

## DISRUPTED HEALTHCARE SERVICES

28,000 kids can die in 6 months  
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Your Right to Know

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BANGLADESH  
UPDATE



**3,412**  
New cases in 24hrs



**1,19,198**  
Total cases



**1,545**  
Deaths



**47,635**  
Recoveries

GLOBAL  
UPDATE



**475,679**  
Deaths



**9,248,365**  
Total cases

DENIAL OF TREATMENT

## Hospitals defy govt warnings

*Patients suffer as many hospitals send them away for failing to produce Covid test reports*

WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

For 50-year-old Md Mostafa and his wife, last weekend was nothing short of a nightmare. He shuttled from one hospital to another in the capital with his ailing wife Sathi Khanam, a kidney patient, only to be turned away.

Sathi used to get dialysis done at the Kidney Foundation Hospital in Mirpur-2. But the hospital denied her treatment when they went there on Friday. It asked for her Covid-19 test report as a precondition for getting treatment.

The couple rushed to Kurmitola General Hospital and then to Mugda General Hospital with the hope of either getting tested or treatment but all to no avail.

They then went to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where they were told that only the patients admitted there could have their tests done.

"I was in utter distress as I heard most of the private hospitals are not treating patients amid the crisis. Then I came to know about a clinic in Dhanmondi. I took her there and finally got her dialysis done," said Mostafa, who used to work at a launch on the Dhaka-Barishal route.

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Apparently untreated effluent from tanneries at Savar Tannery Industrial Estate flows into the Dhaleshwari river. The estate has been using its central effluent treatment plant on trial for almost two years and is yet to put it into regular service. The photo was taken in Savar's Hemayetpur area yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Freedom came thru' sacrifices of AL: Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the country's independence is an achievement that came through the sacrifices and endurance of Awami League.

"Today we have got an independent country. We have earned dignity as an independent nation. This is our biggest achievement," she told Jatiya Sangsad during an unscheduled discussion on the 71st founding anniversary of Awami League.

She said the country's first independent government had spearheaded the Liberation War of 1971 and finally brought the victory.

The PM, however, regretted that when Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was taking the war-torn country forward, he was brutally assassinated due to the conspiracy of the

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## Who is the opposition anyway?

JP MP seeks speaker's ruling  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criticising BNP MP Harunur Rashid for his claim that his party is the main opposition, Jatiya Party lawmaker Mashiur Rahman Ranga yesterday requested the Deputy Speaker to give a ruling in parliament clarifying who is the opposition.

Ranga, the opposition chief whip, was speaking in parliament during the general discussion on the

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## Infection control ignored

*Most hospitals don't follow WHO guidelines amid lack of dedicated manpower*

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

In the absence of people dedicated to prevent and control infections at hospitals, healthcare-associated infections are rising across the country, affecting the general populace and healthcare professionals alike.

Although the World Health Organization has a guideline for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), only a handful of private hospitals follow it.

Many lives could have been saved during the Covid-19 pandemic if the IPC protocols

were implemented at the facilities, experts believe.

IPC is a scientific approach to prevent harm caused by infection to patients and healthcare workers, according to WHO.

It is crucial in infectious disease management at the facilities and implementing this would require employees, including doctors and nurses, dedicated to looking after the aspects of infection prevention from every angle.

The necessity of infection prevention

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## Curve shows no sign of dropping off

*3,412 more test positive for Covid-19; 43 die*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh reported 43 Covid-19 deaths, 38 males and five females, in the past 24 hours till 2:30pm yesterday, raising the death toll to 1,545 in the country.

Besides, 3,412 people tested positive for coronavirus in those 24 hours, reported authorities. With the latest update, the total number of Covid-19 cases stood at 119,198.

According to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control, and Research (IEDCR) website, males constituted 77 percent deaths and 71 percent infections in the country.

More than 50 percent of the total infected were aged between 21 to 40 years, reported IEDCR, adding that the death rate was 65 percent higher among patients older than 50 years of age.

Prof Nasima Sultana, additional director general of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), yesterday said, "We urge people to maintain hygiene and social [physical] distancing to stay safe."

A total of 16,292 samples were tested in 65 labs across the country in those 24 hours, she said.

The positive rate was 20.94 percent yesterday. It was 22.37 percent the day before.

In terms of the total infection, the death

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## Experts ring alarm over cattle markets

*Clerics call for tweak in Eid-ul-Azha traditions to avoid virus risks*

RASHIDUL HASAN and HELEMIUL ALAM

The country may face an acceleration in the already growing number of Covid-19 cases if the government fails to ensure the maintenance of health guidelines in cattle markets across the country ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, public health experts warned.

Slaughtering animals in open spaces during the festival may also increase the risk of infection, they said. Meanwhile, Islamic clerics have urged a change in festival traditions to help curb further spread of the virus.

Several scholars from the Islamic Foundation and National Mosque Baitul Mukarram opined that it would be better for people to avoid the traditional rituals over animal sacrifice due to the pandemic.

They suggested following the Saudi Arabian system, in which the government centrally arranges the animals and the slaughter on behalf of people who just deposit money in a bank to pay for the whole process.

Citing examples of different countries, including Pakistan, the clerics said the government may also set up slaughterhouses in each locality instead of allowing slaughter at individual homes to avoid the risk of spreading the deadly virus.


Mufti Mizanur Rahman, senior Imam of Baitul Mukarram, told The Daily Star that the government, if possible, could arrange a central system for animal sacrifice this year as individual arrangements can increase the risk of infection.

Mufti Waliur Rahman Khan, a scholar of the Islamic Foundation, told this correspondent, "From the point of Islam and Shariah, there is no bar for the government to arrange a central system for slaughtering animals."


Healthcare experts feared dire consequences if the government allows makeshift cattle markets to operate in Dhaka and other big cities.

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SAUDI MAKES HAJJ DECISION

## No pilgrims from abroad allowed

*Biman, hajj agencies face huge loss; pilgrims already registered to get their deposits refunded*

RASHIDUL HASAN

Private hajj agencies and Biman are set to incur a huge financial loss as the Saudi government has decided not to allow anyone from abroad to perform hajj this year amid fears over coronavirus pandemic.

If the decision is implemented, around 1,400 members of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (Haab) will be deprived of around Tk 5,500 crore, and Biman Bangladesh Airlines Tk 800 crore, said officials concerned.

The Saudi government's decision not to allow people from other countries, including Bangladesh, to perform hajj came as a blow to the private hajj agencies as they will not be able to earn Tk 5,500 crore by sending pilgrims to Saudi Arabia, Haab President M Shahadat Hossain Taslim told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said around 1.30 lakh Bangladeshis attended hajj last year and only 7,000 of them were sent by the religious affairs ministry. "Around 1.23 lakh hajis performed hajj through private agencies."

This year, 1,37,198 Bangladeshis were scheduled to perform hajj, which is likely to be held on July 31, depending on the sighting of the moon.

Of them, 17,198 were scheduled to perform hajj under government management, and the rest under private management, said Taslim.

Not only hajj agencies, several lakh people and many

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## Jamuna Bank Remembers Its Sponsor Director on his 45<sup>th</sup> Birthday



**Anindya Majumder (Bappu)**  
24 June 1975 – 16 January 2007

On his 45<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary, we honour and cherish the memory of **Anindya Majumder (Bappu)**, a loving son, a doting brother, a devoted friend, and a dedicated professional. He had been a sponsor director of Jamuna Bank Ltd. and a director at New Generation Construction Co. Ltd.

**We miss him dearly everyday,  
Family, Friends and Colleagues**