

**1988 UPRISING IN MYANMAR**  
Protesters mark anniversary  
with flash mobs, marches of  
defiance against junta  
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Your Right to Know

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**"The government's every step regarding the vaccination has manifested how it has failed in ensuring vaccines for the country's people."**  
BNP SECRETARY GENERAL MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR



**"Remittance faced a negative growth last year after long. Is the magic of the inflow coming to an end?"**  
CONVENOR OF CITIZEN'S PLATFORM FOR SDGS DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA



**"This is going to be the starkest warning yet that human behaviour is alarmingly accelerating global warming..."**  
BRITAIN'S COP26 PRESIDENT ALOK SHARMA  
ON UN CLIMATE REPORT

## Curbs to go when needed most

*Govt decides to lift most restrictions on public, vehicular movement from Wednesday*

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY




The government has decided to lift most of the restrictions on people's movement and public transport from Wednesday even as Covid-19 continues to exact a heavy toll on people's lives with high death and infection rates.

Public transport like buses, trains and launches will be allowed to carry passengers at full capacity. Shopping malls, markets, shops and restaurants will be allowed to stay open from 10:00am to 8:00pm, a government circular said yesterday.

All public, private and autonomous offices, banks and financial institutions will reopen.

On the other hand, only half of any transport fleet would be allowed to operate daily on the roads, raising concerns among road users over possible scarcity of transport on weekdays.

There are also questions about how exactly the authority would segregate 50 percent of the vehicles on a daily basis, with transport owners finding the decision tough to implement.

-  Public transports to run with full capacity
-  50 percent vehicles would be allowed to operate daily
-  Previous bus and launch fare would be reinstated

In March this year, the government raised bus and launch fares by 60 percent provided that operators would carry passengers at no more than 50 percent of vehicles' capacities so that social distancing guidelines could be followed.

While yesterday's circular did not mention whether transport authorities could charge the old fares, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) said they would reinstate the original fares from August 11.

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The vaccination corner at Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital in Gazipur is absolutely crammed with people who went there to get the Covid jab. Crowding defeats the purpose of Covid restrictions. But the picture has been similar in health facilities across the country for the last two days.

PHOTO: ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE

BANGAMATA'S INFLUENCE IN POLITICS

## She helped make timely decisions

*Says PM on her birth anniversary, hands Bangamata Fazilatun Nesa Mujib Padak to 5 women*

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangamata Begum Fazilatun Nesa Mujib had contributed to taking right political decisions timely for the country alongside managing her house and family.

"Bangamata not only managed her family but also helped [Bangabandhu and other political leaders] take time befitting exact political decisions for the country," she said.

She also said Begum Fazilatun Nesa Mujib used to give directives and convey messages, especially to the Awami League and Bangladesh Chhatra League so they were in the right direction, during the country's all struggles and movements whenever Bangabandhu was in jail.

The premier was addressing the Bangamata Fazilatun Nesa Mujib Padak-2021 distribution ceremony as the chief guest at Osmani Memorial Auditorium, joining virtually from her official residence the Gono Bhaban.

Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Gopalganj was also connected.

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs organised the function, **BANGABANDHU'S SOURCE OF STRENGTH - PAGE 3**

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## 241 more die, 10,299 get Covid

STAR REPORT

Two hundred and forty-one people have died from Covid-19 in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

In a press release, DGHS said the daily positivity rate stood at 24.52 percent during this period.

The total number of deaths in the country has reached 22,652 and the death rate stands at 1.67 percent.

A total of 10,299 new infections were recorded during the period, taking the total number of people infected to 1,353,695, added the release.

The total positivity rate stands at 16.68 percent.

A total of 42,003 samples were tested across the country in those 24 hours.

A total of 16,627 Covid-19 patients have recovered during the period. The total number of recoveries now stands at 1,205,447 and the recovery rate at 89.05 percent.

Among 241 dead, 128 were men and 113 women.

Of them, one was aged below 10 years old, one aged between 11 and 20 years, nine between 21 and 30 years, 17 between 31 and 40 years, 28 between 41 and 50 years, 54 between 51 and 60 years, 70 between 61 and 70 years, 49 between 71 and 80 years, nine between 81 and 90 years, and three between 91 and 100 years, added the release.

GOVT'S 6-DAY CAMPAIGN

## Vaccine target met in 2 days

*Many centres run out of jabs; tens of thousands return unvaccinated*

STAR REPORT

The government achieved the target of administering 32 lakh Covid vaccine jabs in just two days though it had fixed a six-day timeline for the mass inoculation drive.

Hundreds of people across the country had to return home empty-handed from many vaccination centres that ran out of vaccine shots.

"We have already achieved the target today [yesterday]... The vaccination centres that are yet to administer jabs under the campaign will do so any day within August 12," Dr Shamsul Haque, member secretary of the Covid-19 vaccination campaign, told The Daily Star last night.

With the Delta variant spreading across the country, the government chalked out the special inoculation campaign at around 6,000 centres up to the union level in rural areas and the ward level in urban areas in addition to 1,005 centres up to the upazila level.

Under the campaign, people aged 25 and above are getting jabs. Those aged above 50, women and physically challenged people are being inoculated on a priority basis.

The vaccination centres in Dhaka and other parts of the country saw huge crowds yesterday, the second day of the campaign.

As in the previous day, many centres in the capital ran out of vaccine shots within a couple of hours after the inoculation drive began at 9:00am.

Waiting in long queues for hours, hundreds of people returned home unvaccinated.

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INT'L DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

## Under attack, time and again

MINTU DESHWARA

Centenarian Sami Lakchiang is considered the oldest person in Kakrachhara Punji, an indigenous village located in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila.

Though nearing the end of her life, Lakchiang is still not free from the fear of



eviction from her ancestral land.

Like Lakchiang, hundreds of indigenous people of around 90 punjis (villages) in Sylhet division -- mainly belonging to the Khasi and Garo communities -- face repeated attacks on their land and livelihoods.

The indigenous people in the punjis mainly make a living from cultivating betel

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## Curtain falls on Tokyo 2020

AFP, Tokyo

The Tokyo 2020 Games were declared closed on Sunday by IOC chief Thomas Bach, who said it had been the "most challenging Olympic journey" after a year's pandemic delay and threats of cancellation.

Bach called the Tokyo Games "unprecedented" as he addressed the 68,000-seat Olympic Stadium, which was empty of spectators as Japan battles a record coronavirus outbreak.

"In these difficult times we are all living through, you give the world the most precious of gifts: hope," the International Olympic Committee president told athletes at the ceremony.

"And now I have to mark the end of this most challenging Olympic journey to Tokyo: I declare the Games of the 32nd Olympiad closed," Bach said.

It marked a low-key end to an extraordinary Olympics that have mostly

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Fireworks go off as a thank you message is displayed on the giant screen inside the Tokyo Olympic Stadium during the closing ceremony of Tokyo 2020 yesterday. The ceremony brought an end of 16 days of sporting extravaganza held under strict Covid protocols, with USA topping the medals tally followed by China in second and Japan in third. International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach called it the 'most challenging Olympic journey' as the flame was doused and the flag was handed over to Anne Hidalgo, the mayor of Paris where the next edition of the Games will be held in 2024.

PHOTO: REUTERS

NURSING MOTHERS, MOMS-TO-BE

## Govt decides to inoculate them

*Consultation with doctor made mandatory*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to inoculate pregnant women and nursing mothers against Covid-19.

But as of early today, it was not clear when the decision will be implemented and whether the age bar will be lowered in case the recipient is a pregnant woman or a new mother.

The Expanded Programme on Immunization in a statement yesterday said, "As per the recommendation from the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group the government decided to inoculate the mothers-to-be and the nursing mothers against Covid-19."

The advisory group made the recommendation on July 31.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) in a circular yesterday said expecting and nursing mothers will have to register for the vaccine and take the jab at vaccination centres in government hospitals. They will also have to consult a doctor before they get the shot.

But they would not get the shot in case they felt unwell on the day of vaccination or had uncontrolled long-term illnesses or vaccine allergy.

A mother who might experience an adverse effect after taking the first dose will not get the second one.

