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# Waiting for RE-ENTRY

Bangladeshi migrant workers facing trouble going back to Qatar; Doha handed list

JAMIL MAHMUD

Hundreds of Bangladeshi migrant workers employed by private companies in Qatar are facing difficulties returning to their workplaces as their online applications for re-entry permits, required due to the pandemic, have been rejected or are under process for an unduly long time.

The workers said they came home on vacation before the Covid-19 pandemic struck -- holding valid visas and residence permits, known as the Qatar ID Card.

Stuck at home for months with no jobs now, they are feeling the financial crunch.

They applied online via their respective employers in Qatar maintaining due procedure, yet they are facing this trouble.

On October 11, over a hundred Qatar-based migrant workers formed a human chain in front of Press Club in Dhaka. A team of the protesters later that day submitted a letter of memorandum to the foreign ministry in this regard.

However, during a meeting on Thursday, Qatar Foreign Minister Yousuf Mohamed Al Othman assured Bangladesh Ambassador Jashim Uddin that "exceptional entry permits" would be issued to expatriate Bangladeshi workers in a short time, according to a press release issued by the embassy.

Due to the pandemic, expatriate workers unable to

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In search of food, a flock of common mynas flies over a garbage dump in Barishal city's Kaunia Puranpara Moylakhola area yesterday afternoon. The area is designated for the city corporation's dumping.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

## CHINA 'THREATS' Pompeo starts South Asia tour in India

AFF, New Delhi

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in New Delhi yesterday, kicking off a four-country Asia tour that he has said will focus on the "threats" posed by China.

Joined by Defense Secretary Mark Esper for the two-day visit, Pompeo will hold top-level talks following a spike in tensions between India and China since a deadly border clash in June.

India has sought US cold weather equipment as the showdown goes into the freezing Himalayan winter and officials said this could be raised when Pompeo and Esper meet India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The world's two biggest democracies are expected to sign an agreement on sharing geo-spatial intelligence, paving the way for the United States to ship sophisticated missile

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## Swechchhasebak Dal activist killed at Bogura temple

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A Swechchhasebak Dal activist was killed in front of a temple in Sabgram Bazar in Bogura's Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Subroto alias Somrat Das, 27.

The incident occurred around 1:00am in front of a Durga temple, following an internal feud between two criminal groups, police sources said.

Humayan Kabir, officer-in-charge of the Sadar Police Station, said, "Somrat was crossing the temple area on a motorbike in the last night, when at least 5-6 men attacked him from behind with sticks and sharp weapons.

To survive, Somrat took shelter on the temple premises but the attackers dragged him out and hacked him with sharp weapons.

He died at the spot, the OC said.

However, he said Somrat was involved with the BNP and was a union Swechchhasebak Dal activist.

When contacted, Ali Ashraf Bhuiyan, superintendent of Bogura Police, said, "An internal feud between two criminal groups led to the murder. Somrat was a criminal in that area. There are four cases filed with police stations against him, including ones for murder, arms possession and robbery.

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## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

### Damages assessed at Tk 930cr



Netherland's Charge d'Affaires CJ Schneider calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Gono Bhaban on October 27, 1972.

October 27, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### DON'T UNNECESSARILY LENGTHEN HOUSE BUSINESS

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman chides the members of the Gono Parishad today for unnecessarily lengthening the business of the house. The prime minister is requested by Deputy Speaker Mohammad Baitullah to place his view following a commotion in the house as Moinuddin Miazi alleged favouritism by the chief whip in the preparation of the list of speakers of the general discussion on the draft constitution.

The prime minister laments that the members are not conversant with parliamentary procedures and conventions. He says the list of speakers in parliamentary democracy is always prepared by the party and the speaker calls upon the members to speak from

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## Bangladesh passes 4 lakh Covid-19 cases mark

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of confirmed cases of novel coronavirus surpassed 4 lakh mark as the Directorate General of Health Services reported 1,436 new cases in the 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday.

The new cases were 10.44 percent of the 13,758 tests done in 111 rt-PCR laboratories in the country. With this, the total number of coronavirus infection rose to 4,00,251.

