

Contrasting results

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 “They never had to deal with patients before... but when an issue arose over test results around a week ago, we pointed those out and instructed them on how to get accurate results,” he added.

Prof Shakeel also mentioned that testing of Covid-19 started at CVASU to take some pressure off BITID. “If we have to recheck their samples, then it will create more hassle for us,” he said.

WHAT CVASU SAYS

Dr Zunaed Siddiki, a professor of pathology and in-charge of laboratory at CVASU, said they believed there was no weakness in their testing process.

“We have learnt from the experts at BITID; if they say that there is weakness in our testing process, that’s unfortunate,” he said.

Asked about the high percentage of positive cases, Dr Siddiki said, “At first we were surprised. But we were told that many samples were from already detected Covid-19 patients.”

Dr Siddiki, however, said there is no microbiologist in their laboratory. “Our students of pathology and students of microbiology and genetic engineering departments of Chittagong University, who received training from BITID, volunteer in the lab,” he added.

About CVASU’s claim that many samples were from Covid-19 positive patients, Prof Shakeel of BITID said the number of positive samples sent for re-testing is hardly 15-20 percent.

ANOMALIES IN BITID REPORT TOO

Meanwhile, allegations over lack of coordination in the BITID laboratory ran rife not too long ago, after a result sheet signed by Prof Shakeel Ahmed on May 6 wrongly mentioned the date of collection and testing of samples.

The result showed 12 positive cases while all the samples were shown to be collected on April 30; they mentioned that the result sheet was prepared on May 4 and the tests were performed on May 5 and May 6.

However, many family members of victims claimed that the samples were collected much later.

For example, family of Abdul Halim (56), who died on May 5, alleged that samples of the patient were collected after his death.

Asked, Prof Shakeel said it was a “typing mistake” on the top-sheet but the date of collection and testing was rightly mentioned in the pages inside.

“We are performing tests and writing reports as well. We have never done any clerical work before, hence there was an error,” he said.

Asked, Civil Surgeon Dr Rabbi said the BITID authorities apologised for their mistake. “The mistake was only on the first page; the rest was accurate,” he assured.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Bashundhara Group Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir hands over 25,000 masks and 1,000 personal protective equipment to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Director General Maj Gen Md Shafeenul Islam at BGB Headquarters in the capital’s Pilkhana on Sunday.

Animal cruelty video sparks criticism on social media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

“A dog is fighting a fox, watch here quickly” -- said a Facebook post by one Md Monayem Khondokar on May 7.

The video clip showed torture of a fox tangled up in a net, being attacked by dogs.

In the comments, one Md Masum said the fox was caught in a net in front of his house, adding, “The dog killed it slowly”. According to his Facebook, he is an assistant teacher at a high school in Kishoreganj.

The post was deleted amid heavy criticism. The incident took place at Charigram village in Kishoreganj’s Mithamoin.

Animal rights activist Rakibul Haq Emil said, “This is very unfortunate. The video shows cruelty on a vulnerable animal and people are entertained by it. This was a clear violation of the law.”

Besides, as they posted violent content on Facebook, it is also a violation of Digital

Security Act-2018. The above incident violates section-6 under Animal Welfare Act-2019, which can result in up to six months of non-rigorous imprisonment or a fine of Tk 10,000, Email told this newspaper.

Contacted, Wildlife Crime Control Unit Director ASM Jahir Uddin Akan said, “If the fox was killed, this will violate the Wildlife Conservation and Security Act-2012.”

Asked if they would take any step, he said, “During this pandemic, it’s impossible to move instantly. We’re looking into it.”

Contacted, Md Masum said, “Foxes attack poultry so villagers are weary of them. Some youth set up a trap beside my house and caught the fox and set a dog on it.”

“Locals had asked people to let the fox go when the dog attacked it, but someone recorded and posted the video,” he added.

This correspondent attempted to contact Monayem -- on whose profile the video was posted -- but his phone was switched off.

Three petitions

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 The court will hear the petitions that remained pending at the court from March 29.

The official closure of the courts in the nationwide shutdown is scheduled to stay till May 16.

Over 900 bail petitions are pending at the court at present.

Contacted, Dhaka Bar Association President Iqbal Hossain said he has received the notice and will convey the message to lawyers in the association.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate AM Zulfiker Hayat has formed four courts for holding hearings on bail petitions in the cases filed with 49 police stations under DMP.

The four courts are of Metropolitan Magistrates Sarafuzzaman Ansary, Sabbir Yasir Ahsan Chowdhury, Debdash Chandra Adhikary and Rajesh Chowdhury.

Earlier, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain had issued necessary directives for the lower courts for holding hearings on bail petitions of urgent cases through using information and communication technology during the ongoing shutdown.

Beyond the line

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 They receive daily orders from 11am to 5pm through three hotlines -- 01537551110, 01883422631, 01883422632.

“People from different income groups are calling us, seeking support for food and other essentials,” said Mahmuda Afroz Lucky, additional deputy commissioner (admin) of Mirpur division. They have so far provided food and daily essentials support to around 1,600 families, she said.

Doctors hopeful

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 hospitalised for one week at the beginning of April.

The academic taught at Dhaka and Chittagong universities, was a post-doctoral fellow at University of Chicago, and a Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellow at University of London.

He was awarded Ekushey Padak and Swadhinata Padak, the highest civilian awards in Bangladesh government, and Padma Bhushan from India, for his distinguished service in Bangla literature and education.

Gonoshasthaya wants temp

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 and a public health expert said, adding that it would be great if the government temporarily approved the kits.

“[With an approval] We could test the patients suffering from other diseases linked to kidney and heart and suggest the next course of action.”

Treating kidney failure patients with Covid-19 would require a separate place which the Gonoshasthaya hospital does not have, he said, adding that the hospital provides dialysis to over 250 patients every day.

The hospital would set up two dialysis machines for kidney failure patients with coronavirus infection if there is a place available near Dhanmondi, he said.

Authorities in the UK, USA and India have quickly approved home-grown rapid coronavirus testing kits, Zafrullah said.

“We expect our government to be prompt and to act considering the nature

of emergency.”

When Gonoshasthaya approached the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) for validation of their kit on April 26, DGDA asked it to go through contract research organisations (CROs). Gonoshasthaya, however, refused to do that, arguing that that process would raise the price of the kit.

On April 30, the DGDA permitted Gonoshasthaya Kendra to have their kits independently validated by the BSMMU. On May 2, the BSMMU formed a committee headed by virology professor Shahina Tabassum.

RT-PCR, which is widely considered the best coronavirus testing method, is being used in Bangladesh. But it is expensive and time-consuming. On the other hand, a rapid test is a low-cost alternative that takes about 15 minutes. Many countries are using these tests.

Land for landless peasants

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 bighas of land, he adds.

BANGABANDHU RETURNS TO DHAKA

After successfully completing his four-day tour of North Bengal, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today returns to Dhaka. He was given a warm farewell by the people of Rangpur before he left for Dhaka.

HOSPITAL FOR INJURED FREEDOM FIGHTERS

Bangabandhu declared on May 10 in Pabna that a hospital will be established in Dhaka for injured freedom fighters. The hospital will be named after Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq.

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAMME

With the support of the ministry of cooperatives, 2,000 adult literacy

centres have been established across the country. Fifty-two teacher training centres have also been established to support these private initiatives. The government is also actively considering a mass literacy programme worth Tk 47 crore with a target of achieving 80 percent literacy rate within five years.

BANGLADESH
 Bangladesh will get two more Fokker airplanes from Netherlands. These aircrafts will reach Dhaka within two months. At present Bangladesh Biman has two Fokker, one DC-6 and one Boeing jet.

SOURCE: May 13, 1972 issue of Dainik Bangla.

Two AL men killed

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 noon. The three other injured were admitted to the medical facility.

In the afternoon, injured Lokman Hossain was sent to Kushtia General Hospital as his condition deteriorated, the OC added.

Bazlur said the leaders of the both groups are supporters of Salauddin Joardar Mamun, organising secretary of Kacherkol union AL and also the chairman of

Kacherkol Union Parshad.

The bodies of the deceased were handed to their relatives in the afternoon after autopsies were carried out on those at the morgue of Jhenidah Sadar Hospital, police said.

