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Your Right to Know

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"If the lockdown is enforced and the people adhere to the health safety rules, it will be possible to curb transmission very quickly."
HEALTH MINISTER ZAHID MALEQUE



"Lockdown will never be successful without ensuring food security for the extremely poor and the working people."
JATIYA PARTY CHAIRMAN GM QUADER



"Our world is failing, as the global community we are failing"
WHO CHIEF TEDROS ADHANOM GHEBREYESUS
SLAMS COVID-19 VACCINE INEQUALITY

ICU occupancy galloping

ZYMA ISLAM and MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Compared to June 1, the number of beds occupied at hospitals in the capital more than doubled as of yesterday, showing how fast the health crisis induced by the Covid-19 is deepening across the city.

During the 26-day period, the number of patients occupying the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds at the hospitals went up by 111.56 percent while general beds saw an increase of 102.34 percent in occupancy, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

This is the case before a week-long complete lockdown to be imposed from Thursday to stem surges in cases amid another Covid wave.

The data shows that the occupancy rate at the city hospitals has been increasing steadily -- by one percentage point or more -- every day over the last month.

Still, only 40 percent of the hospital beds were filled as of yesterday, according to the DGHS data.

Yesterday, every single one of the beds at Kurmitola General Hospital had patients while 61 percent of the beds at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and half the beds at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University were occupied.

None of the ICU beds at Kurmitola hospital, DMCH, Shaheed SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

- Increase in all bed occupancy between June 1 and yesterday **103.78%**
- Increase in ICU bed occupancy between June 1 and yesterday **111.56%**
- Increase in general bed occupancy between June 1 and yesterday **102.34%**



Scores of people, many with businesses and jobs in the capital, have started leaving for their hometowns after hearing that a strict shutdown will be imposed from tomorrow. Since communication with the city is already "cut-off" to prevent the spread of Covid-19, the people in this photo taken yesterday morning are walking to Aminbazar where they will find transport to their hometowns.

Lockdown now from Thursday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has rescheduled its countrywide lockdown from June 28 to July 1.

On Friday evening, Press Information Department (PID) issues a statement stating that the country will be put under a complete lockdown for seven days from Monday.

Within 24 hours of the decision, the government came up with a fresh announcement after holding a high-level meeting chaired by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal.

The cabinet secretary, principal secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, governor of Bangladesh Bank, representatives of BGMEA, BKMEA, and other trade body leaders were present in the meeting.

"The countrywide complete lockdown will be enforced from July 1 (Thursday), not from 1 (Thursday), not from SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Work on own vaccine plant to start soon

Plan born of lesson from pandemic, says health minister

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Faced with the harsh reality of vaccine nationalism, the government has planned to set up its own vaccine producing plant so that it is not dependent on other countries in future.

It has so far inoculated less than three percent of the country's 163 million people against Covid-19. The mass vaccination campaign which launched on February 7 stumbled due to non-compliance of international supply commitments.

"We have learnt a lot from this pandemic. The government has decided to set up a vaccine plant... A project proposal is being prepared," Health Minister Zahed Maleque told The Daily Star, adding that officials will start working to begin production in the shortest possible time. He did not say how much the project might cost.

If everything goes well, it will take around two years to launch production.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

RUN-UP TO LOCKDOWN

Madness, again

People stream out of capital disregarding safety rules; city dwellers rush to buy essentials

MUNTAKIM SAAD and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The same old pictures of thousands of people leaving the capital have returned as the country braces for another lockdown.

Until last night the decision was to enforce a seven-day lockdown from tomorrow amid the alarming rise in new cases of Covid-19 and deaths.

But Sk Rafiqul Islam, additional secretary at cabinet division, last night told The Daily Star that the countrywide lockdown will be enforced from July 1.

Meanwhile, the news that the lockdown will be from tomorrow triggered the exodus. Due to travel restrictions between Dhaka and the rest of the country, the usual mode of transport has not been available.

As a result, hundreds of people boarded trucks, pick-ups, three-wheelers, human hauliers and rode motorcycles to reach their destinations.

Long-haul buses have not been entering or leaving Dhaka since June 23. Shimulia-Banglabazar and Paturia-Daulatdia ferry terminals remained extremely crowded yesterday as people headed for the southern districts across the Padma.

Grocery stores, and kitchen markets across Dhaka there were more shoppers than usual.

The Press Information Department's statement on Friday said nobody would be allowed outdoors unless there is an emergency. This is the first time the government has used the word "lockdown" while announcing coronavirus restrictions.

Healthcare facilities are struggling with the number of new patients as the delta variant of coronavirus has spread in the communities.

Farhad Hossain, state minister for public administration, told The Daily Star that the army and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel along with the police would be deployed to ensure proper enforcement of the lockdown.

Throughout yesterday, hundreds of people, including women and children, thronged the roads at the outer edge of the city with luggage

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

NATIONWIDE LOCKDOWN

Govt taking steps for cash, food aid for the poor

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and DWAIPAYAN BARUA

The government is working to take necessary measures to provide cash assistance and food, including rice, edible oil and other commodities to poor who are affected during the countrywide "strict lockdown" to be imposed from Thursday.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal yesterday

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Cruelties rising in chaotic time

Experts say weak family ties, disorder in society key factors behind increasing incidents of brutality

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MUNTAKIM SAAD

Incidents of brutalities have increased alarmingly in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country in recent months with killing, sexual abuse and torture becoming rampant.

Sorrowfully, family members were involved in a majority of these cases.

A son or daughter killing parents, parents killing a child, a husband killing his wife or vice versa -- these are some of the cruelties that made headlines in national media of late.

Criminologists and psychologists say

such heinous crimes are on the rise due to weak family bonding, mental instabilities, and social disorders.

Many have become intolerant due to the prolonged effect of the Covid-19 pandemic, financial crunch, and absence of healthy entertainment. Emotional turmoil and depression have made many violent, even suicidal.

Omar Faruk, professor of criminology and police Science at Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University, termed such crimes inter-personal violence.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



WE DEEPLY MOURN

Durand Mehdadur Rahman

Born : 13 April, 1970
Death : 26 June, 2021

It is with great sadness and heavy hearts to inform that **Mr. Durand Mehdadur Rahman**, Honorable Deputy Managing Director, Uttara Group of Companies breathed his last on June 26, 2021 at the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery Hospital (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajeun).

He was the only son of Late Mr. Mukhlesur Rahman, the founder Chairman of Uttara Group of Companies. The Board of Directors and all in the Uttara family deeply mourn the sad demise. We pray to the Almighty Allah for the salvation of the departed soul and convey our deepest condolences to all the members of the bereaved family.

May Allah grant him Jannatul Firdous

On behalf of all the Directors, Officers and Staffs of Uttara Group of Companies



Uttara Centre, 102 Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208, Phone: 02-8170720 (Hunting)

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