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Time for treatment from afar

Doctors' advice, prescription thru phone or video conference can come handy during outbreak

NILIMA JAHAN

SM Mominul Islam Mukut, who works at a bank, went to a private hospital in Uttara on March 21 after suffering from fever and low blood pressure.

The doctors at the hospital refused to treat him and suggested he go to a government hospital which provides coronavirus treatment.

"The doctors heard that I had a fever and refused to examine or treat me," said Mukut.

"I was getting worried as I continued to weaken."

So, what do you do if you have a medical need or emergency when many hospitals are allegedly turning away patients with symptoms of regular flu or fever as doctors don't have enough PPE? When a transport shutdown is being enforced and you also don't want to risk going to a hospital where there are too many people?

You may not be able to physically visit your doctor and vice-versa, still a "visit" is possible via phone or videoconferencing.

Though telemedicine is yet to be popular in the country, some medical organisations do provide remote

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A pickup packed with men on Dhaka-Chattogram highway in the capital's Matuail yesterday morning. People have been ignoring the risks of contracting and spreading coronavirus by defying the government requests to stay home and maintain physical distance.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

2 killed in Naogaon 'gunfights'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Two suspected criminals were killed in separate "gunfights" with law enforcers in two upazilas of Naogaon early yesterday.

The dead are Zahidul Islam, 38, from Balukha village of Patnitala upazila and Minhajul Islam, 36, from Tentulia village in Atrai upazila, said Abdul Mannan Mian, superintendent of police (SP) of Naogaon.

Being tipped off that a group of drug dealers were having a secret meeting in Dibar area of Patnitala upazila, a team of detectives raided the area around 2:30am, he said.

Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the criminals opened fire on them, forcing them to retaliate which triggered a "gunfight", said Mannan.

Police later recovered the body of from the spot and took it to Patnitala Upazila Health Complex for an autopsy.

Zahidul was accused in five cases filed with different police stations, SP Mannan said.

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Bangladeshis in Spain suffering

Many of 30,000 there have no sources of income amid coronavirus lockdown

JAMIL MAHMUD

Many of about 30,000 Bangladeshis living in Spain have been spending days in uncertainty with no source of income as the country has been under a nationwide lockdown since March 14 to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

The financial hardships came off worse for these expatriates who are already in a fear of getting infected with the deadly virus.

Spain is one of the worst-affected countries from the coronavirus pandemic both in terms of fatalities and the number of confirmed cases.

Most of the Bangladeshis living in the Mediterranean country are either wage-earners or mostly involved in small-scale businesses related to tourism, according to a letter recently sent by Bangladesh mission in Madrid to Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB) under the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry.

In the letter, issued on March 23, the mission sought financial support on a priority basis from Bangladesh government to help the expatriates.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Political freedom must embody economic emancipation



Bangabandhu is seen with the representatives of workers at Wapda auditorium on April 3, 1972.

APRIL 3, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU'S ULTIMATUM TO THE US

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gives the Nixon administration 10 days' time to recognise Bangladesh or the Bangladesh government would close down the US Mission in Dhaka. This is disclosed by Senator Bill Hagle, who calls on Bangabandhu today at Ganabhaban. Senator Hagle, who is very critical of the Nixon administration, says the US Mission in Dhaka does not even know when the Nixon

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Bangladeshi shot dead by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Bangladeshi man was shot dead by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday morning, said Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

The dead is Joynal Abedin, 36, of Ranishankar upazila in Thakurgaon.

Lt Col Shahidul Islam, commanding officer of 50th BGB battalion in the district, said the incident occurred around 10:45am.

The man was shot around 200 yards inside Indian territory along Chospara border in Baliadangi upazila of the district, he added.

The Bangladeshi citizen had been living at his in-law's house in North Dinaipur of India for the last 10 years, Lt Col Shahidul said.

Aminul Islam, chairman of Boro-Palashbari Union Parishad, said Joynal was shot dead on the spot by

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Antarctica once had rainforests



REUTERS, Washington

Antarctica is now a harsh land of ice and snow, but has not always been that way.

Earth's southernmost continent long ago was home to temperate, swampy rainforests teeming with life, scientists said on Wednesday based on pristinely preserved forest soil they retrieved by drilling under the seafloor off Antarctica's coast.

The sediment core obtained by scientists working aboard the research icebreaker RV Polarstern in the Amundsen Sea near the Pine Island Glacier dated to about 90 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period when dinosaurs were the dominant land animals.

The researchers estimated based on the soil content that this location, 560 miles (900 km) from the South Pole, experienced average annual temperatures of about 53-55 degrees Fahrenheit

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Inspector sued over Barguna custodial death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A case has been filed against Manoranjan Mistry, suspended inspector (investigation) of Amtali Police Station in Barguna, over the death of a detainee at the police station on March 27.

He was made the lone accused in the case filed under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act-2013 on Wednesday night, said Md Shah Alam, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Shanu Hawlader, a 55-year-old farmer, was

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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 3

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-40 12-30 4-45 6-21 7-45
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 5-00 6-24 8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Bulbous nests fashioned and clumped onto trees by weaverbirds used to be a part of the rural landscape not so long ago. The now rare weavers were seen putting the finishing touch on their nest in Bogura's Gabtali upazila last week. The lengths these birds go to build their homes is astounding.



PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

Iran, US heat up war of words over Iraq

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday said it "only acts in self-defence" after President Donald Trump warned it against attacks on US troops in Iraq, as a new war of words heated up despite the coronavirus pandemic.

Tensions between the arch-foes flared in Iraq where the United States deployed Patriot air defence missiles prompting neighbouring Iran to warn of consequences and demand a US withdrawal.

Both countries have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has claimed more than 5,000 lives in the United States and more than 3,000 in Iran.

"Unlike the US -- which surreptitiously lies, cheats & assassinates -- Iran only acts in self-defence," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted.

"Don't be misled by usual warmongers, AGAIN," he said, addressing US President Donald Trump.

"Iran starts no wars but teaches lessons to those who do," he added.

Trump warned Iran on Wednesday that it would pay a "heavy price" in the event of further attacks on US troops.

He tweeted that "upon information and belief, Iran or its proxies are planning a sneak attack on US troops and/or assets in Iraq."

In response, Zarif wrote on Twitter that "Iran has FRIENDS: No one can have MILLIONS of 'proxies'"

Iran responded angrily to the US Patriot

deployment warning that Washington risked leading the Middle East to disaster in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

Iran and the US are in a tense battle for influence in Iraq, where Tehran has powerful allies and Washington has close ties to the government.

Bases in Iraq housing US troops and foreign embassies, particularly the American mission, have been targeted in more than two dozen rocket attacks since October that Washington has blamed on Iran-backed armed groups.

Tensions have risen sharply since Trump withdrew from a landmark nuclear agreement in 2018 and reimposed sweeping sanctions.

They escalated in January when the US killed Iran's Major General Qasem Soleimani in a drone strike near Baghdad airport.

Iran retaliated by firing at bases in Iraq housing US troops.

While on high alert for a response, Iranian air defences accidentally shot down a Ukrainian airliner minutes after takeoff from Tehran, killing all 176 people on board.

Iran has repeatedly called on the Trump administration to reverse its sanctions policy, which has been opposed even by US allies, particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

"This was the best, historic opportunity for the Americans to reverse their wrong

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