



Law enforcers handed over daily essentials and bottles of hand sanitiser to families of some 120 conservancy workers in Kathkhali area of Mymensingh city yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

How sweet is

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connections with each other, some said.
Sazia Afrin, a communications officer of Save the Children in Bangladesh, on a typical day, grinds through her work from 8:30am-4:40pm.
“You don’t have to worry about reaching office on time and rushing your morning ritual in the process,” Sazia said.
“However, an important factor, socialising, is missing, which is an ingredient for forming strong bonds among coworkers.”
Tasbir Ifekhar, programme producer of Imagine Radio -- who plans shows,

generates ideas and writes scripts from 10am-6pm -- echoed Sazia’s experiences and commented on his own situation.
“My workplace allowed us to be flexible with our hours. Currently, we’re focusing on delivering our projects on time. If I’m doing that, I can work conveniently,” said Tasbir.
“At the same time, I’m feeling deprived of face-to-face communication, since most of us talk through phone calls and video chats,” he said.
“Even colleagues having lunch together can positively impact the work they do,” said Tasbir.

Sanaullah Miah passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advocate Sanaullah Miah, a BNP leader and a lawyer for party chief Khaleda Zia, died yesterday at the age of 60.



He died at Gonoshasthaya hospital at 9pm, confirmed Syrul Kabir Khan, an official of BNP’s press wing. He left behind his wife, two daughters and a son to mourn his death.

Miah, the legal affairs secretary of BNP, has been suffering from various diseases including cancer.

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir expressed deep condolence on his death.

Man hacked to death by son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A man was killed and his wife injured allegedly by their son in Sylhet yesterday.

Police said the incident happened at Sunampur of Golapganj upazila.

Rahel Ahmed (35), was cutting a tree in front of their house in the area but his parents -- Abdul Karim (60) and Minara Begum (50) -- asked him not to do so, triggering an altercation. Rahel hacked them and fled the scene, said Golapganj Police Station OC Mizanur Rahman.

Karim was killed instantly and his wife was taken to MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, said the OC.

Azhar’s lawyers

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Five Jamaat leaders have already been executed for committing crimes during the Liberation War, while another senior leader, Delawar Hossain Sayedee, was serving jail time for the same offences, until he died.

OFFENCE AND PUNISHMENT

As a leader of Islami Chhatra Sangha and the Al-Badr, Azhar played a significant role in the atrocities and aided the Pakistani occupation troops in committing horrific crimes, according to ICT-1 that handed the capital punishment.

The court said the verdict was delivered for his involvement in killing 1,400 civilians in Jharuarbeel, a wetland in Rangpur’s Badarganj upazila.

Terrified of the marauding Pakistan army and its local collaborators, they had fled their homes and took shelter at Jharuarbeel, but men, women and children from a dozen villages still could not save themselves from the cold-blooded savagery on the summer noon of April 17, 1971.

Pakistani army men and armed members of local Chhatra Sangha surrounded the villagers crouching in the swamp bushes, and unleashed a bloodbath. Within five hours, they killed some 1,200 innocent people.

Azhar planned and himself took part in the massacre. He and his men also picked up more than 200 Hindu people and students from the area, and killed them after taking them to an unknown place.

The SC court upheld the ICT verdict for the offences, and also for the killing of at least 14 people in Badarganj upazila in Rangpur and murder of four Hindu teachers of Rangpur Carmichael College and wife of one teacher. Azhar was a student of the teachers and a resident of the upazila.

The SC also upheld his five-year imprisonment for torturing a freedom fighter and his brother.

The court, however, acquitted him from another charge of raping a woman in Rangpur Town Hall. The tribunal had given him 25-year jail for the charge.

Two war crimes tribunals have so far delivered 41 verdicts against 95 accused. Of them, 69 have been sentenced to death, while more than thirty appeals are now pending with the SC.

Jamaat leaders Motiur Rahman Nizami, Abdul Quader Mollah, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, Mir Quasem Ali and BNP leader Saeuddin Quader Chowdhury have been executed for war crimes.

COVID-19 DETECTION

RMCH gets PCR machine

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The machine for Polymerase Chain Reaction testing, known as PCR, has reached the laboratory of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) on Thursday evening, and will be used for detection of coronavirus.

Testing for Covid-19 would be possible when the Public Works Department completes the installation of the machine in a week, RMCH governing body Chairman Fazle Hossain Badsha told The Daily Star yesterday. “By this time, we hope that coronavirus testing kits would be made available at the hospital,” Badsha, also a lawmaker from Rajshahi, said.

PCR machines were also provided to six other medical college hospitals across the country, he added.

“Using the machine, we will be able to test Covid-19 with samples of throat swabs and blood, and provide results within a day,” said RMCH Deputy Director Dr Saiful Ferdous. He said the hospital is currently witnessing a rush of patients, but could not test them due to lack of testing facility.

Along with the PCR machine, a fresh supply of 1,000 PPE; 1,000 masks; 1,000 hand-gloves and enough sanitiser for doctors and laboratories have also reached the hospital, he added.

Meanwhile, Mymensingh Medical College will receive a PCR machine today, said Prof Dr Chitta Ranjan Debnath, principal of MMC. It will be set up at a lab at the microbiology department.

The lab will be conducted under the supervision of IEDCR, Dr Debnath told our Mymensingh correspondent.

Constituent assembly

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who had been affected by the Pakistan occupation army’s atrocities. Bangabandhu makes the observation when a delegation of women calls on him. He adds that the government has allocated sufficient funds for the rehabilitation of the victims.

INDIA-BANGLADESH TRADE ACCORD SIGNED

India and Bangladesh today sign an agreement covering trade and cultural exchanges between the two countries. The proposed agreement will allow export of fish, limited quantity of jute, poultry, newsprint and matches from Bangladesh and import of coal, cement, pharmaceutical raw materials from India. A cultural exchange in the form of exchange of motion pictures, books and journals, etc. will also be covered under this agreement.

73 SPECIAL TRIBUNALS TO TRY COLLABORATORS

Bangladesh government today announces the formation of 73 special tribunals for expeditious and fair trial of those who collaborated with the Pakistan armed forces in committing genocide in the country. The tribunals are set up under the Bangladesh Collaborators (Special Tribunal) Order 1972 issued on January 25.

FREEDOM FIGHTERS TO GET PREFERENCE IN RECRUITMENT

The government has directed all

government, semi-government, autonomous and private organisations to give preference in the matter of recruitment in new posts to freedom fighters who hold certificates signed either by commander-in-chief of Bangladesh Forces or secretary of Ministry of Home Affairs. The candidates holding certificates and fulfilling the requisite qualifications prescribed for the post will be given preference in 30 percent of the vacancies.

FREE BOOKS FOR PRIMARY STUDENTS.
The government has finalised arrangements for the distribution of 78 lakh books free of cost among the students of primary level and sale of another 3.16 lakh books at concession rates among students of secondary level throughout the country.

FRENCH TEAM CALLS ON MUJIB
The visiting French parliamentary delegation today calls on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at his official residence.

On the other hand, French President Georges Pompidou yesterday told the newly appointed Bangladesh Ambassador to France, Abdul Fateh, that Bangladesh can depend on the cooperation of France.

SOURCES: March 29, 1972 issues of Ittefaq, The Bangladesh Observer, Azad, Morning News, Dainik Bangla and Purbodosh.

Biman

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The national flag carrier usually operates 14 flights a week to and from these destinations in the United Kingdom.

In the wake of the global coronavirus pandemic, the national airliner has now stopped operations on all 17 international routes, said M Mohibul Haque, senior secretary, civil aviation and tourism ministry. With the new measure, Dhaka now have air communications only with China, Hong Kong and Bangkok, thanks to flight operations continued by airliners of those countries.

Earlier, Dhaka had suspended air communications with 10 countries with effect from March 22 until March 31 as a precautionary measure to stop the spread of coronavirus in the country.

Passenger flights to and from Bangladesh with Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Turkey, Malaysia, Singapore and India will remain suspended, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said on March 21.

Biman previously stopped its flights on 15 out of 17 international routes on separate dates and for different periods, mainly because of restrictions of the respective countries amid the global coronavirus pandemic.

On Thursday, it extended the suspensions.

As per the decision, Biman’s flight suspension to Jeddah, Madina, Riyadh, Dammam, Kuwait, Doha, Muscat and Bangkok have been extended till April 5, Abu Dhabi till April 7, Dubai till April 9, Singapore till April 11, Kathmandu till April 12, Kuala Lumpur till April 14 and Kolkata and Delhi till April 15.

Last week, the national flag carrier also suspended its operations to all seven domestic routes for an indefinite period. Biman incurred a loss of Tk 450 crore in the last one and a half months, Mokabbir Hossain told this newspaper on Thursday.

