

TACKLING CORONAVIRUS

Ctg hospitals not ready

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Although doctors, nurses and health workers at port city hospitals are ready to provide treatment to coronavirus-infected persons, the healthcare centres are not yet well equipped to handle such patients.

The medicine unit of Chattogram General Hospital has recently set up a 100-bed isolation ward. Patients of the ward were either discharged or shifted to other wards, said sources at the hospital.

While visiting the ward this week, this correspondent saw the ward's windowpanes were broken in many places while only five beds had glass partition.

Wishing anonymity, a nurse at the ward said they were provided with some handgloves, disposable gowns and goggles but were not given any specific training on how to deal with such patients.

"We have been ordered to perform our duty... that too without any instruction or preparation," said another nurse. "We are also in fear; we don't know what to do."

Doctors at the hospital are also somewhat perplexed.

"The general ward was declared an isolation unit in haste. But the hospital does not have any ICU support, which is necessary to treat critical patients," said a physician.

Meanwhile, the Directorate General of Health Services instructed Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Disease (BITID) in Foulderhat of Sitakunda upazila to introduce a 50-bed Covid-19 ward.

While visiting the hospital on Tuesday, it was seen that the renovation work was still going on at the ward.

Asked, Dr Mamunur Rashid, an associate professor of Clinical Tropical Medicine at BITID, said the ward will be ready soon. He, however, said, "We can keep a patient isolated but that alone is not enough to treat the affected person properly."

"Most Covid-19 patients die due to respiratory failure. Critical patients need ICU support, which we do not have," said the doctor.

"Patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome need uninterrupted oxygen support but the hospital does not have any central oxygen supply system," he said. "The isolation ward should be negatively pressurised, which we don't have."

Negative room pressure is an isolation technique used in hospitals and medical centres to prevent cross-contaminations from room to room.

"Besides, the hospital does not have adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) and lacks facility to test Covid-19,"

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BUT WHAT ABOUT OTHERS? Flanked by supporters and wearing masks, Awami League (right) and BNP mayor candidates for CCC polls apply sanitiser to their hands at a programme at Chattogram Press Club yesterday. Though there is a restriction on gatherings imposed due to the coronavirus outbreak, the candidates continue to bring out campaign processions and hold meetings.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

CMP bans social events

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Asking owners of hotels, clubs and community centres not to take any reservation, Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) yesterday imposed a ban on social gatherings until further notice to prevent the risk of spreading coronavirus.

Abu Bakar Siddique, additional deputy commissioner (public relations) of CMP, said owners have been directed to not take any reservation until further notice.

CMP also imposed a ban on gathering at various tourist spots like Patenga sea beach, Foy's Lake, Jamburi Park and Chattogram Zoo from Wednesday afternoon.

Additional police were deployed to bar people from gathering, said Utpal Barua, officer-in-charge of Patenga Police Station.

Police have taken this initiative after images went viral on social media,

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NATESHWAR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE Pyramid-shaped stupa sheds new light on our rich past



The site of the 1,000-year-old Buddhist stupa discovered by archaeologists in Nateshwar.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time, a group of archaeologists have unearthed a pyramid-shaped stupa in the country.

The discovery was made at the Nateshwar archaeological site in Bikrampur. Archaeologists deduce the stupa to be from 780-950 AD, following carbon-14 dating from an American lab.

This rare pyramid-shaped stupa is not only markedly different from the usual egg-shaped variety of the Buddhist religious monuments, but also carries deep significance for understanding the region's history.

On top of this, the 44x44m stupa, which is almost 2,000 square metre in area, is Bangladesh's largest stupa, comparable in size to the globally exalted great stupas of Sanchi, Bharhut, Amaravati, Samath and more.

The above came to light following an almost complete uncovering of the structure's southern wing from excavations made this year.

Dr Sufi Mustafizur Rahman, professor of archaeology at Jahangirnagar University, who is the research director of this project, and Dr Nuh-ul-Alam Lenin, chairperson of Agrasar Bikrampur Foundation and director of the excavation project, unveiled the information at a press conference.

The briefing was held at Nateshwar

excavation site in Munshiganj's Tongbari upazila on Wednesday, said a press release signed by the two. This excavation and research project, which started in 2010, is being supervised by Bikrampur Foundation.

Nateshwar archaeological site bears witness to the Bengal region's thousand-year-old history. Ranging from biological remains of flora and fauna, to terracotta, metal and stone artefacts and unique architecture, the archaeological findings also paint the picture of an ancient civilisation that once dwelled on this land.

While this year's excavation uncovered the 44m wide southern wing of the stupa, digging for the past two years yielded parts of the northern and eastern wings.

But what makes the excavation of the southern wing important is that it sheds light on the shape of the structure and reveals critical clues about the architecture, such as wall length and area of the central terrace.

Additionally, this discovery helps put into perspective the timeline of the area.

After carbon-14 dating, two time periods of the Nateshwar Buddhist locale has been found. The first one dates from 780 to 950 AD, starting from the Deva dynasty (750-800 AD) and lasting till the early years of the Chandra dynasty rule (900-1050 AD).

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Home quarantine cases quadruple in 3 days in Barishal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Number of individuals who are under home quarantine has increased more than four times from Tuesday to yesterday in Barishal division.

Barishal district administration has started taking stricter steps against those who violate home quarantine instructions.

Barishal Divisional Commissioner Md Yamin Chowdhury disclosed the fact yesterday noon at his office in the city, after contacting authorities of 42 upazilas over video conference.

Barishal Divisional Health Director Dr Basudev Das said 386 persons, who have returned from abroad, are in home quarantine in six districts of the division.

Two others were admitted to the isolation unit of Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital and Barguna General Hospital, over suspicion that they were infected.

The number of people in home quarantine was 90 on Tuesday and 386 yesterday.

"We were informed that some expatriates didn't maintain rules of home quarantine, so we're going to take

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Returnees in polls campaign!

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

Relatives, activists and supporters of councillor candidates contesting in Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) election have been participating in campaigns, defying instruction of home quarantine imposed by government in a bid to contain a possible coronavirus outbreak in the country.

District administration sources said at least 1,000 expatriates, most of whom arrived from Middle East in March, are leading or participating in social gatherings and rallies in 41 wards encompassing an area of around 155 sqkm to woo voters on behalf of their respective leaders.

The Daily Star learned that at least four siblings of Abu Saleh Chowdhury, Awami League nominated councillor candidate from ward-41 came from USA in two groups on March 5 and March 15. They have been campaigning for Abu for the last two weeks.

Though they were supposed to be in home quarantine, they were seen every day at the campaign since their arrival in the city. Among the USA returnees, Didar and Rony were seen going door to door of the

electorate, sparking fear among voters.

Abu Saleh Chowdhury claimed to The Daily Star that one sibling, Rony, returned long before the coronavirus outbreak and four other relatives came from USA on March 5 and March 15 respectively.

He said they were thoroughly examined at Shah Amanat airport.

Asked why they are leading campaigns when they were supposed to be in home quarantine, he said his campaign was "toned down" considering the situation.

"They [returnee relatives] do not have the virus, so they partially attended the campaign," he added.

Sheikh Fazle Rabbi, civil surgeon of Chattogram told The Daily Star he is really worried that overseas returnees are taking part in election campaigning.

"It is a suicidal decision to make them part of an election campaign. This will ruin all our steps taken to contain the possible outbreak of coronavirus," he said.

Mobile courts have fined eight expats for not maintaining home quarantine properly, while at least 97 people have been asked to stay in home quarantine.

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Testing kits in Ctg soon

Says div commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The testing kits to detect novel coronavirus will arrive shortly in Chattogram, and Bangladesh Institute of Tropical Infectious Diseases (BITID) at Sitakunda upazila will be prepared to test the virus within 48 hours, said Divisional Commissioner of Chattogram ABM Azad yesterday.

He came up with the information after a coordination meeting over the preparation to prevent and combat coronavirus in port city. The meeting was held at Chattogram Circuit House, in presence of different stakeholders.

After the meeting, the divisional commissioner said, "It's a good news for us that covid-19 now can be tested in different areas of the country. We have selected BITID to conduct

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RMCH interns suspend work for four hours

They returned after authorities provided protective gears

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Four hours after stopping work, demanding of personal protective equipment (PPE), interns at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) have joined back.

The interns started attending to patients around noon after the authorities supplied masks, gloves and sanitisers to some who work at the vulnerable units, said Iqbal Hasan, general secretary of RMCH Interns' Council.

Around 200 interns of the hospital stopped attending to patients around 8am, Iqbal said. "We have quarantined ourselves," he added.

The hospital authorities repeatedly told interns that they would provide them with PPE within a day or two, but they failed to do so in the last two weeks, said interns. "We attend to a number of patients

with fever, sneezing, and coughs every day, and nobody knows who among them are infected with coronavirus," said the interns' spokesperson Iqbal.

"Who will take responsibilities if any of us get infected with the disease?" he asked. Interns have not lost their sense of humanity, he added.

"They want to serve people. They are protesting the dillydallying by authorities over a serious matter," he further said.

Denying the interns' claims, Dr Saiful Ferdous, deputy director of the medical college, said the hospital has received nearly 100 pieces of PPE, and 1,000 units each of masks, gloves and gowns.

"We have our limitations... We couldn't provide PPE to all physicians of the hospital. We were able to facilitate just the coronavirus unit doctors." More consignments will reach soon, he assured.

Zillur Rahman's anniversary of death today

Bss, Dhaka

Today is the seventh death anniversary of former president Zillur Rahman, a veteran politician, Language Movement hero, an organiser of the Liberation War and one of the close associates of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

He died of old-age complications at a Singapore hospital in 2013.

Zillur started his political career as a volunteer of Awami League and was inducted as the 19th president of the country on February 12, 2009.

He discharged his responsibilities as general secretary of AL for 12 years for five different terms.

পুনঃ সংশোধনী

গত ১২/৩/২০২০ তারিখে "দৈনিক সমকাল" এবং ১৩/৩/২০২০ তারিখে "দি ডেইলি স্টার" পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তরের ২০টি শিশু দিবসীয় কেন্দ্র স্থাপন প্রকল্পে আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহের উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (একাধিক লট) নম্বর- ৩২.০১.০০০০.০২৭.১১.০৩৮.২০-৩৩৫৭, তারিখঃ ১১/৩/২০২০ এর "বিষয়ঃ আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহের উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (একাধিক লট)" এর স্থলে "আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহের উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি" হবে। বিজ্ঞপ্তির ১৩ নম্বর ক্রমিক বর্ণিত দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়সীমা "০১/০৪/২০২০" তারিখ, দুপুর ১১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত এর স্থলে ০২/০৪/২০২০ তারিখ, দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত এবং দরপত্র বাস্তব বন্দের তারিখ ও সময়সীমা ০২/০৪/২০২০ তারিখ, দুপুর ১২.০১ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত হবে। ১৪ নম্বর ক্রমিক বর্ণিত দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ "০১/০৪/২০২০" এর পরিবর্তে "০২/০৪/২০২০" তারিখ হবে। ১৮ নম্বর ক্রমিকে সেবা প্রদানকারীর বিবরণে ২টি লটার পরিবর্তে ১টি লট হবে। ১৯ নম্বর ক্রমিকে বর্ণিত দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য "২৫০০/- (দুই হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা" এর পরিবর্তে "২০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা" হবে। ২০ নম্বর ক্রমিকে বর্ণিত টেন্ডার সিডিউলের পরিমাণ "লট-১ঃ ১৪ (চৌদ্দ) হাজার টাকা" এবং লট-২ঃ ১৩ (তের) লক্ষ টাকা" এর পরিবর্তে ১টি লটে "১১ (এগার) লক্ষ টাকা" হবে। ক্রমিক ২১ এ দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য বাদ "২৫০০/- (দুই হাজার পাঁচশত) টাকা" এর পরিবর্তে "২০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা" হবে।

শবনম মোস্তারী
প্রকল্প পরিচালক (উপসচিব)
২০টি শিশু দিবসীয় কেন্দ্র স্থাপন প্রকল্প
জিডি-৫৪৫
মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা
ফোনঃ ৫৫১৩৮৫৪০

FLOUTING QUARANTINE 2 overseas returnees fined in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A mobile court in Muktagacha upazila of Mymensingh yesterday sent a recent overseas returnee to mandatory quarantine, and fined his wife.

Malaysia-returnee Suruj Ali (40) had been roaming in the village since his return home on March 12, defying the government-mandated 14-day home quarantine, according to locals.

On information, a mobile court, led by Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Muktagacha and executive magistrate Suborna Sarker, rushed to the village and sent Suruj for eight-day mandatory quarantine at Paranganj Hospital in Mymensingh Sadar upazila, said Officer-in-Charge of Muktagacha Police Station Piblob Kumar Biswas.

The mobile court also fined Suruj's wife Anju Mala Tk 5,000 for repeatedly misleading the mobile court, said the UNO.

In another drive, a Dubai returnee was fined Tk 20,000 as he defied quarantine instructions and left his home, in Ishwarganj upazila on Wednesday afternoon.

When Abul Khayer (31) was sitting at a barbershop at Laxmiganj Bazar and chitchatting with others there, some traders of the bazar found out that he is a returnee, and informed the upazila administration.

A mobile court led by Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Ishwarganj and executive magistrate Md Zakir Hossain rushed to the spot, fined him Tk 20,000 and sent him to home quarantine.

Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Bangladesh Railway
Outer Circular Road, Kamalapur, Dhaka-1217

No. PD/DTJDLPTENDER/WD2-884 Dated 19.03.2020

Package No.WD2: Design, Supply, Installation and Testing-Commissioning of Computer Based Interlocked Signaling system at 7 (Seven) stations including interlocking of selected level crossings and installation of optical fiber cable based telecommunication system for block operation and CTC interface work (Turnkey Works) in connection with construction of 3rd and 4th Dual Gauge Track in Dhaka-Tongi section and Doubling of Dual Gauge Track in Tongi-Joydebpur section.

Ref:
1. IFT No: PD/DTJDLPTENDER/WD2-831 ; Dated 20.02.2020
2. Corrigendum 1: /DTJDLPTENDER/WD2-859 ; Dated 08.03.2020

Corrigendum No.-2

SI No. of IFT	Provision as per Corrigendum-1	Provision as per Corrigendum-2
17.	Tender Last Selling Date	20.04.2020 (during office hours). 18.05.2020 (during office hours).
18.	Tender Closing Date and Time	Date: 21-04-2020 Time: Up to 12:00 hrs BST Date: 19-05-2020 Time: Up to 12:00 hrs BST
19.	Tender Opening Date and Time	Date: 21-04-2020 Time: At 12:30 hrs BST Date: 19-05-2020 Time: At 12:30 hrs BST
21.	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	Conference Room 'Meghna' (5th Floor), Rail Bhaban, 16 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka. Date & Time: 24.03.2020 at 11.00 hrs BST Conference Room 'Meghna' (5th Floor), Rail Bhaban, 16 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka. Date & Time: 23.04.2020 at 11.00 hrs BST

All other Terms and Conditions of the Tender Notice shall remain unchanged.

(Md. Shahidul Islam)
Project Director
Construction of 3rd and 4th Dual Gauge Lines in Dhaka-Tongi section and Doubling of Dual Gauge line in Tongi-Joydebpur section Project.
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GD- 550