

8 foreign ministry officials

FROM PAGE 12
suspension letter. He says that this is part of the cleansing drive to free the government machinery of collaborators and it will continue. He declares that all the war criminals and their local collaborators will be brought to trial.

AUSTRALIA WILL LEAD BANGLADESH'S UN MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad informs today that Australia will initiate Bangladesh's membership proposal at the upcoming General Assembly meeting of the UN. Several countries including India, Malaysia, Nepal and Burma will support the Australian move, he adds.

DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND MALAYSIA

The governments of Bangladesh and Malaysia have agreed to exchange diplomatic representatives and

establish missions, informs Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad who is currently visiting Malaysia. Earlier, the Malaysian Prime Minister Tun Abdul Rajak assured that the country will support Bangladesh's candidacy in NAM. Bangladesh is planning to import rice, rubber and house building materials from Malaysia.

5 SUSPENDED IN JESSORE RAIL ACCIDENT

Bangladesh railway authority has suspended five railway employees in charge of gross negligence in the case of a tragic train accident in Jessore which left at least 50 people dead and over 400 others injured. The railway minister today visits the spot and asks about the rescue operation. He warns the government employees of severe punishment if they are found negligent in carrying out their duties properly.

SOURCES: June 6, 1972 issue of Purbodesh.

United Hospital sued over

FROM PAGE 12
charge of the police station.

Without mentioning any name, the plaintiff charged the hospital's chairman, chief executive officer, directors, doctors, nurses and other staffers with negligence and disregard in their duties, showed the First Information Report (FIR).

Police are looking into the allegations, the OC said, adding that none was arrested so far in the case.

Contacted, Dr Shagufta Anwar, director of communication and business development at United Hospital, said, "Our legal counsels are working on this."

In the case statement, Ronald alleged that the hospital authorities did not take any step to evacuate the patients from their isolation unit when it caught fire.

He also alleged that the door to the patients' room was locked. In fact, there was no fire extinguisher in

the makeshift isolation unit located outside the main building of the hospital or even at the security guard's room.

Ronald also mentioned that Vernon, who was suffering from a brain stroke and obtained a Covid-19 negative report, had to be admitted to the corona isolation unit on May 25.

The hospital authorities conducted a second test for coronavirus on him. The family came to know of the corona negative result orally around 4:00 pm on May 27. But doctors refused to shift him to the main building without a hard copy of the test result, he described in the statement.

Meanwhile, the fire in the isolation unit broke out around 9:30 pm and killed the five patients including Vernon.

The following day a four-member committee was formed by the Fire Service and Civil Defence authorities to investigate the fire.

Biman offers charter flights

FROM PAGE 12
Bangladesh -- Saidpur, Chattogram, Sylhet, Jashore, Rajshahi, Cox's Bazar and Barishal.

"After five hours, additional charges will have to be paid," she added.

Tahera said operating regular flights seems economically challenging due to a shortage of passengers.

"Due to this, we have decided to operate chartered flights instead of operating regular ones on the domestic routes, she added.

Biman was forced to cancel all its 46 flights between June 1 and June 4 due to a lack of passengers. The lack of passengers was because of the high prices of tickets, sources said.

Biman's flight on the Dhaka-Saidpur route took off on June 1 with only four passengers on board, while the return flight had 20 passengers, said Tahera.

The regular flight operations resumed on a limited scale on three domestic routes on June 1st, more than two months of suspension due to the coronavirus outbreak.

According to sources, the price difference between the national flag carrier and private operators was one of the main reasons behind the passenger shortage.

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

That is why people are opting for the two private operators, sources said.

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

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

"Our starting price is Tk 3,000 to Tk 3,200 while other air operator is offering Tk 2,000 to Tk 2,500. We will not operate our flights this way. So, instead of domestic flights, we are giving priority to chartered flights on international routes [along with domestic routes], which is profitable," he added.

Three PCR labs open for testing RMG workers

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday inaugurated its Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) labs, in collaboration with Diabetic Association of Bangladesh (BADAS), at Chandra, Tongi and Narayanganj to conduct Covid-19 tests garment workers.

The Chandra lab, one of these state-of-the-art labs, according to a statement from the BGMEA yesterday, was inaugurated yesterday via a zoom video conference, and can test 180 samples per day (to be increased later), said BGMEA.

