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ZILQAD 28, 1441 HIJRI



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BANGLADESH
UPDATE

2,459

New cases in 24hrs



2,04,525

Total cases



2,618

Deaths



1,11,642

Recoveries

GLOBAL
UPDATE

606,494

Deaths



14,497,863

Total cases

Cobweb of deception

Complaints pour in against Shahed on how he conned people of money

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN



The meeting was arranged at a government rest house in Sunamganj in January.

Three luxury cars were parked outside with a number of security guards on watch. The local upazila nirbahi officer was taking care of food and other amenities.

The host introduced himself as Shahed, chairman of Regent Group and a retired major who was now the secretary of the political research committee at the Prime Minister's Office.

At the meeting, called to discuss business with a trader from Chhatak, Shahed placed an order for supply of stone in Cox's Bazar and sand in Purbachal area of Dhaka.

He said he needed the sand and stone -- two ships full each -- for his real estate business.

"Noticing all the arrangements, I was impressed and agreed to make the delivery on January 24," Ekhlas Khan, the trader, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Shahed said he would pay whatever the bill would be. After the delivery, he wrote Ekhlas a cheque of Tk 30 lakh and wanted to pay the rest through a letter of credit (LC).

Ekhlas then requested Shahed to give an LC for Tk 94 lakh to a car showroom as he needed to import an excavator from China.

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CHINA'S COVID-19 VACCINE

Third phase trial in Bangladesh

BMRC okays trial on 4,200 people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Medical Research Council has approved the phase-III clinical trial of a Chinese vaccine for Covid-19 treatment.

The executive committee of BMRC approved it in a meeting on Saturday after a month-long review by its ethics committee, its Director Mahmood-uz-jahan told this newspaper yesterday.

"We have not issued any official letter in this regard. We have just approved it in our Saturday's executive meeting," he said.

The trial would be conducted on around 4,200 healthcare staffers working in seven Covid-19 hospitals from August for the next 18 months, sources said.

International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b), and the inventor Chinese company -- Sinovac Research and Development Limited -- will jointly conduct the trial.

According to the US Centre for Disease Control (US-CDC), the general stages of the development cycle of a vaccine are: exploratory stage, pre-clinical stage,

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23 lakh marooned and it can get worse

18 districts affected; over 60,000 take refuge in flood shelters

TURIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Floodwater was still flowing above the danger mark at 22 points in different districts across the country as of Saturday, affecting more people and intensifying miseries of the victims.

The flood has marooned about 23.60 lakh people of some 5.51 lakh families in 18 districts as of Saturday, according to a special report on flood situation of Disaster Management and Relief Ministry.

At least eight people were killed by the flood which has already taken its toll on the people of 523 unions in 90 upazilas across the country, report says.

The government has opened 1,126 shelter centres in the districts where 47,686 people and 12,822 children have taken shelter.

The affected districts are: Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Sirajganj, Bogura, Jamalpur, Tangail, Rajbari, Manikganj, Madaripur, Faridpur, Netrokona, Feni and Nowgaon, said the report.

Meanwhile, many embankments and roads have been damaged in several districts due to the flood, causing immense sufferings to people, reports our district correspondents.

At least 141km roads under the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in 11 districts have been damaged in northern and north-western

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FAHIM SALEH KILLING

Suspect seen buying balloons after murder

Reveals video footage

AGENCIES

A shocking series of surveillance videos show that Tyrese Devon Haspil, the prime accused in the gruesome murder of tech entrepreneur Fahim Saleh, was ready to party after the killing.

According to a New York Post report published Saturday, Haspil and an unknown woman walking through Manhattan's NoHo area, less than a mile from the crime scene — and even picking up a bouquet of birthday balloons, allegedly on his dead boss' dime.

"This guy is the new American Psycho, only dumber," one law enforcement source said. Haspil's turn as blithe, big city tourist followed his alleged two-day stint as cold-blooded killer, authorities said.



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N95 MASKS AT BSMMU

Telltale signs they are fake

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Although poor syntax and spelling in the labelling are hardly indicative of a face mask's ability to protect people, they certainly point to a questionable provenance.

And that seems to be just the case with N95 masks issued to medical personnel at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital on Saturday.

The warning on the masks reads, "This respirator Protects against certain particles. Misuse may result in sickness or death. For proper use see supervisor or box or can 3M..."

It is highly unlikely that 3M, one of the world's biggest suppliers of respiratory protection, would release products with such a ridiculous text. There are two instances of mid-sentence capitalisation, the words against, certain, particles and call are misspelled and there are three instances of a deleted space between words -- and all of that in just 23 words.

Doctors who were handed the masks said it was easy to tell that these were counterfeit products.

"The build quality is poor. Texture of the material and the structure is different and shabby," said a doctor who had compared an N95 made by 3M with the one given by

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Passengers pushing a three-wheeler bogged down in the thick mud on a road in Athkola area of Brahmanbaria's Bijoynagar upazila yesterday. The Akhaura-Chandura road has been in appalling state for a long time and the rainy season just made things worse.

PHOTO: MASHUK HRIDOV

Train up the youth for post-Covid world

Say speakers at a webinar on job opportunities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh needs to focus on its young population and train them up with a new set of skills for the post-Covid domestic and international labour markets, speakers said at an online discussion yesterday.

The country's vocational education system should be modernised to provide quality skills training. Besides, employers have to be given support to create new job

opportunities, they noted.

ActionAid Bangladesh and The Daily Star jointly organised the online discussion titled "Post-Covid-19 Youth Employment Projection in Bangladesh".

Anir Chowdhury, policy adviser at the government's Access to Information (a2i) programme, said the country needs to develop its vocational education system as a "first-class brand" to attract youths and

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আরও ৩৯ ধাপ এগিয়ে আবারো
পৃথিবীর সেরা ১০০০

ব্যাংকের তালিকায় বাংলাদেশের একমাত্র ব্যাংক

ইসলামী ব্যাংক
বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড

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