

## British Royal Navy sub in near-miss with passenger ferry

AFP, LONDON

A British nuclear-powered submarine narrowly avoided crashing into a passenger ferry between Northern Ireland and Scotland, with disaster averted only because an officer spotted its periscope, a report revealed yesterday.

The government's Marine Accident Investigations Branch called for an independent review into the incident on November 6, 2018, saying it was the third such near-miss involving a Royal Navy sub in four years.

## Bangladeshis

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flights from Bangladesh and 12 other countries on July 7 after 36 passengers arriving in Rome from Bangladesh tested positive for coronavirus. Passengers were either dispatched to hospital, sent home to isolate or put up in an airport hotel for two weeks of quarantine.

However, some media reported that the suspension of flights was because some Bangladeshis carried fake Covid-19 certificates.

The ministry said some Bangladeshis who travelled to Italy in the recent days did not follow the mandatory quarantine rule, and probably a few of them might have spread the virus in the community.

"After travelling to Italy, some of the Bangladeshis had gone out of the hotel to have Bangladeshi food. That's how they could have spread the virus," the official added.

That was the actual reason why the Italian authorities suspended the flights initially for a week.

Later, the suspension has been extended until July 31, said the statement, refuting media reports that the suspension was until October 5.

The ministry said in the last one week, out of 5,000 tests, 65 Bangladeshi residents in the Lazio region of Italy have been detected with Covid-19.

The Italian authorities then decided to conduct coronavirus tests for all Bangladeshis (around 30,000) living the region, in coordination with the embassy of Bangladesh in Rome, the ministry mentioned.

## Entry into UN

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office is very confident about the forthcoming UN success. It will forward a formal application for the UN membership by August 13. Eighty members of the UN have so far recognised Bangladesh. Four out of five permanent members of the Security Council and six out ten non-permanent members of the Security Council have accorded recognition to Bangladesh. The foreign office has started its diplomatic offensive to secure the UN membership. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad has already sent cables to friendly countries seeking their active support in Bangladesh's entry into the UN. The response has been favourable.

### SHAHIDULLAH KAISER MURDER CASE

Jamat-e-Islami Office Secretary ABM Abdul Khaleq is found guilty of kidnapping journalist and author Shahidullah Kaiser with the intent to murder him and awarded seven years rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Tk 10,000. A Special Tribunal presided over by Additional Session Judge Fazlur Rahman pronounces the judgment today.

### HUGE ARMS RECOVERED IN PABNA

Bangladesh Rifles, Rakshi Bahini and Police recover a huge cache of arms and ammunition and other contraband materials today during a curfew clamped on parts of Pabna town. Seven persons are arrested for alleged violation of curfew.

SOURCES: July 18, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

## Resurgent virus stalks globe

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The memorial, held barely three weeks since Spain ended its state of emergency, comes as the country fights more than 120 active outbreaks.

"Today, we are symbolically saying goodbye to mothers, fathers, children, siblings, friends," Hernando Calleja, who lost his brother in April, said at the ceremony.

Spain's King Felipe VI said that "this act cannot heal the pain felt by so many families at not being at the side of their loved ones in their final hours". "But what it can do is pay tribute to their lives, to their contribution to our society, to their memories."

Elsewhere in Europe, Germany was preparing plans for tougher, more localised lockdowns to contain fresh outbreaks.

France meanwhile said it will make mask-wearing compulsory in indoor public spaces from next week after an uptick in infections.

The United States has recorded by far the most deaths and infections in the pandemic, setting a record on

Wednesday with more than 67,000 new cases in 24 hours.

And the country's outbreak is showing no sign of slowing down, the virus surging in the south and west, with the latest research indicating the number of US deaths will pass 150,000 by next month.

US President Donald Trump fired his campaign manager for November's election late Wednesday after his popularity plummeted over his response to the crisis.

Trump has repeatedly attempted to discredit the country's top infectious diseases expert, Anthony Fauci, who has called for an end to the bickering.

"We've got to almost reset this and say, 'Okay, let's stop this nonsense,'" Fauci told The Atlantic magazine.

Walmart, the world's largest retailer, said customers would need to wear masks at all its 5,300 stores from Monday, joining a growing group of American businesses to mandate face coverings.

Deaths in Latin America has topped 150,000, making it the world's

## Railways way off track

FROM PAGE 12

was reflected in the report of the ADP.

The railways ministry was the fifth highest ADP recipient among all ministries and divisions in the last fiscal year, but it was at the bottom in terms of attaining the ADP target.

Only five divisions and agencies, whose allocation were far lower than that of the railways, performed worse than the railways ministry.

This is nothing new. The railways ministry was also among the low performers in terms of ADP implementation in the last fiscal year.

ADP implementation average was 94.66 percent in 2018-19 fiscal year, but the railways ministry could implement only 86.36 percent of their annual target.

As a result, a huge amount of money was returned to the government exchequer.

However, in the 2017-18 fiscal year, railways ministry's ADP implementation rate was 98.77 percent which was 4.75 percent higher than the average.

But the rate was only 30.81 percent till May 2018, meaning the ministry achieved 67.96 percent progress within just one month, show the documents of Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division

(IMED).

In the 2016-17 fiscal year, railways ministry's ADP implementation rate was 65.53 percent, when the average rate was 89.89 percent, show IMED documents.

### ONE PROJECT DRAGGING RAIL BACK

A railway official, who has a proper understanding of railways ministry's allocation and expenditure, said, "There are two reasons behind the poor performance of railways ministry in ADP implementation this year."

The reasons are Covid-19 situation that halted project works for around three months and Padma Bridge Rail Link Project, he said.

"ADP implementation by railways ministry rose to 57.39 till June. It could be around 90 percent had the problem related to Padma Bridge Rail Link Project been solved," he told The Daily Star wishing not to be named.

Total allocation for railways ministry was Tk 10,249 crore in the last fiscal year but it could spend Tk 5882.16 crore, meaning Tk 4366.84 crore was sent back to the national exchequer.

On the other hand, Tk 3,297.40 crore was allocated for Padma Rail Link project but it could use only Tk 751.8 crore, meaning the project authority sent back Tk 2545.6 crore,

second-hardest-hit region after Europe.

In a rare positive sign, China reported its economy bounced back with a better-than-forecast 3.2 percent expansion in the second quarter. But the news was unable to lift the gloom in stock markets.

Most cinemas in China will be allowed to reopen next week, with social distancing rules in place, after domestic infections remained at zero for 10 straight days.

The world's hopes have turned to a vaccine to bring the cycle of deaths, lockdowns and economic carnage to an end.

Two new studies have raised hopes of a potential vaccine in the near future.

Yesterday, British media reported that an Oxford University trial had showed its prototype vaccine generated an immune response against the virus.

The potential development comes after American biotech firm Moderna -- a leader in the race for a vaccine -- said it would start the final stage of human trials on July 27.

which is 58.30 percent of total money returned by the ministry.

The Ecneç in May 2016 approved the Padma Bridge Rail Link Project (PBRLP) to connect the capital with Jashore with a 169km rail line over the under-construction Padma Bridge.

The deadline of the Tk 39,246-crore project is June 2024 and it witnessed only 25 percent progress till June this year.

The project recently came to discussion after the roads and highway department (RHD) alleged that the contractor and sub-contractors of the project are damaging the newly-built Dhaka-Mawa expressway and service roads by operating heavy-loaded trucks to transport materials for the project.

The RHD has already sought Tk 50 crore to the project authority as compensation for the damage.

Contacted, Project Director of PBRLP Golam Fakhruddin Ahmed Chowdhury said they have to return the money as they could not give bills to the contractors due some complications over the contract.

He said they had to sign a supplementary contract with the Chinese Exim Bank, the donor agency, as the main contract had some "mistakes".

## people

In Munshiganj, the Padma is flowing above the danger level. Locals fear that riverside localities would be inundated soon.

Our Pabna, Jamalpur, Bogura, Lalmonirhat and Tangail correspondents contributed to this report.

## Remains

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Axayacatl, who was the father of Montezuma, one of the final rulers of the empire.

Experts say that "it was part of an open space of the old Axayacatl Palace, probably a patio," the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) said.

During excavation, archaeologists also found evidence of the home Cortes had at the site after the fall of the Aztec empire.

Archaeologists noted that the floor was likely made of materials reused from Axayacatl's palace, which, like other sacred Aztec buildings, were razed by the conquistadors.

The discovery was made during reinforcement work on the Nacional Monte de Piedad building, which dates back to 1755.

Cortes first arrived in modern-day Mexico in 1518 on a mission to explore the region's interior for Spanish colonisation.

He and his men laid siege to the Aztec capital Tenochtitlan in 1521 until it surrendered, whereupon they destroyed it, a key event in the fall of the empire.

## Girl gang-raped

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her to act in a music video and asked her to meet him in Boda. Accordingly, they met on July 14, said the police official.

Sazzad first took her to a house in Thanapara of Boda municipality and gang-raped her along with four to five others there. The house is owned by Abida Sultana Lucky, general secretary of Jubo League in the upazila, said the inspector, quoting the case statement.

The victim was then taken to another house in Bhasainagar in the same municipality where she was gang-raped again, he said.

On Wednesday night, she managed to flee the house and come to the police station.

