



A protester holds a placard during a demonstration organised by Spain's far-right party Vox, against the central government, amid the coronavirus disease outbreak, in Barcelona, Spain yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pfizer seeks urgent approval

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though health officials have yet to say how well they work or how they may reach the country's 1.4 billion people.

Developers are speeding up final testing, the Chinese foreign minister said during a UN meeting last week.

Even without final approval, more than 1 million health care workers and others in China who are deemed at high risk of infection have received experimental vaccines under emergency use permission. There has been no word on possible side effects.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II will receive the Pfizer-BioNTech coronavirus vaccine within weeks, reports said yesterday, as the biggest immunisation programme in UK history begins next week.

The monarch, 94, and her 99-year-old husband Prince Philip are in line to get the jab early in the rollout, which gets underway tomorrow, due to their age and will not receive preferential treatment, several newspapers reported.

Britain's most senior royals will "let it be known" they have been given the inoculations "as a powerful counter to

the anti-vaccination movement," the Sunday Times said.

The Mail added they hope "to encourage more people to take up the vital jab".

The queen has spent much of the pandemic in self-isolation in Windsor because of her age, and will this year forego her traditional family Christmas at her Sandringham estate in eastern England with other royals.

A Buckingham Palace spokeswoman declined to comment on the vaccination reports, noting "medical decisions are taken personally".

**RISE TO THE CHALLENGE'**

Britain has pre-ordered 40 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in total, and is set to receive an initial batch of 800,000 to kickstart tomorrow's rollout.

Elderly care home residents and their carers will be the very first in line, followed by those aged 80 and over and frontline health and care staff.

Other elderly people and the clinically extremely vulnerable will be next, with the rest of the population then prioritised by age.

The first doses were transported to the UK this week from a Pfizer plant in Belgium and will begin to arrive at dozens of "hospital hubs" nationwide by today.

Among those first to be inoculated will be the eldest patients already attending hospital as an outpatient, those being discharged home and others invited in.

The effort faces significant obstacles because this vaccine must be stored at -70 degrees Celsius (-94 degrees Fahrenheit).

However, it can be kept for up to five days at 2-8 degrees Celsius, reports AFP.

"Despite the huge complexities, hospitals will kickstart the first phase of the largest-scale vaccination campaign in our country's history from Tuesday," Stephen Powis, national medical director of the state-run National Health Service (NHS), said.

"Hardworking staff will once again rise to the challenge to protect the most vulnerable people from this awful disease," he added, noting the NHS had "a strong record" in vaccine delivery.

People aged 20-40

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for them to stay sincere about maintaining health rules -- wearing masks, washing hands frequently and maintaining physical distance," Prof Tahmina Shirin, director of IEDCR told The Daily Star recently.

Meanwhile, males constituted more than 70 percent both in infection and deaths, according to the IEDCR.

In line with implementing health rules actively, experts also stressed on more tests daily.

Prof Ridwanur Rahman, an infectious disease specialist, said, "The figures we are getting daily are only a snapshot of the whole picture. To get the real picture, we will need at least five lakh tests daily."

Terming the transmission control measures inadequate, he said, "There is no suppressive measures in the country. It is as like the epidemic situation like the Spanish flu in 1918. The infections will continue until either 60-70 percent of the population are infected or they are vaccinated."

31 DIED, 1,666 INFECTED

In the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, a total of 31 people died from Covid-19, according to the DGHS press release.

With this, the total number of deaths reached at 6,838 and the death rate was 1.43 percent.

A total of 1,666 new infections were recorded in the meantime, taking the total number of people infected to 477,545, added the press release.

Against a total of 13,218 tests in the same 24-hour period, the positivity rate was 12.60 percent while the overall positivity rate was 16.68 percent.

After antigen-based rapid testing was introduced in ten districts from Saturday, the number of Covid-19 testing laboratories rose to 137 including 15 gene-expert labs and 112 rt-PCR laboratories.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque also urged yesterday people to get tested for Covid-19.

"Introducing antigen tests was a demand from the people. We have introduced it in ten districts; will introduce it in all districts

gradually. We have PCR labs; are testing coronavirus using gene-expert machines too... Patients, however, have to come for tests."

Earlier on Saturday, the minister alleged that people are not coming for tests for which the number of tests is not increasing.

"You come, get tested, take treatment, take service; you will stay well," the minister said to the people with Covid-19 symptoms.

Meanwhile, 2,552 Covid-19 patients have recovered in the same 24-hour period, raising the number of recoveries to 395,960.

With this, the recovery rate was 82.92 percent.

In the same 24 hours, 338 people were put under isolation, the release added.

Among the dead, 24 were males and seven were females.

One but all died in hospitals, according to the press release.

One of them aged between 31 and 40 years, five between 41 and 50, four between 51 and 60, and 21 above 60 years.

Mob seizes UN peacekeeper equipment in south Lebanon

AFP, Beirut

A mob seized equipment from a UNIFIL convoy in south Lebanon after blocking its route, the UN peacekeeping force said Saturday of its latest run-in with the local population.

The incident, which required the intervention of the Lebanese army, took place on Friday as the UNIFIL convoy passed through the village of Kaothariyet al-Saiyad on the way back to base, according to the statement.

"A large group of civilians... dispossessed the UNIFIL patrol of items and equipment," the statement said, without specifying what was taken.

Lebanon and Israel are still technically at war, and the United Nations force patrols the border between the two.

The convoy was able to leave the village after the army intervened, "although the equipment was not returned to the peacekeepers", the statement added.

Cabinet meeting

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The Bangladesh government has decided to sell some of the abandoned industrial concerns taken over earlier. Under this plan, industrial concerns whose value of fixed assets was below Tk 15 lakh at the time of installation will be sold off. Assets to be sold will be valued at the current market price. First preference will be given to workers' cooperative societies. If the employees of a particular industrial unit form a cooperative society with at least 80 percent of the employees as members and get it registered, it may seek to secure ownership of the industrial unit.

*SOURCES: December 8, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.*

PCJS member

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immediate arrest and punishment of the criminals.

PCJSS Organising Secretary Tridib Chakma in Baghaichhari refuted the allegation, saying that Ratan might be a victim of his organisation's internal feud.

Muhammad Ashraf Uddin, officer in charge of Baghaichhari Police Station, said a police team recovered the body and sent it to Khagrachhari General Hospital for autopsy.

**30,000 govt**

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departments and offices, directorates, agencies and government offices at the field level could not be accessed, said officials of a2i and BTCL.

The websites of Ministry of Public Administration, Ministry of Education, Local Government Department could not be accessed since this morning. The websites of departments and organisations, including the Department of Food, Department of Disaster Management, Department of Secondary and Higher Education, were inaccessible at 9:00pm last night, when this report was filed.

The websites showed the message, "Site off-line: The site is currently not available due to technical problems. Please try again later. Thank you for your understanding."

US sets daily record for Covid cases

S Korea tightens fresh curbs; Seoul cases hit 9-month high

AGENCIES

For the third day in a row, the United States on Saturday notched a record number of coronavirus cases in 24 hours, reaching nearly 230,000 new infections, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

In that same stretch the US recorded 2,527 Covid-related deaths, according to real-time data provided by the Baltimore-based university at 0130 GMT yesterday.

The United States -- the country with the most coronavirus cases and deaths in the world -- has seen a dramatic resurgence in its epidemic in recent weeks.

US health officials warned of a surge after millions of Americans traveled to celebrate last week's Thanksgiving holiday despite pleas from authorities to stay home.

For two weeks, the US has regularly topped 2,000 deaths per day, as it had in the spring at the height of the first wave of the country's outbreak.

The number of people hospitalized with Covid-19 is also steadily increasing, especially in the most populous states of California, Florida, New York and Texas, according to the Covid Tracking Project.

The coronavirus pandemic has killed at least 1,528,919 people around the world since the end of last year, according to a tally by AFP yesterday.

The United States is the most affected country with 281,199 deaths. Brazil follows with 176,628 dead, India is next with 140,182, Mexico with 109,456, and the United Kingdom 61,014 fatalities.

South Korea raised its health alert in Seoul after the detection of 631 new cases, a record in nine months. That will mean a ban on gatherings of more than 50 people, professional sports competitions being held behind closed doors and restaurants having to close at 9:00 pm.

"We are facing the biggest crisis in our fight against Covid-19," Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun says.

**OXYGEN SHORTAGE**

In Pakistan, at least six Covid-19 patients died after "criminal negligence" resulted in a delayed supply of oxygen to a hospital in northwest, officials said, as the country battles a second wave of the epidemic.

More than 200 patients -- including nearly 100 with coronavirus -- were left for hours with limited supplies of oxygen at a government-run hospital in Peshawar.

Giant claw to be sent

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enhance the long-term sustainability of spaceflight," the ESA said in its announcement.

"With this contract signature, a critical milestone for establishing a new commercial sector in space will be achieved.

"Purchasing the mission in an end-to-end service contract, rather than developing an ESA-defined spacecraft for in-house operation, represents a new way for ESA to do business."

In total, €86 million (approximately £77 million) will be spent on the mission, and the service could be needed more regularly in future.

Over the past 60 years during which humans have staged 5,550 space launches, 42,000 objects have been tracked in orbit -- of which 23,000 remain in space and are regularly tracked.

Currently, there are approximately

100 launches taking place every year and, with four to five break-ups of debris happening at the same rate, the ESA predicts that the number of objects in space will steadily increase.

Ensuring that the space around the Earth remains clear of space debris is vital. In September, the ISS had to perform an unscheduled manoeuvre to avoid "possible conjunction" with another object in space.

