

BITID begins collection of test samples

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases (BITID) in Chattogram yesterday started collecting samples of possible coronavirus patients for testing.

BITID took two samples on the first day, said microbiologist Dr Shakil Ahmed, who received training on Covid-19 testing from Dhaka recently.

He said they were ready to conduct 20 tests a day, and would do more if needed. "We will test patients from three categories -- those who have symptoms of Covid-19, people who came back from abroad and those who had exposure to Covid-19 positive patients," he added.

Prof Dr MA Hasan, director of BITID, told The Daily Star that they received the kits yesterday morning. One microbiologist and two technologists of BITID were trained in Dhaka to on how to test Covid-19 cases last week.

BITID in coordination with Chattogram divisional commissioner's office will also provide a hotline number for people to communicate.

Around 1,000 people have been asked to be in quarantine in Chattogram while police locked down a flat and a building in New Chandaon residential area and Bakala after a Covid-19 patient was found visiting those.

COVID-19 TREATMENT IN CTG ICU facilities a major concern

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN and DWAIKYAN BARUA, Ctg

Ensuring Intensive Care Unit (ICU) facilities for patients remains a major challenge to tackle coronavirus in Chattogram, according to the authorities concerned.

Meanwhile, the three designated hospitals for providing treatment and isolation for Covid-19 patients have no ICU facilities, which continues to raise concerns amid fear of the virus spreading.

Since the confirmation of Covid-19 patients in the country, the district administration and civil surgeon's office in Chattogram have been trying to ensure such facilities for patients.

According to sources at civil surgeon's office, there is no official confirmation of any coronavirus patient in Chattogram and no one has been taken to any official isolation unit yet.

However, though around 10 beds at ICU have been designated for coronavirus patients at Chattogram Medical College Hospital, the hospital authorities have expressed unwillingness to admit such patients fearing risk of infection -- since over 3,000 patients on an average take treatment every day at the lone tertiary-level hospital of the region.

Apart from CMCH, there is also confusion over the actual number of ICU beds in private hospitals in the port city. Even the civil surgeon's office could not provide information in this regard.

Considering the condition, a coordination meeting was held at the divisional commissioner's office on Tuesday, where high officials of Bangladesh Army, Navy, DGHS and district administration were present.

After the meeting, Deputy Commissioner of Chattogram Elias Hossain said: "At present we have no cases of isolation in Chattogram and 973 people are in home quarantine."

"We have asked private hospitals that have ICU facilities, to dedicate at least two ICU beds for coronavirus patients and are working to assign a private hospital solely to tackle coronavirus," said the DC.

"Coronavirus-afflicted patients will have to bear the cost of staying at ICU in private hospitals," he mentioned.

In reply to another question, the DC said, "We have kept 10 ambulances for Covid-19 patients. If anyone is found to have symptoms, they will be taken to designated isolation units."

CMCH Director Brig Gen Mohsen Uddin Ahmed said, "Around 3,500 patients are given treatment at CMCH daily. We have opened a flu corner at the hospital; if a person with coronavirus-like symptoms comes to the hospital, we will

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With a megaphone and disinfectant spray in his hands, a cultural activist stands at Sylhet city's Rikabibazar and advises residents on how to stay safe amid the outbreak. Many political and cultural groups are on a mission to raise awareness. This photo was taken on Tuesday.

Shortage of testing kits worry Barishal doctors

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Barishal

An inadequate supply of testing kits to detect the novel coronavirus across Barishal division has become a headache for doctors in the region.

As resources for proper diagnosis are unavailable, doctors are opting to send patients to isolation wards from observing symptoms and their personal suspicion alone.

While it is usual for patients with fever complaints to throng hospitals and diagnostic centres every day, their treatment has become a difficult issue to navigate during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Without proper diagnosis, doctors just cannot be sure if the patients are walking in with simple fever or cough, or are carrying the virus, doctors from different hospitals and clinics across the division told this correspondent.

"It is of course a great difficulty for us to diagnose patients without conducting appropriate tests. Right now, we are

informing IEDCR in Dhaka every time there is need for a test, which is time-consuming and also risky," said Dr Basu Deb Das, the divisional director (DD) of health and family planning of Barishal.

"Without testing we cannot refer a patient to isolation ward, but now we have to do just that. It is hazardous for the patient if they turn out to be not affected by the virus," said Doctor Mahabubur Rahman, emergency medical officer of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) in Barishal.

Barishal's location puts it under high risk of coronavirus spread. Adjacent district Madaripur is already affected, and many patients come to take treatment to the city's hospitals from Madaripur every day, said health officials.

"Right now we have 78 patients in my (SBMCH's) isolation ward. Most of them are suffering from fever. Many of them have reported dry cough and respiratory problems, but we don't know for sure

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Elderly kidney patient dies in Sylhet after he was 'denied treatment'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A 65-year-old man died on Tuesday night in Sylhet after allegedly being denied treatment at hospitals due to the fear of coronavirus.

The deceased, Gias Uddin, a resident of Housing Estate in the city, was suffering from kidney complexities for years and was having dialysis regularly, said family members.

They alleged that Gias died with respiratory problems at home after being denied treatment at several hospitals in the area as his son returned from the UK recently and was staying in home quarantine. The authorities also told the family members to remain cautious, they added.

