

**BANGLADESH
UPDATE**



980
New cases in 24hrs



15,51,351
Total cases



27,414
Deaths



15,11,479
Recoveries

**GLOBAL
UPDATE**



4,760,643
Deaths



232,532,186
Total cases

ERRORS IN TEXTBOOKS

HC summons NCTB chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday expressed utter dismay about the errors regarding the history of the country's Liberation War in some textbooks of secondary and higher secondary levels, saying such mistakes in the books are unfortunate.

The court also summoned the chairman and member concerned of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) directing them to appear before it on November 10 for hearing their explanations about the errors.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetullah and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman passed the order in response to a writ petition filed by Md Alamgir Alam, guardian of a student of Vigarunnisa Noon School and College, containing the errors in the books.

At the same time, the bench issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to take steps to amend the mistakes in the textbooks.

Petitioner's lawyer Ali Mustafa Khan told The Daily Star that his client has found more than 100 errors about the history of Bangladesh's Liberation War in some textbooks of secondary and higher secondary levels.

It has been written in the book named Bangladesher Itihas O Bishwa

Savyata (History of Bangladesh and World Civilisation) of Classes IX and X that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was a political leader in 1969.

This is incorrect as Bangabandhu was the president of Nikhil Pakistan Awami League (All Pakistan Awami League) then, he said.

In the same book, it has been stated that Bangabandhu was the president of the then Mujibnagar Government, which is a blunder as he was the president of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, Khan said.

The Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has wrongly been termed as Sheikh Mujib instead of Bangabandhu in different pages of the book titled as "Bangladesh O Bishwa Parichoy (Bangladesh and World Identification)" of Classes IX and X.

It has been wrongly written in the book named "Bangladesh O Bishwa Parichoy" of Class VII that election was held in the provinces of East Pakistan on December 17, 1970 though the elections were held in all provinces of the then Pakistan, he said citing the petition.

In the petition, Alam requested the HC to pass a directive on the authorities to amend the errors in the books.

Deputy Attorney General Bepul Bagmar represented the state during the hearing.

Turnout in class dropping off

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send children to school amid the pandemic, and students feeling that they can make better preparation for the exams at home rather than attending only two classes at schools every day.

Attendance of class-X students fell by 15 percentage points, class-XII students by 11 percentage points and class-V students reduced by 2 percentage points, the data shows.

Attendance at secondary schools was between 75 and 80 percent in the pre-pandemic period, according to DSHE Director (Monitoring and Evaluation), Professor Amir Hossain.

The current absenteeism is more prevalent among students from rural, urban poor and underprivileged groups, he said.

Prof Amir believes that many of the families hit by the coronavirus restrictions are likely to have engaged the students in income generating activities.

However, the poor attendance does not mean that these students have dropped out. "Ninety-three percent of the SSC examinees are submitting their assignments to the schools."

DSHE collects the daily attendance rate of class-V students who will sit for the Primary Education Completion Exams. It also collects student attendance rates of class-XI, -XII, and -X.

Students reading in the aforesaid grades are supposed to attend classes in person every day.

According to DSHE, the attendance rate in class-V was 71 percent on September 12 and it dropped to 69 percent on Saturday.

In class-X, and in the classes held for the SSC candidates, 76 percent

and 69 percent students attended on September 12 and 61 percent and 62 percent respectively two weeks after.

Attendance rates in classes -XI and -XII were 59 percent and 53 percent on September 12 and 50 percent and 42 percent on Saturday.

Mahbubur Rahman, a parent from the capital's latrabari, said, "I will send my son to school, when I see that coronavirus infections are not rising after the schools reopened."

An HSC candidate of Dhaka Commerce College said, "I can prepare for the exam better at home. The commute takes a lot of time."

Prof Amir said the government has plans to increase the number of classes next month.

Campaign for Popular Education Deputy Director KM Enamul Hoque said many students are not attending classes because they are working.

"Many students are finding it hard to understand the lessons because of learning losses during the closure. They are losing their interest in joining the classes," he said.

Teachers, school management committee members and parents should work together to get the students back to school, he added.

Prof Amir said school teachers are contacting the absent students and trying to bring them back to the classrooms.

Meanwhile, two class-X students of Bogura Zila School, who had attended classes, tested positive for coronavirus, Shayamapada Mustafa, headteacher of the school, told our correspondent in the district.

