

ROHINGYA CRISIS

Japan to grab any opportunity to resolve it: envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Naoki Ito has said Japan will seize the opportunity to find a "long-term and lasting solution" to the Rohingya crisis with the Myanmar side, noting that the issue is very relevant to the future stability of the entire region.

"What we can say right now is Japan will seize the opportunity to raise this very, very important issue with the Myanmar side and its military whenever appropriate," he said, adding that his country will do its best to create an enabling environment for the early repatriation of Rohingyas and will continue to raise the issue with the Myanmar side.

He was responding to a question at a virtual dialogue titled "Bangladesh-Japan Relations: Prognosis for the Future" where he delivered the keynote speech.

Cosmos Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Cosmos Group, hosted the dialogue as a part of its ongoing Ambassador's Lecture Series.

The opening remarks were delivered by the Cosmos Foundation Chairman Enayetullah Khan. The session was chaired by Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury.

Md Abul Kalam Azad, special envoy, Climate Vulnerable Forum; Hayakawa Yuho, chief representative, JICA Bangladesh Office; Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, former governor, Bangladesh Bank; Masaaki Ohashi, professor, University of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo; Manzurul Huq, columnist, writer and academic; Prof Takahara Akio, dean, Graduate School of Public Policy, the University of Tokyo; and Ambassador (ret'd) Tariq A Karim, honorary advisor emeritus, Cosmos Foundation, comprised the panel of discussants.

M'singh hospital struggles amid surge in Covid cases

Md AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Mymensingh Medical College Hospital is struggling with the rising number of Covid-19 patients. The number of patients started increasing from early July, according to hospital officials.

Even though they have increased the number of Covid unit beds at the hospital from 210 to 500, the hospital's 20 ICU beds remains at capacity due to the onrush of critical patients, said MMCH Deputy Director Dr Md Wayezuddin Farazi.

According to hospital sources, Covid-19 positive patients and people with symptoms are thronging the hospital from Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Tangail, Sherpur, Netrakona, Kishoreganj, Sunamganj and Gazipur.

They said due to the increasing number of Covid patients, treatment of general ones is also being hampered. On an average, 2,000 patients remain admitted against the accommodation capacity of 1,000 beds at MMCH.

Dr Mohiuddin Khan Moon, focal person of MMCH coronavirus unit, said the number of admitted patients at Covid-19 was 222 on July 1 but it rose to 478 on July 25.

A total of 143 Covid-19 positive and 217 suspected patients died from July 1 to July 13 at the hospital, said



People with Covid-19 symptoms throng the antigen test booth at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

the doctor. The number of positive case was zero on July 1 and 2 but it rose to 309 on July 25, he added.

Prof Dr Motiur Rahman Bhuiyan, president of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Mymensingh unit, said if the present trend continues, the hospital's lone oxygen plant will not be enough. A new oxygen plant has to be installed at the hospital soon, he added.

Demanding more ICU beds at MMCH, he said a field hospital should be set up to tackle the present situation.

Contacted, Civil Surgeon Dr Md Nazrul Islam said Community Based Medical College and Hospital Bangladesh in Mymensingh has set

up a 50-bed Covid-19 unit already in this regard.

Mymensingh Divisional Director (Health) Md Shah Alam said, "We are also planning to set up 100 new Covid beds at Tarakanda Upazila Health Complex. The number of isolation beds in each 30 upazila health complexes in Mymensingh division has been increased to 20 from five."

Besides, 100 Covid beds are available at Combined Military Hospital, Mymensingh while Ghatail CMH in Tangail has 200 beds, he said.

According to the health department in Mymensingh, 342 deaths have been reported in the division so far since the pandemic.

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nazmul Haque, an assistant teacher at Firoza Bashar Ideal School and College in the capital's Mohammadpur, is on the verge of losing everything.

After his wife Swapna Mahmuda suffered a stroke in 2014, the family had to spend around Tk 25 to 30 lakh for her treatment as she kept falling deeper into more health complications.

Swapna became partially paralysed for about six months after suffering the stroke, after which spinal problems started developing. She was eventually diagnosed with thalassaemia.

Since her treatment in Bangladesh was not successful for almost three years, she was taken to CMC Hospital in Vellore, India in 2017.

But her operation could not be done there too, due to the persistence of her thalassaemia.

Four years on, she is currently suffering from ulcer and liver and lung diseases, in addition to her thalassaemia and brain and spinal problems.

A low-earning teacher, Nazmul can bear it no more. "I have had to borrow around Tk 9 lakh, even after selling my assets," he said.

"Currently, I have to spend around Tk 15,000 to 20,000 every month for her medical treatment beside our living cost," Nazmul said.

Farid Ahmed, principal of Firoza Bashar Ideal School and College, said, "We try to support him financially as much as we can. However, it's not nearly enough to meet the medical expenses of his wife and the daily expenses of the family."

Mired in the situation, Nazmul Haque has sought the assistance of the government and affluent people of the society to come forward and help him save his wife.

Help can be sent to -- Nazmul Haque, Dutch Bangla Bank Limited, Account No. 25815125111, and on his mobile financial service account -- Bkash (personal) -- 01876337900.

CEC served

FROM PAGE 3

constituency of 3.52 lakh voters is against the government's lockdown policy.

The constituency fell vacant after parliamentarian Mahmud Us Samad Chowdhury died of coronavirus on March 11.

Ruling Awami League candidate Habibur Rahman Habib, JP candidate Mohammad Atiqur Rahman, Bangladesh Congress candidate Junayed Mohammad Miah and BNP rebel candidate Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury are contesting the by-polls.

The five lawyers who served the legal notice on public interest are Mohammad Mujahidul Islam, Al-Reza Md Amir, Md Jobaidur Rahman, Md Zahirul Islam and Mustafizur Rahman.

A university

FROM PAGE 3

manual systems. The university has been in talks for automation but could not initiate the process yet.

"A group of automation specialists visited the controller office a few months ago, but authorities could not finalise any contract, citing high costs," said an official of the office.

Currently, to get any document, students need to fill out a prescribed form, which has two options: general and emergency. But in the form, there is no mention of the days it will take to provide a document. Officials verbally mention that emergency services take seven days.

"That's why we can't hold the office responsible when they fail to provide documents in seven days," said a master's student.

During a recent visit to the two-storied office building, this correspondent found a stack of important documents lying scattered on the floor. Many students were waiting to receive their documents with only two persons serving them.

Admitting the delay, JU Exam Controller Prof Farid Ahmed said they need a syndicate meeting to approve results, which is why they cannot issue main certificates on time.

"We are spending too much time ensuring exact results of students, as we manually check the records. But we normally issue other documents as early as possible," he told this newspaper.

He, however, did not give any direct answer when asked whether there was any written rule of syndicate approval for issuing certificates.

Prof Farid said things would have been much easier and faster if automation could be introduced.

"We have already talked to teachers of Computer Science and Engineering department and Institute of Information Technology to develop automation software for reducing the hassle. But this initiative has been halted due to the pandemic," he said.

"We hope that a meeting will soon be held in this regard," he added.

Bastuhara

FROM PAGE 3

"Shortage of water and pollution in rivers and canals mean locals find it hard to access usable water. It also affect fish stocks," said Bastuhara colony resident Julfikar Ali.

"Cultivation is hampered since there isn't enough water for irrigation as the canal beds do not contain much water," he added.

Visiting the Bastuhara canal last week, this correspondent saw the almost 50-60 feet wide canal in a state akin to a plain agro-field.

Beneath Karikorpara bridge, there is no water in the canal. Around two kilometers from there to Khudiar khal, the entire canal bed is full of hyacinths, bushes, and grass. In some places, taro plants, banana trees, and other big and small saplings are growing. Locals said they collect grass for their cows and goats from the canal bed.

Back in the days, villagers of Rangpur, Saluya, Arongghata, Purba Bilpabla, Paschim Bilpabla of Dumuria upazila used to come to Khulna city's Boyra, Bastuhara, Pabla, Khalishpur, and Daulatpur areas through the canal, said Samsuddin Ahmed Prince, local councillor (ward-6).

As the water has run dry, it has made life very difficult for farmers from these villages, he added. The canal was excavated once in 2014-15, but lack of maintenance meant it got filled up again, he said.

"We need immediate steps to excavate the canal in an urgent basis for its natural water resources,"

he also said.

Sheikh Mohammad Ali, secretary general of Greater Khulna Unnayan Sangram Samannay Committee, said, "Due to encroachment and lack of proper drainage systems, waterlogging has become a major problem for the city."

Contacted, Nuruzzaman Talukdar, estate officer of KCC and member secretary of a committee to mark illegal grabbers, said they have listed 460 grabbers and 382 illegal structures on 26 canals. The list was later handed over to the deputy commissioner, he informed.

"The sub-committee listed around 47 canals crisscrossing the city and its adjacent areas. Of them, 31 are under KCC areas," he said.

Khulna District Administration is the custodian of these canals, while KCC works as a supervisor, he said.

A top official of the administration, seeking anonymity, said it is KCC's responsibility to maintain and preserve the waterbodies. "We assist the city corporation during demarcation or eviction drives. But, KCC has to take the initiative first," he said.

Contacted, KCC Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque said recovering canals from grabbers was part of his election manifesto. "We will start a drive soon to recover the remaining 22 canals including Bastuhara," he said.

"After taking charge, I have initiated a Tk 823 crore project to resolve the city's waterlogging issue and free the canals," he added.

Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS)
House # 6, Road # 23/C, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212
Tender Ref. no 42.06.2626.101.06.001.21-01 (Camp)
Date: 25 July, 2021

1st Corrigendum Notice
It is hereby notified to all concerned that under unavoidable circumstances the Tender Notice for the works of (i) Supply, installation & commissioning of Fire Detection & Protection System and (ii) Supply, installation & commissioning of lifts for CEGIS Office Building at Plot No. F-14/E, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, Tender Ref. no 42.06.2626.101.06.001.21-1411, Date: 29/06/2021 is to be amended as follows:

Sl. No.	As mentioned in Original Tender Notice	To be Revised
Tender Notice Sl. No. 12	Date and time of Pre-tender meeting: 27/07/2021, 10:30 a.m.	Date and time of Pre-tender meeting: 4 th day from the day of starting of the Offices as per Govt. Circular, 10:30 a.m.
Tender Notice Sl. No. 8	Last Date of Selling Tender: 03/08/2021 by 05:00 p.m.	Last Date & Time of Selling Tender: 7 days after the pre-tender meeting, 05:00 p.m.
Tender Notice Sl. No. 9	Last Date & Time of receiving Tender: 04/08/2021 by 01:00 p.m.	Last Date & Time of receiving Tender: 8 days after the pre-tender meeting, 01:00 p.m.
Tender Notice Sl. No. 10	Date & Time of Opening Tender: 04/08/2021, 03:00 p.m.	Date & Time of Opening Tender: 8 days after the pre-tender meeting, 03:00 p.m.

All other terms and conditions of the original tender will remain unchanged. If any date newly considered, is a holiday, the following working day will then govern. This Corrigendum Notice and the previous Tender Notice are also given in the CEGIS Web site and will be part and parcel of the Tender.

Project Director, CEGIS Office Building Construction Project

Mysterious

FROM PAGE 3

6:50pm, Faisalur Rahman, station officer of Ramna Fire Station, told The Daily Star.

Several buses were parked in the depot during the inferno.

Faisalur said the reason behind the fire could not be known immediately. "It will be known after investigation," he said.

No casualties were reported in the fires.

Helena

FROM PAGE 3

As per the party president's announcement, if anyone inside the party is found directly or indirectly involved with such acts, immediate organisational actions will be taken against them, he said.

The AL general secretary said administrative steps will also be taken against those who will make evil attempts to serve interests of individuals by using party name.

If any controversial person entered the party or if questions arise over activities of anyone, written complaint can be lodged to election tribunal at the party president's political office as per the party constitution, he said.

Accused placed

FROM PAGE 3

by Sumon Bepari stabbed Shahinuddin to death in front of his seven-year-old son at Mirpur-12 over a land dispute with former lawmaker from Lakshimpur MA Awal.

The next day, Shahinuddin's mother, filed a case with Pallabi Police Station against 20 named people including Awal, and 13 to 14 unnamed accused.

Earlier, six including, Sumon Bepari, gave confessional statements before the magistrates on different dates. Two accused -- Monir and Manik -- were killed in a "gunfight" with law enforcers earlier.

Police have so far arrested 12 people including Awal in connection with the murder.

Ensure food

FROM PAGE 3

facing a disastrous situation for lack of food, life-saving drugs and baby food during the lockdown.

"Under such a situation, we demand the government make a proper list of the poor and strengthen the social security programme to ease their sufferings," he added.

Biker killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A motorcyclist was killed in a collision between a pickup and his bike on Dinajpur-Ranshia road at Boirchuna village in Pirganj upazila of Thakurgaon yesterday.

The victim was identified as Akhtaruzzaman Dablu (40) from Jadurani village in Haripur upazila.

Pirganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Prodip Kumar Roy said a Ranshia-bound mango-laden pickup van collided head-on with the motorbike at an intersection around 11am, leaving the biker dead on the spot.

বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস্ এন্ড সার্জেনস্
Bangladesh College of Physicians & Surgeons
বিসিপিএস নং-৭৭৬/২০২১/১৬৫১৩ ২৫ জুলাই, ২০২১খ্রিঃ

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, করোনভাইরাসের সংক্রমণ বৃদ্ধির কারণে সারাদেশে লকডাউন বিরাজমান থাকায় বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস্ এন্ড সার্জেনস্ (বিসিপিএস)-এর জুলাই-২০২১ সেশনের পরীক্ষা শুরুর তারিখ ০১ আগস্ট, ২০২১খ্রিঃ এর পরিবর্তে নতুন সম্ভাব্য তারিখ ০১ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০২১খ্রিঃ নির্ধারণ করা হলো। পরীক্ষার পূর্ণাঙ্গ সময়সূচী পরবর্তীতে জানানো হবে।

উল্লেখ্য যে, কোভিড পরিবর্তিত পরিস্থিতিতে পরীক্ষার নির্ধারিত নতুন তারিখ পরিবর্তনযোগ্য।

অধ্যাপক মোঃ বিল্লাল আলম
অনারারি সচিব
বাংলাদেশ কলেজ অব ফিজিশিয়ানস্ এন্ড সার্জেনস্ (বিসিপিএস) জিডি-১৩৬৭

WFP
wfp.org

Expression of Interest For prequalification of NGOs for WFP's "2022 Partnership Cycle (1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022) To Implement Humanitarian Assistance Programme in Cox's Bazar To Enhance Food Security and Nutrition" Ref. # WFP/CXB-EOI-NGO-27-07-2021

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) invites Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) with experience as per requirements to submit an Expression of Interest for the implementation of the "Humanitarian Assistance program to enhance food security and nutrition."

About the Programme:
The work of WFP in Bangladesh over the period of WFP's Bangladesh Country Strategic Plan (CSP 2022 – 2026), to be approved by the end of 2021, will support the country on its path to end hunger and reduce malnutrition by 2030 through four strategic outcomes:

- Strategic outcome 1: Populations affected by crisis in Bangladesh are able to meet basic food, nutrition and other essential needs during and after crises.
- Strategic outcome 2: By 2026, the nutrition needs of women, children and vulnerable groups in Bangladesh are met through national institutions that have enhanced capacities to design and implement gender- and nutrition-sensitive social safety net programmes.
- Strategic outcome 3: By 2026, vulnerable communities in Bangladesh are more resilient to shocks and natural disasters owing to enhanced national disaster management capacity and flexible nutrition- and gender-sensitive social safety net programmes.
- Strategic outcome 4: Vulnerable crisis-affected populations in Bangladesh benefit from enhanced coordination and improved common services during and after crises.

In Cox's Bazar, WFP, through its partners, provides humanitarian assistance to around 860,000 Rohingya refugees and 400,000 vulnerable host communities. In collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh, other UN agencies (e.g. FAO, UNHCR, IOM, etc) and in partnership with NGOs, WFP is also working in various sectors, including Food Security, Nutrition and Site Management. In the most vulnerable host communities and the camps, WFP will continue to: i) Provide humanitarian food assistance to the Rohingya population every month through E-Voucher and fresh food corner activities; ii) Self-reliance support through income-generating and skills development activities; iii) Learning centre support and school feeding; iv) Nutrition activities on prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition targeting children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women; v) Strengthening Community Resilience and Safety Net Systems (Government project funded by the World Bank); vi) Livelihood support to vulnerable host communities; vii) Building the Resilience of camps and host communities through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities; viii) SMEP - Innovative effort to support Rohingya Refugee Communities for emergency preparedness, response, and rehabilitation & maintenance of critical camp infrastructures.

Conditions for entry:
The applicant must have:

- Legal status (valid registration number with NGO Affairs Bureau and Social Welfare Department)
- Appropriate organizational strength
- Physical presence in the area for which it applies
- Past exposure of implementing food and cash transfer based programme, livelihoods programme
- Organization's strategic objectives fit with WFP's strategic priorities and long-term sustainability
- Basic resource capacity (financial and human)
- Financial strength to conduct the required activities supported by an audited financial statement
- Good relationships with the local administration, relevant local and regional institutions
- Work experience and expertise locally with Government, United Nations and NGOs with reliable reputation

Prequalification Application Process:
Interested NGOs need to submit a two-page Expression of Interest and an Organizational Profile in English (template for Organizational Profile & factsheet can be found at: <https://wfp.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/ReportsCXB/Eng7mvvRBRBTRUmk-c-wvB2p0BZD72Zw-Qh2Zmd4Lgw?e=Vi8Bpn>), along with the copies of the Certificate of Registration with the NGO Affairs Bureau and Social Welfare Department marked with the reference number by 27 July 2021 (05.00 pm) in the following email address: bangladesh.flatskforce@wfp.org. Please note that you can send only up to 9mb total size of attachment. Local NGOs are highly encouraged to apply.

INVITATION FOR PROPOSAL (IFP)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is inviting innovative proposals for two activities under two categories: 1) **Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement for Business and Human Rights in Bangladesh** and 2) **Research Study on Workers' Rights in the Construction Sector of Bangladesh**, as response to this IFP from interested NGOs/CSOs/Organizations for Business and Human Rights (B+HR) in Asia Project, UNDP, Bangladesh.

The solicitation format along with other relevant information and documents for submission are available in the link at: [UNDP | Procurement Notices - 80999 - Invitation for Proposal-Low valu](https://www.undp.org/bd/procurement-notices)

Bidders may submit their proposals for one or both categories.

Submission of IFP document: The letter of submission should clearly mention the subject "Application for Low Value Grant for _____" (number of the category and title of the assignment to be clearly mentioned in the blank space), with the necessary documents as per instructions specified in the "solicitation document" available in the link above.

The deadline for submission of Proposals (as per given template in the IFP) and a cover letter under organizations' letter head should be sent to bd.procurement@undp.org by **08 August 2021, Sunday, 4:00 pm local time.**