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# When patient safety takes a back seat

## Botched C-section at Central Hospital raises questions over state of gynaecological care

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

The deaths of Mahbuba Rahman Akhi and her newborn, following a botched C-section at the Central Hospital, have raised a few questions about the condition of gynaecological care in the country.

The questions being asked are about the effects that doctors' promotional videos on social media may have on attracting more patients at the expense of the latter's safety.

Dr Sangjukta Saha posted many promotional videos on her Facebook page about normal deliveries she had supervised as a gynaecologist at Central Hospital. In her videos, she presents herself as an advocate of natural childbirth at a time when C-sections are growing at an alarming rate. Her videos are available on YouTube and Facebook.

Hooked by her videos, Akhi, who had wanted a normal delivery, consulted Sangjukta and was supervised by her for three months. When she went into labour on June 9, she was admitted to Central Hospital and was told that Dr Sangjukta would oversee her delivery.

Later, Dr Shahzadi Mustarshida Sultana and Dr Muna Shaha, who worked as part of Dr Sangjukta's team, performed a C-section which went wrong and led to the

**Attracting patients through social media campaigns is "unethical" for a physician, said Prof Dr Rashid-E-Mahbub, president of Bangladesh Health Rights Movement.**

death of both the newborn and the mother.

Later, Akhi's husband Yakub Ali Sumon alleged that Dr Sangjukta entrusted his wife to her fellow physicians without their knowledge for financial gain.

But Sangjukta is not alone in advertising her practice. Posting promotional videos is a recent trend among many doctors. Such campaigns are aimed at attracting more patients.

A section of medical practitioners believes that posting promotional videos is a questionable campaign for doctors.

Attracting patients through social media campaigns is unethical for a physician, said Prof Dr Rashid-E-Mahbub, president of Bangladesh Health Rights Movement.

Addressing the issue, Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council, which protects and promotes the health and safety of the public in the practice of medicine, stated on Friday that it is unethical for doctors to run social media campaigns to attract more patients.

In a video posted on YouTube on May 5, 2021, Dr Sangjukta features a newborn she's just delivered and says, "We have an expert team." Evidently, she promotes her team working at the Central Hospital.

Between May 1 and June 9, Dr Sangjukta saw patients for 23 days and she provided consultations to 1,426—around 62 patients per day on average, according to data obtained from the Central Hospital.

However, both the hospital authorities and Dr Sangjukta confirmed that there were more patients who sought her consultation but whose names were not recorded by the hospital.

During the same period (May 1-June 9), Dr Sangjukta assisted in 163 normal deliveries, 93 C-sections and 72 other surgeries.

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Cattle are being brought to the capital by boats from around the country for sale ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha. Dhaka city corporations have set up makeshift cattle markets in different locations to sell sacrificial animals. The photo was taken in Mill Barrack area of the city's Sutrapur yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## UN PEACEKEEPING

### Two top UN officials in Dhaka to hold talks

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Two top UN officials, who look after peacekeeping operations, policy and compliance, are currently visiting Bangladesh while another one will be touring the country early next month.

Apart from attending a preparatory conference on peacekeeping, the officials are scheduled to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam.

A total of 163,887 Bangladeshi peacekeepers have so far participated in UN missions in 40 countries. Bangladesh is currently one of the leading troop contributors, with 6,582 peacekeepers, including more than 400 women, deployed in nine

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# 7 of a family killed as ambulance goes up in flames

## 3 children among dead; driver too dies

STAR REPORT

At least eight people, including seven of a family, died as an ambulance veered into the guardrail of Dhaka-Bhanga expressway and went up in flames in Bhanga upazila of Faridpur yesterday.

The children and grandchildren of 50-year-old Taslima Begum were taking her home from a hospital in the capital to their village home in Boalmari upazila when the moving vehicle caught fire.

Taslima, her two daughters Kamala, 30, and Beauty, 26; Kamala's three children Arif, 12, Hasib, 10, and one-year-old Afsa; and Beauty's son Mehedi, 10, had all died inside the ambulance.

The driver, Mridul Malo, 41, a resident of Faridpur town, died at a hospital, police said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Kamala's brother-in-law Siddique Khan said Kamala and Beauty lived in the capital with their families.

After their mother Taslima, who lived in Boalmari, fell sick around two months ago, she was taken to Dhaka for treatment.

"Yesterday, all of them were heading towards their village home to celebrate Eid. Since Taslima had not fully recovered, they decided to travel by an ambulance," said Siddique.

"They left Dhaka in the morning. But we were informed about the accident around 3:00pm. Police said it took time to identify the burnt bodies."

Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge of Shibchar Highway Police Station in Madaripur, said, "The ambulance was in Maligram area of Bhanga upazila on the Dhaka-Bhanga expressway around 10:45pm when one of its tyres exploded, causing the driver to lose control over the vehicle, which rammmed into the guardrail of the expressway and caught fire."

Locals said the driver managed to get out of the vehicle, and was taken to a hospital, but he did not survive the burn injuries, the OC added.



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## 3 construction workers die as crane's cable snaps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three construction workers were killed and another was injured after a crane's cable snapped and its goods-carrying cage fell on them at an under-construction building in the capital's Demra yesterday afternoon.

The deceased were identified as Mizan, 30, Mostafa, 42, and Zafar, 50.

Omar Faruk, inspector (investigation) of Demra Police Station, said that the incident took place in the Sanarpar area around 2:00pm when the workers were lifting construction materials to the sixth floor of the building.

The three workers died on the spot, he added.

The injured was rushed to a hospital.

Ziaul Ahsan Talukder, deputy commissioner (Wari Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they would conduct a probe to identify if there was negligence by any person.

He said they were waiting for the victims' families to file a case in this connection.

## 57,000-year-old Neanderthal wall art found in France



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Finger markings discovered inside a cave in France are "organised and intentional" and were likely made by Neanderthals more than 57,000 years ago, scientists have said.

Thought to be the oldest known engravings made by the extinct human relative, the marks were found on La Roche-Cotard cave walls in the Centre-Val de Loire region of northern France.

The researchers said their findings, published in the journal Plos One, add to evidence that Neanderthals were "complex and diverse as those of our own ancestors".

The authors wrote: "Fifteen years after the resumption of excavations at the La Roche-Cotard site, the engravings have been dated to over 57,000 years ago... making this the oldest decorated cave in France, if not Europe."

For the study, Jean-Claude Marquet, of the University of Tours in France, and his colleagues analysed the wall markings, also known as finger flutings.

The team created 3D models of the engravings and compared them with known human markings.

The researchers concluded that the wall markings were deliberate, based on their shape, spacing, and arrangement.

## ROOPPUR POWER PLANT

### Nuclear fuel to arrive in Sept

#### Yeafesh Osman says plant likely to be inaugurated same month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Science and Technology Minister Yeafesh Osman has said they are expecting to inaugurate the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in September when the nuclear fuel will arrive.

He said the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Mariano Grossi, may join the inauguration of the power plant along with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"We are trying to ensure the participation of Russian President Vladimir Putin virtually," he told reporters at the Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) yesterday.

Yeafesh said his ministry was trying to organise the function at the beginning of September or in the middle of that month.

The minister joined a press conference marking the launch of a mobile app named "Solelectricity". The app, developed by the BCSIR, will provide solar electricity-related support countrywide.

Yeafesh talked about the government's goal of achieving 40 percent electricity production by using renewable energy by 2041.



## Can booters best their old foes?



ANISUR RAHMAN  
from Bengaluru

After suffering a 2-0 defeat to Lebanon, Bangladesh are in a vulnerable position once again in the SAFF Championship, aware that any result other than a victory against Maldives at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru today would leave them on the verge of exiting the competition in the group stage for the sixth straight time.

The match will kick off at 4:00pm.

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People coming towards the capital remain stuck in an almost 5-km tailback on the Dhaka-Aricha highway because of what locals say is a large number of trucks leaving a cattle market in Gabtoli all at once. The photo was taken at Aminbazar yesterday morning. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN