

EYING TIES WITH INDIA

Mattis calls for waivers for buyers of Russian gear

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina receives a letter of felicitations from Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader during a grand reception accorded to her at the Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.

PHOTO: BSS

Govt hospitals run short of free saline

Patients bearing the brunt as production of saline, blood bags, other supplies remained suspended at IPH for a year

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Government hospitals across the country are facing a serious shortage of some key medical supplies -- saline, infusion and transfusion sets, and blood bags -- as their production at the state-run IPH remained suspended for about a year.

The Institute of Public Health (IPH) resumed production on June 5 on a limited scale, but hospitals are still scrambling for the supplies and patients are being forced to buy those from outside, which they are supposed to get for free.

An IPH official said that in 2016-17, the IPH manufactured 10,000-12,000 IV saline bags per day. Between July 5 and July 16, it came down to just 3,033 a day, which is too

little for too many patients across the country.

There are 610 government hospitals across the country with around 49,000 beds for patients, according to health ministry data.

"The IPH has failed to meet our demand and we've no choice but to buy saline from elsewhere. In other cases, patients buy their own saline," said Palash Roy, resident medical officer of Moulvibazar District Sadar Hospital.

So far this year, they got a little over half of their demand, he added.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF PVT COMPANIES?

The current crisis came to light on July 1, when the Anti-Corruption Commission raided the office of the IPH at Mohakhali in the capital.

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Vote for AL, ensure prosperity

With an eye on polls, Hasina urges people at her reception

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged people to vote for "boat" for a poverty- and hunger-free Bangladesh by 2021. She urged them to vote like they had done to liberate the country.

"Bangladesh has become self-reliant in food, entered the nuclear energy club, launched its first satellite, and

brought down poverty to 22 percent as the people gave the mandate to boat," she said.

Hasina said in the last 10 years of the AL-led alliance rule, the lost pride of the country has been restored.

"Today's Bangladesh is heading forward. But there is a lot more work to do. We have a plan to develop the country," she said in a grand reception at city's historic

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"I'm a servant of the people. My concern is what the people are getting. I don't need receptions."



Many patients at government hospitals have to buy IV saline, which they are supposed to get for free, due to poor supply.

PHOTO: STAR



Tigers look to bounce back

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national cricket team will look to turn the tide after their humiliating two-match Test series defeat against West Indies when they take on the spirited hosts in the first of a three-match ODI series in Guyana today. The game will get underway at 7:30 pm Bangladesh standard time.

This will be the Tigers' second ODI series of 2018, following the tri-nation series at home earlier this year, and the encounter will be a crucial one as Bangladesh need to stage a

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Arrest fear grips BNP ranks

Ariful stages sit-in in Sylhet to protest arrest of 2 of his workers; 8 held in Rajshahi, 1 in Barisal

ANWAR ALI, DWOHA CHOWDHURY, SUSANTA GHOSH and M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL

With the city corporation polls in Sylhet, Rajshahi and Barisal only a week away, arrests of BNP leaders and activists remain a major concern for the party's mayoral candidates.

BNP leaders have alleged that the ruling Awami league wants to follow "Khulna-Gazipur style" in the polls slated for July 30.

Yesterday, BNP mayor candidate Ariful Haque Choudhury staged a sit-in before the office of the Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP) deputy commissioner, protesting the arrests of two party activists.



CITY POLLS 2018

Ariful along with around 100 BNP men started the protest in Upashahar area around 2:00pm. It ended around two and a half hours later.

In Rajshahi, seven leaders of BNP, Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal and one from Jamaat were arrested on Friday overnight and yesterday. The BNP filed a complaint with the returning officer about the violation of the electoral code of conduct by the AL mayor candidate, intimidation of BNP leaders and activists by the police and attacks on them by the AL men.

Barisal city Jamaat Secretary General Jahir Uddin Md Babor was arrested on

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PAKISTAN GENERAL ELECTION 2018

Civil society, parties slam 'interference'

AGENCIES, Dawn Online

Amid the charged political environment, representatives of different civil society organisations and main political parties in Pakistan, barring Imran Khan-led PTI, yesterday condemned the alleged electoral irregularities and 'interference' ahead of the July 25 polls.

The civil society groups, who held a consultation to reflect on the challenges ahead of general elections, also shared concerns about the shrinking space for freedom of expression in the country.

On Friday, Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) granted broad judicial powers to the powerful military at polling stations during next week's general election, a rare move that has fanned concern among political parties and human rights groups.

The July 25 election is seen as a two-way race between parties led by former cricket star Imran Khan and now-jailed former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, who has accused the army of working behind the scenes to favour Khan, which it denies.

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