

Burial ground

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As there was a fear of infection, initially family members of a deceased would not come to the graveyard during burial of their near and dear ones, but since the last couple of weeks the situation has changed, said Shahidul.

"Presence of family members has started to increase since the announcement of the World Health Organization that a deceased person is unlikely to spread the virus," he said.

Still the grim reality remains that the number of deaths due to coronavirus continue to take place in the country and accordingly, volunteers of Hamza Al-Markazul carry on with their social and humane responsibility of performing the last rites of those succumbing to the deadly virus.

Shahidul said they have also handed around 50 bodies (both positive and suspected) to family members who took those to outside the capital.

'A COMBINED EFFORT'

A 17-member group of volunteers are involved in the process. Being informed by the health ministry officials, the team receives the body from a hospital or other places and brings it to the graveyard after disinfecting the body properly.

"We are making sure that the bodies are being disinfected properly at the hospital before bringing those to the burial ground," said the chief social welfare official of DNCC.

She said after being disinfected, a body is put in an airtight bag and then into a coffin. "It is then taken to the graveyard. We are being utmost careful and sincere while performing our duties so that there is no chance of spreading the virus."

They also dig a four feet grave rather than 2.5 feet one. "The germs will get destroyed within a few days after burial," she said.

She said it's a joint effort. "Al Markazul brings the bodies and places those at the grave while our people dig the graves and take care of other procedures to complete the burial."

There are also three imams as well as members of Al Markazul who conduct janazas before the burial.



With restrictions easing on businesses amid the coronavirus outbreak, hawkers in Barishal are opening up their roadside stalls after over a month of closure. Customers are also coming in, albeit in small numbers, to shop for their favourite accessories. The photo was taken from Girja Mahalla area of the city.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

322 Bangladeshis

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With yesterday's returnees, around 2,327 Bangladeshi nationals stuck in neighbouring country due to suspension of scheduled passenger flights to contain the Covid-19 pandemic have returned, sources at HSA said.

Most of the Bangladeshis stranded in India went there for medical purposes.

In two phases, some 2,000 Bangladeshis

citizens stranded in India have returned to the country by 12 special flights of Biman and US-Bangla Airlines, sources at HSA said.

Of the 12, Biman operated 4 and US-Bangla operated 8 special flights.

In the next phase, Biman and US-Bangla are scheduled to operate 10 flights from India, the Bangladesh High Commission in India said on May 5, splitting the duty

by five flights each.

Schedules for the Biman flights are: from Kolkata on May 10, from Mumbai on May 12, from Bengaluru on May 13 and 15, and from Delhi on May 14. All flights are scheduled to take off at 2:30pm Indian time.

US-Bangla is scheduled to operate three more flights, all from Chennai, on May 10, 13 and 14.

Still many left out

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relief is reaching these villages soon," said Ruhul.

According to Jatiya Adivasi Parishad (JAP), there are around 50,000 indigenous families of 20 different ethnic communities in the district. An overwhelming majority of them require some kind of relief, JAP members said.

The district's largest cluster of around 15,000 indigenous families resides in Godagari upazila, with 9,000 families in Tanore and 5,000 in Puthia. The rest are scattered in other upazilas.

After the beginning of relief distribution on March 27, Deputy Commissioner Hamidul Haque said in a press conference that around one lakh people needed relief assistance.

As of May 5, around 2,448 tonnes of food grains and Tk 1.08 crore in cash have been distributed among at least 2.75 lakh impoverished people -- nearly three the estimated number of the poor -- according to district administration data.

'NO WORK NOW, NO FOOD EITHER'

At least 40 families of the indigenous Gorat community live in Doldola village of Godagari upazila.

"When I went to the local leaders, they took a copy of my national identity card, and said they will help. The help did not come in one month so far," said Basona Bala, a local resident.

Basona had a goat which would have sold for at least Tk 7,000 under normal circumstances. Three weeks ago, she was forced to sell it for just Tk 3,000.

After the potato harvest in the area in mid-April, some potatoes were left behind in the fields by farmers who deemed those not fit to be sold.

Basona and her three children gathered these discarded potatoes from a nearby field. She earned Tk 600 by selling two maunds of the potatoes. The rest she kept for the family to eat.

After buying food and paying off loans, Basona has nothing left now.

"There has been no rice these last two weeks. I borrowed rice but neighbours cannot always help. So, I borrowed money again to buy rice."

Unlike Basona, Sukho Bala had

nothing to sell off. She has no space in which to raise poultry or livestock.

"We work and eat. We have no work now, so no food either. I don't know how long it will take to end this situation. Even if it ends soon, I don't know when our miseries will end after paying off the lenders," she said.

Doldola village is also home to at least seven Rabidas families, who make their living as cobblers. They would earn roughly Tk 500 a day.

"I stayed home for the first few weeks of the shutdown. Then, I had to go out to earn for a few hours every morning. My income has come down to Tk 60 a day, this is what I'm living on now," said Dukhu Rabidas.

Kankonhat Municipality Mayor Abdul Majid said some Gorat and Rabidas families might not have received relief yet.

He said Doldola has some 125 families and the local police administration is arranging relief for 100 of them soon.

"It is very difficult to give relief to one and leave the others. We have a shortage of relief supplies," he said.

Out of 15,000 extreme poor in the municipal area, he could manage government relief for only 1,500. He, himself, has helped 4,000 others while various organisations have helped an additional 2,500, he added.

Rabindranath Hembrom, president of the Santals' social organisation Pargana Parishadin Godagari, said he heard in the news that relief was being delivered to everyone's homes.

"In reality, we can't get relief even by running after it."

At least 7,000 Santal families in Godagari are yet to receive any relief; in his own village, Sagrampara, only 20 out of 250 families received relief, he said.

"Everyone thinks we are untouchable and keeps us away. No one listens to our needs."

On April 26, Rabindranath went to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer's office, which is 12km away, but was unable to see him.

"Someone at the UNO's office asked me to wait. After three hours, he asked me to come later. But I can't go that far every day."

'IRREGULARITIES'

Niren Chandra Khalku, chairman of the Orai community's organisation Dwighari Raja Parishad, alleged that there were irregularities in relief distribution -- with those needing it the most not receiving aid first.

"Local leaders gave relief materials to the people of their choice -- those who work for them -- first," he said.

Out of the 35 people who got relief among 159 families in his village Chhatnpara, at least 12 were well-to-do farmers and political activists, he said.

Some 3,500 Orai families in the upazila are deprived of relief, he added.

Rajkumar Shaw, a member of JAP's central committee, said the situation for other ethnic communities including Munda, Roy, and Rajoar, in the district is no different.

Godagari UNO Nazmul Islam Sarkar, whose upazila has a large number of indigenous families, said these communities should get priority in relief distribution and shouldn't be deprived.

"If they are deprived, there could be two reasons for it -- one is unconsciousness, not knowing how to get relief and from where, and the second is the limitation of government allocations," he said.

Rajshahi DC Hamidul Haque said many poor families could not be brought under the relief distribution due to incidents of repetition. "Some of the extremely poor people needed relief multiple times as they have been idle for over a month."

He said new allocations of relief materials were being released to cover people who were yet to receive relief.

Three UP chairmen and members told this correspondent that many poor people were deprived because the distribution system is influenced by local politicians.

As per the rules, they said, UP chairmen and members prepare the list of beneficiaries and distribute relief. But local politicians have been choosing their own beneficiaries among people they know and local government representatives were forced to share the relief materials with them.

Another

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personnel, inquire about their health, take steps to solve their problems and ensure treatment for all irrespective of their positions in the force," the Police Headquarters said in a press release yesterday.

Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed has directed the officers concerned to form teams in every unit.

The initiative was taken so that the infected cops and those in isolation and quarantine did not feel demoralised, police officials said.

Meanwhile, the number of police personnel infected with Covid-19 reached 1,532 till yesterday noon. Among them are 723 members of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, according to PHQ statistics.

Besides, around 4,000 more are in isolation or quarantine.

As the Central Police Hospital in the capital's Rajbargh is struggling to deal with the huge number of patients, the police authorities have booked a private hospital to treat its members.

2 Rohingyas

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to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex and later to Cox's Bazar General Hospital, where they succumbed to their injuries around 5:00am, OC Prodip said, adding that two policemen were also injured during the incident.

Two firearms, five bullets and 158,000 yaba pills were recovered from the spot, the police official said.

Three cases were filed in this connection with Teknaf Police Station.

Oceans

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Earth's average surface temperature has risen just over one degree Celsius since the pre-industrial era, a widely used benchmark for measuring global warming.

"It is clear now that previous sea-level rise estimates have been too low," co-author Stefan Rahmstorf, head of Earth system analysis at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), told AFP.

No perpetrator will go

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Bhutto to immediately recognise Bangladesh and release Bangalees stranded in Pakistan.

Bangabandhu further says that the trial of war criminals will be held in Bangladesh at any cost. The brutality committed by the Pakistan army and their collaborators during the Liberation War will not go unpunished, he adds. The prime minister appeals to the civilised countries to support Bangladesh's decision to try the members of Pakistan army who committed crimes against humanity and says that these war criminals are worse than Nazis.

Referring to the post-war crisis, Bangabandhu says that production in agricultural and industrial units must be increased to overcome the current situation. He urges the people to devote themselves to this effort.

CHANGE BUREAUCRATIC MINDSET

In an order issued by Bangabandhu today the government officials are asked to change their bureaucratic mindset, eliminate red-tapism and thus reduce hassles faced by

Address

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and domestic violence.

Raihan also recommended providing health coverage and engaging the most vulnerable youth groups in the healthcare packages in a bid to meet their basic needs, taking steps to widen access to distance learning tools free of cost for students, extending social safety net to include unemployed youths and motivating and engaging youth in skill development programmes.

He further suggested providing training to police personnel on how to respond and protect victims from social stigma related to Covid-19.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, said the pandemic is a call to action for social justice rather than returning to the pre-pandemic situation where socio-economic exploitation were prevalent.

The society must strive for a better socio-economic reality, she added.

Waliur

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message, the prime minister said the death of the advisory council member of Gaibandha district AL and former member of parliament Waliur Rahman Reza caused an irreparable loss to the country and the party, reads UNB.

She prayed for the eternal salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy to the bereaved family.

AL General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader also expressed profound shock and grief at the death of Waliur Rahman.

Office of the Thakurgaon Pourashava
Thakurgaon-5100

Memo No. ThaPour/Ergg/2019-2020/777 Date: 07/05/2020

e-Tender Notice No. 09/2019-20

e-Tender is invited from the enlisted tenderers of Thakurgaon Pourashava in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works.

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of works	Online (e-GP System) tender publication date & time	Online (e-GP System) tender document last selling date & time	Online (e-GP System) tender closing date & time
456885	Tha.pour/ADP/2019-2020/W-11	Construction of Main Entry Gate at DC Parjotan Park, Ward-06, Thakurgaon Pourashava, Thakurgaon.	10/05/2020 10:00am	03/06/2020 5:00pm	04/06/2020 1:00pm
456886	Tha.pour/ADP/2019-2020/W-12	Construction of Boundary wall with S.S Railing at DC Parjotan Park, Ward-06, Thakurgaon Pourashava, Thakurgaon.	10/05/2020 10:00am	03/06/2020 5:00pm	04/06/2020 1:00pm
456889	Tha.pour/ADP/2019-2020/W-13	Construction of Lake Bridge at DC Parjotan Park, Ward-06, Thakurgaon Pourashava, Thakurgaon.	10/05/2020 10:00am	03/06/2020 5:00pm	04/06/2020 1:00pm
456892	Tha.pour/ADP/2019-2020/W-14	Construction of Lake Retaining wall at DC Parjotan Park, Ward-06, Thakurgaon Pourashava, Thakurgaon.	10/05/2020 10:00am	03/06/2020 5:00pm	04/06/2020 1:00pm

- These are an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.
- The fees for downloading the e-Tendering documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 03-06-2020 at 5:00pm.
- The Invitation for Tenderers is open to all classes of Regular Enlisted Contractors of Thakurgaon Pourashava who have the legal capacity to enter into such contract.
- The tenderer will submit scanned copies of their current VAT, TIN certificate, nationality certificate, liquid asset, valid trade licence and contractor licence of Thakurgaon Pourashava. Failing which the tender document shall be rejected.
- Tender will be considered non-responsive if the total quoted amount by bidder is more or less than 5% (five percent) of the Engineering estimated cost.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Belal Hossain
Executive Engineer
Thakurgaon Pourashava, Thakurgaon

GD-810

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Balaganj, Sylhet

Memo No:46.02.9108.09.01.20-240 Date: 07.05.2020

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of works as stated as below:

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Package no.
01.	458303	SYL/GOB/BALA/ADP/05
02.	459051	SYL/GOB/BALA/ADP/06
03.	459052	SYL/GOB/BALA/ADP/07

This is an on line tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for more details please contact support desk contact numbers. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 26/05/2020 11:00AM. Further information and guidelines are available in the e-GP portal

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GD-813