

From cultural activists to Covid volunteers

Bibarton Jashore steps up amid the pandemic

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

When the Covid-19 pandemic began, some cultural activists could not bear the thought of staying back home as everyone else suffered.

Confronting their own fears of the deadly virus, they came forward and tried to help out those in distress in anyway they could.

From going door-to-door on a 24/7 on-demand oxygen service, to arranging food, masks, and sanitisers, they dedicated themselves to the service of others. They did all of this despite most of them being unemployed and having no way to earn their own living. They belong to an organisation called “Bibarton Jashore”.

“We are cultural activists. We do what we do for the sake of society’s wellbeing, with the hope that our contributions can help bring a positive change,” Nawroz Alam Khan Chopol, president of the organisation, told The Daily Star recently.

With 55 cylinders at their disposal, they provide oxygen to over 500 patients across the district, Chopol said. In addition, they also run a vaccination registration booth to assist people enroll their names into the government website.

Regent Hospital Scam DGHS ex-DG named in charge sheet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved a charge sheet against the former Director-General of Directorate General of Health Services, Abul Kalam Azad, and five others in the Regent Hospital scam case.

According to ACC sources, the charge sheet will be submitted to the court within this week.

Azad was implicated in the case during probe. Earlier, five people, including Shahed Karim, were accused in the case.

On July 7 last year, a case was filed against Shahed and 15 others over issuing fake Covid-19 test reports and charging people unfairly for testing and treatment. He was arrested in Sathkhira on July 15 last year. He was sentenced to life imprisonment in an arms case last year.

Sheikh Hasina univ of science, tech gets approval

CITY DESK

The government has approved of another private university, named Sheikh Hasina University of Science & Technology.

The Ministry of Education has issued an order in this regard, with a temporary approval to install and operate the university in Banshgari village of Kishoreganj’s Bhairab upazila, said a press release.

Earlier on Thursday, the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) sent a letter to university founder Dr HBM Iqbal, providing temporary approval to run the institution.

With this, the number of private universities in the country stands at 108, according to the press release.

The approval was given under the Private University Act 2010, subject to fulfilment of 24 conditions, the press release said.

Dr Iqbal -- a former lawmaker from the ruling party and current chairperson of Premier Bank Limited -- is already working on improving education in the area, establishing the “Dr. Iqbal Education City” in Banshgari.

Spread over 100 acres of land, it will host a multitude of establishments for higher education such as the university, a medical college, a polytechnic institute, a nursing school and more.

The great paradox

FROM PAGE 3

WHAT DATA SHOWS

A total of 2,395 buses were registered with BRTA last year, across the country, with 1,792 in Dhaka.

But, only 1,075 buses were registered in the whole country, with 849 in Dhaka, in the first eight months of this year, shows BRTA data.

A total of 620 minibuses were registered across the country last year, 133 of which were in Dhaka. But only 220 buses were registered till August this year in the whole country, with 97 in Dhaka.

Meanwhile, private cars, motorcycles and minibuses continued to rise this year.

A total of 12,403 private vehicles got registered last year in whole country, of which 11,150 were in Dhaka. But, 9,470 cars got registered in the country this year, of which 8,396 were in Dhaka.

A total of 3.11 lakh bikes got registered across the country last year, with 78,551 in Dhaka alone, while 1.98 lakh got registered till August this year, with 54,139 in Dhaka.

Meanwhile, traffic congestion remains a major problem for Dhaka, as a World Bank report in 2017 highlighted that in the last 10 years, average traffic speed has dropped from 21km to 7km (hour).

WHY THIS PARADOXICAL

DEVELOPMENT?

Mahbubur Rahman, organising secretary of Dhaka Road Transport Owners Association, blamed the adverse impact of the lockdown due to Covid-19 for the declining number of buses.

He also said route permits for buses were suspended for a long time, which contributed to the decrease in numbers.

However, experts found lack of planning and policies behind the decline of buses and poor service of public transport.

Prof Hadiuzzaman said Trip Length Distribution Function (TLDF) should be the determiner of transport mode for a city.

Trip distribution is a model of the number of trips that occur between each origin zone and each destination zone.

According to a Buet survey last year, the TLDF pattern of the city shows that 70 percent trips are covered by public transport and walking, while only five percent are covered by cars and other non-motorised vehicles.

“So we should put more stress on public transport and footpaths,” he told The Daily Star.

As there is little scope to increase roads in Dhaka, policies should prioritise planned public transport, he added.

Atiqur Rahman, project officer of

Work for a Better Bangladesh Trust, said while restrictions should be imposed on private cars, different government incentives like provision of easy car loans are encouraging more people to purchase them.

He also urged the authorities to emphasise revamping BRTC bus service, introducing bus franchise system, which will bring all the buses under some particular companies, and prioritising Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) service for developing the public transport system in the country.

Keeping footpath useable and developing infrastructure for cycling is also important for easing traffic congestion, he added.

Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Authority (DTCA) is the government organisation leading the celebration of World Car Free Day.

Its executive director Khandakar Rakibur Rahman, in response to why public transport is overlooked in the country, said, “We are observing the day precisely to give emphasis on public transport.”

Big changes in the public transport system would be visible once the bus franchise system and bus route rationalisation are implemented, he claimed.

Asked about the delay in implementing the systems, he said “background work” is taking time.

Appointment of 1,650

FROM PAGE 3

candidates to join their services following the apex court order. The petitioners, however, can move a leave to appeal petition before the Appellate Division, challenging the HC verdict after receiving its certified copy.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin and Additional Attorney General SK Md Morshed represented the state while lawyers Rokanuddin Mahmud appeared for the writ petitioners.

On September 16, the HC declared valid the appointments of 1,650 sub-assistant agriculture officers, clearing the way for the government to allow them to join their services.

The HC rejected 20 petitions filed last year.

Deputy Attorney General Tushar Kanti Roy told The Daily Star that the government issued a circular on January 23, 2018 for recruiting 1,650 sub-assistant agriculture officers.

After the results of qualified candidates were published on January 17 last year, around 500 unsuccessful candidates filed the petitions, challenging the legality of the recruitment process.

In the petitions, they claimed that quota system was not properly followed in the recruitments. If the quota system was followed, they would get appointments, DAG Tushar said citing the petition.

An enemy of our own making

FROM PAGE 3

future, if they develop resistance to other antibiotics. The research, which focused on five age groups, ranging from neonates to adults aged 60 and above, was recently published in the international journal PLoS ONE.

Referring to the findings, Dr Wazir said 40 percent of the participants aged 15 and above showed resistance to at least three antibiotics. Additionally, 70 percent of people were resistant to at least one antibiotic.

Dr Nahid Sultana, another researcher and head of Maa-O-Shishu Hospital’s microbiology department, said they found that three out of every four males who previously suffered from pneumonia were resistant to three or more drugs.

The study looked at the effectiveness of 16 antibiotics commonly prescribed by Chattogram doctors to fight off klebsiella pneumonia, bacteria which typically cause hospital-acquired infections, and found that the drugs were largely ineffective.

The researchers stated that there are four main reasons for the increasing rate of antibiotic resistance among patients -- patients getting infected by antibiotic-resistant pathogens from hospitals through basins, beds and walls; resistance passed down from mother to neonate; irrational use of antibiotics without doctors’ suggestion; and consumption of dairy and poultry products laced with antibiotics.

The researchers also detected multiple genes in patients that contribute to the development of antibiotic resistance, said Dr Adnan Mannan, a researcher and associate professor of genetic engineering and biotechnology at Chittagong University. He emphasised regular monitoring and clinical detection of antibiotic resistant bacteria and their plasmids (a specific genetic structure) to prevent public health disasters.

In the study, it was found that patients residing at the city’s Agrabad, Doublemooring, Halishahar, Panchlaish, Bayezid and Bakalia areas,

and in Sitakunda, Patiya, Hathazari and Chandanaish upazilas were resistant to multiple antibiotics.

According to the researchers, there are many pharmacies in those areas from which patients can buy antibiotics without any prescription.

Dr Mannan said there are around 6,000 pharmacies in Chattogram, and almost half of them do not have government licence.

He said a countrywide comprehensive study should be conducted on this issue in the future.

The principal researchers of the study were genetic engineering and biotechnology teachers Dr Adnan Mannan and Md Mahbub Hasan; Dr Nahid Sultana and Dr Wazir Ahmed, while Chittagong University student Afroza Akter Tanni assisted in the research.

The research was funded by Research and Publication Office of Chittagong University and supported by Disease Biology and Molecular Epidemiology Research Group Chattogram.

EC capable enough

FROM PAGE 3

doesn’t provide electoral assistance unless we’re asked to.”

The info minister also said the next election will be held according to the constitution, which does not provide for any caretaker government.

KHALEDA’S JAIL SENTENCE SUSPENSION

On six-month suspension of Khaleda Zia’s jail sentence under an official order, the minister said BNP should remain thankful to the government.

“If that order is revoked tomorrow, Khaleda Zia will have to return to jail immediately. I think BNP needs to keep this in mind as well,” said the minister.

Asked about BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir’s comment that the government is afraid of freeing Khaleda, the minister said BNP should rather thank the government for suspending her sentence for another six months.

He said the BNP chairperson was not released on bail or freed by any order of the court. “Khaleda Zia is out of prison because the prime minister suspended her sentence by exercising power given by the law,” he said.

The minister also brushed aside another BNP leader Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain’s recent call to people to take to the streets demanding that the next national election is held under a neutral caretaker government.

He said BNP’s demand for a caretaker government has no constitutional basis and so it will fail to get any response from the people like it happened in the past 12 and a half years.

Later, the minister unveiled the cover of BSRF’s magazine “BSRF Barta”, at the meeting room of the information ministry at the Secretariat.

BSRF president Tapan Biswas and general secretary Masudul Haque were, among others, present at the programme.

Meanwhile, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday also said the next general election will be held in line with the constitutional provisions.

“The next national election will be held, as per the constitution, in a neutral and peaceful atmosphere,” he told a press conference on temporary issues at his official residence here.

Woman held over

FROM PAGE 3

As they locked in an altercation in the morning, Rahman started beating his wife Nazma Akter (35) with a badminton racquet. The beating was so severe that the upper part of the racquet broke during the assault.

At one point, Nazma snatched the broken racquet from Rahman and stabbed him in the chest with it -- leaving him critically injured, the OC quoted her as saying.

Rahman was later taken to a hospital where doctors declared him dead.

On information, police rushed to the hospital and sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy yesterday afternoon. Police detained Nazma from the house and said filing of a case is underway.

275 hospitalised

FROM PAGE 3

Although most patients who were hospitalised have so far been released, 1,072 are still undergoing treatment at hospitals in Dhaka, and 215 outside the capital, DGHS data shows.

Meanwhile, Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Minister Md Tazul Islam yesterday said the number of dengue cases is expected to decline within a month.

Many people had left Dhaka for a

long time due to Covid-19 restrictions and Eid vacation, and during this period, Aedes mosquitoes bred in stagnant water in houses and under-construction buildings, leading to the outbreak.

The situation will improve within a month, the minister said, while speaking at a dialogue organised by Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters Forum at the secretariat.

He said there was no planned initiative to control dengue in 2019,

but the country witnessed 1,405 dengue cases in 2020, as some steps were taken at that time.

He further said many children died of dengue, and many lost their relatives this year. Authorities do not want more lives lost to dengue, and so will take steps from this year’s experience.

The minister said the dengue situation in the country is better than that of Vietnam, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Singapore and Philippines.

Invitation to submit proposals for two (2)

Request for Proposals (RFPs) issued by UNICEF Bangladesh

RFP No. LRPS-9170075: To provide services related to Interior Branding and Landscaping design including implementation for UNICEF Cox’s Bazar Field Office

RFP No. LRPS-9170080: To provide professional Electrical, Mechanical (Air Conditioning), Plumbing, Elevator, IBMS and other facility maintenance related services for UNICEF Bangladesh Country Office (BCO) under Long Term Arrangement (LTA).



UNICEF-Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong track record and professional credibility of providing the above required services under one contract. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email to **“supplybangladesh@unicef.org”**

Site Visit and Pre-bid Meeting date: **Please see the schedule mentioned in the RFP.**

The deadline to submit the proposal is **Monday, 18 October 2021; Time: 11:00 Hrs.**

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process.

www.unicef.org.bd




তালিকাভুক্তি করন বিজ্ঞপ্তি

একশনএইড বাংলাদেশ কর্তৃবাজার অফিস নিম্নে বর্ণিত ক্যাটাগরী সমূহে (সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১ হতে আগস্ট ২০২৩ সময়ের জন্য) তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য প্রকৃত উৎপাদনকারী / সরবরাহকারি/সেবাদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহের নিকট হতে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করছে:

Category	Description
1	Advertising and Communication
2	Promotional Items
3	Campaign and Event Management
4	Stationeries and Office Supplies
5	ICT Equipment
6	Office Equipment, Electric and Electronic Items
7	Printing and Publication
8	Audio Visual Production (Individual / Firm)
9	Travel Agent and Visa Services
10	Transportation and Vehicle Rent Service Provider
11	Furniture, Fixtures and Home Appliances
12	Automobile Workshops
13	General Supplier
14	Accommodation and Venue (Seminar, Conference, etc.)
15	Emergency Response Items (Relief items)
16	Construction and Renovation Works
17	Maintenance Item and Works
18	Service Provider (Pest control, Security Service, Cleaning Service, Fuel Pump, Etc.)
19	Construction and Renovation Items (Cement, Brick, Sand, Paint, Bamboo, Etc.)
20	Health & Hygiene Items
21	Health Service
22	Training Institute
23	Catering Service
24	Audit Service (Agency / Individual)
25	Consultancy Service (Agency and Individual)

আগামী উৎপাদনকারী/ প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারি/সেবাদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহ একটি/একাধিক শ্রেণিতে তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য ২১ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১ হতে ৩০ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২১ পর্যন্ত সিভিল সজাহ ও আবেদনপত্র জমা দিতে পারবেন। সিভিল একশনএইড কর্তৃবাজার অফিস (বাড়ী - ৭৫২, ব্লক- সি, ওড়ার - ১২, আউটলা মসজিদ রোড, কর্তৃবাজার - ৪৭০০)। ফোন: ০১৬৮৭২৮২৮৩৮, ০১৮২৬৩২২৭৮৯ অথবা ওয়েবসাইট <https://actionaidbd.org/post/schedule-vendor-enlistment> থেকে সজাহ করা যাবে। উল্লেখ্য একশনএইড বাংলাদেশ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন/সকল আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।



It’s not functioning

FROM PAGE 3

Awami League just because s/he wants to. On the other hand, there is a fear of lawsuits and attacks if anyone joins BNP. Therefore, Jatiya Party is a suitable platform for the new generation, he added.

The JP boss said Jatiya Party is considered the safest party among common people as they are thinking that BNP will exceed Awami League [in terms of corruption].

“People, therefore, want to see Jatiya Party in power.”

SM Foyzal Chisty, JP presidium member and president of JP Dhaka city (north) unit, presided over the programme. It was arranged seeking prayers for the quick recovery of JP secretary general Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu who is undergoing treatment for Covid-19 at a Dhaka hospital.

Why no guideline

FROM PAGE 3

Mondal were appointed as office assistant to a company under the women and children affairs ministry in 2018 through outsourcing process, but the tenure of their jobs expired in July last year.

They recently submitted the petition to the HC saying that they have been victimised due to arbitrary action of the appointing company as there is no guideline in this regard.

Petitioner’s lawyer Moniruzzaman Lincon told The Daily Star that his clients have been facing hardship after losing jobs.

An inter-ministerial meeting of the public administration ministry in 2017 had discussed the advantage and disadvantage of the recruitment of manpower through outsourcing process, he said. Deputy Attorney General Bepul Bagmar represented the state during the hearing.

HC seeks info

FROM PAGE 3



The bench fixed October 31 for further hearing and passing order on the matter.

During the hearing, petitioners’ lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir told the court that since a long period is required for final disposal of a case, death-row convicts are sent to solitary confinement in condemned cells immediately after a trial court gives the death sentence, and are kept there till final disposal, which is illegal and inhumane.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin opposed the petition, saying that death-row convicts are kept in condemned cells to ensure their security.

Facilities in condemned cells have improved, he argued.

Three death-row convicts, including Zillur Rahman, filed the petition with the HC in September. They urged the HC to order prison authorities to transfer them to normal cells. Around 2,055 death-row convicts are currently in condemned cells, Shishir Manir told The Daily Star.



পদ্মা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

(বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশন এর একটি অঙ্গ প্রতিষ্ঠান)

স্ট্রাড রোড, সদরঘাট, চট্টগ্রাম।

দরপত্র নং-ইএডপি/এফ-৫২/প-১০৫/২০-২১

পুরাতন ও অকেজো মালামাল বিক্রয়ের সংশোধিত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি


পদ্মা অয়েল কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এর দরপত্র নং-ইএডপি/এফ-৫২/প-১০৫/২০-২১, তারিখ ০৫/০৯/২০২১ এর আলোকে দৈনিক কালের কন্ঠ, তারিখ ০৭/০৯/২০২১, দৈনিক ডেইলি স্টার, তারিখ ০৭/০৯/২০২১ এবং কোম্পানির ওয়েব সাইটে প্রকাশিত দরপত্র বাজ্ঞ বন্ধ ও উন্মুক্তকরণের সময় ও তারিখ অনিবার্হ কার্যবশত সংশোধন করা হলো। দরপত্র বাজ্ঞ বন্ধ, উন্মুক্তকরণের বিদ্যমান ও সংশোধিত সময়সূচি নিম্নরূপ:

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির ক্রমিক নং	বিষয়	প্রকাশিত তারিখ ও সময়	সংশোধিত তারিখ ও সময়
০৫	দরপত্র বাজ্ঞ বন্ধের সময়সূচী	০৮/১০/২০২১ তারিখ ১৪.০০ ঘটিকা	১০/১০/২০২১ তারিখ ১৪.০০ ঘটিকা
০৬	দরপত্র বাজ্ঞ উন্মুক্তকরণের সময়সূচী	০৮/১০/২০২১ তারিখ ১৪.৩০ ঘটিকা	১০/১০/২০২১ তারিখ ১৪.৩০ ঘটিকা

দরপত্রের অন্যান্য শর্তাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রকৌশল ও পরিকল্পনা)
স্ট্রাড রোড, সদরঘাট, চট্টগ্রাম।
ফোন নং-০৩১৬৩৩২৪৩

জিডি-১৬৬২



Invitation for Tender (IFT)

for Printing, Stationery & Learning Centre Materials

Project Name	BRAC Education Programme
Tender Name	Printing, Stationery & Learning Centre Materials
Tender Package No.	BPD/2021/IFT-1878 (Printing Materials) BPD/2021/IFT-1885 (Learning Centre Materials)
Reference No. & Date	BPD/2021/IFT-1887 (Stationery Items) BPD/2021/IFT-1878 Date: 20-09-2021 BPD/2021/IFT-1885 Date: 20-09-2021 BPD/2021/IFT-1887 Date: 20-09-2021
Source of Fund	Government of Bangladesh (GOB)
Name of Tender	Procurement of Printing Materials Procurement of Learning Center Materials Procurement of Stationery Items
Time of Delivery	As Per Tender Schedule
Price of Tender Schedule (Non-Refundable)	BPD/2021/IFT-1878 (Printing Materials) BDT 500.00 BPD/2021/IFT-1885 (Learning Centre Materials) BDT 1,000.00 BPD/2021/IFT-1887 (Stationery Items) BDT 1,000.00
Each Tender schedule fee to be paid separately through Bkash including cash out charge. (Bkash No.-01719262589), must share company name in Bkash Ref.	
Tender Security	As Per Tender Schedule
Documents Availability on e-tender platform & Tender Dropping (Online), Date & Time	https://tender.brac.net/ (Go to live tender from the dashboard after entering the above URL and search for the Tender Ref. No.) BPD/2021/IFT-1878 21-09-2021 to 05-10-2021, 2:30 pm BPD/2021/IFT-1885 21-09-2021 to 12-10-2021, 2:30 pm BPD/2021/IFT-1887 21-09-2021 to 13-10-2021, 2:30 pm
Tender Opening Place, Date & Time (Online Opening)	05-10-2021, 3:00 pm through Google meet, link: meet.google.com/omm-bfzd-sbn 12-10-2021, 3:00 pm through Google meet, link: meet.google.com/gbg-jtoy-zur 13-10-2021, 3:00 pm through Google meet, link: meet.google.com/gxg-bkhg-zgb

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