

**PROTECT THE
MIGRANTS**
Bangladesh urges UN in letter
SEE PAGE 12

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**BANGLADESH
UPDATE**



2,695
New cases in 24hrs



55,140
Total cases



746
Deaths



11,590
Recoveries



**GLOBAL
UPDATE**



383,798
Deaths



6,497,029
Total cases

PUBLIC HOSPITALS

Central oxygen supply elusive

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and WASIM BIN HABIB

Ensuring uninterrupted oxygen supplies at hospitals appears to have emerged as the latest choke point in the battle against the coronavirus outbreak, which is bearing down on the country.

A ministry letter paints the grim picture as most of the 39 major public hospitals, including those dedicated to coronavirus treatment, still do not have this nonstop essential supply for critical Covid-19 patients.

These hospitals, constructed by the Public Works Department, have medical gas pipeline systems, but most lack the central oxygen supply system supported by liquid tanks.

Instead, they rely on oxygen cylinders. As a result, it is not possible to ensure uninterrupted oxygen supply to the critical coronavirus patients, who suffer badly from respiratory problems, health officials said.

A central oxygen supply means having a dedicated place in a hospital where oxygen is stored and supplied to all patient beds, using lines in the wall.

With the number of infections surging every day and researchers projecting the total number of cases would double by the month-end, providing adequate oxygen

support to critical Covid-19 patients remains extremely crucial.

Experts said uninterrupted oxygen supply could save many lives.

Against this backdrop, the health ministry, in a letter on Tuesday, asked the authorities concerned to ensure liquid oxygen tanks at the 39 hospitals, if they don't have it, on an urgent basis to activate an central oxygen supply system.

The ministry sent the letter, signed by Sherajul Islam, additional secretary (Hospital Wing) of Health Service Division, to the National Electro-Medical Equipment Maintenance Workshop and Training Center (NEMEMW and TC), asking it to take steps to expand gas system lines if necessary.

NEMEMW and TC has already started checking whether all hospitals mentioned in the letter are suitable for having central oxygen systems. It, however, would require "some time" to complete all the procedures, said its Chief Technical Manager Aminur Rahman.

He claimed that many of the 39 hospitals have the central oxygen system. He also said a total of 21 public hospitals across the country are equipped with the system.

"We are now making a list of hospitals

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Garment workers wearing masks and personal protective equipment wait in a queue while a man sprays disinfectants on them. The photo was taken in front of a factory of Cute Dress Industry in Dhamrai yesterday morning. Some companies have been rigorously following the coronavirus rules while others do not seem to care much.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

ANNOUNCEMENT

Books are among the greatest gift of our civilisation. From today we start a new book review page which will inform our readers of books of general interest published in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world. Reviews in this section will include books from all disciplines especially those on contemporary events. We hope our readers will find our effort useful in keeping them abreast of the world of books.
-Editor

Poor awareness, missteps to blame

Say health experts; 2,695 more reported Covid-19 infected, 37 die

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The government's mishandling of the pandemic and people's disregard for health safety have resulted in the spike of new coronavirus cases, health experts said.

"Since March, the government's decisions remained mostly on paper and many public health issues were largely ignored," said Prof Be-Nazir Ahmed, former director of disease control at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The government seems to care only about the business owners, he said, referring to this week's bus fare hike.

"Neither the government nor the owners did anything to teach transport workers how they could maintain their own health safety and that of the commuters," he said.

The Directorate General of Health Service (DGHS) in its daily online briefing yesterday reported 2,695 new cases and 37 deaths.

This takes the total confirmed cases to 55,140 and reported deaths to 746.

Officials said 470 people recovered from Covid-19 in the 24 hours preceding the briefing yesterday afternoon.

According to official data, at least 11,590 patients recovered from the disease since the country reported the first three coronavirus cases on March 8 and the first death on March 18.

"Be it testing, contact tracing, enforcing or lifting restrictions, the response is riddled with missteps," Be-Nazir told the Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Over 50 involved in trafficking racket

Says CID; eight held so far in Bangladesh; drone strike kills key suspect in murder of 26 Bangladeshis in Libya

STAR REPORT

More than 50 people were involved in the trafficking of the 26 Bangladeshis killed by kidnapers in Libya last week, say investigators.

"We have so far got the names of over 50 people from the families of the victims... The number may go up...", said an official of the Criminal Investigation Department, seeking anonymity.

CID Sub-inspector AHM Rashed Fazal on Tuesday filed a case with Paltan Police Station against 38 named and 35 unnamed people over the trafficking of the 26 victims to Libya. The CID is now investigating the case.

Law enforcers have so far arrested eight people from the capital, Kishoreganj and Faridpur over their involvement in it.

Meanwhile, the prime suspect in the murder of the 26 Bangladeshis was killed in a drone strike in northern Libya on Tuesday, according to a tweet by The Libya Observer.

"Warlord Hafta's militiaman Khaled Al-Mishai was killed in a drone strike

by Libyan air force south of Gharyan on Tuesday. Al-Mishai is allegedly responsible for the murder of 26 Bangladeshis and four African migrants in Mizda town," said the tweet posted on Tuesday.

The Libya Observer, an English and Arabic online daily newspaper based in Tripoli, however, did not run any news report on the incident in English version.

On May 28, thirty-eight Bangladeshis and some Africans were held hostage by Libyan kidnapers who demanded large sums of money. The abductees had earlier paid them up to \$10,000 each.

There were heated negotiations between the two sides.

At one stage, one of the kidnapers was killed by an African. In retaliation, the other members of the gang indiscriminately fired shots at the abductees, leaving 26 Bangladeshis dead.

ARRESTS

The CID arrested three of the accused in the case from the capital and Kishoreganj

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Overlooked otherwise

Only tragedies remind all human trafficking happening; lack of effective action makes it more unstoppable

PORIMOL PALMA and JAMIL MAHMUD

Human trafficking to Libya from Bangladesh and torture of victims for ransom have been quite common for years but such crimes come to light only after a terrible tragedy.

When something big happens, the media alongside rights bodies raise an outcry but the transborder menace continues in the absence of a coordinated and effective mechanism to curb it.

The deaths are also forgotten in no time.

The brutal torture and killing of 26 Bangladeshis in Libya on May 27 could be a case in point, which came just a year after a boat capsized left around 40 Bangladeshis -- bound for Europe from Libya -- drowned in the Mediterranean Sea.

"We come to know of such heinous crimes when there is a big incident though human trafficking to Libya, holding people hostage and torturing them for ransom have been taking place for years," said a Bangladesh Embassy official in Tripoli.

When Bangladesh stopped sending workers to Libya in 2014 in the wake of the civil war that began after the fall of Gaddafi in 2011, human traffickers started taking jobseekers to the north African country with tourist visas.

The jobseekers are taken to Dubai first and then to Libya via Egypt or Sudan. In some cases, they go to Dubai via Sri Lanka or India.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

'My long road to recovery'

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

As a reporter, I have written dozens of stories on various aspects of the Covid-19 pandemic after, even before the deadly virus started to spread in Bangladesh. But today, I am writing the story about how my wife and I contracted the virus, fought against it and won.

At a time when tens of thousands of students were celebrating their positive results at the Secondary School Certificate level exams on Sunday, my wife and I "celebrated" our negative result in the Covid-19 test after having battled it. We are doing well now with no symptoms and are safe at home after a very long and turbulent time.

While I would have

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Protesters on horseback rally against the death in Minneapolis police custody of George Floyd, through downtown Houston, Texas.

PHOTO: REUTERS

PROTEST OVER BLACK MAN'S DEATH US scrambles to stem unrest

Protesters defy curfews in 40 cities as Trump rejects criticism over use of force; Pope says racism 'intolerable'

AGENCIES

Protesters defied curfews in 40 cities across the United States as leaders scrambled to stem anger over police racism while President Donald Trump rejected criticism over his use of force to break up a peaceful rally.

Standoffs between police and demonstrators stretched into the night in cities from New York to Los Angeles over the death of George Floyd, an unarmed African-American man whose killing has brought once-in-a-generation protests to the nation for the past week.

But there were fewer reports of the looting and violence that had soured street demonstrations in previous weeks. By late evening on Tuesday, conditions were quiet enough that local television stations switched from wall-to-wall coverage back to regular programming.

Tens of thousands gathered earlier Tuesday in Houston to pay a hometown tribute to Floyd, who grew up in the Texas city and is to be buried there next week.

"Today... about George Floyd's family -- we want them to know that George did not die in vain," Mayor Sylvester Turner told an estimated 60,000 people.

A tearful Roxie Washington, the mother of Floyd's six-year-old daughter, told a news conference she wanted "justice for him because he was good."

"No matter what anybody thinks, he was good."

In New York, which on Tuesday prolonged its first curfew since World War II for the full week, AFP reporters saw hundreds refusing to go home after the 8:00 pm cutoff,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Central oxygen supply elusive

FROM PAGE 1
which have the system and of those which are viable [where the system can be installed]. We will send the list to the ministry tomorrow," Aminur told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said on Wednesday they sent a letter to the ministry seeking permission to install central oxygen supply systems at three hospitals. Upon approval, it would take 15 days to complete the work.

The three hospitals are: Kurmitola General Hospital, Kuwait-Bangladesh Maitree Government Hospital and Shaheed Suhrawardi Medical College Hospital, he said.

Doctors and health officials said government hospitals use gas cylinders, in many cases interconnected large cylinders, to supply oxygen to patients. Cylinder gas supply system is relatively expensive and requires frequent refilling and constant monitoring by doctors or nurses to ensure that the stock is enough.

The government move to install central oxygen supply system comes at a time when allegations are rife that patients, especially those at dedicated Covid-19 hospitals, were suffering due to insufficient oxygen supplies, which in some cases resulted in deaths.

The health ministry's letter also admitted as most of the 39 hospitals do not have liquid oxygen tanks, Covid-19 patients were being deprived of uninterrupted oxygen supply.

Of the 39 hospitals mentioned in the letter, 18 have medical colleges. Those include Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Sir Salimullah Medical College and Mitford Hospital; 16 are 250-bed hospitals, and five specialised hospitals.

The ministry asked (the NEMEMW and TC) to install liquid oxygen tanks on an emergency basis at hospitals that do not have them, and if necessary, take steps to expand gas system lines.

Among government hospitals in Dhaka, DMCH, Sir Salimullah Medical College, National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) and National Institute of Neurosciences & Hospital, Dhaka, have central oxygen systems, said Aminur Rahman.

However, a doctor of the DMCH said they have central oxygen systems only at their new building and ICU, operation theatre and post-operative rooms.

WHY CENTRAL OXYGEN SYSTEM IS CRUCIAL?

Infectious diseases specialist Prof Ridwanur Rahman said the main reason behind the death of any Covid-19 patient is the shortage of oxygen.

When the lung gets infected, many patients gasp for oxygen. The urgency

of the requirement, however, varies from patient to patient, he said.

Using a cylinder, a patient can be given oxygen at a maximum rate of six litres per minute, he said, adding that many need more oxygen and the central system can provide even 40 litres of oxygen per minute.

"It's possible to save lives of many [Covid-19] patients with the central oxygen system," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the central system should be immediately installed at all the dedicated Covid-19 hospitals.

"We have been asking for the installation for long, but the authorities paid little heed to it," he lamented.

Talking to The Daily Star late last month, at least three doctors at the Kurmitola General Hospital, one of the dedicated Covid-19 facilities, said patients at their wards get between six to 10 litres of oxygen per minute. This means a 2000-litre cylinder lasts between 3.5 and 5.5 hours, depending on the patients.

With increased number of Covid-19 patients, the cylinders were running out fast, they said.

In addition, the hospital staff was divided into three groups. While one group works, the others stay in quarantine. It means the hospital was running with a third of its staff members. So, it was impossible for them to monitor the cylinders of each patient all the time, they said.

Aminur Rahman said a central oxygen system can reserve more than 5,000 litres of oxygen, whereas an oxygen cylinder can contain 38.7 litres. In that case, 20 to 50 such cylinders were made interconnected to supply oxygen to patients.

That's why the cylinders need to be refilled after every two to three days, he said.

Asked why the central oxygen system has not been installed in all the 39 hospitals yet, Aminur said all of them were not viable.

Hospitals having 500 beds or more are usually eligible for the central oxygen supply system, but oxygen demand has increased sharply as Covid-19 patients need more oxygen, he said.

"So, a dedicated Covid-19 hospital with only 150 beds is also viable."

The chief technical manager said only two companies -- one local and one multinational -- can supply and install the central oxygen supply system and it takes around 15 days.

These companies have already brought some liquid oxygen tanks and if the number of hospitals is more than 10, they might have to import tanks. "It may take some more time".

Poor awareness

FROM PAGE 1
"Lockdown has been eased before the government ensured an environment where people maintain the minimum level of hygiene," he said.

The government has made it compulsory to wear face masks outdoors. "But before this, people should have been motivated enough to wear masks."

The government also failed to engage elected representatives in motivating and persuading people to follow the rules, he added.

The daily numbers would not have spiked if the councilors of Dhaka city's 127 wards monitored public movement and restricted unnecessary gatherings, he said.

President of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council Prof Md Shahidullah said people's lack of awareness was a major cause for the spread of the outbreak.

"We see people on the streets not following any coronavirus rules. This has a cumulative impact on the outbreak," he said, adding that the mass travelling before and after the Eid was another reason why the cases surged.

He is a member of the national committee formed by the government in April to monitor the coronavirus

response.

At yesterday's briefing, Prof Nasima Sultana, additional director general at the DGHS, urged people to wear masks at public places.

"Wearing a mask and regularly washing your hands will reduce the risks of infection," she said.

There is no evidence supporting that the novel coronavirus spreads from a dead body, she said.

"The novel coronavirus can live up to three to four hours in a human body after death. And it usually takes over four hours to complete the burial.

"Besides public graveyards, you can bury the bodies at family graveyards too. But the body must be wrapped in bags or polythene and personal hygiene should be ensured," she added.

She urged people to hold funerals as per their religion.

Of those reported dead yesterday, 28 were males and nine females. The largest number of victims were from Dhaka division, followed by Chattogram.

One of them was aged between 21 and 30, three between 31 and 40, five between 41 and 50, 12 between 51 and 60, 12 others between 61 and 70 and four between 71 and 80.

Over 50 involved

FROM PAGE 1
on Tuesday. They are Sheikh Mahbubur Rahman, chairman of a recruiting agency; his brother Sheikh Shahidur Rahman, managing director of the agency; and Baharul Islam Bachchu, a broker. They were placed on four-day remand, said a CID official seeking anonymity.

The official said they also got the names of some Bangladeshis who are involved with human trafficking gangs in Libya. They are now staying in the North African country.

Of them, three are from Kishoreganj's Bhaibrab Upazila, added the official.

Early yesterday, a team of Rab-14 arrested three more accused in the case from Bhaibrab upazila. They are Helal Mia alias Helu, 45, Khabir Uddin, 42, and Shahid Mia, 61.

Rab sources said six of the 26 victims were from Bhaibrab upazila. They are Mohammad Ali, 25; Mahbubur Rahman, 21; Rajan Chandra Das, 27; Sakib Mia, 18; Saddam Hossain Akash, 25; and Shakil, 20.

Ali and Mahbubur had given two of the arrestees -- Helal and Khabir -- Tk

3 lakh each to go to Libya, Roffiuddin Muhammad Jobaer, company commander of Rab-14, told The Daily Star.

In Faridpur, a man was arrested in connection with the trafficking and killing of the 26 Bangladeshis.

Police arrested Enamul Haque Gazi from Muksudpur upazila's Gohala Bazar area after the father of one of the victims filed a murder case with Saltha Police Station against Enamul and five others.

Kabir Sheikh, the father of Kamrul Sheikh killed in Libya on May 28, filed the case, said Sub-inspector Mominur Rahman of the police station.

During primary interrogation, Enamul admitted that he took money from Kamrul for sending him to Libya, added the police officer.

Earlier on May 29, a Rab team arrested Kamal Uddin alias Haji Kamal, 55, an alleged leader of a human trafficking gang, from the capital's Shahjadpur area. He was later made an accused in the human trafficking case.

Our Mymensingh and Faridpur correspondents contributed to this report.



Fatema Akhter arrived at the gate of Mugda General Hospital around 5:00pm on Tuesday to get tested for coronavirus which would not begin until 9:00am the next day. The photo was taken over 12 hours after she started waiting there. Many people have to go through this ordeal just to be able to give their samples for testing.

Overlooked otherwise

FROM PAGE 1
"The dream that the traffickers sell is there [the jobseekers] will be taken to Europe," said the embassy official, requesting anonymity.

The May 27 killings took place when the migrants, 38 Bangladeshis and several Africans, were being transported from Benghazi to Tripoli on way to Europe via the Mediterranean.

According to the UN Refugee Agency, between January and April 30 this year, a total of 693 Bangladeshis out of 23,658 migrants made it to Europe illegally through land and sea routes.

The number of Bangladeshis who reached Italy through the Mediterranean was 8,131 in 2016, 5,040 in 2015 and 4,386 in 2014, according to the UN Migration Agency.

Law enforcers say vulnerable migrant workers in the Middle East are also the targets of human traffickers.

"Traffickers sell dreams of Europe to the jobless or low-paid migrants in countries like Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and Iraq. They smuggle them to Europe via Iran and Turkey," said a CID official who was involved in probing human trafficking cases of Bangladeshis in Iran recently.

In Iran and Turkey, they are held hostage for ransom. Those who can pay are sent to Europe, while others face inhumane torture, he said.

Brac Migration Programme Head Shariful Hasan said those going abroad with valid work visas also fall victim to human trafficking when they pay very high fees and don't get jobs or salaries as per the job contract.

Many a time, job contracts are prepared against non-existent companies. Also, the migrants' passports are confiscated by the employers or agents, preventing them from changing jobs even when they don't get proper salaries or work excessive hours, he said.

"In many cases, our migrants work under duress and remain indebted. These are all elements of human

trafficking."

This is the situation for long but there has not been any coordinated and effective mechanism to punish the human traffickers, Shariful said, adding that not much has been done since the deaths of the Bangladeshis in the Mediterranean in May last year.

Following a High Court order, an inter-ministerial committee was formed with the expatriates' welfare ministry's additional secretary as its convener. The committee was asked to submit a report on the actions taken against those involved in human trafficking.

Contacted, Ahmed Munir Saleheen, secretary of expatriates' welfare ministry, said the committee had submitted a report, including findings and recommendations, to the High Court.

"Human trafficking to Libya is happening by using tourist visas. These people know that it is illegal to go to Libya for work, but still they are going there," he told The Daily Star.

"Awareness is needed to stop human trafficking," he added.

Asked why the conviction rate of human trafficking cases is low, he said it was the responsibility of the home ministry to look into the matter.

According to the Police Headquarters, between 2012 and 2019, a total of 5,088 cases were filed under the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act-2012, but only 111 persons were convicted.

Last year alone, 1,557 got arrested in human trafficking cases.

The Act says any case under it should be investigated in 90 days and disposed in 180 days.

Rights activist Noor Khan Liton said there have been numerous incidents of human trafficking over the last few years, but no exemplary punishment was given to the criminals.

He recalled that mass graves of Rohingya and Bangladeshis were discovered in Thai and Malaysian

jungles, unfolding harrowing tales of torture and death.

"Every time a big incident happens, we see some arrests and cases. We haven't seen any drastic measures or any exemplary punishment to the human traffickers," Noor Khan told The Daily Star.

The criminals get rid of the cases because of their political influence and negligence of law enforcers, he said. For the last three consecutive years, the US has ranked Bangladesh in the bracket of Tier 2 Watch List in its Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report.

As per the US law, Bangladesh is not eligible to remain in Tier 2 Watch List this year. Either Bangladesh must show significant and increased efforts to meet the minimum standards to eliminate trafficking in persons and achieve a Tier 2 ranking or risk an automatic downgrade to Tier 3, the US Embassy in Dhaka earlier told The Daily Star.

Contacted, Abu Bakar Siddique, chief of the counter-trafficking cell under the home ministry, said it is true that case disposal and conviction rates are low.

"In many cases, the complainants settle through arbitration. In some others, appropriate evidence is not found," he told The Daily Star on Monday.

He added that the government published a gazette in mid-March this year to establish seven specialised tribunals to deal with human trafficking cases.

Once these courts are physically established, the trafficking cases will see more and quick disposal, he added.

Shariful Hasan of Brac said the country has a national plan of action to combat trafficking. As per the plan, there should be committees at the district, upazila and union levels to create awareness, but these are largely ineffective.

"One ministry passes responsibility to another ministry. That's how things are going and thus we see our image tarnished globally," he added.

'My long road to recovery'

FROM PAGE 1
to go here and there in search of news. I limited my movement between office, home and the kitchen market, particularly after the government announced the nationwide shutdown in late March.

From mid-April, I, like all other staffers of The Daily Star, started working from home. My wife, a homemaker, never came out of our rented house in the last three months save the one time she needed to go out to give a sample for the Covid-19 test.

I, however, had to go to the kitchen market and grocery shop twice or thrice during the second fortnight of April.

Near the end of that month, I began feeling discomfort inside my throat. I also had a light cough. On May 1st, my wife began feeling feverish -- her temperature rose to 100 degrees and she developed a broken voice.

On the same day, my temperature was 98.5 degrees. We started to take medicine for our fever and cough from the following day after consulting a doctor.

We started doing some exercises, especially those for the lungs, knowing that it may turn out helpful. We took tea with cinnamon, cloves, black pepper, ginger and basil leaves regularly.

After recovery, we think those were what helped us heal fast. We had stored a good amount of food, which proved helpful.

After three days, my wife recovered from fever and my light cough subsided. But then two days later, my wife and began coughing again.

We consulted the doctor again and he prescribed antibiotics for me and normal cough medicine for my wife. As there was no improvement over the next five days, we consulted my brother-in-law and decided to test ourselves.

In the meantime, we started taking vapour with warm water and gargled with lukewarm water and salt twice a day. We both had lost our appetites, while my wife was beginning to lose her sense of smell.

After giving our samples to test on May 10, we got the result two days later. This was when our fight started.

When I received the email from the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research and talked to my wife about the result, we were both speechless for a few moments. We panicked for a while but tried to take it easily and began to come to terms with it. It was tough but we tried.

I called a relative of mine who we both depend on. He had also earlier taken a test and his result was negative. He was the one who informed us of the best possible testing facilities. Such dependable relatives or friends were crucial at a time when we had to lock ourselves up inside our two-bedroom apartment.

My relative helped us get in touch with one of the best doctors in the country. While I got some privilege due to my status as a journalist, it was evident that it would be difficult for other to be able to go to a renowned doctor at this time.

The doctor prescribed some medicines and also asked us to take vapour with warm water and do gargle with warm water several times a day.

We started taking the medicines from May 12th.

Meanwhile, I informed the development to my bosses at the office and some close relatives. We didn't inform our house-owner or others fearing that it may cause some unwanted problems.

We started regularly took our medicines and followed the doctor's advice. We started taking our special teas, vapour and gargled four to five times every day. We continued exercising and took lemon juice with warm water twice or thrice every day.

We only drank warm water and we even bathed in slightly hot water.

We tried to have some fruits every day. We washed our clothes with detergent regularly and tried to keep our rooms and dining regularly disinfected.

But as the days passed, symptoms started to change. We started to feel pressure in our chests, especially

Police seize Ron Sikder's Range Rover

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police on Monday seized Ron Haque Sikder's Range Rover which was allegedly used during the attempted murder of Exim Bank Managing Director Mohammed Haider Ali Miah.

Ron shot Haider from inside the vehicle on May 7, according to a case filed with the Gulshan Police Station.

A team of Gulshan Division Police seized the white SUV from Sikder House on Banani Road-11 on Monday, said Assistant Commissioner Rafiqul Islam.

"We seized the car as evidence of the case," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

On May 19, Exim Bank Director Lt Col (ret'd) Serajul Islam filed the case accusing Ron and his brother Dipu Haque Sikder of torturing and trying to kill Haider and Mohammad Feroz Hossain, additional managing director of the bank over a loan.

The two top officials were attacked after they refused to falsely inflate the value of Sikder brothers property that would be mortgaged for a loan of Tk 500-crore, according to the case.

The Sikders also tortured the two officials while confining them to a house in Banani and forced them to sign on a blank paper at gunpoint, read the case.

On May 25, six days after the case was registered, the two brothers fled to Bangkok on an air ambulance that left Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport with government permission.

Mashiur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Detective Branch of Police, told The Daily Star yesterday that officers were collecting witness statements and evidence. "Whoever is involved and wherever they are staying -- Thailand or Bangkok-- we are working to ensure their punishment."

Noted doctor dies from Covid-19 in Chattogram

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

Noted medicine specialist Dr Ahsanur Karim, who had been suffering from leukemia, died from the novel coronavirus at the Chattogram Medical College Hospital yesterday.

He was an associate professor at Marine City Medical College and Hospital in the port city. He was 56.

Dr Ahsanur breathed his last around 2:00pm. He contracted the deadly virus recently, Brigadier General SM Humayun Kabir, director of the CMCH, told The Daily Star.

"He was admitted to the CMCH four days ago and was receiving treatment at a cabin. We transferred him to the Intensive care unit today morning," mentioned the director.

US scrambles

FROM PAGE 1
instead chanting slogans and peacefully walking the streets in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Hours after the curfew, mayor Bill de Blasio said it was a "very calm situation," a day after several Manhattan luxury stores were looted.

"So far, the curfew is certainly helping, based on everything I've seen in Brooklyn and Manhattan over the last three hours," he tweeted.

Minnesota took one of the first concrete actions to address the grievances behind the uprising, which began after Floyd's death on May 25 in the state's largest city Minneapolis.

The state launched a civil rights investigation of the Minneapolis Police Department, looking at possible "systemic discriminatory practices" going back 10 years, Governor Tim Walz tweeted.

Former president George W Bush called on the US to examine its "tragic failures" and to "listen to the voices of so many who are hurting and grieving."

And in Los Angeles, one of dozens of cities hit by unrest, police officers and Mayor Eric Garcetti dropped to their knees in a symbolic act of solidarity as they met marchers led by African-American Christian groups.

"A black face should not be a sentenced to die, nor to be homeless, nor to be sick, nor to be underemployed, nor to be under-educated," Garcetti told them, inviting the leaders into City Hall for a discussion about the issues.

But protesters gathered outside Garcetti's residence late into the evening. An AFP reporter witnessed a group of at least 200 refusing to disperse and subsequently arrested. 'PEOPLE LIKED MY WALK' In Washington DC, thousands returned to the streets Tuesday for a peaceful "Black Lives Matter" march.

Hours after the 7:00 pm curfew protesters could be heard chanting, as National Guard troops stood on the streets near the White House and helicopters hovered above. Broadcast footage showed police firing tear gas shortly after midnight, but the situation appeared to be calm overall.

"I'm just tired, essentially, of being scared of police, of not getting justice," said Jada Wallace, an 18-year-old protester outside the White House earlier who said she was ready to risk arrest.

But Trump, who has rejected the traditional presidential role of healer, voiced glee on Twitter over the response in Washington and accused the leadership of New York -- led by the rival Democratic Party -- of succumbing to "Lowlife & Scum."

"Overwhelming force. Domination," he wrote, adding: "Washington, DC, was the safest place on earth last night!"

Closure to cause significant school dropout, child marriage: study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid closure of educational institutions due to the coronavirus pandemic, dropout rates will increase significantly at schools which will subsequently cause a rise in child marriage, early pregnancy and child labour, according to a study.

Education rights activists attending a webinar organised by Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) 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.

CAMPE shared a rapid survey with journalists from the webinar on impact of Covid-19 on education sector.

In the questionnaire survey -- 115 representatives from 115 NGOs working in the education sector and 11 representatives from 11 teachers' associations gave their feedback.

Of the respondents, 84 percent said dropouts will increase at schools, while 80 percent warned of increased absenteeism and irregular attendance in school.

Seventy-two percent said malnutrition will impact on learning ability, 71 percent

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



NOT BY CHOICE ... Young men and women cram inside a 7am human hauler on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway on their way to work, while those not 'fortunate' enough to find a spot inside cling to the body of the vehicle, inset. The masks on their faces testify to their effort in complying with health guidelines, but social distancing is something neither they nor transport operators can afford.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

'Let's turn challenges into opportunities'

The Daily Star's diplomatic correspondent Porimol Palma recently caught up with Hasin Jahan, country director of WaterAid, to talk about the Covid-19 crisis from the perspective of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

TDS: What are your thoughts on the Covid-19 crisis and the serious toll it is taking on our lives?

Hasin Jahan: Covid-19 is an unprecedented crisis that is testing our resilience. While medical treatment is absolutely important, we are observing a treatment-centric response without adequate attention to preventive measures.

The government has formed a technical advisory committee of 17 members, most of whom are doctors of various specialisations, but there is no public health or WASH expert. As such, the preventive measures remain overlooked.

We should keep in mind Covid-19 is a highly contagious disease. To effectively counter further spread, we should drastically scale up preventive measures. The institutional response appears ad-hoc -- everyone is on a "firefighter mode". However, a holistic planning including preventive measures is not there.

TDS: Can Covid-19 pandemic be turned into an opportunity from WASH perspective?

Hasin Jahan: Water, sanitation, as well as hygiene are all linked with Covid-19 prevention. We are constantly emphasising the importance of handwashing with water and soap as a simple but highly effective preventive measure. Addressing WASH aspects may be challenging, but we can also turn this into an opportunity by instilling sustained hygiene

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



COVID-19 CRISIS

New school curriculum delayed by a year

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The introduction of the new curriculum by National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) has been delayed by a year. Originally expected to launch in January 2021, the curriculum has been postponed to the beginning of the year next.

Due to the Covid-19 crisis, the distribution of free textbooks among over four crore students studying in primary, secondary and equivalent levels would also become a major challenge.

NCTB officials fear that printing and distributing new textbooks will be difficult for them if the coronavirus situation does not improve soon.

"We are yet to complete the tender process for textbook printing although that usually ends by April," they added.

Hence the decision to delay the introduction of new curriculum by a year, NCTB chairperson Prof Narayan Chandra Saha told The Daily Star on Tuesday evening.

Experts cannot work on the curriculum,

hold piloting and train teachers due to the Covid-19 crisis, he said.

The decision was taken at a meeting on new curriculum held at International Mother Language Institute on the day.

Education minister Dipu Moni, deputy education minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, primary and mass education state minister Zakir Hossen, top officials of secondary and higher education division, technical and madrasa division, primary and mass education ministry and NCTB attended the meeting.

Before the coronavirus outbreak in the country, NCTB was working in full swing. Reviewing of existing curriculum would be completed by 2020 and the new textbooks following would be launched in three phases from January 2021.

According to previous plan, students of class one, two, and four were scheduled to get new book as per new curriculum in January 2021.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

HC scraps bail order for Rashedul Chisty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday scrapped a lower court order that granted bail to Rashedul Haque Chisty, son of former chairman of Farmers Bank audit committee Mahbubul Haque Chisty, in a corruption case involving Tk 9.28 crore.

The special judge court of Tangail had granted bail to Rashedul Haque Chisty in the case on May 27.

Later on, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed a petition with the High Court to cancel the Tangail court order, saying that the lower court granted bail to Rashedul without hearing arguments from the counsels of the ACC and public prosecutor.

The ACC filed the case with Tangail Model Police Station on September 16, 2018 against Rashedul and three others on charges of misappropriating and laundering Tk 9.28 crore from bank.

Yesterday, the HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder cancelled the bail order and asked the Tangail court to hold further hearing on the bail petition of Rashedul and to hear arguments from the both sides.

Rashedul cannot get released from jail following the HC order, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

Advocate Khurshid Alam argued for the ACC and Attorney General Mahbubey Alam represented the state while Advocate AM Amin Uddin and Advocate Shaharir Kabir Biplal appeared for Rashedul during the virtual hearing over video conference.

An unfading beacon

Dr Hari Shankar provides uninterrupted service to patients amid shutdown

MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

For the past couple of decades, eye specialist Hari Sankar Das has been seeing patients at Mymensingh city's Charpara area. As the country's healthcare system took a major hit amid the coronavirus outbreak, access to medical facilities became more and more difficult. Despite the challenges, the 70-year old continued to serve the people of Mymensingh, not turning away anyone who might need medical help for their eyes.

In fact, he has been examining most patients completely free of cost. Akkas Ali, a 65-year-old farmer from Dewkhola village in Phulbaria Upazila of Mymensingh said he has been visiting the doctor for long. Recently, he took a hit on one eye and came to Dr Hari with an injury.

"It was a great relief for me to visit the doctor, as I was worried about accessing healthcare during such a crisis," said Akkas.

Mofiz Uddin, a daily wage-earner from Phulpur Upazila also receives free treatment from the doctor. He visited the chamber with irritation in his eyes on Sunday noon, and Dr Hari didn't let him down. Sometimes he also gets free medicine, said Mofiz.

Aysha Akter, a 35-year-old daily wage-earner from the city's Dhopakhola area said as she is poor, the doctor never charged fees from her.

Dr Hari Sankar is the director and proprietor of Paramita Eye Hospital (Pvt). There are 52 staff at the hospital, all of whom have been retained throughout this time, and they're being paid due salaries.

The hospital's deputy director Fatema Begum said, "Most of the private hospitals and clinics in the town have been closed during this time, and people who used to work there are passing difficult days. But Dr Hari has ensured that the staff of Paramita Eye Hospital do not suffer financially," said Fatema.

However, the number of patients at the hospital has decreased, also reducing the hospital's revenue. Around 20 people visit the hospital on average every day, and most receive free treatment or pay as much as they can afford to, said Mahmuna Akter Mina, a manager of the hospital who has been serving there for 24 years.

Dr Hari has also been providing his services over cellphone. Patients call him for consultation every day, and the number is available on the doctor's Facebook page. Emergency operations are also being conducted at the hospital.

Born to late Indu Bhushan Das and Renuka Prova Das at Nikla Das Bari in Bhupapur of Tangail in 1950, Dr Hari Sankar



Dr Hari Sankar examines a patient's eyes at his clinic.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

did his MBBS from Mymensingh Medical College in 1974 and joined government service in 1975. He later resigned from the service in 1981 to complete his post-graduation in Austria's Vienna.

"Under the leadership of country's eminent eye specialist Dr K Zaman, we organized hundreds of eye camps in greater Mymensingh since 1977 and I was the chief surgeon of the team," said Dr Hari, speaking about his long career.

Dr Hari Sankar said he personally procured PPE for himself and his staff, and they are maintaining as much precaution as possible with patients. "None of the staff has been infected, by God's grace," he said. "I have to pay Tk some 350,000 for staff salary every month but the monthly income from the hospital is meagre at the moment," said the doctor. He is subsidising the rest of the expenses from his own funds.

Dr Hari Sankar himself is a patient of diabetes and high blood pressure, and he appeared well aware of the risk of operating the clinic amid the pandemic. "I would be at high risk if infected. But I could not leave those who seek my service amid any crisis. Medical professionals are stepping up during this crisis and it is my professional duty," said the elderly doctor.

