

PADMA BRIDGE

Construction of last pier completed



Construction of the last pier, 26th from the Mawa end, was completed yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Construction of the last pier of much-anticipated Padma Bridge was completed last night, giving a big boost to the long-delayed project.

Concreting of the last pier, which is the 26th from Mawa end, started at noon and was completed at 9:15pm last night, said Dewan Md Abdul Kader, project manager (main bridge). "With this, we will be able to complete construction of all 42 piers of the bridge, one month ahead of the revised schedule," he told The Daily Star.

Besides, construction of 91 piers for viaducts on both sides of the bridge has already been completed, he said.

The development came when the country is passing through closure of all public and private offices, and all modes of passenger transports remain suspended.

Moreover, 60 to 70 percent local workers involved in the project left workplace due to the coronavirus situation, a project official said.

On Saturday, the 27th span of the bridge was installed, making more than four kilometres of the bridge visible. The span was installed linking the 27th and 28th piers at Janjira end.

The 6.15km bridge would have a total of 41 spans. Construction of the bridge began in December 2015 and once completed it will directly connect the capital with 21 southern districts via rail and road.

The deadline for completion of the project changed several times and the fresh deadline to open country's largest bridge is June 2021. But, the current coronavirus situation casts shadow on completion of the project within fresh deadline.

Yamaha Riders Club stands beside those in need

CITY DESK

Members of Yamaha Riders Club, a large community of bikers, have distributed food among about 800 families across the country amid the recent coronavirus outbreak, said a press release.

On Sunday at ACI Centre, during a formal session, the club and ACI Motors announced their joint venture with Jaago Foundation for helping individuals with low-income.

They handed over food to the foundation for distribution. Subrata Ranjan Das, executive director of ACI Motors, and other officials of the company were present on the occasion.

DSSC

FROM PAGE 3 Authority (BIWTA) yesterday distributed essential commodities to labourers and boatmen at six points from Sadarghat to Shinnirtek.

BIWTA Joint Director AKM Arif Uddin said they handed over food packets to around 1,000 labourers and boatmen who are now out of work. The packets included 5kg rice, 1kg lentil, 1kg onion, 2kg potato, 1 litre soybean oil, one soap and two facemasks.

Arif said they distributed the items in a disciplined manner, following the direction of Directorate General of Health Services.

HeLO, Bata join forces to fight Covid-19

CITY DESK

Healthy Heart Happy Life Organization (HeLO) and Bata Shoe Company Bangladesh have teamed up to tackle the coronavirus situation, said a press release.

On Sunday, HeLO received a delivery of PPE, facemasks, gloves and sanitiser from Bata.

On behalf of HeLO, chief patron Dr Mohsin Ahmed and general secretary Dr Asifur Rahman were present on the occasion alongside Bata general managers Jalil Ahmed Chowdhury and Malik Mehedi Kabir.

The supplies would be distributed among doctors and health workers of Bangladesh Railway Hospital at Kamalapur on Monday, said Associate Professor Dr Mohsin Ahmed of National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases.

Besides, an initiative has been taken to provide medical assistance to those at home via WhatsApp (01867090929).

Brac launches food

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as awareness-building, hand-washing campaigns, disinfecting public places and transports, distributing hand sanitisers, liquid soap and soap bars, and disbursing cash to those in need in 20 cities of the country.

During yesterday's distribution programme in Korail, UDP Director Md Liakath Ali said in the last two weeks they have worked for building awareness on frequent hand-washing, maintaining physical distance and disinfected public places and transports to contain the pandemic.

Woman goes missing from capital's Farmgate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leena Leticia Biswas (49), an intellectually-challenged woman, has been missing from her residence at Monipuripara of Farmgate area since Monday morning.

Her relatives failed to find her after searching nearby areas for the whole day. They eventually filed a general diary with Tejgaon Police Station on the same night.

Leena's brother John Biswas told The Daily Star their father Benedict Biman Biswas got up in the morning and noticed that Leena was missing. Leena, the youngest among four siblings, has been intellectually-challenged since childhood, and is not used to going out alone.

"Our aged parents are very worried," John said.

If anyone comes across her, they are requested to contact her family at 01718-479509 or 01817-090252.



Ctg jail

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For every minute, they will be charged one taka."

A senior prison-guard will accompany them during the conversation, he said.

The service will be available from 9am-12pm and again from 1pm-3pm every day, said the jail official.

"In-person visits are now limited due to the ongoing pandemic," said Kamal Hossain. "We have also put a one-metre barricade [for social distancing] between visitor and inmate if anyone has to meet in person."

Jail sources said protective measures have been taken for inmates so that they can maintain hygiene at their cell and outside. Before entering cells, every inmate has to wash their hands and feet.

Apart from that, the guards have been told to wash their shoes with bleach-mixed water before entering every ward.

40 prisoners

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of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).

Along with this, the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) has issued a special permit for 500-litre rectified spirit for producing and distributing sanitisers. DNC has also issued permit of 22.14 lakh litre rectified spirit to different private institutes, reads the report.

The DNC officials were also instructed to keep close monitoring and increase surveillance so that narcotics dealers do not get any scope to increase their business during this pandemic period.

Chhayanaut

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Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina directed all to celebrate Pchela Baishakh "digitally" without creating mass gatherings. She made the call while exchanging views on the country's coronavirus situation with public representatives and field level government officials through videoconference from her official Ganabhaban residence.

Morning glory returns

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of the vine, he said, adding that before no trace of sagarata could be seen in Sugandha, Kolatali and Laboni points.

Ibarhim Khalil Mamun, chief executive of Youth Environment Society, said the sprawling vine sprouted at the beach in absence of human activity. "It grows where humans don't tread," he said. The government must take steps to contain movement on the beach, allowing it to breathe.

Dr Kamal Hossen, professor of Institute of Forestry and Environmental Science at Chattogram University, said, "It acts as soil binder, helps the seashore fight against strong waves, plays a role as natural shield against erosions and stabilises the beach."

He said due to human disturbance, the plant disappeared from most part of the beach. "The current shutdown created a new hope for the plant. Authorities must think about how to nurture the plant," Dr Hossen added.

Wholesale prices fall

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of Tk 3,500 while khesari at Tk 1,800 against Tk 2,350, he said, adding, "I have to go back without selling my produce."

Atahar Ali of Rajabari said he produced bananas besides five of his ponds and guavas in five orchards. Those are becoming rotten in absence of buyers.

Contacted, Shamsul Haque, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension, said the precautionary measures for avoiding coronavirus may affect vegetable and spice markets.

"We are going through a crisis. There will be some impacts," he said, adding, "We'll discuss the issue with the district level administrative officials."

Only one

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Medical College Hospital, said a hospital with ICU support is ideal to treat Covid-19 patients.

Asked whether five ventilators are enough, Dr Hasan Shahriar Kabir, director (Chattogram division) of Directorate General of Health Services, said only one percent of Covid-19 patients need ICU support.

"The number of infected persons in the country is below 50 till now," he said, adding that the government will increase the facilities as per need. "With five ventilators, a 10-bed ICU can be set up," he said.

All logistic facilities will be provided in time, he added.

'Peace must be restored'

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including the countryside at all cost and if necessary, by force. Al Badr members and razakars have not yet deposited their arms and these are the elements who are committing armed atrocities in certain places of the country, he adds. He orders the police and other agencies responsible for maintaining order to shoot the armed miscreants wherever they are found. "I can't allow my countrymen to be harassed by these miscreants because I am responsible to Allah for peace in the country," Bangabandhu says.

PRESSURISE PAKISTAN Bangladesh government, which has already approached some friendly countries to create pressure on Pakistan for repatriation of

Bangalees from that country, is undertaking fresh moves to pursue the issue. Telegrams from Foreign Minister M A Samad are being sent to all the countries that have recognised Bangladesh, urging those countries to put pressure on Pakistan to ensure the safety of four lakh Bangalees and repatriate them to Bangladesh.

TELEGRAM TO SAUDI KING Bangladesh Foreign Minister M A Samad has sent a telegram to the King of Saudi Arabia, requesting him to repatriate about 100 Bangalee air force personnel and others stranded in that country. Pakistan is insisting on getting those unfortunate Bangalees to Pakistan instead of agreeing to their return to Bangladesh.

The foreign minister has also expressed his gratitude to the King for the repatriation of Bangalee Hajis to Bangladesh in response to Bangabandhu's request to the King.

PRINCE AGA KHAN CALLS ON BANGABANDHU

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan today calls on Bangabandhu. The prime minister raises the question of repatriation of four lakh Bangalees trapped in Pakistan with the Prince. Bangabandhu tells him that Pakistan has no right to detain innocent Bangalees in Pakistan.

