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Your Right to Know

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## No vaccines anytime soon

Delhi tells Dhaka, cites internal demand, crisis of raw materials; pitches co-production of India's indigenous Covaxin

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Bangladesh will not get the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine from India anytime soon, India has said.

The supply of the vaccine is delayed due to a crisis of raw materials and a huge internal demand in India, said a note verbale from the Indian High Commission yesterday.

Addressed to the Bangladesh foreign ministry, the note also mentioned that India had been trying to meet its internal demand as well as obligations made under contractual agreements by Indian companies to produce more of the vaccines being manufactured at the Serum



Institute of India (SII), Pune, and by other prominent vaccine manufacturers.

The whole world is aware that key countries of the world have been withholding raw materials, which are critical for the manufacture of these vaccines, it added.

The note understandably indicated the US ban on export of Covid-19 vaccine raw materials that impacted production of Serum, the largest vaccine producer in the world.

The Indian response to the foreign ministry also implies that Bangladesh will get its purchased vaccine doses from Serum Institute of India, branded Covishield, once the dearth of the raw materials is addressed.

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An elderly woman with Covid-19 on a wheelchair is being taken to a private facility for a test from Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The volunteers holding the oxygen cylinder and pulling the chair belong to Brihannala, an association of Hijra people. Major healthcare facilities in the capital are buckling under the surge in Covid-19 cases.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

### COVID CURBS

## Experts again warn against reopening too soon

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Experts have again warned against the wholesale lifting of the coronavirus restrictions as the government plans to withdraw the travel restrictions from Wednesday.

There is a real need for protecting people's livelihood, but the reopening should take place in phases, they said.

"At least, Dhaka and Chattogram cities must be under strict surveillance," Director General Prof ABM Khurshid Alam of the Directorate General of Health Services said, "Since it is hard to sustain strict restrictions [on all

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## Khaleda tests positive for Covid again

STAR REPORT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday again tested positive for coronavirus.

The former premier is in "good condition" as she overcame the Covid-19 symptoms, her personal physician AZM Zahid

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## Hefajat conspired to topple the govt

Says DB; 'leaders of different political parties involved with the group took part in the plot'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different political parties, allegedly involved with Hefajat-e-Islam, hatched conspiracies with the Qawmi madrasa-based organisation to topple the government in 2013 and March this year, investigators have said.

They said the parties had their own agenda and tried to use Hefajat as cover.

Even though Hefajat claims it is a non-political organisation, many of its leaders are affiliated with different political parties, Mahub Alam, joint commissioner of the Detective Branch (DB) of Dhaka

Metropolitan Police, said yesterday.

Using madrasa students as shields, Hefajat leaders were carrying out subversive activities to gain power, he said.

Mahub said these leaders conspired in 2013 to oust the government through Hefajat.

Similar efforts were made through violence centring the Indian prime minister's visit in the country in March this year, he said.

The DB official was talking to reporters at his office regarding their findings after the arrest of at least 15 top Hefajat leaders.

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## ARMANITOLA FIRE

### Newlyweds now on life support

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and HELEMI ALAM

Around one and a half months ago, Muna Sarkar and Ashiqzaman Khan, both computer engineers by profession, tied the knot.

Before their wedding reception could be held, a devastating fire at chemical storage in the capital's Armanitola brought their lives to a near ending situation.

The duo was put on life support at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery yesterday.

Muna's sibling Junaid Sarkar, who is also receiving treatment at a city hospital, said Ashiqzaman was at his in-laws' house in Armanitola when the fire broke out.

Both Muna and Ashiqzaman lost consciousness when the fire broke out on the ground floor of the six-storied Musa Mansion early Friday and left four people dead, 23 wounded.

Samanta Lal Sen, the coordinator of Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, confirmed to The Daily Star

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8 YRS SINCE RANA PLAZA TRAGEDY

## Fruitful reforms rising from ruins

REFAWET ULLAH MIRDHA

The country's garment sector has been going through massive reforms to become more sustainable and safer for workers since the 2013 Rana Plaza building collapse that claimed at least 1,138 lives.

The reforms, initiated after one of the deadliest industrial tragedies in the country, have drawn praises from international retailers, brands, rights groups and big conglomerates.

For instance, last month, American management consulting firm McKinsey & Company in its flagship survey of the



Chief Purchasing Officer (CPO) lauded Bangladesh's achievements in the garment sector after the Rana Plaza collapse.

"Today, Bangladesh's RMG sector is a

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The large crowd, uncovered faces, and apparent brisk trade at this seasonal Jamdani Sari market in Tarabo, Ruggani, makes it seem as though the country is not suffering from the second wave of Covid-19, which has proved to be deadlier than the last one. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Mourning News

### Md. Jahangir Hossain PPM (Bar)

Former Additional DIG of Bangladesh Police Mr. Md. Jahangir Hossain had passed away at United Hospital in the capital on Friday 16/04/2021 at around 12.30 pm after being infected with Corona virus (Innalillahi ..... Rajiyun). He was 73 years old at the time of his death. He was a heroic freedom fighter. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, two grandchildren, relatives and many admirers. He was buried at Sonadeuli village in Shibganj upazila of Bogra district at 9 am After Showing Guard of Honour on Saturday. We have seen sympathy for him from home and abroad before and after his death. We are Grateful to everyone for him. We are Seeking prayers from you all the time.



In private  
All family Members  
Contact: 01943948480



WE MOURN

YOUTH GROUP



Veteran Industrialist, Social Worker and Chairman of Youth Group

MR. REZAKUL HAIDER

Had breathed his last peacefully on April 23, 2021 at the age of 67.  
(Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihe Rajiun).

He left with us his family of Wife, two sons and numerous relatives and well-wishers. Apart from the establishments under Youth Group, Mr. Haider was the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Islamic Finance and Investment Ltd, Vice-Chairman of Zenith Islami Life Insurance Ltd, Director of Australian International School, Member of the Board of Trustee in Eastern University Foundation and Founder Member of Shornadip Foundation. His legacy will live on forever among us. We deeply mourn his sad demise and seek prayers for his departed soul.

Managing Director, Directors and All Employees of Youth Group



## We Mourn

The Honorable Chairman of the Board of Directors of Islamic Finance and Investment Limited (IFIL), Veteran Industrialist, Social Worker and Founder Member & Present Chairman of Youth Group Rezakul Haider has passed away on 23rd April, 2021 (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajiun).

Rezakul Haider was also the Chairman of Youth Fashion Ltd., Youth Garments, Petromax LPG Ltd., Petromax Cylinder Ltd., Comfit Composite Knit Ltd., Sahajibazar Power Co. Ltd. He was also the Vice Chairman of Zenith Islami Life Insurance Ltd. He was the Director of Midland Power Ltd., Midland East Power Ltd. and a Board of Trustee Member of Eastern University.

The Board of Directors, Sponsors, Executives, Officers and Staff of IFIL deeply mourn at his sad demise and expressed profound sympathy & empathy to the bereaved family.

We pray to the Almighty Allah for the salvation of the departed soul.



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