

BANGLADESH
UPDATE

**239**
New cases in 24hrs

**15,75,424**
Total cases

**27,973**
Deaths

**15,39,830**
Recoveries

GLOBAL
UPDATE

**5,203,413**
Deaths

**260,570,046**
Total cases

RISING VIOLENCE IN ROHINGYA CAMPS

May soon spread beyond borders

PM warns in message to ASEM summit

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the international community to give proper attention to the Rohingya issue as growing violence and crimes in the Rohingya camps can soon spread beyond borders.



raising," she said. Hasina said the COVID-19 pandemic has put a heavy pressure on the health systems and economies across the world. "It has compelled us to divert our development resources for emergency treatments and vaccines," she said.

"The security situation in the Cox's Bazar camps is getting complicated. The growing violence and crimes can soon spread beyond our borders," she said.

The prime minister made the statement in a video message played in the two-day 13th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit that concluded in Cambodia yesterday.

She also cautioned the world community saying that a provisional response to the crisis will serve little purpose.

"A critical test of our multilateral cooperation will be to find a lasting and peaceful solution for Myanmar's forcibly displaced people -- the Rohingyas," she said.

In this connection she mentioned that Bangladesh offered temporary shelter to the Rohingyas and stabilised the situation.

"We continue to amplify the demand for their safe and dignified return to Myanmar. I urge the international community to give proper attention to the concerns we are

She said that the government aims to vaccinate 80 per cent of the target population by March 2022.

"We hope to sustain the momentum of our LDC graduation. We shall remain focused on attaining the SDGs by 2030. Our vision is to build an inclusive and prosperous nation by 2041. To achieve these goals, our partnership with Asia and Europe remains crucial," she said.

She thanked the friendly countries in Asia, Europe and the US for their donations of vaccines.

"Bangladesh has the capacity to produce quality vaccines. We seek technical know-how and licences for the purpose," she added.

The PM put emphasis on joining hands of Asia and Europe for mobilising finances and technology to combat climate change.

Besides, she invited all interested ASEM partners to invest in projects under Bangladesh's long-term Bangladesh Delta Plan and Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan.

Mushfiq, Liton propel

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featured 11 fours and a solitary maximum, with Mushfiq inching closer towards his eighth ton in the format as he ended the day unbeaten on 82.

However, with the likes of Pakistan pacers Shaheen Shah Afridi and Hasan Ali getting the cherry to swing on a pitch that had a faint green tinge, Bangladesh were left in a spot of bother at the beginning after electing to bat.

The Tigers lost four of their top-order batters with just 49 runs on the board after 16.2 overs. Saif Hassan (14 off 12), who is still trying to find his feet in international cricket, continued to disappoint as a rising delivery from Afridi exposed the right-hander's discernible flaws in technique, forcing him to give a catch to short leg.

Soon, Shadman Islam (14 off 28) was trapped in front by an inswinging Hasan Ali delivery, skipper Mominul Haque (6 off 19) edged one back to the wicketkeeper while Najmul Hossain Shanto (14 off 37), who was looking in good touch, was undone by a low diving catch at point.

With the flurry of wickets putting Bangladesh on the backfoot early in the innings, Liton and Mushfiq

started consolidating rather slowly. Mushfiq was the more cautious one, taking 51 balls to score his first six runs.

However, both batsmen picked up the pace gradually as the Tigers went unscathed till the end of the day's play while scoring runs at a rate of over three in the final two sessions of the day.

Although Mushfiq demonstrated a solid display throughout, Liton had survived a few scares. The right-hander, who was exquisite for the most part of his knock, was dropped at midwicket off an Afridi delivery on 67.

Liton, who had previously been dismissed twice in the nineties and a high-score of 96 in the format, also looked a bit nervy when he reached the uncharted territory. He also had to be attended by team physio for suffering cramps during the end and only reached the three-figure mark with a rash single.

The play today will start at 9:45am, 15 minutes earlier than the scheduled time, in order to make up for the lost time due to an early finish yesterday and Bangladesh would hope the duo of Liton and Mushfiq pick up from where they had left off on the opening day.

said Farzana Haque, operations officer of Rab-3.

Nayeem's death sparked a strong protest by school and college students who took to the streets in the capital demanding road safety. They checked licences of drivers on roads at some places.

According to a DSCC press release, Iran Mia, the designated driver of the garbage truck, gave the key of the vehicle to Harun who later handed it to Russel, another cleaner of the city corporation.

Russel drove the vehicle from Sayedabad and it hit Nayeem, 18, in Gulistan area around 11:20am on Wednesday while the college student was crossing the road.

Police on the same day detained Russel near the Awami League central office on Bangabanghu Avenue when he was trying to flee.

On the first day of his three-day remand in a case in this connection, Russel yesterday told police that he was working as a temporary cleaning staff as his father earlier worked as a DSCC cleaner.

Alongside the cleaning job, he used to drive the garbage truck for which he would get Tk100 per trip from Harun who draws a monthly salary of Tk 16,000. He used to complete two to three trips daily, police said.

During interrogation, Russel claimed to have a driving licence for a light vehicle, but he could not produce it, said Sentu Mia, inspector (investigation) of Paltan Police Station.

Meanwhile, DSCC yesterday sacked Harun and another cleaning staff Abdur Razzak for letting Russel drive. Also, Iran Mia was suspended and a departmental case was filed against him for allowing an unauthorised person to drive the garbage truck.



Garbage is dumped right on the road in the capital's Karwan Bazar, causing sufferings for commuters. Usually, trash is removed from the area by city corporation garbage trucks within 8:00am every day. But the vehicles were not seen during the daytime in the last two days after the death of two people in road crashes involving garbage trucks. The photo was taken around 12:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Resistant bacteria raises health alarm

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The 17 antibiotics tested include Ciprofloxacin, Streptomycin, Tetracycline, Gentamicin, Nalidixic Acid and Ampicillin, Meropenem, Ceftazidime, Ceftriaxone, and Cefotaxime and Aztreonam.

The BLRI researchers concluded in their study, which was released in April, that antibiotics were used the most in broiler chicken production, followed by Sonali chicken production.

And a study by the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b) validates their findings.

The study, which involved 768 poultry farms spread across 20 upazilas, found antibiotic usage was the highest in farms that reared broiler chickens: about 98 percent.

About 88 percent of the surveyed farms that raised Sonali chickens administered antibiotics in the previous 14 days of the farm visit by the icddr,b researchers and 72 percent of the layer chicken farms.

The study, which is yet to be made public, found farmers begin using antibiotics on day-old chicks and continue to feed them doses until they are sold to the market.

Up to 55 percent of the farmers administered antibiotics on the day-old chicks without reason. As a preventative measure, 3-5 percent of the farmers gave antibiotics on the day of selling, according to the study.

And the poultry farms' rationale for administering routine, preventative doses of antibiotics to healthy chickens is to keep illnesses from spreading among the flock that live in close quarters as well as to enhance growth.

More than eight in every 10 farmers administered antibiotics when chickens become sick.

The use of antibiotics for treatment was the highest in Sonali chicken farms (about 30 percent), followed by broiler farms (25 percent) and layer farms (20 percent).

"The amount of antibiotic use as a preventive measure is very significant," Sukanta Chowdhury, lead investigator

"The resistant bacteria found in poultry is a matter of great concern -- just like the concern we feel when we get resistant pathogens in humans. Because, it is transmissible across all species,"

NITISH CHANDRA DEBNATH
ONE HEALTH BANGLADESH'S NATIONAL COORDINATOR

of the study and an associate scientist at the icddr,b's programme for emerging infections, infectious diseases division, told The Daily Star.

The majority of the farmers were recommended antibiotic use by the veterinary practitioners and the feed dealers. However, the feed dealers have no right to make such recommendations.

The antibiotics used include tetracycline, fluoroquinolones, macrolides, aminoglycosides, penicillin and polymyxins, which are from both access and reserve groups.

The access group antibiotics are

prescribed for a wide range of primary level infections, while the watch group ones are for higher resistance bacteria, according to the WHO.

The excessive use will ultimately lead to antimicrobial resistance (AMR), which is the ineffectiveness of antibiotics to kill microorganisms like bacteria, viruses and parasites.

So, there is a need for promotion of good farming practices, Chowdhury said.

Besides, the excessive use of antibiotics ultimately increases the production cost, so good farming practices would bring the poultry farms' outlay in check.

A robust campaign is needed to make the industry stakeholders aware that excessive use of antibiotics does not help; it is rather detrimental for human health and adds to the costs, Chowdhury added.

"The resistant bacteria found in poultry is a matter of great concern -- just like the concern we feel when we get resistant pathogens in humans," Nitish Chandra Debnath, One Health Bangladesh's national coordinator, told The Daily Star.

Any resistant bacteria, no matter whether it originated from humans or animals or the environment, is a matter of concern as it is transmissible across all species."

To tackle the AMR, all health management -- human, animal and nature -- have to be brought under the "One Health" approach, said Debnath, one of the 26 members of the UN-led One Health high-level expert panel.

One health recognises that human health is closely connected to the health of animals and the shared environment.

WHO classifies it as 'variant of concern'

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States, and it was unclear whether it was resistant to current vaccines, he told CNN.

The WHO said it would take weeks to determine how effective vaccines were against the variant, which was first identified this week, but the news pummelled global stocks and oil amid fears what new bans would do to the global travel industry and already shaky economies across southern Africa.

The variant has a spike protein that is dramatically different to the one in the original coronavirus that vaccines are based on, the UK Health Security Agency said, raising fears about how current vaccines will fare. "As scientists have described, (this is) the most significant variant they've encountered to date," British Transport Secretary Grant Shapps told Sky News.

In Geneva, the WHO - whose experts yesterday discussed the risks that the variant, called B.1.1.529, presents - warned against travel curbs for now.

"At this point, implementing travel measures is being cautioned against," WHO spokesperson Christian Lindmeier told a UN briefing. "The WHO recommends that countries continue to apply a risk-based and scientific approach when implementing (curbs)."

It would take several weeks to determine the variant's transmissibility

and the effectiveness of vaccines against it, Lindmeier said, noting that 100 sequences of it had been reported so far.

British Health Minister Sajid Javid said the sequence of the variant was first uploaded by Hong Kong from someone travelling from South Africa.

"Further cases have been identified in South Africa and in Botswana, and it is highly likely that it has now spread to other countries," Javid told lawmakers.

Belgium said yesterday it has detected the first announced case in Europe of the new variant, in an unvaccinated person returning from abroad.

Israel imposed a travel ban covering most of Africa as Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said a few cases had been reported there.

TOO LATE FOR TRAVEL CURBS? One epidemiologist in Hong Kong said it may be too late to tighten travel curbs.

"Most likely this virus is already in other places. And so if we shut the door now, it's going to be probably too late," said Ben Cowling of the University of Hong Kong.

South Africa will speak to British authorities to try to get them to reconsider their ban, the foreign ministry in Pretoria said.

Richard Lessells, a South Africa-based infectious disease expert involved in detecting variants, also expressed frustration at travel bans, saying the focus should be on getting

more people vaccinated in places that have struggled to access sufficient shots.

"This is why we talked about the risk of vaccine apartheid. This virus can evolve in the absence of adequate levels of vaccination," he told Reuters.

In South Africa, about 35% of adults are fully vaccinated, higher than in most other African nations but around half average levels in developed countries.

EU officials holding an emergency meeting yesterday agreed to urge all 27 nations in the bloc to restrict travel from southern Africa.

Discovery of the new variant comes as Europe and the United States enter winter, with more people gathering indoors in the run-up to Christmas, providing a breeding ground for infection.

Italy imposed an entry ban on people who have visited southern African states in the last 14 days, while France suspended flights from southern Africa and Bahrain and Croatia will ban arrivals from some countries.

India issued an advisory to all states to test and screen international travellers from South Africa and other "at risk" countries, while Japan tightened border controls.

The coronavirus has swept the world in the two years since it was first identified in central China, infecting almost 260 million people and killing 5.4 million.

'Surprised' Macron condemns Johnson's methods over migrant crisis

AFP, Rome

French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday said he was "surprised" by the approach taken by the British prime minister in the crisis over migrants crossing the Channel, saying leaders should not communicate to each other through social media.

"I am surprised by methods when they are not serious. One leader does not communicate with another on these questions on Twitter, by public letter," he told reporters on a visit to Rome.

France is furious after Boris Johnson posted the contents of a letter to Macron on Twitter, suggesting

France should take back migrants who arrive in England following the deaths of 27 people in the Channel this week.

Earlier, Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin told UK counterpart Priti Patel she was no longer invited to weekend talks about the crisis with other European ministers, in protest at the letter.

BRTC bus fare

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player in the country's public transport system.

There are 76,585 registered buses and minibuses in the country, according to BRTA.

Over the last couple of weeks, students have been demonstrating on the streets demanding a 50 percent discount on public transport. On Tuesday, they also gave a 48-hour ultimatum to the government to meet their demand.

On November 3, the government raised prices of diesel and kerosene by Tk 15 per litre, prompting the transport companies to enforce an indefinite strike in the country on November 7 demanding a hike in bus fares.

Amid widespread public sufferings caused by the strike, the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) raised the fares of intra-city and inter-district buses by 26.5 percent and 27 percent respectively.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, also the general secretary of Awami League, said in response to the students' demand, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina decided to reduce BRTC bus fares by 50 percent across the country.

At a press briefing at his home yesterday, he said, "Students will get the benefit of discounted BRTC bus fares while travelling between 7:00am and 8:00pm."

However, the discount will not be applicable on holidays, he said, adding that the BRTC would soon issue a gazette in this regard.

Talking to The Daily Star, Tazul Islam, chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC), said the corporation has already issued directives to put the discount in effect.

The BRTC has around 1,250 buses. Of them, about 700 operate within cities and about 40 are leased out to different organisations. The rest operate on inter-district routes.

A meeting is scheduled to be held between the BRTA and the transport associations over bus fares today.

Contacted, Khandaker Enayetullah, secretary general of Bangladesh Transport Owners' Association, said the owners do not oppose reduced fares. They rather want incentives for this.

Obaidul Quader hoped that the transport leaders will make a "positive decision" as part of their social responsibility.

On November 23, many students from different colleges demonstrated in the city and threatened to resume demonstrations from today if their two-point demand, half-bus fare and safety, is not met.

Unpredictable

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Wednesday night, he said.

The physicians are yet to identify all the sources of bleeding, but the bleeding has temporarily stopped from those identified, the physicians said.

Khaleda was admitted to Evercare Hospital in the capital on November 13 and moved to the CCU on the very next day, nearly a week after she was discharged from the same healthcare facility.

According to her family members, Khaleda could not eat anything solid. Thus, she was given liquid food.

"Since the admission to the hospital, she is taking only liquids. No solid food," said one of her close relatives.

The government should allow Khaleda to immediately go abroad, with or without condition, in whichever country they want, the family source said.

Khaleda was sent to jail on February 8, 2018, in a corruption case. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, she was given a temporary release on certain conditions on March 25 last year. The term of her release has been extended four times so far.

Cuba inaugurates center to preserve Castro writings

AFP, Havana

Cuba on Thursday inaugurated a center to preserve the writings of its revolutionary hero Fidel Castro as part of commemorations marking the fifth anniversary of his death.

The Fidel Castro Ruz center in the capital Havana is the first and only Cuban building to carry his name.

A law passed a month after his death in 2016 bans the naming of institutions, squares, parks, roads or other public places after the former president and Communist Party leader.

Also banned, following Castro's wishes, is the erection of monuments, busts, statues or plaques in his name or image -- though this has not prevented the proliferation of murals and placards in honor of the late leader on the streets of Havana.

The only exceptions to the rule are made for institutions created solely for "the study and dissemination of his thoughts and work."

A national hero for most Cubans, but a villain to the West, Castro fell ill in 2006 and handed power to his brother and fellow revolutionary fighter Raul.