



Three 450-bed joint venture hospitals are opening soon in the city. From left, Apollo Hospital at Bashundhara opens this week while Square Hospital on Panthapath and Continental Hospital at Gulshan are expected to go into operation in June this year.

Back from Brunei devastated
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An expatriate Bangladeshi businessman yesterday alleged that the Brunei immigration forcibly sent him back to the country and that the Bangladesh Mission in Brunei did not help him in this regard.

MM Rahman, former managing director of Madina Overseas Private Ltd., a recruiting agency in Brunei, said he had so far spent at least Tk 1 crore in business and for filing cases and will now face a severe financial loss unless the government helps him.

According to him,
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5 joint venture hospitals in city by next year

NAIMUL HAQ

The first of its kind in the country, five joint venture hospitals are being set up in the capital by five leading overseas healthcare enterprises and their local partners.

Of the hospitals, one will open its doors to patients on March 30, two in June, one by the yearend and another by the middle of next year.

The joint ventures involving a total investment of \$162 million will run on commercial lines to provide services of international standard at competitive and affordable prices, sources said.

The five foreign enterprises are from America, Thailand, India and Malaysia.

Apollo Hospital Dhaka at Bashundhara, the largest of 37 hospitals of India's Apollo group, starts functioning only after three days.

Sources said the hospital being built on a 400,000-square foot area will be the largest commercially-run healthcare provider in Asia. Funded by local business group STS Holdings and managed by American staff, the 10-storey hospital with 450 beds will also have facilities for handling helicopter ambulance.

Moreover, a 450-bed Square Hospital managed and run by Thailand's Bumrungrad Hospital International in cooperation with local Square Hospitals Ltd begins functioning in June. Construction of the hospital at Panthapath involving an investment of \$42 million is nearing completion.

Another 450-bed hospital -- Continental Hospital at Gulshan -- is expected to be ready for services by June this year. The project involving around \$37.5 million is being jointly implemented by United Group of Bangladesh and K P J Healthcare, Berhad, of Malaysia.

An American private healthcare giant has invested \$ 30 million to provide specialised hospital services by the end of this year. American Hospital Consortium llc (AHCL) envisages use and expansion of the 10-storey building of Kuwait Moitry Hospital and other structures on its premises at Sector-6 in Uttara, lying vacant for the last eight years.

"We have decided to hand over the vacant Kuwait Moitry Hospital to the American company. Twenty per cent of the 200 beds at the hospital must be reserved for free treatment

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Rab completes one year of operation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) today celebrates one year of its inception.

The government claims law and order has improved a lot in the one year of Rab operation. But different rights watchdogs, opposition political parties and people continue blasting the elite force for extrajudicial killings of people in 'crossfire' or in its custody.

The anti-crime force came into being on March 26 last year but formally started functioning on April 14.

The force came to limelight on June 26 when Pichchi Hannan, one of the country's top 23 listed criminals, was killed in 'crossfire' under its custody.

Besides, Rab members' involvement in robbery, extortion and bribery also drew flak from the public.

Punitive actions have so far been taken against 109 Rab members for criminal and anti-disciplinary activities.

Four members of Rab-4 along with two informants on Wednesday looted Tk 7.8 lakh from a cattle trader from his Gabtoli house in Mirpur in the city.

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Suicide attacks on Iraqi security forces kill 15

Iraqi general, 5 cleaning ladies working on US base killed, 5 troops die in friendly fire

REUTERS, AFP, Baghdad

Two suicide car bomb attacks in Iraq killed at least 15 people and wounded 20 including two US soldiers, American and Iraqi officers said yesterday.

An Iraqi army general from Basra and his son were killed in a drive-by shooting Friday in southeastern Baghdad, an interior ministry official said.

"General Salman Mohamed was driving his car with two sons and another relative when a car with gunmen on board opened fire on them in Baghdad Jadida at 3:30 pm (1230 GMT)," the official said on condition of anonymity.

One son died along with the general, who was assigned to the national guard in the southern port city of Basra, and another son was seriously wounded, he said. The fate of the other relative was unclear.

In the deadlier attack, a suicide bomber blew up his car at a checkpoint in Ramadi on Thursday evening, killing 12 Iraqi special police commandos and wounding nine police, two US soldiers and three civilians, the US military said yesterday.

The US 2nd Marine Division said the bomber blew himself up at a

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Bring Matiur's remains back from Pakistan

HUMAN CHAIN DEMANDS
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Citizens held a rally and formed human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding the government's immediate initiative regarding bringing back the remains of martyred Birsreshtha flight lieutenant Matiur Rahman from his grave in Pakistan.

Speakers at the rally organised by the Save Environment Movement (SEM) expressed solidarity with Milly Rahman, wife of Birsreshtha Matiur Rahman, who recently applied to the prime minister in this regard.

Although 34 years have passed since the Liberation War, no governments took any initiative to bring back the body of Birsreshtha Matiur Rahman who had been buried at the Mashrur Airbase graveyard in Karachi, Pakistan, entitled for the fourth class employees, SEM convenor Abu Naser Khan said.

The Pakistani authorities even dared to disgrace Matiur by identifying him as a "gaddar" (traitor) at the

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Prayer Timing

March 26

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Galib sent to Naogaon jail

UNB, Gopalganj

Islamist militant leader and the main accused in Kotalipara Brac office robbery case Dr Asadullah Al Galib was sent to Naogaon district jail from here early yesterday.

Galib, accused of robbery and incidents of bomb attack in Naogaon, was sent to Naogaon jail

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