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Robert Maersk Ugla, chief executive officer of Maersk Group, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday. Danish Charges D'Affaires in Bangladesh Andres B Karlsen was also present at the meeting which discussed the construction of a new container terminal at Chattogram's Laldia.

PHOTO: PID

CONTAINER TERMINAL Maersk bid under consideration Says PM following meeting with the group's CEO

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday assured Maersk Group, a Danish shipping and logistic giant, that its proposal for constructing and operating a new container terminal at Laldia of Chattogram will be given due consideration.

The prime minister made the assurance when Chief Executive Officer of the Maersk Group Robert Maersk Ugla along with Danish Charges D'Affaires in Bangladesh Andres B Karlsen called on her at her office.

Prime minister's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed the reporters after the PM's interaction with Ugla and Karlsen.

"Over 50 Danish Companies are working in Bangladesh, and Maersk Group is now interested to construct and operate APM terminal at Laldia," Hasina said.

The PM said that a national committee has been formed to formulate logistics policy for the development of ports.

In this regard, she mentioned that two ports -- Chattogram and Mongla -- are in operation while the government is developing another named Payra Port and it will come into operation soon.

"India, Nepal and Bhutan have been given opportunities to use these ports for the mutual benefits," the premier said.

During the meeting, the Maersk Group CEO expressed eagerness to invest for the development of port and logistics support in Bangladesh citing the nation's great potentials in this sector.

Maersk Ugla also said prime minister Sheikh Hasina's

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Chief justice calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique yesterday paid a courtesy call on President Mohammed Shahabuddin at Bangabhaban.

President's press secretary Joynal Abedin briefed the reporters after the meeting.

During the meeting, the chief justice briefed the president on the overall activities of the Supreme Court.

President Shahabuddin expressed satisfaction with the Supreme Court's proceedings and expressed hope that the Judiciary will continue its relentless efforts to ensure that the people get justice within a short period of time.

PRAYER TIMING		AUGUST 29	
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Magrib Esha
4:30	12:45	4:45	6:33 8:00
JAMAT 5:05 1:15 5:00 6:36 8:30			
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION			

MD ABBAS

MRI TESTS IN DMCH Patients suffer as services on hold for 8 months

Akhter Hossain, a patient at Dhaka Medical College Hospital's neurology department, had to seek Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) test services from a private facility for Tk 10,500.

"A MRI test at DMCH would cost Tk 3,000-3,500, but we had to pay almost three times the price. We also had to hire an ambulance to transport my father which added to the expenses. While we are already struggling to make ends meet, such expenses only add to our burdens," said Akhter's elder son Sattar Bhuiyan.

MRI services at DMCH has been on hold for the past eight months, leading to the sufferings of patients, especially from lower- and middle-income groups.

The services were suspended as its two MRI machines, purchased in 2016 with five-year warranties, went out of order -- one in 2020, another in February, this year.

Hundreds from different districts come to the capital every day to receive treatment at this top-rated hospital. However, the

suspension of MRI services is adding to their distress as they have to go to other facilities which charge them more, according to several hospital officials.

Malika Akhter, who came to the hospital from Barishal with her ailing brother Mahmudul Hasan with hopes of affordable treatment, shared an experience similar to Akhter's.

I took my brother to Ibn Sina which cost around Tk 9,500. The costs would have been much less if MRI services were available at DMCH.

MALIKA AKHTER
A patient's sister

"I managed to take my brother to Ibn Sina Diagnostic Centre in Lalbagh with the help of 5-6 people. The overall cost was around Tk 9,500. The costs and hassle would have been much less if the facilities were available at the hospital," said Malika.

Like Mahmudul and Akhter, hundreds of patients have to go

outside the hospital every day for MRI tests, and they have to pay three times more to get the MRI outside.

According to the hospital's director Brig Gen Md Nazmul Haque, the service remains on hold as the company responsible for repairing the machines is unwilling to do so, following the expiration of warranties.

"The government prepared a gazette for repairing the machines, but the supplier company does not want to comply with the gazette, as it is not in accordance with the contract terms," said the director.

Also, the gazette was prepared after the machines were supplied. Due to this discrepancy, the supplier company are unwilling to repair them as of now, he added.

He said that he met with the health minister at least five times and wrote several letters requesting that the machines be repaired.

"I also submitted a proposal to the ministry, asking permission to repair the machines on our own, but to no avail. We are working to resume the services as soon as possible," Nazmul said.

Dhaka-Delhi hold defence dialogue

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh and India yesterday held the 5th Annual Defence Dialogue in Dhaka.

Lt Gen Waker Uz Zaman, principal staff officer, Armed Forces Division, co-chaired the meeting with his Indian counterpart Giridhar Aramane, Indian defence secretary, who is on a two-day visit to Bangladesh on August 27-28.

"During the meeting, the ongoing defence cooperation activities between the two countries were reviewed and both sides expressed satisfaction at the increasing defence cooperation engagements," the Indian Defence Ministry said in a statement.

The talks covered the existing bilateral exercises and both sides agreed to increase the complexity of these exercises, it added.

Both sides also highlighted the significance in chartering the future course of the relations between the two nations' armed forces.

Tortured in Iraq 8 arrested for involvement with kidnapping

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Moslem Molla, 30, of Dhaka's Nawabganj area, went to Iraq for work back in 2016, hoping to make himself a fortune. While living there, he met another Bangladeshi called Selim Mia in 2021. Selim enticed Moslem with dreams of a better job, but then handed him over to a gang of kidnappers.

The gang locked Moslem in a room, snatched away US\$ 2,000 and an iPhone from him. They then tortured him, captured videos of the torture and sent it to Moslem's family, demanding Tk 7 lakh as ransom from his mother Khateja Begum.

Initially, Khateja transferred Tk 6 lakh using MFS to the family members of the kidnappers who were in Bangladesh. However, they did not release Moslem and instead demanded Tk 3 lakh more. At that point, Khateja filed a case with Nawabganj Police Station.

While investigating the case, the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) arrested eight cohorts of the kidnappers from Barishal, Gazipur, Munshiganj, Narayanganj, Magura and Khulna districts, at various times between September 2021 and August 2023.

The arrestees are -- Ali Hossain, 49, Md. Shamin, 25, Shirin Sultana, 35, Mohammad Gharami, 51, Rabiu Gharami, 24, Shahida Begum, 52, Shahnaz Akhtar Lipi, 38 and Md Akbar Sardar 55.

Speaking at a press briefing at PBI Headquarters in Dhaka, Superintendent of Police, Qudrat-e-Huda said that after Moslem's abduction, the criminals used the IMO app to show the scene of

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DNCC to reimport BTI from valid sources

DIPAN NANDY

The Dhaka North City Corporation plans to reimport Bacillus Thuringiensis Israensis (BTI) to combat the dengue situation, but this time from sources mentioned in the agreement with Marshal Agrovet.

The decision came despite two tests validating the efficacy of BTI imported from China by the company breaching the agreement.

According to DNCC sources, the tender process for reimporting the chemical will begin very soon.

Earlier, the corporation assigned two government-run organisations -- Plant Protection Wing (PPW) of Department of Agriculture Extension, and Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research -- to test the BTI imported from China.

Confirming the pesticide's effectiveness, both organisations sent their reports to DNCC on Sunday.

PPW conducted the tests at the pathology department of the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University. The results confirmed the presence of the bacteria that kill mosquito larvae in the samples.

Meanwhile, IEDCR conducted the tests in its medical entomology division laboratory. The chemicals were tested on larvae collected from the capital's Mohakhali. During the tests, 92 percent of the larvae died after 24 hours of application in all three experiments, while the larvicide rate was 88 percent in the fourth test.

DNCC is now planning to import BTI from the US, EU

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Following regular office hours, a long tailback on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital exacerbated commuters' sufferings. The narrowing of the road near the Farmgate police box further added to the traffic menace. The photo was taken yesterday.

They got arms for sabotage DB on arrested JCD leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The seven arrested Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leaders collected at least 11 firearms to carry out sabotage ahead of the national elections, the Detective Branch of Police claimed yesterday.

"We have recovered four of the firearms. We will recover the others and bring those involved under the law," DB Chief Harun Or Rashid told reporters at his office.

Harun told media that the arrested Chhatra Dal leaders contacted arms dealers through Facebook and the DB have evidence of the conversations.

They also had plan to take control of AF Rahman Hall of Dhaka University, said the DB official.

Asked, he rejected the allegation that the arrests were politically motivated.

Harun said that they

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