



# The Daily Star

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## Stricter curbs on all gatherings

Govt extends countrywide restrictions for 10 more days amid fresh Covid surge scare

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the Covid positivity rate surging in bordering districts, the government has extended the countrywide restrictions for 10 more days to check virus transmission.

The Cabinet Division issued a gazette notification to this effect yesterday, saying no social, political and religious gatherings will be allowed during the period.

All tourist spots, resorts, and community and entertainment centres will remain closed till June 16, it mentioned.

Restaurants and food shops are allowed to stay open from 6:00am to 10:00pm. Restaurants can provide either dine-in or takeaway services but the dine-in will be limited to half of the seating capacity.

Earlier, there had been no time limit for operation of restaurants and hotels.

According to the notification, public transports, including inter-districts buses, will carry passengers at half capacity, maintaining the health safety

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### DIVISION-WISE POSITIVITY RATE

RAJSHAHI	25.19%
RANGPUR	23.66%
KHULNA	21.66%
SYLHET	13.89%
MYMENSINGH	12.37%
CHATTOGRAM	8.69%
BARISHAL	7.58%
DHAKA	6.05%



Rickshaw-pullers in Chattogram city's Muradpur area drag their vehicles in waist-deep water while behind them, other vehicles are poised on slightly higher ground, preparing to take the plunge. Inset, the lower third of a bus in the Gate No-2 area is submerged as parts of the port city saw severe waterlogging during incessant rainfall yesterday.

## BTRC fixes minimum broadband charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The telecom regulator yesterday fixed the prices for broadband internet connections.

The monthly cost of a connection with a minimum speed of 5 Mbps is Tk 500, 10 Mbps Tk 800 - 1,000, 20 Mbps Tk 1,100 - 1,200, according to the new decisions.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) fixed the rates after multiple meetings with International Internet Gateway, Nationwide Telecommunication Transmission Network, International Terrestrial Cable and Internet Service Providers.

The BTRC decisions were announced at an event titled One Country One Rate.

BTRC Director General  
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## Medical board finds 'no signs of torture'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) medical board that was tasked with doing a physical check-up of cartoonist Ahmed Kabir Kishore told the court yesterday that they did not find any signs of torture.

The three-member medical board had submitted a report to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Dhaka on March 20, 2021, said the court sources yesterday.

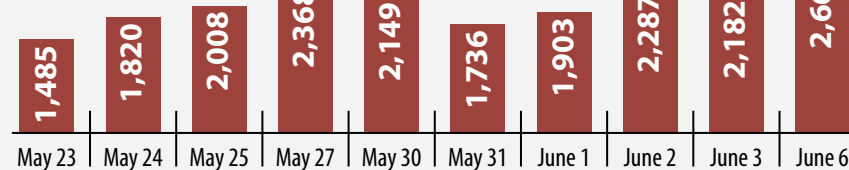
According to the report, the physical examination of Kishore revealed

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## Turnover at DSE spirals on budget measures

### TURNOVER OF THE DSE (IN CR TK)

SOURCE: DSE



AHSAN HABIB

The Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday recorded its second-biggest turnover, as the ongoing bull run seems to have gotten an added impetus from the proposed budget measures for the incoming fiscal year.

A sign of the level of bustle in the bourse, the turnover stood at Tk 2,669 crore, up 22 percent from the previous session on Thursday.

Only on December 6, 2010 were a higher turnover, which is the ratio of the

value of total shares traded to the average real market capitalisation, was recorded: Tk 2,710 crore.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal in his proposed budget for fiscal 2021-22 extended a 2.5 percentage point-cut in the corporate tax rate for both listed and non-listed companies except for financial institutions, telecom and service-oriented companies.

The corporate tax is a tax on the profits of a company; the amount taken out is

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## Hefajat to get new committee today

AL-leaning activists, late Ahmad Shafi followers to be in it

RASHIDUL HASAN and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Hefajat-e Islam will announce today its new committee comprising of what insiders said would be the leaders sympathetic to the ruling Awami League.

The previous committee was disbanded around one and a half months ago amid a government crackdown on Hefajat leaders following the islamist organisations' violence across the country that started over Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh in late March.

"The new Hefajat committee will be announced at a press conference at 11:00am at Boro Jame Masjid at capital's Khilgaon Chourasta," Rashed Bin Nur, elder son of Nurul Islam Jihadi, member-secretary of the interim convening

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## Govt moves to procure Sinovac

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

After Sinopharm, the government has started the process of procuring coronavirus vaccine from another Chinese company Sinovac to inoculate most of the country's 163 million population.

As part of the move, the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) has approved Sinovac's Covid-19 vaccine "CoronaVac" on June 3. Incepta Vaccine Ltd, as a local agent of Sinovac, applied for its approval for emergency use in Bangladesh.

"We are communicating with Sinovac and, as part of our discussion, we have given approval for emergency usage authorisation. Now our discussion will progress further," Health Minister Zahid Maleque told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We will procure vaccines from Sinovac if the price is affordable, if the terms and conditions are favourable and the delivery timing matches our demand."

He said many countries have already relaxed lockdowns and lifted restrictions of movement after massive vaccination drives.

"We have to vaccinate our people and for that we need a massive amounts of vaccine. So we are exploring all potential sources."

The CoronaVac is the fifth vaccine to be given the emergency use authorisation. It received the authorisation in 22 other countries already. On June 1, the World Health Organization also issued an Emergency Use Listing status to the CoronaVac.

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The inside of a bus in the capital's Paltan area shows that passengers are packed together, some having to stand as there are no seats available. This is in violation of the government directive on buses to operate at half capacity in order to maintain social distancing guidelines. While they are charging the 60 percent higher fares to compensate for reduced capacity, many operators are ignoring the half-capacity directive.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Oxygen for Covid patients for free

4 Ctg-based corporate groups to extend their programme to hospitals in border districts

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Chattogram

Four corporate houses based in Chattogram have expressed willingness to extend their free oxygen supply support to Covid-19 patients and hospitals at border districts.

In a bid to ease the oxygen crisis, the four companies have been supplying oxygen to hospitals and patients for free in several districts like Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Feni, Cumilla and Sylhet since the middle of last year.

The four business conglomerates -- Mostafa-Hakim Group, Abul Khair Group, GPH Ispat and Master Group -- have pledged to provide the support as long as

the pandemic lasts.

So far, they have distributed 12,000 cylinders to 35 private and government hospitals. During March-April this year, when the infections surged, they were refilling around 700 oxygen cylinders free of cost every day.

Now, the companies are refilling around 600 oxygen cylinders free of cost daily as the demand has gradually decreased after Eid.

Contacted, Nazmul Islam, head of GPH Ispat's oxygen plant, told The Daily Star that the demand for oxygen decreased in Chattogram and surrounding districts.

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## Only 2pc RMG workers vaccinated

Finds survey; 4pc have factory provided transport to work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only 2 percent of readymade garments workers were able to get Covid-19 vaccines, found a survey done jointly by South Asian Network on Economic Modeling and Microfinance Opportunities.

Sixty-nine percent of workers said they were willing to get vaccinated if they were eligible to get the vaccine, said the report circulated by SANEM.

The organisations interviewed a pool of 1,285 workers over phone on April 23, 2021, and found that only an insignificant minority was vaccinated. The workers were from Chattogram, Dhaka city, Gazipur, Narayanganj, and Savar.

"On being asked whether they think they are eligible to get vaccinated, 36 percent of the respondents said they were eligible, 28 percent said they were not eligible, and 34

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"মুজিববর্ষের আহ্বান  
দক্ষ হয়ে বিদেশ যান"

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**

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**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

মহামারী কোভিড-১৯ বিস্তার রোধকল্পে সৌদি আরব সরকার কর্তৃক জারিকৃত নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী ২০ মে ২০২১ হতে ৩০ জুন ২০২১ তারিখ পর্যন্ত যেসব সৌদি আরব প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশী কর্মী বাংলাদেশে ছুটি শেষে নিজ খরচে বাধ্যতামূলক প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক কোয়ারেন্টিন পালন করেছেন বা করবেন, তাদেরকে প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়ীয় ওয়েজ আর্নান্স কল্যাণ বোর্ড হতে কর্মী প্রতি পঁচিশ হাজার টাকা করে ভতুর্কি প্রদান করার সিদ্ধান্ত নেয়া হয়েছে। এই ভতুর্কি সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্মী বা তার মনোনীত প্রতিনিধির ব্যাংক একাউন্টে প্রেরণ করা হবে।

সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্মীগণ প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইট [www.probashigov.bd](http://www.probashigov.bd) অথবা ওয়েজ আর্নান্স কল্যাণ বোর্ডের ওয়েবসাইট [www.wewb.gov.bd](http://www.wewb.gov.bd) অথবা জনশক্তি কর্মসংস্থান ও প্রশিক্ষণ ব্যুরোর ওয়েবসাইট [www.bmet.gov.bd](http://www.bmet.gov.bd) হতে আবেদনপত্র ডাউনলোড করে কিংবা দেশের ০৩টি আন্তর্জাতিক বিমান বন্দরে অবস্থিত প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ডেস্ক হতে সংগ্রহ করে তা পূরণপূর্বক নিম্নলিখিত কাগজপত্রসহ আগামী ০৭/০৬/২০২১ তারিখ হতে ফ্লাইটের দিন বহির্গমনের পূর্বে বিমান বন্দরে প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ডেস্কে জমা প্রদান করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছেঃ

ক) জনশক্তি কর্মসংস্থান ও প্রশিক্ষণ ব্যুরো (বিএমইটি) কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত স্মার্ট কার্ড বা ইমিগ্রেশন ক্লিয়ারেন্স কার্ডের ফটোকপি, খ) পাসপোর্টের প্রথম চার পৃষ্ঠার ফটোকপি, গ) পাসপোর্টের সাথে সংযুক্ত ভিসার ফটোকপি, ঘ) টিকেটের ফটোকপি ও ঙ) হোটেল বুকিংয়ের ডকুমেন্ট এর ফটোকপি

সৌদি আরব প্রবাসী যেসব কর্মী ইতোমধ্যে সৌদি আরব চলে গিয়েছেন এবং নিজ ব্যয়ে কোয়ারেন্টিন সম্পন্ন করেছেন বা করছেন তারা একই নিয়মে সংশ্লিষ্ট আবেদনপত্র পূরণপূর্বক ৩০ জুন, ২০২১ তারিখের মধ্যে সৌদি আরবস্থ বাংলাদেশ দূতাবাস, রিয়াদ অথবা বাংলাদেশ কনসুলেট জেনারেল, জেদ্দায় ডাক মারফত জমা প্রদান করবেন।

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