Your Right to Know



BANGLADESH 1,162
New cases in 24hrs 17,822
Total cases







3,361



# Highest 19 deaths reported in a day

1,162 new cases in 24 hrs also a record; experts suggest taking aggressive measures as things will go out of control otherwise

MOUDUD AHMMED SUJAN

The number of fatalities and infections due to novel coronavirus is increasing alarmingly in Bangladesh with the country recording 19 deaths and 1,162 new cases in 24 hours -- the highest single-day spike.

With the latest figures, the death toll rose to 269. The total number of confirmed cases crossed the 17,000-mark, breaking previous records and climbing to 17,822.

A BIG JUMP IN DAILY

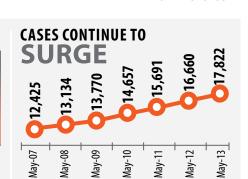
**DEATHS** 

Worryingly, the number of cases has

surged significantly in the last several days when the government expanding test facilities and easing restrictions on the reopening of markets.

The country may see nearly 50,000 cases in total by the end of this month while the death toll may hit 800 by this time, according to a government estimate made using a projection model.

However, health experts said no projection will be accurate with inadequate detections and the country might continue





An old widow, in white sari, sitting on the footpath and waiting for her turn to receive her old age allowance from a bank in the capital's Tejgaon. Like the woman sitting next to her with a child, she arrived around 9:00am yesterday and was still waiting in the scorching heat when the photo was taken three hours later. Due to coronavirus restrictions, long queues often build up in front of banks.

### Bangladeshi scientists crack virus genome

Complete its sequencing to study the strain that causes Covid-19 in the country

A team from Child Health Research Foundation (CHRF) yesterday successfully completed the genome sequencing of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in Bangladesh.

The announcement came late on Tuesday evening in a press release distributed by CHRF. SARS-CoV-2 is the coronavirus that causes Covid-19.

"We completed genome sequencing of the virus a few hours ago," confirmed Dr Senjuti Saha, the scientist who led the team of three. The others were Roly Malaker and Md Saiful Islam Shajib.

Dr Senjuti's father, eminent microbiologist and Executive Director of CHRF Dr Samir Kumar Saha also played a leadership role.

"The entire CHRF Covid-19 response team of more than 80 people has directly or indirectly helped us make this possible," Dr. Senjuti Saha said.

Genome sequencing is the process of

# Affluent persons listed as poor

Special OMS of 10-Taka Rice in B'baria

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE with MASUK HRIDOY

He introduces himself in different ways in line with the different posts he holds.

According to his Facebook profile, Shah Alam is the general secretary of Restaurant Owners' Association in Brahmanbaria, joint-secretary of the district's Jame Mosque committee, a member of the central Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industries (FBCCI) and a director of district FBCCI.

He is also a member of the sports association and general secretary of the blind welfare association in Brahmanbaria. Besides, he is a former general secretary of Chhatra League and former GS of Red Crescent Society in the district.

His most significant political identity is that he is the industries and commerce affairs secretary of Brahmanbaria Awami

The "versatile" AL leader is also an OMS dealer.

But surprisingly, his wife, daughter and some close relatives have been named in

a list of beneficiaries of the government's special open market sale (OMS) programme for Brahmanbaria municipality area, sparking debate. The list was finalised by the municipality authorities as part of an initiative to help the poor and the destitute

amid the coronavirus outbreak. sensational following an investigation by district committee of the OMS programme, according to relevant documents.

On April 1, the government issued gazette disclosing its decision that it would launch a special OMS sale of rice at a subsidised rate of Tk 10 per kg in all city corporations. The move was aimed at ensuring food for lower-income people hit hard by the ongoing shutdown enforced to

curb the spread of coronavirus. The beneficiaries include beggars, transport workers, rickshaw-van pullers, day labourers, tea stall workers and members of

the third gender community. The gazette also said not more than one person from each family would be entitled

to get the benefits of the programme. SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

### Ansar man dies from Covid-19

166 others tested positive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A member of Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party died from Covid-19, and at least 166 others have tested positive as of yesterday, said an official of the force.

Of them, 58 had been discharging their duties at the parliament, 65 in Dhaka Metropolitan Police area, and 43, including a deputy-director-ranked officer, at the Ansar headquarters and different districts, Mehnaz Tabassum Rabin, deputy director of the force, told The Daily Star yesterday

Eleven of them have so far recovered, she said.

Ansar member Abdul Mazid, who was carrying out his duties at Bhatara Police Station, breathed his last on Monday.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

# Heartbreaks; hope for **HERD IMMUNITY**

SYED ASHFAQUL HAQUE

"Herd immunity" is the ultimate answer to any pandemic, and Bangladesh, by no choice of its own, is rushing towards it to keep coronavirus at bay.

Eureka (found it)! Shouldn't we all exclaim like Archimedes, the great Greek scientist who ran through the streets naked after discovering the law of buoyancy while taking a bath at his home? No, we're no Archimedes and we've found no remedy. Rather, we're ending up with the lone solution after exhausting all other options.

Too much of stress and tension for the last couple of months! And there seemed to be no respite from the pandemic that brought the world to a grinding halt, claiming over 2.86 lakh lives already. Now, the 17 crore Bangladeshis can clutch at the "herd immunity" straw and try hard to

All past pandemics in the world ended through herd immunity. In lay explanation, we have to become immune to the infectious disease either through natural immunity or vaccination. Vaccine should be off our list for long, as, according to media reports, at least one year would be required for its discovery and subsequent trials before going into long-haul production for 800 crore vaccine for the global population. Following the powerfulcountries-first order, vaccine is unlikely to be available in Bangladesh in two years.

So, we're practically left with the only one survival option: natural immunity. What we all have to do now is to contract the disease en masse, get defence mechanism of the body react to it and in time build up an immune response to the invaders.

Sounds surreal?

It's hard to predict things in a pandemic, as situation changes on a daily basis due to the mostly unknown characteristic of virus and world's medical

### Third doctor dies from coronavirus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another doctor, who tested Covid-19 positive, has died at a hospital in the capital.

Maj (retd) Abul Mokarim Md Mohsin Uddin, chief consultant (radiology) at Ibn Sina Diagnostic and Imaging Centre, breathed his last at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) around 11:20pm on Tuesday, Shafiqul Islam, manager (admin) at the centre, told The Daily Star.

Prof Mokarim, also a freedom fighter, got infected while discharging duties at Ibn Sina, he said.

Mokarim, in a medical a TV commercial of Ibn Sina in the 90s where he was seen asking viewers: "Why would you pay visit the private hospital, which offered 25 percent

was an actor, but he was a noted radiologist.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

apron, was featured in extra unnecessarily? He then urges them to discounts on medical tests. Many thought Mokarim His younger son Samuel

manni mann Stray dogs take a nap at the otherwise empty Kamalapur railway station. It has been nearly two months since the passenger train services were suspended in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak. Inset, carriages at the station.

DEATH AFTER VIRUS SYMPTOMS

# 929 die in two months

Study also finds 84 were held for 'spreading rumors'

DU CORRESPONDENT

A total of 929 people died in Bangladesh with Covid-19 symptoms between March 8 and May 12, according to a report of Centre for Genocide Studies of Dhaka University.

Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO), a UNDP funded research facility housed at Centre for Genocide Studies, prepared the report based on different media outlets and published it on Tuesday.

The report came out at a time when the authorities recorded only 269 Covid-19 deaths since the first three cases reported on March 8.

Of the 929 deaths with Covid-19 symptoms, 210 were in Dhaka, 167 in Chattogram, 110 in Khulna, 87 in Rajshahi, 84 in Barishal, 66 in Sylhet and 65 in Rangpur divisions, the report mentioned.

The report also mentioned that there were at least 33 incidents of ignorance from medical professionals or reticence to treat non-Covid patients.

Besides, 17 patients were denied burial, eight incidents of forced eviction from homes, 23 cases of abandonment from family or family members or colleagues and two persons died by suicide for social stigma.

social stigma cases are nine while such cases related to medical professionals' stands at 15. **RUMORS AND ARRESTS** 

The number of harassment or assault originated from

The report recorded that as many as 79 incidents of

spreading rumours and 84 arrests for spreading rumors has SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

### New resolution on pandemic truce presented to UNSC

AFP, United Nations

Germany and Estonia submitted Tuesday a resolution to the UN Security Council on a ceasefire in various conflicts around the world during the coronavirus pandemic, to replace one drafted by France and Tunisia that the United States has

Encompassing five major points -- compared to the previous draft's nine -- the proposal by the two nonpermanent members of the Security Council and seen by AFP "demands a general and immediate cessation of hostilities in all situations on its

### 929 die

FROM PAGE 1

taken place so far centering Covid-19 In Dhaka, 34 people were arrested whereas other divisions like Chattagram, Khulna, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Barishal had 12, 7, 6, 15, and 10 rumours-related arrests respectively.

The highest number of people were arrested between March 8 and April 18, the report added.

RELIEF EMBEZZLEMENT Until May 5, The Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives suspended 49 people's representatives -- including 18 UP chairmen, 29 UP members, one district council member and one municipal councilor -- for irregularities in distribution of relief among the poor

amidst the coronavirus pandemic. Around 8,136 people were fined or penalised on several charges including relief embezzlement, food adulteration, providing lesser quantity of relief, fraudulent, keeping shops or hotels open against government order, roaming around, bike riding, gossiping in roads, travelling, violating social distancing, stockpiling (food, medicine), and price hike of daily

At least 386 (40.31% less than last week) were detained or fined or penalised and 11 were arrested all over Bangladesh between May 3 and May 9.

As of yesterday, a total of 144,538 tests have been conducted and the rate of tests per million in the country is 802, according to the data of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).

### Ansar man dies

FROM PAGE 1

Besides, 435 Ansar members are sent to quarantine for14 days as they either came in contact with infected members or showed Covid-19 symptoms, she said.

Mehnaz said Ansar members were being infected as they were discharging their duties with other forces and physicians at hospitals.

"It is the Ansar member who first receives patients at hospitals and readies trolleys for them. Besides, our officials are distributing leaflets to create awareness among people.

about the protection equipment, Mehnaz said they managed protective gear under their own arrangements and distributed



The team members of Child Health Research Foundation (CHRF) -- Md Saiful Islam Sajib, left, Dr Senjuti Saha, 2nd from left, and Roly Malakar, sitting centre -- who successfully sequenced the genome of SARS-CoV-2 in Bangladesh, which causes Covid-19. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Bangladeshi scientists

identifying what nucleotides -- the basic building block of DNA and RNA -- are present in a certain cell and in

"The SARS-CoV-2 virus cells contain RNA. RNA is made of four bases or 'letters' -- A (adenine), U (uracil), G (guanine), and C (cytosine). The SARS-CoV-2 virus is made up of almost 30,000 letters and we had to figure out what the sequence was, explained Dr Senjuti.

As of now, they have only finished the genome sequencing of one sample, and plan to do around 80, she added.

"We have been working on this for over a month, but the actual work of sequencing was done over 4 days of non-stop work," said an excited Dr

"In addition, the biologists working on the genome sequencing also had a full eight-hour shift of testing samples from patients. We did not want patients to suffer while we tried to do genome sequencing. So, all the work was done after hours," she said, speaking to this correspondent from Cambridge in England in the early hours yesterday, where she has been stuck because of the closing of the borders in the wake of the pandemic.

"To make things harder, because I had come to Cambridge in mid-March, and gotten stuck here, the collaboration had to be remote. My team in CHRF literally had to set up a camera in the space where they were doing the sequencing, so that I could see what was happening," described

While scientists in Bangladesh have done genome sequencing of Jute and Hilsa (both of which have DNA), genome sequencing of cells containing RNA is a rare feat.

"Up until now, we have usually Foundation and Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative/Biohub, we were able to before the pandemic hit we had been sequencing to discover sequence dengue, RSV and influenza children.

viruses," said Dr Senjuti. WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE **FUTURE** 

Doing genome sequencing of the virus means that scientists can begin to understand which type it is, which country it came from, and when it came to Bangladesh.

"This will help us make predictions for the future -- when will we hit the peak?" said Dr Senjuti.

Genome sequencing of this virus has already been done worldwide around 16,000 times, Bangladesh can compare against, she explained.

In addition, this means that vaccines can be explored. "Vaccines are being built in other countries, but how do we know it will work for Bangladesh unless we know the type of virus we have?" added Dr Senjuti.

Vaccines will be injecting RNA of the virus into the body of the patient to help it build antibodies against the disease. The RNA in the vaccine needs to match the RNA of the virus strain hitting our country right now.

"We have also uploaded the results to an open-access database and hope that vaccine-makers will also be able to see it and incorporate that into their vaccine design," said Dr Senjuti.

The scientist has also made the sequencing protocol public and hopes that other laboratories around the country can train themselves and start sequencing samples.

"We assume that each month two 'letters' in the RNA mutate, which means this virus is constantly mutating. Therefore, sequencing too, needs to be a constant process.

Besides, having a group trained in genome sequencing can prevent the next pandemic in Bangladesh.

Dr Senjuti said that this would not have been possible if the Directorate had to send our samples abroad for General of Health Services( DGHS) sequencing and analysis. But with and IEDCR had not given them help from the Bill and Melinda Gates samples and the persmission to test. Previously, during the chikungunya

outbreak of 2018, Dr Senjuti Saha purchase a sequencer and since had completed the metagenomic those among the members working practising and teaching our staff to chikungunya is causing meningitis in

### Affluent persons listed as poor

But for Shah Alam's family, the rule appeared to be a bit relaxed, shows the primary list of 500 beneficiaries

for each ward under the municipality. Shah Alam is the designate OMS dealer at Ward 10 in the municipality

But he used his political clout when the list for the ward was being prepared, incorporating his family members in it, several local sources told The Daily Star.

A copy of the list, obtained by these correspondents, shows Shah Alam's wife Momataz Alam named at the 16th position. The name of their daughter Afroza appears a little further up, at the 12th spot.

Shah Alam's two brothers -Mohammad Selim and Mohammad Alamgir -- and sister Shamsunnahar are named at the eighth, ninth and 27th positions respectively, while his brother-in-law Tajul Islam is at third, his wife Asma Islam at five and nephew Nasir, living abroad, at

number seven. Jannatul Islam, wife of Shah Alam's brother-in-law, and his sister's three in-laws -- Motiur Rahman, Mahabubur Rahman and Luthfur Rahman -- are

also mentioned in the primary list. The name of another brotherin-law, Shafiqul Islam, now living abroad, is also seen in the list.

According to Brahmanbaria municipality sources, a total of 9,600 poor people, including those left unemployed by the outbreak, are entitled to get OMS cards, known as ration cards of the poor.

Each OMS card holder is supposed to get a maximum 20 kgs of rice at a subsidised price of Tk 10 per kg.

In the face of allegations from different quarters that the rich and influential, including ruling-party members, were named in the OMS list, the district OMS programme authorities, headed by Deputy Hayat-ud-Dowla Commissioner Khan, decided to investigate the matter, District Controller of Food Subir Nath Chowdhury, also member secretary of the OMS programme, told the Daily Star.

The DC on April 11 wrote to Shah cancel the licence of OMS dealer Shah Alam seeking an explanation from

Referring to the OMS policy, the letter said a dealer could not mention the names of his wife, daughter and other close relatives in the list of beneficiaries.

The letter asked Shal Alam to reply within two working days as to why his dealership would not be cancelled as per the OMS Policy 2015.

Contacted, Shah Alam told The Daily Star he was not aware of the list. "My brother is a local leader. He told me about a list of the poor and those from the lower middle class in our area. The list was sent to the local councillor and it was finalised by the municipality.

"Besides, I did not distribute any card. As a dealer, I cannot give any card," he said.

Shah Alam is not alone facing the allegation. Names of 84 other people, who according to locals are affluent and do not need assistance, can be found in such lists in the municipality area.

For instance, the name of a man who owns two five-storey buildings in the municipality area, featured at the 34th position of the list prepared for

Besides, a millionaire whose two sons live abroad, a leading cloth merchant in the municipality, and another man with two five-storey buildings have been mentioned in the list for Ward 7, said locals and documents.

Besides, the district Krishak League General Secretary Faridudin Dulal and a ward Awami League president Harun Ur Rashid were named in the list for Ward 12.

The Daily Star could not reach them for comments.

Asked about the irregularities, Brahmanbaria AL president and local lawmaker R A M Obaidul Muktadir Chowdhury said the matter was being investigated by the administration.

"If investigation finds the allegation to be true, the authorities will take action against the culprits," he said.

Replying to a query, he said he would request the government to

Alam. "District Awami League will also take action if the allegations raised against him is proved," Muktadir added.

After the Directorate General of Food launched the special OMS programme on April 5, different allegations raised against elected representatives of rice embezzlement forced the government to suspend the programme. The government then resumed it considering the needs of the poor people.

According to a report of Centre for Genocide Studies of Dhaka University, the LGRD ministry has suspended 49 public representatives (18 UP chairmen, 29 UP members, one district council member and one municipal councillor) for irregularities in distribution of relief among the poor amidst the coronavirus pandemic till

the Anti-Corruption Besides, Commission has filed 15 cases against 20 people, including 14 representatives of the local government, for their alleged involvement in the misappropriation of about 54,000 kg subsidised rice allocated for the poor and vulnerable people.

### France bats away China anger over Taiwan arms deal

France yesterday batted away criticism by China over a weapons deal with Taiwan, saying everyone's focus at this time should be on fighting the coronavirus epidemic.

The foreign ministry stressed that under a 1994 agreement that reestablished ties with Beijing, France respected the so-called one-China policy recognising Taiwan as part of

"In this context, France strictly respects the contractual agreements that it formed with Taiwan and nothing has changed in its position since 1994," a ministry statement said.

## WHO stresses need to find source of virus

Pinning down the source of the coronavirus pandemic should help in working out how Covid-19 has "invaded the human species" so quickly, a senior WHO official told

The outbreak has triggered a fierce diplomatic spat between China and the United States -- with the World Health Organization at the centre of the row.

In late March, US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping struck an informal truce in the war of words over the origin of the deadly disease. But it quickly broke down. Trump

has been accusing Beijing of being slow to alert the world to the initial outbreak in Wuhan, and openly suspects China of covering up an accident at the eastern city's virology lab.

Far from the cross-Pacific spat, Sylvie Briand, the WHO's director of infectious

hazard management, said it was crucial and finally resulted in a type of virus to know the origin of the virus "to understand how it has evolved".

"It is a virus of animal origin transmitted to humans. And so we have to try to understand how the adaptation of this virus allowed it to invade the human species," she told AFP outside the WHO's headquarters in Geneva.

VIRUS 'PING-PONG'

The first cases of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes the Covid-19 disease, were reported in late December in Wuhan.

Since then, the pandemic has infected more than four million people worldwide and claimed nearly 300,000 lives. Many researchers believe the new

coronavirus came from bats, but passed through another species before being transmitted to humans.

The virus multiplied in these animals, changed a little in doing so

that is transmissible to human beings, said Briand, who in 2009 headed the WHO's influenza programme during

the 2009 H1N1 "swine flu" pandemic. Retracing the origin of the virus, by discovering the intermediate hosts, would "prevent the phenomenon from happening again -- and avoid ping-pong" transmission between

humans and animals. "Every time it jumps from one species to another, the virus can mutate a bit," the French scientist said.

"That can have an impact on treatments -- it can become resistant -- while vaccines may no longer be effective enough.

For now, there are still many unknowns, despite "thousands and thousands of samples" having been taken, notably from "many animals in the market in Wuhan" -- but also from dogs in Hong Kong, said Briand, stressing that the analysis will take time.

### Heartbreaks; hope for herd immunity

incapacity to prevent it. But it was quite easy to predict consequences of the responses of government and people in general to the contagion over months. Like it or not, our collective responses had all but sealed our fate: infection is inevitable for most of us.

Our social-distancing gap is now being bridged! Bangladesh is gradually wiggling out of restrictions it imposed about 48 days back on March 26, a week after the first death from Covid-19 was recorded in the

Garment factories reopened on April 26, mosques on May 7 and shopping malls on May 10. Waiting to go are the countrywide lax lockdown (national holiday) till May 15, and the shutdown of educational institutions till May 30.

"Survive by yourself" is the unspoken message as the government shifts its focus on jacking up the grounded economy. Shutdown has turned all economies, big and small, upside down in a couple of months. Truly, the government has a lot to worry about export, remittance, revenue, start-ups, small and medium

industries, and looming food crisis. But why should we be this vulnerable following lockdown for nearly 50 days?

Haven't we gone through each of the measures that all other countries had in their fight against the coronavirus? Yes, we had our share of awareness campaign for safety regulations, PPEs, testing, contact tracing, home isolation, institutional quarantine, shutdown of economy, stimulus, safety net programme for the poor, and locked down before hurrying on to reopen.

The government was slow to react, but it certainly took almost all the right decisions that any other efficient governments had taken under the

Problem was not much with measures, but with the way measures were carried out. An army of invisible enemies exposed the grave weaknesses in the governance, political and healthcare system as well as people's mixed-up priorities.

The highest leadership is found to be mostly firm and far-sighted, with the leaderships below showing symptoms of all ailments.

The major challenge in the first part of the war on contagion was to prevent community transmission of the virus by slowing down the pandemic, isolating the infected, providing treatment to critical patients and feeding the poor, no less than two crores in number, during lockdown.

And, we gallantly wasted the first There are many heart-warming stories

good two-month Bangladesh had got to prepare against the contagion that ran havoc in Wuhan, the Chinese province from where the Covid-19 broke loose in January before rampaging through Europe in February and the US in March, killing

close to 1.85 lakh people. Sadly, most of the influential ministers, political leaders and the government machinery were found to be doing what they're good at: sycophancy, inefficiency and intolerance to critical voices.

When people looked to them for reassurance, they heard boasting like: "Awami League is more powerful than coronavirus." "Coronavirus would not come to Bangladesh." "The country is free from corona under the competent leadership of the prime minister." "Bangladesh is better prepared to prevent coronavirus than developed countries," and so on.

The power of coronavirus was completely misunderstood by the people in power. It should have been a full scale medical war, with doctors, healthcare staff, scientists, engineers, enforcers, members from welfare organisations and volunteers operating like a single disciplined force under one chief of health staff. For lack of it, no measure, no order, no directive and no wisdom seemed to have worked ever since the first coronavirus infection was reported on March 8.

Truly, almost all the countries struggled with the battle plan. But we had the time to take a serious lesson from Vietnam, a country with dense population, economy and healthcare system like Bangladesh. It showed the whole world how to take the fight to coronavirus and win the first part of the war in less than 30 days of

Zero death and recovery of 249 out for Vietnam that instituted rigorous quarantine policies, and carried out complete tracing of all people who came in contact with the virus.

As Vietnam did not afford mass testing like South Korea, they stuck to contact tracing and quarantine. They also meticulously kept track of second, third and fourth levels of contact to infected persons, and placed all of these people under successively stringent levels of movement and contact restrictions.

Sadly, our story is of corrupt culture and mixed-up priorities. Contact tracing was completely missing, testing way too inadequate, quarantine or home isolation a mockery and treatment at hospitals a big whimper. two of our war on contagion.

Memo No. 46.02.6194.404.000.00.20/268

of the frontline bravehearts -- doctors, police and volunteers, but those were lost on a mass madness.

Even when our existence is

threatened by the contagion, we could not break away from our precontagion sorry selves and continued to make shocking headlines: corona test by handheld infrared thermometer for passengers on arrival from coronavirus source countries, quarantine formalities done by verbal instruction for "14day home isolation" to about 7 lakh expatriates who flew in, substandard PPEs supplied in the name of N95 quality, doctors-nurses not getting PPEs but admin officials wearing those, traders arrested over selling used gloves and masks, thousands of people rushed to Cox's Bazar for holidaying as soon as the government declared nationwide shutdown, 54 chairmen-members arrested for stealing rice for the poor, over 1.5 lakh people attended janaza of a preacher violating lockdown, devotees packed like sardines in mosques during Juma prayers while social-distancing was in full force, human-jam at kitchen markets during lockdown, 11 journalists-activists sued under the Digital Security Act over corruption reporting and critical views, victim of alleged enforced disappearance photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol showed up" after 53 days, only to be arrested legally, handcuffed on the Press Freedom Day etc.

These are a few snapshots of the first part of our war on coronavirus, which, judging the scale of infection 45 days into community transmission elsewhere in the world, is believed to have gone very deep into the bedrock of population by now.

The war's not won for sure, but also not lost, as vet.

Though no scientific research is done, a number of natural factors is of 288 infected people spoke volumes likely to be working in our favour. We're quite immune to six other strains of coronavirus that cause seasonal flu. Factors of heat, our strange immune system developed surviving against plethora of microorganisms and pollutions over decades, comparatively low death number (269 with coronavirus and a few hundred others with symptoms) and the gene that drives us to fight against adversities all the time hold

out hopes for herd immunity. The road to herd immunity is expected to be dotted with deaths, but at the end of the road most of us should survive through a lot of sufferings. With survival of life, comes in the struggle for a living, the part

### Third doctor

FROM PAGE 1 Mursalin said his father, despite being an asthma patient, used to go to the diagnostic centre regularly even after the Covid-19 outbreak.

Around 12 days ago, he first exhibited Covid-19 symptoms, including fever.

As his condition worsened a week ago and he started to have breathing problem, he was first taken to Ibn Sina Hospital from where he was shifted to the CMH, he said.

His samples were collected there and the Covid-19 result came positive, Mursalin said. adding that his mother, elder brother and sisterin-law also tested positive

With Mokarim, three doctors have died of Covid-19 in the country so far.

On April 15, Dr Md Moyeen Uddin, an assistant professor at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, died at Kurmitola General Hospital in Dhaka while Hematologist Prof Col (retd) Md Moniruzzaman of Anwar Khan Modern Medical College Hospital died on

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Upazila Engineer

Trishal, Mymensingh www.lged.gov.bd

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Date: 11-05-2020

### e-Tender Notice: 04/2019-20

invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works/supply related Tender ID given below

Tolluc	al in diagni nelos	V.	
SI. No.	Tender ID	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing & opening (date and time)
01.	458000,	28-May-2020 11:00:00	28-May-2020 13:00:00

This is 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 downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 12:00 on closing date of the respected tender.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Munirujjaman

Upazila Engineer LGED, Trishal, Mymensingh

GD-833

e-mail: ue.trishal@lged.gov.bd

### Atiqul takes charge as DNCC mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) mayor Atiqul Islam yesterday said they will start a massive drive from Saturday to destroy Aedes larvae and breeding grounds.

Addressing at an online press conference after taking charge as mayor, he said their mobile courts are also conducting drives at residences and underconstruction buildings since May 10.

Atiqul said they have introduced free dengue testing facilities from May 11 at five maternity clinics and 22 health centres in DNCC. Regarding coronavirus, he said they would facilitate eight sample collection booths with help of Brac, set up at eight DNCC community centres.

They have already handed over Mohakhali kitchen market building to DGHS to turn it to a coronavirus treatment hospital and isolation centre, he said.

About distribution of relief, the mayor said they are planning to introduce QR code system to monitor distribution properly. He said DNCC has distributed food assistance to 3 lakh families and will continue during this lockdown.

"I will host Facebook live once a month to know about problems of residents and will try to solve it," the mayor said.



A woman stops her rickshaw and buys a plant from a mobile nursery in the capital's Kakrail. Gardening has gained popularity during the quarantine, with people having more leisure time and keen to bring bits of nature indoors and on their rooftops. Nursery owners have taken the opportunity to take their business on the road to meet the rising demand for plants and seedlings.

COVID-19 TESTING

### Brac to set up 100 walkin kiosks across country

Brac is going to set up 100 walk-in kiosks across 19 risky regions of the country, to expedite the government's initiative of scaling up testing capacity for the novel coronavirus.

Of these, at least 50 will be installed in Dhaka by next week, while fifty more kiosks will be set up across the country soon, the world's top NGO said in a statement yesterday.

Initially, Brac installed kiosks at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital on a pilot basis. Later, more kiosks were set up at Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Memorial KPJ Specialized Hospital & Nursing College, and in Narayanganj, in line with the directive from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

"We have also identified several spots to install kiosks in consultation with two Dhaka city mayors," said Morseda Chowdhury, associate director of Brac's Health, Nutrition and Population Programme in a statement.

As of May 11, she said, 17 kiosks have been installed at 14 spots in Dhaka as per DGHS directive, and work on installing more booths is in progress.

"Brac is yet to receive any new funds in this regard. However, the organisation is diverting some of its funds from the Department for International Development (DFID) of the UK government to continue its proceedings," Chowdhury said.

While kiosks set up at hospitals will be operated by respective hospital staff, two trained medical technologists from Brac will collect samples at the kiosks set up elsewhere from suspected Covid-19 patients from 9am to noon Saturday through Thursday.

Once collected, the samples will be sent to testing facilities designated by DGHS, and patients will be informed results via text messages.

#### Undisclsoed Wealth **Ex-DIG** prisons Bazlur Rashid

denied bail STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday again denied bail to suspended deputy inspector general of prisons Bazlur Rashid in a case over amassing Tk 3.08 crore beyond the known source of his income.

The HC bench of Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim passed the order after holding a virtual hearing on a petition filed by Bazlur on May 11.

Advocate Mesbaul Islam appeared for Bazlur Rashid at the hearing, while Attorney General Mahbubey Alam opposed the bail petition.

On January 29 this year another HC bench led by Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder refused to grant bail to Bazlur Rashid in the

# Stymied by the traffic shutdown

Over 3 lakh people working at automobile workshops struggling to make ends meet

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

No cacophony of metals clinking, no yelling of experts to apprentice mechanics, only skeletons of under-repair vehicles parked by the roadside testifies that there used to be automobile workshops on Motiheel's Culvert Road. These days, an eerie silence pervades the area.

Ever since the government's stayhome order, the scenario of Culvert Road's workshop hub has changed immensely, along with the fate of motor mechanics who worked there.

These workers -- who help keep the wheels of the transport sector moving -- are now struggling to take care of their families.

According Bangladesh Workshop Malik Automobile Samity (BAWMS), about three lakh people living on automobile workshop earnings are facing hardship during the shutdown.

Not only them, the backward pinch of the economic debilitation

caused by the novel coronavirus.

According to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), vehicles and parts worth around Tk 1,147 crore were imported only in January this year, from which the government earned a huge revenue.

The government also collects a lot of revenue from automobile workshops. However, when traders and workers find themselves in trouble, the government is nowhere to be seen, union leaders alleged. "We pay tax and VAT worth

nearly Tk 1,000 crore to the government each year. But during this time of crisis, they're indifferent to our plight," said BAWMS Secretary General Jahangir Alam. The organisation represents 20,000 workshops around the country.

In Jashore municipality, several hundred automobile workshop workers demonstrated for relief in the last week of April, sources said.

Most motor mechanics get paid linkage industries that gear the on a weekly basis. As the closure transport sector are also feeling the has prolonged, they have already finished their meager savings, said

Shahin Kabir, general secretary of BAWMS Jashore unit. The unit has nearly 1,000 registered workshops where over 3,000 people work.

Shahin said he sought help district administration, municipality and three large private transport manufacturers on the last week of April.

Unable to pay salaries, workshop owners have turned to banks, but to no avail. "Banks have denied giving us loans," Jahangir said. "We need the money to pay our staff and keep the industry alive.

#### TOUGH TIME FOR LINKAGE **INDUSTRIES**

Besides the workshops, people involved in the motor parts business are also going through tough times. Bangladesh Auto Spare Parts

Merchants and Manufacturers Association has 20,000 registered members across the country, its treasurer Abul Kashem Azad Bepari told The Daily Star.

small Many of these entrepreneurs have limited income.

went home with Tk 10,000 to Tk 20,000 of savings. After so many days of closure, they are now kneedeep in debt, he said.

Saleh Ahmed, owner of Siam Motors in Sayedabad Bus Terminal area, said his earning is Tk 1 lakh to Tk 2 lakh per month during normal "I shut my shop on March 24.

Since then I'm bearing my family expenditure and staff salaries from my savings," he said. Ahmed sells all sorts of parts and tyres of bus, mini-bus, SUVs and sedans. Contacted, Bangladesh Motor

Parts and Tyre Tube Merchants Association Secretary Md Aslam said, "We'll incur at least Tk 3,000 crore loss during the crisis."

The association has 3,000 members and over 20,000 staff working in the industry.

Aslam, however, said they are still willing to extend their support to the government. "If the closure is extended, we'll keep our shops shut for the sake of public safety,

### HC rejects Sangram editor's bail plea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday refused to grant bail to Abul Asad, editor of Bangla daily Sangram, in a case filed under Digital Security Act on charges of "circulating provocative report and sedition".

The bench of Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim passed the order following a virtual hearing on a bail petition by Asad. It said lawyers for the accused may place the petition before it after regular functions of the court resume.

Asad is now in Kashimpur jail. A Dhaka court sent him to jail on December 14, said his lawyer Shishir Manir.

During the hearing, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam vehemently opposed the bail petition, saying that the accused has committed a serious offence by terming convicted war criminal Abdul Quader Molla a martyr in his newspaper.

Asad's lawyer Advocate Khandker Mahbub Hossain prayed to the HC to grant his client bail, saying that he is 80 and suffering in jail for five months with asthma and

Afzal Hossain, a freedom fighter, filed the case with Hatirjheel Police Station. Police detained Asad on December 13 after mob vandalised the daily's office, over publishing a report that termed Quader Molla a "martyr".

Molla, former assistant secretary general of Jamaat and known infamously as "The butcher of Mirpur" during the Liberation War, was hanged in 2013 after being convicted in a case for committing crimes against humanity during the war by the Supreme Court on September 17 that year.

### Unilever, 2030 Water Resources, BDRCS join hands

Unilever Bangladesh, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and 2030 Water Resources Group are collaborating to prevent spread of Covid-19 at deputy commissioners' (DC) offices that are still operating amid the pandemic.

Unilever Bangladesh has already pledged Tk 200 million to help fight against Covid-19. The commitment includes product donations, creating awareness, improving health infrastructure, and protecting people and livelihoods.

Under this collaboration, the overall water, sanitation and hygiene spectrum will be improved by installing handwashing stations at entrance of each DC office, with added support for disinfection of office compounds, improved sanitation and safe drinking water facility.

BDRCS will lead the implementation across 64 districts. DC office employees will be trained on how to run regular disinfection activities and inform office visitors on hygienic protocols.

This initiative will help raise awareness and disseminate messages designed by Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research and World Health Organization.

### Unused Biman tickets will be valid till March 2021

Qatar Airways announces ticket giveaway for healthcare professionals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As air travel remains suspended during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the airlines industry is taking steps to keep their customers satisfied. National airliner Biman Bangladesh Airlines and popular international airlines Qatar Airways have made special announcements pertaining to the pandemic over the last few days.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines announced yesterday that passengers will be able to avail their unused tickets until March 14, 2021. In a WhatsApp message, Biman managing director and CEO M Mohabbir Hossain said no surcharge will be added for this.

Passengers will also be able to take refunds during this time, the Biman

Meanwhile, Qatar Airways has announced to give away 100,000 free tickets to frontline healthcare professionals as a token of gratitude for their heroic work in taking care of people during the pandemic. Healthcare professionals from every country in the world will be eligible for tickets.

The giveaway opened from May 12 and will run till May 18. Healthcare professionals can register for this exclusive offer on the airways' website by submitting a form. They will receive a unique promotion code, offered on a first come, first served basis, the airlines said in a press release.

Each country will receive a daily allocation of tickets, depending on population size, the airlines said.

Healthcare professionals who receive the promotion code can book up to two complimentary economy class return tickets on Qatar Airways operated flights - one for themselves and one for a companion - to anywhere on the airline's global network, added the release.

Tickets must be booked before November 26, with travel valid until December 10, 2020.



Sohag (behind), who runs a few local buses, has been out of work ever since the suspension of public transport in the capital. After his buses remained stationary week after week, getting soaked in rain then scorched in the sun, he noticed something: their outer bodies began to rust. To save a bus of his, he and his worker opened cans of paint and brushed the whole vehicle in blue. This photo was taken recently from Mirpur. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

### Countrymen on their minds **US-based Agami Education Foundation**

helping feed the underprivileged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A US-based charity organisation run by Bangladeshi expatriates has extended support to underprivileged families hit by the Covid-19 shutdown. Agami Education Foundation, a sister organisation of Agami Inc USA,

has already distributed more than 3000 food packs to underprivileged families who were affected by the ongoing shutdown. A total of 3,241 families in Dhaka, Gazipur, Comilla, Sylhet, Habiganj, Chittagong, Rangamati, and Jhenaidah have already received relief packets containing 12kg rice, 8kg potato, 2 litre Soybean oil, 2kg salt, 2kg lentil,

four Dettol soaps and other necessary commodities, said Tahsin Rouf, who is leading the Covid-19 response for Agami. "We run 13 schools across the country where around 3,000 students are enrolled. Families of those students are underprivileged. So we stand

beside those families. We shall continue to stand by them and do what is necessary to keep them safe," Rouf told The Daily Star. Shirin Akter, a teacher from Agami-supported school PSD Nandipara at Khilgaon, thanked AEF for taking the initiative.

they are struggling during the shutdown. "There is a scarcity of food, and Agami Foundation's aid will be very helpful for them," she added. Nafisa Khanam, AEF executive director, said the relief distribution work started on March 28

She said the school's students' families are mostly day labourers and

Agami is hosting a fundraising event to support and continue their campaign. Details can be found on their web site -- www.agami.org -- and

One can also donate to AEF's bank account in Dhaka or through bKash.

Mosquito Menace in Sylhet City

### Drive resumes as Aedes larvae found in 5 spots

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

An entomological survey team supporting Sylhet City Corporation's (SCC) antimosquito drive found Aedes larvae at five locations of two wards in the city, as the drive resumed after being disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic.

After surveying seven wards, the team found traces in wards 25 and 26 -- mostly in stagnant water, inside tyres and sanitary materials kept in stores, said Dr Md Jahidul Islam, chief health officer of SCC.

SCC started the drive on February 23. As the mosquito menace was escalating, the corporation resumed the drive from Saturday and initiated entomological surveying.

"The survey was carried out with help from the civil surgeon's office. After finding traces of Aedes, we have taken initiatives to destroy them and ordered store owners to be vigilant," Dr Jahidul said.

The SCC health official said, "In June, we

will conduct another entomological survey covering all city wards and will also try to survey door-to-door."

He claims there is no shortage of larvicide and adulticide.

Many residents are complaining about mosquitoes. When asked why there are mosquitoes everywhere despite spraying and fogging, Dr Jahidul said, "Most city canals and drains are clogged, and so, they become mosquito breeding zones. No matter how much we spray and fog, mosquitoes will remain until these are

On March 11, a massive cleaning drive under "Clean Village, Clean City" project was initiated by the corporation but was halted due to the countrywide shutdown.

SCC Mayor Ariful Haque Chowdhury said, "As we resumed the anti-mosquito drive and have already sprayed larvicide and adulticide in six wards, I am hopeful that we will be able to control the mosquito menace and prevent any possible dengue outbreak."

### Stipends for 1.37cr pry students restart today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Distribution of stipends for some 1.37 crore primary level students resume today, with the beneficiaries set to get the money of October to November

The stipend was halted for over seven months as Primary Education Stipend Project (PESP) did not get extension on the time due to the coronavirus crisis. On May 4, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina approved the project extension, officials said.

"We have deposited the money to bank on Tuesday and it would be disbursed to the all beneficiaries on Thursday," Yusuf Ali, project director of PESP's third phase, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Project officials send the money to students' mothers through mobile banking services. They disburse the money four times a year -- in April,

Students will get the stipend today for October instalment, Yusuf said. Yusuf said for October instalment each student fulfilling required 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

He said they will disburse instalments of January and April before Eid. He said after PM's approval, from January instalment, the amount of stipend will increase by 50 percent, and each primary student will receive a yearly amount of Tk 1,000 for buying school supplies.

From January instalment each student 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.

FROM PAGE 12 Bangladesh. BANGABANDHU'S **MESSAGE TO PRIMARY TEACHERS** 

In a message sent to the first national conference of primary teachers, Bangabandhu says that teachers, particularly primary school teachers, played a significant role in the liberation struggle of Bangladesh. Teachers are not only the backbone of the country but also the torch bearers of the nation, adds the prime minister. PRESIDENT'S APPEAL TO THE NATION

President Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury today appeals to the nation to use Bangla in all spheres of life. He also calls upon countrymen to work for eradicating illiteracy from the country. "We have to transform the existing education system into a people-oriented system", add the president. **CABINET MEETS** 

The Cabinet today meets for four hours. The cabinet meeting presided over by Bangabandhu is reported to have discussed the overall situation of the country including the food and economic condition. INDIA WILL RESPECT BANGLADESH'S VIEW **ON POWS** 

Indira Gandhi today says that India will always respect Bangladesh's view on the prisoners of war. In an interview with American Broadcasting Corporation, the Indian prime minister opines,

"The situation has changed in Pakistan. If they want peace it can be established now." **INDIAN FOOD AID CONTINUES** 

India has supplied more than 50,000 tonnes of rice and wheat to Bangladesh between December, 1971 and April, 1972. They will provide four lakh tonnes of food aid in May RELEASE STRANDED BANGALEES National Women's Federation and Bangalee Rescue Committee today jointly organise

a procession at Paltan Maidan demanding immediate release of Bangalees stranded in Pakistan. They urge the Bangladesh government, the UN and other international bodies to create pressure on the Pakistani authority in this regard.

SOURCE: May 15, 1972 issue of Dainik Bangla.



The 40th annual general meeting of Singer Bangladesh Ltd was held yesterday through digital platform. Company Chairman Dr Fatih Kemal Ebiçlioglu presided over the AGM.

### Europe steps up reopening

Many still left unprotected

eased restrictions to allow some a vital first step. people back to work.

death toll in a single day, with 881 new fatalities bringing the total to 12,400, and the country was emerging as a new global hotspot despite President Jair Bolsonaro dismissing the pandemic as a "little flu".

Fears were growing of a second wave of infections in China, with the northeastern city of Jilin put in partial lockdown and Wuhan, where the virus first appeared last year, planning to test its entire population after clusters of new cases.

UNCONTROLLABLE OUTBREAK And the United States, which has MOVES TO REBOOT ECONOMIES confirmed more than 1.36 million

cases, saw a sharp rise in fatalities, with 1,894 new deaths reported on Tuesday after daily tolls fell below

The country's top infectious diseases expert Anthony Fauci issued a stark warning about the dangers of a \$3 trillion virus response package,

"I work in fear of coronavirus as I

work with my bare hands. I don't

know where I have to go for tests

or treatment if my family or I

unfortunately get infected with the

virus," said Islam, who lives with his

"My wife, a garment worker, does

not want me to continue this work

due to the risks. But we do not have

any other choice, as she is out of a job

has been working as a cleaner for the

last 15 years said he also does not feel

comfortable using PPE, gloves and a

Rafiqul Islam, a DNCC garbage

wife and children in Dhaka.

for the past few months.

FROM PAGE 12

resuming normal life too soon, saying infections after authorities this week a run of 14 days with falling cases was

"If a community or a state or region Brazil registered its highest virus doesn't go by those guidelines and reopens... the consequences could be really serious," he said Tuesday.

"There is a real risk that you will trigger an outbreak that you may not be able to control."

Fauci said the true number killed by the epidemic in the US is likely greater than the official toll of over 82,000 -- the world's highest. Facing a re-election campaign later

this year, President Donald Trump is pressing for rapid steps to get the US economy moving again, despite warnings from health officials.

Countries around the world are

grappling with how to reopen businesses after the pandemic forced half of the planet into some form of lockdown and ground the global economy to a near-halt.

US Democrats on Tuesday unveiled

He said he has tried to work using

Prof Mujibur Rahman, head of

these but ends up feeling exhausted.

department of medicine at Dhaka

Medical College Hospital, said

cleaners will have to use thick plastic

gloves and masks as a must to avoid

gloves and masks, they will not only

be at risk of coronavirus but also of

DNCC's chief waste management

officer, said two-thirds of their 2,500

If they do not use safety gears like

Commodore M Monzur Hossain,

coronavirus infection.

other diseases, he said.

the largest yet, to fund efforts to fight the pandemic and provide emergency payments to millions of American households.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a \$270 billion economic stimulus as the Asian giant's economy lumbers back to life after a prolonged shutdown.

Its giant railway network also restarted, despite a recent surge in infections.

# 60-yr-old

I went to the Sadar Police Station with my niece filed a rape case. During that time villagers caught the accused and informed police, who then went to the spot and arrested him."

Khan Mohammad Shahriar, officerin-charge of the Sadar Police Station said, "We have sent the accused to the court today [yesterday]."

The victim is now undergoing treatment at the Gaibandha Sadar Upazila Heath Complex, he said.

### Gonoshasthaya sends 200 kits emergency situation. But that has not

"We hope the BSMMU will complete the tests and prepare the report in a week. Then we will have to get permission from the Directorate General of Drug Administration for marketing the kits. The drug administration is not supposed to take more than a week for granting the approval," Zafrullah said.

He said they would go for mass production of the kit named Rapid Dot Blot after having the approval. "We are eagerly waiting for that day. Large scale tests on people for novel coronavirus is extremely important to prevent its spread.'

The veteran physician said the kit, developed by the Gonoshasthaya Kendra scientists, can test both antibody and antigen in blood. It has an accuracy rate of over 90 percent, which is close to those of RT-PCR machines being used by Bangladesh for Covid-19 testing, said

"We had urged the authorities to test our kit at the earliest because this is an

happened," he said. After manufacturing kits at its factory in Savar, Gonoshasthaya on April 26 approached the DGDA for validation of the kit. The DGDA, however, suggested it to go through the contract research organisations

> (CROs). Gonoshasthaya, however, refused to comply with it, arguing that CROs became a vehicle for corruption and the process would raise the price of the kit.

> On April 30, the DGDA permitted Gonoshasthaya Kendra to have their kits independently validated by the BSMMU. Two days later, the BSMMU formed a

> committee, headed by Prof Dr Shahina Tabassum of its virology department.

> After preparing a protocol, the BSMMU was supposed to write a letter to Gonoshasthaya on May 10. But it was issued on Tuesday.

> Zafrullah expressed optimism that they would get the DGDA's approval after smooth testing of the kit.

### 10 garment workers hurt

FROM PAGE 12

leaving 10 injured.

A senior executive of the mill said as per the government directive, they are paying 60 percent of April's gross salary to the workers those who did not work, but 100 percent to the workers who worked in April.

The workers vandalised the factory gate and no worker was beaten, said the executive. He said the management has agreed to pay 65 percent of April's salary in

Meanwhile in Savar, workers of a closed garments factory yesterday demonstrated in front of the factory demanding two months' arrears and reopening the factory.

Around 100 workers of Orchid Styles Ltd in Savar's Hemayetpur area went to the factory gate around 8:00am and began their demonstration to have their demands

Demonstrators said their factory was declared closed on March 29 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, after which the workers stopped getting their salaries.

Factory authorities did not pay salaries of neither March nor April and did not even inform them when the factory will

reopen, the workers alleged.

Mohabbat Hossen, deputy general manager of Orchid Styles Ltd, told the Daily Star that, they have 350 workers and some of the workers have already been paid March month's salary, he said, adding that all salaries will be paid to the workers within the following week and the factory will reopen after Eid-Ul-Fitr, depending on the Covid-19 situation.

### Toilet duty

FROM PAGE 12

million rupiah under rules made public this week.

Jakarta -- a sprawling city home to some 30 million -- imposed a partial lockdown last month as virus infections surged and critics warned of a looming public health disaster.

Several other Indonesian cities have put similar restrictions in place, but violations are prevalent.

At the weekend, several hundred people gathered in downtown Jakarta to mark the closure of a fast-food restaurant, sparking widespread criticism.

#### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী (স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা) www.noakhali.gov.bd



মেটি সংখ্যা

#### দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থবছরে নোয়াবালী জেলার ০৯টি উপজেলার ৭৮৬জন গ্রাম পুলিশ (দফাবার ও মহল্লাদার) এর ''খ'' তফসিলে বর্ণিত পোষাক ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি সরবরাহের নিমিত্তে প্রস্তুতকারী/সরবরাহকারী টিকাদারের নিকট হতে

পিপিআর-২০০৮ অনুসরণপূর্বক নিম্নলিখিত শর্তানুযায়ী সিলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপর আহবান করা যাছে।

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3.	মন্ত্ৰণালয়/বিভাগ/এজেপি	স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ, স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উল্লয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়			
₹.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী দপ্তর প্রধানের পদবি	জেলা প্রশাসক, নোরাখালী			
ø,	সংগ্ৰহ পদ্ধতি	উদুক্ত দরণর পছতি (Open Tendering Method)			
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¢.	দরপরের মূল্য (অফেরতখোগ্য)	২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা প্রতি সেট			
ù,	প্রপ্ত ভাষানত	দাবিলকৃত দরপরের ১০% মূল্য সম্বলিত বাংক ক্রাকট/পে-অর্চার জেলা প্রশাসক, নোয়াখালী এর জনুকুলে দরপরের সাথে দাবিল করতে হবে।			
۹,	দরণর বিক্রম্ব ও বাখিলের স্থান	১। বিভাগীয় কমিশনারের কার্যালয়, চট্টগ্রাম ২। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী ৩। জেলা পরিঘদ কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী ৪। স্থানীয় সরকার শাখা, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী			
ъ.	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের কারিখ ও সময়	২৭-০৫-২০২০ খ্রিঃ ভারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত			
۵.	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৮-০৫-২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখ দুপুর ০১.৩০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে			
30.	দরপর খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	২৮-০৫-২০২০ বিঃ তারিম বিকাল ০৪,০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে			
33.	কাৰ্য সম্পাদনের তারিখ	কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির ২৮ (আটাশ) দিনের মধ্যে			
32.	মালামালের নমুনা দাখিল সংক্রোয়	দরপরের সাথে সিভিউল মোতাবেক প্রতি আইটেমের নমুনা দাখিল করতে হবে			

#### তফসিল "খ" পোষাক ও অন্যান্য সরপ্রামাণির নাম

Mind & Ad	FERT O MUNICIPALITY OF	P-116 -17 411
5.	খাকি নং এর ফুল প্যান্ট দৃটি করে মন্ত্রপালয়ের নমুনা অনুযায়ী দৃটি করে	৭৭৯×২= ১৫৫৮ টি (পুরুষ)
à.	নীল রং এর ফুল শার্ট মছাপালয়ের নমুনা অনুযায়ী	৭৭৯ টি (পূরুষ)
0.	নীল রং এর হাফ শার্ট মহাণালয়ের নমুনা অনুযায়ী	৭৭৯ টি (পুরুষ)
6.	নীল রং এর শাড়ী ০৭ছন মহিলা গ্রাম পুলিশের জন্য দৃটি করে	৭x২= ১৪ টি (মহিলা)
d.	নীল রং এর ব্লাউজ ০৭জন মহিলা গ্রাম পুলিশের জন্য দুটি করে	৭x২= ১৪ ট (মহিলা)
6.	নীল রং এর পেটকোট ০৭জন মহিলা প্রাম পুলিশের জন্য পুটি করে	৭x২= 28 টি (মহিলা)
٩.	নাইলনের বেপ্ট প্রতি জনের জন্য একটি করে	৭৮৬ টি (কমধ্যে ০৭ টি মহিলাদের জন্য)
br.	সোন্ধার ব্যাক্ত দফাদারদের জন্ম রিবন ও প্টারসহ	৬৮ জোড়া (পুরুষ)
b.	সোখার বাজ মহলাদারদের জন্য রিবনসহ	956 टकावर
<u>λ</u> ο.	কাপড়ের জুবা এক ছোড়া করে	৭৮৬ জোড়া (ডন্মধ্যে ০৭ জোড়া মহিলাদের)
35.	মাথার ক্যাপ মনোগ্রামসহ একটি করে	91/6 B
25	জ্যাকেট পুরুষ প্রাম পুলিশদের জন্য একটি করে	995 13
50.	কার্ভিগন মহিলা গ্রাম পুলিশদের জন্য একটি করে	তণ টি
38.	উলের দ্বামা একটি করে	91×6 B
36.	চামড়ার জুতা এক জোড়া করে	৭৮৬ জোড়া (ক্তমধ্যে ০৭ জোড়া মহিলাদের)
26,	রেইনকোট একটি করে	৭৮৬ টি (কথাংগ ০৭ টি মহিলাবের জন্য)
59.	লাইনার বীশী একটি করে	986 13
bb.	যেতের লাঠি একটি করে	966 18

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GD-835

ক্রমিক নং

- বরপত্রের সাথে বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, টিবাইএন ও অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রের সভ্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে।
- অসম্পূর্ণ, অম্পন্ট, ভুল ও ঘষামাজা দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- সর্বনিম্ন বৈধ একাথিক দরদাতার দর একই হলে লটারীর মাধ্যমে সরবরাহকারী নিযুক্ত করা হবে।
- N) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যেকোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা রাখেন
- সরকারি বিধি মোতাবেক ভাাট ও আয়কর কর্তন করা হবে।
- কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্ত সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে উপজেলাধীন ইউনিয়নসমূহে কর্মরত দফাদার-মহল্লাদারদের ব্যক্তিগত পোষাকের মাপ মোতাবেক পোষাক ও সরঞ্জামাদি প্রথমে অত্র কার্যালয়ে সরবরাহ করতে হবে। সরবরাহকৃত পোষাক ও সরঞ্জামাদি সংশ্লিষ্ট কমিটি কর্তৃক যথাযথ মানসম্পন্ন মর্মে গৃহীত হলে পোষাক ও সরঞ্জামাদি সংশ্লিষ্ট উপজেলা নির্বাহী অফিসারের কার্যালয়ে সরবরাহ করত হবে।
- পোষাক ও জুতা সরবরাহের পর তা গ্রাম পুলিশদের মাপ অনুযায়ী না হলে সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে পুনরায় সঠিক মাপের পৌথাক ও জুতা সরবরাহ করতে হবে।
- পিপিআর-২০০৮ ও সংশোধনী গেজেট প্রজ্ঞাপন ১২ আগণ্ট, ২০০৯ মোতাবেক বিক্রয় গ্রহণ, মালামাল সরবরাহ ও মৃদ্য পরিশোধ করা হবে।

ুগা**০বা2**ক্তর তন্ময় বাস জেলা প্রশাসক নোয়াখাণী ক্লোল । দক্ত২৯-৬৯০২৯

E-máltskooldsálólmeps,pv.há

#### management worker who works at Indira Road in Farmgate said he waste management workers have been received PPE and other safety gears. given PPE. "We are also trying to provide PPE But he does not use it most of the time.

as he feels uncomfortable working in to the rest," he said. Other protective gears like gloves Mohammad Omar Faruk, 22, who and masks were distributed to all and gumboots were given to those who are directly involved in the collection and disposal of waste, he added.

Though they have provided many

said, many do not want to use it and so, DNCC is trying to motivate the workers to adopt it while working. There are also around 4,000

workers with protective gear, he

garbage management workers, involved in door-to-door collection, who are appointed by private organisations. About these workers, Monzur

said, the DNCC has asked their respective employers to provide them with protective gears, and they are monitoring this. Air Commodore Badrul Amin,

DSCC's chief waste management officer, said the DSCC has provided masks and gloves to all of their 5,400 workers and will also be distributing PPE to the workers shortly These workers are not habituated

with using protective gear, which is why they do not want to use it. The DSCC is trying to motivate them to use it, he added.



Ministry/Division

tender

inviting tender

Contact details of official

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

mask while working.

Ministry of Industries

Office of the Project Director "Construction of Chemical Warehouse" Project, Tongi, Gazipur 76-78, Tongi Industrial Area, Gazipur-1710

#### Invitation for Tenders Ministry of Industries

	I IIII II ali yi birii aloi i		miliady of modestres.					
2	Agency		Bangladesh S	Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation.				
3	Procuring entity	name	Project Direct Project, Tongi	tor, "Construction of	Chemical Warehouse*			
4	Procuring entity	district	Gazipur.					
5	Invitation for		Outsourcing 8	of Manpower (2 Nos. Service Provider for "( Project, Tongi, Gazipu	of Office Assistant) from Construction of Chemical Ir.			
6	Invitation Ref. No	0.	CWCP/SD-01		12-05-2020			
7	Procurement me		Open Tender	Method (OTM).				
8	Budget and sour	ce of funds	GOB.					
9	Project name		*Construction Gazipur.	of Chemical Ware	ehouse" Project, Tongi,			
10	Tender publication	on date	14-05-2020.					
11	Tender last selling	ng date	09-06-2020 at	office hour.				
12	Tender closing d		holiday on the	12.00 Noon. If go at day, tender closing g office @ 12.00 Noo	vernment declares any g will happen on the first n.			
13	Tender opening	date and time	10-06-2020, 1	2-30pm. If governmender opening will he	ent declares any holiday appen on the first day of			
14	Name & address	of the office(s						
	Selling, receiving tender document	& opening	Office of the	roject, Tongi, Gazipu	onstruction of Chemical ir, 76-78, Tongi Industrial			
15	Eligibility of tend	erer	As per TDS.					
16	Brief description	of services	Outsourcing of Outsourcing S Warehouse" F	Service Provider for "( Project, Tongi, Gazipu				
17	Price of tender d	ocument (Tk)	BDT 1,000.00	(Taka one thousand				
INFO	RMATION FOR T	ENDERER						
18	Invitation Ref. No.	Identification of package	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in months			
	CWCP/SD-01	NA.	Gazipur	15,000.00	18 (eighteen) months			
PRO	CURING ENTITY I	DETAILS						
19	Name of official tender	al inviting N		se" Project, Tongi, Ga	rector, "Construction of azipur.			
20	Address of offici	al inviting C	office of the Pr	oject Director, "Co	nstruction of Chemical			

The tender shall be guided by the "PPR 2008" & "PPA 2006" The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the tenders of annul the tender proceedings. Md. Maniruzzaman Khan

Area, Gazipur-1710.

Warehouse" Project, Tongi, Gazipur, 76-78, Tongi Industrial

Md. Maniruzzaman Khan, Project Director, "Construction of

Chemical Warehouse" Project Tongi, Gazipur, 76-78, Tongi Industrial Area, Gazipur-1710, Mobile: +6801721875382.

Project Director

# Eid holidays in KSA

while 15,257 people have recovered.

In March, Saudi Arabia suspended the year-round "umrah" pilgrimage over fears of the disease spreading in Islam's holiest cities. Authorities are yet to announce whether they will

proceed with this year's hajj -- scheduled for late July -- but they have urged Muslims to temporarily defer preparations for the annual pilgrimage. Last year, some 2.5 million faithful travelled to Saudi

Arabia from across the world to participate in the hajj, which Muslims are obliged to perform at least once during

The Arab world's biggest economy has also closed cinemas and restaurants and halted flights as it attempts to contain the virus.

#### **BUILDING & LAND SALE** (Suitable for Factory/ Hospital/University)

Two Building (each 6 Storied@ 90,000sft) total 1,80,000sft, Land **5.50 bigha** with Electricity /Gas/Water Facility. Both Building Accord Approved with Full Compliance. Presently Garments Factory inning at Dhaka Road, Vogra before Gazipur Chowrasta. Contact: **01711-525563**, email-**1960skt@gmail.com** 

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

78.4	R-4tr.08,4te00,0tr.08,003, Ispens/Fami	ত - ৯০৭ তালিখা ১২-৩৫-২০২ বিভাগত ।
	बटक्वी/महा	কার অধিসক্তর, বাংলাদেশ, চাকা।
4	अध्यक्ति असं	কোল সুপার, মুলীগঞ্জ।
8	गतरपात गय	বিভিন্ন প্রকার খাদ্যনুধ্য সরবরাম।
0	CHEMINA	০৩-০৭-২০২০ মতে ৩৩-১২-২০২০ পজি সময়ের বিভি প্রকার স্বাসন্তব্য সক্ষরাক্ষের ১ম বারের সক্ষরে ।
э	দরপত্রের বিভব্তি নমর	04/2020
4	সংগ্রের প্রকৃতি	উত্ত দলগত।
b b	টেভার সিভিউরিট	দরশর দলিলে বর্ণিত মতে।
>	मतथ्य गरिन शक्ति झ्रम	জেল দুপারের কার্যালর, জেলা কারাগার, দুর্গীগঞ্চ ও কা উপ-মহাপরিদাশক এর কার্যালয়, চাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা।
3n	সরগর সনিলের মূল্য	৭৫৩/- (সাত্ৰণত পৰাশ টকা)।
33	সকলাহকারীর মোগাকা	দরশন দশিলে সংযুক্ত/বর্ণিকমতে।
31.	দরপত্র দাবিলের ছান	মূপীগঞ্জ চেলা করাবারের প্রথম ফটক, ফেলা প্রশাসকে কর্মালয়, মূপীগঞ্জ ও সবর থানা, মূপীগঞ্জ।
10	দর্শন্ত দলিদ বিরয়ের সর্বশেষ ভারিখ ও সময়	০৭-০৬-২০২০ অধিস চলকালীন ২-৩০ ঘটিকা পঞ্চ।
18	দরপত্র দাখিলের ভারিখ ও সহয়	০৮-০৬-২০২০ সকল ৯.০০ ঘটকা হতে ১২,০ ঘটকা।
34	দরপর ধোলর অভিগ ও সময়	০৮-০৮-২০২০ বেশ ১২-৩০ ঘটিকা।
3 to	সরপর মুদ্যায়মের ভারিব ও সময়	ob-ob-২০২০ সেশ ২-০০ মটিকা।
39	ব্যক্তেই ও দাত প্রান্তির উৎদ	ভাতীর রাজ্য ভর্মাল।
701	দরপর সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য কথানদী। সময়ে) মোণামোণ করা মেতে পার	প্ৰদার স্কন্য সংশ্লিট কারা কর্তৃপক্ষের সামে (অধিস চলাকালী ।
10+	কৰ্ণক কোন কালে দৰ্শনে কা সংক্ৰম কলে।	উল্লেক যে কোৰ/সকল দলদান ৰাছিল/মাহণ কনাৰ অধিকা

### **CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

### **LATEST UPDATES**

#### **MORE THAN 292,000 DEATHS**

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 292,316 people, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University at 1300 GMT. At least 4,117,740 cases of coronavirus have been registered in 195 countries and territories. The US has the highest number of total deaths with 82,389 followed by UK with 32,769 deaths. Italy recorded 30,911 deaths, France 26,994 fatalities and Spain has seen 26,920 deaths.

#### **RECORD DEATHS IN BRAZIL**

Brazil registered its highest COVID-19 death toll for a single day, with 881 new deaths confirmed over the past 24 hours, the health ministry said Tuesday. The total death toll from the new coronavirus has now hit 12,400 in the country, with 177,589 confirmed cases -- up 9,258 from the day before. That makes Brazil the sixth most-affected country, after the United States, Britain, Italy, France and Spain.

#### **TRUMP SUPPORT EBBS**

A Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll shows 56 percent of those surveyed now disapprove of President Trump, up five points from a similar poll in mid-April. Trump's approval rating slipped four points to 41 percent. It also found that 46 percent of registered voters would back Democratic challenger Joe Biden in the November 3 election, while 38 percent would vote for Trump.

#### **WORK REMOTELY 'FOREVER'!**

Twitter said Tuesday it is unlikely to open its offices before September, and that many of its employees will be permitted to work from home permanently even after the end of the coronavirus lockdowns. "The past few months have proven we can make that work. So if our employees are in a role and situation that enables them to work from home and they want to continue to do so forever, we will make that happen," it said.

#### **BRYAN ADAMS APOLOGIZES**

Canadian rocker Bryan Adams apologized Tuesday saying "I have love for all people" after a backlash and accusations of anti-Chinese racism over his online rant about the pandemic forcing the cancellation of his London shows this week. Adams had said in earlier expletivelaced Twitter and Instagram posts that his gigs at the Royal Albert Hall were nixed thanks to "bat eating, wet market animal selling, virus making greedy bastards."

#### **NO NEW CASES IN THAILAND**

Thailand reported no new coronavirus cases for the first time since March 9. Thailand has a total of 3,017 cases and 56 deaths since the

#### outbreak escalated in January.

**NEPAL SEES SURGE IN CASES** Nepal saw the highest single-day jump in its coronavirus tally, reporting 83 cases. But the country's total number of confirmed infections remains relatively low at 217, with a majority of the cases recorded in the country's southern districts adjoining India.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

# 'We have to think local'

India moves to protect MSMEs as Modi urges Indians to buy local products

A day after India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged the country to be self-reliant, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman yesterday announced a slew of measures to help businesses, including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), recover from the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

The 20-trillion-rupee (US\$266 billion) relief plan for Asia's third-largest economy came as the country enters its 50th day under the world's biggest shutdown yesterday.

Modi also announced the extension of lockdown after May 17 in a "completely different form", with new rules. The Indian leader stressed the need for the country to be self-reliant, and for people to buy local products to help the economy.

"The corona crisis has also taught us the importance of local supply chains... we have to now think local," he said.

In the first of her several addresses to outline the contours of the package, Sitharaman announced 15 different measures yesterday, which involved MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) NBFCs (Non-Bank Financial Companies), Provident Fund, Real Estate and Taxation.

To allow more liquidity in the hands of the people the government offered a 25 per cent reduction in Tax Deduction at Source



Collection at Source for specified receipts.

The government also said it would pay

The finance minister said the intention

the EPF contribution for employees of

MSMEs to help them recover from the crisis.

of the her ministry is to build local brands,

and integrate them into global supply

chain and not meant to look inwards and

cut India to be an isolated country, but to

steps are successfully taken by this govt, from

reforms, based on Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and

mobile technology, which has helped deliver

"Self-reliant India does not mean cutting

continue contributing to the globe.

\$266 billion relief package announced for SME's and labourers

Lockdown will be extended with new rules

Finance minister announces 3 lakh crores rupees loans for businesses, particularly **MSMEs** 



to migrants now," she explained. for non-salaried specified payments and Tax She announced Rs 3 lakh crores collateral-free automatic loans businesses, particularly MSMEs.

Collateral free loan to be provided to SMEs with 12 month moratorium; 45 lakh units to benefit, she said, announcing parts of the economic package. For stressed MSMEs, Government to facilitate provision of 20,000 crore rupee subordinate debt for equity support. 2 lakh MSMEs likely to benefit.

India was already battling a liquidity crisis, off from rest of the world. Many reform driven bad loans and rising unemployment even before the pandemic. Some 122 million Indians lost their jobs last month, data 2014-19. For the poor, brought in DBT based showed, with small traders and daily wage earners accounting for the bulk of losses.

### Five plagues from China in 20 years!

NDTV ONLINE

As many as five plagues have come out of China in the last 20 years and at some point it has to stop, US National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien has said, holding the country responsible for the origin of the coronavirus pandemic which has killed over 250,000 people globally.

People across the globe are going to rise up and tell the Chinese government that "we can no longer have these plagues coming out of China", whether it is from labs or wet markets, neither one is a good answer, he told reporters at the White House on Tuesday.

"We know it came from Wuhan and I think there's circumstantial evidence that it could have come from the lab or the wet market. But, again, if you're China, neither one's a good answer," Mr O'Brien said.

"We've had five plagues from China in the last 20 years. We've had SARS, avian flu, swine flu, COVID-19 now and how longer can the world put up with this terrible public health situation that you've got in the People's Republic of China that is being unleashed on the world," the top American official said. He, however, did not mention the fifth plague to come out of from China.

When asked that the US is still looking for evidence about the origin of the virus, he refrained from giving a time frame. "I can't give you a timeframe on that. That's something that we're continuing to review and it is obviously a very serious

"Look, China's got to figure out how to deal with its public health because we cannot have another one of these virus outbreaks and plagues come from China. This was a terrible thing that happened to the entire world, not just to the United : States," he said

### Cancel poor countries' debt

More than 300 lawmakers around the globe urge IMF, World Bank

Over 300 lawmakers from around the world yesterday urged the International Monetary Fund and World Bank to cancel the debt of the poorest countries in response to the coronavirus pandemic, and to boost funding to avert a global economic meltdown.

The initiative, led by former US presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Ilham Omar, a Democrat from Minnesota, comes amid growing concern that developing countries and emerging economies will be devastated by the pandemic.

Widespread shutdowns aimed at containing the virus are taking a huge toll on the global economy, and especially poor countries with weak health systems, high debt levels and few resources to manage the dual health and economic crises.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva on Tuesday said the Fund was "very likely" to revise downward its forecast that global output would shrink by 3% in 2020, and said developing countries would need more than \$2.5 trillion in financing to weather the storm.

Sanders said poor countries needed every cent to care for their people, instead of servicing the "unsustainable debts" they owe to the large international financial institutions.

In the letter, parliamentarians from two dozen countries on all six continents, said debt service obligations of the poorest countries should be cancelled outright, instead of simply suspended, as agreed by the Group of 20 countries in April. Other signatories include former British Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and Argentine lawmaker Carlos Menem, who enacted austerity measures when he served as president in the 1980s and 1990s.

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Office of the Executive Engineer Education Engineering Department ee jha@eedmoe.gov.bd



### e-Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 02/EED/JKT/Project Code: (1600101-120001602-3258108 & 1250301-120001602-3258108)/e-Tender/2019-20 Dt: 12/05/2020

Name of Project: (1) Repair/Renovation of Non-Govt. Educational Institutions (TMED)

(2) Repair/Renovation of Non-Govt. Educational Institutions (SHED)

e-Tender is invited through the National e-GP Portal for the following procurement of works:

Name of the tender Tender Type Last date & Last date & time of No. method time of selling submission documents documents Rev non-govt. Mad-05 Repair & Renovation work at Taltala 454626 04-Jun-2020 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 LTM Bahadurpur Dhakil Madrasah Nalcity Upazila Jhalokiathi. 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt. Mad-03 Repair & Renovation work at Pilot 454623 NCT. 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 LTM Mohamadia Dhakil Madrasah Rajapur Upazila Jhalokiathi. 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt. Mad-04 Repair & Renovation work at Olamagoni 454625 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Adakhola Dhakil Madrasah Rajapur Upazila Jhalokiathi. LTM 15:00 11:00 04 Rev non-govt. Mad-01 Repair & Renovation work at Uttar 454624 NCT. 04-Jun-2020 03-Jun-2020 Talgacia Nasaria Fazil Madrasah Kathalia Upazila Jhalokiathi. LTM 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt. Mad-02 Repair & Renovation work at Jalal Shah 454627 03-Jun-2020 NCT. 04-Jun-2020 Islamia Fazil Madrasah Rajapur Upazila Jhalokiathi. LTM 15:00 11:00 06 Rev non-govt.-01 Repair & Renovation work at Amua Girls 455660 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 School & College at Kathalia Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 13 Rev non-govt.-13 Repair & Renovation work of Galua Union NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Secondary School at Rajapur Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt.-03 Repair & Renovation work of Pacim Shitka 455734 NCT, 04-Jun-2020 03-Jun-2020 Girls Secondary School at Kathalia Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt.-20 Repair & Renovation work of Advocate 455738 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Harunor Rashid Khan Foundation Mohila College at Nalcity LTM 15:00 11:00 Upazila Jhalokiathi District. 18 Rev non-govt.-18 Repair & Renovation work of Amibabad 455737 04-Jun-2020 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 Secondary School at Nalcity Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt.-08 Repair & Renovation work of Shoto Das Kathi 11 455736 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Shoti Loki Girls Secondary School at Sadar Upazila Jhalokiathi. LTM 15:00 11:00 12 Rev non-govt.-16 Repair & Renovation work of Abdul Malick 03-Jun-2020 455735 NCT, 04-Jun-2020 College at Rajapur Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt.-12 Repair & Renovation work of Jamila Khatun 455749 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 School & College at Sadar Upazila Jhalokiathi District, LTM 15:00 11:00 14 Rev non-govt-07 Repair & Renovation work of Shatora Kathi 455746 NCT, 04-Jun-2020 03-Jun-2020 Girls Secondary School at Sadar Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 15 Rev non-govt.-11 Repair & Renovation work of Afsar Memorial 455752 NCT. 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Secondary School at Sadar Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 03-Jun-2020 Rev non-govt.-04 Repair & Renovation work of Chaserampur 455750 NCT, 04-Jun-2020 M.L. Secondary School at Kathalia Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt.-15 Repair & Renovation work of Boroia Degree 455748 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 College at Rajapur Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt.-10 Repair & Renovation work of Hemateuddin 455747 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Degree College at Sadar Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt.-09 Repair & Renovation work of Shachilapur 455745 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Kista Kathi Secondary School at Sadar Upazila Jhalokiathi LTM 15:00 11:00 District. Rev non-govt.-14 Repair & Renovation work of Shangor Ideal 455744 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Secondary School at Rajapujr Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 21 Rev non-govt.-19 Repair & Renovation work of Timirkathi 455743 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Secondary School at Nalcity Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 22 Rev non-govt.-02 Repair & Renovation work of Kathalia Pilot 455742 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Girls Secondary School at Kathalia Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 Rev non-govt.-06 Repair & Renovation work of Sonar Bangla 455741 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 Secondary School at Kathalia Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 24 Rev non-govt.-17 Repair & Renovation work of Nalcity Girls 455740 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 School & College at Nalcity Upazila Jhalokiathi District. LTM 15:00 11:00 25 Rev non-govt.-05 Repair & Renovation work of Boltala 455739 NCT, 03-Jun-2020 04-Jun-2020 LTM 15:00 11:00

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-Tender document of following packages from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

### Md Jahangir Alam Executive Engineer Education Engineering Department

Jhlokathi

# Highest 19 deaths reported

to see cases and deaths rising unless measures are not taken scientifically.

"We have no alternative to taking aggressive measures in case detection and isolation to control the situation. situation of hand," Prof Muzaherul Huq, former advisor to the World Health Organization (WHO), South East Asia region, told The Daily Star.

On April 17, authorities reported 15 deaths -- second highest in a single day. On Monday, the number of daily detected cases surpassed the 1,000 mark for the first time with the second highest of 1034.

In last ten days since May 3, the number of detected cases almost doubled -- from 9455 to 17,822.

### **GOVT ESTIMATE VS REALITY**

Experts said the government estimation regarding the number of positive cases and deaths from the novel coronavirus infection does not reflect the reality.

Shimul, who helped the DGHS make the time-series based projection published on According to the projection, the number

This newspaper contacted Dr Shafiun

of positive cases may hit 48,386 on May 31 while the death toll may cross 815.

In his another projection made based on the epidemiological model SIR (Susceptible, Infectious, or Recovered), he showed that the number of positive cases will cross 40,000 by the same date.

"The projection necessarily does not reflect the reality. This was based on the daily number of tests, detection and number of deaths. If the daily tests do not increase, there will be lesser cases than the projection," said Dr Shafiun, an associate professor of health economics at Dhaka University.

He added that the real number may be two to three times higher as there are many hidden cases.

"The current situation is not like what was 20 days ago. The more we get accurate and representative data, the more our predictions are accurate. These models will help decide on future strategy to fight the outbreak.

According to media reports, around a thousand patients with Covid-19 symptoms died so far after the country reported first cases.

Talking on this issue, experts said there should be at least 10,000 tests daily immediately and it should be increased in course of time to gauge the real picture.

"Unless every person can get access to test when they need it, no prediction will reflect the reality," Prof Muzaherul Huq said. He thinks no measures without scientific

basis will work. "The concept of herd immunity is absurd. As there is no vaccine for Covid-19, herd immunity means letting around 80 percent of the population to be infected. None but Sweden has become able to

accept this," Prof Huq said. LOCKDOWN IN THREE WAYS

Prof Huq suggested imposing districtwise three types of lockdown in this

All the district should be isolated from one another but people's movement and all other activities have to be controlled based on the number of detected cases, he said.

"If there are less than 10 cases in any district, there is no need to impose lockdown in that district."

If there are 10 to 100 cases in any district, that should be locked down partially, he

"For the districts like Dhaka, there must be complete lockdown. During these measures, case detection, isolation and treatment should be done aggressively. There is no way of taking scientific measures before us," said Prof Huq, also founder of Public Health Foundation of Bangladesh.

RECORD SURGE During a daily briefing on the coronavirus situation yesterday, Prof Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) at the DGHS, said some 214 patients recovered in 24 hours till 2:30pm, taking the total number of recovery cases to 3,361.

"The recovery rate now stands at 18.52 percent and mortality rate at 1.53 percent," said Prof Nasima.

Of the 19 deceased, 12 were male and seven females.

Thirteen of them died in hospitals in Dhaka and one of them was from Pabna district, according to press release from Of the other dead, Narayanganj,

Munshiganj, Cumilla and Narail district saw one death each while two patients died in Chattogram district. One of the deceased was aged under 10,

one between 31 and 40, seven between 51 and 60, five between 61 and 70 while the other five were aged between 71 and 80. So far, the highest number of detected cases -- around 60 percent -- are in Dhaka city, according to the Institute

of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) website. The authorities reported the first three cases on March 8 and the first death from

Covid-19 on March 18. 'COVID-19 NOT A SEVERE DISEASE' Meanwhile, Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday once again said the Covid-19 is not a severe disease.

"I do not think Covid-19 is a severe disease; at least it is not causing deaths in that scale. Some 250 people died so far; I pray mercy for the departed souls. But we can say, Bangladesh is in better status compared to many countries," he said.

While around 20 to 30 thousand people died in Europe, we have lesser deaths and affected people over the same period," the minister said while speaking as the chief guest at the joining programme of newly appointed doctors and nurses at BCPS Auditorium in the capital.

He said there are more cases in Dhaka as economic activity is more here. "Only 2,500 people were infected with the virus

outside Dhaka. The rest are in Dhaka.' He claimed that the government has responded rightly to tackle the situation.

### 113-yr-old woman beats virus in Spain

AFP, Madrid

A 113-year-old woman, believed to be the oldest person living in Spain, has beaten the coronavirus at a retirement home where several other residents died from the disease, the residence said Tuesday.

Maria Branyas, who was born in the US, became infected in April at the Santa Maria del Tura care home in the eastern city of Olot, where she has lived for the past 20 years, and fought the respiratory illness off in isolation in her room. The care home has recorded "several" virus-related deaths during the pandemic, the spokeswoman for the

residence said. "She survived the disease and is doing fine," a spokeswoman for the residence told AFP, adding Branyas had only displayed mild symptoms.

"She feels good now, she took a test last week and the result was negative," the spokeswoman said without giving further details.

Branyas, a mother of three, was isolated in her room for weeks, with only a single employee in protective gear allowed in to check on her, according to Catalan regional television TV3, which broadcast images of the centenarian.

Several articles have been published in Spanish media in recent years about Branyas, considered to be the oldest person in the country. She was born on March

4, 1907 in San Francisco

where her father, who was from northern Spain, worked as a journalist. Branyas moved to Spain with her family on a boat during World War I and also lived through the

civil war. Spain has been one of the worst affected countries in the pandemic, with nearly 27,000 COVID-19 deaths confirmed so far.

GD-834

Spanish flu pandemic that

swept the world in 1918-19

as well as Spain's 1936-39

Secondary School at Kathalia Upazila Jhalokiathi District. This in an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be



DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 14, 2020, BAISHAKH 31, 1427 BS 🔵 starbusiness@thedailystar.net

### **TAMING CORONAVIRUS RAMPAGE**

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# Cold storage can save farmers from ruins

SOHEL PARVEZ

Farmers' combined efforts help the nation get a steady supply of vegetables throughout the year.

They produced 1.72 crore tonnes of vegetables in fiscal 2018-19, up 8 per cent from the previous year. And so far this fiscal year, they have produced 54 lakh tonnes, according to data from the Department of Agricultural Extension.

Come rain or shine, their industry does not stop. And true to form, they are working tirelessly round-the-clock even during the countrywide general shutdown to keep away COVID-19.

Yet, they are in misery.

As many traders from cities and deficit zones cannot visit the producing zones, particularly in the distant districts from Dhaka, in the absence of public transport, a large number of farmers are failing to get buyers to sell their produce.

While the demand for fruits and vegetables have increased in recent days for improved transport movement and slack enforcement of shutdown, a fair price is still eluding them.

Take the case of pumpkin. Farmers had to sell each kilogram of the vegetable at Tk 5 in the north district Thakurgaon yesterday. In its neighbouring district Panchagarh, grower Delwar Hossain had to sell the rotund squash for Tk 6 per kilogram.

from other parts of the

country would visit his field, he would get to negotiate a price he deems to be fair.

The shutdown has that scope, ruined forcing Hossain or pumpkin producers in the adjacent district to

And it is not just with pumpkin; Hossain and his fellow farmers had to count losses on brinjal and cucumber too since the shutdown began on March 26.

Asked what can be done to ensure fair prices for the perishable produce, Hossain had no answer.

But Majedul Islam Thakurgaon and a small cold storage owner Mohammad Shah Alam of Rangpur and some other wholesalers had an answer: storing.

Many fruits and vegetables can be stored for a certain period.

We kept pumpkin in our cold storage for three months and the quality did not deteriorate and tomato can be stored for more than a month. Similarly, we can store green chilli and brinjal for nearly three weeks. We kept ripe mango last year and got good results," Alam said.

A cold storage mechanic by profession, Alam constructed a fivetonne capacity cold storage in his village at Mithapukur of northwest division Rangpur last year to stand by farmers, who have to sell mangoes and other vegetables at throwaway prices during peak season in the absence of any storage facility.

"We got initial success last year. We are hopeful that more farmers will keep their mangoes in the coming season. Farmers get higher prices when they can sell in the lean season," he added.

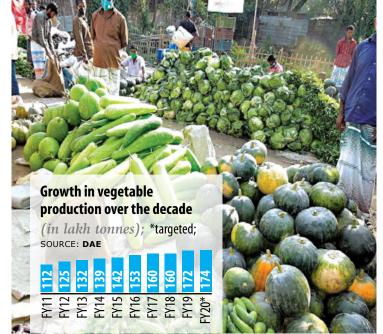
In normal times, when buyers biggest vegetable market in the choked off vegetable exports.

Stay

Home

Stay Safe

Hotline: 01713 656565



southeast, or at Dhaka's Karwan vegetable wholesalers Mohammad Abdus Salam and Mohammad Habib had the same opinion.

Habib said farmers, particularly in the faraway districts, were hit hard after buses went off the road alongside a lot of truckers following the enforcement of shutdown from

To compound farmers' woes, a At Cumilla's Nimsar, one of the travel ban to the EU and the US also

And Dhaka, the biggest consumer also saw a sharp decline in demand as a large number of people left for their ancestral towns and villages.

Restaurants consume a big portion of vegetables but their closure wiped demand too.

"People are not getting out of their homes other than for emergency purposes. All these factors affected farmers of both perishable vegetables and seasonal fruits like watermelon," he said.

The fact that a large number of people are suffering from a sharp drop in income also contracted demand.

"People have little appetite to buy," said Abdus Salam, a vegetable wholesaler at Nimsar Cumilla, early this week.

Mohammad Yousuf, director general of Department of Agricultural Marketing (DAM), said a special type of cold storages should be developed and his office has placed a project proposal of Tk 205 crore to build 15 agricultural commodities storage facilities in

various parts of the country. An online market platform involving all stakeholders including farmers should be developed too.

"At the same time, we need to expand and diversify agroprocessing," he added.

Some 30 per cent of farm produce get damaged and subsequently lose their market value because of poor post-harvest management, said Md. Atiqur Rahman, post-harvest management expert of Hortex Foundation who is currently working at the National Agricultural Technology Programme-phase II.

Establishment of packing house for washing, sorting, grading and packing in major fruit and vegetable-producing regions will be advantageous for both farmers and

Market actors in agri-business should be given support to do so, said MA Sattar Mandal, former vice-chancellor of the Bangladesh Agricultural University.

"Agri-business is a concept that is slowly emerging in Bangladesh. This should be brought to the fore with a big push.'

There is a large number of wholesalers and traders in the agribusiness value chain.

"But we admonish them without understanding them properly and it appears that they are responsible for everything. This ignorance is

This is a big class and they should be provided with training for skill development.

"They need literacy, numeracy, accounting and ICT skills. They should be integrated with the market and be seen as a pro-active force. For this, policy reorientation and thrust are needed. At the same time, adequate budgetary provisions should be kept for this." He also called for higher prices

for agriculture.

For this, market infrastructure should be developed, which is an important part of modern

# Digital commerce businesses want all taxes to go

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

coronavirus at bav

The e-Commerce Associa-Bangladesh (e-CAB) yesterday urged the government to declare



digital commerce as a tax-free industry as the sector plays a significant role in ensuring social distancing, which is key to taming the ongoing pandemic. The e-commerce companies also demanded easy access

to finance from the government-announced stimulus packages such that they can keep their business afloat in the throes of a cash crunch thanks to the coronavirusinduced shutdown.

The sector was left out of the government's stimulus package worth Tk 20,000 crore that was declared for the cottage, small and medium enterprises. Only 15 per cent of the 80,000-odd e-commerce ventures

could manage to remain in service amid the movement control restrictions. So, the industry is losing more than Tk 600 crore a

month, the entrepreneurs said at a virtual press conference co-organised by e-CAB and the commerce ministry. Shomi Kaiser, president of the association, also called

for waiver of corporate tax in the upcoming national budget. "We are working round-the-clock to take food, medicine and other essentials to people's doorstep. We need the

government's support in bank financing and tax exemption

in the upcoming budget," she added. At the press conference, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi and the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries' President Sheikh Fazle Fahim pledged to stand by the e-commerce industry, saying such businesses hold immense potential and can keep the novel

The small and medium enterprises that cannot provide collateral should get funds from the stimulus package through the banking channel under special arrangements, Fahim said.

Most of the SMEs in the digital commerce industry fall in the purview of the informal economy and hence traditional means of financing are beyond their reach.

"We have taken an initiative and already talked to the bankers. We have got the green light that if the SMEs don't have previous loans, they will be offered funds from the stimulus package under special arrangements.

Bankers have prepared a checklist for the SMEs and forwarded it to the FBCCI and now the e-commerce businesses need to outline a plan on how they would repay the loans. It could be their inventory or their sales records so that the banks can get a minimum assurance that they will get their money back even if the loans are provided without collateral.

"As per our records, these types of loans given in the past had a 100 per cent recovery rate," Fahim added.

Munshi said the bankers should be given assurance that they will get back their money. "The private sector is working out a solution. I hope there will be results soon," he added.

A good number of entrepreneurs said most of the brick and mortar stores remain beyond the tax net but the e-commerce businesses have to count various taxes such as 0.6 per cent tax on their overall turnover and 5 per cent value-added tax.

Zia Ashraf, co-founder and chief executive officer of chaldal.com, the country's largest online grocery, said they have delivered more than 2.50 lakh orders so far amid the

"If we could get rid of the tax burden, this number might go through the roof," he added.

Some businesses like those in the food delivery channels also have to pay 15 per cent VAT, which encumbers growth and should be addressed soon, said Ambareen Reza, cofounder and managing director of foodpanda.com, a leading food delivery platform.

The e-commerce industry is worth Tk 8,000 crore and engages about 1.25 lakh people, said Abdul Wahed Tomal, general secretary of the association, adding that the industry is now contributing about 2 per cent to the country's gross domestic product.

"If we get the government's support, this sector can create jobs for about five lakh people," he added.

In response, Munshi said the government is working on the matters to take the e-commerce sector to the next level. Jafar Uddin, commerce secretary, said his ministry has already trained 500 e-commerce entrepreneurs across the country under a project.

# BB steps in to shore up banks' financial muscle

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

The central bank yesterday rolled out longterm special repo, following the lead of the Reserve Bank of India, to help banks, many of which are cash-strapped, prop up their liquidity base such that they can adequately prime the pump during these extraordinary times. Under the special repurchase agreement

(repo), banks will enjoy funds from the central bank for one year, up from 28 days at present, by keeping their Treasury bills and bonds as collateral, according to the Bangladesh Bank notice. "Beyond any doubt, this is a great move,"

said Syed Mahbubur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank.

This will help banks improve their liquidity base and enable them to extend loans less conservatively, said Rahman, the repo is 5.25 per cent or equivalent to the

of Bankers, Bangladesh, a forum of private banks' managing directors. MA Halim Chowdhury and Emranul

Huq, managing directors of Pubali Bank and Dhaka Bank respectively, echoed the same. Banks will have to place their T-bills and

bonds after securing their statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) as collateral, an exercise that would give protection to depositors and the BB control over the money flow to the market as well.

Their SLR would be 13 per cent of their total time and demand deposit.

Excluding their SLR banks now hold T-bills and bonds worth about Tk 72,000 crore. And they can get up to 85 per cent of the face value of their T-bills and 5 per cent of their T-bonds.

The base interest rate on the special

BB official. But the actual rate will be fixed at the auction from where the lenders will get the fund.

This interest rate may be slightly higher than the policy rate, and the auction England, the European Central Bank, the committee of the central bank will take the final decision to this end, he added.

Lenders will be permitted to take the financial support only for the implementation of the Tk 95,619 crorestrong stimulus packages, which are dedicated to reviving the economy after the coronavirus-induced recess

The long-term repo will help banks avoid the liquidity mismatch as they will have to give out loans for at least one year in many cases to businesses.

less interested in parking funds in banks the BB official added.

due to the ongoing rainy days. This is a kind of quantitative easing, a

handy tool for central banks in times of financial meltdown or recession. The Federal Reserve, the Bank of

Reserve Bank of India are now conducting

quantitative easing to inject liquidity into the market. Under the process, they are directly purchasing T-bills and bonds from banks such that they can be able to finance their

private sector. But in Bangladesh quantitative easing is different as the majority of the lenders do

not have enough excess T-bills and bonds after keeping their SLR.

So, this is a time-befitting and more Most of the banks are now unable to effective policy measure given the financial mobilise deposits from savers as people are strength of the country's financial sector,

# GP's scrap with BTRC ate up market share

Muhammad Zahidul Islam

In an unusual development, Grameenphone's active customer number came down to 7.53 crore at the end of March after falling for two consecutive months, as the operator could not get approval to sell new connections for a long time.

Grameenphone began the year with 7.65 crore active customers, but in February and March, the top operator lost 1.58 per cent market share, or more than 11 lakh active users, according to a new report of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

The loss of customers is a rare incident for the country's top carrier and the BTRC officials who deal with operators could not remember the last time when the number of Grameenphone users dropped for two months

The operator also experienced a decline in active internet connections.

At the turn of the year, Grameenphone had accounted for 46.18 per cent internet users in Bangladesh. But at the end of the first quarter, its share declined to 45.42 per cent.

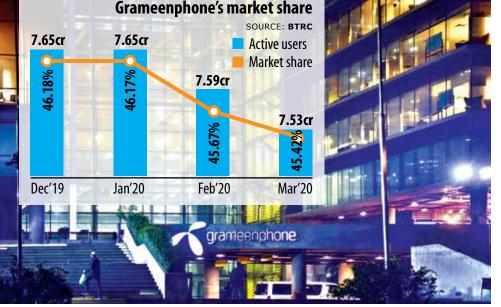
Some 4.04 crore Grameenphone subscribers are now using the internet.

Grameenphone faced a scarcity of numbers from the beginning of the quarter that negatively impacted the subscriber base, said Yasir Azman, chief executive officer of the operator, while releasing the January-March quarter financial report, recently.

"We continued to face challenges in the first quarter of 2020. The restrictions placed on us by our regulator by not issuing NOCs [no-objection certificates] lasted until March, which impacted our planned investment in the country," he added.

As a result, the operator could not sell new connections. It faced the restriction from the middle of last year until March this year involving BTRC's audit claims of Tk 12,580 crore.

continuous engagement, Grameenphone received approval from the commission on March 12 to recycle numbers available for reselling to meet customers' demand, said Md Hasan, a spokesperson of



As the top carrier lost some market share while others gained, Grameenphone has come up with new offers and declared free call minutes -- a move that has created caused a ripple in the industry.

However, on the back of overall customers, Grameenphone could manage to increase its 4G users and ended the quarter with 1.42 crore subscribers, up from 1.19 crore at the end of 2019.

The operator has been focusing on enhancing 4G users for the last few quarters. As a result, data consumption by the users rose, said a senior executive of Grameenphone.

Robi, the second-largest operator, ended the first quarter with 4.97 crore active users after it gained some market to take it to 30.01 per cent. Banglalink has 21.43 per cent market share and state-owned Teletalk has 2.90 per cent stake, according to the report.

At the end of March, the total active mobile connections stood at 16.53 crore as of March, according to the BTRC report.

### **TAMING CORONAVIRUS RAMPAGE**

# Reefer container keeps piling up despite port authority's best efforts

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Chattogram

deliverv of refrigerated containers, largely known as reefer containers, used to transport perishable goods continues to be a major hurdle for the Chattogram Port despite the recent improvements in the release of many other containers.

As a result, the port has run out of its capacity in the yards designated to store refrigerated containers -- a situation that is hampering the unloading of import containers from the vessels as the reefer containers are kept at the upper rows and delays in discharging them holds back the overall discharge of other import containers, lingering ships' stay and increasing the overall turnaround time.

This has prompted the traffic department of the port authority on Tuesday to warn that it would impose four times the store rent on reefer containers if importers do not speed up delivery by May 16.

The port has granted 100 per cent

waiver on store rent for all import containers until Saturday as part of its efforts to be rid of congestion.

Some 2,200 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) of reefer containers, which need fixed plug-in points for constant electricity supply, can be accommodated in the port yards. But in early April, the number of reefer containers hit 3,000 TEUs.

To enhance the capacity further, the layers for storing reefer containers have recently been raised to five from three previously using equipment that has high lifting-capacity, said Enamul Karim, director for traffic of the Chattogram Port Authority (CPA).

This has extended the storage capacity of reefers to 2,600 TEUs, he added.

Even then, the port ran out of capacity on Tuesday after the number of reefers reached 2,740 TEUs as daily delivery has dropped by half of normal to 150 TEUs to 200 TEUs, according to port officials.

Usually ahead of Ramadan and the summer fruit import increases and



RAJIB RAIHAN

Reefer containers stacked up at the port yards. The photo was taken

বিস্তাগ

150

the same happened this year as well.

But most of the letters of credits against the imports were opened before coronavirus became a global pandemic, according to Karim.

Due to the countrywide shutdown since March 26 to flatten the curve on coronavirus, fruit sales dropped off locally, prompting the importers to keep their products at the port, he

Sensing a delay, a vessel, TR Porthos, which was booked to carry 500 TEUs from Colombo left behind most of the reefer containers in the Sri Lankan port and brought in only 80 TEUs, said Ajmir Hossain Chowdhury, assistant general manager of the vessel's local agent, Marco Shipping Company (BD).

The vessel berthed at a port's jetty on May 11 but could not unload a single reefer container in the last two days due to the space shortage, he said.

Were the unloading on schedule, the ship could have left the port yesterday, but its stay might linger now.

### **Emirates SkyCargo** resumes operation to Bangladesh

STAR BUSINESS DESK

Emirates SkyCargo, the largest international air airline, started operating weekly flights for a month on Tuesday, offering much-needed capacity to local industries, businesses and farmers during the global health

It aims to cater bulk cargo of readymade garments, personal protective equipment facemasks, medicines, perishables and courier goods to Europe and the US, and imports are likely to include industrial machinery and raw materials.

The service is being operated by a passenger Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, offering cargo capacity in the belly-hold and in the cabins - both in the overhead bins and on passenger seats, according to a statement. The flights will be on Tuesday and Thursday.

# \$700m may come from IMF and with no strings attached

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh is set to request the International Monetary Fund (IMF) within a week to extend \$700 million in emergency financing to help the country avoid being overwhelmed by the coronavirus pandemic.

The amount is about half the sum Bangladesh can seek from the IMF under the country's quota as special drawing right (SDR), a form of reserve assets that can be used by countries as additional liquidity.

The tool credits member countries' accounts with new, unconditional liquidity that could be exchanged for the five currencies that underpin the SDR: the dollar, the yen, the euro, sterling and the renminbi

Bangladesh has sought SDR500 million to address the balance of payment issues, and one SDR equals

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal would send a letter of intent to the Washington-based multilateral lender outlining how the support would be used, said a finance ministry.

The emergency financing from the IMF would largely be with few or no strings attached, which is unlike the Washington-based multilateral lender's modus operandi, said the finance ministry official.

Under normal circumstances, when the IMF is the last-resort lender to a country, it insists that the borrowing government tighten its belt and exercise restraint in public spending.

This helps to achieve three objectives. One is to stabilise the public debt burden, to ensure that the resources made available are not wasted. The second is to limit the whole economy's need for foreign exchange, a shortage of which had prompted the country to seek the IMF's help in the first place.

And the third is to ensure that the IMF can get repaid. Since the Fund does not take any physical collateral from countries to whom it is lending, the belt-tightening helps to act as a kind of collateral.

In other words, it helps to maximise the probability that the IMF does not suffer losses on its own loan

the international monetary system.

The last time Bangladesh borrowed from the creditor under the extended credit facility, it was handcuffed with a host of conditions.

But a belt-tightening may not be suggested this time because spending is needed to stop people dying or from falling into a permanent trap of unemployment.

Besides, countries all over the world are facing a shortage of foreign exchange, not because they have indulged in any irresponsible spending sprees, but because of a virus beyond their control.

example, with rising

portfolio — losses that would have bad to see how Bangladesh spends the consequences for the fund's role within money and whether the support is used to boost economic recovery, support affected exporters, to enhance social safety nets spending and aid agriculture, the finance ministry

It would also like to look at whether Bangladesh spends money to strengthen its weak health system.

The government has announced \$11.2 billion pro-poor countercyclical package -- which is 3.3 per cent of Bangladesh's GDP with a focus on social protection for the poor and support for key industries to preserve jobs.

Lending to Bangladesh would not raise eyebrows since the country has a



expenditures and declining revenues, additional government financing requirements this fiscal estimated at \$8.8 billion, which is 14.2 per cent of the budget.

Facing constraints on domestic borrowing, the government urgently needs external financing to support key pro-poor initiatives and to inject fresh liquidity into the economy to increase aggregate demand.

In fact, IMF's message to its members is, "please, spend as much as you can and then a little bit more," said its managing director Kristalina

Georgieva recently. However, the lender would like

good repayment record and the debt ratio is well within control.

Public debt in Bangladesh was \$105 billion in fiscal 2018-19, which is about 34.9 per cent of GDP, and the external public and publicly guaranteed (PPG) debt ratio was 14.5 per cent of GDP. Both are low.

The additional external debt of \$2.9 billion, as government projected, will increase both the external PPG debt-GDP ratio and public debt-GDP ratio by 0.9 per cent this fiscal year.

The IMF last allocated funds from the SDR to the member countries in 2009 in the wake of the global financial crisis.

### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী।

### উম্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০১/২০২০-২০২১

নিমু বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী ও পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন, ২০০৬ এবং তদাধীন প্রণীত পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা ২০০৮ সংশোধনীসহ এবং প্রচলিত অন্যান্য বিধি বিধানের আলোকে নোয়াখালী জেলা পুলিশ রেশন স্টোরের ২০১২-২০২১ অর্থসালের ১ম কোয়ার্টারের (জুলাই/আগস্ট/সেণ্ডেমর/২০)সময়ের জন্য রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত যোগানদার/সরবরাহকারীর নিকট হইতে নিজস্ব প্যাডে সীল মোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবাণ করা যাইতেছে।

স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রপালয়

জননিরাপন্তা বিভাগ

00	ত্রনাকারী/সপ্রাহকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	পুদিশ সুপার, নোৱাখালী।					
08	ক্রমনারী/সঞ্চাহকারী সভার জেলা	নেয়াখালী জেলা।	নেয়াখনী জেনা।				
130	যে কাজ/ক্রয় এবং যে সময়ের জন্য দরপত্র আহব	ান জেলা পুলিশের জন্য রেশন	জেলা পুলিশের জন্য রেশন সামগ্রী ক্রয়।				
061	দরপত্র দাতা/যোগানদার/সরবরাহকারীর যোগ্যতা	চলতি অর্থ কংসরের নবার- যোগানদার সরবরাহকারী f কার্যমূল্যের সমপরিমাণ ছি	ইসাবে ভাটি রেজিট্র	শন সনদ, ব্যাকে সহ	তেপি সাটিকিকেটসহ মে		
190	দরপত্র বিজন্তি নং, স্মারক নং ও তারিখ	০১/২০২০-২০২১,সারক	FC/(90)6966 - 57	খড, তারিখ-১১/০৫/২	(তন্ত্রিঃ		
Ob 1	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	১১/০৫/২০২০খ্রিঃ					
। ५०	সিভিউল বিভ্ৰয়ের শেষ ভারিখ	০৭/০৬/২০২০খ্রিঃ(সরকারী	বন্ধের দিল ব্যতীত)	17 5 775			
104	দরপত্র সিভিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	<ul> <li>০১। ভিশাইজি, চয়য়াম রে</li> <li>০২। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যাদ</li> <li>০০। পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যাদ</li> </ul>	নয়, নোয়াখালী।	, চট্টগ্রাম এর কার্যালয়	l		
221	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, র	নায়াখালী।				
154	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	০৮/০১/২০২০ খ্রিঃ, ১২.০					
701	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান ও সময়		পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী তারিখ-০৮/০৬/২০২০ খ্রিঃ, ১২,৩০ খঃ, দরপত্র লাতা/প্রতিনিধি উপস্থিতিতে (যদি উপস্থিত থাকেন)				
184	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিথ ও সময়	তারিখ- ০৯/০৬/২০২০ খ্রি	তারিখ- ০৯/০৬/২০২০ খ্রিঃ, ১২.৩০ মা,				
1.96	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী	মোঃ আলমগীর হোসেদ, পু	মোঃ আলমগীর হোসেন, পুলিশ সুপার, নোরাখালী।				
36 I	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী কর্মকর্তার যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা	পুলিশ সূপারের কার্যালয়, র	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, নোয়াখালী। ফোন-৬১০৩০, ফাব্স-৬১১২৩				
59	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা  ০১। পিপিজার/২০০৮ এর সকল বিধি বিধান দরপরের শর্তাবলী হিসাবে গণ্য করা হইবে।  ০২। ত্রহাকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারন দর্শানো বাতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহন/বাতির  জমতা সংরক্ষন করেন এবং সর্বনিম্ন দর গ্রহণে বাধ্য নহেন।  ০৩। দরপত্র সিভিউলে জন্যান্য শর্তাবলী বর্ণিত রহিয়াছে।						
79.		রেশন সামগ্রীর বিক			3 200		
ক্রমিক নং	রেশন সাময়ীর নাম	মালামালের পরিমান (আনুমানিক)	সিভিউলমূল্য (অফেরত যোগ্য)	ট্রেভার সিকিউরিটি (ফেরভযোগ্য)	কাজের সময়সীমা		
٥	মণ্ডর ভাল সরবরাহ	৩৭,০০০ কেজি	3000/-	3,00,000/-	জুলাই/২০ হইতে		
	(উন্নতমানের দেশীয় ছোট দানা বিশিষ্ট)	(কম বেশি হতে পারে)	19-2-19-19		সেপ্টেম্বর/২০খ্রিঃ পর্যা		
a	সোয়াবিন তৈল (তীয়/রপর্টাদা/স্কেশ/পৃষ্টি) ০.৪/১/২/৪/৮লিটার কন্টেইনার	৩৫,০০০ দিটার (কম বেশি হতে পারে)	3000/-	\$,00,000/-	যে কোন তারিখের ০৭(সাত)দিনের নোচি মালামাল সরবরাহ করিতে হইবে		
٥	ক) চটের বন্ধা (বন্ধ/ছোট)	রেশন টোরের মঞ্দ অনুযায়ী	600/-	¢000/-			
	খ) প্লাষ্টিকের বস্তা	(জুন/২০ মাস পর্যন্ত)					
8	গম পিঘাই	পরিমান মত	600/-	@0,000/-	জুলাই/২০২০ হইতে		
¢	রেশন সামগ্রী পরিবহন এবং লেভিং/আনলেভিং	পরিমান অনুবায়ী	600/-	60,000/-			
-	সুগন্ধিযুক্ত পোলাউর চাউল সরবারহ	চাইলা মোতাবেক ৫০০/- ২০,০০০/-					

- লিভ হইতে হইতে, রাল্লার সমর সুস্তান বের হইতে হইতে, খোসা ছাল্লাবো হইতে হইতে, লানা আন্ত হইতে এইতে এবং ফথাফা শুকনা হইতে হইতে। পু**লিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, "আরক** ন্-৪৪-২০১৩/৩৩৪(১৩০), তারিখ-২৯/০১/২০১৮ ব্রিঃ মোভাবেক নতুন পছতিতে মতরভাল সরবরাহের সময় ২ কেজি ও ১.৫ কেজি উল্লচমানের ক্ষম্ম পলিশ্যাক এবং গম পিয়াই করে আটা সরবরারাহের সময় ৫/২ কেজি উদ্লুতমানের ব্যক্ত পলিপাকে পাকেটজাতকরে সরবরাহ করিতে হইবে। পাকেটের গায়ে স্পট ভাবে পদোর ওজন, উৎপাদনের তারিথ ও মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণের তারিথ উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে।
- দপেয়ের সহিত পুলিপ সুপার, নোরাখালী এর অনুভাল থেকোন কমপিলচুক কাংকের বাংকে ভ্রাকটি/প-অর্তারের মাধ্যমে বর্নিক দরপর জমানক অবশাই দাবিল। বরিকে রইবে একং নরপর সংক্রান্ত তথ্যবলী দরপর গিভিউল সংগ্রহকালে জানা ৰাইবে।
- ক্রমিক নয়-৫ তে উল্লেখিক সকল কাণজপর/সনদপর ১ম দ্রেপীর সরকারী কর্মকর্মা থারা সভায়িত করিয়া দরপরের। সহিত সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে।
- এআইজি(সাপ্লাই), বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, পুলিশ হেডকোয়াটাৰ্স, মানা হইছে বরান্ধের আলোকে বিল পরিশোধ করা হইবে। বিধি মোরান্ধেক আয়কর ও জাটি কর্তন। কর্তন সয়াখিন তৈল, মতর ভাল এর প্রতিটির নমুলা দাখিল করিতে হইবে। জনখায় দরপত্র মুলায়ন কমিটি কর্তৃক নমুলা বাতীত দরপত্র বাভিল বলিরা থখা হউবে। নিৰ্বিট সময়ের পর ভার ফোন দরপর গ্রহণ করা হউলে না।
- কর্তৃপক্ষ দরপরে উল্লেখিত যে কোন আইটেয়ের পরিমান,দ্রান/বৃদ্ধি বরিতে পরিবেন।
- কার্যদেশ দেওয়ার পূর্বে পিপিলাম্(২০০৮ মোতাবেক যোকো ভক্তবিসভূক বাছে মইছে ১০% কার্যদেশদেন ভামানতের ব্যাকে ড্রাকট্/পেলর্বার প্রদান ও ৩০০ টাকার নন-স্থানিয়াল । উট্লেপ চুক্তি সম্পাদন বৰিতে হউবে। কাৰ্যসম্পাদন স্নামানত কাৰ্যাদেশ দেওৱাব ভিন মাস পৱে মালামাল সম্পূৰ্ণ বুঝাইয়া দেওৱা সাপেকে ফেবত প্ৰদান কৰা হইবে।
- ব) বরণর গ্রহণকারী কর্তৃণক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো বাতীত যেকোন দরণর গ্রহণ কিংবা সকল দরণর বাতিদের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষন করেন।
- এ) পথ্যক্ষতত্ত্বী বংলাদেশের সংবিধালের অনুত্রেল-১৮ মোতাবেক পুরির বর উল্লেল ও জনস্বাস্থ্যের উন্নত্তী সাধান তোকা তেলে ভিউছিল"এ" সমৃদ্ধকলা আইন-২০১৬ এর তথ্যিল-১ এ বর্গিত তোকা জেল ভিটমিন বাবা সম্ভৱকা এর মার হবে ১৫ হতে ৩০ পিপিএম[Parts per milion]ত্রপাঁৎ বাহিরাম জোলাতেলে অনুন্য ৫,০,১৫ হতে অনবিক, ৩৫০ নিশিয়াম ভিটমিন এ (০,০১৫-০,০৩০ mg/g) এবং কমনিল-২ এর (১) মোডাবেক বাজারজাককৃত ভোজারেদের বোজল, দিন বিংবা প্যাবেটো প্রদর্শিকর প্রতীক"সটিক পুটি সুস্থ্য জীবন" থাবতে হবে।
- ট) দৰপৰ সংক্ৰান্তে সকল প্ৰকাৰ তথাদি জেলা পুলিশের Website: <u>www.noakhali.police.gov.bd</u> এ পাঙৰা যাইবে

(মো: আৰমণীর হোচেদ) पुनिम सुनाड, प्राधानानी (M4-85000, WH-85530

# A homegrown fabric claims to kill coronavirus

Major garment exporter Zaber and Zubair Fabrics to unveil the product today

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The world is moving heaven and earth every day to line up one remedy or the other to steer clear of the novel coronavirus. And here, a company claims to have developed a fabric that can annihilate the deadly pathogen

Zaber and Zubair Fabrics, a sister concern of Noman Group that exports apparel worth \$2 billion a year, has already started sending samples to its European and American buyers, its officials said.

The fabric will be launched in Dhaka today through a press conference at its office.

"We developed a solution that can

virus or bacteria," said Anol Rayhan, protective equipment (PPE), Rayhan the company's brand manager.

The fabric is loaded with biocidal and virucidal agents that ensure that the microbes are blocked instantly and killed within 120 seconds and

with a 99.9 per cent certainty.

The treatment of the fabric, which is registered with different compliance bodies of the US and the EU, has been tested and validated under test norm ISO 18184,

according to Rayhan. "The cloth can protect users from microbes and prevent them from being infected by COVID-19," said Raashid Ashraf Khan, chief marketing garment items in a month from the officer of Zaber and Zubair.

The fabric can be used to make help fight coronavirus or any other woven shirts, masks and personal

said, adding that, as of yesterday, 75 international retailers have inquired about the groundbreaking product. Zaber and Zubair supplies its

fabrics and garments to more than 300 international and local buyers. "But by next week the number of our buyers will cross 600 as we are

getting a huge response every day,"

he told The Daily Star over the phone vesterdav. The company will start bulk production at the end of this month at its factory in Tongi and has a plan to make seven million pieces of woven

specialised fabric. The company can churn out 10 million yards of fabrics a month.

8 | The Paily Star



LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 14, 2020, BAISHAKH 31, 1427 BS

### Why don't the beneficiaries' NID numbers match with those on EC database?

No time for confusion when people are starving

HILE the government's cash assistance programme for 50 lakh poor families is supposed to start from today, it is unfortunate to learn that many enlisted national identification (NID) numbers did not match the ones on the Election Commission's database. The problem was exposed when the government ran a mock test before beginning the fund transfer. Also, as the lists of people eligible for the financial assistance come from the district commissioners' office in Bangla, matching those names and their NID numbers with the national database, which is in English, has become very difficult, according to a senior finance ministry official. Moreover, it may take a lot of time to transfer the cash to the beneficiaries as most of the enlisted people do not have any MFS (mobile financial services) accounts and the providers are having to open the accounts after matching their NIDs with the EC database.

Amid such a situation, we are not sure how the government would distribute the funds to the poor families within the stipulated time before Eid. What we do not understand is why the mock test was conducted at the very last moment when all the preparations to disburse the money should have already been completed. Had this been done a few weeks earlier, there would have been more time to solve the problem. Now, how the authorities would solve the anomalies in the NIDs remains a question. We also have doubts whether all these poor people actually have NIDs. Also, there could be many who have not even been registered for getting the fund and are left out of the government's scheme.

While the government has taken a commendable decision to engage MFS operators to send the funds directly to the families' mobile banking accounts—because it will significantly reduce corruption in the disbursement process—it should also have given focus on removing the pre-existing anomalies in the NIDs. The NID mishap at this point in time is very unfortunate. The government should solve the problem as soon as possible and disburse the cash among the enlisted families. There is no time to waste because people are facing hunger on a daily basis.

### **Protect migrant workers** from food shortages

International community must uphold the rights of migrant workers

report in this daily on May 13 painted a grim picture of the fate of Bangladeshi migrant workers with most host countries doing very little to support them. While we have already heard of the mistreatment of migrant workers during the pandemic—for example, they are being crammed into work camps, losing their jobs and facing high rates of infection—this report confirmed that at least one lakh of the over five million Bangladeshi migrants working in the Middle East are suffering from hunger.

Bangladesh embassy officials in Saudi Arabia have handed out food parcels to around 8,000 workers, and nave warned that thousands more will require food aid. In Bahrain, where one-fourth of nearly two lakh Bangladeshis are in financial crisis, the embassy has received appeals for food from at least 4,200 migrants. The situation is dire not just in the Middle East—embassy officials in Malaysia, Greece and Italy have also confirmed the need for food aid and cash support for thousands of migrants.

This is only the plight of the documented workers. Reports have confirmed that many of the two to three lakh Bangladeshis who work in Saudi Arabia illegally are afraid of even leaving their living quarters due to the fear of a crackdown. This has already begun in Malaysia, where the detention of undocumented migrant workers has been widely criticised by rights groups—as has been their decision to make employers pay for mandatory coronavirus tests of foreign workers, the costs of which are expected to eventually be shouldered by the workers themselves.

The expatriates' welfare ministry's announcement of a Tk 4.5 crore fund for migrant workers, and a separate announcement of another Tk 3 crore for immediate food support, are positive steps forward. However, this is nowhere near enough to protect the millions of Bangladeshi workers abroad. Equally importantly, the question that needs to be asked is: aren't the host countries also responsible for the migrants working on their land? While the Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and other rights groups have asked these countries to protect the migrant workers, the host countries seem little concerned.

We urge the government to speak up for the rights of our migrant workers and engage at all diplomatic levels, especially with OIC countries, to protect them. It is unjust and morally reprehensible that the workers who have given their labour for these countries are now being unable to fulfil a need as basic as the right to food. The UN and the international community must hold these countries to account and uphold the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers during these difficult times.

### **LETTERS** TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

### Disposal of waste crucial

Many of us have been taking various measures to protect ourselves from the coronavirus, including using gloves and masks and hand sanitisers. But how are we disposing of those materials once used? Are we considering the health/environmental risks? Most of these materials produce plastic waste which is difficult to recycle. Unfortunately, the waste is not being disposed of in a safe and organised manner. This risks the spread of infections even further. Gloves and masks are commonly used in the medical field, but now that a large number of our population are using them, the threats of spreading infections are much higher. The authorities should do something about it urgently.

M A Hafez, Dhaka

# Time to push online learning in higher education

is required for uploading courses

and related resources on the website.

Blackboard, D2L/Brightspace, Canvas,

and Moodle are some of the popular

LMS platforms. Moodle is a free open-

source LMS. Desktops, laptops, tablets,

or smartphones are needed to access an

LMS. A webcam or built-in HD camera

video conferencing and live classroom

Blackboard Ultra, and WebEx. Virtual

sessions using Zoom, Skype for Business,

live meetings can be treated as traditional

classroom sessions from one's residence,

and all activities can be recorded for later

and a high-quality headset help in

MOHAMMED SHAHIDULLAH and MUSHTAQUE CHOWDHURY

E have come a long way in teaching and learning using technology. Whatever we call it—online learning, virtual learning, or e-learning—it has made education independent of time and place. Users have access to course materials 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Learning management systems (LMS) make it possible to upload course materials, assignments, and exams as well as to create discussion boards and other communication tools. Online learning has made distance learning an accessible and effective alternative that is trafficjam free and unaffected by unexpected campus closing because of hartals, strikes, and man-made or natural calamities like the coronavirus pandemic. Online learning makes it possible to not lose a semester or spend extra money for overstays in hostels. As a result, it solves the problem of campus housing, which is always a major problem for university students. This also provides opportunities for stay-at-home mothers and persons who have jobs but would like to advance their degrees.

Online learning has many benefits. These include, among others, flexible schedule and environment; independence of place and time; saving on on-campus housing; independence of transportation hassles and expenses; student-centred learning according to the learner's convenience and timeline; equal opportunities for all students, introverts and extroverts alike; improving technical skills through the use of LMS; freedom from campus buildings or fixed learning resources; access to many free courses like Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) and modules from anywhere in the world; access to lectures from worldfamous experts in respective disciplines; supplementing in-class learning; finishing a semester strong and on time; and independent learning and time

There are a few myths on online learning, including the notions that online learning is less rigorous and promotes "cheating", that it is isolating and lonely, and that the instructors are inferior. These are all unfounded. Because of these myths, unfortunately, there was a strong resistance to implementing online learning in higher education. No new technology or change is readily accepted or welcomed because of its "disruptive" nature. In traditional classroom teaching, students are tested on what they read. In online learning, the emphasis is on authentic learning—learning by doing. Students engage in various ways, such as through experimentation, realworld problem solving, problem-based activities, case studies, and participation in discussion boards and virtual communication. Exams and quizzes are proctored like in the TOEFL and GRE to



Online learning offers an important way forward to truly implement Digital Bangladesh.

PHOTO: SHANNON STAPLETON/REUTERS

avoid cheating. Online learning provides a strong networking community for group study, discussion, and sharing ideas and interests, reducing feelings of isolation or loneliness. In universities in the global north, most on-campus instructors also facilitate online courses, and all online instructors are required to go through training on online teaching-learning. Communication with instructors usually takes place through telephone, email, discussion boards, virtual live meetings, and chatrooms.

Online learning requires specific software, hardware, technological know-how, and, of course, highspeed broadband Internet. An LMS

These classes provide the students with the opportunity to ask questions and participate in discussion.

Many of the private universities in Bangladesh proactively adopt new technologies to provide contemporary education to their students. These students are able to complete their education on time and will have an added advantage in the job market. Most private-sector employers will prefer candidates who are trained in online learning because most jobs will require such expertise. Unfortunately, most public universities in the country are lagging behind in offering their students an

opportunity to complete their education

on time by introducing online learning, even in the current lockdown situation. It is slated that the universities will probably remain closed for many months, causing

a wastage of precious time for students. Some of the private universities in Bangladesh have been delivering their courses online since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020. For example, BRAC University's James P. Grant School of Public Health offers a one-year fulltime Masters in Public Health (MPH) programme, with half of its student body coming from abroad. As the lockdown started, BRAC University went online, and most of the courses were offered remotely. In the MPH programme, students have already completed the modular course on epidemiology, which was done with interactive teaching followed by Q&A. Using Google Forms, the School has also successfully conducted exams. According to the course coordinators and School administration, there were some initial hiccups as the students returned home following the lockdown, but since then, it has been running without any significant challenges. The students' attendance in "classes" has also been one hundred percent. Such online teaching was tried for biostatistics in Spring 2006 when the first author was a Fulbright visiting faculty at the School. Moodle was the learning management system used, and the course went successfully.

There is more than one way to train faculty members to teach online within a short period of time. Resources are available to offer free training. Technology companies can help with hardware and software. Policymakers and regulators, such as the University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, can play a significant role in developing guidelines and making available the needed resources to incorporate online learning as an integral part of learning in higher education. The public universities must not shy away from this transformation. We believe that this is an important way forward to truly implement Digital Bangladesh.

Mohammed Shahidullah and Mushtaque Chowdhury are respectively Adjunct Faculty at the University of Illinois, Springfield, USA, and President of the Dhaka University Statistics Department Alumni Association (DUSDAA).

### PROJECT **■** SYNDICATE

# The Kerala Model



Shashi Tharoor

with the Covid-19 pandemic, one of the country's 28 states stands head and shoulders above the rest.

Kerala, in southwestern India, has been so successful in "flattening the curve" that many now speak admiringly of a "Kerala Model" for handling publichealth emergencies.

Kerala was the first Indian state to report a case of Covid-19—a medical student who had arrived from Wuhan, China, at the end of January. When Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a nationwide lockdown on March 24, Kerala had the most cases of any state. Yet today, it ranks low on the list of confirmed cases, and high on the list of Covid-19 recoveries. Moreover, the state's fatality rate (0.53 percent) is the lowest in India, and it has managed to limit the spread of the virus without inflicting any of the human suffering seen in other parts of the country.

Kerala's formula for success has been straightforward. Public-health authorities have prioritised early detection through extensive testing, widespread contact tracing, and 28day quarantines for all those infected (the rest of India, following the World Health Organization's guidance, has required only 14 days).

Since issuing its initial Covid-19 alert

Kerala's Covid-19 response emerged from a template that long preceded the current crisis. Among Indian states, it is unique for having allocated significant resources to publichealth infrastructure, devolved power and funding to villagelevel bodies, etc.

on January 18, the state has screened 1.3 billion all arrivals at its four international airports, and immediately hospitalised or quarantined suspected cases. On February 4, Kerala declared Covid-19 a state-level disaster, and shut schools, restricted public gatherings, and instituted lockdowns in early March. By the time the central government had followed suit weeks later, Kerala had already deployed more than 30,000 health workers and placed tens of thousands of people in quarantine.

Kerala's Covid-19 response emerged

states. Throughout the current crisis, Kerala's educated populace has behaved responsibly, limiting community transmission, cooperating with authorities, and seeking prompt treatment as needed.

This institutional and political culture is not the result of some one-off policy. Kerala has spent generations creating the infrastructure to support social development, placing it far ahead of the rest of India on many key indicators. In addition to its rightsbased welfare system, it has a vibrant



Staff members of a government-run medical college collect swabs from people to test for the coronavirus at a Walk-In Sample Kiosk in Ernakulam in Kerala, India, on April 6, 2020.

from a template that long preceded the current crisis. Among Indian states, it is unique for having allocated significant resources to public-health infrastructure, devolved power and funding to village-level bodies, and established a social system that promotes community participation and public cooperation.

In addition to having the highest literacy rate in India (94 percent), Kerala also boasts a declining birth rate, higher life expectancy, more empowered women, and stronger welfare support for the indigent and the marginalised. People do not beg or starve in Kerala. The state offers universal access to health care and medical information, and respects all residents as rights-bearing citizens. No one is treated as a mere subject, as is common in many other Indian

civil society, free and independent media, and a competitive political system. Its robust form of social democracy reflects the contributions of alternating coalitions of Communist and Congress-led governments over time. As foreign observers have noted, the state's social compact reflects extremely high levels of trust in institutions and elected representatives.

As a result, Kerala was able to impose restrictive measures far more humanely than other states have. When Keralans under home quarantine reported that they had no one to bring them essential supplies, the police promptly delivered what they needed. When schools were closed, poor parents who rely on school lunches to provide their children with proper nourishment received the meals at home. Before the central government had even declared a lockdown, Kerala

had announced a comprehensive economic relief package for citizens in need.

Meanwhile, Kudumbashree, a Keralan grassroots network of local organisations and women's selfhelp groups, has helped the state's containment strategy by producing two million masks and 5,000 litres of hand sanitiser in the first month of the national lockdown. Some 1,200 community kitchens were established to feed the indigent and unemployed, and Kudumbashree has already served 300,000 meals a day.

Kerala has maintained regular communication with the public about health risks, broadcasting precautionary messages through official channels to dispel fake news. Unlike other states, Kerala's response has centred on people's participation, not law enforcement. When migrant labourers became restive, they were given free accommodation and food, and urged to wait in place. These instructions were delivered in migrants' own languages, and duly followed. In other states, migrants have been kicked to the curb by the millions.

Kerala is among India's most densely populated states, which makes its success in combating the pandemic all the more remarkable. Moreover, an estimated 17 percent of its population works or lives elsewhere (their remittances account for 35 percent of the state's annual income), more than one million tourists visit each year, and hundreds of Keralan students study abroad, including in China. All of this mobility makes the state more vulnerable to contagious outbreaks, and yet it is weathering the crisis with flying colours.

In achieving such impressive results, Kerala has built on its tradition of decentralised governance, transparency, egalitarianism, civil rights, public trust, and governmental accountability. It offers clear lessons for the rest of India, both in responding to the current crisis and in preparing for the next one. Sadly, the central government's words and actions suggest that no one in New Delhi is paying attention to the success story right under their noses.

Shashi Tharoor, a former UN under-secretary-general and former Indian Minister of State for External Affairs and Minister of State for Human Resource De-velopment, is an MP for the Indian National Congress. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2020. www.project-syndicate.org

(Exclusive to The Daily Star)

# Fighting the demons in our head

How work culture will change post-Covid-19



→ VEN a few **→** months back, ✓ I didn't realise that work from home on a daily basis was possible. Of course, there were those days when I felt under the weather and decided to work from homemostly coordinating with the reporting

staff, instructing them on how to go about the urgent tasks in my absence. And it was mostly on the phone or messaging platforms, such as WhatsApp or Viber. Sometimes there were those Skype calls, absolutely on indispensable occasions. And oh boy, those days were tough coordinating with my team from home—there were so many things I had trouble explaining to them, such detailed instructions were needed, feedbacks, followups and more feedbacks. And then there were those meetings where I had to send a team member on my behalf and then getting them to brief me the next day. And still, despite all these attempts, there was a lack of coordination somewhere. Working from home seemed like an absurd idea—is it even possible to work from home?

And then things changed, and pretty

Even while watching the news on Al Jazeera of a mysterious disease claiming lives in a faraway town in China—it was late December I think—I did not realise that, a few months down the line, my life would be turned upside-down by this illness, and I would be scrambling to find meaning of what was happening around... all the chaos, commotion, change and then the calm of the shutdown. And not just me, Covid-19 has torn apart the social fabric in all the corners of the world. There is no longer the world

that we once knew, that we called home. It is a different place now, a difficult navigation, and one that is often riddled with danger. And while Covid-19 has changed the society as we know it, its most visible impact will probably be at the workplace.

For one, we are not going to go back to the same workplace that we had left when we walked out of the office for the last time before the shutdown. It might not look so different but, in practice, it will be. When we go back to work, we will probably be wearing masks and gloves, if not PPE, and see stockpiles of hand sanitisers and disinfectants at every communal space. The offices will feel sterile thanks to all the deep cleaning that they have undergone. But while this might be good for my health, I am not sure how this will affect my emotional wellbeing.

And then, there will be no more handshakes or the occasional high-fives with colleagues after achieving small feats. Probably, there will be no more gossip over lunch at the cafeteria as social distancing will remain a key priority, of course to keep us safe. And we will sit spaces apart. We will fear contagion and our social interactions with our colleagues, co-workers and teams will be coloured by that tacit knowledge.

And for sure, there will be less meetings where we are required to be present physically, and even fewer foreign travels for workshops and trainings, because these will go fully virtual. If we can coordinate with cross-functional teams—both within and outside the country—at the height of the pandemic, then surely we can do it after things become "normal". And the less we travel for work, the lesser the possibility of contagion. And there will be fewer people we will meet, get to know, and it might feel less

Amidst all these changes and uncertainties, there remains the fear of AI, robotics, IoT,



automation taking over our work. We will always be on the look out to see who will be the first to go and then the next. Despite all the reassurances from our employers, the fear of being abandoned will linger like a foul smell in the air that no deep cleaning can get

According to a recent survey by a USAbased mental health provider, Ginger, nearly 7 in 10 employees surveyed suggested that this pandemic is the "most stressful time of their entire professional career, which has aligned with stark increases in new prescriptions of antidepressant, antianxiety, and anti-insomnia medications," as reported by The American Journal of Managed Care.

And according to the World Health

Organization, "In public mental health terms, the main psychological impact to date is elevated rates of stress or anxiety. But as new measures and impacts are introduced especially quarantine and its effects on many people's usual activities, routines or livelihoods—levels of loneliness, depression, harmful alcohol and drug use, and self-harm or suicidal behaviour are also expected to

And while no one is immune to these spill-over effects of this pandemic—I, for one, fight my own demons every hour of every day, and try to stay positive by reminding myself of all the things I should be grateful for—the question is, does it really have to be this way? Certainly not.

If Covid-19 has been a frightening experience for us, it has also been a lesson at how fast we can adapt to changes and embrace transformations to stay relevant in the face of Herculean challenges. Look how we have changed the way we work, we look at work, overnight! What even a few weeks ago seemed like a dystopian, distant possibility, we are now living it, and what's more, we are even getting better at it.

While no doubt Covid-19 has caused a hollow in our lives, do we really have to succumb to its ill motive of sucking the lives out of us even while we are breathing? Of making us cold, sterile beings? Can we not train ourselves to turn around to get the better of this disease?

We can hone our creatives skills, leadership skills—skills that make us humans, help us survive in this everchanging world. We can choose to embrace whatever human contact we are allowed even with social distancing and relish in that. There will certainly be losses, distances, and voids that will be difficult to fill. The worries, the qualms, the uncertainties are going to be around for the next few years, if not decades, and while these feelings can trigger depression and make us feel lonely and anxious, we can still win this game of survival, even against all the odds.

Covid-19 has certainly put us in a nightmare situation, both in our social lives and how we interact professionally. But it has also enabled us to see the bigger picture: of the ability of the humans to remain resilient, to be agile, to stay relevant.

It is up to us now how we want to utilise the limbo we find ourselves in. We can either choose to be proactively productive or do nothing and be bitter about it. The choice is really up to us.

Tasneem Tayeb is a columnist for The Daily Star.

income growth of the bottom 40 percent of a

# Why should we care about inequality?

RAJIB TRIPURA

NEQUALITY is now one of the top global issues as it poses a major threat to economic growth and social crisis. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) shows in its World Social Report 2020 how much income inequality has increased in many developed countries, and in some middleincome and developing economies. The report finds that income and wealth are increasingly concentrated in the hands of the top one percent. It shows that technological innovation, climate change, urbanisation and international migration are the reasons for this inequality. The coronavirus crisis is only worsening the poverty and inequality within and among the societies. It is hurting school-going children and affecting more the students of underdeveloped and developing countries that do not have the opportunity for virtual learning. During the pandemic, people who work in low-pay sectors are suffering more than those working in highpay sectors. For example, the educated and high-paid employees can carry on their work from home but low-paid workers like the garment workers and individuals engaged with small and medium-sized enterprises are

Why should we care about inequality? Some argue that we should focus on poverty reduction—not inequality. A model by the economist Simon Kuznets, known as a Kuznets curve, is a significant model used for this argument. Kuznets argues that inequality is an undeniable result of the early stages of economic growth and it will reduce eventually as growth advances with an increase of per capita income. So he suggests focusing on growth and poverty reduction. But many studies find that economic growth does not help to reduce inequality until the government takes special measures. There are powerful arguments in support of why inequality requires urgent policy attention.

Firstly, a society that has higher inequality tends to have more internal conflicts and destabilisation of social cohesion. It is because when inequalities continue through the generations, the excluded people tend to contest the progress that has bypassed them.

Francis Fukuyama shows in his research paper titled "the Latin American Experience (2008)" that inequality delegitimises the political system as people fight for their shares. Professor Richard G. Wilkinson also shows in an article on the impact of inequality, published in Social Research Journal in 2006, that the rate of homicide is consistently higher in societies where income differences are greater. The Global Trend 2030 also finds that the growing inequality in Africa will intensify the tribal and ethnic conflicts.

society further increases the gap between the rich and the poor. Thomas Piketty in his book Capital in the Twenty-First Century also argues that the return on capital is always higher than economic growth which makes richer those who have the capital and poorer those who don't have it. Poorer people also suffer more where the market mechanism is weaker, because a poor person will not have a loan if he or she cannot satisfy the lender without a guarantee. So, lack of income limits their investment in business, health, and children's education. Thus the poor

Vijayendra Rao argues that in a patriarchal society, women are not given an equal share of property and have to confront restriction of movement. Besides, the girls are often not sent to school, and women are less likely to work outside. So, this social system keeps women dependent on men and keeps them remaining in an inequality trap. Like the example of women and girls in a patriarchal society, the unequal distribution of power enables the rich to have a good policy in their favour and to keep their social status, Vijayendra Rao argues. In an unequal society,

population at a higher rate than the country's national average by 2030. Inequality is also an important determinant to attain the aim of zero extreme poverty by 2030. A World Bank study finds that poverty rate will fall to below 3 percent if the income of the bottom 40 percent of a population increases by 2 percent faster than the national average, but the poverty rate will remain at 10 percent if the income of the bottom 40 percent grows at below 2 percentage points of average national income. So to achieve a good democratic system,

stable political and social structure, as well as sustainable growth, we need to reduce inequality. Initiatives have been taken to address the issue but these have proved to be mostly unsuccessful. Moreover, the coronavirus crisis has worsened the situation by impeding the present actions of reducing verty and it will pull back the househo that have crossed the poverty line. More social policies and actions are needed to reduce inequality. The UNDESA suggests in its report that promotion of equal access to opportunities, inclusive fiscal policies that benefit employment and disability, and legislation that tackles prejudice and discrimination and promotes greater participation of marginalised groups are necessary to minimise income inequality. An anti-poverty group, Global Citizen, together with a research agency, Glocalities, have done a poll in 25 countries during this pandemic and found that eight out of 10 people think billionaires should come forward during this crisis to end poverty and inequality. Oxfam showed in a report that the world's richest eight billionaires are as wealthy as half of the world's population. Oxfam finds that if an additional 0.5 percent tax could be imposed on the wealth of the richest 1 percent billionaires over the next 10 years, it would be equal to investments needed to create 117 million jobs in education and healthcare sectors. The bottom line is: a global concerted effort and a burden-sharing attitude are required to fight against poverty and inequality.

Rajib Tripura is a foreign affairs analyst and a graduate from Crawford School of Public Policy, the Australian



The gap between the rich and the poor goes back hundreds of years.

Secondly, higher income inequality is an obstacle to poverty reduction. Poor people have fewer chances of getting their share of the development pie where inequality is high. Economists Roy van der Weide and Branko Milanovic found in a study on the impact of overall inequality that high inequality has a positive impact on economic growth, however, it benefits mostly the rich group of a society. They also argue that economic growth in a highly unequal

experience the vicious circle of poverty. Thirdly, income inequality traps can trigger an increase in intergenerational

inequality and hinder social mobility. Inequality traps describe a situation where the total income distribution is stable due to the different dimensions of inequality (social, economic, political, and cultural) that interact to defend the richest group from downward mobility and to inhibit the poor from moving upward. Economist PHOTO: REUTERS/ARKO DATTA

a poor family faces difficulty in providing uninterrupted schooling for their children, which then prevents the latter from getting a higher-income job and changing their social

Fourthly, inequality is a matter of concern when it comes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 10 is about the reduction of global inequality. The goal has a target to attain and sustain

QUOTABLE



**NIDO QUBEIN** (Born 1948) American businessman and motivational speaker.

Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start,

### **CROSSWORD** BY THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 1 Blacken 5 Tourist stop 10 Make movie changes 12 Battery end 13 Restaurant patron 14 Japanese comic books 15 Quarterback Manning 16 Hoppy pint, for short 18 Collins base 19 Gobble up 21 Pool sticks

22 Cub Scout leader

24 Silas Marner's

ward

25 Common sense 29 U2 singer 30 Amateur 32 Crumb carrier 33 Hallucinatory drug 34 Opposite of post-35 Native group 37 Brighten 39 Space sighting

41 Listens to 42 Indiana city **DOWN** 1 Guiding principle 2 Made better 3 On the go 4 Deplore

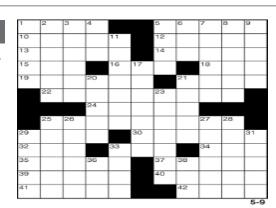
5 Baby's call

40 Light fare

6 Words before tear or dare 7 Taste bud setting 8 More nervous 9 Inclines 11 Victory 17 Pushes onward 20 – a customer 21 Like caramel 23 Rants 25 Madison's successor 26 Prompt 27 Gazelle's cousin

28 Toothbrush target 29 Cookie quantity 31 Poor 33 "Why don't we!" 36 Garden area 38 Fall back

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com.



### YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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### **BEETLE BAILEY**





### **BABY BLUES**



### BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

BY MORT WALKER



**CENTRE STAGE** 



# MOUTUSHI **BISWAS** speaks about nature

Everything is at a halt because of the pandemic and everyone from the entertainment industry has been remaining indoors. It has been almost one and a half months that actor Moutushi Biswas has been staying home with her husband and daughter. She has been spending a lot of quality time with her daughter and reading her favourite books. The actor said, "This pandemic was supposed to happen. We have been polluting our

planet with so much waste that mother nature decided to take revenge. We forgot that the planet is not only for humans, but there are other living things as well. We have been torturing animals, cutting down trees, and the novel coronavirus is just a response from nature for our crudeness. I am trying to create a positive and jovial ambience at home because we need physical strength and mental peace to get through this crisis.'

# **OYSHEE'S** New Song

Singer Oyshee recently released a new song, Joibon Gelo, written and composed by Habib Mostafa. The music for the song has been directed by Anu Mustafiz. Regarding the song, Oyshee said, "The song has a unique melody and depth in it. My audience will find me in a new light in this song. I gave

my voice for a song after a long time. Besides, I have also been singing from home on songs related to COVID-19 to promote awareness. Further, composer Habib Mostafa stated that the music video for the song, released under the banner of G Series, has been appreciated by the audience.

# Bappy Chowdhury's INITIATIVE

During this holy month of Ramadan, popular actor Bappy Chowdhury's fan club has been regularly distributing Iftar. He has also been sending Iftar to BFDC's Mosque and mentioned that this will be done until Eid-ul-Fitr. Since the year 2015, Bappy Chowdhury's fan club has been providing free medical aid to underprivileged children in Feni. In 2016, the members established a primary school for the children and currently has fifty-six students. Like every year, the club is providing Iftar to the students. However, due to the nationwide shutdown, the club is distributing Iftar packages to their doorsteps. Bappy said. "To maintain social distancing and keep everyone safe, we have made the arrangements for distributing fifty-six Iftar packages to their houses. We are also trying to look after their other needs and help them with their



# Ferdous Ahmed



What have you been doing during quarantine?

Before quarantine, I never got to spend much time with my family. I have been able to do that now due to quarantine. I spend a lot of time with my family cooking, playing games or watching movies together. I never got to spend this time with my children. I also spend my time watching the news. There are a lot of unread books at my house, and I plan on reading all of them before quarantine ends. By doing some freehand exercises, I have been staying both physically and mentally healthy. I've been making some videos at home where my daughters act as my cameramen. Another thing that I spend a lot of time doing is checking up on my colleagues. In the past, I would only call them to ask things like when we have to go to shooting or what I have to wear for an event. Now, I call them to ask how they are doing, how their families are. I have also been calling to check up on my senior artists. I didn't get to talk to them regularly before, but now I make sure to check on them regularly. One thing that I think everyone should be doing is helping those in need. I opened a Bkash account to do that. I see how many people who worked in films are facing a financial struggle, and I try to help them to the best of my abilities. I would like to especially express gratitude to our honourable Prime Minister as she is doing her best to help the people of Bangladesh. It is all of our duties to help others out.

What new skills have you learnt while in quarantine? I have learnt a lot of cooking by watching YouTube. It seems that I have a knack for making food. I can

now make a wide variety of foods. Since we cannot bring food from outside for my children, I try to make whatever they want at home. What do you miss the most while

you are in quarantine?

I miss acting. I am an actor by profession, so that is what I miss the most. Sometimes, I even have dreams where I am going to a shooting spot to shoot a film, and at other times, I think about when I might get to act again. I also miss how people would get excited whenever they got to see me in public. However, I understand that if I gain something, I have to lose something. I am getting to spend more time with my family now, but I am not being able to act.

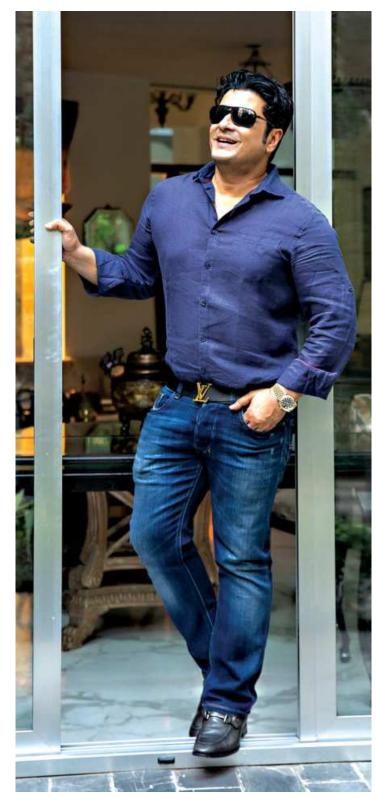
What is the first thing that you will do once quarantine ends? At first, I will have trouble believing that it is actually over. I really don't know what I'll do once it ends. Now, it feels like it will go on forever, so when it ends, it will seem kind of unbelievable. I know that I will be ecstatic, and the feeling will be similar to that of winning a war.

Do you have any message for the

Throughout my whole career, I have never spent this much time staying at home not doing anything. Acting is my main source of income, and since I cannot act, I have not been earning anything. This is not just the case for me; many artists are facing the same problem. We still stay at home because that is the only way to not just keep ourselves safe, but to keep others safe as well. I am certain that Allah will save us from this virus, and until this crisis ends, people should not go out unless it is absolutely necessary. We should stay at home and regularly wash our hands. I also see that many policemen are getting infected. If we stayed at home, the police would not have to risk their lives by going out to make sure that people don't come out. If they can risk their lives, we should support them by staying at home. I urge everyone to stay healthy and safe.

Ridwan Intisaar Mahbub

Popular actor Ferdous Ahmed has been maintaining social distance and staying indoors. He has been spending time with his family and learning to cook. In this interview with Star Showbiz, the actor shared what he misses most during quarantine and what he will be doing after shutdown lifts.



### **POPCORN HIGHLIGHTS**

Here are some binge worthy movie and series you can spend your time watching while you stay at home social distancing, keeping yourself, as well as others, safe.



necessities."

# The English Game

The English Game is a historical sports drama television miniseries on Netflix. It has been created by Julian Fellowes, alongside others, produced by Rhonda Smith, and stars Edward Holcroft, Kevin Guthrie and Charlotte Hope, among others. The series focuses on the origins of modern football and how it broke the division between classes. It was released on March 20, 2020.

### THE HALF OF IT

The Half of It is a coming-ofage drama-comedy movie on Netflix. It has been written and directed by Alice Wu, produced under the banner of Likely Story, and stars Leah Lewis, Daniel Diemer, Alexxis

Lemire, and Collin Chou, among others. The story focuses on an introverted girl who acts as the wingman of a popular jock at school to get a girl that she secretly likes. It was released on May 1, 2020.





coming of age comedy-drama television series on Netflix. It has been and created by Mindy Kaling and Lang Fisher, who also produced the series alongside others, and stars Maitreyi Ramakrishnan

Ramona Young and Lee Rodriguez, among others. It tells the story of an Indian-American teenager as she faces and overcomes unique struggles thrown at her in life. The series premiered on April 27,



### Extracurricular

Extracurricular is a South Korean drama TV series on Netflix, directed by Kim Jin-min, written by Jin Han-sae, produced under the banner of Studio 329, and stars Kim Dong-hee, Jung Da-bin Park and Joo-hyun, among others. It follows the life of a high school student with an illegal business to pay for college who has to deal with the consequences after being caught by a classmate. It was first released on April 29, 2020.

> Shreya Shomoyeeta & Amina Hossain

### **SPOT THE DIFFERENCES**

6 Find the differences from, "Ocean's 8"





**ANSWERS FOR THE PREVIOUS ISSUE:** 1. Pocket 2. Eyelashes 3. Silhouette 4. Bracelets 5. Luggage

**Never Have IEver** 



# 'Not upset as everyone is in the same boat'



It is not unusual for individual to be demoralised and frustrated during the coronavirus pandemic that has seen the world

Like the general population, the national cricketers are now far removed from their regular lifestyle, which revolves around playing cricket. While it is usual to be upset about being away from a beloved activity for such a long period, Bangladesh batsman Mohammad Mithun has remained positive.

"I do not see anything to be very upset about right now. Because this situation is true for the entire world. I would only be upset if cricket is being played as usual and I was somehow unable to play. The feeling that I am not able to play while others are playing is the thing that would be upsetting," explained Mithun.

The 29-year-oldhas had to adjust to difficult situations throughout his career. And adaptability was on Mithun's mind as he said now is the time to keep himself ready so that as soon as cricket returns, he can adjust quickly.

"There is nothing to be upset about. Instead, it is now very important and challenging to keep myself ready, so that whenever cricket returns, I can also return and adjust -- mentally, physically and skill-wise --quickly and recover from the huge gap," said Mithun.

The right-hander, who is yet to cement his place in the national squad, also mentioned that he never regretted anything as he reflected on his cricketing career.

much. I can usually shrug off disappointments and do not regret However, Mithun accepted that it is much about anything as regretting their duty as professional cricketers to would not be of much benefit to me.

**Rabiot laughs** 

Juventus midfielder Adrien

Rabiot reacted with irony

on Wednesday to reports

his delay in returning to

Turin was because he was on "strike" in protest at the club cutting wages amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"When you realise

Instagram, alongside two laughing emojis and a sad-

looking photo of himself. Shortly after, he posted a new image, a drawing of

a small vial on which was

written "Newspapers-TV-

Press, do not swallow".

it's your last day on ... STRIKE!" Rabiot wrote on

off 'strike'

claim

AFP, Rome



If I keep regretting, then I would not be able to give my 100 per cent in my future endeavours. It is true that all players want their position in the team to be stable and to cement their place, and I am no different.

"Actually. I have made mistakes. Sometimes luck did not favour me. I think in cricket luck plays a big role. I can work hard and give my all but still I cannot guarantee that I will score a century. You can get out because of a run-out, or a misjudgement by the umpire or you might even fall prey to an excellent delivery even after scoring 30 runs and being set at the crease. And then again there are some mistakes that I made, avoiding which I could have been in a better position in my career now," admitted Mithun.

The right-hander also went on to mention that the players in the subcontinent usually have to deal "To be honest, I do not regret with pressure from the crowd and the media, which also affects their game. deal with everything and be unfazed

when they play.

Mithun is now helping his family members in household chores and is looking after his two children. While he is enjoying every bit of familytime, the batsman was positive about the domestic season resuming and for cricket to return, be it even behind closed doors, but obviously by taking all precautions.

It [playing cricket behind closed doors and in a crowd-less stadium] is going to be a new thing. But the situation and the virus is also a novel one. It might look different but it is important that cricket resumes.

'And ensuring safety is also important. It is better to play in an empty stadium than to spread infection by playing amid thousands of fans," said Mithun, who also thought that much like the initiatives taken in major European football leagues and also in the international cricket arena, players in the country also need to be tested for coronavirus before resuming any form of sport.

Juventus forward Paulo Dybala showed no signs of fatigue or discomfort during his individual training session at the club training ground on Tuesday following his recovery from coronavirus. PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

### Pabna University of Science and Technology

Office of the Project Director

Memo No :PUST/PD/e-GP/OTM/08(A)

Date: 13/05/2020

### e-Re-Tender Notice (FY/2019-20)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of following works under "Pabna University of Science & Technology Development Project", PUST, Pabna.

SI No	Re- Tender ID	APP ID	Package No & Invitation Ref. No	Name of Works	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time	Method
1	420045	158695	PUST/PD/e- GP/OTM/08( A)	Supply & Installation Of Desktop PC, UPS, Photocopier Machine, Laser Printer, Laptop, Multimedia Projector with stand & Fax Machine for the Pabna University of Science and Technology Development Project Office. FY 2019-20	13-May- 2020 10:00 AM	09-June-2020 11:30 AM	ОТМ

This is an online Tender where only e-tender 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-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).



Project Director Pabna University of Science & Technology Development Project

# Day's new contract from middle of Aug

SPORTS REPORTER



Although the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) wanted to renew their contract with head coach Jamie Day before his current deal expires on May 15,

it is likely to wait for a few more days as the draft agreement was not completed till Wednesday.

"We have been working with the agent of Jamie Day for the last three weeks to renew his contract for the next two years from mid August of 2020. We have already had four meetings online and several e-mail communications to prepare a draft agreement. We are hoping to finalise all terms and conditions within a week," BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag told

The 40-year-old coach has been in England since early March after FIFA suspended World Cup Qualifying fixtures following the global outbreak of

Shohag informed that the agreement will come into effect from August 16 as FIFA is likely to resume the World Cup Qualifiers in late November or early December, subject to the normalcy of the situation.

However, the BFF is not going to retain regard," said Shohag.



the services of the British coaches at the BFF-Fortis Football Academy.

"We had contracts with three British coaches till April 26 and we did not renew the contacts. We told them that we would communicate after things turn normal as we don't want to pay their salaries without service," said Shohag.

The BFF secretary, however, said they would take every step and provide all support to Day to find expatriates booters from Europe.

"In the discussion of last few weeks, we have wanted to ensure that Jamie will scout Bangladeshi expatriate players likes Jamal Bhuiyan, especially from UK. BFF will give all kinds of supports to Jamie in this

### London mayor opposed to PL June restart

REUTERS

London mayor Sadiq Khan is opposed to the idea of the Premier League resuming in the capital next month while the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause deaths, a spokesperson for the mayor's office has said.

The possibility of a restart next month was given a boost when the government said elite sport could return behind closed doors after June 1.

Five Premier League clubs are based in London --including Arsenal, Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur.

"As a Liverpool fan, Sadig of course wants the Premier League to return," the spokesperson said. "But it can only happen when it is safe to do so, and it cannot place any extra burden on emergency services."

Liverpool lead the league with nine rounds remaining and need only six points to seal the title.

### New PL rules ban tackles

REUTERS

Premier League players will be prohibited from tackling and pitches will have to be disinfected when clubs return to training as part of plans to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the BBC reported on Tuesday.

Citing an official protocol sent to Premier League players and managers outlining conditions for returning to training, the BBC's report said players will be tested twice per week for the virus and take a daily temperature check, while they will also be forbidden from congregating together or travelling to or from training with team mates, the report added.

The Premier League did not immediately respond to a request to comment on the BBC's report.

# Playing 2023 WC is my ultimate goal: Warner



Australian opener David Warner says he is feeling fitter than ever despite missing two of the last three years of cricket and making it to the 2023 ODI World Cup remains his "ultimate goal".

"In the last three years I'll have had almost two years off, depending on when we play cricket again," Warner, who lost 12 months due to a ban for ball-tampering in 2018, and is now losing precious time due to sport being halted worlwide.

The longevity in your body helps. The get ups of training and playing gets harder as you get older but I haven't felt any fitter in my career than I do now," Warner said. "As the legs get older time will tell. At the moment I'm feeling as fit as a fiddle and if ODI) World Cup is the ultimate goal.

The 33-year-old said next year's T20 World Cup in India might be a good time to



step away from the shortest format.

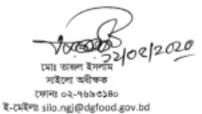
"There's back-to-back T20 World Cups and I started my career with Twenty20 cricket, and I think it's important we've got younger kids coming through and they get a sniff and a chance of playing at this level.

"We're seeing a lot of guys and talent coming through Australian cricket (and) I think it's important we're leaving those opportunities open there. At that stage you I can keep running between wickets as well will probably get two spots open up in the as I have done, who knows. That (2023 team with me and Finchy (Aaron Finch). He wants to go to that World Cup in three years' time as well, so there's going to be a few spots available after that."

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার সাইলো অধীক্ষকের কার্যলয় নারায়ণগঞ্জ সাইলো, নারায়ণগঞ্জ। www.dgfood.gov.bd

### "দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

>	<u>प्रक्र</u> शंगा	খান্য মন্ত্রণালয়			
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00	দরণর দশিশ প্রান্তির স্থান	হিসাব রক্ষক (ক্যাশ), নারায়ণগঞ্জ সাইলো, সিদ্ধিরগঞ্জ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ।			
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14	দরপর দলিলের মূল্য	২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা (অফেরত যোগ্য)			
29	টেন্ডার পিকিউরিটি	৩,০০,০০০/- (তিদ লাখ) টাকার পে অর্চার/ব্যাংক দ্রাফ্ট।			
36-	দরসাতাসের বোপ্ততা  ন্যানতম ও (তিন) বছরের শ্রম ও হ্যান্ডনিং ঠিকাদারী কাজের পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। যেখা থাদ্য বিভাগীয় শ্রম ও পরিচালনা ঠিকাদারি কাজে নৃন্যতম ১ (এক) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা এবং সাধাং থাদ্য শস্য হ্যান্ডনিং কাজে ২ (দুই) বছর সহ মোট ও (তিন) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে টেভার জাটা শীটে উপ্রিখিত কর্মকর্তা/দগুর হতে অভিজ্ঞতার সমদ দাখিল করতে হবে। এছাড় দরপর সিভিউলে বর্ণিত অন্যান্য যোগাতা থাকতে হবে।				
79	কাজের সংক্ষিত্ত বিবরণ	জলযান/ট্রাক থেকে চালা/বস্কা ভর্তি গম/খালি বস্কা খালাস করণ, ট্রাক/ওয়াগন/নৌযানে গম ভর্তি ক বোঝাই করণ এবং প্রয়োজনমত শ্রমিক সরবরাহ করণ।			
২০	দরপত্র জমাদানের পদ্ধতি	কারিগরি প্রছাব সম্পাত খামের উপরে কারিগরি প্রছাব ও আর্থিক প্রছাব সম্পাত থামের উপরে আর্থিক প্রছাব স্পষ্ট করে লিখে আলাদা থামে তরে মুখ বন্ধ করে অন্য একটি বড় খামে ২টি একতা করে সাইলো অধীক্ষক, নারায়ণগঞ্জ সাইলো সম্বোধন পূর্বক দীলগালা করে দাখিল করতে ছবে।			
43	দরপর প্রবিশ্বার ক্ষেত্রে The Public Pro	curement Act, 2006/The Public Procurement Rules, 2008- এর বিধানকৌ প্রযোজ্য।			
22	অনিবার্য কারণে দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ দি	ন ছুটি ঘোষিত হলে পরবর্তী ছাভাবিক কার্যদিবসে যথানিয়মে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে।			
20	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম	মোঃ তাজন ইসলাম			
₹8	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী	সাইলো অধীক্ষক			
2.0	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকালা	সাইলো অধীক্ষকের কার্যালয়, নারায়ণগঞ্জ সাইলো, সিন্ধিরগঞ্জ, মারায়ণগঞ্জ।			
২৬	যোগাযোগের ফোন নম্বর	04-9680S0			
49	কোর জারণ ফুর্শানের জাড়াই মুরপার বাজি	ল অথবা এহণের অধিকার কর্ত্বশক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে এবং সর্বনিম্ন দরপত্র গ্রহণে কর্ত্বশক্ষ বাধ্য নহে।			





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GARBAGE MANAGEMENT WORKERS

# Many still left unprotected

Without protective gear, they face severe risk of Covid-19 infection

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A large number of garbage management workers in the capital have been working without any protective gear, putting themselves at grave risk of contracting coronavirus and other diseases.

Though a section of workers have received personal protective equipment (PPE) from the authorities concerned or from non-government organisations, many others are still doing without.

Those involved in door-to-door collection of household waste are mainly under severe risk -- either they are not equipped with protective gears or do not want to use these as they feel uncomfortable, according to workers.

Around 2,500 garbage management workers are under Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and around 5,400 work under Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC).

Around 4,000 more work in garbage collection for the DNCC and several thousand for the DSCC contractually, but they are not employees of the two city corporations.

Md Jasim, 35, said he collects garbage from different houses and apartments at Ibrahimpur, Mirpur, from 7:30am to 4:00pm every day.

"Every day, I return home with fear of coronavirus as I do not use any protective gear," said Jasim, who has not been provided with protective gear so far.

Islam Uddin, a worker in Farmgate, too said he has not received any protective gear till now.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



The swarming crowd of people at the kitchen market in the capital's Jatrabari makes it seem like there is no outbreak of a highly contagious and deadly disease in the country. Sights of people putting themselves and others at risk are becoming all too common. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

### Eid holidays in KSA to be under curfew

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia will enforce a nationwide 24-hour curfew during the five-day Eid al-Fitr holiday later this month to fight the coronavirus, the interior ministry said Tuesday, as infections spike.

The kingdom, which has reported the highest number of virus cases in the Gulf region, is scrambling to limit the spread of the deadly disease.

A full lockdown will be re-imposed around the country from May 23-27, the ministry said in a statement released by the official Saudi Press Agency. The period marks the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

Most parts of the kingdom were put under full lockdown following the outbreak, but last month the government relaxed the curfew between the hours of 9:00am and 5:00pm.

Malls and retailers have been allowed to reopen, except in major hotspots including the holy city of Makkah -- where confirmed cases have soared, despite a stringent lockdown.

The health ministry said Tuesday the number of Covid-19 deaths had risen to 264 and confirmed infections to 42,925, SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

### Bangla must be used in all spheres



May 14, 1972 SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH INDIA WILL BE BENEFICIAL FOR BOTH: BANGABANDHU

In an interview with Pran Chopra, former editor of Statesman (India), Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman yesterday said the recently concluded trade agreement between Bangladesh and India would be beneficial for both countries. He justified Bangladesh's position to export jute to India by saying that in return Bangladesh would get the much-needed coal. The prime minister expressed his gratitude to the Indian government and people for their relentless support to the reconstruction effort of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

### Gonoshasthaya sends 200 kits for trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoshasthaya Kendra yesterday supplied 200 locally-made rapid test kits to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) for performance trial.

Dr Bijon Kumar Sil, the lead researcher of Gonoshasthaya Pharmaceuticals, and Dr Mohibullah Khandakar, vice-principal of Gonoshasthaya Samaj Vittik Medical College, submitted the kits to the

Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, founder and trustee of Gonoshasthaya Kendra, said, "The BSMMU asked for 400 kits; 200 in each of two phases. We will provide them with the rest of the 200 kits whenever they ask for."

Earlier on Tuesday afternoon, Gonoshasthaya received a letter from the BSMMU, seeking supply of the kits and a deposit of Tk 435,000 as fees for the tests.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

### Toilet duty for social distancing violators



Indonesians who violate social distancing rules in the capital could soon find themselves forced to clean toilets to atone for their sins.

Latrine duty is among a range of punishments listed in new rules aimed at battling coronavirus infections in the Southeast Asian megacity of

Going outside without a mask can result in a 250,000 rupiah (\$17) fine, while residents gathering in crowds could be forced to clean public facilities -- including toilets -- while wearing a vest that labels them as rule-breakers.

Firms that ignore shutdown orders or violate public-health rules can be hit with fines of up to 50 SEE PAGE 4 COL 8 Attack by Goons

### 10 garment workers hurt during protest

STAR REPORT

At least 10 garment workers were injured when goons attacked them while they demonstrating at their factory demanding full payment for April in Fatullah of Narayanganj yesterday.

The attackers, allegedly associated with the factory attacked workers of Fateh Ullah and Jalal Hazi Spinning Mills around 7:00am when they were demonstrating for their demand of 100 percent salary payment, instead of 60.

Some workers said the injured were receiving primary treatment in a local clinic.

The injured workers said some 10,000 workers were employed in the two mills for three shifts. The factory was close for some 18 days and the management yesterday said they will not pay Eid bonus this year, they alleged.

The workers protested the decision of 60 percent salary payment and the non-payment of bonus. The workers started their demonstration in front of the factory gate in the morning and also threw brick chips inside the gate.

Then, the group of goons appeared at the scene and attacked the workers, SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 3-48 12-45 5-00 6-37 8-00 JAMAAT 3-58 1-15 5-15 6-47

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



RAMADAN MAY SEHRI IFTAI

### 60-yr-old held for rape of minor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Police vesterday arrested Md Abdus Sattar, 60, for raping a 10-year-old in Gaibandha's Sadar upazila.

On Tuesday, Sattar allegedly took the child to his house and raped her. The girl's relatives rescued her after the incident and her uncle filed a case with Sadar police station yesterday noon.

Speaking to The Daily Star, her uncle said, "This is boro harvesting season and every one was busy with the harvesting work.. Yesterday, my niece was playing on the road adjacent of the accused's home. When we were working, he forced my niece to his house and raped.

During that time, the child tried to shout, hearing the muffled sounds, her aunt went the spot but the door was looked from inside. When she knocked, Sattar hit her and manage to flee the spot, the uncle said, adding, "After the incident,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Garment workers wearing face shields and masks going to work yesterday morning. The women wearing the shields said their management was quite serious about maintaining health safety. The photo was taken at EPZ bus stand in Savar.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# **Europe steps** up reopening

Unveils plans for summer travel as top US scientist warns of uncontrollable new outbreaks

Europe moved ahead with its emergence from coronavirus lockdown yesterday and laid out plans for summer tourism, but the pandemic gathered pace elsewhere and America's virus pointman warned against reopening the United States too quickly.

Britain followed France, Italy and Spain in easing its lockdown but only in England, where people were given more freedom to leave their homes and return to their jobs if they cannot work remotely.

Austria said its borders with Germany would reopen from mid-June and Berlin said it aimed to end virus checks at its land borders in about a month.

Desperate to save millions of tourism jobs, the European Union set out plans for a phased restart of travel this summer, with EU border controls eventually lifted and measures to minimise the risks of infection, like wearing facemasks on shared transport.

"Today's guidance can be the chance of a better season for the many Europeans whose livelihood depends on tourism and, of course, for those who would like to travel this summer," EU Commission executive vice president Margrethe Vestager told reporters.

But with the global death toll from the coronavirus exceeding 292,000, the picture was grim in other parts of the world

Russia, now the country with the second-highest number of virus cases, recorded more than 10,000 new

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2