

Importers count

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around 100 trucks have returned to India, Mustafizur said

Meanwhile, some traders are selling onions at a low price at Ghojadanga port to minimize their losses, said Kanti Dutta, general secretary of C&F agents association in Ghojadanga, over phone.

In Dinajpur, at least 11 trucks carrying 246 tonnes of Indian onion entered Bangladesh through Hili Land Port in Hakimpur Upazila on Saturday.

But most of the onions have been rotten, said Harun Ur Rashid president of Importers and Exporters Group of the port.

Trucks were stranded for a few days. These onions have been rotten due to hot weather and rain during, he told The Daily Star.

In Chapainawabganj, at least eight onion-laden trucks entered into Bangladesh through Sonamosjid Land Port on Saturday.

Around 10 percent of these onions have been rotten, said Babul Hasna Durul, an onion importer.

Our correspondents from Dinajpur, Chapainawabganj and a correspondent from Sathkira contributed to this report.

40 more die

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infected has now risen to 3,50,621, according to the regular DGHS briefing.

The current positivity rate is 13.06 percent and the total positivity rate stands at 19.11 percent.

Bangladesh is currently 15th in the list of worst-affected countries in the world in terms of number of cases. The position is one step ahead of Saudi Arabia and one step behind United Kingdom, according to worldometers.info.

A total of 13,053 samples were tested across the country in the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, at least 2,152 Covid-19 patients have recovered in the same period and the total number of recoveries stands at 2,58,717. The recovery rate thus stands at 73.79 percent.

Among the dead, 27 were male and 13 were female while their ages varied from infant to above 60.

Arrest over ricin envelope addressed to White House

AFP, Washington

US authorities confirmed an arrest Sunday over an envelope addressed to President Donald Trump that contained a substance identified as the poison ricin.

The suspect was a woman who was carrying a gun when she was arrested by authorities, according to US media reports.



Tourists visit the Taj Mahal in Agra, India yesterday. The Taj Mahal reopened to visitors yesterday in a symbolic business-as-usual gesture even as India looks set to overtake the US as the global leader in coronavirus infections.

PHOTO: AFP

170 return from war-torn Libya today

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health condition, as a final health check-up will be held before the take-off.

"We will be able to tell exactly how many will return after their boarding tomorrow [today]," he told this newspaper by phone.

Confirming IOM's assistance in the repatriation process, the ambassador said previously a primary health check-up of the returnees was completed after they got registered with the embassy.

He said because of a deteriorating political situation, direct international flights had not been operated from Libya for quite long. The coronavirus pandemic has worsened the situation.

Amid this, the Bangladeshis who wanted to return home and also got stranded for past several months sought the embassy's help for the flight arrangement, said the ambassador.

The embassy then registered them and sought help from IOM in this regard, he said.

IOM will soon arrange another chartered flight for a similar repatriation, he added.

According to the ambassador, Libya is home to about 20,000 to 25,000 Bangladeshis.

On the other hand, different

international organisations, especially IOM, assessed the number could be nearly 20,000.

Ambassador Sekander said at present many Bangladeshis employed under sponsor are having the opportunity to get paid on a regular basis.

Libya was plunged into chaos when a NATO-backed uprising in 2011 toppled longtime ruler Muammar Gaddafi, who was later killed, according to Al Jazeera.

The country has since split between rival east and west-based administrations, each backed by armed groups and foreign governments.

The Tripoli-based Government of National Accord was founded in 2015 under a UN-led agreement, but efforts for a long-term political settlement failed after a series of military offensives by forces loyal to Khalifa Haftar.

When the current conflict in Libya began in February 2011, many of the migrant communities were left to fend for themselves, some abandoned by their employers in remote areas with limited supplies.

In May this year, 26 Bangladeshi migrants were murdered by alleged human traffickers in the city of Mizdah.

Bangladesh seeks quick UNSC action

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Despite the repatriation deal with Bangladesh, not a single Rohingya refugee volunteered to return to Myanmar, saying conditions and safety were not there.

Meanwhile, conflicts between the Myanmar military and insurgent group Arakan Army (AA) have escalated in Kachin and Rakhine states in recent months, which rights groups say amounts to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Experts say Myanmar could use the conflict with AA as a pretext to drive out Rohingyas ahead of the national elections in early November.

In the letter to the UNSC, Bangladesh Permanent Mission to UN said on September 10 that four Myanmar Navy logistics ships anchored off the coast of Inn Din village and disembarked the troops, who were then carried overnight by 20 civilian fishing boats along the Naaf River to locations as far as Ngar Khu Ya village, 20km north of Maungdaw Township and close to the Myanmar-Bangladesh border.

In the early morning of September 11, around 1,000 Myanmar troops landed in different locations. Some of the disembarking points, such as Ka Nyin Chaung, Min Ga Lar Gyi and Ngar Khu Ya, are close to the international border. The route used during the troop mobilisation was as close as 200 meters to the international boundary at least at one point.

According to the ground information, the aide memoire said the troops conducted clearance operations during midnight on September 13 and 14 in Gwa Son/Yae Khat Chaung Gwa Son of Maungdaw Township and reportedly detained five Rohingya men and three women.

Truckers pay extra to cut

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loaded with non-perishable items have to wait a long time for their turn.

Taking the chance, some unscrupulous employees of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC), a government organisation authorised to operate the ferry service, are allegedly taking extra from the lorries and getting them on ferries quickly.

Usually, around 2,500 vehicles cross the Padma daily via the Paturia-Daulatdia route, says BIWTC sources.

According to the organisation, it charges trucks depending on their sizes. It takes Tk 1,460 for heavy truck, Tk 1,060 for medium ones and Tk 740 for mini-trucks.

On Friday, this correspondent talked to around 20 truck drivers, who paid the additional amount ranging from Tk 500 to Tk 1,500.

A truck driver said, "I had to pay Tk 1,000 extra to get the ferry quickly."

Asked about the role of law enforcement agencies, Rifat Rahman Shamim, superintendent of Manikganj police, said BIWTC is responsible for ferry operation and maintaining queues of vehicles. Police are deployed at the ferry terminal only to prevent any kinds of criminal activities there, he said.

Contacted, Khandaker Tanvir Hossain, assistant general manager in Aricha regional office of BIWTC, denied the allegations and said he had not yet received any complaint in this regard.

"Stern actions will be taken against the responsible persons, whoever they are, if the allegations of overcharging are found true," he told The Daily Star.

In another development, ferry services on the Shimulia-Kathalbari route resumed through an alternative channel on a limited scale on Saturday. The channel was made by the Padma bridge authorities for transporting construction materials.

"As operation of ferry is not possible through the regular channel, we will use this Padma bridge's channel on a temporary basis," said Shafiqul Islam, assistant general manager of BIWTC at Shimulia ferry terminal.

"We are working to bring back navigability in our regular channel. We will resume the service via our previous route after restoring navigability."

Four out of 20 ferries are being operated on the Shimulia-Kathalbari route.

On September 13, the authorities concerned suspended the ferry services on the route due to poor navigability.

[A correspondent from Munshiganj contributed to this report].

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19 MCAs

FROM PAGE 12
Bangladesh and other Asian Commonwealth countries, he reiterates, would be given preferential treatment and no tariff would be levied on them for one year after Britain becomes an EEC member in January 1973.

SAVE THE INTEREST OF DEVELOPING NATIONS
Bangladesh Finance and Planning Minister Tajuddin Ahmed yesterday emphasised the need to protect trade and monetary interests of developing nations of the Commonwealth in enlarged European Economic Community when Great Britain becomes its member in January 1973. Tajuddin Ahmed was speaking at the first session of Commonwealth Finance Ministers Conference in London. He highlighted problems of Bangladesh in the context of floating of pound sterling and current monetary crisis. He expressed the hope that interest of those countries whose monetary system is linked with sterling and who use it as a preserve currency would be fully protected and safeguarded.

CONSTITUTION WILL BE IN BANGLA
The government today reiterates that the proposed Constitution of the country will be in Bangla. Eminent scholars of the Bangla language have assisted the Constitution Drafting Committee in the task of preparing the first Constitution in Bangla. This will be a landmark in the history of the Bangla language, adds the government press note.

SOURCES: September 23, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Lost surfboard

FROM PAGE 12
"When I saw the picture of it, I couldn't believe it, I thought it was a joke almost," Falter, 35, told AFP via Zoom.

"I was certain that the board would never be found again."

Branzuela, who bought the badly weathered surfboard from his neighbour a couple of months ago for 2,000 pesos (\$40), said fishermen had found it floating in the sea in August 2018 - six months after Falter lost sight of it.

They thought it may have fallen off a passing yacht and sold it to Branzuela's neighbour for a few dollars.

Despite months drifting across the Pacific Ocean, the name of the board's shaper, Hawaii-based Lyle Carlson, was still visible on the now-yellowish surface.

Curious, Branzuela looked him up on Facebook and sent him a photo of the board.

Carlson shared the picture on Instagram, tagging Falter. "It turned out it's a surfboard from Hawaii. I couldn't believe it myself," Branzuela, 38, told AFP via telephone.

"It's been my dream to learn to surf and ride the big waves here," he added. "For now I can use his surfboard. I told him I will take good care of it."

The pair have been chatting on Facebook and Falter plans to visit the small island to retrieve his board after coronavirus travel restrictions are lifted.

"That board meant so much to me because of my accomplishments on it," said Falter, a commercial photographer who took up surfing about 15 years ago in Florida before moving to Hawaii.

Eastern Refinery Limited							
North Patenga, Chittagong-4204, Bangladesh							
Ref: 28.25.0000.027.07.001.20	Date: 22/09/2020						
Invitation for Tender (International) for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Auto Gauging System of 37 Tanks at Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL)							
1 Ministry/Division	Energy and Mineral Resources Division.						
2 Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).						
3 Procuring entity name	Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL).						
4 Invitation for	Goods and related services.						
5 Invitation Ref. No.	28.25.0000.027.07.001.20						
KEY INFORMATION							
6 Procurement method	One stage two envelope (Technical and Financial)-ICT.						
FUNDING INFORMATION							
7 Budget and source of funds	Own funds.						
PARTICULAR INFORMATION							
8 Tender package No.	ER/I&C/ATG/01/2020						
9 Tender package name	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Auto Gauging System of 37 Tanks at Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL).						
10 Tender publication date	22/09/2020.						
11 Tender last selling date	22/11/2020.						
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Time</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>23/11/2020</td> <td>BST 1500hrs</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23/11/2020</td> <td>BST 1515hrs</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Date	Time	23/11/2020	BST 1500hrs	23/11/2020	BST 1515hrs
Date	Time						
23/11/2020	BST 1500hrs						
23/11/2020	BST 1515hrs						
13 Tender opening date and time							
14 Name & address of the office(s)							
-Selling tender document (principal)	Manager (Accounts), Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong-4204, Bangladesh.						
-Selling tender document (others)	ERL Dhaka Liaison Office, 2nd Floor, YMCA Bhaban, 1/1, Pioneer Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.						
-Receiving tender document	Board Room, 1st Floor, Registered Office, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong-4204, Bangladesh.						
-Opening tender document	Board Room, 1st Floor, Registered Office, Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong-4204, Bangladesh.						
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER							
15 Eligibility of tenderer	As per Tender Data Sheet (Section-2).						
16 Brief description of goods or works	Supply of Auto Tank Gauging (ATG) System for 37 (thirty-seven) Tanks at Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL).						
17 Brief description of related services	Installation, Commissioning and Performance Testing of ATG System for 37 Tanks at Eastern Refinery Limited (ERL).						
18 Price of tender document (Tk)	BDT 3000.00 (Taka three thousand) or US dollar 35 (thirty-five).						
Lot	Identification of lot Location Tender security (Tk) Completion time						
01.	ER/I&C/ATG/01/2020 Eastern Refinery Limited Tk 20,00,000.00 (twenty lac) 08 months						
PURCHASER DETAILS							
19 Name of official inviting tender	Engr. Md. Tazul Islam.						
20 Designation of official inviting tender	Deputy General Manager (E&I).						
21 Address of official inviting tender	Eastern Refinery Limited, North Patenga, Chittagong-4204, Bangladesh.						
22 Contact details of official inviting tender	+88 031 2501261 +8801554631326 tazul3069@gmail.com Ext: 340						
23 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders at any time or stage without assigning any reason whatever and no claim will be entertained in this regard. GD-1495							

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh			
Office of the Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer (Telecom)			
Bangladesh Railway, Railbhaban, Dhaka-1000			
No. 54.01.0000.501.16.015.17-1492		Date: 21.09.2020	
Project Name: Construction of Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line			
Package No. WD 3: Construction of Non-interlocked color light Signaling System for all stations (09) including construction of Telecommunication System with optical fiber.			
Ref. IFT No. 54.01.0000.501.16.015.17-1394, Dated: 30.7.2020			
Corrigendum No. 1, Dated: 21.09.2020			
Section-2: Tender Data Sheet			
Sl	Clause No.	Existing Provision	Amended Provision
1	9.1	Contact within: During office hour.	Contact within: 30.09.2020 (During office hour)
2	14.1 (b)	The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor or Subcontractor or Management Contractor in construction works of at least 01 (one) contract of design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning with related services of non-interlocked color light signaling system and telecommunication system with optical fiber on turnkey basis for at least 03 station successfully completed within the last 03 (three) years, with a value of at least Tk 10 (ten) crore.	The minimum specific experience as a Prime Contractor or Subcontractor or Management Contractor in construction works of at least 01 (one) contract of design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning with related services of non-interlocked and/or interlocked color light signaling system and telecommunication system with optical fiber on turnkey basis for at least 03 station successfully completed within the last 03 (three) years, with a value of at least Tk 10 (ten) crore.
3	24.2 (j) (3)	The tender will have to submit satisfactory performance certificate from at least two end users. Out of the two end users, one must be from outside of bidder's country.	The tender shall submit satisfactory performance certificate from at least one end user for railway signaling system and telecommunication system in support of their offer, in accordance with the specification of the tender document.
Newly Added Clause			
ITT 18.1	The value of non-judicial stamp for execution of the Joint Venture Agreement shall be Tk 300 only.		
ITT 18.2	Maximum number of partners in the JV shall be "Not limited". The minimum qualification requirements of leading partner, other partner(s) and requirements by summation of a JV shall be as follows:		
TDS Clauses References	Requirements by summation	Requirements for Leading Partner	Requirements for other Partner(s)
ITT-14.1(a)	Summation not applicable	Same as stated in TDS	Same as for Leading Partner
ITT-14.1 (b)	100% (summation of different contracts)	At least one contract	Minimum requirement not applicable
ITT-15.1 (a)	100%	40%	25%
ITT-15.1 (b)	100%	40%	25%
ITT-15.1 (d)	100%	40%	25%
ITT-16.1	100%	Minimum requirement not applicable	Minimum requirement not applicable
ITT-17.1	100%	Minimum requirement not applicable	Minimum requirement not applicable
ITT 19.4	The Nominated Subcontractor(s) named shall execute the following specific components of the proposed works: None		
Sl. No. of IFT	Subject	Existing Provision (in IFT and Tender Document)	Amended Provision (in IFT and Tender Document)
17	Tender last selling date	22.09.2020 (During office hour)	27.10.2020 (During office hour)
18	Tender closing date and time	23.09.2020, 12.00 hrs BST	28.10.2020, 12.00 hrs BST
19	Tender opening date and time	23.09.2020, 12.30 hrs BST	28.10.2020, 12.30 hrs BST
All other terms and conditions of the above tender will remain unchanged.			
Ahmed Istiaque Johur Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Telecom) HQ Bangladesh Railway, Railbhaban, Dhaka 01711-500893 dstelthq@railway.gov.bd			
GD-1500			