

US-Bangladesh Business Council donates medical equipment to fight Covid

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US-Bangladesh Business Council in partnership with Project CURE, an American NGO, has donated emergency medical equipment, including 60 oxygen concentrators, to bolster Bangladesh's response to Covid-19.

The other supplies include variable positive air pressure units, other oxygen supplies and device accessories -- as well as 45,000 pieces of PPE, including KN95 and N95 masks.

The initiative was developed by US-Bangladesh Business Council members Chevron, Excelerate Energy, Metlife, and HSBC Bangladesh with support from the US Embassy in Dhaka, USAID, and Bangladesh Embassy in Washington, DC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Directorate General of Health Services.

"I am proud to see American business leaders come together as invaluable partners with this generous gift meant to help meet the critical health needs of the Bangladeshi people. We must and will continue to use our collective resources to fight this pandemic together, to protect health and save precious lives," said Chargé d'Affaires JoAnne Wagner, according to a statement of the US Embassy in Dhaka.

Nisha Biswal, president of the US-Bangladesh Business Council, said the partnership between the council and its members, Project CURE, the US and Bangladeshi governments, is a testament to expedient support and strong friendship between the two countries in times of need.

"Throughout the Covid pandemic, Chevron has been working hard to continue providing the energy the people of Bangladesh need to overcome the humanitarian and economic challenges of the virus," Jay R Pryor, Chevron's vice president of business development.



At a time when people are desperately in need of oxygen cylinders, many, like Shahjahan, are taking up the responsibility to deliver the life-saving item right to everyone's doorstep. Shahjahan carries the cylinders on his motorbike and zooms across the city, determined to help others. This photo was taken from the capital's Mouchak flyover yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Dr SA Samad passes away

BSS, Dhaka

Former principal secretary to the prime minister and freedom fighter Dr SA Samad, who subsequently served as chairman of the then Board of Investment (BOI), died at his Baridhara residence yesterday. He was 79.

A close relative told the news agency Samad, a life-long bachelor, died a day after he was released from a city hospital receiving treatment for brain complications.

A career civil servant Samad previously served as a faculty of Dhaka University's economics department.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at the death of Bangabandhu's private secretary Dr Syed Abdus Samad.

"He [Samad] was an honest, skilled, courageous and sincere government official," premier's press secretary Ihsanul Karim quoted the PM as saying.

Sheikh Hasina also pointed out Samad's role during 1971 Liberation War recalling that he joined the Mujibnagar Government severing links with Pakistan.

Safe migration

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IOM Bangladesh Chief of Mission Giorgi Gigauri said trafficking is a crime which puts migrant workers at risk of physical and mental abuse, harassment, forced labour, forced and illegal marriages, illegal trade, and losing their lives.

All levels of the government, development partners, law enforcement entities, civil society, the private sector, and all other relevant actors must make a concerted effort to take action to stamp it out, he said.

AKM Masud Ali, executive director of INCIDIN Bangladesh, called for an urgent need to develop Covid-19 responsive arrangements for the protection of migrants.

The Covid-19 induced closure of formal channels mobility and transportation calls for special attention on potential migrants, especially returnees, so that they have adequate information and institutional access to counter recruitment approaches from traffickers, he said.

Former foreign secretary M Shahidul Haque, among others, also spoke at the webinar.

Lockdown gets

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Amid the rising cases of Covid-19, the government announced another lockdown -- which bans operation of trains, domestic flights, passenger vessels, and personal vehicles -- from Friday, after an eight-day break for Eid.

There is, however, no restrictions on freight services. The lockdown will end on August 5 midnight.

Police, Rapid Action Battalion, Border Guard Bangladesh and army personnel were seen checking vehicles by setting up check-posts at important points.

But there was lax monitoring at some check-posts, where there were no law enforcers.

Police in Dhaka yesterday detained 562 individuals for being outdoors without valid reason. Mobile courts fined 208 individuals and shops Tk 1.61 lakh, while Dhaka Metropolitan Police's traffic division fined 489 motorists Tk 11.33 lakh.

The holidaymakers were seen returning with their luggage, through entry points at Gabtoli, Tongi, Shanirakhra and Jatrabari. They took detours and even walked to their destinations. Many of them faced police questioning.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people travelled across Padma River by boarding ferries running on Daulatdia-Paturia and Bangla Bazar-Shimulia routes.

Officials said travellers were allowed to board the ferries on humanitarian grounds.

Out of 19 ferries, six were operating on Daulatdia-Paturia route yesterday.

Passengers had to walk a long distance to get a vehicle. Among them, many were service holders and workers, who came to join work after Eid.

Our Munshiganj correspondent reports that the pressure of Dhaka-bound passengers at Bangla Bazar-Shimulia route was normal yesterday. In the morning, there were crowds, but the situation went back to normal after 11am. Seven ferries were operating on the route.

Never called

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brought a fresh set of clothes to wear, disinfected myself after entering the house and maintained social distancing."

Now, Jaheda along with her 12-year-old son is financially dependent on her rickshaw-puller husband, whose income has also dried up during the movement restrictions.

According to NDWWU Coordinator Abul Hossain, Bangladesh has approximately 30 lakh domestic workers. Of them, 40 percent live at the employer's house, while the others do their work and go back home.

"If we assume at least 10 percent of them are yet to manage jobs that pay on average Tk 5,000, it means they have been losing total wages amounting to Tk 150 crores per month," he explained.

"The government is concerned about migrant workers who earn foreign currency. But we demand the plight of domestic workers, who are internal migrant workers and contribute to the informal economy, be considered too," he said.

"About testing and vaccines, none of them know the formal procedures for these services. Even though these workers are part of our everyday life, they are yet to be put on the vaccine priority list. I think they will be the least prioritised people," he added.

Mentioning the lack of cash and food assistance from the government, Abul said the union provided food for 1,000 domestic workers in Dhaka, using foreign donations.

Meanwhile, violence against domestic workers

went up in the pandemic.

According to data from human-rights organisation Ain O Salish Kendra, 18 house-helpers were tortured from January to May this year. Of them, eight have died.

NDWWU General Secretary Murshida Akter said due to the economic downturn and loss of income, the rate of violence has increased in the domestic sphere, which resulted in increased incidents of violence against child domestic workers.

"For example, 12-year-old Sweetie, who was employed at a house in Segunbagicha, wasn't provided with sufficient food and was tortured over trivial matters for the past nine months," she said.

"In the last incident, the employer tortured her for three days in a row and didn't give her food, after she ate a biscuit without asking. She was able to escape with the help of a neighbour, who called 999," she added.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association President Advocate Salma Ali said the recent incidents of violence against such workers in Bhatara and Segunbagicha has created great concern for their protection.

"The Domestic Workers Protection and Welfare Policy, 2015" has specific provisions to ensure physical and mental welfare of house-helpers, good behaviour of employers, regular payment of wages and alimony, as well as granting sufficient vacations. But in reality, in absence of proper implementation of a law, these are not being followed, she said.

Salma urged the government to take necessary action to formulate laws and demanded exemplary punishment for perpetrators.

Country's lone

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The body parts are allocated based on doctors' recommendations. Globally-approved guidelines are followed when setting medical charges, Nasima said.

As demand for the bank's services keep increasing, the Tk 174 crore project has been undertaken to raise the bank's capacity, she added.

The project will be implemented within December 2024, the proposal says.

বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা
নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংশোধনী

এই বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের বিভিন্ন বিভাগ-এর শিক্ষকগণের শূন্য পদসমূহ পূরণের নিমিত্তে ২৮ জুন ২০২১ তারিখ "দৈনিক প্রথম আলো" এবং "The Daily Star" পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত আবশ্যিক বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ০১/০৮/২০২১-এর পরিবর্তে অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ ২২/০৮/২০২১ তারিখ এতদ্বারা পুনঃ নির্ধারণ করা হলো।

এছাড়া আবশ্যিক বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বর্ণিত অন্যান্য সকল বিষয় ও শর্তাদি অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে। সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি বুয়েট ওয়েবসাইট (regoffice.buet.ac.bd)-Vacancy-এর Job Circular page-এ Search করা, নোটিশ বোর্ড ও রেজিস্ট্রার অফিসে পাওয়া যাবে।

জিডি-১৩৮৭ রেজিস্ট্রার

World Health Organization
Bangladesh

VACANCY NOTICE

World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following position under following contractual modality:

- Executive Assistant / TGS

For further details on submission of applications including detailed post description please visit our websites:

<https://www.who.int/bangladesh/about-us/employment>
<https://careers.who.int/careersection/ex/jobsearch.ftl>

Qualified female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.

Price Sensitive Information

ONE Bank
LIMITED

Corporate HQ
2/F HRC Bhaban, 46 Kawran Bazar C.A., Dhaka-1215

This is for information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of ONE Bank Limited in its 330th Meeting held on July 28, 2021 from 3.00 p.m. at its Board Room, Corporate HQ, HRC Bhaban, 46 Kawran Bazar C.A., Dhaka-1215, has approved issuance of 7 years Subordinated Bond amounting to BDT 600.00 crore under private placement for Tier-II Capital, subject to approval of Bangladesh Bank & other Regulatory Authorities. The proceeds will be treated as Capital and it will help the Bank grow its Investment and Loan Portfolio.

By order of the Board,

John Sarkar
DMD & Company Secretary

Dhaka
July 28, 2021

Women volunteers

FROM PAGE 3

patient herself, along with her two daughters, and only recently recovered from it. Founding president of the Divisional Blood Society -- a free blood-donation forum -- Sumi had prior experience with volunteering work. She also runs Anwara Karim Samaj Kallayan Sangstha at Khaloipura village in Phulbaria upazila.

Sumi is also the founder principal of Mymensingh Divisional School and College and president of Mymensingh Divisional Sahitya Parishad.

The youngest of the lot, Tahmina Afrin, an HSC student, said she recently visited her ailing mother at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and found many family members of Covid-19 deceased in distressed state.

This hit her to the core. The daughter of a bus driver decided to do something for the Covid-19 deceased and soon joined the female team.

"When I saw Ali Yusuf struggling to manage the female dead bodies, I decided to join the volunteers," said Rozy Yeasmin, also a mother of two.

"I'm very satisfied with the joining of the four of them. It has made life easier for us," Ali told this correspondent.

Fifty-year-old Ali and his 12-member team including the four women have so far buried and cremated 65 Covid-19 deceased, irrespective of religious affiliations.

Sixty-nine-year-old freedom fighter Bimol Pal, a prominent member of the team, said their job has become significantly easier since the female volunteers joined.

"We had been looking for women who can do burial rites since we were facing gender issues in some cases," said social activist Bimol, popularly known as "Muktijuddher Golper Feriwal" in Mymensingh region.

Expressing gratitude to Sharif Ahmed, state minister for fisheries and livestock, Bimol said the minister has mobilised an ambulance facility at no-cost to carry Covid-19 patients and dead bodies since July 25.

In another bit of good news, for their round-the-clock oxygen service in the city, Bimol said they now have a stock of 52 oxygen cylinders collected from different quarters.

BFIU seeks

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Khokon said he believes Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), after being instigated by Taposh, sought the court's permission to freeze their bank accounts.

"To divert attention from his utter failure as a mayor, Taposh is harassing me," Khokon said.

"We will fight it legally, and if necessary, we will go for protests again," he added.

If the bank accounts, which contain Tk 7.62 crore, remain frozen, they will not be able to pay utility bills and employees of their family business during the pandemic, Khokon said.

He requested ACC to restore their accounts through courts.

Request for Proposal (RFP) (RFP-BD-2021-024)



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh is inviting Request for Proposal from interested IT firm for developing an interactive M&E and Knowledge Management web portal.

This procurement process will be conducted through online e-tendering system of UNDP. Interested firms/organizations who wish to submit the RFP document must register in the system to access the bidding document (RFP). To register please visit the link: <https://etendering.partneragencies.org> and use the user name and password provided below to start the registration:

Username: event.guest
Password: why2change

Once registered, bidders have to insert under the field "Event ID" the following: "BGD10" in the first box, and "RFP-21-024" in the second box and click the Search button. The complete user guide and bidding document (RFP) can be found at UNDP Bangladesh website in the link below: https://procurement-notices.undp.org/view_notice.cfm?notice_id=81266

Pre-proposal conference will be conducted online on Tuesday, August 03, 2021, 2:30 PM (LOCAL BD TIME). Link to online conference is provided in the bidding document.

The deadline for submission of proposal is Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 4:30 PM (LOCAL BD TIME).