Gallant freedom fighters

Bangladesh Secretariat.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina joined the meeting virtually from the Gono

In its proposal, the liberation war ministry said a total of 5,222 wounded freedom fighters under four categories are getting Tk 25,000 to Tk 45,000 monthly. Family members of 952 deceased freedom fighters who were wounded in 1971 are getting Tk 25,000 per month.

Family members of 5,816 martyred freedom fighters are being given Tk 30,000 honorarium per month. They are also getting two festival allowances (Tk 10,000 each).

However, the wounded freedom fighters and family members of martyrs are not getting the Bengali New Year allowance. Wounded freedom fighters are not getting the Victory Day allowance.

On the other hand, families of the seven Bir Sreshtho are getting Tk 35,000 per month, 68 Bir Uttam Tk 25,000, 175 Bir Bikram Tk 20,000 and 426 Bir Protik Tk 15,000.

But the gallantry award-holding freedom fighters are currently not getting festival and Bengali New Year allowances. Gallantry award recipients who are alive today also do not get Victory Day allowance, the ministry said in its proposal.

There were five agendas in yesterday's

cabinet meeting.
Other than those, the price of daily essentials and Covid-19 vaccination issues were discussed.

Cabinet Secretary Anwarul said Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, who was present at the meeting, assured the cabinet of being fully prepared for

The cabinet secretary said that the commerce ministry has proposed vat exemption on oil imports as the oil price is high in the international market.

"They will ensure the reflection of exemption in the retail price [if proposal is approved],"he said.

OFFICE HOURS RESCHEDULED The government has rescheduled office timings for the upcoming holy month of Ramadan to a 9:00am-3:30pm workday for all government, semigovernment, autonomous and semiautonomous institutions.

The decision was made at the cabinet meeting.

"During Ramadan, 9:00am to 3:30pm was fixed as the office timing from Sunday to Thursday. There will be a 15-minute break from 1:15pm to 1:30pm for Zuhr prayers," said Anwarul.

He said other institutions like Railway, the agencies Bangladesh involved in emergency services like fire services, hospitals, state-owned industries and factories, other companies and the Supreme Court will reschedule their own office timings for Ramadan following their own rules and considering public interest.

Replying to a question, he said the banks will follow directives of the central bank.

The cabinet also approved the draft Chattogram Port Authority Act 2021, keeping the provision of one-year imprisonment and Tk 5 lakh fine for

"Often, hazardous substances are stored. Sometimes ships release excessive fumes -- dangerous for humans. The punishment will be applicable for them," the Cabinet secretary said.

Slow response brings us here

Two days later, the countrymen saw a careless act on the part of the health directorate as it allowed the holding of the entrance test for medical colleges without considering the health hazards it could pose.

Over 1.16 lakh candidates and their guardians thronged 55 centres across the country amid a shortage of transports. The centres saw a huge crowd of examinees and guardians outside -- oblivious to the necessity of maintaining social distancing. The examinees had to make their way through crowds to enter the exam

following day, unexpectedly came the announcement of a weeklong lockdown.

The decision to impose restrictions on transport, public movement and business caught the people off guard, sending them into a frenzy to stock up on food supplies and household essentials.

Hundreds others belonging to the lower strata of society hit the bus and launch terminals and went back to their village homes with their families. Social distancing norms were discarded as they squeezed into buses and launches. The mass exodus raised the concern of spreading the deadly virus to remote villages.

Shop owners and employees of

2011 due to the lack of technical

The implementation of the meeting

Fresh move made to stop

different markets were also taken will people go to markets since public aback by the sudden decision. They hit the streets, protesting the government restrictions. They staged demonstrations for the second consecutive day yesterday.

All these expose not only the government's weaknesses in decisionmaking but also a lack of coordination and seriousness required to respond to such a health emergency.

These also beg a question: did the government have any plan to tackle a resurgence of Covid-19 infections? If so, then why there was no cohesion in all these decisions? Why do all these steps seem an outcome of muddled thinking even after dealing with the pandemic for more than a year?

Because of such muddled thinking, we saw people, having little time to prepare for a lockdown, rush to the groceries and shopping malls in

We even saw some contradictions in the government circular which said the public and private offices would remain open, albeit on a limited scale. But at the same time, the government imposed restrictions on all types of public transport.

So, how do people go to their workplaces?

Similarly, the kitchen markets have been ordered to stay open from 8:00am to 4:00pm every day. But how

transports remain off the road?

Yesterday, we saw many office-goers wait in anguish for transport to go to their workplaces.

Then comes another contradiction. The government kept Ekushey Boi Mela open to public from noon to 5:00pm every day while it discouraged all types of fair and banned all political, social and religious gatherings.

The government's order seemed to be aimed mainly at the people of cities, especially the capital. There is no clear guidelines for the vast number of people living in rural areas.

The bigger question is: how will a large number of people who live on a daily income survive during the period of restrictions? Will the government provide them with food? A restriction or lockdown alone cannot effectively ensure a successful enforcement of the health safety regulations unless it is aided by comprehensive relief and cash incentive programmes for the

In this crucial time, the government cannot repeat the mistakes it made during the first wave of Covid-19. We hope that the government will show prudence and farsightedness in making decisions so that its actions do not lead to new problems and miseries in public life.

272 Lebanon

FROM PAGE 12

refused to go to the institutional quarantine and staged demonstrations at the airport. Relatives of many workers also joined them, airport sources said.

"But following discussions with the respective officials, they finally agreed to go to the Hajj Camp to be quarantined," Sazzad said.

Sources at the airport said carrying the Bangladeshi workers, a special chartered flight of Biman was supposed to land in Bangladesh on April 1 but the flight had to be delayed.

An airport official, wishing anonymity, said vesterday the flight was not initially allowed to land. The flight landed at 3:30am following foreign ministry intervention.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh on April 1 announced that passengers from the European countries, except the UK, and 12 other countries will not be allowed to enter Bangladesh from April 3. The ban would continue till April 18.

Lebanon is among the 12 countries. According to sources at the Bangladesh embassy in Lebanon, the embassy took special permission from CAAB for operating the special flight.

The embassy added that the respective authorities of Bangladesh also did not inform them about mandatory institutional quarantine.

The return of 272 is part of an ongoing repatriation of Bangladeshi migrant workers from Lebanon.

Those who returned yesterday were undocumented workers, sources said.

Although a total of 283 workers were supposed to return, 272 came back home. The rest couldn't avail the flight as some of them tested positive

for Covid-19 and others due to caserelated issues. Around 1.30 lakh Bangladeshi migrant workers in Lebanon have been facing an acute financial hardship amid an economic downturn, worsened by its US dollar shortage, according to reports by international

Plagued by this crisis, 5,990 migrant workers have applied for repatriation via the Bangladesh mission as of March 19, while several thousand others were waiting to be registered for return.

According to the Bangladesh mission in Beirut, as of late March, over 4,600 of the registered workers have been repatriated in special flights starting from February 15.

Around 10,000 Bangladeshi workers, in addition to those already registered, were waiting to come back home but many of them are unable to manage the money to pay for the air ticket.

Shariful Hasan, head of Brac's migration programme, yesterday said nearly 6,000 Bangladeshis returned from the Middle East country between April and December last year.

He said Lebanon's economic downturn, dollar crisis, and absence of good governance caused serious impact on Bangladeshis working

Shariful added that the situation worsened after the Beirut explosion in August last year.

Dangerous dissent

in New Delhi. They sought asylum in India and the request was immediately granted. They decided to break with the Islamabad regime in view of the Pakistan Army's massacre of the people of Bangladesh.

THE DISSENT CABLE

Denouncing the US policy towards the crisis in Bangladesh, American Consul General in Dhaka Archer K Blood and his colleagues, including officers of USAID Dhaka and USIS Dhaka, sent the famous "dissent cable" today to the US State Department: "Our government has failed to denounce the suppression of democracy. Our government has failed to denounce atrocities. Our government has failed to take forceful measures to protect its citizens while at the same time bending over backwards to placate the West Pak dominated government and to lessen likely and deservedly negative international public relations impact against them. Our government has evidenced what many will consider moral bankruptcy, ironically at a time when the USSR sent President Yahya a message defending democracy, condemning arrest of leader of democratically elected majority party and calling for end to repressive measures and bloodshed." TÂLES OF GRIM FIGHT

More than 100 foreign evacuees arrived in Kolkata today after a 34 hour voyage from Chittagong. They shared the latest eyewitness reports about the Pakistani army's attempt to suppress the independence movement.

"It's a massacre," said John Martinussen, a Danish student who later became an authority on international development policy.

Refuting the Pakistan government's propaganda, Martinussen, who came with his wife Karen to study Pakistani

politics as part of his master's degree programme at Aarhus University in Denmark, said, "Nothing is calm, and nothing has come back to normal.

"They systematically burned down the districts of the poor people, apparently because they felt they couldn't search them thoroughly," he went on. "They seemed to be enjoying

killing and destroying everything.

"Many Bengalis have been killed," the 23 year old student said. "In the river just four days ago, you could count 400 bodies floating in one area."

The evacuees informed that after several days of fighting, the army -- all West Pakistani troops -- had pushed the Bangladeshi resistance forces out of the city. But, they added, the army's control ends five miles outside the city, at the banks of the Karnalphuli River.

Everything from the river south, they said, is in the hands of the "liberation army" which consists of civilians and members of the East Pakistani police, the East Pakistani Rifles and the East Bengal Regiment who have come over to the independence movement.

The evacuees further said they could hear shooting on the outskirts of the city even as they were leaving for Kolkata yesterday morning. Most of the residents had fled the city and gone into the countryside, they added.

INDIA DENIEŚ DEPLOÝMENT spokesman for the Indian Government today denied that Indian troops had been moved to the border of East Pakistan.

The spokesman was reacting to protests sent by Pakistan to several governments, including the Soviet Union, asserting that six Indian army divisions had been deployed near the border.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist Chittagong seven months ago and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

decisions will be monitored and supervised by the Ministry of Industry.

knowhow and efficiency.

The ship-breaking industry in Chattogram, which caters to 80 percent of domestic steel demand, remains extremely dirty and dangerous for workers and the environment. On December 19 last year, The

Daily Star and Finance Uncovered, reporting organisation in London, jointly investigated and ran a report on how cash buyers use false documents in sending toxic ships for dismantling to the Chattogram coast. Officials in the meeting observed

that the lack of efficiency in assessing toxic waste in ships sent for scrapping exposes the country's shores to pollution.

They decided to have an online database of ships being imported by domestic buyers for scrapping, for better coordination among various inspecting government bodies, read the meeting minutes obtained by The Daily Star recently.

At the meeting, Additional Secretary (ship recycling) of the Ministry of Industry Md Zafar Ullah stressed the

need to enhance the efficiency of the later," he said.

He said IHM for ships could be implemented in various phases, adding that ships that are imported for dismantling should be verified as to whether they are on the Greenpeace list. Greenpeace enlists toxic ships worldwide in a bid to stop them from crossing international maritime borders to get dismantled.

Department of Environment (DoE) to

inspect and detect dangerous waste.

The then director Chattogram Mohammad Moazzom Hossain informed the meeting of ships entering Bangladesh's borders by changing names, and underscored the need to strengthen surveillance so that no toxic ships can enter hiding information.

Additional secretary of environment ministry, Md Moniruzzaman, told The Daily Star last month that the current practice is to inspect the ship when it arrives at the outer anchorage of the Bay of Bengal.

