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## VIRUS CURBS ON SHOPS

# Owners take to the street

*Demand they be allowed to keep stores open*

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Shop owners and employees of New Market, Bashundhara City Shopping Mall and Sadarghat areas in Dhaka took to the streets to protest the government's decision to keep all shops and malls closed during the seven-day restriction to contain Covid-19 surge.

Rajshahi Byabshayee Oikya Parishad, a platform of 110 businesses, also protested the government's move.

All the groups demanded that the government allow traders to keep their shops open while maintaining health guidelines.

The seven-day restriction is set to be enforced from 6:00am today.

Several hundred shop owners and employees of New Market and nearby markets and shopping malls blocked adjacent roads for two hours from 3:30pm in protest at the directive.

Witnesses said the protesters smashed windows of several cars while road closures caused severe traffic congestion.

"Our main demand is to keep the market open for a few hours because our families depend on our income. If the shops are closed, that would bring on uncertainty in our lives. We want to keep the shops running while maintaining safety guidelines," said Sohail Rana, an employee of a shop at New Market.

Protesters said they had suffered a lot due to last year's closure. They do not want any repetition.

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With their belongings, families of two brothers on a flatbed wait to cross the Padma at Shimulia ferry terminal yesterday. One of the brothers drove an auto-rickshaw in Dhaka and the other worked for a firm. Their wives worked in garment factories. They said due to the uncertainty caused by Covid restrictions, they decided to quit their jobs and go back to their home in Shariatpur.

PHOTO: SAZZAD HOSSAIN

## NOR'WESTER

# 4 crushed by falling trees in Gaibandha

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed when trees crushed them during a nor'wester in Gaibandha yesterday afternoon.

Hundreds of houses, trees and crops were damaged in Rajshahi. At least 30 poles of streetlights were uprooted in Rajshahi city.

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) suspended the operations of all ferry services in the evening due to storms.

Gaibandha Deputy Commissioner Abdul Matin told The Daily Star that the storm started around 3:30pm. The four were killed in three upazilas of the district. We have given Tk 10,000 to each of the deceased's family.

The death toll could increase, said the DC.

The deceased are: Moyna Begum, 60, of Sundarganj upazila, Simuli Akter, 25, of Fulchari upazila, Zahanara Begum, 50, and Abdul

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## Vandalism, arson in name of Islam won't be tolerated

### Says PM about Hefajat mayhem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that the government wouldn't tolerate arson and vandalism in the name of Islam.

"I can only tell that legal action will be taken against those responsible for such misdeeds and the law will take its own course," she said, delivering her winding up speech in the 12th session of the 11th parliament which prorogued yesterday amid the second wave of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal told parliament that those involved in recent violence and mayhem at different parts of the country have been identified.

In her valedictory speech, Hasina warned Hefajat-e-Islam, saying, "I tell them that they are playing with fire. If a house catches fire, the fire may spread to another house. Can't they understand this?"

"From the railway station to the land office, from the DC office to all the other places they have set on fire, what will they do if their madrasas, their houses, are set on fire? Will the people tolerate this?"

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ROAD TO FREEDOM  
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## Chuadanga declared provisional capital

APRIL 5, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

RESISTANCE DESIGNATES CAPITAL

New York Times reported today that Chuadanga had been designated the provisional capital of independent Bangladesh. The designation was made by Dr Ashabul Haq Joarder, who was regarded as the leader of the resistance forces in this area of the country. He called himself their chief adviser, added the report.

Dr Haq Joarder, reported New York Times, said fighting would continue until the new nation is consolidated.

The report further stated, "Unlike the case in other towns in the area, which were in the hands of disorganized groups of Sheik Mujib's supporters, there appears to be some order in this town of about 35,000 people. Many have left, but the town has yet to see any fighting."

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However, Pakistani Air Force planes are reported to have dropped bombs and strafed the area Saturday [April 4, 1971]. Several stores were open today in the market of this town."

**YAHYA'S REPLY TO SOVIET**  
In a message made public today, President Yahya Khan asked the Soviet Union to use its influence to prevent what he described as Indian interference with Pakistani affairs. He asserted that India had deployed nearly six army divisions not far from the borders of East Pakistan.

