

## DoE chief Rafique Ahmed succumbs to Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

AKM Rafique Ahmed, director general of the Department of Environment (DoE), died yesterday with Covid-19 while undergoing treatment at Central Police Hospital in Dhaka. He was 55.

Mohammed Nurullah Nuri, director of Chattogram (Metro) DoE, told The Daily Star that Rafique Ahmed breathed his last at ICU of the hospital at around 4:14am.

He tested positive for Covid-19 around two weeks ago. He was on life support for the last two days.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at Goribullah Shah Mosque in the port city at 3pm. He was later buried next to his father's grave, Nuri added.

## CANCELLED PAHELA BAISHAKH CELEBRATIONS

# Artisans of south bear the brunt of lockdown

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Pahela Baishakh is just three days away. But for the second year in a row, the day is set to be less of an occasion for joy and more like just another day spent at home.

But that's for regular people. For artisans and traders of the south, who look forward to the day to pocket a big portion of their yearly income, this year's Barshoboron will be an occasion for frustration and despair.

Buli Rani Pal, a potter of Gaila village in Barishal's Agailjhara upazila, said though she has made a few clay toys, but she's yet to find any takers as of yesterday, and it's unlikely that she'll find many buyers in the coming days.

Besides, Artisans from Barishal say beyond the money, they'll also miss the happiness the day always brought them.

"It's become a habit, so I have made some clay dolls and toys, even if only for my family and close ones," said Purnima Rani Paul of Ujirpur upazila. "It's not just about the money, the very act of creating the toys used to bring me a lot of joy."

Like her, more than five hundred families from the division's Paul Paras (potter's villages) will be left in similarly dire situations as no



Every year, this family workshop at Barishal's Ujirpur is cramped for space ahead of Pahela Baishakh. But on Wednesday, this potter was applying herself to craft a bare minimum of her clay elephants. She knows all too well that they won't sell.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

fairs will take place this year.

As a result, many are considering leaving the profession. "Traditional products like ours depend on social gatherings to sell. We are suffering immensely," said Bishweshwar Pal, advisor of Barishal Mritshilpi Shammelon o Shammanana, an artisan's collective.

On top of this, the lack of public transportation means people will be discouraged to move around, while intercity transportation is not possible as well.

Member secretary of the

collective Bappi Majumder said, "Around 300-400 potters scattered around south used to make products worth Tk four to five lakh, centering Pahela Baishakh festivities. But this time, they made only a few products," he further said.

Apart from Barishal, the situation is similar across the greater south too. Kamal Pal of Madanpura Palpara in Baufal upazila in Patuakhali said they cannot even send their goods to Dhaka, due to vehicular restrictions

during the lockdown.

As a result, around 10-12 potters and traders from Madanpura and Boga areas in the district stand to lose more than half a crore taka combined.

Over in Jhalokathi, Tapan Pal of Shimuleshwar village is worried over how he's going to pass the next year. His clay-made tea cups and toys used to bring in a substantial money, which helped him pass the off peak months in relative comfort.

Hasanur Rahman Maksood, District Cultural Officer of Barishal, said Tk 10,000 was given to 230 folk artistes, including some artisans, each to 230 folk artists to help cope with the difficulties of last year.

However, potters said this paltry amount doesn't really help solve their financial woes. Besides, only a few of them received it, whereas thousands of people in the south are involved with the craft.

Nazmul Hossain Akash, president of Barishal Shangkritik Sangathan Samannoy Parishad, said all folk artistes suffering due to the lockdown should be given allowances by the government, otherwise soon they'll start leaving the craft and the country will be at risk of losing a big part of its cultural heritage.

## Ten-year-old electrocuted in Chattogram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A boy was electrocuted while scavenging garbage in the DC Road area of the port city yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Md Emon (10), son of Tazul Islam, hailing from Kishoreganj district.

Shamsul Islam, sub-inspector of Chawkbazar Police Station, told The Daily Star that the boy died after he came in contact with a live electric wire while scavenging at the abandoned ground floor of a building at Goni Colony of DC Road.

On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body, he added.

## Obaidul Quader

FROM PAGE 3

He said the government is making an all-out effort to save lives and livelihoods.

About BNP's demand to take opinions from all parties over Covid-19, Quader said coronavirus is not a political issue. He said there is a national advisory committee on Covid-19 and the government is taking decisions on basis of recommendations of that committee and health experts.

Saying there is no instance in the world of forming an all-party committee to contain coronavirus, he said the opinions of health experts are more important in this regard.

On the occasion of the historic Mujibnagar Day, the AL general secretary paid tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and all the martyrs of the 1971 Liberation War.

Earlier, the minister virtually inaugurated the construction project to upgrade connecting road of Karnaphuli tunnel (Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel) and Anwara upazila to a four-lane one.

## No dedicated

FROM PAGE 3

The other districts in the division are not faring any better either.

Out of eight districts, only two districts -- Rajshahi and Bogura -- have 51 beds in four ICUs; all of those are lacking skilled staffers, said Dr Habibul Ahsan Talukder, Rajshahi divisional director of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Other than the 20-bed ICU at RMCH, Bogura has eight-bed ICU at Mohammad Ali Hospital, 13-bed ICU at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital and a 10-bed ICU at Combined Military Hospital, he said.

Meanwhile, Mokarram Hossain's brother Muhibullah Bahar was admitted to the ICU on April 2.

He became sick a week before he was taken to Pabna General Hospital on April 1. As his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to Rajshahi that very day.

His samples, taken on April 2, showed he was Covid-19 negative, but RMCH doctors recorded his case as a suspected Covid-19 one. They said infected patients, in most cases, were found negative in their last stage of infection.

His brother and wife stayed with him at the ICU in shifts.

RMCH authorities said as there were no skilled doctor or staff members, the ICU authorities allow patients' relatives to attend patients round the clock.

During the April 4 storm, Hossain was with Bahar.

Standing beside Bahar's bed, Hossain looked outside through the ICU's windows, and saw the storm getting stronger.

He noticed that his brother was sleeping peacefully in his bed and his oxygen saturation level hovering near

the normal 95 percent.

When the outage occurred, Bahar became restless. Hossain saw Bahar's oxygen level rapidly dropping and at one moment, it went down to 35 percent, he said. "He [Bahar] started sweating... I felt panicked," he said.

"The power was out for nearly eight minutes, but it felt a lot longer," he said. "That day, the power at the ICU went out at least 10 times. Sometimes it returned quickly, and at one time it took at least eight minutes... I think the damage was done at that time," he said.

Bahar's oxygen level went up to 92 percent soon, when the authorities managed to get the backup power running.

But since 2am the next day, Bahar's oxygen level started to drop again.

Bahar, father of a three-year-old son, died at 5am on April 5. He was 32.

"I don't want to accuse anyone for his death. All I want is the system to get better. All supplies were there, still my brother had to pass time without oxygen. They need more skilled staffers at the ICU," said Hossain.

This correspondent also managed to speak to an attendant of a patient at the ICU on April 4. Wishing anonymity, the attendant said that day during the storm at least for one time, it took a while for the backup power to start running.

The attendant did not want to elaborate any further fearing it may affect their patient's treatment.

This correspondent tried to get in touch with the doctors and staffers working at the ICU, but they refused to talk. When this correspondent talked with hospital's director, he took time to inquire about the issue from the ICU.

RMCH director later told The Daily Star that the ICU department said they did not have any power backup failure during the storm and that the outage did not have any effect on the oxygen supply.

"If the ICU was out of power for eight minutes (as told by Hossain), all the patients would have died," he said.

"Our system is modern and programmed to switch on power backup within 26 seconds of any failure. The patient you're talking about may have been frightened when the lights went off. The lights can go off for some time during an outage, but the oxygen supply and ventilators have built-in functions to run those smoothly," he said.

He, however, did admit that Bahar's oxygen level dropped during the storm, and said that it regained after a while.

About the manpower issue, the director said, it's getting tougher for them to handle the pressure with the coronavirus infection rate increasing in Rajshahi and surrounding districts.

"We have asked for dedicated staff at the ICU from the government. But we have to keep in mind that the condition is worsening all across the country. Hopefully, we will get an answer from them soon," the director said.

On April 4 and 5, at least three Covid-19 and suspected patients died at the ICU, where at least 23 patients, both Covid-19 positive and suspected, died in the last eight days till Thursday, according to a report of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police.

However, the official data of the health services recorded a total nine deaths from Covid-19 in eight districts of Rajshahi division while 950 people were detected with the infection.

## A distress

FROM PAGE 3

He said immediately after they saw Ibrahim's message, they contacted him at his home address in Teknaf of Cox's Bazar through the local police station.

His family and locals said he went to Saudi Arabia to perform the holy Umrah. After performing Umrah, he fell ill and was forced to stay over there, AIG Rana said.

At one point, his travel document's validity expired. Despite being ill, he was in hiding, as he could not move anywhere due to lack of valid documents, he added.

"At one point, he became seriously ill and gave up hope of survival. He was ill for more than a year," AIG Rana said quoting Ibrahim and his relatives.

At that moment, on someone's suggestion, he sent a message to the Bangladesh Police Facebook page, seeking cooperation.

Sohel Rana said though it is not a job for police, they stood by him for humanitarian reasons after they confirmed his illness and helplessness.

The PHQ did not disclose further details about Ibrahim.

## It's unfortunate

FROM PAGE 3

"We can initiate contempt of court proceedings for non-implementation of our verdict. But, we are tired of doing so," he said.

"The government is the custodian of the people's properties and the court is bound to protect those. I hope each and every judgement of the Supreme Court will be executed properly with the assistance from the executive," the chief justice said.

He said this in response to a request from historian and researcher Prof Muntassir Mamoon for forming a cell to ensure implementation of the SC directives. Prof Mamoon told the event that many SC directives on the public interest cases were not executed and urged the chief justice to form a cell to ensure proper implementation of those.

The chief justice said it is a great achievement that trials of Bangabandhu killing and 1971 war crimes have been completed, which need to be presented before the international communities.

The spirit of the Liberation War needs to be implemented for building the country as dreamt by Bangabandhu, he said, adding that the judiciary will play its due role in this regard.

Speaking on the occasion, Justice M Imman Ali, senior judge of the Appellate Division, said corruption is everywhere still now, although Bangabandhu had raised his voice time and again to eradicate corruption from the country.

He also mentioned that the country's courts have a backlog of 40 lakh cases.

"The judicial system has to be changed as Bangabandhu had emphasised on it. The key to bring the change is in our hand. We must bring the change. This is the high time," Justice Imman Ali added.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin, eminent actor and member of parliament Asaduzzaman Noor, member of Liberation War Museum's board of trustees Mofidul Hoque, editor-in-chief of Ekattor TV Mozammel Haque Babu and writer and Prothom Alo deputy editor Anisul Hoque, among others, spoke on the occasion.

## Doctor dies of Covid-19 in port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A doctor died of Covid-19 at a private hospital in Chattogram city on Friday night, aged 65.

The deceased -- Abdul Latif -- was an 18th batch MBBS student of Chattogram Medical College Hospital and passed in 1981, said Dr Mujibur Haque Khan, president of Bangladesh Medical Association, Chattogram chapter.

Dr Latif, a private practitioner, was undergoing treatment at the ICU for nine days after he tested positive for coronavirus, he said.

With Latif, a total of 20 doctors in Chattogram died of Covid-19, said Dr Faisal Iqbal Chowdhury, general secretary of BMA, Chattogram.

According to Chattogram Civil Surgeon Office, five people died of Covid-19 and 523 tested positive out of 2,791 samples in Chattogram in the last 24 hours till 10pm on Friday.

**Social Islami Bank Limited**  
Head Office: City Center  
90/1 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

**IFT FOR EXTENDING WARRANTY AND SUPPORT SERVICE PERIOD FOR HSM**

Sealed tenders are hereby invited for Extending Warranty and IT Support Services periods required for 3 (three) Hardware Security Module- HSM SafeNet 7000 & 1700, model "Luna SA 7000 & 1700" from locally Gemalto Authorized, reputed and experienced enterprises. Please visit tender link of our website: [www.sibbd.com](http://www.sibbd.com) for detail schedule, instructions, guidelines, eligibility and specifications etc.

**Vice President & Head**  
Logistic Support Division  
Phone- 09612001122 Ext- 50292,50299  
E-mail address: [lsd@sib-bd.com](mailto:lsd@sib-bd.com)

**16491**

## Body found in Ctg pond

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man was found dead in a pond in Sitakunda upazila of Chattogram yesterday.

Police recovered the body of Joyanal Abedin (30) from the waterbody near his house at Telipara in Barabkunda union.

Sitakunda Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abul Kalam Azad said the recovery was made following information from 999.

"The body bore several stab marks and mutilation," he said.

"Joyanal used to sell fruits in the port city of Halishahar area. We detained his wife for interrogation following some information given by the neighbours," said the police officer.

"The motive behind the incident is not clear yet. We have started our investigation," he said.

Police sent the body to Chattogram Medical College morgue for autopsy.

## Ekushey

FROM PAGE 3

This year, 834 units of space were allocated to 540 publishing houses and organisations to facilitate sale of books.

The authorities allotted 154 units on Bangla Academy premises to 107 organisations, and 680 units in Suhrawardy Udyan to 433 organisations.

Considering social distancing requirements, the land earmarked for this year's fair was expanded to 1,500,000 square feet.

**Rajshahi City Corporation**  
Engineering Department  
Nagar Bhaban, Kadirgonj, Rajshahi

**Invitation for Tenders (IFT)-03/2020-21(Re-tender)**  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
Supply of Different Types of Spare Parts for Different Type of Vehicles of Rajshahi City Corporation.

1.	Invitation for	Supply of Different Types of Spare Parts for Different Type of Vehicles of Rajshahi City Corporation.
2.	Invitation Ref No. & date	46.12.5081.006.26.593.20.89, Date: 08.04.2021
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
3.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (NCT).
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
4.	Budget and source of funds	GOB & RCC's Own Resource.
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
5.	Tender publication date	11.04.2021
6.	Tender last selling date	25.04.2021 During Bank hour
	Date	Time
7.	Tender closing date and time	26/04/2021 Upto 01.00 PM
8.	Tender opening date and time	26/04/2021 At 2.00PM
9.	Name & address of the office(s)	Agrani Bank Ltd., Nagar Bhaban Branch, Rajshahi City Corporation.
	-Selling tender document	
<b>NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS</b>		
10.	-Receiving & opening tender document	Office of the Secretary, Nagar Bhaban, Rajshahi City Corporation.
11.	Place/date/time of	Office of the Executive Engineer (Mechanical), Nagar Bhaban, Rajshahi City Corporation.
12.	Pre-tender meeting (Optional)	Date: 19.04.2021 Time: 11.00 AM
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>		
13.	Brief eligibility and qualification of tenderer	As per TDS.
14.	Brief description of goods	Tyre, Battery & Spare Parts of Different Types of Vehicles.
15.	Price of tender document (Tk)	2,000.00 (Two Thousand) (Non-refundable).
16.	Lot No.	Identification of Lot
	1	Supply of Different Types of Parts for Different Types of Vehicles of Rajshahi City Corporation
		Rajshahi City Corporation
		2% of the Total value of the Items Quoted
		12 months after contract agreement
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>		
17.	Name of official inviting tender	Md. Rezaat Hossain.
18.	Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer (Mechanical).
19.	Address of official inviting tender	Nagar Bhaban, Rajshahi City Corporation.
20.	Contact details of official inviting tender	0721-772215
21.	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.	
	Sd/-	
	Md. Rezaat Hossain	
	Executive Engineer (Mechanical)	
	Rajshahi City Corporation	

**LP GAS LIMITED**  
(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)  
North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh

**Invitation for Tenders**

1	Ministry / Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources / Energy & Mineral Resources Division
2	Agency	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC)
3	Purchaser Name	LP Gas Limited (LPGL), A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation
4	Purchaser Code	N/A
5	Purchaser District	Chattogram
6	Invitation for	Supply of 30,000 LPG cylinders for domestic users
7	Invitation Ref. No.	28.27.0000.001.07.001.20-648
8	Date	08/04/2021
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
10	Budget & Source of fund	LP Gas Limited (own fund)
11	Development Partners	None
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
12	Project / Programme Code (if applicable)	N/A
13	Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	N/A
14	Tender Package No.	Cyl-21
15	Tender Package Name	Supply of LPG cylinders
16	Tender Publication Date	11/04/2021
17	Tender Last Selling Date	23/05/2021
18	Tender Closing Date & Time	24/05/2021, Time- 14:30 Hrs (BST)
19	Tender Opening Date & Time	24/05/2021, Time- 14:35 Hrs (BST)
20	Name & Address of the Office(s)	Address
	- Selling Tender Document (Principal)	LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh
	- Selling Tender Document (Others)	Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chattogram-4100
<b>NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS</b>		
	- Receiving Tender Documents	LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh
	- Opening Tender Documents	-Do-
21	Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional)	Place: LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh Date: 26/04/2021 Time: 14:30 Hrs (BST)
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>		
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	As per Tender Schedule
23	Brief Description of Goods & Works	Supply of 30,000 LPG cylinders of 26.6 Litre water capacity fitted with valve (22 mm version) and protection cap
24	Brief Description of Related Services	Related Services are as per Tender Schedule
25	Price of Tender Documents	BDT 10,000 or US\$ 125 (Non-refundable)
26	Lot No.	Identification of Lot
	1	N/A (Single Lot)
		Location
		LP Gas Limited
		Tender Security Amount
		BDT 17 (seventeen) Lac or US\$ 20 (twenty) thousand
		Completion Time in Weeks
		16 (sixteen) Weeks
<b>PURCHASER DETAILS</b>		
27	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Engr. Md. Siddique Hossain
28	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Deputy General Manager
29	Address of Official Inviting Tender	LP Gas Limited, North Patenga, Chattogram-4204, Bangladesh
30	Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: +88-031-2501220, Mobile: +88-01715-694093 E-mail: <a href="mailto:sidd_hossain@yahoo.com">sidd_hossain@yahoo.com</a>
31	This Tender Notice will be available at LPG website: <a href="http://www.lpg.gov.bd">www.lpg.gov.bd</a> and CPTU website: <a href="http://www.cptu.gov.bd">www.cptu.gov.bd</a>	
32	The Purchaser reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or annul the tender proceedings.	