

## Health minister calls for calm

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oxygen to public hospitals has been under a strain as the demand for life-sustaining gas doubled in the last few weeks.

Uncertainty looms large when neighbouring India has been in acute crisis for oxygen due to the tremendous surge of a double-mutant variant of coronavirus recently.

With the second wave being much stronger than the first one in the country, more and more patients require oxygen support. The recent sliding of transmission, however, was relieved for now.

The health minister said the production of liquid oxygen in the country is about 150 tons in the private sector while gas mask oxygen production is 250 to 300 tons.

"On the contrary, daily oxygen demand in the country is 125 to 150 tons. So far Bangladesh is in a fairly good position," he added.

The minister said, "When there was no central oxygen supply, most hospitals used oxygen in the gaseous form which we have no shortage of. We have asked many hospitals which can use gaseous oxygen.

"We have planned to supply liquid oxygen by taking from different industries if needed. We already have reserved 40 tons of liquid oxygen."

He informed that the government will import small oxygen plants soon.

"There is no reason to worry about. But if the number of patients Covid-19 increases, from 7,000 to 21,000, it is not possible to tackle it. So we have to work to ensure no rise in infection rate," Zahid Maleque said.

Many countries like the United States, Europe, and India have been facing a shortage of oxygen crisis due to the increase in the number of patients.

### VACCINE

About three crore doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine that the country purchased, the minister said, "Beximco, as well as the government, are trying to get those soon. But we do not know the

timeline. There is a global crisis over the vaccine."

About other vaccine sources, he said, "We have green signalled the drug administration to approve vaccines which are available now. A committee led by the Principal Secretary is working on it."

He also said, "We have provided all documents to China's Sinopharm for the five lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccine they will send as gift. Now, we're waiting for their response."

Referring to the global demand and politics over Covid-19 vaccines, the health minister said, "There is tension over vaccination. The raw material for making vaccines is in short supply in India. Ten rich countries have stocked 80 percent of the vaccines produced so far. But we are trying to get vaccines as early as possible."

**'80 PERCENT INFECTION IN BIG CITIES'**  
The minister said if infection in big cities of the country can be controlled, the transmission will go down soon.

"We have seen that 70 to 80 percent of infections and deaths occur in cities including Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Sylhet, and Khulna City Corporation areas. People in these areas need to be more aware and follow health safety guidelines," Zahid Maleque said.

**DAILY UPDATE**  
Meanwhile, 78 Covid-19 patients died during the past 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release issued by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With this, the total number of deaths reached 11,228 and the death rate stands at 1.49 percent.

At least 3,031 new infections were recorded in the meantime taking the total number of people infected to 751,659, added the release.

The positivity rate was 12.51 percent against a total of 24,237 tests yesterday.

At least 5,234 Covid-19 patients have recovered during the period.

## Tajuddin's plea for arms aid

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although India's military strength is superior and independent observers believe India would quickly win such a war. The other reason, perhaps the more important at this stage, was the concern that recognition of Bangladesh now might tend to substantiate, in the eyes of the world, the Pakistani charge that this had been at the bottom of the Indian-Pakistani dispute and that the Bangalee insurgents were essentially Indian puppets.

Indian officials, the report disclosed, recognised privately that merely to sit back and wait to see what happens in the civil war could be a self-fulfilling negative strategy. Without some significant help now, the Bangalee struggle, although not likely to crumble, would take much longer to achieve significant results and in the process might turn away from its moderate leadership and become a militant leftist insurgency, commented New York Times.

### UN HELP DEPENDS ON PAKISTAN:

### THANT

The UN Secretary General U Thant told reporters today that he had been in constant

touch with the Pakistani government about how the UN or its specialised agencies could help alleviate human suffering in Bangladesh. He added that any UN help depended on the Pakistani government. Samar Sen, the Indian ambassador to the UN, today met the US Ambassador George Bush and discussed the situation in Bangladesh.

### 200 BANGLADESHI TEACHERS REGISTER NAMES

About 200 teachers from universities and colleges in Bangladesh had already registered their names with Calcutta University Bangladesh Sahayak Samiti which was trying to get these teachers employed in institutions in West Bengal.

A spokesman of the Samity informed that the teachers included quite a few from Dhaka and Rajshahi Universities. The Samity requested the teachers who had already come over from Bangladesh to send their names, list of dependents, qualifications and areas that would suit them, if employed.

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## Project delayed, data obsolete

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hit the country in March last year, he added.

Former lead economist of World Bank Dhaka Zahid Hussain expressed similar concerns, saying the NHD may now only help implementing agencies to identify the households covered.

A major purpose of the NHD was to simplify the selection of beneficiaries for the government's various social safety net programmes targeting the ultra-poor and help avoid overlapping.

Lack of accurate, organised data to reach the poor has been a major challenge for the government, which became more evident during Covid-19, the experts said.

In July last year, a staggering two-thirds of 50 lakh poor families who were hit hard by the pandemic-induced shutdown were yet to receive Tk 2,500 each in cash support from a government fund of Tk 1,250 crore because of a flawed beneficiaries list.

Experts noted that due to the delays, the NHD project has lost relevance significantly as the socioeconomic conditions of households countrywide have changed drastically in the pandemic, with many more "new poor" now added to the ranks of poverty.

In January, the results of a survey conducted of 5,577 households by the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM), found 42 percent to be below the poverty line -- roughly double the 21.6 percent from when the same households were interviewed back in 2018.

Another recent study jointly conducted by SANEM and ActionAid Bangladesh revealed that in Barguna, Kurigram, Rajshahi, and Satkhira, only 10 percent of people in these districts received benefits from programmes introduced to tackle Covid-19 induced shocks. A majority of these recipients, 68.8 percent, were first-time beneficiaries.

Currently, the project has no plans to upgrade the data, said BBS officials.

It only kept an option for grievance management, where someone not identified as poor in the MIS can update their classification to poor by applying to their 10-member upazila NHD verifying committee.

"Applying for inclusion to the committee will create further poverty, as many people had to bribe the local administration for inclusion in the PM's cash relief schemes during Covid-19," said Zahid Hussain.

In case of an economic shock or crisis like Covid-19, people need the money immediately and if someone has to wait for months to get included, it won't be any help because the damage is already done, he added.

Dr Selim Raihan, executive director of SANEM, said many people will be reluctant to apply for inclusion due to bureaucratic tangles and timidity.

He blamed the authorities' negligence and an inefficient bureaucratic machinery for the prolonged delay in making the final database.

"This is just another lesson for us. The Covid-19 crisis has made it clear to all that this [project] must be done on a priority basis and the responsible must be held accountable," Dr Selim said.

**REASONS FOR DELAYS**  
The project used data on housing type and assets to determine a poverty score for households and so, identify the poorest households.

BBS questionnaire gathered information on the number of rooms, electricity connections, a separate dining room and kitchen, type of roof, status of toilets, source of water; appliances like a television or fridge; ownership of land and animals; any remittance received; and number of family members.

Kabedul Islam, NHD project director of BBS, said BBS was designated to collect, capture, store and analyse this household data and upload the information to an interoperable MIS, developed by DDM.

Although BBS initially wanted to opt for manual data collection procedure, the project's steering committee decided to collect data through a tablet PC, with the technical assistance of WB, he said.

BBS conducted a pilot in Rangpur and Nilphamari districts, collecting data on tablets before this became unviable due to poor internet connection in these remote districts. The piloting, however, took a year and a half.

After the first unsuccessful

attempt, the committee decided to collect data using the information collection request (ICR) method by 2018. A total of 213,264 enumerators and supervisors, directed by BBS's zonal statistical officers in every upazila and district coordinators, were given a three-day training on the data collection process.

Only after the completion of the MIS and successful uploading of the data, BBS can sign memorandums of understanding with the relevant government departments to share the poverty data, said the NHD project director.

DDM, tasked with developing the MIS, had contracted an Armenian software company Synergy International Systems.

DDM Director General Md Atiqul Haque said that Synergy didn't work for around nine months due to the pandemic, during which time there was also a communication gap with the local consultancy firm.

The DG, however, added, "We have given them the deadline to complete the whole thing before June."

The NHD project director says BBS is currently assisting the disaster management department and the contractor with the progress of the MIS.

However, according to BBS officials, the deadline is likely to be pushed again as much work remains even after the completion of the MIS.

Zahid Hussain, former WB lead economist, said "Since the data collection is done, the interoperable system can easily be done within six to 12 months. There must be accountability for the work because it is related to the poverty status of a large number of people."

He, however, added that the government could use other methods like the databases of mobile financial services organisations and Bangladesh Bank's Tk 10 account holders, to identify poor households faster and cheaper.

"If these organisations could be given certain variables -- such as the location of the households, number of family members, monthly transaction amounts, seasonality of the transactions -- and these could be analysed by the experts, it is enough to identify poorer households," he added.

## 80 return

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The decision, however, caused many Bangladeshis, mostly patients, to get stranded at the border. Most of them travelled to India for medical purposes.

Many are still trying to get special permission from the deputy high commission, while many others went back to Kolkata to stay at their relatives' homes.

Besides, the process of sending back 58 Indian citizens, who were stranded in Bangladesh, has started, said Ahsan Habib.

Visiting the Benapole land port yesterday, it was noticed that health safety rules were not followed properly there.

No initiative of sanitising trucks, which were carrying goods from India, was noticed. The drivers, who operated Indian vehicles to Bangladesh, were seen roaming around the port, posing the risk of spreading the coronavirus.

## Incorrect mask

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BSMMU, told The Daily Star that mask is the key to cut the transmission and it is an established fact.

"The government will withdraw lockdown but one thing has to be ensured that the people wear mask properly. If the people of an area avoid wearing masks, that area should be put under lockdown," he said.

Prof Rahman also said masks will cut the transmission while vaccines will reduce the death.

The government has already introduced a "no mask no service" policy to cut the transmission.

World Health Organization has repeatedly said that even after vaccination, people have to wear a mask.

Recently, United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has found that double masking, with cloth and surgical masks, can prevent leakage of air and fit the contours of the face better.

## Int'l aid pours

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Preetham, an administrator at the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, adding that the shortage of oxygen was a crucial worry.

"Because of the scarcity, we are forced to put two patients on one cylinder," he told Reuters.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Monday the situation in India is "beyond heartbreaking".

The global health body said it was working to deliver 4,000 oxygen concentrators to India.

"Many people rush to the hospital, even though home-based care monitoring...can be managed very safely," its spokesman, Tarik Jasarevic, said.

### ASTRAZENECA VACCINE

India expects to secure the biggest chunk of the 60 million AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine doses that the United States will share globally, two Indian government sources told Reuters.

On Monday, the White House said 10 million doses could be cleared for export "in coming weeks" and the rest by June. It has not revealed potential beneficiaries, but the sources said India could gain the most.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Tangail

Memo No. EE/EED/Tangail:366(10)

Date: 27/04/2021

### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender Notice No. 33/ee/eed/2020-21: Date: 27/04/2021

Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of

Tender ID No.	Name of work	Last selling (date & time)	Closing (date & time) opening (date & time)
556229 (LTM)	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Mirzapur Pilot Girls High School, Upazila-Mirzapur, District-Tangail. (Ver.fur.)	17-May-2021 16:00	18-May-2021 11:00
556230 (LTM)	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Pathar Janata High School Upazila-Sakhapur, District-Tangail. (Ver.fur.)	17-May-2021 16:00	18-May-2021 11:30
556231 (LTM)	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Daripaka High School, Upazila-Sakhapur, District-Tangail. (Ver.fur.)	17-May-2021 16:00	18-May-2021 12:00
556232 (LTM)	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Boyali B. L Chashi High School, Upazila-Sakhapur, District-Tangail. (Ver.fur.)	17-May-2021 16:00	18-May-2021 12:30
556234 (LTM)	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at A M Majibur Rahman High School, Upazila-Gopalpur, District-Tangail. (Ver.fur.)	17-May-2021 16:00	18-May-2021 13:00
556235 (LTM)	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Dewhata A J High School, Upazila-Mirzapur, District-Tangail. (Ver.fur.)	17-May-2021 16:00	18-May-2021 13:30
556236 (LTM)	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Hemnagar Sashi Mukhi High School, Upazila-Gopalpur, District-Tangail. (Ver.fur.)	17-May-2021 16:00	18-May-2021 14:00
556237 (LTM)	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Sanbandha High School, Upazila-Ghatail, District-Tangail. (Ver.fur.)	17-May-2021 16:00	18-May-2021 14:30
556239 (LTM)	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Gouranghi Akasi Onmania High School, Upazila-Ghatail, District-Tangail. (Ver.fur.)	17-May-2021 16:00	18-May-2021 15:00
556240 (LTM)	Manufacturing and Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Bastyl Munsur Ali High School, Upazila-Mirzapur, District-Tangail. (Ver.fur.)	17-May-2021 16:00	18-May-2021 15:30

This is an online tender where only e-Tender 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 online through any registered banks branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpline.

The tenderer who yet not complete their works in hand in schedule time are not required to participate in this tender.

The contractor who yet not start their work in hand of passing one month from the date of work order without proper reason are not required to participate in this tender.

Website publish date: 28.04.2021 at 14:00, if net connection is available.

Md. Tazrul Islam  
Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Tangail

GD-844

## Bangladesh joins China initiative

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askedateralism.

Moment said Bangladesh sought Covid-19 vaccine from China as soon as possible amid a shortage of jobs which could be exhausted in the middle of next month. India recently halted the export of Oxford-Astrazeneca vaccine amid a huge surge in coronavirus cases mostly in Delhi and Maharashtra.

"They [China] said they would work with us," the minister said, adding that China had earlier agreed to provide five lakh shots as gift. Besides, Bangladesh is also trying to buy vaccine doses from China.

He said the time of import has not been fixed yet. The Chinese vaccines are not yet approved by the WHO, the US, the UK, Germany or EU medical authorities and Bangladesh follows their approval.

However, Bangladesh will be using "emergency use authorisation" for importing vaccines from China and Russia, Momen added.

Bangladesh is also trying to import Astrazeneca vaccine from the US, which has some 60 million shots for export.

"I don't think any vaccine will be brought home in less than two weeks," said Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen at the foreign minister's residence from where the minister joined the virtual meeting.

He said Dhaka stressed on keeping a provision of storing medical grade oxygen and vaccine at the proposed medical facility though it is not specifically meant for that. Later, this facility can be used during other disasters.

## Invitation to Bid Media Rights

Ref No: BCB/Media Rights / 2021/246

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) hereby invites Bid from the reputed TV Broadcasters or Marketing Agents for acquiring the following **Media Rights of Home Series** involving Bangladesh National Cricket Team (Men) from **18 May 2021 to 05 October 2023**:

1. Satellite TV Channel Rights.
2. Digital OTT (Over-the-Top) Right.
3. DTH (Direct-to-Home) Rights.

### Document Purchasing Procedure :

Due to COVID 19 Pandemic situation, interested parties need to obtain a soft copy of the Media Rights Bid Document (electronic version) via email from BCB on payment of the non-refundable and non-adjustable Fee of Tk.5,00,000/= (Taka Five Lacs only) for locally incorporated organizations in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft/Cash in favour of "Bangladesh Cricket Board" drawn on any bank in Bangladesh or for overseas bidders US\$ 6,000/= (Dollar Six Thousand Only) to be remitted to BCB (Account No. 01-7537131-01, Account Name: Bangladesh Cricket Board, Bank: Standard Chartered Bank, Dhaka, Bangladesh, SWIFT: SCBLBDDX). Upon receiving the payment, the BCB will email the Bid documents to the addresses/contacts, provided by the prospective bidders

Please send your request for the Bid Document (Soft copy /Electronic Version) along with the evidence of Bank Transfer /Payment receipt referred to above at the following email address: [sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com](mailto:sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com)

- a) The details of the Bidding process, Tentative tour Itinerary, Bank Guarantee Format, Copy of the Agreement etc. are set out in the Bid Document. Bid document will be available from April 29, 2021 to May 09, 2021 (Except Friday & Public Holidays in Bangladesh).

### Technical Offer Submission:

- a) The Technical Document/Offer (prepared in accordance with the Bid Document) must be submitted electronically via email by uploading it to Google Drive to the BCB at email address: [sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com](mailto:sponsorship.rights@bcb-cricket.com) on or before Tuesday, May 11, 2021.
- b) The technical offer must include the following :  
1) Company Profile and Individual Directors' / Owners' Profile.  
2) Updated auditor's report on financial statements (In case of consortium, each party's auditor's report needs to be submitted individually)  
3) Bank Solvency Certificate along with Bank Statement.  
4) Certified copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association along with certificate of Incorporation or similar constitutional documents.  
5) Updated VAT Registration Certificate, Trade License and Tax Identification Number (TIN) Certificate or similar documents.  
6) In case of Consortium, notarized consortium Agreement.
- c) The qualified bidders shall be invited to participate in a "Bidding Process" scheduled on **Monday, May 17, 2021 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.**

### Participation in the Bidding Process:

- a) The "Bidding Process" will be held on **Monday, May 17, 2021** & Bid submission process will start at BST 1200 hrs onwards at the BCB Management Office, Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216.
- b) A multiple rounds of close envelope Bidding process will take place. The detail bidding process shall be determined by the BCB at its sole discretion.
- c) Only authorized representative of the participating TV Broadcaster or Marketing agent is allowed to submit financial bid i.e. Representative must carry official authorization letter from the participating TV Broadcaster or Marketing agents.

### Security Deposit:

The technical offers for the Media Rights must include a security deposit amount of **BDT 5,00,00,000** (Taka Five Crore only) for local entity or an amount of **USD 6,00,000** (US Dollar Six Lac only) for overseas bidders. The security deposit shall be submitted in the form of Bank draft or pay order or unconditional and irrevocable bank guarantee or bank transfer. Any bank guarantee originated from an overseas country has to be confirmed by a local scheduled bank.

It is mandatory to submit a security deposit prior to start of the bidding process i.e. before BST 1200 hrs on **Monday, May 17, 2021.**

### Note :

- a) BCB shall be responsible for TV production of Home Series involving Bangladesh National Cricket Team (Men) from 18 May 2021 to 05 October 2023 and the BCB will decide TV production level and Technical Specification at its sole discretion.  
b) The successful TV Broadcaster / Marketing Agency must provide free LIVE feed to the National Broadcaster, i.e. Bangladesh Television (BTV) as per the National Broadcast Policy set out by the Government of Bangladesh.  
c) The "Bidding Process" may be conducted virtually due to COVID 19 pandemic situation.  
d) The first international series under this Media Rights is scheduled to commence on or around May 20, 2021.

The BCB reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids at its sole discretion without assigning any reason. The BCB also reserves the right to cancel the entire bidding process and / or modify, add or alter the terms of the document and/ or the conditions for bidding process by issuing an addendum(s) at any time prior to the submission of the bid

Chief Executive Officer  
Bangladesh Cricket Board

Management Office: Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur-2, Dhaka 1216