

JUST teachers and officials to donate one day's salary to PM's relief fund

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers, officers and employees of Jashore University of Science and Technology (JUST) will donate the amount of their one day's salaries to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund order to expedite the government's steps taken to fight the coronavirus, according to a press release.



As per the decision taken yesterday, the university's Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Anwar Hossain will hand over the money to PM's fund soon.

Apart from this, the teachers' association will also pay the same amount of their one day's salaries in May to help the disadvantaged and poor students of JUST, the release adds.

From the university's student welfare fund, they are also assisting five foreign students who have been stranded in the country due to coronavirus, it says further.



On a regular day, members of armed forces would be a rare sight in Satmasjid Road. But during the nationwide shutdown, the army is using roadblocks to check vehicles and make sure there is no unnecessary movement within the city.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Worried for families

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live in remote areas in the vast region and reaching them with messages via television is easier than other means.

Due to air communication suspension, many Bangladeshis are stranded in some Middle Eastern countries. So, sending them message was essential for their safe repatriation, said the ambassador. He said about 45 to 50 lakh Bangladeshis currently live in different Middle Eastern countries.

Saudi authorities had asked the ambassador to prepare a list of stranded Bangladeshis so that the Gulf country could arrange a charter flight to carry them to Dhaka, he said.

Middle East is a primary destination of lower-educated Bangladeshi migrant workers who often lack sufficient communications skills in foreign languages. As a result, they largely depend on Bangla as means of their communications and entertainment.

Currently, alongside being worried about their own health safety, they are equally anxious about their dear ones back home amid a lack of reliable information.

Abdur Rahim, a chauffeur of a Dubai family, said although he is worried about Bangladesh situation, he could not get information from time to time due to absence of Bangladeshi channels.

"There are options to watch different Bangla private television channels on YouTube. But it is not affordable for many low-paid workers," said Rahim, who is from Dhaka's Keraniganj. "We are constantly worried about our families back home."

He also said information that surface on social media are not necessarily authentic all the time, urging the government to take steps for transmission of Bangladeshi channels in the Arab region.

Contacted, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar said he is aware that Bangladeshis in Middle East cannot watch Bangla channels.

He said he thanked the Bangladesh ambassador in Saudi Arabia for raising the issue before the government. The ministry has taken it seriously and already started to address the problem, he told this newspaper over phone.

However, the progress is halted because of coronavirus outbreak, the minister said.

Virus likely of animal origin

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President Trump ...and we will assess the situation and we will work with our partners to fill any gaps."

"It is very important to continue what we are doing not only for Covid but for many, many, many, many other health programmes," she added, referring to action against polio, HIV and malaria among other diseases.

She said that the WHO was 81 percent funded for the next two years as of the end of March, referring to its \$4.8 billion biennial budget. The United States is the Geneva-based agency's biggest donor. Other big contributors are the Gates Foundation and Britain, reports Reuters.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Monday said there were no secrets at the UN agency after being blasted by the US.

"We have been warning from day one that this is a devil that everyone should fight," Tedros told a virtual briefing in Geneva on Monday.

IMMIGRATION BAN

Trump said Monday that he would temporarily suspend immigration to the United States because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"In light of the attack from the Invisible Enemy, as well as the need to protect the jobs of our GREAT American Citizens, I will be signing

an Executive Order to temporarily suspend immigration into the United States!" he tweeted Monday night.

In hard-hit Europe, several countries are cautiously creeping out from confinement measures, buoyed by mounting signs the worst of the virus may be behind them, reports AFP.

Chancellor Angela Merkel warned Germany was "still a long way from being out of the woods," as she allowed smaller shops from florists to fashion stores to reopen.

There were also encouraging signs in other major European countries such as Italy, France and Britain, although authorities warned citizens against letting their guard down.

Ghana became the first African country to lift coronavirus restrictions, sparking a mixed reaction on streets in Accra teeming with citizens after a three-week lockdown.

But others were furious the restrictions had been lifted so early. "This is totally ridiculous. How is it possible?" asked 20-year-old student Francis Collison.

WHO Regional Director for the Western Pacific Takeshi Kasai said lockdown measures have proved effective, and people must be ready for a new way of living to allow society to function while the coronavirus is being kept in check.

Governments considering lifting lockdown measures should do so carefully and in stages, and continue to monitor the epidemic situation, he said. So long as the coronavirus is circulating, no country is safe from a potentially overwhelming outbreak, he said.

Singapore yesterday extended restrictions until early June, the city-state's leader said, as cases surged past 9,000 due to a growing number of infections among migrant workers.

The virus has sent the aviation sector into a tailspin with cash-strapped Virgin Australia announcing yesterday it had entered voluntary administration -- the largest airline so far to collapse.

"I am so proud of you and everything we have achieved together," said British tycoon Richard Branson in support of Virgin Australia, in which he owns a 10-percent stake.

The UN's World Food Programme warned yesterday that the pandemic could nearly double the number of people around the world facing acute hunger.

"The number of people facing acute food insecurity stands to rise to 265 million in 2020, up by 130 million from the 135 million in 2019, as a result of the economic impact of Covid-19," the WFP said its projections had shown.

Sampadak

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At a time when the media along with the government is working round the clock against severe odds to fight the coronavirus pandemic, such efforts to harass and intimidate the media is highly regrettable, the statement said.

"We demand immediate withdrawal of the case against the two aforementioned editors and urge all concerned to desist from such practice of attempting to stifle the media," it added.

Earlier on Monday, rights group Ain O Salish Kendra and a faction of Dhaka Union of Journalists also demanded withdrawal of the case filed against the four persons, including the two editors.

He was just

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symptoms," the UNO said.

He is currently being treated at the isolation unit of Bera Upazila Health Complex.

"He is suffering from fever, cough and other Covid-19-like symptoms," Sardar Milon Mahamud, medical officer of the health complex, told The Daily Star, adding that the man was suffering from chronic malnutrition due to starvation.

"We collected his samples on Monday night and sent them to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for Covid-19 test," he said, adding that the person would be sent to Dhaka if he tested positive.

AL man held

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to media reports.

In Jamalpur's Baksiganj upazila, Rab recovered 710 kg of the government's "rice at Tk 10 per kg" programme meant for the poor from a house at Battajor Natun Bazar on Monday evening.

Abdul Munnaf, general secretary of Battajor union unit AL, was appointed by the government to sell the rice in the union at Tk 10 a kg.

But he sold the rice on the black market. Abul Kalam, ward-6 councillor of Baksiganj municipality, purchased the rice, said Shafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Baksiganj Police Station.

A case was filed against the two, the OC said, adding that Munnaf was arrested yesterday.

In another incident, police seized 3.35 tonnes of such rice from a shop at Bhutiarkona Bazar in Mymensingh's Gouripur on Monday night.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the shop around 11:00pm and recovered the rice. But the shop owner managed to flee, said Borhan Uddin Khan, OC of Gouripur Police Station.

Our Mymensingh and Jamalpur correspondents contributed to this report.

Preparation lapses can be deadly

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impacted by the suspension of disaster risk reduction efforts. Similarly, the relocation of refugees living in areas at high risk of flooding and landslides has also been delayed. Delivery of supplies has also been challenging, as the Covid-19 related "lockdown" has impacted road transport.

While humanitarian operations in the camps have been scaled back to only the most critical activities, the distribution of "tie-down kits" that reinforce refugee shelters against high winds continues.

The Bangladesh government, UNHCR, and partners have launched construction of isolation and treatment facilities, while information

campaign has been launched on hygiene and health.

"While it is vital to prioritise public health-related preparations in the camps at this time, cyclone and monsoon preparedness activities must also continue. Both together will ensure that refugees have safe and sanitary living conditions in an additional, potential public health emergency," said Maheic.

To ensure preparedness measures can proceed safely, personal protective equipment (PPE) is desperately needed, given the magnitude of the increased demands. The large-scale procurement and distribution of PPE is vital to ensure that Covid-19 does not take hold and spread rapidly, he

said.

Overall, the 2020 Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis sought some \$877 million to meet the most critical needs before the Covid-19 pandemic began. To date, the JRP is only 16 percent funded.

"We must make every effort to ensure that the possible spread of the virus and the coming monsoon season do not exacerbate the already highly vulnerable situation of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh," Maheic said.

The UNHCR is urging the international community to stand in solidarity with refugees and IDPs to avert a looming mix of natural and public health disaster.

Facebook powered virus 'heat map'

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their societies, it's critical to have a clear understanding of how the disease is spreading," Zuckerberg wrote on his Facebook page and in the Washington Post.

"With a community of billions of people globally, Facebook can uniquely help researchers and health authorities get the information they need to respond to the outbreak and start planning for the recovery."

Carnegie Mellon researchers said they are receiving about one million responses per week from Facebook

users, and have also gotten some 600,000 from Google users.

"Using these and other unique data sources, the CMU researchers will monitor changes over time, enabling them to forecast Covid-19 activity several weeks into the future," the research team said.

The research uses responses to Facebook surveys about symptoms people are experiencing, with data controlled by university team and not shared with the social network.

The scientists also rely on anonymized data from Google and

other partners on symptoms and search queries.

"The survey asked people if they have symptoms such as fevers, coughing, shortness of breath or loss of smell that are associated with Covid-19," Zuckerberg said.

"Since experiencing symptoms is a precursor to becoming more seriously ill, this survey can help forecast how many cases hospitals will see in the days ahead and provide an early indicator of where the outbreak is growing and where the curve is being successfully flattened."

Bangabandhu pays homage

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of the valiant Jalalabad fighters who took up arms against the British Army on April 22, 1930 under the leadership of Masterda Surja Sen. Bangabandhu in a message on the occasion of Jalalabad Day hopes that this historic day will be an event of inspiration for all times to come for each and every Bangalee.

INDIAN TRADE PROCEDURE WITH BANGLADESH

A government of India gazette extraordinary and a notification published today in New Delhi lays down details of the procedure of export and import trade between Bangladesh and India. The trade will mostly flow at state level through government agencies, although a limited scope has been left for persons who are eligible to import and export goods as the case may be.

Private trade on items like books, periodicals, baby food, machinery and spares will be allowed to be handled by licensed authorised parties. But big items like cement, cotton, textile

goods, jute, newsprint etc. will be traded strictly at the state level. Despite publication of this trade procedural pattern, the total absence of any facility of remitting funds from one country to another continues to hamper bilateral trade initiatives at a private level.

\$45 MILLION CIDA GRANTS

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has offered 45 million dollars in grants to Bangladesh to be spent in 1972-73. According to CIDA, the grants will be used mostly in importing food grains, essential spare parts and chemicals.

HIGH PRICES OF ESSENTIALS PERSIST

High prices of essential commodities including rice, pulses, edible oil and some spices have been persisting in the city markets. The price of rice has remained almost static for the last three weeks. Today, the lowest price is Tk 55 a maund. The varieties which are sold at that price are Iri and Nazirshail.

SOURCES: April 23, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Ittefaq

UK parliament returns with virtual virus measures

AFP, London

The British parliament returned from an extended Easter break, with MPs encouraged to attend via videolink for the first time as a result of the coronavirus outbreak.

Social distancing rules demanding people stay two metres apart mean only 50 MPs will be able to sit in the 650-strong lower House of Commons at any one time.

They are instead being asked to call in via Zoom, an internet video conferencing service, in a first for the 700-year-old parliament.

Screens will be placed around the chamber so that those physically present -- themselves separated by tape and signs on the green benches -- can see their colleagues dialling in.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Directorate General of Family Planning Mohammadpur Fertility Services & Training Centre and 100 Bedded MCH Hospital Aurangzeb Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207 Ref. No. DGPFMFSTC/PP(REV)-1143/2019-2020/982 Dated: 21/04/2020						
Invitation for Tenders (Goods)						
Sealed tenders are hereby invited as per "PPR-2008" from the eligible tenderers as defined in the tender document for the undermentioned goods as per items and conditions stated below:						
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.				
2	Agency	Mohammadpur Fertility Services & Training Centre and 100 Bedded MCH Hospital, DGFP.				
3	Procuring entity name	Director, Mohammadpur Fertility Services & Training Centre and 100 Bedded MCH Hospital, DGFP.				
4	Procuring entity code	N/A.				
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.				
6	Invitation for	1. Supply of Diet for Patients (lot-1) under package 1 for the year 2020-2021. 2. Washing & Ironing of Dirty Clothes (lot-1) under package 2 for the year 2020-2021. 3. Supply of MSS (lot-1: Lab, Lot-2: Infusion) under package 3 for the year 2019-2020. 4. Supply of Stationery (lot-1) under package 4 for the year 2019-2020.				
7	Invitation Ref No.	No. 982				
8	Date	21 April 2020.				
9	Procurement method	OTM.				
10	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget (GOB) as per released fund.				
11	Development partner	N/A.				
12	Project/programme code	N/A.				
13	Project/programme name	N/A.				
14	Tender package No.	1. DGPFMFSTC/01/2020-21/ 2. DGPFMFSTC/02/2020-21/ 3. DGPFMFSTC/04/2019-20/ 4. DGPFMFSTC/08/2019-20/				
15	Tender package name	1. Supply of Diet for Patients (lot-1) under package 1. 2. Washing & Ironing of Dirty Clothes (lot-1) under package 2. 3. Supply of MSS (lot-1: Lab, Lot-2: Infusion) under package 3. 4. Supply of Stationery (lot-1) under package 4.				
16	Tender publication date	21-April-2020.				
17	Tender last selling date	17-May-2020.				
18	Tender closing date and time	18-May-2020 at 1:00pm.				
19	Tender opening date and time	18-May-2020 at 1:45pm.				
20	Name & addresses of the offices	Selling & receiving tender document 1. At the Office of the Director, Mohammadpur Fertility Services & Training Centre and 100 Bedded MCH Hospital, Aurangzeb Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207. 2. At the Office of the Line Director, CCSDP Unit (12th Floor), Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Kawan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. Opening tender document 1. At the Office of the Director, Mohammadpur Fertility Services & Training Centre and 100 Bedded MCH Hospital, Aurangzeb Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207.				
21	Brief eligibility & qualification of tenderer	The tenderer shall have a minimum of 5 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of goods and related services. The tenderer shall have successfully completed minimum 1 (one) number of supply contract of similar goods and related services within last 3 (three) years i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper and also as described in tender document.				
22	Brief description of goods	1. Supply of Diet for Patients (lot-1) under package 1. 2. Washing & Ironing of Dirty Clothes (lot-1) under package 2. 3. Supply of MSS (lot-1: Lab, Lot-2: Infusion) under package 3, and 4. Supply of Stationery (lot-1) under package 4 (detailed in tender schedule).				
23	Brief description of related services	1 (one) year warranty of goods as described in tender document.				
24	Price of tender document	Tk 1000/- (Tk one thousand) for each tender (per package) should be paid in Bangladesh Bank through Treasury Chalan in Code No. 1-2781-0000-2366 in favour of Director General, DGFP, 6, Kawan Bazar, Dhaka-1215 and online verification copy must be submitted.				
25	Pkg. No.	Identification	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks	Remarks
1.	DGFP/ MFSTC/01/ 2020-21/	1. Supply of Diet for Patients (lot-1) under package 1	At MFSTC, Mohammadpur, Dhaka.	10,000/- (Ten thousand per lot)	4 weeks after the signing of the contract	* Tender security for each lot should be submitted in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh in favour of Director, Mohammadpur Fertility Services & Training Centre, Aurangzeb Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207
2.	DGFP/ MFSTC/02/ 2020-21/	2. Washing & Ironing of Dirty Clothes (lot-1) under package 2	At MFSTC, Mohammadpur, Dhaka.	10,000/- (Ten thousand per lot)	4 weeks after the signing of the contract	
3.	DGFP/ MFSTC/03/ 2019-20/	3. Supply of MSS (lot-1: Lab, Lot-2: Infusion) under package 3	At MFSTC, Mohammadpur, Dhaka.	(i) 10,000/- (Ten thousand per lot-1) AND (ii) 10% on quoted value for lot-2	4 weeks after the signing of the contract	
4.	DGFP/ MFSTC/04/ 2019-20/	4. Supply of Stationery (lot-1) under package 4	At MFSTC, Mohammadpur, Dhaka.	10,000/- (Ten thousand per lot)	4 weeks after the signing of the contract	
26	Name of official inviting tender					
27	Designation of official inviting tender					
28	Address of official inviting tender					
29	Contact details of official inviting tender					
30	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever. If schedule submission and opening is interrupted due to unavoidable circumstances, it will duly be conducted in the next working day. All other terms and conditions will remain same.					
Dr. Md. Muniuzzaman Siddiqui Director MFSTC Ph: 9113814 (Off)						
GD-749						