

BANGLADESH UPDATE



4,136
New cases in 24hrs



13,43,396
Total cases



22,411
Deaths



11,88,820
Recoveries



4,296,361
Deaths



202,733,416
Total cases

Bangladesh sends Covid meds to Indonesia

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has gifted emergency Covid-19 medicines to Indonesia, which has become Asia's new coronavirus epicenter reporting more than 3.57 million cases and more than 102,000 deaths as of yesterday.

On behalf of the government of Bangladesh, Air Vice Marshal Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman, Bangladesh ambassador to Indonesia, yesterday formally handed over the medicines to Wiendra Waworuntu, director (public medicines and health supplies management) of the Ministry of Health Affairs, Indonesia.

"This is a symbol of goodwill gesture for the people of Indonesia, a friendly country of Bangladesh," the ambassador told this correspondent.

The medicines have been provided as per the directive of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, according

to Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "Bangladesh remains committed to standing beside Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries," the ministry said in a statement.

Beacon Pharma, a leading pharmaceutical company of Bangladesh, provided with the emergency medicines.

Indonesia and Bangladesh enjoy a friendly relation, especially relating to the Rohingya crisis, in the international arena.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh High Commission in the Maldives yesterday organised a blood donation campaign at the high commission premises on the occasion of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation of Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The high commission thanked all who participated in the campaign.



Despite the lockdown to curb the transmission of Covid-19, heavy traffic is seen on Airport Road near Banani around 6:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Big fish under scanner

FROM PAGE 1

CID sources said they conducted special drives at six houses yesterday and seized electronic devices, including mobile phones, and passports.

The investigators also spoke to high officials -- one chairman and one managing director -- of two private banks, who were close to Pori. One of them gifted her a luxury car, sources said.

"If the investigation reveals the names of anyone associated with them, the person, no matter how influential, will be brought to book," CID Additional DIG Sheikh Omar Faruk told reporters at the CID headquarters in Malibagh.

He, however, did not name anyone when asked about the bank officials.

"We have already received the case documents. The arrestees are already in custody and being questioned as part of the investigation."

Investigators said they would conduct forensic tests on the phones of Pori Moni and others in custody to scrutinise their communications between them and other suspects.

Sheikh Omar said the CID has a variety of expert systems, such as a DNA lab, forensic lab and chemical lab so that it can carry out investigations thoroughly and efficiently.

"However, it will take time for us to complete the investigation."

About Pori Moni's interaction with a DB official, he said, "We will enquire into these matters thoroughly and find out the facts. No one is above the law. Whether he is the investigating supervisor or whoever, we want to find out the truth through an impartial investigation."

Pori was arrested at her Banani residence on August 4 and was placed on a four-day remand.

Police, during a raid, claimed to have seized a huge stash of narcotics from her house.

Meanwhile, Golam Saklain Shithil, an additional deputy commissioner (DB Gulshan Division), was withdrawn from the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's DB, following allegations of unprofessional conduct with the actor.

"ADC Golam Saklain has been restrained from all activities of the DB. He has been posted at the DMP's Public Order Management [west]

division," said a message sent by the DMP's media wing.

DMP Commissioner Shafiqul Islam told The Daily Star he has spoken to the Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed over this matter and that the Police Headquarters will probe the incident.

Officials at PHQ said no probe committee was formed yet as of 8:30pm yesterday.

When Shithil's government phone was contacted, another person picked up and said, "He [Shithil] is on leave. He has turned in his phone to the authorities."

Several media outlets reported that ADC Shithil had engaged in unprofessional conduct with Pori Moni while supervising a case filed by her in June.

In the case, she accused five persons, including Nasir U Mahmud, former president of Uttara Club Limited.

Shithil, however, refuted the allegations when speaking to reporters earlier.

Meanwhile, Pori Moni's membership of the Film Artist Association has been suspended yesterday, said Misha Sawdagor, president of the association, yesterday afternoon.

In another development, a Dhaka court yesterday placed Junayed Karim Jimmy, costume designer and one of Pori's associates, on a three-day remand in a case filed against him with Banani Police Station under the Narcotics Control Act.

Earlier on June 13, Pori Moni at a press conference alleged she had been a victim of attempted rape in Dhaka Boat Club by Nasir and his cohorts.

Film Producer Chayanika Chowdhury, who was interrogated by the DB officials on Friday, was seen at the press conference. Jimmy was seen accompanying Pori during the Boat Club incident in CCTV footages.

Jimmy was detained from Gulshan Shooting Club on Friday evening. Police also claimed to have recovered 225 pieces of yaba from his possession, court sources said.

Another accused in the case is one Sazzad, who is absconding.

In the ongoing week-long arrest spree, at least eight people, including Pori Moni, two models and Jimmy, were held.

Australia scrape to first victory

FROM PAGE 1

the visitors lost skipper Matthew Wade to a Mahedi Hasan delivery in the very first over.

Christian made his intent clear, smashing 30 runs off Shakib Al Hasan in the fourth over as he hit the premier all-rounder for five massive sixes, making the challenge even steeper for the home side.

The Tigers, however, did spark a turnaround when Mustafizur Rahman, Nasum Ahmed and Mahedi picked up five quick wickets -- including those of Christian after a 15-ball 39 blitz and in-form Mitchell Marsh for a 15-ball 11 -- for just 18 runs at one stage of the game, reducing the visitors to a vulnerable position of 65 for six after 10.2 overs.

Bowling very economically, Mustafizur, Mahedi picked up two wickets each while Nasum and Shoriful Islam had one scalp each to their names but that could not stop Australia as a 34-run seventh-wicket stand between Ashton Agar (27 off 27) and Andrew Tye (4* off 7) eventually saw the visitors home.

Earlier, Bangladesh's troubles with the bat, a constant feature of the team throughout the series but never highlighted due to the bowling prowess taking them over the line each time in the first three T20s, were laid bare.

Opener Soumya Sarkar's misery continued as he once again threw his

wicket away after a single-digit score, a 10-ball eight, for the fourth successive time in the series.

Experienced Shakib's arrival at No. 3 was supposed to bring stability to the Tigers' batting line-up. However, the all-rounder had his worst day of the series with the bat, departing to Hazlewood after a stuttering 26-ball 15, that included 18 dots and a solitary boundary which the all-rounder had to manufacture with a scoop shot past the wicketkeeper.

A slow Mirpur pitch that had a lot of zip in-store soon turned out to be the doom for the Tigers as Swepson's googlies had both skipper Mahmudullah Riyad and Nurul Hasan trapped in front in back-to-back deliveries, leaving Bangladesh reeling at 51 for four after 11 overs.

Swepson kept troubling the Bangladesh batters with his wrong ones, making Naim Sheikh (28 off 36) his third victim after the left-hander tried forcing a slog-sweep but ended up slicing it up and into the hands of the wicketkeeper. The leg-spinner finished with impressive figures of three for 12 in four overs.

With the pressure mounting due to a scoring rate below five, Bangladesh never looked on top while batting, but a cameo of 17-ball 20 from in-form Afif Hossain and Mahedi's quick-fire 16-ball 23 at the death somehow helped them past the three-figure score.

Into a mire of mismanagement

FROM PAGE 1

upazila's Krishnanagar Abdul Jabbar School and College, people without masks crowded around the booths crying for vaccines after 12:00pm.

But there was none to go around, said Assistant Health Inspector Monirul Islam Bhuiyan.

At Bijoyagar upazila's Paharpur union parishad complex, Monju Akhter lamented how she stood in a line for 4 hours but was left without the jab. "People are standing chest-to-back without masks. This is going to further spread infection," she said.

At the vaccination points in Dinajpur's Birail upazila's Forkabad and Dhamoil union, vaccines ran out within two hours of starting.

Abu Sahadat Ripon, the secretary

of Farkabad Union Parishad, said that around 800 people registered to get the vaccines on Saturday morning, but only 266 could be vaccinated.

Our Gazipur correspondent reported a similar situation where many booths had to close shop in two hours.

At Sreepur's Pilot Girl's High School centre, people were told that the centre was out of vaccines at noon.

In Munshiganj's Louhajang, Upazila Health Officer Nur-e-Alam Khan told our correspondent that 5 unions out of 10 saw a shortage of doses. Meanwhile at Sirajdikhan, two out of nine unions saw a similar shortage.

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Israel strikes Gaza after incendiary balloon launches

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel conducted overnight air strikes against Hamas targets in Gaza in retaliation for the launching of incendiary balloons from the Palestinian enclave that caused fires in southern Israel, the country's military said early yesterday.

"In response to continual launches of incendiary balloons from Gaza into Israel throughout the day, a short while ago IDF fighter jets struck a Hamas military compound and a rocket launching site," the Israeli army said in a statement.

"The rocket launching site was located in close proximity to civilian surroundings, once again emphasising how Hamas continues to endanger Palestinian civilians."

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Incendiary balloons caused four fires on Friday in the Eshkol region near Gaza, Israeli firefighters said.

The last time such an attack took place, on July 25, the Israeli army retaliated with air strikes on targets of the Islamist movement Hamas, which rules the Palestinian enclave.

There have been sporadic incidents, including a series of incendiary balloon launches, since a May 21 ceasefire ended 11 days of deadly fighting between Israel and Hamas.

That conflict killed 260 Palestinians including some fighters, according to Gaza authorities.

In Israel, 13 people were killed, including a soldier, by projectiles fired from Gaza, the police and army said.

Friday's balloon launches come after the Israeli army carried out retaliatory shelling in Lebanon in response to a volley of rockets fired by Hezbollah, a Hamas ally.

New Asean envoy to Myanmar says he wants full access when he visits

REUTERS, Bandar Seri Begawan

The Brunei diplomat appointed by a Southeast Asian regional bloc as its special envoy to Myanmar yesterday said he should be given full access to all parties when he visits the strife-torn country, where the military overthrew an elected government.

Speaking days after his appointment by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), Erywan Yusof gave no date for his visit to Myanmar, whose civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi and other officials have been detained since the Feb. 1 coup.

Hospital beds

FROM PAGE 1

the hospitals as the same doctors, nurses and other health staffers are treating all types of patients.

But the transmission of the coronavirus does not take place in hospitals or clinics.

"You know where it happens -- out in the streets, in shops, in ferries, in factories, in villages markets by those who are not wearing masks and not maintaining the social distance."

Maleque went on to call for people's cooperation in flattening the curve of coronavirus.

BSMMU FILED HOSPITAL

About the newly inaugurated field hospital, Maleque said: "This hospital has all the necessary treatment arrangements for Covid-19 patients. However, only new and critically ill patients will be treated here."

Those whose oxygen saturation level will be 80 or below will be treated at the facility, said Debabrata Banik, coordinator of the hospital.

"If other patients come, we will also provide them with primary care, but will send them back to their homes after that," he told The Daily Star.

At present, the facility has 357 beds, which will be increased to 1,000 in phases, according to the BSMMU officials.

Of the 357 beds, there are 20 ICU and 20 HDU beds; the general beds have a central oxygen supply.

Country records

FROM PAGE 1

also increased by more than 23 percent during the period.

In the 24 hours to 8:00am yesterday, the country registered 8,136 new cases after testing 31,714 samples.

The positivity rate was 25.65 percent yesterday, a continuous downward trend since Monday when a positivity rate of 30 percent was reported.

On the previous day, the positivity rate was 26.25 percent.

With the latest count, the total number of fatalities from Covid-19 rose to 22,411 and the total confirmed cases to 13,43,396.

The Dhaka division saw the highest number of deaths yesterday (101), followed by Chattogram (62), Khulna (45), Mymensingh (16), Barishal (12), Rangpur (10), Rajshahi (8) and Sylhet (7).