



The Daily Star

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Plus 4-Page Jacket on Wise use of Card during Covid-19

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXX No. 307

ACRAHAN 14, 1427 BS

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RABIU SANI 13, 1442 HUIJI

16 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00

COVID COMPENSATION FOR GOVT STAFF

No payment for most frontliners

In absence of a proper list of recipients, finance ministry remains cautious in disbursement; officials apprehend misuse of Covid positive certificates

REJAUl KARIM BYRON and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

None of the government frontline workers infected with coronavirus received the compensation they were promised seven months ago.

And families of only 42 of the 133 frontline workers who died with Covid-19 have been compensated as of November 4.

At least 29,975 doctors, health workers, administration officials, members of police and Rab, had tested positive for coronavirus, officials said.

A finance ministry official said the actual numbers would be higher.

"It is uncertain whether the frontline government officials infected with Covid-19 would get the compensation at all. We have not disbursed any money as there are chances of misuse of Covid-19 positive test results," said a top official of the finance ministry.

The official blamed the absence of a proper list of dead frontline officials in the departments concerned. "We disburse the money after checking the list."

FRONTLINE WORKERS	INFECTED	DIED
Govt doctors, nurses, health workers	10,888	42
Law enforcers	18,478	80
Admin cadre officials	607	6

The government in a circular on April 23 said doctors, nurses, and other health care employees, administration officials, members of armed forces and law enforcement agencies, and other employees working during the pandemic, would be compensated, if they get infected with coronavirus or died from the disease.

A grade 1-9 government employee infected with Covid-19 was supposed to get Tk 10 lakh, grade 10-14 employee Tk 7.5 lakh, and grade 15-20 employee Tk 5 lakh in compensation.

The amount was supposed to be five times higher in case the employee died with the disease.

For the purpose, the government

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Street vendors make it so crowded on the footbridge near the capital's New Market that it is difficult for people to walk, let alone maintain social distancing. Even the staircases remain occupied by the sellers. Repeated calls by the government to stick to the coronavirus restrictions have fallen on deaf ears.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Frontliners to get quarantine allowance

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The government has decided to provide quarantine allowance to doctors, nurses and other public hospital staffers for treating Covid-19 patients from July 1.

The allowance, however, will only be applicable for those who did not avail free accommodation facilities on duty.

The health and family welfare ministry recently sent a proposal to the finance ministry for the special daily allowance for 15 days a month.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the proposal letter.

According to the letter, a doctor will receive a daily allowance of Tk 2,000 for 15 days a month in the capital whereas the allowance for a nurse is Tk 1,200 per day and Tk 800 per day for other healthcare professionals.

Doctors outside the capital will get Tk 1,800 per day while a nurse will be entitled to receive Tk 1,000 per day and other hospital staffers will get Tk 650 per day.

The healthcare professionals will treat patients for 15 days in the month and

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DEATH AFTER BSMMU SURGERY

Two years gone just to file case

Filmmaker's pursuit of justice lingers since both kidneys of his mother removed instead of one

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

Rafique Sikder, a filmmaker, admitted her 55-year-old ailing mother Rawshan Ara to the capital's Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) for kidney treatment on July 1, 2018.

Doctors at the hospital conducted multiple tests on her and advised removing her left kidney. Rawshan had the operation on September 5 that year, but her condition started worsening fast.

Failing to get an ICU bed at the BSMMU, Rafique took her to a private hospital in the capital and what was revealed there left everybody in shock.

Following diagnosis, doctors found that both of Rawshan's kidneys were missing! She died soon.

Then began the family's struggle for justice.

Rafique wanted to file a murder case against some doctors at the BSMMU, but

police asked to bring the autopsy report first. It took two years to get the report. The law enforcers then suggested that Rafique file the case with the court.

Shahbagh police, however, registered the case only after the National Human Rights Commission issued a notice on Thursday in this regard.

On Friday, Rafique filed the murder case against BSMMU doctors -- Professor Habibur Rahman Dulal, 55, Associate Professor Faruk Hossain, 48, Dr Mostafa Kamal, 46, Dr Al Mamun, 33, -- and some unnamed others of the public hospital's urology department.

He accused them of removing her mother's right kidney in a "planned manner with an ill intention".

Shahbagh Police Station OC Mamun-or-Rashid told The Daily Star that Rawshan Ara's autopsy was conducted at the forensic department of Dhaka Medical College

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36 more die, 1,908 infected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-six people were reported dead from Covid-19 in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to a press release issued from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The number of such deaths increased almost by 30 percent last week, compared to the week before, according to the release.

It has been 48 weeks since Bangladesh recorded its first covid-19 case in March.

With the new deaths, the total number of deaths from Covid-19 rose to 6,580 while the death rate stood at 1.43 percent. Another 1,908 cases were recorded in the same 24 hours taking the total

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Rape victims suffer as justice delayed

Disposal of rape cases within 180 days still remains a far cry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In 2016, when Tumpa (not real name) was five years old, her friend's father, 42-year-old Md Saiful Islam lured her away. He tied her up, taped up her eyes and mouth, stuffed corks up her nostrils, put out cigarettes on her skin, and mutilated her in various parts, including her genitals.

This happened in Dinajpur's Parbatipur.

Tumpa, who is now eight, lives not only to tell the tale but also wage a battle at court.

However, this child, who had undergone the most monstrous torture imaginable, is yet to see the light of justice.

Almost four years on, the case is still in the stage of collecting witness testimonials to supplement the injury marks that Tumpa bears to this day.

"She suffers from incontinence as a result of her injuries and goes to school with rags stuffed in her pants while the court is still taking witness testimonials," stated Zeenat Ara Haque, executive coordinator of WE CAN

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"She suffers from incontinence as a result of her injuries and goes to school with rags stuffed in her pants while the court is still taking witness testimonials."

ZEENAT ARA HAQUE, EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR OF WE CAN ALLIANCE TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SAYS ABOUT A VICTIM



Fishermen carrying a nearly 200-kg shark off a boat at Fishery Ghat in Chattogram yesterday. Each kg are usually sold for around Tk 300. Locals say the big ones get caught mostly in winter. Many shark species have been globally recognised as endangered as populations across the world are in rapid decline mostly due to overfishing. Fishermen of Bangladesh do not intentionally catch these predators. Sharks usually get caught up in nets meant to catch other fish in the Bay of Bengal.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

KILLING OF IRANIAN SCIENTIST

Conflict looms as Trump exits

Ex-CIA chief warns of 'lethal retaliation'

AGENCIES

An Iranian scientist long suspected by the West of masterminding a secret nuclear bomb programme was killed in an ambush near Tehran on Friday that could provoke confrontation between Iran and its foes in the last weeks of Donald Trump's presidency.

The death of Mohsen Fakhrazadeh, who Iranian media said died in hospital after armed assassins gunned him down in his car, will also complicate any effort by US President-elect Joe Biden to revive the detente of Barack Obama's presidency.

Iran pointed the finger at Israel, while implying the killing had the blessing of the departing Trump. Foreign Minister Javad Zarif wrote on Twitter of "serious indications of (an) Israeli role".

The military adviser to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei vowed to "strike as thunder at the killers of this oppressed martyr". "In the last days

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Radicals fussing over Bangabandhu sculpture

Says Obaidul Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said a communal force is creating unwanted debate over the establishment of sculptures of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"Imaginary explanations centring Bangabandhu's sculpture is a challenge to the spirit of Liberation War and the country's culture," he told a press conference at his official residence on parliament premises in the capital.

Quader, also general secretary of the ruling Awami League, said a fundamentalist group is giving misinterpreted explanations

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