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Your Right to Know

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BANGLADESH UPDATE

2,545
New cases in 24hrs

47,153
Total cases

650
Deaths

9,781
Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE

372,036
Deaths

6,207,721
Total cases



Educational institutions not opening now: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday ruled out the possibility of opening educational institutions right now, saying that students are the future of the country and the government does not want to put them at risk.

"Maybe we cannot open the educational institutions right now," she said.

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Curbs loosen, noose tightens

Country logs highest Covid-19 deaths at 40, cases at 2,545; offices, businesses, some transport services reopen

WASIM BIN HABIB and MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The country saw its highest one-day death toll from Covid-19 and a record new cases of infections yesterday, the day the government eased the nationwide shutdown ignoring warnings from experts.

Forty people died from the disease in the 24 hours till yesterday afternoon -- the highest number of fatalities in a single day -- pushing the death count to 650.

The number of infections shot up to 47,153 after 2,545 cases were detected during this period, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

Meanwhile, offices, businesses and some transport services reopened.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Public Transport in Pandemic Commuters' new fear

ZYMA ISLAM

For two months, the concept publicised over and over again was that staying home was the key to combating the spread of coronavirus.

Celebrities urged people to stay home and the #stayhome hashtag took over social media.

Since most of the restrictions are lifted from today, many office-goers are concerned about contracting and spreading the highly transmissible virus while they go to work using public transport.

"We had been working for reduced hours. The office provided a microbus that carried three or four people. We maintained some semblance of social distancing. But now... the microbus service will stop," said Shorif Ahmed, who will have to travel by bus to his office in the capital's Mirpur-1 from Asad Gate every day.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Industrialist Abdul Monem passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Monem, a noted industrialist and sports organiser of the country, breathed his last at Combined Military Hospital in the capital around 10:00am yesterday. He was 83.

He was the chairman and managing director of Abdul Monem Limited, one of the leading diversified business conglomerates of Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Bus services resume after two months

Passengers pay 60pc more during Covid-19 crisis; operators asked to run buses at half capacity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road transport services resume across the country today after over two-month suspension due to Covid-19 outbreak with a whopping 60 percent increase in bus fares.

The road transport and bridges ministry yesterday issued a circular, raising bus fares on all routes.

The new rates will be valid only during the Covid-19 crisis and the previous rates will be reinstated once the crisis is over, it mentioned.

It also stated that bus operators have to carry passengers at half capacity and follow physical distancing guidelines. Besides, they will not carry any standing passengers.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

আমরা শোকাহত

এনসিসি ব্যাংক লিঃ এর সম্মানিত উদ্যোক্তা ও পরিচালক, আবদুল মোনেম লিঃ এর চেয়ারম্যান, দেশের স্বনামধন্য শিল্পপতি ও সমাজ সেবক

জনাব আবদুল মোনেম

৩৯ মে, ২০২০ রবিবার সকাল ৯০ টায় রাজধানীর সন্মিলিত সাময়িক হাসপাতালে ইলেকাল করেন (ইন্সালিলাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন)।

আমরা মরহমের আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি এবং শোক সন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি আন্তরিক সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন করছি।

পত্রিচালনা পর্ষদ এক স্ববস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষ

SSC, EQUIVALENT EXAMS Better maths show ticks up pass rate

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

With the overall performance in English and mathematics slightly improved, the SSC results this year show an increase in both the pass rate and the number of Grade Point Average (GPA)-5 achievers in nine general education boards.

According to the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent results published yesterday, other indicators showed improvements as well.

The number of schools with 100 percent pass rate rose while the number of schools with zero pass rate came down. Girls have outperformed boys both in terms of pass rate and achieving GPA-5.

Taking Dakhil exams under the madrasa board and SSC vocational tests under the technical board into account, the combined pass rate stood at 82.87 this year -- a slight increase from 82.20 percent last year.

Students under Dhaka, Chattogram and Sylhet education boards fared comparatively well in English and mathematics this year, pushing the overall pass rate higher than the previous year.

Education Minister Dipu Moni, while officially announcing the results at a press conference yesterday, said various initiatives taken by the government have brought about the positive changes in SSC results.

The initiatives include the distribution of free books, SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Remembering Abba In Memoriam

M.A. MAJID (1928-May 21st, 2020)

"A teacher can never truly teach unless he is still learning himself. A lamp can never light another lamp unless it continues to burn its own flame."
- Rabindranath Tagore

Always learning, he taught us all. Always searching, he was our guiding light Loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle, philanthropist, industrialist, civil servant, politician, futurist, teacher... he was all of that, and so much more.

His parting gift was a legacy of love, the M.A. MAJID Science College. An institution that provides free tuition and free room and board to the most needy meritorious students of Kapasia. In leaving, he planted the seeds of learning for those that could least afford it, so that they can become our beacons of light, for generations to come.

We his 'children' celebrate his life and will forever miss his aura...
From time to eternity - We love you.

Together with the thousands of people whose lives were touched by his vision and generosity, we at Coca-Cola grieve the sad demise of Mr. Abdul Monem, a visionary, a philanthropist and an inspiring business partner. As the Chairman and Managing Director of Abdul Monem Ltd. he has led an array of businesses with remarkable success. After a long partnership of almost 4 decades, Coca-Cola family will always miss his wisdom and guidance. Our sincere thoughts and prayers go out to his family and Abdul Monem Group in this difficult time. May his soul rest in peace.

Our sincere condolences

Coca-Cola Bangladesh Limited

Mr. ABDUL MONEM
1937-2020

Bus services resume

FROM PAGE 1
Meanwhile, train and launch services resumed yesterday. The number of passengers leaving the capital was lower than that of the Dhaka-bound ones.

Train and launch fares remain unchanged.

Besides, Biman Bangladesh Airlines and two private airlines are set to resume flights on three domestic routes today.

The government had enforced a shutdown of most public and private offices as well as public transport from March 26 to contain the spread of Covid-19.

On May 28, the government announced that all offices would reopen and public transport services would resume on a limited scale on May 31, making it mandatory to follow the health safety guidelines.

NEW BUS FARES

At a meeting on Friday, stakeholders in the road transport sector decided that buses would carry passengers at half capacity when the services resume.

Transport owners demanded that bus fares be doubled.

A committee led by acting chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority Yousub Ali Mollah on Saturday proposed an 80 percent hike in bus fares. The proposal drew huge criticism from various quarters saying this would deal a heavy blow to the already economically affected people.

Yesterday morning, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said the government would rationally adjust bus fares, considering people's present financial ability.

"An 80 percent hike [in bus fares] will put an extra burden on people," Quader said while speaking from his residence through video conference with officials of the Road Transport and Highways Division.

Hours later, the ministry issued the circular.

The government last adjusted the inter-district bus fares in May 2016 at Tk 1.42 a kilometre.

With the new hike, it will cost a passenger Tk 700 (excluding tolls) to travel from the capital's Gabtoli to Barishal through Faridpur. Before the shutdown, it would cost Tk 438.

Bus fares on routes inside the capital were last adjusted in September 2015 at Tk 1.70 per km.

Now, one has to pay Tk 53 instead of Tk 33 to travel to the Mirpur Zoo from Notre Dame College.

Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity and the Road Safety Foundation demanded that the government scrap the new bus fares.

In a statement, the Samity said the government has fallen into the trap of transport owners, and irrationally increased bus fares by 60 percent which will put an additional burden on people.

Passengers' interest was ignored while making this unilateral decision. This will increase passengers' sufferings and would cause anarchy over fares,

Commuters'

FROM PAGE 1
"It will not be possible to maintain three feet of distance among passengers in the buses, no matter what rules the government makes," said the employee of a private company.

He cannot afford to go to work on a three-wheeler, he said, adding that he was the only earning member of his family of five.

Public transport will officially resume from today, but buses were seen plying the roads yesterday, and people posted on social media photos and videos of crowded buses in the capital and Chattogram.

Nilima Jahan, a correspondent of this newspaper, said, "We live in Kazipara and my husband works in Uttara. How will he afford Tk 600 for each trip to work?"

"Besides, he works in sales and needs to visit several places for work each day. Now, if he avoids the buses, I cannot even fathom what the daily expenditure

Educational institutions

FROM PAGE 1
institutions, because we want to advance step by step so that students are not infected with coronavirus," she said.

"If we can overcome this situation, we'll open the educational institutions gradually," Hasina added.

She was addressing while publishing the results of SSC and equivalent examinations at the Gono Bhaban via video conference. Education Minister Dipu Moni and chairmen of different education boards joined the video conference from the education ministry.

Earlier in the day, Dipu Moni, on behalf of the PM, received the results from the chairmen.

Describing the present situation as a crisis for the whole world, Hasina asked all to be self-confident. "Self-confidence is the biggest thing. Whatever the situation is, we have to face that."

The PM said the country already faced a cyclone amid this coronavirus outbreak.

"We'll face all crises, including cyclone, with confidence, and we'll work together as we're doing right now," she said.

Hasina said the country will be able to overcome the coronavirus pandemic by working together. "That's the goal and that's the decision of the government."

Regarding the relaxing of the shutdown, the PM said everything had been closed for a long time. "Other countries are opening their wheels of economy in phases," she pointed out.

In this connection, Hasina briefly talked about various stimulus packages and food and monetary assistance of the government for the people's welfare.

She said the government in 19 packages allotted some Tk 103,117 crore, which is 3.7 percent of the GDP.

read the statement signed by Samity Secretary General Mozammel Hoque Chowdhury.

Romesh Chandra Ghosh, chairman of Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners' Association, said he accepted the new fares as the government issued it considering people's financial hardship.

"But many of our owners are unwilling to run buses at this new rate. They want at least 80 percent increase. But I am trying to convince them. We will operate buses from tomorrow," Romesh, also managing director of Shyamoli Paribahan, told this correspondent last night.

Khondaker Enayet Ullah, secretary general of Bangladesh Road Transport Owners Association, said, "We have accepted the new fares considering passengers' interest and already started selling tickets."

He urged passengers to help them maintain health safety guidelines.

TRAIN, LAUNCH SERVICES RESUME
Yesterday, eight intercity trains were run on seven routes at half capacity.

Chapainawabganj-bound Banalata Express left the capital around 1:30pm with most of the passengers maintaining physical distancing.

Earlier in the morning, Subarna Express left Chattogram for the capital.

Eleven more intercity trains would resume operation on June 3.

Visiting Kamalapur Railway Station in the afternoon, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon expressed satisfaction over the safety measures taken by the authorities, and said they did not get any complaint.

Meanwhile, launch services to and from the capital resumed yesterday.

The first launch left Sadarghat terminal for Chandpur around 7:15am, said Alamgir Kabir, joint director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority at the terminal.

"We have installed disinfectant tunnels, and all passengers have to go through those to enter the terminal. Besides, we are providing hand sanitizer and have also kept many seats empty to ensure social distancing," he mentioned.

Badiuzzaman Badal, senior vice-chairman of Bangladesh Inland Waterways (passenger carriers) Association, said the number of Dhaka-bound passengers was much higher than that of those leaving the capital.

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS RESUME
National flag carrier Biman, Novoair and US-Bangla Airlines will operate 24 roundtrip flights a day on three domestic routes from today after over two-month suspension.

Of those, 11 will be run on Dhaka-Chattogram-Dhaka route, nine on Dhaka-Saidpur-Dhaka route and four on Dhaka-Sylhet-Dhaka route.

Biman and Novoair will operate seven flights each a day and US-Bangla Airlines 10 flights, said sources in the airlines.

would look like."

A 29-year-old employee of a top-tier pharmaceutical company said she was thinking of quitting her job.

"I went to visit my ancestral home before the shutdown, so I got stuck in another district. Now the office is asking me to go back to Dhaka," she said, requesting anonymity.

"My department is international marketing, but export is closed, meaning work is light. We routinely work from home, because I always coordinate with different time zones and work late."

Her requests for permission to continue working from home were rejected by the management, she added.

Health experts have been saying that lifting the restrictions at a time when the daily new cases are rising would worsen the outbreak. For a large section of the workforce, however, it just means making a choice between unemployment and risking coronavirus infection.

"I do not know any country in the world announced such huge amount (of its GDP) as stimulus packages."

The PM said the government included all poor, destitute, and jobless people under its monetary and food assistance programmes.

"Politics is for the people, and its main aim is to reduce the people's sufferings," she said.

'EDUCATION TOP PRIORITY'
Hasina said the government gives the highest priority to education as it knows that to build a hunger-and-poverty-free Bangladesh, there is no alternative to an educated nation.

"If the light of education does not enter every house of the country, it won't be possible to eliminate poverty from the country," she said.

In this connection, she mentioned that the government has formulated the education policy.

The PM said students of the country are very much brilliant and they can prove themselves if they get chances.

She asked the students to build themselves as the country's worthy citizens imbued with patriotism and humanity, and the government is providing all necessary support in this regard.

Dipu Moni handed over a summary of the results of SSC and equivalent exams to Hasina online from her secretariat office. Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury was present on the occasion.

PM's Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikaus and PMO Secretary Tofazzal Hossain Mian were present at the Gono Bhaban, while Secretary of Secondary and Higher Secondary Division Mahbub Hossain moderated the results handing ceremony at the education ministry.



People start returning to the capital by train yesterday. Train service resumed after over two months of suspension to slow the spread of coronavirus. The photo was taken at Kamalapur Railway Station.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Curbs loosen, noose tightens

FROM PAGE 1
Against this backdrop, experts fear that lifting the shutdown before strictly enforcing the rules and requirements for slowing the spread will have dire consequences.

Speaking to the Daily Star on Saturday, Dr Iqbal Arsalan, a member of the National Technical Advisory Committee, said the infection index will rise further due to the opening of offices and businesses.

"We do not have enough hospital beds or ventilators to deal with the crisis. Physical distancing is being stressed upon. The law enforcers will try to maintain physical distancing but soon the crowds will get out of control. We have seen this before Eid -- law enforcers tried to disperse crowds but failed because they cannot jump on civilians with riot gear."

He spoke about an impending transport crisis among office-goers, since there has always been a shortage of public transport.

The government formed the 17-member advisory committee to tackle the coronavirus outbreak.

On May 28, when the government declared it would relax closure, the committee in a press release said there would be a severe rise in cases if health and safety measures were not properly enforced.

"It has been seen that countries that lifted the lockdown, before experiencing a definite reduction in the infection rate, saw a rise in the infection," said a statement signed by its Chairperson Prof Dr Md Shahidullah and Member-Secretary Prof Dr Meerjady Sabrina Flora.

"Lifting the lockdown before strictly implementing the rules and requirements of preventing transmission will increase the number

of positive patients and create pressure on the healthcare system," warned the statement.

Prof Shah Monir Hossain, a member of the committee, said, "We had hoped to flatten the curve by the end of June but that is probably not going to happen anymore because the number of coronavirus patients will increase [due to the lifting of the shutdown]."

BRIEFING

In the daily online briefing on the outbreak, Prof Dr Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of the DGHS, said 406 Covid-19 patients have recovered since Saturday, taking the total number of recoveries to 9,781.

Of the dead, 33 were male and seven female, she said, adding that 28 were from Dhaka, eight from Chattogram, two from Khulna, one from Rangpur and another from Rajshahi division.

One was aged between 21 and 30, five between 31 and 40, 11 between 41 and 50, eight between 51 and 60, 11 between 61 and 70, and four between 71 and 80, she said.

A total of 391 people were kept in isolation and 126 were released in the 24 hours till yesterday afternoon, she said.

So far, 5,794 people are in isolation and 3,016 were released across the country, she added.

In the 24 hours till yesterday afternoon, 2,947 people were put in quarantine while 3,042 others were released throughout the country.

Currently, 60,181 people are under home or institutional quarantine, the DGHS official said.

Data shows that the young were most infected with Covid-19. Nearly 72 percent of total infected people are aged between 21 and 50.

Better maths show ticks up pass rate

FROM PAGE 1
amid the coronavirus crisis.

RAJSHAHI SEE TOP PASS RATE
Students of Dhaka board performed better than last year as 82.34 percent of the 4,22,275 candidates have successfully passed the exams. Last year, the figure was 79.62 percent.

Students of Sylhet and Chattogram also fared better than the previous year with pass rates of 78.79 percent and 84.75 percent respectively. Rajshahi topped the pass rate tally among all boards with a pass rate of 90.37 percent while Sylhet took up the last position. Results of Mymensingh education board came out for the first time and it saw a pass rate of 80.13 percent.

DHAKA HAVE HIGHEST GPA 5
The number of GPA 5 achievers has risen to 1,23,497, up from 94,556 last year.

Like the previous years, Dhaka board has topped the GPA 5 tally with 36,047 students scoring the highest result, followed by Rajshahi board with 26,167 students.

Sylhet board saw the lowest number of GPA 5 with 4,263 obtaining the highest result.

Like previous years, in general boards, students of science group fared better than those of humanities and business studies.

This year 94.54 percent students of science group, 84.80 percent business studies, and 74.39 percent humanities have passed the exams.

GIRLS EXTEND LEAD ON BOYS
Girls once again outshined the boys in terms of pass rate and GPA 5 achievement.

This year the pass rate of the girls was 1.55 percentage points higher than that of the boys across the nine boards. The pass rate for girls was 84.50 percent. This year, a total of 64,312 girls have

attained GPA 5 while 59,185 boys have obtained the highest result.

"Girls doing better in exams is proof that the government efforts in spreading education among women are working out," Dipu Moni said.

Prof Pradip Chakraborty said girls were more attentive in studies than boys. So they are doing well in the public exams.

Educationist and member of the Campaign for Popular Education Rasheda K Choudhury said the government's investment on girls' education is now paying off.

MADRASA, TECHNICAL BOARDS
The technical board saw rises in the success rate but the madrasa board witnessed a slight drop in the pass rate. The number of GPA 5 achievers increased in both streams.

Some 2.77 lakh took Dakhil examinations under the madrasa board and 82.51 percent of them have passed the exam. Last year, the pass rate was 83.03 percent. A total of 7,516 students achieved GPA 5 this year as opposed to 6,287 last year.

Under the technical board, 1.32 lakh students took part in the SSC (vocational) and Dakhil (vocational) exams and 72.70 percent of them have passed the exams with 4,885 students scoring GPA 5.

A total of 20,40,028 students -- 10,21,490 boys and 10,18,538 girls -- from 28,796 institutions across the country sat for this year's SSC and its equivalent exams under the 11 boards. Of them, 16,90,529 have passed.

The pass rate was 100 percent in 3,023 institutions while 104 institutions saw zero pass rate.

At least 336 Bangladeshi students sat for the tests in nine foreign exam centres and 318 of them have passed.

Zafrullah for plasma banks in districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoshasthaya Kendra Founder and Trustee Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury has called for establishing a plasma bank in every district and lowering prices of medicines being used to treat new coronavirus.

"It is very important to establish a plasma bank in each district now. Plasma therapy seems very effective in saving lives from Covid-19," he said in a statement issued by the Gonoshasthaya Kendra yesterday.

Zafrullah, a kidney patient, tested Covid-19 positive on May 24. He has been staying in isolation at the Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital for the last three days. His wife Shireen Huq, a rights activist, and son Barish Chowdhury also tested positive. Shireen was admitted to the same hospital yesterday, while Barish is staying at his house in the city.

Zafrullah has no fever, but has some cough and pain. Shireen has fever and Barish has so far no symptoms, said the statement.

Zafrullah said as new coronavirus infection was increasing, the government should control prices of medicines, whose prices rose during the pandemic. "Otherwise, the poor won't be able to get treatment."

He also called on the government to ensure that the antibody and antigen kit developed by Gonoshasthaya Pharmaceuticals Ltd, a sister concern of Gonoshasthaya Kendra, is approved soon for mass production.

The kit was developed in March this year, but is yet to get the government approval. The Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University is now conducting performance trial of the kit -- Rapid Dot Blot.

Zafrullah repeatedly urged the government to issue emergency authorisation of the kit.

Quick and large-scale tests for Covid-19 are more important now than ever as the offices are opening, said Mohib Ullah Khondoker, coordinator of the Rapid Dot Blot project.

Results will be available within 10 minutes after tests are done by the kit, he said, adding, "Testing and isolation are the best ways. Otherwise, it will be extremely difficult to check the spread of infection in a large number of people."

Industrialist

FROM PAGE 1
Sumit Chakraborty, senior brand manager of Igloo Ice Cream and Milk Unit of Abdul Monem Ltd, told The Daily Star, "Our chairman sir had been sick for the last few days. On May 17, he suffered a stroke at his residence when he was first admitted to the city's Square Hospital. Later, he was shifted to the CHM."

He left two sons, three daughters and a host of relatives, friends and admirers to mourn his death. He will be buried in his family graveyard in Brahmanbaria, said a press statement of Igloo Ice Cream & Milk Unit.

Abdul Monem was born on January 5 in 1937 in Brahmanbaria. He was a civil engineer by profession. He also played the role of chairman at Mohammedan Sporting Club Limited between 1984 and 1994-95.

He established Abdul Monem Limited in 1956 and successfully ran it along with his two sons -- ASM Mainuddin Monem and ASM Mohiuddin Monem -- working as the deputy managing directors of the company.

Abdul Monem Limited has not only developed a wealth of experience in infrastructure and development project arena, but also became the bottler of Coca Cola, the producer of ice-cream brand Igloo, Igloo milk and dairy products, Igloo food items and snacks, manufacturer of pharmaceuticals, maker of auto bricks, bitumen and other selected construction materials.

The business entity also established AM Sugar Refinery Ltd, AM Rice Bran Oil, ServEngine BPO, AM Securities and Financial Services Ltd, etc.

In 2015, Abdul Monem Limited was awarded for developing one of the first private economic zones of the country -- Abdul Monem Economic Zone (AMEZ) -- in Daudkandi, Munshiganj, according to the Abdul Monem Limited website.

Roads and Bridges Minister and Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman Fazlur Rahman, Law Minister Anisul Huq, State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Huq Inu and General Secretary Shirin Akhter among others expressed deep shock and condoled the death of Abdul Monem.

Mohammedan Sporting Club Ltd, in a statement, expressed deep shock at his death and prayed for the departed soul and bereaved family members.

Cohorts of abductors, murderers sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A case was filed yesterday against four identified and some unidentified people, in connection with the trafficking and murder of 26 Bangladeshi migrant workers in Libya last Thursday.

Razzak Hawladar, father of Jewel Hawladar, one of the victims, filed the case. Jewel left Bangladesh for Libya in January.

Md Anwar Hossain, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Rajpur Police Station said, "Razzak Hawladar filed a case against Julhas Sheikh, Md Zahidul, Md Zakir Hossain, Amir Hossain and some unidentified people around 12:30pm.

2020 SSC results board wise pass rate and GPA 5

BOARD	PASS RATE 2020	PASS RATE 2019	GPA 5 2020	GPA 5 2019
Dhaka	82.34	79.62	36,047	29,687
Rajshahi	90.37	91.64	26,167	22,795
Cumilla	85.22	87.16	10,245	8764
Jashore	87.31	90.88	13,764	9948
Chattogram	84.75	78.11	9,008	7393
Barishal	79.70	77.41	4,483	4181
Sylhet	78.79	70.42	4,263	2757
Dinajpur	82.73	84.10	12,086	9023
Mymensing	80.13	Not applicable	7434	Not applicable
TOTAL	83.75	82.80	1,23,497	94,556

225 journo, media staff infected with Covid-19

Says social media-based journalist group

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 225 journalists and media employees from 76 national and regional media houses have tested coronavirus positive across the country as of yesterday.

So far, three journalists have died from Covid-19.

The latest addition to the death tally is renowned TV personality Mostafa Kamal Syed, head of programmes, NTV. He died at Square Hospital around 1:30pm yesterday. Mostafa Kamal Syed earlier worked for BTB.

Other than that, three media people died with Covid-19 symptoms last month, according to a social media-based journalist group "Our Media, Our Rights".

Of the infected, 197 are based in Dhaka and 28 from other areas of the country. Most are from electronic media.

Meanwhile, some 63 journalists have made full recovery.

The infected are from 76 national and regional media houses including 38 newspapers, 22 television channels, 11 news portals, four radio stations and one news agency.

The highest number of infected is from Daily Ittefaq with 21 and the second highest NTV with 20 journalists and media workers.

Seven persons including four journalists were tested positive at Bangla daily Somoyer Alo. Humayun Kabir Khokon (46), city editor of the newspaper, died from Covid-19 on April 28, the first death of a journalist from coronavirus.

On May 6, Mahmudul Hakim Apu, senior sub-editor of the same media house, also died with coronavirus symptoms.

On May 7, another journalist named Aslam Rahman, who was a staff reporter of Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj, died with Covid-19 symptoms including respiratory complications. However, the day before his death the result for his coronavirus test was negative.

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BACK IN BUSINESS... With stacks of clothes ready on the shelves, workers were seen busy with last-minute preparations at a store in the capital's New Market yesterday. After over two months of closure due to Covid-19, this bustling zone of hawkers, shops and people opened yesterday, but not without risks, as maintaining social distancing is still a far cry in such a setting.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

1,200 returnees sent to home quarantine

Most of them migrant workers from Middle East; experts raise concerns of Covid-19 spread

RASHIDUL HASAN

All 1,203 Bangladeshis who returned to the country in 24 hours till yesterday -- most of whom migrant workers who had remained in detention camps or prisons of Middle Eastern countries -- were allowed to stay in home quarantine, causing concerns over spread of Covid-19.

Public Health experts said the returnee Bangladeshi expatriate workers must stay in institutional quarantine instead of home quarantine, as most of them don't have facilities at their homes to ensure that the guidelines are being followed.

Sirazum Munera, a doctor at the health desk at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA), said of the 1,203 Bangladeshi returnees, around 1,000 expatriate workers who were stuck either in deportation camps or jail returned from United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Oman.

Of them, 463 returned from UAE by two separate flights, 181 returned from Oman by a charter flight and 289 returned from Kuwait by a special flight, said Munera.

A special flight of US-Bangla Airlines brought back 195 Bangladeshi nationals stranded in Chennai on May 30.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Govt body razes 24,796sqft hill without approval

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Cg

Bangladesh Forestry Industry Development Corporation (BFIDC), a government organisation under ministry of forest, environment and climate change, has razed 1.5-kilometre stretch of hills to make access for a proposed rubber plantation at Raozan upazila of Chattogram.

They cut the hills at Kodolpur union of the upazila without prior permission of the Department of Environment (DoE).

There used to be hills along 1.5km stretch of the 1.8km road, members of a DoE inspection team told The Daily Star recently. The team led by Zamir Uddin, deputy director of Chattogram (district) DoE and Afzarul Islam, its assistant director, visited the spot on Saturday and served a notice on the authorities concerned for cutting hills without its permission.

"The road used to be a foot trail, bordered by many small and large hills,"

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Red light for ridesharing

BRTA asks 12 companies to keep services suspended

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

While all other road transport services including buses and minibuses are about to resume operations from today, people planning on availing ridesharing services in the capital and other major cities will have to contend with bad news.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has asked all ridesharing service providing companies to keep their operations suspended until further notice, citing the country's Covid-19 situation.

"We sent the letter in this regard to all [12] service providing companies yesterday," Lokman Hossain Mollah, director (engineering) of BRTA told The Daily Star yesterday.

The letter did not mention any reason.

However, BRTA's Acting Chairman Yousub Ali Mollah said they decided to halt the operations as most vehicles under ridesharing services are motorcycles, and maintaining social distancing might be difficult for passengers and riders.

"If the situation changes, we will consider resuming this services," he told this newspaper.

Ridesharing services, which have gained massive popularity in the capital and a few other cities, were suspended from March 26 when the government

enforced a shutdown of most public and private offices as well as public transport, to contain the spread of Covid-19.

On Thursday, the government announced the reopening of all offices and public transport on a limited scale while following necessary health safety guidelines from yesterday. Train and launch services have already resumed yesterday and bus services will resume today.

COMPANIES WANT TO RESUME OPERATIONS

Asked about the decision, Maliha M Quadir, founder and managing director of Shohoz, one of the major ride-share service providers, said the government should allow them to resume services.

"People will prefer ridesharing services to any other public transport at this time, because ridesharing is safer than buses and other public transports," she told The Daily Star yesterday.

Asked about the safety of motorbike services, she said riders and service seekers are both wearing masks, so the chances of virus transmission are low.

She said they got the letter on Saturday night, and would talk to other service providing companies before giving their response to BRTA.

Sayedna Nabila Mahabub, director (marketing

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Fish stock under threat in haors of Sylhet

Netting and selling of fry goes rampant



Fisheries department officials release fish fry seized during a raid into a waterbody at Chhatak, Sunamganj.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

Indiscriminate catching of fish fry in the haors of Sylhet region, including the protected Tanguar Haor in Sunamganj, has been posing a serious threat to the area's ecosystem. Due to this illegal practice, many local breeds are becoming extinct, said fisheries experts and elderly fishers.

They said some fishermen and locals are involved in this illegal fishing, which starts in the first week of April and continues for several months.

Hashim Uddin, an elderly fisherman from Logaon village of Tahirpur upazila in Sunamganj, said, "Many, including locals, residing near Tanguar Haor catch fish fry illegally. They also use banned fishing nets."

Prof Dr Mrityunjoy Kunda of the department of aquatic resource management of Sylhet Agriculture University said, "Local fish species like taki (spotted snakehead), shol (striped snakehead), gazar (great snakehead), ayer (long-whiskered catfish) and many others hatch eggs during April-May. However, these varieties are reducing in haors as fry catching is rampant."

"Tanguar Haor is a protected waterbody under Ramsar Convention and fishing is prohibited at the sanctuaries there. Yet it continues unabated, affecting the haors

severely," he said.

According to rule-7 of the "Protection and Conservation of Fish Rules 1985", catching or destroying fry of shol, gazar and taki in any kind of waterbody is strictly prohibited from April 1 to August 31.

Padmashan Singha, senior assistant commissioner of Sunamganj, also the responsible officer for Tanguar Haor management, said, "We used to conduct drives regularly, but we are unable to do so now due to the lockdown. But we will conduct drives soon."

Kasim Reza, president of Paribesh and Haor Unnayan Sangstha, said, "This unabated catching of fries during the hatching season will create a fish crisis in haors."

"We demand a complete two-month ban on catching and selling fish fry. Also, those fishermen who catch fish from haors due to financial crisis, should be given incentives," he said.

Abdul Ahad, deputy commissioner of Sunamganj, said, "I have already ordered all upazila administrations to look into the matter. As we built embankments in the haors to protect paddy, water level there is low and that gives locals an opportunity to catch fish fry."

"We are planning to open a portion of the levee so that river water can enter the haor, which will raise the water level

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

CJ readministers oath to 18 HC judges in person

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain has further administered oath to 18 High Court judges on Saturday night, hours after they were virtually sworn in.

In that process, the recently-regularised HC judges were requested to be physically present at the Supreme Court following traditional way.

Eventually, they took oath in the office room of the chief justice at 9:30pm, SC sources said.

However, judges of the Appellate Division and other judges of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court were not present on the occasion, they said.

SC Registrar General Md Ali Akbar and Spokesman Md Saifur Rahman, who attended the ceremony, could not be reached over cellphone for their comments on this issue despite several attempts.

Contacted, Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star on Saturday night that Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain had first administered the oath through virtual system as he was physically very sick.

"The chief justice was recently admitted

to Combined Military Hospital and was treated there for asthma problems. He got tested for Covid-19, and the result was negative. I have the relevant documents in my hand. Later on, the chief justice felt better and decided to administer the oath in traditional way so that no question can be raised over the oath of the High Court judges," he said.

The law minister also said, "There was no illegality in such virtual administration of oath considering the present situation."

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told this correspondent that there is a rule under Article 148 of the constitution for the persons -- who will administer oath and who will take it -- of remaining present at a same place on the occasion.

Now, there is no scope for raising any question about the issue, he said.

Virtual oath was administered to the HC judges due to the ongoing coronavirus situation, the attorney general replied.

Earlier at 3pm on Saturday, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain administered oath to the 18 High Court judges through video conference.

MCCI remembers Niloufer Manzur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Trade body Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) on Friday organised a remembrance and doa mahfil to pay tribute to late Niloufer Manzur, renowned educationist and founding principal of Sunbeams School.

Niloufer Manzur -- also the wife of former MCCI president Syed Manzur Elahi and mother of former president and present committee member Syed Nasim Manzur -- breathed her last on Tuesday, May 26.

The programme was arranged virtually using the Zoom software, said an MCCI statement.

A large section of MCCI members, former presidents, business leaders, friends, colleagues, well-wishers, and family members joined the session.

MCCI President Nihad Kabir heralded Niloufer Manzur as a great nation-builder, whose legacy will be carried forth by the innumerable students imbued with her teachings of humility and dedication to service, the statement said.

The event was also addressed by Tofail Ahmed, former commerce minister; Salman F Rahman, PM's adviser and former president of MCCI; Mahbubur Rahman, president of the International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh; Tapan Chowdhury, MD of Square Pharmaceutical Limited and former president of MCCI; and Anis A Khan, vice president of MCCI.

Syed Nasim Manzur recalled his mother's devotion to family, education, patriotism and dutifulness. He thanked all for their participation and sought prayers for the departed.

ROLE IN ANTI-TOBACCO CAMPAIGN

Ahsania Mission gets WHO regional award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has received World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director's Special Recognition Award for excellent contributions to tobacco control in Bangladesh.

The WHO published the name of DAM along with two other regional awardees on its website recently.

Other awardees are -- Dr Biman Natung, chief of Voluntary Health Association of Arunachal Pradesh of India, and the Consumer Protection Board of Thailand.

This was announced on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day-2020 (May 31), said a press release from the DAM office in Dhaka.

"We have been notified via e-mail from WHO Bangladesh office about the award. Due to the Covid-19 emergency, this year's award giving ceremony has been cancelled," Sharmeen Rahman, senior programme officer of DAM, told The Daily Star.

DAM was awarded for its long-term efforts and commitment to control tobacco consumption in the country. This charity organisation has been implementing various tobacco control activities successfully since 1990.

The organisation played a pivotal role in law formulation and amendment in 2005 and 2013, and implementation of tobacco control law.

Globally, tobacco is a major risk factor for all the main noncommunicable diseases including cancers, cardiovascular diseases, chronic lung diseases and diabetes mellitus.



A girl feeds sweets to her baby brother, all smiles after finding out her SSC exam results came out as expected. Celebrations were underway in homes across the country, as results were delivered via SMS and Facebook Live amid the coronavirus outbreak. The photo was taken at Barishal city's Kaunia Branch road yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Ensure justice for minorities attacked during shutdown

Demand 16 noted citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixteen noted citizens yesterday demanded justice for the attacks on minority communities, violence against women, land grabbing, harassment of common people, and torture of journalists, all of which took place during the coronavirus outbreak in the country.

In particular, they demanded stern legal action against the perpetrators involved in the torture, harassment and violation of human rights of the country's minority communities.

Protesting the incidents and demanding prevention, the noted citizens, who represent different national-level civil society and human rights platforms, sent separate letters of memorandum to the home minister and law minister yesterday, said a press release.

The noted citizens are: Sultana Kamal, Justice Nizamul Huq, Hameeda Hossain, Iftekharuzzaman, Khushi Kabir, Prof Abul Barkat, Advocate Rana Dasgupta, Megha Guhathakurta, Sara Hossain, Advocate ZI Khan Panna, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Sanjeeb Drong, Advocate Tobarak Hossain, Advocate Subrata Chowdhury, Kajal Debnath and Shamsul Huda.

They said hundreds of people died from Covid-19 while

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

225 journos

FROM PAGE 3
Of the infected, 15 are from Channel 24, 12 from Somoy TV, 10 from Ekattor TV, nine from Independent TV, eight from Deepto TV and six from SA TV.

Besides, nine are from Bangladesh Pratidin and four from Kaler Kantho. Two of the Prothom Alo journalists who had earlier tested positive recovered recently.

Meanwhile, The Daily Star journalist who was found positive on May 12, tested negative in a test result yesterday.

The other infected are from Dhaka Tribune, ATN News, Bangladesher Khobor, Daily Songram, Daily Sitalakkha of Narayanganj, Daily Bhorer Kagoj, Daily Ajjal, B-Barta, Inqilab, Daily Amar Barta, Daily Loksomaj of Jashore, Daily Protidiner Songbad, Daily Manabzamin, Daily Jayjyidin, Daily Desh Rupantor, Maasranga TV, Channel 1, Banglavision TV, IP TV Notun Shomoy, Desh TV, BTB, DBC News, ATN Bangla, Radio Amar, Radio Today, Purboposhchimb, Bangla Tribune, UNB, Barta24, Asian TV, Cvoice24.com of Chittagong, Daily New Nation, and Radio Dhoni.

Ensure justice

FROM PAGE 3
several law enforcement agency members, doctors and health service workers also died of the disease in line of duty.

"At the same time, we sadly learnt that even in this crisis, fear has spread among minority community people as there were attacks on their lives and livelihoods. Both religious and ethnic minority communities were attacked, there were attempts of land-grabbing, their religious practices and places of worship were attacked," the signatories said.

Women and children were not spared either, they added. Referring to media reports and social organisations, they said at least 30 incidents of violence against minority community people took place in April and May.

On May 15, houses of 10 Hindu families were vandalised and a so-called Hindu youth was arrested on allegation of demeaning religion in Bholá's Monpura. Two days later, miscreants torched the homestead of Baul Ronesh Thakur, in Sunamganj's Derai.

"Besides, there is allegation that at this time of coronavirus, controversial provisions of the Digital Security Act have been misused to suppress and harass journalists, social workers, and citizens active in social networks where they exercise freedom of speech guaranteed by the constitution."

The noted citizens said they believe stern action against the perpetrators should be taken right now.

Fish stock

FROM PAGE 3
and eventually help reduce the illegal activities," he told The Daily Star recently.

Md Zillur Rahman, deputy director of Department of Fisheries in Sylhet, said, "We must be strict in this matter but due to a manpower crisis, we are unable to look after the vast waterbodies of the region properly. But we have asked our upazila administration to conduct drives at local bazaars to stop selling of fish fry."

Prof Mrityunjoy Kunda, however, mentioned, "Enforcing law is important but the situation cannot be controlled by the administration alone. Awareness among fishermen and locals is a must in this regard."

Bazlul Karim Chowdhury passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Bazlul Karim Chowdhury, a retired bureaucrat, passed away yesterday, said a



condolence message by M Shahidul Islam, deputy commissioner of Tangail.

Bazlul Karim had served as deputy commissioner of Tangail from 2009 to 2012.

The 61-year-old was admitted to Mugda General Hospital on May 22 with Covid-19 infection. He was later shifted to Intensive Care Unit (ICU) on May 23.

Bazlul's wife Nazmoon Naher Lipy, who is also infected with coronavirus, is undergoing treatment at the same hospital, the message read.

Born in Rajbari district, Bazlul had served as chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) and the commissioner of Dhaka division.

He was admin cadre official of 1985 batch of Bangladesh Civil Services (BCS), added the message.



On the first day after the shutdown, the streets of Dhaka approached normalcy, at least in terms of traffic jam. Though public transportation resumes from today, private vehicles, rickshaws, auto-rickshaws and goods-carrying vehicles filled up many of the city's roads to the brims. This photo was taken near the Bangla Motor intersection on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

WE MOURN

We are deeply shocked at the sad demise of an iconic Businessman of the country and leading entrepreneur of the Construction Industry **Mr. Abdul Monem**, Chairman & Managing Director of Abdul Monem Group of Companies and express our profound condolence to the bereaved family for the same.

May Allah (SWT) provide the members of his bereaved family courage and fortitude to withstand this irreparable loss. We pray to the Almighty for the salvation of the departed soul.

May Allah (SWT) keep his soul in eternal peace in the Heaven.

Mir Nasir Hossain
Managing Director
on behalf of officers & employees of
Mir Akhter Hossain Ltd.

WE MOURN

We are deeply shocked and grieved at the sad demise of the honorable Trustee of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), **Abdul Monem** who passed away on May 31, 2020 (Inna Lillahe Wa Inna Ilahe Rajjeun). Late **Abdul Monem** was also the Chairman & Managing Director of Abdul Monem Group.

On behalf of the Education, Science, Technology & Cultural Development Trust (ESTCDT) and the IUB Board of Trustees, Members of the Faculty and Management, Students and Alumni; we express our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to his departed soul.

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)

Combating the threats of antimicrobial resistance and zoonotic diseases to achieve the GHSA in Bangladesh

Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute

Savar, Dhaka-1341

Memo No. 33.05.2672.108.31.005.20-59 Date: 31-05-2020

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender will be invited through the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocurement.gov.bd>) for procurement of following goods. Details are given below:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	APP ID No.	Description of goods	Tender document last selling/ downloading date & time	Tender closing date & time
457939	GD.01	163520	Supply of Chemicals	14-Jun-2020 16:00	15-Jun-2020 13:00
464388	GD.03	163520	Supply of Laboratory Plastic Glassware and other Consumables.	14-Jun-2020 16:00	15-Jun-2020 13:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted through the National e-GP System. Registered tenderers are requested to deposit required fees through any schedule bank to buy the e-schedule on or before 14-Jun-2020 16:00 for Supply of Laboratory Plastic Glassware and other Consumables and Supply of Chemicals. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal.

Mohammed Abdus Samad
Project Director
Telephone No. 02-7791671
e-mail address: samad_bli@yahoo.com

GD-909

Govt body

FROM PAGE 3
Zamir Uddin told this correspondent. They razed the hills to turn the trail into a road to get access to the rubber plantation.

He continued, "The razed amount is no less than 24,796 square feet. They did not take any approval for it. We served them a notice. Necessary steps will be taken after a hearing."

Contacted, Md Mokchedur Rahman, general manager of BFIDC (Chattogram), said they did not know that they needed permission from DoE.

"It was an old road. We were just reconstructing for easy access to the proposed 100-acre rubber plantation," he said. As the forest department leased out the land, they thought they did not need any permission from DoE, he added.

"It was a misunderstanding. We will apply for permission as soon as possible," he said. Asked if there was any other alternatives to cutting hills, he said they do not have any other option.

Red light

FROM PAGE 3
and public relations) at Pathao, said commuting services with their app are suspended for the past two months, but they have observed that ridesharing has already resumed through offline, solicited trips.

"As such, ridesharing users are denied access to safe, secure rides with appropriate health measures in place, and are having to turn to more unsafe options like offline trips or to other forms of public transportation where social distancing cannot be properly maintained," she told The Daily Star.

"Therefore, in the greater interest of health, safety, and convenience of commuters, we urge BRTA to allow resumption of Pathao's ridesharing services on June 1, in line with its instructions for other forms of public transportation," she said.

Over the past two months, Uber has been urging riders and drivers to stay at home. Now, as cities all over the world start to open, they are committed to providing safe and convenient transport, an Uber spokesperson said. "As we resume services in all the countries we operate in, we have instituted safety measures such as distributing PPE to drivers, building multiple layers of accountability in our app, including technology-led checks on mask use, safety checklists, limiting the number of passengers per vehicle and restricting geographies and times of operation as per relevant government guidelines," Uber said.

"We have recently spearheaded the formation of a Transport Safety Alliance (TSA) to generate safety awareness amongst consumers, and to equip drivers with health and safety supplies. We hope authorities will allow Uber's ridesharing services that are safe and can effectively help our communities on the path to recovery" it added.

1,200 returnees

FROM PAGE 3
Most of them had gone to India for treatment purpose, sources at the airport said.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen in early April said different Middle Eastern countries, especially the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, are likely to send back around 29,000 Bangladeshi workers, in the next couple of weeks.

Many of these Bangladeshis were in prisons or detention camps, and were granted general amnesty due to the coronavirus pandemic, foreign ministry sources said.

Several thousand Bangladeshi workers also returned from different Middle Eastern countries in the last two weeks, said a source at Dhaka airport, without giving any details.

Bangladesh had requested different countries not to send back Bangladeshi workers during the pandemic. But they didn't pay heed to the request, Momen had earlier told The Daily Star.

Dr Munera said all Bangladeshi workers and others who returned to the country were sent into home quarantine as they showed health certificates saying they did not have Covid-19.

However, public health experts have raised questions about the certificates.

A government-appointed expert committee recently warned the government that the country may have to grapple with a second wave of coronavirus infections if the government fails to ensure strict institutional quarantine for the 29,000 returnee Bangladeshi workers.

Prof Muzaherul Huq, former adviser (Southeast Asia Region) of the World Health Organization, said, "We had a bitter experience in the recent past by allowing migrant Bangladeshi workers to go into home quarantine."

"In socio-economic conditions like ours, most people don't have facilities at their homes to ensure that the guidelines are being followed," he said, adding that home quarantine is not practical and feasible for many of our people, especially for low-income people.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Principal
Bhola Technical School & College, Bhola

Ref. No. 37.03.0918.001.07.001.20-196 Date: 02/04/2020

Amendment e-Tender Notice (Tender ID: 454729)

All dates of published e-Tender notice are amended as follows:

Description	Invitation date	Last selling date	Closing date	Opening date
Existing	28 May 2019	14 June 2019	15 June 2019	15 June 2019
Amendment	28 May 2020	14 June 2020	15 June 2020	15 June 2020

Principal
Bhola Technical School & College, Bhola

GD-904

Sheikh Hasina University, Netrokona

Liaison Office: Gold House, House no: 38, Road No: 11, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209; Phone: 55000073, E-mail: shu.bangladesh@gmail.com

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

Sealed tenders are hereby invited under PPR-2008 with amendments from eligible Manufacturer and authorized bidders as defined in the tender documents who has the legal capacity to enter into the contract for the under mentioned work.

01. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education
02. Agency	Sheikh Hasina University
03. Procuring Entity Name	Sheikh Hasina University, Netrokona
04. Procurement Entity Code	Not Used
05. Procurement Entity District	Netrokona
06. Invitation for	Procurement of Goods (Vehicle: Minibus/Coaster)
07. Invitation Ref. No.	(001) SHU/Administration/2020/566
08. Date	31/05/2020
Key Information	
09. Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (National)
Funding Information	
10. Budget and Source of Fund	Government Revenue Budget
11. Development Partners (If applicable)	N/A
Particular Information	
12. Project/program Code	N/A
13. Project/Program Name	N/A
14. Tender Package No.	G-1
15. Tender Package Name	Supply of Minibus/Coaster (30-34 Seats)
16. Tender Publication Date	01/06/2020
17. Tender Last Selling Date	16/06/2020 up to 5.00 PM
18. Tender Closing Date and time	17/06/2020 up to 2.00 PM
19. Tender Opening date and Time	17/06/2020, 3.00 PM
20. Name and Address of the Office	Kazi Nasir Uddin, Liaison Office: Gold House, House no: 38, Road No: 11, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209
Selling, Receiving and Opening Tender Document	
Liaison Office: Gold House, House no: 38, Road No: 11, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209	
21. Place/Date/Time of Pre-tender Meeting (Optional)	N/A
Information for Tenderer	
22. Eligibility of Tenderer	
If Bidder is Manufacturer:	
The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence that it meets the following financial requirement(s):	
(i) The minimum of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the supply of Goods and related services as Supplier shall be 5 (Five) years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT	
(ii) The minimum specific experience as Supplier in supply of similar Goods of at least 2 (two) contracts successfully completed within the last 5 (Five) years, each with a value of at least Tk. 1 (One) Crore.	
(iii) The minimum supply or production capacity enclosed in TDS (tender data sheet)	
(iv) The minimum amount of liquid assets i.e. working capital or credit line(s) of the Tenderer shall be Tk 1 (One) Crore. (Failing to submit in PG3-8 will make the tender non-responsive).	
The bidder must have office in Dhaka with a well-equipped technical support division. The office may be visited by the procuring entity without any notice to the bidder.	
If Bidder is not manufacturer:	
If a Bidder is not a manufacturer, but is offering the Goods on behalf of the Manufacturer under Manufacturer's Authorization Form (Section IV, Bidding Forms), the Manufacturer shall demonstrate the above qualifications (i), (ii), (iii).	
23. Brief Description of Goods	Supply of 2 (Two) unit 30-34 seat Diesel Powered Minibus/Coaster under 2019 Model.
24. Brief Description of Related Service	
25. Price of Tender Document	2000 Tk. (Cash)
26. Tender Security Amount	Tk. 400,000.00 Bank Draft or Pay Order in favor of Registrar, Sheikh Hasina University, Netrokona.
Procuring Entity Details	
27. Name of the Official Inviting Tender	Kazi Nasir Uddin
28. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Registrar, Sheikh Hasina University, Netrokona.
29. Address of Official Inviting Tender	Liaison Office: Gold House, House no: 38, Road No: 11, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209
30. Contact Details of Official Inviting	Phone: 02 55000073, Fax: 02 55000072, E-mail: shu.bangladesh@gmail.com
The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

ROW WITH INDIA
Nepal House set to okay new map

NDTV ONLINE

The move to update Nepal's new map -- which includes a stretch of land high in the mountains that India claims as its own -- has gathered momentum, with the ruling Left alliance moving a constitution amendment bill yesterday.

In Nepal, it usually takes a month to pass a constitution amendment bill. But this time, in view of the people's sentiments, the Nepali parliament may bypass several procedures to get the bill passed in the next ten days, sources said.

Earlier this month, the ruling party had cleared the map, drawing fierce reaction from India, which described the move as "unilateral" and not based on historical facts.

Nepal has claimed the territory, which touches the border with China, under a treaty made with the East India Company during the British period.

The new map - made public earlier this month - shows a sliver of land on the east of river Kali, jutting out from the northwestern tip of Nepal. The area includes the Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and also Limpiyadhura and Kalapani, which are highly strategic areas which India has been guarding since the 1962 war with China.

The controversy over the map surfaced as India opened a new road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Kailash Mansarovar route in China, on May 8, igniting nationwide protest in Nepal.



(From left, clockwise) Protesters rally against the death in Minneapolis police custody of George Floyd, in New Orleans, Louisiana; police arrest demonstrators marching along the Strip in Las Vegas, Nevada; demonstrators smash a police vehicle in Los Angeles, California. Photos were taken on Saturday. Curfew were imposed on at least 25 cities across 16 states in US as protests against race discrimination and police brutality continue.



PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC
KEY UPDATES

GLOBAL CASES TOP 6M

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 369,086 people since the outbreak first emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP at 1100 GMT yesterday. At least 6,075,070 cases have been registered in 196 countries and territories. The United States remains the worst-hit country with 103,781 deaths from 1,770,384 cases.

VACCINE BY YEAR-END!

A Chinese-made coronavirus vaccine could be ready for market as early as the end of this year, China's State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) said in a social media post. In trials, more than 2,000 people have received vaccines developed by the Wuhan Institute of Biological Products and the Beijing Institute of Biological Products.

AL-AQSA MOSQUE REOPENS

Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque compound, Islam's third holiest site, reopened yesterday after being closed for over two months because of the coronavirus pandemic. Muslims believe the Prophet Mohammed (pbuh) ascended to heaven there, and it is Islam's third holiest site, after Makkah and Medina.

RUSSIA INFECTIONS PASS 400,000

Russia yesterday reported 9,268 new cases of the novel coronavirus, raising the national tally to 405,843. Officials said 138 people had died of COVID-19, the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus, in the last 24 hours, pushing to nationwide toll up to 4,693.

SAUDI ARABIA REOPENS MOSQUES

Saudi Arabia's mosques yesterday opened their doors to worshippers for the first time in more than two months. Worshippers headed to mosques for dawn prayers amid strict regulations requiring use of face masks and personal prayer mats, avoiding handshakes and standing at least 2 metres apart.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

G7 an 'outdated group'

Trump postpones meet, says it can be 'G-10 or G-11'

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump has said he will delay the G7 summit scheduled to take place in June and invite other countries -- including Russia -- to join the meeting.

"I don't feel that as a G7 it properly represents what's going on in the world. It's a very outdated group of countries," Trump told reporters on Air Force One on Saturday.

He said he would like to invite Russia, South Korea, Australia and India to join an expanded summit in the fall.

It could happen in September, either before or after the UN General Assembly, Trump said, adding that "maybe I'll do it after the election."

Describing the event as a "G-10 or G-11," Trump said he had "roughly" broached the topic with leaders of the four other countries.

Leaders from the Group of Seven, which the United States heads this year, had been scheduled to meet by videoconference in late June after COVID-19 scuttled plans to gather in-person at Camp David, the US presidential retreat outside Washington.

Trump created suspense over a week ago, however, when he announced that he might hold the huge gathering in-person



after all, "primarily at the White House" but also potentially parts of it at Camp David.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel became the first leader to decline the in-person invitation outright. Her response followed ambivalent to vaguely positive reactions to the invitation from Britain, Canada and France.

The G7 major advanced countries -- Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States -- hold annual meetings to discuss international economic coordination. Russia was thrown out of what was the G8 in 2014 after it seized Ukraine's Black Sea peninsula of Crimea.

The work of the G7 is now more important than ever as countries struggle to repair coronavirus-inflicted damage.

'Solve your own problem'

AFP, Beijing

Chinese state media took aim at the US government over the weekend as many American cities were gripped by raging protests and clashes, comparing the unrest with the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong.

As unrest erupted across the United States over racial inequality and police brutality after the death during arrest of an unarmed black man, Chinese government spokespeople and official media launched broadsides against American authorities.

"US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi once called the violent protests in Hong Kong 'a beautiful sight to behold... US politicians now can enjoy this sight from their own windows,'" Hu Xijin, editor-in-chief of nationalist tabloid Global Times, wrote Saturday.

Following President Donald Trump's announcement that he would strip Hong Kong of its special privileges, a commentary published yesterday in China Daily -- a mouthpiece of the ruling Communist Party -- said US politicians dreamed of "victimising" China.

"Better give up that dream and come back to reality," it said.

"Violence is spreading across the US... US politicians should do their jobs and help solve problems in the US, instead of trying to create new problems and troubles in other countries."

'We cannot drop our guard'

Modi urges citizens as lockdown eases amid record cases

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned the country yesterday to remain vigilant against the spread of coronavirus as the country prepares a phased re-opening of activities even as daily cases rise to record highs.

India, with the world's longest lockdown, is set to largely lift containment measures in June, except in high-risk zones.

"The fight against the coronavirus is intense, we cannot drop our guard," Modi said in his national radio address, a day after his government extended the lockdown until June 30 in high-risk zones but permitted restaurants, malls and religious buildings to reopen elsewhere from June 8.

"Wearing a mask, gloves and following social distancing rules is essential as everyone will soon start stepping out of their homes," Modi said.

The novel coronavirus has infected more than 182,000 people and claimed the lives of 5,164 in India.

The number of cases reached a daily record high in the last 48 hours, two months after the federal government enforced a rigid lockdown to stop the



Migrant labourers and their family members stage protest demanding food in a slum area on the outskirts of Amritsar, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

pandemic from spreading in a country with more than 1.3 billion people.

"We really need to be more vigilant now," he said.

Critics blame government for poor planning ahead of its abrupt declaration of a lockdown in March, leaving millions of the country's poor stranded.

"We are all sorry for the loss that has occurred," Modi said as he hailed the country's "united" efforts towards fighting the virus.

State governments were expected to identify containment zones and find staggered ways to reopen public transport and businesses.

BORDER FLARE-UP WITH CHINA

India's 'pride' will be defended: Rajnath Singh

AFP, New Delhi

India will not let its "pride be hurt" in its latest border flareup with China but is determined to settle the dispute through talks between the giant neighbours, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has said.

Singh also said in a television interview late Saturday that India has turned down a mediation offer by US President Donald Trump.

Hundreds of Indian and Chinese troops are involved in the latest face-off concentrated in India's Ladakh region just opposite Tibet.

The two countries have several disputes along their 3,500-kilometre (2,175-mile) border. They fought a frontier war in 1962 and there have been regular spats, though no shot has been fired since the 1970s.

The latest tensions blew up on May 9 when dozens of Chinese and Indian soldiers were injured in fistfights and stone-throwing in Sikkim state. Many Indian soldiers are still in hospital.

The main showdown is now in Ladakh centred around the Galwan valley which controls access to several strategic points on

their Himalayan border.

The two sides have blamed each other but analysts say India's building of new roads in the region may have been the fuse for the dispute.

Both sides have blamed each other and sent reinforcements and heavy equipment to the zone.

"I want to assure the country that we will not let India's pride be hurt in any circumstances," the defence minister told the Aaj Tak television channel.

He referred to a similar 2017 showdown on the Doklam Plateau which he said was "very tense" but "we did not step back."

"India has been following a clear policy of maintaining good relationship with neighbouring countries. It is not a new approach," he added.

Taj Mahal damaged in thunderstorm

AFP, Agra

A deadly thunderstorm that rolled across parts of northern India damaged sections of the Taj Mahal complex, including the main gate and a railing running below its five lofty domes, officials said yesterday.

"One sandstone railing which was a part of the original structure has been damaged," Vasant Kumar Swarnkar, an Archaeologist of the Archaeological Survey of India, told AFP.

He added there was no more damages to the main structure of the monument of love -- built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan as a tomb for his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, who died giving birth in 1631.

Local media reports said thunderstorms and lightning on Friday killed at least 13 people in two Uttar Pradesh districts.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
অধিনায়কের কার্যালয়
রাপিত্ত এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭
পতেঙ্গা, চট্টগ্রাম
দরপত্র আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি
এতদ্বারা ২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বৎসরে (জুলাই/২০ হতে জুন/২১ পর্যন্ত) চট্টগ্রামস্থ রাপিত্ত এ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন-৭ এর ব্যবহার্য বিভিন্ন মালামাল সরবরাহ/পরিবহন ভাড়া/পোষাক সেলাই এর নিমিত্তে পিপিআর-২০০৮ অনুযায়ী যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন এবং দেশের কোন আইন দ্বারা অযোগ্য নন এমন ব্যবসায়ী/প্রস্তুতকারী/সরবরাহকারী/টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

On Free Speech and the Imperatives of Democracy

AHRAR AHMAD

This essay is dedicated to the memory of National Professor Dr. Anisuzzaman, Founding Vice Chairman and Settler, Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation, a personal hero, and a champion of free speech.

It is almost axiomatic that free speech is indispensable to democracy.

It is also obvious that almost all human progress depends upon an environment of free thought and free expression. Scientific advances would not be possible without challenging and revising received wisdom and provoking new explanations based on logic and evidence. Human creativity would not be possible without allowing the audacity of imagination to extend aesthetic tastes and frontiers. Intellectual growth would not be possible without the willingness to tolerate diverse, sometimes contradictory, answers to life's enduring questions.

Human existence may be possible without these freedoms, but the human condition would be bereft of beauty or joy or meaning.

However, it is important to point out that the notion of "free speech" may be problematic, and generate awkward questions.

Can speech be absolute, universal, unconditional? Are there no limits or boundaries or responsibilities regarding the exercise of free speech that we must acknowledge? Shouldn't historical contexts, cultural dynamics and social norms determine the quality or level of free speech that may be practiced?

Moreover, should we allow the leakage of state secrets that may jeopardise national security? Pornography that

wing manifesto" in which the author had advocated the overthrow of the government (Gitlow v NY, 1925), or just being associated with the Communist Party (Whitney v CA, 1927).

In these cases the Court used the "clear and present danger test" where the exercise of free speech could supposedly endanger the public in some way, or the "bad tendency test" where it could possibly lead to "evil" consequences in the future. Incidentally, it was in Schenck that Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes had famously remarked that one cannot be allowed to "falsely shout fire in a crowded theatre" (and elsewhere, is reported to have said that "the right to swing your arm ends where my face begins"). Ironically, Justice Holmes became one of the fiercest defenders of free speech later.

By the 1930s, when the Red Scare had abated (the US recognised the USSR in 1933), the Depression was creating economic havoc, President Franklin D. Roosevelt had his majority in the Court by the late 30s, and the orientation towards free speech shifted.

Justice Cardozo instituted the "preferred position" doctrine (Connecticut v Palko, 1937), which held that there was a "hierarchy of constitutional rights" in which free speech would always be privileged over others. Justice Harlan Stone (US v Carolene Products, 1938), in probably the most famous footnote in constitutional history, invoked the



harm by saying "hit that person" or "rob that bank" or "vandalize that building".

The Courts also expanded free speech rights through the "vagueness" and "over-breadth" doctrines which stipulated that unless the language of laws that limit speech is clear and specific, they would be over-thrown. On this basis, it supported the right of school children to wear black arm bands to oppose the Vietnam War as "symbolic speech" (Tinker v. Des Moines, 1967), which was also invoked to allow the burning of the US flag as political opinion (Texas v Johnson, 1989); established the three conditions (actual malice, knowledge of falsity and reckless disregard of facts) to justify a libel suit (New York Times v Sullivan, 1964); and clarified that "no prior restraint" can be imposed on the press by the government, and thus permitted the publication of the Pentagon Papers (New York Times v US, 1971). The one issue on which the Court dithered involved national security including protection to "whistle-blowers".

Undoubtedly, there has been a persistent expansion of free speech in the US. This pattern is obvious in most democratic countries. Unfortunately, Bangladesh defies that trend.

III Three kinds of evidence may be presented in support of that last contention.

First, Bangladesh fares poorly in measures which compare the robustness of freedom in various countries. Bangladesh was ranked 151 out of 178 countries by Reporters without Borders, with Sri Lanka at 127, India 142 and Pakistan 145. In the Human Freedom Index of the Cato Institute, Bangladesh was ranked 138 out of 162 countries, slightly ahead of Pakistan at 140, but behind Sri Lanka at 110, and India at 94. Freedom House classified Bangladesh in 2020 as only "partly free" with a total score of 39, slightly better than Pakistan with 38, but much below Sri Lanka with 56 or India with 71.



What is even more troubling is the fact that in most of these rankings, Bangladesh's position appears to be worsening. For Reporters without Borders, its position slipped by one over the previous year, in the Cato Institute index it came down by .08 from 2019, and in the rank ordering of Freedom House, Bangladesh was clustered with countries which had significant deteriorations in composite scores.

Second, the Information, Communication and Technology Act (ICT, 2006, amended 2013), and the Digital Security Act (DSA, 2018) appear to problematise the right of free speech granted in several provisions, but most explicitly in article 39, of the constitution of Bangladesh.

Section 57 of the ICT Act criminalises any "material that is false or obscene" ... which may influence the reader "to become dishonest or corrupt", causes

"to deteriorate ... or the possibility to deteriorate law and order, prejudice the image of the state, or person" or "may hurt religious beliefs instigated against any person or organization".

Similarly, Section 21 of the DSA indicates that any person who carries out "any propaganda or campaign against the liberation war of Bangladesh, cognition of liberation war, Father of the Nation, national anthem or national flag", or Section 25 which suggests that any person who "sends such information which is offensive or fear inducing (and intends) to annoy insult, humiliate, or denigrate a person ... or tarnishing the image of the nation, or spread confusion" will all be considered to be criminally liable.

Allowing the sweeping generalities and ambiguities inherent in these acts as the basis for criminally prosecuting people would probably have embarrassed even Emperor Draco (from whom the word Draconian is derived). Moreover, giving police almost unlimited power of search, seizure and arrest without warrant, imposing severe punishment regimes, and making some offences non-bailable, made the Acts even more menacing.

Third, it was hoped that these Acts were "ones for the book" and would not be used much. Jyotirmoy Barua indicated that between 2006 and 2013 no cases were prosecuted under Section 57. However, after that, the numbers began to increase exponentially and between 2013 and April 2018, Human Rights Watch calculated that 1,271 charge sheets had been submitted under this Section.

Under the DSA, which superseded Section 57, The Daily Star reported that there were 34 cases filed in 2018, 63 in 2019, and by May 6 of 2020, almost 60 involving about 100 people. Newspapers regularly carry the names and pictures of people (some in handcuffs) charged under this Act.

Politicians of the ruling party and the police have used these Acts primarily to file cases against editors, reporters, photographers, bloggers, baul/sufi artists, writers and even cartoonists. It is noteworthy that, as Shahdin Malik has pointed out, while "spreading rumours" or "criticising the government" are not specifically mentioned in the DSA, people ARE being arrested on those grounds.

It would seem that the entire exercise was really intended to limit historical enquiry, critical thinking, political satire, policy disagreement, journalistic investigation or personal expression. More than a "chilling effect" on free speech, these laws hang like the sword of Damocles over the population waiting to drop on any hapless citizen at the slightest provocation.

NOTHING if it does not protect speech that someone may find offensive (nice, sweet, agreeable speech does not need protection).

Socrates chose suicide over imposed silence. Khona (famous for her pithy "bochons") had her tongue cut off. Giordano Bruno, a brilliant scientist, was burned at the stake. Galileo was forced to endure house arrest and cease all research and writing, all because what they proposed or taught had offended established beliefs and institutions.

Bangabandhu, our Father of the Nation, spent almost half his adult life in prison because the ruling elite had felt mightily offended by his criticisms and demands.

Similarly, every Prophet in the Abrahamic tradition faced persecution because their teachings had offended dominant ideas and practices. The first had to flee his country barely ahead of the Pharaoh's forces and was left wandering in the desert for 40 years, the second was brutally crucified, the last, our very own Hazrat Muhammad (SAW), was hounded out of his beloved city under extremely dire and desperate circumstances. Doesn't history teach us anything?

It must be remembered that the State has NO responsibility to protect the sentiments of hyper-sensitive people and shield them from being "hurt" or offended. These people must educate themselves, grow up, and become tougher. Otherwise it would not only lead to the trivialisation of political discourse, it would also lead inescapably to the "tyranny of the minority" where any small group of people could simply complain of being "hurt", and use it as a pretext to take away people's rights.

Third, such efforts commit the fallacy of "absolutes". It assumes that the ruling establishment has absolute power to do anything it wants; that it possesses absolute knowledge and its official narrative is supreme and permanent; and that the conflation of party government and State, will give it absolute protection from all challenges. History neither supports, nor forgives, such absolute arrogance.

Limiting free speech may create an atmosphere of threat and intimidation that may provide current rulers (regardless of party) with a sense of smug assurance, and may even contribute to prolonging a particular regime. But this is illusory and always temporary.

When they are no longer in power, they will themselves face, with extreme prejudice, the same environment of intolerance, bullying and arbitrariness that they have visited on others. In the same way they had criminalised anyone questioning their version of history, that version itself will be criminalised. This logic is immutable, this cycle of events inevitable.

We must remember that leaders are never glorified for the number of years they have remained in power, but for the legacy they leave behind. Our leaders must decide whether they want to construct an inclusive, accountable, and democratic future for us, or whether they are merely interested in holding on to power as long as they can. The first will confer greatness on them, the second will bring them dishonour.

In this context, it may be pointed out that it is counter-intuitive for the current government to restrict speech. Its achievements are impressive - remarkable economic growth, respect in the international arena, successful trial of war criminals, containment of fundamentalist activism, and so on. It faces no political challenges whatsoever. Given all this, it can easily demonstrate its graciousness and confidence, and regain the high moral ground, simply by expanding the public space for debate, discussion and criticism.

Limiting speech does not indicate a regime's strength, but only its insecurities, its doubts, its pettiness. When leaders can afford to hold their heads high like the Kings of the Jungle, why should they behave like frightened alley cats?

The success of democracy rests on tolerance. The only answer to a bad idea is not to stifle it, but to present a better idea. When any regime does the first, it proves that it lacks the ability to do the second. No democracy can, or should, function under that shadow.

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Lawmen escort handcuffed photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol to a court in Jashore on May 4, 2020.

objectifies and degrades women? Hate speech that not only disparages minorities, but may make them unsafe? Information that is demonstrably false, confusing and dangerous to public welfare, or may hurt the sentiments of some, particularly on matters of race, identity and religion?

Also, what happens when two rights collide - when one's right to free speech goes against someone else's right to a fair trial (which may be jeopardised by media reporting), or against someone else's right not to be defamed, or against someone else's right to conduct daily life without disruptions?

These concerns are all legitimate, but are neither unique nor novel. There is a long and lively jurisprudential tradition that has evolved around such questions. There have been doctrines that have been established, tests devised, definitions provided, guidelines presented, and reasonable conditions clarified. These may well serve as the basis to approach, if not resolve, some of these problems.

Moreover, it is most reassuring that the trajectory of free speech, considered in this essay essentially as "political speech", has almost always been upward. Its ambit and authority have expanded steadily. This evolution will be discussed here with reference to cases in the US judicial system.

II During WWI and the Red Scare days that followed, the US Supreme Court interpreted "free speech" very narrowly and upheld the conviction of citizens for distributing leaflets to oppose the draft (Schenck v. US, 1919), calling a strike to oppose US efforts to overthrow the Communist regime in the USSR (Abrams v US, 1919), publishing a "left-

standards of "strict scrutiny" to apply to laws that sought to limit rights under the constitution. Even the requirement to salute the national flag, mandated in many States, was invalidated as an infringement of First Amendment rights (West Virginia State Board of Education v Barnette, 1942).

The Warren Court (1953-1969) advanced free speech aggressively. In Yates v. US (1957) the Court made the crucial distinction between advocacy of an idea and incitement to action, and ensured the protection of the first (a belief cannot be a crime). Based on this ruling, many imprisoned members of leftist parties who had been jailed under the Smith Act (1940), or because of anti-communist hysteria following WWII (McCarthyism), were released.

This principle was further sharpened in Brandenburg v Ohio (1969), when the conviction of a Klan leader for an ugly racist rant, was declared unconstitutional because while his speech was inherently offensive and inflammatory, it did not advocate "imminent lawless action", the Court's only condition for limiting speech. All previous "tests" for political speech were thus rendered moot under this stringent standard.

Thus, it became perfectly legal to criticise, satirise, or condemn any law or leader, any historical event or ideological position, any people or policy, or propagate anything utterly silly (after all, as the Courts pointed out, citizens have the right to be stupid), as long as a specific criminal act was not being directly encouraged. Citizens can agitate to "throw the bums out", or mobilise to "destroy capitalism", or demand to "end the lock-down", or denounce "gays, or Muslims, or vegetarians, or abortion defenders, or Senator X, or a book, etc. as evil", but one cannot provoke public

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR
LATE S. M. ALI

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Is the government ready to deal with the consequences of reopening?

It may overwhelm an already overburdened healthcare system

AS the government has relaxed the shutdown from May 31, ignoring the advice of the expert committees formed to fight the Covid-19 outbreak, the country may now experience an explosion of new infections. According to the National Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19, countries that lifted the lockdown before experiencing a reduction in the infection rate, experienced a rise in new infections. The committee has warned that easing the shutdown before strictly implementing the rules and requirements of preventing transmission will increase the number of positive patients and create pressure on our healthcare system. Another expert committee formed by the government has suggested that the government should lift the lockdown in phases. Unfortunately, such advice seems to have not been considered before reopening.

Needless to say, for a country like Bangladesh with a large number of its population living below the poverty line, it is not easy to prolong the shutdown according to the health directives. But the risk to peoples' lives by relaxing the shutdown cannot be ignored. The government could at least have developed a mechanism to oversee that health safety measures and social distancing rules are maintained everywhere—in shopping malls, bazars, roads, public transport and in offices and factories. Although the government has directed the public to follow a set of health safety guidelines, we wonder how it will ensure that people are actually abiding by these rules. Clearly, law enforcers alone cannot make sure that people are wearing masks and maintaining physical distancing in this over-crowded city if there is not enough awareness among people. We have seen how the law enforcers struggled to disperse crowds before Eid and when thousands of garment workers and residents of Dhaka left the city after a general holiday was declared in March.

What will happen when all modes of public transport resumes their operations on the city streets and office-goers crowd into the buses? Although buses have been instructed to operate at half their passenger capacity, who will make sure that the drivers and helpers follow the directives? Also, how the offices will ensure physical distancing of their employees in their limited office spaces remains a big question.

Since the government has relaxed the shutdown without achieving the six criteria outlined by the WHO, it is hard not to feel worried. We are especially fearful of how the crisis resulting from new infections will be tackled as we do not have enough hospital beds and ventilators that most likely will be needed.

Covid-19 tests must be done most expeditiously

People's lives are at stake!

IT is a frightening prospect for a person showing the symptoms of the virus, having reported for testing for Covid-19, to be asked by the authorities to return after a month. The only way to determine the spread and allow whatever resources that is at the disposal of the authorities, which can be employed to combat the virus, is to put through as many people as possible through the process of testing. We neither have the resources nor the manpower as yet to do that, not many countries have. But the least that our system can do is to have those who show symptoms of the virus tested immediately to confirm or otherwise and not tell them to wait a few days—not to speak of waiting for a month—for the test.

Yet the Savar district authorities are asking the city populace to do exactly that. A RMG worker was asked to return for the test on June 30, after presenting himself for testing at Savar Upazila Health Complex on May 28. And he suffers from some symptoms of the virus. What good would the test be after a month? Do the health authorities realise that in the meantime he may contaminate dozen others, he being a RMG worker. Like him, many people in Savar have been asked by the Upazila Health Complex authorities to wait between two weeks and a month for the Covid-19 test.

Admittedly, the facilities are scant in the outlying areas, but things must be prioritised. And those who need testing ought to be provided the facility. There is no way out but to increase testing facilities and manpower. The logistics system must be accelerated, and quick testing facilities must be introduced without further delay. In this regard one wonders about the fate of the quick testing Gonoshasthaya kit. It has been nearly three weeks since it was submitted for clearance! Can't the process be hastened? People's lives are at stake!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@thedailystar.net

Incredible police brutality

The recent incident surrounding the brutal killing of George Floyd, an African-American man by a police officer in Minneapolis was utterly shocking. He was suspected of using counterfeit money at a store when he was arrested by the police. A footage of the arrest has taken social media by storm, which depicts a white policeman kneeling on the suspect's neck while he was pinned to the ground struggling to breathe as he pleaded for his life. I am sickened with rage by the fact that while the suspect was being killed, other policemen just stood there silently.

The tragic event has sparked mass riots across the United States now and there is anarchy on the streets. Sadly, this is not the first time that citizens are protesting against such police brutality. There have been several other incidents as well. While I absolutely sympathise with the protesters, I do not support the vandalism and looting that has sprouted from this movement. I hope justice prevails and the guilty officer ends up being punished.

Nur Jahan, Chattogram



FAHMIDA KHATUN

MACRO MIRROR
THE budget for fiscal year (FY) 2021 is going to be presented in the backdrop of a situation which was previously not experienced in the history of Bangladesh. The upcoming budget comes at a time when the country is fighting to contain the fallout of the Covid-19 (C19) pandemic. Since the outbreak of C19 in China in December 2020, all countries including Bangladesh have been reeling from economic shock due to disruption of production and supply chains both at domestic and global level. C19 has also affected Bangladesh economy due to both domestic disruptions and its interconnectedness with the global economy. Reduced economic activities have led to lower demand as employment and income have been lost. Hence countries across the world are striving to boost both supply and demand in an effort to resuscitate their economies.

Under such circumstances, there is no reason to set our expectations high to turnaround the economy through an annual budget. However, since the budget also reflects the policy direction and priorities of the government, it can play an important role in stimulating the economy. In that case, budgetary process needs to go beyond the mere exercise of setting targets for expenditure and resource mobilisation. In view of the ongoing Covid-19-induced crisis, the need for the upcoming budget to take that role has become all the more important than ever before. So, this budget for FY2021 should prioritise allocation for the affected sectors and provide directions for economic recovery in the coming days.

What lies ahead

Before the outbreak of C19 in Bangladesh, the key economic indicators were already under stress. Coronavirus hit the country early March 2020 in the midst of economic slowdown which were being manifested in many ways. Except for remittances, other indicators such as exports, import, private investment, foreign direct investment, revenue collection, and balance of payment situation were on the downward trend. With C19 on the horizon all numbers, including remittances deteriorated. Export earnings have fallen further since March 2020, and remittance flow fell substantially in April 2020. Due to country-wide lockdown the last quarter of the fiscal year, which sometimes is termed

as the vibrant quarter, will experience lower economic performance. Projections by the international organisations on growth, trade, employment and poverty at the global level are alarming. For Bangladesh, growth has been projected to be 2 percent in FY 2020 according to the International Monetary Fund. Similar projections have been made by other organisations also.

Additionally, the economy is also faced with medium to long-term challenges such as increased unemployment and inequality which blurs much of its shine that was visible due to its high growth.

In such conditions, recovery of the economy requires boosting aggregate demand by putting money into the hands of the people. This will require higher government expenditure on

to lockdown, ADP implementation has been affected since March 2020 which may result in a much lower implementation rate than the previous years. For a growing economy and large population, underperformance of the ADP is worrisome.

While, the government's effort should be to increase public expenditure and expedite its implementation, financing of such expenditures will have to be designed judiciously. One of the challenges that a slowing economy faces is shortage of resources to underwrite its expenditures. With the slowdown in growth, tax revenue growth also slows down unless specific targeted measures are taken to increase tax revenue.

In the current circumstances, global uncertainty combined with domestic

FY2021 to face the emerging economic shock due to C19.

Balancing the choices

How will the government strike a balance between increased expenditure requirement and low resource mobilisation effort is a matter of concern. C19 crisis has brought the welfare issue at the forefront. Government expenditures will have to be continued and increased for employment generation. But the poor and the vulnerable, the daily wage earners, low income earners and people in the informal sector will need government support for some time.

The government of Bangladesh is committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The country is also on a journey towards graduating from least developed country (LDC) to developing country category by 2024. For all these ambitions to be fulfilled, social sector development is important. A large section of the population depends on public provisioning for some basic services such as healthcare, education and nutrition. Therefore, adequate public spending on social sectors and efficiency in the delivery systems are critical. The need for more allocation for some of the ever-neglected sectors has come to the fore during C19 crisis. Healthcare, social protection, agriculture and education are the ones which demand more attention in terms of higher allocation and better management. This might also warrant an optimisation of the defence and public administration budget.

The path less travelled

The existing and the C19-induced challenges cannot be resolved overnight. But the Ministry of Finance can formulate a fiscal policy to address these challenges which is close to reality. Instead of following the beaten track of the previous years, budget for FY2021 and beyond should focus on three areas.

First, the revenue mobilisation target should be realistic. There is no need to imagine without a basis. Revenue estimates should indicate clearly how much revenue NBR can mobilise given its existing capacity, and how much will have to be generated from other sources, such as from bank borrowing, savings certificate, and foreign assistance. Second, revenue targets will have to be fulfilled through strong monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. Third, the ministry should also not shy away from undertaking reform measures if it is genuinely interested to maintain a strong fiscal framework and lift the economy out of the ditch.

Dr Fahmida Khatun is the Executive Director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.



productive activities so that people have employment and income. As the economy has been growing steadily during the past decade or so, demand for higher public expenditure has also risen. In the recent past, much of such expenditures have been allocated for infrastructural development which also created job opportunities. For FY 2021, the government has planned a fiscal budget of about Tk 560,000 crore. This is 7.0 percent higher than the original budget of FY2020 and 11.3 percent higher than the revised budget of FY2020.

Given the higher demand for more public expenditure in view of the ongoing C19 situation this increase is welcome. However, one would like to see its implementation which is not quite optimal in Bangladesh. During the July-February of FY2020, the implementation of Annual Development Programme (ADP) has been only 38.5 percent. Due

depression will reduce revenue mobilisation not only in FY2020 but also in the year ahead. Businesses and individuals with reduced income will not be able to contribute to the government's exchequer as much as they could before C19. This will lead to lower corporate and personal income tax collection. Reduced trade will result in lower customs duties, value added tax and supplementary duties. In FY2020, revenue shortfall of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) could be over Tk 100,000 crore. Meanwhile, the government's stimulus and relief package to support C19 affected people have put some pressure on its exchequer. Hence, fiscal deficit may be higher than the projected 5 percent in FY2020. Depending on the duration of C19 and its associated impacts, further government support may be required in the coming fiscal year. The government will also have to resort to higher fiscal deficit during

Global locust population surge: Should we be worried?



TASNEEM TAYEB

A CLOSER LOOK
WHILE the world grapples to contain the spread of the coronavirus, a different breed of pesky pestilence is threatening the food security of many regions, including some parts of Asia—locusts! These little insects with their voracious appetites have already ravaged crops in the African Horn, Middle East and some parts of Asia. Following the routes of the ancient invaders, the desert locusts—scientifically known as *Schistocerca gregaria*—have now travelled all the way from Iran and Pakistan, through Afghanistan, and entered the northern states of India, and are now on the way to the very heart of the country—its capital: Delhi.

But this happens every year. This is not an unusual or exceptional phenomenon—locusts typically begin their onslaught in the western parts of India around June and carry on with their campaign of pillage and ransack till November. Except this year, these insatiable crop-thirsty bugs had been spotted as early as April. The result: the worst locust infestation India has experienced in almost three decades. According to a report by the German international broadcaster Deutsche Welle, this year the locusts have already destroyed over 50,000 hectares of cropland.

The situation in Pakistan is perhaps worse, which as per Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates, will "incur losses of about 2bn pounds in winter crops, such as wheat, and a further 2.3bn pounds in the summer crops being planted now." The country, already struggling to contain the rapid spread of Covid-19, had to take support from its all-weather ally, Turkey. According to reports, Turkey has provided purpose-built Piper Brave spray aircraft along with four crew members to the Pakistan Air Force to fight the resilient insects.

This rapid and sudden upsurge of

the locust population that is unleashing destruction globally can be attributed to aberrant and erratic climatic behaviour triggered by global warming. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations suggests that "Heavy rains and cyclones have triggered a recent surge in desert locust populations, causing an outbreak to develop in Sudan and Eritrea that is rapidly spreading along both sides of the Red Sea to Saudi Arabia and Egypt".

potentially harmful, they were not the menacing desert locusts.

"The hot-tropical climate of Bangladesh is not a suitable habitat for the desert locusts. The wet and green environment of Bangladesh will not be favourable for these insects, which is why the country has never had to face a desert locust attack in its history. Moreover, if we look at the direction of the wind which facilitates the flight path of desert locusts—locusts cannot fly against the



PHOTO: AFP

Agriculture officials spray pesticides to kill desert locusts, the most destructive of the locust species, in a field in Pishin district of Pakistan on May 14, 2020.

And while it is apparent that climatic malfunctions are resulting in disasters in many parts of the world, the most pressing question for Bangladesh is, how much of a risk these theologically ominous insects are to us? Especially in the context of the recent attack of a similar locust-like pest in Cox's Bazar's Teknaf upazila, where the insects consumed leaves of several trees in the compound of a house. This incident rang alarm-bells among the locals, who thought these were the dreaded desert locusts. Later it was confirmed that while the spotted grasshoppers were

wind—it is highly unlikely that they will manage to come all the way to Bangladesh from western India or even Madhya Pradesh," said Shykh Seraj, an award-winning development journalist, also an agricultural sector expert, while discussing the subject with this writer.

So, there we go scot-free, right? "Nothing can be said for certain, especially with all the spillover effects of climate change that we are battling every day. While desert locusts are historically not a threat for Bangladesh, we have to monitor the situation," added Shykh Seraj, a view shared by Kabirul

Bashar, a professor of entomology at Jahangirnagar University.

Professor Bashar suggested that we actively track the movements of the desert locusts in India. Based on this, along with assessing the geographic and topographic barriers that might affect the movement of these hungry pests, we should be able to map their potential migration path. "We cannot afford to be complacent simply because Bangladesh does not have the right climate for the habitation of desert locusts. The concerned authorities can consider forming a committee of experts who will monitor and map the movements of the desert locusts and suggest ways of preparing ourselves, just in case the locusts manage to pay us a visit after all. Mapping the movement of locusts will also help us estimate how much they might take to reach Bangladesh and prepare a prediction model, if they can manage to turn towards this direction. And we have to be ready with a concrete plan, the right insecticide and the appropriate tools needed to apply them, in a worst case scenario."

So, amidst all the negative news we come across every day—this writer for one, keeps churning out pieces that are all about the doom and gloom, this is one good news after all: if we look at historical patterns and environmental factors, we might just be spared an invasion by desert locusts. Unlike human foreign invaders, these ravenous insects are not going to travel further South or East from Madhya Pradesh.

But as both Shykh Seraj and professor Bashar suggested, secure in the knowledge that Bangladesh does not provide the right thriving space for desert locusts, we cannot afford to become complacent. That would be our mistake. In the kind of unpredictable world we live in—and a lot of it indeed has to do with climate change—you cannot take anything for granted. After all, even a few months ago, how many of us knew that in an age in which we consider mining the moon and plan settlements in space, humans would fight tooth and nail to contain a tiny flu-like virus!

Tasneem Tayeb is a columnist for The Daily Star. Her Twitter handle is: @TayebTasneem

Trust between apparel manufacturers and brands is another victim of Covid-19



RMG NOTES
MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

THE building of trust, meaningful relationships between manufacturers and customers in the global apparel industry has played a vital role in the continuing success of the sector. The actions taken by some brands and retailers in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic has, however, shattered the trust.

Clothing retailers and brands around the world face dwindling consumer numbers, store closures and mounting stock inventory. The unprecedented conditions following the outbreak of the pandemic have revealed a significant divide between those companies that are prepared to work closely with their supply partners to mitigate the effects of the downturn in trade for all parties and those whose immediate reaction is to cancel orders, seemingly regardless of the impact that this course of action will have upon their supply chain partners.

The cancellation, the scaling back of, or delay to current production orders with suppliers has been further compounded by many companies withholding payment for goods that have been shipped or insisting upon longer payment terms with their manufacturers than were originally agreed when orders were placed. These actions have placed many garment manufacturers worldwide in a precarious financial situation.

The importance of trust in establishing meaningful relationships between those of us involved in the

apparel manufacturing industry and our customers is paramount as I view it as the single most important factor in building any successful business or relationship. A customer that trusts their supplier should listen to that company's issues and, likewise, a business that trusts their customers will strive to do their very best, even in the toughest of trading conditions. It is this apparent abuse of the element of trust by certain brands and retailers since the Covid-19 pandemic reared its ugly head that galls me the most.

business, where speed to market is a major contributing factor to the success of an apparel line in-store, many manufacturers have foregone the traditional payment methods that take time and hinder the speed of the production process. Gone is the heavy reliance on payment in advance or letters of credit (basically a guarantee from a bank that a particular seller will receive a payment due from a particular buyer) between manufacturers and their customers; instead orders are often processed by

One of the most precious things in the world of business is trust. It can take years to earn and only a matter of seconds to lose.

The manufacturer will undertake to procure the necessary fabrics and sundries for the production of the required goods and will complete the production to the required standards demanded by the buyer, all at his own expense. The manufacturer will then ship the ordered product and await payment from their customer, bearing the expense of overheads, workers' salaries, business rates and amenity charges in the knowledge that payment will be forthcoming.

This was a simple system, commonplace in the apparel industry and one founded on the strength of the relationship and the trust emanating from, quite often, many years of working together.

The Covid-19 pandemic has, unfortunately, laid bare the fragility of these relationships. We have shared success together but, in this time of crisis, it appears that manufacturers are being left to fend for themselves.

Once the cloud of the COVID-19 pandemic has been lifted, we will have to see what long-term damage has been inflicted to these customer/supplier relationships but one thing is for sure, the wounds will take time to heal and manufacturers will be wary in the

business that they develop in the future with their clients.

One of the most precious things in the world of business is trust. It can take years to earn and only a matter of seconds to lose. The ever-evolving events of the last few weeks have damaged the trust that existed between apparel brands and retailers and their manufacturers. Together the apparel community can overcome these difficult times but it will require understanding, the rebuilding of relationships and support from all sides for many months to come.

To restore some semblance of a trusted working relationship, customers that value their relationship with their manufacturing partners need to acknowledge the predicament facing garment factories in the supply chain. By entering into discourse and planning the months ahead from a production and compensation viewpoint, customers will be able to preserve their relationships with their supply chain partners, allowing them to survive financially during this crisis and earning their respect as a worthy business partner.

Apparel manufacturers around the globe are fully aware of the devastating effects that Covid-19 has had across all areas of life. They also should be cooperative to support their customers during these difficult times. Even if quantities are reduced in the future orders, it is the responsibility of all apparel manufacturers to support and work with their customers to ensure that business can move forward when this crisis is finally averted.

Mostafiz Uddin is the Managing Director of Denim Expert Limited. He is also the Founder and CEO of Bangladesh Denim Expo and Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE). Email: mostafiz@denimexpert.com



Workers standing outside a factory gate in Savar.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Over recent years, the apparel manufacturing industry has forged relationships with the leading clothing brands and retailers around the globe. Due to the very nature of the

many manufacturers (sometimes even without an official purchase order) at the bequest of a customer, because that customer has earned the trust of their supplier over the years.

Road to herd immunity: The hard truth



SABBIR AHMAD

AS the number of infections and deaths from Covid-19 increase, economies around the world have started to feel the heat. The situation in Bangladesh is no different, but it was terrifying to see hundreds of thousands of people flocking to the roads to go to their villages just to celebrate Eid very recently.

The absence of public transportation as a part of the nationwide shutdown did not prevent people from following their deep desires to re-unite with their families. Despite the growing concerns of increased transmission and consequently higher risk of death from the virus, the authorities have declared that private vehicles can be used for transporting people home to rejoice in the holiday. Interestingly enough, most of the people wanting to rush home did not own a vehicle but became passengers of those who were willing to take them to their destination for an exorbitant amount, mostly defying the social distancing norms.

It is well understood that an economy like Bangladesh can't afford to sustain a long-term shutdown. The mounting pressure has already triggered relaxation in some economic sectors such as RMG in late April, shopping districts, etc. However, during the time of rapidly increasing infections and fatality, the decision of relaxing the movements for non-economic activities or wholesale re-opening of businesses may not be well construed. Without denying the fact that the Eid celebration is deeply rooted into the socio-religious culture in this region, postponing the festivity or taking a more cautious approach in re-opening the economy wouldn't have inflicted

more harm. Unfortunately, it is beyond doubt that the majority of the nation's population are neither fully aware of the consequences nor ready to follow any advisory. Therefore, a strict enforcement would have been warranted to keep everyone safe. For example, Saudi Arabia had imposed a curfew of five days during the Eid holidays to avoid transmission of the virus from mass gatherings.

The perceived relaxed attitudes towards the shutdown may pose a question of whether or not we have decided to pursue the route of so-called herd immunity. Before discussing this strategy in the present context, let's review what this really means. First, we examine how immunity works for us. Someone can become resistant after exposure to an agent that causes an illness such as Covid-19. The process of developing immunity includes producing antibodies specific to the virus for potential defence. A person is considered immune after a considerable amount of exposure to produce the antibodies irrespective of developing symptoms of the disease or without any evident symptoms.

Herd immunity can broadly be characterized as a condition in which large part of a population become immune to an infectious agent, subsequently safeguarding others who lack immunity. For example, if 90 percent of a population is immune to a virus, nine out of every 10 people who encounter someone with the disease will not get affected and, as a result, will not have the ability to transmit the disease any further. According to experts, typically 50 percent to 90 percent of a population must be immune to achieve herd immunity based on how contagious the infection is. However, if the number of immune people drops lower than the threshold for a specific type of agent, the remaining people will have a higher chance of contracting the disease. Thus, the concept of herd

immunity is based on establishing an extremely large group with immunity against an infectious agent by means of vaccinating or allowing people to get infected and recover. The immunity is then carried through a memory effect that produces antibodies when encountering that agent again.

Some nations have been considering strategies intended to develop natural immunity to the coronavirus without a vaccine. For instance, Sweden, unlike its neighbours, decided to go for a broad immunity without implementing a shutdown. They let restaurants, bars, salons, gyms and schools remain open while promoting social distancing. Many have suggested, poorer economies like India or Bangladesh could also adopt this as a strategy to encounter the present outbreak. But they might have missed the math revealing a heavy toll with too many lives at risk. In fact, Sweden has already observed far more deaths from Covid-19 than its neighbours. Initially, their death rate was similar to the other European nations that shutdown their economies. But now, Sweden's mortality rate is the highest in Europe with a daily death rate of 8.71 compared to 4.59 of the USA per million people.

Experts predict at least 60 percent of the population will need to be immune in order to achieve herd immunity from Covid-19. To understand the statistic behind it, let's consider that one individual on average currently infects 2.5 others as observed by the experts. But, the containment of the pandemic requires limiting the effective transmission rate to 1, which indicates that enough people must develop immunity so that less than 1/2.5, i.e., 40 percent could remain susceptible to the infection. That means, herd immunity comes into effect when rest of the population (60 percent) become immune. In the absence of a vaccine, the outbreak would continue until we hit that magic number. The disastrous

downside if a country like Bangladesh sees over a hundred million people infected, is to wait for at least 96 million of them to recover and become immune to the virus. It is almost impossible to predict what that will mean in terms of human costs, but we are looking at 100,000's of fatalities, considering the nation's present rate of 1.4 percent fatality from the virus. Even if we are willing to consider

be lowered by reducing the number of people possibly infected by one individual. For example, if we could lower the effective transmission rate to 1.5 per person, herd immunity would come into effect when about a third of the population has had the infection and has become immune.

Although herd immunity would be the ultimate goal in the quest for recovery, it would be an unrealistic



the natural route for herd immunity, accepting its extremely high human toll, we must be mindful of our capabilities in handling the huge implications of our country's poor functioning medical system with 10-15 percent of all infections requiring hospitalisations. The hard truth is herd immunity through the infection route isn't the answer to our current despair. However, the required threshold could

expectation to stop the epidemic before we have access to a vaccine. On the other hand, the transmission of virus can be limited by avoiding contact with other infected individuals. Driving down the number of contacts will in effect reduce the possibility for an infected individual to transmit a virus and hence herd immunity can start earlier.

Sabbir Ahmad is a PhD researcher, mentor and a leader in project delivery and engineering.

QUOTABLE Quote

HELEN KELLER
 (1880-1968)
 American author and educator who was blind and deaf

The world is moved along, not only by the mighty shoves of its heroes, but also by the aggregate of tiny pushes of each honest worker.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Used the pool
- 5 Musical symbol
- 10 Take cover
- 11 Tough puzzles
- 13 Genesis name
- 14 Went ballistic
- 15 Toppled, as a ruler
- 17 Future embryos
- 18 Contest mailings
- 19 Playground game
- 20 Roadhouse
- 21 Partner
- 22 Eat from the pasture
- 25 Warsaw natives
- 26 Thinker
- Descartes

DOWN

- 1 Window cover
- 2 Make broader
- 3 Modify
- 4 Learn by heart
- 5 Ill humor
- 6 Parka parts
- 7 Wagon puller
- 8 Check the addition
- 9 Platoon member
- 12 Play places
- 16 Trig function
- 21 Furnish with machine power
- 22 Bellyached
- 23 Ebbs
- 24 Whenever
- 25 Mexican coin
- 27 Loses a staring contest
- 29 Love to pieces
- 30 Boca -
- 31 Add a change
- 32 Identifies
- 36 Combo instrument

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

M	A	N	B	U	N	H	I	L	O
A	T	E	A	S	E	A	N	O	N
T	O	S	S	E	D	S	I	Z	E
E	N	T	E	R	F	A	T	E	D
R	E	S	T	R	A	T	I	N	G
K	N	O	X	V	I	L	L	E	
M	A	E	P	E	R	U			
I	M	G	O	O	D	C	A	S	S
S	P	A	N	S	P	E	S	T	O
H	A	T	S	B	A	R	C	A	R
A	L	E	E	I	G	N	O	R	E
P	A	S	T	T	E	E	T	E	R

BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER

I HAVE THE PERFECT UNIFORM FOR YOUR COMBAT EXERCISES

RIPS, MUD STAINS, BLOOD SPOTS...

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING!

BABY BLUES BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

zzzzzz

NICE 'SLEEVES' MOM.

WHO PUT PERMANENT MARKERS IN THE CRAYON BASKET??

HISTORIC SPACEX FLIGHT

Two astronauts of Nasa dock with ISS

AFP, Kennedy Space Center

A SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule carrying two NASA astronauts docked with the International Space Station. "Soft capture," the moment when the spacecraft makes first contact and latching with the target vehicle, occurred at 14:22 GMT. Two veteran Nasa astronauts were headed for the International Space Station (ISS) on Saturday after Elon Musk's SpaceX became the first commercial company to launch a rocket carrying humans into orbit, ushering in a new era in space travel. SpaceX's two-stage Falcon 9 rocket with astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley aboard blasted off flawlessly in a cloud of bright orange flames and smoke from Florida's Kennedy Space Center for a 19-hour voyage to the space station. "Let's light this candle," Hurley, the mission commander, told SpaceX

mission control in Hawthorne, California, before liftoff at 3:22 pm (1922 GMT) from Nasa's storied Launch Pad 39A. The SpaceX launch is the first of American astronauts from US soil since the space shuttle program ended in 2011 and the first crewed flight ever by a private company. "I'm really quite overcome with emotion," Musk said. "It's been 18 years working towards this goal. "This is hopefully the first step on a journey towards civilization on Mars," the SpaceX founder said. Russia's space agency congratulated the SpaceX company over its successful launch of the manned rocket. Nasa administrator Jim Bridenstine said it was a "great day" for Nasa and SpaceX and an "important milestone for the nation." "We're not celebrating yet," Bridenstine cautioned. "We will celebrate when they're home safely."

In a brief interview from space, Hurley said that in keeping with the tradition of having astronauts name their spacecraft, he and Behnken had named the Crew Dragon capsule "Endeavour" after the retired space shuttle on which they both flew. Behnken said the SpaceX capsule is a "lot different than its namesake" in that "it has touch display screens." The mission, dubbed "Demo-2," ends a government monopoly on space flight and is the final test flight before Nasa certifies SpaceX's capsule for regular crewed missions. Behnken, 49, and Hurley, 53, former military test pilots who joined Nasa in 2000, were scheduled to dock with the space station at 10:29 am yesterday. They will join US astronaut Chris Cassidy and Russian cosmonauts Anatoly Ivanishin and Ivan Vagner aboard the ISS.

Govt mulls incentive

FROM PAGE 12 According to Bangladesh Teachers Association President Nazrul Islam Rony, more than two lakh non-MPO teachers of secondary school and colleges are facing hardship as their educational institutions are closed due to coronavirus outbreak. "In the absence of salaries, the teachers are living an inhuman life," Rony said, adding if the educational institutions remain closed for long, the situation of teachers will be catastrophic. Authorities of non-government educational institutions argue that they could not pay the salaries of their employees as the tuition fees from students, their only source of earnings, could not be collected. According to Rony, only a few renowned schools in the capital could pay the salaries of their employees from the school savings, without being dependent on tuition fees. Non-MPO teachers said they are usually ill-paid and provide private tuition to enhance their earnings. Now with schools closed and children mostly staying home, they lost both the means of earning. Although the pandemic-induced general holiday ends today, all

educational institutions will remain closed until June 15. However, on April 27, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said all educational institutions may stay closed until September if the coronavirus situation does not improve. THE LIST The government on May 23 started listing non-MPO teachers. They are collecting mobile phone numbers and NID numbers of all non-MPO teachers and staff through field-level education officials, supervised by the local administration officers. Education ministry officials said they sent a letter to all deputy commissioners in this regard on May 23. Many teachers believe that the government is collecting information to provide financial assistance during the ongoing coronavirus crisis. However, Mominur Rashid Amin, additional secretary of secondary and higher education division, said this list has nothing to do with incentives. The existing list is being updated. "The decision about incentives will come from the government high-ups," said Mominur, who is overseeing the

listing process. Swadhinita Shikhhak Parishad leaders in a statement on Wednesday and Bangladesh Non-Government Honour's-Master's College Teachers' Forum, in a separate statement on Thursday, alleged that field-level officials were not listing all non-MPO teachers and staff. Shikhhak Parishad General Secretary Shahjahan Alam Shaju alleged that teachers and staff, working at schools under MPO but not covered by the MPO scheme yet, were not getting listed. Meanwhile, Nekbor Hossain, convener of teachers' forum, said officials were not listing non-MPO teachers working at honours and masters colleges. Mominur said that they will sort out the issues. "Non-MPO teachers and staff working at educational institutions that have the Educational Institute Identification Number issued by the government will be listed." Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina so far announced a total of 18 stimulus packages worth around Tk 1,01,117 crore, which is around 3.5 percent of the country's GDP, to offset the shock of COVID-19 pandemic on various sectors of the country.

Mustafa Kamal

FROM PAGE 12 positive. However, she has been in self isolation and is doing better now, Pavel mentioned. Syed was serving as the chief of programme at NTV until his death. Known for his musical productions like Kichu Kotha Kichu Gaan hosted by Abdul Hadi and Gaan Guli Mor hosted by Ferdousi Rahman, on NTV, the seasoned producer started his journey with Pakistan TV's Dhaka wing in 1967. He went on to work with Bangladesh Television (BTV) and retired as a deputy director general from the channel in 2004. He is also well known for his tele-fictions, Kul Nai Kinar Nai (1983) and Niloy Na Jani (1983), among many others. Syed was the recipient of National Award for Best Music Producer of Television in 1975. He also received Tenasinas Drama Award in 1994. His namaz-e janaza was held after Maghrib prayers in presence of close friends, family members, and media personalities. Following the prayers, he was laid to rest at the Banani Graveyard.

Mustafa Kamal Syed was born on May 21, 1946. His father is Syed Zillur Rahman and mother Amatul Umida. He left behind his wife, renowned singer Zeenat Rehana; his daughter Rehnuma Kamal Ahmed, a news presenter at BTV; his son Rehan Syed who currently lives in the USA; his son-in-law, daughter-in-law, and his grandchildren. FROM PAGE 12 has cost nearly 30,000 lives. President Jair Bolsonaro, who fears the economic fallout from stay-at-home orders will be worse than the virus, has berated governors and mayors for imposing what he calls "the tyranny of total quarantine." Even as his country surpassed France to have the world's fourth-highest death toll, Bolsonaro called for Brazil's football season to resume. Fellow right-wing populist US President Donald Trump meanwhile came under fire for permanently cutting funding to the World Health Organization.

Race protests

FROM PAGE 12 called in National Guard soldiers to help control the civil unrest not seen in the United States for years. From Seattle to New York, tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets demanding tougher murder charges and more arrests over the death of Floyd, who stopped breathing after Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes. In Los Angeles, officers fired rubber bullets and swung batons during a testy standoff with demonstrators who set fire to a police car. Police and protesters clashed in numerous cities including Chicago and New York, with officers responding to projectiles with pepper spray while shop windows were smashed in Philadelphia.

Rab arrests pardoned

FROM PAGE 12 In a press conference, Debashish Karmakar, company commander of RAB-8 in Faripdur, said Aslam was arrested around 6:00am in connection with the murder of Shahid Matubbar, 36, son of Joynal Matubbar of Luxmipur village at Manikdaha union in Bhanga upazila. On April 22, Shajahan Matabbur filed a murder case against 54 people mentioning Aslam Fakir as the prime accused. Rab had been conducting several drives to arrest him since then but failed as Aslam kept on moving from one place to another, he said. He has moved at least five times since April 22. He rented a house in Chowgachha in mid-May and introduced himself as an expatriate. Aslam was planning to flee to India but we were fortunate enough to arrest him before he could execute his plan, the Rab official added. The name of Aslam surfaced again after supporters of Shajahan Matabbur and the supporter of Aslam Fakir locked into a clash at Luxmipur village on April 21 morning over establishing

supremacy. Shahid Matubbar was killed in the clash. Earlier, Aslam was sentenced to death for killing Manikdaha union parishad chairman AKM Saheb Ali Mia on September 25, 2003. While on death row, Aslam pleaded guilty to the murder and appealed to the president for mercy on May 19, 2013. On October 13, 2014, the plea was rejected and November 13, 2014, was fixed for executing his death sentence. On November 12, Aslam started behaving in a strange manner and it appeared that he was not sane. This resulted in the suspension of the execution. On the same day, the second petition was filed with the president on behalf of Aslam. Aslam's sentence was commuted on February 28, 2015, and he was sentenced to 14 years in prison. After 13 years and two days of imprisonment, Aslam was released from jail. Abdullah, sub-inspector at Bhanga Police Station and the investigation officer of Shahid murder case, said Aslam would be produced before court on today.

Please help me

FROM PAGE 12 leader was killed in the altercation the family members turned up. "There were around 250 of them. They dragged us out from our room [smuggling warehouse] before they started shooting. There were at least 11 of them who were shooting with different types of weapons," said Tariqul, still traumatised. He said the bullet wound is painful, but the tortured back is even more so. "I can't sleep on my back. They hung me by the hands with a rope and assaulted me with a plastic object, demanding money, every day. There were around fifty of us and all of them were tortured for money intermittently every day," said Tariqul. "They were demanding 12,000 dollars from each of us. They said 'Either you pay or die'. I have come from a poor family and it was impossible for my family to meet their demand," he said. "I want to go home. Please, help me sir," the young man from Magura was saying repeatedly. Tariqul's parents Phul Mia Molla and Ayesha Begum, who live in Narayanpur, under Binodpur upazila, desperately want the safe return of their only son. "I want my son back," Tariqul's mother Ayesha Begum said when contacted. Responding to the query, Ayesha said they sold two cattle for Tk 1.2 lakh and took Tk 1.50 lakh as loan from banks and borrowed the rest from neighbours to send their son abroad. Tariqul completed his primary education and later worked in farmlands to help his father, Ayesha said. "We are very poor. We have now lost everything," Ayesha said, adding that they need government support to bring their beloved son home.

Most view Libya not merely as a destination that offers better employment opportunities, but also as a transit point to even better destinations, namely Italy or other European countries. According to the UNHCR, more than two million illegal migrants from different Asian and African countries have entered Europe through the Mediterranean Sea since 2014. Their undocumented status makes them prime targets for traffickers. According to Tariqul, his family had paid Tk 3.5 lakh when he left Bangladesh and another lakh later. But the traffickers and brokers demanded much more when Tariqul was sold off to the former. He had left Bangladesh with a broker in November 2019. First, he was taken to Nepal, from where he flew to Dubai. They stayed in Dubai for three days and then went to Egypt. From there, they flew to Benghazi in Libya. They stayed in Benghazi for six months and when he, along with around 50 other people started for Tripoli, they were handed over to a gang, which took them to a trafficking warehouse in the desert town of Mizdah, which is 180 km from the Libyan capital of Tripoli. The slayings underscore the perils that migrants face in Libya, where violence and lawlessness have created a haven for smugglers to operate along the North African country's coastline. The 26 Bangladeshi migrants killed in the massacre were buried in Mizdah, with the Libyan authorities fearing that local gangsters could snatch the bodies of the victims during transit to Tripoli. The 11 Bangladeshi who were injured in the attack were admitted to a hospital in Tripoli where they are undergoing treatment.

Magnanimity is not our weakness

FROM PAGE 12 in opinion between him and Manik Miah but they always resolved those through discussions and Manik Miah showed unstinted support to the programmes of the Awami League through his newspaper. Bangabandhu says Manik Miah was killed by the same elements who had killed Suhrawardy. "They also invited me to Rawalpindi with the same motive and if I went there I would have to face the same fate," shares the prime minister. BANGABANDHU'S STERN WARNING TO EXPLOITERS

Bangabandhu today warns hoarders, smugglers and conspirators of stern action if they don't desist from their evil-mongering immediately. "We are showing magnanimity by giving them a chance to abandon illegal activities but they must keep it in mind that this is not a sign of our weakness," says the prime minister. He further says that Bangalees have fought against the hoarders of Yahya Khan and they know how to punish the evil elements. Bangladesh has achieved its independence through the blood and tears of millions of countrymen

and the government will not allow any criminal elements to foil their sacrifice. UN CHIEF'S EMERGENCY CALL FOR FOOD AID FOR BANGLADESH UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim today calls upon the developed countries to provide additional 10 lakh tonnes of food aid to Bangladesh on an emergency basis. Recently, Bangladesh government made a request to the UN chief about this food aid requirement. SOURCES: June 2, 1972 issue of Purbodesh.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ খুলনা মেট্রোপলিটন পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার খুলনা তারিখঃ ২৮-০৫-২০২০খ্রিঃ আউটসোর্সিং পদ্ধতিতে জনবল সরবরাহের দর প্রস্তাব বিজ্ঞপ্তি

হাজীগঞ্জ পৌরসভা কার্যালয় হাজীগঞ্জ, চাঁদপুর e-Tender Notice (LTM): 01/2019-2020

Justice for George

Schalke's American midfielder Weston McKennie on Saturday wore a 'Justice for George' armband as part of the growing protests over the death of an unarmed black man during a police arrest in Minneapolis in the United States. "To be able to use my platform to bring attention to a problem that has been going on too long feels good!!!," tweeted 21-year-old McKennie after the 1-0 loss to Werder Bremen. "We have to stand up for what we believe in and I believe that it is time that we are heard! #justiceforgeorgefloyd #saynotoracism." George Floyd died in Minneapolis in an arrest by a police officer who pinned him to the ground for several minutes by kneeling on his neck. --- AFP



Activity for most feds tied to Bangladesh Games

ANISUR RAHMAN

As the countrywide shutdown that lasted for more than two months to contain the spread of coronavirus came to a halt yesterday, different sectors in the country have reopened and sports are no exception.

Major sports federation that were partially or fully closed also opened their offices partly as per their previous announcement to follow the government guidelines on reopening. On restarting actual sporting activities -- which have been suspended for nearly two and a half months -- the federations have stuck to their stance of observing the situation first and then taking a decision.

Before the coronavirus outbreak in the country, 31 federations and its athletes were engaged in preparing for the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Games, which was slated for April 1-10 before the Bangladesh Olympic Association (BOA) postponed the ninth edition on March 11, just six days after unveiling the logo and mascot of the Games.

Most of those federations have virtually no engagements until the return of the Bangladesh Games, which is also considered the national championships for different disciplines. Although sports like cricket, football, hockey and a few others may return to the field of play in a small scale -- subject to the improvement of the coronavirus situation -- most sports federations will see little activity other than running national camps until the Bangladesh Games are staged.

"Since the suspension of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Games in early March, we did not get an opportunity to sit together to discuss the matter, especially after the countrywide shutdown was enforced. Now, we will get the opportunity to rethink about the Games as the country is opening gradually and we also want to hold the Games when the situation surrounding the coronavirus pandemic improves," BOA Secretary General Syed Shahed Reza told The Daily Star.

"We have to do something because we



can't sit idle, but we have to observe the situation and stay safety. Although it is too early to make any comment on the Games, I hope we can arrange the Games in October-November if everything goes well. I hope the situation improves by then," said the former diplomat. "The Games have remained as it is with 31 disciplines and I am hopeful

that it can take place with 31 disciplines when the situation improves. However, the process may be different."

"Personally, I am thinking of whether it is possible to hold the Games in segments with seven to eight disciplines at a time. For instance, we can hold the Indoor sports in one or two days before holding another group of sports at another time. But I have to discuss it at the executive meeting of the Bangladesh Olympic Association as well as with sports organisers," said Reza.

BOA has already spent approximately Tk 7 crore to arrange Bangabandhu Bangladesh Games, although the government had not released any funds against BOA's estimated budget of Tk 30 crore.

If the government can't provide money in time for the start of the Games, I do not think it will stop the Games from taking place because we also held the Bangladesh Youth Games with our own funds. If the situation returns to normal, money can't be a barrier. I have confidence that I can manage the fund," vowed Reza.



Winning Dhoni's trust key to getting captaincy: Kohli

REUTERS, New Delhi

India captain Virat Kohli believes he landed the job largely because his predecessor Mahendra Singh Dhoni was impressed with his reading of situations in matches.

Kohli, 31, replaced Dhoni as test captain in 2014-15 and took over the limited-overs reins in early 2017, becoming India's all-format leader as well the team's batting mainstay.

Fielding in the slips, Kohli had easy access to wicketkeeper Dhoni and he felt their chats in between deliveries earned him the trust of the former skipper.

"You start talking to the captain regularly," Kohli told teammate Ravichandran Ashwin in a chat on YouTube.

"I was always in MS's ear, standing next to him and saying 'We can do this, we can do that, what do you think?'"

"He would deny a lot of things but he would discuss a lot of things as well. I think he got a lot of confidence that I can do this after him."

"A large portion of me becoming captain was to do with him observing me for a long period of time. It just can't happen that he goes and the selectors say, 'Okay you become captain.'"

Leading the national team of a cricket-mad country is one of the toughest jobs in the game but Kohli is enjoying the responsibility.

"I looked at it this way -- if I'm getting this opportunity, I need to work as hard as I can, because not many people get this chance," said Kohli, who led India to Under-19 World Cup title in 2008.

Kohli led India to the top of the world test rankings in October 2016 where they remained until Australia replaced them this month. India lost in the semi-finals of last year's one-day World Cup in England.

"I was always inclined to taking responsibility (but becoming captain of India was not even in my wildest dreams to be honest," Kohli said.

'Playing under new rules really weird'

PTI

Sri Lankan batting great Kumar Sangakkara says it will look "really weird" and "off-putting" to play cricket under the strict guidelines laid down by the ICC but he understands that there is no better option. The International Cricket Council (ICC) recently come out with comprehensive guidelines to get the sport up and running around the world while at the same time maintaining the highest safety protocols.



"I understand the guidelines are going to restrict players, playing of the game, it's going to look really weird, and off-putting even for me when I think about it," Sangakkara said on Star Sports' show 'Cricket Connected'. "But the priority is health and safety. Health is absolutely paramount at this time, especially for players to have the confidence to get back to cricket, to get back to playing, to have grounds may be at some point open to spectators."



Robert Lewandowski (L) scored twice while Alphonso Davies hit the target once as Bayern Munich thrashed Fortuna Duesseldorf 5-0 in Munich on Saturday to open up a 10-point lead at the top of the Bundesliga.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Davies, Lewa star as Flick betters Pep's record

AFP, Berlin

'Road Runner' Alphonso Davies lived up to his nickname with another lightning sprint Saturday while

Hansi Flick bettered Pep Guardiola's record start as head coach of Bayern Munich, who opened a 10-point lead in the Bundesliga.

Having defeated second-placed Borussia Dortmund 1-0 away win in midweek, Bayern enjoyed a 5-0 romp over Fortuna Dusseldorf.

The visitors' defender Mathias Joergensen scored an early own-goal before Benjamin Pavard, Robert Lewandowski (2) and Davies hit the target for Bayern.

With five games left, the defending champions, who have won their last eight league games,

are comfortably on course for an eighth straight league title.

Davies scored the best goal of the game when the fleet-footed defender pressed Duesseldorf into making a mistake, barged past several defenders and fired home.

"It was very special, I did my job as a defender," said Davies.

The 19-year-old, who was born in a Ghanaian refugee camp before his parents emigrated to Canada, was nicknamed Bayern's 'Road Runner' by teammate Thomas Mueller after the win in Dortmund.

Mueller joked that Davies is Bayern's version of the fast-running Looney Tunes character after the left-back sprinted to dispossess Dortmund striker Erling Braut Haaland, himself no slouch.

"When the opponent thinks 'Oh, I have time,' meep, meep, meep' the Roadrunner comes and steals the

ball," quipped Mueller after Davies clocked 35.3km/h to catch Haaland.

Davies said he likes his new nickname after running even faster against Duesseldorf.

"Yeah, I know the cartoon, I watched it when I was growing up," said the Canadian teenager, who clocked 35.4 km/h in a sprint at the Allianz Arena. He was just short of the Bundesliga record of 36.49 km/h, which Borussia Dortmund's Achraf Hakimi set earlier this season.

"Yeah, I am quick, but him (Mueller) calling me the 'Road Runner' is a compliment which I take to heart and it was a good nickname," added Davies.

He has made the left-back berth at Bayern his own with a series of outstanding displays this season and recently signed a contract extension until 2025.

Icardi signs 4yr PSG deal

AFP, Milan

Paris Saint-Germain have signed Argentina international Mauro Icardi from Inter Milan on a four-year deal after taking up the option to buy the on-loan forward, the two clubs announced on Sunday.

Icardi joined PSG this season and impressed with 20 goals in 31 games, before the Ligue 1 campaign was stopped and his club crowned champions because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"Paris Saint-Germain are delighted to announce the signing of Mauro Icardi on a permanent deal, following the striker's loan from Inter Milan during the 2019-2020 season," the French club said.

Icardi, who has eight caps for Argentina, but also holds an Italian passport, has signed a four-year deal until June 30, 2024.



Real Madrid's Sergio Ramos and Marcelo were seen battling for the ball during training in groups at the club's training ground on Saturday. Clubs in Spain's top two divisions can hold full training sessions from today for the first time since returning to activity.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



While other leagues in Europe have resumed behind closed doors, fans returned to Hungarian football stadia as supporters watched the national championship's match between DVTK and Mezőkövesd in the DVTK Stadium in Miskolc, Hungary on Saturday after the Hungarian Football Association decided to allow clubs let fans in for the first time since March.

PHOTO: AFP

Bolsonaro wants football back in Brazil

AFP, Rio de Janeiro

The right-wing populist president of Brazil wants the football season to resume even though the five-time World Cup winning country is a hotspot of the coronavirus pandemic.

Brazil is for many synonymous with football and many of the all-time greats, from Pele to Neymar, hail from the nation.

But Brazil is also the epicentre of Latin America's coronavirus outbreak.

The death toll from coronavirus in Brazil has hit 27,878, official figures showed on Friday, surpassing the toll of hard-hit Spain and making it the country with the fifth-highest number of fatalities.

Football has been suspended in Brazil since mid-March but President Jair Bolsonaro recently told Radio Guaiaba that footballers would likely not fall very ill with COVID-19.

"As footballers are young athletes the risk of death if they catch coronavirus would be dramatically reduced," Bolsonaro said.

Back in March Bolsonaro also claimed

that thanks to his own sporting past he would only suffer a slight cold if he caught the virus.

The president says his chief motivation for wanting football to curb unemployment and the misery that accompanies it.

"The players have to survive somehow," he said, explaining that while some top footballers earn a fortune, those from smaller regional leagues need to play "to feed their families."

The way Brazilian politics works, it is not in Bolsonaro's remit to restart football. This must be done by the regional states and municipalities.

When football was suspended, seasons at the regional level were underway, but the national championship had been due to start in May.

Bolsonaro and his son held meetings on May 19 with the presidents of two Rio superclubs, Vasco da Gama and Flamengo.

Photos of Bolsonaro and his son wearing the shirts of the two clubs stunned social media, with official supporter groups claiming their image had been sold out to politics.

SL cricketers begin training today

REUTERS, Colombo

A select group of Sri Lanka cricketers, mainly bowlers, will return to training today, amid efforts to restart the game after the coronavirus shutdown, the cricket board said on Sunday.

Professional cricket has been suspended since March because of the pandemic, with Sri Lanka's home series against England and South Africa among its casualties.

Thirteen players will check into a hotel for a 12-day residential camp at the Colombo Cricket Club, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) said in a statement.

A coaching and support staff of four will oversee the training.

NON-MPO TEACHERS

Govt mulls incentive

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The education ministry is planning to provide financial assistance to over two lakh non-government school and college teachers and staff, who are outside the government's monthly pay order (MPO) scheme.

Many non-MPO teachers and staff have not received any salary since the government closed down all educational institutions on March 17 to stem the coronavirus contagion.

Considering their hardship, the ministry has already sent a proposal to the Prime Minister's Office seeking allocation for providing a one-time grant to the non-MPO teachers and staff within the month of June.

Deputy Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury told The Daily Star on Friday that they were actively considering the incentive.

INCENTIVE PROPOSAL

Top officials of the ministry said they have prepared two alternative proposals. Under the first one, each non-MPO teacher would get a one-time grant of Tk 8,000 and each staff Tk 4,000, while Tk 5,000 and Tk 2,500 respectively under the second.

"For the Tk 8,000 for a teacher and Tk 4,000 for a staff, the education ministry will need a total of Tk 126 crore. For the other proposal, we will need Tk 79 crore," said a top official.

Across the country, there are 1,51,325 teachers and 85,217 staff at non-government schools and colleges, outside the MPO scheme, as per ministry estimates.

Those listed under MPO get 100 percent basic salary from the exchequer.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Workers of garment factories use a narrow alley to get to work at Nishchintapur of Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital yesterday. As the country reopens after a long shutdown, social distancing seems to have gone out the window.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Mustafa Kamal Syed dies from Covid-19

ASHLEY SHOFTORSHI SAMADDAR

Renowned television personality Mustafa Kamal Syed passed away yesterday afternoon at Square Hospitals in Dhaka.

He was 74.

He was admitted to the hospital on May 11 after showing symptoms of Covid-19, and was undergoing plasma therapy at the hospital after he tested positive for the virus on May 13, said Pavel Islam, senior executive (Programme and Communications), Programme Department, NTV.

Mustafa Kamal Syed's wife has also tested positive for the virus. SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Don mask or pay the price, land in jail

DGHS says people can be fined Tk 1 lakh, sentenced to 6 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mask use is now compulsory outdoors and in public gatherings, according to a circular issued by the Directorate General of Health Services on Saturday.

There is a fine of up to Tk 1 lakh or six-month jail term or both for anyone caught outdoors without one.

The offenders will be sued under sections 24 and 25 of the Communicable Diseases (Prevention, Control and Eradication) Act 2018, said the circular signed by Additional Director General Prof Nasima Sultana.

The administration and other authorities concerned will "carefully" enforce the orders to combat the spread of coronavirus, it added.

The ban remains on movement of people from 8:00pm to 6:00am unless there is an emergency, it said.

Essential shopping, commuting to and from work, buying drugs, health needs and burials are exempt from the restrictions.

FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Magnanimity is not our weakness



Bangabandhu speaking at a commemorative programme on the death anniversary of Manik Miah on June 1, 1972.

June 1, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU'S TRIBUTE TO MANIK MIAH

Speaking at a programme organised by the Awami League to commemorate death anniversary of Manik Miah, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman says that he was a great patriot, thinker and political leader who fought his whole life for the emancipation of Bangladesh. He calls upon the Bangalee nation to build a hunger-free Shonar Bangla as dreamed by Manik Miah.

The prime minister further says that Manik Miah was the heart of Awami League. He adds that sometimes there were differences

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Brazil passes France in virus deaths

Leaders disagree on pandemic response

AFP, Brasilia

The number of coronavirus cases worldwide topped six million yesterday as Brazil registered another record surge in daily infections and divisions deepened on how to deal with the pandemic.

Latin American countries are bracing for difficult weeks ahead as the virus spreads rapidly across the region.

This contrasts to other parts of the world where the pace has eased and permitted a cautious exit from lockdowns that have wrecked economies and stripped millions of their jobs.

In Brazil -- the epicentre of South America's outbreak with nearly 500,000 confirmed cases -- disagreement among its leaders over lockdown measures has hampered efforts to slow a virus that

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

'Please help me, I want to go home'

Mizdah shooting survivor pleads from Tripoli

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Tariqul Islam is one of the migrants who have miraculously survived a mass shooting by family members of a human trafficker in the Libyan desert town of Mizdah on Wednesday that claimed 30 lives, including 26 Bangladeshis.

"When the shooting started, I saw people standing around me falling on the ground one after another. Amid a lot of shouting and shooting, I felt something strike me on my arm and I collapsed in a pool of blood with extreme pain. At one stage I lost my consciousness and when I woke up, I found myself in a hospital bed," Tariqul told the Daily Star over phone yesterday.

"I can't believe that I'm still alive," he said before starting to cry profusely.

The 22-year-old from Magura, who ended up as a victim of ransom-seeking traffickers after going with a broker to Libya to seek his fortune, was laying on a bed at the Tripoli Medical Centre when he was narrating the Mizdah massacre.

He said it was after Asr prayers on Wednesday when the trafficker's family turned on the hostages after the gang leader was allegedly killed in an altercation with the migrants.

"There was an altercation between the traffickers and hostages when they demanded more money. After the gang



Rab arrests pardoned Aslam Fakir for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Former Jubo League leader Aslam Fakir, who escaped hanging on presidential clemency in 2015, has been arrested again in connection with another murder case.

A team of Rab-8 yesterday arrested Aslam, 50, son of late Sukur Fakir of Luxmipur village in Faridpur's Bhanga upazila, from a rented house in Chowgachha upazila of Jashore.

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 1

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-45 8-15
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-50 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A firecracker thrown by protesters explodes under police a block from the White House during a protest over the death of George Floyd.

PHOTO: AFP

Race protests escalate

25 US cities under curfew as Trump blames extreme left for violence

AGENCIES

Curfews were imposed on 25 cities across 16 states as clashes over police brutality erupted across America with demonstrators ignoring warnings from President Donald Trump that his government would stop the violent protests "cold."

Minneapolis, the epicentre of the unrest, was gripped by a fifth consecutive

night of violence on Saturday with police in riot gear firing tear gas and stun grenades at protesters venting fury at the death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man, during an arrest in the city on Monday.

Los Angeles, Chicago and Atlanta were among two dozen cities ordering people to stay indoors overnight as more states

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

WE DEEPLY MOURN



We all pray to Allah (SWT) to grant his departed soul the highest place in Jannah and give his family members courage and fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

Engr. Khan Md. Aftabuddin
Chairman, Spectra Group

I am deeply shocked by the demise of my Illustrious Father-in-Law **Mr. Abdul Monem**, founder of renowned largest Construction Group in the country, Abdul Monem Limited (*inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un*).

We pay deep respects to Late Abdul Monem, a business icon in the country and a legend in his own time. Recognized by the state, he will always be remembered as a role model for his meritorious contributions to the infrastructures and development of the country. At his death, a curtain has been drawn on a colorful chapter of business history, and we all will dearly miss this versatile personality and most patriot son of the soil.

We, all the members of Spectra Group and my Family members express our heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to the bereaved family at this hour of deep tragedy.

