



4-LANE DHAKA-BHANGA EXPRESS HIGHWAY BUILT WITH BS RM XTREME

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT BS RM building a safer nation



GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES

World's Largest VRM

SHAH CEMENT

Publish then perish?

Marine biologists question the gaps between science and action

ABIDA RAHMAN CHOWDHURY

Accessing and reading scientific articles is no easy task. A lot of us are even more acutely aware of the fact now that that many of us are reading scientific papers for the first time in an attempt to make sense of the coronavirus pandemic.

An article on The New York Times in June by noted science writer Carl Zimmer sounded a note of caution against the scientific paper, saying "be advised, the scientific paper is a peculiar literary genre that can take some getting used to."

This observation by Carl Zimmer holds true, pandemic or no pandemic.

The gap between the language of scientific papers and that which is familiar to the general audience remains a huge crevice. And yet another new scientific article by Dhaka University's assistant professor Alifa Bintha Haque, now pursuing her PhD at Nature-based Solutions Initiative (NbSI) under University of Oxford, Ruth H Leeney, from Protect Africa's Sawfishes and Dhaka University's Apama Riti Biswas took a deep dive on this matter, focusing on the gaps in research and eventual conservation action especially in the case of Critically Endangered sawfishes.

In the paper, titled "Publish, then perish?" and published on Wednesday, the trio focused on this particular marine species and tried to map the actions taken to save it in the years since research in this area began.

"Sawfishes are highly threatened globally, and current data on their conservation status in the Indian Ocean are

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Several hundred trucks waiting near Paturia ferry terminal for crossing the Padma through Paturia-Daulatdia ferry route yesterday afternoon. Pressure on the route has increased as vehicles that would have used Shimulia-Kathalbari route, now suspended due to poor navigability, are now crossing the river via Paturia-Daulatdia. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: ZAHANGIR SHAH

Govt closes Hathazari madrasa

Students continue protest against Hefazat chief's son

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

The Education ministry yesterday ordered to shut down Al Jameyatul Ahlia Darul Ulum Moinul Islam Madrasa, commonly known as Hathazari madrasa, until further notice citing the madrasa authorities' disregard to some conditions on which it was permitted to resume academic activities in August.

The notice, signed by Sayed Asgar Ali, assistant secretary (madrasa-2) at the ministry, said, "The Qitab section of the madrasa was allowed to take exams and resume academic activities on several conditions on August 24."

The notice, however, did not make it clear whether the students have to leave the dormitories.

Asked, Badiul Alam Pavel, additional district magistrate in Chattogram, told The Daily Star that they

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9 Covid patients flew in hiding their condition

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

At least nine Covid-19 patients have come to Bangladesh over the past month from different Middle East countries by hiding their medical certificates on board.

When their Covid-19 certificates were sought at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, they claimed they did not have any.

However, after they were told that they would only be allowed home if they could show a certificate or be sent to 14-day institutional quarantine, they took their certificates out and admitted they were infected.

Airport authorities said the sick passengers came from Saudi Arabia, Oman and Qatar.

"The coronavirus certificate was not made mandatory for passengers coming to Bangladesh and people took advantage of that," Group Captain AHM Touhid-ul-Ahsan, director of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, told The Daily Star yesterday.

On September 14, he held an emergency meeting with airlines representatives in this regard.

The Bangladesh civil aviation authority has already informed the concerned airlines

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Prices must be brought down



Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman inaugurates a three-day conference of commissioners at the Gono Bhaban on September 18, 1972.

September 18, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

STREAMLINE ADMINISTRATION

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today expresses his government's anxiety over the food situation and high prices of essential commodities. He says, "We will have to bring prices down."

Addressing the inaugural session of the commissioners and deputy commissioners' conference at the Gono Bhaban, Bangabandhu advises officials to streamline distribution and to rush food grains to the deficit pockets. He expresses satisfaction at the arrangements made so far for procuring food from abroad.

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BGB-BSF border talks begin

UNB, Dhaka

A four-day border conference between Border Guard Bangladesh and Indian Border Security Force began in Dhaka yesterday with a greater focus on border killing and cross-border crimes, including drug smuggling.

A 13-member Bangladesh delegation, led by BGB Director General Maj Gen Md Shafeenul Islam and a six-member Indian delegation, headed by BSF DG Rakesh Asthana, joined the 50th BGB-BSF DG-level talks that started at the BGB headquarters at 10:45am.

The conference is scheduled to conclude with the signing of a Joint Record of Discussions (JRD) on Saturday, said a BGB press release.

It said issues relating to shooting, killing and injuring unarmed Bangladeshi nationals along the border,

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'Scorpion-like venom' found in Australian tree



AFP, Brisbane

Australia is notorious for its venomous spiders, snakes and sea creatures, but researchers have now identified "scorpion-like" toxins secreted by a tree that can cause excruciating pain for weeks.

Split-second contact with the dendrocnide tree, a rainforest nettle known by its indigenous name gympie-gympie, delivers a sting far more potent than similar plants found in the US or Europe.

The tree, which has broad oval-or heart-shaped leaves, is primarily found in rainforest areas of northeast Queensland, where it is notorious

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COVID-19 HOSPITALS Three in city to close services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to the declining number of Covid-19 patients, the government has decided three designated hospitals in the capital would no longer treat such patients.

The hospitals are Dhaka Mohanagar Hospital, Lalkuthi Hospital and Bashundhara Covid-19 hospitals, according to a circular signed by Bilkis Begum, deputy secretary of the health minister.

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 18

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:35 12:30 4:30 6:09 7:45
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:12 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

LatAm opening up too early

Warns WHO

AGENCIES

Latin America has started to resume normal social and public life at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic still requires major control interventions, World Health Organization regional director Carissa Etienne said on Wednesday.

Coronavirus cases in Colombia's border area with Venezuela have increased ten-fold in the last two weeks, Etienne said in a virtual briefing from Washington with other Pan American Health Organization directors.

Death rates are climbing in parts of Mexico, and similar trends are seen in Ecuador, Costa Rica and Bolivia, with similar patterns also emerging in areas of Argentina, she said.

"Although the entire world is racing to develop new tools to prevent and cure Covid-19, a safe and effective vaccine that can be manufactured and delivered at scale is not

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Two drongos catching insects at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium. These are mostly black or dark grey, short-legged birds, with an upright stance when perched. The birds, which have forked tails, feed on insects which they catch in flight or on the ground.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

GLOBAL RACE FOR VACCINE

Rich nations grab stocks

Says Oxfam study; Trump pledges to begin inoculating Americans within weeks

AGENCIES

Rich nations representing a fraction of the global population have already bought up over half the promised Covid-19 vaccine stocks, a study showed, as US President Donald Trump pledged to begin inoculating Americans within weeks.

Big pharma is racing to produce an effective jab to counter a virus that has now killed more than 935,000 people around the world and infected almost 30 million.

European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen on Wednesday warned against "vaccine nationalism" that she said could put lives at risk by depriving the most vulnerable in poorer nations of immunity.

But a study released by Oxfam showed a group of wealthy countries representing just 13 percent of the world population has already secured the lion's share of doses.

"Access to a life-saving vaccine shouldn't depend on where you live or how much money you have," said Robert Silverman of Oxfam America.

"Covid-19 anywhere is Covid-19 everywhere." The five leading vaccine candidates currently in late-stage trials will be able to supply 5.9 billion doses, enough to inoculate about three billion people, the Oxfam report said.

Some 51 percent of those jabs have been snapped up by the wealthy world, including the United States, Britain, the

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