

Daily positivity rate drops

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The measure because it gives an indication of how widespread the infection is in the area where testing is occurring and whether levels of testing are keeping up with levels of disease transmission, according to John Hopkins University.
A high percentage of positive cases means that more testing should probably be done and it suggests that it is not a good time to relax restrictions aimed at reducing coronavirus transmission.
As a rule of thumb, the positivity rate is thought to be "too high" if it is more than five percent.
In May, the World Health Organization recommended that the positivity rate should be below five percent for at least two weeks before governments considered reopening.
Referring to the WHO, the Health Minister Zahid Maleque said on Tuesday, "The positivity rate has been near three percent for many days. We are in a good situation and we have to try maintaining it."

Mushtuq Hussain, consultant of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) told The Daily Star yesterday, "The current positivity rate doesn't mean the transmission is under control. In fact, community transmission is ongoing and it may go up anytime as like as we observed in many countries."
He said there is no alternative to wearing masks, washing hands frequently and maintain physical distance.
Prof Ridwanur Rahman, an infectious disease specialist also echoed him.
With the latest figure, the total number of confirmed cases rose to 536,545, according to the press release.
And the total number of deaths reached 8,162 which is 1.52 percent of all confirmed cases.
In those 24 hours, a total of 578 Covid-19 patients recovered from their illnesses, raising the total number of recoveries to 481,306.
With this, the recovery rate stands at 89.70 percent.
Among the 13 deceased, 11 were males.



Onions spilled over an open space in Dinajpur's Gor-e-Shaheed Boromath area as those, supplied by Trade Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), were rotten from before. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

4 homeopathy shop owners

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people in different places of the town died since last Saturday after consuming poisonous liquor collected from the homeopathy shops," said Humayan Kabir, officer-in-charge of Bogura Sadar Police Station.
Monower Hosain Ripon, 42, brother of a person who has fallen ill after drinking the toxic liquor filed the case accusing four owners of local homeopathy shops on Tuesday.
The accused are Shahinur Rahman Shahin, 42, owner of Khan Homeo Herbal, Nur Mohammad, 65, supervisor of Punam and Parul Homeo Laboratories, Nurnabi, 58, owner of Parul Homeo Lab and Nur Islam, 60, owner of Punam Homeo Lab.
Nur Islam, Nur Mohammad and Nurnabi are siblings, said police.
Police arrested Nurnabi, 58, Md Abdul Khalek, 55, owner of the Moon Homeo hall in Gallapatri area, Md Abu Jewel, 55, a staffer of Hasan Homeo and Shahidul Islam Sabur, 55, proprietor of Korotoa Homeo and Laboratories Private Limited, Bogura.
OC Humayan said the arrestees were sent to court yesterday afternoon with an appeal for seven days' remand for each and that the Bogura court granted two days' remand for each of the arrestees.
Police arrested them after conducting drives since February 1, said OC Humayan

Kabir.
The arrestees admitted that they use to sell rectified spirit to the local consumers, said Ali Asraf Bhuiyan, superintendent of police, Bogura.
"We have conducted drives in three homeo laboratories [Parul, Moon and Korotoa] today [Wednesday] and recovered some other chemical as well as rectified spirit. We are examining the chemicals," said Foisal Mahmud, additional superintendent of police (Bogura Sadar circle).
We have learnt from deceased family members, locals, and people undergoing treatment at hospital that the arrestees and the accused homeopathy labs used to mix other chemicals like methanol with the rectified spirit and sell alcohol to consumers," said the ASP.
When contacted, Md Shareful Islam Mollah, assistant director of the Bogura drug administration, said, "Khan Homeopathy has licence to sell homeopathic medicine. They have no right sell rectified spirit."
On the other hand, Punam and Parul homeo labs cannot even keep rectified spirit as they did not renew their licences to import rectified spirit to manufacture homeopathic medicine since 2005 and 2015 respectively, Shareful said.
"We will cancel their licence and applications for renewal," said the assistant director.

Bangladesh moves

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weaknesses are more prevalent than in flawed democracies -- in political culture, functioning of government and political participation," the report mentioned as definition of hybrid regime.
"Corruption tends to be widespread and the rule of law is weak. Civil society is weak. Typically, there is harassment of and pressure on journalists, and the judiciary is not independent," the definition further said.
Bangladesh scored 5.99, out of 10, this year to be ranked 76th among 165 countries and two territories. Last year, Bangladesh ranked 80th with 5.88 points among the same number of states and territories.
Among six South Asian countries covered in the report, India and Sri Lanka are ahead of Bangladesh while Pakistan, Bhutan and Nepal are behind. India slipped down two notches on the index compared to previous year, while Nepal remained static and four other countries recorded improvement.
This is the 13th edition of the Democracy Index, which began in 2006. It records how global

democracy fared in 2020. It provides a snapshot of the state of democracy in 165 independent states and two territories.
The index is formed based on five categories: electoral process and pluralism, the functioning of government, political participation, political culture, and civil liberties.
Based on its scores on a range of indicators within these categories, each country is then itself classified as one of four types of regime: "full democracy", "flawed democracy", "hybrid regime" or "authoritarian regime".
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As recorded in the Democracy Index in recent years, democracy has not been in robust health for some time.
Last year, its strength was further tested by the Covid-19 pandemic. The average global score in the 2020 Democracy Index fell to 5.37, down from 5.44 in 2019.
This is by far the worst global score since the index was first produced in 2006.
In 2020, a large majority of countries, 116 of a total of 167 (almost 70 percent), recorded a decline in their total score

compared with 2019. Only 38 (22.6 percent) recorded an improvement and the other 13 stagnated, with their scores remaining unchanged compared with 2019.
According to the report, only about half (49.4 percent) of the world's population live in a democracy of some sort, and even fewer (8.4 percent) reside in a "full democracy"; this level is up from 5.7 percent in 2019, as several Asian countries have been upgraded.
More than one-third of the world's population live under authoritarian rule, with a large share being in China.
In the 2020 Index, 75 of the 167 countries and territories covered by the model, or 44.9 percent of the total, are considered to be democracies.
The number of "full democracies" increased to 23 in 2020, up from 22 in 2019. The number of "flawed democracies" fell by two, to 52.
Of the remaining 92 countries in the Index, 57 are "authoritarian regimes", up from 54 in 2019, and 35 are classified as "hybrid regimes", down from 37 in 2019.

Weak co-op a major barrier

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global economy.
A WHO team searching for clues about the virus's origins went to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, one of the most-watched stops on a politically sensitive trip to the central Chinese city where the virus was first detected.
Peter Daszak, one of the experts, tweeted that the team had an "extremely important meeting today with staff" and a "frank, open discussion."
Nevertheless, top WHO officials, including members of the team, have played down the chances of finding definitive answers on the trip, including how the virus jumped from animals to humans.
"It is very unlikely that (on) such a short mission, (we) would have a very advanced understanding or definite answers" about the origins of the virus, WHO team member Hung Nguyen-Viet told AFP from Wuhan.
Saudi Arabia on Tuesday suspended entry from 20 countries, ranging from some neighbouring states to the United States, in a bid to curb a jump in coronavirus infections.
SPUTNIK V BOOST
Hopes for ending the pandemic were boosted by the publication of final-stage trial results showing that Russia's Sputnik V vaccine is 91.6 percent effective against symptomatic Covid-19 cases.

Russia and several other countries rolled out the vaccine last year, amid scepticism about its quality and concerns that it had been rushed.
But the results published in The Lancet, a leading medical journal, put it at par with Western-developed vaccines.
"In the very near future there are plans to establish production in foreign countries, which will satisfy the demand from more and more countries," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.
Sputnik V has the advantage of being relatively cheap and can be stored at normal refrigerator temperatures, unlike the below-freezing storage required for shots from Pfizer and Moderna.
Spain said it was "open" to using Sputnik V if it is approved by European regulators.
German Chancellor Angela Merkel, citing "good data" for the Russian jab, said "every vaccine is welcome in the European Union".
But in Britain, a spokesman for Prime Minister Boris Johnson dodged questions as to why he was mum on Sputnik V, despite previously being quick to hail the success of rival jabs.
"Our focus is on now getting those vaccines that we've ordered out to people as soon as they've been deemed safe and effective, and they have passed all the trials," Johnson's spokesman told reporters.

Trump lawyers, Democrats spar

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Democrats wrote.
Trump's defense team argued that not only does the Senate lack the authority to put Trump on trial but that the chamber also has no jurisdiction to prevent him from holding office again.
The Constitution states that conviction can lead to "removal from Office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any Office of honor, Trust or Profit under the United States."
"The 45th President of the United States performed admirably in his role as president, at all times doing what he thought was in the best interests of the American people," Trump's defense team said.
"STOP THE STEAL"
During his January 6 speech, Trump repeated false claims that the election was fraudulent and

exhorted supporters to march on the Capitol, telling them to "stop the steal," "show strength" and "fight like hell."
The rampage interrupted the formal congressional certification of Democratic President Joe Biden's victory, sent lawmakers into hiding for their own safety and left five people dead including a police officer.
"President Trump's conduct offends everything that the Constitution stands for," the House lawmakers, known as impeachment managers, wrote in their 80-page brief.
"He summoned a mob to Washington, exhorted them into a frenzy, and aimed them like a loaded cannon down Pennsylvania Avenue. As the Capitol was overrun, President Trump was reportedly 'delighted,'" they said.

