



Ordered closed by the district administration to fight the spread of the coronavirus, parks and other visiting spots of Barishal remain empty. This photo was taken from the 30 Godown area, adjacent to the banks of the Kirtankhola.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

DEATH OF PNEUMONIA PATIENT

ICU, HDU shut down at pvt hospital in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and High Dependency Unit (HDU) of a private hospital in the port city has been closed down, after a patient died from pneumonia there three days back, said police and hospital authorities.

Doctors and nurses who attended the patient were asked to be home quarantined as precautionary measure after the incident.

The incident took place on Friday at Royal Hospital Private Ltd in port city's GEC area, but the incident came to light after police visited the hospital on Sunday night.

The deceased, Bibi Morium (34), was admitted at the hospital with breathing difficulties on Mach 19, said hospital sources.

Chairman of the hospital Dr Farid Ahmed told The Daily Star, "The woman had breathing problems and cough, and she was undergoing treatment at the ICU of the hospital."

"According to lab reports, she died from severe pneumonia. We've sent doctors and nurses who attended her at ICU on leave for home quarantine, and closed the ICU for 30 hours," said Dr Farid Ahmed.

Matiur Rahman, executive director of the hospital, told this newspaper, "As precautionary steps, we shut the ICU and HDU of the hospital after her death."

"After the incident, doctors and nurses were panicked, and demanded Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to continue work at the hospital, but we are struggling to provide them the equipment," he added.

Hospital and police sources said the woman was a resident of Korbaniganj area under Kotwali Police Station, and her symptoms were similar to that of novel coronavirus. However, she could not undergo any Covid-19 detection test.

After the death, intelligence personnel, Special Branch (SB) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) visited the hospital and talked to doctors and officials on Sunday night.

Ansar Ali, husband of Bibi Morium, told The Daily Star, "My wife had been suffering from breathing difficulties and cough for a long time. When I rushed her to the hospital, doctors at first refused to admit her over coronavirus threat."

"Later on, seeing her prescription and medical history, they agreed to admit her

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SCC disinfecting city to fight coronavirus outbreak

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

To fight the outbreak of coronavirus, Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) started a special drive to keep the city disinfected by spraying and spreading bleaching powder mixed liquid.

The drive started on Saturday evening and has continued every day and night since, to cover all areas as soon as possible.

Dr Md Jahidul Islam, chief health officer of SCC, said, "We are using calcium hypochlorite, which is commonly called bleaching powder, with a ratio of 10gm in per litre of water."

"At bazaars of the city, we are spreading a thick liquid that contains more bleaching powder and also spreading powder directly," he said.

He said, "In shopping malls, we are spraying the liquid with handheld sprayer and finally for roads, footpaths and roadside walls we are using our spraying vehicles for the cleaning liquid."

Starting the drive at Sylhet railway station and bus terminal area at Kadamtali on Saturday morning, the corporation sprayed disinfectant at all bazaars and several shopping malls.

Major roads of Chowhatta, Kumarpara,

Nayasarak, Kazitula, Baruthkhana, Naiorpul and Zindabazar areas were already covered on Sunday, the SCC official said.

In daytime, we are not being able to spray disinfectant in roads and footpaths, so we're conducting the drive after 11pm in the night, Dr Jahidul said.

Contacted, Prof Dr Ashrafal Alam, head of the department of chemistry at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in Sylhet, said, "Bleaching powder is the most convenient and effective method of disinfecting. The corporation is doing a very good job."

"The liquid can also be stored at all public places for people to use, and the cost of making the liquid is very affordable for all," he said.

SCC Chief Health Officer Dr Jahidul said, "We are already planning to set several wash blocks in different parts of the city and we will consider the suggestion of keeping liquid disinfectant in the wash blocks."

"Until the virus outbreak passes, the drive will continue by rotation and we also need help from the citizens to raise awareness," he said.

Woman burnt 'by husband' in M'singh

Two in-laws arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A woman was burnt allegedly by her husband in Mymensingh on Sunday.

Police said Shirina Akter (22), mother of a one-year-old son, was initially taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

Shirina lived with her husband Sohel Mia, two step-children and the man's first wife in Pungai village under Tarakanda upazila, said the law enforcers.

Sohel, a day labourer and son of Suruj Mia from Pungai, married Shirina, daughter of Siraj Ali of the same village, four years ago, Tarakanda Police Station Md Abul Khayer quoted the family and locals as saying.

There has been a dispute between Sohel and Shirina over dowry since their marriage, said the OC.

In the afternoon on the day, Sohel beat her indiscriminately as she refused to bring money from her father, said the police officer, adding that, at one stage, he burnt her pouring kerosene on her.

Hearing her screams, neighbours rushed to the spot and took her to MMCH. Shirina sustained more than 70 percent burns, the police officer quoted MMCH doctors as saying.

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Bangalees will defend

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the government and the people of India for the help and assistance they provided during the Bangladesh's liberation struggle.

NAP LEADERS MEETS

MUIJB

An eight-member team of the Bangladesh National Awami Party (Muzaffar) today calls on Bangabandhu and discusses with him the current situation in the country. The NAP leaders submit a memorandum containing suggestions for solving various problems faced by the country. They plead for the import of food grains from friendly countries on an emergency basis. They also stress upon the need to hold an all-party conference immediately to discuss the food problem, which they term a national problem.

BHASHANI URGES TOUGH MEASURES TO STOP SMUGGLING

Maulana Bhashani urges the government to put a stop to smuggling, anti-social activity by a section of the so-called 'Mukti Bahini' and asserts that unless law and order is restored the people's rights cannot be established. Addressing a press conference, Bhashani asks the government to punish the culprits who collaborated with the regime of Yahya Khan during the Pakistan army's occupation. He, however, suggests that none should be punished without a trial.

Bhashani also welcomes the Bangladesh-India Treaty of Friendship and hopes that friendship between the two countries will further develop. He also maintains that genuine friendship between the

two peoples will be established on the basis of principles and ideology when socialism will come to both countries.

BANGLADESH ELECTION COMMISSION ORDER

The president of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has made an order titled 'The Bangladesh Election Commission Order, 1972', which provides for the constitution of an election commission in Bangladesh. MADRASAH EDUCATION REFORM BOARD FORMED A 21-member Madrasah Shiksha Sangskar Board (Madrasah Education Reform Board) is formed in Dhaka today at a meeting of the ulemas from different parts of the country.

SOURCES: March 25, 1972 issues of Dainik Bangla, The Daily Ittefaq, Azad, Morning News, The Bangladesh Observer and Purbodesh.

Bangladesh may see more floods

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affect the availability, quality and quantity of water for basic human needs, threatening the effective enjoyment of the human rights to water and sanitation for potentially billions of people."

"Collaboration on information-sharing has long provided an important anchor for broader collaboration on transboundary issues -- as for example between Bangladesh and India on flooding -- and climate change is likely to increase the imperative for this," the report read.

The report said intense monsoon in August 2017 affected 40 million people in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, claiming nearly 1,300 lives and putting 1.1 million people in relief camps.

"Floods could cost South Asia as much as \$215 billion each year by 2030. Floods are also expected to contaminate water sources, destroy water points and sanitation facilities, and therefore pose a challenge to universal access to sustainable water and sanitation services," it observed.

"The frequency of floods has increased over time. The important point is the timing of the floods -- we now see floods early in the year as well as late in the year," Brac University Prof Emeritus Ainun Nishat told The Daily Star yesterday, adding that India and Bangladesh have been sharing data on water levels of rivers, including flood forecasting.

Climate change and increasing demand for water will stress the region's groundwater resources, as the availability of surface water is affected by increasing climate variability. Groundwater use in the region could increase by 30 percent by 2050, the report said.

Increased concentration of pollutants when conditions are drier is of concern for groundwater sources that are already of low quality in certain locations in India and Bangladesh, it added.

Bangladesh's irrigation and water supply to major cities are heavily dependent on groundwater but the groundwater is not replenished in a proper way, Nishat said.

"Groundwater is depleting and so the contamination in ground-level water will increase. But now the government is focusing on using surface water and we see that for Dhaka city, water is brought from the Meghna," he added.

The report said Bangladesh performs "medium low" in implementing the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM).

"Our integrated water policy is basically geared towards supporting agriculture. We do not have any specific water plan for fisheries, environment and many other sectors. The situation is very poor in ecosystem management," Nishat said.

The current national development plan recognises that Bangladesh cannot undertake meaningful water resource development programmes on its own and aims to strike new transboundary agreements, the report added.

"So far, however, a water-sharing agreement is in place for only one of its 57 transboundary rivers -- the Ganges -- with India," it said.

60-yr-old Italy returnee dies in Kishoreganj

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divisional commissioner in this regard.

After returning home, the man was neither in home quarantine nor contacted the local committee to contain the virus, said the letter.

On Saturday, the man started suffering from fever, cough, sore throat, and respiratory problems.

As his condition was deteriorating, his family members took him to a private hospital in Bhairab town around 10:00pm on Sunday. On-duty doctors there advised the patient to go to the isolation centre, the letter mentioned.

But the family members did not comply with the advice and took him to another private hospital in the town. The man breathed his last at the hospital around 11:00pm, according to the letter.

On information, a team of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) collected blood samples of the victim and three of his family members to check whether the man died after being infected with coronavirus, the letter said.

After the death, the local administration restricted people's movement to the two hospitals and

10 houses adjacent to the victim's house.

Those who came into contact with the man have been asked to be in home quarantine. Besides, red flags have been hoisted at their homes, the DC said in the letter.

After getting the report from IEDCR, necessary action would be taken, the DC added.

Mujibur Rahman, civil surgeon of the district, said the victim was buried at his family graveyard under the supervision of the local administration.

Our Mymensingh correspondent contributed to this report.

Record case against DC, 3 officials

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issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government, DC Sultana, Senior Assistant Commissioner Nazim Uddin, and assistant commissioners Rintu Bikash Chakma and SM Rahatul Islam to explain in four weeks as to why the mobile court's action against Ariful should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ashrafal Kamal and Justice Sardar Md Rashed Jahangir came up with the order and rule following a writ petition filed by journalist Ariful challenging the legality of the mobile

court's action against him.

Ariful is now out on bail.

Ariful's lawyer Ishrat Hasan told The Daily Star that Ariful and his family members were about to go to sleep when some Ansar members, accompanied by magistrates Nazim Uddin, Rintu Bikash Chakma and Rahatul Islam, stormed the house and tortured him.

The mobile court sentenced him around 1:30am on March 14.

It was done so as Ariful wrote about the alleged corruption by the district administration, including by DC Sultana, said Ishrat, citing the writ

petition

The lawyer said Ariful later went to Kurigram Sadar Police Station to file a case against DC Sultana, Nazim Uddin, Rintu Bikash Chakma and Rahatul Islam and the Ansar personnel for torturing and attempting to kill him.

But police refused to record the case, she said, adding that the HC yesterday ordered the officer-in-charge of Kurigram Sadar Police Station to record the case.

DC Sultana and the magistrates have been withdrawn from their posts.

shortage of essentials easily," he said.

When asked about Greater Unity for Reality's surgical masks, the civil surgeon of Bagerhat Dr KM Humayun Kobir told The Daily Star the products are of the same quality like those supplied by the government.

"We told our doctors four or five days ago to buy masks from the market. They told me that masks are difficult to find in the market and those available are Tk 70-80 per piece. Now the price has decreased to Tk 15-20 per piece," he said.

Commending the initiative taken by Greater Unity for Reality, he said the organisation also took a gown sample from them.

"We can comment about the quality of their gown once we receive one," he added.

Housewife

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arrestee admitted that he was involved in the crime, the OC added.

Contacted, Abdul Wahab, president of Sujanagar upazila Awami League, said the accused were "so-called" BCL men.

In the name of politics, the accused are committing crimes. So, they must be punished. Organisational action will be taken against them if they held posts in the BCL, he said.

for social welfare.

"Any organisation can collect 500 masks and an individual can obtain only five from us at a time," he said, adding that the district administration, police, government hospitals, political parties and voluntary organisations have brought masks from them.

However, the organisation is now shifting their production from masks to protective gowns, as they feel most institutions in Bagerhat have acquired sufficient masks.

"We have already made two gowns and hope to make more," Sheikh Mosfikur told The Daily Star on Monday.

The cooperative is also creating awareness about the virus in the rural and urban areas by making public announcements using loudspeakers, he added.

SM Forruk Hasan Jewel, an advisor of Greater Unity for Reality, claimed that the price of masks in Bagerhat has come down since their organisation started making and selling the product for a price below Tk 10.

"When these organisations come forward, unscrupulous businessmen become alert," he said.

"If a small organisation like us can influence a decrease in price [of mask], then giant organisations of our country can also help minimise the