DHAKA TUESDAY JUNE 30, 2020

Your Right to Know



Zilqad 8, 1441 Hijri



32 PERISHED IN BURIGANGA

FLOOD IN NORTH,

Many yet to get relief materials

NORTHEAST

SEE PAGE 12

REGD. NO. DA 781

Steering to DISASTER With a novice at the helm, launch

rams another causing capsize near Sadarghat

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY, RAFIUL ISLAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A novice was allegedly at the helm moving the Moyur-2 astern when the vessel slammed into a smaller launch, causing it to sink and drown at least 32 people in the Buriganga at the capital's Shyambazar yesterday. Many others are still feared missing.

In footage possibly from a security camera Moyur-2 was seen going in reverse quite fast when it rammed into the ill-fated Morning Bird, making

it sink with over 50 people onboard.

It did not take more than a few seconds.

"It was a human error and gross negligence on the part of Moyur-2," said Manjurul Kabir, chief engineer and ship surveyor at the Shipping Department.

Officials said the entire crew managed to flee the scene.

The accident might not have happened if the master were at the helm. We learnt that the person, who was there at that time, was a novice," Kabir said

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority seized the Moyur-2. This has been the first major accident in a river after February 2015 SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

BANGLADESH
UPDATE4,014
New cases in 24hrs1,41,801
Total cases



A relative of a victim cries while letting others know over the phone about the death of a loved one. A launch rammed another vessel near the capital's Sadarghat terminal vesterday causing the smaller vessel to sink. Inset, rescuers put one of the deceased inside a body bag near the scene.

1,783 Deaths

PHOTO: REUTERS, FIROZ AHMED

GOVT HOSPITALS

Salvage ship can't clear Postogola bridge

16 PAGES PLUS LIFESTYLE PRICE : TK12.00

Rams, cracks the bridge; returns to base

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Roads and Highway Department (RHD) restricted vehicular movement on one of the four lanes of First Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge in the capital's Postogola since yesterday evening as a crack developed on it after being hit by a rescue ship. The bridge was closed to

traffic from 9:00pm. The crash took place when Prottoy, a salvage

ship of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), was going towards Sadargahat launch terminal from Narayanganj to rescue the capsized launch in the Buriganga River.

The ship could not eventually cross the bridge due to river swelling and returned to Narayanganj. SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

57,780 Recoveries **GLOBAL UPDATE**

Workers protest jute mill closure

505,512

Sit-in in front of state-run mills today; hunger strike planned

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Committee, told this newspaper.

Hundreds of jute mill workers yesterday took to the streets in Dhaka, Khulna and Chattogram, protesting the government decision to shut all state-run jute mills and lay off 25,000 workers.

Labour leaders said they would stage sit-ins in front of all state-run jute mills today and give the government a 24hour ultimatum to revoke its decision.

Yesterday morning, jute mill workers along with their

family members formed human chains in Khalishpur of

"If the demand is not met, the workers will go on hunger strike in front of the gates of the jute mills all over the country," Sardar Abdul Hamid, convener of Bangladesh Jute Workers Protection CBA and Non-CBA Sangram

•• 10,302,236 Total cases

Pandemic 'is not even close to being over'

WHO chief says it is speeding up

REUTERS, Geneva

The COVID-19 pandemic is not even close to being over, World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a briefing yesterday.

Tedros noted that, six months after China first alerted the WHO to a novel respiratory infection,

the grim milestones of

10 million confirmed

infections and 500,000

deaths had been reached.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

An alternative way to trace Covid-19

Govt to use 270 TB detection machines available at district, upazila hospitals

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The government has started using tuberculosis diagnosis machine --GeneXpert -- to detect Covid-19, in a desperate attempt to ease the strain on its testing facilities with limited number of RT-PCR machines.

Ashar 16, 1427 BS

The testing began on June 24 at the capital's Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and the National Institute of Diseases of the Chest and Hospital (NIDCH) after international organisation Global Fund supplied 10,000 kits, said officials.

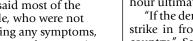
GeneXpert is a portable machine and the test is easy and less time consuming. It takes around 45 minutes to show the results, said the officials, adding that a person's saliva samples are collected with a stick and the stick is then put in the cartridge of the machine for the test. A PCR test, considered gold standard for Covid-19, needs around four to five hours to show the results.

Covid testing no more free of cost STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has set fees, Tk 200 and Tk 500, for Covid-19 testing at the public health facilities. The decision came into

force immediately, said a circular issued on Sunday by the health ministry's Health Services Division.

It said most of the people, who were not showing any symptoms, underwent the test as it was



achievements.

Hally Star

Uhe

Hasina also said that her government had taken various measures for giving treatment to Covid-19 patients.

trend of this country and uphold our

No one will

be spared

PM warns against

The government's zero tolerance policy

will be spared, Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina yesterday said in parliament.

governance and root out corruption.

this August House through you that the

corruption to continue the development

government will continue its drives against

against corruption will continue and none

She said, "We pledge to establish good

"Honourable Speaker, I want to inform

corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

being done for free. Given the circumstances, the authorities fixed the fees to avoid unnecessary testing. SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

A man pulls a rickshaw van loaded with plastic containers discarded by Chattogram Medical College Hospital. Every day, many traders collect such medical waste from hospitals across the port city and sell them in the local markets, each for around Tk 50, without properly washing them. This exposes people to bio hazards. The photo was taken in Kotwali area yesterday. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

All-time high new **RT-PCR** IN BARISHAL DIVISION One lab for 1 crore cases reported

SUSHANTA GHOSH

Barishal division's only RT-PCR lab, set up at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College, is struggling to examine samples, as the demand for Covid-19 tests rises.

Inaugurated in February, the lab with no virologist has only one RT-PCR machine and 11 technologists, and is testing only about half the samples collected in the division per day.

Dr AKM Akbar Kabir, in-charge of the lab and assistant professor of SBMC's microbiology department, told this correspondent that the RT-PCR machine can test 94 samples per shift.

"Currently, we can test 234 samples per day running three shifts. So far, we tested a total of 10,500 samples," he said on Sunday.

"The number of tests is increasing daily. Our technologists are working day and night. They can't even stay in quarantine. We need more trained technologists including a virologist," said the in-charge

45 more die; total

infections now 1,41,801

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officials yesterday reported an all-time daily high of 4,014 coronavirus infections. The officially recorded death toll rose to 1,783 with the 45 new ones reported yesterday, Prof Nasima Sultana, additional director general of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), told the daily briefing. In the 24 hours until 2:30pm yesterday, 65 labs across the country tested 17,837 samples.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3 SKAB Bank

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Board of Directors of AB Bank Limited (ABBL) in its 691* Meeting held on June 29, 2020 (Monday), through video made the following decisions:

1. Adopted Annual Audited Financial Statements for the year 2019 and holding 38th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Bank:

Board declared the following financial indicators of the Bank (ABBL) in compliance with Regulation no. 19 of Dhaka Stock Exchange (Listing) Regulations 2015 and Chittagong Stock Exchange (Listing) Regulations 2015:

Financial Highlights	AB Bank Limited (Consolidated)		AB Bank Limited (Solo)		
	2019	2018	2019	2018	
	and the second s	SMDAGENCE -	and the second s	Taka in Crore	
Profit Before Tax & Provision	647.11	343.94	644.97	307.51	
Profit After Tax (PAT)	12.33	4.32	16.77	1.83	
Net Asset Value (NAV)	2,402.84	2,388.53	2,284.05	2,265.05	
and a second	and and and the second			Amount in Taka	
Earnings Per Share (EPS)	0.16	0.06	8.22	0.02	
Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS)	37,79	(9.14)	37.86	(9.01)	
Net Asset Value Per Share (NAVPS)	31.69	31.51	30.13	29.88	

Board also considered and approved the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2019 and recommended as below:

A) Cash Dividend 21 Her

B) Stock Dividend : 5.00% (Five Percent) to all the shareholders

- a) Bonus shares has been recommended to strengthen the capital base of the company to support business growth and compliance of Bangladesh Bank DOS circular no. 03 dated May 11, 2020 on Dividend Policy for Banks for the year 2019.
- b) Bonus shares are declared out of accumulated profit.
- c) Bonus shares are not declared from capital reserve or revaluation reserve or any unrealized gain or out of profit earned to incorporation of the company or through reducing paid up capital or through doing anything so that the post dividend retained earnings become negative or debit balance.

The Board also decided to hold the 38th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Bank as per below schedule:

1	August 10, 2020 (Monday)
4	Tuesday, September 22, 2020
÷.	To be notified later

2. Changes of Articles of Association of the Bank (Article no:121) subject to Bangladesh Bank approval and shareholders' approval in the ensuing 38th Annual General Meeting (AGM) as below:

Existing Article	Proposed Amendment
The quorum for the meeting of the Board of Directors shall be five (5) Directors actually present. In case of emergency, the meeting of the Directors may be held with	The quorum for the meeting of the Board of Directors shall be four (4) Directors.
a quorum of three (3) Directors present. Provided, however, there shall be no quorum in any meeting unless at least one Director (other than the Managing Director) from Group-A shareholders representing the interest of the Sponsors shall be present thereat.	In case of emergency, the meeting of the Directors may be held with a quorum of three (3) Directors.
Dated: Dhaka, 29 ⁿ June 2020	By Order of the Board
AB Bank Limited	Sd/-

BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka. Manzurul Ahsan, FCS www.abbi.com Company Secretary

Iran issues arrest warrant for Trump, asks Interpol to help

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

Iran has issued an arrest warrant and asked Interpol for help in detaining US President Donald Trump and dozens of others it believes carried out the drone strike that killed a top Iranian general in Baghdad.

Tehran prosecutor Ali Alqasimehr yesterday said that Trump, along with more than 30 others Iran accuses of involvement in the January 3 attack that killed General Qassem Soleimani, face "murder and terrorism charges", the semi-official ISNA news agency reported.

Algasimehr did not identify anyone else sought other than Trump, but stressed Iran would continue to pursue

his prosecution even after his presidency ends.

Interpol, based in Lyon, France, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The US's Iran envoy Brian Hook described the move as a "propaganda stunt".

"Our assessment is that Interpol does not intervene and issue Red Notices that are based on a political nature," Hook said at a news conference in Saudi Arabia.

"This is a political nature. This has nothing to do with national security, international peace or promoting stability ... It is a propaganda stunt that no-one takes seriously," he said.

An alternative way

FROM PAGE 1

The US Food and Drug Administration and the World Health Organisation (WHO) have already approved GeneXpert testing for coronavirus detection, said the officials, adding that Bangladesh currently has 270 GeneXpert machines.

The development came when the country's Covid-19 testing capacity has been extremely insufficient against its huge population. Bangladesh remains at the bottom among the South Asian countries in terms of number of the tests.

Health experts said only one among every 250 people has been tested so far. According to www.worldometers.

info, 4,452 of every one million people of the country have so far been tested, whereas the number is 5,963 in India, 5,611 in Pakistan, and 96,648 in the US.

On average, Bangladesh is now conducting around 18,0000 tests a day with 66 RT-PCR labs. Amid such a low testing capacity, people are suffering. There were instances where individuals had to wait for seven days to get an appointment to get tested.

Talking about GeneXpert, experts said the portable machines could be quite useful in testing Covid-19 in the country's remote areas as well as for emergency patients there.

They said GeneXpert testing is also a real time PCR testing, but it does not need reagents.

to the National According Tuberculosis Control Programme, over 25 lakh TB tests were carried out across the country using GeneXpert in the last four years, and all the machines were functional.

Prof Dr Md Shamiul Islam, line director of TB-Lep, said Global Fund was providing assistance in relation to carrying out coronavirus testing through GeneXpert machines.

"We have already received 10,000 kits and wrote for another 30,000. We will be asking for 70,000 more kits. Apart from this, the government is also considering buying GeneXpert testing kits," he said.

No one will be spared

to scale up the service in 10 hospitals and then in 40 hospitals in phases if the government wants to make it available

across the country. At full capacity, it is possible to conduct over 5,000 test a day, said Prof Shamiul. "It is fast, accurate and less expensive.

"Through this test, we can easily separate Covid-19 and non-Covid-19 patients in hospitals. In emergency cases, this test is very helpful to identify the status of Covid-19 status," he added

A GeneXpert kit costs around \$24 dollars and a PCR test kit \$30 dollars without the price of reagents.

ASM Alamgir, principal scientific officer of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), appreciated the initiative, saying it would bring more people under the testing coverage.

"It is a great tool to reach the remote areas and emergency patients there. And If we can ensure enough cartridge supply, it will reduce the sufferings of people who have to wait for long to get tested and receive test results," he said.

He added that the US, India, and some other countries were already using the machine for the tests.

Nazmul Hasan, assistant professor of BSMMU's internal medicine department, said GeneXpert is handy as it is portable. "It will be extremely helpful at primary health complexes where sample collection is low and places where you need to test a lot of people," he said, adding that a GeneXpert machine is capable of testing four to eight samples at a time.

virologist Jahidur Rahman, and assistant professor at Shahid Suhrawardy Medical College, said, "It is a good initiative and will be very helpful at the upazila level. Another important thing is that operation of the machines is so easy that it does not require any additional manpower support.

Contacted, Abul Kalam Azad, director general of the DGHS, said, "We have started [the testing] on a small scale. We have plans to expand it across Prof Shamiul said they were planning the country if we get the cartridges.

Hundreds,, most without masks, crowd on launches moored

in the capital's Shyambazar area to watch the rescue operations after a launch capsized yesterday morning. Inset, on one of the rescue boats, a man's fear is confirmed when his brother's body is recovered. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Steering to disaster

- Altaci

FROM PAGE 1

when at least 71 people drowned as a launch sank being hit by a cargo vessel in the Padma in Manikganj.

Yesterday's tragedy struck around 9:30am when the river was absolutely calm.

The ill-fated launch was going to Sadarghat terminal from Munshiganj. Boatmen from the banks rushed in to help those who were thrown overboard and were afloat, witnesses said.

The rescuers and divers arrived a little later and began to recover the bodies.

All the victims were passengers of the Morning Bird and most of them were from Munshiganj.

Of the victims, 22 were men, seven women and three children. Family members identified 31 of the bodies. One body remained unclaimed at the morgue, said Fazikul Islam, subinspector at Dakkhin Keraniganj Police Station.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport (BIWTA) has seized Authority Moyur-2.

The navy, coast guard, fire service, and the BIWTA officials continued the rescue operation until late last night. The operation stumbled a little after a rescue vessel could not reach the spot due to the Postagola bridge.

BIWTA Chairman Commodore Golam Sadeq said they were carrying out the rescue operation finding an alternative.

He added that 45 passengers got onboard the launch at the first and a few others got onboard at different

stoppages. We recovered 32 bodies and 10 to 15 people swam ashore. So we don't think the number of missing people would be much," he told this newspaper.

There is a chance there might be more **CLEARANCE RAISES QUESTIONS** bodies in it," he said, adding that divers tied the launch with a rope to keep it stationary until the rescue vessel arrived.

HOW THE ACCIDENT HAPPENED The Morning Bird operated between Kathpotti of Munshiganj and Dhaka. On the other hand, the Moyur-2

operates between Chandpur and Dhaka. It was moored at a dockyard. It was scheduled to leave Dhaka at 12:30pm.

As the Morning Bird was approaching Sadarghat terminal, Moyur-2 came astern, apparently to reach terminal and rammed the Morning Brid, Alamgir Kabir, joint director of BIWTA, said.

CCTV footage of the tragedy was shown on several TVs.

Masud Hossain, a survivor, said he was travelling from Munshigangj with his two uncles.

"As I realised something bad happened, I called my uncle... The launch capsized. It didn't take more than five seconds." "I thought I was going to die today... I somehow managed to open

the window of the cabin and came out. There was no way to look for my uncle," Masud said.

He said the rescuers found the body of his uncle Afzal Sheikh but his another uncle Bachchu Sheikh was still missing.

A cloth trader Masud said he lives in Munshiganj and comes to Dhaka by launch every day for business in old Dhaka's Islampur.

His uncles went to visit his family in Munshiganj and were returning to Dhaka. Masud said there were more than 100 passengers in the launch and

Shipping Department's Chief Engineer Manjurul Kabir said the Morning Bird, which was built in 2012, has capacity of carrying 90 passengers at day time and 60 passengers at night time.

Although he said both launches had fitness clearance, the National Committee to Protect Shipping, Roads and Railways said Morning Bird launch had "structural flaws".

Ashis Kumar Dey, general secretary of the organisation, said following a media report over some faulty launches last year, they took information about those launches and found Morning Bird with "structural faults."

"In this given situation, the authority usually carries out a special survey and asks the launch owner for special docking. But that was not happening here," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

On the other hand, the Moyur-2 appeared to have major operational faults, Ashis said.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury said that the incident seemed to be carried out in "a planned way".

"Today's incident is totally different from other incidents. have seen the CCTV footage, and after watching it, it appears to me that it was carried out intentionally. It seemed to be a murder," he told reporters after visiting the spot around 3:30pm.

Khalid Mahmud said his ministry formed a seven-member committee led by a joint secretary and the committee was asked to submit a report within a week.

"We will take necessary legal action following the investigation," he said. The minister said officials will

The BIWTA has formed a four-

Zainul added, "We asked owners

member committee led by its joint-

director Zainul Abedin and asked it to

and staffers of both launches to come

burial and Tk 1.5 lakh for welfare.

submit a report within three days.

Six steps taken to fix bloated power bill

Minister tells IS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Power Nasrul Hamid yesterday told parliament that the government took six steps to correct the inflated electricity bills and collect electricity bills in arrears.

He came up with the information in reply to a query from ruling Awami League MP from Chattogram-3 Mahfuzur Rahman during a questionanswer session.

In a scripted answer, Nasrul said the government had declared a nationwide shutdown from March 26 to May 30 to prevent the spread of coronavirus transmission in the country.

Considering the situation, people were allowed to pay their bills for the months of February, March, April, and May by June 30 without any surcharge.

As a result, most of the customers have not paid their bills, which has created a huge amount of arrears.

The state minister said the steps taken to collect the dues include not to accumulate the units for several months and charge more units at a time, to prepare the bills on a monthly basis, not to take more tariff by billing more units at once, correcting incorrect or excessive bills immediately, to prepare the bill for the month of May (which is being done in June) by taking meter readings and to create the scope for paying the bills from home through mobile, bKash, G-PAY, RobiCash, and other online services.

During a discussion organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue on the power sector on Wednesday, Nasrul said the distribution companies mistakenly inflated bills for about 5 lakh customers while preparing an average monthly charge as officials could not go from door to door amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Pandemic

FROM PAGE 1

"Most people remain susceptible, the virus still has a lot of room to move," ne said.

"We all want this to be over. We all want to get on with our lives. But the hard reality is that this is not even close to being over. Although many countries have made some progress globally, the pandemic is actually speeding up."

The head of the WHO's emergencies programme, Mike Ryan, told the briefing that tremendous progress had been made towards finding a safe and effective vaccine to prevent infection, but there was still no guarantee the effort would succeed.

In the meantime, countries could fight the spread of the disease by testing, isolating confirmed cases and tracking their contacts, he said. He singled out Japan, South Korea and Germany for their "comprehensive, sustained strategy" against the virus.

The WHO plans to convene a meeting this week to assess progress in research towards fighting the disease, Tedros said.

Salvage ship provide Tk 10,000 to each family for FROM PAGE 1

FROM PAGE 1

She informed the parliament that the government would soon recruit 2,000 more doctors and 4,000 nurses in a bid to ensure treatment to the coronavirus patients.

"More 2,000 posts of doctors have been created. We'll recruit more 4,000 nurses and I've already given this directive to the health minister. They'll be recruited soon," she said.

The premier said the government had already recruited 2,000 doctors and 6,000 nurses in a short time to ensure treatment to the patients.

"Besides, the recruitment process for 3,000 posts of medical technologists, cardiographers and lab attendants already started," she said.

Then the prime minister said that her government arranged accommodation in hotels, foods and transports for the doctors, nurses and health workers who are directly engaged in the healthcare services to the Covid-19 patients.

Pointing at an allegation raised by Deputy Opposition Leader and Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader in the House earlier, Hasina said the cost of Tk 20 crore against hotel rent and foods of a medical college seems to be a bit unusual to her.

"We're investigating it as to why it

is so unusual. We'll take action if any irregularity occurred there and in any other places.

Earlier taking part in the discussion on the proposed budget, GM Quader in his speech raised the issue saying that doctors and health workers of Dhaka Medical College Hospital spent Tk 20 crore against their foods and stay in hotels which is doubtful.

Mentioning that the government has been trying to protect the people of the country from the coronavirus, Sheikh Hasina said among the Covid-19 infected people, the death rate in Bangladesh is 1.26 percent, while death rate in Covid-19 is 3.08 percent in India, 2.03 percent in Pakistan, 14.03 percent in the UK and 5 percent in the USA.

She said it was possible to keep the low death rate in Bangladesh due to the government's proper measures.

The premier assured people that the Awami League government will strongly face whatever hard crisis emerges in future in the country and ensure that none will remain unfed.

Hasina, also president of the ruling Awami League, said her government has taken a comprehensive action plan to offset the adverse impacts of the Covid-19 on the economy.

All-time high new cases

FROM PAGE 1

Since the government started testing earlier this year, 1,41,801 samples have tested positive out of 7,48,034 tests. Individuals tend to get tested more than once, officials said.

The samples testing positive yesterday was 18.96 percent of the total. The death rate among the confirmed Covid-19 patients was 1.26 percent.

This rate does not take into account the ones that officials are not aware of, health officials acknowledged earlier.

Bangladesh remains the 17th worst affected country in the world in terms of the number of cases, according to John Hopkins University.

Meanwhile, 2,053 Covid-19 patients have recovered in the 24 hours, the DGHS said.

The number of people who have recovered reached 57,780 and the recovery rate is 40.75 percent.

A total of 1,028 people were put in isolation.

Of those who were reported dead yesterday, 36 were males and nine females, 30 of them died at hospital, 14

at home and one was brought dead to a hospital.

Of them, 22 were from Dhaka, 10 from Chattogram, one from Rajshahi, one from Mymensingh, five from Khulna, three from Sylhet, and three from Barishal divisions.

Two of them were aged between 21 and 30 years, three between 31 and 40, seven between 41 and 50, 11 between 51 and 60, 14 between 61 and 70, six between 71 and 80, one between 81 and 90, and another was aged between 91 and 100 years.

Prof Nasima Sultana also said there were a total of 6,015 general beds and 134 ICU ones available for Covid-19 patients in Dhaka city.

There are 14,690 general beds and 374 ICU ones at Covid-19 hospitals across the country.

There are 11,108 oxygen cylinders, 104 high flow nasal cannula and 98 oxygen concentrators at these Covid-19 hospitals

À total of 719 patients were admitted to these Covid-19 hospitals while 646 were released from hospitals.

BIWTA diver Mohammad Saidul said the launch was upside down at the bottom of the river around 55 feet below the surface. A part of it sank in the mud. The bodies were recovered from inside the launch.

"It is very dark inside the launch...

around 50 of them managed to swim ashore.

Popy Begum was seen crying at the morgue as her son Ashique, 18, a mechanic of the launch, remained traceless

"My son left our house on Sunday night after dinner. He was supposed to return home, but I am not finding him anywhere" said Popy.

Workers protest jute mill closure

FROM PAGE 1

Khulna city, demanding cancellation of the government decision.

Md Mizanur Rahman, a worker of Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills in Khulna, said, "The government decided to sack us at a time when we are already in deep trouble due to pandemic.

We have been living in quarters for labourers at the jute mills for generations. Where will we go with our family members at this time of pandemic? Where will we get jobs when all the factories are firing workers?

Talking to this correspondent, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) Chairman Abdur Rauf said all the dues of the workers will be paid in due course.

"According to section-26 of the labour law, we are legally bound to pay all the wages. Once we get the funds, we shall transfer those directly to the workers' bank accounts as instructed by the government. There is no scope for any corruption or mismanagement."

He, however, could not say whether the payment would be made in one or multiple instalments.

"The Asked, Hamid said, government assured that once the gazette notification is published, the mill authorities will pay the workers all their dues and financial benefits.

"Unfortunately, we cannot rely on this statement."

"As per the gazette notification of the Productivity and Wage Commission, 2015, published in January this year, we were supposed to get enhanced wages and arrears by March this year.

"Six months have gone by, but our wages have not been increased. In fact, workers of several jute mills in the Khulna zone have not been paid for eight weeks," he pointed out.

Earlier on Sunday, Khulna City Corporation Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque assured the jute mill workers that they would be paid as per the labour law without any delay. The mayor, along with Deputy

Mohammad Commissioner Helal Hossain, spoke at a press conference organised by the district administration.

Helal said that according to the textiles and jute ministry's decision, the workers will be paid 40 percent of their arrears in fiscal 2020-21 and the rest over the next two fiscal years (30 percent per annum).

Each worker will get between Tk 12 lakh and Tk 54 lakh. Besides, those who retired since 2014 will be given lump sums, he mentioned.

PROTESTS BY LEFTIST PARTIES Leaders of leftist political parties have protested the government decision to shut all state-run jute mills.

The Left Democratic Alliance, a combine of eight leftist parties, will submit a memorandum to the prime minister on July 2, demanding withdrawal of the decision.

faction of Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dal, said, "The jute industry is not just about making profits. It's our country's heritage.

of workers, millions of jute farmers will be in big trouble. The private mill owners will now manipulate the market and farmers will not get a fair price for their produce. With this decision, the government has pushed millions of families into extreme poverty and joblessness."

Communist Party of Bangladesh President Mujahidul Islam Selim said, "The claim that privatisation will save the industry is absolutely baseless. It could be modernised through

administrative reforms under the government's supervision."

In a statement, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon said, "The BJMC's inefficient administration and corrupt officials are responsible for the financial losses, not the poor workers.

Instead of holding the BJMC officials accountable, the government is sacking workers which is extremely

ROW OVER HK NAT'L SECURITY LAW

China to restrict visas for some Americans

AFP, Beijing

China yesterday announced visa restrictions on US citizens who have "behaved egregiously" over Hong Kong, ahead of the expected approval by Chinese lawmakers of a controversial national security law for the city.

The country is moving forward on a security law that would punish subversion and other offences against the state in Hong Kong, which saw massive and sometimes violent prodemocracy protests last year.

On Friday, US President Donald Trump's administration said it was restricting US visas for a number of unspecified Chinese officials for infringing on the autonomy of the Asian financial hub.

In response, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said yesterday that the US "scheme ... to obstruct the passage of the Hong Kong national security law will never prevail".

We have suspended vehicle movement as a severe crack developed at a portion of the bridge. We will take further measures after our experts visit the site tomorrow [Tuesday]," Sabuj Uddin Khan, additional chief engineer (Dhaka Zone) of RHD, told The Daily Star.

At least 32 dead bodies were recovered after a launch hit and sank a smaller launch near the terminal vesterday

BIWTA chairman Commodore Golam Sadeq, however, said the crack was not that serious.

"Actually the master of the salvage launch wanted to reach the accident spot as early as possible. So, he might have made the mistake," he told The Daily Star

As the salvage ship could not reach the spot, they were carrying out the rescue operation using alternative methods, the BIWTA chairman said.

Sabuj Uddin said they have visited the bridge and found signs of damages on its girder, which is an important part of the bridge. He said the lane, which was blocked, was on Dhaka-Mawa route.

"After tomorrow's visit with experts, if we find that more lanes are needed to be closed, we will do that for the sake of the bridge," he added.

Covid testing

FROM PAGE 1

According to the circular, one has to pay Tk 500 for Covid-19 testing if samples are collected from home. The fee will be Tk 200 if samples are given to dedicated sample collection booths or public hospitals.

Any patient admitted to a public hospital will also have to spend Tk 200 for the test, reads the notice.

Private hospitals and health facilities now charge each person Tk 3,500 for Covid-19 testing. The fee goes up to Tk 4,500 if samples are collected from an ndividual's home.

Earlier, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) submitted a proposal to the health ministry on fixing a fee for novel coronavirus testing.

A senior DGHS official said each RT-PCR Covid-19 testing kit is being mported to the country for Tk 3,000.

The costing for the coronavirus testing goes up to around Tk 5,000 if samples are collected from a place where a person stays, he added.

Statistics of DGHS show that a total of 748,034 tests were conducted in 68 Covid-19 laboratories across the country since January 21. Of them, 18.96 percent of the samples tested positive for the virus.

Hasanul Huq Inu, president of a

"Apart from tens of thousands

unfair.

before us tomorrow."

1,500 journalists to receive Tk 10,000 grant: info minister STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is giving Tk 10,000 as grant to 1,500 journalists each at the primary stage during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud told parliament yesterday.

"Process of disbursement of this grant through the Journalist Welfare Trust has been almost completed," the minister said this in reply to a query from Awami League MP Shahiduzzaman Sarkar.

Hasan Mahmud also said such grants will be provided to more journalists in the next stage.

The question-answer session of today's parliament session was tabled.

Hasan Mahmud said amid the coronavirus pandemic the country's journalists are collecting and publishing news despite the risk.

He also said various measures have been taken so that journalists get priority in Covid-19 testing and medical services.

The information minister said the government has also taken measures to provide a grant of Tk 3.10 crore to the ill, insolvent and injured journalists and families of deceased journalists through the trust in 2019-20 fiscal.

He also said from 2011-12 fiscal till now, around Tk 10.79 crore has been provided to journalists as grants.



Marjina Begum and her husband join forces to pump air into the wheels of a bicycle. She was a housemaid before the pandemic. Now, she and her husband work together at the latter's cycle repair and servicing stall in the capital's Bashabo, since Marjina lost her job. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Untrained contact tracers add to risk

Safety measures a far cry at Rajshahi's lone Covid-19 sample collection centre ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

When offices reopened at the end of May, novel coronavirus was still spreading in Rajshahi city and Ariful Amin was unwilling to join work to save his family from getting infected through him.

Amin, a tax assessor of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC), had to attend office for at least three days a week.

"I had no choice, all my colleagues were attending office regularly. But the problem was that none hardly cared about physical distancing. Only wearing mask was made compulsory," said the 42-year-old.

Amin had reasons to worry as the health department has been converted to the Covid-19 sample collection centre in the city since April and there were allegations that safety measures were not being maintained there properly.

Soon his fears became true and his colleagues in the health and other departments started getting infected. Eventually, Amin started to feel feverish. He was then suggested to take a test and the result came out Covid-19 positive on June 18.

Four of his eight-member family -- his mother, wife, six-year son, brother - became Covid-19 positive too. Amin and his family members are in home quarantine and asymptomatic, according to doctors.

The risk, however, persists at the health department's lone sample collection centre. In the last one week, 16 RCC officials and employees became sick and of them, 10 are health department staffers

The corporation officials found out the department was the centre for spreading coronavirus among its staff members due to a lack of protective measures and untrained contact tracers.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Livestock dept comes to farmers' rescue

Helps them transport and sell products MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

When the daily activities came to a halt during the shutdown across the country to prevent the spread of coronavirus, some initiatives from the Department of Livestock (DLS) saved farmers from financial distress.

Under its National Agricultural Technology Program (NATP-2) and through its direct mechanism, the DLS provided battery-run rickshaw-vans to livestock farmers to help them reach out to big buyers, officials said.

According to the DLS' sales report, due to their initiatives livestock farmers had become able to sell dairy products, poultry, eggs and meat worth about Tk 2,478 crore in two months.

Over 13 crore litres of milk, 59.35 crore eggs, seven crore poultry, 12.43 crore kilogrammes of meat, butter, ghee and sweets were sold between April 25 and June 23, shows the report signed by Dr Md Jasim Uddin, deputy director of DLS.

Talking to The Daily Star, Jasim said they have managed the whole process through their control room. "Wherever farmers informed us about their problem in selling by van due to movement restriction, we helped them through local administration," he said.

The government imposed the shutdown on March 26 and the closure was stretched up to May 30. Due to the enforcement, economic activities SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

UNITED HOSPITAL FIRE Compensate victim families: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the United Hospital authorities to provide compensation through amicable settlement to families of the victims who were killed in a fire at its isolation unit on May 27.

The court said it will pass an order on July 13 if the hospital authorities and family members of the victims fail to reach

a settlement over compensation. The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur

Rahim came up with the directive after hearing virtually three writ petitions filed on behalf of the victim families, seeking compensation from the hospital authorities.

Advocate Niaz Mohammad Mahboob who moved one of the petitions, said the victim families will now apply to the hospital authorities for compensation in line with the HC directive. Then, a settlement will take place between them.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

'Free food for

Ten die with symptoms of Covid-19 in 4 dists STAR REPORT

At least ten people died after showing Covid-19-like symptoms in four

Cumilla Medical College Hospital (CuMCH).

to CuCMH with fever, chest pain and shortness of breath, hospital officials said.

In Jhenidah's Kaliganj upazila, an elderly man died around 9:30pm on Sunday, after suffering from fever and breathing complications for four days.

He was diabetic, and a cloth trader by profession. Dr Sultan Ahmed, residential medical officer of the upazila health He was told to give samples and take oxygen, but he refused and went back home.

Some local youths buried him at his family graveyard around 10am yesterday. His family members were directed not to roam about, he said. In Rajbari's Goalanda upazila, an elderly fish trader died at his house

after suffering from fever, cold and cough on Sunday. Quoting family members, Ashif Mahamud, Goalanda upazila health and family planning officer, said the man had been suffering for the past one week.

Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan new president of Bangla Academy STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Bangla Academy Director General Prof Shamshuzzaman Khan yesterday returned to his old workplace, but at a new capacity.



Prof Shamshuzzaman joined office as president of the organisation through a small programme, attended by the Academy's Director General Habibullah Siraji and other staffers.

In his speech, Prof Shamshuzzaman expressed hopes of working together to build the institution as a symbol of nation's intellectual and cultural hope.

Prof Shamshuzzaman, who will hold the office for a three-year term, succeeds National Professor Anisuzzaman, who served as President of Bangla Academy since 2012 till his demise last month. He was re-appointed for a three-year term from January 29 this year to January 26, 2023. SÉE PAGE 4 COL 2

Columnist Khondaker Mozammel Huq no more STAFF CORRESPONDENT



STAFF CORRESPONDENT An initiative by Dhaka

University students to

districts between Sunday and yesterday morning. Among the deceased, six died within 24 hours until 8am yesterday at

All of them were aged between 40 and 70 years old, and were admitted

complex, said the 50-year-old came to the complex on Sunday morning.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Khondaker Mozammel Huq, famous for his column Gedu Chachar Khola Chithi in the nineties and chief editor of online platform ajkersurjadoy24.com, passed away in Dhaka at the age of 71. He was undergoing

treatment for Covid-19, his former colleague and current editor of Daily Bangladesh Pratidin Naem Nizam said in a Facebook status yesterday.

Mozammel, a freedom fighter, started out as a journalist in late 1960s. His famous column comprised open letters addressed to the head of state.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Large-scale hill razing is underway to fill up land to construct a building for a proposed college in Chattogram's Satkania upazila.

Such razing has been going on with excavators for the last two months in Puranghor area under union-14.

A total of 9,00,000 cubic feet of hill has been flattened, said Zamir Hossen, deputy director of Department of Environment (DoE), Chattogram.

Anyone will be distraught by the extent of the hill cutting, he said, adding that they found four people involved in the razing after visiting the spot.

"We are readying the damage assessment. Then we will serve them with a notice," he said.

The four accused owned the hill but cannot raze those without the prior permission of the DoE. They damaged the ecological balance there, he added.

Mohammad Nur-E-Alam, upazila nirbahi officer of Satkania, told The Daily Star that assistant commissioner (land) of his upazila, first came across the hill razing. On June 25, he seized an excavator after labourers, who were engaged in hill cutting, fled the scene.

Rased Hossen Shikdar, former chairman of Puranghor Union Parishad and one of the accused in a DoE report, told this newspaper that union parishad chairman Mahbubur Rahman Sikdar asked them to donate their land for the college and they did so. SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

feed the poor every day on campus is set to end today, after a 100-day run. Led by former Ducsu member Tanbir Hasan Shaikat, the group has been distributing meals from TSC premises since March 26. They announced an end

to the project yesterday, as the nationwide general holiday has been lifted. They vowed to continue their activities, providing free hand sanitisers and running awareness campaign for those

engaged in outdoor work. Marking the occasion, a programme was organised at TSC, that was attended via videoconference by Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader.



Citizens form large queues in front of Wasa zonal office in the capital's Lalmatia to pay their bills yesterday, as Wasa had extended the payment deadline without fines till June 30. At a time when social distancing is paramount, they had to go to different offices and banks because they could not avail the fine exemption through online payment, they told this newspaper. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Though it has been raining non-stop in Sylhet, resulting in overflowing of rivers and raising the risk of flash floods, not all is doom and gloom. With excessive rainfall, not just the water level in haors are rising, it is also ushering in variety of fishes. As a result, fishing has become the new favourite pastime for young and old alike. This photo was taken from Jilkar Haor in Sadar upazila on Sunday. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Admission Test amid School Closure South Point School admits mistake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Point School and College authorities admitted that they have made a mistake by holding admission test, disregarding the government's directives on keeping all educational institutions shut to contain the spread of coronavirus.

The education board authorities on Sunday evening served the show-cause notice asking why there should not be action against them, as they held the admission test

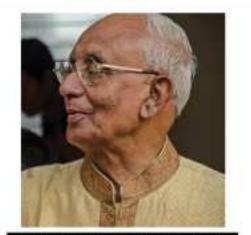
ignoring government directive. "We have given our reply," Hamida Ali, principal of the institution said. They in their answer said the whole admission process was held online but some guardians requested traditional admission process as they were not experienced in online system.

"So branch authorities held the admission test," she added.

"But it was foolish to hold an exam in this situation. We have admitted our fault. All human beings make mistakes. It was a not a deliberate move," she added.

South Point School and College in Dhaka held its admission tests for first and second grades on Saturday, exposing students to the risk of contracting coronavirus, alleged several guardians.

Dhaka Education Board's Inspector of Schools, Mohammad Abul Mansur Bhuiyan said that they have received the answer. "Next course of action will be determined after holding discussion with higher-ups of the board," he said.



Mr. Muhammad Faizur Rahman

Chairman of Asian Surveyors Ltd, former Chairman of Union Capital Ltd, former Director of Pubali Bank and Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh, passed away at Evercare Hospital in the early morning of 28th June, 2020. He had humble beginnings at Baharmordan village in Moulvibazar where he lost his father at the age of 2 and thereafter was raised by his uncle Mohammad Sofi. In his illustrious 85 years of life, he had touched the lives of countless many with his uncompromising integrity, generosity and affection as a father, grandfather, brother, uncle, son, friend, colleague and philanthropist.

His family requests his relatives, friends and well-wishers to pray for his departed soul.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

of Mymensingh early yesterday.

Ichhulia village in Gouripur.

enforcers.

The arrestee -- Dulal Mia (45) -- is from

Four people -- Shahidul Islam (32),

Humayun Kabir Sujon (24), Sohel Mia

(26), and Abdul Khaleque (46) from

the upazila -- went to Saudi Arabia for

jobs four months ago, according to law

for this purpose, Shah Kamal Akanda,

officer-in-charge of DB, Mymensingh,

KSA as they were sent there with fake

Now they are being harassed in the

Being informed, Superintendent of

Mymensingh Police Mohammad Ahmar

(DB) of police to investigate the incident

father of Shahidul Islam, filed a case with

who was arrested at his relative's house in

A Mymensingh court placed Dulal on

a one-day remand after he was produced

before it with a seven-day remand prayer,

Gouripur Police Station accusing Dulal,

Uzzaman directed the detective branch

and took necessary actions, he said.

the area, said the police officer.

On Sunday night, Abdul Hamid,

quoted their families as saying.

documents, said the OC.

Each of the four gave Dulal Tk 6 lakh

'Human trafficker' Untrained contact FROM PAGE 3

arrested in M'singh Even though the volunteers working there were trained, the health department staff members have no training on how Detectives arrested an alleged member of a to deal with Covid-19 patients, said RCC human trafficker gang in Gouripur upazila chief health officer Dr FAM Anjumand Ara

Begum. "Sample collection doesn't require much training. It's the people who aren't aware of physical distancing or continue to ignore the rules -- eventually cause the most damage," she said.

Supported by only one ambulance and a handful of volunteers, the health department began contact tracing in April and identified more than a thousand infected people in all the 30 wards of Rajshahi city till date, she said.

According to WHO, contact tracing is the process of identifying, assessing, and managing people who have been exposed to a disease to prevent onward transmission. Contact tracing for Covid-19 requires identifying people who may have been exposed to Covid-19 and following them up daily for 14 days from the last point of exposure.

"Rajshahi Medical College Hospital had opened four booths for contact tracing. But those never worked (forcing the corporation to begin the process)," Dr Anjumand said.

Hundreds of people visit the corporation daily and the corporation had installed a disinfection booth at the entry, but it did not help much.

"There are more Covid-19 patients in the

city. We cannot test enough. With the given support, we can test less than five people a day," she said.

Ety Rahman, who works as a health worker of the corporation, was found Covid-19 positive recently. Talking over phone, she said she cannot determine how she got infected.

Asked, she admitted that the city corporation gave her PPE, but she hardly used it. "I had to stay at work for eight hours. It is impossible to work such long hours wearing PPE during the heat," she said, adding that she did wear mask.

"People were rushing in to have them tested. I guess I was infected by one of them," she said. She mentioned that she never received any training before joining the work of contact tracing.

Contacted, Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton said the corporation agreed to do the job out of its social responsibilities. He said during a divisional meeting for coordination of coronavirus care, no other institution took up the challenge.

"At first, we were going door-to-door, which turned out quite risky as some of our health workers became infected," he said. Liton said they have plans to open several centres across the city and train up staff members to deal with rising number of infections.

At least seven people have died in Rajshahi district so far while the authorities collected around 3,000 samples and detected 513 Covid-19 patients.

Arms Case Rab presses charges against Papia, husband COURT CORRESPONDENT

Rab yesterday pressed charges against Jubo Mohila League's expelled leader Shamima Nur Papia and her husband Mofizur Rahman in an arms case.Sub-inspector Arifuzzaman, who is also the case's investigation officer, submitted the charge sheet against the couple to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

In the charge sheet, 12 people have been made witnesses. The IO said the charges brought against the two were primarily proven and they hould be brought under trial.

Rab-1 arrested Papia, her husband -- a former Chhatra League leader and two accomplices from Dhaka airport on February 22 when they were trying to leave the country. Rab members seized seven passports, Tk 2,12,270, fake notes of Tk 25,600, USD 11,481, 420 Sri Lankan rupee, 301 Indian rupee and two debit cards from their possession.

The elite force later raided Papia's Farmgate flats and recovered a foreign-made pistol, two magazines, 20 bullets, five bottles of foreignmade liquor, Tk 58,41,000 cash, credit and debit cards of different banks from there.

Three cases -- two under the Arms and the Special Powers Acts while another under the Special Powers Act- 1974 -- were filed.

On February 24, Papia and her husband were placed on a 15-day remand each in three cases after they were produced before two separate Dhaka courts.

According to the remand prayers, the investigation officers said the accused amassed considerable wealth through business of illegal weapons, drugs trade, smuggling, trading of fake currencies, extortion, lobbying and land trade.

Liberation War Affairs minister's wife Laila Banu dies of Covid-19 Bss, Dhaka

Layla Arjumand Banu, wife of Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque, died of coronavirus this morning. She was 71.

She breathed her last Combined Military Hospital, Dhaka, at around 7:45am, said a press release.

The minister and his wife were admitted at the hospital on June 13 with Covid-19. The minister returned home after recovery but his wife continued receiving treatment at the hospital as her condition deteriorated.

She is survived by two daughters, a son, six grandchildren and a host of well-wishers. Her namaze-janaza was held near Gazipur City Corporation graveyard after Asr prayer.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed profound sorrow at her death, in separate condolence messages.

2 more airlines to operate regular flights STAFF CORRESPONDENT

said OC Shah Kamal.

The government approved two more foreign airlines -- Turkish Airlines and Air Arabia -- to operate regular flights to and from Dhaka.

Besides, two other foreign airlines are waiting to get the government's nod.

"We have permitted the two airlines to transport passengers, but Turkish Airlines will start flights from July 2 or 3 and Air Arabia from July 1," said Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Chairperson Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman.

Malaysian Airlines and Malindo Air have also applied to operate direct flights to and from Bangladesh.

The CAAB chairperson said the government may primarily give them permission to operate transit flights.

ফ্ল্যাট বিক্রয় বসুন্ধরা, খামাবাগ, মরুবাগ, ভ্যালকাণ রোড এলাকায় বি.এস.আর.এম রড, সুপারক্রিট সিমেন্ট, মেশিনমেড ইট, বেস্ট কোয়ালিটি বলু/পাথর++ দিয়ে নির্মানাধীন ফ্র্যাট বিক্রয় চলছে। યા, પામાવા 029666666626, 02966666668

Prof Shamsuzzaman FROM PAGE 3 Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan served as Director General of Bangla Academy for 10 years. He is renowned for editing

a book series on folk culture of 64 different districts in 64 volumes, and collections of folklore series in 114 volumes. He was awarded Bangla Academy Literary Award in 2001, Ekushey Padak in 2009 and Independence Day

Award in 2017. He also served as the director general of the Bangladesh National Museum and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan was also appointed as 'Bangabandhu Chair' Professor at Islamic University and was nominated as a syndicate member of Dhaka University.

Nearly 1m

"The land we owned was a hillock. They [the UP chairman] cut it to make way for the collegebuilding," he said. Similar comment came from another accused Shahed

Hossain. Puranghor Union Parishad chairman Mahbubur

Rahman Sikdar said he did not know who cut the hills. "Like many others, I am just involved with the initiative

to build a college. Someone was assigned to provide earth for construction by filling up the low land. We don't know who razed the hill," he said.

Zamir Hossen, deputy director of DoE, said they already recommended the DoE director to summon the four.

Columnist

FROM PACE 3

It was published in weekly magazine Sugondha during the anti-autocracy movement of 1990s. The column had gained popularity within a short time. He was the chief editor of Sugondha magazine.

Livestock dept

came to a standstill, leaving many livestock farmers in the lurch.

For instance, 42-year-old Kanika Mondol of village Tipna in Khulna was struggling to sell milk.

"I get 35 liters of milk every day. Most was wasted as I couldn't sell. We went through miserable times," she said over the phone recently.

from NATP-2 assistance With programme, Kanika and her neighbouring farmers received battery-run auto-rickshaw for collection and distribution of milk.

"Me and two other female farmers who live in my neighbourhood used to collect 200-litre milk each day and sell those in at least five nearby villages," she said.

NATP-2 PROJECT

The project is funded by International (IDA), Association Development International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

It covers research, extension and supply chain development in three sub-sectors of agriculture -- crops, livestock and fisheries -- and it is being operated in 270 upazilas of 57 districts in the country. The first phase of the programme was operated between 2007 and 2014.

A beneficiary of the project, Biporna Biswas, learned cattle farming in 2009. She started with one cow and now expanded her farm with six cows. She earned Tk 2.65 lakh annually from selling milk and Tk period, Sherina said.

75,000 from selling calves per year.

During the shutdown, she too faced trouble but the transportation solved her financial crisis.

Talking to The Daily Star, Dr Monjur Mohammad Shahjada, director of NATP-2, said they engaged over two lakh farmers through their projects.

They connect farmers through the Common Interest Group (CIG) and there are three CIGs in each union.

"We not only facilitated farmers selling their products but also arranged regular vaccination programmes," he said, adding that farmers who are not members were too provided vaccination facilities during the shutdown.

Monjur said, "DLS is working on a proposal to institutionalise ideas like 'market on wheels' to help farmers sell their products in crisis situations like Covid-19."

Sherina Tabassum, country programme officer of IFAD, said they are working closely with national-level institutions, such as DLS and Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation.

In response to the pandemic, NATP2 will finance up to 90 percent of the total cost of equipment to support farmers, she said, adding that they will provide grants to farmers to buy equipment and machines to produce animal feed to reduce their dependency on feed from external sources.

This will help them survive in a crisis

WFP, Australian High Commission hand over PPE to DGHS DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) and Australian High Commission jointly handed over personal protective equipment to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) yesterday.

The equipment, comprising 150,000 goggles, 80,892 N95 respirator masks and 65,000 face shields, was funded by the Australian government and will be used in the Covid-19 response.

"The Australian High Commission appreciates the dedication of frontline health workers and the challenges they face. We are delighted that, through WFP, we have been able to support the Bangladesh government in the fight against Covid-19," said Australian High Commissioner Jeremy Bruer in a statement.

To date, Bangladesh has recorded a total of 137,787 Covid-19 cases, which includes at least 1,170 doctors, 1,120 nurses and 200 health technologists.

"This equipment comes at a critical time, especially as the number of Covid-19 cases is increasing. We want to thank the Australian government and WFP for their continued support," said Prof Dr Abul Kalam Azad, director general at the DGHS.

"Health workers are at the frontline of the Covid-19 response. They need the right supplies to keep themselves safe and perform their jobs effectively," said Richard Ragan, WFP representative and country director in Bangladesh.

In addition to providing food assistance to vulnerable families, WFP is providing logistical support to curb the spread of the virus.



Road transport and bridges minister Obaidul Quader expressed deep shock at the death of Mozammel, who was also a former central committee leader of Chhatra League.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Vacancy Announcement

Deadline for application: 16 July 2020

FAO Office of Evaluation is inviting gualified and experienced candidates to apply to the below consultancy opportunities. The Incumbents will be recruited under Personal Services Agreement (PSA). The duty station is Dhaka

· Specialists in Evaluation, Food Safety, Food Security and Nutrition

To apply, visit the FAO employment website at Jobs at FAO and complete the on-line application. Only applications received through online will be considered. Below the link to the VA https://jobs.fao.org/careersection/fao_external/jobdetail.fll?job=2001334&tz=GMT%2B02%3A00&tzname

All recruitment to FAO posts are made on a competitive and transparent basis. Candidates are encouraged to apply directly to FAO and follow the instructions on the above-mentioned website. Please note that no intermediary is allowed to expedite or facilitate such process. All those who represent themselves as such are fraudulent and should be reported to FAO immediately.

Women candidates are strongly encouraged to apply

🕉 AB Bank

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Board of Directors of AB Bank Limited in its 691st Meeting held on June 29, 2020 adopted Un-audited Financial Statements of the Bank for the 1st Quarter ended (January – March) 2020.

Financial Highlights of the Bank:

		Limited idated)	AB Bank Limited (Solo)			
Particulars	January	- March	January	January - March		
	2020	2019	2020	2019		
			Та	ka in Crore		
Profit Before Tax & Provision	23.21	58.68	19.73	48.67		
Profit After Tax (PAT)	6.68	7.90	4.20	1.51		
Net Asset Value (NAV)	2,405.04	2,395.82	2,283.43	2,266.65		
			Amo	unt in Taka		
Earnings Per Share (EPS)	0.09	0.10	0.06	0.02		
Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS)	(33.55)	(5.68)	(33.91)	(5.96)		
Net Asset Value Per Share (NAVPS)	31.72	31.60	30.12	29.90		
Dated: Dhaka, 29 th June 2020 AB Bank Limited SCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka. www.abbl.com			Manzur	of the Board Sd/- al Ahsan FC! ny Secretary		

Ten die

FROM PAGE 3

The 60-year-old came to the upazila health complex and gave samples for testing on Sunday noon, but breathed his last around 9:20pm.

He was buried at a local graveyard as per guidelines yesterday morning, Ashif said.

At Patuakhali General Hospital, a 70-year-old man from the district's Sadar upazila died on Sunday evening, shortly after being admitted, said Abdul Matin, the hospital's superintendent.

According to hospital sources, he was admitted around 4pm on Sunday with fever, sneezing and coughing, and died within 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, a retired schoolteacher of Galachipa upazila town died while undergoing treatment at the hospital around 4:30pm vesterday.

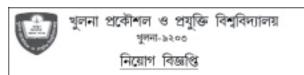
Compensate

FROM PAGE 3

The petition was filed as a public interest litigation, seeking HC directives on the authorities concerned to give Tk 5 crore to each victim family and to take necessary action against the persons responsible for the incident.

The lawyer added that the HC yesterday did not pass any order over the probe reports on the incident of deadly fire at the isolation unit of the hospital as it is evident that there was negligence on part of the hospital in preventing the fire and deaths of the patients.

Following an HC order, Rajuk, fire service, police, and hospital authorities submitted separate probe reports to the court through attorney general's office on June 11.



অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রাজস্বাতের আগুতায় নিমুবর্ণিত পদে বিবি মোতারেক প্রদেষ রেতন ও অন্যান্য আর্থিক সুবিধাসিসহ সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত ও স্থায়ী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে আবেদনপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছ।

ঞা নং	পদের নাম	বেতন ছেল (২০১৫ জনুযারী)	পদ সংখ্যা
2	সহযোগী অধ্যাপক বারোমেডিকেল ইপ্লিনিয়ারিং বিষ্ঠাগ	\$0000-9\$200/-	210

উচিখিত পদে আবেদন করার জন্য বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নির্ধারিত ফরম, শিক্ষাগত যোগাতা ও অভিয়তা, নিয়োগের শর্তাবলী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের প্রদেশসইট (www.kuet.ne.bd/enreer) হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। আবেদনপন জমা দেয়ার সময় উল্লিখিত পদের জন্য ৬৫০/- (তিনশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা অয় বিশ্বদ্যালয়ের অনলাইন পেরেন্ট সিস্টেয (www.payment.kuet.ac.bd/recruitment) এর মাধ্যমে টাকা ভামা দিয়ে রশিদটি আবেদন পরের সাথে জমা দিতে ছবে। আগামী ১৯/০৭/২০২০ইং তারিগ বিকাল ৫:০০টার মধ্যে আবেদন পর রেজিন্টার দপ্তরে ইমেইল (recruitment@kuet.ac.bd)-4 জনা দিতে 2021

(জি, এম, শহিলুল আলম)

রেজিশ্উটার থুলনা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়।



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Education Engineering Department Lakshmipur District



Memo No. XEN/EED/LAKSHMI/2019-20/7016/388

Date: 28.06.2020

e-Tender Notice No. 17/2019-2020

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

SI No	Package No.	Name of work	Tender document last selling (date & time)	Tender closing & opening date & time	Tender ID No.
01	eed/lz/rev/70 16/032	Vertical Extension of existing academic building including sanitary water supply and electrification works at Jillur Rahim College under Sadar upazila in Lakshmipur District.	Date: 14.07.2020 Time: 4.00pm	Date: 15.07.2020 Time: 11.00am	472922
02	eed/lz/rev/70 16/033	Vertical Extension of existing academic building including sanitary water supply and electrification works at Dattapara Girls High School under Sadar upazila in Lakshmipur district.	Date: 14.07.2020 Time: 4.00pm	Date: 15.07.2020 Time: 11.00am	472923
03	eed/lz/rev/70 16/034	Vertical Extension of existing academic building including sanitary water supply and electrification works at Dattapara Ramratan Multilateral High School under Sadar upazila in Lakshmipur district.	Date: 14.07.2020 Time: 4.00pm	Date: 15.07.2020 Time: 11.00am	472924
04	R.W51	Vertical Extension of existing academic building including sanitary water supply and electrification works at Mandari Multilateral High School under Sadar upazila in Lakshmipur district.	Date: 14.07.2020 Time: 4.00pm	Date 15.07.2020 Time: 11.00am	443971
05	R.W53	Vertical Extension of existing academic building including sanitary water supply and electrification works at Dalabazar Fatema Girls High School under Sadar upazila in Lakshmipur district.	Date: 14.07.2020 Time: 4.00pm	Date: 15.07.2020 Time: 11.15am	447077

Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

GD-1055

GD-1057

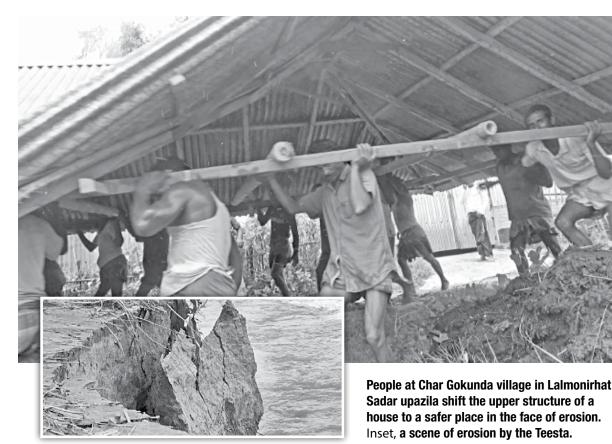
To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Dipankar Khisa
Executive Engineer (Ad. In-Charge)
Education Engineering Department
Lakshmipur District
E-mail: ee_lax@eedmoe.gov.bd

FROM PAGE 3

COUNTRY



Dwellings, agri lands disappearing as Teesta turns furious

The victims at Char Gokunda in Sadar upazila blame earlier sand lifting for the menace

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The Teesta has continued devouring homesteads, arable lands and orchards at Char Gokunda, a river basin village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila during the last one week.

Over half a hundred dwellings and 300 bighas of land of the village have gone into the riverbed, said Anis Ali of the village.

After losing the dwelling house and arable lands to the Teesta, 58-year-old Ambia Khatun with her family has taken shelter on the premises of another household in the area.

"We had everything two days destitute. They have to live halfago. Now we are landless," she said, wiping tears. Nayeb Ali, 55, a farmer of the village, said many people in the

village are shifting their houses as the Teesta continued erosion. The people are also cutting down

their trees and selling those for low prices. They are taking shelter in other

people's land or on the government roads and living under the open sky, he said.

"Those who had their own homestead, cultivable land and orchards have become landless and immediately.

fed. Some of the victims of the river erosion have been sheltered in our land for the time being," said Shahin Mandal of the village.

Several locals alleged that the river erosion has become serious at Char Gokunda due to illegal sand extraction from the Teesta with dredgers during the dry season.

Abdul Quader, sub-divisional engineer of Lalmonirhat Water Development Board, said, "We have visited Char Gokunda village and informed the higher authorities for taking step to check the erosion

Kuakata to reopen for tourists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhal

Tourism-related set-ups including hotels and motels in Kuakata will reopen for visitors tomorrow, after a closure imposed by the administration three and a half months ago due to the outbreak of Covid-19.

starting the activities with Tourism Board in Hotel-Motel Owners Association arranged trainings on June 5, 6 and 9 for security personnel, staff of hotels and motels, owners and employees of eateries, drivers, hired motorcyclists and others

concerned. instructions and hands-on training to make tourism

secretary of Kuakata Hotel-Motel Ówners Association. Around 120 hotels

Motaleb Sharif. Kalapara Upazila

have been asked to comply with the Covid-19 rules. In case of deviation, legal action will be taken."

CULVERT CONSTRUCTION WORK Allegation of bribery against PIO

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Galachipa upazila project implementation officer (PIO) has allegedly demanded Tk 4 lakh as bribe from a contractor when the latter applied for a final bill after completion of the construction work of a culvert in Dakua union.

Contractor Saiful Islam, also a 6th semester student at East West University in Dhaka, has recently brought the allegation of bribery against PIO SM Delwar Hossain. Saiful has already informed the authorities concerned about the matter.

On June 21, the contractor filed a written omplaint against the PIO with the Patuakha commissioner, Anti-Corruption deputy Commission and the higher authorities of Department of Disaster Management and Relief in this regard. According to the complaint, in the financial year 2018-2019, Saiful got the work order of Tk 30.79 lakh for construction of a 36-feetlong culvert on the road adjacent to Kalikapur Madrasa in Dakua union of the upazila under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. On September 8 in 2019, the PIO issued the work order to the contractor and set a deadline of February this year to complete the construction work of the culvert. After completion of the construction work, the contractor on June 8 applied for the final bill to the upazila nirhabi officer (UNO). On the same day, PIO Delwar Hossain phoned Saiful's father Abdus Salam and demanded Tk 4 lakh as bribe. PIO Delwar is yet to send the final bill to the Department of Disaster Management and Relief in Dhaka for approval as the contractor did not pay the amount demanded by Delwar. On condition of anonymity, another contractor said he got a similar work order for

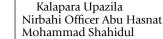


As preparation for safety measures, Bangladesh collaboration with Kuakata

The programme included safe, said Motaleb Sharif,

and motels in Kuakata have been prepared in compliance with health rules, including arrangement of infra-red thermal scanners, masks,

gloves and sanitisers. "At the entrance, hotel staff will apply disinfectant on the guests' body, goods and vehicles. There will be arrangement for washing hands, face and feet. Cleanliness and maintenance of social distance at hotels, vehicles and beach areas will be of utmost priority," said



Haque said, "All concerned



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Postal Directorate, Dhaka-1000. Website: www.bdpost.gov.bd

Date: 28.06.2020

Ref. No.14.31.0000.050.14.035.20

e-Tender Notice-3/2019-2020

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (http: www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the Procurement of the following works:

SI No.	Tender ID	Name of Works	Tender Opening
1	475848	Extension and Repair of Tangail DPMG Office and	Date & Tin 29 July 202
		Madhupur Upazilla Post Office under Tangail District (Pakage- 39)	17.00
2	475849	Repair and Extension of Baliati Upazilla Post Office under Manikganj District Construction of IPO Office at Manikganj and Repair and Extension of Shripur	29 July 202 17.00
3	475850	Upazilla Post Office under Gazipur District. (Package-40) Repair and Extension of Upazilla Post Office at Gaforgaon Issharganj and Sub Post Office at Shamganj under Mymensingh District Repair and Extension of Upazilla Post Office at Madan Maddharagar Barhatta Atpara under Netrokona District and Repair and Extension of Khrishmakallanpur Sub Post Office under Netrokona	29 July 202 17.00
4	Sherpur District and Repair and Extension of Pigna Sub Post Office under Sharishabari Upazilla of Jamalpur		29 July 20 17.00
5	475852	District. (Package-42) Repair and Extension of Shiraazdikhan Upazilla Post Office and Rikabibazar Sub Post Office under Munshiganj District. (Package 42)	29 July 20 16.45
6	475853	District. (Package-43) Repair and Extension of Raypur Upazilla Post Office under Narshindi District Repair and Extension of Bhairab Upazilla Post Office under Kishoreganj District and Repair and Extension of Katabaria Sub Post Office under	29 July 20 16.45
7	475854	Narshingdi District (Package -44) Repair and Extension of Upazilla Post Office at Bhanga Charbhadrason Sadrpur Modhukhali and Boalmari under Faridpur District Reconstruction of Upazilla Post Office at Naharkanda and Alfadanga under Faridpur District Reconstruction of Sub Post Office at Kamarkhali under Faridpur District Construction of Boundary Wall of Talma Sub Post Office under Faridpur District and Construction Repair and Extension of Goalando Upazilla Post Office under Rajbari District (Package-45)	29 July 20 16.45
8	475855	Reconstruction of Upazilla Post Office at Muksudpur and Kashiani under Gopalganj District Construction of Boundary Wall of Kotalipara Upazilla Post Office under Gopalganj District and Construction of Boundary Wall of Sub Post Office at Borfa Batikamari and Chandrodigholia under Gopalganj District (Package-46)	29 July 20 16.30
9	475856	Repair and Extension of Feni Head Post Office Reapir and Extension of Upazilla Post Office at Fulgazi Porshuram Sonagazi Dagonbhuain Chagolnaiya under Feni District Construction and Reconstruction of Boundary Wall of Baraipur IPO Office Repair and Extension of Fazilpur Sub Post Office (Package-54)	29 July 20 16.30
10	475857	Extension and Repair of Mahalchari Upazilla Post Office underRangamati District and Repair and Extension of Dighinala Upazilla Post Office under Kagrachari District (Package-56)	29 July 20 16.30
11	475858	(rackage-50) Extension and Repair of Moheshkhali Upazilla Post Office under Coxs Bazar District and Reconstruction of Saintmartin Sub Post Office under Coxs Bazr District (Package-57)	29 July 20 16.15
12	475859	Extension and Repair of Cumilla DPMG Office under Cumilla District Reconstruction of Muradnagar Upazilla Post Office under Cumilla District Extension and Repair of Upazilla Post Office at Barura and Chandina under Cumilla District and Extension and Repair of Shamgram Sub Post Office under Cumilla District.(Package-58)	29 July 20 16.15
13	475860 475861	Extension and Repair of Upazilla Post Office at Akhaura and Nabinagar under B. Baria District (Package-59) Extension and Repair of Upazilla Post Office at Shahrasti	29 July 20 16.15 29 July 20
		and Haziganj under Chandpur District (Package-60)	16.00
15	475862	Extension and Repair of Upazilla Post Office at Sonatola Khahalu Dupchachia and Adamdighi under Bogura District and Repair and Extension of Upazilla Post Office at Palashbari and Shadhullapur under Gaibanda District (Bachara (2))	29 July 20 16.00
16	475863	(Package-63) Extension and Repair of Godhagari Head Post Office Charghat Upazilla Post Office and Proshadpur Sub Post Office under Rajshahi District.(Package-64)	29 July 20 16.00
17	475864	Extension and Repair of Chapainababganj Head Post Office Bholahat Upazilla Post Office and Amnura Sub Post Office under Chapainababganj District (Package-65	29 July 20 15.45
18	475865	Reconstruction of Upazilla Post Office at Bera and Sathia under Pabna District Extension and Repair of Upazilla Post Office at Bornwarinagar Debottor and Baral under Pabna District. (Package- 66)	29 July 20 15.45
19	475866	Extension and Repair of Upazilla Post Office at Tharash Dhanghara and Kajipur under Shirajganj District (Pakage-67)	29 July 20 15.45
20	475867	Reconstruction of Upazilla Post Office at Sharonkhola Extension and Repair of Upazilla Post Office at Rampal and Fakirhat under Bagerhat District. (Packahe-68) Construction of Khulna DPMG Office Postal Museum and	29 July 20 15.30 29 July 20
22	475869	Cultural Centre Specialised Work under Khulna District. (Package-70) Extension and Repair of Upazilla Post Office at Kalia and	29 July 20 15.30
22	475809	Lakkhipasha Reconstruction of Sub Post Office at Naldi and Barodia under Narail District (Package-72) Reconstruction of Magura Model Head Post Office	29 July 20 15.30
		Extension and Repair of Mohammadpur Upazilla Post Office and Construction of Boundary Wall of Arpara Upazilla Post Office under Magura District (Pakage-73)	15.15
24	475871	Extension and Repair of Upazilla Post Office at Coatchandpur Shoilokupa and Moheshpur under Jhenaidah District (Package-74) Extension and Repair of Upazilla Post Office at	29 July 20 15.15
25	475872	Extension and Repair of Upazilla Post Office at Dhoulatganj Janipur Mirpur Veramara and Refaetpur under Kushtia District. (Package-76) Extension and Repair of Balaganj Upazilla Post Office	29 July 20 15.15 29 July 20
		under Sylhet District Extension and Repair Sub Post Office under Baniachang Upazilla of Hobiganj District and Extension and Repair of Shaestaganj M& SO (Package-82)	29 July 20 15.00
27	475875	Construction of 2-Basement + 2-storied Community Center with 6-storied foundation, 1-Basement + 2-storied Mosque with 6-storied foundation, Boundary wall in RCC Frame, Main Gate, Site Development, Walkway, Plantation, Gardening, Landscaping, Lightening, Pond digging, Retaining wall, Ghat works with other related works at Motijheel Postal Colony, Dhaka. (Package-88)	29 July 20 15.00
28	475873		28 July 20 15.00

PHOTO: STAR

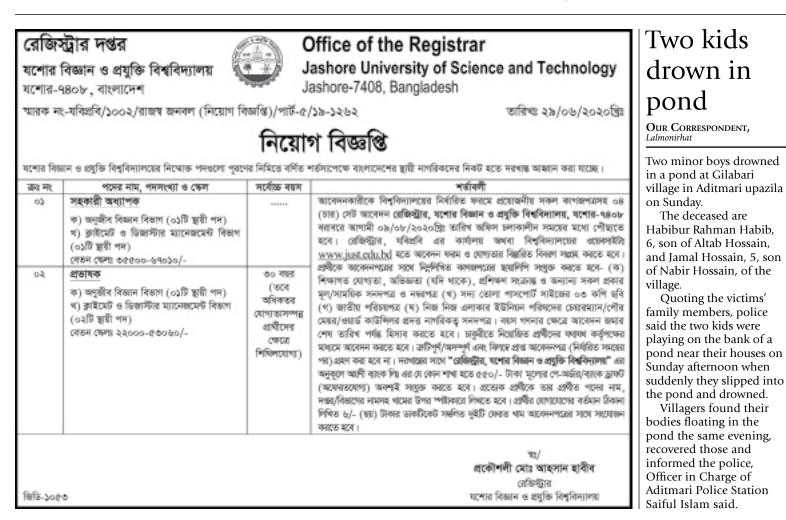
A newly constructed culvert near Kalikapur Madrasa in Patuakhali's Galachipa upazila. The contractor recently lodged a complaint with the authorities concerned, saying that the PIO demanded bribe from him when he applied for a final bill after construction of the culvert.

construction of a culvert in the upazila and the construction work was completed on time. The PIO also demanded Tk 4 lakh as bribe from him when he asked for the final bill. His bill is yet to be sent to Dhaka as he did not pay the bribe money.

PIO Delwar Hossain said the allegation of demanding bribe brought against him is not true. Contractor Saiful's bill will be sent to Dhaka for approval next month.

Contacted, UNO Shah Mohammad Rafiqul Islam said "14 such culverts have been constructed in different areas of the upazila and due to lack of funds, we sent nine final bills to Dhaka for approval last week. The remaining bills will be sent to Dhaka in the middle of next month.

"I don't know anything about the PIO demanding bribe, but if I receive a written complaint in this regard, I will look into the matter," said the UNO.



offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http: www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

No (Md. Golam Mostafa) Project Director Restoration & Rehabilitation of Dilapidates Buildings of Bangladesh Post Office-(2nd Phase) Phone: 02-9563240

GD-1056

INTERNATIONAL

further heighten serious human rights

violations that have characterised the

Her statement cautioned that such a move would almost certainly

lead to increased restrictions on

Palestinians' right to freedom of

movement, as their population

private land would likely be illegally

expropriated, and even in cases

where this does not occur, many

Palestinians could lose access to

solution, undercut the possibilities

of a renewal of negotiations, and

perpetuate the serious existing

human rights and international

witness today.

In addition, significant tracts of

centres would become enclaves.

conflict for decades."

'Annexation is illegal. Period' UN rights chief tells Israel, warns of 'disastrous' consequences

AFP, Geneva

Israel's aim to annex parts of the occupied West Bank was clearly "illegal", the UN's human rights chief said yesterday, warning that the consequences could be "disastrous".

Just days before Israel intends to kick-start plans to annex its West Bank settlements and the Jordan Valley, Michelle Bachelet added her voice to the chorus urging Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to drop the proposal.

"Annexation is illegal. Period," the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights said in a statement.

"Any annexation. Whether it is 30 percent of the West Bank, or five percent," she said, urging Israel to "listen to its own former senior officials and generals, as well as to the multitude of voices around the world, warning it not to proceed along this dangerous path."

International condemnation of the possible Israeli annexations has mounted ahead of July 1, when the Jewish state could take its first steps toward implementing part of a USproposed Middle East peace plan.

AGENCIES



US President Donald Trump's and will be extremely damaging to proposals, rejected outright by the Palestinians, pave the way for annexing key parts of the West Bank, including settlements long considered illegal by the majority of the international community.

Bachelet urged Israel to shift course, warning that "the shockwaves of annexation will last for decades, Israel, as well as to the Palestinians." "The precise consequences of annexation cannot be predicted," "any attempt to annex any part of the humanitarian law violations we

cultivate their own lands. Bachelet said illegal annexation would not change Israel's obligations under international law as an occupying power towards the occupied population. "Instead, it will grievously harm the prospect of a two-state

she said. "But they are likely to be disastrous for the Palestinians, for Israel itself, and for the wider region." The UN rights chief warned that

occupied Palestinian territory will

ROCKET ATTACK AT AFGHAN CATTLE MARKET At least 23 killed, dozens wounded not only seriously damage efforts to REUTERS, Kabul

achieve lasting peace in the region, it is likely to entrench, perpetuate and

At least 23 civilians were killed in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province and dozens were wounded when rockets hit a cattle market yesterday, Afghan government and Taliban officials said.

The warring sides blamed each other for the attack on the open-air weekly cattle market in Sangin district, where hundreds of villagers from neighbouring districts had gathered to trade sheep and goats.

A spokesman for Helmand's governor said several rockets fired by Taliban insurgents landed close to the cattle market, killing 23 civilians, including children.

Qari Yousuf Ahmadi, a Taliban spokesman said the Afghan army fired several rounds of mortar bombs on civilian houses and the cattle market, killing dozens of villagers.

Khushakyar, who goes by a single name, said he was trying to sell a calf when the rockets hit the market. He said his two nephews were killed and his son was wounded. Some residents of Helmand province, a Taliban

stronghold, said the shelling occurred during fierce clashes between Taliban militants and government security forces in residential areas surrounding the market.

There has been an uptick in violence by the Taliban against the Afghan government, even though the insurgents, fighting to reintroduce strict Islamic law after being ousted from power in 2001, signed a troop withdrawal agreement with the United States in February designed to lead to peace negotiations with the Afghan government.



Covid vaccine okayed for China military use

REUTERS, Beijing

military China's has received the greenlight to use a COVID-19 vaccine candidate developed by its research unit and CanSino Biologics after clinical trials proved it was safe and showed some efficacy, the company said on Monday. The Ad5-nCoV is one of China's eight vaccine candidates approved for human trials at home and abroad for the respiratory disease. No vaccine has yet been okayed for commercial use against the illness.

Exit poll brings good news for Putin

AFP, Moscow

Russian state pollster VCIOM on Monday published an exit poll showing a vast majority of Russians backing proposed constitutional reforms, days before the end of voting. Some 76 percent of respondents voted for the package of amendments, which range from better pensions and minimum wages to a reset of term limits that would allow President Vladimir Putin to run again in 2024 and potentially stay in power until 2036. The vote began last week and is due to end on Wednesday.

Three J&K terrorists killed: India police

THE STATESMAN/ANN

A commander of the Hizbul Mujahideen was among 3 people killed in Indian Kashmir yesterday, police officials said, as security forces step up a clampdown in the disputed region. They were killed in separate operations. India has bolstered counter-insurgency efforts in the restive territory, with nearly 40 separatist militants killed this month.

and Limpiyadhura as Nepalese territories. Speaking at an event to commemorate the 69th birth anniversary of late Madan Bhandari at the Prime Minister's residence in Kathmandu. Oli said, "Listen to the media in Delhi.. Activities have been stepped up in hotels and at the Indian mission (in Kathmandu)... If anyone dreams of unseating the prime minister of this country for

publishing the map and including the map in the constitution... Don't even think of it!"

Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has

alleged that India wants to topple his

government after he issued the new map that

shows Indian territories of Kalapani, Lipulekh

"I did not commit any mistake by claiming our land, which has been snatched from us for the past 58 years after Nepal enjoyed the rights over these areas for 146 years," Oli said.

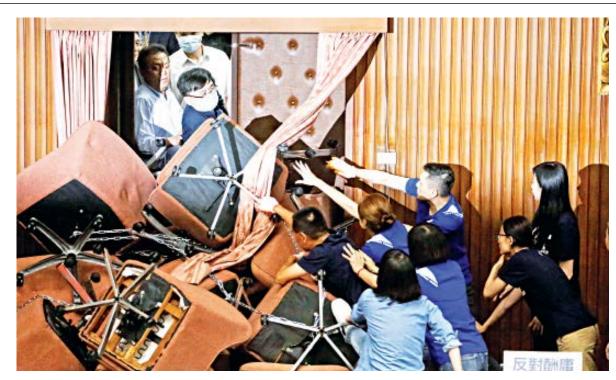
This month Nepal completed the process of redrawing the country's political map adding the disputed territories. Calling attempts to overthrow him

government was toppled in the past for signing transit agreement with China.

is growing from within his party and in the country over failures at several fronts including inaction on dealing with Covid-19 crisis, and rampant corruption in the country. The India-Nepal bilateral ties came under strain after the inauguration of the 80-km-long road connecting Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand by

Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on May 8 Nepal criticised the move claiming that it

passed through Nepalese territory. India has rejected the claim asserting that the road lies within its territory.



Lawmakers from Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) scuffle with lawmakers from the main opposition Kuomintang (KMT) party, who have been occupying the Legislature Yuan, in Taipei, Taiwan, yesterday. More than 20 KMT lawmakers occupied the legislature overnight, blocking entry to the main chamber with chains and chairs, saying the government was trying to force through legislation and demanding the president withdraw the nomination of a close aide to a high-level watchdog. PHOTO: REUTERS

'Demographic genocide' in Xinjiang

China forces birth control on persecuted Uighurs to suppress population Associated Press

The Chinese government is taking



of a detained vegetable trader, three days to pay a \$2,685 fine for having more than two children.

A sweet remedy

West Bengal coming up with immunityboosting 'Arogya Sandesh' sweet

THE STATESMAN/ANN Bengalis, known for having sweet tooth,

Sunderbans Affairs Minister Manturam Pakhira said the honey for making Arogya Sandesh will be collected from beehives in places such as Pirkhali, Jharkhali and other parts of the Sunderbans and it will be stored in a scientific manner. The sandesh is expected to hit the shelves in another two months and the pricing will be within the reach of the common man, according to the animal resources development department official. Earlier this month, Kolkata's famous sweetmeat chain also came out with "Immunity Sandesh" claiming that it

New Delhi conspiring

to topple govt in Nepal

Alleges PM Oli as ties between neighbours sour

as "illusion", Oli highlighted how his

His comments come even as pressure

draconian measures to slash birth rates among Uighurs and other minorities as part of a sweeping campaign to curb its Muslim population, even as it encourages some of the country's Han majority to have more children.

While individual women have spoken out before about forced birth control, the practice is far more widespread and systematic than previously known, according to an AP investigation based on government statistics, state documents and interviews with 30 ex-detainees, family members and a former detention camp instructor. The campaign over the past four years in the far west region of Xinjiang is leading to what some experts are calling a form of "demographic genocide."

The state regularly subjects minority women to pregnancy checks, and forces intrauterine devices, sterilization and even abortion on hundreds of thousands,

the interviews and data show. Even while the use of IUDs and sterilization has fallen nationwide, it is rising sharply in Xinjiang.

The population control measures are backed by mass detention both as a threat and as a punishment for failure to comply. Having too many children is a major reason people are sent to detention camps, the AP found, with the parents of three or more ripped away from their gave Omirzakh, the penniless wife



families unless they can pay huge fines. Police raid homes, terrifying parents as they search for hidden children.

After Gulnar Omirzakh, a Chinese-born Kazakh, had her third child, the government ordered her to get an IUD inserted. Two years later, in January 2018, four officials in military camouflage came knocking at her door anyway. They

AFP, Karachi

If she didn't, they warned, she would join her husband and a million other ethnic minorities locked up in internment camps.

"God bequeaths children on you. To prevent people from having children is wrong," said Omirzakh, who tears up even now thinking back to that day. "They want to destroy us as a people.'

Outside experts say the birth control campaign is part of a stateorchestrated assault on the Uighurs to purge them of their faith and identity and forcibly assimilate them into the dominant Han Chinese culture.

Some go a step further.

"It's genocide, full stop. It's not immediate, shocking, mass-killing on the spot type genocide, but it's slow, painful, creeping genocide,' said Joanne Smith Finley, who works at Newcastle University in the UK "These are direct means of genetically reducing the Uighur population."

have a good news to cheer about during this ongoing coronavirus pandemic times as the West Bengal government decided to come out with a "sandesh" which will contain honey from Sundarbans to increase immunity, an official said on Sunday.

"Cotton cheese made from cow milk will be mixed with pure honey from the Sunderbans to prepare the 'Arogya Sandesh' which will also have extracts of tulsi leaves" news agency PTI quoted an official of the Animal

Resources Development Department as saying.

No artificial flavours would be added to the sweetmeat which will be available in the department's outlets in the city and neighbouring districts, he said.

The sandesh will boost the immune system as a whole but it is not a COVID-19 antidote," the official said.

contains various herbs and spices such as haldi (turmeric), tulsi, saffron, and cardamom and Himalayan honey, which will boost immunity to fight COVID-19.

There are total 17,283 positive cases of Coronavirus in West Bengal with 5,451 active cases. 11,193 people have recovered and 639 people have died in the state so far due to the infection.

'Dad, I can't breathe'

Indian man complains of negligence to his father through video message before he dies in hospital

THE STATESMAN/ANN

A heart-wrenching video message by a dying, young coronavirus patient saying goodbye to his father has gone viral in India over social media, where he is complaining of negligence by a state-run

hospital in Hyderabad, he was admitted to, after refusal by several other private hospitals, has left the people of city and neitizens in shock and pain.

"Though I told them that I can't breathe, they removed the ventilator.

I am fed up. It's been three hours, daddy. It's like my heart has stopped beating. Bye daddy bye. Bye everyone," the 34-year-old man can be seen saying, in the video.

Ravi's father P Venkateshwarlu was staying in the hospital premises. He said his son sent him a selfie video late on the night of June 26. He watched this around 2.30 am and went inside the ward but by then his son had breathed his last.

Venkateshwarlu said they shared the video so that the world knows what's happening in hospitals. "No other family should go through this ordeal," he added. The hospital authorities, however, denied that there was any negligence. They

said he died of cardiac complications. According to them, he was given medicines and put on supplementary oxygen but he

developed heart related complications.

Hospi tal Superintendent Dr Mahboob Khan clarified that the patient was not put on a ventilator and hence was incorrect to say that it was removed.

Venkateshwarlu said his son started complaining of breathlessness on June 23. He took him from one hospital to another but no one admitted him. "We went to 11 hospitals but they refused to admit without a coronavirus test," he recalled.

The next day he took Ravi to a private lab and was tested for COVID-19 but the result of the test was awaited. The same night his condition started worsening and his father took him to Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) but authorities there told him to go to Chest Hospital. He was finally admitted to that hospital.

Baloch separatists opened fire and hurled a grenade at the Pakistan Stock Exchange in Karachi yesterday, authorities said, killing four people

Four killed in attack on Pak

Stock Exchange

including a policeman. Three security guards were killed in the melee, while local police chief Ghulam Nabi Memon said all four assailants were shot dead.

The city's police force had earlier said six people died in the firefight but later revised the figure.

The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility in a message sent to AFP.

Following yesterday's attack Pakistani authorities vowed to strike back against any group found responsible for the onslaught, promising to dismantle their networks and destroy their bases.

'Battle for nation's soul'

Trump tweets, then deletes video of supporter yelling 'white power'

Agencies

Trump protesters and his supporters in which a man chants "white power" before deleting it amid an outcry.

"Thank you to the great people of The Villages," Trump tweeted alongside the video clip. "The Radical Left Do Nothing Democrats will Fall in the Fall.'

The footage, apparently shot in a Florida retirement community, shows a man driving a golf-cart bearing "Trump 2020" and "America First" signs being heckled by a roadside protester chanting "racist.

repeatedly mouths the words "white power" with a raised fist.

"White power! There you go, white power. Did you hear that?" the protester yells back at him.

The phrase "white power" is considered synonymous with a call for white supremacy. The phrase has been espoused by neo-Nazis, skinheads and Ku Klux Klan members.

Trump tweeted the video shortly

after 7:30 am and deleted it at around immediate backlash. 11 am and the White House shortly after issued a statement saying the president had not heard the "white power" chant before sharing the footage.

A wave of nationwide rallies calling for racial justice has swept the United States since the May 25 death



As they yell at each other, the driver of George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man killed by a white police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Trump has long been accused of fanning racial tensions in the country.

In 2017, he infamously after deadly violence, pitted neo-Nazis against counter-protesters in the Virginia city of Charlottesville. Trump declared there to be "very fine people on both sides.

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden reacting on the incident took to Twitter and said, "Today the President shared a video of people shouting 'white power' and said they were 'great.' Just like he did after Charlottesville."

"We're in a battle for the soul of the nation - and the President has picked a side. But make no mistake: it's a battle we will win."

Trump allies, meantime, were pressed to defend his tweet on the Sunday morning talk shows.

The Republican Party's only black senator, Tim Scott, called the entire video "offensive" while being interviewed on CNN's "State of the Union."

"We can play politics with it or we can't. I'm not going to. I think it's indefensible. We should take it down. That's what I think.

In a series of polls conducted in April, Biden leads Trump in head-tohead general election matchups by an average of 5.9 percent.

The 2020 US presidential election The "Villages" video triggered an is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3

As the presidential election in the United States are slated for November, Donald Trump on Sunday shared a video of a stand-off between anti-

LAW&OUR RIGHTS

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LAW WATCH

Global warming, cyclones and International **Environmental Law**

RAMISA JAHAN AND S.M. ABID RAHMAN

A recent study conducted by the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Chittagong, shows that the frequency of cyclones have increased by four-folds in the Bay of Bengal, in the last 60 years. According to the statistics, since 1971 till date, around 33 cyclones have hit the coastal areas of Bangladesh and from 1797 to 2020, in the last 223 years, a total of 78 cyclones have hit the coastal areas. Apparently, till 1960, there were only 30 cyclones whereas from 1960 to 2020, only in last 40 years there were 48 cyclones. In the last one year, three cyclones, Foni, Bulbul and Amphan have hit the coastal areas. The research suggests that the onus for the increase

in more powerful and regular cyclones is owed to the hike in temperatures. Currently, the temperature above the Bay of Bengal is 31 degrees, whereas in 2007 it was 28.7 degrees; thus, the increase in temperature has been 2.7 degrees.

With the prevalence of natural calamities caused due to global warming, environmentalists have emphasised on adhering to the Paris Agreement, as both developed and developing countries alike are required to limit their emissions. Its central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by curbing temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further 1.5 degrees Celsius. The Agreement requires all parties to put

forward their efforts through nationally determined contributions (NDCs). This includes requirements that all parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts. On this occasion, Bangladesh has

Nevertheless, the inactiveness of several received much appreciation as it has been developed nations is still evident. As

> One of the major hurdles in implementing treaty law to environmental problems is its limited utility until a large number of states ratify the treaty; further, they lack enforcement mechanisms that encourage compliance with the treaty.

> > of February 2020, the only significant emitters which are not parties are Iran and Turkey. In 2017, President Donald Trump announced that the US would withdraw from the Agreement and subsequently initiated the formal withdrawal process.

not legally bind its parties in terms of

submitting their NDC, the parties are,

however, legally bound to have their

assess achievement toward the NDC.

progress tracked by technical experts to

It is important to comprehend, the reasons behind reluctance among states, in abiding by the agreement and taking pro-active actions to prevent the disastrous environmental consequences. The primary sources of international law are international agreements, custom and general principles of law. In case no explicit agreement exists, one must look to customary rules and general principles of international law. Nevertheless, it is both difficult to obtain a consensus concerning customary norms and also when accused of violating a customary norm, a state may claim that no such norm exists or that it never accepted the norm and therefore is not bound by it. Furthermore, states often defend their sovereignty because they consider their physical integrity and continued political identity as important elements

in their foreign policies. The option to withdraw undermines the purpose of any agreement.

The predominant sources of the law governing creation of international agreements are the 1969 Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties and the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties Between States and International Organisations or Between International Organisations 1986. However, the Vienna Conventions do not stipulate any particular ratification process nor do they require any action to comply with the agreement during the ratification process. Thus, the delay in ratification of a treaty in the case of environmental agreements may render the agreement useless if the underlying environmental situation worsens or becomes irreversible.

One of the major hurdles in implementing treaty law to environmental problems is its limited utility until a large number of states ratify the treaty; further, they lack enforcement mechanisms that encourage compliance with the treaty. Hence, in the absence of cooperation and enforcement, the environment will continue to degenerate.

Nevertheless, the situation is not all 'dull and grim', after decades of effort by environmentalists and affected countries like Bangladesh, nations today have set a concrete goal to tackle temperature rise. Furthermore, it can be expected that the ever-growing climate movements happening worldwide will have a constructive impact, consequently, compelling the reluctant nations to abide by their commitments under these environmental treaties. By all means, it is inevitable that international matters concerning the environment is dealt with in 'cooperation' by all nations.

THE WRITERS ARE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SPECIALISED IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND BARRISTER OF THE HON'BLE SOCIETY OF LINCOLN'S INN RESPECTIVELY.

RIGHTS ADVOCACY COVID-19 AND RIGHTS OF THE HEALTHCARE WORKERS

S.U. AIMAN

Healthcare workers (HCWs) are at

of familiarity with PPE use and disposal, inappropriate working hours, and so on. In this unprecedented period, while

RIGHTS MONITOR IP rights management for companies and SMEs

A S M SAYEM ALI PATHAN

Implementation of IPRMS requires help of both the legal experts and business experts otherwise it would be a challenge for a company/SME to have sufficient information on deliverables and associated categories of IP. As there is no common strategy for all businesses, therefore, the appropriate approach is to gain knowledge regarding the nature of business, products and supply chain etc., identify contract variables, target consumer or users, associated IP rights, enforcement policy of IP rights, etc. and then to formulate the best probable strategy. Perhaps the function of IPRMS may be called "monetisation" IP or "commercialisation of assets" and as it is said such monetisation is possible by maintaining a comprehensive portfolio. Strategically, a portfolio can also help companies identify opportunities in markets or creating new markets. Significant aspects of IPRMS, therefore,



the heart of the current crisis that the whole world is undergoing. Due to the spread of coronavirus, while all offices, services are closed or nearly closed, one institution across the world never closed for a moment is the hospital. Physicians, nurses, cleaning staffs - all the frontline fighters are working day-night restlessly. In Bangladesh, insufficiency of infrastructure, lack of quality medical equipment, diagnosis machinery, and geographic mal-distribution of Human Resource for Health (HRH) are some common issues which we have been grappling with for a long time. Due to lack of administrative preparation, Bangladesh is now paying the cost of this pandemic as the frontline fighters are also getting infected by this virus. According to the report of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), a total of forty-one doctors lost the battle against the deadly virus in the country. So far, around 1040 doctors, 901 nurses and 1360 staffs have been tested Covid-19 positive.

The rapid loss of senior doctors of the country is an irreparable loss for the health sector. Right to life and right to health as enshrined in Articles 32 and 18(1) of the Constitution respectively, are equally applicable to HCWs. If we cannot protect them, we run the risk of losing our ability to control the virus. According to the WHO, currently the doctor-patient ratio in Bangladesh is 5.81 per 10,000 people, which places the country at the second position from the bottom in South Asia. Comparing with countries like Austria (51.44), Finland (38.12) and France (32.67), is an absolute luxury for us. Since the country is already suffering from a shortage of HRH, can the country really afford losing more doctors?

Since the social transmission of Covid-19 has already started, the HCWs are facing multifarious problems. Firstly, at the early stage of the pandemic, lack of testing facilities and unavailability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has resulted in doctors to expose directly to this life-threatening virus. Moreover, concealing information or misinformation on symptoms by a significant number of patients resulted in the transmission of the virus to the HCWs Secondly, social harassment by their landlord to leave the house in fear of virus infection. Thirdly, being blamed by patients, attendants for not providing medical equipment such as oxygen tubes and ventilation even if they are not responsible for the supply of these equipment and technical services. Fourthly, facing the allegation of denial of treatment to patients. However, in reality, without any safety gear, doctors and nurses are in no position to treat infected patients. Fifthly, working under extreme pressure, fear, lack

doctors are performing heroic tasks, one senior doctor, Dr. Abdur Rakib Khan from Khulna was beaten to death by a patient's family members on allegation of wrong treatment of pregnant woman causing her death. Evidently, the doctor-patient relationship in Bangladesh has reached rock bottom level and their rights in question.

To protect the HCWs against violence, very recently, India has promulgated the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, which amends century old the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. This amendment makes 'act of violence' against the HCWs, including doctors and nurses, punishable with three months to five years imprisonment with a fine of ₹50,000 to ₹2,00,000. For grievous injury, imprisonment term can be extended up to 7 years. Last year, China enacted its first comprehensive law on basic medical and healthcare, after a female doctor stabbed to death in Beijing. Article 57 of this Act prohibits any individual and organisation from threatening, harming the personal security of medical staff, or violating their dignity.

The government of Bangladesh has taken several positive measures to cope with the current crisis. On 7 April 2020, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced special insurance and stimulus for the HCWs and other employees of the republic for their frontline roles in the fight against coronavirus. Special incentives include health insurance of Tk 5-10 lakh (according to rank), and the amount will be five times higher if anyone is at higher risk of death or dies from the virus. Also, the government will bear the treatment cost of frontline medical staff contracting the virus while on duty. The respective total amounts are Tk. 100 crore for medical staff treating Covid-19 patients, and Tk. 750 crore for life insurance. The Anti-Corruption Commission has sent out a warning to landlords against giving eviction notice to the HCWs. Various private entities have also come forward to build hospitals, supplying protective equipment.

Despite all these, a few more steps must be taken to protect the rights of the HCWs. The allocation of budget for health sector should be increased remarkably to ensure the safety of the HCWs. For the security of the HCWs, appropriate laws must be applied in consulting with professionals working in this sector to protect them against violence. After all, nothing can justify hostility against the very people who are our first line of defence in this pandemic.

THE WRITER IS A STUDENT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (LLM), SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI.

Whilst the Paris Agreement does

Now a days, intellectual property (IP) assets have become the currency of business, used not only to protect technology rights, but also to gain competitive advantage and drive new revenue opportunities. Today, a modern company/SME employs multiple approaches to protect IP rights. The IP Rights Management Strategy (IPRMS) is one instance of such approaches. The IPRMS is to achieve both short and long-term benefits, and eventually to exist in the front row of a business world. Commonly, an IPRMS designs to maintain the complete record of IP, ascertain value of IP assets and expected revenue, estimates IP's contribution to profitability by mapping each IP asset, building structure and system for IPRMS and dissemination of IP assets.

A company/SME can use IPRMS as an integral part of its business strategies in marketing, capital raising, research and development or business development. However, the management in many companies/SMEs fails to connect IPRMS with business strategy.

The IPRMS requires a centralised infrastructure responsible for overseeing the creation and commercialisation of IP rights namely, patent, trademark, copyright, industrial design, trade secret, databases and database rights, unregistered design rights, topography rights and any other immaterial asset including, of course, inventions prior to patent application, and should also extend to any other right such as domain names, contracts i.e. nondisclosure contract, rights in the name of an organisation and rights that have been acquired by way of a license or assignment from third parties

Moreover, well-protected IP rights of a product provide confidence to the consumers and the supply chain. The uniqueness of a product/brand is reasonably assumable, if we say so, when the IP rights have been well protected and the whole world knows about such protection. Also, enforcement of IP rights through IPRMS ensure the company/ SME to preserve the legal validity of its IP rights before the relevant authority, prevent infringement from occurring or continuing in the marketplace in order to avoid damage including loss of goodwill or reputation and seek compensation for actual damage, e.g. loss of profit, resulting from any instance of infringement in the marketplace. The nature of IPRMS or how would it be implemented depends upon the nature of products, activities and objectives of a company/SME.

If a company wants to make effective use of its intangible properties, the following are the basic ingredients of a robust IPRMS: (a) regular IP audits, (b) team education, (c) regulatory compliance, (d) detailed records, (f) highly organised information, (g) data visualisation (h) creating brand value, and (h) Sharing experience, etc.

Though a spinout or SME company may not be able to engage experts or appoint appropriate manpower to deal with its IP issues. But the recent trends in business indicate that IP issues should be pulled off. Because creating a brand value for ensuring existence in this corporate world is a basic condition and for this purpose there is no option but to protect IP rights.

The IPRMS inevitably varies with size and type of company/SME. It might be said that the elements of an IPRMS



include but not limited to: (a) the continuous monitoring of rights which have been, or are likely to be created, (b) ensuring ownership of such rights, (c) the organisation and documentation of existing rights (registered and unregistered), (d) the documentation and preparation of licensing contracts and other agreements (collaborative projects or joint ventures), (e) the documentation of ownership and valuation of rights or, the establishment of non-disclosure or IP audit policies, (f) Assistance in formulating internal IP policies and administration of licensing and other agreements (exploitation or collaborative), and (g) detection of potential commercial partners and administration of agreements including assisting in or conducting negotiations, etc.

The overall capacity to leverage IP rights to attain and maintain competitive advantage indicates the real value of IP and also increases the value. However, the

involve both external and internal factors. External factors include issues of licensing/certificate and litigation; internal factors include issues of valuation, information, coordination, and education, etc. Overall, both the types are applicable to all types of company/SME to some extent.

Public institutions should have the tendency to emphasise more on licensing, information, and education. Spinouts and SMEs should emphasise on external issues of licensing and litigation, and, consequently, valuation. Large companies should be concerned equally with all issues, and the companies may be more aware of IP issues due to their in-house IP departments. Be it a large company or SME or spinout, it should be aware of its successful existence by way of adopting and implementing appropriate IPRMS.

THE WRITER IS AN ADVOCATE, SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH AND MANAGING PARTNER OF PATHAN & ASSOCIATES.



Thousands of jute mill workers must be saved from destitution

Jute must make a sustainable comeback

THE end of the state-owned jute industry that has closed down 22 jute mills and laid off around 25,000 workers was a tragedy waiting to happen. Being laid off in the middle of a pandemic is a cruel blow to these workers who have families to feed and rents to pay. But it is not the pandemic that has led to the suffering of these people but decades of sheer neglect of the state-owned mills. Financial irregularities, inefficiency of resources, obsolete machinery and lack of any initiative to popularise the products produced made the end of these mills inevitable. This is made all the more obvious by the fact that jute mills in the private sector are making profits while the state-owned ones have, for decades, been running at a huge loss, with the government regularly bailing them out with rescue funds.

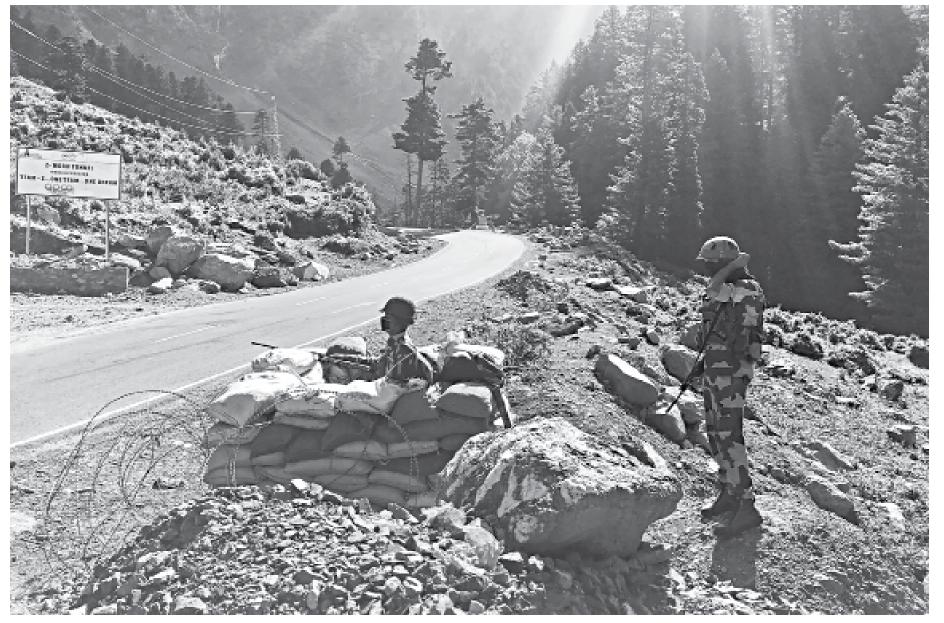
Why were these mills allowed to run at losses for years on end without any attempt to address the bottlenecks? Who really benefitted from these loss-making mills? Certainly not the tens of thousands of workers who have been protesting against the mismanagement of the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) and demanding their due wages for more than a year, only to be met by complete apathy. Hundreds of retired workers did not get their due benefits in the last ten years. The BJMC could do little to improve the industry, whereas it sucked thousands of crores of Taka from public funds.

The jute minister has said that financial benefits of all retired workers and wages and benefits of the current workers will be paid "in due time", and that a Tk 5,000 crore fund will be allocated for this purpose. We can only wonder why this was not done before. Why was the Mandatory Jute Packaging Act, 2010, which requires several agricultural products to be stored and marketed in jute bags, not enforced? There have been promises about the mills being modernised and reopened under public-private partnership, thus generating jobs that would be offered to the laid-off workers. Why didn't the modernisation take place at least ten years ago? In fact, how is there any guarantee that the land on which these mills are located, will not be sold off for the benefit of some, leaving the workers in the lurch?

The fate of the state-owned jute industry is representative of most of our state-owned enterprises, in which huge sums are invested, but are plagued with weak management, irregularities, no innovation, no product promotion and total disregard for workers' rights. The government, at this point, must first give the workers their dues and find ways to re-employ them. In the long run, the jute industry must be revived and cleansed of corrupt elements, with effective marketing of jute goods. If the government is committed to this cause, a revival of the golden fibre may be possible.

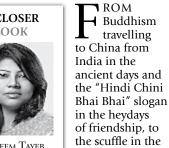
Anomalies in Covid-19 testing at Chattogram's **BITID**

Such mismanagement can cost lives recent report published in this paper reveals a shocking situation at the Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases (BITID) in Chattogram. There have been a growing number of allegations that the institute has mishandled test results of patients who got tested for Covid 19-making mistakes in labelling, giving reports after weeks and so on. A patient—who gave his sample in late May and finally learnt he tested positive after several failed attempts, in mid-June—already received his result on June 27, but had June 28 as the designated date for sample collection and June 29 as the date of delivery. With such obvious mistakes, it is difficult for the patients to trust the accuracy of the results. The report says that some test results were found stacked in a basket and left on a table at the corridor of the institute, with no responsible staff to take care of them. Patients are supposed to rummage through the many stacks of papers in order to find their individual report. Not only does such a callous practice make it possible for the reports to go missing, but they remain vulnerable to the violation of a patient's privacy. At a time when we are facing a formidable health crisis, such mismanagement in delivering reports, and the ensuing trouble caused by it, is weighing heavy on the already burdened patients. The institute's claim that there is a shortage of manpower is not an acceptable justification for such callousness, as the outcome of these results are a matter of life and death. When testing is our only means of hope, hospitals cannot be negligent in carrying them out in the most accurate manner possible-from the collection of the sample to the delivery of the report. We urge the authorities to immediately take steps to ensure that all those who have been given the responsibility to diagnose Covid-19 do so with diligence, and hold responsible all the officials involved in the anomalies in BITID and take immediate action. The health ministry can intervene to provide the necessary support and coordinate with the hospital staff to safeguard the testing process. Testing is futile if it is done in such a careless manner and dangerous because these mistakes can lead to wrong diagnosis and treatment.



Indian Border Security Force (BSF) soldiers guard a highway leading towards Leh, bordering China, in Gagangir on June 17, 2020. PHOTO: AFP/TAUSEEF MUSTAFA/GETTY IMAGE

INDIA-CHINA BORDER DISPUTE Lack of actual control Centuries of British colonial legacy remain a threat to Asia's regional stability



Galwan valley earlier this month that led to casualties on both sides, India and China's bilateral relationship has been through highs and lows over the centuries. But the modern day spats between the two countries are rooted deeply in the colonial legacy left by the British.

and soldier, Sir Claude MacDonald, as the Macartney-Macdonald Line. China however, did not reply to this, but it was adopted by the British. It was assumed by some quarters that the Qing government in China accepted the boundary.

What followed in the next few decades was uncertainty. The British, while until 1908 accepted the Macartney-Macdonald Line as the boundary between India and China, officially acknowledged the Johnson-Ardagh Line after the 1911 Xinhai Revolution that led to the fall of the Chinese central power. And in 1927, the British government again decided to "readjust their version of the frontier", as mentioned in India's Armed Forces: Fifty Years of War and Peace. And even at the time of India's independence in 1947, the British had not been able to resolve the demarcation of the western border between India and China. Nor did the British discuss this with China or Tibet. And border disputes between India and China on all three frontiers, especially the western and the eastern frontiers, continued. True, India was the second non-Communist country, after Myanmar, to recognise the People's Republic of China in 1950. And even before that, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's show of sympathy for the Chinese-sending a special medical team to China during the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1938 and the boycotting of Japanese goods—demonstrate the soft corner India had for its neighbour, struggling for freedom like itself. But it all took a u-turn in the fifties, when both countries tried to define their borders after finally breaking free from British imperialism. The border disputes became more apparent after India prepared a concrete map marking all frontiers in approximation of the Johnson-Ardagh Line in the west and the McMahon Line in the eastern parts of its border with China. Similarly, China Pictorial, an official Chinese monthly magazine, in July 1958, published a map of China, depicting-according to The Indian Express as published in an article titled, "Why Ladakh matters to India, China: history, geography, and strategy' dated, June 19, 2020-"large parts of the North East Fr ontier Agency (NEFA) and the Himalayan territory of Ladakh as part of China". Despite the common anti-imperialist sentimentality and the show of support for each other during trying times, the colonial legacy of the British finally prevailed. With tensions brewing across the border, it didn't take long for fullfledged war to break out in 1962: the First Sino-Indian War. A sort of a demarcation, which later came to be known as the Line of Actual Control-a contested and vaguely marked border between India and China, based loosely on the multiple lines the British had drawn between the two countries-was formed following the 1962 war. But bloodshed over disputed borders did not stop just there.

military soldiers died in the 1962 war; and the 1967 war claimed the lives of around 150 Indian soldiers and 340 Chinese troops. Although that was the last time before the June 15 clashes soldiers had been killed on either side, the disputed border remains a bone of contention for the two Asian giants, much to the dismay of the region.

For one, both India and China are major players in the social-economic landscape of the region. Countries such as Bangladesh, which consider both India and China as important neighbours and share strong bilateral ties with both, would not want tensions to escalate further between the two.

The economic fallout from any unrest between India and China would have major consequences for all the

the Chinese. In a complex geo-political environment these concerns are perhaps inevitable. But while suspicion on the political front runs high, both countries must do everything they can to rise above them and find areas of common interest, especially in trade.

According to a recent report by The Indian Express, titled, "Why China trade ban will hurt India more", China accounts for five percent of India's exports and 14 percent of India's imports, while India's imports from China account for three percent of China's total exports and China's imports from India are less than one percent of its total imports. This reveals the room for more trade that can be engaged in by these two nations to further bolster their economies. Pulling the plug on this would be damaging for both the countries, especially when both are grappling to contain a fast-spreading pandemic. The Indian and Chinese economies have had to take the hit of Covid-19, and trade disruptions between the two would only harm both the peoples-pharmaceuticals and related raw materials feature prominently in their trade. Sending martial art trainers to the Tibetan plateau to train the troops, as China reportedly did immediately before the recent clashes broke out-under a 1996 agreement none of the countries can carry guns or explosives in the areaor flying fighter jets over the flashpoint Himalayan region in an exhibition of its military prowess, as India did a few days back, are not acts of conciliation. And to add to the worries, a Reuters report from last week suggests that China has built infrastructure in recent days, including bunkers and storage units for military equipment. Even as late as last month, those structures were not there. According to a BBC report, Indian defence analyst Ajai Shukla tweeted that "there is a large Chinese camp in the Galwan Valley, 1.5km into the Indian side of the LAC [Line of Actual Control]". And while neither India nor China has commented on this, the region remains nervous due to these developments. China should immediately disengage its troops along the LAC in the western sector to fulfil its June 6 commitment, and both countries need to bring down the number of their military forces and armaments along the disputed Himalayan border according to bilateral agreements between the two countries. Any structure or infrastructure that can be cause of concern or dispute should be immediately dismantled by both countries. India and China need to engage in high-level diplomatic negotiations and determine their own borders, and build on the ancient heritage of shared prosperity they have. And it is high time both countries seek peaceful means to resolve the differences. A war, overt or covert, during a pandemic will push the region back by decades, and Asia cannot afford this. Everything that can be done, should be done, and by all, to prevent a conflict between India and China. Otherwise, the region will become the collateral damage in the fight between the two giants, thanks in part to the legacies left behind by the colonisers.





Pandemic burials

The practice of honouring the last rites of the deceased has been impeded by the pandemic, as it is unclear how long the virus can survive on a person who died of coronavirus. Therefore, arranging funerals have become a challenge for the victim's family. Many organisations and volunteers have come forward to take on the responsibility according to respective religious norms .They help the victim's family, from the first call to their final resting ground. I am immensely thankful to those individuals toiling round the clock to provide the last rites of the victims of Covid-19. They set a perfect example that humanity is still well and alive.

Samia Jahan, by email

India and China are divided by a tricky border, which can be sub-categorised as the western, central and eastern sectors. While the problem with the eastern border can be attributed to the 1914 Shimla Convention and the creation of the McMahon Line, the problem in the western frontier goes back another half a century.

The disputed region of Galwan Valley where the recent fray broke out between the two countries is close to Aksai Chin, a region claimed by India and administered by China. And this has a lot to do with how the British rulers marked, unmarked and demarked the area over decades for almost a century.

Following the 1846 Treaty of Amritsar, when the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir was established which included Ladakh, WH Johnson-a British officer-was tasked with demarcating the boundary. In 1865, he suggested a border that presented Aksai Chin as part of Kashmir. This was later endorsed by Sir John Ardagh in 1897, the then British Director of Military Intelligence. In his book, India's Armed Forces: Fifty

Years of War and Peace, Ashok Krishna, a retired Major General of the Indian Army wrote, "British expeditions penetrating the uninhabited wastes of the mountains north of Kashmir found that the choice of boundary lay between the Karakoram range of mountains, which formed the watershed, and the Kuen Lun range, some 70 miles farther north. In order to secure the high ground, defenders are generally tempted to push their defences forward. Hence, the British Director of Military Intelligence, Sir John Ardagh, urged in 1897 that the line of the Kuen Lun should be claimed. This had been recommended by an officer of the Indian Survey, Johnson, who had led an expedition to the area in 1865... It was, therefore, known as the Johnson-Ardagh Line.'

However, there was a problem. The British Viceroy Lord Elgin objected to it. He felt that maintaining India's claim to the area might create difficulties with China and suggested an alternative: the Macartney Line.

Hung Ta-chen, a senior Chinese official, shared the region's maps with the British consul general in Kashgar, George Macartney, in 1893. According to Ashok Krishna's book cited earlier, the new line "skirted the northern edge of the Karakoram mountains, but left the plateau between them and the Kuen Lun to Tibet, and, therefore, to China". In 1899, this line was presented to the Chinese by a British diplomat

It was followed by the Second Sino-Indian War in 1967, also known as the Nathu La and Cho La clashes, a series of skirmishes that took place between September and October in the eastern frontier. According to an article titled, "India-China Border Dispute: A Conflict Explained", published by The New York *Times* on June 17, 2020, at least 1,000 Indian troops and around 800 Chinese

countries involved in trade with these two nations-almost all of their Asian neighbours. In 2019, Bangladesh's exports to India crossed USD one billion, according to the Export Promotion Council of India, as reported by a local Bangladeshi financial daily. During the corresponding period, China's imports from Bangladesh was USD 1.4 billion.

For now, the fire seems to have receded to some extent-despite the fears of the neighbouring countries, cooler heads seem to have prevailed. Both Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, in trying to deescalate the situation have demonstrated their maturity, prudence and wisdom as leaders of two of the fastest growing countries in the world, and nothing less is expected from them, given the important positions they hold in regional and world politics.

The nationalist agenda of both the governments makes it very challenging for them to assuage the concerns of their equally nationalist peoples, but pursuing the June 15 incident with attacks and counterattacks or severing of economic ties cannot be the solution.

While some elements in their kneejerk reactions are calling for India to cut-off trade ties with China-and as a consequence of this the Indian Railways has indeed "scrapped project contracts awarded to multiple Chinese companies" as reported by TRT World-neither country should follow this path.

If anything, now more than ever, both countries should focus on strengthening their economic relationship to cushion the damages caused by their military misadventures in the Galwan Valley. More economic gains, happier people and prosperity will act as healing agents to tend to the deep wounds both have endured for decades, especially in the latter half of the last century. And both, along with their neighbours, including Bangladesh, should work together to strengthen regional bodies such as BIMSTEC, ASEAN, AIIB and other economic platforms for stronger multilateral ties.

India right now might be feeling threatened by the Belt and Road initiative of China. The latter too is viewing India's move last year to repeal Article 370 of the Indian constitution—bifurcating Jammu and Kashmir, and changing Ladakh's status to a separate union territory from a region in J&K—as a way of asserting Indian control over the disputed region. India's recent construction of the 255-km Darkbuk-Shvok-DBO road along its side of the LAC has also raised concerns for

Tasneem Tayeb is a columnist for The Daily Star. Her Twitter handle is: @TayebTasnee

OPINION

STAR FORUM

Migrant workers coming home: To what?

THE Covid-19 pandemic is pushing our migrant workers across the globe into unimaginable vulnerabilities. Without a regular income to sustain them in a foreign land, many have no savings to fall back on and are on the brink of starvation. Some have been arbitrarily detained and are languishing in jails in the Gulf countries in deplorable conditions. Tens of thousands of workers have already been sent back to Bangladeshan overwhelming majority without their wages, termination benefits or other dues.

They have returned home to a depressed economy, with little prospects. Thousands more are expected to come back over the year, with oil prices plummeting and economies shrinking in the Gulf countries. What exactly is in store for these migrant workers who were our "golden boys and girls" when they sent remittances bolstering our GDP? What happens to their family members who depend on their earnings to survive? What opportunities can we create for them when millions in the formal and informal sector are struggling to find jobs?

In the first edition of Star Forum, a webinar series organised by The Daily Star, different stakeholders weighed in on the current challenges and suggested ways forward.

"Who can we turn to during our troubles, if not our own country?"



Emdadul Hoque Returnee migrant from Kuwait

After four months of lockdown, I reached Bangladesh on May 13. In our neighbourhood in Kuwait, we couldn't even get out of our rooms, let alone work. A lot of migrants struggled to get food as a result. During Ramadan, the only thing we had for Sehri was half a litre of water.

My employers or the government did nothing to help us when we were struggling with food shortages. My company owes me two months of salary, but because of the pandemic, they said it was not possible for them to pay me now. After that, they stopped contacting me and gave no support. In the meantime, my legal permission to stay in Kuwait expired on March 23, and I became an illegal migrant.

I had to pay Tk 900,000 to get this job, and with it comes a yearly payment of Tk 270,000 to stay in Kuwait. I had been saving money from November for this, and I lived on those savings during lockdown. Tk 220,000 gone—on just paying rent and eating. But I survived because of this. Most Bangladeshi workers, after deducting expenses, send their savings to Bangladesh. They are barely eating once a day. The government regulations of opening lockdown for only two hours a day made matters worse. There would be hundreds of us queuing to buy food from one shop, and

84 percent of migrants said they are owed varying amounts in unpaid wages, benefits and other dues.

Female migrant workers are facing different kinds of problems. We learnt from various international organisations that a majority of them are victims of xenophobia and abuse. In Lebanon, many employers left the capital for their hometowns, leaving behind their female house-help without arranging even basic necessities. We are yet to find out about the women in detention centres

What we need most is a comprehensive documentation of migrant workers' grievances. Organisations under the banner Bangladesh Civil Society for Migration are collecting information on the returnees and all stakeholders can coordinate to ensure proper documentation.

networks, have called upon countries of origin and destination to urgently create a transitional justice mechanism to address grievances, claims and labour disputes of repatriated workers who have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic. This gives us an idea of where to begin our work.

For Bangladesh, given how the problems have persisted for years, it is time we adopt a proactive approach rather a reactive one. We have to mobilise other countries to work against forced repatriation of workers. We need to ensure employers do not get away with non-payment of due wages and benefits. For that, proper documentation at every stage of their movement is vitalboth in destination countries and when they come back home. It should include all employment records of individual workers as well as records of the payments due. This database will be particularly useful in any drive for compensations for exploited workers. We need to explore new market opportunities as we go along, and once the oil price picks up, hopefully there will demand for labour again. Eventually, however, we have to accept that the ultimate solution to our overseas labour crisis lies in creating employment at home. This should be factored into our policy for workers coming back home.

point. Since this process takes a long time, we are trying to create a unified format of documentation. I too believe that our missions in foreign countries should have a database of our workers: about their employment status, the amount of unpaid salary, etc.

We have created a strong platform like Srom Obhibashon Forum where we tried to include all concerned ministries, NGOs and members of the civil society. We hope all of you will actively participate in that forum. We should also raise our voices on international platforms to ensure that our workers get their salary, gratuity and other benefits before their return.

"We need a returning centre to coordinate migrants' needs and opportunities

REPRESENTATIONAL IMAGE

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Under the welfare board, a taskforce should be created with relevant stakeholders, including employers' federations. Our recruiting agencies have also failed to find new markets for our migrants. We need to do more to find emerging markets and train our people adequately.

"Our job is not to issue a compliance of any agreement but to assist the government in its demand to do so"



George Gigauri Chief of Mission of the International Organization

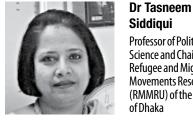


those at the front would get the food. Those who didn't, just had to do without.

On May 1, the Kuwait government announced that illegal migrants had one month before they would be deported. I couldn't contact my company, so I contacted the relevant government department instead. Through them, I got in touch with the Bangladeshi embassy and came back home. But now that I am back, what will I do? We cannot find new employment during the pandemic, and our families depend on us. I appeal to the Bangladesh government to give us financial assistance and in the long run, help us to go back to work abroad or set something up here.

I only have one more appeal to our embassies-please do not ignore migrant workers; give them the treatment they deserve as citizens of Bangladesh. We are Bangladeshis in another country with no parents, no guardian—if we can't turn to our own embassies, where will we go?

"Documentation of wage theft and violations is the need of the hour"



Siddiqui Professor of Political Science and Chair of the Refugee and Migrating Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) of the University of Dhaka

We interviewed 50 male migrant workers (given the recent influx, we realise this is a mere number), but their stories are so heart wrenching that we've decided to document them. Some had been confined to their homes for three consecutive days without anything to eat. When they did finally step out, they were detained by the authorities. With no work or income, many decided to take up informal jobs, but were arrested soon after.

In Dubai, migrant workers were sent straight to detention centres; whatever they had on them (mobile phone, cash) were confiscated and they were not allowed to collect their personal belongings from home. Around 78 percent of the migrants we interviewed faced a similar fate. After forcing them into the detention centres, the authorities suggested the workers had to be repatriated because these centres were not safe-a meaningless claim. They were crammed into cells with 40 migrants in each, whereas the cells for locals held only three to four individuals. They were given barely edible food, and were forced to wear the same clothes for 28 days! Around

Regarding the "wage theft" amounting to billions of dollars, our embassies can play a significant role to ensure that dues are cleared before workers are sent home. There is now a global demand for an international justice system where we can make our workers' cases. But if we don't have the necessary information, what will we submit?

Five hundred crore is not satisfactory—at least Tk 2,000 crore should be allocated for the welfare of migrant workers. The loans alone will not do much good, the returnees need many more services to utilise the cash properly. The expatriate bank cannot handle this alone either. If other banks are involved in distributing the money alongside providing training and other facilities, only then we can expect progress.

"It is time for a proactive approach, rather than a reactive one"



Professor of International Relations at the University of Dhaka

Migrant workers in the Middle East often have to pay a hefty fee for the annual renewal of their contract, although this should have been done by their companies, in their own interest. Employers conveniently shift this burden onto workers. So what we're seeing now-workers summarily discharged or held in detention, and coming back home without their due wages and benefits-is nothing unexpected. These structural issues deepening the precarity of our workers have long been in place. Even appeals by the UN and other international organisations to stop deportation and illegal detention of workers are falling on deaf ears. The world of labour cannot "build back batter" without addressing these challenges.

One major issue that needs immediate attention is wage theft. According to the ILO, losses incurred by migrant workers in terms of lost wages and non-payment of gratuity and other benefits during Covid-19 will be to the tune of billions of dollars. We cannot fight this alone. It requires a multilateral intervention involving labour-sending countries, host countries, international partners and other stakeholders. Central to addressing wage theft is dismantling the deeply exploitative kafala or "sponsorship" system. In this regard, Migrant Forum in Asia, along with four other international

"We are continuously following up on the crisis facing our migrant workers"



When our workers started to return in March, we formed a working committee with representatives of all the ministries concerned. We are continuously following up on the measures that have been taken by these ministries and working to help our

returnee migrant workers, as well as those who are stuck in foreign countries and/or languishing in deportation centres and jails. We have given Tk 200 crore cash incentives to our migrant workers through 32 foreign missions so that our workers do not go hungry. We gave Tk 5,000 to each worker who returned between March and May 31 as their conveyance allowance. The government has also created a fund worth Tk 200 crore

from the Wage Earners Welfare Board and deposited it to the Probashi Kallyan Bank. Our returnee migrant workers can take loans worth Taka one to five lakh at only four percent interest rate from the bank without any mortgage and start small businesses. In the proposed budget, another 500 crore was allocated for strengthening and extending the loan facilities

The government has other plans, such as providing skill training through our missions so workers do not have to return. We have been working with our development partners and donor organisations—ADB, World bank, Swiss Development Agency, IOM, ILO, UN Women, etc-in this regard.

When a worker lands at the airport, they have to go to three points for documentation-the immigration desk, the health ministry's data entry point and the expatriate welfare ministry's data entry



Syed Saiful Hague Founder Chairperson, WARBE Development Foundation

The government does not want to take responsibility for "irregular" workers, but most of the workers who become undocumented in the Gulf countries or Malaysia, didn't actually go there illegally. Are our officials following due process and monitoring what employment opportunities are available, and whether the employers who are issuing the demand letters actually have enough jobs to provide?

In Saudi Arabia, because of the kafala system, employers keep the workers' papers, including passports, and so if a worker tries to escape an exploitative situation, s/he becomes "irregular". Despite paying huge sums of money and going there legally, people like Emdadul must pay the renewal fee every year, which is supposed to be borne by the recruitment company-without this, they become "irregular". These are systemic problems which have become all the more evident during the pandemic. All of the international agreements, such as the Compact for Migration, are non-binding, so nothing is being implemented despite promises that the kafala system will be dismantled.

Why are we failing to demand that destination countries treat our workers with dignity and provide them with basic necessities? Our embassies need to reach out in this hour of need. The government says it is allocating Taka 12 crore to provide food, but this is insufficient, especially when they bring in USD 18 billion in remittances. In fact, all the money allocated for migrants, including the amount for loans, are actually from the Migrant Welfare Fund, which is basically the migrants' own money. We need the government to allocate funds from its own coffers.

The Foreign Minister made a proposal, which we have been making as well, that there should be a global fund under the United Nations to compensate workers robbed off their wages, but so far, there has been no mobilisation.

It is high time we set up a returnee centre dedicated for migrants, which will verify the dues, document violations of workers' rights, build their skills and act as a resource to connect migrants to employment opportunities, associations and networks.



Most experts are clear that the socioeconomic consequences of the crisis are already outstripping the public health consequences. IOM, along with other agencies in the UN Migration Network, are working closely with the government to respond. We all agree that there are three main elements here-the pre-departure phase, the actual return and reception process, and the longer reintegration or possible remigration process.

In the first phase, we have to remember that not everyone has lost their jobs. Those that have, depending on which country they have returned from, have received some assistance from destination countries. In countries like Lebanon, they are in a terrible situation and need urgent humanitarian assistance while they wait for return. The government, NGOs and UN organisations are already working on this, but much more needs to be done.

Then there's the return and reception process, which has a public health dimension to it. We are bringing back thousands of migrants, not just workerssuch as students, stranded migrants, failed asylum seekers. How do we make sure we don't bring back infected agents who act as super spreaders once they are reinstated in their communities? Do we have the facilities to quarantine the huge numbers of returnees? Ideally, tests should be done prior to return.

Lastly, for the re-integration phase, the UN General Secretary has issued a global directive to work on socioeconomic recovery, and so the whole UN country team is reprogramming what can be done in terms of humanitarian assistance and socioeconomic reintegration to this particular group, and hopefully, an emergency job package once the economy is open.

It is important to remember that this is a government-led process. The role of IOM and UN agencies in general is not to issue a compliance of any agreement but to assist the government in its demand to do so. Having said that, our main focus is to leave no one behind, and focus on those most vulnerable.

Access to justice is an important part of this process, but we are prioritising the humanitarian aspects. While wage theft is certainly an important issue, unfortunately, I don't see it being addressed right away. The humanitarian crisis of the returnees, most of whom are coming back to debt, is not a thing of the future—it's unfolding right now.

noted.

of BCC.

Many yet to get FROM PAGE 12

In Sylhet and Sunamganj, over 300,000 people have been affected by the flood and many of them claimed they have not yet received any government relief.

District administration in the two districts, however, said they started relief distribution.

In Sirajganj, road communication was disrupted as the Jamuna was flowing 46cm above the danger level yesterday at Kazipur point.

Relief distribution among the victims will be started within a day or two, said Jahid Hasan Siddique, UNO of Kazipur upazila.

In Mymensingh, some 20 houses were devoured and many houses are at high risk of being washed away by the Brahmaputra in Moricharchar area in Ishwarganj upazila

In Nilphamari, over 20,000 people have been affected by the flood in Dimla upazila. Local administration yesterday distributed some cash among the victims.

Our correspondents from Jamalpur, Lalmonirhat, Sylhet, Pabna, Mymensingh and Nilphamari contributed to the story

Kuwaiti

FROM PAGE 12

for getting job contracts from various government ministries.

The issue has raised a huge hue and cry in Kuwaiti assembly in the recent weeks. Kazi Papul's one of the companies -- Marafie Kuwaitia -- recruited some 20,000 foreign workers mostly Bangladeshis, but is accused of charging around Tk 7 lakh tot Tk 9 lakh.

Workers alleged that they were also charged for work permit renewals and paid less than contracted wages.

The Anti-Corruption Commission of Bangladesh also opened investigation into the allegations that Kazi Papul laundered Tk 1,400 crore. It has recently issued a travel ban on Papul's family members.

While the prosecution is continuing its probe into the case of Kazi Papul, a source revealed to the Arab Times that the investigators examined all transfers between the first accused and all of his political and influential clients.

The public prosecution of Kuwait formally accused two current lawmakers and is searching for evidence as per the accusation against a third MP.

The names of two other former MPs and a candidate for the National Assembly have also surfaced for their alleged link to Kazi Papul's business, the Arab Times reported.

FROM PAGE 12

laundering case.

CID sues AL GS, his brother had smuggled around Tk 2,000 crore said they were investigating the money abroad, added the case statement.

Md Selimuzzaman, officer-in-According to the case statement, the charge of Kafrul Police Station, two amassed huge wealth after they confirmed that the money laundering case was lodged with the

Mehendiganj by launch. I cannot SBMCH has increased from 30 to Dr Basudeb Kumar Das, director, travel every day and wait in long more than 100. Thus, they reduced queues for three hours, so I stayed at a hotel," said the 36-year-old man, who could not get his test done at Mehendiganj.

Unlike him, a 48-year-old government employee of Barishal city's Kawnia area, gave up hope of getting tested after trying for three days.

He is now taking treatment for coronavirus symptoms at home using the telemedicine service, the government employee said, wishing anonymity.

Visiting SBMCH's coronavirus unit on Thursday around 11:30am, this correspondent saw some 25 people returning home after failing to provide their sample for Covid-19 tests.

Even a week ago SBMCH could collect about 50 samples -- between 9:00am to noon -- per day from outpatients.

But now the out-patients' sample collection has dropped to around 25, said Dr Moniruzzaman Shahin, incharge of SBMCH's coronavirus unit.

He said they first collect samples Last week, a man from Mehendiganj from patients already admitted at the hospital, then from SBMCH health upazila had to stay four days at a hotel workers, and finally from out-patients. in Barishal city to give his samples at In the last one week, the average "It is six hours to and from number of patients admitted at

First budget presented

Simla Talk.

GOING WELL

tomorrow evening.

SUSPENDED

PM'S MEET WITH PEOPLE

suspended until further notice,

according to an announcement

by the PM's secretary issued today.

The announcement says that this

decision is taken owing to heavy

the heavy work load of the prime

SOURCES: July 1, 1972 issues of The

Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla

One lab for 1 crore

Barishal divisional health office, said

only 44 out of 102 technologist's posts

in the division are filled, creating a

"We are collecting about 400

samples from the entire division every

day and sending 200 to Dhaka and

The demand for tests has increased,

exceeding the capacity of the PCR

lab and thus creating pressure, Dr

in the division's Bhola district soon,

which would solve the testing crisis,

Reverse Transcription Polymerase

While no private organisation

collects samples in Barishal division,

which is comprised of six districts,

many upazila health complexes also

fail to do the task due to lack of

trained sample collectors, said sources

at the divisional health office.

Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) is one of the

most accurate laboratory methods for

Another PCR lab would be started

the rest to the PCR Lab in Barishal,"

SBMCH.

FROM PAGE 1

crisis.

he said.

Basudeb added.

coronavirus testing.

he hoped.

free of exploitation. The total size INDIRA-BHUTTO THINK TALKS of the national budget is Tk 786 crores -- Tk 285 crores representing revenue budget and Tk 501 crores development budget.

In his budget speech Tajuddin Ahmad calls upon the people themselves to prepare to progressively bear the cost of development and to base it on the country's own resources. He says, "Whatever might be the size of the plan, ultimately its success will be measured by the extent to which it will be implemented. This can only be assured by a massive collective effort of disciplined people." He urges the people to respond to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's call and move forward together to build 'Shonar Bangla'.

SUBIMAL DUTTA CALLS ON BANGABANDHU

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Subimal Dutta calls on Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today at this official residence. It is understood that they discuss issues related to the ongoing and Dainik Ittefaq.

'Window closing'

FROM PAGE 12

minister.

other counties -- an area with 13.5 million residents -- to close because of the rising number of cases.

California had already ordered some areas to reinstate stay-at-home

orders, while San Francisco announced a "pause" in its reopening.

Rohingya return pushed

FROM PAGE 12

UK-based rights group Burma Human Rights Network said the residents of 39 villages had begun to flee since Wednesday when a local administrator in a letter warned village leaders that the army was planning "clearance operations" against "terrorists"

The offensive was launched days after three border police and their civilian drivers were killed in an ambush by the AA in Koetenkauk village on June 23. Four more police officers and a civilian were injured.

The AA, which was formed in 2009, warned recently that it would continue attacking troops in the area until the Tatmadaw withdrew from Rakhine. The Tatmadaw is the official name of the armed forces of Myanmar.

In a recent report, International Crisis Group, a non-profit NGO working to resolve deadly conflicts, said terming the Arakan Army a terrorist group by the Myanmar government since escalation of fighting in early last year and ordering a tough military response against the AA have exacerbated the grievances underlying the conflict and made a negotiated end to the fighting more difficult to attain.

Rakhine saw the most brutal attack against the Rohingyas in August 2017. It forced some 750,000 Rohingyas to flee to Bangladesh. The UN termed the operations a textbook example of ethnic cleansing.

The International Court of Justice ordered provisional measures to prevent any further genocide against the Rohingyas in response to The Gambia's genocide case against Myanmar.

Bangladesh's major concern, however, is repatriation of the Rohingvas.

But Rohingyas say there is no guarantee of citizenship, safety and freedom of movement in Rakhine as Myanmar made no legal change to grant equal rights to them.

"Now, with the infighting between Arakan Army and military escalating, Myanmar could say that they are facing insurgency and cannot normalise the situation. This could be a strategy for Myanmar," said security analyst Brig Gen (retd) M Shakhawat Hossain.

On the other hand, the global pressure for the repatriation, which has not been enough so far because of powerful nations' financial stakes in Myanmar, has further come down due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Against such a backdrop, Myanmar, instead of finding a political solution, is dealing with the insurgency militarily, he said.

"Involving naval and air forces by Myanmar against the Arakan Army is a new dimension to the crisis," Shakhawat Hossain said.

Meanwhile, the AA also seems to gathered more strength as it killed a number of Myanmar soldiers and members of security forces and is now seeking not only more autonomy but independence.

Prof Imtiaz Ahmed of international relations at Dhaka University says though Myanmar has an elected government, it is heavily dominated by the army that is dealing everything "militarily", but interestingly the western powers overlook it and continues offering financial and trade privileges to Myanmar.

"That's how Myanmar is also not caring anything and anybody," he said.

Prof Imtiaz said if the UN Security Council, which has so far not taken any concrete steps against Myanmar over the Rohingya issue mainly due to China's veto power, does not act decisively against Myanmar now, the armed conflicts in Rakhine could turn into a bigger regional threat.

The investments made by India and China -- two rivals -- in Rakhine and their dreams of establishing regional connectivity in South, Southeast and East Asia through Rakhine would fail, he said.

Also, the Rohingya repatriation, which is the most important issue for Bangladesh, could be jeopardised, he said. Trafficking of the Rohingyas through the sea from the coasts of Rakhine and Cox's Bazar to Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia could also grow in the coming days, said Prof Imtiaz.

"In that case, the Rohingyas' proposal on creating a safe zone by deploying international forces should be actively considered. The UN Security Council should come up to address the crisis at the soonest before it turns into a bigger regional crisis," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

12 killed as rainstorms batter southern China

AFP, Beijing

Torrential weekend rains killed at least 12 people in China's southwestern Sichuan province, state media reported yesterday, as rising waters sparked mass evacuations during the annual flood season.

The toll from the heavy rainstorm in Mianning county included two people who died when several vehicles plunged into a river after flooding damaged a highway.

Ten others were missing and more than 7,000 had been evacuated from their homes, the official Xinhua news agency said.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ কেন্দ্রীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতাল (সিপিএইচ) রাজারবাগ, ঢাকা

FROM PAGE 12

upazila health complex.

regard," the PM said.

He said Tk 20 crore was spent for food and hotel stay of DMCH doctors and health workers which was doubtful.

Contacted, DMCH Director Brig Gen AKM Nasir Uddin yesterday said Tk 20 crore was sought for DMCH health workers and another Tk 1 crore for those of Railway General Hospital.

He said hotel room rents vary from

added.

"We are paying a contractor Tk 500 from hotels to hospitals."

Tk 20cr for food any irregularities are found in this Earlier, Deputy Leader of the

collections from out-patients, he

Residential Medical Officer Dr

Delowar Hossain of Barisal General

Hospital said that last week, the

Barishal divisional health office

directed them not to send more

than 20 to 22 samples per day for

stopped its door-to-door sample

collection after running it for a month

because two of its sample collectors

tested Covid-19 positive, said Dr

Matiur Rahman, chief health officer

secretary of Bangladesh Samajtantrik

Dal (BSD), Barisal unit, said, "There is

only one PCR lab for one core people

in Barisal division. Thus, people are

not able to get test reports on time.

There is no coordination between

there is a shortage of testing kits,

which was denied by the in-charge of

It takes about two to 12 days to get

Covid-19 test results depending on

whether the sample was taken in a

public hospital in Barishal city or at a

The leftist party also alleges that

those responsible for healthcare."

Dr Manisha Chakraborty, member

Barishal City Corporation also

coronavirus testing.

Opposition GM Quader raised the issue in the House while taking part

in the budget discussion.

"I am keeping 1,970 health workers Bangabandhu's weekly meeting with the common people at Ganabhaban on Friday afternoons shall remain

director.

in 30 hotels have been rented, he

staying in hotels since May 2. per day for food of each health worker,' said Nasir Uddin. "We are also paying

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistan President

Zulfigar Ali Bhutto hold a discussion at Simla today for about 45 minutes in a bid to sort out differences on substantive Indo-Pak issues which the officials had failed to iron out.

the RT-PCR lab.

Both Indira and Bhutto present an optimistic face when journalists ask them about the conference. The heads of the states will meet again

in hotels. Of them, 600 are doctors and 850 nurses. The rest are ward

staffers and Ansar officials," said the

Tk 350 to Tk 5,500 per night. Rooms

The health workers have been

for transportation of health workers

the distri variou government departments, including LGED, BRTA, and roads and highways, through manipulation since 2010.

They were also allegedly involved in drug trading and grabbing land. The two became owners of around 23 buses, and several trucks and luxurious cars.

A significant portion of their wealth was laundered abroad through hundi, an illegal cross-border fund transfer process, read the statement.

Earlier, Sajjad and his brother Rubel used to work for a BNP leader in Raibari Rastar Mor area in the district town. They were also accused in a lawyer murder case filed on November 20, 1994, according to the case statement.

CID Inspector Al Mahmud was first appointed to investigate their wealth on June 18, 2020. In primary probe, the inspector found the two

Defence secy dies

FROM PAGE 12

the CMH on May 29 after testing positive for coronavirus. As his condition deteriorated, he was moved to the intensive care unit on June 6. Later, he was put on a ventilator, mentioned the official.

the defence ministry on January 12 and the bereaved family members.

Contacted, CID Inspector Mahmud said the two brothers would be shown arrested in the case soon, and they would produce them before a court seeking a 10-day remand.

On June 7, police arrested nine people, including Sajjad and Rubel, in different areas of Faridpur town for their alleged involvement in attacking the house of Subal Chandra in the town's Goalchamat area on May 16.

Soon after the two brothers' arrest, they were accused in six cases, including extortion, arms, and narcotics, said Belal Hossain, sub-inspector of Kotwali Police Station in Faridpur.

Jamal Pasha, additional superintendent of Faridpur police, said Sajjad and Rubel were produced before a court on Sunday seeking a 10-day remand in two cases, but the court placed each of them on a two-day remand.

recently promoted to senior secretary. Earlier, he had served as the secretary at the environment, forest and climate change ministry.

President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and cabinet Mohsin, who joined Bangladesh Civil members expressed deep shock at his Service in 1988, was made secretary at death and conveyed condolences to

In Florida, Governor Ron DeSantis conceded there had been an "explosion" in new cases as the state notched a record 9,585 cases in 24 hours.

Young people frustrated by months of confinement have poured back to the state's beaches, boardwalks and bars, often without masks and seemingly unconcerned about social distancing.

Several other countries have also imposed new restrictions to counter fresh outbreaks. China imposed a strict lockdown on nearly half a million people in a province surrounding Beijing to contain a fresh cluster.

Beijing official Xu Hejian described the situation as "severe and complicated".

And while the British government warned it might have to shut down the city of Leicester because of a spike in cases, it still plans a July 4 reopening of pubs, restaurants and hairdressers across England. **'VERY SERIOUS SITUATION**

The tension between reopening battered economies -- efforts pushed in the US by Trump -- and public health concerns is a source of debate in nearly every country.

"This is a very, very serious situation and the window is closing for us to take action and get this under control," US Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said.

Dr Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in US, told CNN he would "settle" for a Covid-19 vaccine that's 70% to 75% effective, but that this incomplete protection, coupled with the fact that many Americans say they won't get a coronavirus vaccine, makes it "unlikely" that the US will achieve sufficient levels of immunity to quell the outbreak.

A CNN poll last month found one-third of Americans said they would not try to get vaccinated against Covid, even if the vaccine is widely available and low cost.

In the interview, CNN asked Fauci whether a vaccine with 70% to 75% efficacy taken by only two-thirds of the population would provide herd immunity to the coronavirus. "No -- unlikely," he answered.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division, Noakhali Phone: 0321-61606, Fax: 0321-61606 Email: ee_noakh@pwd.gov.bd

Memo No. 1129

GD-1059

e-Tender Notice

An e-Tender has been invited for the following work through e-GP Portal and that will be visible from 29.06.2020 at 10:00. Only the person/organization registered by e-GP Portal can visit (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for clear observation.

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of works	Last selling date & time	Closing/opening date & time
473462	Noakhali/PWD/ ReviPTC L造-233	Supply Installation Testing and Commissioning of 02 Two Nos. 6 Six-Stop 1000Kg Passenger Lift at Academic Building of Noakhali Police Training Center.	15.07.2020 11:00	15.07.2020 12.00

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders 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. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

'Megaflash'

FROM PAGE 12

Dated: 29/06/2020

on 31 October 2018. The 709km the flash reached is equivalent to the distance between Boston and Washington DC in the US or between London and the border of Switzerland near Basel.

The duration record was set on 4 March 2019 over Argentina, when the flash lasted for 16.73 seconds.

"These are extraordinary records from single lightning flash events," said Professor Randall Cerveny, chief rapporteur of Weather and Climate Extremes for the WMO.

"Environmental extremes are living measurements of what nature is capable [of], as well as [of] scientific progress in being able to make such assessments. It is likely that even greater extremes still exist, and that we will be able to observe them as lightning detection technology improves."

He added: "This will provide valuable information for establishing limits to the scale of lightning - including megaflashes - for engineering, safety and scientific concerns.'

Until the announcement of the new records, the previous record for the longest detected distance for a single lightning flash was 321km (199.5 miles) on 20 June 2007 across the US state of Oklahoma. Both the previous and new record used the same maximum great circle distance methodology to measure flash extent.

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট রেঙলেশন/০৮ (সর্বশেষ সংশোধনী) মোতাবেক চলচি ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ ববসেরে কেন্দ্রীয় পুলিশ হাসপাতাল (সিপিএইচ), রাজ্যবাগ, চাকায় টেশনারী মালামাল, বিজাগীয় ভাঙার মালামাল ও অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় মালামাল ক্রন্থ: গাড়ির জন্য কাঁচামাল ও খুচনা গরাংশ রুব: মটনখান মেনামত: Medical & Surgical Requisites (MSR) রুব: গড়ি তাড়া, আইটসেসিঁং এন মাধ্যসে জনবল নিয়েখ এবং জাতিসংঘ শান্ধিবন্ধা নিশমের জন্য জরুবি মালামাল ক্রয় করার নিমিন্ত অভিক্রাতাসম্পদ্র ঠিকাসার,টিকাসারী প্রতিষ্ঠাদের নিকট

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				মূল্য	জামানত	সময়	
	2	সিপিএইচ, ঢাকার টেশনারী, বিভাগীর ত মালামাল রুরা।	खात ७ जन्मांना क्षेत्रांजनीय	3000/-	\$,\$0,000/-	>৫ দিন	
	4			2000/-	3,00,000/-	০৫ দিন	
	0	গিপিএইচ, রাহ্বারবাণ, ঢাকার মটবর্যান (সরামত ।	3000/-	3,00,000/-	০৭ হিন	
	8	গিপিএইচ, রাজারবাগ, চাকায় Medical (MSR) অস্য।	& Surgical Requisites	2000/-	2,40,000/-	০৭ দিন	
	¢	দিলিএইচ, বাজাবেশা, চাকা & Patholo	xgy Re-agent जन्म ।	2000/-	\$,00,000/-	৯৫ দিন	
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বিশেষ আকরাঃ

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- ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠানের স্বন্নধিকরির সাক্ষরমুক্ত প্রাচে আব্দেনপূর্বক ১৪ ক্রমিকে বর্শিত স্থান হইডে অধিস চলাকাদীন পর্যন্ত সিঠিউল সপ্রাহ করা যাইবে।
- দরপর সংক্রান্তে অন্যান্য কথ্যাবদী দরপর সঞ্চাহকালে নিদ্রুগান্ধরকারীর কার্বালয় হইতে জানা ঘাইবে।
- অনুমোদিত বরান্দের আলোকে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবঁবে।
- দরপরে উল্লেখিত বরান্দের মধ্যে কার্য সম্পাদন করিতে হাইবে
- দরপর কমা ও খোলার ভারিখ দরকারি চুটি থাকিলে পরবর্তী কার্যনিবলে কমা ও খোলা হইবে।
- সৱপত্র আব্দ্রানকারী কর্তুপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কোন কারণ কর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ, বতিল ও সমুদয় দরপত্র বতিলের πı ক্ষমতা বাৰ্ষেন
- দরপরের বাবরীয় কার্যরত্ম পিলিমার ২০০৬ (সংশোধনী-২০০৮) মোডানেক পরিচালিত হবে Ψ.

<u>ভাঃ</u> মোঃ এমলালুল হক
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গুনিশ সুগার (প্রশাসন ও ক্ষর্য)
গক্ষে-পরিচালক (ভিআইমি)
কেন্দ্ৰীয় পুনিশ হাসপাডাল (সিপিএইচ)
বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, রাজারবাগ, চাকা
জোনাঃ ৪৮৩২২৪০০/ক্যাব্যঃ ৯৩৪২২৯৭

e-mail: sports@thedailystar.net DHAKA TUESDAY JUNE 30, 2020, *ASHAR 16, 1427 BS*



মিল্ক ফ্যাট টেস্ট মন্দ্র প্রোটিন টেষ্ট ও মাইক্রোবায়োলজিক্রালে টেস্টসহ বারবার নানা পরীক্ষায় নিবিড় হুড়ে প্রক্রিয়াজাত হয় আডং ডেইবি পণ্য



Dairy



Life amiss in football's new normal

SAMAMA RAHMAN

In the 16th minute of an exceptionally drab first half between Manchester United and Norwich City at Carrow Road on Saturday, the home crowd broke into cheer.

Nothing of note had happened for about 15 seconds, with United knocking the ball about in their own half, which made the cheer almost unnerving, especially with the stands completely deserted. There were only 300 people in total at the stadium, a number that seems large but is dwarfed by a

packed house of 27,244. In the 70th minute, a Norwich

cornerstone of a football game's atmosphere. But here a sense of quickly, especially after hearing the same sounds over and over again. Eventually, they need to be tuned out like the commentary in video games like FIFA, whose developers, EA Sports, have been working with broadcasters to inject artificial crowd noise into the matches.

The artificial sound was rarely ill-timed, but when 45 minutes with players tired from playing up to three games a week fails to produce moments of brilliance,

put the game to bed in extra time. across the board, regardless of the Cheers and chants are the teams and players on show.

Fans have been allowed into stadiums in some countries such monotony began to set in quite as when the league in Vietnam resumed with 30,000 at the stadium. But the culture and flavour of Europe's biggest leagues have been completely missing and that will be evident when Liverpool walk onto the Anfield turf next Sunday as champions, ending an agonising 30-year wait for the title.

'You'll Never Walk Alone' will not be sung by the capacity 53,394 and there will be no songs, no tifos, nor flares. It will stand in stark contrast to their fans' illadvised celebrations outside the famous ground on the night that they won the title. And it will be thoroughly underwhelming. Not that we haven't seen it before. There was no extra loud cheer when Lionel Messi received the ball for the first time in three months, nor was there a deafening boom when Robert Lewandowski broke Bundesliga's record for most goals by a foreign player over a week ago.

No matter how far technology has advanced, the one thing that AI cannot compute is the essence of sport: emotion. The 'new normal' leaves little space for sentiment or passion

Cardboard cutouts do not quite emote as human beings do. The image of that aged, moustachioed Brazil fan, sporting the famous yellow and clutching onto his replica World Cup with tears streaming down his cheeks, is one of the defining images of Brazil's 7-1 capitulation to Germany. His passing that cup to a German supporter after the game showed how magnanimous football can be But without fans to cut to during every lull in action, without those reactions after every goal or close call, the sport has slowly begun to lose its essence. At a time when the beautiful game has found it hard to speak for itself due to fixture congestion, player fatigue and a lack of fitness, the songs of the fans being replaced by droning recordings is perhaps fitting. But this 'new reality' is one that every fan cannot wait to see in the past.

'I enjoy being Killer Miller'

When it comes to genuine hard-hitting batsmen in the current cricketing world, David Miller is one of the frontrunners. The South African left-hander is the joint holder of the fastest T20I hundred, off just 35 balls which he struck against Bangladesh in 2017 and according to Miller it will remain one of the highlights of his career. The 31-year-old cricketer spoke to The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin during an exclusive interview where he shared various topics of his

career. The excerpts of the interview are given below:



The Daily Star [TDS]: decision?

DM: I think I have been playing T20s and one-day cricket for South Africa and it didn't really allow me due to the busy fixtures throughout the year. So, I didn't get opportunity to actually play first class cricket. I got to a stage and you know I never get opportunity to play Test cricket or for the South African A side. So, I decided to call it off and at least give myself an opportunity to express and learn. Obviously travelling around the world and go to one or two extra T20 competitions would ultimately help my international career. It was a personal decision and I stand strong on it.

TDS: Over the years you have gained a lot of experience as a player. Does that force you to change your natural free flowing approach when it comes to taking the added responsibility?



DM: I think through your career you obviously learn a lot and gain experience as you play in different conditions. The more you play the better you become. I always want to express myself and play instinctive kind of cricket. As I got older, the decision-making options got better and smoother. I suppose I still want to bat the same way I used to bat but then the joy of experience is that you make less mistakes as you get older.

TDS: Your father Andrew Miller was also a cricketer. How much he influenced you to become a cricketer?

brought things to a halt. As a cricketer how are you working to remain fit? David Miller [DM]: Yes, I think coronavirus hasn't helped anyone. We

haven't really heard whether the World Cup is on or off. For me it's been nice to be at home and take care of things that I haven't been able to for many years. It has been a great time to get fit and work on certain parts of my body that I haven't been able to do due to busy schedules that we get in normal circumstances.

TDS: Your only T20 international hundred came against Bangladesh which is also the fastest ever in history. Surely, it's special for you?

DM: Yes, It's definitely the highlight of my career. When you look back into your career, there are certain things that stand out and yes, it's definitely one of them. When these kinds of moments come, you are certainly going to cherish them. You know it makes everything so worthwhile.

TDS: You smashed 31 runs in an over off young pacer Mohammad Saifuddin while scoring that hundred. Do you think it worked as a big learning curve for a youngster like him?

DM: No bowler wants to be hit for 31 runs in an over. Looking back at it, he [Saifuddin] will have matured through that over, through that moment. So, it is a big learning curve for the youngsters and anyone really and that's what experience is all about.

TDS: 'Killer Miller' you must have heard your nickname in the cricketing fraternity obviously for your devastating batting style. Do you like this name?

DM: 'Killer Miller'...Obviously it's been

player headed clear a goalbound shot from his teammate, a sequence that would normally be marked by the crowd roaring with an anticipation that would crescendo until suddenly turning into pin-drop silence.

Instead, the usual cheer broke out, and would do so again when the Canaries netted the equaliser four minutes later, when they had a player sent off towards the end

the cheer that reverberates around stadia like the laugh track in a TV show is jarring.

The environment at Saturday's game, an FA Cup quarterfinal, normally have been would robust, but still be overshadowed by the atmosphere at the recent Merseyside Derby or Revierderby, where the 12th man can play a pivotal role.

Instead, the artificial atmosphere of the 90 and when Harry Maguire was largely the same for leagues

there for many years now since 2013 It sort of came after I scored a hundred in the IPL. It's something I do enjoy. As a player, when you sort of have a nickname or something that the fans or people refer to you by, I suppose it shows you have done something in some way that has made an impact. I take it as a positive and I kind of go with this 'Killer Miller' and it's not going to change now.

TDS: Despite a brilliant first-class record, you decided not to play first class cricket anymore. What is the reason behind that

DM: My father played just one first-class game so he never was a professional cricketer if you can say it like that. He played many years of club cricket. He was one of the biggest influences of my career. You know he was there at the backyard throwing to me all afternoon, hitting me the tennis ball catches and giving me the foundation where the roots got strong from the early days. He is my longest supporter since the age of five till now.

WHAT TO WATCH

FACEBOOK LA LIGA Mallorca v Celta Vigo Live from 11:30pm Leganes v Sevilla Live from 1:00am (Wednesday) Barcelona v Atletico Madrid Live from 2:00am (Wednesday) Star Sports Select 1 **ENGLISH PREMIER** LEAGUE

Brighton v Man United Live from 1:15am (Wednesday)

TEN 2 SERIE A Torino v Lazio Live from 11:30pm Genoa v Juventus Live from 1:45am (Wednesday)



Pakistan's ODI and T20 captain Babar Azam walks out of Manchester Airport on Sunday leading the squad, including 20 players and support staff, for a series of three Tests and three T20Is against hosts England. **РНОТО: РСВ**

SAFF Championship postponed

SPORTS REPORTER



The Bangabandhu SAFF Championship has been postponed to next year due to the coronavirus pandemic as hosts

Bangladesh expressed its inability to stage the event in September.

The decision was taken yesterday at an online meeting of the South Asian Football Federation, with general secretaries of the football federations of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Bhutan along with SAFF general secretary Anwarul Haque Helal present.

"SAFF Championship has been

postponed to next year owing to the current situation of coronavirus and we will decide in coming days when the championship will take place next year," Helal said after the meeting.

"BFF general secretary [Abu Nayeem] Shohag informed the meeting that they won't be able to host the championship in September or later this year due to the coronavirus pandemic. He sought opinion of others, who backed Bangladesh's proposal as they also know they won't also be able to take part in the championship in September," Helal said, adding that some members associations have FIFA World Cup qualifiers in October and November.

"To decide new dates, we will talk to the host nation and sponsors because every member country wants to be informed about the rescheduled date a bit before the championship starts," Helal said.

He also informed pthat India want to stage it in between April to September next year as they are going to hold domestic leagues between November this year to March next year.

"We have in principle decided to postpone all youth championships this time around though we will sit in another meeting in September to assess the situation. If the situation permits us, we can hold a couple of youth tournaments in December," Helal said.

BFF assures booters

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football Federation president Kazi Salahuddin has promised footballers that he would take an amicable decision regarding local players' contracts with the clubs for 2019-20 season, which has already been closed due to the

coronavirus pandemic. Some 25 players including national booters Mamunul Islam, Tapu Barman, Yeasin Khan, Asharaful Islam Rana, Raihan Hasan and Saad Uddin yesterday met the BFF president at the federation headquarters with the hope of finding a solution over the settlement of their contracts with the clubs. The clubs have not resolved contract issues with the local players despite ending the matter with foreign players in line with FIFA-prescribed mutual understanding process.

"We talked about two things. The first thing is the players' current contracts with the clubs. The second thing that we talked about was getting the next season started within the next two months as the



players have been suffering financially with no footballing activities in the last four months," Mamunul Islam said after the meeting. "The BFF president told us that he

would talk with the clubs before taking a pleasant decision so that neither the clubs nor the players suffer," Mamunul said, adding that they are even ready to scarify some portion of their salaries.

BFF general secretary Abu Nayeem Shohag said that the BFF president asked the national footballers to join the national camp before any talk with the clubs.

The players said that they are hearing whispers that they would have to play for their respective clubs with the previous contracts. Demanding new contracts for new season, the players requested the BFF president to uphold the players' interest. The president told them that both players and clubs have to sacrifice in this regard," Shohag said, adding that the players also sought for guidelines from the BFF.

The BFF general secretary also informed that the players would place their proposals in black and white within a few days



Lutfor Rahman no more

SPORTS REPORTER

Swadhin Bangla Football Team member Lutfor Rahman breathed his last at the age of 69 on Monday morning due to old-age complications at his Loan Office Para residence in Jashore.

Rahman, who also represented Jashore district football and hockey teams in the '70s, left behind his wife, a daughter, a son and a host of well-wishers to mourn.

Rahman had been bedridden for a long time since suffering a stroke a year ago.

The namaj-e-janaja of the freedom fighter was held at the Sammiloni High School in State honour and later he was buried at the family graveyard in Talbaria in Jashore.

The Daily Star



FLOOD IN NORTH, NORTHEAST Many yet to get relief materials

STAR REPORT

Flood-hit people in different regions are going through hard times with little access to food and drinking water as many of them are yet to get the government relief materials. Many have taken shelter on dykes, roads and flood

centres with their livestock and valuables as their houses have been washed away and crops have been damaged. Government officials in most of the districts said they

have already allocated rice, dry food, cash and other relief materials that would be distributed within a day or two.

In Jamalpur, over 1.5 lakh of six upazilas have been marooned due to the flood. Many of them have claimed they did not receive any relief from the government.

Dewanganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Sultana Razia, however, said the local administration has provided masks, soap, saline and emergency medicines among the flood-hit people to contain the spread of coronavirus.

In Kurigram and Lalmonirhat, over 3.5 lakh people in 14 upazilas of the two districts have been hit hard by the flood. They are in dire need of food and drinking water.

A portion of the water development board's dam on the right bank of Dharla River was washed away by floodwaters in Kurul area of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

The district administrations allocated rice and cash for the victims, but the distribution was yet to be started, said district administration officials.



A groom (wearing a turban) and his relatives waiting at a boat in front of the bride's house in Hatbari Char in Bogura's Shariakandi upazila yesterday. The wedding date was fixed before the flood. The groom's side decided not to reschedule and go through with the ceremony despite the flood and the pandemic.

DMCH SPENDING

food, transport

PM says in JS; probe

Tk 20cr for

abnormal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hasina yesterday

Prime Minister Sheikh

said the government

was investigating the

and transportation of Dhaka Medical College

in treating Covid-19

Hospital health workers

who are directly involved

expenditure of Tk 20 crore

for accommodation, food,

launched

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

'Megaflash'



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

HUMAN TRAFFICKING Kuwaiti PP asks for lifting its MPs' immunity DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Kuwait's Public Prosecution has requested the National Assembly to lift immunity of three Kuwaiti MPs accused of visa trading, human trafficking, bribery, and money laundering, reported the Arab Times yesterday.

After receiving the Saturday, requests on National Assembly Marzoug Speaker Al Ghanem referred the requests to the Parliamentary Legislative Committee that will hold a close-door meeting for a decision on the requests for lifting immunity.

Islam alias Shahid Kazi Papul, who coowns four companies in Kuwait, was arrested on June 6 on charges of human trafficking, money laundering, visa trading and bribery. He was sent to jail after days of interrogation when he confessed to bribing millions of dollars SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Defence secy dies from Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdullah Al Mohsin Chowdhury, senior secretary at the defence ministry, died from Covid-19 at the Combined Military Hospital in the capital yesterday.

He was 57. He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

Mohsin breathed his last at 9:35am, Bhasani Mirza, administrative officer at the ministry, told The Daily Star.

was admitted to

Rohingya return pushed into further uncertainty

Analysts cite conflict escalation in Myanmar PORIMOL PALMA

Escalation of conflicts between the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army, a rebel group seeking greater autonomy for ethnic Rakhine people, is pushing the Rohingya repatriation further into uncertainty, analysts say.

The conflicts have already thousands displaced while more began fleeing homes in Rakhine state last week. In such a situation, the international focus could be shifted to the conflicts from the Rohingya crisis and Myanmar may use it as a pretext for not repatriating the Rohingyas sheltered in Bangladesh, said the analysts Thousands of villagers fled their homes as the military last week launched an offensive against the Arakan Army (AA) in five villages in Rathedaung Township of Rakhine, based on information that the villages harboured AA fighters, the Myanmar Times reported.

MONEY LAUNDERING

CID sues

AL GS, his

brother in

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Fairdpur

The Criminal Investigation Department has filed a case

against former Faridpur

Faridpur

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES First budget presented



Igbal Athar, former Pakistani ambassador to Sweden who guit his ioh last vear protesting Pakistani atrocities in Bangladesh, calls

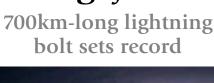




PHOTO:

RASHED SHUMON

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

on Bangabandhu at his official residence on June 30, 1972.

June 30, 1972

Shamsuddoza Sajen

BUDGET FOR RECONSTRUCTION Finance Minister Tajuddin Ahmad presents to the nation today the first budget of



Bangladesh. He describes it as the budget

for development, rehabilitation and reconstruction which seeks to narrow the gap between lower and higher income groups, revitalise rural economy, achieve self-sufficiency in food production, increase growth rate, and ensure equitable distribution keeping in the forefront the task of laying the foundations of a socialist society,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Speaking in parliament during the discussion on the finance bill, she said the government has taken measures to ensure the services for doctors, nurses, and other health workers for free.

"The cost of Tk 20 crore in a medical college for accommodation and food seems to be a bit abnormal. Therefore, we are investigating the matter. We will take measures if

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

A single flash of lightning, over 709km (440 miles) long has set a new distance record, the World Meteorological Organisation has confirmed.

The "megaflash" stretched from north eastern Argentina, across southern Brazil and over the Atlantic Ocean.

Also confirmed was a separate bolt which beat the record for the longest duration for a single lightning flash. Both the records were verified with new satellite lightning imagery technology, the WMO said.

Both of them more than double the previous records measured in the United States of America and France.

The WMO said the new distance record was set SEE PAGE 10 COL 3 SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING JUNE 30 Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esh AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-17 JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-57 8-45 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATIO

CORONAVIRUS IN US 'Window closing' for halting spread

Warns health secretary; top immunologist warns vaccine may not produce herd immunity in US Agencies

The US health secretary warned that the window to halt the spread of coronavirus across America was closing after a clutch of southern states reported record increases in cases.

The US has now registered 2.5m cases and more than 125,000 deaths from the disease - a quarter of the 10m infections and half a million fatalities around the world, despite the country comprising little more than 4 percent of the global population.

While Los Angeles, Chicago and New York remain the hardest-hit cities, US health and human services secretary Alex Azar said cases were "surging" in southern parts of the country.

Several of these states emerged early from lockdown against federal guidelines that recommend phased openings only once a state has recorded a fortnight-long reduction in cases.

"The window is closing," Azar told Meet the Press on Sunday. He urged individual states to boost communitywide testing and collect blood plasma donated by patients who have recovered from the virus to bolster available treatments

"We have to act, and people as individuals have to act, responsibly. We need to social distance, we need to wear our face coverings.

The US state of California was the latest authority to reimpose restrictions, ordering bars in Los Angeles and six SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

town unit Awami League general secretary and his brother in connection with siphoning off Tk 2,000 crore abroad. SM Miraj Al Mahmud, a CID inspector, lodged the case against AL leader Sajjad Hossain alias Barkat and his brother Imtiaz

Hasan alias Rubel, former president of Faridpur Press Club, under the money laundering act with Kafrul Police Station in the capital on Friday.

Meanwhile, Faridpur district AL and the press club relived the two from their respective posts after they were recently arrested on charges of attacking the house of Subal Chandra Saha, president of Faridpur

Imtiaz Ahmed, deputy inspector general of CID,



from the capital's Gabtoli area yesterday morning. SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

People leaving the capital after being unable to make ends meet due to job loss amid

the pandemic. The families in the photo were about to board a Lalmonirhat-bound bus

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