



Cases hit 2m amid chaos

Trump attack on WHO rocks global efforts of unity against coronavirus

AGENCIES

Global efforts to join forces against the coronavirus pandemic faltered yesterday after Donald Trump halted funding for the World Health Organization as number of infected people globally soared past two million mark.

The US president's shock move came as a patchwork of countries experiment with loosening lockdown measures, ushering the planet into a new and uncertain phase of a pandemic that has killed more than 130,000 people worldwide.

In Europe, Denmark became the first country on the badly-hit continent to start reopening schools, while Finland lifted a travel blockade on the Helsinki region.

Italy and Spain have also allowed some businesses to restart after signs both are finally flattening the curve following weeks of punishing death tolls.

But as leaders launch into delicate debates of how to jump-start economies without triggering new waves of infection, Trump rattled efforts at global solidarity by ramping up his blame-game with the WHO, the UN's health agency.

The president ordered the US to freeze funding pending a review into the WHO's role in "severely mismanaging and covering up the spread of

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Workers of Radiance Fashion Ltd blocked a road in Ashulia's Khejur Bagan area demanding the last month's salary. In desperation, they ignore social distancing which is crucial in the fight against coronavirus. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

STAY HOME, STAY WELL

Beware of dengue

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Due to the continued shutdown, people are staying home to contain the spread of the highly contagious and the deadly coronavirus.

Staying inside the home is safe but due to the season now, there is a chance of getting infected with dengue. It is worth noting that Aedes mosquitoes tend to bite during the day.

"Staying inside the house means the chance of dengue infection is high," Jahidur Rahman, assistant professor at Virology at Shahid Suhrawardy Medical College, told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the chances of dengue infection rises if mosquito prevention step is not taken in the house.

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Many hotels clueless about govt initiative

Accommodation for docs

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The Directorate General of Health Services on Sunday wrote to the health and family welfare ministry recommending names of 20 city hotels for accommodating doctors and nurses dealing with Covid-19 patients.

This move was well appreciated by the healthcare professionals when it was reported in the media on Tuesday.

But it was later found many of the hotels were yet to be ready to host the front-line heroes.

This correspondent talked to the authorities of five hotels out of the 20.

Three of them said they did not know anything and no one discussed the issue with them.

The authorities of two other hotels said the government talked to them, but the discussion was still at initial stages. It was tough to accept the government decision as safety and security issues were of concern.

On Tuesday, various media reported that the government took an initiative to provide accommodation of doctors,

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Indo-Bangla friendship is based on gigantic sacrifice



Bangabandhu inspecting a guard of honour of Nazrul Sena at Mymensingh Circuit House Maidan on April 4, 1972.

April 15 & 16, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU GREETES INDO-BANGLA FRIENDSHIP FAIR

In a letter to the organising committee of Indo-Bangla Friendship Fair, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman recalls with gratitude the great help and assistance advanced by the people and the government of India, particularly Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, to the people of Bangladesh during the grim period of the Liberation War. The

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Rains have washed away a makeshift vegetable market on Altafunnesa playground in Bogura, causing over 190 traders to incur huge losses. The market was shifted there on Sunday to ensure social distancing. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Five die after showing Covid-19 symptoms

STAR REPORT

At least five persons died of Covid-19-like symptoms in five districts since Tuesday.

Health officials concerned collected their samples for testing, while local administration locked down houses of the deceased and in adjoining areas.

In Faridpur, an 18-year-old youth died of fever, cold and respiratory problems at his home in a village under Chandra union of Bhanga upazila early yesterday. Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Rokibul Islam said that when informed a seven-member team collected his samples and locked down the

house.

In Bandarban, a 40-year-old man died with Covid-19-like symptoms in Lama upazila yesterday morning.

After being informed by locals, his swab sample was collected and will be sent to Bangladesh Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases (BITID) in Chattogram for Covid-19 test, said Dr. Mohammadul Hoque, upazila health and family planning officer. He added that samples of the deceased's wife and brother were also collected for testing.

In Gopalganj, a 50-year-old woman

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Homegrown test kit to seek approval next week

Gonoshasthaya Kendra irons out issues

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The technical glitches that had created problems in the production of Covid-19 testing kits at the Gonoshasthaya Kendra pharmaceutical factory in Savar have been addressed, and the healthcare organisation plans to hand over the kits to the government for approval for mass production by April 23.

Gonoshasthaya Kendra was earlier scheduled to hand over the kits to the Directorate General of Drug Administration on April 11, but it was not possible due to technical glitches in the machine caused by high electric voltage.

"We have fine-tuned the machine now. Besides, the

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PRAYER TIMING APRIL 16

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:45 6:24 7:45
JAMAAT 5:10 1:15 5:00 6:28 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Last month's pay still due

RMG workers protest in Savar, Ashulia, Gazipur

STAR REPORT

Garment workers continued demonstrating on the streets for the fourth consecutive day yesterday demanding last month's pay.

Hundreds of them defied social distancing orders as they protested near their factories in the capital, Savar, Ashulia, and Gazipur.

They also demanded that the workers laid off over the last one week

be rehired.

The Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) on Tuesday said the government will sue factory owners who fail to pay the workers by today.

DIFE Inspector General Shibnath Roy ordered officials to make a list of companies that fail to meet the deadline. The list will be sent by April 20 to the labour ministry which will take legal action.

Trade licences of these factories may not be renewed, Roy warned in a statement.

More than 500 workers of Radiance Fashions Ltd, ZA Apparel Ltd and Tajir Apparels Ltd demonstrated in Khejurbagan area of Ashulia demanding their wage arrears.

At nearby Jamgorah, almost 194 workers of Fashion Forum who got fired yesterday morning staged

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করোনাভাইরাস পরীক্ষা বিষয়ে অবহিতকরণ:

জনগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সরকার করোনাভাইরাস সনাক্তের জন্য পিসিআর পরীক্ষার সংখ্যা দ্রুততার সাথে বৃদ্ধি করছে।

সারাদেশ থেকেই গ্রাম-শহর নির্বিশেষে সমবেতজনক ব্যক্তিদের নিকট থেকে নমুনা সংগ্রহ করা হচ্ছে এবং এর পরিধি আরও বিস্তৃত করা হচ্ছে।

সংগৃহীত নমুনাগুলো বর্তমানে নীচের ১৭টি কেন্দ্রে বিনামূল্যে পরীক্ষা করা হচ্ছে:

১। আইসিটিসিআর	৭। আইসিএল (অলাভজনক)	১৩। শের-ই-বাংলা মেডিকেল কলেজ, বরিশাল
২। এনপিএমএল-আইপিএইচ	৮। খুলনা মেডিকেল কলেজ	১৪। কক্সবাজার মেডিকেল কলেজ
৩। বিএসএমএমইউ	৯। সিলেট এমএলি ওসমানী মেডিকেল কলেজ	১৫। ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অফ ল্যাবরেটরি মেডিসিন এন্ড রেফারেন্স সেবাস
৪। চাইল্ড হেলথ রিসার্চ ফাউন্ডেশন (চাক্রা শিশু হাসপাতাল)	১০। ময়মনসিংহ মেডিকেল কলেজ	১৬। আমর্ত ফোর্সেস ইনস্টিটিউট অব প্যাথলজি
৫। ঢাকা মেডিকেল কলেজ	১১। রাজশাহী মেডিকেল কলেজ	১৭। আইসিটিসিআরবি
৬। বাংলাদেশ ইনস্টিটিউট অফ ট্রপিক্যাল এন্ড ইনফেকশাস ডিজিজেস, ঐটিএম	১২। রংপুর মেডিকেল কলেজ	

আগামী কয়েকদিনের মধ্যে নিম্নোক্ত আরও ১১টি কেন্দ্রে নমুনা পরীক্ষা শুরু হবে:

১। কুষ্টিয়া মেডিকেল হাসপাতাল	৫। শের বাসেল ন্যাশনালিটির ইনস্টিটিউট	৯। কুষ্টিয়া মেডিকেল কলেজ
২। সার নসিফুল্লাহ মেডিকেল কলেজ	৬। চট্টগ্রাম মেডিকেল কলেজ	১০। এম আব্দুর রহিম মেডিকেল কলেজ, শিবপুর
৩। শহীদ সোহরাওয়ার্দী মেডিকেল কলেজ	৭। কুমিল্লা মেডিকেল কলেজ	১১। শহীদ জিয়াউর রহমান মেডিকেল কলেজ, বগুড়া
৪। খুলনা মেডিকেল কলেজ	৮। বরিশাল মেডিকেল কলেজ	

পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রের সংখ্যা অব্যাহতভাবে বৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্যে বিভিন্ন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এবং প্রিন্সিপাল ও কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়ের উপযুক্ত পিসিআর গবেষণাগারগুলো ব্যবহার করা হবে।

এ ছাড়া নির্দিষ্ট শর্ত সাপেক্ষে জনগণকে বেসরকারী হাসপাতাল ও প্রতিষ্ঠানের উপযুক্ত পিসিআর ল্যাবরেটরীগুলোতেও এই নোটিশের আওতায় আনার সিদ্ধান্ত নেয়া হয়েছে। অতীত পিসিআর ল্যাবরেটরীগুলো ০১০১০৭৯১১৪৯ নম্বর সেন্স করুন।

করোনা হোকাকোয় মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশে সরকার সব সময়ই জনগণের পাশে রয়েছে।

■ কাজেই আতঙ্কিত হবেন না ■ মনোবল হারাবেন না, পৈয়োধর সাথে সতর্ক থাকুন ■ ঘরেই থাকুন, সুস্থ থাকুন।

স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তরের পরামর্শগুলো মেনে চলুন।

স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর

স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়