

## 20 hurt

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Shipping Ministry's Senior Information Officer Jahangir Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

Other members are BIWTA director M Shahjahan, BIWTC's AGM (Marine) Ahmed Ali and BIWTC's AGM (Engineering) Rubeluzzaman.

Twenty passengers of the ferry were injured in the incident, the senior information officer of shipping ministry said adding that none of them were in serious condition.

The ferry had 38 vehicles and more than one hundred passengers on board.

The master of the ferry Abdur Rahman was suspended following the incident "for failing to operate properly", the official added.

Abdur Rahman, however, claimed that the accident took place due to mechanical error.

He said the electric system of the ferry suddenly failed while passing between the 16th and 17th pillars of the Padma Bridge.

The ferry lost control and hit the 17th pillar of the Padma Bridge, causing some damage to the ferry.

Mawa Naval Police Officer-in-Charge Sirajul Kabir said front side of the ferry was hit and twisted. However, there was no damage to the vehicles on the ferry.

The ferry is now being repaired at Shimulia Ghat.

## Bashundhara MD

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Sudip said, "... She wrote [in the diary] about their relationship, the social barriers to recognition of the relationship, her expectation of a happy conjugal life with the accused and the barriers from his family."

She detailed her serious frustration in her diaries and these will be the key to establishing the case, he said at the time.

Sudip didn't answer his phone when The Daily Star repeatedly called him for comments on the latest turn of events.

The victim's elder sister said, "Police said Anvir's name was written on different parts of my sister's body. Photos of Anvir and her were hung on the walls of her bedroom. Their flat was decorated with their photographs. The texts and call records in her two phones showed that she expressed her frustration about the relationship. Also, the social barriers to their relationship indicate strong evidence against Anvir for abetting the death of my sister."

She added that police said they found CCTV footage of Anvir visiting Muniya's flat before April 26.

"I was not informed by the investigation officer (IO) about the final report before it was submitted to the court."

"When I came to know about the final report of the case from the media, I called the IO, but he did not answer my calls. I will file a no-confidence petition before the court against the final report after learning the details of the matter."

IO Abul Hasan told this correspondent that he would not comment about the matter.

On April 26, police recovered the body of the 21-year-old woman, hanging from the ceiling fan of her bedroom in Gulshan. Her feet were touching the bed and both knees were a little bent.

Soon after the case was filed, the court issued a ban on Anvir from travelling abroad after the IO filed an application seeking the ban on April 27.

Anvir did not get bail from any court in the case recorded as a "cognisable offence", CMM court officials said.

Under section 4 (f) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), "Cognisable Case" means police can arrest the accused without any warrant, said legal experts.

There are multiple instances in the capital of police arresting individuals involved in abetting victims for dying by suicide, they added.

For example, six people, including a sub-inspector of Khilgaon Police Station, were arrested soon after a case was filed over abetting death by suicide of Simi Banu in the capital's Khilgaon area on December 23, 2001.

Simi, a final-year student of Narayanganj Institute of Fine Arts, killed herself after she was tormented by the six arrestees.

But police or other law enforcers were rather indifferent in the case against Anvir by not arresting him even though he was in public without a bail, said lawyers.

## Age bar to be lowered to 18 years

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the government is capable of storing all the Covid vaccines as supplies have increased recently, Khurshid said, "We have enough storage capacity. We are also trying to accelerate the vaccine inoculation campaign so that the storage capacity is not exhausted."

He said those who have not received the second jab of the AstraZeneca vaccine will get it gradually once it becomes available again soon. A shipment of AstraZeneca vaccines is set to arrive in the country today under the Covax facility.

Urging people to get vaccinated, he said, "We talked to several elderly Covid patients at Mugda hospital. None of them had taken the vaccine."

Once someone gets vaccinated, it is unlikely that he or she would need hospitalisation even if infected with

the virus, he said.

He further said patients from other districts are rushing to Dhaka though hospitals outside the centre have enough capacity.

Regarding the vaccine campaign in rural areas, he said the government is planning to simplify the registration process.

"We have a plan to give the Covid vaccines in the same way we give other vaccines, without NID cards. We are trying to make the vaccination process easier."

Replying to whether the government is capable of handling further surges of Covid, the DG said, "I cannot say whether we will be able to handle properly the situation..."

He urged the journalists to keep reassuring people. "We have to assure people that the government is ready

## No Eid cheer for seasonal rawhide traders

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but nobody came for it. At last, I requested a cleaner in our area to take it away for disposal", he told The Daily Star.

Over in Patuakhali, thousands of skins were dumped in the Monu river by seasonal traders, collectors, madrasas and orphanage authorities.

In Bogura, about 10,000 pieces of goats and sheep's skin were thrown in the garbage as the mainstream traders did not buy it from the seasonal traders.

Ala Uddin, a seasonal leather

trader in Natore, said that he bought rawhide at a high price after seeing in the newspapers that the price of leather was good this year.

But he had to sell goat hide for Tk 10-15 per piece after purchasing them at Tk 30-40.

Aminul Islam, a seasonal trader in Naldangaupazila of Natore, one of the biggest markets for rawhide, said he bought goatskin at Tk 20 per piece and cowhide at Tk 200 to Tk 300 per piece and had to sell the goatskin at half the price he bought.

He, however, sold the cowhide at

with doctors, nurses, and necessary logistics. Otherwise, they will get frustrated."

Khurshid also said the country has necessary oxygen supplies in addition to imports.

"The demand for oxygen at normal times is around 80 to 90 tonnes, but now it has gone up to 200 tonnes. However, the country still has a supply of oxygen and is also importing from India."

About the impact of the lockdown during the first two weeks of this month, he said, "The previous two weeks did not have much effect [in reducing transmission]. However, transmission has decreased in the bordering districts."

"The effect of the lockdown will be apparent in a few days," he added.

More AstraZeneca arriving today  
A total of 2.45 lakh AstraZeneca

higher prices: Tk 400 to Tk 500 per piece.

Sabbir Ahmed, a seasonal trader in Uttara, was not as lucky. He bought rawhide at Tk 200 to Tk 300 depending on the size and quality and made a profit of about Tk 50.

In Chattogram, most of the rawhide were sold at lower prices than the government fixed rates for want of demand: of the 22 tanneries in the port city, 21 are shut.

Md Aftab Uddin, president of the Bangladesh Hide and Skin Merchants Association (BHSMA), said they

documents for construction of the CETP, he said.

"And eventually, it was not completed," said Alam, who owned less than 50 percent share in the joint venture, while the Chinese partner owned more than 50 percent.

Delwar Hossain, team leader of the CETP and a teacher of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), said the partial construction of the CETP will not help in obtaining the Leather Working Group (LWG) certification to get international prices from buyers.

Regarding the construction of 25,000 cubic metres per day reservoir, Hossain said in the tender the actual capacity was fixed at 20,000 cubic metres per day but the capacity was raised later.

The country's production of rawhide was not considered when the tender was called for the construction of such a small reservoir, he said.

The LWG gives certification after a country racks up 1,365 points. Of the total points, the tannery factory owners will have to obtain 900, the CETP 100 and the authorities 100.

The remaining points will be given on other factors. Currently, Bangladeshi exporters ship leather at 40 percent less than international prices as they cannot do business with compliant companies in absence of

## CETP incomplete even after 9 yrs

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The STIE finally took over the project from the JL EPCL-DCL-JV on June 27.

The JL EPCL-DCL-JV's delay has pushed the country's several-billion-dollar leather sector into trouble, caused environmental pollution, damage to the nearby Dhaleshwari River and delay in obtaining the Leather Working Group (LWG) certification, which is required for better export prices of tanned leather.

The decision to terminate the contract with the company was taken based on recommendations of two technical committees formed in April to gauge the progress and impacts of the CETP.

From July 1, a newly formed government-owned local company, Dhaka Tannery Industrial Estate Wastage Treatment Plant Company Ltd, has taken charge of the CETP, said Jitendra Nath Paul, project director of the STIE.

Although the CETP has been running for some time now, the online monitoring system has not been installed as per the agreement and its laboratory has inadequate testing facilities, Paul said.

Moreover, only four out of eight kinds of testing facilities were installed in the laboratory and a mini workshop was not constructed at the CETP site, he said.

## Adieu, true friend of Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 12

after an emergency but routine operation in a hospital in Romania on Friday 16th July 2021 at 2.30am; where we have been living since early 2020," the statement added.

Simon Dring reported for the BBC from many conflict zones in the 1960s, '70s and '80s.

He covered the horrors of Bangladesh's war for independence from Pakistan in 1971.

The 27-year-old Simon Dring found himself hiding in the lobby, the kitchen and the rooftop at Dhaka's Intercontinental Hotel during Operation Searchlight on March 25, 1971.

The 32 hours of risking his life had him noting down reports of crackdown, travel Dhaka in a baker's van once the curfew was lifted on March 27 to collect some evidences of genocide that, till this day, remain as one of the most gruesome and merciless acts committed by a military.

In his own words, Dring described the aftermath of Operation Searchlight to The Daily Star, which serves harrowing images even to this day: "I found the bodies of students who had been shot to death in their dormitories and outside on the campus grounds; the rickshaw pullers, bullet-ridden and bloodied, lying by the roadside; whole families burnt

alive in their homes when their street had been sealed off and the houses torched; bazaars in the old city burnt to the ground."

Dring managed to escape the military and board a flight to Bangkok, from where he sent his report "Tanks Crush Revolt in Pakistan", which appeared in the front page of The Daily Telegraph on March 30, 1971.

In 1997, Dring joined partners in Bangladesh to develop, license, and build Ekushey Television, the first private, commercial terrestrial/satellite TV channel in Bangladesh.

President Abdul Hamid conolded the demise of Simon Dring.

"Simon Dring made immense contribution in informing the world about the genocide in Bangladesh and the struggle of the people through his coverage of our Liberation War. With his demise, Bangladesh lost a time-tested friend," President Hamid said in a condolence message.

He prayed for eternal peace of the noted journalist's departed soul and extended his condolences to the bereaved family.

Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque expressed his shock over the death of the British journalist, who was conferred with the Friends of Liberation War Honour by Bangladesh government in 2012 for standing by Bangladesh during its War

of Independence.

In his condolence message, the minister said Simon Dring covered the brutality of the Pakistani occupation force in 1971, risking his life, and revealed it before the world. Thanks to him, the world came to know about the mass killing of unarmed Bangladeshes in Bangladesh, he said.

"He will be always remembered as a true friend of Bangladesh," he added.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen in a condolence message said, "Simon Dring was a man of commitment, an upright man of high moral, ethical standard and values, who reported the massacre in Dhaka in 1971 with objectivity and courage."

"He trained a group of young journalists of Bangladesh at ETV that dynamically changed the TV journalism in Bangladesh," Momen also said.

"We salute him again and again," the minister added.

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud also expressed his condolences, terming Simon Dring "a true friend of Bangladesh" who "witnessed the sacrifices of the people of this country and shook the conscience of the international community with his reportage by putting own life at stake."

The minister also prayed for eternal peace of his departed soul.

## Osmani

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afternoon, to allow time for clearing or detonation of any mines laid during the night, and to drive in the centre of the road to avoid any mines at the sides.

Attacks against bridges and other communications by the guerrillas reportedly increased markedly in the last two weeks.

Major Khaled, commander of the Mukti Fauj's eastern sector, when told of a Times report that the military administration suspected Indian engineering skill behind these acts of sabotage, particularly disruption of power supply, seemed vastly amused. He said: "There is certainly some specialised skill involved. A qualified and experienced engineer tells us what to do, and my boys go and do it. But this skill has come from Bangladesh itself."

OSMANI'S INTERVIEW WITH TIMES East Bengal freedom fighters claimed to have killed between 15,000 and 20,000 West Pakistani troops and wounded many others so seriously that they "must have succumbed to their injuries in hospital".

In a special interview with Times (London), Colonel MA Osmani, commander-in-chief of the Bangladesh forces, said he was speaking exclusively of losses suffered by the Pakistan army, implying that the enemy casualties did not include informers and collaborators killed by freedom fighters.

Colonel Osmani further said, "The enemy is receiving very considerable quantities of arms and sophisticated military hardware from more than one country, a situation in which my liberation forces find themselves in a serious handicap -- if the liberation forces were adequately equipped the impact of my operation would have been still more spectacular and would have brought to a speedy end the savagery of a nature that the worst of Hitler's brigands would have been ashamed of."

**MORE ARMS AID TO PAKISTAN SEEN**

American Senator Stuart Symington disclosed today that the US administration still intended to permit approximately \$15 million in arms to be shipped to Pakistan despite repeated official statements implying that a total embargo had been imposed on arms since war broke out in East Pakistan.

Senior officials privately confirmed that about \$15 million worth of arms, now in the hands of Pakistani government officials in the US, might be transported to Pakistan as soon as shipping and other administrative arrangements could be arranged.

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## Khaleda recovers

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received the first dose of the Covid vaccine at Sheikh Russel Gastro Liver Institute and Hospital in the city's Mohakhali.

She is scheduled to get the second dose of the vaccine on August 19.

The BNP chief had tested positive for Covid on April 11. She was admitted to Evercare Hospital on April 27.

She tested negative for Covid on May 8. She returned home from the hospital on June 19.

Amid the coronavirus outbreak, the government temporarily freed Khaleda from jail on March 25 last year after issuing an executive order suspending her sentences in graft cases.

## Over half

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speculation about where it first emerged, sparking a fiery response from Beijing.

Chinese Vice Health Minister Zeng Yixin said that he was "extremely surprised" by the WHO plan, which he said showed "disrespect for common sense and arrogance towards science".

More than four million people have died from the virus since December 2019, and though rates of vaccination are picking up globally, Delta is fuelling a rise in infections and prompting governments to re-impose anti-virus measures.

The EU said on Thursday that 200 million Europeans had been fully vaccinated, more than half of the adult population but still short of a 70 percent target set for the summer.

Germany's public health institute yesterday said it was putting Spain and the Netherlands on a list of high-incidence countries for coronavirus, meaning new restrictions for unvaccinated travellers.

European Central Bank chief Christine Lagarde warned of growing economic uncertainty caused by Delta, as the bank kept its vast stimulus for the eurozone firmly in place following a meeting of its 25-member governing council.

"The euro area economy is rebounding strongly," Lagarde said, but the Delta variant could damp the post-lockdown recovery "in services, especially in tourism and hospitality", she said.

France this week rolled out new rules requiring a so-called health pass for all events or places with more than 50 people before being extended to restaurants, cafes and shopping centres in August.

 **World Health Organization**  
Bangladesh

### VACANCY NOTICE

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- **National Consultant / Consultant**
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<https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment>  
<https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl>

**Qualified female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.**

 WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.

## Outrage spreads over 'snooping'

FROM PAGE 12

on a list of alleged targets -- ordered "a strengthening of all security protocols" following a specially convened meeting of the nation's Defence Council, his office said.

Macron "has himself changed his phone and number for certain exchanges", it said.

Hungary was the only EU country listed as a potential user of the spyware, with hundreds of targets including journalists, lawyers and other public figures.

Hungarian prosecutors said on Thursday they had opened a probe "to establish the facts and to determine whether and, if so, what crime has taken place", the Budapest Regional Investigation Prosecutor's Office said.

Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto has insisted the government "has no knowledge of such data collection", while some critics decried the move as a time-wasting manoeuvre.

"They have years to investigate if they want... This is merely an administrative step," said Andras Lederer from the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights.

NSO insists its software is only intended for use in fighting terrorism and other crimes, and that it exports to 45 countries, with approval from the Israeli government.

The Israeli government said it has set up a commission to review the software.

The priority was "to review this whole matter of giving licences," lawmaker Ram Ben Barak, a former deputy head of the Mossad spy agency, told Army Radio.

Algeria's public prosecutor also ordered an investigation into media reports that the north African country may have been a target.