

Pran-RFL donates PPE to three Covid-19 hospitals

CITY DESK

PRAN-RFL Group, one of the largest business conglomerates of the country, has donated protective equipment to three hospitals dedicated for coronavirus treatment, Kamruzzaman Kamal, Marketing Director of PRAN-RFL Group, handed over the items by visiting the three institutions on Thursday.

The hospitals are Sheikh Russel Gastro Liver Institute and Hospital, Kurmitola General Hospital, and Kuwait-Bangladesh Friendship Government Hospital, said a press release.

The items, which included surgical masks, hand sanitisers, mob caps, safetygoggles and PPE were received by senior officials of the hospitals.

Kamruzzaman Kamal said, "Health workers are at risk of infection while carrying out their duties during the coronavirus pandemic. For this reason, we have provided the protective equipment to assist them ensure their own safety while they treat patients."

"We hope this small effort will play a role in this transition period for the country," he said.

PRAN-RFL Group have earlier donated corona sample collection booths and protective equipment to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and 12 hospitals in Dhaka, Chattogram and Bhola.

The company has also donated protective equipment for police personnel working in Chattogram.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

BB advisor Allah Malik Kazemi dies from Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The change management adviser of Bangladesh Bank (BB) died from Covid-19

yesterday, at the age of 75.

Allah Malik Kazemi breathed his last at 5pm, while being treated at the capital's Evercare Hospital, said Abul Kalam Azad, a general manager and assistant spokesperson of the central bank.

Kazemi, also a former deputy governor of the central bank, had been undergoing treatment at the hospital for the last few days, after he tested Covid-19 positive.

He had started working as an adviser after his retirement from the institution in 2008.

Kazemi, who made a name for himself at home and abroad for his outstanding skills in framing monetary policy, is the second BB official who fell victim to Covid-19, after BB Joint Director Sheikh Farid Uddin.



On any normal day, this hawker at the National Memorial in Savar would've taken home a solid profit. But times are not normal, and customers are nowhere in sight. Sadly, he has nothing else to lean on, and so, he stations his cart there every day, waiting for the days to change. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Turn Covid-19

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Muhammed Aziz Khan, former caretaker government adviser Rasheda K Choudhury, and BGMEA president Dr Rubana Huq. Cosmos Foundation Executive Director Nahar Khan delivered concluding remarks.

RECOVERY

Stating that the recovery will be there gradually, Dr Iftekhar laid emphasis on converting the challenges to opportunities through joint efforts.

Dr Zaidi Sattar highlighted the impact on the Bangladesh economy as an economy that is well-integrated globally.

The economist said there will be need for more fiscal resources and cash transfers as many people will need them.

Zaidi Sattar laid emphasis on export diversification, more investment and ensuring balanced incentives for the relevant sectors.

Dr Rubana said it was almost like a nightmare for the RMG sector when they saw export orders worth over US\$ 3.15 billion being cancelled or held up.

Responding to a question, she said the industry has negotiated almost 48 percent of the cancelled orders to be reinstated but the payment terms are still vague.

Enayetullah Khan said they see a simultaneous disruption both in supply and demand chains.

The world, in the post-Covid-19 era, will be a different one and the recovery will come in different ways.

OPPORTUNITIES APLENTY

Aziz Khan said there will be huge opportunities for Bangladesh in the post-Covid-19 scenario that the country needs to utilise.

The prominent entrepreneur said there is shortage both in global demand and supply, and this will encourage other countries to supply to Bangladesh and also take goods from the country.

"Bangladesh will be in a much stronger position to negotiate with the importers of garments which is a basic goods," he added. "We will have the possibility to have better

contracts."

Describing different infrastructural development projects in the country, Aziz Khan said Bangladesh now generates 20,000 MW of electricity, while Padma Bridge and three ports are coming up, which will connect the country with the rest of the world.

He said Bangladesh's largest import is energy and its cost will be halved in the post-Covid-19 era. "This means if we have to spend \$4 billion now, we will need only \$2 billion in the post-Covid era. So, I see the biggest opportunity in this regard," he added.

GEOPOLITICAL IMPACTS

Prof Haider Khan said Bangladesh needs to keep friendly relationship both in rhetoric and in practice with its neighbouring countries.

But Bangladesh also needs to practise time-honoured and strategic good relationship on the move which is called "balancing". Bangladesh needs to maintain good relationship with balancing powers such as the US and the EU, but also China as an emerging power, he said

DIGITAL DIVIDE

Renowned educationist and social activist Rasheda K Chowdhury signalled five major consequences for the education sector, including large scale dropouts, amid disruption of educational activities due to the pandemic. She also sought a comprehensive recovery plan for the education sector, one that involves teachers.

Apart from the possibility of large scale dropouts, she also mentioned a possible concurrent increase in child labour, or early marriage for girls which will consequently increase early pregnancy and increase malnutrition.

She noted that the government has been trying four methods to reduce learning loss after the closure of educational institutes during the pandemic --- televised lessons, online courses, radio broadcast, and delivering education through mobile devices.

INCREASING UTILITY TARIFF

It's only to plunder public money: BNP

UNB, DHAKA

BNP yesterday alleged that the government has taken a move to raise the tariffs of electricity and fuel every year to "boost ruling party leaders' deposits with Swiss banks through plundering".

"They [government] have shamelessly taken a move to raise the tariffs of power and fuel several times a year by force amid a controversy over ghost electricity bills," said BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi.

Speaking at a human chain programme, he further said, "The government has placed a bill in parliament to suck people's

blood by increasing the prices of electricity and fuel. We strongly protest the move."

Future of Bangladesh, a pro-BNP platform, arranged the programme in front of BNP's Nayapaltan central office protesting the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

On Tuesday last, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Nasrul Hamid placed the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2020 in parliament to empower the BERC to make any change in tariff more than once in every financial year.

BLENDED LEARNING CENTER

Academic activities at DIU in full swing

CITY DESK

Students and faculty members of Daffodil International University (DIU) are benefiting from online teaching and learning using the "Blended Learning Center (BLC)" platform during the pandemic, said a press release.

Academic activities at DIU are going on in full swing using the platform, which the university started in 2013, when there were interruptions due to strikes and blockades, said acting VC Prof SM Mahubul Ul Haque Majumder.

In the current semester, DIU teachers have conducted 1,647 courses through the platform for over 16,000 students. To support students, DIU ensured early distribution of 2,500 free laptops this semester.

It has also decided to provide up to 50 percent tuition fee waiver for newly admitted students, with a commitment to provide scholarships worth Tk 20 crore for the fall semester.

ACC to

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The 30 UP chairpersons and 64 members have already been suspended by the Local Government Division.

In the primary inquiries, the division found their involvement in the misappropriation of rice and other aids.

Mustakim Billah Faruqi, joint secretary (UP division) at LGD, said they have suspended the UP chairmen and members on the basis of report from local administrations.

LGD has also show-caused them. "If their reply is found non-satisfactory, actions will be taken against them as per law," he said.

According to the section 34 (4)(b) of the Local Government (Union Parishad) Act, 2009, a union parishad chairperson and member would be removed if he or she is found guilty for anti-state activities, corruption, misconduct or moral degradation.

It's just a

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sales of these cards, two months after the drive, which is alarming. We are trying to get information and complaints so that we can take action against those who are selling these cards and cheating people," added the executive magistrate.

Sheikh Muhammad Shamim, assistant commissioner of Ramna Division of Police, who was also present during the operation alongside Fariba, said police learnt about the resurgence of these cards on different online platforms, and cybercrime teams are working to take action against those responsible.

According to reports of different international media, different countries including Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand and the USA already banned the sale of these cards.

Contacted, Prof Dr Mujibur Rahman, head of the medicine department at Dhaka Medical College, said these types of cards are a new technique to fool people.

There is no scientific evidence that these cards can disinfect someone's surroundings and keep the virus away, he added.

According to law enforcers, due to rising demand of medical equipment in the market to contain the spread of Covid-19, some unscrupulous people are trying to make easy money by selling different fake products including masks, hand-rubs and sanitisers.

Three-wheeler

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that, said Bandar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sukanto Chawkrabarty.

At that time, locals around them intervened and settled the matter, the OC quoted witnesses as saying.

However, Sagor, Raju and several others brawled with Fahad over the same issue, when they found him in the area at night, said the OC.

During the scuffle, Fahad knifed them indiscriminately in different parts of their bodies, leaving them injured, said the police officer.

Sagor passed away at CMCH after he was taken there around 12am yesterday, he said.

The OC further said efforts are on to arrest Fahad.

Police were investigating how he already had a knife on him during the incident and whether there was previous enmity between Fahad and Sagor, Shukanto Chawkrabarty told this newspaper.

The body was sent to Chattogram Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Filing of a case was underway until filing of this report last evening.



Members of Bangladesh Apparels Workers Federation staged A token hunger strike in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, protesting termination of workers by Cassiopea Fashion Ltd and demanding their dues.

PHOTO: STAR

Truck

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In Jhenaidah, a child was killed after being run over by a speeding truck at Balidapara bus stand area under Kaliganj upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as eight-year-old Rima Khatun, daughter of Liton Hossain of Balidapara village under the upazila.

OC Mahfuzur Rahman of Kaliganj police station said the accident occurred around 9am. Rima was standing by the side of the Jhenidah-Jashore road at Balidapara village area.

Suddenly, a running truck lost control and ran her over, killing her on the spot.

Police has recovered the body and sent it to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy, the official said.

World Health Organization
Bangladesh

VACANCY NOTICE

World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following position under Special Service Agreement:

- Microbiologist SSA8, Cox's Bazar

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Qualified **female candidates** are highly encouraged to apply.

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