The two were buried at their family graveyard in Dhuliapara village.

Police were preparing a case in connection with the incident.

DU decides

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 “Online classes can be held after Eid upon ensuring technical support and other facilities for teachers and students, if the ongoing indefinite closure extends further,” it added.

Speaking to The Daily Star, DU VC Prof Akhtaruzzaman said the university has to ensure the necessary technical support for teachers and students to go for online classes.

The meeting also reached a consensus on taking classes on weekends and extra classes to make up for academic losses.

Yesterday’s meeting was organised to evaluate the feasibility of online classes and to find the way and necessary steps to mitigate the academic losses the students may face due to the indefinite shutdown of the university.

A week after the country reported its first Covid-19 case on March 8, the DU authorities suspended all academic activities till March 28. The suspension, which was later extended for an indefinite period, resulted in the cancellation of mid-term examinations of many departments.

Fears of second wave grow

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 some shops were set to reopen, causing a surge in the numbers using the Paris metro.

“If it’s like this at 6:00 am, imagine how it’s going to be in two hours -- this is going to be impossible,” said one rider named Brigitte on a crowded train early yesterday.

Many Spaniards revelled in being able to visit outdoor terraces and cafes again after months under one of the world’s toughest lockdowns, although virus hotspots such as Madrid and Barcelona remain under wraps.

“I really missed this, now you value these little pleasures,” said Jesus Vazquez, a 51-year-old builder, as he enjoyed a breakfast sandwich and beer in the sunshine outside a bar in the city of Tarragona.

Shopping boulevards were once again populated with pedestrians in Greece, while other parts of Europe from the Netherlands to Switzerland and Croatia youngsters headed back to the classroom after weeks at home.

“They were jumping with joy when they saw their friends again, they were very happy,” 43-year-old Manon told AFP as she dropped off her three children at school in The Hague.

Germany too has set in motion the reopening of shops, eateries,

schools and gyms, but the process was thrown in doubt Sunday by official data indicating the virus appears to be picking up speed again.

Chancellor Angela Merkel only days ago declared the country could gradually return to normal, but the figures showed the reproduction rate of the virus had exceeded the critical figure of 1.0, meaning one person infects on average more than one other.

As recently as Wednesday, the number had stood at 0.65.

In Britain, meanwhile, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said it was too soon for the country to lift its lockdown but he offered hope by unveiling a “conditional plan” to ease curbs in England during the months ahead.

Johnson said the restrictions had brought “a colossal cost to our way of life” but it would be “madness” to squander the nation’s progress by moving too early.

Almost seven weeks after a nationwide stay-at-home order was put in place, more than 31,800 people have died in Britain -- a figure second only to the United States.

SECOND WAVE FEARS

With governments across the world trying to avoid a second wave, Asian nations that were among the first engulfed by the virus but have since

brought it to heel are being keenly watched.

Much of China has begun to get back to a form of normality, and yesterday Shanghai Disneyland threw open its gates following a three-month shutdown.

“We are very much looking forward to the first day of reopening and wondering what’s the difference inside today compared to before,” said one eager visitor named Kitty.

But enthusiasm in China was tempered by news on Sunday that one person had tested positive for the virus in Wuhan. There were five more cases yesterday.

Local health officials said the new infections were all from the same residential compound in the city and were mostly older people.

South Korean officials ordered nightclubs and bars closed after a fresh burst of transmission linked to an entertainment district in the capital.

‘Drug dealer’

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 where doctors declared him dead.

Three police personnel, including ASP Nihad, were hurt, the OC claimed.

Police also claimed to have recovered 1.1 lakh yaba pills, a pistol, and four bullets from the spot.

OBITUARY

Salek Uddin Ahmed, a resident of Gandaria, died on Sunday, May 10th. He was 83 years old. He left behind his only son, daughter-in-law & grandchildren. Please pray for Mr. Salek.

Virus interrupts

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 the virus, with animation dubbing halted to keep staff safe, broadcaster Fuji Television Network said.

“We will halt broadcast of new episodes of ‘Sazae-san’ for the time being from May 17 and instead air re-runs,” it announced on Sunday.

The network said upcoming broadcasts would be episodes from two years ago, adding it would announce a date for the resumption of new episodes as soon as possible.

It is the first time the network has been forced to air re-runs since 1975, when the economic effects of an earlier oil crisis lingered.

পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার	
জেলা সুরক্ষার কার্যালয়, জেলা কলকাতা, মনিরকান্দা	
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
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০২	কলকাতা/সিউ
০৩	কলকাতা/সিউ ও জেলা
০৪	কলকাতা/নয়
০৫	কলকাতা/নয়
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Protecting those keeping city

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 titled Corona rukhte porichchhonnata kormider pashe (Standing beside cleaning workers to stop the spread of coronavirus), earlier in April, said Tanver.

They are raising funds through the group and providing the necessary protective equipment, soap and other relief items to garbage collectors. People in Bangladesh and abroad have also joined the initiative.

Tanver said, “The waste collectors have to move through different holdings to collect household waste. Moreover, they are engaged in sorting different types of waste to collect saleable plastic materials, which exposes them to high risk of Covid-19 infection. So, the garbage handlers could unknowingly become carriers of coronavirus. The safety of their lives is important as it is important to dispose of the garbage and, most importantly, to reduce the possibility of social transmission. Therefore, we realise that we need to ensure their safety first.”

To this end, they have designed a free package for the safety of cleaners and garbage handlers, which includes a PPE, gumboots, washable mask, PVC hand-gloves, safety goggle and two soap bars. They are also providing a food relief package for their families including 5 kg of rice, 2 kg potato, 1 kg lentil and 1 litre vegetable oil. In addition to providing this support, they have been raising awareness through social media on avoiding community transmission of coronavirus, regular use of safety equipment and highlighting the importance of the safety of cleaners and garbage handlers.

They have served more than 1,200 cleaners and garbage handlers in Tejaon,

Uttara, Mirpur, Adabor, Gulshan, Rampura, Nazira Bazar, Mohammadpur, and Niketan till now, said Tanver, adding that “Urmi Group, a garments manufacturer, who are making PPE suit for medical professionals has supported us with 500 suits.”

Apart from this, they are visiting the respective areas of waste collectors and training them on how to use personal protective equipment while on duty, he said, adding that they have also appointed volunteers in the respective wards, who give them pertinent information about the waste collectors. Alongside, they have supported the families of 720 sweepers in Nazira Bazar with washable masks, PVC hand-gloves and a pair of soaps.

Waste collector Hazrat Mia of Banasree said he has been in the profession for over two decades but this was the first time that he was given personal protective equipment. He thanked “Tanver bhai” and his organisation, ICAN BD, for helping them with the protective gear, food and other necessary items in this trying time.

Tanver said people who are active on social media have been providing lists of cleaners and garbage handlers from different parts of Dhaka. Based on that information, they are reaching out to those garbage handlers with necessary items and encouraging them to continue their good work by ensuring personal safety. This entire activity is being conducted through the contributions of people at home and abroad.

This initiative of ICAN BD, a social development organisation, has received tremendously positive responses from residents of other cities like Chattogram and many have begun to join the initiative, he said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 Directorate General of Health Services
 Office of the Director, Stores & Supplies
 Central Medical Stores Depot
 30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharoni, Tejaon, Dhaka-1208

Corrigendum

IFT No. CMSD/G-1907/ICT/2019-2020/D-2/71 dated 17/02/2020

Procurement of Lab Equipment (NCL)

Invitation for Tender (IFT) No. CMSD/G-1907/ICT/2019-2020/D-2/71 dated 17/02/2020 and the relevant portions of the tender documents is hereby amended to read as under:

Tender Reference	Existing Entries	Amended Entries
Section 2. Tender Data Sheet (TDS): ITT 36.1, ITT 42.2 & Column of IFT No. 10 & 11.		
Last selling date:	21/04/2020 (During office hours)	18/05/2020 (During office hours)
Tender submission date:	11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6hrs.) on 22/04/2020	11:00 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6hrs.) on 19/05/2020
Tender opening date:	11:30 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6hrs.) on 22/04/2020	11:30 Hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST=GMT+6hrs.) on 19/05/2020

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