

## Zafrullah

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Dr Zafrullah tested positive for Covid-19 on May 25 through a test using rapid testing kit-- GR Rapid Dot Blot, which was invented by the researchers at the Gonoshasthaya Kendra.

Since then, he has been under treatment at the Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital. He has undergone plasma therapy thrice.

Later, he tested positive for Covid-19 in rt-PCR test at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

The 79-year old physician is a kidney patient and has been undergoing dialysis and also has a pre-existing lung problem.

For nearly three months, Dr Zafrullah and a team of scientists have been working on the Gonoshasthaya Kendra-developed rapid coronavirus test kit -- GR Rapid Dot Blot -- trying to get it approved.

He has been calling for emergency authorisation of the kit for large-scale tests and isolation of the new coronavirus patients -- the best way to check its spread.

## 861 died showing

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said they found recorded incidents which took place between May 24 and 30, but those were reported in the media the following week.

That's way some incidents which occurred between May 24 and 30 have been recorded in the latest report, Humayun told The Daily Star over the phone.

The report stated that 83 incidents of spreading rumour over Covid-19 were recorded in the country. At least 87 people, including the highest 35 from Dhaka division, were arrested in connection with those incidents.

Furthermore, 473 people were picked up and another 9,557 fined between the second week of March and June 6 for committing various offences related to the virus outbreak, including relief embezzlement, violation of social distancing rules, arranging social gatherings, and opening businesses.

At least 448 people were reportedly detained, fined and seven were arrested across the country between May 31 and June 6. Most of the fines and penalties were imposed due to the violation of health and safety regulations in public transport and business institutions after the general holidays ended on May 30.

The report found that 138 protests took place across the country between April 26 and May 6. Some 45 percent of the demonstrations was organised demanding unpaid wages and Eid bonuses and 33 percent demanding relief, aid or food.

Eleven percent of the protests was staged over shutdown rules, lay-offs, and waiver of rents, while six percent was organised against irregularities in the distribution of relief, aid or food and five percent against hike in bus fares, the CGS said. Besides, 123 incidents of violence related to novel coronavirus took place between March 1 and June 6, resulting in 13 deaths and 541 injuries, the report added.

## No break for middle class

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for the first three slabs have been set at five, 10 and 15 percent -- down from 10, 15 and 20 percent respectively.

As the government targets the ultra poor with stipends and cash transfers, there is nothing for those like Nabil's family during an unprecedented crisis. No unemployment benefit scheme like that in the United States, no house rent assistance like in the United Kingdom, no universal basic income scheme like in Hong Kong.

Small businessmen in rural areas will get microloans and high school graduates will receive employment training under the Skills for Employment Investment Program -- but service-providing professionals hit by the pandemic are left out.

It seems as if middle-class families like Nabil's are being told -- we have nothing to give, but we'll be taking less of what you earn.

In addition, those with personal cars will now have to pay 15 percent (up from 10) in duties for services by the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority.

Nor is there any reduction in Value Added Tax (VAT) of significant consumer goods like infant milk and oil that were hiked last year.

As the Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal himself stated in his budget speech, "Although a large section of our population can afford to pay taxes, the number of taxpayers is

only 20-22 lakh."

He also said, "VAT is the largest contributor to the NBR [National Board of Revenue] tax revenue."

Meaning, while the government fails to crack down on tax evasion by the rich, the economy will be bankrolled by the middle class and even the low-income population.

This comes in a year when consumption inequality, measured by the Gini coefficient, is 0.35 -- up from 0.32 in 2016 -- according to the Centre for Policy Dialogue's latest review of the economy.

Last month, Mosammat Sumaiya, who runs a business doing house-calls for beauty services, had to depend on relief for the first time in her adult life.

The single mother could not bear the thought of running after relief trucks, and had been reaching out to people she knew to connect her with donors personally. She received a month's worth of food supplies from a charitable organisation.

"I used to earn around Tk 25,000 per month but since the pandemic, nobody wants to avail salon services because of social distancing guidelines," said Sumaiya.

On a lighter note, locally produced potato chips will be cheaper with the VAT reduced from 15 percent to 10, so the middle class can at least eat their feelings.

## No special stimulus

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should have announced a special stimulus package for farmers, like Tk 1,000 for each farmer who owns one acre of land.

Such an initiative would increase cash flow in the rural economy and help marginal farmers, he said.

The government could have allocated a Tk 2,000 crore fund in this regard. In India, they have already launched such programmes, he said.

Currently, there are 2.8 crore enlisted farmers with cards.

However, allocation of Tk 3,198 crore to promote farming mechanisation and reducing custom duty on importing parts of agriculture machineries would reduce the price of farming equipment and generate employment, he said.

