

HEALTH SAFETY AWARENESS IN PORT CITY

Too many people, not enough masks in lanes and by-lanes

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Although people have started wearing face masks on the main thoroughfares in the wake of actions, they are still ignoring the health guideline on the lanes and by-lanes in Chattogram city.

In this circumstance, health experts and civil society members stressed the need for stricter action and higher engagement of community leaders to prevent coronavirus.

Chattogram Civil Surgeon Sheikh Fazle Rabbi said a total of 242 people tested Covid-19 positive on November 22. Even a week before that, the daily cases were around 100 on an average, he said.

During a recent visit to the port city's Agrabad Badamtoli, Chawkbazar Gulzar and Kazir Dewri intersections, this correspondent found most people wearing face masks. He followed a total of 150 pedestrians at different times and found 102 of them wearing masks.

At various government establishments including post office and banks, The Daily Star also found a similar situation. Majority of service seekers were wearing masks and those ignoring the health guideline were being denied services.

However, the situation was completely different at the lanes and by-lanes of the

city. Most of the people were not wearing face masks at Bakalia, Kala Miah Bazar, DC Road and KB Aman Ali Road.

On Hem Sen Lane in Jamal Khan, Chan Miah Munshi Lane in West Bakalia and Rahattarpool Chanda Pukur Par areas, around 104 people out of 150 were defying the health rule. Among the errants, many said they forgot to carry mask while many said they "should be" wearing it.

Contacted, SM Nazer Hossain, vice president of Consumers' Association of Bangladesh (CAB), said people are becoming aware of wearing masks thanks to government initiatives. But the action is not enough, he said.

Mobile court drives should be conducted on lanes and by-lanes too, he emphasised. "Besides, we urge the government to involve community leaders and local elite in a massive awareness campaign."

Talking about the proposal, Deputy Commissioner Elias Hossain said they are trying to do so. "As the city corporation election has remained postponed due to Covid-19 pandemic, there is no ward councillor to be engaged in the initiative," said the DC.

"Still, we are trying to involve other individuals concerned in campaign," he added.



To commemorate National Professor Abdur Razzaq on his death anniversary, noted individuals, including Bengal Foundation Chairperson Abul Khair and Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation Director General Ahrar Ahmad, placed floral wreaths at his grave in Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard yesterday and recalled the professor's invaluable contribution to the nation.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Mamunul

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They also announced to hold human chains and protest rallies simultaneously across the country at 3pm on December 1.

Moncho activists left the intersection at 5pm.

Meanwhile, a cross section of people in Thakurgaon also formed a human chain in this regard yesterday.

The district unit of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee organised the event where leaders and activists of different socio-political parties took part. Speakers demanded exemplary punishment for those made the derogatory comments regarding statues or sculptures of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

They said some fundamentalist groups are trying to destabilise the country. Religion-based politics should be banned in order to maintain communal harmony and the government should take stern action against them, activists added.

Mro people's

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entailing global consensus towards indigenous peoples' rights. It, among others, effectively details the rights of indigenous peoples, and lays down the minimum standards for their recognition, and protection of their rights.

Another major instrument not ratified by Bangladesh is the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, 1989 (No. 169).

While ultimately it is not as comprehensive as the declaration, it covers indigenous peoples' rights to customary laws, lands, territories and resources, employment, education, and health.

Moreover, it signalled, at the time of its adoption in 1989, a greater international responsiveness to indigenous peoples' demands for greater control over their way of life and institutions.

The earlier stances of Bangladesh towards these instruments have in a way posited Bangladesh as not-so-friendly towards indigenous peoples. Now, this new incident followed by the protests has brought this issue to the forefront.

The country needs to respect and act on the CHT accord and fundamental constitutional principle of protecting cultures.

Besides, it is high time the country revisited its previous attitude towards international documents.

Students protest

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The letter asked the authority to stop admitting students and migrating its existing 225 students to different colleges under Rajshahi Medical University.

Paying no heed to the ministry's instructions, the authority applied for reconsideration of the ministry's decisions for the sake of the college and its 200 staffers dependent on it, the demonstrating students alleged.

Students said a ministerial team was scheduled to visit the college yesterday over reconsideration of decisions. Prior to such inspections, authorities usually rent medical and other equipment, and doctors from local clinics and hospitals to show off.

On suspicion, some of the college students went to the campus for checking. When they entered the campus, they were surrounded by college staffers and beaten up, they claimed.

Meanwhile, a four-member ministerial team did visit the campus as per schedule, and after inspection told reporters that the college will not be allowed to run unless authorities can provide necessary facilities

and ensure students' safety.

However, if authorities manage to resolve these issues, higher-ups will give further directives on whether the college can run, they said.

"If authorities want to run the college, they have to bring in teachers. Unless they do so, the college will remain closed and migration of students will continue," said Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council Representative Prof Sharfuddin Ahmed, who was part of the ministerial team.

Condemning the attack, he said the miscreants will be brought to the book, adding that under no circumstances will they allow students' lives be put in danger.

Contacted, MD Moniruzzaman said the allegations against the authority were false.

He said the ministry's decision to shut the college down was based on "misinformation".

"Establishing the college was a local initiative to support the region's students. Improving facilities is a gradual process. Whatever facilities we have are not even available at many other medical colleges," he added.

Most women

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The report says about 25 percent of the 330 respondents supported child marriage.

Social pressure was identified as the key reason behind child marriage by about 55 respondents, and 30 percent said financial concerns as the key reason.

Returnees from abroad during the pandemic topped the list of grooms preferred, it says.

It added that monitoring mechanism against child marriage fell apart at the initial period of the shutdown. Since then, there has been a gradual rise in the number of unregistered marriages where parents need to pay lower amount of dowry.

