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## BAN ON RIDE-SHARING BIKES

# Over a lakh lose means of livelihood

ZYMA ISLAM

The first day of the ban on ride-sharing services via motorcycles stripped over one lakh bikers of means to a livelihood until further notice.

Keeping in mind the rising Covid-19 infection rates, the BRTA on Wednesday banned operation of motorcycles under ride-sharing services to ensure health safety guidelines and social distancing. The decision, however, did not say how long the ban would last.

Bikers protested across several points of the city yesterday, with the a riders' organisation called Dhaka Ride-Sharing Union hosting a congregation in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the morning.

In addition, a group of bikers blocked Dhanmondi road 27 intersection mid-morning to protest the ban, causing a gridlock that lasted for almost an hour.

While ride-sharing had begun as a concept where commuters can "share" their rides with fellow-commuters traversing the same route, in Dhaka city, ride-sharing is undertaken professionally by riders who adopt it as means to an easily available livelihood.

During the pandemic, a lot of service-holders who lost jobs took to ride-sharing as a means to support their families and earn money.

Al-Amin is one of them.

The 35 year-old was retrenched from his job as a floor manager of a factory in the capital last March when the

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People in a rickshaw taking an Oxygen cylinder to their Rampura home from the capital's Moghbazar area yesterday as one of their family members is ill. The demand for oxygen cylinders has been high with the increasing number of Covid-19 patients recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## RISE IN COVID CASES

# All local body polls postponed

EC puts on hold Laxmipur-2 by-polls

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission yesterday postponed all elections, including the first phase of union parishad and sixth phase of municipality polls, due to a steep rise in coronavirus infections.

It also postponed the by-polls to Laxmipur-2 constituency.

The EC in a meeting yesterday made the decision that upazila-level scrutiny committees would be formed to determine whether the EC would file cases against "dual voters", people who have become voters twice by obtaining two national identity cards.

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the meeting's working paper.

The EC has identified that there are 5.30 lakh "dual voters" in the country.

POLLS POSTPONED

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## 2ND PHASE OF WB POLLS

# 80pc turnout recorded amid sporadic clashes

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

An estimated 80 percent turnout was recorded despite sporadic violence and stray street clashes in the polling for the second phase of the West Bengal assembly elections for 30 seats.

The 30 seats include the high-profile Nandigram constituency where Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is fighting a fierce battle with former lieutenant Subhendu Adhikary of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The turnout was estimated by Election Commission sources at 80 percent.

A turnout of 43 percent was recorded till 5:30pm local time.

A ruling Trinamool Congress worker, identified as Uttam Dolui, was stabbed to death late last night in Keshpur area in Paschim Medinipur district, hours before polling started in the area.

The vehicle of Tanmay Ghosh, BJP candidate from Keshpur assembly constituency, was vandalised allegedly by supporters of Trinamool Congress, police said.

Three persons have been arrested in connection with the incident in which

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## ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### USSR urges Yahya to stop bloodshed



Troops of the Bangladesh resistance force march off to fight against Pakistan army, near Jessore on April 2, 1971. PHOTO: AP

APRIL 2, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### PODGORNÝ'S MESSAGE TO YAHYA

On April 2, 1971, N. V. Podgorny, the president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, sent a message to Pakistan President Yahya Khan expressing

concern at the repression let loose against the people of Bangladesh by the Pakistani army: "The Soviet people cannot but be concerned by the numerous casualties, by the sufferings and privations that such a development of events brings to the people of Pakistan. Concern is also caused in the

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## Mail servers of some firms compromised

Govt asks others to check vulnerability

SHAHRIAR RAHMAN

Some Bangladeshi organisations running Microsoft Exchange mail servers have been compromised by cyberattacks, says the e-Government Computer Incident Response Team (BGD e-GOV CIIRT) in an advisory.

It named a few business groups that have already been compromised and asked others to check their systems.

The advisory mentioned the name of HAFNIUM, a Chinese hacker group, which has carried out such attacks across the globe.

The BGD e-GOV CIIRT has asked a number of state-owned and private organisations to carry out scans of their mail servers to see if any malware had been injected into their system and to believe

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## Integration has a long way to go

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Sanzid Hasan was five when his parents, impoverished residents of Mohammadpur's Geneva Camp area, discovered that he could not communicate as easily as other children.

When they took him to the doctor, Sanzid was diagnosed with autism, a developmental disorder which severely restricts social interaction, communication, and causes repetitive behaviour. He was also diagnosed with low vision and seizures.

A child with multiple disabilities, he was rejected by all the schools his parents took him to get admitted.

With the help of a non-governmental organisation, Sanzid was finally admitted to a community therapy school and on his way to receiving an education.

At his school, he had access to special education, speech and occupational therapy, and a series of vocational training as he grew older. His parents were also given capacity building training so that they could help him at home.

It completely transformed his chances of employment and gave him opportunities he would otherwise not have access to.

Now in his mid-20s, having completed a training on office management at the same NGO, Sanzid is now

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## 2019 PROTESTS

# Nine veteran HK activists convicted

AFP, Hong Kong

Nine veteran Hong Kong activists face jail after they were convicted yesterday for their roles in organising one of the biggest democracy protests to engulf the city in 2019.

The defendants included some of Hong Kong's most prominent pro-democracy campaigners, many of whom are non-violence advocates who have spent decades campaigning in vain for universal suffrage.

They are the latest group of democracy figures to be prosecuted as China overseas a sweeping crackdown on dissent following seven straight months of democracy protests in the financial hub.

Among them are Martin Lee, an 82-year-old barrister who was once chosen by Beijing to help write Hong Kong's mini-constitution,

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**NATURE QUEST**

**A red-naped ibis searching for food in Khalifar Char, a shoal on the Padma in Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila. This rare bird has long legs and a long downcurved bill. The photo was taken recently.**

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN

## UP panel chairman shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Fariidpur

A leader of the ruling Awami League was shot dead in Goalanda upazila of Rajbari yesterday. The victim Abdul Gani Mandal, 60, was the panel chairman of Daulatdia Union Parishad, said police.

He was shot around 10:45pm on Wednesday while returning home after attending a namaz-e-janaza in the area.

The victim's son Alam Mandal said a miscreant blocked his father's way to home by a motorbike and shot him. The criminal

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**PRAYER TIMING APRIL 2**

|             |       |      |         |      |
|-------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Fazr        | Juma  | Asr  | Maghrib | Esha |
| AZAN 4-40   | 12-30 | 4-45 | 6-21    | 7-45 |
| JAMAAT 5-15 | 1-15  | 5-00 | 6-24    | 8-15 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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