



A family member (L) mourns a Covid-19 victim, as the number of deaths increases, amid the spread of the coronavirus disease in Kathmandu, Nepal yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

PANDEMIC DISRUPTIONS

1 in 2 people globally lost income: Gallup

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION, Nairobi

One in two people worldwide saw their earnings drop due to the coronavirus, with people in low-income countries particularly hard hit by job losses or cuts to their working hours, research showed yesterday. US-based polling company Gallup, which surveyed 300,000 people across 117 countries, found that half of those with jobs earned less because of Covid-19 pandemic disruptions. This translated to 1.6 billion adults globally, it said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Media must report fully': Indian SC on EC's protest

The media cannot be stopped from reporting any court hearing and "must report fully" what happens in court, India's Supreme Court said yesterday as the Election Commission complained about being "castigated without any evidence" on political rallies during the campaign for state elections.

2 rockets target Baghdad base housing US troops

Two rockets targeted an airbase at Iraq's Baghdad airport housing US-led coalition troops on Sunday, in the second such attack in 10 days, the Iraqi army said. One of the projectiles was intercepted by the C-RAM counter rocket, artillery and mortar system deployed to protect US troops in Iraq, a security source told AFP.

Saudi Arabia to lift travel curbs on 'immunised' citizens

Saudi Arabia will permit citizens immunised against Covid-19 to travel abroad from May 17, the interior ministry said Sunday, more than a year after Saudis were barred from external trips. The ministry said three categories of people would be considered immunised -- those who have received two doses of the coronavirus vaccine, those administered a single dose at least 14 days prior to travel, and people who have recovered from the infection within the last six months.

Palestinian woman killed, 2 Israelis hurt in West Bank

A Palestinian woman was killed and two Israelis were seriously wounded in two separate shooting incidents in the occupied West Bank on Sunday evening, Israeli and Palestinian officials said. An Israeli soldier shot a Palestinian woman who tried to carry out a stabbing attack, the military said. Palestinian officials said the woman, aged 60, died of her wounds.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS, NDTV

'Spine is straight' Mamata Banerjee on West Bengal voters after polls victory

West Bengal's soon-to-be three-time Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who pulled off a stupendous victory after an all-out fight by the BJP, yesterday declared that the BJP is "not all in all" and the people have put them in their place.



"The people have stopped the ruination... the spine is straight," added the chief minister, who ahead of the election had repeatedly told the people about the BJP will use money power to buy their votes. "Take their money but vote as you please," she had declared in rally after rally. She yesterday appealed to everyone to maintain peace and not indulge in any violence. "We know BJP and central forces have tortured us a lot but we have to maintain peace. At present, we have to fight Covid-19," Mamata said.

Myanmar rebels 'down military copter' 4 people die in hospital after junta's artillery shells hit monastery in Kachin

The Kachin Independence Army (KIA), one of Myanmar's most powerful rebel groups, said yesterday it had shot down a helicopter after returning fire following air strikes by the military, an official at the group said.



The United Nations estimates that tens of thousands of civilians have fled their homes as a result of the fighting between the military and ethnic minority insurgents in remote northern and eastern frontier regions. The conflict intensified after Myanmar's generals seized power on February 1, ousting the elected government led by Aung San Suu Kyi. The KIA's information department head, Naw Bu, said the helicopter was shot down around 10:20 am at a village near the town of Moemaik in Kachin province. "The military council launched air strikes in that area since around 8 or 9 this

morning ... using jet fighters and also fired shots using a helicopter so we shot back at them," he said by telephone. He declined to say what weapons were used. News portals MizzimaDaily and Kachinwaves also reported the downing of the helicopter next to photographs showing a plume of smoke coming from the ground. A resident in the area, who declined to be named, said by telephone that four people had died in hospital after artillery shells hit a monastery in the village. Reuters could not independently verify the reports and a military spokesman did not answer a phone call seeking comment. Myanmar has been in turmoil since the coup, with protests almost daily against military rule across the country. On Sunday, Myanmar security forces opened fire on some of the biggest protests in days, killing eight people, media reported. The protests, after a spell of dwindling crowds and what appeared to be more restraint by the security forces, were coordinated with demonstrations in Myanmar communities around the world to mark what organisers called "the global Myanmar spring revolution". The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners advocacy group said security forces have killed at least 765 protesters since the coup. Reuters is unable to confirm the toll.

Talks on to make Oxford vaccines here

FROM PAGE 1 Asked whether Beximco could import the doses in bulk and put them in ampules here, Papon said, "This will not be a viable option for us." Serum CEO Adar Poonawalla recently said he was planning to launch production in other countries to keep up with the demands. "There's going to be an announcement in the next few days," Adar Poonawalla was quoted as saying by The Times in an interview on Friday. The Covax Facility, a global vaccine alliance, was supposed to receive from Serum a total of 1.1 billion doses of the AstraZeneca or Novavax, with 200 million committed, and the rest on option, reports Reuters. It had expected a total of more than 100 million doses from Serum between February and May, excluding supplies for India, but has so far received only about 18.2 million. Bangladesh is supposed to receive 6.8 crore vaccine shots from Covax by the end of 2021. Bangladesh started the mass inoculation campaign with the AstraZeneca vaccine it purchased from Serum. But the campaign stumbled as Serum failed to fulfil its commitment of supplying 50 lakh doses

each month for six months in a row. Bangladesh purchased 3 crore doses of AstraZeneca vaccine from Serum. But the country has so far received only 70 lakh in two shipments. Serum delivered the first shipment of 50 lakh doses properly but the second shipment contained only 20 lakh. Serum has not provided Bangladesh any doses since. Bangladesh also received 33 lakh doses of the vaccine from the India government as a present. The Indian government restricted export of vaccines amid rising demands at home and the dearth of raw materials. Serum has the capacity to produce 65 million doses of the vaccine each month. The Bangladesh government has recently given China's Sinopharm and Russia's Sputnik V emergency use authorisation and there are talks of local co-production. Contacted, Md Sayedur Rahman, chairman of pharmacology at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said, "We welcome such initiatives. But the more the state and academia will be engaged in such initiatives, the more welfare of the people will be ensured." The government has already requested AstraZeneca to authorise production of its Covid-19 vaccine in Bangladesh.

A proposal was sent last month to the British-Swedish multinational pharmaceutical company seeking its technology to produce the vaccine from seed or the vaccine in bulk. AstraZeneca has yet to respond. The company has over 20 supply partners in 15 countries and more than 20 analytical testing sites -- three manufacturing sites in the UK and over five in the EU. In South Asia, Serum is its sole manufacturing partner. Meanwhile, Bangladeshi pharmaceutical company Renata Limited has sought permission from the government to bring Moderna's Covid-19 vaccine. Dr Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services, said, "If brought to Bangladesh, the Moderna vaccine, that needs to be stored in sub-zero temperature, can be stored in Dhaka. We still do not have the resources to store them outside Dhaka."

SAMYA ROSE STUMO FELLOWSHIP FOR GLOBAL HEALTH ThinkWell is launching the Samya Rose Stumo Fellowship for Global Health. The fellowship is for extraordinary young women change-makers who have inventive ideas that look to revolutionize global health. The fellowship will support the entrepreneurial ideas of young women who may otherwise have never had the opportunity. We are honored to offer a platform to inspire fellows, incubate their ideas, and launch their careers. This first year, we plan to source fellows from Kenya, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and the Philippines. Fellows will be part of an inaugural 12-month cohort where they will be mentored by leading ThinkWell global health experts, experience health systems challenges first-hand, and have support to build their own professional networks. MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION Please find the fellowship application here: https://apply.workable.com/thinkwell/j5BC41A1F42/ To learn more about the fellowship, please visit our website: https://thinkwell.institute/samyastumo/ The deadline for the 2021 applications is May 14th.

বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড Bangladesh Development Bank Ltd. Head Office, 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000 Website: www.bdbl.com.bd Real Estate Department No. 06.3/247/396 Date: 03/05/2021 e-GP Tender Notice e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/) for procurement of the following goods described below: Sl. No. Tender Notice No. Tender ID Name of work Last date of tender document selling & downloading Date of tender closing & opening 01. BDBL/RED /OTM/2021 /01 574404 Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Air Cooler for Different Branches & Khulna Zonal Office of BDBL. 19/05/2021 up to 02:00pm 20/05/2021 at 12:00pm 1. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. 2. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. 3. The fees of downloading e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited through any registered bank. 4. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). Engr. Md. Reazul Islam Deputy General Manager Real Estate Department BDBL, Head Office 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka ☎: 02-9555582 GD-879

No homegoing FROM PAGE 1 "If any of the markets or malls is found flouting the guidelines, it will be shut if necessary." He also said the Shop Owners Association has assured the government that it would cooperate with the administration in this regard and also see that the health guidelines are duly followed at markets. Anwarul Islam warned that action will be taken if anyone is found outside without a mask. About inter-district transport, he said public transport operators will also have to ensure that the health guidelines are followed properly. "Transport operators have given us assurance in this regard... But if there is any violation of the health safety guidelines, we will shut the transport service." He also mentioned that no organisations -- public or private -- will be allowed to grant extra holidays to their employees for the Eid. The cabinet secretary said this when it was pointed out that a large number of factory workers leave the capital en masse during the Eid holiday. "The government has decided not to extend the holiday. The three-day holiday is likely to start from Thursday, and the remaining two days are weekends -- Friday and Saturday," he added. Following the meeting, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said, "Once the infection rate shoots up, it takes a long period to bring it down... Now if we lift the lockdown, all our achievements will go in vain." He referred to high infection and death rates in cities, including Dhaka, Chattogram and Khulna, and said these city corporation areas will be monitored strictly. In reply to a query, he said around five lakh doses of Covid vaccine will arrive from China by May 10. "We've sent a proposal to China for procuring more vaccines," he said, adding that the government has a plan to buy 5 to 6 crore doses. Last week, Bangladesh government approved emergency use of China's Sinopharm vaccine. Earlier in the day, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said transports cannot cross the boundaries of cities and districts by any means. "The transport owners must keep half of the seats in vehicles vacant..." he said, adding that transport workers and passengers must wear masks and use hand sanitizers. The buses must be disinfected after every trip, he mentioned.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Road Division, Natore ☎ 0771-66870 Fax: 0771-66810 E-mail: eenat@rhd.gov.bd Memo No. 35.01.6900.453.07.001.21-949 Date: 03/05/2021 e-Tender Notice This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd). e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Natore. Table with 5 columns: e-GP Tender ID, Name of work, Tender document last selling/downloading date and time, Last date and time for tender security submission, Tender closing date and time. 575649 Protective work at 16th(P) & 17th(P) km of Natore (Dalsorok)-Bidahore-Gurudaspur Road (Z-5211) under Road Division Natore, during the year 2020-2021. 575650 Repair of culvert's damaged wheel guard, railing, parapet wall at 40th km, 42th Km, 44th Km, 45th Km, 47th Km, 52th Km, 53rd Km of Naogon-Atrai-Natore Road (R-548) & at 3rd km, 6th km of Natore (Dalsorok)-Bidahore-Gurudaspur Road (Z-5211) under Road Division Natore during the year 2020-2021. 575651 Supply and installation of guard rail at 91st(p) km (Ahmedpur Bridge) and 76th(p) km (Dhanaidoh Bridge) of Kashinathpur-Pabna-Dashuria-Natore-Rajshahi (N-6) road and Cantilever traffic sign at different location of Kashinathpur-Pabna-Dashuria-Natore-Rajshahi (N-6), Natore Town Portion (N-602) road and Bonpara-Gopalpur-Lalpur (Z-6014) under Natore Road Division during the year 2020-2021. Accepted tenders will be opened online immediately after closing time. Md. Rayhan Intuij ID No. 602418 Assistant Engineer, RHD Road Division, Natore Abdur Rahim ID No. 602227 Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD Road Division, Natore GD-878