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## DEALING WITH PANDEMIC FALLOUT

# Over 17 lakh get govt cash support

REJAUl KARIM BYRON and HELEMUL ALAM

The government recently distributed cash support worth Tk 450 crore to around 17.24 lakh day labourers, transport workers, and small traders, as part of its recent announcement of a Tk 3,200 crore relief package for the ultra-poor and destitute. It also increased allocations for OMS in urban areas and for food assistance in rural areas through the district administration offices.

On July 13, the government announced the relief package to provide financial support and food assistance for these segments that were dealt a fresh blow by the latest round of strict lockdown to contain Covid-19 cases.

Finance ministry officials said they have already disbursed Tk 2,500 each to 14.37 lakh day labourers, 2.35 lakh transport workers, around 50,000 small traders, and 1,603 transport workers two days before Eid.

As the country entered another two weeks of strict lockdown from July 23, the latest package will provide some relief to the poor who were hit the hardest by the pandemic, they said.

Earlier in April, the government provided cash assistance to nearly 35 lakh poor families facing income losses and hardship amid the nationwide lockdown. This was the second time these families received this cash support of Tk 2,500 after one transfer last year. The list of beneficiaries was initially around 50 lakh but was whittled down to 35

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Hundreds of people wait for transport near Jatrabari Bus Terminal in the capital. Yesterday was the first weekday during this spell of lockdown enforced after Eid holidays to stem the spread of Covid-19. There were more people and vehicles on the street than the previous two days.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## LOCKDOWN: 3RD DAY

# Dhaka streets see more cars and crowds

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Public and vehicular movement increased on the streets of Dhaka and elsewhere yesterday on the first weekday after the Eid-ul-Azha holidays and the third day of the countrywide lockdown.

Banks, stock exchange and several emergency services reopened yesterday amid the 14-day strict lockdown.

Many people went to offices on rickshaws, motorbikes and private cars, while many walked long distances to reach their destinations.

In the capital, this correspondent visited Farmgate, Gabtoli, Mirpur, Shahbagh, Panthapath, Mohammadpur, Shyamoli, Ring Road, Adabor and Dhanmondi and found that the number of pedestrians, rickshaws and private cars increased on the roads compared to the first two days of the lockdown.

"People are giving various excuses for being out.

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## COLLEGE STUDENT'S DEATH

# We're concerned and outraged

Say 51 eminent citizens about Bashundhara MD being cleared of charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-one eminent personalities yesterday expressed resentment and concern over the exemption of Bashundhara Group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir from the charges of abetting the death of college student by suicide in a Gulshan flat in April.

The distinguished personalities in a joint statement demanded re-investigation into the case.

"Recently... Bashundhara Group's accused Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir was acquitted and the police submitted a final report to the court. We express our concern and outrage at this," reads the statement.

"We do not have any information that police took him to a police station for interrogation, let alone arresting him after filing of the case," it adds.

On the contrary, it seemed that the obstruction of a citizen's gathering seeking justice, and the dissemination of misleading information about the victim,

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## ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### Dhaka residents asked to evacuate



Bangladesh postage stamps being shown to newsmen by Hossain Ali, chief of Bangladesh mission in Kolkata, on July 26, 1971.

JULY 26, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

#### GUERRILLAS ASK PEOPLE TO FLEE DHAKA

Handbills prepared by Bangalee guerrillas were distributed in Dhaka asking the population to begin evacuation of the city in preparation for a campaign against the Pakistan Army, reported The New York Times.

The handbills appeared in the Moghbazar neighbourhood of the city. The warning, signed by the Mukti Bahini, advised residents to move out by 6:00pm.

The public was also warned that traffic, including taxis and

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## SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS

### Suspended for class-IV to -XII

2021 SSC, HSC examinees have to do it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities have suspended all assignment activities for students from grade VI to grade IX and candidates of SSC and HSC of 2022.

As the government imposed stricter lockdown to curb further spread of coronavirus, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) issued separate circulars regarding this, said DSHE Director Belal Hossain yesterday.

In line with the restrictions announced by the Cabinet Division, the weekly assignments for students would remain suspended until further notice, read a circular.

The circular also asked regional deputy directors, district education officers, upazila- and thana-level education officers and headmasters to take necessary measures.

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## Ancient 'sunken city' discovered in Egypt



CNN ONLINE

Divers have discovered rare remains of a military vessel in the ancient sunken city of Thonis-Heracleion -- once Egypt's largest port on the Mediterranean -- and a funerary complex illustrating the presence of Greek merchants.

The city, which controlled the entrance to Egypt at the mouth of a western branch of the Nile, dominated the area for centuries before the foundation of Alexandria nearby by Alexander the Great in 331 BC.

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## BANSHKHALI MAYHEM

# Power plant tells HC it paid families of deceased

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SS Power I Ltd, a concern of S Alam Group, at Banshkhali in Chattogram, has provided Tk 5 lakh to each of the families of the seven victims killed in police firing on April 17 this year.

The company informed the HC bench led by Justice M Enayetur Rahim of this through submitting an affidavit a few weeks back, its lawyer Mohammad Arshadur Rouf told The Daily Star yesterday.

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### PRAYER TIMING JULY 26

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-17  
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-57 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## PEGASUS SPYWARE

# CPM seeks SC-monitored SIT probe in India

NDTV ONLINE

Snooping is against the fundamental rights of citizens and runs foul of the privacy judgment, the CPM said, seeking immediate Supreme Court-monitored probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into the Israeli-made Pegasus spyware after reports of its use in India emerged this week.

More than 300 phone numbers in India appeared on the list as potential targets of Israeli spyware Pegasus, which is sold only to governments.

Evidence of attempted hacking has been found on the phones of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, poll strategist Prashant Kishor, two sitting union ministers, a former election commissioner, family members of Mehbooba Mufti, Delhi-based Kashmiri journalists, among others.

The report into the spying scandal is based on a leaked database accessed

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Relatives of Abul Hossain are in tears as his body is being put into an ambulance in front of the Covid unit of DMCH yesterday. The 48-year-old Covid patient was admitted to the hospital on Eid day with chest pains and breathing difficulties.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Indonesia readies more ICUs

Extends Covid curbs by a week; big protests mark global anger at virus restrictions

AGENCIES

Indonesia is preparing more intensive care units after logging several days of record-high Covid-19 deaths last week, while President Joko Widodo yesterday announced an extension of restrictions by a week to August 2 to try to curb infections.

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## আমরা শোকাহত

শোক সন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা আপন করছি



হাসেম ফুডস লিমিটেডের রূপগঞ্জ কারখানায় অগ্নি দুর্ঘটনায় ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত অধিকাংশ পরিবারকে ইতোমধ্যে আর্থিক ক্ষতিপূরণ প্রদান করা হয়েছে।

আর্থিক ক্ষতিপূরণ এখনো পায়নি এমন পরিবারের সদস্যদের নিম্নোক্ত নম্বরে যোগাযোগের জন্য বিনীত ভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছেঃ

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হাসেম ফুডস লিমিটেড