



# The Daily Star



REGD. No. DA 781 | Vol. XXX No. 231 | BHADRA 29, 1427 BS | [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net) | Your Right to Know | MUHARRAM 24, 1442 HIJRI | 16 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00

## Price hike heaps woes on people

Already grappling with pandemic fallout, middle and lower income groups struggle to get by

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

For the last one month, Akbar Hossain has been torn between two difficult choices: send his wife and children to the village or reduce the amount of money he sends his elderly parents.

The continued rise in the prices of essentials have made it impossible for him to afford both. Besides, his earning is still significantly lower than what it was before the pandemic.

"Soaring vegetable prices are making it impossible for people like us to continue living as we used to," said Akbar who runs a small fruit store in the capital's Kazipara area.

There is a growing frustration among people whose earning fell drastically because of the coronavirus restrictions.

"It has become very difficult nowadays to make ends meet as the prices of everything continues to skyrocket," he said.

Acres of submerged farms have meant vegetable production took a major hit this year, which obviously impacted the retail prices.

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## Limits on domestic air travel ease

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) yesterday eased the restrictions on carriers over how many passengers an aircraft could carry on domestic routes effective today.

An aircraft will be able to carry passengers on every seat. However, the aft two rows would be kept aside for suspected Covid-19 patients.

Previously, planes on domestic routes were not allowed to seat passengers next to each other, unless they were related, and 25 percent of the seats were kept empty.

Speaking to The Daily Star, CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman said due to the growing demand for domestic routes, and since Covid-19 situation was improving, the restrictions on the number of passengers an aircraft could carry have been eased.

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<b>BANGLADESH UPDATE</b>	<b>1,282</b> New cases in 24hrs	<b>3,36,044</b> Total cases	<b>4,702</b> Deaths	<b>2,38,271</b> Recoveries	<b>GLOBAL UPDATE</b>	<b>921,153</b> Deaths	<b>28,741,245</b> Total cases
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### UNSTOPPABLE YABA

## New route, new colour

Rohingya camps on both sides of border remain key points of smuggling

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN, back from Cox's Bazar

The constantly evolving narcotics rackets in Cox's Bazar have been opening up new fronts to smuggle yaba pills into Bangladesh from Myanmar, largely avoiding Teknaf due to increased vigilance by law enforcers there.

These include establishing new routes, using Rohingyas more than locals as carriers, and trading in the easily recognisable bright red yaba tablets for more nondescript white pills to ensure a continuous inflow of the mad drug.

The new route for smuggling the drug into Bangladesh is through Ghumdhum border point in Naikhyangchhari upazila of Bandarban district.

The rackets based in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban receive yaba consignments from Rohingyas living in the bordering areas of Myanmar.

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### SOLVING ROHINGYA CRISIS

## Failure may dash hope for regional peace

FM tells ASEAN forum meet

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka fears Rohingya crisis can frustrate the hope for regional peace and stability if it is not solved at the earliest.

"Our fear is that, if this problem is not solved quickly, it may lead to pockets of radicalism, and since terrorists have no borders and faith, there's high possibility of creation of uncertainty in the region which may frustrate our hope for a peaceful, secure and stable region," Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said yesterday at the 27th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) held online.

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### HAMMER ATTACK ON UNO

## Ex-govt staffer involved: police

Suspended gardener arrested, placed on 6-day remand; cops' claim contradicts Rab version linking Jubo League man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Contradicting Rab claim that the Ghoraghat UNO and her father were attacked by a local Jubo League leader, police in Dinajpur yesterday said they arrested a suspended government staffer for his alleged involvement in the incident.

The arrestee is Rabiul Islam, 40, of Dhamahar of the district's Biral upazila, Debdas Bhattacharya, deputy inspector general (Rangpur), said at a press briefing at the SP office in Dinajpur around 3:40pm. The suspect was not paraded before the media.

In his 4:30-minute speech, the DIG did not mention when, how and where the arrest was made. Neither did he disclose details about the arrestee, but said investigation was an ongoing process. He only took three



Rabiul Islam

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Richard William Timm (1923-2020)

## A lifelong friend of Bangladesh passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Father Richard William Timm, an internationally-acclaimed scientist and humanist, who served most of his life serving the people in Bangladesh, passed away in a hospital

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