



Police move to centralise their drug purchase

Allegations of irregularities by units prompted the decision

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Medicine procurement for police personnel and their family members under different units outside Dhaka is being centralised to stop irregularities in the process.

Until now, heads of around 80 units, including academies and training centres outside Dhaka, and district superintendents of police (SPs) have been procuring medicines for their respective units.

Medicines for different police establishments in the capital are purchased by the Central Police Hospital.

For the units outside Dhaka, a fund of around Tk 80 crore is earmarked annually to buy medicines.

But as allegations of irregularities in procurement surfaced against some SPs and other unit heads in recent times, the Police Headquarters (PHQ) decided to buy medicines centrally.

However, around 25 to 30 percent of the medicine procurement fund will be given to the units as an emergency allocation for buying drugs not supplied by the PHQ.

The decision follows Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed's announcement of zero tolerance against corruption and drug abuse by members of the police force.

Officials at the headquarters believe the move will help stop irregularities in the procurement process and ensure medicine quality.

"Since the medicine will be purchased centrally, SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



It is hard to believe that this is the yard of a compound of dwellings and a tiles factory at Bhakurta Mugrakanda in Savar on the outskirts of the capital. Children are bathing in the yard that has been under floodwater for around a month. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

3 boys killed in clash at a correctional facility

STAR REPORT

Three teenage boys yesterday died after sustaining critical injuries in a clash at a juvenile correctional facility in Jashore.

The dead are Parvez Hasan Rabbi, 18, of Daulatpur in Khulna; Rasel alias Sujon, 18, of Sherpur in Bogura; and Naeem Hossain, 17, of Shibganj in Bogura.

The incident took place at Pooler Haat Juvenile Correctional Centre under Kotwali Police Station in the district when two groups of youths locked in a clash around 2:00pm yesterday, said Touhidul Islam, additional superintendent of police in Jashore.

During the clash, Rabbi and Sujon of one Pavel Group and Naeem of one Robiul Group sustained critical injuries, the ASP said.

They were rushed to Jashore 250-bed General Hospital where doctors SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Global virus toll tops 750,000

India registers worst single-day rise in cases

AGENCIES

The number of deaths around the world linked to the coronavirus topped 750,000 yesterday as many countries toughened curbs and expanded their quarantine lists following an alarming surge in infections.

A total of 750,371 deaths have been recorded, out of 20,651,113 cases across the globe, according to an AFP tally compiled from official sources.

Almost half of the deaths reported worldwide were in the four worst hit countries: the United States (166,118), Brazil (104,201), Mexico (54,666) and India (47,033).

In total, the number of people killed by the virus has doubled since June 2, while 100,000 people have died in the last 17 days alone.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, more than 18,600 deaths have occurred in the past week, ahead of Canada and the United States at over 8,000, Asia at 7,800, Africa with nearly 2,700 and Europe with almost 2,600.

Italy imposed mandatory testing for all travellers arriving from Croatia, Greece, Malta and Spain, and bans all visitors from Colombia, in a bid to rein in new infections.

Health authorities worry in particular that Italians returning from vacations abroad may be bringing home the virus and passing it on when people are crowding outdoors, on beaches, at festivals or parties during the summer.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Work hard to rebuild the country

August 14, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGABANDHU SHIFTS TO HOTEL

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman leaves the London Clinic in the morning today and shifts to Hotel Claridges for a "change of environment" on the recommendation of his physicians. After a weeklong stay at the hotel, Bangabandhu is expected to spend about 10 days in Switzerland for convalescence. Meanwhile, the prime minister is looking after important files and having rounds of meetings with the Bangladesh high commissioner, foreign secretary and other Bangladesh officials. He is also receiving a limited number of visitors every day.

Bangabandhu has sent a message to his countrymen and asked them to work hard to rebuild the country. He says the people should consider the problem of the country as their own and do their best for peace, progress and prosperity of the country.

BANGABANDHU GREET'S INDIRA

Bangabandhu recalls India's "invaluable support" to Bangladesh's struggle for freedom. Bangabandhu, in a message to Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on the occasion of India's 25th independence anniversary, expresses warmest felicitations and best wishes for happiness, peace and prosperity of the people of India.

CABINET REVIEWS SUPPLY POSITION OF FOOD

The Cabinet today reviews the supply position of food and other essential commodities in the country. Meeting under the chairmanship of Acting Prime Minister Syed Nazrul Islam, the Cabinet decides to increase the supply of food grains and other commodities to the flood-affected people of the country to lessen their hardships.

REVIVE AID COMMITMENTS

Bangladesh government has asked the aid-giving countries to

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FRAUD CASE

Jubo League leader, two aides placed on remand

Tk 1,200cr fake cheques seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

A Bogura court yesterday placed a Jubo League leader and his two cohorts on a five-day remand on charges of fraud.

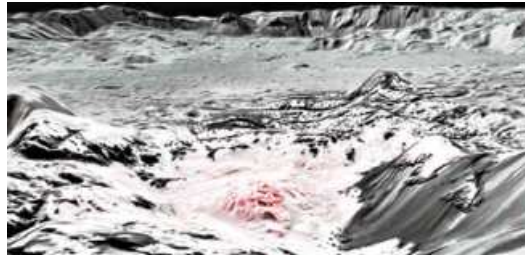
The Detective Branch of Bogura police arrested the trio on Wednesday and seized fake cheques worth over Tk 1,200 crore from the spot.

The arrestees are Rabbi Shakil alias DJ Shakil, 32, son of Kazi Golam Mostafa, president of Tarash upazila Krishok League unit in Sirajganj; Humayan Kabir, 28, son of Abdul Malek of Kusumdi village in the upazila; and Harun Rashid, 26, son of Saidur Rahman of Garikhetra village in Manda upazila of Naogaon.

Shakil is the vice president of Tarash upazila Jubo League unit, Harun is an IT expert, and Shakil is an office assistant by profession, said police.

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Dwarf planet Ceres an ocean world



AFP, Paris

The dwarf planet Ceres -- long believed to be a barren space rock -- is an ocean world with reservoirs of sea water beneath its surface, according to new research.

Ceres is the largest object in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter and has its own gravity, enabling the Nasa Dawn spacecraft to capture high-resolution images of its surface.

Now a team of scientists from the United States and Europe have analysed images relayed from the orbiter, captured around 35 kilometres (22 miles) from the asteroid.

They focused on the 20-million-year-old Occator crater and determined that there is an "extensive reservoir" of brine beneath its surface.

Several studies published Monday in the journals Nature Astronomy, Nature Geoscience and Nature Communications also shed further light on the dwarf planet, which was discovered by Italian polymath Giuseppe Piazzi in 1801.

Using infrared imaging, one team discovered

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

SI of DMP sued for abduction, extortion

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A sub-inspector of the capital's Kadamtoli police station, Nazmul Huda, and eight others, were sued in an abduction and extortion case yesterday.

Md Imran Hossain, owner of MST Enterprise in Kadamtoli area in the capital, filed the case with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Yeasmin Ara, Imran's lawyer Sheikh Mohammad Jakir Hossain told The Daily Star.

The eight others accused are Uzzal Hossain, Sanaul Haque, Tariqul, Alam, Jubayer, Shamim, Sajib and Rabiul.

SI Nazmul is now posted

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 14

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-25 12-30 4-45 6-41 8-00
JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-44 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Two Asian openbills, popularly known as Shamuk Khol, resting on a tree branch at Bihar Bazar in Bogura's Shibganj. Locals say a huge number of the birds make nests on large trees and live there.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

