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<b>EXHIBITION</b> 'PAINTERS EVER AFTER' BEGINS TODAY > DHAKALIVE 5	<b>NO HOPE IN SIGHT</b> SYRIA WAR ENTERS 10TH YEAR > WORLDWIDE 8	<b>CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK</b> RMG SECTOR FACES DIFFICULTIES > BUSINESS 9	<b>CHAMPIONS LEAGUE</b> PSG INTO LAST 8 > SPORT 13
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## Govt trying best to resist COVID-19: PM

UNB, Dhaka



Noting that the government is making its best efforts to fight coronavirus, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the country's people to properly follow the awareness-raising instructions over the virus.

"We've been trying our best to resist Covid-19 or Coronavirus... the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) has been regularly providing instructions to raise awareness over the virus. All will have to follow these instructions regarding awareness," she said while addressing a function at her official residence Ganabhaban.

The PM said this inaugurating the countrywide cleanup campaign under the 'Clean Village-Clean Town' Programme on the occasion of Mujib Borsho, 2020 celebration.

The Local Government Division has taken the 'Clean Village-Clean Town' Programme aiming to build a clean Bangladesh in the Mujib Year by inspiring all to keep them and their surroundings neat and clean for preventing different diseases, including mosquito- and water-borne ones.

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Most of the passengers on board a public bus in the capital's Jatrabari area yesterday wear face masks to ward off coronavirus disease which World Health Organisation on Wednesday declared pandemic.

FOCUS BANGLA PHOTO

## SC summons judge for bail to rape accused

STAFF REPORTER, Dhaka

The Appellate Division (AD) of the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday summoned Judge Kamrun Nahar of Dhaka's Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 to appear before it on April 2 to explain her position in granting bail to a rape case accused, even after the apex court stayed the bail order.

The Dhaka Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-7 judge granted bail to accused Aslam Shikder in connection with a rape case filed against him.

The AD had earlier stayed his bail order in the case. But the tribunal judge granted him bail, even after getting information of the apex court's stay order.

At the same time, the SC cancelled the tribunal order that granted bail to the accused person in connection with the case. It also directed the accused to appear before the lower court concerned within two weeks.

The seven-member full bench of the AD, headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, came up with the order after the attorney general brought the matter before the highest court, saying that the lower court granted bail to a rape case accused even after getting information of the stay order by the SC.

According to the case information, a

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## DEFAMATION CASE HC revokes order after granting Khaleda bail

UNB, Dhaka

Hours after granting permanent bail to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in a defamation case filed in Narail district, the High Court yesterday revoked the bail order.

The HC bench of Justice Md Abu Zafar Siddique and Justice ASM Abdul Mobin passed the order following a petition filed by the state seeking withdrawal of the bail order.

It also said the hearing on the bail petition will be held one week after the vacation of the Supreme Court ends on March 28.

Earlier in the morning, the bench granted permanent bail to the BNP chief in the case.

Advocate AJ Mohammad Ali and Barrister Kaiser Kamal stood for Khaleda Zia.

On August 13, 2018, the High Court

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## Expatriates advised not to travel home

STAFF REPORTER, Dhaka

In an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19 in the country, the government has advised expatriates not to return to their homeland for the time being.

No new cases of the virus were identified within the country yesterday.

Health and Family Planning Minister Zahid Maleque briefed the press on the current situation, a day after the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic.

Speaking in the ministry's conference room, Zahid said that the three infected persons have almost recovered and may be released any day. He encouraged expatriates who have returned to remain in self-quarantine as a part of the safety measures.

On March 9, he had urged Bangladeshi

citizens living abroad, especially in Italy and China, not to return home.

The health minister declared that the government had brought 10 more

- Bangladeshis abroad won't face visa-extension problem: Momen
- Ten more thermal scanners purchased
- Local carriers suspend flights to India

thermal scanners, which will be installed at strategic points of the country's ports where travellers' body temperatures are currently being checked using hand-

held infrared thermometers.

The Summit Group presented five thermal scanners to the health ministry for conducting check-ups of returnee expatriates.

On March 9, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) provided five thermal scanners as well. Two were allotted to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka, while one each went to Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram, Osmani International Airport in Sylhet, and Benapole land port in Jessore district.

Zahid said all hospitals at the division, district, and upazila levels have been kept ready, and 10 scanners will be set up at the Chattogram and Sylhet airports and at the Chattogram and Benapole land ports.

Responding to a question, Zahid said

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## First Indian dies as Trump bans travel from Europe

Trudeau in self-isolation after wife shows flu-like symptoms

AGENCIES, Washington, Delhi

A 76-year-old man who recently died tested positive for the novel coronavirus, an Indian state health minister reported Thursday, marking the country's first fatality from the global pandemic while US President Donald Trump announced a shock 30-day ban on travel from mainland Europe.

The man "has been Confirmed for #COVID19. The necessary contact tracing, isolation & other measures as per protocol are being carried out," B Sriramulu, health minister for Karnataka state, wrote on Twitter.

The man, who recently returned from Saudi Arabia and had a history of hypertension, diabetes and asthma, died on Tuesday night, according to the Press Trust of India (PTI).

Sriramulu said the man was from the city of Kalburgi, in the country's south.

US President Donald Trump announced a shock 30-day ban on travel from mainland Europe over the coronavirus pandemic that has sparked unprecedented lockdowns, widespread panic and

another financial market meltdown yesterday. Trump's unexpected move in

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### COVID-19

World toll on March 12 at 0900 GMT

Countries and territories affected	Cases	Deaths
	125,293	4,600
	1,192	34

New since March 11 at 1700 GMT

Worst affected countries

	Cases total	new	Deaths
CHINA mainland	80,793	15	3,169
ITALY	12,462	//	827
IRAN	9,000	//	354
S. KOREA	7,869	114	66
FRANCE	2,281	497	48

// no new cases since March 11

Sources: AFP, WHO

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## Journo accused in Digital Security Act case missing for three days

STAFF REPORTER, Dhaka



Shafiqul Islam Kajol, editor of fortnightly newspaper 'Pakkhalkal' has reportedly been missing since March 10.

Family of Kajol, who previously worked at the dailies—Samakal and Bonik Barta— as a photo-journalist, on Wednesday filed a General Dairi (GD) with Chawkbazar Model Police Station mentioning that he has been missing since then.

Kajol is an accused in the case filed against Manabzamin Editor Matiuur Rahman Chowdhury, him and 30 others under Digital Security Act.

"Julia Ferdousi, wife of the journalist, filed the GD with the police station.

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Enthusiastic people through a souvenir shop carrying T-shirts, muffler, billed caps imprinted with logo of Mujib Barsha on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital yesterday as there's been a lot of hype around the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, slated to be held on March 17.

FOCUS BANGLA PHOTO

## Shortage of gloves, sanitisers, masks at Dhaka airport

Ansar members 'seek money from passengers' with quarantine threat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT, Dhaka

Inbound and outbound passengers and employees of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport have alleged that they are not getting adequate hand cleansers in lavatories and are thereby being exposed to the coronavirus.

It is also alleged that some members of Ansar are involved in taking bribes from inbound air passengers by threatening them with quarantine.

The police personnel in the immigration department and airport staff are doing their job under threat, as the authorities have not supplied them with coronavirus prevention materials like masks, gloves, and other items, some officials told The Independent on condition of anonymity yesterday.

According to sources, only two thermal scanners have been set up in the general section and another at the VIP gate. Besides, inbound passengers have

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**3 DAYS TO GO**

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**Prayer times**

Waqt	Begins	Jamaat
Fajr	04:57 am	05:40 am
Zohr	12:12 pm	01:30 pm
Asr	04:26 pm	05:00 pm
Maghrib	06:12 pm	06:17 pm
Esha	07:23 pm	08:00 pm
Sun sets today	6:07 pm	
Sun rises tomorrow	6:08 am	

**THE BOSS OF SAUCE**

SAUCE