



THE DAILY

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Raihan cries as his mother Monowara Begum, a suspected Covid-19 patient, lies dead in front of him inside an ambulance near Mugda Medical College and Hospital around 11:30am yesterday. Members of the family from the capital's Uttarkhan area said they took the 55-year-old to five different hospitals, but none of them could provide her with oxygen support. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

### Daily Covid cases hit record high

6,469 more test positive, 59 die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 65,079 people were found infected with Covid-19 last month, but over 48,000 of them tested positive in just the last 14 days.

The number of Covid-19 cases is skyrocketing and 6,469 new infections were recorded yesterday, the highest ever in the country. The total number of people infected is now 6,17,764.

The DGHS monthly Covid-19 case data shows that after last August, the highest number of cases was registered in last month. SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

### Help govt contain the 2nd wave PM asks people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon people to help the government contain the second wave of novel coronavirus by maintaining health guidelines such as wearing masks, avoiding mass gatherings and refraining from going out of home unnecessarily.

"This time the transmission of the virus is rising very rapidly. This outbreak is seen not only in our country, but also around the world. The rate of coronavirus infection

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

### COVID TREATMENT AT PUBLIC HOSPITALS

## Oxygen supply still dangerously low

MOUIDUD AHMED SUJAN

With the number of infections and deaths from Covid-19 getting bigger, inadequate high-flow oxygen support at public hospitals has become a serious cause for concern.

Proper oxygen support for a critical Covid patient could be a matter of life and death and experts have put the blame squarely on the government for not being ready despite getting a year to prepare.

Since the beginning of the pandemic more than a year ago, experts have been insisting on adequate high-flow oxygen support at hospitals through a device called high-flow nasal cannula (HFNC). The devices are for patients whose oxygen saturation levels plummet due to the coronavirus infection.

The HFNC is a heated and humidified system that allows prescribed oxygen delivery at a high-flow rate, up to 60 litre per minute. This helps Covid-19 patients breathe

and improve.

With normal oxygen masks, only oxygen can be supplied to a patient at no more than 15 litre per minute, according to physicians.

More than a year after the outbreak, the number of HFNCs available at the 10 Covid-19 dedicated hospitals in Dhaka city is inadequate to say the least.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), there are 178 HFNCs in these hospitals, which experts now believe cannot help every critical Covid patient.

Doctors in three Covid-19 SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Passengers argue with a bus staffer to get into the vehicle in the capital's Mugda area. As buses ran with half the seats vacant for the second day, as per a government instruction aimed at containing the spread of the coronavirus, passengers suffered yesterday morning due to a transport crisis. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

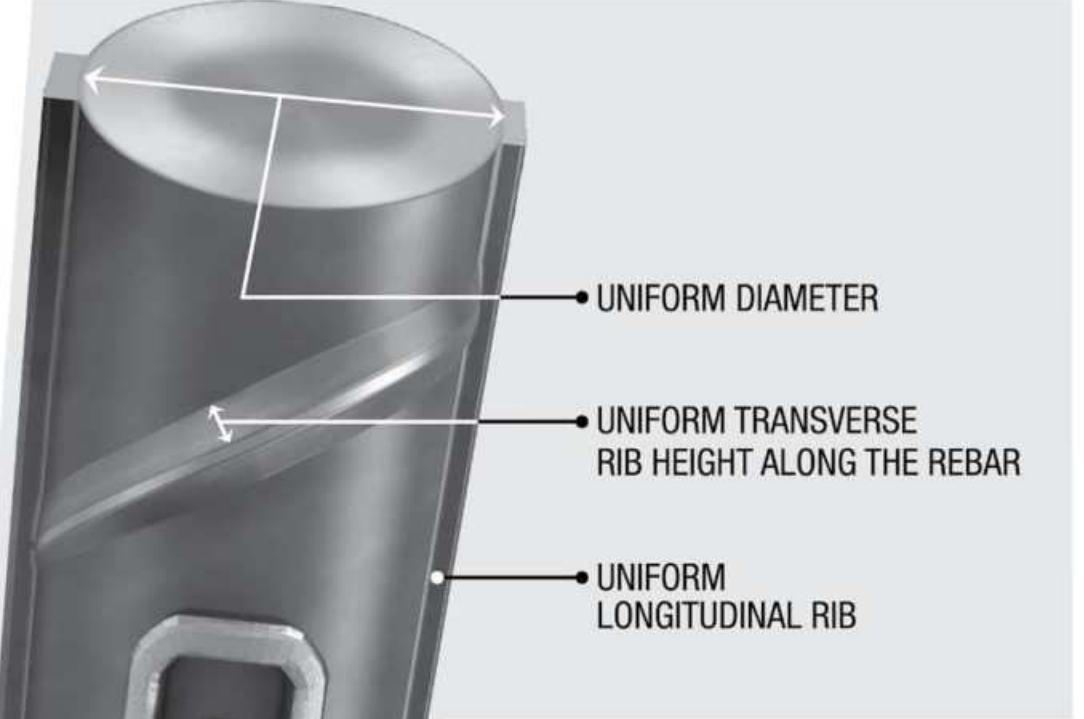
### Entry ban on passengers from EU, 12 other countries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has put a 16-day travel restriction on people coming from European countries, except the UK.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh also restricted the entry of people from Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Chile, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Peru, Qatar, South Africa, Turkey and Uruguay.

This ban will be in effect from April 3 to 18, CAAB said in a circular yesterday. SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



### Struggle gets even steeper for poor

Income loss amid Covid surge, rising prices of essentials ahead of Ramadan hit them hard

AKANDA MUHAMMAD JAHID

Intentionally, Nasir Uddin has been returning home almost every night after his two daughters go to sleep because he can't afford the things the girls ask for.

Nasir, who runs a small mobile phone accessories shop, was buying dry fish and bottle gourd yesterday at Shukrabad Kitchen Market in the capital.

Due to the ever-rising prices of daily essentials and the declining sales at his shop, thanks to Covid-19, it

has become almost impossible for him to bear some expenses.

"I bought no meat in the last six months, even though my daughters love meat," he said.

The prices of essentials and the new cases of Covid-19 have been rising at the same time, he said.

"I stopped the tuitions of my ninth grader. I can't think of what will happen in the days ahead."

Majnu Mia, who has a pottery store in Shukrabad, said, "I am no longer able to bear the expenses of keeping my wife and my two children in this city... The daily sale has fallen to just around Tk 200."

"I was forced to send my wife and children back to the village in Gafargaon of Mymensingh."

Asked how he has been doing, Jibon Mia, a rickshaw puller, broke down in SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

### B'baria still reeling from Hefajat havoc

Many leaving town in fear; 18 cases filed so far; IGP pledges stern action

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MASUK HRIDOY, from Brahmanbaria

The music academy of legendary musician Ustad Alauddin Khan is situated just 150 metres off Brahmanbaria Sadar Model Police Station.

Even days ago, the academy, established in 1956, used to buzz with music, dance, fine arts and daylong adda.

But everything changed on Sunday.

Supporters of Hefajat-e-Islam vandalised and torched the ages-old academy while unleashing a mayhem across the district during their hartal that day. Now, what remains of the academy is its wrecked structure. Everything inside has been ravaged.

There is debris everywhere. A signboard, reading "Sur Samrat Alauddin Sangeetangan", however, is still found hanging outside the main gate. SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

### Rejoinder, our reply

Dhaka University teachers Eshani Chakraborty and Zobaida Nasreen, on March 25, sent a rejoinder to our report "Plagiarism found in the work of two DU teachers", published a day before.

Following is the rejoinder as it is:

The report titled "Plagiarism found in the work of two DU teachers" published in your paper on 24/03/21 has come to our notice and we are utterly shocked. We feel the reporter has presented a narrative of 'selective facts' that gives a partial view of the whole story with discernable bias against the researchers concerned. An unbiased reporting with SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



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