## Nixon's letter to Yahya

exception of two-- an independent member and the president of the Moslem League -- had pressed for immediate recognition of Bangladesh.

Indira Gandhi, according to these sources, said at the closed meeting that India was delaying a decision not because of the threat of war with Pakistan or out of fear of a confrontation with Communist China, but for "more weighty reasons".

Gandhi wanted to see if the Bangalee independence fighters could establish effective administrative control over a sizeable area. What other governments do about recognition will also be a factor, but not the deciding one, these sources said.

She told the opposition leaders that India had sounded out several friendly countries on the recognition issue, but that at least for now these countries tended to regard the crisis as a Pakistani internal matter.

Indira Gandhi reportedly contended that Indian recognition now might hurt the Bangalees' cause by seeming to substantiate the Pakistani charge that the

independence struggle was engineered by India and was being kept alive only by Indian arms aid.

#### PRESS IS WARNED ON 'IRRESPONSIBLE' REPORTS

The military government of Yahya Khan warned the newspapers today "not to jeopardize efforts to bring the country back to normalcy by publishing irresponsible

An official announcement said newspapers would not be allowed to infringe on a martial law regulation that bars publication of anything calculated to harm the integrity of Pakistan. The regulation was promulgated on March 26, when General Yahya announced the military crackdown.

The nation today is faced with a crisis and everything has to be subordinated to

it," the new announcement said. "Some newspapers have started acting in an irresponsible manner which is against the interest of the nation," it added.

> Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

# Buses back on streets; crowds

He did not elaborate on the matter.

"Train and launch services will remain suspended as the ongoing restrictions have been extended ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr," he

Although public buses did not run on the city streets for 22 days amid the Covid-19 restrictions, traffic had been increasing over the past few days. In the absence of public transport, people took rickshaws, CNG-run auto-rickshaws and cars on rent to reach their destinations.

Yesterday, after buses started operating again, Dhaka once again witnessed its perennial traffic congestion. Police said it happened due to a huge pressure of shoppers ahead of Eid, which will be celebrated in a week.

Buses started leaving their depots in the morning and ran on roads, including in Dhanmondi, Mirpur, Uttara, Banani and Mohakhali, at half capacity.

Passengers were seen wearing masks and strictly following the Covid safety protocols.

Those people, especially office-goers, expressed relief over the resumption of public transport.

Saeed Ahmed, who works at a private organisation in Gulshan, said it had cost him Tk 200 to go to work from his home in Mohammadpur in a CNG-run autorickshaw

Yesterday, he spent only Tk 30 as he took

But experts said buses often carry passengers over the stipulated capacity and if they do so again, the coronavirus infection may spread further.

Heavy traffic congestion was seen on Mirpur Road, Elephant Road and other prominent streets in Gulshan, Banani, Mohakhali, New Market, Bangla Motor, Panthapath, and Karwan Bazar areas.

The congestion became even heavier in the afternoon. Traffic police at some key intersections were seen busy controlling traffic movement.

The government imposed restrictions on movement of people and public transport on April 5 to contain the second wave of Covid-19. The restrictions were extended till May 16 in phases.

As per a new government circular, public transport, including buses and minibuses, were allowed to operate only inside the territory of each district from yesterday. However, inter-district bus services would remain suspended in the country during the ongoing "lockdown".

Meanwhile, a huge number of cars and microbuses continue to carry passengers to and from Dhaka on rent, charging almost double the usual bus fare. The number of such vehicles is expected to go up during

The rush at the ferry terminals is also increasing every day.

With Eid-ul-Fitr around the corner, shopping centres and malls are filled with

Sellers at different shopping centres and malls said the number of customers increased yesterday. They think they would see a heavier rush at the malls today as it is the last weekend before Eid.

Visiting some major shopping malls and markets in Dhaka -- New Market, Chandni Chawk, Gausia, Noor Mansion, and Bashundhara City Mall -- yesterday, The Daily Star correspondents found customers pouring into the shops from 10:00am.

At most shopping centres, maintaining the health and safety rules appeared a big challenge due to the heavy flow of

At the entry points of some markets, antiseptic mix was sprayed on customers, instead of providing them with hand sanitisers. Besides, there was not enough space inside most of the shops to maintain physical distancing.

Lifestyle brand Aarong's Asad Gate branch was fined Tk 1 lakh for not maintaining health safety rules by a mobile court. Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam accompanied the team. DNCC Executive Magistrate Tajwar Akram Sakapi Ibne Sazzad said the outlet was heavily crowded. Children were being allowed to enter without masks.

Mobile courts in the capital also conducted raids in Mouchak and Bailey Road areas yesterday to ensure compliance of the health rules.

A total of 23 people were fined Tk 8,500 at two shopping centres for not wearing

Although food courts in the malls were asked not to allow people to sit and eat, the shops in the Bashundhara shopping mall were seen calling customers to do so, dodging law enforcers.

Whenever they sensed any trouble, they put their shutters down.

During iftar, many were seen sitting in groups on the floors of the malls and taking their meals.

During the last one month, the government has relaxed many of the Covid-19 restrictions. It reopened shopping malls ahead of Eid and thousands of shoppers are thronging them every day,

ignoring health safety rules. It has alarmed health experts.

The experts said the Covid situation in Bangladesh could worsen due to the increased public movement centring the Eid. They warned that the situation can turn dangerous if a new variant found in India made its way here.

#### "সবাই মিলে গড়ব দেশ, মাইক্রোবাস আউটসোর্সিং সংক্রান্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি **२००.०১.००००.४७७.७०८.०००.८०.००** দর্নীতি দমন কমিশন। মন্ত্ৰণালয়/বিভাগ/এজেন্সি দুৰ্নীতি দমন কমিশন, ঢাকা, ৬৭০১ সংগ্রাহক সন্তার নাম, জেলা ও কোড ১ জুলাই ২০২১ থেকে ৩০ জুন ২০২২ পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত শর্তাদি সাপেক্ষে যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকার কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীগণের অফিসে যাতায়াতে জন্য ৫টি এবং কর্মকর্তা-কর্মচারীগণের অফিসে আনা-নেয়াসহ কমিশনের কাজে ব্যবহারের জন্য ৪টি অর্থাৎ মোট ০৯ (নয়)টি সিএনজি চালিত ১২ আসন বিশিষ্ট Climate Controlled মাইক্রোবাস (২০১৪ বা তৎপরবর্তী মডেলের অনধিক ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছর ব্যবহৃত হয়েছে এমন দরপত্র সূত্র ও তারিখ নথি নং-০০.০১.০০০০.১০৩.৬৪.০০১.২১-১২১০৮ তারিখঃ ০৫/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ। সংগ্ৰহ পদ্ধতি উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র (OTM) । বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস দর্নীতি দমন কমিশনের রাজস্ব বাজেট দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ ০৭/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ। ৩০/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় ৩১/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়ে পরিচালক (অর্থ ও হিসাব) এর অফিস কক্ষে আগামী দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময় ৩১/০৫/২০২১খিঃ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে। দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান/দণ্ডর দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ১, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা-১০০০। দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান/দপ্তর দুনীতি দমন কমিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ১, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা-১০০০ প্রতিসেট দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল প্রতিসেট দরপত্র ডকুমেন্টের মূল্য ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) দরপত্রের নিরাপত্তা জামানত দরপত্রের সাথে দরপত্র জামানত হিসেবে প্রতিটি মাইক্রোবাসের জন্য ২০,০০০/- (বিশ হাজার) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার যে কোন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক (সিডিউল ব্যাংক) হতে সহকারী পরিচালক (অর্থ ও হিসাব), দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা-এর অনুকূলে দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে দরপত্রের বৈধতার মেয়াদ নকৃত দরপত্রের কার্যকারিতা (Validity) দরপ্রস্তাব খোলার তারিখ হতে ১২০ (একশং বিশ) দিন পর্যন্ত বহাল থাকবে। মাইক্রোবাসের প্রকৃত মালিক/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান। দরদাতাকে দরপত্রের সাথে গাডির দরদাতার যোগ্যতা ও প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদ হালনাগাদ ব্লু-বুক, ফিটনেস সার্টিফিকেট, ট্যাক্স টোকেন, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আপ-টু-ডেট রেজিষ্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, ভ্যাট, টিআইএন সার্টিফিকেট ও আয়কর পরিশোধের প্রভায়নপত্রের ফটোকপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। ক, কর্তপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল অথবা যে ۱۹۷ বিশেষ নির্দেশন কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন খ, দরপত্রের বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকবে। গ, অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা সম্ভব না হলে পরবর্ত কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে ও স্থানে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম মোহাম্মদ আব্দুল আওয়াল দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদব পরিচালক (অর্থ ও হিসাব) দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকান দুর্নীতি দমন কমিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ১, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা ০২-৫৮৩১৬৪৭৬ (অফিস) দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর সাথে যোগাযোগের বিবরণ মোহাম্মদ আব্দুল আওয়াল জিডি-৯১০ পরিচালক (অর্থ ও হিসাব)

# Trees felled to implement mega project | Hasina greets

The project, titled "Shawdhinata Stambha Construction Project in Dhaka", began its third phase, worth Tk 265.44 crore, in January

**NEWS** 

Implementation organisations of the project include the Liberation War affairs ministry, the department of public works and Dhaka South City Corporation.

Under the project, public toilets, walkways, food courts, artificial ponds, underground parking lots, underpasses and mosques will be constructed.

Environmentalists educationists yesterday lambasted the government for destroying environment at the Suhrawardy

Architect Iqbal Hossain, joint general secretary of the Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, yesterday told The Daily Star that bureaucrats added the idea of setting up restaurants and amusement centres in the project without informing experts.

"This is like the coronavirus - the way it attacked our lung without our knowledge, they [bureaucrats] have also moved to attack the heart of Dhaka city," he

demanded that the

government bring to book the perpetrators involved in destroying the environment.

Educationist and Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Chowdhury said it is an unfair and unjust act. The city does not have enough trees to begin with, so cutting trees at the Suhrawardy Udyan is not justified in any way.

"No matter how much development is taking place, we have to keep the trees safe," he added.

Architect Mubasshar Hussein said the work should have started with a public hearing. "They would then have various

suggestions... Suggestions could be made on how to do this by keeping the trees alive. If a restaurant had to be built, it could be made of straw or bamboo between the trees. People have welcomed it before -- our architects have won the Aga Khan Award for their bamboo installations."

Referring to the indirect damage caused by deforestation, he said, "Everyone sees it as just deforestation. But, in my view, it is more than that. As a result of

cutting trees and laying concrete, rain water can no longer go underground... If all access to groundwater is blocked this way, the danger will increase.

### LEGAL NOTICE SERVED

Six rights organisations and an architect collectively served a legal notice to the government yesterday, demanding of it not to cut the trees at Suhrawardy Udyan and to damage environment and natural characteristics in the capital.

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association Association for Land Reforms and Development (ALRD), Nijera Kori (NK), Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA), Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), and architect Mubasshir Hossain sent the legal

The notice was served to the authorities of the government asking them to plant trees three times higher than those have been cut at the same places in Suhrawardy Udyan.

In the legal notice, they also requested the authorities to protect and preserve the original and natural historical shape of Suhrawardy Udyan.

they are in competition with

either BJP or Congress and, unlike

Congress, lack a pan-India agenda

or vision. Only Tamil Nadu

witnesses a direct fight between

two regional parties -- Dravida Munnetra Kazagham and its

principal rival All India Anna

Mamata is not the only powerful

regional leader to set up a national

network of regional parties. Sharad

Pawar, the head of Nationalist

Congress Party, is also regarded

as an influential prime mover of

opposition unity.

Pawar's party, also an offshoot

of Congress, is a key constituent of

the ruling coalition in Maharashtra

with the second highest number of

Lok Sabha seats (48) after Uttar

framework of a joint anti-BJP

opposition has to be essentially

a sum total of regional parties

and states as an alternative to the

Modi-led BJP. Can these parties

with state-specific agendas have

a common national programme

and agree on a common prime

ministerial candidate? How durable

will such an arrangement be and

how appealing will it be to voters

who often vote differently in state

Mamata herself had unsuccessfully

tried to put together an anti-BJP

front through a series of meetings

in 2018 in the run up to the 2019

leaders or breakaway Congress

leaders becoming PMs like Charan

Singh, H D Deve Gowda, Morarji

Desai, V P Singh, Chandrashekhar

and Inder Kumar Gujral does

not inspire confidence about the

stability of governments under

The history of regional party

generai eiections.

them.

One saw how in 2015 an

Without Congress in it, the

observers think

Dravida Munnetra Kazagham.

Fourthly,

Pradesh (80).

pandemic, we are committed to working together on the basis of friendly regional cooperation aiming to overcome the crisis," said the PM.

She said India is a genuine friend of Bangladesh. "Particularly, our relations with the people of West Bengal are very close, hearty and everlasting."

Hasina recalled with gratitude the contributions of the people and the political leaders of West Bengal to the Liberation War of Bangladesh as well as the same cultural heritage and lifestyle of both Bengals on the auspicious moment when Mujib Year, the Golden Jubilee of Bangladesh's independence and the 50 years of India-Bangladesh diplomatic relations are being celebrated in 2021.

The premier wished Mamata good health, long life and continued

## Singer Anup

career began in the 60's, as a singer at the Rajshahi station of the then Radio Pakistan.

He had worked as a composer and music director at Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra during the Liberation War.

His voice is present in liberation songs including "Teer Hara Ei Dheu-er Sagor", "Rokto Diye Naam Likhhechhi", "Purbo Digonte", and

'Nongor Tolo Tolo". Later in his career, Anup emerged as a composer with immensely popular songs like "Baishakhi Megher Kachhey Jol Cheye", "Shuk Pakhi Rey Pinjira Tor", "Ekattorer Juddher Diney", "Pakhi Janey Na Keno Kandey", "Lalon Tomar Aarshinagar", and "Notey Gachh Moraeye Na", among more

than 100 songs in his illustrious career. Anup had worked with names like Andrew Kishore, Mitali Mukherji, Rafiqul Alam, Dilruba Khan, and Samina Chowdhury, among many

He is considered to be one of the forerunners of Bangladesh's "adhunik'

The artiste, whose last rites will take place in Dhaka today, is survived by two daughters.

## Spread of Covid

state of Uttar Pradesh - home to about 200 million people - "there are deaths in almost every second house", he said. "People are scared and huddled in

their homes with fever and cough. The symptoms are all of Covid-19, but with no information available many think it is seasonal flu."

India's Goa state, a hugely popular tourist destination on the western coast, has the highest rate of Covid-19 infections in the country, with up to one in every two people testing positive in recent weeks, government officials said.

Evidence suggests the pandemic is moving eastward of India and a rise has been noticed in the number including West Bengal and Assam, along with rising mortality, according to the Indian Health Ministry.

This was stated at a high-level meeting on Wednesday chaired by Indian Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan. States officials from Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar and Iharkhand attended the meeting, reported our New Delhi correspondent.

Several states have imposed various levels of social restrictions to try and stem infections, but the federal government has refused to impose a national lockdown. India's southern state of Kerala,

which has 376,004 active cases, announced it will impose nine days of curbs on movement from Saturday. LIFE AND DEATH DECISIONS In the capital Delhi, fewer than 20 of

more than 5,000 Covid-19 intensive care beds are free at any one time. Student doctors like Rohan

Aggarwal, 26, recruited to fight the second wave, are being forced to make life and death decisions. His Holy Family Hospital in Delhi

normally has a capacity for 275 adults, but is currently caring for 385. "Who to be saved, who not to be saved should be decided by God," Aggarwal told Reuters during a grim overnight shift.

"We are not made for that – we are just humans. But at this point in time, we are being made to do this."

Experts have said vast vaccination can be a solution to get out of this crisis.

While India is the world's biggest vaccine maker, it is struggling to produce enough product for the surge in infections. Its two current vaccine producers will take two months or more to boost total monthly output from the current 70 million to 80 million doses.

### The earliest

FROM PAGE 12

wrapped in a shroud with her or his head resting on what was probably a pillow, "indicating that the community may have undertaken some form of funerary rite", said lead author Maria Martinon-Torres, director of the National Research Centre on Human Evolution, in Burgos, Spain.

The extraordinary find highlights the emergence of both complex social behaviour among Homo sapiens, and cultural differences across populations of modern humans in Africa and beyond.

### Mamata takes centre stage leaders are publicly lavishing FROM PAGE 12

described her as a courageous grassroots leader and a modern 'Jhansi ki Rani" who proved that no matter the odds, "Goliaths can be humbled".

Another senior Congress leader Manish Tewari also called Mamata the "Rani of Jhansi who has rewritten history", and Anand Sharma said her win "has given a ray of hope to all those who believe in an inclusive and democratic India".

Perhaps the most ringing endorsement came from veteran Congress leader Kamal Nath, former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, who said Mamata was "the leader of India".

Even amid the fulsome praise for Mamata, who broke away from Congress in 1987, all the aforementioned Congress leaders avoided going into the issue of putting up a common face of the opposition to take on Modi in the next general elections.

Kamal Nath, who had led his party to victory in the heartland state in the 2018 assembly polls there against the BJP, had to step down as chief minister of Madhya Pradesh when a majority of Congressmen defected to the BJP in 2020, bringing the saffron party back to power there.

battle, Nath stated the obvious on Wednesday: it is for the United Progressive Álliance (UPA) led by Congress to decide. TMC and its elector

the "Jora Ghas Phul" is not part of the UPA, which ruled India from 2004 to 2014 under Manmohan Singh's prime ministership and Sonia's chairmanship of the alliance before it was voted out by the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

But that the senior Congress

praise on Mamata's leadership is itself significant - political observers see it as a curt message to the Gandhi family (Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka) to go for the muchneeded organisational changes.

appears to have strengthened Mamata's claim to be the opposition's face is no doubt TMC's unexpectedly momentous win in Bengal. But there are still hurdles she has to negotiate and many questions and considerations with which the opposition has to contend.

First: is an anti-BJP front possible without Congress and is it fair to write the political obituary of the grand old party just because it has lost in the recent round of assembly elections in Kerala, Assam and was wiped out in Bengal?

Many political pundits tend to write off Congress every time it loses general elections or statelevel polls. The same pundits then hail the party's resilience when it overcomes setbacks and returns to winning ways like the party had done in the assembly elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh in 2018.

One must not forget that Congress is still the party with the highest number of Lok Sabha seats (51) after BJP -- more than any regional party.

and is in power in three states Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Punjab which together account for a total of 49 Lok Sabha seats. no regionai party has appeal beyond the border of a state. Congress too had won against the might of the BJP in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh assembly elections

this regard," the minister said while health ministry, foreign ministry and other ministries concerned are making joint efforts to buy vaccines from other sources

"So, we're making all-out efforts

to collect the vaccine. Even, we're

able to give you good news over the

The minister also said they will

encourage the private sector if it

tries to manufacture vaccines in

Bangladesh. "If anyone can produce

vaccines, we'll provide them all-out

support, and it's my commitment.'

vaccine very soon," he said.

College Association organised the trying to have AstraZeneca's vaccine from other countries as it is being The minister said, "They [China] manufactured in different countries. So, every effort is there to bring vaccines. We hope our efforts will yield good results, and we may be

seeking more vaccine doses. The Chinese government is now assessing the possibility of vaccine

He added that they are also trying to procure the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine from other countries besides

India, while the prime minister,

consortium of big pharmaceutical Biologics and JCR Pharmaceutical companies, which described

news for the vaccine manufacturers who will now face generic copies of their vaccine", said Olivier d'Assier, head of APAC applied research at Qontigo GmbH. generously with the developing

have been reported to be infected by the coronavirus and almost 3.4 million have died, according to a Reuters tally.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch yesterday urged the Covax global vaccine-sharing scheme to "enhance transparency" and publish its contracts with jab manufacturers.

In a joint statement, HRW, Amnesty and the US consumer rights advocacy group Public Citizen said they had written to Covax with recommendations relating transparency, to and vaccine availability and affordability.

#### assembly and national elections? Asked if Mamata, the leader of TMC, could be the face of the Secondly, Congress continues opposition alliance led by Nitish opposition in the 2024 electoral to retain its pan-India footprints Kumar crumbled in Bihar and how

By contrast, in 2018.

Thirdly, regional parties are more concerned with protecting their respective state turfs where

# Dhaka seeks 4m doses from US

event.

innovation.

world.

oversight.

"They [India] have verbally said

keep your fingers crossed," he said. The US will share up to 60 million doses of its Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine with other countries as they become available.

In another development, Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday said five lakh doses of Sinopharm's Dhaka on May 12.

"at the final stage of signing a deal" for Russia's Sputnik V vaccine. "We've already made a huge

progress in discussions with Russia

over procuring its vaccine ... now

we're at the stage of signing a deal in

Russian President Vladimir Putin

yesterday said he supported the idea

of a waiver on patent protections

for coronavirus vaccines and urged

his government to consider lifting

idea that, in my opinion, deserves

attention -- namely, to remove

patent protections from vaccines

against Covid-19 altogether,"

Putin said during a televised

meeting with Deputy Prime

coronavirus vaccines, and yesterday

approved a fourth -- a single-dose

version of its Sputnik V jab called

Modi's government welcomed

watchdog also praised the United

States' support for waiver on patent

protections as a "remarkable

But the US move is opposed by a

Indian Prime Minister Narendra

The Africa Union's health

Russia has registered three

Minister Tatiana Golikova

Sputnik Light, reports AFP.

Biden's announcement.

expression of leadership".

"We are hearing from Europe an

them for Russia's jabs.

vaccines from China will arrive in He added that the government is

addressing as the chief guest at a virtual discussion titled "Tackling the Second Wave of Covid-19 and Oxygen Crisis". Private Medical Bangladesh

informed us that five lakh doses will arrive in Bangladesh on May 12. We've also sent a letter to them

export to Bangladesh, he said.

World powers back US plan

the decision as "disappointing" and warned it could hamper Drugmakers said Biden's move could disrupt a fragile supply chain, and urged rich countries instead to share vaccines more

The International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations said a waiver would Meanwhile, invite new manufacturers that lacked essential know-how and

While Wall Street's main indexes opened flat on Thursday, vaccine makers' shares fell. Moderna was down 9.1% at 1351 GMT. Pfizer fell 3.6% and Novavax fell 6.2%. In London, AstraZeneca, which has sold its vaccine at cost price, was down less than 0.1%.

Shares in Asia-listed vaccine makers -- including Shanghai Fosun Pharmaceutical, CanSino

sinking -- tumbled yesterday after the US announcement. The move "probably isn't great

More than 155 million people