



WORLD MUST HEAL TOGETHER
Says WHO chief, warns against 'vaccine nationalism'
SEE PAGE 5

The Daily Star

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

ZILHAJ 17, 1441 HURI

12 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00



EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS, DEATHS IN CUSTODY

No case, probe in most cases

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and WASIM BIN HABBIB

More than two years have gone by but Ayesha Begum, wife of slain Teknaf municipality councillor Akramul Haque, still does not know whether there has been any investigation into her husband's killing.

She said after the killing triggered a huge public outcry, two ministers from the ruling party promised her of arranging a meeting with the prime minister and requested her not to talk to journalists anymore.

But the meeting never happened, nor did the ministers communicate with her ever again.

"None from the authorities came to help us get justice in these two years... I want to know why he [Akramul] became a victim of crossfire. If he was killed at the instructions of some high-ups, then I want to know who gave that order," a frustrated Ayesha told The Daily Star.

Akramul, also a member of the ruling Awami League, was killed in a "gunfight" with

EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS & CUSTODIAL DEATHS

2020 (Jan-July 28)	196
2019	388
2018	466
2017	162
2016	195

SOURCE: AIN O SALISH KENDRA

Rab during a nationwide anti-narcotics drive. The incident happened on May 26 in 2018 in Noakhali para on Teknaf Marine Drive Road.

At a press conference after the incident, Ayesha alleged that her husband was murdered in cold blood. She gave journalists four unverified audio clips of conversations in support of her claim.

In one of the clips, a female voice is heard continuously screaming over a mobile phone, hearing gunshots during a phone call. Ayesha claimed that the female voice was hers and the gunshots were fired at her husband.

The Daily Star spoke to her on Thursday after Maj (ret) Sinha Md Rashed Khan was killed in police firing at a checkpoint in Teknaf on the night of July 31.

Sinha had served in the Special Security Force (SSF) and took voluntary retirement from the army two years ago. His killing caused a public uproar. The authorities acted promptly and seven accused policemen

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



With no dry place around, a family with its belongings has taken shelter on a road in Char Kashimpur area of Narayanganj's Bandar upazila. The area has been under water for about 10 days due to flooding, which has displaced thousands of people and caused damage to properties and crops. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BANGLADESH UPDATE

2,851 New cases in 24hrs

2,52,502 Total cases

3,333 Deaths

1,45,584 Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE

715,802 Deaths

19,141,627 Total cases

GK Shamim has Tk 337cr in 180 bank accounts!

Says charge sheet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Construction mogul GK Shamim has Tk 337.30 crore in 180 fixed deposit accounts with different banks, two houses in the capital and 52 kathas of land worth Tk 41 crore, according to charges pressed before a Dhaka court on Wednesday.

Shamim, a top contractor of government projects, amassed the wealth through tender manipulation at government departments and extortion at bus terminals and cattle markets, mentioned the chargesheet filed against him and his seven bodyguards.

Abu Sayeed, additional special superintendent of organised economic crime unit at Criminal Investigation Department (CID), who is investigating a money-laundering case against Shamim, gave the information to The Daily Star last night, citing the chargesheet.

Shamim was trying to siphon off the illegal money abroad, Sayeed added.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BANGLADESHIS IN STRIFE-TORN LEBANON

Beirut explosion throws them into a deeper crisis

PORIMOL PALMA

Mahin Mia was serving guests in a Lebanese restaurant, which is a seven minutes' walk from the warehouse that exploded on Tuesday evening, rocking entire Beirut.

"There was a bang. The window panes broke and fell on us. I suffered deep cuts on my head and right hand," said the 23-year-old Bangladeshi migrant, who has been working there since 2016.

Restaurant employees rushed him and some other injured to a nearby hospital. She required 15 stitches to head wounds and his right hand was bandaged.

The next day, he was asked to return to his home where he lives with some 10 other Bangladeshi migrants.

"I myself had to buy medicines. The doctor has asked me to see him after two weeks," said Mahin, adding that it was a very tough situation for him as he had no idea about when his restaurant would reopen, if at all.

The twin explosion, which is being linked to a huge stockpile of ammonium nitrate in the warehouses at Beirut Port, damaged thousands of businesses, homes and other structures and left at least 145 people dead, more than 5,000 wounded and some 300,000 homeless.

At least four Bangladeshis were killed and 102 others, including 21 Bangladesh Navy members, injured.

Mahin said he could hardly send money home in the last few months because the Lebanese Lira was heavily devalued against the US dollar over the last one year.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Air India plane crash-lands in Kerala

At least 2 killed, 20 critically injured

AFP, New Delhi

At least two people died and more than 20 others were seriously injured yesterday when an Indian passenger jet skidded off the runway in heavy rain, media reports and officials said.

Television pictures showed part of the fuselage of the Air India Express jet ripped apart, although there was no sign of any fire, at Kozhikode airport in the southern state of Kerala.

The airline said more than 190 passengers and crew were on board the plane, which left from Dubai.

One television channel reported there had been a problem with the jet's landing gear.

"I am arranging hospitals for the injured passengers in the city and can confirm two deaths," local police official Sujith Das told AFP.

"There are injuries too but we don't yet have a number."

A Kerala state deputy said the pilot had died in the crash, while reports

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Virus fears echoed in booters' reports

15 nat'l players and a coach test positive after testing negative; BSMMU asst prof says 20-30% may be false negatives

ANISUR RAHMAN

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, a persistent fear has been that of false negatives -- cases of those infected with the transmissible virus testing negative and being allowed to carry on with their regular lives, risking further infection. That fear was fuelled by the very public development of 15 out of 24 national footballers and a coach testing positive for coronavirus in their second test within three to four days of testing negative in the first.

Two other footballers had failed to take the coronavirus test before reporting to the team management on August 6 for the national camp, and they too tested positive for the virus.

Around 9:00pm yesterday, the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) announced the latest batch of eight footballers -- Md Faisal Ahmed Fahim, Md Manik Hossain Molla, Monjurur Rahman Manik, Md Abdullah, Yeasin Arafat, Biplob Ahmed, Mahabur Rahman -- and coach Md Masud Parvez Kaiser testing positive. All had tested negative before reporting for the camp on August 5.

The infected footballers had tested negative in various private and government hospitals around the country two to three days before reporting for the camp, as part of the BFF's guidelines. They were then made to undergo a second test under the BFF's supervision at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) on Wednesday and Thursday.

The test reversals have also upended the planned preparations for the national team for the Joint Qualifiers of Qatar World Cup and China Asian Cup. Till Thursday, only 15 footballers out of 24 checked in at Sarah Resorts in Gazipur for residential training but all of them are now under

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Hiker's dream of climbing Everest ends in road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The life of a mountaineer was cut short at the age of 34 as a microbus hit her bicycle on Lake Road, adjacent to Chandrima Udyan, in the capital yesterday morning.

Reshma Nahar Ratna was also a teacher at Ayub Ali Government Primary School in New Market area. She was from Narail and used to live in Mirpur.

The microbus fled after the incident.

On being informed, police rushed to the spot and took Reshma to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared her dead, Mohammad Abul Kalam Azad, inspector (investigation) of Sher-

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Electricity connections to many houses in Norsinhgpur area of Narayanganj's Fatulla have been set up using bamboo poles. Such connections put the power users and locals at risk of accidents. Locals say they are forced to use bamboo poles as the concrete ones, installed by the authorities, are far apart from each other. Inset, a tangled mess of wires on a pole in the area. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Thousands out of work in flood-hit areas

Over 50 lakh people affected in 33 dists

STAR REPORT

Thousands of people in flood-hit areas in the country's northern and north-eastern regions are struggling with their livelihood as they have been left unemployed for weeks.

Some 54.60 lakh people of 10.18 lakh families have been affected in 163 upazilas of 33 districts since June last week, said a report of the Department of Disaster Management yesterday.

The flood situation would take another week to improve, it said.

Apart from distributing rice, the government has allocated Tk 4.18 crore for the flood victims. Of the amount, Tk 2.75 crore has already been disbursed, the report mentioned.

Meanwhile, some fresh areas around the capital have been inundated as water levels of the Buriganga and Dhaleswari have increased.

The areas include Kashipur, Narsinghpur, Boktaboli, Gopalnagar, and Enayt Nagar in Narayanganj Sadar upazila. Some areas there have gone under knee-to-waist-deep water. Many people have taken shelter at flood centres or on other high grounds.

People of the areas are facing crisis of food and drinking water as tube-wells have been submerged.

"Everything inside our house has been inundated," said Lucky Begum, of Uttar Narsinghpur area, adding that their semi-concrete building collapsed.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2