



# ‘We will be begging on the streets’

Jamdani weavers see dark days ahead

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR, back from Narayanganj

Defying the government’s request to stay home to stem the spread of coronavirus, Sharif Hossain left his house in Sonargaon before the crack of dawn last Friday.

In a shopping bag, he carried three Jamdani sarees made by him and his fellow weavers two weeks prior to the shutdown, enforced since March 26.

His destination was the wholesale market of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) Jamdani palli at Rupganj in Narayanganj.

Though Sharif knew that the market was closed, he wanted to try his luck.

He was desperate to sell the sarees to earn something for the coming weeks and pay wages to his three weavers and three helpers.

For a Friday morning, the otherwise bustling marketplace was starkly deserted, with hardly any buyers. Only a couple of children were playing cricket, a group of four were chit-chatting under a shed and a person was selling masks and alcoholic hand rubs.

“Any other Fridays, I would bring three or four sarees and all would be sold in about only 10 to 15 minutes. But today, I have brought three sarees and sold only one in three and half hours, since I arrived here at 6:00am,” Sharif said in a dismal tone.

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Jamdani looms that are supposed to be working in full swing lie idle in Noapara of Narayanganj ahead of Pahela Baishkh and Eid.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## 6 more die showing Covid-19 symptoms

STAR REPORT

At least six people, including two women, died after showing Covid-19-like symptoms in six districts since Saturday afternoon.

Healthcare officials at the respective districts collected samples from them for tests to check whether they were infected with novel coronavirus.

In Netrakona, a 55-year-old man breathed his last with such symptoms at Mohanganj Upazila Health Complex yesterday afternoon.

The victim of Mollickpur village under the upazila returned home from Dhaka around 10 days ago and had been suffering from fever and respiratory problems, said Subir Sarker, resident medical officer of the health complex.

A woman, 34, perished with fever, cold, cough, and respiratory disease at the isolation unit of Kushtia General Hospital yesterday, said Tapas Kumar Sarkar, resident medical officer of the hospital.

In Chuadanga, another woman, 65, died with flu-like symptoms at the isolation unit of Jibonnagar Upazila Health Complex yesterday morning, said Juliet Parwin, upazila health and family planning officer.

A boy, aged 13, died with coronavirus-like symptoms at his village home in Savar yesterday, said Saimul Huda, upazila health and family planning officer.

In Jhenidah, a 60-year-old man lost his life with flu-like symptoms on the way to Kaliganj Upazila Health Complex around 9:00pm on Saturday.

The victim of Khanjapur village under the upazila was suffering from cold, cough, and breathing problems, said Shamima Shirin, upazila health and family planning officer.

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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 13

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:45 6:24 7:45  
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 5:00 6:28 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Europe’s death toll tops 75,000

UK PM leaves hospital; virus mutes Easter celebrations

AFP, Rome

Billions around the world celebrated Easter Sunday from lockdown at home as the European death toll from the virus topped 75,000 despite cautious hope that the pandemic is slowing in the continent.

More than half the world -- over four billion people -- are in lockdown worldwide as governments scramble to halt the pandemic’s deadly march across the globe.

The death toll from the virus soared past 110,000, with more than 1.7 million reported infections globally.

Europe is by far the hardest-hit continent and yesterday marked a grave milestone with more than 75,000 dead, according to an AFP tally.

The United States was quickly emerging as a hotspot as well, and on Saturday marked its own grim landmark: more than 20,000 dead, out of around half a million infected.

The US now has the highest death toll and the most cases out of any country in the world.

In Britain, the death toll continued to mount and fatalities are likely to soon top 10,000.

Virus-stricken Prime Minister Boris

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU’S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

## Bangabandhu retains cabinet and defence portfolios



April 13, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

REALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIOS

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman retains the defence and cabinet affairs after reallocating portfolios among the members of his expanded cabinet today. Among the eight new ministers, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury has been allocated the portfolio of information and broadcasting while Abdul Mannan will hold the charge of home affairs. Both portfolios were earlier held by the prime minister himself. Bangabandhu will also retain all portfolios other than those distributed among the 22 ministers. INDIA’S SUPPORT FOR WAR CRIMINALS’ TRIALS

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Eminent Indian Poet Subhash Mukhopadhyaya calls on Bangabandhu on April 13, 1972.

## Protect your areas from outsiders

Says PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday urged all, including the local administration and people, to protect their respective areas by not allowing outsiders for a few days to prevent the coronavirus spread.

“Everyone, keep your own areas protected. Don’t allow anyone to suddenly enter your areas from outside,” she said.

Hasina said this while delivering her introductory speech in a videoconference from the Gono Bhaban with government officials from 16 districts under the Khulna and Barishal divisions.

She said people had contracted the coronavirus in many places as they moved from one area to another. “So, keep your areas protected -- at least for a few days. No one

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STAY HOME, STAY WELL

## The virtues of going virtual

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

With the countrywide shutdown to curb the spread of coronavirus now in its third week, boredom is likely to set in for a large majority of the population self-isolating at home.

The Covid-19 pandemic has led to the temporary closure of almost all tourist spots and cultural programmes both at home and abroad. All food courts are closed in Bangladesh and many parts of the world to contain the spread of the highly contagious coronavirus.

However, people can still look at museums exhibits, and experience the feel of the theatre from the comfort and safety of their homes.

The National Museum of Natural History in Washington DC, and London’s British Museum are offering online experiences, reports The Guardian. It also reported that people could go to the Disney theme parks through 360-degree virtual tours of parks like Disney World and Disney Land online. People can enjoy the magic of the parks from home. Google’s Arts & Culture section opens a new world to checking out the sights from home. People can visit virtually some of the wonders, including the Taj Mahal, the Eiffel Tower, Sydney Opera House and some others, reports insider.com.

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## Boisabi limited to indoors

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA and ANVIL CHAKMA

The indigenous communities of the hill tracts will not celebrate their new year amid the coronavirus fears.

There will be no outdoor celebration during “Boisabi”, which precedes the Bangla new year by two days.

People who live in poverty usually earn something during the celebrations by selling different goods, but they will have nothing this year, community leaders said.

Mohon Dewan, a resident of Rangamati’s Rangapani area, said he had some money set aside for the celebrations. But since there will be no festivities, he has given the money to some of his poor neighbours so that they do not have to go hungry on the new year’s eve.

The word Boisabi is an acronym of the words for the festival in languages of the different communities: Boishu of Tripuras, Sangrai of Marmas, Sankran of

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When social distancing is strictly advised to contain the spread of coronavirus, a group of people, in desperation for government relief, climb onto a truck and take away supplies, risking exposure. The photo was taken in Jamalpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## RMG workers take to streets demanding pay

STAR REPORT

Hundreds of readymade garment factory workers in Savar, Narayanganj and Gazipur took to the streets yesterday demanding wages of the previous month and arrears.

In Savar, hundreds of workers of at least 11 factories demonstrated in front factories in Hamayetpur, Olail, Fulbaria, Rajason and different areas of Ashulia since morning.

Later, many of them stopped the agitation after the authorities of some of the factories assured them of payment of wages within a short time, said Khairul Mamun Mintu, organising secretary of Garment Workers Trade Union Kendra.

The workers were forced to take to the streets amid the countrywide shutdown as some of the garment workers were not paid their wages for the last month, which is supposed to be cleared by the 10th day of the following month, he added.

Many workers are in wretched condition as they are neither getting food assistance nor their wages, the workers’ leader said.

The workers agitated in front of some of the garment factories demanding wages, said inspector Javed Masud of Ashulia Police Station.

“The managers of some of the smaller factories have gone into hiding, but we are looking into the matter”, he said.

Our Savar correspondent could not reach the superintendent of police (SP) and ASP of Industrial Police-1 at their mobile phones.

In Narayanganj, the workers of Abloom Knit Design

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