

**FOUR PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES
STRUGGLING WITH
SEMESTER SYSTEM**
No timely exam results
SEE PAGE 12

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Your Right to Know

SHAWWAL 16, 1441 HURI

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**BANGLADESH
UPDATE**



2,735
New cases in 24hrs



68,504
Total cases



930
Deaths



14,507
Recoveries



**GLOBAL
UPDATE**



407,309
Deaths



7,142,021
Total cases

CRISIS OF OXYGEN CYLINDERS

Demand sky high, prices too

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

Faruk Mia came to Dhaka on Saturday, all the way from Narsingdi, to buy an oxygen cylinder for his 65-year-old ailing father as it could not be managed in his district.

He found that only one shop at the BMA medical equipment market in Topkhana still had a few in the stock. But the price was sky high.

"Now it's Tk 35,000. It was Tk 16,000 a week ago, and Tk 11,000 a few months back," a salesman of Alfa Surgical store told Faruk about 1,400-litre cylinders.

Faruk had Tk 18,000 in his pocket. He called home, asking for more money through mobile phone transaction but failed to arrange the amount, and went back without a cylinder.

On Friday, the family took his father, an asthma patient, to a government hospital in Narsingdi for Covid-19 test as his breathing problem had become severe.

This was when a doctor said, "No matter what the test result is, a cylinder must be

ready as a precaution."

Like Faruk, many are looking for oxygen cylinders desperately while most of the public hospitals across the country, including those dedicated for Covid-19 treatment, lack a central oxygen supply.

The hospitals without a central oxygen supply use cylinders, in many cases inter-connected large cylinders, as critical Covid-19 patients need oxygen supports.

Besides, a section of affluent people is reportedly buying cylinders just in case someone in the family tests coronavirus positive and suffers breathing problems. 'D E M A N D SKYROCKETING'

Visiting the BMA market on Saturday, these correspondents found customers being turned away as the cylinders were almost out of stock.

A salesman at Alfa Surgical said the demand for cylinder has been high for the last one month. But since the last week, the "demand is skyrocketing".

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



A farmer trying to salvage paddy in a field inundated by rainwater in Sheikh Para area of Rangpur Sadar upazila yesterday. Rain damaged boro paddy on vast swaths of land in and around the area causing losses to farmers.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

COVID-19 SITUATION

We're among 10 countries with surges

2,735 more infected, 42 die

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Ten countries of South Asia, Middle East and Latin America have seen a sharp rise in Covid-19 cases over the last couple of weeks, according to World Health Organization data.

Coincidentally, in the past few months, the trend of a rise in cases were almost similar in eight of those countries -- Bangladesh, India and Pakistan of South Asia; Brazil, Peru, Chile and Mexico of Latin America, and Qatar of Middle East.

The two other Middle Eastern Countries -- Saudi Arabia and Iran -- are experiencing a second wave of positive cases after a gap.

In Bangladesh, a total of 68,504 people has so far been officially recorded to be Covid-19 positive, while 2,735 patients were diagnosed over the last 24 hours, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The new patients were diagnosed after 12,944 samples were tested over the period.

Followed by Qatar, Bangladesh now ranks 20th among countries with huge numbers of Covid-19 cases.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

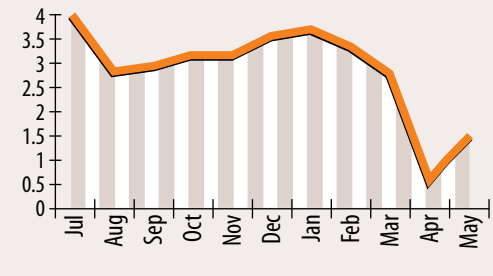
EAST RAJABAZAR TRIAL LOCKDOWN FROM MIDNIGHT

Exports' rally has begun

Experts see hope after 40-year-low in April

EXPORTS RECEIPTS SO FAR THIS FISCAL YEAR
(in \$b)

SOURCE: EPB



REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

A glimmer of hope just appeared for the bruised and battered economy: exports seem to be looking up.

After crashing to a 40-year-old low in April, export receipts almost trebled to \$1.46 billion last month, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau, which was released yesterday.

Although May's receipts are down 61.57 percent from a year earlier, it is still a decent figure seeing that much of the global economy were still in some state of an induced coma last month.

"So we can say that export will grow in the near future as the major importing countries are slowly opening up their economies," said Ahsan H Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute.

But the export receipts will not reach its previous place this year, he said. Last fiscal year, exports had brought home \$40.54 billion, emboldening the government to set a 12.23 percent higher target for this year.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

AL leader sued for importing subpar masks

Charges include forgery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) has filed a case against the owner of Elan Corporation for importing "substandard" KN-95 masks by showing "fake documents".

Aminul Islam Amin, deputy publicity affair secretary of ruling Awami League, is the owner of the company. He, however, claimed one of his friends "who imported the masks using his import license is liable for this".

In another case filed by Tejgaon Industrial Police under the Special Powers Act, Tazul Islam of Dhaka's Hazaribagh and his driver were also sued for importing substandard masks using Elan Corporation's licence.

"We [DGDA] filed a case with Banani Police Station on May 29 over submitting fake documents. Later, police also filed a case under the Special Powers Act," Md Ruhul Amin, director of the DGDA, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The DGDA brought allegations under sections 468, 471 and 198 of the penal code. Nur E Azam Mia, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station, said the drug

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BUDGET FOR HEALTH MINISTRY

No big rise for inefficiency

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The health ministry will not see a significant rise in allocation in the upcoming budget amid Covid-19 pandemic mainly due to its lack of capacity to utilise funds, say planning ministry officials.

The ministry has failed to complete one-third of the development projects under the Annual Development Programme (ADP) within the deadline, meaning those have to be approved afresh. Besides, many of the projects will require additional funds, they point out.

There have been expectations that the size of allocation and the number of projects in the health sector will go up significantly in the next fiscal year, as the country is facing an unprecedented challenge from coronavirus pandemic that has exposed the vulnerabilities of the healthcare system.

With Covid-19 infections on the rise, a lack of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds and a shortage of oxygen in most of the hospitals have become a matter of concern.

The government recently took two coronavirus-related projects involving Tk 2,492 crore funded by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. The projects, approved by the Ecne last week, have been included in the ADP for the next fiscal year.

Against this backdrop, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal is likely to allocate Tk 27,600 crore for the health ministry in the upcoming budget to be unveiled in parliament on June 11, said officials of finance and planning ministries.

This means the allocation for the ministry will increase by 7.25 percent from outgoing fiscal year's allocation of Tk 25,733 crore.

The allocation includes the health ministry's ADP budget of Tk 13,033 crore, which is 6.25 percent higher than that in the outgoing fiscal year.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Bangladesh asks Kuwait why its MP arrested

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has written to Kuwait seeking to know why lawmaker Mohammad Shahid Islam, also known as Kazi Papul, has been arrested.

"We have written to Kuwait's foreign ministry to learn the details of why Shahid Islam MP has been arrested," Bangladesh ambassador to Kuwait, SM Abul Kalam, told The Daily Star yesterday.

A source in Kuwait said the Gulf country's Criminal Investigation Department handed the independent MP from Luxmipur-2 to the general prosecution, which sent the arrestee to jail.

Asked if the government would take any step for Shahid's bail and provide him with legal support, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said any Bangladeshi arrested abroad would get consular services from the Bangladesh government.

"Getting consular services is their right,"

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Leaning on her mother's shoulder, cancer patient Nazneen Akhtar dozes off while waiting to be tested for Covid-19 at the capital's Mugda General Hospital around 6:00am yesterday. Nazneen is scheduled to have a chemotherapy at a cancer hospital in Mohakhali on Friday, but her doctor told her she must bring in the test reports that day. Nazneen managed to give sample for the test later in the day with help from some journalists.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Faridpur town AL gen secy held

His brother, a local journo, among 8 others arrested for attack on district unit president's house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police arrested nine people, including a ruling Awami League leader and a journalist, on Sunday night on charge of attacking the house of Faridpur AL president.

Sazzad Hossain Barkat, general secretary of Faridpur town unit AL, and his younger brother Imtiaz Hossain Rubel, president of Faridpur Press Club, are among the arrestees.

Rubel is also the editor of a local newspaper -- Dainik Bhorer Protasha.

Other arrestees are: Mahfuzur Rahman Mamun, a councillor of Faridpur municipality, Narayan Chakraborti, president of ward-16 unit AL, and AL activists Rezaul Karim, Yeasmin Sultana Borna Mandal, Enamul Islam Jony, Amio Sarkar, and Zahid Khan.

The nine were produced before a Faridpur court yesterday. The court placed Barkat, Rubel, Mamun, and Rezaul on a five-day remand each and sent the five others to jail.

Police claimed they recovered three pistols and 10 bullets from the possession of Barkat, Rubel, and Rezaul.

Two more pistols, two shotguns, 91 more bullets, 180 cartridges, six bottles of liquor, 65 yaba tablets, Tk 29 lakh, \$3,000, 98,000 Indian rupees, and five passports, were recovered from the houses of Barkat and Rubel. Besides, 1,200 sacks of government rice, each containing 50kg, were seized from the garage of their construction firm office, according to the law enforcers.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

India allows use of experimental drugs amid pandemic

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian health ministry has issued a draft notification allowing manufacture, import and “compassionate use” of any unapproved drug for severely-ill Covid-19 patients.

The drugs in the phase-III of clinical trials were allowed with an aim to facilitate the availability of experimental drugs.

The draft New Drugs and Clinical Trials (Amendment) Rules stipulate manufacture and import of unapproved drugs based on a prescription by a hospital or medical institution.

Several drugs across India are in phase-III clinical trials phase for Covid-19 and antiviral remdesivir was approved last week for use on severely infected patients.

India’s drug regulator granted US pharma giant Gilead Sciences marketing authorisation for the drug for “restricted emergency use” on hospitalised Covid-19 patients.

According to a gazette notification of the draft rules published on June 5, a hospital or medical institution may import new drug for “compassionate use for treatment of patients suffering from life-threatening disease or disease causing serious permanent disability or disease requiring therapy for unmet medical need” by applying to the Central Drug Regulator.

Also, if any hospital prescribes a new drug for the same purposes then they may be approved to be manufactured in a limited quantity subject to provisions of the rules.

The manufacturer intending to manufacture a new drug will have to obtain the consent in writing from the patient to whom the medicine has been prescribed or his legal heirs and make an application to the Ethics Committee of the hospital or medical institution for obtaining its specific recommendation for manufacture of such new drug, according to the draft rules.

After obtaining the recommendation of the Ethics Committee, the manufacturer will make an application to obtain the permission to the Central Licensing Authority for manufacturing the new drug for the purpose of compassionate use, the draft rules stated.

“The manufacturer to whom the permission is granted shall make use of the new drug only for the purposes specified in the permission and no part of it shall be sold in the market or supplied to any other person, agency, institution or place,” the rules stated.

The quantity of any new drug manufactured or imported on the basis of permission granted shall not exceed one hundred average dosage per patient, the draft rules stated.

AL leader sued

FROM PAGE 1
administration filed a case with the police station on May 29 and an investigation was ongoing.

According to the case statement, the Elan Corporation re-applied for a No Objection Certificate (NOC), attaching ISO 13458 certificate and Certificate of Analysis on May 19, and the DGDA issued the NOC on the same day.

Later, acting on a tip-off, the DGDA re-checked the documents and found some inconsistencies, according to the case statement.

“The mask producing company has issued the Free Sale Certificate by itself. In fact, drug regulatory authority [of the country in question] issues such certificate,” read the statement.

According to the rules, it is the duty of the DGDA to scrutinise the documents before issuing an NOC and the DGDA’s Ruhul Amin claimed they had issued the NOC “as per rules”.

The DGDA, however, issued the NOC on the same day that the application was submitted by Elan

Corporation, according to the case statement.

When asked whether the company submitted a sample of the mask with the application, Ruhul Amin said, “[They] submitted ...

“But this is a time of the coronavirus emergency. Certain officers of ours have done this. Call me during office hours to know details from them,” Ruhul Amin said when contacted around 7:00pm yesterday. “This is now not an issue for DGDA alone. Police is investigating it. Everything will come to light.”

Owner of Elan Corporation Aminul Islam said he had an agreement with Tazul Islam that the latter would use his license and be liable for any irregularities.

Asked whether the agreement has any legal ground, he replied, “It has no legal ground but sometimes we need to keep requests.”

A police official said the case is in the process of being transferred to the criminal investigation department.

We’re among 10 countries

FROM PAGE 1
Meanwhile, 42 people died from coronavirus over the last 24 hours, said Dr Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of the DGHS.

The death toll now stands at 930.

Among the dead, 33 were male and nine female, she said, adding that 25 were from Dhaka, eight from Chattogram, one from Sylhet, one from Rajshahi, two from Khulna, one from Rangpur, two from Barishal and two from Mymensingh division.

Of them, one was between 11-20 years old, three between 21-30, one between 31-40, seven between 41-50, 10 between 51-60, 12 between 61-70, four were between 71-80, two between 81-90 and two between 91-100 years old, Dr Nasima also said.

During this period, another 657 COVID-19 patients have recovered, taking the total number of recoveries to 14,507, she said.

According to a projection by the team of experts, comprising officials from University of Dhaka, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), and University of Toronto in Canada, the number may jump to 87,000 by the middle of this month and to 123,000 by the end of it.

Based on the current trend of the Covid-19 spread and epidemiological modelling, Shafiu Shimul, an associate professor of health economics at DU, who led the projection, said with the reopening of everything, the spread of the virus is likely to accelerate further.

Among the 10 countries, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan are the worst affected

Exports’ rally has begun

FROM PAGE 1
May’s receipts take the export earnings so far this fiscal year to about \$31 billion, down 18.88 per cent year-on-year. With just one month remaining of fiscal 2019-20, the export target will most definitely be missed by a country mile.

Garment, which typically brings home more than 84 per cent of the export earnings, fetched \$1.23 billion, again three times more than it had managed the previous month.

In May last year, apparel shipments raked in \$3.24 billion.

“Our observation is that the slowdown may persist until the end of the year in varying magnitude, depending on the post-pandemic global situation,” said Rubana Huq, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA).

At the time of writing, garment work orders worth \$3.15 billion were cancelled.

“It is a tough time for the industry,” she said, adding that a long hangover of the export disruption may have severe implication on the industry’s

financial ability to withstand and bounce back, so it deserves more attention of policymakers.

A big number of workers will lose their jobs because of the lack of work orders from international retailers, Mansur said, while calling for the formation of a central fund for the garment sector.

The fund can be used during the crisis for payment to workers so that they do not lose their jobs.

“The stimulus packages the government announced so far are loans and not the direct cash support for exporters,” he added.

The BGMEA chief sought policy support like an exchange rate premium of Tk 5 per US dollar (while document purchasing) on the local value retention, special treatment for exports to high-tariff markets, support research and development, trial production for new products while opting for sector diversification.

Urgent policy reforms are needed for workers’ housing and subsidising food expense. “So an unemployment fund can be launched,” she added.



People line up in front of the office of Biman Bangladesh Airlines in the capital's Motijheel yesterday to buy tickets to Italy. Many of them work in the European country and they came to Bangladesh before it was hit by the coronavirus outbreak. The Bangladesh embassy in Italy and Biman have arranged a special flight to Rome on Friday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Demand sky high, prices too

FROM PAGE 1
“Earlier, our supplier used to import cylinder through the sea port. As it is closed now, he is importing it by air from China. Due to the increased transportation cost, the price has gone up,” he said.

Siddiqur Rahman, a retail seller at Makkah Surgical Market, said they used to sell or rent out maximum 10 cylinders a month. “But now there is a demand for at least a hundred oxygen cylinders every day.”

The suppliers said they were unable to supply oxygen cylinders in bulk right now, he added.

According to the official website, supplier company Linde Bangladesh is selling an oxygen cylinder set at Tk 26,522. A 1,400-litre cylinder costs Tk 16,100, oxithrapy set Tk 8,970, face mask Tk 161, nasal cannula Tk 104, and trolley Tk 1,087, while oxygen refill charge is Tk 100.

A 1,400-litre cylinder can be used for 10-11 hours continuously at 2 litres per minute.

During this coronavirus outbreak, Linde has limited its sales with some restrictions, said a source from the company.

It decided that to get a cylinder set, one must bring a photocopy of National ID and recommendation of a doctor stating that the patient needs 24-hour oxygen support.

One customer will be able to buy only one cylinder. To get two cylinders or more, one must contact their territory officer of business head, according to an internal circular of Linde, formerly called Bangladesh Oxygen Company.

An official of Linde, wishing not to be named, said there is no dearth of oxygen gas but they are facing crisis of cylinders because of the high demand. And they also did not hike the cylinder prices.

In retail market, a Chinese cylinder now sells at Tk 26,500 while Linde’s cylinder costs Tk 30,000 to Tk 35,000. But Linde’s cylinder is mostly stock-out at retail market.

Mr Azam, a depot manager at Spectra Oxygen, another supplier, said there is a crisis now as many people are buying and stocking cylinders out of panic. “But we have recently imported cylinders. Hopefully, we will start meeting the demand.”

Sellers in the BMA market said of the customers, most are from private clinics and hospitals. Some people are also coming to keep cylinder at home.

Haji Md Rezaul Islam, president of Medical and Surgical Equipment Market at BMA Bhaban said, “As there is a huge demand for cylinder, some sellers are taking advantage of it.”

DEMAND AT HOSPITALS
Gobinda Acherjee, general secretary of Private Hospital Owners Association in Savar, said the demand for oxygen cylinder has risen five times in Savar and Ashulia.

Apart from those admitted in hospital, there are many patients staying in isolation at home. “Every day, we get calls over phone to get them oxygen cylinder service. But we fail to meet this demand.”

Masud Parvez, managing director of Regent Group, said they have two private hospitals in Mirpur and Uttara that are dedicated Covid-19 treatment and both have a central oxygen supply.

“Still we need cylinders to meet the huge demand as most Covid-19 patients need the oxygen,” he said.

“Earlier, we had 30 cylinders at Mirpur Regent Hospital. Now we kept 73 cylinders. Uttara Regent Hospital had 10 cylinders; now it has 30.”

According to Prof Dr Mujibur Rahman, head of Medicine department at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, said the demand of oxygen gas has increased at hospitals, giving an example of a ward at DMCH.

“Out of 80 Covid-19 patients admitted here, 60 needed oxygen support,” he said.

GOVT POSITION
DGHS Deputy Director (Hospital and Clinic) Younus Ali said there is crisis of cylinders. “The government procured a good number of cylinders to support the hospitals after the pandemic began in the country.”

Habibur Rahman Khan, additional secretary (admin) at Health Services Division of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, also chief of the ministry’s media cell, said the government is trying to import cylinders but the situation is difficult all over the world.

“Still the ministry is trying ... Let’s see, how many days it takes.”

He also said they requested the private companies to increase their oxygen production and cylinder import.

CALLS IN SOCIAL MEDIA
Meanwhile in social media, relatives of many Covid-19 patients or who have severe breathing problems, are seeking cylinders.

Volunteers of a Facebook group “Songjog: Connecting People” are requesting people to give them the unused or empty cylinders.

“We will refill the cylinder and deliver it to the people who need it at this time,” reads the Facebook post.

In another post, a volunteer of Bidyannondo Foundation yesterday wrote, “Can you lend us if you have an unused cylinder in your house? We will refund it within two months or if you need. We will pay the price if needed.”

RAJSHAHI
In Rajshahi city, the authorities of hospitals and clinics expressed worries that they would face a crisis of oxygen cylinders when the number of patients cross 200, reports our correspondent Anwar Ali.

The authorities said they have kept arrangements for oxygen supply ready as the situation has begun worsening this week. Nearly a dozen Covid-19 patients have got admitted to different hospitals.

Right now, Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) has 300 cylinders while each of 46 large private hospitals and clinics have a stock of at least a dozen.

“None of us invested in buying new cylinders; we just kept our existing cylinders refilled,” said Mokhlesur Rahman, general secretary of Rajshahi Private Hospital and Clinic Owners’ Association.

A new cylinder costs around Tk 16,000 while refilling costs less than Tk 200. Besides a depot of Bangladesh Oxygen Limited, there are offices of two private oxygen suppliers in the city.

The RMCH has an underground plant for supplying oxygen and they never ran out of the gas, said RMCH Deputy Director Dr Saiful Ferdous M Khairul Ataturk.

“Yet we have raised our stock of cylinders as those might be necessary for the three corona units set up outside the hospital.”

CHATTOGRAM
The dealers in Chattogram blamed it on the rich who are hoarding cylinders for a situation when a coronavirus case will found in their families, reported our correspondent Mostafa Yousuf.

Jamal Uddin, an oxygen dealer at Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) gate area, told The Daily Star yesterday that the rich people were buying oxygen cylinders in bulk.

Yesterday morning, he sold 50 cylinders but could not supply to those who came in the afternoon. However, oxygen cylinders and oximetre started to come in the market and hopefully the crisis will be eased from tomorrow (today), he added.

In mobile court drives in the day, two dealers in Sadarghat and CMCH areas were fined Tk 2 lakh for selling 6.8-cubic-metre cylinders at Tk 2,000 each. The maximum retail price of these cylinders is Tk 5,000.

SYLHET
Aminul Islam, a businessman in Amberkhana area, said, “I have breathing problems and as the crisis over cylinders is intensifying, I decided to buy one. I visited all stores in the city on Sunday.”

He found either the price was too high or there was no supply.

“Then I contacted a supplier. I am going to rent an industrial oxygen cylinder and buy a medical metre, the price of which also doubled these days.”

Harun Ahmed, proprietor of Central Surgical Store at Chowhatta, said, “The small cylinders, which used to sell at Tk 13,000 before, now costs Tk 26,000.

“Many people, who don’t need it right now, are buying the cylinders and the suppliers are struggling to meet the demand.”

Meanwhile, the authorities of Sylhet Saheed Shamsuddin Ahmed Hospital, which is dedicated for Covid-19 treatment, fear they could be in trouble soon because of the rising number of coronavirus patients, reports our Sylhet correspondent Dwoha Chowdhury.

“We have 131 large cylinders and 125 small one in stock. Our daily demand is around 80 to 90 large cylinders and it takes couple of days to send and receive cylinders refilled from Manikganj,” said Dr Sushanto Kumar Mahapatro, resident medical officer of the hospital.

“We need at least 500 large cylinders (6.8-litre capacity each) so we can avoid a crisis. Or, a refilling plant for liquid oxygen needed to be installed in Sylhet soon.”

THE RISK
Some suppliers, however, said the use of a oximetre could be helpful during this coronavirus pandemic. It can determine if a patient needs oxygen supply or not.

Attaching this small device to one’s finger will tell him his oxygen level in blood. It would be considered normal if a person’s oxygen level in blood is between 94 and 98 percent.

But the price of oximetre has also doubled -- the Chinese one used to sell at Tk 1,200; it is Tk 2,200. The Korean oximetre was priced Tk 2,500; it is now Tk 4,000.

Experts say there are some risks in using oxygen cylinders without the supervision of a health worker.

Prof Dr Mujibur Rahman of DMCH said many people are buying oxygen cylinders in panic. But they have to know how to use it. Otherwise, it may be harmful.

“If oxygen is pushed more than necessary, it may harm the patient’s lunge, even the patient may die.”

Besides, Oxygen has no smell, no colour; if the cylinder leaks, there is no way to understand. “If it leaks, it may cause or intensify fire. Because oxygen in the cylinder is a highly combustible substance,” he said.

Democrats take

a knee in US

Congress in George

Floyd tribute

AFP, Washington

Democrats knelt in silent tribute to George Floyd in the US Congress yesterday before unveiling a package of sweeping police reforms in response to the killing of African Americans by law enforcement.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer were joined by two dozen lawmakers in Congress’ Emancipation Hall -- named in honor of the slaves who helped erect the US Capitol in the 18th century.

They knelt for eight minutes and 46 seconds to mark the length of time a white police officer pinned his knee on the neck of the 46-year-old Floyd, whose death in Minneapolis May 25 unleashed mass protests against racial injustice.

Pelosi and the other senior Democratic leaders, accompanied by members of the Black Congressional Caucus, said their bill aimed to create “meaningful, structural change that safeguards every Americans’ right to safety and equal justice.”

The legislation seeks to “end police brutality, hold police accountable, improve transparency in policing,” a statement said.

The “Justice and Policing Act,” which introduced in both chambers of Congress, would make it easier to prosecute officers and rethink how they are recruited and trained.

East Rajabazar

trial lockdown

from midnight

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam yesterday said the city’s East Rajabazar area would be put under an “experimental” lockdown from midnight tonight.

“The decision was taken as the density of Covid-19 patients increased in this area,” he said at an online meeting of Covid-19 prevention committee.

The meeting decided to set up a control room at Naznin School and College in East Rajabazar with assistance from DNCC ward councilor and representatives from Directorate General of Health Services, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, A2i, E-commerce of Bangladesh (E-Cab) and others concerned.

Only one entrance and exit at Green Road beside IBA Hostel will be open while movement of all kinds of vehicles will be suspended in the area.

People living in East Rajabazar will not be permitted to go out and none from outside can enter the area as well.

Faridpur town

FROM PAGE 1
Md Alimuzzaman, superintendent of Faridpur police, yesterday shared the information with journalists at his office.

On May 16, the attack was made on the house of Faridpur AL President Subal Saha at Goolchamat in the district town.

But the reason behind the attack could not be known immediately.

Two days later, Subal filed a case against unidentified persons.

After investigation, police arrested the nine for their alleged involvement in the incident, the SP said.

Besides, three cases were lodged against Barkat, Rubel, and Rezaul under the firearms, narcotics control, and special powers acts, said Moshed Alam, officer-in-charge of Faridpur Sadar Police Station.

Contacted, Khandakar Nazmul Hasan, president of Faridpur town unit AL, said, “I have heard of the incident. We will make decisions in this regard after discussing the issue with the central party leaders.”

Locals said Subal and Barkat were close to local lawmaker Khandaker Mosharaf Hossain, who is considered to be one of the key persons of AL politics in the district.

No big rise

FROM PAGE 1
According to the World Bank’s World Development Indicator 2019, Bangladesh has the lowest per capita public expenditure in the health sector among the South Asian countries. In India, per capita expenditure was \$15, while it was \$14 in Pakistan and \$6 in Bangladesh. The average South Asian per capita public expenditure was \$15.

Talking to The Daily Star, Shamsul Alam, senior secretary at the General Economics Division of the Planning Commission, said, “You cannot say the ADP allocation for the health ministry is low... Around 5 percent of the total ADP has been allocated for the ministry... There are 58 ministries and divisions.

“Implementation is more important than allocation. We do not see 100 percent utilisation of the allocated money. There is no dearth of funds... But they [the health ministry] need to increase the capacity for utilising funds and ensuring accountability to improve service.”

At least 22 out of 62 projects under the health ministry could not be implemented within the deadline, according to officials of planning and finance ministries.

They also mentioned that the pace of implementation of the ministry’s largest project -- Tk 36,000-crore Fourth Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Development Programme -- has been slow with the ministry failing to spend two-third of the money allocated since June 2017.

The project officials need to utilise the funds by June 2022 if they are to complete the project on time, they added.

According to the planning ministry’s Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division, till April this year, around 70 percent of the health ministry’s projects under the ADP were yet to be implemented.

Talking to this newspaper, economist Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman at the Power and Participation Research Centre, said, “The health ministry is a consistent poor performer in terms of ADP implementation. There are some issues like a lack of capacity and corruption.

“So it is understandable that the finance ministry is in doubt about increasing the health budget.”

In the absence of adequate allocation and proper utilisation of funds, the out of pocket expenditure (OOP) of people is very high in Bangladesh, mentioned Zillur.

A 2015 health ministry survey shows the OOP accounts for 67 percent of the total healthcare expenditure in Bangladesh. This means, if the healthcare cost is Tk 100, the government provides Tk 34 while the patient spends Tk 67.

The OOP in Bangladesh is the highest in South and Southeast Asia.

Professor Syed Abdul Hamid of the Institute of Health Economics at Dhaka University said, “Implementation of ADP is a problem for the health ministry. A lengthy process of preparing proposals for development projects, feasibility tests and tender are some of the key reasons for the delay in project implementation.”

“We also cannot rule out the scope for corruption,” he added.

Allocate funds for women-friendly infrastructure: MJF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) yesterday called for more allocation in the upcoming budget for women-friendly infrastructure.

The organisation also hoped that the issues of social safety of women and sharing of household chores will get prominence in this budget.

MJF said in a press statement, women have to bear the burden of additional household work during the pandemic as many families are staying home at all times. Violence against women also increased during this time, it said.

A working woman has to put an extra three hours behind household chores while their male counterparts spend less than one-and-a-half hours behind housework. On the other hand, women who don't work outside spend over six hours doing household chores.

The organisation said Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, at a policy dialogue organised by MJF this year, assured that he would raise the issue of giving recognition of women's household work through satellite accounts for this year's budget.

MJF thinks women's unrecognised work in the household and peripheral areas should be accounted for in the budget.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



The area surrounding Dhanmondi Hawkers' buzzes with crowds yesterday, posing a heavy risk of community transmission as people roam around the area, some of them without even wearing masks. It is inadvisable to touch your face amid a coronavirus outbreak, but many appear to be taking the health guidelines lightly since the shutdown was lifted.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'Covid-19 or not, no one will be refused treatment'

Pvt hospital owners in Sylhet pledge after patients died being turned away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Whether a patient is infected with Covid-19 or not, no hospital in Sylhet will refuse them treatment, said Private Hospital and Diagnostic Centre Owners Association yesterday.

The association came up with the decision after several people died in the city within the last couple of weeks after being turned away by hospitals. Dr Naseem Ahmed, president of the association, made the announcement at a press conference.

Stating that incidents of people being turned away were very unfortunate, the organisation also took three decisions in an emergency meeting on Sunday.

These decisions are: North East Medical College Hospital and Mount Adora Hospital (Akalia branch) will be dedicated for Covid-19 patients besides government hospitals; all private hospitals will provide primary treatment to suspected patients at isolation centres and will refer them to dedicated hospitals by arranging oxygen support; and as the cost of treatment at private hospitals is expensive, the association encourages Covid-19 patients to look for government hospitals.

The association also urged the government to promptly sign a contract with North East Medical College in this regard.

They said the hospital has already been given verbal permission by the health ministry and the patients' treatment cost should be covered by the government.

It also urged the government to offer incentives to doctors and nurses of private hospitals along with providing them with safety gears.

Since May 31 night, at least five persons have reportedly been turned away by private hospitals in Sylhet and died without treatment.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Magistrates can hold virtual remand prayer hearings: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Magistrates across the country can now virtually hold hearings on remand prayers of accused without physical presence in courts.

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared barriers and directed all magistrates to hold remand prayer hearings through videoconferencing with jail authorities.

Before hearing, the magistrate will send a virtual link to respective jail authorities responsible for the accused.

After connecting with jail authorities, the conducting magistrate will witness the accused virtually and hold a hearing, said a gazette notification issued yesterday.

Before the gazette, it was a mandatory provision of the Criminal Procedure Code that during remand prayer hearing, the accused must be produced before the court.

Following court closure, many remand prayers remained pending with different courts, as the accused could not be physically present.

For example, Rapid Action Battalion on

Riva Ganguly Das may be transferred

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das is likely to be shifted, a year and a half after appointment. She is likely to be given either new responsibilities in the Indian Ministry of External Affairs headquarters in South Block or given another diplomatic assignment outside India, sources said.

The Indian government, however, has not issued any formal announcement as yet.

The move has been in the offing since February but the Covid-19 pandemic put it in on hold, sources said.

Riva could be made secretary (east) but has to wait till Vijay Singh Thakur retires in September.

The strongest front-runner for succeeding Riva Ganguly Das in Dhaka as the high commissioner is India's current Ambassador to Afghanistan Vinay Kumar.

However, sources said they are not ruling out three other diplomats, including two who had earlier served as senior diplomats in Bangladesh, to be in the running to replace Riva as the new high commissioner of India to Bangladesh.



Allocation for WASH key to controlling Covid-19

Experts tell press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Allocating adequate budget to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector in the upcoming national budget should be a key priority to prevent and control Covid-19, said experts yesterday.

They made the remarks at a virtual press conference held by WaterAid, Unicef, PPRC, FANSA-BD, WSSCC, B, FSM Network, Sanitation and Water for All and WASH Alliance, says a press release.

Eminent economist Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, said the upcoming budget must prioritise hygiene as a critical area in the light of Covid-19 threat and the complexities of SDG-6 attainment.

Hasin Jahan, Country Director of WaterAid, also said investment in nationwide hygiene promotion and behaviour change campaigns must get priority in the budget to control Covid-19.

Other speakers also stated that the allocation of the budget shouldn't differ from urban infrastructure to rural areas, as everyone around the nation are at risk of contracting the coronavirus.

An analysis of PPRC revealed that the government has made commendable progress on WASH financing, as the allocation has demonstrated an upward trend from the budget of 2007-08 (Tk 25.63 billion) to 2019-20 (Tk 106.87 billion).

The analysis also shows geographical inequality of WASH allocation remains significant, where cities and towns received higher percentage of funding compared to rural, char, hilly, and coastal areas.

The press conference put forward recommendations including increase of immediate investment in WASH, including hygiene and WASH in healthcare facilities, with a particular focus on hard-to-reach areas and other marginalised groups.

Shahan Ara Begum passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Shahan Ara Begum, a freedom fighter, politician, cultural activist and a witness of the heinous August 15 killings, has passed away at the age of 72.

She breathed her last at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib University Hospital on Sunday night after a brain stroke, said family sources.

Shahan was the wife of Barishal-2 lawmaker Abul Hasanat Abdullah, and mother of Barishal City Corporation Mayor Serniabat Sadiq Abdullah.

Shahan Ara lost her son Sukanta Babu and four of her relatives on the fateful night of August 15, 1975, while she was living at her father-in-law Shaheed Abdur Rab Serniabat's Minto Road residence in Dhaka. She was also shot and injured.

Her first namaz-e-janaza was held at BSMMU on Sunday. She was buried with state honour at Barishal's Muslim Graveyard yesterday, following a second janaza.

She was a vice president of Barishal district Awami League. AL district and city units, Barishal City Corporation, and many other organisations expressed deep shock at the death.



Human traffickers will not be spared: Rab DG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion's Director General (DG) Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun warned that those involved in human trafficking and responsible behind the killing of 26 Bangladeshis in Libya will not be spared and appropriate legal action will be taken against them.

"What has happened in Libya is tragic. We have already arrested the mastermind behind it. We will not give concessions to anyone and our operation is still ongoing," said the DG.

