



4-LANE DHAKA-BHANGA EXPRESS HIGHWAY BUILT WITH BSRM XTREME

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT BSRM

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECORD HOLDER

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES World's Largest VRM

SHAH CEMENT

# HOSTING DOCTORS Hoteliers do their part

Staff getting infected yet service continues

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Arif Motahar, the founding chairman of Hotel Regency, was recently diagnosed with Covid-19 though he has not left his hotel for the last two months.

Not just him -- at least five of his employees were also infected with Covid-19.

"Since the beginning of the pandemic, we began hosting doctors and nurses. We [he and his staff] are also not going out of the hotel to keep our family members safe. Now, we got infected," Arif told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

A total of 220 doctors have been staying in the hotel since May 1.

"Almost 50 percent of our total staff got infected and most of them recovered. Even after this, we are providing services to our clients," Arif said.

Each staff member works for 15 days and remains in isolation for the next 14 days, he said, yet the hotel is paying full salaries.

The government has arranged hotels for doctors and nurses, who are on the frontline of the fight against the novel coronavirus, to stay in.

This arrangement was made as hospitals do not have any residential facilities and medical workers going home after completing duty every day pose the threat of infection to their family members.

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Tying pipes and cables of different utility services to bamboos, Dhaka South City Corporation is installing underground sewerage pipes to widen the lines at Dhanmondi-27. Locals allege that they are suffering immensely as the work progresses slowly. Rainwater also adds to their woes. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Govt facilities, not hotels for their stay

Says govt proposal on health workers treating Covid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health ministry is planning to provide accommodation for doctors, health workers and staffers involved in treating Covid-19 patients at government installations instead of private hotels.

Those unwilling to stay at government installations will be given allowances to bear the accommodation expenses.

The ministry's Health Service Division (HSD) has already sent a proposal to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in this regard, said Muhibur Rahman, additional secretary (hospital wing) at HSD.

The move comes following recent media reports of controversy over hotel bills.

Speaking in parliament on June 29, Deputy Leader of the Opposition GM Quader raised the issue of spending Tk 20 crore by Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for

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## TRANSHIPMENT OF INDIAN GOODS

# First consignment reaches Tripura, Assam thru' Ctg

No road tax paid in trial run as two sides yet to settle it

MASUK HRIDYOY, Brahmanbaria

India has for the first time sent cargo from Kolkata to Tripura and Assam using Bangladesh's Akhaura land port in Brahmanbaria.

Officials said this was an experiment.

All charges, except the one for using the roads, were collected by Bangladesh authorities.

The foreign affairs ministry informed India earlier this month that road fees would not be charged during the trial runs.

A vessel called MV Sejuti left Kolkata on July 14 and reached Chattogram sea port on July 21. Its cargo of lentils and rods were then loaded on four trailer trucks. The trailers carrying the goods reached Akhaura land port on Wednesday afternoon, land port officials said. The goods were then loaded into Indian trailers that carried them further inland.

India has paid a transshipment charge of Rs 500 for each 20-foot trailer carrying 25 tonnes of goods. The total payment to Bangladesh was Tk 21,575 for the lentil

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

# 'We can now pay for our imports'

July 24, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### MEDICAL BOARD EXAMINES BANGABANDHU

The three-member medical board under the leadership of Professor Nurul Islam, personal physician to the prime minister, examines Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today. The board is of unanimous opinion that the prime minister should undergo an operation at an early date. Professor Nurul Islam asks that none should visit the prime minister, who has been suffering from stone in the gallbladder.

### MORE LIBERAL IMPORT POLICY IN FUTURE

Import policy will be liberalised and more items will be included in the next shipping period. This will be possible because of the availability of sufficient amount of foreign exchange, says Minister for Trade and Commerce MR Siddiqui addressing the members of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry today. He adds that Bangladesh would get Tk 100 crore credit from East European Countries and hence there will be no shortfall in import of essential commodities. Siddiqui further says that our export performance has been satisfactory and in near future we would be able to meet our import need sufficiently from our export earnings. He categorically declares that no new foreign firms would be allowed to do indenting business and only old foreign firms would be allowed this scope.

### SEATO DEAD, IT WILL NOT HELP US: SAMAD

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad today says in

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## 'GUNFIGHT' WITH COPS

# 'Serial rapist' killed in Chattogram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An alleged serial rapist was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Bayezid Bostami area of Chattogram city early yesterday.

The dead Belal Hossen, 40, was accused in at least 10 cases filed over rape and molestation with Bayezid Bostami and Akbar Shah police stations, said the law enforcers.

Ashkur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner (north) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP), said they went to Shanti Nagar-Samabay residential area to arrest Belal.

Sensing their presence, Belal's cohorts opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate. Later, police recovered Belal's bullet-hit body from the spot, he claimed.

Police also claimed to have recovered a light gun,

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# China launches independent Mars mission



REUTERS, Wenchang

China successfully launched an unmanned probe to Mars yesterday in its first independent mission to another planet, a bid for global leadership in space and a display of its technological prowess and ambition.

China's largest carrier rocket, the Long March 5 Y-4, blasted off with the probe at 12:41 pm (0441 GMT) from Wenchang Space Launch Centre on the southern island of Hainan.

The probe is expected to reach Mars in February where it will attempt to deploy a rover to explore

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# 50 more die from Covid

2,856 infected in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 50 people were reported dead from Covid-19 and 2,856 others tested positive for coronavirus yesterday, officials said.

The death toll now stands at 2,801 and the death rate at 1.30 percent, said Prof Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), during the daily briefing.

The total number of confirmed cases in the

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### PRAYER TIMING JULY 24

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-15 12-30 5-00 6-54 8-15  
JAMAAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# AL leader hacked to death in Habiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

An AL leader was hacked to death on Wednesday night in Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj.

Kamal Mia, labour secretary of Bariuri union Awami League, was a resident of Haldarpur village of the same union.

Mohammad Azizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Nabiganj Police Station, said Kamal Mia came to Shibganj Bazar of Nabiganj upazila on Wednesday evening to perform the namaz-e-jaana of a person. On his way back, a group that police and locals believe are political rivals attacked him near Shibganj.

They hacked him and seriously injured him. Kamal Mia was later rescued by locals and taken to Habiganj Sadar Modern Hospital and later to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, where the duty doctor declared him

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This stork-billed kingfisher is spotted on the Carmichael College campus in Rangpur recently. The bird frequents this calm campus as it is closed due to the pandemic. The kingfisher, widely seen in the subcontinent and southeast Asia, lives in a variety of well-wooded habitats near lakes, rivers, or coasts.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF TUHIN WADUD

# CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC UN for basic income to help the poorest

Says measures needed for survival of 2.7b people; India, LatAm see record cases

AGENCIES

Nearly three billion of the world's poorest people should receive a temporary basic income to help slow the spread of the coronavirus, a United Nations body said.

As infection numbers spike in developing countries, measures to protect vulnerable populations are "urgently needed", according to a report released Wednesday by the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

Funding of \$199 billion per month would provide 2.7 billion people with a temporary basic income and the "means to buy food and pay for health and education expenses", the report said.

The virus has brought havoc to the developing world where millions work in the informal economy with little access to government welfare or other support.

"Unprecedented times call for unprecedented social and economic measures," said UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner.

"Bailouts and recovery plans cannot only focus on big markets and big business. A Temporary Basic Income might enable governments to give people in lockdown a financial lifeline."

UN projections have warned the virus could kill 1.67 million people in 30 low-income countries.

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