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Govt hopes regular shipment

4.5m Moderna, Sinopharm jabs arrive

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The arrival of 4.5 million Covid vaccine doses in the country on Friday night and early yesterday has eased a serious pressure on the government.

Of the 4.5 million jabs, 2.5 million Moderna shots came from US free of cost under the COVAX facility and 2 million Sinopharm vaccines from China under a purchase deal.

Ministers said there would be no more shortage of vaccines in the country in future, with more life-saving jabs expected to arrive under the COVAX facility and commercial deals.

"From now on, there will be no shortage of vaccines. We are receiving vaccines from different countries. Our goal is to get 10 crore jabs by December. With that, five crore people will be vaccinated," Health Minister Zahid Maleque said.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, the health minister, and US Ambassador to Bangladesh Earl R Miller spoke to reporters after receiving 1.3 million Moderna vaccine doses from the US at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around midnight Friday.

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As the streets in the capital are almost empty due to ongoing lockdown, the majority of vehicles are plying without maintaining any traffic rules. The bicycle riders narrowly avoided serious injuries after they crash into a lorry in the city's Banani-Kakoli intersection yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Destiny boss now back in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Destiny Group Managing Director Rafiqul Amin was taken back to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University yesterday after he was found holding a Zoom meeting from the hospital's prison cell in a leaked video.

Rafiqul was taken to the jail around 4:00pm after being discharged from BSMU, said Subhash Kumar Ghosh, senior jail superintendent of Dhaka Central Jail, while speaking to The Daily Star.

Rafiqul was in the BSMU prison cell for around three months since April 11, following complaints regarding urology and diabetes while in jail, said jail officials.

He was attending an hour-long business meeting on Zoom application with Destiny officials and business partners in May.

However, his discharge from the hospital came only after the video went

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Five killed as ambulance, truck collide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Five people, including three of a family, were killed and four others injured when a truck and an ambulance collided on the East Link Road to Bangabandhu Bridge yesterday morning.

Police said the deceased are Farida Begum, 35, her daughter Maria, 16, and sister Ferdousy Begum, 40, of Chattogram, and ambulance driver Saddam Hossain, 30, and his assistant Jewel Miah, 28, of Sirajganj.

Farida's other daughter Mahi, 8, was admitted to Tangail General Hospital with critical injuries.

The crash happened around 7:30am, leaving the ambulance driver and two passengers dead at the scene, said Shafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Bangabandhu Bridge East Police Station.

Two others died after they were taken to Tangail General Hospital by the police and firefighters, he added.

Khandakar Sadiqur Rahman, assistant director of the hospital, told The Daily Star that the four other victims have serious injuries.

The ambulance left Chattogram around 12:00am for Khajwa Yunus Medical College and Hospital in Sirajganj, where Farida was to receive chemotherapy, said a family member named Mohammad Rasel.

ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Systematic campaign against Hindus

JULY 4, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

HINDUS ARE TARGETS OF ARMY TERROR IN FARIDPUR
The Pakistan army painted big yellow "H" on the Hindu shops in Faridpur town to identify the properties of the minority population which it made its special targets, reported the New York Times correspondent Sydney H Schanberg.

Members of the Muslim majority - who, though not exempt from the army's terror, felt safer than the Hindus - painted on their homes and shops such signs as "All Moslem House". The small community of Christians, mostly Baptists, put crosses on their doors and stitched crosses in red thread on their clothes, he added.

Schanberg informed that an undetermined number of Faridpur's 10,000 Hindus was killed and others had fled across the border to India.

"Some Hindus are returning to Faridpur but it is not out of faith about a change in heart by the army but rather out of despair. They do not want to live as displaced persons in India and they feel that nowhere in East Pakistan is really safe for them, so they would rather be unsafe in their own town," commented the New York Times correspondent.

He further reported that the campaign against the Hindus was systematic. Soldiers fanned through virtually every village asking where the Hindus lived. Hindu property had been confiscated and either sold or given to "loyal" citizens. The army had given weapons to large numbers of the Biharis, and it is they who often continued the killing of Hindus in areas where the army eased off.

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England storm into semis

REUTERS, Rome

England stormed into the European Championship semi-finals for the first time in 25 years after two goals from Harry Kane helped Gareth Southgate's side thrash Ukraine 4-0 on Saturday to book a clash with Denmark.

Kane got his side up and running in their quarter-final tie with a fine finish inside four minutes at the Stadio Olimpico, England's earliest goal in a Euros match since 2004.

Harry Maguire's bullet header less than a minute into the second half made it two, before captain Kane nodded home his second of the game and third of the tournament four minutes later.

Substitute Jordan Henderson completed the rout with his first international goal to ensure

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Cows' stomachs can break down plastic

CNN ONLINE



Researchers in Austria may have found an unlikely solution to the problem of plastic pollution: cows, and the microbes found inside their stomachs.