"Many small businesses related to agriculture machineries will grow in the rural areas and generate employment," Professor Sattar said.

About the allocation of Tk 5,000 crore for the agriculture refinancing scheme through Bangladesh Bank announced by the finance minister, Sattar said only the farmers who deal with banks would be able to avail the service.

"But most of the small farmers are illiterate and they would not be able to avail it as they remain out of the banking system," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Asaduzzaman, senior researcher at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), said the initiative of mechanisation in the

agriculture sector would help farmers cultivate and harvest crops, but it might render thousands of farm labourers unemployed.

"Only allocation for machineries will not help small farmers as they would not be able to buy the farming machineries," said Dr Asaduzzaman, adding that the machineries would help only those cultivating paddy.

"What about those cultivating vegetables and fish? How are they going to benefit from those equipment?" he asked.

Rather, it was necessary to create agriculture business linkage, storage facilities for agro products and build a supply chain.

"Actually it was needed to think about the whole agricultural sector holistically," he said.

Though the finance minister mentioned the prime minister's directive to ensure that not even an inch of land is left uncultivated, he did not come up with any plans to ensure that happens in the coming fiscal year.

The government is, however, going to encourage onion farmers by increasing import duty on onion, so that local farmers get interested in growing onions.

Shykh Seraj, eminent agriculture expert, said the government emphasised on mechanisation of agriculture in the proposed budget.

"But I think the government should have emphasised on digitalisation of agriculture by now," he said.

## Trump orders sanctions

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Speaker Nancy Pelosi accompanying the order.

It also authorises Pompeo to block entry into the United States of these individuals.

ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda

wants to investigate possible crimes committed between 2003 and 2014 including alleged mass killings of civilians by the Taliban, as well as the alleged torture of prisoners by Afghan authorities and, to a lesser extent, by US forces and the CIA.

## Bangladesh 10th Not so good news

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decline; when it is above 1 it signals an increase, and if it is persistently above 1 this could signify exponential growth.

On April 3, the growth factor for Covid-19 cases in Bangladesh reached the highest 2.5, on 12 April it was 2.3.

Since the beginning of May 2020, the growth factor has been within the range of 0.8-1.4, and on June 8 it was 1.0, reads the WHO Situation Report.

Thirty-seven people have died of coronavirus in the last 24 hours, the DGHS said yesterday.

A total of 15,772 samples were tested in 55 labs across the country in the last 24 hours, Dr Nasima said.

Meanwhile, 848 Covid-19 patients have recovered since yesterday, taking the total number of recoveries to 16,747 and the recovery rate to 21.46 percent, the DGHS official added.

A total of 671 people were put under isolation in the last 24 hours, she added.

Among the dead, 30 were male and seven female, she said adding that 20 were from Dhaka, seven from Chattogram, three from Sylhet, four from Rajshahi, two from Barishal and one was from Rangpur division.

Of them, two were between 31 and 40 years old, four between 41 and 50, eight between 51 and 60, 22 between 61 and 70 and one between 71 and 80, Dr Nasima added.

## Smuggling

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India, the chief minister says that a certain quarter is spreading such propaganda to tarnish the image of both governments. He asks people to be aware of conspirators who are trying to drive a wedge between the friendly neighbours. He says that friendship between the two countries is forged in blood and sacrifice.

**TAJUDDIN RETURNS FROM INDIA** Finance Minister Tajuddin Ahmed returns today after successful completion of his three-day visit to India. In a press conference at Tejgaon Airport he says that India will provide all kinds of support to rebuild the war-torn economy of Bangladesh.

Both governments are committed to fully implement the friendship treaty and strengthen trade and industrial cooperation between the two neighbours, he adds.

**INDIA WILL BE ASKED TO HAND OVER POWS** Bangladesh government has prepared a list of war criminals. The list will be sent to India, and the Indian authority will be requested to hand over the prisoners of war (POWs) to Bangladesh.

**TK 10 CRORE FOR REBUILDING DAMAGED HOUSES** The government has allocated Tk 10 crore to repair and rebuild houses that were damaged during the Liberation War, informs Relief and Rehabilitation Minister AHM Qamaruzzaman. The housing scheme will be run by local administration and relief committee, he adds.

**SOURCES: June 13, 1972 issue of Purbodesh.**

## Man makes

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Since then, he continued posting credible articles on the Facebook page.

In a report published on Monday, The Straits Times lauded Shipon's inspiring act.

Shipon is one of the several migrant workers who have managed to help his fellows virtually, at a time when their movement has been restricted to limit virus transmission, the report read.

