

Raise awareness on pandemic

HC urges lawyers
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday requested lawyers, who are connected with virtual court functions, to work towards increasing awareness among people about the coronavirus pandemic.

It does not seem from the public gatherings at different places including markets that there is any pandemic in the country and therefore people need to be made conscious to contain the coronavirus spread, the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim observed.

The bench made the observation while hearing a writ petition that sought its order on the government to immediately lock down the entire Dhaka city, excluding parliament functions and other necessary operations for at least two weeks in order to contain the pandemic.

The HC yesterday concluded the hearing and fixed today for passing order on the issue.

Advocate Manzill Murshid appeared for the writ petitioner while Additional Attorney General Murad Reza opposed the petition. Advocate Mahbubul Islam, a Supreme Court lawyer, submitted the petition as a public interest litigation through email to the HC on June 11.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



As the world learns to live with the threat of a virus infection, customised masks were just a matter of time. This vendor in Barishal's Nazir Mahalla road was spotted selling masks and headcaps fashioned after the national flag yesterday. The WHO recommends wearing masks to contain the spread of coronavirus, even if they are made of plain fabric.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

People have lost trust in DSCC: Taposh

Says lack of coordination to blame; waterbody cleaning activities launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mosquito menace, waterlogging, inefficiency in garbage collection and some other burning issues remained unresolved due to a lack of coordination among the inter-connected departments of the Dhaka South City Corporation, said Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday.

In addition, people have lost trust in DSCC due to a lack of coordination, he added.

The DSCC mayor said this while inaugurating the waterbody cleaning activities of the city corporation at Khilgaon. He initiated the cleaning works from Khilgaon Bottola Jheel with a view to cleaning all waterbodies in the DSCC areas.

"I have instructed the associated departments to reorganise the work plans. Under the new plan, we are implementing a working roster where a 'Year-round Integrated Mosquito Control' programme has been prepared," he said.

The mayor said they have been implementing the masterplan since June 7. Taposh also released Tilapia fish at the jheel and ducks at Ramna Lake.

Reiterating his warnings against corrupt and insincere officials and staff, the mayor said any negligence or inaction will not be tolerated as he wants to relieve the city dwellers from these problems.

Urging people to monitor their work, Taposh said if someone finds any fault or negligence of DSCC staff members, just let him know. "I am assuring you that I'll take stern action against such action," he added.

According to the masterplan, eight workers are carrying out larviciding from 9am to 1pm every day in each ward and 10 workers are involved in adulticiding from 2:30pm to 6:30pm, he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

2 community centres in Ctg turned into isolation units

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

Amid a worsening healthcare crisis in the city, Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) and community leaders have teamed up to turn two community centres into isolation centres, in a bid to deal with the increasing number of Covid-19 patients.

City Convention Hall, a community centre at Excess Road of Agrabad is being readied as an isolation centre led by CCC, while "Prince of Chittagong" at K-Block in Halisahar is ready to admit people.

The first one will accommodate 250 patients, while the latter will have 100 seats for Covid-19 patients.

Shamsuddoha, chief executive officer of CCC told The Daily Star that they were conducting a three-day training workshop to doctors, nurses and other staff.

"We hope to complete the training in three days and will be able to launch our service from June 17," he said.

He said the isolation centre will treat mild and moderate cases, with arrangement

of oxygen support. In case of ICU support, the patient would be transferred to a hospital with ICU.

Amirul Haque, proprietor of City Convention Hall and managing director of Seacom Group, told The Daily Star that the country has created opportunity for people like him to thrive in business.

"I thought now it is time to pay back. When contacted by CCC, I decided to offer my convention hall for isolation centre, and promised to provide all logistic support to keep it operational", he added.

Former Chhatra League leader Nurul Azim Rony, who is leading the initiative for the isolation centre in Halisahar, told The Daily Star they have started taking in Covid-19 patients at their facility.

"This centre has readied 65 beds so far among 100 beds. We engaged 13 doctors as of now but are struggling to find volunteers. Once we manage that, we will turn it 100 beds", he said. This facility will also treat mild to moderate patients with oxygen support.

Dr Zafrullah joins Nasim's janaza

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, who recently recovered from Covid-19, took part in the namaz-e-janaza of Awami League presidium member and former health minister Mohammad Nasim at Banani Graveyard yesterday.

He is still suffering from pneumonia. As he came to know on Saturday night that he tested negative for coronavirus, Dr Zafrullah decided to join Nasim's janaza as he had a warm relationship with Nasim, Gonoshasthaya Kendra Public Relations Officer Forhad Hossain told journalists.

Dr Zafrullah spent half an hour beside the grave of Nasim and offered prayers for salvation of the departed soul.

Talking to the media, Dr Zafrullah expressed his gratitude to doctors and other healthcare workers for his quick recovery from Covid-19.

Zafrullah, also a freedom fighter, underwent coronavirus testing with the kit developed by Gonoshasthaya, which found him to be Covid-19 positive on May 25.

Four days later, an RT-PCR test at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) also found him positive for the virus.

He was given plasma therapy thrice to help strengthen his immune system and beat the deadly virus.

A long-planned heist

Rab arrests five in connection with Tk 80 lakh snatching in Kaliakoir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday claimed to have arrested five members of a gang who robbed Tk 80 lakh from a vehicle in Gazipur recently.

The robbers allegedly snatched the money from a microbus of Incredible Fashion Ltd in broad daylight after shooting its employees on June 7, said Sarwar-Bin-Quasem, director of legal and media wing of Rab headquarters.

The arrestees are identified as Md Riaz, 36, Md Sagor Mahmud, 40, Md Jalil, 40, Ismail Hossain Mamun, 45, and Monoronjon Mondol alias Babu, 41.

Rab arrested the five from different areas of the capital on Saturday, and recovered Tk 30.68 lakh, 1,100 US dollars, a car, three motorbikes used for robbery, one firearm, 21 rounds of bullets, three passports and 38 cell phones from their possessions, said the legal wing director.

Before conducting a robbery, the gang members first worked as employee of the targeted factory, to observe financial transactions and security loopholes closely.

Before joining work, they first learned which factory pays salary in cash to employees and security guards do not use arms, said Sarwar-Bin-Quasem while addressing a briefing at Rab media centre in Karwan Bazar.

He said arrestees Mamun and Babu conducted field survey on garment factories in Gazipur, Ashulia and Kaliakoir area four to five months back, to know security arrangements there.

Then they chose Incredible Fashions, as it pays wages in cash and had no armed security guards to carry cash from bank to factory, said Sarwar, adding that Babu then joined the factory as sub-contractor's legal wing director.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

No end to 'gunfights'

ASK, DU Centre for Genocide Studies reports reveal
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Incidents of so-called "gunfights" between law enforcement agencies and alleged criminals have continued unabated across the country even during the Covid-19 outbreak, according to reports by Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) and Dhaka University's Centre for Genocide Studies (CGS).

Besides, there has been no let-up in violence against women and children, the reports added.

67 KILLED IN 3 MONTHS: ASK
The human rights watchdog in its recent report said at least 67 persons were killed in "gunfights" last three months.

In May, the figure was 27. It was 15 in April and 25 in March while 109 persons were killed in "shootouts" with law enforcement agencies in the first five months of this year.

Of them, 48 were killed by police, 37 by Rapid Action Battalion, 14 by Border Guard Bangladesh and 10 by Detective Branch of police.

The law enforcement agencies, however,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Consider us equally for Covid-19 management jobs: biotech graduates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Association of Biotechnology Graduates (BABG) demanded that the genetic engineering and biotech graduates, who are already working as frontline fighters in Covid-19 management, should be considered equally for Covid-19 testing, laboratory setup and any associated technical posts during recruitment.

In a press statement, they expressed frustration over an office order and a press release issued by the DGHS.

On June 10, twenty molecular biologists were appointed on a temporary basis through an office order by DGHS.

BABG said they acknowledged the appointment of the molecular biologists as a very timely and legendary decision by the DGHS. At the same time, over fifty graduates who hold a graduate or post-graduate degree from the departments of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology are serving as frontline fighters on a completely voluntary basis to manage the Covid-19 pandemic at different places in the country by directly helping to set up laboratories and conduct tests.

"We would like to emphasise that the theoretical background paired with their experience of the past 3-4 months should have made these graduate volunteers competent enough to be considered the most eligible ones in the list."

"However, with great regret, we could not see any reflection of that in the appointment process. On this ground, an utter frustration is evident among the students and graduates of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology who have been working on a completely voluntary basis, motivated by patriotism," read the press release.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



STAYING FIT FOR DUTY... Diplomatic Security Division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police is organising yoga sessions three times a week for its members at their office in Gulshan, in a bid to boost the immunity of law enforcers working amid the coronavirus outbreak.


PHOTO: COLLECTED



A group of children appear to be amused by smoke being dissipated by fogger machines of Dhaka South City Corporation, as part of its anti-mosquito drives. With the advent of monsoon, the mosquito population is also feared to rise, and authorities are putting in extra efforts to curb the menace. The photo was taken yesterday in the capital's Muga.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

সহস্র স্মৃতির পটে আপনার কীর্তি রবে চিরভাস্বর



সিরাজগঞ্জ এর কৃষ্টি সন্তান, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার-এর সাবেক মন্ত্রী ও বাংলাদেশে গণতন্ত্র প্রতিষ্ঠার আন্দোলনে চিরবলিষ্ঠ কণ্ঠস্বর বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা মোহাম্মদ নাসিম, এমপি-এর মৃত্যুতে আমরা গভীরভাবে মর্মান্বিত ও শোকসন্তপ্ত।

সিরাজগঞ্জ জেলার অত্যন্ত পূর্ব সমৃদ্ধি তথা অত্র অঞ্চলের শিল্প ও মানুষের জীবনমান উন্নয়নে তাঁর অবিরত অবদান ইতিহাসের পাতায় উজ্জ্বল হয়ে থাকবে চিরদিন।

মোহাম্মদ নাসিম, এমপি-এর শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি পূর্বানী গ্রন্থপের সকল কর্মকর্তা কর্মচারীর পক্ষ থেকে সমবেদননা জ্ঞাপন করছি এবং তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফিরাত কামনা করছি।

আব্দুল হাই সরকার
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