







12,34,762



4,322,361

**204,509,677**Total cases

## Dengue, Covid **Double Blow**

DGHS starts training docs tomorrow

HELEMUL ALAM

As a person's chance of being infected with both dengue and Covid-19 is rising, the health directorate has taken an initiative to train doctors involved in dengue treatment across the country

"We are going to hold an online training programme on August 12 for the doctors of public and private hospitals who are providing treatment to dengue patients. They will be trained on what to do when a person contracts both dengue and coronavirus," said Afsana Alamgir Khan, deputy programme manager (malaria and Aedes transmitted diseases) of the Directorate General of Health Services

Bangladesh Society of Medicine will conduct the training. In the event, doctors will be guided on what they should do when a patient carries both the viruses and remain in normal and critical conditions, she said.

"We don't have any data about the cases of carrying both the viruses, but we are informed by Bangladesh Society of Medicine that there are some cases like this. For this, we are going to hold the training," said Afsana.

According to the DGHS data, 226 people with dengue fever were hospitalised in the country in 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday. Of them, 15 are from outside Dhaka.

With them, 4,979 patients have so far been diagnosed with dengue this year, of which only 214 are from outside

Among 4,979 infected, 2,321 were detected in the current month, while 2,286 were hospitalised in July, 272 in June and 43 were infected in May, according to the DGHS data.

There is a national guideline on dengue treatment, updated in 2021, which all the doctors and nurses of public and private hospitals follow. But there is no guideline about the treatment for a patient carrying both the viruses, said Afsana.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Zahid Maleque is expected to inaugurate the training at Hotel InterContinental Dhaka around 11:00am tomorrow, she

Doctors from 137 public and private medical college hospitals, over 100 Sadar hospitals and 492 upazila health complexes will join the training from their institutes virtually, she said.

Afsana said they will make the link of the programme available in the DGHS website and Facebook page and if anyone wants to join the training, he or she can.

"We will also record the programme and upload it in DGĤS website and anyone can watch it from there

Experts opined that the recovery battle for patients infected with both the

Abdul Rahim, consultant of department of medicine of DNCC Covid-19 dedicated hospital, said he got two patients suffering from both the diseases in the hospital during Eidul-Azha. The number of this type of patients are now increasing, he added.

Patients suffering from fever and pain have Covid or dengue test. If they are diagnosed with any of the disease, they do not usually go for the test of the other disease. But the patients should undergo both tests, he added.

Medical College and Hospital, said doctors will struggle to handle patients infected with both dengue and Covid-19

"A dengue patient faces bleeding while a coronavirus patient faces blood clotting. We use an injection of anticoagulation for coronavirus patients when it is needed to prevent blood clots. But we cannot do it when the same patient also carries dengue virus and his platelet counts remain under one lakh," he explained. **DENGUE CORNER** 

Afsana said dengue corner has already been opened in all public hospitals.

"We are providing free NS1 testing at the dengue corner in all public hospitals and health complexes across the country and a patient will get proper advice after the test. They will be advised where to go for their admission or will be referred to go home with necessary prescription," she said.

Afsana said the government has

The hospitals are: Mitford Hospital, Lalkuthi Maternity Hospital in Mirpur, Kamalapur Railway General Hospital, Kamrangirchar 31-bed hospital, Aminbazar 20-bed hospital and Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master General Hospital in Tongi.

# Preserve all documents

from countries of Eastern Europe, Planning Minister MA Mannan quoted Hasina at the press conference after the meeting.

He said that government wants to preserve the documents related to Liberation War so that future generations can know about the real

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) passed the three-year project to be

documents related to the Liberation

Liberation War will be collected for

based on 400 heroic freedom fighters' interviews will be produced. Books, periodicals, publications, songbooks, posters, leaflets, photos, manuscripts, and other Liberation War-related materials will be collected and

preserved. Organising regular exhibitions from the archives of audio-visual documents

Heavier vehicles will be carried across

the river via the Paturia-Douladia and

immediately, BIWTC Chairman Syed

Tajul Islam told The Daily Star.

The decision was put into effect

It's difficult to control large ferries

with heavy vehicles during strong

currents, he said, adding that the

number of ferries on the two aforesaid

suspended acting master Delwarul

Islam and helmsman Abul Kalam

Azad of the ferry Bir Shrestha Jahangir,

"for failing to conduct the ferry

The BIWTC formed a five-member

committee headed by Rashedul Islam,

director (technical) of BIWTC, to

investigate the incident and submit its

The Daily Star yesterday that officials

who inspected the site said the ferry

caused "little damage" to the structure.

caused more damage than that of

Asked whether the latest crash

Project Director Shafiqul Islam told

Monday night, BIWTC

Harina-Alubazar routes.

routes will be increased.

findings in three days.