He was speaking at the launching ceremony of an application for monitoring the elite force members' treatment at Rab's media centre in the capital Karwan Bazar yesterday.

At the programme, the Rab DG also provided financial assistance to four family members of journalists who died from Covid-19.

"We are conducting our usual operational activities. Members of the force are constantly working against narcotics, militancy and terrorism during the period," he said.

Regarding financial aid to journalists, Rab DG said, "We do not want anyone to lose their relatives in this way. We do not to do such ceremony and join in such program. We will meet in other events and we will stand by the journalists."

Regarding the operational update during the period of Covid-19, Lt Col Sarwar-Bin-Quasem, director of legal and media wing of Rab, said they have arrested around 2,000 people involved with narcotics trade and recovered narcotics worth around Tk 60-70 crore.

Besides, the elite force arrested around 26 people involved with spreading rumours, he said.

Addressing the programme, Rab Additional Director General (Operations) Colonel Tofail Mostafa Sarwar said, "We have tried to make a model for coronavirus treatment. We have taken some steps to reduce the pressure from hospitals of the country."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



BRINGING THE GREENERY HOME ... With thousands of Dhaka residents confined to their homes, gardening seems to have gained popularity as a pastime. This woman was seen roaming around Dhaka University campus on a rickshaw, looking for nurseries to pick the right samplings for her balcony. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Amid the sweltering heat and humidity that Dhaka has been undergoing, a splash of rain brings out the dancer in these two children. The photo was taken in front of BG Press in the capital's Tejgaon.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Drug price hike continues in Ctg

Authorities deny, customers complain

MOHAMMAD SUMAN, Ctg

Medicine traders are hiking price of pain and fever medicine and disinfectant items with the excuse of supply shortage amid the coronavirus pandemic in Chattogram city.

While visiting a large wholesale drug market in the city's Hazari Goli area, this correspondent found that drugs were being sold at double the usual price. This included cold medication, cough syrup, antibiotics, diabetes, heart medication, vitamin-C tablet, hand sanitiser and other items used to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Faisal Ahmed, who visits this market from Agrabad to buy medicine at cheaper prices, told The Daily Star, "It appears there is little change in prices here in comparison to the local pharmacy."

He said, "Even the price of paracetamol has doubled. I bought a strip of C-vit tablet for Tk 40 and a strip of Napa at Tk 30, almost double the usual prices."

Another customer Shorif Uddin said that he bought a strip of antibiotic azithromycin for Tk 650, which is much higher than its usual price of Tk 350-375.

He said "I also bought one litre of Savlon at Tk 490 although the maximum retail price was given Tk 225."

Traders said a supply shortage caused by a sudden rise in demand for some drugs was to blame for the price hikes.

Zishu Sarkar, owner of Sarkar Medico in Hazari Goli, said he had to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'MPO-enlisted schools should forgo tuition fee'

Petition seeks HC order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition has been filed with the High Court seeking it's directives on collection of monthly tuition fees by private educational institutions, which get the monthly pay order (MPO) facilities during coronavirus pandemic.

Two students of Ideal School and College in Dhaka jointly submitted the petition to the High Court recently, praying to the court to order the authorities concerned of the government to take necessary steps so that the schools, colleges and madrasas getting MPO facilities do not collect monthly tuition fees from the students amid the pandemic.

The High Court will hear on the petition today, petitioners' lawyer Advocate Saifur Rahman told The Daily Star.

He said guardians of most students have been facing financial crisis during the coronavirus outbreak. Many of them are out of work or unemployed, hence they cannot afford the monthly fees, he added.

Silence is ‘complicity’

Cross-race support grows for BLM movement

AFP, New York

As massive crowds take over streets across the United States in support of black lives, “white silence is violence” has become a recurring theme, a push to spread awareness that discrimination in a country built on racism extends far beyond police brutality.

The recent police killing of a black man, George Floyd, in Minneapolis and the protests it triggered have revived long-simmering criticisms over the historic complacency of white Americans towards the systemic racism undergirding their lifestyles.

Krista Knight, a playwright who protested this weekend in Manhattan, was among the many demonstrators wielding signs with slogans like “complicity” to indicate their solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. It’s the first time the white 36-year-old has marched for the cause, but staying home “is like sending the message that I don’t care.”

The Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement was founded in 2013 in response to the acquittal of the white man who shot dead Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old black youth, in Florida. Since then, it has grown rapidly worldwide. But it was often ignored by white Americans, who are statistically affected the least by such issues -- including police brutality, as well as housing, education and healthcare disparities.

According to Candace McCoy -- a criminologist at the City University of New York who has written on protest tactics -- “one of the major differences in these protests, compared to others in the past 30 years, is the significant percentage of white people protesting on behalf of equal rights for black people.”

The marches are attracting older generations as well. Some 49 percent of white Americans now say police are more likely to use excessive force against a black culprit -- nearly double the 25 percent who said so in 2016. And 78 percent of all Americans consider the anger triggered by George Floyd’s murder “fully” or “partially” justified.



People gather around a makeshift memorial in honor of the victims of police brutality, during a demonstration against racism, in Hollywood, California, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

India sends ‘man-eater’ tiger to ‘lifetime in jail’

A tiger blamed for killing three people will spend the rest of its life in captivity, Indian officials said Sunday, saying the big cat was “too dangerous” to be allowed to roam free. The five-year-old male predator, also blamed for attacking cattle, had embarked on a trek more than 500 kilometres (310 miles) long from western Maharashtra state to central India’s Betul district in Madhya Pradesh state in 2018. “We gave it several chances to re-wild but it habitually went into human habitations,” Madhya Pradesh’s chief wildlife warden, SK Mandal, told AFP. The tiger -- dubbed the “vagabond” or “nomad” by some local media -- was first trapped in December 2018 after its long journey and held in captivity for two months. The big cat was eventually fitted with a tracking collar and shuttled between a tiger reserve and a national park. Officials however said it repeatedly strayed and hunted near human settlements, attacking cattle and endangering humans. Finally the tiger was tranquilised and sent to a zoo in Madhya Pradesh capital’s Bhopal on Saturday.

US teen gifted scholarship, car for clearing protest sites



When Antonio Gwynn Jr. saw the damage from protests in his hometown of Buffalo, New York, he grabbed a broom, bought some trash bags and started cleaning the streets by himself. The 18-year-old high school senior started at 2 am on Monday and did not stop cleaning for the next 10 hours. When an organized group of neighbors arrived later that morning to start clearing the damage, they found that Gwynn had already done most of the work. When word spread of how Gwynn single-handedly took action, his community responded. Matt Block saw Gwynn’s story on the news and after he saw Gwynn ask for some car buying advice on Facebook, he decided to give him his prized 2004 red Mustang convertible. After high school, Gwynn had planned to go to trade school while saving up to go to college. Upon hearing Gwynn’s story, Medaille College in Buffalo offered him a full scholarship where he plans to study business starting this fall.

SOURCE: AFP, CNN

India reopens as cases soar

Epidemic may peak in July; 9,983 cases recorded in a day

AGENCIES

Malls and temples opened across India yesterday after a 10-week lockdown, despite a record daily rise in new cases and predictions that the epidemic will worsen for weeks to come.

The government has risked easing restrictions in a bid to ease the devastating blow to the economy dealt by the coronavirus.

But the number of new cases rose by 9,983 to 256,611, according to government figures announced yesterday, putting the country of 1.3 billion on course to quickly overtake Britain and Spain among nations with the highest number of infections.

The reported death toll of 7,135 is lower than other badly-hit countries, but India’s epidemic is only expected to peak in July. Many experts say the toll is higher.

In the capital, Delhi, shopping malls, restaurants, temples and mosques re-opened for the first time since March 25.

But highlighting the city’s reputation as one of India’s worst coronavirus hotspots, one day after announcing the reopening, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal went into isolation with virus symptoms including a fever.

Coronavirus pandemic

Delhi CM Kejriwal in isolation, to undergo Covid-19 test

Pakistan hospitals running out of beds as virus cases surge past 100,000



The Indian government says the tough lockdown has limited the spread of the coronavirus. But it is now braced for a major hit to the economy, with millions of labourers now jobless. Rating agencies have said the economy could contract by more than five percent this year, after average growth of about seven percent over the past decade.

Pakistan has recorded more than 100,000 cases of coronavirus, health authorities said yesterday, as hospitals warned they are running out of beds to treat patients.

In recent weeks the country of more than 210 million has reported a sharp rise in new infections, and the government said more than 100,000 cases and 2,000 deaths had now been recorded. Last week a leaked government report suggested there were nearly 700,000 infections in Lahore alone.

Doctors at several main hospitals in the historic eastern city told AFP they were running out of beds, ventilators and other vital equipment.

In Karachi, health centres are turning away the sick, with a large sign near the entrance of the Indus hospital stating there was no room for coronavirus patients.



A woman takes a selfie in a field of Lupinus-plants in a remote area on the island of Lolland in Denmark, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Protests in Kashmir after Indian forces kill 9 rebels

AGENCIES

Anti-India protests have continued for a second day yesterday in Indian-administered Kashmir after the Indian forces killed at least nine rebels in the disputed region.

The rebels, including three commanders, were killed in separate gunfights with the security forces in Shopian district, some 70km (43 miles) south of the capital, Srinagar. The fighting began on Sunday.

Four rebels were killed in the Pinjora area yesterday morning after the government forces set up a cordon and search operation when they received intelligence about the presence of the fighters, who either want Kashmir’s independence or a merger with Muslim-majority Pakistan.

Five other rebels were killed in a gunfight with the forces in Shopian district’s Reban area on Sunday afternoon. Police said three soldiers were wounded.

“Nine militants of the Hizbul Mujahideen outfit, including its three top commanders, have been neutralised in less than 24 hours,” state police chief Dilbagh Singh told reporters on Monday.

Singh said the Indian security forces have eliminated 22 rebels, including six top commanders, during the past two weeks. Police said 73 rebels have been killed in the Muslim-majority region this year.

In April alone, more than two dozen rebels and about a dozen Indian troops were

killed, the most in any month since August 2019, when India revoked the region’s semi-autonomous status and statehood, and imposed direct federal rule.

The latest killings sparked protests and clashes as hundreds of residents tried to march to the site of the battle. Chanting slogans demanding an end to India’s occupation of Kashmir, demonstrators threw stones at police and paramilitary soldiers, who fired shotgun pellets and tear gas.



No casualties were immediately reported in the clashes.

India has stepped up its operations across Kashmir in recent months, with almost daily fighting reported along the rugged and mountainous frontier that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan. Since 1989, the conflict has resulted in nearly 70,000 deaths, most of them civilians.

No students in school without virus vaccine

Says Philippines

AFP, Manila

Tens of millions of children in the Philippines will not be allowed back to school until a coronavirus vaccine is available, officials announced yesterday, saying they may have to broadcast lessons on TV.

Nations like France and South Korea began resuming face-to-face classes as they got their outbreaks under control, but Philippine authorities see the risk as too great. President Duterte said last month that even if students could not graduate, they needed to stay out of school to fight Covid-19.

Classes are to resume at the end of August and teachers will use distance learning methods via the internet or TV broadcasts, officials said. Millions live in deep poverty in the country and do not have access to computers at home, which is key to the viability of online classes.

‘Lockdowns averted 3.1m deaths’

REUTERS, London

Wide-scale lockdowns including shop and school closures have reduced COVID-19 transmission rates in Europe enough to control its spread and may have averted more than three million deaths, researchers said yesterday.

In a modelling study of lockdown impact in 11 nations, Imperial College London scientists said the draconian steps, imposed mostly in March, had “a substantial effect” and helped bring the infection’s reproductive rate below one by early May.

The reproduction rate, or R value, measures the average number of people that one infected person will pass the disease on to. An R value above 1 can lead to exponential growth.

The Imperial team estimated that by early May, between 12 and 15 million people in the 11 countries - Austria, Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland - had been infected with COVID-19.

By comparing the number of deaths counted with deaths predicted by their model if no lockdown measures had been introduced, they found some 3.1 million deaths were averted.

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নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষের রাজস্বভুক্ত পদে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তে জাতীয় বেতনস্কেল-২০১৫ অনুযায়ী জনবল নিয়োগের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

| ক্রমিক নং | পদের নাম ও বেতনস্কেল (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল, ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী) | পদ সংখ্যা | ব্যাসসীমা | শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা/অভিজ্ঞতা |
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| ০১. | এসিস্ট্যান্ট ভাইসেঞ্জার বেতনস্কেল: টাকা ২২,০০০ - ৫৩,০৬০ (গ্রেড-০৯) | ১১ | অনুর্ধ্ব-৩০ | কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে অনূদিত দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির সন্মানসহ দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী অথবা মাস্টার্স অব বিজনেস এডজিনিষ্ট্রেশন (এমবিএ) ডিগ্রী। |
| ০২. | এসিস্ট্যান্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (সিভিল) বেতনস্কেল: টাকা ২২,০০০ - ৫৩,০৬০ (গ্রেড-০৯) | ১৮ | অনুর্ধ্ব-৩০ | কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে সিভিল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এ অনূদিত দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির স্নাতক ডিগ্রী। |
| ০৩. | এসিস্ট্যান্ট ইঞ্জিনিয়ার (মেকানিক্যাল) বেতনস্কেল: টাকা ২২,০০০ - ৫৩,০৬০ (গ্রেড-০৯) | ০১ | অনুর্ধ্ব-৩০ | কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে মেকানিক্যাল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এ অনূদিত দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির স্নাতক ডিগ্রী। |
| ০৪. | এসিস্ট্যান্ট প্রোগ্রামার বেতনস্কেল: টাকা ২২,০০০ - ৫৩,০৬০ (গ্রেড-০৯) | ০৩ | অনুর্ধ্ব-৩০ | (ক) কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স/কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ ইলেকট্রিক্যাল এন্ড ইলেকট্রোনিজ ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/ ইনফরমেশন এন্ড কমিউনিকেশন টেকনোলজি সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে অনূদিত দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণি বা সমমানের স্নিগ্ধপিএলস্ন স্নাতক (সম্মান) বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি; এবং (খ) কমিশন কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত নিয়োগ পদ্ধতি অনুসরণপূর্বক গৃহীত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ। |

আবেদনের শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলী:

- ২৫ মার্চ ২০২০ তারিখে প্রার্থীর ব্যাসসীমা অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর হতে হবে। মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শ্রীষ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যা এবং শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধীদের ক্ষেত্রে ব্যাসসীমা অনুর্ধ্ব ৩২ বছর। তবে মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শ্রীষ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র-কন্যার পুত্র-কন্যার পুত্র-কন্যার ক্ষেত্রে ব্যাসসীমা অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর। ব্যাস প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে কোনো প্রকার এক্ষেপিত প্রমাণযোগ্য হবে না;
- সরকারি, আঙ্গারকারি ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকুরীকৃত প্রার্থীসমকে অবশ্যই স্বাধীন কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে;
- নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের প্রচলিত বিধিবিধান প্রতিলিপিত হবে;
- আবেদনকারী বাংলাদেশ সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষের ওয়েবসাইট www.bba.gov.bd তে প্রবেশ করে e-Recruitment menu-এর মাধ্যমে আগামী ০৯ জুন ২০২০ তারিখ সকাল ১০.০০ টা থেকে শুরুর হয়ে ০৯ জুলাই ২০২০ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ টা পর্যন্ত আবেদন করতে পারবেন;
- আবেদনপত্র প্রার্থীকে তার রশ্মিন ছবি (বৈধ) ৩০০ x ২ প্রস্থ ৩০০ pixel) এবং স্বাক্ষর (বৈধ) ৩০০ x ২ প্রস্থ ৮০ pixel) জ্ঞান করে নির্ধারিত স্থানে আপলোড করতে হবে। ছবি ও স্বাক্ষরের সাইজ সর্বোচ্চ ৫০ kb-এর মধ্যে হতে হবে;
- নির্ণয়কালে আবেদনপত্র Submit করার পর প্রার্থী ছবি ও স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত একটি Auto Generated Registration Card পাবেন। সফলভাবে আবেদন করার পর আবেদনকারীর মোবাইলে এসএমএস ও ইমেইলে (যদি দেয়া হয়ে থাকে) একটি User ID ও Password প্রেরণ করা হবে। উক্ত রেজিস্ট্রেশন করে কি পরিবেশের নির্দেশনা দেয়া থাকবে। রেজিস্ট্রেশন কার্ডটি প্রিন্ট করে সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে;
- প্রার্থীকে সফলভাবে আবেদনপত্র Submit করার ৭২ (ষাটঘণ্টা) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে বিকাশের (bKash) মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ (অফেরতযোগ্য) প্রতিটি পদের জন্য ৭০০.০০ টাকা এবং অনলাইন ফি বাবদ ১২০.০০ টাকাসহ সর্বমোট ৭২০.০০ (সাতশত বারো) পরিবেশ করতে হবে। ৭২ (ষাটঘণ্টা) ঘণ্টার মধ্যে ফি পরিবেশে ব্যর্থ হলে আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে;
- User ID ও Password দিয়ে প্রার্থী নিজস্ব তথ্য উক্ত ওয়েবসাইট লিঙ্ক হতে পুনরুদ্ধার করতে পারবেন;
- বিকাশের মাধ্যমে টাকা জমাদানের প্রক্রিয়া:
১ম ধাপ: আবেদনের ওয়েবসাইটের লগইন অপশন 'Applicant Login' বাটনে ক্লিক করুন;
২য় ধাপ: User ID ও Password প্রদান করে Applicant Dashboard-এ প্রবেশ করুন;
৩য় ধাপ: 'Payment Information/Download Admit Card' স্ক্রেনে ক্লিক করুন;
৪র্থ ধাপ: 'Pay With bKash' লিংক-এ ক্লিক করার পর একটি পপআপ উইন্ডো আসবে। পপআপ উইন্ডো এর 'Your bKash Account number' টেক্সটবক্সে যে বিকাশ একাউন্ট থেকে ফি পরিবেশ করা হবে সেটি প্রদান করুন;
৫ম ধাপ: বিকাশ একাউন্ট প্রদান করার পর 'CONFIRM' বাটনে এ ক্লিক করুন;
৬ম ধাপ: বিকাশ থেকে একটি গোপন 'Verification Code' প্রদানকৃত বিকাশ একাউন্টের নম্বরে এসএমএস প্রেরণ করা হবে। 'Verification Code'টি প্রদান করে 'CONFIRM' বাটনে এ ক্লিক করুন;
৭ম ধাপ: বিকাশ একাউন্টের PIN নম্বরটি প্রদান করে 'CONFIRM' এ বাটনে ক্লিক করুন;
৮ম ধাপ: সফলভাবে ফি পরিবেশ হয়ে গেলে 'Transaction Successful Your Payment has been successfully completed...' মেসেজ দেখাবে এবং আবেদনকারী প্রবেশপত্র ডাউনলোড ও প্রিন্ট করে সংরক্ষণ করবেন;
- বাংলাদেশ সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষের Website এবং প্রার্থীর মোবাইল (Mobile) কোনো SMS এর মাধ্যমে (শুরু যোগ্য প্রার্থীদেরকে) পরীক্ষার তারিখ, স্থান ও সময় জানিয়ে দেয়া হবে;
- প্রার্থীর যোগ্যতা যাচাই:
ক. প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত কোনো তথ্য বা দাখিলকৃত কাগজপত্র জাল, মিথ্যা বা ভুল প্রমাণিত হলে কিংবা পরীক্ষায় নকল বা অসদুপায় অবলম্বন করলে, সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রার্থীর প্রার্থিতা বাতিল করা হবে এবং জরি বিবৃতি বর্ধায়ক আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। যৌথিক পরীক্ষার সময় সকল প্রকার সন্দের মূলতপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে এবং সনদসমূহের যত্নবাহিত জমা দিতে হবে। ভুল তথ্য/জাল কাগজপত্র প্রদর্শিত হলে পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ যে কোনো প্রার্থীর আবেদন বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে;
- খ. জেলার স্থায়ী বাসিন্দা বাংলাদেশের নাগরিকের প্রমাণের সনদ হিসাবে সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/পৌরসভা/সিটি করপোরেশন প্রদত্ত সনদ দাখিল করতে হবে;
- গ. যদি কোনো প্রার্থী বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক না হন কিংবা বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক নন এমন কোনো ব্যক্তিকে বিবেচনা করেন বা করার জন্য প্রস্তুতিবদ্ধ হন কিংবা কোনো যৌথিকতার অঙ্গস্বত্ব কর্তৃক সৈনিক স্বল্পকালীন অধিবেশে বন্ধিত হন কিংবা কোনো সরকার বা স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠান বা স্থানীয় কর্তৃপক্ষের চাকরি হতে বর্ধায়ক হয়ে থাকেন এবং উক্তবৃদ্ধ বর্ধায়কের পর দুই বছর অতিক্রান্ত না হয়ে থাকে, তবে তিনি আবেদন করার জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবেন না;
১২. লিখিত ও যৌথিক পরীক্ষার অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোনো প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না;
১৩. কর্তৃপক্ষ পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস/পূর্বাভাসিত করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে;
১৪. নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের বেতন-ভাতা ও অন্যান্য সুযোগ-সুবিধা কর্তৃপক্ষের কর্মচারী চাকুরী প্রবিধানমালা ১৯৮৬ দ্বারা নিয়ন্ত্রিত হবে;
১৫. নিয়োগ পরীক্ষা ও নিবন্ধন সংক্রান্ত যে কোনো বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে; এবং
১৬. বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাংলাদেশ সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষের Web Site: www.bba.gov.bd-এ পাওয়া যাবে। এই নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি সম্পর্কিত কোনো সংশোধন, সংযোজন (যদি থাকে) বাংলাদেশ সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষের এর নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।

GD-963

(স্বাক্ষর)
তারিখ: ০৮/০৬/২০২০
উপপরিচালক (প্রশাসন)

LAW OPINION

CELEBRATING NATURE

The legal framework on biodiversity conservation

MOHAMMAD GOLAM SARWAR

THE ongoing Covid-19 pandemic reminds us the fact that if we destroy biodiversity, we actually collapse the system that supports human life to exist. The significance of biodiversity to ensure human well-being and to achieve sustainable development is undeniable. The UN Human Rights Council, in its 34th session, underscored that the full enjoyment of human rights depends on biodiversity, and the degradation and loss of biodiversity undermines the ability of human beings to enjoy their rights. The role of biodiversity conservation is highlighted with utmost importance in numerous goals and targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The international legal framework relating to the conservation of biological diversity is comprised of various international treaties and conventions. The 1973 Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are the two fundamental conventions that deal with the sustainable management of biological resources including fauna and flora. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety being a supplementary agreement to the CBD is an international treaty that seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology. In addition, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals 1979 aims to protect the species of wild animals that migrate across or outside of national boundaries.

The CITES identifies the people and States as best protectors of their own wild fauna and flora. It reflects the significance of international cooperation which is essential for the protection of certain species of wild fauna and flora against over-exploitation through international trade. The CBD pledges to ensure conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources. It identifies conservation of biological diversity as an integral part of the sustainable development including the social, economic and environmental aspects of development. The CBD asserts couple



of established principles of international environmental law including the principle of responsibility for transboundary harm, precautionary principle and principle of international cooperation which have significant bearing on the making of environmental laws at the domestic level. The Convention also imposes responsibility on the State Parties to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and to integrate biodiversity considerations into all activities. Bangladesh has signed and ratified all the major international treaties, conventions and agreements in relation to biodiversity including the CBC. The Constitution of Bangladesh explicitly mandates to protect and improve the environment and to preserve and safeguard the natural resources, biodiversity, wetlands, forests and wildlife for the present and future citizens (Article 18A). In line with the spirit of the Constitution, the Government of Bangladesh enacted a comprehensive law titled as the Bangladesh Biodiversity Act 2017. While complying with the international instruments relating to biodiversity, this piece of legislation expressly refers to the CBD in its preamble. With the same tuning of the

CBD, the Act of 2017 pledges for protection of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits accrued from biological resources. The Act underscores the importance of protecting traditional knowledge on biological resources. It also makes the adverse activities on biodiversity as punishable offence with imprisonment up to five years or fine up to ten lakh taka or both. The biodiversity law refers to establish biodiversity management committees in country's all City Corporations, Districts, Upazilas, Municipalities and Unions. The Committees are mandated to assist the Government in implementing the objectives of the Act. The Act asserts to formulate a 'Biodiversity Conservation Fund' for the conservation and management of Biodiversity Heritage Sites. The Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act 2012 is another significant law that aims for the conservation and safety of biodiversity, forest and wildlife of the country. Under this law, a "Wildlife Advisory Board" shall be established which will assess the existing condition and give direction from time to time in relation to development and management of biodiversity, wildlife and forest. According to the Act, the Government is authorised to declare any

area as sanctuary, community conservation area, safari park, eco-park, botanical garden, wildlife reproduction centre, landscape zone, buffer zone, core zone in relation to wildlife and plant preservation, protection and their smooth growth. The Government can also declare any government land, land or trees under private ownership or reserved forest, khas land, wetland, river, sea, canal, or pond used for special purpose as special biodiversity conservation area. The law while reflecting indigenous perception of environment has introduced co-management system for proper utilisation, conservation and management of natural resources of the sanctuary involving forest department and minor ethnic-community living in the forests. The Brick Manufacturing and Brick Kilns Establishment (Control) Act 2013, while imposing restrictive measures to control brick manufacturing and brick kiln establishment, pledges for the conservation and development of environment and biodiversity. The Act of 2013 strictly prohibits the use of wood as fuel

Natural Wetland Conservation Act 2000 contains provisions for the protection of the play-ground, open space, park and natural wetland in all mega cities, divisional towns and district town's municipal areas including country's all the municipal areas. The law imposes conditions to take approval from the concerned authority while altering the nature of the abovementioned places which may cause ecological imbalance. The Environment Conservation Act 1995, being the core law for conservation of environment, was amended in 2010 to broaden its horizon to protect wetlands, Ecologically Critical Areas and to prevent hill cutting that causes massive adverse effects on biodiversity. To comply with Article 6 of the CBD, Bangladesh has formulated couple of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) out of which the latest action plan was adopted for a period of 2016-2021. The Bangladesh National Conservation Strategy (2016-2031) has also reiterated the importance of making people aware of the value of biodiversity and asserted to integrate the benefits of biodiversity in the development process and planning based on knowledge, science and technology. The legal framework for conservation of biodiversity while complying with international standards reflects the paramount commitment of Bangladesh. However, there exist challenges to implement the legislative framework for biodiversity conservation and consequently the protection of environment is being threatened. Legislative framework alone cannot protect biodiversity unless we change our actions considering the values of biodiversity. This year, the theme of World Environment Day 2020 is 'biodiversity' – a concern that is both urgent and existential. The theme refers to restore the harmonious relationship between humans and nature while abating the delicate balance between human demands and ability of the nature. It is submitted that the effective implementation of the legislative framework on conservation of biodiversity accompanied with public awareness of nature can execute the 2050 Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature.

THE WRITER TEACHES ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AT THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA.

RIGHTS ADVOCACY

Children's right to environmental protection

FARZANA RIFAT SIDDIQUE

RIGHT to safe environment is a prerequisite to ensure right to life as it is closely related with the standard of life, health and overall development of a human being. Environmental damage adversely affects all, specially children's lives today and in the future. Failure to protect the natural environment also leads to violations of children's human rights which may threaten their rights to health, food, water, sanitation, education, culture, recreation, etc.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1989 sets out civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the children including the principles of non-discrimination, the right to life, survival and development, best interests of the child, etc. While pointing out the impacts of environmental degradation on children's lives, the CRC states that environmental pollution poses 'dangers and risks' to nutritious foods and clean drinking water for children.

Environmental hazards have been recognised as the barriers towards the right to health and other rights through numerous reports of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The whole population is affected by environmental regulations, however, the Committee affirms that a greater level of protection and detailed procedures should be maintained in the decision making process as it may have a major impact on children and their best interests should also be ensured.

Children are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of environmental degradation, due to their evolving physical and mental development. Their organs and their immune systems are still developing and they absorb more pollutants than adults because of their smaller body weights. They need more food and water per unit of body weight because of the immaturity of the blood-brain barrier and nervous system and for having a different rate of organ systems growth. If a child is exposed to environmental pollutants during a period of potential growth and development, this may put the child at a greater risk of developing future diseases.

In three ways the term environment can be applied in relation to children's rights. Firstly, the living conditions – housing, and community spaces of children which should ensure a decent standard of living, shelter, recreation, health, etc. Secondly, the natural environment – which includes plants, animals and people. Lastly, children's access to natural resources as they need nutritious foods and clean drinking water to combat disease and malnutrition.



Therefore, it can be easily understood that some children are extremely vulnerable to the harmful environmental effects, including girls, children with disabilities, poor children, and children belonging to the minority groups or marginalised communities. They live at a higher risk than others and this ultimately raises the question of environmental injustice.

States have general obligations to respect and ensure rights under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in order to completely secure of the rights recognised in the CRC. Bangladesh completed accession of the CRC on August 3, 1990 and it was ratified by the Parliament later on September 2, 1991 with reservations on Articles 21 and 14(1). These two provisions deal with the adoption of children and children's rights for freedom of thought, conscience and religion, respectively.

Article 18A of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh asserts State's responsibility to protect and improve the environment and to preserve and safeguard the natural resources, biodiversity, wetlands, forests and wild life for the present and future citizens. Some constitutions, however, empower independent offices for monitoring human rights violations. For instance, Article 34 of El Salvador's Constitution specifically guarantees State's protection to ensure children's right to live in familial and safe environmental conditions. Also, Namibia's Constitution specifies the need to investigate problems related to environmental damage and authorises the Ombudsman for this purpose.

The issues regarding children's access to sustainable nature and their protection from multiple factors of vulnerability should be crucially addressed to avoid environmental injustices. Legislators and policy makers should pay specific attention to safeguard the children from environmental health risks, through effectively enforced environmental policies, planning, investigation, monitoring and research, etc. Additionally, non-government organisations, child development experts, civil societies and others dealing with child health and environmental issues should take steps and coordinate with each other to act towards a sustainable, safe and healthy environment for children.

THE WRITER IS AN APPRENTICE LAWYER AT DHAKA JUDGE COURT.

LAW VISION

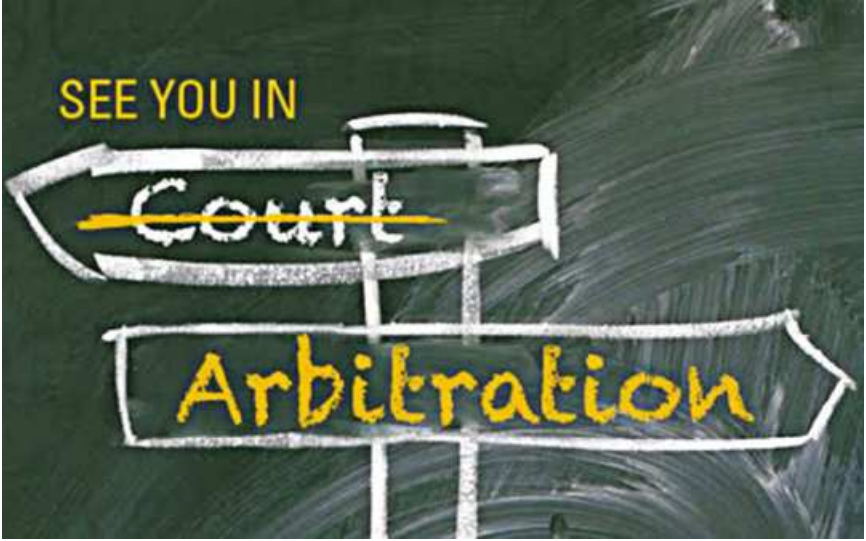
Covid-19: Time to introduce virtual ADR

MD MAHATAB UDDIN

CONSIDERING the emergency circumstances that has emerged from COVID-19 pandemic, the Bangladesh judiciary has lately started to conduct court proceedings via video conferencing. However, we are yet to hear about any initiative regarding the virtual form of judicial or formal Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). Hence, this write up advocates for wide ranged introduction of virtual ADR practices covering not only judicial or formal ADR, but also quasi-formal, and informal ADR practices in Bangladesh. Such virtual ADR practices can either be based on phone-conferences or be based on internet supported video-conferences.

In Bangladesh, ADR practices that consist of mediation, arbitration, conciliation, traditional *salish* and NGO modified *salish* can be broadly grouped into three groups – formal or judicial ADR practice, quasi-formal ADR practices, and informal ADR practices. Formal ADR practices include arbitration or mediation under the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2003 or under the Money Loan Court Act, 2003 or under the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961 or the Family Courts Ordinance, 1985. ADR that takes place under the Conciliation of Dispute (Municipal areas) Board Act, 2004 or under the Arbitration Act, 2001 or the Village Court Act, 2006 or the Labour Code, 2006 can be considered as quasi-formal ADR. However, traditional *salish*, NGOs modified *salish* can be considered as informal ADR practices. Besides these, the Contract Act 1872, the Specific Relief Act 1877, the Bank Companies Act 1991, the Chittagong Hill Tracts Dispute Settlement Commission Act 2001 either explicitly or implicitly refer to ADR practices.

To introduce phone-based ADR, it is understandable that only access to a land phone or a mobile phone will be enough for parties to participate in mediation or arbitration. Many countries have already started this practice. For example, being funded by the Australian Government under the Family Support Program (FSP), Queensland province of Australia initiated Telephone Dispute Resolution Service (TDRS) in 2007. Providing telephone-based mediation needs some specific set of skills connected with telephone environment. We need to provide training to our mediators to those specific issues. For instance, employees working in TDRS receive training as to their appropriate behaviours with co-mediators during telephone environment, rapport building



techniques during phone conversation, active listening, controlling language, time management, interpreting silences and taking notes at the same time. Besides, conducting telephone based mediation also needs to take into account that telephone calls might face call drop or unintentional interruption deriving from micro level household issues of the participants (e.g. necessity of immediate attention to a child, finding out any undisclosed person in the room, etc.). The telephone-based family mediators, community mediators or workplace mediators in Bangladesh must also be taught or given training about how to deal with the above stated issues.

For online or internet-based virtual mediation, two kinds of internet-based communication methods are possible to apply: synchronous communication and asynchronous communication. Synchronous technology refers to conversation in real time through using web-based technologies which support online calls or video conferences. An asynchronous communication refers to communication via email. Both methods of communication can be employed for establishing online-based ADR system.

Before wide range introduction of these methods and mechanisms in Bangladesh, it would be wise to conduct some studies on similar methods which have been introduced globally by others. For instance, the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) introduced online dispute settlement system for domain name disputes and intellectual property related disputes (WIPO e-ADR). Online dispute settlement systems also exist for online consumer purchases that take place through e-commerce sites. In addition to the just mentioned instances, there are

also instances of online arbitration and mediation under the Virtual Magistrate and Online Ombudsman programmes of the USA. Besides these, there are number of private initiatives which provide online dispute resolution services across the world.

All of the above-mentioned internet-based initiatives require some common accessories or technologies which must contain a delivery mechanism, a receiving mechanism, and a medium of discussions. Sometimes it may also be essential to have facilities of video conferencing. It is essential that all parties to the mediation or arbitration or conflict coaching also have access to email for conducting initial communication. Hence, the technologies essential to avail or run online based dispute resolution may involve – internet, intranets, desktop or smartphone, video conference service providing app or technology or satellites. Since all these technologies are moderately available here, it will not be a difficult task – at least from technological point of views – to initiate and popularise virtual ADR services in Bangladesh.

Till date, experts are unable to predict when the necessity of maintaining physical distancing rules will end. Considering the ongoing pandemic, we all have to be prepared for such a 'new normal' scenario that might help ourselves protecting from Covid-19. For ADR practitioners, it means we might require avoiding face-to-face meeting for an indefinite period of time. Hence, as like as other countries of world, the ADR practitioners of Bangladesh should also immediately shift their focus to virtual modes of ADR.

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More people will fall into poverty

Prudent fiscal management can address income inequality

A recent analysis by think tank Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) has highlighted the formidable challenges that lie ahead for the country: combating the realities of more people falling into poverty and greater income inequality. Income inequality, in fact, may reach an all time high this year, with a revenue shortfall of Tk 125,000 crore and a rise in poverty to 35 percent. This must be addressed through careful budget management with an emphasis on fiscal policy that addresses the extraordinary shocks on marginalised groups caused by the pandemic.

The pandemic has completely disrupted economic activities, resulting in a drastic fall in incomes for the extreme poor, moderately poor and even those in the middle income category. Thus a very large section of the population is facing financial hardships that are likely to continue for a while. CPD has rightly pointed out that at this time, there should be less concentration on GDP growth, which is inevitably going to take a hard hit, and a greater focus on saving lives.

We think that CPD’s recommendations on combatting income inequality by primarily targeting marginalised groups should be seriously considered. One of the biggest concerns is the inevitable revenue shortfall. Thus, overall fiscal management must be geared towards realistic revenue mobilisation targets. This includes raising tax-free income threshold levels (so that people with lowered income levels are not further burdened) and reducing import-related tariffs on essential foods (to ensure food security of low income groups). The think tank has also recommended, among other things, better utilisation of project aid in the upcoming fiscal years, harnessing all potential sources of foreign finance, greater budget allocation for the agriculture sector, continuing support to the garment and other export sectors, fast-tracking ongoing priority projects, gradually depreciating the Taka (which will attract more remittances and boost exports) and putting a stop to ways to whiten black money, which discourages honest taxpayers while encouraging tax evaders.

The government efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the poor and marginalised groups have been seriously compromised by weak administrative capacity and a lack of good governance. The government must make sure that the upcoming budget is cost effective, with resources being properly utilised by diverting them from relatively lower priority areas to those that will help to create and maintain employment, improve consumption, provide food security and ease the extreme financial hardships of ordinary people resulting from this crisis.

Compassion brings community closer in Aftabnagar

Farming together to fight hunger

A report in this daily has highlighted people’s natural instinct to help each other, which is so crucial in a crisis situation. One hundred families in Aftabnagar have taken an exemplary initiative to address the food crisis amidst the pandemic. Members of the community—most of whom had lost their jobs as construction workers, rickshaw pullers, day-wage workers and house-helpers, or were incurring losses in their small businesses—have undertaken the task of collecting, cooking and sharing their meals together. Worried that the economy of the nation was taking a blow from the lockdown, with earnings becoming scarce and essentials more expensive, Shiuly, an activist of a cultural platform, spearheaded the initiative two and a half months ago to start a family kitchen with the collaborative efforts of the community.

Following the setting up of the kitchen, those who were inactive immediately engaged themselves and contributed however they could. Other organisations and individuals also came forward to assist them. With the consent of the owners, they further used empty plots in the area and have successfully cultivated spinach, pumpkins, eggplants and more in abundance, which now help to feed all the 320 members of the 100 families in healthy portions. Even during the month of Ramadan and Eid, the kitchen had a festive air, as everyone shared whatever they received with each other and a strong sense of community prevailed.

The United Nations’ World Food Programme has already warned that the world is at risk of “mega-famines”. Even before the pandemic, there were already 135 million acutely hungry people in the world, in addition to the 821 million who were chronically hungry, and reports suggest that things may get worse. We applaud Shiuly for showing us the power of unity during such challenging times, proving that it is indeed possible to combat hunger and adversity when people work with each other for a common good. Despite the reopening of the economy, the underprivileged are still struggling to make ends meet and forecasts indicate that their situation may continue to deteriorate. Based on the success of the above initiative, we believe that similar models can be replicated across other communities. By properly planning and mobilising members of their own communities, local authorities can involve them in a productive manner. If given the opportunity, the above model can prove successful and help solve food scarcity to a great extent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Help the destitute

It is still a matter of grave concern that so many are still suffering from the pandemic and lockdown. Day labourers, domestic workers and rickshaw pullers are in a dire situation, with their incomes choked. I am thankful that many of the affluent of our society have come forward to support the poor, but that is not enough. The government’s grants are failing to reach the neediest. I just hope we can collectively come forward to assist the disadvantaged, however possible.

Samia Rahman, Dhaka

Will foreign investors relocate to Bangladesh from China?

AN OPEN DIALOGUE



ABDULLAH SHIBLI

WITH the Bangladesh economy in the first phase of its Covid Reopening, the country will be eagerly looking forward to attracting foreign investors to provide a much-needed stimulus. The Foreign Minister and the Commerce Minister sounded optimistic in their statements on the prospects of some Japanese manufacturing companies relocating from China to Bangladesh. On May 20, the Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi said, “The main point is how much investment we can attract when the factories will be relocated.” *The Daily Star* confirmed this outlook on May 21 in a report that quoted Foreign Minister Dr Abdul Momen, who said that “the Japanese embassy in Dhaka last week sent him a list of factories that want to relocate from China to Bangladesh”.

It is understandable that in the post-Covid era, many major US and Japanese firms might want to pull out of China and seek alternative partners to bolster their supply chain. However, there are still some major obstacles that Bangladesh needs to overcome before one can expect a major influx of foreign investment, particularly any capital being diverted from China. In *The Daily Star* report mentioned above, the Foreign Minister himself set off the alarm. He warned that foreign investors often express their dissatisfaction over bureaucratic tangles that stand in the way of business operations and obtaining various licenses. “They particularly complain about the poor services at the Bangladesh Bank, the commerce ministry and the National Board of Revenue,” the FM added. Ouch! Let us analyse the facts. There is no

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doubt that after the US imposed tariffs on Chinese products, and after the outbreak of Covid-19, the US, the EU and Japan are looking elsewhere for cost-savings and to ensure safety and security. Japan has earmarked USD 2.2 billion of its record economic stimulus package to help its manufacturers shift production out of China. On May 21, Bangladesh’s Embassy in Beijing sent our Foreign Office a message indicating that some Japanese investors were exploring Bangladesh as a possible sourcing destination. Quoting Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) officials in Beijing, the embassy said the 34 out of 690 Japanese firms

costs. “Infrastructure spending has to focus on fibre-optic cables as well as ports and roads. Education is essential because countries trying to break into global markets will need skilled workforces. These are tall orders for developing countries. But just waiting for higher Chinese wages to push jobs their way is a recipe for failure.” Bangladesh faces tough competition, which means it has to go all-out to outbid Vietnam, Indonesia and India to attract the Japanese investors. Vietnam and India have already started talking to many Japanese and American firms that want to move out of China. In April, the Indian

including extending tax waivers, allowing duty-free import of machinery—new and used, providing bond facilities, and speeding up services. “The bureaucracy must change its entire mindset in a bid to facilitate businesses instead of just regulating them,” Chowdhury pleaded. Bangladesh has already lost more than two months in the race to lure foreign investment. It was in lockdown and the two investment promotion agencies—BEZA and BIDA—reportedly kept their activities limited to writing letters to the government mentioning the present situation, including challenges to getting foreign investments post Covid-19!



Container ships docked at the Yangshan port in Shanghai, through which a lot of Japanese firms ship their products. PHOTO: AP

registered in China have so far revealed the relocation plan. Unfortunately, JETRO declined to name the Japanese firms willing to relocate from China. Therefore, we need to conclude that there is no guarantee that Japanese firms are packing up from China and heading for Bangladesh. As they say, there are so many steps “between the cup and the lip”. Bangladesh needs to act in a proactive manner to seize the opportunity that the new circumstances has offered. The President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) wrote a letter to the country representative of JETRO on May 12 calling for facilitating the relocation. The FBCCI also wrote to the Confederation of Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry to encourage its member nations to relocate firms to Bangladesh. Our business community and government can explore various avenues to draw investors to Bangladesh. The Office of United States Trade Representative (USTR) on May 1 last year released a list of 3,805 product categories that could be subject to tariffs of up to 25 percent. Anticipating higher tariffs on Chinese-made goods, Japanese companies initiated a plan to leave China. It is expected that eight Asian countries will get the biggest boost if the trade war forces US companies to leave China, including Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia. In a recent issue on foreign direct investment (FDI), *The Economist* writes that policymakers in other countries who aspire to take a share of the “redirected investment pie” must look beyond merely competing on manufacturing labour

government reached out to more than 1,000 US companies and offered them incentives to move to India from China. Bangladesh has special ties with many Korean business establishments and it needs to seek them out. Bangladesh is planning form a task force to make a strategic plan on “how to attract the companies, which are leaving from China” to invest here. The task force of the Government of Bangladesh must work overtime to ensure that existing investment is not in jeopardy and that new investment is forthcoming. Earlier this year, in March, Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Naoki sounded very optimistic. “The coronavirus outbreak will leave no scar on the flow of Japanese investment into Bangladesh and trade between the two countries will remain unscathed in the mid- and long-term”. While the Ambassador has to be lauded for his reassurance, it needs to be seen in the post-pandemic era whether this rosy scenario will materialise. Bangladesh cannot take for granted any of the pre-pandemic projections. A recent survey by JETRO found that 70 percent of the existing Japanese companies in Bangladesh are keen on expanding their operations. The head of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) is reported to be in talks with the Japan International Cooperation Agency and JETRO to communicate investment opportunities in Bangladesh. However, Paban Chowdhury, executive chairman of the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA), has been critical of the mindset of Bangladeshi bureaucrats who have not made it easy for foreign investors by throwing red tape at them. He suggested some conciliatory moves

A recent report in *The Business Standard* rued that “most government officials in the country are on long holidays—of one-and-a-half months—as part of the government’s efforts to prevent the spread of Covid-19. They are slipping behind an existing stockpile of work that includes reforms to company and bankruptcy laws as well as overall doing business activities, which are vital to attract investments from overseas.” The latest US Reshoring Index (USRI) published by the consulting company Kearney warned that while the probability for FDI heading out of China was high, there are three factors that all clients are looking at: cost, risk, and resilience. One of the authors of USRI, Patrick Van den Bossche, observed, “Three decades ago, US producers began manufacturing and sourcing in China for one reason: costs. The US–China trade war brought a second dimension more fully into the equation—risk—as tariffs and the threat of disrupted China imports prompted companies to weigh surety of supply more fully alongside costs. Covid-19 brings a third dimension more fully into the mix, and arguably to the fore: resilience—the ability to foresee and adapt to unforeseen systemic shocks.” There is a lesson for Bangladesh in Van den Bossche’s last message. When we approach a prospective investor from Japan who is considering relocating to Bangladesh, our mantra ought to be that we offer not only lower costs, we can also minimise their future risk and enhance their supply chain resilience.

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Can feminists wear lipstick?

SYEDA SAMARA MORTADA

A few months ago, before the coronavirus outbreak, I attended a talk in Dhaka by a well-known internationally acclaimed feminist. The house was full, the air thick with expectation. I had heard of her aplenty, seen many talks of her online, and was eagerly waiting to hear her speak. She appeared to be down to earth, easy to follow and had an aura around her that made you immediately trust her, especially in the way she spoke of her beliefs and the conviction through which she passed on her knowledge. I was eager to hear her thoughts, with the expectation that her views would further enable me to strengthen my views and use them in discussions that start with, “At this day and age, you still think feminism is necessary?” Or, worse, “Yes, I believe in feminism, but only the kind that talks about equality”. As opposed to other kinds of feminism, which frankly I am not sure exists. So, it started off where most feminist talks pick up from—the difference between sex and gender, and why women empowerment is essential. But then she said something about gender, and I lost her. We know that sex is biological, and gender is picked up from the environment by the way we grow up

and so, is socially constructed. But what she also said was that we need to move away from “gender”. I agree on the need to break free from gender constructs that link one’s gender to specific roles (for example men don’t cry and women are weak), but what if one’s sex is the same as one’s gender and she/he consciously relates to that gender? Again, doesn’t this theory completely disregard trans people who go to great lengths to resemble the gender (sometimes physically, sometimes only mentally) they feel they are (as opposed to the sex they are born with)? Then, she brought on the idea of capitalistic patriarchy, that pursues women to wear lipstick and high heels, and although she does not really have an issue with it, she goes on to say, “one shouldn’t complain of wearing heels to work and then talk about #MeToo when they are harassed at their workplace”. I could see many women of my generation nodding in approval, but I also saw some younger ones who did not agree with what she was saying. “Isn’t it my choice to wear heels and lipstick, and can’t I be a feminist and wear lipstick?”, said one of the girls present in the room. To this, she replied saying that there are now many kinds of feminism, which she referred to as “my choice feminism”, and that is not the kind of feminism she relates to.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

What I think she meant was neoliberal feminism, which encourages you to be aware about all your influencers, and then pick what works for you. Sure, capitalism has led us to believe that we need to use several products in order to

look pretty. But ultimately, isn’t it my choice to wear and dress how I want to? Neoliberal feminism, as I see it, allows one to just be—you can be the one to wear a tight shirt, or a hijab, or even combine the two. You can choose to wear makeup, or not. In fact, you can be a man and choose to put on lipstick, and that should be okay. But most importantly, my feminism teaches me to not judge, to accept people for who they are. If we separate the different kinds of feminism and categorise them into the good, bad and ugly, are we not once again taking on a high and mighty approach, and saying one is better than the other? Also, then isn’t this a new form of patriarchy, in which one tribe of feminists take precedence over others, and isn’t that what we for years have fought so hard to stay away from? Feminism, to me, and I am sure to most of us, is that safe space where one should be able to be how they want to be, where one is comfortable enough to voice their opinions and where others will be accepting of it. Feminists too need to find ways that hold us together, instead of drawing lines and barriers in between us.

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At maximum capacity

What strategies should hospitals use to deal with the overflow of Covid-19 patients?

AYESHA SANIA, TAUFIQUE JOARDER, MOHIB NIROB, AHMED SAMI AL HASAN and SHARA KHAN

THE Covid-19 pandemic is spreading at an exponential rate and policymakers are racing against time to find effective solutions. Right now, hospital capacity to treat Covid-19 patients across the country is reaching a maximum. The situation is so critical that only patients with respiratory distress (with oxygen saturation below 90 percent) are being offered to be hospitalised at the designated Covid-19 hospitals. Most critically ill Covid-19 patients require oxygen support from a central oxygen supply. Of all the government run hospitals, Dhaka Medical College and Hospital's Burn Unit and Mugda General Hospital are the only known facilities to provide a central oxygen supply to patients. Other government run hospitals do not have access to a central oxygen supply and very few places are able to provide the positive pressure oxygen that is required by Covid-19 patients. There is an urgent need for strategies to deal with the hospitalisation and management of Covid-19 patients in both urban and rural areas.

Epidemiological considerations to be remembered before delving into the strategies are that 80 percent of coronavirus patients present mild symptoms not requiring any hospitalisation, 20 percent have severe symptoms requiring hospitalisation and 5 percent are critical, needing ICU admission and ventilation support. Due to limitations in the current testing criteria and capacity, most diagnosed patients fall under the "hospitalisation required" category. To provide the best service to these hospitalised patients and to keep the mortality as low as possible, a few steps can be adopted by healthcare facilities.

In urban areas such as Dhaka, Narayanganj, Mymensingh and Chattogram, the urban poor living in slums with mild symptoms who are unable to self-isolate may be quarantined in makeshift isolation

centres, like local schools, colleges, community centres etc, where physical distancing can be maintained. To cater to patients with severe symptoms requiring hospitalisation and oxygen supply, increasing the number of hospitals (designated for Covid-19 treatment) and building central oxygen supplies are necessary. A quick and cost effective solution is to build partnerships with private hospitals with access to central oxygen supply. Also, empty cabins at these private facilities can be used to isolate and treat patients awaiting Covid-19 test results.

A huge surge in the number of Covid-19 positive patients in rural areas is expected in the upcoming weeks because of Eid travel and therefore, having plans in place to manage the surge is imperative. All patients with Covid-19 like symptoms should be tested at upazila health complexes, and to prevent community transmission, they should be quarantined in local hospitals until maximum capacity is reached. Makeshift isolation facilities such as schools and community centres, may be used to quarantine patients after full capacity is reached in hospitals. This is a crucial step in preventing community transmission. Patients with mild respiratory distress can be treated with portable oxygen cylinders at upazila health complexes and patients presenting with severe symptoms should be transferred to the nearby local Covid-19 designated hospitals.

It is recommended that each district assigns a designated Covid-19 hospital, or a few adjacent districts together assign a designated Covid-19 hospital depending on the population size and the number of expected cases. And as with urban areas, building partnerships with local private hospitals will give access to central oxygen supply and ICU facilities. At the same time, nurses need to be trained to work in these two units. Since the number of expert/trained nurses is inadequate, online courses can be offered to meet the required number of nurses.

There also needs to be in place some strategies to safely manage Covid-19 and

non-Covid-19 patients simultaneously in healthcare facilities, across all districts. Grouping patients based on the severity of the disease and the urgency of the treatment needed is known as "triage" in the medical field. Setting up triage in healthcare facilities is crucial in managing this Covid-19 pandemic.

Urban hospitals can construct designated spaces for triage and upazila health complexes can utilise the open spaces available at the entrances. Low cost tents or light structures built with

results.

Other patients should be further evaluated for Covid-19 clinical symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath) and grouped as high, medium and low risk groups. Low risk patients can self-isolate at home or at isolation facilities. The medium and high risk groups should receive appropriate treatment according to World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.

All hospitals should have specific guidelines for healthcare practitioners

directly involved with patient care.

The healthcare budget should also be optimised keeping the disease epidemiology in mind. It is imperative to remember that 20 percent of coronavirus patients require hospitalisation and only five percent require ventilation. To reduce mortality rates and to cater to the majority of patients requiring hospitalisation, adequate supply of oxygen and devices to measure oxygen levels (pulse oximeter) needs to be ensured. Another important thing to keep in mind while budgeting is that increasing testing for Covid-19 can not only increase our improved patient outcome but also helps reduce community spread.

At this point, collaboration between public and private hospitals is necessary. To bring this collaboration to life, each district should form a committee with the Deputy Commissioner in charge of overall supervision, a Civil Surgeon spearheading the committee and the Police super assisting the committee. The goal of this committee will be to establish collaboration between selected public and private hospitals in the least amount of time. The Civil Surgeon will look after the technical and management aspects of the merger while the Deputy Commissioner will handle the bureaucratic facets. The Police Super will ensure safety and if necessary, take legal actions against unrest and chaos. At upazila levels, committees will have an Associate Civil Surgeon, Upazila Executive Officer and circle Deputy Police Super who will directly report to the district committees or their respective superiors, depending on the need.

The Covid-19 pandemic will most likely be the worst health crisis ever faced in the history of Bangladesh. To successfully overcome this, the country must fully utilise its limited resources with utmost efficiency.

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A worker paints an oxygen cylinder outside a shop in the capital's Moghbazar area last week.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

locally sourced construction materials can be used to set up the triage with the help of law enforcing agencies. Ideally, the entire hospital and all its divisions need to be divided into Covid-19 sections and non-Covid-19 sections with a cardboard or glass wall separating the two.

In the triage space, patients will be evaluated and prioritised according to the symptoms and severity of illness. Patients requiring urgent hospitalisation, resuscitation or at a high risk of deterioration should be immediately transferred to the emergency unit, but should be kept separated from Covid-19 positive patients while waiting for test

and other associated personnel. They should be supplied with infection prevention and control materials and trained on how to use them. In addition, they should have access to changing rooms and disposal facilities. There should also be clear and visible awareness raising materials, such as sign boards, posters etc, for patients.

The exponential growth in the number of Covid-19 patients is straining our already burdened healthcare system and healthcare practitioners are struggling to cope with this challenge. Therefore, volunteers and other professionals can be welcomed to share the burden by managing tasks not

For their childhoods

Can the pandemic help us reimagine our education systems?



RUBAIYA MURSHED

GROWING up in a joint family had its perks. For example, there was hardly a chance to get bored. On the rare occasion I did get bored, I vividly remember my mother threatening to make me memorise my time-tables if I complained. It was a much dreaded punishment. It makes me wonder how the children are coping in this pandemic.

On one hand, this may be a golden time for many as they get to spend time with their usually busy parents. On the other, staying at home may not be a pleasant experience for many. For the children in the latter group, school was perhaps an escape. Reality has forced us to realise that there is so much variation when it comes to helping children. The calculations are far more difficult because there is so much to consider across different factors. Any policy that affects children and their childhoods should be designed and implemented with the most special care.

This pandemic is especially revealing in terms of the existing inequality among children from different socioeconomic backgrounds and different schooling streams. For example, while many Dhaka-based English medium schools are able to pursue online classes for their students, thousands of Bangla medium schools and madrasas remain closed all

over the country. The problems differ in the case of children from these different spectrums. Internet access without supervision is a serious issue in the case of children going online to attend their classes.

On the other hand, the probability of falling behind in the race is perhaps the biggest worry for parents of children who are in a stream where they'll have to go through primary school certificate (PSC), junior school certificate (JSC), secondary school certificate (SSC) and higher secondary certificate (HSC) exams. I'm more concerned about the latter. I believe this is one of the rare opportunities for us to take a stand that is justified and will have little or no room for challenges. The stand is simple: cancel all these exams throughout a child's school life. What is the efficacy of all these exams? Is this really the best way to make children learn?

The pressure we put on our children in today's education system is alarming. It raises the question of whether children actually have their childhoods anymore. Someday, this may backfire dangerously. For children, even the little things matter tenfold more than in the case of an adult. The way we give children their marks and grades in front of all their classmates, the way we ask them to compete with each other in the rat-race, the way we make them feel that their value lies in the proof of their brilliance, all these things—however little they may seem to many—affect our children's personalities and mental health. As this pandemic unfolds, it is time for us to take the opportunity to rethink the

education we are giving our children.

If there's anything that Covid-19 has taught us, it is that empathy should not be taken for granted. It should be the highest valued quality really, and it should be celebrated. This is why I am a strong proponent of including active participation in social work into the curriculum of children in schools and colleges. Be it planting a tree, helping out in a nursing home, feeding the poor or helping underprivileged children learn—any form of social work may help us in emphasising to our children that empathy is a priceless virtue. Gone are the days when we can rely on ethics and empathy being an automatic outcome of an institutional education. The time has come for us to actively include ethics education and empathy lessons in our children's everyday studies. It is as important as learning maths or language really. This reminds me of a conversation I once has with my aunt about the importance of teaching children our culture through our subcontinent's history and literature. She said, and I quote, "E=MC2 doesn't develop personality, but a story by Sarat Chandra does." Teaching empathy may be more important than ever for the world to come—a world where we may no longer be encouraging our children to give hugs or kisses.

I would expect our approaches and solutions to education reforms, in this pandemic, to be different for each levels of schools, college and university. As we try to achieve quality in education, we must acknowledge the much needed reform that our system of assessment

needs. We have got to question traditional methods such as exams and investigate whether they are effective anymore. If we find something has become ineffective, we must research and build proper, sustainable alternatives. For example, cancelling exams like PSC and JSC throughout school life is a good strategy but its success largely depends on what alternate assessment system we put into place. There is the matter of preparing our teachers, institutions, textbooks and curriculum for the alternate assessment system. If there are lackings in this preparation, soon enough something harmful like corruption might crawl into it as well.

We have got to start doing our homework about how to reform our education system. Other countries are well ahead of us. Although contexts may be different, there is much to learn from the leading education systems of the world. Every three years, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) evaluates worldwide education systems by testing the comparative science, reading and mathematics proficiency of 15-year-old students.

Despite Singapore topping this assessment and setting the standard of success in 2016, the country has since then been rethinking its approach to education and adapting it according to the needs of the future. Their decision is that children in Singapore will no longer be ranked by exam results. Instead, Singapore will focus on creating more rounded individuals with goals to foster social development, raise self-awareness

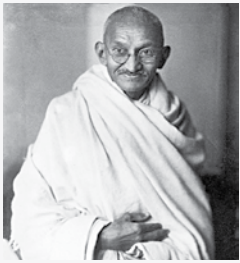
and build decision-making skills. "Learning is not a competition" is one of the premises of this shift, which aims to discourage comparisons between student performance and instead encourages students to concentrate on their own learning development.

In Finland—another highly acclaimed education system—there are no mandated standardised tests except for the one exam at the end of high school. There are no rankings, and no comparisons or competition between students, schools or regions. The belief there is that "If you only measure the statistics, you miss the human aspect."

In Japan, one of the prevalent problems in the education system has become "Futoko", which is the phenomenon of children simply refusing to go to school. Imagine our children feeling the same way, and worse still—not being able to express their feelings. God forbid that student suicides keep increasing in number. Our assessment system in our educational institutions is an indicator of what we value as a society. We must shift our focus to designing a system that fosters what really matters in building human capital, or in building good human beings. First, we must convince ourselves what really matters. If we were to assign the highest value to humanity and teach our children that "Greatness should depend on humanity, not brilliance", can you imagine how different our society could be?

Rubaiya Murshed is Lecturer at the Department of Economics, University of Dhaka.

QUOTABLE Quote



MAHATMA GANDHI
(1869-1948)
Indian lawyer, politician, social activist, and writer.

If you worry about yesterday's failures, then today's successes will be few. The future depends on what we do in the present.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

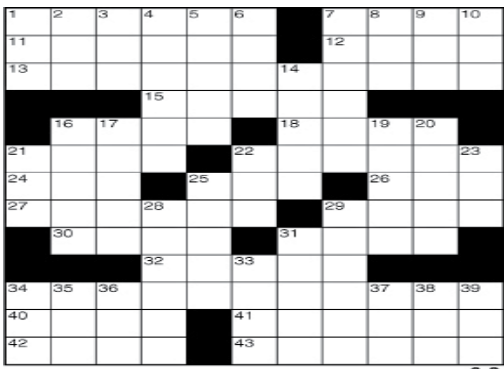
ACROSS

- 1 Adversaries
- 7 Suggestive
- 11 Slow tempo
- 12 Lotion additive
- 13 Party bowlful
- 15 Lesson leader
- 16 Small sound
- 18 Years gone by
- 21 Earth neighbor
- 22 Composer Gustav
- 24 In the past
- 25 Make tempura
- 26 Lumber tool
- 27 Piano parts
- 29 Order to Spot
- 30 Gambling city
- 31 Tousele
- 32 2006 Olympics

- 34 Computer RAM components
- 40 Steel ingredient
- 41 Turkish peak
- 42 Battle group
- 43 Seal user

DOWN

- 1 Drake's music
- 2 Marrying words
- 3 Brewery sight
- 4 Some marbles
- 5 Brightened
- 6 Chimney grime
- 7 Enthusiastic
- 8 Ring great
- 9 Beat walker
- 10 "Sure thing!"
- 14 HMO fee
- 16 Pocket beeper
- 17 Wear away
- 19 Bed boards
- 20 Lone Star State
- 21 Tourist's aid
- 22 Married name preceder
- 23 Spanish king
- 25 Baker's need
- 28 Cleopatra's love
- 29 Bit of beachwear
- 31 Smallscale
- 33 Pittcher Nolan
- 34 Farrow of films
- 35 Go astray
- 36 Pop's mate
- 37 S&L offering
- 38 Golf goal
- 39 Pig's place



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



BETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER



BABY BLUES

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



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

Four public universities struggling

FROM PAGE 12
Many countries including China, the US, and the UK, have adopted the semester system to provide focused and quality education through intense student-teacher engagement.

Four public universities -- Dhaka, Jahangirnagar, Chattogram and Rajshahi -- currently have 83 departments and institutes under the semester system.

Of these, 75 departments have failed to publish their last semester results within the scheduled time. The Daily Star found after going through the exam controller offices' result publishing dates.

Most of the departments took 18-22 weeks to publish the results.

According to the DU semester system guidelines, results must be published within eight weeks of a course examination. Rajshahi University rules say results of semester finals must be published within three weeks, and Jahangirnagar University rules say 10 weeks. Chattogram University has no rules about this.

DU has the highest number of departments and institutes under the semester system, 49. RU has 17, CU has 10, and JU has seven.

"I got my final MBA examination results after 33 weeks," said a DU postgraduate student.

A ninth-batch student of the department, he added that he could not prepare accordingly for the final exams due to delayed in-course results.

"Most of the time we had to appear in the final exams without knowing the in-course results," said the student, preferring not to be named.

Many public university students said they appeared in the running semester examinations without knowing whether they have passed in the previous semester.

A third-year student of accounting and information systems at Jahangirnagar University said his department published the fourth semester results four days before the fifth semester final on January 26.

He said he could not appear in the exam despite preparing for them, since he failed in two subjects in the fourth semester examination.

"The fourth semester final examination was held at least seven months ago. Had it been published on time, I could have prepared differently. Now, I will have to start again from scratch," said the disgruntled student.

He also alleged two teachers were yet to announce in-course results and such delays are a common picture in other departments too.

In-course results constitute 25-50 percent marks of the total grade, varying from department to department.

CU and RU students face similar problems, The Daily Star found.

Several JU students alleged their teachers remain indifferent for the first two to three months and only become active in the last half of a semester -- hurriedly taking classes and in-course examinations, putting undue pressure on the students.

Due to this, they are deprived of quality lessons, the students said.

Some academics also acknowledged the problems, adding that the semester

system was introduced without proper planning and the necessary logistics.

The system is not functioning well here as university authorities have introduced the concept without fulfilling certain prerequisites like TA appointments and building new classrooms, said Syed Manzoorul Islam, a retired professor of DU's English department.

Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam said the numbers of students in almost all departments in the university are very high.

"This is one of the reasons that teachers remain busy with evaluating assignments and answer papers instead of conducting classes," he added. Teaching assistants shoulder some of this burden in universities worldwide.

Tanzimuddin Khan, a professor of DU's international relations department, said the entire semester system is ambiguous here.

"The university authorities enroll students once a year here, something you will not find in any other university in the world where the semester system is in place," he said.

According to a number of US and UK university websites, one of the features of the semester system is to enroll students each semester -- a session of six months or half of an academic year.

In a semester system, students have to complete a total of eight semesters in their four-year bachelor's degree and two semesters in a year-long master's degree.

If one does not finish the entire semester or one subject at a specific

time, he or she may end up with the next batch and thus a student is less likely to waste six months of their education.

According to article 11.2 of the DU semester system guidelines, a student is allowed to improve grades either through a supplementary examination within 45 days under the same examination committee or with the following batch. In reality, not a single department has taken supplementary examinations so far and the "following batch" comes once each year, not every six months.

The other three universities have no rules on supplementary examinations.

A lack of adequate classrooms is a common situation in these universities, said students, who often have to stake out empty classrooms in order for classes to even be held.

"We have to look for empty classrooms before attending the class as most of the departments want to take classes in the first half of the day," said a DU mass communication and journalism department student.

"There are many classes where 150 to 250 students learn at a time," said Prof Tanzimuddin Khan.

In a six-month semester, 15 weeks have been kept for classes, a week's vacation for exam preparations, and three weeks for final examinations -- according to the Course Curriculum and Rules of DU's semester system.

Besides scheduled classes, group discussions, presentations, class tests, assignments, term paper submissions and mid-term exams have to be taken

on the remaining days.

DU was the first among public universities to have introduced the semester system in the country with a view to reducing session jams, improving the quality of education, and publishing exam results by the grade or credit method.

According to the DU website, the Faculty of Business Studies introduced it in the 1977-78 session followed by the Faculty of Arts and Social Science, which launched it in 2006-07.

Jahangirnagar University's economics is the lone department that has returned to the conventional yearly examination system four years after joining the semester bandwagon in 2001-02.

"We had to cancel the semester system as we didn't get enough time to finish our syllabus in due time," Mohammad Amzad Hossain, chairman of the department, told The Daily Star.

DU Vice-Chancellor Professor Md. Akhtaruzzaman said, "We accept any proposal that can serve the benefits of the university students. The semester system is running very well here; we will introduce such a system in some other departments consequently."

"We are trying to publish the results faster," he added.

DU's VC told this correspondent that demands for appointing TAs from recent graduates among the departments are longstanding and will be met soon after completing all the procedures in this regard.

[Our DU, RU, CU and JU correspondents contributed to this report.]

Two doctors

FROM PAGE 12
The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, another doctor Razia Sultana, 60, was undergoing treatment at a private hospital after she was tested positive and passed away around 7:30am yesterday.

Bangladesh Medical Association expressed condolences over the deaths of the two doctors.

With them, at least 22 doctors died with from Covid-19 while four died showing symptoms of the deadly disease. Besides, around 1,100 doctors were so far infected with the virus, according to Bangladesh Doctors' Foundation.

Many of the infected doctors have recovered and some of them have also returned to their jobs, it added.

Nasim's brain

FROM PAGE 12
coma with life support since June 6 as his condition deteriorated.

A 13-member medical board led by Kanak Kanti Barua, a renowned neurosurgeon and vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, on Sunday said Nasim's condition is very critical and he remains in a totally unconscious situation.

He added that Nasim's blood pressure is also unstable.

Nasim's son Tanvir Shakil Joy, also a former AL lawmaker, told the media on June 5 that his father had undergone a successful surgery after suffering a stroke.

On June 1, Nasim was admitted to the Bangladesh Specialised Hospital in the capital's Shyamoli as he was feeling unwell. Later, he tested positive for coronavirus.

They paved

FROM PAGE 12
"Beyond that he was a person with great creativity whose name is associated with the development and construction of Bangladesh's infrastructure," he added.

Recalling Niloufer Manzur's contribution, Prof Rehman said to build a school of international standard in Bangladesh, where institution building is a challenging task, was a very significant contribution.

The trio left significant contributions in the country's education sector not only as teachers but also by establishing or supporting different educational institutions, said eminent rights activist Hameeda Hossain.

Sharing his memories of Prof Anisuzzaman, eminent artist Mostafa Monwar said his patriotism and affection for the culture was unparalleled.

Recalling his fond memories, Bengal Group of Industries Chairman Abul Khair Litu said although he was not a direct student of Prof Anisuzzaman, he learnt many lessons in from the scholar which helped him to be a good human being.

Besides his scholarly mind, Prof Anisuzzaman was a great connoisseur of art, he said.

Prof Jamilur led almost all the advisory committees of the country's mega projects, said noted economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud.

Prof Jamilur's contribution in Bangladesh's development is undeniable, said Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar.

Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam said it was heart-aching that well-wishers, including her, could not pay their due tribute and respect to the departed souls in a regular way because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Campaign for Popular Education Executive Director Rasheda K Choudhury said the legacy of the three departed souls needed to be spread among the future generation.

Bereaved family members of the three departed eminent personalities also joined the commemorative event and shared their memories with the three great figures.

Ananda Zaman, son of Prof Anisuzzaman, said he and two of his siblings hardly used to have their father's affection as he mostly remained busy working for the greater good of the society.

"He believed in the collective wellbeing of people," said Ananda.

CPD Distinguished Fellow and convener of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya moderated the programme.

Peaceful protests

FROM PAGE 12
who marched in Washington on Sunday. "But I do think that reform has got to happen."

The prospect that Minneapolis could abolish its police force altogether would have seemed unthinkable just two weeks ago. Nine members of the 13-person city council pledged on Sunday to do away with the police department in favour of a community-led safety model, though they provided little detail.

"A veto-proof majority of the MPLS City Council just publicly agreed that the Minneapolis Police Department is not reformable and that we're going to end the current policing system," Alondra Cano, a member of the Minneapolis council, said on Twitter.

Poets and litterateurs

FROM PAGE 12
at Gonobhaban. Addressing the gathering of poets, litterateurs and students the prime minister expresses his deep condolences to the bereaved family of the deceased poet. He also assures the poet's family of all kinds of support from the government. Bangabandhu further says that his government will do everything to improve the situation of the poets and litterateurs of the country and bring them to the forefront of society.

TAJUDDIN CALLS ON INDIRA
Bangladesh Finance Minister Tajuddin Ahmad today calls on Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at her office in New Delhi. It is reported that the two leaders discuss various political and economic issues in the hourlong meeting.

Earlier, members of the planning commissions of the two countries held a detailed discussion to formulate short-term and long-term economic cooperation programmes based on the bilateral treaty signed by Bangabandhu and Indira Gandhi.

STRONG TIES WITH MALAYSIA

AND SINGAPORE
Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad today holds a press briefing session on his recent visit to Malaysia and Singapore. He informs that both countries are eager to help Bangladesh develop its economic infrastructure. The issue of Bangalees stranded in Pakistan was brought before the prime minister of Malaysia and he assured all sorts

of cooperation from his good office to resolve it as soon as possible, adds Abdus Samad Azad. He further says that Bangladesh is located at an important strategic location to work as a bridge between South Asian and South-East Asian countries.

SOURCES: June 10, 1972 issue of Purbodesh.

Man held for planning attack on Muslims in Germany

AFP, Berlin

Police in Germany have detained a man on suspicion of planning to kill Muslims in an attack inspired by the 2019 mosque shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand, prosecutors said yesterday.

The 21-year-old from the northern city of Hildesheim had announced his attack plans "in an anonymous internet chat", the state prosecutor's office in the town of Celle said.

Initial investigations show the suspect "has for some time been considering the idea of committing an attack in which he wanted to kill numerous people in order to attract worldwide media attention," prosecutors said.

Nine cohorts of abductors held in Dhaka

FROM PAGE 12

the victims were detained in various camps and subjected to "inhumane" torture.

The perpetrators used to record appalling videos of torturing the victims and send those to their relatives in Bangladesh with a ransom demand, he said, adding that thus they have extorted millions from the victims' families.

The DB teams arrested the suspects based on information provided by victims' relatives.

Of the arrestees, Akbar sent seven among the 26 victims to Libya, Baten said.

Thousands in need of aid

FROM PAGE 12

More than 350,000 houses have been damaged or destroyed, alongside more than 176,000 hectares of farmland including standing crops, vegetable and fruit, thousands of trees have been uprooted and fish farms worth approximately 36 million US dollars have been damaged. Tidal surges caused the collapse of embankments and inundations of salt water, causing a scarcity of safe drinking water and putting the lives of thousands at risk of waterborne diseases, the press release added.

IFRC Head of Bangladesh Country Office Azmat Ulla said, "Our early actions have saved many lives before the cyclone and now we are speeding up our response efforts so that these

people can have access to basic needs and stay healthy.

"With this emergency appeal, our aim is not only to provide emergency relief but also to improve the physical, social, environmental and economic conditions to create a more resilient community in an effective and efficient way."

The funding will support Bangladesh Red Crescent in providing food, safe drinking water, shelter and hygiene items, cash grants, as well as help renovate damaged health clinics to benefit some of the most vulnerable people, including those living in temporary or makeshift shelters.

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic is also making the situation more

Meanwhile, a CID team arrested three people after conducting a drive in the capital's Gulistan on Sunday night.

The arrestees are Sohag Hossain, Khalid Chowdhury and Mst Sanjida, said Syeda Jannat Ara, special superintendent of CID, while addressing a briefing yesterday.

Jannat Ara without disclosing further details said that they were in the middle of their investigation and hopeful to arrest all the offenders shortly.

CID is investigating 12 out of the 22 cases filed with different police stations across the country regarding the killing of 26 Bangladeshis.

complex as people who have been displaced by the cyclone have limited access to handwashing and other hygiene facilities, increasing the risk of spreading the virus further.

As part of their response, Bangladesh Red Crescent teams have taken preventive measures to help contain the spread of Covid-19 including distributing hygiene information and advice, wearing personal protective equipment, and providing appropriate hygiene materials such as masks and hand sanitisers to people in shelters, the press release added.

The IFRC Cyclone Amphan emergency appeal will support Bangladesh Red Crescent response for the next 12 months.

Bangladesh asks Kuwait

FROM PAGE 1

the minister told this correspondent.

According to a report run by the Gulf News yesterday, Kuwaiti public prosecution ordered remanding Shahid, pending investigation, after being referred by the residence investigation department, which arrested him in Musharraf area on Saturday.

The prosecution charged him with human trafficking, money laundering, and exploiting his compatriot workers after hearing testimonies of five Bangladeshis, who confirmed that they had paid amounts of up to 3,000 dinars in exchange for coming to Kuwait, and that they were also paying annual sums for renewing their residency visas.

Among the complaints submitted against the Bangladeshi MP is that he is believed to have provided five luxury cars as bribes to government officials in Kuwait, so that he could obtain contracts for the company he runs there.

In response to a complaint filed on February 16, Bangladesh's Anti-Corruption Commission opened an enquiry into the allegation that Shahid amassed Tk 1,400 crore by trafficking

people to Kuwait and siphoned off the amount abroad.

Earlier in February, the Kuwaiti media reported that three Bangladeshis were operating a human trafficking racket in the Middle Eastern country. On February 12, a report of the Arab Times, an English language daily, said one of the three was a "member of parliament in Bangladesh".

The report said the trio "occupied sensitive positions" in three major companies that brought more than 20,000 Bangladeshi workers to Kuwait in exchange for an amount believed to be more than Tk 1,391 crore.

Asked, Shahid told The Daily Star at that time that he had been in construction business for 30 years and that about 26,000 people worked for his Marafie Kuwaitia General Contracting Company. Of them, about 20,000 were from Bangladesh and the rest from different other countries, including India and Nepal.

Denying his involvement in any criminal activity, he had said, "I don't have any businesses in Bangladesh. I have never made any illegal transaction and have always used proper banking channels."

Global virus cases top

FROM PAGE 12

out a 14-day quarantine for all travellers entering the country, prompting uproar from the badly hammered aviation industry which is eager to see travel revived.

Pubs and eateries flung their doors open in Belgium, but with social distancing measures in force, while Ireland opened shops and allowed gatherings and travel, also with limits.

New Zealand meanwhile buoyed hopes for the rest of the world as Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern declared that her country had beaten the virus and lifted all restrictions, though strict border controls remain.

The country's measures were lifted after its final coronavirus patient was

declared recovered, prompting the leader to dance around her living room in celebration.

"We are confident we have eliminated transmission of the virus in New Zealand for now," Ardern said, adding that Kiwis had "united in unprecedented ways to crush the virus".

New Zealand Rugby also announced its top-flight domestic competition would restart this week, with fans allowed to pack into the stadiums for the first time in months. **BELGIAN BAR 'INVADED'**
Governments around the world are cautiously peeling back punishing lockdown measures to resuscitate economies while trying to avoid a resurgence of infections.

শেখ হাসিনার হাতটি ধরে
পথের শিত যাবে ঘরে

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র

ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

| ১. | মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ | সমাজকল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়। | | |
|-----|--|---|--|---------|
| ২. | এজেন্সি | সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা। | | |
| ৩. | সরব্রাহক সত্তার নাম | সহকারী পরিচালক, সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ। | | |
| ৪. | সরব্রাহক সত্তার জেলা | ময়মনসিংহ। | | |
| ৫. | যে কাজের জন্য দরপত্র | ২০২০-২১ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর পরিচালিত সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ এর নিবাসীদের জন্য এমপ-’ক’ এর আগতায় খাদ্য, এমপ-’খ’ এর আগতায় খাদ্য আনুষঙ্গিক এবং এমপ-’ভ’ এর আগতায় বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ। | | |
| ৬. | দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ | নং-৪১.০১.৬১৯৪.০১১.০৭.০০২.১৯-১৯৩, তারিখঃ ০৯ জুন ২০২০ | | |
| ৭. | দরপত্র প্রচারের তারিখ | ০৯ জুন ২০২০ | | |
| ৮. | সরব্রাহক পদ্ধতি | উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ও.টি.এম)। | | |
| ৯. | বাজেট এবং তহবিল উৎস | রাজস্ব বাজেট, জি.ও.বি। | | |
| ১০. | দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নং | ০১টি। | | |
| ১১. | দরপত্রের প্যাকেজ নাম | ২০২০-২১ অর্থ বছরে সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর পরিচালিত সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ এর নিবাসীদের জন্য এমপ-’ক’ এর আগতায় খাদ্য, এমপ-’খ’ এর আগতায় খাদ্য আনুষঙ্গিক এবং এমপ-’ভ’ এর আগতায় বিবিধ মালামাল সরবরাহ। | | |
| ১২. | দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ | ২৮ জুন ২০২০ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত। | | |
| ১৩. | দরপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় | ২৯ জুন ২০২০ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা। | | |
| ১৪. | দরপত্র ফোলার তারিখ ও সময় | ২৯ জুন ২০২০ তারিখ সময় বিকাল ০৩.০০ ঘটিকা। | | |
| ১৫. | কার্যালয়ের নাম ও ঠিকানা ক. মূল দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয় খ. দরপত্র দলিল গ্রহণ | সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ ও উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ এ দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয় করা হবে। (১) কক্ষ নং ৯, ২য় ভলা, এলজি শাখা, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ। (২) উপপরিচালক, জেলা সমাজসেবা কার্যালয়, ২৮, কেসি জায় রোড, কামিটুলি, ময়মনসিংহ। | | |
| ১৬. | দরপত্র দলিল ফোলা | জেলা প্রশাসকের সচিবালয় কক্ষ, জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়, ময়মনসিংহ। | | |
| ১৭. | দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য | ১) বেদ সরকারহাওয়ারী প্রতিষ্ঠান। ২) সিডিউল ক্রয়ের ট্রেনারী চালান (মূলকপি), দরপত্র দলিল অনুসারে অভিজ্ঞতা সনদ, ব্যাক সজ্জলত্রা সনদ, হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, আয়কর সনদ, ভাটি প্রদান সনদ) সহ প্রয়োজনীয় অন্যান্য দলিলসমূহ দাখিল করতে হবে। | | |
| ১৮. | দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য | দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য ট্রেনারী চালান-এর মাধ্যমে কেড ১-২৯০১-০০০০-২০৬৯-তে (অফিসকোডের) জমা দিতে হবে। | | |
| স্ট | সংক্রান্ত বিষয় | সিডিউলের মূল্য | দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ | মন্তব্য |
| ক. | খাদ্য ও খাদ্যানুসঙ্গিক (অপচন্দলী ও পচন্দলী) | ৫০০/- | ২,০০,০০০/- | -- |
| খ. | শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রসারী ও অন্যান্য | ৫০০/- | ৯৫,০০০/- | -- |
| গ. | বিবিধ মালামাল (বরাদ্দ গ্রাণ্ড সাপেক্ষে) | ৫০০/- | প্রদত্ত দরের ০% | -- |
| ১৮. | দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম | মাহমুদুল হাসান। | | |
| ১৯. | দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার পদবী | সহকারী পরিচালক (অ.স।) | | |
| ২০. | দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার ঠিকানা | সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ। | | |
| ২১. | দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার সাথে যোগাযোগের নম্বর | ০১৭০৮ ৪১৫ ০১২ | | |
| ২২. | শর্তাবলী | (ক) পিপিএ ২০০৬ এবং পিপিআর ২০০৮ (সংশোধিতসহ) এ উল্লিখিত ক্রয় পদ্ধতি খাতিয়মভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে। (খ) "৬" এমপের ক্ষেত্রে বরাদ্দ গ্রাণ্ড সাপেক্ষে কার্যাবলি প্রদান করা হবে। (গ) কর্তৃপক্ষ করণ শর্তাবলী বাতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা সকল দরপত্র বাতিরেক অমতা সরেখণ করেন। (ঙ) বিশেষ নির্দেশনায় বিস্তারিত তথ্য দরপত্র সিডিউলে বর্ণিত আছে। | মাহমুদুল হাসান সহকারী পরিচালক (অ.স।) সরকারি আশ্রয়কেন্দ্র, ধলা, ত্রিশাল, ময়মনসিংহ | |

জিডি-৯৬৭

Analysts: Cricket’s invisible energy

MAZHAR UDDIN



In modern-day cricket, while players are battling it out on the field, it has become a common sight to see someone -- not necessarily a cricketer -- in the dressing room hunched over a laptop analysing all the technical aspects and providing probable solutions, which helps the coach to make a quick decision.

Video analysts or performance analysts are now an integral part of any international cricket team. Things were different in the very early days for Bangladesh -- the inclusion of a professional video analyst took place in 2003, three years after the country had already gotten Tests status, when Nasir Ahmed Nasu became the first to work as a regular analyst for the national team.

“I was the first ever video analyst of the Bangladesh national team back in 2000 but it was not regular back then. I just went to a cricket match for coding, which is like scoring with video and recording. It became regular from 2003, when we started to analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the opponents and the different deliveries of opposition bowlers,” Nasu told The Daily Star.

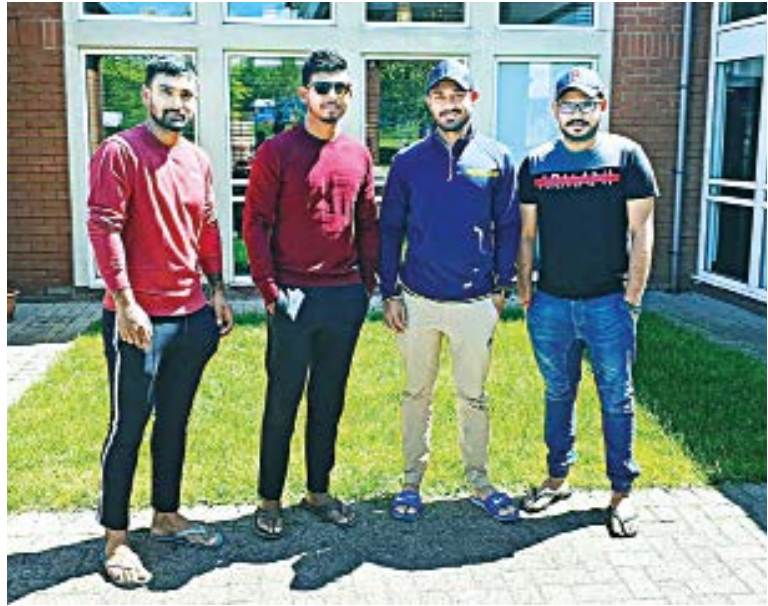
Many say that an analyst is the best friend of a player, someone who helps them realise their mistakes in the field or even relive their best performances by watching videos to feel uplifted during difficult times.

“Recently Shakib [Al Hasan]

called me from the United States and asked for all his milestone videos such as his hundreds, five-wicket hauls, 50th wicket and others since his international debut, perhaps to cherish his memories,” he added.

The Tigers’ current performance analyst Shrinivas Chandrasekaran has been a vital cog in Bangladesh’s

“Gone are those days when a video analyst was just sitting to record a game. Today we [video analysts] play a huge part in helping with selection, the playing eleven, scouting players, game plans for opposition bowlers and batsmen, and also helping our players to counter the opposition technically and tactically,” said Shrinivas.



performances in the last couple of years. He was also part of the Sunrisers Hyderabad team that won the Indian Premier League in 2016 and has been with the side for the past three seasons.

According to the 29-year-old, who is an electronic and communications engineer, nowadays an analyst plays a big part in the game both technically and tactically.

Analysts now no longer just give players and coaches feedback after the game but also offers real-time analysis and solutions while the game is going on.

However, according to Shrinivas, natural instinct plays a big role in making decisions and not just a set of mathematical theories.

“I feel it is still not used that much since the game of cricket has a lot of variables, so the outcome

of it [analysis] is not fool-proof and also, I personally feel captains should be allowed to go by instinct as well and not just by a set theory,” he added.

Shrinivas, who is currently in Chennai during the lockdown amid the Covid-19 pandemic, is in constant touch with a majority of cricketers in the national team and providing all support to work on their game.

“I have been in constant touch with most of them and we have been going through footage of times when they have been successful and times when they have not, and chalking out the reasons for both,” said Shrinivas.

The huge improvement in technology in the modern era has also made life easy for cricketers, coaches and even the analysts. The Bangladesh Cricket Board’s (BCB’s) server now has the back-end service by which they receive all videos of any televised cricket match worldwide, so that players can watch and analyse their opponents easily.

Although other big cricketing nations have analysts even in domestic cricket, Bangladesh is yet to follow suit. BCB have analysts for the national men’s and women’s teams, as well as the age-level and high-performance sides, but the value of an analyst is still an unknown for the budding club or first-class cricketer.

It has now become obvious that an analyst is an essential tool for a cricketer, and just like batting, bowling and fielding, exposure and utilisation of this resource should now become essential at all levels of the game.



Lionel Messi recovered from a thigh strain and returned to full training yesterday along with Luis Suarez as Barcelona trained in full swing ahead of their match against Mallorca on Saturday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Messi boost for Barca

AFP, Madrid



Lionel Messi trained again with his teammates on Monday to give Barcelona a massive boost ahead of their La Liga return against Mallorca on Saturday.

Messi has been suffering from tightness in his right thigh and had not trained fully since last Tuesday. He sat out sessions on Wednesday and Friday before working alone at Camp Nou on Saturday.

But Barcelona said in a statement their captain has re-joined “the rest of the team in the week of the return to competition in the Spanish league”.

Asked if Messi would be able to face Mallorca, Barca coach Quique Setien told Movistar on Sunday night: “Messi is not the only one that has not trained and felt

some discomfort.

“It’s what has happened to everyone or practically everyone since they have been back.

“It is some minor tightness and we have it under control. He is doing perfectly and will not have any problem.”

Setien also gave an update on the fitness of Luis Suarez, who has been given the green light by the club to return after undergoing surgery on his right knee in January.

“He is better than we expected,” Setien said. “But the question is how ready he is after so long out and whether he is ready to start.”

Barcelona sit two points clear of Real Madrid at the top of La Liga, which will resume on Thursday with Sevilla against Real Betis after a three-month break due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Shakil benefitted from break

ANISUR RAHMAN



While most athletes have found themselves sitting at home for months due to the coronavirus pandemic, famed shooter Shakil Ahmed feels he has been benefited by the break in competitions as it gave him opportunity to work on

fitness issues.

The Bangladesh Army shooter, who won gold medal in South Asian Games and silver medal in Commonwealth Games, was in Dhaka cantonment for more than two months, working on his fitness, meditation and respiration as there was no opportunity to hit the electronic target with ammunition.

The 25-year-old believes the training helped his fitness, concentration and breathing which will eventually help him a lot when competitions start.

Since the start of the shutdown due to coronavirus, 20 shooters of Bangladesh Army trained two sessions a day before being given a month’s vacation in May.

“It was though tough to focus on training amid such a situation but I got some benefit in the confinement as I worked hard to lose 10 kilos. I also improved my concentration through meditation and increased my breathing power with breathing exercise,” Shakil told The Daily Star from Sirajganj.

“As shooters, we always want continuation of training at the range but the situation forced us to limit the practice. I think what training I have done in shutdown was not



good enough but it was satisfactory because I was overweight,” Shakil said. “Besides, we need to hold breath for 30 to 50 seconds while shooting at the target. I lacked in holding breath in 60-shot games and I have improved in this aspect.”

The promising shooter from Khulna is, however, worried about maintaining his performance as he has been out of practice for a long period.

“As there was no opportunity to use the Army shooting range during this time, the rhythm of my performance has been damaged. Now, I have to work harder in the next two to four months to get back to my regular performance level when everything gets normal,” said Shakil, who also praised Bangladesh Shooting Sports Federation’s general secretary Entekhabul Hamid for being constantly in touch.

Shakil came into limelight from after winning 50m free pistol gold in 2016 SA Games and then won silver medal in the same event during the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018. But he has gradually shifted his focus to the 10m pistol event after International Shooting Sports Federation dropped the 50m pistol event from Olympics roster.

“I am now focusing on 10m air pistol because of the omission of 50m pistol event from the Olympics. With scores I have in 10m air pistol, I believe I can win a medal in World Cup. I am scoring 575 to 585 out of 600 in practice and if I can continue setting such scores, I can compete in eight-shooter final round and, you know the final is anyone’s game,” said Shakil, who also won silver and bronze medals in 10m pistol events of the South Asian Games.

Shakil, however, feels the need to have a quality foreign coach to improve his performance level.

BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTESTS



Bundesliga teams continued to show solidarity with protests raging across the US over the death of George Floyd as players of Werder Bremen and Wolfsburg took a knee prior to the start of their match in Bremen on Sunday.

PHOTO: AFP

‘Speak out against injustice’

REUTERS, Undated

England fast bowler Jofra Archer has urged victims of racial abuse to speak out following the death of an unarmed black man in police custody in the United States.

Video footage showed a white police officer kneeling on the neck of George Floyd, 46, for nearly nine minutes before he died on May 25, triggering outrage and protests across the world.

“I’m very glad the Black Lives Matter campaign has got as vocal as this,” Archer, who was racially abused by a fan during a test against New Zealand in November last year, wrote in his column for the Daily Mail.

“As an individual, I’ve always been one for speaking out, especially if something bothers you. My personal view is that you should never keep things bottled up, because racism is not okay.”

Archer has played seven tests and 14 one-day internationals for England and has lauded the team for its diversity.

“We all live in the country and if you are English, you have as much right to play as anyone else,” the 25-year-old added.



‘White silence bothers me’

AFP, Paris

Yannick Noah, the last French winner of a Grand Slam tennis title, on Sunday lashed out at “the silence” of his white compatriots over racism.

Noah said he was concerned that the sportsmen in France condemning police brutality and discrimination in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd in the United States were all black.

The 60-year-old, a son of a Cameroonian father and French mother, saluted the stands taken by fellow tennis players Gael Monfils and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga as well as World Cup winning footballer Kylian Mbappe.

“It’s good that the young people are involved, but what bothers me is that they are all either mixed-race or black,” Noah, who captured the Roland Garros title in 1983, told France 2 television.

“Why? It’s an injustice which should make everyone aware. I am certain that in general police do a very good job but there are bad apples.” Noah said it was important that white sports stars in France also got involved in protests.

“Yes, because their silence bothers me, but it goes further than that.”



‘Racism only disease right now’

AFP, London

Manchester City and England footballer Raheem Sterling on Sunday insisted that racism is “the only disease right now”.

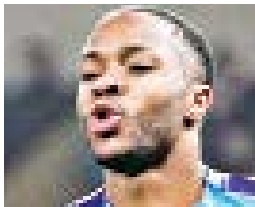
The 25-year-old, who has often and powerfully spoken out on discrimination, admitted his remarks may appear ill-chosen as the globe fights the coronavirus pandemic.

“I know this might sound a little bit cheesy but the only disease right now is the racism that we are fighting,” said Sterling in a BBC TV interview to be broadcast on Monday.

Sterling is the latest sports star to voice support for protests against racism in the United States and across the world following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last month.

“This is the most important thing at this moment in time because this is something that is happening for years and years. Just like the pandemic, we want to find a solution to stop it,” he added.

“At the same time, this is what all these protesters are doing. They are trying to find a solution and a way to stop the injustice they are seeing, and they are fighting for their cause.



KP prefers Buttler as captain

AFP, London

Kevin Pietersen does not think Ben Stokes should captain England if Joe Root is forced to miss a game against the West Indies because it would heap too much pressure on the all-rounder.

Root’s wife is due to give birth in July, meaning he risks missing one of the three behind-closed-doors Tests against the Caribbean side next month.

Root has backed vice-captain Stokes to do a good job in his absence, but former England skipper Pietersen is wary about the all-rounder assuming even more responsibility.

Pietersen, who said he “hated” the responsibility of being captain of England for a brief spell, would prefer wicketkeeper-batsman Jos Buttler to take over.

“Do I want to see Ben Stokes change from who he is and the current player he is? Probably not. Jos Buttler would be my guy,” he told talkSPORT.

Neesham hails NZ’s Covid-19 victory


AGENCIES

New Zealand appears to have completely eradicated the coronavirus for now after health officials on Monday said that the last known infected person had recovered.

Cricketer James Neesham congratulated his fellow citizens on the massive achievement and attributed their success to three things – planning, determination and teamwork.

“Coronavirus free NZ! Congratulations everyone. Once again those great kiwi attributes: planning, determination and teamwork do the job,” Neesham twitted.

As of Monday, New Zealand hadn’t recorded a new infection for 17 days.



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SEMESTER SYSTEM

Four public universities struggling

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Students are deprived of reaping the rewards of the semester system in four public universities due to mismanagement by the authorities.

Failure to publish examination results on time, absence of teaching assistants (TA), and playing catch-up to complete a six-month schedule in three to four months are reasons why the semester system is failing to bring the desired results, observed students and academics.

They also blamed the admission system where students are enrolled annually, effectively preventing an unsuccessful student from repeating a class in the first semester before the completion of the one-year cycle. Lack of teachers and classrooms are other structural issues students and academics pointed out as obstacles to the semester system running smoothly.

With the coronavirus outbreak and ongoing indefinite shutdown of public universities, the semester system is set to be hampered further. While some private universities started offering online classes, Dhaka University and most other public universities are yet to do so -- citing lack of internet access of all students.

In May, DU authorities announced they were considering cutting upcoming weekends and holidays and arranging additional classes in order to prevent a looming session jam and make up for academic losses during the closure.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Two girls playing with a swing they made with a sack they brought to take in relief items and a piece of rope near Matsya Bhaban in the capital. Every day, these two kids wait in the area for hours looking for help since the coronavirus-driven shutdown left their parents unemployed. In this, they managed to find some joy yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Nasim's brain activity to be tested

Condition of ex-minister remains grave

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors will now carry out the final test of brain functionality on Awami League Leader Mohammad Nasim to decide whether his life support system should be removed.

"After several tests of brain stem functions, we will be able to know whether he is brain dead. Then we will decide to take off his life support system," Raziul Haque, a neurosurgeon at the Bangladesh Specialised Hospital where the AL lawmaker is being treated, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"But before removing the life support system, we will have to take consent from Mohammad Nasim's family members," he said.

The doctor did not say exactly when they would conduct the tests.

Infected with Covid-19 and later suffering a stroke, former health minister and AL Presidium Member Nasim has been in a deep

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

AFTER AMPHAN

Thousands in need of aid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After Cyclone Amphan barrelled through Bangladesh almost two weeks ago, Red Crescent teams have reached more than 30,000 people, but thousands more are in need of further humanitarian assistance.

Now that the urgency is becoming clearer, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) have launched an emergency appeal to donors for 5 million Swiss francs (Tk 44.39 crore) to provide emergency assistance to 50,000 people in Bangladesh severely affected by the cyclone, said a joint press statement.

Cyclone Amphan made landfall on the coasts of West Bengal, India on May 20, and then entered Bangladesh with wind speeds of up to 150 kmph, heavy rain and tidal surges that caused huge devastation in 26 districts across the country.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Secretary General Feroz Salah Uddin said, "Thousands of people now need humanitarian support as they are living in temporary shelters with limited access to food, safe water and toilets after the cyclone has passed. Their livelihoods are also greatly affected and many of them do not know how to get back on their feet."

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

They paved way for nation's prosperity

Eminent citizens pay rich tributes to Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof Jamilur Reza, Niloufer Manzur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens yesterday commemorated the three torchbearers of the country who have passed away during the coronavirus pandemic, saying their immense contributions paved the way for the nation's enlightenment and prosperity.

National Prof Anisuzzaman, National Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury and founding principal of Sunbeams School Niloufer Manzur died within a span of less than a month -- between April 28 and May 26.

Their departures have created an irreplaceable void, especially in the country's education sector, the eminent citizens said during a commemorative programme arranged virtually.

Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh arranged the event via a video conference to avoid gathering amid the current situation.

Both Prof Anisuzzaman and Prof Jamilur were members of the platform's advisory group while Niloufer Manzur was a well-wisher of it. Prof Anisuzzaman himself was an institution in his own right, said eminent economist and Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan, who chaired the event.

"Anis [Prof Anisuzzaman] is one of the very few people I know, coming out of our own educational system who actually was a totally dedicated teacher. For him, it was the primary mission of his life to be a teacher and a scholar," he said.

Prof Jamilur contributed in building BUET (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology) a facility of international standard. He then went on to build two more institutions -- Brac University and Asia Pacific University, said Prof Rehman, also an advisory group member of citizen's platform.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

MURDER IN LIBYA

Nine cohorts of abductors held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of Police and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) have arrested nine people from different areas of the capital in connection with human trafficking and the killing of 26 Bangladeshis in Libya.

DB arrested six people on Saturday and Sunday in two separate cases filed with Paltan and Tejgaon police stations.

The arrestees are: Badsha Mia, Jahangir Mia, Akbar Hossain, Sujon Mia, Nazmul Hasan and Liaquat Sheikh Alias Lipu.

The DB teams also recovered four passports, two mobile phones and two notebooks.

Earlier on May 28, 26 Bangladeshis were shot dead and eleven others seriously injured by a group of criminals in Libya.

Abdul Baten, additional commissioner of DMP, said

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Poets and litterateurs will be at forefront of society



Canadian High Commissioner Gordon Cox calls on Bangabandhu at his official residence on June 9, 1972.

June 9, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU ORDERS INQUIRY INTO KILLING OF HUMAYUN KABIR

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today orders an immediate inquiry into the killing of Dhaka University Professor Humayun Kabir. Lekhak Shibir brings out a procession protesting the killing of the poet and calls on the prime minister

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Two doctors die from Covid-19

STAR REPORT

Another doctor who was infected with Covid-19 died at a hospital in Dhaka yesterday morning.

Dr Shakhawat Hossain, an anesthesiologist of Islami Bank Central Hospital in Kakrail, was admitted at AMZ Hospital on May 29 after he tested positive for Covid-19.

He passed away around 7:45am in the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital, Zubair Al Hasan, billing officer of the hospital, told

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



PRAYER TIMING JUNE 9

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:05 12:45 5:00 6:45 8:15

JAMAAT 4:40 1:15 5:15 6:50 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Global virus cases top 7 million

NZ lifts all curbs, declaring the nation virus-free

AGENCIES

European countries experimented with further lifting coronavirus restrictions yesterday as New Zealand declared victory over the pandemic, even as global cases topped seven million and deaths mounted in Latin America.

The number of Covid-19 fatalities has now passed 403,000 worldwide since the disease emerged in China last year before sweeping the globe, subjecting billions to some form of lockdown and paralysing economies.

But even the hardest-hit countries are lurching back to a new kind of normal, with bars and restaurants coming back to life and travel restrictions lifted from London to Brussels to Moscow.

But in some places, it was far from business as usual.

Britain yesterday rolled

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Illegally parked trucks occupy over half of both sides of a street near Satrasta intersection in the capital's Tejgaon. Former mayor Annisul Huq had removed the illegal truck stand in the area while he was in office. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

KILLING OF UNARMED BLACK MAN

Peaceful protests continue in US

Democrats plan to unveil sweeping police reform proposal; Minneapolis vows to dismantle police force

AGENCIES

Calls for deep police reforms gained momentum as Minneapolis city council members pledged late Sunday to dismantle and rebuild the police department, after the death in custody of George Floyd sparked nationwide protests about racism in law enforcement.

Demonstrations have swept a country slowly emerging from the coronavirus lockdown in the two weeks since Floyd, an unarmed black man, 46, died after choking out the words "I can't breathe" under the knee of a white police officer.

Though there was violence in the early days, the protests have lately been overwhelmingly peaceful. They have deepened a political crisis for President Donald Trump, who repeatedly threatened to order active duty troops onto the streets.

Trump took to Twitter around midnight to lash out at the boss of the National Football League, America's biggest sport, who, in a sign of a cultural shift, swung behind protesting players and adopted their slogan "Black Lives Matter".

Huge weekend crowds gathered across the country and in Europe. The high-spirited atmosphere was marred late on Sunday when a man drove a car into a rally in Seattle and then shot and wounded a demonstrator who confronted him.

"I have cops in my family, I do believe in a police presence," said Nikky Williams, a black Air Force veteran

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6