

Narayanganj doctor dies of Covid-19 at DMCH

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A senior consultant of Narayanganj 300-bed hospital, who tested positive for coronavirus, breathed her last at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Tuesday.

The dead Amen Khatun, 63, was a senior consultant at the Gynecology department of the 300-bed hospital, said Narayanganj Civil Surgeon Imtiaz.

Amen, also the director of Amen General Hospital in Narayanganj, died at 11:30am on Tuesday. She tested positive for Covid-19 nine days before her death, the civil surgeon said.

M Abdul Bashar Siddiq, son of Amen, said his mother had been suffering from fever and breathing difficulties for at least 15 days.

After isolating herself at home for a day, she took admission to the DMCH on May 21, where she had been placed on ventilator support, Siddiq said.

Boat capsizes

FROM PAGE 12

rescued, he added.

The accident took place around 2:00 pm near Sthlalchar area in Sirajganj's Chowhali upazila as a boat overturned with around 80 people on board.

A total of 57 people swamashore while police and firefighters rescued five bodies on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Meanwhile, police yesterday recovered five more bodies after they surfaced on the river banks in different areas in the upazila.

Rashidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Chowhali Police Station, said two bodies were recovered from Azimuddin Mor area and one each from Sthalchar, Ghushuria and Jotpara areas.

"Locals informed us after noticing the bodies floating in the river," he said.

The overcrowded boat lost its balance after being hit by strong waves, said Dewan Moudud Ahmed, upazila nirbahi officer of Chowhali.

Most of the passengers were job seekers and poor people who were returning to the capital and its adjoining districts after Eid holiday, said Nazrul Islam, chairman of Sthalchar union.

The boat was carrying the passengers to Pakuriaghat in Tangail, he said.

China backs

FROM PAGE 12

Dozens of protesters gathered in a shopping mall to chant slogans but there was no repeat of disturbances the previous day when police made 360 arrests as thousands took to the streets in anger over the anthem bill and the national security legislation proposed by China.

Last year, the city was rocked for months by often violent pro-democracy demonstrations over an unsuccessful bid to introduce a law governing extradition to China.

The Chinese government's security law for the city is fuelling fear in Hong Kong and beyond that Beijing is imposing its authority and eroding the high degree of autonomy the former British colony has enjoyed under a "one country, two systems" formula since it returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

Members of China's mostly rubberstamp parliament, the National People's Congress, in the Great Hall of the People to the west of Beijing's Tiananmen Square, burst into prolonged applause when the tally showed 2,878 votes to one in favour of moving forward with legislation, with six abstentions.

Details of the law are expected to be drawn up in coming weeks. It is expected to be enacted before September.

Chinese authorities and the Beijing-backed government in Hong Kong say there is no threat to the city's autonomy and the new law would be tightly focused.

China's Premier Li Keqiang said the law would be good for Hong Kong's long-term stability and prosperity and the "one country, two systems" formula would remain a national policy.

Conflict between China and the United States would harm both sides while both stand to gain from cooperation, he told a news conference.

Hong Kong's Beijing-backed leader Carrie Lam said her government would work with Beijing to complete the legislative work as soon as possible.

"The law will not affect the rights and freedoms enjoyed by Hong Kong residents," she said in a statement welcoming the Chinese parliament's vote.

Democracy campaigners in the city were despondent, however.

"This is the death knell for Hong Kong, make no mistake of it, this is the end of 'one country, two systems' ... the Hong Kong that we loved, a free Hong Kong," pro-democracy lawmaker Dennis Kwok told reporters.

Safety net spending to be higher

FROM PAGE 12

of "new poor" representing an additional 22.9 percent of the population that needed to be brought within the discussion on poverty.

The situation prompted the government to beef up social safety net spending.

The allocation per beneficiary would not go up in terms of amount; rather, the number of beneficiaries would increase.

The government is boosting the allocation for eight core safety net programmes, especially those of food-based ones.

There are 81 lakh beneficiaries under the schemes and that number will rise by 10 lakh.

The number of widows, destitute and deserted women entitled to Tk 500 per month support from the government would increase by 8.5 lakh. Another 2.5 lakh would be added to the list of the financially insolvent disabled, who receive Tk 750 a month, said officials of the finance and social welfare ministries.

The number of beneficiaries receiving maternity allowance would go up by 10 percent. Currently, 750,000 individuals get such a

payment. The increase in the number of beneficiaries would largely happen in 100 poverty-prone upazilas in northern and central districts under a government plan aiming to ensure 100 percent social safety net coverage from the current 40 percent, the officials said.

The government is aiming to spend a majority of the financial support coming from the development partners for the safety net purposes. The donors are also placing emphasis on expanding spending for the poor and the vulnerable.

"The increase was expected as many new poor have been created because of the coronavirus fallout," Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of the PPRC, told The Daily Star yesterday.

According to the economist, there are two aspects of the safety net programmes: one is allocation and the other is delivering the support to intended beneficiaries.

"The second aspect is very important because leakage is a major problem for us."

The ongoing safety net programmes should continue. At the same time, the government should step up to

introduce schemes for the urban poor as most of the programmes target beneficiaries in the rural areas, he said.

Safety net programmes in Bangladesh have been contributing to the reduction of poverty and vulnerability by addressing a range of population groups through different forms of assistance, says the World Bank.

These include the provision of income security for the elderly, widows, and persons-with-disabilities, generating temporary employment for working age men and women, and supporting the healthy development of young mothers and children.

Bill Gates conspiracy theories echo through Africa

AFP, Johannesburg

As the novel coronavirus wreaks global havoc, Bill Gates is the new bete noire for conspiracy theorists worldwide including in Africa where a Kenyan politician's false online post has added major fuel to the spread of misinformation.

Another cop dies from Covid-19

FROM PAGE 12

after he tested Covid-19 positive. Dr Emdadul Haque, superintendent of police at Central Police Hospital, told The Daily Star.

Rasel of Bagerhat left behind his wife, son, and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

On May 24, Razu Ahmed, an inspector of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, breathed his last at the Central Police Hospital's ICU.

Hailed from Chandpur, Razu left behind his wife, a son, and a daughter.

Earlier, constables Nekbar Hossain, Naimul Haque, Jalal Uddin Khoka, Mokhlesur Rahman Asheq Mahmud, and Jasim Uddin; Nayek Mamunur Rashid, Assistant Sub-inspector Raghunath Roy; ASI Abdul Khaleq; Sub-inspector Sultanul Arefin; SI Mosharraf Hossain, SI Mujibur Rahman Talukder; and SI Nazir Uddin died from Covid-19.

Meanwhile, the number of infected police personnel reached 4,258 till

yesterday noon. At least 1,514 of them are from Dhaka Metropolitan Police, according to Police Headquarters.

Of the infected, 1,378 recovered till yesterday, and many of them joined their work.

Nearly 5,000 others are in isolation and quarantine across the country.

The authorities have recently booked impulse private hospital to treat their members as the Central Police Hospital is struggling to deal with a huge number of patients.

Australia-Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 12

group) and Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will be formed to tackle the emergency problems in the country. CPB President Moni Singh and NAP President Muzaffar Ahmed today call on Bangabandhu to discuss formation of the National Committee. Muzaffar Ahmed shares with journalists that the committee will primarily deal with pressing issues such as price hike, hoarding, corruption, smuggling and law enforcement. CPB and NAP will work hand in hand with the government at all levels except joining the Cabinet, he adds.

KEROSENE DISTRIBUTION THROUGH RATION SHOPS

Kerosene will be distributed through ration shops in Dhaka and Narayanganj, says a government press note today. It will be sold at Tk 2.75 per gallon.

USAID OFFICIALS CALL ON BANGABANDHU

A delegation of USAID officials led by the organisation's Deputy Director Donald G. MacDonald calls on Bangabandhu today at his official residence. In the 45-minute long meeting they discuss various issues, including ongoing relief and rehabilitation works in Bangladesh.

SOURCE: May 30, 1972 issue of Dainik Bangla.

Zafarullah stable at home

FROM PAGE 12

Dr Zafrullah has been trying to get government approval for Rapid Dot Blot, a Covid-19 test kit developed by a group of researchers at Gonoshasthaya Kendra in March this year.

Rapid Dot Blot can test for both antigen and antibodies. Dr Zafrullah was first tested for antigens on May 24 and then for antibodies on May 26 and tested positive for both.

RT-PCR test at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) on May 27 also found the same result.

Dr Zafrullah, also a kidney patient, is being treated at home while periodically undergoing kidney dialysis at Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital in an isolated unit.

On the advice of doctors, he first underwent plasma therapy on May 26. Covid-19 patients develop antibodies and can donate plasma two weeks after recovery.

Men aged between 18 and 55 and women of the same age who have never been pregnant can donate plasma, which can be transplanted into the people infected with the coronavirus.

DGDA ASKS GONOSHASTHAYA NOT TO DO COVID-19 TESTS

The Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) has asked Gonoshasthaya Pharmaceuticals not to conduct tests using the Rapid Dot Blot kit.

Gonoshasthaya Pharmaceuticals had received approval from the

Bangladesh Medical Research Council to conduct tests for its internal validation and was scheduled to start tests of at least 50 suspected patients at the Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital on a daily basis from May 26.

However, the DGDA in a letter to the Gonoshasthaya Pharmaceuticals on May 25 asked it not to go for tests as the kits are currently under performance trial at the BSMMU.

"As of now, we have not received a report of the performance study by the BSMMU. The decision on the registration of the kit will be taken only after receiving the performance study report," said the letter signed by Md Rafiqul Islam, assistant director of DGDA on behalf of the DG.

The DGDA therefore requests that the kit not be used for testing for Covid-19 and not be supplied or marketed.

"Following the DGDA letter, we have refrained from conducting tests as part of the trial," said Gonoshasthaya Pharmaceuticals Managing Director and coordinator of Rapid Dot Blot project Mohid Ullah Khondoker.

However, he said they have requested the DGDA for emergency use authorisation so that they can be better prepared for mass production of the kit immediately after getting approval.

"We also sought pre-approval for import of reagents from the DGDA so that we can quickly go for importing materials once we have DGDA approval," he told The Daily Star.

Pandemic rages

FROM PAGE 12

University tally.

Lockdowns in some form will remain necessary until a vaccine or treatment is available, experts have warned, but many governments are under immense pressure to provide relief as businesses and citizens grow weary and resentful of mass confinement.

Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil's far-right president and a Trump ally, has slammed stay-at-home orders and played down the threat of the virus, saying the economic fallout of lockdowns causes more damage than the disease itself.

But infections in Brazil have surged past 411,000, and similar bad news continues to emerge from other South American countries.

Peru logged a record 6,154 new cases in a 24-hour period, with its virus response coordinator Pilar Mazzetti warning that "difficult days,

difficult weeks are coming."

Worried relatives outside the Sabogal Hospital in the capital Lima were unable to enter to see loved ones suffering from Covid-19, with some begging the guards for information.

"I want to talk to a doctor and they don't let me know," said Liset Villanueva, granddaughter of a coronavirus patient.

"They don't say anything, they don't call, they don't explain anything... What is he suffering from?"

The 79 new cases in South Korea come as life appeared to be returning to normal following an extensive "trace, test and treat" program.

Social distancing rules had been relaxed earlier this month, but following the spike -- centred around the densely-populated capital Seoul -- authorities ordered some of them to be re-imposed, and for museums, parks and galleries to close again from today.

'Can't get the smell

FROM PAGE 1

about an hour -- we had no idea. He woke up by himself, came out on his own and informed us that he had blacked out but could not remember what happened. But [because he was] lying on the wet floor for so long, we suspected that he had contracted pneumonia," said Andre.

They got a coronavirus test done by the IEDCR, which ultimately pronounced him negative, but he was still rejected by several private hospitals on grounds of his pneumonia-like symptoms. In the meantime, he had a second stroke.

"United Hospital agreed to take him, but on one condition -- that he must stay in the isolation unit. We showed them the IEDCR test result but they said false negatives pop up all the time. We agreed to take the risk just because this was the only private hospital agreeing to treat him," said Andre.

The hospital did a second coronavirus test the same day. The results came on May 27, hours before the fire took his life.

"We called the lab head and got to know that he is negative. Around 5:00pm, we went to the hospital and tried to convince them to move my father [to another ward] but the doctors in the isolation unit said they have to wait for the hard copy of the results before they can process the transfer," informed Andre. He spent the next four hours trying to get the hard copy to the hands of the isolation unit doctors.

"Around 9:40 pm, my wife wrote a letter for my father and sent it via text message. I was waiting outside the isolation unit, hoping that I would be able to show him the letter."

That's when Andre first saw the spark in the air conditioning unit. The unit is designed in such a way that the first room that the entryway leads to is the doctor's station and the second inner room was where the patients were kept. Vernon was in bed number 3.

"We heard them [the patients] shouting and screaming inside. They [hospital authorities] opened the door and I saw a spark in the AC. They called maintenance, and nobody responded. A minute later, the AC sparked again, louder. There was an empty bed under the AC where paper files were kept and I asked them to quickly move the bed," said Andre, who, being an electric engineer, knew how such fires can spread.

Nobody heeded to his request, he claimed, and all the staffers came out of the room.

"The sparks fell on the floor and a ward staffer rushed in with a wet mop to smother the electric fire but the mop probably had disinfectant on it, so the fire spread in a split second

from the floor to the bed with the files," he said. The ward staff threw the mop away and ran out.

This was at 9:50pm, according to the Fire Service and Civil Defence Department.

However, since the incident, United Hospital authorities have said the fire might have originated from a short circuit and spread quickly "as it was windy".

"I was screaming and saying my father is inside and [requesting that] somebody please do something. I was thinking of going inside, but how? There was so much smoke and the flames had engulfed the room. My father was probably calling out to us and we could not go in," he said.

His brother-in-law ran to the emergency ward and people arrived with fire extinguishers. "I grabbed a fire extinguisher to try and clear a path to my father, but the flames were too big," described Andre.

It took the fire service's full effort to extinguish the flames.

"As they brought out the bodies one by one, I ran behind the bodies, taking off the sheets to find my father. The bodies were so burnt, it took us several rounds of inspecting the bodies to find my dad," described Andre.

He recognised his father from the pacemaker he had in his heart. "I saw a body with the pacemaker burnt and popping out of the chest. I cried out, 'this is papa, this is papa.' When he was alive, he had a head full of hair and a moustache. His whole face was bald, burnt and black," narrated Andre, his voice breaking in agony.

"I can't get the smell of my own father's burnt body out of my head."

Vernon Anthony Paul, born in 1945, was a freedom fighter and was a part of the Air Force during the Liberation War. He was a prisoner of war in Quetta, Pakistan and was released and returned to an independent Bangladesh, where he built a life working in private organisations.

He retired in 2003 from DHL. He left behind a wife, a son and a daughter.

Danish robot

FROM PAGE 12

Lab at the University of Southern Denmark worked around the clock to produce the prototype of the robot.

They said the goal was to create something that would reduce the risk of infection for healthcare staff when carrying out throat swabs.

Professor Thiusius Rajeth Savarimuthu of SDU Robotics, developed the robot after talking to healthcare workers - it was his first project after Covid-19 appeared.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার	
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়	
চকরিয়া, কক্সবাজার	
chakoria@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd	
স্মারক নং উপঃস্বঃকমঃ/চক/এমএসআর/২০১৯-২০/৬৪৩	তারিখঃ ২৮/৫/২০২০
খোলা দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট আইন (২০০৬), পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা (২০০৮) ও তৎপরবর্তী সংশ্লিষ্ট সংশোধনীসমূহ এবং সংগ্রাহক সংস্থা কর্তৃক আরোপিত শর্তাবলীর আলোকে উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, চকরিয়া, কক্সবাজার এর নিম্নলিখিত বিভিন্ন স্বাস্থ্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের ২০১৯-২০২০ অর্থ বছরের জন্য নিয়মিত সরবরাহ কার্যের এমএসআর সামগ্রী (মেডিকেল এন্ড সার্জিক্যাল রিকুইজিটস) ক্রয়/সংগ্রহের নিমিত্ত এমএসআর সামগ্রী সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ী/সরবরাহকারী/প্রস্তুতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে নিম্নোক্ত ছক মোতাবেক প্রাপ্তভিত্তিক পৃথকভাবে সীলগালাকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।	
১	মন্ত্রণালয়/ডিভিশন
২	সংগ্রাহক সংস্থার নাম
৩	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি
৪	আহ্বানকৃত কাজের ধরণ
৫	বাজেট/তহবিলের উৎস
৬	কার্যসম্পাদন জামানত
৭	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা
৮	প্রাপ্তভিত্তিক কাজের বিবরণ ও দরপত্রের প্রতি সেট এর (অফেরতযোগ্য)
৯	দরপত্র জামানত (ফেরতযোগ্য)
১০	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান, ঠিকানা, সময় ও শেষ তারিখ
১১	দরপত্র দাখিলে স্থান, সময় ও শেষ তারিখ
১২	দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়
১৩	এমএসআর সামগ্রী ক্রয় সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাবলী
১৪	দরপত্রের মূল্য ট্রেজারী চালানোর মাধ্যমে কোড নং-১-২৯১১-০০০০-২৩৬৬ সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর চকরিয়া শাখায় জমাদানপূর্বক চালানোর মূলকপি অবদেনপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিয়া দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করিতে হইবে। দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলের সহিত সরবরাহ করা হইবে। দরপত্রের জামানতের টাকা উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তা, চকরিয়া, কক্সবাজার এর অনুকূলে সরকারি তফসীলভুক্ত যে কোন ব্যাংক হতে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হইতে দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখের মধ্যে স্বাক্ষরিত ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে। দরপত্রের বিষয়ে যে কোন তথ্যের জন্য উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পঃ পঃ কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়, চকরিয়া, কক্সবাজার এর হিসাব শাখা হতে জানা যাবে। দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটি/কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক যাচাইকালে ট্রেজারী চালান বা জামানতের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার ভুল/ত্রুটিমুক্ত প্রমাণিত হইলে সাথে সাথে ঐ দরপত্র বাতিল হিসেবে গণ্য হইবে এবং তাহার/তাহাদের বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা যাইবে।
১৫	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সররক্ষণ করেন। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ অত্র নোটিশে উল্লেখিত দরপত্র বিষয়ে কোন সংশোধনী অত্র নোটিশের নোটিশ বোর্ডের মাধ্যমে জানানো হইবে। দরপত্র বাস্তব খোলার নির্দিষ্ট তারিখ সম্পন্ন না হইলে পরবর্তী কর্মদিবসে যথাক্রমে দরপত্র খোলার গ্রহণযোগ্য তারিখ বলিয়া বিবেচিত হইবে। তবে সময় ও স্থান অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে।
১৬	স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর/স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয় হইতে বয় মঞ্জুরী সাপেক্ষে বিল পরিশোধ করা হইবে এবং প্রযোজ্য ফেজে নির্ধারিত ভাট ও ট্যাক্স কর্তন করা হইবে।
১৭	ঔষধ সামগ্রী লাল-সবুজ রঙের মোড়কে এবং সকল সামগ্রীতে "সরকারি সম্পত্তি, বিক্রয়ের জন্য নহে" লেখা সহ কোয়ালিটি এন্সারেস সাটিফিকেট/সার্টিফিকেট অব অ্যানালাইসিস দাখিল করিতে হইবে। সরবরাহকৃত ঔষধ ও রি-এজেন্ট সমূহের মেয়াদ সরবরাহের তারিখ হইতে কমান্যক দুই বছর থাকিতে হইবে।
১৮	ক্রয়কারী চাহিদা অনুসারে কার্যদেয় প্রদান করিবেন এবং চাহিদার অতিরিক্ত কোন প্রকার মালামাল (ঔষধসহ) ক্রয় করিতে বাধ্য নহেন এবং সকল মালামাল একত্রে ক্রয় করিতেও বাধ্য নহেন এবং বিজয়ী দরদাতাগণকে বিভিন্ন মেয়াদে মালামাল/ঔষধ সরবরাহ করার কার্যদেশ প্রদান করিতে পারিবেন।
ডাঃ মোহাম্মদ শাহবাজ	
উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তা চকরিয়া, কক্সবাজার	
জিডি-১৯৬	