

FEAR, LOCKDOWN AMID COVID-19

Kumudini Hospital's telemedicine service comes as saviour

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The patients in Tangail's Mirzapur upazila have started getting free telemedicine services at the union parishad premises, thanks to the initiative of Kumudini Hospital.

The authorities of the charitable institution, founded by late philanthropist Ranada Prasad Saha, on Saturday launched the services as patients shy away from the hospital, fearing coronavirus infection.

Under the arrangement, doctors designated for different health problems will provide services at a union every day and all the 14 unions of the upazila will get the facility by rotation.

A patient with cardiac problems, Abdus Samad, 60, of Goraki village also got serious skin diseases while Samia Akter, a Class III student of Jogrikofa village was suffering from cold and fever but they did not go to hospital for taking treatment during the ongoing Covid-19



pandemic.

As telemedicine services were arranged at the medical camp at Latifpur union parishad building on Saturday, they went there and got medical help.

Many others in the area, including Amena Begum, Shahnaz Begum, Ismot Ara Sadek Dewan, Sabuj and Rifat were also happy to get

the specially arranged treatment provided by specialist doctors from the hospital.

On Sunday, doctors arranged treatment for patients at Banail union.

Some 1500 to 2000 patients usually get treatment from the outdoor while 700 to 800 patients remain admitted at the 1050-bed hospital every day, said Animesh Bhoumik Liton, assistant general manager of Kumudini Hospital.

"Now the general patients are too afraid to come to the hospital due to coronavirus outbreak. Transport crisis during the lockdown is also a factor.

"Considering the problem of patients, especially pregnant women and serious patients who need regular treatment, the hospital authorities decided to reach the telemedicine services to the local patients and it has been arranged following rules set by the health directorate after the outbreak of Covid-19," he added.



An IT professional working as assistant for telemedicine service at Latifpur union parishad in Tangail's Mirzapur upazila, writes prescriptions for patients as per suggestions from doctors of Kumudini Hospital on Saturday. Left, treatment seekers wait in queues for their turn at the medical camp. PHOTO: COLLECTED

You stumble I catch

Story of how a group of friends is serving the community during financial difficulties caused by the ongoing shutdowns

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

A group of youths in Thakurgaon town are being praised for their non-profit initiative named '30% discount store'.

The store has been doing a tremendous service to the town's low-income residents who have been in a dire situation due to Covid-19 shutdowns.

A large section of the society -- especially daily wage earners such as rickshaw pullers, day labourers, masons, painters and carpenters -- is going through financial crisis due to job loss caused by the shutdowns.

At a time when prices of essentials are on the rise and many of the people in the low-income group are out of jobs, the discount store has appeared as a much-needed respite for the townspeople.

Essentials including rice, lentil, potato, onion, sugar, salt, edible oil, spices, eggs and soaps are being sold at the store every day in front of the cooperative market in the town.

A group of students united under Facebook group 'Julum Bosti' primarily launched the initiative with funds raised from group members. Many locals have also been sending contributions to the group.

Volunteers wear face masks and gloves while attending the store and they ensure buyers form lines maintaining a minimum of six feet physical distance between each other.

Number of buyers continues to rise since the store opened more than a month ago. Chick pea, a popular food ingredient in meals during the month

of Ramadan, has recently been included in the list of items sold at the store.

About 60 to 70 people turned up on the inaugural day. Currently the store serves nearly 160 to 170 people on an average day. Operation hours of the store are 3:00pm to 6:00pm daily.

The volunteers put up an updated hand-written price list in front of the store every day to evade any confusion. Moreover, to ensure availability of the essentials for all at reduced price, there is a quantity restriction on each item sold at the store.

Each buyer is allowed to buy a maximum of two kilograms of coarse rice, one kg potato, half kg lentil, one litre edible oil, half kg onion, 250 grams ginger, 250 gm garlic, half kg salt, four eggs, one antiseptic soap and one laundry soap each day.

Al Asma-ul-Husna Mithun, one of the organisers, told the Daily Star that they opened the discount store on April 1 with an aim to lend a hand to the vulnerable section of the society who have been feeling the brunt of the restrictions imposed nationwide to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

In early days, they used to spend around Tk 3,000 against the difference between the cost and sale price of the commodities available at the store. With growing popularity of the store, the figure has gradually reached as high as about Tk 5,000.

Aside from bearing the price difference, they also give away fresh produce to each buyer at no additional cost, he said adding that local growers have been donating the produce to the store as part of their responsibility

to the low-income group.

"Within two weeks into the journey, we stumbled and were compelled to stop our operations for a day due to fund crisis. But thanks to spontaneous support we received from different quarters, we soon pulled together and resumed operations."

They hope that they would be able to serve the community until normalcy is restored following the lifting of the precautionary measures imposed by the authorities.

Explaining how it all started, Mithun said their group was created about two years back to do great things for the community.

Since then, nearly 30 to 40 members of the group had been contributing Tk 100 each month to raise funds for different welfare activities geared toward the disadvantaged who are in need of warm clothes during the winter or financial help for treatment.

Witnessing sufferings of the jobless and the low-income population amid the Covid-19 shutdowns, they felt the urge to stand beside them as well. The initial fund of Tk 5,000 was received as prize money that the group members had received by winning the championship title of a local cricket tournament, held just before the outbreak of the pandemic. The members put together another Tk 8,000 for the cause.

During the early days, they used to sell around Tk 12,000 worth of goods each day and now the amount stands at Tk 20,000 daily, Mithun said, adding that their group members as well as well-wishers are their primary source of funds for the store.

No plan yet to bring home 313 devotees

FROM PAGE 12

later turned out to have been a hotbed of coronavirus infection as many of the participants tested positive for Covid-19.

The list of 313 Bangladeshis, which includes elderly men and women, was prepared by Tablighi Jamaat Bangladesh. They said there may be more people who went on their own. However, the Bangladesh authorities are yet to confirm how many Bangladeshi Tablighi Jamaat followers are now staying in India.

Foreign minister AK Abdul Momen told The Daily Star on Monday that they have got a list of 139 Bangladeshi Tablighi Jamaat followers who were either quarantined or arrested in India. But he was not sure of the exact number.

"Among them, some were quarantined while some others were arrested," he said, adding that they were still observing the situation.

"We are trying to find out more details," he said.

Earlier, the Indian home ministry stated that they have blacklisted 110 Bangladeshi nationals for violating their tourist visa and participating in missionary activities in different parts of India after attending the Tablighi Jamaat event in Delhi. Their visas were also cancelled.

An official at the Bangladesh mission in New Delhi wishing not to be named said the Indian authorities were helping them repatriate stranded Bangladeshi patients, tourists and students, but they were yet to say anything about the clearance of the stranded Tablighi Jamaat followers.

On April 28, 10 Bangladeshi nationals -- five couples -- who attended the event were arrested from Madhya Pradesh, under charge of staying in the state without informing local police.

Sheikh Sagir Ahmad, 55, and Roksana Begum, 50, are one of the arrested couples. They went to India by air on February 25. They were supposed to come back to Dhaka on April 7 by air, but could not because of the suspension of flights to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

Their son Sk Tanvir Ahmed in Dhaka sent three emails to the Bangladesh High Commissions in Delhi and Deputy High Commissioner's office

in Mumbai on April 15, April 20 and April 21, seeking help from the high commissions, but has not yet gotten a reply.

Talking to this correspondent, Tanvir said his parents stayed at Nizamuddin in Delhi till March 4. Then they moved to Sheopur in Madhya Pradesh to perform Tablighi activities.

On March 29, the local law enforcement agency took them to a government male hostel adjacent to Sheopur District Jail for quarantine, Tanvir said, adding that he was in a contact with them till April 28.

Tanvir said his parents experienced a lot of hardship in terms of food and hygiene. They are elderly persons and both have diabetic issues, have run out of insulin and medicine, which are not properly delivered.

"Their passports, cell phones and Bangladeshi SIM cards were seized after a few days. Then they came to know that a case was filed against them with four other couples stuck with them.

"They have never experienced imprisonment in their lives," Tanvir said, adding that one or two-months' stay in jail would be tough for them at this age.

The Daily Star received copy of another letter to the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi from eight stranded Bangladeshis who are now in virtual judicial custody in Uttar Pradesh. They were stuck in Bulandshahr district.

After their flights were cancelled, they communicated their situation to the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi through the Covid-19 hotline number. They also submitted their passport photocopies to the local police station for any sort of medical checkup required by the Indian government.

On April 1, their passports were seized by Katawali Dehat Police Station. Again, they informed the matter to the Bangladesh High Commission.

"The next day, a police officer forced us to sign a Hindi document, although we had no knowledge of what was written there nor had we been provided with any translation. Half an hour later we were picked up by a huge police convoy in the name of quarantine and taken to a school

compound where conditions were miserable -- just like slums."

A few hours later, they were shifted to another school compound.

"The same day, at late night, approximately at 11:30pm, police escorted us to a third location. We were quarantined there for 17 days. We spent those days under acute mental pressure.

"Authorities wearing civilian garb took our mugshots and fingerprints in the name of medical tests. Later, we understood that it was taken for police cases," read the letter.

They said they repeatedly asked for medical certificates after their quarantine period of 14 days were over, but in vain.

On April 19, the authorities escorted them to Triveni Dutt Brahmchari Saraswati Vidya Mandir Inter College in the town of Dibai, approximately 40 kilometres away from Bulandshahr district. It turned out to be virtual imprisonment, the letter said.

"In this compound, females and males are sharing the same toilet with only one shower facility. We are provided with low-quality jail food in unhygienic, foul-smelling polythene bags. No locals are allowed to supply our necessary commodities [such as sanitary napkins] here. Jail authorities are also not allowing us necessities even if we want to pay for them," the letter added.

A police official in charge of keeping them confined informed them that a first information report (FIR) has been filed against them under section 182, 269, 270 IPC and Foreigners Act section 14.

Mentioning the health risks and medical complications especially of the elderly among them, the eight appealed to the High Commissioner for assistance.

This Daily Star correspondent made several WhatsApp calls and sent text messages to Muhammad Imran, Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi. He however did not respond.

From April 20 till yesterday, around 1,950 Bangladeshi nationals -- most of whom went to India for medical treatment or are students at different Indian universities -- have so far been brought back from the neighbouring country.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
URBAN DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE
82, SEGUNBAGICHA, DHAKA
Web site: www.udd.gov.bd

Memo. No.25.45.0000.000.14.051.17-

Date:04/05/2020

Request for Expressions of Interest

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH			
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Housing and Public Works	
2	Agency	Urban Development Directorate	
3	Procuring Entity Name	Director, Urban Development Directorate	
4	Procuring Entity code	1320401	
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka	
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting Firm	Lump sum
7	EOI Ref No	UDD/PKCP/EOI/2019-20/02	
8	Date	04/05/2020	
KEY INFORMATION			
9	Procurement Method	Selection under a Fixed Budget	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Development Budget	GOB
11	Development Partners	N/A	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12	Project Code	1320401-223012800	
13	ProjectName	Preparation of Payra-Kuakata Comprehensive Plan focusing on Eco-Tourism	
14	EOI Closing Date and Time	SD-1 : Development of Apps, Web Design, Hosting and Maintenance for 'Payra-Kuakata' Comprehensive Plan on 02/06/2020 at 2:00 pm SD-2 : Survey by acquisition of satellite Image for 'Payra-Kuakata' Comprehensive Plan on 03/06/2020 at 2:00 pm	
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT			
16. Brief Description of Assignment			
SD-1: Development of Apps, Web Design, Hosting and Maintenance for 'Payra-Kuakata' Comprehensive Plan. The consulting firm shall develop an interactive website and mobile application (android) for "Preparation of Payra-Kuakata Comprehensive Plan Focusing on Eco-Tourism". The firm shall be responsible for web hosting, regular updating and maintenance of the website and mobile application. The Website shall provide information on ongoing and upcoming activities of the project, provide access of the GIS based data (both spatial and attributes) and subsequent query table for all users. The mobile application should have to give access to the GIS based landuse data so that user can find their location and related information. It should provide desired map of the required area within the project area. The firm shall extend its services two years after the completion of the project. The client, UDD shall provide necessary data, information and maps only. On the other hand, the developer and service provider shall be responsible for all the necessary hardware and software installation including management and operational procedure within the hyper domain.			
SD-2: Survey by acquisition of satellite Image for 'Payra-Kuakata' Comprehensive Plan. Acquisition of Close range aerial photograph of about 15000 acre, 3D digitization, Collection of GCP, DEM, Inundation simulation Model, 3D mesh model/Ortho-photo, Close range aerial video etc.			
17. Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required			
Name of Services	Equipment and software	Experience and Logistics	Professionals
SD-1 : Development of Apps, Web Design, Hosting and Maintenance for 'Payra-Kuakata' Comprehensive Plan	Programming Language: The website should be developed with HTML5, PHP, MySQL, JavaScript, Ajax and more languages if needed, GIS software.	a) Firms/ with general experience of 5 years b) Website, APPS development, GIS database management experience. c) Office space, financial and managerial strength, hardware and other logistics	Programmer, GIS Programmer, Web Developer, Android Developer, Graphics Designer, GIS Assistant.
SD-2 : Survey by acquisition of satellite Image for 'Payra-Kuakata' Comprehensive Plan	Image Processing software, GIS, Photogrammetric Work Station Complete set.	a) Firms/ with general experience of 5 years b) Image processing experience.	Photogrammetric expert, GIS expert
Other resources include office space, financial and managerial strength, computer and other logistics.			
18	Other Details	Interested consulting Firms are hereby invited to submit EoI containing printed brochures (showing organizational identity and background), legal documents showing managerial and financial standing (according to PPA 2006 and PPR 2008), Staffing and inventory of resources and logistics confirming the firm's capabilities to provide the required services. In case of JVCA, necessary legal documents must be provided with the EoI. The firm/ JVCA will submit 1 (One) original and another true copy of EoI. Interested consulting Firms are invited to submit EoI for Services mentioned above SD-1 : Development of Apps, Web Design, Hosting and Maintenance and SD-2 : Survey by acquisition of satellite Image for 'Payra-Kuakata' Comprehensive Plan	
19	Association with foreign firms is	Not Encouraged	
20	Name of Services	Location	Indicative start date
	SD-1 : Development of Apps, Web Design, Hosting and Maintenance for 'Payra-Kuakata' Comprehensive Plan	Amtali, Taltoli, Barguna Sadar, Pathargata, Galachipa, Rangabali, Kala Para	August, 2020
	SD-2 : Survey by acquisition of satellite Image for 'Payra-Kuakata' Comprehensive Plan	Upazila, Barisal Regional Office and Dhaka Head Office	December, 2021
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
21	Name of Official Inviting EoI	Sharif Mohammad Tariqzaman	
22	Designation of Official Inviting EoI	Senior Planner, Thana Center Planning-I & Project Director, Payra-Kuakata Project.	
23	Address of Official Inviting EoI	Urban Development Directorate, 82, Segunbagicha, Dhaka - 1000	
24	Contact details of Official Inviting EoI	Phone no: +88-02-9556234; Fax no: +88-02-9557868	
25	The Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs		

(Sharif Mohammad Tariqzaman)
Senior Planner, Thana Center Planning-I & Project Director
"Preparation of Payra-Kuakata Comprehensive Plan focusing on Eco-Tourism"

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