Meanwhile, private carrier US-Bangla Airlines will continue flight operations on Dhaka-Guangzhou route only on Sundays from March 29, the private carrier said yesterday.

Its flights to and from Doha, Kolkata and Chennai will remain suspended till April 15, Kuala Lumpur till April 14, Singapore till April 7, Muscat till April 29 and Bangkok till May 18.

Besides, its domestic operations will remain suspended till April 4.

UK PM tests positive

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weeks of finger pointing between the two countries, especially the White House’s repeated references to “the Chinese virus”.

The coronavirus first emerged in China late last year before spreading globally, with 539,360 declared cases registered in 183 countries and territories.

Beijing managed to contain its spread

with lockdowns and quarantines and its epicentre Wuhan is in the process of easing severe movement restrictions in place for two months.

China was also readying to bar entry to foreigners out of concern over a surge of imported cases, highlighting the difficulty of containing a virus in a globalised world.

Three billion people around the world have been told to stay indoors,

as health care systems even in the most developed nations are stretched to breaking point.

Medical workers have been having to make difficult choices.

“If I’ve got five patients and only one bed, I have to choose who gets it,” Sara Chinchilla, a paediatrician at a hospital near Madrid, told AFP.

“People are dying who could be saved but there’s no space in intensive care.”

OC withdrawn over custodial death

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-- Inspector Manoranjan Mistry and Assistant sub-inspector Arif Hossain -- were suspended on the same day following allegations that they tortured the man to death.

ASP Tofayel of Barguna police is leading a three-member probe committee to investigate the murder.

Shanu Hawlader’s wife Jharana

Begum and son Shakib Hossain alleged that police demanded Tk 3 lakh in return for releasing him.

As they could not arrange the money on such short notice, OC Abul Bashar and Manoranjan Mistry tortured Shanu to death, they claimed.

Shakib said he offered Tk 10,000 to the OC on Tuesday, but the officer refused to take the money and asked

for the full amount.

“They tortured my father because we couldn’t pay the money... When I wanted to see him, the OC told me to bring the money first,” he said.

Bashar, however, denied the allegations. The suspended officers also refused to comment further on the issue.

Govt falters in its promise

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But again, referring to the spread of coronavirus in the country, the minister said, “I don’t think we will be able to hold the polls in April.”

He added that it would take at least six more months to prepare the fresh list. “We will need time to prepare a flawless list.”

On December 15 last year, the ministry published the list containing the names of 10,789 persons.

It was supposed to include those who collaborated with the Pakistan occupation army in 1971. But many freedom fighters were utterly shocked to see their names on the list.

Announcing the list, Mozammel said it was prepared based on records preserved at the home ministry and that it was the first of the phases in which the government would make public the names of razakars.

CONTROVERSY

This newspaper found the names of at least 25 freedom fighters or war organisers on the list.

The list included the name of freedom fighter Sudhir Kumar Chakraborty, whose family gets the

freedom fighter’s allowance from the government. The Pakistan army killed him in August 1971.

It even contained the names of freedom fighter Ghulam Arief Tipoo, chief prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal, and freedom fighter Mirza Abdul Latif, who led a group of 500 freedom fighters in the country’s northern region in 1971.

In the face of nationwide outrage and angry protests after publication of the list, Mozammel said they just published the list provided by the home ministry without any modification.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said his ministry provided the list following a request from the Liberation War affairs ministry.

He added that his ministry sent a “note” to that ministry to scrutinise the list, but it did not take the “note” into consideration.

The home boss said it was actually a list of the accused in cases filed under the Collaborators Act.

At least 996 people were acquitted of the cases, but their names were still on the list. The Liberation War affairs ministry published the list without

dropping those names, he added.

In January 1972, the government enacted the Collaborators Act to try war criminals and those who collaborated with the Pakistan army. Later, 37,000 people were arrested and sent to jail, and 26,000 of them were freed following the announcement of a general amnesty.

Around 11,000 were behind bars when the government of Justice Sayem and General Ziaur Rahman repealed the Collaborators Act on December 31, 1975. An appeal spree and release of war criminals en masse followed the scrapping of the law.

Liberation War researcher ASM Shamsul Arefin, who had published books carrying the names of 12,000 razakars, said Pakistan had initially planned to recruit 50,000 razakars and 12,000 to 15,000 Al-Badr and Al-Shams members.

He added that Pakistan had recruited around 35,000 razakars, and there were no statistics on Al-Badr and Al-Shams members.

Shamsul said he had published the names based on salary sheet of razakars recruited by police.

ইস্টার্ন রিফাইনারী লিমিটেড
উত্তর পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম-৪২০৪, বাংলাদেশ

বিষয়ঃ দরপত্র (Ref: 28.0000.028.07.006.19/PDB, Date: 10/03/2020) জমাদানের নতুন তারিখ ও সময় নির্ধারণ প্রসঙ্গে

উপর্যুক্ত বিষয়ে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, “Replacement of PDB Bus including Switchgears, ERL (Ref: 28.0000.028.07.006.19/PDB, Date: 10/03/2020) কাজের (পুনঃ) দরপত্র জমাদানের ও উন্মুক্তকরণের তারিখ নির্ধারিত ছিল ৩০/০৩/২০২০। কিন্তু করোনা ভাইরাসের কারণে উক্ত সময় সরকারি ছুটি থাকায় এবং দেশের বর্তমান পরিস্থিতির কারণে উক্ত দরপত্র জমাদানের ও উন্মুক্তকরণের নতুন তারিখ যখনই অফিস খোলা হবে সেদিন থেকে ২ (দুই) দিন পর নির্ধারণ করা হলো এবং সময় অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

খোন্দকার মুস্তাফিজুর রহমান
জিডি-৬২৬ জিএম (ইএন্ডএস)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
College Education Development Project (CEDP)
College Name: Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj
College Address: Manikganj

Corrigendum of Invitation for Tender

Reference No. GDC.2020.CEDP-1157/W-01/44 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 (Package Name: Renovation of subproject office rooms, classrooms, washrooms, common-rooms, library, and Departments (All tiles, Thai glass, Screen for windows, Painting, False roof) are revised as follows:

Sl. No. in published IFT	Description	Original date & time	Revised date & time
17	Tender last selling date	28-03-2020	Tender selling date is extended from the just official opening day after the general holidays announced by the Govt. of Bangladesh to the next consecutive 3 official working days.
18	Tender closing date and time	29-03-2020, 1:00pm	Tender closing date and time is fixed on the next day at 1:00pm just after the ultimate selling date mentioned above.
19	Tender opening date and time	29-03-2020, 2:00pm	Tender opening date and time is fixed on the next day at 2:00pm just after the ultimate selling date mentioned above.

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. GDC.2020.CEDP-1157/W-01/38, Date: 09-03-2020) will remain unchanged.

Md. Nurul Amin
Principal
Govt. Debendra College, Manikganj

GD-701

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director (ACE), RHD
SASEC Road Connectivity Project-II
Improvement of Elenga-Hatikamrul-Rangpur Road to a 4-Lane Highway
Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka

Memo No. 35.01.0000.069.17.001.2017-328 Date: 25 March 2020

Bid Cancellation Notice

Project No. 40540-BAN: South Asia Subregional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Dhaka-Northwest Corridor Road Project, Phase2.
ICB No. and Title: SASEC-II/ICB/MP-1/WP05 (Lot 1); SASEC Road Connectivity Project-II: Improvement of Elenga-Hatikamrul-Rangpur Road to a 4-Lane Highway.
Invitation Reference No.: 35.RHD.0000.PDSASEC-II.07.004.2017-50, Date: 20 July 2017.

Lot No., Description of the Works and Intended Completion Period

ICB No.: SASEC-II/ICB/MP-1/WP05 (Lot 1)
Part-1: Improvement of road from Elenga to Bangabandhu Bridge (East Side) (13.60km) to a 4-Lane Highway along with Slow Moving Vehicular Traffic (SMVT) Lane & Structures. Completion time for construction phase works-1095 days and
Part-2: Performance Based Maintenance. Works on Improved 4-Lane Highway along with SMVT Lane and Structures from Elenga to Bangabandhu Bridge (East Side) (13.60km)
Completion time for maintenance phase works-2190 days.

This is for information of all concerned that, the bids invited vide above reference for Lot 1 (ICB No. SASEC-II/ICB/MP-1/WP05 (Lot 1)) under ‘SASEC Road Connectivity Project-II: Improvement of Elenga-Hatikamrul-Rangpur Road to a 4-Lane Highway’ is hereby cancelled.
Fresh Bid will be invited in due course of time.

Quazi Shahriar Hossain
ID No. 000291
Project Director (ACE), RHD
SASEC Road Connectivity Project-II
Sarak Bhaban, Tejgaon, Dhaka

GD-705