

Nur Nahar Halim no more

CITY DESK

Nur Nahar Halim, mother of Mercantile Bank Ltd Managing Director Md Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, passed away yesterday in her daughter's home at New Eskaton, Dhaka. She was 82, says a press release.

She left behind three sons, one daughter, grandchildren and a host of relatives and well-wishers.

Her first namaz-e-janaza was held at New Eskaton after yesterday. Her body will be brought to her village home at Saharpar in Sonaimuri, Noakhali. Nur Nahar will be buried today at her family graveyard after the second janaza.



DU students helping those in need

CITY DESK

A group of Dhaka University students are on a mission to help those who are most struggling during the coronavirus outbreak. They are raising funds through donations and distributing daily essentials among impoverished people.

DU student Rafiul Chowdhury started the initiative when he decided to provide packages consisting of 2kg of rice, 500g of lentils, onion, salt and a bar of soap. The whole package costs Tk 100 each. After learning about Rafiul's initiative, his friend Tahmid Hasan, an economics student, joined in, said a press release.

Following a Facebook post which went viral, more friends joined them. They then decided to properly organise their work, and consequently, the non-profit organisation Pashe Achi-Initiative was born.

So far, they have provided food packets to around 500 people in different areas of Dhaka city. They take proper safety precautions every time they go out for distribution.

The students have planned to help those in need as long as possible. They urged people across the country to do the same, in whichever way they can.

Those interested can contribute to Pashe Achi through bKash (01707117066, 01772032528, 01515203207, 01812821421, 01783429171) and their bank account (Tahmid Hasan, A/C: 1061440479332, Eastern Bank Ltd).

Asia Distilleries starts making hand sanitiser

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thalurgaon

Asia Distilleries Private Ltd of Panchagarh, a sister concern of Razzak Group, has started producing hand sanitisers in response to a growing demand for hygiene products during the coronavirus outbreak.

It has so far produced 7,500 litres of the product worth about Tk 35 lakh last five days, said Habibul Islam Bablu Chairperson of Razzak Group.

It got approval to make hand sanitiser on March 23 from Directorate of Drug Administration, and started production on March 27. Habibul said the product will be available in markets all over the country in two weeks.

Brac allocates Tk 15cr

FROM PAGE 3
who have lost their source of income due to coronavirus. We will support 100,000 such families, however the requirements are far greater. I urge compassionate individuals and organisations to come forward and help us scale up the initiative to reach many more," he also said. This initiative will be implemented in close coordination with the local public representatives and administration, particularly to avoid duplication, Saleh added. Families in 12 city corporations, eight municipalities, 38 sadar upazilas, haor villages, neighbourhoods and market areas near river ports, as well as the host community living adjacent to the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, will receive this assistance. Brac has also launched a fundraising appeal to scale up the effort and increase the coverage of their programme, details of which are available on their website. The organisation is also driving a nationwide hygiene awareness and behavioural change campaign with its network of over 100,000 staff, volunteers and health workers with support of the local administration.

National committee

FROM PAGE 3
place their plans to the ministry by the next seven days, the meeting said, adding that the city corporations and Dhaka Wasa will work in a coordinated way to control aedes mosquitoes.

Among others, newly-elected Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam, LGD Senior Secretary Helaluddin Ahmed, Housing and Public Works Secretary Md Shahidullah Khandokar and Agriculture Secretary Md Nasiruzzaman were present at the meeting.

2 killed, 15 hurt in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Two people were killed and 15 injured in road accidents in the last two days, report our correspondents.

A bus driver died and 15 passengers was injured on Dhaka-Khulna Highway at Maligram Kolatola area in Bhanga of Faridpur on Wednesday.

Quoting locals, Sub-inspector of Bhanga Highway Police Station Md Anish said, "A Dhaka-bound bus collided head-on with a truck, killing bus driver Masud (50) on the spot. The injured were taken to Faridpur Medical College Hospital."

In Jashore, Parveen Sultana (45) died after falling from her son's motorcycle yesterday at Pukuria village in Bagharpara.

Abdul Mannan, the deceased's husband, said, "Upon receiving the news, we rescued her and brought her to Jashore General Hospital. She died while undergoing treatment." Bagharpara Police Station Officer-in-Charge Syed Al-Mamun said Bagharpara municipality mayor Kamruzzaman Bachchu requested to take the body without autopsy.

