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# 3,256 clinics didn't seek registration

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

At least 3,500 private medical facilities did not bother to apply for renewing their licence by the deadline that passed on Sunday.

A total of 12,221 hospitals, clinics, and diagnostic centres did apply and 4,521 of them received the licence.

At present, 3,256 are pending for renewal after completing the formalities, 2,674 are waiting for inspection by officials, and 1,736 other facilities have already been inspected, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

"We are now scrutinising the applications," Farid Hossain Miah, director (hospitals and clinics) at the DGHS, told The Daily Star yesterday.

About the facilities that had not applied for licence, he said, some might have already been closed.

"We will get a clearer picture when we get information from the civil surgeon offices. The civil surgeon offices will inform us which hospitals have renewed and which ones have not..."

Bangladesh Private Clinic Diagnostic Owners Association has said they hoped the government would extend the deadline.

But a government committee said the establishments that didn't apply for licence were illegal and the facilities would be sealed off.

On July 23, the ministry issued a circular giving private hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres one month to renew their licence.

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An uncle cutting the hair of his nephew at their balcony in the capital's Tejgunipara area. Many are refraining from going to hair salons fearing they can get infected by the highly contagious coronavirus. Barbers are having hard times due to lack of customers. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## TORTURE IN CHAKARIA HC to step in if probe is inadequate

Mother, daughters get bail; son do not

STAR REPORT

A court in Cox's Bazar yesterday granted bail to a woman and her two daughters, who were tortured in broad daylight on Friday over "cattle theft" in the district's Harbang union.

Judge Rajib Kumar Dev of Cox's Bazar Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court passed the order in the morning, said defence lawyer Md Ilias Arif.

Meanwhile, the High Court yesterday said it would interfere if any irregularity takes place in the investigation into torture of five people, including the three woman, in Cox's Bazar. It also said it was monitoring the developments.

The bail order came after the three women -- Parvin, her daughters Selina Akhter Sheuli and Rozina Akhter and two other

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## CONGRESS LEADERSHIP ROW Sonia to continue as interim chief

Party decides at the end of a stormy meeting

THE HINDU ONLINE

Sonia Gandhi will continue as the interim Congress president till a new chief is elected in an AICC session, which will be convened as and when the situation permits, the party decided at the end of a stormy Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting yesterday.

It has also been decided at the meeting that a committee will be formed to assist Gandhi in day-to-day functioning as the Congress chief.

In her concluding remarks, Sonia Gandhi said "Congress is one big family and I don't hold anything against anyone. But all, especially senior leaders should raise concerns at the party forum only."

Earlier at the meeting, senior leader Ahmed Patel urged former party chief Rahul Gandhi to take over as Congress president. He was unanimously backed by other members of the CWC.

The CWC met virtually yesterday to discuss the leadership issue after its interim chief Sonia Gandhi offered to step down and asked the party to find a permanent head.

A letter from a group of senior leaders

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## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

### China vetoes

August 25, 1972 SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

CHINA VETOES BANGLADESH'S UN APPLICATION

China today vetoes Bangladesh's application for UN membership. An Indian-Soviet resolution recommending the admission of Bangladesh to the United Nations is rejected by China's first Security Council veto. The Security Council will meet tomorrow to resume consideration of the application of Bangladesh for UN membership.

BANGABANDHU STILL FEELS WEAK

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who is now convalescing in Geneva following a gallbladder operation in London Clinic on July 31, is still experiencing some weakness. According to a health bulletin issued by the prime minister's personal physician, "It is desirable to prolong his stay in Geneva."

"Bangabandhu is, however, extremely anxious to return to Bangladesh. He has agreed to go somewhere in Bangladesh for convalescence for a week or two," the bulletin added.

BHUTTO STRESSES NEED FOR MEETING WITH BANGABANDHU

Pakistan President ZA Bhutto today says that all outstanding problems between Pakistan and Bangladesh could be solved if Bangabandhu realises the necessity of a meeting with him. The Pakistan president, in a TV interview, regrets the negative attitude

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## Receding tides leave trails of destruction

STAR REPORT

The tidal water that has flooded many areas in the country's coastal districts keeps receding, but it leaves a trail of destruction.

Roads in some areas have been damaged badly, while fish in many ponds have been washed away.

Some people are still waterlogged and enduring hard times.

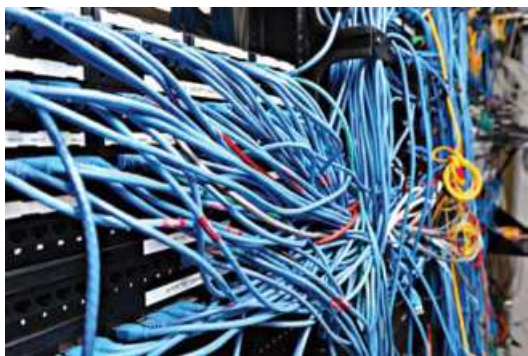
The country's southern region witnessed a huge tidal surge in the last week. Rivers were flowing 114cm above the danger level.

However, yesterday's bulletin of Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said, "All the major rivers of the country are in a falling trend, except the Ganges. The trend may continue in the next 48 hours."

At least three rivers were flowing above the danger mark, said the bulletin

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## Engineers achieve fastest internet speed



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Engineers have created the fastest-ever internet connection, much quicker than any ever successfully tried before.

The team behind the breakthrough, from University College London, were able to transmit data at 178 terabits per second. The speed is double the capacity of any system currently used in the world, and a fifth faster than the previous record.

The connection is so fast that it would be able to download the entire Netflix library in just one second.

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## No new law scrapping Bangabandhu period ones

UNB, Dhaka

The cabinet has decided not to formulate new laws scrapping the old ones either enacted or promulgated from January 1, 1972 to August 5, 1975 during the rule of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

It decided that those laws and ordinances would only be amended.

The decision came at the weekly cabinet meeting held at the Bangladesh Secretariat, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The PM joined the meeting virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

Briefing reporters after

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**PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 25**

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:30	12:45	4:45	6:33	8:00
JAMAT 5:05	1:15	5:00	6:36	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Firefighters trying to rescue a truck that fell into the water after a bridge collapsed in Gaibandha's Fulchhari upazila yesterday. Local government engineers said the bridge was in good condition but was damaged by overloaded trucks. Bailey bridges are usually rated at certain load capacity and trucks often use them with loads exceeding that.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## CORONAVIRUS VACCINE 172 countries engaged

Says WHO, expresses caution on using Covid plasma as US issues emergency authorisation

AGENCIES

Some 172 countries are engaging with the COVAX facility designed to ensure equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines, the World Health Organization said yesterday, but more funding is needed and countries need now to make binding commitments.

Countries wishing to be part of the global COVAX plan have until August 31 to submit expressions of interest, WHO officials said, with confirmation of intention to join due by September 18, and initial payments due by October 9.

WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the facility was critical to ending the Covid-19 pandemic, and would not only pool risk for countries developing and buying vaccines, but also ensure prices are kept "as low as possible".

"Vaccine nationalism only helps the virus," he told a media briefing. "The success of the COVAX facility hinges not only on countries signing up to it, but also filling key funding gaps."

COVAX is co-led by the GAVI vaccines alliance, the WHO and the CEPI Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and is designed to guarantee equitable access globally to Covid-19 vaccines once they are developed and authorised for use.

It currently covers 9 candidate Covid-19 vaccines and

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