



Ethnic Uighurs and activists attend a protest against the visit of China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi to the Turkish capital in front of the Chinese Embassy in Ankara, Turkey, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Police, not Hefajat, sue one under the DSA

FROM PAGE 20
Jhumon was detained on March 16 and sent to jail the next day on charges of violating section-54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).
He allegedly criticised Hefajat-e-Islam leader Mamunul Haque on Facebook.
OC Najmul said, "When we detained him, local Hefajat leaders told us that they would sue him. Since they have not done that and a court has already sent him to jail under the CrPC, we had to file the case."

"We informed the court about the case on Wednesday and Jhumon is now an arrestee in the case," he said.
Jhumon's mother Niva Rani Das at a press conference in the capital on Tuesday said she didn't know her son's whereabouts and wanted to see him.
She also demanded that her son be released because no case had been filed against him.
Hefajat held a rally in Derai, Sunamganj, on March 15. Jhumon, of Shalla, made the post on Facebook

the next day.
After Hefajat supporters started protesting hours later, locals detained Jhumon and handed him to police.
Nevertheless, crowds of Hefajat supporters attacked 90 houses of Hindu community people in Noagaon area of Shalla, ransacked seven temples, and stole their valuables.
Two separate cases, one by a union parishad chairman and another by police, were filed on March 18. As of yesterday, 35 people were arrested on charges of the attack.

Reopening

FROM PAGE 20
across the country.
"The closure of primary, secondary and higher secondary-level institutions is likely to be extended till the Eid holiday in coordination with the closure of universities," Minister Dipu Moni told reporters earlier in the day following a discussion organised to mark the Genocide Day at Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital yesterday.
The decision will be taken after a meeting with the National Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19, she said.
On February 22, the government announced that in-person classes at public and private universities would resume on May 24, after Eid-ul-Fitr, and that all dormitories of universities would reopen on May 17.
The government on March 17 last year closed all educational institutions, aiming to contain the spread of coronavirus. The closure led to cancellation of exams and left academic calendars in disarray.
Educational activities of around four crore students were being hampered due to the closure.
The government started TV education for primary and secondary students so that students could make up some of the losses.
Authorities of many schools, colleges and universities also started online classes, but many students could not access these regularly due to the lack of digital devices and/or internet facilities.
The pandemic led to the cancellation of the Higher Secondary Certificate and equivalent exams, originally slated for April 1, 2020.
The government also cancelled last year's Primary Education Completion, Junior School Certificate and their equivalent exams due to the pandemic.
Primary and secondary students were promoted to the next grade this year without any annual examinations.

600 children still missing

FROM PAGE 20
medical care facilities, learning centres, women and child support centres -- were razed to the ground by the inferno.
Yesterday, this correspondent came across the "Lost and Missing Child Information Centre" at Balukhali camp set up by Brac, where parents crowded to report their missing children.
At the centre, this correspondent talked to Mohammad Azmat of camp-8(e).
"When the fire broke out, we ran for our lives. But my seven-year-old son has been missing since. I registered his name here, in the hopes of getting him back," said Azmat, who was one of those in the queue to report their missing children.
"Without my child, I can't even focus on rebuilding my shelter," he added.
An NGO official, preferring not to be named, told The Daily Star that

150 such information centres have been set up across the four affected camps, where parents come to submit their child's name every day.
Humanitarian organisations, including Brac, International Refugee Council and Danish Refugee Council, are working and coordinating on the ground to generate information about missing children.
Apart from this, child protection agencies established child-friendly spaces to receive lost children.
As of Wednesday, 24 children were received by child protection units and 17 were reunited with their families, a camp-in-charge who wished to remain anonymous told The Daily Star.
According to the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner's office, the fire that raged in four camps on Monday claimed 11 lives, burnt down 10,000 shanties and displaced around 50,000 people.

It was a mortar shell

FROM PAGE 20
which was used in the war.
"It was made in a Pakistan ordnance factory (PoF). Inspecting the incident, we understand that the mortar exploded as the three dead tried to cut it with an electric blade."
The law enforcers also found a fuse of the mortar shell on the spot and defused it, he said.
The mortar shell exploded around 4:00pm last Wednesday.
Three men -- Borhan Uddin, 40, Wahedul Islam, 32, Masud Rana, 35, of the same upazila -- were killed in the blast.
Police detained a suspect -- Habibur Rahman, 40, of Bogura's Shibganj upazila -- in connection with the incident whereas Rab held another man -- Khairuzzaman, of Gazipur -- in connection with the incident.
Sources said Habibur got the mortar shell a year ago from some laborer of his area. During the expansion work

of the Dhaka-Rangpur highway, the laborers got this mortar shell.
As a local political leader, Habibur took it from them and had hidden it at his home for the last one year.
Later, once he shared it with his partner Borhan, he was forced to hand it over to Borhan.
Habibur is a ward sectary of the Jatiya party in Mokamtala union and an accused in a domestic violence case, said Bogura police.
AKM Mehedi Hasan, officer-in-charge of Gobindaganj Police Station, told The Daily Star that a case under explosive and murder is going to be filed against Habibur and Kairuzzaman.
The OC said, "Habibur and Khairuzzaman are directly involved in this incident. They knew that it was explosive."
Family members of Borhan, who were also detained for interrogation, will not be accused in the case, he said.

Bangabandhu declares independence

FROM PAGE 20
the police barracks at Razarbagh and the EPR headquarters at Pilkhana in Dhaka. Many innocent and unarmed have been killed in Dhaka city and other places of Bangladesh. Violent clashes between EPR and police on the one hand and the armed forces of Pakistan on the other are going on. The Bangalees are fighting the enemy with great courage for an independent Bangladesh. May Allah aid us in our fight for freedom. Joy Bangla," Awami League leader MA Hannan declared on behalf of Bangabandhu.
Meanwhile, Bangabandhu was taken to an unknown place in the evening after his arrest.
YAHYA'S BROADCAST
Today, at 7:00pm in a radio broadcast Pakistan President Yahya Khan addressed the nation from Karachi announcing that he had authorised the armed forces to restore the authority of the government of Pakistan in the East.
Justifying the military action, Yahya said, "Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's

action of starting his non-cooperation movement is an act of treason. He and his party have defied the lawful authority for over three weeks. They have insulted Pakistan's flag and defiled the photograph of the father of the nation. They have tried to run a parallel government. They have created turmoil, terror and insecurity."
He declared a ban on all political activities throughout the country, and completely banned Awami League as a political party. He also imposed complete press censorship.
In the evening, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto arrived back in Karachi. "Thank God, Pakistan has been saved," he told journalists waiting for his statement.
A WITNESS ACCOUNT
On March 25, 1971, just before the Pakistan army launched the infamous "Operation Searchlight", the brutal genocide in Dhaka, they locked up foreign journalists at the Intercontinental Hotel, and later sent them directly out of Dhaka, so they could not gather news of their atrocities. British journalist Simon

Dring evaded the roundup by hiding on the roof of the Intercontinental Hotel and later went around the city to see firsthand the results of the Army's repression. He published the first news of the genocide in The Daily Telegraph on March 29, 1971.
He wrote:
"Streets were deserted on Friday [March 26, 1971] but there were scattered outbursts of small arms fire and shelling during the day as tanks and trucks loaded with troops in camouflaged combat dress moved through the capital.
"Judging from the clashes in Dacca the number of dead and wounded among civilian populations of important towns will be very high, with light Army losses.
"Communications between Dacca and the rest of the province and also the outside world have been severed and it is impossible to tell in Dacca how the occupation is proceeding."
Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

Vaccine stock to get a boost

FROM PAGE 20
"We have yet to get a schedule of when the doses will arrive. We hope that we will get a considerable amount early next month," Nazmul Hassan Papon, managing director of Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd, the local agent of Serum, said.
The country is expected to receive 10,908,000 shots of the Oxford vaccine by May, thanks to the global arrangement called Covax, he added.
There will be no shortage of vaccine if the doses from Covax and Serum arrive as expected, Papon told The Daily Star.
Global media report that New Delhi reportedly temporarily restricted all major exports of the AstraZeneca vaccine made by Serum to meet demands at home.
Contacted, Health minister Zahid Maleque told The Daily Star yesterday that Bangladesh and India have a contract. And the former had made the payments in advance.
"As per our contract, we want the

vaccine. We are in close contact with Beximco..."
He added, "Beximco is talking about a schedule [of the shipment], but they can't say exactly when the instalment will arrive."
Asked about the Covax vaccine, the minister said, "The doses will arrive in instalments by May. But we have yet to get a specific date. We don't know when we will get the shots."
Asked whether there are risks of disruption in the vaccination programme, he said, "It is too early to say that... We don't want to stop the inoculation right now. But we are emphasising the second dose. If we don't get the vaccines on time, we might have to redesign the vaccination programme."
The minister said they have written to different ministries to take steps to prevent crowding at any place across the country.
DAILY NEW CASES
New cases have continued to rise for the third consecutive day yesterday.

DGHS reported 3,587 new cases detected in the 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday. This was the daily highest in the last nine months. On July 2 last year, the number of new cases was 4,019.
The number of confirmed cases rose to 5,84,395 yesterday.
In the same 24 hours, 34 people died from Covid-19, taking the death toll to 8,797. The death rate stands at 1.51 percent.
Against a total of 27,045 tests yesterday, the positivity rate was 13.26 percent while the overall positivity rate was 12.94 percent.
At least 1,985 Covid-19 patients recovered during the period.
The total number of recoveries now stands at 5,29,894 with a recovery rate of 90.67 percent.
Among the 34 deceased, 25 were male and nine female.
One of them was aged between 11 and 20 years, one between 21 and 30, two between 31 and 40, one between 41 and 50, 11 between 51 and 60, and 18 were over 60.

Libya militia leader shot dead

AFP, Benghazi
Libyan militia leader Mahmoud al-Werfalli, wanted by the International Criminal Court for alleged war crimes, was shot dead in the eastern city of Benghazi on Wednesday, security sources said.
Werfalli, a member of forces loyal to eastern military strongman Khalifa Haftar, was "shot dead with his cousin, Ayman, when unidentified gunmen opened fire on his car," said one source

who requested anonymity.
The pair were seriously wounded, before being pronounced dead on arrival at Benghazi Medical Centre, located near the scene of the shooting, another security source said.
The ICC issued a first warrant for Werfalli's arrest in August 2017, accusing him of having ordered or personally carried out seven separate rounds of executions of 33 people in 2016 and 2017.
In July 2018, the ICC issued a second arrest

warrant for Werfalli for his "alleged responsibility for murder as a war crime".
The court said he "allegedly shot dead 10 persons in front of the Bi'at al-Radwan Mosque" in Benghazi on January 24 that year.
Born in 1978, Werfalli was a commander of the Al-Saiqa brigade, an elite unit that defected from Libya's military during the 2011 uprising that toppled and killed dictator Moamer Gaddafi.

www.fsibld.com

১৯৭১ সালের ২৬শে মার্চ
পৃথিবীর মানচিত্রে অজুদায় ঘটে লাল-সবুজের বাংলাদেশ।
প্রজন্ম থেকে প্রজন্মে স্বাধীনতার গৌরববান্দিত আলোক দ্যুতি ছড়াক অবিরত...