



WHO WARNS OF MORE DEATHS
Overuse of antibiotics in treating Covid-19 could be fatal
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BANGLADESH UPDATE



2,911
New cases in 24hrs



52,445
Total cases



709
Deaths



11,120
Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE



378,747
Deaths



6,415,599
Total cases

Cases may double by month-end

Says a team of researchers from DU, DGHS, University of Toronto; projection based on current trend of Covid-19 spread

MOUJUD AHMED SUJAN and WASIM BIN HABIB

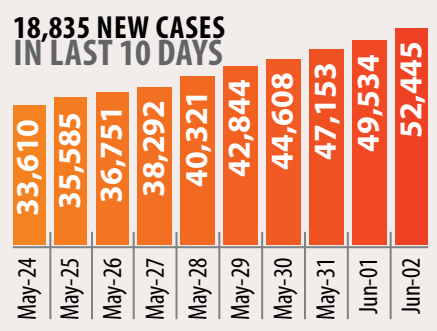
While the country's healthcare system remains under severe strain following record surge in coronavirus infections almost every day, a team of researchers warn that the total number of confirmed cases could double by the end of this month.

Having crossed the 50,000-mark yesterday, the number may jump to 87,000 by the middle and 123,000 by the end of this month, according to a projection by the team of experts, who are from University of Dhaka, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), and University of Toronto in Canada.

The projection is based on the current trend of the Covid-19 spread and epidemiological modeling, said head of the team, Shafiqul Shimul, an associate professor of health economics at DU.

"With the reopening of everything, the spread of the virus is likely to accelerate and Bangladesh could be the next epicenter like Brazil or Russia, if not the USA," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

The team submits reports on such epidemiological model-based projection to the government on a regular basis, he added.



Epidemiologists and other health experts, however, said the number could be even higher as many cases remain not reported due to inadequate testing and contract tracing facilities.

The government has increased the number of daily tests. Still, only two out of 10,000 people in the country have so far been tested -- one of the lowest rates among the world's worst coronavirus-hit countries.

The reopening of the offices, transport services, and other economic activities ignoring experts' advice and warning would only make matters worse, said the experts.

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A worker paints an oxygen cylinder outside a shop on Tongi Diversion Road in the capital's Moghbazar area yesterday. With the number of Covid-19 patients on the rise in the country, the demand for such cylinders is going up. The shop rents out each filled cylinder for Tk 1,000 a day.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Turned away by 6 hospitals, woman dies

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

A 63-year-old woman died early yesterday from breathing complications after being denied treatment at six different hospitals in Sylhet.

The woman, from Kazirbazar area in Sylhet city, was suffering from Asthma for decades and fell critically ill on Monday night.

Her family members rushed her to a private hospital where she was denied treatment. Five other hospital, including three medical college hospitals, followed suit.

Two hours later, she died in ambulance just before they reached Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital (SOMCH).

A family friend, who was with the victim's from the beginning, described the incident to The Daily Star, seeking anonymity for himself and the family.

"After I heard she was critically ill, I rushed to their house. Around

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Women less susceptible

Record 2,911 new Covid-19 cases in 24 hours; 71 percent of total infected are men

MAHBUJUR RAHMAN KHAN

Women appear to be less vulnerable to Covid-19 infection than men, shows data.

Experts opine that hormonal factors, coupled with the innate ability to struggle against the odds, contribute towards increased immunity among women, which is giving them an edge in the battle against the deadly virus.

"There are some hormones in women which men do not have. It is found these hormones could fight well against the virus, so the infection and fatality rate is low among women," said Prof Be-Nazir Ahmed, former director of disease control at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The country yesterday saw the biggest jump in coronavirus cases in a day with 2,911 new cases being reported in 24 hours till 2:30pm, which took the total number of confirmed cases to 52,445.

According to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), about 71 percent of the total infected persons are men. The death ratio is also much higher for men.

For instance, in 10 days from May 23, about 257 people died of Covid-19. About 213 of them were male and 44 were female, DGHS data shows.

Be-Nazir said compared to women, men go outside their residence more often, which increases the risk of infection.

However, he said there are some other factors behind women's greater resistance, such as growing up amid adverse environments, which strengthen their immune system.

"As a result, although men enjoy more facilities and freedom than

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Docs denied hotel stay

They went there as per previous arrangement

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Six doctors treating Covid-19 patients were not allowed on Monday night into a Khulna hotel where they were supposed to stay as per an arrangement made by the district administration.

When the doctors, from Khulna Medical College Hospital, arrived at Hotel Millennium after duty, the hotel authorities refused to let them in, said KMCH Director Dr Munshi Reza Sekander.

"These six doctors waited outside the hotel from 6:00pm to 10:00pm but they were not allowed in. They tried to contact the hotel authorities but their phone calls went unanswered," he said.

After discussing with the authorities of four local hotels -- the CSS Ava Center, Hotel Royal, Hotel Ambassador, and Hotel Millennium -- the district administration arranged for KMCH doctors and nurses to stay at the Hotel Millennium while on duty, and at any of the other three while in quarantine. All the hotel owners had agreed to this, said the KMCH director.

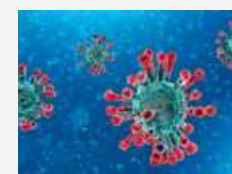
As per the arrangement, these six doctors were supposed to stay at Hotel Millennium while working their 10-day

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Tk 2,492cr projects to fight Covid-19

Ecneec okays 2 schemes to upgrade health facilities; WB, ADB will provide \$100m each; PM stresses quick implementation

- 20-bed IU, 5-bed CCU in every dist hospital
- 250-bed hospital for Covid-19 frontliners
- Mobile app for tracking Covid-19 patients
- 19 new microbiology testing labs



REJAUJ KARIM BYRON and JAGARAN CHAKMA

The government will set up isolation and critical care units in district hospitals all over the country as part of its efforts to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

A 20-bed Isolation Unit (IU) and a five-bed Critical Care Unit (CCU) will be set up in every district hospital for treating Covid-19 patients.

Besides, 17 of the 29 public medical colleges in the country will have a 50-bed IU and a 10-bed CCU or Intensive Care Unit each for coronavirus patients. A 250-bed hospital will be set up in the capital's Mohakhali area for treating the Covid-19 frontliners infected with the virus. They include health workers, government employees and members of police and ansar.

A mobile application will also be developed for keeping track of Covid-19 patients and managing data on health services. All this will be done under two projects involving Tk 2,492 crore, which were approved at a meeting of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec) with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the

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Bangladesh will forge ahead despite Covid-19

Says PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said although the Covid-19 pandemic slowed down the economic progress of the country to some extent, the nation would move forward fighting all obstacles.

The PM was addressing a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council through videoconferencing from the Gono Bhavan.

Hasina said the ongoing crisis might delay the country's graduation to a developing country from a least developed one within the stipulated time.

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Demonstrators hold up placards and protest outside the White House in Washington DC yesterday. President Donald Trump vowed Monday to order a military crackdown on violent protests gripping the United States.

PHOTO: AFP

KILLING OF BLACK MAN Trump vows to bring in military

Five US cops shot in protests; Houston police chief tells the president to 'keep mouth shut'

AGENCIES

At least five US police officers were shot and wounded during violent protests over the death of a black man in police custody, police and media said, hours after President Donald Trump vowed to deploy the military if unrest did not stop.

Trump deepened outrage on Monday by posing at a church across from the White House clutching a Bible after law enforcement officers used teargas and rubber bullets to clear protesters.

The US Secret Service, charged with protecting the president, yesterday closed down until further notice the streets around the White House, media reports said.

Demonstrators set fire to a strip mall in Los Angeles, looted stores in New York City and clashed with police in St Louis, Missouri, where four officers were taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

An emotional St Louis police commissioner, John Hayden, said about 200 protesters were looting and hurling fireworks and rocks at officers.

"They had officers with gas poured on them. What is going on? How can this be? Mr Floyd was killed somewhere else and they are tearing up cities all across the country," he told reporters.

A police officer was shot during protests in Las Vegas, police there said in a statement. Another officer was "involved in a shooting" in the same area, the police said. Officers were injured in clashes elsewhere, including one who was in critical condition after being hit by a car in the Bronx, police said.

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