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## They defrauded 6,000 patients

*Pocketed Tk 3-4cr by making fake Covid report, says charge sheet against Shahed, his men*

CHATANYA CHANDRA HALDER and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

An organised crime gang, in line with the instructions from Regent Hospital Chairman Mohammad Shahed, played a role in spreading Covid-19 virus in the country by preparing fake test reports, a Rab probe has found.

Shahed had formed two teams for collecting samples for Covid testing and preparing fake reports without carrying out tests.

This was revealed in the charge sheet, filed with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka on March 29, in a fraud case. Md Nazmul Haque, Rab-1 senior assistant superintendent of police and also the investigation officer of the case, filed the report.

Shahed has been named as the prime accused in the charge sheet. The other 13 charge-sheeted accused are: Masud Parvez, Torikul Islam Shibli, Ahsan Habib Majumdar, Hatem Ali, Rakibul Islam Sumon, Abdus Salam, Abdur Rashid Khan Jewel, Amit Banik Kajol, Mizanur Rahman, Shimul Parvez, Dipayon Basu, Shaykhul Islam Saikat, and Polash Ali, employees of Regent Hospital.

Of the 14, 10 are now behind bars. The names of two other accused, Ahsan Habib Hasan and Mahub Hossain Mollah, were not included in the charge sheet as the investigation officer did not find any



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A bus pictured in a mangled state in Chattogram's Patiya Crossing yesterday afternoon. The bus was involved in a head-on collision with another bus on the Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway at noon. The accident left two dead and at least 10 others injured.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Six more lives lost to road crashes

*Child, cop among them*

STAR REPORT

At least six people, including a minor girl and a police officer, were killed and 10 others were injured yesterday in separate road accidents in Chattogram and Brahmanbaria.

In the port city, three pedestrians were crushed to death under the wheel of a passenger bus at Still Mill Bazar area under EPZ Police Station.

The dead are Arefa Begum, 45, her niece Ayesha Akhter Mim, 8, and another pedestrian Rezaul Karim, 24.

Arefa was taking her niece Mim to a doctor as she was suffering from fever. They were walking to the doctor's chamber around 12:30pm, said police, quoting locals.

At that time, the bus firstly hit a rickshaw. Then, the bus driver tried to flee the scene recklessly and crushed the three persons from the backside, said Sazed Kamal, inspector of EPZ Police Station.

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## India braces for Covid 3rd wave by Oct

*Say health experts; Modi urges all to stay alert, warns virus still can mutate*

AGENCIES

A third wave of coronavirus infections is likely to hit India by October, and although it will be better controlled than the latest outbreak the pandemic will remain a public health threat for at least another year, according to a Reuters poll of medical experts.

The June 3-17 snap survey of 40 healthcare specialists, doctors, scientists, virologists, epidemiologists and professors from around the world showed a significant pickup in vaccinations will likely provide some cover to a fresh outbreak.

Of those who ventured a prediction, over 85% of respondents, or 21 of 24, said the next wave will hit by October, including three who forecast it as early as August and 12 in September. The remaining three said between November and February.

But over 70% of experts, or 24 of 34, said any new outbreak would be better controlled compared with the current one, which has been far more devastating - with shortage of vaccines, medicines, oxygen and hospital beds - than the smaller first surge in infections last year.

"It will be more controlled, as cases will

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A sculpture at the centre of an intersection in the capital's Kakrail is seen overrun with weeds and overgrowth. Installed for beautification, neglect of the sculpture has had the opposite effect. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## GRADUATION FROM LDC STATUS Dhaka calls for a long-term package

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has called for an incentive-based and long-term graduation package for the graduating and graduated countries from LDC status as they are at a high risk of sliding back - both due to the Covid-19 impacts and the loss of LDC support measures.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen made the call while addressing as the keynote speaker a high-level virtual event on "Building Resilience for Sustainable and Irreversible Graduation of the LDCs" hosted by the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN in New York in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Canada and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States at the UN yesterday.

Eisenhower Mkaka, MP, minister of foreign affairs

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## NANDIGRAM SEAT Mamata moves HC against Suvendu's win

Hearing deferred to June 24

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The Calcutta High Court yesterday deferred to June 24 the hearing on the petition filed by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee challenging her Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rival Suvendu Adhikari's win in Nandigram constituency in recent state assembly elections.

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## 'Sovereign Bangla only political solution'

JUNE 19, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

SETTLEMENT ON 6-POINT NO MORE POSSIBLE

Intellectuals and academicians of Bangladesh held that the only political solution with Pakistan was the emergence of a sovereign and an independent Bangladesh, according to Dr AR Mallick, founding vice-chancellor of Chittagong University.

"We support what our Bangladesh government had declared. We cannot today have a settlement on the six-point programme over the bodies of a million for the freedom of Bangladesh," he added.

As to the liberation forces, Dr Mallick said when the Pakistani army attacked in March, 1971 the resistance war had been spontaneous. But there had been no unified command. Now the Mukti Foj was fighting under a unified command and its organisation was being streamlined. Preparations were on for intensifying their activity. "If our Mukti Foj has sufficient arms and ammunition to match the enemy's firepower, we have reason to hope to open a counter offensive," he added.

TAJUDDIN, OTHERS TO BE TRIED IN ABSENTIA AGAIN

Bangladesh Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad and four of his colleagues are to be tried again in absentia on charges of conspiracy against Islamabad.

The other four Bangladeshi leaders are Nazrul Islam, Tofail Ahmed, Abdul Mannan and Abidur

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## Guterres sworn in for 2nd term as UN chief

*Vows to learn from Covid pandemic*

AFP, United Nations

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was sworn in yesterday for a second term as head of the world body, promising to draw on the lessons of the deadly Covid-19 pandemic.

"Our greatest challenge -- and which is at the same time our greatest opportunity -- is to use this crisis to turn the tide, pivot towards a world that learns lessons," the former Portuguese prime minister said as the General

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 19

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15  
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Fossils of rhino 'taller than giraffe' found in China



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

In north-western China, scientists have discovered fossil evidence of a new species of giant rhinoceros, "taller than a giraffe" that lived 26.5 million years ago, making it one of the largest mammals to have ever roamed the planet.

According to the study, published in the journal Communications Biology, the rhino Paraceratherium linxiaense weighed 21 tonnes - the equivalent of four large African elephants - and could reach close to 7m to graze treetop leaves.

The scientists, including those from the Chinese Academy of Sciences, say the findings offer important clues about the distribution of this long extinct mammal across the Asian continent, shedding more light on the evolutionary lineage of modern-day rhinos.

In the research, the scientists analysed completely preserved skull and jawbone fossils recovered from

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টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (স্রেডা)

বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ

জ্বালানি দক্ষ যন্ত্রপাতি স্থাপনে, ৫% হারে ঋণ গ্রহণ করুন।

জ্বালানি সাশ্রয়ের মাধ্যমে নিজে লাভবান হউন এবং দেশকে উপকৃত করুন।

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