





GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES
World's Largest VRM





Some of the 312 Bangladeshis returning from China leave the airport in a bus; they head for the hajj camp in the capital's Ashkona. Inset, the convoy of buses carrying them. They will be tested for coronavirus at the camp, where they will be quarantined for two weeks.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

China's isolation grows with more travel bans

AFP, Beijing

China faced deepening isolation over its coronavirus epidemic yesterday as the death toll soared to 259, with the United States and Australia leading a growing list of nations to impose extraordinary Chinese travel bans.

With Britain, Russia and Sweden among the countries confirming their first infections, the virus has now spread to more than two dozen nations, sending governments scurrying to limit their exposure.

The United States toughened its stance Friday by declaring a national emergency, temporarily barring entry to foreigners who had been in China within the past two weeks.

"Foreign nationals, other than immediate family of US citizens and permanent residents... will be denied entry into the United States," Health Secretary

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CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

259 DEATHS (ALL IN CHINA)

11,791 CONFIRMED CASES

312 return from virus-hit Wuhan

To be kept isolated at Haji Camp for 14 days; 8 of them admitted to hospitals

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

A total of 312 Bangladeshis, who were stranded in Coronavirus-hit Chinese city of Wuhan, landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday morning.

Family members of the returnees said they were relieved after their relatives' return, but a fear of the virus transmission gripped them.

Nasima, whose 19-year-old son Sadman Sakib was one of the returnees, said she was afraid that the virus might transmit to the returnees from one person as they were kept in a congested area.

"He [Sakib] was under better [medical] supervision in China," she said.

Nasima, along with her husband Sharifuzzaman, waited in front of Ashkona Hajj Camp throughout the day but failed to meet their son.

Of the returnees, 304 were kept quarantined in four rooms on the third floor of the camp where they would stay for the next 14 days under observation.

Rest of the seven were directly sent to Kurmitola General Hospital and another to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka cantonment from the airport. They had high body temperature.

Like Nasima- Sharifuzzaman couple, many guardians and relatives of the returnees were seen thronging on the camp premises to know about the situation of their loved ones.

Some of them alleged that the authorities concerned were not supplying enough food for the returnees. Quoting the returnees inside the camp, they alleged that the environment inside the camp was dirty with mosquito infestation.



Shariar Sajjat, assistant health director of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, said a chartered flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines landed at the airport at 11:55am with the returnees.

Three infants, 12 children and 297 adults were among the returnees. None of them had flu symptoms while boarding the flight in Wuhan, he added.

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14-year-old girl raped in Cox's Bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Police arrested a man, said to be an Awami League activist, on charge of raping a 14-year-old girl from the Tripura community. The incident happened on Friday night in Cox's Bazar's Chakaria, which is adjacent to Bandarban's Lama upazila.

The victim, a ninth grader, was raped around 8:00pm after she went out of her hostel in Lama's Hebron Mission area to drink water from a tube well nearby, said locals.

They said a political programme, organised by the Bandarban-Lama AL unit, was underway in the area and that there were

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 2

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-15 5-52 7-15
JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-30 5-56 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH

Bangabandhu's nation-building challenges



Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora calls on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Prime Minister's official residence (Feb 2, 1972).

FEBRUARY 2, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJAN

BANGABANDHU MEETS AURORA

Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora, C-in-C, Eastern Command of India, calls on Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at his official residence. Aurora was accompanied by Maj Gen BN Sarkar.

Purchase of luxury items by govt offices banned
Bangabandhu issues an order banning with immediate effect the purchase of luxury items such as new carpets, air conditioners and costly furniture by government departments and autonomous bodies. Referring to the present economic situation, Bangabandhu asks officials to use old items as long as they remain serviceable. The officials are also ordered to incur minimum expenditure on entertainment.



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Senate likely to acquit Trump Wednesday

Votes down Democrats' call for new witnesses

AFP, Washington

The US Senate on Friday rebuffed Democratic calls for new witnesses at President Donald Trump's impeachment trial, paving the way for his acquittal next week of charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

Following the 51-49 vote, the Senate scheduled four hours of closing arguments by Democratic prosecutors and White House defense lawyers on Monday and a vote for acquittal on Wednesday.

A Wednesday vote will mean the historic trial will not have concluded before Tuesday, when Trump is scheduled to give his nationally televised annual "State of the Union" speech to a joint session of Congress.

Trump is all-but-assured of being acquitted by the Senate, where Republicans hold 53 seats to 47 for the Democrats and a two-thirds majority -- or 67 senators -- is needed to remove a president from office.

Two Republican senators -- Mitt Romney of Utah and Susan Collins of Maine -- joined 47 Democrats in voting to introduce further witnesses into the trial.

But Democrats failed to muster the four votes needed to allow testimony from Trump's former national security advisor

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"Everyone thought I could never play football again, but now I am the captain of the national team."

Jamal Bhuyan
Captain, Bangladesh National Football Team



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