



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE RETURNS
Real, Juventus look to overturn first-leg deficits as round of 16 resumes
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Your Right to Know

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BANGLADESH UPDATE



2,977

New cases in 24hrs



2,49,651

Total cases



3,306

Deaths



1,43,824

Recoveries



GLOBAL UPDATE



708,540

Deaths



18,851,834

Total cases

EX-MAJOR SINHA MURDER CASE

7 policemen sent to jail

Teknaf OC, 2 others on remand

STAR REPORT

In a rare instance, law enforcers involved in a "shootout" or "gunfight" have been sent to jail.

Seven policemen were sent to jail and three of them placed on remand yesterday in the ex-Major Sinha murder case.

Officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station Pradeep Kumar Das, Inspector Liaqat Ali, and sub-inspector Nandadulal Rakhshit were each placed on a 7-day remand by a Cox's Bazar court.

The four other accused will be interrogated at the jail gate by Rab officers, informed the plaintiff's lawyer Mohammed Mostofa.

The ruling was given by Teknaf Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Helal Uddin at Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner's office.

The policemen sought bail, but the magistrate rejected their petition.

Initially, the magistrate ordered all of them to be taken to Cox's Bazar district jail to await trial, but then the Rab official investigating the case appealed to the court for placing the accused on remand. So, the decisions were changed later in the evening.

Following the hearing, the officers placed on remand were handed over to Rab-15, while the other four policemen were taken to jail.

The development was welcome by many.

Supreme Court lawyer Zahirul Islam Khan Panna, chairperson of Ain o Salish Kendra, said, "While this is rare example of justice, let the process not stop here. Police are supposed to be upholders of the law, not killers. Let this action also serve as a warning that crossfires must stop."

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Azhar Sarkar, a farmer, is all smiles as he carries jute bundles to sell them at a local market in Tangail's Ghatail upazila. Jute farmers in the district are getting fair prices for their produce this year as each maund of the fibre is being sold between Tk 2,200 and Tk 2,500. The photo was taken a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

ACC summons ex-DGHS boss over corruption allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has summoned former director general of the DGHS Prof Dr Abul Kalam Azad for quizzing over allegations of corruption.

The anti-graft body has also asked former director of the Directorate Dr Md Aminul Hasan, deputy director Md Yunus Ali, Dr Shafiqur Rahman, and research officer Dr Md Didarul Islam for quizzing over the Regent Hospital scam.

They have been asked to appear on August 12.

Azad, on the other hand, has been asked to appear on August 12 and 13 in two separate letters, confirmed ACC's Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya.

One letter, signed by ACC's Director Mir Md Zainul Abedin Shebly, reads that there are

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As crooked as a cop can get

RAFIUL ISLAM

In November 2015, a police probe found the then officer-in-charge Pradeep Kumar Das of Bayezid Bostami Police Station guilty of filing a false case against an oil company high-ups to harass them.

Police Headquarters later suspended and attached him to Range Reserve Police.

But within a couple of months, Pradeep was back in Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) with a "good post". He joined the Detective Branch of police.

The OC, now accused of murdering Major (ret'd) Sinha Md Rashed Khan in Cox's Bazar, served as OCs at different police stations in Chattogram, police sources said.

During his 24 years in the force, he had been suspended, withdrawn, and stand released several times over various allegations, including harassing people and extorting money from them.

Despite having a bad record, he became OCs at important police stations, the sources said, adding that there were allegations that he had "spent" a huge amount of money to get the posts.

Pradeep was withdrawn on Wednesday from Teknaf Police Station after he was sued for killing the former major. He surrendered before a Cox's Bazar court yesterday that placed him on a seven-day remand of Rab.

During his two-year stay as Teknaf OC, incidents of



Pradeep Kumar Das

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No decision yet on major exams

8.5m students of primary, junior and HSC levels face uncertainty

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

More than 8.5 million students are facing uncertainty over the holding of their public exams as the government is yet to make a final decision in this regard.

Among the students are examinees of this year's HSC and its equivalent exams, Primary Education Completion exams, Junior School Certificate exams and next year's SSC and equivalent exams.

This year's Higher Secondary Certificate and its equivalent exams, which were scheduled to begin on April 1, have already been delayed by more than four months due to the closure of educational institutions amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The exams have been postponed for an indefinite period.

The closure has also led to uncertainty over holding this year's Primary Education Completion (PEC), Junior School Certificate (JSC), and their equivalent exams as the authorities are yet to decide on whether it will cut short the syllabus, exam schedule and bring changes to question patterns for the public exams.

The authorities are still working on those

issues keeping in mind different options. However, the guardians are worried about adequate preparation of their children for the exams.

They said they were confused about how the authorities would take PEC and its equivalent exams for fifth-graders, and JSC and its equivalent exams for eighth-graders, both scheduled for November.

Next year's Secondary School Certificate and its equivalent exams are slated for February.

Faisal Rahman, guardian of a fifth grader at the capital's Monipur School and College, said schools have already lost five months of the academic calendar due to the novel coronavirus as the closure has been extended to August 31.

"We don't know how the authorities will hold the public exams. They should make a decision immediately and let us know about it so we can start preparing our children for the exams in line with their decision," he added.

The government had initially extended closure of all educational institutions,

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Bangladesh passes Italy

Becomes 15th worst hit by Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 23 people on average have died every day since March 18, the day the country recorded its first Covid-19 death.

Now, 3,306 people have lost their lives to the virus.

In terms of cases, Bangladesh has now gone passed Italy, one of the worst hit countries in the world.

Bangladesh ranks 15th worst hit, according to worldometers.info.

Italy, which saw its Covid-19 peak in April, is now getting less than one percent positive cases every day whereas the infection rate in Bangladesh has remained above 20 percent since May 24, according to World Health Organisation (WHO) data.

A total of 2,977 people tested positive in 24 hours with an infection rate of 23.43 percent, said Nasima

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No more work from home for all govt staffers

Decision taken to 'ease workloads' amid Covid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid the pandemic, the government has directed all public servants to attend offices in full swing from next week, lifting restrictions on their attendance in person.

All officials of some ministries and divisions are already attending office physically while others are taking preparations to do so following verbal directives from the cabinet division last week.

The government made the decision as workloads at the ministries and departments have increased manifold in recent times, several top government officials told The Daily Star yesterday.

Vulnerable, sick and pregnant employees, however, will not be required to be present at work, they said.

The cabinet division directed the ministries and other government offices to restore the usual work hours from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Assistant secretaries to senior secretary level officials will also have to come to work in person from next week, said officials at different ministries.

Regarding the third- and fourth-class employees, the division suggested that the chiefs of their units would decide on their attendance, they added.

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Lebanon struggles to come to terms with devastation

Dhaka to send food, medical team; blast death toll hits 145

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has decided to send emergency food, medical supplies and a medical team to Lebanon after the massive destruction caused by the twin explosions at Beirut Port on Tuesday evening.

Two days on, Lebanon was still reeling from the blast as the death toll climbed to at least 145 and those injured to 5,000. The death toll was expected to keep rising as rescue workers were still digging through the rubble, with dozens still missing.

At least four Bangladeshis were killed and 102 others, including 21 members of the Bangladesh Navy, were injured. At least two Bangladeshis were missing until yesterday. Of those injured, nine are undergoing treatment in hospital, said Head of Chancery Abdullah Al Mamun at the Bangladesh embassy in Beirut.

"The situation of one of them is still critical. However, the condition of the Bangladesh Navy member, which was critical on Tuesday, has improved," he told this correspondent yesterday over phone.

Bangladesh Navy ship "Bijoy", which was deployed in Lebanon for the UN Peacekeeping operations and harboured at the Beirut Port on Tuesday, has also

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A launch rams the Peyarpur Bridge while trying to go under the structure in Barishal's Bakerganj upazila on Wednesday afternoon. The Pandab river swelled due to rain and water from upstream, reducing the clearance for the bridge. The vessel remained trapped there for nearly five hours until the water receded.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Make investment climate more attractive: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities concerned to work for making the country's investment climate more attractive overcoming the problems caused by the novel coronavirus pandemic.

"Now an investment-friendly environment is there in the country. But all countries of the world are now facing problems due to coronavirus. We will have to pay attention to how we can take the economy of our country forward amid the problem. We will have to work and make our investment atmosphere more attractive," she said.

The PM issued the directive while addressing the governing board meeting of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA).

She joined the meeting from the Gono Bhaban through videoconferencing while the other board members got connected from the Prime Minister's Office.

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