

Bangabandhu’s arrival

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politics during my student years but I did never behave like this,” the prime minister adds.
SUHARTO FAILS TO PERSUADE SAMAD
Indonesia’s President General Suharto fails in a 75-minute talk held today in Jakarta to persuade Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad that a meeting should be arranged between Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. President Suharto explains to the Bangladesh foreign minister that Indonesia is concerned only with the interests of Bangladesh and Pakistan. Abdus Samad Azad reiterates Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman’s stance that there can be no meeting between himself and Bhutto until Pakistan recognises Bangladesh. Indonesia Foreign Minister Adam Malik says after the meeting that Indonesia’s offer to bring Pakistan and Bangladesh to a discussion anywhere at any time is still valid.

USSR TO SUPPLY ELECTRONICS PLANT MACHINERY
Bangladesh and the Soviet Union today sign a Tk 9.30 crore agreement under which the Soviet Union will supply machineries and construction materials for setting up an electronics plant in Chattogram. This is a part of the Soviet-Bangladesh Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement signed in Moscow by the prime ministers of the two countries in March, 1972.
INDIA, BANGLADESH TALK ANTI-SMUGGLING MEASURES
Senior officials of the Indo-Bangladesh border districts of Nadia and Kushtia today reaches an agreement on measures directed to promote border trade and check smuggling on either side. The agreement is reached following a four-day conference of officials from both the countries held in Krishnanagar, Nadia.

SOURCES: July 21, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

We’re ready to monitor

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Attending the webinar, DCCI President Shams Mahmud said they were going through a tough time because of the Covid-19 pandemic.
“We’re in such a crisis..., it may spread Covid-19 and if we do not allow cattle markets, it may cause a huge loss to the animal farmers,” said the DCCI president.
To maintain a balance in this situation, “Digital cattle market would be a better option,” he said, adding that the organisers should be more cautious about health safety issues.
Zia Rahman, Prof and founding chairman of criminology department of Dhaka University, presented the keynote paper.
“We cannot avoid health risks in the upcoming cattle market, but we

might be able to minimise the risks as best as we can through abiding by health safety measures,” he said.
Shaheen Ahamed, chairman of Bangladesh Tanners Association, said although it was hard to maintain health safety in the cattle markets, they have no other alternative to awareness.
He also suggested imposing a penalty if anyone does not wear a mask.
Helal Uddin, former vice-president of FBCCI and president of Bangladesh Dokan Malik Samity, recommended that all take several masks with them while buying animals from the cattle market.
Attending the webinar, Shomi Kaiser, president of e-CAB and director of FBCCI, said lockdown helped e-commerce thrive.

Most people uninterested

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Prof Ridwanur Rahman, an infectious disease specialist who conducted the survey told The Daily Star.
Some 16 percent of the respondents said social stigma and late or unreliable test reports were to blame for the decline in test number while five percent pointed finger at the unsafe sample collection.
Other reasons mentioned by the respondents include cost for the test, decreasing trend of daily cases, and confusion over whether to be tested or not.
The number of daily Covid-19 tests yesterday was the lowest in July.
On July 1, a total of 17,875 samples were tested and it rose to the highest 18,362 on the following day.
Since then, the number of daily tests has been declining.
“Human resource shortage and people’s unwillingness to be tested are among the main reasons behind the low number of tests,” Prof Nasima Sultana, additional director general of the DGHS, told this newspaper recently.
Experts, however, said, the authorities need to motivate people to get tested.
“When the DGHS and the health ministry are busy in a blame game, it is no wonder that the situation has

taken such a turn,” Prof Nazrul Islam, member of the National Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19, told The Daily Star recently.
During yesterday’s briefing, Prof Nasima Sultana informed that 37 more people died of Covid-19 while 2,459 new cases were reported.
With this, the death toll rose to 2,618 while the total number of confirmed cases reached 204,525 -- around 19.89 percent of all tests done so far since January 21.
Yesterday, the positivity rate was 23.14 percent, according to the DGHS.
A total of 1,546 Covid-19 patients have recovered in the last 24 hours till 8:30am yesterday, taking the tally to 1,11,642 -- around 54.59 percent of all confirmed cases.
The death rate was at 1.28 percent as of yesterday.
Among those who died yesterday, 29 were males and eight were female.
Of them, 15 were from Dhaka, eight from Chattogram, two from Sylhet, three from Rajshahi, seven from Khulna and one each from Mymensingh and Rangpur division.
One of them was aged between 21 and 30 years, one between 31 and 40, three between 41 and 50, six between 51 and 60, 20 between 61 and 70, four between 71 and 80, one between 81 and 90 and another was over 90 years old.

Tiny cameras on beetles

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Computer Science & Engineering and senior author of the study published based on these results.
“Vision is so important for communication and for navigation, but it’s extremely challenging to do it at such a small scale. As a result, prior to our work, wireless vision has not been possible for small robots or insects.”
The camera weighs about 250 milligrams, which is about one-tenth the weight of a playing card, and was placed on the back of two beetles: a death-feigning beetle and a Pinacate beetle.

