



LIVERPOOL END 30-YR ROUGHT
Jurgen Klopp's side win Premier League with a record 7 games in hand
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HEALTH SECTOR GRAFT REPORT 2019

ACC warnings go unheeded

Chief of anti-graft body disappointed as ministry hardly took ACC recommendations seriously

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

More than 16 months ago, the Anti-Corruption Commission sent a report to the health ministry identifying the sources of graft in the health sector, setting off alarm bells.

One of the findings was that corruption takes place during the purchase of medicines, surgical equipment and other machines due to absence of proper monitoring by the government. An alleged nexus of contractors and officials from different organisations under the ministry buy many "inessential machines and equipment to misappropriate money," said the report.

In the report, submitted in January

2019, the ACC also mentioned 25 recommendations on preventing graft and other corrupt practices in the sector.

All those recommendations, however, appear to have fallen on deaf ears as allegations of corruption in the procurement of N95 masks, PPE units and other safety gear surfaced even during the Covid-19 pandemic, which hit the country around March.

In such a situation, ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmood yesterday in a written statement said, "Had the health ministry followed the ACC's recommendations made last year, unbridled corruption in the health sector could have been reined in."

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Wearing face shield and mask, a man and a woman enter the icddr,b building in the capital's Mohakhali to give samples for Covid-19 testing. They were allowed in after verification of their appointments which were done online in advance. The research organisation launched the coronavirus testing service yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Covid-19 vaccine uncertain

Says WHO chief, seeks 30.1b funding for next 12 months to find one

AGENCIES

It is not certain that scientists will be able to create an effective vaccine against the coronavirus that has caused the Covid-19 pandemic, but it could take a year before one were to be invented, the head of the World Health Organisation said.

Speaking by video-conference to deputies from the European Parliament's health committee, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that if such a vaccine became a reality, it should become a public good available to all.

"It would be very difficult to say for sure that we will have a vaccine," Tedros said. "We never had a vaccine for a coronavirus. So this will be, when discovered, hoping that it will be the first one," he said.

He said the WHO had already more than a 100 candidates for a vaccine of which one was at an advanced stage of development.

"Hoping that there will be a vaccine, the estimate is we may have a vaccine within one year. If accelerated, it could be even less than that, but by a couple of months. That's what scientists are saying," he said.

More than 489,000 people worldwide have

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BANGLADESH UPDATE

3,868 New cases in 24hrs

1,30,474 Total cases

1,661 Deaths

53,133 Recoveries

COVID-HIT OVERSEAS JOBS

Workers abroad get little help

Govt focuses on assistance for returnees

JAMIL MAHMUD and RASHIDUL HASAN

In contrast to their major contribution to the country's economy, thousands of migrant workers living abroad have received little or no help from Bangladesh government to fight their financial hardship during the pandemic.

There is a growing concern that several lakh out of more than one crore Bangladeshi migrant workers may lose jobs due to the economic downturn.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Bangladesh in recent a statement said, "Due to the economic and labour crisis created by the Covid-19 pandemic, hundreds of thousands of migrant workers are expected to return by the end of the year."

Against this backdrop, migrant rights activists have called for financial support directly from the government coffers, for both returnees and those staying overseas.

They urged the government to show "commitment" by adequately

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2 coronavirus cases detected every minute

Shows DGHS data since June 10; 40 die, 3,868 infected in a day

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

At least two people are testing positive for coronavirus every minute, and five are reported dead every three hours from the highly transmissible virus, according to government statistics released yesterday.

A total of 3,868 new cases were detected in 24 hours until 2:30pm yesterday and 40 people died in the same period, said Nasima Sultana, additional director general of Directorate General of Health Services, at the daily briefing.

The death toll from the deadly virus rose to 1,661 and the number of total infections to 130,474.

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GONOSHASTHAYA RAPID TEST KIT

Drug admin rebuffs it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The drug administration said Gonoshasthaya Kendra's rapid test kit will not be registered because it had not met the standard set by the government's technical committees.

The Technical Committee on Investigational Drugs, Vaccines and Medical Device formed by the health ministry fixed the sensitivity and specificity of a rapid antibody test kit at 90 percent and 95 percent.

But Gonoshasthaya's antibody test kit's sensitivity is 69.7 percent and specificity is 96 percent, said a letter sent to Gonoshasthaya Pharmaceuticals on

Thursday by the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA).

The committee followed the US Food and Drug Administration guidelines in fixing the levels, said the letter.

DGDA's Technical Committee on Medical Device also made similar recommendations.

"It has not been possible for the drug administration to register the GR Rapid Dot Blot test kit," said the letter signed by Director General Maj Gen Md Mahbubur Rahman.

However, the DGDA will provide technical assistance for further development of the kit.

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Holding Jamdani sarees in their hands, weavers try to attract customers at the age-old Jamdani haat in Narayanganj's Tarabo yesterday. The weekly haat opened last week after the Covid-19-induced break of over two months, but the sales were poor. Inset, people hardly follow health guidelines at the market.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'GUNFIGHT' WITH COPS Four Rohingya robbers killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Four suspected members of a notorious Rohingya robbery gang were killed in a "gunfight" with police in a remote forest in the district's Ukhiya upazila yesterday.

The dead are Bashir Ahmed, Hamid Hossain, Royingya, and Mohammed Rafiq, all Ronhigyas from Myanmar and aged between 35 and 45.

Police said the four were active members of Rohingya robbery gang "Hakim Bahini". Deceased Bashir and Hamid are younger brothers of Abdul Hakim alias Hakim Dakat, the chief of the gang, they said.

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Strong will shows way

A group of visually impaired performers takes up the challenge to produce dramas

MD MIZANUR RAHMAN HIMADRI

Audio dramas written and directed by someone visually impaired since birth, acted by a team of such challenged persons and made entirely on a mobile application, usher in hopes for those facing obstacles in life.

Mahbubur Rahman Rony, an English lecturer in Sylhet, came up with the initiative using technology.

As part of his efforts, he formed Ganga Padma Shilpighushthi in February. Since then, the platform has produced 14 audio dramas, all performed by visually impaired artists from Bangladesh and India.

Talking to The Daily Star, Rony, who is also Bangladesh's first visually impaired BCS cadre, said, "We see people like us taking part in singing or reciting poetry, but it is rare that they are in acting. Though it is slightly

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Rony

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গণশুনানী

ঢাকা মহানগরী পরিবহন ব্যবস্থাকে সুষ্ঠু, পরিকল্পিত, সমন্বিত ও আধুনিকীকরণ করার লক্ষ্যে ২০১২ সালে গোল্ডেন প্রায়নের মাধ্যমে ঢাকা পরিবহন সমন্বয় কর্তৃপক্ষ (ডিটিসিএ) প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয়। ডিটিসিএ'র ভিশন ও মিশন বহুক্ষেত্রে বৃহত্তর ঢাকার পরিকল্পিত, সমন্বিত এবং আধুনিক ও টেকসই পরিবহন ব্যবস্থা গড়ে তোলা এবং পরিবহন ব্যবস্থার সুষ্ঠু সমন্বয়, পরিবহন পরিকল্পনা এবং জনস্বার্থী গণপরিবহন ব্যবস্থা প্রবর্তনের মাধ্যমে জনসাধারণের জন্য নিরাপদ, নির্ভরযোগ্য এবং সহজলভ্য পরিবহন সেবা প্রদান। এ সকল লক্ষ্য ও উদ্দেশ্যকে সামনে রেখে ডিটিসিএ তার প্রতিষ্ঠাকাল থেকে সর্বাঙ্গিকভাবে কাজ করে চলেছে।

এ প্রেক্ষাপটে, সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের সুচিহ্নিত পরামর্শ ও মতামত গ্রহণের নিমিত্ত অনলাইনে Zoom এর মাধ্যমে নিম্নবর্ণিত সময়ে গণশুনানীর আয়োজন করা হয়েছেঃ

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Zoom Meeting ID: 314 433 6567

এছাড়াও, গণশুনানীটি ঢাকা পরিবহন সমন্বয় কর্তৃপক্ষ (ডিটিসিএ)র ফেসবুক পেজে নিম্নবর্ণিত লিঙ্কের মাধ্যমে সরাসরি সংগঠিত করা হবে।
https://www.facebook.com/Dhaka-Transport-Coordination-Authority-DTCA-574916682630394/live_videos/

উক্ত প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক গণশুনানীতে Zoom এর মাধ্যমে নির্ধারিত তারিখ ও সময়ে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে অংশগ্রহণ করে মূল্যবান পরামর্শ প্রদানের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

নির্বাহী পরিচালক
ঢাকা পরিবহন সমন্বয় কর্তৃপক্ষ

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