



Barishal International Trade Fair wears a deserted look after the month-long event was postponed to prevent the spread of coronavirus. This photo was taken from the city's Band Road area recently.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Shut down RMG

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has been suspended and an "uneasy calm situation" is prevailing in the capital due to coronavirus, but neither the [factory] owners nor the government has made any declaration to ensure the safety of 40 lakh workers of the RMG industry, which is the top foreign currency earning sector of the country, they said in the statement.
Bangladesh Garment Sramik Sanghati leaders said thousands of garment workers are in a vulnerable position during this pandemic.
Water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in factories are inadequate, they said. Usage of masks and hand sanitiser is almost absent in the factories.
They urged the government to take steps to control house rent and price of essentials strictly.

Form joint taskforce

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with them [returnees] must be quarantined; military or paramilitary forces should be used in this regard, if needed," he said.
Manna said the government should also let people know about the authentic information about this pandemic to make them aware. He also recommended the government to ensure coronavirus testing facilities in every district.
"According to the World Health Organization guidelines, people need to be screened if they have symptoms and the government should provide treatment accordingly," Manna said.
He said the kit, invented by Gonoshasthaya Kendra, must be commercially produced.
His other recommendations include providing personal protective equipment to doctors and other healthcare professionals throughout the country; ensuring hygiene of people by distributing hand sanitisers among them; cleaning public transports; preparing isolation units and ensuring economic security of the marginalised.
Among others, party leaders Atiqul Islam, Mominul Islam and Dr Jahidur Rahman were present at the conference.

Abducted teenager

FROM PAGE 5
Jafarullah and his men had threatened the girl's parents to forcefully marry her, said the OC, quoting the victim's family members.
The girl's parents informed Jafarullah's family members but they did not take any step to stop him, it was also alleged.
As the girl's parents did not agree to his proposal, an angry Jafarullah, along with his accomplices, ransacked the girl's house, beat up her parents and abducted the girl, said the OC.
The girl's father, who sustained serious injuries in the attack, was admitted at MMCH.

Awareness campaign

FROM PAGE 5
being quarantined, they have to be prepared and alert.
He said mobile courts are also conducting drives to find out if anyone is flouting quarantine rules. So far, the courts have fined at least nine persons for violating instructions for home quarantine in eight districts of the division.
Out of 809 people who returned home from abroad till Thursday, 769 were asked to remain under home quarantine for two weeks, he said.
Rajshahi range police DIG AKM Hafiz Akhter and Rajshahi DC Hamidul Haque were also present during the campaign.
The move came after locals were

complaining of lack of awareness over coronavirus outbreak and inadequate initiatives by the authorities concerned in this regard.
The district information office also carried out campaign in the city and told people to remain cautious through loudspeakers. Rajshahi Transport Labourers' Union did the same at bus terminals.
Meanwhile, despite Islamic Foundation's instruction to not gather for Friday prayers, most mosques in the city were packed.
After the prayers at Shah Makhduh Dargah mosque, an individual handed out 500 soaps among the underprivileged in the area.

Work together to tackle

FROM PAGE 5
Naitai Kumar Bhattacharya presided over the discussion while Bureau Chief of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Kalim Sarwar, Editor of Ekushey Patrika Azad Talukdar and General Secretary of Chattogram TV Journalists Association (CTJA) Latia Ansari Runa, among others, were present on the occasion.
Urging all not to spread rumors over coronavirus, Hasan said all agencies concerned have been asked to identify those who are involved with spreading rumors. He said the government is committed to take stern actions against those who are involved in spreading rumors over COVID-19 to create panic among people.
The information minister said BNP is creating confusion, capitalising on the situation to misguide people.
The health ministry and all departments concerned are working sincerely to make people aware of the deadly virus through disseminating necessary information, he added.
Hasan, also the joint general secretary of ruling Awami League, said the government has taken all adequate measures to stop the spread of COVID-19. "We have cancelled various programmes on the Mujib year to protect people from getting infected," he added.
BNP is resorting to falsehood on coronavirus situation and the initiatives taken by the government to tackle the

