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GRAFT IN CHUADANGA HOSPITAL

Probe body visits almost a year later

AMANUR AMAN, *Kushitia*

The probe committee tasked with investigating alleged irregularities in procurement of medicine and medical equipment for Chuadanga Sadar Hospital and four upazila health complexes visited the district for the first time on Sunday, almost a year after its formation.

Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) formed the three-member committee on July 2 last year after two newspapers had published reports about massive corruption in the procurement of medicines and other medical equipment.

The head of the investigation committee, Bidhan Chandra Ghosh, told The Daily Star over phone that a primary investigation was launched to ascertain the truth of the incident.

"We have collected all documents required for the investigation. We can talk on the issue once we scrutinise everything," he said.

The procurement was made following a government allocation of Tk 11.65 crore for four upazila health complexes and Chuadanga Sadar Hospital in the 2019-20 fiscal year amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chuadanga Civil Surgeon Dr ASM Maruf Hasan formed a medical board, headed by then Chuadanga Sadar Hospital Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Dr Shamim Kabir, to complete the purchase, sources at Chuadanga Civil Surgeon's Office said.

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Around 500 metric tons of the Himsagar mango is expected to be exported to Italy this year. Most of this large haul of mangoes comes from Satkhira district, where it is widely cultivated. The photo was taken in Satkhira's Saighoria upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: DIPANKAR ROY

Scores of Bangladeshis detained in Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The immigration department in Malaysia reportedly detained dozens of Bangladeshi migrant workers in Cyberjaya, Selangor, on Sunday night.

Malaysia's national news agency Bernama yesterday reported the Immigration Department detained a total of 156 immigrants in an "integrated operation at an illegal settlement".

Immigration News 24, a Bangladeshi news portal, quoting Malaysia's immigration department sources reports that 62 of the detainees are Bangladeshi nationals.

In a statement, Malaysia-based migrant rights group Tenaganita and several other organisations condemned the detentions amid the pandemic.

"The planned crackdown on undocumented migrant workers is a state-endorsed violence aimed at the most vulnerable group of people in the country," reads

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TRAINS COLLIDE IN PAKISTAN

43 killed, dozens hurt

AFP, *Daharki*

At least 43 people were killed and dozens injured yesterday when a packed Pakistani inter-city train ploughed into another express that had derailed just minutes earlier, officials said.

Several people were trapped for hours in the mangled wreckage left by the collision near Daharki, in a remote part of rural Sindh province, before rescue workers with specialist equipment could reach them.

Huge crowds from nearby villages gathered around the carnage of the overturned Pakistan Railways carriages, with twisted and shredded metal scattered across the ground, along with piles of luggage.

The double accident happened around 3:30am when most of the 1,200 passengers aboard the two trains would have been dozing.

"We tumbled upon each other, but that was not so fatal," Akhtar Rajput, a passenger on the train that derailed, told AFP.

"Then another train hit us from nowhere, and that hit us harder. When I regained my senses, I saw passengers lying around me, some were trying to get out of the coach."

"I was disoriented and trying to figure out what happened to us when the other

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ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

UK refuses aid to Pakistan

JUNE 8, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGLADESH REACTS SHARPLY TO YAHYA'S STATEMENT

The reported statement of Pakistan President Yahya Khan that he would take "genuine refugees" back into Pakistan met with sharp reaction from the Bangladesh government today. A spokesman of the Bangladesh government said, "It does not suit General Yahya Khan's mouth to say anything about the refugees of Bangladesh who have been driven out from the country by his genocidal war against the total population of Bangladesh."

WE'LL AID REFUGEES, NOT PINDI, SAYS UK

British Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas Hume pledged more British aid to Bangladesh evacuees in India but ruled out further aid to Pakistan itself until there was a "political framework" within which to apply the aid so that it can go, a great deal of it, to East Pakistanis. Speaking on the BBC television public affairs programme "Panorama" today, he said the ideal situation would be a political solution so that the refugees can go home. "But Pakistan is an independent country and we cannot force the solution on them," added Sir Hume.

CHOLERA: EMERGENCY DECLARED IN KOLKATA

Cholera was taking rapid stride towards Kolkata. The West Bengal government alerted the city corporation and all the municipalities in border towns about the possibility of an outbreak of the disease in an epidemic form. In the refugee camps, not far from the city, the disease was raging in virulent form. According to unofficial

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Cops arrest 2 more human traffickers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two more people were held in Satkhira's bordering area yesterday over trafficking a young girl who returned home from India on May 7 after escaping captivity of 77 days.

Amirul Islam, 32, and Abdus Salam Mollah, 36, would be shown arrested in a case filed with Hatirjheel Police Station under the human trafficking act, Hafiz Al Faruk, additional deputy commissioner (Tejgaon) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star.

The two were being brought to Dhaka. With them, five people have so far been held in the case lodged by the 18-year-old victim.

The plaintiff is one of the three Bangladeshi victims, aged between 18 and 25, who managed to escape from the clutches of a transnational trafficking racket in India.

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Malaysia police use drones to detect body temperatures

CNA ONLINE



Police in Malaysia's Terengganu state are using drones to detect high body temperatures among people in public areas as the country undergoes its third nationwide lockdown.

The drones can detect body temperatures from as high as 20m above the ground, said state police chief Rohaimi Md Isa.

"If the drone detects an individual with a high body temperature, such as 37.5 degrees Celsius, it will emit a red light and our enforcement personnel will go to the location to identify the symptomatic individual," Rohaimi told reporters on Sunday.

The drones have been deployed for several days

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Temporary Iran nuclear deal becoming hard: IAEA

AFP, *Vienna*

The UN nuclear watchdog's head said yesterday it was "becoming increasingly difficult" to extend a temporary inspections arrangement with Iran, as Tehran and world powers try to salvage a nuclear deal.

In February, Tehran suspended some IAEA inspections, leading the agency to strike a temporary three-month deal allowing it to continue its activities despite the reduced level of access.

"I can see this space narrowing down," International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael Grossi told journalists in Vienna at the beginning of the quarterly meeting of the IAEA's board of governors.

In late May the ad hoc arrangement was extended until June 24, with Grossi describing the remaining

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COVID IMPACT ON WORK

4 times worse than 2008 financial crash: UN

AFP, *Geneva*

The United Nations said yesterday that the Covid-19 pandemic's impact on the world of work was four times worse than the 2008 economic crisis.

The UN's International Labour Organization said the pandemic had had a "devastating" and even "cataclysmic" effect, as it sought to tackle an uneven recovery from the coronavirus crisis.

The ILO yesterday kicked off its annual International Labour Conference (ILC), being held virtually for the first time, and this year

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Staffers of a travel agency spend a busy day booking hotels for migrant workers destined for Saudi Arabia. The workers were instructed to be in a 14-day self-quarantine before returning to work. The photo was taken at the capital's Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel yesterday morning.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

India re-opens major cities

Modi announces free shots for all adults, says 3 more vaccines in pipeline

AGENCIES

Key Indian cities re-opened for business yesterday, with long queues for buses in the financial hub of Mumbai while traffic returned to the roads of New Delhi after a devastating second wave of coronavirus that killed hundreds of thousands.

The 100,636 new infections of the past 24 hours were the lowest in the world's second most populous nation since April 6, and well off last month's peaks of more than 400,000, allowing authorities to re-open parts of the economy.

"We have to save ourselves from infection but also bring the economy back on track," Delhi's Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Twitter.

He ordered half the capital's shops to open on odd and even numbered days of the month respectively, in a bid to limit crowds, but allowed offices and the Delhi underground rail network to run at 50% of capacity.

But some curbs were retained, such as the ban on dining in restaurants and the use of theatres and gyms in a city still slowly recovering from a surge in the months of April and May that overwhelmed hospitals.

They ran short of beds and medical oxygen, and people died in hospital parking lots and homes, while crematoriums and morgues struggled to cope with an incessant flow of corpses.

India added 2,427 deaths overnight for a toll of 349,186, the health ministry said, down from more than 4,000 each

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 8

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-45 8-15
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-50 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION