

Anti-hoarding

FROM PAGE 12
goods. 10 hoarders are arrested in these drives. The anti-hoarding operations are run following Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman's ultimatum to hoarders to return stocked goods to market. Due to mindless hoarding by a certain group of businessmen, prices of essential goods have skyrocketed in recent times. Even government-imported stainless blades are smuggled out of the country.

REHABILITATION CENTRE FOR INJURED FREEDOM FIGHTERS

The government begins construction of a 300-bed hospital and service centre in the capital for treatment and rehabilitation of injured freedom fighters. They will also be provided vocational training at the centre. It is named Sushree. Earlier, the prime minister pledged construction of such a rehabilitation centre for reintegration of these valiant fighters into the workforce.

JUTE EXPORT BRINGS TK 69 CRORE

Despite poor infrastructure and communication in the war-ravaged country the government has successfully exported 87,000 tonnes of raw jute in the first five months of this year and earned Tk 69 crore. Currently, jute is the only source of foreign currency for the country. The government has recently taken a decision to nationalise export of jute. A Jute Export Corporation will also be set up soon which will handle all export of jute.

SOURCES: June 17, 1972 issue of *Purbodesh*.

Zafurullah

FROM PAGE 12
pneumonia. The infection had aggravated his condition and he had to be put on extra oxygen. Plasma therapy was also administered to him. "He has pneumonia, but he is feeling much better now as he doesn't need extra oxygen," Farhad said, quoting Gonoshasthaya Kendra Nagar Hospital's Dr Mamun Mustafai as saying.

Schools

FROM PAGE 12
On April 27, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said all educational institutions may stay closed until September if the situation caused by the coronavirus outbreak does not improve.

Educational activities of about four crore students are being hampered due to coronavirus crisis. Holding of HSC exams has been deferred for an indefinite period.

The government started TV education through Sangsad TV for secondary students on March 29, for primary students on April 7, and for technical and madrasa students on April 19 so that students can make up for some of the losses due to the closure of their educational institutions.

The Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey-2019 of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics showed that 50 percent households of the country do not have television sets.

Many college teachers are taking classes via Facebook live. Many public universities are in fear of session jams caused by the closure of universities for about six months. Most private universities are conducting online classes to complete the ongoing semesters and thinking of continuing the system until the next semester begins.

Airport offers

FROM PAGE 12
International tourism has been effectively stopped in most of the world as countries shut their borders to try and avoid outbreaks of the novel coronavirus, which has already infected more than 7 million people globally.

Some countries are already looking into innovative ways to boost their travel industries. In one example, Australia and New Zealand are working to organize a "travel bubble" between the two countries.

Taiwan locked down its borders in March amid the growing coronavirus pandemic, and foreign nationals are still banned from visiting the island.

Innovative way to reduce exposure

FROM PAGE 12
infected and dying as they remain highly exposed to the deadly virus.

At least 40 doctors have so far died of Covid-19, according to Bangladesh Doctors' Foundation (BDF). As many as 1,210 doctors got infected and 669 of them recovered as of yesterday, it said.

Talking to The Daily Star over phone, Sabyasachi said usually in hospitals in Bangladesh, a doctor or an intern has to use a manual machine to check blood pressure. They need to go very close to a patient and the process takes more than two minutes.

But at UK hospitals, doctors use automatic BP machines, which also show patients' heart rate. It requires lesser time.

Besides, doctors in Bangladesh face difficulties to get oximeters at hospitals as the small device, used to measure oxygen saturation, is often kept hidden in fear that it will be stolen, he said.

"These things were popping up in my mind for long ... After Bangladesh was hit by the pandemic, many doctors eventually got infected. It is believed exposure to patients for a longer period is one of the reasons for it," he said.

So, Sabyasachi started thinking about using a trolley-supported automatic BP machine in Bangladesh to reduce the exposure time.

In the meantime, Sir Salimullah Medical College Alumni, UK, which has around 100 members, began collecting funds to help Mitford hospital doctors and other health professionals in this regard and asked its members to find a way.

A few days later, Sabyasachi contacted some Bangladesh importers who bring in medical equipment, but they told him they were not interested in importing such an automated BP machine.

Sabyasachi then talked to Muhibullah, who had already

become well-known for his humanitarian works at Mitford hospital, and shared with him the idea of developing the device in Bangladesh.

Muhibullah was fascinated by the idea and he instantly communicated it to Mahmudur, a computer science and engineering graduate from Buet. Muhibullah, a former student of Barishal Cadet College, and



Muhibullah, an ex-student of Rangpur Cadet College, had met on Facebook.

"Based on discussions and other efforts, we finally managed to develop the device," Sabyasachi said, adding that they have plans to modify it to make it even better.

He said Mahmudur, who led the physical works, was asked to build the trolley strongly so it does not get damaged even if it falls on the ground.

The automated BP machine was

installed inside a metal box.

Besides, an oximeter was locked with the trolley with a long chain so that the small device does not get stolen. Patients' heart rates would be seen in both the BP machine and the oximeter, he said.

While using the newly-developed device, doctors will have to fix the cuff of the BP machine on a patient's hand and touch the oximeter only once. The readings will come within seconds and doctors will be able to check the results of BP, oxygen saturation and heart rate standing remotely.

"Actually, the device reduces the exposure time of a doctor by 90 percent," Sabyasachi told this correspondent.

Mahmudur said they have customised the trolley so that it can be used on beds and floors.

The planning took a week. They prepared the device at a workshop in the capital's Banasree area in the next three weeks, he said, adding that each trolley costs Tk 18,000 to Tk 20,000.

Mahmudur said they assembled the device using high quality oximeter and automated BP machine and were hoping that each device would last at least for five years.

Muhibullah said they conducted a trial run of the device at a unit of Mitford hospital for three days and found the outcome to be satisfactory.

"We [Muhibullah and Sabyasachi] were discussing about doing something for Mitford hospital and the health sector for many days. Later, we decided to develop the device. After Mahmudur bhai got involved, it took us around a month to complete the project," he said.

"I feel very happy to be a part of the initiative," he told this newspaper.

Sabyasachi said, "Although I am now living abroad, I always feel the urge to do something for my country. I am happy that something like this has been done."

Bangladesh made great

FROM PAGE 12
electricity access in Bangladesh has reached 95 percent in 2019, up from only 47 percent in 2010.

The availability of off-grid solar and mini-grid technologies, coupled with new business models that make productive uses of energy affordable, have accelerated the demand for such applications in Bangladesh in recent years," the report lauds.

It said, "For example, some 1,500 solar pumps were deployed between 2013 and 2019 under the IDCOL Solar Irrigation Program."

The report, however, expressed concern as the country still lacks widespread access to clean cooking facilities, and in 2018, the number of people relying on the traditional use of biomass, coal or kerosene to meet household needs was 81 percent.

The concerns about imports of sub-standard solar products that are threatening the sustainability of the domestic market, however, have led the national government to introduce minimum quality standards for solar modules, inverters, charge controllers and batteries in 2019, warned the report.

Siddique Jubair, former additional secretary and member of Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority (SREDA), give mixed reaction over the report.

"Two years ago the solar market

was different but now as the market is competitive and customers' knowledge on solar has improved a lot, the situation has changed. Now the products have more quality," he said.

Siddique, also an energy expert, also said it is true that there is still a large number of people who use biomass in cooking.

And it is very difficult to attract these people into clean cooking solutions from biomass as the latter requires no cost.

"We are lagging in this sector. The government should give more focus on the issue to create a sustainable environment," he added.

The report said growth in renewable power has been impressive over the past five years but global hunger for energy keeps increasing and eats up the progress.

It said despite significant progress in renewable power generation, the share of renewables in total energy demand has barely increased (9.6% in 2013 to 11% in 2018).

While some countries are phasing out coal, others are continuing to invest in new coal-fired power plants.

In addition, funding from private banks for fossil fuel projects has increased each year since the signing of the Paris Agreement, totalling USD 2.7 trillion over the last three years.

Instead of operating domestic flights, Biman offered its aircraft for special chartered flights on all seven domestic routes at a cost of Tk 3 to Tk 5 lakh.

The government from March 16 suspended passenger flight operations with all countries, except China, to contain the transmission of Covid-19 in Bangladesh.

Int'l flights

FROM PAGE 12

The Daily Star.

Biman will operate on the Dhaka-London-Dhaka route while Qatar Airways will be allowed to carry

transit passengers to Doha on their way to other destinations as Qatar has barred passengers from Bangladesh from entering their country, he said.

"But they will be able to carry transit passengers to other countries via Doha," added the Caab boss.

Qatar will start operating transit flights from today and will operate three flights each week.

Biman will operate a weekly flight on the London route. The first post-resumption flight will embark on the Dhaka-London route on June 21, sources said.

In early May, Caab issued guidelines for air operators, airports, and passengers as part of its efforts to resume flight operations on domestic and international routes on a limited scale.

Limited scale operations on three out of seven domestic routes resumed on June 1.

Only US-Bangla Airlines and Novoair are operating domestic flights while Biman stopped

operating flights on domestic routes following underwhelming response from passengers.

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Two accused of rapes killed in 'gunfights'

STAR REPORT

Two men accused in different gang rapes were killed in separate gunfights with Rab and police yesterday in Chattogram's Bashkhali upazila and Noakhali.

Both of them were the prime accused in two different rape cases, law enforcers said.

In Chattogram, the prime accused in a gang-raped case filed with Bashkhali police station, Md Abdul Mazid, 30, was killed in a gunfight with Rab-7 at early yesterday.

Rab claimed to have recovered firearms and bullets from the spot after the gunfight.

Mahmudul Hasan Mamun, assistant superintendent of police (ASP) of Rab-7's media wing, said the gunfight took place in Mia Bazar area at midnight after a patrol team went there to arrest the accused.

"Acting on tip-off, Rab personnel went to the area to arrest him but sensing the presence of law enforcers, the accused and his cohorts opened fire," he said, adding that Rab officials retaliated, triggering the gunfight.

After the gun battle ended, Mazid was found bullet-hit while his cohorts fled the scene.

Law enforcers rushed Mazid to the upazila health complex, where he was declared dead, the Rab official said.

According to Rab, Mazid and his

men picked up a woman from the streets on April 7 and gang-raped her. Later, a case was lodged with Bashkhali Police Station in this regard.

In Noakhali, Mizanur Rahman, the main accused in a rape case of an adolescent girl who was arrested on Sunday evening, was killed early yesterday in an alleged gunfight in Noakhali's Senbagh upazila.

Abdul Baten Mridha, office in charge of Senbagh Police Station said, Mizan picked up a 15-years old worker of a bakery in Sonamuri upazila while she was returning home in Kabirhat upazila on Saturday evening.

Along with two friends, Mizan took her to a rickshaw garage and raped her.

The girl filed a case on Sunday morning and police arrested him from Senbagh that evening.

At around 2:00am, police took him to Sonakandi area of the upazila to recover the illegal arms that Mizan confessed of having in his possessions.

When law enforcers arrived at the area, Mizan's cohorts opened fire on police and wounded Mizan.

He was rushed to Noakhali General Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Alamgir Hossain, police superintendent of Noakhali, said apart from the rape case, there are multiple cases against him of collecting illegal tolls and drug trading.

China battles new outbreak

FROM PAGE 12

The United States -- by far the hardest-hit country with more than 115,700 recorded fatalities -- on Sunday reported its lowest 24-hour death toll since its infection rate peaked in mid-April.

President Donald Trump's administration has noted that some states have seen new flare-ups, but insists there will be no shutdown of the economy even if a new wave arises.

But stock markets tumbled again yesterday on fears that an upsurge of infections could put the brakes on the easing of lockdowns and dash hopes of economic recovery.

'MICRO-OUTBREAKS INEVITABLE' The Middle East's worst-hit country, Iran, reported an uptick on Sunday, recording more than 100 new virus deaths in a single day for the first time in two months.

Ghostwriter gets copyright

FROM PAGE 12

white 7 books were released in 2015. "We have given the copyright to the ghostwriter Sheikh Abdul Hakim because beyond receiving a lump sum for writing the first book, he never received any royalty for any of the reprinting. There were no contracts at any point stating that Hakim would not hold copyright, or that Hakim is being given a one-time payment for writing the books," said Jafor Razz Chowdhury, registrar of the Sheba Prokashoni office.

In addition to the copyright of 260 Masud Rana books, the office also gave Hakim the copyright of 50 books of the Kuasha series. Before this verdict he held the copyright of one Masud Rana book titled "Jaal" and six books of the Kuasha series.

"The complaint was first filed in 2010 but it had gone nowhere, so Hakim filed a fresh complaint on July 29 last year," Jafor said. Hakim had stopped working for Sheba in 2008.

Ekushey Padak winning author Bulbul Chowdhury, noted translator Shawkat Hossain, Masud Rana's cover illustrator Hashem Khan and former

sales manager of Sheba Prokashoni Israel Hossain Khan gave witness statements.

"We wanted to know what the relationship between the two [authors] -- we found that the relationship can be best described as writer and publisher and for 39 years they have been working together. Hakim was neither an employee or staffer nor did he have a freelance contract," said the registrar.

September 11 was the first hearing. There were three hearings where Hakim and Anowar's lawyers came face to face," he added.

He said that Hakim can seek compensation to the copyright board. "Most Masud Rana books have had 6 editions but he only got a lump sum for the first edition and got no royalty from reprints. He used to get Tk 800 per part [of the series] in the beginning, and Tk 4000 per part towards the end," said the registrar.

Besides being the ghostwriter of Masud Rana, Hakim is a well published author and writer of regular thriller novels in Prothom Alo's Eid special editions.

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh