



**BIMAN OFFERS CHARTERED FLIGHTS**  
Makes first ever move in domestic market as passengers keep away  
**SEE PAGE 12**

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Your Right to Know

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**BANGLADESH UPDATE**



**2,423**  
New cases in 24hrs



**57,563**  
Total cases



**781**  
Deaths



**11,590**  
Recoveries

**GLOBAL UPDATE**



**389,099**  
Deaths



**6,625,675**  
Total cases

# Food budget to be 16pc bigger

*Rise in outlay likely as govt plans to buy food grains to shield the poor against hunger amid pandemic*

|            | REVISED BUDGET FY19-20 | BUDGET FOR FY20-21 |
|------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Allocation | Tk <b>15,739cr</b>     | Tk <b>18,197cr</b> |
| Subsidy    | Tk <b>5,253cr</b>      | Tk <b>6,044cr</b>  |

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and SOHEL PARVEZ

The next budget is likely to see an increase in allocation for food purchase amid coronavirus crisis as the government plans to earmark Tk 18,197 crore to buy 32.11 lakh tonnes of foodgrains for distribution among the poor and low-income groups.

The allocation could be 16 percent higher than the revised outlay of Tk 15,739 crore in the outgoing fiscal year ending this month, according to finance ministry officials.

The Food-Friendly Programme (FFP) is also likely to see a 19 percent year-on-year rise in allocation. A total of 10.60 lakh tonnes of rice will be distributed through the FFP in the next fiscal year.

Under this programme, rice is sold to 50 lakh poor families for Tk 10 a kg for five months a year. Each family is entitled to buy up to 30kg rice a month.

The government also plans to expand the Open Market Sales (OMS) of rice and flour at subsidised rates in the next fiscal year.

Besides, it may increase purchase of both rice and wheat from domestic and international market. Locally, it plans to buy 24.56 lakh tonnes of rice, 8 percent higher than that in the revised purchase plan in the outgoing fiscal year.

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This section of Faujdarhat-Bayazid Bostami Bypass Road has been built razing parts of a hill at Arefinnagar of Chattogram's Bayazid Thana area. *Inset*, establishments set up illegally by local influential people after cutting the hill in the same area. The photos were taken yesterday, on the eve of World Environment Day today.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



## PM calls for rapid invention of vaccines

*Speaks at virtual Global Vaccine Summit*

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for "rapid invention" of newer vaccines to protect mankind from the pandemics like novel coronavirus, saying that vaccination has proved to be one of the most important means to combat contagious diseases.

"The Covid-19 pandemic proved how really powerless we are in the face of any global calamity. It also reminded us of the old saying that prevention is always better than cure," she told the virtual Global Vaccine Summit 2020 being held in the UK.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

# Undetected cases on the rise

*2,423 new cases reported; 35 die*

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Officials reported 2,423 new cases of coronavirus yesterday, while experts said the actual number of people getting infected was much higher.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) in its daily briefing said 35 Covid-19 patients died in the 24 hours preceding 2:30pm, taking the toll to 781.

The new cases were detected after testing 12,694 samples in 50 labs across the country. Around 19 percent of those samples tested positive, slightly lower than the previous day's 21.5 percent and Tuesday's 23 percent.

Over the past month, the percentage of people testing positive increased significantly.

A month ago on May 4, only 10.9 percent of the individuals tested were found infected: 688 positive cases after 6,260 tests.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), over 9 percent of the samples testing positive means that the transmission is not under control.

With yesterday's cases, the country has 57,563 confirmed cases.

"Although this rate is not representative of reality, it gives an indication that there are many more undetected cases," infectious disease specialist Prof Ridwaur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday.

However, noted virologist Prof Nazrul Islam cautioned against reading too much into the percentage of people testing positive.

"It does not mean too much. When samples tested are mostly from

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY TODAY

# 'Development' feasts on forest

*10pc of forestland lost since independence, thanks to allocation for govt, non-govt projects, grabbing, leasing*

PINAKI ROY

Though forests are meant to be conserved, they are being allocated for constructing highways, rail lines, government offices and even for drilling gas wells. For any development project, forestland seems to be readily available.

Over the years, the government has allocated 1.60 lakh acres of forestland to various government and non-government agencies for infrastructure construction, according to forest department records.

In addition, district administrations have leased out around 50,000 acres of forest, and vested quarters have grabbed 2.87 lakh acres of forestland across the country.

This means Bangladesh has lost around five lakh acres of forestland or 10 percent of forests since the independence.

The country's forestland is decreasing day by day though green campaigners have been demanding increased forest coverage and protection of natural forests.

Even now, demands for land from natural forests, including the Sundarbans, to implement development projects of various government agencies are pending at the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Though the forest department raised objections about allocation of their land to other departments, the government overlooks it most of the time, said its officials.

When asked, Amir Hossain Chowdhury, the acting chief conservator of forest (CCF), said the shutdown has been in place since he got the responsibility of the office.

"So, I cannot exactly say how much land

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## REDUCED CARBON EMISSIONS

# Silver lining on Covid-19 cloud

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Bangladesh's carbon emissions have dropped by 24 percent to 183,000 tonnes per day during the recent countrywide shutdown.

It normally emitted around 240,000 tonnes per day (86 million tonnes per year), said a study published in the journal Nature Climate Change.

Due to the shutdown in Bangladesh, daily carbon emissions in the country dropped by about 24 percent, according to the study.

The environmental impact of the lockdowns in April, however, were felt not only in Bangladesh, but also across the world. The study revealed that global carbon emission per day decreased by 17 percent -- 17 million tonnes of carbon dioxide -- in April, lower than the average emissions of 2019.

According to the report, 17 percent decrease in daily CO2 emissions is "extreme and probably unseen before".

In order to quantify the drop in carbon emissions, the authors examined data from more than 69 countries, including the US, and 30 Chinese provinces.

The sampling represents 85 percent of the world population and 97 percent of global carbon emissions.

According to the report, emissions decreased by 26 percent on average in all the countries at the peak of their respective shutdown.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

## BUSINESS

# Economic recovery to begin from Oct: IMF

The International Monetary Fund yesterday projected that the Bangladesh economy would pick up from the second quarter of the next fiscal year.

But the growth this year would be 3.8 per cent, down by about 4.50 percentage points from fiscal 2018-19, in what would be the largest one-year decline in the last three decades.

The GDP growth next fiscal year would be 5.7 per cent. However, the Washington-based multilateral lender warned that a larger outbreak of COVID-19 might require longer containment measures by the authorities, which could increase social discontent and further weaken domestic demand.

STORY ON B1



A rickshaw puller giving water to two-year-old Yeasin outside the Covid-19 testing centre of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the capital's Shahbagh area yesterday morning. Yeasin came from Mirpur's Pirerbagh area along with his mother Hosne Ara, who was showing symptoms of coronavirus, in this rickshaw and was waiting while she was having the test inside.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## PROTEST OVER BLACK MAN'S DEATH

# Trump trying to 'divide' America

*Ex-Pentagon chief Mattis denounces president response to unrest; autopsy finds Floyd had coronavirus*

AGENCIES

Former Pentagon chief Jim Mattis issued a stinging rebuke of his erstwhile boss Donald Trump on Wednesday, accusing the president of trying to "divide" America and failing to provide "mature leadership" as the country reels from days of protests.

"Donald Trump is the first president in my lifetime who does not try to unite the American people -- does not even pretend to try," Mattis wrote in a blistering statement posted online by The Atlantic.

"Instead, he tries to divide us," added the retired Marine general, who had previously argued it would be inappropriate for him to criticise a sitting president.

"We are witnessing the consequences of three years without mature leadership," he stated.

The fury was ignited by the May 25 killing of George Floyd, a black man who suffocated beneath the knee of a white police officer, and whose agonising death was filmed by bystanders.

Protesters welcomed new charges brought Wednesday against Minneapolis officers in the killing of Floyd -- but thousands still marched in cities across the country for a ninth straight night, chanting against racism and police brutality.

With a key demand met, demonstrators nevertheless staged large and mainly peaceful rallies calling for deeper change in cities from New York to Los Angeles, hours after the new indictments were announced.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



# How Bangladesh fought twin perils

PM's article in The Guardian

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, jointly with the CEO of the Global Center on Adaptation Patrick Verkooijen, has written a piece for The Guardian where she said Bangladesh can offer lessons for others facing dangers like super-cyclone Amphan and Covid-19.

"Bangladesh has battled the twin perils of a super cyclone and Covid-19. We can offer lessons for others facing similar dangers," she said in the article published on Wednesday.

The article titled "Fighting cyclones and coronavirus: How we evacuated millions during a pandemic" mentioned how Bangladesh successfully tackled super-cyclone Amphan amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Hasina is also the chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum.

The article states there was no time to lose when Cyclone Amphan began forming over the Indian Ocean last month.

But shelters are not built with social distancing in mind in Bangladesh and the country faced a challenge: how to move 2.4 million people from the destructive path of the storm without delivering them into an even greater danger – Covid-19, it said.

"Mass evacuations are challenging at the best of times. People are reluctant to leave their homes unguarded. This time the challenge was far more complex. People were afraid to move to shelters for fear of the virus. First responders also had to make sure the evacuation itself was not a vector for contagion," the article said.

In a matter of days, Bangladesh prepared almost 10,500 additional shelters -- on top of the 4,171 in existence -- to accommodate evacuees with a measure of social distancing. More than 70,000 'cyclone preparedness' volunteers across coastal areas were mobilised. Masks, water, soap and sanitiser were distributed. The garment industry, reeling from cancelled export orders, retooled production lines to manufacture personal protective equipment, it said.

Coming on top of the pandemic, a cyclone such as Amphan throws into sharp focus the interrelated nature of the climate and health risks facing mankind. In the US, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts this year's hurricane season will be one for the record books due to unusually warm water temperatures in the Atlantic and Caribbean -- a consequence of the climate emergency. As in Bangladesh, the task of keeping people safe across the southern US and the Caribbean will be immeasurably more complicated as a result of Covid-19.

Bangladesh's disaster preparedness, including a network of 55,000 first responders, meant Amphan killed fewer than 100 people in India and Bangladesh. While any death is regrettable, the country's early-warning systems and well-rehearsed evacuation



drills have saved hundreds of thousands of lives over the years, according to the article.

Rebuilding infrastructure and livelihoods, however, is another matter. Bangladesh has rebuilt in the wake of cyclones many times before.

As one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to tropical storms -- two-thirds of its land lies less than 5m above sea level -- rebuilding is a Sisyphean task. The climate crisis makes it even harder. Cyclones are becoming fiercer and more frequent. Rising ocean levels are poisoning wells and farmland. The pandemic and resulting deep economic crisis mean that the government must now deal with overlapping health, climate and economic emergencies all at once, it said.

Cyclone Amphan was the costliest on record in the north Indian Ocean, leaving destruction estimated at \$13bn. In Bangladesh, it washed out 415km of roads, 200 bridges, tens of thousands of homes and vast tracts of farmland and fisheries. More than 150km of embankments meant to contain storm surges were damaged.

This has been catastrophic, but planning makes countries better prepared when calamity strikes. It is not enough to deal with the immediate effects of a natural disaster; communities need to be better prepared for the next storm.

The need to rebuild better led Bangladesh to enact a Climate Fiscal Framework in 2014, becoming the first country in the world to develop a multi-year, multi-sectoral approach to funding climate resilience. The framework includes estimates for the long-term costs of combating the effects and tracks climate-related expenditures across 20 government ministries, including agriculture, housing and energy, with multi-year budgets to match.

This was followed in 2018 by an eight-decade climate adaptation plan for the delta region, home to 30 million people. The first decade of Delta Plan 2100 focuses on strengthening infrastructure, such as building higher embankments to resist storm surges. After Amphan, schools, hospitals and houses will need to be built back stronger, with increased resilience, so they can resist cyclones, and storm surges in coastal areas, doubling up as shelters when the next disaster hits, the article added.

Across the world, Covid-19 is adding a huge strain to government finances, but we believe long-term fiscal frameworks and climate adaptation plans give nations better tools to respond. Health, economic and climate resilience are interrelated. That is why the Delta Plan also includes land and water management projects, and measures to make communities healthier and more resilient: for example, solar home kits that can be used to filter contaminated water to stop disease following every destructive storm.

## PM calls for rapid invention

FROM PAGE 1

Citing the United Nations, Hasina said one new infectious disease emerges in humans every four months and the Global Virome Project estimated that there are about 700,000 which are capable of causing pandemics.

"Many of them may pose existential threat to the whole human race. So, the current and newer vaccines will be needed for the survival of the humans."

For prevention, vaccination has proved to be one of the most important means to combat infectious diseases, she added.

In this connection, the PM sought assistance from the GAVI Alliance, formerly known as Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation.

The UK is hosting the Global Vaccine Summit, bringing together leaders from governments, foundations, the private sector and civil society and it marks 20 years since the GAVI was founded.

Hasina said since its inception in 2000, GAVI has helped immunise over 760 million people against deadly diseases, saving more than 13 million lives worldwide.

"Our simple wish can ensure that GAVI is fully funded to strengthen immunisation infrastructure; help immunise 300 million additional children and save up to 8 million lives in GAVI-supported countries.

"So, it is not only I, but the whole world is waiting to hear from you in support of GAVI," she said.

The premier said there could not have been a better time than today to meet to support the causes of vaccination when the world is frantically searching for an effective vaccine to fight Covid-19.

"I'm delighted to be with you today to be a partner of the initiative which has saved lives of millions of children and pregnant mothers."

The PM said in this journey, GAVI has been a "time-tested partner" for Bangladesh towards achieving universal health coverage and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"Bangladesh reached the target of MDG number 4 -- reducing under-five mortality by two-thirds in 2010 due to important assistance rendered by GAVI," she said.

Hasina said since her first tenure as the PM (1996-2000), her governments have relentlessly worked to bring the fruit of development to the last person

in the line.

"In our efforts, GAVI has provided continuous support to expand immunization coverage up to 98 percent. Our Universal Health Coverage programme could not have been successful without the alliance's active participation and contribution of \$700 million."

She said with GAVI's partnerships for innovation in immunisation, Bangladesh has become the pioneer in the region for digitising and strengthening data systems as one of the most advanced users of the Digital Health Information System-2.

The PM said the government was studying establishment of a unique digital identity for health services in partnership with ID2020, GAVI and the a2i programme.

About hosting 1.1 million Rohingyas, Hasina said Bangladesh said the country was sheltering the "forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals" at a great financial, social and environmental cost.

"Our health officials and workers from international organizations are working to limit the number of Covid-19 cases in the Rohingya camps," she said.

US President Donald Trump, Burkina Faso President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, Ethiopian President Sahle-Work Zewde, UN Secretary-General António Guterres, WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and leaders and representatives of different countries and international organisations also spoke at the event.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, and the co-chair of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Bill Gates, delivered the keynote speeches, while Chair of GAVI Board Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala gave the closing address.

The summit aims to raise at least \$7.4 billion for the GAVI for 2021-2025 to protect a further 300 million children against infectious diseases like measles, typhoid and polio.

In a statement, the GAVI said if the summit succeeds, the alliance will be able to maintain immunisation in developing countries, mitigating the impact of the pandemic.

"We will be able to sustain health system so that the countries are ready to rapidly introduce Covid-19 vaccines and by 2025, we will have immunised more than 1.1 billion children and saving 22 million lives," it said.



Jamuna river dangerously close to makeshift shops in Arichaghat area of Manikganj district. In the past few weeks, the river devoured many establishments in the area. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## 'Development' feasts on forest

FROM PAGE 1

different government and non-government organisations are demanding from the forest department at the moment," the acting CCF said.

"What I can say is the new forest policy the government drafted last year states no forestland should be used for non-forest purposes."

**FORESTLAND ALLOCATION**

The Daily Star obtained forest department records showing the department had to give away more than 1.60 lakh acres of forestland to various government and non-government agencies for setting up offices and other establishments.

Around 43,095 acres of natural forests were handed over to the Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation (BFIDC), which planted rubber trees there, destroying natural forests.

Several law-enforcement agencies and security forces have been allocated the lion's share of forestland -- around 93,924 acres, according to the documents.

Other land recipients include Bangladesh Railway, Bangladeshi Betar, Bangladesh Scouts, Bangladesh Girls Guides Association, Roads and Highways Department, Talimabad satellite earth station, Bangladesh Medicinal Plant Research Centre, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, Central Jail, Gazipur municipality, Moulvibazar municipality, Bangladesh Water Development Board, Bangladesh National Herbarium, Bangladesh National Zoo, Rashidpur gas field, Sylhet gas field, Power Development Board, Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited, Bangladesh Forest Research Institute, Department of Fisheries, Bangladesh Oceanographic Research Institute, Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority, Mongla Port Authority, Buddhist Cultural Academy, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, and Petrobangla.

Of non-government recipients, two private primary schools in Bandarban and several landless farmers were given land in Cox's Bazar.

In Gazipur, the forestland recipients

include a garments manufacturing company, which was given 1.96 acres.

As per these forest department records, these lands were given to the government and non-government organisations as of June 12, 2019.

Even after this date, 160-acre land was given to Bangladesh Railway to construct rail lines in Cox's Bazar.

**GRABBING**

According to the forest department website, the country has a total of 45.36 lakh acres of forestland in 35 districts.

Of this total forestland, 2.87 lakh acres were grabbed by various influential locals, organisations, and politically vested quarters.

"Most of this grabbed forest lands have become human settlements and industries. The forest department is battling cases in court about some of these lands," said an official, who wished to be anonymous.

Though the forest department is officially in possession of 42.86 lakh acres of land as per the Cadastral Survey (CS), which ended in 1940, a good portion of this land has been recorded as "khas land" in the Bangladesh Survey (BS) record.

Interestingly, the forest department is yet to know the exact quantity of land recorded as "khas land" during the Bangladesh Survey.

This has proved problematic as district administrations have often leased out forest lands, showing these as "khas land". In this way, around 50,000 acres of land have been leased out to various persons and organisations over the years by DC offices.

A land ministry official explained that the forest department was given all the land declared forest lands in the CS record. But during the Revisional Survey (RS) and Bangladesh Survey, many plots were recorded as "khas land".

As per existing land law, all "khas land" belongs to the land ministry. But the local deputy commissioner is the custodian of the land as tax collector and is able to lease out this "khas land".

Though any forestland is not eligible for leasing, DCs and land ministry officials often show it as "khas land"

## Food budget to be 16pc bigger

FROM PAGE 1

"We are increasing the allocation to protect the poor from food insecurity and tackle any situation like the Covid-19 crisis," said Mosammat Nazmanara Khanum, secretary at the food ministry.

Already, a large number of people have fallen into poverty and are facing food insecurity due to losses of income opportunities after the government enforced countrywide shutdown to curb the spread of Covid-19.

The 65-day lockdown ended on May 30 but its effect on life, livelihood and the economy remains.

To support the poor, the government increased distribution of food items for free, and at nominal prices. Yet, many poor and low-income people complained that they have been deprived of such support.

The government provided 24.50 lakh tonnes of rice and wheat under various schemes such as Gratuitous Relief (GR), special OMS and Food For Work (FFW) between July 1 and May 21, up 12 percent from that in the same period the previous year, according to food ministry data.

Md Shah Kamal, senior secretary at the disaster management and relief ministry, said there would be a rise in the number of poor people because of coronavirus-induced economic shocks around the world.

"Bangladesh is also likely to see a higher number of poor people. We will continue to distribute food to support them," he said.

In the next fiscal year, the government plans to expand food distribution through Food for Work programme. But it plans to cut allocation for GR and Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF).

Zahid Hussain, former lead economist at the World Bank's Dhaka office, questioned the planned cut.

"It is strange that allocation for the Vulnerable Group Feeding and GR programme is projected to decrease by 17 percent and 61 percent. As far as I know, these are some of the better targeted food-based assistance programs."

He also questioned the sharp rise in operating expense for food procurement and distribution in the next fiscal year.

The expense is projected to increase by 30.9 percent whereas food subsidy is projected to rise by 15 percent, he said.

"Consequently, operating expense as a proportion of the total subsidy is projected to increase from 23 percent in fiscal 2020 to 26 percent in fiscal 2021. For every 100 taka spent on subsidy, it will cost 26 taka to deliver it!"

The government plans to allocate Tk 6,044 crore as subsidy in the next

as a factor in his death.

The three police officers -- Tou Thao, 34, J. Alexander Kueng, 26, and Thomas Lane, 37, -- were charged with aiding and abetting second-degree murder, and taken into custody.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, a black former US congressman, has requested bail of \$1 million for each of the four defendants, reports Reuters.

Floyd's family, in a statement thanking protesters, called the arrests and new charges a "bittersweet moment" -- and a "significant step forward on the road to justice."

They urged Americans to continue to "raise their voices for change in peaceful ways."

# Kidnapped HSC examinee found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police recovered the body of an abducted HSC candidate in Abhaynagar upazila of Jashore early yesterday.

A group of criminals abducted the victim -- Nuruzzaman Babu, 18, son of Imran Gazi of the upazila's Purakhali village -- on Monday and demanded Tk 50 lakh ransom from his father, said police.

The victim's father filed a complaint with Abhaynagar Police Station the next day. On information, police detained two suspects -- Rifat Ahmed Aush, 20, of Jashore, and Abdur Razzak, 22, of Jhenaidah -- who later confessed to have abducted Babu, they added.

Tajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Abhaynagar Police station, said they recovered the body following the information the two detainees provided them with during quizzing.

Babu's body was sent to Jashore General Hospital morgue for autopsy, he added.

## Silver lining

FROM PAGE 1

Contacted via email, Prof Corinne Le Quéré of the University of East Anglia, the lead author of the paper, also suggested ways for Bangladesh to reduce its emissions.

"Mainly, a reduction in the production of electricity and a reduction in road transport," she said.

"For Bangladesh the biggest potential is to move from gas to renewable energy such as solar and wind power. Elsewhere in the world, the largest drops in emissions were from road transport. There, they are encouraging walking and cycling as well as moving towards electric transport as quickly as possible is the biggest potential.

"Still, that drop only brings emissions in line with where they were in 2006, which highlights how much emissions have spiked in the last 14 years."

The estimated total change in emissions from the pandemic amounts to 1,048 million tonnes of carbon dioxide until the end of April.

The changes are largest in China where the shutdowns started, with daily decrease of 242 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, followed by 207 tonnes in the US, and 98 tonnes in India.

The report said reduction in annual emissions is projected to be around four to seven percent compared to 2019, depending on the duration of the lockdown and the extent of the recovery.

"If some restrictions remain worldwide until the end of the year, it would be around seven percent," the report said.

This estimate also echoed the view of the Global Energy Review that mentioned in its latest report published last month that decline in carbon emissions will be almost eight percent across the world this year.

Bangladesh had aimed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from transport, power, and industrial sectors down by five percent under normal circumstances.

And it also plans to cut it down by 15 percent by 2030, if support from other countries are available, said Mirza Shawkat Ali, director (Climate Change) of the Department of Environment.

A project has been initiated for updating the NDC (nationally determined contributions), he added.

"We have prepared an action plan to reduce carbon emission in three sectors -- industry, transport and energy. Respective ministries are working to reduce carbon emission," he said.

## Undetected

FROM PAGE 1

Dhaka city, the rate increases. When the people tested are mostly from outside, it falls. The difference is not much," Prof Nazrul Islam said.

Areas that are hotspots have more people testing positive, he explained.

Prof Nazrul who is also a member of the National Technical Advisory Committee of Covid-19 said, "We would say the transmission is not decreasing."

Both the experts said the number of daily tests was inadequate in terms of the size of population.

As of yesterday, there were around 20 tests per 10,000 people in the country.

To contain the outbreak, experts said there is no alternative to rigorous testing.

"Unless we go for vastly more tests, isolation and treatment, it would be tough to control the epidemic," Prof Ridwanur said.

During yesterday's briefing, Prof Nasima Sultana of the DGHS said the death rate in terms of total detected cases was 1.36 percent as of yesterday.

Meanwhile, a total of 571 Covid-19 patients recovered, taking the total number of recoveries to 12,161.

With this, the recovery rate now stands at 21.13 percent, according to the DGHS.

She added that 386 people were put in isolation.

Among yesterday's victims, 29 were male and six female, she said adding that 21 were from Dhaka, nine from Chattogram, two from Sylhet, one each was from Rajshahi, Barishal and Khulna divisions.

Of them, three were aged between 21 and 30, one was between 31 and 40, three between 41 and 50, 14 between 51 and 60, 11 between 61 and 70, two between 71 and 80, and another was between 81 and 90.



Medical team from China to arrive June 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Chinese medical experts, who have first-hand experience in containing coronavirus and treating patients, is expected to arrive in Bangladesh with medical equipment on June 8.

Organised by the National Health Commission of China, the team will consist of 10 respiratory physicians, who will visit designated hospitals, quarantine centres, and testing centres, the Chinese embassy said in a statement.

They will hold discussions with their Bangladeshi counterparts and make calibrated propositions for containment and treatment during their two-week stay in Bangladesh, it said.

The visit is a reflection of Chinese President Xi Jinping's phone conversation with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on May 20, it added.

"We need to fight Covid-19 together and grow together," Hualong Yan, deputy chief of mission of the Chinese embassy in Bangladesh, told The Daily Star yesterday.



A boatload of vegetables makes their way through the mucky waters of Buriganga to reach the capital. On World Environment Day today, let us all remember that no matter how far we advance economically and technologically, we must still depend on mother nature for our food and sustenance. Especially in the context of Bangladesh, the meshwork of rivers plays a massive role in our lives directly or indirectly, and we continue to pollute them only at our own peril.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

HC upholds govt decision to hike bus fare by 60pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld the government decision to increase bus fares by 60 percent.

The court passed "no order" on a writ petition that challenged legality of the gazette notification issued by the government hiking bus fares.

The bench of Justice JBM Hassan made the decision after hearing on the petition through video conference.

The "no order" means that the government notification will remain in force, Deputy Attorney General Samarendranath Biswas told The Daily Star.

During hearing, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam vehemently opposed the writ petition, saying buses have to carry passengers half their capacity due to coronavirus.

Besides, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority has been empowered to decide on increasing bus fares as per the Road Transport Act, 2108, and therefore, there was no illegality in issuing such a gazette notification.

Barrister Humayun Kabir Pallob appeared for the writ petitioner. Law and Life Foundation, a rights organisation, on June 1 filed the writ petition with the HC challenging the government's decision to increase bus fares.

Citing the petition, Barrister Humayun Kabir Pallob, chairman of Law and Life Foundation, told The Daily Star that the middle class and low middle class people mostly use bus and minibus for transport. They cannot bear the earlier scheduled bus fares properly, let alone the increased ones, he said, adding that they are facing serious financial crisis due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Barrister Pallob said the government decision to increase bus fares is contradictory to the fundamental rights of the people and also illegal.

The government on May 31 issued a gazette notification increasing fares of all buses, including inter-district ones, by 60 percent as the vehicles are allowed to carry half passengers of the total seats to maintain physical distance.

The notification said fares for long routes will be increased by 60 percent on the existing rate (Tk 1.42 per km).

'720 have died with Covid-19 symptoms'

Reports DU's Centre for Genocide Studies, citing media reports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 720 people have died with Covid-19-like symptoms in the country since the first three confirmed cases reported on March 8, said a report of Dhaka University's Centre for Genocide Studies.

These 720 people had similar symptoms to the disease, but they were not confirmed to have been Covid-19 positive.

The report has found a downtrend in such deaths in last three weeks, showing a 13 percent decline in week-12 (May 24-30) from the previous week.

On weeks 10, 11, and 12, there were 67, 62, and 54 deaths respectively.

The report, however, said the deaths may not have been related to Covid-19.

CGS shared outcomes of the report styled "Covid-19 Graphics" with media on Wednesday. It was the eighth edition of a series of such reports prepared by Bangladesh Peace Observatory, an initiative of CGS.

Each edition was prepared based on news reports published or aired by 25 media outlets including national and local dailies, online news portals and television channels.

According to the report, 82 incidents of rumour spreading surrounding Covid-19 were recorded in the country, while 86 people, with highest 35 in Dhaka division, were arrested over the incidents.

Furthermore, 466 people were arrested and another 9,109 people were fined or penalised for various offences related to the outbreak, including relief embezzlement, violation of social distancing, arranging social gatherings, opening businesses, and fraudulent activity.

At least 576 people were reportedly detained, fined or penalised and 50 were arrested all over Bangladesh between May 17-30. Most fines and penalties occurred due to the violation of health and safety regulations amid the limited shopping window before Eid-ul-Fitr, it said.

The report said 125 protests took place, of which 61 were for unpaid salaries and 50 protests demanded relief, aid or food.

Seven protests incidents took place over shutdown rules, for accountability against lay-off, and for waiver of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

WFP to implement \$35m project for Rohingya refugees

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN World Food Programme will implement a \$35 million project to provide work opportunities and community services among the Rohingya population in Cox's Bazar.

This funding is part of the World Bank's \$165 million grant meant to the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. The WFP is partnering with the disaster management ministry to implement the project.

The US \$35 million grant will go toward providing work opportunities and community services to Rohingya. This includes food assistance support to 700,000 people as part of the Covid-19 humanitarian response in the camps, said a WFP statement issued yesterday.

Post Covid-19 restrictions, the project will scale up self-reliance opportunities for extremely vulnerable families in the camps and target young people with volunteering opportunities to promote social cohesion, it said.

The self-reliance programmes aim to improve the economic and social resilience of 60,000 Displaced Rohingya Population households.

"This is done through working days centred around short-term community services, volunteer services, and training courses," WFP said.

It also includes skills development and self-reliance activities for the vulnerable households. For extremely vulnerable households and individuals it includes transfers in return for their engagement in volunteer networks, it said.

The project will provide work opportunities for around 40,000 Rohingya households which is equivalent to reaching more than 20 percent of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

84-year-old takes on Covid-19... and wins

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Amidst the global panic over coronavirus, it's easy for fear to overwhelm optimism. For every tragic death at the hands of the virus, one must remember there's also many stories of recuperation.

Rajshahi's Mansur Rahman's story of overcoming of Covid-19 is particularly inspiring. "Anyone would panic when they stand at the door of death. So did I, but I

A father of four, Mansur tested positive back on April 25. After 40 days of death anxiety, he was officially declared recovered, said upazila health officer Dr Ariful Kabir.

He is among 230 Covid-19 patients from eight districts of Rajshahi division who have recovered. Out of a total 917 patients, six have died so far, according to Directorate General of Health Services data.

Mansur started showing symptoms back in April 19, when he began suffering



Mansur Rahman receives a bouquet of flowers from doctors.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

found a group of caring doctors who helped me get back my spirit," said the 84-year-old, after he tested negative May 31.

Even at such an age, Mansur never gave up. "My family members were also there for me, and here I am, alive and well," said Mansur, a retired primary school teacher residing at Rajshahi's Mohonpur upazila. He said a caring group of doctors can help a patient fightback against death by keeping the spirit strong.

non-stop hiccup from the evening, his son Alamin Sarker said.

It continued even after he was taken to Mohonpur Upazila Health Complex. He was transferred to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital the same night. The hiccups stopped two days later. The hospital released Rahman and he duly returned home.

However, he began developing fever and cough after a few days, son Alamin said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

'Our survival depends on Sundarbans'

TIB calls for protection of shield against natural calamities; World Environment Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saying that Bangladesh will survive if the Sundarbans survives, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has called for effective implementation of constitutional and legal obligations, especially environmental laws, for the protection of this invaluable source of biodiversity.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman came up with the call yesterday in a press release, marking World Environment Day, being observed worldwide today.

He expressed deep concern as according to the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2018, Bangladesh ranks 179th out of 180 countries.

"As biodiversity is declining due to lack of proper implementation of the existing legal framework for environmental protection in Bangladesh, environmental pollution is increasing alarmingly," he said.

Biodiversity in Bangladesh is at high risk and grabbing of forest and waterbodies have been increasing due to lack of good governance in environmental protection and management, existing institutional weakness, abuse of power, poor supervision, corruption in the institutions concerned and political influence, said TIB.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman said, "We must ensure proper implementation of environmental laws to protect the world heritage, the Sundarbans, and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

bKash hands over 50 ventilators from Alibaba and Jack Ma to PM's fund

CITY DESK

Mobile financial service company bKash yesterday handed over 50 ventilators and emergency health toolkits worth Tk 6.5 lakh to PM's relief fund. The medical supplies were donated by China's Alibaba Foundation and Jack Ma Foundation.

Beside the ventilators, the supplies include detection kits, electronic laser thermometers, masks, protective clothing, face shields, gloves etc.

Kamal Quadir, CEO of bKash, handed over the emergency supplies to Dr Ahmad Kaikaus, principal secretary to the Prime Minister at PM's office. Maj Gen (ret'd) Sheikh Md Monirul Islam, Chief External and Corporate Affairs Officer of bKash, was also present at the programme.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was present during the handover through video conferencing from Ganobhaban. She expressed her gratitude saying that these medical supplies will be of great help during this emergency.

Some 20,000 Covid-19 test kits, 60,000 KN95 masks, 300,000 face masks, 200,000 inspection gloves, 15,000 face shields, 15,000 protective clothing, 80 electronic laser thermometers, 20,000 nucleic acid isolations and 20,000 sample preservation solutions came with the consignment from China, along with the 50 ventilators.

It is expected that the ventilators in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Holding a spray bottle in his hand, a bus helper looks on as the vehicle drives through Topkhana Road yesterday. He also has an assistant with him whose task is to collect fares from passengers while he sprays disinfectant on them before they board. With road transport services resuming in the country amid Covid-19 outbreak, it seems like such practices will have to become habits for transport workers, for their own safety as well as commuters'. This photo was taken near Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

BLFCA adds Tk 9.5 crore to the battle against coronavirus

CITY DESK

A delegation of Bangladesh Leasing and Finance Companies Association (BLFCA) contributed Tk 9.5 crore to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund. Dr Ahmad Kaikaus, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, accepted the cheque on behalf of the PM.

The Prime Minister joined the ceremony via video conference from Gono Bhaban and thanked the delegation for coming forward at such a time of need.

BLFCA's aid includes Tk 2.4 crore from IDLC Finance, Tk 2 crore from IPDC Finance, Tk 2 crore from LankaBangla Finance, and Tk 1.5 crore from Uttara Finance. Other institutions affiliated with BLFCA contributed another of Tk 1.6 crore, of which Tk 50 lakh came from Phoenix Finance.

The delegation called on Bangladesh Bank to help overcome the liquidity crisis of Non-Banking Financial Institutions and sought directions from the PM to set up a refinancing fund of Tk 10,000 crore.

Chairman of BLFCA and MD and CEO of IPDC Finance, Mominul Islam, said, "At this time of great peril, it is vital to stand by the disadvantaged and marginal population of the country."

On behalf of BLFCA, Md Abdul Karim, Chairman, IPDC Finance; Kazi M Aminul Islam, Founder Chairman of Meridian Finance and former Executive Chairman of BIDA; Arif Khan, Managing Director, IDLC Finance; and Shamsul Arefin, Managing Director, Uttara Finance, were present.



WFP to

FROM PAGE 3  
the camp population, to help improve camp conditions through public works such as site, accessibility, and drainage improvement as well as reforestation.  
“I hope the implementation of this agreement is conducive to improving access to the rights and privileges of the Rohingya people,” said Shah Kamal, secretary of the MoDMR.  
“These are important programmes for both the Rohingya and host communities,” said Richard Ragan, WFP Representative to Bangladesh.  
“To improve medium to long-term resilience and social cohesion, people need to have the skills, market linkages, and resources to improve their long-term food security.”  
WFP provides food assistance to 860,000 Rohingya people each month and is supporting around 600,000 people in the host community in Cox’s Bazar.  
There are a total of 1.1 million Rohingyas in Bangladesh. Of them, some 750,000 fled to Bangladesh amid a military crackdown since August 2017.



Announcing their solidarity with the protests against racism and police brutality, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front yesterday formed a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club. They demanded justice for the murder of George Floyd at the hands of a police officer in USA's Mississippi.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Lions Clubs Int’l gets new executives



Nazrul Islam



Nikhil Guha



Mostafa Kamal

CITY DESK

Lion Md Nazrul Islam Sikder PMJF was elected district governor for the year 2020-2021, during the 25th annual district convention of Lions Clubs International, District 315A1 at BLF Auditorium, Lions Bhaban, Dhaka on May 30, says a press release.  
Lion Arch Nikhil Chandra Guha became the 1st vice district governor while Lion Engr Md Mostafa Kamal became 2nd vice district governor.  
The newly-elected district governor appointed PDG Ln Kalpana Rajiuddin MJF as DG’s honorary committee chairperson. Other appointed are Cabinet Secretary Ln Krishibid Md Tariquul Islam Masum, Cabinet Treasurer Ln Afsar Hossain Chowdhury MJF and Convention Chairman Ln Dr Asadullah Ahmed.

bKash hands

FROM PAGE 3  
particular will accelerate coronavirus treatment in the country and make it more effective.  
Kamal Quadir, CEO of bKash, said, “We are delighted that Alibaba Foundation and Jack Ma Foundation have sent these medical supplies for the people of Bangladesh. Jack Ma and his organisations are not only participating in Bangladesh’s economic activities through investment, but are also concerned about the well-being of the people. Hence, they have sent this medical aid during this emergency.”

720 have

FROM PAGE 3  
rents, while another seven against irregularities in relief, aid or food distribution, the report said.  
Moreover, 119 violent incidents related to Covid-19 took place between March and May, resulting in 13 deaths and 461 injuries, it added.  
In a report published in The Daily Star on May 14, CGS had reported a total of 929 deaths with Covid-19-like symptoms between March 8 and May 12.  
As footnote, CGS’ latest report said, “Several duplications in the information retrieved from the secondary sources were identified. After retracing each case, the duplications were removed.”

swisscontact

দ্রাইভার আবশ্যক

সুইসকন্টাক্ট এর বিএমএমডিপি প্রকল্পের জন্য একজন ড্রাইভার আবশ্যক।  
আবেদনকারীকে এস.এস.সি বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ এবং মূলতম পাঁচ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন হতে হবে।  
জীবনবৃত্তান্ত-সহ আবেদন পঠানোর ঠিকানা: বাড়ী নং- ১৯, রোড নং- ১১, বারিধারা, ঢাকা- ১২১২।  
আবেদনপত্র পঠানোর শেষ তারিখ: ১৮ জুন ২০২০।

84-year-old

FROM PAGE 3  
On April 25, he was again taken to the upazila health complex. Doctors suspected it could be a case of Covid-19 and collected his samples. The next day, the results came back -- Mansur was coronavirus positive.  
Doctors asked him to stay in the isolation unit of the hospital, but his family did not agree. They decided to keep him in home isolation under family care.  
At home, all five members of the family stayed isolated in separate rooms, said Alamin. “We respected the disease, but didn’t fear it,” he said. The family began using PPE, raincoats, masks and started taking care of their father.  
Doctors from the hospital prescribed some medicines and were available on call whenever the patient or the family needed consultation, sometimes more than thrice a day, Alamin said.  
A grateful Mansur added, “Since I tested positive, the doctors became very kind towards me. They started being more attentive to me.”  
“I was prepared for death as I’ve reached a very old age. But even then, I felt scared. But the doctors assured me that good treatment can cure me, and I believed them. This assurance really helped me, and I started hoping for survival,” he said.  
Shamima Parvin, Mansur’s daughter-in-

law, thinks her father-in-law survived for his strong will to keep living. “He often said during his illness that he would survive,” she said.  
“I cooked his food and prepared his medicines. My husband [Alamin] took them to his room.”  
For his stomach and anxiety issues, doctors prescribed generic esmoprazole, domperidon, doxepin twice a day. Generic Montelukast Sodium was prescribed for asthmatic conditions and paracetamol for fever.  
“We gave him warm water mixed with honey, lemon, and orange more than four times a day, for both drinking and gargling,” Shamima said.  
Fourteen days later, Mansur’s retested and it came out negative. But the story didn’t end there. 24 hours later, he tested positive again. Luckily, he was tested two more times in the last three weeks, and both came back negative.  
“Staying alone in a same room for more than a month was challenging for me. But I endured that thinking of the family,” Mansur said.  
As he is now completely recovered, Mansur feels immensely grateful to the doctors and his family. “They created the hope in me,” he said, “that’s why I’m still alive today.”

Another doctor dies in Ctg from Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A doctor of Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) died from Covid-19 yesterday morning, just one day after a medicine specialist had died from the novel coronavirus at the same hospital.  
Yesterday, Dr Muhidul Hasan (38), a medical officer of CMCH, succumbed to the deadly virus around 11am, according to hospital sources.  
CMCH Deputy Director Aftabul Islam told The Daily Star that Muhidul tested Covid-19 positive 10 days ago and was undergoing treatment at a cabin arranged for such infected doctors.  
“For the last few days, his condition deteriorated prompting us to transfer him to the ICU where he died,” he added.  
Earlier on Wednesday, Ahsanul Karim, a medicine specialist at Marine City Medical College Hospital, died from a Covid-19 infection.

Murder-accused kills again while on bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

On May 26 night, 25-year-old Amir Hossain was stabbed dead during an attempted mugging at Subidbazar area of Sylhet city.  
A week later on last Tuesday (June 2), Police arrested two muggers in connection with the murder, who confessed before a Sylhet court the next day.  
One of the arrestees, Mirza Atik, is also an accused in the murder case of Mahid Al Salam, a former student of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.  
Mahid was stabbed and killed by a group of muggers on early March 26, 2018, at Kadamtali area of the city, while he was on his way to Dhaka for a job interview.  
In connection with Mahid’s murder, Mirza Atik, along with another mugger Tayef Mohammad Ripon, were arrested from Kadamtali area the next day. Atik confessed before a Sylhet court on March 28.  
Mahid’s family’s lawyer Emad Ullah Shahidul Islam Sahin said, “The murder accused Mirza Atik was freed on bail from High Court and it turns out that he committed similar crime again.”  
“Such serial offenders do not deserve the court’s sympathy and the court should reconsider bail petition of such criminals. Law enforcement officials should also include previous criminal activities of an arrestee so that the court can understand that they are serial offenders,” he said.  
Mahid’s uncle ATM Hasan Jebul said, “Mahid’s murderer killed another person in a similar way, and this happened only because of the slow judicial procedure. Court should be more careful about bailing anyone who is accused in several criminal cases.”  
Ajbahar Ali, deputy commissioner (north) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said, “We did not have information that he continued mugging while on bail, but we arrested him in connection of Amir’s murder. He was sent to jail after appearing before a Sylhet court and confessing.”

Indonesian embassy official dies from fever

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Indonesian embassy official -- Siti Herwansyah -- died from fever yesterday morning. The 28-year-old had tested negative for Covid-19, said an official of the Indonesian embassy.  
The administrative official of the embassy had fever for the last few days, but no cough or respiratory problems. “Possibly, it was bacterial. We are yet not sure why she died,” the official told The Daily Star.  
As Siti’s condition deteriorated, she was moved to United Hospital early yesterday, but was declared dead in less than an hour.  
Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen expressed deep condolence over the death of the Indonesian official and conveyed sympathies to her bereaved family members.  
The minister called the Indonesian Ambassador in Dhaka Rina P Soemarno and assured of any assistance required.

Solidaridad

Network Asia

Invitation for National Open Tender

Online Tenders are hereby invited from different Manufacturer, Supplier and Importer for the below tender item.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Project Name  | Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Linkages (SaFaL 2)  |
| Source of Fund  | Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands (EKN)  |
| Country Office Location.  | Apartment # A1, Merry dale, 1st Floor, House # 32, Road # 10A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209   |
| Invitation reference no   | SNA/DAC/PR/06.20.01  |
| Prerequisite of Tenderer  | A. Every individual organization/vendor should submit scanned copy of Valid Trade License and NID along with Tender Quotation.<br>B. All Vendors /Organization need to submit the latest Bank Solvency Certificate (scanned copy) in favor of specific organization/vendors name.<br>C. Participating Organization/Vendors require to be submitted the scanned copy of updated VAT registration and TIN certificate in favor of organization/ vendors name<br>D. Organization/ Vendor should submit scanned copy of related previous work experience document. |
| Invitation to Tender  | 2 Layers Cotton Washable Mask (specification and design has given in the schedule)   |
| Tender Method   | Open Tender Method (OTM)   |
| Tender Documents Available  | Tender Documents available only through Online. Interested vendors are requested to apply for tender schedule by using the email probir.biswas@solidaridadnetwork.org  |
| Date & Time for online application for collecting Tender Documents. | From 06th June 2020 to 10th June, 2020.  |
| Online Tender submitting Date, Time & email No.                     | Signed online Tender document submission on 11th June, 2020 (by 05:00 pm) to shahidul@solidaridadnetwork.org   |
| Communication with the short listed vendors.                        | Short listed vendors will be communicated on 13th June, 2020 for confirming date of discussion, submission of hard copies of legal documents and 05 pcs. of sample.  |
| Others Terms and Conditions   | 1. Short listed vendors must be bring with them the hard copy relevant documents and sample of product for submission during the date of discussion.<br>2. The Solidaridad shall reserve the right to accept or cancel the tender schedule at any time without prior notice  |

Muhammad Shakil Anwar  
Country Operation Officer

Our survival

FROM PAGE 3  
the biodiversity that protects the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in Bangladesh by closing down all industries and factories already established and under construction there and other environmentally critical areas.”  
According to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, a total of 4,16,256 acres of forest land has been destroyed in the country since 1989, of which 1,58,031 hectares have been allotted to various government and non-government organisations and 2,68,256 acres of forest land has been grabbed.  
Due to increasing and uncontrolled deforestation, 39 species of wildlife have already become extinct in Bangladesh and about 30 more species, including the Bengal Tiger in the Sundarbans, are in critical condition -- a threat to the forest-centered life cycle and ecosystem.  
Dr Iftekharuzzaman said, “Ignoring national and international advice and protests, the Sundarbans has been permanently endangered by setting up various industrial establishments, including coal-based power plants, in the vicinity of the world heritage.”  
But just as the Sundarbans is a source of life and nature, it has also protected the lives and livelihoods of countless people on the coast from cyclone Roanu, Fani and the recent Amphan.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Board of Revenue

Rajashwa Bhaban, Kakrail, Dhaka

www.nbr.gov.bd

Invitation for Tenders

Corrigendum-3

Ref. 08.01.0000.091.53.001.19 (Part-1) Date: 04.06.2020

This is to notify that the corrigendum of SI No. 01-04: Tender Package No. 01, 02, 03, 05 of IFT No. 08.01.0000.091.53.001.19 (Part-1) published earlier at the Daily Ittefaq & The Daily Star dated 25.03.2020 will be replaced and read as follows:

| Sl No. | Package No. | Package name   | Status  | Existing opening date and time | Changed opening date and time | Tender dropping date and last time |
|--------|-------------|--|---------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 01     | 01          | Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Migration of LAN/WAN Equipment, Transmission Network Equipment, Information Security Solution and necessary software with 3 years IT Support Service | Amended | 07.04.2020<br>Time: 12:30pm    | 15.06.2020<br>Time: 10:30am   | 15.06.2020<br>Time: 10:00am        |
| 02     | 02          | Supply, Installation, Commissioning of the Data Center at Dhaka Custom House with 3 years IT Support Service   | Amended | 07.04.2020<br>Time: 2:30pm     | 15.06.2020<br>Time: 12:30pm   | 15.06.2020<br>Time: 12:00pm        |
| 03     | 03          | Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Migration of Database, Server, Storage and Related Software Development with 3 years IT Support Service  | Amended | 08.04.2020<br>Time: 12:30pm    | 15.06.2020<br>Time: 02:30pm   | 15.06.2020<br>Time: 02:00pm        |
| 04     | 05          | VPN data link between NBR & Customs House & LC Stations and Broad Band Internet Connection at NBR & NDC  | Amended | 08.04.2020<br>Time: 02:30pm    | 15.06.2020<br>Time: 04:30pm   | 15.06.2020<br>Time: 04:00pm        |

The other terms and conditions of the IFT shall remain unchanged.

Syed Golam Kibria

Member (Customs: Policy & ICT)

National Board of Revenue

GD-950





PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Arsonists destroy poultry farm in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Miscreants set fire to a poultry farm at Amtail village of Paschim Juri union in Moulvibazar's Juri upazila on Monday night, burning over 2500 layers.

"How could they commit such a brutal act. They brunt my dream. I invested Tk 40 lakh, including Tk 20 lakh managed with bank loan, for the farm," Deenbandhu Sen, owner of the farm, said at a press conference in Juri upazila on Wednesday.

His five friends were cooperating with him to run the farm.

"After seeing the fire on Monday morning, we informed the police who called the fire service and put out the fire. Deenbandhu filed a case on Tuesday, accusing local residents Radhakanta Das, Moin Uddin, Saidul, Badrul, Abdul Matin, Ahmed Ali and Hussain Ali of the arson.

"The culprits had been conspiring to close the farm for a long time. On the

night of April 30, a group led by MA Moeed Faruq, chairman of Juri Upazila Parishad, vandalized and looted my farm. About 500 chickens died in the incident.

"I filed a case against the upazila chairman and 12 others but the police could not catch the accused even after a month," Deenbandhu said.

"Again on the night of May 24, Radhakanta Das, Moin Uddin and his associates tried to set fire to the farm. Finally they set fire to the farm Monday, destroying 2550 hens, six thousand eggs and 35 sacks of feed.

Accused Radhakanta told this correspondent, "We don't know anything about the fire incident at the farm. We are not at home in fear of the police."

Contacted, Zahangir Hossain Sardar, officer-in-charge of Juri Police Station, said, "We are conducting raids and trying to trace the location of the accused in Tuesday's case through mobile tracking to nab them."



The burnt poultry farm at Amtail village in Moulvibazar's Juri upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

# Barishal chilli farmers hit hard by Amphan

*They appeal for urgent financial assistance from govt*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Super cyclonic storm Amphan last month left a trail of devastation in Barishal division. Vast swathes of agricultural land including chilli gardens in the division sustained extensive damage as the tropical cyclone pounded the country's coastal areas.

Aftab Uddin Ahmed, additional director (Barishal region) of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), said the storm damaged at least Tk 64 core worth of crops -- including Boro paddy, banana and chilli -- on 17,455 hectares of land.

Chilli was cultivated on around 38,332 hectares of land in Barishal region.

While visiting Adabari and Zindakathi villages in Nesarabad (Swarupkathi) upazila of Pirojpur to witness the aftermath of Amphan, this correspondent found most chilli gardens badly damaged.

Probbhash Chandra Saha, deputy director of DAE in Pirojpur, said chilli was cultivated on 512 hectares of land in the district and 'Bombay' chilli variety was cultivated on 26 hectares of the land.

Kuriana Union Parishad Chairman Shekhar Kumar Shikder said 'Bombay' chilli is highly popular among chilli farmers in the area and almost half of the 'Bombay' chilli gardens were damaged by the cyclone in the union.

Retired teacher Nityananda Samaddar cultivated the variety on two bighas of land in Adabari village of Nesarabad upazila.

He said almost the entire garden has been damaged by super cyclone Amphan. "I had sold the chilli [Bombay] for Tk 250 to 350 per maund at Zindakathi market every year, but this year I could not sell a single piece of it."

"I hoped to make around Tk 30 to 40 thousand from the chilli I planted on four bighas of my land this year. But the cyclone has

destroyed all my crops including the chilli," said another farmer, Bimal Howlader, from Andakul village in the same upazila.

Chilli trader Ramzan Ali, based in Zindakathi market, said he usually procures four to five maunds of Bombay chilli from the area, but this year he has not been able to procure any chilli including the Bombay variety.

A number of chilli farmers this correspondent spoke with said the estimated damage in chilli gardens in Nesarabad upazila alone might be around Tk 50 lakh.


The farmers also said it would be very difficult for them to recover this loss unless the government provides some sort of financial assistance to the affected farmers in the region.

DAE Deputy Director in Pirojpur Probbhash Chandra Saha said they already sent a letter to the agriculture ministry, seeking financial assistance for the farmers affected by Cyclone Amphan in Pirojpur.



Khwaja Yunus Ali Foundation distributes 18 safety buoys, used for floating on water in case of boat capsiz, among boatmen on the Jamuna river at Enayetpur in Sirajganj yesterday. The organisation took the initiative along with campaign for safe journey on rivers, against the backdrop of the May 26 boat capsiz during a storm at Sthalchar of Chouhali area in the district, which left 12 people killed and seven others missing.


PHOTO: STAR



বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute

Joydebpur, Gazipur-1701



কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি

Fax No. : 88-02-49270201

Office Ph : 02-49270000

PABX : 02-49270041-8

E-mail : [dg.bari@bari.gov.bd](mailto:dg.bari@bari.gov.bd)

Website : [www.bari.gov.bd](http://www.bari.gov.bd)

Date: 02 June 2020

Memo No. PN GD-1/9853

**e-GP: Re-Tender Notice No. 36 (2019-2020)**

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods. Details are given below:

| Sl No. | Package No. | Tender ID & Ref No. | Description of goods           | Tender documents last selling (date & time) | Tender closing date & time | Tender opening date & time |
|--------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1.     | PN GD-1     | 464328 & IRN: 293   | Laboratory Equipment (01 Item) | 14.06.2020 17:00                            | 15.06.2020 12:30           | 15.06.2020 12:30           |

The interested persons/firm may visit the website [www.eprocure.gov.bd](http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) to get the details of the tender.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Project Name: "Contamination and adulteration of food and food products, process, chain and mollification.

Sd/-

**Md. Ferozur Rahman**

Deputy Director (Additional Charge)

Procurement & Store Section

Email: [dd.procure@bari.gov.bd](mailto:dd.procure@bari.gov.bd)

Phone: 02-49270140

For Director General

BARI, Joydebpur, Gazipur

GD-945

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Office of the Project Manager (EE), RHD

Study for Identification, Prioritization and Pre-Feasibility of PPP Projects

Road and Highways Department

Flat # 101, 132/4, New Bailey Road, Dhaka

Website: [www.rhd.gov.bd](http://www.rhd.gov.bd)

Memo No. 35.RHD.0000.PM-SIP-113

Date: 02.06.2020

**INVITATION FOR PROPOSAL**

for

**Selection of Firm (National) for Staff Outsourcing**

Study for Identification, Prioritization and Pre-Feasibility of PPP Projects under Road and Highways Department

|    |   |   |  |
|----|---|---|--|
| 01 | Ministry/Division                                   | : | Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges/Road Transport & Highways Division.   |
| 02 | Executing agency                                    | : | Road and Highways Department.  |
| 03 | Procuring entity                                    | : | Project Manager (EE), RHD.   |
| 04 | Invitation Ref No.                                  | : | 35.RHD.0000.PD-SIP-114   |
| 05 | Invitation date                                     | : | 04.06.2020   |
| 06 | Invitation for                                      | : | Proposal (Physical Services).  |
| 07 | Source of budget                                    | : | Government of Bangladesh.  |
| 08 | Procurement method                                  | : | Least cost selection.  |
| 09 | Project name  | : | Study for Identification, Prioritization and Pre-Feasibility of PPP Projects under Road and Highways Department.   |
| 10 | Package No.   | : | SIPPS-01   |
| 11 | Package name  | : | Staff Outsourcing for Study for Identification, Prioritization and Pre-Feasibility of PPP Projects under Road and Highways Department.   |
| 12 | Last date for proposal submission                   | : | 30.06.2020 at 12.00 Noon.  |
| 13 | Last date for proposal selling                      | : | 29.06.2020 at 4.00pm.  |
| 14 | Proposal opening date and time                      | : | 30.06.2020 at 12.30pm.   |
| 15 | Place, date and time for pre-proposal meeting       | : | Not applicable.  |
| 16 | Eligibility of the applicant                        | : | Any reputed Bangladeshi firm having at least two years of experience of providing the physical services mentioned below (or relevant position) to any government/non-government office/project or any NGO/Consulting Firm having at least five years of general experience. In case of joint ventures, each partner (firm) of the joint venture shall be required to fulfill the above-specified criteria. Other eligibility criteria are stated in the Proposal Document. |
| 17 | Brief description of the service to be provided     | : | To provide Staff Input for the post of Office Assistant-Cum-Computer Operator (02), Driver (04), Office Assistant (02), Cleaner (01) for the project office.   |
| 18 | Contract period                                     | : | 23 months from commencement.   |
| 19 | Address of selling and opening of proposal document | : | Office of the Project Director (ACE), RHD, Staff Outsourcing for Study for Identification, Prioritization and Pre-Feasibility of PPP Projects under Road and Highways Department, 132/4, New Bailey Road, Dhaka-1000.  |
| 20 | Address of receiving proposal document              | : | Office of the Project Director (ACE), RHD, Study for Identification, Prioritization and Pre-Feasibility of PPP Projects under Road and Highways Department, 132/4, New Bailey Road, Dhaka-1000.  |
| 21 | Name of the officer inviting proposal               | : | SK Shahidul Islam Shahariar, Executive Engineer, RHD.  |
| 22 | Proposal price                                      | : | A non-refundable amount of Taka 1,000.00 (one thousand Taka only.)   |
| 23 | Designation of the officer inviting proposal        | : | Project Manager (EE), RHD, Study for Identification, Prioritization and Pre-Feasibility of PPP Projects under Road and Highways Department, 132/4, New Bailey Road, Dhaka-1000.  |
| 24 | Contact details                                     | : | Project Manager (EE), RHD, Study for Identification, Prioritization and Pre-Feasibility of PPP Projects under Road and Highways Department, E-mail: <a href="mailto:shahariar.rhd@gmail.com">shahariar.rhd@gmail.com</a> , Mobile: +8801814497461  |

The procuring entity/client reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals and the whole process.

**SK Shahidul Islam Shahariar**

ID No. 602237

Project Manager (EE)

Email: [shahariar.rhd@gmail.com](mailto:shahariar.rhd@gmail.com)

GD-946



India, China armies make slight retreat

China reportedly made a slight retreat at Galwan Valley, one of the flashpoint leading to standoff with India, in Ladakh region, in a bid to resolve the border tension between the two nations. The China's People's Liberation Army moved back two kilometres on Wednesday while the Indian Army has moved back by one kilometre. However, at another flashpoint Pangong Tso (lake), troops from both sides are stationed and are camping over there. This would be the main focus of the meeting on June 6 between top military officers of India and China. Indian Army Chief MM Naravane is confident enough that the standoff would be resolved at military-level talks.

Guard with knife injures 39 at China primary school

An elementary school guard in China injured 39 people in a knife attack yesterday with many children among the victims, a state office and media reported. Two of the injured were severely hurt in the attack in the southwestern region of Guangxi, the county-level propaganda office said on its social media account. Others sustained light injuries and no one was critically hurt, it said. The suspect, a 50-year-old man surnamed Li who worked as a guard at the school in the town of Wangfu, attacked at around 8:30 am, according to the Paper, a Shanghai-government backed newspaper. Li has been arrested. Many of the injured children were about six years old. China has seen several attacks on schoolchildren in recent years, with eight children killed in a similar attack in Hubei province last year.



India, Australia seal deal to use military bases

India and Australia sealed an accord yesterday to grant access to each other's military bases in order to facilitate mutual defence exchanges and exercises. The agreement - known as the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement - was reached during a virtual summit between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australia's premier Scott Morrison. The accord allows military ships and aircraft to refuel and access maintenance facilities, and is widely seen as being part of a broader strategy by democracies in the region to counter China's military and economic weight. India has already signed similar agreements with the US, France and Singapore. Besides the MLSA, the other pacts signed will provide for bilateral cooperation in areas of cyber security, mining and minerals, military technology, vocational education and water resources management. In the talks, the two sides also deliberated on a host of key issues including threat of terrorism, maritime security challenges, reform in the World Trade Organisation.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

HK defies Tiananmen vigil ban

Pepper spray, arrests as thousands lit candles, chant democracy slogans

AGENCIES

Thousands of Hong Kong protesters lit candles and chanted democracy slogans as they defied a ban yesterday against gathering to commemorate China's deadly Tiananmen crackdown, with tensions seething in the city over a planned new security law.

Crowds streamed into city's Victoria Park that has hosted huge Tiananmen anniversary vigils for the past three decades, with smaller rallies erupting across the finance hub.

Police arrested some demonstrators in a shopping district on although they allowed the main rally at Victoria Park to proceed. Police also fired pepper spray to disperse protesters who gathered in Hong Kong's working class district of Mong Kok.

The displays of resistance came hours after Hong Kong's legislature passed a bill criminalising insults to China's national anthem, which the pro-democracy movement sees as yet another example of eroding freedoms.

China's plans to impose a security

Legislature passes law making insults to China's nat'l anthem a crime

City braces for national security laws amid global condemnation



law on Hong Kong criminalising treason and subversion, has cemented fears that the semi-autonomous city is losing its treasured liberties.

Hundreds of people were killed in 1989 when China's communist rulers deployed the military into Beijing's Tiananmen Square to crush a student-led movement for democratic reforms.

Commemorations of the event are forbidden in mainland China but have been allowed in semi-autonomous Hong Kong,

which has been granted liberties under the terms of its 1997 handover from the British.

The city was engulfed by seven straight months violent pro-democracy protests last year -- rallies that kicked off five days after the last annual vigil. In response to those demonstrations Beijing last month announced plans to impose the security law.

Critics, including many Western nations, fear it will bring mainland-style political oppression to a business hub.

KILLING OF PREGNANT ELEPHANT IN INDIA

'Justice will prevail'

Kerala CM says ongoing probe identifies 3 suspects

NDTV, THE STATESMAN/ANN



Three suspects have been identified in investigations into the killing of a pregnant elephant that ate an explosives-filled pineapple, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said yesterday.

"Justice will prevail," Vijayan said in tweets amid huge anger and grief after tragic visuals of the elephant, dead in a river, emerged in a forest officer's post earlier this week.

"In a tragic incident in Palakkad district, a pregnant elephant has lost its life. Many of you have reached out to us. We want to assure you that your concerns will not go in vain," said the chief minister.

"An investigation is underway, focusing on three suspects. The police and forest departments will jointly investigate the incident. We will do everything possible to bring the culprits to justice."

Earlier yesterday, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar had also tweeted that the central government would investigate the tragedy.

"We will not leave any stone unturned to investigate properly and nab the culprit(s). This is not an Indian culture to feed fire crackers and kill," the minister tweeted.

The wild elephant strayed into a village near Silent Valley National Park in Palakkad last Wednesday and ate a pineapple filled with firecrackers. It exploded in its mouth and in that state the elephant walked for days in pain before it went into a river and died standing on May 27.

Villagers in the region often use firecracker or explosive-filled fruit to protect their fields from wild animals, but the practice has been widely condemned as cruel and disturbing.

Photos shared on social media showed the elephant standing in the river with her mouth and trunk in water, perhaps for some relief from pain. Officials guessed from its shrunk form that the animal may have eaten the fruit 20 days ago and had starved since. She didn't harm a single human being even when she ran in searing pain in the streets of the village, locals and officials said.

The incident has attracted huge condemnation on social media, where the memes showed the mother elephant saying it was her fault to trust the human race, while the unborn child in her womb kept asking: "What is my fault, Ma?"

REACTIONS TO US RACE PROTESTS

Sports stars, musicians, politicians and religious leaders have queued up to condemn the death of George Floyd, an unarmed African-American man whose killing has touched off once-in-a-generation protests across the US. Here is a round-up of global reactions to his death and the demonstrations that have convulsed the United States in the past week.

Your dreams matter: Obama



Former US president Barack Obama on Wednesday applauded the "profound" protests by Americans demanding racial justice. "I want you to know that you matter. I want you to know that your lives matter, your dreams matter." The 58-year-old noted the deadly upheaval of the 1960s civil rights movement, and said "a far more representative cross-section of America" is protesting now than as compared to half a century ago. "There is a change in mindset that's taking place, a greater recognition that we can do better," Obama said.

Structural racism: Bachelet

The UN rights chief slammed "structural racism" in the US and the "unprecedented assault" on journalists covering the protests in fresh comments Wednesday. "The voices calling for an end to the killings of unarmed African Americans need to be heard. The voices calling for an end to police violence need to be heard. And the voices calling for an end to the endemic and structural racism that blights US society need to be heard," Michelle Bachelet said.

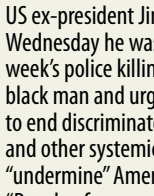


Abuse of power: Borrell



EU High Representative Josep Borrell said Europe was "shocked and appalled" by Floyd's death. "This is an abuse of power and this has to be denounced, has to be combatted, in the States and everywhere," he added.

Undermines US democracy: Carter



US ex-president Jimmy Carter said Wednesday he was pained by last week's police killing of an unarmed black man and urged authorities to end discriminatory policing and other systemic injustices that "undermine" American democracy. "People of power, privilege, and moral conscience must stand up and say 'no more' to a racially discriminatory police and justice system, immoral economic disparities between whites and blacks, and government actions that undermine our unified democracy," Carter said in a statement released by the Carter Center.

Tragic failures: GB Bush



Former president George W Bush called on the US to take a hard look at its "tragic failures". "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. "This



People gather in Hyde Park in London on Wednesday during a "Black Lives Matter" protest following the death of an Afro-American man in police custody in US.

PHOTO: REUTERS

tragedy -- in a long series of similar tragedies -- raises a long overdue question: How do we end systemic racism in our society?" said Bush. "It is time for America to examine our tragic failures," he stated. "Those who set out to silence those voices do not understand the meaning of America -- or how it becomes a better place," he said without mentioning President Trump.

Trump trying to divide US: Mattis

Former Pentagon chief Jim Mattis issued a stinging rebuke of his erstwhile boss Trump, accusing the president of trying to "divide" America and failing to provide "mature leadership". "Donald Trump is the first president in my lifetime who does not try to unite the American people -- does not even pretend to try," Mattis wrote in a blistering statement posted online by The Atlantic. "Instead, he tries to divide us," added the retired general. "We are witnessing the consequences of three years without mature leadership," he stated.



racism has no place in our society: Johnson



In Britain, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he was "sickened and appalled" by Floyd's death. "My message to President Trump, to everybody in the United States... is that racism, racist violence has no place in our society," he said.

'Intolerable' racism: Pope

The Pope decried racism over Floyd's killing -- along with "self-destructive and self-defeating" violent protests that followed across the US. "We cannot tolerate or turn a blind

True face of America: Khamenei



Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also condemned the violence -- with a more political message. "It is the true face of America, it's what it has always done all over the world -- in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and other countries, and before that in Vietnam."

Global marches

From Dublin to Wellington, Rotterdam to Paris, thousands gathered for protests this week in solidarity with the US demonstrations. There were demonstrations across Europe on Wednesday, with protesters throwing Molotov cocktails outside the US Embassy in Athens at a rally in the Greek capital attended by three thousand people. Protests in different cities of United Kingdom have been staged and more are on the cards. Several thousand protesters also turned out in Finnish capital Helsinki as well as Stockholm -- although Swedish police broke up that rally due to coronavirus restrictions on large gatherings. Further protests have been called in Portugal's capital Lisbon tomorrow, Poland's Warsaw on Saturday and several Spanish cities on Sunday.

#BlackOutTuesday

What started out as a campaign among music industry executive quickly swept across social media, with stars from Rihanna, Drake, Beyoncé and Kylie Jenner posting a stark black square to their Instagram feeds on Tuesday with the hashtag #BlackOutTuesday. The campaign initially called for music industry employees to take a day off work in solidarity with anti-racism protests, but mushroomed across the internet.

SOURCE: AGENCIES

Covid-19 vaccine must be for all

Says UN chief as more than 50 states meet virtually to find way

AFP, London

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres yesterday said a new vaccine against the coronavirus had to be available to everyone across the world, as an international conference got under way to raise funds for new life-saving treatments.

The virtual meeting, hosted by Britain, aims to raise \$7.4 billion for immunisation programmes stalled by the pandemic, and launch a new fundraising drive to support potential COVID-19 vaccines.

In a video message, Guterres said: "A vaccine must be seen as a global public good -- a people's vaccine, which a growing number of world leaders are calling for."

There needed to be "global solidarity to ensure that every person, everywhere, has access", he added.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson called for a "new era of global health co-operation" to "unite humanity in the fight against disease", particularly in the poorest countries.

"This virus has shown how connected we are. ... And no one is safe frankly until we are all safe," he added.

More than 50 countries are taking part in the meeting, as well as individuals such as billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates, to raise funds for Gavi, the vaccine alliance. Over the next five years, it wants to reboot halted programmes and provide vaccines at a much-reduced cost to some 300 million children worldwide. Gavi and its partners will also launch a financing drive to purchase potential COVID-19 vaccines, scale-up their production and support delivery to developing nations.

| Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  |  |  |  |   |  |                             |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges   |  |  |  |   |  |                             |
| Bridges Division   |  |  |  |   |  |                             |
| Bangladesh Bridge Authority  |  |  |  |   |  |                             |
| Setu Bhaban, Banani, Dhaka-1212  |  |  |  |   |  |                             |
| www.bba.gov.bd   |  |  |  |   |  |                             |
| Invitation for Tender  |  |  |  |   |  |                             |
| 1  | Ministry/Division  |  | Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges Division.   |   |  |                             |
| 2  | Agency   |  | Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA).   |   |  |                             |
| 3  | Purchaser name   |  | Chief Engineer, BBA, Dhaka.  |   |  |                             |
| 4  | Purchaser code   |  | Not available.   |   |  |                             |
| 5  | Purchaser district   |  | Dhaka.   |   |  |                             |
| 6  | Invitation for   |  | Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, and Maintenance of 10 (ten) Nos. Slow Speed Weigh in Motion (SSWIM) scales including real time web based live video and data monitoring system with RFID at Bangabandhu Bridge, Bhupur, Tangail/Sirajganj.   |   |  |                             |
| 7  | Invitation Ref. No.  |  | 50.01.0000.401.00.097.17-382.  |   |  |                             |
| 8  | Date   |  | 04 June, 2020.   |   |  |                             |
| KEY INFORMATION  |  |  |  |   |  |                             |
| 9  | Procurement method   |  | Open Tendering Method (OTM).   |   |  |                             |
| FUNDING INFORMATION  |  |  |  |   |  |                             |
| 10   | Budget and source of funds   |  | GoB/BBA's own fund.  |   |  |                             |
| 11   | Development partners (if applicable)                                     |  | Not applicable.  |   |  |                             |
| PARTICULAR INFORMATION   |  |  |  |   |  |                             |
| 12   | Project/program code (if applicable)                                     |  | Not applicable.  |   |  |                             |
| 13   | Project/program name (if applicable)                                     |  | Not applicable.  |   |  |                             |
| 14   | Tender package No.   |  | 1 (one).   |   |  |                             |
| 15   | Tender package name  |  | Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of 10 (ten) Nos. Slow Speed Weigh in Motion (SSWIM) scales including real time web based live video and data monitoring system with RFID at Bangabandhu Bridge, Bhupur, Tangail/Sirajganj.  |   |  |                             |
| 16   | Tender publication date  |  | Date: 04 June, 2020.   |   |  |                             |
| 17   | Tender last selling date   |  | Date:  | July 21, 2020   | Time:  | During office hours         |
| 18   | Tender closing date and time   |  | Date:  | July 22, 2020   | Time:  | 12:00 Noon                  |
| 19   | Tender opening date and time   |  | Date:  | July 22, 2020   | Time:  | 03:00pm                     |
| 20   | Name & address of the office(s)  |  | Accounts Section, Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.   |   |  |                             |
|  | Selling tender document (principal)                                      |  | Not applicable.  |   |  |                             |
|  | Selling tender document (others)   |  | Not applicable.  |   |  |                             |
|  | Receiving tender document  |  | i) Conference Room (2nd Floor), Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.<br>ii) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.  |   |  |                             |
|  | Opening tender document  |  | Conference Room (2nd Floor), Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka.  |   |  |                             |
| 21   | Pre-tender meeting   |  | A pre-tender meeting shall be held on June 29, 2020; 11:00am.  |   |  |                             |
|  | Place of pre-tender meeting  |  | Office of the Chief Engineer, Setu Bhaban, Room # 401, BBA, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212.  |   |  |                             |
| INFORMATION FOR TENDERER   |  |  |  |   |  |                             |
| 22   | Eligibility of tenderer  |  | i)   | <b>General experience:</b><br>The tenderer shall have a minimum of <b>05 years</b> of overall experience in the role of contractor, subcontractor or management contractor.   |  |                             |
|  |  |  | ii)  | <b>Specific experience:</b><br>a) The minimum specific experience as a contractor or subcontractor or management contractor in supply, installation & commissioning of SSWIM (Slow Speed Weigh in Motion) scale at least <b>01 contract</b> of similar nature successfully completed within the last <b>10 years</b> with a value of at least <b>BDT 88.80 (eight) crore i.e. BDT 80 million (excluding maintenance)</b> .<br>b) Tenderer with experience for supply of SSWIM (Slow Speed Weigh in Motion) with real time web based monitoring in a single contract completed in last 10 years shall be preferable supported with certificate.<br>c) Service provider must have experience certificate for smooth operation & maintenance of similar web based Electronic Computerized real time video & data monitoring system of axle load control station (SSWIM) project.<br>d) Service provider should have a valid maintenance contract with SSWIM equipment manufacturer (OEM) for smooth operation and maintenance and also for ensuring spare parts.<br>e) Local agency partnership/distributorship certificate for Bangladesh market, for the proposed Weigh in Motion (WIM) shall be preferable. |  |                             |
|  |  |  | iii)   | The required average annual turnover shall be greater than <b>10.80 (ten) crore/100 million (BDT)</b> for 03 (three) years within last <b>5 years</b> .   |  |                             |
|  |  |  | iv)  | The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the tenderer shall be <b>BDT 8.00 crore/BDT 80 million</b> .  |  |                             |
| 23   | Brief description of goods   |  | Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and System Maintenance & Operation of 10 (ten) Nos. Slow Speed Weigh in Motion (SSWIM) scales including real time web based live video and data monitoring system with RFID at Bangabandhu Bridge, Bhupur, Tangail/Sirajganj.<br>Include: a) Supply, Testing, Commissioning of 10 Nos. SSWIM (Slow speed weigh in motion) weigh scale.<br>b) System Maintenance & Operation for 5 (five) years.<br>c) Supply of spare parts, Hardware & Software. |   |  |                             |
| 24   | Brief description of related services                                    |  | Not applicable.  |   |  |                             |
| 25   | Lot  | Identification of lot  | Location   | Price of tender document (Tk)   | Tender security amount (Tk)                          | Completion time in months   |
|  | 1  | Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and System Maintenance & Operation of 10 (ten) Nos. Slow Speed Weigh in Motion (SSWIM) scales including real time web based live video and data monitoring system with RFID at Bangabandhu Bridge, Bhupur, Tangail/Sirajganj. | Bangabandhu Bridge area, Tangail & Sirajganj   | 3000.00 (three thousand only)   | BDT 35.00 lac/3.5 million (BDT thirty-five lac) only | 10.5 (ten point five) years |
| PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS   |  |  |  |   |  |                             |
| 26   | Name of official inviting tender   |  |  | Quazi Muhammad Ferdous.   |  |                             |
| 27   | Designation of official inviting tender                                  |  |  | Chief Engineer.   |  |                             |
| 28   | Address of official inviting tender                                      |  |  | Bangladesh Bridge Authority, Setu Bhaban, New Airport Road, Banani, Dhaka-1212.   |  |                             |
| 29   | Contact details of official inviting tender                              |  |  | Tel. No. +880255040313   Fax No. +880255040313  |  |                             |
| 30   | The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders. |  |  |   |  |                             |
| Quazi Muhammad Ferdous<br>Chief Engineer<br>Ph: +880255040313<br>E-mail: dir-tech@bba.gov.bd |  |  |  |   |  |                             |
| GD-947   |  |  |  |   |  |                             |





Krishan began when iPAGE started to work closely on a grassroots level with over 250 smallholder farmers.



Krishan members transport the produce from farmers, with necessary precautions.

# Bridging the gap between farmers and local consumers

ASHLEY SHOFTORSHI SAMADDAR

Krishan, a digital market platform created by iPAGE & Partners, started with a vision to help farmers sell their produce through e-commerce. Led by Mashrur H Shurid, Mohammad Saifullah Mithu, and Labib Tarafdar, this social welfare initiative was launched on May 1, 2020.

The journey of Krishan began when iPAGE started to work closely on a grassroots level with over 250 smallholder farmers of five districts, enabling them with precise agriculture-based technologies to optimise their farming practices.

Amidst the nationwide shutdown due to the coronavirus pandemic, farmers were experiencing unprecedented difficulties to sell their produce on time at fair prices. "By the end of March 2020, we started to receive a lot of calls from our farmers," shares Mashrur H Shurid, Chief Executive Officer of iPAGE and Managing Partner of Krishan. "After being closely involved with them for the last two years, especially in the production sector, we knew they would eventually end up with no other choice but to either sell their harvest on very low prices or

destroy their produce with their own hands. That is when we discovered the necessity of doing something for proper product distribution."

With support from local NGOs, YY Goshti and the iDEA project under the ICT Division of the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, Krishan has sourced nearly 12.5 tonnes of vegetables, spice and poultry items directly from smallholder farmers and sold them to 104 urban customers. These fresh produces came from 206 rural farmers of Tangail, Pabna, Munshiganj and Panchagarh.

With the sourcing support from Krishan, a coalition of four social organisations has distributed healthy cooked meals to around 30,000 low-income groups in Dhaka during Ramadan. To help the middle-income families, Krishan also introduced a rationing process called 'Krishan Goodie Bag' comprising of essential groceries and seasonal vegetables bought from farmers. People contributed in the process by donating goodie bags while purchasing produces from Krishan. Team Krishan also subsidised the packaging and logistic costs and ensured proper distribution of those goodie bags

among 154 families with the help of their partner social organisations. While purchasing directly from smallholder farmers, Krishan offered comparatively higher prices to the local wholesale markets based on the unit production costs that eventually led to an additional profit earning of 18 to 25 percent, to the supplier-farmers.

One of their biggest challenges so far has been transporting the produce from the countryside to the city. However, this challenge was eased when Bangladesh Post Office stepped in and offered their 'Krishok Bandhu Postal Service' for free. Furthermore, since quality assurance and hazard-free preservation of the produce remain another challenge, a team of expert agriculturists and nutritionists from iPAGE, their local NGO partners, and concerned Upazila extension officers are channeling their energies and efforts towards assisting Krishan. Storage and fulfillment are two more issues that the team is working hard to stabilise.

At present, Krishan is sourcing fresh, chemical-free seasonal vegetables, spices, and poultry items from smallholder farmers. They plan to introduce seasonal fruits as well as anti-biotic neutral safe dairy and

fishery products in the near future. Subsequently, they are looking forward to more partnerships with local stakeholders. "We are also working to devise block-chain tech and want to collaborate with concerned government authorities, including the DAE, DAM, BSTI and BCSIR," mentions Mashrur. "At the moment, Krishan is operating only within Dhaka but gradually we would like to spread out and scale up as a nationwide premium food chain."

The team of Krishan aims to develop a transparent, tech-based and sustainable supply chain platform of safe perishable items that would deliver higher values both at producer and consumer levels. "We are already being supported by the government through initiatives like Startup Bangladesh and Food For Nation. Global communities like the UNDP have been helping our parent, iPAGE, to optimise their impact strategies at the agricultural production sector for a long time," he adds. "It is impractical to fill our stomachs with the "experience" of food. So, we need a real-time, effective and efficient production and distribution process to bring it to our kitchens," concludes Mashrur.



www.youthop.com

## YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

### Zurich – One Young World Scholarship 2020

As a longstanding partner of One Young World, Zurich is supporting the Zurich One Young World Scholarship 2020, which will enable 12 outstanding young leaders to attend the One Young World Summit in Munich, Germany on 23 – 26 April 2021

DEADLINE: July 17, 2020 | Scholarships

Zurich - One Young World Scholarship



### The 13th Eco-generation Environmental Essay Competition

Samsung Engineering jointly with United Nations Environment Programme would like to launch "The 13th Eco-generation Environmental Essay Competition" inviting the youth all over the world to raise awareness on the theme of the upcoming World Environment Day – Time for Nature.

DEADLINE: September 2, 2020 | Competitions

### Eco-network presents EnVision 2020

Eco-Network in partnership with ActionAid Bangladesh has brought to you "EnVision 2020" with exciting competitions for proving your environmental vision!

DEADLINE: June 25, 2020 | Competitions



## CSR Window Bangladesh takes commendable steps to battle the coronavirus pandemic



Through Shomporko, CSR Window Bangladesh has provided food and necessary items to low-income families in rural areas.

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Window Bangladesh started their journey in 2018. Founded by Shadman Sakib Anik and Ahsan Rony, CRS Window Bangladesh mainly works with underprivileged communities. The organisation initially served as a skill donation platform that facilitated educational sessions to help individuals learn and enhance their skill set. Four projects by this organisation, established to cater to the needs of people in the coronavirus pandemic, are currently underway.

Their *Kindness* campaign, initiated in March, has successfully conducted awareness-based workshops. Emphasising on the importance of maintaining social distance, they also installed posters in over 1200 shops and pharmacies across the country, especially in the rural areas. In collaboration with Epyllion Group, Global Shapers - Dhaka Hub, Control Union Bangladesh and ActionAid Bangladesh, the organisation has been working closely with people

through *Kindness* Ambassadors. They are also providing regular announcements and updates in this regard.

Their project *Shomporko*, initiated in partnership with IDLC Finance Limited, aims at providing food and necessary supplies to low income families in rural areas. This initiative also gave way to building a database for future use, containing records of around 12,000 people who have already received the aid.

Through their awareness-based initiative *Shuddhota*, organised in association with WaterAid and Control Union, Bangladesh, they helped install hand washing stations, which are made with materials that cannot be damaged or stolen. These stations, along with social distance markers and posters, are being set up in large bazaars, some of which still host over 8,000 visitors regularly. Their on-field Ambassadors are constantly urging people to maintain social distance and wash their hands, while visiting such crowded places.

Pregnant and lactating women are at high risk in this pandemic, particularly in low-in-

come households. *Achol*, a project aided by Arla and Dano Mom, aims to provide a month's nutrition to 8,000 mothers across 24 districts of the country. A database has also been created in this regard to help them with such facilities on a regular basis.

Their fourth project *Pashe Achi*, is a food sharing initiative based in Dhaka. It was initially designed for individuals who are keen to help others in this time of crisis, but were not willing to risk their own safety by going out. *Pashe Achi* asked such individuals to cook and pack food for at least 10 people. The packets were collected and distributed to the ones who need them. In the first couple of active weeks, the *Kindness* ambassadors received over a thousand food packets, which were distributed properly. So far, they have provided food to more than 13,000 people in the span of 24 days. "In light of this feat, we intend to expand our effort to stand beside more people every day," said Sultana Razia, Lead Coordinator, *Pashe Achi*. The team looks forward to keeping their initiatives active.



Through Pashe Achi, they have distributed food to people in need.



The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR  
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA FRIDAY JUNE 5, 2020, JAISHTHA 22, 1427 BS

## Justice for our murdered workers in Libya

*National and transnational human trafficking gangs must be stopped*

THE horrific killing of 26 Bangladeshi migrants in Libya last week has once again brought to light the fact that young, hardworking Bangladeshis are frequently falling victim to the various national and overseas human trafficking gangs, as they leave their home seeking greener pastures in different European countries. According to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), more than 50 Bangladeshi nationals had been involved in trafficking the 26 Bangladeshis who were killed by their kidnappers in the North African country. The CID investigation has also found names of some Bangladeshis involved with human trafficking gangs in Libya, who are now staying in that country.

Libya has been a destination for Bangladeshi migrants since long because of its rich economy and also because of its important geographic location—it has been used as a transit station for people attempting to reach Europe across the Mediterranean. However, different human trafficking gangs became active there over the last decade, taking advantage of Libya’s civil war. And Bangladeshi migrant workers seem to be the biggest target of these groups.

While our mission in Libya needs to strengthen its efforts to ensure the safety of our workers there, we also need to gear up efforts, here at home, to apprehend members of the various human trafficking gangs that are operating across the country. There are hundreds of fraudulent recruiting agencies which must be identified; and all recruitment agencies need to be brought under a legal framework to root out fraudulent practices. The 26 Bangladeshis who were killed in Libya and those injured in the incident had to provide Tk 3-4 lakh each to the traffickers to go to the country. But in return, they were held hostage on a foreign land, tortured, and eventually killed or maimed.

It is laudable that the law enforcers have already arrested eight people, including the chairman and managing director of a recruitment agency, in connection with this incident. We hope they will soon arrest the entire trafficking gang responsible for this tragedy. We also hope that our law enforcers will always remain vigilant to stop the activities of these gangs.

We would also like to see a strong stance by our foreign ministry in this connection. It should communicate with the Libyan government to ensure exemplary punishment of the killers and their enablers and demand compensation for the victims’ families. Bangladesh should also seek help from international organisations including the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for providing assistance to the Bangladeshis stuck in the war-torn country.

## A great display of community service

*We are again reminded of what the youth have to offer*

A group of as many as 15 young men from the Bamankhan village of Jhalakathi Sadar Upazila took the initiative and repaired about one kilometre of a damaged dirt road that connects Bamankhan, Bamankathi and Aoukhira villages. We applaud them for their good work which will make life a little easier for the residents of all three villages.

Floods from past years had already damaged the road and the super-cyclone Amphan recently inflicted the worst damage. Villagers—especially school students, women and the elderly—had not been able to use the road during the monsoon when it often went under water because of the rain. And so the villagers had, on multiple occasions, petitioned the members and chairmen of local union parishads concerned to get the road fixed. When asked, a member of Suktagar Union Parishad in Rajapur upazila claimed that they had made attempts to repair the road some days ago, but could not finish the job because of some unspecified problems. The young volunteers, on the other hand, seemed unfazed by such problems, as they completed the repair work in a matter of just days.

The work done by these young men should provide encouragement to the concerned authorities of different communities to involve members of their own areas for the development and improvement of their respective localities—as it is they who have the most stake in it. By properly planning and mobilising members of their own communities, local authorities can also help create jobs in their localities and ensure that young people in their area are involved in productive, rather than destructive, activities.

We call on the government to take note of the fact that, if given a proper chance, the youth of this country can contribute greatly to its improvement.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

### Human trafficking must end

Recently, we were shocked to learn about the tragic murder of 26 Bangladeshi workers in Libya, which brought renewed attention to the subject of human trafficking. Human trafficking is a serious transnational crime. People who aspire to work abroad are mainly targeted by the traffickers. A significant portion of Bangladesh’s trafficking victims are men recruited for work overseas with fraudulent employment offers. They are subsequently exploited under conditions of forced labour or debt bondage. Women and children from Bangladesh are also trafficked for exploitation.

Speaking of the Libya incident, even though the authorities have reportedly arrested the ringleader of the human trafficking gang responsible for some of the Bangladeshis killed and injured, it is not enough at all. The authorities must crack down on the local agents who lured the poor from different districts with the promise of high-paying jobs abroad. They must be punished severely for their crimes. Also, we must pressure the Libyan government to immediately arrest those responsible for killing our fellow countrymen.

Md Zillur Rahman, Dhaka



HASEEB MD IRFANULLAH

WELL, the Sundarbans has done it again! As it has been doing for hundreds of years. This time, it took the blow of super-cyclone Amphan and saved us from severe devastation.

When it comes to saving people from coastal flooding, Bangladesh is one of the top three countries in the world getting the most benefit from its mangroves. A recent study estimated that a 20-km mangrove stretch, especially near cities, could give more than USD 250 million flood protection benefit a year. From these numbers, we can only partly imagine the importance of the Sundarbans to Bangladesh.

Of course, protection against natural calamities is only one of the numerous benefits we get from this magnificent jungle: we have oxygen to breathe in, honey to relish, fish to savour, fuelwood to burn, materials to thatch, waterways to navigate, festivals to celebrate, Bengal Tiger to cherish, beauty to photograph—to name just a few. The Sundarbans may have officially become the world’s heritage when the UNESCO declared it in 1997, but it has always been a heritage to the people of this delta.

Speaking of the UNESCO move, since 2014, the World Heritage Centre (WHC) of this UN body has been expecting some specific actions from Bangladesh with regard to the Sundarbans. Bangladesh’s relationship with the WHC took a sharp turn in 2016 when a WHC-IUCN mission made 10 recommendations after visiting the Sundarbans, including relocation of a coal-based power plant in Rampal near the forest. Over the next three years, we saw numerous media reports on the decisions made in the WHC’s global meetings and Bangladesh’s responses to them.

In the middle of last year, Bangladesh-WHC relations entered a new dimension when IUCN recommended the WHC to put the Sundarbans on the List of World Heritage in Danger, due to insufficient compliance of the WHC’s decisions, creating an uncomfortable situation for Bangladesh in the conservation world.

However, the final decisions of the 43rd meeting of the WHC held in July 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan, did not put the Sundarbans on the in-danger list due to interventions from a few member states. The WHC gave Bangladesh till February 1, 2020 to submit the latest report on the state of conservation of the Sundarbans as well as implementation status of the decisions of the 43rd meeting. Based on that report, the WHC would decide whether to put the Sundarbans on the list or not.

We have not read much about WHC-Sundarbans since last July. Nevertheless, in January 2020, Bangladesh submitted a comprehensive report to the WHC, which is basically a response to all the 11 decisions taken on Bangladesh’s side of the Sundarbans in the Baku meeting last year. In January, Bangladesh also started preparing a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the south-west region of the country, including the Sundarbans—another long-standing

and biodiversity loss. While the global efforts to halt these catastrophes are getting delayed due to the pandemic, we cannot suspend our national and local endeavours. And, mangroves are amazing natural systems that can help us tackle both climate and biodiversity crises.

When we involve people and protect our natural mangroves like the Sundarbans, restore the degraded ones like that in Nuniachhara, Cox’s Bazar, or stretch the “green belt” along the coast



Protection against natural calamities is only one of the numerous benefits we get from the Sundarbans.

expectation of the UNESCO-WHC. Both these crucial developments have, however, gone largely unnoticed by the media.

The 44th meeting of the WHC was supposed to be held at the end of this month in Fuzhou, China, which has now been postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We have to wait to see how UNESCO-WHC and its technical partner IUCN respond to Bangladesh’s recent submission.

But the Sundarbans is not only a world heritage site or an ecosystem tm in the economic development vs nature conservation debates. It is also a restless, silent “trouble-shooter” addressing our societal challenges. Before the Covid-19 swamped the world, we were overwhelmed by two of the biggest crises of our time—climate change

through coastal afforestation—as we have been doing since 1965—we not only adapt to climate change or take the extra carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere to keep the world cooler or create a refuge for biodiversity, we also ensure food security, disaster risk reduction, human development, and economic empowerment of the people dependent on mangroves, thus contributing to our collective wellbeing.

Like Bangladesh, all countries of the world with mangroves are enjoying tremendous benefits out of them. Globally, mangroves give us USD 65 billion worth of coastal flood protection every year. They annually give us USD 50 billion non-market benefits from fisheries, forestry, and recreation. Putting an amount on the benefits we get from mangroves may justify

the changing situations and demands. In March, as we imposed lockdown restrictions, stopping infection spread was our top priority, putting it even before our economy. A few weeks on, we had to reprioritise people’s livelihoods and national economy over the pandemic. As cyclone Amphan approached our coast in late May, saving human lives became an immediate priority over the risk of disease spread.

As we continue facing climate crisis and biodiversity loss in catastrophic proportions, can protecting the Sundarbans and the nature as a whole be our priority now?

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

PHOTO: IHTISHAM KABIR

# Applying nature-based solutions to save lives

NUSHRAT RAHMAN CHOWDHURY

A mature tree produces oxygen for 10 people in a year. Trees remove carbon dioxide from the air and release the oxygen we breathe in. Well-established forests and tree plantations reduce the impacts of natural disasters by saving lives and properties. In a nutshell, we need trees for our survival, not the other way round. The theme of this year’s World Environment Day (WED)—“Time for Nature”—allows us to look back at this “common knowledge” and evaluate our contributions to nature. Now, the question is why I am talking about such “common” or “ordinary” stuff which we learn at school. I can only say that it is time to acknowledge the impact of nature and bring back the greenery to save lives.

### WED 2020 theme and its relevance in managing disasters

“To care for ourselves, we must care for nature”—this message is particularly important for countries like Bangladesh, which largely depends on the mercy of nature. The country lies on Asia’s largest, and the world’s most populated, delta. In the face of climate change, Bangladesh is seen as one of the most disaster and climate vulnerable countries of the world. Efforts like constructing embankments and polders, improving early warning system, and mobilising volunteers have been successful in keeping disaster death toll down to a great extent; however, saving lives as well as protecting livelihood are becoming more difficult as the frequency and severity of disasters are on the rise due to global warming.

Climate-related disasters have tripled in the last three years and the rate of global sea-level rise was 2.5 faster from 2006-16 than that of the 20th century. Two cyclones struck Bangladesh in less than 6 months—cyclone Bulbul in November 2019 and cyclone Amphan in May 2020—battering the lives and livelihoods of millions of people. The Sundarbans lost a great portion of its vegetation cover in saving local communities, while the mangrove on India’s side was the worst hit. Bangladesh is already suffering from severe environmental degradation having a coverage of only less than 11.2 percent

of forest area in the country (it needs at least 25 percent forest coverage to ensure ecological balance). All these realities have a profound impact on human development. Less vegetation cover means more vulnerabilities for human settlements. Hence, the concept of nature-based solutions has gained attention in risk management in recent years.

### Time-tested nature-based solutions in reducing risks

We need to increase our capacity to offset the negative impacts of cyclones, storm surges, floods, river erosion and landslides. Bangladesh can benefit from nature-based disaster management initiatives already practised at different parts of the country, in addition to using modern approaches (i.e. constructing embankments, polders) to manage disasters. One of the main benefits of such nature or ecosystem-based localised practices is that they not only protect life and livelihood but also provide the dependent communities with food, water, fuel and building materials. For example, the Sundarbans provides its communities with livelihood and the mangroves have been successfully offsetting surface waves and high winds and defending banks against erosion. The coastal communities plant coconut and palm trees which are excellent windbreakers. Forested slopes reduce the risks of land or mudslide. Bamboo palisade has long been used as a protection against riverbank erosion on the tributaries of the Brahmaputra. Research and assessments are thus needed to examine whether these ecosystem-based initiatives can replace embankments and polders.

However, there is no denying that modern and traditional practices can complement each other. Furthermore, natural forests provide an effective, immediate and low-cost method for removing and storing atmospheric carbon—by working as a “carbon sink”.

**Multi-stakeholder engagement to promote nature-based solutions** Bangladesh needs to strengthen its disaster management capacity, and tree plantation, afforestation and reforestation are time-tested methods to facilitate this process. The country’s Forest Development has been implementing coastal afforestation

*One of the main benefits of nature or ecosystem-based disaster management initiatives is that they not only protect life and livelihood but also provide the dependent communities with food, water, fuel and building materials.*

projects as part of its annual development plan, but engaging the wider stakeholders (other government agencies, community-based organisations, national and local NGOs, volunteers) is vital to bring about a tangible change. There have been some isolated initiatives to plant trees: for example, the Department of Disaster Management planted 3.8 million palm trees in 2019 as an effort to prevent South Asia’s one of the fastest-growing disasters—lightning strike—and the same year, nearly half a million tree seedlings were planted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and World Food Programme (WFP) to restore degraded forests and watersheds in Cox’s Bazar. However, it is important to have a coordinated approach to tree plantation, afforestation and reforestation activities as unplanned projects along with embankments and polderisation had negatively impacted coastal zones by contributing to waterlogging.

### Impacts of Covid-19

Thanks to Covid-19 which has wrecked economies in recent months, the funding landscape has already been altered, making it difficult for Bangladesh to get aid or loans to pursue high-cost and -maintenance disaster management projects in the coming days. The United Nations has called for 2.5 trillion

dollars’ coronavirus crisis package for the developing countries. Responding to Covid-19 has become the prime necessity as donors are rerouting their funds to meet this health crisis and postponing other development agendas. For example, COP15 on Biological Diversity and the UN climate convention have been postponed until 2021 due to the pandemic. Pursuing the Delta Plan 2100 was already difficult and raising funds will be more difficult in the future as developed nations and donors of foreign aid themselves might suffer from an economic downturn. Therefore, economic and cost-effective nature-based solutions need to be promoted and practised to combat disasters and climate change as the communities already have the skill, capacity and even resources for it. For example, planting trees is inexpensive and the skill is available to almost everyone, unlike the modern approaches.

Bangladesh has lost more than 2,000 hectares of forests while sheltering around 1 million Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar in the last two years. Frequent cyclones are weakening the natural barriers along the country’s coastline, further deteriorating coastal zones. Illicit logging, agriculture expansion and unplanned construction have been degrading the coastal environment for a long time now. Bangladesh needs to double its efforts in improving its vegetation coverage for two reasons: initially, to recover the forest areas lost to human settlements and economic activities, meaning greening one-fourth of its areas, and then to ensure that well-established and mature ecosystems protect the people’s lives and livelihood from disasters. It is difficult to say if we are too late to secure the multiple benefits of nature-based solutions; however, at the risk of sounding cliché, “better late than never”—we can immediately start connecting ourselves to nature. Bangladesh’s vulnerability to disaster and climate change will only increase in the future if we fail to do so.

Nushrat Rahman Chowdhury is a development professional who has worked with various international NGOs including Islamic Relief International, CARE International and Save the Children International in their climate and disaster management departments.



# The Toxic Legacy of 1967 Six-Day War

A war that began the longest military occupation of modern times and shaped the current world order



**THE OVERTON WINDOW**

**T**ODAY, June 5, marks the 53rd anniversary of the 1967 war between Israel and its Arab neighbours Egypt, Jordan and Syria. In the six days of conflict, Israel captured the Sinai and Gaza Strip from Egypt, the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, and the Syrian Golan Heights—all of which, except for the Sinai, it still illegally occupies.

In fact, Israel's military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza is the longest in modern times, maintained predominantly with the help of narrative control. For example, during the 50th anniversary of the Six-Day War, the *New York Times* wrote: "This year marks half a century since the Arab-Israeli War of 1967 in which Israel defied annihilation by its Arab neighbours and also came to rule over Palestinian Arabs in captured areas, including in the old city." This characterisation of Israel's role in the conflict (like in countless others) with its Arab neighbours (especially in comparison) is a perfect example of "falsifying history", according to Jewish scholar and author Norman Finkelstein.

In truth, Israel was not facing any threat in 1967. And "the entire story of the danger of extermination" was, quite simply, a fabrication used "to justify the annexation of new Arab territory" by Israel, as Mordecai Bentov, a member of its then wartime government, told Israeli newspaper *Al-Hamishmar* on

April 14, 1971. As such, the Arab states were really the ones facing an actual threat—that of Israeli expansionism.

Given this reality, on November 4, 1966, Egypt and Syria signed a "defence agreement" in the hope of discouraging Israel from going on the offensive against either country, knowing that the other would be forced to intervene as per the agreement. It was with this knowledge that Israel began to set its trap for Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser by goading cross-border shootings with Syria. The provocations reached their peak on April 7, 1967, when Israeli Mirages shot down six Syrian MIG-21s. Nasser could either come to the defence of his ally under attack by Israel (as promised), or dishonour the agreement and lose his credibility as leader of the revolutionary Arab world.

Nasser chose to honour the agreement. He put two Egyptian divisions into the Sinai next to Israel's border and partially closed the Straits of Tiran, which gave Israel the *casus belli* that it had been looking for.

In an interview published by *Le Monde* on February 28, 1968, Israeli Chief of Staff Yitzhak Rabin said this: "I do not believe that Nasser wanted war. The two divisions which he sent into Sinai on May 14 would not have been enough to unleash an offensive against Israel. He knew it and we knew it." Likewise, General Matityahu Peled, Chief of Logistical Command during the war and one of 12 members of Israel's General Staff, wrote in an article that came out on June 3, 1972, in *Le Monde*: "While we proceeded towards the full mobilisation of our forces, no person in his right mind could believe that all this force was necessary to our 'defence' against the Egyptian threat.

This force was to crush once and for all the Egyptians at the military level."

Lastly, to sum it up, this is what Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin had to say in 1982: "In June 1967, we had a choice. The Egyptian army concentrations in the Sinai approaches did not prove that Nasser was really about to attack us... We decided to attack him."

The war itself may have lasted only six days, but the occupation that

Nelson Mandela.

On the global and regional scales, few modern conflicts have had as big an impact in shaping the future of the world as the Six-Day War. According to US academic and activist Thomas Reifer, the war of 1967 sounded the "death knell of pan-Arab nationalism", and led to "the rise of political Islam" and to "Israel's emergence as a US strategic asset, with the United States sending billions of dollars... in a

the routing of the Egyptian-Syrian-Jordanian alliance during the war of 1967. And, interestingly, it was after this destruction of Arab resistance by Israel that the US started calling Israel its strategic asset.

