FROM PAGE 12

272 Lebanon

Airport, told The Daily Star.

at the Hazrat Shahjalal International

The government will bear

A sick and aged worker was admitted

o a city hospital, while a pregnant

worker was allowed to stay in home

quarantine on humanitarian grounds,

to the institutional quarantine and

staged demonstrations at the airport.

Relatives of many workers also joined

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

Sources at the airport said carrying

An airport official, wishing

anonymity, said yesterday the flight

was not initially allowed to land. The

flight landed at 3:30am following

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

The return of 272 is part of an

Those who returned yesterday were

Although a total of 283 workers

ongoing repatriation of Bangladeshi

undocumented workers, sources said.

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 case-

migrant workers in Lebanon have been

facing an acute financial hardship amid

an economic downturn, worsened by

its US dollar shortage, according to

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

According to the Bangladesh

mission in Beirut, as of late March,

over 4,600 of the registered workers have been repatriated in special flights

10,000

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

Shariful Hasan, head of Brac's

nigration programme, yesterday said

nearly 6,000 Bangladeshis returned

from the Middle East country between

He said Lebanon's economic

downturn, dollar crisis, and absence

of good governance caused serious

impact on Bangladeshis working there.

April and December last year.

Bangladeshi

waiting to be registered for return.

starting from February 15.

Around

reports by international media.

Around 1.30 lakh Bangladeshi

related issues.

respective authorities of Bangladesh

also did not inform them about

mandatory institutional quarantine.

nigrant workers from Lebanon.

foreign ministry intervention.

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.

them, airport sources said.

quarantined," Sazzad said.

At first, the returnees refused to go

their expenses during their stay in quarantine, said Sazzad.

Gallant freedom fighters FROM PAGE 12 from the Gono Bhaban. 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 categories are getting Tk 25 000 to Tk OFFICE HOURS RESCHEDULED

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 getting two festival allowances (Tk 10,000 each).

The wounded freedom fighters and family members of martyrs were not getting the Pahela Baishakh allowance. Wounded freedom fighters were also not getting the Victory Day

Families of the seven Bir Sreshthas are getting Tk 35,000 per month, 68 Bir Uttam Tk 25,000, 175 Bir Bikram Tk 20,000 and 426 Bir Protik Tk

But the gallantry award-holding freedom fighters are currently not getting festival and Pahela Baishakh 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 Ramadan.

The cabinet secretary said that the commerce ministry has proposed vat exemption on oil imports as the

OFFICE HOURS RESCHEDULED

City

The government has rescheduled office timings for the upcoming holy month of Ramadan to a 9:00am-3:30pm workday for all government, semi-government, autonomous and semi-autonomous 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 Bangladesh Railway, the agencies 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

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 pollution.

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

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."

TALES 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 DENIES DEPLOYMENT

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

Slow response brings us here

Over 1.16 lakh candidates and their guardians thronged 55 centres across the country amid a shortage of transport. The centres saw huge crowds 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 halls.

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

The decision to impose restrictions on transport, public movement and businesses 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 different markets were also taken aback by the sudden decision. They hit the streets, protesting the government restrictions. They staged

2011 due to the lack of technical

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

The ship-breaking industry in Chattogram, which caters to 80 percent

of domestic steel demand, remains

extremely dirty and dangerous for

Daily Star and Finance Úncovered,

a 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 lack of efficiency in assessing toxic

waste in ships sent for scrapping exposes the country's shores to pollution.

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

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

Officials in the meeting observed that

They decided to have an online

On December 19 last year, The

workers and the environment.

the Chattogram coast.

The implementation of the meeting

knowhow and efficiency.

Fresh move made to stop

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 groceries and shopping malls in

We even saw some contradictions in the government circular which said 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 will people go to markets since public

Department of Environment (DoE) to

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

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

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

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

"But we are now thinking the

Additional secretary of environment

ships can enter hiding information.

The then director of DoE Chattogram

to get dismantled.

of Bengal.

He said IHM for ships could be

inspect and detect dangerous waste.

transports remain off the road? Yesterday, we saw many 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 poor.

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

need to enhance the efficiency of the

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,

IHM is verý expénsive, which is why

He added, "We have to implement it as per international legal obligations

He said they gave their opinions and sent these to the Ministry of Industry.

importers rarely carry out one.

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.

Over 7,000 daily Covid cases again

via home delivery service.

Only open-air kitchen markets and nops selling essential items can remain operational from 8:00am to 4:00pm. In an event in Manikganj yesterday,

Director General of Directorate General of Health Services Prof ABM Khurshid Alam made a similar statement about Whether the ongoing restriction

would be prolonged or not will depend on the Covid-19 infection rate in the country, he said while replying to a journalist's query during his visit to The DGHS chief also said, "The

health ministry will campaign across the country with the help of information ministry to raise awareness."

In 24 hours ending at 8:00am

yesterday, 7,075 people tested positive, while the number was 7,087 the

With yesterday's new cases, the total number of people infected reached 6,44,439, said a DGHS press release. The positivity rate, however,

increased a bit yesterday -- to 23.40 from the previous day's 23.07. Some 30,239 samples were tested

across the country in the 24 hours. During the time, 52 people died from Covid-19, raising the death toll

The death rate was 1.45 percent. Meanwhile, 2,932 Covid-19 patients recovered in the 24 hours, taking the

total number of recoveries to 5,55,414. This is more than 86 percent of all

confirmed cases in the country.

between 11 and 20. Three were aged between 31 and 40, six 41 and 50, nine according to the DGHS press release.

and December last year, the positivity rate started going down from January. Throughout February, this rate was below three percent but started rising

critical patients.

beds out of 118 in Dhaka's Covid-19 dedicated public hospitals were vacant.

Of the 2,555 general beds in those Among the 52 deceased, 34 were hospitals, only 201 remained vacant.

Coordinator of YPSA (Young Power

Contacted recently, Md Zafar Ullah of the Ministry of Índustry 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 hat shípbreakers can have it done [preparing IHM] from here. As it is timeconsuming, we want to implement it in

before 2023. So, we are trying to find ways to accelerate it."

One was aged under 10 and another

51 and 60, and 32 were above 60 years, After the second spike in November

For nearly a month now, hospitals, especially in Dhaka city, have been struggling with the rising number of

As of yesterday noon, only 11 ICU

Shariful added that the situation worsened after the Beirut explosion in

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 (1942), Bangladesh.	BSEC), 28-FIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chattogram	
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		dress	
(a)	Selling Tender Document 1) Cash Section, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering, BSEC Bhaban, 102-Kazi Nazrul I Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. 2) Cash Section, Gazi Wires Limited, 28-FIDC Road, Kalurghat, Chittagong-4212, Bangladesh.		C Road, Kalurghat, Chittagong-4212, Bangladesh.	
(b)	Receiving of Tender Document	ng 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, Bangle		oad, Kalurghat, Chattogram -4212, Bangladesh.	
13	Price of Tender Document (Each)	BDT. 3000.00		
14	Brief Description of Goods	ods		
Tender Package No. GW/PUR/027/OTM(ICT)/2021-2022		Description of Goods and works	Tender Security Amount (BDT / USD)	
		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. ii. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without		

showing any reason



Jubo League leader held

FROM PAGE 12

Narayanganj. M Salman Ahmed, local leader of Islami Andolon Bangladesh, said, "Islamic leaders in the area and Hefajat supporters were furious about Emad's post, and we informed police about the situation. They detained Emad to avoid

unwanted incidents. OC Latif said no one filed any written complaint with the station against Emad.

In Kushtia, ASI Golam Rabbani, who worked at an in-service training centre, was suspended allegedly for a Facebook live video where he defended Mamunul Hague.

"He was suspended as per the instructions from higher authority, and we ordered that a probe body be formed and asked to submit its report in two or three days," said Superintendent of Police Khairul Alam.

August last year.

Modi thanks FROM PAGE 12 to congratulate the Bangladesh government for flawlessly organising the spectacular celebrations on March 26 to mark 50 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.

Scientists

FROM PAGE 12 person's brain motor

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

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

Engineering reports.

John Simeral, an assistant professor of engineering at Brown University, said: "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

has attracted the likes of

Elon Musk and Facebook.

interface technologies, which

Zila Parishad, Manikgani www.zpmanikganj.org.bd



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

Date: 05/04/2021

e-Tender Notice No. 05/2020-2021 (OTM) e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following goods

packages	:	
Tender	Package No.	Name of scheme
565823	e-GP/ZPM/05/REV/G-01	Supplying of Hand Sanitizer, Hand
		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

GD-691

Zila Parishad, Manikganj Tel No. 02-7711005

GD-688