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3 Bangladeshi minds build it so that doctors can check on Covid-19 patients remotely

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Here is some good news for healthcare professionals on the frontline against Covid-19.

Three young minds -- one in the UK and two in Bangladesh -- have developed a device that helps doctors check patients' blood pressure, oxygen saturation and heart rate simultaneously.

Using the device, physicians and other health professionals will be able to know the three vital readings quickly and more importantly without having to get exposed to patients for a longer period. It will minimise the risks of coronavirus transmission among doctors and the patients they treat.

Sabyasachi Roy, who is now pursuing higher studies in the UK after completing MBBS from Sir Salimullah Medical College and Mitford Hospital, Muhibbullah Saif, an intern from the same medical college, and Mahmudur Rahman, a Buet graduate, have jointly developed the device called Provat Vital Parameter Trolley.

The device has already gone through a successful trial run. Yesterday, 16 pieces of the device were handed to the Mitford hospital authorities for formal use.

The development came at a time when an increasing number of doctors treating Covid-19 patients are getting

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Monaf Mia, 70, carrying jackfruits grown on his trees to Mulagul Bazar, a marketplace visited by a small number of customers and traders, in Sylhet's Kanaighat upazila. the market is about a kilometre away from his home in Lobhachhara area. He said had there been a road to Kanaighat Sadar, people of his neighbourhood would have been able to sell their produce for good prices.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Schools, colleges to stay closed until Aug 6

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government yesterday extended all educational institutions closure until August 6 as a preventive measure against the further spread of the novel coronavirus.

"We have extended the educational institution closure until August 6. We will issue an order soon," Akram-Al-Hossain, secretary of the primary and mass education ministry, told The Daily Star.

Summer vacation and Eid-ul-Azha holidays will coincide with this closure, he added.

Abul Khair, public relations officer of the education ministry, said educational institutions under their ministry would also stay closed until August 6. They made the decision, keeping mind safety of students.

All educational institutions have remained closed since March 17. Earlier, the closure was stretched to June 15 to stem coronavirus transmission.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Ghostwriter gets copyright of Masud Rana books

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an unprecedented incident, Bangladesh Copyright Office granted the copyright of 260 "Masud Rana" books to its ghostwriter Sheikh Abdul Hakim on Sunday.

This gives him claim over royalties earned from reprint editions of the series.

That the wildly popular espionage-thriller series has been ghost-written for over four decades is popular lore -- most avid readers of the spy agent know that beyond the first few books, the original author Kazi Anwar Hossain was not the one writing the books.

Many readers say they could even tell just by reading which books was written by Kazi Anwar and which were not. The first two books Dhongsho-Pahar and Bharatnatyam released in 1966, for example, are the author's own work, and to date, the most beloved of the series.

Since then the series has continued by taking "inspiration" from internationally popular spy novels. They were ghostwritten, allowing the publisher Sheba Prokashoni, to churn out several each year. For the last three years, there were four books per year -- in 2016, there were 6,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Anti-hoarding drives continue



Villagers rush to see the prime minister after the helicopter carrying Bangabandhu to Noakhali makes an emergency landing due to bad weather at Aliganj on June 22, 1972.

June 16, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

INDIA-BANGLADESH JOINT RIVER COMMISSION

It is reported that India-Bangladesh Joint River Commission will be formed in July, 1972. BM Abbas, flood control adviser of the Bangladesh prime minister, and Dr KL Rao, water and power minister of India, will jointly hold the chairmanship of the commission. There will be two members from each country. Offices of the commission will be set up in Dhaka and New Delhi.

POLICE RAID WAREHOUSES, 10 HOARDERS ARRESTED

Police conduct multiple raids against hoarders in several places in Dhaka and Chittagong and recover huge amount of essential

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Bangladesh made great strides

Reports Paris-based organisation

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Bangladesh has made great strides in power generation in the last decade as about 95 percent of its population now have the access to electricity, thanks to the government's attention to renewable energy sources along with the conventional sources, says a global report.

As of 2017, around 8 percent of the country's total power generation capacity came from the off-grid solar, making it one of the top six countries in terms of generating electricity using solar solutions, according to REN21's Renewables 2020 Global Status Report (GSR) which was released yesterday.

The Paris-based organisation said the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Airport offers 'pretend to go abroad' tours



CNN ONLINE

With planes grounded and most tourism on hold during the coronavirus pandemic, one Taiwanese airport has come up with a unique solution to help citizens get their travel fix.

Taipei's Songshan airport will give 90 people the chance to take a tour of their airport and relive the experience of going through immigration, boarding a plane and then disembarking and returning home.

"Can't leave (Taiwan), then pretend to go abroad at Songshan," a flier posted to the airport's website read.

Songshan is the smaller of Taipei's two international airports and is located in the centre of the city beside the Keelung River.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Int'l flights from HSIA resumes today

RASHIDUL HASAN

Flight operations on the international routes, except China, will resume today on a limited scale after over three months' suspension of flights to and from Bangladesh due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Initially, only two airlines -- Biman and Qatar Airways -- will operate while strictly following health and Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh guidelines to contain the spread of coronavirus, Caab Chairman Air Vice Marshal MA Mofidur Rahman told

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



PRAYER TIMING JUNE 16

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Zafrullah tests Covid-19 negative in RT-PCR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoshasthaya Kendra Founder and Trustee Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury tested negative for Covid-19 in an RT-PCR test yesterday.

Earlier, the result was similar when his samples were tested on GR-Rapid Dot Blot kit, developed by Gonoshasthaya Kendra.

The 79-year-old physician had tested positive for Covid-19 on May 25. His samples were first tested by the antigen kit and antibody testing kit GR-Rapid Dot Blot. Samples were also tested by RT-PCR.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Gonoshasthaya Kendra Public Relations Officer Mohammad Farhad yesterday said Zafrullah recovered from Covid-19 and his condition was stable.

Apart from the virus infection, he was also suffering from kidney problems and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



A boy examining the quality of a kite at a toy shop in Chattogram's Bakshirhat area as students are left with plenty of spare time with their schools closed due to the pandemic. Businessmen say kite sales have gone through the roof as kite flying has lately become overwhelmingly popular in the port city. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

China battles new outbreak

Beijing locks down more neighbourhoods as Europe reopens borders

AGENCIES

A raft of EU nations reopened their borders to fellow Europeans yesterday after months of coronavirus curbs, but China was battling a new outbreak that has stirred fears of a second wave.

As caseloads have declined in recent weeks across many parts of Europe, governments have been keen to ease painful lockdowns that have saved lives but devastated economies and wearied confined populations.

Belgium, France, Germany, Greece and Ukraine were among those lifted border restrictions yesterday, while shops and outdoor attractions in England welcomed their first customers since March and in Paris cafes and restaurants were allowed to fully reopen.

"We're desperate about tourists, we need them and we want them. If we don't have the people, how will we survive," says Michalis Drosos, who works in a souvenir shop in Fira, capital of the Greek island of Santorini.

However, the pandemic is gathering pace in Latin America, and Iran and India have reported worrying increases in deaths and infections -- adding to concern over challenges the world will face in the long fight against Covid-19.

An open access study by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said the national lockdown delayed the onset of the peak stage of pandemic in India and gave time to prepare the health system with the curve for infections likely to hit its highest point only around mid-November.

China, where the virus emerged last year, was

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5