

# Govt plans

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However, their needs have not been addressed as per expectation, he added. The government stimulus packages announced to fight the pandemic's economic fallout and help farmers and informal sector workers is lacking in implementation, he said.  
Noted economist Prof Anu Muhammad said although the government, World Bank, and development consultants show satisfaction regarding poverty alleviation in Bangladesh, thorough analysis would reveal large segments of the population locked in at the "marginal" stage of economic safety.  
He said before the pandemic, many were already in economically vulnerable situations, with more than five crore people in the informal sectors without any job security.  
As a result, the number of people economically affected by the pandemic is much higher than the number of people infected by Covid-19, he added.  
He said if the government was responsive and was connected to the mass sentiment, then significant reform initiatives could have been undertaken in the development agenda from the lessons of the first lockdown.  
Major points of the reform could have been full rationing, universal healthcare system, and re-thinking ecologically devastating development projects such as the Ruppur nuclear power plant and Rampal coal-based power plant, he added.  
Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association, said if the country really wants to be climate-friendly, it needs to come out of the development agenda that exploits nature.  
LNPS Coordinator Jyotirmoy Barua moderated the webinar.

# Sharp rise in diarrhoea cases in Barishal

## Hospitals dealing with overflow of patients

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Cases of diarrhoea have risen alarmingly in Barishal since March.  
The 250-bed Barishal General Hospital (BGH), one of the biggest diarrhoea treatment centres in the country's southern region, is currently treating diarrhoea patients, going beyond the facility's normal operation, said physicians.  
Diarrhoea outbreak is common during summer, said Maloy Krishna Baral, residential medical officer of the hospital. Besides, it is also one of the symptoms of Covid-19, he added.  
Presently, the authorities are discharging diarrhoea patients immediately after they are showing improvement to cope with the pressure, he said.  
Hospital sources said 751 diarrhoea patients were admitted in March alone. As of Thursday, 554 people remained admitted, said Dr Maloy.  
The diarrhoea ward has only 14 seats, where around 60 patients stay admitted, said nurse Archana Rani, adding that 20-30 patients are being admitted on a daily basis.  
Patients are staying on the floor



With no room available inside, a large number of diarrhoea patients are being treated at this temporary centre on a field at Barishal General Hospital. This photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

and staircases or wherever they can find place, she said, adding that the situation has become so dire that the hospital authorities have made a temporary centre on the field next to the ward to treat patients.  
Asked whether people with diarrhoea are being tested for

coronavirus, Dr Maloy Krishna said they are not doing so.  
Barishal Civil Surgeon Dr Monwar Hossain said a total of 956 diarrhoea patients were admitted to various hospitals in the districts in March. In the same month last year, the figure was 827.

# Jahanara Huq's 1st death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today marks the first death anniversary of Jahanara Huq, mother of Law Minister Anisul Huq.  
She died on April 18 last year at a Dhaka hospital. She was 86.  
She left behind her son Anisul Huq and a host of relatives and well-wishers. Jahanara's husband advocate Serajul Huq -- who was a close aide to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman -- died on October 28, 2002. Her son Ariful Huq Rony passed away in 2017 in Dallas, USA, and her only daughter Saima Islam died in Dhaka in 2018.  
All have been requested to pray for the salvation of Jahanara's departed soul.



# Shabnam Huq's death anniversary

CITY DESK

Yesterday marked the 21st death anniversary of Shabnam Huq, wife of Arham Masudul Huq, chief executive officer of Dhaka Bank Foundation, said a press release.  
Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



# Revisiting

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such areas. To that end, abstraction or use of water in a water stress area, shall be made subject to the availability of water, in a particular order of priority: use of water as potable, for household, for agriculture, aquaculture, for balancing of ecosystem, for wildlife, for natural river flow, for industry, for salinity control, for purposes of power generation, for amusement, and finally, for any other purposes not listed before.  
The section also states that the order is not unchangeable as such; depending on the perception and opinion of the general people and considering the socioeconomic condition of the water stress area, by notification in official gazette, changes may be brought in the order.  
Section 19 also envisages the imposition of restrictions on abstraction of water and the fixing of lowest safe yield level of any aquifer of any area. The Act does not for that matter recognise individual right to water but does create ample scopes for protecting water sources all across the country.  
Considering the reported conditions in the Barind Region, the government may conduct necessary inquiry, scrutiny or survey in the region (under section 17) to decide on whether this region can be declared as water stress or not.

# Daily wage

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bus staffers like drivers and helpers were not happy with the government action.  
"The ruling party used us for everything. When BNP or any other party call strike, we are told to drive buses. If any bus gets vandalised, bus owners enjoy the privileges. But we don't get anything when we need it," a bus driver said, wishing not to be named.  
"We have no savings. Now, we can't drive buses; we have no income. Even if we protest, we will lose our jobs... You can understand our situation," added another bus staffer.  
They said that they did not get any aid from bus owners or the worker's union in this lockdown.  
This situation is similar in other parts of the country.  
Rickshaw-pullers, roadside vendors, mostly those from non-formal and low-income groups in Barishal, Kushtia, Rangpur and Dinajpur, are passing hard days, as their daily income dropped to nothing.  
The situation has become more unfortunate, as there has been no support from the affluent, unlike last year, report our correspondents in the districts.

Alamgir Hossain Lalon has been pulling rickshaw in Kushtia for about seven years. His baby needed medicine, as he has been suffering from a cold.  
To get medicine, Alamgir went out with his rickshaw, but police seized it, the only source of his income, from the town's Choy Rasta More on Thursday morning.  
"I managed to get the rickshaw back after 30 hours. The rickshaw's owner refused to give it anymore. Now I have no work," a frustrated Alamgir said.  
Mokhlesur Rahman, who sells flowers and saplings in front of Rangpur city's Surabhi Udyan, said the lockdown has weighed heavily on him. Failing to sell the saplings, he had to take all of them to his home to save them. Sale of saplings usually rise during summer, but this time, the situation is different.  
Kohinur Begum sells betel leaves and cigarettes at a roadside shop in Dinajpur town's Kalitola area.  
"Last year, we got adequate support from the government, non-government organisations, and others to feed my family members. Besides, then we had savings. But I didn't see any such initiatives this

year," she said.  
**LOCKDOWN LOOSENED**  
As the weeklong "strict lockdown" rolled into its fourth day, restrictions seemed a bit loosened. Yesterday, public movement and vehicles like private cars, rickshaws and auto-rickshaws were more readily seen on most of the streets and intersections of the capital, compared to the first and third day of the lockdown.  
Many people faced difficulties going to work, as they went to their destinations on foot or by rickshaw, failing to get other vehicles.  
Rickshaws, which provide last-mile connectivity to residents, were seen plying by-lanes of the main roads. Kitchen markets in the city too remained open, with crowds forming in the morning.  
Some were seen leaving and coming into the capital, dodging police check-posts. On Dhaka-Aricha highway, they were using different transports between check-posts as a tactic.  
A traffic sergeant at Asad Gate said, "Today [yesterday], more people are coming out than the other days. They are showing various reasons. Many of them were unaware about the movement pass."

# Mosquitoes

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The pollutants, mainly comprising organic matter, act as food for Culex mosquito larvae, said Bashar, also an entomologist.  
The temperature in this year's February was higher than that of previous years. High temperature is favourable for mosquito breeding, he added, suggesting that the mosquito control drive should have been thorough.  
An official of DSCC's health department recently said it will take some time to control the Culex mosquito population at areas where their numbers are already high. They are cleaning waterbodies gradually.  
There are 569 bighas of waterbodies in DSCC, which need to be cleaned, the official added.  
DSCC Chief Executive Officer ABM Amin Ullah Nuri said they are emphasising on using both larvicide and adulticide.  
Mentionable, DSCC's drives against Culex mosquitoes go on all year round, and the situation has somewhat improved in the last few days.  
**'USING FROGS A WRONG DECISION'**  
DSCC on March 16 released 10,000 small frogs at a cost of TK 20,000 in 10 waterbodies under its jurisdiction on experimental basis.  
Earlier, it released ducks and tilapia fish in 10 other waterbodies to curb the proliferation of mosquitoes.  
Experts, however, think such measures are a waste of time and money, as they would not reduce the mosquito population.  
"Ducks and frogs would not be effective, as they do not eat mosquito larvae. If authorities release guppy fish on a regular basis, it would be more effective," said Dr Manjur.  
The small frogs will become adults after a month, and then they might be of some use. But by that time, it will be the season of Aedes mosquitoes, which become active during daytime, while the frogs become active at night, he said.  
Asked, the chief executive officer said they released the frogs on an experimental basis.  
He said they will have to try controlling the mosquito population through biological methods, gradually reducing water pollution, as spraying insecticide is harmful for health.

# Getting vaccine

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I found an auto-rickshaw in front of Square Hospital. Before I could even ask him what fare he wanted, driver, Ujjal Sheikh, asked, "Do you have a pass?"  
He asked if I had valid reasons to go out and if police stopped me, would I be able to explain. Impressed by his awareness, I assured him that I got everything covered.  
I headed to National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.  
We were stopped at Bijoy Sarani, but I was ready thanks to the grilling by my auto-rickshaw driver. I showed the police personnel my vaccine card and the pass, and was allowed to go.  
Not too many vehicles were on the road.  
Once I reached the hospital, there were signs everywhere pointing to the conference room on the third floor

for vaccination.  
I showed my vaccine card and a volunteer told me to go in. I had to submit the card to another volunteer, who asked me to wait in front of table 4.  
Inside, it was somewhat chaotic as many -- especially the elderly -- came with their family members, which crowded up even the large room.  
There were at least six tables in a row with two nurses each. One filled up the card while another administered the vaccine.  
Soon it was my turn. A nurse gave me the shot and it was over just like that. She told me to wait in a room outside and they would return my card there.  
The room was crowded. I had to stand in a corner and wait. I remembered for the first dose of the vaccine, we were told what to do if there was any problem. But nothing

of that sort happened this time. We just waited.  
After 15 minutes, volunteers returned our cards. I got mine back -- which said I had both the shots -- and got out of the hospital.  
Outside, it was quite busy. There were mostly rickshaws available. Rickshaw-pullers were offering a ride-sharing options, which meant one can share the ride with another and split the fare. Some agreed and got on.  
Finally, I found a rickshaw, agreed to pay extra and started my journey home.  
I got stopped at the intersection near the planning ministry. There was a bottleneck due to the checking. Eventually, my turn came and I was allowed to go.  
Soon, I was home -- vaccinated and content that everything went fairly smoothly.

# Hilsa

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As a result, prices went up, said Nirab. Presently, hilsa is being caught from several rivers in Bhola, he added.  
Meanwhile, many workers were seen sitting idle at the hilsa market as they had no work amid the ongoing "lockdown".  
They said they are involved with loading and unloading of fish. When

there is a huge supply, they make up to Tk 500-800 per day. Although some were able to find work during the last two days, most of the workers are sitting idle.  
Contacted, Bimal Chandra Das, fisheries officer (hilsa) in Barishal, said fishing at the sanctuaries has been banned from March 1 to April 30 to save the national fish.

At present, fishers are being fined for fishing in those rivers such as the Meghna.  
Anisur Rahman Talukder, deputy director, Department of Fisheries in Barishal, said at present, the supply is low due to their strict vigilance to protect the mother fish. It will increase once the ban has been lifted, he added.

**Bangladesh Milk Producer's Co-Operative Union Ltd.**  
Head Office: Dugdha Bhaban  
139-140, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208  
Memo No. MU/PDPR/Faridpur-304/vehicle/2015-2018/566 Date: 18/04/2021

**Corrigendum of Tender Notice**  
Invitation for Tender No. MU/PDPR/Faridpur-304/vehicle/2015-2018/552 Date: 06/04/2021 published in The Daily Samakal & The Daily Star, dated: 07/04/2021 is hereby amended as follows:  
Pre-Tender Meeting will be held on the first working day at 11.00am after completion of existing Lockdown.  
Tender last selling date will be 19/05/2021 instead of 19/04/2021.  
All other terms & conditions of the tender notice & tender documents shall remain unchanged.

**Dr. Mohammad Nannu Molla**  
Project Director  
(Joint Secretary)  
Establishment of Diversified milk product plant and cattle development in greater Faridpur Chars and adjacent areas  
E-mail: faridpurproject18@gmail.com D-62

**BNP wants**  
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and acting president in the absence of Bangabandhu.  
Hasan said sector commanders and others conducted the Liberation War under the provisional government. Ziaur Rahman was also discharging his duty under this government as a sector commander, he added. But, the minister said, it is really regretful that BNP doesn't observe the historic Mujibnagar Day. "BNP doesn't observe many historic days including the birthday of Bangabandhu and March 7. So, it is proven that they (BNP) want to deny the history," he added.  
He said BNP is out to patronise the anti-liberation and fundamentalist forces after 50 years of independence.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**  
**Health Services Division**  
**Health Economics Unit**  
**14/2, Topkhana Road (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor), Dhaka-1000**



**Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) For Recruiting Consulting firm**

1. Ministry / Division	Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	
2. Agency	Health Economics Unit (HEU)	
3. Name of The Procuring Entity	Director General, HEU	
4. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka	
5. Type of Organization	Research Organization	
5. EOI Ref No	45.05.0000.003.31.001.21 • 602	
6. Date	13/04/2021	
<b>Key Information</b>		
7. Procurement Sub-Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)	
<b>Funding Information</b>		
8. Budget and Source of Funds	Funds of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) under 4 <sup>th</sup> Health Nutrition and Population Sector Program (HPNSP)	
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
9. Project / Program Name (If Applicable)	Study on Selection Criterion for Targeting BPL Household and Preparation of the List for SSK in Dhaka City	
	Date	Time
10. EOI closing date and time	02/05/2021	14:00
11. Brief Description of the Assignment	Bangladesh Government adopted Health Care Financing Strategy (HCFS): 2012-2032 in 2012. The second strategic objective of this strategy is to improve equity and increase health care access especially for the poor and vulnerable. Hence, as a strategic intervention to meet the aforementioned objective, Health Economics Unit (HEU) has been piloting a scheme called Shasthyo Suroksha Karmasuci (SSK) for the health care of Below Poverty Line (BPL) population in three upazilas of Tangail since 2016 and expansion of SSK to rest of the upazilas are underway. On the other hand, more than 36 percent people of Bangladesh live in urban area and it is estimated that the proportion will exceed 50 percent by 2040. It is perceived that the socio-economic aspect of an urban area is different than the rural setting. Hence, learning from urban setting would be crucial for the scaling up of SSK nationwide. Keeping this scenario in mind, HEU has decided to introduce SSK in Dhaka city. For that, it is necessary to conduct a research titled "Selection Criterion for Targeting BPL Household and Preparation of the List for SSK in Dhaka City" to set the selection criterion for BPL household and prepare the BPL household list for SSK in Dhaka city.	
12. Experience, Resource and Delivery Capacity Required	To be selected, the organization must have the following: • Experience of working in urban health service management or urban micro insurance program • Familiarity with the Health, Nutrition, and Population Sector Program • Proven ability to manage and conduct large data set • Expertise in use of STATA/SPSS statistical software for data analysis • Proven expertise in quality report writing & policy recommendations in English Experience of targeting/identification of BPL population in urban setting will be treated as added value.	
13. Other details (if applicable)	EOI should be submitted in sealed envelope clearly marked "Request for EOI for the Study on Selection Criterion for Targeting BPL Household and Preparation of the List for SSK in Dhaka City" to the undersigned	
14. Association with external firm	Not Applicable	
15. Indicative start date (month/year)	30/06/2021	
16. Indicative completion date (month/year)	31/10/2021	
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>		
17. Name of Official Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)	Dr. Mohd. Shahad Hossain Mahmud	
18. Designation of Official Inviting EOI	Director General (Additional Secretary), Health Economics Unit, Health Service Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)	
19. Address of Official Inviting EOI	Health Economics Unit, 14/2, Topkhana Road (3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor), Dhaka 1000.	
20. Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone-9586822, Fax: 9582207 e-mail: dg@heu.gov.bd	
21. Detail information available on	www.heu.gov.bd; www.cptu.gov.bd	
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.		
GD- 786	 Director General (Additional Secretary) Health Economics Unit, Health Service Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)	