

## Three more

FROM PAGE 12  
Ikram Hossain, upazila health and family planning officer.

The man recently visited Dhaka and had been suffering from fever since then, he added.

Samples were taken after he died and he had been buried as per the World Health Organization guidelines, Civil Surgeon Shofiqul Islam said.

In Noakhali's Sonaimuri, two elderly men died with fever and persistent cough on Thursday.

A 65-year-old resident of the municipality died at his home around 7:00am a few days after developing the symptoms.

Health officials could not collect his samples as he was buried quickly. But samples of his five family members were collected, said Reaz Uddin, health and family planning officer in Sonaimuri.

In a separate incident, a 58-year-old man died with the symptoms at his home in Ambornagar union around 11:00am. His samples were collected.

Reaz added that both of their houses were locked down.

Our Faridpur and Noakhali correspondents contributed to the report.

## Expand scope

FROM PAGE 12  
sub-committee on plasma therapy and a member of the National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) formed to combat the coronavirus.

Medical scientists in the US and China, as well as other countries, have found that those who recover from Covid-19 develop a neutralising antibody in their plasma. This antibody, if transfused into an infected person, can destroy the virus.

Prof MA Khan said that in a country like Bangladesh, this therapy is really important to save lives as plasma is free of cost whereas the drugs being developed to treat Covid-19 could be too expensive for the poor.

The collection of plasma and administering of the therapy, however, involve a certain amount of money.

Therefore, he said, the sub-committee on plasma therapy has recommended a national programme and an initial fund of Tk 1 crore from the health ministry.

"We have already made a proposal to the health ministry and are now waiting for the reply," he said yesterday.

"Some hospitals, including Gonoshasthya, Green Life, Bangladesh Specialised Hospital and DMFR Molecular Lab & Diagnostics, have already agreed to work together. We are trying to form a group and follow a common protocol in the collection, supply and administering of plasma," Prof Khan said.

The government, therefore, should have the database of all the Covid-19 patients and inspire the recovered patients to donate plasma two weeks after their recovery, he said.

Recovered male patients aged between 18 and 55 can donate plasma while female belong to the same age group with no history of conception can also donate it, he said.

"It's like donating blood. It is not harmful to the donor," the haematologist added.



Officials of Rahim Steel Mills Ltd hand personal protective equipment to DMP Deputy Commissioner Anisur Rahman in the capital on Wednesday.

## Mammoth skeletons found

FROM PAGE 12  
mammoth skeletons have been unearthed since late last year. Dating back more than 10,000 years, this part of Mexico once teemed with mammoth herds, drawn to the lush grasslands and lakes that dotted the landscape.

The hulking bones left behind spawned legends of giants that dazzled both indigenous civilizations and Spanish conqueror Hernan Cortes.

Standing next to one partial skeleton, lead archaeologist Ruben Manzanilla, explains that this spot likely would have been part of a meandering shoreline thick with mud on the edge of a lake formed at the end of the last ice age.

"When an animal this size fell here, it got stuck and couldn't escape," he said, as a convoy of construction trucks rumbled down a dusty road.

Manzanilla's Columbian mammoth, which unlike its cousin the woolly mammoth had little fur, certainly lived up to its imposing name.

He estimates it weighed roughly 20 tonnes, or double that of a Tyrannosaurus Rex, and reached a height of more than 4 meters (13 ft), about twice as tall as pro-basketball

legend Shaquille O'Neal.

Manzanilla believes countless mammoths likely succumbed to the muck, but he also points to evidence from nearby sites that early human hunters also used flint spears to bring them down and set rudimentary traps in the water.

The urban footprint of metropolitan Mexico City, home to 22 million people, has since replaced nearly all of the interconnected lakes that filled the area through Aztec times.

Two Tlaxcalan kings in 1519 showed Cortes what was likely a mammoth femur and told him they descended from terrible but very tall men, according to an account by the conqueror's contemporary, soldier-turned-chronicler Bernal Diaz del Castillo.

"We were sure there had been giants in this land," wrote Diaz del Castillo.

The incident is summarized in an article on the history of mammoths in Mexico in the current issue of *Arqueologia Mexicana* by Leonardo Lopez Lujan.

Even as more mammoth remains turn up, the digs have not slowed progress on the new airport, a top priority for President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.

## Zia's death

FROM PAGE 12  
commander during the Liberation War.

On Wednesday, the BNP announced a 12-day programme to observe the death anniversary.

The programmes will begin today and end on June 10. All of them will be held maintaining social distancing amid the coronavirus outbreak.

As part of the programmes, black flags will be hoisted and party flags kept at half-mast atop the party's offices, including its Nayapaltn headquarters, at 6:00am today.

Besides, only the party's standing committee members will place wreaths at Zia's grave at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital at 11:00am, maintaining social distancing.

The party will hold an online discussion in the afternoon in memory of Zia.

The party leaders will also distribute relief materials and clothes among the destitute at different spots of the city on the day organised by Dhaka North and South units of BNP.

They will avoid any mass gatherings and public meetings. BNP and its associate bodies will arrange virtual discussions on Zia's activities, from May 1 to June 10 as part of the death anniversary programmes.

## First treaty with the US

FROM PAGE 12  
that the US will provide Tk 66 crore as aid to Bangladesh. The two countries have already signed a treaty in this regard, he adds, which is the first of its kind since the US recognised Bangladesh. The fund can be used for procuring cotton and fertiliser, building dams in coastal areas and repairing roads, bridges and electricity distribution lines. The US will also provide food aid worth Tk 77 crore through the UN food aid programme, says the USAID official.

Welcoming American assistance, Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad says that it will help strengthen ties between the two countries.

**CHATTOGRAM AND CHALNA PORT FULLY OPERATIONAL NOW**  
Communication Minister M Mansur

Ali declares today that Chattogram and Chalna ports are fully activated now. Container handling capacity of the two ports has now reached pre-war levels, he adds. The Soviet salvage team has successfully removed mines from the port channels and made those accessible for incoming ships. They have also salvaged several sunken ships from the Chittagong Port area.

**100 FRENCH TRUCKS FOR BANGLADESH**  
To improve the relief distribution system and strengthen transportation facilities in Bangladesh the French government will provide 100 trucks, shares the French Ambassador to Bangladesh Pierre Millet. The trucks will reach Bangladesh in July, 1972.  
*SOURCE: May 31, 1972 issue of Dainik Bangla.*

## Troops deployed

FROM PAGE 12  
Twitter concealed that tweet, saying it violated its policy on glorifying violence.

Overnight, demonstrators broke through law enforcement barriers to overtake the Minneapolis police station where the four officers blamed for Floyd's death were based.

A fire broke out and soon became an inferno that engulfed the structure.

The state's national guard announced the 500 troops were being deployed yesterday morning for peacekeeping amid signs that the anger was nowhere near dissipating.

## India's virus

FROM PAGE 12  
of cases is surging, India has steadily loosened its lockdown to lessen the massive impact on the economy -- and the country's poor who have been the hardest hit.

Home Minister Amit Shah was set to hold talks with state chief ministers yesterday to discuss a further relaxing of restrictions, press reports said.

**TOLLS SURGE IN AMERICAS**  
The death toll from the coronavirus pandemic spiked again in Russia and the Americas yesterday, even as Europe's experiment with reopening from lockdown grew bolder by the day.

Fresh restrictions in Asia also signalled that there will be a long road back to normality from the pandemic that has killed more than 360,000 people and hammered the global economy.

## Buy paddy, not rice

FROM PAGE 12  
for International Development (USAID), was submitted to the agriculture ministry, said Akhter, the lead researcher and also the chief of party, policy research and strategy support programme (PRSSP).

He explained that the government's current procurement scheme mainly benefits the rice millers. But IFPRI suggested a policy option that will benefit both the farmers and the millers.

**THE SUGGESTION?**  
The Directorate General of Food will only buy paddy from farmers at the local supply depots and get those husked at rice mills.

Since the moisture content of paddies sold by farmers is usually higher than the government's requirement of 14 percent, the procurement price will be adjusted for different moisture content, the study suggested.

"Those, supplying paddy with 14 percent moisture content, could receive the announced procurement price and the farmers, selling paddy with higher moisture content, would receive a relatively lower price from the government," said Akhter.

The government can also set a limit, wherein each farmer can sell a maximum of two tonnes and a minimum of 200 kg of paddy. Small farmers and sharecroppers can then participate in the procurement process.

The government-designated rice millers would transport the paddy from the depots to the mills.

It has to be ensured that paddy with moisture content above 14 percent are taken to the mills within a day to avoid damage.

For paddy with 14 percent moisture, paddy-to-rice crushing ratio should remain at 0.67 -- for 100 tonnes of paddy received, millers should provide 67 tonnes of rice. The crushing ratios for paddy with higher moisture content should also be determined.

Beside the milling charge, rice millers would receive payment to cover the transportation cost of paddy from the depots to the mills.

**IMPACT ON THE MARKET PRICE**  
Under this policy, the farmers who cannot sell to the government would benefit from the resulting higher market price of paddy during the harvest season, said Akhter Ahmed.

The research showed that if this policy was implemented during the 2019 Boro harvest season, it would have raised the market price of paddy to around Tk 22 per kg.

"Although this would still be below the procurement price of Tk 26 per kg, this would have been a significant improvement from the actual market price [Tk 15 per kg] of paddy in 2019," said Akhter.

If the policy is implemented, there will be higher demand from the government procurement, which will increase the price of paddy.

Conversely, procurement of large volumes of rice from millers may push up the retail price of rice in the market impacting consumers negatively, particularly the urban poor, the researcher noted.

When asked about the policy option, Mosammat Nazmanara Khanum, secretary of the food ministry, said they cannot do anything during the current season as Boro procurement has already started.

The procurement programme began on April 26 with the target of eight lakh tonnes of paddy and 11.5 lakh tonnes of milled rice (parboiled and sunburnt).

"As per the government rules, we will have to take these decisions in an inter-ministerial meeting. We may accept all of them, if the suggestions are good. We may implement it partially, if we think it is not doable for us," she said.

When asked, KM Layek Ali, general secretary of Bangladesh Auto, Major and Husking Mill Owners Association, said the government should protect farmers' interests with priority as they grow food.

He said millers would husk the rice bought from farmers if the government provides them with the expense. But he warned that millers may not be able to control the quality of rice.

The government should also determine the crushing ratio for paddy with moisture content above 14 percent, he added.

This year, the government decided to purchase eight lakh tonnes of Boro paddy at Tk 26 per kg.

According to traders, the market price of harvested Boro in Sunamganj, Mymensingh and Netrokona is currently between Tk 16.25 and Tk 19.5 per kg for paddies with moisture content above 14 percent.



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ  
অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়  
র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-১১  
আদমজীনগর, নারায়নগঞ্জ

ক্রোড়পত্র-ক'

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (ওটিএম)/২০২০-২০২১/০১

১। এতদ্বারা ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বৎসরে নারায়নগঞ্জ, আদমজীনগরস্থ র‍্যাব-১১ এর সরবরাহ কাজের জন্য পৃথক পৃথক ঠিকাদার নিয়োগের উদ্দেশ্যে গণপূর্ত,এলজিইডি,অন্যান্য সরকারী ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সংস্থায় তালিকাভুক্ত প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী ঠিকাদারগণের নিকট হতে "The Public Procurement Regulations 2008" বিধি অনুযায়ী সীলমোহরযুক্ত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	দরপত্রের সাথে আর্নেস্টমনি (ফেরতযোগ্য)	কাজের সময়সীমা
ক।	স্বাস্থ্য বিধান সামগ্রী	৫০০.০০	১৫,০০০.০০	(০১ জুলাই ২০২০ হতে ৩০ জুন ২০২১ পর্যন্ত)
খ।	অন্যান্য মনিহারি	৭৫০.০০	৫০,০০০.০০	
গ।	ব্যবহার্য দ্রব্যাদি	৭৫০.০০	৫০,০০০.০০	
ঘ।	চিকিৎসা ও শল্য চিকিৎসা সরঞ্জামাদি	৫০০.০০	১৫,০০০.০০	
ঙ।	যানবাহনের কাঁচামাল এবং খুচরা যন্ত্রাংশ	৭৫০.০০	৫০,০০০.০০	
চ।	যানবাহন মেরামত ও সংরক্ষণ	৫০০.০০	১০,০০০.০০	
ছ।	যন্ত্রপাতি ও অন্যান্য সরঞ্জামাদি	৫০০.০০	৭,৫০০.০০	
জ।	ইউনিফর্ম (পোশাক সেলাই)	৫০০.০০	৫,০০০.০০	
ঝ।	আপ্যায়ন ব্যয় (স্কুলা খাবার)	৫০০.০০	৫,০০০.০০	

১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়।
২।	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রির কার্যালয়ের নাম ও ঠিকানা	পরিচালক, র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-১১, আদমজীনগর, নারায়নগঞ্জ। প্রতিকায় বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে স্বাভাবিক কার্যদিবসে অগ্রহী দরপত্রদাতাগণ উল্লেখিত কার্যালয় হতে দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয় করতে পারবেন।
৩।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের কার্যালয়ের নাম ও ঠিকানা	র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-১১, আদমজীনগর, নারায়নগঞ্জ।
৪।	দরপত্র খোলার কার্যালয়ের নাম ও ঠিকানা	র‍্যাপিড এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-১১, আদমজীনগর, নারায়নগঞ্জ।
৫।	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৩/০৬/২০২০ (১২০০ ঘটিকা) পর্যন্ত।
৬।	দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৪/০৬/২০২০ (১২০০ ঘটিকা) পর্যন্ত।
৭।	দরপত্র খোলার শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৪/০৬/২০২০ (১২৩০ ঘটিকা) দরপত্র দাতা/দরপত্রদাতার প্রতিনিধি উক্ত সময় উপস্থিত থাকতে পারবেন।

২। দরপত্র মূল্যায়ন কমিটি কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন। দরপত্র তফসিল ক্রয় করার সময় পেপার কাটিং এবং নিম্নলিখিত সনদপত্র/সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে :

- ক। যে কোন তফসিল ভুক্ত বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হতে হাল সনের আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতা সনদপত্র।
- খ। ব্যবসায়িক বৈধ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স (২০১৯-২০২০) অর্থ বৎসরের।
- গ। টি আই এন' (TIN) নম্বর উল্লেখসহ হালসনের আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র।
- ঘ। ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদপত্র।
- ঙ। বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকত্বের সনদপত্র।
- চ। প্রতিনিধির ক্ষেত্রে মালিকের ক্ষমতা অর্পনপত্র সংগে আনতে হবে।
- ছ। ফার্মের অনুকূলে মালিকানা এফিডেভিট ফটোসহ সনদপত্র।
- জ। র‍্যাব, বিজিবি, পুলিশ ও অন্যান্য বাহিনীতে ৩ বৎসরের মধ্যে বিভিন্ন মালামাল সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন সনদপত্র (যদি থাকে)।

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