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# COX'S BAZAR SADAR HOSPITAL ICU closed for shortage of nurses

MOHAMMAD ALI ZINNAT, Cox's Bazar, with ENAMUL HUQ

Only two months after its inauguration, the intensive care unit (ICU) at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital was closed due to a shortage of skilled nurses.

At least four skilled nurses are regularly needed for the ICU whereas there is only one nurse now, say sources of the hospital, which was built in the British era.

Risking their lives, patients requiring ICU treatment have to go to Chittagong town, which is around 150km away.

Following longstanding demands of different sections of people and organisations of the district, the 250-bed hospital got a six-bed ICU on May 25. Health Minister Mohammed Nasim inaugurated the ICU through a videoconference from Chittagong.

In his speech, the minister said it was the first ICU at a district-level hospital in the country.

The activities of ICU started under the supervision of the hospital superintendent, Pu Chaw Nu, who is now civil surgeon of Cox's Bazar.

A team of physicians and nurses was appointed to the ICU after they were trained specially for ICU in Dhaka and Chittagong.

Pu Chaw Nu told this correspondent that equipment worth Tk 6 crore was purchased in 2008 for running the ICU. But it was not possible then to make the ICU



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Strung on free standing bamboo poles at eye level, these cables carry power, internet and cable TV service and tell a tangled tale of the failure of the authorities to enforce regulation and ensure safety to the residents of the mega city. The photo was taken yesterday at Segunbagicha.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# BNP seeks to hold rally at Nayapaltan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday sought permission from police for holding its rally in front of the party's Nayapaltan central office to mark what it says the National Revolution and Solidarity Day on November 8. Earlier, police denied them permission to stage the rally at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital.

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed told The Daily Star that they hoped to get permission from the Dhaka Metropolitan Police to hold the rally at the venue.

On Thursday night, the DMP said they would not allow any political party to hold any rally at Suhrawardy Udyan on November 7 or 8 over "security reasons".

Earlier, the BNP asked for permission to hold a rally at Suhrawardy Udyan on November 7 and 8 to mark the day.

Soon after their announcement, the ruling Awami League leaders threatened to resist any programme of the BNP on that day. The AL sees the day as a day of "killing of freedom fighters".

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

# Iraqi forces punch into streets of Mosul

Face tough resistance from IS fighters despite air strikes by the US-led coalition

AGENCIES

Jihadist fighters unleashed a deluge of bombs and gunfire yesterday on Iraqi forces punching into the streets of Mosul for the first time, forcing some units into a partial pullback.

Some armoured vehicles from the elite Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS) returned from the streets of Al-Karamah a few hours after moving in and encountering fierce resistance from the Islamic State group, an AFP correspondent reported.

"We weren't expecting such resistance. They had blocked all the roads," said one officer, as top brass considered whether or not to attempt a fresh foray.

"There are large numbers of jihadists... It was preferable to pull back and devise a new plan," the CTS officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Some CTS forces remained inside the city however and there were at least five regiments involved in the operation launched yesterday, making it hard to gauge the extent of the pull-back.

After daybreak, bulldozers and tanks backed by air strikes had pushed into the streets of Mosul from the east for the first time since Iraqi forces launched a broad offensive to retake the city on October 17.

The CTS's "Mosul regiment", which was the last to leave the city when the jihadists overran it in June 2014, immediately faced "tough resistance", commander Muntadhar Salem told AFP.

The gunfire was almost uninterrupted for hours and reports from the front crackling into CTS radios said IS

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

# Hindu temple set afire in Thakurgaon

STAR REPORT

Criminals set fire to a temple and vandalised an idol of Kali in Pokati Paschimpara village of Thakurgaon Sadar upazila early yesterday.

Chakra Mahon, president of the temple committee, said devotees left the temple around midnight after performing hari-kirtan (Hindu religious song), reports our Thakurgaon correspondent.

Devotees, who went to the temple for worship in the morning, found that the idol was badly damaged and the temple was set on fire.

Some local Hindus said the criminals carried out the attack on the temple as part of recent attacks on temples elsewhere in the country.

The attack panicked the religious minority community people, they said.

Superintendent of Thakurgaon police Farhad Ahmed visited the spot.

Leaders of Bangladesh Puja Uddhayan Parishad's district unit, including its President Arunangshu Datta Tito and General Secretary Tapan Kumar Ghosh, visited the temple.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

# India's 105-yr-old mother of trees

CNN ONLINE

Being unable to have children is a heartbreaking situation for anyone who wants to conceive.

But in rural India, infertility carries an added stigma for women, who can be outcast from their families and society.

When Saalumarada Thimmakka and her husband Sri Bikkala Chikkayya found themselves childless after 25 years of marriage, she dealt with it in an unusual way.

The illiterate farm labourer from Karnataka, southern India, planted hundreds of trees, which the couple nurtured, watered and cared for "as children."

"It was my fate to not have any children," Thimmakka told CNN. "Because of that, we planned to plant trees and raise them and get blessings. We have treated the trees as our children."

The woodland is said to number almost 300 trees - a remarkable achievement in an arid, dusty landscape with little rainfall. It stretches for four kilometres both sides of the road from Thimmakka's village of Hulikal and Kudur, the next.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

# 10 fishermen kidnapped in Sundarbans

UNB, Khulna

A gang of pirates abducted 10 fishermen from Dhan Siddhir Char area under Chandpai range of the Sundarbans east zone in Bagerhat early yesterday.

Some fishermen, who returned from the Sundarbans after fishing that day, said members of a pirate gang -- "Samsu Zillu Bahini" -- kidnapped the fishermen and took away their three boats.

The gang also demanded Tk 20,000 as ransom for each fisherman.

Lt M Fariduzzaman, operational officer of coast guard west zone, said necessary steps will be taken after getting complaint about the incident.

# 'Censorship' worries Indian editors

Govt asks NDTV to go off air for 24 hours

AFP, New Delhi

Editors accused India's government yesterday of imposing censorship reminiscent of the country's 1970s emergency after it ordered a TV network off the air over its reporting of an attack by Pakistan-based militants.

NDTV India has been instructed to cease broadcasts for 24 hours next week after a government panel decreed it had revealed "strategically sensitive details" while covering January's deadly attack on Pathankot air base.

The panel said an NDTV report included details about military aircraft and weapons kept at the base in Punjab "which was likely to be used by the terrorists themselves or their handlers to cause massive harm".

A spokesman for the information ministry told AFP the Indian channel would have to go off air on November 9 "for violating the cable TV act" which limits what the media can report during major security incidents.



Rickshaws move gingerly past iron bars sticking out from a girder of the Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover on DIT Road near the Malibagh level crossing. The danger from this shoddy work seems to be overlooked in the daily hustle and bustle in this busy city. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Brexit timetable 'unchanged'

May says despite court ruling on parliament's approval

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Theresa May yesterday told European leaders that her March deadline for triggering Brexit negotiations "remains unchanged" despite a court ruling that she first needs parliament's approval.

May told European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and German Chancellor Angela Merkel that the "government's planned timetable for notification of Article 50 remains unchanged", during separate phone calls, according to a statement released by Downing Street.

She added that the government was confident of winning next month's Supreme Court appeal against Thursday's High Court ruling that her government does not have the power on its own to trigger Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, which would formally start the process.

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**পুনঃসতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

সম্প্রতি লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, স্বনামধন্য বিভিন্ন পত্রপত্রিকায় মালয়েশিয়াসহ পৃথিবীর বিভিন্ন দেশে এ্যাপার্টমেন্ট ক্রয়ের জন্য আকর্ষণীয় বিজ্ঞাপন প্রচার করা হচ্ছে।

নিবাসী বাংলাদেশীদের বিদেশে স্থাবর সম্পত্তি ক্রয়ের জন্য বাংলাদেশ থেকে অর্থ প্রেরণের ওপর বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা নিয়ন্ত্রণ আইন, ১৯৪৭ এ বিধিনিষেধ আরোপিত রয়েছে। বিধিনিষেধ এড়িয়ে এজন্য অবৈধভাবে অর্থ প্রেরণে যোগসাজশকারীদের ভূমিকা আইনগতভাবে দণ্ডযোগ্য হবে। এ বিষয়ে সকলকে সচেতন হবার পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে; গণমাধ্যমগুলোকেও এ ধরনের বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রচারের বিষয়ে সতর্ক, সংযত হবার পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

**বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক**