



**IPL SUSPENDED AS COVID CASES MOUNT; FOREIGN CRICKETERS SET TO LEAVE INDIA**  
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# The Daily Star

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## INFORMAL SECTOR WORKERS

# Hardly cared for in hard times

*Inadequate govt support, job loss leave them ravaged amid pandemic; no official data on those affected by the crisis*

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

The latest restrictions on movement have dealt another fatal blow to workers in the informal sector in the absence of adequate government support required to survive a prolonged period without work. Last year, these workers had endured a difficult time between March 26 and the end of May when the government imposed a general shutdown to keep the coronavirus pandemic at bay. The state of their livelihoods has only worsened this time around.

"Some organisations and people extended their hand by way of giving relief to workers during the last year's lockdown. Such initiatives are completely absent this year," said Md Murshikul Islam, president of the Bangladesh Hawker Workers Trade Union Centre.

"Our lives are going up in flames, but nobody is thinking of us and how we are struggling to survive. We have so far not got any support from the government. How can we live?"

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» 85.1% of 6.08 crore labourers work in informal sector as per 2016-17 BBS survey

» An estimated 1.35 crore workers lost job in the sector during last year's lockdown

### JOB CLAIMED BY PANDEMIC

- Construction: 16 lakh
- Hotels, restaurants and bakeries: 29 lakh
- Transport: 50 lakh



Holding a paperboard over her head to shield herself from the scorching sun, Fulmoti, 75, waits for handouts at Khilkhet level crossing in the capital yesterday. Widowed after the Liberation War, the mother of two used to work at a local restaurant as a cooking assistant. She lost informal sector job last year after the eatery was shut amid the pandemic. She now depends on others' donations to survive.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## BUSINESS

### BB clips National Bank's wings

The central bank has taken a raft of measures to put National Bank Ltd back on track in the wake of massive irregularities at the first-generation private lender. Now, NBL will not be able to disburse fresh loans before bringing down the advance deposit ratio to 87 per cent. It has been asked to take permission before appointing consultants, advisers, and additional and deputy managing directors.

STORY ON B1

# Mamata to take oath as CM today

*BJP demands CBI probe on post-polls violence in WB in which 12 die*

AGENCIES

Trinamool supremo Mamata Banerjee will be sworn in as West Bengal chief minister for a third straight term today amid post-polls violence that left at least 12 people dead.

During the violence, rival political workers clashed, party offices were torched and homes looted, resulting in the deaths and prompting the Union home ministry and state governor to



seek reports, reported Indian media.

Besides, Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday spoke to governor Jagdeep Dhankhar about the "alarmingly worrisome" law and order situation in West Bengal as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) blamed the Trinamool Congress (TMC) for "unprecedented" post-election violence in the state.

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## CHINESE SHOTS Dhaka hopes to get them before Eid

UNB, Dhaka

The Chinese government is working to start the delivery of Covid-19 vaccines before Eid even though there is a five-day May Day holiday in China, said Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday.

Seeing it as a sign of "special friendship" with Bangladesh, he said Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Li Jiming recently

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## PROCURING SPUTNIK-V VACCINES Dhaka, Moscow close in on a deal

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The government has made considerable progress in procuring Russia's Sputnik V vaccine with health officials now working on finalising a government-to-government contract.

"We have got the agreement paper on Monday from the foreign ministry. We are now examining the terms and conditions. We have some observations about some conditions and we will reply with these tomorrow [Wednesday]," Health Minister Zahid Maleque told The Daily Star yesterday.

The minister hoped that the purchase agreement with the Russian authorities would be completed soon.

Asked about the price of the vaccine, the minister said it was not mentioned in the agreement proposal.

"Basically, this agreement proposal is on the level of terms and conditions such as when the authorities can send vaccines and what would happen if

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## Khaleda Zia's condition now 'improving'

*Say family sources*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's condition improved a little and she was stable, said sources in her family yesterday.

Fluids were removed from her lung and no malignancy was found in it, said the sources quoting doctors who are treating Khaleda at Evercare Hospital in the capital.

"Her oxygen saturation level dropped below 90 percent following withdrawal



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Unregistered motorboats are parked at Shimulia speedboat ghat in Munshinganj's Lauhajang upazila yesterday, a day after 26 people were killed in a speedboat accident near Bangla Bazar Ferry Ghat in Madaripur's Shibchar upazila. These vessels ferry passengers on Shimulia-Bangla Bazar route illegally.

PHOTO: STAR

## Speedboats unregulated for decades

SAHAJ HOSSAIN and SUZIT KUMAR DAS

Right under the authorities' noses, unskilled drivers have been operating unregistered speedboats on the Padma's Shimulia-Bangla Bazar route for over a decade.

The issue has come into the limelight after one such motorboat crashed into a sand-laden bulk carrier near Bangla Bazar Ferry Ghat in Madaripur's Shibchar upazila on Monday morning, leaving 26 passengers, including women and children, dead.

Sources in the Shimulia Ferry Terminal

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## A breath of fresh air in Covid crisis

*Buet researchers develop low-cost portable device to provide Oxygen to critical coronavirus patients*

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

As the demand for oxygen increased at hospitals amid this second wave of the pandemic, a group of Buet researchers has developed a low-cost portable ventilator that can deliver oxygen to patients efficiently without electricity.

The non-invasive device, which requires a connection with an oxygen cylinder or medical oxygen supply, is designed to help severe coronavirus patients with low oxygen levels, according to the researchers.

Named OxyJet CPAP by the researchers from Buet's Department of Biomedical Engineering, it has already been field-tested and approved for clinical trials.

This device can be used in remote villages or ambulances -- wherever it is possible to



carry cylinders -- as an alternative to the high-flow nasal oxygen (HFNO) support.

"We've developed a non-invasive CPAP ventilator that runs without electricity. The main goal of the device is to provide oxygen treatment to patients of general wards and prevent ICU admission," Dr

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বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষ  
Bangladesh Food Safety Authority

৭১-৭২ ইকরাটন গার্ডেন, ঢাকা।  
www.bfsa.gov.bd

নোটিশ

বিজ্ঞানসম্মত পদ্ধতির যথাযথ অনুশীলনের মাধ্যমে নিরাপদ খাদ্য প্রাপ্তির অধিকার নিশ্চিতকরণে বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষ নিরলস কাজ করে যাচ্ছে। "নিরাপদ খাদ্য আইন, ২০১৩" এর ধারা ৮৭ এর ক্ষমতাবলে ধারা ৪১ ও ধারা ৪২ এর উদ্দেশ্য পূরণকল্পে বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষ "নিরাপদ খাদ্য (বিজ্ঞাপন) প্রবিধানমালা, ২০২১" এর খসড়া প্রণয়ন করেছে। উক্ত খসড়া প্রবিধানমালা বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষের ওয়েবসাইটের (নোটিশ বোর্ডের ঠিকানাঃ <http://www.bfsa.gov.bd/site/view/notices>) নোটিশবোর্ডে ১০৬ নম্বর নোটিশে মতামত প্রদানের জন্য প্রকাশিত হয়েছে। আগামী ২০ মে, ২০২১ তারিখের মধ্যে আপনার বিজ্ঞ মতামত প্রেরণের জন্য বিনীতভাবে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

সচিব

বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষ

জরুরী প্রয়োজনে:

শেখ মোঃ ফেরদৌস আরাফাত

আইন কর্মকর্তা, বাংলাদেশ নিরাপদ খাদ্য কর্তৃপক্ষ

মোবাইল নম্বর: ০১৭৭৭৫৯৯৬৮৬

## Beds vacant as positivity rate drops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the number of daily coronavirus cases on the decline, most of the general and ICU beds at the Covid-19 dedicated hospitals across the country remains vacant.

There are 12,289 general beds for coronavirus patients across the country. Of those, 9,291 or more than 75 percent were vacant as of yesterday, according to data of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Of the total 1,090 ICU beds, 586 or more than half were unoccupied.

Since the second wave of the pandemic spread across the country in the second week of March, the number of daily cases started going up. The number of daily new cases and deaths broke all previous records.

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**MORE NEWS**  
Elevated metro line collapse kills 23 in Mexico  
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Myanmar announces ban on satellite TV as security threat  
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Charbaria massacre, never to be forgotten  
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## WE MOURN



Veteran Industrialist and social worker, our honorable Director MR. REZAKUL HAIDER has expired on April 23 2021 at the age of 67 (inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajiun). We all pray to Almighty Allah for granting him Jannat.

Directors and All Employees of

