Painful to

nurse at RMCH in 2016.

During a visit to the Covid-19 unit on Monday, this

correspondent noticed many patients put on oxygen using

cylinders. Some of them and their attendants said patients

suffer during the brief period when cylinders become empty

Dulal said most patients had to influence doctors,

On Sunday, this correspondent saw a woman from

Chapainawabganj gasping, sitting on a veranda near

the Covid-19 unit. Her attendants said she was denied

admission, as patients more critical than her were in plenty.

when journalists drew the hospital authority's attention.

authority opened the Covid-19 unit in March last year.

they came in low numbers," he said.

are predominantly filling beds," Dulal said.

doctors send them to the ICU," he continued.

numbers started soaring.

increasing daily," he shared.

She was, however, admitted to the unit later that day,

Dulal has been serving Covid-19 patients since RMCH

"We could serve patients well in the beginning, when

But the situation changed in the last week of May, when

"Initially, most patients were coming from only Chapainawabganj," he said. "A week later, we started

receiving patients from Godagari and Tanore upazilas of

"Currently, patients from different areas of Rajshahi city

"Patients come with oxygen saturation level between 70

"The moment a patient is released after getting well,

and 80 percent, and we have to work hard to treat them.

Many don't feel better even with high-flow oxygen, so

attendants of more than three patients continue to lobby

for securing the bed for their patients. This competition is

Dulal said the best moments at his workstation is when

he sees patients getting well. "It happens between 8:30am

and 1:30pm, when specialised doctors go around the wards

and release patients who they consider to have gotten

"When they get well and prepare to return home to join

officials and local government representatives to get a bed.

and get swapped with new ones every two hours.

5 held for attacking 24 brokers MP's car in Barishal

Our Correspondent, Barishal

ACC arrests

Advocate Kazi Sanwar Hossain Lavlu, a

lawyer of ACC, said, "The arrestees were

produced before the court of Chattogram

Session Judge Ashfagur Rahaman, which

ACC sources said Sharif filed the

line connections to another name and

truth to an allegation of shifting gas

shifted 12 gas connections (double-

burner), issued in the name of one MA

Salam in Halishahar area, to Mujibur

Rahman of Sanowara Residential Area,

The accused also installed 10 new

Area, despite a ban on installing new gas

Despite repeated attempts, Mujibur's

connections to Sanowara Residential

connections since February 28, 2016.

phone was found switched off.

although there is no scope of changing the

installing new connections.

user's name.

case, after the anti-graft watchdog found

According to the case statement, the

accused in collaboration with each other,

sent the duo to jail after hearing."

Police arrested five people in Barishal on Wednesday night on the charge of attacking the car of an Awami League

The arrestees were identified as Mosharraf Hossain, Syed Manjur Morshed, Mahim Deoan, Md Oliuddin and Helal Sikder, said police. The arrest was made hours after Ibrahim Sardar, general

secretary of Hijla Upazila Sramik League, had filed a case with Hijla Police Station, said Officer-in-Charge Asim

The car of Pankaj Nath, a lawmaker of Barishal-4 constituency, came under the attack during a clash between his supporters and rivals at Hijla ferry terminal area on

The glass of MP's car was shattered during the incident. said Ibrahim, adding that the car's driver and several others were also injured.

deceived by them as they do not get quality service after going to those hospitals and clinics, he said, adding that the convicts admitted their crime.

"The brokers were hampering the activities of the doctors and other staffers of the hospitals... We seized patients' prescriptions and test reports from many of them," he said.

The magistrate said they carried out the raid, in association with hospital authorities, following complaints from patients and their family members.

Dr Ashraful Alam, assistant director of DMCH, said, "Many patients from villages come to this hospital for treatment. We are working to serve the patients. We do not want them to be harassed."

Asked whether hospital staffers are involved in the racket, Ashraful said they will take action if anyone provides specific allegation against any staffer.

