



Obstacles they scale to serve

Ambulance drivers, owners asked to vacate rented homes, denied food at eateries

TUHIN SHUBHIRA ADHIKARY

It all changed after his father passed away.

Mehedi Hasan Rasel, after graduating from a leading public university, had joined a private job and earned a handsome salary.

But in 2016, when his father had a heart attack, he was unable to take his father from Savar to a better hospital in Dhaka due to a lack of ambulances. His father ultimately died.

"I then started an ambulance business. No one should lose their loved ones for the want of an ambulance. However, I am now having to face harassment for running this business," said Rasel.

After the Covid-19 outbreak, his landlord has been putting pressure on him to leave the house only because he runs the business and has to drive or carry patients during emergencies.

"My wife is a doctor. We have four children. We are very aware of safety and take precaution accordingly, yet we are being continuously harassed. Most days, he [the landlord] locks the gate before I come home and I have to sneak into the building," he said.

Rasel, proprietor Raha Ambulance Service, owns two ambulances; he provides one to Savar Upazila Health Complex to carry Covid-19 patients at a nominal charge, and operates the other ambulance with a partner.

According to Rasel, the only reason his landlord could not drive him

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Mental health in the time of Covid-19

ARIFA JAHAN EMA

I received a text message from a friend last night saying, "I feel so down that if I could sleep for 24 hours, I would! These are not normal days! Sleeping is now the only escape from reality!"

The text message rocked me to the core. I rang my friend right away, and we reminisced on some happy memories, which left both of us in a good mood. Instead of panicking, we went back to our scheduled work. Starting a day in such lousy mood is not very uncommon in the aftermath of the outbreak of novel coronavirus.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Rishi Kapoor passes away

AFP, Mumbai

Bollywood mourned a second loss in as many days as celebrated actor Rishi Kapoor, whose career spanned half a century, died yesterday aged 67 after a prolonged struggle with cancer.

His death came as a severe blow to the Hindi movie industry and film lovers, who were already reeling from the passing Wednesday of Irrfan Khan, one of the country's most feted actors, aged 53.

"Our dear Rishi Kapoor passed away peacefully..."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Pay rise for low-income employees and workers



Bangabandhu addressing the nation over radio on May 1, 1972.

May 1, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU'S MAY DAY SPEECH Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today speaks to the nation on the occasion of the historic May Day. He declares that the salaries of low-income employees and workers will be raised. Under this new scheme, all employees and workers of government, semi-government and statutory institutions and industries whose income is below Tk 349 will receive economic aid. The government will reform the payment structure to reduce income inequality, he informs.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Noab wants stimulus for newspaper industry

BSS, Dhaka

Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) yesterday demanded a stimulus package from the government for newspapers, hawkers, workers and agents to offset the coronavirus impact.

It also demanded bank loans for newspapers and requested the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

CAAB mulls limited flights from next week

RASHIDUL HASAN

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) is working to resume operations of domestic and international flights on a limited scale after May 8 if the coronavirus situation improves or remains steady by then.

It was also preparing a set of guidelines for air operators, airports authorities and passengers to ensure health safety of travelers and others concerned, CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We are preparing to resume flight operations after May 8 if the coronavirus situation improves by then. But we will open airport operations partially."

He said they would permit local and foreign airlines to operate flights

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Hopes rise in virus battle

US scientists hail remdesivir drug trial as S Korea reports no new cases for the first time

AFP, Seoul

South Korea, once one of the hardest-hit countries in the coronavirus pandemic, reported no new cases yesterday, boosting hopes of an eventual return to normality as US scientists hailed the results of a major drug trial.

The good medical news caused equities to rally, despite mounting deaths worldwide and abysmal economic figures caused by the Covid-19 crisis.

Data showed the pandemic, which has killed more than 227,000 people, has plunged the United States into its worst economic slump in a decade, and has left Germany expecting its biggest recession since the aftermath of World War II.

But for the first time since the new disease was detected there in mid-February, South Korea reported zero new infections.

The East Asian nation had the world's second-largest coronavirus outbreak for a period after the virus emerged in China late last year.

But with an aggressive test-and-trace strategy and widespread social distancing, it has managed to bring the spread of the pathogen under control.

"This is the strength of South Korea and its people," said President Moon Jae-in as he announced the milestone.

Meanwhile in the first proof of successful treatment, a clinical trial of the drug remdesivir showed that patients recovered

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING MAY 1

Fazr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
3:59	12:30	4:45	6:31	8:00
4:09	1:15	5:00	6:41	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MAY	SEHRI	IFTAR
7	1	6:31	
8	2	3:58	6:31
9	3	3:57	6:32



An Indian paradise flycatcher (male) perched on a twig in Bogura's Gandagram village on April 24. The passerine bird with its distinctive elongated tail feathers feasts on insects.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

কোভিড-১৯ থেকে বাঁচতে হলে ঘরেই থাকি, সুস্থ থাকি

- করোনায় সারা বিশ্ব আজ বিপর্যস্ত।
- মানুষ বাসা-বাড়ি থেকে বের না হলে সংক্রমণের ঝুঁকি বহুলাংশে কমে যায়।
- মনে রাখবেন, অসাধারণতায় যে কেউ যে কোন সময় করোনা ভাইরাসে আক্রান্ত হতে পারে।

কাজেই ঘরেই থাকুন সুস্থ থাকুন

- একান্ত প্রয়োজনে বাইরে গেলে অবশ্যই মাস্ক পড়ুন।
- স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সব স্বাস্থ্যবিধি অবশ্যই মেনে চলুন।
- বারবার সাবান পানি দিয়ে কমপক্ষে ২০ সেকেন্ড হাত ধোবেন। অপরিচ্ছন্ন হাত দিয়ে মুখ, নাক ও চোখ ছোবেন না।
- নিয়মিত কুসুম গরম পানি, আদা চা এবং গরম স্যুপ পান করুন। সবণ মিশ্রিত কুসুম গরম পানি দিয়ে দিনে ৩-৪ বার গড়গড়া করুন, নাকে মুখে গরম পানির ভাপ নিন।
- জ্বর, সর্দি, কাশি, গলা ব্যথা হলে বাড়িতেই আলাদা থেকে চিকিৎসা নিন। প্রয়োজনে করোনা বিষয়ক হটলাইনগুলোতে ফোন করুনঃ ১৬২৬৩; ৩৩৩; ১০৬৫৫; ০১৯৪৪৩৩৩২২২ অথবা নিকটস্থ স্বাস্থ্যকর্মী বা হাসপাতালে যোগাযোগ করুন।

মনে রাখবেন আপনার সুরক্ষা আপনারই হাতে

স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর

স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়