Covid-19: UK urges pregnant women to get vaccinated

British health authorities have urged more pregnant women to get coronavirus jabs after a national study found the Delta variant appeared to increase their risk of severe symptoms.

Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent, chief midwifery officer for England, wrote to GPs and midwives on Friday urging them to encourage expectant mothers to get a jab as new data showed an increase in severe illness among those hospitalised with virus symptoms.

She said she was calling on pregnant women to "protect themselves and their babies".

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) and the Royal College of Midwives have also recommended vaccination of

recommends pregnant women get Moderna and Pfizer vaccines because they have been given to over 130,000

pregnant women in the United States. A paper based on national data compiled by the UK Obstetric Surveillance System, published online on July 25, found that the proportion of pregnant women admitted to hospital with moderate to severe infection rose "significantly" after the Delta variant became dominant in

The paper by University of Oxford researchers found that pregnant women hospitalised during the Delta wave were more likely to get pneumonia, with a third requiring respiratory support.

"It is very concerning that admissions of pregnant women to hospital with Covid-19 are increasing and that pregnant women appear to be more severely affected by the Delta variant of the disease," said the study's Public Health England has said it chief investigator Marian Knight, professor of maternal and child population health at the University of

Concert for Bangladesh

came to me with sadness in his eye/ He told me that he wanted help before his country dies...Now I'm asking all of you to help us save some lives." Then, with the full emotional weight of his voice, Harrison started hollering the one word that he wanted his audience to take away from the performance: "Bangladesh".

It was reported that over 40,000 people joined the concerts, which raised around 250,000 dollars for Bangladesh relief.

THANT WARNS COUNCIL OF INDIAN-PAKISTANI CLASH

UN Secretary General U Thant warned that a major conflict could break out between India and Pakistan, which "could all too easily expand".

The warning was made in a memorandum for Security Council members amid growing pessimism among diplomats and officials about the situation. U Thant expressed his concern about the danger of big power involvement if the deteriorating situation erupted into fighting and Pakistan turned for support to China and India to the Soviet Union.

U Thant said, "I am deeply concerned about the possible consequences of the present situation, not only in a humanitarian sense but also as a potential threat to peace and security and for its bearing on the future of the United Nations as an

effective instrument for international cooperation and action.'

He further stressed that outside relief would not suffice to resolve the problem and that a political settlement was required.

SHADES OF THE VIETNAM WAR The New York Times today reported that the Pak army was largely confined to the towns and roads and the guerrilla rebels

were in control of the countryside.

It commented, "A visitor to East Pakistan can drive through much of the region without observing anything abnormal. Yet many foreign diplomatic observers have been tempted to, compare the Bengali situation with the opening phase of the Vietnam war, and some of the parallels -- such as those listed above are unmistakable.

"Neighboring India from the outset has provided a haven, training and material support for the Bengali rebels, as North Vietnam did for the Vietcong. Even the lush, rice growing terrain of the Ganges River delta, making up most of East Pakistan, is similar to that of the Mekong River delta in Vietnam. Rebel posters blossom briefly in Dacca and other towns, warning civilians to leave before the Liberation Army (Mukti Bahini) opens a bloody new offensive," said The New York Times.

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To reduce the longstanding waterlogging issue at Bhabadaha, the authorities are pumping out stagnant water with 20 pumps. The photo was taken recently.

WDB initiative 'impractical'

FROM PAGE 16

said Tauhidul Islam, executive engineer of WDB Jashore. Fourteen of those pumps run round the clock except during load-shedding.

He claimed due to this experimental project, the water level reduced by at least one metre compared to the previous year.

The DPP (Development Project Proposal) for installing 10 high-power pumps, each of which has the capacity to drain up to 40 cusecs of water, is completed and sent to the central WDB office for the water resources ministry's approval, he said.

The cost of the installation and renovation of some canals is estimated at Tk 50 crore and the tenure of the project is three years, Tauhidul added.

However, experts and local activist say WDB is ignoring the tidal river management (TRM) approach, proven to be the most effective way of relieving waterlogging in the region.

Through this approach, an embankment is built around a beel leaving two cut-points for water to enter and recede from. When the water recedes during low tide, it takes the sediment deposited on the riverbed in a process of natural excavation.

with involved Activists movement to get Bhabadah waterlogging solved, and experts have

and foreign correspondents for the

IPTV channel that she founded in

2018, according to Khandaker Al Moin,

director of Rab's legal and media wing.

correspondents and took money from

most of them, he said at a media

briefing held at the Rab headquarters

"We have found some receipts of

in the capital.

propaganda

monev deposit.'

She appointed 70-80 staff and

termed WDB's water pumping project

While water recedes due to the use of the water pumps, it is very nominal against the level of water receding needed to have an impact, said Kamruzzaman, former chairman of Nehalpur union in Jashore's Monirampur upazila. The union is one of the areas most affected by waterlogging.

Besides, rainfall so far this year has been lower in Bhabadah region than in previous years and if normal levels of rainfall occur, areas will go underwater as usual and the pumps will become useless, said Kamruzzaman, who has long been involved in the Bhabadah

People living in the villages adjacent to the 52 beels spent money from their own pockets to pump out water from the crop fields to cultivate paddy this immediate past Boro season, he said.

Currently, there is no alternative to TRM to solve the waterlogging, he

Biswas, an adviser of the Bhabadah Water Mitigation Movement, said the waterlogging problem started in the late '80s due to excessive sedimentation amid lack of upstream water flow, which pushed sediment downstream.

The Mukteshwari, Teka, Hari, and waterlogging, he added.

from the Bhairab river, pass through the Bhabadah region and play a vital role in draining out rainwater and saving the region from water stagnation.

Sree rivers, which originate mainly

However, high tide carries excessive sediment and deposits these on the riverbed, raising it over time, before receding again during low tide.

Once the riverbed rises, so does the water level of the surrounding beels and blocks drainage, leading to the whole region becoming perennially waterlogged.

Zahirul Haque Khan, deputy executive director of the Institute of Water Modelling, said while the water can be drained using the pumps, the river cannot be saved in this process.

"I heard water has been removed by using the pumps but the siltation that causes the river bed to rise cannot be managed this way," he said.

We recommend three methods including some dredging of the river as a short-term measure, TRM as a midterm measure, and starting circular flow from upstream to solve the waterlogging problem," Zahirul said.

WDB is doing the pump project on their own initiative whereas TRM is a well-planned and proven method that can manage the sediment of the river, keep it navigable, and ease

remuneration, he said, adding that 20-

Helena said that she and her husband,

Jahangir Alam, own five garment factories, 15-17 flats in Uttara, Mirpur

and Gulshan areas and five-six cars,

factory in 1990 and later started his

own venture in partnership with

Investigation Department. They will

look into these matters," Moin said,

adding that Helena also runs the

Joviatra Foundation through which she

collected money from non-resident

conducted a raid at Helena's residence

currency, casino items and deer hide

were found at the property, according

Helena on a three-day remand in

connection with a case Rab filed with

Gulshan Police Station under the

Narcotics Control Act, Special Powers

Act and Wildlife Conservation Act.

She was also booked under the

On Friday, a Dhaka court placed

in Gulshan and arrested her.

After being tipped off, law enforcers

Foreign liquor, walkie-talkie, foreign

are

Alam began working in a garment

Anti-Corruption

During primary interrogation,

25 people work for the IPTV.

according to Moin.

Bangladeshis.

Digital Security Act.

On Friday morning, the chairman asked the woman to visit his house for the recovery of the borrowed money, the OC said, quoting the case

of his family members was present and he raped her taking the chance.

Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital for her forensic examinations, the police officer said.

arrested a youth for raping a 10-year girl alluring her by offering a fish.

against Sumon Chandra, 19, of the same upazila, in this regard, said the district police.

Sumon called the girl to his house on Friday afternoon when his family members were away.

him. As the girl visited him, he raped Hearing the victim's scream,

villagers rushed to Sumon's house and rescued her.

later held the same day

Those X-rays kept to a strange pattern: after the bright, flaring X-rays, than those more obvious ones.

being reflected from the other side of the black hole, noticed Stanford University astrophysicist Dan Wilkins. But such an event would seem highly unusual, given black holes are more famous for destroying light than being a source of it.

black hole doesn't come out, so we shouldn't be able to see anything that's behind the black hole," he said in a statement.

But it was another, less famous characteristic of black holes that meant those X-rays could be seen. "The reason we can see that is because that black hole is warping space, bending light and twisting magnetic fields around itself," Wilkins explained.

The discovery of light from the other side of a black hole was predicted by Einstein's theory of general relativity. But it has never actually happened before, and the discovery marks the first time that light has ever been directly observed coming from behind a black hole.

echoes from behind a supermassive black hole', is published in Nature

At least 249 rhinos were killed the

first six months of this year in South Africa, the environment minister said yesterday, partly pushed by the easing of lockdown curbs that increased movement of poachers.

80 percent of the world's rhinos but their horns are prized in traditional medicine in Asia, and poachers have continued to mount an onslaught on the species.

rhino killings compared with the same period in 2020.

Covid 'war has changed'

"breakthrough infections" from Delta - unlike the case with earlier variants they might now be just as likely as the unvaccinated to pass the disease on to

"High viral loads suggest an increased risk of transmission and raised concern that, unlike with other variants, vaccinated people infected with Delta can transmit the virus," CDC head Rochelle Walensky said in a statement.

US President Joe Biden said on Friday "in all probability" new guidelines or restrictions would be imposed in the United States in response to a resurgence of Covid-19 cases.

Asked if Americans should expect new recommendations from health authorities or new restrictive measures, the president responded, "in all probability," before leaving the White House by helicopter for the weekend.

Worldwide, coronavirus infections are once again on the upswing, with the World Health Organization announcing an 80 percent average increase over the past four weeks in five of the health agency's six regions, a jump largely fuelled by the Delta variant.

The head of the WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said health systems in many countries were now being overwhelmed: "Hard-won gains are in jeopardy or being lost," he told

The global health body's top emergency expert Mike Ryan told reporters that vaccines were nevertheless still effective preventing serious illness and death: We are fighting the same virus but a virus that has become fitter."

Even in rich countries that were among the first to roll out vaccination campaigns, cases have surged.

In Britain, where the Delta variant caused a sharp surge in infections in recent months despite one of the world's fastest inoculation campaigns, a panel advising the government said protection from vaccines was likely to wane over time, meaning vaccination campaigns would probably last for years. COUNTRIES TIGHTEN

RESTRICTIONS

The surge in Delta variant cases is rattling parts of Asia previously relatively successful in containing Covid-19, such as Vietnam, which will from tomorrow impose strict curbs on movement in several cities and provinces.

Cases also surged in Sydney, where police cordoned off the central business district to prevent a protest against a strict lockdown that will last until the end of August.

Tokyo's metropolitan government announced a record number of 4,058 infections in the past 24 hours. Olympics organisers reported 21 new COVID-19 cases related to the Games, bringing the total to 241 since July 1.

Protests mark 6 months

FROM PAGE 16 information".

Bands of university students rode motorbikes around Mandalay waving red and green flags, saying they rejected any possibility of talks with the military.

"There's no negotiating in a blood feud," read one sign.

The army seized power on Feb 1 from the civilian government led by Aung San Suu Kyi after her ruling party won elections that the military argued were tainted by fraud. The country's electoral commission dismissed this allegation.

New York-based Human Rights Watch yesterday said the violent suppression of protests and arrests of coup opponents included acts that violate international humanitarian conventions.

"These attacks on the population

amount to crimes against humanity for which those responsible should be brought to account," Brad Adams, the group's Asia director, said in a statement. Junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun

could not be reached to respond to the allegations.

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners activist group says at least 6,990 people have been arrested since the coup and accuses the armed forces of killing 939 people. The military says the number of protesters killed is far lower and members of the armed forces have also died in violence. It says its response has met international norms in the face of threats to national security.

The army has branded its opponents terrorists and says its February takeover was in line with the constitution.

from the officials Telecommunication

and ran publicity campaigns for her, "Her ultimate goal was to earn

name and fame so that everyone knows her," he said, adding that during interrogation, she said that

alternatives may be the birth certificate

or passport. Our team is preparing a

draft in this regard. The health minister

The government in phases has

The county has been seeing a surge

To save lives and curb the infections,

For this, the government has

in Covid deaths and infections for the

the government has planned to launch

a massive countrywide vaccination

decided to set up around 14,000

vaccination centres in as many wards

of different unions across the country.

the

programme is being run through

1,005 points across the country.

lowered the vaccination cut-off age to

25 for all citizens. However, the age

limit for the family members of the

Covid-19 frontliners is 18.

campaign from August 7.

last two months.

Currently,

will announce everything on August 6.

people awarded her with various titles the staff without giving salary and like "Pallimata", "Mother Teresa" and

Helena wringed money through illegal IPTV

Moin said she has made negative remarks about the important personalities, which has put the state in an embarrassing situation. "It's a matter of concern that she was

heard saying on Facebook live that she didn't even care any minister." The 49-year-old businesswoman inserted herself into public discourse

episode prompted her

expulsion from the subcommittee on women's affairs that she had joined six months earlier as well as from the advisory council of Cumilla (north) unit of AL. After her arrest on Thursday, the Rab

conducted a raid at the IPTV station and sealed it off. During the raid, which included

Bangladesh Regulatory Commission, Rab found illegal satellite TV equipment though she was running the channel as an IPTV.

IPTV is a service that provides television programming and other video content through the internet

Helena also sacked many of

Meanwhile, health officials said to data of the Director General of the those who have registered but have Directorate General of Health Services

(DGHS). When the inoculation drive began on February 7, health officials had said they were capable of administering 3.60 lakh jabs a day. But they have not been able to do so.

The drive revolved mainly around AstraZeneca vaccine supplied by India's Serum Institute, the largest vaccine producer in the world. It came to a grinding halt after New Delhi suspended vaccine export in the last week of April amid a massive surge in Covid infections in that country.

Bangladesh suspended administering the first dose AstraZeneca vaccine on April 26.

Vaccination of the first jab of Covid vaccines resumed in the country on a limited scale last month following the arrival of Sinopharm and Pfizer

Trump gets double blow FROM PAGE 16 Reform Committee painted a damning

vaccination

Democratic-led House Representatives Ways and Means Committee has said it wants the tax data in part to examine whether Trump had taken inappropriate advantage of U.S. tax laws.

Handwritten notes taken by Acting Deputy Attorney General Richard Donoghue in December and released on Friday by the House Oversight and picture of Trump as he desperately sought to get the Justice Department to take the unprecedented step of intervening to try to upend his 2020 election loss to President Joe Biden.

The fact that the Justice Department let congressional investigators obtain the notes marked a dramatic shift from the Trump administration's repeated assertion of executive privilege to skirt

"Just say that the election was corrupt + leave the rest to me and the R. Congressmen," Trump told Jeffrey Rosen, referring to Republicans, in a

would not "change the outcome of the

laws' house with his family members since the arson by Hefajat.

Only one guard has used to live at the damaged house after the incident. Milon Mia, a guard, was at the kitchen market at the time of the incident.

AL leader's home

sabotage as there was no gas or

vandalised it. On the same day, his inlaw's house in Baganbari area was also set on fire and their car was burnt. His office was also set on fire

and burned to ashes. Describing

yesterday's incident, Al Mamun Sarkar

said that he has been staying at the in-

electricity connection in the house. Earlier, on March 28, Hefajat-e Islam activists set fire to the house and

When he returned from the market, he saw fierce smoke flying in the air. Instantly, Milon Mia informed him through his mobile phone. On information, firefighters

reached the spot and brought the fire under control. Mamun Sarkar said renovation

work on his house was started a month after the Hefajat mayhem. Necessary furniture for the house was already bought. All furniture including beds, sofas and wall

cabinets were burnt to ashes in the fire, he added. He said, "A man named Syed Nazrul Islam has been slandering me on Facebook for the last one month.

"The day before yesterday he made objectionable' remarks about my father-in-law's house.'

He further said, "He posted a Facebook post about this house yesterday [Friday]. It can be done by those who dislike me or have political rivals with me."

Woman sues

When she reached his house, none

The woman was sent to Bogura

Meanwhile, in Rajshahi's Bagmara upazila on Friday night, police

The victim's father filed a case

According to the case statement,

He told her that he would give her fish for her aquarium if she visited

Sumon managed to escape but was

Light behind

FROM PAGE 16

the middle of another galaxy, 800 million light years away.

there would be smaller and later ones. which appeared in different "colours' The X-rays looked as if they were

"Any light that goes into that

The study, 'Light bending and X-ray

Rhino killings on the rise in South Africa

AFP, Johannesburg

South Africa is home to nearly

The figure represents 83 more

With the ID cards provided, the recently with a Facebook post to form "Bangladesh Awami Chakrijibi local and foreign correspondents went So far, he owns five companies, League", a group with no official links Moin said asked some of her office staff who said to the ruling party. She claimed to be "There that Helena was aware of it.' Commission and the Criminal the organisation's president. Joyjatra Television was "spreading

misleading

information" on digital platforms to defame important personalities and create panic and confusion in the public mind, Moin said. "She first got befriended with important people of the state and later extorted money by blackmailing them.

and

She took pictures with them at different times and spread them through social media only for this purpose. Helena had a strong IT cell consisting of 15-20 people who maintained her social media platforms

according to Moin.

using the internet protocol as opposed to traditional cable or satellite signals.

Passport, birth certificate to be allowed

not received confirmation SMS will receive it in phases. "After completing the registration, many people are waiting in the queue in each vaccination centre. Besides, we are administering vaccines to the migrant workers and others in emergency need on a priority basis. This is the reason for the délay. Everyone will get vaccine

jabs gradually," a health official said wishing not to be named. The government has so far received more than 2.39 crore vaccine doses from different sources, including 781,320 jabs of AstraZeneca vaccine

from Japan yesterday. As of yesterday, a total of 1,49,83990 people registered for vaccination. A total of 88,06,075 people have got the first jab and 43,39,386 people received the second shot, according

congressional scrutiny.

Dec. 27 phone call days before Rosen was appointed acting attorney general. The notes showed Rosen told Trump the department could not and