

Over 3 lakh

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turned out to be positive.

Currently, there are 79,725 active cases in the country.

Bangladesh is seeing 2,267.01 infections and 1,765.86 recoveries per million while 33.02 are passing away against the same number.

Of the total victims, 4,327 were men and 1,296 were women. Among the latest victims, 14 were above 50 years of age and one between 31 and 40 years.

So far, 2,875 people have died in Dhaka division, 1,129 in Chattogram, 360 in Rajshahi, 454 in Khulna, 193 in Barishal, 239 in Sylhet, 255 in Rangpur and 118 in Mymensingh.

Across the country, 12,259 people are now in isolation and 39,995 in quarantine.

The first three cases of coronavirus infection in Bangladesh were reported on March 8. The cases reached the 300,000-mark on August 26.

The first death was reported on March 18 and the death toll exceeded 5,000 on September 22.

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abandoned box of hand gloves and asked Yeasin to take her to Azimpur graveyard for burial.

Yeasin took the baby to Azimpur graveyard, but since he did not have the Tk 1,500 it would take for the burial there, he was advised to go to Rayerbazar graveyard where the burial cost is comparatively lower.

A graveyard staffer at Rayerbazar told him that it would cost Tk 500.

"As I agreed, a grave was dug. But minutes before the burial, the box jerked and she showed signs of movement inside," Yeasin said. "I opened the box and found my baby alive. She was moving and opening her mouth," he said.

Yeasin then rushed the baby straight back to DMCH again.

"The on-duty doctor and nurse of Ward No. 211 said there is no vacant seat to admit the baby and asked me to take her to another hospital," Yeasin alleged.

The baby was however admitted after Yeasin refused to take the baby elsewhere as he did not have the money to treat her in a private hospital.

"We are very poor... Besides, how could they declare a living baby dead?" Yeasin, also the father of another nine-year-old daughter, asked.

Philippines lifts ban on oil, gas exploration in South China Sea

AFP, Manila

The Philippines has lifted a moratorium on oil and gas exploration in the disputed South China Sea, which the government said yesterday could fast-track talks with Beijing on a joint energy project.

Drilling off the Philippines was halted in 2014 amid an escalating row with China over its rival claim to areas of the waterway that are believed to hold rich deposits of natural resources.



A Palestinian demonstrator stands in front of Israeli troops during a protest against Jewish settlements, near Ramallah in the Israeli-occupied West Bank yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Tea in, tobacco out

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contacted the regional office of Bangladesh Tea Board [BTB] in Panchagarh about getting saplings and technical support," he said.

That first time, tea was cultivated on eight acres of fallow land in the upazila parishad campus, added Rashidul, who was then serving as president of the upazila tea cultivation committee.

After two years, tender green tea leaves were plucked and was sold for a handsome amount of cash which was added to the Parishad's fund.

"Seeing their success, many farmers like me created tea gardens on our own land -- where we once cultivated tobacco. Others followed," said tea grower Jahangir Alam of Keshba village.

The District Small Tea Growers' Association has 32 members officially

registered by BTB, with the exception of a few others who cultivate tea outside the association.

Abdul Hamid, secretary of the association, said four tea processing factories in Panchagarh -- North Bengal, Popular, Baliadangi, and Fabia -- purchase tender green tea leaves produced in various tea gardens of Kishoreganj.

Zahed Imam Siddiquee, senior farm assistant of BTB, said, "Our department initiated a four-year project to boost tea cultivation in the area and accordingly, are providing tea saplings to local farmers at a subsidised rate and also arranging training, technical support, and equipment."

A matured garden yields tender tea leaves in full swing after three years and continues to do so for 50-60 years at a stretch, with minimal

maintenance and costs, he added.

Every month, 3,000kg of leaves and buds can be plucked from an acre which would earn the grower Tk 78,000, at a rate of Tk 26 per kg.

"Leaves can be collected in 12 rounds a year if labourers are skilled, bringing in huge profits," he added.

However, Rokon Ibne Aziz, president of the District Small Tea Growers' Association, said the startup costs of a tea garden are high -- as almost 8,000 saplings are needed in an acre leading to a cost of up to Tk 80,000 as each sapling is sold in private nurseries for Tk 8-10.

Although profitable, it is difficult for small farmers to wait for three years to get a yield, he added, and so, the government should provide more loans on easy terms in order to expand this sector.

College girl gang-raped in Gazipur

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He was arrested the same day, said Prabir Kumar Biswas, officer-in-charge of Khanjahan Ali Police Station.

In Gazipur, a college student was gang-raped allegedly by her classmates on Thursday evening.

The victim filed a case with Gazipur Sadar Police Station the same night.

According to police, one of the victim's classmates -- Nayeem -- called her over phone and asked her to meet him for an important discussion that day.

As the girl went to meet him, Nayeem took the girl to a house in Shimultoli School Railgate area where he and his two cohorts -- Ananda and Masud Rana -- gang-raped the girl.

As the girl started screaming, locals rushed to the spot and rescued her. But the accused managed to flee the scene, said Alamgir Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Gazipur Sadar Police

Station.

Police arrested Ananda and Masud Rana but the prime accused was still on the run, he added.

In a separate incident in Gazipur, police yesterday arrested a man on charge of raping his stepdaughter in the district's Sreepur upazila.

Quoting the victim's mother, police said the accused raped the girl around two months ago. The incident came to light recently as the girl fell sick.

Yesterday noon, police arrested the man as the victim's mother filed complaint, said Harun Miah, sub-inspector of Sreepur Police Station.

In Narayanganj, police arrested three persons early yesterday on charge of gang-raping a madrasa student in the district's Arahazar upazila.

The arrestees are Nazrul Islam, 25, his elder brother Badal Miah, 37, and another youth Musa. All of them are residents of Brahmandi area in the

same upazila.

Police said the victim, who is a grade-VIII student at a local madrasa, went to meet her friend Nazrul on October 12.

He then took the girl to a secluded place and attempted to rape the girl.

At that time, Badal and Musa went to the spot and rescued the girl. But they took the girl to a nearby bushes and gang-raped her. Then, they fled the scene.

Returning home, the girl shared the incident with her parents. Later, on Thursday evening, the victim's mother filed a complaint with police.

Police then arrested the trio. During primary interrogation, the accused admitted that they gang-raped the girl, said Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Arahazar Police Station.

[Our correspondents from Gazipur, Narayanganj and Khulna contributed to this report]

Scientists throw lifeline

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15-metre wide gullies into the mountainous forest and effectively cutting off their treetop highways.

"Canopy connectivity is critical for gibbons as they are strictly arboreal," lead author Bosco Pui Lok Chan, head of the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden in Hong Kong's New Territories, told AFP.

"Forest fragmentation thus presents a major conservation challenge for gibbons."

It not only limits their ability to forage for food, it can interfere with the search for a mate and make them more vulnerable to predators.

After the typhoon, Chan and his colleagues noticed while monitoring the gibbons -- only a few dozen of which remain in the wilds of China's Hainan Island -- that they had trouble crossing these new gaps in the forest.

And when they did, "they took very risky routes involving a lot of long jumps and high falls among the few surviving trees," he said.

Then Chan had a light-bulb moment. "We constructed a two-pronged canopy rope bridge across

the damaged arboreal highway," he said.

The "bridge" consisted of two parallel ropes tied at either end to trees. The conservationists also set up motion cameras to record any movement on or across the ropes.

The group of nine gibbons most affected by this particular gash in the forest didn't avail themselves of the lifeline right away.

Indeed, only 176 days later did the cameras capture the first image of a gibbon on the ropes. After that first crossing, however, others quickly followed suit.

Some strode across the mountaineering-grade ropes like tight-rope walkers, while others moved underneath, swinging arm to arm.

Over the 470 days of monitoring, the researchers collected more than 200 pictures and 50 videos of the acrobatic apes in action. Chan described the rope bridges as a "short-term solution".

"Reforestation with native tree species should be the priority for restoring forest connectivity," he said.

Protesters begin long march

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and Impunity", to press home their nine-point demand, from the capital's Shahbagh area around 10:30am.

The two-day march will move through Gulistan, Chashara, Sonargaon, Chandina, Cumilla, Feni, Daganbhuiyan, Chaumuhani and Ekhlaspur. Their concluding rally will be held in Maizdi of Noakhali today.

The long march moved towards Noakhali with anti-rape slogans and posters like "silence is unjust when humanity is affected", "end the culture of impunity", "rape and crossfire are the government's weapons", "say no to victim blaming", and "we want the resignation of the failed home minister", among others.

Speaking at a rally at Shahbagh, Masud Rana, president of the Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, said, "People will not accept the culture of impunity that has been created through ruling party's patronage across the country. Our long march aims to create a mass awakening against it."

The demonstrators said the government has made the death penalty the maximum punishment for rape. But this is not enough to eradicate rape from the society and the state.

Their nine-point demand include reformation of the Evidence Act, implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) charter, exemplary punishment for those involved in gender-based violence, and an end to repression of women in the hills and plain land.

The protesters also wanted the government to be accountable to the people for their failure to curb rape culture and demanded immediate

resignation of the home minister in this connection.

On their way, they held street rallies at Sonargaon, Chashara, Chandina and Cumilla yesterday, joined by more protesters from these places.

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, Charan Sangskritik Kendra, Bangladesh Nari Mukti Kendra, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Bangladesh Juba Union, and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front were among the organisers there.

During a rally in Narayanganj's Chashara, Anik Roy, general secretary of Chhatra Union, said in a country where the conviction rate of rape cases is only three percent, death penalty for rapists is just to stop the protest.

"We are continuing the protest despite police obstruction and threats. Our fight will continue till the resignation of this failed home minister," he said.

Protests against rape and violence against women erupted across the country since the beginning of October, following the recent incidents of gang rape in Sylhet's MC College and in Noakhali's Begumganj upazila.

In the wake of widespread protests against the growing incidents of rape, the president has promulgated an ordinance allowing death penalty as the highest punishment for the crime instead of life imprisonment.

Rights activists and experts, however, said enacting death penalty in the law is not a solution to the problem, and the government should instead reform the social and legal system that actually tackle root causes behind impunity for rape and other sexual violence against women.

While in coma, army

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was promoted to colonel, while lying in bed in a coma in cabin 314 of CMH in Dhaka.

His wife, Mosleha Monira Raja, told The Daily Star, "It is a moment of great honour and it's hard to express my feelings."

"He got sick around a month before he was supposed to be promoted to colonel. I felt sad because his friends used to say that a dynamic officer like him was supposed to be a general someday."

"But the honour he received at the end of his career in the army is so great that I can't express how happy and grateful I am."

Tasawwar was born on October 15, 1967 in Sylhet and got married in 1996. He has two sons and a daughter.

He was commissioned from Bangladesh Military Academy on June 23, 1989. His military career includes commanding Tank Regiment 12 Lancers, instructing in armour and infantry schools and going on two UN peacekeeping missions.

He was also awarded the 'Peace Medal' twice.

Besides military life, his published works include "Hason Raja Shomogro" and "O General My General".

To uphold his legacy, he established and patronised the Hason Raja Foundation, Talibur Raja Memorial Library, the Educationist Dewan Talibur Raja Trust, and the Museum of Rajas.

He is also a member of Bangla Academy and Kendriyo Muslim Shahitto Sangshad, Sylhet.

12th Death Anniversary



The 12th Death Anniversary of former Ambassador Major General Quazi Golam Dastgir, KAAO, psc will be observed on Saturday, October 17. Relatives, friends, and well-wishers are requested to pray from home.

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Trump, Biden spar over

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rightwing groups in the country.

He notably refused to denounce QAnon, a conspiracy theory movement that claims Trump is waging a secret war against a global liberal cult of Satan-worshipping pedophiles.

"I know nothing about QAnon," Trump said, and then continued to praise the shadowy group's position being "very much against pedophilia."

The president entered calmer waters when fielding a series of more comfortable questions from members of the audience, one of whom sparked applause by telling Trump: "You have a great smile." "GRUDGES DON'T WORK"

By contrast, Biden's appearance on rival network ABC mirrored his steady and generally low-key campaign, with promises of bipartisan healing in divided Washington and aiming steady fire on Trump's coronavirus record.

"We're in a situation where we have 210,000 plus people dead and what's he doing? Nothing. He's still not wearing masks," Biden said of Trump at the event in Philadelphia.

His standout comments at a time of profound political conflict in the country were when he vowed to improve the atmosphere, saying "grudges don't work."

Biden repeatedly came back to the theme of unity, saying he would be president to all Americans including those who voted against him.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Goalanda, Rajbari
www.lged.gov.bd

Reference: 46.02.8229.000.14.06.20-583 Dated: 14-10-2020

e-Tender Notice-02/2020-2021

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of work	e-Tender ID	Procurement method
1	e-tender/EUCPW-75	Construction of Administrative Extension Building & Hall Room under Goalanda Upazila Dist. Rajbari. (Re-Tender)	504669	OSTETM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 18-Nov-2020 17:00pm on previous day 19-Nov-2020 13:00pm of receiving tender. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Bazlur Rahaman Khan
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Bangladesh enters

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today that the draft constitution is an excellent one but at the same time he welcomes any amendment or suggestion that could further improve it or would be deemed beneficial for the country. The prime minister, who is also leader of the House, addresses a meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) which meets at the Engineers Institute to process the amendments to the draft constitution sought to be moved by the MCAs from the party.

Bangabandhu assures the MCAs belonging to the party that they would find adequate opportunities to discuss proposals for reasonable changes in the draft constitution at the ALPP meeting.

STEPS WILL BE TAKEN TO ENSURE FAIR POLLS

Bangabandhu provides categorical assurance that the government would do everything possible to ensure free and fair elections in the country. While talking to a delegation of labour leaders, which calls on the prime minister at the Gono Bhavan today, Bangabandhu says that certain disruptive forces are trying to create chaos and confusion in the country. The administration would deal with these anti-people elements with iron hands. The members of the delegation point to the political murders going on at different pockets in the country and say these killings would have direct bearing on the forthcoming polls. The prime minister also thinks that such killings would negate the democratic traditions in the country.

SOURCES: October 18, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Jail Super
Sunamganj District Jail
www.prison.sunamganj.gov.bd

Memo No. 58.04.9000.159.04.043.2020-2107(4) Date: 11/10/2020

e-Tender Notice

The following tender has been invited to the National e-GP Portal to inform all the concerns.

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of goods	Publishing date & time	Closing date & time
01	503762	Supply of Unnotamaner Cholar Dal to Sunamganj District Jail for the period of October/2020 to September/2021	11-Oct-2020 10:00	22-Oct-2020 12:00

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 10:00 on 21st October 2020. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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