



Cardiac stents to be more affordable

DGDA decides up to 43pc cut in base prices; CAB urges govt to reduce the tax

MOUDUD AHMMED SUJAN

The DGDA has decided to reduce the base price of all kinds of stents by up to 43 percent, effective from October 15, much to the relief of cardiac patients in need of stenting.

They will now be able to save up to Tk 40,600 per stent (under the current exchange rate).

Consumer rights organisations have praised this decision by the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA).

They, however, said the price could be even lower if the government reduced the tax on cardiac stents.

The decision was made at a DGDA meeting with representatives of cardiac stent manufacturers and a technical committee on stent price fixation at the directorate yesterday.

Speaking to The Daily Star after the meeting, Maj Gen Mohammad Yousuf, director general of the DGDA, said, “These price adjustments were made to make this life-saving medical equipment more accessible to patients in need of cardiac care. After a series of discussions over the past several months, we have been able to do it.”

Representatives from Medtronic, USA, agreed at the meeting to reduce the base price of the three kinds of stents manufactured by them.

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

People wait at the Jurain overpass ramp on the Dhaka-Mawa expressway yesterday to catch a bus. Although picking up and dropping off passengers at overpass and flyover ramps are forbidden, buses hardly ever follow the rule, which creates jams and raises accident risks.

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MURDER OF KERANIGANJ YOUTH

Raising voice against crime cost him his life

Says Rab after arresting 7 suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A cloth trader's firm stance against local criminals and drug dealing in Keraniganj had cost him his life, Rab said yesterday.

Saiful Islam was beaten to death late Sunday night by a gang of 10 to 12 men on Khejurbagh School Road in Dhaka's Dakkhin Keraniganj, Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab's legal and media wing, told a briefing yesterday.

One of the suspects, Rajan Hossain, is a local criminal who was arrested in late June. He walked out of jail recently, Moin added.

Rajan thought that he was arrested because of information provided to law enforcers by Saiful, he said.

Saiful was returning home from his shop around 11:30pm when Rajan and the other suspects ambushed him and beat him up with cricket bats, sticks, and iron rods.

As the victim fell to the ground, Rajan gouged out the victim's eyes.

Locals rushed to the spot hearing Saiful's screams for help and the suspects fled.

People of the area then took him to a hospital where doctors pronounced him dead.

Rab arrested Rajan and six suspects in the capital's Shahbagh area on Monday.

“The arrestees admitted their involvement in the murder,” Moin said.

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Dengue patients keep pouring into DMCH

Saline crisis makes matter worse in Chattogram city

HELEMUL ALAM and ARUN BIKASH DEY

After 19-year-old Mohammad Masud was diagnosed with dengue a few days ago, he returned to his Pirojpur home to stay with his parents.

When his health deteriorated, he had to be taken back to Dhaka and get admitted to DMCH as the local and district-level hospitals were unable to provide him with the necessary treatment.

“We couldn't continue his treatment at the district-level hospitals for long. He has now been admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH),” said Masud's father, Abdur Razzak Hawladar.

Masud contracted dengue at his Rayerbag residence in the capital.

Meanwhile, 15-year-old Siyam Khan, a resident of Matuail, has been undergoing treatment at DMCH since Saturday.

His father, Iqbal Hossain, said many locals had already contracted dengue

and that the anti-mosquito drive in the area was insufficient.

Like them, many dengue patients are pouring into DMCH every day from in and out of the capital.

A doctor at the DMCH's medicine ward, wishing anonymity, said some 200 patients were being admitted to the two medicine wards every day, 70 percent of whom were dengue patients.

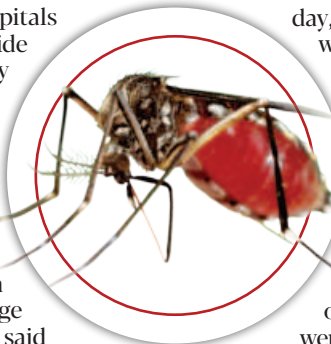
“We are currently only admitting patients in critical condition. Those who are in relatively better shape are being discharged after primary treatment.”

Since the beginning of the outbreak, there were 2,590 dengue patients admitted to the DMCH, with 384 currently receiving treatment there.

10 MORE DIE

Ten more dengue deaths were reported in 24 hours till yesterday morning, raising the number of fatalities from the mosquito-borne disease in the country to 261 this year.

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Tight security ahead of PM's Rangpur rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rangpur has heightened security measures to host Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who would be calling in today after four and a half years to grace the Awami League's divisional grand rally ahead of the 12th general election.

A large number of law enforcement officials, including police and Rab members, have been deployed and 1,000 CC cameras have been installed all over the city as part of the security measures.

The entry and exit points of Rangpur city have also been put on restriction. Several roads leading to Rangpur Zilla School, where the rally would be held at 3 pm today, have been made one way.

The law enforcement members have selected 21 points across Rangpur city to accommodate the incoming vehicles from different districts, said Maruf Hossain deputy

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CLIMATE CRISIS

Giant space ‘umbrella’ can protect Earth

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Scientists have theorised a new approach involving a giant space “umbrella” to use as a solar shield to protect the Earth from excess sunlight and thus help reduce its impact on global heating.

István Szapudi, an astronomer at the University of Hawai'i

Institute for Astronomy, said a

solar shield tethered to a captured asteroid as a counterweight can be developed into a workable design to mitigate the climate crisis within decades.

With the Earth rapidly warming, scientists across the world are developing a number of new ways to reduce the effects of climate change.

One of the approaches previously proposed to reduce global temperature is to shade the Earth from a fraction of the Sun's light using a solar “umbrella”.

However, the large amount of weight needed to make such a shield massive enough to balance gravitational forces and prevent solar radiation pressure from blowing it away makes even the lightest materials prohibitively expensive.

COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

Five dead in clashes near India's capital

AGENCIES

At least five people, including two police personnel, were killed in communal clashes that erupted on Monday around 50km south of the Indian capital New Delhi, police officials told Reuters yesterday.

The violence erupted after a religious procession passed through Nuh region, in Haryana state, the officials said. By evening, the violence had spilled over into neighbouring Gurugram, where a religious centre was torched, killing a person and injuring another.

Officials from the local administration in Nuh said they were investigating the cause of the standoff. Local government officials from Nuh and Gurugram met with representatives of the local communities yesterday to appeal for calm.

“The procession was

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Travellers crossing Kalurghat bridge in Chattogram on foot as the authorities closed the bridge for vehicular movement for renovation yesterday. It was done before opening ferry service as an alternative to cross the Karnaphuli. The bridge is being refurbished as part of the construction work of rail line between Dhaka and Cox's Bazar.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

They've been framed

Say parents of Buet students arrested in Sylhet

DU CORRESPONDENT

Guardians of some Buet students who were arrested on Monday in Sunamganj on charges of “conspiring” against the government yesterday said their sons are innocents.

On Sunday, Tahirpur police intercepted a tourist boat near Takerhat area and detained 34 people – 31 former and current Buet students, two school students and a male domestic help – when they were going to Tanguar Haor of Sunamganj from Dhaka.

They were shown arrested 24 hours after their detention in a case filed under Anti-Terrorism Act 2009.

Md Rashedul Kabir, sub-inspector of Tahirpur Police Station, filed the case.

They were produced before a Sunamganj Judicial Magistrate court yesterday and the court sent them to jail. Of them, two were sent to a juvenile prison as they were minors.

Also yesterday, at least 10 guardians of the students held a press conference in front of the university's Shaheed Minar, saying they have been framed in a baseless case.

They said the students are not involved with any anti-state activities, nor do they have any political affiliation.

“We do not believe the claim police brought against them,” said Ali Ahsan Junayed, brother of Ali Ammar Moaz, one of the Buet students.

Guardians also raised questions as to why the students were shown arrested 24 hours after their detention.

Police say all of them are leaders and activists of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir.

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