The teacher added that no other students have shown symptoms.

80 lakh Covid shots

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Starting from 9:00am, the campaign will be conducted in 16,153 centres set up in around 4,600 unions, 1,054 municipalities and 433 wards in the city corporation areas across the country.

Males aged 50 and above, females above 25 and students 18 and above will get priority.

Mothers-to-be and lactating mothers will not be vaccinated during this campaign.

To receive vaccines, people have to carry registration cards or National Identity cards.

Around 80,000 health workers and volunteers will be deployed to conduct the vaccination programme, the minister said.

The minister, however, did not mention whether people who registered would get text messages for getting the shots.

In reply to a query, he said, "People will be able to know in time."

Asked, Prof Meerjady Sabrina Flora, additional director general (planning and development) of the health directorate, told The Daily Star, "One who has registered for a certain centre, like upazila health complex, will go to nearby centres in his or her union."

"Due to technical barriers, it may not be possible to mention the name of centre in text messages. But there will be an announcement through loudspeakers," Prof Flora said.

On August 7-12, the government vaccinated around 34 lakh people in a similar special campaign which was marked by chaos and shortage of vaccines.

Since then, the government did not hold any special campaigns due to the shortage of vaccines.

In the last one month, the health officials often said the government will inoculate two crore people each month and 10 crore by December in total.

Asked about this target, the minister

said, "It will depend on vaccine availability and our capacity. We will try to administer two-three crore jabs each month. We will try."

"We have received around five crore vaccine shots so far. Of those, we have administered four crore. We hope we will get enough vaccine doses by December and January," the minister added.

About the chaos in the vaccination centres last time, Maleque said, "You know we have thousands of vaccination centres. This was positive that people came en masse. In the past, people were not interested in taking vaccines, now they are ... We have had experiences. Now there will be no problem."

For the second dose, a similar campaign will be held a month later, the minister added.

The country has received a total of 4,94,29,940 doses of Covid vaccines.

Of those, around 4.02 crore jabs were administered as the first and second doses as of Saturday.

The government has also signed a contract to buy six more crore doses of Sinopharm vaccine which, according to officials, will start to arrive by this month.

Besides, the government has been trying to buy 10 crore vaccine jabs through the World Health Organization.

Despite this, the uncertainty over vaccine supply is not over and it would slow the vaccination drive, experts said. **21 DIED, 980 INFECTED**

The health directorate reported 21 deaths from Covid-19 in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

In the same 24 hours, 980 more people tested positive for the virus.

With this, the number of Covid-19 deaths in the country rose to 27,414 and the number of confirmed cases to 15,51,351.

Yesterday, the positivity rate was 4.41 percent, below five percent for the fourth day in a row.



The moment the mother and son reunited after 70 years in Nabinagar, Brahmanbaria, Saturday morning. Abdul Quddus Munshi, aged over 80, ran away from home in childhood and had not since seen his mother Mongolun Nesa, aged about 110. The reunion has been possible because of a Facebook post about Quddus and his family made by a man in Rajshahi, where Quddus settled.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOY

In the throes of pandemic

FROM PAGE 1

in March last year.

The tourism authority was forced to close down the motel and sent employees on unpaid leave. In the first three to four months, the BPC did not pay them any salary. Then, it started rotating its skilled and multi-task staffers.

"For example, I worked for 15 days and was paid for those days. Then, a colleague did the same work and my turn came after the rotation of other colleagues," Jewel, not his real name, told The Daily Star over the phone.

"We had been now living a miserable life. I had to take loans from my relatives just to support the family," he said.

Other temporary workers of BPC, and even its permanent staffers, have faced severe hardships as the state-run corporation incurred huge losses due to the pandemic.

BPC establishments -- hotels, motels, restaurants, bars -- either remained closed for months or provided only limited services.

It had to count losses of around Tk 40 crore in the last two fiscal years and has been struggling to pay salaries to its existing staffers and provide pension facilities to its retirees, show BPC documents.

The BPC wrote to the cabinet division recently seeking its directives upon all government agencies to avail its services on a priority basis. The BPC even offered 30 percent commission to the government agencies for use of its

hotels, motels, auditoriums, etc.

