

US ELECTION 2020

Democrats secure control of House with reduced majority; GOP extends lead in Senate
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"Why don't we throw away all the old thinking? We have to be outrageously bold... to adopt things which were never adopted before."
NOBEL LAUREATE MUHAMMAD YUNUS CALLS FOR "OUTRAGEOUSLY BOLD" THINKING TO RESHAPE POST-COVID SOCIETY

"We, from the pro-democracy camp, will stand with our colleagues. We will resign en masse."
WU CHI-WAI, CONVENOR OF PRO-DEMOCRACY HONG KONG LEGISLATORS, TELLS A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER OUSTING OF 4 OF HIS COLLEAGUES

"I honestly believe that the Indian team will be better off in Twenty20 cricket being led by Rohit Sharma."
FORMER ENGLAND CAPTAIN MICHAEL VAUGHAN AFTER SHARMA'S FIFTH IPL TITLE PAGE 11

MRT-6 EXTENSION TO KAMALAPUR

Change plan, go for alternative

Japanese govt body suggests in letter to rail ministry saying the current extension plan will jeopardise Kamalapur transport hub plan

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

A panel formed by the Japanese government has given Bangladesh an alternative plan for the MRT-6 extension to Kamalapur, saying the existing PMO-approved design would seriously hamper the prospect of the country's premier railway station becoming a true transport hub.

The Japanese ministry of land, infrastructure, transport and tourism said the alternative plan would also reduce the construction and land acquisition cost.

Kamalapur Multimodal Transport Hub (MmTH) Sub Working Group, formed by the Japanese ministry, wrote to Salim Reza, secretary of railways ministry, about the matter last week and attached its alternative plan, sources said.

The Japanese ministry itself wrote to the Public Private Partnership Authority of Bangladesh (PPPA) where it said the

alternative plan of the sub-working group would bring down the cost when compared to the existing plan.

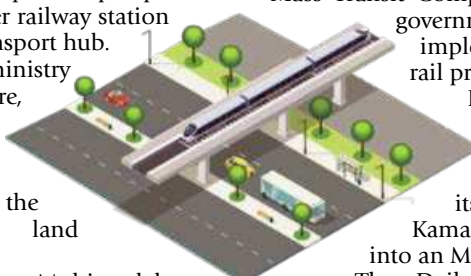
The move comes two months after the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) gave the go-ahead to the MRT-6 extension plan of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), a government-owned company implementing the metro rail project.

Bangladesh Railway had then opposed the move saying it would jeopardise its design to turn Kamalapur Railway Station into an MmTH.

The Daily Star correspondent could not reach Salim Reza, the railways ministry secretary, over the phone or get a response from him via texts.

On Wednesday, Chief Executive Officer of PPPA Sultana Afroza, who received the letter from the Japanese ministry, asked this paper to contact one of the directors of PPPA.

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The crowd could not have been denser in front of Ideal School and College in the capital's Motijheel yesterday when students of grades VI-IX and their parents went there to hand in their assignment papers to the school authorities. This happened at a time when the prime minister urged the nation to follow the coronavirus rules to stay safe during winter.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

ASP ANISUL'S DEATH

Director of Mind Hospital arrested, 4 others on run

MUNTAKIM SAAD and SUSHANTA GHOSH

Three days into the death of senior ASP Anisul Karim allegedly due to beating by staffers of Mind Aid Psychiatry and De-Addiction Hospital in the capital's Adabor, four of its shareholders are still on the run.

The four are Abdullh Al Mamun, Sakhawat Hossain, Sazzad Amin and Fatema Khatun Moyna.

The other shareholder, Dr Md Niaz Morshed, was arrested on Tuesday night from the capital's National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital in the murder case filed by the father of the deceased. The arrestee was undergoing treatment there for paralysis.

Walid Hossain, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they have prayed to a local court to show Niaz arrested in the case. The arrestee would continue receiving treatment under police custody, he added.

Law enforcers earlier arrested the hospital's 10 staffers, now on seven-day

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MP Papul sued for laundering Tk 148cr

ACC says he used his sister-in-law's accounts; his wife, daughter, sister-in-law too are accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmaker Mohammad Shahid Islam deposited Tk 148.41 crore in dirty money to different bank accounts of his sister-in-law Jesmin Proshan to cover his tracks, finds the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The accused lawmaker, popularly known as Kazi Papul, his wife Selina Islam MP, and their daughter Wafa Islam have all transferred their ill-begotten money to Jesmin's account, said an ACC official.

