

Belayet Hossain passes away

CITY DESK

Md Belayet Hossain, freedom fighter and senior deputy managing director of Bashundhara Group, passed away yesterday morning while undergoing treatment at Evercare Hospital Dhaka.

He was suffering from old-age complications for a long time, said a press release. Born in 1950, Belayet was part of Bashundhara Group since its inception, and served in various vital positions. He contributed immensely toward the organisation's development in the last 30 years.

He left behind his wife, three daughters, friends and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death. Bashundhara Group Chairperson Ahmed Akbar Sobhan expressed deep sorrow for Belayet's demise. "His passing has left a void in our hearts. I am deeply saddened after losing a great friend and co-worker. I pray for his departed soul and give condolences to his bereaved family," he said.



From footpath

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delivery system for customers in and outside of the capital. Many of Habibur's loyal customers have returned since the business went on Facebook, and he also has a newfound zeal for the venture. "I bought books from Habib chacha regularly for over five years, and this pandemic has not been kind to him. The business is now online and we can all help out by buying books," Labiba Faiaz Bari, a student of Dhaka University, said in a Facebook post.

Well wishers left many positive messages and reviews on the page, with many thanking the admins for the prompt delivery. Dhaka University students made sure to spread the word on the initiative, and their peers flocked to the page to help out their favourite Habib chacha.

Asked why he was drawn to selling books, Habibur said, "I myself couldn't get a good education or higher degree, and neither could my three sons due to financial instability. But doing this business gives me immense satisfaction and pride because my primary customers are students, who are being enlightened by reading books. They are just like my children and my business is helping them."

But Habibur is still not sold on moving the business entirely online, despite the heavy sales. He is still setting up shop on the footpath at Shahbagh. "The campus is where I love to be, with the students who visit me regularly. It is not only about my business but I also love the community there," Habibur said.

JKG CEO

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The four are -- Humayun Kabir and his wife Tanzina Patwary, Sayeed Chowdhury and Al Mamun.

On July 12, police arrested Ariful's wife Dr Sabrina Arif Chowdhury, the chairman of JKG Health Care and also a government official, around three weeks after the scam came to light.

Following her arrest, the health ministry suspended her from the post of registrar at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases for violating rules.

The following day, Sabrina was placed on a three-day remand in connection with the same case. Police have so far arrested nine people.

M'singh potters

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to arrival of plastic and other products at markets," she said.

"We basically survive through the sale during various celebrations, but coronavirus has left us in utter sufferings this year," said Bishnu Priya.

Suken Chandra Pal from Mondolsen village said he has to maintain an eight-member family including three daughters, a son and elderly parents.

"I made clay essentials with a Tk 25,000 investment, but almost all of those have been left unsold because I could not bring them to customers due to this pandemic," said the 45-year-old.

He started hawking the products recently to arrange food for his family, lamented Suken. So far 4,000 potter families are continuing their ancestral profession in the district, he informed this correspondent.

Mohammad Abdur Rob, principal of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Fine Arts Institute in Mymensingh, said around 20 clay artisans, who studied at the institute and make items on commercial basis in the district, also incurred a huge loss this year due to coronavirus surge.

Talking to this correspondent, Mohammad Rajon, one of the artisans, said organisers sometimes called the potters with their products to the celebrations. Now, none is paying attention to them, he said.

Contacted, Md Mizanur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Mymensingh, said he already asked the upazila nirbahi officers to prepare lists of those engaged in different ancestral professions, including pottery, to provide financial support to them.

When Shahed

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With the investigation ongoing, Shahed visited the CMP Headquarters on February 8, 2017. He told the officials that he was sent to the port city to resolve the issue.

Witnesses said he also threatened Rajesh and Aftab, following which Aftab filed an internal General Diary (GD), mentioning Shahed's name.

"Shahed said you are junior officers... Where did you get the courage [to conduct the raid]? I had to come to Chattogram from Dhaka just for this," said Rajesh Barua. Shahed then went on saying how well-connected he is.

"After a few days, a complaint was lodged against us in Dhaka. It's still ongoing. We continue to face harassment without doing anything," added Rajesh.

CMP sources said during the visit, Shahed took away the remaining auto-rickshaw from police custody. Later, investigation regarding the auto-rickshaws stopped abruptly. Sources said the complaint submitted against the four law enforcers mentioned that they harassed "Mega Motors" through seizing the auto-rickshaws and demanding Tk 50 lakh as bribe from the owner.

The bribery allegation was found to be false during an investigation. The complaint is now under investigation with Industrial Police.

Asked, CT unit ADC Palash Kanti Nath said the officers became victim of Shahed's fraudulence.

VERSION OF MEGA MOTORS

Mega Motors' staff member Saifuddin -- who filed a case against Shahed on behalf of Jahangir -- said, "Shahed pressured CMP officials so we believe him. That way he built a relationship with our company so he can extort us." "He came to us through our former staffer Shahidullah who was fired later," said Saifuddin, also a cousin of Jahangir.

Along with Shahed, Mega Motors also accused Shahidullah in the money embezzlement case.

"Shahed's target was to embezzle our money and he did so by taking Tk 91.25 lakh in 2017, promising to give us permits for operating 200 auto-rickshaws in the capital," he claimed.

He also admitted that several politicians phoned police in favour of Mega Motors after the arrest of Jahangir and Shahidullah.

Country's first

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Talking to this correspondent later, the senior secretary said once the terminal is operational, they will be able to coordinate better regarding who is using the choppers, and where they are traveling to and from.

Besides, the heliport will ease the process of transporting ailing passengers since there will be a dedicated terminal, he also said.

Speaking at the discussion as chief guest, Mohibul said the country's private helicopter service activities are dominated by few business groups. Some 14 to 15 companies are now operating helicopter business, Mohibul informed.

He also said work is underway to formulate a policy for development of tourism in the country. It will specify responsibilities of each ministry involved in tourism so that they can play a role in the development process.

Mohibul said work is underway to include the issue of assisting tourists in the day-to-day work of the deputy commissioners. He said a proposal has already been sent to the Cabinet Division.

Andrew

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continued for one hour. His coffin, covered in transparent glass, was placed at the floral stage, which Kishore's wife, son and daughters had decorated. Apart from family members, musicians who went to Rajshahi from across the country paid their homage.

Among others, Rajshahi Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, Rajshahi lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha, lyricist Ethun Babu and Bangladesh Film Artists' Association General Secretary Zayed Khan were present in the ceremonies.

At 11:30am, the body was taken to the graveyard and buried in a solemn manner.

Pandemic

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Noman said prior to the global shutdown, Baira had more than one lakh demand letters for overseas jobs.

Of the new pending visas, about 85 percent were for jobs in Saudi Arabia and the rest were for other Middle East and some East European countries, he added.

He urged the government to declare separate stimulus package for recruitment agencies as those too were suffering the economic fallout of the pandemic.

Baira President Benji Ahmed said the country now has to prepare and ready its workforce, via training, to meet the demands of the post-Covid-19 international labour market. Bangladesh has to prioritise sectors that will have increased labour demands.

"Only then we will be able to compete in the international labour market," he said.

"We have 1.25 crore migrant workers abroad while they [the Philippines] probably has 10 to 15 lakh. Yet, they earn some \$33 billion annually because they are fully equipped and skilled in all sectors," he added.

Bangladesh earned \$18.3 billion in remittance last year, according to Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training.

The Baira president said in the coming days, they expect new demands for Bangladeshi workers from Europe, China, and Russia.

Freedom of press

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the press to shun the tendency of blackmailing and says that this unhealthy practice was prevalent in the presses of Karachi and Rawalpindi during Pakistani regime.

At the meeting, Gias Uddin Ahmed, outgoing president of Dhaka Union of Journalists, urges the government to set up a press council to address the problems faced by the press.

INDIRA'S LETTER TO MUJIB

A letter from Indira Gandhi is delivered to Bangabandhu at the Gono Bhaban today by the Principal Secretary to the Indian Prime Minister PN Haksar who is now in Dhaka on a three-day visit. The content of the letter is not divulged. The Simla Summit and how it progressed must have figured prominently in the letter.

PRESERVE FOREST WEALTH

Bangabandhu says today, "I want to see that every citizen of Bangladesh plants a tree and maintains it to mark his cooperation to the development of the forest resources of the country and their participation in the tree plantation campaign." The prime minister addresses the inaugural ceremony of the tree plantation week launched throughout the country today. He also ceremoniously plants a seedling at the Suhrawardy Udyan.

SOURCES: July 17, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

US drops plan to revoke

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at least some in-person instruction.

The government said it would drop the plan amid a legal challenge brought by universities. But a senior U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) official said the administration still intended to issue a regulation in the coming weeks addressing whether foreign students can remain in the United States if their classes move online.

There are more than a million foreign students at U.S. colleges and universities, and many schools depend on revenue from foreign students, who often pay full tuition.

The July 6 move by the administration blindsided many universities and colleges that were still making plans for the fall semester, trying to balance concerns about rising cases of the novel coronavirus in many US states and the desire to return to classes.

A flurry of lawsuits were filed challenging the rule including one brought by Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology and another by a coalition of state governments. Dozens of big companies and colleges and universities filed "friend-of-the-court" briefs opposing the rule.

Harvard planned to hold all of its classes online for the upcoming academic year.

President Donald Trump, who is pushing schools across the country to reopen in the autumn, said he thought Harvard's plan not to hold in-person classes was ridiculous.

The universities argued the measure was unlawful and would adversely affect their academic institutions.

HC orders it to pay

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were killed in the fire, had already been paid Tk 20 lakh as an initial payment by the hospital.

The hospital authorities will have to pay Tk 30 lakh to the remaining four victims' families each in line with the HC directive, he said.

The five victims were Vernon Anthony Paul, 75, Riyajul Alam, 45, Khodeja Begum, 70, Monir Hossain, 75, and Md Mahubb, 50.

Lawyer Niaz yesterday said the HC on June 29 directed the hospital authorities to provide compensation to the victims' families through an amicable settlement. But no such settlement happened between the hospital authorities and the four victims' families, he added.

Muntasir Uddin and several other lawyers appeared for the writ petitioners, while Rokanuddin Mahmud, Mahfuzur Rahman Khan, and Kazi Ershadul Alam argued for United Hospital.

The petitions were filed yesterday and last month, seeking HC directives on the authorities concerned to give appropriate compensation to each victim's family and to take necessary action against those responsible for the incident.

Following an HC order, Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk), Fire Service and Civil Defence, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, and United Hospital authorities submitted their probe reports to the court through attorney general's office on June 11.

Over 25pc tested found

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the city areas. Because, we have noticed a stable trend in major hotspots [Dhaka, Chattogram and Narayanganj] recently," Dr Mushtaq Hussain, consultant of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), told The Daily Star.

Yesterday, 33 people were reported dead from Covid-19, taking the death toll at 2,457, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The total number of deaths is 1.27 percent of all the 1,93,590 confirmed cases in the country, Prof Nasima Sultana, additional director general (admin) of the DGHS, said during yesterday's briefing.

Including yesterday's 1,796, a total of 1,05,023 Covid-19 patients, 54.25 percent of all confirmed cases, have recovered.

Of yesterday's deceased, 27 were male and six were female. A total of 27 died in hospitals and six died in their homes.

Forteen were over 60 years old while 10 between 51 and 60, five between 41 and 50, three between 31 and 40, and another one was under 10.

Of those who died yesterday, 16 were from Dhaka division, seven from Chattogram, two from Rajshahi, three from Rangpur, and five from Khulna.

Of the total deceased, 1,940 were males and 517 females. So far, Dhaka division witnessed the highest Covid-19 deaths -- 1,224 (around 50 percent) -- followed by Chattogram with 633 deaths (nearly 26 percent).

Mymensingh division has the lowest number of deaths, 56 so far.

Cumilla not doing well

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The number of Covid-19 deaths was 18 so far. DEATH COUNT RISING

Like infections, the number of deaths from coronavirus also jumped in the district in the last three months.

While the total number of Covid-19 deaths was zero on May 1, it rose to 28 on June 1.

By July 1, it was 100 with another 24 reported as of yesterday.

From May 18 to July 13, an organisation named Bibek helped bury 53 dead bodies with coronavirus symptoms and infections in the Cumilla city area.

Yusuf Molla Tipu, initiator of Bibek, said almost every day they bury at least one such dead and the numbers are not decreasing.

Monjur Kader Moni, councillor of ward 10 of the city, said the number of infected people will actually be more than the official figure because people are reluctant to do Covid-19 tests.

So far, two people died in his area from Covid-19 whereas more than 10 died with coronavirus symptoms, he added, claiming that senior citizens are dying but no one is keeping record of that.

As of yesterday, 1,124 patients were admitted at Cumilla Medical College Hospital (CuMCH) with Covid-19 symptoms and infection.

So far, 222 of the patients died there; 36 of them were with Covid-19 and the rest 186 had coronavirus symptoms.

Dr Mojibur Rahman, director of CuMCH, said, "Some patients come to the hospital with low oxygen saturation levels. It is difficult to save such patients because fall in oxygen saturation level causes multi organ failure."

SHORTAGE OF FACILITY

Only two public hospitals in the city -- CuMCH and the District General Hospital -- provide treatment to Covid-19 patients and those with coronavirus symptoms.

In the entire district, only CuMCH has an ICU facility dedicated for Covid-19 treatment and the unit also has to serve critical coronavirus patients from five other adjacent districts as well.

None of the private medical colleges, hospitals, clinics in the district provide treatment to Covid-19 patients.

Last month, a patient with gynaecological problems even failed to get admission in several private clinics in the city.

Maizuddin Ahmed, the patient's husband, said he finally had to admit his wife at CuMCH's isolation ward from

where she was transferred to the gynae ward after testing Covid-19 negative.

A number of other people have similar complaints.

This correspondent tried to contact Dr Abdul Baki Anis, a leader of Private Clinic Hospitals Owners Association, several times on his cellphone to inquire about the complaints.

However, the doctor who is also the president of Bangladesh Medical Association, Cumilla unit, could not be reached.

Dr Mojibur Rahman of CuMCH said they have 154 beds in the coronavirus isolation ward and 10 functional ICU beds out of 18.

The eight ICU beds, which were recently gifted by Finance Minister AHM Lotus Kamal and local lawmaker AKM Bahauddin, could not be used yet due to lack of trained manpower.

"We need highly trained nurses and medical technologists to run the ICU smoothly. If we can run all 18 ICU beds, it will ease the sufferings of people.

"Besides, we need high-flow nasal cannulas and portable X-ray machines for the Covid-19 unit," the physician said, adding that CuMCH has a centralised oxygen supply system.

"We are trying our best with the resources provided by the government. Already more than 50 doctors, nurses and other medical staff of CuMCH have been infected by coronavirus."

Abul Fazal Mir, deputy commissioner of Cumilla, said they are operating mobile courts to maintain health protocols in shopping malls, business centres and kitchen markets and also enforcing the rules on wearing face masks to prevent coronavirus infection.

Humanoid clerk

FROM PAGE 12

the project Promobot said. Its facial features were generated by artificial intelligence based on analysing the appearance of several thousand females.

The robot, which wears the registry office uniform of white shirt and brown waistcoat, can recreate more than 600 human facial expressions by moving its eyes, eyebrows and lips and other mechanical muscles covered with artificial skin, Promobot said.

The robot can ask and answer generic questions and is connected to a scanner and a printer. It also has access to a document database and fully replaces a registry office employee, the head of the registry office, Leonid Gromov said.

HOUSE TO LET

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CREDIT RATING REPORT

ONE Bank LIMITED
Corporate HQ
2/F HRC Bhaban, 46 Kawran Bazar C.A., Dhaka-1215

ONE Bank Limited has been rated by the Emerging Credit Rating Limited (ECRL) on the basis of Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2019. The summary of the rating is presented below:

| Date of Declaration | Valid Till | Long Term Rating | Short Term Rating |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| March 10, 2020 | March 09, 2021 | AA | ST-2 |
| March 10, 2019 | March 09, 2020 | AA | ST-2 |

Long Term AA means:
Commercial Banks rated AA have very strong capacity to meet their financial commitments and is generally in a position to withstand adverse developments in the economy, business and other external conditions. These institutions typically possess a good track record and have no readily apparent weaknesses.

Short Term ST-2 means:
Commercial Banks rated in this category are considered to have strong capacity to meet its financial commitments in a timely manner. However, it is somewhat susceptible to adverse development in the economy, business and other external conditions.

By order of the Board,
John Sarkar
John Sarkar
DMD & Company Secretary

Relief hard to come by amid

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Echoing Sadek's statement, Sekendar Ali, 50, of Lalmonirhat town's Thanapara, said he used to distribute relief among the victims in the previous years but he did not go out this year considering the Covid-19 situation.

In Pabna, Baser Pramanik, of Betil Char in Sirajganj's Chowhali upazila, has been marooned for over a month now but nobody reached him with relief.

Mentioning his expectations of relief from NGOs, he said none came forward this year to help them.

In Sunamganj, the situation was quite similar.

Mohammad Ful Miah, chairman of Gourarang union, said he saw no private initiative to help the victims this year.

"The help that is coming from the administration is not sufficient. Private initiatives could help the victims," he said.

In Nilphamari, Dimla and Jaldhaka upazilas were the worst affected. People there were suffering immensely as a second spell of flood hit them.

Moynul Islam, chairman of worst flood hit Tepakharibari union in Dimla upazila, said 18 voluntary organisations and individuals generously came forward to help the victims in the previous year.

"But this year, the picture is different.

Probably because they want to keep themselves away from aid programmes due to the fear of Covid-19 infection," he added.

In Jamalpur, solvent individuals, private or social organisations, political leaders and other were yet to come out to help the flood victims due to the virus outbreak.

In Bogura, around 1 lakh people are directly affected by flood in three upazilas -- Dhunat, Sonatala and Sariakandi.

Thousands of flood victims are yet to get relief for the first time either from the government or any private individual or organisation.

Asor Ali, 55, another flood victim, said, "Even the government did not distribute relief among us. They did not even visit us for once."

Touhid Parvej Biplob, a local businessman, said they used to distribute relief every year, but this time they were unable to provide relief goods.

Biplob said, "I tested positive for coronavirus. Plus, we have no fund to buy relief for the flood affected people."

Meanwhile in Munshiganj, the Padma was swelling up to the danger mark, posing a risk of inundating to nearby localities.

Our Lalmonirhat, Pabna, Bogura, Sylhet, Nilphamari and Jamalpur correspondents contributed to this report.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Sears Holdings Global Sourcing Ltd. Liaison Office
A meeting of the Directors of Sears Holdings Global Sourcing Ltd. in Hong Kong was duly convened and held at 17/F., Office 1 Grand Century Place (MOKO), 193 Prince Edward Road W, Mongkok, Kowloon, Hong Kong at 3 PM on the 7th day of July 2020. It has been resolved to permanently close the Liaison Office and dissolve the affairs of Sears Holdings Global Sourcing Ltd. Liaison Office in Bangladesh with petition to Bangladesh Investment Development Authority. Claims, if any, against the Company's Liaison Office, of the members of the public may be sent within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this public notice to:
Shuk Fong Kwan
Sears Holdings Global Sourcing Ltd. Liaison Office, Suvastu Suraiya Trade Centre, Floor 5th, Plot No. 57, Block-B, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka.
D-90