Once Israel proved its fighting prowess in the 1967 war—during the same time when the US was struggling in its war against Vietnam—the US understood the value of having Israel "enforce" US hegemony in the resource-rich Middle East, especially since its anti-war movement had just exposed the risks of depending solely on direct US military intervention. And thus began Israel's integration with US power, which has become so deeply entrenched today.

Meanwhile, in the absence of any meaningful Arab resistance, which the US and Israel had prevented from rising, using all means necessary, it was political Islam that filled the vacuum. Ironically, one of its most noticeable roles so far has been that of an adversarial scapegoat, used by the US and Israel in their pursuit of hegemonic ambitions and frequent interventions.

The workings of these factors and others have ensured that the world order today remains very similar to the one shaped by the war of 1967. And that includes (other than the same geopolitical intrigues) failure of global organisations and the larger international community to right the wrongs done during and after the Six-Day War, and to ultimately replace the world order of "might is right"—which the war had cemented—with something more just.

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Eresh Omar Jamal is a member of the editorial team at *The Daily Star*. His Twitter handle is: @EreshOmarJamal



COURTESY: THE STATE OF ISRAEL GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE

Israeli armoured troop unit entering Gaza during the Six-Day War, on June 6, 1967.

includes the remaining 22 percent of Palestinian land that was conquered by Israel during the war is now in its sixth decade. While Palestine's freedom struggle has continued in many different forms, so has Israel's brutal repression of Palestinians. On the scale of "morality", this is "the greatest issue of our time", as described by the great

strategic partnership unequalled in world history." All these shifts that happened because of the war were naturally also connected to each other.

While Israel enhanced its power and influence globally to unprecedented new heights and established itself as the sole regional superpower, the Arab world never really recovered from

## The Fire Next Time!

US racism and its bitter fruits



"God gave Noah the rainbow sign,  
No more water,  
the fire next time!"  
— (pre-Civil War era US Negro spiritual song)

A horrified world is watching

as the US goes up in flames. An appalling racist murder by police has triggered protests in more than 140 US cities. Rioting, looting, cities ablaze, police brutality, night curfews in major cities—it's all happening. The federal administration is ratcheting up tensions by unleashing the US military.

Where the heck are we, really? This is beginning to feel like some tin-pot dictatorship about to unravel. US President Donald Trump teargassed peaceful protesters to do a phony photo op, holding a Bible in front of a church. This sacrilege has rightly outraged church officials.

In his 1967 book *"The Fire Next Time,"* James Baldwin, one of the most perceptive, excoriating critics of racism in America, asks the US to address the consequences of America's original sin—the oppression of African Americans since they first landed here.

Racism, he writes, "compromises, when it does not corrupt, all the American efforts to build a better world—here, there, or anywhere... Color is not a human or a personal reality; it is a political reality. But this is a distinction so extremely hard to make that the West has not been able to make it yet."

Baldwin issues a stark warning: "If we do not now dare everything, the

fulfilment of that prophecy, re-created from the Bible in song by a slave, is upon us: God gave Noah the rainbow sign, No more water, the fire next time!"

Race relations in the US is a maddeningly uneven mix. Massive strides in race relations sit side-by-side with ghastly inequities.

The racist Jim Crow laws are long gone. Social fraternisation is total. Near-total black voter

passed in the 1940s. Southern racist Democrats ensured that domestic workers and farm workers, both overwhelmingly African American, were excluded. A racist history of excluding blacks from home loans has deprived them of the basic building block of creating wealth in this country—home ownership.

The murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis by police on May 25, which triggered the recent protests, was



Protesters kneel in front of the police during a demonstration over the death of George Floyd in the Hollywood area of Los Angeles.

PHOTO: AFP

disenfranchisement in the South is a thing of the past. The US elected its first black president in 2008. Yet African Americans continue to lag appallingly. From home ownership to mass incarcerations to health outcomes, African Americans are in a deep hole.

There are historic reasons. America's historic social security law was

preceded by two more recent killings of African Americans under questionable circumstances. In March, police entered the apartment of Breonna Taylor in Louisville, Kentucky, and shot her dead in a raid for suspected drugs. No drugs were found. For weeks, nothing happened. Then public outcry forced the state to investigate.

In February in coastal Georgia, a white former police officer and his son chased Ahmaud Arbery, and shot him to death in a resulting altercation. Yet for two months, nobody was even arrested. It took national publicity for the state to step in and arrest the two men.

It's no wonder massive protests demand justice.

And while the circumstances are tragic, there are some green shoots of hope. The protests are largely peaceful. White Americans, mostly young, are present everywhere. New York Police chief Terence Monahan "took a knee"—the traditional symbolic protest against police brutality on African Americans—as have police chiefs in Portland, Oregon, and the California cities of Santa Cruz and Napa.

There is, however, a darker side. The US has a history of massive racial protests degenerating into carnage.

Here's a chilling statistic: In the 1992 riots in south-central Los Angeles, Korean American businesses sustained an estimated loss of USD 500 million, ruining struggling, hard-working immigrants who built these businesses over decades of backbreaking work.

My own hunch is, the vast majority who engage in looting and arson are common thugs who wouldn't know a cause even if it bit them on the backside.

Being peaceful at a time of justified outrage is hard but the rewards are commensurate. Take Martin Luther King, Jr., who battled for civil rights against a far more vicious, racist opposition. He remained assiduously non-violent. Some pooh-poohed King as soft. King won, because his non-violence robbed his racist opponents of an excuse to denigrate his movement.

It's no different today. Arson and

looting won't address the grievances of today's protesters, but they are guaranteed to provide a distraction that their detractors will embrace gleefully. California offers a historic cautionary tale: As the student protests against the Vietnam War turned violent in the 1960s, Republican governors like Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan rode on the white middle-class backlash to launch a long reign of law-and-order, conservative politics.

I can almost see the more gung-ho protesters' lips curl in disdain: Who are you to tell us what to do, they snarl contemptuously.

Touché.

Don't take my word for it. Here's somebody whose moral authority is beyond reproach. This is the brother of George Floyd, the slain African American man in Minneapolis.

Praying at the intersection where his older brother died, Terrence Floyd recently told supporters over a loudspeaker: "If I'm not over here blowing up stuff, if I'm not over here messing up my community—then what are y'all doing? Nothing, because that's not going to bring my brother back at all."


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

There you have it. Protest by all means. But organise. And vote.


Remember, it will take time. Take heart from what King once said: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." It was Obama's favourite quote, and he knew a thing or two about how to win in politics.

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Ashfaq Swapan is a contributing editor for *Siliconeer*, a digital daily for South Asians in the United States.



QUOTABLE  
Quote



**RAY BRADBURY**  
(1920 - 2012)  
American author.

*We are cups,  
constantly and  
quietly being filled.  
The trick is, knowing  
how to tip ourselves  
over and let the  
beautiful stuff out.*

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

33 Had lunch

34 Two-striper

38 Lighter fuel

41 Freshener scent

42 Annual tennis

13 Ore source

14 Little dears

15 Kennel club requirement

17 Compass dir.

18 Crew member

22 T choice

24 Catch

25 Will Smith biopic

26 Tiny taste

27 Wind indicators

30 Some sculptures

32 Uncasy feeling

DOWN

1 Scout's base

2 "I cannot tell—"

3 Curious

4 It's believing

5 Ship pole

6 Solitary sorts

7 Incite

8 Mamie's mate

9 Animation

frame

10 Hosp. sections

16 "My word!"

19 Itinerant

20 Bullalo's lake

21 Workout count

22 Hot flow

23 Ladd of "Shane"

28 Get away

29 Go pieces

30 Snooze

31 Perfect place

35 Monthly bill

36 Poker payment

37 Some summerd babies

38 Future flower

39 Try out

40 Young one

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42 43 44 45

5-28

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

ARMSTRONG

BOULDER

LILYPITTED

ELLIPSE

SAUCEPAW

SHORTSCUBA

HIVEALEX

IDEALFILLY

PEROPENS

DEBQUIZORE

ICEAGEPEGS

PONDERTREE

BETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER

BABY BLUES

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT















# 'Patience test' for govt jobseekers

PSC fails to publish results of 38th BCS in over 3 years; candidates frustrated with process; experts call for reforms

SHARIFUL HASAN writes for The Daily Star

More than three years have passed and the Public Service Commission (PSC) is yet to announce the final result of the 38th BCS exams, testing the patience of over nine thousand university graduates to the limit.

The frustration over the lengthy recruitment procedure of the attractive public cadre service jobs were quite evident among the aspiring candidates. A graduate from Department of Social Welfare at Dhaka University, who appeared in the 38th BCS exams, summed it up precisely.

"Universities once had awful session jams. Now there is no such thing, and we are graduating in four years. But then it takes three to five years just to get a job. It's unbelievable... a waste of youthful energy. Nobody is thinking how to resolve this."

The process for the 38th BCS started following a Ministry of Public Administration requisition to the PSC on March 5, 2017 for the recruitment of 2,024 cadre officers.

The preliminary exam of the 38th BCS involving over 3.5 lakh candidates was held on December 29, 2017. The preliminary exam results were published on February 18, 2018 with 16 thousand passing it.

The written tests ended on August 13, 2018 and the results were published on July 1, 2019, setting a record for delaying. The PCS then took viva tests of over nine thousand candidates until February this year.

Contacted, PSC chairman Mohammad Sadiq said, "We were taking preparations to publish the results by the end of March or the first week of April. But the coronavirus has changed everything. We are really helpless."

The PSC members are retired government secretaries or additional

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## FIGHTING CANCER, COVID-19 FEAR

An anxious father from Cox's Bazar carrying his cancer patient daughter to the BSMMU's fever clinic to have her tested for Covid-19 yesterday for the third time. She was discharged from the hospital on Tuesday as two other patients in her ward tested positive.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Biman offers charter flights

Makes first ever move in domestic market as passengers keep away

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman has now begun offering chartered flights on domestic routes due to frequent cancellations of all scheduled passenger flights over the last four days.

Tahera Khandakar, Biman's deputy general manager (public relations), in a Whatsapp message said, "Biman Bangladesh Airlines is offering charter flights to domestic destinations for family trips at a cost between Tk three lakh and Tk five lakh depending on the distance and five hours ground time. For extra time, extra charges are applicable."

This is the first time in Biman's history that the national flag carrier offered chartered flights on domestic routes following frequent cancellations of flights on domestic routes, sources in Biman said.

Speaking to The Daily Star, a senior official of the airliner said a special chartered flight is a flight operated by an air operator on special demand for a certain destination, and this flight is not part of the airline's regular flight.

Tahera Khandakar told The Daily Star that any people will be able to charter Biman's aircraft for five hours for a short trip from Dhaka to any of the other seven airports in

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## Press freedom violations worrying

5 bodies criticise actions against journos in letter to Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The heads of five international and domestic organisations published an open letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, decrying her government's "repression of the freedom of press".

The letter was signed by the chiefs

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### CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

## Lockdowns, curfews in LatAm

Brazil, Mexico see record deaths; life in Europe slowly returning to normal

AGENCIES

Brazil and Mexico reported record daily coronavirus death tolls as governments in Latin America battled to fortify their defences against the pandemic with fresh lockdown orders and curfews.

In Europe where countries have been emerging from lockdowns, the European Central Bank was expected to beef up its plans to help virus-battered economies and Britain was hosting a summit to raise funds for a global vaccine alliance.

But as European countries moved to reopen their borders, South and Central America cemented

their places as the new hotspots in the pandemic, while Iran -- the hardest-hit country in the Middle East -- announced a surge in infections.

Mexico on Wednesday announced more than 1,000 coronavirus deaths in a day for the first time, while Brazil, the region's worst-hit country, reported a record 1,349 daily deaths.

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has staunchly opposed lockdowns but many local authorities have defied him and, with the crisis deepening, a vast section of Bahia state was placed under curfew.

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

## 8 foreign ministry officials suspended



Bangabandhu speaking at the reception programme organised in the honour of British MP John Stonehouse on June 4, 1972.

June 5, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU VISITS EMERGENCY CONTROL ROOM

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today visits the emergency control room established to monitor food prices and distribution of food aid across the country. He enquires about the food situation of the country and checks the price list of various essential commodities.

**CLEANSING OPERATION BEGINS**

The government has suspended eight officials of the foreign ministry, including an ambassador and a minister (diplomatic). These officials actively participated in anti-Bangladeshi propaganda during the Liberation War. Bangabandhu today signs their

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## Runaway bus runs over 2 at Bangla Motor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people, including a policeman, were killed and four others were injured in two road accidents in the capital's Bangla Motor area and Narayanganj yesterday.

In Bangla Motor, two pedestrians were killed and a motorcyclist was injured when a bus of Bihanga Paribahan hit them around 11:30am, said sub-inspector Aminul Islam of Shabbagh Police Station.

The deceased were Maksudur Rahman, 42, a private job holder, and Belayet, 52, a small trader.

The injured, Jakir Hossain, 45, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police seized the bus and detained its driver Zafor

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### PRAYER TIMING JUNE 5

|             |       |      |         |      |
|-------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Fazr        | Juma  | Asr  | Maghrib | Esha |
| AZAN 4-05   | 12-15 | 5-00 | 6-45    | 8-15 |
| JAMAAT 4-40 | 1-15  | 5-15 | 6-50    | 8-45 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A pair of Indian Spot-Billed Duck was recently found floating around in the Jamuna near Kazlar Char area of Bogura's Sariakandi upazila.




PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUZ

## United Hospital sued over May 27 fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A case has been filed against the United Hospital authorities and some staffers over the May 27 fire that killed five patients at the hospital's corona isolation unit.

Ronald Ricky Gomez, son-in-law of Vernon Anthony Paul, one of the five patients, filed the case with Gulshan Police Station on Wednesday night, said SM Kamruzzaman, officer-in-

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Few among us are able to transcend the gift of life on earth.  
Mrs. Niloufer Manzur is one such rare being.

Through her life's dedication, Sunbeams, Mrs. Niloufer Manzur enlightened and touched the hearts of generations of students, their guardians, teachers, colleagues, friends and family. Like a tree that provides shade to travelers, both new and old, she was a protector, a mother figure to many. Since her final journey, we have witnessed an unprecedented outpouring of emotions that speaks volumes to the testament of this remarkable person. At the same time, we must remember to celebrate her life and strive to emulate her ideals.

We pray to the Divine to give strength and comfort to Mrs. Niloufer Manzur's life-long partner Apex Chairman Mr. Syed Manzur Elahi, son Syed Nasim Manzur, daughter Munize Manzur, daughter-in-law Samia Huq and her six grandchildren.

We will remain ever-grateful for her contributions to education, to society, to nation building.

With the deepest respects.  
The Apex Family

Apex

