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Your Right to Know

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BANGLADESH
UPDATE2,545
New cases in 24hrs2,99,628
Total cases4,028
Deaths1,86,956
RecoveriesGLOBAL
UPDATE819,134
Deaths23,901,406
Total cases

BANGLADESH IN VACCINE RACE

Way behind

"We are far behind in the race [for collecting a vaccine]. The main question is whether we will be able to get vaccines directly from any producer or not."

PROF NAZRUL ISLAM
A MEMBER OF NTAC



"All government departments on Covid-19 are active in bringing vaccines to the country."

HEALTH MINISTER
ZAHID MALEQUE

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

While countries around the world are in hot pursuit of a Covid-19 vaccine, with several currently in the final phase of clinical trials, Bangladesh remains far behind in the race as no desperate effort is visible from the government, experts observe.

They said the government has made little progress so far in obtaining the much-sought-after vaccine, as it only submitted an expression of interest as a member of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisations (GAVI).

The decision on whether the vaccine will be supplied for free or at partial cost will be decided next month in a board meeting of GAVI, a global health partnership of public and private sector organisations dedicated to "immunisation for all".

The experts noted that the government was yet to pick up the pace in line with the recommendations from the National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) on

Covid-19.

The NTAC, in its 17th meeting held on August 19, recommended establishing communication with organisations or countries which are at phase-III trial of vaccine development. It advocated Bangladesh to take part in the phase-III trial so that the country could enjoy "the guarantee benefit" once the vaccines prove successful.

"We are far behind in the race [for collecting a vaccine]. The main question is whether we will be able to get vaccines directly from any producer or not. [The issue of] WHO or GAVI will come then," Prof Nazrul Islam, a member of NTAC, told The Daily Star yesterday.

According to experts, vaccines may be available in the market for mass use within next four to 10 months, although it is not clear how much and for how long these will create immunity.

Currently, eight -- of which six are

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Unaware of the danger of an accident, an underprivileged child is sleeping on the central reservation of a road in the capital's Shajahanpur yesterday. Street children often live separated from their low-income families as they cannot afford to provide for them. Many children enter the unskilled labour market at an early age as a result.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN



1927-2020

War hero CR Dutta no more

RASHIDUL HASAN

He had performed all his duties with utmost sincerity and bravery.

After the 1965 India-Pakistan war, the then Pakistan government rewarded him for his courageous contributions as he played the lead role in retaking Asaloug Mouja, a place in Chattogram Hill Tracts, from the Indian army.

This was the first battle of his military life.

In the second battle, Chittu Ranjan Dutta was the commander of Sector 4 during the country's Liberation War and freed the country from the Pakistan occupation army.

The war hero was awarded "Bir Uttam" for his gallantry during the war.

Major General (ret'd) Chittu Ranjan Dutta, widely known as CR Dutta, Bir

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'Man tortured to death in Rab custody'

Alleges family; Rab denies allegation, says he was a mugger beaten up by mob

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

The family of a 33-year-old man has accused Rab members of torturing him to death in custody in Chattogram city.

Rab, however, refuted the allegation, and claimed that the man was a mugger and he had been beaten up by a mob during a mugging attempt before Rab members arrested him on Akhtaruzzaman Flyover in Muradpur area on August 15 evening.

The arrestee, Md Akram, 33, son of Saleh Ahmed, from Chattogram's Banshkhal upazila, complained of chest pain during a drive the following day and died at Chattogram Medical College hospital while receiving treatment, said the elite force.

But witnesses say he was not beaten up by a mob. The documents of the unnatural death case, filed by a Rab official, also doesn't mention anything about mob beating.

Seeking anonymity, a top official of the Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) said they have no information on any incident of mob beating in Muradpur area on that day.

Akram's family members said he had worked at an apparel factory for eight years but became unemployed after the factory was closed down during the Covid-19 shutdown. Later, he took the job of a mason to support his family.

He used to live alone in the port city's Bayezid Bostami area while his wife and 14-month-old child live in his village home in Banshkhal upazila. He had never been involved in any criminal activities, they claimed.

CASE STATEMENT

Inspector Abdul Haque from Rab-7 filed the unnatural death case with Panchlaish Police Station on August 16 following Akram's death.

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76,000 Rohingya children born in last 3 years

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

An estimated 76,000 babies were born in the Rohingya camps in Bangladesh over the past three years, said Save the Children in a new report released today.

"The children's agency found 75,971 children aged under three in the Cox's Bazar refugee camps -- or nine percent of the total refugee population. The implication is that almost all of them were born after their mothers fled to Bangladesh," said the report.

Save the Children, which made the estimate based on data from Cox's Bazar up until May 31 this year, however, said the children under three are living in conditions that are not suitable for them.

There is limited access to education and healthcare, no freedom of movement or citizenship and they are almost entirely dependent on aid, the report said.

Three-year-old Runa*, who born during her mother's gruelling journey across the Myanmar-Bangladesh border as she fled for their lives, now suffers from chronic malnutrition.

"I'm worried about my children's education, their future, their behaviour," Runa's mother Hamida told Save the Children.

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ROHINGYA GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

In silence they remembered



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Rohingyas across the world yesterday silently observed "Rohingya Genocide Remembrance Day" commemorating the brutal military campaign beginning this day in 2017 that forced some 750,000 Rohingyas to flee to Bangladesh.

Rohingya villages were burnt, members of the ethnic community were killed and women and girls raped in thousands.

Though Rohingyas have their origin in Myanmar centuries back, they were denied citizenship and ethnicity and other rights, including freedom of movement and higher education. Time and again, Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh and many other regional countries, Middle East, Europe and North America.

Commemorating the day in silence and sadness, the Rohingyas

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No PECE this year

Schools to hold final exams instead

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The coronavirus situation forced the government to cancel this year's Primary Education Completion Examination and its equivalent Ebtedayee Education Completion Exam.

As the exams are cancelled, the school authorities, in accordance with the government directions, will hold a school-based final exam if the educational institutions reopen, said top officials of the primary and mass education ministry.

The government will not provide any scholarship to over 1 lakh students of primary schools and madrassas across the country that are offered on the basis of results.

Since inception, PECE and EECE were cancelled for the first time this year. PECE was introduced in 2009 and Ebtedayee in 2010.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has accepted the

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People wait in long queues outside Mugda General Hospital in the capital to give samples for Covid-19 testing. Hospital staffers said queues got longer in the last few days. The photo was taken around 7:30am yesterday, about one and a half hours before the sample collation booths opened.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN

Now train service to be normal

Sale of local, mail, commuter train tickets starts at stations on Sept 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After authorities moved to normalise bus services, the railway authorities have also undertaken steps to normalise operation of trains despite the continued rise of new infections and deaths from Covid-19.

Bangladesh Railway (BR) will restart selling tickets for local, mail and commuter trains at stations from September 5 as it is going to resume operation of 19 more routes of passenger trains from that day.

Although all tickets of intercity services will be sold online and through the mobile app, all tickets of local, mail and commuter trains would be sold from stations from September 5, Shafiqur Rahman, director (traffic) of BR, told The Daily Star yesterday.

However, BR will continue to operate trains at half capacity, he added. BR issued a set of directives in this regard yesterday.

Although BR resumed operation of passenger trains from May 31, it decided not to sell tickets at stations to maintain health safety guidelines.

The 19 routes will bring the total number of routes in operation to 69 as the state-run transport agency is gradually increasing trains in its fleet.

Meanwhile, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the government is considering going back to the previous bus fare on two conditions: every passenger has to wear a mask and bus operators would not be allowed to take standing passengers.

"A decision in this regard will be announced soon," Quader said.

He was speaking at a views-exchange meeting over

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