



'BARCA'S DNA BEING LEFT BEHIND'
Midfielder Vidal says after recent debates and with Messi's exit looming.
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BANGLADESH UPDATE



2,174
New cases in 24hrs



3,12,996
Total cases



4,281
Deaths

Curbs on public movement go

Govt decision comes amid soaring Covid deaths; buses to operate at full capacity from today

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and WASIM BIN HABIB

Ignoring the risks of further spread of Covid-19, the government has lifted the restrictions on public movement and activities from today even though the coronavirus pandemic is showing no sign of abating.

The Cabinet Division, however, reminded the authorities yesterday to make sure that people wear face coverings, maintain distances and follow other health safety guidelines when they are outdoors.

In a circular, the cabinet division directed respective ministries, divisions and other authorities to take necessary measures for implementing the safety guidelines regarding public movement and other activities.

The circular follows the expiry of the previous order that slapped several restrictions on public movement, including a complete prohibition on staying outdoors from 10:00pm-5:00am, unless there is an emergency.

The previous order, effected from August 4 ordered closure of all shops, bazaars and malls after 8:00pm and prohibited all types of meetings, rallies and mass gatherings.

But there was no mention of such restrictions in yesterday's circular which said the local government division, information ministry, religious affairs ministry, health service division and district and upazila administrations will hold public awareness campaigns to stem the spread of the lethal virus.

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Without any sort of safety gear, two men work to repair a line from a 48-feet-high electric pole in Banda Road area of Barishal city. Such unsafe and dangerous acts go unabated due to weak enforcement of labour laws in the country. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

'MURDERED' GIRL FOUND ALIVE

3 accused appeal for retracting confession

SI suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Three accused, who confessed to raping and killing a class-V female student later found alive, yesterday appealed for withdrawing the confessional statements.

They made the appeal before the court of Narayanganj Judicial Magistrate Kawsar Alam.

In the appeal, the three alleged that they gave the confessional statement after being intimidated by police during remand, their lawyer Rokon Uddin told The Daily Star.

On August 25, the accused filed a bail petition with the court, which fixed yesterday a hearing. They

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PRANAB MUKHERJEE
1935-2020

A champion of our liberation no more

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Former Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, a dear friend of Bangladesh, is no more.

A scholar and a towering statesman loved and respected by everyone irrespective of political affiliation, the first Bengalee Indian president died at the Army Research and Referral Hospital in Delhi Cantonment yesterday. He was 84.

He died at Army's Research and Referral Hospital in Delhi Cantonment after battling various ailments for 20 days. He was admitted on August 10, and had been in coma and ventilator support since.

For Bangladesh he was more than just a statesman. Pranab Mukherjee

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Russia keen to provide vaccine

Says health minister; 33 more die from Covid, 2,174 infected in a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Russia is keen to provide Bangladesh the Covid-19 vaccine under the government-to-government arrangement, said Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday.

"Russia wants to know whether Bangladesh is capable of manufacturing the vaccine. They will give approval," he told journalists following a bilateral meeting with South Korean Ambassador Lee Jang-keun.

Ambassador Lee expressed firm solidarity with the government and the people of Bangladesh in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and his willingness to further strengthen the cooperation, reads an embassy press release.

During the meeting, Lee explained his government's plan to donate Covid-19 test kits, RNA equipment and related materials, and walk-through booths worth 1 million USD in the coming months through the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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ONLINE VERSIONS OF NEWSPAPERS, TV NEWS PORTALS

Separate registration made mandatory

RASHIDUL HASAN

From now on, a newspaper will need registration to run its online version if contents in the portal and the print edition are different.

Licensed television and radio channels will also require the registration to publish their news online.

The cabinet approved the draft National Online Media Policy, 2017 (Amendment 2020) yesterday at a virtual meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair,

bringing some amendments and keeping the provision.

The PM joined the meeting from her Gono Bhaban residence while her cabinet colleagues were connected from the secretariat.

"If contents of the print and online versions of a newspaper are the same, they won't need approval [registration]. If newspapers bring variation [to the contents] in the online version, they will require to get registered," Cabinet Secretary Khandker

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KHALEDA'S SENTENCE

Govt yet to decide on extending suspension

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is yet to make any decision about the application seeking extension of its order that released BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia from jail, Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star yesterday.

"I have heard that

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Devotees gather inside Old Dhaka's Hossaini Dalan to observe holy Ashura, commemorating the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), grandson of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM). Due to the coronavirus pandemic, Dhaka Metropolitan Police had banned all kinds of tazia, mourning and pike processions in the metropolitan areas this year. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Kuwait CID summons MP Shahid's brother

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Kuwait's Criminal Investigation Department summoned Kazi Mohammad Badrul Alam alias Liton Chowdhury, younger brother of Lakshimpur-2 lawmaker Kazi Shahid Islam Papul.

The department gave the order after receiving new information that he was an associate of the main defendant Papul, his wife and others in human trafficking operations involving thousands of Bangladeshi workers,

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UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Govt sits on UGC proposal for free Net

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government is dilly-dallying over a UGC proposal to introduce free internet packages for university students at a time when many pupils are suffering due to the increasing cost of mobile data packages.

Students who live in villages and who don't have broadband connections are completely depended on the mobile internet to connect the online classes.

The University Grants Commission in late June proposed that the government introduce free internet packages for university students to ease their pursuit of online education.

On June 15, the Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh in a letter to Posts and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar demanded special internet packages for private university students at an affordable

price.

UGC acting secretary Ferdous Zaman estimated that about 10 lakh out of 39 lakh tertiary level students are facing difficulties in gaining access to online education due to the expense of internet.

"Students who are living in villages and remote areas are the worst sufferers. We are waiting for the government's decision regarding the free internet packages," he said.

The UGC is preparing a list of public university students who are in need of financial assistance to buy smartphones, Ferdous said, adding that it was being prepared based on the lists forwarded by universities.

Education of university students across the country has been affected due to the pandemic as they cannot attend in-person

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GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh Ltd.

is now

Unilever

Consumer Care Limited

FCB&TDP/2020