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shipping, lack of
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The Daily Star

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. No. DA 781

Vol. XXX No. 133

JAISHTHA 19, 1427 BS

Your Right to Know

SHAWWAL 9, 1441 HJRI

16 PAGES PLUS LIFESTYLE PRICE : Tk12.00

**BANGLADESH
UPDATE**



2,381
New cases in 24hrs



49,534
Total cases



672
Deaths



10,597
Recoveries



**GLOBAL
UPDATE**



374,736
Deaths



6,310,892
Total cases

Containment zones planned

Capital, N'ganj, Gazipur to be designated as red zones; mayors of these 3 cities want total restriction on entry, exit

RED ZONE
Movement will be restricted; all shops, except those selling essentials will be closed.

YELLOW ZONE
Movement, businesses and transport services will continue on "a limited scale" with restrictions.

GREEN ZONE
No restriction on movement of people and vehicles, opening of shops and markets.

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and WASIM BIN HABIB

The government is likely to put the capital, Narayanganj and Gazipur in the "red zone" with severe restrictions in the wake of rising Covid-19 deaths and infections in the city areas.

The highly affected areas in the cities will be under a total lockdown for a certain period and instructions on health protocol in the zones will be given to prevent further spread of the virus, said sources.

The Chattogram city may also be put in the "red zone" if it sees a steady rise in coronavirus deaths and infections.

This was discussed at a high-profile meeting of government high-ups and the mayors of the three cities yesterday with Health Minister Zahid Maleque in the chair.

It was attended, among others, by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and IGRD Minister Tajul Islam.

The mayors suggested that no one should be allowed to enter and leave the areas in Dhaka, Gazipur and Narayanganj cities for at least 15 days to prevent further spread of the virus, said meeting sources.

The meeting decided to divide all the areas affected by deadly virus into three zones -- red, yellow and green -- based on the severity of infections and death rates.

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Vehicles wait in long queues in front of a traffic signal near Hanif Flyover in the capital's Jatrahari around 2:30pm yesterday, hours after road transport services resumed across the country following over two months of suspension due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Inset, a few commuters jostle as they try to board a bus in the city's Sabujbagh area around 8:30am.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED/SK ENAMUL HAQ

Experts warn of darker days ahead

2,381 test positive; 22 die

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Attributing the surge in Covid-19 cases to increased public movement in the capital and elsewhere, experts warn that the country will see darker days ahead if the government fails to ensure physical distancing and make people follow the other health guidelines right away.

"The number of coronavirus cases has shot up due to the relaxation of shutdown before and after Eid-ul-Fitr," said Prof Muzaherul Huq, former adviser (Southeast Asia Region) of the World Health Organization (WHO).

In the last 14 days, the number of people infected with coronavirus has shot up dangerously as people frequently ignored the guidelines, including maintaining physical distancing, he said.

The country has so far recorded 49,534 Covid-19 positive cases and more

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

COLLEGE ADMISSION

Students have to wait more

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government is in a tight spot over fixing the schedule for enrolling students to HSC and equivalent courses for the next academic session as it fears the admission process may expose a section of students and guardians to Covid-19.

Education boards were scheduled to start the online admission process on May 10, but they could not do so as they were not able to publish the results of this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent exams.

Officials later expected they would be able to start the admission process on June 6-8 following the announcement of the results on May 31. But they now think it will not be possible for them to launch the process this month.

A top official of Dhaka education board said, "Starting the admission process totally depends on the novel coronavirus situation. We will not be able to launch the admission process this month."

Speaking to The Daily Star, Prof Ziaul Haque, head of the intra-board coordination committee, said they were observing the Covid-19 situation in the country.

"We will conduct the admission process once the situation starts to improve,"

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Watch it closely for first 15 days

Health experts urge govt about situation after reopening, say new measures should be based on the outcome

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leading health experts yesterday called on the government to be cautious in its measures to ensure health and safety in the aftermath of offices and different sectors reopening amid high numbers of daily confirmed coronavirus cases.

The government should closely monitor the situation for the first 15 days of the reopening and then adopt new measures based on the outcome, they said during a virtual dialogue.

Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh organised the dialogue on "post-shutdown health concern".

Yesterday, the Directorate General of Health Services reported 2,381 new Covid-19 positive cases and 22 fatalities in 24 hours. There have so far been 49,532 confirmed Covid-19 cases in the country, and 672 fatalities.

After a countrywide shutdown enforced from March 26, the government announced resumption of all public transport services, and public and private offices on a limited scale from May 31.

However, all educational institutions

will remain closed till June 15, according to a circular issued by the Cabinet Division on May 28.

Addressing the dialogue, Ahmed Mustaque Raza Chowdhury, an adviser to James P Grant School of Public Health, Brac University, said a "zoning method" can be followed as the country reopens.

Applying the method, initially businesses, schools and colleges, shops and mosques can be opened in 10 selected districts and its effectiveness monitored, said Mushtaque, a core group member of the citizen's platform.

Besides, effectiveness of preventive measures like hand washing and sanitisers has to be looked at as well, he said.

"Through this, we will be able to understand where the risk lies and from such lessons we can gradually reopen other districts," he added.

He urged for continuation of rigorous coronavirus tests and said testing facilities were still not evenly available throughout the country.

Abu Jamil Faisal, one of eight members

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BUSINESS

Mobile phone use to be even costlier

Mobile phone users can brace themselves for higher taxes next fiscal year as the government is planning a bigger revenue earning target banking on the sector that sees more than Tk 30,000 crore turnover a year.

The supplementary duty on phone calls, data use, texting and other services may go up by 5 percentage points to 15 per cent in fiscal 2020-21, said a senior official of the finance ministry. Officials of mobile phone operators said additional taxes will compel subscribers to cut down on their mobile phone use.

STORY ON B1

Buses get back on the roads

Operate at half capacity to ensure physical distance among passengers; health guidelines maintained on trains but not on launches

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road transport services across the country reopened yesterday after more than two months of suspension.

To maintain distance among passengers, most of the transport companies reduced the vehicles' capacity to about 50 percent of normal levels.

Transport workers were seen spraying disinfectants on passengers' hands before they got on the bus. There was hardly anyone without wearing a mask.

People on the trains mostly maintained the health guidelines on the second day of the reopening, but there were large crowds at Sadarghat Launch Terminal in the capital.

The government enforced the countrywide shutdown and travel restrictions on March 26 to combat the spread of coronavirus.

Road transport services reopened yesterday with a government-approved 60 percent hike in fares.

Samdani Khandakar, office secretary at Dhaka Road Transport Owners' Association, said bus services resumed in Dhaka and its adjacent areas maintaining all health guidelines of the government.

"We have given masks and gloves to our drivers and other employees. We hope passengers will maintain the health safety guidelines," he told The Daily Star.

Jaki Hossain, a conductor of Bihongo Paribahan which travels between Pallabi and Sadarghat areas of the capital, said he and his colleagues washed the buses with savlon and bleach on Sunday night.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

First post-shutdown flight has 4 passengers

Biman cancels 2 flights; other carriers see better load factor

RASHIDUL HASAN

Local airlines yesterday saw an underwhelming response on the first day of the resumption of regular passenger flights on three domestic routes, following more than two months of flight suspension, sources at different airlines said.

The volume of passengers was so low that national flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines was forced to cancel two of its flights on the Dhaka-Sylhet and Dhaka-Chattogram routes, Tahera Khandaker, deputy general manager (public relations) of Biman, told The Daily Star.

Following the shutdown enforced to curb the spread of coronavirus, the first post-shutdown flight of the national airliner left Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) for Saidpur at 7:45am with only four passengers on board, she said.

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A tanker truck drives into thousands of demonstrators marching on a highway during a protest against the death in Minneapolis police custody of George Floyd.

PHOTO: REUTERS

KILLING OF UNARMED BLACK MAN

Teargas fired outside White House

Violence rages in US for sixth day; China says unrests show 'chronic disease' of racism

AGENCIES

Police fired tear gas outside the White House late Sunday as anti-racism protestors again took to the streets to voice fury at police brutality, and major US cities were put under curfew to suppress rioting.

With the Trump administration branding instigators of six nights of rioting as domestic terrorists, there were more confrontations between protestors and police and fresh outbreaks of looting.

Violent clashes erupted repeatedly in a small park next to the White House, with authorities using tear gas, pepper spray and flash bang grenades to disperse crowds who lit several large fires and damaged property.

Local US leaders appealed to citizens to give constructive outlet to their rage over the death of an unarmed black man in Minneapolis, while night-time curfews were imposed in cities including Washington, Los Angeles and Houston.

One closely watched protest was outside the state capital in Minneapolis' twin city of St. Paul, where several thousand people gathered before marching down a highway.

"We have black sons, black brothers, black friends, we don't want them to die. We are tired of this happening, this generation is not having it, we are tired of oppression," said Muna Abdi, a 31-year-old black woman who joined the protest.

Hundreds of police and National Guard troops were deployed ahead of the protest.

At one point, some of the protestors who had reached a bridge were forced to scramble for cover when a truck drove

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Experts warn

FROM PAGE 1

than half of them -- 25,664 -- were detected in the last two weeks, he pointed out.

The remaining cases were detected between March 8 and May 18.

As many as 2,381 people tested coronavirus positive and 22 died in 24 hours till 2:30pm yesterday.

Weeks before Eid, which was celebrated on May 23, the government announced that shopping malls would reopen on a limited scale, following a closure of more than a month and a half.

Although most of the malls remained closed, many opened their shutters, attracting shoppers.

Then thousands left the capital days before Eid to celebrate the festival at their village homes, violating travel restrictions which had been imposed to contain the spread of coronavirus.

Prof Muzaherul said such increased public movement has caused the number of coronavirus cases to go up significantly. "The country is now under serious risk of coronavirus transmission."

Again, after the government on May 28 declared that the coronavirus-driven shutdown would be withdrawn, people in droves returned to Dhaka to join work, ignoring social distancing guidelines and posing risks of contracting the disease and spreading it to others. On the same day, the government's very own National Technical Advisory Committee warned of an explosion in Covid-19 cases if health and safety measures are not implemented strictly.

"Lifting the lockdown before strictly implementing the rules for preventing transmission will increase the number of positive patients and create pressure on the healthcare system," read the statement of the 17-member committee.

Students have to wait more

FROM PAGE 1

said Ziaul, also the chairman of Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dhaka.

He said many of about 16 lakh students and their guardians, who don't have access to internet at home, would have to go out to complete the admission process online. "They can be exposed to risk of contracting novel coronavirus. The current situation is not in favour of starting the admission process," Ziaul said.

Board officials said many students and guardians will have to visit local computer shops to complete the admission process online as they don't have access to internet at home. This will increase their chance of being infected with the deadly virus. The risks will be lower once the infection curve bends downward in the country. All educational institutions in the country have remained closed since March 17 due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The government has now extended the closure until June 15 to stem the spread of the virus.

On April 27, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said educational institutions might remain closed until September if the situation did not improve.

According to the results of SSC and equivalent exams published on

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Prof Dr Md Shahidullah, chairperson of the committee, also acknowledged that the recent surge in coronavirus cases was a result of people's increased movement before and after the Eid.

"Apart from this, lack of awareness among people is another reason. We've seen people roaming in the streets without maintaining health safety. This has a cumulative impact on the rise in novel coronavirus cases," said Shahidullah, also a senior child specialist and the president of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council.

He, however, said that if people followed health guidelines in the coming days, the transmission risk would subside.

BRIEFING

The 22 deaths took the death toll to 672, according to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The Covid-19 death rate in the country is now 1.36 percent, Prof Dr Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of DGHS, said at a briefing yesterday.

A total of 11,439 samples were tested at 52 labs across the country in the 24 hours till 2:30pm yesterday. Meanwhile, 816 Covid-19 patients recovered during the period, taking the total number of recovered patients to 10,597. The recovery rate reached 21.39 percent, she said, adding that 449 people were placed under isolation in those 24 hours.

Among the deceased, 19 were male and three female, she said, adding that 11 were from Dhaka, eight from Chattogram, two from Sylhet and the others from Barishal Division.

Of them, one was between 21-30, eight between 41-50, four within 51-60, seven between 61-70 and the other two between 71-80 years, Dr Nasima also said.

Sunday, a total of 16,90,529 students came out successful.

Several education board officials also expressed fear that the admission seekers might have to wait for months for the beginning of the academic year of Class 11 due to the novel coronavirus situation.

"This year's HSC batch will certainly lose time from the academic year [July-June]," said a board official, adding that it would take at least a month to complete the three-phased admission process.

A new academic year for HSC and equivalent courses usually begins on July 1 each year.

Ziaul, however, said there was nothing to be worried about the start of classes and academic year.

"Students will get two years. We will take steps to minimise their academic loss if the academic year starts behind schedule," he said.

This year, the government is set to introduce a fully online application system for enrollment of students in higher secondary colleges and madrasas.

Until last year, students used to apply for admission to colleges through online and SMS. The SMS-based system will not be available from this year.

First post-shutdown flight

FROM PAGE 1

The return flight however carried 20 passengers, Tahera added.

Officials of HSIAT said they have taken all preparations at the airport and are also carrying out monitoring activities so that passengers and others concerned follow the health guidelines.

For the two other private airlines -- US-Bangla Airlines and Novoair -- the number of outgoing and incoming passengers were slightly higher than Biman's.

The first post-shutdown flight of private air operator US-Bangla Airlines left Dhaka Airport for Chattogram at 7:00am with 28 passengers on board, Kamrul Islam, general manager (public relations) of US-Bangla Airlines, told The Daily Star.

Another US-Bangla flight left Dhaka for Saidpur at 8:30am with 51 passengers on board. The return flight had 54 passengers, said Kamrul Islam.

Novoair operated four flights as of 12:42pm -- from Dhaka to Saidpur with 40 passengers, two Chattogram flights with 38 and 30 passengers and one to Sylhet with 31 passengers, sources at the airport said.

The three airlines are scheduled to operate 24 daily round trips on three domestic routes to and from the capital. Of the 24 daily flights, 11 will be on the Dhaka-Chattogram-Dhaka, nine on Dhaka-Saidpur-Dhaka, and four on Dhaka-Sylhet-Dhaka routes.

Biman and Novoair each will operate seven flights daily, while US-Bangla Airlines will conduct 10 daily flights on the three routes, sources in the airlines said.

"We will operate morning and evening flights to Chattogram and Sylhet and three flights to Saidpur daily from today using our Dash 8Q-400 aircraft," Tahera said.

US-Bangla Airlines will operate six daily flights to Chattogram, three to Saidpur and one to Sylhet.

Novoair said they would operate three flights each to Chattogram and Saidpur, and one flight to Sylhet daily.

The airline officials said they have already taken all preparations to resume domestic flight operations following the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh's (CAAB's) prescribed health guidelines, including disinfecting the aircraft every time before boarding passengers.

On Thursday, the government decided to resume domestic flight operations on a limited scale -- initially on Dhaka-Chattogram, Dhaka-Sylhet and Dhaka-Saidpur routes -- while the ongoing international flight suspension will be in effect till June 15.

CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman said all airlines must follow the health guidelines to operate domestic flights.

According to CAAB's guidelines, all airlines have to keep at least 30 percent seats vacant on each flight to ensure social distancing, keeping a minimum gap of a seat between two passengers if they are not from the same family.

It further instructed that the front or the last row of seats on each flight must remain vacant to carry any passenger suspected of being infected with coronavirus.

Crew members will avoid close contact with passengers and provide only necessary in-flight services to passengers -- no food or drinks will be served in flights with an airtime of less than one and a half hours.

US-BANGLA SPECIAL OFFER

US-Bangla Airlines yesterday offered a special one-way fare of Tk 1,999 on the Dhaka-Chattogram route.

The leading private airlines of the country with 13 aircraft in its fleet said they are offering the lowest price as people are experiencing an economic crisis amid the Covid-19, Kamrul Islam, general manager, public relations, US-Bangla Airlines, told The Daily Star.

The reduced airfare will come into effect from today, the airlines said in a press release.

US-Bangla had earlier set a Tk 3,000 fare for one-way trips to Chattogram, which was Tk 2,500 before the Covid-19 outbreak.



PHOTO: AMIRAN HOSSAIN

A bus conductor sprays disinfectant on the hands of a passenger inside the vehicle in the capital's Mohakhali area yesterday. In line with government instruction on following physical distancing, the bus carried passengers at half capacity. Road transport services resumed yesterday after remaining suspended for more than two months.

Containment zones planned

FROM PAGE 1

The "green zone" will be out of restrictions while the areas that have seen a low number of Covid-19 cases will be put in the "yellow zone" where movement of people, businesses and transport services will be allowed on "a limited scale".

But it will be up to the experts to set the criteria for the three zones.

If the number of infections goes up in any area or ward or upazila or district, it will be put in the "red zone", said the sources.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Zahid said, "The areas will be classified as red, green and yellow zones on the basis of death and infection rates."

"We sat today following the prime minister's instructions. Now we will make a specific plan and try to implement it together," he mentioned.

The development comes a day after the government eased the nationwide 66-day shutdown, ignoring warnings from experts. Transport services had remained suspended and most of the businesses and offices were closed during the period.

Offices, businesses and transport services resumed on Sunday on "a limited scale" despite a spike in the number of deaths and positive cases.

Twenty-two people died from Covid-19 in 24 hours till yesterday afternoon, taking the death toll to 672. And 2,381 people tested positive for the virus during the period, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With this, the total number of infections stood at 49,532.

On May 28, the government's National Technical Advisory Committee suggested the withdrawal of closure in phases, warning that the situation might worsen if safety measures are not strictly implemented. But their recommendations went unheeded.

THE MEETING

The meeting decided to draw up a virus containment plan within two days in consultation with experts and epidemiologists and inform the mayors and district administrations on how to implement it.

"We will devise a plan. We discussed it here [at the meeting]. After preparing it, we all, including the home and LGRD ministries and mayors, will try to implement it," said the health minister.

Asked whether the capital, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Chattogram will be put in the "red zone", Zahid said these districts have high infection rates till date.

"Experts will decide on it. But I think these districts should be in the red zone since the number of infections is high."

He further said most of the districts and upazilas are still in good shape and they want to keep those in that state.

Replying to another query, he said zone-wise categorisation will be done by analysing data on Covid-19 infections.

"For example, if an area inside the capital sees a high number of infections, the area will be locked down for a certain time. Experts will advise on the lockdown period."

According to a meeting source, security measures in the "red zone" will be strengthened so that no one can enter or go out of the area.

"We are already in a high-risk situation. So we all have to follow the health safety guidelines properly," the source quoted the health minister as saying.

At the meeting, the mayors expressed resentment at the fact that their suggestions were not sought before easing the shutdown.

When they wanted to know the specifics of the lockdown, they were told that people's movement in the affected areas will be restricted and shops will be closed. Only the shops selling essentials will be allowed to open, said the source.

Buses get back on the roads

FROM PAGE 1

"We are charging passengers Tk 48 for the distance between Pallabi and Sadarghat instead of the previous fare of Tk 30," he said.

Half the seats have been kept empty to maintain physical distance among passengers, he added.

Mosharref Hossain, general manager of Hanif Paribahan, said, "The presence of passengers is very thin."

Seven mobile courts of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority fined nine traffic violators Tk 16,000 in different parts of the country.

HEALTH RULES IGNORED IN LAUNCH

Six intercity trains plied yesterday with about half the seats empty. Two other trains didn't operate because it was their weekly day off, said Aminul Hoque, Kamalapur station manager.

Five of the trains left Dhaka for different destinations and another operated between sylhet and Chattogram.

Eleven more express trains would be operational from tomorrow. They are: Teesta, Benapole, Nilsagar, Rupsha, Kapotakkho, Modhumoti, Meghna, Kishoreganj, Upakul, Brahmaputra, and Kurigram.

At Sadarghat Launch terminal, swarming crowds defied all rules yesterday as they gathered around noon. The absence of any Dhaka-Damudya launch made the situation worse, said an official of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority.

"We had preparations to make people follow the health guidelines, but the huge number of passengers made it difficult," he said, wishing not to be named.

chief as saying law enforcement shot and killed a man yesterday morning as they broke up a crowd, although it was unclear if the group was taking part in protests.

Meanwhile, China said yesterday unrest in the United States highlighted its severe problems of racism and police violence, and exposed Washington's double standards in supporting Hong Kong's protesters.

"Black people's lives are also lives. Their human rights must also be guaranteed," foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters in Beijing.

"Racism against ethnic minorities in the US is a chronic disease of American society," Zhao added.

Major music industry labels -- Atlantic Records, Capitol Music Group, Warner Records, Sony Music -- are pledging to halt business today, in solidarity with anti-racist demonstrators demanding structural social change and an end to police brutality.

ROLEX STORE RANSACKED

Looting was reported Sunday night in Philadelphia and the Los Angeles suburb of Santa Monica, and images on Fox TV showed ransacked Rolex and Gucci stores in New York city.

Officials in LA -- a city scarred by

They were also informed that if a person in any ward of the three cities undergoes a test for the virus, a copy of the test results will be sent to the ward councillor so that he remains aware of the situation in the area and take steps in line with the guidelines to be prepared by experts, said the source.

Besides, measures will be taken to prevent any outsider from entering an area that has seen a high number of infections.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Asaduzzaman said, "The rate of infections is increasing every day and so is the number of tests."

"That's why we decided on zone-wise categorisation as per the instructions from the prime minister," he said.

The meeting was also attended by Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam; Principal Secretary at the PMO Ahmad Kaikaus; IEDCR Director Meerjady Sabrina Flora; Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Atiul Islam; Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Fazle Noor Taposh; Narayanganj City Corporation Mayor Selina Hayat Ivy; Gazipur City Corporation Mayor Jahangir Ahmed and Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed.

GOVT OFFICES

As part of safety precautions against Covid-19, the government will not allow the presence of more than 25 percent of the officials and employees in offices at ministries and departments, said State Minister for Public Administration Farhad Hossain.

"We don't want to put employees at risk of infection. We will do only the necessary work with a minimum number of employees," he told reporters at the secretariat.

The private offices will make decisions on their own, keeping the safety guidelines in mind, he added.

ACTION IF RULES IGNORED: QUADER

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said the government will take tough steps if health guidelines are not followed and social distancing is not maintained in public transport, reports BSS.

"If people do not follow health guidelines and maintain social distancing...the government may make harsh decisions again."

Quader, also the Awami League general secretary, was talking to officials of the bridges division through a videoconference yesterday.

He urged transport owners and workers to abide by the government rules and "set a humanitarian example".

He urged the law enforcement agencies, vigilance teams, mobile courts and bus terminal authorities to strictly monitor the sector.

Watch it closely

FROM PAGE 1

of a government-formed expert committee to supervise, monitor and support the coronavirus response, said the government has to look at measures to break the transmission circle while reopening.

He said 100 percent use of face mask has to be ensured and if required different punitive measures alongside monetary fines should be imposed for violations.

He added the eight-member expert committee already recommended the government to distribute face masks among at least one crore people free of cost.

Similarly, free hand sanitisers could have been distributed, he added.

He also said better coordination between the government's health department and other bodies was essential in this crisis.

Khairul Islam, regional director (South Asia), WaterAid, said the government should observe the current resumption of offices until June 15.

After that, the government should not hesitate either to add new measures or curb the current one based on the outcome, he said.

Dr Firdausi Qadri, emeritus scientist at International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh, said there is a necessity of further research on the virus.

It is also important to know what kind of immunological response has been developed among those who were infected with the virus, she said.

Rawshan Ara Begum, a member of the national technical advisory committee to tackle the Covid-19 outbreak, said as several government circulars have been issued already, the committee recommended placing greater emphasis on their implementations.

She said maternal mortality has turned out to be a big concern because of the pandemic as it forced an additional 35 percent women to give birth at home.

Already, 50 percent of the country's babies are born at home, she said, adding that home delivery has been the main reason behind maternal mortality.

She said diseases like eclampsia could develop due to home delivery and cause a rise in maternal deaths. Besides, fistula could also rise and mothers can face various other complications.

Addressing the virtual programme, Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam said reproductive health rights of women, especially the adolescents, has been ignored amid the pandemic.

She stressed that a strong recommendation to this end be placed before the government.

She also urged for safe disposal of used face masks and gloves.

Summing up the dialogue, noted economist and convener of the citizen's platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya said there is still a concern about the relaxation of the shutdown.

He urged for rigorous coronavirus testing and applying zoning method to contain the virus.

Besides, he also stressed on more research and urged the government to make the public informed about the pandemic.

Asif Ibrahim, chairman of Chattogram Stock Exchange, and lawmaker and rights activist Aroma Dutta, among others, spoke during the virtual dialogue.

UAE says Israel should back off threat to annex West Bank

REUTERS, Dubai

A senior United Arab Emirates official said yesterday that any unilateral move by Israel to annex parts of the occupied West Bank would be a serious setback for the Middle East peace process.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said cabinet discussions would begin on July 1 on his plan to extend Israeli sovereignty to territory Palestinians want for their own state.

mobilization ever -- to help restore order and extended a curfew for a third night Sunday.

The Department of Defense said that around 5,000 National Guard troops had been mobilized in 15 states as well as the capital Washington, with another 2,000 on standby. 'A NATION IN PAIN'

Joe Biden, Trump's likely Democratic opponent in November's presidential election, visited the scene of one anti-racism protest.

"We are a nation in pain right now, but we must not allow this pain to destroy us," Biden tweeted, posting a picture of him speaking with an African-American family at the site where protesters had gathered in Delaware late Saturday.

Floyd's death has triggered protests beyond the United States, with thousands in Montreal and London marching in solidarity on Sunday.

On the other side of the globe yesterday, thousands marched to the US consulate in Auckland chanting "no justice, no peace" and "black lives matter."

In Germany, England football international Jadon Sancho marked one of his three goals for Borussia Dortmund against Paderborn by lifting his jersey to reveal a T-shirt bearing the words "Justice for George Floyd."



Anwar Hossain passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Md Anwar Hossain, father of Ashraf Alam Khokan, deputy press secretary to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, passed away yesterday at his village home in Kapashia, Gazipur. He was 79.

“My father died of cardiac arrest at 9:40am,” Khokan told The Daily Star.

Anwar left behind his two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn him.

He was laid to eternal rest at his family graveyard at Ekdala village in Kapashia, following his namaz-e-janaza at Taraganj Bazar after Asr prayers.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina prayed for the eternal salvation of the departed soul and expressed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

Meanwhile, Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, among other ministers and leaders of different political parties and organisations expressed condolence at the demise of Anwar Hossain.



This hand-washing station set up by Dhaka Wasa at the capital's Farmgate has been rendered useless for passersby, as the tap remains missing from the basin. Authorities had set up the structure with good intentions, but due to lack of maintenance, those who have to stay outdoors cannot avail the valuable service amid this crisis. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Writ petition challenges decision to run court proceedings virtually

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court, challenging the chief justice's decision to run virtual functions of courts across the country.

Advocate Eunus Ali Akond submitted the petition as a public interest litigation to the High Court through email, seeking stay on the circular issued by the Supreme Court administration for operating virtual

court proceedings.

In the petition, the lawyer prayed to the High Court to direct the authorities concerned to resume regular activities of the courts of the country.

Citing the petition, Advocate Eunus Ali told The Daily Star that there is no provision in the constitution and Appellant and High Court rules for virtual court functions. The petitioners must swear an affidavit for filing any petition with the Appellate and High Court Division as per their relevant

rules, but there is no scope for swearing affidavit in the virtual court functions and therefore the virtual court system is illegal and unconditional, he said.

Eunus Ali said the High Court may hear on his writ petition today.

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain on May 30 decided to run the functions of all the courts including the Appellate and High Court Divisions of the Supreme Court virtually without physical presence of lawyers from May 31 till June 15.

Suspended DIG prisons Bazlur Rashid denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a bail petition of suspended Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Prisons Bazlur Rashid in connection with a corruption case filed over amassing Tk 3.08 crore beyond known source of income.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder passed the order, as the bail petition of Rashid was not properly moved.

The court passed the order after holding a virtual hearing on the petition.

Advocate Khurshid Alarm Khan represented the Anti-Corruption Commission during the virtual hearing.

On January 29, a division HC bench led by Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder refused to grant bail to Rashid in the case.

The bench had also directed the ACC to finish a probe into the charges against him within six months.

ACC arrested Bazlur Rashid in the case -- filed with ACC's Integrated District Office -- and showed him arrested in the case on October 20 last year.

The following day, the home ministry suspended him from service.

According to the case statement, Bazlur signed a contract with a real estate company in 2018 to buy a flat in the capital's Siddeshwari Road area at Tk 3.09 crore.

Five 'JMB men'

FROM PAGE 3

Another reason behind the lack of coordination could be commercial interest of some vested quarters, he said.

Some five others of the group managed to escape, said the Rab official.

Of the arrestees, Mustafa is already an accused in a case filed under Anti-Terrorism Act with a Narayanganj police station, said Tafiqul.

They were handed over to Muktagachha Police Station and a case was lodged under the act, Rab sources said.

In primary interrogation, they confessed that they are active members of the banned militant outfit, they added.

Biplob Kumar Biswas, officer-in-charge of the police station, said the arrestees were produced before a Mymensingh court that sent them to jail.

DU halts

FROM PAGE 3

Another reason behind the lack of coordination could be commercial interest of some vested quarters, he said.

Prof Mamun also said they could have conducted research on improving the quality of testing kits and on the virus. “The testing kits provided by the government have some limitations, and we saw several faulty results. We could conduct research to improve the testing kit quality and the testing process,” he said.


A recent graduate of DU's science faculty, who worked at the lab, told this newspaper that they worked entirely voluntarily, without any payment, and there were no hard and fast commitment obligations. Preferring not to be named, the volunteer

said four to six people -- most of them alumni of the university -- worked in every shift, that started at 9am and sometimes went on till 7pm.

The university provided food, and accommodation to those who preferred to stay on campus, and transportation to those who commuted from home, the volunteer said.

However, two others who had worked at the lab, denied to comment, even anonymously, when contacted by this correspondent.

A month after writing to the health ministry stating their capacity to run coronavirus tests, the DU authorities got approval from the ministry on April 27 and started testing samples from May 5.



CONDOLENCE

We, the members of PADMA Group of Converters, express our deepest sorrow at the sad demise of Mr. Abdul Monem, the honorable Managing Director and Chairman of the Abdul Monem Ltd. We remember him with endless respect for the contribution he made for the society and country. We pray to almighty “Allah” to bless his soul, rest in peace. Ameen!

Members of Padma Group of Converters

JS budget session

FROM PAGE 3

The budget session would be as short as possible to avoid the risk of infection.

No other business except for budgetary activities would be done during the upcoming budget session.

The constitution has an obligation to pass the budget before June 30. The rules of procedure also instruct the members of parliament to discuss the proposed budget.

The budget session will begin on June 10 while Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal will place the national budget for 2020-21 fiscal on the following day.

On April 18, the seventh session of parliament continued for only an hour, the shortest ever parliament session.

At the beginning of it, the Speaker said the 11th parliament went into seventh session amid outbreak of Covid-19 due to

constitutional obligation.

She said according to the constitution there can be a maximum of 60 days' gap between the end of a session and the beginning of the next one.

MEDIA REQUESTED TO COVER THRU' LIVE TELECAST

The parliament secretariat yesterday at a press release requested all media outlets to cover the budget session through live telecast of Sangsad Television instead of coming to parliament.

It further said no pass will be issued to journalists to cover the budget session this time around, in light of the coronavirus situation.

However, one reporter from each media outlet will be able to collect budgetary documents from the media centre, situated outside the parliament building.

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দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পত্র নং-৫৮.০৪.০৪০০.০৮৮.০৪.০০২.২০-৬৮০(২)	তারিখঃ ২০/০৫/২০২০খ্রিঃ
১. মহাপ্রাপ্ত/বিদায়	১. স্বপ্নিত মহাপ্রাপ্ত।
২. এসে/সেহা	২. কারা অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।
৩. মহাপ্রাপ্তের সন্তান নাম	৩. জেলা সুপার, গাজীপুর জেলা কারাগার।
৪. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম	৪. গাজীপুর জেলা কারাগারের ০১/০৭/২০২০ হতে ০১/১২/২০২০খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত সিদ্ধি প্রকার খাদ্যদ্রব্য সরবরাহের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি।
৫. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম	৫. সিডি-০১/২০২০।
৬. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ	৬. কারা উপ-মহাপ্রাপ্ত, ঢাকা বিভাগ, ঢাকা সদর দপ্তর নং- ৫৮.০৪.০৪০০.০৪৩.০৪.০১১.২০২০-২১৪(১৮), তারিখঃ ০৬/০৫/২০২০খ্রিঃ।
৭. টেন্ডার সিডি/সিডি	৭. সিডি প্রকার খাদ্যদ্রব্য গ্রন্থ "ক" = ১.০০.০০০/- গ্রন্থ "খ" = ১.২০.০০০/- গ্রন্থ "গ" = ১.৮০.০০০/- গ্রন্থ "ঘ" = ১.২০.০০০/- গ্রন্থ "ঙ" = ১.০০.০০০/-
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৯. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ	৯. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ।
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১১. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ	১১. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ।
১২. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ	১২. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ।
১৩. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ	১৩. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ।
১৪. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ	১৪. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ।
১৫. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ	১৫. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ।
১৬. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ	১৬. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ।
১৭. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ	১৭. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ।
১৮. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ	১৮. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ।
১৯. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ	১৯. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ।
২০. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ	২০. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ।
২১. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ	২১. মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ।

মোঃ মোহাম্মদ আলম
ফোনঃ ০২৪৮৮৯০০২৩
জেল সুপার
গাজীপুর জেলা কারাগার

Petition seeks

FROM PAGE 3

contradictory to the fundamental rights of the people and also illegal.

The government on Sunday issued a gazette notification increasing fares of all buses, including the inter-district ones, by 60 percent as the vehicles are allowed to carry half passengers of the total seats to maintain physical distance amid the Covid-19 outbreak.

The gazette notification said the fares of buses and minibuses on long routes will be increased by 60 percent on the existing rate (Tk 1.42 per kilometre).

Kuwait

FROM PAGE 3

Arab Times sources indicated that those companies obtained huge sum of money from poor Bangladeshi workers. However, their salary does not exceed 70 dinars.

The sources revealed that the officials of those companies, despite receiving huge amounts for bringing in the workers, exploited the workers by not paying full monthly salaries.

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It came to our attention that some dishonest companies are trying to sell our disinfectant tunnel by using SQUARE's brand name SQUARE InformatiX Ltd. We don't have any reseller or distributor for this product. To buy authentic disinfectant tunnel please contact:

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Tamim Iqbal

FROM PAGE 3

communities that need our support."

While working as the National Goodwill Ambassador, Tamim will have the opportunity to see first-hand how WFP, in support of the government, is working to reach Zero Hunger.

Tamim will raise awareness about WFP programmes in 64 districts, covering school feeding, nutrition, livelihoods, and refugee operations in Cox's Bazar.

"As an accomplished athlete, beloved by many both inside and outside Bangladesh, Tamim brings with him not only his popularity and reach, but his incredible work ethic, compassion and humanitarian spirit," says Richard Ragan, country representative and director of WFP Bangladesh.

WFP has been working in Bangladesh since 1974 and has helped more than 155 million vulnerable and food-insecure people. In 2019, WFP assisted more than 1.7 million people in the country.



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- All documents will be verified after the present situation stabilizes. If any false information is detected, the admission will be cancelled and deposited fees will be forfeited.
- Detailed application procedure and other information are available in the University Website (<http://admission.aust.edu/>).

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স্মারক নং-০৫.৪৩.৭৬০০.০১২.০৭.০০২.২০-৪২৭

তারিখঃ ১৯ জুলাই ১৪২৭/০২ জুন ২০২০

সীমিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০১/২০১৯-২০ (LTM Goods)

ক্রম	বিবরণ	জিআর বিবরণ
০১.	মহাপ্রাপ্ত/বিদায়	স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ, স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মহাপ্রাপ্ত, ঢাকা।
০২.	এসে/সেহা	জেলা প্রশাসক, পাবনা।
০৩.	মহাপ্রাপ্তের সন্তান নাম	স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগের ইউপি-২ শাখার ০৫/৮/২০১৯ তারিখের ৪৬/০০.০০০০. ০১৮.০২.০০১.১৭ (অংশ ১)-৩৩৮ নং স্মারক।
০৪.	মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ	নম্বর ০১/২০১৯-২০২০ তারিখঃ ০২-০৬-২০২০খ্রিঃ।
০৫.	মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ	সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (LTM-Goods)
০৬.	মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ	সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (LTM-Goods)
০৭.	মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ	সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (LTM-Goods)
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১১.	মহাপ্রাপ্তের নাম ও তারিখ	সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (LTM-Goods)
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জেলা প্রশাসক
পাবনা
ফোনঃ ০১৭১-৬৪৮৮৩ (স্বঃ)
email: dcpabna@pabna.gov.bd



Farmers bring boatloads of paddy after harvesting from a flooded field in Chatmohar upazila of Pabna.

PHOTO: STAR

Farmers worried as rainwater floods Boro fields in harvesting period

STAR COUNTRY DESK

The torrential rain during the last couple of days submerged paddies in low lying areas of different districts including Tangail, Pabna and Sirajganj.

Flooding due to overflowing of rain-fed rivers hampers harvesting of Boro paddy in different places in Tangail, reports our correspondent.

Shortage of labourers adds to the problem while many of the farmers who have already harvested the crop cannot dry it due wet weather.

Boro was cultivated on 1,69,529 hectares of land in 12 upazilas of Tangail this year with a target to produce 6,58,857 tonnes of rice, said officials of the Department of Agriculture Extension.

The district saw a bumper yield of the crop and around 65 percent of it was harvested till Saturday, they said.

But the paddies in large area were submerged due to heavy rain as well as overflow of the waterbodies in several upazilas including Basail, Mirzapur and Sadar.

Moreover, til (oil seed) on 2050 hectares, jute on 1600 hectares and Aush paddy on 40 hectares of land went under water in Bhuapur upazila.

Ripe and half ripe Boro paddy on about 75 hectares of land submerged at Tholpara, Boinnatoly, Govindapur and Sutanory villages in Fotepur union of Mirzapur upazila due to rise water in the Banshai river and its branches, locals said.

Many of the farmers along with their family members are harvesting the crop from the water and taking these by boats.

“I along with my family members have started cutting the submerged paddy plants of

my field. However, it will not be possible to reap all the crop of the field,” said Israil Hossain of Tholpara village.

Besides, ripe and half ripe Boro paddy of vast lands at Budhirpara, Mondirpara and Paharpur villages in Mirzapur and different villages including Kanchanpur, Basulia, Poulee, Moteshwar, Singardak and Jutuki in Basail upazila submerged due to heavy rain, local sources said.

Shariful Islam, a sub-assistant agriculture officer of the DAE in Tangail, said they have started getting information from the upazila offices about the submerged Boro paddies.

Our Pabna Correspondent reports: The huge waterlogging due to weeklong rain after the onslaught of super cyclone Amphan hampers harvesting in the peak period.

“I have bumper yield of paddy on 20 bigha land in Khalishagari beel, a part of the vast Chalanbeel in Dhulauri-Beluri Mouja, but I won’t be able to reap all the crop as the field submerged a week before start of the harvest,” said Abu Sayeed, a farmer of Dhulauri village in Pabna’s Chatmohar upazila.

“I have managed more workers from different areas for additional charge to harvest paddy in the waterlogged field within a couple of days,” said Taijul Islam, another farmer of the area.

Most of the farmers of Chalanbeel area in Chatmohar upazila cultivate paddy a bit late after harvesting mustard and so, the reaping of the paddy gets delayed too, said Masum Billah, upazila agriculture officer.

The incessant rain during the last few days led to the rise of water level in the river, which caused huge waterlogging in the vast waterbody.

A similar picture is found in Kukragari Beel,

Diksheer Beel, Chiroil Beel, Dholar Beel, Jial Beel and other parts of Chalanbeel region in Pabna.

Most of the growers are harvesting paddy in a hurry in a bid to recover at least the production cost.

Farmers of Vangura upazila of Chalanbeel region made earthen embankment in Char Vangura area on Saturday to save their hundreds of acres of paddy fields.

Md Azhar Ali, deputy director of Pabna DAE, said 51,313 hectares of land was brought under Boro cultivation in the district this season and 61 percent of the crop has already been harvested.

“Sudden flooding due to the days-long raining after the hit by super cyclone Amphan and the increase of water in the Jamuna submerged most of the Chalanbeel areas. Hopefully the water will subside within next few days,” he said.

Meanwhile, the problem of the farmers of Chalanbeel in Sirajganj is even more as the water level has rapidly increased in the mighty Jamuna and overflowed low-lying areas and the waterbodies in the district.

“I am worried about recovering the production cost of Boro paddy as a large portion of the crop got damaged due to the waterlogging,” said Md Mozammel Haque of Nischintopur village in Sirajganj’s Kazipur upazila.

A total of 1.41 lakh hectares of land was brought under Boro cultivation this year, of them 71 percent was harvested last week, Md Habibul Haque, deputy director of DAE in Sirajganj, told The Daily Star.

The sudden rise of water level will not do much harm as the farmers have continued harvesting in water, he said.

Human chain protesting case against Prothom Alo journo

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Journalists formed a human chain in front of Baufal Press Club on Sunday protesting filing of local Jubo League activist Taposh Kumar murder case against ABM Mizanur Rahman, Baufal correspondent of Prothom Alo.

Journalists Jitendra Nath Roy, Kamruzzaman Bachchu, Jasim Uddin and Mizan’s father Abdus Salam and son Affan, among others, took part in the human chain. Mizan, now an executive member of the running executive committee, was the general secretary of the press club for two times.

The speakers at the programme strongly protested the case filed against Mizan with the intention to harass him.

Most of the journalists have been intimidated by a quarter for not participating in the human chain, they alleged.

Kamruzzaman Bachchu, general secretary of Baufal Press Club, said Mizan was not present in the beginning of the incident.

“Mizan arrived at the spot after receiving phone calls from several journalists including me. Mizan was performing his professional duties with us, but he has

been accused in the murder case. It is very sad,” said Bachchu.

Bachchu also demanded immediate withdrawal of the case against Mizan.

Mizan’s father Abdus Salam Mia, a retired government officer, said “My son is being harassed repeatedly for doing reports on various irregularities in newspapers.”

Earlier, his son was charged in six cases including those for extortion and robbery, but later all the cases were proved false, said Salam.

On May 24, on the eve of Eid, Taposh Kumar was killed in a clash between two factions of ruling Awami League (AL) over erection of a pylon with the health guidelines of the prime minister to prevent the spread of coronavirus at the empty space on the road in front of Zila Parishad Dakbhanglo.

The following day, Pankaj Chandra Das, elder brother of the deceased, filed a murder case against 35 people including mayor of Baufal municipality and also joint general secretary of the district AL Ziaul Haque Jewel and journalist Mizanur Rahman. Mizanur is the 20th accused in the case.

Simon, an accused of the case, has been arrested, police said.



Journalists formed a human chain in front of Baufal Press Club in Patuakhali on Sunday protesting filing of a murder case against ABM Mizanur Rahman, Baufal correspondent of Prothom Alo.

PHOTO: STAR

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশন

হোসাইন টাওয়ার (১২ তলা)

বীরপ্রতীক গাজী গোলাম দস্তগীর রোড

১১৬, নয়া পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০

www.nrccb.gov.bd

নং-১৮.২০.০০০০.০১৮.২৬.০০২.২০২০-২৮৪

তারিখঃ ১৮ জ্যৈষ্ঠ ১৪২৭

০১ জুন ২০২০

সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতির আওতায় গাড়ি মেরামতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তকরণের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সীমিত দরপত্র পদ্ধতির আওতায় গাড়ি মেরামতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তকরণের নিমিত্ত গত ২২/৩/২০২০ তারিখ ২৫৬ সংখ্যক মূলে অগ্রহপত্র/প্রস্তাব আহ্বান করা হয়েছিল। দেশে করোনা ভাইরাসের বিস্তৃতি রোধকল্পে গত ২৬/৩/২০২০ থেকে ৩০/৫/২০২০ তারিখ পর্যন্ত সরকার সাধারণ ছুটি ঘোষণা করেছিল। কিন্তু কমিশনে অগ্রহপত্র/প্রস্তাব দাখিলের শেষ দিন ৫/৪/২০২০ তারিখ উল্লেখ করে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রচার করা হয়েছে। অগ্রহপত্র/প্রস্তাব দাখিলের বিষয়টি প্রতিযোগিতামূলক এবং জনস্বাস্থ্যের জন্য সতর্কতামূলক বিবেচনায় আগামী ১৫ (পনের) দিন অর্থাৎ ১৬/৬/২০২০ তারিখ পর্যন্ত কমিশনে অগ্রহপত্র/প্রস্তাব দাখিলের সময়সীমা নির্দেশক্রমে বৃদ্ধি করা হলো।

২। সকলকে অবহিতির জন্য।

মাহমুদুল হাসান

সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশাসন ও অর্থ)

জিডি-৯১১

দুরালাপাণীঃ ৫৮৩১৬৭০৫

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান অ্যাভিয়েশন অ্যান্ড অ্যারোস্পেস বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

পুরাতন বিমানবন্দর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস, ঢাকা-১২১৫।

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

No: BSMRAAU/Regi/163/2020/85

Date: 02 June 2020

Ministry / Division	Ministry of Education				
Procuring entity name	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation and Aerospace University (BSMRAAU)				
Procuring Entity District	Dhaka, Bangladesh				
Tender Invitation For	Procurement of All-In-One Computer for BSMRAAU				
Invitation Reference No	BSMRAAU Open Tender No: OTM-06/2019-2020				
Date	02 June 2020				
KEY INFORMATION					
Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (National)				
FUNDING INFORMATION					
Budget and Source of Funds	Government of Bangladesh				
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
Tender Last Selling Date & Time	15 June 2020; 16:00 PM				
Tender Submission Date and Time	16 June 2020; 12:30 PM				
Tender Opening Date and Time	16 June 2020; 01:00 PM				
Name & address of the office selling, receiving and opening tender document:					
Registrar office, BSMRAAU, Old Airport Building, Dhaka-1215					
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
Eligibility of Tenderer	The Tenderer must possess a valid trade license, updated VAT and TAX certificate, up-to-date bank solvency and other documents as per tender document.				
Lot No	Item Description	Quantity	Location	Tender Security	Completion Time
Single Lot	All-In-One PC	26	BSMRAAU	2% of the quoted price by the bidder	Within 10 days after awarding Purchase Order/Contract
Tender Document Price		Tk 800.00 (Taka Eight Hundred Only) in the form of pay order / bank draft (non-refundable) from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation and Aerospace University (BSMRAAU).			
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
Name Designation of Official Involving		Registrar, BSMR Aviation and Aerospace University, Bangladesh			
Contact Details		Tel No: 55065054		Web: www.bsmraau.edu.bd	
Official Inviting Tender		Mobile: 01769995060		Email: procurement@bsmraau.edu.bd	
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.					

Procurement Section

BSMRAAU

GD- 915

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান অ্যাভিয়েশন অ্যান্ড অ্যারোস্পেস বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

পুরাতন বিমানবন্দর, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস, ঢাকা-১২১৫।

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

No: BSMRAAU/Regi/163/2020/86

Date: 02 June 2020

Ministry / Division	Ministry of Education				
Procuring entity name	Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation and Aerospace University (BSMRAAU)				
Procuring Entity District	Dhaka, Bangladesh				
Tender Invitation For	Procurement of Photocopy Machines for BSMRAAU				
Invitation Reference No	BSMRAAU Open Tender No: OTM-05/2019-2020				
Date	02 June 2020				
KEY INFORMATION					
Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (National)				
FUNDING INFORMATION					
Budget and Source of Funds	Government of Bangladesh				
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
Tender Last Selling Date & Time	15 June 2020; 16:00 PM				
Tender Submission Date and Time	16 June 2020; 02:30 PM				
Tender Opening Date and Time	16 June 2020; 03:00 PM				
Name & address of the office selling, receiving and opening tender document:					
Registrar office, BSMRAAU, Old Airport Building, Dhaka-1215					
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
Eligibility of Tenderer	The Tenderer must possess a valid trade license, updated VAT and TAX certificate, up-to-date bank solvency and other criteria as per tender document.				
Lot No	Item Description	Quantity	Location	Tender Security	Completion Time
Lot-1	Photocopy Machine (Heavy Duty)	01	BSMRAAU	2% of the quoted price by the bidder	Within 10 days after awarding Purchase Order/Contract
Lot-2	Photocopy Machine	02			
Tender Document Price		Tk 500.00 (Taka Five Hundred Only) in the form of pay order / bank draft (non-refundable) from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Aviation and Aerospace University (BSMRAAU).			
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
Name Designation of Official Involving		Registrar, BSMR Aviation and Aerospace University, Bangladesh			
Contact Details		Tel No: 55065054		Web: www.bsmraau.edu.bd	
Official Inviting Tender		Mobile: 01769995060		Email: procurement@bsmraau.edu.bd	
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.					

Procurement Section

BSMRAAU

GD- 916



গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়
ডিটেকটিভ ট্রেনিং স্কুল, সিআইডি, ঢাকা

উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়	অগ্নি মন্ত্রণালয়।
২.	এজেন্সি	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।
৩.	সম্বোধকারী সত্তার নাম	কমান্ড্যান্ট (অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি), ডিটিএস, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, সিআইডি, ঢাকা।
৪.	বিজ্ঞপ্তির উদ্দেশ্য	দরপত্র
৫.	দরপত্রের স্মারক নম্বর	ডিটিএস/অংশ-০৭-২০১৮/১৩৫৬
৬.	তারিখ	৩১-০৫-২০২০খ্রিঃ
প্রধান তথ্যঃ		
৭.	সংঘের পদ্ধতি	এনসিটি (ছানীয়)
		উন্মুক্ত
বাজেট তথ্যঃ		
৮.	বাজেট ও অর্থের উৎস	রাজস্ব বাজেট (জিওবি)।
বিশেষ তথ্যঃ		
৯.	টেন্ডার প্যাকেজ নং	ডিটিএস/অংশ-০৭-২০২০/০১
১০.	টেন্ডার প্যাকেজ নাম	বিবিধ মালামাল, কম্পিউটার ও অফিস সামগ্রী, কম্পিউটার যন্ত্রাংশ, প্রশিক্ষণ সামগ্রী।
১১.	টেন্ডার প্রকাশের তারিখ	০২-০৬-২০২০খ্রিঃ
১২.	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	২২-০৬-২০২০খ্রিঃ
১৩.	টেন্ডার গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখঃ ২৫-০৬-২০২০খ্রিঃ
		সময়ঃ ১২.০০
১৪.	টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখঃ ২৫-০৬-২০২০খ্রিঃ
		সময়ঃ ১৩.৩০
প্রি-টেন্ডার মিটিং		
১৫.	অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	ঠিকানাঃ
	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট বিক্রয়	০১) বিশেষ পুলিশ সুপার (প্রশাসন), বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, সিআইডি, ঢাকা। ০২) বিশেষ পুলিশ সুপার (প্রশাসন), বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, এসবি, ঢাকা। ০৩) অতিরিক্ত পুলিশ সুপার (প্রশাসন), ডিটেকটিভ ট্রেনিং স্কুল, সিআইডি, ঢাকা (অফিস চলাকালীন সময় নির্ধারিত দরপত্র মূল্য নথিতে পরিবেশের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র ক্রয় করা যাবে)।
	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট গ্রহণ	ডিটেকটিভ ট্রেনিং স্কুল এর ভবন, সিআইডি, রাজারবাগ, ঢাকা-১২১৭।
	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট খোলা	ডিটেকটিভ ট্রেনিং স্কুল এর ভবন, সিআইডি, রাজারবাগ, ঢাকা-১২১৭।
দরদাতা জন্ম তথ্যঃ		
১৬.	দরদাতার ঘোষণা	বৈধ ট্রেন্ড লাইসেন্সধারী, অর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতা, আয়করদাতা, চুক্তি সম্পাদনের সমর্থ, দক্ষ কর্মী ও সরঞ্জামাদি সম্বলিত, ব্যাংক হতে লেটলিয়া খোঁজিত নয় এমন দরদাতা এবং অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্ট মোতাবেক।
১৭.	মালামাল ও কাজের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ	বিবিধ মালামাল, কম্পিউটার ও অফিস সামগ্রী, কম্পিউটার যন্ত্রাংশ, প্রশিক্ষণ সামগ্রী।
১৮.	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টের মূল্য ও ধরণ	প্রতি লট ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত টাকা) নগদ মুদ্রা ক্রয় করা যাবে (অফেরতযোগ্য)।
১৯.	নিরাপত্তা জামানতের ধরণ	বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের তফসিলভুক্ত যে কোন বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হতে জারিকৃত অপরিবর্তনীয় ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি।
লট তথ্যঃ		
২০.	লট-এর পরিচিতি	সরবরাহ ও কাজের স্থান
	লট নং-০১) বিবিধ মালামাল	ডিটেকটিভ ট্রেনিং স্কুল এর ভবন, সিআইডি, রাজারবাগ, ঢাকা-১২১৭
	লট নং-০২) কম্পিউটার ও অফিস সামগ্রী	ঐ
	লট নং-০৩) কম্পিউটার যন্ত্রাংশ	ঐ
	লট নং-০৪) প্রশিক্ষণ সামগ্রী	ঐ
		নিরাপত্তা জামানতের পরিমাণ
		সরবরাহ ও কাজ সম্পন্ন করার সময়
		১,০০,০০০/-
		২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ সন পর্যন্ত
		২৫,০০০/-
		২৫,০০০/-
		১,০০,০০০/-
		ঐ
সম্বোধকারী সত্তা বিবরণীঃ		
২১.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী অফিসারের নাম	মোঃ শাহাদাত হোসেন, বিপিএম।
২২.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী অফিসারের পদবী	কমান্ড্যান্ট (অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি)।
২৩.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী অফিসারের ঠিকানা	ডিটেকটিভ ট্রেনিং স্কুল, বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, সিআইডি, ঢাকা।
২৪.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী অফিসারের ফোন, ফ্যাক্স ও ই-মেইল	ফোনঃ ৯৩৩৯৮৭৪ ফ্যাক্স নং-৯৩৩৯৮৩৬৫ ই-মেইলঃ comdts@police.gov.bd
২৫.	মন্তব্য	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন/কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোঃ শাহাদাত হোসেন, বিপিএম-সেবা
 কমান্ড্যান্ট (অতিরিক্ত ডিআইজি)
 বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
 ডিটেকটিভ ট্রেনিং স্কুল, সিআইডি, ঢাকা
 ফোন নম্বর-৯৩৩৯৮৭৪

ডিডি-৯১০

LAW VISION

Promoting local innovation for public health

TASLIMA JAHAN AND IMTIAZ AHMED SAJAL

WITH the coronavirus crisis going on, the world is undergoing rapid transformation and multidimensional changes in the discourse of global politics and governance. Within weeks and months Covid-19 unfolded the unequal, insufficient and fragile system of public health of a number of developed and developing countries. Similarly, it also unearths major causes like the absence of agro-ecological development trend ignored in whole process of industrial development. Under the breakdown of economy most of the governments are now looking back to the management of health rights and food safety to meet secure health of their citizens. Now, at this moment of global epidemic, we have to rethink our development model and strategy that we have followed in the course



achieving public policy objectives. Thus, Bangladesh needs to take cautious approach in legal and policy development of intellectual property rights that might be conducive to human rights, social welfare and economic growth. In ongoing transition process Bangladesh has already enacted laws for Copyrights, Trademark, Geographical Indications, Plant Varieties Protection as well as progressing Patent Act according to the standard of TRIPS Agreement. In compliance with the WTO's trade rules and particularly TRIPS, Bangladesh has to provide indiscriminate national treatment protection to each and every foreign party in trade of intellectual property. Besides that, except in pharmaceutical product (ten years waiver up to 2033) Bangladesh will be exempted from the benefit of Article 66 of TRIPS from 2024 on its graduation from the least developed country to a developing country. It means once Bangladesh is promoted, it will lose the right to access to any patented

technology and know-how cooperation from the developed countries to create the base of own technology and development in hand. Now question arises how much our local public and private stakeholders, enterprises of technology are sure about the creation of sound and viable local technological base within next few years, adequate to run independently despite foreign aid or technical assistance? As for now, we are very pleased with our local technology: Walton showed capabilities on production of ventilator as well our pharmaceutical (Beximco, Beacon, Incepta) are supplying drugs using knowledge and technology of Gilead for Remdisivir and Fuji for Avigan drugs. But question arises how much our local pharmaceutical and technology based industries are capable to produce and supply drug or any necessary product independently without interference of foreign technical knowledge? It is alarming that most of our private enterprises depending on technology are not aware

about intellectual property rights on patented products or processes. In post-graduation, Bangladesh has to facilitate patent protection to patent owner which will restrict any third parties to sell, use, produce, reproduce, import or export any patented product or process (TRIPS, Article 28) in absence of permission or license from the Patent Owners. Again, the question comes as to how much our local industries are getting smart to bargain specially in terms of economic cost to pay for license from global corporations or patent owners. Another point is that, Patent has to be given indiscriminately for any technological advancement in any product which is novel, having inventive step and industrial applicability according to TRIPS (Article 27). As for post 1970 most of the developed countries granted patents in biotechnology-based products (medicine, seeds) occurred on plants and animals. Bangladesh has obligation as well as flexibilities in determining what and which subject of bio-invention will be patented and what invention will be incentivised to trigger our development. With the severity of health and food crisis ahead, Bangladesh cautiously got permission to reproduce drugs to face coronavirus. For now, it requires concerns from the government agencies, policy makers, local industries, market regulators and civil society members to come together on inclusion of TRIPS in Bangladesh. To get access to technology, Bangladesh will get additional five years transitional period up to enforcement of Patent Act. Like our neighboring India introduced product patent in 2005 with different amendment on subject-matter of patent. Before the necessary changes Bangladesh should use the flexibilities open under Articles 7, 8 and 66 of TRIPS Agreement. Bangladesh should adopt eco-friendly technology that might protect our bio-diversity, public interest along with continuous productive capacity of research,

education and maximum knowledge sharing among local industries as they become self-reliant in development of future technology. In our practice, innovation leading research is negligible and most of the technologies are locked in foreign knowledge. To that case, Bangladesh can take resort of "WTO forum for Global Technology Pool for Climate Change" arranged for developing countries as to avail effective technology transfer from developed countries. Moreover, as per the provision of Article 66, we need to monitor and assess whether our local industries are getting access to knowledge and skill which is adequate in mode for carrying out the existing invention, know-how, technology used through skillful local adoption in continuance of reproduction, sale and export of developed product. Another separate but important point is, our agriculture is carrying 8-10% GDP in a year and booming on dependent technologies. Plant bio-diversity and immense traditional knowledge conserved in indigenous seeds variety, plants and farming methods are as of yet unprotected for open exploitation by different local and foreign corporations. To break the dependency, for food sovereignty and health, Bangladesh immediately needs to develop mass awareness and enact necessary laws supportive to protect local innovation related to bio-diversity through local community- farmers. It also needs to disburse knowledge and sharing about intellectual property knowledge in each level of education as to future innovation, research and entrepreneurship to combat with intellectual property rights that might be friendly for our nature, society and economy.

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Bangladesh should adopt eco-friendly technology that might protect our bio-diversity, public interest along with continuous productive capacity of research, education and maximum knowledge sharing among local industries.

of our development endeavours, and how far those policy measures are fit for the large number of people in Bangladesh. Coming to the point of regulatory regime of intellectual property rights- the real impact and extent of which for the common people is far beyond our imagination. Under the Trade Related Aspect of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, WTO members have substantial scope to tailor their procedures to intellectual property protection and enforcement in accommodating their priorities and

RIGHTS MONITOR

To protect rights of the consumers during pandemic

MD MUSTAKIMUR RAHMAN

In a country like Bangladesh, we often see businessmen illegally making profits by using various techniques of syndicate during specific incidents/occasions such as holy Ramadan, Eid, Puja, Christmas, flood, heavy rain, etc. To make such kind of profits, sometimes the capitalists create an artificial crisis in the retail market by stocking the goods on a large scale. Consequently, consumers face numerous challenges to meet up their needs. This artificial crisis of goods is not new to us and the general people of Bangladesh are living with this dilemma since the inception of the country. To overcome this predicament, in 2009, the government of Bangladesh has enacted the Consumer Rights Protection Act (CRPA) and since the establishment of this Act, the government is providing their limited logistic support and human resource to execute the Act appropriately and consistently. For example, it is very common to see the executive magistrates are imposing a limited amount of fine against the unlawful activities of the manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, or somebody, else. Considering the activities of the mobile court, it is to observe how the big fishes are dealing with the limited amount of fine and the CRPA. As of section 38 of the CRPA, a person shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 1 (one) year, or with fine not exceeding Taka 50 (fifty) thousand, or with both for not showing the price list of the goods. Similarly, the mobile court may impose fine of not more than 50 thousand taka for selling or offer to sell any goods, medicine, or service at a price higher than the price fixed under any Act or Rules, states section 40 of the CRPA. The main purpose of imposing fine is to prevent the wrongdoers from doing unlawful activities, but the question is whether this limited financial penalty can change the behaviour of the wrongdoers or not? Based on the practices, it seems that for a wholesaler or importer, it is not a big deal to pay 50 thousand taka as fine as far as he/she does not have to go to prison. Thus, an importer or a wholesaler is pleased to pay fine again and again rather than to change their inhuman habit to cheat with the general people. As a result, it became a common habit of paying fine, and in return, the people are suffering continuously. Along with many past incidents, we are yet to forget the synthetic onion crisis of 2019 created by some unscrupulous businessmen. Nonetheless, the crisis that we have faced



last year was in peacetime; but during this Covid-19 pandemic, while the whole nation is fighting against the unseen virus, some unethical businessmen are taking advantage of this vulnerable situation. To counter this crunch, many executive magistrates are trying to find out the culprits and imposing fine under the CRPA for their involvement in illegal businesses. Nevertheless, it seems that the CRPA itself is not enough to fight against the culprits during this coronavirus crisis. Thus, we may need to think of other related laws which can impose some form of harsh punishments to prevent the businessmen from doing illegal businesses in this intense situation. The Special Powers Act is one such law. Section 25(1) of the Act defines the offence of hoarding or dealing in the black-market, which is punishable with death, or with imprisonment for life, or with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to fourteen years, and fine. However, if the person accused of such offence proves that he was hoarding for purposes other than gain, whether financial or otherwise, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, and shall also be liable to fine. Moreover, under section 25(C) of the Special Powers Act, a person shall be punishable for adulteration of, or sale of adulterated food, drink, drugs which may extend to five years of imprisonment and shall also be liable to fine, whereas, the same offence has lesser punishment under section 41 of the CRPA 2009 which may extend to 3 years of imprisonment or with fine not exceeding Taka 2 (two) lacs, or with both. In legal jurisprudence, there are several aspects of punishment and one of the aspects under deterrent theory is not only to prevent the wrongdoer from doing the offence again but also to make the culprit as an example for others who have similar tendencies to do offences. Thus, sometimes we need to impose some form of harsh punishment so that others may take a lesson. Considering the current scenario of Bangladesh, we may think of applying the Special Powers Act along with the CRPA to control the market during this coronavirus outbreak. No matter what, during this pandemic, the government should not let any syndicate regulate the market which creates an artificial crisis in the market.

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RIGHTS WATCH

Covid-19 and State's obligation to safeguard human rights

RAMISA JAHAN

WITH the outbreak of the Covid-19 and the declaration of a global pandemic, nations worldwide have taken unprecedented and unconventional measures with the aim to contain the virus and fortuitously, declared both international and intra-national lockdowns, and asking citizens to self-isolate and to maintain social distancing at all times. Although this lockdown has proved to be effectual, it has also surfaced the divergence between the upper and lower class of the society. Globally, it has hit hard on the daily wage earners, poor and needy class of the society. Among many other fundamental rights that an individual is entitled to, this pandemic and the incidental lockdown has resulted in such rights being compromised. The first and foremost right relates to the right to housing, which is enshrined in article 15 of the Bangladesh Constitution. Internationally, the right is recognised under article 25 (1) of the UDHR, and article 11 (1) of the ICESCR. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights states that, state parties have the obligations to take steps such as abstaining from forced evictions, devising national housing strategy, monitoring the implementation of the right. In making law or policy, the states are also obliged to give due priority to those living in unfavourable conditions. With the spread of Covid-19, for instance, nations like the United Kingdom have adopted several action plans to provide shelter to the homeless and to protect them from the pandemic. Moreover, in Bangladesh, at a press conference on 23 March 2020, the Cabinet Secretary, stated that the government has built residential and livelihood facilities in Bhashan Char, Noakhali; and people willing to relocate there have been welcomed to avail such facilities. Furthermore, all district administrations were instructed to send people from low-income groups to make use of the island's facilities. For a developing nation like Bangladesh, where still 24% of the population live under poverty line, this initiative of the government has been an applaudable one. However, none from the low-income groups has responded to the government offer. Inevitably, ensuring access to other basic necessities such as food, clean water, sanitation is also crucial during this difficult time. In Bangladesh, approximately 32% of the population work in the informal sector and majority of whom are daily wagers and around 4.2% of the population are unemployed. Under such circumstances, approximately



40% of the population struggle to meet their essential needs, which is further worsened by the current hike in unemployment rate. Article 15 of the Constitution requires state to ensure people's access to basic necessities including food, clothing shelter and medical care. Additionally, under International law, article 25 of the UDHR recognises the right, in the context of an adequate standard of living, also recognised by the ICESCR under article 11(1). Once again, it is worth mentioning the appreciable steps taken specially in allocating substantial amount of funds by the Bangladesh government in order to ensure access for this portion of the population. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced her support for the coronavirus hit workers and the poor by providing a 5,000-crore taka incentive for export-oriented industries that would hopefully be spent to pay wages for workers; also announcing wider safety net measures for low-income and homeless people. Further ensuring that low-income people will receive government assistance under the "Ghore-Fera" (Returning Home) programme. Additionally, as per government's announcement, the homeless and landless will get free housing, food for six months as well as cash support. Meanwhile, the Disaster Management Ministry has initiated the dispatch of 500 tonnes of rice and cash between Taka 5 lacs and Taka 10 lacs to all the district administrations. Unfortunately, there have incidents of such aid not reaching the affected population due to corrupt local representatives; but it can be expected that with effective delivery mechanisms the situation will be developed as the lockdown progresses. Another basic right which has come to forefront is the right to health and medical care. article 18 (1) of the Constitution recognises this right, also recognised in the 1966 ICESCR. As the percentage of Covid-19 positive

cases continue to rise exponentially, the demand for adequate and well-equipped health care organisations is more important than ever. In this regard, the government has announced to allocate Taka 1.0 billion for government physicians and health workers treating Covid-19 patients, Taka 7.5 billion for health and life insurance for those affected while on duty. Furthermore, in order to ensure adequate facilities for coronavirus patients, more than eight hospitals have been designated, in the capital. Other than this, treatment centres and testing centres are also made available in every division and major districts. Notwithstanding, there have been reports of the hospitals lacking sufficient personal protection equipment (PPE) for physicians and nurses and shortage of intensive care unit (ICU) and ventilators facilities. Hence, there is still need for more investment in the healthcare sector. It is apparent that, the Covid-19 pandemic has brought about certain unprecedented developments in the way governments including that of Bangladesh are ensuring the basic fundamental rights. The nature of the pandemic has obligated nations worldwide to take initiatives ensuring these basic human rights if they are to curb the long-term consequences of the pandemic. There is an abrupt change in the approach of the government, who generally show reluctance in addressing human rights issues but are now taking all the apt measures in their capacity. Whilst their relentless and unprecedented efforts in providing shelter, food and other essentials, hence, ensuring the fundamental rights of all citizens, during these unprecedented times is commendable, the question arises - do the statutes and charters ensuring fundamental rights only warrant implementation during a pandemic or when there is a greater need to sustain the world or the whole country?

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Minority and ethnic communities attacked during lockdown

Their security is the state and society's responsibility

IT is shocking that while the whole nation is grappling with a pandemic, there has been a consistent trend of human rights abuses. Sixteen noted citizens have demanded justice for the incidents of attacks on minority communities, violence against women, land grabbing, harassment of common people and torture of journalists, which happened during the coronavirus pandemic in the country. In particular, they have highlighted the incidents of violence, harassment and human rights deprivation of minority communities.

Referring to media reports and different social organisations, the group found at least 30 incidents of violence against members of minority communities, which took place in April and May amid the shutdown. Homes of minority and ethnic communities have been attacked leaving persons injured; in some cases, land has been grabbed or there have been attempts to do so. Temples have also been vandalised after false rumours of demeaning religion.

On May 15, houses of 10 Hindu families were vandalised and a Hindu youth was arrested on allegations of demeaning religion in Bhola's Monpura. Two days later, miscreants torched the homestead of Baul Ronesh Thakur, a prominent disciple of Baul Shah Abdul Karim, in Sunamganj's Dera.

These acts cannot go unpunished and legal action must be taken against the perpetrators. These incidents highlight the audacity of individuals in carrying out such crimes even during a nationwide lockdown that had significantly curtailed the movement of most people. It seems these groups of perpetrators enjoy a certain immunity and were not at all concerned about breaking the law. We have seen how these incidents have played out in previous occasions, with law enforcement and local administration being ineffectual, and at times indifferent, about preventing such attacks. As a rule, minority communities and ethnic groups have been targeted, taking advantage of their vulnerable status. During the lockdown, this vulnerability was intensified. It is therefore up to the respective thanas where these incidents have occurred to carry out thorough investigations, file cases against the perpetrators and make sure they are punished under law. So far, even in normal circumstances, we have seen very few of these attackers being identified, arrested and punished. This lack of due diligence cannot go on.

Communal harmony is one of our most valued assets as a nation. The government must send a strong message to the public in general that such attacks on these communities will not be tolerated and will not go unpunished. All citizens of this country must be protected by the state and its law enforcement machinery. Police, local administrators as well as the community at large must all work hand in hand to make sure that minority and ethnic communities are protected and feel safe. The message must come from the top leadership.

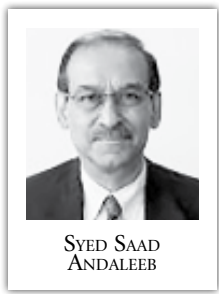
Children of the char are left out of alternative learning

Find innovative ways for them to gain access to education

IN the wake of the ongoing pandemic, education institutions will remain closed nationwide. A report published recently in this daily depicts how the lockdown has affected students living near the char areas of the northern districts. With the gates of the schools shut, the students are deprived of daily lessons. Most parents in the char region don't have the necessary education and expertise to teach their children as a temporary measure.

Before the lockdown, many people on the char benefitted from agricultural development but this is not the case anymore. Amidst the pandemic, the children are either playing in the fields or loitering around their neighbourhoods while their parents are busy trying to source food and make ends meet. We are concerned that this lack of schooling will result in higher dropout rates in the near future. Earlier, the government introduced education through TV for students to help them complete lesson plans, while many schools made similar arrangements online to continue the flow of learning. However, as internet and television networks are poor or nonexistent in island and coastal areas, the children there are miserably deprived of such alternative facilities. To make matters worse, the recent cyclone Amphan damaged many schools in the coastal belt. With schools remaining closed, experts estimate nearly three million children living in the country's char, coastal and low-lying areas might suffer and will not be able to finish their yearly academic syllabus.

Last month, the European Union (EU) transferred EUR 46.125 million to the Bangladesh government to support key national reforms in primary, vocational and technical education sectors. We believe that the government should allocate the fund strategically, especially towards the children in such char areas, where alternative means of education cannot be accessed. The authorities can identify the underprivileged students and find ways to improve their internet access in collaboration with telecom companies. They can further coordinate with experts and implement wide-ranging plans on addressing the long-term impacts of the ongoing crisis. It is important to develop innovative ways to engage these children in learning and make sure they are not falling behind in their studies.



As the deadly Covid-19 virus continues to climb the grisly charts, an intense race is already on, globally, to discover the next vaccine, the next panacea. For many, perplexing questions arise: "What's in it for us?" and "Is this frenzy really about saving lives or is it about the age-old calculus of greed, money, and power?" What does the vaccine really mean for the developing world? Let's try and break it down.

Who will come up with the vaccine?

There are many players in the game, mostly from the financially well-endowed nations with top-class biotech scientists, state-of-the-art research establishments, and reliable institutional oversight. Some players, conducting clinical trials, are poised to announce the news of a discovery.

How does this matter to us? With China and India in the game, developing countries may be rooting for them for two simple reasons: accessibility and price. The key question will be, "Can we trust their products?" If the vaccine is produced by the developed world, their products may be trusted, but are the people behind them trustworthy?

How soon will the vaccine be available?

Early 2021 is a much banded around date. A recent BBC news item suggests earlier availability: "Drugs giant AstraZeneca has announced it is ready

The fast-track approach in some countries has also garnered suspicions that regulatory bodies will be lax in ensuring quality. Thus, trust is of essence, especially if the early batch, couched in altruism, is shipped out to the developing world for testing.



As my students entered the exam hall, their faces were a tad bit more tense than usual. I was nervous myself. I would finally find out whether our efforts to make the course different had been a whopping failure. It was the midterm of our Research Methodology course and these 14 students were our acid tests. I had gone into teaching the course with much excitement and thanks to my co-teacher, we were able to make the changes we wanted. In our education system, even at the university level, memorisation and cramming are, sadly, still the most popular learning strategies. We wanted students to think and learn by thinking. We designed our course in such a way that we would be able to encourage creativity, originality and interactive classes. It was a challenge. I was uncertain how the students would respond and whether this would actually enable them to learn better. Above all, I wanted to get the students to love learning.

As Covid-19 forces us to contemplate university education in terms of online classes and session jams, this may be an eye-opening opportunity for us to strive to improve our education system. While the lack of infrastructure and resources may be an impediment to mobilising online teaching as an alternate route, what worries me more is whether we have the intellectual capacity to make the shift. I find the most pertinent question to be whether how we teach—and how our students learn—is compatible with the change.

When I'd planned that the exam question paper for my course would be case study based so that students would have to think and wouldn't be able to "vomit" their memorised answers onto the answer scripts, I knew that it was my responsibility to train the students for this approach. I couldn't impose a different style of assessment on them without preparing them for it. I had to first learn the right pedagogy and apply it in contrast to the usual pedagogy I myself had been used to as a student.

For online classes, we need to be prepared with much more than just laptops and internet access. Firstly, the online modality would have to be substantially different from the spoon-feeding pedagogy that we are

The Covid-19 vaccine: panacea or enigma?

to provide a potential new coronavirus vaccine from September" to the tune of 400 million doses.

Sceptics charge that companies will be unable to deliver so soon but manipulate information to make gains elsewhere—for example, the stock market! Scientists have also cast doubts about early trials, suggesting that scant data can be unreliable.

If history is any guide, time to market a new drug spans years. Why then should anyone believe the animated claims of an early breakthrough? Perhaps such claims may be intended to divert attention from the daily pall of death and to keep an irate world calm where agitations born of fear and uncertainty are beginning to intensify. If this wrath erupts, another mammoth epidemic of social disorder may be at hand to contain.

Who will benefit from the vaccine?

Ideally, the human race should benefit.

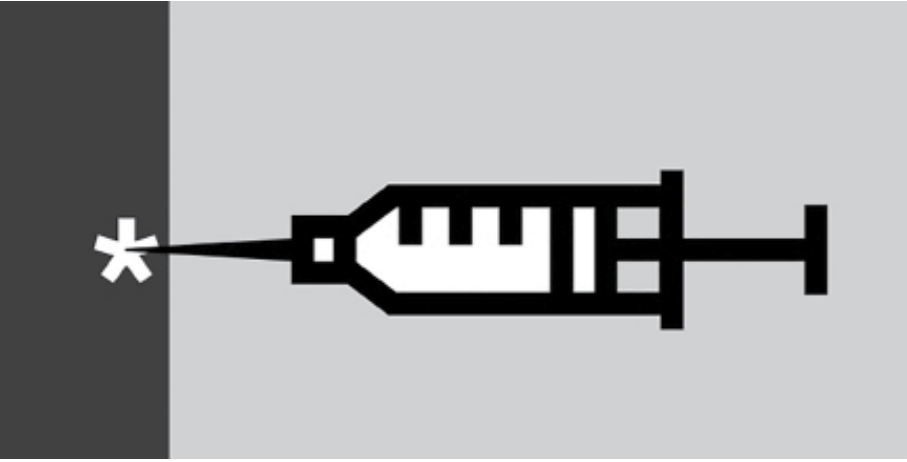


PHOTO: COLLECTED

But let's face it: in the global (and local) order of how lives are valued, some more than others will have priority. To many, some human lives may matter less than other life-forms (does George Floyd ring any bells?). Such audacity is in plain view; but a countervailing resistance to this deplorable attitude can be ominous.

The R&D is also conducted in a limited number of advanced nations; surely they will have first dibs. And while the scientific community invokes the term "global vaccine," national leaders are not likely to be global: their own populations will have to be immunised first. President Trump makes no bones about it: America first.

Moreover, R&D capabilities may be advanced in China and India, but are they likely to be altruistic? China has a population of around 1.3 billion; their focus will undoubtedly be local. India,

if it is able to produce the vaccine, also plans to make it available for its own countrymen first.

Where does that leave the multitude from the developing countries who do not have the expertise, R&D budgets or advanced facilities? With access in serious question, what are their self-preservation options? Masks and social distancing seem to be the only reasonable answers.

What of quality?

Interestingly, there is a growing global reservation about vaccine safety, fuelling the anti-vaxxer movement. In the developing nations, whose people have served as guinea pigs in the past, their concerns are: i) Will the vaccine actually work, given the perceived rush to market? ii) With limited number of trials, in multiple populations, across the world, will the vaccine be effective for all? iii) Will nanochips really be inserted with the vaccine: the global population control

conspiracy theory?

The fast-track approach in some countries has also garnered suspicions that regulatory bodies will be lax in ensuring quality. Thus, trust is of essence, especially if the early batch, couched in altruism, is shipped out to the developing world for testing. One can imagine the virulent backlash if there is a breach of trust.

Who pays and how much?

This question is probably unanswerable at this stage. In the West, however, people with low incomes who lack insurance can get free or low-cost drugs through assistance programmes. Such support programmes do not exist in the developing countries where only the rich can pay the high prices. How will the Covid-19 vaccine be priced: greed-based or solace-driven? Battered by daily survival challenges, the developing world is already wary about

any new price burdens.

Will the knowledge be shared?

Local production will be the key to safeguarding the multitudes in the developing world. But this knowledge is unlikely to be shared—voluntarily and/or altruistically. Only some arcane Faustian bargain may work, bound by straight jacket production contracts and inscrutable deals. But, with big money at stake, and markets to skim, the legal force of patents and the politics of power will surely take precedence. The developing world can only sit and watch from the sidelines.

Some countries are accused of using cyber thieves to steal the knowledge from targeted laboratories. For the developing countries, they simply do not have the craft; even if they did, they would not dare!

Is there the capacity to deliver?

Will there be enough trained healthcare personnel to vaccinate the global population? There will be a huge need for healthcare workers, facilities and training, supplemented by a variety of equipment. How quickly can these resources be marshalled? Are governments even prepared or likely to spend on building such capacity? This, again, places the vaccine out of reach of many.

If the goal is humanitarian, vaccine development will best come about through global cooperation, information sharing and resource pooling. But there are many stakeholders—scientists, companies, investors, lobbyists, regulatory bodies, and the governments themselves. In their clash of interests, the humanitarian goal, if any, will be the first casualty. An unbridled and self-seeking tribalism also casts its dark shadow on the world today, where the prevailing spirit is winner-takes-all.

Again, the poorer nations lose. What then is their fate? I turn to our "so-called" houses of knowledge—the universities and research institutes—that could have carved out frontrunner positions in biotechnology, social sciences and a plethora of related fields. With a presence for decades, some nearing even a century, solutions should have come from them instead of waiting for handouts. But all they have done is vie for professoriates while professing nothing. And the knowledge they fare continues to do little for the people they pretend to empower and protect with illusory solutions.

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To go or not to go online?

As my students entered the exam hall, their faces were a tad bit more tense than usual. I was nervous myself. I would finally find out whether our efforts to make the course different had been a whopping failure. It was the midterm of our Research Methodology course and these 14 students were our acid tests. I had gone into teaching the course with much excitement and thanks to my co-teacher, we were able to make the changes we wanted. In our education system, even at the university level, memorisation and cramming are, sadly, still the most popular learning strategies. We wanted students to think and learn by thinking. We designed our course in such a way that we would be able to encourage creativity, originality and interactive classes. It was a challenge. I was uncertain how the students would respond and whether this would actually enable them to learn better. Above all, I wanted to get the students to love learning.

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For online classes, we need to be prepared with much more than just laptops and internet access. Firstly, the online modality would have to be substantially different from the spoon-feeding pedagogy that we are



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

because the questions are often simply too direct. Giving students assignments as an alternative to exams also has its own problems—plagiarism to begin with.

Sadly, due to our school and college education system having their own flaws, there is perhaps also a lacking in students' skills—simply writing two paragraphs in English on their own may be a struggle for many. Before we enforce a new system, we need to ask ourselves whether the students—all of them, regardless of their backgrounds—have the capacity to adapt to it. We need to teach our students in such a way that they can answer applied

different institutions even. Sadly, there is much variation in both infrastructural and intellectual capacity. Such variation, especially across students of different socioeconomic backgrounds, is why it is difficult to design an educational policy that will not harm a particular group. Closing the divide caused by this variation should be a topmost priority.

For students who were at the end of their programmes and about to graduate soon, there is the matter of whether a delay will cause them harm in the job market and in higher studies. In our system, their CGPAs are as important as

For online classes, we need to be prepared with much more than just laptops and internet access. Firstly, the online modality would have to be substantially different from the spoon-feeding pedagogy that we are accustomed to if we want students to really learn.

sugar levels are to a diabetic patient. There has been much chaos over how to assign grades already. If we put the learning factor aside, the purpose of a grade is to act as a signal in the job market. What to do? The fairness of relying on past grades may be questioned.

Another option is to go for universal pass/fail grading. But how do we decide when to fail a student? Should we then, in the light of the current pandemic, just let all students pass? There is a possibility that someone undeserving may get a pass when they would have normally gotten a fail. As a result of passing everyone, the system loses its opportunity to use CGPAs and grades as filters. In such a case, the intervention would have to come from the job market. Employers would have to devise new and innovative filtering systems when they recruit from this student pool. I believe that such a change is needed anyway because relying on grades—in the current state of education in this country—to assess quality is faulty.

To identify alternatives, there is no substitute to rigorous quality research in the field of education. There is an immense lack of educational data in Bangladesh. We need research to be able to inform evidence-based policymaking. Otherwise, it will continue to be speculations, trial and errors. How long can we afford to shine the spotlight on a stage where "development" dances while the education system crumbles beneath?

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Asian values or a system of social protection

When will we decide where our priorities lie?



STEPS taken to combat the coronavirus have severely disrupted public life and have put the livelihoods of millions in jeopardy. The global economy is in deep recession, especially the economies of the developed world; and there is a great deal of uncertainty as to when and how it might end. This is perhaps the deepest crisis human beings are facing after the Great Depression of the 1930s and the Second World War.

In many countries, the recession has already resulted in sharp increases in unemployment. In USA for example, it rose from 3.5 percent in February to 14.7 percent in April. The figure for May is feared to be close to 20 percent.

Some countries are trying to prevent an increase in unemployment by putting workers on furlough. The UK is providing support to private companies by paying 80 percent of the wages/salaries (up to a maximum of GBP 2500 per month) if employees are not laid off. The self-employed are also being covered. And yet, there is doubt if a rise in unemployment can be prevented. McKinsey—a consulting firm—forecasts that the rate of unemployment in the country is likely to go up to 9 percent soon. Of course, the unemployed in such countries can receive support through unemployment benefits.

In Bangladesh, the lockdown imposed in the last week of March brought public life, and with it economic activities, to a standstill. Although economic activities were partially opened in May, it is extremely uncertain when—if at all—life will go back to its normal rhythm. The shutdown has adversely affected employment and the labour market, but there is no data on this because such data is not collected on a regular basis. The latest labour force survey, carried out by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), dates back to 2016-17; and we don't know when the next survey will be done. If it is not undertaken this year (and soon), we shall never know what the unemployment rate is now because the data is collected on the basis of activities during the

week preceding the survey.

In the absence of concrete data, I made a guesstimate and concluded that nearly one crore people may have lost their livelihoods, based on reports found in *The Daily Star*. To this one crore, one has to add another 30 lakh who were already unemployed before the crisis. That would imply that about one in five members of the labour force were jobless during the shutdown. The question is: how are these people and their family members surviving?

Like in other countries, the government in our country has also announced a package of measures in response to the economic crisis that resulted from the shutdown, and some are already being implemented. The first step announced was support for export-oriented industries in the form of wages of workers so that lay-offs could be prevented. But the component for support to the poor who lost their livelihoods came last. Cash support of Tk 2,000 (later raised to Tk 2,500) for 50 lakh poor was announced on May 1—five weeks after the shutdown was announced.

The cash mentioned above is supposed to cover two crore poor people (at the rate of four members per person). But the amount is just one-fourth of what is considered to be the poverty line income (using data from the Household Income and Expenditure Survey of 2016, my estimate for 2020 is Tk 10,000 per month per household). And the number to be covered would be about 60 percent of the estimated poor in the country—if all the recipients are indeed poor.

In addition to the cash support for the poor, the well-to-do of the society are being exhorted to come forward and help them. Like in crises before, our society—including NGOs, individuals and informal organisations—has come forward with help for the needy. While the size and coverage of such efforts vary, there is no doubt that they are playing an important role in staving off hunger in the country.

This reminds me of the experience of the Asian economic crisis of 1997-98, which had severely affected a number of countries including the Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. During that crisis, countries that were once touted as “tigers” and were enjoying a long period of high growth fell into deep recession.

The result was unemployment for millions of people. Basking in the glory of high growth and rapid rates of poverty reduction, those countries did not build up any social protection system. As a result, the sharp increase in unemployment led to a reversal of the trend in poverty. A large number of workers migrated back to their rural roots and had to depend on the support of their families. And it was in that context that the term “Asian values” came into circulation—

incidentally, is lower than one day's wage of an unskilled labourer. In 2018-19, the coverage that was budgeted for was 40 lakh persons, which is about 40 percent of the people over 65 years of age.

There are a number of employment programmes for the poor which are basically like public work. For example, in 2017-18, the targeted coverage of the Employment Generation Programme for the Poor was 967,051 persons. Looking at the work-months

estimated their total coverage to be about 45 percent of the extreme poor.

In the context of the employment programmes mentioned above, another experience may be worth recounting. When the countries of East and South East Asia attained success with growth and poverty reduction, they had terminated such programmes. But in the wake of the economic crisis in 1997-98, they found such programmes to be relevant again and revived them—at least temporarily. They had to do so because there was no institutional mechanism for providing social protection to the unemployed. In the current context of Bangladesh, there seems to be a good case for expanding and strengthening the employment programmes for providing income support to the poor and jobless. India legislated a nationwide employment guarantee programme in 2005 which is also designed to act as a mechanism for providing unemployment benefits.

A common refrain about social protection in developing countries is that it is a luxury that they cannot afford. There are also those who consider this to be pure dole and hence not desirable. But such arguments no longer sound convincing in Bangladesh—a country that has moved from annual per capita income of USD 100 to about USD 2,000, and is now aspiring to reach USD 4,000 in another ten years (the target date for reaching the upper middle-income status). Universal access to basic health care and income support for *all* aged and the unemployed should no longer be considered a luxury. Of course, the entire cost does not have to be borne from the government's budget. For example, unemployment benefits can be contributory. These are matters of detail that can be worked out if policymakers are interested.

The key question that is staring at us today is whether we shall continue our single-minded pursuit of GDP growth and fall back on Asian values (or a Bangladeshi version of that) at times of crises or look at ways of improving the quality of life for all. It is a matter of priorities and for policymakers to decide. Once the choice is made, the details and modalities can be worked out.

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Rizwanul Islam, an economist, is former Special Adviser, Employment Sector, International Labour Office, Geneva.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

70-year-old Aleya Begum, who lives alone on the footpath in Katabon area, is too weak to stand in queues for relief. The pandemic has only exacerbated her daily struggle to survive.

describing the way the poor were provided with support and protection. Of course, the experience was regarded as a wake-up call and steps were taken later to build up social protection systems.

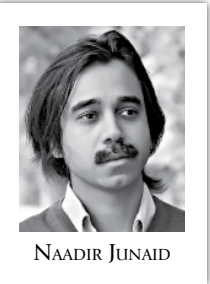
When one talks about social protection and safety nets in Bangladesh, one is usually referred to the hundred plus government schemes for a variety of target groups—though not the unemployed. To get an idea about the amounts and coverage involved, take the old age allowance as an example. The amount is Tk. 500 per month, which,

mentioned, it seems that the allocation was for about one month's work per person. On the other hand, if one uses the household survey data of the BBS, the number of extreme poor households in the country seems to be around 40 lakh. Putting the above figures together, one can conclude that about one fourth of the extreme poor were able to get one-month's work through this programme.

In addition, there are other programmes like food for work and cash for work programmes. Using the government's data, I

TRIBUTE

Courage, thy name is Devdas



RECENTLY, Mujibor Rahman Devdas passed away. Although the state honoured him with the Ekushey Padak, he had to lead his life in isolation and remained totally unknown to many people. At this time of immersion in the various lures of the consumer society, do many people show an interest in knowing about the torments people suffered during the Liberation War? Do contemporary citizens bother to think of their countrymen who sacrificed their present in 1971 for the future of many others?

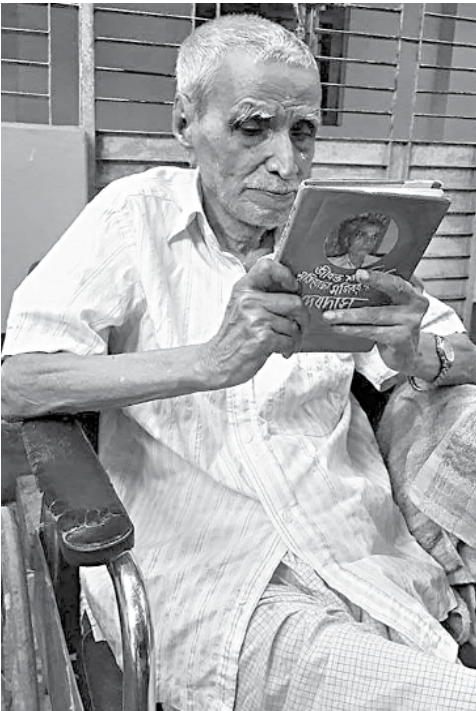
Mujibor Rahman started teaching with a brilliant academic background. He stood second in the merit list in the HSC examinations and obtained a Masters' degree in Mathematics from the University of Dhaka, securing first position in first class. Later, he studied Mathematics at the University of Melbourne. In 1971, he was a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics in Rajshahi University. After the military crackdown on March 25, Rajshahi University turned into a Pakistani concentration camp and slaughterhouse. Hundreds of Bengalis were interrogated, tortured and murdered in certain buildings of the university. At that time, Nazim Mahmud was a public relations officer in Rajshahi University. His memoir *Jokhon Kreetodashi: Smriti 71* depicts those days of horror, humiliation and heartbreak in the Rajshahi University campus.

In those grim months at Rajshahi University, pro-liberation professors were taken from their residences by the Pakistani

army for questioning. Some of them returned, and some never did. Women and adolescent girls were raped by the Pakistani jawans, belongings of the teachers and officers were looted from their houses, and the decaying corpses of university peons were later found inside a building. University employees and people of the surrounding areas were taken to the army camp located in Shaheed Zoha Hall. Later, many of them were executed. After independence, various mass graves were discovered in the open area beside Shaheed Zoha Hall.

According to Nazim Mahmud's memoirs, some non-Bengali as well as Bengali teachers of Rajshahi University became collaborators of the Pakistani army. A Deputy Registrar used to help the Pakistani army to capture pro-liberation professors. Then Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University was known for his alleged leanings toward the Pakistani authorities. Suspecting that Nazim Mahmud was not a supporter of the Pakistani establishment, the Pakistani army ordered the bank to freeze his account. A very anxious Nazim Mahmud sought help of the Vice-Chancellor, who was also his teacher at the University of Dhaka. However, instead of reassuring his former student, he advised that if the Pakistani soldiers intend to shoot Nazim Mahmud, he should request them to fire the gun at the middle of his forehead. Then the death would be absolutely painless.

In this petrifying situation, the pro-liberation people in the Rajshahi University campus became very apprehensive. Teachers and officers used to greet the Pakistani jawans very cordially. At a time when it was unthinkable for anyone residing on campus to defy the dominance of the Pakistani army, a letter from Senior Lecturer Mujibor



Mujibor Rahman Devdas

Rahman, sent to the University Registrar on May 10, 1971, stunned everyone. In this letter, Mujibor Rahman stated his opinions clearly: “This is to inform the authority that I am going to leave the campus since the university campus has, at the moment, been degraded to the state of military camp. I may come to the campus when the university regains its status of sanctity and starts functioning as a university in its true sense... I hope to be kept informed about the situation here in the address noted

below, where I hope to spend these days of calamity, genocide and restricted freedom of movement. Please note the change of my name and my new name should be used in future communications.”

He signed the letter using his new name—Devdas. When everyone was trying to prove themselves to be good Muslims in order to please the Pakistani army, Mujibor Rahman's act of changing his Muslim name indicated his anger against the ideology of the Pakistani army. Soon, the army was informed of this letter and the pro-Pakistani Deputy Registrar took the army to the residence of this rebellious teacher. Mujibor Rahman introduced himself as Devdas. The army captain asked him what he meant by genocide in his letter. “That which you are committing these days,” he replied. He was arrested right away. Nazim Mahmud wrote in his memoirs that later, in front of the administration building, he saw Devdas sitting quietly alongside the captain inside the army vehicle. There was no sign of fear or anxiety on his face.

We don't know what treatment Devdas received from the Pakistani army in the following days, but the incarceration took a heavy toll on him. In September, he was released from jail and he was suffering from a psychiatric disorder at the time. After independence, he did not get the official approval to resume his work at Rajshahi University. In 1971, when many teachers and officers acted differently in order to save their lives, Mujibor Rahman refused to accept dishonour. In spite of living within the clutches of the Pakistani army, he condemned their aggression and genocide. Putting his life at risk, he denounced the degradation of the university to a military camp.

If such a person, with astonishing courage and moral fibre, was in need of medical care in independent Bangladesh, wasn't it expected that the university authorities would arrange for his medical treatment? Unfortunately, Mujibor Rahman did not receive importance in the new country. Out of frustration, he resigned from the university and went to his native village in Joypurhat where he spent the rest of his life. After several years, Rajshahi University organised a programme to honour him. At that time, after visiting a museum, he wrote in the comment book: “Visited the museum on August 10, 1998. I hope history will be able to overcome the distortion of facts depicted through pictures here.”

A documentary titled *Aami Kaan Pete Roi* by Mofidul Hoque depicts how Mujibor Rahman led a dismal life in his village. He hardly talked to his family members and most of the time, he used to sit alone morosely. In 1971, he did not put up with the crimes committed by the Pakistani army and their local collaborators. By showing extraordinary courage, he set a remarkable example of deploring Pakistani military brutality. The Pakistani army could not defeat him. But we failed him in independent Bangladesh by relegating him to oblivion. When we still witness unjust acts, and conformity to the ideas of the powerful becomes commonplace, it is important to remember a person like him. Let us do so in days to come because the fearless protest of Mujibor Rahman Devdas can inspire people to oppose and denunciate injustice without showing fear.

.....

Dr Naadir Junaid is Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Dhaka.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

ELIZABETH II CROWNED QUEEN

June 2, 1953

On this day in 1953, 27-year-old Elizabeth II, the elder daughter of King George VI, was crowned queen of the United Kingdom at Westminster Abbey, having taken the throne upon her father's death in February 1952.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Fidel Castro's brother

5 Elephant of story

10 "The Lego Movie" hero

12 Banded quartz

13 Huge retail outlets

15 Quarterback Manning

16 "You bet!"

17 Boater or bowler

18 Opera's Stratas

20 Do some modeling

21 Some messages

22 Made fun of

23 Theater worker

25 Niger neighbor

28 Conspicuous

31 Doily stuff

32 Take, as the bus

34 "Not – dare!"

35 Bear's home

36 Verb for you

37 Emphasizes

40 Like some newspapers

41 Tennis star Chris

42 Pillow covers

43 Commotions

DOWN

1 Stopwatch

2 Charm

3 Strike caller

4 Director Ang

5 Cave creatures

6 In the past

7 Go carousing

8 Relaxed

9 Took a breather

11 Secret meetings

14 Coasts

19 Radiate

20 Did a KP chore

24 Show clearly

25 Rain source

26 Daryl of "Splash"

27 Maine park

29 Brought up

30 Bullfight star

33 High homes

35 Prohibition backers

38 Shade tree

39 Eggs, to Caesar

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

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

S	W	A	M		S	H	A	R	P
H	I	D	E			P	O	S	E
A	D	A	M		L	O	S	T	I
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BEEBLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER

BABY BLUES

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

Migrants can slip into poverty

FROM PAGE 12
The call came at a time when millions of migrants are facing joblessness due to the ongoing lockdown in many countries to check the spread of coronavirus.
The issue is especially significant for Bangladesh as about one crore Bangladeshis work mostly in the Middle Eastern and the Southeast Asian countries. Bangladesh government has already started repatriating some migrants, but it urged the destination countries on several occasions not to terminate and send back the workers without compensating them with six months' salary. But there has been no response from the destination countries so far.
The statement said the Covid-19 pandemic has severely impacted the lives of millions of migrant workers

in different countries as many of them have experienced job loss or non-payment of wages. Some of them were forced by employers to take unpaid leave or work at a reduced wage.
The regional bodies said countries of destination and origin have begun repatriation procedures of these workers without giving a thought to their predicament. Many countries have been portraying the repatriation to be inevitable.
"Millions will be repatriated to situations of debt bondage as they will be forced to pay off recruitment fees and costs, despite returning empty-handed," the statement said.
There are additional challenges involved in the repatriation as some unscrupulous employers might take advantage of the mass repatriation and terminate their worker without

appropriate compensation benefits, the statement said.
"This is a gross violation of labour rights on a large scale. Wage theft will account for millions of dollars to the detriment of workers and the benefit of businesses and employers who will be exempted from any accountability, even if states and banks extend a helpline to reestablish themselves and adjust to the new normal," it said.
Safeguards must be put in place to ensure that migrants can pursue their claims even after their return to the home countries, the statement said.
The states should ask employers and businesses to keep all employment records, including payroll, employee lists, and hours worked and allow workers to take copies of their records with them.

Mango growers feeling the squeeze

FROM PAGE 12
Hossain, a mango orchard owner of Rajshahi's Bagha upazila.
Usually, buyers from different parts of the country visit Rajshahi to purchase mangoes every year. While still at the flowering stage in trees, the imminent mangoes are sold and buyers would make advance payments.
"This year, no buyers showed up. Most orchards remain unsold," said mango orchard owner Anwar Hossain Palash.
Some buyers who showed up offered much lower prices -- for an orchard he sold at Tk 3 lakh last year, a middleman offered Anwar Tk 50,000 this year.
"We spend over 60 percent of the average price we receive -- Tk 1,000 per maund -- on taking care of the mango trees. If the price goes down by six times, it will break us."

"Who shall I sell it to? With movement restricted, buyers will not come to me. I am not even sure if I can open my shop to sell the mangoes," said Aminul.
Mohammad Yousuf, director general of the Department of Agricultural Marketing, said the department was unaware of traders not being able to visit the mango orchards.
"No one raised the problem. We could have arranged their transportation, but it is not possible now as we lack a database of farmers and traders. Without the database, we cannot contact them," he told The Daily Star.
Despite this, he said, there will be no problems in selling and transporting mangoes as all mango markets, including the country's largest in Kansat of Chapainawabganj and other large markets in Rajshahi's Baneswar, will operate as usual.
In Dhaka, the agricultural marketing department has dedicated Gabtoli Central Market for mango traders.
The market contains cold storage facilities as well as food and accommodation for the farmers for a few days. It also has four vehicles for transporting mangoes to other markets in the city free of cost, he added.
This facility is, however, limited to Dhaka city.
Farmers and traders also allege of harassment and illegal toll collection allegedly by law enforcers on roads -- nothing new but which will only be exacerbated by the current situation.
Transport owners and workers are reluctant to take on their cargo to avoid such hassle on the roads, they said.
Farmers said trucks are difficult to find, even at higher prices than the average Tk 25,000 it takes to transport 400 maunds of mangoes long distance.
Illegal toll collection on roads, amounting to an average of Tk 5,000 per truck, will only add to mounting costs, said mango traders.
Recently, the Rajshahi DC announced mango producers of Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj would be able to use railway parcel services at reduced rates and BRTC

trucks at half the rates to transport mangoes to other districts.
LOW PRODUCTION EXPECTED
More than half of the country's total mango production of around 12 lakh tonnes comes from Rajshahi division, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.
This year, researchers and farmers say production may fall due to bad weather and lack of upkeep of mango trees.
"Most farmers couldn't properly attend to their mango trees this year because of the coronavirus scare," said Ismail Khan, a mango orchard owner from Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj.
Ismail, also general secretary of the upazila unit of the mango producers' association, said less than 60 percent trees of the upazila are bearing fruits this year.
"Even if I took care of my trees hoping for mango exports, I cannot expect more than 50 percent production on my 16 acre orchard," he said.
"During the flowering stage, many flowers dropped in the recurring rains. During the fruit-bearing stage, when the trees need high temperatures, the prolonged winter hampered fruit growth."
The farmers' fears have ground, said Dr Mosharraf Hossain, senior scientific officer of the Regional Horticultural Research Centre in Chapainawabganj.
"This year, the trees delayed bearing fruits for late arrival of summer. The prolonged winter and rains caused some damage."

When Cyclone Amphan struck before Eid, especially the south-western part of the country, the damage extended to the northern districts.
The storm and lashing winds affected possibly 16 percent of mango orchards in Dinajpur, according to a primary assessment by local Department of Agricultural Extension officials.
Farmers and orchard owners The Daily Star contacted fear worse, estimating between 20 and 50 percent of their yields were affected as a result of the storm and winds due to the super cyclone.
There is no guarantee that he will subsequently be able to transport the fruit to his district, Sumon said, adding that he has not seen any measures to facilitate the process in this extraordinary situation.
Apart from the logistics problems, mango trader Aminul Islam Polish from Sylhet brings up another issue. What will he do with the mangoes back in Sylhet?

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New banknotes with Bangabandhu's image

FROM PAGE 12
production in all the industrial units. He also assures that all the demands of the workers will be considered with utmost sincerity.
UNROD CHIEF CALLS ON BANGABANDHU
United Nations Relief Operations in Dacca (UNROD) Chief Victor Umbricht calls on Bangabandhu today at Bangabhaban. He hands over a letter from the UN chief to the prime minister. He informs Bangabandhu about the UN's efforts to collect food aid for Bangladesh from the international community.
Later, at a press briefing session, the UNROD chief shares that the UN will provide four helicopters and eight cargo planes to expedite food distribution across the country. He expresses his

confidence that the UN will be able to collect 10 lakh tonnes of additional food assistance for Bangladesh.
BANGLADESH WELCOMES INDIRA-BHUTTO MEETING
Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad today says in Kuala Lumpur that the upcoming meeting between Indira Gandhi and ZA Bhutto at Delhi will expedite the process of recognition of Bangladesh by Pakistan. He adds that Bangladesh wants friendship with all countries. He, however, emphasises that the trial of the war criminals will be held at any cost. The Pakistani war criminals not only committed crimes against humanity but also tarnished the image of Islam, says Abdus Samad Azad.
The Foreign Minister is currently visiting Malaysia to discuss the

country's proposal to provide economic and technical assistance to Bangladesh. Malaysia was the first Muslim country to recognise Bangladesh.
WAGE BOARD FOR WORKERS
The government is going to set up a wage board for workers, informs Finance Minister Tajuddin Ahmad today. A pay commission will also be formed to determine wages of workers who are not included in the Labour Act, he adds.
NEW TK 5 & TK 10 NOTES LAUNCHED
Bangladesh Bank releases new Tk 5 and Tk 10 notes today. The portrait of Bangabandhu is inscribed on the obverse side of the notes.
SOURCES: June 3, 1972 issue of *Purbodosh*.

Keep food supply chain intact

FROM PAGE 12
do farming in full swing. We have to remember that we are self-sufficient in rice, but we import around 60 lakh tonnes of grains -- maize and wheat -- every year. Much of our dairy, poultry, and fish production depends on maize, the main food for livestock. We need to make sure we produce these grains domestically. That's very much possible if we can inspire farmers.
TDS: What are the current challenges of agriculture in Bangladesh?
Jahangir: The major challenge is keeping the food supply chain intact. We can see that farmers are not getting fair prices at all. Two factors are responsible for this. One is that purchasing power of a large section of people has come down with no work and no earnings. On the other hand, the majority of vegetables, milk, fish, chicken, and eggs produced in villages cannot be transported to cities. Transport owners are hiking transport fare. As a result, people in the urban areas are buying the produce at high prices, but farmers are either abandoning their produces or selling them at a minimal prices. If this trend continues, small and medium farmers will incur losses. They will become frustrated and won't go for production in the next season. And that will result in a shortage of

domestic food production.
TDS: What is your suggestion to keep the supply chain intact?
Jahangir: The government's agriculture and food departments, along with police and army, should come forward to keep the supply chain intact. They have a lot of vehicles that can be used to transport agri-products from farms to cities where the demand is high.
The government can also distribute these food items as relief materials. Such initiatives would allow farmers to make profit and help them prepare for the next season.
On the other hand, dairy farmers can produce more powdered milk, which can be preserved. The producers need to do it as part of their corporate social responsibility. The government's policy intervention is important to this end. The country's daily milk production is about 27,000 tonnes, but the demand has dropped to half of the production. Milk prices also declined in the rural areas, causing a colossal loss to farmers.
TDS: The government has declared some stimulus packages for the small and medium farmers. Is it enough?
Jahangir: The stimulus package of Tk 5,000 crore is mainly for the poultry, dairy, fish, and horticulture sectors. Farmers of these sectors can have loan with an interest rate of 5 percent. The

crop farmers, however, would hardly be able to reap benefits from the package.
The farmers who cultivate paddy, maze and wheat will have to depend on the general farm loan whose interest rate is 8 percent. Also, many of the small and marginal farmers cannot avail such loan. I suggest that the general farm loan be disbursed at 4 percent interest rate. And, if possible, the interest rate of the stimulus package should be lowered to 2 percent. This is because profitability in agriculture is very low. The small and marginal farmers who cannot avail farm loan should be provided cash subsidy. Agriculture should be given a high priority because there is a serious risk of famine, otherwise.
TDS: We are largely dependent on imported fertiliser and insecticides. Will there be any crisis of farm inputs?
Jahangir: Yes, many of the countries are under lockdown. So, export-import is heavily restricted. It is high time we assessed the needs of farm inputs for the coming Aman and Boro seasons and started talking to the countries on how we can get the required farm inputs such as fuel, fertiliser, seed, and machinery. Remember, we are now dealing with coronavirus outbreak. Our next challenge will be managing the food crisis.


Two 'drug

FROM PAGE 12
Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar's Ukhaia," said Lieutenant Colonel Ali Haider Azad Ahmed, commanding officer (CO) of BCG-34.
The incident occurred Baishfari Godharbil area around 5:00am while a BGB team confronted a group of miscreants, the CO said, adding they opened fire, forcing the border guards to retaliate.
At one stage, Abdur was shot. After he was taken to hospital, doctors declared him dead, he said.
BGB claimed to have recovered 80,000 pieces of yaba pills and a locally-made firearm from the spot.
Meanwhile in Gazipur's Kashimpur area, an alleged drug peddler, Nurul Haque, 25, was killed in a "shootout" with Rab.
Nurul and a few others were carrying 1.7 lakh yaba pills from Cox's Bazar when the gunfight took place around 3:00am, said Md Kamruzzaman, assistant director of Rab-1.
On information that a consignment of drugs was being smuggled in, Rab set up a checkpoint and signaled a truck to stop but its driver tried to speed up and the criminals opened fire, he said, adding that when Rab fired back, Nurul was struck, while his cohorts fled. He was rushed to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College and Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.
Rab claimed to have recovered all the yaba, a firearm, and some bullets from the spot and have seized the truck. A Rab man was injured in the incident, it added.(Our correspondents from Bandarban, Gazipur and Cox's Bazar contributed to the report.)


'Ring leader' of trafficking

FROM PAGE 12
through Hundi, an illegal channel of money transaction.
A diary recovered from Kamal during the raid testified to his crimes and also revealed names and other information of at least 10 of his local and foreign agents, Rab said.
Kamal's local agents lured the poor in different districts with high-paying jobs abroad.
Kamal, a tiles contractor, also used to "inspire his co-workers" to go abroad, Rab officials said.
He would ask his clients to first pay "only" Tk 1-3 lakh and then Tk 4 lakh after landing in Libya.
Those who accepted the offer began facing ordeals as soon as they left Bangladesh, Rab said, adding that the gang used to manage travel documents for them in the process.
Bangladesh-Kolkata-Mumbai-Dubai-Egypt-Benghazi-Tripoli (Libya) was the latest among the routes they used. The gang's foreign agents would deal with the migrants and confine them for days at each stop.
Once they reached Libya's Tripoli, some Bangladeshis received and handed them over to local gangs, who tortured them for money and filmed it to send clips to the victims' families back home through different messaging apps for money, the Rab said.
Sometimes, the hostages were allowed to call their families and beg their families to pay the money, Rab said, quoting the arrestee and family members of the victims.
Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Lt Col Rakibul said, "We have proof that families of two

Bangladeshi victims -- Lalchan and Tarikul -- first paid Kamal Tk three lakh before the two left Bangladesh. After they reached Libya, each family gave Kamal another Tk four lakh each.
That Thursday, 38 Bangladeshis and some Africans were held hostage by the criminals, who are alleged human traffickers, Rab officials said, adding, the traffickers demanded a high amount of money, although the victims had earlier paid up to \$10,000 each.
There was a heated argument between the traffickers and the victims, when at one stage, "the main trafficker" was killed by an African migrant. In return, other members of the trafficking gang fired shots at the hostages, leaving 26 Bangladeshis dead, Rab said.
The crime-busters claimed they recovered passports of at least 31 people during the raid and said the passports belonged to people who were about to go to Libya through Kamal.
LIBYA'S RESPONSE
Libya has condemned the killing of the 26 Bangladeshis by kidnappers in Mizdah on May 27 and vowed to bring the killers to book.
In a condolence message to Bangladesh, Libya's foreign ministry yesterday said the killing of Bangladeshis and others was an act of cowardice and they (the criminals) must face trial for this.
LatAm virus cases
FROM PAGE 12
partially reopen in Britain drew scorn from some accusing the government of moving too fast.



বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক
ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়
প্রধান কার্যালয়
মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০



তারিখঃ ০৪ জুলাই, ১৯৭৭
১৮ মে, ২০২০

৩টি ব্যাংকে 'অফিসার (কাশ)' পদে সমন্বিতভাবে ২য় পর্যায় নিয়োগ প্রসঙ্গে।

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়ের তত্ত্বাবধানে সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক ও বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এ 'অফিসার(কাশ)' এর ৫৬৪টি শূন্য পদে সমন্বিতভাবে ২য় পর্যায় নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বিখ্যাত ১৬/১১/২০১৮ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত লিখিত পরীক্ষা এবং ১৭/০২/২০১৯ থেকে ১৬/০৪/২০১৯ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অনুষ্ঠিত মৌখিক পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের সমন্বয়ে প্রার্থী তালিকা হতে মেধাক্রম এবং প্রার্থীদের পছন্দের ক্রমের ভিত্তিতে নিম্নোক্ত রোল মধ্যবর্তী ৫৬৪ জন প্রার্থীকে নিম্নবর্ণিত ব্যাংকে নিয়োগের জন্য প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচন করা হয়েছে :

সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড :

106895	110246	111550	112058	112429	112727	112841	113872	115037	115621
115722	119744	120403	120446	121110	124236	124541	124624	125442	125698
126323	127778	127784	128600	129820	130399	130844	131046	131182	131246
131829	132193	133383	133469	135575	136351	137023	137095	137171	137526
137815	138223	139161	140648	143307	144892	145193	145975	146112	149821
152865	152868	157671	159478	160785	160851	161168	162503	165232	166206
166253	166642	168846	169854	170977	171429	171812	172346	173214	173638
174267	174914	174941	175970	177355	177794	178503	179391	181876	182915
183272	183401	184578	184624	186181	186442	186464	187697	188294	188443
188735	189445	190456	190682	190693	191054	193228	193255	194097	195021
196307	196314	196537	196741	196946	197038	197078	197133	197343	198037
199371	199662	202568	203257	203463	205732	206499	207321	207417	207903
207969	208776	209092	209207	209350	210767	211361	211831	212391	212543
215296	215566	216381	218684	220178	220268	222338	222641	223175	223320
223465	223671	228594	228787	229617	229795	230420	230697	231175	232591
233167	234945	240042	240967	241059	243190	244389	244411	246399	247618
247723	247781	247910	248992	250121	251186	251234	251757	252519	252824
253750	255877	256228	256442	256558	256852	257006	257085	257505	257958
258093	258470	258581	259552	259848	259950	259964	260043	261634	264734
265297	266499	266593	267599	267874	268051	268217	268270	268580	268775
268818	268872	269062	269900	271045	272024	272734	273122	276024	276396
276539	276559	277612	278263	278411	278481	279039	279102	279733	282395
285393	285616	286522	288128	288989	290028	291093	291138	292414	293232
295417	296201	296246	296525	297948	298041	298706	298757	298881	299437
301085	301198	301368	302319	302991	304586	305989	308028	308896	309561
309630	310496	310923	311159	311441	313257	315567	315827	315837	315982
316223	318315	318485	318802	319302	319814	320400	320972	321247	322219
322951	322956	323169	323188	324429	324687	326850	327040	327118	328476
328907	329160	329440	329770	332044	332249	333018	333480	333563	335097
335655	339092	339908	340141	341103	341136	341212	341215	341296	341367
342761	343680	346050	346336	347252	347347	347867	348634	349497	349576
350005	350089	350249	352363	353273	353441	354096	354541	354654	354855
357089	358062	358091	358336	358583	358850	359577	360725	361379	361535
361704	362293	362636	362886	363655	363808	366212	366338	366489	366538
366907	367365	367653	367878	368168	369407	370007	370661	372342	373266
373574	373690	373832	376113	376332	376791	377117	377312	377335	377713
378881	378996	380115	380342	380382	380450	380624	380822	381588	381809
381878	382418	385055	385745	387949	391418	391847	392150	392551	394781
394850	394871	395732	396099	396143	396925	397207	397218	398034	398330
398394	401956	403393	403485	403646	404855	406399	406411	406864	407569
407865	410911	411500	411507	411914	412622	413272	413761	413818	414265
414285	414650	415650	417722	419286	425251	425617	427834	428914	429989
431299	431491	433322	433888	434001	434140	435702	436160	437225	437407
438441	438997	440685	440716	441393	445804	446180	446486	446543	446776
447205	448108	448596	449373	449380	450455	450481	450976	452478	452486
454427	455924	456514	456541	458449	459192	460832	461503	461732	463054
464134	465124	465243	466147	467122	= ৪৫৭ জন				

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক :

113730	116464	143101	150266	153746	157391	162036	164713	169514	176802
183209	184904	187257	187605	188323	189976	195564	197134	200677	202729
203556	211167	219629	223312	225374	229053	240298	241118	244412	247997
255678	269127	271603	273718	276076	285984	286091	287299	290401	296340
301096	309671	312953	316231	320232	320584	321005	321914	322048	326392
333503	339607	344524	344788	348446	348496	352202	354019	359455	360878
371912	375004	380502	383100	385099	391267	392905	396934	399383	402139
402443	403970	405789	406860	409504	412441	413047	416734	417586	418307
422994	428535	433862	435223	437081	437286	438933	441275	446277	446542
449216	457079	466705	= ৯৩ জন						

বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড :

211218	215209	339520	350700	358969	394879	= ৬ জন			
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নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রম সমাপ্তি ব্যাংক কর্তৃক সম্পাদিত হবে।

ডিসিপি : ৪৮/২০২০/১২৬৬
তারিখ : ০১-০৬-২০২০

ব্যার্থিক ও আর্থিক সেবা থেকে হেরানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

সদস্য-সচিব, বিএসসি

কি: প্র: বিএসসিএস প্রকাশিত ফান্ডাল সংশোধনের তথ্যের সংরক্ষণ করে।

GD-920



With Spanish Football Federation releasing a schedule of remaining matches of La Liga, restarting on June 11, leaders Barcelona and nearest-rivals Real Madrid were back to serious, group training at their respective training grounds yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



La Liga resumes on June 11

AFP, Madrid

The Spanish top-flight football season will restart on June 11 with the derby between Sevilla and Real Betis, La Liga confirmed on Sunday.

The first round of games following the coronavirus shutdown will be played over four days, with leaders Barcelona at Mallorca on June 13 and Real Madrid at home to Eibar the next day.

The following matchday will run from Monday, June 15 to Thursday, June 18.

Barcelona will host Leganes on June 16 while Madrid take on Valencia in the capital two days later.

The Spanish Sports Council released a statement Friday saying that the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) and La Liga had agreed the format for the 11 remaining rounds in the top two Spanish divisions.

La Liga said the season should be completed by July 19.

"We want next season to start September 12," La Liga president Javier Tebas told Movistar.

"We have designed the schedule to give each team at least 72 hours of rest between matches... We will update the schedule two matchdays at a time to take into account the weather conditions, which are known two weeks in advance."

Barcelona led Real Madrid by two points at the top of the table when the season was halted in March.

'Gasperini put people at risk'

REUTERS, Valencia

Valencia have criticised Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini for taking charge of his side's Champions League match against the Spanish side in March despite suffering from symptoms of the novel coronavirus.

Gasperini told Italian newspaper La Gazzetta dello Sport on Sunday that he felt ill on the day before the last-16 second leg match in Valencia on March 10, which was played without spectators as northern Italy was then the epicentre of the virus in

Sancho joins Floyd killing protest

AFP, Berlin



BUNDESLIGA

England winger Jadon Sancho scored a hat-trick and revealed a "Justice for George Floyd" protest message in Borussia Dortmund's 6-1 rout of bottom side Paderborn on Sunday that trimmed Bayern Munich's lead at the top of the Bundesliga to seven points.

The outstanding Sancho, who now has 17 goals and 17 assists in the Bundesliga this season, joined a host of protests in the German top-flight over the weekend at the death of an unarmed black man in the United States.

Morocco international Achraf Hakimi lifted his jersey to deliver the same message as Sancho after scoring Dortmund's fourth goal at Paderborn.



George Floyd, 46, died in Minneapolis during an arrest by a police officer who pinned him to the ground for several minutes by kneeling on his neck, sparking protests across the US.

Earlier Sunday, Borussia Moenchengladbach's French forward Marcus Thuram took a knee to protest Floyd's death. Schalke's American midfielder Weston McKennie wore a "Justice for George" armband on Saturday.

At Paderborn, second-placed Dortmund kept their remote title hopes intact as Sancho stole the limelight with teenage striker Erling Braut Haaland sidelined by a leg injury.

"We're going to give everything to win every game," said Dortmund goalkeeper Roman Buerki.

Bayern are firmly on course for an eighth successive title with just six matches left to play.



Europe.

He also confirmed he has since tested positive from an antibodies test.

Valencia later issued a statement saying they were surprised at Gasperini's admission he had symptoms with the coronavirus before the match and did not take preventative measures.

"Such actions, if this was the case, would have put at risk numerous people during the trip to - and stay in - Valencia," added the statement.

"It should be remembered that this game was held behind closed doors amidst strict safety measures... precisely due to the presence of persons from an area already publicly classified as 'at risk'."

A week after the match, 35% of their squad and staff had tested positive.

Bumrah seeks 'alternative' to saliva

AFP, New Delhi



Indian paceman Jasprit Bumrah said cricket should seek an "alternative" for shining the ball if the game's governing body ban the use of saliva during the coronavirus pandemic.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is likely to implement a ban for the game's return when they meet next week after receiving medical advice that spit poses a COVID-19 transmission risk.

Handshakes, celebratory high-fives and hugs are also likely to be off-limits when international cricket resumes with safety protocols in place.

"I was not much of a hugger anyway, and not a high-five person as well, so that doesn't trouble me a lot," Bumrah said in an ICC video chat with the former West Indies pace bowler Ian Bishop and the ex-captain of South Africa, Shaun Pollock.

"The only thing that interests me is the saliva bit," added the 26-year-old Bumrah. "I don't know what guidelines that we have to follow when we come back, but I feel there should be an alternative."

"If the ball is not well maintained, it's

difficult for the bowlers. The grounds are getting shorter and shorter, the wickets are becoming flatter and flatter. So we need something."

Pace bowlers usually try to make the ball swing through the air by shining one side on their clothing aided by using sweat or saliva and leaving the other half to become scuffed.

Anil Kumble, chairman of the ICC cricket committee that recommended banning saliva, insisted the move was only an "interim measure".

Australian cricket ball manufacturer Kookaburra is developing a wax applicator but its use would need a change in the laws of cricket which forbid the use of any artificial substance to alter the ball.

Test players have in the past been accused of using lozenges, petroleum jelly and resin to keep the shine on the ball, and also scuffing it with bottle tops, trouser zippers, grit or fingernails.

The most notorious recent incident was in 2018, when Australian players attempted to alter the ball with sandpaper during a Test against South Africa in Cape Town, resulting in lengthy bans for the three involved -- Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft.

Tales of triumphs off the field

ANISUR RAHMAN



They are used to battling it out on the field of play and have often succeed over their opponents by applying skill,

technique and intelligence. Tales of the national age-group women's football teams' triumphs on the international stage have become common in the country's sports fraternity.

The girls in red and green aced a different kind of challenge as a majority successfully passed the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations despite spending most of the year training and honing their football skills.

Swapna [3.93], Akhi Khatun [3.83], Rehana Khatun [3.75], Rituparna Chakma [3.50], Shamsunnar Sr [3.10], Sajeda Khatun [2.53] and Anai Mogini [2.50] overcoming the hurdles successfully while players like SarabanTahura, Shamsunnar Jr, Rozia Akter and Mahmuda Akter failed.

The girls train intensely round the year to hone their skills and prepare for international tournaments, and thus hardly have the stamina to concentrate on studies in the national camp, but they win the daily battle with fatigue to study regularly at the dormitory in search of a secured future after calling time on their football careers.

"It was really tough to study on days we had running sessions because we could not even sit properly because of weariness, but we kept

for important AFC U-16 Qualifying round and my father allowed me, but it really hurt not to be able to sit for the examination," said Akhi. "This year I sat for the examinations under huge pressure because the matches of the Women's Football League were going on and I even played the match the next day after sitting for the exam."

Winger Shamsunnar's result surprised everybody. "Many girls in our locality could not pass the examination and everyone, including myself, thought that I would not pass because I spent so much time behind football. But I passed and I am surprised," said Shamsunnar, who was however sad for those of her teammates who were unable to pass because she thought it is hard to study and play football concurrently.



While the likes of Akhi Khatun (L) and Shamsunnahar (R) have represented Bangladesh in women's football with great dedication and efficiency, they have also done the hard yards in securing good grades in SSC exams.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Smith 'in best shape'

AFP, Sydney



Australia star Steve Smith admitted Monday he has barely picked up a bat since cricket shut down, but said he was in his best physical shape in years.

The 30-year-old, the world's number one Test batsman, has been out of action since March, when Australia's one-day series against New Zealand was abandoned due to the coronavirus pandemic.

He returned to training with his New South Wales teammates Monday as they await the green light for competitive cricket to start again, targeting a home one-day series against Zimbabwe in August.

"I feel like I've had a pre-season the last couple of months. Got myself into probably the best shape I've been in years. Lots of running, lots of gym stuff," Smith said.

"It's been a couple of months of good hard work and now back with the boys, which is great."

But with no net practice, he has barely picked up his bat.

"I haven't touched a bat, really. A couple



of little drills at home but that's about it," said Smith, who has plundered more than 7,000 Test runs.

"I've just tried to switch off from it a bit, which I don't do very often. I was just focusing on getting myself fit and strong and refreshing mentally."

"It's been a bit different but I'm sure in the long run it will probably be a good thing to freshen up after what was a pretty long year-and-a-half since the World Cup and Ashes and summer here."

"I'm refreshed and ready to go," he added.

If the virus had not struck, Smith would have been in the plane to Bangladesh this month for a two-Test series.

Waqar wants end to spat

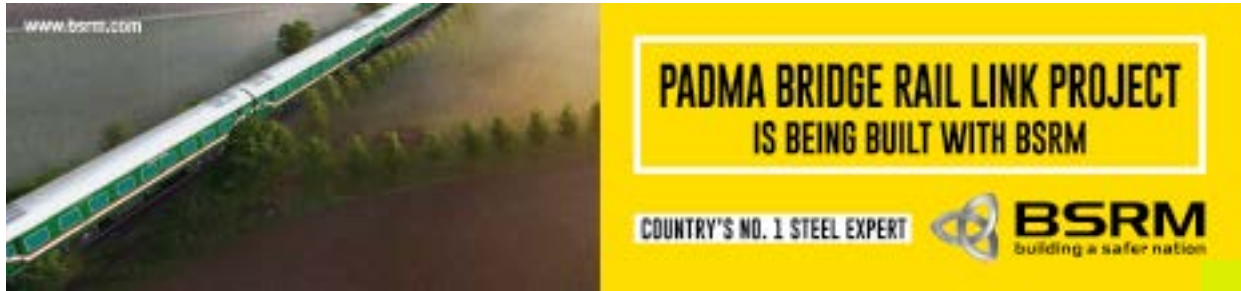
AFP, New Delhi

Former Pakistan star Waqar Younis has called on Shahid Afridi and Gautam Gambhir to end their social media war, and for India and Pakistan to resume playing cricket.

After being fierce on-field rivals, Pakistan's Afridi and former Indian opener Gambhir have become involved in heated social media exchanges over the troubled Kashmir region, which is claimed by both countries.

Gambhir is now a lawmaker in the Indian parliament, while Afridi has his own foundation and is a vocal activist.

Waqar advised the pair to "calm down" in an online chat show. "I think they both got to be smart, sensible, and calm down," said Waqar.



Mango growers feeling the squeeze

Poor marketing, shipping, weather, lack of buyers amid pandemic causing losses

RABIUL HASAN with anwar ali

Amid the coronavirus scare, a lack of buyers due to inadequate measures for marketing and transportation leaves mango growers worried.

Farmers said the authorities had assured them of facilitating marketing and transport amidst the coronavirus-driven shutdown this year.

But days ahead of the mango harvest, beginning in the end of May, farmers said buyers could not visit their orchards to buy mangoes due to a lack of transport as well as harassment and illegal toll collection on roads.

"Besides, mangoes will rot as there is no market. We're not even thinking about fair prices, our best efforts will be put towards recovering production costs," said Anwar

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Farmers harvesting Boro paddy at an inundated field in Tangail's Basail upazila. Heavy rain of the past few days has submerged about 35 hectares of croplands in the upazila. The photo was taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

New banknotes with Bangabandhu's image



Students of Bangla Bazar Girls' High School handing over Tk 1,001 of their saved up money to Bangabandhu on June 2, 1972.

June 2, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU'S MEETING WITH TRADE UNION LEADERS

Representatives of 40 Tongi-based trade unions call on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at his official residence today. They assure the prime minister of their full support for the government's industrial development plans. The prime minister calls upon the workers to devote themselves to the task of rebuilding the nation by increasing

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Keep food supply chain intact

Ekushey Padak-winning agricultural economist Dr Jahangir Alam talks to The Daily Star on the challenges for food and agriculture sector in the time of pandemic

PORIMOL PALMA

TDS: Do you think that Bangladesh may face a famine?

Jahangir: Globally, there will be a famine, for sure. Many of the countries are under lockdown for three to four months. They are not being able to go for food production. Farm inputs are not reaching farmers. This means there won't be any surplus of food. Countries that are heavily dependent on imported food will not be able to import food from the international market as per their need even if they have the purchase capacity. It's because every nation will try to meet their food demand first.

If you talk about Bangladesh, I think we are still in a good position. Our Boro yield is good. What's important now is to help farmers harvest and preserve it properly. Public procurement has to be extensive. The challenge, however, is for the Aman and the next Boro season. We need to do everything so that farmers can

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



MURDER IN LIBYA 'Ring leader' of trafficking gang arrested

Says Rab; Libya condemns killing of 26 Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rab yesterday claimed to have arrested an alleged ringleader of the human trafficking gang that kidnapped and murdered some of the 26 Bangladeshi workers in Libya on Thursday.

Kamal Uddin alias Haji Kamal, 55, has trafficked more than 400 people to Libya over the last decade, said Lt Col Rakibul Hasan, commanding officer of Rab-3, at a press briefing at his Tikatuli office.

The Rab team arrested Kamal in the capital's Shahjadpur area in the morning after the victims' families complained.

Some of the Bangladeshis killed and injured in the firing were sent by Kamal, and their families paid ransom to him when the victims were held captive and tortured, the CO said.

During primary interrogation, the arrestee claimed he had sent a portion of the money to his counterpart abroad

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Migrants can slip into poverty

Rights bodies warn of Covid-19 fallout

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Regional rights bodies across Asia and the Middle East fear millions of migrants -- if repatriated home without compensation amid the coronavirus pandemic -- may face indebtedness and their families may slip into poverty.

They demanded a transitional justice

mechanism to address the grievances and claims of the repatriated workers who have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic.

Migrant Forum in Asia, Lawyers Beyond Borders Network, Cross Regional Centre for Migrants and Refugees, South Asia Trade Union Council, and Solidarity Center made the call in a statement yesterday.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING JUNE 2

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:05	12:45	5:00	6:45	8:15
JAMAAT	4:40	1:15	5:15	6:50
8:45				

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



An altercation breaks out among people waiting outside a Covid-19 sample collection booth on Ring Road in the capital's Mohammadpur area yesterday morning. Every day, 30 samples are collected at the booth, set up by the health directorate in association with Brac, for the coronavirus testing.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

LatAm virus cases top 1m

Brazil has second-highest caseload in world as UK, Russia ease lockdowns

AFP, Moscow

Countries across Europe took bolder steps in easing coronavirus lockdowns, with schools, pubs, parks and pools reopening in places, while in Latin America the outbreak grew more dire with infections passing the one million mark.

The deadly disease has now killed more than 372,000 million people and infected at least 6.1 million since emerging in China late last year.

It has ravaged economies and threatens to tip the world toward a recession not seen in decades, while hemming billions of

people in across the globe under lockdowns to slow its deadly march.

But from Russia to France, Italy and Britain, countries have started to emerge from months-long lockdowns, cautiously returning to a new post-pandemic version of normal.

Bars were set to serve again in Finland and Norway -- albeit with distancing restrictions or shortened hours -- while some schools in Britain and Greece opened doors again yesterday.

But the decision to allow schools to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Two 'drug dealers' killed in 'shootout'

STAR REPORT

Two suspected drug peddlers were killed in 'separate gunfights' with the BCB and Rab in Bandarban and Gazipur yesterday.

In Bandarban's Naikhyangchhari upazila, a suspected Rohingya drug peddler, Abdur Rahman, 25, was killed in a "gunfight" with the BCB.

"He belonged to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঘরের বাইরে মাস্ক পরা অত্যাৱশ্যক এবং জরুরী।

মাস্ক না পড়লে জরিমানা হতে পারে

- করোনাৱ সাৱা বিশ্ব আজ বিপৰ্যৰ্জ।
- মনে ৰাখবেন, অসাৱধানতায় যে কেউ যে কোন সময় করোনা ভাইৰাসে আক্ৰান্ত হতে পারে।
- সামাজিক দূৰত্ব বজায় ৰাখুন, পৰস্পরের মধ্যে কমপক্ষে ২মি (৩) ফুট দূৰত্ব বজায় ৰাখুন।
- স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সব স্বাস্থ্যবিধি অবশ্যই মেনে চলুন।
- ব্যৱহাৰ সাৱান পানি দিয়ে কমপক্ষে ২০ সেকেন্ড হাত ধোবেন। অপরিচ্ছন্ন হাত দিয়ে মুখ, নাক ও চোখ ছোৱেন না।
- নিয়মিত কুসুম গৰম পানি, আদা চা এবং গৰম স্যুপ পান কৰুন। লবণ মিশ্ৰিত কুসুম গৰম পানি দিয়ে দিনে ৩-৪ বার গড়গড়া কৰুন, নাকে মুখে গৰম পানিৰ ভাপ নিন।
- অৱ, সৰ্দি, কাশি, গলা ব্যথা হলে বাড়িতেই আলাদা থেকে চিকিৎসা নিন।
- জ্বৰ কমানোর জন্য প্যারাসিটামল ও সর্দি-কাশির জন্য এন্টিহিস্টামিন (যেমন ফেন্সোফেনাডিন, প্রোরফেনিরাডিন ইত্যাদি) খেতে পারেন।

প্রয়োজনে করোনা বিষয়ক হটলাইনগুলোতে ফোন করুনঃ ১৬২৬৩; ৩৩৩; ১০৬৫৫; ০১৯৪৪৩৩৩২২২ অথবা নিকটস্থ স্বাস্থ্যকর্মী বা হাসপাতালে যোগাযোগ করুন।

মনে রাখবেন আপনার সুরক্ষা আপনারই হাতে

স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর

স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়