

Schools may reopen after February 21

Says health minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reopening the educational institutions after February 21 maintaining health safety protocols will not cause any problem, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said yesterday.

"Due to the closures of educational institutions, schoolchildren are enduring loss in their study. The coronavirus transmission has come down and simultaneously, most of the students have come under vaccination. So educational institutions can be opened after February 21," Zahid Maleque said in an event in his constituency in Manikganj.

The minister came up with the statement that the country has been witnessing a steady decline in Covid-19 cases for the past week till yesterday.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) yesterday reported 5,023 cases of Covid-19, the lowest after January 15.

The positivity rate was reported as low as 16.50 percent after testing 30,448 samples countrywide.

The number of deaths of Covid-19 patients has also declined as the DGHS reported 20 deaths. The previous day 27 Covid-19 patients died.

Amid the skyrocketing number of cases due to the spread of the Omicron variant, the government shutdown all schools, colleges and equivalent educational institutions from January 22 till February 6 to rein in the virus. The closure was later extended till February 21.

In line with closing educational institutions, the government also stepped

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A tearful man informs relatives over the phone about the death of his son, lying on the gurney next to him, and his mother-in-law on the other gurney, at the Sreepur Upazila Health Complex. The two were killed in a three-vehicle pile-up on the road. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ABU BAKER SIDDIQUE AKAND

Some plants earned \$5.5b for unproduced power

Sector analysts say about last decade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Since the government had committed to paying private entrepreneurs even for unproduced power, the Power Development Board is now incurring huge losses, economists and sector

analysts said yesterday.

Thanks to the model of a contract with PDB, some independent power producers (IPPs) pocketed around \$5.5 billion in the name of capacity charge, without producing any electricity, in the last one decade, they said.

They were speaking at the Bapa-BEN (Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon and Bangladesh Environment Network) annual conference, held on the Siddheswari campus of Stamford University in the capital.

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After two years of sufferings, people can now commute with some comfort as parts of Rokeya Sarani, which had been severely affected by the metro rail construction work, have been repaved. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

UNHCR asks KL not to deport Khairuzzaman

PORIMOL PALMA

The UN Refugee Agency has requested the Malaysian authorities not to deport Mohammed Khairuzzaman, a former Bangladesh high commissioner to Malaysia, back home, confirmed multiple sources.

Khairuzzaman, an accused in the 1975 jail killing case, was arrested by Malaysian immigration police on Wednesday following a request from Bangladesh, according to Malaysian Home Minister Hamzah Zainuddin.

The following day, the UN agency wrote to the Malaysian ministries of home and foreign affairs and the Immigration Department stating that the former diplomat was living in the country under refugee status, the sources said.

"As a matter of practice, UNHCR consistently advocates that refugees and asylum seekers – having been confirmed or claimed to be in need of international protection – cannot be returned to their countries of origin according to the principle of non-refoulement," said a

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DEATH OF 5 BROTHERS Driver never had a licence: Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The pickup van driver, who ran over and killed five brothers in Cox's Bazar, had no driving licence but had been driving several vehicles for the past two years.

The vehicle also had no updated papers, said the Rapid Action Battalion, after arresting the driver, Shahidul Islam Saiful, 22, from Mohammadpur early yesterday.

Validities of all three important papers – fitness clearance, route permit and tax token – expired around three years ago but the pickup was still in operation, Rab officials said yesterday.

"Saiful claimed that he could not see clearly due to heavy fog. As he came close, he noticed the victims but could not control the vehicle immediately due to high speed," Khandaker Al Moin, Rab's Legal and Media wing director, told a press briefing.

The five brothers were killed while another sibling has been fighting for his life after the pickup ran over them on Tuesday morning while they were returning from a crematorium after performing the funeral rites for their recently deceased father

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আকতার হোসেন
চেয়ারম্যান, ফার্মাশিয়া লিমিটেড
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 তবুও মোরা দুর্বল নহি
 নহি মোরা বিচলিত
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