
BANGLADESH UPDATE

3,531
New cases in 24hrs

1,12,306
Total cases

1,464
Deaths

45,077
Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE

467,699
Deaths

8,970,449
Total cases

Masses left by the wayside

Professional bodies scramble for preferential treatment at pvt hospitals

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

With the public hospitals grappling with a rising number of Covid-19 patients, different professional bodies have moved to ensure that their members get preferential treatment at private hospitals, limiting people's access to healthcare.

Such a move by professional bodies will further reduce people's access to healthcare facilities which is a fundamental right, say health experts and human rights activists.

Referring to reports of patients being denied treatment by private hospitals and clinics, they say the government must make sure that everyone can get treatment at private healthcare facilities during this pandemic.

A number of professional bodies have already reserved beds for their members at private hospitals. Bangladesh Police even "hired" an entire private hospital for treating its members while the association of judges signed a deal with another private hospital to get preferential treatment for its members.

Besides, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) recently asked three private hospitals in the capital to

provide treatment to the members of Supreme Court Bar Association and their family members infected with Covid-19.

Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) also sought similar arrangements. On Saturday, it wrote to the health minister for dedicating Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) or any other hospital for treating doctors infected with the virus.

In a strongly-worded letter, the association asked the health minister to do so within three days or else the ministry or the DGHS will be held responsible for "any situation that may arise".

As the number of Covid-19 cases is increasing sharply and healthcare services at public hospitals are not satisfactory, these groups want to get their sick members admitted to private hospitals, say the experts.

It has become difficult for Covid-19 patients to get beds, especially in ICUs, at private hospitals as a handful of those provide treatment to such patients. This is why these organisations have moved to make arrangements with private hospitals dedicated for coronavirus patients, they point out.

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Nasima Akhter waiting on a pavement in front of Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Memorial Hospital in Gazipur to get tested for Covid-19 around 5:00am yesterday. She has been fighting breast cancer for the last six months and was due to undergo radio therapy at the National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital in Mohakhali. But she was told that she would not be treated without documents certifying that she is Covid-19 negative. She gave her samples to be tested on June 2 at a Kaliarkoir clinic but is yet to get the result, causing her to miss out on potentially life-saving treatment.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Ministry reluctant to protect doctors

Alleges BMA in letter to health ministry; demands hospital for doctors in 72hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) has accused the health ministry of reluctance to ensuring safety and security of doctors at workplace during coronavirus pandemic.

In a letter to Health Minister Zahid Maleque, BMA also mentioned that doctors were mostly infected with the virus because of "substandard protective gears, ICUs and lack of training".

Around 3,500 healthcare staffers, including 1,100 doctors, have so far been infected with Covid-19. At least 44 doctors and nurses and eight other healthcare staffers died of the virus, according to BMA.

"The ministry cannot avoid liability for such a national loss," members of BMA said in the letter which was sent to the minister on Saturday. The Daily Star obtained a copy of it. In the letter, BMA also demanded for a separate hospital dedicated to the healthcare professionals within 72 hours. "Unless your [Zahid Maleque] ministry will be liable for any situation," they warned.

The association of medical professionals also blamed the health ministry and DGHS for their "irresponsiveness, reluctance, lack of farsightedness and coordination" in tackling the Covid-19 outbreak.

"We are offended and shocked at such behaviour of the ministry and the directorate general [DGHS]," they said.

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 12

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2nd-time infections not being counted

Experts claim; 3,531 cases, 39 deaths reported

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The rate of Covid-19 infections has slightly decreased, as the authorities reported 3,531 confirmed cases in the 24 hours till 2:30pm yesterday.

Experts, however, said the rate of positive cases may be higher as a good number of people who are testing positive for the second time are being included in the tally. After testing 15,585 samples in 60 labs across the country yesterday, the rate was 22.66 per cent as the total number of cases was 112,306.

On Saturday, the rate was 23.09 and 21.56 on Friday. The Directorate General of Health Services also reported 39 more Covid-19

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Health, agriculture passed over

Ecneec approves Tk 20cr for each MP from rural areas for infrastructure development

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and RASHIDUL HASAN

Amid talks of prioritising the health and farming sectors, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council yesterday approved giving lawmakers from rural areas Tk 20 crore each for infrastructure development in the next five years.

The money is part of Tk 6,477 crore approved by the Ecneec for infrastructure outside the city corporations.

The MPs from city corporation areas will not get the funds.

The project for rural infrastructure development has been passed at a time when the country is suffering from a cash crunch due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Noted economist Zahid Hussain pointed out that among the fiscal management strategies outlined by the finance minister in his budget speech, expenditure prioritisation was number one.

"Health, social protection, agriculture and employment were identified as the top four priorities. We are looking at a large revenue shortfall. The government will need to find savings within the budget

to cope with the shortfall without cutting expenditures in the top priority areas," he said.

"Under such circumstances, it is difficult to understand the logic behind allocation of such a large sum for local infrastructure development," he added.

The rural infrastructure is important, but can be postponed, considering the circumstances, he said.

"Given that there are currently much more pressing needs to protect lives and livelihoods. The money would be better spent on health, social protection and agriculture."

However, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the funds should be given because people in the rural areas demand local roads and small bridges from their MPs. And such demands are justifiable, Planning Minister MA Mannan said quoting the PM.

According to the project factsheet, each MP will prepare a list of roads that need immediate development, construction, or maintenance.

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CTG COVID-19 CRISIS

More ICUs a crying need

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram

After 32-year-old Zaker Hossain from Cox's Bazar tested Covid-19 positive about a week ago, he was admitted to a private hospital in Chattogram.

As his health condition deteriorated on Friday, doctors advised the family to shift him to an intensive care unit (ICU) elsewhere. The four ICU beds for Covid-19 patients at the private hospital were all occupied.

Zaker's younger brother, Mohammad Sakib called about 15 other private hospitals in the port city but none had an empty ICU bed for Covid-19 patients.

He found the same situation in the port city's two public hospitals -- Chattogram General Hospital (CGH) and Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH), Sakib told this correspondent yesterday afternoon.

"Now I don't know what will happen to my brother," Sakib said as his brother continued to fight for his life.

"We were advised to rush my brother to Dhaka but I don't know whether his health condition would allow this long [more than six hours by road] journey," he added.

Like Zaker, many critical Covid-19 patients in Chattogram are suffering due to the lack of ICU support while some have died.

Septuagenarian physician Nurul Haque, known as the doctor of the poor in Chattogram's Hathazari upazila, died on Thursday as he could not be given ICU support. Infected with Covid-19, he had been undergoing treatment

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MP SHAHID'S COMPANY

Prosecution wants its accounts frozen

Lawmaker's firm has 5 million dinars

STAR REPORT

Kuwait public prosecution has approached the Central Bank to freeze the bank accounts of the Bangladeshi MP Mohammad Shahid Islam and his company, who were being held in connection with cases related to human trafficking, visa selling and money laundering, according to Arab Times.

Informed sources stated that the financial balance of the company, Marafie Kuwaitia Group, of which Shahid is managing director and CEO, amounts to about 5 million dinars, including 3 million as company's capital.

The prosecution has contacted the bank to freeze the accounts so that they do not withdraw as they have become suspicious and will be required to recover from

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A truck driver crying out in agony after his leg was crushed when his vehicle rear-ended another truck, near Mojar Mill bus stand in Gazipur. The accident happened around 2:30am yesterday and it took around an hour and a half for locals, inset, to rescue him and take him to a hospital.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



It's a curb on free speech

Academics, journos decry Digital Security Act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of the arrests of two university teachers and two students, prominent voices against the Digital Security Act (DSA) decry the law as a curb on free speech.

The online event, titled "Freedom of Expression, Citizen Laws and Digital Security Act - 2018" was organised by University Teachers' Network, a platform for private and public university teachers, and livestreamed on social media platforms.

The teachers and students were arrested for updating Facebook statuses criticising the health sector, following the death of former health minister Mohammed Nasim.

Faruq Faisal, regional director of Article 19 informed that 9 cases have been filed in total under DSA following the decease of the health minister.

"Something has been said about someone, but instead of that person filing a case, this law allows for another to lodge the case. This results in multiple people lodging several cases against a person for one act. How is this possible?" said Supreme Court lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua.

"A law's hidden agenda can be seen from what sections of the law are being used the most to prosecute people. The DSA has many sections pertaining to hacking, identity fraud, etc. but we never see any cases being lodged under those sections. Most of the cases filed under this law pertain to the sections that hamper free speech," he added.

Prof Fahmidul Haq, associate professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Dhaka, said, "When a case was filed against me there was an outrage. Nowadays there are so many cases against

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Follow health guidelines to avoid virus

Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Mentioning that many people, including a cabinet member, a lawmaker, and a good number of Bangladeshi expatriates, have died from Covid-19, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all to follow health guidelines properly to fight the pandemic.

"I would like to request the country's people so that all follow the health guidelines. Life will go on ... it can't remain halted," she said in her introductory speech at a virtual meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council from the Gono Bhavan.

Reiterating that the virus is hindering the development of Bangladesh, the PM said, "Even then



we're trying to keep up the pace of development maintaining its continuity."

"Because of the coronavirus, we've lost many people, including our cabinet member and MP, and Bangladeshi expatriates, at home and abroad," she said, seeking

salvation of the departed souls.

The PM prayed to the Almighty Allah to protect people from the pandemic. It is not a problem of Bangladesh alone but of the entire world. "So, we want to return to a normal life getting rid of it."

Hasina, also the Ecneec chairperson, presided over its 24th meeting of the outgoing fiscal year that started at NEC conference room in the morning.



A handcraft hawker in Savar's DEEPZ area almost has more products than he can handle. Due to the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic, he can barely sell Tk 500 worth of wares, whereas that number was Tk 2,000 in pre-coronavirus times. This photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

UN accuses multiple countries of quietly sending arms to DR Congo

AFP, United Nations

DR Congo's military is receiving weapons and training from multiple countries without notifying the United Nations as required by a 2004 resolution, according to a recent report to the Security Council.

Some of the weapons have fallen into

5.1 magnitude earthquake jolts Dhaka

UNB, Dhaka

A 5.1 magnitude earthquake shook the capital and other parts of the country yesterday afternoon.

The epicentre of the moderate earthquake was in the India-Myanmar border region, about 279km east of capital Dhaka, said Abdul Hamid, meteorologist at the Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

The tremor was felt at 4:46pm, said the official.

However, no casualties were reported yet.

It's a curb on free speech

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freedom of expression, this has been normalised."

"One can perhaps say that the Facebook statuses may not have been tasteful, but how can they be arrested," said Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star. "We are unable to even express the minimum dissent."

"This law criminalises hurting the spirit of the Liberation War. But the person in charge of deciding whether the spirit of the Liberation War has been hurt in any way is a police sub-inspector. How is an individual sub-inspector's judgment enough to decide whether a constitutional violation has been made or not?" said advocate Hasnat Quaiyum, also a member of the political thinktank Rashtrachinta, whose member Didarul Islam Bhuiyan is in jail after being arrested under DSA last month.

"Of the 20 provisions being presented here, 14 are non-bailable. Which criminal should not deserve bail? Die-hard criminals who will

the hands of armed groups operating in the east of the country, warns the confidential report by UN experts that was obtained by AFP on Thursday.

Prosecution wants

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it if the charges are proven before the courts, the sources told the daily.

Al Qabas, a Kuwaiti Arabic daily, quoted sources close to the investigation as saying that freezing of assets is part of a legal measure to prevent the Bangladeshi lawmaker from moving his assets beyond the jurisdiction of a court in Kuwait.

"It is variously construed as part of a court's inherent jurisdiction to restrain breaches of its process," the sources added.

It was further revealed that the residency investigation officers, acting on a warrant, had seized all the funds in the company's treasury, all documents, correspondence and footage from surveillance cameras to identify any potential accomplice of Shahid.

Shahid, independent lawmaker from Lakshimpur-2, was held by Kuwait's Criminal Investigation Department on June 6.

harm society if kept outside the jail. The minimum punishment is one year's imprisonment, while the maximum is lifetime [imprisonment]. According to the road accident law, drivers killing people have a maximum punishment of five years, whereas a journalist can be put inside for life sentence," he said.

Arrests don't require a warrant either, he added. "If the police think a crime is happening or about to happen, they can arrest without a warrant."

Teachers and students who were prosecuted and arrested under the law spoke about their experiences. Maidul Islam, assistant professor, University of Chittagong spoke about how, on the days leading to his arrest, he was threatened on all platforms by his own students aligned with the ruling party.

"How is it that they can't be prosecuted under this law for threatening me, but I could be arrested for expressing my thoughts?" he observed.

2nd-time infections

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deaths in the same period, taking the count to 1,464.

With this, the death rate was 1.30 percent, said Dr Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of the DGHS, during the regular briefing.

Earlier on June 16, authorities reported 53 deaths, the highest in a single day.

Meanwhile, 1,084 Covid-19 patients recovered, taking the total number of recoveries to 45,077.

According to Johns Hopkins University, Bangladesh was the 16th worst affected country in the world in terms of confirmed infections with 63,357 active cases in the country.

Of the deaths in the 24 hours till yesterday afternoon, 35 were male and four female, Nasima said, adding that 16 were from Dhaka, 11 from Chattogram, two from Rajshahi, one from Rangpur, one from Sylhet, four from Khulna and four from Barishal divisions.

Of them, 33 died at hospitals and six at home, the DGHS official said.

One of the dead was aged under 10, one between 21 and 30, six between 31 and 40, 12 between 41 and 50, 12 between 51 and 60, four between 61 and 70, two between 71 and 80 and another was between 81 and 90.

A total of 631 people were put under isolation in the same period in Dhaka division, she added.

There were also many deaths with Covid-19 symptoms in recent days.

According to a recent report by Centre for Genocide Studies at Dhaka University, 1,070 people died with Covid-19 symptoms between June 7 and 14.

Experts said the actual rate of transmission in the country is higher than what the authorities are reporting. There are many hidden cases as many people are still not being able to access testing facilities.

According to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, the infection rate in the country was 1.25, which means each infected person is infecting 1.25 people on an average.

However, experts said the number cannot be known as the current tests are not representative of the reality. Prof Ridwanur Rahman, an infectious disease specialist, told The Daily Star recently, "If there were adequate number of tests and if those were done through representative sampling, the level of transmission could be measured far more accurately."

Besides, the daily number of tests does not represent the actual number of people being tested every day.

An official linked to a testing facility told this newspaper on Saturday that at least 3,000 people are getting tested for the second time.

"So, actual number of daily tests remains stagnant -- within 12,000," said the official, requesting anonymity.

Dr Shafiqur Shimul, an associate professor of health economics at DU, leads a team that helps the government make a projection of the Covid-19 transmission trend.

Speaking to The Daily Star on Saturday, he said, "There is a big gap in testing data. If the actual number of daily tests is below the data we get every day, then the transmission rate is higher."

Masses left by the wayside

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Prof Dr Rashid-E-Mahbub, former president of the BMA, said that since the country's health sector is fragile, different influential groups are trying to ensure treatment for their members, ignoring general people.

"As a result, common people's access to treatment facilities will shrink. Only the influential people will be able to get treatment..." he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The government should ask all private hospitals, which have the capacity to treat Covid-19 patients, to provide healthcare services to all equally during this pandemic.

"However, the government is not doing this."

The BMA raised the demand for special arrangements as the government gave special facilities to some professional groups, added Prof Rashid.

Noted rights activist Nur Khan Liton said general people would be deprived of healthcare services if hospitals are dedicated for different professional groups.

Some ministers and government high-ups are taking treatment at the Combined Military Hospital while professional groups are now booking private hospitals. On the other hand, only influential people can get proper treatment at public hospitals, he mentioned.

"Where will the general people go during the pandemic?" he asked.

Earlier, in the face of public criticism, the government had to

Health, agriculture

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Yesterday's was the 24th Ecneec meeting of the outgoing 2019-20 year. It was held at the NEC conference room in the capital. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was in the chair.

She and the planning minister joined the meeting through a videoconference.

"Today's (yesterday) Ecneec meeting approved 10 projects and the total estimated cost of the projects is Tk 9,460.09 crore. It is a matter of pleasure that the entire money will come from government funds," said the planning minister at a press briefing.

Of the total 10 projects, six are new and four are revised ones.

The rural MPs will get the Tk 20 crore funds under the project titled Development of Palli Infrastructures Phase-III Project involving Tk 6,476.65 crore, he said.

The project will start from next month and will be implemented by June 2024.

More ICUs a crying need

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at CMCH since Tuesday.

Kamal Uddin, vice president of BNP's Chattogram city unit, also met the same fate on June 10 midnight. When he started having breathing problems, the private hospital he was in couldn't provide an empty ICU bed. His family also failed to find one in other hospitals in the port city.

Around two percent of all Covid-19 patients may require ICU support at one stage, said Abur Rob, senior consultant, medicine, at CGH. He is also the focal person for coronavirus treatment at CGH.

Based on the number of patients still undergoing treatment in hospitals and at homes in Chattogram, it can be said that around 60 of them may require ICU support any time.

Currently, only two public hospitals in the district have ICU beds dedicated for Covid-19 patients -- 10 in CGH and seven in CMCH, said Chattogram's Civil Surgeon Sheikh Fazle Rabbi.

Besides, Holy Crescent Hospital, a private hospital brought under CGH and dedicated for Covid-19 patients, has a 10-bed ICU, not yet operational due to the lack of trained manpower, said sources.

The civil surgeon said private hospitals in the port city dedicated 25 ICU beds for Covid-19 patients.

Asked about the coronavirus

retreat from a move to allow some elite hospitals in the capital to exclusively treat Covid-19 patients from the upper echelons of society.

ARRANGEMENTS

On June 11, Bangladesh Judicial Service Association signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Universal Medical College Hospital Ltd so that lower court judges from across the country get treatment for Covid-19 and other diseases at the hospital in the capital.

With assistance from Law Minister Anisul Huq, the MoU was signed at the law ministry. Under the deal, the lower court judges will be treated at the hospital on a priority basis, says a press release of the ministry.

There are more than 1,800 judges at lower courts across the country, and 21 of them got infected with the virus till Saturday.

As Covid-19 infections among police personnel are on the rise, Bangladesh Police "hired" Impulse Hospital in the capital for two and a half months for treating its members.

On May 5, the Central Police Hospital and Impulse Hospital signed a MoU in this regard. The 250-bed hospital will treat only police personnel infected with the virus, said a press release from the Police Headquarters on May 8.

Till Saturday, 30 members of the police died from the virus and 8,544 others got infected.

The DGHS on June 18 sent a letter to three private hospitals -- Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College

According to the project factsheet, all the parliamentary constituencies of the country, except the city corporations, are the project areas.

The project include development of 305.21 km upazila roads, 660.37 km union roads, 5075.76 km village roads, maintenance of 1090.77 km village roads, construction of 7992.22 metres of infrastructure on rural roads such as small bridges and culverts less than 100 metres in length.

Short and long term employment will be created in the rural areas through the project, documents mentioned.

Communication among remote health centres, educational institutions, and other service providing organisations will also be facilitated through the project.

The meeting said that most people live in villages. Livelihood and the economy of the areas largely depend on agriculture.

Mostafa Khaled, acting director of Directorate General of Health Services, Chattogram division, said, "Setting up an ICU is very technical and time consuming. Moreover, there is a lack of trained manpower all over the country."

He said the government has decided to set up a five-bed ICU in each of all district hospitals.

"It is true that we need many more ICU beds at present in Chattogram but providing high-flow oxygen support is much more important."

Hospitals need central oxygen supply systems for providing high flow-oxygen support. It cannot be given from oxygen cylinders, he said.

Though CMCH has the system, the installation work at CGH is currently underway, the acting director said on Friday.

However, many private hospitals in the port city do not have such facilities.

Giving the picture on ICU facilities in public hospitals of Chattogram division, Mostafa said, CMCH has 17 ICU beds, of which seven are for Covid-19 patients. All the 10 ICU beds at Cumilla Medical College Hospital are for coronavirus patients.

Besides, 10 ICU beds have been installed in Feni General Hospital, all for Covid-19 patients. But this ICU facility is yet not operational due to lack of trained manpower.

"Setting up ICU beds is a crying need to save lives. The government has no scope to neglect the issue," he said.

Man killed in 'gunfight' in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A suspected drug peddler was killed in a "gunfight" with police on Karamza Eidgah ground in Santhia upazila of Pabna early yesterday.

The dead -- Abdus Subhan, 48, of the upazila's Karamza Sardarpara area -- was accused in 11 criminal cases including of drug peddling, claimed police.

Asaduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Santhia Police Station, claimed a police team went to the Eidgah premises on information that a group of drug peddlers gathered there.

As soon as the law enforcers tried to nab the miscreants, they opened fire, forcing police to retaliate, he added.

At one point of the "gunfight", Subhan was shot and run of the miscreants fled the scene. Subhan was rushed to Bera Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead, the OC said.

The body was sent to Pabna Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

from them. So we have written to the ministry to ensure treatment for doctors," he told this newspaper yesterday.

Many of the doctors who don't work for any hospital will have difficulties in getting healthcare facilities if they get infected with the virus, he noted.

Asked whether common people would be affected if hospitals are dedicated for professional groups, he said, "We have sought beds for doctors, not any dedicated hospital. Why didn't you raise the question when journalists and other professionals were given the facility?"

"Doctors are in the frontline in the fight against the pandemic. They are the ones who need proper treatment first," he added.

Talking to this newspaper, Shakil Ahmed, member secretary of the Broadcast Journalist Centre, a platform of television journalists, said they struck a deal with the Holy Family Hospital, which would allocate up to 50 beds and two ICU beds for the association members, given that those are vacant.

"So far 16 from TV channels and different media houses took treatment at the hospital," he told this newspaper yesterday.

In the meantime, the government has improved healthcare facilities at Sarkari Kormochari Hospital for public employees, and every ministry has formed a quick response team to provide assistance to the infected staffers.

Pope says coronavirus should spark new environmental awareness

REUTERS, Vatican City

The drastic reduction in pollution during coronavirus lockdowns around the world should lead to greater concern for the environment as restrictions are lifted, Pope Francis said yesterday.

At his Sunday address in St. Peter's Square, Francis said the pandemic made many people reflect on their relationship with the environment. The square reopened to the public a month ago and Italy's last travel restrictions were lifted on June 3.

"The lockdown has reduced pollution and revealed once more the beauty of so many places free from traffic and noise. Now, with the resumption of activities, we should all be more responsible for looking after our common home," he said, using his term for the Earth.

Ministry

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"Infection and death of the doctors in such rate were not seen in any other country to date," read the letter signed by BMA President Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and Secretary Ehteshamul Huq Choudhury.

The government has already faced huge criticism due to the supply of substandard personal protective equipment (PPE) including gowns and masks since the first two cases were reported on March 8.

Health experts have attributed the high mortality and infection rates of health workers to mainly lack of infection control measures, monitoring, and proper management at the hospitals by the authorities.

In a separate later to the minister, the BMA also protested the recent death of Dr Abdur Rakib Khan after being attacked by some relatives of a patient.

"Silence of your ministry after the death of the doctor has made us astonished," said the BMA officials in the letter.

They demanded to take necessary steps to adopt a law or ordinance safeguarding the doctors "as early as possible."

COVID-19 REGULATIONS

Tk 51 lakh realised from violators

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Barishal District Administration realised fines worth Tk 51 lakh after drives against violation of Covid-19 regulations in the district during the last three months.

According to the administration, from March 10 to June 19, mobile courts operated 343 drives in different areas of Barishal district, including the city.

Tk 51,01,250 was realised as fines from 649 persons and 691 enterprises, authorities said.

The main violations including failing to maintain social distancing -- going to or creating public gatherings, and businesses not establishing proper distancing rules.

Fifty-five were jailed for various reasons, and 13 businesses were fined for violating health regulations, they added.

Barishal Deputy Commissioner SM Ajjar Rahman said such drives will continue for public interest throughout the pandemic.

"First we warned everyone and then started operating mobile courts to prevent the situation from getting worse," he added.

He asked citizens to raise awareness against unnecessary roaming around, and suggest people to always wear face masks.



An exterminator of Dhaka South City Corporation glances at a pothole on the street on Dhaka University campus, possibly trying to see if mosquito larvae are there. City corporation staff are working in two shifts every day to ensure that the mosquito menace does not get out of hand in the capital, especially since the rainy season is officially underway. Last year, a dengue outbreak put severe pressure on hospitals in the capital, and even a fraction of that can be absolutely devastating for an already-struggling healthcare system due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Concerted plan needed to deal with Covid-19, climate change: speakers

Suggest better implementation of budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's economy is going to face a double blow due to the Covid-19 pandemic and recurring natural calamities owing to climate change, speakers said yesterday.

Suggesting adoption of a concerted plan, they asked the government to spend money allocated for climate change in a planned way to combat the upcoming crisis.

They said this at a press conference titled "Climate Budget Press Conference 2020", jointly organised by ActionAid Bangladesh, International Centre for Climate Change and Development and International Budget Partnership.

The press conference was carried out through live streaming in social media.

On June 11, the government disclosed the national budget for the next fiscal where Tk 24,225 crore is allocated for climate change.

Of the total allocation, about 41.25 percent will be spent for food security, social protection and health, while the climate relevant allocation for knowledge management received only 3.5 percent.

Dr SM Munjurul Hannan Khan, additional secretary to the information ministry, said the budget allocation for climate change is not sufficient. "We need to focus on getting money from different global funds related to climate change."

He suggested improving the infrastructure at root level for better implementation of budget allocation.

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Unauthorised masks, hand sanitisers galore in markets

Law enforcers continue drives against producers, sellers

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Amid growing demand of face masks and sanitisers, unscrupulous producers and contractors are pushing unauthorised and off-brand products into the markets, raising alarm about public health and safety.

Some of these products are ending up at reputed pharmacies in the capital, and according to some producers' claim, have been supplied to a government agency working in the frontline of the Covid-19 pandemic as well.

Law enforcers and Dhaka District Administration officers learned about these rackets after arresting around a dozen people from different areas of the city.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday arrested five people in a drive from the capital's Wari and Narinda, who were allegedly producing unauthorised surgical masks for the last three months,

additional superintendent of CID Rajib Farhan told The Daily Star.

CID also recovered 1.40 lakh surgical masks and 1,000kg mask making materials.

Rajib said one of the arrestees had a bag-making factory, and had imported machinery for it. But he started producing surgical masks in the factory after collecting fabric locally, after the coronavirus crisis hit the country, he said.

"In primary interrogation, Erman the arrestee said he used to get orders from different contractors, and supplied masks to them. He claimed that he also supplied these masks to a government agency working in the frontline," said Rajib.

The factory owner employed some 20 staffers to produce masks, and has supplied several lakh surgical masks so far, he said.

"We have got details of some contractors who he supplied these

masks to. We are conducting drives to take action against these types of illegal factories and responsible persons behind these rackets," he added.

Meanwhile, a mobile court of Dhaka district administration in separate drives in the capital's Shahbagh area on Friday and Saturday fined pharmaceutical shop owners Tk 63,500 for selling fake sanitisers and disinfectant fluids.

Mahnaz Hossain Fariba, executive magistrate of district administration who led the drive, said Shahbagh has one of the central medicine markets of the country, and some renowned pharmacies were seen selling unauthorised products.

"We have come to know from pharmacy owners that some people are making sanitisers in different chemical factories in the capital's Mitford area and supplying them to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Indigenous beauticians in hardship: activists

Demand new employment opportunities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights activists have pointed out that women working in the beauty industry of the country, many of whom belong to indigenous communities, have been in severe hardship amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The comments came from an online seminar organised by Bangladesh Indigenous Women's Network on Saturday, on the current state of indigenous women who were employed at beauty parlours.

Beauticians from indigenous communities described how they have been let go from their job during the pandemic, and are facing hardship.

"We are not getting any salary for more than two months. Almost all the parlours are closed at present. I could not pay my house rent due to this situation. I have taken this profession to support my family and my education. However, my future is now completely uncertain," said Emelia Maji, an indigenous beautician.

Sabina Rangma, another beautician and a victim of the current situation says, "A large number of indigenous women, who have been working in beauty parlours all over the country, have lost jobs during this pandemic. We demand incentives and job security from the government."

Rights activists present in the seminar also agreed on these issues and expressed their concern.

Eminent human rights activist Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said, "We are deeply worried about the plight of the beauticians from indigenous communities. They made immense contributions to the beauty industry in our country. The indigenous

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

WORKS OF ABUL MANSUR AHMAD
5 winners named in book review contest

CITY DESK

Five people have been named winners of a review competition on books of renowned writer-journalist-politician Abul Mansur Ahmad.

Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad organised the contest for bookworms staying home during the pandemic. In response to the call, more than 100 reviews were submitted.

Abul Mansur researcher Dr Chengis Khan, essayist Kudrat-E-Huda, and researcher Ashik Reza in consultation with Parishad's coordinator Emran Mahfuz announced the names.

Among the five winners, Abu Sayeed Nayan stood first for review of the book "Aina", Mohammad Raihan Kaderi second for "Food Conference", Anis Rahman third for "Food Conference", Zahid Hasan fourth for "Amar Dekha Rajnitr Panchash Bachhar", and Rashida Peu fifth for "Aina".

Although three people were supposed to receive the award, the jury selected the five, considering three basic factors: proper understanding of Abul Mansur Ahmad's

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Demand for masks, sanitisers and hygiene products and paraphernalia has gone up so much that the products are being sold by street hawkers as well. Most of these have not been approved by regulatory authorities. The photos were taken last week from Tajmahal Road in the capital's Mohammadpur.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

TANG PRIZE IN RULE OF LAW

Bela gets int'l award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) has received the 2020 Tang Prize in "Rule of Law" for its "efforts in furthering the rule of law and its institutions through education and advocacy".

Two other NGOs -- Dejusticia: The Center for Law, Justice and Society from Colombia and The Legal Agenda from Lebanon -- were also named joint winners of the award, according to a press release.

Introduced in 2012, this is the first time any Bangladeshi organisation has received this award given by Taiwan-based The Tang Prize Foundation, said a press release signed by Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bela. The winners of the "Rule of Law" category were announced yesterday.

The awardees will be officially honoured on September 25. In addition to the honours and medals, US \$1.33 million will be divided equally among the three organisations.

Besides, they will receive an US \$0.33 million in grants for research work, to be distributed equally, added the release.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Kamal Lohani laid to rest with state honours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Renowned journalist and cultural personality Kamal Lohani was laid to rest with state honours at his family graveyard in Shantala village of Sirajganj's Ullahpara upazila on Saturday night.

Earlier, the body of Lohani, who died from Covid-19 at the capital's Sheikh Russel Gastro Liver Institute and Hospital around 10am that day, reached his ancestral village around 9:30pm. Local administration and relatives received his body, keeping health guidelines in mind.

Lohani, a Language Movement veteran and freedom fighter, was given a guard of honour in front of the graveyard around 10pm, said Md Arifuzzaman, Ullahpara upazila nirbahi officer.

A namaz-e-janaza was offered by local administration, family members and villagers, following health guidelines, the UNO said.

Born in Shantala on June 26, 1934, Lohani played a significant role in the Language Movement, when he was a student in Pabna. He also had an impact on socio-political and democratic movements, and the Liberation War. He worked with Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra during the war as news editor. Lohani left a huge mark in journalism and gave power to cultural activists across the country since independence.

The people of Shantala, as well as Sirajganj and Pabna, were deeply shocked by his passing. "The death of Kamal Lohani is a great loss for us. Denying communalism, he practiced secularism his whole life. He will live forever in our hearts," said Sirajganj-4 lawmaker Tanvir Imam.

"Kamal Lohani's death separated him from us physically, but his lessons will always be with us in spirit," said Herok Gun, secretary of Uldichi's Sirajganj district branch.

Talking to The Daily Star, Language Movement veteran Ranesh Maitra said he was devastated to have lost his childhood friend.

KILLING OF DR RAKIB

Khulna OC closed over negligence in duty

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The officer-in-charge of Khulna Sadar Police Station was closed yesterday for negligence of duty over the murder of Dr Abdur Rakib Khan, who was beaten to death by the relatives of a patient.

Following an order of the Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) commissioner, OC Aslam Bahar Bulbul was closed and attached to the district police lines, confirmed KMP spokesperson and Additional Deputy Police Commissioner Sheikh Moniruzzaman Mithue.

Bulbul was an inspector (investigation) of that police station. However, as there was no OC, he used to hold the post, he added. The official said Bulbul was closed as the initial allegations against him were found true.

Dr Rakib, director of Raisa Clinic and Diagnostic Centre in Khulna and principal of Bagerhat Medical Assistants' Training School, was assaulted by a patient's family members on June 15 over the allegation of wrong treatment which led to her death. The 59-year-old physician passed away while undergoing treatment at a hospital the next day.

The incident triggered protests across the country. Doctors in Khulna called for an indefinite strike and demanded the arrest of the accused and withdrawal of the OC.

They said the OC did not accept the case immediately from Dr Rakib's family, and recorded the case 18 hours after the doctor's death. Besides, there is a police box just 30 feet away from the clinic where Dr Rakib was beaten mercilessly, but no one came to save him, they said.

Dr Sheikh Baharul Alam, president of Bangladesh Medical Association in Khulna and central vice-President of the organisation, said they have withdrawn their strike as their demands have been met.

So far, police have arrested five persons, including the main accused, in the murder case while one of the arrestees gave a confessional statement on June 18 under section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

SC stays Rashedul Haque Chisty's bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed the orders issued by the lower court and the High Court in connection with a Tk 159 crore money laundering case filed against Rashedul Haque Chisty, son of Farmers Bank's former audit committee chairman Mahbulul Haque Chisty.

A Dhaka court on May 19 this year granted bail to Rashedul Haque Chisty in the case, which the High Court later stayed.

Yesterday, Chamber Judge of SC appellate division, Justice Hasan Foez Siddique passed the stay order after virtually hearing a petition filed by Rashedul Haque Chisty challenging the HC stay order.

Chisty cannot get released from jail following the SC order, Anti Corruption Commission's lawyer Khurshid Alarm Khan told The Daily Star yesterday.

He added, the ACC had moved a criminal revision petition before the HC against the lower court order. The SC yesterday stayed the lower court order of bail considering the gravity of Chisty's offence.

The apex court chamber judge also sent to its full bench three other petitions filed by the ACC challenging the HC orders that upheld the lower court orders of bail to Rashedul Haque Chisty in three other corruption cases.



All eyes were on the sky yesterday afternoon, to observe the annular solar eclipse. Initiated by the Biggan Andolon Moncho in Barishal, children and teenagers put on solar filters to witness the exciting celestial phenomenon from the city's Bangabandhu Udyan.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

LIGHTER VESSEL CAPSIZE

All 12 crew members rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CIG

A lighter vessel carrying 940 tonnes of chickpea to Khulna from Chattogram capsized at the Bay of Bengal yesterday morning. All 12 crew members of "MV Golam Rahman" were rescued by the staff of another lighter vessel, while the ship master managed to run the vessel aground to a submerged land mass near Patenga beach.

Vessel master Golam Rahman told The Daily Star that the vessel loaded with chickpea worth Tk 2.84 crore, imported by Rubi Foods Products group, left Ghat-15 of Karnaphuli River at 7am for Khulna.

After an hour of journey, it was hit by another lighter vessel, around 5 nautical miles from Patenga, he said.

Ataul Karim, general secretary of BIWTA, said Bangladesh Navy and Coast Guard members are trying to rescue the vessel and goods.



With a vast number of people in cities confined to their houses, home delivery services have become an essential service. Deliverymen, like these two, are working overtime every day, zooming across the city on their two-wheelers and carrying as many packages as they possibly can, to reach products to people's doorsteps. This photo was taken yesterday from Chattogram city's Wasa intersection.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Rohingya children at heightened risk

Says child rights body about pandemic

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Rohingya children in the world's largest refugee camp in Cox's Bazar face heightened risk of violence including child trafficking, child labour and child marriage amid worsening socioeconomic conditions caused by Covid-19, said child rights organisation Educo.

More than 42 Rohingyas have been infected and three died of the virus in the refugee camps. However, Educo says that these are conservative figures, highlighting that the cases could be much higher.

It said accurate information about the illness and measures to prevent its spread is failing to reach many people in the camps.

"We need to understand that Rohingya children in the refugee community were already facing various forms of violence and safety risks due to the desperate living conditions in the camps," said Matior Rahaman, Educo Cox's Bazar emergency response head of mission, in a statement yesterday.

"It is appalling that the pandemic has created an even bigger crisis within an existing crisis for Rohingya children," he added.

Rahaman said Rohingya children are now cut off from the outside world as schools are still shut down, and many of them do not have access to learning alternatives.

There is also an acute need for hygiene kits and personal protective equipment such as facemasks, disinfectants, and hygiene kits to prevent children from getting infected, he said.

He said Educo's Covid-19 emergency response funded by Childfund Korea will focus on distribution of hygiene kits to 2,000 households in the refugee camps, provision of medical grade PPE for health facilities and isolation wards in the secondary health facilities, provision of need-based mental health and psychological support to vulnerable children and adolescents.

It will also provide unconditional cash support to the host communities in Cox's Bazar district.

Indigenous

FROM PAGE 3

women should be able to find other professions and opportunities. The government should come forward to make different kinds of opportunities accessible to them."

At the end of the seminar, the participants came up with a nine-point recommendation to ensure employment rights of the beauticians from indigenous communities.

These recommendations are: formally recognising beauty salon sector as an industry by publishing the announcement in the government gazette, enforcing labour law, providing incentive to the beauticians, make a list of all the sacked beauticians and ensure their employment, ensure health benefits for the beauticians, ensure a dignified working environment, ensure their reproductive health rights, ensure housing facilities and including day-care facilities in the beauty parlours.

BIWN coordinator Falguni Tripura moderated the event.

5 winners

FROM PAGE 3

stories and their characters, perspective on which the stories were written and their explication, and presentation skill of the reviewers. The winners will get books as prizes.

The initiative was taken to inculcate literary and cultural thinking in people and they got an expected response, said organisers.

They urged all to read Abul Mansur Ahmad's works for history, heritage and self-identification.

Unauthorised masks

FROM PAGE 3

the stores. They used lucrative-looking labels and packaging, and it becomes difficult to trace which are authorised and which are not," Fariba told The Daily Star.

"We are trying to get specific information of these illegal chemical factories so that we can conduct drive and take action against them," she added.

This correspondents recently visited two well-known pharmacies in the capital's Dhanmondi area to buy sanitisers, only to be told by the sales representatives that they have no products in stock from any renowned company. But they have some sanitisers of a new company.

"We do not know about the authenticity of these products, but we are selling it and getting good response," said one of the representatives.

On a bottle, the product's name was simple 'Hand Sanitizer' and mentioned a factory located at Sanir Akhra of Dhaka.

HEALTH RISKS

Regarding the threat of using fake masks and sanitisers, Prof Dr Sultana Shahana Banu, head of virology department of Dhaka Medical College, said the use of low-quality medical equipment and masks are one of the prime reasons behind the rising number of infected cases in the country.

Wearing these fake masks, people move around and feel a false sense of security, and that makes them susceptible to the virus, said the doctor.

Use of fake sanitisers can be more dangerous, as they may cause skin disease and sometime cancer, the doctor added.

LAW ENFORCERS ON THE MOVE Earlier on Friday, Dhaka Metropolitan Police conducted a drive in Mitford and Babu Bazar areas, and arrested seven people for selling unauthorised disinfectants and hand sanitisers.

The team also recovered 1,900 litres of fake disinfectant liquid and

500 litres of sanitisers from their possession.

Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said that they have gleaned some information on these syndicates and source of these liquids. "We are now conducting drives to take action against other members of the syndicates," he said.

Palash Rahman, assistant commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said a group of people are trying to make quick money by cheating people and selling low-quality masks and sanitisers. Police have started drives against these rackets, he added.

Md Aziullah, assistant director of Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) that authorises all medical and healthcare products, told The Daily Star, "We conduct surveys in the market and always take lawful action whenever we find fake masks and sanitisers being sold."

"We jointly conduct the drives with the district administration and the law enforcers," he added.

Concerted plan

FROM PAGE 3

Pointing out the adverse effect of pandemic, he said, "Covid-19 is a new problem. It is really sad to see many displaced people who had come to the capital are now returning to their villages. What will they do there? They've already lost their land and home."

"In my view, we need to do research on the collective impact of Covid-19 and climate change which will help us to get a recovery plan," said Munjurul, who earlier worked at the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

The research will help us improve infrastructural capacity, allocation and ability, he opined.

Dr Saleemul Huq, director of International Center for Climate Change and Development, thanked the government for including climate change in the budget.

Responding to several corruption allegations on irregularities and frequent damages of embankment in some southern districts, he suggested that the government ensure proper utilisation of the allocation and check graft.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, said as the climate change and Covid-19 impacts are threatening social stability, economic growth and overall environment, the government needs to take it as an opportunity to rebuild the economy where rural communities, women, children and marginalised segments of the population will get priority.

"When a disaster takes place, it mainly takes a toll upon women. They become more vulnerable. So their issues need to be addressed," she said.

The ActionAid country director suggested a good management of disposal of PPE and masks.

"We need to focus on the pollution and health hazard that we are causing due to use of plastic-based protection equipment to fight Covid-19 and find ways to minimise the impact on the environment and the people living in poverty," she said.

Planning and Development Division
Khulna University, Khulna

Tender No. KU/PD-218/2020(i)-66 Date: 17.06.2020

e-GP: Re-Tender Notice No. 05/2019-2020

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of the work	Online tender closing and opening date
465255	WD5s	Construction of 11-Storeyed Residential Building for Teachers' and Officers' including Civil, Sanitary, Water Supply, Electrical Works, Fire Protection System and Road Construction at 2nd Campus of Khulna University, Choto Boyra, Khulna	09-07-2020 1:30pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches up to banking hours on e-GP System. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-1019

Professor Dr. Uttam Kumar Majumder
Director (P & D)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Sherpur Sadar, Sherpur
www.lged.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.02.8900.000.00.01.2020.434 Date: 21.06.2020

e-Tender Notice
(2nd Call)
(Invitation for Tender Notice Number: 07/2019-20)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of scheme	Package	Type/ method	Publication date & time	Closing date & time
1.	462321	Major maintenance of 1. Shahabuddinrhar Modhapara, 2. 27 No. Chander Nagar & 3. 42 No. Shapmani Primary School	e-Tender/PEDP4/SRP/SA D/2019-20/W17.00695	NCT, OTM	23-Jun-2020 14:00	14-Jul-2020 15:00
2.	456700	Major maintenance of 1. San Kanda & 2. Vhatpara Ragi Primary School	e-Tender/PEDP4/SRP/SA D/2019-20/W17.00694	NCT, OTM	23-Jun-2020 14:00	14-Jul-2020 15:00
3.	456891	Major maintenance of 1. Char Pakshimari, 2. 96 No. Aina Para & 3. Surjodi Uttar Para Reg	e-Tender/PEDP4/SRP/SA D/2019-20/W17.00693	NCT, OTM	23-Jun-2020 14:00	14-Jul-2020 15:00
4.	452733	Major maintenance of 1. Khumua, 2. Nisampur & 3. 80 No. Fotamari	e-Tender/PEDP4/SRP/SA D/2019-20/W17.00692	NCT, OTM	23-Jun-2020 14:00	14-Jul-2020 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Document last selling date and time is 14-Jul-2020 14:00.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Galib Ibrah Siddique
Upazila Engineer
Sherpur Sadar, Sherpur
Phone: 0801-61272
e-mail: up.sherpur@lged.gov.bd

GD-1022

Bela gets

FROM PAGE 3

The Tang Foundation noted that the award-winning organisations have been working consistently and diligently to overcome the crisis of weak rule of law.

Established in 1992, Bela works under adverse conditions where poor environmental quality and corruption continue to ravage the country. Bela has conducted more than 250 public interest lawsuits and advocated for legislative

reform for environmental justice. Issues drawn ranged as widely as river pollution, industrial pollution, vehicular pollution, illegal construction, labour welfare, illegal mining, reduction of plastic use, wetland protection and prevention of pollution from shipbreaking.

The Tang Prize Foundation believes that Bela's legal battles and awareness-raising activities will be an example for activists.

Three killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Three people were killed and another was injured in two road accidents in two districts during the last two days, according to reports from our local correspondents.

In Mymensingh, two employees of a company were killed and another was injured as a covered van hit a motorbike they were riding on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Hazir Bazar area of Bhaluka upazila on Saturday night.

The deceased -- identified as Zakir Hossain (25) and Ashrafal Islam (27), who were from Bhaluka -- worked for SMC, said Md Hadiul Islam, sub-inspector of Bharaduba Highway Police.

The injured -- Ridoy Mia (23) -- was taken to Bhaluka Upazila Health Complex from where he was referred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, said the SI.

Police seized the covered van and arrested its driver Shah Jalal (35), said the SI. In Joypurhat, an elderly man was killed as a battery-run auto-rickshaw hit him in Akkelpur upazila yesterday.

The deceased -- Abdul Gafur (70) -- hailed from Dhulatul village in Sadar upazila, said police.

He died while he was being taken to a nearby health complex.

DOCKYARD & ENGINEERING WORKS LTD
BANGLADESH NAVY
SONAKANDA, BANDOR, NARAYANGANJ
Phone: 880-02-7661033, 7661480, Fax: 02-7661027
E-mail -- commercial@dewbn.gov.bd, www.dewbn.gov.bd

Ref: 06.02.6758.165.07.193.20.1826 Date: 21 June 2020

INVITATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TENDER

01	Procuring entity name	Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, BN, Narayanganj
02	Invitation for	1. MS Plate, Shipbuilding Quality, Grade-A, Bureau Veritas (BV) Class =1200 M Ton 2. MS Plate, Shipbuilding Quality, Grade-A, Lloyds Register (LR) Class =3000 M Ton 3. MS Checkered Plate, Shipbuilding Quality, NON Class =150 M Ton 4. MS Angle, Shipbuilding Quality, Grade-A, Lloyds Register (LR) Class =500 M Ton 5. MS Bulbbar Shipbuilding Quality, Grade-A, Lloyds Register (LR) Class =800 M Ton
03	Procuring method	Open Tender
04	Budget & source of funds	Own finance
05	Tender last selling date	21 June 2020 to 20 July 2020
06	Tender closing Date and time	21 July 2020 time: 12:15 PM
07	Tender opening Date and time	21 July 2020 time: 12:30 PM
08	Name & Address of the office: a. Selling tender document	Cash Section, Account Department, Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj Or Account Name: Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bank name: Trust Bank Ltd, Account no: 00350320000056, Branch: Narayanganj, deposit slip submitted by tender document. (If tender schedule document download from website)
	b. Receiving tender document	Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj.
	c. Opening tender document	Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd, Bangladesh Navy, Sonakanda, Bandar, Narayanganj. Tenderers and their authorized representative are allowed to attend.
09	Price of tender document	TK 5,000.00 (Taka five thousand only) (Non-refundable)
10	Contact details official	Mobile: 01769719887 Web: www.dewbn.gov.bd E-mail: commercial@dewbn.gov.bd
11	Eligibility and tender	1. Tenderer must be OEM/ distributor / local agent. 2. Experience of supply, supply of goods as mentioned. 3. Document required: a. Trade license b. TIN certificate, c. VAT Registration d. Bank Statement e. Experience certificate if any
12	Special instructions	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all or any part of the tender prior to acceptance without showing any reason.

GD-1017

For Managing Director



A craftsman in Kamalabari village of Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila uses hand tools and slivers of bamboo to make duli, inset, a miniature rice silo that the farmers use to store the grain for consumption by family members till the next harvest.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

RURAL LALMONIRHAT

Traditional miniature silo still in demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Slowly and steadily traditional agricultural practices as well as tools and accessories used by farmers are being replaced by modern machinery and gadgets. But duli, a traditional rice storage bin or a miniature silo, made of bamboo, is still being used by farmers in rural Lalmonirhat.

Depending on the amount of rice harvested in a season, each rice farmer usually sets up one or two duli in their homestead to store rice for the consumption of family members all through the year.

The rice harvest season is when demand for duli is at its peak and it is the time when craftsmen remain the busiest, trying to keep up with orders made by duli traders.

Many rice farmers also visit the local craftsmen at their houses to place custom order or pick up a readymade duli of their choice.

Duli craftsman Shafiqul Islam, from

Kamalabari village in Aditmari upazila, said they had been busy making duli before the harvesting of rice started this season.

It takes about two to three days to make a duli. But the demand is so great this time around that the artisans have been working from dusk till dawn since then and many of them are even working nights to ensure on-time delivery of their products to their buyers.

Many buyers even make advance payments to the craftsmen and the profit from the sale of each duli is around Tk 600 to 700, he also said.

Nur Hossain, another duli maker from the same village, said there are over 60 duli artisans in Lalmonirhat.

Compared to previous years, the profit margin on each duli has come down in recent time as the price of its main component, bamboo, has gone up. Nonetheless, this year seems to be promising so far, with almost double the sales than that in the year before,

he added.

Rice farmer Mahesh Chandra Barman, from Hajiganj village, said duli is popular among local rice farmers for storing rice in their houses.

Duli is available in three regular sizes -- small, medium and large. The small one holds about 10 to 12 maunds of rice, the medium 20 to 22 maunds and the large one holds as much as 25 to 30 maunds.

If made with inferior quality and thin bamboo slivers, a duli lasts around three to four years. But a duli made with high quality thick bamboo slivers can last up to seven or eight years, he explained.

Rice farmers have been blessed this year with a good harvest and the increased production of the crop has given rise to the need for more duli in each farmer's house, said an all smiles elderly farmer, Ranjit Chandra Barman, from Megharam village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

BARGUNA GENERAL HOSPITAL 56 Covid-19 patients recover

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

As of Saturday, 428 Covid-19 positive and suspected coronavirus patients at Barguna General Hospital have successfully recovered. Of them, 56 were Covid-19 positive patients.

No Covid-19 positive patient has died at the Corona unit of the hospital till date, said Dr Md Sohrab Uddin, superintendent of the hospital, adding, that the first coronavirus patient of Barguna was admitted to the unit on April 9.

Of the 428, 217 were admitted to the Corona unit while the rest put in home quarantine and they received treatment over phone, said Sohrab.

Apart from this, nine Covid-19 positive and 20 suspected coronavirus patients were being treated at the hospital till Saturday, he said.

Dr MK Azad, who is treating the coronavirus patients at the hospital alone, said two coronavirus patients in two upazilas of the district died till now. Of them, one was treated at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital and another at Patuakhali General Hospital, but no coronavirus death has been reported at Barguna General Hospital till Saturday.

The superintendent said according to World Health Organization (WHO), doctors, who are on the frontline fighting the virus, will be quarantined for 14 days after giving medical care to patients every seven days, but MK Azad cannot go into quarantine as he is the only doctor at the hospital who took training on coronavirus treatment.

Dr MK Azad expressed his gratitude to all the health workers including the civil surgeon in Barguna and the superintendent of the hospital in achieving such success.

He further said they are treating the coronavirus patients at the hospital following the guidelines of WHO.

Zakia Parveen Seema, a nurse of Barguna General Hospital, said she willingly came here to serve the coronavirus patients in the crisis time.

Barguna Civil Surgeon Humayun Khan Shaheen said efforts are being made to provide comparatively better service at Barguna General Hospital. However, there are some problems including lack of ICU and central oxygen supply, which are now very essential for coronavirus patients.

A total of 154 people have been infected with Covid-19 in Barguna till Saturday, he said.



A Covid-19 patient undergoing treatment at Barguna General Hospital.

PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Kite flying gets back life

Students take to the pastime as schools closed during Covid-19 pandemic



A variety of kites fly in a rural area of Mymensingh Sadar upazila as people take to the traditional sport as a pastime during the closure of various activities amid the spread of Covid-19.

PHOTO: STAR

MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Famboyant kites of different shapes and colours are seen flying in the sky especially in rural areas as children have enough time for the traditional pastime during the closure of schools amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

"I used to fly kite as recreation during my childhood days but as pressure of study mounted, I left it a couple of years ago," said Asif Ahmed, a ninth grader of Char Gobindapur village in Mymensingh Sadar upazila.

"Now we have got the opportunity to fly kites again as there is enough leisure time due to closure of the educational institutions during coronavirus pandemic," said the boy. Familiar local names of kites include tilenga, chilghuri, saapghuri, dulghuri, and changaghuri, duarghuri, etc.

Of them, large sized kites like dulghuri, changaghuri and duarghuri are flown especially at night with

small electric lights, which adds to amusement for the rural people, said Parvez Mia, a boy of the same village.

"We get small colour lights connected with mobile battery and set these with the large kites," he said.

Rejwan Islam, an honours first year student at Government Ananda Mohan College, said he almost forgot kite flying as he gradually moved to higher classes that required spending more time for study.

Rejwan, hailing from Melandah upazila of Jamalpur, said he can make kites of at least five shapes.

This correspondent found some youths making kites in Mymensingh city's Mityunjoy School Road area.

One of them, Amol Basak said, "We had passion for kite flying in childhood. Now we are making kites for merriment with local children as a way to spend free time during the coronavirus pandemic. We also make kites for sale as many people come to the area to buy it for their children." Many youths and adults are also

seen flying kites as the shopping centres are closed down at 4:00pm and there is leisure in the afternoon, said Alok Pal Chowdhury, a cosmetic trader in the city.

"As the classes at educational institutions are off, the students have enough time to enjoy in nature. The scene of children's movement with kites in the open field of the village reminds us of our childhood days," said advocate Johirul Huq, now staying at his village home in Mymensingh Sadar upazila.

Excessive pressure of study often keeps the children away from many traditional recreations like kite flying but they are doing it now in a relaxed mood, he said.

"Due to the spread of coronavirus, many families have returned to their village home and the children are enjoying kite flying. Such decent entertainment is part of our traditional culture," said Shahadat Hossain Khan Hilu, secretary of Bahurupi Natya Sangstha.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Project Director
Info-Sarker Phase 3 Project
Bangladesh Computer Council
Information and Communication Technology Division
ICT Tower, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
E-mail: info@sarker3@bcc.gov.bd, Web Site: http://infosarker3.bcc.gov.bd

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

1	Ministry/Division:	Information and Communication Technology Division
2	Agency:	Bangladesh Computer Council
3	Procuring Entity Name:	Development of National ICT Infra-Network for Bangladesh Government Phase-III (Info-Sarker Phase-3) Project.
4	Procuring Entity Code:	N/A
5	Procuring Entity District:	Dhaka
6	EOI for Selection of:	Individual Consultant (Time-based).
7	EOI Ref No.:	99.01.0009.027.007.004.17-1319(1)
8	Date:	June 19, 2020

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement Method:	Individual Consultant
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and Source of Funds:	GoB
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11	Project/Programme Code:	N/A
12	Project/Programme Name:	Development of National ICT Infra-Network for Bangladesh Government Phase-III (Info-Sarker Phase-3) Project
13	EOI Closing Date:	07-07-2020 at 4:00 PM

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

14	Brief Description of Assignment:	(a) Network Specialist (Transmission) (Nos.2) Network Specialist (Transmission) will work under the project Director and Deputy Project Director for such task as he/she may be assigned but will be responsible for the following: Lead the team engaged in supervision of Site Survey, Network Design & Implementation works of the OSP & DWDM network. Assist the Project Director and Deputy Project Director related to startup management. He/she will be responsible for selection of startup proposal selection. Develop strategy the team to reach the goal of the project. Communicate clear instructions to team members and manage the flow of day-to-day operation. Assist in monitoring and reviewing the progress of project activities according to the DPP. Ensure collection and compilation of project related data for preparing quarterly, annual and periodical progress reports for information to all concerned. Such other functions as may be assigned by higher authority. (b) Maintenance Engineer (Power) (Nos.1) Maintenance Engineer (Power) will work under the project Director and Deputy Project Director for such task as he/she may be assigned but will be responsible for the following: Lead the team engaged in supervision of site survey, design & implementation for setup of site power system. Assist the Project Director and Deputy Project Director related to startup management. He/she will be responsible for selection of startup proposal selection. Develop strategy the team to reach the goal of the project. Communicate clear instructions to team members and manage the flow of day-to-day operation. Assist in monitoring and reviewing the progress of project activities according to the DPP. Ensure collection and compilation of project related data for preparing quarterly, annual and periodical progress reports for information to all concerned. Such other functions as may be assigned by higher authority. (c) Junior Network Specialist (Transmission) (Nos.2) Junior Network Specialist (Transmission) will work under the Deputy Project Director (Technical) & Network Specialist for such task as he/she may be assigned but will be responsible for the following: Lead the team engaged in monitor/ supervision of Site Survey, Network Design & Implementation works of the OSP & DWDM network at division level. Communicate clear instructions to team members and manage the flow of day-to-day operation. Assist in monitoring and reviewing the progress of project activities according to the DPP. Ensure collection and compilation of project related data for preparing quarterly, annual and periodical progress reports for information to all concerned. Such other functions as may be assigned by higher authority.
15	Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required:	(a) Network Specialist (Transmission) (Nos.2): Bachelor in Computer Science / EEE or equivalent; 10 years' experience in OSP & DWDM Network; International project accomplishments will have preference; Experience in similar position /Info-Sarker Project will get preference; Experience may be relaxed in the case of highly qualified person or person with exceptional experience and meeting all other requirements. (b) Maintenance Engineer (Power) (Nos.1) Bachelor in Computer Science / EEE or equivalent; 07 years' experience in Network Infrastructure, DC power System; International project accomplishments will have preference; Experience in similar position/Info-Sarker Project will get preference; Experience may be relaxed in the case of highly qualified person or person with exceptional experience and meeting all other requirements. (c) Junior Network Specialist (Transmission) (Nos.2): Bachelor in Computer Science / EEE or equivalent; 07 years' experience in OSP & DWDM Network; International project accomplishments will have preference; Experience in similar position/Info-Sarker Project will get preference; Experience may be relaxed in the case of highly qualified person or person with exceptional experience and meeting all other requirements. (details in Request for Application (RFA)).
16	Other Details:	Interested applicants may obtain further information from the Project Office from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in any working day before the closing date. Applicants shall have to submit EOI with their CV and forwarding letter through e-mail or in sealed envelope labeled with Individual Consultant for the above-mentioned position under Development of National ICT Infra-Network for Bangladesh Government Phase-III (Info-Sarker Phase-3) Project to the address, mentioned in clause 20 and 21. The Standard Request for Application (RFA) may be collected from Info-Sarker Phase-3 Project Office or BCC website.
17	Association with foreign firm:	Not applicable

Ref No.	Phasing of Services	Location	Indicative Start Date	Indicative Completion Date
1	12 (six) Man Months	Info-Sarker Phase-3 Project, Bangladesh Computer Council, ICT Tower, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh	July-2020	June 2021

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

19	Name of Official Inviting EOI:	Bikarna Kumar Ghosh
20	Designation of Official Inviting EOI:	Project Director, Development of National ICT Infra-Network for Bangladesh Government Phase-III (Info-Sarker Phase-3) Project.
21	Address of Official Inviting EOI:	Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), ICT Tower, 11th Floor, Plot # E-14/K, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
22	Contact Details of Official Inviting EOI:	Tel: +880 2-55006794; email: info@sarker3@bcc.gov.bd
23	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all EOI without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

GD-1018

Project Director
Info-Sarker Phase-3 Project

Zimbabwe health minister gets bail over virus kit scam

A Zimbabwe court on Saturday released health minister Obadiah Moyo on bail following his arrest the previous day on allegations of corruption regarding a \$60 million deal to procure COVID-19 tests and equipment. Sitting in Harare, the court's magistrate granted Moyo bail for 50,000 Zimbabwe dollars (\$2,000). Bail was not opposed by prosecutors who are investigating three charges, including an 'abuse of office' charge that carries a maximum sentence of 15 years. Moyo was arrested for his dealings with Drax International LLC and Drax Consult SAGL, companies prosecutors claim were illegally awarded contracts by the health ministry without a competitive tender process. The contracts have since been cancelled by President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government. Zimbabwe has recorded nearly 500 virus cases, including four deaths.

Top US prosecutor who probed Trump's allies fired

A stand-off over the independence of one of the country's most important prosecutor's offices ended on Saturday when Geoffrey Berman agreed to step down as US Attorney for the Southern District of New York, the office that had been investigating President Donald Trump's personal lawyer, Rudolph Giuliani. Berman's confirmation of his departure came after Attorney General William Barr told him he had been fired by Trump at Barr's request. Berman's office, which is known for prosecuting the most high profile terrorism cases, Wall Street financial crimes and government corruption, has not shied from taking on figures in Trump's orbit. It oversaw the prosecution of Michael Cohen, Trump's former personal lawyer, indicted two Giuliani associates and launched a probe into Giuliani in connection with his efforts to dig up dirt on Trump's political adversaries in Ukraine. Giuliani has not formally been accused of any wrongdoing.



Participants perform yoga during a live broadcast marking World Yoga Day amid the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, in Brussels, Belgium, yesterday. India marked International Yoga Day with low-key events yesterday as the nation battles coronavirus, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the crisis had made the ancient practice even more relevant. PHOTO: REUTERS

SOURCE: REUTERS, AFP



A girl observes a partial solar eclipse on the Mahanakhon Skywalk Glass Tray at the King Power Mahanakhon building in Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday. Inset, A crowd stands on a roof as a partial solar eclipse is observed in Nairobi, Kenya. Skywatchers along a narrow band from west Africa to the Arabian Peninsula, India and the Far East yesterday witnessed a dramatic 'ring of fire' solar eclipse. Yesterday's eclipse arrived on the northern hemisphere's longest day of the year. PHOTO: REUTERS

INDIA-CHINA BORDER STAND-OFF
US will help to reduce tensions
Says Trump as tensions boil

AGENCIES

The United States is talking to both India and China to help them resolve their ongoing border tensions, President Donald Trump said on Saturday.

"It's a very tough situation. We're talking to India. We're talking to China. They've got a big problem there," Trump told reporters at the White House before boarding Marine 1 on his way to his first post-COVID-19 election rally in Oklahoma.

"They've come to blows, and we'll see what happens. We'll try and help them out," Trump said when asked about his assessment of the situation between India and China.

Over the past few days, the entire Trump Administration has rallied behind India.

On Saturday, VK Singh, the Indian minister for roads and transport, told TV News24 in an interview that China lost at least 40 soldiers.

China has not said anything about any losses in the hand-to-hand combat that took place in the heavily contested Galwan Valley in the western Himalayas, in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed and at least 76 injured.

The nuclear-armed Asian neighbours traded accusations on Saturday that the other had violated their shared de facto border, an area that this week became the site of their deadliest clash in half a century.

Troops remain locked in a face-off at several locations along the poorly defined Line of Actual Control, despite talks between local commanders to de-escalate.

Internet blackout in Rakhine enters 2nd year

AFP, Yangon

The internet shutdown in Myanmar's conflict-ridden northwest, described by rights groups as the world's longest, entered a second year Sunday with locals and campaigners appealing for an end to the blackout as coronavirus fears grip the region.

The Myanmar military has been embroiled in a bloody civil war since January 2019 against the Arakan Army (AA), an insurgent group fighting for more autonomy for ethnic Rakhine Buddhists.

The government shut down mobile data in several townships across Rakhine state and neighbouring Chin state on June 21 last year, causing panic among residents desperate for information about the unrest.

Human Rights Watch had called on Friday for an immediate end to "the world's longest government-enforced internet shutdown".

"It's critical for civilians to get the information needed to stay safe" during a global pandemic, said HRW's Linda Lakhdhir.

The country has so far recorded 287 coronavirus cases including six deaths, but experts fear the low numbers are due to a lack of testing.

A government official said earlier this month the internet shutdown would continue until at least August 1 in eight townships.

The conflict has displaced tens of thousands of civilians and seen hundreds injured and scores killed, with both the military and the AA trading allegations of abuses.

Few in Myanmar have personal computers, with the majority relying on mobile phones to access the internet for communications and information -- making those under the blackout especially vulnerable to COVID-19.

DEADLY STABBING SPREE

Britain opens 'terror' probe

'Libyan man' arrested after 3 killed at park filled with families

AFP, Reading

British police yesterday said they were treating a stabbing spree in which a lone assailant killed three people in a park filled with families and friends in the southern English city of Reading as a "terrorism incident".

The Thames Valley police said three people were also seriously injured and they had detained a 25-year-old suspect from the historic town 60 kilometres (35 miles) west of London.

They made no reference to reports that the man was a Libyan national.

Footage showed what appeared to be a large number of counter-terror police performing a controlled explosion at a residence where the suspect is believed to have lived shortly after the Saturday evening attack.

"Counter Terrorism Policing can now confirm that the stabbing incident that happened in Reading



Forbury Gardens

last night, has now been declared a terrorist incident," police said in a statement. The counter-terror police "will be taking over the investigation," said the statement.

Downing Street said Prime Minister Boris Johnson was briefed about the incident by security officials and senior ministers yesterday morning.

The Conservative leader condemned the "appalling incident" and top politicians expressed sympathies for those hurt at Forbury Gardens -- a popular park situated next to the ruins

of the 12th-century Reading Abbey.

Witnesses reported seeing two air ambulances and several police cars rush to the park on Saturday evening.

One witness described a lone assailant walking through a park filled with people relaxing on the grass and stabbing them at random.

"The park was pretty full. A lot of people sat around drinking with friends," Lawrence Wort told the Press Association.

"One lone person walked though, suddenly shouted some unintelligible words and went around a large group of around 10, trying to stab them."

Wort said he saw three people being stabbed "in the neck and under the arms". The assailant then lunged at another group and "got one person in the back of the neck", Wort said.

Officials said two people were being treated in the emergency department of Reading's Berkshire Hospital.



LIBYA CHAOS

Egypt's Sisi threatens to intervene

REUTERS, Cairo

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi on Saturday said his country has a legitimate right to intervene in neighbouring Libya and ordered his army to be ready to carry out any mission outside the country, if necessary.

Sisi's comments came amid high tensions over regional rival Turkey's intervention in Libya. He also warned forces loyal to the internationally recognised Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli not to cross the current frontline with Khalifa Haftar's eastern-based Libyan National Army (LNA).

Turkey's support for the GNA has reversed a 14-month assault on Tripoli by forces loyal to Haftar, which are backed by Russia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt.

"Any direct intervention from the Egyptian state has now acquired international legitimacy," Sisi told an audience after inspecting military units at an air base near the border with Libya. He said Egypt has the right to defend itself after receiving "direct threats" from "terrorist militias and mercenaries" supported by foreign countries.

Before his speech, Sisi addressed several air force pilots and special forces personnel at the base, telling them: "Be prepared to carry out any mission, here inside our borders - or if necessary, outside our borders."

The UAE and Saudi Arabia expressed support for Egypt's desire to protect its security and borders.

Modi's clarification puzzles more

Indian PM's remarks on Chinese incursion on the border stoke debate, controversy

THE STRAITS TIMES/ANN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement that India has not ceded any territory or faced intrusions from China has triggered an intense debate within India amid concerns it could weaken India's negotiating position with China.

It also led to a clarification from the Prime Minister's Office.

At a meeting with opposition leaders to explain the circumstances leading up to the violent face off on June 15 in which 20 Indian soldiers and an unknown number of Chinese soldiers were killed, Modi said no one had entered Indian territory or captured Indian military posts.

His remarks came two days after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had told his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, in a telephone conversation that Chinese troops had tried to put up a structure in Galwan valley on the Indian side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the de facto border between the two countries.

Amid the seemingly contradictory statements, the PMO in its clarification accused "some quarters" of "a mischievous interpretation." "As regards transgression of LAC, it was clearly stated that the violence in Galwan on 15 June arose because Chinese side was seeking to erect structures just across the LAC and refused to desist from



such actions," said the statement from the PMO. "The Prime Minister's observations that there was no Chinese presence on our side of the LAC pertained to the situation as a consequence of the bravery of our armed forces."

Still the mixed messaging from the government triggered many more questions than it answered.

"This is an ill-considered comment from the Prime Minister. It seriously undermines India's negotiated position on the Line of Control and the territorial dispute itself," said Indian journalist and a retired Colonel of Indian Army Ajai Shukla.

Brahma Chellaney, an Indian geostrategist, tweeted: "How Modi's speech has become a Chinese propaganda coup: New Delhi has released one clarification, but it won't be the last. Undoing the damage will not be easy. The Chinese, of course, are celebrating. They have translated Modi's key words into Mandarin."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian in a series of tweets on Saturday accused India of building fortification & barricades "on Chinese territory in Galwan in May, roads, bridges and other facilities at the LAC in Galwan Valley" in April and on June 15 of "violently" attacking



Cobain guitar sells for \$6m

AFP, Los Angeles

The guitar that grunge rock icon Kurt Cobain played during his legendary 1993 MTV Unplugged performance sold Saturday for a record \$6 million.

The retro acoustic-electric 1959 Martin D-18E that Cobain strummed for Nirvana's career-defining performance in New York -- just five months before his suicide at age 27 -- sold after a bidding war to Peter Freedman, founder of RODE Microphones, Julien's Auctions said.

The guitar was sold with its case, which Cobain had decorated with a flyer from punk rock band Poison Idea's 1990 album "Feel the Darkness."

Until now, the most expensive guitar in history was a Fender Stratocaster, dubbed "Black Strat," used by Pink Floyd guitarist David Gilmour. It had been sold by the musician for nearly \$4 million during a charity sale in June 2019.

'Slow down' COVID-19 testing: Trump

AFP, Tulsa

US President Donald Trump said Saturday he was encouraging health officials in his administration to slow down coronavirus testing, arguing that increased tests lead to more cases being discovered.

At his first rally since the outbreak forced nationwide shutdowns in March, Trump told the crowd in Tulsa, Oklahoma that testing was a "double-edged sword."

The US -- which has more deaths and cases than any other country -- has carried out more than 25 million tests, placing it outside the top 20 countries in the world, per capita.

"Here is the bad part: When you do testing to that extent, you are going to find more people, you will find more cases," Trump argued. "So I said to my people 'slow the testing down.' They test and they test."

It was not clear from Trump's tone if he was playing to the crowd, who cheered as he spoke, or if he was being serious. However, a White House official told AFP that Trump "was clearly speaking in jest to call out the media's absurd coverage. We are leading the world in testing, and we are proud to have conducted 25 million plus tests."



Alcoholic monkey gets life term

THE STATESMAN/ANN

The Kanpur zoo in India has a monkey which will remain behind the bars for all its life.

The monkey, named 'Kalua', is a native of Mirzapur district in Uttar Pradesh. He has bitten over 250 persons in Mirzapur, of whom one died.

According to the reports, Kalua was a pet monkey of a local occultist who would regularly give him liquor to drink. Over a period of time, the monkey became alcoholic and when the occultist died, Kalua stopped getting liquor and became aggressive. As he went on a biting spree and created terror, Kalua was caught and brought to the Kanpur zoo.

"There has been no change in his behaviour and he remains as aggressive as he was. It has been three years since he was brought here, but now it has been decided that he will remain in captivity all his life," said the zoo doctor Mohd Nasir.

NEWSIN brief

Indian forces kill 3 militants in J&K

AFP, Srinagar

Three militants have been killed in a shootout with Indian government forces in the heart of the restive Kashmir's main city of Srinagar, police said yesterday, two days after eight rebels died in another gun battle. New Delhi has been stepping up counter-insurgency efforts in the disputed territory since the nationwide coronavirus lockdown was imposed in late March.

Trump's bid fails to block Bolton's book

REUTERS, Washington

A US judge denied on Saturday a request by the Trump administration for an injunction to block publication of a book by Donald Trump's former national security adviser John Bolton that alleges the president sought China's help to win re-election. "While Bolton's unilateral conduct raises grave national security concerns, the government has not established that an injunction is an appropriate remedy," the judge said in his ruling. "The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir" is scheduled to hit store shelves on Tuesday.

215 bodies found in Mexico mass graves

AFP, Guadalajara

At least 215 bodies were found between January and May in nine mass graves near Guadalajara, in Mexico's Jalisco state. Since President Felipe Calderon in 2006 launched a controversial military crackdown on organized crime, there have been more than 287,000 murders in the country, though it is not clear how many cases are linked to fighting due to organized crime.



Robert Clive and Mir Jafar after the Battle of Plassey, in a painting by Francis Hayman, 1760.



Siraj-ud-Daulah



The Nawab's artillery on movable platform.



Plassey Monument at the battlefield of Plassey.

THE ROAD TO PLASSEY

A REAPPRAISAL OF THE BRITISH CONQUEST OF BENGAL, 1757

SUSHIL CHAUDHURY

This paper argues, contrary to received wisdom, that the Plassey conspiracy leading to the British conquest of Bengal in 1757 was engineered and encouraged by the British who in their project of the revolution roped in an influential section of the Murshidabad darbar. It has been maintained even in the latest studies that the British had no 'calculated plotting' behind the Plassey conspiracy, that it was the internal 'crisis' both political and economic, which 'inevitably brought in' the British, that it was the Indian conspirators who invited British to help them in deposing the young Nawab Sirajuddaula. It will be shown in this paper with day to day developments from European archives, especially the very British records, how it was the British who were too anxious to bring about the revolution by overthrowing Sirajuddaula. The evidence put forward here will reconstruct how the British tried their best till the last moment before the Battle of Plassey to persuade the disgruntled courtiers of the Nawab to stick to the British 'project' of a revolution.

Thus it is not surprising that even after

and that the army should directly march for the following reasons.

"The present conjuncture is the most favourable that can offer to carry the project for a revolution in favour of Mir Jafar into execution, as the secret by delaying the execution may be discovered and our whole scheme of course upset by his being cut off, in which case we shall be exposed to the Nabob's resentment and left to act singly against the united force of the country."

In fact, Watts was urging Clive and Select Committee to march soon after the conclusion of the agreement with Mir Jafar. Before he fled from Murshidabad on 12 June, he again advised Clive to march immediately as 'the least delay would ruin our affair. Meanwhile a serious complication cropped up. Mir Jafar was dismissed from the office of bakshi by the Nawab around 9 June which led to such a crisis in the relations between the Nawab and Mir Jafar that, according to Scrafton, was likely to 'have blasted all our hopes'. Mir Jafar thought himself to be in such danger that he didn't venture to go to the court, being afraid of an

would not have dared advance towards Murshidabad.

The patching up between Sirajuddaula and Mir Jafar made the latter a suspect in the eyes of the British. Watts wrote that though Mir Jafar was again joined with the Nawab but without any real reconciliation on either part, this was sufficient to raise a doubt, how far 'any dependence could be formed upon his acting, and what followed, plainly showed that was not ill-founded'. But by now the British were all set to wage war on Sirajuddaula. Before he began his march towards Murshidabad, Clive wrote to Shaikh Amirullah, the faujdar of Hughli, on 11 June that he was marching to the capital in order to see that the articles of the treaty were complied with. Amirullah wrote back to Clive the next day:

"While I was near the Nabob I saw nothing what bespoke the most friendly intention towards the English, and earnest desire to finish the treaty with the English, and it is only the great importance of the affairs that has occasioned the delay. It is not proper that on the misrepresentation of bad men you should take such an immediate resolution to march to Muxadabad."

But the British had to find an excuse to execute their project of a revolution. So Clive wrote to the Nawab on 13 June that he was marching towards Murshidabad as the latter had not been true to the treaty, that in corresponding with Bussy he violated what he agreed earlier that 'your enemies should be mine and mine yours' and that he intended to put the dispute to arbitration before the 'great men' at Murshidabad. But the Nawab on his side maintained consistently from the end of April that he remained unalterably firm to the treaty and that 'there is nor shall be any deviation from it on his side. He also warned the British, time and again, that if they began their march that would be tantamount to the breaking of the treaty by them. After Watts' flight from Murshidabad he wrote to Clive and Watson that this was 'an evident mark of deceit and of an intention to break the treaty'.

When Clive began his march he had received nothing but bare promises from Mir Jafar with whom he had even no personal acquaintance. He reached Katwa on 19 June when it fell to the British. He halted there for two days 'in the most uneasy suspense' in order to receive some intelligence and gain certain advice of what might be expected from those 'who were entered into the party with, and engaged to support' Mir Jafar. But when this arrived, it was, as Watts observed, far from being satisfactory or explicit.

As a result Clive was quite nervous. He wrote to the Select Committee on 19 June that he felt 'the greatest anxiety at the little intelligence' he received from Mir Jafar, and that 'if he (Mir Jafar) was not treacherous, his cautiousness from want of strength of the British' would, he feared, upset the expedition. At the same time he informed the Committee that he was trying 'a last effort' to prevail upon Mir Jafar to march out and join the British. He made it clear to the Committee that he would not cross the river unless Mir Jafar joined him, and that if he could only secure 8 or 10,000 maunds of grain he could, with this and what he had secured at Katwa, hold his position until after the rains, when, if necessary, it would be easy to form an alliance with the Marathas or the Raja Birbhumi or even Ghaziuddin Khan, the wazir of Delhi.

In other words, the British were intent on deposing Sirajuddaula, even if Mir

Jafar and his fellow conspirators failed to help the British, and according to the British plan, this could have been brought about even with the help of others, not necessarily with the assistance of a section of the leading personalities of the Murshidabad Darbar. Even at this point, Clive was not sure about Mir Jafar and that was why he asked the Select Committee to instruct him how he should act in case Mir Jafar 'can give us no assistance'.

Even as late as 21 June, Clive wrote to the Select Committee that he was at a loss how to act at the prevailing situation, especially if he had received a confirmation of Mir Jafar's resolution to 'stand neuter'. He was apprehensive that if the British attacked Nawab's forces, it would be entrenched and the British would be without any assistance. He reiterated the expediency of sending an embassy to Ghaziuddin Khan or the Marathas to invite them in.

Turning to the Nawab's camp, one finds that the situation there was confused. As we have seen, both the British and the French were bribing as many people as they could afford. But Jean Law, chief of the French factory at Kasimbazar, with his limited resources could only buy men whom the British did not particularly want and who, with more money power and with Umichand's assistance, succeeded in penetrating the Murshidabad Darbar more effectively than the French. And after the fall of Chandernagore, Sirajuddaula was completely bewildered. In fact, it destroyed the chances of Franco-Bengali alliance against the British and made the British comparatively free to take bolder steps against the Bengal Nawab. Sirajuddaula outwardly conveyed his 'inexpressible pleasure' at the British victory but all the same time did not desist from giving encouragement to Law at Kasimbazar, or from sending letters to Bussy who was reported to have moved from the Deccan to Cuttack. He sent a jamadar to Law with a hundred musketeers to guard the French factory at Kasimbazar and one of his flags to put over the gates as Law had asked him to do. He also sent Law 'word to fear nothing, that he would support me with all his forces'. The fact of matter appears to be that the Nawab, intimidated by the British and enfeebled by the simmering discontent in his court where he vaguely suspected a conspiracy brewing up, was only half-hearted in his negotiations with the French for an effective alliance against the British.

By now, the conspiracy was publicly talked of. Karam Ali the author of Muzaaffarnamah observed that Sirajuddaula, even after informed about the designs of his enemies, 'remained sunk in negligence and enjoyment of pleasure' while his confidants, especially Mir Mardan and Khwaja Abdul Hadi Khan, 'grieved at this slothfulness'. But this was perhaps not quite true. It seems that Sirajuddaula became nervous and confused at the knowledge of the conspiracy and the suspicion of a possible British attack. So he was too scared to alienate completely even those whom he suspected to be involved in the intrigues against him. Perhaps he still hoped that he would be able to put up a united stand against the British if the latter attacked him. And that was the reason why he soon reconciled Mir Jafar and Khadim Hussain Khan, restored them to their former offices and they promised allegiance under oath of fidelity to the Nawab.

There is little doubt that Sirajuddaula's greatest mistake was not to take firm action against Mir Jafar and his co-conspirators. As a matter of fact, his loyal commanders suggested such a course of

action.

But as the Persian chronicler puts it, some 'traitors' advised him that without assembling a vast army it would be almost impossible to fight the British and hence it was necessary to conciliate Mir Jafar and others. So Sirajuddaula gave up the ideal of punishing his enemies and went for reconciliation.

Law pointed out Sirajuddaula's folly in not firmly dealing with the conspirators. He observed that 'instead of recognising that he had been betrayed, Siraj reconciled himself with Mir Jafar who to hide his perfidy swears on the Koran to be faithful, and at once the Nawab is satisfied'. He was wondering when Sirajuddaula must have known the ill will of Mir Jafar, Jagat Seths and others towards him, 'why then he did not try to anticipate their designs? He himself gave the answer:

'I see no other reason for this illogical behaviour except the isolation in which he found himself by the sickness of Mohan Lai. He did not know in whom to trust, or rather he wished to appear to trust his enemies in the hope of deceiving them, and of getting an advantage by hoodwinking them till the occasion was favourable for breaking out'.

Indeed, Mohanlal's illness, who was suspected to be poisoned by his enemies, was the most crucial factor, which tilted the balance against the Nawab and in favour of the conspirators, including the British. As Yousuf Ali noted, he was like a 'firm pillar' to Sirajuddaula.

By now the conspiracy was reaching fruition and Watts planning his escape from Murshidabad. The flight of Watts on 12 June gave Sirajuddaula the real scare and he was now convinced of the British design. Clive sent his ultimatum on 13 June and the Nawab wrote back to him:

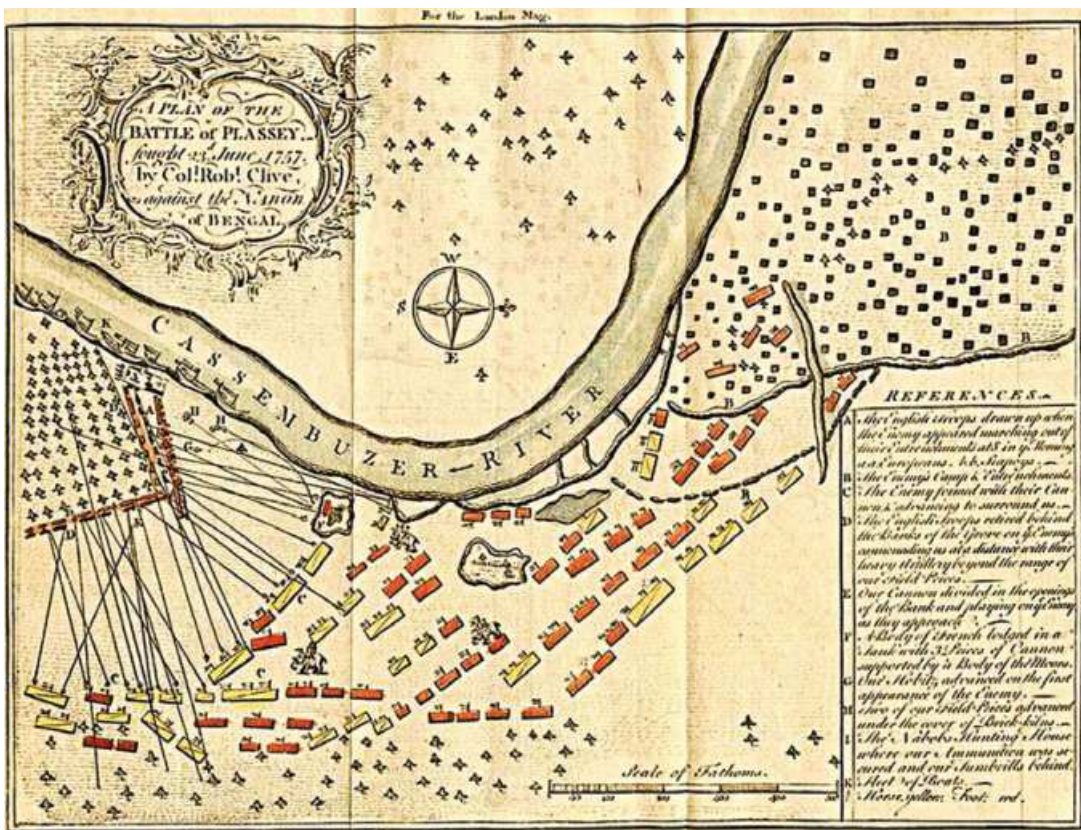
'[Watt's escape] appears to be done with a very deceitful design and intention to break the treaty. For certainly without your orders and directions Mr. Watts would never have acted in this manner. It was the consideration that something of this kind was contriving that hindered me from recalling the army from Plassey for I knew some trick was intended. I thank God, however, the treaty has not been broke on my part'.

Sirajuddaula frantically wrote to Law to come to his aid. There were rumours galore that Bussy was planning to enter Bengal. The possibility of French intervention was still a worry for the British and the last hope for the Nawab. Some of his advisers again put pressure on him to arrest Mir Jafar but yet again, possibly in order to avoid a rift in the army at this critical moment, he tried to conciliate his ambitious commander. Almost humiliating terms for Sirajuddaula but yet he accepted them in all sincerity only for the sake of a united front against the British but only in vain as Mir Jafar was to betray him only a few days later.

The stage for Plassey was now finally set. The conspiracy was ripe. Watts and Scrafton had done everything possible to ensure its success. The treaty with Mir Jafar was signed, sealed and handed over to the British. The blueprints for treachery had been drawn upon and finalised. Plassey became inevitable and there was no turning back from the road to Plassey.

Professor Sushil Chaudhury was a renowned historian of eighteenth-century Bengal.

This excerpt is taken from the article titled The Road to Plassey, A Reappraisal of the British Conquest of Bengal, 1757 published in the *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress* in 1998.



A plan of the Battle of Plassey by Col. Robert Clive. Depiction of the battlefield, with explanations of troop movements.

the finalisation of the conspiracy, the road to Plassey was neither very straight nor an easy one. Anxious as the British were to bring about the coup, it was left to them to co-ordinate and organise the plan, as the Indian conspirators could not be taken for granted. It was Watts, shrewd as he was, who realised the situation quite well and thus observed about the Indian conspirators.

"We can expect no more assistance than that they will stand neutral, and wait the event of a battle. If we were successful they will reap the benefit, if otherwise they will continue as they were without appearing to have been concerned with us."

However, the agreement with Mir Jafar notwithstanding, the Select Committee became extremely anxious to put its plan of revolution into execution. On 11 June it considered and debated whether it would be 'most proper for our army' to march directly towards Murshidabad or wait for further advice and a plan of operations from Mir Jafar. It came to the conclusion that no time should be lost

attempt on his life. He informed Clive about the situation he was in, adding that nothing but Clive's march could extricate him from the danger.

The Nawab vacillated and failed to take a firm stand against Mir Jafar. His faithful friends tried to convince him that it was at Mir Jafar's instance that the British intended to march towards Murshidabad and advised him to fall on Mir Jafar immediately. But others in the court who were in league with Mir Jafar persuaded Sirajuddaula to make up the breach for the present and defer his designs to some more favourable occasion. And thus followed reconciliation between Siraj and Mir Jafar. Both swore on the Koran- the Nawab that he would never attempt on the latter's life and Mir Jafar that he would be the Nawab's faithful soldier and fight for him to the last drop of his blood. Jean Law reflected that any man but Sirajuddaula would have found means of arresting and imprisoning Mir Jafar, Roy Durlabh Ram and the Seths. He opined that if this blow was struck, it was probable the British

A clueless DGHS!

Such inept performance will blunt all efforts to fight Covid-19

THESE are four indispensable steps, which taken efficiently, can stem the tide of the pandemic onslaught. And those countries who have managed to reduce the severity of the fury, have with due diligence followed the four steps, i.e. testing, tracing, isolation and treatment. One follows from, and, complements, the other. It is understood that our testing capacity is severely limited, hamstrung particularly by shortage of qualified personnel. And given our limited capacity, as well as our demographic, social and economic environment, contact tracing, too is a far cry. But identifying the infected is an indispensable step in any anti-pandemic drive. And the least the health administrators could do was to keep track of those infected and ensure that they were either isolated through self-quarantine, or being treated, depending on their condition.

However, in an appalling display of ignorance the directorate general of health service informed us that it has no data on the whereabouts of almost half the people who tested positive for coronavirus. When asked on Wednesday, the director general of the DGHS told our correspondent to ask IEDCR Director about the matter, who predictably, was not available to comment.

We are shocked by this deplorable ineptitude of the various departments of the health agencies. This is another example of bad management. To say that perhaps many of the laboratories are not providing all the information is unacceptable. Isn't it the responsibility of the DGHS to get the relevant data from all those authorised to carry out Covid-19 test and pass it on to the relevant authorities and agencies for further action every day? Isn't there a role in it for the National Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19?

The situation is alarming and all possible measures must be geared to track the infected. Otherwise, we fear the worst, since it will not only thwart all attempts to control the pandemic and make a farce of any lockdown, but mean we also face the risk of severe escalation.

Efficiently utilising budget allocations

A task force could implement this

WHILE this year's proposed national budget was not much different from the previous one—the size of the budget only slightly increased—citizens are more concerned this year about the budgetary allocations made in various key sectors and their proper implementation since the Covid-19 outbreak has badly affected the country's economy and has also exposed the acute weaknesses of our health system. Against this backdrop, the proposal given by noted economist Rehman Sobhan, chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue, to form a task force to oversee the implementation of the budget seems to be a well thought out, rational approach.

According to his proposal, the task force should mainly oversee three issues—how the allocated money in the health sector is being used during this Covid-19 crisis, whether the money allocated for the social safety net programmes is reaching the beneficiaries and the implementation of the government's stimulus packages. He also proposed that the task force should be formed with government officials and members of the civil society, which would submit an updated report on budget implementation every three months.

In the proposed budget, Tk 29,247 crore was allocated in the health sector, up from Tk 25,732 crore in the last fiscal year. Additionally, a lump sum of Tk 10,000 crore has been proposed for emergency response to the pandemic. The allocation for social safety net programmes has been set at Tk 95,574 crore—up from Tk 81,865 crore last year. Although allocations in these sectors have slightly increased compared to the previous year, there was no mention in the budget about how the money would be utilised. While there are urgent needs for increasing the number of ICU beds and ensuring oxygen supply facilities in all government hospitals, it has not been mentioned in the budget how the money for emergency response to Covid-19 would be used. There was also no mention of any specific programme for the urban and new poor who have been hit the hardest by the pandemic. The efficient disbursement of the stimulus packages is another issue that needed the government's attention in the proposed budget.

We think the government needs a well-researched plan to properly utilise the allocated money in different sectors and should also seriously consider the proposals made by CPD for efficient implementation of the budget.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net



Prayers for our cricketers

The former Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza tested positive for coronavirus recently and confirmed it through a Facebook post. Earlier, Mashrafe's brother informed the media that the fast bowler had been suffering from fever for the past few days. Also, left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam and former opener Nafees Iqbal confirmed that they had tested positive for the virus.

The news has shocked not only cricket fans, but many more across the nation. As captain, Mashrafe brought a new identity to our cricket and as a leader he tried to navigate the team to prominence with great success. We pray with all our heart for the safe recovery of those infected, and so that our cricket team can defeat the virus with the same pride and joy that they do our opponents.

Sayek Ahmed Sajib, by email

MACRO MIRROR



FAHMIDA KHATUN

THE need for increased fiscal space in the budget for fiscal year (FY) 2021, which is the Covid budget, had been pronounced loudly way before the budget was announced on June 11, 2020.

Domestic resource mobilisation by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) is the major source of financing the budget. The other sources are borrowing from the banking system, sale of national savings certificates, foreign loans and assistance.

In the upcoming budget for FY 2021 revenue income is set to be Tk 378,000 crore which is 11.9 percent of GDP. This is an increase from Tk 348,069 crore which is the projected amount in the revised budget for FY20. However, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) projects that revenue collection by the NBR will be Tk 252,811 crore in the outgoing year. So, to achieve the targeted revenue in FY21, revenue mobilisation will have to increase by 49.5 percent. This is an unachievable target given that resource mobilisation effort has been so low in Bangladesh for decades. Therefore, with revenue mobilisation target in the current fiscal year remaining unfulfilled, the revenue-GDP ratio will be even lower than the projection. For an economy which has been growing fast defying all challenges, low revenue collection poses a real predicament for the fulfilment of the objectives set in Bangladesh's short, medium- and long-term plans and programmes.

In the proposed budget for FY21 a number of revisions have been made in

the tax structure, some of which are in the right direction. For example, annual tax-free income threshold for personal income has been raised from Tk 2.5 lakh to Tk 3 lakh. In case of female and elderly taxpayers the increase has been from Tk 3 lakh to Tk 3.5 lakh. In its budget recommendations before the budget announcement, CPD had proposed to raise the threshold to Tk 3.5 lakh and reduce the first three slabs of tax rates by 5 percentage points. Increase in tax-free income threshold and reduction in the tax rate by 5 percent under each slab is a welcome move during Covid period. Due to this change, the lowest segment of income earners whose monthly income is between Tk 30,000 and Tk 60,000

which establishes tax justice, NBR has not been able to change the composition of tax in Bangladesh. Higher dependence on indirect tax is a burden on all citizens, especially the poor. The poor and the rich pay the same amount of tax for goods and services. There is no difference between a daily wage earner and a millionaire when it comes to buying a good. So, the main source of tax is collected at the point of sale. In the budget for FY21 the major source of tax will be value added tax (VAT) which is projected to be 33 percent of total collection whereas tax on income and profit is 28 percent. Among other sources, the amount of import duty is 10 percent, supplementary duty is 16 percent and of non-NBR tax is 4 percent.



will gain the most. It is hoped that this additional income will provide some room for people to spend which in turn will help the economy.

The proposed initiative to provide rebate of Tk 2,000 for the first online return submission is likely to encourage digital transformation in the tax department. In the same vein, the introduction of one-page tax return form for small taxpayers will simplify submission of tax return. There are several other proposals in the budget in relation to the tax regime. Some of those are welcome initiatives, others are not. While tax rationalisation for individuals and businesses are essential for both mobilisation of tax and providing incentives to them, the major issue related to the tax regime lies somewhere else. This is the issue of reform of the whole revenue mobilisation system.

There is a need for change in the tax structure. While it is a widely known fact that direct tax is a progressive measure

The reasons for low share of direct tax have been widely discussed. Narrow tax base, high level of tax avoidance and high volume of illicit financial flow are the most important ones. Why is the tax base so narrow in a country where the middle class is flourishing fast? The number of people who earn Tk 3 lakh and above in a year is large but they all cannot be brought under the tax net. Moreover, in a country where the growth of super rich people is faster than even China, several of them evade tax. Even though many of them are well known, NBR is unable to bring them to pay their due taxes.

Another large source of tax evasion is performed through illicit financial flow from the country through trade. According to Global Integrity Report 2015 an amount of USD 5.9 billion has been taken out of Bangladesh illicitly through mainly trade mis-invoicing. In a welcome move, the budget for FY21 announces the introduction of a new section in the Income Tax Ordinance to prevent money-

While it is a widely known fact that direct tax is a progressive measure which establishes tax justice, NBR has not been able to change the composition of tax in Bangladesh. Higher dependence on indirect tax is a burden on all citizens, especially the poor.

Don't let the price fool you

RMG NOTES



MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

I have posted on social media regularly about the issue of brands delaying payments to suppliers in the wake of growing concerns about Covid-19. The response to my posts has been very strong, and this

issue has gathered a lot of interest. One response I wanted to focus on, however, is the suggestion from some people that these kind of poor purchasing practices are a fast fashion problem. Wrong! In fact, this is an issue which, as a manufacturer of more than two decades, I feel very strongly should be brought out into the open.

Do not be fooled by the price. There are some huge misconceptions in this industry, and they need to be dispelled. Consumers desperately need educating. If they think that by paying more for a garment, they are more likely to have assurance that the garment will have been produced sustainably, and to high environmental and social credentials, they are seriously mistaken. In fact, in a great many cases—based on my own experience in the industry—the opposite is true.

Fast fashion, more than any other segment of the apparel industry, has come under huge scrutiny over recent years, by NGOs, governments, regulators and civil society. One effect of being under the spotlight like this is that fast fashion brands are now among the most compliant in our industry. Nobody is saying they are perfect but, certainly in my experience, they have people in place who understand the regulatory environment we operate in, and who are very clear and consistent about factory compliance issues such as the use of factories with working effluent treatment plants and adherence to strict health and safety standards for workers.

They are compliant like this because they have no choice—the world is watching.

On the issue of wages paid to garment workers, we are constantly told by NGOs and the media that fast fashion is the

culprit when it comes to low wages for garment workers.

There is a perception among consumers that wages paid by factories are low because the cost of garments in fast fashion stores is so low. This is not true. Anybody who understands our industry will know that wages only make up a fraction of costs along the supply chain. They will also know that increasing wages is about much more

fashion industry, luxury, more upmarket brands are generally not under as much scrutiny. They certainly get a far easier ride from NGOs and the media. This probably explains why I can name countless instances (which I know personally of) where luxury brands are happy to put their name to apparel when they do not even know which factory it has been produced in as it was sourced through a third-party. To cite an example here, my



than increasing the price of clothing.

Let me put this another way: if increasing the price of clothing leads to increased wages for workers, why is apparel production at some of the world's most luxurious brands carried out at factories which pay some of the poorest wages? Just because a garment has a high retail price does not mean that those who produced it were paid a high wage. In the main—in Bangladesh in any case—there is no link between these two.

The reality is that, unlike the fast

factory recently produced jeans for high-end brands such as Jones New York and Sean John through Global Brands Group (GBG). The retail prices of the jeans are up to 89 dollars. We shipped the jeans on time but we haven't been paid for the goods on the plea of Covid-19 outbreak by the GBG. You wouldn't see these kinds of practices by the likes of H&M or Zara, of that I can be sure.

End consumers need educating on these issues. A typical consumer will spend an age looking for the right kind

laundry. According to the ordinance 50 percent tax will be imposed on the proven amount of over-or under-invoicing, or on the proven amount of false declaration of investment. However, for this measure to be effective forensic capacity of the Transfer Pricing Cell is needed. Banks which deal with foreign trade will also have to cooperate in making this measure successful.

Taxation based on lifestyle is a common and successful practice in many countries. In Bangladesh there is a huge mismatch between declared income and visible expenditures among many people. While a large section of people hide their income, they spend on expensive houses, cars, valuables, etc. They also spend on expensive services, for example, healthcare in private hospitals and children's education at private institutions at home and abroad, and travel to exotic places for holiday. By making such expenditures they also show off and take pride. However, when it comes to paying taxes, many do not pay their due shares. This is no secret to the NBR.

The proposed budget has neither given any clear direction on how the projected revenue increase in FY21 can be materialised nor any guidance on the reform of the tax administration. In the past there have been a number of reform initiatives within NBR with the objective to have a simplified, transparent, efficient and effective tax administration. Some of these include, Reforms in the Revenue Administration (RIRA) in 2002, Income Tax Management System in 2004, Tax Administration Capacity and Taxpayers Services (TACTS) in 2010. Unfortunately, most of those reform initiatives have either been discontinued or remained dysfunctional for unknown reasons.

Covid-19 situation calls for introduction and initiation of reforms in the tax regime. An overhauling of the tax system is a crying need at this point in time when the country desperately needs more resources.

Human resource for tax administration plays an important role in improving tax compliance. The shortage of human resources in the NBR may also have been a reason for tax compliance and tax collections. Broadening tax net is the key. Automation of the NBR will help identify the tax evaders and new areas of tax collection. The transfer pricing cell needs to be strengthened. The unfinished task of VAT online services ought to be completed. Streamlining various types of corporate tax is also an area to work on. On the whole, interim adjustments in tax proposals here and there without any structural change will not help in achieving the voluminous growth target in revenue collection.

Dr Fahmida Khatun is the Executive Director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

of garment—the right fit, look and price. So why not spend time finding out about how their apparel was made? If they really do care about these issues—and we keep being told they do—they should demand transparency and responsible purchasing practices by the entire industry. The use of blockchain and DNA molecular tagging in supply chains could certainly support such a process.

It is not as black and white as saying

that a cheap garment means a worker has been paid badly. It is not as simple as saying fast fashion as an industry is irresponsible.

The picture is far more nuanced in our industry, but one thing I can say with certainty is that the end price of a garment tells us very little about the conditions in which it was made.

Mostafiz Uddin is the Managing Director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the Founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE). Email: mostafiz@denimexpert.com

The Song of the Sea

Recollecting the cultural revolution of Bangladesh

ANANTA YUSUF

ONE day, during the gruesome Calcutta riot (1946), a curious boy escaped the strict surveillance of his *phupu* (paternal aunt), Salema Khatun. He went to Gorer Math, wandering alone on the streets. He witnessed strange happenings in a grocery shop—people of all ages were running off with different things. Despite not understanding what was happening, the kid joined them, picked up a bottle of soft drink and returned home. His *phupu* punished him severely. "This is called 'loot'," she cried—a lesson he would remember long after.

On the same day, he became familiar with the world and the reality of riots and murders. The brutal incident moved the young boy within. In a way, it changed his perception of the world forever. Several years later, the young, mischievous boy grew up to be one of the key figures of the cultural arena of Bangladesh—the iconic activist, Kamal Lohani.

While sharing his experience on the riot, Lohani says, "I learned so many things on that day. My *phupu* was a sensible school teacher and she opened my eyes."

Lohani was always a rebellious child. He first went to jail in 1953, when he and his comrades of the Bangladesh Student's Union, protested against the Muslim League Council and the visit of East Pakistan's Chief Minister Nurul Amin in Pabna. At that time, he was a student of the Government Edward College. "The blood spilled in Dhaka on February 21, 1952, had not yet dried," Lohani reminisces on the lives lost during the Language Movement. "The leader behind this notorious bloodshed, Nurul Amin had become a national traitor by 1953. So we protested and fought against supporters of the Muslim League."

During the protest, he stood on a table and gave his first speech. "I was not at all prepared, but somehow managed to deliver the speech," Lohani says with a broad smile.

He and his comrades succeeded in impeding the Muslim League Council and in return, the government jailed him for seven days. At this point in history, a legendary figure was born.

Today the octogenarian does not get much time to take a break. Even at this age, he is always busy with different cultural activities. Young people—in his words, "my young friends"—occupy his drawing room to enthusiastically learn about the history of Bangladesh—gems that one will never find in a textbook.

Back in the 50s, at Edward College,



PHOTO: SHANKOR SAWJAL

The "1 Minute News Bulletin" had only two sentences in it, he remembers. The first sentence began with cursing the Pakistani armed forces, moving on to "we won the battle".

Kamal Lohani discovered his two loves—Karl Marx and his wife-to-be, Syeda Dipti Rani. Political campaigning and movement bound the two young hearts and they lived as one soul till she breathed her last in 2007.

In 1958, when the martial law was declared, Lohani was arrested with many other student activists. It was the beginning of a new phase in his life at

the Rajshahi Central Jail. He was in the same place where the infamous Khapra Ward killing took place (on April 24, 1950, firing by the police took lives of seven communist revolutionaries in Khapra Ward, Rajshahi Central Jail). Prison life had a profound effect on his political outlook in his later life.

In prison, senior communist politicians gave him a regular duty. "Every day I translated news from two English dailies—*The Statesman* of Calcutta and the *Pakistan Observer*," he says. "This is how news was imprinted in my very soul. You can say I learnt journalism in prison." This experience helped him to get his first job in the daily *Millat* in 1955.

His family was against his political involvement and requested him to complete his education. Upon his return home, after nearly one and a half years of imprisonment, Lohani's family members tried hard to persuade him to continue with his studies. But he had made up his mind, "I took my intermediate (HSC) exams from prison.

But failed," he says. "I believed that I had to be involved in politics. Marxism was running through my blood like fire," he explains about his tenacious decision to continue with politics.

Within a few days, Lohani left his home and came to Dhaka alone. He worked for almost every reputed newspaper in the country, went against the government's decision and celebrated the Rabindra Centennial in 1961, joined as a secretary at Chhayanaut in 1962, formed a left cultural frontier—Krantī in 1967 and played a leading role in almost all the cultural and political programmes arranged in the 60s.

In 1960, he got married to his political comrade, cousin and love Dipti Rani. Eventually, he became father to two daughters and a son.

In one of Dipti Lohani's writings, "Amar Chokhe Kamal Lohani", she proudly states that her husband never bowed his head before any unethical means; he always held his head high with pride and dignity. "A sea of people

was joining Bakshal," she writes. "He was a man that moved against the popular current." Kamal Lohani loved Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman but didn't believe in Bangabandhu's one party political theory.

During the war, he worked as the news editor of Shwadhin Bangla Betarkendra. "I was in charge of the news desk, but my work was not confined to collecting and reading news," he says. They had to run any work that was required at that moment. "Our workstation at Baliganj Circular Road was not fancy. Rather, it was a small stuffy room. The recording studio was not soundproof, which is why many of the recordings had a lot of noise from the outside."

For him, each and every day working with the Shwadhin Bangla Betarkendra was historically significant. From the early hours of December 16, 1971, those working for the radio started to sense impending victory. "We had received orders to play victory songs and circulate triumphant slogans," says Lohani. "I am fortunate that I was entitled with the responsibility of writing and reading the news bulletin on our victory."

The "1 Minute News Bulletin" had only two sentences in it, he remembers. The first sentence began with cursing the Pakistani armed forces, moving on to "we won the battle". The statement following was about the Pakistani army surrendering their arms and weapons.

The government paid its respect to Kamal Lohani when he was awarded the Ekushey Padak in 2015. On his 81st birthday, it's now our turn to show our gratitude to the man whose words and activism inspired millions to survive and emerge victorious against the genocide of 1971.

The article was first published by *The Daily Star* on June 19, 2015.

THE WORLD AFTER COVID-19

Can independent cinema survive this crisis?

This week, in *The Daily Star's* interview series that aims to give readers an idea of what changes to expect in a post-Covid-19 world, filmmaker **Amitabh Reza Chowdhury** talks to **Minam Haque** about the future of independent cinema. With a portfolio of national and international critical acclaim, Reza is an established name in the media, with several notable TV plays to his credit. Known in the industry for portraying unique creative prowess through his lens, the storyteller made his directorial debut with 'Aynabaji', one of the most successful films of 2016. The film also got a screening at the 69th edition of Cannes Film Festival.

The pandemic has suspended many activities and the arts seem to have come to a standstill. As a filmmaker how has this experience affected you professionally? Have you found alternative ways to continue with work while in self-isolation? How are you dealing with the process?

This pandemic is a challenge unlike any we have ever faced before. The bigger names in the industry have the ability to deal with the financial constraints easily, and so can the smaller ones, those that operate on a minimal scale. My production house is a middle-income business, thus we are comparatively more vulnerable. I work with a team consisting of a good number of professionals, meaning they must be paid professionally as well.

In my line of work, we are no strangers to self-isolation as we often need to concentrate thoroughly on parts of our work like scriptwriting and in order to do so, we have to move away from all the hustle and bustle. So, in a way isolation is a good thing, allowing us uninterrupted time for our work. Also, I try to keep myself away from all the negative news related to the pandemic. I just follow a few selective sources, but try to keep my

mind free from most of it. Instead, it is better to connect with friends and family during such times and nurture a positive state of mind.

My current strategy is to work in a manner suitable to the existing circumstances within the given limitations, so that we can resume operations with a smaller team. However, revenue remains one of the biggest challenges, and a strategic way to tackle it, is to establish our video on demand (VOD) platforms. If that can be achieved, then the prospects will be promising.

Will independent cinema survive in a post-Covid world where there is likely to be a crisis in funding for films?

There is a high possibility that there will be a crisis in funding for films in a post-Covid world, but that does not necessarily mean that independent cinema won't survive. There is no need to spend extravagantly on making films to portray scenes that surpass the budget. Instead, focusing on the originality of the content can attract today's audience who, I believe, are more realistic. We saw such an approach being successful during the Italian neorealism where emphasis was



Amitabh Reza Chowdhury
PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

placed on the value of ordinary people. Independent cinema will surely triumph if over-the-top platforms (streaming services) can also make use of such an approach.

Technology has played an incredible role during this crisis. What kind

of changes and innovations do you foresee in the technology used in filmmaking? Can Bangladeshi independent cinema catch up?

I don't think this is an issue. Cinematic technology only becomes a necessity when we are talking big budget films. As far as I'm concerned, whatever technology we have at the moment will suffice.

Many have resorted to online and social media communities amidst the lockdown to engage with their audience. Have you done anything similar? If so, what?

We have worked on a web series for "Aynabaji" during the early days of the lockdown, but that was about it. Since we did not have any existing well-established platforms, we were not prepared for such a thing. However, we are making some preparations now and are currently in the preproduction stage.

What new adjustments will have to be made during the shooting?

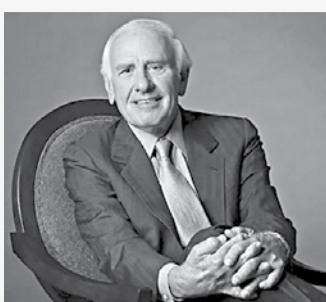
The pandemic has made it an obligation to create a new working protocol, therefore, we have adopted the guidelines ascribed by the government and health authorities

and plan to implement them to our daily operation on the sets. Workplaces should have Covid-19 risk assessments and plans in place. We will strictly maintain the screening protocols, social distancing norms, sanitising, proper hygienic measures, and wearing of masks and gloves. We also encourage a work-from-home strategy when and where possible. Leave of absence is mandatory if anyone shows any symptoms of illness. If we adhere to all the details in the protocol set forth, it will enable us to minimise exposure and thereby limit the spread of Covid-19 while helping us to sustain a functional film industry.

Having made successful rounds across international film circuits, how is the scenario now? As travelling restrictions are easing steadily, are there any film festivals in your itinerary?

The work that I do is never intended for any film festivals. I just want to tell my stories, and I believe if they are powerful enough, they will resonate with the audience. And that in turn can propel them far and wide. As of now, I don't have any plans on travelling, but overtime as flights begin to operate on a larger scale, things may change.

QUOTABLE Quote



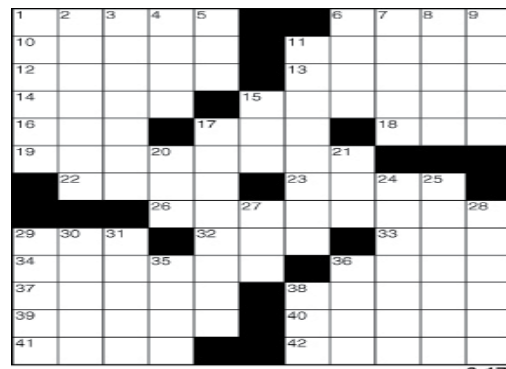
JIM ROHN (1930-2009)

American entrepreneur, author and motivational speaker.

Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Was furious
 - 6 Russian ruler
 - 10 Love, to Luigi
 - 11 City on the Nile
 - 12 Movie based toy
 - 13 Urge forward
 - 14 Different
 - 15 Skiing variety
 - 16 Flock father
 - 17 In the style of
 - 18 Prof's helpers: Abbr.
 - 19 Glossy bird
 - 22 Writer Ferber
 - 23 Shipbuilding wood
 - 26 Becoming tangled
 - 29 Bowler, e.g.
 - 32 In the past
- DOWN**
- 1 Insurance workers
 - 2 "Did you start without me?"
 - 3 Loses it
 - 4 Lake near Buffalo
 - 5 Bear's lair
 - 6 Bivouac
 - 7 "Be quiet!"
 - 8 Sports spot
 - 9 Parts
 - 11 Leaves in the kitchen
 - 15 Boxing great
 - 16 "M*A*S*H" star
 - 20 Hosp. workers
 - 21 Salon stuff
 - 24 Radio carrier
 - 25 Worked dough
 - 27 Historic time
 - 28 Dead ducks
 - 29 Yard border
 - 30 Decorate
 - 31 Used a stopwatch
 - 35 Plays the ponies
 - 36 Oxford, e.g.
 - 38 Camera type



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



BETLE BAILEY



BY MORT WALKER



BABY BLUES



BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT



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

Evil elements

FROM PAGE 12
marketers, smugglers, hoarders and other anti-social elements will be dealt with severe punishment. If necessary, the government will promulgate harsher laws to try the anti-social elements. "If they don't desist from their evil activities, they will be gunned down," warns the prime minister.

Referring to the atrocities committed by the Pakistan army and their local collaborators, Bangabandhu says that they will be tried at any cost. He adds that a certain quarter inside the country is now trying to tarnish the image of the government. "They never supported Bangladesh's liberation struggle. While I was languishing in jail, they were hobnobbing with the Pak generals," says the prime minister. He asks people to be aware of the machinations orchestrated by these evil elements.

Bangabandhu informs that the government has already distributed relief materials worth Tk 100 crore. He assures that the relief and rehabilitation programmes will continue unabated and the government will ensure proper distribution of aid and relief materials. He reiterates that Bangladesh needs help from friendly countries but such assistance must be without any strings attached.

The prime minister calls upon the people to devote themselves to the task of building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh. He asks people to be patient and allow him three years to reconstruct the war-torn country.

UNICEF WILL SET UP 22,530 TUBE WELLS
A spokesperson of the Department of Public Health Engineering informs today that Unicef will set up 22,530 tube wells in Comilla, Noakhali and Sylhet districts. This initiative will create access for the villagers to pure drinking water, he adds.

SOURCES: June 23, 1972 issue of *Purbodesh*.

Phase-2

FROM PAGE 12
dedicated to producing a coronavirus vaccine this year to prepare for China's future vaccine supplies.

As early as by the end of 2020, certain groups of people with special needs can use experimental vaccines under urgent circumstances, Gao Fu, director at the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, said last month.

The coronavirus, which was first detected in China late in 2019, has infected 8.81 million people globally and killed more than 464,000 people.

Armed Forces

FROM PAGE 12
Patients with mild symptoms, shifted from other hospitals, will be admitted there. They will be shifted to nearby specialised hospital if their condition deteriorates, said the release.

The Dhaka North City Corporation mayor will coordinate the hospital activities, it said.

A Brig Gen ranked officer of Bangladesh Army will be appointed as the hospital director. Doctors, health workers, administrative officials and a core group will be appointed from the Armed Forces to ensure its smooth management.

The rest of doctors and health workers will be appointed by the Directorate General of Health Services, the release added.

The Armed Forces will ensure all kinds of administration management and security issues of the hospital.

Meanwhile, another 300-bed specialised hospital with a 50-bed intensive care unit is being set up on the fifth floor of the market, which will be financed by the World Health Organisation and supervised by the health ministry.

If needed, ICU and pathology lab facilities for the ground floor isolation hospital will be provided by the 300-bed specialised hospital.

ACC seeks

FROM PAGE 12
ministry in this regard. The commission also sought information from the health ministry, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD) about the purchase of N-95 mask and PPE.

The letter, signed by ACC director Mir Md Zainul Abedin Shebly, asked the secretary of the health ministry, director general of DGHS and director of CMSD to reply by June 30, confirmed ACC's Public Relations Officer Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya.

The ACC sought detailed information about the projects undertaken to procure masks, PPE, sanitizers, ICU equipment, ventilators, PCR machine and test kits to combat Covid-19.

ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmood said the commission has taken a firm stance against corruption in the health sector.

"We hope the agencies will provide information in due time," he said, adding that anyone found involved in the corruption would be brought to book.



A man places flowers next to the police cordon at the scene of multiple stabbings in Reading, Britain yesterday. British police said they were treating the stabbing spree in which a lone assailant killed three people in a park filled with families and friends as a "terrorism incident". Story on page 6.

PHOTO: REUTERS

First migrant charity ship reaches Italy since pandemic

AFP, Rome

An Italian collective brought dozens of migrants to safety Saturday in the country's first such arrival by a charity rescue ship since the coronavirus pandemic eased.

The arrival of the Mare Ionio ship in Pozzallo, Sicily, on World Refugee Day, was hailed by human rights organisations who noted the unusual speed with which Italy assigned the Mediterranean charity group a port.

"For once, the international law obliging the offer of a safe port, in a short time, has been respected," the

group's head Alessandra Sciarba said in a statement.

The Mare Ionio rescued 67 people Friday after their boat ran into difficulty some 40 nautical miles (70km) off Lampedusa. The group said the migrants had been without water for two days.

"For the first time for years, a 'place of safety' has been assigned in less than 24 hours. It should be automatic," Italian journalist and migrant specialist Nello Scavo tweeted.

Mediterranea called for a port of safety to be extended also to the crew

and migrants aboard the German Sea Watch 3 vessel, which took onboard around 100 people off the coast of Libya earlier this week.

The Pozzallo arrival was the first by a charity vessel since April, when Rome said it was closing its ports owing to the coronavirus pandemic, which prompted a nationwide lockdown in March, IOM said.

The Italian group said it was patrolling the central Mediterranean because European governments were failing to fulfil their responsibility "to safeguard human lives".

The International Organization for Migration's spokesman Flavio Di Giacomo said at least 227 people had died while attempting the perilous crossing since the start of the year.

"It remains dangerous, with two shipwrecks last week and one today," he told AFP.

The last few days in particular in the central Mediterranean "have been some of the most frantic this year", Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said on Twitter.

"At least 800 people tried to escape (from) Libya," MSF Sea said.

LatAm hits 2m virus cases

FROM PAGE 12

Brazil is the second worst-affected country with almost 50,000 deaths and more than one million cases, helping to push Latin America's total infections beyond the two million mark, according to an AFP tally yesterday.

With the highest single-day spike of 15,413 new cases in the last 24 hours, the Covid-19 tally in India crossed 4 lakh mark yesterday. The total death toll in the country stands at 13,254 and 306 deaths were reported in the last 24 hour. The recovery rate in India is at 55.48 percent.

Russia reported 7,728 new cases of the coronavirus, pushing its nationwide case tally to 584,680 since the crisis began. The virus has now killed more than 464,000 people and infected almost nine million worldwide.

'ON OUR GUARD'
Although the spread has slowed in Europe, the continent is still the worst-affected with more than 2.5 million cases.

Spain has been among Europe's

hardest hit nations, but yesterday it lifted a slew of restrictions in a bid to get its tourism industry back up and running.

As well as opening its border with France, officials confirmed that EU nationals, those from the passport-free Schengen zone and Britons would not have to quarantine.

"We must remain on our guard and strictly follow hygiene and protection measures," Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Saturday, highlighting that the danger has not passed.

In France, millions of children are preparing to return to school today after three months away. Cinemas and other cultural institutions are also getting set for reopening.

Concert halls and other institutions in Germany, however, have had to slash their events calendars and drastically reduce capacities.

Musicians such as Cristina Gomez Godoy, a member of Berlin's Staatskapelle orchestra, have taken to playing in highly unusual settings.

"It is a pleasure for us as musicians to play together again, despite the

smaller format, and I think the audience will enjoy it too," she told AFP as she tuned up for a concert with four colleagues in the courtyard of an apartment building in Berlin.

Health Minister Matt Hancock said yesterday Britain will outline its plans to ease the lockdown this week, potentially relaxing the two-metre rule on social distancing, allowing many businesses to reopen in early July.

'LIKE ZOO ANIMALS'
Thousands of miles away on the fringes of Eastern Europe, cases have spiked again in Azerbaijan, forcing the government to institute another lockdown -- much to the irritation of local workers.

"The government again cages us in like zoo animals and gives not a damn to the consequences," taxi driver Shahin Mamedkuliyev told AFP.

Clusters have also emerged in Morocco, which opened a field hospital yesterday capable of handling 700 patients, and in Beijing.

Local authorities in the Chinese capital have set up more than 2,000 testing sites across the city that

had obtained 2.3 million samples, according to state news media.

China banned imports from a top US poultry producer and ordered a Beijing Pepsi factory to close yesterday as authorities clamped down on food production and distribution.

Iranian health authorities reported over 100 new deaths yesterday for the third day running, stressing that the outbreak had not yet peaked in the hard-hit country.

The Palestinian Authority announced on Saturday it was temporarily closing the cities of Hebron and Nablus in the occupied West Bank after a sharp rise in infections.

Only goods will be allowed in, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayeh told journalists. Authorities have reported a total of 687 cases in the West Bank, including two deaths so far.

A vaccine remains months off at best despite several trials. Scientists are still learning more about the virus, its symptoms and the extent to which it may have spread before being identified.

Hundreds run riot in Germany's Stuttgart: police

AFP, Berlin

Hundreds of people ran riot in Germany's Stuttgart city centre in the early hours of yesterday, throwing stones and bottles at police and plundering stores after smashing shop windows.

"Police are currently securing leads and are interrogating more than 20 people who have been provisionally arrested," said authorities from the southwestern city in a statement.

More than a dozen police officers were also hurt in the clashes, added the statement.

Sascha Binder, a leading local MP of the Social Democratic Party, sharply condemned the violence.

"It is absolutely unacceptable, that in the middle of our country civil war-like scenes are breaking out. We don't know street battles of such scales in Baden-Wuerttemberg."

Tensions built up shortly after midnight over police checks on drug

consumption by some people who had gathered close to the city's biggest square, the Schlossplatz.

Clashes then broke out, as the groups went on a rampage, using sticks or poles to smash windows of police vehicles parked in the area.

Police estimated that around 500 people were involved in the riot, which also left shops along the neighbouring Koeningstrasse, a key shopping thoroughfare, attacked and looted.

Police called in reinforcements, and were only able to quell the violence several hours later.

Videos posted on Twitter showed people breaking shop windows, with their goods strewn on the streets.

A jewellery store was completely emptied and a mobile phone shop wrecked, according to regional broadcaster SWR.

Smaller scale clashes had broken out downtown last week between police and groups of young people.

Yemen southern separatists take control of Socotra island

AFP, Aden

Yemen's southern separatists have seized control of the strategic island of Socotra, which had been in the hands of pro-government forces, and have begun implementing self-rule, officials on both sides said.

The move at the weekend deepens the crisis between separatists and the government after the failure of a power-sharing deal in areas beyond the control of Huthi rebels, who hold the capital Sanaa and much of northern Yemen.

The Southern Transitional Council (STC) declared self-rule in southern Yemen on April 26, accusing the government of failing to carry out its duties and of "conspiring" against their cause.

Senior STC official Salem Abdullah al-Socotri congratulated the separatist forces for "normalising the situation" in Socotra, in a statement issued late Saturday.

A government spokesman said the STC had mounted a "full-fledged

coup" on the Indian Ocean island, located near major shipping routes and renowned for its biological diversity.

Its fighters had targeted state institutions and raided military camps and government quarters, he said, according to the official Saba news agency.

He called on the Saudi-led military coalition -- which intervened in the Yemen war in 2015 to support the government against the Iran-backed Huthi rebels -- to stop the STC's "tampering, chaos and attacks" and compel them to implement the power-sharing Riyadh Agreement signed last December.

Socotra's governor, Ramzy Mahrous, said the STC forces "overthrew" state institutions, after which "they raided the city of Hadibou", the island's capital.

Military sources told AFP that the STC took control of the island on Saturday after an operation that began the day before, with only limited clashes with pro-government forces.

Italian

FROM PAGE 12
block the sun's rays.

"This area is continuously shrinking, so we cover as much of it as possible," explains Davide Panizza, 34, who heads the Carosello-Tonale company that does the work.

From around 30,000 square metres (36,000 square yards) covered in 2008 when the project began, his team now places 100,000 square metres under wraps.

The coverings are "geotextile tarpaulins that reflect sunlight, maintaining a temperature lower than the external one, and thus preserving as much snow as possible," he told AFP.

On the border between the Lombardy and Trentino Alto Adige regions, workers unroll the sheets in long strips, covering an area at an altitude of 2700 to 3000 metres (8,800-9,800 feet).

They move methodically down the mountain under clear blue skies to pull the coverings taut, and sew

them together to ensure warm drafts do not slip underneath. Bags of sand then act as anchors against the wind.

Once in place, the sheets, which measure 70 metres by five metres (230 by 16 feet), are hardly distinguishable from the packed white snow beneath.

"There are glacier cover systems similar to ours on a few Austrian glaciers, but the surface covered by the tarpaulins is much smaller," Panizza said.

The Austrian-made tarps cost up to 400 euros (\$450) each and it takes the team six weeks to install them -- and another six weeks to remove them before winter sets in again.

Franco Del Pero, 48, leads the operation and says technological improvements mean contemporary tarps protect better than earlier versions.

"When we remove them in September and we see that they did their job, we feel proud," he says.

Biman

FROM PAGE 12

Since the middle of February, Biman gradually suspended flight operations on all 18 international routes due to Covid-19 pandemic.

On March 30, Biman operated its last flight from London-Dhaka route.

On June 11, CAAB permitted Biman to operate flights on Dhaka-London-Dhaka.

It also permitted Qatar Airways to operate transit flights from June 16.

Four more foreign carriers -- Emirates, Fly Dubai, Air Arabia and Turkish Airlines -- have also sought permission from the CAAB to resume flights from Dhaka, the CAAB chairman told The Daily Star.

The CAAB has already permitted Emirates to operate transit flights from Dhaka and it will start operating three flights a week on Dubai-Dhaka-Dubai from June 21.

Emirates would operate one flight each on Saturday, Monday and Thursday, said CAAB sources.

Turkish Airlines and Air Arabia have also shown interest to start flight operation, the CAAB chief said, adding that they were discussing the issues.

"As flight operations on international routes from Bangladesh resumed on a limited scale on July 16, we'll consider allowing other airlines to operate flights if they seek permission," Mafidur said.

On June 1, Civil Aviation authority permitted operation of all domestic flights maintaining social distancing and following health guidelines.

Just 255 cars

FROM PAGE 12

"We decided to allow only the enlisted four-wheelers. No motorcycles, because maintaining physical distance is not possible on it," he said.

The development comes after the prime minister's Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikus on Saturday held a meeting with stakeholders over the issue.

Bus and other modes of public transport hit the roads on June 1, but ride-hailing services remained suspended. Companies, including Uber and Pathao, recently wrote to the BRTA, requesting permission to resume operations.

After that did not bear any fruit, Uber Bangladesh Ltd requested the Prime Minister's Office to intervene.

In Saturday's meeting, Uber officials requested permission to resume operation and said they would need some time to get all of their vehicles enlisted with the BRTA, a participant said.

According to a BRTA document, there are some 1.23 lakh vehicles and motorcycles associated with different ride-hailing companies. Of them, 1.04 lakh are motorcycles.

However, only around 1,300 are enlisted with the BRTA under the 12 companies, and most of them are motorcycles, BRTA officials said.

Only 15 cars and 111 motorcycles of Uber and two cars and 116 motorcycles of Pathao have the enlistment certificates, BRTA record shows.

Asked about motorcyclists picking up commuters on the streets, the BRTA acting chairman said mobile courts and law enforcers will take action against them soon.

Meanwhile Bangladesh Ride Sharing Association (BARSA), a platform of 11 ride-sharing service providing companies, said they were deeply disappointed by the BRTA's decision.

It called for immediate resumption for ride sharing service involving all vehicles, including motorcycles, subject to the compliance with the standard operating procedure they proposed to the BRTA, it said in a press statement.

It also asked the BRTA to allow operations of all vehicles registered on ridesharing applications until the enlistment process is fully implemented over a one-year timeline.

Indonesia's Mt Merapi erupts, spewing ash 6 km high

AFP, Jakarta

Indonesia's Mount Merapi, one of the world's most active volcanoes, erupted twice yesterday, sending clouds of grey ash 6,000 metres into the sky, the country's geological agency said.

The two eruptions lasted around seven minutes, according to the agency, and prompted local authorities to order residents to stay outside a three-kilometre no-go zone around the rumbling crater near Indonesia's cultural capital Yogyakarta.

The agency did not raise the volcano's alert status after the eruptions, but it advised commercial planes to be cautious in the area.

Local media reported that people in neighbouring areas including Sleman and Klaten heard strong rumbling sounds this morning.

Mount Merapi's last major eruption in 2010 killed more than 300 people and forced the evacuation of some 280,000 residents from surrounding areas.

That was its most powerful eruption since 1930, which killed around 1,300 people, while another explosion in 1994 took about 60 lives.

LEBRON IMPRESSED BY DJOKOVIC'S STROKE

Novak Djokovic has charmed many over the years with his exploits on the tennis courts but the men's world number one now also has an admirer of his basketball skills in American great LeBron James. Djokovic posted a video of himself trying some basketball moves on social media. The video, addressed to James, shows the 33-year-old Djokovic taking a few dribbles before knocking down a mid-range jumpshot. "Am I ready for a 1:1 @ KingJames?" asked Djokovic. The NBA star did not take long to respond. "Ha! I'm going to say I think you are!! Beautiful follow-thru on that shot buddy!" James said in his reply on Twitter.



'I felt like a beginner'

ANISUR RAHMAN

Without a bow and arrow for three months because of the coronavirus-induced halt in sports, Bangladesh's top archer Ruman Sana had begun to feel that he had moved away from the discipline. But the Olympics-qualified archer has once again started feeling at one with the sport after receiving the bow for home practice a few days ago.

Initially, archery was the country's only discipline where athletes kept up preparations for the Tokyo Olympics, which was later deferred to July next year despite the government announcing a halt on all sports activities on March 16, following the outbreak of coronavirus. Archers, however, were also forced to stop preparations at the Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master Stadium in Tongi on March 25 so that the venue could be used by police to help the local administration to enforce the shutdown across the country.

Since then the national archers went back homes and continued physical training but the Bangladesh Archery Federation, in line with a recommendation from German coach Martin Fredrick, sent bows to 17 archers to practise at home.

"Having been detached from the bow and arrows for three months, it seems that I had moved away from archery, but now I once more feel close to the archery after receiving the bow on Thursday," Ruman Sana told The Daily Star over phone from Khulna yesterday.

"To be honest, I felt like a beginner on the first day [Thursday] because I could hardly pull the string after assembling the bow, which is nearly 7 kilogrammes. I could not even hold the bow for



five seconds whereas I could hold it for 30 to 50 seconds before," Ruman said.

"I would not have been able to shoot the arrows if the Olympics had taken place as originally scheduled in late July," said a smiling Ruman, only the second athlete of the country to – and first archer – to earn the right to take

part in the Olympics directly.

While various other countries already starting their preparations for next year's Olympics as the outbreak has been curbed in those countries, the BAF cannot resume the national camp because of the worsening situation in Bangladesh, which is why the equipment was sent to archers.

"I am doing all types of practices related to the bow in our drawing room in Khulna. I have pulled the string of the bow several times, held the hand straight with bow and over the head, pulling back the string for few seconds, etc. as per recommendations from coach Fredrick," the 25-year-old said.

"I believe if we can continue the practice with bow regularly at home, then we may regain our performance levels within a month when we resume the national camp in Dhaka.

"In archery, the bow is more important than shooting arrows. If I have full control on the bow, then it is a matter of time to get adjusted with shooting arrows. Practising only with the bow will also strengthen us mentally. I think it would have been a big blow had we not gotten the opportunity to practise with bows during this period."

The SA Games gold-medallist also requested authorities concerned to resume preparations as soon as possible because the national players cannot concentrate on practice at home due to their daily engagement in family matters.

"The foreign archers have better facilities than us. They even have their own bow, arrows and target board to practise at home but I don't have that; instead, I am spending time with the neighbour's children on the rooftop," said Ruman. "I think it would be good if we resume practice at our venue [stadium in Tongi]. We also have accommodation facilities there, which is almost isolated, although police personnel are now staying there to maintain law and order amidst the coronavirus pandemic. If they leave, I think we can start preparations by taking the proper measures prescribed by World Archery, WHO and our government."

'BCB closely monitoring coronavirus situation'

SPORTS REPORTER

The news of former ODI captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam testing positive for Covid-19 on Saturday came as a huge blow just as the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was planning to resume cricketing activities in the country.

There were talks of individual preparation during this period and the BCB had started taking measures by preparing individual training facilities. But the news of Mashrafe, Nazmul and former cricketer Nafees Iqbal testing positive has caused concern in the cricket fraternity.

According to BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury, the board is closely monitoring the situation and it advised the cricketers to follow safety measures.

"We have always advised our cricketers

to stay safe until things get normal again. As per the requirements of the cricketers, we prepared facilities for their training. However, the players did get to realise the current situation and did not come to practise. Still we would like to advise our cricketers to follow safety measures properly," Nizamuddin told The Daily Star.

A few cricketing nations have started training camps by maintaining safety measures and following health guidelines provided by government authorities.

When his attention was drawn to other countries, the CEO said that they also realised the need to start training.

"We also need to look forward and find a way out to resume things at some point. The board, especially the BCB president Nazmul Hassan, myself and our medical team are in constant touch with the players," he added.



Torino FC defender Nicolas N'Koulou takes a knee, celebrating his opening goal against Parma while showing solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement on Saturday. The Cameroonian later told media, "When I scored, I immediately thought of my brother [George] Floyd."

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Iraqi legend Radhi dies from Covid-19

AFP, Baghdad

Iraqi football legend Ahmed Radhi died Sunday from complications linked to COVID-19, the health ministry said, just hours before he was to be flown for treatment in Jordan. Radhi, 56, scored what remains Iraq's only World Cup final goal in 1986 against Belgium.

He had been hospitalised last week in Baghdad after testing positive for coronavirus but had checked out on Thursday after his condition improved. He relapsed a few hours later and was readmitted but passed away early Sunday. In a video reportedly from his hospital bed on Saturday, Radhi could be seen struggling to breathe as medics in full protective gear try to treat him.

"Sometimes it's hard to breathe but that's normal," he could be heard telling the medical team, his voice strained. Radhi, a striker, led Iraq to victory in the Gulf Cups of 1984 and 1988, when he was voted Asian footballer of the year. In the 1986 World Cup in Mexico, he scored against Belgium but Iraq went on to lose the match 2-1 and exited the tournament in the group stage without a point.

He fled Iraq in 2006 after its Olympic Committee head was kidnapped during the height of the sectarian violence that followed the US-led invasion of 2003. Radhi moved with his family to the Jordan but returned to Iraq in 2007 for a career in politics, replacing a member of parliament.



MOST BUNDESLIGA GOALS IN 1 SEASON

1	Gerd Müller	1971/72	40
2	Gerd Müller	1969/70	38
3	Gerd Müller	1972/73	36
4	Dieter Müller	1976/77	34
5	Robert Lewandowski	2019/20	33

With two goals in a 3-1 win over Freiburg on Saturday, Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski surpassed Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's record of 31 goals to become the most prolific foreign goalscorer in Bundesliga history.

What is implied cuts deepest, says Chappell

PTI

Former Australian skipper Ian Chappell has recalled his brush with racism as he offered his views on the raging issue, talking about a time when he saw fellow players being abused and discriminated against but not without a note of protest from him.

"My first overseas tour was to South Africa in 1966-67 and it was an eye-opener. The apartheid regime was in power and we got a taste of its abhorrent nature after winning the second Test in Cape Town," he remembered in a column for ESPNcricinfo. "Why don't you pick Garry Sobers? Then you'll have a team full of blacks" was the offensive comment directed at Australian batsman Grahame Thomas by an ignorant patron in the team hotel. Thomas has Native American lineage dating back to the days of slavery," he said.

Recalling another incident the same year, Chappell narrated how a player of colour in an International Wanderers side was targeted near Port Elizabeth.

"John Shepherd, who played for West Indies and Kent, and is of the most gentle people on this earth, was part of our side. As we were leaving, a member of the crowd shouted out: 'Why don't you paint yourself white, Shepherd, and then you can be like the rest of them'," Chappell wrote. "This is the sad reality of racism. What is implied often cuts deepest."

Juve resume quest for 9th straight title

AGENCIES

Champions Juventus return to their quest for a ninth consecutive Serie A title at Bologna on Monday, days after their Italian Cup final defeat to Napoli.

Maurizio Sarri's side fell in the final to Napoli on penalties midweek, having lost the Italian Super Cup to Lazio in December.

Juventus hold a one-point lead on second-placed Lazio, while Inter Milan are third, nine points adrift of the leaders.

They will be counting on top scorer Cristiano Ronaldo to react after suffering two defeats in a final for the first time in his career, and missing a penalty in the Italian Cup semifinal.

Torino's Andrea Belotti



FATHER'S DAY RELAXATION

Celebrating both Father's Day and International Yoga Day, Indian cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar yesterday posted on his Instagram account this picture of himself practising yoga with his daughter Sara and son Arjun.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

'Arsenal need to learn a bit of humility'

AGENCIES, London

Brighton match-winner Neal Maupay said Arsenal's players "need to learn a bit of humility" after they lost to the relegation-threatened side 2-1 on Saturday.

Maupay's 95th-minute goal saw Arsenal throw away another set of points after losing to Manchester City on Wednesday. Tensions boiled over at the final whistle though as Arsenal players surrounded Maupay as he celebrated with teammates.

The 23-year-old had been involved in an earlier collision with Arsenal's Bernd Leno which saw the keeper stretchered off in the 40th minute.

"Some of the Arsenal players need to learn a bit of humility," Maupay said after the game. "They were talking a lot in the first half, and in the second half they got what they deserved."

The Frenchman said he went to Arsenal coach Mikel Arteta at half-time to apologise for the challenge and explain that he meant no harm to Leno.

A crabby affair

APP, Washington

Two-time Masters champion Bubba Watson had some major issues with a tiny crab in Saturday's third round of the US PGA RBC Heritage as top-ranked Rory McIlroy could only watch.

The bizarre situation came at the par-3 17th hole at Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, in the US tour's second event after ending a three-month coronavirus shutdown last week.

Watson blasted his tee shot into a greenside bunker, but when he arrived to check out the ball, he found a tiny crab had crawled under it.

McIlroy, a four-time major winner from Northern Ireland, and Watson were in a featured pairing at the event, meaning tour television cameras were

watching the entire situation as Watson pondered his options.

They included blasting the ball out with the tiny crustacean lurking in the sand beneath it and facing animal cruelty complaints.

"I don't want the world to get mad at me, know what I mean?" Watson told McIlroy as the European star stuck the top of putter near the ball to try and distract the crab.

Watson called for a rules official but as he approached, the little crab flipped out from beneath the ball, landing a few inches away and moving off and eventually crawling away.

"There was a camera and people get mad if I hit an animal," Watson told the official to explain the problem that had resolved itself.

"We don't need crab issues, know what I'm saying?"



WHAT TO WATCH

LA LIGA

Facebook

Villarreal v Sevilla
Live from 11:30pm
Leganes v Granada
Live from 2:00am (Tuesday)

PREMIER LEAGUE

Star Sports Select 1

Man City v Burnley
Live from 1:00am (Tuesday)

SERIE A

Ten 2

Lecce v AC Milan
Live from 11:30pm
Bologna v Juventus
Live from 1:45am (Tuesday)

missed a penalty as Serie A resumed Saturday after three months with his side drawing 1-1 at home with Parma as ten-man Verona held on to beat Cagliari 2-1.

But the first top-flight game in 103 days in Italy got off to a false start with a deflated ball having to be replaced after five seconds.

All matches are being played without fans.

"It's about a different kind of football," Parma coach Roberto D'Aversa said. "But we knew it would be like this, we need to finish the season, there are economic interests and we have to get used to it. I hope this situation lasts as little as possible. Football belongs to everyone...I hope that this can all be sorted out and that we can return to true football."

www.bsr.com

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SHAH CEMENT

Biman resumes int'l flights

First flight goes to London after almost 3 months

RASHIDUL HASAN

National flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines resumed its international flights yesterday after around three months.

The maiden flight -- a Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner -- departed Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport for London at 12:02pm with 187 passengers on board, Biman's Deputy General Manager (Public Relations) Tahera Khandaker told The Daily Star.

Passengers flying from Dhaka to London will not require a health certificate declaring that they are not infected with Covid-19, said Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman, chairman at the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB).

"But they will have to fill out a health declaration form as per the International Civil Aviation Organization guidelines," he said.

The CAAB chief also said all the London-bound passengers would have to stay in quarantine for 14 days as per the UK policy.

Biman sources said initially it would operate one flight a week on this route every Sunday.

Meanwhile, every passenger of yesterday's flight was provided a "care kit" -- a box containing a hand sanitizer, hand gloves and a face mask, said Tahera.

Besides, passengers were served dry meal instead of the usual dishes in line with the guidelines of the International Civil Aviation Organization, she said.

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Mostofa carrying his wife Sathi Khanam, a kidney patient, out of Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday after they were told that only admitted patients can get tested for Covid-19 there. Sathi, hailing from Barishal, used to get her dialysis done at the Kidney Foundation Hospital in Mirpur-2 but it denied her treatment on Friday and asked for a Covid-19 certificate. The couple went to several hospitals to get Sathi tested.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Italian glacier covered to slow melting



AFP, Presena Glacier

A vast tarpaulin unravels, gathering speed as it bounces down the glacier over glinting snow. Summer is here and the alpine ice is being protected from global warming.

In northern Italy, the Presena glacier has lost more than one third of its volume since 1993.

Once the ski season is over and cable cars are berthed, conservationists race to try and stop it melting by using white tarps that

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WHISTLE BLOWER DOCTORS

ACC seeks info on those transferred

Probe into substandard PPE purchase on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has sought information from the health ministry about the doctors who have been transferred from their workplace on various grounds since late March.

Several doctors were transferred during this period after they raised questions over the standard of masks, gloves and PPEs supplied at the hospitals.

On June 18, the ACC formed a committee to probe into the allegations of corruption in the procurement N-95 mask, PPE and other safety gears.

The committee yesterday issued a letter to the

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Evil elements warned



Bangabandhu waving at the crowd in Noakhali on June 22, 1972.

June 22, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN BANGABANDHU VISITS NOAKHALI

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today visits Noakhali. He is accorded a hearty welcome on his arrival at Majidde Court. Thousands throng the heliport to greet their beloved leader. Later, a public meeting is held at Shahid Bhulu Stadium where Bangabandhu says that the 15-day ultimatum is over and, from now on, the black marketers, smugglers, hoarders

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

RIDE-HAILING SERVICES

Just 255 cars allowed on roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 255 cars, minibuses and ambulances were allowed to operate under the ride-hailing services from yesterday because the authorities decided to give permission only to the vehicles enlisted to provide the services.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) decided not to allow motorcycles to resume the service, considering the risks of spreading the coronavirus.

"We have sent letters to the 12 ride-hailing companies in this regard today [Sunday]," BRTA Acting Chairman Yousub Ali Mollah told The Daily Star.

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CHINESE CORONAVIRUS VACCINE

Phase-2 human trial begins

REUTERS, Beijing

Chinese researchers have started a second phase human trial of a possible coronavirus vaccine, the Institute of Medical Biology at Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences (IMBCAMS) said yesterday, in efforts to further assess effectiveness and safety.

About a dozen vaccines are in different stages of human tests globally, as the World Health Organization warns the coronavirus pandemic is accelerating and "the world is in a new and dangerous phase".

However, none of the vaccine trials have passed large-scale, late-stage phase 3 clinical trials, a necessary step before

getting regulatory approval for sale.

IMBCAMS began on Saturday a phase 2 human test for its experimental shot, which is among six possible vaccines Chinese scientists are testing in humans, following an on-going phase-1 study that has recruited about 200 participants since May, the institute said yesterday in its social media channel.

The phase-2 trial will determine the shot's dose and continue to evaluate whether the potential vaccine can safely trigger immune responses in healthy people.

IMBCAMS said it expects to use a plant

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 22

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-05	12-45	5-00	6-52	8-17
JAMAAT 4-50	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Without wearing any safety gear, labourers work at an under construction building in the capital's Tejgaon industrial area yesterday. They do not even have any masks on. One could get fined for not wearing a mask.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

HOSPITAL AT DNCC MARKET Armed Forces to supervise 1,000-bed facility

UNB, Dhaka

The Armed Forces will supervise the 1,000-bed isolation hospital for Covid-19 patients on the ground floor of DNCC market in Mohakhali.

"The Armed Forces will coordinate the overall activities with the assistance of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare," an ISPR press release, signed by its Assistant Director Rashedul Alam Khan, said yesterday.

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LatAm hits 2m virus cases

India death toll rises to 13,254 as Spain reopens its borders to Europe

AGENCIES

Spain reopened its borders with France yesterday, getting rid of one of the most potent symbols of Europe's battle against the coronavirus, as infections in Latin America surged past two million.

Europeans are just emerging from some of the world's toughest lockdowns, with cars trickling across the reopened Spain-France border early yesterday a day after Italy enjoyed its first top-flight football match in 103 days.

In the United States, which has also been taking stuttering steps to reopen even as 20 states have reported a rebound in infections, President Donald Trump held his first rally in months on Saturday.

He boasted to the audience in Tulsa, Oklahoma, that he had told his team to slow the rate of testing to reduce the number of registered cases.

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গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঘরের বাইরে মাস্ক পরা অত্যাবশ্যিক।

মাস্ক না পরলে জরিমানা হতে পারে।

- করোনায় সারা বিশ্ব আজ বিপর্যস্ত।
- মনে রাখবেন অসাবধানতায় যে কেউ যে কোন সময় করোনা ভাইরাসে আক্রান্ত হতে পারেন।
- সামাজিক দূরত্ব নিশ্চিত করতে পরস্পরের মধ্যে কমপক্ষে তিন (৩) ফুট দূরত্ব বজায় রাখুন।
- স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সব স্বাস্থ্যবিধি অবশ্যই মেনে চলুন।
- বারবার সাবান পানি দিয়ে কমপক্ষে ২০ সেকেন্ড ধরে হাত ধুতে হবে। অপরিচ্ছন্ন হাত দিয়ে মুখ, নাক ও চোখ হোয়া থেকে বিরত থাকুন।
- নিয়মিত কুসুম গরম পানি, আদা চা, এবং গরম স্যুপ পান করুন। লবণ মিশ্রিত কুসুম গরম পানি দিয়ে দিনে ৩-৪ বার গড়গড়া করুন, নাকে মুখে গরম পানির ভাপ নিন।
- জ্বর, সর্দি, কাশি, গলা ব্যথা হলে বাড়িতেই আসাদা থেকে চিকিৎসা নিন। জ্বর কমানোর জন্য প্যারাসিটামল ও সর্দি-কাশির জন্য এন্টিহিস্টামিন (যেমন ফেনোথেরামিন, ক্লোরফেনিরামিন ইত্যাদি) সেবন করতে পারেন।

প্রয়োজনে করোনা বিষয়ক হটলাইনে ফোন করুনঃ ১৬২৬৩৩; ৩৩৩; ১০৬৫৫; ০১৯৪৪৩৩৩২২ অথবা নিকটস্থ স্বাস্থ্যকর্মী বা হাসপাতালে যোগাযোগ করুন।

মনে রাখবেন আপনার সুরক্ষা আপনারই হাতে

স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়