

INDIA-CHINA BORDER TENSIONS

Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar says situation 'most serious' since 1962 war
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Your Right to Know

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BANGLADESH
UPDATE

2,436

New cases in 24hrs



3,04,583

Total cases



4,127

Deaths



1,93,458

Recoveries

GLOBAL
UPDATE

832,242

Deaths



24,466,049

Total cases

PROMOTION OF STUDENTS TO HIGHER GRADE

PM hints at no exams this year

JSC-JDC exams cancelled; officials asked to devise alternative evaluation method for promotion; fate of HSC still not decided



"There will be no exams ... we are thinking about what more we can do. Maybe we can promote without an exam."

PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

This year's Junior School Certificate and its equivalent exams were cancelled yesterday while Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hinted that students might be promoted without having to sit for class final tests.

The move comes after the government cancelled Primary Education Completion Examination (PECE) and its equivalents for this year due to the pandemic and the closure of schools.

"The JSC-JDC exams will not be held in 2020," the education ministry said in a statement.

It said the ministry was trying to figure out what would be the best way to promote students to the next classes.

Apart from cancelling the exams, the government extended the closure of all educational institutions, including universities, to October 3. They have been closed since mid-March.

The education ministry had sent a proposal to the prime minister's office last week seeking the prime minister's approval to scrap the JSC and Junior Dakhil Certificate Examinations.

"The prime minister approved the

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People crowd a street near a Dhaka court yesterday morning without maintaining physical distancing. Many of them were not wearing masks while some others lowered them keeping their noses open. Such carelessness can result into transmission of coronavirus infection.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN

'MURDERED' GIRL ALIVE HC summons 2 investigation officials

STAR REPORT

The High Court yesterday summoned two investigation officers in a case in which three accused confessed to raping and killing a class-V female student, who was later found alive in Narayanganj.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman came up with the order following a petition filed challenging the legality and activities of the police station concerned in dealing with the case.

It directed the investigation officers to appear before it on September 17 along with all the case records and confessional statements of the three accused, who are now in jail.

Five lawyers led by Mohammad Shishir Manir submitted the petition on August 25.

According to the petition, the class-five student went missing on July 4. Her father filed a case with Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station on August 6 over abduction of his daughter.

Later, police arrested three accused who made confessional statements before the magistrate concerned while on remand,

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Govt allows trial of China vaccine

Icddr,b to run phase-III trial, says health minister

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

After months-long stalemate, the government has finally given nod to the icddr,b to run phase-III trial of the Chinese vaccine for Covid-19.

Health Minister Zahid Maleque announced this yesterday while talking to journalists at the secretariat.

Earlier, the minister held a meeting with the icddr,b officials. Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming also joined the meeting.

The government has conducted various analyses on the efficacy of the vaccine before permitting Chinese company Sinovac to run the trial, the minister said.

He also said the government would be cordial in allowing trial-run of vaccines developed by other countries, including India.

On July 18, Bangladesh Medical Research Council permitted the icddr,b to run the trial of the Chinese vaccine in seven hospitals.

But the trial became uncertain after the health minister and the secretary said the government would take time to decide on the trial.

International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) has congratulated the government for its decision.

"We appreciate the Government of Bangladesh for taking time to evaluate our application for the phase III trial of the Sinovac's Covid-19 vaccine critically and give approval for the trial.

"We share a common goal with the government to bring the safest and most effective Covid-19 vaccine to Bangladesh at the earliest possible time so that the country may return to normalcy at the soonest," said a press release from the icddr,b yesterday.

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Every house to be lit up by 2021: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reaffirmed her government's goal of illuminating every house of the country by next year and urged the people to be frugal with electricity use.

"We have taken up massive programmes to celebrate the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 2020 and the golden jubilee of the country's independence in 2021. Our goal is to light up every house of the country by 2021," she said.

The PM was addressing a programme marking the inauguration of cent percent electrification in 31 upazilas of 18 districts.

She also opened two power plants, 11 grid sub-stations and six new transmission lines through videoconferencing from the Gono Bhaban.

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SOCIAL DISTANCING

Only a quarter practised it

Finds a DGHS survey on 1,549 people in March-April

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only one out of four people practiced social distancing in the country in March and April, finds a study.

The study by the disease control unit of the Directorate General of Health Services also revealed that more than half (51.6 percent) of 1,549 people surveyed had appropriate knowledge on Covid-19 preventive measures.

Among those having appropriate knowledge, 52.1 percent used face masks.

Besides, 51.8 percent of them practiced hand washing, according to the study titled "Assessment of knowledge, attitudes and practices towards prevention of Covid-19 among Bangladeshi population".

Prof Shah Mahfuzur Rahman, assistant professor at the Institute of Public Health, presented the findings of the study at an event at the DGHS in the capital's Mohakhali yesterday.

A total of 1,549 people were interviewed in March and April for carrying out the survey using online, self-administered and face to face methods.

The disease control unit also conducted two more surveys among 384 university and medical college students and 604 health workers and staffers across the country. The surveys were carried out in June, July and August.

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OC Pradeep sued over murder of a driver

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Suspended police officer Pradeep Kumar Das was accused in a new murder case filed yesterday with a court in Cox's Bazar.

Senuara Begum, 24, a resident of Paschim Moheshkhali Para area of Teknaf, also accused 11 others of killing her husband Abdul Jalil, who was a three-wheeler driver.

Judge of Senior Judicial Magistrate Court-3 (Teknaf) Md Helal Uddin took the complaint into cognizance and asked the OC of Teknaf Police Station to submit before the court by September 10 the report, if any, filed after Jalil's death on July 7.

In her complaint, Senuara said her husband was shot dead after being in detention for seven months. She alleged that police demanded Tk

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ROHINGYA CAMPS 3G, 4G mobile services to resume soon

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The 3G and 4G mobile services at the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar will resume as soon as the government decides to lift the restrictions imposed almost a year ago.

The decision was made on Sunday at the meeting of a national taskforce chaired by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan.

The taskforce on Wednesday sent a letter to the post and telecommunication ministry informing them of the decision, officials said. "We have been informed of the decision and the BTRC is implementing it," Mustafa Jabbar, post and telecommunications minister, told The Daily Star yesterday.

An official of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), requesting anonymity, said the services would resume soon. He, however, did not specify when.

A high-placed official of a private carrier said they

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Excavators place sand in a quarry built illegally by grabbing a part of the Bangshi river in Savar's Nayarhat area. Sand, brought by vessels, are stored in this place, right under the nose of the authorities. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO:
PALASH KHAN

SUSPENSION OF SENTENCE

Khaleda to seek extension on health grounds

Says her lawyer

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

With Khaleda Zia's suspension of jail sentence ending in less than a month, her family members and lawyers are preparing documents to seek extension of the government order through which she was released for six months.

They are also trying to take the BNP chairperson abroad for treatment as her health did not improve since her release on March 25, they said, adding that she could not get "proper treatment" because she had to stay home amid the pandemic.

"The government released her on bail through an executive order and her family members will now apply to the government for an extension [of the order]. She needs the extension as her treatment could not begin due to the pandemic," Khaleda's lawyer Advocate Zainul Abedin told The Daily Star a couple of days ago.

Meanwhile, BNP Vice-chairman AZM Zahid Hossain said Dr Zubaida Rahman, wife of Khaleda's son Tarique Rahman, was overseeing the BNP chief's treatment from London.

The party, however, was yet to make any decision on seeking the extension order.

"We are yet to take any decision in this regard. We will

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