

2 found dead in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two people were found dead in Chattogram city yesterday. The deceased were identified as Selim Uddin (37) from Sathania upazila and Prafulla Das (50) from Rangunia upazila.

Police said the body of Selim was recovered from the port city's Tigerpass area.

He was an assistant manager of "Zirat Fashion House" in Bayezid Bostami area, said family and the law enforcers. Khulshi Police Station Officer-in-Charge Pranab Chowdhury said Selim fell sick and lay on the ground while he was about to board a bus to his workplace.

Police patrolling the area and his family members rushed him to Chattogram Medical College Hospital where the doctors said he died from a stroke, said the family.

Prafulla Das was lying on a road near Oli Kha mosque in Chawkbazar, said Sub-Inspector Bodiul Alam of Chawkbazar Police Station.

He used to pull rickshaw at daytime and work as a night guard at a building in Sholoshar area, said the SI.

After dropping a passenger, he suddenly fell onto the road, said the police officer, adding that locals informed the law enforcers of the incident.

On arrival at the hospital, the doctors said he died from the same reason.

Don't admit

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an earlier statement of their on March 24 had encouraged teachers to give online classes.

"We urged them to hold online classes to keep students in touch with education activities and recover the losses due to the current crisis," UGC Chairman Kazi Shahidullah told The Daily Star.

"We did not urge them to give exams, or do any kind of evaluation online. Many students do not have internet access or they now out of internet coverage. How will they participate in these exams and evaluation processes?" he added.

In most private universities, semester final exam carries 30 to 40 percent marks of the whole semester.

He also said if university authorities continue their admission process amid this crisis, it will send a bad signal to guardians. "We will have time to sort out this issues when normalcy returns. This is high time to act together to face the crisis that the country or the world have never have faced in the past," he added.

Private universities enroll students in three semesters -- spring (January to April), summer (May to August) and fall (September to December). About 25 percent of total students admitted enroll in the summer semester.

There are 105 private universities in the country, of which 97 are licensed to carry out academic activities.

ACC chairman mourns Saifur's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Iqbal Mahmood has mourned the untimely death of the commission director Jalal Saifur Rahman.

Saifur, deputy secretary, had been carrying out his duty on deputation at ACC, reads a press release.

Iqbal said, "ACC has lost a skilled, competent and intelligent officer."

Saying that the death has caused an irreparable loss, the ACC chairman expressed sympathy to Saifur's bereaved family members.

Saifur died at a hospital in the capital yesterday morning.

Mymensingh road crash kills 2 RMG workers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Two garment workers were killed in a road accident in Jamirdia area on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Bhaluka upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Harun-or-Rashid (32) and Jewel Mia (35). Both were working at a garment factory in Bhaluka upazila.

Quoting locals, Officer-in-Charge of Bhaluka Highway Police Al Mahmud Adnan said the accident took place around 10am when a Dhaka-bound truck lost control and crushed them while they were walking on the footpath, killing them on the spot.

Parliament goes into session on April 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 11th Jatiya Sangsad will go into its seventh session on April 18. The session will begin at 5pm on the day, according to a press release of the parliament secretariat.

President Abdul Hamid yesterday convened the session as per his power under article 72(1) of the constitution.

A top official of parliament secretariat said due to constitutional obligation, JS is going to hold the session.

According to the constitution, there can be a maximum of 60 days' gap between the end of a session and the beginning of the next one.

The last session of parliament that started on January 9 and was prorogued on February 18.

Healthcare made

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especially helpful for people in remote areas of the country," added Rowsan.

Pulse launched a special only 24/7 hotline package for Tk 99, which provides access to doctors 24/7 through its call centre in partnership with Diabetic Association of Bangladesh. This service is available at mypulse.com.bd and on Google Play and Apple stores.

The platform features fully encrypted live call and video consultation with certified professionals, said a press release. It also allows e-prescriptions, instant messaging with doctors, electronic file sharing for patients' history etc.

Many other telemedicine services are coming forward during this pandemic as well, whose information is available at corona.gov.bd.

AIB approves

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or November this year.

"However, everything would depend on the coronavirus situation," he added.

The overall objective of the "Improvement of the Sylhet-Tamabil Road to Four-lane Highway" project is to generate economic benefits by the facilitation the faster, safer and more economic links between Sylhet and Tamabil, read the project documents.

Besides, the border crossing at Tamabil -- between Bangladesh and India -- has the potential to generate significantly increased traffic, which would have a positive economic affect for people.

Further economic benefits could be expected from the increased use of the road corridor by commercial traffic travelling to and from other parts of the country and cross-border traffic travelling from eastern India to Dhaka, it added.

What if social distancing

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with seven other family members. Beside people, the room hosts everything from utensils, fridge, to a TV. Care work like cooking, eating and washing dishes? It's all done in this room.