The ACC yesterday filed a case against all four of them over the matter. ACC Deputy Director Salahuddin also brought charges against the main accused, Jesmin, of illegally accumulating Tk 2.31 crore.

The allegations surfaced, after newspapers in Kuwait reported in February that Papul was running a human trafficking racket in the Middle Eastern country.

The reports said that the Bangladeshi lawmakers and their daughters occupied sensitive positions in three major companies that brought over 20,000 Bangladeshi workers to Kuwait in exchange for an amount believed to be more than Tk 1,391.6 crore.

Talking to reporters yesterday, ACC Commissioner Mozammel Haque

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HC seeks all docs of graft case against Haji Salim

Orders lower court to submit those by December 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked for the record of a corruption case in which independent lawmaker and Awami League leader Haji Mohammad Salim was sentenced to 13 years in 2008.

Haji Salim was sentenced by a lower court in the case but the HC acquitted him after he appealed. The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, after another appeal by the Anti-Corruption Commission, later scrapped the acquittal order and asked the HC to rehear the appeal.

The HC yesterday

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Off-season spike in dengue cases

Experts say it's not a seasonal disease anymore

HELEMIUL ALAM

Dengue fever appears to be reemerging in the country as the number of people infected with the mosquito-borne disease rose sharply this month.

Since February, there has been a significant decrease in the number of cases till September compared to last year, but the number of patients admitted to hospital increased mostly in November -- the month when the number of dengue cases usually drops.

Last month, 163 dengue cases were reported in the capital and elsewhere. Whereas, the number stood at 165 in the first 11 days of this month, according to the control room Directorate General of Health Services.

There were around 47 dengue patients recorded in September and 68 in August.

From March to the next five months, the number was less than 30 each month, while the first two months of this year saw 199 and 45 cases respectively.

A total of 792 patients were admitted to public and private hospitals from January till yesterday, while some 698 of them had recovered and been released.

The Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) found one out of five suspected deaths caused by dengue, said DGHS data.

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Post-Covid world needs 'outrageously bold' vision

Says Yunus, calls for new type of bank for covid-hit workers

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION, London

Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus yesterday called for "outrageously bold" thinking to reshape post-Covid society, including the creation of a new type of bank to help millions of workers whose livelihoods have been hammered by the pandemic.

The economist, nicknamed "banker to the poor", said the crisis presented an opportunity to carve out a fairer, greener future for the world, which was currently "a ticking time bomb".

He highlighted three

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The pursuit of a dignified life

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Giving away her hard-earned income to the destitute, Dil Afroze Khuki of Rajshahi chose a life of constant battles.

In her 60s now, she has been a newspaper hawker in the northern city for 30 years.

Khuki collects newspapers from agents near her home in the city's Seroil area, and walks the city's wide streets and narrow alleys.

Sometimes, she narrates personal stories and sometimes discusses morality and life lessons -- as exemplified by great personalities including Socrates, Girish Chandra Sen and Begum Rokeya -- with strangers.

When she comes across someone, particularly women, in need, she extends a helping hand. She often lends money, but never claims interest. She is not known to lie.

Khuki's pursuit of a self-reliant, dignified life rarely receives appreciation. Many call her "insane" for her ramblings on values and morality, and her seemingly carefree attitude.

"Being born is easy, but living life is difficult. Life is like a boat that has

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A man buys a newspaper from Dil Afroze Khuki in Seroil area of Rajshahi city. The widow in her 60s chose the hard life, giving much of what she owns to women and families she thought needed help and support. Khuki buys newspapers from agents near her home in Seroil, and walks the city's wide streets and narrow alleys selling them. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Shut down all unauthorised hospitals, clinics

DGHS asks civil surgeons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health directorate has asked civil surgeons to ensure that all unauthorised private hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres are shut down as soon as possible.

The order comes at a time when nearly 3,000 private healthcare-providing organisations have failed to apply online for licences within the August 23 deadline.

As per a decision made in a meeting between Health Minister Zahid Maleque and DGHS Director General Prof ABM Khurshid Alam on Sunday, the hospital and clinics unit of the DGHS sent the order to civil surgeons the next day, Farid Hossain Miah, director of the unit, said yesterday evening.

Earlier around noon, following a meeting at the health ministry, the DGHS boss told reporters that government officials would visit all private healthcare establishments soon, reports UNB.

Asked about it, Farid said, "Nearly 13,000 such organisations applied online for licences within the deadline. We've information that there are nearly 2,800 others who did not apply. Those will be closed as soon as possible."

"There are probably some other establishments, which are not on this list. We will have to work on this. We need some time as we are already overburdened with work due to a lack of manpower amid the pandemic."

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