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A Bangladeshi runs transboundary kidney racket

Say Delhi police after arresting 7 including an Indian doctor

STAR REPORT

The "mastermind" behind the kidney transplant racket recently busted in Delhi is a Bangladeshi national and both donors and receivers in the case were also from Bangladesh, according to Deputy Commissioner of Delhi Police's Crime Branch Amit Goel.

Seven persons, including an Indian doctor, have so far been arrested in connection with the racket, he said in a statement yesterday.

All the people in the racket are suspected of having links with Bangladesh, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Goel said, "We've arrested a person named Rasel who used to arrange the patients and donors and a female doctor working with the gang has also been arrested."

"Her role in this case was that she was facilitating organ transplants even when she was aware that the donor and receiver were not blood relations [as required by Indian law], making her part of the conspiracy," the DCP said.

The arrested Indian doctor has been identified as Vijaya Kumari, 50, from Delhi-based Indraprastha Apollo Hospital.

Now suspended by Apollo, she was the lone doctor working with the gang and had performed around 15-16 transplants between 2021 and 2023 in Noida-based

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

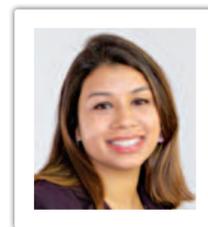


Palestinians inspect a house destroyed in an Israeli strike in Nusairat refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

UK appoints Tulip as City Minister

Reports Bloomberg



REUTERS, London

Tulip Siddiq has been appointed Britain's City Minister, the minister responsible for overseeing the financial services sector, Bloomberg News reported yesterday.

Labour won a thumping election victory last week, propelling Keir Starmer to power as prime minister.

Siddiq, 41, has led Labour's efforts to develop policies for the financial services industry, known as

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Road crash claims 4 lives

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

At least four people were killed and seven others injured in a head-on collision between a lorry and a bus in Bogura early yesterday.

The accident occurred in the Banani area under Shajahanpur upazila around 2:30am.

Three of the deceased were identified as Jamal Hossain, from Sirajganj, and Shamim Hossain, 40, and Md Hridoy, 30, from Barishal, said police.

The other victim, a woman, could not be identified immediately.

The injured are Shaon Hossain, 30, Rezaul Karim, 45, Babul Miya, 35, Md Alif, 35, Sujam Miya 35, Md Amit, 10, and Md Saikat, 18.

All the injured were bus passengers, said the fire service personnel who rescued them.

"The victims' bodies have been kept at the morgue of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital. The injured are undergoing treatment at the same hospital," said Lalon Hossen, assistant sub-inspector of the hospital's police outpost.

Shahidul Islam, senior station officer at Bogura Fire Service and Civil Defense Station, who participated in the rescue operation told the Daily Star, "We got information that a bus of Shah Fateh Ali Paribahan and a lorry collided in front of Banani Shah Sultan Filling Station around 2:30 am.

"We went to the spot and found two people, including the driver of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

'War cannot solve problems'

Modi tells Putin during Moscow visit

AFP, Moscow

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday told President Vladimir Putin that "war cannot solve problems" and urged peace on a trip to Moscow over two years into the Ukraine offensive.

On his first visit since Russia launched its campaign in Ukraine in February 2022, Modi said he and Putin had chatted on a range of issues, adding: "I was happy that on Ukraine, we could both express our views openly and in detail."

"When innocent children are murdered, one sees them die, the heart pains and that pain is unbearable," Modi told Putin in comments in Hindi.

"I know that war cannot solve problems, solutions and peace talks can't succeed among bombs, guns, and bullets," the Indian leader added. "And we need to find a way to peace through dialogue."

Putin thanked Modi for "the attention you pay to the most urgent problems" and said "you are trying to find some ways to solve the Ukrainian crisis, too, of course primarily by peaceful means".

Modi landed in Moscow on Monday hours after Russia launched a massive barrage across Ukraine that killed at least 38 people and heavily damaged a children's hospital in Kyiv, sparking condemnation from governments in Europe and North America.

On Monday evening Modi was pictured hugging Putin at the Russian president's country residence, where the leaders spent several hours together, according to the Kremlin.

Such warm contact drew condemnation from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

He wrote on social media: "It is a huge disappointment and a devastating blow to peace efforts to see the leader of the world's largest democracy hug the world's most bloody criminal in Moscow on such a day."



OXYGEN MASK ISSUE US regulator orders Boeing inspections

AFP, Washington

US aviation regulators said Monday that thousands of Boeing 737 airplanes would need to be inspected, amid concerns that passenger oxygen masks could fail in emergencies.

The airworthiness directive by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) comes into effect immediately and affects more than 2,600 US-registered airplanes.

The aim is to ensure that passenger service unit oxygen generators are in the right position on certain Boeing airplanes.

Operators are to check the oxygen generators and "perform corrective actions, if necessary, within 120 to 150 days," the FAA said in a statement.

It added that the directive was prompted by multiple reports of these generators shifting out of position, and called for a general visual inspection to be conducted.

In response to queries, Boeing said that a new adhesive introduced in August 2019 was found to sometimes allow oxygen generator units to shift from their positions.

Palestinians flee heavy Israeli assault

Hamas warns escalation threatens ceasefire talks; 50 more Palestinians killed

AGENCIES

Gaza City residents fled under Israeli fire as tanks thrust deeper into the heart of the city yesterday, the second day of a stepped-up military offensive that Hamas said could jeopardise ceasefire talks.

Qatari and Egyptian mediators, backed by the United States, have accelerated their efforts this week to seal a ceasefire deal aimed at ending the Gaza offensive and releasing Israeli hostages in the enclave in return for Palestinian prisoners jailed in Israel.

Yesterday, Israeli tanks deepened their incursion into some Gaza City districts including Shejaia, Sabra and Tel Al-Hawa, where residents reported the previous day some of the most fierce fighting since the start of the offensive.

Footage circulated on social media yesterday showed families packed onto donkey carts and in the backs of trucks piled with mattresses and other belongings racing through the city's streets to flee areas under Israeli evacuation orders.

"Gaza City is being wiped out, this is

what is happening. Israel is forcing us to leave homes under fire," Um Tamer, a mother of seven, told Reuters via a chat app.

She said it was the seventh time her family had fled their house in Gaza City, in the north of the enclave and one of Israel's first targets at the start of the offensive in October. "We can't take it anymore, enough of death and humiliation. End the offensive now," she said.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said all of its medical clinics were out of service in Gaza City due to the evacuation orders.

At least 38,243 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's military offensive in the enclave since October 7, and 87,903 have been wounded, the Palestinian enclave's health ministry said yesterday. A total of 50 Palestinians were killed in the past 24 hours, the ministry said in a statement.

The assault has unfolded as senior US officials were in the region pushing for a ceasefire after Hamas made concessions last week. But the renewed campaign "could bring the negotiation process back to square one," Hamas quoted leader

Ismail Haniyeh as saying later on Monday.

- » Israeli tanks go deep into Gaza City districts
- » Hamas, Islamic Jihad battle Israeli forces in close combat
- » Gaza death toll rises to 38,243

Second semi showdown promises a classic

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the quest to establish continental supremacy, two former champions with rich heritage in the sport, Uruguay and Colombia, are set for a face-off in the second semifinal of the Copa America in North Carolina tomorrow (6 am, Bangladesh time) in what could likely be the match of the tournament's 48th instalment.

Both teams have been undefeated so far, with enviable defensive records and goals to back up their feats. Colombia, however, arrive into the clash with a superior goal ratio, having annihilated Panama 5-0 in the Round of 16. On the other hand, the 2011 champions and joint-highest 15-time winners alongside Argentina, edged past powerhouse Brazil in tiebreakers in Las Vegas.

Also, if the tournament's history

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Women, including one holding a baby in her arms, climb over a central reservation to cross the road in front of the National Orthopedic Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre in the capital's Agargaon yesterday, putting themselves and other road users in harm's way.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

34,000-year-old termite mounds found in S Africa



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists in South Africa have been stunned to discover that termite mounds that are still inhabited in an arid region of the country are more than 30,000 years old, meaning they are the oldest known active termite hills.

Some of the mounds near the Buffels River in Namaqualand were estimated by radiocarbon dating to be 34,000 years old, according to the researchers from Stellenbosch University.

"We knew they were old, but not that old," said Michele Francis, senior lecturer in the university's department of soil science who led the study. Her paper was published in May.

Francis said the mounds existed while saber-toothed cats and woolly mammoths roamed other parts of the Earth and large swaths of Europe and Asia were covered in ice. They predate some of the earliest cave paintings in Europe.