"But we are now thinking the importer will have to declare that the ship is free of toxic items [through an IHM]. When an importer self-declares that the ship has no hazardous materials, then the responsibility lies on him if any toxic substance is found

He said they gave their opinions and sent these to the Ministry of Industry. Coordinator of YPSA (Young Power

in Social Action), an NGO which works with shipbreaking yard workers, Mohammad Ali Sahin told The Daily Star that while preparing an IHM is a core principle of the Hong Kong Convention, importers rarely carry out "IHM is very expensive, which is why

the importers of scrap ships don't want to do it. The leniency of authorities in enforcing the Hazardous Waste and Ship Breaking Waste Management Rules, 2011 is helping shipyard owners get away with pollution," he said. Contacted recently, Md Zafar Ullah

of the Ministry of Industry told The Daily Star that the ministry currently doesn't have the facilities to verify IHM

"We are trying to increase the efficiency of labs under DoE so that shipbreakers can have it done [preparing IHM] from here. As it is time-consuming, we want to implement it in phases."

He added, "We have to implement

it as per international legal obligations before 2023. So, we are trying to find ways to accelerate it."

EU has 'severe concern' over Russian activity near Ukraine

European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell on Sunday pledged the bloc's "unwavering" support for Kiev as he expressed major worries over Russian troop movements around Ukraine.

"Following with severe concern the Russian military activity surrounding Ukraine," Borrell tweeted after a phone call with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba.

"Unwavering EU support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial

diplomat and foreign ministers from the EU's 27 nations at a meeting later

this month. Ukraine this week accused Russia of massing thousands of military

personnel on its northern and eastern borders as well as on the Crimean peninsula annexed by Moscow in 2014.

The Kremlin did not deny the recent Borrell said he would hold further troop movements, but insisted that Moscow was "not threatening anyone".

The reports of a buildup have swirled amid an escalation of armed clashes along the front line between Ukraine's forces and Russian-backed separatists in the east of the country.



GAZI WIRES LIMITED

(An Enterprise of BSEC under Ministry of Industries) 28-FIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram-4212, Bangladesh.



International Tender Notice

1	Procuring Entity Name	Managing Director, GAZI WIRES LIMITED (BSEC), 28-FIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram 4212, Bangladesh.	
2	Procuring Entity District	Chattogram.	
3	Invitation for	Supply of Electrolytic Copper Wire (8 mm dia.) under Framework Contract	
4	Invitation Ref. No	GW/PUR/027/OTM (ICT)/2021-2022 Dated: 05-04-2021	
5	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (ICT) (Single/One Stage Two Envelope System)	
6	Budget and Source of Funds	Gazi Wires Limited's Own Fund.	
7	Tender Package No.	GW/PUR/027/OTM(ICT)/2021-2022	
8	Tender Publication Date	06-04-2021	
9	Tender Last Selling Date	23-05-2021 (During Office Time)	
10	Tender Closing Date and Time	Date	Time
		24-05-2021	11.30AM (Bangladesh Betar time)
11	Tender Opening Date and Time	24-05-2021	11.45 AM (Bangladesh Betar time)
12	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address	
(a)	Selling Tender Document	Cash Section, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering, BSEC Bhaban, 102-Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. Cash Section, Gazi Wires Limited, 28-FIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chittagong-4212, Bangladesh.	
(b)	Receiving of Tender Document	1) At the office of Gazi Wires Ltd., 28-FIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram -4212, Bangladesh.	
(c)	Opening of Tender Document	1) At the office of Gazi Wires Ltd., 28-FIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram -4212, Bangladesh.	
13	Price of Tender Document (Each)	BDT. 3000.00	
14	Brief Description of Goods		
Tender Package No.		Description of Goods and works	Tender Security Amount (BDT / USD)
GW/PUR/027/OTM(ICT)/2021-2022		Supply of Electrolytic Copper Wire (8 mm dia.) under Framework Contract	BDT 38,25,000.00 or Equivalent USD 45,000.00
15	Regarding Tender Document	The Tender Document may be purchased by the interested tenderers on the submission of a written application to the addresses as mentioned in serial no. 12(a) and upon payment of a non refundable fee BDT. 3000.00. The method of payment will be in the form of cash in favour of Gazi Wires Ltd. No Tender will be sent by Courier or mail. One tender document cannot be used for submission of tender proposal (s) by more than one tenderer.	
16	Delivery Period /	Shipment will be within three years from the date of Contract (LC by LC).	
	Shipment Schedule		
18	Special instructions	i. The Tenderer shall enclose the original Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal in different envelope. The envelopes will be marked as Technical Proposal Original and Financial Proposal Original. Similarly copies of Technical and Financial proposal will be enclosed in two different envelopes and the envelope will be marked 'Copy Technical Proposal' and 'Copy Financial Proposal'. Then original Technical Proposal envelope and copy of the technical proposals will be put into another envelope and the envelope will be marked as Technical Proposal. Similarly Original of the Financial Proposal and Copy of the Financial Proposal will put into another envelope will be marked as Financial Proposal. These two envelopes of Technical Proposal and Financial proposal shall then be enclosed one single outer envelope. All the envelopes should be duly sealed and signed by the bidder.	

showing any reason

(Dr. Mohammad Galam Kabir) Managing Director Gazi Wires Limited Phone: +88031-670346 E-mail: gaziwiresltd@gmail.com

ii. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without

Scientists connect human brain

person's brain motor cortex.

Trial participants with paralysis used the system to control a tablet computer, the journal IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering reports.

The participants were able to achieve similar typing speeds and point-and-click accuracy as they could with wired systems.

John Simeral, an assistant professor of engineering at Brown University, "We've demonstrated that this wireless system is functionally equivalent to the wired systems that have been the gold standard.

"The signals are recorded and transmitted with appropriately similar fidelity, which means we can use the same decoding algorithms we used

with wired equipment.

"The only difference is that people no longer need to be physically tethered to our equipment, which opens up new possibilities in terms of how the system can be used.

It marks the latest advance in the rapidly growing field of neural interface technologies, which has attracted the likes of Elon Musk and Facebook.

Name of scheme

Supplying of Hand Sanitizer, Hand

Woman raped

FROM PAGE 12

Hospital for autopsy. Earlier, locals saw the body at the fish enclosure

and informed police. Talking to this correspondent, Sikdar Matiar Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Manirampur Police Station, said, "We recovered the body and sent it to the morgue for autopsy. We are yet to identify the killers...

Jubo League

FROM PAGE 12 unwanted incidents." OC Latif said no one filed any written complaint with the station against

Emad.

We are investigating...

No one was arrested.

Modi thanks

FROM PAGE 12 years since Bangladesh's liberation as well as the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," Modi wrote.

The Indian premier also recalled his meeting with Momen. "It was a pleasure to exchange thoughts with you during the visit."

Zila Parishad, Manikgani

www.zpmanikganj.org.bd



Memo No. ZPManik/e-Tender/02/2020/146

Package No.

e-GP/ZPM/05/REV/G-01

Date: 05/04/2021 e-Tender Notice No. 05/2020-2021 (OTM)

is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following goods packages:

Wash, Soap & Mask Distribution among the Poor People of the District to Protect the Corona Virus situation. This is online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-

Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal

(http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited through online from any registered banks branches up to 12.00pm on 21/04/2021. Publication Date & Time 12:00am on 07/04/2021. Last Date and Time for Tender Security Submission 13.00am on 21/04/2021, Tender Closing Date & Time 14.00pm on 21/04/2021. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

> Md. Mozammel Haque Assistant Engineer Zila Parishad, Manikganj

Tel No. 02-7711005

GD-691

Tender

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