

PEOPLE AGED 60YRS, ABOVE

# One in every twelve suffers from dementia

Finds study by icddr, National Institute of Neurosciences

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One in every 12 individuals aged 60 years or above suffers from dementia, revealed a study.

Dementia is a syndrome in which there is deterioration in memory, thinking, behaviour and the ability to perform everyday activities.

About 50 million people have dementia globally and 60 percent of them are from low- and middle-income countries, according to the World Health Organisation.

While the dementia prevalence is 8 percent nationally among the age group, the burden is higher in Rajshahi (15 percent) and Rangpur (12 percent) division, found the study by the icddr and the National Institute of Neurosciences (NINS).

Some 2,796 older adults, randomly selected from urban and rural communities, were interviewed between April and September 2019 to estimate the prevalence of dementia and major non-communicable diseases among people in seven administrative divisions of Bangladesh.

The latest study estimates that the total number of dementia cases in Bangladesh in 2020 could be about 1.1 million, including 0.3 million males and 0.8 million females.

It projected that the number could increase to 1.4 million in 2025 and 2.4 million in 2041 if effective intervention is not made.

There is a lack of understanding about dementia within the community, due to which, it is diagnosed at the very late stage, said Quazi Deen Mohammad, director of NINS, also the co-principal investigator of the study, at the launch yesterday.

Evidence from the study will help integrate public health measures through a lifecycle approach and

mitigate risks of non-communicable diseases and tackle chronic conditions like dementia in old age, said Aliya Naheed, head of Initiative for Non-communicable Diseases at icddr.

The urban and rural elders equally suffer from dementia as prevalence is the same 8 percent in both urban and rural, according to the study styled "The burden of dementia among older people in Bangladesh: Findings of a National Survey".

However, the burden of dementia among females was found higher than males across all ages and divisions.

More than half of the individuals with dementia had one or more chronic conditions, including hypertension 52 percent, depression 54 percent and diabetes 8 percent.

The study finds that more than a third of the individuals with dementia had a poor nutritional status: 35 percent were underweight, 49 percent had low physical activity, 56 percent had high salt intake and 76.6 percent had high tobacco consumption.

These are also the common risk factors of non-communicable disease.

Nine in every ten individuals (90 percent) with dementia reported having sought healthcare in the past six months.

They have also frequently visited drug sellers (16.6 percent) than a qualified doctor either in a private facility (12 percent) or a government facility (5.4 percent).

The study calls for a concerted effort from the family, the society, the private sector and the government in supporting old-age healthcare and reducing the burden of dementia in Bangladesh, and an innovative local evidence-based intervention to halt the increasing burden of dementia in Bangladesh.

## University of hope

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A virtual discussion will be held today marking the university's 100th founding anniversary, said a university press release.

As the chief guest, Language Movement hero and columnist Abdul Gaffar Choudhury will present the keynote speech on "Centenary of Dhaka University: Looking Back".

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman will chair the discussion and it will be streamed live on <https://www.facebook.com/ICTCellDU>.

The university hoped that more colourful programmes would be held with enthusiasm and festivity on November 1.

President Abdul Hamid, also the chancellor of the university, is expected to inaugurate the grand ceremony of the centenary celebrations then.

Prof Akhtaruzzaman in a message yesterday greeted all students, teachers, staffers, former students, guardians and well-wishers.

He said they were working to

improve the quality of education and research at the university and make it suitable for creating skilled manpower.

On July 1, 1921, the university opened its doors to students with PJ Hartog as the first vice-chancellor of the university.

The university started its activities with three faculties, 12 departments, 60 teachers, 877 students, and three dormitories. Now it has 13 faculties, 84 departments, 13 institutes, 19 residential halls, and three hostels.

The number of students and teachers has risen to 47,000 and 1,986.

Since its inception, DU had distinguished scholars as faculties who enriched the global pool of knowledge by making notable contributions.

It acted as the foundation of awakening in every moment of national need and eventually became the centre of the movement that led to the creation of the country in 1971, establishing Bangla as one of the sate languages, and restoration of democracy.

## Living in the memories

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would make sure that it is operated smoothly as per his brother's plan. Many people have pledged to support the school, he added.

In 2007, Rabiul had set up Nazrul Bidyāsiri, a kindergarten school, in the village aiming to realise his father's dream. The school has 175 students of up to class V.

"My brother wanted to construct a residential building and a hospital on the BLOOMS campus for the students and the poor. He dreamt of setting up an old home for the destitute. He also planned to run an agricultural project to fund these institutions," Shams told The Daily Star.

Rabiul's family has already started implementing the project by planting a banana orchard on 137 decimals of land of his uncle. It has also started farming fish in a pond.

His mother Karimon Nesa still cannot hold back her tears while speaking of her son. The heartbroken mother takes pride in thinking that her son sacrificed his life for the country.

"I had no worries when my son was

alive. After the death of my husband in 2006, Rabiul took the responsibility of our family," she lamented.

But the sudden demise of the family's lone breadwinner has left it in the dark.

Although the family received some government assistance, it has no permanent income now.

Karimon Nesa said the amount received from the government was deposited with a bank. "We could survive well if my younger son and Rabiul's wife get jobs as per their qualifications."

A Master's degree holder from Jahangirnagar University, Shams is serving a private company now while Salma, who completed Master's degree at National University, is still unemployed.

Salma said the Jahangirnagar University authorities had assured her of a first-class job.

"One year has passed, but the authorities are yet to deliver on their pledge," she added.

[Reprinted; first published on July 1, 2017]

## US newspaper woes deepened in pandemic year: survey

AFP, Washington

The troubled US newspaper sector cut thousands more jobs as circulation losses extended in a pandemic year, but saw some positive signs with growth in digital readers, a Pew Research Center report showed Tuesday.

As part of its annual assessment of the media, Pew researchers found losses of some 12 percent of newsroom

jobs, or some 4,000 reporters, editors or photographers in 2020, to bring total employment to 30,820 at the end of the year.

Weekday print circulation decreased 19 percent and Sunday print circulation fell 14 percent, Pew said.

A bright spot may be that newspapers saw gains in digital subscribers and readers amid the decline in print.

## Lawmakers blast health boss

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OPPOSITION MPS' PROTEST

Opposition MPs yesterday raised a hue and cry in parliament when the health minister asked them to play their due role in overseeing the activities of different hospitals in their respective constituencies.

Zahid Maleque said this when the opposition MPs came down heavily on him for his failure to ensure vaccine for people, stop corruption, irregularities and mismanagement in the health sector.

The lawmakers also alleged that the health minister has failed to ensure recruitment of the required number of doctors and nurses in this sector.

In response, the minister said, "Every MP is the chairman of the hospital's development committee [in their constituencies]. You have to take responsibility. You will have to oversee the development activities in

your hospital. You will have to inform me about hospital equipment or the required number of doctors. But you don't do that."

At that time, MPs opposed the minister's statement through raising a hue and cry at the House chamber.

The minister claimed that his ministry has so far showed 150 percent performance through implementing various activities including buying of Covid-19 vaccine, treating around 1 lakh Covid patients for free, and setting up labs at the cost of Tk 20,000 crore.

Earlier, opposition BNP, Jatiya Party and Gonoforum MPs criticised the minister for widespread corruption and irregularities in the health sector.

JP MP Pir Fazlur Rahman said, "How many times will I give a DO (Demi Official) letter? There is no ambulance in the hospital in my constituency. When will I get a doctor? When will

I get the X-ray machine? When will I get a radiologist? Every time I told the health minister, he asked me to give a DO letter. How many times will I give you the DO letter?"

Another JP lawmaker Shameem Haider Patwari said, "The health ministry could not spend the money. If the ministry cannot spend the money, share the money with 350 MPs. We will spend the money in our area for healthcare."

BNP's Harunur Rashid said the health sector was going through a crisis. Massive corruption took place in purchasing of different medical equipment.

BNP's Mosharrar Hossain, JP's Rustam Ali Faraji and Mujibul Hub Chhunu also slammed the minister.

The health minister, however, rejected all allegations and asked the lawmakers to raise the issue of corruption after proper verification.

## Strict patrol to enforce lockdown

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briefing at the capital's DMP Media Centre yesterday.

The section criminalises anyone who "unlawfully or negligently" does any act which is, and/or which the person knows or has reason to believe to be, likely to spread the infection of any disease dangerous to life" and carries with it a jail term of up to six months.

Till date, no one in the country has been held or sued under the section.

The DMP commissioner said cars cannot ply the streets without emergency reasons amid the restrictions. If necessary, people can take rickshaws, he said.

Those landing at the airports from abroad can hire cars, but the passengers must carry passports and their air tickets, Shaiful said.

He warned that the police may arrest a huge number of people if they violate the Covid curbs. The action may be taken as the Covid situation across the country has turned alarming, he said.

"We might see as many as 5,000 people getting arrested on the first day of the lockdown," he said.

The Cabinet Division's gazette said executive magistrates, empowered to take legal actions through mobile courts, will also be present on the streets to check public movement.

The public administration ministry has been instructed to deploy the magistrates.

The lockdown begins today at 8:00am and ends on July 7 midnight.

State Minister for the Ministry of Public Administration Farhad Hossain told the media that the government may extend the restrictions depending on the gravity of the Covid situation.

The country yesterday reported a record number of daily cases -- 8,822. Another 115 Covid patients were reported dead in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday.

**LOCKDOWN PURVIEW**  
All government, semi-government,

autonomous and private offices will remain closed amid the lockdown.

Motors vehicles are banned from operating on streets. Operations of public transport on road, rail and waterways will be halted. Domestic flights will remain suspended, said the gazette.

Besides, all shops, including malls or markets, tourist centres, resorts, community and recreation centers will remain shut.

There will be no public gatherings such as social ceremonies (weddings, reception, walima, birthdays, picnics and parties) as well as political and religious ceremonies.

Employees and vehicles of offices related to maintaining law and order and providing emergency services can move about on streets by showing identity cards and/or other valid documents.

Trucks, lorries and cargo vessels involved in transporting goods will remain out of the lockdown's purview. Ports and related offices are also exempted from the ban.

Kitchen markets can operate in open places from 9:00am to 5:00pm. The local administration will monitor it, said the gazette.

No one can go outside their home in any way except for urgent needs such as purchase of medicines and other necessities, visiting medical services, burial or cremation.

Legal action will be taken against those who disobey the instructions, the gazette said.

People can go out to take vaccines but they must carry their vaccination cards.

Hotels and restaurants can sell food (online or takeaway) from 8:00am to 8:00pm.

International flights will operate as usual and people going to the airports have to carry their passports and air tickets, the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh said in a release yesterday.

The Caab had earlier recommended that the government allow the

operation of international flights so that migrant workers can go to their workplaces abroad.

In a circular, Bangladesh Bank said banks would remain closed between from July 1 to July 4. From June 5, clients would be allowed to settle financial transactions till 1:30pm every working day.

The Appellate Division and High Court divisions of the Supreme Court will function on a limited scale virtually.

Meanwhile, a circular from the public administration ministry said the government has deployed 106 executive magistrates to monitor the implementation of the seven-day restrictions from today across the country.

The magistrates will operate mobile courts under Section 10(5) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, said the circular.

## Biden to visit Florida condo collapse site as hope dims for rescue

AFP, Surfside

US President Joe Biden will visit the site of a deadly apartment building collapse in southern Florida later this week, the White House announced Tuesday, as rescuers scoured the wreckage in an increasingly desperate search for survivors.

A 12-story oceanfront condominium in Surfside, a neighborhood near Miami, pancaked into rubble in the early hours of Thursday last week, with the official death toll of 12 expected to rise as hope dwindles for the nearly 150 people still unaccounted for.

