



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

ZILQAD 7, 1442 HIJRI

12 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00



**"There is a kind of verbal ceasefire. That's good but it's not enough."**  
FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER JEAN-YVES LE DRIAN ON FRANCE-TURKEY TIES AFTER MONTHS OF RANCOROUS EXCHANGES



**"The first thing I need to say is sorry. It's (actions taken) not good enough. We've got to do a lot better."**  
UK JUSTICE SECRETARY ROBERT BUCKLAND APOLOGISES FOR FAILING RAPE VICTIMS



**"Today's global displacement figures are an epic failure of humanity. ... Far more people are on the move today than anytime during World War II."**  
HEAD OF THE NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL JAN EGELAND

## RMCH turns into a Covid hotspot

The top hospital in Rajshahi in untidy state, continues to struggle to cope with the situation

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Faced with the challenge of treating coronavirus patients as well as general ones under the same roof, Rajshahi Medical College Hospital has become a Covid-19 hotspot.

In the 11 days till yesterday, the hospital authorities transferred at least 251 patients to the Covid unit from different wards, according to the RMCH data.

Those patients were admitted to the hospital with various diseases, but subsequently tested positive for the virus and then transferred to the Covid unit, which also accommodates patients with coronavirus-like symptoms.

The data shows that in those 11 days, 23 patients on average were transferred to the Covid unit daily, with the highest 38 transferred on Thursday.

The figure is alarming.

Healthcare professionals at the RMCH said it happened because of the limited scope of screening and testing of patients upon arrival at the hospital, lack of awareness among patients and general disregard for the health rules by their attendants as well as hospital staffers.

- Patients transferred from other wards to Covid Unit in last 11 days - **251**
- Total Covid deaths at the hospital so far - **866**
- Covid deaths at the hospital in June - **193**
- Total beds at RMCH - **1,200**
- Beds in Covid Unit - **309**

Yousuf Ali, for example, was found infected with Covid on Wednesday night after receiving treatment at a nephrology ward for a week.

The 50-year-old was admitted with kidney and diabetic issues on June 10 and was shifted to the Covid unit on Thursday, his son-in-law Hazrat Ali told The Daily Star.

"His samples were tested [for Covid-19] when he developed fever and coughs after staying in the hospital for a week," Ali said.

Zahirul Islam, 35, was among the three patients at neurosurgery ward-8 who tested Covid-19 positive on Wednesday night.

His wife Happy Khatun said her husband

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Patients undergoing treatment in a Covid ward of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, with their attendants exposed to infection. As the number of Covid cases rise sharply in Rajshahi division, the hospital is struggling to provide patients with the care that they need. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: ANWAR ALI

## RESUMPTION OF FIRST-DOSE INOCULATION

### Good news, but not for all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After around two months, the administration of the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine resumes today on a limited scale with around 11 lakh Sinopharm jabs in hand.

Almost 15 lakh people have registered for the vaccination but haven't received their first shots yet, said health officials.

They also said the authorities were yet to decide on those who haven't got their second dose.

Besides, the authorities have 1,00,620 doses of Pfizer vaccine from Covax in stock. The decision on when to start administering them, however, has not been made yet, the officials added.

The first dose inoculation against Covid-19 resumes with the Sinopharm vaccine at a time when the country keeps witnessing a rise in coronavirus cases and deaths.

The positivity rate yesterday jumped to 18.59 percent -- the highest since April 19. Fifty-four people died from Covid-19 in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The government suspended the countrywide administration of the first dose on April 26 due to a shortage of the AstraZeneca vaccine doses from the Serum Institute of India.

Bangladesh received the Sinopharm doses as gift from the Chinese government in two installments.

The jabs will be administered in 67 centres across the country, including

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Mass inoculation began

**February 7**

First-dose vaccination stopped

**April 26**

First dose recipients

**58,20,015**

Second dose recipients

**42,64,362**

#### VACCINES RECEIVED SO FAR

Covishield

**70 lakh**

(Purchased from Serum)

Covishield

**32 lakh**

(Gift from India)

Sinopharm

**11 lakh**

(Gift from China)

Pfizer

**1,00,620**

(From Covax)

## Tk 3.77cr stolen from bank vault

2 officials of the pvt bank held, sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent two officials of Dhaka Bank to jail after they were handed over to police in connection with the theft of Tk 3.77 crore from the vault of the bank's Bangshal branch.

Rifatul Haque, 33, in-charge (cash), and Emran Ahmed, 46, manager (operations), were arrested on Thursday after the bank authorities handed them over to Bangshal Police Station and lodged a general diary.

Police took them to the court and requested it to send them to jail as there was a chance that they could go into hiding.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Masud-ur-Rahman fixed June 21 for hearing their bail petitions and sent them to jail.

Dhaka Bank Managing Director Emranul Huq said it was detected on Thursday during a routine audit that the money had gone missing from the vault.

"The accused individuals confessed to the audit team that they were involved in the matter," he said.

The audit team members said Rifatul wrote on a stamp that he stole the money at different times in 2018 and 2019 and spent it gambling.

The statement added that he used to replace Tk 500 bills with Tk 100 bills in bundles of Tk 500. But he used to keep the Tk 500 on the outside to avoid detection.

He further stated that he alone was involved in the crime.

Dhaka Bank officials said Emran, the other accused, was handed over to police for his failure in duties.

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## Missing preacher reappears after eight days

STAR REPORT

Young Islamic preacher Abu Taw Haa Muhammad Adnan reappeared yesterday, eight days after he went missing reportedly on his way to Dhaka.

His two associates, who according to his family, were accompanying him and the driver of a car in which "they were heading to the capital" on June 10 were also found yesterday.

Around 12:30pm yesterday, a neighbour found Adnan entering the house of the parents of his first wife Abida Noor in Rangpur city's Masterpara.

The news of his return spread to the locality and a local informed police of the matter. On information, police raided his in-law's house around 2:00pm and found Adnan there.

He was then taken to Kotwali Police Station, said Officer-in-charge of the station Abdur Rashed.

Adnan was later brought to the office

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Toxic foam floats over the surface of a water body near the Turag river in Rupnagar area of the capital's Mirpur. Sewage and drainage water pumped from Rupnagar into the river causes serious pollution that endangers animal life in the river. The photo was taken on Tuesday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## SAUDI-BOUND WORKERS

### Uncertainty still hangs over them

Inoculation with Sinopharm won't help them avoid quarantine in KSA as China vaccine not on kingdom's priority list

JAMIL MAHMUD and RASHIDUL HASAN

The government's decision to vaccinate migrant workers with Sinopharm jabs will not resolve the problem being faced by the Saudi Arabia-bound workers as the vaccine is not yet on the kingdom's priority list, say recruiters.

As per a travel advisory of the Saudi General Authority of Civil Aviation, effective from last month, a Bangladeshi passenger travelling to the kingdom requires to be vaccinated with any of the Pfizer-BioNTech, Oxford-Astrazeneca, Moderna, or Johnson and Johnson vaccines.

Otherwise, the passenger has to undergo a seven-day institutional quarantine there at a cost of up to Tk 80,000. Workers say this is an additional financial burden on them amid the pandemic.

Yesterday, officials of different manpower recruiting agencies, who hire workers on behalf of Saudi employers, urged the government to immediately discuss the matter diplomatically with the Saudi authorities to reach a conclusive solution.

They proposed allocating Pfizer vaccine, now available in the country, for the expatriates.

The officials also suggested importing Johnson and Johnson vaccine for migrant workers since one dose of it will complete the course. They argued that it would save time for both the agencies and migrant workers.

Ahmed Munir Saleheen, secretary of the expatriates' welfare ministry, said they have already informed the health ministry in writing that Sinopharm vaccine is not among the four approved by Saudi Arabia and some other Middle Eastern countries. So, appropriate vaccines should be administered to Saudi-bound workers whenever they are available, the

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