



Police fire a water cannons at protesters demonstrating against the coup and demanding the release of elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi, in Nyaipitaw, Myanmar yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Mugda lacks facilities for the elderly

FROM PAGE 1  
Talking to The Daily Star, they complained of mismanagement at the public hospital's inoculation management.

Abul Hossain, 73, and his wife Monowara Begum, 65, are among them. "We came here around 10:00am. We had to wait for three hours to take the shot," said Abdul, who lives in Gopibagh area.

The vaccination is supposed to start at 8:00am and end at 4:00pm every day. But at the hospital at Mugda, the first shot was administered around 10:00am yesterday, officials said.

A total of 500 people were scheduled to be given the dose. Of them, 354 were vaccinated yesterday. On the first day of the mass inoculation against the Covid-19, on Sunday, 314 of 500 registered people were given the shots at the hospital, said officials.

Muhtasim Belal, who came along with father Nurul Haque Patowary, 93, and mother Rokeya Begum, 75, said they too did not find any hospital attendant after arriving there.

"I asked the receptionists where the vaccination booths were and he told me that they were on the second floor. It would have been better if the vaccination centre had been situated on the ground floor since the vaccine

recipients include many elderly people like my parents," Belal told this newspaper at the hospital.

They also should have arranged wheelchairs, he added.

Many others said there were no printers at the vaccination booths, so they had to go outside to take a printout of the registration form's copy.

Asked, the deputy director of the hospital Md Nurul Islam said they pasted written instructions on the ground floor's wall.

Asked about the lifts, Asim Kumar Nath, director of the hospital, said two of the four elevators there were out of order. Of the two, one was dedicated to the doctors.

"We are repairing the lifts. Wheelchairs have been provided for the elderly," he said.

In Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and Shuhrawardy Medical College Hospital, elderly people, on the contrary, expressed satisfaction at their services yesterday.

Retired engineer Sayed Hossain and his wife went to the BSMMU vaccination centre and took the jabs around half an hour before the schedule.

"We're happy with the services. We are now going back home," Sayed told

this newspaper sitting on a wheelchair, before boarding an ambulance.

For businessman Hazi Tofazzol Hossain, 68, who came from Sankar area of Dhanmondi, taking the vaccine was his responsibility, he said.

"Many people don't want to get vaccinated. For me, it was an urgent issue. I am feeling well after taking the shot," he said, as he was waiting at the post-vaccination observation room at Shuhrawardy Medical College Hospital.

Urging people to take the vaccine, he said, "We should not believe any rumours. If the vaccine was not good, hundreds of thousands of people would not take this worldwide."

At the same centre at the hospital, Ahsan Habib, a young banker from Keraniganj's Kalatia, took the jab yesterday.

"All of my colleagues have also registered for the vaccination. We all are taking the vaccine willingly to stay safe from Covid-19," Habib told The Daily Star.

Martha Mondal, a nurse who was injecting the vaccine at the centre, said people were taking the vaccine eagerly. "The presence of the vaccine recipients is good. None of them showed any symptoms during the last two days of vaccination," she said.

## Bank directors seek longer loan tenures

FROM PAGE 1  
The proposals and coming up with a decision.

BAB Chairman Nazrul could not be reached over phone for comments.

The BAB wrote to the central bank governor on February 4 requesting him to extend the relaxed repayment tenure by two to three years for term loans.

Credits with a repayment tenure of more than a year are considered term loans.

The central bank eased the repayment facility for term loans on January 31 to help borrowers pay instalments easily as the pandemic persists. The loan moratorium facility granted to all types of borrowers throughout last year was not extended.

The instalments of the term loans that were scheduled to be paid last year would be added to the principal amount of borrowers. This may create trouble for borrowers as the instalment amounts would be bigger, which prompted the central bank to come up with the January 31 move.

But BAB requested the BB to reschedule working capital and

demand loans by stretching the repayment tenure to three years from the existing one year.

A demand loan is a borrowing instrument that allows lenders to recall loans on short notice. Once notified, borrowers must repay the full amount and any associated interests.

Working capital is another short-term loan that banks give to borrowers to operate their business. The repayment tenure of both working capital and demand loans is maximum one year.

In addition, the central bank was requested to ask banks not to take any down payment while rescheduling working capitals.

Banks usually take down payments from 15 percent to 30 percent in order to regularise working capital and demand loans.

The Daily Star talked to the managing directors of four banks on Sunday about the BAB's proposal. All of them strongly opposed the idea saying it would deteriorate the financial health of banks.

If banks converted demand and working capital loans into term loans,

there would be a liquidity mismatch in the banking industry, the MDs said.

As much as 70 percent of the total outstanding loans, amounting to Tk 1,011,829 crore, were term loans as of December last year, according to a central bank official.

The existing surplus liquidity would not last forever and banks could face fund shortages when the economy picked up.

"The cash flow of banks will nosedive if working capital and demand loans are converted into term loans," said one of the MDs.

Salehuddin Ahmed, a former governor of the central bank, said the BAB was not authorised to submit such proposals to the central bank as there was a conflict of interest.

"Directors are not allowed to be involved in the operations of banks. But the proposals have given a clear indication that they are engaged in the daily operations of banks, breaching rules," he said.

The central bank should strictly oppose the BAB recommendations, Salehuddin said.

## Husband held overnight for testifying

FROM PAGE 12  
According to the case filed with Shahporan Police Station after the woman was gang-raped on MC College campus, the Chhatra League men who raped the woman also took away the valuables from her and her husband.

On December 3, police pressed charges of gang-rape against eight Chhatra League leaders, and named 51 people as witnesses in the case.

Charge sheets, submitted in the other case filed over the robbery, mentioned the names of the same accused and witnesses.

The tribunal framed the charges in the gang rape case on January 17 and

fixed January 24 to begin the trial.

The plaintiff's lawyer on January 24 filed a petition to the tribunal to hold trials of both cases in one court, but the court denied the plea. The plaintiff's lawyer then appealed to the High Court the same day.

Since the plaintiff's lawyers were to file that plea, no witnesses appeared before the court that day, the lawyer said. The court then fixed January 27 to hear the case and issued a non-bailable warrant for the man.

Meanwhile, the High Court bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman on Sunday directed the Sylhet tribunal to

hold trials of both the cases.

Lawyers in Sylhet pointed out that some of the accused in the cases didn't have a lawyer to represent them when the charges were framed. And one of the accused still does not have a lawyer.

This might create a legal loophole through which the accused could get acquitted even after they are convicted, they added.

The HC bench on Sunday ordered that attorneys represent the accused if there is no alternative. The bench then directed the police commissioner in Sylhet to ensure safety of the victim, her husband, the witnesses and the lawyers representing the victim.

## Headache called brick kiln

FROM PAGE 12  
hazardous environment will have an adverse impact on their mental and physical health."

When the school began its journey in 1992, the brick field was small. But it kept expanding over the years. And taking advantage of school closure due to the pandemic, it expanded further and even moved into the school yard, she said.

There are some other schools in the area, including Munshibazar Government Primary School, Kaliprasad High School, and Sajeda Bari Kindergarten School.

As per the Brick Manufacturing and Brick Kilns Establishment (Control) Act-2013, establishing a brick field is prohibited within a three-kilometre radius of residential areas, upazila headquarters, fruit orchards, farmlands, forestlands, education institutions and localities, said Nurul Muhaimin Milton, general secretary

of Moulvibazar Environmental Journalists' Forum.

Jalalia is a residential area with vast swatches of cropland. Farmers say their production is being hampered as the ashes fill up their fields.

"Normally, a brick kiln emits a huge amount of hazardous smoke and ashes that pollute the environment. If a brick kiln is located in a residential area, it poses serious health risks to people," said Narayan Saha, former head of Department of Forestry and Environmental Science at Shahjalal University of Science Technology.

Kamalganj Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Mahbulul Alam Bhuiyan said locals can suffer from various diseases including respiratory problems, cough, allergies and pneumonia due to the air pollution caused by the brick kiln.

"We, the people of this area, have discussed the issue with the administration multiple times. But we

did not get any result."

Kamalganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ashkeul Haque said, "We are aware of the matter. We have already visited the area to observe the situation."

"The brick kiln was established long before setting up the school. So, it would not be justified to evict the brick field. We are now discussing it with our higher authorities to finalise the next course of action."

Badrul Huda, assistant director of the Department of Environment in Moulvibazar said, the brick field has approval from the environment department.

"We will look into the matter. We will take action, if anyone thinks unlawful activities are happening there," he told The Daily Star.

Contacted, the brick field's manager Mintu Deb said the brick field has been running its activities in compliance with all legal provisions since its establishment.

## Dogs detect

FROM PAGE 12  
samples from Covid-positive patients and we can say that they have a 94% probability in our study ... that they can sniff them out," said Holger Volk, head of the veterinary clinic.

"So dogs can really sniff out people with infections and without infections, as well as asymptomatic and symptomatic Covid patients," he added.

Stephan Weil, premier of Lower Saxony, the state of which Hanover is the capital, said he was impressed with the study and called for a feasibility tests before the sniffer dogs are put to use in everyday life, such as on people attending concerts.

"We now need tests in selected events," Weil said.

In Finland, dogs trained to detect the novel coronavirus began sniffing passenger samples at Finland's Helsinki-Vantaa airport last September, in a pilot project alongside more usual testing at the airport.

Chile's Santiago international airport is also using canine detectors.

## Journo Akib

FROM PAGE 12  
in connection with the case. The court sent him to jail without granting him bail in the case.

On January 25, the district and sessions judge's court of Kishoreganj rejected a bail petition of Akib.

Seeking bail, he then submitted a petition to the HC through his lawyer Hatem Ali.

After hearing of the bail petition, HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Kazi Md Ejarul Haque Akondo yesterday granted bail to Akib for six months.

Deputy Attorney General Md Aminul Islam told The Daily Star that the state would not move any appeal before the Supreme Court's Appellate Division challenging the HC order.

He said a mobile court fined Akib Tk 5,000 for running a motorcycle without licence on December 28.

Then, he allegedly slammed the DC, the executive magistrate concerned and police personnel through a Facebook live programme, DAG Aminul said.

Lawyer Hatem could not be communicated for his comments on the issue.

## CTTC nabs

FROM PAGE 12  
imprisonment in one of the cases.

According to a press release sent by DMP's media wing, CTTC officials had intelligence that some criminals were trying to gather firearms to carry out targeted killings and violence.

Suspecting this was an attempt by militants, the officials started investigation and carried out a drive in Pallabi area, detaining a person for interrogation.

During primary interrogation, the officials came to know that the arrestee was "top criminal" Mamun, the press release mentioned.

CTTC officials said Mamun was one of the top criminals from Mirpur area who "controlled the underworld in the area" before he was arrested by law enforcers in 2001.

He came out of jail and fled to India in 2004. While in India, he communicated with fugitive "top criminal" Shahadat Hossain. Shahadat's men used to extort money from different important people and businessmen by threatening them over phones, said police.

## West backs shot after

FROM PAGE 12  
Africa using a similar viral vector, vaccines may continue to ease the toll on health care systems by preventing severe disease."

French Health Minister Olivier Veran voiced support for the AstraZeneca vaccine, arguing it provided sufficient protection against "nearly all the variants" of the virus.

German Health Minister Jens Spahn said current evidence suggests all three vaccines approved in Europe - which include AstraZeneca - provided effective protection against serious infections.

Britain and Australia urged calm, citing evidence that the vaccines prevented grave illness and death, while AstraZeneca said it believed its vaccine could protect against severe disease.

"We think that both the vaccines that we're currently using are effective in, as I say, in stopping serious disease and death," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson told reporters. Britain also uses the Pfizer shot.

"We also think in particular in the case of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine that there's good evidence that it is stopping transmission, as well, I think 67% reduction in transmission."

Australia is expected approve the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine within days and expressed confidence in it.

"There is currently no evidence to indicate a reduction in the effectiveness of either the AstraZeneca or Pfizer vaccines in preventing severe disease and death. That is the fundamental task, to protect the health," Health Minister Greg Hunt said.

But if vaccines do not work as effectively as hoped against new and emerging variants, then the world could be facing a much longer - and more expensive - battle against the virus than previously thought.

The AstraZeneca vaccine was the big hope for Africa as it is cheap and easy to store and transport. South Africa, which had hoped to roll out the AstraZeneca shot this month, is storing around 1 million doses it has received from the Serum Institute of India.

The B.1.351 variant dominant in South Africa, also known as 20I/501Y.V2, is also circulating in at least 40 other countries, including the United States. Other major variants include one first found in Britain, known as 20I/501Y.V1, and one found in Brazil known as P.1.

## Rohingyas will

FROM PAGE 12  
He echoed previous military insistence that the power grab was in line with the constitution, but declared that this time things would be "different" from the army's previous 49-year reign, which ended in 2011.

"After the tasks of the emergency period are completed, free and fair multi-party general elections will be held according to the constitution," he said.

"The winning party will be transferred state duty according to democratic standards."

The general said the country welcomed foreign investment and also announced lifting of coronavirus restrictions, including reopening schools and pagodas.

Rohingya refugees who escaped to Bangladesh during a 2017 crisis will continue to be repatriated to Rakhine state, he added.

**MASS RALLIES**

The junta has so far refrained from using deadly force against the demonstrations sweeping most of Myanmar, but with pressure building riot police fired water cannon in an attempt to disperse thousands gathered in Nyaipitaw yesterday.

The military last week detained civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi and dozens of other members of her National League for Democracy party, ending a decade of partial civilian

rule and triggering international condemnation.

In the face of an increasingly bold wave of defiance, state broadcaster MRTV in the afternoon warned that opposition to the junta was unlawful and signalled a potential crackdown.

"Action must be taken according to the law with effective steps against offences which disturb, prevent and destroy the state's stability, public safety and the rule of law," said a statement read by an announcer on the channel.

In Yangon, the nation's commercial capital, dense crowds spilt onto the city's main roads, immobilising traffic and dwarfing the previous day's rally.

"Down with military dictatorship" and "release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and arrested people", protesters chanted, flashing the three-finger salute that has come to symbolise their movement as car horns were honked in support.

Textile workers, civil servants and railway employees went on strike and hit the streets.

"This is a work day, but we aren't going to work even if our salary will be cut," one protester, 28-year-old garment factory worker Hnin Thazin, told AFP.

Construction worker Chit Min, 18, joined the Yangon rally, saying his loyalty to Suu Kyi outweighed concerns about his financial situation.

## 2 Rohingya 'drug dealers'

FROM PAGE 12  
said Yar Hossain, assistant director of the battalion.

The BGB personnel confronted a group of "yaba dealers" who opened fire on the border guards, forcing them to retaliate in self-defence, he said.

Later, the BGB men found two persons lying on the ground with bullet wounds and took them to Sadar

Hospital where doctors declared them dead. The accomplices of the two, however, escaped.

Two BGB members were also injured in the incident, the BGB official said.

One lakh yaba pills were seized and two guns, four cartridges and two bullets were recovered from the spot.

A case was filed in this connection.

## Fugitive convict 'selling

FROM PAGE 12  
Rocky had filed the case with a Dhaka court, the first ever case filed under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013.

A judicial inquiry found Pallabi Police Station then SI Zahidul Islam Khan, assistant sub-inspectors Md Kamruzzaman Minto and Rashedul Hassan and police informants Russel and Sumon involved in the incident.

Delivering the landmark judgement on September 9 last year, a Dhaka court sentenced the three policemen to life imprisonment and Sumon and Russel to seven years in prison each.

Pallabi Police Station OC Kazi Wazed Ali said he has deployed three teams to arrest Russel.

He also said the allegation of Russel's involvement in drug dealing was not true.



**পরিচালক ও যুগ্ম-পরিচালক নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বাউবি/প্রশা/নি-৮(১৯)/৯৬/পাট-৩/৪৯৮

বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় একটি সুপ্রতিষ্ঠিত প্রযুক্তিনির্ভর পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়। প্রায় দশ লক্ষ শিক্ষার্থী এবং ত্রিশ হাজার শিক্ষক-টিউটর সমৃদ্ধ এ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে ICT and E-Learning Center-এর তত্ত্বাবধানে অনলাইনে শিক্ষাদানসহ স্টাডি সেন্টারে সরাসরি শিক্ষাসেবা দেয়া হচ্ছে। শিক্ষার গুণগত মান নিশ্চিত করার জন্য এ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে প্রতিষ্ঠিত Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)-এ ১ জন অভিজ্ঞ পরিচালক ও ৩ জন যুগ্ম-পরিচালক নিয়োগ করা হবে। প্রার্থীদের বাংলা ও ইংরেজি ভাষার ব্যবহার এবং আইসিটিতে পর্যাপ্ত দক্ষতা থাকা আবশ্যিক। আবেদনের শেষ তারিখ ২৮-০২-২০২১ (অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত)। বেতনস্কেল ও অন্যান্য তথ্যের জন্য আবেদনকারীগণ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ওয়েব সাইট ([www.bou.edu.bd](http://www.bou.edu.bd)) ভিজিট করতে পারেন।

তারিখ: ০৪-০২-২০২১

হেড অফিসার

রোজিস্ট্রার

**বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়**

**BANGLADESH OPEN UNIVERSITY**

[বাংলাদেশের একমাত্র দূরশিক্ষণ পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়]



GD-268