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Patients face water crisis

Dinajpur Medical College Hospital's water pump remains out of order for 5 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Patients at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital have been undergoing untold sufferings due to an acute water crisis since the lone water pump of the hospital went out of order on Sunday due to a technical glitch.

Treatment is being hampered and major surgeries are being skipped at the hospital. The hospital authorities are also taking fewer new patients due to the crisis.

Several attendants of patients told The Daily Star that they have to bring water from the lone tube well installed at an unhygienic place on the hospital premises.

Tarun Kanti Halder, director at the hospital, said it would take more than three weeks to fully restore the water supply.

According to sources, the 500-bed public hospital with 14 general wards and four operation theatres serves at least 600 patients every day.

The water crisis has brought woes not only to the patients but also to their attendants, visitors as well as the doctors and hospital staff.

Manowara, an attendant of a patient, yesterday said, "It's very painful that we have to go downstairs [to the tube well] every time we need water to drink."

Several staff, seeking anonymity, said they often have to go outside for washing their hands after deliveries.

Doctors, also wishing not to be named, said no major surgery was performed at the hospital since Sunday.

Patients with cardiac complications and other serious

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Thousands of Muslim devotees from home and abroad say Juma prayers on the first day of Biswa Ijtema's second phase at Tongi in Gazipur yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SUMON

Second phase of Biswa Ijtema begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second phase of Biswa Ijtema, the world's second largest Muslim congregation after the Hajj, began yesterday on the bank of the Turag in Tongi of Gazipur with sermons by Islamic scholars.

Several lakh devotees from home and abroad have joined the Ijtema. The number of devotees rose significantly during Juma prayers.

The second phase formally started with the sermons of Maulana Abdur Rahman of Tablighi Jamaat of India after Fajr prayers. Maulana Quari Zobayer, imam of the capital's Kakrail mosque, led the Juma prayers.

The first phase of the Ijtema started on January 8 and concluded with Akheri Munajat (final prayers) on January 10.

Traffic from Abdullahpur to Gazipur Chowrasta on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway was stopped for about an hour as devotees joined the Juma prayers on the

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Jakarta on alert after attacks

Larger extremist network blamed; police hunt for terror cells

AFP, Jakarta

Indonesian police launched raids across the country yesterday in the wake of deadly coordinated attacks on Jakarta, saying they suspected a broader extremist network helped carry out an attack claimed by the Islamic State group.

The operations came as authorities ramped up security at public places following Thursday's combination of suicide bombings and shootings in the capital that left five attackers and two other people dead.

Confusion has reigned in the wake of the incident, with authorities struggling to provide concrete information on the shock attack that unfurled in broad daylight on a busy street lined with shopping malls, top hotels, and foreign embassies.

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Good news for Mongla people

Work on 9km embankment to end by this year to protect people from tidal surge

TAWFIQUE ALL, back from Mongla

A nine-kilometre river embankment and three under-construction water regulators would save thousands of inhabitants of the coastal town of Mongla from recurrent tidal surge by the end of this year, said the local mayor and officials concerned.

The embankment along with a marine drive and the sluice gates on three canals flowing through Mongla town would end the long-standing problem of inundation as well as giving an immense boost to the local economy, said Zulfikar Ali, Mongla municipality mayor.

The construction works are being carried out under a \$201 million City Region Development Project (CRDP) initiated by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and jointly funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Swedish Sida, and German KfW.

"The embankment, which is built 3.6 metres above sea level as flood barrier and water regulator sluice gates with improved storm drainage facilities under the CRDP, would resolve a three-decade old inundation problem in Mongla municipality," said the mayor.

The coastal town would experience inundation during high tide in the months of June, July and August, he said.

A marine drive along the embankment would help around 60,000 labourers of adjoining and remote villages with a direct access to the sea port, special economic zone, export processing zone and various industries, said Zulfikar.

Besides, tourists coming to the port town as well as locals would have fascinating recreational facilities with walkways and benches all along the river bank, the mayor said, adding that the area would come under enhanced security coverage.

Along the embankment, a 10-km internal road was being improved with

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Netflix to crack down on proxy streaming

BBC ONLINE

Video-streaming giant Netflix has said it is going to stop subscribers from using internet proxies to view content not available in their home countries.

Due to licensing agreements, Netflix content varies between countries - many users have a virtual private network (VPN) or other proxy to get round this.

The firm said it would increase efforts in the next few weeks to block the use of such proxies.

Netflix expanded streaming services to more than 130 countries last week.

But some countries have more content than others - for example, the Australian Netflix catalogue has only about 10% of the content available to its US subscribers.

David Fullagar, vice president of content delivery architecture, said in a blog post on Thursday that the US firm was in

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French drug trial goes wrong

One brain-dead, five more hospitalised

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

One person has been left "brain-dead" and five more have been hospitalised after a clinical trial on a cannabis-based drug went wrong in France.

The health ministry said the "serious accident" happened on Thursday, stopping the tests and forcing all volunteers to be recalled.

A statement released yesterday did not confirm the name of the drug being tested but French media reports claimed it was a new cannabis-based painkiller.

Taken orally, it was undergoing a Phase 1 clinical

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The French lab where the drug trial went wrong.



People of all ages catching local fish such as boal, shol, gozar with wicker baskets at Gohari beel, a big lake in Daulatpur union of Biswanath upazila in Sylhet. This is the time when this fishing festival, where only wicker baskets are used, takes place at the beel every year.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

2 shot in N'ganj in mugging attempt

Cops arrest two muggers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers shot two brothers in a failed attempt to snatch Tk 5 lakh from them in Narayanganj last night.

The incident happened when they were returning home from their furniture shop at Panchaboti of Fatullah.

Liton Hossain, 33, and Milon Hossain, 31, were undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet wounds in their chests.

Officer-in-charge of Fatullah Police Station Asaduzzaman said they arrested two muggers with two firearms with the help of locals.

He added the siblings had Tk 5 lakh with them but the muggers could not flee with the money.

The OC said Liton and Milon were going home at Enayet Nagar on foot after closing their shop on Gulshan Road in the area around 10:45pm.

"As they reached near their house, the muggers waylaid them and tried to snatch a bag containing the money," he said.

As the brothers shouted for help, locals chased the muggers and caught two of them with the firearms.

Meanwhile, Jhantu Ghosh, 22, an employee of a jeweller's, succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital last night, hours after unidentified men beat and stabbed him at Zia Nagar area in Keraniganj.

The attack happened when he was passing through a local playground in the evening.

It was not clear who carried out the attack or why.

Three children tortured

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

A man tied three children to a straw stack for five hours for "stealing two potatoes" from his field in Kangaish village of Hajiganj upazila on Thursday.

The children are Zidan, 12, son of Mainuddin; Siam, 11, son of Billal Hossain; and Siam's cousin Subarna, 11, of the village.

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PRAYER TIMING
JANUARY 16

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:00 5:36 7:00
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:40 7:30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION