

**BUILD YOUR HOME FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS WITH THE TOUGHEST STEEL**

**BSRM treme B500 DWR the tough steel**

**PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE**

**SHAH CEMENT**

# Covid 'tsunami' hammers India

Triple mutant variant fears forces Odisha to close border with West Bengal

AGENCIES

India's daily coronavirus death toll set a new record yesterday as the government battled to get oxygen to hospitals overwhelmed by the hundreds of thousands of new daily cases.

Twenty patients died in one night at one New Delhi hospital suffering from oxygen shortages, medical officials said. A Delhi court said that the new pandemic wave had become "a tsunami".

Queues of Covid-19 patients and their fearful relatives were growing outside hospitals in major cities across India, the world's new pandemic hotspot, which has now reported nearly one million new cases in three days.

Another 2,624 deaths were reported in 24 hours, taking the official toll to nearly 190,000 since the pandemic started.

More than 340,000 new cases were also reported, taking India's total to 16.5 million, second only to the United States.

But many experts are predicting the current wave will not peak for at least three weeks and that the real death toll and case count are much higher.

Germany and Kuwait yesterday followed the United Arab Emirates, Britain and New Zealand in restricting travel from the country.

Stung by criticism of its lack of preparation ahead of the wave of infections, the central government has organised special trains to get oxygen supplies to the worst-hit cities.

The Indian air force was also being used to transport oxygen tankers and other supplies around the country and

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



The demand for oxygen is skyrocketing in the country with the number of cases and deaths related to coronavirus. A worker is refilling cylinders at a station in Narayanganj to meet the demand. Many such factories are kept open round the clock for the heavy workload.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## BUSINESS

### Stopping spam texts now just a dial away

Mobile phone users can stop receiving promotional text messages on their handsets by dialing codes, said the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) yesterday.

The move comes amid complaints from users of being bombarded with numerous marketing messages regularly. Because of the receipt of so many messages, many important messages sometimes remain unnoticed.

Anyone unwilling to receive marketing SMSs can dial short codes and activate the "Do Not Disturb" option.

To activate the service, Grameenphone users have to dial \*121\*1101# and Banglalink users \*121\*8\*6#. For Robi and Airtel, it is \*7#.

STORY ON B1



## Khaleda tests for Covid again

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia underwent a fresh Covid-19 testing yesterday to know whether she has recovered from the virus as she was doing well with no visible symptom, said her personal physician Mohammad Al Mamun.

Mamun said Khaleda's medical team members will make a decision about her next course of treatment once they receive the test report.

He said eight other people, who were infected with the virus at Khaleda's Gulshan residence, also underwent fresh testing in

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

## ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### Bhashani's telegram to world leaders

APRIL 25, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### BHASHANI APPEALS TO WORLD LEADERS

National Awami Party President Moulana Bhashani renewed his appeal to several world leaders to help the cause of Bangladesh. In a telegram, Bhashani requested the United Nations Secretary General U Thant to issue an immediate appeal to stop the brutal massacre of innocent people of Bangladesh. He also requested him to send observers to Bangladesh to see the nature and volume of looting, arson, mass killing and molestation of women by Pakistan army.

Bhashani appealed to the Soviet leaders to take more positive action to stop the barbarous massacres of hundreds of thousands of unarmed helpless people of Bangladesh.

Appreciating the statement issued by President Podgorny on the situation in Bangladesh, Bhashani said this was not enough and more positive action was urgently required.



He also appealed to British Prime Minister Edward Heath and French President Pompidou, President Tito of Yugoslavia and President Anwar Sadat of Egypt to raise voice against the brutal suppression of human rights and extend immediate recognition and all possible help to the government of Bangladesh. He also sent identical telegrams to Diallo Telli, secretary general of the Organisation of African Unity, and Abdul Khaleq Hassouna, secretary general of the Arab League. **GENERAL LULL IN FIGHTING** As the curtain fell on the first month of the war of liberation, Bangladesh cabinet appeared busy with the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

## AL leader stabbed to death by husband

STAR REPORT

A woman was stabbed to death allegedly by her husband in the capital's Pallabi area early yesterday.

The dead - Umama Begum Kanak, 40, wife of Omar Faruk, a former Japan expatriate - was a member of the Awami League's relief and social welfare sub-committee.

The incident took place around 12:30am at their house in Mirpur DOHS following a quarrel over several issues, Kazi Wazed Ali, officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station, said.

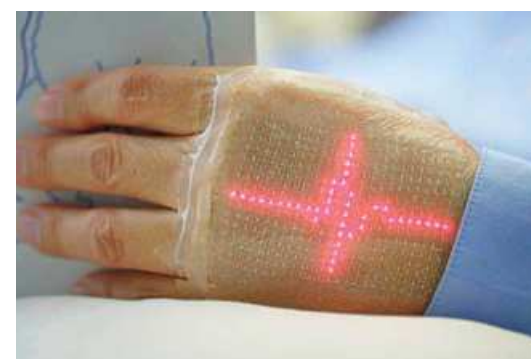
Police detained Faruk following the murder, he added.

Victim's sister Ruma Akter said Faruk returned from Japan a couple of years ago and since then was not doing anything in the country.

This frustrated Kanak, mother of two, leading to

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

## Wearable e-skin could monitor your health



CNN ONLINE

Doctors may be just a few years away from tracking your vital signs via electronic skin worn on the body.

Researchers in Japan say they have developed an ultra-thin, lightweight e-skin that is stuck to the chest area using water spray and can be worn for a week at a time.

The technology was developed by Takao Someya, a professor at the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Engineering. It has yet to undergo clinical trials, but Someya says he

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



## PRAYER TIMING APRIL 25

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-05 12-45 4-45 6-28 8-00  
JAMAAT 4-15 1-15 5-00 6-38 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## evaly

### SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

#### RAMADAN APRIL SEHRI IFTAR

12	25	6:28
13	26	4:04 6:29
14	27	4:03 6:29

## SpaceX ship docks with ISS

AFP, Washington

The SpaceX Crew Dragon Endeavour docked with the International Space Station (ISS) early yesterday, a livestream showed.

Soft capture - the first phase of docking - occurred at 5:08 am Eastern time (0908 GMT), 264 miles (424 kilometers) over the south Indian Ocean.

Hard capture, the second stage, occurred about 10 minutes later, when 12 hooks were securely attached between Endeavour and the ISS's forward port.

"Hard capture complete, welcome Crew-2," said US astronaut Shannon Walker, current commander of the ISS.

"Thanks Shannon, we're glad to be here, we'll see you all in a few minutes," replied Endeavour's commander, US astronaut Shane Kimbrough.

The vestibule between the capsule is now being pressurized so that the hatches of both Endeavour and the space station can

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Amid the "strict lockdown" that has been imposed by the government to prevent the spread of deadly coronavirus, private and public vehicles, except buses, are plying on the streets quite normally. The photo was taken on Mirpur road in the capital's Shyamoli area yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HUQ

## Global daily cases hit new record

893,000 Covid cases reported in 24hrs; J&J jab gets US go ahead

AGENCIES

A daily record of more than 893,000 Covid-19 cases has been recorded worldwide yesterday as US regulators said pharma giant Johnson & Johnson can restart a vaccine rollout paused due to worries over blood clots.

The total for cases recorded throughout Friday is based on official figures at 1000 GMT yesterday. The previous daily high was some 819,000 cases on January 8.

More than a third of the infections occurred in India, which announced 332,730 new cases on Friday and another 346,786 yesterday, also a record for a single country since the start of the pandemic.

Over the course of a week, more than 5.5 million cases were recorded worldwide, including almost two million in India. Other countries trailing India with the most new infections are the United States (490,000 cases in one week), Brazil (459,000) and Turkey (404,000).

The threshold of 150 million cases worldwide is expected to be reached next week.

The grim scenes out of India were in stark contrast to the quickening vaccine rollouts in much of the western world, with US regulators approving the re-start of a rollout of J&J vaccines halted over blood clotting concerns.

Health authorities had proposed a halt following instances of severe blood clots among a handful of the millions of Americans who received the jab - a decision overturned after an expert panel said the shots' benefits exceeded possible dangers.

According to data presented Friday, of 3.9 million women in the United States who got the Johnson & Johnson shot, 15 developed serious blood clots and three

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1