DHAKA WEDNESDAY APRIL 29, 2020



HOSPITALS FOR COVID-19 TREATMENT

Not all ICUs functional

Mohammad Al-Masum Molla

The intensive care units for coronavirus patients have yet to become functional in many of the 17 hospitals dedicated to Covic-19 treatment, even a month and a half after the authorities reported the first case in the country

While ventilators have been installed in most of the hospitals, infrastructural development, oxygen supply and other necessary equipment are still required for the ICUs to be operational, according to a DGHS letter sent to the health ministry on April 18.

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the letter, which names the 17 hospitals, saying initiatives have been taken to set up the ICUs for treatment of Covid-19 patients at these facilities.

Though ventilators have been allocated for the hospitals, 12 types of equipment are needed for the smooth operations of the ICUs, it reads.

Contacted yesterday, Sirajul Islam, additional secretary (hospital) of the health ministry, said, "We received the letter and we have written to the Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD) to purchase the necessary equipment."

The CMSD runs under the ministry's Health Services Division and procures medicine and equipment through bidding.

The additional secretary further said the equipment needed for the ICUs will be installed soon. He, however, could not say exactly when that will be.

"Such equipment is not easily available but we are trying our best," he added

A colossal loss Litmus paper we have lost



Recoveries

Breaching social distancing guidelines, transport workers crowd a road in the capital's Rayerbagh bus PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN stop area yesterday to collect relief materials. The operator of Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover handed relief materials to more than 400 workers who have been without work for over a month.

Hundreds block roads demanding food aid

Total cases

STAR REPORT

Several hundreds of people yesterday blocked two highways in Jashore and Savar demanding food aid.

They claimed that they had lost their sources of income since the countrywide shutdown imposed about a month ago, but no government officials or representatives were yet to give them a hand, leaving them to starve.

Later, they withdrew the blockades after local administrations convinced them that relief materials would soon be distributed. In Jashore, hundreds

took position at Bahadurpur Bazar point on Dhaka-Jashore highway around noon.

On information, officials of armed forces, police and civil administration rushed SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

PROF JAMILUR REZA

(NOV 15, 1943 -- APR 28, 2020)

ARCHITECT PROF

NIZAMUDDIN AHMED

The London 2012

CHOUDHURY

Total cases

FOOD AID FOR THE POOR Smart cards for 1.25cr families

Govt working to prepare database, plug loopholes to stop irregularities

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM and SOHEL PARVEZ

The government is working to develop a database of nearly 1.25 crore beneficiary families to ensure proper distribution of food aid and plug the loopholes in the current distribution system, said officials at two ministries.

Each recipient would be handed a smart Quick Response (QR) card, the officials said, adding that the cards would be issued soon for the distribution of rice and other aid among poor and low income families, who are facing food insecurity and hunger in absence of income as the economy remains under severe strain for a month-long shutdown since March 26. The database and the issuance of smart cards will help remove duplication, eliminate ghost lists and reduce corruption related to the government's safety net programs, said NM Zeaul Alam, senior secretary at Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division under the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology. It is one of the two ministries that are working to develop the database to distribute the food aid in May and June, said the officials, adding that the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief was collecting information from other ministries such as the Ministry of Social Welfare in this regard.

Record surge in infections

Deaths

Confirmed cases cross 6,000; 549 new cases, 3 deaths; experts worry over slackening of shutdown STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of coronavirus cases in Bangladesh crossed 6,000 yesterday as the authorities reported a record 549 infections in a single day.

The officials also reported three deaths yesterday, bringing the total number of fatalities to 155.

The continuous upsurge in the number of infection hits the country at a time when the government weighs in favour of reopening parts of the economy.

The factories in Dhaka and Chattogram reopened on Monday, spurring a huge influx of workers to the Covid-19 hotspots - Dhaka Narayanganj and Gazipur -- from different districts.

Besides, restaurants in the capital were also allowed to sell takeaway iftar items vesterday.

Experts fear that the reopening of such a huge number of the garment factories may increase the risk of faster spreading of the virus.

Prof Ridwanur Rahman, a medicine and infectious disease specialist, said, "The garment workers will gather inside the factories. So, there will be transmission of the virus.'

Tributes pour in for Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

National Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury will be remembered for his extraordinary service to the nation.

for the nation

He would be among the leading personalities of any country of the world.

His death was a colossal and irreparable loss for the nation. No one would be able to fill his place as he was second to none in the engineering field, eminent personalities told The Daily Star yesterday.

They also described him as a dedicated, talented, patriotic, honest, and cordial person, as a pall of gloom descended on them after hearing the news of their friend's and colleague's death.

Prof Jamilur was not only the most eminent personality in the country's engineering community SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

just concluded. On meeting me, a beaming JRC disclosed with some gratification that he had seen the fantastic opening ceremony. When I said, "We saw it too, Sir," he

Summer Olympics had

aced a return, "At the Olympic Stadium?!" That sportiveness

accompanied the man, who had been occupied with a variety of serious occupations over five decades.

Gifted with an enviable memory, supreme

scholarly intelligence,

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Access to Information programme (a2i) under the ICT Division is helping develop the software for the database, they said.

The initiative comes at a time when the countrywide shutdown, enforced to fend off the coronavirus outbreak, has forced tens of thousands of people to remain half-fed or unfed and government officials are frequently seizing SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

> Nearly half of **RMG** factories reopen

to minimise infection risk at workplaces

STAR REPORT

More than a thousand garment factories reopened yesterday amid coronavirus fears with many workers finding it difficult to reach workplaces for a lack of transport.

Some of them said they had to pay two to three times the usual fare.

Of the 7,602 apparel factories across the country, 2,916 resumed operation as of yesterday after remaining closed for around two weeks till April 26, according to the Industrial Police.

So far, 460 factories have reopened in Dhaka, 1,518 in Gazipur, 548 in Chattogram, 225 in Narayanganj, 79 in Mymensingh and 86 in Khulna, Mohammad Amzad Hossain, superintendent of police of the Industrial Police, told The Daily Star. SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Amid the countrywide shutdown, the government allowed garment factories' owners to resume work on a limited scale, raising fears of deteriorating the spread of the disease.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1





বরেণ্য শিক্ষাবিদ একুশে পদক্ষ্যাপ্ত জাতীয় অধ্যাপক ইউনিভার্সিটি অব এশিয়া প্যাসিফিক এর উপাচার্য ড . জামিলুর রেজা চোধুরা-র মৃত্যুত ইউএপি পরিবার গভীরভাবে শোকাহত ইউনিভার্সিটি অব এশিয়া প্যাসিফিক



country this week amid concern over the rising number of Covid-19 cases. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

ILO calls for action

Jamilur's death condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country was left in a state of mourning after National Professor, renowned scholar and Civil Engineer Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury passed away at the age of 77 at home in Dhaka early yesterday

A former adviser to the Caretaker Government, a foremost civil engineer, researcher, and education advocate, Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury had a heart attack at home around sehri time, according to family sources.

He was rushed to the city's Square Hospitals where doctors declared him dead around 4:00am.

The passing of one of the country's foremost intellectuals and a major driving force behind the infrastructural development of the country drew messages of condolences and tributes from all quarters.

President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, ministers, distinguished personalities, top leaders of different political and socioeconomic-cultural organisations, educational institutions and a host of people from different walks of life yesterday expressed deep shock and sorrow at the demise of the intellectual giant.

In his condolence message, the head of state expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

Expressing deep shock, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her condolence message said, Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, as an eminent engineer, played an important role in the country's infrastructural development.

She recalled with profound respect the outstanding contributions of Dr Jamilur Reza Chowhudy to different development projects including the Bangabandhu Bridge, Padma Multipurpose Bridge, Dhaka Elevated Expressway and Karnaphuli Tunnel in which he led the expert panel.

Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, in a condolence message, said, "He [Dr Choudhury] was always involved with my endeavours. We were supposed to hold a phone meeting around noon today with him in the chair. We were taking preparations for that.

Terming Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury a "long-time friend", Dr Yunus said, "He was an extraordinary person. He was capable of understanding any complex issue instantly and providing timely advice on that."

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, a host of ministers and state ministers

subsidised rice, meant for distribution

among poor and low-income people,

from the illegal possession of a section

of local government representatives

Smart cards

League.

including Agriculture Minister Abdur Razzaque, Road Transport and Bridges Minister and Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni, Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud, Planning Minister MA Mannan, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar and Prime Minister's adviser Salman Fazlur Rahman expressed deep shock at the demise of Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury.

Different socio-cultural, professional bodies and educational institutions including Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation, Bangladesh Institute of Planners, Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, BUET, University Grants Commission, National University, Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur, National Heart Foundation, Movement for World Education Rights, Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), a civil society platform, also expressed deep condolence at the death of the national professor.

In a statement, Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation said, "He was an exceptional professor known for infecting his students with the joy of learning and the excitement of research, an inspiring leader in education celebrated for his vision, integrity, and unfailing courtesy, an enlightened human being who exemplified the principles of science, humanity and social justice, and an admired friend and relative adored by all for his impish sense of humor and his phenomenal memory.'

Different political parties and distinguished personalities including Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Gonoforum, Opposition Leader Raushan Ershad and eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain also expressed deep shock at the passing of Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury.

Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, who led the experts' panels of Bangabandhu Bridge, Padma Multipurpose Bridge, Dhaka Elevated Expressway, Karnaphuli Tunnel and many other ongoing development projects, left behind a wife, one son, a daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was also the founding vicechancellor of Brac University till 2010, and In 2017 was awarded the Ekushey Padak by the Government of Bangladesh in the category of science and technology.



With his head covered with a plastic bag, a man walks on a waterlogged street in the capital's Kaptanbazar area carrying his groceries. Many city streets went under after a moderate rain in the afternoon yesterday.

Not all ICUs functional

FROM PAGE 1

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) data shows public and private hospitals currently have 508 and 737 ICU beds respectively. A fully-functioning ICU is necessary

to ensure close monitoring and lifesaving treatment for Covid-19 patients, experts say.

The ventilators, which are integral parts of ICUs, blow oxygen into the lungs of patients suffering from severe pulmonary stress. They are essential for saving the lives of the sickest COVID-19 patient as coronavirus attacks the respiratory system.

According to the WHO-China joint mission report released last month, five percent of people diagnosed with Covid-19 require artificial respiration and another 15 percent need to breathe in highly concentrated oxygen meaning around 20 percent of the patients need ICU care.

Although the authorities are assuring all that adequate measures have been taken in this regard, the real picture is still far from satisfactory.

Mahanagar General Hospital at Navabazar in Dhaka, for example, was allotted five ICU beds with ventilators, but the authorities are yet to install these.

"There were no ICU facilities here and that's why it is taking time to make the room ready for ICU. It will take 10 to 12 more days to complete the installation," said Ashraful Hasan, resident physician of the hospital, on Friday.

The DGHS letter states that 50 ICU beds are required to start the ICU services in the 17 hospitals.

Also needed at these hospitals are 90 patient monitors, 34 pulse oximeters, 17 ABG machines with glucose and lactate, 28 external defibrillators, 30 12-channel ECG machines, 34 portable ventilators, 30 air conditioners of fivetonne capacity, 30 dehumidifiers, and 85 oxygen cylinders. Syringe pumps and suction machines round out the list.

The pulse oximeter, for example, measures a patient's oxygen levels -- if it reads under 90 percent, the patient must be given oxygen support. Suction machines help to clear the airflow when patients cannot cough up secretions on their own.

Excepting the portable ventilator, all of these are basic equipment for an ICU, said Dr Debasish Kumar Saha, assistant professor at Birdem General Hospital and a critical care expert.

"Without these basic equipment, an ICU cannot operate properly," he said. SITUATION OUTSIDE DHAKA

Shaheed Shamsuddin Ahmed Hospital is the only dedicated hospital for coronavirus patients in Sylhet division. Currently, it has two ventilators to treat critically ill patients.

Nine more ICU beds with ventilators will be installed at the hospital and four additional ventilators will be kept as backups, said Dr Anisur Rahman, assistant director (disease control) of the divisional health office.

There is no other ICU dedicated for Covid-19 patients in entire Sylhet division.

PHOTO:

RASHED SHUMON

Rajshahi Medical College Hospital's ICU has dedicated all its 15 beds for coronavirus patients. Five more beds with negative air-pressure and an automatic disinfection process are likely to be added soon.

This facility is dedicated for patients from all eight districts of Rajshahi division.

There is an ICU crisis across the world and Bangladesh is no exception. The work of completing the ICUs is going on and as all the equipment has to be imported, that's why we cannot set up an ICU overnight, even if we wish to," said Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of DGHS

Besides, there is a crisis of manpower for treating ICU patients, she told The Daily Star on Saturday.

"The Society of Anaesthetists is working with us and they are looking for manpower to work in these ICUs.'

As of yesterday, the number of positive cases of, and deaths due to, coronavirus continue to climb in the country with 155 dead and 6,462 infected.

Experts say things may take a turn for the worse in the coming days if the country does not take immediate steps to ramp up its healthcare facilities with necessary equipment to treat incoming patients.

A colossal loss for the nation

but also played a significant role in development of the country's infrastructure system. He was outstanding as a teacher, vice-chancellor, researcher, and administrator.

"It is our great misfortune to lose such a person today [yesterday]," Nobel Laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus

also heading the He was International Panel of Experts for Padma Multipurpose Bridge Project.

Besides, he was acting as the chairman of the panel of experts in many other mega projects such as the First Dhaka Elevated Expressway PPP Project (21km), Karnaphuli Tunnel, Dhaka Subway, Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated

will never be filled," he said. Completing his bachelor in civil

engineering from Buet (then EPUET) in 1963, Prof Jamilur joined the Department of Civil Engineering as a lecturer the same year.

After his retirement from Buet in 2001, he was appointed as Brac University vice-chancellor, where he

Ask countries not to deport migrants amid pandemic

16 organisations in Bangladesh urge UN chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixteen Bangladeshi civil society organisations have urged UN Secretary-General Antonio Gueterres to ask the destination countries to shelve their policies of deporting migrant workers amid Covid-19 pandemic.

In a letter issued on Monday, they expressed worries as some destination countries have exerted pressure on the countries of origins to take back their nationals who are undocumented in the host countries and also those behind bars.

Some home countries have been threatened with consequences, including revision of labour relations, if they don't adhere to the policies of destination countries, the letter said.

"Under international law in any crisis situation, it is incumbent upon the state concerned to take care of all people in its land including migrants, irrespective of their status.

"Moreover, bringing back migrants in the midst of a pandemic will heighten the risk of the spread of the virus that the concerned country can ill afford.

The letter comes nearly two weeks after some Middle Eastern countries have mounted pressures on the labour-sending countries, mostly of South Asia, to bring back their undocumented migrants.

In a letter jointly signed by Bangladesh Civil Society for Migrants (BCSM) Chair Prof CR Abrar and Co-chair Syed Saiful Haque, they said countries of origin now face the prospect of a large-scale unscheduled return of their nationals from the destination countries.

"These countries have very limited apacity to rehabilitate the returnees by engaging them in livelihood activities, t said.

They urged the UN secretary general to call upon international agencies such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other development partners to create a global fund under the auspices of the UN to support the countries of origin in the rehabilitation of the returnee migrants.

The letter pointed out that there has been a major spread of Covid-19 in dormitories of migrant workers in Singapore due to a poor and crowded condition.

They recommended that the destination countries ensure appropriate accommodation of migrant workers as per the WHO guidelines.

The letter says in many countries employers have terminated the contracts of workers, pushing them towards a razor edge.

"We believe that governments of destination countries should discourage termination of workers. In case of such termination it is the duty of the destination countries to look after those retrenched," the letter said, urging the UN head exert his office's influence on the destination countries to take responsibility of such vulnerable workers.

They also requested the UN head

The amount of food to be given FROM PAGE 1 by the ministry to each family is yet to be finalised. It, however, estimates that it would need to provide 98,000 tonnes of rice to 49 lakh families (20 and members of the ruling Awami kilograms each) in May and 97.91

lakh families in June under the GR Officials said an error-free database programme. The whole GR operation would eliminate the scope for in June is likely to require 2.18 lakh

irregularities in the beneficiary listing and distribution of aid.

Under the scheme, 49 lakh families getting Gratuitous Relief (GR) from the disaster management ministry, 50 lakh beneficiary from the food ministry's Food Friendly Program (FFP), 12.5 lakh recipients from the special Open Market Sales (OMS) programme would see their names in the database.

Also, 10.40 lakh beneficiaries of government's Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme, run by women and children affairs ministry, will be included in the database along with three lakh fishermen who get rice under the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme, said a senior official of the disaster management ministry, seeking to remain unnamed.

Officials said families involving more than 5 crore people will be given cards to provide them with food assistance in May and June.

tonnes of rice, said officials.

Zeaul Alam said the government has a plan to develop a database and issue smart cards earlier. The Covid-19 lockdown and subsequent humanitarian aid has brought the issue of building the database faster. "We expect that the database will

be ready within next week," he said. The database will contain National

Identity (NID) number of recipients, their mobile phone numbers, address, the person's age and the number of family members so that all duplications and other irregularities can be avoided, said officials.

"If any beneficiary does not have that numbers, we will definitely include them but our target will be to incorporate as much as information as possible. The NID and mobile phone number are two main tools to identify a person," said Alam.

"We will not be rigid on NID and mobile number but we want to get the inputs from the regional offices.

Record surge in infections

FROM PAGE 1

Most of the workers dwell in congested and unhygienic environments. If anyone gets infected, situation will be grave, he added.

During the daily online bulletin on Covid-19 situation yesterday, Prof Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), said with the new cases, the total number of infected patients stood at 6,462.

Previously, the country recorded its highest number of new cases -- 503 -on April 24.

About the fatalities, she said the three deceased were aged above 60 and that they passed away in Dhaka.

In the 24 hours until 2:30pm yesterday, 26 labs across the country tested samples of 4,332 individuals, she said, adding that some 54,733 individual samples were tested until yesterday since January 28.

So far, Dhaka city alone has the highest number of deaths -- 79 -followed by Narayanganj with 39 deaths

Of the new cases, 290 were in Dhaka city while Narayanganj had 150 cases.

All the upazilas in Dhaka district and other districts in Dhaka division had 20 new cases yesterday.

Speaking about the cases in Dhaka,

Prof Ridwanur said the highest number of deaths in Dhaka does not necessarily mean that Covid-19 deaths were fewer in other regions.

"It is mainly because many deaths go unreported," he said, adding that the low number of tests carried out created the situation.

"At this stage [around two months] of transmission, the number of infection and deaths supposed to be higher. But our system is failing to detect all the cases," he said.

Prof Nasima Sultana said eight more people, who were treated in hospitals, have recovered from the disease, raising the total number of recoveries to 139.

"But most of the infected, who are recovering at home, are not added to the recovery list," she said.

The DGHS official asserted that there were no shortage of testing kits and health protective equipment in the country.

Nearly 13.9 lakh personal protective equipment (PPE) were distributed at the hospitals across the country and 3.41 lakh were in stock as of yesterday, she said.

Prof Nasima said the government prepared 601 institutions has across the country for institutional quarantine where 30,635 people can seek instant services.

said in a Facebook post, adding, "My grief is that I have lost one of my closest friends. I am at a loss for words to console his family.

"I never imagined that I would wake from sleep to hear such terrible news. The suddenness and magnitude of this bad news shook me deeply.

"Jamilur Reza Choudhury has been my friend for a long, long time. He has always been deeply involved in all my activities. Just today [yesterday], he was to preside over our advisory committee telephone meeting at midday. We had been preparing for that since yesterday [Monday]. Today, he is no more," said Grameen Bank founder Prof Yunus.

Jamilur Reza Choudhury was an extraordinary person. He had the ability to promptly grasp the essentials of any difficult subject or issue, and give excellent advice on it. His depth and breadth of knowledge on architecture was unparalleled; his personal integrity unquestioned.

"He would be among the leading personalities of any country of the world," said Prof Yunus, country's lone Nobel prize winner.

National Professor Rafiqul Islam said it was an irreparable loss for the nation. He was not only a teacher, or vice-chancellor, or an academic rather he was advisers of many mega projects. Prof Jamilur was the chairman of the Panel of Experts (advising the government, the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and OECF, Japan) for the Bangabandhu (Jamuna) Bridge.

Expressway Project (24km), and many others.

"You will not get a second man like him," Rafiqul told this newspaper.

"Another virtue of Jamilur's character was he was social. He was a wonderful person with great personality. Many will not understand what the country loses with his death," said Rafiqul, who along with Prof Jamilur, became the National Professor in June 2018.

Dhaka University Professor emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury said he could not believe Prof Jamilur was no more. "We used to meet during morning walk and he was a healthy man. How did this happen? He always remained busy with work and he was a resource of the country."

He said Prof Jamilur was an outstanding and talented engineer. He was also a successful planner and advisers of almost all big projects.

"Usually eminent engineers leave the country. But Jamilur was really exceptional. He stayed home and served the nation. He was not only a talented but also a patriotic person," Prof Serajul said. Election Commissioner Mahbub

Talukdar, who is one of the childhood friends and schoolmates of Prof Jamilur, said he was shocked hearing the death news of Prof Jamilur.

He was a talented student and the most successful among all our friends and classmates. "To me, he was a successful teacher. His students feel proud to be his student. This is a great achievement of a teacher. His vacuum Sadiqul.

served until 2010. Since 2010, he had been the University of Asia Pacific VC.

He was an adviser to the caretaker government of Bangladesh in 1996.

CM Shafi Sami, chairman, Board of Trustees, University of Asia Pacific, said Prof Jamilur was a national figure of high stature. He made outstanding contributions to our national development as a brilliant engineer, consultant, and educationist of great repute.

He was a person of international distinction having earned tributes from many countries and organisations abroad, said Shafi, also a former diplomat.

For the University of Asia Pacific, he was a tower of strength ... Prof Jamilur's passing is a colossal national loss and will create a vacuum that will be difficult to fill, he added.

Prof Jamilur had been the Buet alumni founding president since 2003. His college and university friend Sadiqul Islam Bhuiyan, who is the secretary general of the Buet alumni, said he could not find words to express shock at the death.

'I have never seen such a person who is successful in his life and profession. He was a man of high values. I will never find such a man in my life. He was a loving friend. He used to take news of all of his friends. He was an honest, dedicated, and optimistic person.

"He used to love his students and stood by them when needed," said to advise the governments to take measures so that migrants, who have jobs, can transfer remittances to their families, who depend on remittance and are now going through food crises at home.

Many of the migrants are also facing a food crisis, and it is imperative for the destination countries to provide emergency food support, the organisations said.

They also called for a system to be put in place in the destination countries so that the laid-off workers get priority when the dust settles.

The letter also requested the employers of host countries to clear all the dues and benefit claims of the returning workers as soon as possible. Members of BCSM include Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, WARBE Development Foundation, Bangladeshi Ovhibashi Mohila Sramik Association, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Ain o Salish Kendra, BASUG, IMA Research Foundation, International Network of Alternative Financial Institutions Bangladesh, Bangladesh Construction and Wood Workers Federation, Young Power in Social Action, Bangladesh Ovibashi Adhikar Forum, BASTOB, Rights Jessore, Center for Development Communications DEVCOM Ltd, Films 4 Peace Foundation and Change Makers.

Nearly half of RMG factories reopen

FROM PAGE 1

Talking to this newspaper, a number of workers said they struggled to get vehicles to reach workplaces from their houses as no public transport was available amid the countrywide shutdown.

A number of workers in Narayanganj said they were left with no choice but to pay two to three times the usual fare, reports our Narayanganj correspondent.

Wearing masks and disposable caps, thousands of workers yesterday joined work at garment factories in the industrial belts in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Chattogram and Narsingdi.

The authorities of the factories arranged hand-washing facilities, masks, and disposable caps for the workers and also checked their body temperature as a precaution against the virus, said a number of workers.

preparations to resume operation.

Meanwhile, the International Labour Organisation urged the government to take action to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in the workplace with active involvement and dialogue with the employers and the workers.

To minimise the risk of Covid-19 exposure for workers, all employers need to carry out risk assessments and ensure that their workplaces meet strict occupational and health safety standards, the ILO said in a statement vesterday.

Many of the big factories in Gazipur, Narayanganj and Chattogram found it difficult to ensure social distancing at workplaces as they employ a large number of workers.

In Chattogram, a number of

employers did not provide them with adequate hand sanitizer, soap and disposable gloves. Besides, the factory authorities had been lax in ensuring social distancing at workplaces.

In a statement, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association said they conducted surprise inspections of 27 factories yesterday, covering all the industrial belts in the country.

"It is a continuous process, and it will be done every day in all the zones "We found 25 of the factories in a very good condition in terms of health safety. One factory needs improvement while we were not satisfied with one.

"We asked it to show improvement immediately otherwise the authorities concerned will be notified of it," the BGMEA mentioned.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said garment workers would not be allowed to enter the capital from outside as apparel factories would run on a limited scale with workers now staying in the city, reports UNB.

'Garment workers who are now in Dhaka can join work at factories... no one from outside will be allowed to come to Dhaka for work. Necessary steps have been taken in this regard, he told reporters after a meeting with garment factory owners at the Secretariat.

Leaders of the BGMEA and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) attended it.

The minister said the owners had told the meeting that they are running factories on a limited scale with workers staying in Dhaka and also maintaining hygiene at workplaces.

Our Savar correspondent reports garment workers alleged that their that many of the small factories in the industrial belt were yet to make

CITIZEN REPATRIATION Biman to run 3 flights from Dhaka, Japan STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines is operating three special flights -- one from Dhaka and two from Japan -- to repatriate citizens of the two countries, following a ban on scheduled passenger flights due to Covid-19 pandemic.

"Biman yesterday ferried 109 passengers, most of whom were Japanese citizens, to Narita Airport in Tokyo," a top official of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport told The Daily Star.

The special flight left Dhaka airport around 9am, said Tahera Khandaker, deputy general manager (public relations) of Biman.

She also said Biman was scheduled to operate two other flights, one yesterday and the other tomorrow, from Japan to repatriate Bangladeshi citizens.

Biman is also likely to operate a special flight from South Korea to bring back Bangladeshi citizens tomorrow, said sources in the airline.



While the thoroughfares of Dhaka wear a deserted look even during peak traffic hours of the day, the scenes at Panthapath-Tejgaon link road early in the morning tell an entirely different story. The biggest wholesale fish market of the capital is abuzz with traders, suppliers, transporters and buyers, causing a hubbub reminiscent of pre-coronavirus Dhaka. The photo was taken earlier this week. PHOTO PRABTE DAS

'Other nations should share responsibility'

Foreign minister says about Rohingyas adrift at sea

Unb, Dhaka

Pointing to the international community's continuous call upon Bangladesh to shelter Rohingya people who arrive floating on boats at Bay of Bengal, the country's Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen said other countries of the region are not being requested to share the burden.

The minister urged all countries to take effective steps quickly to resolve the Rohingya crisis.

He conveyed the message when British Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the United Nations Lord Ahmad made a phone call to him on Monday requesting Bangladesh to give shelter to floating Rohingyas at Bay.

"Despite limited resources, Bangladesh has already given shelter to around 1.1 million Rohingyas on humanitarian ground. The small number of 500 floating Rohingyas are not in the country's territory," he said.

Talking to UNB, a diplomat said it is the responsibility of surrounding countries of the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea to share the responsibility and help the distressed people.

There are eight countries -- Myanmar, India, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Bangladesh -- in the Bay of Bengal region.

Foreign Minister Dr Momen said though Bangladesh was requested to give shelter to floating Rohingyas on humanitarian grounds, other countries in the region were not requested to do the same thing.

He asked the UK Minister to shelter the floating Rohingyas by sending their [UK] royal ship.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Mysterious death of senior SBMCH doctor in Barishal

SUSHANTA GHOSH

Police yesterday recovered the body of a senior doctor of Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) from the bottom of an elevator shaft at Mamata Śpecialised Hospital in Barishal city.

Dr Zahirul Islam Manik, director of the hospital and head of surgery at SBMCH, said Dr Md Al Azad (45) went missing since Monday evening, and they informed police yesterday morning.

Dr Azad was a senior consultant at SBMCH's burn and plastic surgery unit and was working part-time at Mamata hospital, residing in a room on the hospital's sixth floor.

Zahidul Islam, a staffer at the hospital, said on Monday afternoon, Dr Azad asked for iftar and Zahidul put the meal in front his room as it was locked. Staffers went with dinner at night but still found the room locked.

Mukur, officer-in-charge Abdur Rahman (investigation) of Kotwali Police Station, said on information, police recovered the body around 1:30pm.

The OC said one of Dr Azad's legs was broken but they were uncertain about how he died, as they did not find any fault in the lift. Police are investigating the cause of death.

The body was sent to SBMCH morgue for autopsy. SBMCH Director Bakir Hossain visited the spot and paid

Bangladesh's Ensure workplace tallest man Jinnat dies OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's

Jinnat Ali, the tallest man in the country, died at Chittagong Medical College Hospital yesterday morning.

The 24-year-old was undergoing treatment at the hospital's neurosurgery department, said Dr Khurshed Anwar, an assistant registrar of the department.

He had been suffering from a brain tumour and other complications for a long while now, the doctor said. Jinnat was admitted to the hospital on Monday and placed on life support, he added. He breathed his last

around 4am, confirmed his elder brother Ilias Ali.

Jinnat was born at Barobeel village under Ramu upazila of Cox's Bazar in 1996. Standing

at 8 feet 6 inches, Jinnat

Prime Minister Sheikh

was the second son of

when he called on the

from a brain tumour

(BSMMU) in 2018.

His height was

Physicians informed

him that he was suffering

when Jinnat was admitted

to Bangabandhu Sheikh

Mujib Medical University

premier in 2018.

Begum.

safety before you ease the shutdown ILO urges govt to take steps involving employers, workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With pressures mounting on countries to ease their lockdown restrictions, International Labour Organization (ILO) has urged the government to take action to prevent and control the spread of Covid-19 in the workplace, with active involvement and dialogue with employers' and workers' organisations.

All employers need to carry out risk assessments and ensure their workplaces meet strict occupational safety and health criteria beforehand, to minimise the risk to workers of exposure to Covid-19, said ILO in a statement yesterday.

Without such controls, countries face the very real risk of a resurgence of the virus. Putting in place the necessary measures will minimise the risk of a second wave of contagion at the workplace.

ILO Director-General Guy Ryder said, "The safety and health of our entire workforce is paramount today. In the face of an infectious disease outbreak, how we protect our workers now clearly dictates how safe our communities are, and how resilient our businesses will be, as this pandemic evolves."

"It is only by implementing occupational safety and health measures that we can protect the lives of workers, their families and the larger communities, ensure work Amir Hamza and Shahpuri continuity and economic survival," Ryder added. ILO Country Director (Bangladesh) Tuomo Poutiainen, said, "As some industries begin to slowly resume Hasina gifted him a house operations, the ILO has developed a three-pronged strategy to ensure a safer return to work in the Bangladesh context. The first step is the adoption of several safety and health measures at work based on dialogue between employers and workers, and a shared understanding of coronavirus risks. "To prevent transmission of the virus and safeguard workers, the ILO has developed Covid-19 specific OSH guidelines, together with the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE). Furthermore, the ILO is recommending employment retention through increasing unnaturally due work-sharing and reskilling, in addition to essential social protection measures to ensure access to subsistence SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

'It is an attack on freedom of expression'

Say media rights defenders; 20 journos assaulted, held for reporting irregularity in relief distribution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 20 journalists were attacked, intimidated, harassed, or arrested for reporting on pilferage, corruption, and lack of accountability in food aid meant for the poor during the lockdown, noted Forum for Freedom of Expression, Bangladesh.

The network of media rights defenders expressed concern at the attacks on freedom of expression, in a statement circulated to the media yesterday.

"The forum is deeply concerned regarding the series of attacks, intimidation, and judicial harassment of journalists and other media organisations all over the country, during the 30 days of lockdown," said the statement.

The forum aggregated all such incidences in the statement as a reminder of how widespread these violations have been.

On April 19, Toufique Imrose Khalidi, editor-in-chief of bdnews24. com; Mohiuddin Sarker, acting editor of jagonews24.com; along with three other journalists -- Rahim Suvho, Thakurgaon correspondent of bdnews24.com and a local journalist Shaown Amin -- were accused under the Digital Security Act, said the statement, noting that the person filing the case was a member of Baliadangi Upazila's Swechchhasebak League in Thakurgaon.

presenting as evidence, the assault upon freelance video-blogger Sagor Chowdhury by the son of the president of Borhanuddin upazila Awami League. The attacker Nabil Hyder, is also a Chhatra League activist of Dhaka University unit.

The situation has been dire throughout the country, added the statement.

It also decried the incident where three Dainik Protidiner Sangbad, Dainik Amar Sangbad and private TV Channel-S were attacked with a cricket bat by the chairman of Aushkandi Union Parishad in Nabiganj,

a local leader of the ruling party, added the statement.

upazila correspondent of Dainik Protidiner Sangbad was shifted to Osmani Medical College in Sylhet with critical injuries, pointed out the statement.

Also in Sylhet, a Jaintapur upazila correspondent of the Daily Naya Diganta

district correspondents belonging to

Sylhet for reporting on relief distribution. The chairman, Mahibur Rahman, is also

Shah Sultan Ahmed, the Nabiganj

his condolences.

Shihab Uddin Ahamed, a relative of Dr Azad, said the doctor had a wife, son and daughter, all of whom live in Dhaka's Keraniganj.



Police on guard outside the hospital where Dr Azad's body was found.

to a hormonal imbalance, STAR doctors said earlier.

Two days after this incident, Thakurgaon police assaulted the district correspondent of Bangladesh Pratidin and private TV channel News 24 at a checkpost.

On April 15, Thakurgaon police also sued a district correspondent of Dainik Odhikar under the security act for criticising the district administration on Facebook, noted the statement.

Citizen journalists were similarly targeted in Thakurgaon, said the statement,

and the Dainik Sylhet Mirror, was hospitalised at Sylhet Medical College with serious head injuries after he was attacked by one Abul Hasim for reporting a local coronavirus case, said the statement.

On April 14, police arrested Golam Sarwar Pintu, journalist of Dainik Bangladesher Alo, after Sheikh Salim, a Dhaka city councillor of Ward 38, filed a case under the Digital Security Act with Badda Police Station, said the statement.

"Pintu's crime was the publication of news regarding an angry urban-poor community held protest, demanding food aid during the lockdown," it added.

On April 23, the chairman of Amirganj Union Parishad in Narsingdi assaulted Baten Biplob, senior crime reporter and TV

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Nat'l Professor | Covid-19 Anisuzzaman hospitalised STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Professor Anisuzzaman was admitted to a city hospital yesterday. Although his condition

is stable, the eminent scholar is not out of danger, Dr Asish Kumar Chakrabarty, managing director of Universal Medical College Hospital told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

Prof Anisuzzaman was undergoing treatment at the coronary care unit (CCU) of the hospital, under the supervision of CCU chief Prof Dr Khandaker Kamrul Islam.

"He has multiple long-running health complications. Our experts have examined him. He is in a stable condition, but not out of danger," Dr Asish Kumar said.

Prof Anisuzzaman, an eminent writer and educationist, was born on February 18, 1937 in Calcutta (now Kolkata), India.

He made a notable contribution to the Language Movement in

Rab official tests positive in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A member of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-7) tested Covid-19 positive in Chattogram's Patenga on Monday. He is among nine people who have tested positive in the port city on the same day. The assistant sub-inspector (35) is now in isolation at Rab-7 headquarters, said Rab officials. Alongside him, a traffic constable and a doctor of Chattogram Medical College Hospital have also tested positive.

The number of police personnel infected is now seven, according to Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) sources.

Alarmed by this, CMP shifted 33 traffic police personnel to a private hotel in the city's Chawkbazar on Monday.

Rab-7 Commanding Officer Lt Col Moshiour Rahaman Jewel told The Daily Star, "The ASI has remained in the isolation unit of Rab-7 headquarters since April 7, after he had reported sore throat."

"He is now undergoing treatment in isolation. Ten persons who came in contact with him have been sent to isolation. They will be gradually tested for the virus," the commanding officer added.

CMP Additional Deputy Commissioner Abu Bakkar Sidduqe said they are trying to ease the pressure from traffic barracks by shifting the policemen to other places as it is quite tough to maintain social distancing inside the barrack

As per the process, two separate places, including CMP School and College and GEC Convention Centre, have been chosen and different units of CMP are shifting there. CMP ADC (headquarters) Md Moinul Islam said 33 rooms of the CMP school have already been set up for quarantine purposes. Besides, 20 isolation beds and a dedicated flu corner have been set up at Dampara SEE PAGE 4 COL 4 | Divisional Police Hospital.



With outdoor activities severely restricted due to the coronavirus-triggered nationwide shutdown, the popularity of kites seems to be soaring among the youth. A carpenter in Barishal city's Nazir Mahalla assembles a few good old-fashioned 'natai' (kite-flying wheel), presumably with other woodwork orders drying up.

Ensure workplace

allowance, basic healthcare and income security for formal and informal sector workers."

In particular, risk control measures should be specifically adapted to the needs of workers at the frontline of the pandemic. These include health workers, nurses, doctors and emergency workers, as well as those in food retail and cleaning services.

The ILO in the statement also highlighted the needs of the most vulnerable workers and businesses -- in particular those in the informal economy, migrants and domestic workers

Measures to protect these workers should include among others -- education and training on safe and healthy work practices, free provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) as needed, access to public health services and livelihood alternatives.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, "The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the urgent need for strong national programmes to protect the health and safety of health workers, medical professionals, emergency responders, and the many other workers risking their lives on our behalf."

To ensure a safe return to work and to avoid further work disruptions, the ILO recommends mapping hazards and assessing risks of contagion in relation to all work operations, and continuing to assess them following a return to work.

ILO suggested to improve ventilation in the work place, regularly cleaning surfaces and providing adequate facilities for handwashing and sanitisation, providing PPE to workers where necessary and at no cost.

It also suggested for providing arrangements for isolating suspected cases and tracing every contact, providing mental health support for staff, and providing training, education and informational material about health and safety at work, including proper hygiene practices and the use of any workplace controls (including PPE).

Poutiainen said ILO is committed to work in unison with the Bangladesh government, employers and workers to help protect the nation's millions of workers against the ravages of Covid-19, hunger and poverty.

Other nations

FROM PAGE 3 **UNHCR SEEKS GREATER** COORDINATION AMONG STATES

Earlier, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, sought greater coordination and responsibility-sharing by states to address the maritime movements of refugees and asylum-seekers in the Bay of Bengal and

Andaman Sea saving lives. "We're increasingly concerned by reports of failure to disembark vessels in distress and of the grave immediate risk this poses to the men, women and children on board," said Indrika Ratwatte, Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific of UNHCR. The UNHCR official said saving lives

at sea must be a collective effort in which any one state that rescues and disembarks refugees can draw on resources pooled from other states in the region.

Rescue at sea and allowing the persecuted to seek asylum are fundamental tenets of customary international law, by which all states are bound, said the UN agency on refugees

Beyond the current Covid-19 crisis, Ratwatte said, a predictable and humane disembarkation approach will remain critical. "UNHCR is calling on all states to uphold these lifesaving obligations to refugees and asylum-seekers," Ratwatte said.

In the context of the unprecedented current Covid-19 crisis, the UNHCR official said, all states must manage their borders as they see fit.

"But such measures shouldn't result in the closure of avenues to asylum, or of forcing people to return to situations of danger. UNHCR stands ready to support governments in carrying out

responsible disembarkation procedures and quarantine measures to ensure that public health issues are addressed," she further added.

CITY

Indrika Ratwatte said the challenge of irregular movement of refugees is not unique to Asia.

Refugees and asylum-seekers move through unofficial and often inherently risky channels because it is the only option available to them. The reality for many refugees is that persecution and threats to their lives and well-being are more immediate than Covid-19.

HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES NOT VOCAL: MOMEN

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Momen said military operation is still going on in Myanmar and Rohingya people are losing lives

A few days ago, Rohingyas tried to enter Bangladesh territory and more may attempt to enter the country, the foreign minister said.

Despite this, Momen said, countries under the European Union are investing in Myanmar and human rights organisations are not being vocal enough about the issue.

Meanwhile, the minister also sought support from the UK Minister to come forward and help migrant Bangladeshi workers. He said developed nations including the UK should remain vocal so that Bangladeshi citizens abroad get back their jobs.

Dr Momen sought support from the UK to not cancel export orders in readymade garments industry and urged the UK to create special fund to keep the orders uninterrupted.

Brothers killed, four injured in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Two siblings were killed and four injured after a bus and truck collided at Sherua Battola in Bogura's Sherpur upazila vesterday morning.

The injured were taken to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital.

The deceased are Mosharaf Hossain (45) and his brother Abu Hanif (34), said police and fire service officials. The injured were identified as Akman, Ashikur, Ershad

And Polash, said police. Ratan Hossain, in-charge of Sherpur fire service station, told The Daily Star that the head-on collision between

the truck and a Hanif Paribahan bus, which was carrying labourers, occurred around 6.30am. Firefighters immediately reached the spot and recovered

Mosharaf's body. They rescued the injured bus passengers and took them to the hospital, where doctors pronounced Hanif dead, he said.

Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Sherpur Police Station, said the bus was carrying 46 passengers who had boarded from Chattogram's Rangunia upazila. They were returning home to harvest Boro paddy.

Nat'l Professor

FROM PAGE 3

1952, participated in the mass uprising in 1969 and actively took part in the War of Liberation in 1971.

He was a member of the Planning Commission to the Government of Bangladesh during the Liberation War, and a member of the National Education Commission set up by the government after liberation. He was bestowed with the noble responsibility of drafting the Constitution of Bangladesh in Bangla in 1972.

In his long career, Dr Anisuzzaman taught Bangla at Dhaka University and Chittagong University, and was involved with a number of universities abroad. He was bestowed the honorary position of national professor for five years in June 2018.

It is an FROM PAGE 3 anchor of SATV Khoj, and Saial Bhuivan, Narsingdi

correspondent of television channel SATV, when the duo approached him for an interview while he was in the middle of distributing relief rice.

"Baten Biplob in his Facebook post described the barbaric attack on journalist Sajal Bhuiyan who was profusely bleeding and crying in pain. He was admitted to Narsingdi government hospital. The perpetrators were not arrested and the police administration is not cooperating, it was alleged," noted the press statement.

In addition, five more journalists were assaulted or arbitrarily detained by law enforcers during the same time span.

"The Forum demands an end to such impunity. Also, those responsible for attacking and arresting frontline 'media warriors' should be brought to book," the statement further said.

statement The was signed by Dr Aireen Jaman, Faruq Faisel, Saleem Samad, Sayeed Ahmad Mainul Islam Khan, and Khairuzzaman Kamal among others.

PSC finalises recruitment of 2,000 docs

FROM PAGE 12

PSC Chairman Mohammad Sadiq candidates took part in the exams said, "Coronavirus has created a national crisis. We took this initiative as soon as we saw the government viva. The PSC recommended the demand for recruitment of doctors and nurses.

circulars, "Recruitment reexaminations are a long process. Since we had a waiting list of 6,000 doctors who passed the 39th BCS, the decision to appoint doctors from the list was made," he said.

The list will be sent to the government as soon as possible, he said, adding that similarly, they have recommended recruitment of 5,000 nurses

He hoped that healthcare service will gain momentum once these newly recruited doctors and nurses join the workforce.

The circular of the 39th special BCS was issued on April 10, 2018. The preliminary examination was held on midwives under the Directorate of impetus to fight the crisis.

August 3 of that year. A total of 37,538 Services of the Ministry of Health and where 13,570 doctors passed the test. Of them, 8,360 passed in the

appointment of 4,792 doctors from them

In November last year, the Ministry of Public Administration issued a circular appointing 4,443 of them to the health cadre. The rest were kept in the waiting list.

Health ministry and PSC officials said there had been a discussion of recruiting 2,000 doctors on an ad hoc basis. However, there had been many problems with such type of recruitment in the past. So, PSC opined in favour of recruiting BCS cadres. Later, the prime minister also approved it.

On the other hand, PSC issued a notification in 2017 for the recruitment of 4,000 senior staff nurses and 600

dependent for movement of he said, adding that other but the Geneva-based WHO the process of now planning

distributed via a Dubai hub, during the coronavirus crisis has changed and we are in

Family Welfare. A total of 16,900 job seekers took part in the examination. Of them, 10,000 candidates passed.

On August 19, 2018, the PSC finally selected 5,100 of them for recruitment. Those who were not recruited then are now recommended by the PSC for recruitment at nursing homes. However, even though the government wants to recruit 6,000 nurses, the PSC is not able to provide more than 5,000 nurses.

So far, more than 300 doctors have been infected with coronavirus. As a result, several doctors have had to go to quarantine. Besides, some new hospitals are also being set up. As a result, demand letters were sent to the PSC for the recruitment of 2,000 doctors and 6,000 nurses to address the manpower crisis. The government hopes that the recruitment of new doctors and nurses will give some

FROM PAGE 12

Gonoshasthaya Kendra over how to

submit Covid-19 rapid testing kit. There are vested interests in the process of CROs, Zafrullah said.

Bangladesh has reputed research organisations like Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Institute of Epidemiology and Disease Control Research, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and Institute of Public Health, he said, adding, "These organization can conduct the validation of our kit and we will surely pay fees as fixed by the government.

"Icddr,b can also be an option for Gonoshasthaya, but not as a CRO of DGDA, but as an independent organisation."

Gonoshasthaya yesterday wrote a letter, explaining their position, to the drug administration.

He said it may take no less than Tk 50 lakh if the rapid test kit developed by local scientists is validated through the CROs. "This is an emergency situation and the DGDA should write specifically that we should go to this or that organisation, except for the CROs. CROs are the middlemen."

cargo gradually shut down. states had made air assets has managed to acquire that the next acquisitions developed the Rapid Dot Blot, which means through CROs, it will conduct can test for both antibody that grows validation for future use if WHO in the body of an infected person as recommends. well as antigen.

CROs vehicles of corruption that after CROs prepare a protocol for validation, it will have to be cleared by the Bangladesh Medical Research Council. Then the DGDA's Advisory Committee will need to check and approve it.

The same day, Zafrullah held a press conference to tell the public that the DGDA was not cooperating with Gonoshasthaya even during such an emergency situation, when largescale tests are imperative to isolate those infected to slow the spread of Covid-19

In response, the health ministry's media cell held a press conference and said the government for now is not opting for the rapid test kit. The health ministry's additional secretary Habibur Rahman Khan said the World Health Organization has not recommended the use of rapid test kit because the rate of false positive or false negative is high in this test.

In a media release, the health ministry also said that for now there is no scope for the Gonoshasthaya Kendra's kit to be validated, though DGDA DG at the press conference to those of RT-PCR. Most importantly, said if Gonoshasthaya Kendra applies Gonoshasthaya Kendra scientists through proper channel, which lives," he said.

kits. The quality of all rapid test kits are not same.

The health ministry's claim that no country is using rapid test kit is wrong, he said, adding that if WHO does not recommend it, it doesn't mean it cannot be used after national validation.

There are even many cases where RT-PCR tests (that diagnose the presence of Covid-19 by using nose or throat fluids) also gave false negative and false positive results. Some level of errors are there in both the methods of testing, said Zafrullah.

On April 27, the Indian health ministry has given a go-ahead for home-grown rapid test kits. Iran is producing ten lakh rapid test kits every day, he said.

The British government on April 25 ordered the production of up to 50 million new immunity tests (rapid tests) as part of what experts hope will be a "game-changing development" in the battle against Covid-19, the dailymail reported.

"We can guarantee our kit is close the low-cost kit can save thousands of

Asked about health ministry's statement that nowhere in the

DHAKA WEDNESDAY APRIL 29, 2020, BAISHAKH 16, 1427 BS

So we are at the point now available. where we need to look for solutions to this," Molinaro we are always willing to told a UN virtual news briefing in Geneva.

FROM PAGE 12

United The Arab Emirates has provided planes to collect supplies Molinaro said. in China, which are then

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Vacancy Announcement

Deadline for application: 06 May 2020

The FAO Representation in Bangladesh is inviting applications of qualified and experienced candidates for the following position to be filled under the Emergency Programme based at Cox's Bazar". The Incumbents will be recruited as National Project Personnel:

Agricultural Hazard and Vulnerability Mapping Specialist

To apply, visit the FAO employment website at Jobs at FAO and complete the on-line application. Only applications received through online will be considered.

All recruitment to FAO posts are made on a competitive and transparent basis. Candidates are encouraged to apply directly to FAO and follow the instructions on the above-mentioned website. Please note that no intermediary is allowed to expedite or facilitate such process. All those who represent themselves as such are fraudulent and should be reported to FAO immediately.

Women candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

and distribute 1.1 million and batch volumes we get "On commercial aircraft, diagnostic tests, with a further 1.5 million on the take more offers. We appeal constantly for more offers of assets, or extremely discounted cargo," air

WHO warns on supply disruption

Demand has skyrocketed

coronavirus

Reuters tally.

be making their way in that way, he said. The WHO direction, and within the had benefited from some plan for tests there will be preferential pricing and aimed to secure 9 million allocation there also." LOCKDOWN EXIT tests through consortia. Countries are beginning Some 3.03 million people have been reported

to chart their path out of shutdowns imposed to to be infected by the novel stem the spread of the pandemic deadly disease. globally and 211,326 have

at least in PPE (personal

protective equipment) will

Prime Minister Edouard died, according to the latest Philippe told parliament yesterday that France will Panama will serve as a not end its nationwide hub for regional distribution lockdown unless the of personal protective number of new cases of equipment and other infection drops below supplies in Latin America, 3,000 per day. after delays due to distance

Hundreds

(there were) difficulties of FROM PAGE 1 to the spot and convinced supplying Latin America

in the beginning, and them to leave the highway with an assurance of at the time the caseload immediate relief distribution. wasn't high and we were said KM Abu, revenue deputy concentrating on other collector in the district.

Later, they withdrew the blockade around 2:30pm, he said.

In Savar, some 100 transport workers blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway at Savar Police Station point around 10:00am demanding food assistance. demanded They also

immediate withdrawal of the government's ban on vehicular movement.

Many trucks and lorries got stranded on the highway due to the blockade.

On information a team of police rushed to the spot and took the situation under control by promising them that they would receive assistance in no time, said Zakaria Hossen, inspector (operation) of Savar Model Police Station.

Contacted, Savar municipality mayor Hazi Abdul Goni said he did not get sufficient amount of relief materials from the government, and therefore, it was not possible for him to entertain the demands of all

workers in the area. Our correspondents in Jashore and Savar contributed to this report.

26, its director general Maj Gen Dr Mahbubur Rahman asked them to

Zafrullah said it is very unfortunate When a Gonoshasthaya Kendra that the government has decided not team went to the DGDA on April to go for rapid tests. Some countries have rejected rapid test kits imported from some companies in China, but go through the CROs. He explained many of the countries are using these than 90 percent."

world rapid test kit could test both antibody and antigen, Zafrullah said, "Just because it was not developed anywhere doesn't mean it cannot be developed. We have done it and got good result. Our kit's accuracy is more

Prime ministers will decide water-sharing

FROM PAGE 12

should be allowed to decide their own fate. He adds that the whole world is concerned over the situation in Vietnam. Bangabandhu further says, "I am sure that the peace-loving people of the world, particularly the democratic people of the USA, are in favour of the struggling people of Vietnam."

INDIA-BANGLADESH ACCORD TO SHARE WATER RESOURCES

Bangladesh and India agree to set up a joint power coordination committee in order to share the power resources of the two countries

mutual benefit. for Disclosing this at a press conference held today at the conclusion of the first minister-level meeting on water and power resources between the countries, Dr K L Rao, Indian minister for irrigation and power, says that the two governments have already agreed that Tripura and Mizoram of India would receive power from Bangladesh whereas Jessore and some other northern districts of Bangladesh would receive power from West Bengal of India.

Dr Rao further informs that the formation and terms of reference of the Joint River Commission have been discussed and agreement reached. The matter would now be finalised by the two governments, he adds. Steps for coordinating flood forecasting and cyclone warning have been discussed. also Meteorological data will be exchanged between the two countries.

common rivers between Bangladesh and India have also been taken up at the minister-level talks. Dr Rao says that it has been decided that the subject will be discussed at the prime minister level. Earlier, Dr Rao called on Bangabandhu at Gonobhaban and had a 30-minute discussion with the prime minister.

NO TALKS UNTIL PINDI **RECOGNISES BANGLADESH**

Bangabandhu firmly stands by his previous stand that there is no question of joining talks with Pakistan unless

the water of Ganges, Teesta and other it accepts the reality of Bangladesh. Commenting on a Pakistani report that the Indo-Pak summit would be held in Delhi in four or five weeks' time and that Bangabandhu might also take part in the talks, a source close to the Bangladesh government says today that there can be no talks, no discussion and no summit with Pakistan until and unless Bangladesh is recognised as a sovereign people's republic by Pakistan.

SOURCES: April 30, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Ittefaq

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Kurigram. Phone: 0581-61658, Fax: 0581-62685 Email: eekur@rhd.gov.bd

Invitation for e-GP Tender

SL No	Office Memo No	524 Date: 28.04.2020	Last Date & Time for Tender/Proposal Security Submission
	e-GP Tender ID No. :	456325	
	Invitation Reference No :	e-GP/30/EE/KRD/2019-2020	
	Name of Work :	Repair of Damaged Pavement by Brick Flat Soling & HBB and Protective work with Earth works at Ch. 17 th (p) & 18 th (p) km of Ulipur-Bajra-Chilmari Road (Z-5623) under Road Division Kurigram during the year 2019-2020.	14- May, 2020. within 11.00

This is an online Tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline and hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on the National e-GP system Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP (helpdesk@ eprocure.gov.bd)

> (Ali Noor Aine) ID. No. 602187 Executive Enginer (cc), RHD Road Division, Kurigram

The question of sharing

GD-770

Mymensingh Division, Mymensingh

1000 শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি থাম শহরের উন্নতি

Invitation for e-Tender Notice No. e-GP/19-20/42-46, Date: 27.04.20

Department of Public Health Engineering

1	Ministry/Division	Local Government Division.
2	Implementation agency	Department of Public Health Engineering.
3	Project/program name	Revenue Budget/Expansion and Development of Water Supply and Sanitation System in Ishwargonj Pourashava Project/VWSP.
4	e-Tender IDs	456183, 456184/456187/456374, 456375
5	Description of works	 Construction of Boundary Wall and Roof above staircase at Chollishbari Colony Compound of DPHE, Mymensingh. Construction of Boundary Wall at Gaziabari compound of DPHE, Mymensingh. Supply of Computers, Printers, Scanners & Peripherals etc. Installation of 50 Nos. Shallow Tara Tube Well (Extractable) with # 6. Hand Pump under VWSP of DPHE, Mymensingh. Construction of 10,000 L/day Capacity Solar Operated Pond Sand Filter (PSF) under VWSP of DPHE, Mymensingh.
6	Name, designation & address of official inviting tender	Muhammad Samiul Hoque, Executive Engineer, DPHE, Mymensingh Division, Mymensingh. Tel. No. 091-67636.
7.	This is online tender, whe offline/hard copies will be	re only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no accepted. an see details in the website: <u>www.eprocure.gov.bd</u>
GD-	772	Muhammad Samiul Hoque Executive Engineer, DPHE Mymensingh Division, Mymensingh

areas," Molinaro said. "Certainly the situation Office of the Executive Engineer

and other issues, he said.

"We are aware that

INTERNATIONAL

Record 51m people displaced internally

Conflict and disaster forced more than 33 million people to flee within their own countries last year, putting them at greater risk amid the global COVID-19 pandemic, monitors said yesterday.

The new figure brings the total number of people living in internal displacement to a record 50.8 million, according to a report by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) is far higher than the some 26 million who have fled across borders as refugees

"IDPs are often highly vulnerable people living in crowded camps, emergency shelters and informal settlements with little or no access to healthcare," IDMC director Alexandra Bilak said in a statement. "The global coronavirus pandemic will make them more vulnerable still," she said.

The report found that conflict forced 8.5 million IDPs to flee last year in countries like Syria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia and South Sudan.

Together with those already displaced, more than 45 million people live in internal displacement brought on by conflict, including nearly 6.5 million in Syria, which has been ravaged by nine years of civil war.

Another 5.1 million people were living in internal displacement due to natural disasters at the end of 2019, out of nearly 25 million who fled their homes due to such disasters throughout the year.

Some 4.5 million were forced to flee their homes by cyclone Fani in India and Bangladesh, cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique and hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas.



People surf as Bondi Beach reopens to surfers and swimmers after it was closed to curb the spread of the coronavirus disease, with strict social distancing measures remaining in place, in Sydney, Australia, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

REUTERS, New Delhi/Islamabad

China decries 'barefaced lies' Rising cases complicate India's curb lifting efforts

Says US trying to divert public attention with allegations AFP, Beijing

China yesterday went on the offensive against international criticism over its handling of the coronavirus pandemic, accusing US politicians of "barefaced lies".

The new virus first emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan late last year before spreading across the world, and countries including the United States and Australia have called for an investigation into how the disease transformed into a global pandemic.

But Beijing came out swinging on Tuesday in response to foreign criticism, saying the US was attacking China to divert attention from its own handling of the outbreak.

"American politicians have repeatedly ignored the truth and have been telling barefaced lies," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters at a press briefing.

"They have only one objective: shirk their responsibility for their own **ROW OVER CORONAVIRUS** RESPONSE



damages from China

measures, and divert public attention," he added.

US President Donald Trump suggested on Monday that he might poor epidemic prevention and control seek damages from China over the relations," said Geng.

outbreak, saying there were many options to "hold them accountable". Trump said at a White House briefing that he believed the outbreak could have been stopped at the source.

China also defended its ambassador to Australia who has warned that Chinese people could boycott imported goods from Australia in retaliation to the demands for a virus inquiry.

In a thinly veiled threat, Cheng Jingye had warned the push for an independent inquest into the origins of the outbreak was "dangerous", and might prompt Chinese people not to buy Australian food or attend Australian universities.

But Beijing defended the diplomat

"The remarks by the Chinese ambassador are in response to the recent erroneous remarks made by the Australian side, which have aroused the and a possible impact on bilateral

India was nearing 30,000 coronavirus infections yesterday, second only to China in Asia, a steady rise that would make it difficult to lift a nearly sixweek lockdown that ends this weekend, officials said. Neighbouring Pakistan also recorded a jump in cases and deaths from COVID-10, the respiratory disease caused by the virus, and there were

concerns that many people were gathering in mosques for Ramadan prayers despite strict rules on distancing. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has allowed some farm

and industrial activity to resume in less-affected rural areas after the shutdown of the economy left millions without work and short of food and shelter. But with about 1,500 new cases each day on an average over the past

week, the government is facing calls not to ease further and instead keep the world's biggest shutdown in force beyond May 3, even though the economic distress is deepening. The number of people infected with the coronavirus stood at 29,434, the health ministry said, a rise of 1,543 over the previous day. So far 934 people have died.

Pakistan had 14,079 cases including 301 deaths, 20 of them over the past day the highest single-day toll so far. Pakistan has opened 600 export industries, mainly in Punjab and Sindh province, to reduce the pain for businesses and workers.

Pakistan, under pressure from religious groups, allowed people to pray at mosques during the holy fasting month that began last week provided they kept six feet apart, wore face masks and did not pray in the streets. But an NGO said the rules were largely violated in the 194 mosques it surveyed in 15 cities and towns.

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC LATEST UPDATES **MORE THAN 211,000 DEAD**

More than 211,185 people have died worldwide since the epidemic surfaced in China in December, according to an AFP tally at 1100 GMT yesterday based on official sources. In total, 3,030,246 cases have now been reported in 193 countries or territories. The United States has the most deaths of any country with 56,253 fatalities. Italy is the second hardest-hit country, with 26,977 dead. Spain follows with 23,822, then France with 23,293 and the United Kingdom with 21,092.

CAUTIOUS EUROPE EASES CURBS

France and Spain, among the countries with the highest death tolls, was scheduled to announce later yesterday plans to ease their strict lockdowns, in place since March. Meanwhile, first signs that transmission of the virus has again picked up are visible in German official data. The infection rate mounts to around 1.0, meaning each infected person passes the virus on to one other.

ARTHRITIS DRUG SHOWS PROMISE

The arthritis drug tocilizumab has shown early promise in preventing extreme inflammation in gravely ill COVID-19 patients, according to a French clinical study. The treatment, which suppresses the body's natural immune response, was found to reduce "significantly" the number of deaths or life support interventions compared with a control group of patients.

UK TO PAY \$75,000 TO HEROES

Families of British health and care workers who die on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic will be paid 60,000 pounds (\$74,472) as part of a new life assurance scheme. The scheme is aimed at families of those who die from coronavirus during the course of essential and life-saving work, and includes those providing direct care as well as cleaners and porters.

CHINA SAYS INDIAN CRITICISM OF TEST KITS IS 'IRRESPONSIBLE' China has criticised India's decision to

stop using Chinese testing kits for the novel coronavirus because of quality issues as unfair and irresponsible in the latest strain in their ties. The Indian Council of Medical Research, the top agency dealing with the coronavirus outbreak, said on Monday it planned to return the kits for antibody tests procured from two Chinese firms because of poor accuracy.

KIM IN ISOLATION!

Kim Jong Un may have missed a key holiday on April 15 because of concerns over the coronavirus, not because he is ill, South Korea's minister for North Korean affairs said yesterday. An authoritative source familiar with US intelligence reporting said on Monday it was entirely possible Kim had disappeared from public view to avoid exposure to COVID-19.

Litmus paper we have lost

FROM PAGE 1

sterling character and a great a sense of humour, the man from Sylhet leadership, research and education, (we almost forgot because of his the government bestowed on him luminous nationwide identity) has the Ekushey Padak 2017 for science sat in the (caretaker) government and technology. Since 2018, he (April-June 1996), served BRAC and has been honoured as National

In view of his contribution

knew how to honour a person for he was an honourable man.

The last time I saw Sir was on October 9 at the protest gathering of alumni at BUET, two days after the brutal killing of the university's student Abrar Fahad. Sir did not look

president of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation in the 1970s. He was very excited about Snooker when introduced at the BUET Teachers Club. Cricket was his way of life, a gentleman that is why.

His approach to life was always

Pentagon releases UFO videos

CNN ONLINE

The Pentagon has officially released three short videos showing "unidentified aerial phenomena" that had previously been released by a private company.

The videos show what appear to be unidentified flying objects rapidly moving

Trump says US might seek

in strident comments Tuesday.

dissatisfaction of the Chinese people

the Asia-Pacific University as vicechancellor, taught civil engineering at BUET for almost four decades. steered national committees on ICT, and delivered countless lectures on a wide range of topics.

A statistical buff from childhood, he enjoyed his time in Dhaka's traffic jam by juggling with vehicle number plates and had been befittingly the president of the Mathematical Olympiad Committee from 2003. The "Computer Center" at BUET is also his brainchild, steering it for 10 years for national service.

For his scientific prudence, he was involved in several state-sponsored mega projects. The professor of civil engineering was Technical Adviser of Bangabandhu Bridge and the ongoing Padma Bridge.

Professor. The same year, Japan decorated him with the prestigious Order of the Rising Sun: Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon.

Prof Choudhury was an exceptional organiser. Under his stewardship, the BUET Alumni Association has been thriving since 2008. As a founder Trustee, I have seen closely his hard and soft approach, but never a harsh word, to unite several pocket associations of graduates.

One year after the FR Tower fire, BUET Alumni Association organised a National Seminar called "Fire Hazard in Buildings: Recent Crisis" on April 27, 2019. The president called me to deliver a keynote paper, which could have been handled by any EC member. But this was JRC; he

well to me that morning. I am told that he was facing some issues with his health.

Sir was very loyal to BUET and especially the civil engineering department. During a students' protest some two decades ago, Sir told off a high-up, "We were yesterday peacefully from a heart running [BUET] well, before you got involved.

Once he also lightly reprimanded me (from architecture) for not calling to a seminar the expertise of a civil engineering teacher. Despite his towering personality, he was frank in his outlook. He shared with me the driving rain problem at his apartment and the sunlight problem at his university.

Sir was very keen about sports as a follower and player. He was vice-

calculated, hardly ever a rash decision. An avid reader of my column, he joined my anchored show "Chintito" on ATN Bangla, but after deliberating for over a month. After the programme, I dropped him at his house where he passed away

attack. His last SMS to me on April 21 was, "I remember watching one of vour videos in which you expressed very strongly your resentment against educated Bangladeshi origin people living abroad, who are in the habit of criticising Bangladesh at every opportunity. Would appreciate it very much if you kindly send me the link." He was interested in anything Bangladesh, a profound patriot.

while recorded by infrared cameras. Two of the videos contain service members reacting in awe at how quickly the objects are moving. One voice speculates that it could be a drone.

The Navy previously acknowledged the veracity of the videos in September of last year. They are officially releasing them now, "in order to clear up any misconceptions by the public on whether or not the footage that has been circulating was real, or whether or not there is more to the videos," according to Pentagon spokesperson Sue Gough.

The Pentagon has previously studied recordings of aerial encounters with unknown objects as part of a since-shuttered classified program, which was launched in 2007 and ended in 2012, according to the Pentagon, because they assessed that there



were higher priorities that needed funding.

Nevertheless, Luis Elizondo, the former head of the classified program, told CNN in 2017 that he personally believes "there is very compelling evidence that we may not be alone.

"These aircraft -- we'll call them aircraft are displaying characteristics that are not currently within the US inventory nor in any foreign inventory that we are aware of," Elizondo said of objects they researched. He says he resigned from the Defense Department in 2017 in protest over the secrecy surrounding the program and the internal opposition to funding it.



North-West Power Generation Company Ltd.

ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & OHSAS 45001:2018 Certified (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Office of the Plant Manager (Superintending Engineer) Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1) Soydabad, Sirajganj.

Ref: 27.28.8878.101.07.001.19.100

Date: 28/04/2020

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd):

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Brief Description of Tender	Publication Date	Last Selling Date & Time	Opening Date
1	419599	Supply of Mechanical Tools and Lifting Equipment.	28/04/2020	19/05/2020, 3:45 PM	20/05/2020
2	455397	Spare Parts for GT Monitoring & Protection System.	29/04/2020	13/05/2020, 3:45 PM	14/05/2020
3	407879	Medium Voltage Power Cable.	04/05/2020	03/06/2020, 4:40 PM	07/06/2020

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offlinc/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

64/2020 Engr. Md. Asad Halim Plant Manager (S.E.) Sirajganj 225 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant (Unit-1) NWPGCL, Soydabad, Sirajganj.

		Cox's Baz	e Divisional Fo ar North Forest itation for Ten r: 05/Rev/2019	Division. der	/2020		হাসিনার নির্দেশ [সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ
1	Ministry/D	livision	Ministry of Environm	nent, Forest and Climate	Change		
2	Agency		Forest Department				
3		Entity Name	Divisional Forest Of	ficer, Cox's Bazar North	Forest Division		
4	Procuring	Entity District	Cox's Bazar			1	
5	Invitation 1		Construction of Wor				
6		Ref No & Date		00.771.10(10).20.1071 1	Date- 28/04/2020		
7		nt Method	Open Tender method	I (OTM)	(1997) - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997		
8		Source of Funds	Revenue Budget				
9	Tender La	st Selling Date	12/05/2020		-		
			Date		Time		
10		sing Date and Time	13/05/2020		01.00 PM	_	
11		ening Date and Time with place	13/05/2020		02.00 PM At Office of the U	Indersign	ned
12		ddress of the office(s)	Address				
13		nder Document		range, Cox's Bazar Nort		Cox's B	8225
14	Eligibility	of Tenderer	Must have valid VA	T, TIN and Trade Licence			
15	Tender Package No.	Work Name/Package name	Location	Price of Tender Decument (Not- refundable)	Tender See Amount (1		Completion Time in Days/Weeks / Months
16	PW-01	Construction of Car House	Sadar Upazila Con's Bazar, Town Range	Tk. 1000/- (One Thousand) only	Tk. 13,00 (Thirtee thousand)	n	45 days
17	PW-02	Construction of Surface Drain	Sadar Upazila Cox's Bazar, Town Range	Tk. 600/- (Six Hundr anly	(Ten thousand) enly		45 days
18	PW-03	Repairing work of Ban Kallal Rest House Area Boundary Wall	Sadar Upazila Cos's Bazar, Town Range	Tk, 1000/- (One Thousand) only	Tk. 19,00 (Ninetee thousand)	nt only	45 days
19	Name, Des	ignation & Address of official invi	ting tender	Md. Tohidul Islam, 1 Forest Division, Cox	Divisional Forest O s Bazar	efficer, C	Cox's Bazar North
20		tails of Official Inviting Tender		Phone No- 0341-634 E-mail : dfocoxsbazi	morth@gmail.co		
21	(a) Details (b) The Pr	particular of tender can be seen & ocuring entity reserves the right to	obtained from the cons reject all tenders or ann	emed office during offic al the Tender proceeding	e hours. s		
22	Special Co a) b)	nditions: Rate must be coated both in figur The tenderer must sign all page of		h items of works in attac	hed BOQ	A	nS.
			র্ভ×৪ কলাম		Cox's Email: E-mail : di	Bazar h	al Forest Officer North Forest Division azarnorth@gmgil.co to-0341-63409

GD-767





DHAKA WEDNESDAY APRIL 29, 2020, BAISHAKH 16, 1427 BS 😑 starbusiness@thedailystar.net 📰

TAMING CORONAVIRUS RAMPAGE

Revenue collections stable until Mar

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and SOHEL PARVEZ

Revenue collection soared 8 per cent in the first nine months of the fiscal year, paced by the increased collection of advance corporate tax and higher receipts of indirect tax value-added tax (VAT).

The tax authority logged in Tk 165,007 crore between July last year and March this year, showed the preliminary data of the National Board of Revenue (NBR)

Yet, the gap between collection and target widened further as receipts from all three areas fell short of targets for the period.

The NBR sat on a shortfall of Tk 56,000 crore until March from its target of Tk 221,145 crore and the task of narrowing down the gap is likely to widen as the near-collapse of economic activities for the global coronavirus pandemic will hit overall collection.

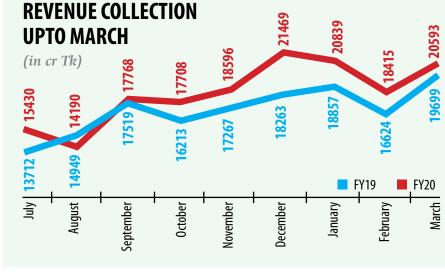
"The performance may exacerbate in the last quarter as the country has gone into a 'lock-down' period," said Towfiqul Islam Khan, a senior research fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

The independent think-tank earlier apprehended that the revenue shortfall in fiscal 2019-20 might be Tk 100,000 crore. But that was before coronavirus arrived.

"Surely the actual shortfall this year will be far greater. And the NBR may have little to do to minimise the damage," he added.

The NBR data showed that income tax receipt grew 14 per cent year-on-year to





the taxmen could log 45 per cent of their full-year target with three-fourth the year gone.

And a senior official of Large Tax Units (LTU), the main collector of income tax for the NBR, said collection is likely to seriously suffer in April as economic activities remained shut to tackle COVID-19. There may even be negative growth.

"We have got a good amount of tax from banks and mobile operators. Besides, advance payment of corporate tax by firms also buoyed overall receipts in March."

The arrears and tax-atsource account for most of the tax collection in the fourth quarter of the year. However, payments by firms except for salary payment is very low, he said.

countrywide The shutdown, which has now stepped into its second month, is likely to ravage collection of VAT too as the

Tk 52,910 crore from a year earlier. Yet, tax is paid by final consumers of goods and services

> Also known as consumption tax, VAT is the biggest source of revenue. VAT collection increased 7 per cent year-on-year to Tk 64,111 crore in the July-March period. Revenue officials could collect more than half of their annual collection goal

target for the year.

The similar is true for the collection of tariffs from overseas trade, particularly from imported goods. Customs official could log just over half of their annual target as imports declined.

During the July-March period, collection of customs tariffs grew 2 per cent year-onyear to Tk 47,985 crore.

And in the face of the continuing shortfall from the heightened target of Tk 325,600 crore this fiscal year, the government revised down the goal for taxmen to Tk 300,000 crore.

Yet, the target is unlikely to be achieved given the devastation of coronavirus.

"Apparently, weakness in revenue mobilisation restrained government from extending enhanced support to the marginalised to combat COVID-19," Khan said.

The government will need to pursue an expansionary fiscal policy and go for xpanded public expenditure in fiscal 2020-21

"The NBR's performance will be critical in this context. While the pressure for granting tax breaks is likely to be high, raising administrative efficacy to curb tax evasion and implementation of reform but remained 45 per cent below their agenda will hold the key," he added.

REVENUE COLLECTION UP TO MARCH (in cr Tk) Import tariff Income Tax VAT 52,910 FY18 **FY19** FY20

Walton ventilators set off for clinical trials today

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

breakthrough in its fight against the

And if the pandemic spreads further, the country with more than 16 crore population will need at least 25,000 hospital.

ventilators, which takes over the body's Bangladeshi expatriate Omar Ishrak.

The government on March 31 received breathing process when coronavirus Of the three types of ventilators the patent, design and source code for Bangladesh is inching towards a major infection causes the lungs to fail. Walton is putting up for trials, two were making ventilators from Medtronic, and then moved to manufacture ventilators locally

Adverse weather ahead for banks: Moody's

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

The global rating agency Moody's Investors Service vesterday gave a negative outlook for the country's banking sector for the next 12 to 18 months as coronavirus-induced disruptions to domestic and export demand is deteriorating lenders' credit profiles.

The general shutdown coupled with declining remittance inflows due to disruptions in the Middle East will also dampen domestic consumption and investment.

"This adds to their persistent weakness in asset quality in the banking sector -- a result of poor corporate governance, as well as weak laws and regulations," it said.

Deterioration of asset quality means defaulted loans in the banking sector will rise shortly.

Default loans will increase across multiple zones, including but not limited to the garment sector.

At the end of 2019, default loans stood at Tk 94,313 crore, up 0.42 per cent year-on-year, according to data from the Bangladesh Bank.

Provision coverage against the soured and unclassified loans in Bangladesh is now inadequate and it will narrow further in the days to ahead.

While regulatory deferments of loan classification and repayments will provide temporary relief to keep provisioning, inadequate provisioning could raise risks for banks in the longer term.

As of last year, a total of 12 banks suffered provision shortfall of Tk 10,797 crore.

Besides, profitability in banks will deteriorate due to higher credit costs and lower net interest margins (NIMs) between lending and deposit.

NIM means income from loans after deducting the interest given to depositors.

The major indicator of the banks will contract because of the decline in loan repayments and a regulatory 9 per cent cap on lending rates that took effect on April 1, the report said.

Capital base in the banking sector will deteriorate as well amid a slow capital accumulation because of weaker profitability.

New tax rules imposed on retained earnings, stock dividends or both, which took effect in July 2019, will further constrain internal capital generation at listed banks. Current levels of capital preserved by banks will provide limited buffers against potential loan losses.

Banks' loan-to-deposit ratios will rise further as borrowers draw down on their credit facilities and depositors withdraw their savings to alleviate cash flow crunches due to the ongoing shutdown.

The BB on April 12 increased the loan-deposit ratio by 2

coronavirus pandemic, as the Access to Information programme under the government's ICT division has so far received 19 prototypes of ventilators developed by different organisations and individuals.

After scrutiny, the ventilators will be handed over to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) for clinical trials, said Zunaid Ahmed Palak, state minister for the ICT division, at a virtual press conference yesterday.

At the press conference, Palak received prototypes of three ventilators manufactured by local tech giant Walton. Their clinical trial is expected to start today.

Bangladesh has only 1,250

"Our main target is to become selfsufficient in manufacturing technological equipment within a short time and I believe the response we have received so far regarding ventilators is tremendous."

Even a few years back Bangladesh had only one or two technology companies but now at least nine firms have popped up riding on the policy support the government has provided to the sector.

Palak also praised Walton, which is making the ventilators using the patent and design of Medtronic, an Ireland-based

medical device company run by an iconic not available in Bangladesh.

developed using its own technology, officials said.

Another local company named ventilators, said an official of a private Minister is also making ventilators while the Military Institute of Science and Technology (MIST), an engineering university run by the Bangladesh Armed Forces, has also joined the fray.

> Palak said the WPB560 model of the ventilator developed by Walton emulating Medtronic's PB560 model, which was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, will be directly supervised production from its Dhaka and Hyderabad offices.

components of the ventilator that were

Walton is already importing equipment and raw materials for bulk production and these should reach the country within May, according to its Executive Director Golam Murshed.

Liakat Ali, executive director of Walton Group and adviser of the project, said they need the government's support in terms of approval and souring equipment to make the project successful.

"If we can deal with this situation technologically sound as Medtronic successfully, we can even export ventilators," he said.

Walton also sent some ventilators to Medtronic also supplied more than ten the biomedical engineering department of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology for their opinion.

percentage points to 87 per cent for traditional banks and 92 per cent for Shariah-based banks.

But banks will still feel the pinch in controlling their loan-deposit ratio in the coming days due to their difficulties in mobilising deposit amid economic fallout.

Mutual Trust Bank Managing Director Syed Mahbubur Rahman agreed with the Moody's projection for the banking sector.

Banks will have to struggle to manage their profit due to the lower NIMs.

"Defaulted loans will increase further. So, the central bank should give more support to the banking sector," said Rahman, also an immediate past chairman of the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh, a forum of MDs of banks.

Moody carries out the rating for eight banks in Bangladesh, which accounted for 20 per cent and 17.5 per cent of total loans and deposits in the banking sector.

Of the banks, the agency has given the higher rating for Brac Bank, which is Ba3-Negative.

Biman waives demurrage on storage at Shahjalal Airport

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA And RASHIDUL HASAN

The government yesterday decided to waive the demurrage fees on the storage of imported raw materials of garment items piled up at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) warehouse.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday said it would give the waiver to the garment raw materials that would be imported between March 26 and May 5.

"Because there is a lockdown," the national flag carrier said in a circular.

The move came after the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) applied to the Biman authorities seeking the waiver because of the coronavirus fallouts.

A lot of imported goods have been stored in the warehouse for many days because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Currently, nearly 2,000 tonnes of imported cargoes are now stored in the Biman warehouse because of slow delivery, up from its storage capacity of 800 tonnes.

Of the stored goods, 60 per cent are garment raw materials and the rest includes pharmaceuticals raw materials and spare parts.

The waiver should be extended to all other imported goods, said Kabir Ahmed, president of the Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association.

The waiver decision on the garment raw materials was taken as the BGMEA applied earlier, said Mohibul Haque, secretary of the civil aviation and tourism ministry.

"We are planning to extend the same facility to other imported goods stored in the airport warehouse."

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry has called for the waiver.

Currently, the warehouse management is releasing 190 tonnes of cargoes every day.

Would the store rent waiver the second time finally decongest Ctg port?

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

The Chattogram Port Authority (CPA) has once again announced full waiver on store rent for all import containers that have arrived after the general holiday began as it desperately attempts to decongest the country's main port.

In order to get the waiver, importers would have to take delivery of the cargoes by May 4.

The first waiver has apparently failed to get the response from the mporters, who seemed to have taken the advantage and used the port as warehouse.

The importers had earlier faced difficulties in taking delivery of the cargoes due to limited services offered by the offices and a lack of logistics, said CPA Chairman SM Abul Kalam Azad

Since the working hours have been extended with adequate staff in the offices such as customs and banks recently, importers would be encouraged by the port's store rent waiver, he said, adding that the situation would now see a significant

improvement. About 44,492 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of import load containers are lying at the port against the capacity of 37,620 TEUs. And about 40 per cent of the import containers

are for the garment factories. The acute container congestion shutdown began on March 26 amid the coronavirus pandemic.

100 per cent waiver on store rent for import containers that arrived during the general holiday, hoping such step would encourage importers to take the delivery.

Usually, there is no storage rent in the first four days. For a 20-foot loaded container, the port charges \$6 per day in the first week after the free days and then \$12 each day in the second week. From the 19th day, it charges \$24 per day up to the delivery.

For a 40-foot container, the charges are double.

But seeing poor improvement to the situation, the traffic department on April 18 issued another notice, saying the benefit would be applicable for the containers that arrived after March 27 and the cargoes have to be taken away by April 20.

The following day, MA Salam, the first vice-president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, in a letter requested the CPA to extend the waiver.

Until April 4, the average daily delivery was 1,500 TEUs. It came down to 960 TEUs per day between April 5 and April 19, according to the traffic department.

After the waiver expired on April

has been created mainly because of 20, the average daily delivery gained poor delivery since the countrywide momentum and reached 2,700 TEUs in the last eight days.

Many port users, including On April 5, the CPA announced shipping agents, were sceptical about the utility of the waiver.

> "Everything depends on the importers and they should not waste this second chance," said Bangladesh Shipping Agents Association Chairman Ahsanul Huq Chowdhury. The scenario has changed this time,

said Anjan Shekhar Das, a director of the BGMEA.

Many factories have reopened recently and the working hours at the offices have also been extended, Das said, adding that now many importers would expedite the deliveries.

It would take several more days to ease the congestion since many garment factories are yet to reopen, said Khairul Alam Sujan, director of the Bangladesh Freight Forward Association.

Importers from Dhaka and other parts of the country are still facing delays in sending import documents to the C&F agents in Chattogram through courier services, Sujan said.

It is taking three days or more to complete a release procedure at the customs, banks and shipping agents. He called for extending the waiver period by several days as many garment factories would reopen next week and they need.

As factories reopen, ILO calls for safer workplace

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

As Bangladesh eased lockdown restrictions to allow factories to reopen, the International Labour Organization has urged governments across the world to take action to prevent and control Covid-19 in the workplace.

All employers need to carry out risk assessments and ensure their workplaces meet strict occupational safety and health criteria beforehand, to minimise the risk to workers of exposure to the novel coronavirus, the ILO said.

"Without such controls, countries face the very real risk of a resurgence of the virus. Putting in place the necessary measures will minimise the risk of a second wave of contagion contracted at the workplace."

The statement from the ILO came as at least 1,820 factories reopened in Bangladesh on Monday, a day after another 1,427 export-oriented units resumed production.

"Ultimately, the well-being of our communities and our economies depends on how well we protect our workers, said ILO Bangladesh Country Director Tuomo Poutiainen.

The ILO has developed a three-pronged strategy to ensure a safer return to work.

The first step is the adoption of several safety and health measures at work based on dialogue between employers and workers, and a shared understanding of coronavirus risks.

To prevent transmission of the virus and safeguard workers, the ILO has developed Covid-19 specific occupational safety and health guidelines, together with the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments.

Furthermore, the ILO is recommending employment retention through work-sharing and reskilling and essential social protection measures to ensure access to subsistence allowance, basic healthcare and income security for formal and informal sector workers.

BUSINESS

TAMING CORONAVIRUS RAMPAGE

AC sellers in hot water

JAGARAN CHAKMA

This was supposed to be a busy summer for the air conditioner manufacturers, what Bangladesh's tremendous growth momentum that is raising the purchasing capacity of the middle-class and getting better access to electricity and the mercury inching up every vear.

Nearly 70 per cent of the ACs are sold during the April-June period as people start getting punched in the face with 30-degree weather. And this time last year, most of the manufacturers and sellers failed to keep pace with the demand.

Total sales stood at around 4.5 lakh units last year, a jump from three lakh units in the previous year. Based on last year's experiences, market players had predicted that sales would cross six lakh units this year and set the sales target likewise.

But then came coronavirus, with its all-encompassing ferocity, leaving the AC sellers down in the dumps.

Thanks to the countrywide shutdown since March 26 to at least four lakh ACs this year as flatten the curve on coronavirus, they sold more than 2.5 lakh units leading brands like Samsung,

the AC sellers had to keep the shutters of their stores down.

Some are selling the units online to salvage some of their peak selling season. "But the number is very

depressing," said Tanvir Rahman, chief executive officer of Walton, one of the top players in the industry.

Walton along with Transtec has managed to bring down the prices of ACs in Bangladesh, tempting the sizeable middleclass population to purchase the apparatus that blows out artificially chilled air.

The middle-class, who are the main target consumers, are in an uncertain state as the shutdown is taking a heavy toll on the economy and subsequently posing a threat to their incomes.

"Even if the pandemic subsides in the next one and a half months, the peak season for AC sales will be over. Besides, consumers don't purchase home appliance during in moments of crisis like this, Rahman said.

Walton has set a target to sell

	AT A GLANCE	
Total sales in 2019: 4.5 lakh units	Market size in 2019: Tk 4,000 cr	Market growth: 20 pc
Predicted sales in 2020: 6 lakh units	70 pc sales come in Apr-Jun	Market leaders: General and Walton

last year.

"But we barely stand a chance of hitting the target," he added. Saikat Azad, deputy general

manager (marketing) at Transcom Digital, which owns Transtec brand and sells appliances of their warehouses.

Panasonic, Philips, Hitachi, Sebec and Media, maintains an equally grim outlook. Transcom Digital's e-store

is open and the company is delivering products directly from

He fears negative growth in

sales this year due to the longterm impact of the coronavirus.

Besides, reports of coronavirus transmission through the AC airflow at a restaurant in Guangzhou, China have also struck fear in people's hearts.

Mahmudul Hasan, head of corporate brands at LG, said they have kept themselves afloat through online channels but demand is very low though they offer flexible payment options like equal monthly instalment.

"Sales may increase slightly in June if the pandemic ebbs," he added.

But Md Manzurul Karim, general manager of Esquire Electronics, the authorised sole distributor of Japanese electronics brands General and Sharp, is not that hopeful.

'Consumers will not splurge on luxury items like AC amid the uncertainty induced by the pandemic," he said, adding that Esquire Electronics has cancelled all import orders from Japan.

Karim forecasts that the manufacturers will not be able to reach even 50 per cent of their targets this year.

DBH's profit streak held back for lower flat sales

Ahsan Habib

Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation, or DBH, one of the leading listed non-bank financial institutions, logged in higher profits last year though its interest income dropped.

In 2019, the housing financier's profits rose 2.77 per cent year-on-year to Tk 107.69 crore. However, profit-before-tax dropped 3.59 per cent to Tk 155.59 crore.

The company's home loan book expanded at a meagre pace of 1.54 per cent to Tk 4,452 crore during the year.

The price of raw materials, particularly the price of rod and cement, went up during the year, as a result of which the price level of apartments increased further, DBH said in its annual report.

This hurt flat sales, so the home financier's fortunes were also squeezed, it added.

"Thanks to the liquidity crisis in the financial market we had to offer a higher interest rate on deposits. So, our net interest income fell," said QM Shariful Ala, managing director and chief executive officer of DBH.



Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation Limited

DBH's profit over the years

Wanted: Tk 2,600cr

The promising motorcycle industry now seeking bailout

JAGARAN CHAKMA

The global coronavirus pandemic has left no sector unscathed and stopped hardly any businesses from turning to the government for a pie of the stimulus package announced to mitigate the economic fallout.

Now, it is the motorcycle manufacturers and assemblers who are seeking Tk 2,060 crore in financial support from the government.

Of the support, Tk 2,000 crore is being sought from a Tk 30,000 crore stimulus package the government is offering to affected industries and service sector companies as working capital at 4.5 per cent interest.

The remaining Tk 60 crore is being sought at 2 per cent service charge for staff salaries to be paid over the shutdown period, which is expected to last for around three months Motorcycle sales had leapt to about 5 lakh units in 2019 from 1.5 lakh in 2017 with the aid of duty reductions facilitated by the government at the import stage. This is said to have prompted market players to invest about Tk 8,000 crore, creating direct and indirect employment for around two lakh people. The sector helped generate about Tk 2,000 crore in duties, taxes and VAT and about Tk 1,000 crore as registration fees in fiscal 2018-19.



Market investment:

The registration cost should be reduced to make motorcycles affordable to customers and enable the growth of the industry. "For the ongoing economic crisis, we think that the motorcycle

Uttara Motors.

industry will face a sharp fall in demand by 30-40 per cent due to a significant drop in the purchasing power of people."

He further apprehended that the masses might not be even able to afford motorcycles while the manufacturers maintain factories.

At least 60,000 motorcycles have remained unsold in the past

The registration costs average Tk 22,000, which is about 25 per cent the price of a 100cc motorcycle, the engine capacity Tk 64.8cr that sells the most, according to Rahman, also the chairman of 2014 2015 9

> At the close of 2019, DBH's deposit portfolio stood at Tk 4,341 crore, against which Tk 148 crore of interest is payable.

2

DBH's net interest income, which is its main income source, fell 4.57 per cent to Tk 171.07 crore, according to the annual report of 2019.

Tk 94.9cr

2017

2018

The NBFI's income from the capital market also dropped 41.6 per cent to Tk 2.68 crore.

"We keep more provisions than what is stipulated by the central bank's guidelines, so our financial strength is very good."

The NBFI's total classified loans reached Tk 20 crore,



> Import duty cuts prompted sales Tk **1,000**cr Industry duties, taxes, VAT in FY19:Tk **2,000**cr

motorcycles, namely Runner, will have to absorb a loss of

Tk **8,000** cr . Employment (direct and indirect): 2 lakh

Hero, Bajaj, Honda, TVS, Yamaha, Suzuki, Benelli, Zongshen and Lifan, being either manufactured or assembled in Bangladesh.

The sector could not make any of the Tk 600 crore in expected sales in April, Hafizur Rahman Khan, president of the Motorcycle Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh, told The Daily Star.

To sail at full mast, like during There are 10 brands of last year, the motorcycle industry

rise from **1.5** lakh in 2017 to **5** lakh units in 2019 > Registration fee generation:

expected sales of about Tk 2,000 crore, he said.

All the manufacturers and assemblers are paying salaries and other benefits to employees from their capital as there is neither sales nor production, according to Khan.

It will take at least two years for the sector to balance out its fixed expenditure for the shutdown period.

"We already submitted a proposal to the government for the industry for at least six months.

providing support to us to tackle he crisis," he added.

Despite the revenue loss, the sector will announce no layoff, said Matiur Rahman, president of the Bangladesh Motorcycle Assemblers and Manufacturers Association.

He demanded that the government waive value-added tax and reduce registration fees for customers and refrain from imposing advance income tax on

two months for the ongoing crisis Rahman said.

Motorcycles enable low-cost travel for short distances but the current prices make it difficult for the masses to afford one, said Himihiko Katsuki, managing director and chief executive director of Bangladesh Honda Private Limited.

The registration cost, which includes road tax and other charges, is almost four times the amount charged in neighbouring countries, keeping the prices high for consumers.

However, all the manufacturers are putting in their best effort to bring down the motorcycle prices, he added.

with its default loan ratio being 0.45 per cent at the end of 2019

DBH is the only institution among all the banks and NBFIs that has been getting AAA credit rating at a stretch, he said.

But Ala is not as sanguine about 2020.

"This is an abnormal year due to coronavirus, so there would be some negative impact on all companies' fortunes. But we will have to manage it," he added.

DBH, which got listed on 2008, traded at Tk 92.60 on March 25, the last trading day before the bourses shut for the countrywide general shutdown enforced to flatten the curve on coronavirus.

The company is providing 20 per cent cash and 15 per cent stock dividend to its shareholders for the year ended on December 31, 2019. It provided 25 per cent cash and 10 per cent stock dividends previously.

Sponsors and directors hold 51.32 per cent of DBH's shares, with rest in the hands of the public.

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The Paily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA WEDNESDAY APRIL 29, 2020, BAISHAKH 16, 1427 BS

Don't overlook dengue danger

City corporations must resume anti-mosquito and larvae *destruction drives*

T a time when the country is seized with the virulent virus, the prospect of onset of dengue L looms ominously on the horizon. In this very column not many weeks ago, we had alerted the administration, busy coping with Covid-19, to be also mindful of this seasonal disease that afflicts us regularly. The untimely rain this year has preponed its onset considerably, facilitating breeding of Aedes mosquitoes, the vector of the disease. Last year, the number of Aedes affected patients had crossed the six figure mark, half of them from Dhaka city itself. Of those, 179 died of the disease. And till Sunday, at least 292 dengue patients were admitted to different hospitals across the country since January 1, according to the Directorate General of Health Services

The dengue hazard couldn't have come at a worst time. When the health system is up to its neck fighting Covid-19, dengue has become an additional burden to our distress. And it has been made even more complicated because of the virtual lockdown in order to prevent the spread of the virus. As a consequence, the anti-mosquito drive has all but stopped in the capital due to the shortage of manpower in the city corporations. One would have thought that the city corporation health workers provided essential services and should have been, as such, outside the ambit of the general prohibitory orders on movement.

We are happy to note that the government has decided to form a "Dengue Monitoring Cell" to fight the disease in the city. We believe that such a cell should be formed without delay. The health workers of the two city corporations should be provided with the necessary protective gears and employed in full swing. Failure to take timely and aggressive action may well prove right the dire prediction of the experts-that if the authorities failed to take necessary steps to control Aedes mosquitoes immediately, there might be a surge in the number of dengue patients, which would pose a serious danger in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

Doctors at private hospitals left vulnerable

Why are the authorities not providing them with enough PPEs? HERE appears to be no end to the crisis facing

frontline workers in the fight against coronavirus. Earlier this week, we got confirmation from a report by this daily that Bangladesh might be the only country in the world where the Covid-19 death rate is higher than the recovery rate. This is largely due to the mismanagement in the treatment of patients as well as the authorities' failure to adequately deploy and equip the doctors, who are just as much a victim of this mismanagement as their patients. We get an idea of the personal risk facing the doctors from Bangladesh Doctors Foundation (BDF), an association of physicians, which said that an average of more than 30 doctors tested positive daily over the last week. Doctors at public and private sectors are equally at risk. According to BDF, at least 373 doctors have contracted the virus till Monday—179 from government hospitals, 84 from private hospitals, and the rest from different specialised hospitals. Now an online survey by the BDF, conducted between April 20 and 26, reveals that more than one third of doctors at the private hospitals surveyed have not been provided with any personal protective equipment (PPE). We wonder why this is the case despite the government's assurance that there are enough PPEs for all health workers. Clearly, there is a disconnect between the official line and the reality on the ground. Currently, there are around 5,500 registered private hospitals and clinics across the country, according to the DGHS. Although no private hospital formally treats Covid-19 patients, the medical staff at these hospitals ensure the provision of vital healthcare services for general patients, and are hence equally exposed to the threats of the virus. There can be no excuse for treating them any differently when it comes to providing necessary safety gear. Experts have repeatedly urged the government to solve the problems related to lack of PPEs as well as the supply of poor-quality safety gear-problems that are also driving the high infection rate among health workers. The need for an urgent intervention in this regard cannot be overemphasised as the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the country crossed the 6,000 mark. The numbers of infections and deaths keep rising every day. If we want to fight this virus with any degree of success, we must urgently ensure that all staff, both at hospitals treating Covid-19 patients and non-Covid-19 hospitals, are equipped with proper PPEs so that they can lead the fight successfully.

NE of POLITICS OF the key revelations of the Covid-19 pandemic is that things that we held to be true in the past are now seen to have been SALEEMUL HUQ myths, and as we

transition from the old order into a new (and hopefully better) order going forward, we can build a better world by fixing much of what was wrong with the old world.

Today, I will share some thoughts on how we need to focus on enhancing social capital as a priority in place of our over-reliance on financial capital, which has dominated our thinking for so long.

Let me start by picking a few aspects of the prevalent financial capital paradigm that are proving to have been myths. First is to acknowledge that when money is needed, governments can produce it to save what they feel are high priorities. Hence, trillions of dollars are now being made available when we were told that there was no money to do the same things we have to do now. It is clear that lack of money was never the main constraint, but rather the priorities for which it was allocated. Investment in proper public health planning has been neglected, as has tackling climate change, with the excuse that there was no money available. At the same time, money for weapons never seemed to be in short supply. Today, we are seeing the most expensive machines of war, namely the aircraft carriers, being grounded by Covid-19.

A second myth that is being exposed is that the billionaires are the most valuable members of our society. They are now sitting at home while their food is being delivered by low paid delivery workers, making it apparent that the money that they have has nothing to do with their value to society. Indeed, every year there seems to a competition amongst the billionaires to see how few of them can accumulate more money than the rest of the world. This upward flow of capital from everyone else to just a few billionaires needs to be rectified by adequate taxation.

A third factor that we are now recognising is that professionals like doctors, nurses, teachers and health workers are not paid any where near their value to society, even though they are the ones facing coronavirus to keep the rest of us safe. These people have invested time and worked hard to become professionals, not to become

A renewed focus on social capital

Rethinking our dependency on financial capital for a post-pandemic world

> high earners, but rather to help their fellow human beings. They need to be better recognised (which is happening now) but also better paid in future.

EDITORIAL

So as we move forward to deal with the current crisis in public health and then towards tackling the climate change crisis, we should look to invest in building social capital and not allow financial capital to dominate as much as it did before. This is not to say that money is not important, but rather to argue that those with the billions should no longer be allowed to decide where to invest. Investment strategies must be targeted at what society deems most

make this happen. Unfortunately, while Bangladesh is good at adopting good policies on paper, we often fail to implement them in practice. Now is the time for the Prime Minister to ensure that her political followers, as well as her bureaucrats and the defence forces, are galvanised to work for the people against Covid-19 now, and against climate change after that.

The second major asset of social capital that we have are our NGOs, in which many thousands of professionals are working to help their poorer fellow citizens, and not only for their salaries.

Zafrullah Choudhury's Gonoshasthaya Kendra stepping forward with cheap tests for the virus.

A third aspect of substantial social capital in Bangladesh is our university and research sector, who are producing quality research that can help decisionmakers at local, sectoral as well as national levels going forward. Finally, the people of Bangladesh themselves are our biggest social capital, if we can invest in educating and empowering them effectively. The health workers are the ones we need right now to tackle the public health crisis but our farmers, fishers and factory workers will all need



Hasina is already well convinced about the need to invest in Bangladesh's social capital and has put in place policies to

We have the biggest NGO in the world in BRAC, as well as the pioneer of micro-finance in Grameen Bank. Indeed, Professor Yunus was the person who showed us that the social capital of a group of women could replace the collateral that a traditional bank would require when giving a loan to anyone. These NGO workers are a major social capital that can be galvanised to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic as well as climate change going forward. On the Covid-19 front, we are also seeing Dr

Saleemul Huq is Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development at the Independent University Bangladesh.





letters@thedailystar.net

Miss reading newspapers

Several newspaper outlets have been affected by the nationwide lockdown, and despite the selective newspapers which remain active, the physical paper is not reaching many readers, especially those outside the capital. As an avid reader of this daily, holding the newspaper in one's hands and turning through the pages is a feeling that the digital platform can never substitute and that I miss very much. If the paper is in circulation, why aren't we able to get them when other essentials are readily available? Especially in the rural regions, where "analogue" is still preferred over "digital", the newspaper is somewhat of an essential too. I hope the concerned authorities and publishers will look into this matter urgently.

Hussain Abu Musa, by email

Supporting elderly people during the pandemic

MD ABDUL KARIM

NANGLADESH has an elderly population of about 13.5 million, which is increasing by about 4.41 percent every year. The World Population Forecast estimates that by 2050, about 20 percent of our total population will be elderly persons, compared to 21.5 percent globally. Although Bangladesh enjoys the demographic divided with about 62 percent of our population being young, we are projected to have 43 million elderly people by 2050. Our government has formulated the National Policy for the Elderly, 2013, the Parents Maintenance Act, 2013 and other rules and regulations to ensure safe, dignified and poverty-free lives for our senior citizens, but we still need to plan different initiatives for ensuring their financial security, healthcare services, physical safety/security, recreational facilities etc. The immediate necessity is the adoption of appropriate measures for protection of this vulnerable group from the present global pandemic. All older people should be treated with dignity and respect during these trying times. Scientific data and evidence show that they are at the highest risk from Covid-19.

Older adults in Europe and Japan have been found to be extremely vulnerable to the global pandemic. About 95 percent of the Covid-19 related deaths in these countries/regions were of the age of 60 years or above. More than 50 percent of all fatalities involved people aged 80 years or above. However, authentic data about the actual number of coronavirus infections among the elderly population of Bangladesh is relatively scarce. It is extremely important to ensure compliance with WHO guidelines, along with the instructions issued by Bangladesh's health authorities, to protect and treat our older people. The Johns Hopkins Health Department has issued detailed instructions about treatment and caregiving for elderly persons. While general instructions of frequently washing hands, avoiding crowds, maintaining social distance, etc are equally applicable, ensuring social

and physical distancing for elderly persons is crucial. However, it might be difficult to convince a lot of the elderly population of how important this is. Faith communities are found to be a big part of their lives, and they may be persuaded by religious authorities to follow instructions. The highest authorities of the two holy mosques in Mecca and Medinah have urged Muslims to perform prayers at home alone. Even Jumma and Taraweeh prayers have been restricted in the holy mosques.

During these times, technology can

be a useful tool to help isolated older adults stay connected to their near and dear ones. In developed countries, they have learnt to chat with others using their laptops, tablets or smartphones. If these devices are not available, telephone calls and notes from relatives can also help the elderly feel less lonely. In Bangladesh, it is extremely important to ensure adequate supply of food, medicines and other essential commodities to older people. Visits to doctors for minor problems should be kept to a minimum to reduce the risk of Covid-19 infection. However, physical distancing of quarantined elderly adults should not mean social isolation. Friends, relatives and family members should maintain contact with them through various means.

self-quarantine or in isolation is crucial for older persons. Even during normal times, they are often dependent on family members or caregivers in maintaining daily routines, eating balanced meals and staying active. Mental health is also a key consideration during the present pandemic. Many of our older people do not have access to a digital platform, which makes staying connected difficult.

The situation of elderly people in Bangladesh is worse than in developed countries because of resource constraints.

PHOTO: COLLECTED A vast majority of our elderly population live in deplorable conditions. Those living in climate vulnerable areas are often refused access to healthcare services and other basic human needs, and the pandemic has made them even more vulnerable. During their youth, they had contributed significantly towards nation building. Now is the time for us to assist and protect them from the pandemic. If elderly persons do become infected with coronavirus, we must make sure they are

able to access healthcare. For this, we must also do what we can do protect our frontline heroes-doctors, nurses and health workers--so they can continue to provide their essential medical services.

Caring for the elderly is an important religious obligation. The Holy Quran

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle while in says "My Lord! bestow on them (parents) thy Mercy even as they cherished me in childhood" (17:23-24). Similar instructions abound in other religious scriptures also. Ancient Hindu texts, the Holy Dharmasutras and Dharmashastras as well as the Hindu epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, preach instructions for taking appropriate care of parents and the elderly. The Holy Bible narrates-"You shall stand up before the grey head and honour the face of an old man, and you shall fear God: I am the Lord (Leviticus 19:32)".

But in spite of all religious and moral obligations, the elderly continue to be subjected to disease, discomfort, ignorance, oppression, insult and abuse all over the world. Societal degradation from material pursuits has contributed to their deprivation, dispossession and loneliness. According to HelpAge India, every second elderly person suffers abuse within the family. Many of them are coerced to work worse than domestic servants, in spite of the provisions of the Indian National Policy on Elderly Persons, 1999 and the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. Every year, an estimated 2.1 million older Americans are reported to be the victims of abuse and neglect, according to the American Psychological Association.

The world has lost respect for the old; many societies now see their older generations as a burden. Due to strong family bonds and community culture, the situation may be better in a few Asian countries, but reliable data and statistics are not available about the actual plight of the elderly. The current Covid-19 pandemic has definitely worsened their plight and made them more susceptible to neglect. Many people are dying without proper care and treatment in the old-homes of Europe and America. Let us stand by our senior citizens, including those who are coronavirus patients, with all sincerity, dedication, and financial and material resources at our disposal.

Md Abdul Karim is a former civil servant and diplomat. He is currently Senior Adviser of BRAC Bangladesh and Chairman of IPDC Finance.



OBITUARY Dr Saadat Husain: a fearless, upright civil servant

Syed Naquib Muslim

R Saadat Husain, a career civil servant of Bangladesh, passed away on April 22 at United Hospital after suffering from meningitis and renal complications. Born in 1946 in Noakhali, he earned a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Dhaka before joining the Civil Service of Pakistan in 1970.

While working as a probationary officer in the former Narail subdivision, he joined the Liberation War in 1971 and directly contributed to wartime efforts. His book Muktijoddhader Din-Dinanto is an authentic chronicle of the events of 1971 and about the contributions made by freedom fighters in that region.

Dr Saadat assumed the prestigious office of Cabinet Secretary from 2002 to 2005. In this capacity, he took up the task of reorganising and rationalising the division of work and formulating a fresh manual of officers' job descriptions, all of which were in shambles before he took up the task of rectifying this. Later, he was appointed the ninth Chairman of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC), a constitutional body that he turned into a highly professional recruiting agency of the government; and most

importantly, he made it corruption-free. He was elementally a reformer; wherever he worked, he acted as an agent of change, bringing constructive changes in the public interest. Starting from his position as Registrar at the Department of Co-operatives up to Chairman of the PSC, he succeeded in making positive transformations from within and turning these institutions into dynamic, credible, and peoplefriendly ones.

After his retirement from the civil service, he was elected President of the Bangladesh Society for Training and Development (BSTD), which was created in 1980. He succeeded Sheikh Maqsood Ali, who was the founder-president of this society, and turned it into a seat of synergic union and collaboration between government organisations and NGOs for training officials and developing professionalism in their respective fields. Dr Saadat was noted for recruiting people for education and training purposes irrespective of caste, creed and political affiliation as President of BSTD, where he worked with zeal and commitment. He elevated this passive entity into a dynamic and popular human resources development centre, and under his enterprising and inspiring leadership, BSTD has

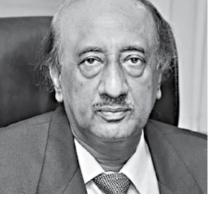


PHOTO: COLLECTED

been able to set up wide networks at the regional and global levels. He also headed two major public sector training institutes—the BCS (Admin) Academy and BARD, Comilla.

Dr Saadat was a vigilant and decisive supervisor, and at the same time, he was very supportive, friendly and protective of his junior colleagues, and he took his responsibility of instructing them with on-the-job training very seriously. As Cabinet Secretary, he intensively monitored the punctuality of the Deputy Commissioners (DC) of all 64 districts. When I was working as DC in Dhaka, he once phoned me at 8:55 am to check whether I was at

office and was very pleased to hear my voice; he believed in following the rules and doing the right thing—it was a way of life for him.

A committed educator and trainer, he believed every public servant must be ready to be a life-long learner and to share that learning with others to assume future leadership positions in the civil service. Wherever he worked, he displayed genuine professionalism as a leader and never practiced nepotism in inducting employees and trainees. As a guardian to junior colleagues, he used to provide unwavering support to those who faced undue harassment from disgruntled politicians. He was a fearless administrator, his courage blended with compassion, and it is a huge pity that some heads of public sector human resources centres showed a planned indifference towards him due to this perceived risk.

"Publish or perish" was his principle. In the civil service, there are many talkers but significantly few writers. Dr Saadat was one of these significant few. He was a prolific writer who produced a number of books and wrote many articles for newspapers, including The Daily Star, and regularly contributed columns in Kaler Kantho, a Bangla daily. His most recent publication

(2019) was Nichu Shorey Uchu Kotha, an anthology of 130 articles based on his own experiences. As an expert opinion frequently heard in the media, he earned a reputation as a straightforward and honest civil servant who was a spokesperson of the conscious, enlightened citizenry.

Father of one son and two daughters, he was very affectionate to his family members. A God-fearing person, he never used to miss his prayers five times a day, despite how much he worked. He was definitely a workaholic, and Dr Saadat was not careful about his own health. He did not enjoy respite for a single day after retirement from public service. He died in peace, without ever having been a source of pain to anyone. I'm reminded of the words of Elizabeth Kobler-Ross—"watching a peaceful death of a human being reminds us of a falling star; one of a million lights in a vast sky that flares up for a brief moment only to disappear into the endless night for ever.

He is no more among us, but his values and works will continue to inspire the present and future generations, and through this legacy, he will be remembered forever.

Dr Syed Naguib Muslim, PhD is a freelancer and retired Secretary to the Government of Bangla desh.

Of panic and pandemic The devastating psychology at play



EMEMBER that cruel, old joke about the bear and the two men-the one where upon being attacked, one of them, panicky, starts hurrying with the intention of

outrunning the grizzly carnivore, while the other, appearing more relaxed, says to the other, "I don't have to outrun the bear, just you"? This year we saw this twisted, insensitive joke play out in real life. Pictures of rows of empty supermarket shelves and gallows humour filled the internet because people were hoarding non-perishable essentials at the cost of denying others a chance, and that too at the onset of a

contagion is being labelled as divine retribution. It is not only our immune systems the virus has permeated and jeopardised, but also our jobs, communal life, education, dreamsyou name it. It has compelled societies to adopt new ways of operating as a trial run. Even before the pandemic, the world was inching towards digitisation but now after the outbreak, the process is almost getting cemented. There might be a shift in our working structures and that in itself is cause for more career anxiety among many.

The global arrangement of things, be it world politics or the interconnected web of trade and transnationalism,

their shoes next.

The only means of containing this outbreak or to "flatten the curve" for now is via mass lockdown, which, in turn, has sharpened the curves of unemployment, recession and homelessness. Since mass starvation is no longer a distant reality, it won't be long before we witness a rampant increase in theft and robbery. The only chance at respite from such horrorsbeing close to friends and loved oneshas also been lost for many. According to Anna Freud's famous study during World War II, the breakdown of relationships during a crisis is often the most jarring part. The increased

translational responsibilities-when Italy, the then hotbed of the virus, pleaded for medical assistance via the Emergency Response Coordination Centre from the other EU members, not a single country came forward, leaving Italy to its fate; two completely different scenarios of moral failure and yet a caricature of one another.

As the contagion rages on, another of its ugly manifestations is becoming more visible: a flaring xenophobia. It has been found that escalated fear during a pandemic distorts social attitude towards immigration as people become more tribalistic and conservative in nature. Studies surrounding the "Behavioural Immune System"—the psychological process of detecting an infected subject and preventing contact with it-show this is a "better safe than sorry" approach. Another interesting notion known as the "Parasite-stress Theory"—which explores how infectious diseases influence the psychology and sociology of humans—indicate the idea that foreigners who look different could have a different immune system and thus could be carriers of unfamiliar diseases. Or this racial discrimination could simply stem from sheer ignorance and deep-seated broad generalisations. The very name Covid-19 was chosen in a manner avoiding any sort of associations with geographical locations like in previous times-Ebola, Spanish flu (a misnomer in itself), or the Zika virus-to avoid social stigma. The need for WHO guidelines to remind us not to "attach the disease to any particular ethnicity or nationality" or to "be empathetic to all those who are affected, in and from any country" are a crude reminder that unlike the coronavirus which does not discriminate-based on ethnicity, skin colour, gender or economic status—we do.

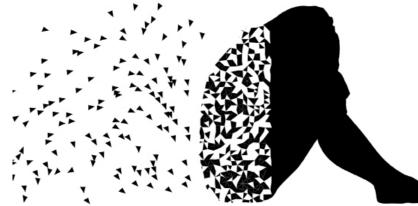
and traumatised. They get mentally exhausted despite not even getting much work done, which causes many to be laden with guilt for not achieving some sort of heroic quarantine productivity. Perhaps the situation has been best described by this woman in Pennsylvania—"I think of it like having a few large apps on my phone that are running and draining the battery, even when I'm not using them". We are repeatedly being forewarned by behavioural scientists about an unimaginable scale of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) cases that will result after the storm passes. And even though the world is holding its breath for a miraculous vaccine, its discovery is poised to be threatened by vaccine hesitancy. Our battle, it seems, has just begun.

This, however, is not about to end on a grave note because even though any semblance of normalcy is farfetched and even if we are trapped, we are not powerless. According to Dr Steven Taylor, author of The Psychology of Pandemics, we will witness a rise of altruism and so far, he has been correct. Countless are responding with generous acts, humans and establishments alike-debt standstills are being implemented all over, millions of donations are being made, people are checking up on loved ones and the appreciation for frontline workers has reached a never-beforeseen zenith. Never has there been such separation among humans which has prompted such solidarity. Never has there been such a synchronous global collaboration of the medical and scientific community for the salvation of humanity. One can only hope that the world leaders too will follow suit, that governments and citizens will unite and face this common, "biblical" enemy, head on and together. Despite this cataclysm we are going through right now, there is hope and we must outrageously hold onto that.

bandemic.

Panic-buying has been quite a recurring phenomenon throughout the history of pandemics—during the 1918 Spanish Flu, sales of Vicks VapoRub soared from 900,000 to almost 3 million within just a year and this time, curiously, it was toilet rolls. This bizarre reaction has (unfortunately) been deemed to be quite "human" by psychologists. When the illusion of control, otherwise maintained by our brain, shatters in a crisis mode, we do everything in our power to feel in charge again-stockpiling for instance. Other experts believe this behaviour to be a derivative of fear itself.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. The threat of such an aggressive outbreak can fall really heavy on the collective psyche of the entire human race. It can push the mind of the average person reeling towards a state of crippling anxiety, existential stress, depression and even suicidal tendencies—as attested by several grim reports showing a 30 percent increase in suicides among the elderly during the 2003 SARS epidemic. This time, tens of thousands of lives have already been lost, economies are kneecapped and so much more is at stake that the



has all been brought to a staggering halt, blow after blow. The contagion has ruthlessly laid bare the flaws in some of the alleged best healthcare systems. When the number of beds and ventilators available is outnumbered by the number of infected cases by a frightening margin, then fear and distrust of the government spreads faster than the virus itself. Thousands have not been able to give their loved ones a proper burial-the tremendous grief and sense of loss their minds are having to process might be difficult for others to register, and yet it hits so close to home because anyone could be in

PHOTO: COLLECTED

social isolation, economic downturn and uncertainty about the future are the perfect mixture to successfully brew a rise in alcohol consumption and drug abuse. The air is filled with not just traces of the virus, but a palpable frustration that is already wreaking havoc on relationships-reports of domestic violence are soaring amid this lockdown. In our very little country, there have been harrowing accounts of families cutting off one of their own, suspecting him/her to be carriers, and just leaving them in the throes of death. Even nations, married in union, have shamefully failed to uphold their

The pandemic in a digital world is causing a different kind of psychological war. People's attentional capacity is dominated by a deluge of news and misinformation related to the coronavirus, leaving them dissonant

Iqra L Qamari is a program associate at Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and a contributor to The Daily Star.

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COUNTRY

COVID-19 CRISIS

Jhenidah flower growers bear the brunt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ihenidah

10 The Baily Star

Hundreds of flower growers in Jhenidah are incurring losses because of transport disruption caused by Covid-19 shutdown.

They cannot sell flowers to different parts of the country due to lack of buyers and smooth inter-district transportation, said Kripangshu Shekhar Biswas, deputy director of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Jhenidah.

He said some 204 hectares of land in six upazilas of the district have been brought under flower cultivation this year.

Farmers said they fell in great trouble due to the ongoing countrywide shutdown. The flower markets in different areas have worn a deserted look since the first day of the shutdown. On the other hand, the blooming flowers do not last long. Finding no other alternative, many growers have destroyed their flower fields. Most of them have taken loans from different NGOs and banks and they now do not know how they will repay the loan and maintain their families

While visiting different areas, this correspondent found the growers plucking blooming flowers and throwing those out of the plot. If it is not plucked in time, the plants will die.

in Kaliganj upazila said he has cultivated country's economy.

marigold, tube roses (rajanigandha) and gladiolus on three bighas of land spending Tk 2 lakh this year. He sold the blooming flowers at Tk one lakh before the shutdown imposed to curb spread of the virus.

Schoolteacher Khalilur Rahman of Shahpur-Ghighati village in the upazila said he cultivated flowers on eight bighas of land at a cost of Tk 5 lakh.

"I started to collect the blooming flowers from the field but in the meantime, coronavirus spread to the country and due to this, the flower markets remain closed. I have taken loan from Sonali Bank. Now I don't know how I will repay the loan," said Khalilur.

Sabdul Sheikh of Baliadanga village said he has cultivated flowers on 17 decimals of land this year, but his hope has been shattered due to coronavirus outbreak. He has already damaged his flower gardens due to the ongoing shutdown.

Flower trader Daud Hossain of Ganna Bazar in Sadar upazila said the farmers are in great danger during the harvesting season. If this situation persists for a long time, their misery will know no bound.

The DAE official said as the farmers cannot sell the blooming flowers due to the ongoing countrywide shutdown, they are destroying their fields although this Anwar Hossain of Baliadanga village farming plays an important role in the



Jhenidah flower growers are incurring losses because of transport disruption caused by Covid-19 shutdown. Finding no other alternative, the farmers damage the garden in Kaliganj upazila of the district.

GD-769

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Covid-19 Lockdown Pumpkin growers upset as buyers scanty in Teesta sands of Lalmonirhat

Hailstorm adds to woe of vegetable farmers in Habiganj's Madhabpur UZ

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Pumpkin farmers in Lalmonirhat's Teesta char (land emerged from riverbed) areas and Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj are facing odds due to transport problem amid the outbreak of Covid-19

Our Lalmonirhat Correspondent reports: Kohinoor Begum, a farmer of Char Gobordhan in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila, harvested about 5,000 pumpkins from four bighas of sandy land in the dried-up bed of the Teesta River.

The 47-year-old woman had planned to build a new tin-shed house as she expected to get over Tk 2.5 lakh by selling the popular vegetable but the adverse situation due to coronavirus outbreak has ruined her hope.

In the third week of March, I sold pumpkin at Tk 10-12 per kg in the field but the price came down below half after the shutdown.

"A portion of my cultivation cost of Tk 75,000 was managed with loan taken from NGOs. I sold pumpkin worth only Tk 20,000 and facing problem with the rest due to lack of storage





দরপত্র দাখিল ও উনুক্তকরণের সময় বৃদ্ধি সংক্রান্ত পুনঃবিচ্চন্তি

আসবাবপত্র, কম্পিউটার সামগ্রী, মনিহারি সামগ্রী এবং ওয় ও ৪র্থ শ্রেণীর কর্মচারীগণের পোশাক ও আনুষঙ্গিক সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের নিমিন্ত 'দৈনিক বাংলাদেশ প্রতিদিন' ও দৈনিক 'দি ভেইলি স্টার' পত্রিকায় বিগত ১৫/০০/২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখে দরপত্র বিজ্ঞন্ধি প্রকাশিত হয়। সাম্প্রতিক সময়ে বহির্বিশ্বের পাশাপাশি বাংলাদেশেও করোনা ভাইরাস (কোভিড-১৯) এর সংক্রমণের কারণে গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বিভিন্ন ধাপে সাধারণ ছুটি ঘোষনা করে, যার সর্বশেষ মেয়াল ২৬/০৪/২০২০ খ্রিঃ হতে ০৫/০৫/২০২০ খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত (সাগ্রাহিক ছুটির দিন সহ)। কিন্তু জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড এর অফিস আদেশ (নথি নম্বর ৪ ০৮.০১.০০০০.০১১.০৯.০১৮.১৯-১৮৪, তাং- ২৭/০৪/২০২০ খ্রিঃ) এর প্রেক্ষিতে এ দণ্ডর জরুরী প্রয়োজনে খোলা রাখার সিদ্ধান্ত গৃহীত হয়। এমতাবস্থায়, আগামী ০৩/০৫/২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপর দলিল/শিডিউল বিরুয় করা হবে, ০৪/০৫/২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে এবং ০৪/০৫/২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র উন্মক্ত করা হবে।

গোলাম মোঃ মনীর কমিশনার (চঃ দাঃ) কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, সিলেট।

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার সহকারী পরিচালকের কার্যালয় ২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, পাবনা E-mail: pabna@hospi.dghs.gov.bd স্মারক নং- জেঃহাঃ/পাব/এমএসজার-দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি/১৯–২০/৯৫২

তারিখঃ ২০/০৪/২০২০ইং

facilities. Now I am worried about recovery of the capital and payment of the loan," she said.

Nazrul Islam, 62, of the same area spent Tk 90,000 on cultivating pumpkin on five bighas of land but he has to sell the harvested pumpkin below the production cost as there is hardly any



buyers from different places including Dhaka.

Farmer Khabir Uddin, 58, of Char Kalmati of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila said he is in trouble as there is no room in his house for storing thousands of pumpkins harvested from six bighas of char land.

Vegetable trader Quader Shamsul of Lalmonirhat town said he paid in advance to farmers for cultivating pumpkin in Teesta char but could not buy it for fair prices from them as

Despite good yield, Kohinoor Begum looks worried at her pumpkin field in Char Gobordhon under Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat as price of the popular vegetable saw drastic fall due to the shutdown amid the spread of Covid-19. *Below*, a pumpkin field ravaged by Thursday's hailstorm in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj. PHOTO: STAR

wholesale buyers from outside are not coming due to the coronavirus situation.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension in Lalmonirhat, around 5,000 farmers have cultivated pumpkin on more than 30,000 bighas of land in Teesta's sandy char areas in the district this year.

Aditmari Upazila Agriculture Officer Ali Noor told The Daily Star that the seeds and technical support were provided free of cost for cultivating pumpkin on the sandy ground of the Teesta and yields have been good.

"But the price fall due to coronavirus situation frustrates farmers. However, if they can carefully preserve the pumpkin in the house as per our suggestion, they are expected to get good prices when the situation becomes normal," he said.

Our Moulvibazar Correspondent adds: A hailstorm on Thursday destroyed vegetables including huge quantities of pumpkin in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj, adding to the woe of farmers, already affected due to the ongoing lockdown.

including pumpkin have been cultivated on 1,100 hectares of land in the upazila, mostly in Shahjahanpur, Bahra, Choumuhani, Dharghar, Adair, Chhatiain, Noapara, Baghasura, Bula and Jagdishpur areas.

But no one from outside is coming to buy vegetables during the outbreak of coronavirus, much to the worry of the cultivators of pumpkin and other vegetables.

"Despite low prices, I was selling my pumpkin in the local market as I was desperately trying to get back the capital. But Thursday's hailstorm dashed the hope," said Shahadat Mia, a vegetable farmer in the upazila.

Dilshad Mia of Dharghar area said he cultivated pumpkin with loan from an NGO but he is frustrated over the drop in sales of the produce due to the shutdown.

Upazila's agriculture officer Saiful Islam said, "Demand of pumpkin fell in the local markets due to lack of buyers from outside while most of the crops were destroyed by the hailstorm on Thursday. We will support the affected farmers if This season, different types of vegetables there is allocation from the government."



Farmers coming to sell a variety of vegetables at Boro Bazar in Nilphamari see only a few local customers as there is hardly any buyer from other areas including capital Dhaka during the countrywide shutdown imposed to contain the spread of Covid-19. The adverse situation has led to drastic price fall of the vegetables, much to the worry of growers dependent on the sale of the agricultural produces for livelihood.

PHOTO: EAM ASADUZZAMAN

২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, পাবনার জন্য ২০১৯-২০ইং অর্থ বছরের জন্য এমএসআর সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের জন্য পিপিএ ২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর ২০০৮ (সংশোধনী) অনুযায়ী প্রকত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন ১ম শ্রেণীর Courses a management of shares from the stree of

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0	দরণরের প্রকৃতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র হিসাবে গণ্য হইবে।
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٩	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রব তারিখ	য়র বিজ্ঞস্তি প্রকাশের পর হইতে আগামী ১৭/০৫/২০২০ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রতিদিন বেলা ২,৩০টা পর্যন্ত।
Ъ	দরণাত্র দলিল বিত্রাব্রকু অফিসের নাম	হাসতাপাল, পাৰনা।
¢	দরপর গ্রহণের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পর হইতে আগামী ১৮/০৫/২০২০ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত প্রতিদিন সকাল ৯.০০টা হইতে বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ২৫০ শন্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, পাবনা কার্যালয়ে সহকারী পরিচালকের অফিস কক্ষে স্থাপিত দরপত্র গ্রহণ বাল্পে এবং পুলিশ সুপার, পাবনা কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাল্পে ত্রধুমাত্র আগামী ১৮/০৫/২০২০ইং তারিখ সকাল ১০টা হইতে বেলা ১২টা পর্যন্ত প্রকার গ্রহণ করা হইবে চাহিদাকৃত নমুনা (যাহা দরপত্র দলিলে উল্লেখ থাকিবে) নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয়ে জমা দিতে হইবে
20	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ	আগামী ১৮/০৫/২০২০ইং তারিখ বেলা ১.০০ ঘটিকায় ২৫০ শব্য বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, পাবনা কার্যালয়ে বোর্ড কর্তৃক দরপত্রদাতাগগের সন্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকে) দরপত্র বাক্স খোলা হইবে। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ ঐ দিন দরপত্র খোলা সম্ভব না হইলে পরের দিন (কর্ম দিবসে) বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকায় খোলা হইবে।
22	গ্রুপ ভিস্তিক দরপত্রের	
		দরপত্রের মূল্য (অক্ষেরতযোগ্য) জামানতের পরিমান (ফেরতযোগ্য)
(夺)	ঔষধপত্র	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা মাত্র) ২,০০,০০০/- (দুই লক্ষ টাকা মাত্র)
(*)	লিলেন	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা মাত্র) ৩০,০০০/- (ত্রিশ হাজার টাকা মাত্র)
(P)	সার্জিক্যাল যন্ত্রপাঠি	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা মাত্র) ১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ টাকা মাত্র)
(ম)	গজ, ব্যাকেজ, কটন	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা মাত্র) ৫০,০০০/- (পঞ্চাশ হাজার টাকা মাত্র)
(8)	ক্যামিকেল রি-এজেন্ট	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা মাত্র) ৬০,০০০/- (ঘাট হাজার টাকা মাত্র)
(5)	আসবাৰপত্ৰ	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা মাত্র) ৩০,০০০/- (ত্রিশ হাজার টাকা মাত্র)
22		র্থ কোড নং- ১-২৭১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ এ চালানের মাধ্যমে সোনালী ব্যাংক গানের মূলকণি ও নিজস্ব লেটারহেড প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে দরপর দলিল
20		াতিরেকেই যে কোন দরপত্র আংশিক/সম্পূর্ণ বাতিল/গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ গমিটির সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ এই দরপত্রের র্ধন করা যাইবে।
28	অনুযাক্ষর থাকিতে হই	
24	যে সমন্ত সামগ্রীর এস হইতে হইবে।	পি ও অন্যান্য সামগ্রীর ক্ষেৱে এসআর মৃল্যের উর্জে দর দাখিল করা যাইবে না আর দর নাই সেঙলির দেয়দর সংগৃহিত স্থানীয় বাজার দরের সাথে সংগতিপূর্ণ
20		দেরপর এর প্রশাসনিক অনুমোদন স্বাপেক্ষে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হইবে এবং মঞ্জুরী স্বাপেক্ষে বিল পরিশোধ করা হইবে। সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক বিল হতে করা হইবে।
٩٤	দরগক্রের যাবতীয় শর্ত	াবলী/দাখিলের নিয়মাবলী দরপত্র দলিলে উল্লেখ থাকিবে।
		ডাঃ মোঃ আবুল হোসেন সহকারী পরিচালক

e-mail: sports@thedailystar.net DHAKA WEDNESDAY APRIL 29, 2020, BAISHAKH 16, 1427 BS

Tsitsipas' birthday prank on Kyrgios

Stefanos Tsitsipas sent Nick Kyrgios an unwelcome gift through Instagram on Monday. The sixth-ranked Greek posted a picture of himself standing outside and holding up a home-made cardboard sign with a phone number and the words "call me" scrawled on it. Fans who excitedly rang it thinking it was the Greek star's number, found that the phone was turned off and quickly worked out that the number was Australian and linked to Kyrgios, who was celebrating his 25th birthday. That was confirmed when Kyrgios himself replied. "You are an absolute i****", using stars for the last four letters and a series of laughing



'An opportunity to strengthen our knowledge base'

While the coronavirus pandemic has put sports around the world in a state of cryo-sleep, it has become the duty of the individual sportsman to keep both their mind and body from falling away during this difficult time. Cricket, like all other major sports in the country has also come under the thumb of the virus that has caused the world to come to a standstill. During a two-part interview with The Daily Star, Nazmul Abedin Fahim, a brilliant cricketing mind and a mentor to many renowned cricketers in the country, talked about the self-improvement opportunities that lay in front of the players even in these uncertain times.

Abdullah Al Mehdi



National stars like Shakib Al Hasan or Tamim Iqbal found Fahim by their side whenever they needed a technical intervention during their career. Fahim

said that the current situation was a 'huge setback for everybody'. "Especially for those who earn their income from the Premier League, will suffer mentally," he added.

But he was also keen to look at the positive aspect in order to make the best of the current situation. The opportunity for everyone, not just cricketers, is to realign and reset themselves.

"Naturally the negative aspects take centre stage in such a scenario but if there is a positive, it's that those of us who are involved with cricket, be it coaching, as a trainer, physio or a player, it gives us a chance to organise ourselves during this break," he said.

The likes of Mushfigur Rahim and Mahmudullah Riyad are quite regularly seen training at home in Facebook videos during the ongoing shutdown. Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) has also sent the players fitness maintenance programmess. Fahim opined that now was the time for the players to get creative with their training. Personal structuralizing would help individual cricketers learn something about themselves and that, according to Fahim, would improve the 'knowledge



there were other opportunities.

"The cricketers usually leave aspects of training to the trainers or the physios but now they are looking at ways of base'. He would prioritise fitness but keeping themselves fit. The technical

side and tactical side too. Now they are looking at how they can do their drills and looking at how they can practise with the means they have. This creates an opportunity to get creative. Maybe

some are studying on various things, others may be asking various people for advice on what to accomplish. So, the knowledge base will improve a bit. If someone is not taking this opportunity, they should be doing that," he said. Even without matches to play and gain experience from, Fahim suggested other means to get creative with working out match scenarios.

"There are old matches to be seen on Youtube, TV or something else and they will have the opportunity now to see those matches. They can review situations and think of what they would have done in particular situations and how they can apply themselves when the opportunity arrives to play once more after the break.

"These are the things we can do to salvage things and get the most out of the situation.

"So, there are lots of things to improve fitness wise and tactically. Plus, studying and consulting with others will be important. As I said, it's about strengthening the knowledge base and in that regard, there is an opportunity to emphasise upon those things," he said. For Fahim, while the 'lack of competitiveness' due to absence of sports is going to affect the players, the

biggest setback was the young players not getting a chance to prove themselves. "Either at the U-19 level, or the Dhaka Premier League or others, there were a few boys who would shine every season.

Without competition, they lost the chance to test themselves and it's a loss for them and also for our cricket," he said. (Part two of this interview, due tomorrow, delves into the current

standards of the country's cricketing structure and what must improve).

Rafa thrills in virtual Madrid

REUTERS

Claycourt king Rafa Nadal suffered a fake injury, several players 'froze' and one match vanished into thin air as the Virtual Madrid Open made its debut on Monday.

With professional tennis tours closed down until mid July because of the coronavirus pandemic, an esports version of the event is being staged online.

Thirty two of the world's best players have swapped their rackets for Playstation controllers, courts for sofas, to contest the fourday event designed to offer players, and fans, some action during the lockdown.

Nadal claimed he was a computer game novice during an Instagram chat with Andy Murray last week, but the Spaniard showed impressive fingerwork to beat young Canadian Denis Shapovalov in his opening round-robin match on digital representation а of the Spanish capital's

Manolo Santana Stadium. Things did not start very well, however, with Nadal and Shapovalov, shown in small screens below the game action being broadcast live on Facebook Gaming, sitting frustrated as their computer characters were left bobbing around on the baseline as the game

appeared to malfunction. Andy Murray, tipped a favourite, got into the spirit of things -- grunting loudly after every 'virtual' shot as he beat Frenchman Benoit Paire.

Teigaon, Dhaka

Shuttlers stand by farmers

Argentina's Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh season over Office of the Director National Institute of ENT AFP, Buenos Aires Tejgaon, Dhaka The Argentine football Memo No. NIENT/Admin/Tender (MSR)/2019-2020/492 Date: 28/04/2020



Badminton player Mohammad Ammar and others helped farmers harvest paddy in the haor of Sunamganj.

SPORTS REPORTER



In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, stars from various sporting disciplines have come forward to help the needy people, who have been struggling to manage

their daily meals due to the nationwide lockdown.

Now a group of badminton players have come forward with a slightly different initiative by providing physical labour on paddy grounds in Sylhet, harvesting paddy from the haor area of Sunamganj.

Thousands of farmers in haor areas are worried about timely harvesting of boro paddy due to a shortage of labourer due to the coronavirus pandemic. The situation has been made worse by the probability of advanced flooding.

"Under the banner of 'badminton players in service of mankind', we have already provided 15-days' food and medicine among 100 Bede families in Sunamganj and also distributed food among 200 families in Moulvibazar and Jashore.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

"We have raised a fund with help from shuttlers, coaches, umpires, expatriates and general people. We are also helping shuttlers and umpires," Mohammad Ammar, who played in the national badminton championship for Sunamganj, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"In an effort to help people in the coronavirus pandemic and due to the prediction of advanced flooding in hoar area, we, some 15 shuttlers, went to help the farmers in Dekhar haor and harvested paddy in nearly 4 to 5 bighas," Ammar said.

association will put an end to the 2019-20 season which has been interrupted since mid-March due to the coronavirus pandemic, its president Claudio Tapia said on Monday.

"We are going to end the tournaments so we can designate the teams qualified for continental competitions next year," Tapia said.

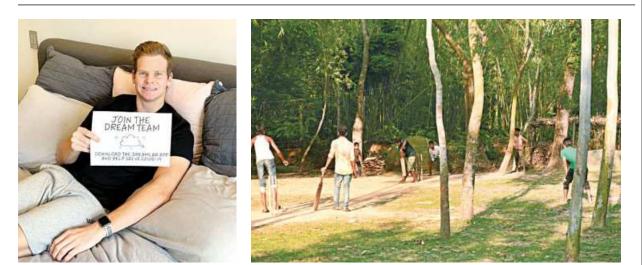
The Argentine FA also said there will be no relegation this season or next due to the disruption caused by the health crisis. Gimnasia, the club

coached by Diego Maradona, will remain in the top division as a result. Relegation is calculated by a complicated system of points taken over a threeyear period.

Boca Juniors won the league championship with a 1-0 victory over Gimnasia on the final day at the start of March.

The Copa Superliga, a 24-team tournament scheduled to finish with a play-off at the end of May, has been scrapped after just one round of games. Argentina has been in lockdown since March 20.

GD-773



While athletes from around the globe, like Australia's star cricketer Steven Smith, are coming forward to help the global fight against the coronavirus pandemic being confined indoors, thousands of miles away from Smith's home, youths and cricket enthusiasts like the ones seen at the Gandogram village under Bogura Shajahanpur Upazila cannot keep themselves away from sports. PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ/INSTAGRAM

Invitation for Re-Tender

1.	Ministry/Di	vision	Minist	ry of Health and Farr	ily Welfare.				
2.	Agency			tment of Health Serv					
3.		entity name		or, National Institute					
4.		entity district	Dhaka	a.					
5.	Invitation fr		Procu	rement of Goods (MS	SR).				
6.	Invitation F	Ref No.		T/Admin/Tender(MSF					
7.	Date		28/04						
8.	Procureme	ant method	Open	Tendering Method (OTM).				
FUN	DING INFOR	MATION							
9.		d source of funds	GOB	(Revenue).					
PAR	TICULAR IN	FORMATION							
10.	Organizati	on code	12702	08					
11.	Organizati		Nation	nal Institute of ENT, 1	eigeon, Dhaka-120	8.			
12.		blication date	29/04						
13.		t selling date and	time 09/05	2020 during office h	ours.				
		2	Date	0		Time			
14.	Tender clo	sing date and tim	e 10/05	2020		11.00am			
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The Baily Star







GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES World's Largest VRM



PSC finalises recruitment of 2,000 docs, 5,000 nurses SHARIFUL HASAN

Bangladesh Public Service Commission yesterday finalised its recommendation to recruit 2,000 doctors and 5,000 nurses to tackle the coronavirus crisis.

The doctors will be recruited from the waiting list of the 39th BCS while the nurses will be recruited from the waiting list of senior staff nurse recruitment examinations held in 2018.

The recommendation was finalised at a meeting of the Public Service Commission (PSC). SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



A man sells iftar items at a shop on North South Road in the capital yesterday. Amid the countrywide shutdown, the authorities yesterday allowed restaurants to sell takeaway iftar items maintaining social distancing. Many shops were seen giving hand sanitizers to customers.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

CROs vehicles of corruption

Slams Zafrullah; says local bodies can validate Gonoshasthaya's test kits Porimol Palma

Gonoshasthaya Kendra Founder and Trustee Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury has made it clear that they are not going to submit their rapid test kits to the drug administration through any contract research organisation (CRO).

"CROs are a vehicle of corruption. It also means a rise in the cost of the test kit, which goes against public interest," he told The Daily Star yesterday, amid a row between the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) and SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

WHO warns on supply disruption

Seeks more flight capacity to step up shipment of protective equipment; cases top 3m

The World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday appealed for more flight capacity to step up shipments of diagnostic tests and protective equipment to areas where Covid-19 is spreading, especially Latin America.

Paul Molinaro, chief of WHO operations support and logistics, said global vaccine shipments were disrupted in April and if this continued into May there would be gaps in routine immunisations and campaigns against other disease outbreaks.

The UN's World Food Programme has reported the first disruptions in some food supply chains that "could bite deep", he said.

"We saw the international air transport system on which we are quite SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



April 29, 1972

Shamsuddoza Sajen

FOREIGN TROOPS SHOULD QUIT VIETNAM:

BANGABANDHU Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today says in Dhaka that foreign troops should be withdrawn immediately from the soil of Vietnam. Talking to BSS, the prime minister says that the people of Vietnam SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Ministerial delegations on water, power and irrigation from India and Bangladesh call on Bangabandhu at Gonobhaban on April 29, 1972.



SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

DAM

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN APRIL SEHRI IFTAR

6:30

জিভি-৭৬৬

4.00 6:30

MAY 1 3:59 6:31

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এতদ্বারা রাজউকের আওতাধীন এলাকার সংখ্রিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, আসর বর্ষা মৌসুমের ওরুতেই এডিস মশার বংশ বিস্তারের সম্ভাবনা দেখা যাচ্ছে। ফুলের টব, টায়ার, ভাবের খোসা, প্রাস্টিকের খালি বোতল, নির্মিত/নির্মাণাধীন তবনের ছাদে জমে থাকা পানি ইত্যাদি কারণে এডিস মশার বংশ বিস্তার ঘটে। এডিস মশার বংশ বিস্তারের কারণে ডেন্থু ও চিকুনগুনিয়া রোগের প্রামুর্ভাব রোধকল্লেঃ

- ক) নির্মাণাধীন ভবনের কিউরিং চলাকালীন সময়ে পানি জমিয়ে না রেখে ২(দুই) দিন পরপর পানি পরিবর্তন করুন;
- খ) নির্মিত/নির্মাণাধীন ভবন এবং এর আশেপাশের চৌবাচ্চার পানি পরিবর্তন করুন;
- গ) সরকারি ব্যবস্থাপনায়/ডেভেলপার/সমবায়/মালিক কর্তৃক নির্মিত/নির্মাণাধীন ভবনের ভিতরে ও বাহিরে সব সময় পরিষ্কার পরিষ্ঠন রাখুন;

সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্তৃপক্ষ পরিদর্শনকালে ব্যত্যয়/ব্যতিক্রম পরিলক্ষিত হলে আইন অনুযায়ী ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

> প্রকৌশলী মোঃ মোবারক হোসেন পরিচালক (উন্নয়ন নিয়ন্ত্রণ-১) (চঃ দাঃ) রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ, ঢাকা

bKash would like to pay its tribute to late National Professor Dr. Jamilur Reza Choudhury, who has been an inspiration for his tremendous contribution to the infrastructural development of Bangladesh as well as shaping the minds of the young generations.

He was an Independent Member of bKash's Board in its formative years and provided invaluable guidance.

National Professor Dr. Jamilur Reza Choudhury (1943 – 2020)





অববাটামোগত উদ্রাচন দেশকে যিনি নিয়ে গেছেন এক অনন্য উদ্ধান্তরে প্রছাডারন রাজীয় অধ্যাপক, সাবেক তত্ত্বাবধায়ক সরকারের উপনেষ্টা ও দেশবরেশা শিক্ষাবিদ, গবেষক, বিজ্ঞানী ও গ্রকৌপলী জনাব জানিপুর রেজা চৌধুরীর চিরপ্লস্থানে র্ডাকে অরণ করছি বিন্যা সছয়ে।

আমরা ক্রাঁর বিসেহী আত্মার মাণফেরাত ও শান্তি কামনা করছি এবং শোকসন্তর পরিবারের ক্রাঁজ গভীয় সমলেননা প্রকাশ করছি।





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