8 killed

In Jhenidah, a bus ran over a motorbike on Jhenidah-Chuadanga road in Sadar upazila yesterday, killing a

The deceased was identified as Jahangir Hossain (30). Injured Jamirul Islamwas taken to Sadar Hospital, said

Police seized the bus but the driver fled. In Dinajpur, a farmer was killed after a speeding bus hit

Mozibar Rahman (65) died instantly, said police. In Mymensingh, three passengers of a battery-run auto-rickshaw were killed and six others injured when a Mymensingh-bound bus collided head-on with the auto-

The deceased were identified as Aminul Islam (35) driver of the auto-rickshaw; Rita Akter (21), and her eightyear-old nephew Tanvir Ahmed, said Muktagacha Police

Aminul, Rita and Tanvir succumbed to their injuries at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, said the police

Police sent the bodies to MMCH morgue for autopsy. A case was filed in connection with the accident.

$\underset{\scriptscriptstyle{\text{FROM PAGE 3}}}{\text{Do they matter}}$

improving their rankings, and how.

I feel like there are more pressing matters for the universities to handle before getting worked up about rankings," states Syeda Afrin Tarannum, a third-year economics student at NSU. "Maintaining proper protocol regarding classes and ensuring students' mental health go beyond sending YouTube recommendations and vague surveys. Once that is taken care of, maybe they can try for a higher ranking."

"Students should not be bothered about the number one position," says Anika Anjum, a second-year student at the Department of Sociology, DU, matching Afrin's views. "They should be concerned about whether necessary requirements and experiences are being met. Students carry these experiences both in academic as well as their professional fields.

She, however, says, "When we see the rankings, as students, we realise how much we are falling behind in

In the 2022 index of the QS Rankings, Massachusetts Institute for Technology (MIT), USA, secured the top position, followed by University of Oxford, Stanford University, University of Cambridge, and Harvard

A total of 26 Asian universities made it to the top 100 iist. Besides, the 2022 index saw eight indian and three Pakistani institutes rank in the top 500. Given how things are progressing, everyone might have to wait a long while to see a Bangladeshi university among those ranks.

Looking For Groom

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World Health

Organization

Bangladesh

- National Professional Officer (Programme Management)/TNP

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interested and eligible candidates for the following positions under

For further details on submission of applications including detailed post

https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment

https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl

- National Professional Officer (Mental Health)/TNP

sessions. Admission forms are available in college website from 15 June 2021.

ADMISSIONS AVAILABL

Contact: 58811460 (9:00 am to 1:00 pm on working days only).

motorcyclist and injuring his pillion.

Sadar Police Station OC Mizanur Rahman.

him in Birganj upazila yesterday.

rickshaw on Mymensingh-Tangail road on Wednesday.

Station OC Md Dulal Akanda.

Sangbadpatra Hawkers' Samity

Abdul Mannan Jahangir Alam



Hawkers' Bahumukhi Samabaya Samity Ltd respectively. The election for the 12-member management committee was held on Wednesday at the Samity's central office in the capital, said a press release.

ABM Belal Hossain Khan was elected Haque and Abu Hanif were elected directors. | health, he added.

gets new committee

STAR REPORT

Mohammad



and secretary of Dhaka Sangbadpatra

rice-president. Shah Alam Patwari, Joynal Abedin, AKM Monir Hossain Bhuiyan, Nurul Islam, Delwar Hossain Talukder, Hafizur Rahman, Nurer Jaman, Sirajul

their family, we feel overjoyed," he said. Dulal and his colleagues used to work for six hours at stretch, wearing personal protective equipment (PPE), alternating among themselves every 15 days.

> "It's difficult working for six hours in PPE, but we forget the trouble after observing patients suffering from breathing issues." he shared. Dulal said the most troublesome job for him was

returning home after a day's duty. "My fear is that I might spread the virus among my family. I've been living alone in a room at my home -- separated from family members -- for more than a year. How long can you remain away from your family?"

Dulal said initially, hospital authorities had arranged a hostel for nurses to spend two weeks after ending 15 days of work, but there is no such provision now.

"When I complete my duties, I take a bath before returning home. But the fear hangs over my head," he said. Scenes from the Covid-19 wards haunt him sometimes. "I get nightmares," he added.

No measure was taken for the staff's mental health. They were not even given special training for dealing with Covid-19 patients.

We learned everything during our duties. We feared our job before, but now, those fears have been buried under our responsibilities," Dulal said.

Contacted, RMCH Director Brig Gen Shamim Yazdani acknowledged the struggle to provide beds and oxygen. They will add 32 more beds at the Covid-19 unit soon to

overcome the mounting pressure, and have also stored some 450 oxygen cylinders for emergency situations, he informed. He said they already started using the cylinders for 22 additional patients at the unit.

"Central oxygen is connected with beds only, but there are more patients than beds," the director said.

They would also hold discussions over staff's mental

The brawl

private hospitals, before becoming a government senior staff

It is against this backdrop that Prof Dr Md Tarek Alam, head of department of medicine at Bangladesh Medical College and Hospital (BMCH),

recommends that Ivermectin not be taken out of the race. "I think all adults should take a preventive dose of 12 mg of Ivermectin one tablet every ten days -- until we can test our antibodies," said Dr Alam. His appeal comes from a study that physicians of BMCH did last year

that was published in the European Journal of Medical and Health Sciences. The study involved 118 healthy individuals working as healthcare providers in Covid-19 isolation wards in BMCH.

"The individuals were distributed into two groups (experimental and control) -- 60 subjects in control group and 58 subjects in experimental group," said the study, adding that the experimental group received 12 mg of Ivermectin every four weeks for four months.

"Seventy-three point three percent (44 out of 60) subjects in the control group were positive for Covid-19, whereas only 6.9 percent (four out of 58) of the experimental group were diagnosed with Covid-19," said the study.

Dr Alam said, "In May, we applied to the Bangladesh Medical Research Council for a trial but they gave us permission in August. By that time, Ivermectin was being used so extensively that we were not able to find 200 people who had never been exposed to the drug. We only got 35-40 individuals who never took ivermectin."

On December 7, 2020, icddr,b published results of a clinical trial that said "Ivermectin shows promise against Covid-19."

Some 68 patients hospitalised with Covid-19 were divided into three groups and administered Ivermectin, Ivermectin in combination with doxycycline, and a placebo.

"The study demonstrated that patients in the five-day ivermectin group were 77 percent more likely to have early viral clearance on day 14, compared to those who received ivermectin and doxycycline (61 percent) and placebo (39 percent)," said the icddr,b study.

The findings were published in the International Journal of Infectious

Diseases (IJID) on 2 December 2020.

A different scenario was perceived in Barcelona, Spain -- according to a study published in the Lancet on January 19, 2021.

The study by ISGlobal and Barcelona Institute for Global Health received a single dose of Ivermectin of 400 mcg per kilogramme of weight, within 72 hours of a patient developing fever or cough.

"There was no difference in the proportion of PCR positives," found the study. "There was however a marked reduction of cough and a tendency to lower viral loads and lower IgG titers which warrants assessment in larger trials." They concluded that "there is limited evidence to support its clinical use in Covid-19 patients."

Dr Alam said that Ivermectin's strength lies in symptom management. The virus can stay in the body as long as it is not active. Hospital beds can

The government gave permission to ten more pharmaceuticals to make Ivermectin, he pointed out. "The main resistance is from World Health Organisation, who says that there are not enough large-scale studies to support its use," he added.

The current evidence on the use of ivermectin to treat Covid-19 patients is inconclusive. Until more data is available, WHO recommends that the drug only be used within clinical trials," said a statement by WHO released on March 31. 2021

The US Federal Drug Administration also does not approve of the use of

"FDA has not approved ivermectin for use in treating or preventing COVID-19 in humans. Taking large doses of this drug is dangerous and can cause serious harm," states the FDA on its website.

Even as the Indian health ministry omitted Ivermectin as a cure, the drug has been used in states like Delhi where the curve has gone down -- with the caveat that correlation is not the causation. "Certain provincial governments have been administering Ivermectin,

while others have not. Delhi for example started administering Ivermectin. Health clinics were giving Ivermectin to outpatients and the crisis we were seeing two weeks back is not as acute," said Dr Tarek Alam. The pandemic is like a war. Scientific discoveries are so rapidly changing.

There is a huge chaos where the WHO is changing its stance all the time. There is nothing called an international standard or a gold standard," said Dr Rubaiul Murshed, the chairperson of Shomman Foundation. "They were giving this to everyone in Uttar Pradesh before removing it from the guideline. If we are trying to go after the nitty-gritties, which

direction will you go?" he said. "Standard hospitals across the city are all giving out this drug. When there is no cure yet, we are drowning, we are clutching at straws," said Dr

As of yet, there is not a clear solution to whether Ivermectin is the silver

bullet or not -- but with more questions being asked, more answers are emerging.

Gross

FROM PAGE 3

In such incidents, the Bangladesh embassy should strictly monitor the matter so that the labour attaché takes necessary initiatives to ensure justice for the abused women and demands compensation from employers, MJF said.

According to a recent Brac report, there have been 12 such incidents in recent times, and at least 10,000 women have returned from Saudi Arabia in the last five years, suffering from abuse.

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Nurul Islam, former director of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training, said one of the main obstacles in labour migration is presence of middlemen in between the recruiting agencies and migrant workers, which needs to be addressed.

The role of middlemen should be abolished to reduce huge migration cost, he said. He stressed the need for trial run of the app launched yesterday. Farida Yeasmin, a Supreme Court lawyer and migrant

rights activist, said women migrant workers lack knowledge and skill to use technology. They should be prioritised while piloting the app. Shameem Ahmed Chowdhury Noman, former secretary

general of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies, said price of plane tickets is quite high now. In some cases, the price of a \$300 ticket went up to Barrister Shameem Haider Patwary, chairperson of

Bangladesh Parliamentarians' Caucus on Migration and Development, said due to lack of knowledge and education, many women migrant workers are at high risk of exploitation, which needs to be minimised.

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PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

The shareholders of AB Bank Limited in the 39th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on June 10, 2021 (Thursday) at 04:00 p.m. through digital platform approved below mentioned decision:

"The issuance of Non-convertible, Unsecured and Floating Rated Perpetual Bonds of BDT 600 crore in two segments- BDT 60 crore through Public issue and BDT 540 crore through Private Placement to be used for Enhancement of Additional Tier-I Capital of the Bank is hereby approved subject to the approval of Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) and other Regulatory Authorities".

Dated: Dhaka, June 10, 2021 **AB Bank Limited**

Memo No: 46.03.0300.07.001.20-1638

(helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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By Order of the Board Md. Jasim Uddin, ACS

The Skymark, 18 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1 Dhaka Company Secretary (In-charge)

Government of the People's মুজিৰ ১০০

Department of Public Health Engineering Office of the Executive Engineer District: Bandarban. ee.bandarban@dphe.gov.bd

Republic of Bangladesh

গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি।

Date: 08.06.2021

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি

e-GP: Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocurement.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following works

Details	are giver beit	JVV.				
SI.	Tender	Description of works	Type,	Tender	Tender	Tender
No.	ID		Method	Documents	Closing Date	Opening
				Last Selling	& Time	Date & Time
				(Date & Time)		
01.	580180	Construction of water supply through	NCT,	23-Jun-2021	24-Jun-2021	24-Jun-2021
		G.F.S System at Thong Thong Para	OTM	16:35	16:30	16:30
		Source - Remacri Jhiri at Remacri				
		Prongsha UP in Ruma Upazilla				
		Bandarban District.				
02.	580187	Construction of water supply through	NCT,	23-Jun-2021	24-Jun-2021	24-Jun-2021
		G.F.S System at Thaiking Para Source-	OTM	16:45	16:45	16:45
		Thaiking Jhiri in Remari UP in Thanchi				
		Upazilla Bandarban District.				
03.	580979	Construction of water supply through	NCT,	17-Jun-2021	20-Jun-2021	20-Jun-2021
		G.F.S System at Jadipai Natun Para	OTM	16:15	16:20	16:20
		Source - Long Mon Jhiri at Remacri				
		Prongsha UP in Ruma Upazilla				
		Bandarban District.				
04.	585167	Installation of Ring well at PTI with RO	NCT,	20-Jun-2021	21-Jun-2021	21-Jun-2021
		filter Bandarban of Bandarban districts.	OTM	15:45	15:50	15:50

The interested persons/farm of may visit the website. www.procurement.gov.bd to get the details of the tender. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be cepted. To submit e-Tender, Registration in the National e-GP system portal is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP Help Desk

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