

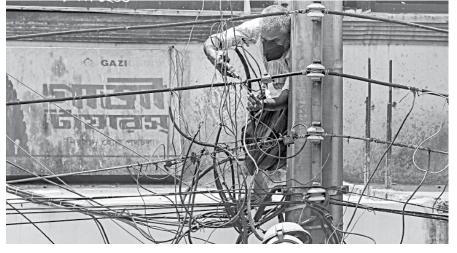
RU teacher Mahabubur Rahman passes away

RU CORRESPONDENT

Dr Mahabubur Rahman Rasel, an associate professor of mass communication and journalism at Rajshahi University (RU), passed away on Monday night, at the age of 36.

He died at a private hospital while undergoing treatment around 3am. On September 21 last year, he was admitted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University due to brain haemorrhage and was under treatment there for a long time.

Dr Rasel was born in Noakhali. He joined RU as a lecturer in 2009. He left behind his wife, daughter, friends and a host of students and well-wishers to mourn him.



With no safety gear on whatsoever, a middle-aged man is precariaously perched on the edge of a building, and hunches forward to connect wires on an electric pole in port city's Kadamtali area. This photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Primary students'

fulfilling these criteria got Tk 100 per month, as a single beneficiary of a family. Similarly, two children from the same family received Tk 200 per month, whereas in case of three and four children, the stipend was Tk 250 and Tk 300 per month, respectively.

Now, each will receive Tk 150. Two children from the same family will get Tk 300, and three and four children will receive Tk 400 and Tk 500, respectively.

The government will require around Tk 1,800 crore to disburse the new increased stipends and another Tk 1,000 crore for providing money for school supplies for this year and 2021.

Officials said the project aimed at increasing enrolment and attendance and reduce dropouts among primary students.

PESP was initiated in 2002. Initially, the project covered 40 per cent of total primary students and was subsequently raised to 70 per cent in 2008. Later in 2016, it was universalised, covering all students.

Md Shamsuddin Masud -- member secretary of Bangladesh Prathamik Shikkhok Oikya Parishad, an alliance of 14 organisations of primary school teachers said it is good news for all primary students, especially for those coming from poor families of rural areas.

"Each student will roughly get at least Tk 2,200 if all instalments are cleared. Amid the coronavirus crisis, this will be a great help," he said.

*Students will be overjoyed to get their uniforms and school bags, as many cannot afford them on their own," he added.

17 'JMB men'

FROM PAGE 3 On January 25, four Bangladesh Agricultural University students --Mizanur Rahman, Al Amin, Fahim Hasan Khan and Abdul Momen -- left the country for Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah, but never returned.

Police found communication details between the "missing" students and Mostaq. Besides, seven others -- Saad, Kawsar, Sharif, Tofazzal, Giasuddin, Ali Azam and Rashed -- also managed to leave the country and went to Saudi Arabia to join the socalled army, claimed CTTC officials.

One of the arrestees - Jamirul Islam -- is also a student of the university, they added. A case was filed against the 17 arrestees with Ramna Police Station

Saiful islam, deputy commissioner of CTTC, said there were 19 of them, and they are looking for the other two members.

"Also, we're yet to find out which group Mostaq belonged to but his activities match with that of JMB's. We are now keeping a close eye on his actions and have informed the Saudi government to get more details about him," he said.

The long wait

Contacted, SM Nazer Hossain, central vice president of Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), said testing facilities should be increased in Chattogram immediately to reduce the sufferings of patients.

"We have heard a testing centre is opening in CMC but we do not know when it will begin its operations," Nazer Hossain said.

Prof Shamim Hasan, Contacted, principal of CMC, said they expected to begin testing on Wednesday, but an unexpected technical glitch in their newly installed PCR machine delayed the whole

"We hope to fix the technical problem soon and begin testing," he said, adding, "Around a 100 tests can be carried out per day here.'

Meanwhile, CVASU sent a PCR machine to CMCH yesterday, which is being installed now. CMCH sources said they expect to begin testing with this machine

Sale of

tests take only 15-20 minutes to produce results whereas RT-PCR tests take at least four hours.

WHO guidelines say RDTs do not detect the virus directly. It rather detects antigen or antibody generated in the human body in response to an infection.

However, antibodies are produced over days to weeks after the virus is contracted. So, if a person takes the test before that period, the results can show the person is not infected. Thus both false negative and false positive results can be generated.

The newly formed "media cell" of the health ministry said any kit without government approval would not acceptable for testing coronavirus.

"No coronavirus testing kit without government's approval will be accepted," said Habibur Rahman Khan, additional secretary to the Health Services Division and also the convener of the media cell, adding that coronavirus test is being conducted under government arrangement only with approved kits following the instructions of the WHO.

The government is working as per the WHO directives over rapid testing kits, he

Questions arise how these unauthorised testing kits have been imported to the country without knowledge of any government bodies and have become

available on online market for sell. DGDA said self-initiated purchase of these kits is not allowed.

"They are doing the business illegally. We didn't give them approval to import those. The government didn't allow any such rapid testing in the country," DGDA Director General Maj Gen Md Mahbubur Rahman told The Daily Star recently.

"When any such product is being imported into the country, they have to take our NOC (No Objection Certificate) first. Otherwise, it's illegal," he said.

The DGDA chief said their team will work alongside law enforcers to take action against these sellers.

Ducsu honours Bangabandhu

gratitude the great help and assistance advanced by the people and the governments of India and the Soviet Union to the people of Bangladesh during the grim period of the Liberation War. Bangladesh will never forget these friends, he

KRISHAK SAMITY LEADERS CALL ON BANGABANDHU

A delegation of Krishak Samity, headed by Comrade Moni Singh, calls on Bangabandhu today at his official residence. They inform the prime minister about various demands of the peasants and discuss how those can be addressed. Bangabandhu assures them of taking immediate action to resolve those issues

CABINET MEETS

The Cabinet today meets for three hours. The cabinet meeting presided over by Bangabandhu is reported to have discussed the matters relating to the food situation, relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction

LOAN FOR PUCCA HOUSE IN **RURAL AREAS**

National housing finance authority has taken an initiative to provide long-term loans for building pucca houses in rural areas. Previously, the organisation used to finance urban housing projects only. This new decision is a reflection of the government's commitment to reduce the existing urban-rural disparity, says a government handout. The interest rate of this new loan scheme will be lower than that for urban

FARM MECHANISATION

SCHEME PASSED

run this project.

The government has recently adopted an agriculture mechanisation scheme under which farm equipment will be provided to farmers to make activities such as land preparation, crop production, harvesting and processing more efficient. The project will start in July, 1972. Initially, 19 thanas have been selected to

implement this mechanisation

initiative. Farmers' cooperatives will

be formed at the grassroots level to

SOURCES: May 7, 1972 issues of Ittefaq, The Bangladesh Observer, Azad, Morning News, Dainik Bangla and

Air pollution raises risks FROM PAGE 12

on revealing the trends, causes, health impacts, and the solutions to air pollution, and Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon -BAPA (Bangladesh Movement), Environment Bangladeshi civil society platform.

The study has found that the air pollution will worsen if Bangladesh continues with its plan to build Payra power hub, a cluster of eight large power plants with a total capacity of 9.8GW and combined with very lax emission standards.

In Bangladesh, air pollution is responsible for about 11 percent of the disease burden from diabetes, 16 percent of lung cancer, 15 percent of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, 10 percent of deaths from ischemic heart disease and 6 percent from stroke, according to data available from Global Burden of Disease Study 2017.

"The potential emission scenario should have discussed at the planning stage of setting up any such plants in Payra. We should publish more reports like this for the greater interest of the nation", said Rasheda K Choudhury, chair of the press conference, and former adviser to the caretaker government.

abandon all coal projects in Payra one third would be deposited into for ensuring the food security of the nation under COVID-19 outbreak.

The analysis shows that the air pollutant emissions from the Payra take place onto cropland and into

plants would be responsible for as waterways, increasing the mercury high as 34,000 air pollution-related deaths over an operating life of 30

Of which 4,900 due to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, 11,000 to ischemic heart disease, 2,700 due to lower respiratory infections of which 300 in children, 1,800 due to lung cancer and 8,900 due to stroke. 2,400 deaths are due todeaths related to NO2 exposure. "We can well assume from the

research that the COVID-19 pandemic would be worsened in Bangladesh due to high level of air pollution as well such epidemic in future", said Dr. Mohd. Abdul Matin, executive vice president of BAPA.

Bangladesh is among the countries most affected by air pollution, with the life expectancy in the country reduced by almost 2 years due to the impacts of pollution exposure on health.

Dhaka was ranked as the second most polluted capital city in the world, after New Delhi, with average PM2.5 pollution levels more than 8 times as high as the World Health Organization guideline and 6 times the country's national standards.

The plants would also emit an estimated 600-800 kilograms of She urged the government to Mercury per year into the air, of which population for food, income and land and freshwater ecosystems in Bangladesh, according to the study.

Most of the deposition will

concentrations in food. The levels of mercury deposition are potentially dangerous in an area with as many as 1.5 million inhabitants.

There are five important Hilsa fish sanctuaries including Hilsa spawning grounds, migration routes and egg and fry areas in the vicinity of Payra hub that will be impacted by direct mercury deposition.

"The most troubling aspect of the mercury emissions from the Payra hub is that they are so high they virtually guarantee that Hilsa may become too toxic to eat or sell", said Dr. Md. Anisur Rahman, the Chief Scientific Officer of Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) and eminent Hilsa Researcher, in the press conference. "Even, mercury deposition rates as low as 125mg/ha/ year are known to accumulate unsafe evels of mercury in fish".

Dr. Md. Manzoorul Kibria, Professor of the University of Chittagong, and Coordinator of Halda River Research Laboratory added that the projected emission could disrupt Hilsa fish breeding at five river sanctuaries near

Hilsa is the highest valued fish in Bangladesh commonly used by a large employment. It is the national fish of Bangladesh and has an annual value of USD 2 billion.

BAPA secretary general Sharif Jamil moderated the event.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate General of Family Planning Logistics & Supply Unit (5th Floor) 6, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

e-Tender Notice (OTM, NCT, Goods) (Re-Tender)

Ref. No. DGFP/L&S-3/Dispensing Envelop/2019-20/50/83 e-Tender is hereby invited in the National e-GP Portal for the procurement of

following goods:

Tender ID No. &	Tender package	Last selling/	Closing date	
Package No.	name	downloading	& time	
7		date & time		
1	2	3	4	
Tender ID No. 456845	Procurement of	27-May-2020	28-May-2020	
Re Tendered ID: 385706	16.02 Million Pieces	14:00	12:30	
Package No.	Dispensing Envelop	75, 1959		
MCH/GD12/e5	(14 cm x 9 cm)			
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- This is an online tender where only e-Tender (online tender) will be accepted through the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.
- The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any schedule bank of Bangladesh registered by the CPTU.
- 4. Further information visit National e-GP Portal & e-GP help desk (e-mail: helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Sukesh Kumar Sarker

Director (Logistics & Supply) and Line Director (PSSM-FP) Directorate General of Family Planning Phone: 55012349

GD-795

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Govt active health sector was also

politically biased. The government has totally failed to stand by

the country's people." The BNP leader raised a question about reopening

of shopping malls, saying that whose purpose was served by this decision? "We have to keep in mind that life is more

Basically, the government has failed to tackle the situation and pushed the country into grave danger," he alleged. He said if the

precious than money.

government was elected by people, it would have been accountable to the people.

"Yes, people need their bread and butter. But as the trend of spreading the virus is upward, social distancing policy should be followed strictly a few more days," he said.

The BNP leader added that factories could be opened in a systematic and planned way so that safety of all workers were ensured.

The government's mismanagement and callousness in combating the virus was found in every step, Fakhrul alleged.

Probe early virus cases

was not previously believed to have spread to Europe until January.

"This gives a whole new picture on everything," WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier told a UN briefing in Geneva, referring to the French reports.

"The findings help to better understand the potential virus circulation of Covid-19," he added, saying other possible earlier cases could emerge after retesting samples. A French hospital which has

retested old samples from pneumonia patients discovered that it treated a man who had Covid-19 as early as December 27, nearly a month before

No. PD/DTJDLP/TENDER/WD2-908

the French government confirmed its

Lindmeier encouraged other countries to check records for pneumonia cases of unspecified origin in late 2019, saying this would give the world a "new and clearer picture" of the outbreak, reports Reuters.

Asked about the origins of the virus in China, Lindmeier stressed that it was "really, really important" to explore this.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo alleges his country has "evidence" that the new coronavirus emerged from a laboratory in Wuhan, China, although scientists have advised the WHO that it is of animal origin.

Buddha Purnima

pandemic, the Buddha Purnima is being celebrated in a different manner this year. "I urge all of the Buddhist community to celebrate their festival staying at their respective homes," he said.

In her message, Hasina said Buddhist leaders have a significant role in maintaining the communal harmony in the country.

She said the whole world is now in a crisis due to coronavirus outbreak, while the World Health Organisation declared it a pandemic.

Against the backdrop of coronavirus pandemic, Hasina urged the Buddhist community to celebrate their largest religious festival avoiding mass gatherings.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয় পটিয়া, চট্টগ্রাম

Email: patiya@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ম্মারক নংঃ- উস্বাওপপক/পটি(এমএসআর-১৯-২০ টেভার ২০২০/১৯৭৯ তারিখঃ ০৫/০৫/২০২০ইং উপজেল যাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কমকর্তার কার্যালয়, পটিয়া, চট্টয়াম এর মারক নং-উষাওপপক/পটি(এমএসআর ১৯-২০ টেভার ২০২০/১৯১৬ তাং ৩০/০৪/২০২০ইং এ মূলে ২০১৯-২০২০ব্রিঃ অর্থিক সনে এমএসআর সাম্ম্মী ক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞত্তি পত্রিকায় ইতিপূর্বে প্রকাশিত হয়। উক্ত প্রকাশিত দরপত্র বিজপ্তির আংশিক নিমুক্তপ ভাবে সংশোধন করা হইল। অন্যান্য বিষয়াবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে।

78 43	এসআর সাম্মী ক্রম্ব সংক্রান্ত তথ্যা	বলীঃ নিমোকঃ ছক ৫	মাতাবেক				
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N	এমএসআর ফ্রপাতি (মেডিকেল)	৭৫০/- টাকা	-\০০০,০০০/- টাকা				
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থাকরিত/-ভাঃ মোহাম্মদ জাবেদ উপজেলা যাস্ক্র ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা পটিয়া, চটগ্রাম

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director Bangladesh Railway Outer Circular Road, Kamalapur, Dhaka-1217

Dated: 05.05.2020 Package No. WD2: Design, Supply, Installation and Testing-Commissioning of Computer Based Interlocked Signaling system at 7 (Seven) stations including interlocking of selected level crossings and installation of optical fiber cable based telecommunication system for block operation and CTC interface work (turnkey works) in connection with construction of 3rd and 4th Dual Gauge Track in Dhaka-Tongi section and Doubling of Dual Gauge Track in Tongi-Joydebpur section.

IFT No. PD/DTJDLP/TENDER/WD2-831; Dated 20.02.2020 Corrigendum 1: PD/DTJDLP/TENDER/WD2-859; Dated 08.03.2020

Corrigendum 2: PD/DTJDLP/TENDER/WD2-884; Dated 19.03.2020 Corrigendum 3: PD/DTJDLP/TENDER/WD2-904; Dated 15.04.2020

Corrigendum No. 4 (dated: 05.05.2020) SI No. Provision as per Corigendum-3 Provision as per Corrigendum-4 of IFT Tender last selling 08.06.2020 (during office hours) 05.07.2020 (during office hours) 18. Tender closing date and time 09-06-2020 Up to 12:00 hrs BST 06-07-2020 Up to 12:00 hrs BST 19. Tender opening Time Time At 12:30 hrs BST At 12:30 hrs BST 09-06-2020 06-07-2020 date and time 21. Conference Room 'Meghna' (5th Floor), Rail Place/date/time of Conference Room 'Meghna' (5th Floor), Rail Bhaban, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka. Bhaban, 16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka. pre-tender meeting

Date & time: 10.05.2020 at 11.00 hrs BST All other Terms and conditions of the Tender Notice shall remain unchanged.

Md. Shahidul Islam Project Director Construction of 3rd and 4th Dual Gauge Lines

Date & time: 10.06.2020 at 11.00 hrs BST

in Dhaka-Tongi Section and Doubling of Dual Gauge Line in Tongi-Joydebpur Section Project Cell phone: +88 01711506113 E-mail: pd.3rd4th@railway.gov.bd

GD-799