Rezaul Hasan Koyes Ludhi, councillor of ward-4 and a neighbour of the deceased, said, "Gias was undergoing treatment at Kidney Foundation in Sylhet. But they did not want to treat him as his son returned from the UK recently." His son and daughter-in-law had gone back to England a couple of days back, he added.

"Other hospitals or clinics also denied treating him in fear of coronavirus. He died without proper treatment and it must be protested, otherwise, many people will die without treatment," the councillor said.

Gias was buried at the graveyard of the shrine of Hazrat Manik Pir the same night after the deputy commissioner

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Bangladesh Land Port Authority

T.C.B Bhaban (5th Floor)

Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

www.bsbk.gov.bd

Memo No. 18.15.0000.020.07.080.19-295

Dated: 24.03.2020

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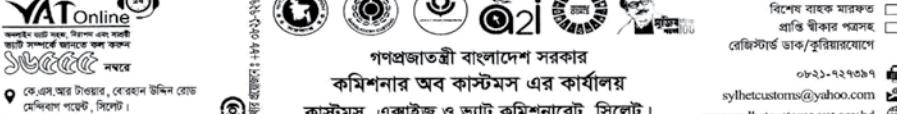
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Pradosh Kanti Das

Director (Admin)

Phone: 55013831

GD-599



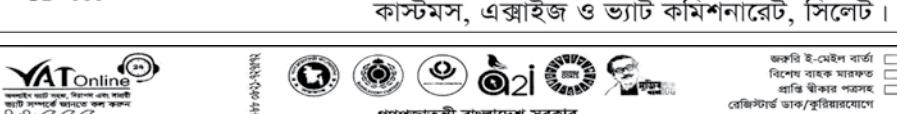
এ দণ্ডের জন্য ২ (দুই) টি ব্যাপেজে স্ক্যানিং মেশিন (ডুয়াল ভিউ) ও ০১ (এক) টি কার্ডে/ল্যাপটপ স্ক্যানিং মেশিন (ডুয়াল ভিউ) অন্যের নিমিত্ত 'দৈনিক বাংলাদেশ প্রতিদিন' ও দৈনিক 'দি ডেইলি স্টার' পত্রিকায় বিগত ১২/০৩/২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখে দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশিত হয়। সাম্প্রতিক সময়ে বহির্বিশ্বের পাশাপাশি বাংলাদেশেও করোনা ভাইরাস (কোভিড-১৯) এর সংক্রমণের কারণে গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার আগামী ২৬/০৩/২০২০ খ্রিঃ হতে ০৮/০৪/২০২০ পর্যন্ত সাধারণ ছুটি ঘোষনা করেন। এ প্রেক্ষিতে ২৯/০৩/২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখের পরিবর্তে আগামী ০৭/০৪/২০২০ খ্�রিঃ তারিখ বিকাল ৪:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত শিডিউল বিভ্রান্ত করা হবে ও ০২/০৪/২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখের পরিবর্তে আগামী ১২/০৪/২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখ সকাল ১১:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দাখিল করা যাবে এবং আগামী ১২/০৪/২০২০ খ্রিঃ তারিখ সকাল ১১:৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্র উন্মুক্ত করা হবে।

গোলাম মোঃ মুনীর

কমিশনার (চৃঃ দাঃ)

কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, সিলেট।

GD- 605



দরপত্র দাখিল ও উন্মুক্তকরণের সময় বৃক্ষি সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও ভ্যাট কমিশনারেট, সিলেট।

GD- 604



Road crashes kill 9

STAR REPORT

Nine people were killed in separate road accidents across the country yesterday, report our correspondents and UNB.

In Bandarban, a member of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) was killed and four other BGB personnel were injured at Koshai Para area in Bandarban-Keranibhat road.

Deceased Md Al Amin (40) was a member of BGB 45 Battalion, said Lt Col Masud Imran, director of BGB Baitul Izzat Hospital at Satkania in Chattogram.

The injured are: Lance Nayek Saiful Islam, Md Asaduzzaman, Jamirul Islam, and Md Eklas, he said.

They were coming to Bandarban from Baitul Izzat hospital by a BRTC truck when it turned over, said Shahidul Islam, OC of Bandarban Sadar Police Station.

The injured were rushed to Baitul Izzat hospital, where doctors declared Al Amin dead, said Masud Imran.

In Dinajpur, a woman and her daughter-in-law were killed and two others injured when a bus hit an auto-rickshaw, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

The deceased were identified as Aliman Begum (70) and Rehana Begum (32). Following the accident, the bus driver managed to drive off with his vehicle, police said.

In Mymensingh, two people on a pickup van were killed and two others injured at Darirampur area on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Trishal upazila.

One of the victims was identified as Abdul Jalil (30).

Officer-in-Charge of Trishal Police Station Azizur Rahman Jalil was killed on the spot, and the three injured were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH), where doctors declared another injured dead.

The bodies were sent to MMCH morgue for autopsy.

Police seized the van and a case was lodged.

In Rajshahi, a head-on collision between a bus and a truck on Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway at Bijoynagar left two people dead and 15 injured, reports UNB.

The deceased are Matiur Rahman (35) and Tutul (36).

Abdul Bari, OC of Premtali Police Camp, said bus turned turtle after the collision, leaving the duo dead on spot. All 15 injured were passengers of the bus.

In Kushtia, two people were killed when a picnic bus hit a truck on Kushtia-Ishwardi highway in Mirpur. The deceased are truck driver Nabil Hossain (38) and his assistant Ibrahim, UNB quoted police as saying.</p