

'TOTAL FAILURE'
Questions swirl as
America marks its war on
terror 20 years on
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"We will have to take to the streets, raise our voice and defeat the government through a movement."
BNP SECRETARY GENERAL MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR TELLS HIS PARTY LEADERS AND ACTIVISTS



"Lockdown is having an impact but Delta is very tricky. We do need to be incredibly vigilant."
NEW ZEALAND PM JACINDA ARDERN ON COVID



"I can't stress the desperation of the situation enough. The threat is credible, it is imminent, it is lethal."
BRITAIN'S ARMED FORCES MINISTER JAMES HEAPEY OVER IS ATTACK THREAT AT KABUL AIRPORT

KABUL AIRPORT

Twin blasts kill over 60

Says Afghan health ministry official; 12 US servicemen among the dead; dozens wounded; IS claims responsibility



AGENCIES

Islamic State suicide bombers struck the crowded gates of Kabul airport with at least two explosions yesterday, killing at least 60 people and injuring dozens, and bringing a catastrophic halt to the airlift of tens of thousands of Afghans desperate to flee. An official with Afghanistan's Ministry of Public Health told CNN that more than 60 people were killed and 140 wounded. The country's new Taliban rulers said the blasts killed between 13 and 20 people.

Twelve US troops were killed and 15 wounded in the attack, said General Kenneth McKenzie, head of the US Central Command. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks, the group's Amaq News Agency said on its Telegram channel. The blasts came as the August 31 deadline looms for the United States to withdraw its troops, and for it and other Western countries to end a massive airlift that has already evacuated nearly 100,000 people.

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Two wounded women arrive at a hospital for treatment after two blasts rocked the airport in Kabul yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

REOPENING OF UNIVERSITIES

19 months' wait may end Oct 15

Students, teachers must be vaccinated fully for that to happen



- ★ Masters, fourth year students to join in-person classes first
- ★ Universities to decide on reopening of halls on their own
- ★ SSC, HSC examinees may join in-person classes by early Oct
- ★ Reopening of primary schools later
- ★ Educational institutions closed since March 17, 2020

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Students of all public and private universities will be inoculated against Covid-19 by September and the universities will start in-person classes from October 15, a meeting of the ministries and stakeholders concerned decided yesterday. The students will have to wear masks on campus and follow other health-safety guidelines.

The decision was made at the meeting of the top brass of the education ministries, University Grants Commission (UGC), vice chancellors of all public universities, and high officials of education-related directorates. Education Minister Dipu Moni chaired the meeting. Fourth year and masters' students are to start in-person classes first but the authorities have left it to the universities to decide which

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ACC cannot freeze, attach property: HC

Anti-graft body must seek court permission for it

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has no authority to freeze, attach or impose any restrictions on anybody's property without permission from the court, the High Court has observed in a verdict. "The Anti-Corruption Commission Rules, 2007, does not give any power to an enquiry or investigating officer or any other officer of the ACC for freezing or attachment of a 'crime acquired property' or otherwise imposing any restriction to enjoy the same at his whim," the court said in the full text of a verdict released on Wednesday. On June 27, the bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman delivered a short verdict declaring illegal the order of an ACC investigation officer to freeze the bank account of Belayet Hossain, who owns a pharmacy in Cox's Bazar.

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DHAKA METRO RAIL

Rolling out in the open on Sunday

4 stations prepared for performance test

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The authorities are all set to conduct a test run of a metro train on the main tracks on Sunday, touching a new milestone in the country's first ever metro rail project. On that day, the first set of the metro train would come out of its depot for the first time and run on the elevated rail tracks. City dwellers will be able to see it from outside the project area. "All types of tests inside the depot have already been completed. Now the performance test of the first metro train will begin on the viaduct on August 29," said MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd, which is implementing the project. "We have completed almost all preparations for the performance test and will be fully prepared for the test run within the next two days," he told The Daily Star yesterday. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader will be present at the "Ceremonial Demonstration of First Ever Metro Train Running on the Viaduct" to be held at 10:00am Sunday, he said. City dwellers, however, may have to wait more than a year to ride the metro train as delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic forced the project authorities to revise some of its plans. The authorities now want to make at least the first stretch -- Uttara to Agargaon -- of the 20.10km metro rail line operational by December next year. Mass Rapid Transit Line-6 or MRT-6, the country's first metro rail

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TOTAL LENGTH
20.1km

ROUTE
Uttara to Motijheel

STATIONS
16

PROJECT COST
Tk 21,985cr

PARTIAL LAUNCHING
Dec 2022 (likely)

CAPACITY
60,000 passengers per hour

BNP knows very well Zia's body isn't there

PM on clashes at Chandrima Udyan



UNB, Dhaka

Referring to the recent clashes between BNP men and police at Chandrima Udyan, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday wondered why BNP activists engage in fights despite knowing it very well that Ziaur Rahman's body is not there. "BNP engaged in fights at Chandrima Udyan. Doesn't the BNP know that there's no grave or body of Zia, or Zia is not there? They know it very well! If so, why do they stage the drama? Khaleda Zia is also aware of it," she said while addressing a programme virtually from the Gono Bhaban. Awami League Dhaka

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A mother and her child take shelter from the rain under a piece of polythene sheet on a pavement on the capital's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday. Many, especially the homeless, have been caught out by rain over the last few days.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Produce Covid jobs in 6 to 9 months

JS body asks govt-owned firm

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday strongly recommended that Essential Drugs, a government-owned company, take immediate measures to produce Covid-19 vaccines within six to nine months so that all citizens can be brought under vaccination as soon as possible. The health ministry in a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban told the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry that it formed two committees -- an advisory one and another technical -- on producing Covid-19 vaccine at Essential Drug's Gopalganj unit, meeting sources said. The coronavirus vaccine will be produced at Essential Drug's laboratory through a process known as fill-finish. Fill-finish, or fill and finish, is the final manufacturing step in the overall drug manufacturing process. In the pharmaceutical industry, fill and finish is the process of filling vials with the vaccine and finishing the process by packaging the medicine for distribution. Members of the advisory committee are the minister of health, senior secretary of the Ministry of Health, director general of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), vice-chancellor of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University and managing director of Essential Drugs, said meeting sources. The terms of reference of this committee is to advise the technical committee on production of Covid-19 and to review the recommendations of the technical committee and get the approval of the prime minister to undertake vaccine production activities. The DGHS director general was made convener of the technical committee, the members of which are: director general of Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), additional secretary (health service) of health

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