



To contain the novel coronavirus pandemic, traders in Sylhet have decided to bring their shutters down for a week starting on Monday. With most stores closed, the streets of the city's busiest Zindabazar area have become deserted.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

CORONAVIRUS SUSPICION 7-month-old in isolation ward

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A seven-month-old baby was put in an isolation ward at Kushtia General Hospital on suspicion of coronavirus infection yesterday.

Tapas Kumar Sarkar, resident medical officer (RMO) of the hospital, said family members brought the girl to the hospital on Wednesday. The infant has fever, cold and cough.

She was admitted to the pediatric ward for treatment. As the baby's condition worsened yesterday, doctors started treating her for pneumonia, he added.

The RMO said doctors and nurses repeatedly questioned the family members whether any of the relatives returned to the country recently but they denied.

Yesterday, the family, however, admitted that the baby's father was an expatriate who returned to Bangladesh from Singapore on March 9 and since then he had been living with his family, the RMO said. "So, we have taken the baby to an isolation unit," he added.

As the news spread, most family members of the baby, including the father, fled from the hospital premises. Kushtia Deputy Commissioner Aslam Hossain said they are trying to put all the family members in quarantine.

Asked, Kushtia Civil Surgeon Anwar Hossain said they are also trying to trace the doctors and nurses involved in treating the baby since the period of her admission to the hospital. He said the hospital has a 20-bed isolation unit, PPE and other equipment for doctors and nurses to treat patients.

"We have also informed the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR). They will collect the child's samples soon," the civil surgeon said.

Rotary hands out sanitisers among worried citizens

STAR REPORT

Rotary International District, Bangladesh has started distributing hand sanitiser among working people in Dhaka city, says a press release.

M Khairul Alam, governor of Rotary, inaugurated the distribution programme.

He said, "Our working people have to stay outdoor. It is impossible for them to provide family with food if they do not go out for work."

"As there is not enough public place to wash hands in the capital, these people are at high risk of getting infected with coronavirus," he added.

Considering the present crisis in market and as part of making people aware of washing hands, Rotary is distributing 30,000 bottles of hand sanitiser among working people.

This handwash is being prepared for free distribution under direct supervision of Rotary International with technical support from Gono Shwasthya University, Savar.

Rotary youth organisation, Rotaract, is responsible for distributing the product manufactured with its own funds from 50 Rotary clubs.

Rotary is also planning to hold another programme to distribute food items among working people, according to Governor Khairul Alam.

BANGLADESHI MIGRANT WORKERS KSA to extend 'iqama' work permit for free

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid coronavirus outbreak, Bangladeshi migrant workers in Saudi Arabia will have an opportunity to extend their work permits for three months without paying any fee.

Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh on Wednesday issued a statement, citing the opportunity will be applicable for the work permits known as "iqama" with expiry dates between March 18 and June 30 this year.

The three-month extension will be done automatically and workers don't need to go to passport office. The opportunity will not be applicable for those employed in household jobs and as chauffeurs. The embassy, after being instructed by Saudi authorities, asked Bangladeshis who availed exit-reentry and final exit visas but could not leave KSA due to current situation, to cancel those.

What about those

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seven and stay out on the road for around 12 hours. They live their life on the edge, as around Tk 600 has to go behind Raihan's medicines every week - that's Tk 2,400 a month, a lot for a family that begs.

For the last two weeks, the family has been struggling to make ends meet due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. As most people have stopped plying the roads and started working from home, or going back to their hometowns, their [Rabeya] income has dwindled down by at least a third. Whereas they used to earn Tk 500-600 before, the best they can make now is around Tk 300.

But more importantly, Rabeya is now in panic over her son's health. As they pass their days on the street, with thousands of people passing them by, the duo is in increasing risk of contacting the novel coronavirus. In such circumstances, according to neighbours' suggestion, Rabeya now sits on their spot with masks on her and Raihan's faces.

The strain this puts on her mental health is immense. But even here there's a complication. Raihan's medical condition makes it hard for him to breathe as it is. With a mask on top of his nose and mouth, it becomes extremely difficult for him to breathe. When this correspondent asked her about it on Sunday evening, Rabeya said the best she can do now is remove the mask every now and then to help his son catch his breath.

It would be easier if they could stay home for a couple of days, but this is a luxury the family cannot afford. "We do not know of any other way to live than to come here and live from day to day," Rabeya said, rather stoically.

To add to their woes, police yesterday evicted them from the footpath.

Put human

FROM PAGE 3

It also said there is a need for specific measures aimed at people working in the informal sector in line with the right to social security.

"No one should be forced to make the pernicious choice between starvation and infection... States must protect their livelihoods as best as they can during this crisis..." said Patnaik.

Every one of South Asia's eight countries has one of the lowest number of physicians per capita, the statement mentioned, citing World Bank data.

At the best of times, there are too few healthcare workers with too few resources, it said.

"Frontline health workers are the heroes we depend on in this crisis... The very least they can expect is to be given protective equipment."

"States have an obligation to ensure they are protected - including appropriate training and psychosocial support, for them and their families," said Patnaik.

The organisation also raised concern over South Asia's prisons, saying those are notoriously overcrowded.

Healthcare at a halt

Doctors at KMCH reluctant to see patients without PPE; inpatients released urgently

DIRIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Due to lack of personal protective equipment (PPE), doctors at Khulna Medical College Hospital seem to be reluctant to treat people with coronavirus symptoms, causing sufferings or even death to the patients.

Babul Chowdhury from Bagerhat's Mongla can be taken for an instance. The 40-year-old was rushed to KMCH with fever, cough and breathing problems on March 19.

His attendants went to the emergency department from where a medical officer referred him to the medicine unit. From there, he was sent back to outpatient department without any service. His sufferings did not end there. Afterwards, Babul was resented to the emergency department.

It took nearly an hour in the process. Babul's torment ended with his death right there.

Without any test, doctors thought he was infected with coronavirus, said Monowara Begum, Babul's sister who was with him.

Dr Ashrafur Rahman who was on duty at the emergency department at that time, said the patient was suffering from breathing complication while his body temperature was normal.

"As I am not a medicine expert, he [Babul] was asked to go to the department concerned," said Ashrafur.

He, however, admitted that he could be dealt with much care or be sent to the isolation ward. A suspected coronavirus patient should be put in home quarantine as per hospital's decision, he said.

"That's why the man was referred to the outpatient department later," said Dr Ashrafur Rahman.

KMCH Director ATM Monzur Morshed told The Daily Star, "Such a situation is prevailing at the hospital as it has no equipment to diagnosis coronavirus and the doctors have no adequate PPE."

To diagnosis such a patient a doctor need a set of PPE that includes gloves, cap, N-95 coded mask, gown and boot, the

director added.

"Only gown, surgical mask, shoe cover and cap were sent to KMCH," said the director.

"We requested IEDCR [Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research] several times to provide us with those and other equipment like PCR machine or scanner to detect coronavirus patient, but to no avail."

A 15-bed isolation ward was opened at KMCH to treat such patients, he said.

With coronavirus symptoms, two women from Batiaghata upazila were admitted to the ward early Wednesday, hospital sources said.

One of them is suffering from fever and the other took her to the KMCH, said Dr Shoilendra Nath. Both have been kept there, he added.

However, most of the cases, "In most cases, we have to refer patients with the deadly virus symptoms to Dhaka," said Director Monzur Morshed.

PATIENTS' NUMBER DROPS BY HALF
Considering the current coronavirus situation, no patient is being kept at the hospital without urgent need. Those who have already been admitted are being discharged on emergency basis, hospital sources said.

A woman named Nilufa Begum (62), who was admitted to the surgery department, was released on Tuesday. Her attendants said she was asked to go to Birdem in Dhaka.

In this way, many patients are being discharged daily with exemptions and many have to go back without any treatment.

Dr Syed Md Mozammel Hossain, head of the surgery department, admitted the fact. "None except for cancer patients or those are in most urgent need is being kept at the hospital."

"We are not allowing anyone who can be cured with medication at home. We recommend everyone to stay at home," said Dr Mozammel.

Hospital records say, patients' number was 1,152 on March 18 but the figure came down to 540 on March 23.

Le Reve making PPE, masks

STAR REPORT

Le Reve, a leading fashion brand of Bangladesh, is using its own factories to make masks and PPE for volunteers, says a press release.

The brand is fully utilising its production capacities in manufacturing aprons and masks, two important parts of personal protective equipment (PPE). "In the 49th year of independence, we are facing a catastrophe called coronavirus..." said Monnujan Nargis, CEO and design team head of Le Reve.

She said Le Reve is trying to supply a small portion in the rising demand of PPE and masks.

Their emergency masks will come with three layers - including fusing and will provide a good coverage for mouth and nose.

BYLC, Rang Motors come forward to fight coronavirus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In response to tackle deadly Covid-19, two private organisations have come forward to help the cause on humanitarian ground and as part of their CSR initiatives.

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) has announced that its staff will contribute their one-day salary to fight the deadly coronavirus, says a press release.

While the restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid-19 will affect everybody, it will have the most impact on those who depend on daily wages for their livelihood. The leadership institute has pledged to contribute to alleviate their struggle by partnering with other organisations that work in the frontline to provide emergency goods, such as food and hygiene products, to those who need it most.

"In addition to one day's salary, we have also taken measures to support youths' mental health and well-being during this period of self-isolation through launching BYLC Youth Hotline, where youths can speak to their peers about their concerns," said Dewan Rabita Arefin, manager, People Development at BYLC.

Meanwhile, Rang Motors Ltd (RML) has taken a CSR initiative, "Sochetonotai Hok Boro Shokti" by spraying disinfectant in bus terminal areas and the vehicles, says a press release.

Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD)
Kotbari, Cumilla, Bangladesh
Development of Physical Facilities of BARD (1st Revision) Project
No. 47.63.0000.033.14.41.19-694 Date: 25.03.2020
Extending Closing Date of e-Tender ID 438290
Due to closure of all Government offices from 26.03.2020 to 04.04.2020, the closing date of e-Tender ID 438290, Ref No. 47.63.0000.033.14.41.19-533, dated: 10 March, 2020, is hereby rescheduled to be on 13th April 2020 (11:01) instead of 2nd April, 2020.
Ranjana Kumar Guha
Project Director

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
অধ্যক্ষের কার্যালয়
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College Education Development Project (CEDP)
College Road, Chawkbazar, Chattogram
Phone No. 031-615007, email: ctgcollege@yahoo.com

Corrigendum of Invitation for Tender

Reference No. 532 Date: 25.03.2020

The undersigned has to inform that due to unavoidable circumstances tender last selling, closing and opening dates & time of Package No. W-01 and W-02 (Package Name: Refurbishment of Multiple Classrooms at Chittagong College, Chattogram AND Refurbishment of Classrooms (2 Nos.), Library, wash rooms and female common room (ground floor inside) at Chittagong College, Chattogram) are revised as follows:

IFT Serial No.	Description	Original date & time	Revised date & time
ift101	Tender last selling date	01.4.2020, 5.00pm	19.4.2020, 5.00pm
	Tender closing date and time	02.4.2020, 1.00pm	20.4.2020, 1.00pm
	Tender opening date and time	02.4.2020, 3.00pm	20.4.2020, 1.00pm
ift102	Tender last selling date	06.4.2020, 5.00pm	19.4.2020, 5.00pm
	Tender closing date and time	07.4.2020, 1.00pm	20.4.2020, 1.00pm
	Tender opening date and time	07.4.2020, 3.00pm	20.4.2020, 1.00pm

Note: It is mentioned that if the tender closing and opening date is holiday in that case tenders will be closed and opened in next available working day at same place and same time.

All other things of published IFT (Reference No. ctgcol/cedp/idg/otm(w)/ift101, date: 18.3.2020 AND ctgcol/cedp/idg/otm(w)/ift102, date: 23.3.2020) will remain unchanged.

Professor Mohammed Mujibul Hoque Chowdhury
Principal, Chittagong College

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Goalanda, Rajbari
www.lged.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.02.8229.000.14.016.19-198 Date: 25.03.2020

Corrigendum to e-Tender Notice No. 04 / 2019-20

This is the information of all concerned that due to an unavoidable circumstances the following changes have been made to the tender which was published in The Daily Zai Zai Din, The Daily Star, The Daily Prothom Alo, Date: 06/03/2020.

Tender ID	Description of works	Original	Modified
426497	Document tender last selling (date & time)	28/03/2020 at 13.00pm	07/04/2020 at 12.30pm
426498			
426499	Tender closing/ opening (date & time)	02/04/2020 at 13.00pm	16/04/2020 at 13.00pm
4264500 & 434370			

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) or (e-mail: ue.goalanda@lged.gov.bd & Cell No. 01708161405).

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Regional Controller of Food
Barishal Division, Barishal
www.food.barishaldiv.gov.bd

Memo No. 13.01.0000.013.55.032.17.917 Date: 25/03/2020

Corrigendum/Amendment Notice

All concerned are hereby informed that the Amendment has been made into the e-Tender Notice No. 01/2019-2020 (LTM) (Works) Dated: 09/03/2020 under this office for the mentioned packages only due to unavoidable circumstances.

Tender ID No.	As per newspaper published date		Amendment as per online	
	Tender/proposal document last selling/downloading date & time	Tender/proposal closing and opening (date & time)	Tender/proposal document last selling/downloading date & time	Tender/proposal closing and opening (date & time)
436528	29 March, 2020 17:00	30 March, 2020 17:00	12 April, 2020 17:00	13 April, 2020 14:00
437017	29 March, 2020 17:00	30 March, 2020 14:30	12 April, 2020 17:00	13 April, 2020 14:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Only enlisted contractor of Directorate General Food & those who are renewed in 2019-2020 fiscal year can participate in the tender.

The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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