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Identify Covid-19 hotspots, ensure social distancing

Economists, health professionals urge govt; stimulus packages must reach the needy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A group of leading economists, civil society leaders and public health professionals have suggested that the government identify the hot spots of Covid-19 in the country and begin a wider communication campaign to ensure social distancing to prevent further spread of the coronavirus infection

They also called for rightly identifying the groups of people most affected by the shutdown due to the pandemic and make sure that the government's stimulus packages reach the people who really need those.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday declared an allocation of Tk 72,750 crore under a set of stimulus packages to address the possible impact of coronavirus on the country's economy as nine people died and 88 tested positive in Bangladesh yesterday.

In a video press conference yesterday, the professionals said this is a time of national disaster and the NGOs are willing to work hand-in-hand with the government.

BRAC Chairperson Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman said it is very important to know the levels of Covid-19, which is possible via testing. Alternatively, authorities also need to identify the hot spots of the infection.

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An elderly couple sitting on the footpath in front of Sonargaon hotel in the capital yesterday, hoping that someone passing by would offer them food. Homeless people living in the city are hit the hardest by the virtual lockdown.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

STAY HOME,

Disinfect house to protect family

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Homes are supposed to be a safe space where people can relax. Unfortunately, people wind up bringing home the world and all its germs through exposed hands, shoes, clothing, and phones. This is all the more dangerous during the unfolding coronavirus pandemic.

The important point to note is that cleaning and disinfecting are separate things – cleaning removes dirt, food and other impurities that can contain germs, while disinfecting kills those germs.

The virus can survive on different surfaces for various lengths of time. So, even if the home looks clean, it may still harbor contaminants that could affect health

could affect health.
Prof Dr Md Rafiqul Islam, head
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Getting closer to corona test kit production

Gonoshasthaya gets essential reagents from China

PORIMOL PALMA

Gonoshasthaya Kendra yesterday received the reagents that were needed to manufacture the low-cost kit developed by the organisation to detect novel coronavirus infection.

"We have got half a kilogram of reagents from a company based on China's Guangzhou. A Bangladeshi who flew from China by a US Bangla flight carried it for us," Mohib Ullah Khondoker, managing director at the Gonoshasthaya-RNA Biotech Limited, told The Daily Star vesterday

Bangladesh embassy in China has extended all-out cooperation in this regard, he added.

"It's a great news that we have received the reagents," Mohib said, adding that they have already requested the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research to provide five samples of Covid-19 positive cases to trial the new kit.

"After testing the samples, we will hand over the kits to the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA).

"The DGDA will then send the kits to the World Health Organization (WHO). After getting approval from the WHO, we can go for mass production," Mohib added.

The raw materials arrived two weeks after the DGDA issued a no-objection certificate to Gonoshasthaya-RNA Biotech Limited, a sister concern of Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK), for its import.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

'Help repatriation of Bangalees'



Tushar Kanti Ghosh, editor of Amrita Bazar Patrika and Sukomal Kanti Ghosh, editor of Jugantor, present some books to Bangabandhu when they call on him on April 6, 1972.

April 6, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU EXPELS 16 MCAS FROM PARTY

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, President of Bangladesh Awami League

today expels 16 Member of Constituent Assembly (MCAs) from the party for acting against the discipline, interest and directions of the party. Bangabandhu takes the decision in pursuance of power vested in him as the president of the party and the decision will come into effect immediately. Most of the expelled MCAs are known to have maintained links with the Yahya regime when all people of Bangladesh were engaged in the liberation struggle.

Obaidullah Majumdar, for example, who was elected Member of National Assembly (MNA) from Noakhali constituency, was one of the members of the Pakistani Governor Dr Malek's so-called Council of Ministers. He is now in custody.

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COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Callousness of a few puts many lives at risk

Wasim Bin Habib and Mohammad Al-Masum Molla

Dhaka city has been virtually paused. Streets are almost empty, shops shuttered, restaurants closed, families cloistered at home -- all attempted to slow the spread of the new coronavirus.

Many people in the city have had to

postpone their planned celebrations
-- from birthdays to weddings -- as
they took the stay-home and social
distancing orders seriously.

But, some people, who are not in dire need to go out, are still venturing out into public spaces, aimlessly roaming on the otherwise empty

streets and gossiping in groups,

postpone their planned celebrations oblivious to the danger they could be

Despite the patrol of law enforcers and army personnel, these people were spotted hanging out or having a chitchat in narrow allies and on some roads in the city over the last two days. Yesterday afternoon, a group of six

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- আপনার জর, হাঁচি, কাশি, সর্দি, গলা ব্যথা, শাসকট ইত্যাদি সমস্যা হলে নিকটছ হাসপাতালের মোবাইল নঘরে কল করুন। সন্দেহভাজন করোনাভাইরাসে আক্রান্ত ব্যক্তির বাড়িতে পিয়ে নমুন্য সংগ্রহ করা হবে।
- বিদেশ ফেরত ব্যক্তি অথবা জর, হাঁচি-কাশি ও সাদিতে আক্রান্ত ব্যক্তিদের মসজিদে না যেতে গরামর্শ প্রদান করেছে বাংলাদেশ ইসলামিক ফাউডেশন (ইফা)।
- 📵 সামাজিক দূরত্ব বজার রাপুন, পরস্পরের মধ্যে কমপক্ষে তিন (৩) ফুট দূরত্ব বজার রেখে চলুন।
- মান্ধ পরার আগে ভালোভাবে হাত সাবান পানি দিয়ে পরিষার করুন। মান্ধ হাত দিয়ে স্পর্শ করবেন না। মান্ধ খোলার সময় পিছন নিক থেকে পুলুন এবং ঢাকনাযুক্ত ভাস্টবিনে কেলে দিন এবং সাবান পানি দিয়ে কমপক্ষে ২০ সেকেন্ড হাত পরিষার করুন।
- মুখের লালা দিয়ে টাকা পোন্য ও বইয়ের পাতা উল্টানো বন্ধ করল। বাড়ীতে অবস্থান কালে ধর্মীয় রীতিনীতি পালন, শরিয়ীক ব্যায়ায় করা, বই পড়া, গান পোনা, সঠিক বিনোদনমূলক কাজে নিজেকে ব্যস্ত রাখুন।
- বাচ্চাদের স্বাস্থ্য বিধি শিখান এবং তাদেরকে মরে রাখতে খেলাধুলা, গল্প, ছড়া, শিকা ও বিদোননমূলক কাজের সাথে সম্পুক্ত রাখুন।
- বিদেশ ক্ষেত্রত ব্যক্তি বা ইতিমধ্যে কোভিত-১৯ এ আক্রান্ত ব্যক্তির সংস্পর্ণে আসা সকলকে ১৪ দিন কোরারেনটাইনে থাকা নিশ্চিত করণন এবং কোরারেনটাইনমুক্ত ব্যক্তির সাথে স্বাকাবিক আচরণ করণন।
- বাহির থেকে এসে কোন কিছু স্পর্শ না করে সাবান পানি নিয়ে হাত ঘৌত করুন এবং পরিধানের কাপড় সাবান পানিতে আধা ঘণ্টা ভিজিয়ে রেখে ধুয়ে দিন। সম্রব হলে ঘরে ফিরে সাবান নিয়ে গোসল করে নিন।
 - ক্সর, সর্দি, হাঁচি-কাশি, গলাব্যথা বা গা ম্যাজম্যাজ ভাব হলে এবং শ্বাসকট না থাকলে বাড়িতে থাকুন। ক্সর কমানোর জন্য প্যারাসিটামল ও সর্দি-কাশির জন্য এন্টিহিস্টামিন (ধেমন ফেল্পোফেনাডিন, প্রেরফেনিরামিন ইত্যাদি) থেতে পারেন। গলা বাধায় কুসুম গরম পানি পান করুন। গরম পানি দিয়ে গড়গড়া করতে পারেন। বাড়িতে অতিথিদের আসা বন্ধ করুন। খন খন সাবান পানি দিয়ে কমপক্ষে ২০ সেকেন্ড হাত খুতে হবে। হাত নিয়ে নাক, চোখ, মুখ ছোবেন না।

আতব্ধিত না হয়ে সতর্ক হউন ও ধৈর্য্য ধারন করুন। নিজ গৃহে অবস্থান করুন। করোনা সংক্রমণ প্রতিরোধ করুন।



A motorist rides through a disinfection tunnel during a government-imposed nationwide lockdown as a preventive measure against the Covid-19 coronavirus in Chennai, India yesterday. *Inset*, police officials walk through the disinfection tunnel.

PHOTO: **AFP**



Twelve killed in Kashmir violence

AFP, Srinagar

Nine suspected militants and three soldiers were killed in two separate incidents in Indianadministered Kashmir, officials said yesterday, as authorities enforced a lockdown to combat the spread of the coronavirus pandemic.

Kashmir, a restive region claimed by nuclear rivals India and Pakistan, had already been under a long-running curfew imposed to quell unrest as New Delhi scrapped the Himalayan valley's semi-autonomous status on August 5.

gust 5. SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING APRIL 6

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-45 6-21 7-45

JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 5-00 6-24 8-15
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION