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SHAH CEMENT

Cutting corners dangerously

Mobile court finds hospital doing 3 tests on one petri dish; expired reagents, accessories even in OT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Sirajul Islam Medical College Hospital has been caught mixing blood samples from three patients just to skimp on petri dish.

This was discovered during a five-hour mobile court raid at the hospital in the capital yesterday.

"For every test, they put three blood samples in a single petri dish. This meant that one or more of the patients received incorrect test results. How would one understand who has what?" said Rab Executive Magistrate Sarwoer Alam, who led the drive.

"Not even tiny diagnostic centres in places like Jatrabari do unethical practices like this," he added.

Dr Sirajul Islam Medical College Hospital is a 16-storey, 500-bed hospital with a Covid-19 isolation unit opposite to Mouchak market. It was fined Tk 30 lakh.

Officials also found expired reagents in the operation theatre, intensive care unit (ICU), and even at the isolation unit ICU.

"We found surgical accessories in the OT that expired years ago," he said.

The team also stated that the hospital's isolation unit was not maintaining complete isolation, thereby risking infecting patients who do not have the coronavirus.

"We have instructed them to improve the practices at the isolation unit, or shut it down if they cannot function," he said.

The hospital's licence was renewed last year, informed the team.

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Rab Executive Magistrate Sarwoer Alam, in white shirt, looking at blood bags in front of a fridge during a raid at Dr Sirajul Islam Medical College Hospital in the capital yesterday. The hospital was fined Tk 30 lakh for irregularities. Expired accessories and reagents were also found in its labs, operation theatre and ICU.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

RAIDING HOSPITALS Why cops need permits

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of the health ministry's decision asking the law enforcers to take its permission before raiding any hospitals.

The court issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain within four weeks why the ministry's decision should not be declared illegal.

The bench of Justice Tariq ul Hakim and Justice SM Kuddus Zaman came up with the rule after virtually hearing a writ petition that challenged the legality of a notification issued by the health ministry to this effect.

Deputy Attorney General Amit Dasgupta told The Daily Star that the notification would be in force as the HC did not pass any stay order on it.

Supreme Court lawyer Rafiqul Islam, who also sought a stay order on the notification, submitted the petition to the HC on August 17.

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MAJ SINHA KILLING 3 witnesses in cops' case on fresh remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Cox's Bazar court yesterday granted a fresh four-day remand for three Marishbungia village residents, who were arrested in a case filed by Sharmen Shahria Ferdush over the killing of her brother Maj (retd) Sinha Md Rashid Khan in police firing.

The three -- Nurul Amin, Nizam Uddin and Ayas Uddin -- were also named as witnesses in a case filed by Sub-inspector Nandadul Rakshit with Teknaf Police Station over the same incident. Nandadul is one of the three prime accused in the case filed by Sinha's sister and is currently on remand.

Rab produced the three before the Cox's Bazar court seeking seven days' remand for each of them.

Judge Tamanna Farah of Senior Judicial Magistrate Court-4 granted four days of remand. She passed the order around 12:15pm, said Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police Khairul Islam.

The accused had earlier completed seven days in remand on August 20, before being produced before the court with the fresh remand prayer, said Khairul, also a Rab-15 official and the investigation officer of the case.

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Chinese veto condemned

August 26, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR WORLD OPINION China has risked serious repercussions by vetoing Bangladesh's application for membership of the United Nations, sources close to Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman say today. The Chinese veto is an attempt to hinder any durable settlement in the Indian subcontinent and to sabotage the recently signed Simla Agreement between India and Pakistan. China is eager to keep the subcontinent as a chessboard of power politics, the sources add.

A protest rally brought out by Awami League and its affiliated organisations today in Dhaka strongly condemns the Chinese veto and calls for unity against the conspiracy being hatched to undo the hard-earned independence of the country.

BANGABANDHU'S LETTER TO GUINEA PRESIDENT A special representative of Bangladesh Rashid Ahmed, currently touring a number of African countries, handed over a personal message from Bangabandhu to President Sekou Toure of Guinea.

RECOGNITION BY PANAMA, URUGUAY In a message to Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, the foreign minister of the Republic of Panama has informed that his country has accorded recognition to Bangladesh as an independent and sovereign state. Panama is the 89th country to recognise Bangladesh. Panama, being a member of the Security Council,

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BEATEN, HUMILIATED Mother sues UP chairman, 33 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The chairman of Harbang Union Parishad and three others were sued yesterday for torturing a woman and her children in Cox's Bazar's Chakaria recently.

The mother -- Parvin Begum -- filed the case against four named and 30 unnamed accused with Chakaria Police Station around 5:00pm, said Md Habibur Rahman, officer-in-charge of the police station.

The accused named in the first information report (FIR) are UP Chairman Miranul Islam, Nasir Uddin, Nazrul Islam and Jashim Uddin. Parvin mentioned in the FIR that Miranul psychically assaulted them.

According to the case statement, Parvin lives with her family in a rented house in Patiya upazila of Chattogram. On August 21,

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Sahara turned barren 4,000yrs ago



MAIL ONLINE

A megadrought that crippled Southeast Asia for 1,000 years was triggered by the Sahara going from lush grassland to a barren desert 4,000 years ago, a study found.

The end of the "Green Sahara" -- also known as the "African humid period" -- was brought about as changing world weather patterns caused the region to dry up.

The emergence of the desert has long been studied by archaeologists for its impact on human civilisations of the time.

For example, it led to the end of Mesopotamia's Akkadian Empire, the de-urbanisation of the Indus Civilisation and the emergence of pastoralism by the Nile.

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COVID-19 Death toll passes 4,000

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's death toll from novel coronavirus has crossed the 4,000-mark as the health directorate reported 45 more deaths in 24 hours till 8:30am yesterday.

The total number of deaths now stands at 4,028 with a death rate of 1.34 percent of all confirmed cases.

In the same 24-hour period, 2,545 more people tested positive for Covid-19 among 14,153 tested. The infection rate for the period was 17.98, the lowest for

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 26

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:30 12:45 4:45 6:33 8:00
JAMAAT 5:05 1:15 5:00 6:36 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

UPSIDE DOWN FLAG Malaysia cops arrest four Bangladeshis

THE STAR, Kuala Lumpur

A rubbish truck driver and four Bangladeshi workers were detained on Monday for "flying the Malaysian flag upside down" in front of their lorry.

Gombak police chief ACP Arifai Tarawe said police received a complaint from a 36-year-old man over the matter.

He said the complainant had stopped the lorry and reprimanded the driver while recording the incident in front of a mosque in Bandar Country Homes, Rawang, on Monday before the video went viral on social media.

"Subsequently, the complainant lodged a police report and an investigation paper was opened under Section 504 of the Penal Code, Section 14 of the Minor Offences Act and Section 15(1) (c) of the Immigration Act 1959.

"Apart from detaining the 48-year-old truck driver,

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Garment workers return home from work using a makeshift bamboo bridge built at a waterlogged neighbourhood in Gazipur city's Kashimpur area on Monday. Recent floods accompanied by heavy rains have been causing sufferings to thousands of people in urban and rural areas of the country.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Covid-19 cases, deaths slow

Says WHO

AGENCIES

The coronavirus pandemic is still raging worldwide, but fresh World Health Organization data indicates its pace is easing in most regions, with the biggest slowdown seen in the hard-hit Americas.

More than 1.7 million new cases and some 39,000 new deaths were recorded last week, the WHO said in a situation report published late Monday.

The numbers for the seven-day period ending on August 23 mark a five-percent decrease in new Covid-19 cases globally and a 12-percent drop in new deaths compared to a week earlier.

Despite the slowdown, the fresh numbers pushed the global total since the start of the pandemic to well over 23 million cases and more than 813,000 deaths.

Millions of South Korean students were ordered back to online classes yesterday and Mexico launched a nationwide televised schooling programme, highlighting the deepening crisis for children worldwide.

The school closures were part of new measures in many parts of the world to halt the disease. The United Nations estimates at least 60 percent of the global student population has been impacted by school closures across more than 140 countries.

The UN health agency said all regions registered declines in new numbers of cases, with the exception of Southeast Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean.

The Americas remain by far the hardest-hit in the pandemic, accounting last week for half of all newly reported cases and 62 percent of deaths.

But the region also saw the biggest slowdown, with the number of new cases decreasing 11 percent and new deaths falling 17 percent from a week earlier, driven in part by

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