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2 killed as makeshift lift falls

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guidelines.
Around 6:30am yesterday, the duo was going to the seventh floor of the factory with several sacks of poultry feed. However, the lift cables broke and it fell free, he said.
Before police could reach the spot, the poultry farm authorities sent the duo to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogura where doctors pronounced them dead, the police officer said.
The dead bodies were kept at the hospital morgue for autopsies.

Abdullah Al Mamun, officer-in-charge of Shajahanpur Police Station, said police would file a case upon receiving complaint from the victims' family members.
"If they [victims' family members] do not show any interest in filing the complaint, we will do as per our high officials' direction," he added.
Asked about the illegal lift, the OC said, "The farm authority uses the lift for carrying goods from ground to different floors, not human. But the workers sometimes use this lift."

Contacted, FM Ruhul Amin, deputy manager of the Tamim Agro Industries Limited, told The Daily Star, "We brought that lift from Dhaka. I am not sure whether it was made locally."
"We normally carry feed [goods] by this lift to the multistoried buildings, but unfortunately two of our workers died today [yesterday] as the cable separated accidentally."
He also urged this correspondent not to carry the news on The Daily Star and invited him for a cup of tea at his office.

Rab gets warm

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Director Lt Col Khairul is the member secretary.
Other Rab officers in the team include: a director of the legal and media wing, two members from the intelligence wing, one member from the investigation wing, and one other officer from the legal and media wing.
Other members include two religious thinkers, one psychologist, and one journalist, Rab officials said.
Major Roisul Azam, additional director of legal and media, said arrangements had also been made to rehabilitate the militants willing to surrender.
"Everyone is being helped to find the profession that is right for them," he said.
Officials said the programme is not for those who had crossed a certain line. There is no alternative to legal action at that point.
He said there were five stages of extremism that culminated in violent activities. Initially, the subject is sympathetic to extremism. At the second stage, they become supporters of extremism.
At the third phase, they take part in different programmes of the extremists and at the fourth, they become full-on extremists. Finally, they carry out violent attacks.
According to a Rab study, only 25.7 percent of the militant activities could be stopped by the law enforcers.
Col Sarwar said, "We wondered what could be done besides legal action against extremists. It is difficult to solve this problem by [traditional methods]."
"That is why we have involved people from different walks of life."

No offence
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and spread it on social media. Therefore, his client has not committed any offence, the lawyer said.
After hearing the arguments, the HC bench made the observation about journalists.
The bench also refused to grant bail to Moazzem as there is a specific allegation against him that he recorded and circulated Nusrat's statement without her permission.
It kept the bail petition stand over (waiting for hearing) for the next three months, Deputy Attorney General Md Rezaul Karim told The Daily Star.
He said Moazzem sought bail from the HC on the ground that he has been in jail for a long time since June 16, 2019 in connection with the case.
On November 29, 2019, a Dhaka court sentenced Moazzem to eight years' rigorous imprisonment for the said offence.
Nusrat, a student of Sonagazi Islamia Senior Fazil Madrasa in Feni, was set on fire on April 6, 2019 allegedly for refusing to withdraw a sexual assault case filed against the madrasa's principal Siraj Ud Doula. After fighting for her life for five days, she died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Mummies with
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were placed inside the dead person's mouth after their biological tongue had been removed during the embalming process.
They say this was done in the hope that the dead person could speak to Osiris in the afterlife.
Osiris is the Egyptian "Lord of the Underworld" and judge of the dead - one of the most important gods of ancient Egypt.
The tombs in which the gold-tongued mummies were found are thought to date back 2,000 years and were popular in ancient Greek and Roman eras.
A woman's funeral mask was also found at the site, Khaled Abo El Hamd, director-general of the antiquities authority in Alexandria, said.
Golden flakes from a wreath and marble masks dating to the Greek and Roman eras were also found, he added.
Egypt's antiquities ministry said coins which had Queen Cleopatra VII face and name inscribed on them had been previously found at the site.
Cleopatra VII was the last queen of the Greek-speaking Ptolemaic dynasty. She was a descendant of its founder, Ptolemy I Soter, a Macedonian Greek general and companion of Alexander the Great.
She ruled Egypt from 51-30BC and it fell under Roman control following her death.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ
সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল।
ফোনঃ ০৪৩১-৬৪১৮৫, ফ্যাক্সঃ ০৪৩১-৬৬৮৪৪
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স্মারক নং- ৩৫.০১.০৬৪১.৪০০.০৭.০১৯.১৯ - ২৫৫ তারিখঃ ০২/০২/২০২১ খ্রিঃ।

"সেতুর ইজারা কোটেশন আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

০১।	ইজারা কোটেশন নং	: ০১ (ইজারা)/বিহারি/২০২০-২০২১
০২।	ইজারার বিবরণ	: বরিশাল সড়ক বিভাগীয় (মোটাবাড়ি)-মাওয়া-ভাঙ্গা-বরিশাল-পুয়াবাগী জাতীয় মহাসড়কের ১৪৮তম কিলোমিটারে বীরশ্রেষ্ঠ ক্যাপ্টেন মহিউদ্দিন জাহাঙ্গীর সেতু (সোয়ামরিয়া সেতু) ও ১৪৬তম কিলোমিটারে মেজর এম. এ. জব্বার সেতুর (শিকারপুর সেতু) টোল আদায়ের জন্য ইজারা প্রদান।
০৩।	ইজারা কিস্তির মেয়াদ	: ৩ (তিন) অর্থ বছর (৩০৯৬ দিন)।
০৪।	ইজারা কোটেশনের সিদ্ধিষ্টি মূল্য	: টাঃ ৫,০০০.০০ (পাঁচ হাজার টাকা মাত্র)।
০৫।	বায়নার টাকার পরিমাণ	: উক্ত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা দশ ভাগ) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে।
০৬।	ইজারা কোটেশন বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ২০/০২/২০২১ খ্রিঃ তারিখ বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৭।	মুখবন্ধ অবস্থায় ইজারা কোটেশন গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	: ২৪/০২/২০২১ খ্রিঃ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৮।	ইজারা ডাকে অংশ গ্রহণের যোগ্যতা	: ডাট্টা ও আয়বর সন্দর্ভাধী প্রতিষ্ঠান/নাগরিক, সরকারী/বেসরকারী/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রকৌশলী।
০৯।	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন ক্রেতার জন্য পত্রিকা যাবে	: বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, বরিশাল / জেলা প্রশাসক, বরিশাল / নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল / ডাটা / বালকাসী / পিরোজপুর / গ্রানিং বিভাগ-১, সড়ক ভবন, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা / উপ-বিভাগীয় প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক উপ-বিভাগ-১/২, বরিশাল।
১০।	যে সকল কার্যালয়ে ইজারা কোটেশন মুখবন্ধ অবস্থায় গ্রহণ করা হবে	: (ক) বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, বরিশাল। (খ) অতিরিক্ত প্রধান প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, বরিশাল জোন, বরিশাল। (গ) তত্ত্বাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক সার্কেল, বরিশাল। (ঘ) নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল। (ঙ) জেলা প্রশাসক, বরিশাল।
১১।	ইজারা কোটেশন খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	: স্থানঃ নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, সওজ, সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল। তারিখঃ ২৪/০২/২০২১ খ্রিঃ। সময়ঃ বিকাল ০২.০০ ঘটিকা।
১২।	ইজারা কোটেশন আহ্বানকারী যে কোন সময় কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতীতকৈ যে কোন কোটেশন / সকল কোটেশন বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।	

(মাসুম শাহেদুল সুলতান)
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (৩৪ মাঃ), সওজ
সড়ক বিভাগ, বরিশাল।

5 sent to jail

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yesterday, said Mahbub-E-Khoda, officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station.
In Narayanganj, a 40-year-old was sued yesterday on charge of raping his sister-in-law in Arai-hazar upazila.
Police said the victim was cleaning her yard on February 1 morning when the man called her to his room and raped her.
The man threatened the victim with life if she divulged the incident.
The victim shared the incident with her husband, who filed the case.
The man has been on the run since, said Nazrul Islam, OC of Arai-hazar Police Station.

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Ref. No. 04(W)/e-GP/DSH/2020-21 Date: 03/02/2021

e-GP: Re-Tender Notice
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the following works:

Sl No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Publication date & time	Last selling and closing date & time
1	Construction of RCC surface Drain Development of Internal Bituminous Road and Development Car Parking Area at Dhaka Shishu (Children) Hospital.	543950	04/02/2021 10:00	17/02/2021-16:00 18/02/2021-12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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