



**IRAN ARMS SALES**  
US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo accuses Europe of inaction  
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**"It is possible to resolve any problem if there is mutual understanding between the neighbours... border issues and exchange of enclaves are examples..."**  
ROAD, TRANSPORT AND BRIDGES MINISTER OBAIDUL QUADER AFTER MEETING OUTGOING INDIAN ENVOY RIVA GANGULY



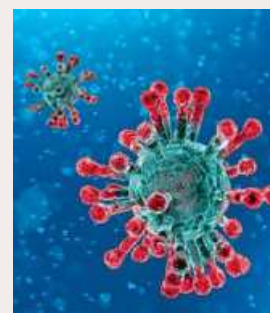
**"No one has the right to push our party chief and a three-time former prime minister towards death by depriving her of proper treatment."**  
BNP LEADER NAZRUL ISLAM KHAN



**"I believe voters will make it clear -- they will not stand for this abuse of power, this constitutional abuse."**  
JOE BIDEN BLASTS TRUMP PLAN TO PUSH FOR SC NOMINEE AHEAD OF ELECTION PAGE 6

## Brace yourself for SECOND WAVE

Warns experts' committee; advises govt to take all-out measures to tackle resurgence of virus



### REASONS TO FEAR A WAVE OF INFECTION AGAIN

- A second wave of infection is seen in European countries
- Infection rate is very high in neighbouring India
- Communications with different countries are being resumed
- A growing public apathy towards maintaining health guidelines

WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

With infections and deaths from Covid-19 still far from over, a high-powered technical committee has warned that a "second wave" of coronavirus infections may be coming, advising the government to prepare a roadmap and take all-out preparations to prevent the possible resurgence.

The National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC), formed to advise the government on its coronavirus response, sounded a note of caution about taking measures to detect infections quickly, in case the second wave hits the country.

Apart from preventive measures, the government should take utmost preparations to ensure proper healthcare, suggested the committee during its 20th online meeting on Sunday night with its Chairperson Prof Mohammad Shahidullah

presiding over it.

"A second phase of Covid-19 infection is seen in different countries, and the infection rate is very high in neighbouring India. Communications with different countries are being resumed and it will continue. A growing public apathy towards maintaining health safety guidelines is also being witnessed," said the technical body in a statement.

"These are reasons to fear a wave of infection in our country again," it said.

The warning comes as the Covid-19 death toll in the country closes in on 5,000 over the last six months. The total number of people infected has now risen to 350,621.

Hours after the warning came, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities concerned to take necessary preparation to tackle the possible second wave.

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WASA MANAGING DIRECTOR

## A failure yet trust is in him

HELEMUL ALAM

Since the prime minister "praises" Wasa Managing Director Taqsem A Khan, the majority of its board members support extending his tenure.

Seven of the 10 members present at a hastily-arranged board meeting on Saturday agreed that 66-year-old Taqsem should be at the helm of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage

Authority for three more years.

This would be Taqsem's sixth term despite widespread allegations of failure to provide safe water and improve waterlogging.

He attended the meeting on Saturday, although he was not supposed to attend since the only agenda of the meeting was to recommend his reappointment.

Hasibur Rahman Manik, who is a board member as a representative

from Dhaka South City Corporation, raised the question about Taqsem's presence at the start of the online meeting.

The board meeting was conducted by Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, who represented doctors. He did not take Manik's reservation into cognizance, said a board member preferring not to be named.

Mohiuddin conducted the

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## PM's UNGA SPEECH To focus on vaccine, Rohingya issues

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will virtually deliver her key speech at the 75th UN General Assembly on Saturday highlighting global issues, including Rohingya crisis and vaccine, with a call for ensuring vaccine for all at an affordable cost.

The pre-recorded speech would be aired at 8:00pm (Bangladesh time). Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said yesterday.

The centrepiece of any new General Assembly session is the general debate which starts today, a week after the official opening.

The foreign minister briefed the media virtually on various aspects of the UNGA and Bangladesh's virtual presence. State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam and Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen were also present.

Like previous years, the Bangladesh PM will deliver her speech in Bangla.

Momen said the premier will highlight vaccine issue so that everyone gets access to vaccine at an affordable price.

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## ANTIGEN-BASED TESTING

### Public hospitals get the green light

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

After months of bureaucratic tangle, the government has permitted antigen-based rapid testing for Covid-19 at the public healthcare centres.

The announcement was made yesterday in accordance with a circular issued on September 17.

"We have issued the circular allowing antigen-based testing at the healthcare installations," Deputy Secretary Bilkis Begum of the Health Services Division told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Antigen-based testing has been permitted for all government hospitals, district hospitals, government PCR labs and all health institutes as per the proposal of the health directorate and the interim guideline of the World Health Organization," reads the circular.

The guideline for Covid-19 testing protocol has to be followed once it is finalised, it added.

Prof Nazrul Islam, member of the National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) on Covid-19, said the government

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## UNDERHAND DEALS

### DGHS driver makes millions

Rab arrests the man who accumulated Tk 100 crore

STAR REPORT

It is the tale of Abdul Malek alias Badal, a driver of Directorate General of Health Services, who has raked in millions allegedly by being involved in illegal recruitments, manipulating transfers and promotions, and trading in "fake currencies".

A man whose education was till eighth grade, Malek joined DGHS as a driver of a project in 1982. He had been working as a driver of director-general of DGHS before being arrested on Sunday.

A team of Rab arrested him from his Dakkhin Kamarpara residence in the capital. They seized a firearm, a magazine, five bullets, Tk 1.5 lakh in fake currency, a laptop and a mobile phone from his possession.

According to Rab, Malek has amassed wealth worth more than Tk 100 crore. Malek was the president of the Health Directorate Drivers Association, sources at DGHS said, adding that he used the name of this association to exert his influence.

Malek is the owner of two seven-storied buildings in Dakkhin Kamarpara of Turag. There are 24 flats in the buildings named after his first wife Nargis Aktar. He used to live on the second floor of one of these buildings.



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## RAPE CHARGES

### Ducusu VP Nur detained, then released

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Ducusu vice-president Nurul Haque Nur and six members of Bangladesh Sadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad were detained last night for protesting the filing of a rape case against six people, including Nur, and later released.

Mahbub Alam, joint commissioner (DB) of DMP, said Nur and the rest were released at 9:45pm.

Walid Hossain, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the seven were detained around 8:30pm for staging protests unlawfully and because of assault on police in the capital's Matsya Bhaban area.

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## Not charged, yet in jail

81 Vietnam returnees in prison under section 54; their families struggle to make ends meet



PORIMOL PALMA

With Vietnam returnee Rubel languishing in jail, his wife and three children are struggling to make ends meet as he is the sole wage-earner of his family.

But what worries Shirina Akhter the most is the continuous pressure from the lenders to repay the loans that her husband had taken for a dream job abroad.

"Only Allah knows how hard my days are. I am now going from door to door to feed my kids. I buy groceries on credit even," said Shirina, of Ghagra village in Mymensingh's Gafargaon.

Her youngest child, four-year-old Tamanna, continues to ask about her father. "How can I say that her father is in jail. I keep saying he will soon bring you chocolates," said the 35-year-old in a cracked voice.

Rubel is one of the 81 migrant workers sent to jail on September 1 upon their return from Vietnam where they had migrated late last year and early this year with the clearances of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET).

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## VIETNAM RETURNEES HC asks govt to explain why they're in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to show causes in two weeks why it should not be directed to release 83 migrant workers, who returned home from Vietnam and Qatar, from jail.

Secretaries to the ministries of home, law and foreign affairs, inspector general of police, inspector general of prisons and the officer-in-charge of Turag Police Station have been made respondents.

The bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam came up with the rule after Supreme Court lawyer Salah Uddin Reagan filed a writ petition as a public interest litigation on September 13 seeking its order on the respondents to release the 83 workers from jail.

Citing the petition, Salah Uddin told The Daily Star that the law enforcers arrested the 83 returnees under Section 54

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Abdur Rahim, a security guard at the capital's Mohakhali kitchen market, planted vegetables on the central reservation of the Airport Road. He got the idea after the pandemic hit the country in March and has already earned more than Tk 3,000 by selling the vegetables. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Progress made on water sharing

Says Quader after meeting Indian envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said a positive progress was made in discussions on sharing the water of common rivers, including the Teesta.

He made the comment at a press briefing after Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das met him at the secretariat.

The minister also thanked the Indian government on behalf of the prime minister for funding the procurement of equipment for the development of road infrastructure, bus and trucks for Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation.

"Bangladesh and India's friendly relations are multi-dimensional.

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## 5th Death Anniversary

On 22nd September 2015, Nurjahan Begum (Pakhi), the second daughter of Late Abul Khair, the founder of Abul Khair Group had left us by the will of Almighty Allah the beneficent. Remembering her memories we pray for the salvation of her departed soul with our distressed heart and request all our friends, relatives and well-wishers to pray for her from the core of the heart. May Almighty Allah the beneficent bless her with eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Bereaved Family Members