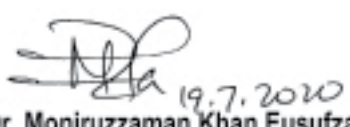
It transmits images at one to five frames per second and sits on a mechanical arm that can rotate 60 degrees.
Using this mechanism, researchers can get a high-resolution, panoramic shot of the beetle’s environment.
The challenging in developing the cameras was not image quality or weight, but battery life.
Smartphone cameras, while small, require batteries too big to be carried around by insects. As such, the researchers had to use a tiny, low-power black and white camera which moves when a high voltage is applied to it.

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Memo No. RRI/Pra. Unnoyon/1359/2018/42 Date: 19/07/2020

e-Tender Notice (Re-Tender)
This is to notify all concerned that the following tenders are invited in the National e-GP Portal:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Last selling date	Opening date
1	479278	09/08/2020	10/08/2020

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


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GD-1159

College
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Many parents, however, expressed concerns over the start of online admission process before improvement in coronavirus situation.
They said many students and guardians would have to visit local computer shops to complete the admission process online as they don’t have access to the internet at home. This will increase their chance of being infected with the virus.
According to the results of SSC and equivalent exams, a total of 16,90,529 students came out successful. Majority of them will try to get admitted into colleges.
“As the process will be online, we do not think coronavirus would be an issue. Still, we are requesting all to follow the health guidelines properly,” Ziaul further said.

People being turned away in Pabna

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her son, a retired college teacher, who did not want to be named.
Without the test, they are not sure if she is virus-free. At the same time, the local administration has not removed their home from lockdown causing trouble in resuming their daily activities, he added.
Pabna civil surgeon Mehedi Iqbal told The Daily Star that Covid-19 patients do not need a further test.
“From July 1, we aren’t going for a second test of Covid-19 patients. After detecting the disease, the affected patient will be in isolation for 14 days; later, he or she will be kept seven more days in home quarantine. If there is no problem, there is no need for a second test,” Mehedi said.
They are also discouraging patients with no or minimal symptoms from getting tested, he added.
“Many people often come to test for trivial reasons and no symptoms. Now, we are only taking samples of those who have severe symptoms of the disease.”
These measures are being taken to avoid pressure on the testing lab at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, where all samples collected from Pabna district are sent, he said.
Due to the test fee now imposed

at public facilities by the government since late June and late results, fewer people are also coming to get tested -- resulting in a lower number of new cases identified, Mehedi added.
A total of 627 Covid-19 patients have been identified in the district -- 548 of whom were detected in June alone -- as of July 16, said Dr Abdur Rahim, Covid-19 control room in-charge of the Pabna civil surgeon’s office.
A total of 7,040 samples have been collected in the district till July 16. Of these, 6,530 samples were collected up till June -- meaning just 510 samples have been tested in the first half of this month.
LATE REPORTS; NO OPTION BUT TO TEST ELSEWHERE
An elderly villager from Ekdanta union in Atghoria upazila, suffering from fever and respiratory problems, gave his samples at Pabna Medical College Hospital on June 28. He is yet to receive his report.
“My father is well now but he is still staying inside as he does not know his test results while local people and our relatives are worried about him still being infectious,” his son said to this correspondent.
A local photographer in Pabna town, who was suffering from a

urological disease and needed immediate surgery, was told he needed to provide a negative Covid-19 report. Failing to get tested in Pabna, he had to go to neighbouring Kushtia and undergo testing there.
“Hiding my identity and using a fake address, I got tested in a Kushtia lab with the help of my senior colleagues. Now, I am going to Dhaka with my negative Covid-19 report for surgery,” he said.
PCR LABS IN DISTRICT ON CARDS
Three PCR machines are likely to be set up in Pabna, according to the health department, though no concrete steps have yet been taken in this regard.
“The science and technology ministry has already allotted two PCR machines under the management of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant [in Pabna’s Ishwardi upazila] while the health ministry has decided to set another lab in Pabna,” said Dr Mehedi, also the secretary of the district Covid-19 management committee.
Two labs will be set up at the Pabna Medical College Hospital premises and another at the Pabna University of Science and Technology premises. However, a date has not yet been fixed for when these will be operational, he added.

Situation in HK ‘really critical’

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reported on Saturday were from the United States, Brazil, India and South Africa.
The United States ended a week in which it registered its highest figures for new cases for three days running, taking its total towards 3.7 million infections and 140,00 deaths.
With clusters cropping up from Spain to Australia, officials were again facing the dilemma of imposing lockdowns to protect public health or loosening restrictions to save struggling businesses.
Illustrating the shrinking room for manoeuvre, angry demonstrators took to the streets in Israel to protest against their government’s handling of the crisis.
And scientists too were feeling the pressure, Britain ramping up its tit-for-tat row with Russia yesterday over claims Kremlin agents hacked into British labs where virus vaccines are being developed.
‘GOOD WILL’
Economic recovery is at the forefront of policymakers’ minds in Europe, with the continent facing a crippling recession and still unable to agree on the terms of its massive package to help the most-affected countries.
“I still can’t say whether a solution will be found,” said German

Chancellor Angela Merkel as she headed into the third day of an extraordinary summit yesterday.
“There is a lot of good will... but it may also be that no result will be achieved today.”
The summit with all 27 EU leaders was supposed to frame the terms of the rescue deal but a handful of countries led by the Netherlands are reluctant to hand over such vast sums to nations they regard as profligate -- particularly Spain and Italy.
There was disunity, too, on the fringes of the EU, with Britain and Russia renewing their feud over Moscow’s alleged spying on British scientists, reports AFP.
“We’re absolutely confident that the Russian intelligence agencies were engaged in a cyberattack on research and development efforts in organisations in this country,” said British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, echoing accusations made by several countries earlier this week.
Russia’s London ambassador dismissed the claim, saying “there is no sense in it”, adding: “In this world, to attribute any kind of computer hackers to any country, it is impossible.”
MASK MEASURES
With tens of thousands of new

infections each day and hundreds of deaths, the US is struggling to frame a consistent response to the crisis -- attempting to open up the economy even while the tolls mount.
Other nations are grappling with the same dilemma, Spain opting for local lockdowns and non-enforced stay-at-home advice in its Catalonia region.
Officials in the Australian state of Victoria have taken a tougher approach.
Facemasks will be mandatory for roughly five million people in and around Melbourne from Thursday, with the threat of \$140 fines for transgressors.
“Most of us wouldn’t leave home without our keys, we wouldn’t leave our home without our mobile phone. You won’t be able to leave home without your masks,” said Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews.
‘HAIL OF BOTTLES’
However, such restrictions have not gone down well with some in Israel -- a second wave of infections emerging after the government allowed businesses to reopen en masse in late April and early May.
Police fired water cannon to disperse thousands of protesters overnight.

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Memo No. SE/PM&E/EOI/2020-2021/09 Date: 19 July 2020

Expressions of Interest (EOI)
Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for Consultancy Services for Bridge/Culvert Condition Survey and Data Entry Operation for Bridge Management System (BMS) Database

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB) will provide fund in the financial year 2020-2021 from Operating Budget towards the cost of consultancy services for Bridge/Culvert Condition Survey and Data Entry Operation for Bridge Management System (BMS) Database for all existing RHD Bridge/Culverts under Cumilla Zone and Rangpur Zone.
- The scope of the consultancy services primarily includes Conducting Bridge/Culvert Condition Survey, Data Acquisition, Data Verification and Data Entry Operation for BMS Database. The consulting services will comprise:
Task-1: Prepare a detailed Framework Plan for Bridge/Culvert Inspection and Condition Survey work as per requirement of the procuring entity;
Task-2: Conduct bridge/culvert investigation and condition survey including collection of basic data of structures, bridge condition inventory with video and still photographic support;
Task-3: Complete verification of collected data and prepare a complete Bridge Inventory in both hard and soft copy;
Task-4: Input of verified data into BMS Server as per requirement of the procuring entity.
- The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) under the Road Transport and Highways Division (RTHD), Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges (MoRTB), now invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) in English from bonafide National consulting firm(s) either as individual firm or in Joint Venture/Association for short listing of Firm(s) for the consultancy services.
- The Applicants will be evaluated under Quality and Cost Based Selection Method (QCBS) in accordance with the procedures set out in the Public Procurement Rules-2008 with all its subsequent Amendments.
- The Interested Applicants must have:
a. Experience of at least 01 (one) similar nature of survey work;
b. Experience of Data Entry Operation.
The EOI should include (along with certified English Transcript if not in English):
a. Registration of the firm;
b. Legal entitlements of the firm (trade licence, TIN, VAT registration, etc);
c. Company profile: Management, personnel and performance (company brochure);
d. The latest annual report;
e. Summary of permanent professional staff with key qualifications (qualification and experience);
f. Audited financial statement and cash flow statement for the last 3 (three) years;
g. Average annual turnover in the last 3 (three) years;
h. General and overall experience of the firm(s) (limited to 3 pages); and
i. Experience in similar nature of service over the last 10 years (limited to 3 pages).
- Interested firms may seek further information by applying to the undersigned during the normal office hours.
- The EOI, with all supporting documents, must be submitted in sealed envelopes marked with "Consultancy Services for Bridge/Culvert Condition Survey and Data Entry Operation for Bridge Management System (BMS)" to the signatory address on or before **August 10, 2020 at 2.00pm**. Any late submission will be rejected.
- The procuring entity will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the firm(s) in connection with the preparation or submission of the EOI.
- The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all Expressions of Interest (EOI) without assigning any reason.

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