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# The Daily Star

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"Myanmar makes commitments again and again. But they don't take back their nationals."  
FOREIGN MINISTER AK ABDUL MOMEN



"The price for leaving too soon or in an uncoordinated way could be very high."  
NATO CHIEF JENS STOLTENBERG ON US, ALLIES TROOPS PULLOUT PLAN FROM AFGHANISTAN



"While Bangabandhu is the Father of Nation of Bangladesh, he is also a hero to the Indian people."  
INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER TO DHAKA VIKRAM DORAISWAMI

## VACCINE COLD CHAIN IN BANGLADESH

# Efficient delivery main challenge

Existing facilities not enough to store, deliver large volume of vaccines within a short time, say experts

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The government is considering banking on the existing cold chain for storing, transporting and distributing coronavirus vaccines while some experts say the main challenge will be to manage such a large volume with the existing capacity.

As vaccines, once procured, will need to be transported to remote parts of the country and administered rapidly at the right temperature, the experts stressed the need for developing a robust network for this.

"The main challenge will be to efficiently deliver the vaccines to the health centres across the country," said Prof Ijaz Hossain, a teacher of chemical engineering at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

He said a massive cold chain is required to preserve vaccines scientifically and transport these to remote parts of the country efficiently.

"With the existing facilities, it is not possible to store and deliver such a large volume of vaccines within a short time. The government should have started thinking of preservation and delivery systems in advance," Prof Ijaz, also the dean of engineering faculty of Buet, told The Daily Star.

A cold chain is a temperature-controlled supply system to store, manage and transport life-saving vaccines. It consists of a series of links that are

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Firefighters fight a blaze at Kumargaon Bidyut Kendra on the outskirts of Sylhet city yesterday morning. The districts of Sylhet and Sunamganj went dark due to the fire which was suspected to have originated from a transformer. The authorities could restore power supply to only a few areas in Sunamganj until last evening.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## Sunamganj, Sylhet in dark after power station fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most parts of Sylhet and Sunamganj districts plunged into darkness last night after engineers failed to restore electricity supply from Kumargaon Power Plant after a fire.

People also experienced power cut almost throughout the day yesterday.

The fire broke out at the 132/33KV power station in Sylhet sadar upazila around 11:00am, snapping the supply. Seven fire engines doused the flames after two hours, said Kobal Ali Sarkar, in-charge of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Sylhet.

The connection could not be restored when this report was filed around 8:30pm.

In the meantime, people in those areas suffered badly. Many took to the social media to vent their

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## THE LONG ROAD TO VACCINATION



A cold chain is a temperature-controlled supply system to store, manage and transport life-saving vaccines. It consists of a series of links that are designed to keep vaccines within WHO recommended temperature ranges, from the point of manufacture to the point of administration.

## JS passes bill to allow death penalty for rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The much-talked-about Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Bill, 2020, was passed in parliament yesterday to provide for death penalty as the highest punishment for rape.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Ministry Fazilatun Nessa Indira moved the bill, which was passed a by a voice vote.

The bill was amended to incorporate the death penalty as the maximum punishment in rape cases.

In the proposed law, the punishment for rape is death penalty or life imprisonment. According to article 9 (1) of the existing Women and Children Repression Prevention Act-2000, the punishment for rape is life imprisonment.

Amid countrywide protests denouncing violence against women, the cabinet on October 12 approved the draft of the Women and Children Repression Prevention (Amendment) Bill 2020, incorporating the provision of capital punishment.

The following day, President Abdul Hamid promulgated the bill through an ordinance as parliament was not in session.

As per the legal obligations, the

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## Covid-19 deaths creeping up again

39 die, highest daily casualties in around 2 months

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

Observing a rising trend in Covid-19 infections and deaths, experts in the country stressed on immediate acceleration of scientific virus curb measures to stop transmission.

In the 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, a total of 39 Covid-19 patients died -- a big jump from the day-on-day casualties in the last eight weeks.

On September 21, a total of 40 Covid-19 patients died.

Since then, the number of daily deaths continued to decrease and reached the lowest ever 13 on November 7.

The highest number of people -- 64 -- had died on the same day was on June 30 since the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported the first Covid-19 death in Dhaka on March 18.

"Any conclusion can be made considering a single-day jump in death cases. Rather, we can say that there is an increasing tendency in the transmission considering the positivity rate throughout last week and it needs extra-caution," Prof Nazrul Islam, member of the National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) on Covid-19, told The Daily Star yesterday.

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## 4 cops sued for extortion

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Four police personnel, including the officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station in Old Dhaka, have been sued for extorting money from a trader.

Mohammad Rahim, a trader, filed the case with Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday, said court sources.

The four are OC Md Mizanur Rahman, Sub-inspector Anisul Haque, and assistant sub-inspectors Khairul Islam and Shahidul Islam.

Apart from them, Delwar Hossain, a police source, and three unidentified persons were made accused in the case.

The magistrate recorded the complainant's statements and fixed December 3 for passing an order in this regard.

According to the case documents, three persons identifying themselves as members of the Detective Branch of Police stopped Rahim on Chunkutia Bridge in South Keraniganj around 8:00pm on October 12 while he was returning home from Charkaliganj Zilla Parishad Market.

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A mobile court of the Dhaka district administration fines a man, in blue T-shirt, for not wearing a mask in the capital's Motijheel yesterday. The court also distributed masks among the people to create awareness about minimising the risk of contracting Covid-19. Inset, people queue up outside Mugda General Hospital to get tested for coronavirus.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN, ANISUR RAHMAN

(১৯৬৫-২০২০)

ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক

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অকাল প্রয়াণে আমরা

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