Khandakar Asaduzzaman laid to rest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Former lawmaker Khandakar Asaduzzaman was laid to rest with state honour at his family graveyard in Naruchi village under Gopalpur upazila in Tangail yesterday morning.

Earlier, his namaz-e-janaza was held at Naruchi College premises.

Asaduzzaman, an organiser of the Liberation War, passed away at his Dhaka residence at 4:10pm on Saturday due to old age complications. He was 87.

He left behind his wife, son and two daughters to mourn his death.

He was the first finance secretary of Bangladesh government and took part in politics after retiring from his job.

He was elected lawmaker from Tangail-2 (Gopalpur-Bhuapur) constituency in 1996, 2008 and 2014 as an Awami League candidate.

His daughter Oprajita Haque is now a reserve-seat lawmaker in Tangail.

Rehab centres

FROM PAGE 3

Ayaz Uddin, Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of Holy Life said they are not admitting new patients and not even allowing any visitors to see patients.

"It's a time when people could not even trust their own hands. We don't want to take any risk," he said.

Larger rehabilitation centers -- like Mukti in Elephant Road and Prottoy in Baridhara -- have also stopped admitting new patients.

"Narcotics treatment is kind of group therapy and we have to provide the treatment in groups. For this reason, we are avoiding request for new admission as we don't have enough space in the rehab centres in Dhaka to ensure new admission during quarantine period," said the owner of a rehab centre in Mirpur, preferring not to be named.

"Thus, we do not want to take the risk of our admitted patients and staff getting infected with the coronavirus," added the owner.

Eminent psychologist Dr Akhtaruzzaman Selim, who had worked at Central Drug Addiction Rehabilitation Centre, said symptoms of withdrawal are more likely to occur among people who are addicted to heroine, morphine, sleeping pills and alcohol.

But yaba users are different. "Refrainment from taking yaba might cause someone to sleep for entire days at the start. After that, depression begins to grip them," he said, adding that symptoms can vary depending on a person's health and duration of addiction.

Dr Akhtaruzzaman further suggested parents and guardians to deal with addicted family members with time and patience.

Khorshid Alam, assistant director of Department of Narcotics Control, said there are around hundred rehab centres in Dhaka, and they are trying to take updates from the centres via video call regularly.

"The number of patients may have increased slightly, but we are actually discouraging rehab authorities from taking in new patients. If they admit anyone, then we are asking them to follow the health directives strictly, and maintaining the 14-day quarantine is must," he told The Daily Star.

Registration exam of non-govt teachers postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 17th teachers' registration examinations to qualify for appointment to the private educational institutions have been postponed due to the evolving coronavirus crisis.

The preliminary test was scheduled for May 15 and 16 and written tests for August 7 and 8. The exams were postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, an order of Non-Government Teachers' Registration and Attestation Authority (NTRCA) said yesterday. New exam schedule will be given later, the order uploaded on its website said.

The test is a pre-qualifying exam to appoint teachers in private schools, colleges, madrasas, and technical institutions.

JAHAJI STARTS ONLINE MODEL TESTS

Meanwhile, authorities of a mobile phone app "Jahaji" yesterday launched an online model test for examinees of Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) exams.

The online model test for children of staff members working with inland vessels operations will be free of cost, said Jahaji co-founder and CEO Kajal Abdullah.

Others will need to pay Tk 1,000, for taking part in 40 MCQ model tests, he added. For more information, one can visit specialtrix.com.

India sends

FROM PAGE 3

representatives of the Saarc nations were held to discuss specific measures, trade facilitation and exchange of best practices. Health officials from Saarc nations are in constant touch to share best practices and to benefit from each other.

Further, Indian healthcare experts have designed e-ITEC (Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation) training modules for Saarc nations in the form of short live webinars for health care professionals on Covid-19 management strategies, capacity building, knowledge sharing on best practices and related aspects.

The first such online course was conducted on April 17-21 by All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur in which over 90 health professionals from Bangladesh participated.

A second online course is being organised by Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India from April 26 to May 6 under ITEC initiative.

Circular

FROM PAGE 3

not available on the ministry's website.

"However, government offices involved in emergency work and services will operate on a limited scale," he told The Daily Star.

The government has been enforcing the shutdown from March 25. Most government and private offices remained closed, and operation of all types of public transport, except vehicles involved in transporting goods and emergency services, remained suspended.

M'simgh mayor joins farmers in boro harvesting

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Mymensingh City Corporation Mayor Ekramul Haque Titu yesterday joined farmers in harvesting boro paddy in Char Kalibari area.

He took part in the move taken by the leaders and activists of city unit of Krishak League. They harvested paddy on 230 decimals of land owned by farmer Tofazzol Hossain in the area.

Such a programme will go on, especially in the newly included areas in the city, said the mayor.

Krishak League city unit president AB Siddique, secretary Abul Hashem Raihan, vice president Noor Ali Talukder, joint secretary Sohel Rana and Shamima Rahim, among others, participated in the harvesting.

Earlier on Thursday, the leaders and activists harvested paddy in Shalihor village under Gouripur upazila.

Krishak League district secretary Golam Mustafa Babul alias VP Babul led the inaugural programme.

They harvested boro on 80 decimals of land of one Anisuzzaman Bhuiyan. They also carried the harvested paddy to the farmer's house.

Babul said they are helping farmers in boro harvest in the district considering the ongoing countrywide crisis of farm labourers due to coronavirus pandemic.

Build Shonar Bangla

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The prime minister further says that Fazlul Huq was a true Bangalee in his words and deeds, through which he carved out a niche in the hearts of the peasants of Bengal. "In the history of Bangladesh, Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq was the pioneer among those who fought for the cause of the oppressed people in rural Bengal," he adds.

"While we observe his death anniversary for the first time in the sovereign and independent Bangladesh, we can say that he believed in our principles of democracy, secularism, socialism and nationalism. On this auspicious day let us pledge to build the Shonar Bangla on the principle of socialism," reads the message of Bangabandhu.

BANGABANDHU'S STERN WARNING TO EXPLOITERS

Bangabandhu reaffirms today that socialism must be established in the country to provide the teeming millions with food, clothing and shelter. Addressing a seminar organised by the Awami League on the 10th death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla, the prime minister makes it clear that if any obstruction is put in the way of the establishment of socialism, it will be removed. He warns those elements who are conspiring against the policy of nationalisation that if they do not desist soon from their evil-mongering, they might be put behind bars.

The prime minister wonders how some people can forget the blood which still stains the country. How can people still indulge in profiteering, bribery and corruption? He calls upon all to change their mentality.

He further says that a section of workers is forcing the administrators of nationalised industries to pay them money. The workers, he says, forget that these industries belong to seven-and-a-half crore people of the country, not only to them. Turning to those who are amassing fortunes, Bangabandhu asks them to take a lesson from the fate of the Muslim Leaguers. People will not tolerate them, he warns. "I shall remain with the people," he declares. "I have received the love and affection of the people and I don't want anything more."

SOURCES: April 28, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Ittefaq

BPC plans to rent private tanks

FROM PAGE 12

Saudi Arabian Oil Company and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company.

On April 23, the price of one barrel of Arab Light oil was $16.01 and that of Murban oil was $19.04. The price per barrel of crude oil of each has fallen 45 and 50 percent, respectively, in just one month.

As of April 22, BPC currently has reserves of around 9.41 lakh metric tonnes of fuel oil. Its storage capacity is 9.5 lakh metric tonnes.

Due to the limited storage capacity, around 1.2 lakh metric tonnes of diesel and 20,000 metric tonnes of crude oil are now stuck in five vessels at the outer anchorage of Chattogram port. Another import of 4.5 lakh tonnes of fuel oil is awaited next month.

According to BPC data, the ongoing shutdown due to the coronavirus outbreak has reduced fuel consumption by 60 percent in the country's industry, agriculture, and transport sectors.

In April last year, an average of 13,000 tonnes of diesel were used per day; this figure has come down to 6,000 tonnes this month. The daily demand for jet fuel has come down to only 81 metric tonnes from 1,239 metric tonnes in April last year. The demand for other fuel -- including petrol, octane, and kerosene -- has also declined significantly, the data showed.

BPC buys 50 percent of oil through government-to-government agreements and the remaining 50 percent through open tenders. To meet the demand in the country, an average of five to six lakh metric tonnes of fuel oil is imported every month.

"Stocks have increased every day due to the declining demand for fuel oil. Dealing with the situation, an initiative has been taken to conserve these fuels at various privately-owned petroleum companies and power plants," said Syed Mehdi Hasan, BPC's director (management).

"The amount of oil that can be stored in these places is being checked. We have already held discussions with several petroleum companies. We hope this issue will be resolved soon," he further told The Daily Star.

Mehdi added that around 65 to 70 percent of the country's fuel oil demand is for diesel. At present, stored diesel amounts to around 5.32 lakh tonnes, against a capacity of 6.28 lakh tonnes. The four oil tankers, currently at the outer anchorage of Chattogram port, containing a further 1.2 lakh tonnes of diesel, would exceed capacity.

Around 45,000 tonnes of oil have also been stored for now in BPC's oil tankers, normally used for transporting the fuel.

BPC officials said they have already sent a letter to eight major private companies requesting information on the number of tanks and their capacity, the receiving points and rent of the tanks, and rates of other associated costs. A BPC committee will make a report on their decision on the rates quoted by the companies and BPC will then sign mutual agreements with interested companies for storage till December this year.

While the oil remains unloaded from the five ships carrying diesel and crude oil stranded outside the port for more than a week now, BPC will have to pay an additional fine of around $10,000 per day.

According to Chattogram Customs House data, 6.79 lakh tonnes of diesel and 3.3 lakh tonnes of crude oil were imported by BPC between January and April 23 this year. During the same period last year, 10.71 lakh tonnes and 3.69 lakh tonnes were imported respectively.

PM lauded in Forbes

FROM PAGE 12

She was quick off her feet standing up to this one, with a response the World Economic Forum called "admirable".

Hasina, the country's longest-serving prime minister, started evacuating Bangladeshi citizens from China in early February.

After the first case was diagnosed in early March, she closed educational institutions and nudged all non-essential businesses to go online.

Then she harnessed tech, installing screening devices across international airports which screened some 650,000 people (of which 37,000 were immediately quarantined), something the UK still is not doing, the article reads.

Both Singapore under President Halima Yacob and Hong Kong, China, under Chief Executive Carrie Lam, have been globally admired for their early and highly effective lead in getting ahead of the crisis, it said.

Now Singapore is scrambling with a second-wave whiplash, while Lam has done better at nipping resurgence in the bud.

Different cultures and issues in every country mean responses will never be a one-size fits all.

Women now govern 18 countries and 545 million people globally. That is 7 percent of the world's population (Exactly the same percentage, by the way, of women CEOs on the Fortune 500.)

From Bangladesh and Ethiopia, to Georgia and Singapore, women are emerging into political leadership across the globe. And this revelatory crisis is showing their talents.

German

FROM PAGE 12

When the officers arrived at the salons, carefully installed in the cellars of two private houses, "people were having their hair done", local police said in a statement.

Two people were waiting for a cut in Elsenfeld and another in a cellar in Momlingen, according to the German agency DPA, which claims that "the salons were professionally equipped".

Police have opened investigations for non-compliance with lockdown measures which, in Bavaria, are among the strictest in Germany.

Under the rules set down at the end of March when confinement started, leaving home without "valid reason" is punishable by a fine of 150 euros.

Hair salons, closed like other businesses considered non-essential, however, will begin to reopen from May 4 in the country as part of a gradual de-confinement.

Locals loot

FROM PAGE 12

Kaskanakpur and Barthakuri unions of the upazila at a special price of Tk 10 per kg and 30 kgs per family.

Mahtab Hossain Chowdhury, chairman of Manikpur union of the upazila, said, "The truck, loaded with 570 sacks of rice for 684 families of three unions, reached Kaliganj bazar last night and rice for 228 families of Manikpur union was supposed to be unloaded to the dealer's point in the bazaar."

"The remaining rice was supposed to be sent to the respective unions but the dealer of a nearby Kaskanakpur union owns a rice store in this bazar and allegedly unloaded rice here. Locals first started protesting and then they looted the whole truck," he said.

Bijon Kumar Singha, upazila nirbahi officer of Zakiganj, said, "We were not informed until last night [Saturday night] about the rice to be brought to Zakiganj. When informed this morning, I rushed to the spot and found 14 sacks of rice in the union's dealer's store while we found another 26 or 27 sacks at the store of the dealer of a nearby union.

"The dealer claimed that locals dropped these rice sacks in his store to frame him. Meanwhile, most sacks of rice was looted from the truck by the locals and police recovered some," he said.

Lutfur Rahman, additional superintendent of Sylhet District Police, said, "We are investigating the matter of embezzlement of the rice and looting of the truck. A case will be filed in this regard soon.

"We detained two dealers, the truck driver and his helper, and two other locals. So far 346 sacks of rice have been recovered and police are looking for the rest," he said.

Nations prepare to ease lockdowns

FROM PAGE 12

Governments are planning to slowly peel back lockdown measures in order to avoid a sudden rush back to normal life -- and the risk of a resurgence amid warnings from the World Health Organization that recovered people might not be immune to re-infection.

Spanish families embraced new rules allowing children outside for the first time since March 14, with kids hopping on bicycles and scooters on the streets of Madrid -- some wearing small masks and gloves.

"They are super excited, very, very impatient. They were up at 6:30 am, saying 'We are going out, We are going out!'," Inmaculada Paredes told AFP, readying to take her seven- and four-year-old kids outdoors.

Under the revised rules, children are allowed out once per day between 9:00 am and 9:00 pm, but cannot venture more than one kilometre (0.6 miles) from their homes.

The new rules were rolled out as the death toll in the hard-hit country dropped to 288 people yesterday, the lowest since March 30.

With more than 23,000 fatalities, Spain has the third highest death toll in the world after Italy's 26,000 and more than 53,000 in the United States.

Other hard-hit countries across Europe are also starting to look toward a slow crawl back to normality.

Italy yesterday said schools would reopen in September, while many business could resume work next week, and France was expected to unveil details of its de-confinement plan on Tuesday.

Belgium said schools and businesses will reopen from mid-May, while Germany started to reopen some shops earlier this week.

RAMADAN AT HOME

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia yesterday said it would partially lift its 24-hour curfew, allowing malls and retailers to open their doors during certain hours.

But the kingdom said it would maintain a round-the-clock lockdown in the Muslim holy city of Makkah.

Worshippers in the country joined hundreds of millions of Muslims around the world who marked the second day of Ramadan at home, avoiding traditional, large family meals to break their day-time fasts under social distancing rules.

Rejectingthe advice of top disease experts, the US state of Georgia allowed thousands of businesses to resume operations, from hairdressers to bowling alleys.

"How long are we supposed to imprison ourselves?" said 30-year-old Mackenzie Scharf, one of many in Georgia embracing the return to something resembling normalcy.

"This is much safer than going grocery shopping," she told AFP on the beach at Tybee Island, where her five-year-old son flew a kite under a cloudless sky.

US President Donald Trump has repeatedly said he wants to resume business in the world's biggest economy, even as medical advisors have cautioned against easing lockdown too soon or too fast.

The US leader faced a fresh volley of criticism after suggesting that coronavirus could be treated by shining ultraviolet light inside patients' bodies, or with injections of household disinfectant.

He lashed out at the media on Twitter, accusing journalists of posing hostile questions, and suggested his daily coronavirus briefings were not worth his time.

"They get record ratings, & the American people get nothing but Fake News. Not worth the time & effort!," Trump wrote.

IMMUNITY WARNING

While new reported cases appear to have plateaued at about 80,000 a day, the world remains in wait as companies and governments race to develop treatments and, eventually, a vaccine for the virus.

Some governments are studying measures such as "immunity passports" as one way to get people back to work after weeks of shutdowns that have roiled the global economy.

"If I've already had corona then I'm not infectious," said Berlin resident Lothar Kopp, hoping to test positive for antibodies as it could allow him to visit his elderly mother.

But the WHO warned that people who survive infection cannot be certain they will not be hit again by the respiratory disease, which first emerged in China late last year.

kids among 5 dead after showing

FROM PAGE 12

was taken to the hospital on Saturday afternoon as he was suffering from breathing problems and fever, he said.

As his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to the isolation ward of the hospital where he died in the morning, said the RMO.

His samples were collected and sent to Jashore University of Science and Technology for test, the doctor added.

Two children died in Bhurungamari and Nageshwari upazilas of Kurigram early yesterday.

A six-month-old boy perished after he was suffering from fever and breathing problems in Nageshwari upazila.

Samples of the victim and his father were collected for tests, said Abu Bakar Siddique, Nageshwari upazila health and family planning officer.

In another incident, a six-year-old girl, who was suffering from severe fever and convulsion, died in Shahi Bazar village of Bhurungamari upazila.

SM Sayem, Bhurungamari upazila health and family planning officer, said they collected her samples to know whether she was infected with the coronavirus.

Samples of her family members were collected as her father returned home from Dhaka recently, added Sayem.

In Laxmipur's Ramgati upazila, a 35-year-old trader perished at his home in the morning.

He had been suffering from fever, cold, cough, and breathing problems for last several days, said Kamanashish Majumdar, resident medical officer of Ramgati upazila health complex.

His samples were sent to Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases in Chattogram for test, the doctor said, adding that the victim's house had been locked down.

In another development, a 55-year-old labourer breathed his last at a house in Noakhali's Senbagh early yesterday.

He was suffering from fever, cough, and diarrhoea for the last three days, said Motiar Rahman, Senbagh upazila health and family planning officer.

After his death, four other labourers, who worked together, fled the house, said Saiful Islam Majumdar, UNO of the upazila.

He said they were trying to find the four, he said.

The victim's samples were sent to Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases in Chattogram for test. He was buried following IEDCR rules, he added.

Our correspondents from Jhenidah, Lalmonirhat, and Noakhali contributed to this report.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

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Memo No. Date: 26.04.2020

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.bd) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Magura for the procurement of:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
1	455780 e-GP/MRD/17/ 2019-2020	Supply of 20mm Stone Chippings 1st Class Bricks Pea-Gravels Local Sand and Fire Wood at RHD Stackyard under Road Division Magura during the year 2019-2020.	10-05-2020 at 17:00	11-05-2020 at 11:00	11-05-2020 at 11:00
2	455855 e-GP/MRD/18/ 2019-2020	Supplying 8mm MS Plate & Repair of Triple Single Baily Bridge Decking Plate Shemakhali at 23rd km p of Jashore-Magura N-702 Road under Road Division Magura during the year 2019-2020.	10-05-2020 at 17:00	11-05-2020 at 11:00	11-05-2020 at 11:00

1. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal.
2. To submit e-Tender, registration in the e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.bd) is required.
3. For further information, please contact e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Md. Badsha Miya
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Md. Nazrul Islam
Executive Engineer (A:C) RHD
Road Division, Magura

GD-760