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"Many people are getting the scope for being indifferent to health guidelines (on Covid-19) due to BNP's reckless statements and provocations."

AWAMI LEAGUE GENERAL SECRETARY OBAIDUL QUADER



"The Modi government has mismanaged the Covid situation. It has exported the vaccines and allowed a shortage to be created in India."

INDIAN CONGRESS PRESIDENT SONIA GANDHI



"We owe it to the generation and indeed future generations not to spiral back to that dark place of sectarian murders and political discord."

IRISH PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MARTIN AS SECTARIAN CONFLICT FLARES AGAIN IN NORTHERN IRELAND



Trader ends up dead in AL leader's house

Police allegedly handed him over to local AL leader

MOSTAFA SHABUI, Bogura

Gaibandha police has allegedly handed over a trader to a ruling party leader for his failure to pay debt. The leader allegedly kept him confined to his house, and almost a month later, the man was found dead there.

The body of Hasan Ali, 45, was found hanging in a toilet of ruling party leader Masud Rana's home in Bollowmhar area of Gaibandha town yesterday.

Police detained Rana, deputy office secretary of Gaibandha Awami League, around noon yesterday.

The cops were seen dealing with the matter rather casually.

Rana was being taken to the police station on a motorbike and with no cuffs. It was only after locals protested and blocked the policemen that the cops put handcuffs on him.

Police claimed that a murder case was going to be filed against Rana.

Hasan, son of late Hazrat Ali, resident of Thanapara area, was an owner of a shoe store in the town.

Mahfuzar Rahman, officer-in-charge of Gaibandha Sadar Police Station, said on information that a body was hanging in



Hasan Ali

the toilet of Rana's house, a police team went there and recovered the body. They sent the body to Gaibandha General Hospital for autopsy.

He said the family of the deceased complained that Rana killed Hasan Ali. "Besides, we recovered the body from Rana's house that's why we detained him," he said.

While talking to reporters during the recovery of the body, the victim's family alleged that Rana abducted Hasan from Lalmonirhat on March 5 and kept him confined to the house.

"Rana also tortured Hasan," AKM Mamunur Rashid Kollol, brother-in-law of the deceased, told The Daily Star.

"Hasan owed some money to Rana. He was putting pressure on him to pay the interest, which is around Tk 5 lakh. But Hasan could not pay. That's why he took cover at his younger brother's home in Lalmonirhat," said Kollol.

He alleged that Rana and his people abducted Hasan from his younger brother's house on March 5 and kept him confined to Rana's house.

After learning about the matter, Hasan's

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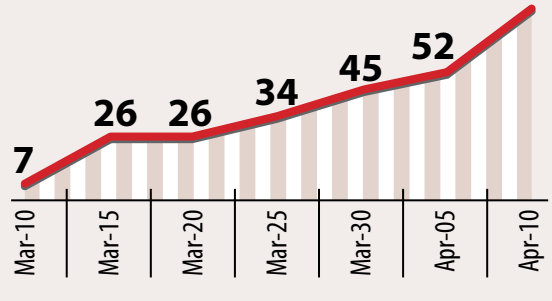


Abdur Rashid, an ex-director of Bangladesh Bank, is given oxygen support at Mugda Medical College and Hospital while his worried grandson Shaheen tries to speak to him. The man in his seventies has Covid-19 and he was relatively well before his condition suddenly deteriorated yesterday morning. Family members said they tried to get him admitted to several other hospitals before going to Mugda.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Three died every hour

RISE IN COVID DEATHS



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Exactly one month ago, the number of people dying of Covid-19 per day was around seven. The public thought the pandemic was at an ebb and they carried on with a semblance of a normal life.

A month later, yesterday, the number was 77. The deaths saw an eleven-fold increase just over the span of a month.

This is the record-highest number of deaths to ever occur since the beginning of the pandemic. Every hour yesterday, over three people died across the country. This number was two people per hour just five days ago.

Over the past week, from April 4 till yesterday, the death

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COVID RESTRICTIONS ON APRIL 12-13

Confusion reigns supreme

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

With no directive about the two days between the "lockdowns", many said they were confused as to what would happen on April 12 and 13.

Even transport regulators and companies do not know whether buses, trains, launches, and domestic flights will operate during the two days.

Many social media users have asked if anyone knew about the government decision so that they can make plans before a stricter lockdown begins on April 14.

However, sources said a meeting of secretaries of the ministries concerned would be held today over the situation with the cabinet secretary in the chair where decisions regarding the two days and the next lockdown would be made.

A state minister and two senior officials said that the government is not likely to lift the restrictions imposed on long-haul transport services for the two-day period.

Another source, however, said the government might give a window for people

to leave Dhaka before April 14.

Meanwhile, people were seen leaving Dhaka on smaller vehicles throughout yesterday as they believed that the government would keep extending the lockdown. Stores selling essential goods saw a deluge of shoppers hoping to stock up on daily necessities.

On April 4, the Cabinet Division issued an 11-point directive mentioning the restrictions to be effective from 6:00am on April 5 to 12:00am on April 11 to contain the spread of coronavirus. It said violations of the restrictions would result in punishment.

Different offices, mills and factories were exempt from the restrictions and the government allowed resumption of bus services in the 11 cities of the country from April 7.

On April 8, the government announced that shops and malls can be kept open for eight hours from April 9 to 13 despite concerns from health experts.

People in large numbers were seen coming out on the streets to buy

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COVID SPREAD IEDCR finds 17 high-risk thanas in city

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

At least 17 thanas in the capital are at high risk of Covid-19 transmission, says government data.

When the Covid-19 infection rate in the country is 13.65 percent, at least 17 spots in the capital witnessed a positivity rate above 30 percent.

According to the Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), 23 other areas have a positivity rate above 20 percent.

Officials said the infection rate above 30 percent means highly risky and above 20 percent means medium risky and those can turn highly risky anytime.

Data were analysed from March 27 to April 2 in both the city corporation areas.

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ABDUCTION AND RANSOM 4 were hired to kidnap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three Rab and one air force members, who have been arrested in the capital on charges of abducting a man and demanding ransom for his release, were hired by a woman for the job.

The victim owed the woman money and she approached one of the four through another man to realise it, investigators told The Daily Star yesterday.

The four arrestees have been handed to their respective forces, which are now looking into the matter.

Investigators said the four allegedly picked up Tamzid Hossain, 27, on Thursday and demanded money from his family over phone. The four did this after the woman, Ranu Begum, 45, hailing from Gazipur, approached one of them through a man named Rony.

The next day, Tamzid's family informed police about the abduction and police then made the arrests. Initially, police thought the four were fake members of the Rab and the air force, said police sources.

Police sources said Lance Corporal Dulal Mridha, 32, posted at operations wing of Rab headquarters, planned and led the abduction. Soldier Rokon Mia, 34, of intelligence wing of Rab HQ, Corporal Rony, 26, from the air force, and soldier Md Sagar, 28, of investigation, forensic wing of Rab HQ, aided Dulal in the crime.

Police found involvement of two more Rab members -- soldier Rakib of intelligence wing of Rab HQ, and soldier

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JMB in-charge held in Badda

Reza planned to visit India

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

He planned to travel to India and take charge of the JMB wing of the neighboring country.



For this purpose, Rezaul Haque alias Reza, 37, had long been trying to arrange a passport and last attempted in 2020.

Ameer of the mainstream JMB Salahuddin Ahmed alias Salehin, who is now in India and operating outfit activities, instructed Reza to visit the country and take charge.

Salehin went into hiding and take shelter in the country after he was snatched from a prison van in February 2014.

Salehin asked Reza to hand over the charge and go to India as his identity was revealed and he became familiar to many people.

Reza disclosed the plan of the banned militant

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The ruins of a Sultanate-era building inside the old central jail compound in the capital's Chawkbazar area. The wall is thought to be a part of a fort. Even though a technical committee formed in 2016 appointed an archaeologist to excavate the site, no report of the work has yet been published.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

CHAWKBAZAR JAIL

Ruins offer trip deep into Old Dhaka history

Researchers call for further study while report of government-initiated excavation unpublished

TARUN SARKAR

The ruins of a Sultanate-era building have been found inside the old central jail compound in the Chawkbazar area of Dhaka.

The authorities have taken necessary measures to preserve the archaeological evidence, including a wall thought to be part of a fort, but study and excavation of the historic site remain halted, sources said.

A government technical committee formed in 2016 appointed an archaeologist to excavate the site but no report of the work has been published so far.

Historians and archaeologists think more

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