Researchers from the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) in Vienna, the Austrian Center of Industrial Biotechnology and the University of Innsbruck found that common plastics could be broken down when exposed to rumen, the matter found in the largest part of a cow's stomach.

The microbes and enzymes found within rumen can break down common plastics -- including those widely used for plastic bags, bottles, textiles and food packaging, they found.

The study, published in the scientific journal Frontiers on Friday, looked at samples of rumen

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14 Rohingyas arrested in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police detained 14 Rohingyas, including children, from a bus stand in Moulvibazar Sadar Upazila on Friday amidst a nationwide lockdown.

Additional Superintendent of Police Ziaur Rahman said they were informed about a group of people violating the lockdown and gathered at the bus stand area.

After detaining them, police found that they

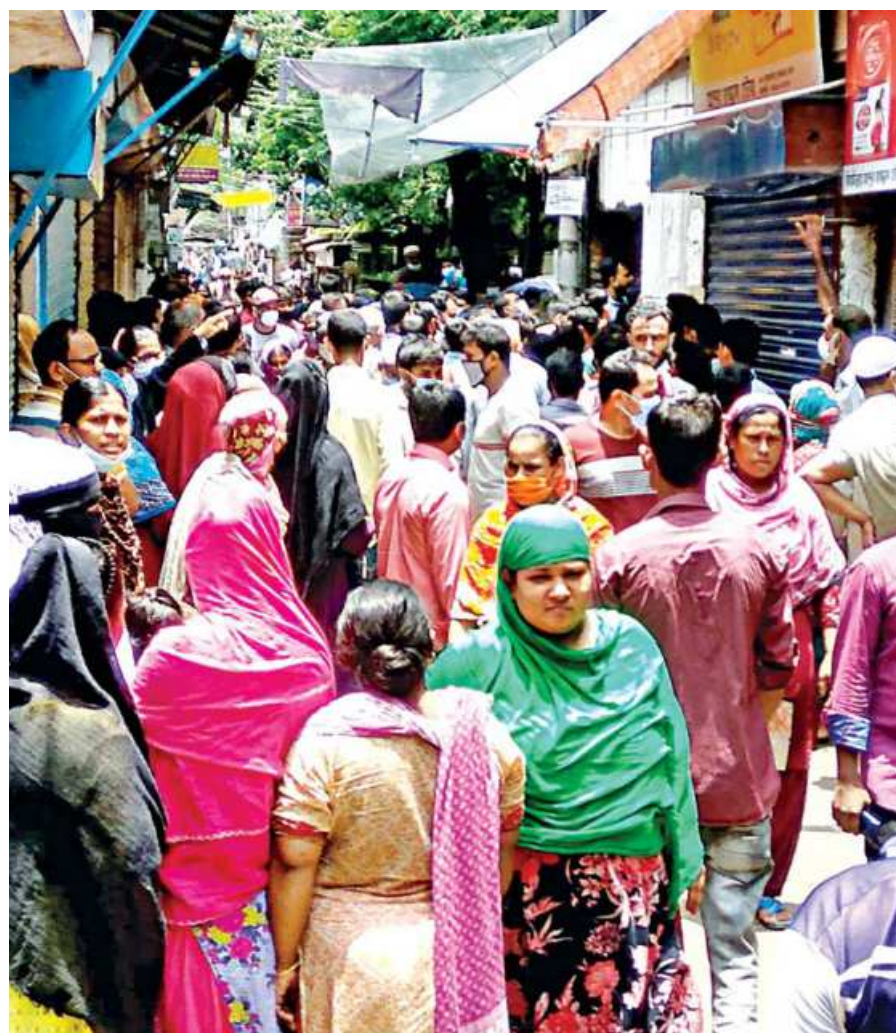
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PRAYER TIMING JULY 4

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Amid the ongoing "strict lockdown", men and women gather on a narrow alley in the capital's Moghbazar mostly to buy essentials yesterday. They disregard health safety rules.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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Coal for Rampal plant leaves India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first consignment of nearly 3,800 tonnes of coal -- for Rampal Thermal Power Plant in Bangladesh -- has left India.

The consignment left from Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata for Khulna on July 2, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

The coal has been extracted from mines in Dhanbad under Jharkhand state.

The consignment is expected to be unloaded at Mongla port and sent to the captive jetty of the Rampal power plant.

"Each consignment consists of about 3,800 tonnes of coal. It will be the first export of coal cargo from this port," Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Deputy Chairman AK Mehra said.

The exporter of coal is Godavari Commodities and is controlled by ZS Logistics, a press statement issued by the company said.

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PEB STEEL ALLIANCE LIMITED
Remembers Its Founding Chairman on his 1st Death Anniversary

Engr. Newaz Khan
2nd January 1950 - 4th July 2020

On his 1st death anniversary we pray for Late Newaz Khan and cherish his memory. He was our guide, mentor, friend and a dedicated professional. We miss him dearly everyday.

May Almighty Allah Grant Him Jannatul Ferdous. Aameen.

Family, Friends and Colleagues.