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No clinical audit of the dead

Experts say crucial info for helping Covid-19 patients being lost

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

A total of 199 people have died of Covid-19 so far but the details of these deaths have not yet been examined, said health officials.

Though it is declared that the patients died of coronavirus, whether that itself was the main cause of death or if pre-existing, underlying conditions were, is not ascertained. This information, however, is crucial to treating coronavirus patients, said experts.

As these cases were not examined in details, what experts call a "clinical audit", the real cause of death remains unidentified, they said.

The Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) is assigned to examine the cause of death in each of the cases, said the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

"The organisation is busy with testing and that's why it could not concentrate more on research activities," said Abul Kalam Azad, director general of the DGHS.

"We have already instructed they concentrate more on this, aside from testing."

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak in the country, IEDCR was solely in charge of testing and identifying coronavirus patients.

Testing facilities were later decentralised but IEDCR continues to conduct testing with an immense workload at the moment.

Meerjady Sabrina Flora, IEDCR's director, said that it has not been

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Anowar, a private job holder, carries his daughter Anima as his wife Sonia stares on, while waiting for their turn to be tested for Covid-19 at the capital's Mugda General Hospital yesterday. Anowar said they went to their village in Shariatpur after the government had announced the ongoing shutdown in late March. But after they returned a couple of days ago, the owner of their rented flat in Muradnagar asked them to provide him with their Covid-19 test reports. The owner threatened to drive them out if they failed to do so.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

INFECTED RMG WORKERS 'Half tested positive after factories reopened'

Claims workers' body report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 96 garment workers and a staffer of a factory were found Covid-19 positive between April 9 and yesterday in the country, read a report of Bangladesh Garment Shramik Sanghati (BGSS).

Of the workers, 52 percent have been infected since the resumption of factories on April 26, and the rest 48 percent between April 9 and April 26, read the report.

Besides, 79 percent of the infected are workers of factories in Dhaka, Gazipur and Narayanganj districts, it said.

Most 26 cases have been reported in Narayanganj followed by 24 in Savar and 14 in Gazipur. Also, seven workers were infected in Ashulia, six in Dhaka, two each

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Brick kiln worker punished instead of owner

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Md Tareq Khan, a labourer of Siam Bricks, has been in Patuakhali jail for more than one and a half months, apparently for no fault of his own.

On March 19, while Tareq was working at the illegal brick field in Dhandi village under Baufal upazila, a mobile court of the Department of Environment's (DoE's) Barishal divisional office raided the place.

The mobile court, headed by Abdul Halim, director of DoE's Barishal divisional office, named Tareq as the owner of the brick kiln, fined him Tk 20 lakh and served him one year of imprisonment.

Abdul Halim told The Daily Star, "Since the brick kiln is illegal, no government records exist on it. Thus, whoever we found at the site baking bricks was punished."

"There has been no misapplication of the law," he added.

According to DoE Barishal, Tareq was punished as the owner under the Brick Making and Kiln Installation Control Act-

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Resist armed miscreants



Bangabandhu is given a warm reception when he reaches Bogura on May 8, 1972.

May 8, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU'S NORTH BENGAL TOUR BEGINS

On the first day of the four-day tour of North Bengal, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today visits Bogura. Addressing a large gathering, Bangabandhu says that imperialist forces and their local agents are active in their machinations against the independence of the country. These armed miscreants are involved in various antisocial

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Rabindranath's birth anniversary today

UNB, Dhaka

The 159th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore is being observed in the country today.

A poet, visual artist, playwright, novelist, as well as a composer, Tagore's works reshaped Bangla literature and music in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Born on 25th of Baishakh in the Bengali year of 1268 (May 7, 1861) at Jorasanko mansion in Kolkata, he was the youngest



SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Silence of the looms

Tough times for weavers as clothing business hit hard by Covid-19 fallout

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPLI, Pabna

The fallout from Covid-19 has muffled the sound of looms and the buzz of the clothing markets this year during the peak business season for apparels, Eid-ul-Fitr.

Of the eight to 10 lakh looms in the country, only about two lakh are now in operation, said Md Boduzzaman, the joint secretary of the central committee of Bangladesh Handloom and Powerloom Owners Association.

According to the association, the clothing business centres around the two Muslim festivals -- Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha -- which generate 80 percent of the yearly production of clothes and 60 percent of the annual earnings of loom owners.

"Last year, we earned around Tk 2,000 crore from the clothing business

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Outbreak worse 'attack' than 9/11

Says Trump, again blames China for global woes; Beijing hits back; WHO warns against rushed end to lockdowns

AGENCIES

China yesterday accused the United States of trying to shift blame over the coronavirus, after President Donald Trump said the pandemic was a worse "attack" than Pearl Harbor or 9/11.

Tension between the world's two biggest economies has reached fever pitch in recent days as they have exchanged barbed comments on each other's handling of the virus.

"We urge the US side to stop shifting the blame to China and turn to facts," said foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying at a press briefing.

On Wednesday Trump drew analogies

with the virus, which emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan last year, and infamous military and terrorist attacks on the United States.

"This is really the worst attack we've ever had," Trump told reporters. "This is worse than Pearl Harbor. This is worse than the World Trade Center."

The Japanese assault on the Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii drew the United States into World War II.

The September 11, 2001 jihadist attacks on that killed about 3,000 people and triggered two decades of war.

Trump said the coronavirus pandemic "should never have happened".

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 8

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 3-51 12-15 5-00 6-34 8-00

JAMAAT 4-01 1-15 5-15 6-44 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

DANO

সেহরি-ইফতারের একমাত্র পুরাতন কোম্পানি

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN MAY SEHRI IFTAR

14	8	6:34
15	9	3:50 6:35
16	10	3:50 6:35



A male orange-headed thrush rests on a branch of a mango tree in Chapainawabganj town. The small bird, with uniform grey upper parts and an orange head, can be seen all across the country.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN

গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

করোনা থেকে বাঁচি স্বাস্থ্য বিধি মেনে চলি

- বাংলাদেশে কোভিড-১৯ প্রতিরোধ ও নিয়ন্ত্রণ এবং অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ড ক্রমাগত চালু করার সুবিধার্থে বিভিন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠান, স্থাপনা ও পেশার জন্য এক গুচ্ছ কারিগরি নির্দেশনা প্রস্তুত করা হয়েছে।
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