

বিশ্ব বলেছিলো- পদ্মা সেতু 'সম্ভব না' একজন প্রধানমন্ত্রী আর ১৬ কোটি বাঙালি বলেছিলো- 'কেন না!'

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Target profit, not service

Patients pay excessive fees but do not get proper service at most pvt hospitals, diagnostic centres, says TIB report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Private hospitals and diagnostic centres have turned into "excessive profit-seeking businesses" due to a lack of government monitoring, says a new Transparency International Bangladesh study.

Over the course of time, these healthcare facilities have established a "commission-based marketing mechanism" where everyone -- from physicians to receptionists -- benefit from the widespread malpractice, it says.

In most of the cases, the patients, despite paying excessive fees, do not get proper healthcare services in return.

"The booming private healthcare sector has helped more people have access to medical services, but those who are involved in the private healthcare services are trying to turn the facilities into business outlets," said TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman.

A privately-owned organisation will be profit-oriented, but there has to be some standards, he said. "These standards are not being maintained."

Iftekharuzzaman was speaking at a press conference at the TIB office in the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday. The conference was organised to disclose the study, titled "Private Medical Service: Challenges of Good Governance and Ways Forward".

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After his heroics in the Chittagong Test, when he became the first Bangladesh batsman to score centuries in both innings of a Test, Mominul Haque will once again be relied upon to produce the goods when the second Test against Sri Lanka gets underway today at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Mirpur spin beckons Tigers in decider

MAZHAR UDDIN

After a bat-dominated draw in the first Test in Chittagong, the question ahead of the second Test against Sri Lanka starting today in Mirpur will be whether Bangladesh can move past the handicap of Shakib Al Hasan's continued absence and switch to all-out attack in their search for a rare series win.

Bangladesh have reason to be confident as the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium is the venue where Bangladesh have registered two of their landmark Test wins not so long ago against England in October 2016 and Australia in August last year, both matches won with an attacking mindset on spin-friendly wickets.

In Chittagong however, the Tigers seemed to have opted for a batting-friendly wicket that eventually produced 1533 runs over five days for the loss of just 24 wickets, but noises from the

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Abdul Hamid re-elected president

BSS, Dhaka

Abdul Hamid has been re-elected the country's president for a second consecutive term.

"As no one else was running for the presidential position, the Election Commission is announcing M Abdul Hamid as the country's next president," Chief Election

Commissioner Nurul Huda told a press conference at his office yesterday.

Earlier, Awami League nominated Hamid for his re-election as the country's president. Subsequently,

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Maldives president back in control

SC reverses ruling after judges' arrest, reinstates convictions of political dissidents; China cautions against foreign meddling

AGENCIES

Maldives President Abdulla Yameen yesterday appeared to have gained the upper hand in a bitter power struggle after a diminished Supreme Court reinstated the convictions of high-profile political dissidents including the exiled leader of the opposition.

The tiny island nation was plunged into crisis last week when the top court ordered the release of nine political prisoners, saying their convictions were flawed.

The ruling appeared to pave the way for the return of Mohamed Nasheed, the country's first democratically elected president and now leader of the opposition, two years after he left his homeland following a controversial terrorism conviction.

But Yameen refused to comply with the ruling and instead declared a 15-day state of emergency, curtailing the powers of the judiciary and the legislature, before ordering the arrest of the chief justice and another top judge.

On Tuesday, the three remaining Supreme Court judges reversed last week's ruling, reinstating the convictions against Nasheed and eight others.

That means the leader of the opposition risks re-arrest if he returns as promised to run against Yameen in presidential elections due later this year in the honeymoon islands.

A statement on Yameen's website yesterday said his administration welcomed the court's U-turn, which the judges had said was made "in light of

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Swiss president lauds progress in Bangladesh

REZAUL KARIM

Swiss President Alain Berset has stressed the need for ensuring socio-economic development in Bangladesh in a "sustainable and inclusive" manner so that nobody is left behind.

"Bangladesh's socio-economic development in recent decades has been impressive," he told The Daily Star and three other media outlets in an interview prior to wrapping up his four-day official visit to Bangladesh yesterday.

He hoped that there would be peace, democracy and elections in Bangladesh to continue its economic progress.

"We agreed to seize new opportunities for cooperation and take the bilateral

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Rogue robot upstages Turkish minister



AFP, Istanbul

Being interrupted by impatient audience members is a headache -- but part of the job -- for most politicians.

But for Turkey's Transport and Communications Minister Ahmet Arslan, the heckling on Tuesday came from an unusual source -- a stubborn robot called "Sanbot".

The white toddler-sized robot was a guest on stage as Arslan gave an address in Ankara to mark Safer Internet Day.

But as the minister -- whose government has been accused of restricting freedom online, which it denies -- held forth on the importance of a secure web, interventions came from an unexpected source.

"Speak slowly! I don't understand what you are saying! What are you talking about?" the

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He asked for his calculator, got beaten up by BCL men

DU CORRESPONDENT

All he asked a BCL man was the return of his calculator that the latter borrowed around three months ago. But little did he imagine that he would have to face dire consequences just for asking.

On Tuesday night, a group of Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of Salimullah Muslim Hall unit of Dhaka University beat up Ehsan Rafiq, a

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 8

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-15 5-52 7-15

JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-30 5-56 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Man beaten to death for demanding dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A man has allegedly beaten his son-in-law to death for demanding dowry and torturing his daughter in Badarganj upazila of Rangpur.

The victim was identified as Mozaharul Islam, 27, son of Younus Ali of village Feskipara in Badarganj.

The incident happened at 11:30pm Tuesday night in Khalpara village of the upazila.

Police, quoting family members, said Md Abu Bakkar married off his daughter Shiuli Begum to Mozaharul three years ago. Since the wedding, Mozaharul had been torturing his wife both physically and mentally for dowry.

Shiuli's parents paid Mozaharul several times as per his demands.

Recently, Mozaharul again demanded Tk. 40,000 as dowry from

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A huge stage in the shape of a boat, the Awami League's electoral symbol, is being built on Bangabandhu Udyan in Barisal yesterday. Awami League President Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to deliver a speech there today.

PHOTO: SUSHANTA GHOSH

DTCA says no to 'VIP lane'

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) has opposed the Cabinet Division's proposal for a lane in Dhaka roads dedicated for VIP and emergency services.

"We have submitted a report with our opinion to the Road Transport and Highways Division today [yesterday]," DTCA Executive Director Syed Ahmed said refusing to go into detail.

However, a top official of DTCA, seeking anonymity, said, "Considering the situation of the city's roads, population and ongoing works of some major projects, there is no scope for making a separate lane. We have given this opinion."

"A plan for a separate lane was not in the revised Strategic Transport Plan (STP) or any other studies. More importantly, there is not enough road space to have a separate lane. We discouraged the proposal."

Contacted, Nazrul Islam, secretary of RTHD, said he was unaware whether DTCA sent its opinion. "It may have come. But I do not know as I was in a meeting."

But a top official of the Road Transport and Highways Division, [RTHD] wishing anonymity, said that the report was received.

"We will send a report to the cabinet division saying that it [the dedicated lane] is not implementable," the official said.

The Cabinet Division in December last year sent a proposal to the RTHD for a separate lane for important persons and emergency services like ambulance, fire services and law enforcers.

The move drew ire after Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiul Alam on Monday disclosed the matter, saying, "A normal request was sent from the Cabinet Division for vetting."

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