Dr Hossain Ahmed Golandaj Tara, secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association, Mymensingh unit said it is a rare instance in the country that the doctor did not close his chamber for even a single day even during such a crisis period.

"We are proud of Dr Hari for his devotion and commitment to the profession and his patients," said Dr Golandaj.

"Doctors, many of whom are private practitioners, should come forward for their patients in this time instead of turning them away," Dr Hari said.

Road crashes kill 6

STAR REPORT

Six people were killed in road crashes across two districts over the last two days, report our correspondents.

In Mymensingh, three people including a couple were killed in separate road accidents on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Bhaluka upazila yesterday.

The victims were identified as Kule Begum (45), her husband Akkas Ali (55), and Kamrul Islam (32), police said.

In Hobirbari area, one Kamrul Islam died after a truck hit his motorbike from behind, said SI Hadiul.

Police recovered the bodies from both accidents and handed them over to victims' families. Separate cases were lodged.

In Sirajganj, three of a family were killed in a road mishap on Nagarbari-Bogura highway in Shahzadpur on Tuesday.

The deceased were identified as Kancho Sutrodhar (40), his wife Anna Rani (35) and their seven-year-old daughter Tora, said police.

Officer-in-Charge of Hatikumrul Highway Police Station Md Khairul Islam said the accident occurred around 7pm, when a speeding bus hit and killed them on the spot.

The bus driver managed to escape the scene with his vehicle, he added.

Thousands deprived of OMS rice in Barishal

Mismanagement over list results in BCC returning tonnes of rice allocated for the poor

SUSHANTA GHOSH

The Special Open Market Sale (OMS) programme to provide rice at Tk 10 per kg started in April to help those outside safety net during the Covid-19 pandemic.

As part of this programme, Barishal City Corporation (BCC) was set to be allocated the rations by the food department according to the city corporation's enlistment of people who meet the criteria.

For the first month, BCC sent a list of 8,000 people, said a Barishal Regional Food Department official, requesting anonymity. After cross-checking, the department provided 10kg rice for each name on the list.

For May, the department

allocated rice for 18,000 people under BCC. However, the city corporation provided only 12,400 names. As a result, the allocated rice for the other 5,600 will now have to be returned to the food department, although there are many people in the city who need the rations.

One such individual, Azahar Mia, a rickshaw puller from Ward 2, said he was unable to enlist his name for the special OMS rice allocation, although he's eligible for it.

In spite of this, the food department decided to allocate rice for another 30,000 people under the programme for this month. But this phase hangs in the balance too, as BCC is yet to submit a list, and failure to do so

within the next couple of weeks may lead to termination of the allocations yet again.

Faruque Hossain Sikder, regional controller (RC) of the Food Department, said BCC's failure to submit a complete list led to the squandering of 5,600 people's allocation for May. There is a fear that the same will happen for a portion of June's allocation too, he said.

Asked to explain this failure, the RC expressed frustration in this gross mishap. "When people are starving, this failure is simply a tragic case of mismanagement," he said. If the list is not compiled in time, thousands of people will be deprived of rations they are entitled to, he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Man who hid Covid-19 test result dies at RMCH

Relatives reveal after death, six staffers quarantined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Covid-19 positive patient hid his details to get admitted into Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) yesterday. His relatives revealed the information after he died shortly after.

The incident forced hospital authorities to put six of its staffers, including two doctors, on quarantine. They also suspended treatment at a medicine ward corner to disinfect it.

Rabiul Islam (45) of Chapainawabganj died at 11am, and hours later, his relatives revealed that he was tested Covid-19 positive in Dhaka a week ago, said Dr Saiful Ferdous Khairul Ataturk, the hospital's deputy director.

Dr Saiful, quoting relatives, said they did so because they thought Rabiul would not be treated if the information was revealed.

Rabiul went to Chapainawabganj after he tested positive, and had been in home quarantine. After his condition deteriorated yesterday, he was taken to RMCH by a rented vehicle around 10:30am.

At the hospital, he was taken to the medicine ward to treat his fever and breathing problem, but he died.

Quantum Foundation secured his body for proper burial, said Kaiser Parvez, the foundation's divisional director.

Rabiul's relatives, who took him to the hospital, managed to leave RMCH without being quarantined, hospital sources said.

Mentionable, RMCH has dedicated Covid-19 treatment facilities. A patient with a severe case of Covid-19 will be admitted to the hospital, and those with mild cases get referred to other local hospitals with help from authorities.

With Rabiul, the Covid-19 death toll in Rajshahi division reached 10. The division's total infected persons reached 1,050 until yesterday morning, stated a report of Rajshahi divisional health director's office.

Among the infected, 253 received treatment, while 280 were undergoing treatment at different hospitals. The rest were directed to be in home quarantine, added the report.



Following yesterday's rain in the capital, this small road at the capital's Moghbazar overflowed, as the drains were blocked by accumulated rubbish. This resulted in pedestrians and vehicles having to wade through the muddy water to reach their destinations.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Tk 80 LAKH GRAFT Ex-DIG prisons Partha Gopal denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday refused to grant bail to Partha Gopal Banik, suspended deputy inspector general of prisons, in connection with a case filed over recovery of Tk 80 lakh from his residence.

The HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan sent his bail petition to the regular bench for its hearing after reopening of the court following ongoing closure.

It passed the order after holding a virtual hearing on the bail petition recently filed by Partha Gopal Banik over video conference.

Anti-Corruption Commission's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star Partha Banik cannot get released from jail as per the HC order.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Let's turn

FROM PAGE 3

behavioral change that would last beyond the crisis.

Even after long periods of awareness raising and hygiene promotion, handwashing practice remains inadequate. Now, because of the Covid-19 situation, people are becoming more aware of the need to wash hands and practice good hygiene. We can build on this to make this practice long lasting. However, the availability of resources or adequate investment in hygiene remain an underlying factor of this predicted success.

TDS: What needs to be done to accomplish this?

Hasin Jahan: Our focus should be making a long term behavioral change that would last beyond the current outbreak. We need to influence people to adapt good hygiene as part of their daily life. For that, it is essential to work on three interlinked factors -- building knowledge, creating an enabling environment, and stimulating willingness.

All of these would naturally require huge levels of investment. WASH investment planning by the government should be part of an overall public health strategy. Covid-19 is showing us the extent of the economic and social losses from a public health hazard. This should be a lesson to invest more on WASH to prevent these losses.

TDS: What is your organisation doing to promote healthy and hygienic behaviour?

Hasin Jahan: WaterAid has been promoting its mission of clean water, decent toilets, and good hygiene in Bangladesh for the last thirty-five years, both on the field and on the national policy levels.

In the context of Covid-19, WaterAid

has designed a response plan with these in mind. We have reached various groups in both rural and urban areas, including vulnerable populations, like slum dwellers and persons with disabilities, with tailored awareness messages using a variety of channels, such as broadcasting messages through loudspeakers, banners, posters, and community radio. We have partnered with WHO and IEDCR to disseminate Covid-19 preventive measures and handwashing steps.

It is essential to reach people with tailored hygiene messages, as well as facilitating the practice of handwashing with soap and water through context-specific handwashing stations. We have developed twenty-two types of portable handwashing stations which are placed at strategic points to encourage handwashing.

TDS: What would be your call to the government?

Hasin Jahan: We need to have a holistic and far-sighted vision when addressing this crisis. The government needs to update the "National Hygiene Promotion Strategy in 2012" to address epidemic diseases including Covid-19 and align it to the Sustainable Development Goals. Presently, WASH budgetary allocation is inadequate, and there is a large disparity between urban and rural areas, especially remote areas like chars, haors, and coastal zones.

It is also necessary to establish equity in water pricing through multiple slabs like in electricity tariffs. Otherwise people in low-income communities will compromise their frequent handwashing practice to save money. As we strive to prevent further spread of Covid-19, improve WASH outcomes and achieve health benefits beyond this crisis, we need to ensure that vulnerable communities are not left behind.

Thousands

FROM PAGE 3

Gazi Moimul Hossain Litu, panel mayor of BCC and councillor of Ward-19, said at first each was asked to prepare lists for 450 people.

They submitted the lists and people received the rice accordingly.

With the increase in allocation, the food department has advised to add another 450 people from each ward. Ward administrations have signed this proposal and the renewed lists will be submitted soon, he added.

However when contacted, a section of councillors -- under condition of anonymity -- said they are not being involved in the special OMS rice distribution process.

Moajjem Hossain, administrative officer-in-charge of the special OMS preparing list for the city corporation, said the list was being sorted out so that there's no mistakes.

Asked about BCC's failure to deliver a complete list for May, he said they were being cautious about enlistments and as a result it took some time to prepare the list, before which the deadline had been reached and parts of the allocation had to be returned.

The food department has formed a special OMS Divisional Approval Committee to approve and check the list sent by BCC, with the divisional commissioner as a convener, and the regional food officer as a member secretary of the committee.

If BCC can send the list in time, the committee can approve it swiftly. Any delay on BCC's part can delay the whole process, and end up depriving those the people who are in dire need of the rations right now.

Closure to cause

FROM PAGE 3

said child labour will increase and 58 percent said early marriage will increase.

Thirty percent of them warned of increased early pregnancy, 88 percent believe that syllabus lessons may not be covered on time and 72 percent believe many teachers lack expertise to use ICT and not willing or able to teach online.

Of them, 70 percent said teachers may not receive salary on time, particularly the non-government teachers and same number of respondents were concerned that non-government teachers might lose their job.

CAMPE executive director Rasheda K Choudhury said, "This is high time to change the priorities of budget; and health and education sector should get more priorities," stressing upazila-based recovery and rescue plan.

Brac University Professor Emeritus Manzoor Ahmed proposed that the government should make special allocation of Tk 5,000 crore for upazila-based recovery and rescue plan from coronavirus crisis beside 15 percent allocation for education sector in the next budget.

He also called for transparency, accountability and proper use of money while expending the allocated money.

Director of education at Brac, Safiqul Islam, said efforts will be needed to recover the loss of momentum of success in the education sector.

Centre for Policy Dialogue Research Director Khondaker Golam Moazzem proposed that the government can cut down allocation from large project that will not complete by next year.

He said there should be some separate allocation for increasing sanitation and wash facilities at school.

Lawmaker Aroma Datta and CAMPE deputy director KM Enamul Hoque also spoke at the webinar.

Ex-DIG

FROM PAGE 3

A Dhaka court on July 29 last year rejected a petition filed by Partha seeking bail in the same case and sent him to jail after ACC produced him before it and appealed to the court to confine him to jail until the investigation is completed.

Before his arrest on July 29 last year, ACC Director Mohammad Yousuf quizzed Partha over allegations that he committed irregularities and corruption as DIG (prisons) of Chattogram division.

After interrogation, ACC team accompanied by Partha went to his Green Road residence and recovered the money.

Protect the migrants

FROM PAGE 12

cancelled readymade garment orders of more than \$3 billion, raising concerns over the country's export earnings. The World Bank has, meanwhile, said the remittance may see 22 percent decline in Bangladesh this year because of decline in overseas jobs and already joblessness of those abroad.

Officials of the Bangladesh's foreign and expatriates' welfare ministries said there might be a few lakh Bangladeshis returning home in the coming months if the coronavirus situation does not improve. Already, there is a process of repatriating over 30,000 Bangladeshi migrants mostly in jail, deportation centres, and undocumented from the Middle Eastern countries.

Five regional rights bodies in Asia and the Middle East on June 1 issued a joint statement calling for establishing a transitional justice mechanism for the migrant workers.

In the statement, Migrant Forum in Asia, Lawyers Beyond Borders Network, Cross-Regional Centre for Migrants and Refugees, South Asian Trade Union Council, and Solidarity Center said millions of migrants could slip into poverty if they are repatriated without compensation.

Out of similar realisation, Bangladesh is trying to communicate with various regional and UN bodies.

During a recent virtual meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Bangladesh proposed creation of a common fund for the migrants affected by the new coronavirus.

Bangladesh also urged the migrant-receiving countries to make sure that the migrants get food and healthcare during the pandemic.

"Recently, we had communications with the Bahrain authorities. They said they won't force any migrant to return home. Also, the Saudi Arabian authorities said they are ensuring food and healthcare of the migrants," Momen said.

Turkey, which is a powerful member of the OIC, has endorsed Bangladesh's call for ensuring six months' salary in the case of job termination of the migrants, while supporting the proposal for creating a common fund for the migrants.

Some of the OIC members inquired how the fund could be created for the private sector migrants, the foreign minister said.

"We said our prime minister has shown the way. Readymade garment workers are working in the private sector. But she has declared Tk 5,000 crore stimulus package for them. The garment factory owners can take loans at a very low interest rate and pay the workers' dues," Momen said.

He added that some of the destination countries of the Middle East import food from other countries, but now they can go for producing food by employing the migrant workers in the farm sector.

"By this time, our migrants have proved in some of these countries how they have produced food crops. We said instead of sending the migrants back, they can re-deploy them in the farm sector because food shortage will be a major issue in the coming days," the foreign minister mentioned.

Ensure TCB

FROM PAGE 12

measures in the next seven days to this effect.

The HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan passed the order following a writ petition filed by rights organisation Law and Life Foundation, seeking necessary directives.

The bench held a virtual hearing on the writ petition over video conference.

Law and Life Foundation President Barrister Humayun Kabir Pallob told The Daily Star that the TCB's daily essentials are currently sold to

people in city corporation and municipality areas at a minimum rate while those in upazila levels are deprived of the TCB goods.

"We filed the writ petition as a public interest litigation with the High Court on May 31, seeking its directives on the authorities concerned of the government to expand the project of selling TCB goods to upazila levels so that people [there] can purchase daily essential commodities at a minimum rate. The High Court has granted our prayer," he said.

The lawyer also said the government has been asked to inform the High Court by June 11 what steps have been taken to comply with its order.

Deputy Attorney General Samarendranath Biswas represented the state.

Biman

FROM PAGE 12

regular flight operation resumed on a limited scale on the three domestic routes after more than two months of suspension due to coronavirus.

On Tuesday, Biman also cancelled all its 12 flights on the three routes due to lack of passenger, Tahera said.

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 3,000 to 3,200 or more as starting price for tickets while two private airlines -- US-Bangla and Novoair -- charged Tk 1,999 to Tk 2,500 for the same ticket.

That is why people are moving to the two private operators for air travel, said the sources.

A senior official of Biman said they did not want to operate their flights incurring loss.

"Other airlines are operating their flights at a reduced price. But we don't want to do unhealthy business," he said wishing anonymity.

"Our starting price is Tk 3,000 to Tk 3,200 while other air operator is offering Tk 2,000 to Tk 2,500. We will not operate our flight in this way," he added.

"Instead of domestic flight, we are giving priority to operate chartered flights on international routes which is profitable."

Sample error leads to false negatives

FROM PAGE 12

three days and then they can restart the trial again," Mohib Ullah told The Daily Star yesterday.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra has, meanwhile, sought speedy completion of the trial of antibody test kit and submission of the report to the Directorate General of Drug Administration so that the latter can authorise mass production and marketing of the antibody test kit.

A team of Gonoshasthaya Kendra scientists developed the antibody and antigen kits to test for Covid-19 in mid-March. On April 26, they approached

the DGDA for validation of the kit.

The drug administration, however, suggested that Gonoshasthaya Kendra go through a contract research organisation (CRO), but Gonoshasthaya refused to do so, saying that it would raise prices of the kit and that CROs were a vehicle of corruption.

On April 30, the DGDA allowed Gonoshasthaya Kendra to go through performance trials at BSMMU. Gonoshasthaya supplied 500 antibody and 500 antigen kits to the BSMMU for the trials.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra Founder and Trustee Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury

statement said.

They also placed emphasis on increasing sample testing across the country, apart from expanding healthcare facilities and taking necessary steps to install labs and facilities in public universities.

"Increase the capacity of daily tests to reduce the clutter of collected samples, reduce unnecessary delays in sample identification."

About Gonoshasthaya Kendra's Rapid Dot-Blot test kits, the citizens asked the government to make publicise the trial results of the kit. If successful, nationwide use of this kit should be expedited, they added.

In the context of the increasing number of patients, they urged the government to increase the number of beds and provide uninterrupted supply of oxygen to each patient in

New school

FROM PAGE 3

Students of classes three, five, seven and nine would get new textbooks in January 2022, while students of other grades would get them in 2023.

"We will now implement the decision in two phase," Narayan said.

TENDER PROCESS STILL INCOMPLETE

NCTB officials said that they were yet to complete the tender process for textbooks for the next academic year as offices were closed till May 30 in a bid to contain the spread of coronavirus.

Tender for printing textbooks for grades one, two and four has not been released. Tender has been released for printing textbooks for rest of the grades, but they were yet to be opened.

Usually tender process ends by April-May, winning bidders receive work order by June-July and they start printing books in August. The textbooks are delivered in October. Almost all new textbooks reach the hands of students on January 1, first day of the new academic year.

Tender will be opened on June 8 and June 16 respectively, for two groups of new textbooks, said Narayan.

'Bangladesh can be best in Asia'

FROM PAGE 12

GANAMUKTI DAL JOINS AWAMI LEAGUE

Ganamukti Dal, under the leadership of Manindra Nath Bhattacharya and Abdur Razzak MCA, joins Awami League today. Speaking at the joining ceremony, Bangabandhu calls upon the people to devote themselves to the task of building Shonar Bangla. The country has to be built from scratch as the Pakistani hoarders destroyed lifelines of the country, he adds.

He urges all to uphold the four principles of nationalism, socialism, democracy and secularism and work hard to bring smiles to the faces of the teeming millions. He asks people to be aware of the conspirators who are trying to tarnish the image of the country and fight these evil-mongers unitedly.

DEADLY TRAIN ACCIDENT IN JESSORE Bangladesh witnesses a tragic train accident in Jessore today that leaves at least 50 people dead and over 400 others injured. Bangabandhu expresses deep condolences to the bereaved families and assures them of all kind of support from the government. A high-powered committee is formed to inquire into this tragic incident.

SATELLITE COMMUNICATION PLAN RESUMED

The government is planning to resume the work of establishing satellite communication in the country. Several

engineers have already been employed in this regard. The project was supposed to be completed by November, 1971. Once completed, the project will significantly improve Bangladesh's telecommunication with the world.

SOURCES: June 5, 1972 issue of Purbodesh.

Cleanest air

FROM PAGE 12

her team suspected that the air over the Southern Ocean would be least affected by humans and dust from the world's continents.

Italy leads Europe

FROM PAGE 12

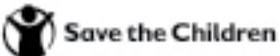
come? No one from South America, China or the US," said Mimmo Burgio, a cafe owner near Rome's Colosseum.

GERMANY TO LIFT TRAVEL WARNING International flights were only expected to resume in three main cities: Milan, Rome and Naples, and some of Italy's neighbours are not yet ready to lift travel restrictions there.

UN accuses

FROM PAGE 12

The UN High Commissioner said she recognised the need to restrict harmful disinformation to protect public health, or any incitement of hatred towards minority groups.

 **Save the Children**

Date: June 4, 2020

Save the Children is the world's leading, independent organisation for children

Invitation for Tender for Framework Agreement (FWA)

Save the Children International (SCI) is hereby inviting for tender from interested experienced bona fide vendors for FWA of supplying Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) items for its offices and other locations in Bangladesh. For details please see the IFT schedule, which is available on <http://procurement.scibd.info/> under tender notification. Downloaded copy is acceptable for tender participation.

Description, submission time & date:			
Package No.	Name of IFT	Reference No.	Last date of Tender Submission
1	FWA for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) items	IFT/SCI/BD/CO/FY-20/(Manual)/05	June 20, 2020

Special Instructions: (a) All activities in connection with the said procurement of Goods will be guided as per the SCI's Procurement Policies. **(b)** If it is not possible to receive & open the tender on the scheduled date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received and opened on the following working date at same time and same place.

Senior Manager, Procurement & Supply Chain

 **মুজিববর্ষের প্রত্যয়**
নারী-পুরুষ সমতা

মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়
মহিলা নির্বাচন প্রতিরোধকল্পে মাল্টিসেট্টারাল প্রোগ্রাম

করোনাভাইরাস পরিস্থিতিতে নির্যাতনের শিকার নারী ও শিশুদের আইনী পরামর্শের জন্য টেলি/অনলাইন সেবা

মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের আওতাধার সরকারী মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতালে প্রতিষ্ঠিত গ্যান-স্টপ জাইনিস সেন্টারের আইন কর্মকর্তাদের সাথে নিম্নোক্ত মোবাইল এবং ই-মেইলে যোগাযোগ করুন।

গ্যান-স্টপ জাইনিস সেন্টার	মোবাইল	ইমেইল
ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল	০১৭১৬৬৫৫৪৩১ ০১৭১৮২৪৯০১৫	occdmch@yahoo.com
রাজশাহী মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল	০১৭১৮০৫৭০৪৭	occrmch@yahoo.com
চট্টগ্রাম মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল	০১৮১৮৩৩৬৫৯১	occ_cmch@yahoo.com
খুলনা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল	০১৭১৬৮৮৬৮৯৬	occ_kmch@yahoo.com
শের-ই-বাংলা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল	০১৭৯১২৬৪৭৫৪	occ_bsl@yahoo.com
সিলেট এমএজি ওসমানী মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল	০১৭১২৯৬৭৭১১	occ_somch@yahoo.com
রংপুর মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল	০১৭১২৭৮৭৮০৩	occ_rpmch@yahoo.com
ফরিদপুর মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল	০১৫৫৮৩৩৪৪২৫	occ_fmch@yahoo.com
কক্সবাজার মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল	০১৭৭২৯৯২৫৮০	occcxmch@yahoo.com
শহীদ জিয়াউর রহমান মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, বগুড়া	০১৮২৩৮৫৩৩২৬	occbogura@gmail.com
কুমিল্লা মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল	০১৭১৭৪৪৯৪২৪	occcumilla@gmail.com

GD-940

US protests expose raw race relations worldwide

REUTERS, Amsterdam/Madrid

Images of a white police officer kneeling on the neck of African-American George Floyd, who then died, have sparked protests from Amsterdam to Nairobi, but they also expose deeper grievances among demonstrators over strained race relations in their own countries.

With violent clashes between protesters and authorities raging in the United States, anti-police-brutality activists gathered by the thousands in support of the Black Lives Matter movement in various European and African cities.

Peaceful protesters highlighted allegations of abuse of black prisoners by their jailers, social and economic inequality, and institutional racism lingering from the colonial pasts of the Netherlands, Britain and France.

"If you want to believe that we in the Netherlands do not have a problem with race, you should go ahead and go home," Jennifer Tosch, founder of Black Heritage Amsterdam Tours, told a crowd in Amsterdam, from where the Dutch West India Company operated ships estimated to have traded 500,000 slaves in the 1600s and 1700s.

In London, a protester held a placard

reading "The UK isn't innocent," while in Berlin around 2,000 people protested outside the US embassy.

Police in northern Paris fired tear gas on Tuesday to disperse demonstrators protesting over the 2016 death of a young black Frenchman in police custody - an incident that has drawn parallels with Floyd's killing. Amid a coronavirus lockdown, French activists also say there have been a number of police brutality cases in low-income Black neighbourhoods.

But not all in Europe side with the protesters. Spain's far-right Vox party and the Netherlands' anti-Islam Freedom Party called those protesting Floyd's death "terrorists" and backed US President Donald Trump.

"Our support for Trump and the Americans who are seeing their Nation attacked by street terrorists backed by progressive millionaires," Vox wrote in a Tweet.

In the Netherlands, the Freedom Party's Geert Wilders tweeted: "White House under attack. This is no protest but anarchy by #AntifaTerrorists."

A study in US carried out in 2019 found that black men are 2.5 times more likely to be killed by the police than their white counterparts.



Protesters and members of the Army National Guard kneel together during a demonstration over the death of George Floyd in Los Angeles, on Tuesday. Anti-racism protests have put several US cities under curfew to suppress rioting, following the death of the Afro-American man in police custody.

PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN brief

Trump can't change G7 format: EU

AFP, Brussels

The EU's chief diplomat Josep Borrell has warned President Donald Trump he did not have the power to change the format of G7 summit, after the US leader said he wanted to invite several other countries, including Russia, India and South Korea. Trump says the current membership of Group of Seven -- the US, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan -- is outdated.

Yemen donor summit raises \$1.35 billion

AFP, Riyadh

The UN on Tuesday raised only around half the required \$2.41 billion in humanitarian aid for Yemen, ravaged by war and coronavirus, at a donor conference co-hosted by Saudi Arabia. Some \$1.35 billion were raised at the emergency virtual conference.

Key J&K militant killed

NDTV ONLINE

Three Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists were killed in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama, Indian police said yesterday. "Fauji Bhai", an improvised explosive device expert was among them. India last month killed Riyaz Naikoo, commander of terror group Hizbul Mujahideen, was killed in an encounter.

Interference will 'backfire'

Warns China as UK PM offers visas for millions in Hong Kong

AFP, Beijing

China yesterday warned Britain that interfering in Hong Kong will backfire, after the former colonial power vowed to give sanctuary to locals who may flee the city if a controversial security law is passed.

The United States and Britain have enraged Beijing with their criticism of planned national security legislation that critics fear would destroy the semi-autonomous city's limited freedoms.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson, meanwhile, said London would not "walk away" from Hong Kongers worried by Beijing's control over the international business hub.

Johnson wrote in a column for The Times newspaper and the South China Morning Post that he would offer millions of Hong Kongers visas and a possible route to UK citizenship if China persists with its national security law.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said Beijing had lodged "serious representations"



with London over the remarks, which "grossly interfered" in Hong Kong's affairs and warned any such move will "definitely backfire."

Hong Kong has been rocked by months of huge and often violent pro-democracy protests over the past year. In response Beijing has announced plans to introduce a sweeping national security law covering secession, subversion of state power, terrorism and foreign interference.

Opponents and many Western nations, fear it will bring mainland-style political oppression to a business hub that was supposedly guaranteed freedoms and autonomy for 50 years

after its 1997 handover to China from Britain.

In his column, Johnson wrote that if China proceeds to justify the "fears" of Hong Kongers, "then Britain could not in good conscience shrug our shoulders and walk away; instead we will honour our obligations."

About 350,000 people in Hong Kong currently hold British National (Overseas) passports, which allow visa-free access to UK for up to six months. Another 2.5 million people would be eligible to apply for one.

Johnson said Britain could allow BN(O) holders to come for a renewable period of 12 months "and be given further immigration rights, including the right to work, which could place them on a route to citizenship."

Britain says it views the proposed law as a breach of the 1984 agreement with Beijing ahead of the handover guaranteeing Hong Kong's freedoms and a level of autonomy -- a deal that formed the bedrock of its rise as a world class finance centre.

'How to end systemic racism?'

GW Bush calls on US to examine its 'tragic failures'

AFP, Washington

Former president George W Bush called on the US Tuesday to take a hard look at its "tragic failures," citing racial injustice in America in a statement amid violent protests in the country over the past week.

"It remains a shocking failure that many African Americans, especially young African American men, are harassed and threatened in their own country," Bush said in the statement expressing anguish over the death of George Floyd, suffocated beneath the knee of a white policeman in Minneapolis on May 25.

The killing has unleashed a nationwide wave of civil unrest unlike any seen in the US since the 1968 assassination of rights

leader Martin Luther King Jr.

"This tragedy -- in a long series of similar tragedies -- raises a long overdue question: How do we end systemic racism in our society?" Bush, who was president from 2001-2009, wrote.

"It is time for America to examine our tragic failures," he stated.

President Donald Trump on Monday threatened a military crackdown to end the demonstrations. Bush did not mention his fellow Republican by name in his statement.

But he made a point of insisting on the need "to listen to the voices of so many who are hurting and grieving. Those who set out to silence those voices do not understand the meaning of America -- or how it becomes a better place," he said.



This photograph taken on May 27, 2020 shows policemen and onlookers stand on the banks of the Velliyar River in Palakkad district of Kerala state as rescuers retrieve a dead wild elephant. The elephant, which was pregnant, died after suffering from injuries by some unidentified locals who fed her a pineapple filled with firecrackers. She wandered into the village searching for food. The fruit exploded in her mouth and left her in searing pain as she walked around the village for days, unable to eat anything. Despite the injuries, she didn't hurt any human or destroyed any properties, officials and locals said. She eventually died standing in a river. Her heartbreaking death has sparked huge outrage in India.

PHOTO: AFP

Mumbai avoids brunt as 'Nisarga' makes landfall

REUTERS, Mumbai

Mumbai escaped the brunt of a cyclone yesterday after winds changed direction and the storm made landfall further south on India's western coast than expected, giving some respite to a metropolis already ravaged by coronavirus infections.

Cyclone Nisarga was initially forecast to be the first to batter Mumbai since 1948, prompting citizens to stay off the streets and secure their homes against gale-force winds and torrential rain.

"It landed a little (further) south than what we predicted. But Mumbai may experience bad weather until tomorrow," Madhavan Rajeevan, secretary at the Ministry of Earth Sciences, told Reuters yesterday.

The cyclone barreled into the western coast around 100 kilometres (65 miles) south of India's financial capital with winds gusting up to 120 kmh (75 mph), the India Meteorological Department said. After landfall, the cyclone headed in a northeasterly direction, the IMD said.

A Reuters witness in the town where the storm made landfall said the area was pummelled with heavy rain and strong winds.

Local media reported a few dozen incidents of trees being uprooted and vehicles damaged. But there were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage, officials said.

Strong crosswinds forced Mumbai airport to suspend arrivals and departures between 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm (0900-1330 GMT), after an arriving cargo plane overran the runway. There were no reported injuries from the incident.

Authorities on Tuesday moved thousands of people away from coastal areas in the vicinity of Mumbai amid fears that the city, already hard hit by COVID-19 infections, could see its healthcare system further overwhelmed. More than 100,000 other people were evacuated from the western states of Maharashtra and Gujarat. India's largest container port, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), on Mumbai's outskirts, said it had closed for 24 hours.

Global vaccine group urges virus solidarity ahead of today's summit

AFP, Paris

The head of the global vaccine alliance has warned "nobody is safe unless everybody is safe" from the new coronavirus, urging international solidarity ahead of a fundraising summit.

Seth Berkley of Gavi, the vaccine alliance, said the international community must ensure all countries will have access to any potential vaccines, regardless of their wealth. He spoke ahead of a virtual summit to be hosted by Britain today, where Gavi hopes to raise at least \$7.4 billion to continue vaccination programmes against diseases like measles, polio and typhoid that have been severely disrupted by the pandemic.

The meeting will also see Gavi and its partners launch a financing drive to purchase potential COVID-19 vaccines, scale up their production, and support delivery to developing nations.

WHO, UNICEF and Gavi warned last month that the pandemic had hindered routine immunisation services in nearly 70 countries, affecting around 80 million children under the age of one.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি) এর কার্যালয়
পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী
তারিখঃ ০১/০৬/২০২০খ্রিঃ

স্মারক নং-পিটসি/নোয়া/প্রশা/৩০০

উন্নুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি/২০২০-২০২১

পি শব্দিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের আইন ২০০৮ এবং তদানীন্তন প্রাক্তন শব্দিক প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিধিমালা ২০০৮ এর বিধান মোতাবেক নিম্নলিখিত বস্তুর/কার্যের মালমাল ক্রয়/স্বগ্রহের লক্ষ্যে যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে বাংলাদেশের স্থায়ী/প্রকৃত নাগরিক এবং সশ্রুতি কাজে যাত্রা অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন অল্পমী ঠিকাদার/যোগাদার/ সরবরাহকারী/প্রকৃতকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিকট হইতে নিজ প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যারে সীলমোহরিত মুদ্রাধায়ে যোগ্যতাভিত্তিক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

০১	মন্ত্রণালয়	খরাই মন্ত্রণালয় (অননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ)।			
০২	সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ।			
০৩	ক্রয়কারী/সরবরাহকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ	কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি), পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী।			
০৪	ক্রয়কারী/সরবরাহকারী স্বত্বার জেলা	নোয়াখালী জেলা।			
০৫	দরপত্রের বিধা	ক্রমিক নং ১৫ এ বর্ণিত লট ক থেকে ছ।			
০৬	দরপত্র সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	উন্নুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (OTM)।			
০৭	ব্যাংক ও পোর্ট অব ফাউন্ড	কাজে খাট।			
০৮	দরপত্রাদাতা/যোগাদার/সরবরাহকারীর যোগ্যতা	পিপিআর ২০০৮ বিধিমালা এবং সর্বশেষ সংশোধিত আইন ও বিধিমালা মোতাবেক প্রাক যোগ্যতা হিসাবে দরপত্র করিতে ইচ্ছুক ঠিকাদারকে নিজ প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্যারে আবেদনসহ নিম্নে উল্লিখিত হইয়া নিম্নলিখিত কাগজপত্রের মূলকপি অবশ্যই প্রদর্শনপূর্বক সিটিসিএম ক্রয় করিতে হইবে। ক) হালনাগাদ ন্যায়নকৃত ট্রেনিং মাল্টিপল, খ) যেকোন তথ্যগুরুত্বক বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হইতে অর্থিক যত্নসহকারে সনদসহ সেন্সেদের হালনাগাদ হিসাব বিবরণী, গ) ডিআইএন নম্বর উল্লেখসহ হালনাগাদ আয়কর সনদ, ঙ) জাট প্রেসিট্রেনিং সনদ, চ) নাগরিকত্ব/জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, ছ) ঠিকানা সম্মী সরবরাহের ক্ষেত্রে দ্বন্দ্ব লাইসেন্স। বর্ণিত সনদপত্রের একটিও ঘাটতি থাকিলে উহা সশ্রুতি ঠিকাদারের অযোগ্যতা বলিয়া বিবেচিত হইবে এবং বর্ণিত কাগজপত্রাদি ফটোকপি অবশ্যই ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করাইয়া (নাম ও সীলমোহরিত) দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে। সশ্রুতি কাজে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদার/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে আধিকার দেওয়া হইবে।			
০৯	সিটিসিএম বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	তারিখঃ ২৫/০৬/২০২০খ্রিঃ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।			
১০	দরপত্র সিটিসিএম বিক্রয়ের স্থান	১) কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি) এর কার্যালয়, পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী। ২) পুলিশ সুপার, নোয়াখালী জেলা। ৩) পুলিশ সুপার, লক্ষীপুর জেলা।			
১১	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি) এর কার্যালয়, পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী, তারিখঃ ২৮/০৬/২০২০, ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।			
১২	দরপত্র বোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	কমান্ড্যান্ট এর কার্যালয়, পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী, তারিখঃ ২৮/০৬/২০২০, ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা।			
১৩	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	আগামী ২৮/০৬/২০২০খ্রিঃ, ১১.৩০ ঘটিকা।			
১৪	দরপত্র গ্রহণকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী	কমান্ড্যান্ট (ডিআইজি), পুলিশ ট্রেনিং সেন্টার, নোয়াখালী।			
১৫	লট নং	কার্যের বিবরণ	দরপত্র সিটিসিএমের মূল্য (প্রতিসেট) (অফারতমোদা)	দরপত্রের জামানতের পরিমাণ (ফেরতমোদা)	কার্যের সমাপ্তিমা
ক)	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ সনে পিটসি, নোয়াখালীতে ব্যবহারের জন্য অন্যান্য মনোহারা (ট্রেনিং) মালমাল সরবরাহ।	১০০০/-	৩৫,০০০/-	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ সাল	
খ)	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ সনে পিটসি, নোয়াখালীতে ব্যবহারের জন্য ছাত্রবিশ্ববিদ্যালয় সম্মী সরবরাহ।	৭৫০/-	৩০,০০০/-		
গ)	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ সনে পিটসি, নোয়াখালীতে ব্যবহারের জন্য কারখানা সম্মী সরবরাহ।	১০০০/-	৭৫,০০০/-		
ঘ)	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ সনে পিটসি, নোয়াখালীতে স্টাফ ও টিমারসিনের পোশাক সরবরাহ।	১০০০/-	৫০,০০০/-		
ঙ)	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ সনে পিটসি, নোয়াখালীতে ব্যবহারের জন্য উষ্ণ ও ত্রিকিনসা সরবরাহ।	১০০০/-	৭৫,০০০/-		
চ)	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ সনে পিটসি, নোয়াখালীতে ব্যবহারের জন্য মটর যানবাহনের পুরা যন্ত্রাংশ ও টায়ার চিটব সরবরাহ এবং সেরামিককরণ কাজ।	৫০০/-	২৫,০০০/-		
ছ)	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ সনে পিটসি, নোয়াখালীতে আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে বাণী/পরিমহাতাকমী সরবরাহ।	৫০০/-	২০,০০০/-		

১৬ বিশেষ নির্দেশনা
ক) এই দরপত্রটি পিপিআর আইন/০৬ এবং বিধিমালা/২০০৮ এবং হালনাগাদ সকল বিধিবিধান দরপত্রের শর্তকর্তী হিসাবে গণ্য করা হইবে।
খ) ক্রয়কারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণে দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন এবং সর্বনিম্ন দর গ্রহণে বাধ্য নহেন।
গ) সিটিসিএম ক্রয় করিতে অল্পমী প্রতিষ্ঠান তাহার প্যারে নিম্নলিখিতকারী ব্যাবহারে আবেদন করিতে হইবে।
ঘ) দরপত্র সিটিসিএম অন্যান্য শর্তকর্তী নিম্নলিখিতভাবে বর্ণিত আছে। দরপত্রাদাতাকে দরপত্র তফসিলে বর্ণিত শর্ত ও নিয়মকর্তী বাধ্যভাবে পালনকর্তা দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।
ঙ) নির্দিষ্ট দরপত্রাদাতা/যোগাদার/সরবরাহকারীকে কার্যকর প্রদানের পূর্বে জামানতসহ ৩০০/- টাকার নন-জুরিশিয়াল স্ট্যাম্পের সহিত দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
চ) পুলিশ সেক্রেটারী হইতে অর্থ সনে আর্থিক সেক্ষিটে বিল পরিশোধ করা হইবে। এতদসহক্রমে ঠিকাদারের কোন অংশিত গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।
ছ) সশ্রুতি ঠিকাদার/প্রতিষ্ঠান কারো অধিকারিত্বক হইতে অর্থ সনে নিম্নলিখিত প্যারে যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন/অধিকারিনা দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
জ) দরপত্রের সহিত কোনমত অসত্য/ভুল/বিকৃত সনদ দাখিল করিলে এবং অসুস্থকালে তাহা বিখ্যা প্রমাণিত হইলে ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিরুদ্ধে আইননুযায়ী ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হইবে।

স্বাক্ষরিত
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ফোনঃ ৬১০৯০, ফ্যাক্সঃ ৬১৮৩০
ই-মেইলঃ cmdatnki@police.gov.bd
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Isolation is personal and political in Olivia Laing's 'The Lonely City'

MURSALIN MOSADDEQUE

Ever since social isolation began in an attempt to contain the Corona virus, the internet has flooded with references to the American realist painter Edward Hopper, especially his iconic work, 'Nighthawks' (1942). The altered version removed the four gloomy looking customers and the server from the diner in the original—alluding to the closing of public spaces like bars or restaurants, preventing people from mingling during the pandemic. Anyone familiar with the original would know, none of these estranged people were there socialising; they were suspended in a trance of urban loneliness—times in which we live now.

I was first introduced to Hopper by Olivia Laing's fascinating book, *The Lonely City: Adventures in the Art of Being Alone* (2016), a haunting exploration of the writer's loneliness while stranded in a new city. It had only been a couple of years then since I had moved to Dhaka. The wound that the cold and unflinching urban air inflicts on one by isolating them—physically and emotionally—draining intimacy and life force, was still fresh in me when I found Laing's book. Reading it was being seen and acknowledged in a way that felt cathartic.

Laing attempted to find her agonies reflected in artists who have lived with extreme isolation in the city. Despite being a bit heavy with references to artworks and artists, *The Lonely City* is quite readable even without much prior knowledge. Laing shows great skill in correlating the artists' journeys and the underlying pathognomy of loneliness. It could easily have been a rigorous, jargon-filled flexing of the writer's analytical prowess, but instead Laing has a tender, empathetic book focusing on the undeniable perils of life.

Hopper's haunting—sometimes even voyeuristic—paintings discussed in the book showcase mostly isolated characters caught by the gaze of the passer-by ('Automat' or 'Room in New York'). I feel their loneliness is different than the confinement faced during this

pandemic. Unlike people who hope to return to their previous lives after the lockdown is lifted, someone from a Hopper painting does not see a solution to their constricting state.

Hopper's works have a way of peeping at the suffocating, lonely personal spaces of his subjects; there is a greater sense of alienation in being treated as a social outcast when the society and the state dehumanise the very

artworks and writings shortly before his death in 1973—is a reminder of how society and state build themselves at the expenditure of the marginalised.

Laing emphatically declares near the end of her book, "Loneliness is personal, and it is also political." She allows us to draw certain distinctions—solitude can feel transcendent, but being alone is like a prison, associated



PHOTO: NIGHTHAWKS (1942), EDWARD HOPPER

essence of who you are. Laing similarly portrays the adversarial lives of Andy Warhol, David Wojnarowicz, Peter Hujar, and Klaus Nomi as marginalised artists in New York. Trauma created an emotional deprivation that deeply affected their works and lives, caused by the intense homophobia during the AIDS epidemic in New York. These men, their friends, and loved ones would not only be left to die, they would be utterly dehumanised. Andy Warhol, whose name is synonymous with pop-art, would be ridiculed by Bob Dylan in his song, 'Like a Rolling Stone', have his art rejected from galleries, and be bullied in high school for his accented English as the child of immigrant parents. He would go on to develop a stutter that would trouble him even in adulthood. Yet even before that, at seven years old, Warhol would be confined to bed from rheumatic fever for months, drawing, colouring, and collaging in a way that is comparable to our creative flare ups while stuck at home these days. Revisiting him along with Henry Darger—a janitor whose tiny apartment revealed a staggering number of

with stigma and shame. The desperately lonely aren't the ones like us, dying to have a latte in North End with friends, but the ones deprived of affection or rights by their families, society, or state. Then and now, gentrifications expands through the urban landscape and the mind.

What matters is how we choose to behave with the alienated—with stigma, or with humanity. As recounted by Laing, Valerie Solanas, feminist and author of the SCUM Manifesto who would go on to shoot Warhol, had seen and faced the lowest mutilations her society had to offer. Turning tricks on Times Square, homelessness, abuse, exploitation by random strangers and abandoned by their parents—both Solanas and Wojnarowicz had lived through them all. Even during a pandemic these are the people left out on the streets. Privilege is not there to give them a shade.

The writer grew up in Rangpur, Northern Bengal. Instagram: @bluets001

The book allows us to draw distinctions—solitude can feel transcendent; being alone is like a prison, associated with stigma and shame. What matters is what we choose to do with the marginalized and alienated—stigmatize them or show them humane treatment.

THE SHELF

Recommended reading for World Environment Day

As Abida Chowdhury addresses in her piece on *The Great Derangement*, narratives that engage with the natural world are scarce. Here are some books, both fiction and non-fiction, that approach the subject with particular finesse.



HOW I BECAME A TREE,
Sumana Roy (2017)
Non-Fiction

Rattled by the violence and selfishness of humankind, Sumana Roy finds kinship in the rhythm of trees and their capacity to cope with loneliness. In the process, she explores with the philosophy present in Buddha, Tagore, Shakespeare, D H Lawrence, Indian folklore and Greek mythology.

THE OVERSTORY,
Richard Powers (2018)
Fiction

Nine strangers, scattered across space and time, are impacted by trees before they unite to tackle deforestation. In a narrative form that spirals concentrically—like rings in trees—and prose that bristles with energy, plant life takes centre-stage in the novel, with humans, for a change, serving as side characters.



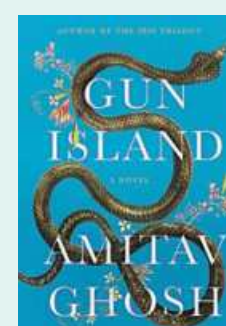
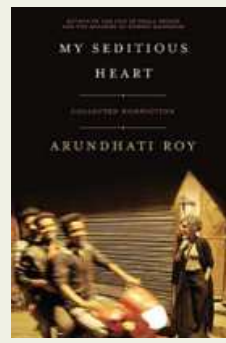
WEATHER, Jenny Offill (2020)
Fiction

In short, tight observations, university librarian Lizzie Benson looks out at climate change, healthcare systems, capitalism, and the funny, frustrating intricacies of family life.



MY SEDITIOUS HEART, Arundhati Roy (2019)
Non-Fiction

In essays spanning the last 20 years, Arundhati Roy calls out the appropriation of indigenous lands and poverty in India that is fostered by commercialisation, state hypocrisy, and the lingering remnants of imperialism.



GUN ISLAND, Amitav Ghosh (2019)
Fiction

Deen Dutta, dealer of rare books, travels from Kolkata to Los Angeles to Venice, uncovering legends of Bengal and raising conversations about displacement and the role of capitalism in climate change.



PHOTO: TOM FISK/ PEXELS

The absence of climate change in fiction and other great derangements

ABIDA RAHMAN CHOWDHURY

I was first introduced to Amitav Ghosh while gulping down *The Hungry Tide* as a freshman Environmental Science student. In that book, Ghosh navigates the Indian side of the Sundarbans, its politics, its histories, and its people. Ghosh initiated my first brush with a fictional conservation scientist working to protect dolphins in the Sundarbans, kicking off a lifelong love affair with the world of conservation. That was sometime in the beginning of the decade.

I picked up Ghosh again this year; a much older release and this time a non-fiction—*The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable*—only to be hit with another dose of reality and inspiration. While *The Hungry Tide* made me go looking for wildlife heroes, the latter awoke me to climate change in literary fiction. The book explores our inability at the level of literature, history, and politics to grasp the scale and violence of climate change.

In the part titled "Stories", Ghosh critiques the limitations of the 'literary novel' which often aims to highlight personal adventures. The contemporary novel uses narrow scales of time and space and rarely exceeds more than a human lifespan, failing to factor in climate and the constant change taking place on the sidelines of character development. In "Histories", Ghosh develops a fascinating "genealogy of the carbon economy" extending research in post-colonialism, environmental justice, and modernity. "Politics" laments the lack of collective action, the narrow bandwidth of political concern, and parallels the enduring ideology of capitalist growth with the unsettlingly similar literary impulse to pursue the next avant-garde.

Because it is a work of non-fiction, Ghosh takes liberty with the writing, swerving sometimes towards academic jargon and failing to keep the text approachable. But he also sparkles with insight, especially during his anguish over the absence of climate change in literary fiction.

He questions why climate change

casts a much smaller shadow on literature than it does on the world. If seriousness and relevance were the precursor to great works of literature, then writers should jump on the bandwagon. In this time and space we are living the impacts of climate change,

The contemporary novel uses narrow scales of time and space, ignoring the changes occurring on the sidelines of character development.

yet if one were to pick up a work of contemporary literature dating from the past decade, they would be hard pressed to find relevant references to a changing world. I know I have struggled to find one—one which speaks of climate change outside the nuances of academia. Where are the stories of the Sundarbans, which I have seen change in the span of a few years? Where are the stories of those constantly battling the impacts of nature that is unleashing its fury? Academic journals, news articles, feature stories and all other non-fiction accounts of climate change are fertiliser for stories, for literary fiction. Yet the narratives remain sparse.

Cyclones, tornadoes, wildfires, degrading habitats and dying animals seem to have been relegated to the confines of academic journals, but that fails to touch the heart, invoke any imagination. Ghosh is right: "The great, irreplaceable potentiality of fiction is that it makes possible the imagining of possibilities"; storytelling adds life to even the most deadbeat of subjects. It was author Ben Okri who said it best when he said, "The fact of storytelling hints at a fundamental human unease, hints at human imperfection. Where there is perfection, there is no story to tell."

Abida Rahman Chowdhury is an online journalist at *The Daily Star*, with a background in conservation and environmental science.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Two kinds of spaces are shrinking around us as we speak—one for books and creativity, as it starves from a lack of revenues, and another for our physical existence in the public sphere, caused by the coronavirus. Put them both together, and we open pathways for possibilities. As we remain locked away from the lives we knew, this new weekly page on books comes in an effort to help us travel beyond our physical limitations, to empathise, connect, and educate ourselves in a way that is best done through narratives both real and fictional. We will try to cover the latest in the world of books while also harkening back to what is old but still relevant. For this first issue, an exploration of what it means to be 'alone'—physically and psychologically—in a packed city, seemed fitting under the circumstances; this is accompanied by a piece on the need for climate fiction as we approach World Environment Day on June 5. The reading list on 'The Shelf' recommends books that, over time, have given us a deeper insight into the fraught and at risk natural world. We hope you will enjoy reading with us.

Sarah Anjum Bari
In-Charge, *Daily Star Books*

Follow Daily Star Books on Facebook and @thedailystarbooks on Instagram. Send in book reviews and your thoughts and suggestions to thedailystarbooks@gmail.com.

Why are patients with Covid-19 symptoms still being denied treatment?

Hospitals should be held accountable for not following govt. directives

WE are coming across, with frightening regularity, reports of patients with Covid-19 symptoms being denied treatment at different private hospitals across the country. According to a report in *The Daily Star* yesterday, a 63-year-old critically ill woman was turned away by six private hospitals in Sylhet city and subsequently died from breathing complications inside an ambulance on Monday night. Such deaths are not only appalling, but also unacceptable.

While our correspondent inquired about the reasons why she was denied treatment, authorities of one hospital said that all the beds, including those in the CCU and ICU facilities, in their facility were occupied at that time; another hospital outright denied the allegation. The third hospital said they were not prepared at that time to treat Covid-19 patients, and the fourth apparently did not have the ventilator needed to treat her. The last two hospitals she was taken to also did not admit her citing other reasons.

What we understand from this incident is that most of our hospitals are not yet prepared to treat Covid-19 patients. The virus has been around for nearly three months now (since the detection of the first Covid-19 patient in early March), but still most of the hospitals in divisional cities could not make arrangements or get the necessary medical equipment and ICU facilities ready to treat such patients. We can easily guess the situation at the upazila and thana levels.

On the other hand, it seems that most patients with Covid-19 symptoms and their relatives do not have any clue as to where to go for treatment. Most people still do not have any knowledge about the designated hospitals that provide treatment to Covid-19 patients only. There is also a tendency among patients and their relatives to deny the fact that they could be infected with Covid-19, which makes them seek treatment at hospitals and clinics that are not ready to deal with such patients.

However, in an ideal situation, all public and private hospitals should have separate treatment facilities for Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 patients. The health ministry recently circulated an order in this regard which all hospitals should comply with. The hospital authorities should also provide their doctors and other staff with the necessary safety gear and give them the moral support to carry out their duty without any fear. What is also important is to raise awareness among the public about what to do if anyone has Covid-19 symptoms and where to go for treatment. If all these steps are taken, we hope no patient—Covid-19 or not—will be denied treatment in the future.

Projects to tackle Covid-19 must be implemented effectively

This is our last chance to turn the tide against coronavirus

WE welcome the government's decision to prepare every district hospital of the country to fight the coronavirus as part of the new Covid-19 Emergency Response and Pandemic Preparedness Project. A total of Tk 2,492 crore has been allocated for this project and the Covid-19 Response Emergency Assistance programme.

Under the first project, every district hospital will have a 20-bed Isolation Unit (IU) and a five-bed Critical Care Unit (CCU), as well as 50-bed IUs and 10-bed CCUs in 17 public medical colleges. However, given the current high rate of infection in Bangladesh, with over 2,000 new infections recorded almost every day, will this be enough? Will the district hospitals have enough healthcare workers to operate effectively? We must remember that some districts are more affected than others, and resources must be spread out accordingly.

The government schemes also involve a 250-bed hospital in the capital for essential workers. This is crucial given how many frontline workers have already been infected. However, we hope the government schemes will give equal importance to the prevention of infection of workers. While the Emergency Assistance fund has allocations for the purchase of crucial medical equipment and supplies, it is unclear whether this also includes PPEs that are essential for frontline workers now.

Finally, the government projects will focus on setting up infection prevention and control units in 492 upazila health complexes, and 19 microbiology testing labs will be set up across the country. This is a most welcome step, especially since Bangladesh still has one of the lowest rates of testing in South Asia. However, we have reported in this daily before on the Health Ministry's lacklustre response to public and non-government institutions who have offered their facilities for testing. The key to stopping this spread is immediate implementation of these proposed projects, including ramping up of testing, and there is no space for lethargy or inefficiency during this crucial period.

Recent projections suggest that coronavirus cases in Bangladesh could jump to around 1.2 lakh by the end of this month. The proposed government schemes will only be able to fight coronavirus if corruption and inefficiency is rooted out of the process. We urge the government to encourage all ministries and departments involved to act without delay, and to exercise due diligence and take a strong stance against irregularities to ensure the funds are being utilised for intended purposes.

Economic imperatives in the post-Covid-19 era



AS scientists are relentlessly working to create an antidote to fight Covid-19, governments, policy planners, business communities, and economists have started foretelling the economic consequences of a prolonged crisis period. Some have compared the ensuing catastrophe to the Great Depression of the 1930s and the economic stalemate after the Second World War. The Covid-19 pandemic has already cost more than 380,000 lives and shut the sources of incomes for millions of families, affecting the livelihood of a few billion people in the process. Even the wealthiest nations of the world are finding it difficult to contain job losses due to the crisis. For example, the US has lost about 30 million jobs, followed by China's 26 million, and the UK's 6.5 million. The fear that the US might hit an unemployment rate of 32 percent or more, from the present 14.7 percent, sketches a gloomy picture for the world economy. For many reasons, shifts in economic policies would be inevitable in the post-coronavirus era. Bangladesh will be no exception. In that case, among other issues, the following are worth considering in the Bangladeshi context.

Product and market diversifications in external trade

The relatively long spell of economic growth that Bangladesh has enjoyed to date owes greatly to its remarkable export performance, courtesy to globalisation. Exports accounted for 14.32 percent of GDP in 2019. The virtue of globalisation notwithstanding, one has to admit that globalisation inevitably creates external dependence. Bangladesh's economic success has become largely dependent on the economic performances of the rest of the world, with the latter creating demand for Bangladeshi products. But its export regime is inherently weak as it is concentrated on a limited number of products and in a limited number of countries. The top 10 exports—dominated by RMG products, which comprise 84 percent of the total exports—account for 96 percent of the total export earnings. The top 10 destinations receive more than 71 percent of Bangladesh's total exports. A general lack of product diversification is,

therefore, associated with a lack of market diversification.

These top export partners include the EU countries, the US, and Japan. Given that most of these countries have been hit hard by the Covid-19 outbreak, Bangladesh has huge challenges ahead if it is to sustain its export market. Imports, on the other hand, pose a different type of external dependence. The country mainly imports machines and equipment, electronic products, vehicles, and raw materials and industrial inputs. The bulk of Bangladesh's imports (about 68 percent) comes from a handful of countries with China dominating the group, with 26.1 percent, followed by India's 14.7 percent. To the extent that these countries are

notable examples. In the past, we have encountered similar problems with the shrinking of international supply of some basic necessities. The coronavirus has just brought to the fore, once again, the virtue of self-reliance.

Expanding domestic demand

Led by consumer expenditure, domestic demand remains the most authentic determinant of economic progress. Domestic demand in turn depends on income generation through the creation of employment opportunities. Bangladesh is still far away from becoming a mass-consumption society. It has underutilised and unutilised human resources. These less-than-optimum states of the economy and similar ones put Bangladesh in a good

to call it an interpersonal comparison of utility. An individual may be inclined to think that an extra amount of a particular good might be more useful to another individual. This applies to money or income as well.

Research and development

It's time we put more importance on investment in research and development, particularly in science and technology. The spillovers from foreign innovations and inventions carry a gestation gap. Countries like Taiwan and South Korea pass the test of time by their preparedness enabled by the state of their scientific knowledge and technical know-how. Innovative ideas and inventions, no matter how insignificant they may look and sound at the outset, must be encouraged and nurtured. Let's begin with schools. Research organisations, including research universities, encompassing all disciplines of learning, need to be instituted. Apart from science and technology, these organisations will conduct research on policymaking and leadership at all levels.

Taking advantage of what's on offer

Bangladesh has to think beyond the RMG exports. In the post-Covid-19 era, there shall be a boost in demand for certain types of products and services. These include health equipment such as masks, gloves, ventilators, etc. and the services of medical scientists including doctors, microbiologists, chemists, pharmacists, and auxiliary health staff such as technicians and nurses. A long-term plan in this regard is warranted. This is even more important as the world demand for Bangladesh's conventional labour and human capital services is likely to wane substantially following the dramatic job losses in the host countries.

A task force

The government may institute a task force comprising experts from various disciplines to prepare an independent report on matters of interest as deemed necessary.

Finally, there is scope in a democratic political set-up to accommodate potentially more equitable social and economic policies for the greater good of the society. These are complementary rather than contradictory, as some nations have demonstratively proven it over the last two months or so.

Dr MA Hossain is Professor, Department of Economics, University of Chittagong, and Vice President, Bangladesh Economic Association.



The Covid-19 pandemic has already cost more than 380,000 lives and hurt the economies badly, affecting the livelihood of several billion people.

affected by the coronavirus outbreak, Bangladesh is destined to feel the heat, if not by the supply chain, by higher import prices. As such, product and market diversifications are a must.

Enhancing self-reliance

If there is one thing to learn from the mood swings of some of the countries during these trying times, it is the importance of self-reliance for basic goods and services. It's clear that in a crisis like the present one, some goods and services become non-tradable. The services of the medical scientists and health workers, medicines, and basic ingredients of medicines, protective gear, etc. are

stead to accelerate its economic growth.

A more equitable income distribution scheme can realise further economic growth. A transfer of income from the rich to the poor will simply propel demand for domestically produced goods and services as the lower-income people have a great deal of unfulfilled demands even for basic necessities. This view is supported by empirical evidence. Reduction in income inequality has even become more important in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis. For once, the well-being of the richer has become dependent on the well-being of the poorer—my health depends on your being healthy. Economists would like

Virtual learning is no longer the future—it is here.

RASHID ASKARI

THE spectre of Covid-19 has descended on the planet so suddenly that almost all spheres of human life have been caught off guard. And the education sector is no exception. The pandemic has badly affected the global education landscape leading to the wholesale closure of schools, colleges and universities. The shadow of gloom caused by the contagion, the sudden disruptions in academic life, and the considerable uncertainty about a return to normalcy are all disconcerting indeed. And since there is little chance of the situation changing anytime soon, governments, educationists and think tanks are trying to work out a viable solution to minimise its impact on education. They are looking for an alternative method of teaching/learning in a bid to ensure sustainability in the academia. Most are learning towards virtual education at the moment, and the Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission (UGC) in Bangladesh have also agreed to it in principle and are negotiating a way forward. But there are detractors too, trying to pick holes in the system. What to do, then? Suspend all academic activities until the end of the pandemic, or try a viable alternative while going through it?

We are living in an age of remarkable technological progress. Fast connectivity with unprecedented processing power, enormous storage capacities, unlimited access to information, technological breakthroughs in the fields of Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, Internet of Things (IoT), autonomous vehicles, 3-D printing, nanotechnology, and quantum computing are all mind-blowing experiences that have revolutionised the methods of education and research. We can easily make use of these tools and achievements to shape and re-shape the teaching and learning strategies of our time.

In keeping with these brilliant ICT feats and global needs, experts have set three aims for 21st-century education—empowering students with transferable skills to cope with the fast and constantly changing global landscape; helping them make the best use of the information readily available; and striving to prepare an entire generation of learners for the 21st-century workforce. In addition, the Partnership for 21st Century Learning Framework has identified four basic skills for the present generation of

students: creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration. Teaching techniques and modalities of the 21st century should be geared to achieving these targets and skills.

For instance, education and technology have beautifully combined to form an innovative pedagogy to impart learning. The SAMR Model is an example of the integration of education and technology. It is a framework created by Dr Ruben Puentedura for selecting, using, and evaluating technology in education. The SAMR Model can be an effective way of assessing one's choice of technology for their modes of teaching. The model suggests four stages, i.e. Substitution, Augmentation, Modification and Redefinition. Substitution and Augmentation are regarded as "Enhancement" steps, and Modification and Redefinition as

and information technology to automate the manufacturing processes. Now the fourth Industrial Revolution is emerging based on the digital revolution over the last few decades. It is a fusion of technologies that combines the physical, digital and biological spheres. It is developing exponentially and affecting almost every aspect of human life. It may completely change the way we live, work and connect with each other. However, we have yet to fully comprehend how we will deal with a transformation of this nature that humankind has never experienced before. One thing is certain, though: the response to the Fourth Industrial Revolution must be comprehensive and well-coordinated. And hence, we need to develop creative skills, cognitive agility, problem-solving skills, critical thinking skills, etc. which are subject to acquisition through learning. And the

normal in education means a paradigm shift, i.e. from teachers to students; from public space to personal space; from conventional classroom teaching to virtual or remote teaching; and from summative to formative method of assessment. The education technology for emergencies should be designed in consonance with the principles of the new normal.

Students should, therefore, try various online tools for different learning purposes. The tools are effective for collation of ideas and development of collaborative responses. They can facilitate the acquisition of different 21st-century skills, boost engagement and interaction with the process of learning, and bolster their sense of innovation. Discussion forums, chat groups, learning forums and many other learning management tools can be useful in this regard.

Implementation of virtual education may sometimes be impeded by teachers' inexperience, students' lack of opportunity, inadequate internet connectivity and power outage, lack of digital learning resources and institutional inability. Exclusion of any student from the system may create "an inequality of opportunity" and dampen their spirit which could be a deviation from the SDG 4 and UNESCO's EFA movement. However, the challenges cited above can also be seen as the source of opportunity as suggested by Albert Einstein—that "in the middle of difficulty lies opportunity."

Universities are like bicycles. If you don't ride and keep pushing the paddles, they will fall. So, whatever happens, they need to be kept functional. We have to think innovatively and implement education strategies in view of this whole spectrum of natural, environmental, social, political, cultural and other related issues. And to this end, we should welcome any mode of education that offers a greater degree of flexibility. Against the backdrop of Covid-19 pandemic, online learning is thus gaining a foothold across the globe. Most of the institutions are in favour of it at this moment, as it can help minimise the impact of the pandemic on education. It is the need of the hour. To replace a conventional mode of education with a viable alternative in emergencies and to gradually mainstream it is surely a better option.

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PHOTO: REUTERS/CARLOS GARCIA RAWLINS

Students in many coronavirus-affected countries have resorted to virtual platforms to continue their education.

"Transformation" steps. In layman's terms, Enhancement is like "seasoning an old recipe" and Transformation is like "creating an entirely new, original dish". Susan Oxnevad, an American educator and specialist in professional learning, innovation and engagement, referred to this movement across the spectrum as "teaching above the line".

With the enormous achievements in ICT, humankind has arrived on the brink of a new revolution called the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). The first Industrial Revolution used steam, the second used electricity to mechanise production, and the third used electronics

flipped classroom model is considered a better approach to this learning. It shifts the emphasis from teaching to learning and creates an active and collaborative environment enabling students to demonstrate their creativity, innovation, problem-solving and other skills that are needed for their life and living.

The "new normal" means anything done in a society to meet the immediate needs in an out-of-the-ordinary way. Not fully depending on long-standing educational norms and tools—brick-and-mortar classrooms, rows of desks, face-to-face interaction, chalkboards, Dewey Decimal library, heavy bags, mass lectures, public exams—the new

Memories of Mrs Niloufer Manzur

ZENAT CHOWDHURY

MY first encounter with Mrs Niloufer Manzur was in her office, a tiny room on the ground floor of a three-storied building on Rd 27, Dhanmondi, which housed Sunbeams, a school where I was hoping my ten-year-old daughter Tanweena would be enrolled. We had just moved back to Bangladesh from the UK after ten years, and I was anxious that Tanweena would find the move traumatic—away from the country she knew as her first home, away from her friends, her school. Mrs Manzur was completely reassuring, and Tanweena was taken away by a helper to her classroom.

"She will be fine. She will like it here," were her words to that effect when I was leaving. When I came to fetch her at the end of the school day, Tanweena was sitting, comfortably, high up on a forked branch of the giant tree just inside the wall of the school compound. The gatekeeper was keeping an eye on her, I could tell, but no one had told her to get off the tree. No one had shouted that she would break her limbs, or the birds would peck her, or it was against the rules.

I knew I had found just the right school with the right person at its helm for my daughter. Tanweena stayed at Sunbeams for the next two years, and then changed to Green Herald as Sunbeams only went up to Class V then. She now lives in New York, with her husband and young family, working online for DFID-UK. Only two years in Sunbeams—not a long time in her fairly illustrious academic career, but her Facebook profile picture is now the Sunbeams logo.

How do you explain that? It's the Niloufer Manzur spell. Once you knew her, and her school which she seemed to have built brick by brick with her own hands, you couldn't forget.

The years rolled by after that first encounter with Mrs Manzur. Our paths crossed, at first infrequently, then fairly often as I too became a school principal and our students competed academically and on the playing fields. Although South Breeze School was a high school from day one, Sunbeams went up to O' Levels, and then A' Levels, gradually. I took my time opening A' Levels as I was perfectly happy with our students joining Sunbeams after their O's. She was especially kind to our students and praised their manners and behaviour, making me feel proud of them.

"You won't open A' Levels?" she asked me once.

"No," I said and meant it too. I told her why.

I wanted to have time for myself, to read, to listen to music, to write, to watch films, to go to the theatre—there were so many things to do in this one life. A' Levels would be another load eating into my carefully guarded private time.

But I couldn't keep my word, mostly because our parents and students were so insistent, given that we finally had our own premises.

"I thought you said you wouldn't open A' Levels?" she asked me afterwards.

I told her the reasons and I added, this is the one thing I decided to do before I retire. At the word "retire", she smiled. Because she knew, and I knew, we both expected never to really "retire".

We regularly exchanged notes on our

children sang the national anthem and raised the national flag at assembly, that we were not bringing up "aliens"!

Elucidating all and more of the above, a few words in our President's soft, calm, rational voice were enough at the various meetings with relevant government departments where private English medium schools were called. And of course, we would always find more than one person there who would say their child was in one of our schools and how happy they were with the schooling.

Mrs Manzur and I usually travelled together to these meetings to break up the boredom of the traffic-infested journey and we talked. She was a very private person and the one time she spoke of her personal life was on a long

especially at Mindfulness and Mental Health. With equal energy we enjoyed the multiple breaks for tea, coffee, lunch—and finally, the grand closing dinner where she spoke a few words, thanking the organisers for all the learning and re-learning we had done at the various sessions and for the chance to meet educationists from around the world.

Her last meeting with me was in Khelaghor, the free day care centre that I run in Uttara, opposite the South Breeze School building. Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni had come to launch our school programme "Ekshota Bhalo Kaaj—A Hundred Good Deeds" that the students would pledge to do to commemorate the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Afterwards, Dipu Moni visited Khelaghor. In that relaxed, informal surrounding, it was good to exchange viewpoints and the education minister promised Mrs Manzur that she would come to the function that Sunbeams would be organising next.

That was the last time I met her. Then all hell, also known as Covid-19, broke loose. Centenary functions were either postponed or held in small scale, many parents stopped sending children to school, and then schools closed under the directive of the government.

The coronavirus nightmare unravelled in China and then in the Western countries before it made a serious impact in the subcontinent. We were not completely unprepared when the Pearson Edexcel exams and the Cambridge Board exams of April/May 2020 were cancelled. Schools started calculating in various ways the Predicted Grades the UK Boards asked for, based on which certificates would be issued. This was new to us. Much late-night thinking was done, and sleepless nights spent, before we found a reasonable formula to do it, and I forwarded copies of all the letters we had sent to our IGCSE and A' Level candidates, detailing the method of calculating the predicted grades, to Mrs Manzur, at her request; in answer, she sent her thanks and added that the letters would be very useful for reference. It was comforting to know that she approved of our letters.

On Tuesday, May 12, at 8:30 am, I sent her the dates of Eid-ul-Fitr break, dates of the period school would stay open for continued Zoom and Google classes, dates of the summer holidays, with Eid-ul-Azha included. We wanted these dates of our two schools to match as far as possible.

Strangely, she did not respond. This was

very unlike her. Usually, she would reply within minutes to any text I sent.

There was no reply that day (May 12th). There was none on the 13th either. On May 14, at 3:55 pm, I wrote: "Everything going well I hope. Silence is a bit worrying."

At 4:29 pm, three words came: "Under the weather."

Feeling somewhat reassured—she may just be tired, perhaps a bit of a cold, perhaps a sleepless night—I wrote: "Ah. Get well soon. Prayers."

Frightening news started to arrive and ring ominous bells. Dengue, then pneumonia, then breathing problems, then Covid-19, then coma, and then the early morning news that shattered hearts around the world.

Facebook accounts became a sea of the Sunbeams logo. Not just the accounts of the former and present students, but also others, such as the BIT school logo, which was changed to the Sunbeams logo for three days. Ms Lubna Choudhury had lost her son, the promising author Numair, just over a year ago and remembered the kindness Mrs Manzur had shown her during the aching days that followed. I myself was called from different parts of the world, and not least among them was a call from my driver Wahid, from his village. He registered his shock and sorrow and said how gently and kindly she had always spoken to him.

As I sit writing this, outside my window a golden morning shines. I can see newly washed tree tops, a bird that hovers and flies off, a cloudless sky. What was the end like for her? Did she wonder where she was? Did she want to see the greenery outside the windows of her beautiful sitting room, the paintings on the walls, the statuettes in the glass showcase?

I now cede to Anita Brookner, the Booker Prize-winning author, to say the dark words that I wish were not true for this perfect role model.

