Step up relief

FROM PAGE 12

The indications available so far have been favourable. The countries who have already recognised Bangladesh have generously responded to the appeal sent by Bangladesh.

PERU ACCORDS RECOGNITION TO BANGLADESH

Peru has recognised Bangladesh. The decision is communicated to Bangladesh Foreign Ministry by the Embassy of Peru in India today. So far, 86 countries have recognised the newly independent Bangladesh.

SOURCES: August 9, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

UP chairman

FROM PAGE 12

sanctioned 8.8 tonnes of wheat for maintenance work on a canal in Majhdigha area.

Union Parishad Member Shahnaz oversaw the work and officially released the wheat meant for the workers.

Nazmul Hussain, assistant director of the ACC in Rajshahi, visited the area on Thursday and filed a case accusing Tofazzal and Shahnaz.

Both of them were arrested and sent to jail later in the day.

China

FROM PAGE 12

with a damaged image and a deficit of trust".

TikTok has come under fire from US lawmakers over national security concerns surrounding data collection as distrust between Washington and Beijing grows. Reuters on Sunday reported that Trump has given Microsoft Corp 45 days to complete the purchase of TikTok's US operations.

"We are shocked by the recent Executive Order, which was issued without any due process," TikTok said in a statement on Friday, adding that it would "pursue all remedies available to us in order to ensure that the rule of law is not discarded".

The ban on US transactions with Tencent, one of the world's biggest internet companies, portends further fracturing of the global internet and severing of long-standing ties between the tech industries in the United States and China.

"This is the rupture in the digital world between the US and China," said James Lewis, a technology expert with Washington-based think-tank Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"Absolutely, China will retaliate."

On Wednesday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expanded a program dubbed "Clean Network" to prevent various Chinese apps and telecoms firms from accessing sensitive information on US citizens and businesses.

Trump's new orders appeared coordinated with Pompeo's announcement, Lewis said.

"We are reviewing the executive order to get a full understanding," a Tencent spokesperson said.

ByteDance declined to comment.

WeChat has been downloaded a relatively small 19 million times in the United States, showed data from Sensor Tower. In China, however, the app is ubiquitous as a medium for services as varied as games and payment. It is also a common platform to communicate with individuals and businesses outside China.

US social media and messaging services such Facebook Inc's WhatsApp and Messenger are blocked in China, where a "great firewall" prevents citizens from freely accessing the worldwide web, and where online communication is routinely monitored and censored.

A Palestinian demonstrator argues with a member of Israeli forces during a protest against Jewish settlements and Israel's plan to annex parts of the occupied West Bank, near Ramallah yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Donors carry on altruistic work

FROM PAGE 12

He has been managing blood donors for the group since 2017.

But he was discouraged from donating blood because of his physical disability of congenital hand deformity and weakness in both legs.

Despite that, the 20-year-old donated blood three times so far.

"When I started, I proved that my disability is not an inability to donate blood," he proudly asserted.

In May, Asif donated B positive blood for a four-year-old thalassemia patient in Mymensingh Medical College.

Sajal Ahmed, a regular donor of the Facebook group Amra Roktosandhani, said his family is scared about his safety regarding Covid-19 infection.

Still, the 30-year-old donates blood and has done so more than 25 times.

Two months ago, he was able to save the life of a woman whose baby died inside her womb.

"Even though my mother refused to let me go, I along with a friend started for Mirpur-12 from Khilgaon and donated blood at midnight," he said.

OVERCOMING MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS

At the beginning of the shutdown, donors were facing difficulties in donating blood due to lack of transportation and restrictions of movement, said Md Nazrul Islam on July 25.

He is a call centre agent of Roktodaner Opekkhay Bangladesh, the Facebook wing of the organisation DonateBloodBD.com, which started in 2013.

"The situation is getting normal now. In July, the group was able to manage 1,582 donors for hospitalised patients," he said.

Nazrul himself donated blood and platelets over 80 times in his lifetime.

Meanwhile, Amra Roktosandhani managed 3,692 donors from March to July 20, with a record of getting 62 donors in a single day in July.

Since its inception in 2017, the platform has managed more than 22,000 blood donors.

However, in recent times, they have been receiving more requests for plasma donors.

The group also provides free rides to the donors now, if the patient's family members cannot make transportation arrangements.

"We have our own riders who showed interest in providing free rides to the blood donors in this crisis. If they are unavailable, we provide the fare to donors," said Faisal Bhuiyan, an admin of the group.

"We meet the overall expenses on our own as the president of our organisation takes care of them. Besides, we get a significant amount of financial support from some of our senior brothers who live abroad," Faisal told this correspondent on Tuesday.

These platforms also suggest donors maintain personal safety through hygiene practices and avoiding unnecessary contact with anyone -- the person accompanying the donors, or the patient's family members.

VOLUNTARY DONATION INCREASING

Even a few years ago, people had to depend on private blood banks to manage blood in an emergency.

Most of these banks relied on individuals who sold blood to earn money and in many cases were drug addicts.

According to organisations in this sector, over time massive campaigns brought about a positive attitude towards blood donation increasing the number of voluntary donors.

Dr Minhazul Islam Hridoy, general secretary of Sandhani, told The Daily Star on July 27 that Bangladesh has a demand for 12 lakh to 13 lakh of bags of blood annually.

Voluntary donors, not related to the patients, provide 25 percent of this demand and the rest come from patients' relatives and friends, voluntarily, he said.

A source in Bangladesh Red Crescent Society gave a similar estimate.

Both organisations have been working in the field of voluntary blood donation for decades.

However, patients and their families say digital platforms like Facebook groups have made it easier to manage ready donors in minutes through public posts.

Thousands out of work in flood-hit areas

FROM PAGE 1

In the northern region, those who took shelter on roads, dykes or in flood centres have returned homes after floodwater receded.

But they are dealing with a double blow as their houses were damaged and they have become jobless.

Flood victim Jobed Ali, 55, of Baish Pukur village in Nilphamari's Dimla upazila, took a small goat to Sutibari cattle market for sale to get money for buying food on Thursday.

Like him, many others brought their cattle there for the same purpose.

A similar situation prevails in Kurigram and Lalmonirhat.

Saher Ali, 48, a labourer of Char Nayarhat in Kurigram's Chilmari upazila, along with family members stayed on an embankment for around a month as his house went under floodwater.

"We returned home last Thursday. But now I don't have any money to buy food. I don't have any job. I have sold two of my cattle to repair my house. I don't know how I will manage our livelihood," he told The Daily Star.

"We have no job. We have no earnings. So, we are struggling hard to arrange food for us," said another flood victim Nazrul Islam, 55, of Char Bagdora area in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

In the north-eastern region, thousands of people lost their work due to the coronavirus outbreak in the country. The prolonged flood has intensified the crisis.

Harunur Rashid, a farmer of Chanpur village of Sunamganj's Jamalganj upazila, said, "This year, Boro production was good. We got fair prices of Boro paddy. But this flood has caused me a huge loss, and now I have no savings and no alternative work to do."

Jinnat Ali, a labourer of Paschim Pagla of Dakshin Sunamganj upazila, said his house was damaged by floodwater. He has a seven-member family.

"How could I get money to repair my house or feed them for the coming months as I have no work for months."

Sajen Miah, of Fenarbak in Jamalganj upazila, said, "As my house was flooded, I had to stay at a flood centre for weeks and couldn't find any work. I am running my family after borrowing money and I don't know how to repay the loan until next Boro season."

In its latest report, the National Disaster Response Coordination Centre said around 55 lakh people in 165 upazilas of 33 districts fell victim to the flood this year.

[Our correspondents from Narayanganj, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, and Sylhet contributed to this report]

Covid cases in India double

FROM PAGE 12

deaths have been registered worldwide, figures compiled by AFP from official sources showed, driven by surges in Latin America and India.

The United States has recorded the most deaths with almost 160,000, followed by Brazil with nearly 100,000. Globally, 40 percent of all cases have been notched in the two countries.

US DEATH TOLL SOARS

Daily coronavirus deaths in the US surged to a three-month high of 2,060 on Thursday, a tracker by Johns Hopkins University showed.

But other corners of the globe were also marking grim milestones, with Mexico's official toll soaring above 50,000 dead and the continent of Africa hitting one million confirmed cases.

More than half of Africa's infections are in South Africa, which has the fifth highest number of infections in the world, after the US, Brazil, India and Russia.

Nevertheless the African continent remains one of the least affected, according to the official figures, with only Oceania registering fewer Covid-19 cases.

Europe remains the hardest-hit region worldwide with more than 200,000 fatalities since the virus first emerged in China late last year.

As governments across the globe struggle to salvage economies ravaged by months of lockdown, many have been forced to look at new measures to curb outbreaks of Covid-19 since they lifted initial containment orders.

Such is the case in Europe where nations imposed new travel restrictions and containment measures with fears growing over a second wave of infections.

In Australia, the second-largest city Melbourne entered the country's toughest lockdown yet on Thursday, closing non-essential businesses and requiring hundreds of thousands more people to stay home.

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

Germany is the latest to introduce mandatory tests for travelers returning from designated risk zones, starting today, as fears grow over rising case numbers blamed on summer holidays and local outbreaks.

Germany's list of "risk zones" currently includes most non-EU countries, as well as certain provinces in Belgium and Spain.

Neighboring Austria on Thursday announced it would issue a travel warning for mainland Spain, becoming the latest country to do so amid a rise in new coronavirus cases in the fellow EU member.

Finland also introduced new controls on arrivals from some EU countries, including Belgium, the Netherlands and Andorra, putting a stop to tourists arriving from there and imposing a 14-day quarantine on other returnees.

"The situation is extremely delicate," the health ministry's strategic director Liisa-Maria Voipio-Pulkki said, adding that "some sort of second stage has begun."

Britain has reimposed quarantine for travelers from Belgium, Andorra and the Bahamas.

Norway announced Thursday that France would be considered a red zone due to the resurgence of coronavirus cases there, meaning all travellers arriving from France face a mandatory ten-day quarantine.

Switzerland, Monaco and the Czech Republic were also hit with similar restrictions, as well as two Swedish regions, the Norwegian foreign affairs ministry said.

US imposes sanctions

FROM PAGE 12

Cheng, the justice secretary, the US Treasury Department said in a statement.

It said Beijing's imposition of draconian national security legislation had undermined Hong Kong's autonomy and allowed mainland security services to operate with impunity, "setting the groundwork for censorship of any individuals or outlets that are deemed unfriendly to China."

"Carrie Lam is the chief executive directly responsible for implementing Beijing's policies of suppression of freedom and democratic processes," it said.

"The United States stands with the people of Hong Kong and we will use our tools and authorities to target those undermining their autonomy," Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin said in the statement.

The sanctions freeze any US asset of the officials and generally bar Americans from doing business with them.

Tensions between the United States and China have been increasing daily. China's foreign ministry said on Friday it firmly opposes executive orders that Trump announced this week to ban US transactions with the Chinese owners of the WeChat and TikTok apps.

Last month, Carrie Lam postponed a Sept 6 election to Hong Kong's legislature by a year because of a rise in coronavirus cases, dealing a blow to the pro-democracy opposition that had hoped to make huge gains.

The United States condemned the action, saying it was the latest example of Beijing undermining democracy in the Chinese-ruled territory.

A source familiar with the matter said US deliberations on the sanctions intensified after the election postponement.

Strong currents in Padma

FROM PAGE 12

Transport Corporation (BIWTC) at Shimulia, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Disruption to ferry services causes sufferings of people of the 21 southern districts who use the route to enter and leave the capital.

The mighty Padma devoured a portion of the approach road to a ferry terminal at Shimulia on Thursday morning. Later, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) dumped geo-bags in the erosion-prone area that helped reduce the effects of erosion.

Another ferry terminal was damaged before Eid.

People crowded in Kathalbari area to cross the river yesterday, the first weekend after Eid as many holidaymakers were returning to the capital.

Now, two ferry terminals out of four are in operation. Eight ferries of 17 are operating on the Shimulia-Kathalbari route.

Shafayet Ahmed, BIWTC manager at Shimulia, said three large and two small ferries were plying the route, and heavy currents in the river were hampering ferry services.

Harif Ahmed, BIWTA assistant engineer at Shimulia, said around 15,000 geo-bags were dumped to prevent the river erosion at Shimulia. At least seven acres out of 29.3 acres of land at Shimulia went under water, he added.

Virus hastens newspapers' slide to shaky

FROM PAGE 12

editions, while in the Philippines 10 of the 70 newspapers in the PPI association have shuttered.

"Times are hard. There are no advertisers and no-one is reading us," PPI executive director Ariel Sebellino told AFP.

The archipelago nation's small local newspapers were hardest hit during lockdown as street sales tumbled.

"The industry is under siege and we've all taken bruises," Sebellino said.

Far from affecting only journalists, the disappearance of print papers deals out pain all up the production chain, taking in printers, paper makers and delivery people.

Major British media brands could boast of 6.6 million new online readers in the first quarter in what their industry association said was a new record.

But most have not seen the same bounce in print sales.

The coronavirus has become "the greatest threat to the global news industry since the 2008 economic crash" wrote industry publication Press Gazette -- which itself moved online-only in 2013.

New Guinea has most

FROM PAGE 12

The island has lowland jungles and high altitude grasslands with peaks bigger than Mont Blanc in France and among them they found 13,634 unique plant species.

Botanists have long known that this mega-diverse wilderness area is home to a large number of plant species and this new study proves the long-held theory.

Since the 17th century scientists all over the world have worked to identify and name thousands of plants collected in New Guinea - but they have worked independently.

The fact they worked alone meant uncertainty surrounded the exact number of plant species, with conflicting estimates ranging from 9,000 to 25,000.

Rodrigo Cámara-Leret, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Zurich's (UZH) Department of Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies, led the new study.

"Compared to other areas like Amazonia, for which plant checklists were recently published, New Guinea remained the 'Last Unknown'," he said.

Under his lead, 99 scientists from 56 institutions and 19 countries prepared the first expert-verified checklist for the 13,634 vascular plant species of New Guinea.

They started by compiling a list of plant names from online catalogues, institutional repositories and datasets curated by taxonomists.

After standardising the scientific names, experts on New Guinea flora checked almost 25,000 species names derived from over 700,000 individual specimens.

For this, they reviewed the list of original names in their plant family of expertise and assessed whether these names were correctly assigned in the online platforms.

Finally, an independent comparison was performed between the list accepted by experts and a list contained in Plants of the World Online for New Guinea.

The resulting checklist contains 13,634 plants - showing that New Guinea has the world's richest island flora, the team explained.

By far the most species-rich family are the orchids and almost a third of the species listed as unique to the island were trees.

মোহাম্মদপুর প্রিপারেটরি স্কুল এন্ড কলেজ
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বালক শাখা ঃ ৩/৩ আসাদ এভিনিউ, মোহাম্মদপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৭, ফোন ঃ ০১৭২৩৭৭৮১৯৮
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ভর্তির সকল ক্ষেত্রে সরকারি বিধি প্রযোজ্য হবে
অনলাইনে অথবা টেলিটক, বিকাশ, নগদ, শিওর ক্যাশ, রকেট-এ এসএমএস করে অথবা সোনালী ব্যাংকের মাধ্যমে ভর্তির আবেদন করা যাবে। আবেদনের তারিখ ঃ ০৯/০৮/২০২০ থেকে ২০/০৮/২০২০ পর্যন্ত (১ম পর্যায়ে)। ভর্তি ঃ ১৩/০৯/২০২০ থেকে ১৫/০৯/২০২০ পর্যন্ত। কলেজ ক্যাম্পাস থেকে মোবাইল এস.এম.এস অথবা অনলাইনে আবেদনের জন্য হেল্প ডেস্ক ব্যবহার করুন।
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ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা, বাংলা মাধ্যম ও ইংরেজি ভার্সন | ৩.২৫ | ৩.০০
মানবিক, বাংলা মাধ্যম বালিকা শাখা | ২.৫০ |
কলেজ কোড ঃ ১২৩৪ EIIN : 132107
● প্রোফাইল স্বীকৃতি ঃ প্রতিষ্ঠানটি ১৯৯৩ ও ২০০০ সালে জাতীয় পর্যায়ের শ্রেষ্ঠ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসেবে রাষ্ট্রীয়ভাবে স্বীকৃতিপ্রাপ্ত।
● অত্যাধুনিক বিজ্ঞানাগার এবং শীতাতপ নিয়ন্ত্রিত আধুনিক আইসিটি ল্যাব।
● প্রশিক্ষণপ্রাপ্ত ও অভিজ্ঞ শিক্ষকমন্ডলী কর্তৃক পাঠদান।
● বর্তমান পরিস্থিতিতে অনলাইনে সকল শিক্ষা কার্যক্রম চলছে।
আবেদনকারী এসএমএস এর মাধ্যমে অথবা অনলাইনে (www.xiclassadmission.gov.bd) আবেদন করতে পারবে।
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২ | সেবার বিষয় | কমিশনের সম্মেলন কক্ষে ভিত্তিও কনফারেন্স সিস্টেম ক্রয়/সংস্থাপন।
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৫ | দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময় | ২৩/০৮/২০২০, রবিবার, দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।
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৮ | দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার স্থান | হিসাব শাখা।
৯ | দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তি স্থান | হিসাব শাখা, জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশন।
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১১ | দরদাতাদের যোগ্যতা | ক) দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, টিআইএন সনদসহ ২০১৯-২০ অর্থ বৎসরের আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদপত্র, ব্যাংক সলভ্যান্সি সার্টিফিকেট থাকতে হবে। খ) সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের উক্ত কাজে অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
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১৩ | সেবা সরবরাহের সময়কাল | কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির ১০ কর্মদিবস।
১৪ | দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী | সচিব, জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশন।
১৫ | দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর ঠিকানা | জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশন, হোসাইন টাওয়ার (১২তলা), ১১৬, বীর প্রতীক গোলাম দস্তগীর রোড, নয়াপল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০।
বি.দ্র. কর্তৃপক্ষ কোনো কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীত সকল/যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।
সচিব
জাতীয় নদী রক্ষা কমিশন
জিডি-১২৩২