



## INCOMING PASSENGERS' QUARANTINE Govt makes it must for all

*Bans entry from India; crowds on streets, malls continue to swell*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Considering the global situation and following the advice of public health experts, the government has made quarantine mandatory for all passengers from abroad.

The quarantine procedure would be different depending on the countries they come from.

The Cabinet Division yesterday issued a notification extending the ongoing restrictions until May 5, explaining the quarantine procedures, mentioning the time shops and malls could stay open, and banning entry into Bangladesh from India.

According to the directives, passengers from the Middle East, Singapore, Malaysia and China, who have tested negative for Covid-19 prior to departure and have vaccination certificates, would have to quarantine for 14 days in their homes. They would need to notify their local police stations about their arrival and the quarantine period.

Those who tested negative for Covid prior to departure but do not have vaccination certificates would have to stay in institutional quarantine. After tests (within 3-5 days), they could go for a 14-day home quarantine if doctors allow them to do so.

People from other countries would have to stay at government-designated hotels for their 14-day institutional quarantine. They would have to pay for their stay.

India has been witnessing about 3.5 lakh infections and

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Pigeons flock over leftovers spread across farms after farmers gather and harvest ripe paddy from the fields in Kagashura village of Barishal sadar upazila. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO:  
TITU DAS

## Govt starts procurement of paddy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government started procurement of paddy directly from farmers at Tk 27 per kg from yesterday.

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder inaugurated the countrywide "Boro Collection-2021" programme through a video conference from Dhaka yesterday morning.

High officials of the administration of nine districts -- Netrakona and Kishoreganj of Dhaka division, Naogaon and Bogura of Rajshahi division, Dinajpur of Rangpur division and Sylhet Sadar, Habiganj, Moulvibazar and Sunamganj of Sylhet division -- joined him virtually.

Officials of the food departments, mill owners and farmers' representatives also attended the programme.

The food minister directed the officials and employees concern

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## Third gender family 'forced' to leave home

Two arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Palma

A third gender family filed a case against a group of village arbitrators who they claimed forced them to leave their inherited house at Charghatina village in Sirajganj's Ullapara upazila.

The family filed the case against 11 local arbitrators with Ullapara Police Station yesterday.

Police arrested two arbitrators -- Montu Alom and Meser Ali -- in connection with the incident.

One of the complainants, Monirul Islam, 27, said, "Villagers dislike me. I often do not approach the locals. I always try to live within my [third gender] community."

"But the arbitrators got united and called a village arbitration on April 13, and they asked us to leave the village -- giving us an ultimatum of one month," Monirul said.

"They also beat up my brother Moznun Miah a couple of days ago," Monirul claimed.

Asked, Dipak Kumar, officer-in-charge of Ullapara Police Station, said that they were trying to arrest the other accused. Ullapara Upazila

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## India's virus toll tops 200,000

*Patients flock to makeshift tents for oxygen as WHO says Indian variant found in at least 17 countries*

AGENCIES

Indians struggled to register online for a mass vaccination drive set to begin next month as the country's toll from the coronavirus surged past 200,000 yesterday, worsened by shortages of hospital beds and medical oxygen.

The second wave of infections has seen at least 300,000 people test positive each day for the past week, overwhelming health facilities and crematoriums and fuelling an increasingly urgent response from allies overseas sending equipment.

The last 24 hours brought 360,960 new cases for the world's largest single-day total, taking India's tally of infections to nearly 18 million. It was also the deadliest day so far, with 3,293 fatalities carrying the toll to 201,187.

Experts believe the official tally vastly underestimates the actual toll in a nation of 1.35 billion, however.

"The situation is horrific, absolutely terrible, according to what I see. Everyone is afraid, every single person. People are afraid that if I am talking to a person, maybe I won't get to talk to them tomorrow

or in the near future," New Delhi resident Manoj Garg said.

As record infections spark severe shortages of the gas in hospitals, desperate patients are flocking to tents outside a Gurdwara -- a Sikh place of worship -- in Ghaziabad city, arriving in cars, rickshaws and even ambulances.

"We needed treatment but we couldn't find any beds in Delhi's hospitals," Verma, 32, told AFP as his mother, 58-year-old Poonam, was connected to an oxygen concentrator.

The World Health Organization said in its weekly epidemiological update that India accounted for 38% of the 5.7 million cases reported worldwide to it last week.

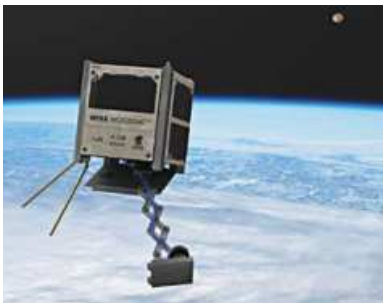
Early modelling showed that the B.1.617 variant of the virus detected in India had a higher growth rate than other variants in the country, suggesting increased transmissibility, it said.

The variants make for a perilous cocktail coursing through the world's second most populous country where people live in close proximity, often six to a room.

The UN health agency also said the

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## First wooden satellite set to launch



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The first ever satellite made of wood is set to launch into orbit later this year as part of a project to test the use of sustainable materials in space.

The WISA Woodsat mission will gather data on the durability of plywood within the harsh conditions of space in order to assess whether future space stations or even spacecraft could be built out of wood.

The nanosatellite, which measures 10cm in length and weighs 1kg, will be exposed to extreme

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ROAD TO FREEDOM  
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## Heavier inflow of refugees feared

APRIL 29, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BRITISH MPS URGE UK TO ENSURE RELIEF WORK

A delegation headed by Labour MP John Stonehouse and top officials of War on Want, Christian Aid and Oxfam, called on Sir Alec Douglas Home, British foreign secretary, and told him that Britain should do something so that international relief work could be started in Bangladesh.

The former minister for development Reg Prentice MP also led a deputation to the present minister Richard Wood, and told him not to give British aid to Pakistan until the Bangladesh situation was politically settled.

Another British MP, Bruce Douglas-Mann, who had been in India to assess the situation, informed that he was carrying a special message from Bangladesh Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad for the British government.

INDIA'S REFUGEE CONCERN

The heavy spate of refugee influx from Bangladesh was causing a grave concern to the Government of India. Till yesterday, the Indian government's estimate was that about 700,000 had crossed the border and entered West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura. The Government of India proposed to accommodate the refugees in camps as near the border as possible instead of dispersing them to other states.

YAHYA GETS LETTER FROM KOSYGIN

Pakistan foreign office spokesman said today that President Yahya Khan had received a message from the Soviet Prime Minister

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## 8TH PHASE WEST BENGAL POLLS 3-way battle amid Covid cases surge

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

It is expected to be a three-way battle as the 8th and final phase of the West Bengal assembly polls takes place today amid a massive surge of Covid-19 cases in India.

A total 35 assembly seats covering four districts -- Malda, Birbhum, Murshidabad and Kolkata -- will be up for grabs.

The biggest concern for the Election Commission, however, is to maintain health guidelines in the polls as the eastern state of India has logged 17,207 fresh covid cases -- the highest-single day spike -- and the death toll climbed to 11,159 with 77 more deaths yesterday.

The EC has already banned roadshows and vehicle rallies in the state following the surge in Covid-19 cases, leaving the leaders of political parties to either campaign virtually or hold small rallies with a maximum of 500 participants before the eighth phase of the election.

Of the 35 seats, six assembly seats are in Malda, 11 in Murshidabad, seven in Kolkata and 11 in Birbhum.

In this phase, WB ruler Trinamool Congress, eyeing a third consecutive term, will be up against Sanjukta Morcha, comprising the National the Congress, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Indian Secular Front and India ruler BJP.

The Left alliance is fighting to regain its strength in the Muslim dominated Malda and Murshidabad, considered the traditional stronghold of the alliance.

On the other hand, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will be hoping to make its mark in the fourth-most-populous state of India to come to power for the first time.

In the last 2016 assembly polls, both TMC and the Left-Congress alliance got 17 seats each, while the BJP won a single seat out of 35 seats.

In that election, the TMC got 38.74 percent votes, which

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Due to the sweltering heat of the summer sun, children were seen taking a dip of relief in the pond situated inside the Suhrawardy Udyan. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO:  
RASHED SHUMON



PRAYER TIMING APRIL 29

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:06	12:45	4:45	6:30	8:00
JAMAT 4:16	1:15	5:00	6:40	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

evaly

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN APRIL SEHRI	IFTAR
16	29
17	30
18	MAY 1
6:30	3:59
6:30	6:31