"We hope that testing will make it possible to bring the workers back after proper treatment," said Zahid Maleque, Health and Family Welfare minister.

"Millions of workers are involved [in the garments sector] so it is our responsibility to protect them. We thank those who have established the lab," said Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi.

"In order to prevent Coronavirus, more and more samples need to be tested to identify the patients, determine their contacts, and provide proper service," said Atiqul Islam, mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation.

Prof Dr AK Azad Khan, president of BADAS said, "Garment workers will benefit from the establishment of the labs. They are as advanced as those of the developed world. Once the labs are ready, BGMEA will be able to provide services to all its workers."

Rubana Huq, BGMEA president said, "Workers are the most important thing to us, so we are working to create regular awareness among workers... We have taken a number of steps, such as ensuring the social distancing and taking full responsibility for the treatment of Covid-19 patients. We have ensured private hospitals and BIRDEM Hospital to provide beds for isolation needs," Huq also said.

So far, 264 garment workers have been infected with coronavirus.

Runaway

FROM PAGE 12
Mollah, the SI said.

In primary interrogation, the driver claimed that the accident took place when he tried to hit a roadside pillar to stop the bus as its brake failed.

Police said they would verify his claim.

In Narayanganj, a police constable died and three, including two other policemen, others were injured when an auto-rickshaw carrying them was hit by a truck in Sonargaon upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased was Abdul Hannan, 55, a constable of Taltola Investigation Centre.

The injured -- assistant sub-inspector Mizan, constable Humayun and auto driver Waliullah -- were admitted to a local hospital, said Inspector Ahsan Ullah, in-charge of the investigation centre.

Lockdowns

FROM PAGE 12
In Chile, the government said it was extending a three-week shutdown of the capital Santiago after a new record for daily deaths.

And in Peru, the second worst-hit country in Latin America, desperate residents were lining up to buy oxygen tanks for their loved ones.

"We haven't found oxygen yet," said Lady Savalla in the capital Lima. "I'm worried about my mom more than anything else, because she's going to need a lot of oxygen and the hospital doesn't have enough."

STRUGGLE TO RESTART ECONOMIES

Since emerging in China late last year, the new coronavirus has infected nearly 6.5 million people, killed more than 386,000 and wreaked havoc on the global economy as millions were forced into lockdown.

The virus was on the rise again in Iran, which reported 3,574 new infections yesterday, its highest daily toll since the outbreak began in February and the fourth straight day of a caseload over 3,000.

While hoping the worst of the health crisis has passed, Europe is struggling to restart its stalled economies without sparking a second wave of infections.

Governors of the European Central Bank were set to meet yesterday with analysts expecting them to boost the 750 billion euro (\$839 billion) Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme (PEPP) decided in March by a further 500 billion euros.

'Patience test' for govt jobseekers

FROM PAGE 12
secretaries who are mostly aged over 60, he said. The exam controller and other officials are also over 50. Since the BCS result is very sensitive, everyone's presence is needed, which is not possible during the pandemic.

"I would have been the happiest man if I could publish the results today. But we cannot do much because of coronavirus. I request the job seekers to understand the situation," the PSC chairman said.

Recruitment through BCS exams have always taken two to three years that include lengthy police verifications, health check-ups and issuance of gazette notifications.

The civil service recruitment process does not take this long in developed countries or even in South Asia countries including India.

Government jobs in Bangladesh have increasingly become more coveted for young graduates over the decade due to social security, handsome salary and transparent recruitment process. The 41st BCS appointment circular published in November last year saw 4.75 lakh candidates applying for the exams.

THE DELAYS OVER THE YEARS

In last 18 years, it took PSC two to three years to announce the final result of 16 BCS batches.

The 27th BCS took 39 months, the 28th took 27 months, the 29th took 26 months and the 30th took 20 months. It took 16 months for the 31st BCS, 14 months for the 32nd Special BCS and 20 months for the 33rd BCS.

An additional 8-10 months were needed for police verification and gazette notification.

It took PSC 30 months to publish the results of the 34th BCS.

PSC took the shortest time for publishing the 35th BCS, which was 18 months. The final results and gazettes of the 36th and 37th BCS also took nearly three years.

However, the 38th BCS has surpassed them all.

PSC Chairman Mohammad Sadiq said, "It has often been seen that many competent candidates get low marks. To avoid this in the 38th BCS, we decided for the first time to have two examiners evaluate the scripts. But in many cases, the marks of the two examiners varied so widely that we had to send it to a third examiner. As a result, it has taken a year to publish the written result. That was the main reason for the delay."

He also said that the viva voce started from July 29 last year and it took eight months to take the tests of 9,000 candidates.

HOW TO REFORM

The demand for government jobs is not so high in many developed countries. India's civil service is the oldest in South Asia. The country's civil service recruitment process takes about 12 to 15 months.

The Union Public Service Commission of India conducts the Central Civil Service Examination. They

cartoonist Ahmed Kabir Kishore. It

said, "His only act of 'terrorism' was to have published a series of cartoons of politicians entitled 'Life in the Time of Corona.' He is still detained and is facing a possible life sentence."

The statement noted that there has been a rise in prosecution of journalists under the Digital Security Act, and that "most of the journalists being prosecuted under this law simply reported information that annoyed local politicians."

"Since the start of the lockdown in your country, at least 13 journalists have also been the targets of violence, which in some cases caused serious injuries," it added, stating that a majority of them were "subjected to outburst of similar violence for investigating cases of corruption

take the preliminary examination in June of each year and publish the results in August. Then the written test in October and the results are published in January. The final results of the viva are published in May. Those who are finally selected go for the foundation training which starts from September.

Ikram Ahmed, the immediate past PSC chairman, said, "During my tenure I have had the opportunity to see how public service commissions of various countries in South Asia operate. Things here are very complicated. In fact, it takes the longest time in our country because of advertisements, applications, preparing questions, moderation and then waiting for the government press to publish it. After the exam, again you will have to wait for the evaluation. If a single examiner is late in submission, the whole result is delayed."

Asked what could be the possible solution, Ikram said that the PSC could call the examiners in the commission and request them to evaluate the papers in their office.

"If necessary, their transportation costs and honorarium can be increased. Then like India, there should be a system of 'deducting marks' in both preliminaries and written tests. This will help reduce the number of candidates. I think we should not take more than one year for this," he added.

Former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder said, "Youth is the most important time in life. But a considerable time of the educated youth is spent just for the BCS exams which is not the case in any other countries. Even after the final results, another seven-eight months are wasted in the name of police verification. It is unnecessary."

Citing the recent appointment of an additional 2,000 doctors from the 39th BCS, the gazette of which was published in November last year, without police verification, he said, "That means it is possible and it is the practice in India. ICS, CSP did not take such a long time. I think it is still possible to solve the problems. And for that we need some reforms"

Asked what the PSC was thinking about reforming to reduce time, current Chairman Mohammad Sadiq said, "I have overcome a few challenges. There was not a single incident of question leak in the last five years. Transparency has been established and more candidates are coming than ever before.

"In Bangladesh, we work with 26 types of cadre appointment while in India its Central Service Commission works with only general cadres. We have general, technical and mixed cadres. Only in the education cadre, we have to take exams on nearly fifty subjects. As a result, it takes more time. To reduce time, we need to think about whether there will be so many cadres in the civil service, and if so, how to recruit them and what reform we really need is our future challenge."

[The writer is head of migration programme at Brac]

Press freedom violations

FROM PAGE 12
of Reporters without Borders (RSF), Cartoonists Rights Network International (CRNI), Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), Forum for Freedom of Expression, Bangladesh (FExB), a collective of organisations advocating freedom of expression, and Cartooning for Peace (CFP), an international network founded by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

"Your country has fallen five places in the World Press Freedom Index compiled by Reporters Without Borders (RSF)," the letter began, "and, given the disturbing number of press freedom violations in recent weeks, we fear that your country could fall even further next year."

The letter criticised the arrest of

cartoonist Ahmed Kabir Kishore. It said, "His only act of 'terrorism' was to have published a series of cartoons of politicians entitled 'Life in the Time of Corona.' He is still detained and is facing a possible life sentence."

The statement noted that there has been a rise in prosecution of journalists under the Digital Security Act, and that "most of the journalists being prosecuted under this law simply reported information that annoyed local politicians."

"Since the start of the lockdown in your country, at least 13 journalists have also been the targets of violence, which in some cases caused serious injuries," it added, stating that a majority of them were "subjected to outburst of similar violence for investigating cases of corruption

among district officials responsible for distributing humanitarian supplies."

The letter also urged the PM to make sure that the physical attacks against reporters do not go unpunished.

"Reform your press freedom legislation so that it complies with the undertakings your government has given to international bodies including the UN Human Rights Council on 14 May 2018. To this end, you should amend the Digital Security Act and draft a law on protecting journalists," the statement said.

The letter was signed by Terry Anderson, executive director of CRNI, Christophe Deloire, secretary-general of RSF, Dr Syeda Aireen Jaman, chairwoman of FExB, Zahurul Islam Khan, chairman of ASK and Patrick Lamassoure, president of CFP.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার					
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ					
অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়					
১০ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন					
বরিশাল					
উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি					
"The Public Procurement Act-2006 & Regulation-2006" এর অধীনে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিধি মোতাবেক ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ সালের ১০ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, বরিশাল জেলার ১০০ নং পুলিশ স্টেশনের নিম্নলিখিত প্রকল্পে প্রকৃত ব্যয়বাহী হিসাবাবলী প্রক্রিয়াকরণের উদ্দেশ্যে নিম্নলিখিত প্রকল্পের মাধ্যমে (কাজের মাধ্যমে) উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হয়েছিল।					
০১।	উপকরণ/সেবা	১	১০ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, বরিশাল।		
০২।	সেবা	১	১০ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, বরিশাল।		
০৩।	দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত নথি	১	অধিনায়ক (পুলিশ সুপার), ১০ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, বরিশাল।		
০৪।	সেবার সূত্রের সূত্র	১	১০ আর্মড পুলিশ ব্যাটালিয়ন, বরিশাল।		
০৫।	দরপত্রের বিধি	১	অধিনায়ক ১০-১৬ এ বর্ণিত প্রকল্প অধিনায়ক অনুযায়ী।		
০৬।	দরপত্রের সূত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ	১	০১/১০/২০২০/১০০১৬ তারিখ ০১/১০/২০২০।		
০৭।	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	১	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি।		
০৮।	অন্য বিধি	১	পুলিশ প্রকল্পের অধীনে বিধি এবং প্রকল্পের অধীনে বিধি।		
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২৫।	দরপত্র প্রাপ্ত প্রকল্পের বর্ণনা ও সময়	১	০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা এবং তারিখ ০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।		
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২৭।	দরপত্র প্রাপ্ত প্রকল্পের বর্ণনা ও সময়	১	০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা এবং তারিখ ০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।		
২৮।	দরপত্র প্রাপ্ত প্রকল্পের বর্ণনা ও সময়	১	০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা এবং তারিখ ০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।		
২৯।	দরপত্র প্রাপ্ত প্রকল্পের বর্ণনা ও সময়	১	০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা এবং তারিখ ০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।		
৩০।	দরপত্র প্রাপ্ত প্রকল্পের বর্ণনা ও সময়	১	০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা এবং তারিখ ০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।		
৩১।	দরপত্র প্রাপ্ত প্রকল্পের বর্ণনা ও সময়	১	০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা এবং তারিখ ০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।		
৩২।	দরপত্র প্রাপ্ত প্রকল্পের বর্ণনা ও সময়	১	০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা এবং তারিখ ০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।		
৩৩।	দরপত্র প্রাপ্ত প্রকল্পের বর্ণনা ও সময়	১	০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা এবং তারিখ ০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।		
৩৪।	দরপত্র প্রাপ্ত প্রকল্পের বর্ণনা ও সময়	১	০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা এবং তারিখ ০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।		
৩৫।	দরপত্র প্রাপ্ত প্রকল্পের বর্ণনা ও সময়	১	০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা এবং তারিখ ০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।		
৩৬।	দরপত্র প্রাপ্ত প্রকল্পের বর্ণনা ও সময়	১	০১/১০/২০২০ তারিখ ১২:০০ ঘটিকা এবং তারিখ ০১/১০/২০২০ তারি		