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RISE IN REMITTANCE IN 2020 Bangladesh one of three large recipients

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 during the global financial crisis in 2009."

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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
AFP, Londres

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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ROW OVER CRICKET MATCH 30 JU students hurt in clashes with villagers

JU CORRESPONDENT

At least 30 students were injured in clashes between students of Jahangirnagar University and villagers in Savar's Gerua Bazar yesterday evening.

Hundreds of students, both male and female, who live in messes in Gerua Bazar due to closure of the university amid the pandemic, were trapped in their rooms as intermittent clashes continued till filing this report at 10:30pm.

Sources said the clash broke out in the evening over a cricket match dispute. The match between students and locals was held on February 11. A scuffle took place between a JU Chhatra League man and some locals during the match. Tensions were high in the area since then.

After Maghrib prayers yesterday, villagers armed with rods, sticks and other local weapons gathered in Gerua Bazar. They were called in through loudspeakers of a local mosque, said witnesses.

"It's a matter of our honour. Come out of your homes with whatever you have," a speaker was heard saying through loudspeakers.

Villagers attacked JU students and set

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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.

Members of Rab-10 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 a police outpost at the hospital.

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

During the raid, the gang

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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
JAMAT 5:20 12:45 4:30 6:03 7:30
AZANAT 5:55 1:15 4:45 6:07 8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION