

Daily rate drops below 3 percent

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 An indication of how widespread the infection is in the area where testing is occurring and whether levels of testing are keeping up with levels of disease transmission, according to John Hopkins University.
 A high percentage of positive cases means that more testing should probably be done and it suggests that it is not a good time to relax restrictions aimed at reducing coronavirus transmission.
 As a rule of thumb, the positivity rate is thought to be "too high" if it is more than five percent.
 In May, the World Health Organization recommended that the positivity rate should be below five percent for at least two weeks before governments considered reopening.
 Referring to the WHO, the Health Minister Zahid Maleque said on Tuesday, "The positivity rate has been near three percent for many days. We are in a good situation and we have to try maintaining it."
 Mushtuq Hussain, consultant of the

Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) told The Daily Star yesterday, "The current positivity rate doesn't mean the transmission is under control. In fact, community transmission is ongoing and it may go up anytime as like as we observed in many countries."
 He said there is no alternative to wearing masks, washing hands frequently and maintain physical distance.
 Prof Ridwanur Rahman, an infectious disease specialist also echoed him.
 With the latest figure, the total number of confirmed cases rose to 536,545, according to the press release.
 And the total number of deaths reached 8,162 which is 1.52 percent of all confirmed cases.
 In those 24 hours, a total of 578 Covid-19 patients recovered from their illnesses, raising the total number of recoveries to 481,306.
 With this, the recovery rate stands at 89.70 percent.
 Among the 13 deceased, 11 were males.

4 homeopathy shop owners

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 people in different places of the town died since last Saturday after consuming poisonous liquor collected from the homeopathy shops," said Humayan Kabir, officer-in-charge of Bogura Sadar Police Station.
 Monower Hosain Ripon, 42, brother of a person who has fallen ill after drinking the toxic liquor filed the case accusing four owners of local homeopathy shops on Tuesday.
 The accused are Shahinur Rahman Shahin, 42, owner of Khan Homeo Herbal, Nur Mohammad, 65, supervisor of Punam and Parul Homeo Laboratories, Nurnabi, 58, owner of Parul Homeo Lab and Nur Islam, 60, owner of Punam Homeo Lab.
 Nur Islam, Nur Mohammad and Nurnabi are siblings, said police.
 Police arrested Nurnabi, 58, Md Abdul Khalek, 55, owner of the Moon Homeo hall in Gallapatri area, Md Abu Jewel, 55, a staffer of Hasan Homeo and Shahidul Islam Sabur, 55, proprietor of Korotoa Homeo and Laboratories Private Limited, Bogura.
 OC Humayan said the arrestees were sent to court yesterday afternoon with an appeal for seven days' remand for each and that the Bogura court granted two days' remand for each of the arrestees.
 Police arrested them after conducting drives since February 1, said OC Humayan

Kabir.
 The arrestees admitted that they use to sell rectified spirit to the local consumers, said Ali Asraf Bhuiyan, superintendent of police, Bogura.
 "We have conducted drives in three homeo laboratories [Parul, Moon and Korotoa] today [Wednesday] and recovered some other chemical as well as rectified spirit. We are examining the chemicals," said Faisal Mahmud, additional superintendent of police (Bogura Sadar circle).
 "We have learnt from deceased family members, locals, and people undergoing treatment at hospital that the arrestees and the accused homeopathy labs used to mix other chemicals like methanol with the rectified spirit and sell alcohol to consumers," said the ASP.
 When contacted, Md Shareful Islam Mollah, assistant director of the Bogura drug administration, said, "Khan Homeopath has licence to sell homeopathic medicine. They have no right sell rectified spirit."
 On the other hand, Punam and Parul homeo labs cannot even keep rectified spirit as they did not renew their licences to import rectified spirit to manufacture homeopathic medicine since 2005 and 2015 respectively, Shareful said.
 "We will cancel their licence and applications for renewal," said the assistant director.



Onions spilled over an open space in Dinajpur's Gor-e-Shaheed Boromath area as those, supplied by Trade Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), were rotten from before. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

Bangladesh moves four notches up

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 weaknesses are more prevalent than in flawed democracies – in political culture, functioning of government and political participation," the report mentioned as definition of hybrid regime.
 "Corruption tends to be widespread and the rule of law is weak. Civil society is weak. Typically, there is harassment of and pressure on journalists, and the judiciary is not independent," the definition further said.
 Bangladesh scored 5.99, out of 10, this year to be ranked 76th among 165 countries and two territories. Last year, Bangladesh ranked 80th with 5.88 points among the same number of states and territories.
 Among six South Asian countries covered in the report, India and Sri Lanka are ahead of Bangladesh while Pakistan, Bhutan and Nepal are behind. India slipped down two notches on the index compared to previous year, while Nepal remained static and four other countries recorded improvement.
 This is the 13th edition of the Democracy Index, which began in 2006. It records how global

democracy fared in 2020. It provides a snapshot of the state of democracy in 165 independent states and two territories.
 The index is formed based on five categories: electoral process and pluralism, the functioning of government, political participation, political culture, and civil liberties.
 Based on its scores on a range of indicators within these categories, each country is then itself classified as one of four types of regime: "full democracy", "flawed democracy", "hybrid regime" or "authoritarian regime".
WORST GLOBAL SCORE SINCE 2006
 As recorded in the Democracy Index in recent years, democracy has not been in robust health for some time.
 Last year, its strength was further tested by the Covid-19 pandemic. The average global score in the 2020 Democracy Index fell to 5.37, down from 5.44 in 2019.
 This is by far the worst global score since the index was first produced in 2006.
 In 2020, a large majority of countries, 116 of a total of 167 (almost 70 percent), recorded

a decline in their total score compared with 2019. Only 38 (22.6 percent) recorded an improvement and the other 13 stagnated, with their scores remaining unchanged compared with 2019.
 According to the report, only about half (49.4 percent) of the world's population live in a democracy of some sort, and even fewer (8.4 percent) reside in a "full democracy"; this level is up from 5.7 percent in 2019, as several Asian countries have been upgraded.
 More than one-third of the world's population live under authoritarian rule, with a large share being in China.
 In the 2020 Index, 75 of the 167 countries and territories covered by the model, or 44.9 percent of the total, are considered to be democracies.
 The number of "full democracies" increased to 23 in 2020, up from 22 in 2019. The number of "flawed democracies" fell by two, to 52.
 Of the remaining 92 countries in the Index, 57 are "authoritarian regimes", up from 54 in 2019, and 35 are classified as "hybrid regimes", down from 37 in 2019.

Weak co-op a major barrier

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 global economy.
 A WHO team searching for clues about the virus's origins went to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, one of the most-watched stops on a politically sensitive trip to the central Chinese city where the virus was first detected.
 Peter Daszak, one of the experts, tweeted that the team had an "extremely important meeting today with staff" and a "frank, open discussion."
 Nevertheless, top WHO officials, including members of the team, have played down the chances of finding definitive answers on the trip, including how the virus jumped from animals to

humans.
 "It is very unlikely that (on) such a short mission, (we) would have a very advanced understanding or definite answers" about the origins of the virus, WHO team member Hung Nguyen-Viet told AFP from Wuhan.
 Saudi Arabia on Tuesday suspended entry from 20 countries, ranging from some neighbouring states to the United States, in a bid to curb a jump in coronavirus infections.
SPUTNIK V BOOST
 Hopes for ending the pandemic were boosted by the publication of final-stage trial results showing that Russia's Sputnik V vaccine is 91.6 percent effective against symptomatic Covid-19 cases.

Trump lawyers, Democrats spar

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 "There is no 'January Exception' to impeachment or any other provision of the Constitution," they wrote. "Presidents do not get a free pass to commit high crimes and misdemeanors near the end of their term."
 The Democratic-led House impeached Trump on January 13 on a single charge of inciting insurrection with his speech to supporters before the attack. He is the first US president to be impeached twice and the first to face trial after leaving office.
 "It would be perverse to suggest that our shared commitment to free speech requires the Senate to ignore the obvious: that President Trump is singularly responsible for the violence and destruction that unfolded in our seat of government on January 6," the

Democrats wrote.
 Trump's defense team argued that not only does the Senate lack the authority to put Trump on trial but that the chamber also has no jurisdiction to prevent him from holding office again.
 The Constitution states that conviction can lead to "removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States."
 "The 45th President of the United States performed admirably in his role as president, at all times doing what he thought was in the best interests of the American people," Trump's defense team said.
'STOP THE STEAL'
 During his January 6 speech, Trump repeated false claims that the election was fraudulent and

exhorted supporters to march on the Capitol, telling them to "stop the steal," "show strength" and "fight like hell."
 The rampage interrupted the formal congressional certification of Democratic President Joe Biden's victory, sent lawmakers into hiding for their own safety and left five people dead including a police officer.
 "President Trump's conduct offends everything that the Constitution stands for," the House lawmakers, known as impeachment managers, wrote in their 80-page brief.
 "He summoned a mob to Washington, exhorted them into a frenzy, and aimed them like a loaded cannon down Pennsylvania Avenue. As the Capitol was overrun, President Trump was reportedly 'delighted,'" they said.

Prosecution seeks capital

FROM PAGE 12
 Arafat Rahman Siam and Shafiqur Rahman Farabi.
 Law enforcers are looking for Maj (sacked) Zia and Akram.
 Earlier, 28 prosecution witnesses, including Avijit's father Prof Ajoy Roy, who passed away on December 9, 2019, gave depositions before the tribunal.
 On February 26, 2015, US-based Bangladeshi blogger Avijit Roy and his wife Rafida Ahmed Bonya were hacked near the TSC of Dhaka University by a gang of assailants when the couple was walking out of the Ekushey Boi Mela around 8:30pm.

Prof Ajoy filed the murder case accusing unidentified assailants with Shahbagh Police Station the next day.
 Bonya is now living in the United States. She suffered severe injuries when she tried to protect her husband from the attackers.
 Inspector Muhammad Monirul Islam of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of police submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court in Dhaka on March 11, 2019.
 On August 1 that year, the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal of Dhaka framed charges against the six accused.

Punishment should be enhanced

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 The bench made the observation during hearing a bail petition of SM Shoabul Kabir, convict of a case filed against nine executives of Bismillah Group for laundering Tk 15.33 crore.
 A Dhaka court on September 10, 2018, sentenced them to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment each in the case.
 The convicts include Bismillah Group Managing Director Khaza Solaiman Anwar Chowdhury, his wife, and the chairperson of Bismillah Group Nowrin Hasib,

Shafiqul Anwar Chowdhury, Akbar Aziz Muttakin, Abul Hashem Chowdhury, Riazuddin Ahmed, and Akbar Hossain.
 Of the convicts, Mustaque Ahmed Khan and SM Shoabul Kabir are now in jail and the rest are on the run.
 Yesterday, the HC bench refused to grant bail to Shoabul Kabir and said it would hold a hearing on his appeal challenging the trial court verdict on him, Anti-Corruption Commission's lawyer Hassan MS Azim told The Daily Star.

He said no lawyer appealed for Shoabul Kabir yesterday.
 Lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan informed the HC that the highest punishment under the Money Laundering Prevention Act is 12 years' imprisonment.
 Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik told this correspondent that the HC bench, earlier in February, last year, directed the authorities to arrest the absconding convicts of the case, and accordingly, a red alert has been issued against them.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ
সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল।
ফোনঃ ০৪৩১-৬৪১৮৫, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০৪৩১-৬৬৮৪৪
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স্মারক নং- ৩৫.০১.০৬৪১.৪০০.০৭.০১৯.১৯ - ২৫৫ তারিখঃ ০২/০২/২০২১ খ্রিঃ।

"সেতুর ইজারা কোটেশন আহবান বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

০১।	ইজারা কোটেশন নং	: ০১ (ইজারা)/বিহার/২০২০-২০২১
০২।	ইজারার বিবরণ	: বরিশাল সড়ক বিভাগীয় ঢাকা (বাতাবাড়ি)-মাওয়া-ভাঙ্গা-বরিশাল-পূরানাবাদী জাতীয় মহাসড়কের ১৪৮তম কিলোমিটারে বীরশ্রেষ্ঠ ক্যাপ্টেন মহিউদ্দিন আহম্মেদ সেতু (পোয়ারিকা সেতু) ও ১৪৯তম কিলোমিটারে বেঙ্গল এম. এ. জলিল সেতুর (শিকারপুর সেতু) টোল আদায়ের জন্য ইজারা প্রদান।
০৩।	ইজারা কিস্তির মেয়াদ	: ৩ (তিন) অর্থ বছর (৩০৬৫ দিন)।
০৪।	ইজারা কোটেশনের সিদ্ধিষ্টি মূল্য	: টাঃ ৫,০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা মাত্র)।
০৫।	বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ	: উক্ত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা দশ ভাগ) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে।
০৬।	ইজারা কোটেশন বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ২০/০২/২০২১ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৭।	মুখবন্ধ অবস্থায় ইজারা কোটেশন গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ২৪/০২/২০২১ খ্রিঃ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৮।	ইজারা ডাকে অংশ গ্রহণের যোগ্যতা	: ডাট্টা ও আয়বর সন্দর্ভাধী প্রতিষ্ঠান/নাগরিক, সরকারী/বেসরকারী/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রকৌশলী।
০৯।	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন ক্রেতার জন্য পত্রিকা যাবে	: বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, বরিশাল / জেলা প্রশাসক, বরিশাল / নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল / ভাঙ্গা / বালকাঠী / পিরোজপুর / গ্রামিং বিভাগ-১, সড়ক ভবন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা / উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ-১/২, বরিশাল।
১০।	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন মুখবন্ধ অবস্থায় গ্রহণ করা হবে	: (ক) বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, বরিশাল। (খ) অতিরিক্ত প্রধান প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, বরিশাল জোন, বরিশাল। (গ) তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক সার্কেল, বরিশাল। (ঘ) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল। (ঙ) জেলা প্রশাসক, বরিশাল।
১১।	ইজারা কোটেশন খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	: স্থানঃ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল। তারিখঃ ২৪/০২/২০২১ খ্রিঃ। সময়ঃ বিকাল ০.০০ ঘটিকা।
১২।	ইজারা কোটেশন আদানকারী যে কোন সময় কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতকে যে কোন কোটেশন / সকল কোটেশন বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	

(মাসুম শাহেদুল সুলতান)
 পরিচিতি নং-৬০২৯৬৫
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32 killed in road pile-up in Uganda

AFP, Kampala
 Thirty-two people died and five were injured on Tuesday when a truck carrying mourners collided with a car and three other vehicles in Uganda, the Ugandan Red Cross said.
 The overloaded truck, carrying mourners and a coffin, collided with a car near Kasese in western Uganda shortly before midnight, according to Red Cross spokeswoman Irene Nakasiita.
 "The road is small, it's under construction and it was dark," said Nakasiita.

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Ref. No. 04(W)/e-GP/DSH/2020-21 Date: 03/02/2021

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Sl No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Publication date & time	Last selling and closing date & time
1	Construction of RCC surface Drain Development of Internal Bituminous Road and Development Car Parking Area at Dhaka Shishu (Children) Hospital.	543950	04/02/2021 10:00	17/02/2021-16:00 18/02/2021-12:00

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 # Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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