

City







11,56,943 Recoveries

GLOBAL



4,275,324



201,297,463Total cases

Sheikh Kamal faced malicious campaign

Hasina says at function marking 72nd birth anniversary of her brother

City back to near normal

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Sheikh Kamal used to lead a very simple life but faced a malicious campaign after surviving a futile assassination attempt in 1974.

"Kamal was shot on December 16, 1974 following a conspiracy. An illattempt was made to kill him. When he survived it, various negative campaigns

The PM was addressing a function marking the 72nd birth anniversary of Shaheed Sheikh Kamal and the handover of Sheikh Kamal National

Sheikh Kamal Auditorium of the National Sports Council, with the premier joining virtually from the Gono

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was born on

president or prime minister.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

infection.

and industries.

garment factories.

from August 11.

different domestic routes.

minister or the president, he never had any intention of making money and

Although shopping malls and markets

are closed and public transport remains

suspended, the city streets look almost

normal with people violating lockdown

by coming out of home and moving

around on rickshaws, vans and private

Amid this breach, the government extended the ongoing lockdown for

five days till August 10 to curb Covid-19

a circular to this end, which also lifted

restrictions on operation of all factories

From August 1, the government allowed operation of export-oriented

Domestic flights will operate, maintaining health rules, says the

Officials of US-Bangla and Novo Air,

In a press release, Novo Air said the

Chattogram, Saidpur and Jashore every

day and two daily flights to each of

Barishal, Sylhet, Rajshahi and Cox's Bazar.

of Bangladesh Railway said operation of

38 pairs of intercity trains and 19 pairs

of mail and commuter trains will begin

Commuter trains will operate

following health safety guidelines and

leave half the train seats empty. Tickets

will only be available online whereas

local train tickets will be found at

Wishing not to be named, an official

two private air operators of the country,

said they are ready to resume flights on

Yesterday, the cabinet division issued

wealth or building a business."

Kamal's biggest passion was to develop the country's educational institutions and improve cultural and sports arenas, said the PM recalling the contributions of her younger brother to different sectors, particularly sports.

She said Kamal played a sincere role in modernising football, cricket and the sports sector. "He made tangible contributions to the field of music, too. As a Dhaka University student, he made a lot of contributions to our society."

Kamal's biggest goal was to reorganise the young generation, motivate them to love the country and work in the interest of the country, the PM said. "Had he been alive, he could have done a lot of work for the country's young generation."

Describing Kamal as a versatile man, Hasina said he had a good sense of responsibility and dutifulness, and he played various games like football, cricket and hockey in addition to founding Abahani Krira Chakra.

Alongside sports, Kamal was verv good in drama, song and extempore activity. He had established Spondon Shilpi Gosthi.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Govt failing to engage people Pirgachha Upazila in Rangpur, told The give hir give him or her Tk 500-1000 and our

Pointing out that Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, after a high-profile meeting on July 27, talked about going for an extensive community engagement right away, the experts said it would be nothing but "yet another popular rhetoric" without a community

leadership positions in different ministries and bureaucracy have no clear understanding about the field reality. As a result, the outcome of many efforts is very poor," Dr Abu Zamil Faisel, member of the Epidemiology and Public Health Committee (EPHC) of the health directorate, told The Daily Star yesterday.

On March 10 last year, couple of days after the first Covid cases were detected in the country, the cabinet division formed an 11-member committee, headed by the deputy commissioner, in each district and a 10-member committee, led by the upazila nirbahi

All other members of those committees were government officials while the local lawmakers or upazila chairmen were kept as advisors.

Six days later, the health and family welfare ministry formed a nine-member committee in each union, headed by the union chairman, for community engagement.

The three committees were asked to follow instructions from the 30-member National Committee on Covid-19 led

But as the national committee itself did not function properly due to a lack of coordination between different government ministries, the other committees at the districts, upazilas and union failed to work as per the plan as

ministry issued a circular on July 25 saying committees have been reformed at union and ward levels to work on containing the virus.

While many union parishad reformed the authorities have committees as per the circular, many have not yet done it, this newspaper has learnt after talking to multiple chairmen

committees has started working yet.

than 80 union parishad chairmen and municipality mayors across the country recently. Almost all of them said the union level committees were not in function.

a few campaigns after the committees were formed, with their own plan, but could not continue them due to a lack of coordination and support from the

"We formed a committee as per government instructions last year. But as we did not get any further instruction or support, we could not function properly," Md Aminul Islam, chairman of Annadanagar union parishad under

Daily Star. "It was only recently that the

UNO has asked us to reactivate our committee," Aminul added. Eight chairmen in Sylhet division

echoed Aminul's statement. "We've heard that the government is

planning to revive the committees, but we have not received any instructions in this regard yet," Mamunur Rashid, chairman of Alinagar union parishad in Sylhet's Beanibazar upazila, said recently.

Monoranjan Mondol, chairman of Batiaghata Sadar union in Khulna, told this newspaper, "We [union parishad] carried out routine work like distribution of relief materials amid the pandemic.

Sohel Rana Ranu, panel mayor of Munshiganj municipality, said no committee was formed in his municipality area to prevent Covid-19 from spreading.

us in distributing relief materials. We did it only twice. We have no engagement with the district corona prevention committee," Sohel Rana Ranu told The Daily Star.

the committees were formed in six unions, reports our correspondent in

and chairmen in different union parishads in Dinajpur said they got no instruction on community engagement from high-ups.

We try to do work as per our own plan. There is no coordination from the local administrations," said Mahmudul Alam, mayor of Phulbari municipality

Chapainawabganj district and Savar upazila have succeeded in containing Covid-19 infection and deaths through extensive community engagement, said

of the hardest-hit bordering districts due to the Delta variant of the coronavirus, the district administration imposed lockdown and formed committees in all 45 unions with the local union chairman as chief to engage people in the Covid-19 fight. A 10-member volunteer committee in each ward was

assigned one government official to supervise the activities of the wardlevel committees every day. The officials were drawn from various government departments.

Since the formation of those committees, the volunteers have been providing support to the local people in taking Covid-19 tests, treatment, and more importantly, campaigning to make people wear masks and follow

the district now has a positivity rate of around seven percent from 63 percent in mid-Mav.

"In the case of NGOs, there is still a lack of disclosure of relevant information in accordance with the laws and regulations," Iftekharuzzaman said. No NGO got satisfactory scores

provided whereas different types of government organisations had satisfactory scores, Iftekhar added.

Scores of all types of government agencies regarding compatibility of information were inadequate; while the NGOs' scores were alarming, said the TIB study.

Most NGO websites do not have all types of information in accordance with the Right to Information Act and Proactive Information Disclosure Guidelines. Some do not have up-todate information or the date of last update. Most websites are in English

However, information of some

The study also said about seven percent of the organisations did not have websites.

According to the study, most government organisations gave satisfactory organisational and service information but their disclosure of information on activities and decision-making was alarming.

Most NGOs disclosure information on organisation, activities, decision, and service was alarming.

The government organisations departments, the Prime Minister's Office; departmental institutions affiliated to the ministry, constitutional and statutory institutions, and other institutions like agencies, trusts, foundations, and public companies.

were international and 66 local. At least 22.2 percent of the NGOs were providing only services, 15.6 percent were doing advocacies, and 62.2 percent were doing both activities.

In the ranking, the Ministry of Food, the Ministry of Jute and Textiles and the Ministry of Water Resources were at the top, scoring 84 percent. The Coastal Association for Social

Transformation, a local NGO, was the top scoring NGO with 44 percent.

In its 11-point recommendations, the TIB said the authorities concerned need to formulate their own proactive information disclosure and dissemination guidelines and publish them on the websites; they need to monitor to ensure effective

to enhance the technical skills of

implementation of the guidelines.

Delhi for quick implementation of agreement

Indian FM writes to his Bangladesh counterpart

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India has called for quick implementation of the memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the field of disaster management resilience

Jaishankar in a letter to Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, comes weeks after the Indian state of Maharashtra saw heavy rainfall that caused flooding and landslide, leaving nearly 150 people dead and scores missing.

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press briefing at the Rab headquarters in the capital.

Members of the elite force detained Pori Moni and Raz after raiding their houses on Wednesday night. They seized foreign liquor and narcotics from there

Ashraful Islam alias Dipu, an associate of Pori Moni, and Md Sabuj Ali, Raz's associate, were also shown

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court placed Pori Moni, Raz and their two associates on four-day remand in connection with the two cases filed with Banani Police Station, Additional Public Prosecutor Tapash Kumar Pal told The Daily Star.

passed the order after Sheikh Sohel . Rana, investigating officer of the cases, sought seven-day remand for each of the four arrestees.

The cases were handed over to the Detective Branch of Police, Nure Alam Miah, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station, told this newspaper late last night.

At the press briefing, Khandaker Al Moin said Rab raided Raz's house Mahbub Piasha.

Rab recovered liquor, narcotics and

Piasha, model Moriom Akter Mou and Mishu were arrested earlier in similar drives.

Pori Moni used to host regular parties at her home, where Nazrul Islam Raz had been supplying foreign liquor and various types of narcotics, said Rab officials.

Rab officials said the detainees organised parties attended by models at flats in posh Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara areas where people used to take drugs and engage in immoral

we have got names of some more people who are said to be involved in the racket. We are now verifying Rab Additional Director those," General (Operations) Col KM Azad

The officials said the members of the racket blackmailed influential and well-off people by taking compromising pictures of them, and extracted huge amount of money from them with threats of releasing the photos.

Meanwhile, Pori Moni's lawyer Nilanjona Rifat Surovi told the court that the liquor shown as recovered was not from Pori Moni's house. She had a few empty liquor bottles in her house and they were kept as decoration pieces. Also, she had no ice and no LSD, according to court sources.

"She is a well-known actress and the

Country hits

FROM PAGE 1

been detected since the first cases were reported on March 8 last year. In the last 15 days, 1,86,151 people tested positive for Covid-19 in the country.

Of the dead, one was under 10 years old, one was between 11 and 20 years old, five were between 21 and 30 years, 25 between 31 and 40 years, 31 between 41 and 50 years, 59 between 51 and 60

According to the DGHS, 1,647 people died between last Friday and yesterday. In the previous week, 1,570 people had died from Covid.

At least 15,786 Covid-19 patients were registered recovered vesterday. The total number of recoveries now stands at 11,56,943 and the recovery rate at

The ongoing lockdown has been extended to August 10 to curb

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban inaugurating a memorial postal stamp, an envelope and a seal on the occasion of 72nd birth anniversary of Sheikh Kamal.

engagement framework in place.
"The government's steps taken so far suggest that those holding

officer, in each upazila.

In a latest development, the health

Besides, none of those reformed

The Daily Star has talked with more

They said they have implemented

"The district administration engaged

Óf the 61 unions in Kushtia district,

Mayors of different municipalities

in Dinajpur.

LEADING BY EXAMPLE

After Chapainawabganj became one

also formed on May 26. Besides, the district administration

other health rules. The result is inspiring for others --

"If any poor person is infected, we stigma are the key actions in this regard.

Govt organs faring better than NGOs NGOs has been published in Bangla.

in the extent of information they

in the study included ministries,

It also recommended training And of the NGOs, 44 percent employees in website management.

87.47 percent.

transmission.











PHOTO: **PID**

volunteers take care of the patient until

they recover," Tariqul Islam, chairman

of Baliadanga union in the district, told

Savar upazila health and family

planning office, on the other hand, has mobilised around 4,500 active

volunteers and representatives from

different professional organisations as

well as schools to successfully contain

The upazila on the outskirts of the

"We ensured every medicine store

capital is home to around 70 lakh

has a pulse oximeter so that people

can check their oxygen level easily. We

engaged local youth clubs in supporting the people with symptoms," Savar Upazila Health and Family Planning

Officer Mohammed Shayemul Huda

He said they did not need additional

"What we did was that we gave an

He said they also encouraged people

We have got good results-- we have

to stay in isolation if they showed

only 54 deaths due to Covid-19 so far,"

On June 20, the EPHC of the DGHS

submitted a draft Community

Engagement Framework to Prof

Meeriady Sabrina Flora, additional

Since then, there has been no

We are so busy responding to the

daily issues related to Covid-19 that we

could not manage time to work on it,'

Prof Dr Nazmul Islam, line director of

the DGHS, who was the convener of the

nine-member technical group formed

to prepare the draft, told The Daily Star.

alternative to implementing such

frameworks to fight this pandemic as it

would not be over soon.

least nine times higher.

particularly the local

leaders; and media people, etc.

Upazila.

He, however, said there was no

While drafting the framework, the

technical committee considered two

things. One was a Yale University study

in Bangladesh published on May 7

this year which stated that lockdown

produces four times the benefit of mask

distribution, but the economic cost is at

Another was the experience in Savar

The framework has 12 actions

lawmakers,

and involves elected representatives,

transport sector leaders, local

businessmen, professionals such as

doctors, teachers; social and religious

An effective communication with the

community to bring behaviour change

particularly for mask wearing, treatment

of patients, providing financial support

to the vulnerable and removing

misinformation, fear, anxiety, and

FRAMEWORK STILL AWAITING

director general of the DGHS.

progress on finalising the draft.

identity card to each volunteer. And we

regularly join their local campaign. This

inspired them very much," he added.

The Daily Star.

infections and deaths.

told The Daily Star.

said Huda.

APPROVAL

funds for these activities.

with Dhaka

and mitigation. The MoU was signed during Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh in March.

The request, which was made by Indian External Affairs Minister S

Pori shown

arrested in the two narcotics cases.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mamunur Rashid

after getting information from Mishu Hasan, an associate of model Faria

sex toys from the house.

activities. "After interrogating the arrestees,

told The Daily Star.

Drives are underway to bust the racket which includes actors, film producers, models, and businessmen. among others, said sources in law enforcement agencies.

case has been filed to tarnish her image, she told the court, praying for her bail.

Among yesterday's 264 deceased,

years, 74 between 61 and 70 years, 50 oetween 71 and 80 years, 15 between 81 and 90 years and three between 91 and 100 years old, added the release.

UNB, Dhaka

were carried out against him," she said.

Sports Council (NSC) Award-2021. The function was held at Shaheed

Sheikh Kamal, the eldest son of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu August 5, 1949 at Tungipara, Gopalganj. Hasina said Kamal led a very simple

life despite being a son of the then "Though his father was the prime

More people, vehicles on roads; govt extends lockdown till Aug 10 Since April 5, the government has

been enforcing restrictions in phases

to stop the spread of coronavirus

transmission. All shopping malls and markets will remain closed until August 10. Only kitchen markets and corner shops can stay open from 9:00am to 3:00pm. All forms of social gatherings will

be prohibited, including religious and

political gatherings. No restaurant can provide dine-in service and can only

In a circular, Bangladesh Bank yesterday decided to keep banks closed on August 8 to contain the latest wave of the coronavirus pandemic. Banks remained closed on Sunday

offer takeaways.

decision of BB.

doors open for clients from 10:00am to 3:00pm during working days, according to a Bangladesh Bank notice. Banks will be allowed to remain

open until 4:30pm to complete work

The decision has been taken in

other than transaction activities.

and Wednesday last week as per the

These are also ordered to keep their

airlines will operate six flights each to line with a government instruction to continue the ongoing strict restrictions "Stricter lockdown" has been in force from July 1 with an eight-day break during the Eid-ul-Azha. It resumed

again from July 23 morning and it was

scheduled to end vesterday.

from August 11.

on Covid-19 on Tuesday, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque said shops and offices will open

Operation of public transport will

also resume on a limited scale, he said.

After an inter-ministerial meeting

Messi to leave Barcelona

most of its business to private equity firm CVC Capital Partners for 2.7 billion euros (\$3.2 billion). "Despite FC Barcelona and Lionel Messi ĥaving reached an agreement and the clear intention of both parties to sign a new contract today, this cannot happen because of financial and

"As a result of this situation, Messi shall not be staying on at FC Barcelona. Both parties deeply regret that the wishes of the player and the club will

expresses its gratitude to the player for

his contribution to the aggrandisement

Barcelona wholeheartedly

ultimately not be fulfilled.

infection.

structural obstacles (Spanish La Liga

regulations)," Barca said in a statement.

Delta variant found in 98pc was conducted on them to know

which variant was responsible for the

M Sharfuddin Ahmed, vicechancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Muiib Medical University and also the supervisor of the genome sequencing research project of the institution, revealed the findings of the survey at a programme yesterday. The research programme was aimed at unveiling the character of the

preparing a database of the Covid-19 genome in Bangladesh. The Delta variant was first detected

genome and types of mutation and

discovering the inter-relations with

the global Covid-19 genome as well as

in India in October last year. Fifty-three percent of the samples analysed in the study were from male patients. The study included samples from people aged between nine months and 90 years.

"No age group is immune to coronavirus infection. It cannot be said that children have no risk of

of the club and wishes him all the very best for the future in his personal and

professional life." Messi had tried to leave Barcelona in August 2020, making a formal request for an exit after a break down in his relationship with then president Josep Maria Bartomeu but successor Joan Laporta, who presided over the

Argentine's rise to greatness, convinced Messi, who signed his first contract with Barcelona in 2000 on a napkin aged 13, is the club's all-time top scorer

and appearance maker with 672 goals

He remains without a club ahead of

in 778 games in all competitions.

the 2021-22 season.

coronavirus infection," Sharfuddin

problems, diabetes and those aged over 60 face high risk of mortality if infected for the second time. According to the study, the Alpha variant, first found in the UK, dominated the country in December 2020, before the South African Beta

existence of the Nigerian variant in one sample. The Delta variant was first detected

in the country on May 8. It is far

of concern".

the first month of BSMMU's research and updates will be revealed in the months to follow. The study found that people with

variant dominated in March 2021 but now most people are being infected

He said the study findings are from

comorbidities like cancer, respiratory

with the Delta variant. The research team also found the

more transmissible than the virus's previous strains. The World Health Organisation has termed it a "variant