

Apollo Hospital rebranded as Evercare Hospital

CITY DESK

Following investment in STS Holdings Ltd by Evercare and CDC Group, Apollo Hospital Dhaka has been rebranded as Evercare Hospital Dhaka.

It is now part of Evercare Group's global chain of 28 hospitals across South Asia and Africa. The renaming of Apollo Hospital will be effective from tomorrow.

Evercare is an integrated healthcare delivery platform operating across Africa and Asia. With a portfolio comprising of 28 hospitals, 18 clinics, 54 diagnostic centres and two hospitals under construction, Evercare is building a foundation of continuous quality improvement and standardised care, said a press release.

Evercare is wholly owned by the Evercare Health Fund, a US\$ 1bn emerging markets healthcare fund managed by The Rise Fund.

Evercare Group intends to enhance the hospital's clinical capabilities by establishing super speciality departments.

Don't spread rumours against police: PHQ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Police Headquarters (PHQ) yesterday called upon all not to spread misleading information and rumours against law enforcers, as it is demotivating officials who are working for the welfare of the country amid the coronavirus outbreak.

PHQ came up with the appeal, after it found that photoshopped pictures of police action during the arson attacks in 2011 at the time of the BNP-Jamaat blockade are being posted and shared on social media. People are believing those posts and expressing their wrath towards law enforcers, said a PHQ statement.

Sohel Rana, assistant inspector general of PHQ, told The Daily Star that police personnel have been working relentlessly on various platforms to prevent the spread of coronavirus and to ensure the welfare of the country.

"Police are interacting with millions of people across the country every day to prevent spread of the virus. Of these, several members of police have been accused of unwanted coercion during certain events or interactions," said the AIG.

Unit commanders have been ordered to investigate the incidents immediately, said the AIG.

"The inspector general of police spoke to all commanders through video messages and phones and also instructed officers deployed at field level," said Rana.

As a result, such incidents have not been repeated or come to the notice of PHQ, nor were those published or found visible in most print, electronic and online media, he said.

However, some news outlets are still publishing news using manipulated images to make it seem as if the police actions have continued, said the AIG.

The AIG further requested to all to assist police in this regard.

"Appropriate legal action will be taken for spreading rumors and lies among the people. Our cyber teams are working to find out those behind the rumors," he added.

30 judges' home quarantine completed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the home quarantine of 30 lower court judges, who returned from Australia on March 15 after a two-week training, ended yesterday, and they are now doing well.

"The judges, who came from Australia, will join offices on April 5 when the courts resume," the minister told The Daily Star.

He also said none of the lower court judges and staff members has been reported to be infected.

Necessary measures will be taken if any of them are infected, he said.

The law minister had earlier instructed the 30 lower court judges to remain in home quarantine for 15 days.

Meanwhile, the law ministry has opened a monitoring desk in order to take necessary steps to tackle a possible coronavirus outbreak among lower court judges and employees.

Two deputy secretaries of the ministry have been assigned to get updates from more than 1,800 judicial officers and around 18,000 employees.

Joining hands

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secretary of Badda Thana Awami League, has installed six stations in the same ward.

Local shopkeeper Md Kabir said, "This is a great initiative by the councillors and local leaders. We can now wash our hands with soap outdoors whenever we need to. No one dares to steal anything; we all look after them."

SC appeal delayed

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60,000 has been purchased for printing the certified of the High Court verdict in BDR mutiny case," he added.

Saifur Rahman, however, could not say the approximate cost of a certified copy.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam had earlier told this newspaper that the state will file appeals with the Appellate Division against the parts of the HC verdict that acquitted the accused, and seek due punishment for them.

Stay put till flights

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and lockdown remains in place."

The UK government has no plans for repatriation flights from Dhaka, but is monitoring the situation.

The British Government is prioritising

In the same area, HA Parvez installed a basin in front of his building five days ago, spending nearly Tk 20,000.

"Everyone should help each other according to their capabilities to overcome the crisis. I'm just doing my part," he said.

Earlier on March 17, Dhaka North City Corporation launched hand-washing stations at 25 key points for residents.

The mutiny on February 25-26, 2009 left the nation shocked -- as details of the unthinkable cruelty perpetrated at the Pikhana headquarters of the paramilitary force emerged. BDR was later renamed Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

The HC on November 27, 2017 pronounced the verdict that confirmed death penalty for 139, upheld life imprisonment of 185, three to 10 years' imprisonment of 200 and acquitted 283 accused of the case.

repatriation flights in countries where there are very large numbers of stranded nationals, where there have been no commercial options available for some time, and no flights are scheduled for the foreseeable future," said the high commission.

Ctg doctors consulting

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messages and photo of test reports via WhatsApp.

"I would try to reply once I receive your SMS and message," he said.

Dr Rupa Dutta, a medical officer of Chattogram General Hospital, told The Daily Star that she was not attending private chamber but was delivering treatment to patients over phone.

Govt planning

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In that case, the Biman flight can come to Chennai from where the Bangladeshis can fly to Dhaka.

However, the details will be notified after the government finalises the deal with the airline, he added.

The Indian external affairs ministry has assured Bangladesh of any assistance in this regard, the press minister said.

For those facing financial issues, the government has already talked to Bangladesh Bank. Their relatives can send money through Western Union using Bank Asia and Social Islamic Bank Limited, he added.

Bangladesh Bank also instructed the banks to lift the credit limit of those having credit cards, Farid Hossain said.

"Indian Ministry of External Affairs also assured of extension of visas for those whose visas have expired or about to expire," he said.

Hossain said the Bangladeshis stranded in India can contact the hotline number of the Bangladesh High Commission -- +91859552494 -- for any assistance concerning the matter.

'Stop strikes, gheraos'

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indulging in creating some sort of misunderstanding among the people over the friendship treaty that was concluded between Bangladesh and India during Indira Gandhi's recent visit to Bangladesh. "I know their activities but I also know how to stop them," he says.

In reference to Bhutto's recent comment that Pakistani troops killed only 50,000 people in Bangladesh, Bangabandhu asks, "Will Mr Bhutto exonerate us if we kill 50,000 of his men in West Pakistan in the manner his countrymen did in Bangladesh?" He regrets that instead of feeling ashamed of what his countrymen did, Bhutto is now going all out to defend the criminals.

JIHAD AGAINST 'LOOTPAT SAMITY'
Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan

Bhashani calls upon the people to extend full cooperation to the government in controlling antisocial activity in the country. Addressing a public meeting in Chittagong he assures Bangabandhu that NAP, as an opposition party, is not interested in getting to power but only helping him to remove corruption from society. He warns that if necessary he will wage a jihad against the 'lootpat samity'.

Bhashani further says that in the absence of law and order and security of people's life and property, neither can the government stay nor can freedom be preserved.

\$4M FRENCH AID FOR BANGLADESH

French veteran parliamentarian Raymond Offroy at a press conference in Dhaka today says that the French government has decided

to give Bangladesh a gift of four million dollars for its rehabilitation programme. Besides, he says, a convoy of 100 trucks, barges and other means of transportation will be provided to Bangladesh to overcome its communication difficulties. A high-powered French economic and technical delegation will soon visit the country to assess the needs and requirements of Bangladesh in its rehabilitation and reconstruction programme, he adds.

The French politician and diplomat calls Bangabandhu the "De Gaulle" of Bangladesh and says that the people of the new nation is lucky to have a leader like him.

SOURCES: April 1, 1972 issues of Ittefaq, The Bangladesh Observer, Azad, Morning News, Dainik Bangla and Purbodesh.

Drop in China's new virus cases

REUTERS, WUHAN

China reported a drop in new coronavirus infections for a fourth day as drastic curbs on international travellers reined in the number of imported cases, while policymakers turned their efforts to healing the world's second-largest economy.

The city of Wuhan, at the centre of the outbreak, reported no new cases for a sixth day, as businesses reopened and residents set about reclaiming a more normal life after a lockdown for almost two months.

Smartly turned out staff waited in masks and gloves to greet customers at entrances to the newly-reopened Wuhan International Plaza, home to boutiques of luxury brands such as Cartier and Louis Vuitton.

"The Wuhan International Plaza is very representative (of the city)," said Zhang Yu, 29. "So its reopening really makes me feel this city is coming back to life."

Sunday's figure of 31 new cases, including one locally transmitted infection, was down from 45 the previous day, the National Health Commission said.

As infections fall, policymakers are scrambling to revitalise an economy nearly paralysed by months-long curbs to control the spread of the flu-like disease.

The central bank unexpectedly cut the interest rate on reverse repurchase agreements by 20 basis points, the largest in nearly five years.

The government is pushing businesses and factories to reopen, as it rolls out fiscal and monetary stimulus to spur recovery from what is feared to be an outright economic contraction in the quarter to March.

China's exports and imports could worsen as the pandemic spreads, depressing demand both at home and abroad, Xin Guobin, the vice minister of industry and information technology, said yesterday.

The country has extended loans of 200 billion yuan (\$28 billion) to 5,000 businesses, from 300 billion allocated to help companies as they resume work, Xin said.

Authorities in Ningbo said they would encourage national banks to offer preferential credit of up to 100 billion yuan to the eastern port city's larger export firms. The city government will subsidise such loans, it said in a notice.

VIRUS CONCERNS

While new infections have fallen sharply from February's peak, authorities worry about a second wave triggered by returning Chinese, many of them students.

China cut international flights massively from Sunday for an indefinite period, after it began denying entry to almost all foreigners a day earlier.

The return to work also prompted concern about potential domestic infections, especially over carriers who exhibit no, or very mild, symptoms of the highly contagious virus.

Northwestern Gansu province reported a new case of a traveller from the central province of Hubei, who drove back with a virus-free health code, national health authorities said.

Hubei authorities say 4.6 million people in the province returned to work by Saturday, with 2.8 million of them heading for other parts of China.

Most of the departing migrant

workers went to the southern provinces of Guangdong and Fujian, the eastern provinces of Zhejiang and Jiangsu, and northeast China.

In Hubei's capital of Wuhan, more retail complexes and shopping streets reopened.

Electric carmaker Tesla Inc has also reopened a showroom in Wuhan, a company executive said on Weibo.

Shoppers queued 1-1/2 metres (5 ft) apart for temperature checks at Wuhan International Plaza, while flashing "green" mobile telephone codes attesting to a clean bill of health.

To be cleared to resume work, Wuhan residents have been asked to take nucleic acid tests twice.

"Being able to be healthy and leave the house, and meet other colleagues who are also healthy is a very happy thing," said Wang Xueman, a cosmetics sales representative.

Zimbabwe begins coronavirus lockdown

AFP, HARARE

Zimbabwean authorities yesterday began enforcing a three-week lockdown in its fight against the spread of coronavirus after the disease left one person dead and infected six others.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa declared a 21-day "total" lockdown from yesterday curtailing movement within the country, shutting most shops and suspending flights in and out of Zimbabwe.

Two raped in Pabna, Jashore

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Hospital. The girl's father said his daughter was returning home from the wedding ceremony at about 8:00pm.

On the way home, two accused Jahid Hossain, 20, and Shanto Hossain, 25, caught his daughter and made her unconscious with a handkerchief dipped in chemicals and raped her in a field, he said.

"The accused often stalked my daughter on her way to school. I asked them to stop," said the father, adding that locals rescued his daughter in a critical condition yesterday morning.

Bahauddin Faruki, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station, said a case was filed against Jahid and Shanto.

A Pabna court sent Jahid to jail after police produced him before the court yesterday.

In another incident, a housewife was allegedly gang-raped in Jashore's Abhoyanagar upazila on Sunday night.

Quoting the victim, police said the 22-year-old woman was returning home from a shrine around 7:00pm.

On the way, Soheli, Hekmot Ali, Tipu Shikidar, and Nazmul Islam took her to a nearby bush and raped her at knife point.

Hearing the victim's screams, locals rushed to the spot and rescued her.

After the victim lodged a case with Abhoyanagar Police Station that night, police raided different areas in the upazila and arrested Soheli, said Tajul Islam, officer-in-charge of the station.

The woman was sent to Jashore General Hospital for medical tests, the OC added.

A Jashore court sent the arrestee to jail after police produced him before the court yesterday afternoon.

Our Pabna and Benapole correspondents contributed to this report.

Malaysian migrants in a pickle

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Malaysia's lockdown exempted those engaged in services like health, transport, banking, law enforcement and the food.

The Malaysian Institute of Economic Research, a local think tank predicts a recession and forecasts that the economy may contract by 2.9 percent this year with 2.4 million job losses.

Jonny, 25, an undocumented Bangladeshi construction worker in Serdang of Selangor district, said, "We are not leaving the dormitory and have been spending our savings. If the one-month lockdown continues further, I will have to ask my family in Bangladesh to send money."

He lives at a labour camp with over 200 migrant workers. About five of them live in each room. A supervisor routinely checks their temperature and if they detect someone has a fever, they are sent them to a hospital. That's not the case in all labour camps, especially where undocumented migrants live.

Syed Mawla, a Bangladeshi community leader in Kuala Lumpur, said ensuring health screening for undocumented workers would be a big challenge for the Malaysian authorities.

"Malaysia can't effectively combat Covid-19 if migrants, stateless people, and refugees are unable to get health care because they can't afford it, face discrimination, or fear arrest and deportation," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch, in a statement on March 24.

"With many living in crowded settlements with no running water and no ability to isolate those who get sick, they are especially vulnerable to the Covid-19 infection," he said.

The New York-based global rights watchdog said for many non-citizens in Malaysia, who must pay more

for health care than citizens do, the costs of health care can present an insurmountable barrier. Language and cultural barriers may also impede access to services.

"While the Ministry of Health announced on March 23, 2020 that Covid-19 tests will be free for foreigners as well as for Malaysians, the announcement does not make clear whether free tests are available for those who are undocumented, or whether those who are found to be ill will have to pay the 'foreigner fee' for treatment."

Federal Territories Minister Annuar Musa recently encouraged undocumented migrants to come forward and be tested, but did not expressly state that they would not face legal repercussions, HRW said.

"The Malaysian government needs to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 epidemic by making sure everyone, regardless of their legal status, can access health care without risk of arrest or other repercussions and is aware that they can do so, and that hospitals treat all those who come without discrimination."

"Covid-19 does not discriminate, and neither should the Malaysian government."

Contacted, Zahirul Islam, labour counsellor at the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, said many Bangladeshi undocumented workers called the mission's hotline number to ask whether they would be harassed if they went for coronavirus tests. However, after the government assured that there will be no security problem and treatment charges if undocumented workers and refugees take the Covid-19 screening, the number of calls dropped.

Zahirul added that the mission was working to create awareness among

Bangladeshi migrant workers about the virus.

Migrant researcher Abu Hayat suggested that a vigorous information campaign should be launched among the migrant communities across Malaysia.

Workout

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take a three-minute break every 30 minutes."

So, self-isolating should not mean being inactive, instead there are plenty of exercises one can do at home without any apparatus to get a full-body workout and even some cardio, said Jashim Uddin Ahmad, principal of Government College of Physical Education, Dhaka.

"This is the golden time for family members to stay together and to work out together. Members of a household house can teach each other about exercise and can work out together," he said.

As exercising is integral to maintaining health and fitness, it is important for everyone to schedule the workout, for example, 7:00am to 8:00am, he said.

"If we can fix a time, it will help people find a focus and family members can get ready for exercise," he said.

The indoor exercises Jashim recommended were skipping, various freehand exercises, breathing exercises, and yoga. As going outside of the home is restricted, people can walk inside the room or climb stairs. A daily exercise of 30 minutes is a must for every adult to remain healthy, he said.

"We can play some indoor games like carrom and chess with family members and this will strengthen bonding," he suggested.

Mercedes F1 to make new breathing aid

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pressure device (CPAP), which helps patients with breathing difficulties.

A version of the equipment, which increases air and oxygen flow into the lungs, has already been used in hospitals in Italy and China to help Covid-19 patients with serious lung infections.

Teams at UCL and Mercedes have reverse-engineered the device and say they can make them quickly "by the thousands" and provide hospitals across Britain, as pressure builds due to more confirmed cases.

Reports from Italy indicated about 50 percent of patients given CPAP did not need mechanical ventilation, which requires sedation and a tube placed into the patient's windpipe, UCL said.

Clinical trials with 100 of the machines are to be carried out at University College London Hospital, it added in a statement on Sunday.

"These devices will help save lives by ensuring that ventilators, a

limited resource, are used only for the severely ill," said UCLH critical care consultant Mervyn Singer.

"While they will be tested at UCLH first, we hope they will make a real difference to hospitals across the UK by reducing demand on intensive care staff and beds, as well as helping patients recover without the need for more invasive ventilation."

Britain's state-run National Health Service currently has some 8,000 ventilators and the government has ordered 8,000 more. But there is concern there will be a shortage as the virus peaks.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has put his government on a war footing, appealing to major manufacturers and industry to repurpose their production, including for medical devices.

Tim Baker, from UCL's mechanical engineering department, said the process took days instead of years and improvements were made to the

Govt, media to work in unison

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Shampadak Parishad President Mahfuz Anam, General Secretary Naem Nizam, ATCO Senior Vice President Mozammel Babu, its member Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Noab President AK Azad and executive members Matiu Rahman and Tarik Sujat were present, among others.

Hasan, also the joint general secretary of the ruling Awami League, said various rumours were being spread in the country over

the Covid-19 and some online news portals were creating panic among the people by running fake news.

Noting that the country's mainstream media was playing a vital role against rumours, he said, "The government is taking actions against those circulating rumours. We have sought cooperation from the mainstream media to this end.

"People should not panic, rather they should be made aware of [coronavirus]. Today, we discussed what the government should do at

this moment. We have decided to work together."

The minister said various problems have surfaced in newspapers and television channels during the crisis period and the circulation of many newspapers declined drastically.

Hasan said newspaper workers and hawkers were in trouble and the TV channels were also facing the same situation. The problems were discussed in the meeting yesterday, he added.