JAPAN KEEN ON CONSTRUCTION OF PADMA BRIDGE

Japanese Prime Minister Eisaku Sato

is taking keen interest in the Jamuna Bridge project of Bangladesh. This is related to Bangladesh Foreign Minister MA Samad by Toshikazu Maeda, leader of the visiting Japanese economic and technical delegation. Maeda further informs that a survey team will soon visit Bangladesh to prepare a feasibility report for a bridge on Jamuna and apprise the Japanese government of the financial requirements for it.

The proposal for the bridge over Jamuna was personally made by Bangabandhu to the Japanese Parliamentary delegation early this month.

SOURCES: April 2, 1972 issues of Ittefaq, The Bangladesh Observer, Azad, Morning News, Dainik Bangla and Purbodesh.

A prototype with huge potential

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science and engineering at BRAC University, and Tajbiul Hasan Kabbo, a student of electrical and electronic engineering at Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology.

They named the device "Spondon: Made in Bangladesh".

Currently, there are only 10 ventilators available for patients diagnosed with Covid-19, Aminul Hasan, director of Hospitals and Clinics section of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), had told The Daily Star.

While there are plans to set up more, but when and where these ventilators would be set up is yet to

be finalised, he said.

Ventilators pump oxygen into the lungs of patients suffering from severe pulmonary stress or patients unable to breathe on their own anymore. For patients with the worst effects of the coronavirus infection, a ventilator offers the best chance of survival.

"We first came up with the concept a year ago after noticing the fact that ventilators are expensive. Importing a ventilator can cost up to Tk 5 lakh," said Baized.

This ventilator, however, is made entirely of materials that can be found locally, and its components are made from scratch, the

inventors said.

When a regular ventilator comes with many features, this mode would just help patients alleviate their breathing difficulties by pushing oxygen into their lungs.

Shakkher, explained what this means, "Ventilators have multiple modes. Some are 'spontaneous', which pumps oxygen to the patient's lung at a regular interval by analysing his or her breathing.

"Whereas our ventilator provides 'continuous mandatory ventilation' where the patient is given a steady stream of oxygen at a pre-set parameter," he said.

"This is the mode needed in

most ICU settings. This can help keep a dying patient alive for five to seven days until a proper ventilator is found," Shakkher said.

"The prototype is theoretically okay and has been tested using a plastic lung. Now we have to test it on real patients," he added.

And for that, the team is seeking permission from the relevant government authorities.

"If we can test it on patients and get positive results, we can go into mass production," he added.

As of yet, they have not inked any deal with any financial backers, but are on the search for interested parties.

Three killed in 'gunfights'

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police. While narrating the "gunfight", Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Birampur Police Station, echoed Lt Col Firoz's statement tweaking only the time and place.

A police team conducted a raid in Mirpur village of Birampur upazila on information. As soon as they reached the area, a group of seven to eight opened fire, forcing them to retaliate, he said.

At one point, Fahim sustained bullet injuries and died on the

spot. The body was sent to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital for autopsy, he added.

Three policemen also sustained injuries and received primary treatment at Birampur Upazila Health Complex, the OC said.

A pipe gun, three bullets, and several sharp weapons were recovered from the spot, he claimed.

In Pabna, Sarwar Hossain aias Soro, 36, was killed in a "gunfight" with police.

The dead was the ringleader of a

notorious robber gang, said police.

Goutam Kumar Bishwas, additional superintendent of Pabna police, said they conducted a raid around 2:00am in Shamukjani Bazar area in Santhia upazila on information that a robber gang took position there.

Sensing their presence, the robbers opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate. At one point of the "gunfight", Sarwar sustained bullet injuries. He was rushed to Pabna Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead,

he claimed.

Rest of the criminals managed to flee, he said, adding two policemen also sustained injuries during the "gunfight" and were undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Police claimed to have recovered a gun, ammunition and a knife from the spot, Gautam said.

The Daily Star, however, could not independently verify the law enforcers' claims.

Our Bagerhat, Dinajpur and Pabna correspondents contributed to this report.

Protect the elderly

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diseases, he said. "So, when coronavirus attacks, it can become fatal," he said.

As the elderly have regular medical check-ups, during this time they should refrain if the problem is not severe.

"If physical condition remains stable, the prescribed medicine should be continued till a medical check-up. They can also consult with telemedicine for adjusting dosage," he said.

Dr Nazmul suggested that extra measures need to be taken for the older family members. Emphasis should be given on maintaining good habits, including sufficient sleep, healthy eating and exercise, he said.

The medicine specialist said balanced food and proper sleep is a must for them. Dr Nazmul also suggested that older people could pass their time offering prayers, watching movies and those who write, should keep writing.

Prince Charles out of virus isolation

AFP, London

Prince Charles, the eldest son and heir of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, is no longer in quarantine after showing mild coronavirus symptoms, his office said on Monday, as scientists said strict measures put in place across Britain to limit close-contact transmission could be having an effect.

"Clarence House has confirmed today that, having consulted with his doctor, the Prince of Wales is now out of self-isolation," it said in a statement.

The 71-year-old prince, whose age put him among the most-risk category for the disease, is said to be in good health and abiding by government health guidelines.

No way to get home

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suspension of on-arrival and tourist visas and ban on cruise ship docking.

Some of these countries have also deployed security forces to strictly enforce law, aiming at preventing unwanted movements of citizens.

Bangladesh took precautionary measures to contain the virus transmission.

Amid this situation, Saudi government has informed Bangladesh embassy to collect detailed information of stranded Bangladeshis in the Kingdom so that it can arrange chartered flights to ferry them to Dhaka, Moshi said.

"But in the current situation, it is difficult to communicate with them," he added.

Many such stranded Bangladeshis are going through financial hardship in other Arab countries as well, said Moshi, also Bangladesh's permanent representative to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation.

He added that he sent messages about them to officials concerned in Bangladesh government.

According to the ambassador, some five million Bangladeshis are living in the nine countries.

Many of the Bangladeshis who went to Saudi Arabia for performing Umrah saw their visas got expired as such visas are issued for only 15 days.

As a precautionary measure, Dhaka imposed a ban on passenger flights to 10 countries including six Gulf Cooperation Council member states from March 22 to March 31. Later, it extended the suspension till April 7.

Earlier on March 17, 409 Bangladeshis were brought back from KSA by a special flight.

Bangladeshis usually travel to Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt using Saudi Arabia or Dubai as transit since Bangladesh does not have direct air communications with the three Arab countries, according to sources.

M Shahadat Hossain, president, Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB), said they have information that several thousand Bangladeshis are stranded in different Gulf countries.

"We wrote to different airlines who took the Bangladeshis requesting them to arrange accommodation and food for the stranded Bangladeshis until they return," he added.

Eight more Bangladeshis

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allowing journalists or close relatives of any of the patients admitted to hospitals to prevent the spread of coronavirus, he added.

"Panic and fear grip the New York

residents," said Neher.

The journalist added that he talked to some of the victims' family members who requested the media not to disclose the names and identities of their loved ones.

Bangladesh eligible

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The EU accounts for 63 percent of the total apparel exports from Bangladesh and 58 percent of all exports every year.

Regarding the European Ombudsman's decision, the EU in a statement said four trade union organisations wrote to the European Commission in October 2016 alleging that Bangladesh did not comply with its obligations in the area of fundamental labour rights.

They drew attention to very serious issues and urged the Commission to investigate the matter in the context of the GSP.

Dissatisfied with the fact that the Commission had failed to launch an



investigation, the International Trade Union Confederation, the Clean Clothes Campaign and HEC-NYU EU Public Interest Clinic turned to the Ombudsman in June 2018, the EU said.

Car crash

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According to witnesses, a overspeeding black car lost control and fell into a road-side ditch around 12:00 noon. The car drowned but the locals managed to rescue the trio and sent them to a local hospital.

The on-duty doctors at the hospital declared the trio dead.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	
Department of Public Health Engineering	
Office of the Executive Engineer	
Lalmoharhat District	
 "শেখ হাসিনার মুদ্রাটি নাম শব্দের 'মুদ্রাটি'"	 "উন্নত মানসিদ্দের সুরা বাঁধান"
Memo No. 48.203.5200.061.17.055.18-217	Date: 30/03/2020
Invitation for e-Tender Notice	
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for Single Package under Project for Safe Water Supply Throughout the Country, DPHE, Lalmoharhat.	
Division	Local Government Division.
Organization/ Department	Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE).
Project Name	Project for Safe Water Supply Throughout the Country.
Name of PE	Md. Main Uddin, Executive Engineer, Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), Lalmoharhat District.
Source of Fund	Government of Bangladesh (GOB).
e-Tender ID's	451214, 451248, 451256, 451261, 451265
Tax ID's	451214, 451248, 451256, 451261, 451265
This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline hard copies will be accepted. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and on e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).	
Md. Main Uddin Executive Engineer DPHE, Lalmoharhat	
GD-712	