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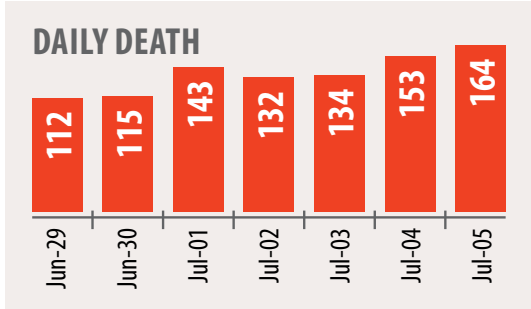
The Daily Star



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Covid deaths galloping

Highest deaths, new cases in a single day; 953 die in a week



MOUJID AHMED SUJAN

The country continues to reel from the second wave of the pandemic as Covid-19 cases and deaths are rising on a daily basis.

Experts said the situation may continue deteriorating for the next two weeks and that the upcoming Eid festival may cause another surge if health protocols are not properly maintained.

Last week, from June 29 till yesterday, the number of deaths increased by 46.6 percent while new cases rose by 43.6 percent from the previous week, according to the data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

In that period, 953 Covid-19 patients died across the country. The death toll was 650 in the previous week, from June 22 to 28.

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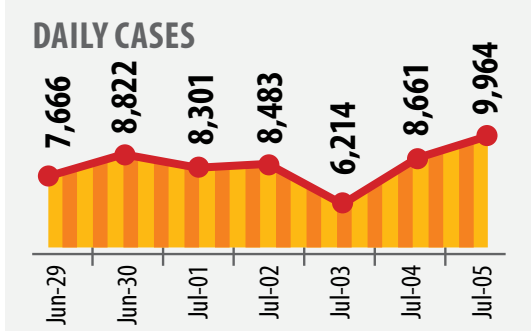


PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

Daily new cases of Covid-19 and deaths from the disease have been frequently setting records. But people at this crowded cattle market at Janatar Bazar in Nabiganj, Habiganj, yesterday seem to be oblivious to the pandemic and certainty of the "strict lockdown" that the country is in.

Curbs to stay during Eid

Govt to act tough to stop people from going to villages; no cattle market in capital if situation doesn't improve

PARITHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

With the nationwide lockdown extended for a week, the government is unlikely to allow cattle markets in the capital ahead of the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha if the Covid situation does not improve.

However, if the strict lockdown helps flatten the rising curve of infections and deaths by July 14, a handful of cattle markets could be allowed to run on a limited scale, maintaining strict compliance of the health safety rules, said highly-placed sources in the government.

They said the authorities will encourage people to buy sacrificial animals online to prevent buyers and traders from going to cattle markets during this critical phase of the pandemic.

All-out measures will be taken to stop people from travelling from one district to another before the Eid when people in their thousands leave the

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6 Barishal cops sued

Accused of torture, sexual harassment of woman in custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Six police personnel, including an assistant superintendent of police (ASP), an OC and two inspectors, have been sued for allegedly torturing and sexually harassing a female murder case accused at Barishal's Uzirpur Police Station.

The case was filed with the police station on Sunday. Earlier on Friday, the victim gave her statement before a magistrate, said Momin Uddin, newly-appointed

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PLANE GRAVEYARD TO GO

HSIA decides to confiscate, sell off 12 aircraft abandoned in cargo village area

RASHIDUL HASAN

Authorities at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport are going to confiscate and auction off 12 airplanes that have occupied a large part of the cargo village for years, disrupting loading and unloading of goods.

The cargo village has practically been turned into an aircraft graveyard with United Airways abandoning eight, Regent Airways two, and CMG and Avina one plane each. These airlines have not been in operation for one to eight years, said Group Captain AHM Touhid-Ul Ahsan, executive director of the airport.

United, Regent, and GMG owe Tk 750 crore to Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) in different unpaid charges, he said, adding that officials are still calculating how much Avina owes.

"Besides, we would have room for four



or five additional cargo planes at the cargo village if those abandoned planes were not occupying the precious space. This could allow Caab to earn more," he told The Daily Star.

Of the total sum, United owes Caab Tk 190 crore, GMG Tk 360 crore, and Regent Tk 200 crore.

Caab has written to the companies multiple times asking them to pay the fees

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VACCINATION AGE BAR RELAXED 35yrs and above become eligible

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government decided to lower the age restriction from 40 years to 35 for coronavirus vaccine in order to make more people eligible.

A circular announcing the decision will be issued soon, said ABM Khurshid Alam, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

He added that the DGHS sent the proposal on age bar to the health ministry.

"We decided to resume registering people in three or four days. Those who got registered earlier, but did not get the job, will be prioritised," he said.

The DGHS received a list of 1.45 lakh students from the University Grants Commission and sent it to the ICT Division, which will get the students registered, he said.

The Moderna vaccine might be rolled out and given to the priority groups in just 10 days, he said.

As of yesterday, 72,75,977 people registered for

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