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SHAH CEMENT

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC Palliative Care in a pickle

Fewer terminally ill patients seek treatment at hospitals

NILIMA JAHAN

The ongoing Covid-19 outbreak has made palliative care services relatively inaccessible for patients with terminal illnesses, said doctors.

Since these patients usually have low immunity, they are more prone to viral or bacterial diseases than a normal person, noted Dr Amirul Morshed Khasru.

The doctor heads the Paediatric Oncology and Haematology Department and Paediatric Palliative Care Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

He said if patients with serious illnesses such as cancer, kidney disease and Alzheimer's contract coronavirus, they suffer more, and often require more time, about 28 to 30 days, to recover.

Thus, it has become difficult to provide palliative care to these patients in hospital wards amid the coronavirus contagion, the physician said.

In fact, DMCH's paediatric palliative unit had to be kept closed for most of April, after a leukemia patient undergoing treatment there was tested Covid-19 positive.

While the infected child was shifted to Kurmitola hospital for coronavirus treatment, other patients in the unit had to be sent to their homes, private clinics and other hospitals, said Dr Amirul.

Around 13 nurses, who came in contact with the child, tested positive, he added.

"When we reopened the unit, we decided to send the

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It's hard to believe that this man is actually walking on a road pulling a cupboard-laden boat. He is trying to save the furniture as his home has been inundated with floodwater at Khashimpur of Gazipur yesterday. The water level is very close to the roofs of shops as seen on the left of the photo.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## HAJEE DANESH UNIV 26 charged with murder of 2 students after 5 years

Several AL, BCL leaders among them

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The Criminal Investigation Department yesterday pressed charges against 26 people, including several local Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League leaders, in a case filed over the murder of two students of Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) in Dinajpur five years ago.

OC Ramzan Ali of CID in the district, also the investigation officer of the case, filed the charge sheet with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's court in the afternoon.

However, the court is yet to accept the charge sheet.

Md Zakaria 22, a BBA student, and Mahmudul Hasan Milton, 25, a student of the agriculture department of HSTU, were

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## Trump suggests delaying US polls

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday raised the possibility of delaying the nation's Nov 3 presidential election, though the Constitution bestows that power on Congress, not the president.

The move drew immediate objections from Democrats and it was not clear whether Trump was serious. Trump also said he would not trust the results of an election that included widespread mail voting - a measure that many election observers see as critical given the coronavirus pandemic.

Trump, without evidence, repeated his claims of mail-in voter fraud and raised the question of a delay, tweeting: "delay the election until people can properly, securely and safely vote???"

Trump's tweet came shortly after the United States reported its worst economic downturn since the Great Depression: a second-quarter crash in gross domestic product due to widespread shutdowns prompted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Trump, who is trailing challenger and former Vice President Joe Biden in opinion polls, had previously intended to focus his re-election bid on the nation's economic performance.

Trump had previously suggested he would not trust election results - complaints similar to those he raised

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

### Bangabandhu recovering

July 31, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### NO CAUSE FOR ANXIETY

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was operated upon yesterday at the London Clinic to remove a gallbladder stone, is showing gradual improvement since last night. This morning, the prime minister talked to Begum Mujib and his personal physician Dr Nurul Islam and after some time went back to sleep.

Begum Mujib has requested the Bangladesh foreign minister to inform the parents of Bangabandhu at Tungipara that his condition is improving and also to tell his other relatives that there is no cause for anxiety.

#### YEMEN ACCORDS RECOGNITION

The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen has accorded recognition to Bangladesh. This is communicated by the Yemen government in Aden to the foreign ministry in Dhaka today. Yemen becomes the second Arab country to recognise Bangladesh, the first being Iraq.

#### FLOOD SITUATION ALARMING

The directorate of flood forecasting and warning today terms the flood situation in the Brahmaputra Basin as alarming. The districts of Rangpur, Dinajpur and Bogra are already in the grips of flood. The water level of Brahmaputra at Chilmari and Bahadurabad, Jamuna at Sirajganj and the Ganges at Goalondo continue to

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## 3 killed in 'gunfights'

They include ex-UP chairman, Rohingya 'drug peddler'

STAR REPORT

Two people, including a former union parishad chairman, were killed in "gunfights" with law enforcers in Bagerhat and Bandarban early yesterday.

In another incident, an alleged drug peddler was killed in "infighting" in Satkhira.

In Bagerhat, Mostafa Kamal alias Mina Kamal, 58, a former chairman of Naihati Union Parishad in Khulna's Rupsha, was killed in a "shootout" with Rab members in Rampal upazila.

Lt Col Raushanul Firoz, commander of Rab-6 in Khulna, said they went to Babu Bari area near Rampal Thermal Power Plant on information that a secret meeting of drug dealers was going on there.

Sensing the presence of Rab members, the

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## STONEHENGE BOULDERS Mystery of mighty stones solved



AFP, Washington

Stonehenge, a Neolithic wonder in southern England, has vexed historians and archaeologists for centuries with its many mysteries: How was it built? What purpose did it serve? Where did its towering sandstone boulders come from?

That last question may finally have an answer after a study published Wednesday found that most of the giant stones -- known as sarsens -- seem to share a common origin 25 kilometers (16 miles) away in West Woods, an area that teemed with prehistoric activity.

The finding boosts the theory that the megaliths were brought to Stonehenge about the

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## Girl gang-raped in Patuakhali

5 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Five people were arrested yesterday on charge of raping a girl in Galachipa upazila town of Patuakhali.

The arrestees were then produced before the Galachipa Upazila Judicial Magistrate's Court that sent them to jail.

The 19-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped in the upazila town on Wednesday night.

She was sent to Patuakhali General Hospital for medical tests, said Monirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Galachipa Police Station, adding that a case was also filed with the station.

Quoting the case statement, Humayun Kabir, OC (investigation) of the police station, said the girl went to a doctor in the upazila town on Wednesday afternoon. In the evening,

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## KIDS EXPOSED TO LEAD Bangladesh 4th worst-hit in world

Says global report

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh is the fourth most-seriously hit country in terms of the number of children affected by lead poisoning on a massive and previously unknown scale in the world, according to a new global report.

The report says that around one in three children -- up to 800 million globally -- have blood lead levels at or above 5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL), a level which requires action.

Nearly half of these children live in South

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A pair of cotton pygmy geese, popularly known as Balihash, flying over Jhajhor Beel in Bogura's Sherpur upazila. These birds were spotted in almost every wetland 15-20 years ago but they are hardly seen now due to poaching and loss of habitat.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ



### PRAYER TIMING JULY 31

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:20 12:30 5:00 6:50 8:15  
JAMAAT 4:55 1:15 5:15 6:55 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION