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## REMITTANCE IN 2020 Bangladesh third largest recipient

Says EIU global report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh became one of the three large remittance-recipient countries that registered a rise in inward remittance last year, according to a new report of the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Last year, Bangladesh received about \$19.8 billion in remittance compared to \$18.4 billion it received the year before, said the report.

The other two countries that saw rise in inward remittance last year are Mexico (\$40.5 billion) and Pakistan (\$24.1 billion). Their inward remittance in 2019 was \$39 billion and \$22.2 billion respectively, added the report which also used World Bank data.

With the figure of \$19.8 billion, Bangladesh is the eighth highest recipient of remittance among the 10 countries listed by the recently published EIU report -- "Covid-19 and Migrant Remittances: A Hidden Crisis Looming?"

Other large remittance recipients in the list -- India, China, the Philippines, Egypt, Nigeria, Vietnam, and Ukraine -- saw decline in inward remittance last year.

Globally, inward remittance declined by \$50.5 billion last year with countries receiving \$666.2 billion compared to \$716.7 billion the year before, the report said.

"The World Bank estimates that global remittances fell by 7 percent in 2020, surpassing the 5 percent decline seen

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Almost an entire lane on the capital's Buriganga Bridge-2 is taken up by a crowd of people seeking to go to their village homes. With the International Mother Language Day on Sunday, people were eager to take advantage of the three-day weekend and leave the city. The photo was taken around 10:00am yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## UK's Prince Harry to lose all honorary titles

Says Buckingham Palace

Britain's Prince Harry will relinquish his honorary military appointments and patronages after confirming to Queen Elizabeth II that he and his wife Meghan Markle will not return as working royals, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, as they are officially known, rocked the British monarchy when they quit frontline royal duties a year ago and relocated to the United States, where they have embarked on several commercial ventures.

Under the terms of their departure, thrashed out at an emergency summit with the queen in early 2020, Harry agreed the couple would stop using the



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## 7 hurt as three-storey building topples

It was built on pond in Keraniganj without authorities' permission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least seven people were injured as a three-storey building, constructed on a pond without permission from the authorities, collapsed in Maddha Charail Playground area of Keraniganj yesterday.

Rahman, deputy assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Keraniganj, said the building came crashing down around 8:15am, trapping eight people inside.

Later, the members of Fire Service and Civil Defence rushed to the spot and rescued them around 9:30am, he added.

"Ideally, the building should have collapsed a long ago but it stood tall ghostly. Due to the weak soil underneath, the building collapsed," he said.

Meanwhile, the authorities vacated the surrounding five buildings which were constructed on or around the pond even without any foundation.

Utility connections, such as gas, electricity, and water, have been cut off from the buildings.

Kazi Mainul Islam, officer-in-charge

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## Nasa rover on Mars to find life



AFP, Washington

After seven months in space, Nasa's Perseverance rover overcame a tense landing phase with a series of perfectly executed maneuvers to gently float down to the Martian soil yesterday and embark on its mission to search for signs of past life.

"Touchdown confirmed," said operations lead Swati Mohan at 3:55 pm Eastern Time (2055 GMT), as mission control at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena erupted in cheers.

The autonomously guided procedure was in fact completed more than 11 minutes earlier, the length of time it took for radio signals to return to Earth. Shortly after landing, the rover sent back its first black-and-white images, revealing a rocky field at the landing site in the Jezero Crater, just north of the Red Planet's equator.

More images, video of the descent and perhaps the first sounds of Mars ever recorded by microphones are expected in the coming hours as the rover relays data to overhead satellites.

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## 8 more die, 406 infected with Covid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight 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).

With the latest deaths, the total number of fatality reached 8,337 and the death rate stands at 1.54 percent.

At least 406 new infections were recorded in the meantime, taking the total number of people infected to 542,674, added the release.

The current positivity rate is 2.85 percent while the total positivity rate stands at 13.83 percent.

A total of 14,232 samples were tested across the country in those 24 hours.

At least 536 Covid-19 patients have recovered during the period.

The total number of recoveries now stands at

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## 'Super plant' that helps soak up pollution



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Experts have identified a "super plant" commonly found in the UK which can help soak up pollution on busy roads.

Scientists at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) looked at the effectiveness of hedges for soaking up air pollution, comparing different types of shrubs including cotoneaster, hawthorn and western red cedar.

They discovered the denser, hairy-leaved Cotoneaster franchetii was at least 20 percent more effective at soaking up pollution from roads with heavy traffic compared to other shrubs, although it

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## 'Drug dealer' killed in 'gunfight' with Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab officials said a drug dealer was shot dead early yesterday in a gunfight with officers in Shopnodhora area of Keraniganj, Dhaka.

But Rab could not identify the man as of yesterday evening.

Rab-10 members brought the man, aged about 25, to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with multiple gunshot wounds, and he was pronounced dead soon afterwards, said Bachchu Mia, inspector of the police outpost at the hospital.

Lt Col Ashique Billah, legal and media director at Rab Headquarters, told The Daily Star that Rab officials had information that a group of drug peddlers would meet in Swapnadhara, and a team of Rab-10 raided the area early yesterday.

During the raid, the gang members started shooting

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## Man held over rape of teenager

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police yesterday arrested a man in Jashore for his alleged involvement in the rape of a teenage girl in the district's Jhikargachha upazila.

The arrestee is Nur Islam Gazi, 60, said police.

According to the case statement, Nur raped a 15-year-old girl around seven months ago and multiple times later.

He also threatened her with dire consequences if she had shared her experience with someone.

The victim, out of fear, kept mum but recently shared her experience with family members as she became pregnant.

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A sordid picture of rampant pollution in Kamrangirchar's Beribadh area in the capital. All the garbage of the area is dumped here, and apart from obstructing traffic movement as the garbage has spilled over onto the street, this negatively affects the environment.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## ROAD CRASH 3 Bangladeshi students killed in Canada



Aranoor Al Numan Risul

STAR REPORT

Three students from Bangladesh died on Thursday morning in a car crash south of Arborg, Manitoba in Canada, reports CBC News Canada.

The deceased were identified as Al Numan Aditta, Aranoor Azad Chowdhury, Risul Badhon, all Bangladeshi students studying at the University of Manitoba.

The three were returning from a trip to see the northern lights early on Thursday morning. A car travelling north on Highway 7 collided with the students' southbound car about 10 kilometres south of Arborg, a town about 115 kilometres north of Winnipeg, just before 6:30am Thursday (6:30pm Bangladesh time), Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) told CBC News Canada.

The three students in the southbound car -- Al Numan, Aranoor and Risul -- were pronounced dead at the scene. Police said two of the men were 23, but did not have an age for the third man, the report said.

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 20

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5:20 12:45 4:30 6:03 7:30  
JAMAAT 5:55 1:15 4:45 6:07 8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION