



The Daily Star



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BANGLADESH UPDATE 3,240 New cases in 24hrs | 1,08,775 Total cases | 1,425 Deaths | 43,995 Recoveries | **GLOBAL UPDATE** 454,889 Deaths | 8,527,672 Total cases

WHEREABOUTS OF THE INFECTED

DGHS has no clue about half of them

Officials can't explain reasons; experts fear zone-wise lockdown might not work due to this

MOUDDUD AHMED SUJAN

The Directorate General of Health Services has no data on the whereabouts of almost half the people who tested positive for coronavirus.

Health experts say the government's latest attempt at enforcing lockdowns on certain areas will be of little benefit unless the authorities know the exact location of the Covid-19 patients.

On June 16, the location information of 55,909 confirmed coronavirus cases across the country was available on the website of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR). But the number of total confirmed cases was 94,481, meaning at least 38,572 cases were missing from the list.

According to the World Health Organization's Bangladesh Covid-19 Situation Report-16, the geographical distribution of only 51,271 out of 90,619 reported Covid-19 cases was available as of June 8.

Contacted on Wednesday, Prof Abul Kalam Azad, director general of the DGHS told this correspondent to ask IEDCR Director Prof Meerjady Sabrina Flora about the matter.

She, however, was not available for comments yesterday.

On Thursday, the IEDCR took down from its website the area-specific information on confirmed cases in Dhaka.

According to the WHO report, the age and gender of only 24 percent of the reported cases and 58.9 percent of the reported Covid-19 deaths

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An elderly couple, both infected with the coronavirus, arrives at Dhaka Medical College Hospital as the man, a retired professor of English at the National University, began to suffer from breathing difficulties yesterday. The 72-year-old man has been admitted to the ICU.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Kamal Lohani no more

RASHIDUL HASAN

Noted personality Kamal Lohani, who tested positive for Covid-19, died at a city hospital yesterday morning. He was 86.

He was renowned for various reasons -- an Ekushey Padak winning journalist, a leading cultural activist, language movement veteran and also a noted freedom fighter.

From his early life till his last breath, he was associated with various historical and socio-cultural events of the country.

Kamal Lohani was undergoing treatment at the ICU of Sheikh Russel Gastro Liver Institute and Hospital in Mohakhali.

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Mashrafe tests positive for Covid-19

Nazmul Islam, Nafees Iqbal also contract the virus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza has tested positive for coronavirus, confirming the news through a Facebook post yesterday. The 36-year-old, who is the

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WB injects \$1b to help cushion pandemic blow

The funds to be used in programmes to bring back lost livelihoods, keep economy running

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh's efforts to feed the nation, create jobs and keep the ailing economy afloat amid the progressively ferocious pandemic received a shot in the arm after the World Bank yesterday approved \$1.05 billion.

"This is an extraordinary response to an unprecedented crisis," said Mercy Tembon, the WB's country director for Bangladesh and Bhutan, in a press release after the loan was sanctioned.

The coronavirus pandemic has deeply jeopardised many of Bangladesh's remarkable achievements in poverty reduction and shared prosperity, including

- \$500m to go to economic zones, software parks to help create 150,000 jobs
- \$295m to enhance govt's cloud computing capacity, create 1 lakh jobs, train 1 lakh youths
- \$250m to support govt's Covid-19 crisis response

livelihoods of its population, she added.

The massive fund injection from the Washington-based multilateral lender will hopefully reverse some of the damage caused by the rogue virus, which is showing no signs of abating.

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DIGITAL SECURITY ACT Freedom of expression under threat

Says TIB; condemns arrests of journalists, teachers, writers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing deep concern over the recent arrests and intimidation of journalists and citizens across the country, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) said the constitutional right to information and expression is under threat in the name of digital security.

In a press statement yesterday, TIB demanded immediate

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MASK MESS-UP

Probe body goes soft

Recommends no action against supplier despite finding it at fault

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

No action against the supplier has been recommended following a government probe into the alleged supply of regular masks packaged as N95 ones to various hospitals.

The controversy over the mask supply came to the fore in early April when health professionals in various hospitals were questioning the quality of respirators, with some resorting to social media to vent their frustration.

With the complaints over poor-quality respirators surfacing, the Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD), the government body that sources medical supplies, withdrew the masks received from JMI Hospital Requisite MFG Ltd.

It also served a show-cause notice to the company.

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'MP Shahid linked to 2 lawmakers'

Kuwaiti paper reports STAR REPORT

New information and evidence of wrongdoings were piling up against Laxmipur MP Mohammad Shahid Islam, charged with human trafficking and money laundering in Kuwait, media reported.

Kuwaiti media have accused the MP of trading visas and siphoning off money to the US for laundering.

Sources close to the investigation told Kuwait's Al Qabas newspaper that the suspect is a member of

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A man squeezes through a bamboo fence placed there to enforce a lockdown in the port city's Uttar Kattali area as many people there tested positive for coronavirus. Sadly, a policeman, who is supposed to watch over people's movement, was standing nonchalantly when the photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

NON-MPO TEACHERS Tk 5k grant for each of them likely

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to provide financial assistance to over two lakh non-government school and college teachers and staffers, who are outside the purview of the Monthly Pay Order (MPO) scheme, aiming to minimise their financial hardship caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

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'We can't leave the battlefield'

Overburdened, MMCH staffers struggle to treat rising patient flow as 215 of them tested coronavirus positive

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH) is struggling to provide services to an increasing number of patients, including those with Covid-19, since the easing of the countrywide shutdown on May 31.

The total number of coronavirus cases in Mymensingh district was 564 as of June 1. Within just two weeks, by June 19, the number of cases jumped to 1,208 in Mymensingh while that of Jamalpur, Netrokona and Sherpur were 440, 366 and 192, respectively.

The number of patients seeking treatment for other illnesses at the hospital are also increasing, said doctors.

A month ago, some 500 admitted patients would be present at the regular wards of MMCH on any given day; now the number is about 1,000, said Laxmi Narayan Majumder, deputy director of the hospital.

He said patients, who could not reach the hospital during the shutdown, have started coming in from all over the division as public transport has become available.

While MMCH already has a shortage of doctors, the situation turned worse as 215

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In Loving Memory



We deeply mourn the passing of

Mr. Waliur Rahman Bhuiyan, OBE

Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajjun

He served as the Director of the Board of ACI Limited since 2007. He has had an illustrious career as the Managing Director of Linde Bangladesh Limited (Previous, BOC Bangladesh Limited) from 1998 to 2011.

He is survived by his wife and two children.