deadly virus, he added.
"The government will take stern action against rumour-mongers.... I urge people not to be panicked as the government has directed all departments concerned to get prepared for successfully handling the disease," the information minister assured.
Refuting the allegation of BNP leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi that the government failed to contain the virus, the minister said despite having better healthcare facilities, countries across the world are struggling to contain its spread.
"Bangladesh has taken various steps and the situation in our country is still better than many other countries," he added. Already, more than 167 countries have been infected with the disease, he said.
He added, "We have learned from the media that there has been some progress in inventing coronavirus prevention vaccine."
After this government assumed power in 1996, one hour programme of the Chattogram centre increased to three hours, but these programmes could not be viewed in other parts of the country.
Turning his attention towards BTV, Chattogram, he said the Chattogram centre will be upgraded to a terrestrial service very soon.
"Procurement of equipment in this regard is underway. BTV Chattogram centre will start as a full-fledged terrestrial channel within six months, which is now being operated as a satellite channel," he added.

Death anniv of Faiz Mohammed

CITY DESK

Today is the sixth death anniversary of Faiz Mohammed, a former project manager of Augmedix.



Faiz was a computer enthusiast from a very young age, and his passion later became his profession.

Faiz left behind his mother Fauzia Mowla Lisa, wife, a son, and a host of relatives, friends and well-wishers to mourn his death, said a press release.

Marking the occasion, food will be distributed in an orphanage and a doa mahfil will be held today.

68 businesses penalised for hiking price

STAR REPORT

To prevent price hikes due to increased demand for essential goods surrounding the coronavirus, mobile courts yesterday fined 68 traders and business organisations across three districts, report our correspondents.

In Noakhali, 40 businesses, including grocery stores and wholesalers, were fined around Tk 2 lakh in total.

In Rangamati, a mobile court fined 10 businesses Tk 30,000.

In Tangail, the courts fined 18 traders for overcharging. Of them, 13 from Park Kitchen Market were fined Tk 1.6 lakh.

Another mobile court in Gopalpur also fined five traders.

10 fined for violating home quarantine rules

STAR REPORT

Despite the home quarantine ordered by the government to fight coronavirus, many expatriates were reportedly roaming around freely after returning to the country. In such circumstances, mobile courts have fined 10 people in separate drives yesterday.

In Narayanganj's Rugganj upazila, a man was fined Tk 10,000 for housing his Italy-returnee son-in-law. Additionally, 15 people from the family were ordered to go into home quarantine as they came in contact with the unnamed Italy expatriate from Gazipur.

Executive magistrate of the mobile court UNO Momtaz Begum said the Italy-returnee came to his in-laws' residence around 6 days ago.

In Cumilla, a Saudi expatriate was fined Tk 10,000 for violating the home quarantine rule at Jaynagar. He had come to the country on March 17.

In Satkhira, three returnees were fined and ordered to be in home quarantine, while one person was taken to isolation facilities at Satkhira Sadar Hospital.

A mobile court fined Maldives-returnee Kamruzzaman Tk 10,000, Kuwait-returnee Ranju Islam Tk 5,000, and Italy-returnee Mahidur Rahman Tk 30,000.

From March 1 to 18, the district has seen 8,868 returnees, of whom 169 have been ordered to go into home quarantine. In Netrakona, Singapore-returnee Md Mozammel (35) was fined after taking part at an arbitration at Bidhyabollo Bazar, where some 50 people gathered. The court fined him Tk 20,000 and ordered to go into home quarantine.

In Noakhali, four returnees were also fined. From Chatkhil upazila, Maldives-returnee Faisal Hossain was fined Tk 5,000 and Malaysia-returnee Md Sumon Tk 10,000.

In the district's Companiganj upazila, Saudi expatriate Delwar Hossain was fined Tk 20,000 for going to a pre-wedding ceremony immediately after the end of his quarantine period, while UAE-returnee Md Obaidul was fined Tk 10,000 for defying the home quarantine rule.

