



'TOUGH DAY' AT TWITTER
The social media giant hit by major hack targeting high-profile users
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Your Right to Know

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BANGLADESH UPDATE



2,733
New cases in 24hrs



1,96,323
Total cases



2,496
Deaths



1,06,963
Recoveries



GLOBAL UPDATE



584,990
Deaths



13,589,273
Total cases

Virus curbs in disarray

Health ministry asks home not to let people leave Dhaka, 3 other cities during Eid holidays but govt decides to allow public transport

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

With Eid barely two weeks away, government ministries are at odds with Covid-19 containment strategies for the holidays, which experts say could worsen the situation.

The health ministry asked the home ministry not to let people leave Dhaka and three other major cities ahead of the three-day holiday but the government decided to allow all public transport to operate maintaining health safety guidelines.

Experts, however, said if the public transport was allowed to run, thousands of people were likely to leave the cities to spend Eid with their loved ones, increasing virus transmission risk.

Health safety and social distancing guidelines could be flouted during the rush, they said, adding that the government had previously failed to implement those strictly.

Around 80 lakh holidaymakers usually leave Dhaka alone ahead of Eids, according to estimates of different passengers' welfare organisations.

Gazipur, Narayanganj and Chattogram are the other cities from which a huge

number of people head home.

Following the recommendations of National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) on Covid-19, the Health Services Division wrote to the home ministry on Wednesday asking for necessary steps so that no one can go to other districts from Dhaka, Chattogram, Gazipur, and Narayanganj during the holidays.

The cities are the worst affected by the coronavirus.

It also wrote to the LGRD ministry to take steps so that no cattle market is set up in these four cities and encourage people to buy sacrificial animals online.

It wrote letters to senior secretaries of the Public Safety Division and Local Government Division following the recommendations chalked up in the NTAC's 14th meeting last week.

The Health Services Division issued the letters when the Covid-19 positivity rate was the highest ever despite decline in testing, which indicates rising community transmission. At least 196,323 have been infected and almost 2,500 people have died in Bangladesh from Covid-19.

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Children being taken to safety on a floating rubber tube, as most of the houses in Collegepara area of Kurigram's Rowmari have been inundated by floodwaters. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Bangladesh to move forward combating pandemic: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her firm optimism that the country would advance again and the people would get rid of the ongoing crisis by combating the novel coronavirus.

"Though the coronavirus has temporarily halted the country's advancement, we hope people will be free from it and we will move forward again," she said while launching the distribution and plantation of one crore saplings across the country marking the "Mujib Borsho".

The PM also inaugurated the National Tree Plantation Campaign 2020 through the same event held on the Gono Bhaban premises in the morning.

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TRANSHIPMENT OF GOODS TO NORTHEAST India starts first trial run using Ctg port

Port charges same but Indian vessels to get priority in loading, unloading

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Ctg

India has begun its first ever trial run of the much-talked-about transshipment of goods to its north-eastern states through Bangladesh's Chattogram port.

A ship "MV Shejyoti" left Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Port in Kolkata yesterday morning with 108 containers of goods. It will arrive at Chattogram port on July 20, according to officials from the Indian High Commission and Bangladesh's shipping ministry.

Of the 108 containers, four carrying iron and pulse will be transported to Tripura and Assam of India through Akhaura-Agartala land port, said Yakub Sujana Bhuiyan, managing director of Mango Line Limited, also agent of the ship "MV Shejyoti".

The rest of the goods are being brought by Bangladeshi importers, he said, but could not confirm the quantity.

"We have already made all the



preparations. But I will get to know the details of the goods after the ship leaves Haldia Port," Yakub told The Daily Star.

The trial transshipment was supposed to start in March, but got delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The containers of iron belonging to SM Corporation will be transported to Jirania in West Tripura and the two other containers of pulse will be transported by Jain Traders to Karimganj in Assam, according to the shipment documents.

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DGHS aware of JKG Health Care scams

Sabrina tells investigators

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MUNTAKIM SAAD

Surgeon Sabrina Arif Chaudhury told interrogators that she had warned the health directorate multiple times about corruptions in JKG as soon as she found out what was going on.

After two JKG employees were arrested on charges of forgery, Arif Chaudhury made a trade licence in a hurry at the suggestion of a top official of the Directorate General of Health Services to avoid further trouble, Sabrina told officers.

Police also learnt that a high government official lobbied for Sabrina to get JKG the job of collecting samples for coronavirus tests.

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A man with murky past

Shahed conned cloth traders thru' cheques, threatened them; got arrested in 2016 for fraud

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

For any business deal, Regent Group Chairman Md Shahed alias Shahed Karim used to issue bank cheques with encashment dates that could be two months later.

But in most of the cases, the bank accounts would either be empty or closed.

When the victims tried to contact Shahed over the bounced cheques, he used to threaten them with severe consequences by using names of influential people.

For complaints of fraudulence, Shahed was arrested in June 2016 by a police team of the capital's Kotwali Police Station. He, however, managed to secure bail from a court within a week, said an officer of the police team wishing not to be named.

The official, currently the officer-in-charge of a police station in Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), said Shahed opened a clothing shop in Islampur area of Old Dhaka in

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A puzzling case of Covid test

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Same day, same RT-PCR test, two different results. One says that the person is positive for Covid-19, while the other says negative.

Tarek Ahmed, 44, tested positive for Covid-19 on July 1.

"I waited for 14 days for the illness to subside, and tested again. First I went to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University [BSMMU] and have a test done. Then, on the same day, I went to a Brac booth that collects samples to be tested by Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control And Research and gave my sample again," described Tarek.

BSMMU test results said he was negative for the virus, but IEDCR said he was positive.

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FAHIM KILLING Financial issues might have prompted it: NYPD

AGENCIES

The murder of Fahim Saleh, co-founder of ride-sharing venture Pathao, has been ruled as a homicide and investigators in New York hinted that the killing might be linked to financial issues.

The 33-year-old tech-entrepreneur was found dismembered inside a luxury apartment in New York's Lower East Side on Tuesday afternoon.

The motive of Saleh's murder appeared to be financial in nature, a senior NYPD official told NBC2 on Wednesday. An investigation is under way but no arrests have yet been made, an NYPD spokeswoman told AFP.

Saleh's sister, who went to his apartment to check on him as he didn't contact his family for a day, discovered his body before calling the police, officials told the Daily News tabloid.

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After the temporary shutdown was lifted, Sanir Akhra in the capital has been witnessing large crowds of commuters every morning, hopping on and off buses, without maintaining social distancing. Buses initially maintained regulations, like stopping at designated stands and carrying disinfectants inside the vehicles, but over the past few days even those are not being maintained.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

MEETING SDGS

Nurse the youth thru pandemic

Say speakers at a policy dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There has to be a policy in place to make sure that the problems faced by the youth during the pandemic can be overcome if the Sustainable Development Goals are to be met, said speakers at a virtual dialogue yesterday.

The dialogue titled "Voluntary National Review 2020 and Youth Perspectives" was jointly organised by the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, Plan International Bangladesh and The Daily Star.

Citizen's Platform for SDGs is a platform of 104 civil society organisations, committed to meeting the SDGs.

The Voluntary National Review (VNR) is a process through which countries showcase their progress in achieving global SDGs, and furthermore allow themselves to be evaluated by other countries.

This year, 51 nations, including Bangladesh, signed up to be reviewed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at the High-Level Political Forum 2020.

This is the second time that Bangladesh volunteered for the review. It first volunteered in 2017.

Speakers at the policy dialogue yesterday provided recommendations on Bangladesh's VNR process, particularly regarding youth issues.

"Ensuring quality education is still a challenge, even though more children are going to school now. One third of our youth, our total labour force, is not utilised," said Dr Shamsul Alam, member (Senior Secretary) of General Economics Division at the Ministry of Planning.

He added that universal health coverage is still a

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