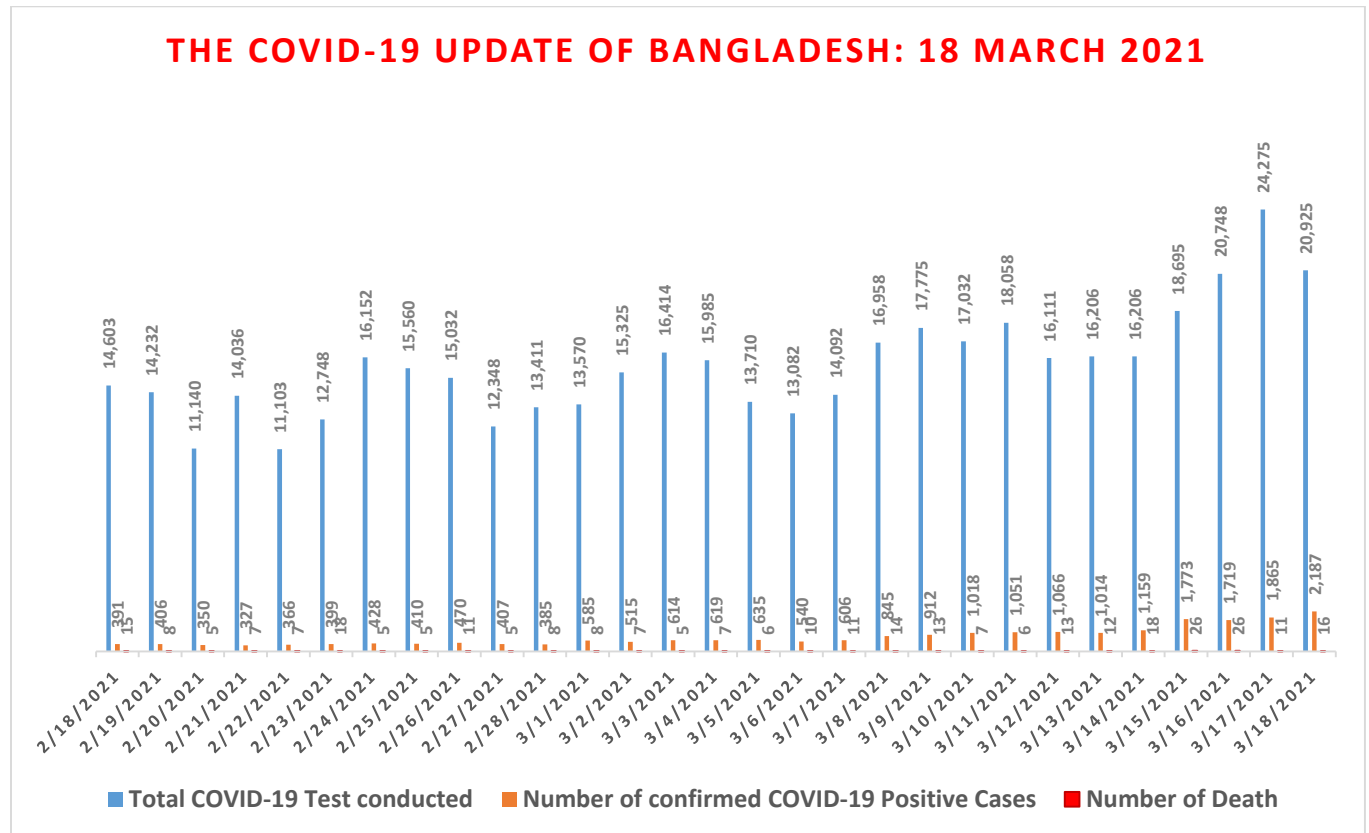


Situation Update on COVID-19: 18 March 2020

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 **2,694,944** deaths globally; the confirmed COVID-19 positive cases are **121,941,358** where **20,969,333** are the active cases¹.

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, **10.45%** is tested positive today, on the one hand. The recovery rate is **3.95%** out of total **38,792** active cases. Moreover, **2,212** deaths were recorded from 8th March to 13th June with COVID-19 symptoms². 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	Facts³
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