

WORLD IN GRIP OF WORST RECESSION
Warns OECD, says economy to contract at least 6pc this year
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The Daily Star

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. No. DA 781

Vol. XXX No. 142

JAISHTA 28, 1427 BS

Your Right to Know

SHAWWAL 18, 1441 HURI

16 PAGES PLUS SHOUT PRICE : Tk12.00



Budget of self-preservation

Saving people from Covid-19, staving off hunger, finding jobs for the jobless will be the focus, says finance minister

ZINA TASREEN

It seems the universe keeps conspiring against Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal.

When it is his moment to shine, some misfortune strikes. Last year, it was dengue, and this year, it is the raging coronavirus that has left him at the centre of what could possibly be Bangladesh's most acute economic -- and human -- crisis yet.

With the rogue virus reigning supreme, there is likely to be a gingerly slog into the podium today for the 73-year-old, instead of a strut, to unveil a budget that can, hopefully, fend off an economic catastrophe.

Forget about growth and recovery, next fiscal year, which begins on July 1, would be all about self-preservation.

When Kamal took over the reins of the country's purse strings from AMA Muhiith on January 7 last



year, exports and revenue were on the slow lane, defaulted loans were ballooning and the stock market was sinking.

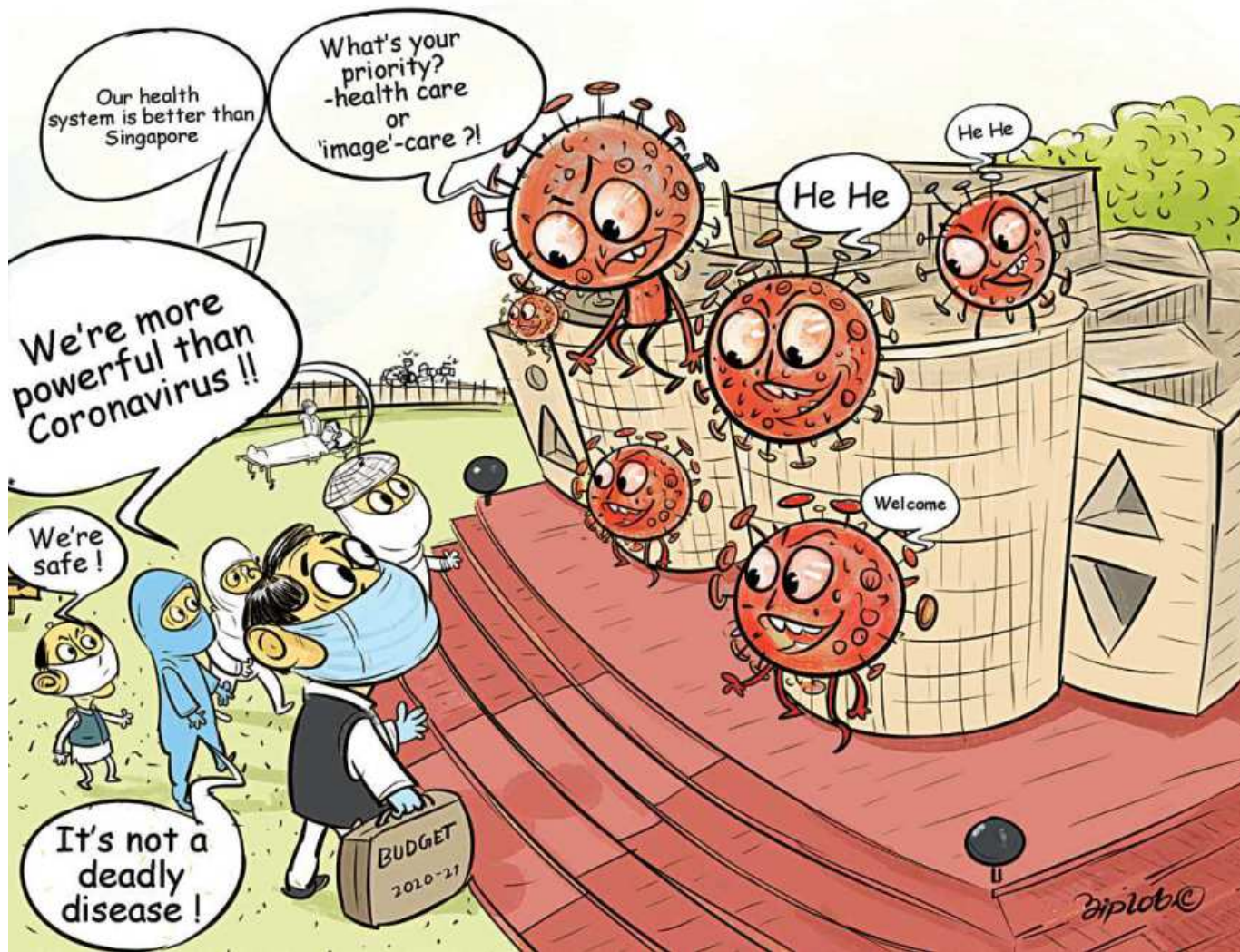
Those ailments were still going strong when coronavirus arrived on these shores. They only magnified, and along came fresh problems of joblessness and destitution.

Upwards of millions have lost their livelihoods and have subsequently slid back into poverty. As many as 35 percent of the 160 million-population are now under the poverty line, according to the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

Compounding matters are the returning migrant workers, whose drudgery over the past decade had powered the economy back home.

Were the businesses and industries in shipshape, finding employment for them would not have been much of a difficulty. But the two-and-a-half-

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BANGLADESH UPDATE



3,190

New cases in 24hrs



74,865

Total cases



1,012

Deaths



15,899

Recoveries



GLOBAL UPDATE



415,676

Deaths



7,385,594

Total cases

Death count leaps past 1,000-mark

Half of those fatalities in last 16 days; Bangladesh now 19th worst-hit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Covid-19 death toll reached 1,012 with half of the deaths reported in the last 16 days.

Thirty-seven coronavirus patients died in 24 hours till 2:30pm yesterday. During the same period, a record 3,190 people tested positive, said Prof Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The country reported the first confirmed coronavirus cases on March 8 and the first death on March 18.

In terms of fatalities, Bangladesh is now 32nd worst hit, just ahead of Japan which has reported 916 deaths so far. The pandemic has affected over 215 countries and regions across the globe with The USA the hardest hit with 1,14,151 confirmed deaths.

In terms of the number of infections, Bangladesh slipped one notch down to 19th position with 74,865 cases detected, according to covid19tracker.gov.bd.

It is just behind China, the epicentre of the pandemic, which reported around 83,000 infections.

Yesterday at the daily online briefing on the coronavirus situation, Prof Nasima said 15,965 samples were tested across the country in the 24 hours, taking the total number of tests carried out to 441,507.

As many as 563 Covid-19 patients recovered over the

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| COVID-19 DEATHS | | |
|-----------------|----------|--|
| 1 | March 18 | |
| 100 | April 20 | |
| 500 | May 25 | |
| 1,000 | June 10 | |

DISTRICT HOSPITALS ILL-EQUIPPED

Vital oxygen supply equipment missing

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

With the novel coronavirus infections spreading across the country, critical patients outside the capital and divisional headquarters are increasingly becoming vulnerable due to ill-equipped district hospitals.

A health ministry database shows that 47 out of the 64 districts do not have the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) facilities. Besides, a recent study of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) revealed a shocking picture of poor ventilation and oxygen supply system in the hospitals.

Both the ICU and oxygen supply system are required to treat critical Covid-19 patients with breathing difficulties. Most of the district hospitals have oxygen cylinders but many of them lack vital equipment that are needed to ensure the supply of oxygen, finds the study.

For example, 90 percent of the hospitals don't have an Arterial Blood Gas (ABG) Analyser which is required to monitor the critical patient's blood situation while 89 percent do not have oxygen concentrators that ensure a smooth and high flow of oxygen.

Besides, 96 percent of the hospitals do not have a mechanical ventilator that works as a breathing machine when a patient cannot breathe.

The study finds 95 percent of the district hospitals do not have BPAP and CPAP and 30 percent of the hospitals do not even have oxygen masks.

BPAP and CPAP are non-invasive ventilation methods used to provide breathing support to the patients with respiratory issues.

Oxygen is delivered through a face mask into the lungs through these machines when patient cannot inhale or exhale alone.

The absence of ICU facility and the essential equipment for oxygen supply means that the critical Covid-19 patients of those districts will have to travel to divisional headquarters to get treatment.

For instance, Bagerhat district hospital doesn't have any ABG machine, oxygen concentrator, cannula and face mask -- which are mandatory to administer all sorts of treatments that involve delivering oxygen to patients.

So, Covid-19 patients of the south-western district will have to travel all the way to Khulna -- the divisional headquarters.

Terminal coronavirus patients in Habiganj may face similar trouble as they would have to travel to Sylhet to receive treatment.

The divisional headquarters have only 16 ICU beds for coronavirus patients in the

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Efforts to go on to protect livelihoods, end sufferings

Says PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

yesterday said her government would continue to take measures to ease people's sufferings and protect their livelihoods amid coronavirus pandemic.

She said this in the Jatiya Sangsad during a discussion on the obituary motion over the deaths of Awami League MP Habibur Rahman Mollah from Dhaka-5 and other noted personalities who died in the last two months.

"We are going to place the budget tomorrow [today]. Many countries couldn't do it in these trying times. We will fight coronavirus and also continue to do whatever necessary so that people don't suffer and can lead a normal life," said Hasina,

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LOCKDOWN IN EAST RAJABAZAR

Strictly enforced on the first day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first day of the lockdown in the capital's East Rajabazar was enforced strictly yesterday, with no one except those on emergency duty, including doctors, nurses and journalists, allowed to go outside.

A few businessmen, service holders, including bank officials, and other residents tried to leave the area in the morning, but they were sent back by law enforcers and volunteers, who were stationed on Green Road beside IBA Hostel, the only exit kept open.

Law enforcers restricted media personnel's entry inside.

East Rajabazar was locked down on Tuesday midnight on an experimental basis after the area with some 500,000 people was put in the "red zone" in the face of rising number of Covid-19 infections and deaths.

The move came when the country is struggling to put the brakes on ever-increases coronavirus cases.

Authorities said police vigilance was increased and army patrol ensured in East Rajabazar. Volunteers organised by the local ward councillor helped locals get essential items.

Sujanur Islam, sub-inspector of Sher-E-Bangla Nagar Police Station, said they were working to strictly enforce the lockdown to stem the spread of coronavirus.

He said a coronavirus sample collection booth set up in the area took samples from suspected patients. Besides, daily essentials were supplied to the residents as per requirements.

He also said seven out of eight points to leave the area were sealed off using bamboo poles. Traffic movement was restricted and shops, excluding some medicine stores, remained closed, he added.

A photojournalist of this daily who was not allowed in said some residents ordered food and other items online and they had to pick it at the entry points.

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A doctor finds her father as patient, in bad shape

ANISUR RAHMAN

Mitul Akter's father came to her chamber at Regent Hospital in the capital's Mirpur yesterday morning. He tested positive for coronavirus a few days ago.

Mitul has been away from home for the last two and a half months and has been living in the hospital to keep her family safe.

But her father got infected anyway.

"My home in Mirpur DOHS is not far. The rickshaw fare is just Tk 20. But I had not visited even on the Eid day," said Mitul. Who has been treating coronavirus patients.

Her father went to the hospital to show her the medical reports. She put on her mask when he entered the room.

As she looked at the CT Scan report of his lungs, her expression changed to one of horror.

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Mitul Akter, a doctor at Regent Hospital in the capital's Mirpur, looking at the chest X-ray of her father, left, who tested positive for coronavirus a few days ago. Mitul yesterday said she had been living at the hospital for over two months to keep her family safe. But her father got infected anyway.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

CENTRALISED OXYGEN SUPPLY AT HOSPITALS

Three in Dhaka getting it in days

More hospitals in country may have it installed soon

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

With the need to ensure uninterrupted oxygen supply at public hospitals having become increasingly critical in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, there appears to be a glimmer of hope as the authorities concerned are moving towards installing oxygen tanks in more hospitals.

Work is underway to install liquid oxygen tanks at three public hospitals in Dhaka to ensure central oxygen supply to ailing patients and is expected to be completed within 10 days, officials said.

Moreover, a proposal to install liquid oxygen tanks in 11 more public hospitals across the country were sent to the health ministry on Tuesday and another proposal for 13 more is expected to be sent today. Once approved, officials are hopeful of completing the work by the end of June.

The move came within a week of a health ministry document painting a grim picture of central oxygen supply in public hospitals.

In a letter sent to the National Electro-Medical Equipment Maintenance Workshop and Training Center (NEMEMW and TC) on June 2, the health ministry said most of the 39 major public hospitals, including those dedicated to treating coronavirus patients, still do not have a nonstop supply of this essential treatment for critical Covid-19 patients.

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

Instead, they rely on oxygen cylinders. As a result, it

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733 ICU beds in govt hospitals

DGHS informs the HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) yesterday informed the High Court that government hospitals across the country have a total of 733 intensive care units (ICU) beds.

Of those, 235 ICU beds have been set up at 17 government hospitals since February this year for the treatment of Covid-19 patients, Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Amit Talukder told the court during the hearing of a writ petition.

He also said the DGHS prescribes treatment to coronavirus patients through hotlines and centrally monitors the treatment management.

The information was placed before the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim as per its June 8 order, following a virtual hearing on a writ petition filed by the Deputy Registrar Sheikh Abdullah Al Mamun of Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

On June 8, the HC bench wanted to know the number of ICU beds at all the government and private hospitals across the country, how the beds are distributed among patients and how the government is prescribing and monitoring treatment of Covid-19 patients centrally.

Earlier, Sheikh Abdullah submitted a writ petition requesting the HC to direct the government to acquire the ICU beds of the private hospitals and to form a central bed bureau in order to provide treatment to Covid-19 patients properly.

Advocate Yeadia Zaman appeared for the writ petitioner while Additional Attorney General Murad Reza represented the state.

On June 14, the next hearing on this writ petition and two other separate writ petitions filed over the management of oxygen supply in the hospitals will be held.

Families of Italy virus victims seek ‘truth and justice’

AFP, Bergamo

Fifty relatives of coronavirus victims yesterday filed complaints over the handling of the pandemic in the first such legal group action in Italy, which has reported over 34,000 deaths.

“We don’t want revenge, we want justice,” said Stefano Fusco, 31, who created a group on Facebook to reach out to others in similar situations after his grandfather died of the virus in a care home in March.

The complaints were filed at the prosecutors’ office in Bergamo, the city in northern Italy worst hit by the pandemic, “because it has become the symbol of this tragedy, though they come from across the country,” Fusco said.

Bergamo prosecutors are conducting a wide-ranging investigation into the health crisis. Local families blame tardiness in enforcing a red zone, as well as years of cuts to healthcare across the northern Lombardy region.

Cristina Longhini, a 39-year old pharmacist, lost her father Claudio, 65. Although he was very sick, the emergency services initially refused to admit him to hospital unless he was having trouble breathing, she said.

Once he was eventually rushed to a Covid-19 hospital in Bergamo, there were no beds free in intensive care. Longhini says the family was asked to try to find an intensive bed somewhere else -- which they desperately tried, and failed, to do.

“They forgot to call us to say he had passed away,” Longhini told AFP.

Efforts to go on to protect

FROM PAGE 1

the Leader of the House.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal today places the budget for fiscal 2020-21.

Joining the discussion, Opposition Chief Whip and Jatiya Party lawmaker Mashiur Rahman Ranga suggested that the PM should join the JS session through video conference from her residence, considering her safety amid Covid-19 pandemic.

“Who will run the country in your absence?” he questioned.

In response, Hasina said she doesn’t fear death and that she is ready to sacrifice her life for people.

“There is nothing to be afraid of,” said the PM.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, AL lawmakers Matia Chowdhury and ASM Feroz, and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal MP Hasanul Haq Inu also took part in the discussion.

A minute’s silence was observed and a munajat was offered seeking salvation and eternal peace of the departed souls.

Later, the JS unanimously adopted the obituary motion, expressing profound grief at the demise of the AL lawmaker and other distinguished personalities.

EIGHTH SESSION

The budget session of the 11th parliament began at 5:00pm with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair.

Wearing masks and gloves, all the lawmakers maintained social

distancing.

At the beginning of the eighth session, the Speaker said, “This session will be conducted in compliance with the health guidelines.”

As part of the health safety measures, a limited number of staffers of the Parliament Secretariat will be on duty during the budget session.

Journalists will not be allowed into the JS to cover the budget session. Instead, they have been requested to follow live telecast of Sangsad TV.

Elderly lawmakers and those suffering from various diseases were discouraged from attending the session.

The Parliament Secretariat’s decision not to have more than 90 lawmakers in each sitting as a safety precaution was followed on the first day of the session.

At the beginning of the proceedings, the Speaker nominated a panel of five chairmen who, in chronological order, will preside over sittings of the House in the absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

The panel members are AL lawmakers Muhammad Faruk Khan, AB Tajul Islam and Muhibur Rahman Manik, JP MP Kazi Firoz Rashid and AL MP Meher Afroze Chumki.

Law Minister Anisul Haq placed three ordinances: Use of Information Technology by Court, Value Added Tax and Supplementary Duty (Amendment) Ordinance 2020, and Income Tax Amendment (Ordinance) 2020.

A doctor finds her father

FROM PAGE 1

“Will you please go outside the room and wait for me?” she told her father. Once her father was outside, she broke down.

“My father is not well. His lungs are filled with white spots. Those are the places where the lungs have become inflamed and filled with fluid. This is the reason why patients die from the coronavirus,” she said.

As she fidgeted with her father’s report, she grieved about not being able to spend the last two months with him. “When I left home, I said goodbye, knowing it might be the

final.

“Coronavirus patients die here every day. We lost three patients today. It is never easy to lose patients... Maybe a few days later, my father might be one of them,” she sobbed. There were 63 patients with coronavirus at the hospital yesterday.

“I have been trying to get my father admitted, but there are no cabins available. So he is home.”

Stories of patients failing to get admitted to a facility are being reported across the country almost every day.



An elderly woman’s son and other family members outside an ambulance after reaching Dhaka Medical College Hospital around noon yesterday. The family members said they had been trying to get her admitted to a hospital with available ICU beds from the night before and came to DMCH as a last resort.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Budget of self-preservation

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month-long general shutdown has left enterprises in a bad way, too.

They are now going for mass layoffs and pay cuts, and it is unlikely that they would be firing on all cylinders in the immediate future given the fast-expanding caseload and runaway death toll.

The economic sacrifices would have been understandable had the nation been able to flatten the curve on coronavirus in the past three months or so. But there does not seem to be any sign of the public health crisis bottoming out anytime soon.

All of this was avoidable, but it is now up to Kamal to mop up this monumental mess.

“We had no idea it would get this bad,” he told The Daily Star over the phone last night.

Sincere, spirited, emotionally intelligent and clued-in to the facts on the ground, he seems to have risen to the occasion, pushing through his understandable fear of coronavirus contagion and working round-the-clock since April from his home, all with the singular hope of gathering the vast resources needed to come out of this crisis alive.

He has been combing through project documents -- which are sanitised painstakingly at both ends before they are placed in front of him -- to cut off funds from those that have been dilly-dallying.

If it is not poring over documents, it is virtual meetings that he has been caught up with, sometimes with bureaucrats, sometimes with multilateral and bilateral lenders.

If the meetings must be in person, the visitors are sanitised before they enter his home and he holds court from as far as possible; and sometimes, he speaks while stood in the staircase

of his sprawling mansion.

In short, he has become an indispensable deal-maker for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in trying to keep the crisis from throwing the economy into its deepest downturn yet.

And yet, he will most definitely come short in meeting the demands from the industries and the general public.

Given the stunning slowdown of the economy, domestic revenue mobilisation cannot be counted on much to fund the Tk 568,090 crore-budget.

The World Bank recently lowered the growth forecast for the economy this fiscal year to just 1.6 percent and 1 percent at best for the next fiscal year.

When there is no GDP growth to speak of, where would the money come from? And if you can’t make the resources available to tackle this crisis, where does it end?

It’s a mindboggling conundrum but one Kamal needs to have a crack at solving by way of the budget for fiscal 2020-21.

For starters, and in a complete departure from the past practice, he can choose to not lay a target on the National Board of Revenue’s head.

As is human psychology, when the task at hand seems impossible to achieve, one tends to just shut off and not put in any effort.

So a huge revenue target could turn out to be counterproductive, this time. Rather, let the tax officials do the best they can.

Bangladesh’s tax-GDP ratio is amongst the lowest in the world despite becoming a wealthier country by the day until coronavirus hit, and one of the main reasons for that is tax evasion and leakages.

Perhaps he could crack down

earnestly on this ill practice.

One way could be through automation. Given the fact that the ongoing pandemic has turbocharged digitalisation, perhaps fiscal 2020-21 could be the year that the tax automation drive finally takes off in full.

At the same time, all-out effort must be given to keep the wheels of the economy moving, and for that Kamal needs to give tax cuts too to industries and corporates.

Both direct and indirect tax collection would take a massive hit, meaning Kamal has to turn to banks and foreign loans and grants to fund a big portion of the budget. The lesser the government deploys the latter two, the better.

This also means, austerity must be enforced. A penny saved is a penny earned -- should be his mantra.

Expenditure must be prioritised.

And there is absolutely no doubt that health should get the top billing this time to douse the burning pathogen, followed by social safety programmes to keep the pandemic from undoing decades of progress in poverty alleviation and then the agriculture sector to keep the nation fed.

Everything else can take a backseat for now.

And it seems Kamal, who must feel the weight of the world on his shoulders, is thinking along these lines.

“Saving people from COVID-19, staving off hunger, finding jobs for the jobless and the marginalised will be the focus,” he said on the eve of the budget. The agro-economy will be encouraged and so too would be the domestic industries.

“We are going back to our roots -- we are looking inwards. And I see the dawn breaking in this way.”

Vital oxygen supply

FROM PAGE 1

whole division.

By the same token, patients in Cox’s Bazar and Bandarban would have to travel to Chattogram where there are only 24 ICU beds dedicated to coronavirus patients.

The other 10 ICU beds in the division are in Cumilla.

“We have started setting up our central oxygen system and hopeful to complete within a very short time. After that we will purchase the other necessary equipment,” said

AKM Humayun Kabir, civil surgeon Bagerhat.

The Daily Star has got a similar response from the civil surgeons in Habiganj, Cox’s Bazar and Bandarban. Experts said the rapid growth of the virus has been vividly exposing the real scenario of the existing arrangements, or the lack of it, in the public hospitals.

Contacted, Aminul Hasan, director (hospitals and clinics) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), said, “We have taken

the central oxygen supply system.

Aminur said they have already talked with the companies and once approved, Spectra Oxygen Limited will install liquid oxygen tanks at 11 hospitals while Linde Bangladesh Ltd will work in 13 hospitals.

The 11 hospitals whose proposals have already been sent are: Faridpur Medical College Hospital, Syed Nazrul Islam Medical College Hospital, Kishoreganj, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Medical College Hospital, Gazipur, MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet, Sheikh Abu Naser Specialized Hospital, Khulna, 250-Bed General Hospital in Chattogram, Tangail, Gopalganj, Manikganj, and Jamalpur and 100-Bed Children Hospital, Rangpur.

MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital currently has a liquid oxygen tank with a capacity of 10 kilo litres, which will be increased to 20 kilo litres.

The 13 other hospital, whose proposal will be sent today, are: 250-Bed General Hospital in Munshiganj, Habiganj, Chapainawabganj, Kustia, Sherpur, Bagerhat, Borguna, Chuadanga, Bhola, Magura, Nilphamari, 250-Bed Bongomata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib General Hospital in Sirajganj and Government Employee Hospital in Dhaka.

Habibur Rahman Khan, additional secretary (administration) of health ministry, said although he was not clearly aware of the development but if the proposals were made, they

would get quick approvals.

He said due to the crisis, they will allow some work to start after giving verbal approval.

Contacted, Maklesur Rahman Ripon, deputy general manager of Spectra Oxygen Ltd, said although they got a verbal work order instead of a formal one, they had started work considering the ongoing crisis.

He said they have all the equipment available in Bangladesh and once they got approval, which they hope to get within a day or two, they were hopeful about completing the installations at these 11 hospitals within this month.

The Daily Star could not reach Linde Bangladesh.

Death count

FROM PAGE 1

period, which took the total number of recovery cases to 15,899. The recovery rate is 21.24 percent, she said.

A total of 538 people were placed under isolation in that 24 hours.

Among the newly deceased, 33 were male and four female, she said, adding that 25 were from Dhaka, seven from Chattogram, one from Sylhet, one from Rajshahi, two from Barisal and one was from Mymensingh Division.

Of them, one was between 11 and 20 years old, three between 31 and 40, five between 41 and 50, 10 between 51 and 60, 10 between 61 and 70, seven between 71 and 80 and one between 81 and 90 years old, Prof Nasima also said.

Zafrullah’s condition slightly improves

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoshasthaya Kendra Founder and Trustee Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury has slightly recovered from pneumonia.

His requirement for oxygen support has also decreased, said Prof Brig Gen (retd) Mamun Mostafi yesterday. Dr Zafrullah tested positive for coronavirus on May 24.

“He is feeling better. His physical condition had been unchanged over the last four days. The improvement is visible today,” Mamun told The Daily Star.

The 79-year-old physician and freedom fighter has been undergoing treatment at the Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital. He had taken plasma therapy thrice. He is also suffering from lung problems.

Besides, he has been needing kidney dialysis.

For nearly three months, Zafrullah and a team of scientists have been working relentlessly to get Gonoshasthaya Kendra-developed rapid test kit -- GR Rapid Dot Blot -- approved for testing coronavirus infection.

Dr Bijon Kumar Sil, the lead researcher of Gonoshasthaya Pharmaceuticals, said Covid-19 causes damage to the lung the most and people die because of acute infection in the lung.

In Dr Zafrullah’s case, the improvement in his lung is indeed encouraging, he said.

The team at Gonoshasthaya are studying some other kits. “He [Zafrullah] will come back to us with the blessing from people.”

Zafrullah has been calling for emergency authorisation for the kit for large-scale testing.

The antibody test kit is of low cost and can help authorities with widespread testing and isolation -- the two most important things in curbing the spread of the coronavirus.

BSF shoots Bangladeshi dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A Bangladeshi cattle trader was shot dead allegedly by Indian Border Security Force along Agrobhulote border in Jashore’s Sharsha early yesterday.

Shariful Islam, 25, was the son of Ishask Ali of Rajgonj village in the upazila.

Police recovered the body in the morning from the Ichhamati river near the bordering area and sent it to Jashore General Hospital morgue for an autopsy, said Badrul Alam, officer-in-charge of Sharsha Police Station.

Quoting Shariful’s fellow cattle traders, his uncle Yunus Ali said Shariful and some other people went to India for bringing cattle on Monday. But when they were returning to Bangladesh through the border around 4:00am yesterday, BSF members of Jhaudanga camp opened fire.

Shariful was hit and he died on the spot, while others managed to return home.

Later, the BSF members dumped the body into the river.

Lt Col Manzoor-e-Elahi, commanding officer of 21 BGB Battalion, said a BGB team found the body floating in the river in the morning and informed the Sharsha police.

However, BSF officials offhaudanga campdenied the allegation of killing Shariful, said Nayek Subedar Mujibur Rahman, company commander of Agrobhulote BGB camp.

3 die as two groups clash in Narail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Three people were killed and at least 10 others injured as two groups of people clashed over establishing supremacy in Gondab village of Narail’s Lohagara yesterday.

The dead are Habib Mollah, 55, Muktar Mollah, 60, and Rafiq Mollah, 40.

The injured were undergoing treatment at different hospitals.

Jasim Uddin, superintendent of Narail police, said there had been a long-standing conflict between Mollah group and Sheikh group over establishing dominance in the area.

Following this, people of the two groups equipped with local weapons attacked each other around 2:00pm.

Habib and Muktar were declared dead after they were taken to Narail Sadar Hospital. Rafiq died on the way to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

All the dead belonged to the Mollah group.

Syed Ashiqur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Lohagara Police Station, said additional police had been deployed in the area to avoid any untoward incident.

Strictly enforced

FROM PAGE 1

Shamim, who lives in East Rajabazar, said an eerie silence gripped the entire area. The usual hustle bustle was missing.

Porimol Palma, another resident, said he could not find any electrician to fix his ceiling fan, which suddenly stopped working on Tuesday night.

Many residents said they stored foods for at least a week after the authorities announced through loudspeakers that the lockdown would be imposed.

QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKING
DU, Bu et still in
lowest bracket

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Bu et) have failed to make any progress in the latest QS world University ranking of 2021.

Like the previous year, both universities have been placed in the 801-1000 bracket.

QS does not assign specific positions for universities rated below 500.

University of Dhaka has slipped 200 places, from 601 bracket to 800-1000 bracket in the rankings, between 2012 and 2020.

After falling to the 701+ bracket in 2014, DU held that position till it slipped to the bracket below in 2019.

QS ranked 1,000 universities from 80 different locations, surveyed 102,662 academics and 51,649 employers whose insights and opinions determine the “reputation” indicator. They also analysed 18,530,368 research papers and 138,397,765 citations, recorded by bibliometric database Scopus/Elsevier.

The institutes have been ranked on six metrics - academic, reputation, employer reputation, faculty/student ratio, citations per faculty, international faculty ratio, and international student ratio.

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Although it didn't rain that hard in Chattogram city yesterday, the Prabartak intersection was became waterlogged, amid ongoing road repair work. As a result, vehicles had to fight through waves of muddy water to reach their destination.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Running out of beds
Sylhet's biggest dedicated Covid-19
hospital near capacity as cases soar

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

Saheed Shamsuddin Ahmed Hospital in Sylhet, a subsidiary 100-bed hospital under Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, was dedicated for treating Covid-19 patients, days before the first patient was detected on April 5.

But with the number of Covid-19 patients increasing everyday, the beds dedicated for them are going to be filled up soon; so the authorities concerned must take immediate steps in this regard, said health experts and concerned citizens.

The hospital capacity has also reduced to 90-bed after a new ICU facility was installed occupying a ward recently.

Moreover, the negotiation to bring in a private hospital under the government management as a dedicated hospital for Covid-19 treatment has come to a halt.

Dr Sushanto Kumar Mahapatro, resident medical officer of Saheed Shamsuddin Ahmed Hospital, said, “There are 71 patients admitted here as of today (Wednesday); it was 81 on Sunday. We are reaching our maximum capacity.”

So far, 1,698 persons tested positive for Covid-19 in Sylhet division while 415 recovered, 38 died and 245 are undergoing treatment at different hospitals.

Beside this hospital, 31-bed Shahporan Hospital in Khadimnagar area in Sylhet Sadar upazila and 20-bed Sylhet Infectious Disease Hospital were dedicated for Covid-19 treatment. Sylhet health office also had a plan to use the newly-constructed Dakshin Surma Upazila Hospital.

“These are yet to be used for Covid-19 patients but we are preparing to utilise them for isolation of suspected coronavirus patients. We are also trying to increase health facilities there,” Dr Anisur Rahman, assistant director of Sylhet divisional health office, said.

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‘The ambulance was
just yards away...’
Man dies from seizure at Rajshahi rail
station as ambulance refused to come amid
Covid-19 fear

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

An elderly man died after suffering a seizure on the platform of Rajshahi Rail Station yesterday. With no ambulance available, transport to the hospital was impossible, which eventually led to the man's death, railway police said quoting doctors.

Abdul Kuddus (52) of Kustia eventually died after being taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital by an auto-rickshaw, Md Shah Kamal, officer-in-charge of Rajshahi General Railway Police, told this newspaper.

Abdul Kuddus had come to Rajshahi by the Kopotaksha Express intercity train for treatment. He had been suffering from heart conditions for over a year, police said quoting his relatives. He was accompanied by one of his sons, a daughter and another person from his village.

After getting down from the train around noon, he suffered a seizure while walking on the platform towards the station's gate. Soon people around him went away seeing him falling down, fearing that he had coronavirus, the OC said, quoting witnesses.

After police arrived on the spot in 15 minutes, they saw locals covered him with a shawl, suspecting that he had died, he said. “We tried calling for an ambulance of the Railway Hospital, but they refused to come, arguing that they cannot come during the pandemic,” the OC said.

Police decided to call an auto-rickshaw. Railway police's Sub-inspector Biswajit accompanied Kuddus to the hospital.

Upon his arrival at the hospital, doctors sent him to cardiology department, hearing his history. Doctors treated and tried to recover him for some time before declaring him dead, said SI Biswajit.

“Doctors told us the delay to take him to the hospital may have been fatal,” he said.

Contacted, the railway's divisional medical officer Dr SM Maruf Hasan denied allegations of refusing to send the ambulance. “I did not talk to police. A station official called me for the ambulance. We sent the ambulance immediately with a specialised doctor in it,” he said.



Passers-by cover the ailing man in a shawl and try to move him after he collapsed, while a woman attempts to pick up his inconsolable son next to him.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

But the patient was already transported before the ambulance could reach, he said.

Contacted again, the OC said, he called the assigned phone numbers for ambulance and they denied to carry the patient. “Some people at the station carried him to the auto-rickshaw,” he said.

“The ambulance was just yards away from the patient. It was at Railway Hospital near the platform. If it had come at our first call, we could have transported the patient much earlier. Maybe his death could have been prevented,” OC Shah Kamal said.

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, deaths like this keep piling up due to the nature of the infectious disease. Although they don't show up in the official tally, these deaths are no less tragic, and authorities concerned must work towards finding a solution to end this stalemate for medical patients, all involved said.

Waive 50pc tuition
fees for six months
Guardians urge edu minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of guardians demanded 50 percent waiver of tuition fees of all non-government schools and colleges as they are in severe financial crisis after losing income source due to the ongoing coronavirus situation.

In this regard, Ziaul Kabir Dulu, president of Obhibhabok Oikya Forum, a platform of guardians, sent a letter to Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday.

Ziaul said he had sent the letter through email. “We have demanded 50 percent waiver of tuition fees from March 2020 to August 2020,” he told The Daily Star.

The letter mentioned that no classes have been taking place at most schools and colleges since March 17. No teachers have gone to their workplaces since then.

As a lot of economic activities remain halted, about 80 percent guardians either have lost earning source or on the brink of losing jobs. They are grappling with maintaining increased daily life expense, and paying house rent and utilities bills, the letter mentioned.

The guardians' association sent the letter two days after a writ petition was filed with the High Court on collection of monthly tuition fees by private educational institutions, which get the monthly pay order (MPO) facilities.

Raise awareness thru'
places of worship
Says govt circular

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The government has asked the authorities of worship places across the country to spread awareness against Covid-19 through loud speakers.

To this effect, the Ministry of Religious Affairs issued a circular on June 8 instructing the managing committees of mosques, temples and pagodas.

The circular, which has 12 announcements on how to disseminate the messages on Covid-19, was signed by ministry Deputy Secretary Md Shakawat Hossen.

Shakawat told The Daily Star that the country's 3 lakh mosques will have to spread the messages via loudspeakers every day, especially during Friday's Juma prayers.

Apart from this, temples, churches and pagodas will take steps in line with their worship schedules, he said.

The announcements to be made include urging people not to get panicked and keep faith on the Creator; to wash hands for 20 seconds frequently and wear masks while outside home; maintain social distance, among others.

Islamic Foundation Secretary Kazi Nurul Islam told this newspaper that they received the circular on June 9.

“We will take necessary steps to ensure that the announcements are made,” he said.

Chondon Talukdar, president of Chattogram city Puja Uddjapan Parishad, said they were yet to receive the copy of the circular. “Once we get it, we will take steps accordingly,” he said.

ANTI-MOSQUITO DRIVE
DNCC fines house
owners Tk 2.5 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation yesterday found Aedes mosquito larvae at 153 houses and establishments on the fifth day of its ongoing 10-day combined operation to eliminate mosquitoes.

During the drive, the city corporation teams yesterday visited 13,462 houses, under construction buildings and establishments, according to a DNCC official.

The teams, comprising 12 entomologists of Directorate General of Health Services and the DNCC, fined different house owners Tk 2.5 lakh under 14 cases through mobile courts.

The teams also found breeding grounds and wet containers at 9,258 spots.

They also warned house owners for not taking proper steps to destroy the breeding sources.

The larvae were found in discarded tyres, flower tubs, water containers, bucket, water bottles, flooded floors, hole of water metre, clay pots, water tank, plastic containers, rooftop drain, discarded commode, basement, middle space of two buildings and coconut shell.

DNCC teams have so far found Aedes mosquito larvae at 854 spots after visiting 67,592 houses and establishments since inception of the drive. They also found breeding grounds and wet containers at 46,801 spots, and realised Tk 4.36 lakh in fines from owners and authorities of establishments where Aedes larvae were found.

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

When reports of people being denied treatment at various hospitals started circulating on social media, a youth in Chattogram took it upon himself to help alleviate such sufferings. He promptly set up a five-bed primary healthcare facility for those in need of the service.

Md Iqbal Hossen, a young entrepreneur working in the readymade garment sector, after coming up with the idea, opened the facility at port city's Hamidchar, a low-income area.

Everything was set up using his personal income, and the facility started serving people on Saturday.

Talking to The Daily Star, Iqbal said he saw non-Covid-19 individuals who needed treatment were dying, and oxygen was almost unavailable in the city, leaving the poor to suffer.

“This prompted me to do



A man receives oxygen and nebuliser at the five-bed facility.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

something for these people who need primary care and oxygen. I then collected five beds and other medical equipment to run the facility,” he said.

Two doctors, alongside local

volunteers, are temporarily operating the facility. Efforts to manage permanent doctors and few nurses are ongoing.

The facility mainly focuses on helping individuals with mild

ailments. They also provide primary health check-ups like measuring blood pressure and glucose, but one of their important services is providing individuals with oxygen.

“So far, I managed to acquire three oxygen cylinders, oximeters, nebulisers, glucose meter and other medical equipment. I'm trying to get more equipment to improve the service,” he added.

Jesmin Akther Sathi was moving from one hospital to another with her husband, who was having breathing difficulties.

“My husband had been suffering from some complications, and his condition deteriorated on Sunday night,” Jesmin said. “We went to a local doctor who advised us to manage oxygen for him. Then we spent the whole night looking for oxygen but in vain.”

“Finally, someone informed us of this [Iqbal's] facility. We rushed there and oxygen was arranged for my husband,” she said.

COVID-19
424 medical personnel test
positive in M'singh division

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A total of 424 medical professionals including doctors and nurses have been tested positive in Mymensingh division until June 9.

Of them, 255 are in Mymensingh district, said sources.

Among the total number of infected medical professionals, there are 63 doctors, 82 nurses and 110 health workers, said Dr ABM Mashiul Alam, civil surgeon of Mymensingh.

At the upazila hospitals, 12 doctors, 15 nurses and 38 medical staff were tested positive so far, said the civil surgeon. Of the total doctors at upazila level, four were tested positive at Gafargaon Upazila Health Complex, said the official.

Of the total 255 covid-positive medical professionals in Mymensingh, 190 are of MMCH and MMC, said Dr Zakiul Islam, assistant director of MMCH. This includes 51 doctors, 67 nurses and 72 medical staff, informed the assistant director.

A total of 1,604 people tested positive in Mymensingh division until June 9.

Of the total affected people, 798 are in Mymensingh, 364 in Jamalpur, 300 in Netrakona and 142 in Sherpur.

Healthcare professionals make up around 30 per cent of total infected people in the division, said Dr Md Abul Kashem, Divisional Director (Health). Mymensingh Division.

Nineteen people have died of Covid-19 in the division so far, of whom nine were in Mymensingh, five in Jamalpur, three in Netrakona and two in Sherpur, the official informed.

On the increase in number of medical professionals getting infected, the official said, “At the beginning of the outbreak, many patients got admitted at MMCH and other hospitals concealing their health history, which proved dangerous for frontline healthcare workers.

Some units of MMCH including Incentive Care Unit were locked down to contain the menace, the official added. But now the rate of infection among medical professionals is on a downtrend as strict precautionary measures have been taken to handle patients, said the official.

Appellate
Division to
run virtual
functions till
June 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Appellate Division of the Supreme Court will conduct judicial functions till June 30 through virtual system in order to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

The SC administration issued a circular to this effect yesterday, saying that Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain has assigned Justice Md Nuruzzaman to run the judicial functions of the apex court in the chamber during this period.

Justice Nuruzzaman will hold virtual hearings and dispose of the cases for three working days on June 16, 23 and 30. On May 30, the justice constituted 11 High Court benches for holding hearing and disposing of the cases through the system.

Tidal surges a threat to plantation in Shuvosandhya beach

Around 25,000 tamarisk trees uprooted by cyclone Amphan alone

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

The onslaught of super cyclone Ampan on May 20 wrought havoc to the large tamarisk plantation in Shuvoshandhya beach, a tourist spot in Barguna's Taltoli upazila, uprooting about 25,000 trees on 10 hectares of land and damaging the road connecting the spot.

The entire plantation area faces the threat of eventual extinction as the sand gets removed from the tree roots due to frequent tidal surges, about 50,000 trees of half of the 100-hectare forest have been lost as a result of soil erosion in the last two years.

Including it, about 50,000 trees of half of the 100-hectare forest have been lost as a result of soil erosion in the last two years, said Samir Ranjan Mistry, a forest officer in Taltoli Range.

The entire plantation area faces the threat of eventual extinction as the sand gets removed from the tree roots due to frequent tidal surges.

The forest department in fiscal year 2014-2015 started planting tamarisk trees on the 'Shubhosandhya' beach in Nalbungia area,

about 10 km south-west of Taltoli upazila town, and the beautiful gardens gradually spread on about 100 hectares of land.

The man-made forest, adjoining the Bay of Bengal and the mouths of three big rivers -- Payra, Bishkhali and Baleshwar, offers nature lovers the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of sunset in the vast water.

The number of tourists saw a gradual increase there in recent years.

But cyclone Amphan uprooted thousands of trees in the forest adjacent to the beach, said Jahangir Hawlader, a local resident.

"About 100 feet of the road connecting to Shubhosandhya beach also collapsed due to the removal of sand. If the soil erosion affected by tidal surges continues, the tamarisk garden will head towards extinction and the area will lose attraction to tourists," he said.

Motaleb Hossain, president of Taltoli Press Club, said immediate steps should be taken to protect the beach from erosion.

In December every year, a big moon-lit night festival is held in the beach area, which attracts thousands of people.

Besides, thousands of tourists come from home and abroad every year.

This correspondent during recent visit the beach found hundreds of uprooted trees falling on the beach and a portion of the road link badly damaged.

The tamarisk garden is reduced every year due to soil erosion by rains and tides, said forest officer Samir Ranjan Mistry.

"The matter has been reported to the higher authorities. A letter has also been given to the Water Development Board authorities to make an embankment on an urgent basis to prevent the breach," he said.



Part of the tamarisk plantation and a link road lie ravaged in Shuvosandhya' beach, a tourist spot in Barguna's Taltoli upazila, as an impact of super cyclone Amphan on May 20. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

2 muggers killed in mass beating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Two suspected muggers were killed in a mass beating in Kacharitek area in Sadar upazila of the district on Tuesday night.

The deceased were identified as Mohammad Hiron, 35, of Mollabari area in the town, and Mohammad Akash, 38.

Police quoted locals as saying that four muggers boarded on a battery-run auto-rickshaw of one Kawsar Mandal, 20, of Alipur area, to go Annandabazar area of the same upazila on Tuesday night.

On their way to Annandabazar, when they reached Kacharitek area the gang pushed off Kawsar from the vehicle and tried to flee with the easy-bike.

Hearing Kawsar's cry for help, local people chased them, caught three of them while another managed to flee the scene and gave them a mass beating, leaving them critically injured.

On information, police went to the spot, rescued the trio and took them to Faridpur Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared Hiron and Akash dead, Officer in Charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station Morshed Alam said.

Injured auto-rickshaw driver Kawsar and another injured mugger is now undergoing treatment at the hospital, he added.

TESTING FOR COVID-19

Kalihati admin leads the way by setting example

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

When people all around the country, even in the capital city, are struggling to get tested for Covid-19, the administration of Kalihati upazila has come up with a timely and innovative solution to solve the problem.

The administration has invested in a custom order specialised vehicle that is now going to the doorsteps of interested residents to collect Covid-19 test samples from them.

An entire battery-run vehicle was modified for the purpose, with a protective sample collection chamber in its back. A pair of heavy-duty long rubber gloves is fitted outside the glass panel of the chamber.

A tray is also attached below the protruding gloves so laboratory apparatus, such as swabs and test tubes,

on the occasion.

Anisur Rahman, a technologist at the health complex, said the vehicle was made in a way so that all necessary items can be kept inside the collection chamber and the sample collector, inside the chamber, would not need to wear any personal protective equipment while collecting samples by using the gloves attached to the glass panel.

UHFPO Dr Mohammad Saidur Rahman said now the residents of the upazila do not need to put themselves or others in harm's way by going to the hospital just to give samples for the Covid-19 test. Rather, the vehicle will go to the houses of probable Covid-19 patients.

Explaining how they managed the expenses to procure the vehicle, UNO Shamim Ara Nipa said the Kalihati



Samples for Covid-19 test are being collected by a technician who is inside the protective collection chamber of a customised vehicle. Other interested villagers in Kalihati upazila are seen queued up at a safe distance. Financed by Kalihati Upazila Parishad and initiated by the administration of the upazila, its health department launched the service last week for residents of the upazila.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

can be stocked as necessary. Staying unexposed inside the safety of the collection chamber, fitted with fixed glass panels all around, the sample collector can use the gloves from inside to collect necessary samples from a person standing right outside.

Last Thursday, lawmaker Hasan Imam Khan inaugurated the operation of the specialised vehicle on the premises of Kalihati Upazila Health Complex in the upazila headquarters. The vehicle is now operational under the health department of the upazila.

Ansar Ali, chairman of Kalihati Upazila Parishad; Shamim Ara Nipa, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO); and Dr Mohammad Saidur Rahman, upazila health and family planning officer (UHFPO); were present, among others,

Upazila Parishad provided Tk 3 lakh for the particular project.

South Korea and India have already been successful in making vehicles for collection of Covid-19 samples. In the case of the vehicle in Kalihati, they tried to incorporate similar features that are available in the vehicles made in those countries.

All the remodelling work was done at a local workshop and the vehicle will enable them to collect samples from at least 50 people each day, she said.

"When people from remote areas come to the hospital to give their samples, a larger number of people are under the risk of getting infected by them. But since this vehicle will collect samples by going door to door, it will help reduce the risk of spreading the infection further," the UNO hoped.



বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়

প্রধান কার্যালয়

মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৪৭/২০২০



মুজিব
মহান ১০০

২৬ জ্যৈষ্ঠ ১৪২৭
তারিখঃ ৯ জুন ২০২০

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটির সদস্যভুক্ত ইন্ডেস্ট্রিয়েল কর্পোরেশন অব বাংলাদেশ এ 'জাতি এন্ট্রি/কন্ট্রোল সুপারভাইজার' ২০১৮ সাল ভিত্তিক ১টি শূন্য পদে নিয়োগের নিমিত্তে প্রার্থীদের নিকট থেকে প্যানেল প্রকৃতির জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তাধীনে প্রতিক্রিয়াগুলির পরীক্ষার মাধ্যমে পূর্বের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশি নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে Online এ সরাসরি আবেদন করা যাবে।

| ক্রমিক | শিরোনাম | বিবরণ |
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| ১. | বেতন স্কেল | জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০১৫ এর টাকা ১৬০০০-১৬৮০০-১৭৬৪০০... -৫৫০৪০-৬৬৮০০-৬৮৬৪০ স্কেল এবং তৎসহ নিয়মানুযায়ী প্রদেয় অন্যান্য সুবিধা। |
| ২. | শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা | ক) স্নাতক স্নোনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় বা প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে স্নাতক বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি থাকতে হবে; তবে শিক্ষার্থীদের কোন ক্ষেত্রে তৃতীয় বিভাগ বা শ্রেণি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। খ) প্রোভিড পদ্ধতির ক্ষেত্রে স্নাতক পর্যায়ে অনূন সিভিলিএ ২.৫০ এবং মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক পর্যায়ে প্রতিটিতে অনূন সিভিলিএ ৩.০০ থাকতে হবে। গ) জাতি এন্ট্রি/কন্ট্রোল অপারেটরের কাজে অনূন ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের চাকরির অভিজ্ঞতা এবং ঘটায় ১০,০০০ (দশ হাজার) কী ডিগ্রেশন করার দক্ষতা থাকতে হবে। |
| ৩. | বয়স (০১/০৭/২০১৯ তারিখে) : | ক) মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান এবং প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থী ব্যতীত সকল প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর। খ) মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান এবং প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর। |
| ৪. | আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও কি প্রদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : | ২৫/৬/২০২০ তারিখ, রাত ১১.৫৯টা। |
| ৫. | Tracking Page সম্বন্ধে শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : | ২৫/৬/২০২০ তারিখ, রাত ১১.৫৯টা। |
| ৬. | আবেদন কি এর পরিমাণ : | পরীক্ষার ফি অফেরতযোগ্য টা: ২০০/- (দুইশত টাকা মাত্র) |
| ৭. | আবেদন পদ্ধতি: | ক) Online Application Form : শুধুমাত্র বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সফটওয়্যার ওয়েবসাইট (https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd)-এর Online Application Form পূরণের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। Online এ আবেদন মাধ্যমের সময় ফরম পূরণ করার নিয়ম ও অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী ওয়েবসাইটেই পাওয়া যাবে। খ) প্রার্থীর বিবরণ : প্রার্থীর নাম, পিতা ও মাতার নাম এসএসসি অথবা সমমানের সনদে যোগ্য লেখা আছে Online আবেদনে ঠিক সেভাবে লিখতে হবে। গ) প্রার্থীর স্থায়ী ঠিকানা : প্রার্থীর ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভার মেয়র/ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত জাতীয়তা সনদে উল্লিখিত স্থায়ী ঠিকানা প্রার্থীর স্থায়ী ঠিকানা হিসেবে উল্লেখ করতে হবে। তবে অববাহিত মহিলা প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন মাধ্যমের পরে বিবাহবন্ধনে আবদ্ধ হলে যথাযথ প্রমাণ সাপেক্ষে স্থায়ী স্থায়ী ঠিকানার অনুকূলে নিজের স্থায়ী ঠিকানা পরিবর্তন করতে পারবেন। ঘ) ছবি (Photo) ও স্বাক্ষর (Signature) : নতুন আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীদেরকে অবশ্যই Online Application Form এ ছবি ও স্বাক্ষরের জন্য নির্ধারিত স্থানে বর্ণিত নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী ছবি ও স্বাক্ষর আপলোড করতে হবে। ঙ) অর্জিত ডিগ্রির ফলাফলের তারিখ : Online Application Form এর নির্ধারিত ঘরে পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক কর্তৃক প্রকাশিত সফটওয়্যার ডিগ্রির ফলাফল প্রকাশের তারিখ অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে। চ. নিদেশি ডিগ্রিপ্রাপ্ত প্রার্থী : প্রার্থী 'O' Level ও 'A' Level পাস হলে দেশীয় সফটওয়্যার শিক্স বোর্ড হতে ইস্যুকৃত সমমান সার্টিফিকেট (Equivalence Certificate) এবং বিদেশি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে ডিগ্রি প্রাপ্ত হলে দেশীয় সফটওয়্যার বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুর কমিশন/শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত সমমান সার্টিফিকেট (Equivalence Certificate) অনুযায়ী ডিগ্রি ও ফলাফলের (শ্রেণি/বিভাগ/জিপিএ/সিভিলিএ উল্লেখসহ) তথ্য মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় প্রোভিড বোর্ডে অবশ্যই উপস্থাপন করতে হবে। অন্যথায় মৌখিক পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ করা হবে না। ছ. CV ID No. গ্রহণ : বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের মাধ্যমে ইতিপূর্বে আবেদনকৃত প্রার্থীদের বিদ্যমান CV ID No. এবং Password ব্যবহার করে Online Application Form পূরণ করতে হবে। নতুন আবেদনকারীগণ ওয়েবসাইট (https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd) এর মাধ্যমে Online Application Form এর প্রয়োজনীয় ঘরগুলো পূরণ করে CV ID No. একটি এবং Password প্রাপ্ত হবেন। প্রাপ্ত CV ID No. এর ১ম অংশ [হাইফেনসহ(-) পূর্বের অংশ] আবেদন কি প্রদানের ক্ষেত্রে ব্যবহৃত হবে। জ. Job ID No. : বর্ণিত পদের Job ID No. 10098 আবেদন কি প্রদানের সময় নির্ধারিত স্থানে ব্যবহার করতে হবে। ঝ. আবেদন কি প্রদান পদ্ধতি : আবেদন কি প্রদান দেয়ার পদ্ধতি সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত জানতে https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd/onlineapp/rocketprepay.pdf ওয়েবসাইটে ডিভিড করতে হবে। Prepaid পদ্ধতি একজন আবেদনকারী একসঙ্গে অথবা নিজের একাউন্ট এর মাধ্যমে নির্ধারিত Job ID No. এবং প্রার্থীর CV ID No. এর ১ম অংশ [হাইফেনসহ(-) পূর্বের অংশ] এর বিপরীতে আবেদন কি প্রদান করবেন। আবেদন কি প্রদান করলে প্রার্থী জন্মকৃত কি এর বিপরীতে একটি Txn ID নম্বর পাবেন। প্রাপ্ত Txn ID নম্বরটি ওয়েবসাইটে (https://erecruitment.bb.org.bd) এর মাধ্যমে Online Application Form এর নির্ধারিত ঘরটি পূরণ করে কি প্রদানের verification সাপেক্ষে তাঁকে একটি Tracking No. প্রদান করা হবে। একজন প্রার্থী Tracking No. প্রাপ্ত হলেই তার আবেদন যথাযথভাবে সম্পন্ন হয়েছে বলে বিবেচিত হবে। Online এ আবেদন করার পর প্রাপ্ত Tracking Number Form টি ভবিষ্যতে ব্যবহারের জন্য হার্ডকপি আকারে যথাযথভাবে সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে। কোন অবস্থাতেই Tracking Number Form এর Duplicate Copy সরবরাহ করা হবে না। |
| ৮. | Online Application Form এ প্রার্থীর নাম, পিতা ও মাতার নাম, স্থায়ী জেলা, জন্ম তারিখ, ছবি, স্বাক্ষরসহ অন্যান্য তথ্য অত্যন্ত সতর্কতার সাথে নির্ভুলভাবে নিজে পূরণ করতে হবে। | Online Application Form এ প্রাপ্ত সার্ভিস তথ্য, ছবি, স্বাক্ষর ইত্যাদি verification সাপেক্ষে প্রাথমিকভাবে যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের নির্বাচন করা হবে। |
| ৯. | প্রাথমিকভাবে যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের প্রবেশপত্র ও নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষার তারিখ সফটওয়্যার বিজ্ঞপ্তি ফলাফলে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের নিয়োগ সফটওয়্যার ওয়েবসাইট ও টেলিফোনিক পরীক্ষার প্রকাশ করা হবে। | |
| ১০. | প্রার্থীদেরকে নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষা এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে। | |
| ১১. | প্রার্থীদেরকে Online আবেদনের সময় কোনো কাগজপত্র জমা দেওয়া হবে না। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীগণকে অনলাইন আবেদনে প্রদত্ত প্রতিটি তথ্যের স্বপক্ষে যথাযথ সনদ/প্রত্যয়নপত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষার দিন জমা দিতে হবে। Online Application Form এ প্রার্থী কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত তথ্যের সত্যিকতা যাচাই করতে কোনো substantive ত্রুটি ধরা পড়লে মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ থাকবে না। তাছাড়া, মৌখিক পরীক্ষা শেষে মেথডলিকা প্রকৃতির কারণেও যদি কোনো প্রকার ওজনসহ ত্রুটি/অসঙ্গতি যেমনঃ স্নাতক (সম্মান)/স্নাতকোত্তর পরীক্ষার ফল প্রকাশের তারিখ, জন্ম তারিখ, নাগরিকত্ব সনদ (ইত্যাদি) পরিবর্তিত হলে বা অসম্পূর্ণ/অসত্য তথ্য পাওয়া গেলে প্রার্থীকে তালিকাভুক্ত করা হবে না। | জাতীয়রত প্রার্থীদেরকে তাদের নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের পূর্বানুমোদনক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষার দিন উক্ত অনুমোদনের কপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে। |
| ১২. | নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে কোটা সফটওয়্যার সর্বশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি ও অন্যান্য বিধি-বিধান যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে। | |
| ১৩. | সফটওয়্যার/আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ প্রার্থীদের নিয়োগ প্রদান করা বা না করার ক্ষেত্রে চূড়ান্ত সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে। | |
| ১৪. | মেথডলিকা শুধুমাত্র এ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত ২০১৮ সাল ভিত্তিক ১টি শূন্য পদের জন্য প্রযোজ্য হবে। সফটওয়্যার ব্যাংকে ৩১/১২/২০১৮ তারিখের পরে শূন্য হওয়ার পদের জন্য এ মেথডলিকা হতে প্রার্থী নির্বাচন করা হবে না। | |

বিশেষ প্রত্যাশা শেষ তারিখ ও সময়ের জন্য অপেক্ষা না করে হাতে যথেষ্ট সময় নিয়ে আবেদনপত্র পূরণ ও নির্ধারিত ফি প্রদানকরতঃ Tracking Number Form টি হার্ডকপি আকারে সংরক্ষণ করার জন্য পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

ডিসিপিঃ ৪৮/২০২০-১৩৩১
তারিখঃ ১০/৬/২০২০
জিডি-৯৭৭

ব্যারিক ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হররানির শিকার হলে কিংবা
কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।

আরিফ হোসেন খান
মহাব্যবস্থাপক
ও সদস্য সচিব
ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি

More race protests after Floyd’s funeral

REUTERS, Houston

Protesters were set to take to the streets across the United States again yesterday one day after the funeral of George Floyd, whose death in police custody has ignited the biggest surge of anti-racism activism since the civil rights era of the 1960s.

Hundreds of protesters in the west coast city of Seattle filled City Hall into early yesterday calling for the mayor to resign and for police reforms. More protests were expected from Atlanta to New York City and Los Angeles in what will be the 16th straight day of demonstrations.

In Washington, one of Floyd’s brothers was due to speak to a Democratic-led congressional panel yesterday as lawmakers take on the twin issues of police violence and racial injustice.

At the funeral in Houston on Tuesday, veteran civil rights activist the Rev. Al Sharpton told mourners Floyd was now “the cornerstone of a movement that is going to change the whole wide world”.

Floyd, 46, died after a police officer knelt on his neck for almost nine minutes while he was held face down in a street in Minneapolis on May 25. Gasping for air, Floyd’s last words were: “Please, I can’t breathe,” before falling silent and still.

His death unleashed a surge of protests across US cities against racism and the systematic mistreatment of black people. It has also inspired anti-racism protests in several countries in Europe.

Though mostly peaceful, the US protests have been marred by arson, looting and clashes with police, whose often heavy-handed tactics have fueled the rage.



This photo taken on June 7 shows submerged streets and buildings after heavy rain caused flooding in Yangshuo, in China’s southern Guangxi region. China yesterday said widespread flooding in south and central regions of the country killed more than dozen people and forced hundreds of thousands of people from their homes.

PHOTO: AFP

5 Kashmir rebels killed as India steps up ops

Five suspected rebels were killed yesterday in a dawn firefight with hundreds of troops in Indian-administered Kashmir, officials said, as New Delhi escalates counter-insurgency efforts in the disputed territory. The fatalities pushed the death toll during the current escalation -- which has ramped up since India’s nationwide coronavirus lockdown started in late March -- to 14 alleged militants in four days. Indian-administered Kashmir has been in turmoil since last August when New Delhi revoked its semi-autonomous status and imposed a communications blackout that has not been fully lifted. At least 93 rebels, including six top commanders, have been killed by Indian forces since January.

Boko Haram kills 69, razes village in northern Nigeria

Boko Haram gunman killed at least 69 people and razed a village to the ground in northern Nigeria’s Borno state on Tuesday afternoon, three sources told Reuters. The men attacked the village of Faduma Koloram, in Gubio local government area of Borno state, starting about noon. They arrived in vehicles and on motorcycles, shooting with AK-47s, razing the village and stealing 1,200 cattle and camels. A resident, a Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) member and a soldier each confirmed the same account. They said the men attacked because they suspected residents of sharing information on Boko Haram’s movements with security authorities.

More good news for pangolins in China



China has removed pangolin parts from its official list of traditional medicines, state media reported, days after increasing legal protections on the endangered animal. Pangolins were left out of the official Chinese Pharmacopoeia this year, along with substances including a pill formulated with bat faeces, the state-owned Health Times reported. The pangolin, the world’s most heavily trafficked mammal, is thought by some scientists to be the possible host of the novel coronavirus that emerged at a market in China’s Wuhan city last year. Its body parts fetch a high price on the black market as they are commonly used in traditional Chinese medicine, although scientists say they have no therapeutic value. China’s forestry authority on Friday gave pangolins the highest level of protection in the country due to its threatened status.

SOURCE: AFP, ANN

S Asia becoming new hotspot

Cases in the region rising at the fastest rate across the world

AGENCIES

South Asian coronavirus cases have increased at the fastest rate globally in the past week, as the region becomes one of the latest pandemic hot spots.

Infections have risen by 27 per cent in Pakistan, while in Bangladesh cases spiked by 19 per cent, and 17 per cent in India, according to data of the 20 most affected nations compiled by Bloomberg. Pakistan and Bangladesh also had their single biggest daily spike in fatalities.

As cases dwindle in the United States and Europe, they are still increasing in South America and South Asia. Nearly 75 per cent of global cases are coming from 10 countries in the Americas and South Asia, according to WHO.

Countries across South Asia have started to ease their virus lockdowns as they attempt to balance rising cases against economic misery. Pakistan had expected a peak in June but now is expecting late July or August, Prime Minister Imran Khan said in an address to the nation on Monday.

Coronavirus Pandemic

Infections have risen by **27pc** in Pakistan, while in Bangladesh cases spiked by **19** per cent, and **17** per cent in India

Lockdowns eased at a time when countries seeing biggest daily spike in fatalities

“The world has eased lockdowns since even developed countries have decided they can’t survive with a prolonged lockdown,” said Khan in a televised briefing on the pandemic, noting the restrictions had a “devastating impact on unemployment and poverty in poor countries”.

Pakistan crossed 113,700 cases and become the second-largest most-infected nation in Asia, with over 2,250 deaths. In Bangladesh, the tally surged to 74,865 including 1,012

deaths, while India has 276,583 cases and 7,745 deaths.

To understand the scenario better, the example of Maharashtra might show some light. Last week Maharashtra had surpassed China’s tally of around 84,000 cases. India’s financial capital Mumbai has reported a total of 51100 COVID-19 cases and surpassed China’s Wuhan, the epicentre of the pandemic.

“Lockdowns are being eased in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh without any sign that coronavirus infections are being brought under control,” Mark Williams, chief Asia economist and Shilan Shah, senior economist at Capital Economics wrote in a report Tuesday. “For a start, there is no telling how long containing the virus might take or indeed if it is even possible in South Asia.”

WHO has told Pakistan it should implement “intermittent” lockdowns to counter a surge in infections. Some 25 percent of tests in Pakistan come back positive for COVID-19, said WHO.

STUDY ON CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Widespread mask-wearing could prevent 2nd waves

REUTERS, London

Population-wide face mask use could push COVID-19 transmission down to controllable levels for national epidemics, and could prevent further waves of the pandemic disease when combined with lockdowns, according to a British study yesterday.

The research, led by scientists at the Britain’s Cambridge and Greenwich Universities, suggests lockdowns alone will not stop the resurgence of the new SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, but that even homemade masks can dramatically reduce transmission rates if enough people wear them in public.

Richard Stutt, who co-led the study at Cambridge, said combining widespread mask use with social distancing and some lockdown measures, could be “an acceptable way of managing the pandemic and re-opening economic activity” before the development of an effective vaccine against COVID-19, the respiratory illness caused by the coronavirus.

At the onset of the pandemic, scientific evidence on the effectiveness of face masks in slowing transmission of respiratory diseases was limited. But, prompted by some new research in recent weeks, the World Health Organization said on Friday it now recommends that everyone wear fabric face masks in public to try to reduce disease spread.

The study found that if people wear masks whenever they are in public it is twice as effective at reducing the R value, disease’s reproduction rate, than if masks are only worn after symptoms appear. In all scenarios the study looked at, routine face mask use by 50% or more of the population reduced COVID-19 spread to an R of less than 1.0, flattening future disease waves and allowing for less stringent lockdowns.

China urged to join as US, Russia to resume key nuke talks

AFP, Washington

Russia has called on the United States to make a “positive” proposal as the powers open talks on a major disarmament treaty, warning that US insistence on including China could scuttle efforts.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov will meet in Vienna on June 22 with US envoy Marshall Billingslea to start negotiations on New START, which expires in February.

President Donald Trump has walked out on a number of international agreements but voiced a general interest in preserving New START, which obliged the United States and Russia to halve their inventories of strategic nuclear missile launchers.

But the Trump administration says that a successor to New START, a Cold War legacy negotiated under Barack Obama, should bring in China -- whose nuclear arsenal is growing but remains significantly smaller than those of Russia and the United States.

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said China had “no intention of participating” in the talks and accused the United States of trying to “deflect responsibilities to others.” Billingslea, writing on Twitter, urged China to reconsider. “Achieving Great Power status requires behaving with Great Power responsibility. No more Great Wall of Secrecy on its nuclear build-up. Seat waiting for China in Vienna.”

The US and Russia each had more than 6,000 nuclear warheads in 2019, while China had 290, according to Arms Control Association. France had 300 and Britain possessed 200, with India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea maintaining smaller arsenals, according to the research group.



Rescue workers recover a body of a worker following an explosion at a well run by state-owned Oil India in Tinsukia, the northeastern state of Assam, yesterday. Two workers have been found dead near the site of a huge fire ignited by gas that has been spewing from an oil field in India for two weeks, officials said.

PHOTO: AFP

STATUE PROTESTS AND RACE MOVEMENT

UK confronts colonial past

AFP, Oxford

Thousands of people have called for a statue of 19th century British imperialist Cecil Rhodes to be removed from an Oxford University college, as debate raged over the removal of other monuments to the nation’s colonial past.

Protesters chanted “Take it down” and “Decolonise”, and held placards urging “Rhodes Must Fall” and “Black Lives Matter” beneath the statue at Oriel College.

The “Rhodes Must Fall” movement, which began in South Africa, failed in a previous attempt to have the statue removed but has been revived by a wave of anti-racism protests.

Protesters sat with raised fists for nearly nine minutes in tribute to unarmed black man George Floyd, whose death in US police custody triggered outrage and condemnation worldwide.

Sylvanus Leigh, 44, said the limestone statue of the Victorian-era tycoon, who founded the De Beers diamond company in what is now Zimbabwe, represented “a colonial mindset”. The care worker told AFP he could think of more deserving candidates for a statue. “Better to have Mother Teresa or Desmond Tutu,” he said.

Local MP Layla Moran called Rhodes a “white supremacist who does not represent the values of Oxford in 2020”.

The protest comes after activists toppled a statue to Edward Colton, a 17th century merchant who helped build the city of Bristol and played a leading role in slavery.

Years of local debate over what to do with the statue came to an end on Sunday when it was thrown in the harbour. Campaigners in Wales are now demanding the removal of



memorials to Napoleon war hero Thomas Picton, who was accused of cruelty while serving as a governor in Trinidad.

In Scotland, activists have called for changes to the streets named after the 18th and 19th century tobacco and sugar traders who made their fortunes through slavery.

A central London statue of Winston Churchill was defaced, with protesters blaming his policies for the death of millions during famine in the Indian state of Bengal in 1943.

Late on Tuesday, an east London council said it had removed a statue of Robert Milligan, whose family owned sugar plantations in Jamaica, from the Docklands district and added it would “review” other monuments in the borough “to understand how we should represent the more troubling periods in our history”.

Sweden says 34 year mystery of PM assassination is solved

REUTERS, Stockholm

A Swedish prosecutor closed the case of the 1986 assassination of Prime Minister Olof Palme yesterday, accusing an insurance company graphic designer who died 20 years ago of the country’s most notorious unsolved crime.

Palme, who led Sweden’s Social Democrats for decades and served two periods as prime minister, was one of the architects of Scandinavia’s model of a strong welfare state, and a fierce Cold War-era critic of both the United States and Soviet Union.

He was shot dead in central Stockholm in 1986 after a visit to the cinema with his wife and son. The failure of the police to find a killer has sparked decades of conspiracy theories, unlikely to be silenced by Wednesday’s accusation against a long dead suspect with no political profile.

Prosecutor Krister Petersson, who has led an investigation into the case since 2017, said the killer was Stig Engstrom, a suspect long known to Swedes as “Skandia man” after the company where he worked, with offices near the scene of the shooting.

Engstrom, known to have been at the



Olof Palme

scene, was repeatedly questioned in early investigations but dismissed as a serious suspect at the time. He died in 2000 in what appeared to be a suicide.

A 2018 book by an investigative journalist brought to light a range of previously overlooked evidence, including time stamps showing Engstrom had left his office earlier than he had told police, in time to commit the crime.

“Because the person is dead, I cannot bring charges against him and have decided to close the investigation,” Petersson said.

Palme’s son, Marten said he also believed Engstrom was the killer, “but unfortunately there is no real conclusive evidence”.

Palme was prime minister from 1969-1976 and again from 1982-1986. Supporters hail him as the architect of modern Sweden, while conservatives denounced his anti-colonialist views and criticism of the United States.

For decades, conspiracy theories around his killing have blamed a range of forces, from the CIA and Kurdish separatists to the South African security services.



Dairy Development Research Project
Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute
Savar, Dhaka-1341

Memo No. 33.05.2672.106.07.001.20-983

Date: 10/06/2020

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender will be invited through the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.procurement.gov.bd>) for procurement of following goods. Details are given below:

| Tender ID No. | Package No. | APP ID No. | Description of goods | Tender document last selling/ downloading date & time | Tender closing date & time |
|---------------|-------------|------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| 468853 | GD-6D | 160757 | Supply of Laboratory equipment, glassware and accessories | 24-Jun-2020 16:00 | 25-Jun-2020 13:00 |

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted through the National e-GP System.

Registered tenderers are requested to deposit required fees through any schedule bank to buy the e-schedule on or before 24-Jun-2020 16:00 for the Supply of Laboratory equipment, glassware and accessories. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal.

Dr. Azharul Islam Talukder
Project Director
Telephone No. 02-7792209
e-mail address: talukder1963@yahoo.com

GD-976

Wild Wild East

SHAH TAZRIAN ASHRAFI

In the 1950s, giddy with the glory of a blood-soaked independence, Bollywood churned out films that were high on “Nehruvian nationalism”. Undying hope, inclusivity and righteousness formed the bones of films starring Raj Kapoor, Dilip Kumar and Dev Anand. In *New Kings of the World* (2019), Fatima Bhutto takes an inquisitive gaze into this trajectory of Bollywood and how Eastern pop culture is dampening Hollywood’s firm grip on popular entertainment.

By the ’70s, the young Bollywood protagonist became an indignant man from the rural region, socialism roiling within him. He wants to avenge the wounds inflicted on his community by a rich man and his gang. Come the ’90s the landscape changes. Now, the protagonist is a posh Non-resident Indian who “drives a BMW and wears Nikes.” He no longer dances amidst rustic Indian valleys abloom with flowers; his destination is London’s Trafalgar Square. He only chases his love interests and makes a “pornographic show of wealth.”

Leftist ideals once ran unfettered in Bollywood films, but their platform collapsed as the Soviet Union disintegrated and free-market capitalism imbued every sphere. Amitabh Bachchan is one remarkable example—once a bastion of equity in the films of the ’70s, he was lifted off the lands of the farmers and their riots, and planted into aristocratic palaces bustling with petty family drama. In her book, Bhutto points fingers at “[this] intersection of two ominous forces: neoliberalism and Hindutva”. Neoliberalism shifted Bollywood’s focus, she argues, while Hindutva rendered mainstream Bollywood stars politically neutral, unquestioning of Hindu extremism. As proof, we saw mainstream celebrities cheering for war after the attacks on CRPF soldiers in Kashmir in 2019. (Ajay Devgan wrote on Twitter: “Mess with the best, die like the rest.”) Nonetheless, Bollywood stars are loved by many across borders. Even, surprisingly, by the indigenous people of Peru.

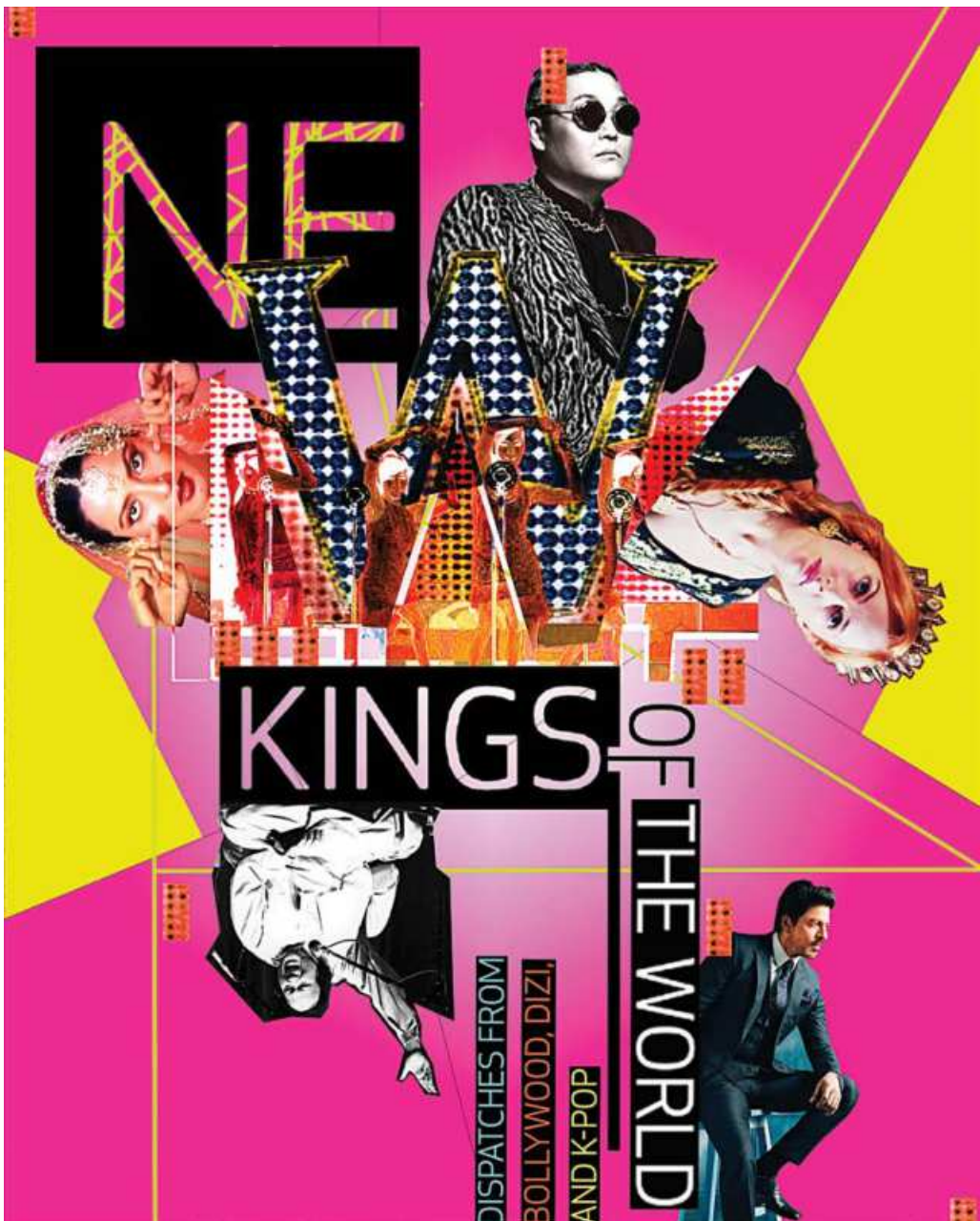


PHOTO COLLAGE: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

Leftist ideals once ran unfettered in Bollywood films, but their platform collapsed as the Soviet Union disintegrated and free-market capitalism imbued every sphere. Amitabh Bachchan is one remarkable example—once a bastion of equity in the films of the ’70s, he was lifted off the lands of the farmers and their riots, and planted into aristocratic palaces bustling with petty family drama. In her book, Bhutto points fingers at “[this] intersection of two ominous forces: neoliberalism and Hindutva”.

Peruvians first fell in love with Raj Kapoor’s *Mera Naam Joker* (*El Joker*). American films were accessible but did not resonate with them the way Bollywood did. These films taught them about values, love, sacrifice and family. These films didn’t make them feel inferior. After all, there was something special “about a brown guy making it big” in a very white world. In Peru, Bollywood fan clubs host regular meet-and-greets, dancers take Bollywood dance lessons, some fluently speak Hindi, some add Indian aliases to their actual names, and some are even cured by the winsome charm of SRK.

While Bollywood is her prime focus, Bhutto also profiles K-pop and the Turkish Dizi—two to three hour-long TV shows portraying epic sagas. She writes about their influence on an increasingly globalised world. When in 2017 Mohammad Bin Salman of Saudi Arabia threw elite individuals into a gilded prison, Turkish Dizi suffered a major loss as it was pulled by a popular television network, proving how entertainment is deeply tied with and impacted by the dynamics of power. But the Turkish Dizi still thrive. From the cosy American homes to

run-down refugee camps in Lebanon, people have grown to love Turkish Dizi as much as Bollywood. Meanwhile, Korean pop music continues to challenge America’s popular grip on the entertainment industry, as testified recently by the billboard awards.

The incessant rise of this trinity—Bollywood, K-pop, Turkish Dizi—is propelled by the invisible hand of globalisation and its offerings of capitalism and neoliberalism, according to Fatima Bhutto. *New Kings of the World* is an anthropological and journalistic delight that can be devoured in one sitting. It highlights the hardliner politics that fiddle with our complicated histories and what we consume, and reminds us how this world we inhabit is very much interconnected. Bhutto’s work pays witness to an amazing irony, which is that America’s very own pop culture machinations are now mobilising other cultures to challenge their singular, global grip. The sands are surely shifting.

Shah Tazrian Ashrafi is a contributor. Email: tazrian1234@gmail.com

Risky Business: The Company that never left

DR. SAYEED AHMED

The book starts with the origin of the word *loot*, a slang word for plunder. It was imported into the English language while the East India Company and its officers pillaged—for more than 100 years—Bengal, Mysore, Deccan, Hyderabad, and finally Delhi, the seat of the Timurid dynasty in the vast Indian sub-continent. In *The Anarchy: The East India Company, Corporate Violence, and the Pillage of an Empire* (2019), William Dalrymple tells the gripping story of the Company’s conquest of Mughal India for close to 50 years, using his fluid writing style and research from extensive travels and interviews. Dalrymple lives the history he writes.

One issue the book handles well is the legitimacy of power. When Shah Alam ascended to the *musnad* (throne) of Delhi in 1760, there were several regional military powers across India. Nadir Shah of Iran had already ravaged Delhi and taken away the Koh-i-Noor as his prize, leaving a financially, politically, and psychologically weakened Mughal Emperor. But he remained the legitimate ruler in the minds of his people. In 1765, the Company gained *diwani*, the right to collect taxes directly in the eastern province of Bengal-Bihar-Orissa, but had no responsibility for their welfare. Its officers made brutal use of this power to their benefit—within five years, this region faced a devastating famine causing an estimated 10 million to die.

THE GLOBAL POWER BALANCE

By the mid-18th century, the Ottoman military fell behind the Habsburg and

commanders riding elephants or horses, Clive led daring charges on dark monsoon nights through mud fields or swamps, taking the enemy by surprise. The remaining Indian powers could only turn to the English Company or the French for any help, little realising that both had come to India with the same intention. Could a more unified India have defeated these European enemies? Such a reversal of the tide would only have been temporary. Mughal India was already on the wrong side of history.

The story that Dalrymple tells of these events is utterly gripping, and you never quite feel the length of the book. He writes about personal connections—three earlier Dalrymples, Stair, James, and Alexander who were directly involved at its different stages, and about other small but significant events to set a great tone for the narration. When both Mir Jafar and his son Miran wanted to marry Lutf un-Nissa, the most beautiful of Siraj’s wives, after his death, she replied: “Having ridden an elephant before, I cannot now agree to ride an ass.”

THE RISE OF CORPORATE GREED

In 1773, the East India Company almost went bankrupt from its aggressive expansion strategy and incessant wars in India. But the Crown was obliged to bail it out with a massive loan of about 1.4 million pounds—equivalent to more than 140 million pounds today—because almost a quarter of the Members of the Parliament had stakes in it. Their argument at the time will sound familiar even today: the Company was ‘too big to fail.’ With only 35 odd employees at its head office in London, they conquered and ran a vast empire in India and shipped billions of pounds out of it with brutal efficiency.

Dalrymple argues that this corporate culture pioneered by the East India Company is still prevalent today, as demonstrated by state adventures in Iraq and elsewhere, paid for by taxpayers’ money, to benefit only a few. The pillage continues. In 1767 the Company bought off the British Parliament to safeguard their *diwani* rights in Bengal. Present-day modern corporations operate in developing countries similarly, taking advantage of the weak governance and legal loopholes. A dangerous mix of power, money, and corruption controls the majority of the world economy even today.

Dr Sayeed Ahmed is a consulting engineer who writes on history, culture, and contemporary issues.



PHOTO COLLAGE: KAZI TAHSIN AGAZ APURBO

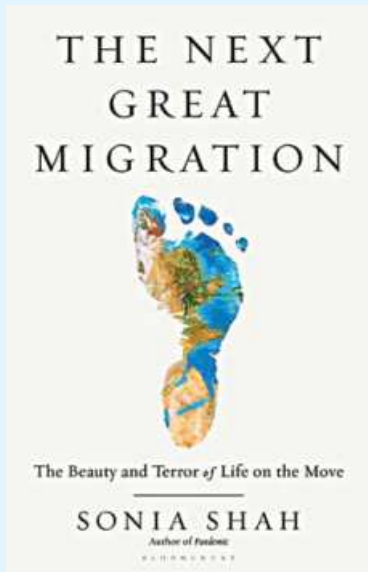
Russian empires. England, France, and other emerging European powers were competing against each other to set up trading posts and colonies in Asia, Africa, the Americas, and particularly the rich but fading Mughal Empire. They were full of vigour and vitality, hungry for adventures and exploration.

Dalrymple uses British military officer Robert Clive as a personification of this attitude, with “a willingness to take great risks and a breath-taking, aggressive audacity.” While conventional Indian warfare was conducted in daylight with their

THE SHELF

WORTH A READ THIS MONTH

Spanning history, politics, science, and anthropology, we feel that these novels and non-fiction books freshly published in the last few weeks each have the promise of being a fascinating read.

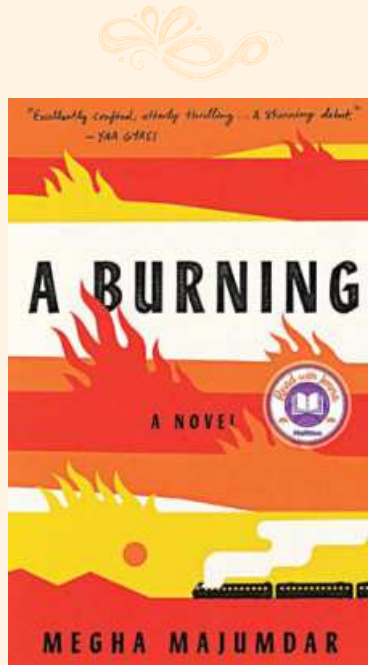
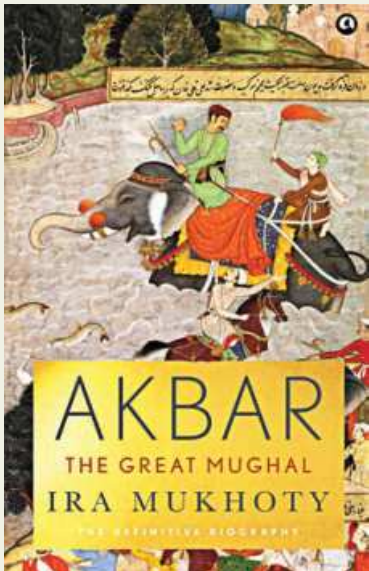


THE NEXT GREAT MIGRATION
(June 2020)
Sonia Shah,
Bloomsbury
Non-fiction

Why do human beings migrate? And does it disrupt or benefit states and societies? Science journalist Sonia Shah has previously written about diseases in the form of travel books. Now, she traces the movement of humans, plants, and wildlife across history to measure their impact on environmental change, myth-busting the principles of anti-immigration policies.

AKBAR: THE GREAT MUGHAL
(June 2020)
Ira Mukhoty, Aleph Book Company
Non-fiction

Having previously explored women in Indian mythology and the Mughal Empire, Ira Mukhoty, in this latest, offers a ‘definitive’ biography of Emperor Akbar. She covers his childhood and all that transpired in his 50 year rule—military tactics, abolition of slavery and *jiziya* (religious tax), his efforts to emancipate women, and more—leaning on current research by art historians.

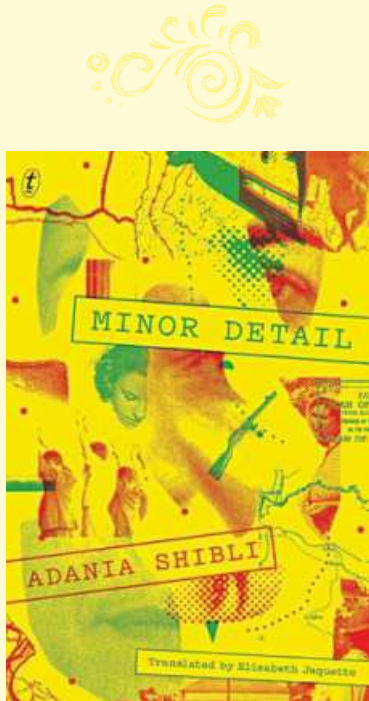


A BURNING (June 2020)
Megha Majumdar, Knopf
Fiction

A Muslim girl from the slums is blamed for a terrorist attack because of a Facebook comment. A gym teacher tries to climb into a right-wing political party at her expense. But she can be saved by the alibi of someone—a social outcast who dreams of success in the movies. Author Meghna Majumdar, associate editor at *Catapult* and an anthropology graduate from Johns Hopkins and Harvard universities, follows in the traditions of Jhumpa Lahiri and Yaa Gyasi, tackling class, corruption and extremism in a debut set in Kolkata.

MINOR DETAIL (May 2020)
Adania Shibli, Translated from Arabic by Elisabeth Jacquette, New Directions
Fiction

It is 1949, a year after the *Nak-ba* displaced 700,000 people in Palestine. A Bedouin teenager is raped, killed and buried in the desert sand by Israeli soldiers. When Shibli, a writer in present-day Ramallah, discovers this atrocity in a news report, she becomes obsessed with telling the story from the point of view of the victim. The project takes her to the perilous site of the crime in Israel.



The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

DHAKA THURSDAY JUNE 11, 2020, JAISHTHA 28, 1427 BS

Malaysia cannot shift responsibility for refugees to Bangladesh

International community and all involved nations need to work together to protect the rights of the persecuted Rohingya

ON June 8, Malaysian authorities detained 269 Rohingya refugees—a huge number of them women and children—on a suspected smuggling boat, which also held the body of a dead Rohingya woman. Two human rights groups have told Reuters that this boat is believed to have left Bangladesh in February with between 700 and 800 aboard, but the fate of the rest of the passengers remains unclear.

However, the desperation of the rescued Rohingya, on the brink of starvation after being adrift for months, was clear from the start. Even while the boat was at sea, 53 people jumped off and tried to swim to shore. The boat is also said to have been intentionally damaged, possibly so that it could not be pushed out to sea again. Given that Malaysia, earlier in April, turned away a boat carrying some 200 Rohingya refugees, including children, these desperate actions are not unwarranted—they show just how dire the situation is for the world’s most persecuted minority.

Malaysia has stated that not only will they not allow these refugees to stay within their borders, they will also ask Bangladesh to relocate them, preferably to Bhashan Char. This apathy towards human rights, and specifically the rights of refugees, is reprehensible. Malaysia must be held to account for not recognising the status of refugees and continuing to call them illegal migrants, thus dismissing the struggles of refugees and their right to not face deportation after surviving genocide. Malaysia’s excuse for its poor treatment of refugees and migrants—including migrants from Bangladesh—is that they must tighten border controls to rein in coronavirus. But with only 8,338 reported infections and 118 deaths from Covid-19, it is inconsiderate, to say the least, to even suggest that Bangladesh, with its Covid-19 death toll soaring past 1,000, should be the only country to continue to take in Rohingya refugees.

Last month, the Bangladesh foreign minister called upon European Union countries to share responsibility with Bangladesh and relocate Rohingya refugees. Malaysia also plans to ask UNHCR to resettle refugees in a third country. The concerned nations and agencies must come together and work with Bangladesh, Malaysia and other host countries to come to a diplomatic solution regarding the refugees. But most crucial of all, the global community must hold Myanmar to account for its persecution of the Rohingya.

Remove barriers to radioactive isotope import

Patients’ lives are at stake

WE are concerned at the way hospitals are refusing critical cancer, heart, kidney and liver patients who need to have emergency medical tests done for their treatment. Reportedly, the patients’ treatment has been on hold for the last two months, because of a lack of supply of radioactive isotope, an essential component for over 80 percent of nuclear medicine procedures. Bangladesh imports this element—also known as Technetium-99m or Tc-99m—from Turkey. But since the suspension of international commercial flights with Turkey in mid-March after the outbreak of the novel coronavirus in the country, it has not been able to import Tc-99m.

The crucial medical tests done using the radioactive isotopes are conducted at 14 centres under the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), which are attached to government hospitals across the country. Besides, the National Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (NINMAS) at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) also conducts the tests. And all the 15 centres are managed by the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), which is under the Ministry of Science and Technology. Although 15 lakh cancer patients in the country depend on these institutions for their treatment and well-being, it is unfortunate that neither the INMAS Dhaka nor BAEC websites have an announcement that these crucial medical tests are unavailable at present. Meanwhile, thousands of patients are left in uncertainty as the hospitals did not even provide them with any information as to when they might start the tests again.

Under the circumstances, to ensure treatment of the critically ill cancer, liver, heart and kidney patients, the government must take immediate measures to resume the operation of special cargo flights with Turkey so that this crucial element can be imported without further delay. The government should also look for other countries from which it can import radioactive isotopes, if it fails to import the element from Turkey on an urgent basis. Besides, since radioactive isotopes are very crucial for cancer treatment, the government should discuss with the BAEC if it is possible for them to locally produce the material to treat our cancer patients in the future.

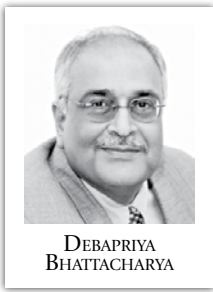
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Ride-sharing services must commence

Since the easing of lockdown, we saw a steady rise in the number of vehicles on the roads. Regular bus services resumed to facilitate public transportation. What I can’t understand, however, is why the authorities did not permit the ride-sharing services to resume. I feel this is a much safer option under the present circumstances, as one does not have to come into close contact with a large number of passengers like in a public transport. If allowed, these services will help the commuters travel safely and the riders make a living in these difficult times.

Max Costa, Dhaka



DEBAPRIYA BHATTACHARYA

statistics” was mistakenly attributed by author extraordinaire Mark Twain to British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli. Whereas, it is highly possible that the instructive comment was made by the English radical politician Sir Charles Dike. Whoever may have first voiced this sentence, the fact remains that the authority of statistics had been on the back foot ever since. And those who make a living by using those statistics, like us, had to be doubly careful regarding their proper use.

The immediate relevance of this lead-in relates to the upcoming national budget (Budget21) and publication of the estimated growth rate of Bangladesh’s gross domestic product (GDP) for the elapsing fiscal year. It is no secret that the economic growth story of the country is bitingly embedded in its development narrative. In the recent past, however, independent sources have raised concerns about the serious lack of consistency between estimated GDP growth figures and related performance indicators of the economy. These proxy indicators include private investment, credit growth to private sector, revenue intake, capital machinery import, energy consumption. Last year, I said that “the economic growth figure is now more like a flying kite not attached to its string and spool,” implying that the estimated numbers are not substantively supported by the revealed developments in the linked sectors.

This apparent disjuncture between the economic growth figures and observed changes in the associated sectors led to intriguing interpretations of our recent development episode. The most dominant elucidation was the one espousing the theory that Bangladesh economy is experiencing a spectacular productivity growth—i.e. more is being produced with less capital and inputs—although evidence on this professed technological transformation is still awaited.

Early signals about the GDP growth estimate for the concluding fiscal year indicate that the concerned estimate for 2019-20 may give rise to fresh debates about its veracity. This data debate may distract us from the evidence-based substantive policy discussion on the much-needed socioeconomic recovery and

rebound interventions in the context of the ravages of Covid-19.

Regarding the GDP growth rate in 2019-20, there is a general consensus that it will be significantly lower than the planned target of 8.2 percent. Following the outburst of the pandemic, IMF came out with a projection of 3.8 percent of economic growth for Bangladesh. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) made a similar allusion. The latest forecast of the World Bank mentions 1.6 percent growth for Bangladesh in this fiscal year. The Economist Intelligence Unit made a similar prediction earlier. Recently, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) has estimated that the growth rate is likely to be about 2.5 percent.

Against this backdrop, one of the senior political officeholders suggested that the country’s economy, notwithstanding the pandemic-induced economic collapse, will



record a 6 percent growth in the outgoing fiscal year. Indeed, it prompted Bloomberg to feature an article mentioning that this pace could make “Bangladesh an outlier in a world set to contract.” One wonders whether there was a hint of subtle sarcasm in that reportage.

Many countries have addressed the challenge of producing robust GDP estimates by introducing the practice of having quarterly GDP. Notwithstanding repeated promises by the mandarins of the establishment, this good practice is yet to come by in Bangladesh. Rather, the quarterly assessment of labour market dynamics, once introduced under the Labour Force Survey, was swiftly abandoned. Incidentally, in one of our neighbouring countries, a recent attempt to tackle GDP growth figures by independent experts suggested a discernible degree of overestimation,

leading to a huge political debate.

The adequacy of statistics acquires special significance this time around. Data collection and collation were not considered to be an “essential service” during the protracted “general holiday” preceding the budget session of parliament. Given the continuing catastrophe, we have not been able to produce a set of nationally representative impact assessments concerning specific groups of affected people, activities and institutions. Because of such an uncertain baseline, the projections for the medium term (3-5 years)—usually accompanying the budget—will be on shaky grounds. This creates an interplay of “adverse selection” and “moral hazard” problems while trying to tune our fiscal priorities in favour of the traditionally left behind groups as well as the *nouveaux pauvres* (newly poor persons).

estimation coverage. Delayed publication of the figures limits their usefulness. In many cases, data discrepancy arises due to lack of harmonisation of concepts and definitions as well as owing to difference in estimation procedures and accounting practices.

The case of misleading data use may be illustrated by the way figures for the fiscal framework are derived. The government’s income-expenditure balance is conventionally based on the figures obtained from the Revised Budget (usually produced with data up to March), not on the “projected actual” figure for June-end. Because of this practice, for instance, the target set for revenue collection apparently seems to be modest but, in reality, very high because of the inflated base figure. As a result, the revenue shortfall from the target for 2019-20 may be to the tune of Tk 125,000 crores—that is, a whopping one-third of the annual target.

Policy makers (and analysts) in Bangladesh are hugely handicapped by data deficit as they do not have real-time information on many critical variables, such as investment, employment and consumer demand. On the other hand, demands on data and information are growing exponentially, unlocking a phenomenon known as Data Revolution. In the era of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the citizens are no longer content with averages; they would like to have a disaggregated picture to establish “who are being pushed behind”. Processing of administrative data, remote-sensing data, “big data” from private entities, robust data from non-government sources, etc. are opening up new horizons of solutions for our national data challenges.

The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), under the Ministry of Planning, mandated by the Statistics Act (2013), is the custodian of official data. It has quite an impressive National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS). A number of international development partners are engaged in building the capacity of the organisation, particularly in the area of core statistics. However, enhanced professionalism of the experts may not be enough to deal with the tradition of politically vetted numbers.

In the parlance of judicial praxis, it is occasionally mentioned that there are three types of liars: simple liars, damned liars and expert witnesses. We, those who have to deal with statistics of dubious quality, need to be mindful—particularly during the Budget season—that we are not disposed of as belonging to the third category.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya is a Distinguished Fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Together, we can stop the scourge

This op-ed has been written by members of Bangladesh UN Network on Migration and the Counter-Trafficking in Persons Technical Working Group.

THE Covid-19 pandemic is putting the world under enormous social and economic strain. The major disruption to the global economy has resulted in the near collapse of overseas employment for millions, with devastating implications for migrant workers including in states heavily reliant on a foreign labour force. As a result, millions of Bangladeshis are now at the edge of subsistence with little or no social protection available.

Among the country’s 10-million-strong migrant labour force, many are stranded in countries of transit or destination, unable to travel home and with little access to healthcare and other basic services. Of the estimated 500,000 Bangladeshis who have returned to Bangladesh since the outbreak of Covid-19, many have endured great financial losses, discrimination and rejection from their communities.

At the same time, trafficking and smuggling networks are taking advantage of the Covid-19-induced economic downturn, offering risky survival alternatives to migrants who are increasingly destitute, without income, with very limited mobility and no access to domestic remedies or support.

The recent tragedy in Libya serves as a stark reminder of the threat trafficking and smuggling networks pose to migrants. On May 27, 30 migrants, including 26 Bangladeshi nationals, were killed by traffickers in a warehouse holding approximately 200 migrants in Mezda, Libya. The horrendous incident in Libya brings into focus the reality of the abuse and torture people face at the hands of traffickers and smugglers. It also highlights the close link between the smuggling of migrants and human trafficking along routes that are used by a number of people with varying needs (known as “mixed migration flows”), such as asylum seekers, refugees, stateless people, or unaccompanied or separated children.

Bangladesh is familiar with the increasing challenge of human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants. The great demand for low-skilled migrant workers, coupled with limited access to safe regular migratory routes, excessive recruitment fees, and low awareness of trafficking and smuggling risks, result in many Bangladeshis making perilous journeys

facilitated by smugglers and traffickers.

The major destinations for Bangladeshi migrants include Bahrain, Kuwait, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, where many allegedly end up in forced labour, sexual exploitation, debt bondage or working in slave-like conditions. Migrants are also often at heightened risk of financial exploitation and associated violence as a result of taking out loans from informal moneylenders.

To effectively fight trafficking, the capacity of social welfare authorities, law enforcement agencies and the justice system must be enhanced, and support should be provided to migrants’ organisations and civil society bodies which are working to help migrants access justice.

Bangladesh is the seventh largest recipient of global remittances and has made significant progress toward ensuring that the rights and interests of its migrant workers are protected both at home and abroad.

The government has passed the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012 and its Rules (2017), acceded to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) in July 2011, and in September 2019, acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UNTOC (Palermo Protocol).

Further, Bangladesh is a party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families,

has adopted the Overseas Employment and Migrants Act in 2013 (OEMA 2013) and ratified ILO core conventions on forced labour (No. 29 and No. 105). The country is currently implementing a National Plan of Action (NPA) for Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking 2018-2022.

While progress has clearly been made by the government of Bangladesh, there are still some areas that need to be addressed.

To effectively fight trafficking, the capacity of social welfare authorities, law enforcement agencies and the justice system must be enhanced, and support should be provided to migrants’ organisations and civil society bodies which are working to help migrants access justice.

As outlined in the 2012 Act on Human Trafficking (PSHTA 2012), a separate/ dedicated special anti-trafficking tribunal should be established to address crimes related to human trafficking. This year, the government has pledged to establish seven divisional level Special Tribunals on human trafficking cases. The establishment and full activation of these tribunals must be prioritised to ensure protection for and access to justice for survivors and victims of trafficking.

Bangladesh is yet to ratify the UN Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants, the purpose of which is to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants, as well as to promote cooperation among States Parties to uphold the rights of migrants. Ratification of this protocol would help build on the significant progress that Bangladesh has already made in protecting its migrant labour force.

Reducing the operational space for organised trafficking and smuggling networks is also key. Promoting safe migration is a proven strategy to reduce vulnerability to trafficking. Investment in skills development of prospective migrants is viewed as a key factor in securing greater security, remittance and better employment for Bangladeshi migrant workers.

Investment in higher quality pre-departure information is equally important, as is the provision of protection by Bangladeshi representations to migrants abroad.

Covid-19 is presenting new challenges to the protection of migrants, and it is widely known that the pandemic impacts men, women and children including adolescents differently. Since the onset

of the health crisis, female migrant workers who already face great risks of discrimination and exploitation are particularly susceptible to being subjected to violence of various forms.

Within the national context of human trafficking, persons with disabilities and children are also very vulnerable and risk being exposed to exploitation, violence, discrimination and organised crime. This calls for an expanded rights-based, inclusive, gender-sensitive and age-specific policy response rooted in a whole-of-community approach. This ought to be reflected in the NPA and its implementation.

With the recent decision to lift Covid-19 restrictions imposed with the lockdown since March 26, it is important to look beyond the borders of Bangladesh and actively engage migrant-receiving and sending countries, in pursuit of solutions.

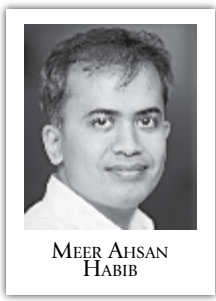
Bangladesh could also seek support through international human rights mechanisms such as the Special Rapporteurs on Trafficking or on Migration, which could support the government to assess situations of exploitation and adapt policies and strategies aimed at increasing protections for migrants and victims and reducing the risk of trafficking and smuggling.

Lastly, the fight against trafficking and smuggling of migrants requires multi-stakeholder engagement. It is, therefore, urgent to strengthen and institutionalise the National Counter Human Trafficking Authority to oversee and coordinate the implementation of the NPA.

To counter the increased risk of smuggling and trafficking of migrants, the UN calls upon the government of Bangladesh, global partners, the private sector, and civil society actors to focus their efforts on advancing a robust, rights-based approach aimed toward preventing exploitation and shrinking the space in which trafficking and smuggling networks operate.

The authors of the op-ed are Mia Seppo, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh; Giorgi Gigauri, Chief of Mission, IOM Bangladesh; Tuomo Poutiainen, Country Director, ILO; Steven Corliss, Country Representative, UNHCR; Shoko Ishikawa, Country Representative, UN WOMEN; Sudipto Mukerjee, Resident Representative, UNDP Bangladesh; Asa Torkelson, Representative, UNFPA; Tomoo Hozumi, Representative, UNICEF; Sergey Kapinos, Representative, UNODC Regional Office for South Asia; and Dr. Barden Jung Rana, Representative, WHO.

Press freedom must be protected at all costs



WHEN I first met Mizan in Dhaka, he was wearing an elbow crutch to help him walk, accompanied by his elderly father. Mizan had suffered custodial torture at a local police station at Bauphal in Patuakhali. The son-father duo came to Dhaka to file a writ petition seeking proper investigation in a case filed by local police on charges of attacking and extortion from police. He had already spent three months in jail for a crime he had never committed. The High Court ordered further investigation into the case, filed in March 2015, that led to the conclusion that no such incident had taken place. Since 2013, this was the sixth case in six years in a row against Mizan. He was acquitted of all the charges after investigations. The Bauphal correspondent of *Prothom Alo*, ABM Mizanur Rahman was a free man then. But he did not see it coming in 2020. This time, he was made accused in the murder case of Jubo League activist Tapas Kumar Das, killed in an intraparty clash.

Local journalists took to the street demanding a fair probe and withdrawal of Mizan's name from the case. It has been alleged that the plaintiff, Tapas's brother, has never met Mizan in his life and that he was influenced by a politician who has been disturbed by Mizan's news reports. So far, as the definition of presumption of guilt goes, he is guilty until proven innocent. An impartial investigation will reveal the truth but if we take the experience of recent years into account, we will find a grim picture of attacks against the press and journalists in a manner that makes us worried about the future of

independent journalism and free flow of information in a democracy. In 2018, a serious level of press freedom violation marred the road safety movement in August and Bangladesh's national election in December, as a number of journalists either came under attack from the ruling party activists or were framed by the draconian Digital Security Act. Rahat Karim, a freelance



photographer, AM Ahad of Associated Press (AP), Palash of daily *Bonik Barta*, Ahmed Deepto and Sajid Hossain of *Prothom Alo*, Ibnul Asad Zawad of daily *Janakantha*, Rimon of US-based Zuma Press, Pathshala's photography student Enamul Hasan, Abdullah Shafi and Kamrul Hassan of Nagorik TV, Golam Samdani of Sara Bangla online, Abu Shufian Jewel of bdmorning news portal, Sharif Hossain of *Naya Diganta*, freelance photographers Hasan Jubayer and N Kayer Hasim, and Faisal Hossain of Channel 24 came under attack for two consecutive days on August 5 and 6 at different parts of Dhaka, while covering the road safety movement. Then, atleast 12 journalists of Jamuna TV and daily *Jugantor* were hurt in an attack on December 25 when they

were covering the news of the national election in 2018. Hedait Hossain Molla of *Dhaka Tribune* and Rashidul Islam of daily *Manab Zamin* were sued under the Digital Security Act for reporting on false voting in a Khulna constituency in the aftermath of the election. Kazi Tahsin Agaz Apurbo of *The Daily Star*, Kafi Kamal of *Manab Zamin*, and Al Amin of Chattogram-based online news portal Cvoice24.com came under attack ranged from physical attack to enforced disappearance, from judicial harassment to police brutality to the use of Digital Security Act. Some 20 journalists came under various forms of attacks for reporting on pilferage, nepotism and corruption in connection with food aid distribution during the Covid-19 lockdown. Mostafizur Rahman Suman of Agami News, Zisad Ikbāl of Press Bangla Agency, Mahabub Momtaji of *Bangladesh Pratidin*, Nurul Amin of *Business Standard*, Al Fatah Mamun of *Jugantor*, Osman Gani of Paribartan News, Sheikh Hasan of *Kaler Kantho*, Foisal Ahmed of *The Daily Star*, and Faruq Hussain of *Dainik Inqilab* came under attack by the ruling party activists on February 1, while they were covering the Dhaka municipal elections. Matiur Rahman Chowdhury, Editor-in-Chief of *Manab Zamin*, photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajal and 31 others were sued under the Digital Security Act on March 10 for "publishing false news and circulating it on social media". Kajal remained disappeared for 53 days in a yet-unresolved case and was later arrested after he resurfaced. Ariful Islam, the Kurigram correspondent of *Dhaka Tribune*, was picked up from home at midnight on March 14 and handed a one-year prison term by a mobile court for alleged possession of drug and alcohol. The entire thing was orchestrated by the then Deputy Commissioner of Kurigram as Ariful had published several corruption reports against her. It was a naked example of custodial torture and abuse of power that embarrassed the entire government and the civil service. Toufique Imrose Khalidi, Editor-in-Chief of bdnews24.com, and Mohiuddin Sarkar, acting editor of Jagonews24.com, were sued along with two other journalists under the Digital Security Act on April 18, over a report on alleged embezzlement of food aid.