Later, police carried out raids and arrested Milon and Abida, said the inspector.

Yesterday afternoon, the arrestees were produced before the court of Assistant Chief Judicial Magistrate Rajibul Hasan, which sent them to jail.

The court also recorded the victim's statement, said Court Inspector Aminul Islam.

## DGHS aware of JKG

FROM PAGE 1

Oval Group, the company owned by Sabrina's husband Ariful, won several government contracts, including some from the health ministry, because of her lobbying, officers said.

Police are now going through Sabrina's activities on messaging apps in the last three years to learn more about her connection to influential people.

Cardiac surgeon Sabrina is the wife of JKG Health Care CEO Ariful Chaudhury. She was suspended by the health ministry for being the chairman of a private organisation without permission.

As her three-day remand ended yesterday, Sabrina stuck to her claim that it was her husband Ariful who was behind the fake coronavirus test reports, investigators told The Daily Star after questioning Sabrina and Ariful.

"Sabrina claimed that she informed several [DGHS] high officials including [additional director general] Nasima Sultana about the JKG corruptions," said an officer involved with the investigation.

Contacted, Prof Nasima said Sabrina never informed her about JKG's forged test reports. She added that her colleagues came to know from one source that JKG was taking money from people for test reports.

"Then, we informed it to an agency... Dr Sabrina once informed me that she was no longer with JKG after her relationship turned sour with her husband. She said her husband was a drug addict and used to beat her up. That's why she left JKG," Prof Nasima said.

Abdul Baten, additional commissioner (Detective Branch) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, yesterday told reporters that they made Sabrina and Ariful face each other and interrogated them about the fake coronavirus test reports. They blamed each other.

"We are investigating further into who the chairman of JKG is and find out who is really responsible for the fake reports and other irregularities," Baten said.

## A man with murky past

FROM PAGE 1

2016. He ran the business for only three months.

During this period, he used to buy clothes from traders and make payments to them with cheques. But the traders never got any money, said the cop.

"A trader then filed a fraud case against Shahed for not paying him Tk 64 lakh and we arrested Shahed. But within a couple of hours of his arrest, we received dozens of phone calls from top officials and ruling party leaders requesting his release."

The police officer said the case was later transferred to the DMP's Detective Branch and Shahed secured bail.

Investigators said Shahed used to save the phone numbers of his associates with names of different government high officials and top law enforcement officials, including the inspector general of police.

When anyone met Shahed for payment, he used to give signal to his associates to call him. Shahed would then put his phone before that person to make the latter feel that he knew an influential individual very well, sources said.

On Wednesday, a team of Rapid Action Battalion arrested Shahed from near the Labangabati river in Satkhira's Debhata upazila. The Rab said he was attempting to cross the river on a boat to flee to India.

Later in the day, he was flown to Dhaka by a helicopter.

His arrest came a day after the Rab picked up Regent's Managing Director Masud Parvez from Gazipur.

### REMANDED FOR 10 DAYS

Yesterday, a Dhaka court placed Shahed and Masud on 10-day remand each after the DB produced the duo before it, seeking 10-day remand for each in a case filed over issuing fake Covid-19 test certificates and charging patients for tests and treatment in violation of an agreement with the government.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Jasim granted the

Besides, JKG made a hefty amount of money by providing telemedicine service. The investigators are also enquiring about it, he added.

JKG Health Care was formed in 2015 as a non-profit.

Investigators said that they didn't find any documents mentioning that JKG was a sister concern of the Oval Group, adding that JKG had no trade licence when it got the permission from DGHS.

DGHS official Prof Nasima earlier told this newspaper that they didn't check JKG's licence at that time since they gave them the permission only for voluntary services -- to set up booths and collect samples from them.

But it has been found in police investigation that the organisation started collecting samples from homes in exchange of money despite having no trade licence or the permission to do that. The samples collected from home were not tested at all.

One month after the coronavirus hit the country in March, JKG got the approval from DGHS on April 6 and started collecting samples for free through their 44 kiosks in Dhaka, Narayanganj and other places.

The scam was busted on June 24 after Teigaon police arrested several employees of the Oval Group, including its CEO Ariful.

Police said more than 2,000 fake certificates were found in JKG's laptop.

Dr Sabrina also told investigators that Ariful sought permission for setting up a RT-PCR machine from the DGHS. The DGHS officials told him to set it up on his own.

Ariful later started making fake reports at a room in his office.

Golam Mostafa, deputy commissioner of DB's Teigaon Division, said there are two main allegations in the case -- fraudulence and negligence.

Asked if they found any negligence on the DGHS's part, he said they are gathering information and evidence about it.

The DB official said they made a seven-day remand prayer to question Sabrina more.

remand prayers, said court sources.

In the remand prayer, DB Inspector SM Gaffarul Alam, also the investigation officer of the case, said as per the directives of Shahed and Masud, the others accused prepared fake Covid-19 test reports and provided those to people.

Moreover, they charged patients for tests and treatment despite having an agreement with the government on carrying out tests and providing treatment for free.

So, they need to be placed on remand to glean information from them about their offences, the inspector argued.

On July 8, Inspector Zulhas Mia of Rab-1 had filed the case with Uttara Paschim Police Station against Shahed, Masud, and 15 others.

### FAKE REPORTS

Abdul Baten, additional commissioner (DB) of DMP, yesterday said Shahed during primary interrogation admitted to providing fake novel coronavirus test reports to people.

He also admitted that most of the Covid-19 test reports by Regent Hospital were fake, the DB official added.

Some machines were kept at Regent Hospital for Covid-19 testing, but those were there only for display, Baten said, adding that the machines were never used for tests.

Shahed, however, removed the machines from there before the Rab conducted the drive at the hospital, he said.

"We are now trying to recover those machines. If necessary, we will conduct a drive there taking Shahed along with us."

The DB official further said the they would register a complaint if any victim, cheated by Shahed, wanted to come forward. "We will also provide legal assistance to the victims."

### TWO MORE CASES FILED

Two more cases were filed against Shahed, already accused in 56 cases, including for fraud, murder, and repression of women.



Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Inspector General

Bangladesh Police

Police Headquarters, Dhaka.

**Corrigendum Notice-2**

**Memo No-44.01.0000.029.01193.2020/ 222**

**Date: 16 July 2020.**

Invitation for National Tender Notice Published in different national dailies as per Memo No- AIG (Health Services)/Tender-01/2020-2021 Date: 23/06/2020 for purchase of medicine in FY 2020-2021 is hereby amended as follows:

| Particular Information                     | Published                   | Revised                     |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Closing date and time of tender submission | At 12:00 Noon on 21/07/2020 | At 15:30 Hrs. on 26/07/2020 |
| Opening date and time of tender            | At 12:30 pm on 21/07/2020   | At 16:00 Hrs. on 26/07/2020 |

This Amendment Would be an Integral Part of Tender notice.



(Shorif Mostafizur Rahman)  
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GD- 1155

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**

**নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ এর কার্যালয়**

**সড়ক বিভাগ, নওগাঁ**

**☎ ০৭৪১-৬২৫৯৩৩**

তারিখঃ ১৫-০৭-২০২০ই/৩১-০৮-১৪২৭বাং

**জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বন্যা পরিস্থিতি ক্রমশঃ অবনতি হওয়ায় এবং নিম্নবর্ণিত ৩টি সড়কের বিভিন্ন অংশে বন্যার পানিতে নিমজ্জিত হওয়ায় ও কয়েকটি স্থানে পেভমেন্ট ভেঙ্গে যাওয়ায় এ ৩টি সড়কে পরবর্তী নির্দেশ না দেয়া পর্যন্ত সাইকেল, মটরসাইকেল, ভ্যান, ট্রি ছইলার এ সকল বাহিত সকল প্রকার ভারী যানবাহন চলাচল বন্ধ রাখার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো। বন্যা পরিস্থিতির উন্নতি হলে সড়কসমূহ পুনরায় যান চলাচলের জন্য উন্মুক্ত করা হবে।

১। নওগাঁ-আত্রাই-নাটোর সড়ক [রানীনগর-বেতগাঙ্গী-মির্জাপুর-আত্রাই অংশ]

২। মান্দা-বাগমারা-আত্রাই সড়ক [মান্দা-প্রসাদপুর-জোতবাজার-কতেপুর-বাগমারা অংশ এবং আত্রাই-আহসানগঞ্জ অংশ]

৩। আত্রাই-সিঙা সড়ক [আত্রাই-মালীপুরদুর-সিঙা অংশ]

বন্যা দুর্যোগকালীন সময়ে বড় ধরনের দৃষ্টিনা এড়ানো তথা আনমানের নিরাপত্তার স্বার্থে এবং সড়কের ক্ষয়ক্ষতি নিম্নতর পর্যায়ে রাখার লক্ষ্যে ভারী যান চলাচল বন্ধ রাখা অতীব জরুরি। আপদকালীন সময়ে জনগণের সাময়িক এই অসুবিধার জন্য সওজ আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখ প্রকাশ করছে।

**মোহাম্মদ হামিদুল হক**

পরিচিতি নং-৬০১৯৭০

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ

সড়ক বিভাগ, নওগাঁ

জিডি-১১৫২