

Plight of

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people come to them for medicine and ask about their suggestions all the time. They recommend medicine for issues like common cold and other related symptoms. But for serious issues, people should always seek experts' consultation, they added.

SM Nazer Hossain, central vice president of Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), said, "Many are going through such a difficult situation these days. We urge doctors to resume private practice, ensuring all safety measures to protect themselves. They can limit the number of patients too as a cautionary measure."

Contacted, Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, convener of Public Health Rights Protection Committee, Chattogram, said some doctors are seeing patients at their chambers. "Patients are helpless. That's why they are taking suggestions from salespersons at dispensaries, who are not qualified to do so. Physicians should consider the matter alongside considering their safety," he said.

Wishing anonymity, a former professor of medicine at Chattogram Medical College said over 1,800 doctors have been infected with Covid-19 in the country while treating patients in hospitals and 64 have died.

If doctors start private practice, the number may increase. "Who will treat patients then?" he said.

Dr Faisal Iqbal Chowdhury, general secretary of BMA, Chattogram chapter, said BMA too is urging doctors, especially young ones, to resume private practice.

Chattogram Civil Surgeon Dr Sheikh Fazle Rabbi said, "We can ensure doctors' presence in hospitals but we cannot force them to start private practice."

"We can request doctors to resume practice on a limited scale. I would also urge patients to go to government hospitals for treatment," he said.

24 Thai

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Motijheel at the cost of Tk 20,000 crore. But the fast-track project witnessed only two percent progress in the last three months, with a total of 46.13 percent progress till June, according to project documents.

At the latest meeting of Fast Track Project Monitoring Taskforce last month, Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikaus, also the head of the taskforce, asked metro rail authorities to take initiatives to bring back foreign engineers and consultants to expedite project work.

"We are now trying to accelerate the works and have taken many initiatives," MAN Siddque, managing director of DMTCL told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said physical work at depot is being carried out under package-2 of MRT-6 project, that has seen 70 percent progress. "Now we need the 24 Thai engineers who were previously involved in the package," he said.

The engineers would be brought by air charter of a contractor firm -- Italian-Thailand Development Public Company Ltd, he said.

"We have written a letter to the foreign ministry via our ministry [road transport and bridges] to allow the special flights. We hope that we will get the permission and bring them back within a week," he added.

Besides, MAN Siddque said they have written another letter on Monday to the foreign ministry to give special waiver to Japanese nationals involved in the project to return to Bangladesh.

Most of the contractors and consultants of the project are from Japan and regular flights to and from Japan are also suspended since mid-March, according to DMTCL sources.

Japan government issued an embargo on its citizens to go and come from Japan and the embargo has not been lifted yet, they said.

"So, it would be difficult to bring Japanese consultants and engineers back," a DMTCL official said wishing not to be named.

The original implementation period of the project was 2012-2024. Following the prime minister's directive, the deadline was first set for December this year and then extended to December 2021.

Shahidul Alam

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regional correspondent for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty.

CPJ will also confer lawyer Amal Clooney with the Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award.

"Like brave and committed journalists everywhere, CPJ's honourees set out to report the news without fear or favor for the benefit of their communities, their country, and the world," Joel Simon, CPJ executive director, said in the statement.

The winners will be honoured on November 19, 2020, at CPJ's annual benefit gala.

Due to health and safety restrictions, this year's gala will be held virtually.

Warnings

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DNCC also introduced an online system to purchase cattle, which was inaugurated on Saturday. Using the facility, people will be able to buy cattle online and even get the meat processed, the mayor said.

The mayor said Department of Livestock will ensure health of online cattle by providing health certificates after inspection.

Three more makeshift markets, which are awaiting DNCC's approval, will be at Bosila, Sayeed Nagar in Bhatara and Moineretek.

Gabtolli cattle market will also remain open.

Markets which were approved by DNCC last week will be at Uttara Sector-17 (from Brindaban to BGMEA); near Kawla Shialdanga; and near Dumni Bazar (adjacent to Purbachal Bridge).

Dr Md Shahidullah, president of the national committee on Covid-19, told The Daily Star that if the city corporations arrange cattle markets inside the four cities, rate of infection, which is now stable, will increase after Eid.

The committee suggested not to set up markets in the four cities because 76 percent of Covid-19 cases are from there.

Dr Shahidullah said the graph of infections has been flat for the last month. Infections will start going down in time, assuming the authorities concerned do not set up markets in the areas. He suggested running online markets and strictly maintaining health guidelines.

As Covid-19 is not yet under control, the national committee in its 14th meeting suggested implementing strict control in Dhaka and nearby areas.

NTAC's seven-point suggestion regarding cattle markets include not setting up markets inside towns; setting up in open spaces; not allowing entry to the elderly or sick; having separate entry and exit paths; and sacrificing cattle at fixed location instead of at home, said a release.

Just want

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Brokers also threatened to kidnap those who spoke out. Desperate, they went to the embassy on July 2. "We don't want to return to the exploitative agent; we just want to go back home," he said.

Contacted, Bangladesh Ambassador to Vietnam Samina Naz said the best option for the migrants now would be to get back to work as the international flights are yet to begin from Vietnam because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

She said the embassy has communicated the issue to the ministries of expatriates' welfare and foreign affairs because all of those 27 Bangladeshis had BMET (Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training) certificates.

"We're waiting for response from Dhaka on cost of repatriation, as well as the operation of international flights from Vietnam," Samina Naz told The Daily Star Monday.

She said cost of accommodation and food for 27 Bangladeshis is \$300 per day. Vietnam police arranged accommodation, but it is not clear who will bear the cost.

The Bangladesh embassy does not have any budget for such expenses, she said.

Shariful Hasan, head of Brac Migration Programme, said the Overseas Employment and Migration Act 2013 clearly says if the workers go abroad for jobs with the emigration clearances of the BMET, the recruiting agencies that arrange visas will bear the expenses of repatriation of the migrant workers if they are in danger.

"The government should immediately claim money from the recruiting agencies concerned, arrange accommodation and repatriation of the Bangladeshis now stranded there," he said.

Hasan said they have information that at least 80 other Bangladeshis in Vietnam are facing appalling conditions in different camps. They were taken to Vietnam for jobs but were not arranged work permits.

"It's not enough to repatriate them. The government should investigate the case seriously and punish those responsible," he said.

Asked, Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad said the ministry has already asked the six recruiting agencies to provide money for repatriating the workers from Vietnam.

A committee headed by a deputy secretary of the expatriates' welfare ministry has also been formed to investigate the case, he said.

Flood washes away roads

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The Dharla was flowing 19 cm above the danger level at Shimulbari point yesterday morning.

In Bogura, water of the Jamuna was flowing 94 cm above the danger level at the Mathurapara point in the Sariakandi upazila yesterday, said WDB officials.

Many families have lost their homesteads in the remote areas of Chaluabari union in Sariakandi upazila due to the flood.

Shawkat Ali, chairman Chaluabari Union Parishad, said around 920 families were now homeless and passing days under open sky with untold sufferings.

In Gaibandha, the Brahmaputra is flowing 103 cm above the danger level at the Fulchari point, while water of the Chaghat River is flowing 77 cm above of the danger level at the Gaibandha point yesterday.

The water will continue to increase today, said Mokhlesur Rahman, executive engineer of the Gaibandha WDB.

In Sunamganj, the Surma was flowing 14 cm above the danger level at Sholghar point yesterday. Flood water has damaged many roads and bridges causing sufferings to people.

Many parts of roads in Doakrabazar, Katakhal, Noagaon, Ujjalpur, Tahirpur, Jamalganj, Dharmapasha and Bishwambharpur areas have been damaged by the flood.

Contacted, Zahirul Islam, executive engineer of the Roads and Highways Department (RHD), said about 50 km

of roads have been damaged. Accurate amount can be estimated after the water recede.

Mahbubur Rahman, executive engineer of the Sunamganj Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), said some 100 km of LGED roads have been damaged. It may need around Tk 100 crores to repair the roads.

In Nilphamari, flood situation in the Teesta basin area is still unchanged though water level in the river slightly dropped.

"The river might swell again with re-start of heavy rainfall," said Rabiul Islam, executive engineer at WDB's Dalia regional office.

"We have been living here for around one week under open sky. We are facing huge crisis of food. But none gave us any food or relief," said Mazom Ali, a flood victim who took shelter at Barni Ghat point in Dimla.

In Sirajganj, flood situation has kept deteriorating as the Jamuna is swelling up rapidly. Over 1.7 lakh people were marooned in five flood affected upazilas.

"Flood in this region may be prolonged, if such rising trend of the Jamuna continues," said Rafikul Islam, sub-divisional engineer of Sirajganj WDB.

In Pabna, water of two major rivers -- the Padma and the Jamuna -- are rising rapidly, posing a threat to inundate nearby localities.

Our Lalmonirhat, Moulvibazar, Bogura, Pabna and Nilphamari correspondents

Special

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African countries.

PAKISTAN RATIFIES SIMLA

The Pakistan National Assembly has ratified the Simla Agreement, report BBC. The BBC correspondent in Islamabad further informs that the five-day debate over the Agreement was quite stormy and the overwhelming majority of those who spoke were against the recognition of Bangladesh.

TEXTILE MILLS WORK AT 50% CAPACITY

At present the cotton mills in the country are operating 50 per cent below the installed capacity. Out of 8 lakhs installed spindles 4 lakhs are operating in 44 textile mills in Bangladesh. The authority attributes the causes of underutilisation mainly to the shortage of spare parts and other factors. Owing to the underutilization of the installed capacity the overhead costs in the mills have increased manifolds.

SOURCES: July 16, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Handcuffed

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be identified immediately, said police.

Dulal Mahmud, officer-in-charge of Anwara Police Station, told The Daily Star that on information, police recovered the body from Borar Char area in the Sangu river around 12:30am.

The victim was wearing an off-white full shirt and black shorts. His right hand was handcuffed, said the OC.

The left part of the handcuffs was missing. His throat was slit, and small injury marks was spotted on his back, the police officer added.

On the back of the handcuffs, PATENT 153174-891152 CHICAGO is written, while THE SMITS HANDCUFFS SPRINGFIELD MAS.S is written on the other side, said police sources.

During the body recovery, superintendent of Chattogram police and senior police officials were present on the spot, said the sources.

OC Dulal said the body was dumped into the Sangu or seafarer murder.

The victim might have been killed around 10-12 days ago, he said, adding that police started investigating the incident.

Inspector (investigation) SM Didarul Islam Sikdar of the police station filed a case in this connection.

The body was sent to Chittagong Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

CID looking for cohorts of Azam Khan

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arrive in Dubai, Azam and his two brothers -- Nazim Uddin and Ershad -- sexually abused them and then forced them into sex work.

A high official at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday claimed to have got these findings about the syndicate that is involved in the trafficking of thousands of Bangladeshi girls to Dubai.

"We got the details after several victims informed us about the process," the officer, who is involved in the investigation, told The Daily Star, requesting anonymity.

The CID on Sunday arrested Azam, Alamin, and another associate Anwar Hossain Moyna. They are now in jail.

Ecneec gives go ahead to 2 projects

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will be surveyed digitally, while a database of a digital map for 470 upazilas will be prepared. The map will be prepared according to Revisional Survey.

A total of 2,465 officers and staffers will be given training on digital land survey at home and abroad.

The project cost is estimated to be Tk 1,212.5486 crore, and its tenure will be from July 2020 to June 2025. Except the three hill districts, the project will cover the whole country.

The second project titled "Land Management Automation" aims to bring dynamism and increase transparency in services, create interoperable land database, and

provide land-related services online.

The project tenure is five years from July 2020 to June 2025, and its costs are Tk 1,197.0318 crore.

At an online briefing after the meeting, Planning Minister MA Mannan said people would get land mutation, lease, and tax payment facilities online without hassle after completion of the projects.

It will bring transparency in revenue collection, he added.

About 5,247 land offices will be connected online to provide services to people.

Meanwhile, to improve infrastructure and the drainage system of 18 new wards of Dhaka North City Corporation, the Ecneec yesterday

break.

There were 122 polling centres in Bogura-1 and 79 in Jashore-6.

Bogura-1 and Jashore-6 constituencies fell vacant following the deaths of ruling party lawmakers Abdul Mannan and Ismat Ara Sadique respectively.

The EC in February announced that by-elections to the two constituencies will be held on March 29. But they postponed the polls on March 21, considering the coronavirus situation.

On July 4, the EC said that elections to the two constituencies will be held on July 14.

Our Bogura correspondent Mostafa Shabuj found very poor turnout in the polling centres, but polls results say a good number of votes were cast.

assistance of Bangladesh embassy in the United Arab Emirates.

On Saturday, five victims came to Bangladesh from Dubai, said DIG Imtiaz, adding that the CID already communicated with the victims to record their statements.

The CID official said two victims already gave confessional statements against Azam.

A 20-year-old victim filed a case with Lalbagh Police Station on July 2. She told police that she did not receive any payment during her stay in Dubai.

"We have found around 15 cases registered across the country against Azam, but we believe that some more cases might have been filed," Imtiaz said, adding that they were looking for the victims and case details.

okayed another project involving Tk 4,025.62 crore.

The project, whose duration is between January 2020 and December 2022, is taken up to develop 182.78km road network, 28.51km canal, and establish 233.97km drainage system.

A total of 12,218 LED streetlights will also be set up under the project.

Besides, the government approved another Tk 1,081.7603 crore project to repair streets and drainage of DNCC areas.

Mannan said they placed eight projects of five ministries before the meeting and all the projects got approved.

The total cost of the projects is Tk 10,102.03 crore.

Visiting five polling centres, the reporter did not find any polling agent of candidates other than of the AL candidates.

The queue of voters turned almost empty at Char Karnibari Government Primary School in Sariakandi after 2:00pm when only 496 votes were cast. But around 4:00pm, the number rose to 1,050.

Eyeesir Rahmatullah Entaz, an independent candidate, alleged that AL men forced his agents out of the polling stations.

The situation was quite similar in Keshabpur where no polling agents of JP candidate was visible at any polling centres.

No untoward incidents were reported in any of the polling centres.

CLOSURE OF TEA GARDEN ROADS


Notice is hereby given that all private roads and paths passing through the lands belonging to the Tea Estates owned by the under-noted Companies will remain closed to the public from **23rd to 25th July 2020** both days inclusive. Passes may however, be obtained on application to the Manager of the estate concerned.

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Interested candidates are requested to send CV with photograph, marks/grades sheets obtained in SSC, HSC and Diploma/Degree Examinations by **10 August 2020** to pdllmuap@gmail.com . Please write name of the degree in the subject line of your email. Women are encouraged to apply. Further details are available in the websites mentioned above and in www.southasiafoundation.org