



Positivity rate on decline for six days

STAR REPORT

The transmission of novel coronavirus continued to decline for the sixth consecutive day as the health directorate reported a 16.95 percent positivity rate yesterday.

This indicates a steady decline from 24 percent on Saturday.

The number of fatalities, on the other hand, remained high with the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reporting 41 Covid-19 patients died yesterday.

Meantime, a total of 7,264 new cases were detected countrywide.

Fueled by the Omicron variant of coronavirus, the country witnessed a skyrocketing case detection every day since the first week of January.

The DGHS reported the highest-ever 33.37 percent positivity rate on January 28.

Earlier, health officials said the Omicron variant started replacing the Delta variant, which caused a

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People facing difficulties crossing Chattogram city's Shantibagh area as a box culvert is being constructed without any alternative for people to cross the area smoothly. The culvert is being built for around two years under a project to address waterlogging in the port city. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Government to bring back Khairuzzaman

May face probe over 1975 jail killings

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



Former Bangladesh high commissioner to Malaysia, Mohammed Khairuzzaman, who was arrested by Malaysian police Wednesday morning, will be brought back home and could be investigated for his role in the historic jail killings of 1975.

"Khairuzzaman is at a deportation centre in Malaysia right now. As far as I understand, there is scope to interrogate him again and investigate him," State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam said.

The home and law ministries will check whether the jail killing case can be revived and how Khairuzzaman, aged 70, could be investigated, Shahriar told reporters at the foreign ministry yesterday.

Khairuzzaman, who has been living in Malaysia with a refugee status since 2009, was arrested by the country's immigration police at his home in Ampang.

Following his arrest, Malaysian Home Minister Hamzah Zainudin said the arrest was made after a request from Bangladesh.

"If there is a request from the country of [an

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Long-term paracetamol use risky for those with HIGH BP

STAR HEALTH DESK

Paracetamol is the most popular and most used pain medication in the world. It is available over the counter and usually considered safe when taken in recommended doses.

On the other hand, alternative painkillers like non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as ibuprofen, have long been associated with rise of blood pressure and risk of heart disease.

However, a recent study by the University of Edinburgh has found that long-term use of paracetamol might not be very safe after all.

It may increase the risk of heart disease and stroke in people with high blood pressure, reports The Guardian quoting the new study published in the scientific journal Circulation.

In the latest study, a group of patients with high blood pressure, who were prescribed

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Engines of Biman's Dash-8 'damaged'

Officials claim pilot erroneously used emergency power, failed to report; year-old plane grounded

RASHIDUL HASAN

A relatively new De Havilland Canada Dash-8 aircraft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines has been grounded since February 2 due to "damaged engines caused by pilot error".

The damage allegedly happened when pilot Ali Rubyat Chowdhury deployed the aircraft's emergency power system -- typically used to avoid an impending accident -- in mid-air on the way to Sylhet from Dhaka on February 1, according to Biman officials well-versed on the matter.

This caused damage to the aircraft's two engines, which will now cost the carrier a huge sum to repair, the officials claimed.

As is practice, the pilot is supposed to report the incident to the authorities concerned and make an entry in the logbook such that the aircraft is not used until the repairs are done.

But Chowdhury, who is also the deputy chief of training at Biman, did not report the matter to the proper authorities, the airline's flight crew

members told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

As a result, the "unfit aircraft" was used on the return flight to Dhaka with 49 passengers on board.

There was a real possibility of the engines exploding during the flight, they claimed.

Even after landing in Dhaka, the matter was not reported to the engineering department. And the plane was being prepared for use the next day.

At the last minute, the aviation engineering department revoked the flight permit seeing data in the system logs that the emergency power was used.

Since then, the 74-seater aircraft, one of the three purchased from Canada's De Havilland, has remained grounded.

De Havilland Canada and engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney have been asked to assess the damage.

The plane was brought to Dhaka in February last year, said Abu Saleh Mostafa Kamal, managing director and chief executive officer of Biman.

Biman has formed a probe body to know under what circumstances did the pilot use the emergency power, and whether there was any fault in his handling of the aircraft.

Chowdhury could not be reached for comment.



Shut Savar tanneries down

JS body asks environment directorate

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday asked the environment directorate to shut down the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate, as the joint management committee (JMC) that runs the estate failed to comply with environmental standards.

The parliamentary standing committee on the environment ministry in a meeting also said the industry will remain shut until it takes steps to treat all the waste generated by tanneries.

The environment directorate in December sent a show-cause notice to the JMC, asking why the industry should not be shut down due to severe environmental pollution.

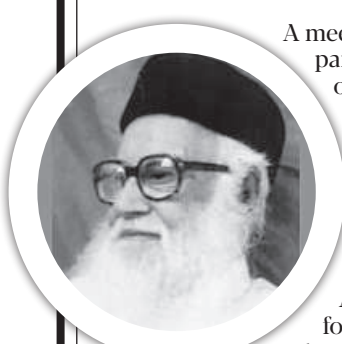
"In response, they [the JMC] have mentioned various plans [to stop pollution], which the committee found unacceptable," Sabar

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Walking out of Assembly

Maulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish



A meeting of the [Muslim League] parliamentary party was going on in the assembly hall on February 21, 1952, and I heard the gunshot during that meeting. After that the students started shouting in front of the assembly and addressed us saying 'come out, look' and so on.

At that time the bell rang for the commencement of the assembly session. I also went inside. After the Speaker took his seat,

I got up to speak before any other discussion. I said that the session could not continue today. Nurul Amin said that shots were fired but we should not be driven by emotion. After some heated debate, I walked out of the assembly.

After I came out of the assembly, the students took me into a room. There I gave a speech using a microphone. After that I went to the Medical College Hospital.

On the evening of February 24, Nurul Amin's political secretary Iskander Ali came to the party house and warned me that I could be arrested. He advised me to withdraw the no-confidence motion I brought against Nurul Amin in the assembly. He offered me house and money. I told

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Food delivery man killed as lorry hits his cycle in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A food delivery man was killed after his bicycle was hit, allegedly by a lorry near the Palashi intersection in the capital yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Md Yeasin, 30. The incident occurred around 3:15pm when he was heading towards Palashi from Nilkhet, leaving him critically injured, said Sub-inspector Kawsar Ahmed Bhuiyan of Shahbagh Police Station.

Police said the lorry driver, Manik, along with some passers by took the injured to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead around 3:45pm.

Kawsar said they seized the vehicle and detained the driver.

However, Manik told reporters at DMCH that Yeasin fell on the road and was injured after a rickshaw hit his bicycle.

Md Murad, an acquaintance of the victim, said Yeasin, like every other day, left his Jigatola home in the morning on his bicycle to deliver food.

The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy, said SI Kawsar.

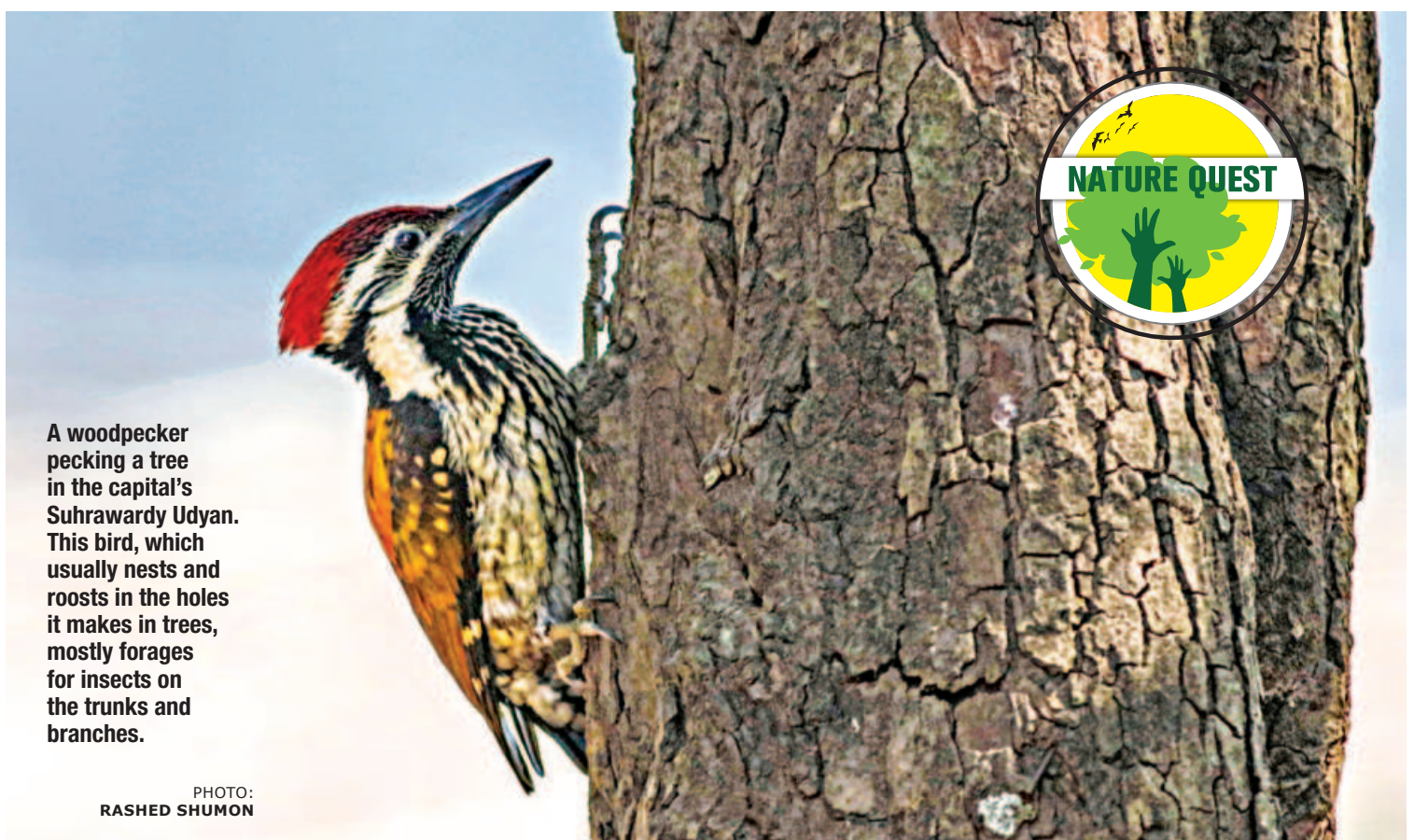


PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON