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## KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS IN RANGPUR Pandemic made them drivers, vendors

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rendered unemployed by the pandemic, many kindergarten teachers in Rangpur and its nearby districts had to become daily wage earners for survival.

In the absence of a stable income, the teachers, along with their family members, are passing their days in extreme hardship and amid uncertainty.

About six lakh teachers of around 50,000 kindergarten schools across the country have not got their salaries since the pandemic led to the closure of all educational institutions in March last year, according to a platform of such teachers.

Not having any other income sources, many of the teachers had to switch to other professions. Many started operating battery-run easy bikes, many became salespersons while many turned vegetable vendors to feed their families.

Tanjul Islam, who taught at Tawhida Kindergarten School in Rangpur city for 10 long years, is one of them.

For Tanjul and his family, Covid came as a curse, a really bad one, he said.

Their hardship began after guardians of most students of the school stopped paying the monthly tuition fees in April last year, Tajul told The Daily Star.

"Having no income, the school stopped paying my salaries. I had no savings either. So I had no other option but to run an easy bike inside the city. I am a schoolteacher, becoming an easy bike driver was not an easy decision for me," he said.

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Children, sitting on the laps of their parents, waiting to get tested for dengue at the outdoor section of Shishu Hospital in the capital. The number of such patients has been on the rise in recent days. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## 2 doctors die from Covid-19

STAR REPORT

A gynaecological consultant in Tangail and a medical staffer in Dinajpur died of Covid-19.

Jakia Rashid Shafi, the gynaecologist consultant at Tangail General Hospital died around 6:30pm on Monday at Dhaka Combined Military Hospital's ICU, while Sudipta Debnath Sobuj, 27, an assistant community medical officer at Birganj Upazila Health Complex in Dinajpur, breathed his last around 4:00am yesterday.

Confirming the news of the gynaecologist's death, Dr Khandaker Sadequr Rahman, Tangail general hospital assistant director, told The Daily Star that Jakia was receiving treatment at home after she tested positive on July 24.

However, her physical condition deteriorated on Saturday and she was admitted to the Dhaka Combined Military Hospital that same night. She died Monday evening while on ventilation.

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## Suspected drug trader dies in police custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An accused in a drug case died while being in custody of Uttara-East Police Station early yesterday.

The dead, Liton, 40, was on a two-day remand in a case filed by RAB under the Narcotics Control Act.

Saiful Islam, deputy commissioner of Uttara Division Police, said that Liton was a drug addict and hanged himself while in lock-up.

"There is CCTV in the lock-up. We formed a three-member committee, led by an additional deputy commissioner, to investigate the incident."

An executive magistrate will prepare an inquest on the body, he said.

The body was sent to Tongi's Shaheed Ahsan

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## A salute to father, sways hearts of many



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Going viral on Monday, a picture depicting a salute between a father and his daughter, both serving the nation in two separate forces, has swayed the hearts of thousands of netizens.

The daughter Shahnaz Parvin is a captain in Bangladesh Army while her father Abdus Salam is a sub-inspector (SI) in Bangladesh police.

Ever since the photo was posted on social networking site Facebook, acclaims started outpouring.

Abdus Salam, a residence of Chandrakhana village under Phulbari upazila of Kurigram, joined

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## ASTRAZENECA JABS Japan sends 6.16 lakh more

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Japan supplied over 6.16 lakh shots of the AstraZeneca vaccine to Bangladesh yesterday. With this, 16.43 lakh doses of the Covid-19 vaccine arrived from Japan so far.

The consignments are part of a total of about 3 million doses that the Japanese government is providing to Bangladesh through the COVAX facility to meet the urgent needs of Bangladeshi people, who have long been waiting for the second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

About 15 lakh people had not received their second dose after India halted vaccine export amid severe infections in it since March.

Syed Mojibul Huq, additional secretary of the health ministry, and Japanese Ambassador to Dhaka ITO Naoki, among others, were present at a

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## Bangalee diplomats in US opt for Bangladesh

AUGUST 4, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

14 BANGALEE DIPLOMATS QUIT MISSIONS IN US

Fourteen Pakistani diplomats -- all of Bengalee origin -- resigned today from their embassy in the US or from the mission to the United Nations in protest of what they called "crimes against humanity" in East Pakistan by the government of Pakistan President Yahya Khan.

The group of 14 diplomats was headed by SA Karim, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN. "This is our moment of decision," said Karim. "We have decided to join the suffering millions of Bangladesh who are resisting with their lives the barbarity of the West Pakistan Army who are determined to reduce East Bengal to a colony."

AMA Muhiith, economic counselor of the Pakistani embassy and a leader of the group, said at a news conference at the National Press Club that he and his colleagues felt they could no longer remain silent while the Pakistani government "violates elementary norms of civilised conduct and commits crimes against humanity".

On receipt of the information, Khandaker Moshataque Ahmed, Bangladesh foreign minister, conveyed his warm congratulations to the defecting diplomats. "The mass transfer of allegiance to Bangladesh by Bengali diplomats is another clarion call to all others at home and abroad who may still be in the employ of the

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## 19 'joined Neo JMB' from one upazila

CTTC says

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

At least nineteen youths have joined the IS-inspired militant outfit "Neo JMB", an offshoot of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), from a single upazila of Narayanganj, believes counterterrorism unit.

It already arrested nine of them in a month.

Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit officials claimed that 10 other youths of Noagaon and Saatgram areas of Araihazar upazila remain missing.

Two members of Neo JMB military wing Shafiqur Rahman Hridoy alias Baitullah Mehssud alias Captain Khattab and Khalid Hossain Bhuiyan alias Afnan, who were arrested on Sunday, are from the same areas.

CTTC officials have arrested the youths and got information of the missing ones while investigating the remote-controlled Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast incident on May 16 in a traffic police box in Narayanganj.

Rahmat Ullah Chowdhury, additional deputy commissioner of CTTC unit, told The Daily Star yesterday, "We have arrested

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## Vaccination of Rohingyas begins on August 10

PORIMOL PALMA

The government will begin vaccinating around 66,000 Rohingya refugees living in the camps of Cox's Bazar from August 10.

"We will begin the vaccination from August 10 unless natural calamity like heavy rains and landslide occur," Shah Rezwan Hayat, commissioner of the Refugee Rehabilitation and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The refugees aged 55 and above, and the frontline workers in the camps will come under the vaccination programme."

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### PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 4

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-20 12-45 5-00 6-47 8-15  
JAMAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-50 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Policemen checking cars at a checkpoint in Gabtoli area, one of the entry points of the capital, yesterday to enforce the restriction on movements to curb the spread of coronavirus.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Covid returns to Wuhan

Authorities in the Chinese city to test whole population as global Delta variant woes mount

AGENCIES

Authorities in China's Wuhan said yesterday they would test the city's entire population for Covid-19, as the virus returned to the place where it first emerged and the highly contagious Delta variant drove tightening lockdowns worldwide.

A resurgent virus has returned with a vengeance, buoyed by stalling vaccination rates and deadly new mutations even in places which had long touted their successes in overcoming the worst of the pandemic.

China brought domestic cases down to virtually zero after the coronavirus first emerged in Wuhan, allowing the economy to rebound and life to return largely to normal.

But a fresh outbreak has thrown that record into jeopardy, as the fast-spreading Delta variant reaches dozens of cities after infections among airport cleaners in Nanjing sparked a chain of cases that have been reported across the country.

In Wuhan -- where the virus first emerged in December 2019 and which faced a gruelling lockdown in the early months of the pandemic -- authorities said they were launching a mass-testing program for all 11 million residents.

And across China, authorities have confined the residents of entire cities to their homes, cut domestic transport links and rolled out mass testing in recent days as the country battles its largest coronavirus outbreak in months.

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