



**AMERICA 'ON THE MOVE AGAIN'**  
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EID, COVID SURGE IN INDIA

# Worried, govt now plans tough steps

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Worried that the Covid situation in Bangladesh could worsen with the Indian variant entering and the upcoming Eid travel rush, the government is contemplating stricter measures.

Extension of the ongoing shutdown of public and private offices until Eid; embargo on leaving work stations during the holidays; garment workers going on leave in phases; closing shops and malls after Eid are among the steps, said sources.

The authority would also beef up vigilance on the border to stop possible infiltration, trespassing, and illegal entry.

Although the government is likely to allow public transport to operate after May 5, it might suspend it a week after the holidays.

It might go for more drastic measures if the situation in Kolkata becomes something like that of New Delhi.

The Daily Star came to know about these possible steps after talking to several

- Govt officials may not be allowed to leave stations during Eid holidays
- Zone-wise vacation for garment workers to avoid Eid rush
- BGB asked to beef up vigilance to check trespassing
- Shopping malls may be closed after Eid

government officials concerned, including those in the Cabinet Division.

A meeting is likely to be held on Sunday to finalise these measures and a circular would be issued following a nod from the prime minister, the sources said.

Restrictions were imposed on the movement of people and public transport to contain the second wave of Covid-19 on April 5. The restrictions have been extended until May 5 in phases.

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Sixty-year-old Joinal Abedin and his two children flashing the victory sign as they leave Dhaka Medical College Hospital for home. Joinal got released after a two-week battle against Covid-19. The daughter, Jannatul Mawa Joya, is a medical officer at the hospital.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## LPG price slashed by 7pc

AKANDA MUHAMMAD JAHID

The energy regulator has re-fixed the price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) of private companies.

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) yesterday reduced the retail price of LPG by around 7 percent. According to the new rate, retailers will have to sell 12kg gas in LPG cylinder at Tk 906, down from the existing price of Tk 975.

The new price will become effective from next month, BERC Chairman Abdul Jalil said while announcing the new price at a virtual press conference.

He said they re-fixed the price as per the new rate of the Saudi Contract Price for May.

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## Positivity rate drops to 9.39pc

Restrictions helping bring down Covid cases, say experts

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

The positivity rate of Covid-19 tests in the country has come down below 10 percent after 40 days.

Experts see it as a result of the ongoing restrictions on movement. They said maintaining physical distancing is a proven method to reduce virus transmission and it is more important now

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SECURING VACCINES

## Local production with own funds

Mulls the govt over vaccines from other sources; approves emergency use of China's Sinopharm

STAR REPORT

The government is considering whether to locally produce Covid-19 vaccines with its own funds as the supply of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine from India's Serum Institute remains uncertain.

The production will be funded by the Tk 10,000 crore allocated in this year's budget to combat the pandemic.

The government funds will be spent for either locally manufacturing the vaccine with the developers' assistance or an arrangement to co-produce with the inventors.

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TREATING COVID PATIENTS

## Gonoshasthaya at their doorstep

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

Gonoshasthaya Kendra started an initiative to treat coronavirus patients at their home with mobile medical teams in four areas of the capital.

The Gonoshasthaya Kendra Mobile Corona Medical Services will also collect samples from people with coronavirus-like symptoms from their homes in Dhanmondi, Kalabagan, Old Dhaka, and Mirpur.

Medical officers of Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK) will visit homes in

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DEATH OF COLLEGE GIRL

## Instigation behind 'suicide'

Cops say after primary probe; accused fails to secure anticipatory bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary evidence suggests that there was instigation behind the death of a college student whose sister filed a case against Bashundhara Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir, police said yesterday.

Anvir has been accused in the case of abetting her suicide at a Gulshan flat on April 26.

He failed to secure anticipatory bail from the High Court yesterday, a day after seeking anticipatory bail from

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## Anvir's 5 family members leave for Dubai by chartered plane

STAFF CORRESPONDENT


Five family members and three domestic staff of Bashundhara Group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir left Dhaka for Dubai by a chartered aircraft last night.

The private jet left Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 8:56pm, a top official of Aviation Security

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