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SUPPLY OF COVID-19 SHOTS Serum urges nations to be patient

Expert warn about Maharashtra strain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute of India, yesterday urged countries to be patient for supplies of Covid-19 vaccine Covishield as the company has been directed to prioritise the "huge needs" of India.

Apart from making efforts to meet the requirements of India, the company is also trying its best to balance the needs of the rest of the world, he tweeted yesterday morning.

"Dear countries and governments, as you await #COVISHIELD supplies, I humbly request you to please be patient. @SerumInstIndia has been directed to prioritise the huge needs of India and along with that balance the needs of the rest of the world. We are trying our best," Poonawalla said in the tweet.

On February 15, the World Health Organization (WHO) listed two versions of the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine for emergency use, giving the green signal for these vaccines to be rolled out globally through Covax, the global vaccine alliance.

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The mangled remains of a bus after the vehicle collided head-on with a stone-laden truck on Dhaka-Rangpur highway early yesterday. According to bus passengers, the bus was overtaking a vehicle at speed when the crash happened. The accident left six people killed and 13 others injured in the College Gate area in Bogura's Sherpur upazila.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Reckless driving kills 6 in Bogura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

At least six people were killed and at least 13 others injured when a Bogura-bound bus crashed into a truck coming from the opposite direction in Sherpur upazila of the district around 5:00am yesterday.

Fire fighters, police and villagers rescued the injured and took them to hospitals.

Bus driver Babul Shaha, 55, and his assistant Idris Ali, 45, of Sherpur upazila; truck driver Saddam Hossain, 21, of Khulna; and passengers Aktar Hossain, 45, Easin Ali, 70, and his wife Hosne Ara Feroza, 60, of Bogura, died at the scene, said Ratan Hossain, station officer at Sherpur Fire Service and Civil Defense office.

Of the injured, four women and two children were admitted to Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital.

Two of them suffered critical injuries, said Abdul Wadud, deputy director of the hospital.

"The bus driver was reckless and he crashed while overtaking another vehicle at speed," said Baniul Anam, traffic inspector at Sherpur Highway Police Camp, quoting drivers of the other vehicles and passengers of the bus.

Five held for trying to frame shop owner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Detectives yesterday arrested five people, including two impersonating journalists, in Nasirabad area of Chattogram for attempting to frame a shop owner by planting bullets and yaba pills in his shop early yesterday.

The arrestees are Iftekhar Karim Chowdhury, 48, Md Sohel, 26, Md Faisal, 20, Md Nazrul Islam, 42, and Md Jamal Hossain, 41, said police.

Among them, Nazrul introduced himself as the driver of Chittagong University (CU)'s Vice-Chancellor Prof Shireen Akhter but police said they were verifying the information.

However, despite repeated attempts, the VC could not be reached for comments over phone.

Two ID cards of "Dainik Mukto Khabar" newspaper were also seized from Iftekhar and Nazrul.

Muhammad Ali Hossain, deputy commissioner of DB north division of CMP, in a press briefing, said, "The five had planted bullets and some yaba pills inside a shop named 'Hair and Fair' in front of MES College to frame the owner.

"When police got the information on Saturday, the DB men raided the shop and

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DEATHS OF ANTI-COUP PROTESTERS UN condemns Myanmar junta's actions

Large crowds return to streets with rallies; Facebook shuts down military's page for inciting violence

AGENCIES

A lethal attack on anti-coup protesters in Myanmar sparked fresh UN condemnation of the country's new military regime yesterday, as mourners held a funeral for a young woman who has become a national symbol of resistance to the junta.

Authorities have gradually ratcheted up their tactics against a massive and largely peaceful civil disobedience campaign demanding the return of ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Saturday marked the deadliest day so far in more than two weeks of nationwide street demonstrations after two people were killed when security forces fired upon a rally, while a third man was shot dead in Yangon overnight.

As dusk fell in downtown Yangon, Monywa and Myitkyina, there were singing and candlelight prayer ceremonies to pay tribute to the dead protesters.

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres condemned the use of "deadly violence" against the crowd in Mandalay.

"The use of lethal force, intimidation & harassment against peaceful demonstrators is unacceptable," Guterres wrote.

Facebook deleted the military's main page for repeated violations of

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7 more die of Covid, 327 infected

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh saw a rise in Covid-19 related deaths and a decline in new cases in the 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday.

Seven coronavirus-related deaths and 327 new cases were reported. On Saturday, five deaths and 350 fresh cases were confirmed.

Bangladesh reported its first cases on March 8 and the first death on March 18.

The daily infection rate was 2.33 percent on Sunday which was 3.14 percent yesterday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

So far, 543,351 Covid-19 cases have been confirmed, including 8,349 fatalities.

According to the latest figures, the overall infection rate stood at 13.76 percent which was 13.8 percent on Saturday. The rate is expected to fall further as a countrywide coronavirus vaccination drive is underway.

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Ingenuity helicopter phones home from Mars



CNN ONLINE

The Ingenuity helicopter, sidekick and traveling companion of Nasa's Perseverance rover, has checked in with a good report and is "operating as expected," according to the agency.

If successful, Ingenuity will be the first helicopter to fly on another planet, leading to an "extraterrestrial Wright Brothers moment," said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of Nasa's Science Mission Directorate.

The rover landed safely on the surface of Mars Thursday after launching from Earth on July 30. Perseverance has already sent back an impressive set of images to show that she's safe and ready to go through a "checkout" phase before starting her

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SC JUDGEMENTS Would be translated into Bangla if need be

Says CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court judgments and orders that are delivered in English will be translated in Bangla through software if felt necessary, said Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain yesterday.

Those verdicts and orders will be translated into Bangla so that most of the people can easily understand them, he said.

He made the remark after paying homage to the 1952 Language Martyrs at the Central Shaheed Minar, Supreme Court Spokesman Saifur Rahman told The Daily Star.

Around 50 judges from the Appellate and High Court Divisions of the SC, along with the chief justice, placed floral wreaths to the Central Shaheed Minar to

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ATTACK ON STUDENTS JU sues 250 unnamed villagers

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jahanginagar University authorities yesterday filed a case against 250 unnamed locals who allegedly attacked students on Friday evening over a cricket match.

JU Assistant Registrar (security) Jefrul Hasan confirmed the matter to The Daily Star.

"I, from the university authority, have filed the case mentioning 250 unnamed attackers with Ashulia Police Station, the number is 59/21," he said.

On Saturday, this decision was taken at an emergency syndicate meeting chaired by JU

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 22
Fazr 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



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Two children, who came to the Central Shaheed Minar with their parents, paying tribute to the language movement martyrs by placing flowers at the Shaheed Minar altar as yesterday was the International Mother Language Day. Amidst the pandemic, people from all walks of life thronged there to pay homage to the brave sons of the soil who laid down their lives in 1952 for their mother tongue Bangla.

INDO-BANGLA HOME SECYS MEET Border killings prominent on agenda

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh-India home secretary-level meeting will be held in Dhaka on February 27, a month before Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's planned visit to Dhaka on March 26-27.

Bangladesh Home Secretary Mostafa Kamal Uddin and his Indian counterpart Ajay Kumar Bhalla will lead the respective countries in the meeting.

"It is a regular meeting. Our regular issues will be discussed in it," an official concerned told this correspondent yesterday.

He said border killing is among other issues that would be highlighted.

Border killing has been a thorny issue between the two countries, and Bangladesh on various occasions raised it, urging for zero deaths on the border.

The Indian side says not only Bangladeshis, almost a similar number of Indians are also killed on the border. Even, members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) were also killed and injured on the border.

They said people from both the sides are involved in criminal activities on the border. Criminal gangs also sometimes shoot the border security forces, leading to casualties.

Indian High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami recently told this correspondent that joint border management, augmenting economic activities and border awareness can bring the border killing to zero level.

"We will hold a preparatory meeting on Monday and

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