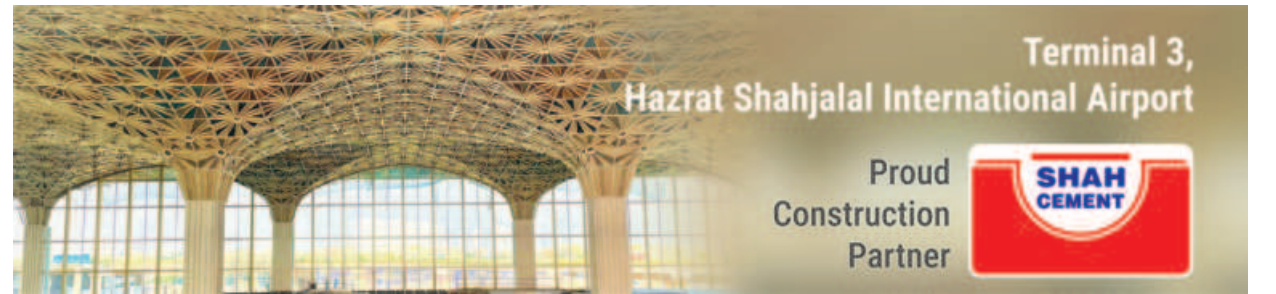





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CHILD'S DEATH IN HOSPITAL Mafia active in health sector in Bangladesh, elsewhere Says High Court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday said that mafia syndicates are active in the medical sector all across the world and not only in Bangladesh.

"They play games of ducks and drakes with people's lives by supplying expired drugs and faulty medical equipment for business. All authorities concerned need to be conscious about these syndicates," the bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Md Atabullah said during a hearing on a writ petition.

Earlier in the day, a compliance report from the Directorate General of Health Services stated that there were 1,027 private hospitals, clinics, diagnostic centres, and blood banks across the country, which are operating with valid licenses. Meanwhile, 15,233 have licences.

On January 9, Supreme Court lawyer ABM Shahjahan Akanda Masum and Shamim Ahmed, father of five-year-old Ayaan who died following a circumcision at United Medical College Hospital in Dhaka, filed the writ that demanded a probe into the incident and sought Tk 1 crore for the victim's family as compensation.

The court scheduled the passing of an order on the writ on Tuesday.

Yesterday, the HC bench allowed Supreme Court lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir to become a party in the case as an intervener as he placed before the court around 100 reported allegations of medical negligence and attacks on doctors and hospitals from 2008 to 2023.

Advocate Shishir Manir told the court that doctors are being attacked, sued with murder charges and sent to jail, and hospitals are being vandalised.

At the same time, many patients allegedly died due to medical negligence, he said, adding that all these unexpected incidents need to stop.

Deputy Attorney General Tushar Kanti Roy told the court that its order in this

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Frustration begins to etch over his face as Abdur Rouf waits in line for over two hours behind a TCB truck selling food items at subsidised rates just off frame. With essential commodities remaining hard to afford, particularly for low-income groups, queues at such outlets continue to get longer. The photo was taken yesterday in the capital's Mirpur-2 area.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

PAKISTAN POLLS PTI wants judicial body to probe rigging allegations

DAWN ONLINE

A key aide of former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan's party yesterday commented on Saturday's press conference by the Rawalpindi commissioner — wherein he made rigging allegations in the country's February 8 elections.

"This is the first time that a commissioner delivers a press conference

according to his conscience," PIT's Gohar Ali Khan said. He further said that a judicial commission should be formed on the allegations levelled and an inquiry should be conducted, adding that the results should be shared with the public.

At the press conference on Saturday, former commissioner of Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chatha alleged that the elections were rigged in favour of Nawaz

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MYANMAR CONFLICT It may worsen security risks for Bangladesh Says Donald Lu

UNB, Dhaka

The situation in Myanmar isn't improving and this might heighten security risks for Bangladesh and neighboring regions, said US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu.

He warned both Dhaka and Delhi that the security situation born out of the Rohingya refugee crisis and the general instability in Myanmar

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ARMS CASE Faridpur's Rubel, cohort get 17yrs

STAR REPORT

A Faridpur court yesterday sentenced a former president of the district press club and another man to 17 years in prison for possession of an illegal firearm and two bullets.

Intiaz Hasan Rubel, who was expelled from the press club, and his associate Rezaul Karim Bipul were taken to jail after Judge Ashok Kumar Dutta delivered the verdict.

Even though Rubel never worked as a journalist, he became the president of the press club using his influence, said locals.

Both Rubel and Bipul were members of a powerful syndicate of land grabbers and money launderers led by former minister Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain's brother Khandaker Mohtesam Hossain Babar, who is now in jail.

The court sentenced the duo to 10 years in prison under section 19 (A) and seven concurrent years under section 19 (F) of the Arms Act. This means they will have to be in jail for 10 years.

They were present at the court when the verdict was delivered.

On June 7, 2020, the Detective Branch (DB) of

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Croatian town builds Mercedes monument for migrants

REUTERS, Imotski



Local Croatian sculptor Roko Drzislav Rebic is carving a life-sized stone replica of a Mercedes Benz Minika car as a monument to the thousands of workers who left their homeland in search of a better fortune abroad.

The Mercedes came to be known as a symbol of success for those workers, who would drive home in their cars to show they had made money after fleeing poverty and unemployment.

The monument will be revealed on June 8 in

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Raids, fuel shortage knock out key Gaza hospital

WHO urges Israel to grant its staff access to Nasser Hospital



A mourner recites the Holy Quran next to the bodies of Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes at Abu Yusef Al-Najjar Hospital yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS AGENCIES

Fighting, fuel shortages and Israeli raids put the Gaza Strip's second-largest hospital completely out of service yesterday, local and UN health officials said, as Israel battled Hamas fighters in the devastated Palestinian enclave.

The Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis still sheltered scores of patients suffering from wounds and Gaza's worsening health crisis, but there was no power and not enough staff to treat them all, health officials said.

"It's gone completely out of service," Gaza health ministry spokesperson Ashraf al Qidra told Reuters. "There are only four medical teams - 25 staff - currently caring for patients inside the facility," he said.

The World Health Organization (WHO) urged Israel to grant its staff access to the hospital.

"Both yesterday and the day before, the @WHO team was not permitted to enter the hospital to assess the conditions of the patients and critical medical needs, despite reaching

the hospital compound to deliver fuel," WHO head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on social media platform X.

Gaza's hospitals have been a focal point of Israel's four-month-old offensive. Most have been put out of action by fighting and lack of fuel, leaving a population of 2.3 million without proper healthcare while tens of thousands have been wounded by airstrikes and many others suffer from chronic illness and, increasingly, starvation.

The Israeli military said its special forces were operating in and around Nasser Hospital, and had killed dozens of Hamas members and seized a large amount of weapons in fighting across Gaza over the past day.

Hamas has denied allegations that its fighters use medical facilities for cover.

Israel's air and ground offensive has devastated much of Gaza and forced nearly all of its inhabitants from their homes. Palestinian health authorities said yesterday 28,985 people, mostly civilians, have been killed since the offensive began on October 7.

PREETI'S DEATH Ashfaql, wife sent back to jail after remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Executive Editor of The Daily Star Syed Ashfaql Haque and his wife Tania Khondoker to jail on completion of their four-day police remand in a case over the death of a teenage house help who fell from their flat in the capital's Mohammadpur on February 6.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Rajesh Chowdhury passed the order after Investigation Officer Mohammad Shariful Islam, an inspector of the Detective Branch (DB) of police, produced the couple before the court, seeking their confinement in jail.

On February 13, police produced the two before the court with a 10-day remand petition, but the court granted four days' remand in police custody in a case filed by the victim's father, a tea garden worker, under section 304A of the Penal Code, which deals with death caused by negligence.


Preeti Urang, 15, from Moulvibazar, died after she fell through an opening on Ashfaql's eighth-floor flat.

Police took Ashfaql and Tania into custody within hours of the incident that happened around 8:00am on February 6.

They were first produced before a Dhaka court with a five-day remand petition on February 7, but the court asked the police to interrogate them at the jail gate and submit a report within three working days.

Preeti's death came around six months after

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Barrister Nazmul Huda

6th Jan 1943 - 19th Feb 2023

On his first death anniversary, we remember this visionary's larger than life presence, his vast contribution to the democratic, political and legal landscape of this country and his lifelong dedication towards human rights and developing the infrastructure of Bangladesh.

Though his physical presence, humor, wit and immense generosity is sorely missed by his family, friends, colleagues and constituents alike, we take comfort and pride in his legacy that is etched deeply all over this country.

His spirit lives on through his work, his daughters, the various organizations that he founded and the many lost souls he refused to give up on and rehabilitated. Above all, it is his undying love for both his family and the people of this country that we most fondly remember and strive to honor daily in his memory.