



# Admissions, grades without tests

*Pvt universities take desperate measures in trying times*

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Many private universities have decided to assign students grades without holding semester finals and enroll new students sans admission tests, due to the evolving novel coronavirus situation.

Two reputed private universities -- Brac University and Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) -- have decided they will not be holding final exams for the spring semester and asked faculty members to complete grading based on coursework completed so far.

Three private universities -- IUB, United International University (UIU), and the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) -- have also decided to enroll students for the summer semester without an admissions test, based only on their SSC and HSC results.

The authorities of at least eight private universities said the closure of educational institutions due to the coronavirus outbreak is taking a heavy toll on future admissions, as entry tests have been indefinitely deferred.

## COURSE GRADES WITHOUT SEMESTER FINALS

Several teachers of Brac University said the university will remain closed until April 9, as per the registrar's office.

"There will be no more classes of Spring 2020 (online or otherwise). Faculty members are requested to complete grading based on coursework completed thus far."

"The above decision to conclude the semester was taken

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A doctor at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University's Fever Clinic recording details of a patient yesterday. Many people visited the clinic at Betar Bhaban in Shahbagh to test if they had coronavirus.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Buses, trains to stay put till April 11

*Emergency vehicles, goods-laden trucks out of purview*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday extended the suspension on movement of public transport until April 11 to slow down the spread of coronavirus.

The Road Transport and Highways Division made the decision yesterday, said a press release of the road transport and bridges ministry.

However, all goods-laden vehicles and those used in emergency services, including transportation of fuel, medicine, relief and perishable goods, would remain out of the purview of the suspension, it said.

No goods-laden vehicle will be allowed to carry passengers.

On March 24, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader announced that buses, minibuses, CNG-run auto-rickshaws and human hauliers would remain off the roads from March 26 to April 4.

Besides, services of all passenger trains, launches and domestic flights would remain suspended until further notice.

Meanwhile, many people are traveling to and from Dhaka on goods-laden vehicles ignoring the government directives, putting themselves and others at risk of getting coronavirus, according to media reports.

The government on April 1 extended the countrywide shutdown until April 11. The shutdown was initially declared for 10 days (March 26 to April 4).

Services of train, bus and other transport would resume gradually for the sake of people's livelihood, read a circular issued on April 1.



## PRAYER TIMING APRIL 5

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-45 6-21 7-45  
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 5-00 6-24 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## 7 die showing coronavirus-like symptoms

*Homes isolated in 6 districts*

STAR REPORT

At least seven people, including two children, died of Covid-19-like symptoms in six districts since Friday night.

Besides, multiple houses were locked down and many families were home-quarantined to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

In Moulvibazar, a 45-year-old man died from a fever and cough yesterday in Akua village of Rajnagar upazila's Tengra Union.

The victim's family was sent into home quarantine, said Urmi Roy, acting upazila nirbahi officer.

In Natore, an elderly man died in his home in Sadar upazila's Kafuria village early yesterday, after suffering from similar symptoms, at 3:00am yesterday, said Dr Mahbubur Rahman, upazila health and family planning officer.

In Narayanganj, a 46-year-old man died in his home at Baburail area in the district town early yesterday from similar symptoms. He died on the way to hospital, said Afsana Afroz Biva, Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) councillor.

Contacted, NCC's Chief Health Officer Dr Sheikh Mostafa Ali said, "We

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

# 'US recognition will open up a new chapter'



A school teacher in Mymensingh presenting a cheque of Tk 23,000, raised by teachers, to Bangabandhu as donation to the Prime Minister's relief fund on April 4, 1972.

April 5, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

## BANGABANDHU WELCOMES US RECOGNITION

Bangabandhu today expresses his confidence that the formal recognition to Bangladesh by the US will open up a new chapter in the development of friendly cooperation and understanding between the people of the two countries for their mutual benefit.

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## Woman raped after kidnap in Cox's Bazar

*60-yr-old held for rape attempt in Tangail*

STAR REPORT

A woman has been allegedly raped after abduction in Chakarai upazila of Cox's Bazar, reports our correspondent.

Police on Friday arrested one Mozammel, 40, and Zafar Alam, 25, in connection with the incident, said Md Habibur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Chakarai Police Station.

On Thursday night, Mozammel and Zafar abducted the woman when she was on her way to the upazila health complex from her house.

They later took the woman to a house in sawmill area of Lakkharchar union and raped her.

On information, police rushed to the spot and rescued the woman and

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## STAY HOME, STAY WELL

# Get things delivered safely

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Since the country went into shutdown, people have had to adapt themselves to spending days cooped up in their homes.

Adjusting to this temporary way of life has meant having to give up almost all everyday activities, such as going to office, school, meeting friends, or going shopping -- even for groceries.

In recent years in Bangladesh, online shopping has gained popularity among the younger generation.

During the countrywide shutdown, many people in Dhaka city are now having to rely on online deliveries for their groceries, household essentials and restaurant foods.

But with the fast spread of Covid-19, people have questioned whether it is safe to receive packages at your home.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) says that the "likelihood of an infected person contaminating commercial goods is low".

Kaoser Alam, medical officer and resident cardiologist of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, told The Daily Star that, "If you are concerned about contaminated or unclean surfaces, you could open your delivery packages outside. You should then dispose of the packaging

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## Starmer new UK Labour leader

AFP, London

Pro-European centrist Keir Starmer was unveiled as new Labour party leader yesterday, heralding a shift in Britain's main opposition party after a crushing election defeat under veteran socialist Jeremy Corbyn and years of ideological infighting.

The 57-year-old former chief state prosecutor defeated Corbyn loyalist Rebecca Long-Bailey and backbencher Lisa Nandy in a lengthy campaign sparked by Corbyn's resignation after December's loss at the polls to Boris Johnson's Conservatives.

Angela Rayner becomes the new deputy leader, Labour announced on Twitter, after it was forced to cancel a special conference because of the coronavirus outbreak.

Starmer, who was Labour's Brexit spokesman, called his election "the honour and privilege"

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A bicycle rider delivering food in Dhaka's Mirpur-10 area. Many companies now offering home delivery services to its customers as majority of the city dwellers are staying at home amid the shutdown to prevent coronavirus spread.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Wearing masks 'not a bad idea'

*WHO opens up to broader use of the protective gear to limit spread of coronavirus*

REUTERS, Geneva/Washington

The World Health Organization has said that medical masks should be prioritised for health workers, but it opened the door to greater public use of homemade masks or other mouth coverings as a way to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

A senior WHO official told reporters there was some possibility of airborne transmission of the virus that has now infected over 1 million people and killed nearly 60,000 people worldwide since emerging in China last December.

But the main driver of the pandemic was still believed to be sick people with symptoms who were coughing and sneezing and contaminating surfaces or other people.

"We must preserve medical surgical respirator masks for our frontline workers. But the idea of using respiratory coverings or mouth coverings to prevent coughing or sneezing projecting disease into the environment and towards others ... that in itself is not a bad idea," Dr. Mike Ryan, the WHO's top emergencies expert, told a news conference Friday.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease who is top US infectious disease official, said on Friday that Americans should cover their face if they have to go in public, but they should still stay isolated as much as possible.

Ryan acknowledged a "very important and healthy debate" on the wearing of masks.

He said that if used, they should be part of a comprehensive strategy and would not negate the need for

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