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CRIME RISING AMID PANDEMIC Cops blame joblessness, income drop

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

After a sharp fall in crime rate during the first few days of coronavirus pandemic, crimes like theft, robbery and mugging have recently taken an upward turn.

Police said it was because of the job losses and the decline in earnings of low-income people during the outbreak.

Many of these people have resorted to criminal activities to make a living.

For example, Apel Mahmud, 27, was a street hawker of clothes and seasonal fruits. But he lost his only source of income after the virus hit the country.

A few days later, he started making his wife lure people over the phone into antisocial activities.

When anyone walked into the trap, they would rip him off by confining and torturing him.

Apel allegedly killed a man named Sayed Nagar and dumped the body on June 24 as the latter tried to escape without paying the money.

On July 12, police arrested the couple and one of their accomplices Abdur Rakib, 22, said Mashiur Rahman, deputy commissioner of detective branch (DB) of police.

In a separate incident, DB police arrested a CNG-run autorickshaw driver Shafiqul Islam and his associate Siddique from the capital's 300-feet area.

They were allegedly involved in a mugging gang that used to rob passengers on empty roads during night-time, police said.

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Floodwater rushing over the Sreenagar-Dohar highway in Munshiganj. The swollen Padma has so far inundated 178 villages in four upazilas of the district, affecting some 34,000 families. The river was flowing 80cm above the danger level at Bhagyakul point in the district yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Israfil Alam MP no more

UNB, Dhaka

Md Israfil Alam, Awami League lawmaker from Naogaon-6, died at a city hospital yesterday.

He was 54. He was undergoing treatment at Square Hospitals with breathing problems. He passed away around 6:20am.

The lawmaker had tested positive and then negative for coronavirus this month.

Israfil was admitted to the hospital for the second time on July 17 as he started coughing up blood, said his wife Sultana Pervin Beauty.

He was put on life support on Friday as his condition deteriorated, she said.

According to Pervin, Israfil was infected with novel coronavirus and was admitted to the hospital on July 6.

He returned home on July 14 as his follow-up test report came out negative for Covid-19.

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Flood worsens along key rivers

STAR REPORT

Flood situation in some districts worsened yesterday as a number of rivers were flowing above the danger marks.

Fresh areas in a few regions have been inundated after embankments collapsed by the floodwater.

In Tangail, the overall flood situation was further deteriorated yesterday as the major rivers were swelling rapidly. Over five lakh people are affected by the devastating flood.

Four people, including three children, have so far been drowned in the district.

The Jamuna was flowing 85cm above the danger level yesterday, while the Dhaleswari and the Jhenai rivers were flowing 163cm and 102cm respectively above the danger level, sources in Water Development Board said.

Many of the flood affected people have taken shelter on the roads and embankment under the open sky. They are suffering from acute shortage of foods and safe drinking water.

Water-borne diseases are spreading in affected areas of the district.

On the other hand, the flood has also wreaked havoc on crops and infrastructures.

Different crops, including Aman and Aush paddies, sugarcane, vegetables and lemon, on 9,733 hectares of land have

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Diplomatic move to have talks in London

July 28, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU PASSES SLEEPLESS NIGHT

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had a sleepless night yesterday. He was examined by a three-member medical board soon after his admission in London Clinic. He had to take sedatives following a recurrence of pain due to his gallbladder stone. Doctors will take an X-ray this afternoon before they decide on a firm date for the surgery.

BRITISH PM'S MESSAGE TO BANGABANDHU

Diplomatic moves are underway to use Bangabandhu's visit in London as an opportunity to begin normalising relations between Bangladesh and Pakistan. Anthony Royle, undersecretary at the British foreign office, hands over a message to Bangabandhu from British Prime Minister Edward Heath. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Enayet Karim, who arrived with Bangabandhu, called on Sutherland, head of the South Asia Department at the British foreign office. It is understood the British side tells Enayet that British Foreign Secretary Sir Alex Douglas Hume would be glad to meet Bangabandhu in London and do anything possible to assist in restoring normal relations in the Indian subcontinent.