Another potential crash a week later, between part of a discarded Chinese rocket and a decommissioned Soviet satellite, could have created countless more collisions because of the buildup of wreckage and as such, could have increased the amount of debris in space by up to 20 percent.

It has also been suggested that the domino effect of such a crash could result in a layer of space debris around the planet that would make space launches impossible.

Haji Selim's unauthorised

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Selim's associates however told reporters that he was not the owner of the land and instead had rented the place.

"We found some parts of the structures were removed before the drive, but the main illegal structure was untouched and we knocked it down," said joint director of BIWTA Md Gulzar Ali who was also present during the drive.

The team also evicted the front side of a cold storage named "Chand Sarder Cold Storage" allegedly owned by the Dhaka-7 lawmaker who constructed illegal structures in front of the cold storage on the land of the river.

Although Haji Selim constructed the main building without encroaching on the land of Buriganga river, temporary structures were constructed in front of the cold storage occupying the river's land, said locals.

The drive started at 11:00 am and continued till 3:00 pm.

Joint director of BIWTA Gulzar said

they evicted 165 structures during the drive, including 10 two-storey buildings, 20 one-storey buildings, 25 semi-concrete structures, 60 tin-shed structures and 50 other structures.

They reclaimed two acres of land from encroachers during the first day of the drive, he added.

Gulzar said they are conducting the drive as part of their continued drive in line with the direction of the High Court to evict all illegal structures from the four rivers -- Buriganga, Turag, Shitalakhya and Balu -- around Dhaka city.

He said they will resume their drive today between Imamganj and Loharpool to evict all illegal structures constructed by occupying the land of the Buriganga.

Joint director of BIWTA AKM Arif Uddin said they had started a massive drive to recover the land of four rivers around the capital from January 29 last year and had demolished around 8,000 illegal structures in different phases.



**Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company Limited**  
(A Company of Petrobangla)  
Head Office, Chapapur, Cumilla  
Engineering Service Department, Cumilla  
(Website: [www.bgdcl.org.bd](http://www.bgdcl.org.bd))



Reference No. 28.11.0000.710.38.004.20/87

Date: 03/12/2020

**e-Tender Notice (OTM)**

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

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of works	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time	Opening date and time
510295	28.11.0000.710.38.004.20	"Emergency Maintenance of Gas Pipeline & Riser Height Increase/Shifting/Killing at Cumilla City and adjacent areas for the period of 2020-21 FY."	21-Dec-2020 17.00	22-Dec-2020 12.00	22-Dec-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 branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

For more details, please contact to the PE's support desk (081-68660).

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ডিসেম্বর ২০২০। (সাদা-কালো)।

**Engr. Mortuza Rahman Khan**  
Deputy General Manager  
Engineering Service Department, Cumilla  
BGDCL, Chapapur, Cumilla-3500

GD-1946

**Two held**

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Cox's Bazar Model Police Station.

A day later, the victim's father filed a case against Gura Miah. Following that, police raided Gura's house and arrested him. The victim was admitted to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital for treatment, said the police officer.

In Khagrachhari, police on Saturday arrested a man allegedly for raping his two daughters for multiple times at a village in Manikchhari upazila.

The fifty-year-old arrestee is a resident of Guchhagram area in the same upazila.

Police said the victims are twin sisters and both of them are eleven years old. Their father raped them for multiple times. But they did not disclose it considering social stigma.

Later on Friday, the accused again raped one of his daughters. Then, the victims shared the incident with their grandmother.

A day later, the grandmother filed a case with Manikchhari Police Station. Following that, police arrested the accused, said Amir Hossain, OC of the police station.

[Our Cox's Bazar and Khagrachhari correspondents contributed to this report.]

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Upazila Engineer  
Upazila: Natore Sadar, Dist: Natore  
[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)



Memo No. 46.02.6963.000.07.004.20-521

Dated: 06/12/2020

**e-Tender Notice: 05/2020-21**

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

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tendering method
1	2	3	4	5
1	489397	e-Tender/LGED/NAT/NAT-S/2020-21/EUCPW-100	Construction of Administrative Extension Building & Hall Room Under Extension of Upazila Complex Project 2nd Phase for Natore-s Upazila Parishad Natore.	OSTETM

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and offline/hard copies will not 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 banks' branches up to 5.00pm date: 06/01/2021.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from e-GP help desk (E-mail: [ue.natore-s@lged.gov.bd](mailto:ue.natore-s@lged.gov.bd) or call to 0771-66636).

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

**Sk. Md. A. S. Mostafezur Rahman**  
Upazila Engineer  
LGED, Natore Sadar, Natore  
Phone No. 0771-66636  
E-mail: [ue.natore-s@lged.gov.bd](mailto:ue.natore-s@lged.gov.bd)

GD-1947