

Covid deaths

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number of confirmed cases rose to 5,22,453.

Against a total of 12,920 tests in 181 labs across the country, the positivity rate was 8.29 percent.

In the same 24 hours, meanwhile, a total of 737 Covid-19 patients recovered from their illnesses, raising the number of recoveries to 4,66,801.

The total number of recoveries is equal to more than 89 percent of all confirmed cases.

Of the deceased yesterday, 17 were males and eight were females.

Two of them were aged between 41 and 50 years, six between 51 and 60, and 17 were above 60 years, added the release.

Some AL men

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Mirza, who has stirred up a debate in the country's political circles with some of his recent remarks, is also contesting the municipality polls, slated for January 16, on an AL ticket.

"Obaidul Quader is not with me. Some leaders of Noakhali and Feni district AL have sent firebrands to use against me. Companiganj upazila AL and Basurhat municipal AL are not with me," claimed Mirza.

"Even the DC [deputy commissioner] and superintendent of police are not with me," claimed Mirza.

Addressing the crowd, he asked, "Are you with me? If you are with me, that is enough... I will continue telling the truth."

He also alleged that Obaidul Quader acted as the major barrier in Mirza's emergence as a national leader.

"In my student life, I wanted to study in Dhaka. But he [Obaidul Quader] advised me to study in Chattogram because he feared that I would emerge as a bigger leader than him. Obaidul Quader did not let us move ahead," he alleged.

"Before the national elections, Obaidul Quader promised to arrange jobs for eligible people of every household. But where are the jobs?" asked Mirza.

"When I speak against corruption and misdeeds of Awami League men, they call me insane," he added.

"A woman identifying herself as a Jubo Mohila League leader has hurled abusive words at me. I have informed administration about this matter. But they did not take any action. So, it can be assumed that the woman is too powerful," he said.

Criticising the administration, Mirza said some overenthusiastic officials are bypassing Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's directives.

In the last few days, Mirza on several occasions claimed that if elections were held in a free and fair manner, all AL MPs in greater Noakhali, except for the ones in three or four constituencies, "would not have found ways to escape".

While unveiling his election manifesto on December 31 last year, he brought allegations of corruption, tender manipulation and recruitment scams against some local lawmakers and AL leaders.

GOP support

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him during his first trial over allegations that he threatened US national security.

Two previous presidents were impeached but were also acquitted in the Senate. Richard Nixon resigned in 1974 over the Watergate scandal when it became clear he would be removed.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has also asked members to draft legislation aimed at invoking the Constitution's 25th Amendment, which allows for stripping the powers from a president unable to fulfill the duties of the office.

The intensifying effort to oust Trump has drawn scattered support from Republicans, whose party has been divided by the president's actions. Democrats have pressed Vice President Mike Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment, but he has opposed the idea, an adviser said.



Indonesian Navy divers hold wreckage from Sriwijaya Air flight SJY182 during a search and rescue operation at sea near Lancang island yesterday, after the Boeing 737-500 crashed shortly after taking off from Jakarta airport on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

Black boxes located

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One twisted piece of metal was painted in Sriwijaya Air's blue and red colours. Authorities said they came from a depth of 23 metres (75 feet) near a group of islands off the Jakarta coast.

Indonesian authorities said they had also retrieved body parts and clothing.

Police asked families to provide information such as dental records and DNA samples to help identify bodies.

The plane had 12 crew and 50 passengers on board, all Indonesians and including 10 children.

President Joko Widodo, speaking at the palace in Bogor, expressed "deep condolences" over the disaster and urged the public to pray the missing people could be found.

"WE FEEL POWERLESS"

Distraught relatives waited in Pontianak about 740 km (460 miles) from Jakarta for news of their loved ones. At Jakarta's main airport a crisis centre was set up for families.

"We feel powerless, we can only wait and hope to get any information soon," Irfansyah Riyanto, who had five relatives on the flight, told reporters.

Tracking service Flightradar24 said the aircraft took off at 2:36 pm local time (0736 GMT) and climbed to reach 10,900 feet within four minutes. It then began a steep descent and stopped transmitting data 21 seconds later.

There were no immediate clues on what caused the sudden descent. Most air accidents are caused by a cocktail

of factors that can take months to establish, safety experts say.

A transport ministry spokeswoman said air traffic control had asked the pilot why the plane was heading northwest instead of on its expected flight path seconds before it disappeared.

The pilots had decades of experience between them with the flight captain reported to be a former air force pilot and his co-pilot at Sriwijaya Air since 2013, according to his LinkedIn profile.

The Sriwijaya Air plane was a nearly 27-year-old Boeing 737-500, much older than Boeing's problem-plagued 737 MAX model. Older 737 models are widely flown and do not have the stall-prevention system implicated in the MAX safety crisis.

"We are in contact with our airline customer and stand ready to support them during this difficult time," Boeing said in a statement. "Our thoughts are with the crew, passengers, and their families."

Founded in 2003, Jakarta-based Sriwijaya Air group flies largely within Indonesia's sprawling archipelago. The budget airline has had a solid safety record, with no onboard casualties in four incidents recorded on the Aviation Safety Network database.

In 2007, the European Union banned all Indonesian airlines following a series of crashes and reports of deteriorating oversight and maintenance since deregulation in the late 1990s. The restrictions were fully lifted in 2018.

New Covid cases in China

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that a ride-hailing driver in Beijing was an asymptomatic carrier of the new coronavirus, city health official Pang Xinghuo told media.

Since January 1, 96 drivers on a ride-hailing app Didi have been fined a total of 1 million yuan (\$154,440) for improperly implementing coronavirus prevention measures, such as wearing a mask, Rong Jun, a Beijing city transport official, said.

Over the course of the pandemic, mainland China has reported a total of 87,433 confirmed coronavirus cases, with 4,634 deaths.

In its daily bulletin, the National Health Commission said 21 of the new cases were imported.

Most of the locally-transmitted cases, 46 out of 48, were in Hebei, the province surrounding Beijing that entered a "wartime mode" this week as it seeks to contain rising infections.

China reported 27 asymptomatic cases on Saturday, down from 38 a day earlier. China does not classify these patients, who have been infected by the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes the disease, but are not showing any Covid-19 symptoms, as confirmed cases.

Hebei has finished testing all 13 million people in the major cities of Shijiazhuang and Xingtai, a provincial

officer said in a briefing yesterday.

GERMAN DEATHS TOP 40,000
Germany yesterday reported 40,000 fatalities since the pandemic began a year ago as the Pope and Britain's Queen Elizabeth became the latest high-profile figures to join the global vaccination campaign against the coronavirus.

And German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned that the worst was still to come.

More than 1.9 million people worldwide have now died from the virus, with new variants adding to soaring cases and prompting the re-introduction of restrictions on movement across the globe -- even as with mass inoculation drives underway.

Pope Francis urged people to get the vaccination saying he would be inoculated against the virus himself next week when the Vatican begins its campaign and denouncing opposition to the jab.

"There is a suicidal denial which I cannot explain, but today we have to get vaccinated," the pontiff tells Canale 5 in an interview broadcast yesterday.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip received their Covid-19 vaccinations on Saturday, said Buckingham Palace.

বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
BDBL
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IT Operation Department

Reference: 09.2/37/Vol(IV)/ Dated: 10/01/2021

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited through the National e-GP Portal for the procurement of following goods & services:

e-Tender ID	Name of goods & related services	Closing & opening date & time
526536	Dedicated 100 Mbps Internet connectivity for BDBL Head Office.	26/01/2021; 12:00pm
526654	(A) Dedicated 100 Mbps Data Connectivity from DC (Head Office, Motijheel) to DR (BDBL Karwan Bazar Bhaban) for the purpose of Storage to Storage Backup and other services.	26/01/2021; 12:30pm
	(B) Dedicated 2 Mbps each Data Connectivity for all Branches (Nationwide, existing 47 Branches and Upcoming Branches/Sub-Branches)	

These are online tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to banking hours.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@procure.gov.bd) (01762625528-31) (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

-Sd-
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Shifting sands

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Wadi al-Murr's inhabitants, who mostly relied on pastoral activities, had to give up their village, swelling the ranks of those migrating to towns and cities.

Located at the bottom of a valley nearly 400 kilometres (250 miles) southwest of the capital Muscat, Wadi al-Murr is cut off from main roads and only reachable via a long, rough track.

Its isolation, including from the electricity and water grids, contributed to its slide into obscurity.

But that has not prevented erstwhile residents from returning to visit, along with trekking enthusiasts who take desert hikes in the region.

Mohammed al-Ghanbousi, a former inhabitant, said the moving dunes had re-exposed some dwellings after they were covered by sand.

Juvenile murdered in Ukhia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar
Police yesterday recovered the body of a juvenile from a shop at Court Bazar in Ukhia upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday.

The dead is Mohammad Forkan Prokash Kalu, 14, of the upazila's Rantanpalang union, said police. He was employed by a local decorator at the market.

Gazi Salauddin, inspector (investigation) of Ukhia Police Station, said they were suspecting a Rohingya juvenile named Mohammad Aiaz was involved in the murder.

Aiaz was also employed by the same decorator and went into hiding after the incident came to limelight, he added.

Meanwhile, Shah Alam, the owner of the shop where Forkan's body was found, was detained by police for quizzing, the police official said.

The victim's father Bashir Ahmed said he did not know who killed his son but he demanded justice.

4 sent to jail for rape of mentally challenged woman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla
A Cumilla court yesterday sent four men to jail on charge of gang-raping a mentally challenged woman in the district's Homna upazila.

The accused are Hasan, 27, Rassel, 20, Yousuf alias Badsha, 25, and Sohag, 16, all from Charkuria of Asadpur in the upazila.

Abul Kayes Akand, officer-in-charge of Homna Police Station, said all four of them were on Saturday, after the victim's family filed a complaint.

According to local sources, the alleged rapists went to a village arbitration to conceal the incident. On information, police intervened and conducted drives to arrest the miscreants.

Fazlul Karim, senior assistant superintendent of Cumilla police, said the victim and her husband both were mentally challenged. Their family did not even know how to file a complaint.

Knowing about it, police called them to the police station, accepted a case, and then took further steps, he added.

Man killed

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Bazar Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

The injured were admitted to different clinics, the APBn official said.

Police are conducting drives to arrest the criminals, he added.

Level crossings to be 'safer'

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142 train-related accidents last year, according to Accident Research Institute of Buet.

Of the casualties, 42 were killed and 31 others injured in 25 incidents at level crossings, says an ARI report, which was prepared on the basis of newspaper reports.

The issue of unsafe level crossing came to the fore again after an intercity train hit a bus at a level crossing in Joypurhat last month, leaving 12 passengers of the bus dead and several others injured.

A railway probe committee found that although the Puranpoil level crossing was an authorised one, but the gateman failed to lower the gate on time as he was either sleeping or drowsy, causing the accident.

The committee also held the Roads and Highway Department responsible for the accident as the department, without informing the railway authorities, demolished the speed breakers near the level crossing while reconstructing the road.

In a stakeholder meeting on December 21 last year, participants blamed the absence of speed bumps at level crossings and unauthorised level crossings for the accidents and called for constructing speed bumps there.

In a meeting on October 29 that year, the Local Government Division decided to take a project to install gates and relevant structures for the level crossings they erected.

Besides, it also decided to take prior permission from the railways ministry to construct roads for crossing rail tracks, documents show.

YESTERDAY'S DECISIONS
Sardar Sahadat Ali, additional director general (operations) of BR, said as per the decision of the meeting, authorities, who erected the unauthorised level crossings, would construct speed breakers there.

For now, as per the decision of the meeting, the authorities concerned would not install gates at level

crossing while constructing roads that cross rail track. Rather, they would build overpass or underpass there, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

AKM Abdullah Al Baki, another additional director general of BR, said they would authorise some illegal level crossings after necessary scrutiny while some other unauthorised level crossing would be knocked down.

Besides, the authorities concerned agreed to tear down illegal structures beside the rail tracks, he told this newspaper.

Mahbubur Rahman, a joint secretary of road transport and bridges ministry, who took part in yesterday's meeting, said they would erect street breakers after necessary scrutiny.

Because speed breakers in some cases intensifies accident risks, he told this correspondent.

MUCH MORE TO DO
Hearing yesterday's decisions, Prof Md Hadiuzzaman, director of ARI, said the authorities have to do more to ensure safety at level crossings.

He said the authorities should construct an array of speed breakers -- three speed breakers on both sides of a level crossing with 50 metres' interval -- where vehicular movements are relatively high.

There should have level crossing's signs and blinking lights on both sides of level crossings, he said.

The authorities should install additional lights on the locomotives, and drivers would switch on those while approaching towards level crossings, he said. The initiatives can reduce 30 percent accidents at level crossings, he said citing a research.

The BR should carry out a safety survey at level crossings immediately and on the basis of its finding, necessary steps should be taken, he added.

Besides, the authorities should consider introducing an automated barrier system at level crossings as the number of train and rail lines is increasing, he added.

Invisible power protecting

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But police recommended that the three others not be accused in the beginning and that their names could be added if their involvement is found later, she said.

"I heard about the medical report that said my daughter was severely abused. Such abuse and torture is not possible for one person," she said, adding she saw injury marks on her waist and back.

They might have made her unconscious with drugs, she said.

Shozzodur Rahman, deputy commissioner (Ramna) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said, "Police are neither saving anyone nor victimising

anyone."

He also refuted the allegation that police were trying to save the accused by reducing his actual age on paper while at the same time inflating the age of the victim.

The age of the victim will be ascertained with proper tests, he said. "We are investigating impartially."

Police said the car in which the girl was taken to the hospital has been seized. People who know Dihan said he had often driven the car despite having no driver's licence.

Dihan and the girl got introduced on social media in November last year, the DC said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Health Services Division
Health Economics Unit
14/2, Topkhana Road (3rd Floor), Dhaka-1000

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)
For

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of Individual Senior Consultant

1. Ministry / Division	Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	
2. Agency	Health Economics Unit (HEU)	
3. Name of The Procuring Entity	Director General, HEU	
4. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka	
5. Type of Organization	Research Organization	
6. Expression of Interest for selection of	Individual Senior consultant (National-Short term)	
7. EOI Ref No	45.05.0000.006.11.001.19.47	
8. Date	10 January, 2021	
Key Information		
9. Procurement Method	Selection of Individual Consultant (SIC)	
Funding Information		
10. Budget and Source of Funds	Funds of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) under 4 th Health Nutrition and Population Sector Program (HPNSP)	
Particular Information		
11. Project / Program Name (If Applicable)	Health Economics and Financing, 4 th Health Nutrition and Population Sector Program (HPNSP)	
	Date	Time
12. EOI closing date and time	06 February, 2021	12:00
13. Brief Description of the Assignment	National Senior Consultant (UHC)	
14. Experience, Resource and Delivery Capacity Required	To be selected, the organization must have the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A master's degree in Health Economics/Economics. At least 10 years working experience with GO/INGO/NGO preferably in data collection, management, analysis, monitoring & evaluation related to health care expenditure Familiar with System of Health Accounts 2011 Familiar with ICPC-2 (International Classification of Primary Care) 2nd version Classification Familiar with ICD-10 [International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD)] 10th version Classification Familiar with Anatomical, Therapeutical and Chemical Classification Experience of organizing & conducting training sessions and carry out research activities Experience in making practical, policy-oriented, and evidence-based recommendations Ability to provide the full range of operational assistance with independent responsibility Demonstrated ability to and analytical tasks and to contribute to resolution of sector and country issues Health Expenditure Tracking background will be treated as extra advantages. 	
15. Other details (if applicable)	EOI should be submitted in sealed envelope clearly marked "Request for EOI for National Senior Consultant" to the undersigned within 06 February, 2021 at 12 hrs.	
16. Association with external firm	Not Applicable	
17. Indicative start date (month/year)	March, 2021	
18. Indicative completion date (month/year)	June, 2023	
Procuring Entity Details		
19. Name of Official Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)	Dr. Mohd. Shahadt Hossain Mahmud	
20. Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Director General (Additional Secretary), Health Economics Unit, Health Service Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)	
21. Address of Official Inviting EOI	Health Economics Unit, 14/2, Topkhana Road (3 rd Floor), Dhaka 1000.	
22. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone-9586822, Fax: 9582207 e-mail: dg@heu.gov.bd	
22. Detail information available in the website	www.hsd.gov.bd ; www.heu.portal.gov.bd ; www.cptu.gov.bd	

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.

Director General (Additional Secretary)
Health Economics Unit, Health Service Division,
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)

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