

**POST-COUP MYANMAR  
OUSTED MPS FORM NEW  
SHADOW GOVT, AIM FOR  
'FEDERAL DEMOCRACY'**  
SEE PAGE 5

# The Daily Star

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**"We will demand 10 percent of the fund [for the Rohingya] if they [int'l aid agencies] don't want to provide services to the Rohingyas in Bhashan Char."**  
FOREIGN MINISTER AK ABDUL MOMEN



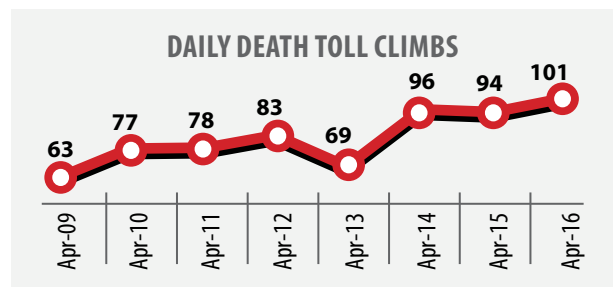
**"I was clear with President Putin that we could have gone further, but I chose not to do so. I chose to be proportionate."**  
BIDEN SAYS AS US IMPOSES SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA



**"I'm proud that I can walk with the people of HK in this road for democracy. We'll walk together through the storm even in darkness."**  
FORMER HONG KONG LAWMAKER LEE CHEUK-YAN BEFORE BEING JAILED

## Surge in deaths rings alarm

Health experts warn against delay in treatment, point out inadequate ICU facilities for critical patients



MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

As the country crossed a grim milestone of 100 daily Covid-19 deaths yesterday, health experts and officials have pointed at many coronavirus patients' negligence in taking their symptoms seriously and the delay in seeking medical care on time as reasons behind the sharp rise in fatalities.

Another contributing factor, they said, is inadequate treatment facilities for the critical patients.

As the Covid-19 patients seek hospital care, they find it difficult to get the critical care like ICUs and ventilators in

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**On oxygen support, Covid patient Sanjum Ara Begum sits at the emergency department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. The 65-year-old woman from the city's Shonir Akhra was admitted to the hospital with serious breathing problems. Her family bought the oxygen cylinder and carried it with them to the hospital.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



**KABORI**  
1950-2021

## Adieu, legend of silver screen

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

In the annals of Bangla cinema she was at one time "Champa", the lone sister of seven brothers, and then in another avatar she was "Kiran Mala", entering the dreams of a generation of film lovers.

That "mishti meye" (sweet girl) of Bangla cinema, legendary actor Sarah Begum Kabori who traversed myriad peaks and troughs in her 70 years of life, finally succumbed to Covid-19 early today.

In her own words, "Sritituku Thak" (let the memory remain), and devoted fans will be cherishing those memories for years to come.

Kabori was on life support and passed away at 12:20am at the capital's Sheikh Russel National Gastroenterology Institute & Hospital.

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## Country sees over 100 daily Covid deaths for first time

STAR REPORT

A total of 101 people died from Covid-19 in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The deaths due to Covid-19 in a day crossed the 100 mark for the first time.

The total number of deaths has now reached 10,182 and the death rate stands at 1.43 percent.

At least 4,417 new infections were recorded in the meantime, taking the total number of people infected to 711,779, added the release.

The current positivity rate is 23.36 percent while the total positivity rate stands at 13.86 percent.

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## HISTORIC MUJIBNAGAR DAY A milestone in our history



MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

"Not at all. You are not a witness; you're a part of history, Tawfiq."

Tajuddin Ahmad spoke these words when Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury thanked the newly sworn-in prime minister of the first government of Bangladesh for giving him the opportunity to be a

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## Journalist assaulted by BGB members

'Implicated' in drug case in Lalmonirhat  
S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

BGB men led by a camp commander allegedly assaulted a reporter in Lalmonirhat Thursday night and accused him of possessing illegal drugs in a case filed with Sadar Police Station.

Jahangir Alam Shahin, who works for Janatkantha and BSS, is being treated at Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital with injuries that according to him are from the torture at Kulaghat BGB Camp.

He said he went to Kulaghat area, about 7km from the town, with a local named Sohag Islam to report on drug smuggling around 11:30pm.

Contacted, Habldar SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## THIRD DAY OF 'STRICTER LOCKDOWN' Streets empty, kitchen markets crammed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the streets and intersections in the capital were largely empty on the third day of the eight-day "strict lockdown" yesterday, but the kitchen markets and alleys were crowded with people.

Devotees thronged mosques to attend the first Juma prayers in the holy month of Ramadan.

Traffic was thinner on city streets yesterday than the previous two days as almost all government and private offices and factories remained closed on the weekend.

Visiting Mirpur, Pragati Sarani, Gulshan, Badda, Hatirjheel, Karwan Bazar, Jatrabari, Panthapath, Dhanmondi, and Mohammadpur areas, this correspondent found a small number of cars, auto-rickshaws and covered vans running on roads. There were some motorbikes and rickshaws also.

Policemen were checking vehicles, mostly cars, and ID cards of passengers at check posts and asking why they came out of home.

At Karwan Bazar, police made announcements from loudspeakers asking

people not to move on roads without an urgency.

At Mirpur-10 intersection, cops were asking drivers to show movement passes.

Policemen there stopped a car from Rajshahi and asked its driver to show movement pass.

The driver, Ariful Islam, said he was not aware of the movement pass. "I brought my 'sir' to Dhaka from Rajshahi on Thursday night. I am now going back to Rajshahi. I don't know about the movement pass."

The driver was seen trying to contact his employer over the phone to inform him about the situation.

Although the ride-sharing apps did not provide services, many bikers were seen calling people in Karwan Bazar, Farmgate and Natun Bazar areas to take a ride.

Some human hauliers were seen operating on Bhasantek-Bauniabadh route.

People who went out of home to perform urgent works had to face trouble to reach their destinations as rickshaws and auto-rickshaws were charging them much higher fares than usual.

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## Chinese firm offers 60 lakh vaccine doses

Bangladesh explores alternatives as India's Serum fails to deliver shipments on time

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Chinese drugmaker Sinopharm has offered 60 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccine to Bangladesh when there has been a surge in daily infection rates and deaths for days, said officials.

With Serum Institute of India failing to comply with the commitment to supply three crore vaccine shots in six installments, the Bangladesh government started to explore alternative sources for the jabs in a desperate attempt to continue the inoculation against the Covid-19, they said.

As part of that effort, the Chinese drugmaker

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## PHASE-5 WB POLLS BJP resolute in its bid to defeat TMC



PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

As the fifth phase of the West Bengal assembly polls takes place today, India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party will try to more than make up for firing blanks five years ago in its attempt to dethrone Trinamool Congress in the state.

For Trinamool Congress (TMC), the battle for 45 seats on the road to Nabanna, the state administrative headquarters, for a third consecutive term is even more demanding as it will be up against the BJP surge and also regaining lost ground against other parties.

The six districts going to polls today are Jalpaiguri, Kalimpong, Darjeeling, Nadia, North 24 Parganas and Purba Bardhaman.

In the last assembly polls in 2016, out of these SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



**With passenger train services suspended since April 5 amid "lockdown", trains are parked outside Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital yesterday. The suspension will remain in force until April 21.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## PRICE HIKE OF ESSENTIALS Middle, low income people caught in the crunch

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The rising prices of daily essentials, driven by travel restrictions, are making it difficult for the middle and low income people to make ends meet.

The second wave of coronavirus and the shutdown of the economy hark back to last year's trauma when businesses laid off employees, slashed salaries, or simply closed for good.

"My salary was cut by 60 percent during the shutdown last year. Our company was just getting back to its feet when the fresh restrictions were imposed," said Kafiluddin Ahmed, an accountant of a packaging company.

"I'm not against the government decision, but they must do something to control the prices. Now the pressure is from both sides. We won't survive," he said.

The Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh in its study titled Marginalised Communities in Bangladesh Dealing with Pandemic Fallout: Findings from a Household Survey launched last week said 78.5 percent households did not recover from the hardships and 80.6 percent households cut down their food expenses.

This correspondent met Kafiluddin at the capital's Shyambazar kitchen market.

Defying the restrictions, he went there hoping to buy vegetables at a lower price.

His salary is Tk 35,000 a month and he lives with his wife, mother and two children at a two-room flat in Bongshal. He pays a monthly rent of Tk 12,000 and the utilities cost him another Tk 3,500. He has a monthly deposit scheme of Tk 2,000. His elderly mother needs medicines worth about Tk 2,000 and he spends another Tk 3,000 for baby food and commuting.

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