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On

properly".

research opportunities for researchers, asked the authorities concerned students, and filmmakers in specialised to collect and conserve all the War archives and film libraries, seminars, of Liberation related documents and symposiums on various Liberation from various countries, especially War topics will also be held, reads the project proposal.

Additionally, a film museum will be established and Bangladesh Film Archive's technical capacity will be enhanced, according to the project proposal.

Mannan said that a total of 10 projects were approved yesterday involving about Tk 7,985.51 crore. Of the approved 10 projects, nine are new while one is a revised project.

While approving a project replacing existing bailey and other risky bridges at dilapidated, narrow and important points of Rangpur Zone with a cost Tk 861.39 crore, Mannan said the PM asked the authorities concerned to find out such dilapidated bridges across the country and for replacing those.

Mannan also said that ECNEC approved another project titled Madarganj 100MW Solar Power Plant at Solar Park, Jamalpur with Tk 1,511.79 crore.

He said that ECNEC had earlier proposed to name this plant after the name of the PM since it would be the country's largest and iconic solar power plant, but the premier opposed the proposal and asked to name it Madarganj solar power plant at Solar related to the Liberation War, expanding Park.

# anytime," she said.

diseases -- considered life threatening --

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy

already started their treatment in six hospitals dedicated for dengue patients and the service has started last week.

> Passport has died out." The high commission said this was beyond its jurisdiction and that the home ministry and the DIP were

A stone-laden truck lies on its side in a canal in Shariatpur yesterday after the Bailey

Passport delivery stumbles

on temporary basis with a standard load capacity of 7.50 tonnes.

Shihab said the DIP has already signed

a new contract with the Malaysian

company, IRIS Corporation, for an

additional 60 lakh passports and the

server will be upgraded at the soonest.

DIP, meanwhile, said the capacity

of the server exhausted in early June

but neither IRIS nor the DIP took

last four weeks," a source said on

"No passports were printed in the

The Bangladesh high commissions

in Malaysia, Singapore, Maldives, and

Lebanon even issued circulars saying

there was a shortage of passport

supply due to a technical issue in the

On July 30, the Bangladesh High

Commission in Singapore issued a

notice on its Facebook page, saying the

renewed passports of those who had

applied after June 8, had not reached

the southeast country. It requested the

passport seekers to wait until further

in Malaysia on August 7 in a circular said

a huge number of applications were in

the pipeline as "the capacity of the server

at the Department of Immigration and

Realising that we need a higher flow of

oxygen, we took up a plan to develop

a CPAP using a Venturi-mechanism

[which speeds up flow of a fluid] for

OxyJet is also fitted with a peep valve

to regulate the CPAP pressure as

required by the patient, Dr Taufiq said.

outlet of OxyJet prevent infection and

contamination, he added.

ras time for clinical trials.

Besides, viral filters in the inlet and

Once the design phase was done, it

Over three phases, OxyJet was tried

out on 26 patients and researchers

found the device to be clinically

"non-inferior" compared to HFNC

the treatment of Covid-19 patients.

The Bangladesh High Commission

initiatives to address it in time.

Saturday.

MRP server.

Sources in the home ministry and

bridge, not designed to carry so much weight, collapsed. Most Bailey bridges were built

A Bangladesh embassy official in Riyadh told The Daily Star that they wrote to the DG of DIP several months back, detailing the problems the migrants were facing for the delay in passport delivery and requesting a quick supply of passports, but there was no solution. 'MONTHS' DELAY'

Against this backdrop, Bangladeshi migrants have expressed sheer frustration and anger.

They said more than one crore Bangladeshi migrants send home annually \$18 billion remittance, keeping the country's economy vibrant, but their concerns are not being addressed by the authorities on an urgent basis.

Waheed Nizam from Malaysia said it was taking four to six months to get passports while the migrants were passing days in uncertainty and in fear of detention by Malaysian police.

"With no timely passport delivery, many of us are not able to apply for work permit renewals. Some are even not being able to apply for the recalibration programme [amnesty] meant for the undocumented ones, he told The Daily Star by phone.

Rashidul Islam, a Bangladeshi in Singapore, said it was a matter of huge concern that they were not getting passports even three to four months after submitting applications.

OxyJet: the long road to approval
Prof Dr Mohammed Robed Amin, production of further 150 units,

FROM PAGE 1
Prof Dr Mohammed Robed Amin, production of further 150 units, develop bubble CPAP for adults.

Prof Dr Mohammed Robed Amin, production of further 150 units, develop bubble CPAP for adults.

General of Health Services (DGHS)

and who was involved in the clinical

trials, said he found OxyJet very

effective and "non-inferior" to HFNC.

"While using OxyJet, we could

On July 28, approval of the device

was signed by the directorate general

of drug administration (DGDA),

which allowed the production of 200

units of OxyJet for use in hospitals on

conditions -- the researchers will have

to monitor 200 patients for benefits,

side-effects, and potential risks. The

researchers also have to monitor how

equipment to produce 50 units. But

"At present, we have sufficient

this device can be improved further.

But this approval came with

A Bangladeshi migrant in Saudi Arabia said they were not able to have their iqamas (residency permits) renewed due to long delays in getting passports from the embassy.

PHOTO: STAR

Apart from the pressure on the MRP server and delays due to the pandemic, some officials of the Bangladesh missions said, another factor could be that passport brokers or the migrants might not have filed online applications properly.

Mohammad Harun Al Rashid, a migrant rights activist in Malaysia, said it was beyond imagination why the DIP was not able to identify the fact that the three-crore limit of the server had crossed and why it did not take actions beforehand.

"Now, lots of problems have arisen. Migrants could be detained because many of them could not renew work permits. If they are arrested or they lose their jobs, who will compensate Usually, Bangladeshi migrants face

various forms of abuse by the brokers, agents and are often denied state services. This time, it is the DIP whose negligence is directly affecting the migrants, he said.

They have a right to know actually what created the mess in passport reissuance, Harun further said and demanded those affected be compensated and those responsible be brought under investigation.

collecting all the data will take time,

The limited permission is valid

under the condition that the device

performs well during this interim

future approval," observed Dr Taufiq.

director of DGDA, said, "According

to our rules, we have given some

conditions to them and approved the

limited use of OxyJet. If they fulfil

these conditions, we shall proceed for

emphasise the importance of the

and the sick in this pandemic time,

that is our success," said Dr Taufiq.

On the other hand, the researchers

"If this device can help the poor

its further production.

device for patients in need.

Contacted, Md Salahuddin, deputy

Dr Taufiq said.

#### harassing woman Our Correspondent, RU An assistant sub-inspector of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) was closed on Monday on charges of sexually

RMP ASI closed

for sexually

harassing a woman at a police outpost.

Nibaran Chandra Barman, officerin-charge of Boalia Model Police Station, confirmed the information to The Daily Star. According to sources, on Friday, a

woman called the police emergency service number 999 and sought help, informing that she was abused by her husband.

Quoting the victim's family, OC Nibaran said, ASI Shamim of Bospara Model Police Outpost, met the woman at her house right after the call.

Listening to her allegations, he asked her to meet him at the police outpost for further procedure.

On Sunday, the woman went to the outpost with her mother. At that time, ASI Shamim allegedly told the woman's mother to go out of the room and sexually harassed the woman.

Hearing the incident, the woman's family filed a written complaint with Boalia Police Station on that day.

Later at night, local Ward Councillor Arman Ali called the girl's family and ASI Shamim to settle the matter.

However, the victim's family denied settling the matter and met the police commissioner in Rajshahi to report about the incident on Monday.

According to the OC, once nformed, he shared the incident with the senior officers.

"The police commissioner then withdrew the accused. We have already started an investigation. The accused was withdrawn so that he could not influence the investigation," he said.

Police would take further steps after investigation, he added.

### Curbs relaxed amid

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and launches -- will be allowed to carry passengers at full capacity from today.

However, only half of any transport fleet will be allowed to ply the roads, raising concern over shortage of transports on weekdays.

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

Shopping malls, markets, shops and restaurants will be allowed to stay open from 10:00am to 8:00pm every

All restaurants will have to keep half the seats vacant. Earlier, those were allowed to offer only takeaway services from 8:00am to 8:00pm every

All mills and factories will be allowed to be reopen.

Earlier, the government allowed only export-oriented mills and factories to reopen from August 1 after nine days of shutdown from July 23.

In all cases, wearing of facemasks and adherence to the health safety guidelines issued by the DGHS have to be ensured.

The authorities concerned have to bear responsibility if there is any negligence in following the guidelines for public transport, offices and markets, and legal action will be taken against them, read the government circular.

The Supreme Court will give necessary directives regarding courts, it mentioned.

## Messi gets

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Messi," the fans cheered and let off firecrackers. Messi gave no details of the

deal, which was reached days after Barcelona said it could not afford to keep the midfielder because of Spain's La Liga's fair play rules. But his father, speaking to reporters

at Barcelona's airport, confirmed reports by French newspaper L'Equipe and Spanish newspaper Mundo Deportivo that Messi had reached an agreement with PSG, which is owned by Qatar Sports Investment.

L'Equipe said the deal would be for two years. It also said Messi would have medical tests on Tuesday, and that a news conference to mark his arrival was likely on Wednesday.

### No first dose

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city corporation areas last month. Bangladesh received 25 lakh doses of Moderna vaccine under the Covax facility on July 2. Later, it received another 30 lakh doses.

So far, 19,08,549 doses of Moderna vaccine have been administered as first dose and 403 doses as second shot.

The country has also received 81 lakh doses of Sinopharm vaccine. Of those, 66,71,763 were administered as first dose and 1,72,322 shots as second dose.

The government launched a special vaccination campaign on August 7 to inoculate people in the rural areas to curb Covid deaths and infections. It had planned to administer one crore doses in six days but later revised down the target to 32 lakh.

#### Its waiver will help get global herd immunity Heavy vehicles banned on ferry are in jeopardy. Five other authors of the statement

are: Parsa Erfani, Fogarty global health scholar of Harvard Medical School; Agnes Binagwaho, vice-chancellor of University of Global Health Equity in Rwanda; Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh, vicepresident, Sierra Leone; Paul Farmer, professor of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School; and Vanessa Kerry, associate professor, Division of Global Health Equity, Brigham and Women's Hospital.

The article was published on August 3. "This inequity has been driven by global political economy that has permitted some countries to purchase more vaccine than they require while others have very limited supplies," it said.

The article said Canada, for example, has enough vaccines for 434 percent of its population, whereas Jordan, which has twice the incidence of Covid-19 only has doses for 6 percent of its

"As Covid-19 variants are already showing some ability to evade the current vaccines, it is evident that without global vaccine equity and immunity, our efforts against Covid-19 supply today is not lack of vaccine options, nor even theoretical production capacity, but rather the intellectual property (IP) protection governing production and access to vaccines, said global health and poverty experts.

there will not be enough vaccine fast enough to prevent the spread of variants, the avoidable deaths, and the continued choking of low and middleincome countries through poor health.

is undercut by vaccine scarcity and underfunding. The initiative which brings countries together to contribute vaccines aims to vaccinate 20 percent of the population in 92 low- and middleincome countries by the end of 2021, but had only shipped one-fifth of its projected estimates by the end of April.

India submitted a proposal to the World Trade Organisation to temporarily waive

certain provisions of the TRIPS (Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) agreement for Covid-19 health products and technologies, the article mentioned.

The waiver would prevent companies that hold the IP for Covid-19 vaccines from blocking vaccine production elsewhere on the grounds of IP and allow countries to produce Covid-19 medical goods locally and import or export them expeditiously," the article said. The authors declared that the

manufacturing capabilities of such countries have been underestimated, even though many have the scientific and manufacturing capacity to produce complex Covid-19 vaccines.

An IP waiver is, however, only the first step, said the authors. "Originator companies must transfer vaccine technology and share know-how with WHO Covid-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP), transfer hubs, or individual manufacturers to help suppliers begin production," they added.

protected vaccine information with C-TAP, established last year, said the

#### completed by July 2023. Under the project, audio-visual War will be collected. Other documents related to

study and research purposes, if needed this will be reviewed and reprinted, reads the project proposal. As part of the project, documentaries

previous ones, he said, "There is nothing to compare here."

Around 6:30pm on Monday, Bir Shrestha Jahangir was overtaking a boat between pillars 10 and 11 when the rear end of the ferry collided with the pillar as the master tried to avoid hitting the boat, which had four to

five people on board. Four or five people in a car on the ferry were injured, he said.

ferry, Shah Makhdum, was damaged

due to collision with a pillar of the

On July 20, the lower part of the

On July 23, the Shah Jalal hit another pillar and got damaged. After the second incident, a probe committee recommended moving a ferry terminal. But the authorities did

sources said. The three incidents have been widely discussed and found traction in social media.

not find the recommendation viable,

The 6.15-kilometre bridge being constructed at a cost of Tk 30,000 crore is expected to be open to traffic in June next year.

"At the current global vaccination rate, it will take years to achieve the needed level of global immunity," said the statement. The barrier to adequate vaccine

Without waiving such protections,

The experts pointed out that Covax

In October 2020, South Africa and

To date, none have shared IF

#### "Using this technique, the device avoid mechanical ventilation of can generate high-flow oxygenated critical Covid-19 patients for more Permission for further production air at a normal hospital bed with than seven days whereas with HFNC, or emergency use authorisation of central oxygen supply and without the number was 6.5. The recovery rate OxyJet will require another clinical with OxyJet is 38 percent and with any electricity." performance trial through a contracted Usually, general hospital beds are research organisation followed by HFNC was 27 percent. equipped with one oxygen flow metre "Patients requiring mechanical ethical clearance from the Bangladesh which can supply only up to 15 litres ventilation after using OxyJet is 38 Medical Research Council and the percent whereas with HFNC, it is 59 National Research Ethics Committee. With Oxylet, two flow metres can "Industrialists would have been percent. We did not find any toxicity be used simultaneously -- one that after using OxyJet and HFNC as well," more interested to fund this if there gives 15 litres per minute while the was less uncertainty regarding its stated Prof Dr Amin. other delivers 50 litres per minute.

a limited scale.