A father of two, Shipon went to Singapore after his honours final-year exams under the National University in 2009.

He said at his workplace, migrant workers like him get lunch breaks for an hour.

"At that time when everyone takes rest, I spend time sorting out main news articles which I could post on my page. After the day's work, I start translating those from 7:00pm to 10:00pm," he added.

Shipon said sometimes he also posts his own articles and awareness video messages.

He said after the "second wave" of coronavirus outbreak hit Singapore in late March, he and many other migrants, who are involved in essential services, were shifted to the government-arranged accommodation from their dormitories.

As a safety coordinator, Shipon has to deal with many workers each day, which gives him the opportunity to know their sufferings.

## Virus deaths

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Development revealed yesterday that in the first three months of 2020, the G20 major economies shrank by 3.4 percent.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Madaripur  
Phone and Fax: 0661-61266  
e-mail: eemrdhd@gmail.com

Memo No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is being in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Madaripur for the procurement of:

Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
1.	468907	Supplying of other spare parts for Pickup No. Dhaka-Metro-Tha-11-6558 of Repair Works under Madaripur Road Division during the year 2019-2020.	21-06-2020 at 17:00	22-06-2020 at 12:00	22-06-2020 at 12:00
2.	468995	Supplying of other spare parts for Mitsubishi Pickup No. Dhaka-Metro-Tha-11-1908 of Repair Works under Madaripur Road Division during the year 2019-2020.	21-06-2020 at 17:00	22-06-2020 at 12:15	22-06-2020 at 12:15
3.	468996	Supplying Break System & other spare parts for Pajero Jeep No. Dhaka Metro Gha-11-4543 for Repair Works under Madaripur Road Division during the year 2019-2020.	21-06-2020 at 17:00	22-06-2020 at 12:30	22-06-2020 at 12:30
4.	468997	Supplying of Wheel spare parts for Truck No. Faridpur-Ta-130 for Repair Works under Madaripur Road Division during the year 2019-2020.	21-06-2020 at 17:00	22-06-2020 at 12:45	22-06-2020 at 12:45

1. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP Portal.  
2. To submit e-Tender registration in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.  
3. For further information, please contact e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Md. Rafiqul Islam**  
ID No. 601951  
Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Madaripur

GD-981

**THE SECURITY PRINTING CORPORATION (BANGLADESH) LTD.**  
**GAZIPUR-1703.**

**INTERNATIONAL e-TENDER FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING OF A PROGRAMMABLE CHEQUE BOOK FINISHING MACHINE.**

Electronic tenders (e-tenders) are hereby invited from the competent international manufacturers/suppliers for supply of the above machine for this Corporation as per under noted schedule. Tender documents showing terms and conditions with specification will be available at web: [etender.spcl.org.bd/114.130.43.56](http://etender.spcl.org.bd/114.130.43.56). It is to mention here that this is online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted and no hard copy will be accepted except price of e-tender schedule and earnest money. To submit e-Tender bidders need to register on e-Tender.spcl.org.bd/114.130.43.56. For more details please contact cell: 880-1534002183 & 880-1534002184. Necessary information is given below:

- Price per e-Tender schedule : 2,000.00 (two thousand) Taka only.
- Date of publishing of e-Tender : 11.06.2020.
- Date, time and place of pre-bid meeting : 24.06.2020 at 11.00 A.M in the premises of the Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd, Gazipur.
- Last date & time for submission of e-Tender : 15.07.2020 up to 11.00 A.M.
- Date & time for opening of e-Tender : 15.07.2020 at 11.15 A.M.

Bidder may collect e-tender schedule from the aforementioned website. Earnest money @ 3% (three percent) of the total quoted price shall have to be submitted in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/ Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of The Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd., Gazipur alongwith the price of e-Tender schedule in the form of a separate pay-order/DD in the tender box kept at Corporation's office in Gazipur on or before the scheduled deadline for submission of e-Tender. Irrevocable Bank Guarantee may also be given as earnest money from any international commercial bank abroad with a counter guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh. e-Tender(s) without earnest money and price for procurement of e-tender schedule shall not be acceptable. The e-Tender shall have to submit as per e-Tender guidelines mentioned at above website. Offer(s) shall be opened as per schedule mentioned above in presence of the tenderer(s) if any. 01 (one) e-Tender schedule is applicable only for one supplier/manufacturer for submitting one offer alongwith earnest money and price of e-Tender schedule. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any e-Tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever. Submission of e-Tender after the specified time shall not be acceptable under any circumstances.

(Sheikh Mohammad Shoib Nazir)  
General Manager (Foreign Purchase)  
Phone: 88-02-9205661.

GD-980