



## FLOOD RAVAGED AREAS Children drowning, getting sick

STAR REPORT

Char resident Poran Sheikh was trying to move his wife and three children in a small fishing boat to a safer shelter when disaster struck.

The boat started swaying violently as the Teesta suddenly turned turbulent and large waves were hitting the boat.

His three-year-old child Sumon slipped out from his mother's lap and fell into the river, disappearing in the blink of an eye.

The family are flood victims from Kisamoter char shoal, under Dimla upazila, in the Teesta river last week.

Like Sumon, many other children have drowned in floodwaters raising concern among families in flood-hit areas.

Not just from drowning, during floods children suffer the most as they are particularly vulnerable to various waterborne diseases.

Field-level health officers are saying that numbers of child patients is increasing rapidly in flood-hit areas.

"Children suffer from diarrhoea, skin diseases, malnutrition and other disease during floods. We get higher numbers of child patients compared to other times," said Sarwar Alam, Dimla upazila health and family planning officer.

A UNICEF press release on Thursday said more than 2.4 million people, including around 1.3 million children, in the country are estimated to be affected by flooding.

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There are no special trains this Eid due to the pandemic. But people started leaving Dhaka for their native homes. This year, the Eid is expected to be celebrated on August 1. The photo was captured at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

LAUNDERING Tk 2,000CR

## AL leader, his brother confess to magistrate

STAR REPORT

A former leader of Faridpur town Awami League and his brother yesterday confessed before a Dhaka court to have laundered over Tk 2,000 crore in the last few years, a court official said.

Sajjad Hossain alias Barkat, former unit Awami League general secretary, and his brother Imtiaz Hasan alias Rubel, former president of Faridpur Press Club gave confessional statements before the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mahmuda Akhter.

Earlier, Uttam Kumar Biswas, assistant superintendent of police at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and also the investigation officer of the case, produced them before the court.

In their statements, the two told the court how they had made a quick buck and sent it abroad.

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## Race heats up for Indian vaccine

Man given 1st Covaxin dose at Delhi AIIMS as human trials begin

AGENCIES

Volunteers across India are being administered the indigenous vaccine candidates against the coronavirus disease developed by Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) and Zydus Cadila.

BBIL and Zydus were granted permission for Phase I and II clinical trials of Covaxin and ZyCoV-D respectively.

A third vaccine candidate, developed by Oxford University, is soon to be tested in India. Serum Institute, which is in a manufacturing partnership with the UK's Astra Zeneca, has said it will begin human trials as soon as it receives regulatory approval.

BBIL's Covaxin, developed in collaboration

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

### Forget differences, rebuild nation



Bangabandhu before boarding a plane for London at Dhaka Airport on July 26, 1972. Acting Premier Syed Nazrul Islam is seen embracing the leader.

July 26, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### BANGABANDHU'S CALL TO COUNTRYMEN

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a message to the nation on the eve of his departure for London for treatment today calls upon the people, irrespective of their caste and creed, opinion and affiliation, to dedicate themselves to the task of rebuilding Bangladesh forgetting all their differences.

The prime minister in his message through Radio Bangladesh and BSS says that compelled by doctors' advice he is going for treatment. He adds that he is confident that with the good wishes of the people and by the grace of God, he would very soon return to the soil of Bangladesh.

Bangabandhu further says, "People of Bangladesh are in my heart. A happy and prosperous future for them is my mission. So I have dedicated my life for their service."



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## 4 sentenced for making fake Covid-19 certificates

UNB, Barishal

A mobile court yesterday sentenced four people, including the owner of a diagnostic centre, to different terms of imprisonment for their involvement in delivering fake medical test reports in Barishal town.

Md Shahin, owner of Moon Medical Services, and his brother have been sentenced to six months in jail, while two technicians -- Shyam Saha and Shyamal Majumdar -- have been sentenced to three months behind bars.

Members of the detective branch of police sealed off the diagnostic centre during a drive in the afternoon.

Executive Magistrate Ziaur Rahman said the centre had been providing fake medical reports forging signatures of physicians.

The laboratory did not have legal clearance while some chemicals used in the lab failed to meet the standard, he said.

## US unveils blueprint for quantum internet



AFP, Washington

US officials and scientists have begun laying the groundwork for a more secure "virtually unhackable" internet based on quantum computing technology.

At a presentation Thursday, Department of Energy (DOE) officials issued a report that lays out a blueprint strategy for the development of a national quantum internet, using laws of quantum mechanics to transmit information more securely than on existing networks.

The agency is working with universities and industry researchers on the engineering for the initiative with the aim of creating a prototype within a decade.

In February, scientists from DOE's Argonne

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## 5 die after showing Covid-19 symptoms

STAR REPORT

Five people died after showing Covid-19-like symptoms in Cumilla and Patuakhali in 27 hours till 10:15am yesterday.

Three of them passed away at the coronavirus isolation unit of Cumilla Medical College Hospital in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

Director of the hospital Dr Mujibur Rahman said the three were admitted to the hospital with fever, cold

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#### PRAYER TIMING JULY 26

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-20 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15  
JAMAAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## No new int'l students in all-online classes in US

AFP, Washington

The United States announced Friday it will not take in any new foreign students seeking online-only study, after rescinding a hotly contested order to expel those already here and preparing for that because of the pandemic.

The policy change was announced in a statement by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

President Donald Trump has made a tough line on immigration a cornerstone of his message and has suspended several kinds of visas for foreigners during the coronavirus crisis.

The original policy change of revoking the visas of foreign students whose classes will move online in the autumn was taken to court by top universities including Harvard and MIT, teachers unions and at least 18 states.

And on July 14 the administration reversed

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Khurshed Alam, 56, used to work in Qatar as a migrant worker. Returning home, he invested all his savings in a poultry farm in Barigaon area of Dhaka's Dhamrai. He is now worried about losing the farm as floodwater started pouring in. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## HANDLING OF OUTBREAK Public loses faith in govts

Reveals survey in six countries as cases surge across US, Europe

AGENCIES

Governments are fast losing support for their handling of the coronavirus outbreak from a public that widely believes death and infection figures to be higher than statistics show, a survey of six countries revealed yesterday.

Support for the federal government of the United States, the country with the most reported infections and deaths, dropped by four percentage points from mid-June, with 44 percent of respondents declaring themselves dissatisfied, said a report by the Kekst CNC communications consulting group.

In Britain, just over a third of respondents approved of their government's actions, a three-point decline in one month, according to the report, based on an opinion poll conducted over five days in mid-July.

It also included France, Sweden, Japan and Germany. "In most countries this month, support for national governments is falling," the report said.

The notable exception was France, where approval rose by six percentage points, yielding a dissatisfaction rate of 41 percent.

France, which has the world's seventh-highest Covid-19 toll, has all but emerged from lockdown but has seen infections increase in recent days, prompting the government to order face masks in all enclosed public spaces.

In Sweden, which took a controversial soft approach to lockdown and has a higher toll than its neighbours, the

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