The White House said the president would visit the site with First Lady Jill Biden on Thursday to ensure state and local officials have everything they need for the rescue effort.

## Latifur Rahman's

FROM PAGE 1

a student of Emory University in Atlanta, US, was brutally killed by terrorists during the July 1 attack at the Holy Artisan Bakery in Gulshan in 2016.

Latifur was the founding director of Mediaworld, the company that owns The Daily Star, and chairman of Mediastar, the owning company of Prothom Alo. The newspapers are the leading English and Bangla dailies in the country.

Soft-spoken and humble, the visionary and ethical businessman passed away in his sleep at his paternal home in Cumilla after suffering from lung-related illness for a long time.

A respected figure in the global business community, Latifur single-handedly built one of the biggest business conglomerates in the country with his hard work, perseverance, and entrepreneurial skills.

Born in Jalpaiguri on August 28, 1945, he began his education at St Francis School and then went to St Edmund's School, Shillong, in 1956. He also studied at St Xavier's College in Calcutta (now Kolkata).

After coming to Dhaka, he started as a trainee at his family-owned jute mills -- W Rahman Jute Mills in Chandpur -- in 1966. The jute mill was the first jute mill to be owned by a Bangalee in the erstwhile East Pakistan.

He became an executive and worked there until 1971. But the government nationalised industries in 1972 and Latifur found himself in a very difficult situation.

The family also owned some tea estates in north-eastern Bangladesh but after the independence of Bangladesh the price of the produce was less than the production cost.

But he did not give up hope. The same year, Latifur came across a Swiss company and started a trading business. There was no looking back after that.

Eventually, he established Transcom Group in 1981.

Latifur was a member of the executive board of ICC-Paris, vice president of ICC-Bangladesh and member of Brac's governing body. He was a member of the Bangladesh Better Business Forum and the Advisory Committee on World Trade Organisation.

He was also president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka for seven terms and of Bangladesh Employers' Federation.

Latifur was also chairman of the Bangladesh government's Trade Body Reforms Committee and a member of Bangladesh Bank's executive board.

He was an honouree of "Oslo Business for Peace Award 2012" and was awarded Business Executive of the Year 2001 by the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh.

The businessman was also honoured with the "Saar Outstanding Leader" award and Lifetime Achievement Award which was presented by the UK Bangladesh Catalysts of Commerce and Industry.

Latifur Rahman married Shahnaz Rahman. They have three daughters Simeen Hossain, Shahzreh Huq, (late) Shazneen Rahman, and son Arshad Waliur Rahman.

## HC may begin

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appeal with the HC, challenging the trial court judgment.

Contacted, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin said his office will place arguments before the HC for confirmation of punishment of the convicted militants when the court will hold a hearing on the death sentence.

On July 1, 2016, five militants, armed with guns, machetes, and grenades, stormed the upscale eatery in the diplomatic zone in Gulshan and held the diner hostage before brutally killing 20 of them -- three Bangladeshis, seven Japanese, nine Italians, and one Indian.

The militants were killed during a rescue operation by army commandos. Two police officials and a chef of the café were also killed during the 12-hour standoff while another injured staffer of the eatery died later.

A Dhaka court on November 27, 2019, sentenced seven militants to death for their involvement in the attack, terming it a disgraceful attack aimed at assassinating the non-communal character of Bangladesh.

The seven death-row convicts are Jahangir Hossain, Aslam Hossain Rash, Hadisur Rahman, Rakibul Hasan Regan, Md Abdus Sabur Khan, Shariful Islam Khaled, and Mamunur Rashid Ripon.

The Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal acquitted one accused as it found him not guilty.

## Country logs

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After cases and deaths came under control in January and February, coronavirus transmission continued rising from the second week of March this year, with a small dip from late April to mid-May.

Due to the spread of the Delta variant -- first detected in neighbouring India -- Khulna and Rajshahi divisions have become the hotspots of the latest virus surge across the country.

According to the DGHS data, more than 50 districts have been recording positivity rates above 20 percent recently.

To curb the transmission, the government has imposed a countrywide lockdown from today for a week.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Department of Environment				
Ecosystem-based Approaches to Adaptation (EbA) in the Drought-Prone Barind Tract and Haor Wetland Area Project (EbA Project)				
2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room: 304, Poribesh Bhaban Old Building				
E/16 Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207				
www.doe.gov.bd				
<b>Advertisement for Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) for Selection of Individual Consultant (National)</b>				
1.	Ministry/Division	:	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change	
2.	Agency	:	Department of Environment (DoE)	
3.	Client (Procuring Entity) Name	:	Dr. Md. Sohrab Ali, Project Director, EbA project	
4.	Client (Procuring Entity) Code	:		
5.	Client (Procuring Entity) District	:	Dhaka	
6.	Expression of Interest for selection of	:	Individual Consultant (National)	
7.	EoI Ref No	:	22.02.0000.111.14.012.20-112	
8.	Date	:	29 June 2021	
Funding Information				
9.	Source of Funds	:	LDCF of Global Environment Facility (GEF)	
10.	Development Partners	:	GEF-UNEP	
Particular Information				
11.	Project Code	:	009869	
12.	Project Name	:	Ecosystem-based Approaches to Adaptation (EbA) in the Drought-Prone Barind Tract and Haor "Wetland" Area Project (EbA Project)	
13.	EoI Closing Date and Time	:	29 July 2021, 02:30 pm	
Information for Applicants:				
Package No.	Name of Position	Number of Position	Duration	Educational Qualifications and TOR*
	Economist (Monitoring and Evaluation)	1 (One)	36 months/Project Period	PhD/Master's degree in Economics/ Agricultural Economics
	Administration and Finance Officer (AFO)- Haor Area	1 (One)	36 months/Project Period	Master's degree in Commerce background or closely relevant subject
	Office Assistant- Haor area	1 (One)	36 months/Project Period	Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC)
Procuring Entity (Client) Details				
14.	Name of Official Inviting EoI	:	Dr. Md. Sohrab Ali	
15.	Designation of Official Inviting EoI	:	Project Director, EbA Project	
16.	Address of Official Inviting EoI	:	Department of Environment 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room: 304, Poribesh Bhaban Old Building E/16 Agargaon Administrative Area Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207	
17.	Contact details of Official Inviting EoI	:	Phone: 8181269, Email: sohrab@doe.gov.bd	
18.	Place of submission of EoI	:	Project Director's office (Director's office of DoE Dhaka Laboratory) EbA project, Department of Environment 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, Room: 304, Poribesh Bhaban Old Building E/16 Agargaon Administrative Area Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207	
19.	The Client (Procuring Entity) reserves the right to accept or reject all EoIs.			

The Department of Environment is implementing EbA Project to increase capacity of government and local communities living in the Barind Tract and the Haor wetland area and to reduce the negative effects of climate change using Ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation.

Project Director of the EbA Project now invites eligible applicants to express their interest in providing the services. Applicants are advised to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services in completed Curriculum Vitae (CV) and proven documents with a cover letter. Detail Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) including Format of CV, Standard Request for Application (SRFA) and \*Terms of References (ToR) including scope of works, responsibilities, educational qualifications and experiences are available in the DoE website ([www.doe.gov.bd](http://www.doe.gov.bd)). Format of CV, SRFA and Copy of ToR may also be obtained from the office mentioned above.

One original and two copies of EoI must be submitted in the Project Director's office on or before 29 July 2021, 02:30 pm in sealed envelope and be clearly marked the position for Expression of Interest. In this pandemic situation, applicants can send the EoI through Email also at [sohrab@doe.gov.bd](mailto:sohrab@doe.gov.bd) with necessary proven documents.

Persons who are in service should submit EoI through proper channel, otherwise EoI will be rejected.