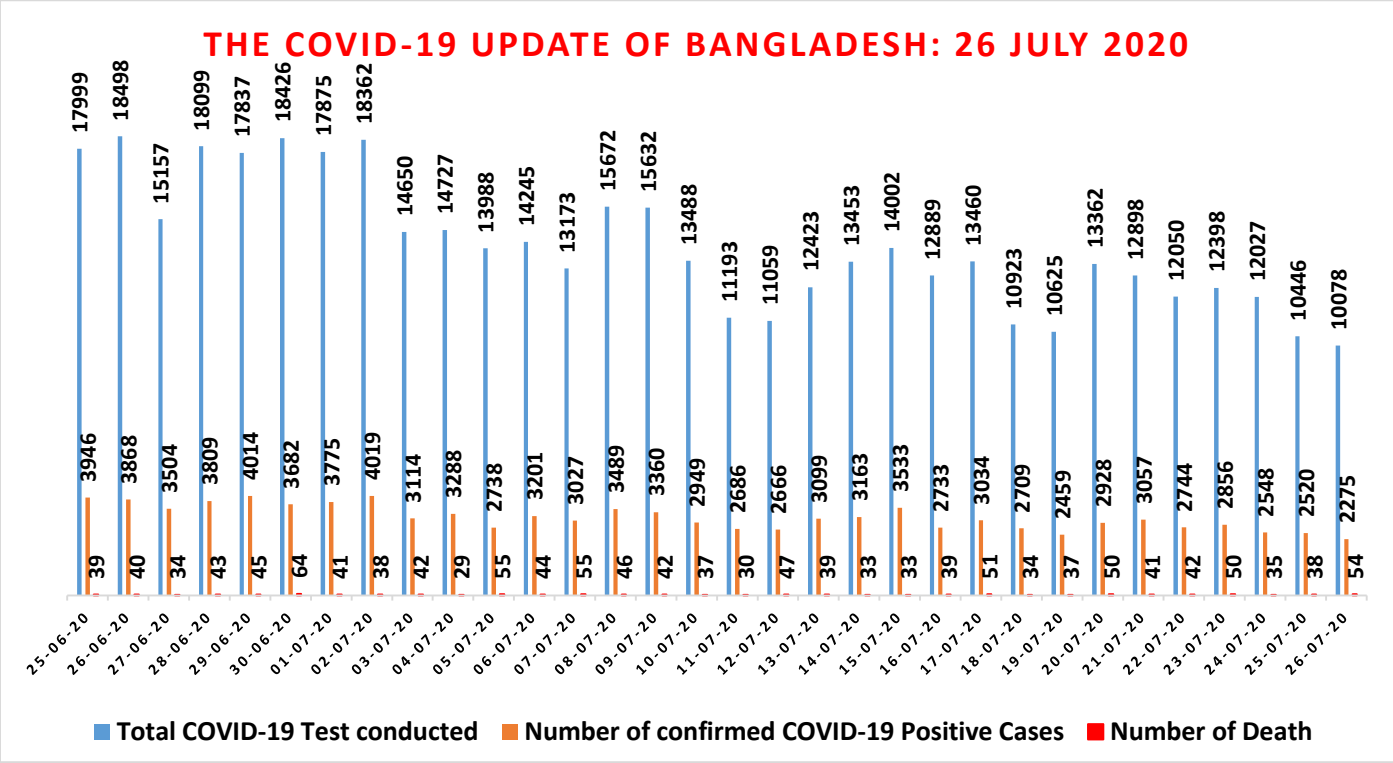
Centre for Governance Studies

Situation Update on COVID-19: 26 July 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic has already been shaped a global economic and humanitarian crisis of a completely different magnitude. Declared as a global pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO), it has prepared several guidelines to fight against pandemic. Governments across the world enforce lockdowns to suppress the spread of Covid-19 although many countries have been unable to contain its spread. However, it has been detected in 213 countries so far. The COVID-19 has already resulted in 648,914 deaths globally; the confirmed COVID-19 positive cases are 16,230,654 where 5,650,967 are the active cases[1].

Bangladesh is not new to disasters or major humanitarian crises. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, is a crisis of a completely different magnitude and one that will require a response of an unprecedented scale. The first case of Covid-19 in Bangladesh was detected on 8 March 2020. However, the confirmed COVID-19 positive cases are increasing on a daily basis. Compare to the total conducted test of COVID-19, 22.57% is tested positive today, on the one hand. The recovery rate is 1.85% out of total 96,643 active cases. Moreover, 1,776 deaths were recorded from 8th March to 13th June with COVID-19 symptoms[2]. To control the situation and the spread of COVID-19, the government has taken several measures which include confirmed Social and Physical Distancing, Countrywide Lockdown, Institutional and Home Quarantines etc.



[1] https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/#countries
[2] http://peaceobservatory-cgs.org/#/all-division-heat-map

The most Common COVID-19 myths and rumours	*Facts*[3]
Hydroxychloroquine can be used to treat COVID-19 Patients.	*There are currently **NO** drugs licensed for the treatment or prevention of COVID-19.*
Adding pepper to your soup or other meals can prevent or cure COVID-19.	*Hot peppers in your food, though very tasty, **CANNOT** prevent or cure COVID-19.*
COVID-19 IS transmitted through houseflies.	***NO**, there is no evidence or information to suggest that the COVID-19 virus transmitted through houseflies.*
Spraying and introducing bleach or another disinfectant into your body will protect you against COVID-19.	***NO**, it does not protect you. These substances can be poisonous if ingested and cause irritation and damage to your skin and eyes.*
Drinking methanol, ethanol or bleach prevents or cure COVID-19.	*Methanol, ethanol, and bleach **CANNOT** prevent or cure COVID-19. These are poisons can be extremely dangerous.*
5G mobile networks spread COVID-19.	*Viruses **CANNOT** travel on radio waves/mobile networks. COVID-19 is spreading in many countries that do not have 5G mobile networks.*
Exposing yourself to the sun or to temperatures higher than 25C degrees prevents the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)	***NO**, you can catch COVID-19, no matter how sunny or hot the weather is.*
Being able to hold your breath for 10 seconds or more without coughing or feeling discomfort means you are free from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) or any other lung disease.	*You **CANNOT** confirm it with this breathing exercise, which can even be dangerous.*
Drinking alcohol protects you against COVID-19 and can be dangerous.	***NO**, it cannot protect you against COVID-19. Frequent or excessive alcohol consumption can increase your risk of health problems.*
Taking a hot bath prevents the new coronavirus disease.	*Taking a hot bath **WILL NOT** prevent you from catching COVID-19.*
The new coronavirus can be transmitted through mosquito bites.	***NO**, to date there has been no information nor evidence to suggest that the new coronavirus could be transmitted by mosquitoes.*
Are hand dryers effective in killing the new coronavirus?	***NO**. Hand dryers are not effective in killing the 2019-nCoV*
Ultra-violet (UV) lamps can disinfect hands or other areas of your skin.	*Ultra-violet (UV) lamps **SHOULD NOT** be used. UV radiation can cause skin irritation and damage your eyes.*
Thermal scanners can detect COVID-19.	*Thermal scanners are effective in detecting people who have a fever. They **CANNOT** detect people who are infected with COVID-19.*
Do vaccines against pneumonia protect you against the new coronavirus?	***NO,** Vaccines against pneumonia, such as pneumococcal vaccine and Haemophilus influenza type B (Hib) vaccine, do not provide protection against the new coronavirus.*
Can regularly rinsing your nose with saline help prevent infection with the new coronavirus?	***NO.** There is no evidence that regularly rinsing the nose with saline has protected people from infection with the new coronavirus.*
Can eating garlic help prevent infection with the new coronavirus?	*Garlic is a healthy food that may have some antimicrobial properties. However, there **IS NO EVIDENCE** from the current outbreak that eating garlic has protected people from the new coronavirus.*
Does the new coronavirus affect older people, or are younger people also susceptible?	***PEOPLE OF ALL AGES CAN BE INFECTED BY THE NEW CORONAVIRUS (2019-NCOV)**. Older people, and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease) appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus.*
Are antibiotics effective in preventing and treating the new coronavirus?	***NO**, antibiotics do not work against viruses, only bacteria.*

For COVID-19 related any emergency, please contact below numbers:

***National Call Center: 333; Health Portal: 16263; IEDCR: 10655; Specialist Health Line: 0196116 77777; National Helpline: 109; Website: www.corona.gov.bd** or* www.iedcr.gov.bd

[3] World Health Organization