



## Covid-19 testing at six hospitals from tomorrow

### New RT-PCR, rapid testing kits already supplied by DGHS

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Covid-19 testing will resume at four major hospitals in Dhaka and Chattogram from tomorrow, following a recent rise in infection rates in Bangladesh and neighbouring countries.

Two other hospitals in Dhaka, which continued testing patients even after the pandemic was declared over, will also carry on with their services.

To support the six hospitals, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) yesterday supplied fresh stocks of test kits.

The hospitals are: Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, Mugda Medical College Hospital, Kurmitola General Hospital, and the DNCC Dedicated Covid-19 Hospital

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## THE BAYA'S LOVE NEST

A male Baya weaver, or Babui pakhi, weaves a hanging nest on a tree in Chattogram's Anowara. Native to South and Southeast Asia, this sparrow-sized bird is famed for its intricate nest-building skills. Using grass, palm fibres, and paddy leaves, the male constructs flask-shaped nests, often over water, to attract a mate. The female will only breed with the male if she approves his design. These nest colonies are more than just a sight to behold; they reflect the species' intelligence, precision, and the delicate balance of their natural habitat.

PHOTO: HAIDER ALI

## MONEY LAUNDERING BB mulling settlement with suspects

Central bank governor tells FT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur said the central bank may pursue financial settlements with business tycoons accused of syphoning off money abroad when Sheikh Hasina was in power, according to a report by Financial Times (FT).

He told the FT that reaching settlements was "one of the options" being considered in less severe cases.

"If the nature is more on the lighter side of violations, we would go for a civil suit, and a financial settlement would be part of that process," he said.

The central bank governor revealed plans to raise up to \$100 million to finance international litigation aimed at recovering assets allegedly moved abroad by politically connected individuals during Sheikh Hasina's 15 year rule.

According to the FT report, the interim government claims that tens of billions of dollars were funnelled out of Bangladesh by figures linked to the previous regime.

Eleven high-priority investigations have been launched into families formerly associated with political power, including Hasina's. Domestic bank accounts have also

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## 300-year-old shipwreck with £15bn treasure on board found

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Images taken from the depths of the Caribbean are the clearest evidence yet that a 300-year-old shipwreck worth £15bn has been located, researchers say.

The "richest wreck in history" the Spanish galleon San Jose, was transporting treasure from Peru to Spain to finance the Spanish side of the War of the Spanish Succession when it was intercepted by the British Navy in 1708.

The treasure-laden ship, which was loaded with gold, silver and emeralds estimated to be worth as much as \$20bn (£15bn), sank and was not seen again.

It wasn't until 2015 that a wreck was identified by the Colombian navy, but it was not conclusively proven to be the San Jose.

But new sophisticated underwater imaging has analysed some of the cargo on the sunken ship 600m below the surface of the Colombian Caribbean Sea.

Daniela Vargas Ariza, lead researcher from Colombia's Naval Cadet School and the National Institute of Anthropology and History explained the San Jose is the only ship that matches these characteristics.

## 200 pro-Palestinian activists detained

Says Egypt ahead of Gaza march; over three dozen activists deported; 22 killed by Israeli fire across the enclave

AGENCIES

Egyptian authorities have detained more than 200 pro-Palestinian activists in Cairo ahead of a planned international march with the stated aim of breaking Israel's blockade on Gaza, the organisers said yesterday.

"Over 200 participants were detained at Cairo airport or questioned at hotels across Cairo," the march's spokesperson Saif Abukeshek told AFP, adding that those detained included nationals from the United States, Australia, the Netherlands, France, Spain, Morocco and Algeria.

The activists had planned to travel to Egypt's Rafah border crossing with Gaza, to demand the entry of humanitarian aid and an end to Israel's blockade on the besieged enclave.

An Egyptian official told The Associated Press that authorities had deported more than three dozen activists, most of whom held European passports, on arrival at Cairo International Airport in the past two days.

Meanwhile, Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli fire killed 22 people across the Palestinian territory yesterday, including 16 who were waiting to collect aid.

» 16 of the dead were waiting to collect aid at a distribution point

» Internet down in Gaza after attack on fibre optic cable

» UNGA to vote to demand immediate ceasefire

The distribution of food and basic supplies in the war-ravaged Gaza Strip has become increasingly fraught and perilous, exacerbating the territory's deep hunger crisis.

Civil defence official Mohammed al-Mughayyir told AFP that the Al-Awda Hospital received 10 dead and around 200 wounded, including women and

children, "after Israeli drones dropped multiple bombs on gatherings of civilians near an aid distribution point around the Netzarim checkpoint in central Gaza".

He said that Gaza City's Al-Shifa Hospital received six dead following Israeli attacks on aid queues near Netzarim and in the Al-Sudaniya area in northwestern Gaza.

Mughayyir said another six people were killed in Israeli attacks across Gaza.

The US- and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) accused Palestinian group Hamas of attacking aid workers en route to a distribution centre on Wednesday, saying at least five people were killed.

In Gaza, the Palestinian Authority said internet and fixed-line communication services were down yesterday following an attack on the territory's last fibre optic cable it blamed on Israel.

The United Nations General Assembly was set to vote yesterday on a draft resolution that demands an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire in the war in Gaza after the United States vetoed a similar effort in the Security Council last week, reports Reuters.

## 84 pushed in thru' Sylhet, Lalmonirhat borders

26 Bangladeshis deported via Chuadanga border

STAR REPORT

At least 84 people were pushed into Bangladesh from India through different border points in Sylhet, Sunamganj and Lalmonirhat between Wednesday night and early yesterday.

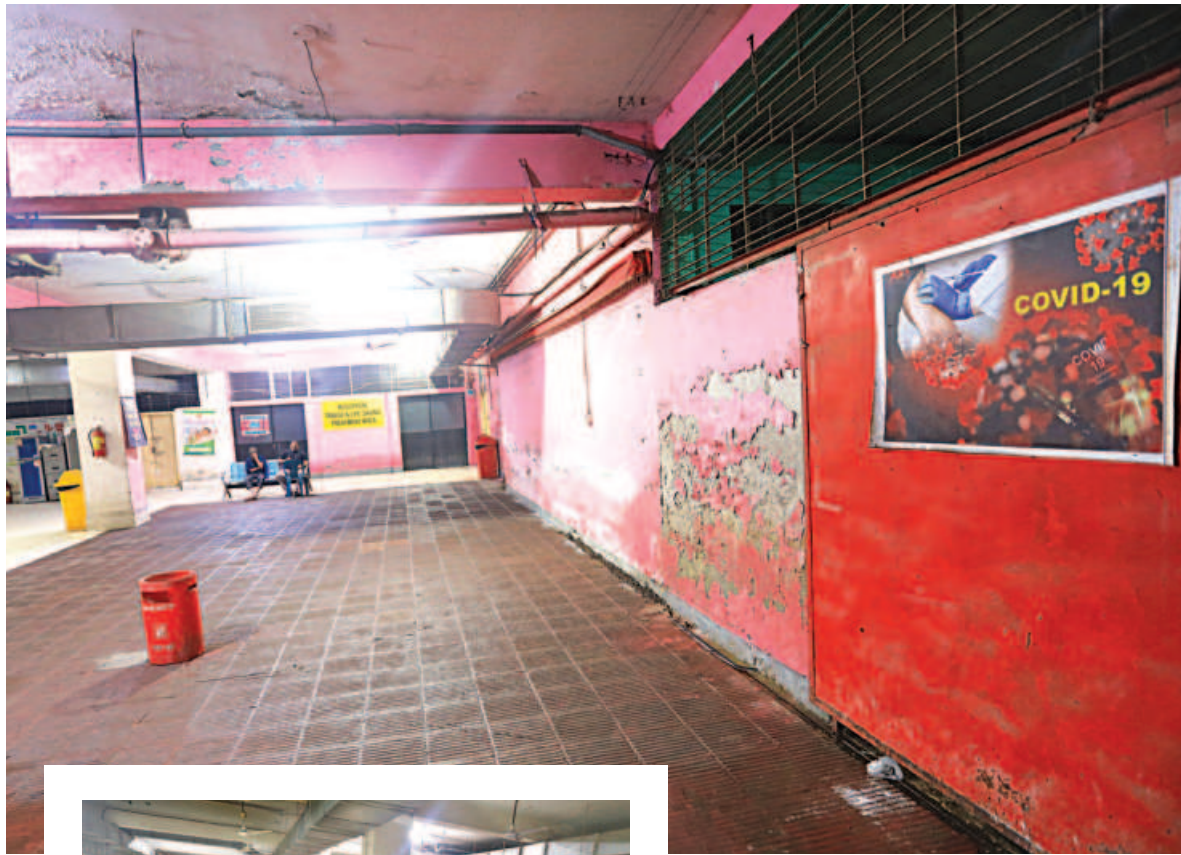
Of them, 70 people, including 18 women and 30 children, of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat, were pushed in through borders in Sylhet and Sunamganj, while 14 others of Lalmonirhat were pushed in through different border points in the district.

In Sylhet and Sunamganj, members of the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) detained the returnees and confirmed their identities as Bangladeshi nationals.

Confirming the matter, Lt Col Md Nazmul Haque, commanding officer of BGB 48 Battalion in Sylhet, said the individuals had been living illegally in India for years before being detained and pushed back by the BSF.

In Sylhet's Jaintiapur upazila, 17 people of two families -- including four men, four women, and nine

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The Covid testing area at DMCH is being cleaned and readied, as the hospital is set to start collecting samples from tomorrow. The Directorate General of Health Services in the meantime has supplied test kits to six major hospitals in Dhaka and Chattogram, including DMCH, to ensure testing activities can begin without delay amid the recent surge in Covid-19 cases. Inset, stocks of saline lie damp on the floor near the testing area. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## BNP team to visit China this month on CPC invite

### Trip likely to take place at the end of the month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A high-level delegation of the BNP, led by the party's secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, is scheduled to visit China at the end of this month at the invitation of the Communist Party of China.

Sayrul Kabir Khan, a member of the BNP's media cell, confirmed the development yesterday, adding that the visit will be conducted under Mirza Fakhru's leadership.

Party sources said China has expressed interest in strengthening ties with the BNP, particularly in the context of possible political shifts in Bangladesh following the end of the Awami League's tenure in government.

China has previously hosted representatives from the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and other political parties as part of its diplomatic outreach efforts.



What the Awami League and Jamaat can learn from apologies

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Iran in breach of nuclear obligations: IAEA

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WE MOURN



**Abdullah Hil Rakib**

Former Senior Vice President, BGMEA & Managing Director, Team Group

We express our deepest condolences on the passing of Abdullah Hil Rakib, a dynamic entrepreneur and visionary business leader. His first namaz-e-janaza will be held at **BGMEA Complex in Uttara** at **10 AM on 14th June 2025** & the 2nd janaza will be held on the same day after Zuhr prayer at around **2 PM at Banani DOHS Field**.

**Md. Anwar Hossain**  
Administrator, BGMEA