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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 Ibrahimipur, 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 coincides with the Muslim festival that 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



Bangabandhu praying for the departed soul of veteran politician Kafiluddin Chowdhury whose namaz-e-janaza was held at Baitul Mukarram on May 13, 1972.

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 BSMMU around 11:00am.

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



AFP, Jakarta

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 Jakarta.

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 were demonstrating at their factory demanding full payment for April in Fatullah of Narayanganj yesterday.

The attackers, allegedly associated with the factory owners, attacked the 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



PRAYER TIMING MAY 14

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 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN		MAY SEHRI IFTAR	
20	14	6:37	
21	15	3:47	6:37
22	16	3:47	6:38

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

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Police yesterday 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*

AFP, Brussels

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