



**WHO WARNS OF MORE DEATHS**  
Overuse of antibiotics in treating Covid-19 could be fatal  
**SEE PAGE 12**

# The Daily Star

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know



REGD. No. DA 781

Vol. XXX No. 134

JAISHTHA 20, 1427 BS

SHAWWAL 10, 1441 HJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00

**BANGLADESH UPDATE**



**2,911**  
New cases in 24hrs



**52,445**  
Total cases



**709**  
Deaths



**11,120**  
Recoveries

**GLOBAL UPDATE**



**378,747**  
Deaths



**6,415,599**  
Total cases

## Cases may double by month-end

Says a team of researchers from DU, DGHS, University of Toronto; projection based on current trend of Covid-19 spread

MOUJUD AHMED SUJAN and WASIM BIN HABIB

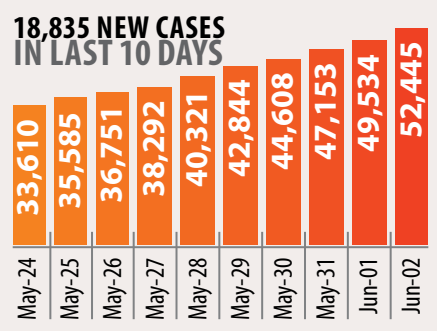
While the country's healthcare system remains under severe strain following record surge in coronavirus infections almost every day, a team of researchers warn that the total number of confirmed cases could double by the end of this month.

Having crossed the 50,000-mark yesterday, the number may jump to 87,000 by the middle and 123,000 by the end of this month, according to a projection by the team of experts, who are from University of Dhaka, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), and University of Toronto in Canada.

The projection is based on the current trend of the Covid-19 spread and epidemiological modeling, said head of the team, Shafiqul Shimul, an associate professor of health economics at DU.

"With the reopening of everything, the spread of the virus is likely to accelerate and Bangladesh could be the next epicenter like Brazil or Russia, if not the USA," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The team submits reports on such epidemiological model-based projection to the government on a regular basis, he added.



Epidemiologists and other health experts, however, said the number could be even higher as many cases remain not reported due to inadequate testing and contract tracing facilities.

The government has increased the number of daily tests. Still, only two out of 10,000 people in the country have so far been tested -- one of the lowest rates among the world's worst coronavirus-hit countries.

The reopening of the offices, transport services, and other economic activities ignoring experts' advice and warning would only make matters worse, said the experts.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A worker paints an oxygen cylinder outside a shop on Tongi Diversion Road in the capital's Moghbazar area yesterday. With the number of Covid-19 patients on the rise in the country, the demand for such cylinders is going up. The shop rents out each filled cylinder for Tk 1,000 a day.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Turned away by 6 hospitals, woman dies

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

A 63-year-old woman died early yesterday from breathing complications after being denied treatment at six different hospitals in Sylhet.

The woman, from Kazirbazar area in Sylhet city, was suffering from Asthma for decades and fell critically ill on Monday night.

Her family members rushed her to a private hospital where she was denied treatment. Five other hospital, including three medical college hospitals, followed suit.

Two hours later, she died in ambulance just before they reached Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital (SOMCH).

A family friend, who was with the victim's from the beginning, described the incident to The Daily Star, seeking anonymity for himself and the family.

"After I heard she was critically ill, I rushed to their house. Around

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## Women less susceptible

Record 2,911 new Covid-19 cases in 24 hours; 71 percent of total infected are men

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Women appear to be less vulnerable to Covid-19 infection than men, shows data.

Experts opine that hormonal factors, coupled with the innate ability to struggle against the odds, contribute towards increased immunity among women, which is giving them an edge in the battle against the deadly virus.

"There are some hormones in women which men do not have. It is found these hormones could fight well against the virus, so the infection and fatality rate is low among women," said Prof Be-Nazir Ahmed, former director of disease control at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The country yesterday saw the biggest jump in coronavirus cases in a day with 2,911 new cases being reported in 24 hours till 2:30pm, which took the total number of confirmed cases to 52,445.

According to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), about 71 percent of the total infected persons are men. The death ratio is also much higher for men.

For instance, in 10 days from May 23, about 257 people died of Covid-19. About 213 of them were male and 44 were female, DGHS data shows.

Be-Nazir said compared to women, men go outside their residence more often, which increases the risk of infection.

However, he said there are some other factors behind women's greater resistance, such as growing up amid adverse environments, which strengthen their immune system.

"As a result, although men enjoy more facilities and freedom than

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

## Docs denied hotel stay

They went there as per previous arrangement

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Six doctors treating Covid-19 patients were not allowed on Monday night into a Khulna hotel where they were supposed to stay as per an arrangement made by the district administration.

When the doctors, from Khulna Medical College Hospital, arrived at Hotel Millennium after duty, the hotel authorities refused to let them in, said KMCH Director Dr Munshi Reza Sekander.

"These six doctors waited outside the hotel from 6:00pm to 10:00pm but they were not allowed in. They tried to contact the hotel authorities but their phone calls went unanswered," he said.

After discussing with the authorities of four local hotels -- the CSS Ava Center, Hotel Royal, Hotel Ambassador, and Hotel Millennium -- the district administration arranged for KMCH doctors and nurses to stay at the Hotel Millennium while on duty, and at any of the other three while in quarantine. All the hotel owners had agreed to this, said the KMCH director.

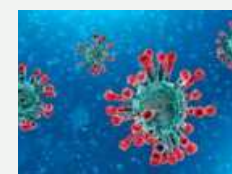
As per the arrangement, these six doctors were supposed to stay at Hotel Millennium while working their 10-day

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

## Tk 2,492cr projects to fight Covid-19

Ecneec okays 2 schemes to upgrade health facilities; WB, ADB will provide \$100m each; PM stresses quick implementation

- 20-bed IU, 5-bed CCU in every dist hospital
- 250-bed hospital for Covid-19 frontliners
- Mobile app for tracking Covid-19 patients
- 19 new microbiology testing labs



REJAUU KARIM BYRON and JAGARAN CHAKMA

The government will set up isolation and critical care units in district hospitals all over the country as part of its efforts to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

A 20-bed Isolation Unit (IU) and a five-bed Critical Care Unit (CCU) will be set up in every district hospital for treating Covid-19 patients.

Besides, 17 of the 29 public medical colleges in the country will have a 50-bed IU and a 10-bed CCU or Intensive Care Unit each for coronavirus patients. A 250-bed hospital will be set up in the capital's Mohakhali area for treating the Covid-19 frontliners infected with the virus. They include health workers, government employees and members of police and ansar.

A mobile application will also be developed for keeping track of Covid-19 patients and managing data on health services.

All this will be done under two projects involving Tk 2,492 crore, which were approved at a meeting of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec) with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



## Bangladesh will forge ahead despite Covid-19

Says PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said although the Covid-19 pandemic slowed down the economic progress of the country to some extent, the nation would move forward fighting all obstacles.

The PM was addressing a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council through videoconferencing from the Gono Bhavan.

Hasina said the ongoing crisis might delay the country's graduation to a developing country from a least developed one within the stipulated time.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Demonstrators hold up placards and protest outside the White House in Washington DC yesterday. President Donald Trump vowed Monday to order a military crackdown on violent protests gripping the United States.

PHOTO: AFP

## KILLING OF BLACK MAN Trump vows to bring in military

Five US cops shot in protests; Houston police chief tells the president to 'keep mouth shut'

AGENCIES

At least five US police officers were shot and wounded during violent protests over the death of a black man in police custody, police and media said, hours after President Donald Trump vowed to deploy the military if unrest did not stop.

Trump deepened outrage on Monday by posing at a church across from the White House clutching a Bible after law enforcement officers used teargas and rubber bullets to clear protesters.

The US Secret Service, charged with protecting the president, yesterday closed down until further notice the streets around the White House, media reports said.

Demonstrators set fire to a strip mall in Los Angeles, looted stores in New York City and clashed with police in St Louis, Missouri, where four officers were taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

An emotional St Louis police commissioner, John Hayden, said about 200 protesters were looting and hurling fireworks and rocks at officers.

"They had officers with gas poured on them. What is going on? How can this be? Mr Floyd was killed somewhere else and they are tearing up cities all across the country," he told reporters.

A police officer was shot during protests in Las Vegas, police there said in a statement. Another officer was "involved in a shooting" in the same area, the police said. Officers were injured in clashes elsewhere, including one who was in critical condition after being hit by a car in the Bronx, police said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



## US negotiator upbeat on Afghan peace talks

AFP, Washington

The US negotiator on Afghanistan voiced optimism Monday that the Taliban and government would begin peace talks and said President Donald Trump could pull US troops ahead of schedule if all goes well.

The Afghan government has been speeding up the release of prisoners, a key condition for the Taliban, after a ceasefire for the Eid al-Fitr holiday followed by a continued lull in fighting.

"There's been a lot of progress in the last few days," said Zalmay Khalilzad, the US envoy who negotiated a deal with the Taliban in which Washington plans to end its longest-ever war.

"A lot of people have been pessimistic that we could get to this place where we're discussing where and when inter-Afghan negotiations would begin and that there would be enough progress on the prisoners issue," he told reporters.

But he did not set a date and cautioned that "still more needs to be done" on freeing prisoners.

Abdullah Abdullah, who heads the government council on the talks, said Saturday he was ready for talks "at any moment."

Under the agreement with the Taliban, the United States will pull troops out of Afghanistan by mid-2021 in exchange for the insurgents' commitments to keep out Al-Qaeda and other foreign extremists.

US officials have said that the withdrawal is already ahead of schedule due to coronavirus concerns and The Wall Street Journal reported last week that the Pentagon had drafted plans for Trump to leave late this year -- coinciding with the US election.

Khalilzad said the withdrawal was "the prerogative of the president, and if he thinks that the conditions have been met, then we could do it faster, but the key thing is whether the conditions have been met."



People travelling in a human haulier without maintaining social distancing, putting themselves and their fellow passengers at risk of contracting the novel coronavirus. The photo was taken in the capital's Sadarghat area yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Cases may double

FROM PAGE 1

The country recorded the highest daily spike in Covid-19 cases yesterday, two days after a shutdown to contain the spread of the deadly virus imposed on March 26 was relaxed.

As many as 2,911 people were reported coronavirus positive in 24 hours till 2:30pm yesterday. With it, the total number of cases hit 52,445, according to the DGHS.

Thirty-seven people died over the same period, taking the death toll to 709.

A total of 12,704 samples were tested in 52 labs across the country in those 24 hours.

Till yesterday, Bangladesh stood 21st in terms of total number of confirmed cases, surpassing Netherlands, a severely hit European country.

More than 50 percent of the cases in Bangladesh were detected in the last two weeks. Experts attributed the rise in infections to increased public movement linked to people swarming shopping malls, leaving the capital for Eid, and reopening of garment factories.

Before the shutdown was relaxed, the National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) on combating the coronavirus outbreak had suggested not to ease it unless the daily number of cases showed downtrend. But it was not heeded.

"We had suggested not to lift the shutdown until a declining trend starts. But the government has gone for the reopening because of disruptions in economic activities. Although it took some measures, we need to see how those measures are maintained," Prof Shahidullah, who heads the committee, told The Daily Star.

A member of the committee said, "We placed each recommendation in details on how to withdraw of the shutdown. But those were not taken into consideration. If they [the authorities] had read the full report, decisions would have been different," said the member.

According to the National Institute of Health, USA, and WHO, such shutdowns can be relaxed if the number of cases continues to go down for at least two weeks.

WHO says any government that wants to start lifting restrictions must first meet six conditions. Those are: Transmission of Covid-19 is under control; health systems and public health capacity are able to detect, test, isolate and quarantine every case and trace every contact; hot spot risks are minimised in highly vulnerable places, such as nursing homes; preventive measures such as physical distancing and hand washing in workplaces have been established; and populations are fully engaged and empowered to live under a new state of "normality".

**'HERD IMMUNITY A FAR CRY'**

Experts said because of inadequate data, it is not possible to predict when the outbreak will hit its peak and how long will it take to acquire natural herd immunity.

## Tk 2,492cr projects

FROM PAGE 1

chair. The PM joined the meeting through video conference from the Gono Bhavan.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Planning Minister MA Mannan said the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank will provide \$100 million each for the two projects to be implemented between April 2020 and June 2023.

The PM directed the ministries and officials concerned to closely monitor the Covid-19-related projects for quick implementation, he mentioned.

She also asked officials to ensure uninterrupted supply of high-pressure oxygen to district hospitals for Covid-19 patients, Mannan said.

About the two projects, he said the first one -- the Covid-19 Emergency Response and Pandemic Preparedness Project -- will involve Tk 1,128 crore, of which Tk 850 crore will come from the WB and the rest from the government.

The project will be implemented nationwide to help upgrade selected health facilities and laboratories to

detect, manage and treat Covid-19 cases. Besides, designated laboratories will be provided with skilled staffers as well as diagnostic equipment and test kits.

The other project -- Covid-19 Response Emergency Assistance -- involving Tk 1,365 crore is aimed at enhancing the government's capability to fight the pandemic. It will help meet the government's immediate needs to curb further spread of the virus.

The ADB will provide Tk 850 crore and the rest will come from the government.

Under the project, infection prevention and control units will be set up at 492 upazila health complexes across the country.

Besides, crucial medical equipment and supplies will be purchased with the funds, said an official of the planning ministry seeking anonymity.

Under the project, 19 microbiology testing labs will be set up at 10 medical colleges, five hospitals and four specialised health institutions.

## Bangladesh will forge ahead

FROM PAGE 1

She urged all to abide by the health guidelines so that people do not suffer.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, held at the National Economic Council in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Planning Minister MA Mannan said an American think tank has highly praised the PM and included her in the list of eight successful women heads of state and government in the world for her sincere efforts to contain the novel coronavirus in Bangladesh.

He said the PM used her common sense as she is a daughter of this land. That's why she knew how to handle the situation, the minister added.

She has a comprehensive idea of the culture of this territory and that's why it was easy for her to tackle the situation, Mannan told reporters.

## Turned away by 6 hospitals, woman dies

FROM PAGE 1

12:15 midnight, we reached Al Haramain Hospital with an ambulance. The duty doctors refused to treat her and told us to go to another hospital," he said.

"Over the next two hours, we visited Oasis Hospital, North East Medical College Hospital, Maa O Shishu Hospital, Park View Medical College Hospital and Jalalabad Ragib-Rabeya Medical College Hospital, one after the other."

He added that after she was denied treatment at those hospitals, they finally reached SOMCH around 2:20am where the on-duty doctors declared her dead.

"During such harassment, we were only given an oxygen cylinder from Maa O Shishu Hospital as our ambulance's cylinder had emptied and Jalalabad Ragib Rabeya Medical College also conducted a quick x-ray to assess her condition right before they referred us to SOMCH," he said.

He further said, "She was buried at her home in Beanibazar upazila's Kashadighirpar yesterday morning. Her family members, mostly expatriates, wanted her to get the best treatment at a private hospital -- but instead she was denied treatment at all the notable private hospitals in the city."

**THE HOSPITALS' SAY**

Dr Nahian Chowdhury, assistant director of Al Haramain Hospital, said, "We are operating with 80 beds, including specialised flu corner for suspected Covid-19 patients. But all beds, including those in the CCU and ICU facilities, were occupied that night."

"We have no intention to refuse anyone but we had to refuse at least five patients that same night," he said.

Monsur Alam, assistant manager of Oasis Hospital, said, "We have

three bed flu corners for patients with Covid-19 symptoms. But, as far I know, we didn't refuse treatment to anyone that night. If someone alleges that, it's false information."

Dr Nazmul Islam, director of North East Medical College Hospital, said, "We are dedicating a building of our facility for the treatment of Covid-19 patients and for that, we were shifting general patients from that building to another."

