





PANDEMIC FALLOUT
 Slipping into period poverty
A WaterAid study shows how low-income women struggle to maintain menstrual hygiene
 NILIMA JAHAN

While the Covid-19 outbreak has impacted the lives of everyone, women and girls from lower-income families are having to face deeper struggles, especially when it comes to the issue of maintaining menstrual health and hygiene. Due to the devastating economic effects of the shutdown, access to sanitary products, which are still considered luxury items in the country, has become even more difficult than it used to be for women facing financial struggles.

This correspondent spoke to a number of women and girls living in informal settlements of the capital, some of whom are resorting to cut-ups from old clothes to use as sanitary napkins.

Since the Covid-19 outbreak began, they have been doing so in order to save money by prioritising food and other essentials over menstrual hygiene supplies.

A recent study by the WaterAid Bangladesh revealed that there are far-reaching effects of the lockdown on menstrual health management for members of the lower-income group.

Jhumur Begum, 32, of Bhashantek slums, and her 15-year-old daughter have been using old rags for the past two months. Jhumur used to make money for herself by sewing clothes for people.

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Young people hanging out on the Central Shaheed Minar premises yesterday. Sitting in close proximity, some of them wore masks while some opted not to. Only yards away hangs a notice asking people not to mill around in the Shaheed Minar area during this time of the Covid-19 outbreak. Blatantly oblivious to the instructions, many were still seen huddling.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DMP summons goes against law, practice
DUI about notices on 10 journos over news on police high-up
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Union of Journalists yesterday expressed deep concern over summoning of at least 10 journalists by the police after the publication of a report on the immoral activity of a senior cop.

Issuing a statement, the DUI said such a move goes against the country's law and practice.

DUI President Qudus Afrad and General Secretary Sajjad Alam Khan Topu said this type of letter by the police created a kind of psychological pressure which was inconsistent with the free flow of news.

Recently, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) sent letters to some journalists asking them to appear before an enquiry committee at the scheduled time to "enable it to conduct a proper investigation".

The DUI leaders observed that summoning and questioning journalists

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UNITED HOSPITAL FIRE
 Travel ban imposed on chairman, 3 others
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have imposed a travel ban on the top officials of United Hospital following the fire incident that killed five patients at their isolation unit.

The hospital's Chairman Hasan Mahmood Raja, Managing Director Faridur Rahman Khan, Chief Executive Officer Mohammad Faizur Rahman and Chief of Clinical Development and Governance Dr Abu Sayeed MM Rahman would not be able to leave the country.

A high official of Gulshan Division Police yesterday told The Daily Star about the embargo.

Five patients -- Vernon Anthony Paul, 75, Riyajul Alam, 45, Khadeja Begum, 70, Monir Hossain, 75, and Md Mahabub, 50 -- were burnt to death at

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH
 BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES
 Bangladesh gets membership of ILO


Bangabandhu addressing a mammoth gathering in Noakhali on June 22, 1972.

June 18, 1972
 SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGLADESH BECOMES A MEMBER OF ILO

Bangladesh today gets membership of the International Labour Organisation. The decision was taken unanimously by the ILO member countries. The membership will be activated next week.

INDIA PROVIDES TK 1.36 CRORE FOR HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS

Indian government today declares that it will provide Tk 1.36 crore to Bangladesh for procuring house building materials. Earlier, India handed over a fund of Tk 13.97 crore to Bangladesh which had been allocated for building shelters for refugees during the war. India will also provide Tk 2 crore for purchasing clothing materials. 2,000 metric tonnes of lentils have also arrived recently from India.

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COVID-19 FALLOUT
 14,000 migrant workers return empty-handed since April 1
 JAMIL MAHMUD

Over 14,000 Bangladeshi migrant workers have returned home since April from 10 countries, showed data of Expatriates' Welfare Desk at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

Fakhrul Alam, assistant director at the welfare desk, said the workers returned for various reasons but mostly for job cuts over coronavirus situations in those countries.

Of them, nearly 4,900 returned from Kuwait, more than 3,500 from Maldives, around 3,000 from Oman and 2,500 to 3,000 from the United Arab Emirates since April 1.

Besides, some 400 to 450 returned from Singapore, 223 from Saudi Arabia, 70 to 80 from Malaysia and 71 from South Africa, he told this newspaper over phone yesterday.

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Hummingbirds can see colours invisible to humans


CNN ONLINE

When hummingbirds make decisions regarding food, evading predators or choosing a mate, they're influenced by the diverse colours they can see that are invisible to human eyes, according to a new study.

These are known as nonspectral colours, or hues that come from largely separate parts of the colour spectrum. Humans can see one nonspectral colour, which is purple.

But it isn't part of the rainbow. Instead, we see purple when the short-wave blue and long-wave red cones in our eyes are stimulated, but not the third green medium-wave cone.

Birds, however, have a fourth cone that can detect ultraviolet light. Their four-colour cone vision is referred to as tetrachromatic.

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Registration with EC to get tougher
Draft law contains stringent provisions for parties' inclusion
 MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission has prepared a draft of a law with stringent rules for political parties getting registered.

Till now, a political party needs to meet at least one condition out of three given in line with The Representation of the People Order-1972.

But according to the proposed law titled "Registration of Political Parties Act-2020", now political parties will have to fulfil at least two conditions out of three to get registered with the EC.

The Representation of the People Order-1972 says all political parties should reserve at least 33 percent of all committee positions for women.

The draft law says besides keeping 33 percent

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CONVECTION IN BAY
 Coastal areas to experience rough weather
 STAR REPORT

Stormy weather is likely to prevail in coastal areas of Bangladesh as a deep convection is taking place over the north Bay of Bengal and adjoining areas.

Maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla, and Payra have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal number three, according to a weather forecast of Met office.

Contacted, Meteorologist Bazlur Rashid said heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur at places in Barishal, Chattogram, and Sylhet

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Farmers and traders with boats full of pineapples ready to be sold at the Samarita ferry terminal market in Rangamati, which operates every Saturday and Monday. Due to the shutdown, the growers are struggling to sell their seasonal produce. Even after having slashed the prices of the fruits, they are counting losses. Many are planning to form a syndicate together and drop the prices even lower so they won't have to take their produce back to their farms. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

RESUMING SERVICE AMID PANDEMIC
 Uber seeks intervention from PMO
To hold virtual meeting with PM's principal secy June 20
 TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Uber Bangladesh Ltd has sought intervention from the Prime Minister's Office to be able to resume operations in Dhaka and other cities amid the government decision to suspend ride-hailing services until further notice.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Ahmad Kaikaus is scheduled to hold an online meeting with a delegation of Uber on June 20 in this regard, officials said.

Road Transport and Highway Division (RTHD) Secretary Nazrul Islam and acting chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) are also expected to take part in the meeting.

BRTA acting chairman Yousub Ali Mollah said, "We have received a notice about the meeting... We think they [Uber] may raise the issue of resumption of their service at the meeting."

However, at least two officials who were aware of the development said matters related to Uber's ride-hailing service would be the main agenda of the meeting.

The Daily Star could not reach Uber for comment. This correspondent sent an e-mail to Uber via its PR firm on Tuesday seeking comments over the issue but it has not responded as of 5:00pm yesterday.

The move comes after BRTA took a hard line on vehicles that had been providing the popular service without being

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 18

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:05	12:45	5:00	6:50	8:15
AMARAT 4:40	1:15	5:15	6:55	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION