



Irregularities widespread in 3 hospitals

Finds DGHS probe body in Uttara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health directorate inspected three hospitals in the capital's Uttara and found widespread irregularities, including treating Covid-19 patients without permission and that too with insufficient equipment and shortage of trained doctors and nurses.

The hospitals inspected on Saturday by a committee of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) are Shin Shin Japan Hospital, Uttara Al-Ashraf General Hospital and Radical Hospital.

The five-member committee submitted its report to the director-general of DGHS on Sunday.

Shin Shin Japan Hospital came under the scanner after the death of Sabuj Peris, 35, and his family's allegation that he was beaten indiscriminately and left without treatment at the hospital for hours.

Sabuj had been admitted to the facility on July 18 with breathing difficulties. He died on July 26 while undergoing treatment at United Hospital, where he was transferred following the incident three days earlier.

The DGHS committee investigated the three hospitals after the incident came to light.

The three hospitals were overcharging patients for Covid-19 treatment despite insufficient central oxygen supply, ventilators, high-flow nasal cannulas and shortage of trained doctors and nurses, the report said.

During treatment, many Covid patients died at the

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Relatives of Covid-19 patients crowd near the Coronavirus unit of Barishal's Sher-e-Bangla Hospital to collect oxygen cylinders procured from outside sources, as the hospital, like most others, has run out of them. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

33 killed as bus hits fuel truck in DR Congo

AFP, Kigali

Thirty-three people died in a horrific collision between a fuel truck and a crowded bus in the Democratic Republic of Congo at the weekend, police said yesterday.

The victims were engulfed by a "huge fire sparked by the collision" overnight Saturday in the west of the country, local police captain Antoine Pululu told AFP.

Another police source said the bodies were destroyed by the flames, adding that the remains that were recovered were buried yesterday.

The inferno occurred near the village of Kibuba along national route one around 80 kilometres (50 miles) from the capital Kinshasa.

Deadly road accidents are frequent in DR Congo where the roads are full of old vehicles which often do not comply with safety norms.

Sadeque Agro files writ to get 17 cows released

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed with the High Court yesterday seeking its directive on the authorities concerned to release 17 imported cows of Brahman breed, which were seized at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on July 5.

Md Imran Hossain, owner of dairy farm Sadeque, a concern of Sadeque Agro Ltd, submitted the writ petition before the HC challenging the legality of the seizure by customs officials.

Citing the petition, Imran's lawyer Mohammad Mehdi Hasan told The Daily Star that his client imported 18 cows of Brahman breed from the USA for research and development purposes.

There is no legal bar on importing such animals to the country for research and development purposes as per the government's import policies, he said, adding that one of the cows died on July 6.

He said each of the cows was more than two years old and his client paid the US dairy farm concerned \$40,000 for the cows.

The lawyer said the HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim may hold a hearing on the petition today.

The cows arrived on a Turkish

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Bangladesh warns against deployment of UN observers

AUGUST 3, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

MUKTI BAHINI TO TREAT UN OBSERVERS AS COLLABORATORS
Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra today declared that the government and the people of Bangladesh would treat UN observers as collaborators of the Pakistani junta.

"Thus, with this blatant UN intervention in Bangladesh against the wishes of the people probably begins the first phase of the Congoisation, i.e. internationalisation of the Bangladesh issue. Whether the world's popular opinion likes it or not the way has now been paved toward a sub-continental bloodbath that may finally lead to a global tension of the magnitude of Cuba-US crisis of 1962. Only that this time it may not end the same way," added the clandestine radio station operated by the exiled Bangladesh government.

The Radio also warned of commando action against the UN observers as they would be treated as collaborators of the Pakistan army.

NIXON, KISSINGER DISCUSS ASSISTANCE TO PAKISTAN
American President Richard Nixon and his Assistant for National Security Affairs Henry Kissinger discussed a memorandum in a telephone conversation today. The subject of the memorandum was military and economic assistance to Pakistan as a framework for

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Child, widow raped in 2 districts

STAR REPORT

A schoolgirl and a widow have been raped in Cox's Bazar and Joypurhat.

The alleged rapists went into hiding after cases were filed against them.

Meanwhile, law enforcers arrested the imam of a mosque in Cumilla city early yesterday over raping a madrasa girl.

In Cox's Bazar, a youth allegedly abducted a sixth-grade girl and raped her in Kanjarpara Baghghona area of Teknaf upazila on Sunday night.

Mother of the victim filed a case with Teknaf Police Station yesterday accusing one Saiful Islam, 20, of same area, said OC Mohammad Hafizur Rahman of the police station.

According to the case statement, Saiful abducted the girl from her home on Sunday night when she was alone. He took her to a nearby hilly area and raped

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Princess Diana's wedding cake slice goes up for auction



CNN ONLINE

A slice of cake from Prince Charles and Princess Diana's 1981 wedding is up for auction.

Weighing about 28 ounces, the slice comes from one of the 23 cakes made for the royal wedding, according to Dominic Winter Auctioneers. It features a coat-of-arms colored in gold, red, blue and silver, a silver horseshoe and leaf spray, as well as some white decorative icing.

The piece of cake was given to Moyra Smith, who worked at Clarence House for the Queen

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DU Prof sued under DSA

DU CORRESPONDENT

A law professor of Dhaka University was sued on Sunday under the Digital Security Act for a Facebook post that allegedly insulted the religious sentiment of people.

Amit Bhowmik, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu Jubo Parishad, filed the case with Shabbagh Police Station against Sheikh Hafizur Rahman Karzon.

Mahfuzul Haque Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge (investigation), of the police station, said, "We will investigate and take action."

According to the

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 3

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:20 12:45 5:00 6:47 8:15
JAMAAT 4:55 1:15 5:15 6:50 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Muhith still has breathing difficulties

Says Momen

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Former finance minister AMA Muhith has breathing problems, seven days after being diagnosed with Covid-19.

"He [Muhith] lost weight and does not want to eat. He still has problems breathing," Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, younger brother of Muhith, told reporters at the State Guesthouse Padma yesterday.

He said on Sunday night Muhith, 87, slept well unlike the previous night when had not eaten or slept well and thus became weak.

Muhith is undergoing treatment at the Combined Military Hospital in the city where he was admitted last week. All his family members, including his wife, son and two house helps, were also infected.

Most of the time he is made to sleep with medication. "We are hopeful he will recover," he

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People struggle to walk by a broken footpath, which has not been repaired for over a year now, near the airport road roundabout. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH ENAMUL HAQUE

TALIBAN OFFENSIVES 'Abrupt' US pullout to blame

Says Afghan president; Commandos deployed

AGENCIES

President Ashraf Ghani yesterday blamed Afghanistan's fast-deteriorating security situation on a "sudden" decision by the United States to withdraw its troops, but said his government had a plan to bring conditions under control within six months.

Taliban insurgents have moved in on three provincial capitals in the last few days, amid rapid advances nationwide since Washington said it planned a complete withdrawal of troops by September.

"The current situation is due to a sudden decision on the withdrawal of the international troops," Ghani told the Afghan parliament in a speech.

"We have had an unexpected situation in the last three months."

However, the Afghan government had a security plan to bring the situation under control within six months, he added, and the United States supported the plan.

The Taliban would not move towards peace unless the worsening security situation was curbed, Ghani said.

Peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban negotiators started last year in the Qatari capital of Doha, but have not made any substantive progress despite a few rounds, reports Reuters.

The two sides committed to speeding up the talks, however, at a recent meeting in Doha between a high-level Afghan political delegation and the Taliban.

Ghani said the militants had not severed ties with terrorist groups, and had stepped up attacks on women

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