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5 BASIC MEDICAL TESTS Only 4pc hospitals can do them

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Haemoglobin, blood glucose, urine protein, urine glucose, and urine pregnancy tests -- these are the five basic diagnostic tests that one can expect to be done at healthcare facilities across the country.

Yet a government survey, which was conducted in 2017 and whose final report was released in February this year, found that only four percent of healthcare facilities across the country offer all five tests at the same time. In the 2014 survey, this figure was three percent.

When the community clinics were excluded from the healthcare facilities, the percent stood at 12.

Of district- and upazila-level healthcare facilities, 14 percent provide all five basic tests. The figure has decreased from 16 percent in the 2014 survey.

The final report of the Bangladesh Health Facility Survey-2017 paints a dismal picture of the country's healthcare system.

The government of Bangladesh and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded the survey, while ICF in the US provided technical assistance.

Aminul Hasan, director (hospitals and clinics) of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), declined to accept the survey results.

"These are basic primary tests and most of the upazila health complexes have these facilities. So, I cannot accept the figure," he told The Daily Star.

This correspondent randomly contacted 10 upazila

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Hungry and helpless, a woman and her grandson sit on a traffic police island in the capital's Arambagh area around 2:00pm yesterday. The woman's daughter and mother of the boy had gone to a nearby residential area in search of food. The ongoing shutdown since March 26, imposed to curb the spread of novel coronavirus, has left millions like them in dire straits.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

340 cops test positive in 24 hours

2 more die of Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two police personnel died from Covid-19 in Dhaka and Chattogram in the last two days, said police.

Al Mamunur Rashid, a nayek of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's transport division, breathed his last at Central Police Hospital in the capital yesterday, and constable Mokhesur Rahman at Chattogram General Hospital on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, 340 more police personnel were infected in the past 24 hours till yesterday noon, a record figure in a day.

Forty-three-year-old Mamun was in home quarantine after some of his colleagues tested coronavirus positive, said police.

His samples were collected earlier, and test results confirmed that he was Covid-19 positive on Wednesday night, added police.

As his condition deteriorated, he was rushed to Central Police Hospital around 11:30am yesterday where he was declared dead, said Zobayedur Rahman, deputy commissioner (transport division) of DMP.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

New transport plan for the capital



Bangabandhu pays a surprise visit to the Secretariat on 22 May, 1972.

May 22, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU'S MEETING WITH STUDENT LEAGUE MEMBERS

In a meeting with members of the Student League, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman expresses his strong belief in the four principles of nationalism, socialism, democracy and secularism. "It doesn't matter if it is called Mujibism or not. These four were the guiding principles of the Independence movement and the country will be run by these principles," he adds.

Nur e Alam Siddiqi and Abdul Kuddus Makhon, along with some elected Student League members in the Ducus elections, call on the

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'Drug dealer' killed in a 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A suspected drug peddler was killed in a "shootout" with Rab in the capital's Agargaon area yesterday morning.

The dead, Kabir, 45, was from Gazipur's Shreepur upazila, said Mohammed Mohiduddin Faruque, a company commander of Rab-2.

He was accused in at least 13 cases, including drugs cases, filed with different police stations, the Rab official said.

Rab members signalled Kabir to stop his motorcycle at a check-point set up in Agargaon Link Road area around 5:30am.

Kabir opened fire on them from the moving bike, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate, Faruque said.

Kabir caught multiple gunshots during the incident and was rushed to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital

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Japan newborn gets world first liver stem cells



AFP, Tokyo

Doctors in Japan have successfully transplanted liver cells derived from embryonic stem cells into a newborn baby, in a world first that could provide new treatment options for infants.

The newborn was suffering from urea cycle disorder, where the liver is not capable of breaking down toxic ammonia.

But the six-day-old was too small to undergo a liver transplant, generally not considered safe until a child weighs around six kilograms (13 pounds) at around three to five months old.

Doctors at the National Center for Child Health and Development decided to try a "bridge treatment" until the baby was big enough, injecting 190 million liver cells derived from embryonic stem cells (ES cells) into the blood vessels of the baby's liver.

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Still no pay, work or full bonuses

RMG workers continue demo countrywide

STAR REPORT

Amid the coronavirus outbreak, around 25,000 workers of nearly 40 readymade garment factories demonstrated in Ashulia, Savar, Gazipur, Narayanganj and Chattogram yesterday, demanding 100 percent Eid bonus, reopening of the RMG units and partial salaries for the month of May.

Many of the workers had been demonstrating over the past few days for the full payment of the festival bonus, said a senior official of Industrial Police Headquarters in Dhaka, seeking anonymity.

As of yesterday, some 93.7 percent, or 1,797 members of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, have paid salaries for April. The rest were trying to do so, said BGMEA sources.

During a meeting on May 16, the government asked factory owners to pay 100 percent bonus to the workers. It directed the owners to pay half the bonus before Eid and the other half after the festival.

The agitating workers, however, rejected the directive and took to the streets demanding full payment of the bonus.

Many of them want payment for 15 days of this

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 22

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 3-43 12-15 5-00 6-41 8-00
JAMAAT 3-53 1-15 5-15 6-51 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



SEHRI, IFAR TIMING

RAMADAN MAY SEHRI IFAR
28 22 6:41
29 23 3:43 6:42
30 24 3:42 6:42



A common myna walks on a surface, covered in Krishnachura, on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. The flowers fell off trees due to strong wind after Amphan made landfall.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Global virus cases top five million

Europe significantly turns the tide on new cases, deaths as Latin America in the grip of infection surge

AFP, Paris

Global infections from the novel coronavirus passed five million yesterday as the pandemic played out unevenly across the planet, with China eager to declare a victory, Europe tentatively emerging from its shell and deaths still rising in hotspots in Latin America.

The grim milestone comes after known cases of Covid-19 doubled in just one month, according to AFP data collected from official sources, with the death toll now topping 328,000 worldwide.

While many hard-hit European countries have significantly turned the tide on new infections and fatalities, Latin America is in the grip of an infection surge.

Brazil is leading the pack, logging the third-highest number of cases in the world after the US and Russia.

Peru, Mexico and Chile have also seen steady increases in infections, with nurses in Lima warning that the health system is on the brink of collapse after cases and deaths tripled over the past three weeks.

"It's like a horror film," Miguel Armas, a nurse at the Hipolito Unanue hospital in the capital Lima, told AFP.

"Inside it seems like a cemetery given all the bodies. Patients are dying in their chairs (or) in their wheelchairs."

In Brazil, far-right President Jair Bolsonaro continues to scorn experts' advice on curbing the contagion as he presses regional governors to end stay-at-home measures.

And like US President Donald Trump, he has promoted the use of anti-malaria drugs against the virus despite studies showing they have no benefit and could have dangerous side effects.

CHINA'S 'VICTORY'
Trump, for his part, insists the US is "Transitioning back to Greatness" as states reopen at different speeds.

His optimism cut a sharp contrast with the bleak health situation in the country, which leads the world in cases and deaths.

While daily death tolls are no longer on a steady incline, the losses are still punishing with more than 1,500 additional fatalities reported in 24 hours on Wednesday, bringing to the total number in the US to more than 93,400.

On the economic front, the latest figures out of the US showed the rate of unemployment slowing -- but the total number of jobs lost since mid-March stood at an eye-watering 38.6 million.

Trump, who is desperate to boost his political fortunes ahead of November elections, has also doubled down on his

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