The message was in reply to one from President Nikolai V Podgorny appealing for a halt to "the bloodshed, the

## PK Halder among five sued in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A case was lodged with a Chattogram court accusing former NRB Global Bank managing director Prashanta Kumar Halder alias PK Halder and four others yesterday.

PK Halder allegedly embezzled and laundered over Tk 10,000 crore of four non-banking financial institutions abroad and had an Interpol red notice issued against him following a request by Bangladesh Police.

Mohammad Abdul Alim Chowdhury, former managing director of Clewiston Foods and Accommodation, filed the case with the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Sarwar Jahan, said the plaintiff's lawyer Rubel Paul.

The four other accused are: Zahangir Alam, 54, from Banani area in the capital, Md Siddiqur Rahman, 52, from Uttara

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## Nasa's Ingenuity helicopter lands on Mars



AFP, Washington

Nasa's Ingenuity mini-helicopter has been dropped on the surface of Mars in preparation for its first flight, the US space agency said.

The ultra-light aircraft had been fixed to the belly of the Perseverance rover, which touched down on the Red Planet on February 18.

"Mars Helicopter touchdown confirmed!" Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory tweeted Saturday.

"Its 293 million mile (471 million kilometer) journey aboard @NASAPersevere ended with the final drop of 4 inches (10 centimeter) from the

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## Thrice MP Aslamul Hoque no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aslamul Hoque, the lawmaker of Dhaka-14, breathed his last at a city hospital yesterday. He was 61.

The Member of Parliament was elected three times in a row with the ruling Awami League nomination from his constituency.

Aslamul, also the vice-president of Dhaka City North AL, was taken to the hospital after he suddenly fell sick. He died around 11:00am.

On December 29, 2008, he was elected Member of Parliament for the first time. He was also elected MP from the same constituency in 2014 and 2018.

He served as a member

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## Journo Kajol's case moved to cyber tribunal

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday transferred a case filed under Digital Security Act against photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol to Dhaka Cyber Tribunal for trial.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Debdash Chandra Adhikary passed the order after scrutinising the case documents, court sources said.

Sumaiya Chowdhury Bonya, a member of the central committee of Bangladesh Jubo Mahila League, a front organisation of the Awami League, lodged the case with Kamrangirchar Police Station on March 11 last year.

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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 5

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-45 6-21 7-45  
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 5-00 6-24 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Relatives wheeling a Covid-19 patient, 65-year-old Rowshan Akter, out of the Mugda Medical College Hospital yesterday. The patient had come from Narayanganj three days ago and was admitted with breathing difficulties. After a sudden deterioration in her condition, she had to be taken out of the hospital because there are no available ICU beds there.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## 'We must win'

### Anti-coup protesters decorate Easter eggs in Myanmar; junta issues warrant for dozens of celebrities

REUTERS

Opponents of military rule in Myanmar inscribed messages of protest on Easter eggs yesterday while thousands of others were back on the streets, denouncing a February 1 coup and facing off with the security forces who shot and killed two men.

In the latest in a series of impromptu shows of defiance, messages including "Spring Revolution", "We must win" and "Get out MAH" - referring to junta leader Min Aung Hlaing - were seen on eggs in photographs on social media.

"Easter is all about the future and the people of Myanmar have a great future in a federal democracy," Dr Sasa, international envoy for the ousted civilian government, said in a statement. Sasa, who uses only one name, is a member of a largely Christian ethnic minority in the predominantly Buddhist country.

Opponents of military rule have mounted a civil disobedience campaign since the military overthrew the elected government of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, that has included creative shows of defiance promoted on social media.

Young people in the main city of Yangon handed out eggs bearing the messages of protest, pictures in posts showed.

Crowds have returned to the streets day and night to reject the return of military rule after a decade of tentative steps towards democracy. Numerous candle-lit vigils took place overnight.

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), an activist group monitoring casualties and arrests, said the toll of dead had risen to 557, as of late Saturday.

In the capital, Naypyitaw, two men were killed when police fired on protesters on motorbikes, the Irrawaddy news site reported.

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