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Your Right to Know

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COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION

Tests too few to rule out possibility

Experts say about authorities' claim over extent of coronavirus spread; 3 more infected

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

The authorities keep sticking to their claim there is no community transmission of coronavirus in the country, but experts say too few tests have been conducted to reach that conclusion.

The government should run more tests in all regions of the country to determine the level of transmission. Otherwise, the situation will be "misvaluated" and the government programmes "misguided", the experts added.

Meanwhile, officials yesterday confirmed that two men and a woman were tested positive, bringing the total confirmed cases to 27. Institute of Epidemiology Disease

Control and Research (IEDCR), the only facility where coronavirus tests are done, has so far tested 365 people.

At a press conference, IEDCR Director Prof Meerjady Sabrina Flora yesterday said the two men came from abroad and the woman got infected by coming in contact with another patient. They are aged 20, 30, and 40.

Of the 27 confirmed cases, five recovered, two died and 20 are being treated at different hospitals, Flora told the press conference at Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) in the capital.

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PM TO ADDRESS NATION ON WEDNESDAY -- PAGE 2

A father wraps his child in protective gear, including the eyes, as they get into a train at Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital yesterday. The extraordinary measure was taken as they needed to travel and the government has advised avoiding public transport.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Shops, malls to close from Wednesday

Govt postpones HSC tests
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid growing concern over the spread of the novel coronavirus, shop owners yesterday announced that they will keep all markets and shopping malls across the country shut for a week from Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the government has postponed HSC examinations and suspended entry of all foreign nationals through 11 land ports from India for an indefinite period as part of measures to contain the spread of the virus.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

4 lakh PPEs to be made in Bangladesh

Buet Alumni, Pay It Forward, Honest, Rotary Club Dhaka, Manush Manusher Jonno, M&S combine to help doctors, nurses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following concerns over shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) for doctors and nurses, a concerted effort by five organisations is set to produce four lakh pieces of equipment.

When news broke on social media claiming that UK-based retailer Marks & Spencer (M&S) was providing technical support for the initiative, curiosity grew as to who was really behind it.

The Daily Star reached out to some of those involved to learn more about the project.

Terming the project a combined effort, M&S Head of Finance Kamal Ahamed said five organisations -- Pay It Forward Bangladesh, Honest, Buet Alumni Association, Rotary Club Dhaka North-west and Manush Manusher Jonno Foundation -- came to M&S with the idea.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Tests to start in divisional HQs

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The government has recently imported seven PCR machines to scale up the testing facilities of Covid-19 in the divisional level.

It has already instructed all district-level hospitals to inform the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) about their current number of lab technicians as new manpower would be recruited in this position in every district.

The lab technicians collect samples from suspected patients and analyse them in the laboratory of a hospital or diagnostic centre.

"The PCR tests will be set up at the divisional medical colleges. Technicians of those hospitals will soon be given training," Abul Kalam Azad, Director General of DGHS, told The Daily Star.

He also said the government would

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'Curbs on movement' in Tolarbagh

Says Mirpur MP; steps taken after deceased patient's neighbour dies; suspected patient dies in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Restrictions were imposed on movement in Tolarbagh of Mirpur after a neighbour of a deceased Covid-19 patient passed away yesterday evening, said local MP Aslamul Haque Aslam.

Earlier in the morning, the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) had collected the victim's samples for tests.

"We have not enforced a lockdown, but we have restricted movement for the well-being of other residents," MP Aslam told The Daily Star.

Aslam said he was informed that the victim had gone to

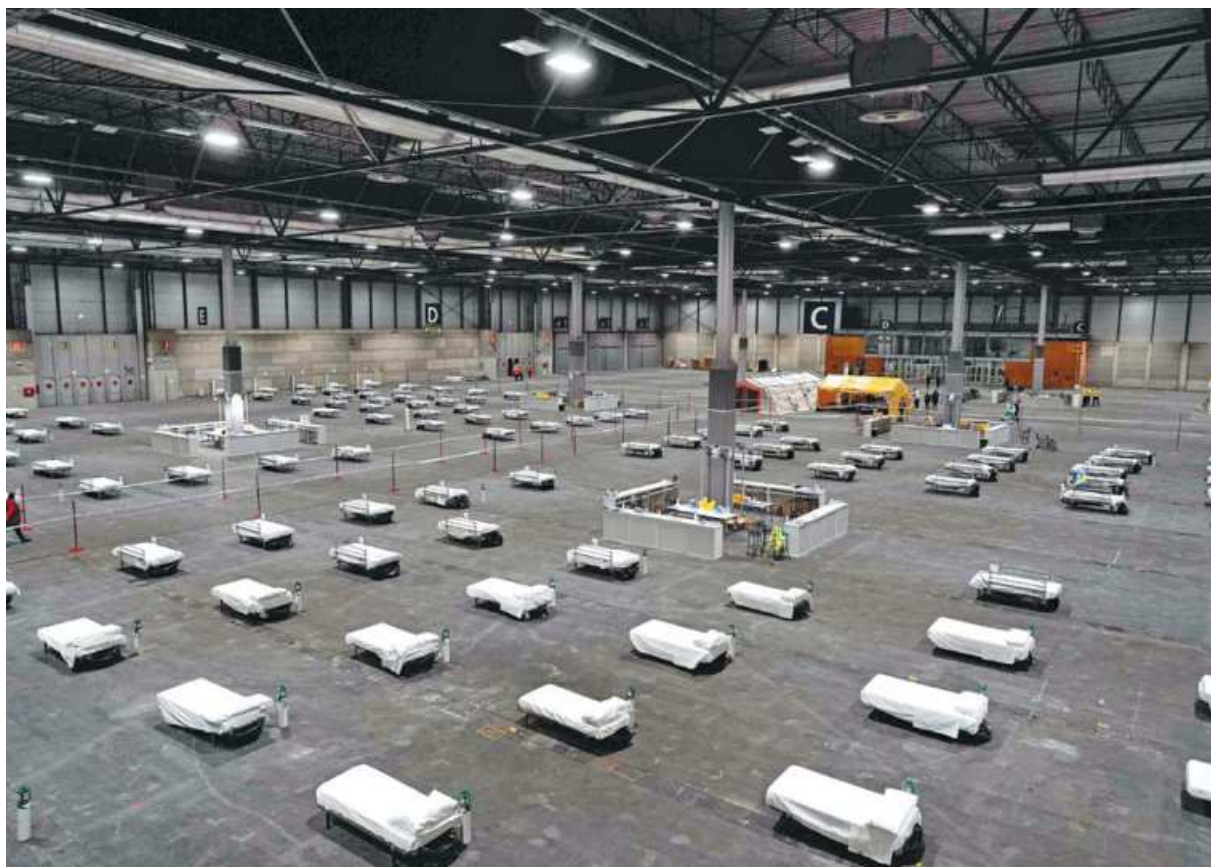
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CORONAVIRUS PATIENT'S DOCTOR TESTS POSITIVE -- PAGE 2

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC: Tasks ahead

Unilever Bangladesh Limited and The Daily Star jointly organised a roundtable on March 21, 2020. Health experts, representatives from WHO and IEDCR joined together for a fruitful discussion on ways to tackle the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh, and formulate recommendations on the way forward.

READ MORE ON PAGE 8 & 9



This photo taken Saturday shows a general view of the temporary hospital set up at a pavilion in Ifema convention and exhibition center in Madrid, Spain.

PHOTO: AFP

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Shortage of medical supplies adds to crisis

Lockdown tightened in Europe as death toll jumps to 14,436; Asia braces for second wave of cases; India announces transportation ban

AGENCIES

Italy, Iran and the United States reported soaring new death tolls as the coronavirus pandemic marched relentlessly across the globe yesterday, prompting a scramble in hard-hit regions to set up more hospital beds and replenish the dwindling medical supplies needed to keep health workers safe and saving patients' lives.

The raging pandemic has forced lockdowns in 35 countries, disrupting lives, travel and businesses as governments scramble to shut borders and unleash hundreds of billions in emergency measures to avoid a widespread virus-fuelled economic meltdown. Nearly one

COVID-19 UPDATE

14,436 DEATHS
3,32,134 CONFIRMED CASES

billion people are already confined to their homes.

More than 332,134 infections have been confirmed in 170 countries and territories, with the situation increasingly grim in Italy where the death toll spiked to more than 5,476 -- over a third of the global total.

As bodies pile up in Italian hospitals, morgues and churches, and as medical workers plead for more help, there is no sign yet that Italy is taming its arc of contagion.

Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte went on TV near midnight, announcing that he was tightening the country's lockdown

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18-yr-old youngest to die in UK of Covid-19

THE DAILY MAIL

An 18-year-old has died of coronavirus, marking the UK's youngest Covid-19 fatality as 47 new victims brought Britain's death toll to 281, reports UK news platform The DailyMail.

It comes as 665 new cases were recorded -- with Boris Johnson threatening to shut parks if people don't keep their distance.

The total number of coronavirus cases in the UK is now at 5,683 and the Prime Minister warned the British public today that they had 24 hours to take social distancing measures seriously or he will implement an Italian-style total lockdown, after thousands continued to flout anti-coronavirus measures, the paper said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

করোনা ভাইরাস
বিস্তার প্রতিরোধে গণপরিবহন
ব্যবহারে সতর্কতা বিজ্ঞপ্তি

"প্রত্যেক ঘরে ঘরে দুর্গ গড়ে তোল।
তোমাদের যা কিছু আছে তাই নিয়ে শত্রুর মোকাবেলা করতে হবে।"

যাত্রীদের করণীয়

- জরুরী প্রয়োজন ছাড়া গণপরিবহনে ভ্রমণ না করা।
- পরিবহনে উঠার পূর্বে ও নামার পরে জীবাণুনাশক/সাবান/হ্যান্ড স্যানিটাইজার দিয়ে হাত ধোয়া।
- নিয়মিত বিরতিতে হাত ধোয়ার জন্য হ্যান্ড স্যানিটাইজার/পানির বোতল সাথে রাখা।
- জ্বর, হাঁচি-কাশি ইত্যাদি নিয়ে গণপরিবহন ব্যবহার না করা।
- গণপরিবহনে দাঁড়িয়ে চলাচল না করা।
- হাঁচি/কাশি দেয়ার পূর্বে রুমাল/টিস্যু/হাতের বাহু দিয়ে মুখ ঢাকা।

পরিবহন (বাস, টেম্পু, লেগুনা ইত্যাদি) মালিকদের করণীয়

- নিয়মিতভাবে চালক ও হেল্পারদের স্বাস্থ্য পরীক্ষা করা। রোগের উপসর্গ দেখা মাত্রই বাস চালক/হেল্পারকে সবেতনে হোম কোয়ারেন্টিন এ পাঠানো।
- প্রতিটি ট্রিপের শেষে জীবাণুনাশক দিয়ে বাস, টেম্পু, লেগুনা ইত্যাদির সিট, হাতল, জানালার পাশ ভালোভাবে পরিষ্কার করা।
- দিনশেষে যানবাহনটি ভালোভাবে ধোঁত করা।

চালক ও হেল্পারের করণীয়

- বাস চালুর পূর্বে ও নামার পরে জীবাণুনাশক/সাবান/হ্যান্ড স্যানিটাইজার দিয়ে হাত জীবাণুমুক্ত করা।
- যাত্রী উঠানোর সময় যাত্রীকে স্পর্শ না করা।
- কোন যাত্রী করোনা ভাইরাস আক্রান্ত বলে সন্দেহ হলে তাকে বাসে উঠা থেকে বিরত রাখা।
- ভাড়ার টাকা পৃথকভাবে রাখা। টাকা স্যানিটাইজার দিয়ে জীবাণুমুক্ত রাখা।

সিটি কর্পোরেশনের করণীয়

- বাস ডিপো, টার্মিনাল, প্রধান প্রধান স্টপেজসমূহে সার্বক্ষণিক হাত ধোয়ার ব্যবস্থা রাখা।
- ডিপো/টার্মিনালসমূহে জরুরী ভিত্তিতে করোনা ভাইরাস সংক্রমণ পর্যবেক্ষণ সেল স্থাপন করা।

হাটা চলাচলের সর্বোত্তম মাধ্যম।
একে উপভোগ করি।
অল্প দূরত্বে হেঁটে চলাচল করি।

ঢাকা পরিবহন সময় কর্তৃপক্ষ (ডিটিসিএ)
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