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SEE PAGE 6

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The unvaccinated can't be outside

Decides govt about those aged above 18, also eases lockdown from August 11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will not allow any unvaccinated people aged 18 or above on the streets from August 11, the day it will relax the ongoing "lockdown".

According to decisions taken at an inter-ministerial meeting at the Secretariat yesterday, stores, businesses and offices will reopen and public transport will resume on a limited scale from that day.

"Anyone above 18 years will not be allowed on streets and on any mode of transport unless they are vaccinated," Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, who presided over the meeting, told reporters.

However, it could not be known what punishment would be meted out to the violators.

Criticism poured out on social media soon after the government announced the decisions. People found the move to punish

"To enforce it properly, there is a need to empower police so that they can impose penalty to some extent on people who do not wear masks... they can impose fines. For that, an ordinance is necessary. There was discussion about it. Maybe we can go for it."

HEALTH MINISTER
ZAHID MALEQUE

or bar unvaccinated people to join work unrealistic and unjust as the health ministry is currently vaccinating only those aged 25 and above.

On top of that, they pointed out that the government has administered a single dose of vaccines to less than six percent of the country's 16.3 crore population, while less than three percent got both doses.

The government has also decided to give police the power to fine anyone on the streets found without masks. Currently, executive magistrates are performing that function.

After the meeting, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said alongside vaccines, it is important to wear masks and maintain social distancing.

"To enforce it properly, there is a need to empower police so that they can impose penalties to some extent on people who do

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Bangladesh spinner Nasum Ahmed, left, celebrates one of his four wickets with teammates during the first T20I against Australia which the hosts won by 23 runs.

PHOTO:
FIROZ AHMED

Nasum leads Tigers to first T20I win against Aus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed ended with his career-best T20I figures to help Bangladesh defend a low total and register their first-ever T20I victory against Australia in the first T20I at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Defending a modest total of 131 for seven, Bangladesh bundled out Australia for 108 as the Tigers won by 23 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series. It was also the lowest total ever defended by T20Is in the format.

Bangladesh started brilliantly with the ball as spinners Mahedi Hasan, Nasum and Shakib Al Hasan picked up a wicket each in the first three overs of the game, reducing Australia to three for 11 after just 2.1 overs.

Mahedi struck in the very first delivery of the innings, shattering the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

A TALE OF A LANDFILL and its ravages

Dhaka's biggest garbage dump at Matuail operates with capacity exhausted beyond measure

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN
CHANDAN

Abdus Salam, a long-time resident of Miridha Bari area, said the stench from Matuail landfill nearby has become unbearable in the last five to six years.

"They are now dumping waste everywhere in the lakes and ponds, advancing towards our houses from all directions."

"Nobody wants to live in this neighbourhood. Even our relatives do not want to visit us."

Another resident, Arshadul Alam, said, "You will find many vacant houses here. House owners who earn by renting out flats are some of the biggest sufferers."

"We cannot blame others for not staying here because when they burn the waste in the landfill during the dry season, we feel choked and suffocated."

This is the case for hundreds of thousands of people living near the landfill. They suffer daily from the constant stench and air and plastic pollution.



The 100-acre Matuail sanitary landfill, the largest waste disposal site in Dhaka, can no longer justify its sanitary moniker due to poor leachate management, lack of daily covering of the garbage with soil, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Located in the capital's Demra, the landfill receives around 2,500 tonnes of solid waste from Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) areas every day.

Due to a severe shortage of equipment, manpower, and dumping space, it is now little more than an open-air crude dumpsite.

There is another landfill in Aminbazar, which is for waste dumping from Dhaka North City Corporation areas. This too is in disarray with workforce shortage and no segregation and recycling facility.

POOR WASTE MANAGEMENT

With no recycling facilities, experts warned Matuail landfill's poor waste management and maintenance

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Everyone to have a shelter: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said no one in Bangladesh would remain without shelter as her government was working to ensure access to affordable housing options for all.

"Everyone will get an address," she said while distributing newly constructed flats among 300 families who had been living in slums of the capital.

The PM handed over allocation papers of the new flats to the families on rental basis. The housing and public works ministry implemented the project through constructing three 14-storey buildings at Mirpur-11.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Govt mulls hotels for patients with mild symptoms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering treating Covid-19 patients with mild symptoms by keeping them in hotels in the face of scarcity of hospital beds as the second wave of coronavirus cases sweep across the country, said Health Minister Zahid Maleque said yesterday.

"There is no space left [for Covid-19 patients] in the hospitals," he told reporters following an inter-ministerial meeting at the secretariat.

As much as 90 percent of the general beds and 99 percent of the intensive care unit (ICU) beds are occupied, according to Maleque.

As of yesterday noon, about 6,000 Covid-19 patients were being treated in different hospitals across the country, according to the health directorate. Of them, 1,163 were in ICUs.

"So now, we are searching for hotels for Covid-19 patients with mild symptoms," he said, adding that there will be doctors, nurses, medicines and arrangements of oxygen support at the hotels.

At the same time, the convention centre at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University is also being converted into a field hospital.

Quizzed about the reopening of garment factories, he said that the other industries, public transport and businesses will also be reopened gradually and there will be detailed directives on the matter soon.

Maleque's comment came on the day that the health directorate logged in 15,776 new cases and 235 deaths in the preceding 24 hours to 8 am.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

'What's going on in name of journalism?'

HC asks about the errant media outlets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has expressed dissatisfaction at the state of journalism.

"A person named Helena Jahangir reportedly operated an IPTV channel. How many channels have been opened in the name of IPTV? What is going on in the name of journalism?" the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim said yesterday.

Helena Jahangir, a businessperson turned politician, has been arrested and sued recently over her controversial activities. She was sacked from the Awami League subcommittee on women affairs.

Yesterday, the HC expressed discontent during the hearing of a case on publishing false reports by some newspapers, including the Dainik Purbokone, a Bangla daily in Chattogram, on its order regarding the transfer

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



EVEN MAYOR NOT IMMUNE

Waterlogging remains a major problem in Chattogram city for years mainly due to poor drainage and filled-up canals. There is no respite from flooding for Chattogram City Corporation Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury either as rain water entered his home in Bahaddarhat area yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Covaxin gets the nod for clinical trial here

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Covaxin, the Covid-19 vaccine developed by India's Bharat Biotech, got ethical permission to conduct human trial in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Medical and Research Council (BMRC) has given the permission on July 18, its Chairman Syed Modasser Ali told The Daily Star.

He said International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b), the CRO of the vaccine, sought permission for clinical trials a few months ago and the ethical permission for holding the trial was given as all the requirements were fulfilled.

Although BMRC gave ethical permission to bring the vaccine in the country, the CRO (contract research organisation) has to take permission from the Directorate General of Drug Administration, he said.

The BMRC chairman added that they examined

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

IN MEMORIAM

1st Death Anniversary of Late ABDUL MANNAN

"While we know nothing can alleviate your loss, We do want you to know we are remembering you on this day. You were a wonderful and loving soul who we were blessed to have known"



Today, the 4th of August 2021 (Wednesday) is the 1st Death Anniversary of Late ABDUL MANNAN, Former Minister, MP, MD of Biman Bangladesh and Chairman of Bengal Airlift Group of Companies.

On this occasion, distribution of food among the distressed and at Orphanages, Quran Khani and Doa-Mahfil have been organized by the Family and the Companies in different places.

All Relatives, Friends and Well Wishers are kindly requested to pray for the salvation of his departed soul...