The dire straits of the tourism authority are reflective of the state of the rest of the country's tourism sector amid the pandemic.

According to Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh (TOAB), the tourism sector has incurred a loss of around Tk 20,000 crore in 2020 alone.

Although all tourist spots were allowed to open from August 19, the sector is still struggling as inbound and outbound tourism is still virtually non-existent.

Inbound tourism refers to visits of foreign tourists to the country and outbound tourism means locals visiting other countries -- the latter is also a source of income for travel agencies operating under the tourism sector.

Against this grim backdrop, the country observes World Tourism Day today with its slogan of "Tourism for Inclusive Growth".

BPC IN DIRE STRAITS

Founded in 1973, BPC operates 23 hotels and motels, seven restaurants and 11 bars in different parts of the country. It has some 430 staffers, including the casual employees.

The corporation bears its expenditure with revenues from these establishments.

In a letter to the secretary of the civil aviation and tourism ministry on July 31, BPC Chairman Hannan Mia said all tourism spots, following the government's directives, remained shut or provided limited services amid the

pandemic.

"As a result, hotels, motels and restaurants of the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation were almost without customers or guests, and the agency made huge losses," reads the letter.

It incurred losses of around Tk 40 crore in 2019-20 and 2020-21 fiscal years due to the pandemic, it mentioned in the letter.

In 2018-19, it earned Tk 113.47 crore and Tk 97.34 crore in 2019-20, show BPC documents.

"Because of the huge losses, a serious crisis arose with regards to paying salaries to staffers and pensions to retirees," he wrote.

Following his letter, the civil aviation and tourism ministry wrote to the cabinet division on August 17 seeking the division's directive to all ministries and divisions to procure BPC services.

The cabinet division on August 19 wrote to all secretaries to take necessary steps regarding the request of the BPC. Different ministries, including the road transport and bridges ministry, have already issued the same directives to its agencies.

Contacted, Hannan Mia said they have spent Tk 20 crore from their savings to meet the necessary expenditures.

"We have sought Tk 10 crore from the government to meet our three-month expenses, but the money may not be required as the government has opened tourist spots," he told The Daily Star on Saturday.

"We hope we will be able to turn it

They sold off

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was the chief guest of the inaugural ceremony of Digital Haat, an online buying and selling platform of sacrificial animals for Eid-ul-Azha.

Commerce Minister inaugurated it by buying a cow for Tk 1 lakh but the sacrificial animal was never delivered.

"I waited to get delivery of the cow," he said.

After six or seven days he was informed by the online company that the cow which was shown to the minister was sold to another buyer.

As a solution, the online company told the minister that since the selected cow was sold, they wanted to give him another one at Tk87,000 and a goat.

Without mentioning the name of the online company, the minister said he agreed to the new proposal.

This year, before Eid-ul-Azha, the minister ordered his sacrificial animal online but this time the company delivered his chosen cow.

Munshi shared this unfortunate experience with an e-commerce company at a workshop on healthy competition in the markets for economic journalists, jointly organised by Economic Reporters Forum and Bangladesh Competition Commission (BCC) at the latter's office in Dhaka.

HC questions

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in four weeks why section 41 of the law should not be scrapped.

During hearing a writ petition, the HC also asked the respondents to show causes as to why they should not be directed to refrain from giving posting to suspended deputy commissioner Sultana Pervin, and suspended executive magistrates Rintu Bikash Chakma and Nazim Uddin, who allegedly assaulted journalist Ariful Islam Regan in Kurigram last year.

Another executive magistrate named SM Rahatul Islam, who was also suspended along with the aforesaid officials, was recently posted to Barishal.

In yesterday's rule, the HC also asked the respondents to explain why Rahatul's posting should not be declared illegal.

Writ petitioner Ariful's lawyer Ishrat Hasan told The Daily Star that the officials suspended after the incident in March 2020 are all fugitives in the eye of law.

Sultana, Rintu, Nazim, Rahatul and secretaries to the ministries of cabinet, home, law and public administration are respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetullah and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman issued the rule after journalist Ariful Islam Regan filed a writ petition challenging the section of the law in question and seeking necessary directives.

Ariful's lawyer Ishrat Hasan said in the early hours of March 14, last year, a mobile court of Kurigram district administration, led by three assistant commissioners -- allegedly following DC Sultana's directives -- sentenced Ariful to one year in prison after arresting him at his home on charges of possessing drugs.

The HC on March 23 last year directed police to record a case in which Ariful accused Sultana, the three executive magistrates, and several Ansar personnel of assault and attempted murder.

The accused officers are fugitives in the eyes of law as they have yet to surrender to a trial court in connection with the case, the lawyer said, but police cannot arrest them because of section 41 of the Government Service Act.

The provision of the law is discriminatory and it is contradictory to the constitution, she said.

বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল

২০৩, শহীদ সৈয়দ নজরুল ইসলাম সরণী
পুরাতন ৮৬ বিজয়নগর, ঢাকা-১০০০।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, প্রত্যাহারপূর্বক নিম্নবর্ণিত ৫ (পাঁচ) ব্যক্তি (ক্রমিক নং : ১-৫) গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী চীনের তাইশান মেডিকেল ইউনিভার্সিটি এর এবং ১ (এক) ব্যক্তি (ক্রমিক নং : ৬) Samara State Medical University, Russia এর ডুয়া সার্টিফিকেট দাখিল করিয়া বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল হইতে রেজিস্ট্রেশন গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন। বিষয়টি প্রমানিত হওয়ায় তাহাদের রেজিস্ট্রেশন বাতিল করা হইয়াছে এবং তাহাদের বিরুদ্ধে চীফ মেট্রোপলিটন মেজিস্ট্রেট কোর্ট নং-১২ ঢাকাতে মামলা দায়ের করা হইয়াছে। (মামলা নম্বর যথাক্রমে :- ২৭২/২১, ২৬৯/২১, ২৬৮/২১, ২৬৭/২১, ২৭০/২১ এবং ২৭১/২১।

	১। আসীম কুমার মিত্র, পিতা: বোপেন্দ্র নাথ মিত্র, গ্রাম: মোল্লার কুল, পো: কাহালপুর, উপজেলা : মোল্লারহাট, জেলা: বাগেরহাট, (বিএমএন্ডডিসি এর রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং- A- 82969, Date- 02.07.2017)
	২। সৌমেন্দ্র নাথ বিশ্বাস, পিতা: জগন্নাথ চন্দ্র বিশ্বাস, গ্রাম: স্বরূপপুর, পো: হাকিমপুর, উপজেলা : চৌগাছা, জেলা: যশোর, (বিএমএন্ডডিসি এর রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং- A- 82972, Date- 02.07.2017)
	৩। মো: রমজান খান, পিতা: ইব্রাহীম খান, গ্রাম: আটিপাড়া, পো: সিরাজপুর, উপজেলা : সিংগাইর, জেলা: মানিকগঞ্জ, (বিএমএন্ডডিসি এর রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং- A- 82973, Date- 02.07.2017)
	৪। মোফাজ্জেল হোসেন, পিতা: আব্দুর রহমান, গ্রাম: ভাষানচর, পো: অম্বিকাপুর, উপজেলা : ফরিদপুর সদর, জেলা: ফরিদপুর, (বিএমএন্ডডিসি এর রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং- A- 82974, Date- 02.07.2017)
	৫। মোহাম্মদ মোবারক হোসেন, পিতা: মো: আব্দুল করিম, গ্রাম: চৌরাপাড়া, পো: লক্ষনখোলা, উপজেলা : বন্দর, জেলা: নারায়নগঞ্জ, (বিএমএন্ডডিসি এর রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং- A- 82975, Date- 02.07.2017)
	৬। একেএম মেহেদী হাসান, পিতা: একেএম সাহাবুদ্দিন, রাশেদ ভীলা, দক্ষিণ চর্যা, কুমিল্লা- ৩৫০০, (বিএমএন্ডডিসি এর রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং- A- 28171, Date-26.05.1999)

এমতাবস্থায় তাহারা নিজেদেরকে চিকিৎসক বলিয়া পরিচয় দিতে কিংবা চিকিৎসা কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করিতে পারিবেন না। যদি চিকিৎসা কার্য চালাইয়া যান তাহা হইলে আইন প্রয়োগকারী সংস্থা সমূহকে অবহিত করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

(ডা: মো: আরমান হোসেন)
রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল