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## GROCERY BUYING SPREE

# Orders flood online outlets

Many preferring home deliveries, staying away from market places amid corona scare

**NILIMA JAHAN**

In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, a large number of people have opted for ordering groceries online from the safety of their homes.

Customers want to avoid the danger of interacting with people and at the same time, stock up on necessities as people fear a drawn-out self-isolation period until the crisis passes. Home deliveries are considered a safe option.

Waseem Alim, co-founder and CEO of Chaldal, an online grocery and delivery platform, says they have been serving 4,000 customers a day in Dhaka through their 350 delivery workers.

Such platforms have seen a surge in business in the past weeks. Chaldal has been inundated with orders and has been operating at maximum capacity. Due to this, customers now need to wait for almost a week for their next available slot for delivery.

Sabrina Fatema, a resident of Dhanmondi, said she was trying to order a disinfectant item on the site on March 21. The first available slot she found was March 28.

Farhana Lubaba, a resident of the Kazipara area of Mirpur, said she had to wait four days to get her order from Shwapno.

"I was expecting that I wouldn't be getting my order anymore. I was surprised to get a phone call from a delivery worker on the fourth day," she said.

Since more and more people are ordering groceries and

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**A farmer arranges watermelons at a wholesale shop in the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday. He was struggling to sell the summer fruit, brought from Patuakhali's Galachipa upazila, due to a lack of customers, as many have already left the capital following the declaration of a 10-day general holiday by the government. The growers were asking Tk 15,000 for each 100 watermelons.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



## Prime minister to address the nation today

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the nation this evening.

Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar will broadcast the address at 7:30pm, said sources at the Prime Minister's Office.

Hasina is going to deliver the national address at a time when the number of coronavirus cases is rising every day in the country.

Sources said the PM is likely to give some instructions on how to tackle Covid-19.

Yesterday, another coronavirus patient, aged about 70, died in Bangladesh and six more new cases were reported by the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease

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## Bangladeshis still coming from Europe

### Officials raise the alarm

**RASHIDUL HASAN**

Even though the government has closed the door for people travelling into the country from Europe, except the UK, Bangladeshis are still coming home from those countries via London and Manchester, said officials concerned.

This increases the risk of spreading the coronavirus in the country.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, several pilots and crew members of Biman said they learnt from passengers in their flights that Bangladeshis were coming to Dhaka from different European countries on Dhaka-London and Dhaka-Manchester flights.

A senior pilot said the cabin crew of Biman, which is operating flights on the two routes, were at risk of being infected as they were not well protected with safety gears.

An official of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport questioned the logic behind continuing air communications

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## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

### Bangabandhu recalls martyrs' sacrifice



**Bangabandhu addressing teachers and students of the capital's different educational institutions at Azimpur Girls' School on Independence Day (March 26, 1972).**

MARCH 25, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE**

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today at a meeting with Rayer Bazar Awami League members says, "The aim of our independence is a happy and prosperous future and therefore we should engage ourselves in rebuilding the Sonar Bangla that is laid to utter waste by the barbarous Pakistan army." He hails the 75

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## 2020 Tokyo Olympics postponed

AFP, Lausanne

The 2020 Tokyo Olympics have been postponed to no later than the summer of 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic sweeping the globe, the International Olympic Committee announced Tuesday.

The Games were scheduled for July 24-August 9, but after telephone discussions between IOC president Thomas Bach and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a historic joint decision was taken for the first postponement of an Olympics in peacetime.

Abe said Bach was in "100 percent agreement" when Japan asked the IOC to push back the Games.

In a joint statement, the pair said that based on current World Health Organization information,

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## Man runs length of a marathon all from his balcony



CNN ONLINE

One runner didn't let the French government's order to remain indoors prevent him from training for a marathon amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Last week, Elisha Nochomovitz, a 32-year-old furloughed restaurant worker, ran the length of a marathon (26.2 miles) -- on his 23-foot long balcony.

And he did it in six hours and 48 minutes, a personal record nearly double that of his previous finish time.

"My only pleasure is running, no matter what the time," Nochomovitz, who lives in the French city of Balma near Toulouse, told CNN.

He dedicated his run to medical staff working

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## Mob beats 'mugger' to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A suspected mugger has been beaten to death by a mob in Madhupur upazila of Tangail, said police.

The dead is Mohammad Shahin, 30, of the district's Sakhipur upazila.

Tarik Kamal, officer-in-charge of Madhupur Police Station, said Shahin, along with two others, hired a battery-run three-wheeler around 10:00pm on Monday from Ghatail Bus

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### PRAYER TIMING MARCH 25

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:45 12:45 4:45 6:20 7:45  
JAMAAT 5:20 1:15 5:00 6:25 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



**A view of morning traffic on FDR Drive in New York City. Inset, A drone loaded with disinfectant sprays at the deserted road in Bangalore. Global giant India yesterday joined the countries ordering their citizens to stay at home, putting a third of the world on lockdown. Photos were taken yesterday.**

PHOTO: AFP

## SHIPBREAKING YARD IN SITAKUNDA

# 2 workers die from toxic gas

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Chattogram

At least two workers died and another required medical attention allegedly after being exposed to toxic gases while manually dismantling a scrap ship at a shipbreaking yard in Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila yesterday.


The deceased are Nironjon Das, 65, and Suman Das, 48. Both of them were from Jhalakathi and worked at Khawaja

Shipbreaking Limited, police said, adding that another person was injured in the incident that took place in Madambibir Hat area around 12:30pm.

However, neither police nor the authorities could give any detail about the injured person and where he was receiving treatment.

The ship, MT West Energy, a 1976

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ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (ডিপিডিসি)  
**Dhaka Power Distribution Company Ltd.**

**প্রি-পেইড মিটার রিচার্জের বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা ডিপিডিসি'র সম্মানিত সকল প্রি-পেইড গ্রাহকদের জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, করোনা ভাইরাস মোকাবেলার কারণে যদি আপনার নিকটস্থ POS এজেন্টের দোকান বন্ধ থাকে সে ক্ষেত্রে এজেন্টগণ যাতে আপনার আড়িনায় গিয়ে প্রি-পেইড মিটারটি রিচার্জ করতে পারে এ ব্যাপারে ডিপিডিসি'র প্রি-পেইড এজেন্টগণকে প্রয়োজনীয় নির্দেশনা প্রদান করা হয়েছে। সুতরাং, জরুরি প্রয়োজনে প্রি-পেইড মিটার রিচার্জের জন্য ডিপিডিসি'র ওয়েব ঠিকানা [www.dpdc.org.bd/agentlist](http://www.dpdc.org.bd/agentlist) ভিজিট করে আপনার নিকটস্থ এজেন্টগণের তালিকা জেনে নিন এবং এজেন্টকে ফোন করে ঘরে বসে রিচার্জের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করুন। প্রয়োজনে ডিপিডিসি'র কল সেন্টারের ১৬১১৬ নম্বরে কল করে সহায়তা গ্রহণ করুন।

নির্বাহী পরিচালক (অপারেশন), ডিপিডিসি

যে কোন পরিস্থিতিতে নিরবচ্ছিন্ন বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহে ডিপিডিসি বদ্ধ পরিকর।