CITY

Covid cases FROM PAGE 3

SBMCH Indoor Doctors Association President Dr Sudip Haldar said as the ICU is overflowing with patients, many who are in critical condition are unable to receive required support.

He said only a week ago, the number of patients was only 14; but on Tuesday, it stood at 90.

Barishal Sadar Hospital sources said even 10 days ago, 14-15 people tested Covid-19 positive, now around 70 people are being infected every day.

Dr Mizanur Rahman of Barishal city, said, "Given the situation, many are receiving treatment at home while many are going to the capital."

Meanwhile, two magistrates of Barishal District Administration are operating mobile courts on a daily basis to carry out awareness programmes and take actions against those ignoring health directives.

Subrata Biswas, incharge of public relations Barishal District Administration, confirmed that 37 people and 5 organisations were fined Tk 9,200 in the last two days.

Deputy Commissioner Jasim Uddin Haider said people have to abide by health rules at this stage. "Mobile courts are ensuring that," he said.

Same crisis

Meanwhile, other hospitals providing Covid-19 treatment facilities like North East Medical College Hospital and Mount Adora Hospital have also seen a sharp rise in patients in the last couple of weeks.

Dr Md Anisur Rahman, recent former assistant director (disease control) of Sylhet Divisional Health Office, said, "After a year of the pandemic, we have realised that prevention capacity is more important than treatment capacity. Stricter initiative is a must to control the situation, before it goes out of hand."

Faruque Mahmud Chowdhury, president of Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik's (Shujan) Sylhet chapter, said, "Since the very beginning of the pandemic, we've seen that people are not much aware of the situation, and the administration always failed to impose laws to control the state of affairs. They must be strict to enforce law, so that the situation doesn't go out of hand this time.'

M Kazi Emdadul Islam, deputy commissioner of Sylhet, said, "We're acting as per government instructions, as infections are spreading rapidly. Stricter action will be taken as per government order."

Exempt us

FROM PAGE 3 until the government itself relaxes some of those."

Meanwhile, the city streets were almost vacant on the first day of lockdown, while most shops and markets remained closed.

Biponno Kumar Sarker, a tea-shop owner at Shaheb bazar Zero Point, expressed his helplessness amid the lockdown.

He kept his shop shut yesterday and said he was observing the situation, and if there was no fear of harassment, he would open his shop from tomorrow.

"I have been restless since I heard about another lockdown. I had to remain half-fed during the last one," he said.

His mother, aged about 70, has been suffering from her heart disease for the last two weeks. "There is nothing but darkness ahead me. If my daily income stops, how would I run my family and ensure treatment for my mother," he added.

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North Patenga, Chittagong-4204

Bangladesh

Work with

by doing the work with excellence in the profession".

"Your patriotism will be showcased from your thoughts on society, your humanistic approach and by getting deep knowledge and skill on the subject your are reading, he said.

Students should have a minimum level of interest about history, political science, science, physics, and they should have intellectual curiosity, he said.

Rights activist Sultana Kamal said everyone should strive toward acquiring knowledge. "We should respect our work. We should not work for getting anything or for just doing it. If we do not work with devotion, we will not be able to reach the target," she added.

Razzaq Foundation Director General Ahrar Ahmad, in his welcome speech, said it was inspirational that 110 students participated in the competitions.

Three Dhaka University students Shurid Sadik (first place), Arju Afrin Kathy (2nd place) and Md. Akmal Hossain (3rd place), won the competition in university category.

Barishal's Amrita Lal Dey College student Ayon Chakrobarty, the capital's Willes Little Flower School and College student Nazifa Tarannum Ruhiya and Cumilla's Kalai Gobindapur Mahila Dakhil Madrassa student Sharmin Akhter won the first, second and third prize in the school and college category respectively.

PM's speech FROM PAGE 3

targeting the spirit of the Liberation War, Quader said. He urged all to get united to resist the evil forces.

The AL general secretary mentioned that after conducting probes into the vandalism carried out on the occasion of the country's golden jubilee, the government has started taking legal action against those involved in the destructive

The people of the country are with Sheikh Hasina's government, so the faces of those, who are inciting and financing the communal forces, will also be exposed, he added.

About the Covid-19 situation in the country, Quader said as both the coronavirus infection and death rate have increased in the country, the government is enforcing the seven-day lockdown.

He urged all to follow the 18-point directives of the government and health guidelines.

Youth behind

FROM PAGE 3

admitted to breaking the mural .

Arman went into hiding and got a haircut and shaved his beard to avoid arrest, he said. Preparations were underway to file a case in this regard,

the official said. Asked about any identity or link with Hefajat, Lt Col

Talat refused to disclose it.

Rab-14 Bhairab Camp Assistant Director Rafiuddin Mohammad Jobair and other officials were present during the press brief.

Legal notice on govt seeks materity leave be one year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday served a legal notice on the government to take necessary steps in 15 days to remove discrimination in public and private sectors regarding maternity leave. The notice also included the demand of enhancing this leave period from six months to one year.

Md JR Khan Robin sent the legal notice on behalf of lawyer Shammi Akhter to the respondents saying that if they don't take steps to dispel the discrimination in public and private sectors regarding maternity leave in 15 days, appropriate legal action will be taken against them.

Secretaries to the cabinet division, ministries of public administration, health, and women, as well as legislative and parliamentary affairs division under law ministry have been made respondents to the legal notice.

JR Khan Robin said in the legal notice that the government has increased the maternity leave period of government service holders from four months to six months by amending rule 197(1) of the Bangladesh Service Rules in 2011, which is highly inadequate especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Commuters

FROM PAGE 3

go for a complete shutdown and declare a general holiday?' This correspondent reminded him of the government's instruction to keep offices open with limited staff and ensure transportation by office vehicles. This astonished Minhaz.

"They will never do something like that until the government compels them to. But no such initiative from the government will be taken, and as always, we employees will have to bear the brunt," he said.

"If the government wants to curb Covid-19 cases, it should go for all out shutdown for at least two weeks," said Bahaddarhat's Rashed Mahmud, another office goer. "You see how close people are standing, waiting for vehicles. You see how shops are open, and people around them are gossiping without their masks on. If people do not stay home, how will the transmission be controlled?"

Meanwhile, almost 90 percent shops in main thoroughfares were closed, while roughly two-thirds of shops in the lanes and by lanes remained shut.

While mobile courts were seen in the main thoroughfares, lanes and by lanes were found almost without surveillance.

At the city's Oxygen intersection, executive magistrate Fahmida Afroz was conducting mobile court drives. She said the court was fining people Tk 100 for not wearing face masks.

Contacted, SM Nazer Hossain, central vice-president of Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said the government should ensure that private offices provide their staffers with vehicles during the lockdown.

The government instructed all offices to run with limited staff and carry them with own vehicles, but there's no monitoring of this. The district administration has to ensure it." he said

Echoing the same, Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, convener of Public Health Right Protection Committee, Chattogram, said alongside the main roads, the government has to ensure lockdown in lanes and by lanes, otherwise the number of cases will not be curbed.

Local committees in every area should be involved in this regard, he said.

Contacted, Sumani Akter, additional district magistrate of Chattogram, said mobile courts cannot go to every vicinity

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Corrigendum-2

TENDER No. OVL/DLH/MM/Bangladesh/110/2020-21 Reference is invited to the NIT published on 25.02.2021 for tender for drilling of exploratory wells, Titli-1X& Maitri-1Xof Bangladesh on integrated/turnkey basis, timelines of the tender has been extended as under Existing Revised Date of Pre-Bid Meeting 31/03/2021 12/04/2021 Tender closing date & time 03/05/2021 (14:00 Hrs. BST) 12/05/2021 (14:00 Hrs. BST) Tender opening date & time 03/05/2021 (15:00 Hrs. BST) 12/05/2021 (15:00 Hrs. BST)

For	the	detailedpre-bid	meeting	and	tender	updates,	please	referONGC	Videsh	website:	
https	://ww	w.ongcvidesh.con	n/tenders					Country Manager			

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার চীফ কমার্শিয়াল ম্যানেজার (পূর্ব) এর কার্যালয়

বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি কার্যক্রম স্থগিত

নং-৯৩-সি/৭৩৭/৭৫০/৭৪৯/৭৩৮/অনবোর্ড/সিআরডি-৩/২০২১ তারিখঃ ০৫/০৪/২০২১ ঢাকা-কিশোরগঞ্জ-ঢাকা রুটে চলাচলকারী ৭৩৭/৭৫০/৭৪৯/৭৩৮ নং 'এগারসিন্ধুর প্রভাতী/গোধুলী ট্রেনে অনবোর্ড সার্ভিস প্রদানের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি যুগান্তর-তারিখঃ ১৬/০৩/২০২১, সমকাল- তারিখঃ ১৬/০৩/২০২১, এবং ডেইলি স্টার তারিখঃ ১৬/০৩/২০২১ পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত হয়। সারা দেশে করোনার প্রার্দুভাব বৃদ্ধি পাওয়ায় সরকার কর্তৃক লকডাউন ঘোষণার কারণে দরপত্রটির কার্যক্রম এতদ্বারা স্থগিত করা হল।