It was revealed that respondents considered marrying off a "12-13 years old" as a child marriage but marrying off a "16-17 years old" as not child marriage.

The report says some 28 percent respondents faced trouble in accessing healthcare services but they did not report subscribing to telemedicine services.

The pandemic caused supply chain disruption at hard-to-reach areas, as about 40 percent respondents noted unavailability of key necessity items such as basic medicines and contraceptives.

The report also found that about 80 percent respondents experienced a slump in their income or livelihood during the pandemic. Besides, respondents reported about increase in unpaid work during the time.


The report recommends facilitating alternative income-generating activities for the most vulnerable women who have lost their livelihood during the pandemic.

Noted climate expert Prof Ainun Nishat said after cyclone Amphan, salinity of water in some coastal areas increased to the level of seawater.

Both men and women in the affected areas have been suffering from hypertension, he said. "Women have been diagnosed with eclampsia while their pregnancy rate also dropped," he added.

Addressing the webinar as chief guest, Planning Minister MA Mannan said eliminating incidents of child marriage is in the government's agenda and that the prime minister is concerned about it.

He said the government has undertaken a pilot project to supply pipe water in rural areas and that it was also working to address water crisis in hilly areas.



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No progress in

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extension as per rules, the Commission can initiate departmental proceedings against the officer as well as his supervisor for their incompetence," reads the rules.

The Daily Star tried to reach ACC Commissioner Dr Md Mozammel Haque Khan, who looks after investigation, last week in this regard. He asked to send questions in text messages.

This correspondent then send him the queries; one of the questions was whether the failure falls upon the commissioner.

He did not respond even after a reminder.

ALLEGATIONS, UGC FINDINGS

Nasiruddin, who was appointed BSMRSTU VC in 2015, was involved in corruption in development projects including construction of Shaheed Minar and Bangabandhu's mural on the campus, according to students and teachers of the university.

There were allegations that during his tenure, the university authorities used to suspend students and serve show-cause notices to those teachers who spoke against the VC and his

accomplices.

Students began protesting at BSMRSTU following suspension of Fatema-Tuz-Zinia in September and later it turned into a collective protest of students and teachers who sought removal of Nasiruddin.

As the protests continued, many more corruption allegations began to surface against him.

There was allegation against Nasiruddin of flouting procurement rules and handing over a Tk 28 crore job to a shipyard to make wooden bench and supply books.

He made his nephew, who joined as a section officer, chairman of international relations department of the university.

During his tenure, a chairman of a department recommended himself for his enrolment in a master's course at that very department and eventually obtained the degree.

There were several other anomalies that took place during Nasiruddin's tenure.

In the face of students' protest, the University Grants Commission (UGC) on September 23 formed a probe committee. The committee

visited the campus, interviewed students, Nasiruddin and collected documents.

Later, it recommended taking legal action against Nasiruddin for his involvement in irregularities and corruption in student admission, appointment of teachers and procurement.

The probe committee found that the VC was running the university at will.


Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not reach Nasiruddin for his comments as his phone was found switched off.

Contacted, Dr Sabina Yasmin, head of biotechnology department at BAU where Nasiruddin is currently posted, said he has been giving regular online classes.

"Things are going okay here," she said without elaborating further.

On November 18 at a virtual meeting, ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmood asked his officials to complete enquiry within the stipulated time.

"Making delay in enquiry on the excuse of more query is a kind of harassment," said the chairman, expressing frustration over the pending enquiry and investigations.



ব্যতিক্রমধর্মী গণ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে

পোঃ মির্জানগর ভায়া সাভার ক্যান্ট., আতুলিয়া (জাতীয় স্মৃতি সৌধের সন্নিহিত), ঢাকা-১৩৪৪ ফোন: ৭৭৯২২২৪, ৪৪০৭৩০০৭

জরুরী নিয়োগ

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Wife

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his wife, daughter and sister-in-law.

The ACC said in the case that Shahid deposited Tk 148.41 crore in dirty money to different bank accounts of his sister-in-law to cover his tracks.


The accused lawmaker, his wife and daughter have all transferred their ill-begotten money to Jesmin's account.

ACC Deputy Director Salahuddin also brought charges against the main accused, Jesmin, of illegally accumulating Tk 2.31 crore.

The allegations surfaced, after newspapers in Kuwait reported in February that Papul was running a human trafficking racket in the Middle Eastern country.

The reports said the Bangladeshi lawmakers and their daughters occupied sensitive positions in three major companies that brought over 20,000 Bangladeshi workers to Kuwait.

They did so in exchange for an amount believed to be more than Tk 1,391.6 crore, the media reports further stated.



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General Notice

All Depository Participants

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As the Trustee of Aims First Guaranteed Mutual Fund (under liquidation) Bangladesh General Insurance Co. Ltd. (BGIC) has taken the initiative to recalculate the tax of the unit holders of Aims First Guaranteed Mutual Fund (under liquidation) as per the instructions given by Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) and National Board of Revenue (NBR).

In order to recalculate the tax liability of the Unitholders', BGIC requests all Depository Participants to confirm to the Trustee the "সর্বশেষ ইউনিট হোল্ডারের ক্রয়কৃত মূল্য" of the Unitholders' of AIMS First Guaranteed Mutual Fund (under liquidation) if any at BGIC Ltd. 42, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000. It is worth mentioning that the last date of trading of AIMS First Guaranteed Mutual Fund (under liquidation) was 31st December, 2015.

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Sd/-
(Ahmed Saifuddin Chowdhury)
Managing Director & CEO
For and on behalf of
Bangladesh General Insurance Company Limited
as Trustee of
AIMS First Guaranteed Mutual Fund (under liquidation)

Dated: November 28, 2020