A few water drums have been installed at different points in the camp for hand washing during the crisis, but the number is not adequate.

Washi Alam Bashir, president of Mohajir Rehabilitation and Development Movement (MRDB), a voluntary organisation working in the camp, said no masks, soap or hand sanitisers have been given to camp residents yet, neither by the government nor any private initiative.

"Local councillors provided 10 drums and two sacks of bleaching powder for hand washing on March 25," he said. The number is inadequate, but also, most people do not even use it due to lack of awareness, he added.

"Few days back, five camp residents returned from India. We told them to stay at home. They abided by the orders," Bashir said.

He said the local councillor and their organisation gave a few food packs for the needy on Wednesday, but it is far less than necessary.

He also said they have set up bamboo as entry points to restrict movement.

Additionally, several locals said there were no health awareness campaigns at

the camp while the authorities are hardly taking any measures to disinfect it.

Jamshed Khan, a butcher, said they watched the guidelines on television.

"But in the camp, where can we find a place to maintain this distance?" he questioned.

Not only hygiene, residents said most people living in the camp are now jobless and they have no income now. Popular restaurants for kebab and biriyani are closed. People who earned their livelihood as barbers, butchers, restaurant staffs, rickshaw pullers, transport workers and automobile mechanics are hit hard by loss of income during the ongoing countrywide shutdown that started from March 26.

Most the families are facing serious economic hardship as the general holiday was extended till April 11.

Locals claimed the authorities are yet to come up with enough food or any financial assistance for them.

Seeing this correspondent, many camp dwellers surrounded him and told their tales of sufferings and worries about the coming days, fearing starvation.

One Faruque said he worked at a barber shop in Dhanmondi and maintained his eight-member family. But all are closed now. "How will I give my family food now?" Faruque said with a look of gloom.

Camp dwellers said they might soon experience a grave crisis if immediate help from the government and non-government organisations does not arrive.

Over 300 Bangladeshis

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The Maldives has a population of some 200,000 migrant workers, most of whom are from Bangladesh, and live in congested shared quarters in the capital, Male', it says.

The migrant population has been noted by the Human Rights Watch to be particularly vulnerable to a highly infectious disease such as COVID-19 "because they live in congested shared quarters and do work that does not make it possible to practice strict social distancing."

On bringing back expatriate Bangladeshis, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on Sunday said the government will take steps case by case, considering the ground reality, according to UNB.

Dr Momen said though the number of countries which came up with the request is few, but it is a pressure on the government at this critical moment. "We are under pressure to some extent. All the countries are under pressure," he told reporters.

He said the foreign minister of Maldives had a phone conversation with him, where he conveyed the situation about the undocumented Bangladeshis nationals.

The Maldives foreign minister highlighted the downfall of tourism business and closure of restaurants there, and assured his Bangladesh counterpart of taking good care of the documented nationals. Maldives initially urged the undocumented nationals to get registered, he said.

Two 'yaba traders' 'Rise above petty interest'

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Jhimongkhali area near the Naf river early yesterday around 1:00am to recover arms and yaba, said the OC.

Sensing the presence of law enforcers, the cohorts of the arrestee opened fire on police, forcing them to retaliate triggering a gunfight, he added.

Mahmudullah and another attacker sustained bullet wounds during the gunfight and were rushed to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex, OC Prodip said.

Doctors at the health complex referred them to Cox's Bazar General Hospital, where doctors declared them dead, he said, adding that three cases are being filed in this regard.

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quarrel and are indulging in corruption. He warns that any act of corruption and indiscipline by any member of Awami League will be strongly dealt with.

Bangabandhu comments that he has no passion for anything and has the moral strength to give up anything and says, "Prime minister-ship means nothing to a man who can brave death."

Speaking about the economic policy, Bangabandhu says that his party's commitment to socialism is reflected in the nationalisation of banks, insurance and other big industries including jute and textile. He makes it very clear that no individual will be allowed to acquire and

possess more than 100 bighas of land. He says the ceiling will be reduced further.

CHINA WILL REALISE MISTAKE

Bangabandhu today hopes that China will come to realise the mistake in its stand on Bangladesh and will accept the reality of Bangladesh. It will be wise for China to come forward with the recognition early, he comments.

Bangabandhu also advises Bhutto to recognise Bangladesh and attain friendship with India through negotiation so that the sub-continent can be declared a war-free zone.

ALL-PARTY RELIEF BODY AT UNION LEVEL

Bangladesh government has decided to form all-party committees up to union level for relief and rehabilitation works in the country. AHM Kamaruzzaman, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation, says that the broad-based committees, to be reorganised over the existing ones, will include five additional members comprising of three from Awami League and two from those political parties which had participated in the Liberation Struggle and have been supporting the government in its task of national reconstruction. He further informs that the government has so far spent nearly Tk 51 crore for relief and rehabilitation work in Bangladesh.

STORMS TAKE TOLL OF 113 LIVES SO FAR

113 persons are killed and 3460 others injured in tornadoes and nor'westers in different places of the country over the last few days. Disclosing this at a press conference today, Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation AHM Kamaruzzaman adds that 80,200 houses are damaged either completely or partly by the storms. He also informs that the government has already taken emergency relief measures to aid the affected families.

SOURCES: April 8, 1972 issues of Ittefaq, The Bangladesh Observer, Azad, Morning News, Dainik Bangla and Purbodesh.

Use online services

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adding that his aim is to make young kids love poetry.

In such trying times online activists can create awareness in social media, he said and urged carriers to offer free internet to people.

"Many university students do house tutoring. But that has stopped due to coronavirus. As many people's income has reduced, they are struggling to pay for mobile data."

He also urged folk musicians to create awareness on the dangers of coronavirus online.

"Folk artistes are having a hard time. So online programmes can be arranged for them and mobile data can be made free for them to use on social media."

People can spend their valuable time in the virtual world in a meaningful way. There are thousands of online courses in music, computer literacy, dancing, cooking and many other things that can be of interest to people.

"People can start the online classes and enrich themselves."

Arif, also a renowned online activist, said due to the coronavirus outbreak, all cultural programmes have been suspended, but many singers are performing live on their verified pages in social media. "So, people can listen to them."

Many Bangladeshi people love gossiping. Since staying home is currently the best way to stay away from the virus, people can chat in groups or participate in video conferences.

Scrambling for survival

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These businesses ranged from selling clothes, makeup, toiletries, and fashion accessories to providing beauty services and homemade meals.

Often, these were the women's only source of income and are run with their own funds or small loans, and the businesses see a small but steady income these women have come to depend on.

The current coronavirus outbreak, however, means people are shopping less, if at all, for anything other than essentials and deliveries for non-essentials have been reduced. Supply has dried up for those who depend on goods shipped or brought back from countries such as China and India.

Tamanna Jahan, who has been financially independent since her university years, secretly started a jewellery business on Facebook in 2014 without informing her in-laws, who were against her working outside the home.

She only told them about her business after six months when she was able to make some profit, and received permission to continue. Recently, one of her shipments, worth Tk 80,000, for her imported Indian jewellery page "Anjonika" is stuck with the carrier in Kolkata.

"Since my business is pre-order based, the

customers pay me Tk 500-1,000 in advance on ordering a piece of jewellery worth Tk 3,000-5,000. But I have to make full payment for the shipment," said Tamanna.

"While some are understanding about the situation, other customers are messaging me for their products but I don't have an answer for them," she said.

"I can't take this anxiety anymore. If this situation continues, I will not be able to support myself, as I completed my studies seven years ago and have never had a formal job."

Like her, other online business owners, especially those who depended on importing goods from China and India, said they are seeing no business until the situation improves.

Shely Hasan, the owner of a Facebook page "Unique Fashion", sells imported bags and shoes from China with the help of a Bangladeshi student living there.

"The man who would help me with the shipments had to return to Bangladesh in mid-January. Since then, my business is completely closed. I would usually bring a shipment worth Tk 70, 000 every month, and double that during occasions like Eid, Baishakh or Puja." Shely would make a profit of around Tk 20,000 from every shipment.

Though Shely has some stock, she is

finding it difficult to sell as there is little demand for fashion products and most delivery companies aren't working amid the countrywide shutdown.

Although some imported clothing entrepreneurs were able to stock up for Pahela Baishakh and Eid, the peak season for selling clothes, they say the same.

Dareen Rahman, owner of the Pakistani clothing Facebook page "Rainbow", said she earlier sold at least three outfits a day and received around 25 enquiries. These days, she has no buyers.

"I got an order after ten days and have only been getting three to four messages inquiring about availability."

"There are a lot of hate comments on the posts. People are asking how we can think of selling clothes in such a situation," she added.

For Dareen, this is the first loss of steady income in seven years of running her own business. She has loans to repay, which will become increasingly burdensome if the situation continues to deteriorate.

"I couldn't repay my regular loan instalment of Tk 15,000 at the beginning of this month, as I borrowed Tk 100,000 for the business. I also have another monthly loan instalment of Tk 8,000, two credit card bills, and some loans from friends to pay back."

Some successful online businesses who developed loyal customers also took up one or more physical outlets as they expanded. They are also suffering, especially those who already dropped a large investment on clothes for the upcoming Pahela Baishakh. "I spent around Tk 15 lakhs for my shop and online page," said Jenifa Chowdhury, owner of Shamu Lifestyle, a clothing brand. Recently having taken up a physical outlet, she now has the salaries of her staff to think about at a time when she has zero sales.

"It is also a matter of timing, these outfits will not sell the rest of the year, even if the crisis is over soon."

An act

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house rent and other dues. They have to go to their village home and stay there for a long time. How will they run their families during this period? So, we gave them the next month's salary."

The government on March 23 announced closure of all government and private offices from March 26 to April 4 to contain spread of coronavirus. Later, the shutdown was extended to April 14. The government also suspended all public transport services.

But, division among influential owners over the closure of garment factories and an absence of specific instructions from the government had sent thousands of RMG workers into a dangerous scramble to get back to Dhaka on April 3, 4, said stakeholders of the sector.

Braving risk of coronavirus infection, workers travelled to Dhaka only to find most of their factories closed. Many came to the capital to collect their due salaries.

The incident drew huge criticism from different quarters. Even Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed serious discontent at the RMG owners over this, said cabinet sources.

SP Group, which exports RMG products worth around Tk 500 to 550 crore annually, shut down its factories from March 26. The factories will remain closed until April 30.

"We started as a small business 30 years ago. Our workers and staffers are like our family members. So, we have decided to stand by them," said Subal.

The workers and employees were very happy to receive two month's salaries, said the 70-year-old businessman from Pabna.

"We also assured them of not sacking anyone from the job and providing Eid bonus. We will try our best to give them salaries if we can't open factories after this month due to the coronavirus situation."

He said he would ask his workers and employees to join work after the situation improves.

JOB OPPORTUNITY
Hyposhin Company Ltd., Plot No. 88-92, DEPZ, Ganakbari, Ashulia, Savar, Dhaka, an Woven Fabrics Dyeing, Printing & Finishing Mill is looking for an Executive Director (01 person) for its Factory Office immediately. Candidate should be a graduate in any discipline & with at least 05 years' experience in the related field and requested to apply to the e-mail hsmizan1@gmail.com by 25th April 2020.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Goalanda, Rajbari
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.8229.000.14.016.19-203 Dated: 05.04.2020

Corrigendum to e-Tender Notice No. 04/2019-20

This is the information of all concerned that due to an unavoidable circumstances the following changes have been made to the tender which was published in The Daily Zai Zai Din, The Daily Star, The Daily Prothom Alo, Date: 06/03/2020.

Tender ID	Description of works	Original	1st Modified	2nd Modified
426497,	Document tender last	29/03/2020 at	07/04/2020 at	19/04/2020 at
426498,	selling (date & time)	13.00pm	13.00pm	13.00pm
426499,	Tender closing/opening	30/03/2020 at	08/04/2020 at	20/04/2020 at
426500 & 434370	(date & time)	12.30pm	12.30pm	12.30pm

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) or (e-mail: ue.goalanda@lged.gov.bd & Cell No. 01708161405).

Md. Bazlur Rahaman Khan
Upazila Engineer
Goalanda, Rajbari
Phone: 06423-56143
Email: ue.goalanda@lged.gov.bd

GD-724

Iran says virus infections show 'gradual' decline

AFP, Tehran

The trajectory of coronavirus infections in Iran appears to have started a "gradual" downward trend, the government said Monday, but it warned the disease is far from being under control.

The COVID-19 outbreak claimed 136 deaths in the past 24 hours, bringing Iran's overall death toll to 3,739, health ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour told a televised news conference.

Iran registered 2,274 new cases of infection over the same period, he said, putting the total number at 60,500 across the country.

The figure shows a drop in officially reported new cases of the novel coronavirus for the sixth consecutive day after a peak of 3,111 reached on March 31.

Iran is by far the country most affected by the pandemic in the Middle East, according to official tolls released by each state.

"Due to the intensification of the social distancing policy, we have seen a gradual and slow decline in the number of new cases in recent days," Jahanpour said.

President Hassan Rouhani reiterated a call for people to stay at home as he warned Iran could be "put back in a difficult situation" unless people follow guidelines.

Rockets hit oil district in southern Iraq; no casualties

REUTERS, Basra

Rockets landed near a district that houses foreign workers in Iraq's oil industry early on Monday, including U.S. oil service company Halliburton, but caused no damage or casualties, oil and police sources said.

Police said three Katyusha rockets were launched around 3 a.m. local time and hit the Burjisa residential and operations headquarters west of Iraq's main southern city, Basra. A launcher and 11 unfired rockets were found nearby and dismantled by security forces, according to the statement.

An Iraqi employee working with Halliburton said the rockets fell far from the site. The district houses foreign oil workers and offices of both foreign and Iraqi oil companies, but has been largely empty in recent weeks after nearly all foreign personnel were evacuated because of the coronavirus pandemic.