



"The need of the hour is to show concrete and collective resolve to ensure peace, harmony and security in the world."

Indian PM Narendra Modi tells G20 summit



DHAKA WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2022

REGD. No. DA 781

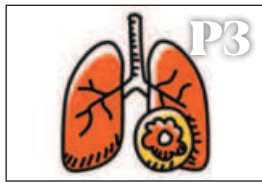
VOL. XXXII No. 295

AGRAHAYAN 1, 1429 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RABUS SANI 20, 1444 HJRI

16 PAGES : Tk 15.00



Winter brings pneumonia risks for kids



EU vows more emissions cuts at COP



Ronaldo 'always happy' playing for Portugal



Retailers see drop in profit

REPARATION TO KYIV Bangladesh abstains from vote against Russia at UN

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh abstained from voting in the UN General Assembly that adopted a resolution calling for Russia to be held accountable for violating international law by invading Ukraine.

The resolution, which was passed on Monday, also ordered Moscow to pay reparations to Kyiv for damages, loss and injury resulting from the war.

Of the assembly's 193 members, 94 voted in favour of the resolution, which recommends the assembly's member nations in cooperation with Ukraine create "an international register" to document claims and information on damage, loss or injury to Ukrainians and the government caused by Russia.

Fourteen voted against and 73 nations abstained including India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Nepal, Bhutan and Malaysia.

Those voting against the resolution were Belarus, China, Cuba, North Korea, Iran, Russia and Syria.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Schoolchildren looking at murals of Lionel Messi, Neymar, Cristiano Ronaldo and other football stars on a wall in Old Dhaka's KM Das Lane on Monday. The paintings of famous footballers of present and past have been drawn by youngsters of the locality as football fever grips the nation with only four days left to the start of the FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

When hospitals turn deadly

Study shows at least 11 major health facilities have no watch over hospital bugs

ZYMA ISLAM

Sheikh Abdul Alam, 96, was admitted to a private hospital on December 20, 2021, with a broken hip from a fall.

Apart from the injury, he had no medical issues – no chronic issues like diabetes or hypertension – and was in perfect health.

Doctors at the hospital were able to conduct a successful hip ball replacement surgery as well.

However, when he was kept in a high dependency unit for surveillance, Alam developed a nagging cough two days in.

On the third day, doctors had to begin manually vacuuming his upper respiratory system. And on the sixth day, he was dead from pneumonia.

The man, who had survived the surgery, did not have the immunity to survive the pneumonia picked up at the hospital.

A study done across 11 tertiary level hospitals in the country by icddr,b and the Directorate General of Health Services found that none of the hospitals conduct surveillance for hospital-acquired infections.

Tertiary, the highest level, hospitals or institutes have medical colleges and universities, specialised departments, and are usually referral hospitals, where patients from all over the country seek medical help.

These 11, comprised of nine public and two private hospitals, represent a quarter of all the country's tertiary level hospitals, and a third of the public facilities of this scale.

The study was published last month in a journal titled "Antimicrobial Resistance & Infection Control".

Md Golam Dostogir Harun, lead author of the study and project research manager at icddr,b's infectious diseases division, said, "Hospital-acquired infections show up in a patient after being admitted to a facility. It is a result of poor infection control."

According to the DGHS, such infections include urinary tract infections, pneumonia, diarrhoea, infections following surgery or invasive medical procedures, and infections in new mothers and newborns.

Doctors often find hospital-acquired infections turning fatal, as some patients survive the initial illnesses they were admitted with but die later due to an infectious disease.

Dr Ahmed Abu Saleh, professor and former head of the microbiology and immunology department at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said hospital-acquired infections are a major cause of death among patients in ICUs.

"These infections are usually resistant to multiple antibiotics. The antibiotics they are resistant to will depend on what the hospital usually prescribes."

These infections lengthen a patient's hospital stay and increase mortality rate.

According to the study, "None of the hospitals had a surveillance system ... All hospitals cited a lack of necessary IT support and specialised professionals skilled in epidemiology to carry out surveillance."

Nine of the hospitals did not conduct any surveillance to see if surgical site infections crop up following an

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

DECEMBER 10 RALLY BNP 'has no plan to unseat government'

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP has no plan to oust the government from the December 10 rally in Dhaka, although some of its leaders at different times had threatened to unseat it.

The party said the Dhaka rally will be peaceful like the other divisional ones held so far.

The issue was discussed at a meeting of the BNP standing committee, the highest policymaking body of the party, on Monday night.

The Daily Star talked to three members of the committee, who said six of the rallies so far were successful.

"Transport strikes centring the rallies basically egged on the party leaders and activists to join the programme at any cost. They joined the rallies to lodge their protest and that's why a one day rally turned into a two to three days' affairs," said one member.

He also said they think the more the obstacles, the bigger the presence will be at the Dhaka rally, which is planned to be held in front of the party's Nayapaltan headquarters.

Another standing committee member said when the transport strike was called suddenly in Mymensingh and yet the party activists joined the rally there defying all odds, it inspired the activists elsewhere.

Meeting sources said that when the issue of Dhaka rally came up for discussion, standing committee members said that possibly a wrong message was sent to the government in this regard.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Hospitalised dengue patients near 50k



HELEMUL ALAM

The number of dengue patients hospitalised across the country this year is almost 50,000, the second time this has happened in Bangladesh.

This figure, however, would be far more as many cases go unreported. The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has information only from 125 hospitals.

The last time hospitalised dengue patients number was higher than this was in 2019. According to the DGHS, 101,354 dengue cases had then been recorded and the death toll was 179.

According to the DGHS, eight more patients died and 692 others were

admitted to hospitals in 24 hours till yesterday morning. With them, the number of cases rose to 49,992 and the death toll stood at 213.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said, "Many dengue cases go unrecorded as most of the patients are not hospitalised. Of the dengue patients treated by me at the hospital, I advise one in every 10 patients to be hospitalised."

He said the number of actual dengue patients would be five to 10 times higher.

Nazmul said DGHS collects data of dengue cases from a certain number of hospitals across the country.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Messi picks Brazil, France, England as favourites

REUTERS

Argentina's Lionel Messi picks out Brazil, France and England as the biggest threats to his dream of finally adding a World Cup winners' medal to his bulging trophy cabinet.

The 35-year-old Paris St Germain forward will again shoulder Argentina's hopes in Qatar as they bid to deliver the South American country's third world title and first since 1986.

"Whenever we talk about candidates, we always talk about the same teams," Messi told South American Federation Conmebol.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

BANDARBAN KILLING Hunt on for the shooter narco Rohingya woman also killed during Monday raid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers are looking for the drug peddler who shot dead an intelligence officer near the border in Naikkhayanchhari upazila of Bandarban on Monday, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said yesterday.

"Members of law enforcement agencies were on an anti-narcotics drive on the basis of information from intelligence agencies... An officer was shot dead there. We are working to get details on how he was hit by the bullet and which drug peddler opened fire," he told reporters at the capital's Fire Service and Civil Defence Training Complex.

Several thousand Rohingya refugees live there, the minister added.

On Monday, an officer of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) from Bangladesh Air Force was shot dead and a Rab member was injured during a clash in Tumburu area of the border, said a press release of the Inter-Services Public Relations.

Rab and DGFI were jointly raiding the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3



A large number of unregistered battery-run three-wheelers continue to operate illegally on the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway despite a 2015 ban and a High Court directive. This frequently results in fatal accidents and long tailbacks on the highway. The photo was taken recently in Tongi, Gazipur.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Govt goes soft on 3-wheelers on highways

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Failing to impose a ban slapped seven years ago on three-wheelers on 22 major highways, the authorities now say it will "closely monitor" five national highways to stop operation of the vehicles there.

The vehicles may run on other highways but following a guideline, which is being prepared, Obaidul Quader, road transport and bridges minister, said yesterday.

"We will not be able to closely monitor the 17 other highways ... We don't have that much manpower. However, monitoring will be there," he said after a National Road Safety Council (NRSC) meeting.

Meanwhile, NRSC, which held its 29th meeting at Bangladesh Road Transport Authority headquarters yesterday, turned down the proposal for banning motorcycles on highways aimed at reducing road crashes.

"We are putting more emphasis on controlling motorcycles instead of imposing a ban as many people are involved here," Quader said, adding that bikes would be brought under a guideline.

In another development, NRSC, the apex body to deal with road safety issues, approved the National Road Safety Strategic Action Plan (2021-24) to reduce road crashes by 25 percent by 2024 and by 50 percent by 2030.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1