"As we were unprepared to admit suspected patients, we refused admitting her. But we will be admitting all types of patients from today [Tuesday] afternoon."

Murshedur Rahman, general manager of Sylhet Maa O Shishu Hospital, said, "They reached here at night but we had no advanced facilities to treat such a patient. But we provided an oxygen cylinder for her as her previous cylinder was almost empty."

Dr Tonmoy Bhattacharjee, deputy director of Park View Medical College Hospital, said, "We have eight ICU beds but only two ventilators and both of those were occupied. Her oxygen saturation that time was below 60 percent and we couldn't treat her without a ventilator. That's why we had to refuse admission."

Dr Tarek Azad, director of Jalalabad Ragib-Rabeya Medical College Hospital, said, "When they arrived, our on-duty doctor and ICU in-charge visited her. As she was suspected to be a Covid-19 patient, the doctor and our ICU consultant conducted an x-ray in the hospital's lab promptly."

"They then referred her to Sylhet Saheed Shamsuddin Ahmed Hospital, a dedicated hospital for such patients. But they went to SOMCH and the woman died on the way."

Speaking at the meeting, Hasina directed the authorities concerned to monitor and implement the projects on Covid-19 rapidly.

She directed them to set up ICUs at 64 district hospitals to provide quality healthcare services to patients under the Covid-19-related projects.

The PM also asked them to ensure high pressure oxygen service in those hospitals to address the lack of treatment options for Covid-19 patients.

Hasina urged the local administrations concerned to help farmers market their fruit crops.

Mentioning that shrimp hatcheries were damaging embankments in the country's coastal areas, she directed the authorities to undertake a joint initiative to protect the embankments during natural disasters.

"What happened, is unfortunate. We should have been more careful. I ordered our doctors to admit any patient from now on, even if the patient is suspected for Covid-19. If the test reports come positive, we could refer them to Covid-19 designated hospital."

**GOVT OFFICIALS' SAY**

Following several instructions of the respective departments, the Health Services Division (HSD) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, circulated an order on May 24 to start separate treatment facilities for Covid-19 and non Covid-19 patients at all government and private hospitals with 50 or more beds.

Dr Anisur Rahman, assistant director of Sylhet Divisional Health Office, said, "Following the directives of the HSD, Sylhet's civil surgeon had earlier ordered all hospitals to oblige and we also circulated the order to all hospitals yesterday [Monday]."

"As an unfortunate incident has occurred, we could've taken serious steps if the family filed a formal complaint with us. But they denied to do so. However, following the incident, we are issuing warning letter to all the hospitals involved so that no such incident occurs in future," he said.

Dr Himangshu Lal Roy, deputy director of SOMCH, said, "Admitting a patient to any hospital of choice is completely a personal matter of the family, but this government facility is always open for all -- round the clock with maximum facilities."

"Doing business all year long and during this global crisis, it is unfortunate that private hospitals refuse patients. There are instructions from the government to admit all kind of patients and that order must be followed."

## Trump vows to bring in military

FROM PAGE 1

Trump, a Republican, has condemned the killing of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American who died after a white policeman pinned his neck under a knee for nearly nine minutes in Minneapolis on May 25, and has promised justice.

But, with marches and rallies for racial equality and against police brutality having turned violent late each day in the last week, he said rightful protests could not be drowned out by an "angry mob."

"If a city or state refuses to take the actions that are necessary to defend the life and property of their residents, then I will deploy the United States military and quickly solve the problem for them," Trump said.

Houston police chief Art Acevedo in an interview with CNN advised Trump to "keep mouth shut" after the US president advised all the governors to "dominate" the ongoing protests.

"Let me just say this to the President of the United States, on behalf of the police chiefs of this country: please, if you don't have something constructive to say, keep your mouth shut," he said.

He added, "It's not about dominance, it's about winning hearts and minds." He also requested Trump to not put the lives of young people at risk.

A popular black restaurateur was fatally shot in Kentucky early on Monday as police and National Guard troops fired weapons while dispersing a crowd protesting against police killings

of African Americans. Details were not immediately available about the circumstances of death.

The UN rights chief said yesterday the coronavirus pandemic's disproportionate impact on ethnic minorities in the US and the protests triggered by George Floyd's death were exposing "endemic inequalities" that must be addressed.

"This virus is exposing endemic inequalities that have too long been ignored," Michelle Bachelet said in a statement.

Floyd's death has reignited simmering racial tensions in a politically divided country that has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, with African Americans accounting for a disproportionately high number of cases.

Democratic Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker yesterday urged patience, saying Americans could work through these tough issues. He pledged to take legal action if Trump carried out his military threat.

"We can bring down the temperature, but not when the president... is standing up calling for troops, and law and order, and domination," he told MSNBC. "We will fight him, and we will take it to federal court."

Washington, DC, Mayor Muriel Bowser, in a separate MSNBC interview yesterday, said there were no signs of active duty US military in the city overnight.

**CRITICISM OF CHURCH VISIT**

After his address, Trump posed for

pictures with his daughter, Ivanka, and US Attorney General William Barr at St John's Episcopal Church near the White House.

The presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church diocese in Washington DC, Michael Curry, was among those who criticized Trump's use of the historic church for a photo opportunity, reports Reuters.

"In so doing, he used a church building and the Holy Bible for partisan political purposes," he said on Twitter. The church suffered minor fire damage during protests on Sunday night.

Trump was scheduled to visit the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington yesterday.

In New York, television images showed crowds smashing windows and looting luxury stores along Fifth Avenue in Manhattan before the city's 11:00 pm curfew. Mayor Bill de Blasio said the curfew would be moved to 8:00 pm.

In Hollywood, dozens of people were shown in television images looting a drug store. Windows were shattered at a nearby Starbucks and two restaurants.

A man who allegedly brought explosive materials to the demonstrations in Minneapolis from Illinois has been charged with inciting riot.

**AUTOPSIES**

A second autopsy ordered by Floyd's family and released on Monday found his death was homicide by "mechanical asphyxiation," meaning physical force interfered with his oxygen supply.

## Massive thermal plant fuel leak pollutes Siberian river

AFP, Moscow

Local authorities in Siberia have declared a state of emergency after 20,000 litres of diesel fuel seeped into a river sparking concerns from environmentalists.

The World Wildlife Fund environmental group yesterday praised local efforts to contain the spill with a floating dam, blocking dangerous pollutants from flowing into a lake near the Arctic city of Norilsk.

Satellite images published by the WWF showed large red spillages in the Ambarnaya river and residents nearby posted videos on social media showing polluted water.

The spill was caused last week by a leaking diesel fuel tank at a thermal power plant several kilometres west of Norilsk.

Russian mining conglomerate Norilsk Nickel, which owns the facility, said the tank was damaged when supporting pillars that had "held it in place for 30 years without difficulty" began to sink.

Norilsk is constructed on permafrost and its infrastructure is threatened by melting ice caused by climate change.

Norilsk Nickel has been guilty of spillage in the past. In 2016 it admitted pollutants from a "filtration dam" at its plant washed into another local river, colouring it bright red.

It was fined less than \$1,000 for the incident.

The Prosecutor of the Krasnoyarsk region said yesterday a state of emergency had been declared locally and opened an investigation into fuel leakage.

The Investigative Committee, which probes serious crimes, said at least 20,000 litres of oil had spread over 350 square meters.

Norilsk Nickel company director Sergei Lipin said 500 cubic meters of pollutants had been removed by a team of 90 workers whose cleanup efforts were ongoing.

The state environmental watchdog said groundwater was not polluted and the WWF called on it to monitor water quality downstream to prevent toxic products from spreading to nature reserves.

## Docs denied

FROM PAGE 1

shifts at the hospital and then isolate themselves at the CSS Ava Center for a 14-day quarantine. Even the district administration tried to ensure their stay at the hotel but they also failed, he added. The doctors and nurses were later shifted to the Hotel Ambassador.

The medical staff of KMCH have been staying at the Millennium since April but the hotel authorities suddenly decided that the doctors will be no longer allowed there, without any notice, said Dr Munshi.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a hotel management staff said they want to run it as before now that the government shutdown has been lifted. They need to renovate, he claimed, adding that doctors staying there will be a deterrent to other guests.

Sharifuzzaman, who owns the hotel building, said he rented out the hotel to a person called Mahbub, who the district administration made the arrangements with.

"For the last two months, there has been no service staff at the hotel. Only two guards and doctors were staying here," he said.

"Now, who will take the responsibility if some accident takes place or something happens? So, we decided not to allow the doctors to stay here."

Sharifuzzaman said he informed the DC office and the local police station about it.

Contacted, Khulna DC Mohammed Helal Hossain said they locked down the hotel on Monday night. They will decide on the matter later, he added.

## Women less

FROM PAGE 1

women, they could not fight well against the novel coronavirus," he said.

Be-Nazir also added that the increasing number of Covid-19 cases were due to the government's mismanagement from the day one.

**BRIEFING**

Prof Dr Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of DGHS, said a total of 12,704 samples were tested in 52 labs across the country in the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, 523 Covid-19 patients have recovered since yesterday, taking the total number of recoveries to 11,120 and the recovery rate to 21 percent, the DGHS official added.

A total of 388 people were put under isolation in 24 hours, she added.

Among the deceased, 10 were from Dhaka, 15 from Chattogram, four from Sylhet, three from Barishal, two from Rajshahi, two from Rangpur and one from Mymensingh division.

Of them, one was between 21 and 30 years old, four between 31-40, one between 41-50, 10 within 51-60, nine between 61-70, 10 between 71-80 years old and the other two between 81-90, Dr Nasima also said.



## 'A corruption-free, developed DSCC'

Promises mayor Taposh at his first board meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday said he would not patronise any corruption, which exists in every nook and corner of the city corporation.

Addressing the first board meeting at Nagar Bhaban after taking charge, the mayor said he will root out corruptions from the city corporation during his five-year tenure.

Mentioning councillors as his main companions, the mayor said the city corporation's door is always open for them and he will keep them involved in different works of DSCC.

He sought cooperation from the councillors in solving issues such as mosquito control, waste management, waterlogging, road repairing works, freeing roads and footpaths from encroachment and traffic congestion.

Taposh said they have to make the foundation of building a developed Dhaka city and to achieve that they will have to work 24 hours a day.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Seasonal fruits like sugar palms have started to hit the markets in Chattogram. Also known as palmyra or taal in Bangla, they are brought to Kadamtoli bazar from different districts of the country for sale. This summer fruit is widely popular because of its translucent, sweet jelly seeds. Each palm was being sold at Tk 5-15 depending on size at the market earlier this week.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

## DU students to be brought under health insurance

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities yesterday decided to bring all students of the university under health insurance.

The decision was taken at a meeting of deans' committee chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman, said a press release of the university. The details of the plan have not yet been decided. A six-member committee was formed to design a policy for ensuring medical facilities for DU students at different hospitals at minimum premium.

Members of the committee include dean of science faculty Prof Tofayel Ahmed; business studies faculty acting dean Prof Muhammad Abdul Moyeen; dean of medicine faculty Prof Shahriar Nabi; Prof Syed Abdul Hamid of Institute of Health Economics, and Prof Hasina Sheikh of banking and insurance department.

If implemented, a total of 37,018 students of the university will be getting medical services at different hospitals at a definite premium.

Mentionable, it's mandatory to get medical insurance coverage prior to getting enrolled in universities in the USA and many European countries.

The meeting dictated that respective departments or institutes will fix the number of enrolling freshers upon considering the capability and capacity of the university, and international needs in order to ensure quality of education and produce more skilled human resources.

It also directed the departments to prepare a database to determine how they will achieve 17 goals and 169 targets of SDGs.

All departments were asked to submit the database by June 30 to the office of the registrar.

## Boost allocation for edu sector: CAMPE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An education advocacy and campaign network yesterday demanded increased allocation for education sector in the upcoming budget as part of two/three-year-long Covid-19 response and recovery plan for the sector.

Campaign For Popular Education (CAMPE), in a memorandum submitted to finance minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, also demanded increased allocation for providing stimulus packages for teachers and ensuring their salaries.

The education rights organisation demanded at least 15 percent of allocation of the budget for the education sector, to continue the success in the sector and curb any kind of "catastrophic" situation.

CAMPE deputy director KM Enamul Hoque said that they submitted the memorandum through email.

In the memorandum, CAMPE also

demanded transparency, accountability and proper use of money while expending the allocated money.

It said a special two- or three-year recovery plan is needed to overcome the ongoing coronavirus situation. In that special recovery plan, emphasis should be given on special kind of teaching in classrooms.

It said that there should be focus on helping students return to their classrooms, reducing "unnecessary exams" and revising the academic calendar.

CAMPE welcomed the government's TV education initiative, although "many students still remain out of coverage of such education," they said.

It demanded allocation for uninterrupted internet service at all education institutions, as "the future of education will be ICT-dependent".

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## BOAT CAPSIZE IN MEDITERRANEAN

### Accused human trafficker held: Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a member of a human trafficking gang from Bishwanath upazila of Sylhet on Monday.

The arrestee, Rafiqul Islam, is an accused in several cases filed following the capsizing of a boat in the Mediterranean Sea on May 9 last year, said Obain Rakhaine, assistant superintendent of police and media officer of Rab-9.

A boat carrying around 80 migrants sank in the Mediterranean Sea on May 9 last year while making an illegal voyage to Italy from Libya. At least 37 Bangladeshis died, while 15 were rescued hours after being adrift at sea.

Redwanul Islam Khokon of Majhpara in Bishwanath upazila was among the victims. His brother Rezaul Islam Raju filed a case with Bishwanath Police Station on May 16 accusing Rafiqul Islam, his son Parvez Ahmed and daughter Pinki Ananya Priya and several others.

Okil Uddin, officer-in-charge of Jalalabad Police Station, said, "Arrestee Rafiqul was handed over to the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Tk 20 lakh spent in 21 days!

### Four held over stealing Tk 80 lakh of National Bank; Tk 60 lakh recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A thief, his wife and two associates took part in the burglary and looted Tk 80 lakh from a vehicle of the National Bank in Old Dhaka on May 10.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police came up with the findings yesterday after arresting the four. A police team also recovered Tk 60 lakh from them, DB Joint Commissioner Mahbubul Alam told The Daily Star.

Police said the thief allegedly spent the rest of the money in just 21-day on drugs, lawyer fees and donations in different mazzars.

The arrestees were identified as Hannan alias Briefcase Hannan alias Robin alias Rafiqul Islam; his wife Parveen; associates Mostafa and Babul Mia.

"We have learnt that Hannan, the ringleader, is wanted in around 30 cases,"

said Saifur Rahman Azad, additional deputy commissioner of DB police, yesterday.

On information, police arrested the four from different areas of Dhaka, Kishoreganj and Shariatpur and recovered the money from a rented house of Hannan in the capital's Dholaiapur area, he said.

DB police also seized two firearms and bullets from Hannan and Mostafa's possessions. A Dhaka Court later placed the arrestees on a three-day remand for interrogation, he said.

Earlier, the DB joint commissioner revealed the information of the arrest at a midday press briefing at his Minto Road office. He said they made the arrest after analysing data and CCTV footage.

On May 10, a bag containing approximately Tk 80 lakh allegedly went missing from a vehicle of National Bank

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## DIGITAL SECURITY ACT

### Habiganj journo Sushanta denied bail once again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Habiganj court yesterday once again rejected a bail petition by Sushanta Das Gupta, publisher and editor of the daily Amar Habiganj and founder of AmarMP.com.

Habiganj district and sessions judge Amzad Hosain rejected the bail prayer, after hearing in the case filed under Digital Security Act.

Another bail appeal by Sushanta on May 27 had also been also turned down.

Sayeduzzaman Zahir, general secretary of Habiganj Press Club, lodged the case against Sushanta and three other journalists of the newspaper on May 21, said Masuk Ali, officer-in-charge of Habiganj Police Station.

Rabiul Islam, assistant superintendent of Habiganj police, said the journalist was arrested from his newspaper office in the town's Chirakandi area on same day.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## COVID-19 OUTBREAK

### HC seeks report on situation in prisons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted to know the situation of inmates in jails and prison staff across the country following the coronavirus pandemic.

The court asked Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder to collect the information from the jail authorities and provide it to the court on June 15.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim came up with the order during a virtual hearing on a writ petition filed on May 17 by Supreme Court lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir, seeking it's directives on the authorities concerned to take necessary measures to protect the prisoners and prisons staff from coronavirus.

The bench adjourned hearing till June 15 after DAG Amit Talukder opposed the petition, saying that

the coronavirus pandemic has not deteriorated in the prisons.

The HC also asked the petitioner to monitor the situation inside the jails through media reports by this time.

Manir submitted the petition as a public interest litigation to the HC requesting it to order the authorities to take measures to maintain social distancing among inmates and prison staff and other health guidelines.

In the petition, he prayed to the HC to ask the inspector general of prisons to submit a report to the court on the preparedness and steps taken in this regard.

Manir, in the petition, said there are reportedly around 74,000 prisoners in 68 prisons across the country where the accommodation capacity is for 41,244 prisoners.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Working-class people huddle on the back of a pick-up truck at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday. Commutes have become more difficult for them, especially with fares increasing due to social distancing measures.

24 years of economic and social partnership

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our valued clients, patrons, well-wishers and those on the frontline involved in the war against COVID-19. We pray for the eternal peace of those who have lost and sacrificed their lives. We express our deepest condolences to their bereaved families.



Dutch-Bangla Bank  
YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER











**CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

# India okays use of remdesivir

REUTERS, Bengaluru  
India's government yesterday said it has approved Gilead Sciences Inc's antiviral drug remdesivir for emergency use for five doses in treating COVID-19 patients.

Remdesivir, which is administered intravenously in hospital, is the first drug to show improvement in COVID-19 patients in formal clinical trials and is at the forefront of the battle against COVID-19, which has no approved treatment or vaccine.

The drug was granted emergency use authorization by the US Food and Drug Administration last month and has received approval by Japanese health regulators. The drug is being administered in some countries under compassionate use rules.

"(Remdesivir) approved on June 1 under emergency use with condition for five dose administration," the Drugs Controller General of India said in an email statement.

The approval comes a day after the US drugmaker reported that remdesivir showed modest benefit in patients with moderate COVID-19 given a five-day course, while those who received it for 10 days in the study did not fare as well.

The drug has been approved for the treatment of adults and children with severe COVID-19, the Indian Express newspaper reported yesterday, citing sources.

The regulator has decided against extending the use of the drug to 10 days, based on existing evidence presented to it at the time of approval, according to the paper.

As of Tuesday, India has 198,706 cases of coronavirus and has recorded 5,598 deaths, health ministry data showed. Governments are racing to bolster supplies of remdesivir, with European and South Korean authorities vying for the potential COVID-19 treatment.



A couple hold each other in downtown Las Vegas, while taking part in a "Black lives matter" rally in response to the recent death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man who died while in police custody, on Monday night.

PHOTO: AFP

**CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

## KEY UPDATES

**NEARLY 6.3M CASES**

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 375,555 people since the outbreak first emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1100 GMT yesterday.

At least 6,279,390 cases of coronavirus have been registered in 196 countries and territories. The United States is the worst-hit country with 105,147 deaths from 1,811,277 cases. After the US, the hardest-hit countries are Britain with 39,045 deaths from 276,332 cases, Italy with 33,475 deaths from 233,197 cases, Brazil with 29,937 deaths and 526,447 cases and France with 28,833 deaths and 189,220 cases.

**NO HAJJ FOR INDONESIANS**

Indonesia has cancelled the hajj pilgrimage this year for people in the world's largest Muslim-majority nation due to concerns over the coronavirus, the religious affairs minister said yesterday. Saudi Arabia, where the hajj rituals are performed, has already said the hajj and umrah pilgrimages -- which attract millions of travellers from around the world -- will remain suspended until further notice.

**FIRST ROHINGYA REFUGEE DIES**

A 71-year-old man has become the first Rohingya living in vast refugee camps in Bangladesh to die from the coronavirus, an official said yesterday. Health experts have long warned that the deadly virus could race through the vast network of settlements housing almost a million refugees in the country's southeast.

**SINGAPORE OPENS SCHOOLS**

Pupils wearing face masks returned to school in Singapore yesterday and some workplaces reopened as coronavirus restrictions were eased in the hard-hit city-state. The country has recorded over 35,000 cases -- the highest official tally in Southeast Asia -- with the vast majority among foreign workers. The death toll stands at 24.

**THAIS RE-OPEN SOME BEACHES**

People returned to some of Thailand's famed sandy beaches Monday, keeping well apart but enjoying the outdoors, as authorities eased some coronavirus restrictions for the first time in more than two months. In Pattaya, visitors marvelled at the clarity of the turquoise-blue waters of the Gulf of Thailand. Phuket, in the south, is still off-limits.

**NO DEATHS IN SPAIN**

Spain has recorded no coronavirus deaths over the past 24 hours for the first time since the beginning of March, a government source said Monday. It is one of the countries worst hit by the pandemic, having recorded 27,127 deaths from 239,638 cases notified.

**PAKISTAN END CURBS**

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan announced Monday his government would end restrictions. His announcement came shortly after a report was leaked to the media that showed cases of coronavirus in Lahore are estimated to be at about 670,800. Officially, about 72,000 people have tested positive, with 1,543 deaths, across all of Pakistan.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

# Friends and foes criticise US

AFP, Washington

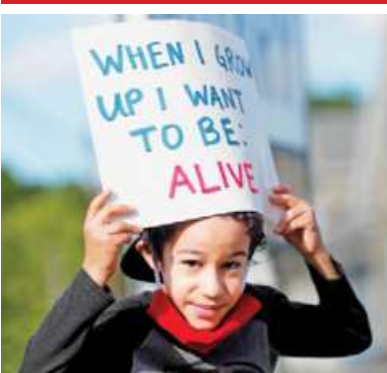
With US cities in flames over outrage about police brutality, nations that are usually on the receiving end of Washington's criticism on human rights are gleefully turning the tables.

Condemnation of the US record on race came from China, which days earlier faced US counter-measures for tightening controls on Hong Kong, as well as Iran, where officials have been slapped with US sanctions for suppressing protests in November.

The United States is experiencing some of its worst riots in 50 years with dozens of cities under curfews following the killing in Minneapolis of George Floyd, an unarmed African-American man who pleaded "I can't breathe" as a white police officer pinned him under his knee for nearly nine minutes.

Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam yesterday accused the United States of applying "double standards" in its response to violent protests after US ended the city's special trading status.

**VIOLENT RACE UNREST IN US**



"Racism against ethnic minorities in the US is a chronic disease of American society," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said. Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi echoed the language frequently voiced by President Donald Trump's administration in its support for opponents of the clerical state.

"To the American people: the

world has heard your outcry over the state of oppression. The world is standing with you," Mousavi said.

Solidarity protests have taken place in US friends including UK, Ireland and New Zealand. Allied governments have spoken in general terms about US police brutality, without criticizing Trump.

EU High Representative Josep Borrell yesterday urged US authorities to rein in the "excessive use of force", and said the 27-nation bloc supports the right to peaceful protest.

Europe is "shocked and appalled" by the police killing, the EU's diplomatic chief said, condemning an "abuse of power".

A spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that US police should show restraint "as in any other country in the world" and that police worldwide need human rights training.

Germany's foreign minister yesterday said the peaceful demonstrations in the United States are "more than legitimate".

# Autopsy finds cop suffocated George floyd

AGENCIES

An autopsy found Monday that an African-American man whose death has set off nationwide unrest was suffocated by a police officer, contradicting a preliminary ruling.

"The evidence is consistent with mechanical asphyxia as the cause of death, and homicide as the manner of death," Aleccia Wilson, a University of Michigan expert who examined his body at the family's request, told a news conference.

An initial finding cited in a criminal complaint pointed to pre-existing conditions, outraging the family.

Shortly after the independent report, Hennepin County's medical examiner released its official autopsy that called his death a homicide caused by "neck compression," although it also said he was intoxicated and pointed to heart disease.

The autopsy revived demands for the arrest of three other police officers who stood guard for Derek Chauvin as Floyd pleaded for his life.

Meanwhile, an emotional Terrence Floyd, brother of George, demanded that rioters stop violence and protest his brother's killing peacefully.

"I understand you're upset ... but if I'm not over here wildin' out, if I'm not over here blowing up stuff, if I'm not over here messing up my community - then what are y'all doing? Nothing, because that's not going to bring my brother back at all," Floyd said angrily over a loudspeaker.

"So let's do this another way. Let's stop thinking that our voice don't matter and vote ... because it's a lot of us and we still going to do this peacefully."



A waiter serves customers on a restaurant's terrace in Strasbourg, France, yesterday. Cafes and restaurants reopened in France yesterday as the country began to ease lockdown measures which were taken to prevent spread of coronavirus.

# Rainforests disappearing at an alarming rate: report

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

Tropical rainforests disappeared at a rate of one football pitch every six seconds last year, researchers said yesterday, urging countries to include forest protection in post-pandemic plans.

The loss in 2019 of 3.8 million hectares (9.3 million acres) of tropical primary forest - which means intact areas of old-growth trees - was the third biggest decline since the turn of the century, according to data from Global Forest Watch (GFW).

"Primary forests are the areas we are the most concerned about - they have the biggest implications for carbon and biodiversity," said Mikaela Weisse, a project manager at the GFW forest monitoring service, run by the World Resources Institute.

"The fact that we are losing them so rapidly is really concerning," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Loss of primary forest, which hit a record high in 2016 and 2017, was 2.8% higher in 2019 than the year before.

Agricultural expansion, wildfires, logging, mining and population growth all contribute to deforestation, according to GFW researchers.

Cutting down forests has major implications for global goals to curb climate change, as trees absorb about a third of the planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions produced worldwide.

Forests also provide food and livelihoods for people who live in or near them, are an essential habitat for wildlife, and aid tropical rainfall.

The top three countries for primary forest loss last year - Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Indonesia - have remained largely the same this century, GFW researchers said.



Brazil accounted for more than a third of all primary forest loss in 2019 at 1.36 million hectares. Neighbouring Bolivia, however, experienced record-breaking primary forest loss at 290,000 hectares, due to fires in both forests and surrounding woodlands, GFW said.

And Australia experienced a 560% jump in tree cover loss from 2018, driven by unprecedented bushfires, making it easily the country's worst year on record.

## NEWSIN brief

### Landslides kill 20 in Assam

AFP, Guwahati

At least 20 villagers, including 10 children, were killed in landslides Tuesday after three days of incessant pre-monsoon rains in northeastern India, officials said. The landslides took place in the Barak Valley of southern Assam state, Forests Minister Parimal Suklabaidya said, adding that several homes were destroyed. Officials said rescue workers feared they may find more bodies trapped by the landslides and the toll could rise.

### Roadside bomb kills 7 in Afghanistan

AFP, Kunduz

Seven civilians were killed by a roadside bomb linked to the Taliban in northern Afghanistan, officials said yesterday, even as authorities pressed for peace talks with the militants. The latest blast struck a small truck carrying a group of labourers late Monday in the volatile district of Khan Abad, in the province of Kunduz. No group claimed responsibility.

### Libya rivals agree to ceasefire talks

AFP, Tripoli

The United Nations' Libya mission yesterday said the country's warring parties had agreed to restart talks aimed at reaching a lasting ceasefire, after a three-month suspension. In a statement, UNSMIL "welcomed" moves by the Government of National Accord and forces backing eastern-based military commander Khalifa Haftar to accept "restarting negotiations on a ceasefire and the related security arrangements".

রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ  
শাহজাদপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ

স্বাক্ষর: রবিবা/শওউ/যামবাহন ক্রম/৭৪/২০১৯/২৪<sup>ন</sup>      দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি      তারিখ: ৩১.০৫.২০২০

এছাড়া পিপিআর ২০০৮ অনুসারে নিম্নবর্ণিত দরপত্রের যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকানাধারের নিকট হইতে সিলমোহরকৃত বামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে।

ক্র.সং	স্বাক্ষরকারী/বিভাগ	শিক্ষা/স্বাক্ষরকারী				
১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়				
২	এজেন্সি	বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন				
৩	সম্বন্ধকারী স্বত্বার নাম	রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ, শাহজাদপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ				
৪	সম্বন্ধকারী স্বত্বার কোড	বর্তমান ব্যবহৃত হচ্ছেনা				
৫	সম্বন্ধকারী স্বত্বার ফোন	সিরাজগঞ্জ				
৬	কি কাজের জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান	রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ-এর জন্য বাস (৫২ সিট) এক মিনিবাস (এসি) ক্রয়				
৭	আহ্বানের সূত্র	স্বাক্ষর: রবিবা/শওউ/যামবাহন ক্রম/৭৪/২০১৯/				
৮	তারিখ	৩১.০৫.২০২০				
৯	সম্প্রাপ্ততারিখ	ঐচ্ছিক দরপত্র পদ্ধতি				
১০	বাসেট এন্ড পোর্ট অফ ফ্রাট	জিএবি				
১১	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর	০১/২০১৯-২০				
১২	দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ	৩১.০৫.২০২০				
১৩	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির সর্বশেষ তারিখ	১৩.০৬.২০২০ (অফিস সময় পর্যন্ত)।				
১৪	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	১৪.০৬.২০২০ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ টারপর।				
১৫	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৪.০৬.২০২০ তারিখ দুপুর ১.০০ টা।				
১৬	দরপত্র লিপি বিক্রয়কারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	সহকারী পরিচালক (পরিচালনা ও উন্নয়ন) এর কার্যালয়, অস্থায়ী অফিস (ফাহিম ম্যানসন, বাড়ি ৭৮/১, কান্দাপাড়া, শাহজাদপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ)। লিয়ারী অফিস: বাড়ি ৬৫/৬, (৫-বি), রোড ৬/এ, যামবাহন, সফল ১২০৯				
১৭	দরপত্র লিপি গ্রহণকারী অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	পরিচালনা ও উন্নয়ন সচিব, রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ, সিরাজগঞ্জ অফিস: বাড়ি ৬৫/৬, (৫-বি), রোড ৬/এ, যামবাহন, সফল ১২০৯				
১৮	দরপত্র লিপি খোলার সচিব	পরিচালনা ও উন্নয়ন সচিব, রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ, সিরাজগঞ্জ অফিস: বাড়ি ৬৫/৬, (৫-বি), রোড ৬/এ, যামবাহন, সফল ১২০৯				
১৯	দরপত্র দাখলের যোগ্যতা	১. যে-কোন সরকারী/প্রতিষ্ঠান বাসের হোল্ডার/স্বত্বাধারী, মূল্য সময়েজন কর নিবন্ধীকরণ, টিআইএন ও বাক্যে সন্নিবেশিত সনদপত্র রয়েছে। ২. নিম্নলিখিত (পাঁচ) বছরে ৩,৫০,০০,০০০.০০ (তিন কোটি পঞ্চাশ লক্ষ) টাকার একক কার্যবাহী সঞ্চিত কাজের সরকারি/অর্ধ-সরকারি/খাস্তাধারিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের অতিষ্ঠতা থাকতে হবে। ৩. কমপক্ষে ২,০০,০০,০০০.০০ (দুই কোটি) টাকার বাক্যে সন্নিবেশিত থাকতে হবে। ৪. দরপত্রের সঙ্গে কোনরূপ মিথ্যা সনদপত্র লিপিবদ্ধ করলে এবং প্রমাণিত হলে আমানতের অর্থ বাতিলসহ ঠিকানাধারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে Debarred করার জন্য সুশীল করা হইবে।				
২০	কাজের বিস্তারিত বর্ণনা	সিডিউল মোতাবেক				
২১	কাজের সঞ্চিত বিবরণী	--				
	প্যাকেজ নম্বর	কাজের নাম	অবস্থান	জামানতের পরিমাণ (টাকা)	দরপত্র লিপিবদ্ধ মূল্য (টাকা)	কাজ সমাপ্তির সময় দিন/সপ্তাহ
	প্যাকেজ ০১	রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ-এর কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীদের ব্যবহারের জন্য ১টি বাস (৫২ সিট) এবং ১টি মিনিবাস (এসি) সংগ্রহ	রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ, শাহজাদপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ	৪,৫০,০০০/- (চার লক্ষ পঞ্চাশ হাজার) টাকা	৫,০০০/- (অফিসের যোগ্য)	৬০ (ষাট) দিন
২২	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম ও পদবি	মোঃ শিকলী মাহতুব, সহকারী পরিচালক (পওউ), রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ, শাহজাদপুর, সিরাজগঞ্জ				
২৩	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা	সিডিউল/মোবাইল: ০১৭৯১-৬০৬৮১৫, ইমেইল: riad2092@gmail.com				
২৪	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হইতে পরবর্তী ১২০ (একশত বিশ) দিন পর্যন্ত দরপত্র বহাল থাকবে। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই কর্তৃক যে-কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।					

স্বাক্ষরিত/  
(মোঃ শিকলী মাহতুব)  
সহকারী পরিচালক (পওউ)  
রবীন্দ্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ

GD-931





## SPECIAL PREPARATION FOR HSC EXAMINATION-2020

### English First Paper

Md. Jasim Uddin Biswas, Lecturer  
Dhaka Residential Model College

#### Seen Passage

Read the passage and answer the question A and B.

Dreams have fascinated philosophers for thousands of years, but only recently have dreams been subjected to empirical research and concentrated scientific study. Chances are that you've often found yourself puzzling over the mysterious content of a dream, or perhaps you've wondered why you dream at all. First, let's start by answering a basic question. What is a dream? A dream can include any of the images, thoughts, and emotions that are experienced during sleep. Dreams can be extraordinarily vivid or very vague; filled with joyful emotions or frightening images; focused and

understandable or unclear and confusing. Why we dream? What purpose do dreams serve? While many theories have been proposed, no consensus has emerged. Considering the enormous amount of time we spend in a dreaming state, the fact that researchers do not yet understand the purpose of dreams may seem baffling. However, it is important to consider that science is still unravelling the exact purpose and function of sleep itself. Some researchers suggest that dreams serve no real purpose while others believe that dreaming is essential to mental, emotional and physical well-being.

A. Choose the correct answer from the alternatives. **1×5=5**

- (a) The word 'basic' means?  
(i) main (ii) fundamental  
(iii) important (iv) major
- (b) A dream is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(i) sleep (ii) what we experience during sleep  
(iii) our intention of future activities (iv) angel's bounty
- (c) The word 'puzzling' stands for \_\_\_\_\_.  
(i) horrifying (ii) terrifying  
(iii) perplexing (iv) sneering
- (d) Empirical research on dream is \_\_\_\_\_.  
(i) recent (ii) old  
(iii) past (iv) current
- (e) The word 'vivid' stands for \_\_\_\_\_.  
(i) puzzling (ii) interesting  
(iii) entertaining (iv) very clear

B. Answer the following question. **2×5=10**

- (a) What is dream according to the passage?  
(b) Does dream serve any purpose at all?  
(c) What do you suggest to be essential for coming to conclusion on the cause(s) and purpose of dream?  
(d) Which one is more important: dream or sleep? Why?  
(e) What is the opinion of some researchers regarding dream?

### Answer:

- (A):  
(a) (ii) fundamental  
(b) (ii) what we experience during sleep  
(c) (iii) perplexing  
(d) (i) recent  
(e) (iv) very clear.
- (B):  
(a) A dream refers to a series of images, events and feelings that happen in peoples' mind while they are asleep. Dreams are at times very clear while, at other times abstract and ambiguous. Dreams are sometimes pleasant, while sometimes they might be rather spine-chilling and terrifying.  
(b) According to some researchers, dreams serve no real purpose, while others believe that dreams help develop physically, mentally and emotionally.  
(c) I think a dream is a fulfilment of desires at the unconscious level. It can bring mental, emotional and physical well-being.  
(d) Sleep is more important than a dream as dream is experienced during sleep. Besides, sleep removes our fatigue and brings energy.  
(e) Some researchers suggest that dreams serve no real purpose, but some others are of the view that dreams bring mental, emotional and physical well-being.



### English Second Paper

Read the following text and use modifiers as directed in the blank spaces.

1. **0.5×10=5**  
Ayesha Begum has three sons and two daughters. Her husband was a (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the noun) farmer who used (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (post-modify the verb by using infinitive) on other people's land. With great effort they married (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (use a pronoun) daughters off by the time they reached teenage. Their sons also started (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (use present participle to modify the verb) with their father as (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the noun) labourers when they were old enough to help. By the time they were seventeen, they left for towns (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (use infinitive to post-modify the verb) money. At first they used to send money to their parents (g) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an adverb to post-modify the verb) but after getting married they barely had enough to support their (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the noun) families. Out of desperation, Ayesha Begum started (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (post-modify the verb) in the village to feed her old, (j) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the noun) husband and herself.

2. While eating food, we must remember that we do not eat food just (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (post-modify the verb with an infinitive phrase). Rather, we eat food so that we can maintain (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the noun) health. In other words, we must eat only (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify, the noun with a determiner) foods that are conducive to our health. But in our society a large number of people (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the verb) understand this. They think that good food means (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the noun) food, which is wrong. Because of this wrong idea many people (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the noun with present participle) in plenty fail to eat the right food and suffer (g) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the verb with a prepositional phrase). If they had the knowledge of health and nutrition and knew how (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (post-modify the verb with an infinitive) balanced diet, they could live a (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the noun) life, which is (j) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the adjective with an intensifier) important because a healthy citizen is an asset to the nation.

3. Socrates, (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (post-modify the noun with an appositive), believed that an angry man was more of a beast than a (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (use adjective to pre-modify the noun) being. His wife used to lose (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (use possessive to pre-modify the noun) temper on the slightest excuse. She tried her utmost (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an infinitive phrase to post-modify the noun phrase) Socrates, (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (use quantifier to pre-modify the noun) day the woman became more furious than ever. She began to insult (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (use article to pre-modify the noun) great scholar of Greece. Socrates went (g) \_\_\_\_\_ (post-modify the verb with an adverbial of place). He sat on the (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (use a noun adjective to pre-modify the noun) step of his residence looking out on the path-street. The wife found that (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (use possessive to pre-modify the noun) husband was not paying the least heed to her word. She went up to him with a bucket full of water and suddenly she poured much water over him. He (j) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an adverb to pre-modify the verb) remarked, "I was expecting this. After thunder, comes the rain."

4. It was a hot (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (use a noun adjective to pre-modify the noun) day. A (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the noun) crow flew all over the fields looking for water. For a long time, she could not find any water. She felt (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an intensifier to pre-modify the adjective) weak, almost giving up hope. Suddenly, she saw a water jug below her. She flew (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (post-modify the verb) to see if there was any water inside. Yes, she could see some water inside the jug. The crow tried (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an infinitive phrase to post-modify the verb). Sadly, she found that the neck of the jug was too narrow. Then she tried to push the jug down for the water to flow out. But she found (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (use a demonstrative to pre-modify the noun) jug too heavy. The crow thought (g) \_\_\_\_\_ (use a phrase to post-modify the verb) what to do. (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (use a participle to



pre-modify the verb), she saw some pebbles nearby. She (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the verb) had a good idea. She started picking up the pebbles one by one, dropping each into the jug. As more and more pebbles filled the jug, the water level kept rising. Soon it was high (j) \_\_\_\_\_ (post-modify the adjective) for the crow to drink. The crow quenched its thirst and flew away.

5. Most of the people in (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (use possessive to pre-modify the noun) country do not know the importance of English. In fact, it is an (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an adjective to pre-modify the noun) language and we are living in a (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the noun) village. So, if you know English (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (post-modify the verb with an adverb), you can communicate with (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (use article to pre-modify the noun phrase) rest of the world. It is surely an important element of your (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (use a noun adjective to pre-modify the noun) skill. Without the knowledge of English with proper understanding, you cannot complete (g) \_\_\_\_\_ (use possessive to pre-modify the noun) higher studies because most of the books are written in English in the process of higher education. Poor knowledge of English will also hamper your (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (use a noun adjective) development. In short, if you do not have a good command of English, you will suffer (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (post-modify the verb with prepositional phrase/adverbial) of your life. So, don't waste your time and try to learn English (j) \_\_\_\_\_ (post-modify the verb with an adverb) from today.

6. Othello, (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an appositive to post-modify the noun) had

risen to become a general. He had shown his bravery in many (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an adjective to pre-modify the noun) battles against the Turks. Everyone praised him (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an adverb to post-modify the verb) and the senate trusted and honoured him. Brabantio, a rich senator of Venice had a daughter named Desdemona (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (use a relative clause to post-modify the noun). Brabantio (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an adverb to pre-modify the verb) invited Othello to his house where he and his daughter listened in wonder to Othello as he spoke about his adventures. He told them of deserts, of caves and of mountains high (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an intensifier to pre-modify the adjective) to touch the sky. Desdemona had to weep (g) \_\_\_\_\_ (use a present participle to post-modify the verb phrase) and she never became tired of listening to it. She pitied Othello (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an adverb to post-modify the verb) for the misfortunes and hardships of his life. Her pity (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an adverb to post-modify the verb) turned to love. She refused all the young men (j) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an infinitive to post-modify the verb) because she loved Othello, a noble Muslim Moor from North Africa.

7. Television has become the most common and (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the noun) source of entertainment in the (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the noun) world. A wide range of programs of (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the adjective) interest is telecast on (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (use quantifier to pre-modify the noun) channels. Almost every middle class and even working class families have a television set today. (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (use a noun-adjective to pre-modify the noun) programs are (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the adjective) entertaining. They can be (g) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the adjective) educative too. Courses (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (post-modify the noun) by the Open University are shown on BTv. (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the noun) channels like the Discovery Channel and the National Geographic Channel telecast highly informative programs. However, watching TV has become (j) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an article) addiction for many.

8. The people of Bangladesh have expressed their shock (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (post-modify the verb) at the reaction of the Pakistan Parliament. Pakistan strongly protested the execution of two (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the noun) collaborators who committed crimes against humanity on their own people in 1971. There is a demand for apology from (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (use a noun adjective to pre-modify the noun) government for the crimes of its army during the Liberation War of

Bangladesh. Recently Pakistan's National Assembly may be within its rights (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an infinitive phrase to post-modify the verb) for the execution of two collaborators. But it is quite clear to us that Pakistan, always tries to erase its past history. To erase (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (use a demonstrative to pre-modify the noun) history is not easy because history continues to follow all of us. Pakistan, (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (post-modify the noun with an appositive), cannot come out of its military influence. As a result, the country has become (g) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an intensifier to pre-modify the adjective) barbarous. So Pakistan is going down (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an adverb to post-modify the verb). The founder of Pakistan Mr. Jinnah was physically (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an intensifier to pre-modify the adjective) weak and so, the state always tried to show its physical strength since (j) \_\_\_\_\_ (use a possessive to pre-modify the noun) birth.

9. The impact of climate change will pose a (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the adjective) threat to human existence and civilization. Temperature of the world will increase (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (post-modify the verb with an adverb). This could catastrophically reduce (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (use possessive to pre-modify the noun) ability to grow food, destroy wildlife and wilderness, raise sea levels and thereby flood will occur (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the noun) areas and farmlands. Melting of ice caps of polar regions will cause an alarming rise (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (use a prepositional phrase to post-modify the noun). As a result, natural disasters like flood, cyclone, etc. will (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (pre-modify the verbs occur in the world). It is predicted that Bangladesh will lose 40% of (g) \_\_\_\_\_ (use a possessive to pre-modify the noun) land to the Bay of Bengal by 2050. According to the report, the (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (use an adjective to pre-modify the noun) temperature of Bangladesh has already increased much. (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (use adverb to pre-modify the noun) the lower southern part of Bangladesh will go under water. It will bring untold sufferings to the people (j) \_\_\_\_\_ (post-modify the noun) in the coastal areas.



### Answers:

- (a) landless/poor; (b) to work; (c) their; (d) working; (e) day; (f) to earn; (g) occasionally; (h) own; (i) begging; (j) invalid.
- (a) to fill our belly; (b) good/sound; (c) such/the; (d) hardly; (e) rich/expensive; (f) living; (g) in the long run/from various diseases; (h) to select/to make; (i) healthy; (j) very.
- (a) a renowned philosopher; (b) human; (c) her; (d) to irritate; (e) one; (f) the; (g) outside; (h) door; (i) her; (j) quietly.
- (a) summer; (b) thirsty; (c) very; (d) quickly; (e) to drink water; (f) that; (g) for a while; (h) Looking around; (i) finally/then; (j) enough.
- (a) our; (b) international language; (c) global; (d) well; (e) the; (f) language; (g) your; (h) career; (i) in every stage; (j) properly.
- (a) a black moor; (b) fearful/dangerous; (c) highly; (d) who loved him; (e) sometimes; (f) enough; (g) listening to his stories; (h) much; (i) finally; (j) to marry.
- (a) widespread/popular; (b) present/modern; (c) varied; (d) many/numerous/different; (e) Television; (f) not only/very/greatly; (g) highly/equally; (h) run; (i) Several/Different; (j) an.
- (a) strongly/instantly/immediately; (b) notorious; (c) Pakistan; (d) to blame/to condemn; (e) that; (f) the mostly military ruled country; (g) very; (h) gradually/day by day; (i) very; (j) its.
- (a) major/serious; (b) alarmingly; (c) mankind's; (d) coastal; (e) in the sea levels; (f) frequently/increasingly; (g) her/its; (h) average; (i) Consequently, one day; (j) living.



## Farmers key to keeping food supply chain intact

*Help them get fair prices, firm inputs and low-interest loans*

BAKGLADESH may still be in a relatively good position when it comes to food security, all things considered, but that may change if the food supply chain cannot be kept intact. There are already warning signs on the horizon. We have had reports of growing disruptions in the local production and supply chains after cyclone Amphan, which served to accentuate the effects of months-long lockdown restrictions by destroying vast swathes of land and properties in the coastal region. Farmers are among the hardest hit groups in the Covid-19 crisis. While talking to *The Daily Star* recently, Dr Jahangir Alam, an agricultural economist, has rightly stressed the need to help farmers on a priority basis, which he tied with the imperative need of keeping the food supply chain intact.

He identified two factors responsible for farmers not getting fair prices for their produce: first, the dwindling purchasing capacity of a large section of the people now struggling with no work and no earnings; second, the failure to transport large portions of vegetables, milk, fish, chicken, eggs and other dairy and agricultural products to the cities. Transport owners hiking transportation fares is exacerbating the crisis. If this trend continues, small and medium farmers with fewer coping strategies will incur heavy losses. They will become frustrated and won't go into production in the next season. This, coupled with the disruptions in the international market, may offset our gains in the past months and threaten our food security. It's important to remember that we may still be 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, and also prepare better to boost local rice production. This is largely possible if farmers are allowed to do their job and weather the disruptions properly.

The government has a huge role to play in this regard. Considering their important role in keeping the supply chain intact, the government should help farmers grow, preserve and get fair prices for their produce, facilitate low-cost transportation of food products to the market, and make farm inputs such as imported fertilisers and insecticides available for them, especially ahead of the Aman and subsequent Boro seasons. Importantly, the government can further reduce the interest rates for both general farm loans and loans declared under the stimulus packages. This is the only logical thing to do given the enormous burden farmers are carrying on their shoulders.

## Corona's dark portends on the majority of our people

*Health and economy at high risk*

THERE was little doubt that Covid-19 would eventually affect more than the health of the people, given the pervasive grip of the virus. Every aspect of the economy would be seriously affected by the deadly pandemic. The situation would be further exacerbated by the fact that almost all countries will have been affected by it once the pandemic is over. We had said not long ago in these very pages that the country would be counting the costs and grappling to come out of the whirlpool long after the last cured patient of Covid-19 has left the hospital, or the last unfortunate victim of the virus has been interred.

Our fears have come to be validated by a study published recently that presents us with very ominous predictions about more than half the population of the country. These are the low income and extremely poor people, some newly indigent, which is about 53 million people. The number of people facing high economic risks stands at more than 47 million, and those facing high health risks total more than 36 million, according to the survey. Both the formal and informal sectors have been adversely affected, with the prospects of high foreign remittance growing dim as a large number of expatriate workers have returned home.

According to a joint study led by Brac, DataSense and Unyan Sammanya, and participated in by several universities and think-tanks, and the International Monetary Fund, more than 100 million people are facing high economic and health risks in Bangladesh, with 74 percent of the families already struggling to survive having seen their income go down; job loss due to the pandemic being one of the contributing factors.

We feel that the government's job is well cut out so far as the next budget is concerned. Not only the study, but other eminent economists and experts also have some very appropriate and doable suggestions that ought to be considered seriously. The focus, as they suggest, has to be on the agricultural and health sectors. Food and cash support should be given for those in the lower layers of the economic pyramid just to survive. The health sector needs more than the one percent of GDP, as evidenced by the pathetic conditions betrayed by the pandemic, not to forget subsidies to the medium and small enterprises. Equally important is the government's allocational efficiency and the prevention of wasteful expenditures.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

### Menstrual hygiene in shelters

Women living in the coastal regions face great trouble with menstrual hygiene, especially during disasters, when they have to evacuate to cyclone shelters where there are no facilities for changing or disposing of napkins. Using a sanitary napkin for a long time can make them vulnerable to diseases, and the lack of privacy means women who use rags can't dry them for reuse. Shelters do not provide sanitary napkins and there is no way to source new ones during disasters. The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief must address these issues. Simple solutions such as providing sanitary napkins and separate female toilets can go a long way in menstrual management during disasters.

Samia Jahan, Rajbari Govt College

### POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



SALEEMUL HUQ

IN the last few weeks, the world has been having to deal with the double emergency of the pandemic as well as climate change, while Bangladesh and West Bengal had to deal with a triple emergency, with super cyclone Amphan hitting us quite badly. Unfortunately, such multiple emergencies are no longer going to be rare going forward. So we need to be that much better prepared to deal with them when they happen.

In the Bangladesh context, the good news was that we were able to track the projected pathway of the cyclone as it made its way slowly up the Bay of Bengal using multiple climate models, which proved reasonably accurate in terms of giving us sufficient warning. The latest warning updates were regularly being issued by the Bangladesh Meteorological Department and were widely understood by the NGOs and volunteers around the coastal areas, which enabled nearly 2.5 million people to be evacuated to cyclone shelters.

Obviously, it was extremely difficult to maintain social distancing guidelines in the cyclone shelters but nevertheless, people did their best. This combined effort of the relevant government agencies, Red Crescent volunteers and NGOs resulted in minimising the loss of lives to a few dozen, instead of the many tens of thousands we would have had in decades past.

There was similar success in warning and evacuation in India that minimised their loss of human lives as well, but

*While Bangladesh and West Bengal have made major improvements in their respective cyclone warning and evacuation systems that prevented the loss of human lives, there was still considerable damage to people's homes and livelihoods, which becomes even more acute while we are tackling Covid-19 and its economic downturn at the same time.*

J M AMINUR RAHIM

THE year 2020 has brought with it an unprecedented event—Covid-19 has spread across the globe and changed our lives. One of the changes it has brought is the emergence of digital health, with its most prominent feature being telemedicine. As a user experience (UX) researcher in digital health, it is great to see so many organisations focusing on this sector. The term "user experience" or UX refers to the experience of a user after interacting with a product. UX research deals with the behavioural aspect of the user of the product and focuses on making the product user friendly.

If the user experience aspect of these digital health initiatives is not addressed properly, they may not be able to reach their true potential. Technology is the easy part of digital health but addressing and solving the problems that matter to users is the main challenge.

A human centred approach is vital to digital health. Both online based healthcare platforms and traditional brick and mortar healthcare institutions need to accommodate the participation of its users when designing a system. In reality, this is not always the practice. When I use the word "users", it includes everyone involved in the process. A human centred design is a problem solving technique that brings a human perspective into solutions through the active participation of service users, and can contribute to eliminating the human errors in the process. A lot of times, we see unsatisfied patients complaining about service providers, mainly for the lack of empathy, negligence and wrong treatment. On the other hand, healthcare institutions also blame patients for their ignorance, carelessness and improper communication. Most of these problems can be mitigated through a human centred design

# Dealing with the triple emergency

since the cyclone hit Odisha and West Bengal first, their number of deaths was higher than ours.

However, despite the successful prevention of deaths, there was nevertheless a great deal of damage from the winds, rains and tidal surge that led to loss of trees, crops, houses and infrastructure such as roads and embankments. The overtopping and breach of many coastal embankments

Covid-19 and its economic downturn at the same time. What should be the next phase of our recovery plans at the national, regional as well as global levels?

At the national level, we must immediately develop a short term recovery plan with our own financial resources, as well as from the global community. The recovery plan should aim to tackle humanitarian,

26th annual Conference of Parties (COP26) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will now be held in November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, under the presidency of the United Kingdom. As Bangladesh will be chairing the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), we will have an opportunity to speak there, not just on our own behalf, but for all the most vulnerable



Two men duck for cover as waves generated by Cyclone Amphan smash against a breakwater in Chennai, India. The wrath of the super cyclone was felt far more strongly in West Bengal and Bangladesh.

PHOTO: ARUN SANKAR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

meant people were displaced and crops were lost to saline water. The costs are estimated at many billions of US dollars.

From the perspective of Bangladesh, there were two silver linings with respect to the final path of super cyclone Amphan. The first is that after hitting India, it hit the Sundarbans before reaching human habitations, and hence lost most of its force by then, although there was considerable loss to the flora and fauna of the forest. The second positive was that the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar were spared the worst, as the huts in the camps would have been unable to cope with very high wind speeds. While there was severe rainfall and some potential landslides, these were minimised by good preparation.

So while Bangladesh and West Bengal have made major improvements in their respective cyclone warning and evacuation systems that prevented the loss of human lives, there was still considerable damage to people's homes and livelihoods, which becomes even more acute while we are tackling

development and economic concerns, as well as public health and environmental considerations at the same time. This will require some holistic thinking and planning, involving not just the usual ministries of the government, but also experts from different disciplines in NGOs, universities and think tanks of the country. The good news is that these discussions are taking place every day and hopefully will result in a whole-of-society approach to the recovery.

At the regional level, we should recognise that the Sundarbans mangrove forest has once again played a major role in protecting both Bangladesh as well as West Bengal, and we should join forces to ensure that we are better at protecting the flora, fauna and also the people who live in it, on both sides of the border between the two countries. Joining forces to protect the Sundarbans, which is a world heritage site, will not only pay dividends for ourselves, but also be of benefit to the whole world.

Finally, at the global level, we have recently received news that the

developing countries. We should use this opportunity well.

One thing that the super cyclone has made absolutely clear is that loss and damage from human-induced climate change is now a grim reality and can no longer be avoided, so at COP26, we must push for a financial mechanism to provide funding for this loss and damage that goes beyond insurance. This will require doing our homework well before the event and the example of Amphan will be extremely relevant in such analyses.

We now need to think beyond single emergencies such as a cyclone, flood or even a pandemic. We need to see them as linked and have our preparedness systems and recovery systems linked up as well, and ready to be mobilised at short notice. Better preparedness has proven time and again to be the most effective in minimising the damage from such emergencies.

Saleemul Huq is Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development at the Independent University Bangladesh.

## Digital health: A UX perspective

approach.

Two things are vital for the proper implementation of this human centred approach. The first is that service providers must adopt the right mindset. This would help in the proper formation of teams and ensure the active and systematic participation of all users. The "right mindset" comes with the practice of taking users' feedback and improving on a continual basis.

Using the right tools is the second important aspect of the approach. This consists of selecting the right methodology and collecting actionable data. For example, taking user feedback just after experiencing a service is a great way to capture user experience. When looking at the data, a combination of both qualitative and quantitative data is required, and the data should be prepared in such a way that necessary actions can be taken based on it. Again, each and every tool needs to be validated with iterative testing.

Digital health services in Bangladesh can now play a crucial role in preventive healthcare. The whole world is taking precautionary measures now, keeping in mind that prevention is better than the cure. This prevention is not only important for communicable diseases like Covid-19, but also for important non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like diabetes and heart disease, which pose much greater threats to human lives. Digital health is a great tool for the prevention and detection of many diseases, especially NCDs, since it can make easy and usable connections between service providers and service receivers, thus enabling a better preventive healthcare system.

Providing healthcare content is a very helpful tool in preventive care, and in this case, three things should be kept in mind. Firstly, the content should be relevant to users. Relevancy can be sorted out from users' needs and

preferences. Secondly, content should be actionable, so that it can motivate users to follow it. Thirdly, content should be trustworthy, so that users stick to the service.

Currently, our healthcare seeking behaviour is reactive, but we need to change it to being proactive. In the reactive approach, a person seeks healthcare services only after getting sick, whereas a person with a proactive approach takes precautionary steps to prevent the disease in the first place. This needs to be done in a systematic way. For example, the BJ Fogg Behaviour Model argues that behaviour change is a combined effort of motivation, ability and trigger, which prompts users to take actions. In my experience, motivation is the biggest challenge in healthcare behaviour change. Now due to the Covid-19 crisis, all of us are assessing our healthcare behaviour. This sudden behaviour change can help us to adopt a proactive attitude in preventing diseases.

Many people think digital health means only telemedicine. And in many patients' perceptions, it means only primary chitchat with a doctor and the end of the service. Service providers are also stuck on telemedicine when they provide digital health. In reality, digital health has a vast horizon that is yet to be visible in front of our eyes. Some of its other features are medicine delivery, home testing, health management in mobile app, health insurance etc.

We need a great deal of user research in order to move beyond telemedicine. This is because we should design a service that matters to the users. There are two things to focus on here.

First, user research is needed to find the gaps in existing services, which may help service providers to expand beyond the existing service while trying to fill the gap. For example, after using telemedicine, a user may demand delivery of medicine prescribed in the

consultation. Or a person with a high risk of diabetes may take help from a mobile app for better adherence to their healthcare plan.

Secondly, a minimum viable product (MVP) and a small user group needs to be selected at first to test the product being offered. Both the approach and the learnings from the test should be properly documented when moving forward. If a user segment is happy about the services they use, they can be chosen for testing additional features. For example, some users in telemedicine are spontaneous about giving feedback on the services they use. They can be given healthcare content and asked about their feedback on the content. The service providers can learn a lot from these users and improve before scaling it to every other user.

I am exposed to lots of marketing offers from different healthcare providers, starting from discounts in medicines to offers in medical tourism. However, it is obvious that most people are skeptical of how this kind of marketing actually helps. Service providers need to understand its users' motivations and engage in proper messaging based on that—emphasising on user experience can break the barriers to adoption. Once a user gets an orientation to the service, steps should be taken to ensure a pleasant experience and make them a repeated user. A happy user is the biggest promoter of a product.

Many tech startups involved in other businesses are coming for their share in digital health. These are exciting times, and the perfect moment for the people in this sector to utilise people's current attention to healthcare and contribute to the long term betterment of society by creating unique, user-friendly services.

J M Aminur Rahim is trained in user and digital product research and is currently Design Research Specialist, Open CRVS Project, Plan International.



# Can climate action become the new normal?

*Bangladesh can lead the way in the post-pandemic world*



HASEEB MD  
IRFANULLAH

through TV or on web platforms, or if lucky enough, working from home. We are calling this lifestyle the “new normal”.

But typically, how long does it take something to become a new normal? A couple of years, a few months? Or may be just a few weeks—at least, that is what is happening with the ongoing coronavirus crisis. Some things, however, do not become normal to us, even in decades. Let’s take climate change as an example.

Since the 1980s, scientists have shown that climate is really changing and it is us, the humans, who are responsible for it. Since 2010, global temperatures have reached an all-time high; extreme weather events like torrential rainfall and hazards like forest fires have become more common; and catastrophes like cyclones and hurricanes started hitting our coasts more frequently, with greater strength. Climate experts repeatedly warned us—all of these are becoming a “new normal” due to climate change, and we must rapidly cut down our greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the worst. Regardless, all countries are still not acting against this “new normal” called climate change.

As we draw pictures of a post-pandemic world, leaders of thought, scientists and activists around the world are urging for a world quite different from the pre-pandemic one. They are advocating for a world that takes drastic actions against climate change by investing more in a low carbon-emitting economy. They are hoping that such a shift will become the “new normal” in the post-pandemic world.

Will this pandemic really bring us any new realisations? Will it rejuvenate our climate movement? What if this pandemic is just a temporary distraction from our normal, business-as-usual way of seeing climate change? What if it fails to push a “new normal” into our climate action?

As factories are closed, roads are empty and airplanes rest on the tarmac—this pandemic has so far managed to

the Paris Agreement back in 2015.

But, alarmingly, recent calculations have led scientists from the University of East Anglia, UK to expect a sharp rise of carbon emissions—returning to pre-pandemic emission levels in a matter of months—once countries open up after the pandemic. Moreover, as governments are allocating billions of dollars to save pandemic-stricken economies, already troubled oil and

innovated national climate funding mechanisms, and has incorporated climate action into national development. Bangladesh, therefore, should not fall for any “pandemic distractions”. The country should harness its pre-pandemic climate achievements and have a climate-resilient post-pandemic development journey.

After a 66-day-long general shutdown, as Bangladesh opens up on a limited scale, it needs to do three things immediately, in the next few weeks, to be specific.

Eleven years ago, the then-newly elected government updated the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP, 2009). The beauty of BCCSAP is that it is not only a Bangladesh-driven document to fight climate change, but is also being implemented with our own money—a Tk 3,500 crore pot called the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF).

Being a ten year plan, the BCCSAP was supposed to be reviewed and updated by 2018. Although the BCCTF has funded almost 700 projects, for some reasons, it was the German development partner GIZ that funded BCCSAP’s revision under its Climate Finance Governance project. That GIZ project ended in 2018, but the revised BCCSAP, our key climate change document, is yet to be finalised. So the first urgent thing the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change should do is get the updated BCCSAP approved, make it public, and start using it to guide our climate action. To uphold Bangladesh’s commitments and leadership in climate action, the importance of doing this immediately cannot be emphasised enough.

Second, since the 2015–2016 fiscal year, the government has been calculating how much money Bangladesh spends to tackle climate change. In the current year (2019–2020), our climate-relevant budget is 4.54 percent of our national budget or 0.8 percent of our GDP. This

has more or less been the trend for the last four years.

It is now crucial that, in the 2020–2021 budget, Bangladesh maintains the five percent allocation to climate action despite the demands to tackle the ongoing coronavirus crisis and recovery. To have proper climate action, we gradually need to increase this allocation. But for 2020–2021, maintaining the previous funding is a realistic step forward.

Last week, the much-anticipated 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) to the UN climate change convention was rescheduled for November 1–12, 2021 in Glasgow, UK. This crucial annual event cannot be held this November due to the pandemic. It is now a serious challenge to keep the climate conversation going in the two years since the last COP25 was held in Madrid in December 2019. A good thing for Bangladesh is that it is now the chair of the important Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF)—an assembly of the 48 most climate vulnerable countries—for 2020–2021. It puts Bangladesh in a position to actively facilitate and stir climate discussions over the next year and a half.

So, as the third immediate action, the government needs to bring together climate experts of the country and define our strategy towards COP26. How do we capitalise on our climate achievements to date? How do we effectively facilitate the CVF now and in the post-pandemic period? How do we work with the COP26 host, the UK, and its partner Italy? How do we showcase nature-based solutions—a key theme of the COP26—by gathering evidence from our rich investments in nature conservation over the past decades?

Bangladesh should make a mark and lead towards the COP26 of November 2021. Rejuvenating climate action in the Global South in the post-corona era—that is a legacy Bangladesh can be very proud of.

Dr Haseeb Md Irfanullah is an independent consultant working on environment, climate change, and research systems. His Twitter handle is @hmirfanullah.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

reduce global annual carbon emissions by an unprecedented eight percent, the Bloomberg reports. Interestingly, last November the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) suggested that we need to reduce a similar percentage (7.6) of global carbon emissions every year, if we want to keep the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2030—a target outlined in

coal-based companies are in the queue to receive bailouts, while renewable energy industries face financial constraints. We see no new normal here.

Despite being one of the most climate vulnerable countries, Bangladesh has developed and implemented excellent climate change strategies and action plans, has

# Was the Partition of 1947 inevitable?



MUHAMMAD  
NURUL HUDA

ON this day in 1947, the partition plan of the Indian subcontinent was made public and independence came on 14-15 August of that

year. It is, however, curious to note that although 73 years have passed since then, “Partition” happens to be the most contested discursive territory of South Asian historiography. The volume of literature produced in this field is staggering.

Looking back, it would appear that while for many Indians freedom came with a sense of loss caused by Partition, to many Muslims in Pakistan, Partition meant freedom. For some Pakistani historians, Partition was a liberating experience, a logical culmination of a long historical process that was started in the 19th century by Sayyid Ahmed Khan and others, when the South Asian Muslims began to discover their national identity, which was articulated later in the complex subcontinental politics of the 1940s. According to prominent Pakistani lawyer and politician Aitzaz Ahsan, Partition was a “primordial divide”—“a divide that is 50 years young and 5,000 years old”.

As opposed to the above contention, there are other historians who have questioned the inevitability and legitimacy of Partition. They are of the view that it was Jinnah and his Muslim League—which from 1940 began to advocate the “two nation theory”—who were ultimately responsible for the unfortunate but avoidable vicesion of the subcontinent. In their analysis, it was the “colonial government which created a Muslim community in its own image and allowed its war-time ally, the League, to transform a segmented population into a “nation” or “juridical entity”.

The proponents of the above view believe that the Partition script was penned by the British and in Muhammad Ali Jinnah, they found an excellent barrister who with dogged determination pursued the cause relentlessly, until a situation evolved where there was no return from the Partition stance.

The Pakistan movement, one has to note, had started embracing a wider public from a much earlier period. One cannot agree that the Pakistan movement lacked popular support, at least during the penultimate years of the Raj. Historian Ian Talbot has shown how in Punjab, the Muslim

League took the Pakistan campaign “from the drawing room on to the streets” and how “hundreds of thousands of Muslims participated in demonstrations, processions and strikes, and finally battled in the communal riots in the name of Pakistan and thus legitimised the Muslim League’s claims”.

Historians Shila Sen and Taj Hashmi have argued that the “Pakistan movement was mass based and democratic”, as it could successfully involve the East Bengali Muslim peasantry by offering them a utopian vision of a promised land. In the 1940s, there was a considerable politicisation along communal lines in Bengal. Historian Joya Chatterji has demonstrated how the Bengali “*bhadrolok*” launched a campaign for Partition and sought to involve the “*non-bhadrolok*” classes as well. The Dalit groups in the northern and eastern districts of Bengal responded to this call. The Pakistan movement, therefore, was hardly an elite affair during the last years of British rule.

From a historical perspective, one would find that the Muslims of India were the first to contest the Congress version of nationalism and almost from the beginning, many of them did not consider the Indian National Congress to be their representative. Muslim leaders like Sayyid Ahmed Khan clearly considered Congress to be the representative of the majority Hindus. The prospect of the introduction of representative government created the threat of a majority domination, which led to the formation of the All India Muslim League in 1906.

The formation of the Muslim League was clearly the beginning of a search for a distinctive political identity, with demands for the protection of their political rights as a minority community through the creation of separate electorate. The Morley-Minto reform of 1909 elevated Muslims to the status of an “All India political category” and thus positioned them as a “perpetual minority” in the Indian body politic. These structural imperatives of representative government henceforth began to influence the relationship between the Congress and the Muslim League.

One has to appreciate that the mainstream Indian nationalism under the stewardship of the Indian National Congress failed to maintain its separation from the blooming Hindu nationalism, and this was first contested by the Muslims. Against this background, one has to remember that the major premise of colonial cognition of Indian society was the theme of “differentiation”, which

was traced, mapped and enumerated through various official ethnographic studies and finally, since 1872, through decennial census reports. The Indian colonial census, unlike its British predecessor, made religion its fundamental ethnographic category for ordering and classifying demographic and developmental data.

The break-up of literacy and occupational statistics according to religion provided an apparently objective picture of the relative or comparative material and social conditions of each religious community. The result of this census taxonomy was the new concept of “religion as a community”. Religion came to be identified with “an aggregate of individuals united by formal official definition” who became conscious of their comparative demographic, as well as socio-economic positions, vis-à-vis other communities.

It is relevant to note here that the colonial knowledge of a redefined religion was incorporated into every structure that the State created and every opportunity that it offered to colonial subjects—from educational facilities, public employment and representation in local self-governing bodies to entry into the expanded legislative councils. The point to note is that, despite the government’s trumpeting of the secular character of this public space and their confining of religion to the private, the boundaries remained highly permeable, and it was within this context that the relationship between the religious groups were reconstituted in the late 19th century.

In practical terms, as Hindu mobilisation made progress, it also simultaneously sculpted and vilified its other, the Muslims. The latter too began to discover their community identity, informed by their common religion and an invented shared past. The aggressive Arya Samaj movement contributed to the counter-mobilisation of the Muslims in urban Punjab. In the countryside too, Islam penetrated rural politics in the 19th century through such intermediaries as *pirs* and the *ulama*.

In all the regions of India, Muslims suffered from a sense of relative deprivation in comparison with Hindus. Among the Bengal Muslims, a distinct Muslim identity had been developing at a mass level from the early 19th century through various Islamic reform movements. This distinct identity was developed through itinerant *mullahs*, the *Bahas* (religious meetings) and the *anjumans* or local associations. The Bengali Muslims started demanding special concessions on the basis of numerical

superiority in the population of Bengal as a whole. In the early 20th century, a close collaboration between educated Muslims and the *mullahs* was developed through *mofussil anjumans*.

Extremist politics and Hindu revivalism at this time further facilitated Muslim mobilisation. The Hindu *jatras* or rural theatrical performances often indulged in vilifications of Muslim historical persona, which attracted the adverse attention of the *anjumans* and the *mullahs*. The social separation of the two communities was further politicised by the Swadeshi leaders freely using Hindu religious symbols and coercing Muslim peasants to observe the boycott of British goods. The Swadeshi movement was allowed to grow into a Hindu-Muslim question and put on the Muslims an

for Partition offered a way out and we took it”.

The proposal for the United Sovereign Bengal by HS Suhrawardy and Sarat Bose was rejected as the Congress and Hindu Mahasabha led a well-orchestrated campaign that picked up momentum since April 1947, advocating for the partition of Bengal and the construction of a Hindu homeland by retaining the Hindu majority areas in a separate province of West Bengal within the Indian union. According to Joya Chatterji, leaders of this movement tried to construct a “notional Hindu identity” and played upon the threat of perpetual domination by a Muslim majority in Bengal. Historian Asim Roy adds that “it was not the League but the Congress who chose, at the end of



Refugees from 1947 trying to get to their new homeland.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

unmistakable stamp of otherness. Consequently, the anti-Partition agitation appeared in Muslim minds as an anti-Muslim campaign.

A discerning observer would have to agree that if the Muslim League mobilised the masses around the ideological symbol of Pakistan, the Hindu Mahasabha also raised the slogan of Hindu *rashtra* and launched a mass mobilisation campaign. There is no doubt that the vicious communal riots taking place in many parts of India in 1946 and 1947 expedited Partition. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is reported to have confessed later about the “truth”—“we were tired men and we were getting on in year too... we saw the fires burning in the Punjab and heard every day of the killings. The plan

the day, to run a knife across Mother India’s body”.

In a highly charged and incendiary scenario, Viceroy Lord Mountbatten announced his Partition plan on June 3, 1947. It thus appears that more than the machinations of the British divide and rule policy, the intransigence and refusal of the dominant majority to ally the fears of a perpetual minority ultimately led to the partition of India. Partition was avoidable only if Congress could agree to a constitutional arrangement envisaging a loose federal structure with strong autonomy for the provinces, along with Hindu-Muslim parity at the centre, as originally proposed by Muslim League.

.....  
Muhammad Nurul Huda is a former IGP.



## Bangladesh will join NAM

FROM PAGE 12  
CABINET MEETS

The Cabinet today meets today for about three hours. The cabinet meeting is presided over by Bangabandhu. The cabinet discusses various pressing issues including food and relief distribution, price hike of essential commodities and the law and order situation.

### WORKERS WILL BE INVOLVED IN FACTORY MANGEMENT

The government is committed to ensuring workers' participation in operation, production and management of industrial units, says a government source. A detailed plan in this regard will be announced soon. The main aim of this initiative is to encourage workers through creating a sense of ownership among them to increase overall industrial productivity. It will also significantly

reduce industrial unrest, believes the government source. Earlier, Bangabandhu called upon the workers to join the government's effort to establish socialism through successful implementation of the nationalisation programme and increasing production in all the industrial units.

### NEW AGRICULTURAL LOAN APPROVED

Bangladesh Bank has approved an additional Tk 2 crore as loan for the Bangladesh Agricultural Development Bank. This fund will be distributed among farmers to increase productivity in the agricultural sector. Earlier, Bangladesh Bank allocated Tk 8.40 crore for the National Cooperative Bank to invest in rice, sugar and fish cultivation.

SOURCES: June 4, 1972 issue of Purbodesh.

## Argentinean court closer

FROM PAGE 12

Argentinian courts to open an investigation into the role of Myanmar's civilian and military leaders in committing genocide and crimes against humanity against the Rohingya.

Under the principle of universal jurisdiction, such crimes can be investigated anywhere in the world regardless of where they were committed.

The Argentine court's progress comes in addition to the ICC investigation and the Gambia's case filed in November last year against Myanmar for violating the Genocide Convention with the International Court of Justice (ICJ). In January this year, the ICJ imposed "provisional measures" on Myanmar as part of the case, essentially a legal injunction

ordering the end to genocidal practices against the Rohingya.

The ICC in November last year approved an investigation into Myanmar for crimes against humanity against the Rohingya.

Argentinean human rights NGOs Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo and Foundation for Peace and Justice, founded by the Nobel Peace Prize Winner Adolfo Pérez Esquivel are supporting BROUK that is now being legally represented by Tomás Ojea Quintana, a prominent human rights lawyer and the former UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (2008-2014).

The case in Argentina is the first universal jurisdiction case concerning the Rohingya genocide anywhere in the world.

## Europe emerges from dark

FROM PAGE 12

ordinary and economic life in nearly every country on the planet.

After suffering some of the highest human losses, Europe and the United States are now emerging from months of confinement in a bid to soften the blow of a looming recession.

In the French capital, Parisians reclaimed the beloved morning rituals at cafe terraces that were allowed to sprawl across pavement to accommodate social distancing measures.

"It's really nice, we got up just for this, so we appreciate it, we're really happy," said Charlotte, who made a morning stop at a cafe near the Canal Saint-Martin.

"It's a bit of a feeling of regained freedom, that's what it is," added another patron, 61-year-old Philippe.

Elsewhere in France, bars and restaurants were allowed to go a step further and allow customers to sit inside, while beaches and weddings were also back in business.

The excitement was visible in western Nantes where customers lined up to eat at the restaurant La Prison du Bouffay at one minute past midnight.

Yet the country, which has suffered the world's fifth highest toll with nearly 29,000 deaths from the virus, still faces tough times ahead with the economy expected to shrink by 11 percent this year due to the pandemic.

A similar story is playing out elsewhere on the continent where schools, swimming pools, pubs and tourist sites are steadily reopening to ease the economic pain of their lockdowns, despite fears of a second wave of infections.

In the UK, British MPs were set to return to parliament in person after ending a virtual system, with plans to debate quarantine requirements for those entering the hard-hit country.

And in the sporting world, Formula One organisers announced an eight-

race schedule for Europe starting in July, though fans are not expected to join at the start.

### RIO REOPENS

On the other side of the Atlantic, Latin American countries are still facing an upward curve of infections, with cases surging particularly high in Brazil, which has logged the fourth highest number of deaths worldwide.

The region has detected at least one million cases and recorded over 50,000 deaths, more than half of which are in Brazil, according to an AFP tally.

The World Health Organization has warned the region's healthcare systems could be overwhelmed by the influx of patients, with Peru, Chile and Mexico also seeing high daily increases in infections.

Yet Rio de Janeiro started gradually easing lockdown measures, the Brazilian city's mayor said, beginning with the reopening of places of worship and water sports.

Mexico also began relaxing restrictions, reactivating the automotive industry, mining and construction even as the country recorded more than 10,000 virus deaths.

Meanwhile, the United States still leads the world with more than 105,000 deaths from Covid-19, though its daily tolls are no longer on a steep incline.

The crisis there has recently been overshadowed by anti-racism protests that have erupted across the country in response to police killings of black Americans.

While many US states had started relaxing virus measures, several major cities have imposed curfews in the face of the protests, which have turned violent in some zones.

### GATHERINGS HIT

Much of East Asia, meanwhile, has seen infections slow to a trickle in recent weeks, but restrictions on mass gatherings remain.

## Overuse will cause more

FROM PAGE 12

from the WHO's Geneva headquarters.

The WHO said only a small proportion of Covid-19 patients needed antibiotics to treat subsequent bacterial infections.

The organisation has issued guidance to medics not to provide antibiotic therapy or prophylaxis to patients with mild Covid-19, or to patients with moderate illness without a clinical suspicion of bacterial infection.

Tedros said the guidelines should help tackle antimicrobial resistance while saving lives.

He called the threat of antimicrobial resistance "one of the most urgent challenges of our time".

"It's clear that the world is losing its ability to use critically important antimicrobial medicines," he said.

Highlighting inappropriate usage, he said there was an "overuse" of antibiotics in some countries, while in low-income states, such life-saving medicines were unavailable, "leading to needless suffering and death".

**DISEASE TREATMENT DISRUPTED** Meanwhile the WHO said the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) had been severely disrupted since the Covid-19 pandemic began in December, following a survey of 155 countries.

"This situation is of significant concern because people living with NCDs are at higher risk of severe Covid-19-related illness and death," it said.

The survey, during a three-week period in May, found that low-income countries were most affected.

Some 53 percent of countries reported partially or completely disrupted services for hypertension treatment.

The figure was 49 percent for diabetes treatment and related complications; 42 percent for cancer treatment, and 31 percent for cardiovascular emergencies.

The most common reasons for discontinuing or reducing services were cancellations of planned treatments, a decrease in available public transport and a lack of staff because health workers had been reassigned to Covid-19 treatment.

### MASS GATHERINGS RISK

The WHO warned about the dangers of mass gatherings, as protests rage in the United States and elsewhere over the killing of unarmed black man George Floyd, and as sports events begin a tentative resumption.

"Mass gatherings have the potential to act as super-spreading events," warned Tedros, highlighting WHO guidance designed to help organisers determine how such events can be held safely.

## First refugee

FROM PAGE 12

centre of Kutupalong Rohingya camp on Saturday night. He was taken there two days ago as he was suffering from fever, cold, and respiratory problems, Toha said.

Health officials later collected his samples, the physician said, adding that the man tested Covid-19 positive on Monday.

Some 30 Rohingyas have already contracted coronavirus, and they are being treated at the isolation centre, the physician said.

## HC asks

FROM PAGE 12

Mohammad Mahub seeking necessary orders.

Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder told The Daily Star that the High Court ordered Rajuk to find out whether the provisions of Bangladesh National Building Code were properly followed when constructing the United Hospital, including the its coronavirus isolation unit.

According to the order, the Fire Service and Civil Defence will have to mention in its report whether there was any negligence on the part of the hospital authorities regarding the incident.

The CID will explain in its report who are responsible for the fire and deaths of the patients, he said, adding that the office of Inspector General of Police will submit the CID's probe report.

The United Hospital authorities have been asked to state in its report about their findings, DAG Amit Talukder added.

The HC bench came up with the order while holding a virtual hearing on the writ petition through a video conference.

Advocate Mohammad Mahub submitted the writ petition as a public interest litigation to the High Court on Sunday seeking it's directives on the authorities concerned to give Tk 5 crore to each victim's family, and to take necessary action against the persons responsible for the incident.

In the petition, the lawyer included the reports published in The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo, saying that there was negligence on part of the authorities concerned in rescuing the victims.

## Bill shocks

FROM PAGE 12

for March and April were prepared based on estimation as the metre readers could not take readings in person during this time due to the lockdown.

He said the extra amount of the last two months would be adjusted by the new bills.

"We are aware of the issue and it will be solved by June 10," the DPDC director said.

State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid at a meeting on Sunday told journalists that no subscribers would have to pay an excess bill.

DPDC has some 13.64 lakh subscribers. Of them, 9.23 lakh have postpaid connections while 4.41 lakh have prepaid, said Robiul Hasan, general manager of DPDC.

Meanwhile, the Energy Division of the power ministry has decided not to impose any surcharge on the delayed residential electricity bill for February to April and gas bill for February-May due to the pandemic.

Subscribers have been asked to provide the bill by June 30 to avail the benefit.

## Biman loses

FROM PAGE 12

was forced to cancel two of its flights on Chattagram route on Monday due to passenger shortage.

Kamrul Islam, general manager (public relations) of the leading private air operator said.

Novoair, another private airlines, however, was able to operate all its seven scheduled flights to these three destinations from the capital on Monday.

Domestic flight operation was resumed yesterday on a limited scale on three routes from the capital after more than two months of suspension due to coronavirus.

## Wayward

FROM PAGE 12

feet) and weighing up to 40 tonnes.

Each pod spends the summer near the poles and travels to tropical areas in their respective hemispheres during the winter to breed.

The Montreal visitor, thought to be two or three years old, was likely led astray while chasing prey, or made a navigation error, Muller said.

It is possible that the whale could extend its stay in the city for several months, she added, although locks and rapids further upstream would likely prevent it from exploring any further west.

A team from RQUMM has been deployed to monitor the humpback to prevent any possible collisions with ships, she said, although there were no plans to redirect the whale yet, since it could survive for a short while in freshwater.

"For the moment, the whale is in good health... The best option is to let nature take its course," and hope that the animal decides to return to the open ocean itself, she added.

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH		
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare & Overseas Employment
2	Agency	Wage Earners' Welfare Board
3	Procuring Entity Name	Director General, Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB)
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not used at present
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting Firm for i). Interior Decoration Work at Level 18, 19 & 20 of Probashi Kallyan Bhaban, and ii). Beautification work at front side of Probashi Kallyan Bhaban.
7	EOI Ref. No.	49.04.0000.009.18.001.19(22)-100
8	Date	01.06.2020
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement Method	Quality & Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and Source of Fund	Wage Earners' Welfare Fund
11	Development Partners	Not Applicable
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project / Program Code	Not Applicable
13	Project / Program Name	Not Applicable
14	Tender Package Name	Not Applicable
15	Pre-bid Meeting ( If Necessary)	-
16	EOI Closing Date and Time	On 24.06.2020 at 2.30 pm
17	EOI Opening Date and Time	On 24.06.2020 at 3.00 pm
18	Name and address of the office (s) receiving of EOI	Director (Admin. & Development), Wage Earners' Welfare Board, Probashi Kallyan Bhaban (Level-10), 71-72 Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000.
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
19	Brief Description of Assignment for work i) and ii).	<p><b>1. Interior Decoration Work at Level 18, 19 &amp; 20.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short listed firm will prepare a technical &amp; financial proposal.</li> <li>• Short listed consulting firm will submit preliminary architectural conceptual design drawings (plan, elevation, section, 3D perspective views, furniture lay-out plan etc.) for proper interior decoration work including civil, sanitary, electrical, mechanical &amp; furniture supply to relocate the office space of Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare &amp; Overseas Employment at level-18, 19 &amp; 20 of probashi kallyan bhaban under the wage earners' welfare board ( Any fees not applicable for this submission).</li> <li>• Finally selected consulting firm will submit preliminary architectural conceptual design drawings (plan, elevation, section, 3D perspective views, furniture lay-out plan etc.) for proper interior decoration work including civil, sanitary, electrical, mechanical &amp; furniture supply to relocate the office space of Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare &amp; Overseas Employment at level-18, 19 &amp; 20 of probashi kallyan bhaban under the wage earners' welfare board .</li> <li>• After approval of preliminary set of drawings consulting firm will Submit detail architectural drawings, 3D perspective views, furniture lay-out plan, structural, electrical, mechanical, sanitary &amp; plumbing drawings etc.</li> <li>• Submission of detail working drawings for inbuilt cable, central A.C system, network system, TV system, fire fighting system, fire &amp; security alarm system, hot &amp; cold water supply system, telephone line, intercom, calling bell, mike announcement system, internet (with Wi-Fi), close circuit camera, new capsule/passenger lift etc.</li> <li>• Prepare BOQ, tender schedule (As Per PPR-2008) etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Beautification of front side of Probashi Kallyan Bhaban including main gates, Boundary Wall, Driveway, Reception, Lift Lobby &amp; Installation of Bangabandhu Corner etc.</b></p> <p>Submission of all drawings in readable printed form at least 05 sets with soft copy.</p>
<b>Phasing of Services for both type of works.</b>		
20	i) First Phase: Design & Documentation Phase	<p>Probashi Kallyan Bhaban, Level-18,19 &amp; 20, 71-72 ,Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000.</p> <p>a) Submission of preliminary architectural conceptual design drawings (plan, elevation, section, 3D perspective views, furniture lay-out plan etc.) for proper interior decoration work including civil, sanitary, electrical, mechanical &amp; furniture supply to relocate the office space of Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare &amp; Overseas Employment at level-18, 19 &amp; 20 of probashi kallyan bhaban under the wage earners' welfare board.</p> <p>b) After approval of preliminary set of drawings, consulting firm will submit detail architectural drawings, 3D perspective views, furniture lay-out plan, structural, electrical, mechanical, sanitary &amp; plumbing drawings etc.</p> <p>c) Submission of detail working drawings for inbuilt cable, central A.C system, network system, TV, fire fighting, fire &amp; security alarm system, hot &amp; cold water supply system, telephone line, intercom, calling bell, mike announcement system, internet (with Wi-Fi), close circuit camera, new capsule/passenger lift, development of existing lift etc.</p> <p>d) Prepare BOQ, tender schedule (As Per PPR-2008) etc.</p> <p>e) Beautification of front side of Probashi Kallyan Bhaban including main gates, Boundary Wall, Driveway, Reception, Lift Lobby &amp; Installation of Bangabandhu Corner etc.</p> <p>f) Submission of all drawings in readable printed form at least 05 sets with a soft copy.</p>
21	ii) Second Phase: Construction Supervision & Monitoring (works will be executed after appointing contractor).	<p>a) Interested consulting firms are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. The consulting firm should be experienced and reputed in the similar field. Interested firms should submit sufficient detail including brochures, description of experience in similar assignments, summaries of firm's technical and managerial capabilities, availability of appropriate skills among key staffs with short biographies, availability of resources etc.</p> <p>b) The firm must have experience on similar assignment/project within last 05 years counting from the date of submission of EOI in Govt./Semi-govt./Autonomous bodies/private sector.</p> <p>c) Having experience in successful completion of assignment/project of similar nature of interior decoration works including civil, sanitary, electrical, mechanical works project cost not less than Tk.12 (Twelve) crore in a single work order in Govt./Semi-govt./Autonomous bodies/private sector within last 5(five) years.</p> <p>d) In case of a work done under PWD, the certifying and authenticating authority shall be the concerned Executive Engineer under whom the work has executed.</p> <p>e) In case of a work done under any Govt./Semi-govt./Autonomous bodies, organization other than PWD, the certifying authority shall be an officer of the organization (not below the rank of executive engineer).</p> <p>f) In case of a work done under any private sector organization other than PWD the certifying authority shall be Chairman/MD of the organization.</p> <p>g) The financial capability should be shown as financial turn over supported by a registered Audit Firm for the last 03 (three) years counting from date of submission.</p>
22	Basis of review/ documents to be submitted	<p>The EOI Would be reviewed on the basis of the following submitted documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Registration of firm (including up to date VAT, Tax &amp; other certificates).</li> <li>➢ Availability of key professionals.</li> <li>➢ Availability of resources &amp; equipments.</li> <li>➢ Turnover of the consulting firm.</li> <li>➢ Experience of the firm (s) in similar task.</li> <li>➢ Experience of the firm (s) in other works.</li> <li>➢ Financial capability</li> <li>➢ Other support services of the firm (s).</li> </ul>
23	Other details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Instructions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Incomplete/partial EOI will be rejected.</li> <li>➢ Interested consulting firm must provide focused information demonstrating that they are qualified to perform the services.</li> <li>➢ If the consulting firm submits any false/incorrect or forged certificate the application will be rejected.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Full description of present situation of the site is given in TOR.</li> <li>• No joint-venture firm will be allowed.</li> </ul> <p>The proposals shall be submitted in sealed envelope &amp; delivered to the address of the under signed up to <b>2.30 PM by 24.06.2020</b> &amp; clearly marked "Request for Expression of Interest" for the "Consultancy service for (i) Interior decoration work at level-18, 19 &amp; 20 of probashi kallyan bhaban and (ii) Beautification of front side of Probashi Kallyan Bhaban.</p>
24	Present condition of the site (Brief)	Total frame structure complete. Interior decoration done upto level 17. Rest Interior decoration work of level 18, 19 & 20 (Floor area- 32,600 sqft) to be done.
25	Foreign firms	May apply.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
26	Name of Official Inviting EOI	Shoab Ahmad Khan
27	Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Joint Secretary Director (Admin. & Development), Wage Earners' Welfare Board.
28	Address of Official Inviting EOI	Probashi Kallyan Bhaban (Level-10), 71-72 Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000.
29	Contact details of Official Inviting EOI	Tel. No.- 02-9343247 Email: d.ad@wewb.gov.bd
30	The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the EOI-2 <sup>nd</sup> or annul the EOI-2 <sup>nd</sup> process at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever and without incurring any liability to the affected applications.	

(Shoab Ahmad Khan)  
Joint Secretary  
Director (Admin & Development)  
Wage Earners' Welfare Board



## 'Cricket is not free of racism'

West Indies' star batsman Chris Gayle has disclosed that he too has experienced racial remarks while playing cricket around the globe. His comments, posted on Instagram, came in the backdrop of the ongoing protests in the US after an African-American man, George Floyd, died from police brutality. The 40-year-old wrote: "Black lives matter just like any other life. Black people matter, p\*\*\*k all racist people, stop taking black people for fools, even our own black people wise the p\*\*\*k up and stop bringing down your own! I have travelled the globe and experience racial remarks towards me because I am black, believe me, the list goes on. Racism is not only in football, it's in cricket too. Even within teams as a black man, I get the end of the stick. Black and powerful. Black and proud."



## 'It could just add a year or two'

AGENCIES

James Anderson is already the oldest English fast bowler to take the new ball in more than 50 years, but he says the COVID-19 hiatus may extend his career even further.

"It could just add a year or two at the end of my career," 38-year-old Anderson said on his Tailenders podcast.

"I've really enjoyed being back and as odd as it is just bowling into a net. I got up to speed quite quickly. I'm off my full run up and I feel like I'm ready to play now. I need to just calm down a bit," he added.

It's not inconceivable that Anderson could even become the first English fast bowler since Les Jackson in 1961 to play a Test after his 40th birthday.

## 'Youngsters need pace'

Lance Klusener was one of the most exciting seam-bowling all-rounders of the last 30 years. He peaked during the 1999 World Cup but the tournament ended in agony for the South African heavy hitter when he looked on helplessly as Australia edged a thriller of a semifinal. Adjudged player of the tournament in 1999, Klusener is now involved in coaching and his expertise as a hard-hitting left-hander and his controlled pace bowling is particularly suited to modern cricket. The man nicknamed 'Zulu', the current head coach of Afghanistan, spoke to The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin over phone and opened up about various issues. The excerpts of the interview are given below:

**The Daily Star [TDS]:** Not an ideal situation surely at the moment, but I must ask how life's going for you at the moment?

**Lance Klusener [LK]:** Obviously a lot of people around the world are battling due to coronavirus. From a personal point of view, I have been spending some quality time back in South Africa, although we have been under lockdown. I am looking to the future hopefully and hope by the year's end we can get back to getting on the park.

**TDS:** You had the opportunity to work in Bangladesh during the BPL for Rajshahi Kings in 2018. They also announced your retention for the next season. Tell us how was it working in Bangladesh?

**LK:** Thoroughly enjoyed my time in Bangladesh, especially with Rajshahi Kings. First of all, it is a hospitable, friendly nation. I always enjoy my trips

there, the cricket as well, the supporters of course. Certainly, looking forward to the Bangladesh experience, not looking forward to sitting in traffic and spending hours in the bus but that's a small price to pay for the wonderful people I have met and the close friends.

**TDS:** What are the areas that a young seam-bowling all-rounder should work on to become handy in both departments?

**LK:** For me the biggest difference is not the batting ability of our current all-rounders; it's the fact that they are bowling 125 kmph. All-rounders in the past from South Africa bowled 145 -- that for me is a big difference. That elevates you as a fast bowling all-rounder to be able to bowl consistently around 140 kmph.

I guess that's the challenge to becoming a world-class all-rounder like Ben Stokes. He can do that, he can bowl

140 kmph and is a fine batsman but therein for me is the slight difference -- something that young all-rounders may need to focus on, making sure that they are not just bowling medium pace. It's the pace that you need [to be] right up to be considered as a fast bowler as well as a handy batsman.

**TDS:** I am sure you have answered this question many times but I must ask you, does the 1999 semifinal still haunt you?

**LK:** No regrets and no nightmares about the 1999 World Cup, as I was in the form of my life. Of course, we would like to have won that game and gone through. During the 1999 World Cup, we were always under pressure with the bat. We never scored enough runs consistently and the top six never really performed consistently. We just kept leaving ourselves [with too much to do] towards the end in too many games and



too much reliance on number eight, nine, 10 and 11 to get us through. You can get away once or twice but you can't leave too much for your number eight and downwards.

**TDS:** Do you agree with the tag of chokers that has been associated with

the South African cricket team?

**LK:** Yes, 'chokers' has been tagged with South Africa but if you look at world cricket, teams choke all the time. There have been tight games where Australia also choked. That seems to be associated with South Africa and you have to live with that. As a team I think we have to deal with that and get over the line and win a World Cup or whatever and finally shake that off. It's a nasty word, however it does say that South Africa have put themselves in contention of winning big tournaments, hence I guess the significance of the word 'chokers' speaks a lot to their performance in big competitions. I think in the last World Cup, South Africa were extremely poor. So that's a good thing and I think we can use that as a positive. Yes, we have choked and couldn't get over the line and we have choked in big games, which counted for a lot.



Sri Lanka head coach Mickey Arthur (2nd from R) talks with his charges during a practice session at the Colombo Colts Cricket Stadium on Tuesday, a day after the cricketers got together for the first time in more than two and a half months ahead of a potential restart to the game. Cricket in the country came to a halt on March 13 due to the outbreak of coronavirus.

PHOTO: AFP

## Formula One unveils 8-race schedule

AFP, Paris

The curtailed Formula One season will start with two races behind closed doors in Austria on July 5 and July 12 followed by six other grand prix in Europe, the organisers said on Tuesday.

"While we currently expect the season to commence without fans at our races we hope that over the coming months the situation will allow us to welcome them back once it is safe to do," said F1 chief executive Chase Carey.

"But we know the return of Formula 1 will be a welcome boost to sports fans around the world."

The F1 season was thrown into chaos with the cancellation of the traditional curtain-raising Australian Grand Prix in March only hours before practice was due to coronavirus pandemic.

## Klopp assures no let-up

REUTERS, Undated



Liverpool will not ease up in their nine remaining Premier League games even after they secure the wins they need to seal a first top-flight crown in 30 years, manager Jurgen Klopp said.

The club have a 25-point lead over second-placed Manchester City as the Premier League prepares to resume this month following the COVID-19 disruption.

Liverpool can also secure the title with a win against Everton in their first match back if City lose to Arsenal when the league restarts on June 17.

"It's nice to think about it but we are not champions yet and we know that," Klopp told the BBC. "We know we're close but close is not there. There are 27 points left for us and we will try everything to take them all."

"We don't want to stop winning after two games..." The league was suspended on March 13 due to the pandemic, with teams returning to training in small groups before voting last week to return to contact training.

"I have missed it so much it's unbelievable," Klopp added.

"I know it's not the most important thing in life but it is my passion. I hope the people are looking forward to it because we are."



## Muhammad Ali and 'Thrilla in Manila'

AFP, MANILA

When Muhammad Ali survived 14 brutal rounds with Joe Frazier in the 'Thrilla in Manila' 45 years ago, it wrote a page in boxing folklore but left both men forever diminished.

Fought in the Philippines' stifling daytime heat, with barely functioning air conditioning, Frazier was beaten nearly blind and Ali was on the verge of surrender.

In the end, it was Frazier's trainer who threw in the towel to hand Ali victory on October 1, 1975, settling their head-to-head 2-1. But the fight came at a cost to both men.

"Ali and Frazier would never be the same again, after pouring and spending practically all their power and durability in Manila," said Recah Trinidad, a Philippine boxing columnist.

Ali, who had beaten George Foreman in the 'Rumble in the Jungle' in Zaire a year earlier, came into the fight at 33, his best years well behind him.

They battled inside the 25,000-seat Araneta Coliseum with such

chilla, and a killa, when I get the gorilla in Manila," Ali boasted, coining the nickname that still resonates today.

On fight day the momentum swung back and forth between the men, who were in their third and final match-up.

One Frazier punch sent Ali's mouthpiece flying into the fifth row, but neither fighter fell.

The fight in the tropics was staged in the daytime to suit US

His biographer Thomas Hauser told the 2008 documentary that at the end of the round an Ali cornerman heard the champion telling trainer Angelo Dundee to "cut 'em (gloves) off".

"Round 14 was the closest I've seen somebody come to killing somebody," Ali's fight doctor Ferdie Pacheco told the documentary makers.

But after the Thrilla, "both men were never the same again", said



television audiences, but the crowd and TV lights overwhelmed the air-conditioning.

"At 125 degrees -- we were fighting each other (as well as) against the heat," Frazier said in the 2008 documentary "Thrilla in Manila". Ali's blows had swollen Frazier's right eye nearly shut, and he was nearly blind in his left due to a training injury.

His face soaked in blood, Frazier argued with his trainer Eddie Futch to let him come out for the 15th round, but Futch stopped the fight.

Later, it was revealed that Ali himself wanted to quit.

Nick Giorgio, a sports analyst at the Manila Bulletin.

He said that although Ali would defend his world title a further six times, and regain it in a rematch after losing to Leon Spinks in 1978, the self-styled "Greatest of All Time" never fully recovered from the "brutal beatdown" Frazier had inflicted.

Ali would finally hang up his gloves in 1981 aged 39, following consecutive losses to Larry Holmes and Trevor Berbick. He retired with a win-loss record of 56-5.

The "Louisville Lip" died on June 3, 2016 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease.



The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd.

Gazipur

### Local/International e-Tender for Supply of 6000 kgs Castor Oil

Electronic tenders (e-Tenders) are hereby invited from the competent local/international manufacturers/suppliers for supply of the above materials for this Corporation as per under noted schedule. e-Tender documents showing terms and conditions with specifications will be available at web: [etender.spcbd.org.bd/114.130.43.56](http://etender.spcbd.org.bd/114.130.43.56). It is to mention here that this is online tender(s) where only e-Tender will be accepted and no hard copy will be accepted except price of e-Tender schedule, sample and earnest money. To submit e-Tender bidders need to register on [etender.spcbd.org.bd/114.130.43.56](http://etender.spcbd.org.bd/114.130.43.56). For more details please contact cell: 880-1534002183 & 880-1534002184. Necessary information is given below:

1. Price per e-Tender schedule : 400.00 (four hundred) Taka only.
2. Date of publish of e-Tender : 03.06.2020
3. Last date & time for submission of e-Tender : 08.07.2020 up to 11:00am.
4. Date & time for opening of e-Tender : 08.07.2020 at 11.15am.

Bidder may collect e-Tender schedule from the aforementioned website. Earnest money @ 3% (three percent) of the total quoted price shall have to be submitted in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of The Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd., Gazipur along with the price of e-Tender schedule in the form of a separate Pay-Order/DD in the tender box kept at Corporation's office in Gazipur on or before the scheduled deadline for submission of e-Tender. In the case of international tender, Irrevocable Bank Guarantee may also be given as earnest money from any international commercial bank abroad with a counter guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh. e-Tender(s) without earnest money and price for procurement of e-Tender schedule shall not be acceptable. The e-Tender shall have to be submitted as per e-Tender guidelines mentioned at the above website. Offers(s) will be opened as per schedule mentioned above in presence of the tenderer(s) if any. 01 (one) e-Tender schedule is applicable only for one supplier/manufacturer for submitting one offer along with earnest money and price of e-Tender schedule. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any e-Tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever. Submission of e-Tender after the specified time shall not be acceptable under any circumstances.

Sheikh Mohammad Shoab Nazir  
General Manager (Foreign Purchase)  
Phone: 88-02-9205661

GD-927





**PADMA BRIDGE RAIL LINK PROJECT IS BEING BUILT WITH BSRM**  
COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT **BSRM** building a safer nation

**GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES**  
World's Largest VRM  
**SHAH CEMENT**

# Bill shocks all around

*Dhaka dwellers get weird power bills as they get those based on estimates*

**HELEMUL ALAM**  
When Tariqul Islam, a resident of the capital's Kathalbagan area, received the copy of his apartment's electricity bill for March, he was caught off guard.  
The amount shown on the bill issued by Dhaka Electricity Supply Company (DPDC) was more than double the usual bill, he said.  
"I have received an electricity bill of Tk 4,200 for March as opposed to the average billing of Tk 1,500-2,000," said Tariqul, a businessman who has been struggling to maintain his family for the last two months as his income has dropped to almost zero due to the shutdown.  
He said the same happened with the bill for the building's common utilities, including the lift, which went up to Tk 30,000 from the usual billing of Tk 10,000-11,000.  
Most of the residents of the area are facing the same problem, he added.  
Shajahan Sirazi, a resident of Malibagh, also faced a similar problem. His electricity bill for April stood at Tk2,596, up from the regular billing of around 1,500.  
He said his family did not even use air conditioners during this period fearing Covid-19 infection.  
"It is unacceptable and the authorities concerned should take immediate steps," said Sajahan, a private job holder.  
Many Dhaka dwellers are facing the same problem in recent times.  
DPDC Executive Director Harun-or-Rashid said the bills

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



**A farmer drying paddy in Hasara area by the Dhaka-Mawa highway before taking the produce to a rice mill for processing yesterday morning. Rice growers saw a bumper yield this year.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## COVID-19 ANTIBIOTICS Overuse will cause more deaths: WHO

**AFP, Geneva**  
Increased antibiotics use in combating the Covid-19 pandemic will strengthen bacterial resistance and ultimately lead to more deaths during the crisis and beyond, the World Health Organization said Monday.  
WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said a "worrying number" of bacterial infections were becoming increasingly resistant to the medicines traditionally used to treat them.  
The UN health agency said it was concerned that the inappropriate use of antibiotics during the coronavirus crisis would further fuel the trend.  
"The Covid-19 pandemic has led to an increased use of antibiotics, which ultimately will lead to higher bacterial resistance rates that will impact the burden of disease and deaths during the pandemic and beyond," Tedros told a virtual press conference  
SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Biman loses out in prices wars

*Cancels all 12 flights as people go for pvt carriers*

**RASHIDUL HASAN**  
Biman Bangladesh Airlines cancelled all its domestic flights due to lack of passengers yesterday, a day after the government reopened public transport amid escalation of Covid-19 cases.  
Tahera Khandaker, deputy general manager (public relations) of Biman, told The Daily Star said, "We were forced to cancel all our 12 flights [way] scheduled for today [yesterday] as number of passengers were very low."  
The maiden flight of Biman on Dhaka-Saidpur route took off on Monday with only four passengers on board while the return flight had 20 passengers, said Tahera.  
According to sources the price difference between the national flag carrier and private operators was one of the main reasons behind the passenger shortage.  
Biman was charging Tk 7,000 as starting price for tickets while two private airlines -- US-Bangla and Novoair -- charged Tk 3,000 and Tk 3,200 for the same ticket.  
That is why people are moving to the two private operators for air travel, said the sources.  
Apart from Biman, US-Bangla Airlines

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

### Bangladesh will join NAM



**Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman offers his prayers at the grave of Manik Miah on May 31, 1972.**

June 3, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

**MALAYSIAN PM SUPPORTS BANGLADESH'S NAM CANDIDACY**  
Bangladesh will participate in the upcoming Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) conference in Georgetown, Guyana, informs Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad after a meeting with Malaysian Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak today. The Malaysian premier assures that his country will support Bangladesh's candidacy in NAM. Abdus Samad Azad hands over a letter from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to the Malaysian prime minister. Bangladesh is planning to import rice, rubber and house-building materials from Malaysia.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



## RAKHINE GENOCIDE Argentinean court closer to probe Suu Kyi

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**  
An Argentinean court has moved one step closer to opening a historic investigation against Myanmar's military and civilian leadership over the genocide against the Rohingya people, the Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK (BROUK) said.  
The court in Buenos Aires on Friday overturned a previous decision not to pursue a case against State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and senior officers in the Myanmar military.  
The court has instead requested now more information from the International Criminal Court (ICC) to ensure that a case in Argentina would not duplicate other justice efforts, BROUK said in a statement yesterday.  
On 13 November 2019, BROUK petitioned

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## Wayward whale takes break in Montreal



AFP, Montreal

A young humpback whale that swam up one of Canada's major rivers and has been exploring the waters off Montreal for a few days was likely led astray while on a hunting trip, authorities have said.  
Since Saturday, the giant creature has been swimming in the St Lawrence river against the backdrop of the Montreal skyline -- hundreds of kilometres (miles) from the waters it usually calls home.  
The humpback is likely to be the same creature as that seen a few days ago further downstream near Quebec City, said Marie-Eve Muller of the Quebec marine mammal emergency network (RQUIMM).  
Humpback whales live near both the Arctic and Antarctic, with adults growing up to 17 metres (55

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## ROHINGYA CAMP First refugee dies from Covid-19

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar**  
A Rohingya man has died from Covid-19 in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya upazila.  
He is the first Rohingya person who died from coronavirus infections, Abu Toha MR Bhuiyan, chief health coordinator of the refugee relief and repatriation commissioner's office in Cox's Bazar, said yesterday.  
The 71-year-old breathed his last at the isolation  
SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



### PRAYER TIMING JUNE 3

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

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## UNITED HOSPITAL FIRE HC asks for probe reports

*May consider ordering compensation for victims' families*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The High Court yesterday sought separate probe reports -- from four authorities concerned -- on the deadly fire at the corona isolation unit in United Hospital that killed five patients on May 27.  
The authorities of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), Fire Service and Civil Defence, Criminal Investigation Department of Police and United Hospital authorities were ordered to submit their respective probe reports to the court by June 14.  
The court said it may consider passing an order for compensation to the victims' families if they move any petition.  
The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim came up with the order following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



**Discarded personal protective equipment lying on the ground near DMCH corona-isolation unit, posing risk of further spread of the deadly virus. Inset, gloves, masks and other waste floating in the murky water of the fountain there. Unmindful dumping of these hazardous materials on the premises of the country's premier hospital has been going on for over a month now.**

PHOTO: RASHED SUMON

## Europe emerges from dark days

*LatAm struggles to contain virus; Indonesia cancels hajj pilgrimage*

**AFP, Paris**  
The French revelled in a return to cafe terraces yesterday as Europe emerges from its darkest days of the coronavirus pandemic, which has shifted its centre to Latin America where pressure is mounting on fragile healthcare systems.  
The virus has claimed more than 375,000 lives in its more than six-month tear around the globe, upending  
SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

**বিজ্ঞপ্তি**  
এতদ্বারা সকল জীবন বিমা গ্রাহকদের জ্ঞাতার্থে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, জীবন বিমা পলিসি চালু থাকাকালীন পলিসিতে অবরিত মৃত্যু সুবিধা অর্থাৎ সুবিধা কলম থাকবে। বিশ্বাসী এখন কভিড-১৯ যারা আক্রান্ত এবং ইতোমধ্যে কয়েক লক্ষ মানুষ করোনা সংক্রমণে মৃত্যুবরণ করেছেন। কভিড-১৯ মহামারীতে কোনো জীবন বিমা গ্রাহকের মৃত্যু হলে বিমা দাবী পাওয়া যাবে না মর্মে জনমতে একটি বিভ্রান্তি রয়েছে। তাই বাংলাদেশের সকল বেসরকারী জীবন বিমা কোম্পানীর পক্ষ থেকে বাংলাদেশ ইন্স্যুরেন্স এসোসিয়েশন সকল জীবন বিমা গ্রাহকের সময় অবশ্যই অন্য জায়গায় যে, করোনা সংক্রমণে কোনো গ্রাহকের মৃত্যু হলে বৈধ ও গ্রহণযোগ্য প্রমাণের দাবিদ সাপেক্ষে আর্থিক মৃত্যুর ন্যায় সংশ্লিষ্ট বিমাকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান বিমা দাবী পরিশোধ করবে। বাংলাদেশ ইন্স্যুরেন্স এসোসিয়েশন আশা করে এই বিভ্রান্তি প্রকাশের পর কভিড-১৯ এ আক্রান্ত হয়ে মৃত্যুর ক্ষেত্রে দাবী পরিশোধে উত্তম বিচারিত অবস্থান হবে ও দাবী নিষ্পত্তিতে বাধা থাকবে না।  
শেখ কবির হোসেন  
প্রেসিডেন্ট  
BIA বাংলাদেশ ইন্স্যুরেন্স এসোসিয়েশন  
হোসেন টাওয়ার (১০ম তলা), ১৯৬, নয়া পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০।