

# 31 more die from Covid, 1,007 test positive

STAR REPORT

Thirty-one people died from Covid-19 in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The total number of deaths has now reached at 7,718 and the death rate stands at 1.48 percent.

At least 1,007 new infections were recorded in the meantime, taking the total number of people infected to 519,905, added the release.

The current positivity rate is 6.55 percent while the total positivity rate stands at 15.67 percent.

A total of 15,381 samples were tested across the country in those 24 hours.

At least 966 Covid-19 patients have recovered during the period.

The total number of recoveries now stands at 464,446 and the recovery rate at 89.33 percent.

Among the 31 dead, 21 were men and 10 women. Of them, one aged between 11 and 20 years, one between 21 and 30, two between 31 and 40, two between 41 and 50, five between 51 and 60, and 20 above 60 years, added the release.

## TRAFFICKED ROHINGYAS

### Myanmar police arrest nearly 100 in raid

AFP, Yangon

Nearly 100 Rohingyas smuggled from Myanmar's conflict-ridden Rakhine state were arrested in a raid in Yangon, police announced yesterday, with authorities saying they had been headed to Malaysia as part of a trafficking network.

The plight of the Rohingyas captured international headlines in 2017 after a military crackdown in western Rakhine state sent almost 750,000 fleeing across the border to Bangladesh.

Members of the stateless minority group have long faced discrimination in Myanmar, where they are denied freedom of movement and citizenship, and lack access to work, healthcare and schools.

With the remaining languishing in camps that rights groups have described as "apartheid-like", many choose to embark on treacherous routes with human smugglers to reach Malaysia and Indonesia.

## O-level student

FROM PAGE 1

brothers were away and his father, a retired government employee, lives in Rajshahi.

"We seized evidence, including bloodstained items and swabs, from the spot...", the police official said.

Three friends of the youth, who went to the hospital, were also held for questioning.

The victim's mother alleged that her daughter was raped, tortured and killed by four youths, including the one who took her to the hospital.

She claimed that her daughter bled profusely and that she saw injury marks on her hands. "My daughter was killed as the culprits thought she would tell everyone what they did to her," she said.

The woman said her daughter went out yesterday morning telling her that she was going to one of her friends' home to bring some worksheets provided by a coaching centre.

Around 1:00pm, one of the youths called her over phone and told her that her daughter suddenly fell sick and that he was taking her to the hospital.

The mother saw the body after arriving at the hospital.

She claimed that the detainee took the body to the hospital since they had no way to hide it. "My daughter did not go to the flat willingly, she was tricked into going there," she said.

Assistant Commissioner Abdul said the duty doctor at the hospital informed them that the girl was brought dead. Kalabagan police later sent the body to Dhaka Medical College for autopsy.

"We didn't see any injury marks on the body," he said, adding the cause of death would be known after autopsy. "We're investigating the matter. Whoever is guilty will be brought to book," he added.

## Russians see US democracy 'limping' after Capitol stormed

AFP, Moscow

Russian officials yesterday pointed to the storming of the US Capitol as evidence of America's decline, with one saying it showed US democracy was "limping on both feet".

After the stunning events in Washington, many in Moscow said the United States was no longer in any position to lecture other countries on freedom and democracy.

Under banners reading "Storm of the Capitol" and "Chaos in Washington", Russian state television showed rolling images of mobs of Donald Trump supporters breaking down barricades and swarming the building, as security forces fired tear gas and police drew guns inside.

"The losing side has more than enough grounds to accuse the winner of falsifications -- it is clear that American democracy is limping on both feet," Konstantin Kosachyov, the chair of the Russian upper house's foreign affairs committee, said in a post on Facebook.

## Family demands justice, rejects settlement

FROM PAGE 1

doctrine providing for punishment equal to the crime in cases of murder or intentionally caused physical injury. Qisas forms part of the law in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Iran.

The court has fixed January 20 as the next date of the hearing in the case, confirmed the Bangladesh Embassy in Saudi Arabia, the Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment and Abiron's family.

From Paikgachha of Khulna, forty-year-old Abiron went to the Gulf country through a recruiting agency in Dhaka and with the help of a local agent named Rabiul.

The family alleged that during her stay, Abiron endured severe physical assault at her employer's house where she worked as domestic help. When she spoke to her sister the last time, she spoke of the brutal torture she had to face.

There were eight people living in the house. The employers would not give her food and even used to pour hot water on her and put her head into a grill, they alleged.

And at one point, her family completely lost communication with her.

As they did not get the body after her death, they contacted Brac and an application was filed. Her lifeless body finally arrived in the country on October 24, 2019, through the Wage Earners Welfare Board. The reason of Abiron's death was stated as murder in her death certificate.

When this news was published the next day, the country's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on its own formed a fact-finding committee headed by its member Dr Nomita Halder.

On November 25, Dr Nomita visited Abiron's home in Ramnagar village of Paikgachha and talked to the family members. She also spoke to the agency, ministries and embassies and submitted a detailed report on December 15.

The commission's report said Abiron was tortured and beaten to death, identifying negligence of the agent, recruiting agencies and government officials.

A case was filed in Khulna under the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, 2012, where Rabiul was the main accused. Khulna CID is not dealing with the case now.

The NHRC recommended seeking legal action, compensation for the murder and providing exemplary punishment to the accused by the court.

The charge sheet filed against the accused in the case alleged specific and intentional murder.

After getting the power of attorney from Abiron's family, the trial began in the Criminal Court-6 of Riyadh on December 16 last year -- a rare instance in Saudi Arabia.

The first secretary of the embassy in Riyadh Shafiqul Islam and translator Sohai Ahmed were present at the hearing with the power of attorney on behalf of Abiron's family. Representative of the Saudi Public Prosecution Abdullah Mohammed Abdullah was present at the hearing.

Three Saudi nationals arrested in connection with the killing -- Basem Salem, Abiron's employer, his wife Ayesha al-Jizani, and the couple's son Walid Basem Salem -- joined the hearing virtually from jail.

At the beginning of the hearing, the embassy representative handed over the power of attorney and authorisation letter sent by the heirs of the deceased.

The court verified and uploaded those in the system of the Saudi Ministry of Justice.

The court wanted to know from the embassy representative the demands of Abiron's heirs. The representative said that Abiron's family wanted Qisas instead of compensation.

As the court wanted the accused statement in this regard, the accused verbally denied the allegation and said that they would submit a written statement through a lawyer.

The lawyer of the accused sought bail for Basem Salem, the head of the family, but the court rejected the bail petition and asked them to submit the written reply, and adjourned the case till January 20.

Mehedi Hasan, counsellor (labour)

of Bangladesh Embassy in Saudi Arabia, sent a letter to the secretary of the expatriate welfare ministry in Dhaka. The letter requested Khulna District Employment and Manpower Officer (DEMO) to inform Abiron's family about the latest progress of the case.

"We have been keeping in touch Abiron's family regularly and sending information and documents requested from the embassy. The family told us they wanted exemplary punishment for the incident," Mohammad Ali Siddiqui, deputy director of the Khulna DEMO, told The Daily Star yesterday.

SM Ayub Ali, husband of Abiron's sister Reshma Khatun, who is looking after the family, said Abiron was tortured from the beginning.

"When her corpse arrived in the country, it was so horrible that we could not look at it. We want harsh punishment for the killers, no compromises, so that no more people die a death like Abiron's," he said.

Abiron is not a lone case. About 500 bodies of Bangladeshi migrant women have been brought to the country in the last five years. The bodies of at least 200 of them came from Saudi Arabia.

But those responsible for the incidents were not punished.

Contacted, Nomita Halder said, "Abiron's death is not an isolated incident. Poor women like Abiron are dying regularly. We have recommended to improve the process of sending women abroad."

"But the recommendations were not implemented. What action has been taken against the government employees and the brokers? The progress of the case in Khulna is disappointing," said Nomita, also a former secretary in the expatriate welfare ministry.

She, however, expressed optimism that there would be a fair trial for Abiron's murder.

"There was little precedence of a formal trial in Saudi Arabia. I hope Abiron will get justice. However, it is important to take appropriate measures so that no such incident occurs again," she said.

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ইজারা বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১।	মন্ত্রণালয় ও বিভাগ	স্থানীয় সরকার পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়, স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ।
২।	সংস্থার নাম	ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন।
৩।	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী বিভাগ	সম্পত্তি বিভাগ, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন।
৪।	ক্রম পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM), সিলাপালা মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান।
৫।	কার্য পরিচালনা ইজারার মেয়াদ	কার্যক্রমের তারিখ থেকে পরবর্তী ০১ (এক) বছর।
৬।	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	(ক) হাদনাপাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স এর সত্যায়িত কপি। (খ) হাদনাপাদ টি.আই.এন সমসদের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি। (গ) সদ্য তোলা ০২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি। (ঘ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি। (ঙ) বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানা সম্বলিত স্থানীয় ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর/১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক গৃহীত সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি।
৭।	সিটিউনের টাকা জমা দেয়ার খাত	মেয়র, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, চলতি হিসাব নং-২০০১৭৭৩৯ (বিবিধ), সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, নগর ভবন শাখা।
৮।	দরপত্র বিক্রির স্থান	বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সম্পত্তি বিভাগ, হিম্মত বিজ্ঞান ও সন্ধান আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়।
৯।	দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার স্থান	বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সম্পত্তি বিভাগ ও সন্ধান আঞ্চলিক নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়।
১০।	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	প্রধান সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তার দপ্তর, সম্পত্তি বিভাগ, ৪র্থ তলা, রুম নং-০২৫, নগর ভবন, ডিএসসিপি।

১১।	সিটিউন ক্রয়ের তারিখ, দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার তারিখ ও খোলার সময় নিম্নরূপঃ	দরপত্র বাজার ও খাম খোলার তারিখ ও সময় (দরদাতার উপস্থিতিতে)
দরপত্র আহ্বানের পর্ব	সিটিউন বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়
১ম পর্ব	২০/০১/২০২১ তারিখ	২১/০১/২০২১ তাং- সকাল ৯টা হতে দুপুর ১২.৩০টা পর্যন্ত
২য় পর্ব	০৪/০২/২০২১ তারিখ	০৪/০২/২০২১ তাং- সকাল ৯টা হতে দুপুর ১২.৩০টা পর্যন্ত
৩য় পর্ব	১৭/০২/২০২১ তারিখ	১৮/০২/২০২১ তাং- দুপুর ২.৩০টা হতে দুপুর ১২.৩০টা পর্যন্ত

ক্র/নং	ইজারার নিমিত্ত কাঁচাবাজার/ক্যান্টিন/ কফিশপ ও টয়লেট	সরকারি মূল্য	সিটিউল মূল্য	জামানত	মন্তব্য
০১	ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের মালিকানাধীন নগর ইন্ডাস্ট্রি মার্কেটের ভেতরে অবস্থিত কাঁচাবাজার।	২,০০,০০,০০০	৪০,৬০০	ইজারা দরের ৩০% (শতকরা ৩০ ভাগ) পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। ২৫% অর্থ ইজারা মূল্যের সাথে সমন্বয় করা হবে। বাকী ৫% অর্থ জামানত হিসেবে সংরক্ষিত থাকবে।	বিষয়ে ব্যবসায়ী শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলী সম্পত্তি বিভাগ হতে (অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে) জানা যাবে।
০২	ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের নগর ভবনস্থ "জেনারেল ও অফিসার্স ক্যান্টিন"।	৫,০০,০০০	১,৬০০		
০৩	ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের আওতাধীন ৩০নং ওয়ার্ডস্থ সিদ্ধান্তী পার্কের অভ্যন্তরে নির্মিত কফি হাউজ ও পার্কিং টয়লেট।	২,০০,০০০	১,০০০		
১৩।	বিশেষ নির্দেশাবলীঃ সরকারি ছুটি/অনিবার্য কারণবশত নির্ধারিত দিনে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্ভব না হলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে ও একই সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতই কোনো দরপত্র/সমুদয় দরপত্র বাতিল বা গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ রাখেন। টেন্ডার সফলকৃত বিজ্ঞপ্তি তথ্য টেন্ডার সিটিউনে বর্ণিত থাকবে।				

শা. মোঃ রাসেল সাবরিন (উপ সচিব) প্রধান সম্পত্তি কর্মকর্তা ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা ফোন: ৯৬৬৬৯৬৬

## A fallen

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are verifying the information," he added.

"However, it's the matter of the Department of Environment and Forest Department to take steps against Nuru for grabbing and destroying the hills," said the assistant commissioner.

Contacted, Nurullah Nuri, DoE Chattogram director (metro unit), said, "We have already spoken to law enforcers regarding the matter and have filed a case against him [Nuru]."

'CONVICTED, YET NO ONE KNEW' Interestingly, this was not the first time Nur Alam alias Nuru's illegal activities came to the fore.

He has been an accused in at least 24 cases with different police stations. But Nuru seemed to remain unfazed by those and go on with his illegal activities while law enforcers "continue their drives" to arrest him.

Even in 2017, a court in Chattogram sentenced him to 17 years in prison in a case filed with Akbar Shah Police Station over the recovery of firearms.

However, police said they were yet to receive any conviction warrant in this regard. After the recent incident, police came to know about it.

"We are looking into it and are communicating with the court in this regard," said OC Jahir.

Even the court seemed to be baffled as to what happened with the warrant. According to court sources, they are now planning to issue a new conviction warrant against Nuru.

## Govt planning

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keeping those free of encroachment. Public representatives can play a vital role in this regard, said the minister.

He also said he took the initiative before but the previous DSCC mayor was not interested in it.

The minister said they will hold meetings with the two city corporations and other stakeholders to protect the waterbodies.

About rural infrastructure, the minister said whenever they hear complaints about lax monitoring or poor quality of work, they are taking steps against it.

## Where have

FROM PAGE 3

These nutrition gardens are designed to set up on barren land near anyone's residence or yards.

Interestingly at yesterday's meeting, Agriculture Minister Dr Md Abdur Razzaque also said as a minister of this ministry, he had the chance to see only one such model garden.

The secretary remained silent when the lawmakers asked him to explain about the gap between the ministry's claim and the real situation, meeting sources said.

Matia Chowdhury, chief of the parliamentary standing committee, also expressed concern over this.

A lawmaker of the committee said more than Tk 38 crore was given for this project.

The meeting asked the ministry to provide actual data to the government and not to embarrass it through wrong information.

For example, a lawmaker, who was present at the meeting, said the ministry earlier in a meeting of the parliamentary standing body said there was enough stock of rice. But that information proved not to be correct as the government had to go for rice procurement, he said.

## Take legal

FROM PAGE 3

misconduct against the EC. The SJC comprises the chief justice and two other senior-most judges of the Appellate Division to probe the allegations against SC judges, the EC and other constitutional bodies, and recommend removal of individuals involved in the allegations.

The citizens said the EC members committed misconduct and irregularities, including spending Tk 2 crore for delivering speeches as "special speakers" and Tk 8.08 crore in recruiting staffers.

The signatories include Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, M Hafizuddin Khan, Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Sultana Kamal, Ali Imam Mazumder, Dr Hameeda Hossain, Moinul Islam, Khushi Kabir, Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar, Dr Shahdeen Malik, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Dr Shahidul Alam, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Anu Mohammed, Dr CR Abrar, Tofail Ahmed, Asif Nazrul, Dilip Sarker and Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua.

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উত্তরা ১৭ বিজিএমই ভবন, ওয়ার্ড ৩ শান্তা মরিয়ম ইউনিভার্সিটি, মিরপুর ডিওএইচএস ও মেট্রোরেলের সন্নিকটে শেয়ার বিক্রি। মূল্য ১৫ লক্ষ ৩২ হাজার টাকা। সব মিলে কমবেশি ২০০০ স্মারকবিহীন যোগাযোগ-০১৭১৭-৪৫৪৩৪৫

সিরাজুল ইসলাম চৌধুরী সম্পাদিত সাহিত্য-সংস্কৃতির ত্রৈমাসিক

**২২শদিবস**

উনিবিংশ বর্ষ দ্বিতীয় সংখ্যা প্রকাশিত হয়েছে

স্টলে খোঁজ নিন/গ্রাহক হোন

প্রতি কপি ৬০ টাকা

বার্ষিক চাঁদা (সেভাক) ৩০০০ টাকা

এজেস্টী ও পুরাতন সংখ্যার জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন

সম্পাদকীয় যোগাযোগ উচ্চতর গবেষণা কেন্দ্র কক্ষ-২০৪ (টিএসসি সফল) ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা-১০০০ ফোন: ০২১৭১৭-০৫৭৭৩ ০১৯২০-২৩৫৬১

**45th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF MOHAMMAD SIRAJUDDIN**

Today the 8<sup>th</sup> January is the 45<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Late **Mohammad Sirajuddin** founder Chairman & Managing Director of **Modhumita Group, Sirco Soap & Chemical Industries, Kohinoor Jute Mills Ltd.** founder Director of **Standard Bank of Pakistan** also the founder Director of **Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry.**

Though he is not in this world, he lives in our hearts, in our minds, in our memory. Entrepreneurs like him are rare who left behind foot prints for generations to follow.

All friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

**All Members of Modhumita Family**

**বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড**

Office of the Executive Engineer Nawabganj O&M Division BWDB, Chapai Nawabganj Telephone No. 0781-52268 Fax No. 0781-52268 E-mail: [xen.nawabganj@gmail.com](mailto:xen.nawabganj@gmail.com)

**Invitation for Tender**  
Tender No. ADP-04/2021

Invitation Reference No. Memo No. EE/WDB/Chapainawabganj/Da-2/43, Date: 07/01/2021

Tender ID	Name of the work
535355	Re-Excavation of Dhukhumari Khal from Km. 0.00 to Km. 4.20 = 4200m at Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila of Chapainawabganj district in C/W Re-excavation of small river khal & water bodies in 64 Districts (Phase-1) (1st Revised) Project under Nawabganj O&M Division, BWDB, Chapainawabganj during the FY-2020-2021. (Package No. Chapainawab-W-12/2020-2021).
535356	Landscaping work and Eviction of illegal occupants of River Khal and Embankment in C/W Re-excavation of small river khal & water bodies in 64 Districts Phase-1 Project under Nawabganj O&M Division BWDB Chapainawabganj during the FY-2019-2020 (Package No. FFW/W-25).

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.bd>). For more details, please contact support desk contact number (01762625528-31).

**Md. Mehedi Hasan**  
Executive Engineer  
Nawabganj O&M Division  
BWDB, Chapainawabganj

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