Abdul Latif Litu, the Thakurgaon correspondent of *Bangladesh Pratidin*, was badly beaten by the police on April 21 for allegedly defying the lockdown; he was returning from work. Kamal Hossain of Bangla Vision came under attack on April 18 when he tried to cover an incident of alcohol sale involving the local narcotics department. Baten Biplob and Sajal Bhuiyan of SATV were severely injured on April 23 when they were covering the misappropriation of rice earmarked for the vulnerable people in Narsingdi. In some cases, the law enforcement agencies initially did a commendable job of protecting the journalists from attacks and arresting the goons. But there is almost no evidence that the perpetrators have been brought to justice. It is pertinent to mention that ever since our struggle for independence began, the press and the journalists were at the forefront of it and bore the brunt of its impacts. Soon after Bangabandhu delivered his historic March 7 Speech, almost all the newspapers in the then East Pakistan started to toe the line of Bangabandhu and the Awami League. Within a space of one week after the proclamation of our independence on March 26, presses and offices of *Dainik Ittefaq*, *Sangbad* and *The People* were destroyed and burnt by the occupying Pakistani military force. As we approach the golden jubilee of our independence, we must not forget that press freedom and freedom of expression are integral parts of a true democracy and just society. Journalists have the right to carry out their work under safe conditions, without fear of being harassed or attacked. Fighting impunity is what the state should stand for, and it must promptly and effectively investigate every single incident of attack and violence against the journalists and bring the criminals to justice.

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Agriculture and livestock: Are they victims or perpetrators of climate change?



THOUGH much of the world is focused on transitioning away from fossil fuels as a way to fight climate change, there are other often overlooked contributors to the conundrum resulting from climate change. Two of them are agriculture and livestock. Sure, they provide us with the food we eat every day. But cumulatively, they are also the second largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions after fossil fuels. While the majority of global warming activities give off carbon dioxide, the agricultural sector primarily releases methane, which is a greenhouse gas 28 times as potent as carbon dioxide over a 100-year period. The source is mainly rice that is grown on flooded fields with depleted dissolved oxygen. In the absence of oxygen, organic matter in the soil decomposes and produces methane that escapes into the atmosphere. Rising temperatures would cause rice cultivation to release even more methane. Another source of methane is ruminants, particularly cows and goats. As part of their digestion cycle, they expel intestinal gases, mostly methane, via belches. Methane can also escape from stored manure and organic waste in landfills. If manure is stored as a liquid or slurry in ponds, tanks or pits, it decomposes anaerobically (in the absence of air) and emits a prodigious amount of methane. However, when handled as a solid or deposited naturally on grassland, manure decomposes aerobically and creates negligible

methane emissions. Ruminants, manure and rice cultivation account for almost 25 percent of anthropogenic methane emissions. One of the methods of reducing methane emissions from rice fields, as suggested by scientists at the World Resources Institute, is to plant rice in a raised bed and flood only the furrows. This method has the potential to cut methane emissions in half. Controlling methane emissions from ruminants is more difficult than trimming or regulating methane emissions from fossil fuels. A large number of mitigation options—namely, diet manipulation, vaccines, chemical additives and genetic selection—have been proposed. They have different efficiencies in lowering production of intestinal methane. Methane emissions from manure depend on temperature and storage duration. Results from typical Canadian farms indicate that use of underground manure storage tanks, maintained at lower temperatures, lessens methane emissions. Additionally, farmers found that if they clean the tanks regularly, it took longer for methane-producing organisms to grow back. Consequently, methane emissions decrease substantially. As for agriculture, according to a report of the United Nations published last year, about 50 percent of the Earth's cultivable land is dedicated to growing crops for humans and roughly 30 percent is used to grow grain for livestock. Given how much land it takes to grow food to feed livestock, a very vocal segment of environmentalists insist that "meat is heat" and encourage consumers to go vegan. Moreover, in line with the projected population growth, global demand

for food is expected to grow by up to 70 percent in the coming decades. This substantial increase in demand would require clearing more space for agriculture and cattle grazing, so that the per capita threshold of land required for a nation to be self-sufficient in food production could be maintained. Vast swaths of the Amazon Rainforest, along with lands and forests in other places, are already being cleared for growing crops and grazing cattle. If current trends continue, most of our planet's remaining land and forests would need to be cleared to feed the world. Deforestation and land degradation indirectly contribute to the negative impacts of atmospheric carbon dioxide. One of the main reasons for this is because forests are natural carbon sinks. They absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and converts it into oxygen that we breathe in. Hence, by cutting down big areas of forest without replacing the trees that are removed, we are causing an inadvertent change in the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Several studies indicate that planting more than two billion acres of trees could remove two-thirds of all the carbon dioxide that human activity has pumped into the atmosphere since the Industrial Revolution. Trees also recharge the water table and create microclimates that increase local rainfall. In addition, deforestation puts biodiversity at risk, further undermining nature's ability to cope with the impacts of climate, for example absorbing heavy rainfall. Clearly, agriculture in general, and livestock in particular, contribute considerably to climate change. Nevertheless, climate change is also a major threat to the sustainability of livestock globally. An increase in

air temperature as a result of global warming directly affects milk and meat production, reproductive efficiency and health of the animals. Also, excessive heat would reduce their body size and fat thickness. Agriculture is also highly vulnerable to climate change. It is affecting food security by raising the risks to food supply due to heat waves, drought, flood, storms, soil depletion and desertification. Over the coming dozen years or so, farmers in developing countries, especially in South and Southeast Asia, will be the ones to bear the brunt of global warming, as per a recent report of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN. It could, therefore, be said that agriculture and livestock farming are caught in a vicious cycle that makes them both victims and perpetrators of the harmful effects of climate change. Most of the times when agriculture perpetrates its crimes, it is not even contributing to feeding the ever-increasing world population. Instead, a good portion of the agricultural products are consumed by livestock—mostly bovines—which demonstrates this paradox. How do we solve this complex problem? The solution obviously requires a coherent and integrated approach to climate change, energy usage and food security. Faced with global warming, competition for scarce resources, and inaction by world leaders, we, the people, have to transform the entire global food system and make it much more resource-efficient while continuously curbing its environmental impacts, including its greenhouse-gas emissions. We also have to increase yields while curtailing dependence on

agrochemicals. Besides, we should minimise food waste, cut down consumption of resource-intensive and greenhouse gas-producing foods, notably meat, and switch to climate-friendly vegetables, such as the nutritionally rich seaweed kelp. Farming kelp is beneficial for the ocean. Furthermore, employing sustainable practices, like organic agriculture, has enormous potential to help in



Ruminants, manure and rice cultivation account for almost 25 percent of anthropogenic methane emissions. the fight against global warming, whereas maintaining the status quo with widespread industrial agricultural practices will continue to be terribly detrimental to the climate. In short, making agriculture and livestock industries and all associated activities sustainable is the answer to win the battle against global warming, as well as accelerate the transition to a healthier and more just society. Quamrul Haider is a Professor of Physics at Fordham University, New York.

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE
(1859-1930)
British author.

Mediocrity knows nothing higher than itself, but talent instantly recognises genius.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Corny performers
- 5 Flower part
- 10 Big-scale movie
- 11 So far
- 12 Singer Horne
- 13 In agreement
- 14 Boring thing
- 16 Fruit certer
- 20 Diamond sides
- 23 Mex. neighbor
- 24 Pop stars
- 25 Maximum amount
- 27 Road goo
- 28 Bach work
- 29 Chart topper
- 32 Watch another's home

DOWN

- 1 Occupied
- 2 Mimic
- 3 Short skirt
- 4 Surgeon's tool
- 5 Boom variety
- 6 Singer Piaf
- 7 Touch lightly
- 8 Finished off
- 9 Went ahead
- 11 Brass band members
- 15 "Why don't

we!"

- 17 Mountain cat
- 18 "What – now?"
- 19 "Toodleoo!"
- 20 Belongs
- 21 Eden evictee
- 22 "Downton Abbey" countess
- 25 Clark's coworker
- 26 Meantime
- 28 Closes
- 30 Concise
- 31 Bull features
- 33 Steamed
- 34 Infamous czar
- 35 Watch over
- 36 Preserve
- 37 Great serve
- 38 Promise

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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BEETLE BAILEY

BY MORT WALKER

BABY BLUES

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

GRAPEVINE

Film on Pandemic in Bangladesh



Based on the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on Bangladesh, a film, *COVID-19 in Bangladesh*, is being directed by Syed Wahiduzzaman Diamond. The film will star actor Bappy Chowdhury and Adhora Khan as the leads. Currently, shooting for the film is happening in different places of Dhaka by maintaining all kinds of safety precautions. Bappy said, "I am aware of the risk involved during the shooting of this project, but as the story is based on this current crisis, I have decided to work for it. Everyone involved in this project is cautious and we are all maintaining the safety protocols." Adhora said, "The story is emotional. I believe the audience will be able to connect to it. I consider myself lucky to be part of this project."

Nurul Alam Atique's successful venture

A recent short film, *Coronar Ful*, directed by Nurul Alam Atique has been highly appreciated by the audience. The film was aired on *Depto TV*, and now can be watched on the online streaming platform *Bioscope*. Actor Swagata and Manoj starred in the film. Social media has been buzzing with praises about *Coronar Ful*, and many prominent personalities shared their positive remarks regarding this project. Aside from this, under the banner of *Al-pha-I Studio*, directors like Giasuddin Selim, Shihab Shaheen, Animesh Aich, Shafayet Monsur Rana and Gautam Koiri are making short films for the audiences.



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The Lockdown

Even though everything is at a halt due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, our artists are still finding ways to entertain their audience. Recently, a music video for the song, *The Lockdown*, was released on *GaanChobi Entertainment's* official YouTube channel. The song is composed by Kumar Bishwajit and the lyrics written by

Liton Adhikari Rintu. Singer Kishore gave voice to the song and also starred in the music video. Kishore said, "This is my fourth song composed by Kumar Bishwajit. I always feel privileged to sing on his tune. It was a unique experience to work for the music video, as I did the shooting at home using a mobile phone."

COVER STORY

INTO THE WORLD OF HUMOUR



Shaju Khadem is a renowned comedian and actor who started his career back in 1997 doing stage shows with 'Nagorik Natyangan'. He has also appeared on projects like 'Doll's House', 'Gohine' and 'Alok Nagar', among several others. Previously, in an interview with Rafi Hossain, he talked about comedy, his career and about the new generation of actors.

Rafi Hossain: Welcome to *Uncensored with Rafi Hossain*. According to many, Bangladeshis aren't capable of making people laugh, but today's guest, Shaju Khadem, breaks that stereotype. Shaju, thank you for giving us your time.

Shaju Khadem: Thank you for having me on your show, Rafi Bhai. About Bangladeshis people not being able to make others laugh, I don't think that's true. From the funny stories written by Jasimuddin to Gopal Bhaa, Bangladeshis have been known to have a good sense of humour.

Rafi: Has there been instances where people could not take a joke or misinterpreted it?

Shaju: Yes, that does happen a lot. There have also been times where a joke made by a foreign artist that gained popularity in Bangladesh got criticised when it was done by a Bangladeshi artist. What I want everyone to understand is that the jokes we say are not to attack anyone personally. They're just to make people laugh.

Rafi: How do you differentiate between a good and bad actor?

Shaju: I honestly cannot say who is a good actor and who is a bad one as every actor is different. The impact an actor has on our society or the number of fans an actor has determines their popularity. We can call them popular actors, but we can't say that that actor is a good actor. I think what makes an actor good is the acting they have studied and learned. Without acting training, actors will pretend to be instead of playing a character.

Rafi: So, do you think newcomers should do theatre or have institutional training to become a good actor?

Shaju: If they do theatre or gain institutional knowledge, it does not necessarily mean that they will become a good actor. One must practise and hone their skill as well. You must also have an understanding of what you are doing wrong and what you must improve: I can say this from my personal experience. Before I joined Charukola Academy, I already considered myself a great artist. When I first joined, I was given the task of drawing a picture of a bottle in seven days. I drew it in two minutes time and took it to the teacher, who ripped my drawing up and said that I hadn't even looked at the bottle properly

before drawing it. He then proceeded to show us how to properly look at something before drawing it and also about shading and lines which you use to draw. Within two or three months I understood that the artwork I used to do before wasn't proper. I was so ashamed of how I used to take pride in artworks which weren't even that great, so I burned all of them.

Rafi: You impersonate a lot of people. How do you pick them?

Shaju: There are some people who are very unique. You don't have to hear them

small role, I aim to do it as well as I can.

Rafi: What do you think is a problem in the industry?

Shaju: I think a big problem for us is that people who make projects try to play it safe. We have many experienced actors in our country, but we are not utilising them.

Rafi: What tips do you have for new actors?

Shaju: I think that the new actors are much more brilliant than we were at their age. Those who are doing well are working very intelligently. I just want to ask them to be more responsible about their personal lives.



They are in the public eye a lot, so they must maintain discipline. If they don't maintain this discipline, they cannot make a mark in the showbiz industry.

Rafi: Thank you for talking to us, Shaju. I had a great time. Would you like to say anything to the readers?

Shaju: I would ask everyone to pray for us, and I would request everyone to take the jokes I make very lightly.

.....
Transcribed by Ridwan Intisaar Mahbub

POPCORN HIGHLIGHTS

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

The Victims' Game

The Victims' Game is a Taiwanese thriller TV show on Netflix. It was directed by David Chuang and Allen Chen, and stars Joseph Chang, Ann Hsu and Jason Wang, among others. The storyline follows the life of a forensic expert who finds himself in a dilemma when his estranged daughter seems to be connected to murders. It was first aired on April 30, 2020.



PAATAL LOK



Paatal Lok is a Hindi crime-thriller TV series, first aired on May 15, 2020 on Amazon Prime Video. It was created by Sudip Sharma, directed by Avinash Arun and Prosit Roy, produces under the banner of *Clean Slate Films*, and stars Jaideep Ahlawat, Gul Panag and Neeraj Kabi, among others. The plot follows the life of a cop who finds himself entangled in a difficult assassination case.

AVATAR

The Last Airbender



Avatar: The Last Airbender is an animated television series. It has been created by Michael Dante DiMartino and Bryan Konietzko, produced under the banner of *Nickelodeon Animation Studio*, with the voices of Zach Tyler Eisen, Mae Whitman, and Jack DeSena, among others. The series takes place in a world where people can manipulate the elements on earth, and focuses on an Avatar and his friends who are determined to end the ongoing war once and for all. It was originally aired on *Nickelodeon* on February 21, 2005, but was released on *Netflix* on May 15, 2020.

Shreya Shomoyeeta & Amina Hossain

CONTROL Z

Control Z is a Mexican web television teen drama series on Netflix. It has been directed by Alejandro Lozano, produced under the banner of *Lemon Studios*, and stars Ana Valeria Becerril, Michael Ronda, and Andrés Baida, among others. It tells the story of a hacker who begins leaking the secrets of students in a certain high school, while one student tries to find the person behind it. It originally premiered on *Netflix* on May 22, 2020.



GUESS THE CELEBRITY

Guess who the celebrity is?
HINT: A FRIEND AND STYLIST OF PARIS HILTON



ANSWER FROM THE PREVIOUS ISSUE:
"REESE WITHERSPOON"



La Liga is set to restart today and although the unexpected break in the season due to the coronavirus pandemic has caused a great deal of strife, players such as Real Madrid's 100-million-euro summer signing Eden Hazard (C) will be happy that it gave them time to regain fitness and perhaps play a pivotal role in the title race.

PHOTO: REAL MADRID

Lifelines aplenty as title race resumes today

AFF, MADRID



When La Liga stopped they were not expected to play any part in the rest of the title race but when the season resumes on Thursday, Eden Hazard and Luis Suarez could be set to decide it.

Hazard was looking beyond Real Madrid to the Euros after undergoing surgery on his right foot in March while some felt Suarez had played his last game for Barcelona after having a knee operation in January.

Instead, both have been thrown a lifeline, Suarez to preserve his career at Barca and Hazard to kickstart his with Madrid.

After Real Madrid paid 100 million euros (\$108.4 million) to sign him from Chelsea last year, fans sprinted outside the Santiago Bernabeu to beat the queues for Hazard's unveiling, and around 50,000 made it inside.

However questions were soon being asked about his weight in pre-season, and he has struggled

| HIGHLIGHTS |
|---|
| <p>» La Liga roars back into action tonight after a three-month pause, with matches taking place almost every day.</p> <p>» Barcelona (58) were leading Real Madrid (56) by two points after 27 matches when the current 2019-20 campaign was postponed back in mid-March. There are 11 rounds left to play.</p> <p>» The return of La Liga will see empty stadiums and new stadiums as well as the introduction of five substitutions and other new precautions.</p> <p>» Players will be tested for coronavirus</p> |
| <p>within 24 hours of kick-off.</p> <p>» Only 270 people will be allowed inside stadiums, including club players and staff, doctors and security personnel, match-day and club officials, as well as press and technicians.</p> <p>» Players won't be cautioned for spitting and punish for hugging during goal scoring celebrations.</p> <p>» La Liga will use virtual images of stands in television broadcasts with added 'fan audio', produced by the makers of the FIFA video game.</p> |

with injury all season.

Every time he has come back, Hazard has needed time to find form, initially lacking that burst of speed and change of direction that at his best, can leave a defender for dead. But reports from Valdebebas have been positive, with Thibaut Courtois saying on Sunday he had been surprised by the Belgian's "rhythm" before adding a note of caution. "We can't expect him to be on top form without playing,"

he said.

Barca coach Quique Setien said: "He is better than we expected," "But the question is how ready he is after so long out and whether he is ready to start." Despite winning the Clasico on March 1, Madrid were in a slump before the hiatus, that 2-0 victory over Barcelona their only win in five games.

They lost the defensive steel that saw them go 21 matches unbeaten either side of Christmas

and a familiar bluntless, still lingering from Cristiano Ronaldo's departure, remains.

Hazard was supposed to help fill the creative void but 11 games over five and a half weeks offers no room for rustiness and, unlike Suarez, this is still a new team to him. Fifteen appearances in 10 months hardly breeds familiarity.

Barca meanwhile need bodies as they have only 19 fit senior players, which leaves them surprisingly ill-equipped to capitalise on two extra substitutes.

The club sold back-ups in January to raise funds for a striker that never arrived and instead they were left to exploit La Liga's emergency signing rule in February to poach Martin Braithwaite from Leganes.

But Suarez brings experience and quality, not to mention the best out of Lionel Messi.

In full flow, Messi could see off Real Madrid but the Argentinian has had his own injury problems this season, the latest a minor thigh complaint that led to him missing three training sessions last week.



Chelsea players were in extremely high spirits as they continued to train ahead of the scheduled restart of England's Premier League on June 17. They were bolstered by the infectious smile of N'Golo Kante (R), who rejoined contract training after previously sitting out due to concerns over contracting the coronavirus.

PHOTO: CHELSEA FC

Colindres leaving Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER



Daniel Colindres' journey in Bangladesh football came to an end as Bangladesh Premier League champions Bashundhara Kings parted ways with the Costa Rican World Cupper owing to their inability to bear his wages during the off-season.

Colindres, who was signed in September 2018, had played a key role in debutant Kings' Premier League title and Independence Cup title that season. He was also the main architect of 2019-20 season's Federation Cup triumph before the season was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The 35-year-old forward, who played for Costa Rica in the FIFA World Cup in 2018,

had played 48 official matches including one in AFC Cup and a friendly against a Maldivian club. The Costa Rican, who used to wear No. 26 jersey, interestingly scored 26 goals for Kings.

"Colindres' contract expired in May and the AFC Cup will resume in October. It is tough for us to bear his wages during this off-season. We will try to bring in a quality player like him to for the AFC Cup," Bashundhara Kings president Imrul Hasan told reporters yesterday.

"I am happy to play for Bashundhara Kings because they can't write their history without me. Bashundhara have a very good view of football in Bangladesh and I am lucky to play for them," Colindres said, adding that he has a couple of offers from Asia as well as his own country.

Colindres is likely to leave Bangladesh on June 15.

BFF secretariat trying to buy delegates, allege three bodies

ANISUR RAHMAN



Apprehension over injustice from the mitigation committee for the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) delegates' nomination ahead of the 2020 congress and polls was again brought to the fore as the existing committee of two affiliated bodies -- Dhaka Divisional Football Association (DFA) and Dilkusha SC -- alleged that the BFF secretariat bypassed them by giving away their nomination forms to BFF-preferred candidates.

Mohiuddin Mohi, one of vice-presidents of the BFF, voiced concerns to The Daily Star in mid-April after BFF president Kazi Salahuddin allegedly formed the committee without approval from an executive meeting. The mitigation committee comprises BFF senior vice-president Abdus Salam Murshedy and executive members Harun Ur Rashid and Abdur Rahim.

Another member, seeking anonymity, raised questions about whether the BFF can form the judiciary committee with its executive members as they are prohibited by article 32 of the BFF constitution to be part of any judiciary committee. The mitigation committee is a judiciary committee, which seems a clear violation.

The polls were originally scheduled

to take place on April 30 before being postponed on March 27 due to the coronavirus pandemic, but the BFF secretariat has continued preparing the voter list. The deadline for submission of delegates' names ended on June 7, with the BFF receiving all 141 delegates' names. But there are a couple of disputes, with some alleging that they were harassed for irrelevant documents such as copies of the club constitutions and audits in a move designed to prevent them from submitting their nomination forms on time.

"The BFF secretariat did not give the delegation forms to the newly-elected body, which was elected uncontested on March 19. We informed the matter to the mitigation committee and Murshedy told me that we would not face any problems if they could nominate their preferred delegate, Abdur Rahim bhai. But we turned down their proposal," alleged Shahin Bhuiyan, president of Dhaka DFA, to The Daily Star.

Murshedy is rumoured to again be targeting the seat of senior vice-president in the coming elections.

It was learned that the BFF formed an ad-hoc committee for the Dhaka DFA by naming Abdur Rahim its head and sending his name to the BFF secretariat as the delegate. The BFF did not declare the existing Dhaka DFA committee illegal.

It is unclear whether the ad-hoc committee has any voting rights as all types of BFF statutes are currently unavailable on their website despite

being available a few months ago.

"Since the casino scandal, Dilkusha SC officials went into hiding and a new committee was formed on March 24 to keep the club alive. The BFF was aware of every step and we submitted all the papers that they demanded. But they kept us waiting till last Saturday although Murshedy bhai told us that we would get forms. Ultimately, the BFF did not give us the forms as we declined their proposal to select the delegate according to their preference," Dilkusha SC general

delegates without a mandatory executive meeting.

Tangail Football Academy, a third division team, also alleged that the BFF secretariat influenced them to change their delegate's name by offering Tk 8 lakh.

BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag denied all the allegations, terming the claims from the three bodies "baseless, false, purposeful and politics of sports".

"We asked the Dhaka DFA to stop the election process but they did not. That's why we formed an ad-hoc committee during the shutdown. We gave the delegation forms to the legal committee of Dilkusha SC," Shohag said. "Offering them money is a false allegation."

Shohag did not outright disagree when asked if the mitigation committee was illegal under the BFF constitution, but defended the decision by saying that they had formed a similar committee in the 2016 elections without raising question.

It was also learned that incumbent BFF vice-president Badal Roy and Mohiuddin Mohi wrote to FIFA secretary Fatma Samoura about the BFF's process of holding the elections amid a pandemic and requested that they look into the constitutional violation in forming the mitigation committee. Both Dilkusha SC and Dhaka DFA added that they are willing to take legal action to get justice.

| HIGHLIGHTS |
|--|
| <p>Dhaka DFA and Dilkusha SC allege that they were asked to nominate delegates based on the BFF's preference</p> <p>Tangail FA allege that they were offered Tk 8 lakh to change their delegate's name offering</p> <p>BFF denies all claims</p> |

secretary Shahiniur Rahman Shahin said, adding that BFF official Zaber Bin Ansari and Abu Nayeem Shohag had tabled them the unethical offer.

It was also learned that the secretariat gave away delegate forms to Dilkusha SC's previous committee, headed by AKM Mominul Haque Saeed [who fled the country due to his involvement in the casino scandal], after terming the new committee illegal. That leads to questions about how the previous committee selected their

Pacers still playing catch up

Salahuddin proposes separate pace unit

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI



Cricket will have to come to grips with the new paradigms brought on by the coronavirus pandemic as the ban on saliva and use of substitutes ratified by the ICC yesterday. But the fast bowlers in Bangladesh, who appear ready to make the leap to the next level and enhance the country's cricketing status further, will need to undergo a more seminal change.

The versatile Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, now in the twilight of his career, has paved the way and the pace unit currently needs a mentor like him so that the likes of Mohammad Saifuddin, Abu Jayed Rahi and Ebadat Hossain can usher in an era of pace prowess following the exploits Mustafizur Rahman and Rubel Hossain.

Curiously, the Tigers, especially at home, are more reliant on their pace department in ODIs than in Tests, with the perception of the longer-version relatively spin-heavy. While it is an indication of the management's mindset, it is also an indication of the relative gap in experience and skillset of the Bangladesh pacers compared to those elsewhere.

What cannot be denied is that Bangladesh now have a number of capable pacers in their ranks that need to be worked on. Bangladesh ODI captain Tamim Iqbal feels that it is time for pacers to be mentally prepared to do better on flat surfaces.

"A bowler who bowls well in Bangladesh is likely to succeed in England. I feel that if our pacers get more experience, we will be more competitive. The pacers will need to be mentally stronger and find a way to become good in these [home] conditions. If we talk about providing grassy wickets [at home], they will surely do well but they won't learn the art of bowling on flat wickets," he opined during an interview

with The Daily Star.

Tamim used the country's most successful pacer, Mashrafe, as an example to reassert his point.

"If you think about Mashrafe bhai, he didn't play on grassy wickets a lot. He played mostly on flat wickets but he also knew how to bowl on those [grassy] wickets. We have a lot of talent at our disposal [in the pace department]. We lack some experience but if we can work on our strengths and weaknesses, I am sure we will become a good bowling side," he added.

How to then improve the pace department? When the question was posed to Mohammad Salahuddin, a mentor to many of the national team stars, he reiterated: "We have got quite a few pace bowlers now with pace and skill. I feel that they need to be separated from the rest and there should be a special programme for them. We should have a separate unit of just pacers."

"If you can't bowl at 140 kmph, it becomes difficult to bowl in Tests and survive. If we create a separate unit and train them, the bowling unit will be stronger and it will be hugely beneficial. We have some good prospects and arranging something like this is not a matter of spending a lot of money. There are lots of good coaches from abroad here now so it will be easy to do. It will ensure that focus is on each and every boy in the unit."

The idea of a pace unit that works together has been known to pay dividends worldwide. Not only will the individuals push each other, but the combined skillsets will develop them both individually and collectively. The only thing that matters now is whether such a programme will be developed and if people in charge and the drive of the players themselves. Going by current cricketing standards, it is an upgrade of immense necessity that the Tigers need to make.







VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, CHILDREN

Incidents shot up in May

MJF finds over 13,000 victims after telesurvey on 53,000

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 11,025 women suffered domestic violence during the countrywide shutdown last month, says a survey report of Manusher Jonno Foundation.

Of them, 4,947 women were subjected to psychological abuse and 3,589 were abused over financial matters.

Disclosing the findings of the survey through a virtual press conference yesterday, the rights organisation said the 11,025 victims were among 13,494 women and children who experienced different forms of violence in 53 districts of the country last month.

The report titled "Violence against Women and Children: Covid-19" said a staggering 4,160 victims admitted that they were abused for the first time in their life. Of them, 2,841 were women and 1,319 children.

The MJF observed that the number of incidents of violence against women and children increased in May by 31 percent compared to the data of April.

According to the study, 97.4 percent of the total 11,323 women victims of different forms of abuses were subjected to domestic violence. In most cases, women were tortured by their husbands.

It said 4,947 women had to endure psychological torture and 2,085 physical torture by their husbands or other family members while 404 suffered sexual abuse at their home.

Apart from the incidents of domestic violence, 179

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A man jumps over a gate in East Rajabazar area yesterday afternoon. The sign hung there reads: "East Rajabazar has been locked down as a 'red zone' by the health department to curb the spread of Covid-19. EXITING IS PROHIBITED." If such disregard for the measures taken by the authorities prevails, cases of Covid-19 will keep shooting up in the coming days.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Patients most infectious when first sick

WHO clarifies

REUTERS, Geneva

The World Health Organization tried on Tuesday to clear up confusing comments about how often people can spread the coronavirus when they do not have symptoms.

Studies show people with the coronavirus are most infectious just at the point when they first begin to feel unwell, WHO experts said.

This feature has made it so hard to control spread of the virus that causes Covid-19 disease, but it can be done through rigorous testing and social distancing, they said.

"It appears from very limited information we have right now that people have more virus in their body at or around the time that they develop symptoms, so very early on," Maria van Kerkhove, a WHO epidemiologist and technical lead on the pandemic, told a live session on social media.

Japan bans Biman special flights

Move comes as 4 cleared Bangladeshi passengers test positive for Covid-19 there

RASHIDUL HASAN

Japan has barred Biman from operating special chartered flights to repatriate stranded citizens to and from Japan after four Bangladeshi passengers on a recent repatriation flight tested positive for Covid-19 despite having documents certifying that they had tested negative and were safe to travel.

"The Japanese authorities have put restrictions to operate special chartered flights to and from Japan as four of our passengers [who had travelled from Bangladesh] tested positive for Covid-19 while in quarantine in Japan," Biman Managing Director and CEO M Mokabbir Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.

Asked whether the South Korean authorities also took the same measures after reports emerged of 12 Bangladeshis testing Covid-19 positive despite health certificates showing that they had tested negative, the Biman MD said, adding, "We didn't operate special flights to South

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

UN Chief praises Bangabandhu's 7 June speech



Students of Dhanmondi Government Girls' High School handing over Tk 100, collected by saving up their tiffin money, to Bangabandhu for the Prime Minister's Relief Fund on June 2, 1972.

June 11, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

UNROD CHIEF CALLS ON BANGABANDHU

Victor Umbrecht, chief of United Nations Relief Operations in Dacca (UNROD), calls on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today at his official residence. He hands over a letter from the UN Secretary General to the prime minister. The UN Chief Kurt Waldheim compliments Bangabandhu on his 7 June speech. Later, Umbrecht informs journalists that the UN chief's call for

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ATTEMPTED RAPE

UP chairman fines victim Tk 1 lakh in arbitration

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

In a shocking incident, the victim of an attempted rape was fined Tk one lakh by village arbitrators at Baliadanga of Tebaria union in Natore on Tuesday night.

The victim's father was fined Tk 1,000 for coming late to the arbitration.

The arbitrators handed down the "punishment", alleging the woman had an affair with a man of different faith, who attempted to rape her. The family was given a month's time to manage the money.

Tipped off that an unlawful arbitration was taking place, police raided the village and arrested two -- Ruhul Amin and Sobhan Ali.

The two, however, were released yesterday evening, as no case was filed in this regard, said Jahangir Alam, officer-in-charge of Natore

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FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

Scientists design remote-controlled ventilator



REUTERS, Warsaw

A team of Polish scientists has designed a remote-controlled ventilator they hope will allow doctors to help critically ill patients breathe, but from a distance, in a bid to make medical personnel safer during the coronavirus pandemic.

If the experimental "RespiSave" ventilator can be shown to work safely on humans, doctors can observe patients' vitals through an application, monitoring their condition and adjusting the machine's settings from anywhere in the hospital, the designers of the project told Reuters.

Doctors would be notified if the ventilator gets disconnected or the patient's condition changes drastically.

Two more cops die from Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more policemen have died of Covid-19 in Bangladesh, raising the total number to 21.

In Bogura, Abdul Jalil, 55, inspector of Kurigram district police breathed his last around 1:30pm on Tuesday. He was undergoing treatment at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital.

Hailing from Naogaon, the inspector left behind his wife, two sons, relatives and many well-wishers.

He was buried at his

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING JUNE 11

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Fajr | Zohr | Asr | Maghrib | Esha |
| AZAN 4:05 | 12:45 | 5:00 | 6:50 | 8:15 |
| JAMAAT 4:40 | 1:15 | 5:15 | 6:55 | 8:45 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

MP SHAHID ARREST

Prosecution asks him to be kept detained

DIPLomatic CORRESPONDENT

Kuwait's Public Prosecution has ordered continued detention of Bangladeshi MP Mohammad Shahid Islam, who was arrested by the country's Criminal Investigation Department last Saturday on charges of human trafficking and money laundering, pending further investigation, reports Arab Times on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Shahid Islam alias Kazi Papul, MP of Luxmipur-2 constituency, denied what seven Bangladeshis testified in front of the Public Prosecution that each of them paid 2,500 dinars for the accused [Shahid Islam] to bring them to Kuwait to work as driver for his company.

However, when they arrived into the country they did not find any jobs instead they were asked to find a job for themselves. Migrants also said when the time for renewal of their residence came, he

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



A man selling fake hand sanitizer for Tk 200 per litre on a road in the capital's Basabo area yesterday morning. Like him, many are out to make a quick buck by selling fake products at cheaper prices to people trying to guard against coronavirus.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

World in grip of worst recession

Warns OECD, says economy to contract at least 6pc this year

AGENCIES

The global economy will suffer the biggest peace-time downturn in a century before it emerges next year from a coronavirus-inflicted recession, the OECD said yesterday.

The economy will contract at least six percent this year, with the unprecedented loss of income and "extraordinary uncertainty" caused by measures to contain the outbreak, it said.

In the case of a second wave of contagion later in the year, economic output could shrink by as much as 7.6 percent, it warned. In both scenarios, recovery will be "slow and uncertain".

GDP growth should resume in 2021, by 5.2 percent if the virus is contained, and 2.8 percent if there is another infection wave, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said in its latest outlook, entitled "World Economy on a Tightrope".

The grim warning from OECD came at a time when Europe's most powerful countries urged the European Union to better prepare for the next pandemic after chaotic responses to the coronavirus and the World Health Organization has told Pakistan it should implement "intermittent" lockdowns to counter a surge in infections.

The OECD warned that by the end of next year, "the loss of income exceeds that of any previous recession over the last 100 years outside wartime, with dire and long-lasting consequences for people, firms and governments."

As unemployment rises, private debt levels in some

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4