7 busted with counterfeit

They set up factory in the capital to produce, distribute those

medicines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police has arrested seven persons from different areas in the capital and recovered counterfeit medicines of both local and foreign brands from them.

AKM Hafiz Akhter, additional commissioner of DB, told this to journalists at a press briefing yesterday.

According to the police official, the arrestees were held in the capital's Kajla, Arambagh and Mitford areas on Wednesday.

As many as 1,500 boxes of frequently-used medicines, medicine manufacturing equipment, and empty boxes of different well-known medicine companies were seized from their possession, he said.

The counterfeit medicines include the drugs for Covid-19, cancer and other diseases.

The arrestees are Tariqul Islam, Syed Al Mamun, Saidul Islam, Monowar, Abdul Latif, Nazmul Dhali and Sagar Ahmed Milon.

Tariqul Islam and Syed Al Mamun set up a factory to make these counterfeit medicines. Saidul Islam was the main manufacturer while Monwar used to supply Pharmaceutical Aluminum Foil. The counterfeit drugs were marketed by

Sagar Ahmed Milon, the police official

The racket has been distributing counterfeit drugs across the country, mostly targeting remote areas, he said

The DB official said, "We recovered eight types of counterfeit drugs. The racket was copying and manufacturing those. Counterfeit medicines were being sold in the market at a much lower price than the real ones.

"These are more dangerous than narcotics. People take medicine when they get sick. And people get sicker and sicker by taking counterfeit drugs."

He also said that the customers cannot identify the fake drugs. Only those who manufacture can understand.

That is why the DB called upon the drug administration and others to take action against the manufacturers of these counterfeit drugs, he added.

The ingredients of these drugs do not contain any essential active ingredients. Even steroids and dyes may be used. Non-pharmaceutical grade chemicals can cause serious damage to the kidneys, liver and heart. These counterfeit drugs are a

death trap for ordinary people."

A case was filed with Bangshal Police Station in this connection and the arrestees were placed on a threeday remand each.

Tigers go 2-0 up with close

the equation down to New Zealand needing eight from the final two deliveries with in-form Kiwi skipper Tom Latham at strike and the penultimate delivery being a free-hit.

Mustafizur's back-of-the-hand delivery ended up being a beamer and it was swatted away for a boundary down the fine-leg by Latham. And that had certainly put Mustafizur, one of the most reliable death over bowlers in T20s around the world, in a bit of a

However, the 25-year-old pacer kept his nerve and conceded only three runs off the final two deliveries as Bangladesh registered a thrilling victory with Latham stranded at 65 not out off 49 deliveries. Mustafizur ended the game wicketless, giving away 34 runs in

Bangladesh had started off well with the ball coming in to defend a total that was the highest at the venue in the last eight T20Is. Shakib Al Hasan had removed Rachin Ravindra in the third over while off-spinner Mahedi Hasan scalped the wicket of the other opener, Tom Blundell, in the very next over to leave the visitors at two for 18 after 3.1

Latham then staged a crucial 43-run stand with Will Young and the Kiwis were looking to recover very well from their early slump.

Then Shakib, as he does so often, provided the most important

breakthrough. He induced an edge of the bat of Young in the 11th over and had him caught at short third man,

breaking an ominous partnership. New Zealand lost Colin de Grandhomme and Henry Nicholls in quick succession to spinners Nasum Åhmed and Mahedi before an unbeaten 47-run stand between Latham and Cole McConchie took the game right down to the wire.

Shakib finished with figures of two for 29 in his four overs and the all-rounder, with 106 T20I wickets in 86 games, now remains just a wicket away from being the joint highest T20I wicket-taker alongside former Sri Lanka pacer Lasith Malinga, who has 107 scalps from 84 T20Is. Mahedi, meanwhile, was the most impressive with the ball as the 26-year-old finished with figures of two for 12 in four overs, bowling at an economy rate of 3 -lowest among bowlers of the two sides.

Earlier, Bangladesh opener Naim and Liton put on a solid display, amassing 59 runs for the opening stand. Naim holed out to long-on after a run-a-ball 39 while Liton chopped one on to his stumps off a Ravindra delivery after a 29-ball 33.

However, despite losing a few quick wickets in the middle, Bangladesh skipper Mahmudullah, who looked in a positive frame of mind from the very beginning, ensured with his unbeaten cameo that Bangladesh end with a competitive total

Does Boat Club have

Kamal whether Rab will be asked to launch a fresh investigation into the death of a college student at a flat in the capital's Gulshan in late April.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was present in the House at that time.

Harun said the student died by suicide a few months ago. Police gave a final report on the case of incitement for suicide. The college student's phone conversation with the Bashundhara managing director and pictures with him have appeared in the media.

"I want to know whether the investigation of this incident will be handed over to Rab. If not, I will assume that the government does not want to identify those involved in such crimes. The government wants to hide them.'

The BNP MP said the government needs to give utmost importance to such issues. Those involved need to be

awarded an exemplary punishment. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan did not address the issues in

were ubiquitous in the country. Drugs are being abused in DJ parties in different places including Dhaka, he said, calling for effective action against

Alcohol consumption and gambling regularly take place in the Boat Club, he said, asking whether the club was built along the river with government permission.

He urged the home minister to issue a statement clarifying whether the law permits an IGP to be a member of such

He said law enforcers are involved in drug trafficking and other crimes. NEED RAPID PCR TEST AT AIRPORTS Meanwhile, Awami League MP Moslem Uddin Ahmed from Chattogram-8 demanded that the government set up a PCR lab at the country's international airports to rapidly test travellers for Covid-19.

Speaking on a point of order, the AL MP said many expatriate workers cannot go to their workplaces in different countries, especially in the UAE as Covid-19 test at a Rapid PCR Harunur Rashid said illegal drugs lab is required to go to those countries.

Court accepts charges officer did not find any evidence

the officer-in-charge of Uttara West Police Station to submit an update on the execution of arrest warrants against them by October 12.

The magistrate also accepted charges against 17-year-old Kamrul Islam, a receptionist of the group, and sent the case to the Juvenile Court for trial.

Earlier on March 29, Nazmul Haque, Rab-1 senior assistant superintendent of police, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

The names of two other accused Ahsan Habib Hasan and Mahbub Hossain Mollah -- were not included in the charge sheet as the investigation

against them. In the charge sheet, 40 people have been named as prosecution witnesses.

On July 7 last year, a case was filed against Shahed and 15 others over issuing fake Covid-19 test reports and charging people unfairly for testing and treatment.

Shahed was arrested in Satkhira on July 15 last year when he was trying to leave the country by boat.

He was sentenced to life imprisonment in an arms case on eptember 28 last year.

On August 18, 2010, he was sentenced to six month's imprisonment and fined Tk 53 lakh by a court in absentia in a cheque dishonour case.



A handcart carrying iron rods, with many of them sticking out from the back, on a road in the capital's Kamalapur. Such transportation of construction materials poses danger to other road users. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: **STAR**

Ties with Turkey finding new turfs

Islami leaders.

Following the execution of Jamaat leader Motiur Rahman Nizami in May 2016, Turkey withdrew its ambassador to Bangladesh, bringing the bilateral relations under severe strain.

The strained relations began healing when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina wrote to Turkish President Erdogan, condemning the coup attempt to overthrow him in July 2016. Consequently, Ankara sent a new ambassador to Dhaka later that year.

Turkish First Lady Emine Erdogan visited Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar in September 2017 following the influx of about 7.5 lakh refugees from Myanmar. The country actively supported the Rohingya cause at the UN, OIC and other global forums. It is also providing humanitarian assistance for the refugees, Bangladesh foreign ministry officials said.

Late last year, Bangladesh Navy and Air Chiefs visited Ankara and in September Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen visited Turkey and inaugurated Bangladesh Chancery Complex. Similarly, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu visited Bangladesh and inaugurated Turkish Embassy building in Dhaka in December last year.

Bangladesh Army Chief Gen SM Shafiuddin Ahmed also went on an eight-day visit to Turkey from August 18-26, 2021, when he met top Turkish military officials, including defence minister and head of Turkey's Defence Industries Presidency and discussed issues of possible defence

cooperation, training, and exchanges. He also inspected the operation control room of the Turkish Unmanned Aerial System (UAS), Army Aviation Headquarters, and the Turkish Aerospace Industries.

During the visit, the army chief highlighted the strategic friendship and cultural bonds between Bangladesh and Turkey, saying his visit will "open new doors for cooperation between the military forces of the two countries.

A diplomatic source in Ankara said Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan might visit Bangladesh late this year, as more business delegations are exchanging visits with high potentials of trade. A parliamentary delegation from Bangladesh

expected to visit Turkey soon. Turkish authorities have announced setting up sculpture of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Ankara and that of Kemal Ataturk, father of modern Turkey, in Dhaka.

In June this year, Bangladesh signed a defence purchase agreement with Turkey for importing various defence equipment from Rokestan, a Turkish military hardware company and contractor.

"Our Turkish defence industry signed a deal for export [to Bangladesh] of various types of defence equipment. Don't stop, keep going!" said Ismail Demir, president of Turkish Defence

Industries in a tweet on June 29. said in an email interview.

Officials of Bangladesh Embassy in DHAKA'S STRATEGIC GOALS Ankara confirmed the deal.

The products will equip Bangladesh Armed Forces with NATO Standard air, land and naval warfare weapons, according to Bangladesh Defence Analyst, a news portal run by the country's defence experts.

Roketsan already delivered the Tiger missile system to Bangladesh Air Force with Teber laser guided precision strike ordnance kits to Bangladesh in June, according to reports from Defence Technology of Bangladesh.

Programmes are being initiated to equip the Bangladesh Navy with the latest anti-ship missiles from Turkey whereas the Army and Air Force may obtain air defence systems, surfaceto-surface missiles and advanced munitions, it said.

Turkey's Anadolu news agency recently reported that Bangladesh became the fourth-largest arms buyer from Turkey, reportedly receiving up to \$60 million worth of weapons out of Turkey's roughly \$1 billion in global defence product exports in the first four months of 2021.

Meanwhile, 41 members of the Bangladesh Armed Forces participated in a training in Turkey in June this year. "Bangladesh is set to become one of the top defence equipment clients of Turkey in the next five years," the news agency said

TURKEY'S ÍNTEREST

Yatharth Kachiar, assistant professor at the Manipal Centre for European Studies of India, said Turkey, under the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), started pursuing its strategic interests in the Global South in early 2000. In 2019, it undertook "Asia Anew" initiative that focuses on strengthening relations with Asian countries to build synergies in education, defence, investment, trade, technology, and culture.

She says Ankara's renewed activism in Asia results from structural changes at the global level and the ideological drive behind AKP's foreign policy.

The increasing rift in Turkey's relations with the West and the ongoing fight for primacy within the Muslim world has estranged Turkey from its traditional ally, the West and the neighbouring Islamic countries," said Kachiar in an email interview.

President Erdogan intends to expand Turkey's defence industrial base by boosting arms sales to \$25 billion by 2023, and Bangladesh could become a critical market for the Turkish defence industry in future, she said.

Alan Mikhail, professor of History at Yale University, says Turkey wants to emerge as a modern version of the Ottoman Empire.

"While every modern Turkish ruler has distanced himself from the legacy of the Ottoman Empire, and Islam, to attempt to project a more western, secular and modern face for the republic, Erdogan is the first who has actively embraced the Ottoman past and the empire's Islamic heritage," he

According to defence and foreign

relations analysts, Bangladesh has three specific goals to deepen relations with Turkey: diplomatic strength, trade and diversifying arms sources. Former foreign secretary Shamsher

Mobin Chowdhury said Turkey was militarily and politically a global power having an independent strong voice. Also, it is the only Muslim majority country with NATO membership.

He said Bangladesh, which has been facing serious diplomatic challenges for the Rohingya crisis, needs its ally, and Turkey has proved to be one in various global forums, including the International Court of Justice.

Analysts said traditionally, Bangladesh buys major defence equipment from China, Russia, US, UK and South Korea. "Turkey is making quality arms,

which are not very expensive and come without conditions. This is what Bangladesh needs," a diplomatic source in Ankara said. "Also, Bangladesh can get technology for manufacturing equipment here."

Security analyst Brig Gen (retd) Shahedul Anam Khan said buying antiship missiles and air defence systems from Turkey means the country has more options for military purchase.

Buying defence products does not mean only doing it once. That requires training and then accessories in future. "During critical moments, you cannot depend for arms supplies only on one source. If you have more options, you have more independence. Brig Gen (retd) M Shakhawat

Hossain said Bangladesh does not have any security threat as such for now. But as the economy grows and the need for securing huge maritime boundary is high, the country's armed forces need modernisation. "Also, we are the biggest peace

keeper-sending country to the UN missions. We need capacity building and modern defence equipment for that too," he said.

The other reason why Dhaka's relation with Ankara is important is the country's economy. As the country becomes a middle-income country soon, it needs more trade and foreign investments, said M Humayun Kabir.

Turkey, an upper middle-income country in Europe, can be a large market for Bangladesh. The countries can also have joint ventures, including in textile, as they both have specialties in the sector and other areas, he said.

Asked if Erdogan's rightist policy and conflicts with Saudi Arabia will have any implications on Bangladesh, Humayun Kabir said it is unlikely.

'If Turkey wants to regain its power like that of Ottoman Empire, it is fine. We will see where our convergence is.'

Bangladesh also maintains the policy that friendship with one does not affect the other, he said.

"Bangladesh's relation is with the state, not the government of Erdogan,' Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury said.

Baradar to lead new Afghan govt Also being planned within six to as the new government in Kabul,

focus on religious matters and governance within the framework of Íslam, another Taliban source said. The Taliban, which seized Kabul on

August 15 after sweeping across most of the country, have faced resistance in the Panjshir Valley, where there have been reports of heavy fighting and casualties. Several thousand fighters regional militias and remnants of

the government's armed forces have massed in the rugged valley under the leadership of Ahmad Massoud, the son of former Mujahideen commander Ahmad Shah Massoud. Efforts to negotiate a settlement

appear to have broken down, with each side blaming the other for the failure. While the Taliban have spoken of their desire to form a consensus government, a source close to the Islamist militant movement said the interim government now being formed would consist solely of Taliban

It would comprise 25 ministries, with a consultative council, or shura, of 12 Muslim scholars, the source added.

eight months is a loya jirga, or grand assembly, bringing together elders and representatives across Afghan society to discuss a constitution and the structure of the future government, the source said.

RECOGNITION

The Taliban enforced a radical form of sharia, or Islamic law, in particular oppressing women, when it ruled in

This time around, the movement has tried to present a more conciliatory face to the world, promising to protect human rights and refrain from reprisals against old enemies.

The United States, European Union and others have cast doubt on such assurances, and many Afghans, especially women and those with education or links to the former government or Western coalition forces, now fear for their lives.

EU countries yesterday laid out their conditions for stepping up engagement with the Taliban, agreeing to establish a joint Kabul civilian presence to help departures if security allows.

Britain will not recognise the Taliban

but must deal with new realities in Afghanistan and does not want to see its social and economic fabric broken, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said yesterday.

The administration of US President Joe Biden has no plans to release billions in Afghan gold, investments and foreign currency reserves parked in the United States that it froze after the Taliban's takeover.

Covid daily deaths

16.74 percent.

At least 4,697 Covid patients have recovered during the 24-hour period. The total number of recoveries now stands at 14,42,582 and the recovery rate is 95.52 percent.

Among the 70 deceased, 34 were men and 36 women.

Of them, one was aged between 21 and 30, three were between 31 and 40, 11 between 41 and 50, 16 between 51 and 60, 21 between 61 and 70, 14 between 71 and 80 and four between 81 and 90, added the release.

Long wait is over

on the Covid situation.

The government wants to hold the SSC and its equivalent examinations in the second week of November and the HSC and its equivalent tests in the first week of December.

The officials also said the government would keep the option of online classes functional as it wants to adopt a new "hybrid education learning system" combining in-person classes, online and TV learnings.

Handing and receiving assignments to and from secondary level students will continue. "We will carry on online classes and TV education in case some students might miss in-person classes due to illness or emergency reasons, a top official of the education ministry Dipu Moni inaugurated a building of a school in Chandpur yesterday. Speaking there, she said, "We hope that

we will be able to reopen educational institutions at the primary, secondary and higher secondary levels from September 12. We have already completed our preparations for reopening. Universities, which are scheduled

to reopen in mid-October, can resume in-person academic activities the same day, she said, adding that the universities would make the final decision in this regard.

The announcement came a day after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in parliament said she had directed the authorities concerned to reopen all schools and colleges soon. Educational institutions were closed across the country on March 17 last

year to curb the spread of Covid-19. The closure led to cancellation of classes and examinations, throwing the academic life of more than four crore students of around 1.5 lakh educational institutions in disarray.

To recoup the academic loss, the

government launched TV educational programmes on the state-run Sangsad channel for secondary and primary students. Later, it asked all schools, colleges, and universities to introduce online

classes. Assignments were also handed

to secondary-level students. While many schools in cities and urban areas quickly adapted to online education, doing so was not an easy option for students in rural and other areas dominated by low-income groups

as they lacked the necessary devices. As life has been gradually returning to normalcy following a Covid-19 surge earlier this year, calls from many quarters, including guardians and educationists, for reopening the

educational institutions got louder.

The UN Children's Fund also called on the government to end the Covid-19 school closures and resume in-person learning as soon as possible for children's well-being and future prospects. In the face of mounting pressure, the government made several attempts to reopen schools, but those were thwarted due to fresh waves of

The ministry high-ups even said they were waiting for teachers and students to get vaccinated and for the pandemic to reach a "tolerable level". Now almost all teachers and staffers of schools have taken Covid-19 vaccines, Dipu Moni said. Students aged 18 years and above

are also getting vaccines. The prime minister directed authorities to arrange vaccines for students aged 12 and above, and the government is taking necessary measures in this regard, the education minister said.

Education ministry officials said after reopening, students of classes 3 and 4 might get to go to school twice a week while students of classes 1 and 2 once a week. Students of classes 6 to 9 will also go to school once a week.

Several officials from both education ministries said they would be able to prepare a final guideline on reopening schools and other issues by this week. Noted educationist Prof Siddiqur

Rahman said teachers would now have to give more time to students to make up for the academic losses. He proposed that students are taught lessons that they missed during

the closure. "We can also increase the duration of classes," he told The Daily

Star.
"Teachers will need to work more for the interest of the nation. The government, on the other hand, can arrange special incentives for them, said Prof Siddiqur, also a former director of the Institute of Education and Research at Dhaka University.

During a meeting on Thursday night, the National Advisory Committee on Covid-19 recommended reopening of schools in phases as Covid-19 infection rates have gone down significantly. Prof Mohammad Shahidullah,

president of the committee, told this newspaper yesterday that they made the recommendation as the positivity rate came down to 10-11 percent in the

beginning of this month. Vaccination is taking place and it would be expedited," he said.

He said they gave some conditions to the government for reopening. One of the conditions was that public examination examinees are brought to the classroom first and then students of other classes. Another was that schools will ensure

hat everybody wears masks, there is arrangement for washing hands with soap and washrooms are cleaned properly, he said. Besides, seating arrangements should be made in a way that physical distancing is maintained. Contacted, Belal Hossain, director

of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE), said students' body temperature would be screened before allowing them to enter classrooms. Other rules will also be followed.

[Our Chandpur Correspondent contributed to the report.)