



INCENTIVES FOR IMAMS

Embarrassing errors taint Kulaura lists

MIN TU DESHWARA

A number of people, who do not lead prayers at mosques, have been named in the lists for the government's cash assistance to imams in Sylhet's Kulaura during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The lists include names of an expatriate, an officer of the Islamic Foundation as well as former and current political activists.

The Daily Star found such anomalies, along with repetition and omission of names of mosques, in at least four of the lists prepared by the Islamic Foundation in Kulaura for the 13 unions and one municipality under the upazila.

The lists, published on the Kulaura upazila administration's Facebook page on May 24, include the names and addresses of 771 mosques, the number of imams and muezzins in each mosque, the name and contact number of the imam in charge, and the mosque type.

In the list for Kulaura Sadar union, the name and mobile number of SM Shihab Uddin, office assistant of Kulaura Islamic Foundation, was listed as the imam in charge of Dasermahal Fultali Bari Mosque.

Contacted, Shihab said his name and phone number were mistakenly included in the list prepared hurriedly.

"The list will be revised," he added.

In the same list, Farid Uddin's name appeared as the imam in charge of Karegram Jame Mosque and Gutguti

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Relatives of patients sleeping in close proximity under mosquito nets in the driveway of Dhaka Shishu Hospital at dawn yesterday. As part of measures to curb the spread of coronavirus, only mothers are allowed as attendants inside the hospital to maintain social distancing, but it has had the opposite effect outside the institution's walls as this scene is repeated daily with 40-50 people crowding together.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

946 Bangladeshis brought home by special flights

Asked to remain in home quarantine; most of them were in detention camps in Kuwait, Oman, UAE

RASHIDUL HASAN

A total of 946 Bangladeshi citizens, most of whom are migrant workers, returned to the country by four special flights from Kuwait, Oman, the UAE, and Russia in the 24 hours since Thursday morning.

All of them were placed in home quarantine for 14 days.

Public health experts warned that allowing these workers to stay in home quarantine might give rise to a further spread of coronavirus as most of them do not have the facilities at their home to follow the quarantine guidelines.

Of the returnees, 743 Bangladeshi expatriate workers, who had been either jail or detention camps of Kuwait, the UAE and Oman, returned as part of the deportation of 29,000 Bangladeshi workers who are supposed to be sent back from different Middle Eastern countries during the pandemic, sources at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) said.

They were brought by three separate

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Socialism can't be established with American aid



Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin calls on Bangabandhu at his official residence on June 2, 1972.

June 6, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

SAVE FREEDOM FIGHTER MANIK'S EYES AT ANY COST

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today gives directives to physicians to try their best to save the vision of young freedom fighter Manik Ali. If necessary, the government will send him abroad, says the prime minister. The young freedom fighter calls on Bangabandhu today at his official residence. Manik Ali, a student of class 10, joined the Mukti Fouz and fought valiantly against the Pakistan army. He was badly injured during the war.

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Monsoon to arrive a bit early

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The current spell of rain may continue today and the Monsoon may begin a week early in Bangladesh this year, says the meteorological office.

The rainfall the countrymen are experiencing may continue today and the dwellers of Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions may experience heavier shower than other parts of the country, the met office said.

Although the Monsoon usually arrives on June 15 every year, the met office said, this year the Monsoon is set to come on between June 9 and June 10 through Teknaf area.

Abdur Rahman Khan, meteorologist from Dhaka Met office, yesterday told The Daily Star, "In the last month, there was more rainfall than usual. We are expecting a good rainfall in this month as well. The Monsoon is set to arrive next week."

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Largest ancient Maya structure found in Mexico



REUTERS, Washington

Scientists using an aerial remote-sensing method have discovered the largest and oldest-known structure built by the ancient Maya civilisation - a colossal rectangular elevated platform built between 1,000 and 800 BC in Mexico's Tabasco state.

The structure, unlike the soaring Maya pyramids at cities like Tikal in Guatemala and Palenque in Mexico erected some 1,500 years later, was not built of stone but rather of clay and earth, and likely was used for mass rituals, researchers said on Wednesday.

Located at a site called Aguada Fenix near the Guatemalan border, the structure measured nearly a quarter mile wide and nine-tenths of a mile long and stood 33 to 50 feet high. In total volume, it

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Human rights violations on amid Covid-19 pandemic

Alleges a group of academics, professionals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team comprising academics and professionals has alleged that widespread human rights violations were taking place in the country amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

It came up with the allegation in a report circulated to the media yesterday. The report was prepared analysing reports of 19 newspapers and five television channels run between April 11 and May 31.

The team members include photojournalist Shahidul Alam, Supreme Court lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua, women's rights activist Farida Akhter, independent researchers Saydia Gulrukh, Rezaur Rahman Lenin and Chittagong University Assistant Professor Maidul Islam.

"At least 122 people from 41 districts died allegedly without treatment. The deaths can be attributed to four broad causes: hospitals not admitting patients, not getting treatment after admission, negligence by the management, and obstructions to treatment by relatives, community members and neighbours," said the report.

"On April 24, an indigenous woman named Ronika Chakma died in labour allegedly when the launch which was taking her to a hospital in Rangamati was stopped at 3:15am for over 45 minutes by law enforcers for a search. The launch was only let go when Ronika Chakma's condition deteriorated badly. She and her unborn baby died when they were taken to a hospital," it said.

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 6

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

Zafrullah's condition 'not fully stable'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The condition of Gonoshasthaya Kendra Founder and Trustee Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury is "not fully stable", an official of Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital said yesterday.

"We can't say his condition is critical. But it is not fully stable. He was suffering from breathing problems Thursday night while undergoing kidney dialysis. The dialysis could not be completed. He was then given oxygen," the official told The Daily Star in the evening.

Earlier in the day, Dr Tanvir Chowdhury, assistant registrar at the hospital, said, "I just visited Dr Zafrullah in his hospital room. He still needs 6-7 litres of oxygen a day and he has breathing problems," he said.

"We are not calling his condition entirely risky, but he is not out of danger as well," the physician told

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Three children on the Dhaka University campus yesterday are seen amusing themselves by climbing into the vehicle in which filmmaker Tareque Masud and Mishuk Munier were travelling before a fatal road accident in 2011. The mangled vehicle forms part of a memorial installation assembled in 2015, dedicated to the memory of road accident victims but amid the coronavirus pandemic there is no one to look after it.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

EU presses for reopening of borders

France says pandemic under control as Brazil's virus death toll surges to third-highest in world

AGENCIES

Brazil's death toll from the new coronavirus surpassed Italy's to become the third-highest in the world, as Europe emerged from punishing lockdowns and the EU pressed for a reopening of borders.

The bleak figures from Brazil underlined the toll the virus is taking in Latin America, the latest epicentre in the pandemic, even as Europe was emerging from its darkest days -- with the latest help coming from a new 600-billion-euro (\$674 billion) economic stimulus measure announced by the European Central Bank.

In a bid to further boost growth, the EU Commission called for member states to lift all border restrictions by the end of June.

"We are coming very close to a situation where we should lift all the internal border restrictions and border checks," Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson said late on Thursday.

France had positive news, with a top immunologist saying yesterday the outbreak had abated as daily deaths and new cases had fallen far below their March peaks.

"We can reasonably say the virus is currently under control," said Jean-Francois Delfrayss, the head of the government's scientific advisory council.

But across the Atlantic, the pandemic continued to gather pace.

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