



SUGA TO STEP DOWN
Triggered by criticism over Covid pandemic, the Japan PM says he will not contest for party leadership
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The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



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REGD. No. DA 781 | Vol. XXXI No. 223 | BHADRA 20, 1428 BS | **Your Right to Know** | MUHARRAM 25, 1443 HJRI | 12 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00

SCHOOLS REOPENING

Long wait is over Sept 12



- Hybrid learning method combining in-person and online class, TV learnings
- HSC, SSC, JSC, PECE examinees to join classes every day
- Students of other grades to attend classes one or two days a week

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

With Covid-19 infections gradually going down, the government is set to reopen schools and colleges from September 12, allowing students to attend in-person classes in phases after around 18 months of closure.

Education Minister Dipu Moni made the announcement while attending a programme in Chandpur yesterday.

She said the authorities had already made all arrangements in this regard and that they would strictly monitor whether health rules are properly maintained at educational institutions.

Officials of the ministries of education and primary and mass education said examinees of this year's four public examinations, including SSC and HSC tests, would attend classes every day at first after the reopening.

Students of other classes would have in-person classes once or twice every week. The number of the class days would be increased depending

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Premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan picked up two wickets but it needed a collective effort from the Bangladesh players to edge past New Zealand by four runs in the second of the five-match T20I series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Tigers go 2-0 up with close win

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite a late twist, Bangladesh were able to scrape to a four-run win against New Zealand in the second game of the five-match T20I series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

After putting up a decent total of 141 for six, courtesy of an unbeaten 37 from skipper Mahmudullah Riyad and a solid opening stand between Mohammad Naim and Liton Das, Bangladesh restricted New Zealand to 137 for five.

The win also means that Bangladesh now lead the five-match series 2-0 and have now won eight T20Is in a calendar year for the first time ever.

However, the game that looked to be well in Bangladesh's grasp even at the beginning of the final over, took an unexpected turn when ace left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman bowled a waist-high no-ball that eventually brought

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Covid daily deaths lowest in 11 weeks

Week's death toll drops by 237

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fatalities from Covid-19 and new infections have dropped in the country last week compared to the previous week, according to data of the Directorate General of Health Services.

A total of 24,130 new Covid cases were recorded last week, down from 32,950 in the previous week (August 21-27).

The number of deaths also came down to 237 from 586 during the same period.

Meanwhile, 70 more people died from novel coronavirus in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday. This is the lowest daily death from the virus recorded in the country in the last 11 weeks.

On June 19, the daily death toll was 67.

The total number of Covid deaths in Bangladesh now stands at 26,432 and the death rate is 1.75 percent, said a DGHS press release.

A total of 29,438 samples were tested across the country during the 24 hours. At least 3,167 new infections were logged in this period, taking the total number of infected people to 15,10,283.

The current positivity rate is 10.76 percent while the overall positivity rate is

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Ties with Turkey finding new turfs

Resolving past row, Dhaka and Ankara bolster relations

PORIMOL PALMA

Coming out of past diplomatic rows, Bangladesh and Turkey are deepening relations as the latter seeks to regain its position in the Muslim world, while Dhaka looks for strong allies on the global stage to resolve the Rohingya crisis and boost trade, analysts have said.

Turkey, a NATO member with a strong military power, is an influential voice at the UN, OIC and other global forums and has been supportive of Dhaka's stance on the Rohingya issue, a much sought-after help for Bangladesh.

Bangladesh also wants increased trade with Turkey, which Ankara wants to push to \$2 billion from the current two-way annual trade worth \$1 billion.

Recent progress is already strengthening defence cooperation that signifies the depth of the relations, foreign policy analysts observed.

"In the last 10 years, Turkey has advanced a lot, especially in military technology, while Bangladesh drew global attention for its economic growth. So we see the areas of convergence are growing and so are the relations," said M Humayun

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M HUMAYUN KABIR
PRESIDENT, BANGLADESH ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE (BEI)

Kabir, president of Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI).

REBUILDING RELATIONS

Turkey, which sided with West Pakistan during Bangladesh's Liberation War in 1971, recognised Bangladesh in 1974 and opened its embassy in Dhaka another two years later.

The relations had grown since then, but it took a nosedive in 2012 when Ankara started condemning the International War Crimes Tribunal's prosecution of Jamaat-e-

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Does Boat Club have permission?

BNP MP asks parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A BNP MP in parliament yesterday demanded that the home minister state whether the much-talked about Boat Club in the capital has government approval and whether the inspector general of police has the government's permission to be the club's president.

Harunur Rashid made the demand while speaking on a point of order.

"I don't know whether any chief of the police department ever became a member or had responsibilities in establishing any such club in the 50-year history of Bangladesh," he told the session with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

The MP from Chapainawabganj-3 then asked Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan

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Baradar to lead new Afghan govt

Say Taliban sources; heavy fighting reported from Panjshir Valley

AGENCIES

Taliban co-founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar will lead a new Afghan government set to be announced soon, sources in the group said yesterday, as its fighters battled forces loyal to the vanquished republic in the Panjshir Valley north of Kabul.

But the new government's most immediate priority would be to avert the collapse of an economy grappling with drought and the ravages of a 20-year conflict that killed around 240,000 Afghans before US forces completed a tumultuous pullout on August 30.

At stake is whether the Taliban can govern a country facing economic meltdown, a humanitarian disaster and threats to security and stability from rival jihadist groups, including a local offshoot of Islamic State.

Baradar, who heads the Taliban's political office, will be joined by Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, the son of late Taliban co-founder Mullah Omar, and Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, in senior positions in the government, three sources said.

"All the top leaders have arrived in Kabul, where preparations are in final stages to announce the new government," a Taliban official told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The announcement, earlier expected to be made after Friday afternoon prayers, would now not happen until today at the earliest, a Taliban spokesman told AFP.

Haibatullah Akhundzada, the Taliban's supreme religious leader, will

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FAKE COVID TEST

Court accepts charges against Regent's Shahed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has taken cognisance of the charges framed against 14 officials of Regent Group, including its Chairman Mohammad Shahed and Managing Director Masud Parvez, for issuing fake Covid-19 certificates and illegally charging patients for tests and treatments.

The 12 other charge-sheeted accused are Regent Group Public Relations Officer Tariqul Islam Shibli, Project Officer Rakibul Islam Sumon, Human Resources Officer Amit Banik, Health Technologist Hatim Ali, Administrative Officer Ahsan Habib Majumder, Regent Hospital Uttara Branch Managing Director Md Mizanur Rahman, employees Abdur Rashid Khan Jewel, Shimul Parvez, Dipayan Basu, Polash Ali, Shaykhul Islam and driver Abdus Salam.

Ten of them, including Shahed and Parvez, are now behind the bars.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Jashim yesterday accepted the charges brought against them after scrutinising the case dockets and other relevant documents.

The magistrate issued arrest warrants against four fugitives - Shimul, Dipayan, Shaykhul, and Polash Ali - and directed

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A large field just outside the Khan Saheb Osman Ali Stadium in Narayanganj's Fatullah has been under water for several months as there is no drainage system in place. The stadium cannot be used for months every year due to this perennial waterlogging problem. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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BANGLADESH-INDIA Airlines operate flights from tomorrow

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman and US-Bangla airlines will resume flight operations to India under an air bubble agreement between Bangladesh and India from tomorrow after a four-month hiatus over coronavirus restrictions.

US-Bangla Airlines resume flight operations on Dhaka-Chennai-Dhaka route and Biman Bangladesh Airlines on Dhaka-Kolkata-Dhaka and Dhaka-Delhi-Dhaka routes from tomorrow.

Novoair said they will not operate flights under the air bubble agreement.

An air bubble arrangement is a temporary arrangement between two countries aimed at resuming air travelling while regular international flights are suspended due to coronavirus restrictions. Airline companies from both countries get the opportunity.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) on September 2 accepted the proposal of the Indian Ministry of Civil Aviation on the resumption of flights from today.

CAAB issued a circular Thursday night clearing the way for the resumption of flight operations between the two countries.

The CAAB circular said the air bubble agreement will be in effect until the resumption of scheduled international passenger flights between the two countries.

Travellers from India must be in quarantine at home for 14 days and follow the other protocols, including getting tested for coronavirus from a PCR lab.