Bangladeshis in Spain

FROM PAGE 12
The mission also said the local association of Bangladeshi community and other socio-political organisations had identified about 2,000 helpless Bangladeshi expatriates there.

They have started distributing essentials, including rice, lentils and edible oil among those in most need.

As of Thursday, Spain saw 1,10,238 confirmed coronavirus cases and 10,003 fatalities. Of the confirmed cases, 26,743 people were recovered.

The letter also mentioned that some 32 Bangladeshi expatriates in Spain were diagnosed with Covid-19 positive as of March 23. Two of them have recovered from the disease.

Following the virus' outbreak, Spain's government announced countrywide "lockdown" on March 14 and extended it until April 11,

according to the mission. As per the directive, coming out of home except for any purpose except buying food or seeking medical help will be considered as a criminal offence there.

Mutasimul Islam, first secretary at the labour welfare wing of Bangladesh mission in Madrid, told this newspaper that they had collected names and details of about 100 expatriates through whom they want to disburse some financial support.

He said as the movement has been restricted, they were trying to help the expatriates through reaching Bangladeshi community members using different means, including social media.

He also said the government of Spain had announced free coronavirus treatment for both regular and undocumented expatriates.

"The situation is worrisome

especially for the undocumented ones and those who were not involved in permanent jobs," he added.

He, however, said there is some respite for the Bangladeshis as Spain government has written off house rents for all in the current situation.

Kamruzzaman Shundar, general secretary of Bangladesh Association in Spain, the association and some solvent Bangladeshis living in the country have come forward to financially support others who are in dire need.

Contacted, WEWB Director General Hamidur Rahman said recently they have disbursed Tk 10 lakh to Bangladesh mission office in Madrid from the board's welfare fund.

Apart from providing dry food to the migrants, the money will also be used for buying protective gears including masks and sanitisers for them, he said.

Inspector

FROM PAGE 12
found hanging from the ceiling fan of Manoranjan's room at the police station on March 27, three days after he was detained.

Following his death, Amtali OC Abul Bashar was withdrawn and attached to Barguna Police Lines. Two other cops, including Manoranjan, were suspended on the same day for allegedly torturing Shanu to death.

Shanu's family said police detained him on March 23 night from his home in Kalagachia village of Amtali upazila on suspicion of his involvement in a murder last year.

They said Shanu was not accused in the murder case.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Shanu's wife Jharna Begum and son Shakib Hossain alleged that police demanded Tk 3 lakh for his release.

As they failed arrange the money, police tortured Shanu to death, they complained.

"When I wanted to see my father at the police station, the OC asked me to bring the money first," Shakib said.

OC Bashar, however, denied the allegation of demanding money.

Harunur Rashid, OC of the Detective Brach of Barguna police, has been made the investigation officer of the case, filed by Ishraque Hassan, a relative of Shanu.

Contacted, Harunur yesterday said he would launch the investigation after receiving the letter of his appointment as the IO.

2 killed

FROM PAGE 12
In a separate incident, based on information that a group of terrorists were meeting in Tilabuduri area of Atrai upazila, a police team raided the spot around 3:00am.

As the criminals opened fire on law enforcers, a "gunfight" ensued and resulted in the killing of Minhajul, the SP said, adding that he was accused in six cases.

Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 12
a patrolling team of BSF while going to his in-law's house.

BSF took his body away, the chairman added.

Iran, US

FROM PAGE 12
path and for once, tell their nation they are not against the Iranian people," President Hassan Rouhani told a cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

Medicines and medical equipment are technically exempt from the US sanctions but purchases are frequently blocked by the unwillingness of banks to process purchases for fear of incurring large penalties in the United States.

European nations have delivered medical goods to Iran in the first transaction under the Instex financing mechanism set up to get round US sanctions, Germany said on Tuesday.

But it is more than a year since Britain, France and Germany announced the creation of Instex and Iran has questioned European governments' commitment to seeing it through in defiance of the Trump administration.

Political freedom

FROM PAGE 12
administration will accord recognition to Bangladesh.

BANGABANDHU ADDRESSES WORKERS' CONFERENCE

Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today says that political freedom has no meaning without economic emancipation of the people. Addressing a workers' conference, Bangabandhu says that his government is fully committed to establishing socialistic economy in the country for the welfare of the people. He adds that the government has taken a bold step in this regard by nationalising the industries, banks and insurance companies. He says what his government has done during the last two and a half months to establish socialism in the country is unique in history. The prime minister says that his government firmly believes that without socialism, people's progress in Bangladesh is impossible.

Stressing the need to maintain peace and order for the effective running of the industries, the prime minister says that the abandoned industries have been virtually left without capital. Their owners have drawn overdrafts. After taking them over, the government has to make arrangements

so that the industries run smoothly and at the same time, the workers receive their salaries.

Bangabandhu declares that khash mahal land will be distributed among the landless peasants. He also assures that arrangements have been made to procure enough food grains. "Nobody will die for want of food," says the prime minister. GOVT TAKING STEPS TO BRING BACK BANGALEES

Bangabandhu today says that the government is taking all possible measures to bring back the Bangalees from Pakistan. Talking to a group of wives and relatives of the stranded Bangalees today morning in front of his office at the Secretariat, Bangabandhu sympathises with their difficulties and grievances and advises them to have patience.

TORNADO TOLL NOW UP TO 200

The death toll in the tornado that hit seven unions of Fulbari thana about 10 miles from Mymensingh on April 1, 1972 evening is stated to have risen to 200, according to unofficial reports.

SOURCES: April 4, 1972 issues of Ittefaq, The Bangladesh Observer, Azad, Morning News, Dainik Bangla and Purbodesh.

Still jittery, fewer doctors

FROM PAGE 1
In nine of those hospitals, only 2.46 percent employees went to work while the rate is only 2.03 percent in six medical college hospitals.

In a meeting via video conference yesterday, the DG of DGHS Prof Abul Kalam Azad asked all divisional directors and civil surgeons to take action against the absenteeism.

"Healthcare personnel have been frightened. We have increased the supply of PPEs for their protection. We are working on it," Belal Hossain, director (admin) at DGHS, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Prof Muzaherul Huq, former World Health Organisation regional adviser for Southeast Asia, said, "We have to bear in mind that the healthcare professionals are also people like others. Their fear is logical; they are the most vulnerable group in this health emergency. We have to ensure enough PPEs for them first."

As of yesterday, the DGHS has supplied

3,57,250 PPEs to government hospitals, according to the Covid-19 control room.

Nirupom Das, spokesperson for Bangladesh Doctors Foundation, said, "Doctors are returning to work because there are PPEs. Many hospitals have prepared isolation wards and dedicated employees to treat Covid-19 patients."

He added that more PPEs would be needed.

To treat Covid-19 patients, hospitals have dedicated 4,600 beds, said Aminul Islam, director (hospitals and clinics) of DGHS.

Prof Nazrul Islam, former vice chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said, "The government's latest initiatives will boost confidence among healthcare professionals."

Prof Selim Reza, president of BCS Health Cadre Association, said, "The problem is, the symptoms of Covid-19 are like the common cold. After the government started supplying PPEs, the doctors have started seeing patients."

composed of fine-grained silt and clay bearing remains of fossil roots in a dense network, pollen and spores spanning 65 types of plants, with individual cell structures clearly visible.

"If you would go to a forest near you and drill a hole, it would probably look pretty similar," Klages said.

Klages said the plants included conifers, ferns and flowering plants. While they did not find any animal remains, Klages said there likely were dinosaurs, flying reptiles called pterosaurs and many insects. Dinosaur fossils from Antarctica have been known for years.

FROM PAGE 12
consultation for general ailments and offer medical advice over the phone and digital platforms.

Daktarkhana, for example, is a platform of 80 young general physicians who are currently providing a free telemedicine service.

With the help of an acquaintance, Mukut came to know about Daktarkhana. With the prescribed medicine and regular advice of a doctor through the service, he was soon feeling better.

"When I called the doctor, he first took my medical history and symptoms. He then prescribed some medicine, gave some advice, and asked me to update him about my health condition over the next five days," he said.

Abul Ala Al Mesbah, an internal auditor at a private company, said he had a dry cough since he returned from a work trip in Dinajpur a couple of weeks ago.

"I wouldn't have been anxious if the coronavirus outbreak hadn't happened."

Common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, tiredness, dry cough and breathing difficulty.

He called a doctor through Daktarkhana and took the medicine and medical advice he was prescribed. The experience prompted him to share his experience on social media so that more people are aware of services such as this during this time.

Following the coronavirus outbreak, Daktarkhana started the telemedicine service through six phone numbers from March 19, said its founder Dr Ratindra Nath Mondal.

From March 27, it started providing telemedicine services from doctors in all 64 branches in the country.

Till March 30, the organisation has served 396 patients over the phone. Patients can also communicate their health condition over direct message on Daktarkhana's Facebook page.

The service has mostly been getting calls about the seasonal flu symptoms, which share some similarities with coronavirus symptoms.

Olwel, a Finland-based startup aiming to bring healthcare services to patients' doorsteps by sending doctors to their home, has also started a video consultation service from March 21.

Every day, on average, it has been serving at least 15 patients.

Patients call the hotline first and later, a video call is arranged with an internal panel of doctors, consisting of both general practitioners and specialists.

"To get consultation from general practitioners, a patient needs to pay Tk 200. For specialists' services, patients have to pay between Tk 400 and Tk 800 through bKash," said Dr Farzana, medical officer at Olwel.

Eminent physician Dr ABM Abdullah opines that such services are commendable -- especially when people with quite general health complications are panicking at this time.

"I recommend these services continue during this crisis."

HOSPITALS JOINING IN
After seeing a decline in the number

1 DAKTARKHANA'S FREE MEDICAL CONSULTATION
Banasree: **01711542505**
Rampura: **01621747426**
Mirpur 60 Feet: **01670108002**
Mogbazar: **01311798785**
Doctors at Daktarkhana's 64 branches can be reached through FB page: Daktarkhana-GP Center.

2 BMA SATKHIRA FREE HEALTHCARE SERVICES
Medicine and communicable diseases -- **01710975297**
Pediatrics and diarrhea -- **01957410585**
Medicine, neurology and rheumatic fever -- **01777270282**
Gynaecology and obstetrics -- **01687601908**
Asthma and skin disease -- **01408507324**

3 OLWEL
09666-766000
(Tele and video consultation: charges applicable)

4 LABAID SPECIALISED HOSPITAL
10606
(Tele and video consultation -- charges applicable)

5 UNITED HOSPITAL
10666 or 02-0852466
(Video consultation through Skype -- charges applicable)

6 POPULAR MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL
09613787800
(free telephone consultation)

7 DMCH
10656
(free teleconsultation)

8 MUGDA MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL
01844665585,
01844665336,
01844665337
(free teleconsultation)

of outdoor patients and absenteeism of doctors due to lack of protective gears, the government hospitals too are turning to telemedicine and tele-consultation.

Brig Gen AKM Nasiruddin, director of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), said they are going launch the service soon through a hotline number.

"Doctors of surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, cardiology, emergency, and the administration's numbers will be linked to the hotline number so that the patients can choose who to talk to. It will be a 24/7 service," he said on Wednesday.

If they receive positive feedback, they will expand the service in the future to all departments, he added.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) has also started a telemedicine platform recently, said Vice Chancellor Kanak Kanti Barua.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka



Corrigendum of International Tender Notice

Memo No. 44.01.0000.024.01.020.19/809
Date: 01 April 2020

Invitation for International Tender published in different national dailies as per Memo No. 44.01.0000.024.01.020.19/579 Date: 02 March 2020 is hereby amended only for Purchase of Goods (Vehicles for Bangladesh Police) as follows:-

Sl No.	Description	Published	Revised
11.	Tender selling date	13 April 2020	29 April 2020
12.	Tender closing date and time	15 April 2020 at 12.00pm	30 April 2020 at 12.00pm
13.	Tender opening date and time	15 April 2020 at 12.30pm	30 April 2020 at 12.30pm

Other terms and conditions shall remain same as before.

Md. Ruhul Amin BPM
BP 7299088433
Addl. DIG (Transport)
Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka
Phone: +88029564779, Fax: +88029575663
email: addlidigtrans@police.gov.bd

GD-717