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MATARBARI POWER PLANT Cox's Bazar

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Rest of Covid curbs go today

No restrictions on social gatherings, tourist spots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the restrictions on social gatherings and tourist destinations being lifted from today, there will be no Covid-19 curbs in place in the country.

From today, social gatherings are allowed and tourist destinations reopen on the condition that they operate at half capacity.

On August 12, the cabinet division in a circular said all public transport will be allowed to operate on the roads, railways and waterways, while maintaining health safety guidelines, from today.

Before today, transport companies were allowed to operate 50 percent of the buses from August 11 when the restriction on public transport operation was lifted.

Bangladesh Railway will resume operation of 36 more trains from today, as the authority is trying to normalise operation of train services.

Of the 36, 12 are intercity and 24 are local, DEMU, commuter and mail trains. The operation of other trains will gradually resume, a BR official said.

Earlier on August 11, the BR resumed operation of 56 trains at full capacity.

While the authorities have not specified how crowds will be controlled at places like sea beaches, the circular warned that the authorities concerned will be held responsible if any of the conditions are violated.

Since August 2, the positivity rate has been declining steadily, with 17.67 percent recorded yesterday.

Earlier on June 20, the positivity rate was 16.38 percent -- the lowest in the past two months.

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Members of Jubo Red Crescent Chattogram, along with doctors and nurses, are volunteers in treating Covid-19 patients admitted to the ICU of Chattogram General Hospital. A 20-member team received a week-long training on providing oxygen support and giving medicines to patients. Of them, seven are working at the ICU. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



Business icon Anwar Hossain no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anwar Hossain, founder and chairman of Anwar Group of Industries, breathed his last on August 17.

He died at the age of 83 at Labaid Hospital in Dhaka.

The veteran businessman had been suffering from dementia and old-age complications.

Namaz-e-janaza of Hossain, the late parliamentarian from Dhaka-8, will be held at 10:30am today at Baitul Aman Jam-e-mosque in Dhanmondi Road 7.

He was the founder

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New 'mermaid' plant species discovered in Andamans



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A new species of marine algae in the Andaman archipelago has been discovered by Indian scientists, with the name given to the species taking inspiration from The Little Mermaid fairy tale written by Hans Christian Anderson.

The main characteristic of the species is that the whole plant is made up of just one gigantic cell with just one nucleus, said researchers.

The green seaweed, which

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MIGRANTS RETURNING FROM MALAYSIA CAAB notice sparks confusion

Many unsure if they need special permission or be fully vaccinated to come home

PORIMOL PALMA AND RASHIDUL HASAN

Many Bangladeshi migrants in Malaysia are now facing uncertainty over their return home as confusion has arisen over a circular of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh.

According to the CAAB circular issued on August 16, Bangladeshi citizens have to be fully vaccinated against the novel coronavirus 14 days before the travel date for their return home by flights.

If not fully vaccinated, they will need special approval or authorisation from Bangladesh foreign ministry, it said.

Following the circular, scores of Bangladeshi migrants thronged Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur to get authorisation to return home as they were not fully vaccinated. But the officials there turned them away, saying they wouldn't need any authorisation or letter to fly home, several migrants told this newspaper yesterday.

They also said some officials at the mission told them that the circular was withdrawn.

Contacted, Khorshed Alam Khastagir, Bangladesh's deputy high commissioner in Malaysia, said the CAAB order was not cancelled and there could have been miscommunication about it.

Asked about the rush of migrants at the high commission for special permission, Khastagir said he was not aware of it.

He further said the high commission is not issuing any letters to the Bangladeshis willing to return home.

"We get the list of travellers from the airlines. We then send it to the foreign ministry in Dhaka. Upon the ministry's approval, we send the list back to the airlines concerned," he told this newspaper from Kuala

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ARGENTINE COURT Rohingyas testify about the horrors they faced

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

In a historic development for Myanmar, Rohingya women have described in an Argentine court of law, under the aegis of universal jurisdiction, how the Myanmar military carried out a brutal massacre in their village.

Speaking remotely to the Federal Criminal Appeals Court in Buenos Aires from the world's largest refugee camp in Cox's Bazar on Tuesday, the women spoke of how soldiers killed their husbands in Chuk Pyin of Myanmar's Rakhine, according to a statement from the Burmese Rohingya Organization UK (BROUK).

They said soldiers killed hundreds of people, while some women were raped before being killed. The soldiers went on to rape

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

AL legislators disqualified

AUGUST 19, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJAN

AL LEGISLATORS BARRED

The Pakistan government today disqualified 195 of the 288 Awami League members elected to the 310-seat East Pakistani Provincial Assembly. They were charged with "incitement to murder, rape, kidnapping, attacks on police posts and banks, armed robbery, rebellion and conspiring with the enemy".

It said those disqualified would face criminal charges. The remaining 94 Awami League members would be allowed to hold office as individuals but not under the party label.

The Pakistan government's action followed a ban of 79 of the 167 members of the Awami League elected to the National Assembly in December, 1970. The assembly never met as the West Pakistani troops began a military crackdown on March 25, 1971 in the province.

US AMBASSADOR CALLS ON YAHYA

The US Ambassador to Pakistan Joseph Farland today called on Pakistan President Yahya Khan.

Yahya claimed that there was not at this time a continuing flow of refugees leaving East Pakistan. Indians were mounting attacks against Pakistan, preventing refugees from returning, arming

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COLLEGE STUDENT'S DEATH Court clears Bashundhara MD of charges

STAR REPORT

A Dhaka court yesterday relieved Bashundhara Group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir of the charges in the case filed over abetting a college student's death by suicide in the capital's Gulshan in April.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury passed the order, rejecting the no-confidence petition submitted by the complainant against the probe report which the investigation officer of the case had submitted in July, court sources said.

Earlier in the day, the magistrate accepted the final report in which the accused was cleared of charges, saying the investigation by police was found to be proper and correct and there were no cogent grounds to order further investigation into the matter, Sub-Inspector

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CLASH WITH COPS 3 cases filed against city BNP leaders

153 named, 3,000 unnamed accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four top leaders of newly formed BNP's Dhaka north and south city units were sued yesterday, a day after the party activists and law enforcers clashed in the capital's Chandrima Udyan.

Three cases -- one by police and the two others by metro rail contractors -- were filed in this connection.

Prabir Ranjan Dhar, sub-inspector of Sher-e-Bangla Police Station, lodged a case against 153 BNP

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 19

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:25 12:45 4:45 6:38 8:00
JAMAAT 5:00 1:15 5:00 6:41 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Gulistan's Bangabandhu Avenue buzzing with people and public transport, as most Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted in phases and traffic in the capital returned to its pre-lockdown state. The photo was taken from Baitul Mukarram Mosque area recently.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Star HEALTHLINE

Uncontrolled diabetes A THREAT TO VISION

FARHANA AHMED

There are several medical conditions that affect the eyes. But diabetes poses high risk of vision loss and even blindness.

Diabetes affects several organs, like kidney and peripheral nerves, but many of us are unaware of its effect on the eyes.

People who have had diabetes for many years are at risk of a condition known as Diabetic Retinopathy (DR), the fifth leading cause of blindness worldwide.

"If we start with the eyelid,

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Hyginex Instant hand sanitizer

