khair, public relations officer of the ministry.

The ministry also urged all students and guardians not to be confused.

"Whenever the ministry decides to this end, the students will be informed through the media," the statement added.

The government extended the closure of all educational institutions, which have been closed since March 17, until August 6 as a preventive measure against the further spread of the novel coronavirus.

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## Diseases spread in flood-hit areas

Brahmaputra, Dharala inundate more villages in Kurigram

STAR REPORT

The waterborne diseases are spreading in some areas while river erosion taking devastating turn in few other in the country's flood-hit northern region.

Fresh areas in some districts have been submerged as the third spell of flood hit the region.

In Kurigram, food situation further deteriorated yesterday as both the Brahmaputra and the Dharla rivers were flowing above the danger level.

It has caused rise of water level of 16 other branch rivers in the district.

Many people are still waterlogged, while many others have left their homes and staying on roads, dykes, flood shelters or other higher places.

At the same time, various waterborne diseases, including diarrhea, are spreading in the flood affected areas.

"I, along with my family members, have been living in a polythene-wrapped hut since July 10 as our house was submerged. We are passing days amid untold sufferings without sufficient food and drinking water," said Fatema Begum, 58, of Char Sonaigazi in Phulbari upazila.

Farhad Hossain of Char Sajai in the same upazila said, "Several members of our family, including my one-and-a-half-year-old child, are suffering from diarrhoea. Most of the families in this area are facing similar disease."

Aminur Rahman, 50, a volunteer from Char Kodalkati Mandalpara area in Char Rajibpur upazila, told The Daily Star that he had brought some saline and water purification tablets from local health complex and bought some at his own expense. He is distributing these among the victims.

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