







BANGLADESH UPDATE

3,187 New cases in 24hrs

78,052 Total cases

1,049 Deaths

16,748 Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE

421,863 Deaths

7,548,669 Total cases

Bangladesh now 10th worst-hit

3,187 more infected, 37 die

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Bangladesh persistently remained on the 10th position on the global ranking of the worst coronavirus-hit countries for five consecutive days from June 6 due to its high number of new cases.

The country also ranked the 10th position in the ranking for its total number of cases in seven days from June 4, according to the World Health Organisation.

Between June 4 and 10, Bangladesh recorded 19,725 cases. Other countries that had witnessed the highest number of cumulative cases in the seven days are: the US, Brazil, India, Russia, Chile, Pakistan, Peru, Mexico, and Saudi Arabia.

The Directorate General of Health Services yesterday said 3,187 more new cases were recorded.

Until yesterday, a total of 78,052 Covid-19 cases were recorded across the country.

Meanwhile, 37 more people died from coronavirus infections on a single day, said Prof Nasima Sultana, additional director general (administration) of DGHS, during a briefing.

Some 15,772 samples were tested in 55 labs across the country in the last 24 hours, she added.

A total of 1,049 people have so far died from the deadly virus in the country.

Meanwhile, 848 Covid-19 patients have recovered until yesterday, taking the total number of recoveries to 16,747 and the recovery rate to 21.46 percent, the DGHS official added.

Some 671 people were put under isolation in the last 24 hours, she said. Among the dead, 30 were male and seven female, she said, adding that

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, wearing masks and maintaining social distancing, enter parliament yesterday to place the budget for the fiscal year 20-21.

PHOTO: PID

NASIM'S CONDITION His blood is not clotting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The condition of former health minister and Awami League MP Mohammad Nasim deteriorated further yesterday. He is now in a "very critical state".

"Mohammad Nasim's condition has worsened today [yesterday] as we have carried out a test that says his blood is not clotting," Raziul Haque, a renowned neurosurgeon at the Bangladesh Specialised Hospital where the AL senior leader is being treated, told The Daily Star over phone.

He also said Nasim's blood pressure was stable in the last two days. "But today [yesterday] his blood pressure is fluctuating."

Asked about the possibility of sending Nasim abroad for better treatment, Raziul said he was not in a position to be taken abroad.

Dr Kanak Kanti Barua, vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and also the chief of medical board formed to oversee treatment of Nasim, told this correspondent that Nasim was in a "very critical state" now.

Infected with Covid-19 and later suffering from a stroke, Nasim has been in a "deep coma" since June 5.

His son Tanvir Shakil Joy, also a former AL lawmaker, told the media on June 5 that his father had undergone a successful surgery after suffering a stroke.

On June 1, Nasim was admitted to the Bangladesh Specialised Hospital in the capital's Shyamoli as he was feeling unwell. Later, he tested positive for coronavirus.



PRAYER TIMING JUNE 12

Fajr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-30 5-00 6-50 8-15
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

861 died showing virus symptoms

Finds DU research between March 22 and June 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 861 people have died after showing Covid-19-like symptoms from March 22 to June 6, said a report of Dhaka University's Centre for Genocide Studies.

The country saw 124 such deaths between May 31 and June 6, up from 73 in the previous week, it added.

The study, however, said all the deaths might not have been related to Covid-19 as many of the deceased tested negative for the virus.

The CGS presented the report styled "Covid-19 Graphics" before the media yesterday. It is the ninth edition of a series of such reports prepared by Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO), an initiative of CGS.

The report was prepared based on news reports published or aired by 25 media outlets, including national and local dailies, online news sites, and television channels.

According to the latest report, some 737 people died of Covid-19-like symptoms from March 22 to May 30. However, the previous report of CGS said the number was 720.

Asked about the difference, Humayun Kabir, assistant research manager at BPO,

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MIGRANTS IN SINGAPORE Man makes it his mission to help

JAMIL MAHMUD

After a day's hard work, Omar Faruque Shipon spends time from evening to night raising awareness about coronavirus, which greatly helps his fellow Bangladeshi migrant workers in Singapore.

Shipon, 32, a senior safety coordinator in Singapore's marine sector, translates different news articles on the virus into Bangla, including those published by Singapore's leading English daily -- The Straits Times.

Later, he posts the translated items on his Facebook page -- Singapore-e Amra Probashi Bangladeshi.

Besides, he regularly translates Singapore health ministry's Covid-19 updates into Bangla and uploads those in the page.

This is how he raises awareness about the virus among the Bangladeshi migrants who are unable to read and understand English well and also helps them avoid being influenced by rumours and misinformation.

Until January this year, the page had 12,000-odd followers. Now, the number has increased to nearly 52,000.

Shipon said many started to follow the page because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Talking to The Daily Star via WhatsApp on Monday, the migrant from Chandpur said after Singapore first reported Covid-19 cases in January, various rumours began to run rife among the Bangladeshi migrant community.

At one stage, people in the community started to spread rumours that many Bangladeshi migrants had died, but the media in Singapore tried to hide it.

But the Bangladeshi migrants seemed less careful about the virus's effect and were not avoiding public gatherings.

"So, I thought about doing something and posted an article which describes what the coronavirus is. It got about 1,000 shares within a short time," he said.

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Cars become more costly to keep

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a scenario where the public transport sector cannot cater to the massive volume of commuters, owners of cars or jeeps will have to pay up to 67 percent more as advanced income tax or commonly known as "road tax" -- required to be paid during the registration and fitness renewal of motor vehicles.

Until this fiscal year, owners of cars or jeeps with up to 1,500cc engine capacity had to pay Tk 15,000, while those with up to 2,000cc engine capacity paid Tk 30,000.

The rates of taxes for these vehicles are going to increase to Tk 25,000 and Tk 50,000 respectively in the next fiscal year.

While the advance income tax on motor vehicles have increased across all categories of engines, the higher the engine capacity, the lesser the increase in tax.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

SMUGGLING WILL BE STOPPED AT ANY COST



Elected members of Mymensingh Agricultural University Central Students' Union call on Bangabandhu at his official residence on June 14, 1972.

June 12, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR LEAVES DHAKA

West Bengal Chief Minister Siddhartha Shankar Roy leaves today for Kolkata after successfully completing his three-day visit to Bangladesh. In a press conference organised at Bangabhaban today the chief minister says that India and Bangladesh will take strong measures to stop smuggling in the border areas. Government officials of both countries will hold meetings on a regular basis and formulate a joint action plan. West Bengal government has already set up check-posts along the India-Bangladesh border, he adds. Referring to the allegation of fish smuggling into



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Zafrullah recovering

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gonoshasthaya Kendra Founder and Trustee Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury is gradually recovering from pneumonia, an official of the Gonoshasthaya Nagar Hospital said yesterday.

"The severe lungs pneumonia of Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury is being cured slowly and his amount of oxygen intake is decreasing," Brig Gen (ret'd) Professor Mamun Mustafa, a physician at the hospital, told The Daily Star.

Mustafa said that Dr Zafrullah is being given regular dialysis, measured antibiotics and physiotherapy.

"He [Dr Zafrullah] has thanked everybody and asked everyone to pray for him," Prof Mustafa added.

Mohammad Forhad, public relations officer of Gonoshasthaya Kendra, told The Daily Star,

"After waking up today [Thursday], Dr Zafrullah walked inside the room for a while and had breakfast by himself. [His] physical condition seems better than yesterday."

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Doctors clad in PPEs enter the Covid-19 unit at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Despite fears of infection, they have been treating patients for around two months, staying at a city hospital far from home. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Virus deaths top 70,000 in LatAm

US, Russia mark grim new milestone of cases

AGENCIES

Brussels set out plans to reopen the EU's internal borders yesterday, even as the global coronavirus outbreak hit worrying new landmarks in the United States, Latin America and Russia.

The European Commission recommended that the 27 EU members fully reopen their frontiers with each other on June 15 and with the western Balkans from July 1.

Europe's borders with the world beyond will open more gradually after that -- and only to countries where the pandemic is seen as under control.

The United States, which has the world's highest number of deaths and infections, marked a grim new milestone as recorded cases surged past two million yesterday.

Russia meanwhile passed the symbolic milestone of 500,000 confirmed cases, and Iran said 180,000 have been infected there.

Meanwhile, the death toll in Latin America passed 70,000 fatalities on Wednesday. Brazil, the region's worst-hit country, accounts for more than half of the total deaths in the region.

In all, the novel coronavirus has killed at least 417,000 people since the outbreak emerged in China last December, according to an AFP tally of official sources.

At least 7.4 million cases of coronavirus have been registered in 196 countries and territories.

ECONOMIC CATASTROPHE

The epidemic, along with economic and social lockdowns imposed by governments to contain its spread, has also left economic devastation in its wake.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said the global economic crisis is deepening.

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