

## passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Hug's mother Jahanara Huq died yesterday at a hospital in the capital. She was 86.

Law Ministry official Dr Md Rezaul Karim confirmed the matter.

She left behind her son Anisul Huq and a host of relatives and well wishers.

Her namaz-e-janaza was held vesterday at Water Development Board Jame Masjid in Banani-11 after Zuhr prayers. She was laid to rest at Banani graveyard.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her condolences at the the death of Jahanara Hug.

Jahanara's husband advocate Serajul Huq -- who was a close aide to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman -- died on October 28, 2002.

Her son Ariful Huq Rony passed away in 2017 in Dallas, USA, and her only daughter Saima Islam died in Dhaka in 2018.



People crowd outside a pharmacy, as its collapsible gates are closed as per police directives to ensure safety. The photo was taken from East Basabo in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

#### A restaurant

bowls, or pans to collect the meals. The menu consists of vegetable hodge-podge, rice, and lentils with fish, meat or egg.

As the restaurant's chef was sent on vacation due to the crisis, the organisation arranged for another chef to cook during the shutdown, while volunteers buy the groceries needed, Manzoor said.

He urged other restaurant owners to start similar initiatives. "Restaurant owners usually have good income. If they come forward and organise such community kitchens, no one will need to go unfed no matter how bad the situation gets.

"The government can support restaurants or at least encourage them to take such initiatives," Manzoor added.

If needed, the organisation can help carry out this task. "In fact, even Abinash Bangla can take responsibility and organise one such community kitchen for every ward (in Mohammadpur), but we need the local leaders' support for that," he said.

But how long does the organisation plan to keep it up, and how long can they keep it going, this correspondent asked Manzoor.

"We want to continue for 45 days from today (Wednesday), but if necessary, we can extend it. For Ramadan, we are planning to provide Seheri meals from our own fund. We also want to offer Iftaar, but that is contingent on raising more funds.

#### Take special

transmitted disease are the demographics that are the ones left furthest behind, it said.

In a 12-point recommendation, the coalition called for ensuring inclusive health service delivery for the marginalised with effective testing services, ensuring availability and distribution of medicine, and accessible isolation and quarantine centres.

It called for providing personal protective equipment to officials and workers in service centres, and water, hygiene and sanitation facilities for marginalised communities

The coalition said special social safety net programmes and food ration cards should be provisioned with a dedicated budget and effective targeting.

It stressed direct cash transfer programme to reach urban floating people and urged to address informal sector unemployment which arose due to the pandemic.

It also emphasised on strong measures to tackle the challenges of governance as well as corruption during the Covid-19 response.

## But who'll

need more medical technologists who can run the testing machines," he added.

WHY THE HOLD-UP

In November last year, an eight-member inter-ministerial committee was formed to resolve the appointment-related problems. It was headed by Rois Uddin, an additional secretary to the public administration

On December 2, the committee in its report asked the Technical Education Board to stop new admission to MT courses and make an amendment to their laws.

The committee said "Bangladesh Allied Health Education Board" will be formed after amending the Technical Education Board's law and all health educational institutions would be brought under the board to implement its "One Umbrella" concept.

On February 10 this year, the Technical Education Board suspended enrolment by issuing a notice, and Morad Hossain Mollah, chairman of the board, sent a letter to the education ministry to amend the laws, but the gazette in this regard is yet to be published.

"A feud between the ministries [of education and health| started after the Technical Education Board started teaching medical technology courses at different educational institutions back in 2005," mentioned the committee in the report.

The course has been taught by the State Medical Faculty of Bangladesh under the health ministry since 1983.

To resolve the conflict, another interministerial meeting was held in 2007 and it was decided that all health educationrelated courses will be conducted by the health ministry under the "One Umbrella"

"In that meeting, delegations from the education ministry, Technical Education Board, health ministry and health directorate decided that students enrolled in the course under the board, who will fulfil the criteria of state medical faculty admission will be brought under the umbrella." said the report.

"But the health directorate issued a recruitment notification in 2013, setting a three-year-long diploma course under the state medical faculty. Aggrieved by this notification, some students who passed the course under the technical education board filed a writ petition," said the report.

The report also said the High Court issued a rule in 2016 directing the health ministry to coordinate with the Technical Education Board and ordered swift implementation of the umbrella concept.

But that too seemed to be stuck in limbo as some students under the state medical faculty filed a leave-to-appeal petition with the HC the same year.

The HC again asked the authorities concerned to implement its previous rules, which never happened.

Asked, Additional Secretary (Admin) to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Habibur Rahman Khan said they have to follow up on this.

"Emergency appointments are not a decision of the health ministry alone, it needs recommendation from the public administration, finance ministry and the intervention of the prime minister," he told The Daily Star recently.

When mentioned about the ongoing crisis, he said, "We can list medical technologists who are working in private hospitals. But we have to think about how they can be adjusted."

## Time to kick

FROM PAGE 12 right after quitting. In that case, they should consult a physician. The main thing is mentality. It is better to switch a smoker's mind to recreational activities more, he said.

It usually takes several months for a smoker's lung to heal the damage caused by long-term smoking, but a smoker would notice health improvements within days after quitting smoking, he added.

World Health Organization (WHO) said smokers would be worse suffers of Covid-19 if infected compared with non-smokers.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director general of WHO, recently said, "Smoking can increase your risk of developing serious disease if you become infected with COVID-19.

A study published in February in the New England Journal of Medicine looked at 1,099 patients in China with Covid-19, showing that of 173 patients who had severe symptoms, 16.9% of them were current smokers and 5.2% had previously smoked.

The medicine specialist Nazmul said as corona attacks on lungs and smoking weakens lungs.

"So, it is observed that smokers are at a higher risk to become seriously ill than the non-smokers.

#### Ireland

FROM PAGE 12 There have been 530 Covid-19 related deaths and 13,980 confirmed cases of the virus in Ireland according to department of health figures released Friday. Ireland, like many

other countries, had been bracing for a surge in cases, where transmission would peak and hospitals become overrun with patients.

But Holohan said analysis shows the reproductive rate of the virus -- the number of people a confirmed case typically spreads to -- is

now below one. "That means that on average a person who's infected is passing it down to less than one person,"

he said. "If you continue on that path, the rate of infection in the population will

continue to drop. Concerns remain over the high number of cases and mortality in residential care homes

across the republic. Around 60 percent of those who die from the virus come from long term residential care homes, Ireland's Health Service Executive reported Friday.

# India seeks Bangabandhu's view

today in Dhaka to seek "advice and guidance" of Bangabandhu on how India should express herself at the talks when issues involving Bangladesh will

The Indian spokesman says that India is going to the conference table with Pakistan with the basic objective of a lasting peace in the subcontinent.

Since it is an expressed policy of the Bangladesh government that any talks with Pakistan must come after Pakistan recognises Bangladesh, it is expected that India will press for recognition of Bangladesh by Pakistan in the forthcoming talks at Rawalpindi.

CABINET DISCUSSES FISCAL

among other issues the future he adds. administrative set up and fiscal policy, including the import policy of the country. Bangabandhu presides over the meeting. The eight newly appointed ministers also attend the deliberations of the meeting.

**CHECK-POSTS ALONG BANGLADESH-INDIA BORDER** 

The West Bengal government has decided to set up check-posts along Bangladesh-India border to check smuggling in arms and ammunitions. The West Bengal State Minister for Home Dr Fazle Haque informs that each and every incoming and outgoing vehicle will be searched. The Indian border security force and border police have been asked to curb movement of people through Bangladesh Cabinet today discusses unauthorised routes with Bangladesh,

OVERSEAS BANGALEE WELFARE **BOARD FORMED** An overseas Bangalee welfare

board is formed in Dhaka today with Bangladesh Foreign Minister MA Samad as the chairman. The foreign minister, while discussing the problems of overseas Bangalees, says that Bangabandhu felt the need to form a board like this and the present welfare board is being proposed at his behest. The welfare board will coordinate all efforts at government level and other agencies aimed at ensuring proper wellbeing and safeguarding the interests of Bangladeshi nationals living abroad.

SOURCES: April 20, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla

## Kanaighat upazila.

## Tests can't confirm immunity

to recover, although there are no immunity.' official figures, reports CNN.

about 44% of them showed mild symptoms.

But he cautioned there is still a lot scientists don't know about the virus, including the issue of naturally acquired immunity. In the US, antibody tests have just

begun to roll out. President Donald Trump has recommended states use the tests as they start relaxing some of the strict social distancing measures imposed to combat the pandemic, which has infected more than 671,000 people in the US.

discovered many countries suggesting these tests would be able to "capture

what they think will be a measure of

"What the use of these tests will do KCDC deputy director Kwon will measure the level of antibodies. at a news conference at WHO's Geneva headquarters. "Right now, we have no evidence that the use of a serological test can show that an individual is immune or protected from reinfection."

Dr Mike Ryan, executive director of WHO's emergencies program, said scientists are also still determining the length of protection antibodies might give a person who has been infected with the coronavirus.

"Nobody is sure whether someone Kerkhove said WHO officials with antibodies is fully protected against having the disease or being exposed again," he said.

"Plus some of the tests have issues with sensitivity," he added. "They may give a false negative result."

Earlier this week, WHO officials Joon-wook said that so far, there's no It's a response that the body has a said not all people who recover from indication that patients who retest week or two later after they've been the coronavirus have the antibodies positive are contagious, even though infected with this virus," she said to fight a second infection, raising concern that patients may not devel immunity after surviving Covid-19, reports CNBC.

"With regards to recovery and then reinfection, I believe we do not have the answers to that. That is an unknown," Ryan said Monday.

A preliminary study of patients in Shanghai found that some patients had "no detectable antibody response" while others had a very high response, Kerkhove said Monday. Whether the patients who had a strong antibody response were immune to a second infection is "a separate question," she

## Samples from his body

medical officer (RMO) of the hospital.

of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College for Covid-19 test.

In the afternoon, he was buried at a graveyard in

patients were receiving treatment at the isolation unit of the hospital yesterday. Of them, three were Covid-19 patients.

Shamsuddin Ahmed Hospital was turned into and also those showing Covid-19-like symptoms.

#### N Korea flouts sanctions through China shipping: **UN** report

AFP, United Nations

about the findings. Publishing photographs, shipping logs and submissions from memberstates, the panel said that North Korea had violated the total UN prohibition restrictions on imports of

Republic of Korea of commodity export bans not only flouts Security Council resolutions but serves to fund a revenue stream that has historically contributed to the country's prohibited nuclear and ballistic missile programs,'

data from an unspecified country, estimated that North Korea exported 3.7 million tons of coal between January and August last year, grossing around \$370 million.

Most coal exports were transferred from North Korean ships to Chinese barges, which often sailed up the Yangtze River to make deliveries, it said.

North Korea has also been spotted sending coal into the ocean for pick-up on self-propelled barges that are easier to evade detection, the report said As North Korea's fleet is

from May to August last it said.

# Another dies DMP now seeking

kind of support, including delivering free food to poor

DMP Tejgaon division is planning to recruit volunteers

Biplob Bijoy Talukder, deputy commissioner of Tejgaon division, has recently called for volunteers in a Facebook post.

would develop a system where volunteers would deliver products upon receiving orders," he said. SHOPS WITHOUT SALESMAN

the large apartments across the city. Such shops have already been set up at different points

in the Gulshan area. Customers pick essential items racked with price tags

The Gulshan Division Police with the support of

Sakhawat Abu Khair Mohammed, President of

"It would be a great initiative," he said.

DMP DC Sudip said they also launched a home delivery service with the assistance of another volunteer group named "Swapno Chaka".

01766622204 - and deliver the products after collecting it from nearby stores. "We are delivering all kinds of products except fish

Earlier on April 14, in a statement, the DIFE asked the factory managements to disburse the workers' wages by

workers continued their protest demanding their wage for March, and against the termination of workers from

WHAT DOES BGMEA SAY?

In a statement, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday said 95

the workers' salary shortly," the statement read. According to BGMEA, 2,370,917 workers had been paid out of total 2,472,417 as of yesterday, which is

the total factories, BGMEA added. LABOUR UNREST CONTINUES The workers in Ashulia and Chattogram continued their

protest yesterday demanding the wages for March. Around 350 workers of Penta Forth Apparels Ltd in Ashulia's Kathgora area demonstrated in front of the

Workers of the factory said, factory management assured them for multiple times regarding salary but to

previously assured the workers' leaders that they would pay the salary yesterday. But they alleged that they could not find the authorities of the factories inside when they

"We are waiting in front of the factory gate. We will not go back to home until we get our salary," the workers said vesterday

Shramik Fedaration, said the top executives of the factory went into hiding although they assured the workers of payments by yesterday. In another incident, more than 500 workers of a

garment factory in Chattogram city blocked Agrabad road area from 11:00am to 01:00pm demanding their last month's salary. According to the police and workers of Frank Garments

Sadit Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Double Mooring Police Station, told the Daily Star, "We conducted a meeting with top officials of the factory around 12:00am and they promised to disburse all

## Eight killed in lightning strikes

The men came to Sunamganj from Habiganj as contractual workers to harvest paddy, said KM Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Derai Police

In Shalla upazila, Shankar died as thunderbolt hit him on a road near a local bazar, said Ashraful Islam, officer-in-charge of Shalla Police

Shipon died as a lightning bolt hit him while he was harvesting Boro paddy with others at Naluar Haor, said Ikhtiar Uddin Chowdhury, officer-incharge of Jagannathpur Police Station.

Meanwhile, Farid died at Gazir Khal

haor after a thunderbolt struck him while he was feeding cows there, said Harunur Rashid Chowdhury, officerin-charge of Dakkhin Sunamganj In Mymenshing, a man and a child

injured in two separate lightning strikes in Madan upazila of Netrakona vesterday morning. victims were identified The as a farmer Yahia Mia, 25, from

were killed and three others were

Gobindasree Rajanikanda village; and Rahat Mia, 10, son of Selim Mia from Barogunia village in Madan upazila.

Quoting locals, officer-in-charge

of Madan Police Station Md Ramizul

Haque said Yahia was killed on the

spot and two other farmers -- Tipon, 27, and Islam Uddin 22, -- from the same village were injured when they were struck by lightning at Bichuval haor around 10:30am. They were harvesting boro paddy, said the OC.

At the same time, Rahat was killed and his friend Durjoy, 11, was injured when they were stuck by lightning at Pichher haor in Madan upazila. The chilren went to the haor to take food

for the workers, said the OC. The injured -- Tipon, Islam Uddin and Durjoy -- were admitted to Madan Upazila Health Complex, he

## Sex-based virus lockdowns expose gender divide in LatAm

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION, Bogota

A coronavirus lockdown policy that lets men and women leave the house on alternate days has exposed a gender divide in Bogota within days of being introduced, while Peru has dropped a similar scheme after finding it made

women's days busier. The Colombian capital this week joined two countries in Latin America - Peru and Panama - in introducing sex-based lockdown rules to limit the number of people leaving their homes and make it easier to enforce

the guarantine. In the first two days of the measure being implemented, there was a 60% drop in the number of people at

supermarkets, according to data by

local merchants' association Fenalco. But Fenalco also found a marked difference in men's and women's behaviour - in one area of the capital, 1,500 women went out on their allotted day, compared to just 900 men.

Women also tended to spend just 15 minutes shopping, while men took 45 minutes. Mariana Lopez, a shop cashier,

was among residents who questioned whether the sex-based rules would work. "I don't think it makes much of a difference as there are still many delivery people on the streets and cycling around

and they are all men," she said. Peru, the gender-based lockdown was scrapped after just

over a week following criticisms that it discriminated against women, who usually do most of the shopping and domestic work. Farid Matuk, a member of the

Peruvian government's coronavirus task force, said it had been a mistake to introduce the measure in a "patriarchal world" that resulted in higher numbers of women out shopping on the days they were

The move to separate men and women in public has also been criticized by LGBT+ rights groups, who cite the case of a trans woman in Panama who was detained by police and fined \$50 for going outside on a day reserved for women.

were sent to the laboratory

The RMO said 13

The 100-bed Shaheed a corona isolation unit to serve coronavirus patients

North Korea sharply stepped up trade in coal and oil products last year in defiance of UN sanctions through the apparent help of China's shipping industry, a UN panel said Friday.

The annual report to the UN Security Council by sanctions experts went online and inexplicably disappeared later in the day, with the text itself noting China's reservations

on exporting coal as well as refined petroleum. "The continued violation by the Democratic People's

the report said. The panel, quoting

In a new development,

not known to include such barges, they are likely from China, with 47 shipments year directly reaching ports on China's Hangzhou Bay near the economic powerhouse of Shanghai,

### and middle-class people. TEJGAON POLICE SÉEKING VOLUNTEERS

to deliver food and medicine at people's doorsteps to make them stay at home.

"If we get volunteers based on different areas, then we

To reduce crowd at the commodity markets, DMP planning to initiate shops without salesmen in front of

and drop the price in the cash box.

a local volunteer group "Hello Shop" has taken the initiative.

Gulshan Society, welcomed the move.

The volunteers receive orders from 10:00am to 4:00pm every day on two hotline numbers -- 01766622202 and

and meat," KM Abul Hasnat, founder of Swapno Chaka, told this newspaper.

## 370 RMG factories

The DIFE came up with the statement as the garment

percent of the workers' salary had been disbursed. "We would also like to mention that we are trying heart and soul to achieve the disbursement of the rest of

95.89 percent of total workers. Out of total 2,274 BGMEA member factories, 2,071 disbursed the workers' wages which is 91.07 percent of

Workers gathered for salary as factory authorities

Al Kamran, vice president of Shadin Bangla Garments

(pvt) Limited, workers of the factory were assured by owners of payments by Saturday, but they did not get

payments by April 28."

# Jahanara Huq