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Your Right to Know

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BANGLADESH
UPDATE

1,273

New cases in 24hrs



22,268

Total cases



328

Deaths



4,373

Recoveries

GLOBAL
UPDATE

313,916

Deaths



4,754,992

Total cases

Second wave if mistake repeated

Expert panel warns govt about 29,000 returning from ME, says institutional quarantine a must to avert bigger disaster

RASHIDUL HASAN and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The country may have to grapple with a second wave of coronavirus infections if the government fails to ensure strict institutional quarantine for 29,000 Bangladeshi workers set to return from the Middle East over the next couple of weeks.

A government-appointed expert committee has warned the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) in this regard.

Many of these Bangladeshis are now in prisons or detention camps in the Middle Eastern countries. They have, however, been granted general amnesty due to the coronavirus pandemic, foreign ministry sources said.

"If the government allows them to go into home quarantine instead of keeping them in institutional quarantine, there will be a bigger disaster for us in the coming days," a member of the committee told The Daily Star yesterday, on the condition of anonymity.

Speaking to The Daily Star on Thursday, Dr Liaquat Ali, a medical scientist and member of the government committee, said, "Earlier, we submitted a report to the DGHS saying that the Covid-19 outbreak may reach its peak in the third or fourth week of this month and the situation would remain unchanged for almost two weeks, or until the first week of June."

"But now we have warned the government that there will be a second peak if the respective authorities fail to ensure institutional quarantine [for the workers coming back to the country]."

In late March, the health ministry formed the eight-member expert committee to supervise, monitor and support the coronavirus response.

It includes public health experts Dr MA Foyez, Prof Dr Shah Monir Hossain, Dr Liaquat Ali, Dr Iqbal Anwar and Prof Fazlur Rahman, among others.

SAME MISTAKE?

On May 6, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said Dhaka is expecting to

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A woman receiving OMS rice, which is sold at Tk 10 per kg to aid those disadvantaged by the economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic. *Inset*, although each family is supposed to get one card to collect the rice, this influential local was seen parading three such cards to collect the rice. The photos were taken near Ramna Police Station in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

ACC ON RICE GRAFT

Some govt officials, influentials involved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local influential people and some government officials are getting involved in rice procurement and taking bribes from farmers, according to an intelligence report of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The report was submitted to ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmood yesterday, Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, public relations officer at the ACC, told The Daily Star.

After receiving the report, the ACC chairman asked his officials to take immediate action against the perpetrators.

He also asked the ACC officials to strengthen the monitoring of rice procurement.

Iqbal said that they would also make sure that the local influential people cannot put pressure on the government officials to

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70pc of the dead were above 50

14 more die of Covid-19; record 1,273 people test positive in 24hrs

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Senior citizens are like lighthouses. With their acumen and expertise they guide a better world for all. But this section of the society is more vulnerable to Covid-19.

Till yesterday, 328 people died of the virus. Of them, 70 percent were aged over 50, data shows.

National Professor Dr Anisuzzaman, who led the country in many crisis periods, also succumbed to the deadly virus on Friday.

Earlier, two renowned doctors of the country Maj (ret'd) Abul Mokarim Md Mohsin Uddin and Prof Col (ret'd) Md Moniruzzaman died of Covid-19.

Though the infection rate is low among the senior citizens, they have so far been the worst victims of the virus in the country.

In an online briefing yesterday, Prof Dr Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), said 14 people died with coronavirus infections in 24 hours.

Of the victims, 10 were aged between 51 years and 90 years, she added.

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Cops slap curbs on movement

No one can move from cities to villages, one dist to another ahead of Eid; Dhaka entry, exit to be under close watch

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Police yesterday stepped up measures to restrict movement of people and vehicles nationwide during the Eid holidays with an aim to curb further spread of the novel coronavirus.

They set up checkpoints at many key points across the country to prevent people from travelling from one district to another without any urgent need during the period.

However, the people and vehicles engaged in emergency services and carrying goods are exempt from this restriction.

The steps were taken hours after Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed gave directives to divisional and district high-ups through video conference from the Police Headquarters (PHQ). The conference continued for two and a half hours from 11:00am.

The police chief said many were leaving the capital for their village homes to celebrate the extended Eid holidays announced by the government, according to a PHQ statement.

"This cannot be allowed to happen in any way."

The IGP said all the instructions that the prime minister have given to ensure people's welfare must be carried out properly.

He urged all to abide by the government directives and health-safety guidelines.

Benazir also instructed all the police officials concerned to make sure that no one leaves or enters the capital until further directive from the government.

"Every district and metropolitan city will strictly implement this in the

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- Every district, metropolitan city to enforce restrictions
- Legal action against violators
- Emergency services exempted from restrictions
- CMP sets up checkpoints at 5 key points in port city

Harvest all paddy now

Govt advises farmers of coastal region, says 80pc-mature Boro can be harvested

PINAKI ROY and SOHEL PARVEZ

With the severe cyclonic storm "Amphan" approaching the coast, the agricultural office has advised farmers in coastal districts to harvest all the paddy that have matured up to at least 80 percent matured.

The advisory said there was a possibility of a storm with light to heavy rainfall from May 19 to May 21 in 25 districts, mainly on the coastal belt.

"The stormy weather and heavy rainfall may affect standing crops," said the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in its advice issued yesterday by its Agro-Meteorological Information Systems Development Project.

The cautionary warning comes as farmers have harvested 59 percent of Boro paddy cultivated on 47.54 lakh hectares this season. And the DAE said the coastal divisions -- Chattogram, Khulna

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CYCLONE AMPHAN IN BAY

Big challenge is to manage evacuation

Govt to use all schools, colleges as shelters to lessen crowd in cyclone shelters in coastal belt

PINAKI ROY and PORIMAL PALMA

Amphan, the cyclone formed in the Bay of Bengal on Saturday, may lash the coastal districts in three days, upending social distancing and hygiene practices needed to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Located about 1,200km off the coast as of last night, the cyclone has the potential to warrant the evacuation of thousands of villagers from their homes, and eventually the people will end up in crowded cyclone shelters, health and disaster management experts say.

State Minister Enamur Rahman, state minister for disaster management and relief, said officials have been ordered to increase the number of shelters to prevent crowding.

"The 4,071 cyclone shelters we have are ready. But Keeping the Covid-19 situation in mind, we asked all local administration and law enforcing agencies to arrange temporary cyclone shelters," he told The Daily Star.

Officials and volunteers are working to ensure that every school, college, and madrasa along the coast can be used as shelters during the cyclone.

"Also, we have asked them to ensure social distancing and other measures inside the shelters... If somebody is sick or has a fever, they will be taken to the upazila health complex for isolation."

During last year's cyclone Bulbul, about 22 lakh people

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A view of the 2,000-bed hospital that was inaugurated yesterday by Health Minister Zahid Maleque. The isolation facility at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in the capital will be used for the treatment of Covid-19 patients.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

ICCB hospital for Covid-19 patients opens

Govt to hire 5,000 medical technologists

UNB, Dhaka

Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday inaugurated a 2,000-bed hospital at the International Convention City Bashundhara (ICCB) in the capital for treating Covid-19 patients.

"It's the second-largest hospital in the world dedicated to treating coronavirus patients," he said.

While opening the hospital, the minister also said the recruitment process of 5,000 new medical technologists was underway to strengthen the medical sector.

The hospital has 2,013 isolation beds. Among them, oxygen cylinders have been attached to 71

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২০ মে হতে ২৩ জুলাই পর্যন্ত মোট ৬৫ (পঁয়ষাট) দিন বঙ্গোপসাগরে সকল প্রকার মৎস্য নৌযান কর্তৃক মৎস্য আহরণ নিষিদ্ধকরণ বিষয়ে বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মৎস্য ও প্রাণিসম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়ের এস, আর, ও নং ৯৭-আইন/২০১৫ মোতাবেক সামুদ্রিক মৎস্য বিধিমালা, ১৯৮৩ এর সংযোজিত ১৯নং বিধি দ্বারা বাংলাদেশের সামুদ্রিক অর্থনৈতিক এলাকায় মাছের সূঁছ প্রজনন ও সামুদ্রিক মৎস্য সম্পদ সংরক্ষণের জন্য প্রতি বছর ২০ মে হতে ২৩ জুলাই পর্যন্ত মোট ৬৫ (পঁয়ষাট) দিন সকল প্রকার মৎস্য নৌযান কর্তৃক যে কোন প্রজাতির মৎস্য এবং ক্রাস্টেশিয়ান্স (চিংড়ি, লবস্টার, কটল ফিশ ইত্যাদি) আহরণ নিষিদ্ধ করা হয়েছে।

সামুদ্রিক মৎস্য বিধিমালা, ১৯৮৩ এর ১৯নং বিধি প্রতিপালনের জন্য সকল মৎস্য নৌযানকে অনুরোধ জানানো হলো।

এর ব্যতায় ঘটলে সামুদ্রিক মৎস্য অধ্যাদেশ, ১৯৮৩ ও তদাধীনে প্রণীত বিধিমালা অনুযায়ী আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

প্রচারে: মৎস্য অধিদপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ

মৎস্য ও প্রাণিসম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়

জি৯-৮৫৭