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SHAH CEMENT

# Patients suffer across country

Doctors go for work abstention at pvt clinics over Central Hospital incident

HASAN JAHID TUSHER and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Patients across the country suffered a lot yesterday as doctors refrained from work at private healthcare facilities protesting vandalism at a city hospital and a case filed against nine doctors following the death of a Dhaka University student.

Children and elderly people suffered the most as they braved the sweltering heat to go to different hospitals but had to return home without seeing any doctor. They expressed utter frustration and anger over the situation.

On Thursday afternoon, more than one hundred DU students vandalised several rooms and equipment of Central Hospital following the death of Afia Jahan Chaity, 20, a first-year student of zoology department, there. Students claimed that she was given wrong treatment.

DU Proctor AM Amzad Ali filed a case with Dhanmondi Police Station accusing eight doctors and a director of the hospital the same day.

In protest, Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) yesterday refrained from seeing patients at private healthcare facilities.

The Daily Star correspondents visited at least 30 hospitals in Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna, Chittagong, Sylhet, Rangpur and Dinajpur and talked to more than 50 patients.

Khaleda Sheuli, who was suffering from high fever and body aches, said she visited four hospitals in the capital but failed to see any doctor.

"I think I have got chikungunya. I wanted to see a doctor at LabAid. But I did not get him. I went to LabAid, Greenlife, Samorita and SIBL Foundation Hospitals. All the hospitals said no doctor would see any patient today [yesterday]," she said.

Saidur Rahman, 63, and his wife who was suffering from

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An 11-year-old schoolboy driving a microbus hit and injured a 10-year-old schoolgirl in Dhanmondi yesterday morning. His driver was with him in the front passenger seat. The girl was treated for injuries and released to her family. Police nabbed and later released the boy to his parents. No cases were filed as the families agreed to settle the matter, police said.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

# Dangerous adventure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

What happens when an 11-year-old decides to drive a microbus on a busy road in the capital?

The answer came when this exact scene unfolded on Satmasjid Road yesterday morning. The boy, a sixth grader of a private school in Lalmatia, ended up hitting a schoolgirl near Shankar Bus Stand in Dhanmondi area.

The 10-year-old girl, a fourth grader of Chhayanaut, suffered injuries in her ankle and waist and underwent primary treatment at a nearby hospital, police said.

Md Alamgir, sub-inspector of Dhanmondi Police Station, told The Daily Star that the boy took the keys of his father's Toyota Noah microbus from their driver and set out on the road at around 7:30am, without his parents' consent.

He said that as the girl was crossing the road with her father, the boy hit her, apparently after losing control of the vehicle.

No case was filed in this regard considering the boy's age and because the fathers of both the boy and girl were

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# James Bond star Roger Moore dies

AFP, London

British actor Roger Moore, who played the womanising superspy James Bond over two decades with a suave wit, died yesterday aged 89, his children announced.

"It is with a heavy heart that we must announce our loving father, Sir Roger Moore, has passed away today in Switzerland after a short but brave battle with cancer," they said in a

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# EC makes polls roadmap

Dialogue with political parties from July

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Election Commission has drafted a roadmap for the next parliamentary election and decided to begin dialogues with political parties this July to get their opinions on different issues, including a reform of electoral laws and delimitation of constituencies.

The roadmap that does not have any mention of the use of electronic voting machine in the eleventh national election was made public yesterday at a briefing at the EC office in the capital's Agargaon.

"My clear message is that we will not impose EVM if political parties oppose it. We'll not take risk," Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda told reporters.

However, the issue will be discussed with political parties, he said.

Both the Awami League and the BNP welcomed the move by the EC to start dialogues with political parties.

The BNP also appreciated EC's position regarding the use of EVM.

Talking on phone, AL Joint Secretary General Mahbubul Alam Hanif said different political parties would come up with their own formula to hold free, fair and neutral elections during their dialogue with the EC.

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# Trump pushes for peace in ME

Calls on Israelis, Palestinians to make compromises, avoids thorny details

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump called on Israelis and Palestinians to make compromises that could lead to peace as he wrapped up a visit with a speech in Jerusalem yesterday.

"Making peace however will not be easy," Trump told an audience of Israeli politicians and other dignitaries at the Israel Museum.

"We all know that. Both sides will face tough decisions. But with determination, compromise and the belief that peace is possible, Israelis and Palestinians can make a deal."

Trump again vowed that he was "personally committed" to helping the two sides reach a deal to end the decades-old conflict.

He however offered no specifics on how he



US President Donald Trump shakes hands with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at Bethlehem yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

planned to make progress in resolving a conflict that has bedevilled his predecessors and with widespread scepticism over whether meaningful talks are possible for now.

He did not specifically mention the two-state solution, long the focus of international peace efforts and US Middle East diplomacy, reported AFP.

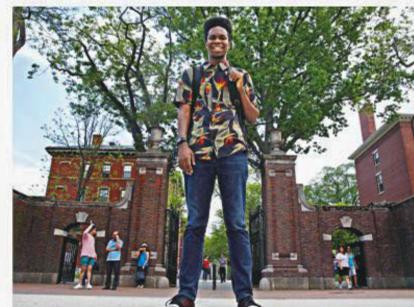
Trump's speech came after he met Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas in Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank earlier in the day.

On Monday, he met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem. He was due to depart for Rome later yesterday.

"I had a meeting this morning with president Abbas and can tell you that the

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# Rap album as final yr thesis



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

An Ivy League student will be graduating with one of the highest accolades after submitting a 10-track rap album for his final thesis, the first to do so in the history of the university.

Obasi Shaw wrote the album, titled Liminal Minds in a year. It was awarded the second highest grade in the department - summa cum laude minus.

Each song is told from a different character's perspective, a format inspired by Geoffrey Chaucer's seminal 14th century piece, The

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# DSCC fixes meat prices for Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prices of beef, buffalo meat and mutton (goat and sheep) have been fixed at Tk 475, Tk 440, Tk 725 and Tk 620 respectively per kilogramme for nearly the whole of Ramadan, which, based on moon sighting, is likely to start at the end of this month.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), including Mayor Mohammad Sayeed Khokon, fixed the prices sitting with meat merchants in Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 24

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4-05	12-45	5-00	6-40	8-00
JAMAAT	4-40	1-15	5-15	6-45
				8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



The number of child patients has spiked to the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) with the current heat wave. Many people, particularly children and elderly, have been suffering from viral fever and diarrhoea. The centre is seeing a more than normal number of diarrhoea patients for the last few days.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# Heat wave to continue for a few days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It's unbearable.

The scorching sun in this sultry weather of May has begun causing untold sufferings to many people.

A mild heat wave currently sweeping across the country is forcing people to stay indoors or seek cooler places to avoid the blistering hot weather.

"People feel warmer than the actual temperature if there is humidity in the air," said Abdur Rahman, duty forecasting officer of the met office.

Exacerbating the problem is the fact that there is no chance of rainfall in the city in the next two to three days. The heat wave will thus continue for a few more days.

Rahman said the mild heat wave sweeping across places, including Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal divisions and the regions of Chandpur and Noakhali, will continue for a few more days.

The highest temperature recorded yesterday was 37.6 degrees Celsius in Jessore and Meherpur while it was 36.8 degrees Celsius in the capital. The weather may remain dry and unchanged for the next few days, the met office forecast said.

"During the end of this week, there might be rainfall in the central part of Dhaka, including the capital," said the duty forecasting officer.

Not only in the outside, the heat could be "felt" in social media also. The issue of temperature and the heat wave has become the dominant theme in social media discussions.

People are seen sharing a popular post that reads, "drink more water for the next seven days (May 22-28)...as the body get dehydrated very fast during this period."

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