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'MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE IN CTG'

Families blame hospitals for 2 more deaths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

Two more patients died in separate hospitals in Chittagong city after alleged negligence in treatment on Tuesday.

The allegations come two days after similar allegations were raised following the death of three-year-old Raifa in a hospital in the port city.

On Tuesday, Lokman Chowdhury, 75, of Changan area died at AFC Fortis Hospital and Lovely Akter, 24 of Hathazari upazila died at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Lokman's son Farhad Uddin Chowdhury Jewel told The Daily Star that his father, who was suffering breathing difficulties, died on Tuesday night minutes after his oxygen mask was taken off.

"My father, who had respiratory problems, was admitted to AFC Fortis on June 22," said Jewel, adding that his father was being treated at the Cardiac Care Unit (CCU).

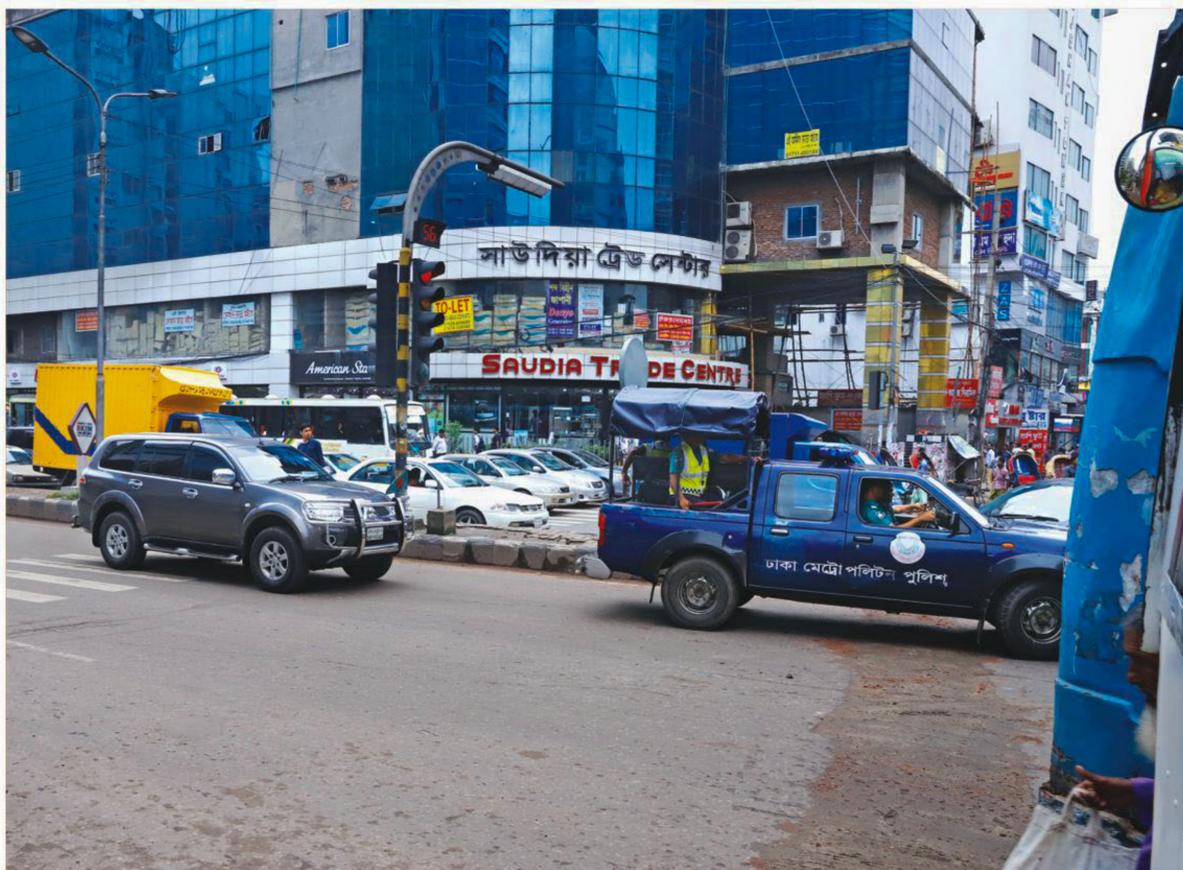
"He was given an oxygen mask. He could not stay more than 10 seconds without the mask. On Tuesday evening, the hospital authorities called in Shimul Kumar Bhowmick, a consultant of respiratory medicine."

"When the consultant arrived I entered the CCU along with the consultant. All of a sudden, he asked the duty doctor to remove the oxygen mask."

"My father was feeling discomfort.... he kept asking for the mask but the consultant said he was observing. I noticed the oxygen level falling in the monitor."

"I did not understand what was going to happen.... I just

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



A VIP convoy goes against traffic on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue near Banglamotor intersection yesterday afternoon apparently to avoid being stuck in traffic.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Met office rings flood alarm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Monsoon is active over Bangladesh and the Met office has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall in most places in the country and several places in India for the next two days.

Amid heavy rainfall in different parts of the country and upstream India, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) yesterday said water level of all major rivers was increasing and the country would experience a moderate flood in the middle of this month.

The intense rainfall in Bangladesh and upstream India would cause floods in places in the northern and middle part of Bangladesh and worsen the flood situation in eastern and north eastern parts, said the FFWC.

"We are expecting flood in the middle of the next week in the northern part of the country," said Arifuzzaman Bhuiyan, executive engineer of the FFWC.

Of the 96 water-level monitoring centres, the level is increasing at 77, SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Najib charged with graft

Ex-Malaysian PM pleads not guilty during hearing; freed on bail

REUTERS, Kuala Lumpur

Just eight weeks after losing an election, former Malaysian prime minister Najib Razak was charged yesterday with abuse of power and criminal breach of trust in an investigation over billions of dollars missing from a state fund.

Najib pleaded not guilty, but the charges, the first of their kind faced by a Malaysian premier, and his court appearance were the culmination of a swift and stunning downfall for the man who led the country for nearly a decade.

"I believe in my innocence and this is the best chance to clear my name," Najib told reporters outside the courtroom after being released on bail of 1 million ringgit (\$247,000).

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2



Malaysia urged to stop crackdown

130 rights, civil society bodies worried as the country plans to send back irregular migrants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One hundred thirty labour rights and civil society organisations from different parts of the world yesterday demanded immediate suspension of Malaysia's crackdown on undocumented foreign workers.

In a statement, they said the drive would make the migrants, including Bangladeshis, more vulnerable.

The statement came a day after the Malaysian authorities announced that all the irregular foreign workers, held in the ongoing clampdown, would be deported immediately, without being granted the investigation period of between two and 14 days.

"It would impose a greater financial burden if the illegal immigrants are not immediately deported after being arrested," said Malaysia's immigration department Director-General Mustafar Ali, after attending the department's monthly assembly in Putrajaya on Tuesday.

Every year, the Malaysian authorities have to spend over 25 million ringgit on meals for illegal migrants at 13 immigration depots across the country. The number of the workers is 6,678, he said.

Malaysia's immigration department began the nationwide operation dubbed "Ops Mega 3.0" on July 1, a day after it ended a rehiring programme that had begun on February 15, 2016. The programme had allowed the country's irregular foreign workers to regularise their visa status.

The new Malaysian government, which came to power early May, SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

Youth stabs 3 of his family to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A person allegedly stabbed his mother, younger brother, and aunt to death in their sleep at Bera upazila early yesterday.

The motive behind the killings could not be known immediately as suspect Tuhin, 22, went into hiding soon after the incident, police said.

The deceased Buly Khatun, 48, her son Tushar, 10, and her elder sister Mariam Khatun, 50, were all asleep in their rooms in Sonapadma village.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (Bera Circle) Ashis Bin Hasan quoting Runa Akhter, Tuhin's wife, said when her husband was hacking the three, she fled the scene and informed locals of the matter.

Locals rushed to the spot SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Baidu rolls out self-driving buses



AFP, Beijing

China's internet giant Baidu announced yesterday it had begun mass producing the country's first autonomous mini-bus, as the firm prepares to roll them out in tourist spots and airports.

CEO Robin Li watched the 100th vehicle roll off a production line of a factory in the southeastern city of Xiamen.

"2018 marks the first year of commercialisation for autonomous driving. From the mass production of Apolong, we can truly see that autonomous driving is making great strides -- taking the industry from zero to one," said the CEO.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

5 Bangladeshis killed in Saudi road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five Bangladeshi workers were killed and 11 others injured in a road accident in Jeddah of Saudi Arabia early yesterday.

Condition of two injured workers is critical.

The accident happened SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



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PRAYER TIMING JULY 5

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-55 8-17
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Five sued for grabbing the Dhaleshwari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A case was filed against five people including a ruling Awami League leader under the Special Powers Act in connection with grabbing government land on the Dhaleshwari in Singair.

Mohammad Nur Islam, assistant officer of the Dhalla Union Land Office, filed the case with Singair Police Station on Sunday.

The accused are Mohammad Shahidur Rahman, joint secretary of Singair upazila unit AL, Abdul Halim Raju, chairman of Jamirta Union Parishad, Mustafa Moyeen, director of Dhaka Northern Power Generation Ltd, its site in-charge Ashikus Salam and site engineer Abul Kalam Azad and more than 400-500 unnamed people.

In the name of setting up a power plant, Dhaka Northern Power Generation Ltd started construction of infrastructure on 11 acres and 30 decimals of government land on the riverbank in SEE PAGE 8 COL 3



Dhaka Northern Power Generation Ltd filling up the Dhaleshwari river in Dhalla Union of Singair upazila of Manikganj. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Trapped Thai boys get diving lessons in cave

Rescuers take no risk approach in evacuation of the team as video shows they are in good health inside cave

AGENCIES

Rescue teams in northern Thailand were giving crash courses in swimming and diving yesterday as part of complex preparations to extract a young soccer team trapped in a cave, and hoping for a swift end to their harrowing 11-day ordeal.

Divers, medics, counsellors and Thai navy SEALs were with the 12 schoolboys and a 25-year-old assistant coach, providing medicines and food while experts assessed conditions for getting them out safely, a task the government said would not be easy.

"The water is very strong and space is narrow. Extracting the children takes a lot of people," Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan told reporters.

"Now we are teaching the children to swim and dive," he said, adding that if water levels fell and the flow weakened, they would be taken out quickly.

"We have to be 100 percent confident that there is no risk to the boys before we evacuate," Narongsak Osottanakorn, Chiang Rai provincial governor, told reporters yesterday.

The SEALs posted photographs on Facebook showing their members working in chest-deep water in the cave, adding that it was pumping water as "fast as possible" as it prepares to bring out the stranded group.

About 120 million litres of water had been pumped out by late on Tuesday, or about 1.6 million every hour. SEE PAGE 8 COL 5