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DISRUPTED HEALTHCARE SERVICES

# 28,000 kids can die in 6 months

Says Unicef about Bangladesh's worst-case scenario

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lives of about 4.59 lakh children and mothers of South Asian countries are in danger as they are being deprived of vital health services due to the Covid-19 pandemic, said a UNICEF report.

Quoting a recent research study of Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the UN agency yesterday in a press release said in a worst-case scenario, Bangladesh could see the additional deaths of 28,000 children in the next six months due to the disruption in immunisation, nutrition and other vital health services.

The report titled 'Lives Upended' has described how coronavirus and the subsequent measures taken to curb it are having disastrous immediate and longer-term consequences for 600 million children in the South Asia.

According to the report, the transport crisis during the closure and fear of transmission at health centres are major reasons behind the falling immunisation coverage in Bangladesh.

In April, Bangladesh reported that the number of children receiving routine vaccinations dropped by about 49 percent compared to the previous month.

"Right across South Asia, the Covid-19 pandemic is wreaking havoc with public health services. And the situation is likely to get worse," read the report.

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A police vehicle unable to move due to crowds on a road in Mitford hospital area in Old Dhaka. Ironically, the road is lined with shops selling hygiene products for Covid-19 -- masks, gloves, sanitizer. To buy these products, people throng the road every day from morning to evening, completely ignoring social distancing guidelines.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Cases soar in large countries

Says WHO's top emergencies expert

REUTERS, Geneva

Coronavirus cases are soaring in several major countries at the same time, with "worrying increases" in Latin America, especially Brazil, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday.

"Certainly the numbers are increasing because the epidemic is developing in a number of populous countries at the same time and across the whole world," WHO's top emergencies expert, Mike Ryan, told an online briefing.

"Some of that increase may be attributed to increased testing ... And certainly countries like India are testing more. But we do not believe that this is a testing phenomenon."

Global cases surpassed 9 million on Monday, with the United States, China and other hard-hit countries also reporting new outbreaks, according to a Reuters tally.

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## Situation at Rohingya camps can worsen

UN, aid agencies warn about monsoon arriving amid Covid-19

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN and other aid agencies are concerned that the monsoon will exacerbate the already dire situation in the Rohingya camps where almost 860,000 refugees live in crammed accommodations, many of which are located in hazardous terrain.

Drinking water sources in the camps get contaminated during the monsoon while the risk of spreading water-borne diseases increases, they said, adding that the coronavirus might further aggravate the situation this year.

The humanitarian community has faced additional challenges in implementing monsoon preparedness activities this year due to the Covid-19 outbreak in the camps, said a statement issued yesterday by the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), a coordinating body of the UN, NGOs and the government which provides humanitarian assistance to Rohingyas.

It said the reduced presence aid workers due to Covid-19 pandemic has limited their abilities to focus on various repair works.

Despite the challenges, the statement said, the aid agencies and the government were scaling up the preparedness for critical disaster risk reduction and resilience building, along with Covid-19 response.

ISCG partners and some 3,000

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### FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

## Britain's support for Bangladesh's UN candidacy



Bangabandhu addressing a mammoth gathering in Noakhali on June 22, 1972.

June 24, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

### BRITAIN-BANGLADESH JOINT STATEMENT

In a joint statement issued today by the foreign ministers of Britain and Bangladesh, it is said that Britain will support Bangladesh's candidacy at the UN. Britain also assures Bangladesh of providing support in its reconstruction effort, adds the statement. The country will allocate an additional 30 million pounds for Bangladesh. British Foreign Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home praises Bangladesh's decision to join the Commonwealth. Bangladesh's Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad reiterates the country's policy of non-alignment and says that Bangladesh will actively promote peace and stability in South Asia as well as in the world, says the statement.

Earlier in a meeting with President Abu Sayeed Chowdhury, the British foreign minister assures of his country's support to bring

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### HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## Investigate MP Shahid for links

TIB asks JS, ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has urged the Anti-Corruption Commission and parliament to conduct an immediate and effective investigation into the involvement of Laxmipur lawmaker Mohammad Shahid Islam in human trafficking and money laundering.

It also called for strong legal action in this regard to protect the prestige of the parliament.

The anti-graft watchdog came up with the demands in a press release issued yesterday.

TIB termed Shahid's involvement in such illegal activities a shameful instance of criminalisation in the politics of Bangladesh.

The organisation also claimed that they didn't find any credible information which indicates that the government, the parliament, the ACC, financial intelligence unit, national board of revenue

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## Smelly durian causes evacuation in Germany



CNN ONLINE

Twelve German postal workers received medical treatment and dozens more were evacuated due to a pungent suspect package -- which turned out to be a shipment of the notoriously smelly durian fruit.

Police, firefighters and emergency services were called to a post office in Germany's Bavarian town of Schweinfurt on Saturday after staff noticed the smell coming from a package.

"Due to the unknown content, it was initially unclear whether the suspect package posed a greater risk," a statement from Schweinfurt police department explained.

The entire building was evacuated, with around 60 employees forced to leave, before the package was carefully examined.

It turned out to contain four Thai durian fruits, which a 50-year-old resident of the town had sent home from a friend in Nuremberg.

The spiky fruit's flavour and creamy texture has

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### COVID-19 RESPONSE

## BNP MP blasts health minister in JS

Demands his removal; walks out

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP MP Harunur Rashid yesterday demanded removal of Health Minister Zahid Maleque and appointment of competent and committed people in key posts of the ministry to tackle the pandemic.

The lawmaker from Chapainawabganj-3 made the demands after taking part in the general discussion on the proposed budget for fiscal 2020-21 in parliament.

He said, "The Directorate General of Health Services has become a crippled

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### PRAYER TIMING JUNE 24

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-52 8-17  
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## First wave far from over

Warn US officials as half of the states see coronavirus surge

AGENCIES

More than half of all US states saw a rise in new coronavirus infections, with some breaking daily records while Germany announced a new lockdown after an outbreak of infections at a slaughterhouse.

Amid fears of a second wave of cases and deaths, US health officials warned that the first wave is far from over.

"I think that wherever there's wood to burn, this fire's going to burn -- and right now we have a lot of susceptible people," Michael Osterholm, head of the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy, told CNN on Monday.

"I don't think we're going to see one, two and three waves. I think we're going to just see one very, very difficult forest fire of cases."

According to data from John Hopkins University, 29 states reported an increase in their seven-day average of new cases.

Most of the outbreaks are in Georgia, Florida and Texas. Young people are especially at risk as Florida governor Ron DeSantis warned cases shifted in "a radical direction" toward people under 30.

Saudi Arabia said yesterday it will dramatically scale back the hajj pilgrimage to Islam's holiest sites next month

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## Jobs in Malaysia Bangladeshis' prospects dashed

KL won't hire foreign workers in 2020

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Malaysia is not going to recruit any foreign workers until the end of the year as it has decided to prioritise jobs for locals amid the economic slowdown caused by the global coronavirus pandemic.

The decision, announced on Monday, has dealt a blow to Bangladeshis' hopes of landing jobs in Malaysia in the near future.

Malaysia, which is home to some eight lakh Bangladeshi migrants, suspended recruitment from Bangladesh in September 2018 following allegations of a syndicate that used to charge Bangladeshi workers up to Tk 400,000 each for jobs in Malaysia.

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তেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (স্রেডা)

বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ

জ্বালানি দক্ষ যন্ত্রপাতি স্থাপনে, 8% হারে ঋণ গ্রহণ করুন।

জ্বালানি সাশ্রয়ের মাধ্যমে নিজে লাভবান হউন এবং দেশকে উপকৃত করুন।

সাশ্রয়ে জ্বালানি, সমৃদ্ধ আগামী

SREDA Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority

"জ্বালানি দক্ষতা ও সংরক্ষণ বৃদ্ধি কার্যক্রমে অর্থায়ন প্রকল্প"