

FAMILY PLANNING DISRUPTED
 Women reporting increased unintended pregnancies
 SEE PAGE 12

The Daily Star

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

SHAWWAL 22, 1441 HURI

16 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00



BANGLADESH UPDATE

3,141
New cases in 24hrs

87,520
Total cases

1,171
Deaths

18,730
Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE

433,992
Deaths

7,945,800
Total cases

45 Dhaka areas marked red

DGHS technical committee also identifies 11 areas in Chattogram, some upazilas in Narsingdi, N'ganj, Gazipur as red zones

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid rising coronavirus cases and fatalities, a technical committee of the government has primarily identified 45 areas in the capital as red zones.

It has also identified 11 areas in Chattogram city, the entire Gazipur district, and several upazilas in Narsingdi and Narayanganj. Officials might further narrow down the areas to be locked-down based on available data.

Although the committee has yet to come up with an official list of the areas, residents in different parts of the capital started wondering when they might face a strict lockdown.

"I have seen in the media that Uttara will be marked as a red zone. But is it the whole Uttara or a certain part of it?" a resident asked our correspondent.

Of the areas identified in the capital, 17 are under Dhaka North City Corporation and 28 are under Dhaka South City Corporation.

The Central Technical Group under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) in its second meeting on Saturday identified the areas, according to the meeting minutes.

"The work is going on. The Directorate General of Health Services will soon issue a circular with the names of the areas," Habibur Rahman Khan, additional secretary of health service division at the health ministry, told The Daily Star last night.

Making a list of red zones does not necessarily mean that the areas will immediately be under lockdown, he said.

"The public administration ministry will issue a gazette notification mentioning when the lockdown will be ordered, so that the people in the area can prepare themselves."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



An employee adjusting an oxygen tank yesterday at the City Convention Hall, which was converted into an isolation centre in Chattogram's Agrabad area. Inset, two doctors at the isolation centre conducting a workshop on PPE usage and how to care for coronavirus patients. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

AMPHAN DAMAGE RHD seeks Tk 250cr to repair roads

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

More than 70km of roads under the management of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in four coastal districts have been damaged by cyclone Amphan with 10km still underwater.

It would require around Tk 250 crore for short and long term repair of the roads, RHD officials said.

RHD has already sent a report about the damage to the Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges and sought the repair cost.

"We have already turned most of the roads usable enough to be going on with using the available fund. Hope we will get the fund for additional works in next year's allocation," Mohammed Abul Kalam Azad, superintendent engineer (maintenance circle) of RHD told The Daily Star yesterday.

Cyclone Amphan, which made landfall on May 20, has left behind a trail of destruction, affecting more

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Protecting people, keeping economy moving is 'war'

Says PM in Sangsad

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said keeping away people from getting infected with coronavirus and running the wheels of economy simultaneously is a "war".

"We have also taken steps so that economic activities could continue running; we have been able to place a budget. This is a kind of war," she said.

The PM was speaking in parliament taking part in the condolence motion on former minister and ruling Awami League presidium member Mohammad Nasim.

The House also expressed deep shock at the death of state minister for religious affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

ELUSIVE COVID-19 PEAK

Govt's unscientific strategies to blame

Say experts, urge fresh measures to tackle outbreak; 3,140 new cases, 32 more die

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

The country is yet to reach the peak of the Covid-19 outbreak due to the government's "unscientific" and "vague" strategy from the beginning, say experts.

"Reaching the peak means from where the infection rate will start falling. But we're not seeing it even though two months have passed since the infection rate began to increase exponentially on April 5," said Benazir Ahmed, former director (disease control) of the health and family welfare ministry.

Pointing out the missteps taken by the government, Dr Muzaherul Huq, former regional adviser for World Health Organisation's South East Asia Region, said, "People were confused about whether it was a holiday or a lockdown. Due to the wrong message, they failed to act correctly. Such indecisions and a lack of coordination helped push up the infection rate."

The government enforced a "general holiday" from March 26 and extended it to May 30. Coincidentally, the country has been seeing a rise in the number of patients from June 1. In the last 14 days, the DGHS officially reported 40,366 Covid-19 cases.

While describing the infection curve, Muzaherul said, "Take the example of a mountain. You're trying to reach its peak but there is continuous snowfall. Once the snowfall stops, you reach the peak and start descending."

In the case of Covid-19 outbreak, no proper measures had been taken to reach the peak, he said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

India recommends use of remdesivir for Covid-19

BSS, New Delhi

The Indian health ministry has recommended anti-viral drug remdesivir, under emergency use authorisation, to treat Covid-19 patients who are in moderate stage of the illness.

The country emerged as the fourth worst hit with 3.2 lakh cases of coronavirus infections.

The drug should be administered early to achieve meaningful results but use should be avoided in patients in severe state, the ministry said in its revised Clinical Management Protocols for Covid-19 released on Saturday.

The state government of Maharashtra, which plans to procure 13,000 vials of remdesivir from Bangladesh, will start clinical trials soon.

The state's coronavirus task force -- comprising doctors who look into clinical management and reports to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray -- had suggested its use to save lives.

"The drug will be provided to 18 medical colleges and the government is acquiring it from a Bangladeshi firm since Indian companies are not making it," the Hindustan Times reported on Friday.

"According to World Health

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Denied treatment by her hospital, young nurse dies

ZYMA ISLAM

A 22-year-old nurse of the capital's Ibn Sina Hospital died in front of its emergency unit allegedly after being refused admission yesterday.

Habiba Sultana's family members said the hospital authorities did not admit her because they failed to produce her coronavirus test report, which had somehow been lost.

A spokesperson of the hospital said that she was either dead or close to death by the time she was brought to the hospital, and that she would not have survived the routine procedures instituted for likely Covid-19 patients after the outbreak.

Sultana suffered a stroke on June 10 and was admitted to the National Institute of Neurosciences, said her aunt Rupa Moutushi.

Her condition deteriorated on Saturday night and the doctors told the family that she should be treated in an intensive care unit, but no bed was available at the institute's ICU, she added.

"We decided [to take her to] Ibn Sina since she worked there. She was tested for Covid-19 and the report was negative. So, we were confident that admission would not be a problem," Moutushi said.

But when the family reached Ibn Sina around 1:30am, they found that the Covid-19 test report was missing from the folder handed to them by the institute.

"It was handwritten on her file that the patient was 'Covid-19 negative'

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Habiba Sultana

GONOSHASTHAYA KIT BSMMU to submit test report in days

UNB, Dhaka

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University is going to submit within a day or two the results of performance trial of the coronavirus antibody testing kit developed by Gonoshasthaya Kendra.

"We've already conducted the performance trial. Also, we've almost completed processing data and prepare the final report," BSMMU Vice-Chancellor Prof Kanak Kanti Barua told UNB yesterday.

He said Prof Shahina Tabassum, head of the committee formed to conduct the performance study of the Covid-19 rapid testing kits developed by Gonoshasthaya, informed him that they would submit the report to the Directorate General of Drug Administration within a day or two.

He, however, said

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

DR ZAFRULLAH JOINS NASIM'S JANAZA -- PAGE 3



A Wendy's burns following a rally against racial inequality and the police shooting to death Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta Georgia yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

POLICE BRUTALITY IN US Another killing adds fuel to race protests

Atlanta police chief resigns

REUTERS, Austin

Protesters shut down a major highway in Atlanta on Saturday and burned down a Wendy's restaurant where a black man was shot dead by police as he tried to escape arrest, an incident likely to fuel more nationwide tensions over race and police tactics.

The restaurant was in flames for more than 45 minutes before fire crews arrived to extinguish the blaze, protected by a line of police officers, local television showed. By that time the building was reduced to charred rubble next to a gas station.

Other demonstrators marched onto Interstate-75, stopping traffic, before police used a line of squad cars to hold them back.

The city's police chief, Erika Shields, resigned earlier on Saturday over the shooting on Friday night of 27-year-old Rayshard Brooks, which was captured on video.

The police department has fired the officer who allegedly shot and killed Brooks, police spokesman Carlos Campos said late on Saturday. Another officer involved in the incident was put on administrative leave. Both of the officers were white.

Brooks' death followed weeks of demonstrations in major cities across the United States sparked by the death of George Floyd, an African American who died on May 25 after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes while detaining him.

The Atlanta officer fired after Friday's incident was identified by the police department as Garrett Rolfe, who joined the department in October 2013. The officer placed on administrative duty is Devin Bronsan, who was hired in September 2018.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1