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## DOCTORS' PROTESTS

# Regular services stay suspended at DMCH

### Emergency dept struggles to cope with huge rush of patients

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With no inpatient or outpatient services amid a strike following an assault on a doctor, the emergency department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday witnessed a heavy workload.

The protesting doctors, however, agreed to resume treating outpatients from 10:00am to 1:00pm and inpatient care on a limited scale from today. They said the emergency department would remain open as before.

They reiterated their two demands at a press conference around 4:00pm yesterday, where Abdul Ahad, resident surgeon of DMCH neurosurgery department, spoke to the reporters on behalf of the protesting doctors.

The demands include the arrest and punishment of the culprits who attacked the doctor. Physicians also want the introduction of a health police force under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) to ensure the security of healthcare workers at hospitals.

The protesters announced a sit-in programme to be held from 8:00am to 10:00am today.

The doctor came under attack after the death of a private university student from road crash injuries on Saturday. The attack was carried out allegedly by the

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A nurse attends to a patient in a ward at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. Doctors at the hospital refrained from treating inpatients and outpatients since around 9:30am on Sunday demanding security for healthcare workers. The strike put many patients in trouble.

## BNP wants to reinstate caretaker govt system

### Says Tarique

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said their



party is willing to bring back the caretaker government system for elections to ensure the restoration of the people's voting rights.

"We want to reinstate the caretaker government system in the constitution to restore the people's right to vote," he said while exchanging views with BNP grassroots leaders and activists of Khulna division.

Stating that Bangladesh belongs to its citizens, the BNP leader said it is the people's justified democratic right to elect their representatives through the independent

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## Fresh probe into BDR carnage to begin soon

### Says home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The process for a thorough reinvestigation and fair trial into the BDR carnage of 2009 will be initiated soon, Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Choudhury said yesterday.

Talking to reporters at the Secretariat, he said, "This government is determined to establish people's rights, good governance, and justice. Not only as a home adviser but also as an ordinary citizen and former member of the army, I want justice for the BDR killings."

Before speaking to reporters, the adviser had a courtesy meeting with Swiss Ambassador to Bangladesh Reto Renggli.

Without giving any details of the meeting, Jahangir said they discussed various issues. He did not take any questions from journalists.

Later, the home ministry in a press release said the adviser and the ambassador discussed human trafficking prevention, agricultural rehabilitation and insurance, restructuring and reform of the

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## Israel rocked by protests; strikes kill dozens in Gaza

Palestinian officials say 48 more killed; Polio vaccination campaign continues for second day

REUTERS, Cairo, Gaza

Israeli forces killed at least 48 Palestinians in the past 24 hours across the Gaza Strip as they battled Hamas-led militants, Palestinian officials said yesterday, while medics conducted a second day of polio vaccinations for children in the enclave.

Palestinian and UN officials said more than 80,000 children had been vaccinated in central areas of Gaza on Sunday, the first day of the campaign.

Hamas and Israel have agreed to brief pauses in fighting to allow the campaign to vaccinate some 640,000 children to go ahead. No violations have been reported near vaccination facilities.

Meanwhile, Israeli protesters took to the streets for a second day yesterday and the largest trade union launched a general strike to press the government to reach a deal to return hostages still held by Hamas, after six more captives were found dead in Gaza.

The strike disrupted transport and medical services in several Israeli districts and many shops and businesses were closed after the head of the Histadrut union, which represents hundreds of thousands of workers, called a national stoppage.

The recovery at the weekend of the six hostages, who authorities said were shot dead between just 48-72 hours before being found by Israeli forces, triggered a wave of grief and fury in Israel, prompting at least half a million people to take to the streets in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv on Sunday.

The demonstrators are demanding Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reach a ceasefire agreement with Hamas to bring the remaining 101 hostages home.

Yesterday, thousands again gathered in Tel Aviv, waving blue and white Israeli flags or carrying photographs of hostages.

In Washington, US President Joe Biden said he was close to presenting a final proposal for a deal to release the hostages but said he did not think Netanyahu was doing enough to secure such an agreement.

Meanwhile, Britain will immediately suspend 30 of its 350 arms export licenses with Israel because there is a risk such equipment might be used to commit serious violations of international humanitarian law, foreign minister David Lammy said yesterday.

Soon after the Labour Party won an election in July, Lammy said he would update a review on

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## Haji Salim placed on remand

### Court sends Tipu Munshi to jail



COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed former Awami League lawmaker Haji Mohammad Salim on a five-day remand in a case filed over the death of an 11th grader in the capital's Lalbagh area on July 18 during quota reform protests.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Akteruzzaman passed the order after Investigation Officer Akkas Miah, a sub-inspector of Lalbagh Police Station, produced him before the court with a 10-day remand appeal, said a sub-inspector working in the court.

Haji Salim, whose name was mentioned in the FIR of the murder case of

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## MONSOON RAINS

# Short-term flood may hit parts of country in Sept

### Death toll climbs to 67; Feni hospital struggling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At a time when the country is still recovering from last month's devastating floods, the Met office has issued a warning about potential short-term flooding in certain northern, northeastern, and southeastern areas due to heavy monsoon rains this month.

However, the overall rainfall in the country is expected to remain at typical levels in September, according to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD).

"One or two low-pressure systems may form over the Bay of Bengal, with the potential for one to develop into a monsoon depression."

September rainfall predictions indicate that Sylhet division may experience 365-450mm of rain, Chattogram 285-350mm, Rangpur 375-460mm, and Rajshahi 285-345mm. Other regions, including Khulna, Barishal, Dhaka, and Mymensingh, are expected to receive between 250mm and 385mm of rainfall.

The forecast was made during yesterday's BMD's expert committee meeting on long-term weather predictions.

In August, Bangladesh experienced 46.2 percent more rainfall than usual. The national average rainfall in August is 612mm over 22 days.

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Bulldozers tear up a street during an Israeli raid in the centre of Jenin in the occupied West Bank yesterday. Inset, a man and a young child react during clashes between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian protesters in Jenin. Amid heavy clashes in Jenin, Israeli bulldozers yesterday caused damage to roads and infrastructure including water systems, according to Palestinian officials in the northern West Bank.

PHOTO: AFP

## GRAFT ALLEGATIONS

# Court imposes travel ban on 18 ex-ministers, eight others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has issued a travel ban on 26 people, including 18 former ministers and state ministers, over the corruption allegations against them.

Judge Mohammed Ash-Shams Joglul Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka on Sunday passed the orders after Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Deputy Directors Mostafizur Rahman and Jahangir Alam, the heads of the two inquiry teams, submitted two separate applications in this regard, said an ACC official working in the court.

Of the 26, nine former ministers are Hasan Mahmud of foreign affairs; Imran Ahmed of expatriates' welfare; Tipu Munshi of commerce; Anisul Huq of law; Tazul Islam of local government; Faridul Haque Khan of

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