

Bangladesh at risk of famine

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 Mohammed Yahya Khan to resume shipments immediately.
HOSSAIN ALI TO HEAD BANGLADESH MISSION IN INDIA
 Hossain Ali was appointed by the Bangladesh government as the head of its mission in India. But as the mission's work was now limited mainly to Kolkata the Bangladesh government wanted to open only a kind of subordinate mission in New Delhi.
 KM Shehabuddin and Amjadul Huq, former Pakistani diplomats now pledging allegiance to Bangladesh, were given letters of assignment signed by Foreign Minister Khondakar Mushtaque Ahmed. The Bangladesh government appointed the former as the head of the subordinate mission and Amjadul Huq as press attaché. The government asked them among other things to bring to the notice of the world the atrocities committed by Pakistani troops in Bangladesh and thereby create world opinion in her favour.
CURBS ON INDIAN ENVOY IN DHAKA GO
 The restrictions imposed on the Indian

Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka, KC Sen Gupta, was lifted by Pakistan. The relaxation by Pakistan was supposed to be applicable to all other staff members of the Dhaka mission, now closed down. A compromise solution of the two governments' differences could be expected shortly, Reuters reported.
AUSTRALIAN ACADEMICS PROTEST GENOCIDE
 Eighty-five academics of the Australian National University protested to Pakistan against what they called the policy of selective genocide and indiscriminate killing pursued by Pakistan in Bangladesh. They recognised that there should be "a grave cause" to justify foreigners in criticising a government for the manner of handling its "internal affairs", but, they said, "we consider that actions of the government of Pakistan and its army are so ruthless and so terrible as to make it impossible for people of conscience to remain silent".
Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

3 Bangladeshis make it to Asian Scientist

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 Foundation for her work with small-scale farmers in Bangladesh, particularly for her efforts involving veterinary outreach, treatment and education, according to the magazine website.
 Samia, a professor of electrical and electronic engineering at Buet, is a recipient of the 2020 OWS-Elsevier Foundation Award for Early-Career Women Scientists in the Developing World for her research on the properties and uses of nanomaterials.
 "The honouree must have received a national or international prize in the preceding year for his or her research," Asian Scientist said on its website.
 The researcher must also provide leadership in academia or industry, or made a significant scientific



PHOTO: COLLECTED
 (From left) Dr Firdausi Qadri, Dr Salma Sultana and Prof Samia Subrina.

discovery to secure a place on the prestigious list, it added.
 Every year since 2016, Asian Scientist Magazine compiles a list of Asia's most outstanding researchers.

PM suggests

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 As co-chairs of the Global Leaders Group on AMR, the prime ministers of Bangladesh and Barbados stand ready to work with all relevant stakeholders in contributing to the fight against AMR, Hasina said.
 She also said that the world is now witnessing the devastating pandemic of Covid-19.
 "However, antimicrobial resistance may cause even more lethal pandemics in the future."
 The prime minister mentioned that failure to tackle this hazard in time will result in a huge loss of human lives, animals, and plants.
 According to an estimate by the WHO, she said, 10 million people will die every year by 2050 from AMR, and economic losses will be trillions of dollars disrupting food security and progress towards achievement of the SDGs and universal health coverage.
 Turning to Bangladesh, the Prime Minister said the government has developed a six-year (from 2017 to 2022) National Strategic Plan and National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance Containment (ARC).
 Besides, she said, the National Technical Committee on ARC and the Bangladesh AMR Response Alliance have been formed.
 Hasina said laboratory-based AMR surveillance for both human and animal health is being conducted regularly to ensure WHO categorisation. "Similarly, from 2019, we've been providing AMR surveillance data to WHO GLASS Platform."
 President of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly Volkan Bozkir convened the high-level dialogue calling for accelerated action to tackle the growing threat of AMR.
 AMR -- referred to as a silent tsunami

-- has the potential to be the next global health crisis and has already affected the response to Covid-19.
 AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites change over time. As a result of drug resistance, antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines become ineffective and infections become increasingly difficult or impossible to treat-increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness, and death.
 According to the UN website data, the Covid-19 pandemic has shown the ease with which infections can spread, threaten global health security and destabilise economies, lives and livelihoods. AMR is a rising pandemic and challenges the effective delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
 Currently, at least an estimated 700,000 people die each year due to drug-resistant diseases. If no action is taken, drug-resistant diseases could cause 10 million deaths each year by 2050 and damage to the economy as catastrophic as the 2008-2009 global financial crisis; and by 2030, AMR could force up to 24 million people into extreme poverty.
 Prime Minister of Barbados and also Co-chair of the One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance Mia Amor Mottley, President of the 75th UNGA Volkan Bozkir, UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed, Director General of World Health Organisation (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Qu Dongyu, Director General of World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Monique Eloit and Deputy Executive Director of UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Joyce Msuya spoke at the opening segment of the dialogue.

Positivity rate drops to 9.39pc

FROM PAGE 1
 in the context of the grim pandemic situation in neighbouring India.
 "It is obvious that this a result of the ongoing restrictions on movement. But we cannot say the transmission is under control. The downward trend must continue for at least two weeks," Dr Mushtaq Hussain, consultant at the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), told The Daily Star yesterday.
 He said if people maintain health safety guidelines, the transmission rate will go down no matter how dangerous the Covid variants are.
 Against a total of 24,928 tests conducted in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, the positivity rate was 9.39 percent.
 The rate was 9.39 percent on March 20 and it crossed 23 percent mark on April 2. It started going

down from April 17.
 The highest positivity rate of 23.57 percent in the second wave of Covid-19 in the country was recorded on April 9.
 Meanwhile, a total of 88 people died of the virus in the same 24-hour period, raising the tally to 11,393.
 In this period, 2,341 people tested positive for the virus. With this, the total number of novel coronavirus cases rose to 756,955 in the country.
 Of the 88 deceased, 52 were men and 36 women. Three of them died at homes and the rest at hospitals.
 As usual, Dhaka division saw the highest deaths yesterday with 48 deaths followed by Chattogram with 22, according to a handout of the Directorate General of Health Services.
 The rush of Covid-19 patients at hospitals has also continued easing. As of yesterday noon, 58 ICU beds out of 257 were vacant while 2,028 general beds out of 3,481 were unoccupied in public hospitals dedicated to Covid-19 patients in Dhaka city.
 Countrywide, 685 novel coronavirus patients were undergoing treatment in the Covid-19 dedicated hospitals.
 As the data showed the transmission rate is declining, the government has extended the ongoing movement restrictions till May 5, which, according to experts, should be maintained till before and after the Eid-ul-Fitr festival, scheduled to be held next month.
 "Continuing the movement restrictions fully may not be possible, but the health safety guidelines must be maintained," Dr Mushtaq said.

RMG workers suffered 35pc pay cut

FROM PAGE 2
 It said when many Bangladeshi factories supplying to international brands consolidated their business, many thousands of workers lost jobs and depleted their savings without having a safety net to fall back on.
 "As Bangladesh's second lockdown is underway, the findings offer a cautionary tale on how brands and supply chains should respond."
 UNDP Bangladesh Resident Representative Sudipto Mukerjee suggested a fundamental mind shift in terms of the role and responsibilities of the business sector.
 "If we want to reverse pernicious trends that have offset much of the pre-Covid progress made in the implementation of

the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we must commit ourselves to tackle the crisis head-on and to do so together."
 Subir and Malini Chowdhury Centre for Bangladesh Studies Director Sanchita Saxena said it is extremely critical, now more than ever, to engage in research to understand the impacts of Covid-19 throughout the world.
 "In Bangladesh, while the pandemic has disproportionately affected vulnerable communities, it has been particularly detrimental for the workers at the very bottom of global supply chains in the nation's many garment factories," stated
 While the scale of the pandemic took everyone by surprise, lessons learned from the experience so that the effect of Bangladesh's second lockdown, now underway, causes the least harm to those who suffered the most the last time, said Salil Tripathi, IHRB's senior adviser -- global issues, and the report's co-author.
 Labour Secretary KM Abdus Salam shared different initiatives undertaken by the government, but said, "We also need to develop occupational health and safety culture which can create a brand image and goodwill."
 BGMEA President Faruque Hassan and National Human Rights Commission Member Kamal Uddin Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
 বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ
 পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়
 বাণেশ্বর
খোলা দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০২/২০২০-২০২১

তারিখ: ২৯/৪/২০২১খ্রিঃ

স্মারক নং-৯৪১/২
 বাণেশ্বর জেলা পুলিশের ২০২০-২১ অর্থ বৎসরে বিভিন্ন প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়নের জন্য নিম্নলিখিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে রোমান/সিঙ্গেল এর নির্দিষ্ট 'দি-পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট-২০০৮' (দ্বিতীয় সংশোধন) আইন-২০০৯ (সংশোধন) আইন-২০১০' অনুসারে সকল টিকাদার/প্রক্রেতা বাসস্বত্বাধীকারীদের নিম্নলিখিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে বাস্তবায়ন করা যাবে।

১.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়, জননিরাপত্তা বিভাগ।
২.	সংস্থা	পুলিশ বিভাগ।
৩.	দরপত্র সম্পাদনাকারী প্রধান	পুলিশ সুপার, বাণেশ্বর।
৪.	দরপত্র সম্পাদনাকারী জেলা/সিঙ্গেল	বাণেশ্বর জেলা।
৫.	দরপত্রের সূত্র ও তারিখ	পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার ঢাকা স্মারক নং-৪৪.০১.০০০০.০৪৩.১৩৩.২০২০/রোমান/সিঙ্গেল জেলা/১৩৫৫(৪), তা-০৪/০৪/২০২১খ্রিঃ।
৬.	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ওটিএম)।
৭.	বাজেট এন্ড সোর্স অব ফান্ড	পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার, ঢাকা হতে প্রাপ্ত বাজেট বরাদ্দ সাপেক্ষে।
৮.	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	তারিখ: ২৯/৪/২০২১খ্রিঃ হতে ০৩ দিনের মধ্যে।
৯.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	বিজ্ঞাপন প্রকাশের পর হতে ২৫/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ বেলা ০৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে অফিস সন্ধ্যাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
১০.	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখ: ২৭/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ বেলা ০৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত, পুলিশ সুপার, বাণেশ্বর এর অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাসে।
১১.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখ: ২৭/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায়, পুলিশ সুপার এর কার্যালয়, বাণেশ্বর।
১২.	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখ: ২৭/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ বেলা ১৩.৩০ ঘটিকায়, পুলিশ সুপার এর কার্যালয়, বাণেশ্বর।
১৩.	দরপত্র সম্পাদনাকারী অফিস ও ঠিকানা	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বাণেশ্বর।
১৪.	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বাণেশ্বর এবং খুলনা হতে দরপত্র সিডিউল পাওয়া যাবে।
১৫.	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বাণেশ্বর।
১৬.	দরপত্রপ্রদাতার যোগাযোগ ও দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা দিতে হবে	(ক) সরকারি/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত বিভাগে হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত টিকাদারী লাইসেন্স, মূল্য সংযোজন কর নিবন্ধীকরণ, টিআইএন সহ হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ও আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র (খ) বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য বিধিত ০৬ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্র থাকতে হবে (গ) দরপত্রের সাথে কোনরকম মিথ্যা কাগজপত্র দাখিল করলে এবং প্রমাণিত হলে জামানতের অর্থ বাজেয়াপ্তকরণ সহ টিকাদারকে কাশোপাধিকার (Blacklist) করা হবে।
১৭.	দরপত্র আহ্বান কর্তৃপক্ষের নাম	জনাব কে. এম. আরিফুল হক, পিপিএম।
১৮.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী	জনাব কে. এম. আরিফুল হক, পিপিএম, পুলিশ সুপার, বাণেশ্বর। ফোন নং- ০৪৩৮-৬২৭৭৪।
১৯.	কাজের বিবরণী/কাজের নাম	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বছরে বাণেশ্বর জেলার নিম্নলিখিত কাজ।

ক্রম নং	কাজের নাম	বিভিডি আইডি	সিডিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র জামানতের পরিমাণ	কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়
১.	বাণেশ্বর জেলার নতুন পুলিশ লাইসেন্সের ড্রিল সেড মোরামত কাজ।		১৭২৯৯	৩%	৪৫ দিন
২.	বাণেশ্বর জেলার নতুন পুলিশ লাইসেন্সের উত্তর পার্শ্বের সীমানা প্রাপ্তির মোরামত কাজ।		১৭৩০০	৩%	৪৫ দিন

২০. বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্য
 ক. বাস্তব প্রকল্পটি নিজে স্বত্বাধিকারীর স্বাক্ষরপত্র প্যাকে আবেদনপূর্বক বিজ্ঞাপন প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে ২৫/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ বেলা ০৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে অফিস সন্ধ্যাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সিডিউল সমগ্র করা যাবে। কেবলমাত্র স্ব-প্রকল্পের মালিকগণ দরপত্র জমা করতে পারবেন। যদি টিকাদার উপস্থিত হতে না পারে সে ক্ষেত্রে মনোনীত ব্যক্তির স্বাক্ষর সত্যায়িত করে ক্ষমতা অর্পণ করে আবেদনের সাথে দাখিল করে সিডিউল জমা করতে পারবেন।
 খ. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে দরপত্র ব্যতিরেকে ক্ষমতা রাখেন।
 গ. দরপত্রের সাথে জামানতের টাকা ব্যাংক ড্রাফট পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে পুলিশ সুপার, বাণেশ্বর এর অফিসে জমা দিতে হবে।
 ঘ. দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য সকল তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সমগ্রকালে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হতে জানা যাবে।
 ঙ. পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার, ঢাকা হতে বরাদ্দ সাপেক্ষে কার্যক্রম প্রদান করা হবে। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হতে ৪৫ দিন পর্যন্ত দরপত্র বন্ধ থাকবে।
 চ. দরপত্র উন্মুক্ত সময়ে মধ্যকারী সম্পাদনা করতে হবে। শর্ত অনুযায়ী প্রকল্পের কাজ সমাপ্ত করে হস্তান্তর করতে বাধ্য হলে টিকাদারের নিম্নলিখিত হতে জামানতা আদায় করা হবে।
 ছ. গৃহীত সনদপত্র/সনদবাহককারীকে কার্যক্রম প্রদানের পূর্বে গৃহীত দরের মোট মূল্যের উপর ১০% হারে পারফরমেন্স সিকিউরিটি ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার পুলিশ সুপার, বাণেশ্বর এর অফিসে জমা দিতে হবে এবং ০০/- (ফিন্ডস) টাকার নং-জি/শিলাল ট্রাস্টে স্থগিত স্বাক্ষর করতে হবে।
 জ. সনদপত্র কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা ও ৩০% লিকুইডমালি ২৫/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত ব্যাংকে জমা আছে মর্মে ব্যাংক কর্তৃক দেয় প্রত্যয়নপত্র এবং বিগত ০৬ (ছয়) মাসের জমা/খরচের ব্যাংক স্টেটমেন্ট অবশ্যই দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।

কে. এম. আরিফুল হক, পিপিএম
 ঠিকানা: ৭৩০৫২১১৪০০
 পুলিশ সুপার
 বাণেশ্বর
 ফোন নং-০৪৩৮-৬২৭৭৪

Pay Tk 25 lakh

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 families.
 The HC gave the order on July 15 last year following three separate writ petitions moved on behalf of the four victims' families.
 That HC order directed United to pay the money in initial payment in 15 days of formally receiving the order.
 The hospital authorities filed a petition with the SC five days later, seeking a stay on the HC order.
 The apex court stayed the HC order and asked United to move a leave to appeal petition against the HC order. The hospital authorities moved the leave to appeal petition before the Appellate Division yesterday.
 Aneek R Haque, one of the lawyers who represented the victims, told The Daily Star that the family of Monir Hossain, one of the five people killed in the fire, will not get Tk 25 lakh as his family had already been paid Tk 20 lakh in initial payment by the hospital as per a settlement.
 He said a rule over the final compensation for the victims is pending with the HC.
 The four other people killed were Vernon Anthony Paul, 75, Riyajul Alam, 45, Khodeja Begum, 70, and Md Mahub, 50.

Khaleda to stay

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 physician Zahid said the newly formed 10-member medical board suggested some new tests. A few of those would be conducted on Friday and Saturday.
 "The medical board will then review the treatment plan of Khaleda Zia," he said.
 The BNP chief has been suffering from arthritis, diabetes, and ophthalmological issues.
 Khaleda tested Covid-19 positive on April 11 and in the follow-up test on April 24, she tested positive again.
 Amid the coronavirus outbreak, the government on March 25 last year freed Khaleda from jail for six months through an executive order suspending her jail sentences in two graft cases.
 She was released from the prison cell at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University the same day. Since then, she has been staying at her Gulshan residence.
 On August 27 last year, the government extended Khaleda's release period for six months. It was extended for another six months on March 15 this year.
 On February 8, 2018, the BNP chief was sent to the Old Dhaka Central Jail after a court sentenced her to five years imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.
 The High Court later doubled her sentence. Khaleda was found guilty in another graft case the same year. Her party, however, claims both the cases are politically motivated.

It's a wake-up call

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 "It is very important to realise that the situation in India can happen anywhere."
 Meanwhile, John Nkengasong, head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said the situation is wake-up call for every African nation.
 "We are watching with total disbelief ... What is happening in India cannot be ignored by our continent," he told reporters yesterday.
 The world's second most populous nation is in deep crisis, with hospitals and morgues overwhelmed.
 Each day, thousands of Indians search frantically for hospital beds and life-saving oxygen for sick relatives, using social media apps and personal contacts. Hospital beds that become available, especially in intensive care units (ICUs), are snapped up in minutes.
 "The ferocity of the second wave took everyone by surprise," K Vijay Raghavan, principal scientific adviser to the government, was quoted as saying in the Indian Express newspaper.
 "While we were all aware of second waves in other countries, we had vaccines at hand, and no indications from modelling exercises suggested the scale of the surge."
 India's military has begun moving key supplies, such as oxygen, across the nation and will open its healthcare facilities to civilians. Hotels and railway coaches have been converted into critical care facilities to make up for the shortage of hospital beds.
 India's best hope is to vaccinate its vast population, experts say, and on Wednesday it opened registration for all above the age of 18 to receive shots from tomorrow.

Rare tombs

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 The tombs include 68 from the Buto period that began around 3300 BC and five from the Naqada III period, which was just before the emergence of Egypt's first dynasty around 3100 BC, according to a statement from the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.
 They also include 37 tombs from the time of the Hyksos, who first began migrating across the Sinai into Egypt around 1800 BC.
 "This is an extremely interesting cemetery because it combines some of the earliest periods of Egyptian history with another important era, the time of the Hyksos," said Salima Ikram, an Egyptologist at the American University in Cairo.

TMC to retain power, BJP to gain big

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 million would be a major victory for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist BJP, which is seeking to end a decade of rule by the state's firebrand leader Mamata Banerjee.
 "In line with the Covid-19 protocols, I call upon people to cast

their vote and enrich the festival of democracy," Modi tweeted yesterday.
 Packed election rallies attended by mostly maskless crowds including in the restive eastern state, along with huge religious festivals, have been blamed for India's surge in cases over the past few weeks.