Pakistan's new ambassador to London Mian Mumtaz Daulatana is known as a close friend of Pakistan President ZA Bhutto and is seen as a likely choice to help set up a meeting between

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Covid-19 by far worst global health emergency

Says WHO chief

REUTERS, Geneva

The new coronavirus pandemic that has infected more than 16 million people is easily the worst global health emergency the World Health Organization (WHO) has faced, its Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said yesterday.

Only with strict adherence to health measures, from wearing masks to avoiding crowds, would the world be able to beat it, Tedros added at a virtual news briefing in Geneva.

"Where these measures are followed, cases go down. Where they are not, cases go up," he said, praising Canada, China, Germany and South Korea for controlling outbreaks.

Mike Ryan, the global health body's emergencies

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Mammoth skeleton found in Siberia



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The preserved skeleton of a woolly mammoth with elements of its musculature still intact has been discovered by reindeer herders in a lake in northern Siberia, triggering an excavation to recover the body for scientific research.

Woolly mammoths are thought to have fully died out 10,000 years ago, with genetic mutations, hunting by humans and global warming among the main culprits for their extinction.

However, scientists believe a small number of the creatures may have been able to thrive in the

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260 agri ministry employees infected

Five died from Covid-19; everyone in a Thakurgaon bank infected

UNB, Dhaka, Thakurgaon

A total of 260 employees of the agriculture ministry and its subordinate offices have been infected with Covid-19 and five of them have died, a PID handout said yesterday.

As many as 116 staffers have been undergoing treatment and kept in isolation at different hospitals while 139 have recovered till date.

The handout said the ministry officials have been working relentlessly, keeping in mind the prime minister's directive about not leaving out an inch of land without farming.

Besides, Agriculture Minister Abdur Razzaque earlier asked employees of the ministry and its subordinate offices to work

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Journalist Kajol shown arrested again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol was shown arrested yesterday in a case filed under the Digital Security Act.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Baki Billah granted the petition submitted by Md Rassel Mollah, a sub-inspector of detective branch (DB) of police and also the investigation officer of the case, on July 22.

Before showing Kajol arrested, the magistrate saw him through videoconferencing with the authorities of Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

On March 11, Sumaiya Chowdhury Banna, a

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Locals turn Sagunbagicha canal in the capital's North Mughda into a landfill by dumping garbage and plastic items. Such places are ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes but many are oblivious to the dangers they put themselves and other into by dumping rubbish this way. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQUE

World comes to grips with 2nd Covid-19 wave

Nations in Asia impose new curbs

REUTERS, Sydney

Nations in Asia imposed new restrictions yesterday and an abrupt British quarantine on travellers from Spain threw Europe's summer reopening into disarray, as the world confronted the prospect of a second wave of Covid-19 infections.

Surges were reported in a number of countries previously singled out as places where the virus was under control.

Australia recorded a record daily rise. Vietnam locked down the city of Danang, forcing the evacuation of tens of thousands of visitors. Mainland China confirmed the most new locally transmitted cases since early March. Papua New Guinea shut its borders.

Hong Kong banned gatherings of more than two people, closed down restaurant dining and introduced mandatory face masks in public places, including outdoors, fearing a possible third wave there.

Just weeks after European countries trumpeted the reopening of tourism, a surge in infections in Spain prompted Britain to order all travellers from there to quarantine for two weeks, torpedoing the travel plans of hundreds of thousands of people.

Officials in some of the European and Asian countries where the virus is again spreading say new outbreaks will not be as bad as the original waves that hit earlier this year, and can be contained with local measures rather than nationwide shutdowns.

But countries that have suffered extreme economic hardship from months of lockdowns are also determined not to let the virus get out of control again, even if that

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PRAYER TIMING JULY 28

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION