

FAMILY PLANNING DISRUPTED
 Women reporting increased unintended pregnancies
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The Daily Star



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BANGLADESH UPDATE	3,141 New cases in 24hrs	87,520 Total cases	1,171 Deaths	18,730 Recoveries	GLOBAL UPDATE	433,576 Deaths	7,929,193 Total cases
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Mark 56 city zones red

Technical committee recommends; 17 in Dhaka north, 28 in south, 11 in Chattogram; DGHS to issue circular

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid rising coronavirus cases and fatalities, a technical committee of the government has primarily identified as red zones 45 areas in the capital. It has also identified 11 areas in Chattogram, the entire Gazipur district, and several upazilas in Narsingdi and Narayanganj.

Although the committee is yet to come up with an official list of the areas, people of different areas in the capital got confused and asked when they will be faced with a strict lockdown.

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

Of the areas in the capital, 17 were identified under Dhaka North City Corporation while the number under Dhaka South City Corporation is 28.

The Central Technical Group under the Directorate General of Health Services 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 detailing the names of the areas," Habibur Rahman Khan, additional secretary of health service division of the health ministry, told The Daily Star last night.

He, however, said making a list of red zone areas does not mean that the area will immediately be placed under lockdown.

"The public administration ministry will issue a gazette notification as to when the lockdown will be implemented so that the people in the area can take necessary preparation," he said.

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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 Road Transport and Bridges Ministry 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

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.

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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.

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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.

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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

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Denied treatment by own 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 they had somehow lost.

A spokesperson of the hospital said that she was either dead or close to death by the time they reached the hospital, and that she would not even have survived the routine procedures instituted for likely coronavirus 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.

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Habiba Sultana

Virtual courts refuse to hear journo Kajol's bail plea

3 police stations fail to show him arrested

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Around one and a half months into the detention of photojournalist Shafiqul Islam Kajol, his lawyer could not apply for bail yesterday as the three police stations in Dhaka -- where cases against him were filed -- were yet to "show him arrested".

Three separate virtual courts in Dhaka yesterday refused to hold hearings on Kajol's bail petitions as he was not shown arrested in the cases filed with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Kamrangirchar and Hazaribagh police stations under the Digital Security Act in March.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Shahinur refused the petition as the investigation officer of the case filed with Kamrangirchar Police Station did not submit any petition to show him arrested in the case.

Similarly, metropolitan

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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.

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