

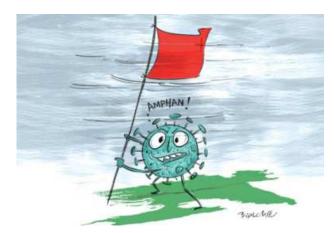
Jaishtha 6, 1427 BS

Your Right to Know

Ramadan 26, 1441 Hijri

## Bracing for Amphan fury

Landfall this evening; thousands hunker down in shelters to evade the brunt of one of the strongest cyclones formed in the Bay



PINAKI ROY and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Thousands of people have been moved to storm shelters in 19 coastal districts of the country as Cyclone Amphan is set to make landfall this evening with heavy rainfall and storm surges above 10 feet.

"This is one of the strongest cyclones formed in the Bay of Bengal and will hit the coast with a wind speed of around 160 miles per hour if it does not become weaker or change its course," Dr Samarendra Karmakar, former director of Bangladesh Meteorological Department, told this newspaper. It will batter coastal areas of Bangladesh as well as India, said

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Waves crashing into the Patenga Beach in Chattogram yesterday as the country braces for cyclone Amphan. Inset, people from a char in Bhola's Charfassion upazila are being taken to a cyclone shelter in the upazila town on a trawler.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN, STAR

## Tide could be the key factor

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Already downgraded to Category 4, Cyclone Amphan could weaken further by the time it makes landfall close to the western Sundarbans, experts said yesterday.

They, however, expressed concern that it might still wreak serious havoc on Bangladesh as a storm surge,

depending on the tide. Md Shah Alam, former director of Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), said the wind speed of the cyclone would certainly be less at landfall

than at the sea. He said the storm surge would depend on when the cyclone makes landfall -during high tide or low tide.

Another point of concern was that the cyclone still continued to cover a large swathe of the funnellike Bay, pushing waters northwards, which would only worsen the storm surge around the time it hits, Shah Alam added.

Quamrul Hasan, the BMD forecast officer on duty, said the main feature SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BANGLADESH 1,251
New cases in 24hrs









Recoveries





## Tobacco users, smokers at higher risk

Says DGHS; 1,251 more infected, 21 die MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The risk of smokers contracting Covid-19 is two times higher than non-smokers, said Prof Dr Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

She said this yesterday at the regular online briefing on the coronavirus pandemic and suggested that people refrain from using tobacco.

Tobacco damages the lungs and creates breathing complications. The risk of contracting the diseases becomes twice as high," she said.

Quit smoking and remain healthy, she suggested.

According to WHO, Covid-19 is an infectious disease that primarily attacks the lungs. Since smoking impairs lung function, it is harder for the body to fight off coronavirus.

It further said that tobacco is a major risk factor for non-communicable diseases like cardiovascular disease, cancer, respiratory disease and diabetes.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## 'Nobody can feel our pain'

With no salaries, majority of teachers at private schools, colleges suffer in silence before Eid

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

earnings, could not be collected.

This will be the first Eid for Arafat Haque, a lecturer of Demra University College, when he will not be able to buy anything new for his seven-year-

A non-MPO teacher, Arafat did not get salaries of March and April but his colleagues who enjoy the benefits under the MPO drew salaries on time and they will even get the festival bonus for Eid-ul-Fitr. Under the monthly payment order (MPO), teachers get 100 percent

basic salary from the exchequer with some house rent and medical allowance. "I am running my families by borrowing from relatives and friends but that

too will not be possible in the near future. We are teachers -- we cannot just stand on the roads asking for money, or start selling vegetables," Arafat said. According to Bangladesh Teachers Association President Nazrul Islam Rony, the situation of more than two lakh non-MPO teachers at 37,000 secondary school, madrasas and technical institutions are more of less the

same in this time of pandemic. "In the absence of salaries, the teachers are living an inhuman life. If the

situation worsens, it will be catastrophic for them," Rony said. The authorities, on the other hand, argue that they were unable to pay the teachers' salaries as the tuition fees from students, their only source of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

## SSC results via text for the first time

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

For the very first time in the history of Bangladesh, the education boards have decided to send results of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent exams to guardians' mobile phones via SMS.

The results would be published after Eid-ul-Fitr, Mahbub Hossain, secretary to the Secondary and Higher Education Division, told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

Monjurul Kabir, senior systems analyst of Dhaka Education Board, said they started sending messages to all mobile operators to alert their consumers about the process of receiving results of the exams.

"We hope that all the candidates or their guardians will register for receiving their results", he said.

Prof Ziaul Haque, chairman of Dhaka Education Board who is also the head of inter-board SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

## Restrictions they do not heed

Thousands leave capital to spend Eid with their loved ones; police say they're overwhelmed

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Thousands of people left Dhaka for the second straight day yesterday to celebrate Eid in their village homes, violating travel restrictions imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19

Desperate to be at home with their loved ones, they ignored the risks of contracting novel coronavirus and spreading it to others.

It happened at a time when the country's coronavirus situation has been deteriorating every day. The authorities yesterday reported the total number of Covid-19 cases crossed the 25,000 mark while the death toll hit 370.

Police, which stepped up measures to curb people's movement, claimed that they tried to stop the home-goers, but failed since so many of them descended on roads at a

In the absence of public transport amid the ongoing shutdown, the home-goers travelled by pickups, motorcycles and battery-run three wheelers, ignoring social distancing rules. When they came near check-posts set up by the law enforcers at the

exit points of the capital, they crossed them on foot.

Ferry services on Shimulia-Kathalbari and the Paturia-Daulatdia routes remained suspended like the previous day. Many remained stuck at the ferry ghats while many others crossed the Padma river by trawlers, risking their lives when super cyclone Amphan was approaching.

Besides, vehicles remained stuck in tailbacks on the Dhaka-Tangail highway, said witnesses.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Benazir Ahmed yesterday urged those stuck at the ghats not to go home.

"Stay where you are," he said while addressing a briefing on law and order ahead of the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr and the coronavirus situation, at the Police Lines Auditorium in the capital's Rajarbagh.

He said many were crowding the ferry terminals although warning signal number 3 was raised before the storm. "Many others are trying to cross the river risking their lives, but we've instructed the authorities to curb the movement."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## **暴BUSINESS**



### **ROBI SUBSIDIARY TO LAUNCH GAME CHANGING ONLINE VIDEO-ON-DEMAND SERVICE**

Red Dot Digital, a subsidiary of Robi, is set to roll out a device that can change the way people view television. Called Binge, it provides online video service. Red Dot claims Binge has one of the widest entertainment catalogues, including more than 100 live HDTV channels both in local and international, web series, latest web films, exclusive originals.

### STORY ON B1

**HEALTH GETS THE BIGGEST BUDGET B2** 

CONSTRUCTION SECTOR SHOULD RESTART IN PHASES B2 **UBER EATS TO WRAP UP BANGLADESH OPERATIONS B2** 



Vehicles are caught in long tailbacks on Dhaka-Mawa highway in Munshiganj's Kuchiamara area yesterday morning after police enforced a ban on entering and leaving Dhaka ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr to contain the spread of Covid-19. Failing to move towards Mawa, a truck carrying poultry makes a U-turn.

ANISUR RAHMAN

## Burden now **HEAVIER**

What 'work-from-home' means for women

ZYMA ISLAM

As the lockdown to curb the spread of coronavirus continues to have an impact on people from all walks of life, a generation of working women is learning that their "work-from-home" is not quite the same as that of men.

This generation is highly educated. They hold tertiary degrees, and are often the first women in their families to have jobs -- and they are dependent on domestic staff to help them with household chores, because the men in

The abundance of cheap, exploitable labour has always meant that whatever domestic chores working women were not able to do could be passed off to the hired help.

This arrangement allowed them to spend eight hours or more a day at office. This arrangement also paved the way for men not to do their part at home.

Now, with domestic staff being given leave and women confined at home, they are suddenly back to where society has always stereotypically told them they "belong" -- in the

And many, for the first time in their marriages, or family lives, are having to confront the fact that the men in their lives do not practise equal distribution of work at home.

Nadia (not her real name) jotted down the daily routine of her and her husband's day. Her routine, titled "An Architect's Day" starts with making breakfast for the family at 10:00am, followed by feeding their two-year-old daughter, followed by doing the laundry and "occasional" bathroom cleaning.

Her afternoons are taken up with making lunch, feeding the baby once again, folding clothes, then making tea and SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

## Bracing for Amphan fury

Samarendra, who has been observing

the cyclone since its formation. The extremely severe cyclone is going to bear down on Bangladesh at a time when the country is struggling to deal with the Covid-19 crisis.

As of 9:00pm yesterday, the cyclone was 650 km off the Mongla port with a wind speed of 160 miles per hour.

In its special bulletin last night, the Met office said it may hit the coastal areas of Bangladesh and India today evening.

The cyclone, under the influence of the new moon phase, could cause storm surges above 10 feet in coastal districts including Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Jhalakathi, Pirjojpur, Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barishal, Laxmipur, Chandpur, Noakhali, Feni

Weather experts said Amphan turned into an extremely severe or category 4 cyclone from category 1 within just 18 hours as the temperature of the sea surface in the Bay had been very high (32 to 34 centigrade) over last two weeks due to impacts of climate change. The high temperature helped the cyclone gain more strength.

"We have never seen such high values until now. These high temperatures can super charge a cyclone since tropical cyclones primarily draw their energy from evaporation at the ocean surface," Dr Roxy Mathew Koll, a scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, wrote on his Facebook page yesterday. **EVACUATION** 

"The evacuation of people in the coastal areas will continue the whole night. Many will move to cyclone shelters after Sehri. The number of evacuees will be nearly 20 lakh by tomorrow morning," said Enamur Rahman, state minister for disaster management and relief.

"We have arranged almost double the space we need to shelter 20 lakh people, keeping the coronavirus pandemic in mind," he mentioned.

District administrations in Khulna, Barishal and Chattogram divisions had been evacuating people from the vulnerable areas to cyclone shelters since yesterday morning, he added.

Elias Hossen, deputy commissioner of Chattogram, said district officials along with volunteers of the Cyclone Preparedness Programme and the Red Crescent are making sure that people are evacuated to cyclone centres.

"A total of 284 medical teams are ready, and 4,046 cyclone centres have been prepared to accommodate four lakh people with sufficient stocks of food and medicine," he said.

Dr Md Anwar Hossain Hawlader,

of this cyclone is its speed, sea surface

second super cyclone formed over the

Bay of Bengal after the 1999 Oddissa

cyclone. This is the first super cyclone

The Joint Typhoon Warning Centre

said sustained wind speed of Amphan

would be just below 160 km per

hour at landfall, which would further

Earlier yesterday, the cyclone was

According to Indian Meteorological

Department, 46 severe cyclonic storms

were registered in the Bay of Bengal

and the Arabian Sea from 1965 to

In terms of fatalities, Bangladesh

was hit by seven of the worst cyclones

recorded in history, with the Bhola

Cyclone killing between 3 to 5 lakh

people in 1970. The cyclone had

"The most serious threat posed by

brought a a 20-feet storm surge.

weaken the cyclone to Category 3.

Experts said Amphan is only the

FROM PAGE 1

temperature and radius.

over the Bay in this century.

rated Category 5.

2017.

commissioner of Khulna Division, said the district administrations were asked to strictly follow the healthsafety guidelines, including social distancing, at the cyclone shelters.

Some 303 medical teams and 26,213 volunteers are ready in three coastal districts -- Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira -- to deal with any situation, he said.

In Barishal Division, many were evacuated to 4972 cyclone shelters.

"We have started evacuation. Directives have been given to ensure social distancing [at the cyclone shelters]," Mohammad Yamin Chowdhury, divisional commissioner of Barishal, told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

THE MOST VULNERABLE ONES Most of the three lakh people living in char areas remain exposed to Cyclone Amphan.

Many of the chars have no cyclone shelters or any buildings. People have to take shelter in forests to protect themselves from tidal waves and

It's a big challenge to evacuate all the people from 21 islands in Bhola, said district officials.

Around 72,000 people were evacuated from the chars, they mentioned.

MEASURES, PREPARATIONS

All the vessels anchored at different jetties of Chattogram port have been sent to the deep sea so that none of those washes ashore during the

A total of 19 vessels from the berths were sent to the deep sea by 8:30am while most of the 51 vessels that were at the outer anchorage were sent to the deep sea through the Kutubdia Channel, Captain Faridul Alam, deputy conservator of Chattogram Port Authority.

Flight operations at Chattogram Shah Amanat International Airport will remain suspended today and tomorrow, said ABM Sarwar-e-Jaman, manager of the airport.

In a statement, Inter Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR) said the navy has kept 25 ships ready for postcyclone emergency evacuations and

It has also kept two maritime patrol aircraft and as many helicopters to carry out search operations after the

Taking the situation into account, special medical teams will be formed to provide emergency health services in the cyclone hit areas. They will be involved in providing lifesaving medicines, oral saline and other

Our correspondents from Khulna, Barishal and Chattogram contributed to

Tide could be the key factor

"It is stronger than Sidr and Ayla. People are terrified of the novel coronavirus pandemic and this

Mohan Kumar Das, a fellow at the Institute of Water and Flood Management of BUET, said the surface temperature is very high and sustained wind speed remains high

uniqueness of the cyclone.

Amphan is its potentially catastrophic storm surge. Even if Amphan's top winds weaken, the storm surge threat will remain dire," said Weather Underground, a commercial weather forecast organisation. Prof Mahbuba Nasreen, director of

Dhaka University Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, said cyclone Amphan is different because of its nature.

cyclone would be a double blow to them," she said.

"Cyclone Amphan had turned to Category 5 from Category 1 within just 18 hours," he said about the



People bound for northern districts walk along Dhaka-Tangail highway in Gazipur's Chandra area yesterday after police stopped vehicles carrying them on the highway. Law enforcers enforced a restriction on the movement of PHOTO: PALASH KHAN vehicles to and from Dhaka ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr to slow the spread of Covid-19.

## Tobacco users

A review of studies by public health experts, convened by WHO, on April 29, found that smokers were more likely to develop severe diseases with Covid-19 compared to non-smokers.

According to the estimation by World Bank last June, around 4.6 crore people in the country are users of tobacco products.

In a statement issued on May 11, WHO urged researchers, scientists and the media to be cautious about amplifying unproven claims that tobacco or nicotine could reduce the risk of Covid-19.

"There is currently insufficient information to confirm any link between tobacco or nicotine in the prevention or treatment of Covid-19," it read.

Meanwhile, there is no data on whether people have reduced smoking during the ongoing

Speaking to this correspondent, Jasim Uddin, a motor parts trader, said he is suffering from stress due to the prolonged shutdown and the ceasing of economic activities. "To reduce stress, I now smoke more [than I used to]," he said.

On the other hand, Hasibur Rahman, a private bank official, said it has become difficult for him to smoke now since he has to pass most of his time with his family. "Earlier, I used to smoke at least 10 cigarettes per day. Now, the number dropped to two," he said.

Both of them, however, said they knew of the risks of smoking associated with Covid-19, adding that it is difficult for them to quit right

WHO encouraged nicotinereplacement therapies, such as gum and patches designed to help smokers quit tobacco.

Within 20 minutes of quitting, heart rate is elevated and blood pressure drops. After 12 hours, the carbon monoxide level in the bloodstream drops to normal. Within 2-12 weeks, circulation improves and lung function increases. After one to nine months, coughing and shortness of breath decrease, it said.

Meanwhile, a total of 1,251 more people were infected with Covid-19 in 24 hours since Monday morning. With this, the number of positive cases stands at 25,121, according to the DGHS.

During this period, 21 people died of the infection, said Dr Nasima of the DGHS.

The death toll has now risen to 370, she said, adding that 408 more people have recovered from the infection and the total number of recoveries so far is 4,993. Till yesterday, a total of 1,93,645

samples were tested for Covid-19.

## 'Nobody can feel our pain'

Over a hundred teachers at Novelty School and College in the capital's South Banasree said they did not receive salaries of March and Ápril. They have lost hope for festival allowance.

Principal Md Ruhul Amin said they could not pay the teachers' salaries due to fund crisis as they were not able to collect tuition fees from students.

According to Rony, only a few renowned schools of capital have savings and they can pay the salaries of teachers without being dependent on tuition fees.

Non-government teachers said they are usually ill paid and provide private tuitions besides their job. Now with schools shut and children mostly staying home, they lost both the means of earning.

Jesmin Parveen, a widow and a teacher of Najifa Bright Model School, a Kindergarten in Pabna, said she was passing her days in financial hardship with her income from the job as well as the private tuitions totally off over the last two months.

"If the coronavirus situation continues, I will not have any alternative to seeking help from others for survival," Jesmin said. "Nobody can feel our pain.'

All educational institutions have been closed since March 17, and the reserved funds, he added

government has now extended the closure until May 30 to stem the further spread of Covid-19.

On April 27, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said all educational institutions may stay closed until September if the situation does not improve.

Nekbor Hossain, convenor of Bangladesh Non-Government Honour's-Master's College Teachers' Forum, said about 3,000 teachers at 352 colleges are facing the same crisis. "We demand salaries for the sake of our life and dignity."

Teachers of private technical institutions are also not getting salaries for the last couple of months.

Abdul Aziz, president of Technical Education Consortium of Bangladesh, an association of technical institution owners, admitted that they could not provide salaries to the about at least 30,000 teachers of over 9,000 nongovernment institutions.

Less than five percent technical institutions have the ability to pay salaries of teachers from own funds, he

As most of the institution are housed at rented buildings, they need to pay electricity and other bills. Moreover, tuition fees at these institutions are comparatively less than others.

So, there is no scope of create

SSC results
FROM PAGE 1
coordination committee, said the students would not be able to receive their results from educational receive their results from educational institutions this year.

The government earlier planned to publish the results on May 7 or May 8, but failed to execute that for closure of educational institutions.

For the first time in the last eight years, the government would not be able to publish results within 60 days from completion of the public exam.

This year, the SSC exams began on February 3, with the theoretical and practical tests ending on February 27

and on March 6 respectively.

Some 2,047,779 students took part in the SSC and its equivalent examinations held at 3,512 centres.

Monjurul Kabir, said that like the

previous years, results would be also available on the education boards' websites, and could also be received via SMS. Examinees can get the results from the education board website [http://www.educationboardresults.gov.bd]

and also from the websites of their respective education boards. To know about SSC and equivalent results, pre-registration will continue till 24 hours before publishing the results. PROCESS OF RECEIVING RESULTS

VIA SMS Type SSC/DAKHIL (space) first three letters of respective boards (space) roll number (space) 2020 and send it to 16222.

### 'PAY TEACHERS REGULARLY'

Bangladesh Kindergarten School and College Oikya Parishad chairman Iqbal Chowdhury and Bangladesh Kindergarten Association president Abdur Rashid said that they cannot pay teachers' salaries in the absence of tuition fees of students.

"We know teachers are passing their days in hardship. But where will we get money to pay the salaries?" asked Iqbal and said there are about eight to 10 lakh teachers at 60,000 kindergartens. Abdur Rashid fears about 20 percent

students of kindergartens will drop out and many teachers may leave the job because of economic crisis cause by the shutdowns. Directorate of Primary Education's

500 to 600 kindergartens were registered with the DPE. "Most of the kindergartens do business. Why won't they be able to pay salaries of teachers? I will urge them to

Director General Md Fashiullah said

pay teachers regularly," he added. Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education's Director General Prof Syed Md Golam Faruk urged the authorities of all private schools and colleges to pay salaries of teachers.

"We will not accept if a school or college collects tuition fees but refused to pay salaries of teachers,' he added.

## Burden now heavier

FROM PAGE 1

snacks for the family. Her evening routine involves yet more cooking, cleaning and feeding of little humans, and as she wrote, "If I get a chance, I flop down on the bed and fiddle with my phone."

That is what she does with her only personal time of the day, when she is supposed to finish work and pursue her career.

In a funny disclaimer, Nadia added, "Entry does not include the many times the baby goes to the toilet and needs her clothes changed and potty cleaned."

She contrasted her day with her husband's. An engineer, her husband does no cooking, cleaning, and the only assistance he offers his wife is "waking up at night if the baby cries, and staying up long enough for the baby's mother to wake up".

"When I showed him this list, he told me to quit complaining and tell him the solution. I told him the solution -equal distribution of labour -- and he listened. But it never got translated into action," lamented Nadia. This is the norm among males in the

family, she said. "My father-in-law does not lift a finger to get a glass of water, and his son does not help with chores. They also don't believe their son should work -- if my husband even volunteers to do something, his mother comes running to relieve him." Hridi (name changed) is on her

maternity leave from office. While it is true that she does not have to do regular office work from home, having a baby that is learning how to roll over and fall off the bed keeps her hands full. "I had a domestic staff come in for

a few hours each day to help me clean the house but we have had to put her on leave for the lockdown. My husband

is an instructor at a university. He keeps more housework to do," complained himself locked in a room the whole day to take online classes, so all the chores fall on me," said Hridi. But just like Nadia, this lockdown

has made her realise that her husband was raised with the belief that men should not do household chores. "During the first days, he tried to

scolded us both. She told him that even though I have a masters' degree from abroad, what kind of a woman am I if I cannot take care of my family?" lamented Hridi. And even though Hridi and her

husband do not live with his mother, it seems that he had really taken her words to heart, leaving Hridi to tackle the chores alone. She was speaking to this correspondent at 1:00am in the morning. I just finished putting the baby to sleep and cleaning the kitchen after a day of cooking," she said. "I'm yet to find a balance between

work-from-home and chores," said Tasnia (not her real name), a newlymarried NGO worker. "When I ask for help from my husband, he ends up doing the tiny part I specifically pointed out. But men are almost never proactive in identifying what needs to be done, and completing household tasks that might be adjacent/related to each other.

As a feminist, being a part of an unequal relationship is a mental quandary for her. "I felt disappointed in myself for a while for being here. It was sad to realise that I have to actively coach my partner every time spot unequal labour distribution," she said.

"Meanwhile, my male boss expects the women to be equally productive as men, even though we have so much

Another NGO worker Shahida laughingly told the story of how her husband yelled out in pain when a bit of hot oil spilled on his hand.

Tasnia.

"I was working, and had asked him to fry the piyajus for iftar. This was the first time in his 35 years that he was share the chores, but then his mother trying to do this, and a drop of hot oil spilt on his hand. I pointed out to him the countless times this had happened to me and that it was just his first," she

The struggle is acknowledged by United Nations situation report prepared by its Regional Bureau of Asia Pacific Economist Network.

"Measures are needed to alleviate the crisis of care that has disproportionately fallen on women's shoulders and to make policy responses gendersensitive," recommended the report, titled The Social and Economic Impact of Covid-19 in the Asia-Pacific Region, published last month.

Meanwhile, Manusher Foundation recently surveyed 16,203 women and children through the month of April, and found 4,249 women reporting domestic violence. Approximately half said that the abuse was mental (or verbal), and 1672 said they had never been abused before this ockdown. While Nadia, Shahida, Tasnia

and Hridi are not alleging domestic violence, their troubles are rooted in the same cause -- inequality in marriage, and patriarchal mindsets that believe women and men have different gender roles. As the lockdown stretches on, so does their dilemma.

All the women mentioned above requested anonymity for protection and

Date: 16.05.2020

## 13th Death Anniversary



We pray for Late A. B. M. Kamal Uddin Khan on his 13th Death Anniversary on 20th of May 2020. Late A. B. M. Kamal Uddin Khan was a Founder Life Member of the North South University (NSU) Foundation.

He was also the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the North South University Foundation. He was a successful industrialist, philanthropist and Former President of Gulshan Club Ltd.

May Allah bless his soul and give the members of his family the strength to keep on bearing the loss.



North South University

Center of Excellence in Higher Education

### UK MPs criticise 'inadequate' govt virus testing

British lawmakers yesterday heaped fresh pressure on the government for its handling of the coronavirus outbreak, calling its testing regime "inadequate" in the early stages.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been criticised for his initial response to the global pandemic, and has faced weeks of pressure about the availability of tests for the virus.

The country has seen 34,796 deaths -- the second-highest toll in the world behind the United States -- and 246,406 cases, according to the latest

But despite a recent surge in daily tests and the expansion of eligibility, MPs on a parliamentary committee said: "Testing capacity has been inadequate for most of the pandemic so far.'

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Principal Dhaka Medical College, Dhaka

DMC/2020/1476

## E-Tender Notice

ı	2 Tolladi Mollod				
SI. No.	Tender ID	Description	Tender opening date	Remarks	
1	460047	Supply Cleaning Items	02-June 2020 14:00	N/A	
2	459942	Supply of Monihary Items	01-June-2020 14-30-00	N/A	

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal, no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender please register on e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd).

Prof. Dr. Khan Abul Kalam Azad

Principal

Dhaka Medical College, Dhaka E-mail: pe@dmc.gov.bd

Phone No. 55165088

GD-878

### Money Laundering Case

## Korean national's bail plea refused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday refused to grant bail to South Korean national Youngsik Lee, a cohort of online casino "kingpin" Salim Prodhan, in a money laundering case.

The bench of Justice JBM Hassan passed "no order" on a petition by Lee, seeking bai in the case, after a virtual hearing.

The High Court's "no order" means that Youngsik Lee has been denied bail and he cannot get released from jail, Anti-Corruption Commission's lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

He said law enforcers arrested Lee on January 22 in connection with the money laundering case in which Salim Prodhan is the main accused.

Youngsik Lee's lawyer Advocate Sharif Ahmed told this correspondent that he will move the same bail petition before a regular HC bench when the court reopens after the ongoing closure.

On September 28, Salim was arrested at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport while attempting to flee the country.

Based on information, law enforcers along with Salim conducted a 20-hour raid at his office and residence that day, and seized around Tk 29 lakh, currencies of 23 countries, cheque books, spotted deer hide and foreign liquor, along with a server, four laptops and a desktop computer used for gambling operations.



A little boy dons a raincoat as protective gear -- paired with a headcap and a mask -- featurinmg his favourite comic book superheroes, almost as if for a bit of extra protection from the coronavirus. His mother, meanwhile, is happy with a plain black one. The photo was taken from Dhanmondi yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## HC forms committee to protect Halda dolphins

The High Court yesterday formed a committee headed by the deputy commissioner (DC) of Chattogram in order to protect biodiversity, environment, fishes and dolphins of Halda river in the district.

The lawmakers elected from the areas near the banks of the river will act as advisers of the DC-led committee, and the committee will work with advice from the members of parliament, the High Court said in the

The High Court bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan came up with the order during the virtual hearing of a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Abdul Qaium Liton, seeking its directives on the authorities concerned of the government to prevent the killing of dolphins and protect them in

During yesterday's proceedings, the High Court went through a compliance report submitted by the Department of Environment saying that necessary initiatives have been taken to save the dolphins of Halda

The court asked the officials concerned of the court to keep the report in court records and set May 28 for further hearing on the issue

The DoE recently submitted the compliance report to the High Court through email in line with its May 12 directives that asked the authorities concerned to immediately take necessary steps.

In yesterday's order, the High Court asked the DC of Chattogram to include representatives from the DC, superintendent of police, naval police, coast guard, DoE, fisheries, water development board and forest office in Chattogram, upazila nirbahi officers of Hathazari and Ramnagar of the district, and representatives from Marine Science and Fisheries Facility of Chattogram in the committee to protect biodiversity, environment, fishes and dolphins of Halda River.

Abdul Qaium said in the writ petition that 24 dolphins in Halda river were killed since 2017 till date, endangering the environment and ecology, according to a report published on The Daily Star on May 8.

# 

Says survey; unavailability of midwives, poverty, superstition result in high infant mortality rate

MINTU DESHWARA

Sumita Kairi, a tea labourer at Daluchhara Tea Garden in Fenchuganj Upazila of Sylhet, gave birth at home. No trained midwife was present during the delivery of her first child. Sumita's child was born with the assistance of two local elderly women.

"All the women in our family have given birth at home," Sumita said. But it's not always a choice. "The elderly at home do not like going to hospitals," she said. In such a tradition, many women like Sumita avoid going to hospitals or calling midwives as that only increases stress during childbirth.

GM Shiblee, chairperson of tea garden owners' association Bangladesh Cha Sangsad in Sylhet, told this correspondent that many women in the tea gardens do not take delivery services due to old ideas and superstitions. This persists even if there are midwives in almost every garden now, he added.

However, other accounts do not atch his statement

There's the issue of money. A couple of months ago, Lakshi Gowala of Lakkatura tea garden gave birth at home. Like Sumita, she too didn't have a trained midwife around. "If you go to the doctor, you have to pay. You also have to pay to bring a midwife. Where can we get this money?" Lakshi said.

For some, there's simply no access to delivery services. For Ayesha, Sudipa, and Aruna -- all workers of Keramnagar Tea Gaden in Baralekha upazila of Moulvibazar -- midwifery services are simply unavailable as there are no trained midwives in or around their garden.

In fact, most tea gardens do not have trained midwives, and the work is taken over by older women of the area. As a result, maternal and neonatal mortality rates are higher in close to the upazila health complex.



Mithila Nayek with her one-month-old baby in her mud house. She had

assistant director (disease control) of areas."

Sylhet divisional health office. Fifty five of every 1,000 newborns

in tea gardens die at birth. The number is 26 in Sylhet division, he The results of a survey conducted

by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (in collaboration with Unicef) confirms this. The survey, conducted and published last year, showed 80 percent of the women in tea gardens in three districts of Sylhet give birth

The study showed that only 16 percent go to health centres while the other four percent go to tea garden health centres. Only 43 percent of the women receive any sort of health care at home or hospital within two days of childbirth.

Worrisome numbers also came up in another survey. "We interviewed 60 mothers from the tea gardens, we found eight who had multiple miscarriages and stillbirths in the past," says Philip Gain, executive director of Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD). "Bear in mind that the mothers we surveyed were from areas that were tea gardens, said Dr Anisur Rahman, The rate might be higher in remote to be a midwife in tea gardens.

suffered four miscarriages before.

PHOTO COURTESY: PHILIP GAIN

Sanjana Shirin, a nurse at Camellia Hospital, a hospital for tea workers in Kamalganj of Moulvibazar, said giving birth without a trained midwife poses various risks for mothers and newborns. Problems such as excessive bleeding and infection may occur

the help of trained practitioners. She spoke of a spatial disparity in location of midwives. Although there are midwives working in gardens around town areas, they are unavailable at tea gardens located in

when giving birth at home without

remote areas. She also said due to the low rate of use of birth control methods, women in tea gardens resort to the use of a type of tree root.

This correspondent learned that in 2007-08, a development organisation provided training to some women of different tea gardens in Sylhet as midwives. However, only one or two of the trainees took it up as a profession.

Parash Gowala, of Lakkatura Tea Garden, is one of the few who took up the profession. Parash said since the norm is to not call midwives during childbirth, it is not profitable

Surviving with everyone else is Wahid Manjour Sohag's motto. And this led him to distribute one cooked meal among the poor every day since April 19, when shutdown was enforced in Bogura.

The 32-year-old deputy assistant director of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Bogura, till date, distributed a meal among more than 5,000 street children, day labourers, rickshaw pullers, beggars and physically challenged people in Bogura and Gaibandha.

Wahid started this initiative, after seeing some physically-challenged people begging on an empty road near a market in Bogura during the shutdown.

"They looked very hungry. After I returned home, I decided to give them cooked food, spending money from my own pocket," he related.

Initially, he ordered 100 packets of khichuri every day from a restaurant at a cost of Tk 2,500 and distributed been distributing food among 150

Along with a friend, Manjour would ride his bike to different areas of Bogura town and hand over the meal packets to those who needed it. "I don't stop at one place for a long

time," he said about his strategy to avoid overcrowding. When he posted pictures of the meal distribution on Facebook and some media outlets published his

story, many people from home and abroad started donating to Manjour's "At least 50 people from home and abroad have sent Tk 500 to Tk 15,000

to keep the initiative going," he said. The finansupport has been inspirational for me to carry on with

my activities," he added. Since the beginning of Ramadan, Manjour has added an egg and some vegetables to his meal, and has been distributing it as iftar in the evening instead of daytime.

Since April 26, he has also

Gaibandha, through the volunteers of a Facebook group.

In total, Wahid provides iftar to

250 people in both districts every day, spending Tk 7,000 - Tk 8,000 per day. Besides, with the help of the Facebook group, he and some other

wealthy individuals in his network have been providing financial assisatnce to 500 destitute families in Gaibandha for Eid shopping every vear since 2015. Thanking all the volunteers and the

financial supporters, the ACC official said, "I want to continue this meals distribution work among starving people as long as the epidemic lasts in our country. Even after the pandemic, Manjour

wishes to continue this initiative among helpless and marginalised children of Bogura, if he gets financial

 $\hat{I}$ If the world starts to depopulate due to the food crisis during the pandemic, what should I do surviving alone?" he ponders.

TK 10CR GRAFT AT FMCH

## 2 contractors' bail appeals denied

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday denied bail to two contractors accused in a corruption case involving Tk 10 crore in supplying machines and equipment to Faridpur Medical College Hospital (FMCH).

The bench of Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim passed the order after virtually hearing a petition by Abdullah Al Mamun, proprietor of Anik Traders, and his brother Munshi Sajjad Hossain, seeking bail.

The HC bench said the accused may move the bail petition before a regular bench once courts reopen, Deputy Attorney General Dr Md Bashir Ullah said.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case against the two with its integrated district office in Faridpur on November 27.

The accused were arrested in the case on February 20, said DAG Bashir Ullah.

## 4 die in road crashes

Four people died in two road accidents yesterday. In Sirajganj, a couple and another person died and three others were

injured in a fatal road mishap after their truck fell into a roadside ditch. The accident occurred on the Dhaka-Bogura highway at Nokla area in Raiganj upazila early yesterday morning, reports our Pabna correspondent. The deceased were identified Nurjahan Begum (20), her husband Md

Ali Akbar (28), and Sohel Rana (20). They were headed to their home at Rampura in Nababganj upazila of

Dinajpur during the lockdown, evading eyes of law enforces and locals. Officer-in-Charge of Hatikumrul Highway Police Station Md

Akteruzzaman said the victims got on the oil-laden truck secretly and hid on its cabin. When the truck reached Nolka, another truck coming from the opposite direction almost collided with it. As drivers of both vehicles lost control and slid into the ditch, all three were killed on the spot, the highway OC said.

In Tangail Sadar upazila, a day-wage worker was killed and five others were injured when a pick-up van carrying them fell into a ditch by the Dhaka-Tangail Highway at Tangail Sadar upazila yesterday.

Deceased Bimol Haider (19) hailed from Sherpur upazila in Bogura district. The injured were admitted to Tangail General Hospital.

Quoting the injured workers, Shafiqul Islam, senior station officer of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Tangail, said the accident occurred as the pick-up's driver lost control over steering and drove the vehicle into a 30foot deep ditch at Dorun Saitta area around 3pm. Bimol was killed on the spot, Shafiqul added.

## Al Musabbir Sadi's 9th death anniv

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the ninth death anniversary of Al Musabbir noted sports journalist and former general secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF).

Sadi, also a senior member of Bangladesh Sports Journalists' Association, breathed his last on this day at the age of 44 at a private hospital in the capital in 2011. He was suffering from cancer.

After completing his master's in sociology from Dhaka University, Sadi started his journalism career at The Independent in 1995, and later joined The Daily Star in 2004. He joined BFF in 2009.

Sadi wrote two books on cricketers Sachin Tendulkar and Brain Lara in 1999 and 2002, respectively, during his journalism career.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19

## Business institutions launch initiative to support recovery

Four leading private business organisations of the country and an economic policy think-tank yesterday launched an initiative -- titled "Resurgent Bangladesh" -- to support execution of a number of plans to recover from the economic shocks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The institutions are Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), Business Initiative Leading Development (BUILD), and Policy Exchange, according to a DCCI

The initiative seeks to help the overall economic recovery in Bangladesh by assessing the impact on the private sector and develop recovery strategies for key economic themes.

The newly launched body will provide the government organised, evidence-based and actionable inputs for preparation of national economic recovery strategy, and facilitate public-private dialogue on necessary government policy actions for private sector recovery.

For instance, inputs into budgetary process, enabling voices of smaller and individual firms and providing them support will be some of the goals of this initiative. The platform will help stimulate

resurgence of a dynamic private sector using analytics, advocacy, and policy dialogues initially in seven economic themes, including manufacturing, services, international trade and exports, SMEs, financial sector, private investment, and

The work will be undertaken under guidance of a steering committee, comprising Syed Nasim Manzur, adviser of Leather Footwear and Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association; Nihad Kabir, president of MCCI; Shams Mahmud, president of DCCI; Abul Kasem Khan, chairperson of BUILD; Asif Ibrahim, chairperson of CSE; and Masrur Reaz, chairperson of Policy Exchange.

Policy Exchange will work as technical secretariat, while Deloitte and several other international institutions will provide support as knowledge partners, the statement said.

The coronavirus pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the global economy, and businesses in Bangladesh have been grappling with massive



With the temperature hovering in the high 30s over the last few days paired with high levels of humidity, humans are not the only ones suffering. This rooster trying to drink from a tap serves as a reminder to keep out drinking sources for animals in this intense heat. This photo was taken on Monday.

ANISUR RAHMAN

Covid-19

## HSBC launches campaign to support 1 lakh people

CITY DESK

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) in Bangladesh yesterdaylaunched corporate sustainability campaign under its "Joy of Giving" platform in partnership with Bangladesh's Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

The initiative aims to support at least 100,000 people across the country whose lives have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, says a press release.

Throughout the year, HSBC will continue such community initiatives under a broader platform of "Joy of

HSBC also wants to encourage other corporates and donors to contribute to the wider community by partnering with HSBC using the platform.

The ministry will assist in providing hygienically cooked food at cost price from selected restaurants under Bangladesh

Parjatan Corporation; and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society will help distribute these meals to the most vulnerable and marginalised people throughout selected district towns in Bangladesh during Ramadan and which will continue after

Hafiz Ahmed Mazumdar, MP, chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society; Md Atiqul Huq, additional secretary, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism; Md Ahmed Jamal, deputy governor, Bangladesh Bank; Md Mahbub ur Rahman, chief executive officer, HSBC Bangladesh; Mostafa Kamal, chairman, Meghna Group of Industries; Fazlur Rahman, chairman of City Group; Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, chairman of PRAN RFL Group; and Md Feroz Salah Uddin, secretary general of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society spoke at the launching event and welcomed the HSBC initiative.

HSBC's customers, employees and invited media personnel were present on

## Nitor struggles with bike crash victims

of communication amid the shutdown due to the Covid-19 outbreak. And people are swarming in the Nitor every day with their limbs fractured mostly in motorcycle accidents.

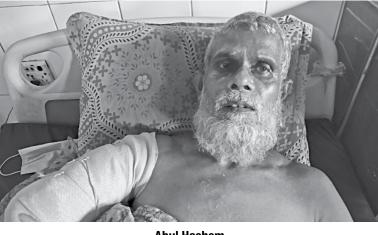
Road safety campaigners blamed reckless motorcycle driving on almost empty roads and law enforcers' relaxed attitude towards motorcyclists for the comparatively high bike accidents during the shutdown.

"The patients we are handling since the shutdown began are mostly victims of motorcycle accidents,' Nitor Director Prof Abdul Gani Mollah told The Daily Star.

Previously, most patients were victims of accidents involving light and heavy vehicles like truck, bus, and car, he added.

"We are struggling to deal with the patients as some doctors and nurses have been sent to Covid-19 hospitals on deputation while some others are either in isolation or quarantine due to the Covid-19 infection," Prof Gani said.

When the number of nondrastically Covid-19 patients reduces at hospitals amid the



### **Abul Hashem**

coronavirus outbreak, Nitor, the of patients as delay may cause lone specialised Orthopaedic government hospital, is handling a huge pressure as patients across the country rush there.

There are around 400 inpatients at the hospital now, while this number is nearly 550 at the usual time.

The authorities have kept open the emergency operations round the clock, but limited the outdoor service. Besides, doctors also conduct scheduled operations

infections, officials said.

One of these correspondents on Monday stayed at the emergency unit for about half an hour and saw at least five patients with fractures coming in.

Doctors and nurses wore personal protective equipment and masks, but the patients and their attendants were not serious about their safety.

An official from the emergency unit said they used to receive nearly 180 patients a day.

"Although the shutdown is going on, and all vehicular movement, except for emergency service, is suspended, we are receiving more than 100 patients a day," he said,

preferring anonymity. "We are admitting only the most critical patients, and the number is not more than 30 a day due to shortages of healthcare service providers," he said, adding that most patients were from outside Dhaka.

Twelve-year-old Mehedi Hasan of Chandpur was admitted to the hospital on Sunday with fractures

in the right leg above the knee. Mehedi said a reckless motorcyclist hit him when he was going to a mosque to offer Zohr prayers. The district hospital referred the seven grader to Nitor as

his fracture is severe. Talking to The Daily Star, some patients and their attendants said there were no restrictions on motorcycle movement in their districts.

Many are frequently travelling on their motorcycles, while many are carrying passengers in absence of public transport.

## Baul Ranesh's music room

in the room were burnt along with the structure, built separately for practicing

music, said Ranesh. "Hearing people shouting, I woke up and saw that the room was burning. I believe someone torched it as I used to sing in the room. But I have no idea who would do this," Ranesh said.

Baul Shah Abdul Karim's son Shah Nur Jalal, whose house is adjacent to Ranesh's, said, "I was awake that night. Hearing screams, I rushed to Ranesh's house and saw that the room was on fire. Why would someone do such a thing? Ramesh did not have enmity with anyone.

OC Nazrul said, "We inspected the Some of the musical instruments kept spot but could not determine how the fire started. If Ranesh files a complaint with the police station, we will investigate the

> Asked yesterday, Ranesh said he will file a general diary soon.

> Meanwhile, local administration visited the spot yesterday morning and gave Tk 20,000 to Ranesh to repair the room, said Md Shafi Ullah, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Derai. He will also be provided with tin sheets for the ceiling from the upazila administration, the UNO said.

> "There were no electrical connections to the room from where a fire might have started," the UNO said after visiting the site.

## Restrictions they do not heed

home-goers stuck at the terminals to come back. "If necessary, police will arrange that," he said.

He also said around 23 of the country's 64 districts were free from coronavirus until the second week of April. "But whenever people started to move from one place to another, the disease spread across the country.

The ongoing shutdown, imposed to fight the coronavirus outbreak, began on March 26. The government later extended it six times.

In a circular on May 14, the Cabinet Division said movement of people would be restricted from May 17-May 28 across the country. The circular also said no one would be allowed to leave the city where they work. The local administrations and law enforcers were supposed to enforce the restrictions during the period. **FERRY TERMINALS** 

Ferry services on the Shimulia-Kathalbari route was suspended

around 3:00pm on Monday after yesterday noon. The police boss then urged the thousands of people crowded the Shimulia Ghat in Munshiganj's Louhajang upazila.

The services resumed after midnight and continued till 5:30am yesterday, said an official of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC).

He also said only one ferry remained in operation for emergency purposes, including for carrying bodies of deceased.

Like the previous day, a huge number of people gathered at the terminal vesterday. Finding no ferry, about a thousand crossed the Padma by small trawlers, according to terminal employees.

Md Asaduzzaman, Asked, additional superintendent of police in Munshiganj, claimed that they tried their best to enforce the curbs. "We have installed check posts and barricades on highway. We have also stopped people from crossing the river in small trawlers.

He said some 15,000 people had gathered at the terminal till "As the ferry services remain

suspended, we have arranged about a dozen of buses so that those people can go back. We have fixed the bus fair at Tk 40. After that, many started leaving the terminal on their own," he told The Daily Star.

Mahfuz Afzal, additional SP (admin & ops) of Munshiganj, however, said some five to six thousand people took shelter at different places amid rain.

"We are looking for them. We will try to send them back once we find them," he told one of these correspondents around 8:00pm.

On the Paturia-Daulatdia route, ferry operations remained suspended from 7:00am due to a huge presence of home-bound people, said Zillur Rahman, deputy general manager of BIWTC at the Paturia Ghat.

"We are not sure when we will be able to resume the operations. The

weather is an issue," he said. Hafizur Rahman, additional superintendent of police in

barricades at six points on the Dhaka-Aricha highway to stop people from leaving Dhaka.

"For those who managed to gather at the terminal, we arranged some buses and sent them back forcefully," he said, adding people's presence at the Paturia terminal became thinner in the afternoon.

DHAKA-TANGAIL HIGHWAY Although public transport services

have been suspended till May 30, the highway witnessed a long tailback caused by hundreds of pickups, cars and microbuses.

Police said a good number of garment workers recently joined work in Dhaka. They were now going back to their village home to celebrate Eid.

Sajedul Islam, traffic inspector (administration) in Tangail, said they put up barricades just before the Bangabandhu Bridge. have stopped hundreds of cars and microbuses heading towards different districts of north Bengal and sent them back. We sent them back when they failed to give us any Manikganj, said they set up valid reasons for travelling."

## 4 die after showing Covid-19

upazila from Chattogram a few days back. He had been suffering from fever and respiratory disease and died on Monday night,

said Lamia Saiful Islam, UNO of Nangolkot. Another 25-year-old man died with similar symptoms at his residence in the

same upazila on Monday evening. He used to work at Kusthia and returned to his village home with coronavirus symptoms three days ago, Lamia said, adding that he did not seek any medical attention and breathed his last on Monday.

Tuesday morning after showing coronavirus

He had been suffering from fever, cold and respiratory disease for the last few days. As his physical condition deteriorated, family members took him to Noakhali General Hospital around 11:00am where

duty doctors declared him dead, said locals. He was brought dead to the hospital. His sample has been collected for coronavirus test, said Syed Mohiuddin Abdul Azim,

resident medical officer of the hospital. Our correspondents from Cumilla and In Noakhali, a 45-year-old man died on Noakhali contributed to the report.



World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following position under Special Service Agreement:

National Consultant – Risk Communication, SSA7

For further details on the terms of reference and deadline for applications, please visit our website:

https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment and



http://www.searo.who.int/bangladesh/about/employment/en/



WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.

## **Request for Proposal**



International Labour Organization (ILO) Dhaka invites proposals from interested Firm/Organization for Implementation Partner to Support the Skilling of Returnee Migrants Through Skills and Enterprise Development Programmes. The bidding documents can be downloaded from the ILO Dhaka website under Procurement Notices at https://www.ilo.org/dhaka/WCMS\_367536/lang--en/index.htm

The deadline for submission of proposal is Wednesday, June 24, 2020, by 04:30 PM (BST time) at ILO Country Office for Bangladesh, PPD Secretariat Office Complex, 2nd floor, Block-F, Plot-17/B&C, Agargaon Administrative Zone, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.



## সহযোগী সংস্থা নির্বাচনের জন্য প্রস্তাবনা (Expression of Interest-EOI) আহ্বান

Green Climate Fund (জিসিএফ) এর অর্থায়নে পিকেএসএফ কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়িত চার বৎসর মেয়াদী 'Extended Community Climate Change Project-Flood (ECCCP-Flood)' প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়নের জন্য সহযোগী সংস্থা নির্বাচনের জন্য নির্দিষ্ট ছকে প্রস্তাবনা (Expression of Interest-EOI) করা যাছে। প্রকল্পটি বন্যা প্রবণ উত্তরাঞ্চলের পাঁচটি জেলায় (কুড়িগ্রাম, পাইবান্ধা, নীলফামারী, লালমনিরহাট ও জামালপুর) বাস্তবায়ন করা হবে। প্রস্তাবনা দাখিল সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য পিকেএসএফ এর ওয়েব সাইট http://pksf-bd.org/e recruitment এ পাওয়া যাবে। ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, পিকেএসএফ, প্লট-ই-৪/বি আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা, শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭ বরাবর প্রস্তাবনা দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ : ০৭ জুন ২০২০ (অফিস খোলা থাকা সাপেক্ষে)।

উপব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক (প্রশাসন) পিকেএসএফ।

## Ensure peace

He adds, "In the Soviet Union people worked relentlessly for five years after the revolution. They devoted themselves voluntarily to increasing production in all sectors. The workers of Europe also sacrificed a lot to reconstruct their countries following devastation of WWII."

Bangabandhu further says the government could have adopted capitalism to get some easy money from the capitalist donors but it would not because he does not want the future generation to be burdened with debt.

Bangabandhu asks workers to be aware of machinations by various imperialist forces and their local agents. "They are spending crores of taka to create instability in the country. They want to thwart our journey towards socialism. They want to foil the hard-earned independence of the country," says the prime minister.

In his 40-minute speech the prime minister repeatedly mentions the historic role played by the workers in the

independence movement. BANGLADESH GETS WHO MEMBERSHIP

Bangladesh is elected as a member of World Health Organization, without any opposition. Pakistan, along with some Arab countries, refrained from voting while China and Albania were absent during the voting process. ACUTE WATER CRISIS IN THE CAPITAL

Water crisis has taken an acute turn in the capital. Many water pumps were damaged during the war and, due to a lack of essential tools and parts, these pumps cannot be fixed. WASA officials fear that the situation may be exacerbated unless the equipment is imported immediately. SOVIET CULTURAL DELEGATION ARRIVES

A 30-member Soviet cultural delegation arrives today at Dhaka on a two-week visit. The delegation will hold performances in Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna. The proceeds from the shows will be donated to the prime minister's relief fund.

SOURCE: May 21, 1972 issue of Dainik Bangla.

### RMG workers FROM PAGE 12

The workers blocked Dhaka- Aricha highway for an hour from around 11:00am, said Jane Alam Khan, assistant superintend of industrial police-1.

Around 1,000 workers and staffs of Reza Fashions Limited in Ashulia's Gorat area demonstrated inside factory after locking the main entrance from 8:00am to 1:00pm. Meanwhile, some 250 workers of Medlar Apparels Ltd

vandalising factory properties on last Thursday. Suspended workers, said the authorities laid them off as they demonstrated for salary, annual earned leave

were suspended yesterday for their alleged involvement in

allowances and Eid bonus. Although only a few workers were involved with the vandalism, authorities suspended a big portion of the workers, they added.

The Daily Star could not reach Arifur Rahman Sinha, managing director of Medlar Apparels, over phone despite multiple attempts.

demonstrated for partial payment for May and Eid bonus. The workers of Chowdhury Group also blockaded Dhaka-Mymensingh higway around 1:00pm. They left the spot around 2:30am after police intervened. More than one thousand workers of a factory in

a group of companies at Bagherbazar area in Gazipur

Some 8,000 workers of three garment factories of

Chattogram city staged a demonstration demanding their bonus on Tuesday afternoon. Workers of Ittadi Jeans Ltd blocked Muradpur-Oxygen

road for five hours from 12:00pm to 05:00pm yesterday. According to the demonstrators, they gathered in front of the factory gate in the morning as the authorities were supposed to disburse their bonus. But the bonus was not paid yesterday.

## WHO states agree to probe

out of control: there was a failure by this organisation to obtain the information that the world needed, and that failure cost many lives," Azar said in a video address to the WHO's assembly.



### Bangladesh Land Port Authority

T.C.B Bhaban (5th Floor) Kawran Bazar, Dhaka- 1215 www.bsbk.gov.bd

Memo No. 18.15.0000.020.30.037.17-314

## e-Tender Notice

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.

5	ees for downloading	the e-Tender documents of followi	ng package	from the National e-G	P System Portal.
	Package name	Name of work	Tender	Last date & time for tender/proposal security submission	Last date & time of tender/proposal closing
	Stationery 19-20	Supply of Stationery Materials at Head Office & Other Ports	450155	11.06.2020 at 13.30	11.06.2020 at 15.00

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

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আহ্বাদের সত্র

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সগ্রহকারী সভার নাম

সধাহকারী সভার জেলা

GD-873

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার অৰ্থ মন্ত্ৰণালয় অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্ক বিভাগ প্রশাসন-৫ শাখা শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা



তারিখঃ ১৯/০৫/২০২০ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

Director (Admin)

Phone: 550133831

Dated: 18.05.2020

স্থানিক নং-৩৯,৩০,৩০৩৩,৩৭৯,১৮,৩০১,১৬-৯৫

## www.erd.gov.bd

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি অৰ্থ মন্ত্ৰণালয়/অৰ্থনৈতিক সম্পৰ্ক বিভাগ প্রশাসন-৫ শাখা। স্মারক নহ- ৩৯,০০,০০০০,০৭৬,১৮,০০১,১৬-৯৩। ১৯/৩৫/২০২০ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

সূথ্য-সচিব (প্রশাসন), অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্ক বিভাগ এর নপ্তর।

প্রকৃত পোশাক গ্রন্থতকারী/সরবরাহকারী।

তারিখ 001 সংগ্ৰহ পদ্ধতি উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি 061 বাজেট এবং অর্থের উৎস 091 অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্ক বিভাগের একজন গাড়িচালকসহ ১৬-২০ গ্লেডের দরপত্র/কাজের নাম কর্মচারীদের ২০১৯-২০ অর্থবছরে সাজ-পোশাক সরবরাহ (ভফসিলে উল্লিখিভ বৰ্ণনা অনুযায়ী নারী ও পুরুছের গ্রীঅকালীন ও শীতকালীন পোশাক, ব্যাজ/দামের ট্যাগ, জুভা, মোজা ও ছাভা সরবরাহ)। ০৩/০৯/২০২০ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত । দরপত্র সিভিউল বিক্রয়ের পেয তারিখ ও সময় 30 I দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিব ও সময় ০৪/০১/২০২০ তারিখ বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ০৪/০৬/২০২০ ভারিথ বিকাল ৩০০০ ঘটিকা। 221 দরণর খোলার ভারিথ ও সময় দিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব, প্রশাসন-৫ শাখা, অর্থনৈডিক সম্পর্ক বিভাগ, ঢাকা-দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান 59091 সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব, প্রশাসন-৫ শাখা, অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্ক বিভাগ, (ব্লক নং-দরপত্র গ্রহণকারীর দপ্তর ১০ কক্ষ নং- ২৬), পেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭।

দরপত্র সিভিউলের মূল্য ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফেরভযোগা)। 261 ১৭। জামানতের পরিমাণ ২৫,০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকা ফেরতযোগ্য 29:1 দরপত্র খোলার দিন কোন দরপত্র বিক্রন্য করা হবে না

দরপত্র খোলার দপ্তর

দরদাভার যোগ্যভা

যোগালোগের ঠিকানা

জিভি-৮৭৬

দরপত্রের যাবতীয় কার্যক্রম পিপিমার-২০০৯ অনুসারে পরিচালিত হবে দরপত্রনাতাকে টেডার ভকুমেটের সকল পাতার অবশাই স্বাক্ষর করতে হবে দরপত্রের সঙ্গে হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেল, ভাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, ব্যাংক সলভেগি সনদ, হালনাগাদ আয়বর (২০১৮-১৯) সনদপত্রের সভ্যায়িত ছারালিপি এবং সংশ্লিট্ট বিষয়ে কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ দাখিল করতে হবে

দাখিলকৃত দর সুস্পটরূপে অংকে ও কথায় উল্লেখ থাকতে হবে।

অন্যথায় দরপর বাঙিল বলে গণ্য হবে। যদি কোন দরপত্রনাতা অসত্য/ভুল তথ্য অথবা জাল সাটিফিকেট দাখিল করেন তাহলে তার দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য इट्ड । দরপত্র জামানতের টাকা যে কোন ভক্ষসিদি ব্যাংক হতে ব্যাংক ভ্রাছট/পে-জর্তার দুগ্ম-সচিব (প্রশাসন), অর্থনৈতিক

সম্পর্ক বিভাগ, ঢাকা এর অনুকৃলে প্রদান করতে হবে। দীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র খামের উপরিভাগে সংক্ষিপ্ত কাজের নাম ও পার্ছে দরদাভাগণের পূর্ণ নাম ও ঠিকানা (সীলমোহরসহ) পরিন্ধারভাবে লিপিবন্ধ থাকতে হবে।

নিচুত্বাক্ষরকারীর সঙ্গে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে যে কোন তথোর জন্য যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে। কর্তুপক্ষ কোন কারণ দশীনো বাভিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাভিল অথবা সকল দরণত্র বাভিদের ক্ষমতা দরপত্রে দাখিলকৃত মূল্য সরকার কর্ত্ত্ক নির্দারিত মূল্যের চেয়ে বেশি হবে না।

> বিভাগ (ব্লক নং-২০, কক্ষ নং-২৬), শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭ ফোনঃ ৯১১২১১৮। হারভানা কেরদৌস ভামান সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব

ফারজানা ফেরসৌস জামান, সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব, প্রশাসন-৫ শাখা, অর্থনৈতিক সম্পর্ক

त्कामा ५५५५२५५ e-mail: sas-admin5@erd.gov.bd

### Saudi attacker on US base had al-Qaeda ties: US

The Saudi military student who killed three Americans at a US naval base in December had longstanding ties to al-Qaeda and planned an attack before he arrived in the United States, US justice officials said Monday. The December 6 attack by Mohammed Alshamrani, a Royal Saudi Air Force flight student at the Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida, "was actually the culmination of years of planning and preparation," said FBI Director Christopher Wray. Evidence discovered on an encrypted cell phone shows he was radicalized at least as far back as 2015, and had since been associating with "dangerous" operatives from the Yemen-based Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Wray added.

### Rocket hits near US embassy in Baghdad

One rocket hit near the US embassy in Baghdad early yesterday morning, security sources told AFP, the first to land in the high-security zone in weeks. The blast could be heard across the Iraqi capital and triggered security sirens at the US embassy compound but did not cause casualties, the sources confirmed. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. It follows more than two dozen similar attacks against American interests in Iraq since October that the US has blamed on Iran-backed factions among Iraq's security forces. Tensions reached boiling point in January when the US killed Iranian general Qasem Soleimani and Iraqi commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis in a drone strike on Baghdad.

### China offers farmers cash to give up wildlife trade

Farmers in China are being offered cash to quit breeding exotic animals as pressure grows to crack down on the illegal wildlife trade that has been blamed for the coronavirus outbreak. Authorities have for the first time pledged to buy out breeders in an attempt to curb the practice, animal rights activists say. China has in recent months banned the sale of wild animals for food, citing the risk of diseases spreading to humans, but the trade remains legal for other purposes -- including research and traditional medicine. The deadly coronavirus -- first reported in the central Chinese city of Wuhan -- is widely believed to have passed from bats to people before spreading worldwide.



A policeman disperses migrant workers gathered outside a railway station intending to board a special service train without valid tickets to return back to their home towns during a nationwide lockdown imposed as a preventive measure against the COVID-19 disease, in Mumbai, yesterday. The dire economic situation caused by lockdown has sparked a migrant worker crisis, as many businesses shut down when the it was imposed.

PHOTO: AFP

## New drug can stop pandemic

Claim China scientists, say world may not have to wait for vaccine

AFP, Beijing

A Chinese laboratory has been developing a drug it believes has the power to bring the coronavirus pandemic to a halt.

The outbreak first emerged in China late last year before spreading across the world, prompting an international race to find treatments and

A drug being tested by scientists at China's prestigious Peking University could not only shorten the recovery time for those infected, but even offer short-term immunity from the virus, researchers say.

Sunney Xie, director of the university's Beijing Advanced Innovation Center for Genomics, told AFP that the drug has been successful at the animal testing stage.

The drug uses neutralising antibodies -produced by the human immune system to prevent the virus infecting cells -- which Xie's team isolated from the blood of 60 recovered patients.

Sunday in the scientific journal Cell, suggests that the US showed it shortened the recovery time in using the antibodies provides a potential "cure" for the disease and shortens recovery time.

He said he hopes that the drug will be ready for use later this year and in time for any potential winter outbreak of the virus, which has infected 4.8 million people around the world and killed more than 315,000.

Scientists have also pointed to the potential benefits of plasma -- a blood fluid -- from recovered individuals who have developed antibodies to the virus enabling the body's defences to attack it.

More than 700 patients have received plasma therapy in China, a process which authorities said showed "very good therapeutic effects".

"However, it (plasma) is limited in supply," Xie said, noting that the 14 neutralising antibodies used in their drug could be put into mass production quickly.

Ebola drug Remdesivir was considered a hopeful

A study on the team's research, published early treatment for COVID-19 -- clinical trials in some patients by a third -- but the difference in mortality rate was not significant.

The new drug could even offer short-term protection against the virus.

The study showed that if the neutralising antibody was injected before the mice were infected with the virus, the mice stayed free of infection and no virus was detected.

This may offer temporary protection for medical workers for a few weeks, which Xie said they are hoping to "extend to a few months".

More than 100 vaccines for COVID-19 are in the works globally, but as the process of vaccine development is more demanding, Xie is hoping that the new drug could be a faster and more efficient way to stop the global march of the coronavirus.

"We would be able to stop the pandemic with an effective drug, even without a vaccine," he said.

### **CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

## **UPDATES**

**DEATH TOLL NEARS 320,000** 

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 318,517 people so far, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1100 GMT yesterday. At least 4,816,040 cases of coronavirus have been registered in 196 countries and territories. Of these, at least 1.755.700 are now considered recovered. The United States has the highest number of deaths with 90,369. Britain has recorded 34,796 deaths. It is followed by Italy with 32,007 deaths, France with 28,239 deaths and Spain with 27,709 fatalities.

### **INDIA CASES TOP 100,000**

Coronavirus cases in India reached 100,000 yesterday, matching its number of intensive care beds, and the rate of increase of new infections showed little sign of slowing. India reported 4,970 new cases over the previous 24 hours, taking its total to 101,139. Deaths rose by 134 to 3,163. New cases in India have risen by an average of more than 4,000 a day over the past week, according to a Reuters tally based on official data, despite a severe weekslong lockdown.

### TRUMP TAKING MALARIA DRUG

President Donald Trump on Monday made the surprise announcement that he is taking hydroxychloroquine, an anti-malaria drug that his own government experts say is not suitable for fighting the novel coronavirus. Trump, noting that he has tested negative for the virus and shows no symptoms, said he'd been taking the drug as a preventative measure for about a week and a half.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

## TODAY IN HISTORY

### (May 19)

1906: The Simplon Tunnel opened, connecting Italy and Switzerland through the Alps.

2001: Arab foreign ministers, meeting in Egypt, recommended the suspension of political contacts with the Israeli government until it halted military assaults against the

2004: The world's first embryonic stem cell bank opened in Britain.

2015: Pipeline rupture spills some 21,000 gallons of oil along California coastline.



A civilian raises his hands as he moves past India's Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel standing guard near the site of a gun battle with suspected militants, in Srinagar, yesterday. Two Kashmir militants including a key rebel leader were killed in a rare 12-hour gun battle in the main city Srinagar yesterday, officials said, sparking clashes between locals and police.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Afghan forces repel Taliban attack on key city

UN expresses alarm as April civilian casualties jump

Afghan security forces yesterday repelled a fierce Taliban attack on Kunduz, a strategic city in northern Afghanistan that had briefly fallen to the militants twice in the past, officials said.

Taliban fighters attacked several government posts on the outskirts of the city at around 1:00 am, a defence ministry statement said, triggering fierce fighting.

"With the support of air force their attack was repelled," it said, adding the fighting lasted for several hours.

Both sides have clashed repeatedly in rural areas in recent months, but an attempt to enter a city as large as Kunduz is seen as a serious escalation.

The latest violence follows a declaration by President Ashraf Ghani last week to resume offensive strikes against the insurgents, after a string of brutal attacks. The Taliban responded by vowing to increase assaults against Afghan security forces.

During yesterday's fighting, the insurgents managed to briefly capture an Afghan army post, killing one soldier, but it was quickly retaken by security forces, Hadi Jamal, an army spokesman in northern Afghanistan told AFP.

The defence ministry said 40 Taliban fighters were killed and 50 others wounded in the Kunduz assault.

In a separate incident, a bomb placed on a bicycle detonated near a market in the city, killing two civilians and wounding 18, Kunduz police said.

The Taliban briefly captured Kunduz, a strategic city not far from the Tajikistan border, twice before -- in September 2015 and again a year later. An attempt last year failed.

### The latest attack on the city came a day after the Taliban killed at least seven Afghan intelligence personnel with a car bomb in the eastern province of Ghazni.

Last week, gunmen stormed a hospital in Kabul killing 24, including mothers and infants. That attack, which triggered international outrage, was followed by a suicide bombing at a funeral which killed at least 32 mourners.

Meanwhile, the United Nations said Afghan civilian casualties jumped to 380



in April, expressing alarm about a "striking deterioration" in respect for international humanitarian law as the United States withdraws troops and attempts to usher in

Civilian casualties attributed to the Taliban in April rose by a quarter from the same month a year earlier to 208, while casualties attributed to Afghan security forces rose 38% to 172, according to provisional data from the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan.

"I call for a halt to the fighting and for parties to respect humanitarian law that is there to protect civilians," said Deborah Lyons, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan.

### Nepal unveils new map amid row with India

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal has drawn-up a new political map that includes strategically important territory it disputes with India, officials said yesterday, as the Himalayan country takes a tougher stance against its giant neighbour.

Protests have been staged in Nepal since India earlier this month inaugurated an 80-kilometre road in Uttarakhand state leading up to the disputed Lipu Lekh pass.

Nepal claims the pass under an 1816 treaty that sets the boundary with India along the Kali River, but disputes have arisen because neither side can agree its source.

A cabinet meeting on Monday decided to publish a new map that includes Lipu Lekh and zones in Kalapani and Limpiyadhura, Law Minister Shiva Maya Tumbahangphe told AFP.

The zones form a region of more than 300 square kilometres considered important because it is where the Nepalese and Indian borders touch

India and Nepal had both shown Kalapani and Lipu Lekh in their political maps, but Nepal had not previously shown Limpiyadhura.

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

Office of the Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer

Banshkhali, Chattogram. E-mail: banshkhali@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd

Memo no- Uhe/See-Accounts/MSR/Tender/2019-2020/483



Date: 18.05.2020

## INVITATION FOR TENDER

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from experienced Importers / Contractors / Suppliers / Distributors to supply MSR goods for Uhc,

	Y INFORMATION				
1 !		Ministry of Health and	*		
_		50 Bedded Upazila He	alth Complex, Banshkhali, Chatto	gram.	
3	PE Name, Designation & Contact details	Uh&fpo, 50 Bedded U	pazila Health Complex, Banshkha	ıli, Chattogram.	
4 8	Procuring Entity Code & District	GOB, Chattogram.			
5 1	Invitation for	Procurement of MSR g in the fiscal year 2019		th Complex, Banshkhali, Chattogram	
5 1	Tender Ref. No & date	Uhc/Sec-Accounts/MSR	Tender/2019-20/483 Dated: 03-0	1-2019.	
1	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (N	ational). Item-by-item,		
3 1	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB in Bangladeshi Tak	a.		
) 1	Tender Publication Date	20-05-2020.			
0 1	l'ender Schedule Selling Starting Date and Time	28-05-2020 During offic	e hours.		
1		04-06-2020 During offic			
_			20, Dropping time: from 09:00 AM to	12:00PM, Closing time: 12:01PM	
		06-06-2020 at 12:30 P.M			
_	Name and address of the Office's				
- 1-	(a) Selling Tender Documents	1 Store Keener Office of	the Ulk Fine 50 Bedded Unorite Health C	ameles Bushkhuli Chattaran	
4	ay seaming remort potentions	Store Keeper, Office of the Uh&fpo, 50 Bedded Upszils Health Complex, Banshkhali, Chattogram.			
1	(b) Receiving Tender Documents	Office of the Uh&fpo, 50 Bedded Upazila Health Complex, Banshkhali, Chattogram.			
-		Officer In-charge, Banshkhali Thana, Chartogram.			
_		Office of the Uh&tpo, 50	Bedded Upazila Health Complex, B	anshkhali, Chattogram	
NIO.	ORMATION FOR TENDERER			epared by procuring entity and abide by	
Bidders Eligibility {Bidders has to submit these certificates / attested photocopy (as 5 applicable), deficiency of any of these documents would be counted as ineligibility of the respective bidder}		1 The bidder must be a l 2 02 (Two) Passport si 3 Electronic Tin (E-TII) 4 Valid Trade License. 5 Up-to-date BIN (Bus Income Tax Clearan Fiscal Year.  Bank Statement (Or balance of the accour for different groups s photocopy of the sam Bank Sohency Certi holding an account of be based on Bank S bidder submitting the	re photo of the hidder / representative N) registration certificate.  iness Identification Number) certificate ce Certificate & Acknowledgement riginal Computer Sheet) from 01-0 nt for the whole month of December should attach the original copy of the ne with other groups.  ficate(Original Copy) stating amount The Statement should be issued afte tatement attached. Certificate Stating nt type of certificate will be rejected.  se experienced in supplying MSR Gi	tested photocopy of National Identity Card.  te & Vat Clearance Certificate.  Receipt Of Return Of Income of curr  7-2019 to 31-12-2019, Where minim 2019 is not less then 5 lac. Bidder biddi bank statement with one group and attest from any scheduled Bank with the bider 31-03-2020). Solvency certificate shot "Sound & Solvent" is not acceptable a	
- 84	Description of Groups, Price of Tender Do MSR Goods St. Group	and respective work	order must be submitted, ity etc.  Price of Tender Document in BOT by	01 (one) fiscal years. Experience certific	
	No. No. Description of G	roups	treasuery challan Code no-1-2711-0000-2366	Order / Demand Draft)	

Detailed description in Tender Booklet Corrigendum if necessary in future will be a part of this notice. The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.

for group: A, B,E,F & BDT 400.00

(Four Hundred only) for group: C, D

If the date of selling, receiving & opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.

(Dr Md Shafiour Rahman Mazumder)

Medicine (Without EDCL)

MSR Instrument(Medical)

Furniture & Kitchen Material

E Surgical Gauge, Bandage, Cotton etc.

Chemical, Re-agent etc. (Including X-Ray Film, ECG Paper)

UH&FPO

Upazila Health Complex Banshkhali, Chattogram GD-874

BDT 70,000.00 (Seventy thousand) for group

B, BDT 10,000.00 (Ten thousand only) for

group: C & D & BDT 15,000.00 (Fiften

thousand) for group: E, F

DT 750.00 (Seven hundred fifty Only) A, BDT 30,000.00(Thirty thousand) for group

DHAKA WEDNESDAY MAY 20, 2020, JAISHTHA 6, 1427 BS starbusiness@thedailystar.net

## Robi subsidiary brings the future of video entertainment to Bangladesh

Muhammad Zahidul Islam

Red Dot Digital, a subsidiary of Robi Axiata, the country's second-largest mobile operator, is set to roll a device on Friday that can possibly change the way Bangladeshis consume video content.

Called the Binge, it is a mixture of internet protocol TV, which is rather popular in the US, and online streaming platform.

By way of a set-top box one would be able to play one of the widest entertainment catalogues, including more than 100 live HD TV channels, both local and international, web series, latest web films, exclusive originals -- but over the

With cable or satellite TV, broadcasters send out signals and viewers receive them, meaning one is only able to watch what's being broadcasted. Unless there is some sort of recording device, one does not get to dictate what's on when. You just tune in when you can and watch what's available.

IPTV is different. Instead of transmitting content via light pulses in fibre-optic cable or radio waves from a satellite, IPTV sends shows and movies through the standard





Instead of broadcasting a range of shows on a specific schedule, most IPTV uses video on demand (VOD) or timeshifted media.

The service comes at a time when the demand for video content has hit the roof as people stay at home to flatten the curve on coronavirus that is tearing through the country at a breakneck speed.

Yesterday, the country saw 21 more deaths from the novel virus and 1,251 new cases of infection to take

deadly virus to 370 and caseload to 25,121.

"A viewer can watch any type of content through Binge. There is something for everyone: thriller, drama, comedy, romance, action and what not," said Ahmed Armaan Siddiqui, director of Red



Dot Digital, which owns the service.

The digital generation has entered into a new era of entertainment where viewers would decide what they watch. In this era, they won't need to wait for a particular TV channel to watch a movie or series.

The service would be available both on Android smartphones and big screens and would change the way people in Bangladesh consume entertainment contents,

"Binge is Bangladesh's first Googlethe death toll from the certified online video-streaming service along with an android device that offers endless entertainment," he added.

> Red Dot Digital, an associate company of Robi Axiata, the second-largest mobile phone operator in Bangladesh, has other businesses in the digital service segment in the country.

Binge has been developed by Genex Infosys, a local business process outsourcing company.

With the largest number of content, Binge is going to bring in a revolution in the Bangladeshi entertainment media,'

Subscribers can enjoy the service both on small and big screens with higher definition. They can access Binge directly on their Android smartphones as well as by purchasing a Binge-branded Android smart device.

Even if there is no smart TV at home, customers can still have full HD TV experience using Binge, Siddiqui said.

The price of the Binge-branded Android

smart device is Tk 3,499. Users can avail the service for Tk 399 in subscription charge if they already have a

broadband internet connection. Red Dot Digital is currently importing the devices and plans to assemble them locally in partnership with Genex Infosys,

said a senior executive of the project. The company is partnering with an internet service provider, which will ensure broadband connectivity if a consumer does not have internet connections.

Using the connection for Tk 1,099 per month, customers can also get Wi-Fi service at home and multiple device

To enjoy the content of Binge through smartphones, three packages are available. Users will be charged Tk 10 for a daily package, Tk 30 for a weekly package and Tk 99 for a monthly package, excluding value-added tax, supplementary duty and

Customers will have to download the Binge mobile app from Google Play store to enjoy the service on smartphones.

For all the plans, Red Dot Digital will offer a one-month free trial period.

## No more Uber Eats in Bangladesh from June 2

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

In a rather surprising move, Uber Technologies yesterday announced that it is closing down the operations of its food delivery platform Uber Eats in Bangladesh from June 2 as Chief Executive Dara Khosrowshahi attempts to steer the ride-hailing giant through the coronavirus pandemic.

Uber Eats arrived in Bangladesh in April last year and soon gained popularity with its solid service. The food delivery platform was one of the few to be offering its services during the countrywide general shutdown since March 26 to flatten the curve on coronavirus.

"After a year of partnering with local restaurants to offer convenient and reliable food delivery, we have made the difficult decision to discontinue Uber Eats in Bangladesh, on June 2nd 2020," read a notice on the Uber Newsroom vesterday

The notice did not articulate the reasons for leaving Bangladesh.

But as per global media, Bangladesh is not the only market in which Uber Eats is shutting shop; it is doing so in other markets where it saw no clear route to becoming the number one or number two online food delivery



On Monday, in an email to staff, Khosrowshahi said Uber was closing 45 offices and laying off some 3,000 more people and re-evaluating big bets in areas ranging from freight to self-driving technology.

Khosrowshahi's latest restructuring plan comes less than two weeks after the company said it would eliminate about 3,700 jobs and planned to save more than \$1 billion in fixed costs. Monday's decision means Uber is shedding roughly a quarter of its workforce in under a month.

Stay-at-home orders have ravaged Uber's core ridehailing business, which accounted for three-quarters of the company's revenue before the pandemic struck. Uber's rides business in April was down 80% from a year earlier.

However, Uber will continue its ride services in Bangladesh, which has been going from strength to strength since entering the country in 2016. "Our number one priority now is to do everything

possible to minimise the impact on our valued employees, restaurant partners, delivery partners and consumers who have supported us," adds the notice.

The notice though took the local startup industry by

About the Uber Eats exit declaration from the market, AD Ahmad, chief executive and co-founder of HungryNaki, Bangladesh's first food delivery platform, said the San Francisco-based company had burnt a huge amount of cash and already created a handsome customer base in the

"It is true they have brought a good number of customers who were not using the food delivery service before.'

This was good for the overall food delivery industry in

"But in my personal view, burning a huge amount of cash to gain customers is not a decent business model to continue.

A few days ago they also announced the closure of operations in some other markets as they could not create much impact there despite shelling out a pretty sum.

"Burning money is not an acceptable model anymore and that is why they have been criticised in different markets," Ahmad added. Soon after launching the service in Bangladesh, Uber

Eats have been offering huge discounts like Tk 300 to Tk 600 per order. According to a report of Reuters, Uber Eats is also

closing down operations in eight markets including the Czech Republic, Egypt, Honduras, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine and Uruguay.

In the UAE, it will wind down the Eats app and transition operations to Careem. About 50 full-time roles would be affected, Reuters reads.

Uber said the discontinued and transferred markets represented 1 per cent of Eats gross bookings and 4 per cent of Eats adjusted core earnings losses in Q1 2020.

However, in the US, Uber is in talks to acquire its rival food delivery platform GrubHub, a deal that would help stem losses from the cost-intensive business of building out delivery operations and give Uber an edge in competing with industry leader DoorDash Inc. After its founding in 2009, Uber quickly became one of

the world's hottest start-ups, transforming how millions of people get around. Co-founder Travis Kalanick envisioned a future in which robotaxis roam streets and delivery drones fly overhead -- with Uber at the centre of it all.

As the company grew, it spent big to expand into areas beyond ride-hailing, amassing billions in losses along the way.

Investor enthusiasm started to wane even before the pandemic. Uber had one of last year's most anticipated stock market debuts. The result disappointed, with Wall Street increasingly wanting to see a path to profitability for Uber and other high-profile tech companies.

## BTRC, GP now see solution in talks as the operator pays another Tk 1,000cr

Officials of Grameenphone and the telecom regulator will meet soon to work out an amicable solution to the ongoing tussle over an audit claim, according to Md Jahurul Haque, chairman of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory

Grameenphone's Chief Executive Officer Yasir Azman said they were not on the same page with the regulator over the amount of money claimed in the BTRC audit but there was still much scope to find a way out by sitting at the negotiating table.

Both made the remarks while briefing journalists after the top mobile phone operator deposited another Tk 1,000 crore to the BTRC yesterday as per an order of the apex court.

Earlier on February 23, Grameenphone had handed in Tk 1,000 crore to the regulator following the Appellate Division's order to pay the amount within February 24. "We want dialogue and thus we can move forward," Azman said.

As the operator has complied with the order of the apex court, the telecom regulator can now sit with them in presence of representatives from the finance division of the government to find a solution, Haque said.

If there were any flaws in the audit, we can fix them," he said, adding that measures are underway to audit the other operators within a short time. Earlier, the telecom regulator through

two separate audits found that the market leader owed it Tk 12,579.96 crore and Robi, the second-largest operator, Tk 867.23 The audits that looked into the accounts

inception in 1997 until 2014 claimed that the carriers owed the amounts in revenue shares, taxes and late fees. On November 24 last year, the Supreme

of Grameenphone and Robi since their



BTRC Chairman Md Jahurul Haque, second from right, receives the pay order of Tk 1,000 crore from Kazi Ehsanul Haque, a general manager of Grameenphone, at the commission office in Dhaka yesterday.

BTRC Tk 2,000 crore by February 23 this year as an advance payment against the overall claim.

In January, the operator expressed its intention to the court to pay Tk 575 crore in 12 equal instalments but the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court turned down the plea.

Court ordered Grameenphone to give the crore in five instalments against the total claim and the operator will deposit the last instalment of Tk 27.60 crore by May 31. Replying to a query of the journalists,

the BTRC chairman said they were not 'extorting' anyone by dint of regulations. At a press briefing on November 11 last

year, Grameenphone's then CEO Michael Patrick Foley had told reporters that the The court asked Robi to pay Tk 138 telecom regulator was forcing the mobile claim according to the law."

operator to pay an "illegal audit claim of Tk 12,579.96 crore". "We don't want to be extorted, we

don't want to remain under pressure, we don't want to be on the front page of the newspapers globally," Foley had said. When his attention was drawn to the

remarks of Foley, Haque yesterday said: "The BTRC is not an extortionist; we only

## BKMEA seeks 10pc cash incentive on exports



STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) has demanded a 10 per cent cash incentive if export-oriented garment items

incentive on export receipts for the next two years.

If a garment exporter uses locally made yarn and fabrics in making garment items, they would be eligible for the cash incentive on export earnings, according to the BKMEA's budget proposal fiscal 2020-21 to the National Board of

Revenue last week. It also called for 4 per cent cash



are made from imported raw materials. Mohammad Hatem, vice-president of the BKMEA, urged the government to retain the tax at source at 0.25 per

Alotofsmallandmediumentrepreneurs may be driven out of businesses because of the global coronavirus pandemic. So, the government should chalk out an exit plan for this category of businesses in the upcoming budget, he said.



## **TAMING CORONAVIRUS RAMPAGE**

## Health sector gets biggest bump up in next year's development budget



REIAUL KARIM BYRON

The government appears to have paid heed to the growing calls for a bigger health budget, with its allocation from the annual development programme soaring 28.92 per cent next fiscal year, the highest amongst the 12 sectors.

Next fiscal year, some Tk 13,033 crore has been allocated to the health sector that is bursting at the seams with the escalating caseloads from the Tk 205,145 crore ADP approved by the National Economic Council (NEC) yesterday.

Of the money going to the health sector, Tk 4,282 crore would come from the external sources. The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have each approved \$100 million to aid the government to meet the growing expenditure in the sector. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is also providing finances for the health

The agriculture sector saw the second-highest allocation growth of 26.43 per cent. The government set aside Tk 8,382 crore for fiscal 2020-21, up from Tk 6,524 crore

development budget

(in Tk cr)

Top 10 allocations in fiscal 2020-21's

Physical Planning, Water Supply and Housing 25,795

Public administration 4,048

Rural development 15,555

Education & religion 23,390

Health & family planning 13,033

Water **5,527** 

Agriculture 8,382

Science & ICT **18,448** 

Electricity 24,804

Transport 52.183



RASHED SHUMON

The highest allocation went to the transport sector, which received Tk 52,183 crore, or 25.44 per cent of the ADP.

"The prime minister has said if the health and agriculture ministries seek more funds, the government would be ready to provide," Planning Minister MA Mannan told reporters

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Finance Minister AHM Mustafa

Kamal and Mannan attended continues to face significant health the NEC meeting through videoconferencing from Gonobhaban, the official residence of the premier, because of the socialdistancing measures put in place underfunded, with only 9.9 by the government to stop the spread of the virus.

The rest of the members of the cabinet took part from the auditorium of the NEC in

The ADP came as Bangladesh

over the years

**Increase in ADP allocation** 

care challenges in combating the coronavirus pandemic.

health underdeveloped doctors, nurses and midwives and 8.8 hospital beds per 10,000 people, while current health expenditure is only 2.4 per cent of GDP, said the Asian Development Bank recently.

The physical planning, water

supply and housing sector received the second-highest allocation of Tk 25,795 crore, or 12.57 per cent of the ADP.

The electricity sector accounted for 12.09 per cent of the allocation, the education and religion sector 11.40 per cent, the science and ICT sector 8.99 per cent and the rural development sector 7.58 per

The top 10 sectors account for 93.19 per cent of the allocation.

The next ADP is only 6.34 per cent higher than the current one to record the lowest growth at least since fiscal 2011-12, as the government directs resources to jumpstart the economy battered by the global pandemic.

The NEC approved the ADP for 1,584 projects. Besides, it gave consent to 89 projects of staterun enterprises and corporations involving Tk 9,466 crore.

Of the ADP, Tk 134,643 crore would be financed through own resources, up 2.84 per cent from the revised ADP for this fiscal year. The remainder Tk 70,502 crore would be funded by external sources, up 13.71 per cent.

## FBCCI forms sector-wise councils to help businesses borrow from stimulus packages

The country's apex trade body has begun forming sectorwise councils to expedite disbursement of the funds from the government-announced stimulus packages aimed at helping businesses and industries recover from the devastating impact of the global coronavirus pandemic.

The councils would help implement the stimulus packages and revive the economy from the fallout of the rogue virus-induced shutdown of economic activities since

"The FBCCI has been forming the sector-wise councils from last week so that banks can feel confident in disbursing the funds and borrowers can repay the loans," said Sheikh Fazle Fahim, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), at a virtual meeting at the chamber yesterday.

The objective is to implement the stimulus packages and prepare a roadmap to recovery for the next three years through policy support, government intervention, tax, VAT, customs tariff assistance coupled with the FBCCI's advocacy and members' collective efforts.

The move came as businesses complain that banks are not interested in lending money from the funds obtained from the stimulus packages.

The government has announced Tk 20,000 crore in stimulus packages for the micro, small and medium scale industries, Tk 30,000 crore for the large industries and Tk 5,000 crore for the export-oriented sector.

The central bank has so far taken seven stimulus packages worth nearly Tk 80,000 crore to revive the economy and banks will have to implement all of them. Banks will have to give out a good portion of the loans from their own sources.

However, banks are not disbursing the money to prospective borrowers from the funds because of the absence of a directive from head offices, proper documents and adequate liquidity, businessmen say, adding that if they do not get the money from the funds on time, there will be no use of such assistance later.

"Banks are not cooperating in the disbursement of the money from the funds," said Jasim Uddin, president of the Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

Since banks are not releasing the money, the backward linkage industries like plastics, garment accessories, spinning, weaving and dyeing are facing fund shortage, he said at the virtual meeting.

At the same time, \$3.5 billion forced loans have already

been created in the banking sector because of payment to the foreign suppliers through back-to-back letters of credit, the entrepreneur said.

Banks are not paying even the matured bills due to the liquidity crisis in the financial sector, he said.

Abdus Salam Murshedy, president of the Bangladesh Exporters Association, suggested extending banking hours for quick disbursement of the funds from the bailout packages.

The large industries are also facing trouble in obtaining the money from the funds as banks are not interested, said Salahuddin Alamgir, a director of the FBCCI.

For instance, it takes nearly Tk 700 crore to set up a dyeing factory, but banks are not lending money for the capital-intensive industries, he said.

## About time construction sector restarts in phases: experts

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Work in the construction sector should resume in phases with proper safety measures for the sake of the country's infrastructure development, according to experts and industry insiders.

The last quarter of a fiscal year is very important for the construction sector as many infrastructure projects under the government's annual development programme (ADP) come close to completion during this quarter, said SM Khorshed Alam, president of the Bangladesh Association of Construction Industry.

"But there has been no progress in the implementation of the projects because of the pandemic," he said at a virtual discussion on "sustainable solutions to overcome the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the construction sector", organised by The Daily Star yesterday.

About 30 per cent of the raw materials bought for the projects will remain unutilised because of the slow progress in execution, he said, adding that 80 per cent of the ADP implementation target could hardly be met.

All the construction activities have been put on hold for the last two months due to the ongoing pandemic leaving about 65 lakh workers in the sector jobless, said Alamgir Shamsul Alamin, president of the Real Estate & Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB).

"Now we should take those up again gradually following the safety guidelines.'

The real estate sector will need a huge amount of cash to recover from the losses inflicted by the pandemic, Alamin said, adding that they will not be able to hand over about 30,000 apartments under construction to the customers on time.

The government should allow investment of undisclosed money in purchasing apartments in the upcoming fiscal year to help revive the real estate sector, he said.

However, Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute, was not in accord with Alamin, saying that the idea of investing black money in the housing sector goes against ethics.

"It's not a sustainable solution to the problems of the real estate sector,"

to seek incentive from the government to shore up the industry in a transparent

He also called for devising short and long-term strategies and removing the weaknesses from the existing policies for the advancement of the sector.

The novel coronavirus will not go away anytime soon, so people have to learn how to live and deal with the crisis,

Mansur said, while advising the realtors begin at the construction sites with proper safety measures and maintaining social distancing, said AFM Saiful Amin, a professor at the civil engineering department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

Banks can help the real estate sector by providing low-interest loans as the developers incurred huge losses in the last two months, said FR Khan, managing director of Building Technology & Ideas,



said M Firoze, adviser for marketing a leading real estate company. and product development at BSRM, a leading steel manufacturer.

"Already people are getting used to some behavioural changes while fighting the virus. This is a new reality and we have to adopt the new norms," he added.

The government should allocate adequate funds for the healthcare sector in the upcoming budget such that people from all strata of society, especially workers, get access to healthcare at affordable cost, said Md Abdur Razzak, general secretary of Imarat Nirman Sramik Union Bangladesh, a platform of construction workers.

Construction workers are finding it hard to make ends meet as the ongoing shutdown in the country has squeezed their earnings.

"We have already applied to the government for help, but no response is vet to come," he said.

At least 50 per cent work should

"Prices of apartments may increase

due to the disruption," he added. The country's overall development activities will grind to a halt if work in

the construction sector does not resume soon, said Mohammad Abu Sadeque, executive director of the Centre for Housing and Building Research. He called for adopting innovations

and new technologies in the real estate and construction sector to minimise the adverse impact of the rogue virus.

Banks should cooperate with the realtors so that they can get low-cost funds to continue work of their projects, according to M Shamim Z Bosunia, chairman and managing director of Abode of Consultants.

Md Tarek Uddin, a professor of the Islamic University of Technology, and Md Shamsul Hoque, a professor of Buet, also spoke at the discussion moderated by Muhammad Zahidul Islam, a senior reporter of The Daily Star.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Sylhet Road Division, Sylhet. **2**:- 0821-716339. E-mail: eesyl@rhd.gov.bd

Memo No. 35.01.9162.473.09.000.20/.....

Date-19/05/2020

### e-Tender Notice-22(Twenty Two)/2019-2020 (Open Tendering Method)

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://eprocure.gov.bd) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Sylhet Road Division, Sylhet. For the procurement of following work.

Tender/ Proposal ID No & Package No.	Name of work	Tender/ Proposal Document last selling / downloading Date and Time	Tender/ Proposal Closing Date and Time	Tender/ Proposal Opening Date and Time
461921 eGP-68/2019- 2020/EE/RHD/Sylhet	Supplying of Asphalt Materials for maintenance of different Roads under Sylhet Road Sub-Division of Sylhet Road Division During the year 2019-2020.	02/06/2020 15:00	03/06/2020 14:00	03/06/2020 14:00
461922 eGP-69/2019- 2020/EE/RHD/Sylhet	Supplying of Stone Chips Pea Gravels Sand 1st Class Bricks and Fire Wood for maintenance of different Roads under Sylhet Road Sub- Division of Sylhet Road Division During the year 2019-2020.	02/06/2020 15:00	03/06/2020 14:00	03/06/2020 14:00
461923 eGP-70/2019- 2020/EE/RHD/Sylhet	Supplying of Stone Chips Pea Gravels and Fire Wood for maintenance of different Roads under Bishwanath Road Sub-Division of Sylhet Road Division During the year 2019-2020.	02/06/2020 15:00	03/06/2020 14:00	03/06/2020 14:00
461924 eGP-71/2019- 2020/EE/RHD/Sylhet	Providing & Installation of Road Directional Overhead Gantry at 1st Km. of Sylhet Town Bypass N210 including Supplying Fitting Fixing Road Directional Traffic Signs and Sign Post on Rashidpur-Biswanath-Rampasha-Lamakazi Road Z 2016 Vadeshwar-Mirganj-Manikona-Fenchuganj Road Z 2831 Daudabad-Daudpur-Vadeswar Dhaka Dakhin Road Z 2832 Darbast-Kanaighat-Shahbag Road Z 2011 and Supplying and Installation of Reflecting Sticker for Bridge/ Culver Railing & Guide Post with Lettering and Bordering on DhakaKatchpur-Bhairab-Jagadishpur-Shaistaganj-Sylhet-Tamabil-Jaflong Road N-2 From LRP 191210 to 229888 under Sylhet Road Division Sylhet during the year 2019-2020.	02/06/2020 15:00	03/06/2020 14:00	03/06/2020 14:00

copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System portal (http://eprocure.gov.bd)

The fee's for downloading the e-tender documents from the national e-GP portal have to be deposited on line through any member of schedule bank for e-GP.

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

## (Ritesh Barua)

ID No-601999 Executive Engineer, RHD (c.c.) Sylhet Road Division, Sylhet.

GD-877

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LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA WEDNESDAY MAY 20, 2020, JAISHTHA 6, 1427 BS

## **Outrush of Dhaka** leavers is worrisome

Govt should take strict measures to implement lockdown

THE news of large numbers of people leaving Dhaka ahead of next week's Eid-ul-Fitr festival, flouting all social distancing regulations, is everything we dreaded might happen in the midst of a poorly-managed pandemic. A report by this daily on Tuesday shows how people were crowding into exit points and causing long tailbacks. The Dhaka-Chattogram highway on Monday witnessed a 25-km tailback in Daudkandi, caused mainly by thousands of cars leaving the capital. Elsewhere on the Shimulia-Kathalbari and Paturia-Daulatdia routes, there were so many people that ferry authorities had to suspend their services for hours. In the absence of public transport because of the ongoing shutdown, many people travelled by pickups, motorcycles and battery-run three wheelers. These images of reckless travel are disturbing, to say the least, and add to the burgeoning list of failures of the administration to contain the situation.

Such unchecked movement, which will no doubt further spread the deadly coronavirus and consequently delay the reopening process, has made a passenger welfare association call for a 10-day curfew around Eid to slow the spread of the outbreak. We think this suggestion merits consideration. The government has so far largely failed to restrict people's movement even though, in a circular on May 14, it stressed that no one would be allowed to leave the city where they work during the Eid festival. The local administration and law enforcers were supposed to enforce the restrictions during the period. Initiatives by the police—setting up check posts across the country to prevent people from travelling from one district to another—were also expected to bear some fruit. But as reports show, lax enforcement of the directive has rendered all efforts meaningless. One may recall that similar curbs on people's movement, implemented in the beginning of the lockdown period and at different stages subsequently, were also met with frustrating results.

Thus, the time has come for tougher measures—whether in the form of a curfew or other means. The priority is to check people's movement any way possible during this Eid, and the government must do everything in its power to ensure that. With the numbers of infections and deaths from the virus growing every day, the price of a failure to act decisively will be expensive.

## **Perennial volunteers** in public hospitals

Should they not be absorbed permanently?

N an instance that betrays an abysmal indifference of the authorities, as we are informed through a report in this paper yesterday, as many as 36 men and women who have been working as voluntary staff at Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital for years, are doing so without any recompense for their work. They are passing through a severe state of pecuniary privation, since they have received virtually nothing for their service, albeit "voluntary". Understandably, there are no provisions for such volunteer service in government service manuals, but these volunteers had stepped forward on their own volition since the hospital was severely understaffed, as many public hospitals and health care centres are. It seems that the authorities have taken these "volunteers" for granted, since they are yet to put them on the regular payroll. Some are getting a laughable amount of Tk 1000 or 1500 per month, and that too after being many years in that position—some of them have been working for a decade or more.

To their credit, they have not discarded their patients and continue to attend to them, risking their lives during this pandemic. They are working at different sections of the hospital including the emergency department, operation theatre, surgery ward, paediatric ward and doctors' chambers to help patients, distribute medicine and manage

A voluntary service is pro bono, and generally such service is provided by those who can afford the time and their own resources to provide a public good. But some offer their services, particularly public service, out of their own volition, and, most often moved by fellow feeling to meet the shortage of adequate personnel. And when it relates to government healthcare services, it assumes a special significance. All the more so when these persons are people of meagre means, which deserves the serious attention of the authorities.

We feel that these 36 volunteers should be absorbed into service and given their full remuneration, antedated if possible. It was their hope and should be fulfilled, especially given that all of them have required educational qualifications (some have Masters' degrees) and the experience of on-the-job training as well. Given that there is also an acute shortage of trained hospital staff all over the country, which is all the more obvious during this crisis, absorbing these volunteers should not be too difficult.

## **LETTERS** TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

## Replicate One Minute Bazar

A few days ago, this newspaper reported on the Bangladesh Army's brilliant initiative to set up "One Minute Bazar" on the playground of Agrabad Government Colony School in Chattogram. In these precarious times, it is very important to maintain social distancing. With that in mind, the Bangladesh Army tried to form a model market for lower-income groups where they can get their essentials safely. The vegetables were bought from root-level farmers in Chattogram for fair prices, with an aim to kickstart economic activity at the grassroots. Based on the list prepared by army officials, the poor and physically challenged were given the food items for free. I feel the authorities and other NGOs can replicate this concept and implement it nationwide. Besides, the affluent people should also come forward to help put a smile on the faces of the distressed.

Akash Hossen, Pabna

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## What to salvage from Covid-19

(HLPF), the central global platform

for follow-up and review of the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development

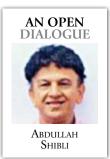
The UN Economic and Social Council

and the Sustainable Development Goals.

(ECOSOC) was scheduled to convene the

2020 session of HLPF in New York from

July 7-16, and receive a progress report



Covid-19 pandemic is under control, and the world economy is back on its tracks, the status and fate of the 2030 Agenda, also known as Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs), needs to be reassessed. The year 2020 was supposed to kick-off the Decade of Action. With just 10 years to go, plans were made to undertake "ambitious global efforts" to deliver the 2030 promise—by mobilising more governments, civil society, businesses, and calling on all people to make the Global Goals their own.

Before the worldwide lockdown began in March, various stakeholders of the SDG movement were planning to undertake a full-scale five-year evaluation. Fiftyone countries had signed up to conduct voluntary national reviews (VNR) by May 2020, a process through which countries assess and present progress made in achieving the 17 goals. The process came to a complete halt with the current pandemic crisis.

The "pandemic pause" is a blessing in disguise. It gives all the stakeholders a chance to undertake a thorough review of where we stand as well as what needs to change. Are all the 17 goals equally important? A partial answer was provided by Nobel Laureate Abhijit Banerjee. "Think of the bureaucratic capacity it takes to achieve these things. How are countries going to keep track? We need to go back to the drawing board," he said.

The next question is, how do we reprioritise and revamp the SDGs? While advances made in some SDG indicators have been eroded, this should not deflate our energy. However, a few SDG targets now assume greater priority. The health aspect of SDGs is more important and can be used as an entry point. Experts suggest that the experience of Covid-19 can be used to redesign the food supply chain. Furthermore, there is an urgent need for engagement with the private sector and civil society to chart the path that lies ahead and to cope with future pandemics

Even before Covid-19 hit us, concerns were voiced in SDG progress review meetings as evidence mounted about the slow progress and lack of scale required to reach the targets before the decade ends. Earlier this year, the UN reacted by sending out a clarion call for action. "Today, progress is being made in many

places, but, overall, action to meet the Goals is not yet advancing at the speed or scale required. 2020 needs to usher in a decade of ambitious action to deliver the Goals by 2030," it cautioned. According to one estimate, more than five billion people will lack access to essential health services by 2030. Those services include the ability to see a health worker, access to essential medicines, and running water in

Covid-19 thus poses a real challenge, to

in the completion of the 2020 targets: responsible consumption and production (SDG12), biodiversity (SDG15) and some selected indicators of SDG13 and SDG14.

put it mildly, and some have gone as far as to warn the developing countries that the looming crisis threatens to devastate employment gains, food security and equity in education. The World Bank also raised a low-level alarm when it declared that the coronavirus is a serious obstacle for 240 million Asians trudging along on the road to poverty elimination.

If things had gone as planned, by end-May, each of the 51 countries was expected to submit its SDG voluntary national review report describing its experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned during the five years of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Bangladesh had signed up for its second VNR. All this will now cease.

Concurrently, on pause is the next meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Turning to Bangladesh, after the hiatus period forced by Covid-19 ends, the Prime Minister's SDG Directorate needs to evaluate two key metrics: the impact of the pandemic on the poor and the status of SDGs. All economic crises adversely affect the poor and the present crisis is no exception. From all accounts, the short-run impact of the pandemic and the lockdown is being felt very strongly by low-income people. In line with its SDG commitment, the government's immediate goal ought to be to facilitate the re-employment of workers (SDG8), feed those who lost their sources of income (SDG2) and strengthen healthcare and provide medical support

Apart from lost jobs, hungry mouths and deteriorating health conditions, other collateral damages will emerge due to the interlinkages between the SDGs. Poverty

(SDG1) will take a hit and so will the quality of education (SDG4). Other goals to asses are water and sanitation (SDG6), reduced inequalities (SDG10) and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG16). One should not be too surprised if our post-pandemic review shows that it has not only devastated the economy, but also wiped out many of the SDG gains.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics' provisional estimates, GDP growth this year will be 5.5 percent, in contrast to the 8.2 percent projected earlier. This is higher than the 3.8 percent and 2-3 percent forecast by the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank, respectively. On the positive side, we have already seen an increase in the budget allocation on health and an improvement in the environment.

Recovery is a complex and non-linear process. The pandemic has exposed fundamental weaknesses in our global system. It has shown how the prevalence of poverty, weak health systems, subpar education, and a lack of global cooperation exacerbate a health crisis. In our effort to return to normalcy, we must not lose sight of the lessons gained from the pandemic.

Globally, the pandemic has exposed the widening SDG needs gap. The world currently (pre-pandemic) spends approximately USD 7.5 trillion on health each year or 10 percent of global GDP. While spending has increased steadily, dangerous public health gaps exist, especially in rural or conflict-ridden areas where access is difficult and infrastructure

This access is complicated by a shortage of trained healthcare workers. The 2020 State of the World's Nursing report found that the world would need six million more nurses by 2030 to reach global health targets. Shortages of healthcare workers are felt most acutely in low- and middleincome countries.

As cities and societies start emerging from the crisis, governments should focus on key factors that contribute to the spread of epidemics and other public health risks: inadequate infrastructure, lack of services, and substandard housing.

In a sense, the process of recovery might strengthen our SDG efforts if the government of Bangladesh, in collaboration with civil society, NGOs, and the private sector, look afresh at the 17 goals and focuses its attention and resources on those that need reinforcement.

Dr Abdullah Shibli is an economist and works in information technology. He is Senior Research Fellow, International Sustainable Development Institute (ISDI), a think-tank in Boston, USA.

## Micro-enterprises can help us combat the economic downtu

MD ABDUL KARIM

HE current Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in huge suffering and devastation for humanity, with almost five million people infected worldwide and experts fearing a deep global recession. The economy of Bangladesh is set to face serious setbacks during the pandemic. Although Bangladesh had achieved lower middle income country status in 2015 and fulfilled all three eligibility criteria for graduation from the UN's Least Developed Countries (LDC) list by 2024, 20.5 percent of its population was still living in poverty in 2019. This is a huge number given the total population of Bangladesh, and the impact of the pandemic may make this poverty rate increase further. The 8.15 percent GDP growth achieved in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 will dive below three percent in FY20 and two percent in the next FY, according to the World Bank. South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM) revealed that Bangladesh's poverty rate may rise to 40.9 percent due to the pandemic.

One of the important ways to handle the possible economic downturn will be to appropriately mobilise the millions of micro-enterprises (ME) scattered all over the country by addressing their financing requirements. MEs are powerful job creators, agents of inclusive growth and drivers of productivity. MEs' economic activities begin with small amounts of capital investment, often financed by Microfinance Institutions (MFIs). The Bangladesh Industrial Policy 2016 defines micro-enterprises as small businesses having fixed asset values between half a million to five million Taka and 10-24 workers. Bangladesh Bank defines ME as a firm/business which is not a public limited company; they may be service or business ME with fixed assets of Tk 50,000 to 50 lakh (25 employees), or industrial ME having fixed assets of Tk 50,000 to 1.5 crore and maximum 50 employees. The return on investment is higher in micro-enterprises than in small, medium and large enterprises. The employment share of micro-enterprises is greater in developing countries compared to the developed world. Ethiopia's MEs contribute more than 95 percent of the country's total employment, compared to about 35 percent for Vietnam. According to the Bangladesh Bureau of

Statistics (BBS) Census 2013, 89 percent of Bangladesh's 7.8 million economic establishments are micro-enterprises (including the cottage industry). These MEs employ 13.76 million people, which represent around 56 percent of total employment in all enterprises of the

Micro-enterprises employ significant numbers of women and can adapt very quickly to evolving market demand and supply situations; showing flexibility and dynamism in diversifying economic activities and contributing to the country's economic growth by promoting competition, resilience, entrepreneurial talent etc. Our transition to middle

> One of the important ways to handle the possible economic downturn will be to appropriately mobilise the millions of microenterprises (ME) scattered all over the country by addressing their financing requirements. MEs are powerful job creators, agents of inclusive growth and drivers of productivity.

income country status after the current pandemic will significantly depend on promoting inclusive growth. MEs can contribute towards such growth and the achievements of some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by leaving no

Access to formal finance for microenterprises is a fundamental challenge. Most of the MEs are in rural areas, informal in nature and employ family members in productive activities. Access to finance in Bangladesh is relatively limited compared to other South Asian countries. A study (2016) by the Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development suggests that in most cases, formal financial institutions do not extend loans because of lack of bankable collateral, and lack of confidence in such small business ventures. Most MEs depend on MFIs for loans, which are generally individual-based instead of group-based (unlike traditional microcredit). The study estimates that there is an excess demand of Tk 437 billion—which is about one and a half times higher than current disbursement. A recent report published by the World Bank and PRI shows that micro-enterprise financing gap (cottage and micro) is around Tk 237 billion (USD 2.8 billion). Estimating the actual demand for credit of MEs is difficult due to data constraints. Higher interest rates of MFI loans is an obstacle to growth potential. Given that MEs have significant production and consumption linkages, MFIs can work as intermediaries to create links between credit and savings for ME financing.

A number of ME business clusters of different activities have grown in various geographical locations of Bangladesh. Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) has identified more than 6,700 business clusters of 77 economic activities in agriculture, livestock, fisheries, manufacturing etc. Micro-enterprises consist of value chain components for forward and backward linkages. Interventions are often necessary to address the problems that may be faced at different sub-sectors of the value chains. A number of ME development projects have been funded by the World Bank, ADB, IFAD and DFID in Bangladesh. BRAC also provides loans to the micro-enterprises through its Progoti programme.

The World Bank's Doing Business Survey 2018 ranks Bangladesh at 159 (out of 190 countries) for the "getting credit" criterion. It is a measure of credit information sharing and the legal rights of the borrowers and lenders. The Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA) is going to establish a credit information bureau with the support of DFID for the microcredit borrowers. Movable collateral is not yet accepted for secured lending. The enactment of a secured transaction law is considered essential for the inclusion of movable collateral. A small claims court could also ensure faster adjudication for cases relating to MEs. Operationalisation of mediation via money loan courts and

the establishment of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms for commercial dispute settlements are also considered appropriate. Alternative and innovative financing options need to be explored, including warehouse receipt finance, risk sharing facilities, start-up capital etc. Digital financial services should be expanded through increased use of technology for reducing transaction costs.

Apart from financial constraints, MEs suffer from low productivity and lack of marketing facilities of their products. Product diversification, quality improvement, technological innovation, knowledge transfer, skill and capacity development of MEs are essential to ensure future growth. MRA and Bangladesh Bank should issue appropriate instructions to commercial banks to relax conditions of collateral and personal guarantee while sanctioning ME loans. Women entrepreneurs should be given loans at lower rates of interest and for longer periods. The Prime Minister's Tk 20,000 crore special credit/ investment package in response to Covid-19 will be of immediate relief for cottage, micro, small and medium entrepreneurs (CMSME).

The pandemic has threatened millions of livelihoods in Bangladesh. The RMG sector has already received work order cancellations of nearly USD 3 billion. Foreign remittance will come down from USD 20 million and foreign exchange reserves will be affected. At the moment, more than one crore people are without jobs. Government borrowing has soared to Tk 57,900 crore in 10 months. The financing gap of USD 1 trillion, calculated earlier for SDG implementation, will increase significantly. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has announced a total of 18 packages worth around Tk 1 lakh crore, equivalent to about 3.3 percent of GDP, to salvage economic sectors. The rescue package for the CMSME sector is timely and necessary, but not sufficient. Further support is essential to combat the pandemic's impact on our economy. By leveraging their creativity and ingenuity to harness market opportunities, the micro-enterprises of Bangladesh can help achieve economic prosperity, which can ultimately lead the way towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Md Abdul Karim is Former Principal Secretary to the

## Will nature conservation remain a priority in post-corona Bangladesh?



THE coronavirus pandemic has revealed three alarming connections between us and nature. First, viruses like the one causing Covid-19 often jump into people from wild animals. Ebola, Nipah, SARS, Yellow Fever, and Zika are the same, to name

but a few. So, hunting, selling or eating wildlife or destroying their habitats must be stopped, if we do not want to see such pandemics again.

Second, while we enjoy the pleasant photographs of wildlife roaming around human settlements under lockdown, the pandemic could not stop us from destroying nature. According to the National Space Research Institute of Brazil, more than 1,200 square kilometre of the Amazon rainforestan area 10 times larger than Dhaka city—was destroyed in January to April this year during the pandemic. This deforestation is 55 percent more than that in the same period of 2019. A recent Greenpeace report has already warned that the Amazon may become the source of the next zoonotic pandemic.

Third, nature-based industries have been hit hard due to the pandemic. In Africa, wildlife tourism is a USD 30 billion-industry employing about four million people. As safari tourism is now closed due to Covid-19, unemployment and food insecurity are on the rise in many African countries, leading to a significant increase in wildlife poaching as a source of income and food.

However, before the "corona crisis", we were alerted about the unprecedented global "biodiversity crisis". Last May, the United Nations reported that one in every eight plant and animal species of the world would be extinct in the next few decades unless we

NE thing

US military pullback

fuel a brewing arms

race in the Middle

East at a time when

and devastating

coronavirus pandemic, can least afford it. Saudi

Arabia is likely to see the withdrawal, despite a

seemingly reassuring phone call between Saudi

King Salman and President Donald J Trump, as

further evidence that it cannot fully rely, for its

The drawdown involves two US Patriot

kingdom last year to bolster its defences in the

wake of alleged Iranian watershed attacks on

Saudi oil facilities and oil tankers off the coast

of the United Arab Emirates. The withdrawal

of Iran's first military reconnaissance satellite

that not only catapulted the Islamic Republic

into an elite group of about a dozen countries

capable of orbital launches, but also signalled

its capabilities despite crippling US economic

identification, communication, and navigation

Iranian General Ali Jafarabadi, the commander

worry that the satellite will enhance the Islamic

missions... We must use these satellites and

of the Revolutionary Guards' space division.

Iran hawks in the United States and Israel

provide services to the armed forces," said

sanctions and a public healthcare crisis.

identification missions and in providing

strategic assistance to the armed forces in

The satellite "will play a role in

came on the heels of the successful launch

anti-missile systems that were sent to the

the region, struggling

with the public health

economic fallout of the

from Saudi Arabia will

take drastic actions. Subsequently, 2020 was named a "super year for biodiversity and nature", which called for desperate measures to halt catastrophic biodiversity loss. As a part of that, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has already drafted a "Global Biodiversity Framework" with ambitious goals and targets to be met by the countries by 2050. The framework was supposed to be approved by all countries in a conference in October 2020, in Kunming, China, but has now been

As the governments press the restart button and the paused global economy starts gaining its momentum, will nature conservation remain a priority in the post-coronavirus era?

We are already seeing billions of dollars of stimuli being sanctioned by governments to stabilise their economies. We may therefore see significant budget cuts in global development assistance in many sectors, including nature conservation. We saw similar reductions a few years ago when the refugee influx hit Europe. We may see major budget revisions in ongoing conservation projects and programmes to meet increasing livelihood demands from local people. This may allow less resources for restoring degraded habitats, protecting important ecosystems, and conserving threatened plants and animals. The pandemic may further highlight

the relationship between poverty and overdependency on nature. Through a country-wide survey, BRAC has recently shown that extreme poverty increased in Bangladesh by 60 percent, accompanied by increased food insecurity. These are disappointing numbers for a country which reduced its poverty from 56.7 percent in 1991 to 20.5 percent in 2019. Nevertheless, a loss of livelihoods and food insecurity would push old and newly poor people to depend more on harvesting natural resources, leading to over-exploitation of biodiversity and further degradation of ecosystems.



Dolphins spotted in Istanbul, coming further up the Bosphorus than usual.

When it comes to nature conservation, Bangladesh took some amazing actions over the last 50 years. The country, for example, passed the Bangladesh Wild Life (Preservation) Act, 1974 soon after its independence, which was later updated in 2012. In 2011, the constitution was amended to make biodiversity conservation a responsibility of the state. And last November, the Bangladesh Parliament unanimously adopted a resolution on "Planetary Emergency" considering the dire climate crisis and biodiversity loss.

So, as the Government of Bangladesh allocates resources to tackle the pandemic and its aftermath, and continues reviving its economy, we expect its visionary leadership also in protecting biodiversity. Bangladesh can do so by taking immediate major actions to

plan, manage and fund nature conservation. First, a quick analysis of relevant strategic and planning documents of Bangladesh show that we have widely embraced naturebased activities to ensure people's well-being and resilience to climate change—be it the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2009), the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100, or the Seventh Five-Year Plan (2015–2020). We plan to harness benefits from nature in numerous ways—sustainably managed forests and wetlands give us food, water, fuel, medicines, and a liveable environment, while coastal plantation protects us from cyclones and storm surges. In the post-corona era, we must continue putting nature at the centre of our development, as we prepare the Eighth Five-Year Plan (2020–2025) or an immediate coronavirus recovery plan, for

Second, as soon as the pandemic is over, we must revitalise our nature conservation governance systems already in place. We have more than 20 years of learning and experience in community-based natural resource management and participatory protected area management. The Bangladesh Biodiversity Act, 2017, the Ecologically Critical Area Management Rules, 2016, and the Protected Area Management Rules, 2017 give our nature governance a strong legal basis. Bangladesh Forest Department and the Department of Environment should capitalise on those pre-coronavirus developments and stop any unsustainable management of our ecosystems in the post-coronavirus era.

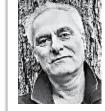
Finally, it has been more than three years since the Bangladesh Parliament passed the Biodiversity Act. Among many provisions, this law expects to establish a Biodiversity Conservation Fund to protect the country's biodiversity. As the government prioritises sectors and allocates resources, it is the high time to establish this Fund to complement the Planetary Emergency resolution endorsed by our parliament. Ten years of experience of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in managing the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund can be of immense value in this regard.

Nature conservation per se cannot protect us from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Only large-scale testing, medical facilities, social distancing, and maintaining hygiene can flatten the "coronavirus curve". However, we need to protect our nature and biodiversity more than ever before to avoid similar pandemics in the future.

Dr Haseeb Md Irfanullah is an independent consultant working on environment, climate change, and research

## US military drawdown in Saudi Arabia threatens to fuel arms race

The Trump administration's decision to withdraw Patriot anti-missile defence batteries from Saudi Arabia is likely to fuel an already brewing arms race as the kingdom attempts to catch-up with Iran's nuclear development as well as its space, ballistic missile, and drone capabilities



James M Dorsey

defence, on the United States.

Republic's ballistic missile capability, a pillar of its defence strategy, as well as the ability of Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian Shiite militia in Lebanon, to convert its rocket and GPS-guided weapons stockpile into smart munitions.

The Trump administration's drawdown decision was announced amid estimates that Iran's gradual backing away from a 2015 international agreement—that curbed its nuclear programme in response to a US withdrawal from the accord in 2018—had

warning, at the time that Trump was gearing up to withdraw from the nuclear agreement, that "without a doubt if Iran developed a nuclear bomb, we will follow suit as soon as possible."

A report last week by the US Government Accountability Office (GAO) suggested that talks with the kingdom on US help to create a Saudi civil nuclear programme had stalled because of Saudi reluctance to agree to enrichment and reprocessing restrictions and signing of an Additional Protocol with the

Vision 2030 plan, designed to streamline and diversify the Saudi economy that has been thrown into doubt by the global economic depression. The kingdom this week tripled sales taxes from five to 15 percent and suspended cost-of-living allowances for government employees to cope with a fiscal crunch. Anthony Cordesman, a Washington-based Gulf military analyst, warned that the Saudi plan to build a defence industry was not the

is a pillar of Prince Mohammed's troubled

best way to diversify the kingdom's economy, even if it would create some jobs and boost its technology sector. There is "virtually no way to waste money more effectively than trying to create an effective technology base or fund a weapons assembly effort in an area of industry and technology which is so demanding, offers so few real-world benefits in job creation, and where there often is so little ability to use the technology needed for specific weapons or purposes—particularly civil ones," Cordesman said.

"Such an effort would involve other problems—the domestic needs for such weapons is limited and Saudi Arabia would likely be unable to compete in selling these weapons on the international market, Cordesman went on to say

Iran's satellite launch is the latest building block in an arms race that Iran, like the UAE, is ironically better placed than Saudi Arabia to compete in, given its already existing defence industry and more diversified industrial base. Ballistic missiles and drones are other building blocks. Satellite images revealed last year that Saudi Arabia had a facility deep in the desert designed to test and possibly manufacture ballistic missiles that potentially would be capable of delivering nuclear warheads to targets thousands of kilometres from their

launch point. The facility is believed to be intended to counter Iran's far advanced ballistic missile programme.

The kingdom is similarly set to begin next year producing military drones that would match Iran's bomb-carrying unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) that reportedly have a range of 1,500 kilometres.

China agreed in 2017 to build a facility in Saudi Arabia to produce UAVs, the People's Republic's first overseas military manufacturing

The Middle East has become a drone warfare theatre," said Alessandro Arduino, a drone warfare researcher at Singapore's Middle East Institute. "Their deployment has ushered in a new era of post-coronavirus deterrence and turned conventional military doctrine on its head. From Yemen to Libya and Syria, warring parties resist calls for a truce, emboldened by the role of armed UAVs."

The reality on the ground, however, is neither of these countries can presently afford the extraordinary financial and technological cost of such militaristic endeavours when their economies are battered by a far-reaching global depression, a collapse of oil prices, and a health pandemic. Iran, moreover, is struggling to grope with US sanctions while Saudi Arabia faces painful fiscal problems and structural reforms.

This story was first published in Inside Arabia. A podcast version of this story is available on Soundcloud, Itunes, Spotify, Stitcher, TuneIn, Spreaker, Pocket Casts, Tumblr, Podbean, Audecibel, Patreon and Castbox.

Dr James M Dorsey is an award-winning journalist and a senior fellow at Nanyang Technological University's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore. He is also an adjunct senior research fellow at the National University of Singapore's Middle East Institute and co-director of the University of Wuerzburg's Institute of Fan Culture in Germany.



PHOTO: SEBASTIAN APEL-U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE VIA AP

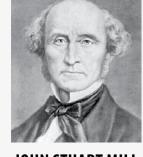
In 2019, the US sent Patriot missile batteries to Saudi Arabia to bolster its defences in the wake of alleged Iranian watershed attacks on Saudi oil facilities.

cut in half the time it would need to produce enough weapons-grade fuel to build a nuclear

The risk of an arms race was explicit in Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which would allow IAEA to obtain expanded information about Saudi nuclear activities and grant it access to facilities.

The development of a local defence industry

QUOTABLE Ouote



**JOHN STUART MILL** (1806-1873)British philosopher and economist.

One person with a belief is equal to ninety-nine who have only interests.

## **CROSSWORD** BY THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 1 Tie 5 Acid's opposite 9 Michelangelo work 10 Smooths out 12 Raring to go 13 Showed over 14 Jail, in slang 16 Thurman of "Kill Bill" 17 -- Aviv 18 Unpopular mailer 20 Folk-blues singer 22 Land in the sea

23 Roulette bet

25 Movie pooch

32 Fraud

28 Basswood tree

perpetrator 34 Genesis name 35 Sandy color 36 Speak haltingly 38 Annoyed 40 Located 41 Prefix with surgeon 42 Two score 43 Relaxing places 44 Seine seasons

**DOWN** 1 Used a rotary phone 2 Entertain 3 "Up and --!" 4 Grows fond of 5 Hall of Fame catcher 6 Broad st.

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

7 Virus fighters 8 Paint type 9 Trattoria sauce 11 Catch 15 Shoulder ornament 19 Bearing 21 Trolley's kin 24 Tall grazer 25 Sean of "The Lord of the Rings' 26 Frightens 27 Knock back a few 29 Coy

30 History makeup 31 Bookish, perhaps 33 Precursor of Windows 37 Irrelevant 39 Stretch of years

### YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

E R P X E R T SOPS T R I A D U N C L E E X E S A F PROMISE T U D I O S N

E R E C T P E

E A T C O D

A P D C O O P

R A B A U H A ETS MALTEDS IRAT O|M|A|H|A|NICER E D ΝО

## **BEETLE BAILEY**





### **BABY BLUES**

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

BY MORT WALKER



## Shops, markets closed indefinitely again

Pabna district administration stepped in as shop owners and public failed to comply with precautionary measures aimed at containing the spread of Covid-19 pandemic

Our Correspondent, Pabna

The district administration on Monday again shut down all shops and markets in Pabna for an indefinite period after finding gross violations of safe physical distancing and health safety measures that it made prerequisites for reopening the shops and markets on May 10.

The decision came around 4:00pm on Monday when people thronged the markets and shops in Pabna town and elsewhere in the district, ignoring all precautionary measures being recommended by the authorities to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

However, shops selling daily essentials and medicines will be out of the purview of the

Kabir Mahamud, the deputy commissioner of Pabna, said, "The shops and markets were allowed to resume operations on a small scale from May 10, on the condition that social distancing measures would be maintained. But nobody seems to care

"We asked business owners and the general complied. Therefore, we have decided to close the markets again. We already made announcements about the closure of the shops and markets."

There are hardly any people seen on streets in an ordinary morning during the month of Ramadan in the country. However, around nine o'clock in the morning this Monday, hoards of shoppers crowded the shops in Pabna town to buy popular items on the occasion of the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr, one of the largest festivals for Muslims.

During a visit that day in New Market area, this correspondent did not notice any safety measures taken by any shop owner or market authorities.

The shoppers were also found least concerned about the looming threat of the highly contagious pandemic that has been wreaking havoc all over the world for the most part of this year.

crowd of shoppers continued to grow till the last

When asked, Nasrin Mita, an Eid shopper, public to maintain social distance, but no one said like most other shoppers, she and her family members came to the market in the morning because shopping hours were restricted till 4:00pm.

Shopkeeper Abul Bashar, in Natun Goli area of the town, said the markets were crowded as all the shoppers were rushing to finish their shopping

He also said the shop owners will incur huge losses due to the sudden decision of closure of the

Contacted, ABM Fazlur Rahman, director of Pabna Chamber of Commerce and Industries, said before reopening their businesses, shop owners and market authorities had agreed to the condition that they would ensure physical distancing and health safety measures for shoppers as well as for

But after they failed to ensure the measures Since the shops were to close by 4:00pm, the amid a huge pressure of shoppers, the district administration had to close them down again, he



A section of the people gathered in New Market area of Pabna town. The photo was taken on Monday morning.



Facebook page of Patuakhalibasir Daktar (Doctors for the People of Patuakhali) that includes lists (one of them in picture) of doctors available for telemedicine services.

SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Free Telemedicine Service in Patuakhali

## Facebook-based initiative benefits general patients during Covid-19 shutdown

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A team of doctors under the banner of "Patuakhalibasir Daktar" (Doctors for the People of Patuakhali) are providing telemedicine services to the people of the district, facilitating treatment for general patients during the adverse situation amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The organisation, comprising doctors hailing trom Patuaknan, started its activities in mid-March, allowing the general patients to receive free treatment by joining their Facebook page.

Patients can call the doctor concerned on his mobile phone and seek suggestion for their problem.

The doctors, who are working in various organizations at home and abroad, are spontaneously serving the people of the district through the Facebook page, often

giving required advice after seeing

the report through Messenger. They include specialists in medicine, cardiology, kidney, liver, skin and sex, dentistry, physiotherapy, gynaecology and paediatrics as well as those who have recently passed from different departments of famous medical colleges of the country.

Entering the group, one will find a paediatrician in the Facebook lists of doctors, with mobile numbers and information about when they will be available for consultation.

Many of the beneficiaries have posted status, expressing gratitude and hailing the noble initiative of the

	<b>ट्यमाटाम किविटीनदान</b>	
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doctors for their benevolent services during the crisis period.

"My nine-year-old daughter was suffering from constipation, but I failed to arrange treatment for her in any hospital or clinic. Then I contacted Dr Chandan Kumar Saha, member of the group.

group. My daughter is now well with his treatment," said Mokhlesur Rahman, a resident of Sabujbagh area of Patuakhali town.

"The initiative to bring medical services to home through telemedicine is encouraging for ordinary people like us in this difficult time," he said, adding that there should be more publicity about this service.

Arif Sohag, a resident of Puran Bazar area of the district town, said he recovered with treatment from the doctors of this group from home after he got a slight fever with some other ailments. Sumon Zahid, one of the founders

of the Patuakhali-based group, said more than a hundred doctors have already joined the group and over 6,000 members have been enlisted to get telemedicine services.

The service will be gradually extended to the grass roots level of Patuakhali district, he said.

"This is our humble attempt to provide emergency medical services to the people at such a bad time. We have plans to expand the scope of telemedicine services in future," said Faizul Haque Zurich, another



Litchis in different areas of Akhaura and Bijoynagar upazilas under Brahmanbaria see cracks and dropping before maturity due to a drought-like situation, much to the worry of farmers who had expected bumper yield following good flowering of the popular summer fruit this season. The photo was taken from an orchard in Akhaura's Azampur village on Saturday.



Dhaka Tannery Industrial Eastate Wastage Treatment Plant Company Ltd. Tannery Industrial Estate, Savar, Dhaka

E-mail: info@bscic.gov.bd, web-site: www.bscic.gov.bd

Invitation of application for the position of Managing Director

Vacancy Announcement

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) under Ministry of Industries established Tannery Industrial Estate at Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh with a land area of 200 acres (80 hectares). The estate comprises 155 tannery industries with facilities of a Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP), a Water Treatment Plant and Solid Waste Management System. For smooth operation of the facilities of the Tannery Industrial Estate (CETP, Water Treatment Plant and Solid Waste Management etc.) a company was formed under Company Act, 1994 (Act XVIII of 1994) of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The company has planned to get 'Leather Working Group (LWG)' certificate as soon as possible. Thus, the Estate, including tannery industries, has to qualify for LWG certificate. Taking all these into account The Company has planned to recruit a Managing Director for smooth operation and maintenance of the CETP, Water Treatment Plant, Solid Wastage management and related issues in the Tannery Industrial Estate, Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Managing Director has to plan, design and implement activities related to CETP, Water Treatment Plant and Solid Waste Management in the tamnery industries to such standard position that will help to get LWG Certificate in a sustainable manner. Therefore, the Managing Director has to deliver services in such a way that the tannery industries of the Estate can achieve LWG certificate as soon as possible

2. The position is opened for qualified candidates from home and abroad

Dhaka Tannery Industrial Estate Wastage Treatment Plant Company Limited is going to hire an experienced Managing Director. Vacancy Details

Post Title Managing Director (MD) Post Level Fixed-Term Appointment

Company Title Dhaka Tannery Industrial Estate Wastage Treatment Plant Company Limited

Duty Station Tannery Industrial Estate, Dhaka (TIED)

Closing Date **Duties and Responsibilities** 

Subject to the supervision, control and decision of the Board of Directors of the Company, the Managing Director shall perform the following duties

- To prepare, monitor and implement the budget of the Company
- To appoint requisite manpower
- To obtain and acquire assets, rights, licenses and membership for the Company and to pay the cost incurred
- To buy and sell assets and properties of the Company with the approval of the Board of Directors and Extra Ordinary General
- To delegate any power to any director or officer of the Company or any other competent person
- To dispose of any demand, compromise out of court and can withdraw or revoke for arbitration and signed and execute any
- To appoint one or more representative and to take active role in the criminal, civil, and revenue court, in the cases where the
- To assist the development, promotion and implementation of new waste disposal schemes
- To ensure compliance with legislation in the transportation, handling and disposal of waste To collect statistics and compile reports
- To monitor the quality and performance of waste services, including contract management of external providers
- To meet 5R (Reduce, Re-use, Refuse, recycle and recover) waste management principles
- To deal with enquiries and complaints from members of the public both in person and by phone or email
- To investigate and follow up claims of the illegal dumping of waste and work with other waste regulation enforcement staff To consult with residents, community groups, representative of Local Government, housing associations and traders'
- associations about waste management issues, identify their requirements and provide appropriate soluti To develop research projects and contribute to the activities of national groups concerned with waste disposal
- To attend meetings with Mol, MoC, BSCIC, DoE, and other Government Department/Agencies/NGOs and others
- To Practice results-Based Management System
- To report to the Board of Directors about the condition, operation of Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP), Water Treatment Plant as well as other waste treatment facilities and activities on a regular basis and also to inform the Board about any development regarding the above-mentioned issues as soon as possible.

### Core Values/ Competencies

- Professionalism Teamwork
- Planning & Organizing
- Accountability
- Commitment to Continuous Learning Technological Awareness
- Client Satisfaction
- Commitment to Continuous Learning

- Masters in Environmental science/ Environmental Engineering or similar from internationally recognized University
- 5 years in tannery management 5 years in company management

10 Years of working experience of which:

- Knowledge and experiences of best practices of solid, liquid waste, gas and sound pollution management Working experience with UNIDO in waste management
- Ability to grasp complex and dynamic legislation
- Capacity to explain, apply and monitor such legislation
  - Patience and resilience
  - Analytical, problem-solving and decision-making skills Leadership and management qualities
- Good organizational and administrative skills Interest in, and understanding of, environment and sustainability issues
- Good IT and general office skills

### Language Effective communication skills (both oral and written) in English

- Age is between 45-55 years
- Physically and mentally sound Hardworking
- Capable of handling tough situation
- Working hours 9am to 5pm
- Facilities are open seven days a week, so weekend work is a possibility

### Basic Salary, House Rent allowance, Medical Benefits, Bonus, other Fringe Benefits and other allowances (Negotiable)

Income Tax to be paid by the employee

### Duration of the service

The initial contract period of the service shall be 01 (One) year. Further contract is renewable based on satisfactory performance subject to approval of the company's Board of Directors

## Submission of Applications

- Interested candidate shall have to submit application along with the following documents via E-mail: info@bscie.gov.bd CV with a cover letter signed by applicant
  - Scanned copies of all educational certificates and experience certificates including training and other activities Scanned copies of National ID card & Nationality certificate from competent authority
  - Two copies of recent PP size photograph
- Submission deadline: 18 June 2020 Dhaka Tannery Industrial Estate Wastage Treatment Plant Company Limited reserves the right to accept and cancel any or all application or this appointment process without assigning any reason.

### (Md. Mostaque Hassan,ndc)

Chairman Dhaka Tannery Industrial Estate Wastage Treatment Plant Company Ltd.

### Chairman,

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) 137-138, Motificel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

### **BOLT BECOMES** A FATHER

Jamaica's Olympic sprint legend Usain Bolt has become a father for the first time after welcoming the birth of a baby girl with partner Kasi Bennett, reports said Monday. Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness appeared to confirm the birth of Bolt's daughter in a social media post. "Congratulations to our sprint legend Usain Bolt and Kasi Bennett on the arrival of their baby girl!" Holness wrote on Twitter. Local media reports said the couple's daughter was born on Sunday. Bolt, 33, had revealed he was expecting a daughter with Bennett on social media in March, jokingly warning any future suitors to steer clear of his



## No Serie A before June **14: FIGC**

**A**FP, Milan

The Italian Football Federation (FIGC) announced on Monday that all competitions will be suspended until June 14.

The Serie A had hoped for a return on June 13 but the FIGC has pushed back the date in line with a government decree that all competitions be suspended until next month.

The FIGC said the choice was made "pending any further... decision by the authorities", suggesting the possibility of a restart on June 13 might still exist.

The Italian season has been on hold since March 9 but Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte on Saturday said he needed "more guarantees" before the green light could be given for football to resume.

### **ICC** suggests ban on saliva

The age-old trick of using saliva to shine a cricket ball could be a thing of the past when cricket resumes, with the ICC on Monday recommending a change to the sport's laws.

"We are living through extraordinary times and the recommendations the committee have made today are interim measures to enable us to safely resume cricket in a way that preserves the essence of our game," Anil Kumble, who chaired the meeting, said.

The ICC added that it would be presented to its Chief Executives' Committee for approval in June.

## Kohli bares his secrets

Abdullah Al Mehdi



India's batting maestro Virat Kohli is known for his steady resolve and endurance in the most difficult of chases.

During a Facebook chat with Bangladesh ODI captain Tamim Iqbal, he talked about that 'pure intent' from childhood which helped him build his vast reserve of mental stamina and gave a glimpse of many of his secrets.

While Tamim had meant for the talk between the two to be an entertaining one, with people across the country in lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic, it turned out to be an educational one for any

You do it in practice but more importantly try and do them in one or two matches. If you execute in matches then your confidence goes up. You have to keep your mind open. Many players have a mindset that they will only play a certain way. But if an opposition figures you out, you have to stay ahead and that is how you remain consistent.

> **VIRAT KOHLI INDIA CAPTAIN**

serious cricketer out there.

If Kohli's resolve is stone-cold, his mindset is more versatile and adaptable than what most would anticipate. He does not focus on one true formula in order to improve his game. Many established cricketers define and confine themselves to a certain way. Kohli understood early confidence goes up. You have to keep



that what works for one person does not necessarily work for another.

But he is the most successful rungetter of modern era and thus he must be doing something right. So, the Bangladesh cricketers had their questions lined up for the Indian maestro. "They want to know some things about you and they are all cricket related," Tamim began.

any other batsman, functionality was in Kohli's mind but he admitted that natural talent is not what everyone can rely upon.

Asked about how he started shuffling in the crease after having stayed still during the beginning of his career, Kohli revealed an innate desire to remain ahead of the game.

"I felt I needed to play all over the ground and the static position somehow made my options limited. It didn't work for me but for many it does. Sachin Tendulkar used to remain static and he never had a problem as his hand-eye coordination and technique was much superior.

"I had to bring changes little by little during different points in time. Í don't understand until I try and if you ever feel that you need to try something then you should do it. You do it in practice but more importantly try and do them in one or two matches. If you execute in matches then your

your mind open. Many players have a mindset that they will only play a certain way. But if an opposition figures you out, you have to stay ahead and that is how you remain consistent. Any batsman should remain open to positive change and if it doesn't work you can get back to what you used to do," he told Tamim.

It revealed much about what one needs to do to be successful in the modern game. Kohli said that he does not have a set pattern for preparation with the only exception being diet and

"Everyone has a different template [for preparation]," he pointed out. "You can't remain intense all the time. If you have a good mental state then you go to matches with a good feeling and with confidence. We can all play cricket but sometimes we overcomplicate things and pressure ourselves."

Kohli's understanding of the game is an example for everybody but while talking about various issues, he gave a peak into where it all emanates from -- the urge to compete and win.

"While young, I would watch matches on TV and when India didn't win while chasing, I always used to think I could make the team win if I was there. That joy and intent comes out when I chase," Kohli said, and his intent is something that any cricketer can learn from.

## Leverkusen thrash Bremen

REUTERS, Bremen



Bayer Leverkusen stayed in the hunt for a top-four finish in the Budesliga after two goals by striker Kai Havertz as well as one each by Mitchell Weiser

and Kerem Demirbay helped them to a 4-1 win at struggling Werder Bremen on Monday. The result left Bayer fifth on 50 points from 26 games, one behind fourthplaced Leipzig and eight adrift of leaders Bayern Munich. Werder, who suffered a

defeat, stayed 17th on 18 points from 25 matches. With no spectators present in the stadium, the game descended into a lull before a frantic five-minute spell produced

record-extending seventh straight home

three goals midway through the first half. Havertz fired Leverkusen ahead in

the 28th minute when he rose above his

marker at the far post and headed past

keeper Jiri Pavlenka after a darting run and cross by Moussa Diabv.

Theodor Gebre Selassie levelled two minutes later with a cheeky back-heel from six metres after Leonardo Bittencourt swung in a corner, but more slack defending by Bremen allowed the visitors to nose ahead again in the 33rd minute.

Havertz was left completely unmarked to head home from eight metres after Kerem Demirbay floated in an inchperfect free kick and Bremen fell apart in the second half as the visitors carved them open almost at will.

Defender Weiser made it 3-1 in the 61st minute when he powered in a close-range header after another fine assist by the lively Diaby and Leverkusen missed several chances before Demirbay sealed the rout.

Substitute Karim Bellarabi waltzed his way through a static home defence before he released Demirbay with a clever pass which left the latter with a simple task of beating Pavlenka with a dinked finish.





Leverkusen's Kai Havertz (C) scores the opening goal during his side's Bundesliga clash against Werder Bremen on Monday. The German midfielder scored twice as Leverkusen ran out 4-1 winners.

PHOTO: **REUTERS** 

## ONALOO Cristiano Ronaldo rejoined Juventus for training yesterday after an absence of 72 days, including the past two weeks in quarantine, prompting fans to turn up for a glimpse. PHOTO: REUTERS

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Statistics and Informatics Division

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics National Household Database (NHD) Project Parishankhyan Bhaban (9th Floor, Block-I) E-27/A, Agargaon, Dhaka-120

Marro No. 52 031 011 100 01 448 2020-738

Qualification and experience

Other details

Name of the official inviting EOI

Address of the official inviting EOI

Designation of the official inviting EOI

Contact details of the official inviting REOI

The client reserves the right to accept or reject any/all Expression of Interests

CLIENT DETAILS

D-I-- 40/05/2020

1	Ministry/Division	Statistics and Informatics Division.		
2	Agency	Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.		
3	Name of procuring entity	Project Director, National Household Database (NHD) Project.		
4	Title of service	Selection of Database Management Specialist (DMS) (National).		
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.		
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Individual Consultant (Time Based).		
7	EOI Ref. No.	52.031.011.100.01.448.2020-		
8	Date	18-05-2020		
KEY	INFORMATION			
9	Procurement sub-method	Selection of Individual Consultants (SIC).		
FUN	DING INFORMATION			
10	Budget and source of funds	Development, Aid Grant/Credit.		
11	Development partners (if applicable)	IDA.		
PAR	TICULAR INFORMATION			
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	1631-5013 (Credit No. 5281-BD & 6137-BD).		
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	National Household Database (NHD) Project.		
14	EOI dosing date & time	Date: 04 June 2020. Re-EOI shall be submitted in sealed envelope marked with "Expression of Interest for Database Management Specialist".		
INFO	DRMATION FOR APPLICANT			
15	Brief description of the assignment	The DMS will be responsible for the overall database development a management activities of the project, develop and document an ill development plan based on the project objectives, develop a concrete activities.		

plan to roll out the system taking into consideration of data entry strategy, data collection and training, plan the data migration mechanism from BBS to

Department of Disaster Management (DDM) and other organizations,

ministries, etc., closely work as a member of joint technical pool (BBS and DDM) to supervise and monitor the overall MIS development activities and progress, support storage and analysis of data collected during surveys using

automated tools like Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) and Computer Assisted Telephone interviewing (CAPI) techniques, identify training

and capacity building needs for BBS staffs and relevant users at central and

Should have at least Bachelor degree in ICT/CSE/CST/EEE/ECE or related

Advanced academic/professional qualifications in relevant field from

Minimum 05 (five) years' work experience in the related field in any

government/semi-government/autonomous organization/reputed private

Sound understanding on data management, analysis and migration using

MS Access, Oracle, VB, net framework, SPSS, Stata, open sources like

Strong communication skills in presenting, discussing and resolving difficult

Duration of the consultancy is initially for one year. Interested applicants may

National Household Database (NHD) Project, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics,

E-mail: pd\_bpd@yahoo.com

Kazi Tofail Hossain

Project Director (Addl Charge)

Parishankhyan Bhaban (9th Floor, Block-I), E-27/A, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

Skills in programming in PHP, HTML and RDBMS as backend.

Experience in the area of design and implementation of MIS.

obtain the Terms of Reference (ToR) downloading from the website.

Excellent spoken and written skills in Bangla and English.

Project Director (Addl Charge) & Deputy Project Director.

local levels to ensure long-term system sustainability

recognized institutes will be added advantage.

MvSql and other related software.

www.sid.gov.bd or www.bbs.gov.bd.

Kazi Tofail Hossain.

Phone: 02-55007001

discipline (Master degree in relevant field preferred).

## Babar wants to emulate Imran as captain



Having been recently handed the reins of the ODI side in addition to T20I leadership, which he took over in later 2019, Babar Azam has already set himself

targets. Top on his priority list is to help Pakistan scale back up the ODI charts after they slipped to No.6 in the team Rankings. "I've captained the U19 as well as the T20I

team in the past," Azam reflected during a media interaction. "When I look at our rankings in the formats, it is not acceptable for me and my task is to bring that up to the top three. PCB thought I was ready and they gave it to me. I'm ready.'

Azam said that he wants to evolve into an attacking captain in the mould of Imran Khan, who led Pakistan to World Cup glory in 1992. "When you are captaining, you need to have a bit of a cool mind, you've to carry your team along, you've to be methodical with your plans against the opposition to get them out," he said.

You have to be a little controlled, inside you may feel angry but you have to be in control. I learnt this in U19, In the ground,



you may have to tone down the aggression and give the players confidence. If you back your players 110%, they'll do that well. I want to be an attacking captain. I want to adopt the Imran Khan style."

Azam is confident the added responsibility of captaincy will not have an effect on his batting.

"I'm a fan of challenges. Captaincy and batting are a little different. When you are batting, you are just focussing on batting and not thinking about captaincy. It's only when you are done with batting that you start thinking about team performance. My aim is to continue performing the same way even as captain."

## Tigers, India delay call on SL tour

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's cricket board (BCCI) will wait for more clarity international travél restrictions before making a call on the tour of Sri Lanka in July, an official told Reuters.

"Nothing has been decided as yet, because we are not sure what would be the travel restrictions then," BCCI treasurer Arun Singh Dhumal said. "There is no clarity. So we'll wait for that and accordingly take a call."

Bangladesh are being similarly cautious for their three-test series in Sri Lanka in July and August. "We have to look at

travelling restrictions in Bangladesh, and the quarantine protocols in both countries," Bangladesh Cricket Board chief executive Nizamuddin Chowdhury told ESPNcricinfo. "We have to be mindful of the players'



PADMA BRIDGE RAIL LINK PROJECT IS BEING BUILT WITH BSRM





## Nitor struggles with bike crash victims

Empty roads amid shutdown lead to high-speed crashes

SHAHEEN MOLLAH AND RAFIUL ISLAM

Abul Hashem was going to his betel leaf field in Kushtia's Daulatpur upazila as a pillion passenger of his son's motorcycle on May 10. To avoid a possible clash with a locally made three-wheeler, his son lost

control over the bike. The three-wheeler, which suddenly appeared from a brick kiln, ran over and crushed Hashem's right hand.

The 65-year-old man was taken to the capital's National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor) where his right hand had to be amputated to save his life.

"We were carrying a sack of oilcake on the motorcycle for the betel leaf field, around seven kilometres away from home. We go to the field on motorcycle as a small number of vehicles ply the road due to the shutdown," said Hashem lying on a sickbed at the hospital's emergency

"Doctors first wanted to save my hand by conducting two surgeries, but they were forced to amputate during the third one," he said.

Like Hashem, many people are taking motorcycle ride as their means



Rokeya and Kohinoor heading out from the city's Mugdapara to search for work. For over a month, the two labourers ventured out every day but mostly in vain. Like them, many in the lower-income group are struggling to find work due to the ongoing shutdown. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

## **RMG** workers demonstrate for work, pay, bonus

STAR REPORT

Several thousand workers of at least 10 garment factories in Ashulia, Dhamrai, Gazipur, Narayanganj and Chattogram industrial belts demonstrated demanding to reopen their factories, salaries for May

Of the factories, five were in Ashulia and Dhamrai, three in Gazipur and one each in Narayanganj and Chattogram.

The agitating workers vandalised a few cars. Police used water cannons and tear gas. The workers demanded partial salary for May and full payment of Eid bonus, instead of 50 percent announced by the

The government on Saturday asked the factory owners to pay the full bonus to the workers, but 50 percent before Eid and the rest later.

Some 1,000 workers of Momo Fashions Ltd in Dhaka's Dhamrai upazila and took to the streets demanding to reopen of the factory.

Police said as the workers protested for their salaries inside the factory on Monday, the authorities announced the closure of the factory yesterday, to the dismay of the workers.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Shab-e-Qadr tonight

STAR REPORT

Muslims across the country are set to observe the holy Shab-e-Qadr or Lailatul Qadr tonight.

The night marks the revelation of the first verses of the holy Quran to Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH).

According to the holy Quran, Lailatul Qadr or the Night of Decree is better than a 1,000 nights as the angels and the spirits descend therein with the permission of Almighty Allah.

Muslims traditionally observe the occasion through nightlong prayers, milad mahfils, Quran Khwani, and religious discussions at homes and mosques.

Devotees also visit graveyards to seek eternal blessings for the departed souls of near and dear ones.

Newspapers publish special articles while the state-run radio and television, and other private TV channels air special programmes to highlight the significance of the night.

Thursday will be a public holiday.

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

## Ensure peace in industrial areas



Bangabandhu speaking at the inaugural session of Jatiya Sramik League's two-day convention on May 20, 1972 at the premises of Dhaka Cotton Mill.

May 20, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU'S MESSAGE TO WORKERS Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today

calls upon workers to maintain peace in the industrial areas and devote themselves to the task of reconstruction of the country's war-ravaged economy. Speaking at the inaugural session of the two-day convention of Jatiya Sramik League the prime minister says that a lot of sacrifice is required to establish socialism.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## 4 die after showing Covid-19 symptoms

STAR REPORT

At least four people with Covid-19 symptoms died in two districts since Monday evening.

Of them, three were from Cumilla's Muradnagar and Nangolkot upazilas while the other was from Noakhali's Begumganj upazila.

One of the deceased -- a 70-year-old man -- had been suffering from fever and diarrhoea for the last couple of days.

Locals said some of his relatives from Narayanganj visited his home a few days ago and he started showing Covid-19 symptoms since

He died on Monday night at his residence which has been put under lockdown after the death, said Avishek Das, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Muradnagar.

Another deceased aged about 50 returned his village home in Nangolkot

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Baul Ranesh's music room torched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The music room of Baul Ranesh Thakur of Sunamganj's Derai upazila -- a notable disciple of Baul Shah Abdul Karim -- has been burnt down allegedly by unidentified miscreants.

The fire started at the room adjacent to Ranesh's house at Ujandhal village on Monday around 1:40am, said KM Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Derai Police Station.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



### **PRAYER TIMING MAY 20**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha JAMAAT 3-54 1-15 5-15 6-50 8-30 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



AZAN 3-44 12-45 5-00 6-40 8-00



22 3:43 6:41



# ঘরেই থাকি, স

- করোনায় সারা বিশ্ব আজ বিপর্যন্ত।
- 🥌 মানুষ বাসা-বাড়ি থেকে বের না হলে সংক্রমণের ঝুঁকি বছলাংশে কমে যায়।
- 👄 মনে রাখবেন, অসাবধানতায় যে কেউ যে কোন সময় করোনা ভাইরাসে আক্রান্ত হতে পারে।

কাজেই ঘরেই থাকুন, সৃছ্ থাকুন

- সামাজিক দূরত্ব বজায় রাখুন, পরস্পারের মধ্যে কমপক্ষে তিন (৩) ফুট দূরত্ব বজায় রাখুন।
- একান্ত প্রয়োজনে বাইরে গেলে অবশ্যই মান্ধ পড়ন।
- স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক প্রদন্ত সব স্বাস্থ্যবিধি অবশ্যই মেনে চলুন।
- বারবার সাবান পানি নিয়ে কমপক্ষে ২০ সেকেন্ড হাত ধোবেন। অপরিচ্ছন্ন হাত নিয়ে মুখ, নাক ও চোখ ছোবেন না।
- বাচ্চাদের স্বাস্থ্য বিধি শিখান এবং তালেরকে ঘরে রাখতে খেলাখুলা, গল্প, ছড়া, শিখা ও বিনোদনমূলক কাজের সাথে সম্পৃক্ত রাখুন।
- নিয়মিত কুসুম গরম পানি, আদা চা এবং গরম স্থাপ পান করদন। লবণ মিত্রিত কুসুম গরম পানি দিয়ে দিনে ৩-৪ বার গড়গড়া করুন, নাকে মুখে গরম পানির ভাপ নিন।
- জ্ব, সর্লি, কাশি, গলা বাথা হলে বাড়িতেই আলালা থেকে চিকিৎসা নিন।
- জুর কমানোর জন্য প্যারাসিটামল ও সর্দি-কাশির জন্য একিহিস্টামিন (যেমন ফেক্সোফেনাডিন) ক্লোরফেনিরামিন ইত্যাদি) থেতে পারেন।

প্রয়োজনে করোনা বিষয়ক হটলাইনপ্রলোতে ফোন করুল্য ১৬২৬৩: ৩৩৩: ১০৬৫৫:

০১৯৪৪৩৩৩২২২ অথবা নিকটছ যান্ত্রকর্মী বা হাসপাতালে যোগাযোগ করুন।

মনে রাখবেন আপনার সুরক্ষা আপনারই হাতে





Lychee traders sorting out the fruit while buyers examine the quality of this year's harvest in Rangamati's Samataghat area. **Growers and traders in** the district have been frustrated by the falling prices amid a shutdown in force to slow the spread of coronavirus.

PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA

COVID-19 RESPONSE

## WHO states agree to probe

China accuses US of smear

AFP, Geneva

World Health Organization member states yesterday agreed to an independent probe into the UN agency's coronavirus response as US criticism mounted over its handling of the pandemic.

Countries taking part in the WHO's annual assembly, being held virtually for the first time, adopted a resolution by consensus urging a joint response to the crisis.

The resolution, tabled by the European Union, called for an "impartial, independent and

comprehensive evaluation" the international response to the pandemic, which has so far infected more than 4.8 million people and killed over 319,000.

It said the investigation should include a probe of "the actions of WHO and their time-lines pertaining to the Covid-19 pandemic". The United States did not

disassociate itself from the consensus as some had feared after Washington chastised the WHO on the first day of the assembly Monday and lashed out further against China over its role in the outbreak.

US President Donald Trump threatened late Monday to pull the United States out of the WHO, accusing it of botching the global coronavirus response and of being a "puppet of China".

His comments, which drew a harsh rebuke from Beijing, came after his health secretary Alex Azar earlier in the day insisted the WHO's "failure" to obtain and provide vital information on Covid-19 had proved deadly.

"We must be frank about one of the primary reasons this outbreak spun SEE PAGE 4 COL 4