

Woman dies from 'wrong treatment'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A patient died allegedly due to wrong treatment at a private hospital at Mohammadpur in the capital on Friday night.

The deceased was identified as Rahima Begum, 50, wife of Abdul Jabbar of Fatullah in Narayanganj.

According to family members, Rahima was first admitted to the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR) last Sunday as she received an elbow injury after falling from the roof of a one-storey building.

Rahima was released the following day but she again went to the NITOR on Friday afternoon as her pain did not decrease.

But the brokers at the NITOR premises took Rahima to Shyamoli General Hospital assuring her of a better treatment at Tk 10,000.

Rahima was taken to the operating theatre at 8:00pm. The hospital

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Arafat's home looted

Fatah men storm parliament; Hamas tightens grip on Gaza

AFP, Gaza City

Hamas cemented its control over Gaza yesterday, seizing weapons from the routed security services of their Fatah rivals, as the home of iconic leader Yasser Arafat became the latest target of looting in the territory.

For a second day in a row, Hamas fighters raided the homes of security personnel across the territory, confiscating weapons as they consolidated their victory after a week of bloody street battles, witnesses said.

"Members of the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades took my weapons under threat," Osama, an officer in the pro-Fatah police force, told AFP, referring to Hamas's armed wing.

Witnesses said looters ransacked Arafat's Gaza home, making off with the late president's personal belongings.

"I saw armed people entering

inside, stealing Arafat's things and burning one of the bedrooms," said one witness who lives across the street but didn't want his name used for fear of reprisals by the Islamists.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headed by president Mahmud Abbas rejected an offer for dialogue with Hamas on Saturday, accusing the Islamist movement of "massacres."

PLO executive committee secretary general Yasser Abed Rabbo issued a blunt rejection of the olive branch offered by Hamas's exiled political supremo, Khaled Meshaal, after the Islamists' bloody seizure of the Gaza Strip.

"I tell Meshaal that there can not be dialogue with those who commit massacres in Gaza," he said.

Meshaal said on Friday that Hamas still recognised Abbas's authority and called for renewed talks under Arab auspices to recreate a united administration for the

Palestinian territories.

On Saturday, masked members of Hamas's armed wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, stood guard on the roof of the house, not allowing anyone in, an AFP photographer witnessed.

Arafat died in a Paris hospital in 2004 and his home in Gaza has stood empty since then, protected by guards.

Gaza witnessed a looting spree on Friday, after Hamas fighters in the territory overran the mainstream security forces loyal to Arafat's successor Mahmud Abbas.

After a week of fighting that killed more than 110 people and sent terrified residents indoors, life gradually assumed its normal routine in the impoverished territory.

Food stalls reopened and cars

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13 firearms, ammunition seized

UNB, Dhaka

The law enforcers seized 13 firearms and ammunition from Cox's Bazar and Sunamganj districts yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, the joint forces raided the house of Jubo Dal cadre Shahadat Hossain at Napitkhali village in Pekua upazila of Cox's Bazar in the morning.

They arrested Shahadat and recovered five guns, 10 bullets and a knife from his possession. Shahadat was taken to the custody of the joint forces for quizzing.

In Sunamganj, Rab personnel recovered five rifles, three pipe guns and 16 cartridges from a graveyard at Narayanpur village in Jagannathpur upazila of the district at around 8:00am.

On secret information, a team of the elite force went to the spot and recovered the arms and ammunition.



PHOTO: STAR

A number of two-stroke three-wheelers, which are banned in the city since 2002, are being taken for repair to be sent to rural areas for use. The picture was taken from Merul Badda.



PHOTO: SHAFIQ ALAM

A woman at a house in Ananda Bazar of Badda in the capital works on her sewing machine placed on her bed as rainwater has flooded her house. The photo was taken yesterday.

3 journos held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The joint forces arrested three journalists and a businessman at Dumuria upazila headquarters under Khulna district yesterday.

Of them, two were arrested on charges of bribery, while the rest for interfering in the action of the joint forces.

The arrestees are Dumuria upazila correspondents of Dainik Ittefaq GM Abdus Salam, Dainik Sangbad Uday Chakraborty, Jessore based Dainik Spandan Sirajul Islam and businessman Pankaj Mondol.

According to sources in police and the joint forces, Uday Chakraborty and Sirajul Islam were caught red-handed while receiving two notes of 500 taka denomination in bribe from fish trader Babar Ali Gazi of Dumuria upazila at 3:00pm.

GM Abdus Salam and Pankaj Mandol were arrested for interfering in the action of the joint forces.

The arrestees were handed over to Dumuria Police Station.

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Five shot dead in restive Thai Muslim south

AFP, Narathiwat

Insurgents killed five people in separate shootings in Thailand's restive Muslim-majority south, police said yesterday.

An 82-year-old Islamic religious teacher was killed in a drive-by shooting while he was riding a motorcycle late Saturday in Narathiwat, one of three insurgency-hit provinces bordering Malaysia, police said.

Earlier in the day, a 45-year-old Muslim man was gunned down at his home in Narathiwat, where another Muslim, aged 38, was also killed in a drive-by shooting late Friday.

In neighboring Pattani, a 33-year-old Buddhist was shot dead by rebels at a tea house late Friday while a 20-year-old Muslim man was killed in another drive-by.

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HASINA'S CASES

AL leaders plan to hire lawyers from abroad

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Senior Awami League (AL) leaders are planning to bring in lawyers from abroad to provide legal aid to party chief Sheikh Hasina during the trials of the two extortion cases filed against her as the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) has engaged a large number of senior lawyers in other graft cases preventing them from defending any accused.

Lawyers who are engaged with graft cases of the ACC cannot move for Hasina in court as they are under the condition of not providing any legal assistance to any accused in court during the trial, a senior lawyer who last week was appointed as a senior prosecutor for the ACC told The Daily Star yesterday.

The ACC has started appointing a large number of senior lawyers to form its three-layer legal team—legal advisers, senior prosecutors and public prosecutors—to provide the ACC with legal support during the trial of the accused in lower and higher courts, sources said.

Due to the ACC's ongoing recruitment, pro-AL lawyers said senior lawyers might not be able to move for Hasina during the trials.

In such a situation, they are planning to bring in legal experts from abroad—particularly from USA and UK—to provide Hasina with legal aid. They have already discussed the issue with the AL

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Lebanese army unleashes barrage of shells on camp

AFP, Nahr al-Bared

Lebanese troops unleashed an intense artillery bombardment on Saturday against positions of Islamist fighters who have been holed up inside a refugee camp for almost a month.

An AFP correspondent near the camp said the artillery unit began heavy shelling early on Saturday after a largely quiet night, which had been interrupted only by the occasional crackle of light-arms fire.

Clouds of smoke and flames from several fires could be seen rising over the northern sector of the Nahr al-Bared camp, the stronghold of the Fatah al-Islam extremists.

The sustained attack followed a military statement late on Friday in which the army vowed to continue to "expand the zone under its control in

the camp and to paralyse the movements of what remains of the band of terrorists."

Around 2,000 Palestinian refugees are believed to remain in the camp which was home to 31,000 before fighting erupted on May 20, the deadliest internal violence in Lebanon since the civil war.

On Friday, four soldiers were killed and others wounded when a booby-trapped building, which they were searching collapsed on them. The deaths brought the toll in the clashes to 134 killed, including 67 troops and 50 Islamist fighters.

The army also announced it had destroyed a big ammunition depot of Fatah al-Islam, and repeated its demand that those still fighting it should surrender.



PHOTO: STAR

Sandbags are placed around a pile of garbage on Nazimuddin Road in the capital so that rainwater cannot scatter them. The photo was taken yesterday.

Thousands of Thais in anti-junta rally

AFP, Bangkok

Thousands of supporters of ousted Thai premier Thaksin Shinawatra braved rainy skies and an enormous security deployment yesterday to protest against the junta that deposed him.

The demonstration came a day after Thaksin addressed crowds in a recorded speech from London, urging the junta to push ahead with elections set for December and calling for reconciliation after months of political turmoil.

Police said about 10,000 people joined Saturday's rally, where they chanted "Fight, Thaksin, fight" under a giant banner reading "Democracy now."

Protesters also held signs reading "Junta out" and carried pictures of Thaksin to the plaza in central Bangkok.

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US launches offensive around Baghdad

AP, Baghdad

The US military, which just days ago completed its latest troop buildup in Iraq, has launched a large offensive operation in several al-Qaeda strongholds around Baghdad, the top US commander said Saturday.

Gen David Petraeus said the operation began in the last 24 hours, and will put forces into key areas surrounding Baghdad that, according to intelligence, al-Qaeda is using to base some of its car bomb operations.

Petraeus, who met with Defence Secretary Robert Gates at a morning breakfast, also said that while he doesn't have all the American troops he might want, he knows he's got all he's going to get.

"There's never been a military commander in history who wouldn't like to have more of something or other that characterises all of us

here," he told reporters travelling with Gates. "The fact is frankly that we have all that our country is going to provide us in terms of combat forces. That is really it right now."

He said the buildup of nearly 30,000 additional forces that has just been completed allowed him to launch the latest assault. The move, he said, is allowing him to send operations for the first time into "a number of areas around Baghdad, in particular to go into areas that were sanctuaries in the past of al-Qaeda."

He added, "Our job now, frankly, along with the job of our Iraqi counterparts ... is to do everything that we can with the additional forces that we have."

Underscoring the challenges ahead, Gates arrival Friday night

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300 villages flooded in Bihar

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Patna

Heavy rains in the past 48 hours have flooded at least 300 villages in north Bihar districts of Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi and Darbhanga, local media reports said yesterday.

However, officials of the Flood Control Cell in Patna have no information about the floods. "We have not received reports from the

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Prayer Timing		
June 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

N Korea invites UN nuke inspectors

AP, Seoul

North Korea yesterday sent a letter to the UN nuclear watchdog, inviting inspectors to the country to discuss procedures for shutting down its main nuclear reactor, state media reported.

The letter to the International Atomic Energy Agency noted "that a working-level delegation of the IAEA has been invited to visit (North Korea) as it is confirmed that the process of de-freezing the funds of (North Korea) at the Banco Delta Asia in Macau has reached its final phase," the North's Korean Central News Agency reported.

The inspectors were invited for "discussions of the procedures of the IAEA's verification and monitoring of" shutting down its Yongbyon reactor, the report said.

North Korea had refused to act on its February pledge to disarm

until it got access to \$25 million once frozen in a US-blacklisted Macau bank. The US accused Banco Delta Asia of helping North Korea's government pass fake \$100 bills and launder money from weapons sales.

Claiming the financial freeze was a sign of Washington's hostility, North Korea boycotted international nuclear talks for more than a year, during which it conducted its first-ever atomic bomb test in October.

In an attempt to win North Korea's promise to start dismantling its nuclear program, the US agreed earlier this year to give its blessing for the money to be freed.

The US, Japan, China, Russia and the two Koreas took part in the arms negotiations that prompted the February pledge from the North to stop making nuclear weapons in exchange for aid and political concessions.