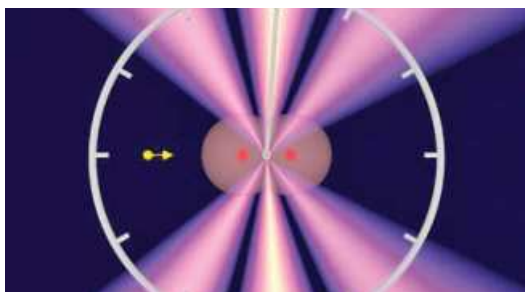
Bangladesh is now the country with the 18th highest number of confirmed cases, according to worldometers.info.

Besides, 15 Covid-19 patients died in the same 24 hours, taking the number of deaths to 5,818, said a DGHS press release.

This is around 1.45 percent of all confirmed cases in the country, according to the DGHS.

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## Scientists measure smallest amount of time



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A zeptosecond, the shortest amount of time ever recorded, has just been measured by scientists.

It represent one trillionth of a billionth of a second.

Physicists from Goethe University Frankfurt used this measurement to record how long it takes for a photon to cross a hydrogen molecule - approximately 247 zeptoseconds.

In order to measure this event, scientists irradiated a hydrogen molecule using X-rays from the PETRA III laser, the most powerful light source of its kind.

The energy of the X-rays was set so that only one photon was needed to send both electrons out of the hydrogen molecule.

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## ACC to seek contempt order against PK Halder

Likely to ask Interpol for help in bringing him back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission will seek contempt of court order against Prashanta Kumar Halder alias PK Halder who is allegedly involved in misappropriating over Tk 10,000 crore from four non-banking financial institutions.

The anti-graft watchdog will also seek assistance from Interpol to bring Halder back to Bangladesh.

Halder was supposed to return to Bangladesh on Sunday. But on Friday, Halder in a letter to International Leasing and Finance Service Limited (ILFSL) informed that he was feeling feverish and physically unwell.

"Given the present Covid-19 situation, this looks like a symptom and

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## Bangladeshi peacekeeper killed in road accident

2 others hurt

STAR REPORT

One Bangladeshi UN peacekeeper in the Central African Republic died in a road accident and two others sustained injuries, said Inter Services Public Relation Directorate yesterday.

The deceased was Lance Corporal Abdullah Al Mamun, 36, and the injured are Sergeant Abdus Samad, 35, and soldier Mokhlesur Rahman, 31.

ISPR said Mamun was driving a water bowser (water tank), which lost traction on a slippery

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Two intra-city buses trying to overtake each other on the road in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday afternoon. One of the drivers is seen wielding a stick to intimidate his opponent. Such unwarranted "races" between buses are a major cause of road accidents in the country.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Oxford vaccine gives hope to all age groups

Europe prepares for more pain ahead as Covid cases surge

AGENCIES

The Covid-19 vaccine being developed by the University of Oxford produces a similar immune response in both older and younger adults, and adverse responses were lower among the elderly, British drug maker AstraZeneca Plc said yesterday.

A vaccine that works is seen as a game-changer in the battle against the novel coronavirus, which has killed more than 1.15 million people, hammered the global economy and shuttered normal life across the world.

The positive news offered some hope to millions around the world, specially Europe, where leaders warned of difficult months ahead as the resurgent Covid-19 pandemic forced authorities to impose new restrictions to try to curb the spread of the disease.

However, British Health Secretary Matt Hancock cautioned that the vaccine would not be widely available until next year and said "we're not there yet".

"It is encouraging to see immunogenicity responses were similar between older and younger adults and that reactogenicity was lower in older adults, where the COVID-19 disease severity is higher," an AstraZeneca spokesman told Reuters.

"The results further build the body of evidence for the safety and immunogenicity of AZD1222," the spokesman said, referring to the technical name of the vaccine.

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 27

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:50	12:45	4:00	5:36	7:15

JAMAT 5:25 1:15 4:15 5:39 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION