

# The Daily Star

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**CROSS-BORDER CANAL**  
Toxic water from India flows in, posing risk to environment in B'baria's Akhaura upazila  
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**BANGLADESH UPDATE** **1,792** New cases in 24hrs **3,34,762** Total cases **4,668** Deaths **2,36,024** Recoveries **GLOBAL UPDATE** **915,297** Deaths **28,427,288** Total cases

## Just vanished!

Numbers not adding up at Cox's Bazar Rohingya camps, local organisations say refugees leaving camps; govt officials deny



PINAKI ROY and MOHAMMED ALI JINNAT

So where have they gone?

Despite 76,000 children being born in the camps in the last three years, the number of Rohingya refugees in all camps of Ukhiya and Teknaf has actually decreased to 8.60 lakh as of July this year.

It was about 9.57 lakh in December 2018, as per reports of the Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG).

Civil society members, local public representatives, and local non-government organisations working with the refugees say some Rohingyas have left the camps for good or some leave for certain periods of time.

But representatives of UN and

international organisations remain tight-lipped about this, while government officials deny the possibility that Rohingyas are leaving the camps.

Mohammad Mahbub Alam Talukder, refugee relief and repatriation commissioner (RRRC), told The Daily Star recently that there is no chance for Rohingyas to escape from the camps.

"The camp environment is not like that and the refugees have access to proper food and treatment facilities," he said.

Even if they somehow manage to leave the camp without any knowledge of law enforcement officials, they come back after a few days. If any of the Rohingyas go out of the camp without permission, members

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Eleven-year-old Sheikh Yamin Ahmed Sinan raises his arms in the classic pose of celebration after clean-bowling his mother in the practice nets at Paltan Maidan yesterday. Yamin, a resident of the capital's Arambagh and a student of a cricket coaching club in Paltan Maidan, enjoyed a short net session with his mother Jhorna Akhtar Chini before practice.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Ghoraghat OC withdrawn for negligence in duty

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

OC Amirul Islam was withdrawn from Ghoraghat Police Station yesterday, eight days after UNO Wahida Khanam came under attack at her official residence in the upazila town.

The cop was withdrawn for negligence of duty. Mohammad Anwar Hossain, superintendent of Dinajpur police, confirmed the matter.

Amirul was attached to Dinajpur Police Lines. Md Azimuddin, inspector (investigation) of Rangpur Sadar Police Station, has been appointed as the new OC of Ghoraghat Police Station.

Meanwhile, two accused in the UNO attack case were sent to jail yesterday by a local court after the duo were produced before

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## In Dinajpur, in distress

2 UNOs attacked in 6 years; govt officials there face undue political pressure

KONGKON KARMAKER

The intimidating atmosphere in their areas, disputes with local ruling party men, and on top of this, brutal attacks on two UNOs over the years have given rise to a sense of unease among government officials working in Dinajpur.

The first attack was launched on Nawabganj upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) back in October 2014. The second one was on Ghoraghat UNO in the early hours of September 3.

Local sources say conflicts often arise when UNOs try to prevent misdeeds by ruling Awami League leaders or refuse to entertain undue requests of the party men related to financial scams.

After the Ghoraghat incident, several UNOs and other government officials said they face unexpected pressure from ruling party leaders, which hampers their administrative work.

A section of ruling party men in the upazilas are involved in tender manipulation, land grabbing, sand lifting, drug peddling and leasing government land for markets, they also mentioned. "We have to discharge duties under pressure. If we don't entertain their [AL men's] demands, they misbehave with us and issue threats," said an UNO, seeking anonymity.

The Daily Star talked to at least five UNOs out of 13 in the district. All of them came up with similar comments over the atmosphere in their areas. Recently, an UNO was transferred within three months of his joining. However, the transfer order was later cancelled.



Wahida Khanam

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## BORDER FLARE-UP India, China agree to disengage

Reach 5-point consensus to ease tensions following Moscow meet

REUTERS, Beijing

India and China said yesterday they had agreed to de-escalate renewed tensions on their contested Himalayan border and take steps to restore "peace and tranquillity" following a high-level diplomatic meeting in Moscow.

Chinese State Councillor Wang Yi and Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar met in Moscow on Thursday and reached a five-point consensus, including agreements that troops from both sides should quickly disengage and ease tensions, the two countries said in a joint statement.

The consensus, struck on the sidelines of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting, came after a confrontation in the border area in the western Himalayas earlier this week.

"The two Foreign Ministers agreed that the current situation in the border areas is not in the interest of either side. They agreed therefore that the border troops of both sides should continue their dialogue, quickly disengage, maintain proper

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**NUMBER OF ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN COX'S BAZAR CAMPS**  
**9.57 lakh** in Dec 2018  
**8.60 lakh** in July this year



"There is no chance for Rohingyas to escape from the camps."

M MAHBUB ALAM TALUKDER  
REFUGEE RELIEF AND  
REPATRIATION COMMISSIONER



## Global solidarity to tackle Covid still lacking

Says WHO, warns vaccine trial pause a 'wake-up call'

AGENCIES

Six months on since declaring a pandemic, the WHO chief said on Thursday the lack of solidarity and leadership among world powers was "what worries me most" in the fight against Covid-19.

World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the coronavirus was still spreading around the planet precisely due to the gaps between the major players in combatting the disease.

Though the UN health agency declared a public health emergency of international concern -- its highest level of alarm -- on January 30, Tedros first described the outbreak as a pandemic on March 11, capturing public attention.

Reflecting on this point in the crisis during a virtual news conference, Tedros said: "What worries me most is... a lack of solidarity."

"Because when solidarity lacks, and when we're divided, that's a very good opportunity for the virus -- and that's why it's still spreading."

"That's what worries me and that's what I ask the world to do."

"We will need solidarity and we will need global leadership, especially of the major powers in the world. That's how we can defeat this virus."

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A family member pours water on the head of Salma Begum, a victim of the blast at Pashchim Talla Baitus Salam Mosque in Narayanganj, as she lies in a bed at her home in the city's Talla area yesterday. The 45-year-old homemaker was walking along a road beside the mosque on September 4 when the explosion happened. She received treatment at a local hospital for burns to her throat, right hand and right leg. The explosion, which has left 31 people dead so far, caused a fire on the ground floor of the mosque.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Malaysia eases entry ban for Bangladeshis

Many expatriates hope to return to work soon amid the pandemic

JAMIL MAHMUD

Malaysia's decision to lift the travel ban on Bangladesh and 22 other countries will reduce the hurdles for many Bangladeshis returning to their workplaces in that country. The expatriates must be approved by the Malaysian Immigration Department before they enter the country.

Besides, their application for entry must be accompanied by a supporting letter from the Malaysian Investment Development Authority or agencies concerned, regional media reports quoted Security Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob as saying.

Malaysia authorities on Thursday announced that they will allow entry of expatriates and holders of professional visit pass from the 23 countries, reversing its earlier move that came into effect on Monday, reports The Straits Times of Singapore, adding that the move was criticised by employers.

To curb the spread of Covid-19, Malaysia had announced that people from countries with over 150,000 cases would be barred from entering, it says.

Malaysian employers complained that the government should continue to allow expatriates and professional pass-holders

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