

Ensure workplace

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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 sanitation, 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

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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.

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 ready-made 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 yesterday 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 Sherman, Ashikur, Ershad And Polish, 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

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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

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anchor of SATV Khoj, and Sajal Bhuiyan, 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.

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

PSC finalises recruitment of 2,000 docs

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

"Recruitment circulars, re-examinations 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

August 3 of that year. A total of 37,538 candidates took part in the exams where 13,570 doctors passed the test.

Of them, 8,360 passed in the viva. The PSC recommended 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 midwives under the Directorate of

Services of the Ministry of Health and 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 impetus to fight the crisis.

CROs vehicles of corruption

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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."

Gonoshasthaya Kendra scientists developed the Rapid Dot Blot, which can test for both antibody that grows in the body of an infected person as well as antigen.

When a Gonoshasthaya Kendra team went to the DGDA on April 26, its director general Maj Gen Dr Mahbubur Rahman asked them to go through the CROs. He explained

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 large-scale 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 said if Gonoshasthaya Kendra applies through proper channel, which means through CROs, it will conduct validation for future use if WHO recommends.

Zafrullah said it is very unfortunate that the government has decided not to go for rapid tests. Some countries have rejected rapid test kits imported from some companies in China, but many of the countries are using these

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 daily mail reported.

"We can guarantee our kit is close to those of RT-PCR. Most importantly, the low-cost kit can save thousands of lives," he said.

Asked about health ministry's statement that nowhere in the 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 than 90 percent."

WHO warns on supply disruption

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dependent for movement of cargo gradually shut down. So we are at the point now where we need to look for solutions to this," Molinaro told a UN virtual news briefing in Geneva.

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

distributed via a Dubai hub, he said, adding that other states had made air assets available.

"On commercial aircraft, we are always willing to take more offers. We appeal constantly for more offers of assets, or extremely discounted air cargo," Molinaro said.

Demand has skyrocketed

during the coronavirus crisis but the Geneva-based WHO has managed to acquire and distribute 1.1 million diagnostic tests, with a further 1.5 million on the way, he said. The WHO had benefited from some preferential pricing and aimed to secure 9 million tests through consortia.

Some 3.03 million people have been reported to be infected by the novel coronavirus pandemic globally and 211,326 have died, according to the latest Reuters tally.

Panama will serve as a hub for regional distribution of personal protective equipment and other supplies in Latin America, after delays due to distance and other issues, he said.

"We are aware that (there were) difficulties of supplying Latin America in the beginning, and at the time the caseload wasn't high and we were concentrating on other areas," Molinaro said.

"Certainly the situation

has changed and we are in the process of now planning that the next acquisitions and batch volumes we get at least in PPE (personal protective equipment) will be making their way in that direction, and within the plan for tests there will be allocation there also."

LOCKDOWN EXIT Countries are beginning to chart their path out of shutdowns imposed to stem the spread of the deadly disease.

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe told parliament yesterday that France will not end its nationwide lockdown unless the number of new cases of infection drops below 3,000 per day.

Hundreds

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to the spot and convinced them to leave the highway with an assurance of immediate relief distribution, said KM Abu, revenue deputy 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.

They also demanded 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.

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.

Office of the Executive Engineer
Department of Public Health Engineering
Mymensingh Division, Mymensingh

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

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 Ishwarganj Pourashava Project/VWSP.
4	e-Tender IDs	456183, 456184/456187/456374, 456375
5	Description of works	1. Construction of Boundary Wall and Roof above staircase at Chollishbari Colony Compound of DPHE, Mymensingh. 2. Construction of Boundary Wall at Gazziabari compound of DPHE, Mymensingh. 3. Supply of Computers, Printers, Scanners & Peripherals etc. 4. Installation of 50 Nos. Shallow Tara Tube Well (Extractable) with # 6. Hand Pump under VWSP of DPHE, Mymensingh. 5. 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, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. Interested persons/firms can see details in the website: www.eprocure.gov.bd	

Muhammad Samiul Hoque
Executive Engineer, DPHE
Mymensingh Division, Mymensingh

GD-772

Prime ministers will decide water-sharing

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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 for mutual benefit.

Dismissing 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 also been discussed. Meteorological data will be exchanged between the two countries.

The question of sharing

the water of Ganges, Teesta and other 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

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
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Road Division, Kurigram.
Phone: 0581-61658, Fax: 0581-62685
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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 gp & 18 th gp km of Ulipur-Bajra-Chalmari 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](#))

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GD-770