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Your Right to Know

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ANTIBIOTICS OVERUSE

Headed for a HEALTH CALAMITY

5yr resistant trends of critically important drugs in %

SOURCE:
TEDCR

NAME	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Ceftazidime	62	68	67	61	70
Cefixime	52	86	92	73	58
Cefepime	57	60	60	57	61
Ceftriaxone	52	63	67	60	65
Azithromycin	66	81	79	82	50
Ciprofloxacin	57	68	70	68	67

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Almost all clinically important and widely used antibiotics have lost their effectiveness by more than 50 percent, found a recent study -- a development that can leave the population defenceless against pandemics.

Most worryingly, five of the most critical medicines listed by the World Health Organisation are progressively becoming ineffective, according to the surveillance study by the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research conducted between 2017 and 2021.

"The message of this study is that the situation is alarming," said Meerjady

Sabrina Flora, additional director general of the health directorate, at an event yesterday to unveil the performance of 21 antibiotics against 10 priority pathogens.

The drugs were tested against bacteria responsible for diseases such as urinary tract infection, septicemia, diarrhoea, pneumonia and wound infection, among others.

The study, which was conducted in nine medical college hospitals, found 9 percent of the examined bacteria was resistant to all available antibiotics.

The ineffectiveness of antibiotics to kill microorganisms like bacteria, viruses and

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Armed with sticks and planks, a group of youths chases off college students, *not in picture*, demonstrating for half fare in buses at the capital's Science Laboratory intersection yesterday. The demonstration caused traffic disruption in the area. More photos on page 2.

PHOTO:
PALASH KHAN

Khaleda is not responding to medication well

Say doctor, party leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health condition of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is still critical and her body is not responding to treatments as per expectations, said physicians and the party leaders.

Talking to The Daily Star, Khaleda's physician AZM Zahid Hossain, last night said, "Doctors are trying their best, but her body is not responding at an expected level. We are trying our best."

Mentioning that the former prime minister should go abroad for better treatment, he said, "Her physical condition can deteriorate any time."

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said Khaleda's physical condition was still critical.

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Killers trained, target clear

Say law enforcers on Cumilla double murder; motive still a mystery

RAFIUL ISLAM and KHALID BIN NAZRUL

The killers' target was clear: shoot and confirm the death of Cumilla city Councillor Syed Mohammad Sohail on the spot.

The motive of the murder on Monday, however, is still shrouded in mystery.

The gunmen stayed around 20 minutes after opening fire on Sohail in his office in Cumilla city's Pathuriapara so that no one could dare take him to hospital immediately, said his associates and inhabitants of nearby buildings.

The attackers, some wearing masks and some helmets, shot others in the legs inside and outside the office, indicating that they were professional hit men, said law enforcers.

The death of Haripada Das, the close aide to the councillor, was possibly a "collateral damage", they said.

"We believe the murder had been planned long ago," said a police official dealing with the double-murder, wishing not to be named.

Five others who suffered bullet injuries in the attack are: Awal Hossain Rizvi, 23, Rasel, 29, Majedul Haque Badal, 39, Jewel, 40, and Sohail Chowdhury, 43. They were undergoing treatment at Cumilla Medical College Hospital.

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BAD BUSINESS

Bad loans surpass Tk 1 lakh crore, again

In an upsetting development, default loans in the banking sector have surpassed Tk 1 lakh crore after more than one and a half years despite a relaxed loan classification policy adopted by the central bank. Up until September, non-performing loans stood at Tk 101,150 crore, up 14 per cent from nine months earlier and 7.1 per cent year-on-year. The rise came despite the central bank's relaxed policy, introduced soon after the coronavirus pandemic hit the country in March last year.

STORY ON B1

DEMO FOR HALF FARE

Govt given ultimatum

Students press for meeting demand in 48 hours; state minister for info expresses solidarity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

College students yesterday issued a 48-hour ultimatum to the government to meet their demands for half bus fares and ensuring their security in public transport.

Students of different colleges staged demonstrations in the capital's Science Laboratory and Bakshibazar areas for about two hours.

Some Dhaka College students chased the protesters in Science Laboratory area over vandalising a motorcycle, said witnesses.

In Savar, Jahangirnagar University students formed a human chain to press home the same demand. Issuing a 24-hour ultimatum to the authorities concerned, they threatened to wage a tougher movement if their demands were not met.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murad Hassan yesterday said the students' demands were logical.

"I will talk to the people concerned regarding the matter," he said while expressing solidarity with the demonstrators in Bakshibazar.

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Gazipur mayor sued in Rajbari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A case was filed with a Rajbari court yesterday against Gazipur City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Zahangir Alam over his controversial comments on Bangabandhu and Liberation War martyrs.

One Shashi Akter of Rajbari Police Lines area filed the case with Rajbari Judicial Magistrate's Court-1 around noon under penal code 505 and 504.

Shoshi is the president of Manobik Bangladesh Society's Rajbari municipality unit.

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A part of the walkway along the Buriganga collapsed in Narayanganj's Munshikhola. The mooring of cargo vessels in the area has been causing damages to the walkway for about a year. *Inset*, a crane is deployed on the shore of the river to unload goods from boats. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Chaos all day long

Hundreds of UAE-bound passengers crowd HSIA for Covid test prior to departure

RASHIDUL HASAN and JAMIL MAHMUD

Over 1,500 passengers, who need a Covid-19 negative certificate six hours prior to flying to the UAE, start crowding the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport every day since morning.

The overcrowding is so severe that passengers cannot even find a place to sit before check in. All the chairs and even luggage carts are occupied by the passengers waiting to give samples, get their test results, and board their flights.

The passengers usually arrive nine to 10 hours before their flights to give samples

and all the collection booths are inside the terminal.

The situation has been worsened by the fact that the five to eight flights to the United Arab Emirates depart between 5:00pm and 7:30pm every day.

Other departing passengers have to navigate through the mayhem and some even complain that they can't hear the public announcements due to noise inside the terminal.

During a recent visit to HSIA, our correspondents found that more than 1,000 passengers were sitting on carts and chairs inside the departure area.

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PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) vide letter no. BSEC/CI/DS-163/2021/597 dated November 23, 2021 has accorded its consent to AB Bank Limited for raising Additional Tier-I (AT-I) capital through issuance of Transferrable, Unsecured, Non-cumulative, Contingent-convertible AB Bank Perpetual Bonds of BDT 600 crore of which BDT 540 crore through Private Placement and BDT 60 crore through Public Issue with a face value of BDT 1,000 each. Interest rate of the said bonds is 20-years' Treasury-Bond rate plus 2.0% margin p.a. with a coupon floor rate of 6% p.a. and coupon ceiling rate of 10.0% p.a. The consent has been accorded subject to the compliance of relevant laws and regulatory requirements.

Dated: Dhaka, November 23, 2021

AB Bank Limited
The Skymark, 18 Gulshan Avenue
Gulshan-1, Dhaka | www.abbl.com

Sd/-
Md. Jasim Uddin, ACS
Company Secretary (In-charge)