"Nature, the great benefactor, exacts its punishment for all bounties hitherto enjoyed, without a thought of worth or entitlement, and all life ends badly... it is the gods who are in control and their indifference can be visited on any life, no matter how exactly that life has been lived."

Yet, hope is eternal. Time will surely see to it that the desolation of her last days will be outshone by the vibrant memory of her life.

Zenat Chowdhury is the founding principal of South Breeze School.



Niloufer Manzur, founding principal of Sunbeams School.

school calendar and events dates, and once ten established schools got together to form Bangladesh Private English Medium School Forum, she was the guiding light and presided over our meetings. We needed to have one voice to assert that private English medium schools were filling a need, that our students were being brought up to be loyal citizens of Bangladesh, that we celebrated all the national events from Ekushey February to Pahela Boishakh, from Victory Day to Bangabandhu's birthday (Jatiya Shishu Dibosh), that our children read Bangla Board books in their Bangla class, that Bangla was a compulsory O' Level subject, that Bangladesh Studies was also a compulsory O' Level subject, that our

journey back from the Secretariat, when she said she had lost her mother when she was a young university student. The relatives had thereon elected themselves to give her constant advice, but "Manzur was there," she added. From the sudden changed tenor of her voice and a look in her eyes, I realised she had said a lot. In just three words.

Her knight in shining armour was there to rescue her.

The longest stretch of time we spent together was in last October, in Windsor, the UK, both of us invitees at a conference—Leaders in Education—organised by Pearson. The two-day conference was packed with interesting sessions, with both of us engaging energetically,

PROJECT SYNDICATE

America's Mis-Police State



JEFFREY SOMMERS

GEORGE Floyd's death at the hands—and under the knee—of Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin has triggered a wave of peaceful protests and violent rioting in most major cities across the United States.

Caught on video

for the world to see, the incident has driven home the perception that African-Americans are excluded from America's grand narrative of progress, in which conditions supposedly improve over time.

The data bear out that perception. According to a recent Brookings Institution study, as of 2016, "the net worth of a typical white family is nearly ten times greater than that of a Black family." And though the US accounts for just 5 percent of the global population, it is home to 21 percent of the world's incarcerated people, one-third of whom are African-American.

Scarcely a week goes by without a new story about African-Americans dying at the hands of police or vigilantes. Each episode is met with media handwringing and calls for reforms of police procedures. But the problem is never resolved, in part because it is actually many problems.

For starters, many Americans have accepted that they live in a winner-takes-all society of deepening inequality. While the wealth and incomes of those at the very top continue to grow, tens of millions of Americans struggle to afford health care, childcare, and other basic goods. This story has been told many times over. But what often goes unremarked is that the responsibility for managing the social costs of this system has been offloaded onto

the police.

Generally speaking, most police in urban areas are white and have little or no experience interacting with the populations within their jurisdictions. The familiarity gap is compounded by the fact that one in five police officers is a military veteran who previously conducted violent pacification efforts in Afghanistan or Iraq. These former soldiers have been primed to see the urban populations they police as threats to their own safety, at best.

That, too, is borne out by the data. For example, in Boston between 2010 and 2015, there were 28 complaints of excessive use of force for every 100 police officers with some military service, compared to 17 complaints for every 100 non-veteran officers. And Boston is hardly alone. America is obliged to place veterans in meaningful work. But, clearly, only individuals with a demonstrated record of effectiveness in de-escalating tense situations should be permitted to serve as police in urban communities.

Chauvin is not a military veteran. But with 18 prior complaints filed against him, he embodies much of what is wrong with America's policing system. After all, America also has obligations to its urban poor. African-Americans in Detroit, Milwaukee, St. Louis, and many other de-industrialised urban areas live in conditions that are closer to those in South Africa and Brazil than to other rich countries.

In poor and economically insecure African-American communities, a multigenerational vicious cycle ensues. Children are born into an environment where interactions with police have long been confrontational rather than cooperative. And the police, in turn, conflate suspicion and hostility with criminality. All too often, police assume that black males are suspects, and treat them accordingly. In

response, many African-American men are primed to assume a suspicious and hostile attitude toward the police.

The structures underpinning America's racial disparities are the products of both negligence and design. Fixing them will require a multi-pronged strategy.

The first step is to heed Martin Luther King, Jr., and establish full employment as a core principle of economic policy. US Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell has indicated that the Fed faces no effective limit on its ability to fund public investments. In that case, it should take up spending proposals such

as those in the Green New Deal and employ disadvantaged workers at good wages to drive advances in clean-energy and other key sectors of the future economy. Those without work records could be directed to public beautification projects at entry-level wages, which would enable them to start developing basic skills.

The Covid-19 crisis has demonstrated that much of what was previously considered unimportant work is, in fact, essential. From health-care facilities and food services to transport and sanitation, African-Americans disproportionately hold jobs that we consider

least and, ultimately, depend on most.

Yet, taking the federal minimum wage as a baseline, America's essential workers are the lowest paid among high-income countries. Although US GDP has increased by several multiples over the past 70 years, the federal minimum wage is a mere USD 0.75 higher than it was in 1950, after adjusting for inflation. The message to America's essential workers has long been: "You don't matter." Clearly, that must change.

Finally, Americans are grotesquely over-armed, and this problem has grown worse since the Tea Party takeover of many state governments during President Barack Obama's administration. In a country with almost 400 million civilian-owned firearms, regulations on gun sales in many states have nonetheless been loosened. As a result, a city like Chicago, despite having a reasonable level of gun control, is awash with firearms, because one need only drive an hour north to buy from Wisconsin's under-regulated markets.

For obvious reasons, America's gun problem contributes to its violent crime problem. It also places significantly more stress on the police. Progressives and police organisations should recognise that they have common ground on the issue of gun control.

There are clear measures that could be taken to reduce the pressures on both our urban communities and those tasked with policing them. It is well within our power to strengthen the economic and social health of our cities while reforming police methods to encourage conflict de-escalation and resolution. There is no longer any excuse for inaction.

Jeffrey Sommers is Professor of Political Economy and Public Policy in the African and African Diaspora Studies Department at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

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PHOTO: REUTERS/LUCAS JACKSON

A man recites spoken word poetry at a makeshift memorial honouring George Floyd, at the spot where he was taken into custody, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, on June 1, 2020.

QUOTABLE Quote

MUHAMMAD ALI
(1942-2016)
American professional boxer and social activist.

Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Prepares for battle
- 5 Bill collector, of a sort
- 11 Ring event
- 12 Baltimore player
- 13 Easter symbol
- 14 Like some prunes
- 15 Building wing
- 16 Galileo's home
- 17 Pasta topper
- 19 Pussy foot
- 22 Concise
- 24 Diver's gear
- 26 Bee's home
- 27 Baseball's Rodriguez
- 28 Perfect
- 30 Colt's counterpart

DOWN

- 1 Skilled
- 2 Muddy up
- 3 Thinks about
- 4 Pig's place
- 5 Subject
- 6 Van Gogh work
- 7 Falafel holder
- 8 Write hastily
- 9 Hoppy brew
- 10 Spectrum color
- 16 Place
- 18 Open space
- 19 Stops for speeding
- 20 Third person
- 21 Like paraffin
- 22 Pack and send
- 23 Conceal
- 25 Fourth person
- 29 Hotel area
- 30 Mideast topper
- 33 Tightwad
- 34 Campus part
- 36 Latest fad
- 37 Different
- 38 Brief drop
- 39 Earth-friendly prefix
- 40 Golfer Hogan
- 41 Make a choice

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

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

RAUL, EMMET, SUPERSTORES, ELI, TERESA, TEXTS, USHER, CHAD, LACE, ONA, UNDER, DAILY, SHAMS, BABAR, AGATE, HAT, POSE, APED, OVERT, RIDEON, ARE, CORES, EVERET, ADOS

BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER

THAT'S YOUR THIRD DRINK, SIR. WHO'S COUNTING? YOUR WIFE, SHE TOLD ME TO TEXT HER AFTER EACH ORDER.

BABY BLUES BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

POPCORN! POP... CORN! THAT'S IT! POPCORN! POPCORN! COP PORN! WHAT??

COVER STORY

On Endurance And Changes



Rokeya Prachy first made a name for herself with the film 'Dukhai'. Since then, the versatile and talented actor has ventured into acting in movies, television, and theatre, and even worked as a director. She has acted in several renowned movies, such as 'Matir Moina', which received praises internationally. Previously, in an interview with Rafi Hossain, she discussed the current state of the entertainment industry and her thoughts on bringing positive changes to it.

Rafi Hossain: Welcome to *Uncensored* with Rafi Hossain. Today, we are here with Rokeya Prachy. Thank you for giving us your time. You have had many ups and downs in your life. Could you tell us about your journey?

Rokeya Prachy: I have had to face a lot of struggles, especially when I was young. My sister, my father and my husband had passed away in the span of a few short years. During that time, my brother was my pillar of strength, but he soon left to go abroad as well. I was left alone with my four-year-old daughter. I was young and timid, but I had hopes and dreams that I wanted to accomplish. I soon realised that I could either dwell on the past or keep moving forward. I had no familial, social, or financial support, but I was brave, and I decided to take a risk. I wanted to be in control of my own life; I believed even if I did not succeed at doing what I loved, I would have no regrets as I had pursued my passion.

Rafi Hossain: There was a lawsuit regarding your husband's murder. Were you happy with the outcome?

Rokeya Prachy: Those who were involved with the crime were mostly convicted and punished accordingly. I was satisfied with the court ruling. However, when it was over, I felt lost. I would worry about what would happen to my daughter if I had a similar fate to my husband's. I wanted a family and a home, but I never managed to have that.

Rafi Hossain: How did you feel when your second marriage did not work? Are you both still friends?

Rokeya Prachy: To me, this is quite normal. We were different people, and we decided to end the marriage. There is no dispute or hate between us, but we are not friends either. However, he is a good father to my daughter.

Rafi Hossain: What would you say is your outlook on relationships and marriage?

Rokeya Prachy: I believe these things happen naturally. I love having a family and I am not opposed to the idea of love. Like any other person, I want to love and care and have that feeling be reciprocated. However, because of my way of life, I have never made such choices myself. Even in my first marriage, when my late husband, Ahad, told me he wanted to marry me, I asked him to discuss the matter with my family first. After our families gave us their blessings, we would often meet during our theatre work. I never had any relationships, but I do not feel any regret because of that.



Rafi Hossain: I am sure many people who have faced similar situations in life will be inspired by your story. What would you say to them?

Rokeya Prachy: I still have that appreciation for life as I did when I was young. Many people feel frustrated and become hateful when they have to struggle constantly. I rather feel content and happy. I believe that being alive means loving and appreciating the small things.

Rafi Hossain: On the work front, however, you were quite lucky, wouldn't you say?

Rokeya Prachy: Yes. By the time I was completely alone with my four-year-old daughter, I had already made a name for myself with my work. I had won several awards in both film and theatre, and I felt accomplished. I found my calling and fell in love with my work. For instance, because of Tareque Masud, I got to work on *Matir Moina* which took us to the *Cannes Film Festival*.

Rafi Hossain: Could you tell us more about your journey into theatre?

Rokeya Prachy: My journey began with Liaquat

Ali Lucky when I attended a workshop. I worked on a few plays after that. My last work was with Juboraj (Khaled Khan) before he passed away. I switched from *Prachyanat* to *Nagorik Natya Sampradaya* during this period because I wanted to explore and broaden my horizons. However, we are still very close to one another. Shahidul Mamun will always be my mentor.

Rafi Hossain: What is the current state of the theatre industry in your opinion?

Rokeya Prachy: To develop the state of our theatre, we need to show the actors that they can have a future in this industry. If they need to work elsewhere and focus on other jobs alongside theatre to lead a good life, the quality of our work will never improve.

Rafi Hossain: From what I have observed, previously, there were many more excellent plays being created by several theatre directors. Why is it do you think that changed?

Rokeya Prachy: Back then, theatre was one of the few sources of entertainment available. Moreover, the directors would solely focus on theatre. Nowadays, there are more television channels and media to work on, and so, the focus has shifted onto other platforms as well. Our country needs to improve its entertainment sector. If that happens, I believe theatre can be pursued as a full-time job as well.

Rafi Hossain: What are your thoughts on the entertainment industry?

Rokeya Prachy: The producers nowadays try to make a name for themselves, rather than considering the benefit of the industry. I think that the people who are in charge of the filmmaking industry should unanimously make a decision on how films should be made. This way, the focus will be on the betterment of the industry. For instance, whenever Tareque Masud would talk about a project, he would always think about the industry and its policies. He selflessly cared about the industry. However, I trust and believe that those who are in charge are foresighted and wise, and they'll bring some changes soon. Similarly, if I ever achieve a position of authority, whether it is in politics or the entertainment industry, I will surely try to introduce and implement some changes.

Rafi Hossain: Thank you for giving us your time today, Prachy.

Rokeya Prachy: Thank you having me.

Transcribed by Shreya Shomoyeeta

GRAPEVINE

Kornia's indoor concert

Singer Kornia did a thirty-minute concert at home by playing five popular songs on the harmonium. The songs were: Tagore song *Borisho Dhora Majhey Shantiro Bari*, Nazrul Geeti *Piu Piu Birohi Papiya Bole*, Shahnaz Rahmatullah's *Khola Janala*, Mitali Mukherjee's *Keno Asha Bedhe Rakhi*, and her duet song with Asif Akbar *Ki Kore Toke Bojhai*. The video for the songs has been released on the digital platform *Bongo*. Aside from that, she also gave voice from home to singer Kishore's directed song, *Elo re Elo re*, along with other artists. Regarding Eid, Kornia said, "I cooked all favourite dishes for Eid with my mother and sister and spent the day with my family. I really want everything to go back to normal soon."



Puja's eid celebration



Just like all the other actors, rising star Puja Cherry has also remained indoors following government's order. Her two new films — *Shaan*, directed M Rahim, and *Jinn* — were supposed to be releasing this Eid. However, due to the pandemic, both of the releases were halted. Puja said, "I am very upset about everything happening around. I cannot foresee when this crisis will end, but I am eagerly waiting for better days. Regarding Eid celebration, the actor said, "I celebrated Eid with my family. I cooked a special meal with my mother that day. I also spent rest of the day watching old Bengali cinemas."

Roshan's eid at home

This Eid, promising actor Roshan had many new releases lined up, among which his film, *Makeup*, directed by Ananya Mamun, was supposed to be a unique one for his followers. Due to the current crisis, the movie releases are at a halt, and he had to stop shooting of many new projects midways. He has been

home quarantined for nearly over two months now. Regarding his Eid celebrations, the actor said, "For Eid, I placed an online order for clothes for my family members. I did not buy anything for myself. I spent celebrating Eid at my home with my family doing different activities. I pray this crisis comes to an end soon."



GUESS THE CELEBRITY

Guess who the celebrity is?

HINT: A BLONDE WHO ENROLLS FOR HARVARD LAW SCHOOL



ANSWER FROM THE PREVIOUS ISSUE:
"KRISTEN STEWART"

POPCORN HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some binge worthy movie and series you can spend your time watching while you stay at home social distancing, keeping yourself, as well as others, safe.



Taj Mahal 1989

Taj Mahal 1989 is a Hindi comedy-drama series on *Netflix* written and directed by Pushpendra Nath Misra, produced by Divyaa Iyer, and stars Neeraj Kabi, Geetanjali Kulkarni and Danish Husain, among others. The story is set in 1989, around Lucknow University, and follows the lives of different couples who discover love through marriage. It was first aired on February 14, 2020.

Solar Opposites



Solar Opposites is an animated comedy series, first aired on May 8, 2020 on *Hulu*. It was created by Justin Roiland and Mike McMahan, produced by Sydney Ryan and J. Michael Mendel, distributed by *20th Television*, and stars the voices of Justin Roiland, Thomas Middleditch and Sean Giambrone, among others. The plot follows the life of an alien family who take refuge in America and debate where life is better — here or home.

Hospital Playlist

Hospital Playlist is a South Korean medical-drama series, directed by Shin Won-ho, written by Lee Woo-jung, distributed by *tvN* and *Netflix*, and stars Jo Jung-suk, Yoo Yeon-seok and Jung Kyung-ho, among others. The storyline follows the lives of five doctors who have been close friends since medical school. It was first released on March 12, 2020.



THE BIG FLOWER FIGHT

The Big Flower Fight is a reality TV show on *Netflix*, following ten pairs of florists, garden designers and sculptors who compete against each other to build the best garden sculpture. The show is hosted by Natasia Demetriou and Vic Reeves, produced under the banners of *Albert+Sustainable production* and *MultiStory Media*. It was first aired on May 18, 2020.

Amina Hossain





সন্তানের যত্নে আপনি যেমন

তেমনি বিবিত্ত যত্নে বাবরার নানা পরীক্ষায়

প্রক্রিয়াজাত হয় আত্ম ডেইরি পণ্য



যত্নে গাঙ্গা
ডালাবাস

Sports-lovers missing out on int'l events at home

ANISUR RAHMAN

Country's sports-loving people were supposed to spend busy time now watching glowing performances of foreign and local players in events scheduled as part of birth centenary celebration of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, but the coronavirus pandemic has put a damper on all the planning, depriving the spectators from the events.

The months of March, April and May were scheduled to be full of international events in Bangladesh. Two T20I matches involving cricketers from around the globe was the first and perhaps the biggest one to be postponed as coronavirus started to break out in Bangladesh in the second week of March. Subsequently, a number of international events including ones in archery, cycling, golf, hockey, roller skating and volleyball were suspended as the virus spread throughout the country and international travelling was suspended.

Zahid Ahsan Russel, State Minister for Youth and Sports, recently [before Eid-ul-Fitr] told The Daily Star that they are going to scrap most of the invitational international tournaments due to the coronavirus pandemic even though some sports organisers have vowed to hold tournaments which are also part of international calendar.

"Programmes regarding the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be trimmed," said Russel, retreating from the original plan of hosting approximately 100 international and local sporting events on this grand occasion.

"We have no alternative but to scrap maximum international tournaments proposed for Mujib Borsho as health and safety is our



Unlike most other sports in the country, cricket is gearing up for a potential restart, even if in the form of training. The BCB Academy ground is being prepared as the BCB is contemplating plans to start training while maintaining safety regulations.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

main priority. Furthermore, foreign participants will possibly not be able to come here due to health concern. Considering these aspects, we guess most international tournaments will be scrapped from our plans," explained Russel.

However, the minister expressed his desire to hold some domestic competitions scheduled as part of the celebrations.

"We will try to hold some domestic competitions when the situation gets normal. Half of the scheduled events were scheduled for March, April and May while the remaining competitions were scheduled for the next nine months. But due to the pandemic, we had to suspend Bangabandhu Bangladesh Games, many international tournaments, local tournaments. We have also suspended an international competition

involving intellectually challenged athletes which was scheduled for April," said Russel.

However, some federation likes hockey, volleyball, archery and football want to hold international tournaments to celebrate the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman because those events are also the part of international calendar.

"Bangabandhu Junior Asia Cup hockey is likely to take place in January or February next year, which falls within the timeframe of Mujib Barsho. We have already bought tournament's title name spending a lot of money while the Junior Asia Cup is a qualifying tournament for Word Cup, so there is no scope of cancelling it," Bangladesh Hockey Federation's acting general secretary Mohammad Yousuf said.

"If the situation improves and

the government gives us approval, we will hold the Bangabandhu ISSF International Archery Championship in February next year as we have a Feb 22-28 slot available in the international calendar," said Bangladesh Archery Federation's general secretary Kazi Razibuddin Ahmed Chapal.

Bangladesh Volleyball Federation's general secretary Ashiqur Rahman Miku said, "Our plan is to hold the Bangabandhu South and Central Senior Men's Volleyball Championship next year, whether or not the government helps us financially."

Bangabandhu SAFF Championship is also scheduled to take place in September in Dhaka, but as the situation deteriorates, it is likely to be deferred by at least a few months.

Shami needs no 'saliva or sweat'

AFP, New Delhi



India fast bowler Mohammed Shami says he will be able to reverse-swing the ball even if saliva is banned during the coronavirus pandemic.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is expected to next week order a temporary ban on using saliva, as part of measures to get the sport started again while reducing the risk of spreading the virus.

Bowlers traditionally get the ball to move in the air, deceiving the batsman, by shining one side using sweat or saliva.

"There will be difficulties. We have been accustomed to using saliva since childhood," Shami said in an online discussion.

"If you are a fast bowler, instinctively you apply saliva to shine the ball. But yes, if you can maintain the shine of the dry ball, it will definitely reverse."



The 29-year-old, renowned for his reverse swing, offered no alternative but insisted that sweat is not a viable replacement.

"Sweat and saliva work differently. I don't think it will help. I never tried bowling without saliva," he said. "Now because of COVID-19 pandemic, it's very important to stop using saliva."

Australian ball manufacturer Kookaburra is developing a wax applicator to shine the ball, but the world body is reluctant to allow artificial aids.

Players must retrain brain: Hussain

REUTERS, London



Playing in empty stadiums is not ideal but a bigger challenge for players during England's home series against West Indies will be changing the way they shine the ball and keeping a lid on celebrations, former England captain Nasser Hussain has said.

Subject to government approval, the three-test series will take place in July behind closed doors, with the use of saliva to shine the ball likely to be banned as part of measures to prevent spread of the new coronavirus.

"Some of the stuff they have trained their brain for 10 years to do, shining a cricket ball, celebrating a wicket, will be the difficult thing for them," he added.

"They are used to putting saliva on a cricket ball and can't do that anymore, so they will have to re-train the brain."



Asian football 'closer' to return

AFP, KUALA LUMPUR

Asia's Champions League is getting closer to a return but it will have to wait until domestic competitions are back in action, a senior football official told AFP on Wednesday.

Football is gradually resuming around the world after closing down because of the coronavirus, although most leagues are still yet to return.

AFC general secretary Windsor John said: "We are approaching closer to the return of football."

"We have to wait for all the domestic leagues to start first," added John.



Men wearing uniforms ride bikes on the World Bicycle Day in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, yesterday. Although professional cycling events around the world have been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic, the sport is expected to make a comeback with the Tour de France, rescheduled to start on August 29.

PHOTO: AFP

A grandmother's gift and a father's transformation

Cricket is undoubtedly the most loved and followed sport in Bangladesh. Fans are excited to see the likes of Tamim Iqbal and Mushfiqur Rahim in action and know their stories as it is the men's team that is often highlighted most. In an attempt to begin redressing that balance, The Daily Star tried to contact women cricketers and bring up the stories of their struggles, hardships or the reason behind choosing the profession. In today's instalment, we unveil the story of middle-order batter Fargana Hoque.

MOSTAFA SHABUI

It is not very usual to see the norms of the modern generation being welcomed by members of the preceding generation. But the tale of Bangladesh batter Fargana Hoque is one such exception. Like most female sportspeople in the country, Fargana also had to contend with opposition from her family and surroundings. It was the support from a person who is two generations older than Fargana that helped her follow her dream fearlessly.

"I used to steal my brother's clothes and go and play with the boys in my locality since I was about five or six years of age. My father is a religious man. He never liked seeing me play with boys and used to get very angry when elderly people of my locality relayed the news to him. He used to punish me. But I used to sneak out and go to play," recalled Fargana.

And maybe Fargana would have given up had it not been for her



grandmother Tahera Begum, who shielded her from most of the negativity.

"My father had tightened the noose as my eagerness for cricket grew. But then, my grandmother emerged as a blessing in my life. She almost started a battle against my father. She said, 'If Fargana wants to play then just let her. There are women who are doing a lot more than that in the world'. My father's heart slowly started to melt

since then; he had a lot of affection for his mother and could never really win arguments with her," said Fargana.

"Since then I started playing cricket fearlessly. My grandmother used to take me to the field and stand under the scorching heat for as long as I played," said Fargana, who is just two runs shy of 1,000 T20I runs.

Fargana also mentioned how the scenario changed over the years.

"In 2008, my father took me to BKSP for trials. It was the first time that I saw my father worrying about my selection. Fortunately, I was selected.

"My father has changed a lot. Even now during this coronavirus crisis, he calls me daily and asks me if I am training properly and working on my fitness or not," said Fargana.

Fargana was also grateful for all the support that she gets from her husband and her in-laws. She is continuing her fitness work and training as she eagerly waits to get back on the field and score the two runs that will take her to a new milestone.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Director
Chattogram Medical College Hospital
www.cmch.gov.bd

Memo No. CMCH/Tender/2019-20/COVID-19/Quarantine Express/4076 Date: 02-06-2020

Invitation for Tender

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from experienced contractors to Perform cleaning different wards of CMCH in the fiscal 2019-20. As per PPA-2006 & PPR-2008 (Including all corrigendum); Terms and conditions are as follow(s):

KEY INFORMATION	
1 Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2 Agency	Chattogram Medical College Hospital.
3 PE name, designation & contact details	Brigadier General S M Humayun Kabir; Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital. Telephone: +88031630179, Fax No. 88-031-610022, e-mail address: cmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd
4 Procuring entity code & district	GOB, Chattogram.
5 Invitation for	Procurement of cleaning different wards of CMCH in the fiscal year 2019-20.
6 Tender Ref. No & date	CMCH/Tender/2019-20/COVID-19/4076 Dated: 02-06-2020.
7 Procurement method	Open Tender Method (National).
8 Budget and source of funds	GOB, Economic code: 3821126 (Quarantine Express).
9 Tender publication date	03-06-2020.
10 Tender schedule selling starting date and time	05-06-2020 during office hours.
11 Pre-tender meeting	10-06-2020, 10:00am.
12 Tender last selling date and time	13-06-2020, 12:00 Noon.
13 Tender dropping & closing date and time	Dropping date: 14-06-2020, Dropping time: From 09:00am to 12:00 Noon, Closing time: 12:01pm.
14 Tender opening date and time	14-06-2020 at 01:00pm.
15 Name and address of the offices	
(a) Selling tender documents	1 Cashier, Office of the Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital. 2 Cashier, Office of the Civil Surgeon, Chattogram District.
(b) Receiving tender documents	1 Office of the Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital. 2 Officer In-charge, Panchlaish Model Thana, Chattogram Metropolitan Police.
(c) Tender documents opening place	Office of the Director, Chattogram Medical College Hospital, KB Fazul Kader Road, Chattogram-4203.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
16 Bidders eligibility (Bidders has to submit these certificates/attested photocopy (as applicable), deficiency of any of these documents would be counted as ineligibility of the respective bidder)	All bidders must submit tender through "Tender Booklet" prepared by procuring entity and abide by the terms and conditions stated in the "Tender Booklet". The bidder must enclose the following documents with the tender: 1 The bidder must be a Bangladeshi citizen and should submit attested photocopy of NID card. 2 02 (two) passport size photo of the bidder/representative. 3 Up-to-date trade licence valid for the fiscal year 2019-20. 4 Electronic TIN (e-TIN) registration certificate. 5 BIN (Business Identification Number) certificate. 6 Income tax clearance certificate of last fiscal year (2019-20) including previous 03 (three) fiscal years (2016-17, 2017-18 & 2018-19). 7 Bank statement (original computer sheet) from 01-06-2019 to 31-05-2020. Bidder bidding for different groups should attach the original copy of the bank statement with one group and attested photocopy of the same with other groups. 8 Financial solvency certificate stating amount from any scheduled bank with the bidder holding an account (The statement should be issued after 31-05-2020). Solvency certificate should be based on bank statement attached. Certificate stating "Sound & Solvent" is not acceptable and bidder submitting that type of certificate will be rejected. 9 Bidders should be experienced in performing cleaning worth at least total BDT =30,00,000.00 (thirty lac only) at any tertiary level hospital/specialized government hospital/civil surgeon office/any government hospital within any of the last 03 (three) fiscal years. Experience certificate and respective work order must be submitted.		
17 Description of groups, price of tender document, tender security etc.			
Sl. No.	Description of group	Price of tender document in BDT (in cash, non-refundable)	Tender security in BDT (in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft)
1	Cleaning different wards of CMCH.	BDT 3,000.00 (three thousand only)	2,00,000.00 (Taka two lac only)
18	Description of related services	Detailed description in Tender Booklet.	

Note:
(a) Corrigendum if necessary in future will be a part of this notice. The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.
(b) If the date of selling, receiving & opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.

Brigadier General S M Humayun Kabir
Director
Chattogram Medical College Hospital
Telephone: 880-31-630179
E-mail: cmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd

GD-937



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SHAH CEMENT

Protect the migrants

Bangladesh urges UN in letter; asks for at least 6 months' salary if a worker is to be fired

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh has written to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, urging for measures to protect the rights of migrants being affected by the global coronavirus pandemic.

"We told the UN Secretary-General that migrants are an integral part of development for both sending and destination countries. If migrants are terminated without compensation and deported home, they and their families will be hit hard," Foreign Minister Abdul Momen said.

"It will be disastrous for them to be terminated. They need a cushioning period. So, we said if any of the migrants are to be sacked from jobs, they should be paid compensation equal to at least six months' salary," he told The Daily Star yesterday, referring to the letter last week.

He added that migrant remittance is crucial for their families who can improve their health and education, some of the most important goals set in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Sudden termination without any compensation means the SDGs will stumble, he said.

There are some one crore Bangladeshi migrants working mostly in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. They sent home \$18 billion in remittance last year, which is the second largest foreign exchange after the readymade garment sector.

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, global brands have

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Biman cancels all 24 flights of today, yesterday

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman Bangladesh Airlines cancelled all its 24 flights scheduled to operate yesterday and today on three domestic routes due to lack of passengers.

The national flag carrier was forced to cancel 46 flights between June 1 and June 4 for the same reason, said sources.

Tahera Khandaker, deputy general manager (public relations) of Biman, told The Daily Star, "We were forced to cancel all our scheduled for today [yesterday] and tomorrow [today] 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.

Except for the Dhaka-Saidpur-Dhaka, flight, the national airliner had to cancel its ten others flights on Chattogram and Sylhet route on May 1 -- the day

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

GONOSHASTHAYA TEST KIT Sample error leads to false negatives

Asks BSMMU to suspend performance trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoshasthaya Kendra has asked the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University to suspend the performance trial of the coronavirus antigen kit after detection of discrepancy in the collection of saliva.

"The monitoring team for the performance trial identified that the presence of thick cough causes negative results in a number of samples. So, we have sought temporary suspension of the trial," said Dr Mohib Ullah Khondoker, coordinator of Gonoshasthaya's Covid-19 Rapid Dot Blot Project.

He told The Daily Star that clear saliva is necessary for testing antigen, but the monitoring team that is comprised of scientists of BSMMU and Gonoshasthaya Kendra identified the problem in the sample collection procedure.

"We have written to the BSMMU authorities on June 2 that we will fix the sample collection procedure in two to

SEE PAGE 4

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

'Bangladesh can be best in Asia'



Some members of boy scouts handing over Tk 601, collected by saving up their tiffin money, to Bangabandhu for the Prime Minister's Relief Fund on June 4, 1972.

June 4, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

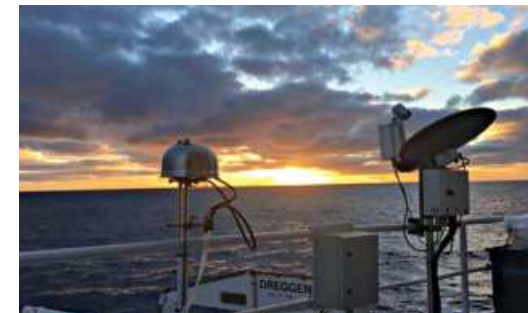
BANGABANDHU GREET'S JOHN STONEHOUSE

In a reception programme organised in the honour of British MP John Stonehouse, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman expresses his deep gratitude to this friend of Bangladesh who played a great role in moving world opinion in favour of Bangladesh's Liberation War. Stonehouse, in his reply, calls upon the people of Bangladesh to work hard to prove wrong those who are trying to belittle the achievement of Bangladesh. Expressing his confidence in Bangabandhu's leadership, the British MP says that if the existing natural and human resources of the country can be utilised properly, Bangladesh will be the best nation in Asia.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Cleanest air on earth near Antarctica



CNN ONLINE

Scientists believe they have identified the world's cleanest air, free from particles caused by human activity.

In a first-of-its-kind study of the bioaerosol composition of the Southern Ocean, researchers from Colorado State University identified an atmospheric region which remains unchanged by human activity.

It's located over the Southern Ocean, which surrounds Antarctica.

Weather and climate are closely linked, connecting each part of the world with other regions. As the climate changes rapidly because of human activity, scientists and researchers struggle to find a corner of the earth unaffected by people. However, Professor Sonia Kreidenweis and

SEE PAGE 4

Ensure TCB goods reach upazilas

HC directs government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to take steps to sell the Trading Corporation Bangladesh's essential commodities to people at upazila level, beyond the city corporations and municipality areas, amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The principal secretary to the prime minister's office, commerce secretary and chairman of TCB have been asked to take necessary

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



PRAYER TIMING JUNE 4

Fazr 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

COVID-19 CENSORSHIP

UN accuses Bangladesh, other Asian nations

AFP, Geneva

The UN rights chief warned yesterday that China and other Asian countries were using the coronavirus crisis as an excuse to clamp down on free expression and tighten censorship.

In a statement, Michelle Bachelet expressed alarm over how censorship had been tightened in several countries, along with arbitrary arrests and detention of people who criticise their government's response, or even who simply share information or views on the pandemic.

"Arrests for expressing discontent or allegedly spreading false information through the press and social media, have been reported in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam," the statement said.

SEE PAGE 4



Two children enjoying the sweet relief brought by the rain yesterday after Dhaka suffered a few days of extreme heat and humidity. The photo was taken yesterday at Mugdapara.

PHOTO: SHEIKH ENAMUL HAQ

Italy leads Europe reopening borders

Germany to lift travel warning from June 15; Brazil surpasses 30,000 deaths

AFP, Rome

Italy reopened its borders to European travellers yesterday as the continent slowly emerged from quarantines to restart battered economies even as the coronavirus pandemic carved its deadly path through Latin America.

European nations among the hardest hit by the outbreak have mostly flattened out infection curves and turned to the task of balancing economic recovery against the risk of a second wave of cases.

The United States, with the highest death toll, and Latin America have emerged as new centres for infections of Covid-19 that has killed more than 380,000 people worldwide since it first emerged in China late last year.

Across the globe, nations are cautiously reopening schools, businesses and returning to life after months of quarantine.

Italy -- the first country badly hammered in Europe -- is leading the way to restart, hoping tourism will revive its recession-hit economy three months after the nation shut down.

"We are cautiously optimistic. Let's hope the Italians begin travelling and take advantage of seeing an uncrowded Rome," said hotel receptionist Alessandra Conti.

Tourism accounts for 13 percent of Italy's GDP and officials are keen to reassure visitors they will be safe.

But with health experts warning over reopening too quickly, some fear foreign visitors may be reluctant to travel.

"I don't think we'll see any foreign tourists really until the end of August or even September. Who's going to

SEE PAGE 4