

**COVID-19  
IN PABNA**  
4-bed ICU lies  
inoperative  
**SEE PAGE 12**

# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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**BANGLADESH  
UPDATE**



**2,738**  
New cases in 24hrs



**1,62,417**  
Total cases



**2,052**  
Deaths



**72,625**  
Recoveries

**GLOBAL  
UPDATE**



**535,379**  
Deaths



**11,496,761**  
Total cases

## MIGRANT WORKERS

# Fate of 1.5 lakh up in the air

RASHIDUL HASAN and JAMIL MAHMUD

Over 1.50 lakh Bangladeshis are eagerly waiting to return to their workplaces and studies abroad amid a shortage of tickets for the limited number of flights leaving Dhaka.

They might lose their jobs and have their visas cancelled if they fail to reach the countries on time.

Many of them came back ahead of the pandemic on vacation or for some other reasons, but were unable to fly back because of the coronavirus restrictions.

The rising demand has sent the ticket prices soaring since the international flights from Dhaka resumed on June 16 on a limited scale.

"Finding no ticket for economy class, I was forced to buy a Qatar Airways ticket for business class spending Tk 5.02 lakh. The ticket should be less than Tk 1.50 lakh at any other time," said Mohammad Hossain, who works at a private firm in the UK.

"I had no choice. I might lose my job if I fail to reach London in a week," he told this correspondent.

Migrant worker Anwar Hossain said he had to borrow from his relatives to buy an economy ticket to Italy from the Emirates, spending Tk 1.67 lakh, which is over three times the usual fare.

"My visa would have expired and I would be in trouble if I failed to reach Italy on time," he said.

Airlines officials and the Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB) said before the pandemic, an economy class ticket to any destination in Europe used to be around Tk 40,000. But a ticket costs around Tk 2 lakh nowadays.

For the USA and Canada, a ticket now costs between Tk 3 lakh and 3.50 lakh, almost four times the previous rate.

ATAB President Monsur Ahmed said, "People keep calling us asking for tickets. We feel helpless."

Citing government officials M Shahadat Hossain Taslim, who runs

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RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3



People gather at Champoknagar cattle market in Brahmanbaria's Bijoyagar yesterday although the Eid is around a month away. Such markets are found in different parts of the district where physical distancing is ignored. Inset, some cattle on a dam in Bogura's Sariakandi as flood victims take shelter there with their belongings.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOV/MOSTAFA SHABUJ

## CATTLE FOR EID Demand drops, prices follow suit

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

With Eid-ul-Azha just a month away, cattle farmers are in fear of incurring huge losses during the festival, as they are sensing a sharp drop in the demand for sacrificial animals due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Many traders have already started selling their cattle to meat traders as they believe rearing the animals will make them bear bigger losses.

The price of beef has dropped around Tk 20-50 per kg since around a couple of weeks ago due to supplies surpassing demands, meat traders said.

Dr Abdul Zabbar Shikdar, director general of the Department of Livestock, said that this year, 1.19 crore cattle have been reared targeting Eid-ul-Azha, exceeding last year's demand by 10 lakh.

He said that last year 1.18 crore animals were reared but around 1.09 crore were slaughtered during the three-day festival, adding that they hope local cattle

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## Govt to help migrants stuck at home

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to provide food assistance to the migrant workers who returned home from different countries during coronavirus pandemic.

Under a safety net programme of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, each of the returnees would be provided with 10kilogramme rice, five-kilogramme flour, one-kilogramme lentils, one-kilogramme salt and one litre of soybean oil.

Enamur Rahman, state minister for disaster management and relief, said this package would be for 15 days.

"We will continue to provide them with the assistance until they find an income-generating job for themselves," he added.

The returnee migrant workers would also be able to avail a loan of any amount between Tk 1 lakh and Tk 5 lakh at four percent interest rate during this time.

A letter was issued on Wednesday to the district and upazila administrations regarding this. They were asked to find out the needy migrant workers and provide them with the assistance.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Imran Ahmad said some 21,000 Bangladeshis have returned home since April and more could return in the coming months. Many of them lost jobs due to the pandemic.

"Therefore, we raised the issue at a

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## ANTIBODY, ANTIGEN TESTS Expert advice snubbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While a key recommendation of experts has been quickly rolling out rapid antigen and antibody tests, this is yet to be translated into action despite RT-PCR labs remaining overburdened.

"We recommended on June 3 that antigen tests be introduced fast, but we have not seen any progress on that front," said Prof Nazrul Islam, virologist and former vice chancellor of BSMMU, who is also a member of the government's national technical advisory committee on Covid-19.

He and other experts talked about the gap between what is recommended and what is being implemented at a webinar yesterday, jointly organised by Health Alliance Bangladesh and Bangladesh Health Watch.

They reiterated the immediate need for rapid antigen tests.

"Antigen tests can be used in emergency departments of hospitals to see if a patient is infected or not," said Dr Be-Nazir Ahmed, former director of disease control at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) and an infectious disease specialist.

"When implementing zoning, we need to test every single house. These tests can be used in addition to the RT-PCR because they are quick."

He described two types of tests that can be used.

"A rapid diagnostic test for antigen, called the immunochromatographic, is a qualitative test that can only see if a person is infected or not, but cannot see how infected the person is. But this can provide support to RT-PCR in these circumstances."

Another is the ELISA test -- a quantitative test that can see how many antigens or antibodies are present in a sample.

"I feel that the government is taking a conservative approach to this. The scope for research should be opened up for whoever wants to do it," said Dr Be-Nazir.

Dr M Shawkat Hassan, director of the department of laboratory medicine at Birdem hospital, said, "We have RT-PCR, antigen and antibody

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RELATED STORY ON PAGE 12

## Daily Covid-19 deaths spike

55 die; 2,738 infected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of Covid-19 deaths reported in a single day saw an unexpected surge, when it jumped to 55 from the 40 that remained stagnant for five days prior.

The fresh deaths, the second highest in a day, has taken the total toll to 2,052.

On June 30, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported the highest single-day deaths -- 64. On the following days, from July 1-4, the daily death tolls were 41, 38, 42 and 29.

Authorities reported the third highest deaths -- 53 -- on June 16.

During yesterday's briefing, Prof Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of the DGHS, reported 2,738 new cases, taking the total number of confirmed patients to 162,417.

On April 5, Bangladesh reported 18 cases, representing a 26 percent increase from the previous day. Since then till yesterday, the day-to-day increases have exceeded 20 percent, representing a sharp rise in cases, according to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) website.

Time-wise breakthrough figures of confirmed Covid-19 cases were recorded in the country as follows: total number of confirmed cases crossed 100 on April 6, 1,000 on April 14, 50,000 on June 1, one lakh on June 18, and 1.5 lakh cases on July 2.

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## REMEMBRANCE FOR LATIFUR RAHMAN

# A key patron of free media

*His legacy as a visionary, great entrepreneur will live on, speakers tell a memorial service*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Latifur Rahman's legacy as a visionary, a great entrepreneur, a patriot, and a key patron of democracy and free media will live on, speakers said yesterday at a virtual memorial service for the true icon of ethical business.

"Latifur Rahman is a name synonymous with ethical business, ethical values, business excellence and the spirit of Bangladesh. But to me, he will always be Abbu [father]," Latifur's daughter Simeen Hossain, managing director and chief executive officer of Eskayef Pharmaceuticals Ltd, said on the somber occasion.

"As a child, I knew my father as the man who kept us all together. As the man, he would make all our troubles disappear."

"As I grew older, Abbu began to transform from being my hero to my mentor, my confident and my strength," said Simeen.

"I began to truly see who Mr Latifur Rahman has always been, to his loved ones, to his friends and to 17,000 members of the Transcom family."

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## Dhaka Bank Limited has completed its 25 years of glorious journey on July 5, 2020

On 25th Anniversary of the Bank, celebration has been curtailed because of the ongoing pandemic. However, our warmth of heart and the nearness is not shortened. We, Dhaka Bank Family, express our gratitude to all of our customers, shareholders, regulators and well-wishers for being with us in this long journey.

When this is over, we shall celebrate together and head for the endless possibilities ahead.

YEARS OF ENDLESS  
POSSIBILITIES

**DHAKA BANK**  
LIMITED  
EXCELLENCE IN BANKING

## Time extension for paying power bills without surcharge likely

UNB, Dhaka

The extension of time for paying delayed electricity bills without surcharge is now under consideration, Power Secretary Sultan Ahmed said yesterday.

He made the disclosure while briefing reporters via a video conference about the outcome of investigation into issuing inflated electricity bills by different power distribution companies.

Earlier, the residential consumers were allowed to pay their delayed bills for the months of February, March, and April until June 30 due to coronavirus outbreak.

In the meantime, many consumers received inflated bills and refrained from paying those in due time hoping that those would be corrected by the bill issuing authorities. But still many consumers' bills were either not corrected or were under the correction process.

Responding to a question on such dilemma, the secretary said the issue was discussed with the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission.

"We're trying to extend the time for delayed payment without surcharge. But we have to follow a certain process for it," he told reporters.

## Govt to help

FROM PAGE 1

recent inter-ministerial meeting and said that the returnee migrants and their families should get at least food assistance at this bad time," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The disaster management ministry agreed to the proposal. Based on that, the expatriates' welfare ministry ordered the District Employment and Manpower Offices (DEMO) to prepare a list of those seeking assistance, he added.

In the districts having no DEMO, the migrants or their families will have to register at the Technical Training Centres run by the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET).

Several lakh Bangladeshi migrants are estimated to return home in the coming months, mainly from the Middle East and Southeast Asian countries.

Shakirul Islam, executive director of Oviabashi Karmi Unnappayn Programme (OKUP), said they welcomed the government decision of including the migrant workers and their families to the social safety net programme.

"Over the years, we found many migrants and their families living in poor conditions, but they were never included in the social safety net programme," he said.

## Expert advice

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tests in our armament.

"I have ordered Birdem to start antigen tests and I am also trying to procure ELISA test kits.

"For antigen tests, if the result comes out positive, then the RT-PCR should be positive. But if the antigen test is negative, then that coincides with RT-PCR only 75 percent times. But even then, it is useful for situations like hospital emergency departments."

On antibody test, experts said it can be used for surveillance of seroprevalence.

"The initial antibody that develops is called Immunoglobulin(M). This peaks in two weeks. When Ig(M) peaks, Immunoglobulin(G) is produced -- this can stay in a body for a few months to a few years. By detecting antibodies, we can tell if the patient had coronavirus infection," said Prof Nazrul.

He added that antibody tests can be used to decide who needs vaccines and who do not. "Vaccines are going to be costly. Antibody tests can be used to see who is eligible for it," he added.

"These can also be used to see whether the plasma donations being given have the right amount of antibodies needed."

Dr Hassan said, "If someone comes to me six days after symptoms appear, I would prefer a total antibody test for Ig(A), Ig(M) and Ig(G). If 14 days had passed, then I should do two Ig(G) tests.

"Antibody tests use blood, not nasal swabs, so it is also more accurate. The limitation of RT-PCR is that the sensitivity depends on the sample collection, the kind of sample, the kind of media being used for testing."

Dr Be-Nazir thinks antibody and antigen tests should have been brought in long back.

"For example, if we could have popularised these tests in low-income areas like slums then we would be able to see what the infection in those areas are like -- on which we do not have enough data at the moment," he added.

On fees imposed for coronavirus tests, Dr Nazrul said, "For a large part of the population, a Tk 200 fee might be too much."

Sadaf Saaz, founder of EskeGen, a clinical research organisation, moderated the event.

## REMEMBRANCE FOR LATIFUR RAHMAN



"Compromise is a word that didn't exist in his dictionary."

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN  
PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
BANGLADESH (ICCB)



"His business ethics were something very laudable and very rare in our country."

SYED MANZUR ELAHI  
CHAIRMAN, APEX GROUP



"To many, he was an extraordinary personality, a successful businessman, a mentor, and a kind man who always helped people. But to me, he was much more..."

ROKIA AFZAL RAHMAN  
CHAIRPERSON,  
MEDIAWORLD LTD



"I promise that what you taught us about leading a life filled with integrity and ethical values will go from strength to strength. I promise you your life's legacy will continue."

SIMEEN HOSSAIN  
MANAGING DIRECTOR  
AND CEO OF ESKAYEF  
PHARMACEUTICALS LTD

## A key patron of free media

FROM PAGE 1

His unwavering stance, ethical business practices and integrity were the values he lived by every day."

The programme was streamed live on the websites and Facebook pages of The Daily Star and Bangla daily Prothom Alo. Latifur's grandson Zaraq Ayaat Hossain hosted it.

Simeen said her father was an unwavering protector in any kind of crisis, especially when they lost Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, the youngest daughter of Latifur, and Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain, his grandson.

She further said July 1 continues to be the hardest day for her family every year since 2016.

"The day serves as a reminder when I lost my Faraaz. The day came closer this year... I never imagined that I will lose Abbu on that very day."

She said it seemed that it was the wish of the almighty that the two (Faraaz and Latifur) would become one as Latifur left this world peacefully in his sleep on July 1.

"Now, July 1 will remain a day to remember not one but for two from our family... I can just picture him in my head, smiling, finally united with his Shazneen and Faraaz."

She promised that her father's legacy will live on.

"I promise that what you taught us about leading a life filled with integrity and ethical values will go from strength to strength. I promise you that your life's legacy will continue."

Mahbubur Rahman, president of the International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh (ICCB), broke down in tears at the start of his speech.

He said Latifur never compromised his ethical position and was adamant about maintaining it in running business.

Mahbubur said the Oslo Business for Peace Award 2012 was a recognition for Latifur's business ethics and social responsibilities. In the business world, the award is almost similar to the Nobel Prize.

"Compromise is a word that didn't exist in his dictionary. ... He never compromised on ethical and policy issues."

For this uncompromising stance, Latifur had to face harassment on a number of occasions.

He said the young generation can follow his footsteps and take lessons from his contribution and works.

Apex Group Chairman Syed Manzur Elahi said, "His business ethics was something very laudable and very rare in our country."

"He was a good human being. He never lost his temper.... he was very rational and always encouraged constructive argument," he added.

Rokia Afzal Rahman, chairperson of Mediaworld Ltd, the owning company of The Daily Star, said Latifur was "one of our strengths".

"I never thought he would leave us so early," she added.

Mahfuz Azam, editor of The Daily Star, said his dream of having an independent newspaper would not have come true if Latifur was not around.

"I dreamt of establishing an independent newspaper in Bangladesh. And he was the man who made my dream come true. He was the greatest strength that I had, the greatest friend, brother, the supporter, the investor," he said, adding, "It

is with deepest sorrow and most heartfelt grief that I participate in this discussion."

He said Latifur's most telling contribution to the country was two independent newspapers -- The Daily Star and Prothom Alo.

"His world has been the world of business -- of setting up industries, setting up commercial institutions. His first foray into a world which was not his was the media. Yes, he always insisted that we should think of it as a business and he insisted that if you really want to have an independent newspaper, you must be independent businesswise."

"If you come to me or come to the board, asking for money in every other year or every other month, then obviously we will not be happy about it."

"But if you can turn the investment into a self-sufficient profit-making body, you will really get the type of independence that you want, and we all want that..." The Daily Star editor said while reflecting on his many exchanges with the visionary businessman.

Mahfuz further said Latifur's decision to venture into the media industry was a tough one, but he took the challenges knowing that it would hurt his other businesses.

"I would like to emphasise here that through his involvement with The Daily Star, eight year before he started Prothom Alo, he was actually coming into a different world -- a world of opinions, a world of respect for somebody else's opinion, a world of allowing dissent, a world of freedom of expression."

"It was not like his original world. But the way he came into this, he fell in love with this whole world of freedom of expression, of saying things to power that need to be said. In my view, it was due to his deepest regards for democracy."

"He never participated in politics, never was interested in it. But deep inside his heart, he knew that democracy is the way for Bangladesh. It is only with democracy -- however flawed and messy -- that Bangladesh will move forward."

"And he had a personal experience of it. He saw the collapse of democracy, saw the coming of military dictatorship, coming of autocracy. And inside his heart, he believed in democracy becoming strong. So, from that belief in democracy, coming into the media was perhaps the next step," he said.

"As a journalist," Mahfuz continued, "My love for freedom of the press is natural, but as a businessman Latifur Rahman's love for freedom of the press was an instinctually acquired position -- a position he held so firmly."

Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) President Nihad Kabir, former regional CEO of PepsiCo Sanjeev Chadha, and Latifur's long-time friend Hasan Ashkari, also spoke at the programme.

Matiur Rahman said he knew Latifur for 22 years. When Prothom Alo was brought out, Latifur gave four pieces of advice -- the newspaper should be the number one newspaper in the country, the newspaper should run with its own income, the government rules and regulations like taxes and vat should be honoured, and

the newspaper should be independent and not biased.

He added that Prothom Alo became self-dependent in a few years and he enjoyed independence as its editor.

"We are so independent as editors that I cannot imagine any editor in the country who gets such independence... We got that independence from him and he always gave us support and advice. He never interfered in any news, business related decisions, and hiring and firing of employees," said Motiur.

Latifur had to face different attacks and obstacles because of Prothom Alo. He had to visit the anti-corruption commission office, although he was the highest tax payer of the country, Motiur added.

Latifur always possessed immense love for his country and the Liberation War.

Former PepsiCo CEO (Asia, Middle East and Africa) Sanjeev Chadha said Latifur's death was an irreparable loss.

"[Latifur Rahman] Shamim bhai is one of the finest men I have the pleasure of knowing in the entire world. He was a man of rock-solid core values. A man of steadfast integrity and a man with unwavering high standards," he said.

Latifur was an admirable family man and an outstanding leader who has built so many diverse businesses, he said.

"His wisdom shaped and benefited many communities, industries, institutions and certainly the country." Latifur always had a positive mindset and saw the glass-half-full.

"He has guided us, spoken to us, inspired us and strengthened us."

Latifur's niece Nihad Kabir said Latifur was a seven-time MCCI president. He always supported her and taught her a lot.

She said her uncle has always been a firm believer in the young generation's ability to change the fortune of the country.

"We will mourn his death. But we will celebrate his life and dedicate ourselves to his legacy..." Nihad said.

Latifur's long-time friend Hasan Ashkari said, "I lament the passing of a friend, who celebrated my success and survival... He was proud of the friendship with me and sought nothing from me."

In the concluding speech, Zaraq Ayaat Hossain said his grandfather had an incredible personality.

"We, the Nanbhai's family, will never stop carrying his legacies... of being in ethical business."

"Nanbhai's legacy will continue through generations inshaAllah and that is our commitment to him," he concluded.

Founding chairman and CEO of Transcom Group Latifur breathed his last on July 1 at his ancestral home in Cumilla. He was 75.

He was buried at Banani Graveyard. Latifur was the founding director of Mediaworld, the company owning The Daily Star, and chairman of Mediastar, the company owning Prothom Alo -- two leading newspapers of the country.

He was the driving spirit behind the establishment of The Daily Star.

Latifur was an honouree of Oslo Business for Peace Award 2012 for his business ethics and social responsibilities. It is considered the most celebrated recognition in the worlds of business.

## Social media, OTT contents to be taxed

Information minister says

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday said foreign social media, publishing of contents and advertisements on Over the Top (OTT) platforms and other related matters would be brought under tax net and modern rules and regulations.

"Different contents including entertainment have been streaming by using such platforms across the globe. It is happening in our country also. But we saw that many allegations were raised against screening of uncensored contents. The government is also not getting tax properly," he said.

The minister was talking to reporters before joining an inter-ministerial meeting through video conference from the meeting room of his ministry at the Secretariat.

Posts and Telecommunication Minister Mustafa Jabbar, State Minister for Information Dr Md Murad Hasan, Posts and Telecommunication Secretary Md Nur-ur-Rahman, Bangladesh Satellite Company Chairman Shahjahan Mahmud and BTRC Chairman Md Jahurul Haque, among others, joined the meeting.

Hasan termed the social media, OTT platforms and publishing of different audio and video contents as growing reality of the present era.

He said the OTT and social media platforms are reaching everyone through mobile phone. So, there are opportunities to build the society and also to create instability in the society as well, he added.

"Earlier, we saw attempts to spread rumours and create communal riots by using social media platforms. At the same time, adverse reactions were created among the youths and juveniles. We should use these mediums properly," said Hasan.

He said the information ministry asked for explanation from Grameen Phone and Robi. Of them, there was no proper answer in the Grameen Phone's explanation while Robi is preparing its answer, he added.

## Demand drops, prices

FROM PAGE 1

are enough to meet the people's demand.

"But the main challenge is selling the cattle in different markets while maintaining social distance and following health guidelines," the DG said, adding that they were trying to find a way for animals to be sold online.

Robiul Alam, secretary general of Bangladesh Meat Traders' Association, said the demand for sacrificial cattle this year would be around 80,000, which is normally 1.15 crore to 1.25 crore every year.

He further said the capacity of purchasing sacrificial animals is less this year as many people have lost their jobs or faced huge losses in their businesses.

About the sudden drop in the price of red meat, Rabiul said 50 percent of the demand has dropped in the capital due to the pandemic, as most of the restaurants are closed or are facing a serious scarcity of customers since the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak.

He added that normally, 5,000 to 6,000 cattle would be slaughtered every day in the city. That number has dropped to 1,500 to 2,000 during the outbreak, whereas, the number of cattle has increased.

He believes the price of red meat will drop further due to the pandemic.

Tofazzal Hossain, a cattle trader of Gabtoli cattle market, said the demand has dropped significantly since the beginning of the outbreak.

Cattle traders used to sell around 150 cows to meat traders every week, but now they sell only 50 to 60.

"I sold a bull to a meat trader today for Tk 1 lakh. I would normally sell it for Tk 1.10 lakh," said Tofazzal on Friday.

Many cattle traders who reared their bulls targeting Eid are selling their livestock early, fearing loss, he said, adding that the number of customers in rural cattle markets is poor, which is unusual just one month ahead of

Hasan said "Digital Bangladesh" is not a dream today, it is now a reality under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the supervision of Prime Minister's Information and Communication Technology Affairs Advisor Sajeeb Wazed Joy.

Besides, he said, the new reality is that the country is facing different legal challenges and witnessing flouting of values. "So, we are working with this issue," said Hasan, also Awami League joint general secretary.

The minister said the OTT platform is one of the growing sectors and there is an opportunity to invest thousands of crores of taka by paying tax. Besides, social media and other platforms like Netflix and YouTube are taking out country's money. But the government is not getting tax.

He said the same situation prevailed in other countries at the beginning. But, now many countries have introduced rules and regulations, he added.

Hasan said neighbouring India has introduced different acts, rules and regulations to allow screening contents of other countries by using OTT platforms.

"Even, Facebook registered it as Indian company to run it in India. But it is not registered in our country. And the posts and telecommunication ministry has employed an agent through continuous efforts," he added.

In the meeting, Mustafa Jabbar said, "We expect responsible roles from the directors of social media and OTT platforms in the perspective of our social and cultural values, state's security and law and order. They will have to conduct their businesses by showing regard to the country's laws and culture."

As per the decision of the meeting, a five-member committee headed by additional secretary (broadcast) of information ministry was formed to bring the social media and contents in OTT platforms under modern rules and regulations and tax net.

Eid.

"I could purchase a bull for Tk 70,000 from Gabtoli cattle market on Friday, the price of which would normally be around 80,000," said a meat trader of Khilgaon Goran market.

Many meat traders of different kitchen markets in Dhaka have already dropped their prices by Tk 20 to Tk 50, as the demand for meat has dropped significantly, said cattle traders.

"I would sell one kg beef for Tk 580. We have been charging Tk 530 since June 15," said Mohammad Ali, a meat trader of Mirpur-14 Battalion market.

He said they have dropped their prices as the price of cows has dropped too. Their sales have increased since the prices were reduced.

A cattle trader in Kushtia, who purchased 100 bulls for Eid, said he would sell 50 of them over the last three days before the festival.

"A bull that would normally cost around Tk one lakh is around Tk 10 to 15 thousand less now, for which I have taken the chance to get a good profit," he said.

## BNP won't run in by-polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has decided not to take part in the upcoming Bogura-1 and Jashore-6 by-polls.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir disclosed the decision of the party after its standing committee meeting held virtually.

"Holding by-election in Bogura-1 and Jashore-6 amid pandemic and flooding is illogical and unacceptable. So we are not contesting the elections," he told The Daily Star.

The Election Commission has announced that it would hold the by-polls on July 14.

## Daily Covid-19 deaths spike

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Of all confirmed cases, 71 percent were male and 29 percent were female, while 77 percent of all deceased were male and the rest were female, according to IEDCR data.

More than 39 percent of the dead were above 60 years old, while more than 29 percent were between 51 and 60.

The fatality rate among the Covid-19 confirmed patients was 1.26 percent.

At the daily briefing yesterday, Prof Nasima said 1,904 patients were cured in the 24 hours till yesterday, taking the total number of recoveries to 72,625 -- 44.72 percent of all confirmed cases.

Of yesterday's 55 new victims, 37 were men, 18 women.

Division-wise, 19 were from Dhaka, 13 from Chattogram, six from Khulna, one from Rajshahi, five from Barishal, two from Sylhet, eight in Rangpur and

## US aircraft carriers conduct drills in South China Sea

AFP, Tokyo

Two US aircraft carriers have carried out drills in the South China Sea, a US Navy spokesman said Saturday, after the Pentagon expressed concerns over Chinese military exercises around a disputed archipelago.

The USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Reagan conducted dual carrier operations in the waterway to "support a free and open Indo-Pacific," the spokesman said.

"These efforts support enduring US commitments to stand up for the right of all nations to fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows," he added.

The drills came as the Pentagon said it was "concerned" about Chinese military exercises in the South China Sea, warning the manoeuvres will "further destabilise" the region.

China's expanding military presence in the contested waters has

worried several of its neighbours.

Washington rejects Beijing's territorial claims to much of the region, including the Paracel Islands -- which are often a source of tension -- where China is carrying out five days of exercises until July 5.

These activities "further destabilise the situation" in the area claimed by China, Vietnam and Taiwan, the Pentagon said in a statement on Thursday.

KUWAIT, QATAR, BAHRAIN

## 219 returnees sent to jail over 'anti-state activities'

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A total of 219 people, who have returned home from Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain recently, were shown arrested under Section 54 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) for their alleged involvement in tarnishing the image of the government.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Debrata Biswas on Saturday passed the order after Shafiqullah, an inspector of Turag Police Station, submitted a forwarding report before the court. The court also sent the accused to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

In the report, Shafiqullah, the case's investigation officer, said the arrestees were convicted for different terms of punishment for involvement in offences committed in the three countries. But due to the pandemic, the respective governments commuted their punishment and sent them back. On their arrival, they were sent to an army-controlled quarantine centre for 14 days, but they divided in groups and attempted to tarnish the image of the government, it said.

After getting information about their activities, police immediately informed higher authorities.



This father brought his newborn to Chattogram Medical College Hospital after failing to bear costs at a private hospital, on Thursday. A maternal uncle of the baby (pictured holding the oxygen cylinder) yesterday said they had brought the child there, following complications after a c-section birth at a maternity clinic. The mother was also admitted to CMCH, and had to undergo another surgery there. The child's father is an RMG worker and the uncle a driver, and they have already had to spend over Tk 70,000 for the treatment. The child and mother were both doing better yesterday, but the family is worried of growing costs.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

BURIGANGA LAUNCH CAPSIZE

## No arrest in seven days

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Seven days have already passed since the capsizing of a launch in the Buriganga that claimed 34 lives, but police could not arrest anyone allegedly liable for the deaths.

Owner and staffers of Moyur-2, the launch that hit and sank another launch -- Morning Bird -- near Sadarghat Launch Terminal on June 29, did not even appear before the probe committees to give statements, officials said.

In this situation, two probe committees -- one formed by the shipping ministry and another by Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) -- are likely to submit their reports today.

"All the staffers and owner of Moyur-2 are absconding. We will submit our report tomorrow [Monday]," Rafiqul Islam Khan, convener of the ministry-formed committee, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said they have talked to some witnesses in person and others over phone and collected video footage during their investigation.

He, however, declined to share the findings.

A member of the BIWTA-formed committee said they would also submit their report today.

"We tried to talk to the master and other staffers of Moyur-2 but they did not appear before us. Watching CCTV footage, we found that Moyur-2 authorities were responsible for the incident," the member told The Daily Star wishing anonymity.

NO ARREST YET

At least 34 people died after Moyur-2 hit and sank another launch in the Buriganga on June 29. The following day, Shamsul Alam, sub-inspector (SI) of Sadarghat River Police Station, filed the case with Keraniganj Dakshin Police Station.

The seven accused are Moyur-2 owner Mosaddek Hanif Swad (33), his employee Abul Bashar Molla (65), launch master Jakir Hossain (54), engine driver Shipon Hawlader (45), Shakil Hasan (28), Sukani Nasir Mridha (40), and Ridoy (24).

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Another setback for Biman

Flag carrier cancels its flights on Dubai and Abu Dhabi routes scheduled to resume from today

RASHIDUL HASAN

A day before resuming its flights on the Dubai and Abu Dhabi route from today, Biman Bangladesh Airlines decided not to operate its regular flights on the two high-demand destinations.

Sources at the national flag carrier said Biman was forced to take the sudden decision yesterday as the foreign ministry has asked it not to carry any passenger from Dubai to Bangladesh.

The national airliner, however, decided to send those passengers to Dubai and Abu Dhabi who have already bought Biman tickets to fly to the two destinations through alternative measures, a top official of Biman told this correspondent wishing anonymity.

Biman's decision of not to operate on the Dubai and Abu Dhabi routes came as a major setback to a huge number of Bangladeshis specially migrant workers who were waiting to return to their workplaces.

According to the Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh, several thousand Bangladeshi expatriate workers have remained stranded in the country for the last three months to join their workplaces in Dubai and Abu Dhabi due to suspension of regular flight operations on international routes since middle of March.

Biman on July 1 announced to resume its flight on Dhaka-Dubai and Dhaka-Abu Dhabi routes from July 6 and July 7 respectively.

Sources at the national flag carrier said all tickets for the Dubai and Abu Dhabi routes were sold out till July 16.

"As they (passengers) have bought tickets from us, we are obligated to carry them to their desired destinations through alternative measures," said a top official of Biman.

"As the government told us that we won't be able to take any passengers from Dubai to Dhaka, we have decided not to operate our flights in the two routes as carrying

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Increased budget must come with policy changes, utilisation

Experts hail allocation in family planning, but wary of planning

NILIMA JAHAN

The budget allocation in health and family welfare has seen a steady increase in the past few years. This year, the amount increased by 13.66 percent, standing at Tk 29,247 crore.

Although the increased allocation appears to be a step in the right direction, family planning experts believe that the higher budgets are not being utilised in a planned manner.

Meanwhile, the pandemic has created new problems in family planning, hence this budget is inadequate amid the public health crisis, opined experts.

Pulak Raha is a team leader at Advance Family Planning, an initiative working to reach the global goal of expanding access to quality contraceptive information, services and supplies. He said that

increased budget allocation should be supplemented with changes in policy if the government wants to meet its targets within 2022.

"The government is targeting to reduce the current stagnant total fertility rate (TFR) from 2.3 to 2; reach a contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) of 75 percent from the current 62 percent; reduce the unmet need for family planning services, and enable more men to use modern contraception, as the ratio of CPR among women and men is still 6:1," said Pulak.

Moreover, family planning services have been disrupted due to the pandemic. Cumulative data from January to May 2020 compared with the same period of 2019 shows that uptake of oral contraceptive pill decreased by 20 percent, condom use by 34 percent and injectables by 23

percent, according to United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

"As you can see, there is already an increase in the number of unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortion. These issues should have been reflected in the newly proposed budget allocation," opined Pulak.

Besides, the government must ensure protective gears for the field workers working in rural areas, so that they can continue to provide uninterrupted family planning service during this pandemic, he added.

SM Shaikat, the executive director of Socio-Economic Rural Advancement Committee (Serac) Bangladesh, a youth focused rights and development organisation, pointed out the flaws in prioritisation. "Yes, there is an increase in allocation but if you look closely, most projects will invest more

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

MONEY LAUNDERING

## Suspended jailer Rana denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a bail petition of suspended jailer of Chattogram Central Jail Sohel Rana Biswas in a money laundering case.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder passed the rejection order considering that the bail petition of Sohel Rana Biswas was not moved properly.

Earlier in the day, Sohel Rana's lawyers Nahid Sultana Juthi and Shakila Rawshan told the HC that their client will not proceed with the bail petition as the Anti-Corruption Commission has already submitted charge sheet of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

ANTI-MOSQUITO DRIVE  
DNCC fines house owners  
Tk 2.97 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) yesterday found Aedes larvae in 91 houses and establishments during the second day of the 10-day "combing operation" to destroy breeding grounds of mosquitoes. The operation began in all the 54 wards under the city corporation simultaneously to protect city dwellers from the menace.

The DNCC team visited at least 13,299 houses and establishments during the drive and found Aedes mosquito larvae, carrier of dengue and chikungunya, in 99 of those, said an official of DNCC. Stagnant water and breeding ground of the mosquito were found at 7,794 establishments including

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Police admin brings change to organogram after new SP-rank officials assigned posts

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

With the recent creation of 215 superintendents of police (SP) rank posts, different police units have reorganised their structure by bringing a change to the organogram.

New divisions and branch already opened in some units to ensure a better service, said officials.

Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) got maximum 39 new SP rank posts.

The unit already formed five new branches in Natore, Satkhira, Netrakona, Laxmipur and Kurigram to ensure better service, Banaj Kumar Majumder, deputy inspector general of PBI, told The Daily Star.

"We have planned to extend our service to 64 districts in phases," he said. PBI chief Banaj Kumar said, "We have placed these newly appointed SPs in those branches, where additional SPs used to be in charge of."

Police Headquarters (PHQ) has also opened around 17 new wings like multimedia and publicity, audit, personal

security, and equipment where new SP rank officers have been deployed.

"We are expecting that the appointment of new officers and creation of new posts will definitely speed up the activity and better service can be ensured," Sohel Rana, assistant inspector general of Police Headquarters, told this newspaper recently.

The authorities also brought a change to the organogram of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), which is also the biggest unit of the force with around 33,000 manpower.

DMP got 15 new SP rank posts on June 20 and increased four new divisions each in traffic and detective branch.

Krishna Pada Roy, additional commissioner (crime) of DMP, said such upgradation will definitely help curb crime in the city, where around two crore people live.

Among other units, Criminal Investigation Department got 30 new SP rank posts, Special Branch 17 and Anti-Terrorism Unit three.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



The crowds at New Market can make one forget momentarily that a contagious virus is still going around, but then the masks on people's faces show the reality we're living in. Hawkers have returned to the footbridge connecting New Market and Chandni Chawk, trying to earn a livelihood after a long break. Social distancing, however, still remains difficult. The photo was taken over the weekend.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



AS RISKY AS IT GETS... Some sit on the roof of this truck, while others atop sacks loaded with goods as the vehicle moves through busy Dhaka-Aricha highway. The sacks do not seem to be tied securely. Such risky way of travelling not just puts them in danger, but also others on the road. This photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Visually-impaired graduates demand employment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visually impaired graduates have urged the government to ensure their employment so that they can live a decent life with an honest livelihood.

In absence of jobs, many of them are struggling and are deeply frustrated. The Covid-19 pandemic has increased their sufferings, said a council of job seeking visually-impaired graduates in an open letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The letter, signed by Md Ali Hossain on behalf of visually-impaired graduates, said some graduates are struggling to survive for want of employment.

The letter cited a meeting with the PM last year and said related government agencies did not take steps to address visually impaired graduates' problems. Nine months have passed since the meeting where the PM gave certain directives.

The council urged the government for implementation of its six-point proposal, including unemployment allowance for the jobless.

If the current situation continues, our mental state will steadily decline and we will slip into poverty, the letter said.

## Priority on agriculture to tackle food crisis

Says minister Razzaque on govt initiatives amid Covid-19 crisis

UNB, Dhaka

The government has taken all-out measures with priority on agriculture sector, to tackle the food crisis amid the coronavirus situation, said Agriculture Minister Dr Md Abdur Razzaque.

Amid the global pandemic, farmers are also facing adverse situation along with the rest of the world. To address this, the government is giving various incentives including subsidy prioritising the sector, said the minister.

He made the remarks while inaugurating an online assistance programme for marginal farmers affected by Covid-19 by the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) Bangladesh from his official residence yesterday.

Razzaque said that the ministry is working relentlessly so that food production could be increased to cope with the possible food crisis caused by the coronavirus.

He further said the ministry's timely decision-making and implementation under the direction of Prime Minister has made it possible to procure more Boro crops than the target, even in the midst of the outbreak.

Besides, Aus paddy seeds, Aman paddy seeds and jute seeds have already been distributed among farmers at field level.

Initiatives are being taken to increase production in Aman and Rabi seasons, he added.

### Shahriar Ripon passes away

CITY DESK

S A Shahriar Ripon, CEO of media house Together Communications and consultant of real estate company Sheltech (Pvt) Ltd has passed away on Saturday at Dhaka's Square Hospital.



He was suffering from prolonged carcinomic disease, according to a press release. Ripon, hailin from a reputed family of Sherpur town, was also a life member of Bangladesh Photographic Society. Ripon was buried at Sherpur beside his grandparents' and father's grave. He is survived by his mother, wife, a daughter, a son, and numerous well-wishers.

### LIMITING COVID-19 TRANSMISSION AT ROHINGYA CAMPS

# Advance planning, joint efforts were key: speakers

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a virtual discussion lauded the government's advance planning and joint efforts with the UN and humanitarian partners to limit the transmission of coronavirus in the Rohingya camps, saying that this story must be heard globally.

They vowed to continue working together to keep Rohingyas and the host community safe.

CRI hosted the live discussion titled "Let's Talk on Rohingya Response and Covid-19" yesterday.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen, UNHCR Representative in Bangladesh Steven Corliss, Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) Mahub Alam Talukder, Medical Officer and IPC focal for Leda ITC Sumaya Tasnim and Rohingya representative Jane Alam took part in the discussion moderated by Showvik Das Tamal.

Corliss appreciated the government

and the RRRC for taking decisive actions with the support from the partners in limiting people inside and outside the camps.

"Covid-19 has increased humanitarian needs," said the UNHCR representative, adding that they are making the best use of funds reducing their own cost.

Foreign Secretary Masud Momen said, "Despite constraints, we have managed Cox's Bazar quite well. This is a good story and must be shared globally."

Mahub Alam said they have taken a coordinated approach with UN organisations and other stakeholders to deal with the Covid-19 situation in the camps.

The RRRC said five Rohingyas have so far died due to coronavirus. "The situation is not at an alarming stage... We are well prepared now."

### ROHINGYA REPATRIATION

The foreign secretary said repatriation

efforts have slowed down to some extent due to coronavirus and they are trying to expedite it. The clearance operation in Rakhine State and violence created instability there, hurting confidence of Rohingyas again. Secretary Masud said the government's key target is to repatriate Rohingyas to their place of origin in Rakhine safely.

He said the government took up the Bhasan Char plan to minimise multiple risks for the Rohingyas including landslides, trafficking and radicalisation. "I have visited Bhasan Char. All facilities are there. Even recent cyclone Amphan could not leave any impact on Bhasan Char," he said.

He said currently 306 Rohingyas, including women and children, are living there. But that doesn't mean that Rohingyas will continue to live in Bangladesh for an indefinite period. "Our main target is to repatriate them," he said.

### Another five die with Covid-19 symptoms in Cumilla

UNB, Cumilla

Five people, including a woman, died with fever and cold-related problems at Cumilla Medical College Hospital in the last 24 hours until yesterday morning.

The deceased are -- Noorjahan (80) and Nuruzzaman (88) of Burichang upazila, Abdul Halim (68), of Nangolkot upazila, Tipu Sultan (46) of Sahrastra upazila, and Mosharrar Hossain (53) of Brahmanpara.

Dr Sajeda Khatun, director of CuMCH, said the five people were undergoing treatment at the hospital's intensive care unit (ICU) and Coronavirus Unit.

So far, 121 people have died at Cumilla Medical College Hospital coronavirus unit. Among them, 62 died of coronavirus while 59 with symptoms.

According to the District Civil Surgeon Office, 3,864 people have been infected with Covid-19 in the district and 1,646 of them made full recovery.

Health authorities have so far reported 159,679 coronavirus cases and 1,997 deaths. On Friday, Bangladesh ranked 8th globally, with 26,598 new Covid-19 cases in the last seven days, according to World Health Organization (WHO).

### Tauhidul Anwar Khan no more

CITY DESK

Former member of Indo-Bangla Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) Tauhidul Anwar Khan passed away early yesterday at Dhaka's Comfort Hospital, from kidney and heart-related complications. He was 73, said a press release.



Khan was a fellow at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh; Secretary General at Bangladesh Water Partnership; Member of Asian Regional Working Group of ICID and other organisations.

He began his career in 1970 with Bangladesh Water Development Board; followed by several key postings under the Ministry of Water Resources, he was appointed as Director General at Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) and member at Joint Rivers Commission (JRC). He retired in 2008 and worked as a consultant for a few years.

For over 30 years, he was active in promoting Bangladesh's rights to sharing of water of common rivers with regional countries. He was buried at Jurain graveyard following Zuhr prayers yesterday.



Multiple rights, research and citizen organisations of Chattogram yesterday formed a human chain at the city's Press Club, demanding a Tk 2,000 crore allocation of budget for improving people's access to healthcare in the port city. PHOTO: STAR

### DNCC fines

FROM PAGE 3

houses and under-construction buildings. During the operation, DNCC mobile courts also fined owners of 18 houses and establishments Tk 2.97 lakh

The drive will continue from 10am to 1pm every day except Friday, dividing a ward into ten sectors and a sector into 10 sub-sectors.

The larvae of Aedes mosquito were found in abandoned tyres, buckets, flower tubs, bottles, water-meters, garages, broken mugs, floors, water-tanks, plastic containers, roof-drains, yogurt pots, abandoned commodes, coconut shells, broken pots, basement and spaces between two houses.

A team comprising four garbage management workers and one spray-man is taking part in the operation in each sub-sector, while 40 garbage management workers and 10 spray-men are taking part in each sector in the drive every day.

The teams are visiting different establishments, houses and under-construction sites to check breeding grounds of Aedes mosquitoes in the area.

They are also collecting pictures and addresses of houses and other establishments and phone numbers of owners if they find Aedes larvae or mosquito breeding sources there.

All data will be stored to prepare a database in monitoring the breeding sources properly afterwards, said a DNCC press release.

### No arrest

FROM PAGE 3

River police are investigating the case.

Contacted, Khandoker Faridul Islam, superintendent of police (Dhaka region) of River police, said they were trying but could not arrest the accused till yesterday.

"We've carried out drives at all possible places and from yesterday [Saturday] we started drives outside Dhaka," he added.

Replying to another question, he said, "We have filed a case against the Moyur-2 authorities and staffers as we preliminarily found them responsible for the incident. However, we will also look into whether another launch had a role in this."

Although the number of launch accidents has reduced lately, accidents of trawlers and other small-size vessels continue to take place while incidents of getting justice remain rare, activists said.

Ashis Kumar Dey, National Committee to Protect Shipping, Roads and Railways, said two staffers of BIWTA and the shipping department were suspended and a departmental case was filed against two shipping department officials after the Pinak-6 capsized in 2014.

Owner of the Pinak-6 was also arrested

but released later, he said.

In a rare verdict, the Marine Court in Dhaka in April 2017 punished a launch company and nine of its staff as it found them guilty of causing MV Koko-4 to capsize that left 81 people killed and many more missing in November 2009.

But, the case still remains pending at higher court, Ashis said.

"Rarely, those responsible for launch capsizing get punished," he said.

He also raised questions about the fairness of the ongoing investigation as no technical person was incorporated in the ministry-formed committee. At least 153 people were killed and 84 others injured in 106 waterways' accidents in the last six months, two non-government organisations said on Saturday.

Besides, 22 people went missing in those accidents between January and June, according to National Committee to Protect Shipping, Roads & Railways and Green Club of Bangladesh.

The number of accidents has increased compared to the same period last year, when 71 people were killed in 76 accidents.

### Police admin

FROM PAGE 3

With the increase of 215 SP rank posts, total number of SP rank posts in 2.12 lakh manpower force is now 584. Besides, the force have around 1,376 posts for assistant superintendent of police (ASP), 924 additional SPs, 105 additional deputy inspectors general (DIG), 67 DIGs, 15 additional inspectors general (grade-II), two additional inspectors general (grade-I) and an inspector general (IGP).

"If the number of post from additional DIG to additional IGP is not increased, the officials working in lower level will not get regular promotion until 2025. Around 230 SP rank posts may get vacant in the year

for retirement and promotion of present officials," a high official of PHQ said.

"Police needs at least 967 posts for SP, 394 for DIG, 293 for additional IGP (grade-II) and 46 for additional IGP (grade-I) to ensure smooth promotions," the official said, requesting anonymity.

Contacted, SM Aktaruzzaman, an additional deputy inspector general of PHQ, said they are working to increase the number of posts but the process is now stuck as everyone is busy dealing with Covid-19.

"But, we are hopeful to settle the issue after the pandemic ends as the government is very much positive for up-gradation of police force," he added.

### Increased budget

FROM PAGE 3

in infrastructure and neglect family planning and reproductive health section."

"Family planning, contraception, and reproductive health have played a vital role in reducing the country's maternal mortality rate, and this has significantly impacted the health of the younger generation and adolescents, who make up about one-third of the total population of Bangladesh," he said.

Although Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) on its running operational plan put adolescent and maternal health operational plan third in line in course of budget allocation (3.14 percent out of 11.32 percent) in the programme implementation plan, Shaikat, however, urges that the DGFP should create a separate budget line and operational plan for adolescent health to meet the indicators set in the National Adolescent Health Strategy and work plan.

On the other hand, Masrurul Islam, country director of Marie Stopes Bangladesh believes that instead of spending the budget hurriedly in the last moment of the fiscal year, the issue of re-adjusting the budget should be considered and there must proper monitoring from the beginning of the fiscal year.

"Marie Stopes Bangladesh has been providing technical assistance to DGFP in this regard and will continue to do so in the future. In addition

to that, public-private partnerships need to be further strengthened by ensuring the participation of NGOs in government programmes, promotion and service expansion, and improving the quality of health and family planning services by ensuring public and private service policies," Masrurul Islam said.

Dr Md Sarwar Bari, director (finance) at DGFP, however, said the directorate is satisfied with this year's budget and he's hopeful that they will be able to cover their yearly activities with this increase. Besides, DGFP is also hopeful to fulfill every target by 2022.

In addition to that, DGFP has been bringing some changes in their priorities due to the coronavirus outbreak.

"For example, this time, we are giving more attention to infection control, so that our field workers remain safe. There was a service disruption during March-April as our field workers were scared to provide services. From this month, everything is getting normal. Most of them got their personal protection equipment and are now providing their services without any major interruption," he said.

At the same time, DGFP is also bringing some changes in their activities. Since the family planning staffers are providing their services three days a week, for the rest of the working days, they are giving their products to health staffers so that people can still have access to contraceptives.

### Suspended jailer

FROM PAGE 3

the case to the trial court.

On June 16, same HC bench granted bail to Sohail until the ACC submits charge sheet to the trial court concerned, on a condition that he must surrender his passport to the lower court.

Later on, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court stayed the HC order of bail and asked the ACC to inform this court in a week whether the charge sheet of the case has been submitted.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan recently informed the apex court that the commission has submitted the charge sheet to the trial court concerned.

Law enforcers arrested Sohail on October 27, 2018 with over Tk 44 lakh, fixed deposit receipts worth Tk 2.5 crore and Phensayed from Kishoreganj.

Later on, police filed two separate cases with Bhairab Railway Police Station against him on charges of money laundering and possessing drugs under the Narcotics Control Act.

The ACC conducted investigation into the money laundering case.

Attorney General Mahubey Alam and Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik represented the state on the bail petition.

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e-Tender will be invited through the National e-GP System (<http://www.eprocurement.gov.bd>) for procurement of following goods. Details are given below:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	APP ID No.	Description of goods	Tender document last selling/ downloading date & time	Tender closing date & time
476904	Goods. 1	165523	Supply of Animal Feed	03-Aug-2020 16:00	04-Aug-2020 15:00
476941	Goods. 2	165523	Supply of Poultry Feed	27-Jul-2020 16:00	28-Jul-2020 15:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted through the National e-GP System.

To get access to the e-Tender document, the required fees is to be deposited through any registered scheduled bank before 03-Aug-2020 16:00 for Supply of Animal Feed and 27-Jul-2020 16:00 for Supply of Poultry Feed. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System.

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### Another setback

FROM PAGE 3

passengers only from Dhaka to Dubai will cause a huge loss for us. We are already in loss. We won't be able to afford further loss at this moment," he also said.

He did not elaborate further on the matter.

With the cancellations of its flights on Dubai and Abu Dhabi routes, Biman will now operate its international flight on only one route -- Dhaka-London, out of total 18 international destinations.

On Saturday, Biman said it has cancelled flight operations on all international routes till July 30 except for Dubai, Abu Dhabi and London due to global Covid-19 pandemic.

The national air carrier also said it has suspended its flight operations on the Kuala Lumpur and Singapore route till August 31.

Besides, all Manchester bound flights of the national flag carrier have also been cancelled till July 30, said Biman. 2 MORE AIRLINES GET PERMISSION

Two more foreign airlines -- Malindo Air, a Malaysian airline, and Mihin Lanka, an airline owned by the Sri Lankan government -- have got permission from the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh to resume flights from Dhaka on a limited scale.

Malindo Air got permission to operate two flights a week initially while Mihin Lanka was allowed to operate one flight a week, sources at the CAAB said.

CAAB Spokesperson Sohail Kamruzzaman said Malindo Air will be able to carry only transit passengers and those who have Malaysian residence permit from Dhaka.

Bangladeshi expatriate workers stranded in the country are not getting the opportunity to go to Malaysia and return home right now through Malindo Air.

CAAB has so far given permission to Qatar Airways, Emirates Airlines, Turkish Airlines and Air Arabia to resume flights from Dhaka on a limited scale.

After suspension of regular flight operation for around three months, CAAB gave permission to resume flight on international routes from June 16 on a limited scale, considering the Covid-19 pandemic.

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০৫ জুলাই ২০২০

**সংশোধিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বাংলাদেশ সেতু কর্তৃপক্ষের নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ৫০.০১.০০০০.১০৮.৪১.০০৫.০৯(৫ম খণ্ড)-৩৩১ তারিখঃ ০৮ জুন ২০২০ এর মাধ্যমে ০৯/০৬/২০২০ তারিখে দৈনিক ইত্তেফাক ও দি ডেইলি স্টার পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত হয়। উক্ত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত ০১নং ক্রমিক "এসিস্ট্যান্ট ডাইরেক্টর" পদের শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার/অভিজ্ঞতা কলামে "কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হতে অন্যান্য দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির সম্মানসহ দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণির স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী অথবা মাস্টার্স অব বিজনেস এডভান্সড ম্যানেজমেন্ট (এমবিএ) ডিগ্রী" উল্লেখ ছিল। উক্ত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা মূল্যায়নের ক্ষেত্রে "সরকারি চাকুরীতে নিয়োগের শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা নির্ধারণ (বিশেষ বিধান) বিধিমালা, ২০০৩" অনুযায়ী চার বছর মেয়াদী ডিগ্রীকে, অনার্সসহ স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রীর সমতুল্য হিসেবে বিবেচনা করা হবে। তদনুযায়ী ৪ (চার) বছরের অনার্স ডিগ্রীধারীগণ এসিস্ট্যান্ট ডাইরেক্টর পদে আবেদন করতে পারবেন। উল্লেখ্য, করোনভাইরাস (কোভিড-১৯) প্রভাবের বিষয়টি বিবেচনায় নিয়ে নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত সকল পদের আবেদনের সময়সীমা আগামী ৩০ জুলাই ২০২০ পর্যন্ত বৃদ্ধি করা হলো।

**মোঃ মনিরুল আলম**  
অতিরিক্ত পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)

জিডি-১০৮১



PHOTO: AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU



A flooded area in Sirajganj's Belkuchi upazila. Below: flood-hit people shift their house, after separating the structures, as they move to safer places in Kazipur upazila, and right, following health rules like wearing masks and maintaining social distance remains mostly absent in the area, even during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

# Jobless in Covid-19 pandemic, homeless in flood

Over 1.25 lakh people marooned in Sirajganj, many waiting for relief

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, back from Sirajganj

"The coronavirus earlier closed our earning, and now flood has made us homeless," said Mukti Khatun of Shuvoghachha village in Sirajganj's Kazipur upazila.

Mukti's husband Rejaul Karim, a footpath vendor, had to close his trade due to the countrywide shutdown over three months ago. After relaxing of the shutdown, he tried to resume his work but the recent flood forced the poor family to take shelter on an embankment.

"The double blow has made our lives miserable. Now my husband catches fish in floodwater and sells it for buying some rice and vegetables," Mukti said.

Handloom weaver Md Rafikul Islam of Boyrabari village in Sirajganj's

Belkuchi upazila is experiencing even more trouble as he along with his five-member family has to stay at their flooded house to guard their handloom settings in the house.

"I could not sell handloom cloths in last three months due to the shutdown for Covid-19 pandemic. Now the flood has added to our misery. We can hardly take two meals a day," said Rafikul.

A large number of the flood-hit people are now waiting for government relief.

"We are struggling for the last few months, having no work and no income due to coronavirus. And the flood came a bit early this year, adding to our trouble. We want relief for survival," said Hamida Khatun, of Boyrabari village in Sirajganj's Belkuchi upazila.

Contacted, Md Abdur Rahim, district relief and rehabilitation officer (DRRO), said over 125 tonnes of rice has already been allocated as relief for the flood-affected areas in the district.

Thirty-one unions of Sadar, Chowhali, Belkuchi, Shahzadpur and Kazipur upazilas of Sirajganj district have been flooded and 1.25 lakh people are reportedly marooned during flood in the district, he said.

Asked about the allegation of not getting relief, the DRRO said, "The relief is being distributed according to the need, it will continue. The allocated rice will be distributed among the flood-hit people through the union parishad chairmen and members."

"We are monitoring the relief work. We will take action if anomaly is found," he added.

## Jahanara's battle of silence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Who would have thought that a girl with childhood physical disabilities, born in an impoverished family, could pursue education in this country?

That notion has been proven wrong by Jahanara Akter, from Pashchim Para village in Ghatail upazila. All of her family members, except her mother, have the same speech and hearing impairment. But that could not hold her back from her pursuit of education.

When many other children with similar impediments would stop before crossing the primary education level, this twenty-year-old resilient girl has passed the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations this year with flying colours -- GPA 5 that is.

Born to Bina Begum and Jahangir Alam -- a day labourer who cannot hear or speak -- in the year 2000, Jahanara also had speech and hearing impairment since birth. Her two younger siblings, a brother and a sister, were also born with similar impairment.

Bina Begum said in between her work at different houses as domestic help, she started giving alphabet lessons to Jahanara at an early age.

Seeing her smartness and eagerness to learn, Bina left no stone unturned to admit the young Jahanara to an educational institution. Finally she came to learn about a school for children with disabilities in the upazila town.

Although far from home, Bina devoted all her energy and efforts to bring Jahanara to the school every day as she always believed that her daughter has all the potential

to be successful in completing her education.

Despite extreme financial difficulties, believing in Jahanara's strength has been the force that has been driving the entire family to stand by Jahanara's endeavours with all their heart and soul, Bina said.

Soon enough, the mother's hard work and support from all family members started to pay off. Jahanara kept passing one grade after another in the school



Jahanara Akter studying at her home in Pashchim Para village of Ghatail upazila. PHOTO: COLLECTED

with good results every year and after passing fifth grade, she got admitted to SE Pilot Girls' High School in Ghatail town. From there she secured GPA 3.50 in Junior School Certificate examinations held in 2018.

Jahanara had studied hard since then with an aim to get a GPA 5.0 in the SSC exams this year, Bina said. "She reached this stage after going through immense hardship and her success makes me really happy."

Now that the high school phase of getting her daughter admitted to a good college has been occupying the thoughts of her mother.

Since there is no reputable college in their home village, Jahanara might need to move to a different place for her college education. But her mother is now worried about how she would send someone along as her daughter needs constant assistance, especially during her studies.

Being a physician has always been Jahanara's dream. But considering her physical limitations in attending extensive hands-on and practical course works during medical studies, Jahanara has lately been leaning towards becoming a civil servant after completing her studies, said her mother.

Bina, however, said she would carry on regardless with her efforts to fulfil the ultimate dream of her daughter.

Bulbuli Begum, head teacher of Jahanara's school, said all the teachers extended all out support to Jahanara while she was at the school.

She also said she has great respect and regard for all special students, especially for Jahanara, who she believes will succeed in reaching her goal with assistance from the government as well as from the well-off section of the society.

Contacted, Ghatail Upazila Secondary Education Officer AKM Shamsul Haque said they would help Jahanara in getting admitted to a good college and they would "also try to arrange a full free scholarship as well as other support for Jahanara so she can see her dream come true."

## Cash Aid, VGD List: 'Fake' mobile numbers used

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A number of destitute people have been deprived of the government's safety programme benefit as irregularities have been found in the government's Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme and cash assistance lists for the poor families in Kabai union of Barishal's Bakerganj upazila, with fake address and mobile numbers used by people of other areas.

One of the listed beneficiaries, Amina Begum, wife of Kamaluddin Shikdar of the union, came up with the allegation at a press conference in Barishal Reporters' Unity recently.

Amina said the government allocated VGD rice for 249 destitute women in the union for 2019 and 2020, but at least 15 beneficiaries in the union are yet to get the rice due to irregularities found in preparation of beneficiaries' list of the programme. Under the VGD programme, a beneficiary gets 30 kg of rice per month free of cost.

She along with 14 beneficiaries in Kabai union has been deprived of the government's safety programme benefit for 18 months, said Amina.

Meanwhile, the government announced that 50 lakh poor families hit by the coronavirus pandemic would get Tk 2,500 cash assistance each through four major mobile financial service (MFS) providers from May 14 to 18.

The prime minister on May 14 launched the disbursement of over Tk 1,200 crore

cash aid for 50 lakh poor families hit by the Covid-19 pandemic in the country. Under the cash assistance programme, each family will get Tk 2,500 cash aid through MFS providers so that they get the money directly.

There are 952 listed low-income families in the union.

But around 100 listed beneficiaries out of the 952 families are yet to receive the cash aid as fake address and mobile numbers were used during preparation of the beneficiaries' list, said Amina.

Kabir Hawlader is one of the listed beneficiaries under the cash assistance programme and when this correspondent phoned the mobile number of Kabir, one Md Zamal, a resident of Chawkbazar in Cumilla, received the phone call and said "It is his personal phone number and no person lives here in the name of Kabir".

Zahirul Huq Talukdar, chairman of Kabai Union Parishad (UP), said the distribution works are going on. There may have been a mistake in providing information during preparation of lists of VGD and cash assistance programme for poor people.

Contacted, Madhavi Rani Roy, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Bakerganj, said they have recently received an allegation from the Barishal district administration in this regard. They have already started investigation into the matter.

Bakerganj upazila parishad female affairs officer has been asked to investigate the allegation of irregularities, said the UNO.

## Four held for killing woman for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police on Saturday arrested four people in connection with a case for killing a seven-month pregnant housewife for dowry in Kulaura upazila on Thursday.

The deceased, Majeda Begum, 21, was wife of Abdul Mukit of Dakkhin Pabai village in the upazila.

Police arrested victim's mother-in-law Afia Begum, 50, brother-in-law Mostaq Ahmed, 20, Zayed Ahmed, 23, and Abdul Jalil, 32, after Majeda's mother Kabirunnesa filed a case with Kulaura Police Station on Friday.

According to the case statement, Majeda was married to Mukit, who serves as a cook at a restaurant in Sylhet city, in September last year.

Since their marriage, Mukit and his family members often used to torture Majeda for dowry.

Kabirunnesa said one of Majeda's in-laws informed them that Majeda had died.

They also tried to bury the body hurriedly, she added.

In suspicion, they informed the matter to police, who recovered Majeda's body and sent it to the hospital for autopsy, Kabirunnesa further added.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives

Local Government Division

Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-II

Project Management Unit (PMU)

5, Phoenix Road, Nagar Bhaban, 5th Floor, Fulbaria, Dhaka

[www.uphcsdp.gov.bd](http://www.uphcsdp.gov.bd)



Memo No. UPHCSDP-II/PMU/COR/2020/ICB-PAA(2)/28/558

Date: 05.07.2020

### Invitation for Bids

Date	6 July 2020
Project Title	ADB Loan 3705/Grant 0607-BAN: Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Additional Financing (UPHCSDP-AF).
Contract No. and Title	GD-32, Gazipur City Corporation Partnership Area 3 (GCC PA03) GD 34, Chattogram City Corporation Partnership Area 2 (CCC PA02) GD-36, Mymensingh City Corporation Partnership Area 1 (MCC PA01) GD-37, Netrokona Municipality Partnership Area 1 (NETM PA01) GD-38, Kurigram Municipality Partnership Area 1 (KURM PA01) GD-39, Jaganathpur Municipality Partnership Area 1 (JAM PA01) GD-40, Derai Municipality Partnership Area 1 (DERM PA01) GD-41, Gaibandha Municipality Partnership Area 1 (GAIM PA01) GD-42, Faridpur Municipality Partnership Area 1 (FARM PA01) GD-43, Sariatpur Municipality Partnership Area 1 (SARM PA01) GD-44, Benapol Municipality Partnership Area 1 (BENM PA01)

Deadline for submission of bids 17 August 2020, 2:00pm (local time).

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Additional Financing (UPHCSDP-AF) ("the Project") (1 April 2018 to 31 March 2023). Part of this financing will be used for payments under the contract named above.

2. The Project, on behalf of the Local Government Division (LGD) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, ("the Purchaser"), now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Procurement of Non-Consulting Services.

3. International Competitive Bidding (ICB) will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries of the ADB. Eligible bidders may include NGOs/CSOs as well as Trusts/Charitable and Non-profit/Private Organizations.

4. A bidder may bid for one or more than one Partnership Area (PA) but no more than 4 PAs. In such cases Bidders shall have to submit separate Technical and Price Proposals and Bid Security for each PA, otherwise the bids shall be rejected. The NGO who already awarded for 4 PAs under this project (UPHCSDP-AF) is not allowed to participate in this bid. The NGO who already awarded for 1 or 2 or 3 PAs, they may participate only for remaining 3 or 2 or 1 PA(s) accordingly.

5. Details of the scope of services, Partnership Areas, bidding procedures, eligibility of the bidders and other related information will be found in the bidding document available in the office of the undersigned. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain further information from the office of the undersigned from 9:00am to 5:00pm on any working day from 6 July to 16 August 2020.

6. The Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested Bidders on submission of a written application to the address below between 09:00am to 05:00pm on working days from 6 July 2020 to 16 August 2020 and pay a non-refundable fee of Bangladesh Taka 8,000.00 (eight thousand) or US\$ 100.00 (one hundred) by Pay Order or Bank Draft in favour of the "Project Director, UPHCSDP-II" on behalf of the Local Government Division (LGD) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, for each set of Bidding Documents for each PA. The documents may be sent by air mail or courier, or may be collected through authorized representatives. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.

7. Bid(s) must be submitted to the office of the undersigned at the address below, on or before 17 August 2020 at 2:00pm Bangladesh Standard Time together with a Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document. Bids will be opened at 2:30pm on 17 August 2020 in the presence of Bidders' representatives or their authorized representatives who choose to attend. Late Bids shall be rejected.

8. A pre-bid meeting will be held at 10:00am on 27 July 2020 as mentioned in the bidding document. All prospective bidders are requested to attend.

9. The Project will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation, attending pre-bid meeting, site visits and delivery of bids.

10. The Purchaser reserves the right to accept any bid and reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Md. Abdul Hakim Majumder Ndc

Project Director (Additional Secretary)

Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Additional Financing

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GD-1082

## Dozens killed in IS, regime clashes in Syria: monitor

Clashes between Russia-backed Syrian regime forces and the Islamic State group have killed more than 50 fighters on both sides in two days, a Britain-based war monitor said on Saturday. Fighting and Russian air strikes in the central desert province of Homs since late Thursday have claimed the lives of 20 pro-government fighters and 31 jihadists, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. IS jihadists have retained a roving presence in Syria's vast Badia desert, despite losing their last shred of territory last year. They regularly carry out attacks there. IS declared a cross-border "caliphate" in large parts of Syria and neighbouring Iraq in 2014, but several military campaigns against it chipped away at that proto-state and eventually led to its territorial demise.

## 23 killed, 29 injured in lightning strikes in UP

At least 23 people were killed and 29 others injured after being struck by lightning in various districts of India's Uttar Pradesh on Saturday. According to an official statement, eight people died in Allahabad, six in Mirzapur, two in Kaushambi, and one in Jaunpur. A report from the Relief Commissioner's Office said that nine others in Prayagraj, 10 in Mirzapur, and four in Kaushambi suffered serious burns. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed deep anguish over the loss of lives and directed respective district magistrates to extend compensation of Rs 4 lakh to the family of those killed. He also asked the officials to ensure that proper medical treatment is provided to the injured, the statement said.

## India to reopen Taj Mahal with social distancing, masks



Visitors to the Taj Mahal will have to wear masks at all times, keep their distance and not touch its glistening marble surfaces when India's 17th-century monument to love reopens today after a three-month COVID-19 shutdown. Only 5,000 tourists will be allowed in a day, split into two groups, a far cry from peak levels of 80,000 a day who would swarm the mausoleum built in the northern city of Agra by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan for his wife, in a 22-year effort. Authorities are reopening the Taj and other monuments, such as New Delhi's historic Red Fort, just as India's coronavirus infections are rising at the fastest pace in three months. Yesterday, the health ministry reported a record single-day spike of 24,850 new cases and more than 600 deaths, pushing the overall case tally to 673,165, closing in on Russia, the third-most affected country globally.

SOURCE: ANN, REUTERS, AFP



Local residents are rescued by Japanese Self-Defence Force soldiers using a boat at a flooding area caused by a heavy rain in Kuma village, Kumamoto prefecture, southern Japan, yesterday. The death toll from floods and landslides unleashed by torrential rains on Japan's southern island of Kyushu rose to 20 yesterday, with 14 people missing, NHK public TV said. More heavy rain is forecast after Saturday's deadly deluge in the Kumamoto prefecture, Japan's worst natural disaster since Typhoon Hagibis in October last year left about 90 people dead.

PHOTO: AFP

## FLOODS IN ASSAM

# Death toll rises to 61; 1.1m affected

AGENCIES

More than a million people have been affected by flooding in northeastern India, where the death toll rose to 61, authorities said yesterday.

Flooding is an annual phenomenon in India's northeast, claiming hundreds of lives each year.

The flood has affected 10.75 lakh people in 18 districts of Assam, a government report said. Of the dead, 37 people were killed in the flood and 24 died due to landslides triggered by incessant rainfall, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said in its daily report.

The Brahmaputra River, one of the largest rivers in the world which flows from Tibet into India and then into Bangladesh, burst its banks in Assam last week, inundating more than 2,000 villages. The river is flowing above the danger mark at Neamatighat in Jorhat and Dhubri town in Dhubri districts, reports said yesterday.

The state was first hit in mid-May when pre-monsoon rains arrived, causing floods that killed 11 people. Another 20 died in landslides caused by days of incessant downpours.

The floodwaters receded after a few weeks, only to rise again on June 22 at the start of the annual monsoon season.

About 70 percent of Assam's World Heritage-listed Kaziranga National Park -- home to two-thirds of the world's remaining one-horned rhinos -- was submerged by the floods.

The monsoon is crucial to replenishing water supplies in South Asia, but also causes widespread death and destruction across the region each year.

# The coronavirus is airborne

239 experts come up with one big claim, urge WHO to change its advisory

THE STRAITS TIMES/ANN

The coronavirus is finding new victims worldwide, in bars and restaurants, offices, markets and casinos, giving rise to frightening clusters of infection that increasingly confirm what many scientists have been saying for months: The virus lingers in the air indoors, infecting those nearby.

If airborne transmission is a significant factor in the pandemic, especially in crowded spaces with poor ventilation, the consequences for containment will be significant. Masks may be needed indoors, even in socially distant settings.

Healthcare workers may need N95 masks that filter out even the smallest respiratory droplets as they care for coronavirus patients.

Ventilation systems in schools, nursing homes, residences and businesses may need to minimise recirculating air and add powerful new filters. Ultraviolet lights may be needed to kill viral particles floating in tiny droplets indoors.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has long held that the coronavirus is spread primarily by large respiratory droplets that, once expelled by infected people in coughs and sneezes, fall quickly to the floor.

But in an open letter to the WHO, 239 scientists in 32 countries have outlined the evidence showing that smaller particles can infect people and are calling for the

agency to revise its recommendations. The researchers plan to publish their letter in a scientific journal.

Even in its latest update on the coronavirus, released June 29, the WHO said airborne transmission of the virus is possible only after medical procedures that produce aerosols, or droplets smaller than 5 microns. (A micron is equal to 1 millionth of a metre.)

Proper ventilation and N95 masks are of concern only in those circumstances, according to the WHO.

Instead, its infection control guidance, before and during this pandemic, has heavily promoted the importance of handwashing as a primary prevention strategy, even though there is limited evidence for transmission of the virus from surfaces. (The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention now says surfaces are likely to play only a minor role.)

But interviews with nearly 20 scientists - including a dozen WHO consultants and several members of the committee that crafted the guidance - and internal e-mails paint a picture of an organisation that, despite good intentions, is out of step with science.

Whether carried aloft by large droplets that zoom through the air after a sneeze, or by much smaller exhaled droplets that may glide the length of a room, these experts said, the coronavirus is borne through air and can infect people when inhaled.

"We've known since 1946 that coughing and talking generate aerosols," said Dr Linsey Marr, an expert in

airborne transmission of viruses at Virginia Tech. Scientists have not been able to grow the coronavirus from aerosols in the lab. But that doesn't mean aerosols are not infective, Dr Marr said: Most of the samples in those experiments have come from hospital rooms with good air flow that would dilute viral levels.

In most buildings, she said, "the air-exchange rate is usually much lower, allowing virus to accumulate in the air and pose a greater risk."

Many experts said the WHO should embrace what some called a "precautionary principle" and others called "needs and values" - the idea that even without definitive evidence, the agency should assume the worst of the virus, apply common sense and recommend the best protection possible.

"There is no incontrovertible proof that Sars-CoV-2 travels or is transmitted significantly by aerosols, but there is absolutely no evidence that it's not," said Dr Trish Greenhalgh, a primary care doctor at the University of Oxford in Britain.

"So at the moment we have to make a decision in the face of uncertainty, and my goodness, it's going to be a disastrous decision if we get it wrong," she said. "So why not just mask up for a few weeks, just in case?" Even cloth masks, if worn by everyone, can significantly reduce transmission, and the WHO should say so clearly, Dr Don Milton, an aerosol expert at the University of Maryland.

## Rapper eyes US presidency

REUTERS, Washington

American rapper Kanye West, a vocal supporter of US President Donald Trump, announced on Saturday that he would run for president in 2020.

"We must now realize the promise of America by trusting God, unifying our vision and building our future. I am running for president of the United States," West wrote in a Twitter post, adding an American flag emoji and the hashtag "#2020VISION".

It was not immediately clear if West was serious about vying for the presidency four months before the Nov 3 election or if he had filed any official paperwork to appear on state election ballots.

Tesla chief Elon Musk, endorsed West's Twitter post: "You have my full support!" he wrote.



A car tries to drive along a street filled with revellers drinking in the Soho area of London on Saturday, after the police re-opened the road at 2300 as restrictions are further eased during the novel coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. Pubs in England reopened on Saturday for the first time since late March, bringing cheer to drinkers and the industry but raising fears of public disorder and fresh coronavirus cases.

PHOTO: AFP

# 'Radical left' lying about past

In 4th July speech, Trump vows to defeat those who are trying to erase history; says '99 percent' coronavirus cases in US 'totally harmless'

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump on Saturday vowed to defeat the "radical left" in an Independence Day speech at the White House that condemned recent protests against monuments to historical figures as attempts to destroy the United States.

Trump claimed without evidence that 99% of coronavirus cases in the United States were "totally harmless." In fact, many states marked a record number of new COVID-19 cases. In Texas alone, 7,890 patients were hospitalized after 238 new admissions over the past 24 hours.

Trump, who has faced criticism over his handling of the pandemic, said China must be "held accountable" for failing to contain the disease.

The administration held a fireworks display over the National Mall as night fell after Trump's speech, despite Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser's warnings that the mass spectator event would defy health officials' guidance during the pandemic.



Just steps from where Trump spoke, peaceful protesters marched down blocked-off streets around the White House, Black Lives Matter Plaza and the Lincoln Memorial. They were confronted by counter-protesters chanting, "USA! USA!" but there were no reports of violence.

Millions of Americans have been demonstrating against police brutality and racial inequality since the May 25 killing of George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes. In addition to achieving police reforms

in some cities, some protesters have removed Confederate statues and other symbols of America's legacy of slavery.

"There have always been those who seek to lie about the past in order to gain power in the present, those that are lying about our history, those who want us to be ashamed of who we are," Trump said on Saturday. "Their goal is demolition."

Trump's Fourth of July remarks doubled down on his speech the previous evening at Mount Rushmore in South Dakota where he accused "angry mobs" of trying to erase history and painted himself as a bulwark against left-wing extremism.

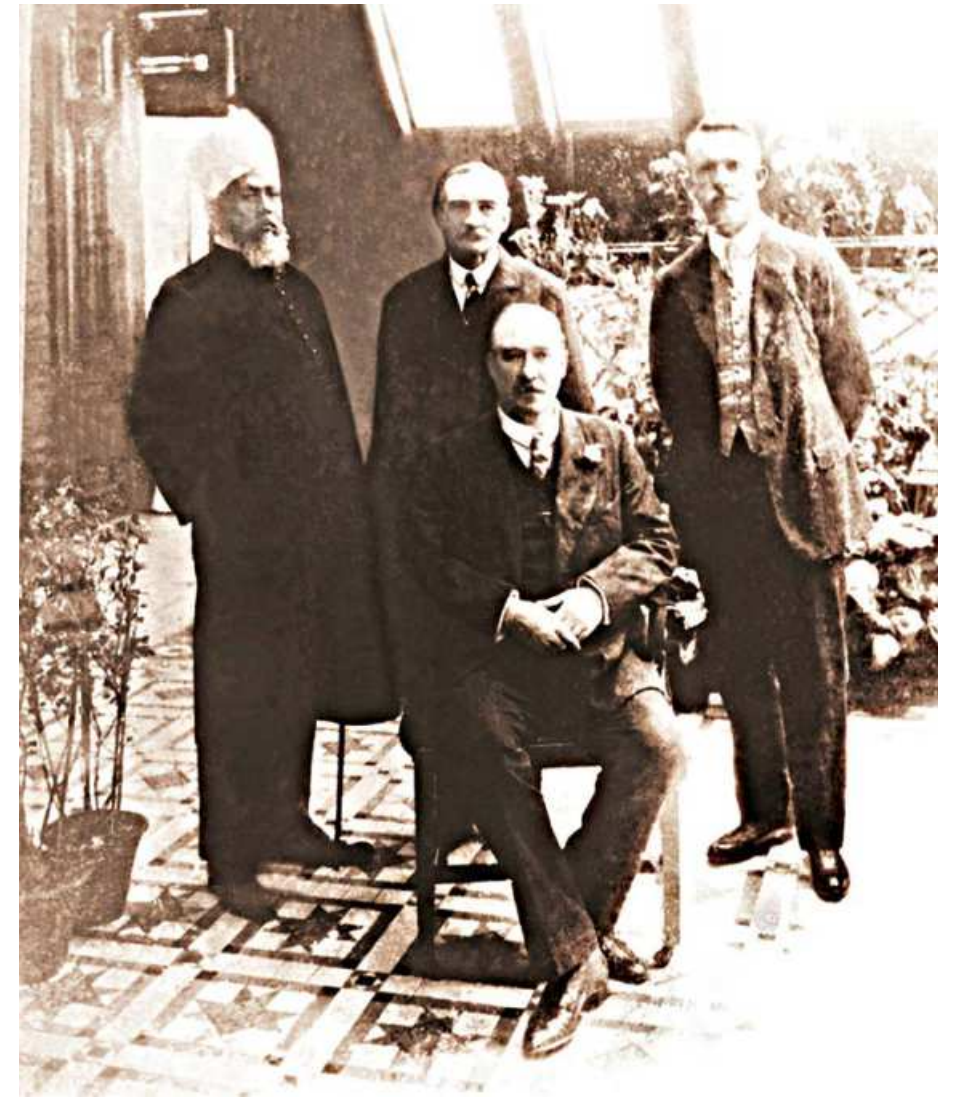
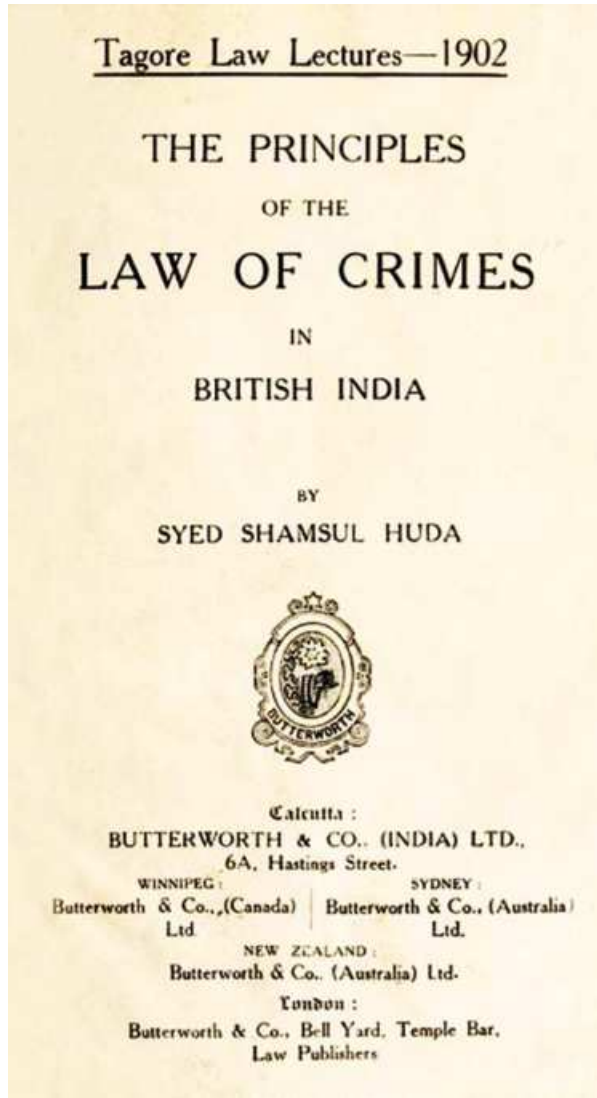
Just months before November's presidential election, opinion polls in key states show Trump trailing his Democratic rival, former Vice President Joe Biden. Biden wrote a Fourth of July opinion piece that struck a contrasting note with the Republican president and accused him of finding "new ways to tarnish and dismantle our democracy" every day.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh		
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change		
Bangladesh Climate Change Trust		
Old 'Ban Bhaban (6th Floor)-101, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212		
Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)		
1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.	
2. Agency	Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT).	
3. Procuring entity name	Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT).	
4. Procuring entity code	None.	
5. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.	
6. Invitation for	Hiring of Consultants for delivering expert services to the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust for being National Implementing Entity (NIE) to access Green Climate Fund.	
7. Invitation Ref. No.	22.06.0000.120.14.001-2018	
8. Date	30th June 2020	
9. Budget & source of funds	BCCT Knowledge Hub Project (GoB).	
10. Development partners (if applicable)	None.	
11. Project/program code (if applicable)	None.	
12. Project/program name (if applicable)	Institutionalization of BCCT as a Centre of Excellence through Coordination of Climate Finance, Research and Knowledge Management.	
13. EOI Package Nos.	S1 (Procurement of Service).	
14. EOI package name	Selection Consultants.	
15. Procurement method	OCBS (Quality and Cost Base Selection).	
16. EOI publication date	10th July 2020, 03.00pm.	
17. EOI submission closing date & time	2nd August 2020, 03.00pm.	
18. EOI opening date & time	2nd August 2020, 03.00pm.	
19. EOI submission place	Old 'Ban Bhaban-101 (6th Floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.	
20. Brief description of assignment	Considering the demands of the accreditation process, Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT under MoEFCC) requires the services of consultants who are familiar with environmental, climate change, gender and development issues and have an understanding and experience of the funding landscape for Climate Change related activities and of the workings of the Green Climate Fund. The consultant's main responsibility would be (1) to study the requirements of the accreditation process, assess BCCT's readiness and advice on adequate steps, produce as well as any additional required policies for being National Implementing Entity (NIE). (2) A unique and coordinated work-plan prepare for BCCT considering its dynamic activities.	
21. Qualification & experience of the consultants	<p>Demonstrated minimum 10 years of experience in the field of Environmental/Climate Change and/or Social sustainability and assessment in a national and international development context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum master's degree in field related to Development Studies, Economics, Environmental and/or Social Science, Finance, Environmental Politics, International Relations, Geography and Environment, Agriculture, Climate Change and others related subjects/studies.</li> <li>Familiarity with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and its procedures relating to Accreditation of Implementing Entities.</li> <li>Excellent communication and drafting skills in English.</li> <li>Ability to work with limited supervision, self-motivated, objective-oriented.</li> </ul> <p>The details will be available in ToR.</p>	
22. Other information	<p>1) Consultants will be selected in accordance with the Public Procurement Act 2006 &amp; Public Procurement Rules 2008.</p> <p>2) Interested persons may obtain detail ToR &amp; further information (if required) from the office of undersigned from 9.00am to 4.00pm (except holidays).</p> <p>3) Envelope containing one original with one copy application/proposals (EOI) along with relevant supporting documents to be marked "Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Consultants".</p> <p>4) Late submission will be rejected.</p>	
23. Name of official inviting EOI	Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT).	
24. Designation of official EOI	Director, Development, Planning & Negotiation and Project Director.	
25. Address of official EOI	Old 'Ban Bhaban-101 (6th Floor), Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.	
26. Contact details of official inviting tender	Ph: 01716414659 E-mail: nasir6318@gmail.com	
27. The EOI will be available in the website of Bangladesh Climate Change Trust.		
28. The authority reserves all rights to accept or reject any/all EOIs without assigning any reason thereof.		
<p><b>Nasir-ud-Doula</b> Director (Deputy Secretary) Planning, Development &amp; Negotiation, BCCT and Project Director</p>		
GD-1080		



COURTESY: SYED MANZOOR HASAN, OBE  
PHOTO: BOURNE & SHEPHERD, CALCUTTA, 1917.

The Hon'ble Justice  
Nawab Sir Syed Shamsul Huda  
(1862-1922), KCIE



COURTESY: SYED M MASROOR  
PHOTO: BOURNE & SHEPHERD, CALCUTTA, CIRCA 1913.

The Bengal Executive Council (1912-1917)  
H E Lord Carmichael, Governor of Bengal (seated); standing (left to right): Nawab Sir Syed Shamsul Huda; Sir William F Duke & Sir P C Lyon

# A colossus from Brahmanbaria

WAQAR A KHAN

The Honorable Justice Nawab Sir Syed Shamsul Huda, KCIE, an illustrious son of Eastern Bengal (Bangladesh) was born in 1862, in the village of Gokarna, formerly in Comilla then a part of Hill Tipperah, in British India. The village of Gokarna is now incorporated into the Brahmanbaria district. Huda's father, Syed Riazat Ullah, a classical scholar belonged to a zamindar family. He was editor of *The Door-been*, a Persian language weekly journal, started in the early 1880s.

Huda had a brilliant academic record. However, his primary education in - Arabic, Persian, Urdu, Bengali, English and elementary science, was completed at home under the able tutoring and guidance of his father. He was later sent to the Hooghly High Madrasah in Calcutta, to complete his traditional schooling. After that, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts (BA, 1884) and a Bachelor of Law (BL, 1886) from the prestigious Presidency College, Calcutta and the Calcutta University, respectively. He further acquired a Masters of Arts (MA, 1889) degree in Persian, privately from the Presidency College. Adequately equipped with formal degrees, complemented further by his unquenchable thirst for knowledge, he became a voracious reader of history, literature, politics and jurisprudence, which made him into a formidable personage of learning and an erudite scholar. Throughout his life he maintained a vast library stocked with an enviable collection of books, including those on criminal and constitutional law. Therefore, he became one of the foremost educated Muslim professional, community/political leader and Jurist of his generation in British India, particularly in regards to Bengal of the early 20th century. The then government of Bengal in its publication of 'Who's Who in India' in 1911, had this to say about Huda, "He is one of the leaders of public opinion in his province, and is in the fore-front of all movements concerning the Mahomedan community." The Statesman of Calcutta wrote: "His charm of manner, tact and impartiality won him the appreciation from all shades of opinion."

At the beginning of his professional career Huda served for some time as Associate Professor in Arabic and Persian at the renowned Calcutta Madrasah, after which he joined the Calcutta High Court Bar as a lawyer. He became a member of the Senate of the Calcutta University in 1894. In 1899, he took active part in the Calcutta session of Mohammadan Educational Conference. He was also appointed Tagore Professor of Law in 1902. Side by side with his attention to education and law, Huda found means for satisfying his inherited interest in journalism. He financed the Bengali weekly 'Sudhakar'. In addition he bought the Urdu Guide Press and financed 'The Muhammadan Observer', which was the first English weekly in Bengal to be owned by a Muslim.

Huda was an outstanding orator. His impeccable articulation, diction and eloquence of speech, both in the public domain and in the courts of law, were highly praised. The Manchester Guardian in April, 1911, while commenting on the elegant style of Huda's speech said: "Mr. Shamsul Huda, a Mahomedan representative, has a delightfully refined English accent, and delivers short but pointed speeches which could scarcely be improved upon." Similarly, The Times of India in an editorial on 'Notable Public Speakers' remarked: "Another Mahomedan, Mr. Shamsul Huda, has a very agreeable and a pleasant delivery, and one his speeches drew hearty response from the admiring Council."

Huda along with another stalwart of Eastern

Bengal, Nawab Bahadur Syed Nawab Ali Chowdhury (1863-1929), were strong proponents of Lord Curzon's Partition of Bengal in 1905. In fact, both of them were advisors to Nawab Salimullah of Dhaka during this crucial period. Huda was subsequently elected to represent the Muslims of Eastern Bengal in the Imperial Legislative Council in 1907, and as a member of the Eastern Bengal Legislative Council in 1908. He also held the office of the Secretary of the Bengal Provincial Muslim League and that of the powerful Bengal Landholder's Association. He was also the President-Elect of the All-India Muslim League in 1912. He became the first Indian Member of the Bengal Executive Council under Lord Carmichael, Governor of Bengal (tenure: 1912-1917), and later under the Earl of Ronaldshay, Governor of Bengal (tenure: 1917-1922). Huda was the second Bengali Muslim Judge of the Calcutta High Court, the first being the Hon'ble Justice Sir Syed Ameer Ali (1849-1928), Bar-at-Law. Huda was elevated to the bench on 8th June, 1917 and resigned on 3rd January 1921, to become the first Indian President of the reformed Bengal Legislative Council under the Montagu-Chelmsford Scheme.

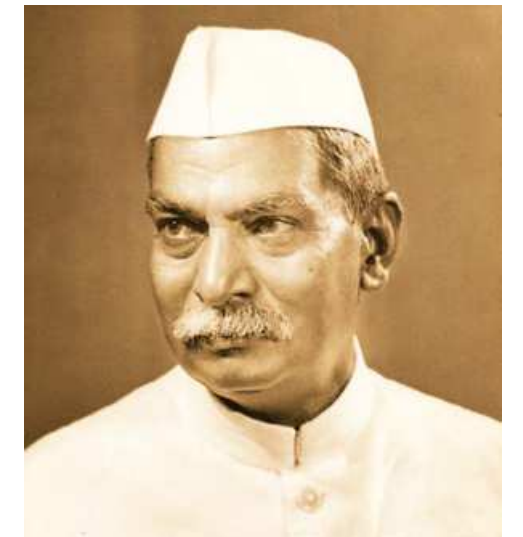
Huda was made a Nawab in 1913, as a mark of personal distinction, awarded the prestigious KCIE in 1916, and designated a Judge of the Calcutta High Court in 1917. He was a great patron of the advancement for Muslim education and worked ceaselessly towards that end. He created special provisions for the accommodation of the needy Muslim students from rural areas of Bengal, particularly those from

Huda was known for his sterling qualities both of the heart and mind. He was a latitudinarian by temperament. His cordial, democratic and catholicity of spirit hugely attracted all those who came in contact with him. He never displayed any ill- feelings, prejudice or discriminatory behavior even towards those, with whom he disagreed in principle. His arguments were always based on facts, reasoning and fair play. Although a devout Muslim, love of humanity was his true religion. He was forever ready to listen, guide and help all those in need regardless of race, caste, creed, social origin or religion. He held himself to the highest ethical and moral standards in life, which earned him great esteem amongst the British rulers as well as his own countrymen. Generous to a fault and a true nobleman, he was highly respected by his peers. Only a very few Indians in those days rose to such enviable height and eminence by sheer dint of courage, dignity, integrity, forthrightness and above all - meritocracy, Huda being one of those rare names in British India. Even at the higher echelons of the British Raj, his advice and valuable suggestions were carefully listened to, some of which were markedly anti-British.

Lord Carmichael, the then governor of Bengal, enjoyed a close working relationship with Huda, a colleague, friend and one who selflessly helped the governor carry out his many obligations. On his retirement speech as the Governor of Bengal in 1917, Carmichael paid glowing tributes for the assistance and sagacity of Huda by saying, "I have had near me as my colleague throughout five years the

about Huda's towering personality, in newspapers, magazines and personal reminiscences of both British and Indian luminaries of those days, who had the privilege of knowing or working with him. On his death, there were profuse eulogies. It is not possible to include them all here due to space constraints. However, just a choicest few are shared with the readers. The eminent Rai Jogendranath Gosh said, "Strong, fair and impartial, Sir Syed Shamsul Huda steered straight our frail bark in the new unknown sea of political freedom buffeted by storms of violent and non-violent faction with singular ability... in all walks of life he displayed rare ability, fairness and independence." Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haq of Bengal wrote, "He has been a prominent figure in Indian political life for a number of years and during the last ten years he had been filling some of the highest offices under the Crown with exceptional tact and ability". A prominent lawyer of the Calcutta High Court, Tarok-Chand Chakraborty, wrote in The Statesman of Calcutta, "his heart knew not the barriers of race and creed. No man ever had so many intimate friends among the members of his own profession, and friendship of Sir Shamsul Huda did not mean the mere absence of enmity or the exchange of greetings." The Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan Sir Bijay Chand Mahtab, a former colleague of Huda in the Bengal Legislative Council, and the biggest landholder in British India, while eulogising Huda said, "the Nawab was first a Bengali and then a Muslim, and was above favoritism or nepotism. He never unduly favored a Muslim

Dr Rajendra Prasad (1884-1963), the first President of the Republic of India. In Calcutta, Prasad then a struggling young man used to live far away from Huda's residence. Therefore, with great difficulty he had to travel to Huda's house early in the morning to arrange relevant papers for Huda's court cases, before proceeding to the High Court. Huda would always take Prasad along with him in his own car to the court. Subsequently, to ease Prasad's daily rigors of commuting, Huda arranged for



Dr Rajendra Prasad (1884-1963), the first President of the Republic of India

Prasad to lodge in his own house, providing him with a separate room and kitchen, since Prasad was a conservative, high-caste Hindu. In his autobiography Prasad mentions a rare example of Huda's conscientiousness and wrote, "it will not be out of place to mention here a small incident. While I was living with him, we had the festival of Bakr-Id. The area in which Khan Bahadur (later Nawab) lived was predominantly Muslim and I feared that in his house or in the neighbourhood a cow might be slaughtered for sacrifice. So I thought it would be best if I made myself scarce for a few days. So, on the eve of the festival, I quietly slipped out and returned only four days later. Khan Bahadur Huda asked me where I had gone and I answered that I had been to a friend". On hearing this, Huda immediately retorted, "I know you went away because of Bakr-Id. You probably wanted to avoid being present during a cow sacrifice. Have you not been unfair to me? You are my articulated clerk. I have several Hindu servants in my house, the gardener and the servant who tend to my cow are all Hindus. Do you think I am so callous as not to think of their sentiments, not to speak of yours? Could I have given pain to them? You should have asked me before leaving. In view of the Hindu servants in my house cow sacrifice is never done here". A deeply embarrassed, Rajendra Prasad, with head bowed profusely apologized to his mentor.

The Honorable Justice Nawab Sir Syed Shamsul Huda, KCIE, passed away on 14 October, 1922 and was buried at the Tiljala municipal graveyard, Calcutta. Incidentally, Huda was a great-uncle of another distinguished son of the soil, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed (1936-2019), KCMG, founder of BRAC, a globally reputed international developmental organization based in Bangladesh.

Waqar A Khan is the Founder of The Bangladesh Forum for Heritage Studies.



The Gokarna Nawab-Bari Complex, Nasirnagar, Brahmanbaria

PHOTO: SYED M MASROOR

Eastern Bengal by founding the Carmichael Hostel and establishment of the Elliot Madrasah Hostel in 1898, both in Calcutta. The Partition of Bengal was annulled in 1911, by the King-Emperor George V, at the last Imperial Coronation Durbar held in Delhi. It was subsequently followed by the memorable founding of the University of Dhaka, in 1921. The Earl of Ronaldshay, Governor of Bengal, became its first Chancellor while Sir Shamsul Huda was appointed as Life Member of the university by the governor.

Hon. Nawab Sir Syed Sham-ul-Huda, KCIE. At my Council Board, the Nawab Sahib has always been a fearless critic of the government measures and though perfectly fair to all, a strong advocate of Mohamedan interests. But not only has he been a valued colleague, he has also been to me a most faithful and sympathetic friend, ever ready to help me and to teach me to understand the varied problems of Bengal from the point of view of those whom he represents."

There are many complimentary remarks

or even his own relatives." Babu Surendranath Roy wrote, "The late Nawab Sahib was not a sectarian in any sense of the word. He never made any distinction between Hindus and Muhammadans. He was devoid of all class hatred. He was never unreasonable in his demands for the rights and claims of his co-religionists. In fact he was a gentleman in the highest sense of the word."

Perhaps, the most befitting tribute to the magnanimity of Huda worthy of special mention, came from his onetime 'articled clerk',

## BSF shootings are not stopping

*What about India's promise of bringing down the number of casualties to zero?*

THE way the Indian Border Security Force has been killing Bangladeshi nationals on a regular basis makes us wonder why, despite many flag meetings between the two sides to resolve the issue, such shootings continue and lives are lost. On July 4, the BSF shot a 50-year-old Bangladeshi man along the Telkupi border of Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj. According to the local UP chairman, the man went to the area to cut grass for the livestock. Called by some BSF men, he crossed the border. About an hour later, the BSF members dumped his body into Bangladesh's territory. There were bullet wounds and injury marks in his body. On July 3, the BSF killed another Bangladeshi national in Jashore's Benapole border. Several other incidents of BSF's killing were reported in the media in the last few months. One such horrible incident was the killing of an SSC examinee in Panchagarh Sadar on April 19. Reportedly, a BSF man entered inside Bangladesh territory and shot the boy dead.

Violence and killing on the border by the BSF continue despite repeated assurances made by the Indian side of bringing down the border casualties to zero. Last year, 43 Bangladeshis were killed by trigger-happy BSF members, according to Ain O Salish Kendra. And from January until May this year, 14 Bangladeshis were shot dead while 4 others were tortured to death by them. During the same time, 12 Bangladeshis were abducted and 11 were injured, estimates the rights body.

Killing unarmed and defenceless people is nothing but cold-blooded murder and the BSF must stop these routine killings. The BSF high command must keep the promises they made during the bilateral meetings held last year—they must bring down the casualty to zero by using non-lethal force to deter people trying to cross the border illegally. Torture by the BSF members must also come to an end. At the same time, the BGB should also ensure greater vigilance and monitoring on the borders to ensure our people's security. And most importantly, our government must raise its voice about the killing and torture of its own people at the hands of the BSF members. The Indian government must take steps to stop these shootings.

## Covid-19 shouldn't detract us from other public health risks

*Beware of dengue outbreak*

NOT very long ago we had warned the administration to initiate actions to thwart a dengue onslaught, starting with anti-dengue drives by the two city corporations. Dhaka being where there was the largest number of dengue affected cases last year. We had enough data then to suggest a likely surge in the incidence of the deadly disease. And in fact, not a month has gone by without reports on dengue danger in the media.

We believe that the threat has not diminished a bit, in fact the risk remains, the ominous prospect exacerbated by the manner the Aedes mosquitoes have been allowed to breed. The rain had come sooner than expected and will last longer than usual, affording the vermin a longer breeding time. Experts have put us on notice of an outbreak between now and September, the period when cases are likely to peak.

While we notice that the anti-mosquito drive was launched with some fanfare in June, it was for 10 days only, for example in DNCC areas, which really is not enough. It must be continuous till we succeed in diminishing the threat. A 10-day combing operation cannot ensure destruction of all the breeding grounds of Aedes mosquitoes. And we say this because, as reported recently by the team leader of a project under Jahangirnagar University, there is still a high density of Aedes mosquito at different parts of the capital, which enhances the possibility of increasing dengue cases in August. The project carried out tests in six areas of Dhaka city in June in both North and South of the capital and found the Breteau Index (BI) over 20, an alarming level of Aedes mosquito density.

Admittedly, we are under the vicious grip of a dangerous pandemic. And it's quite likely that people's attention is too focused on this to think about other things. We have also seen that the pandemic has all but suspended treatment to general patients. The administration must have all necessary arrangements to deal with dengue patients efficiently, drawing lessons from the loopholes last year in the anti-mosquito drive, as well as the Covid-19 experience so far.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

### Stop fooling students

In the wake of this pandemic, "business" in the name of providing "private university education" has not stopped. Rather, it has gained more momentum. It is unfortunate that no one is paying attention to this. I am a student of a popular private university, and my institution continues to teach online, despite not having any permission from the UGC for online classes. Sadly, it is not benefitting students at all.

On the contrary, we have been paying our fees according to the university's demand, even though most of us are going through a financial crisis. There has been no flexibility in paying our tuition fees, rather we are being pressured constantly, and the university is collecting "extra money" from us without issuing any notice. They are manipulating us to pay and continue our so called "education" and this is unacceptable. Therefore, I urge the concerned authorities to investigate the matter thoroughly and stop this scam.

Saeed Hasan Tareq, Dhaka

# Green economic recovery from corona pandemic

MACRO MIRROR



FAHMIDA KHATUN

THE ongoing economic recession due to coronavirus pandemic has created opportunities for countries to replace the standard growth path with the green growth. There is a renewed effort in many developed and developing countries to adopt a green recovery path in the backdrop of economic recession due to Covid-19. This is about reviving the economy through investment on green technology which will not degrade the environment and exhaust natural resources, but will create jobs. The pattern of growth will rely on investment in the environment as a major driver of economic development. This is opposed to the currently followed growth pattern that destroys environmental resources and emits carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

Thus, as countries have planned stimulus packages for economic recovery, global leaders have now called for green recovery. The impact of Covid-19 has been devastating on the lives and livelihoods across the world as the economy slowed down. This has reduced emission of CO<sub>2</sub> significantly. However, as the economies across the world have started to reopen CO<sub>2</sub> emission has also started to increase. Clearly, with faster pace of economic recovery, carbon emissions will also pick up faster. Therefore, many countries have proposed for green recovery by cutting carbon emission while reviving the economy.

Several European countries have put a "European Green Deal" at the heart of corona recovery efforts. The recovery fund of the European Commission amounts to about USD 848 billion so far. This will be invested in coronavirus recovery as well as green programmes to create jobs. The European Union announced that 25 percent of its budget will be reserved for climate action. But whether the recovery package will also set aside 25 percent for climate spending is unclear till now.

Denmark has set its ambition to cut carbon emissions by 70 percent from 1990 levels. It also aims to export clean energy by 2030. Despite coronavirus, the government of Denmark announced its strategy in May 2020 to meet its climate targets including generation of wind power, carbon capture and storage, and improving energy efficiency. The country will also create new jobs by making green investments. Germany has planned a

stimulus package worth USD 146 billion till June 2020. This package has a number of green plans. About 38 percent of the stimulus has been allocated for future friendly Germany. It aims for energy transition for a sustainable path. The UK government has also taken initiative to explore green recovery by establishing five working groups who will evaluate recovery measures.

Among the Asian countries, China and South Korea have taken major plans towards green economic recovery. China has introduced the "new infrastructure" concept which will include low-carbon transport, 5G and ultra-high voltage electricity transmission. The country has made a six-year plan during 2020-25 for a low-carbon stimulus package amounting

packages for investment in green infrastructure such as public transport, energy efficient public buildings, renewable energy, smart grids, water and sanitation, pollution control, green technology investment and green research and development. Unfortunately, carbon emission after the GFC went back to the pre-GFC period. Investment in traditional infrastructure and increase in consumption resulted in higher CO<sub>2</sub> emission and air pollution.

At present while green plans are being laid out along with stimulus packages, many contradictory policies are also being pursued parallelly. One of the most harmful as well as debated one is the subsidy on fossil fuels. In its recent proposal for corona recovery, though the

widespread nature of the impact there should be initiatives at the national level. This will mostly be in areas of strategising, planning and designing efforts to combat the negative impact of climate change and also in resource allocation for the cause.

Bangladesh also has to adopt a green economic path in order to reduce the burden of future environmental cost. It can make a gradual shift towards green growth through investment in the environment for economic recovery and sustainable growth, decent job creation and poverty reduction. There can be a number of areas for intervention to adopt a green growth policy in the context of Bangladesh. These include: green infrastructure such as energy efficient buildings; green energy generation, such as solar energy; energy saving measures for housing; water management, water desalination, treatment of wastewater, solid waste infrastructure to support, clean water; secure alternative water sources, such as rain water; coastal area development and management; reforestation; environment related R&D; public transport, railways, foot and bike paths.

A list of fiscal measures may include tax incentives for investments on energy efficient building; support for energy efficient bulbs; fiscal benefits for installation of solar panels in private buildings; low interest rate for loans to support low carbon technologies; tax rebate for environmentally friendly cars; measures to increase energy efficiency in industry and agriculture; allocation for protected areas and cultural heritage; support for environmental research and development.

Bangladesh's stimulus package to deal with the impact of Covid-19 amounts to about 4 percent of its gross domestic product. However, there is only an insignificant stimulus for green recovery. The central bank has doubled the size of its refinancing scheme from Tk 200 crore to Tk 400 crore for entrepreneurs who intend to take up green projects. Apart from this no other distinct allocation has been made for green recovery. In fact, large entrepreneurs which are eligible to receive loans from banks at a lower interest rate may well include the polluting industries. This requires close monitoring of the environment authorities. Though Bangladesh is a negligible emitter of CO<sub>2</sub>, it should plan for a greener economy to prepare for the future. And now is the time when fiscal measures are being undertaken to build back the economy.

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



to USD 1.4 trillion. It may be recalled that China's stimulus package amounted to USD 586 billion during the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) in 2008-09. Of this, about USD 221 billion was for green investments.

South Korea has announced its ambitious "Green New Deal" climate plan to revive its economy from Covid-19. The country plans to invest USD 10.8 billion by 2022 through this deal to boost green energy sector and create thousands of jobs. Under this new plan the country will reduce its dependence on coal and increase renewable energy production to 20 percent by 2030. During GFC in 2008-09, about 80 percent of the Korean stimulus package was allocated for green projects and create about one million jobs in environmentally friendly fields.

In the past, during the GFC in 2008-09 several countries provided stimulus

EU is expected to exclude investments in high-polluting infrastructure, there are concerns that this proposal may also include spending on fossil-fuel. South Korea, on the other hand, has kept allocation from its economic relief package for the polluting industries such as aviation and shipbuilding. China will rely on coal for economic recovery which has created concerns among environmentalists.

So, countries will have to make their commitments firm and transparent if they really want to follow a green path. It has been estimated that the removal of fossil fuel subsidies in emerging and developing countries will not only reduce global greenhouse gas emission by 10 percent by 2050 but also increase efficiency of these economies.

Bangladesh is the worst victim of climate change. Given the massive and

## Where next for our industry beyond Covid-19?

RMG NOTES



MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

THREE months after most of the major global markets of Bangladeshi garments entered a lockdown period and closed many of their shops, we are beginning to get a better picture of how the industry might look as we move beyond Covid-19.

The most obvious thing to state right now is that it does not look like we will return to business as usual any time soon. In fact, it is looking more and more like we will all be operating in a very different environment once the dust settles.

Among our customers—brands and retailers—a few trends have become obvious. The first is that there has been an obvious move towards online sales during lockdown. Online clothing sales have rocketed for the likes of H&M and Inditex. Both these major retailers say they expect large swathes of this shift towards digital to be permanent.

Another, arguably more significant trend, is the industry talk of moving towards a more sustainable industry. There is a renewed push towards slower fashion and the discussion about the environmental problems associated with fast fashion have once again been reignited.

On social media, the hashtag #BounceBackBetter has been trending for several weeks. Influential bodies in our industry have been saying that now is the time for the industry to change and that Covid-19 has brought forward many conversations which should have been happening anyway. We are producing too much clothing and we have to slow down.

These are reasonable points, although there are social issues for Bangladesh here which cannot be ignored.

What does all this mean for Bangladesh ready-made garment factories? The short message is that only the strong will survive. We have all spent the past few months licking our wounds as orders have dried up and customers have failed to pay their bills. That's unfortunate but there is no changing it now; we are all in

the same boat so we just have to roll up our sleeves and get on with it.

What is important is what we do collectively as an industry. There are a number of changes I see. Firstly, I think we may see a move towards lower minimum order quantities (MOQs). Our customer base is shifting, becoming increasingly seamless and responding faster than ever to the demands of their own customers—the public. As suppliers, we have to be ready to respond—to be more nimble, agile and flexible in our offerings. The ability to respond rapidly to demands for small, niche lines could be vital in the new landscape.



What will emerge in 2021 will almost certainly be a more compacted industry.

PHOTO: UNB

Secondly, I see a move towards even shorter lead times. Pressure on our RMG sector is already immense but, in future, it will more than ever be a buyer's market. Things are not going to get easier beyond Covid-19. A rationalisation of the industry at our end is inevitable, and suppliers will have to respond accordingly. Those who survive in the new landscape will be the cream of the crop.

Thirdly, as consumers re-assess their priorities in the post-Covid-19 world, it's likely that elements of discretionary spending will be challenged. As more companies realised their staff can work from home, less people will go to office. Hence, there will be less dressing up. People are not attending events now and therefore there will also be less appetite for new clothes. When the less is more,

there will be high demand for better products, demand for the clothes long last with more sustainable footprints. We were already seeing pressure on suppliers to adopt more sustainable technologies prior to Covid-19 and now I expect we will see a speeding up of this process. Just last week, we saw the rapidly growing online brand, Zalando, announcing that it was adopting Science Based Targets. Where do most of Zalando's carbon emissions come from? Of course, it is in supply chains. When brands say they want to reduce their emissions, it has huge implications for us as suppliers. They can't do it without our support.

in Paris or Barcelona, pay only a freelance rate and start to build a direct business. Technology during this pandemic showed that no one has a monopoly to communicate. This means that many people in the middle will become obsolete. A small factory with almost no investment overseas can reach out and engage with a brand in Europe, USA or Japan, and use technology to build and earn trust. This was previously thought impossible. It was thought that one had to have a big budget to physically be present to build a reputation or earn trust in overseas markets.

Sixthly, the pandemic has shown that physical location is irrelevant, more relevant are skills and expertise. So, garment factories will need to invest in soft skills such as in design thinking, marketing, branding, etc. Apart from the hard skills of producing good garments, they will need even more people who can communicate as who communicates best will win in the race of business now.

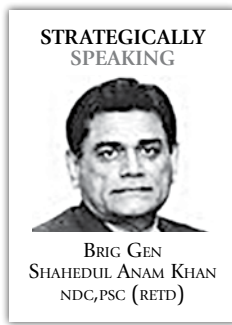
Seventhly, the next few months will be very tough for our sector and factories will close. Workers will lose their jobs. We must all support one another in these most challenging of times. More difficult than ever will be forecast volumes because consumers' behaviours will be unpredictable in the rest of this year and even in the next. So, brands and retailers together with suppliers need to find smart ideas on how to further decrease lead times with calculated risk. Therefore, to survive and to be successful it's essential to have close cooperation and partnership between the buyers and manufacturers. Problems need to be solved together and successes should be shared together. Only then it will be possible to be powerful and flexible.

Finally, what will emerge in 2021 will almost certainly be a more compacted industry. We may all have to revise our growth plans, if we are being realistic. But who knows—maybe it will also be an industry in which sustainability is truly embedded into operations rather than just be an afterthought. Covid-19 has brought the worst of times to our industry but, believe it or not, there are more important things in life than this dreadful disease—most notably, the future of our planet.

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



# Politics, geopolitics and the economics of the pandemic and human security



Records show that major pandemics have occurred at a hundred year interval, if we consider the last half the millennium, e.g., the cholera epidemic which originated in India and spread up to China by 1920, lasted seven years. Then there was the Spanish Flu of 1920 and now Covid-19. Some of them lasted for years. The Great Plague of Marseille 1720 which killed a total of 100,000 people. And it took decades for some countries to get back to economic normality. In some cases there were more deaths than we have witnessed so far due to coronavirus. But the other aspects of life had not been as badly affected as we see now. The Spanish Flu in its aftermath saw the emergence of the League of Nations' Health Organization, the forerunner of the World Health Organisation.

We cannot predict how many people would die by the time the world succeeds in fighting the virus effectively, but the effect, primarily on the international economy, is likely to last longer than we can imagine, particularly with so many developing countries being thrown over the edge. But, and this may sound rather cynical if not glib, what the virus has done is that it has played the role of an equaliser, treating both the affluent and advanced countries and the less developed and developing countries equally. Similar is the case also in Bangladesh where the rich and the poor have been affected equally, although the more affluent had better access

**N**O pandemic has had such severe global impact, both in terms of its global reach and the related consequences, as has Covid-19.

to healthcare than the others. The crushing effect has rendered the same degree of helplessness to the powerful and not-so powerful countries.

The economic forecast is bleak. According to IMF estimate, 170 countries will see their GDP per capita fall by the end of the year by about 3 percent, and that to, it admits, may be an optimistic forecast. And WTO sees trade possibly declining by between 13 percent and 32 percent. Some recovery is expected in 2021. Thus, if the world economy has to recover, the less developed and poorer countries would have to be taken onboard by the richer ones. That I see as a redeeming feature in this rather disturbing situation where everyone is left guessing about the future.

The virus has exposed some glaring limitations of the state, the state of governance for example, and a fragile healthcare system, particularly in countries like ours where one is not guaranteed appropriate and timely treatment. We seemed to have overlooked the fact that right to health is a fundamental right and not a dole given out at the discretion of the state. And of course the economy, which has taken a bad hit, particularly the informal economy on which a great number of poor are dependent in countries like ours.

Interestingly, some countries with less pluralistic regimes and societies appear to have been more successful in effecting those strict control measures which helped in curbing the transmission of the disease; that is the first step if the virus has to be contained if not eliminated altogether. But be that as it may, what the crisis has also shown is that bad leadership yields to the virus, democratic or not, more so when leaders disregard science and put politics over people's health. In the two countries most heavily infected, the US and Brazil, the virus has exposed this rather pitiable aspect. And the most important aspect that the pandemic has brought to the forefront, something

that we have restricted to words speeches and essays only, and bothered little to implement, is human security. What the pandemic has shown is that a country may have power to rule the seven seas yet be so pathetically lacking when it comes to providing adequate medical equipment to combat the disease.

But apart from the economics the pandemic has shaped internal politics as well as regional and global

months, and denied bail for publishing factual reports. Comments about government functionaries have been deemed as libellous and processed under the same act whose provisos are vague and open to misapplication. To quote the Sampadak Parishad, statistics show that more journalists, teachers, and intellectuals have been arrested under DSA than cyber criminals, especially in the last six months. In sum, the reactions to alleged fake

and the people informed about how the pandemic is being handled as well as about the misuse and defalcation of government help meant for the poor.

One-upmanship and geopolitical jockeying have been geared up too. In fact, according to observers, the pandemic has dealt a new hand in the game of geopolitics. It has exposed the weakness of the geopolitical realists' view of geopolitics. Today's art of statecraft involves more than a state's hard power and thus making it critical for countries, particularly like ours, to modulate actions to steer through a crisis like this pandemic.

In the realm of international politics we have witnessed the opening up of a new chapter in which we witness the "instrumentalisation" of the pandemic. Even before anyone could ascertain the allegations, we have seen blame and counter blame thrown at one another. China has already been put in the dock, the US, the UK and Australia losing no time to ask for reparations from China. The US has intensified its pressure on Iran by imposing even harsher sanctions on it. The recent border clash between China and India stems from, some contend, geopolitical compulsions. Adding to uncertainty is the US defence secretary's statement that the US is reviewing its global troop deployment to ensure it is "postured appropriately" to counter the growing Chinese military threat to countries like India, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. This is another instance of the pandemic offering an opportunity to the US to warm up farther to India on the excuse of providing economic dole to India for the post pandemic rehabilitation.

The narratives in the foregoing paragraphs, give rise to the question whether the world will see significant changes in future world order. And if so, what is it going to look like. That we shall delve into next week.

Brig Gen Shaheedul Anam Khan, ndc, psc (Retd), is a former Associate Editor of The Daily Star.



A Chinese soldier next to an Indian soldier at a border crossing.

PHOTO: DIPTENDU DUTTA/AFP

geopolitics, which will have far reaching implications for future global order.

The pandemic has affected domestic politics too, contrasting state security and fundamental rights. Ensuring one should not abridge the other. But one has witnessed the abridgment of certain fundamental rights, particularly freedom of speech. Ours is a case in point, where the draconian Digital Security Act (DSA) has been misused to curb all kinds of criticism against the government. Journalists have been put in custody, 37 of them in the last few

news have been very intrusive and heavily disproportionate to the alleged offense. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has expressed alarm at the clampdown on freedom of expression in parts of the Asia-Pacific during the Covid-19 crisis, primarily because, according to the statement, the relevant laws "have been used in other contexts to deter legitimate speech, especially public debate, criticism of government policy and suppress freedom of expression." In the time of rampant corruption, it's the media that has kept the government

## Adaptation is key to meeting the many demands of our new Covid-19 normal



POONAM KHETRAPAL SINGH

**C**OVID-19 is a direct threat to the health and well-being of all people in the WHO South-East Asia Region. For as long as the virus spreads, the health and well-being of the

region's near two billion people will be at risk, whatever the transmission scenario. WHO and its member states in the region must continue to dig deep and aggressively minimise transmission, responding to every case, cluster and evidence of community transmission.

But to complement such measures, we must also adapt our cities and surroundings, especially as public health and social interventions—including physical distancing—are relaxed or reapplied based on local epidemiological evidence. The need of the hour is for us all to think innovatively, and to retool our environments to meet the many demands of our new Covid-19 normal.

For example, hand hygiene facilities can be installed at the entrance to public or private commercial buildings, and at all transport locations. Workplaces can stagger hours, increase ventilation and encourage staff to work from home as much as possible. And we can all take personal measures

to minimise the risk of bringing an infection home, which is especially important in multi-generational households.

Proactive efforts to protect vulnerable groups, including internal and returning migrants, are especially needed. Challenges associated with inadequate housing and access to water exacerbate the risk of the disease spreading. So too does inadequate

ahead of the monsoon and flu seasons.

Health services, too, should be modified and strengthened, not only to treat Covid-19, but to also address the many indirect health impacts the virus is having, quite apart from its adverse effect on the provision of essential health services, which WHO is vigorously supporting member states to minimise.

Take mental health. The uncertainty



The need of the hour is for us all to think innovatively, and to retool our environments to meet the many demands of our new Covid-19 normal.

PHOTO: REUTERS/KIM HONG-JI

community engagement and communication. Key WHO guidance on protecting and engaging vulnerable groups can help local authorities implement high-impact measures that are equity oriented and which can be integrated into emergency planning

the pandemic is causing, in addition to the fear of contracting the disease, has increased the prevalence of mental health issues, which may be exacerbated by substance use or difficulties accessing mental health services and psychiatric medicines.

To help all people access the mental healthcare they need, health leaders can invest in appropriate services and ensure existing mental health services continue to function. Psychiatric care can be provided over the phone or online. Community support groups can continue to meet in person or virtually while observing physical distancing guidance. Health facility administrators can ensure all health workers know where and how to access the care they need to stay mentally well and resilient.

Services for intimate partner violence require similar attention. Covid-19 has increased stress, disrupted social and protective networks and decreased access to services, all of which can exacerbate the risk of intimate partner violence. With families spending more time at home, the likelihood that a woman in an abusive relationship will be exposed to violence has dramatically increased.

To help provide the necessary care, health facilities can identify and offer information on locally available support services such as hotlines, shelters and counselling services. Health workers themselves can make a difference, for example by listening empathetically and without judgement, in addition to providing appropriate medical treatment. The use of mHealth (mobile health) and telemedicine to safely address violence against women must be urgently explored.

Nutrition remains a core concern. Across the region, broken supply chains and loss of livelihoods and incomes have the potential to severely

impede access to healthy diets rich in whole grains, fruit and vegetables. School closures have resulted in many children missing out on school meals. Disruptions to nutrition services—especially those supporting maternal and child health and nutrition—could impact millions of vulnerable people in ways both chronic and acute.

It is the duty of all stakeholders in the region to protect the nutritional status of the most vulnerable and to strengthen the health services and programmes on which they rely. Stakeholders can adapt existing nutritional services, for example by providing digital counselling or additional take-home supplies. They can also streamline referral pathways for nutritional services and expand nutrition-sensitive social protection and community programmes.

Given the region's rich tradition of innovation and adaptation, we have immense potential to re-tool our cities, surroundings and services to meet the many demands of our new Covid-19 normal. There is not a moment to lose. WHO and its member states in the region will continue to strategically respond to the pandemic, fully committed to controlling and suppressing spread, strengthening and maintaining health services, and empowering individuals and communities to stay safe, healthy and well. Our battle continues, as it must.

Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh, WHO South-East Asia Regional Director.

### ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

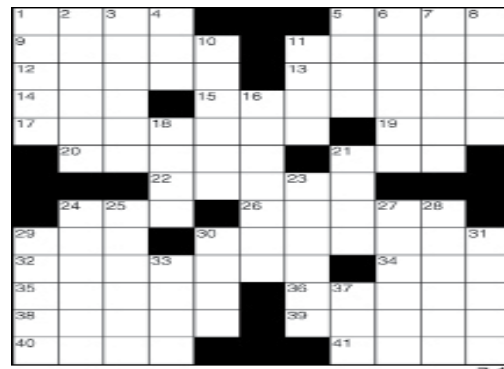


ON THIS DAY JULY 6 July 6, 1942

Anne Frank forced into hiding  
Anne Frank and her family went into hiding in Amsterdam on this day in 1942 and lived in a secret annex—an experience documented in her diary, which became a classic of war literature—until their capture on August 4, 1944.

### CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hangs low
  - 5 School subject
  - 9 Influence
  - 11 Condemn openly
  - 12 San Antonio mission
  - 13 "Dig in!"
  - 14 Right away
  - 15 Former
  - 17 Like a major general
  - 19 Crew need
  - 20 Winter weather
  - 21 Travel stop
  - 22 Beach crawlers
  - 24 Gangland gun
  - 26 Party dip
  - 29 Ulna's place
  - 30 Elementary
- learning**
- 32 Like some intersection stop signs
  - 34 Game cube
  - 35 Put – (sail)
  - 36 Practical
  - 38 Makes smooth
  - 39 More pleasant
  - 40 Take a breather
  - 41 Addition column
- DOWN**
- 1 Meager
  - 2 Permits
  - 3 Leave base, perhaps
  - 4 Total
  - 5 Ham or lamb
  - 6 Director's cry
  - 7 Roosevelt's successor
  - 8 Keyed up
  - 10 Horn blower
  - 11 Some bucks
  - 16 Boris's cartoon partner
  - 18 Splinter group
  - 21 Cruise stop
  - 23 Elementary particle
  - 24 Furrow
  - 25 Entertains
  - 27 Act the temptress
  - 28 Out of bed
  - 29 Following
  - 30 – "brilliant..."
  - 31 Prophetic ones
  - 33 Tenant's fee
  - 37 In shape



### YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

C E A S E S F I L M  
U R S I N E A R E A  
T A K E S T O C K I N  
S U S I E  
M O T E L U M P  
P U P A D E P A R T  
A R E S A D J O E  
R A R I T Y T O W N  
L A N A A I R S  
S M O K E  
T A K E P R I D E I N  
E P I C B R O N C O  
L E N T S A N D E D

### BETLE BAILEY



### BY MORT WALKER



### BABY BLUES



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

## 8 die after showing Covid-19 symptoms

STAR REPORT

At least eight people, including three women, died after showing Covid-19 symptoms in Cumilla and Satkhira in 24 hours till yesterday morning.

Five more people breathed their last at the isolation ward of Cumilla Medical College Hospital.

The victims were aged between 46 to 88 and all were admitted to the hospital with fever, cold, and breathing problems, said Md Istiaque, assistant surgeon of the hospital.

Of the five, four were male and one was female and two of them died at ICU, said the doctor.

With them, 149 died after showing coronavirus symptoms at the hospital since April.

At the Satkhira Medical College Hospital's isolation unit, three people, including two women, died with coronavirus symptoms within four hours till 10:00pm Saturday.

They were suffering from fever, cough, and breathing difficulties, said Manas Kumar Mandal, medicine consultant of the hospital, adding that their samples were collected for test.

The victims were buried following IEDCR rules, and administration officials were asked to lock down their houses, said Joyanta Sarkar, medical officer of the civil surgeon office.

*Our Cumilla and Satkhira correspondents contributed to this report.*

## Kit to be placed

FROM PAGE 12  
March and got it trialed by the BSMU between May and mid-June.

In its report submitted to the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) on June 17, the BSMU said the kit is effective in 11-40 percent of the cases when tested in the first or second week of the infection and should not be used for diagnosing Covid-19.

However, it recommended that the kit be used in the cases where RT-PCR tests are not available. It can also be used for assessing what part of a community has been infected by the coronavirus through antibody test.

After BSMU's submission of the report to the DGDA, Gonoshasthaya applied for the registration of the kit, but the DGDA refused it saying that the rapid test kit had not met the standard set by the government's technical committees.

The committee fixed the sensitivity and specificity of a rapid antibody test kit at 90 percent and 95 percent respectively following the FDA Umbrella Guideline.

But the sensitivity of Gonoshasthaya's antibody test kit was 69.7 percent and specificity was 96 percent, DGDA said.

In reaction, Mohib Ullah Khondoker, project coordinator of GR Rapid Dot Blot, said the FDA guidelines referenced by the DGDA were not considered by the BSMU during its trial.

More than a week after that, the Gonoshasthaya scientists held a meeting with the DGDA yesterday.

"Trial of the kit following FDA Umbrella Guidelines does not take much time. Trial of 100 to 150 kits can give a proper result... it may take a maximum of seven days."

Taking the time, which would require for other procedures, into account, the total time would not exceed 15 days," Bijon said.

The BSMU also began the trial of the antigen kit developed by Gonoshasthaya in recent times, but suspended it midway citing a problem in the sample collection process.

Bijon yesterday said, "We have requested the drug administration to set the procedures of the antigen kit trial beforehand so that it does not create any problem at a later stage. The guideline is likely to be finalised by next Wednesday."

Mohib Ullah Khondoker said the drug administration assured them that it would issue a no objection certificate (NOC) to import reagents required to make kits.

Asked about his reaction, Gonoshasthaya Kendra Founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury said he welcomed the decision of the drug administration, but he was a bit frustrated as the authorities were taking a long time to approve the kit.

"I would be really happy if the process of trial and approval would happen at the fastest manner. We will surely follow the drug administration's guideline, but at the same time we expect that the next steps would be completed in a speedy manner," he said.

He urged the government machinery to deeply realise the Covid-19 situation and act accordingly to save lives.

"You work and also allow us to work. The function of the government is not to create any barricade, but to remove it," said Dr Zafrullah, a prominent public health expert.



People enjoy a ride in Thorpe Park, after it reopened following the coronavirus disease outbreak, in Chertsey near London, Britain, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Cases rising amid poor care

FROM PAGE 12  
Due to negligence of the patient's relatives to bring the patient to proper unit, treatment is delayed."

No other hospital in the district admits or treats coronavirus patients.

Although the number of Covid patients is increasing, treatment facilities are yet to be upgraded at the PMCH, where the 100-bed coronavirus unit is operating from last month.

Due to the lack of adequate oxygen support and facilities for identification of the disease, many patients are deprived of proper and timely care.

A month ago, Pabna was quite safe with an insignificant number of Covid-19 patients identified before the Eid-ul-Fitr. But the situation has rapidly worsened after the festival and

now Pabna is one of the red zones in the country.

A total of 447 Covid positive patients were identified till June 30 while the number was just 36 till May 31. Eight people died with Covid-19 and 12 others died with symptom of the disease during this period, sources said.

The Covid unit at the PMCH provides general treatment, not the specialised care needed for coronavirus patients.

"We are handling mild and moderate Covid patients, we don't have the ability to give proper attention to critical patients. We are just giving treatment to patients by observing their symptoms, not having diagnostic facilities," said Dr Saleh Mohammad.

"Due to the lack of central oxygen system and ICU support, we are trying to handle patients with normal medicine and cylinder oxygen support. If they need more treatment, they are sent to Rajshahi or Dhaka."

Dr Saleh mentioned that most of the patients are getting treatment at home at this stage. If they come to hospital, "We do not know what will we do."

If necessary logistic support is not ensured, the crisis would be serious, he added.

**4-BED ICU LIES UNUSED**  
A four-bed intensive care unit (ICU) with a ventilator was inaugurated at the PMCH in 2017 but it is yet to start operation.

Asked about this, Dr Abul Hossain, assistant director of the PMCH, said there are four beds and one ventilator at the ICU.

## AL's support

FROM PAGE 12

struggle of the Sindhis, Baluchis and Pathans for their rights of self-determination and appeals to the United Nations to arrange a plebiscite in Pakistan so that these people can determine their own fate.

**FAZLUL QUADER CHARGED WITH MURDER**

Fazlul Quader Chowdhury, the president of Convention Muslim League, is charged with murder and collaboration with the Pakistan Army during the Liberation War. According to knowledgeable sources, 21 other accomplices of Fazlul Quader who are still at large will be declared absconders very shortly. It is learnt that 12 cases including that of Fazlul Quader will be taken up under Collaborators' Order during the ensuing month.

**INDIA, PAKISTAN WITHDRAW OVERFLIGHT CASES**

India and Pakistan have decided to withdraw cases related to suspension of over-flights from international courts. This step is taken following the signing of Simla Agreement early this week between Pakistani President ZA Bhutto and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

**MAJ JALIL CALLS ON BANGABANDHU**

Major Jalil meets Bangabandhu to pay him respect at Bangabandhu's residence today. No detail of their talks is available.

*SOURCES: July 7, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.*

## 2 doctors die

FROM PAGE 12

around 12:30pm yesterday, said Dr Mily Dey, director of Bangladesh Doctors' Foundation (BDF) Trust.

Meanwhile, Dr Amjad, hailed as the poor's doctor in Benapole, died at the Intensive Care Unit of Regent Hospital in Mirpur on Saturday night, said Dr Yusuf Ali, resident medical officer of Sharsha Upazila Health Complex in Jashore.

Dr Amjad, who retired as assistant medical officer at the health complex last year, tested positive for the virus after he gave samples on June 28, mentioned Yusuf.

The physician was brought to the capital from Benapole on July 1 as his condition deteriorated.

He was buried at his village home in Benapole.

According to the BDF, at least 62 doctors have so far died from Covid-19 infections while 11 others died showing virus symptoms.

## WHO

FROM PAGE 12

the decision, taken on the recommendation of the trial's international steering committee, does not affect other studies where those drugs are used for non-hospitalised patients or as a prophylaxis.

Another branch of the WHO-led trial is looking at the potential effect of Gilead's antiviral drug remdesivir on Covid-19. The European Commission on Friday gave remdesivir conditional approval for use after being shown to shorten hospital recovery times.

The solidarity trial started out with five branches looking at possible treatment approaches to Covid-19: standard care; remdesivir; hydroxychloroquine; lopinavir/ritonavir; and lopinavir/ritonavir combined with interferon.

WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Chebreyesus told reporters on Friday that nearly 5,500 patients in 39 countries had been recruited so far into its clinical trials and that interim results were expected within two weeks.

Some 18 experimental Covid-19 vaccines are being tested on humans among nearly 150 treatments under development.

Mike Ryan, WHO's top emergencies expert, said on Friday that it would be unwise to predict when a vaccine could be ready. While a vaccine candidate might show its effectiveness by year's end, the question was how soon it could then be mass-produced, he said.

## Fodder crisis

FROM PAGE 12

was being sold between Tk 400 and Tk 450 in local markets whereas the price was between Tk 200 and Tk 250 even 10 days ago.

Meanwhile, Abdar Hossain, of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said, "I had to suffer loss and sell two of my cows at a lower price due to this crisis," he said, adding, "Four more cows have turned bone and skin due to lack of fodder."

In Bogura, around 77,000 domestic animals have been affected by the recent flood, according to the district livestock office.

Begumara, a flood victim who took shelter at Sujanerpara Guchchagram in Sariakandi upazila, said she had bought a cow around four months ago but it was now becoming weak due to insufficient food and drinking water.

Contacted, the district livestock officer Rafiqul Islam Talukdar said he already applied for fodder to his higher authorities.

In Gaibandha, around 32,000 domestic animals have been affected by flood.

Abdus Samad, livestock officer of the district, said they had applied for fodder for the relief and rehabilitation ministry but was yet to receive any.

In Thakurgoan, cattle farmers are struggling the same way as the fodder price have shot up there too.

Hamidur Rahman, of Thakurgoan Sadar upazila, said he bought a pan of fodder at Tk 400 but its regular price was between Tk 200 to Tk 250.

District Livestock Officer Altaf Hossain said the farmers of the distinct were rearing about 80,300 animals including cows, goats and sheep targeting Eid-ul-Azha.

Meanwhile, some fresh areas have also been inundated by the flood.

Low lying areas in Munshiganj have been submerged as the Padma river was flowing 27cm above the danger level at Bhagyakul point yesterday morning.

Government officials said some 150 metric tonnes of rice and Tk 2.5 lakh have been allocated for the victims in the region.

In Noakhali, some 10,000 people have been marooned as 15 villages in Hatiya upazila have freshly been inundated.

Our Pabna, Lalmonirhat, Bogura, Thakurgoan and Noakhali correspondent contributed to this report.

## Record surge in daily cases

FROM PAGE 12

approaching Russia as the world's third-most infected nation as it opens a mass treatment centre in the capital to fight the pandemic.

The health ministry reported just under 25,000 cases and 613 deaths in 24 hours -- the biggest daily spike since the first case was detected in late January.

India's surge took the total tally to more than 673,000 cases and 19,268 deaths, with the country on the cusp of surpassing badly-hit Russia.

A surge in cases sapped the fun out of July 4 celebrations in the United States as the pandemic also accelerated through neighbouring Mexico, the rest of Latin America and South Africa.

Even Europe, which has largely been celebrating reopening, saw some setbacks, with authorities placing 200,000 people back under lockdown in Spain after a spike in infections that underlined how easily hard-won progress can be reversed.

The United States remains by far the world's hardest-hit country, logging a further 43,000 cases Saturday that brought its total number of infections to more than 2.8 million, with nearly 130,000 deaths.

The spiralling caseload cast a pall over traditional Independence Day celebrations, with beaches closed and the National Mall in Washington, usually crowded with spectators ready for fireworks, near deserted.

Main Street parades were cancelled,

boisterous backyard barbecues scaled down and family reunions put off.

Despite the sombre mood, President Donald Trump insisted the end was in sight in the fight against Covid-19.

Speaking from the White House lawn, Trump addressed a crowd that included frontline health workers battling the virus.

He accused China -- where the outbreak originated late last year -- of a cover-up that allowed the illness to race across the globe, but hailed American "scientific brilliance."

"We'll likely have a therapeutic and/or vaccine solution long before the end of the year," he said.

If so, it will be in high demand. As the virus continues its relentless march around the world, Latin America is also grappling with rising cases.

Mexico's toll crossed 30,000 on Saturday, propelling it past France to become the fifth-hardest-hit country in the world.

And Brazil, which has defiantly opened bars and restaurants in Rio de Janeiro, notched up nearly 40,000 new cases and more than a thousand deaths, keeping it in second place behind the US in the bleak global rankings.

Across the Atlantic, South Africa reported more than 10,000 new infections Saturday, its highest ever daily jump. Africa's most economically developed country now has the greatest number of cases on

the continent.

"FEELS AMAZING"  
American beaches that would normally be packed on July 4 are shut on both coasts as California and Florida suffer alarming surges in cases.

New York's public beaches reopened earlier in the week but locals in the city that was once the global epicentre of the crisis remain wary of a resurgence.

Mark Ruiz, who came to New York's Coney Island beach with his wife and two children for a picnic, said he was "definitely worried" about the virus and his family would scrupulously respect social distancing rules.

For his part, Trump headlined an event called "Salute to America" along with a military flyover and a fireworks display.

Guests including doctors, nurses and members of the military and their families were invited to the White House to watch proceedings.

America's former colonial master, Britain, was decidedly more cheerful on Saturday night as local pubs reopened for the first time since late March.

"It feels amazing," said Leo Richard Bill, a soldier, after getting through the door of one of London's buzziest restaurants on the River Thames's popular south bank.

"It's been what, like three months since... me and everyone else haven't been able to get outside and have a good time. So yeah, it feels good to get

## Fate of 1.5 lakh up in the air

FROM PAGE 1

Dynasty Travels Ltd, said around 1.20 lakh migrant workers were desperately waiting to return to different Middle Eastern countries, about 25,000 to different European ones, about 5,000 to the USA and Canada and about 1,000 to Australia and New Zealand.

Aviation expert Kazi Wahidul Alam said the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) should allow the local and more foreign airlines to operate from Dhaka to cope with the demand. The airlines should also be allowed to increase their number of flights from Dhaka.

Qatar Airways used to operate 21 flights and Emirates 28 flights from

Dhaka each week. Both are now restricted to three flights a week.

Air Arabia was granted permission to operate two transit flights on Dhaka-Sharjah route each week. The budget airlines used to operate 28 flights before the pandemic.

CAAB Chairman Air Vice Marshal M Mafidur Rahman said only Biman, Qatar, Emirates, Turkish and Air-Arabia airlines were allowed to operate a limited number of flights so as to avoid crowding at the airport.

"Several other airlines have applied for resuming their operations in Dhaka. We will decide after evaluating the Covid-19 situation," he added.

Biman is now operating one flight

on Dhaka-London route a week.

The national airliner was supposed to resume flight operations to Dubai and Abu Dhabi this week. But the decision was postponed after the foreign ministry asked Biman not to carry any passengers from there.

Turkish Airlines is yet to resume its flight operations from Dhaka.

Meanwhile, Rahat Rafee, who returned to Bangladesh from Germany on February 15 for a month, said he bought a Qatar Airways ticket for over Tk 80,000, which used to be less than Tk 38,000.

But that flight on July 2 was cancelled and the airline authorities told him that he will have to wait until August.

## Columbus statue toppled by race protesters in Baltimore

AFP, Washington

Protesters in the US city of Baltimore pulled down a statue of Christopher Columbus on Saturday, local media reported, the latest monument to be toppled in anti-racism demonstrations.

Statues of figures connected to colonialism and slavery have been ripped from their plinths in the United States and around the world since Black Lives Matter protests were sparked by the killing of George Floyd by a white police officer in

Minneapolis in May.

Footage published by the Baltimore Sun showed protesters using ropes to pull down the statue of Columbus -- the Italian navigator who reached the Americas in 1492 -- near the city's Little Italy district and rolling it into the Inner Harbor on the night of July 4.

Long hailed as the so-called discoverer of "The New World," Columbus is considered by many to have spurred years of genocide against indigenous groups in the Americas. He is regularly denounced in a similar way to Civil War generals of the pro-

slavery South.

President Donald Trump earlier mentioned the sailor in his speech to mark the July 4 holiday, when Americans typically celebrate their 1776 declaration of independence from Britain.

"Together we will fight for the American dream, and we will defend, protect, and preserve American way of life which began in 1492 when Columbus discovered America," he said in an address in which he hailed against protesters demanding racial justice.

"We are now in the process

of defeating the radical left, the anarchists, the agitators, the looters, and the people who, in many instances, have absolutely no clue what they are doing," he said.

"We will never allow an angry mob to tear down our statues, erase our history, indoctrinate our children."

The president last month signed an executive order pledging to enforce prosecution for protesters who vandalize public memorials, promising "long prison terms" for "lawless acts against our Great Country!"

## VARDY 101 NOT OUT

Leicester City striker Jamie Vardy scored his 100th Premier League goal in their 3-0 home victory over Crystal Palace on Saturday. Vardy's brace helped him become the 29th player to score a century in the English top flight. His 101 Premier League goals have come in 206 games, after he debuted in the competition in the 2014-15 season at the age of 27. Vardy had been stuck on 99 goals since netting twice in Leicester's 4-0 home win over Aston Villa in March before the coronavirus stoppage. He reached the milestone when Harvey Barnes set him up for a tap-in in the 77th minute, before adding a superb solo second in stoppage time to make it 3-0.



--AFP



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED/BCB

## Pioneering a return in the new normal

SABBIR HOSSAIN

No matter how dreadful the situation is, and no matter how others are doing, there are some people who simply need to get the job done. While cricketers have been working on their fitness at home and Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) officials have mostly been working from home since the coronavirus outbreak, groundsmen and venue personnel have had no choice but to show up and keep the grounds in shape.

"We have no other choice. We would be unable to enter the ground on the third day if we did not work for two straight days because grass just grows that rapidly," Syed Abdul Baten, national manager of the BCB grounds committee, said.

Jahangir Alam, a groundsman at the Khan Shaheb Osman Ali Stadium in Fatullah, said he was

aware of his responsibilities and so bore no grudge despite the fact that he had to face difficult times, especially when his locality of Narayanganj was hit by the pandemic.

"Since it's our job, we have to keep working. We are working a single shift from 8:00am to 5:00pm. My house is a bit far from the stadium. In many cases, I have had to come to work on foot because of the lockdown. Sometimes I have been able to come and go in rickshaws," Alam said. "We use masks. We use hand sanitizer. Yes, the going is tougher than ever. The situation in the country is not so good. But we are bound to work and we are trying like we used to because it's our duty."

What such examples are showing is that it is possible to keep the coronavirus at bay if protocols are strictly maintained in the new normal.

"We have 200 groundsmen all

over the country and they work because they need to. Thanks to Allah, nobody has been infected so far. Everybody is sincerely maintaining the rules. Venues are following hygiene and safety standards as per the BCB's Covid-19 guidelines," Baten informed.

The protocols have been maintained so well that they are confident they can resume activities when called upon.

"We have been trying our best to maintain everything. We may need five to seven days to get the venue ready if the board wants to start activities within a very short time. We have been able to do everything because of the BCB's proper guidelines," Fatullah Stadium curator, Shafiqul Alam Belal, said.

The break has also been a blessing in disguise as the suspension of cricketing activities gave venues, especially the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in

Mirpur, much-needed respite.

"The rest was necessary for a few grounds because they held matches continually. This break helps refresh venues," the curator of Chattogram's Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, Zahid Reza Babu, said.

Baten agreed: "A break always helps keep venues fit."

As part of BCB's efforts to facilitate its exit strategy following the disruption caused by the pandemic, major international and first class venues have been undergoing maintenance and groundsmen and personnel have kept facilities fully prepared so that cricketers can get back on the field sooner rather than later.

Although the buzz will be different when cricketers return to action, unsung heroes, like groundsmen, must also be remembered for overcoming the odds and ensuring a return to normalcy for the rest of us.

## 'I'll play until I'm 43'

AGENCIES

Juventus goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon plans to keep playing 'until I'm at least 43' and reveals winning the Champions League is still 'buzzing around in my head'.

Buffon became Serie A's record appearance holder yesterday during Juve's 4-1 victory over Torino, turning out in his 648th top-flight game.

"I had to wait a long time for this record, but it wasn't a problem," the 41-year-old said. "Right now we're playing a lot of games. It's a delicate time in the season and the pressure I felt was only on the game."

"Now I'm very happy, but the thought of the record didn't touch me before. At the start of my career, I was more carefree and easy-going. I had many dreams and, driven by my approach of never being satisfied with myself, I came here.

"Breaking Del Piero's attendance record

for Juve isn't one of my objectives. I'm not playing for these things because I practically retired two years ago. Then came PSG and, subsequently, the opportunity to come back here and feel good.

"I realise that if I have the right motivation, I can play some games without any problems, while giving excellent answers on the pitch. I'll be here until I'm at least 43, but since turning 40 I've been taking things month by month.

Buffon returned to the Bianconeri last summer after he failed to win the Champions League with Paris Saint-Germain, so can he finally lift the jug-eared trophy this season?

"It's something that's always buzzing around in my head, it's inevitable. I got so close to it so many times that not grabbing the trophy by its jugged ears has become a regret of mine.

"However, I've found the strength not to give up from these regrets."

MOST APPEARANCES IN SERIE A HISTORY	
Name	Match
<b>GIANLUIGI BUFFON</b> (Parma, Juventus)	<b>648</b>
<b>PAOLO MALDINI</b> (AC Milan)	<b>647</b>
<b>FRANCESCO TOTTI</b> (AS Roma)	<b>618</b>
<b>JAVIER ZANETTI</b> (Inter Milan)	<b>615</b>
<b>GIANLUCA PAGLIUCA</b> (Sampdoria, Inter Milan, Bologna, Ascoli)	<b>592</b>



Cristiano Ronaldo breathed a sigh of relief as he finally got a free-kick to nestle into the back of the net. The Portuguese's technique was slightly different to his patented knuckleball as he opted to place the ball.

PHOTO: JUVENTUS FC

## Ronaldo 'finally' gets one to go in

REUTERS, Turin

Cristiano Ronaldo confessed that he was relieved to finally score from a freekick for Juventus on Saturday, after 42 failed attempts and nearly two years of trying.

The 35-year-old takes most of the Turin side's freekicks but, despite that, he had failed to score from one until his curling effort in the 4-1 win over Torino.

"I needed to score from a freekick to

### CRISTIANO RONALDO'S 55 FREE-KICK GOALS

Team	Goals
Real Madrid	32
Manchester United	13
Portugal	9
Juventus	1

Ronaldo scored his maiden free-kick goal for Juventus against Torino on Saturday night in Serie A, after 42 failed attempts in all competitions.

It was the five-time Ballon d'Or winner's 55th goal from a direct free-kick in his glorious career and his first in club football since December 2017.

The prolific 35-year-old became the first player in almost 60 years to hit 25 goals for Juventus in the Italian top-flight. The last player to do so was Omar Sivori in 1960-61.

The Portuguese has scored 29 goals for Juventus this season, one more than last season, and racked up seven assists.

get my confidence back," he said.

Juventus coach Maurizio Sarri said he was surprised how much the problem had been bothering the five-time World Player of the Year.

"I honestly didn't think it was (a problem) but at the end of the match, he came to me and said 'finally,'" Sarri said.

Sarri said that Juventus appeared to think the game was easy after going

2-0 ahead in half an hour but then got "confused" when Torino pulled one back from a penalty in first-half stoppage time.

"At a certain moment of the game, we didn't move very well, then in the second part of the second half the teams were tired and our quality came out," he said.

He also praised Argentine playmaker Paulo Dybala who has found a new lease of life since the coronavirus stoppage.

"I never had any doubts about Dybala," he said. "It's true he didn't score much last year, but if you take the season two years ago, he scored a lot. He's just had an unlucky season. I've always told him what I think about how he should train and how he should play. And he tells me what he thinks."

Torino coach Moreno Longo was frustrated by the scoreline.

"We played against Juventus on equal terms," he said. "It's a tough result given what happened on the pitch and that creates regret. We had 17 shots on goal and put them under pressure. We showed great personality and we controlled the match for long periods."

## Bavarians 'hungry' for treble

AFP, Berlin

Manuel Neuer said Bayern Munich are still "hungry" for the treble this season after completing a "special" league and Cup double for the 13th time in their history on Saturday.

Bayern, who had already sealed an eighth straight Bundesliga title, saw off Bayer Leverkusen 4-2 in the German Cup final and have won 11 successive games since the season resumed in mid-May.

Bavarians are among favourites for Champions League, to be completed in Lisbon next month.

"We'll have a short break now and then we'll make sure we are in top form and try to win the treble," said Bayern captain Neuer.

"We have all seen in the last few weeks how motivated and hungry Bayern Munich are. What we have achieved is something special."

Robert Lewandowski reached 51 goals for the season thanks to a double in the final, with David Alaba and Serge Gnabry also on the scoresheet.

## Mendis arrested over fatal crash

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka batsman Kusal Mendis was arrested Sunday after being allegedly involved in a fatal crash with a cyclist, who died instantly, just outside the country's capital Colombo, police said.

The 25-year-old batsman was driving an SUV at Panadura before dawn when the incident happened, police said.

Mendis had been named in the squad for a home Test series against England in March, but the tour was cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

More than 3,000 people are killed annually in traffic accidents in Sri Lanka.

## Athletics coach busy learning and sharing

ANISUR RAHMAN



The coronavirus may have kept sporting activities in the country halted for the last four months, bringing misery to athletes. But it has helped coaches of different disciplines by affording them an opportunity to become more resourceful through participation in online workshops and coaching courses.

Organisers have started online competitions in shooting, chess, wushu and other disciplines.

BKSP coach Abdullah Hel Kafi has attended one workshop and four courses on topics such as 'strength and conditioning training', 'optimising talent identification and specialisation in sports', and 'young athlete development'.

"The pandemic helped me improve my knowledge through online workshops and courses. We don't often get the opportunity to participate in such courses. Besides, there is also a question of money for travelling if the courses are held abroad," Kafi, Bangladesh's lone Level-3 sprint coach, told The Daily Star.

"I learned new things from these courses and remembered things I had forgotten. Coaches from different

countries took part and I can now communicate with them in future," said the country's former fastest athlete.

Kafi, however, is frustrated at not being able to train athletes.

"The only disappointment for me is that I can't go to the track for training my dear students," said the 40-year-old who guided Jahir Raihan to the 200m semifinal of World Junior Athletic Championships.



ABDULLAH HEL KAFI

Explaining the need for relationship with guardians of the athletes, Kafi said, "I think the course on young athlete development will help develop athletes from the grassroots level at BKSP because this course emphasises on improving communication with athletes as well as their parents. We hardly talk to guardians of the athletes but it is important if we want to bring out the best from the athletes."

Kafi, who joined BKSP in 2009 from National Sport Council after ending his athletics career in 2006, completed a diploma on 'Youth Academic Coaches course from Singapore in November last year. He started the course in 2017 and submitted his year-long practical project on "sprinter Jahir Raihan" on October 2018 and emerged second out of 12 candidates.

Kafi believes talent identification is more important to get success at international level and suggested to have a combined talent hunt instead of separate programmes.

"NSC and BKSP are running talent hunt programmes separately, but there should be a combination and the authority concerned should set a national norm in talent hunting. If we can do this together, we can hope to get good athletes in future," said Kafi.

"I have already held an online discussion with 10 to 12 coaches to share my knowledge. I know I can train only 10 students of BKSP which will not help athletics across the country. If I can transfer my knowledge among 10 other coaches and they can train 10 athletes each, the number of athletes will be 100 and those athletes will get right information from their coaches," added Kafi.



Pakistan's preparations for the Test series against England got underway in Worcester yesterday following negative Covid-19 tests as the players took part in a scenarios based two-day match.

PHOTO: PCB

### WHAT TO WATCH

#### LA LIGA

#### Facebook

Levante v Real Sociedad

Live from 11:30pm

Sevilla v Eibar

Live from 2:00am

(Tuesday)

#### PREMIER LEAGUE

#### Star Sports Select 1

Tottenham v Everton

Live from 1:00am

(Tuesday)

#### BUNDESLIGA

#### Star Sports Select 2

Heidenheim v Werder

Bremen

Live from 12:15am

(Tuesday)



4-LANE DHAKA-BHANGA EXPRESS HIGHWAY BUILT WITH BSRM XTREME

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT BSRM

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES World's Largest VRM

SHAH CEMENT

COVID-19 IN PABNA

# Cases rising amid poor care

4-bed ICU lies inoperative, no RT-PCR lab set up

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPLI, Pabna

A government employee suffering from covid-19 was recently admitted to Pabna Medical College Hospital, which has a 100-bed Covid unit, but he was hurriedly shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital because of acute respiratory problem.

"Getting proper oxygen support, I am now feeling better. But in Pabna, I was worried because of insufficient oxygen supply," he told this correspondent.

On June 20, Secretary of Ataikula Union Parishad Md Hafizur Rahman, a government employee, was admitted to the PMCH with Covid-19 symptom. He was later shifted to the RMCH where he died because of not getting ICU support timely, his relatives said.

Ismail Hossain, 60, president of Pabna's Ataikula union Awami League, died with respiratory problem at the PMCH on June 24. His family alleged that Ismail, a patient with liver infection, did not get treatment at the hospital for two to three hours as he was not admitted to Covid unit.

"My father was taken to the hospital at about 12:30am but he was given oxygen support around 2:30am. After a few minutes, he died," said Ariful Islam, son of Ismail.

Ariful claimed his father was not a Covid patient.

Contacted, Dr Saleh Mohammed, head of Covid unit at the hospital, said when a patient with coronavirus symptoms comes, "we take him/her

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Cancer patient Sakib, 9, sitting outside Mugda General Hospital in the capital as his father went in to get his Covid-19 test result yesterday. The boy gave his samples around 10 days ago so that he could be allowed to have chemotherapy. His test result was not delivered as of 1:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

GONOSHASTHAYA ANTIBODY TEST

# Kit to be placed before icddr, b for trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoshasthaya Kendra is now set to get its antibody rapid test kit trialed by the icddr, b following the Umbrella Guideline of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as sought by the drug administration.

"The director general of drug administration listened to us and wanted to provide us all-out assistance. He wanted another trial of the kit following the FDA Umbrella Guideline," said Dr Bijon Kumar Sil, who led the Gonoshasthaya team that developed the kit, after a meeting with the drug administration yesterday.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) does not have the capacity at this moment to conduct trial of the kit following the FDA Umbrella Guidelines, he said.

"The icddr, b can do it. We will go to the icddr, b in a day or two," Bijon said.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra scientists developed the kit -- Rapid Dot Blot -- early

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

# WHO halts malaria, HIV drugs

REUTERS, Geneva

The World Health Organization (WHO) said on Saturday that it was discontinuing its trials of the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine and combination HIV drug lopinavir/ritonavir in hospitalised patients with Covid-19 after they failed to reduce mortality.

"These interim trial results show that hydroxychloroquine and lopinavir/ritonavir produce little or no reduction in the mortality of hospitalised Covid-19 patients when compared to standard of care. Solidarity trial investigators will interrupt the trials with immediate effect," the WHO said in a statement, referring to large multi-country trials that the agency is leading.

The UN agency said

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6 MORE ON PAGE 6

## FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

# AI's support for struggle of Sindhis, Pathans



Bangabandhu visits Khulna to attend to his ailing mother on July 3, 1972.

July 6, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### BANGABANDHU ADVISED COMPLETE REST

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who was taken ill on late yesterday night with serious pain in the abdomen is now under treatment. His personal physician Professor Nurul Islam has advised Bangabandhu complete rest for a few days. He has requested the visitors not to disturb the prime minister.

SUPPORT FOR SINDHIS, BELUCHIS, PATHANS Zillur Rahman, general secretary of Bangladesh Awami League, today declares support for the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

# Record surge in daily cases

India closes on Russia toll

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization reported a record rise in global coronavirus cases on Saturday with 212,326 being recorded in just 24 hours, amid a surge in the United States, Brazil and India.

The previous WHO record for new cases was 189,077 on June 28. Deaths remained steady at about 5,000 a day.

India added a record number of cases yesterday,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

# Fodder crisis in flooded regions

STAR REPORT

The cattle farmers of the flood-hit regions in Bangladesh are facing fodder shortage for their livestock.

An unusual price hike of fodders has made it even more difficult for them to feed their animals. The cattle are becoming weak day by day due to insufficient food, farmers said.

Livestock officials in some districts said they already sought fodder to their higher authorities for their regions.

Mukti Khatun, of Sirajganj's Kazipur upazila, said most of the cattle grazing fields were submerged in the district.

"I don't even have sufficient money in my hand to buy dry fodders for my

cattle. I am worried," she said from a flood protection embankment where she took shelter with her livestock.

The situation in Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts are worse than Sirajganj.

Cattle farmers in the two districts said they were facing acute shortage of green fodder, especially grass and paddy straws.

District livestock officials in the two districts said around 24 lakh cows, buffaloes, goats and sheep survived on natural resources in the districts.

The unusual price hike in the fodder market was also visible in the two districts.

Mansur Uddin, farmer of Kurigram's Chilmari upazila, said each maund of hay

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

# 2 doctors die from Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more doctors have died from coronavirus infections while undergoing treatment at two separate hospitals in the capital.

They are Prof AKM Nurul Anwar, former principal of Ibrahim Medical College, and Dr Amjad Hossain, owner of Rajani Clinic in Jashore's Benapole.

Nurul was admitted to Anwar Khan Modern Medical College Hospital after he got infected with the virus.

He breathed his last

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



### PRAYER TIMING JULY 6

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:10 12:45 5:00 6:55 8:17  
JAMAAT 4:45 1:15 5:15 7:00 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

দেশে বিদ্যমান করোনা ভাইরাস প্রাদুর্ভাবের পরিস্থিতিতে, বাংলাদেশ পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ আইন, ১৯৯৫ এর ৪(১) ধারায় প্রদত্ত ক্ষমতাবলে পরিবেশ দূষণ নিয়ন্ত্রণ ও করোনা ভাইরাস বিস্তার রোধে নিম্নোক্ত পরামর্শ প্রদান করা হলো:

**হাসপাতাল, ক্লিনিক ও ডায়াগনস্টিক কেন্দ্রে করণীয়:**

- চিকিৎসা বর্জ্য (ব্যবস্থাপনা ও প্রক্রিয়াজাতকরণ) বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ এবং বিশ্ব স্বাস্থ্য সংস্থার নির্দেশিকা প্রতিপালন করে বর্জ্য সৃষ্টির স্থানে (On-site) সম্ভাব্য করোনা ভাইরাস সংক্রমিত বর্জ্য দুই স্তর বিশিষ্ট টেকসই ব্যাগে দুই তৃতীয়াংশ ভর্তি করে ভালোভাবে মুখ বেঁধে রাখতে হবে। দুই স্তর বিশিষ্ট ব্যাগটিকে মুখ বাঁধা অবস্থায় ০.৫% ক্লোরিন বা ১% সোডিয়াম হাইপোক্লোরাইড দ্রবণ দ্বারা জীবাণুমুক্ত করে COVID-19 লেবেলযুক্ত বিশেষ বিনে (চাকনামুক্ত) সংরক্ষণপূর্বক নিরাপদভাবে পরিত্যাজন করতে হবে;
- হাসপাতাল, ক্লিনিক ও ডায়াগনস্টিক কেন্দ্রে বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা করা সম্ভব না হলে তা অটোক্রেভিং (১২১° সে: ১৫ পিএসআই চাপে ন্যূনতম ২০ মিনিট) অথবা ০.৫% ক্লোরিন বা ১% সোডিয়াম হাইপোক্লোরাইড দ্রবণ দ্বারা জীবাণুমুক্ত করে COVID-19 লেবেলযুক্ত বিশেষ বিনে (চাকনামুক্ত) রেখে সুরক্ষিত স্থানে সাময়িক সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে এবং অতিরিক্ত পরিত্যাজনের জন্য নির্দিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হস্তান্তর করতে হবে;
- সুরক্ষিত স্থান ব্যতীত সৃষ্ট বর্জ্য তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে পৃথকীকরণ (Sorting) পরিহার করতে হবে এবং পরিত্যাজনের পূর্বে ব্যবহৃত স্বাস্থ্য সুরক্ষা উপকরণ এমনভাবে নষ্ট করতে হবে যেন এগুলো পুনরায় ব্যবহার করা না যায়;
- বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনার ব্যবহৃত সামগ্রী, সংগ্রাহক বিন এবং বিন রাখার স্থান ০.৫% ক্লোরিন বা ১% সোডিয়াম হাইপোক্লোরাইড দ্রবণ দ্বারা জীবাণুমুক্ত করতে হবে;
- করোনা চিকিৎসা/প্রতিরোধ কার্যক্রমে সৃষ্ট বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনায় হাসপাতাল/ক্লিনিকে প্রশিক্ষণপ্রাপ্ত সুনির্দিষ্ট স্টাফ/তত্ত্বাবধানকারী কর্মকর্তা নিয়োজিত রাখতে হবে এবং পরিত্যাজনস্থলে বর্জ্য পরিবহনে সুনির্দিষ্ট যানবাহন ব্যবহার করতে হবে।

**বাসা-বাড়িতে করণীয়:**

- করোনা প্রতিরোধে ব্যবহৃত স্বাস্থ্য সুরক্ষা উপকরণ অতিরিক্ত পৃথক করে হাসপাতালে সৃষ্ট বর্জ্যের ন্যায় দুই স্তর বিশিষ্ট টেকসই ব্যাগে ভর্তি করে ভালোভাবে মুখ বেঁধে রাখতে হবে। বর্জ্য ভর্তি দুই স্তর বিশিষ্ট ব্যাগটিকে মুখ বাঁধা অবস্থায় ০.৫% ক্লোরিন বা ১% সোডিয়াম হাইপোক্লোরাইড দ্রবণ দ্বারা জীবাণুমুক্ত করে চাকনামুক্ত পৃথক বিনে সংরক্ষণ করতে হবে এবং অতিরিক্ত পরিত্যাজনের জন্য নির্দিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হস্তান্তর করার প্রয়োজনীয় উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করতে হবে;
- যদি মেডিকেল বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনার জন্য নির্দিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠান না পাওয়া যায় তবে চাকনামুক্ত পৃথক বিনে সুরক্ষিত বর্জ্য ৭২ ঘণ্টা সংরক্ষণ করার পর সিটি কর্পোরেশনের পৃথকীকরণ বর্জ্য হিসেবে নিরাপদভাবে পরিত্যাজন করতে হবে;
- করোনা সংক্রামক বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনায় ব্যবহৃত পৃথক বিনটি ০.৫% ক্লোরিন বা ১% সোডিয়াম হাইপোক্লোরাইড দ্রবণ বা অন্য কোন উপযুক্ত জীবাণুনাশক দ্বারা জীবাণুমুক্ত করতে হবে।

**স্থানীয় সরকার কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক করণীয়:**

- করোনায় প্রতিরোধে ব্যবহৃত স্বাস্থ্য সুরক্ষা উপকরণ সংগ্রহের জন্য COVID-19 লেবেলযুক্ত দুই স্তর বিশিষ্ট বিশেষ রঙের (যেমন: হলুদ) টেকসই ব্যাগ সরবরাহ এবং বর্জ্য সংগ্রহ করতে হবে;
- সংগৃহীত বর্জ্য ইনসিনারেটরে পুড়িয়ে ফেলাতে হবে। ইনসিনারেটরের সুবিধা না থাকলে জনবসতি হতে দূরে কোনো শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠানের (Industrial furnace/Cement Kiln) চুল্লিতে পুড়িয়ে ফেলাতে হবে অথবা ০.৫% ক্লোরিন বা ১% সোডিয়াম হাইপোক্লোরাইড দ্রবণ দ্বারা জীবাণুমুক্ত করে সুনির্দিষ্ট ল্যান্ডফিল সাইটে পরিত্যাজন করা যাবে।
- অতিরিক্ত বর্জ্য সৃষ্টি হলে ক্রাম্যমান অটোক্রেভিং (১২১° সে: ১৫ পিএসআই চাপে ন্যূনতম ২০ মিনিট) এর ব্যবস্থা রাখা যেতে পারে।

## পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর

পরিবেশ, বন ও জলবায়ু পরিবর্তন মন্ত্রণালয়

# We Deeply Mourn

**Engr. Newaz Khan**  
2 January 1950 - 4 July 2020

It is with sadness that we inform you of the demise of Engr. Newaz Khan, Hon'ble Chairman of PEB Steel Alliance Limited, who passed away on Saturday, July 04, 2020 at 05.30 PM (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajeeoon). Engr. Newaz Khan is son of Late Mr. Elahi Newaz Khan and Late. Mrs. Hazera Khanam. He is survived by his wife and two sons.

Engr. Newaz Khan completed his Higher Secondary School Certificate in the merit list from Faujdarhat Cadet College, a premium Institution of Bangladesh. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Lahore, Pakistan and is an MBA from the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka. Engr. Newaz Khan was a pioneer in introducing the concept of Pre-Fabricated Steel Buildings in Bangladesh.

We pray to Almighty Allah (SWT) to grant him Jannatul Ferdous and give patience to the bereaved Family to bear this irreparable loss. Ameen.

**PEBSAL**  
PEB STEEL ALLIANCE LTD