DRIVES FOIL PUBLIC GATHERINGS

To discourage public gatherings, mobile courts, police and Rab conducted drives in Gazipur, Narayanganj, and Rajshahi yesterday.

In Gazipur, a mobile court fined Md Shariful Islam of Sripur upazila Tk 50,000 for hosting a "sunnat-e-khatna" (circumcision) attended by 500 people. Authorities had discouraged him from doing this back on Thursday.

However, seeing that the programme was going ahead, the mobile court arrived at the location around 2pm yesterday and fined him.

Another similar programme was thwarted in Rajshahi city's Jamalpur area when police intervened a party being attended by 300 people in a field in front of one Ataur Rahman's house. Ataur organised the party on the occasion of his son's circumcision.

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CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Credit and Development Forum (CDF), a national network of the Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), is looking for a young, committed and smart professional for the position of Deputy Director (Network, Linkage & Research).
Responsibilities: Promotion of networking and building rapport with member-MFIs, exploring new donors and building linkage with donors, banks and other financial institutions and concerned Governmental Agencies and undertaking advocacy. Planning and development of microfinance research programme, making statistical analysis and preparing project proposals.
Requirements: Masters in Economics/Finance/Accounting/Statistics/English with honors/ MBA (Finance). Minimum 5 years experience. S/he should have communication, professional and leadership skill and conceptual clarity. Fluent in Bangla and English and possess computer skills in MS Office, Power point, ACCESS, web browsing and e-mail communications. Any application without work experience will not be entertained.
Age: 45 years maximum.
Salary: Consolidated monthly salary of an amount, to be negotiable, during the period of probation. Based on satisfactory performance, s/he will be placed in appropriate pay scale. Interested candidates are requested to submit their application through mail/courier/e-mail/in person with NID and a PP size photograph by 23 April, 2020 to Executive Director, Credit and Development Forum (CDF), CDF Bhaban, House # 13, Road # 09, Block # D, Monsurabad R/A, Adabor, Mohammadpur, Dhaka. For details, please visit our website: www.cdfbd.org and www.bdjjobs.com. e-mail ID: dircdf@agnionline.com, yunusalimiah@yahoo.com
(Only short listed candidates will be called for interview)

IsDB Career Opportunity
King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Program (KAAP) in Bangladesh being implemented by Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) is looking for a suitable candidate for the position of "Deputy to the Country Coordinator" in the Program Coordination Office (PCO) at Dhaka.
The candidate must have the following **Academic Qualifications and Professional Experience:**
• A minimum of Master Degree in Project Management / Engineering Management / Engineering in general.
• At least ten years' experience with international organizations or at least with international exposure.
• Experience in dealing/coordination with Government Ministries and Institutions and in dealing with the local market in Bangladesh.
• Energetic and proactive conduct with problem solving mindset and business records.
• Data analysis and reporting skills
• Excellent communication skills, written and verbal, both in English and Bengali.
• Proficient in MS Outlook, Word, Excel, Power Point etc.
• Under 60 years of age.
Applicants are requested to submit their full CV with necessary supporting documents directly to "kaap@isdb.org" within 30 April 2020.

VACANCY NOTICE
United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancies for the following positions under Service Contract modality with Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID-CHT) Project.
1. Communications Officer, SB – 4 Level (1 Position)
2. Geographic Information Officer, SB – 4 Level (1 Position)
3. Private Sector and Livelihoods Officer, SB – 4 Level (1 Position)
4. Natural Resource Management Officer, SB – 4 Level (1 Position)
5. Programme Officer (Gender Inclusive Education), SB – 3 Level (1 Position)
The duration of the service contract is one year initially, subject to renewal upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds.
For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/operations/jobs.html>. You will find the application deadline with vacancy advertisement.
Note: UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, ethnicity and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and people living with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.
UNDP does not tolerate sexual exploitation and abuse, any kind of harassment, including sexual harassment, and discrimination. All selected candidates will, therefore, undergo rigorous reference and background checks.
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Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.