

HC seeks info on state of Covid-19 testing in country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted to know how many Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 hospitals are operating in the country.

During hearing of a writ petition, it asked authorities concerned of the government to inform by September 2 how many private hospitals are licensed to conduct Covid-19 tests, and whether citizens have the scope to raise allegations in case they face any irregularities.

The bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice SM Kuddus Zaman set September 2 for further hearing on the petition.

Rights organisation Children Charity Bangladesh Foundation (CCBF) submitted the writ petition to the HC as a public interest litigation on July 26. The petition sought necessary orders on the authorities to act on reported irregularities against some hospitals, including Regent Hospital.

It prayed to the court to order authorities to pay Tk 25,000 as interim relief to each patient victimised by Regent Hospital.

In the petition, the rights body prayed to the HC to ask the health and home secretaries, director general of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), and managing director of Regent Hospital to make a list of people who got fake reports from the hospital.



Despite already spending around half of the budget, commuters claim railway authorities have barely fixed Chattogram's Kalurghat bridge, after working at the site for ten days, from July 13 to 23. So, drivers still have to face the same old issues while crossing. This photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Technical courses at general stream to be delayed: Edu minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Introduction of technical and vocational courses at all general stream schools and madrasas for developing skilled and efficient human resources will be delayed by one year, due to the coronavirus situation.

The government primarily planned that they would make at least two technical and vocational trades mandatory for grades nine and ten from 2021. But now they are going to introduce the trades from 2022, education minister Dipu Moni said yesterday.

"We cannot complete the preparatory jobs due to prolonged coronavirus situation," she said while speaking at a webinar organised by Education Reporters Association, Bangladesh on technical and madrasa education.

Technical and Madrasah Education Division officials said they will also introduce a 100-mark compulsory technical course for all SSC students of science, humanities and business groups so that they have knowledge of at least one technical field.

Technical and vocational education would play an important role in creating more skilled manpower.

They said the country needs more skilled manpower, and technical education is important to meet that need. Many developed countries have over 50 percent students under technical education.

Madrasa and technical education officials have said that currently 17 percent students are availing technical and vocational education in the country; the ratio was one percent in 2009, said Dipu Moni.

She said that number of students in technical and vocational institution will increase significantly after technical institutions at each upazila are set up and teachers are appointed.

Dipu Moni said that linkage between industry and academia is a

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BANGLADESH-INDIA

Cooperation framework on education proposed

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Education Minister Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury yesterday proposed for a cooperation framework on education between Bangladesh and India as part of a greater goal of building a knowledge-based and democratic society.

A cooperation framework on education and exchange of knowledge can help expand the two country's cooperation in human resources development, he said at a webinar titled "Bangabandhu, his message for the Post Liberation Generation" organised by the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh.

"India is recognised for its higher education globally. It's conducting advanced research on space. Regrettably, we have not made much-needed investments in our tertiary education for the last two decades," the deputy minister said.

The high commission organised it on the occasion of a book gifting ceremony

marking the Mujib Borsho. Several volumes of books on Liberation War, 1971 and Bangabandhu written by eminent writers and historians were gifted to each of 100 university and colleges across Bangladesh.

Mohibul Hasan said after the country's independence, Bangabandhu emphasised on knowledge-based society where all people will have education, technical and vocational training through which they can achieve socio-economic independence.

However, after the brutal killing of Bangabandhu and his family members in 1975, the anti-liberation forces wanted to turn the country into a militant state and eventually the nation lagged behind by many decades, the deputy minister said.

During the Awami League regimes, the country made huge strides in economic and social fronts and emerged as a surprise to the world. India has been a significant development partner in this march, he said.

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Body of war hero CR Dutta reaches home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Body of war hero and commander of Sector-4 during the country's Liberation War, Maj Gen (ret'd) CR Dutta, Bir Uttam, reached the country yesterday morning from Florida, USA.

"Carrying his body, a passenger flight of Emirates Airlines landed at the Dhaka Airport at 8:40am. CR Dutta's younger daughter Chayanika Dutta and her husband were also on the flight," Rana Das Gupta, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad, told The Daily Star.

CR Dutta's body was kept at the mortuary of Dhaka CMH, he added.

His body will be kept at his Banani residence at 7am today for people to pay their respect.

"From there, his body will be taken to Dhakeswary Mondir at 8am. He will be given a state guard of honour there," said Rana Das.

Around 11, CR Dutta's body will be taken to Sabujbagh crematorium, where Bangladesh Army will present him a gun salute before his cremation.

On August 25, General CR Dutta Jatiya Committee in a press release said preparations were being taken to arrange the war hero's funeral with the highest military and state honour after bringing his body to Bangladesh.

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A boost to agro-transportation

Railway, Chinese firm ink deal for procurement of 125 luggage vans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway (BR) yesterday signed a contract with a Chinese joint-venture firm to procure 125 railway luggage vans to boost transportation of agro-based products.

Under the contract, the joint venture firm of CNTIC-RAIL TECO-JINXI will supply 75 meter-gauge and 50 broad-gauge luggage vans at the cost of Tk 358.39 crore.

The firm would complete supplying the luggage vans in between 20 months and 24 months from the effective date of the contract and commissioning works would be completed within 27 months.

The luggage vans are being procured under the project titled "Rolling Stock Operation Improvement Project (Rolling Stock Procurement)" assisted by Asian Development Bank.

Mizanur Rahman, the project director, and Yang Bing, deputy general manager of CNTIC, signed the contract on behalf of the respective sides at capital's Rail Bhawan, in

presence of Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan.

According to BR, although types and volumes of agro-based products like green vegetables, seasonal fruits, have tremendously increased in the last few decades, farmers are not getting due prices for the lack of proper transportation.

Transporting products like vegetables, fishes, milks and seasonal fruits by luggage vans or dedicated luggage trains will benefit both the farmers and consumers, which will create a positive impact in the growth of national economy, it said.

But BR has only 63 luggage vans, most of them have crossed their economic life of 35 years, and required services is not possible to get from the over aged luggage vans, BR said. So, it is going to procure 125 luggage vans to replace those overaged vans, it added.

Nurul Islam Sujan said the government is giving emphasis on the development of railway sector. BR is going to procure

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'Bangabandhu an inspiration for all'

15-day webinar ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 15-day webinar on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, organised marking his birth centenary, concluded yesterday.

Bangladesh History Olympiad Committee under supervision of Mukto Asor, organised the seminar titled "Greatest Bengali of All time: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Speaking at the closing session, eminent writer Selina Hossain said Bangabandhu is the architect of independent Bangladesh. "He has glorified our Bengali entity," said Selina, also president of Bangladesh History Olympiad National Committee.

Dr AKM Shah Nawaz, presidium member of the committee, said Bangabandhu's life and works have been narrated in different articles, presented by speakers of different languages in different countries.

Priyotit Debsarkar, author and UK-based researcher, said Bangabandhu was not only a great leader but also a role model and inspiration for all.

Twenty-one professors, writers, rights activists, researchers and artists from Bangladesh, Canada, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, the US and UK presented their articles in the programme.

Bullet removed from Lamia's leg after 60hrs

Conflicting reports arise over shooting

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Lamia Akhter, the sixth grader of Khulna city who got hit by a stray bullet on Friday, underwent successful surgery on her leg yesterday at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH).

Dr Mehdi Newaz, head of KMCH's orthopedic department, told The Daily Star, "The surgery was quite complicated as the bullet went into Lamia's bone. It took an hour and a half of surgery to get it out."

Lamia's mother Reshma Mollah told The Daily Star, "Lamia has been in excruciating pain since the shooting. When doctors said they cannot operate before Monday, we thought it would be too late."

"Right now, we're just hoping that my daughter recovers soon," she added.

CONTROVERSY ARISES OVER DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT

Lamia got hit by the bullet when Sheikh Yusuf Ali, a contractor living in Mistripara under Khulna Sadar, was allegedly intruded on by four alleged extortionists.

At one point in the altercation, Yusuf fired shots from his licensed pistol, and one of the bullets hit Lamia.

On Saturday, Yusuf Ali filed a case with Khulna Sadar Police Station against four youths, alleging they wanted to extort him..

On Sunday, police arrested the four in connection with the case, following identification through video footage.

The arrestees are Mohammad Abu Sayeed (22), Ismail Mallick (26), Mehedi Hasan (21), and Saiful Islam (23). They are all third-year students at the zoology department of Khulna Government Adarsha College.

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When Shampa's husband died a year ago, she was left to fend for herself, her 13-year-old son and two-year-old daughter. All she had at her disposal was a rickshaw-van with which her husband used to sell seasonal fruits. As her son now pulls the rickshaw-van from the front, Shampa pushes from the back, sitting her infant daughter at the back of the van. It's not an easy life, but the family is back up on their feet selling fruits the way Shampa's husband used to do. The photo was taken yesterday from the capital's Tejgaon.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Four CCTV cameras were installed at the capital's Banglamotor footbridge for surveillance, but two have been stolen. One such black space left by a stolen camera is visible in the photo, with only the wires still remaining. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Five stabbed in Dhaka in a day

Two of them die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five persons were stabbed in four incidents in different areas of the capital on Sunday.

Two of them died from their injuries. They are: Nayan (20), a motorcycle mechanic, and Munna (17), a bus helper.

Three others -- Munna's cousin Shaheen, trader Mizanur Rahman Don (40), college student Bappy (20) -- were receiving treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital for their wounds, police said.

Nayan was stabbed in Bakshibazar area around 1pm while he and a friend were heading towards Lalabagh on a rickshaw after attending an event marking Ashura in Hossaini Dalan area, said his friend Sohan, who witnessed the attack.

Sohan claimed that the attackers were wearing black clothes normally worn by Ashura observers.

He was rushed to DMCH where doctors declared him dead.

Munna was killed and his cousin Shahin sustained injuries as some youths stabbed them near Borogram area in Wari in the afternoon.

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EC sues Sabrina for possessing two NIDs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission filed a case against JKG Health Care Chairman Dr Sabrina Arif Chowdhury on the charge of possessing two National ID cards with fake information.

Gulshan Thana Election Officer Abdul Momin Mia filed the case with Badda Police Station on Sunday night, Parvez Islam, officer-in-charge of the police Station, told The Daily Star.

According to the case statement and EC's NID division, detained Sabrina who is involved in Covid-19 test report forgery, became a voter for the first time in 2009.

At that time, she used her current and permanent address in Mohammadpur. She mentioned December 2, 1978 as her date of birth.

She enlisted her husband's name to be H Haque and educational qualification post-graduation.

But in her second NID issued in 2016, she mentioned her permanent and current address in Badda and her husband's name as Ariful Chowdhury. In that ID, she used December 2, 1983 as her date of birth.

She also changed her mother's name, as well as educational qualifications, declaring herself a graduate.

She has been possessing the two NID cards, said a police official.

According to Voter Talika Ain 2009, acquiring dual NID is a punishable offence, the minimum punishment being two years' jail or fine, or both.

Sabrina and her husband Ariful Haque Chowdhury are accused in a case filed over issuing fake Covid-19 reports.

Recently, ACC began an inquiry against their wealth. During the process, ACC Deputy Director Selina Akhter Moni found that Sabrina has dual NIDs.

On August 18, she wrote a letter to the EC about the offence. The EC has already blocked one NID issued under Sabrina's name.