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Hospitals in India nearly overrun

More than 2,000 deaths recorded in 24 hrs

AGENCIES

Indian authorities scrambled to shore up supplies of medical oxygen to hospitals in the capital, Delhi, yesterday as a fast-spreading second wave of coronavirus stretched medical infrastructure to breaking point, officials and doctors said.

At least 24 patients died in a hospital in western India after a disruption to their oxygen supply caused by a leaking tank, the health minister said.

The incident in the city of Nashik, one of India's worst-hit areas, happened after the tank of gas leaked, said Rajesh Tope, the health minister of Maharashtra, the richest state, where the city is located.

"Patients who were on ventilators at the hospital in Nashik have died," Tope said in televised remarks.

"The leakage was spotted at the tank supplying oxygen to these patients. The interrupted supply could be linked to the deaths of the patients in the hospital."

The world's second most populous nation reported 295,041 new infections yesterday for the world's highest daily rise, stretching its hospitals to breaking point, officials said.

Only the United States had a slightly higher one-day rise of 297,430 cases in January, though its tally has since fallen sharply. India's 2,023 deaths were also its highest during the

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Farmers of Kirtankhola haor in Netrakona's Khaillajuri upazila are overjoyed harvesting over 60 percent of the paddy they grew. The Brri Dhan-28, which these farmers had cultivated, is a Boro variant that can be cut and collected earlier than most other variants. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

3 Hefajat leaders held, 3 more on remand

STAR REPORT

Three Hefajat-e-Islam leaders were arrested in connection with the cases filed over violence in 2013 and March this year and four others, including three top Hefajat leaders, were placed on remand in separate cases yesterday.

The Detective Branch of police yesterday arrested Hefajat's Assistant Secretary General and Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis Naye-e-Amir Khurshid Alam Kasemi from his house in the capital's Mohammadpur yesterday afternoon, said Mahub Alam, joint commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Khelafat Majlis's Joint Secretary Mufti Sharafat Hossain was held from Mirpur area around 5:00pm. He was involved in the Hefajat's violence in 2013 and March this year, Mashiur Rahman, deputy commissioner (DB-Gulshan) of DMP, told The Daily Star.

Rab arrested Assistant Organising Secretary of Hefajat's central committee Ataulah Ameen from Jamia Rahmania Arabia Madrasa in Mohammadpur

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MYANMAR ISSUE

'Business as usual approach' won't do

Says Shahrir Alam about int'l community

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The business as usual approach of the international community has encouraged Myanmar to flout the decisions of international mechanisms and continue mass atrocities on ethnic minorities with a greater sense of impunity, said State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahrir Alam.

He said despite allegations of genocide against Myanmar, many of the countries increased their bilateral trade, investment, and development assistance to the Southeast Asian country, which is now in deep crisis following the military coup in February, nearly four years after a military crackdown caused an influx of 750,000 Rohingyas to Bangladesh.

Nearly 500 civilians were killed in Myanmar amid a Civil Disobedience Movement while a National Unity Government was formed against the military.

Many of the countries have imposed sanctions against Myanmar's businesses

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

India requests UN assistance for refugees

The caricature depicting China's arms assistance to Pakistan was published in the Hindustan Standard on April 22, 1971.

APRIL 22, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

YAHYA SURPASSED CZAR, CHIANG: BHASHANI
Maulana Bhashani, president of the National Awami Party (NAP-Bhashani), said in a press statement that the examples of Chiang-ki-shek in China and Czar in Russia and British oppression in undivided India or zulm of Jalem Yazid at Karbala pale into insignificance before the latest example of atrocity perpetrated by

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Journo sued under DSA sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Khulna court yesterday sent a journalist arrested under the Digital Security Act to jail.

Abu Tayeb, Khulna correspondent of NTV and daily Loksamaj, was arrested from his home in the city's Mujunni area on Tuesday night.

He was held after Khulna City Corporation Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque filed a case under the DSA with Khulna Sadar Police Station, said Ashraf Alam, officer-in-charge of the police station.

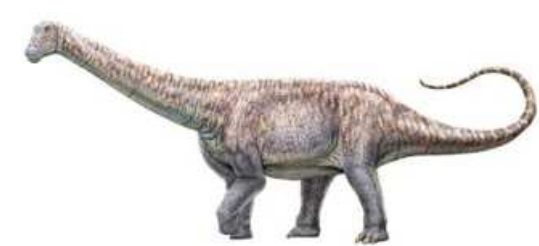
Tayeb was produced before the court around 10:00am yesterday and the court sent him to jail, the OC added.

The mayor accused Tayeb of mentioning him in a derogatory Facebook post, said the police officer, quoting the case statement.

Akhter Jahan Ruku, lawyer for Tayeb, told The Daily Star that a

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Scientists in Chile discover remains of plant-eating dinosaur



REUTERS, Santiago

Scientists in Chile's parched Atacama desert, the world's driest, have discovered the remains of a previously unknown species of dinosaur that millions of years ago lived among lush greenery in what is now a moonscape of rock and sand.

A team led by Chilean geologist Carlos Arévalo unearthed the remains of Arackar licanantay, which means "Atacama bones" in the Kunza language, 75 kilometres south of the desert city of Copiapó.

The so-called titanosaur had a small head and long neck and tail, as well as an unusually flat back compared with others like it.

Recent paleontological studies suggest Arackar lived amid flowering plants, ferns and palm trees

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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 22

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:07	12:45	4:45	6:27	8:00
JAMAAT 4:17	1:15	5:00	6:37	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

evaly

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN APRIL SEHRI IFTAR			
9	22	6:27	
10	23	4:06	6:27
11	24	4:05	6:28

Oman bans Bangladeshi Pak, Indian passengers

Move comes to stop spread of Covid

EZAZ MAHMUD

Oman has decided to impose a ban on passengers coming from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan in the wake of rising coronavirus cases.

The Supreme Committee tasked with tackling the developments resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic gave the following directive:

People from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, and transiting through them over the last 14 days, are not allowed to come to Oman, starting from 6pm on April 24, 2021.

Bangladesh, India and Pakistan have been added to the list of countries from which people are not allowed to travel to the Sultanate, and the ban will be in place until further notice.

The writer is a freelance journalist.



With the sweltering summer sun bearing down on them, children in Barishal leap into the Kirtankhola river, from a goods-laden trawler, for a sweet relief from extreme heat. The photo was taken in the district's Polashpur area yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

'STRICT LOCKDOWN' Movement of people, vehicles increase

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite the "strict lockdown" that has been imposed by the government to contain coronavirus spread, the capital yesterday witnessed a significant rise in public and vehicular movement because of lax monitoring by the law enforcers.

Visiting the main thoroughfares in Shyamoli, Asad Gate, Mohammadpur, Mirpur, Dhanmondi, and Farmgate areas, our correspondent found all modes of transport, except buses, plying the roads.

At some check-posts, police were seen sitting idly and rarely stopping people for checking "movement pass".

In the morning, the pressure of private vehicles and transports arranged by workplaces was higher on the streets because of office timing, a police officer at Asad Gate check-post said.

About movement pass, he said that it is not possible to check all the people, but they were checking randomly.

In Shyamoli, many were seen coming for Covid-19 tests or to get vaccinated as there are several hospitals in the area.

Yesterday, CNG-run auto-rickshaws increased than any other days during this lockdown. Rickshaws are dominating the streets.

In Pallabi, a housemaid told this correspondent that she works at two homes in the morning. But she was still on the street around 12:00 noon, seeking help from affluent people.

"I live in Bhasantek slum. Many like me roamed on the street around 12:00 noon, seeking help from affluent people."

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