



MOSQUITO-CONTROL No need to go to US to learn PM tells CCC mayor

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman has questioned the necessity of a proposed visit to Florida by the Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) mayor and five officials to learn about mosquito control measures, saying innovative solutions can be developed by observing mosquito breeding grounds at home.

According to a press release issued by the Prime Minister's Press Wing last night, the Local Government Division sent a summary to the Prime Minister's Office seeking approval for a visit by CCC Mayor Dr Shahadat Hossain and five officials to Florida.

The proposed tour, to be funded by US-based Valent BioSciences LLC, was intended to allow the delegation to observe advanced mosquito control and eradication methods.

Commenting on the proposal, the prime minister said: "There is no need to go to Florida in the United

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Motorcyclists take shelter from a light shower under a section of the Moghbazar-Mouchak flyover on the Baily Road-Karwan Bazar stretch yesterday, forcing other vehicles to manoeuvre around them. Such practices often cause congestion on busy roads. The photo was taken in the Moghbazar area.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

‘Ad-din has no valid fire safety licence’

Authorities also say hospital
failed to submit fire-safety plan

DIPAN NANDY

Ad-din Medical College Hospital, which came under scrutiny following the deaths of six newborns last week, had not renewed its fire safety licence since 2023 and had no fire safety plan in place, fire service officials said.

The 700-bed private hospital had been asked in January this year to submit a fire safety plan and ensure compliance within three months, they said.

The revelation came as the hospital faces multiple investigations after six newborns died within a few hours after 6:00am on Wednesday, with health authorities suspecting a technical failure in the delivery post-operative room.

Hospital authorities, however, claimed that they had all updated regulatory documents and submitted them to the health ministry yesterday following the ministry's instruction.

Two of the six infants were brought dead to the neonatal intensive care unit of the hospital from the delivery post-operative room, while four others died while undergoing treatment at the NICU, according to hospital authorities.

The exact cause of the deaths has yet to be confirmed. However, DGHS officials and family members of the victims blamed shortcomings in management and ventilation in

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ITALY-BOUND FORTUNE SEEKERS

Scarred, they return to debt and isolation

PORIMOL PALMA and JAHID HASAN,
from Shariatpur

Concrete houses with bright colours are dotted across several villages in Shariatpur, standing as proof of the hard-earned economic success of Bangladeshi migrants in Italy.

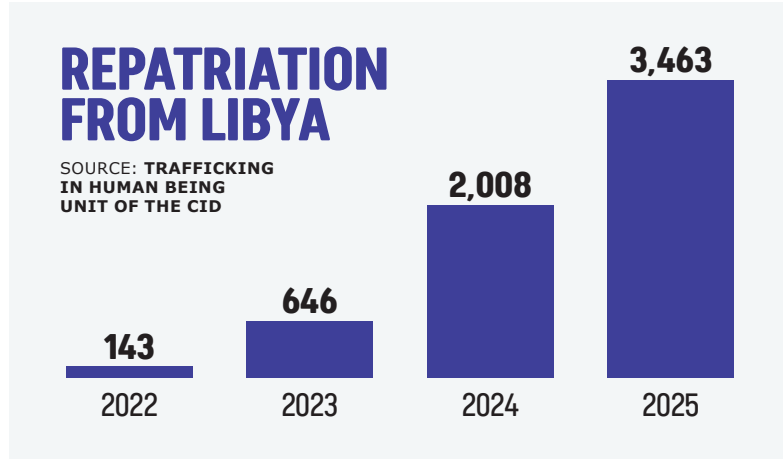
For many young men in these villages, Italy represents an escape from poverty and a chance at a better life.

But the dream of reaching Europe is often shattered. Many of the fortune seekers embark on perilous journeys through the Mediterranean from Libya, only to face torture, detention, extortion and near-death experiences at sea. Many others lose their lives along the way.

For those who make it back alive, home often turns into another battleground marked by debt, trauma and social isolation.

"I thought I was going to Italy to save my family. Instead, I had to return home to a cycle of debt and nightmares," said 43-year-old Khabir Hossain Khan, a father of two from Paschim Kotapara in Shariatpur Sadar Upazila.

He once worked as a salesman at a shop but the income was barely enough to support his family of



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four. Then came the promise of finding a better life in Italy.

"A broker told me that many people were going to Italy through Libya and earning well there. He said it was safe," Khabir recalled.

The deal sounded simple: he would pay Tk 4 lakh once he reached Libya. Then he would be taken to Italy through the Mediterranean.

On November 4, 2023, Khabir left Bangladesh on a route now familiar among irregular migrants – Dhaka to Dubai, then to Libya via Egypt.

After arriving in Benghazi, a Bangla-speaking broker received him. He was then taken to Tobruk, a

port city in the northeastern region of Libya. What followed was months of captivity.

In February 2024, Khabir was moved to what migrants call a "game house" – a facility where migrants are confined before they embark on sea crossings to Italy.

"The rooms had no fans. Food was scarce. We sometimes survived on raw noodles... The guards would resort to horrific torture. They would beat us with thick ropes and plastic pipes for no reason."

Then came an attack from a Libyan gang of human traffickers.

Iran halts indirect talks with US

Tasnim news agency reports, citing Israel's Lebanon
incursion; Trump says Iran talks continue

AGENCIES

Iran is halting indirect negotiations with the US after Israel ordered troops to push deeper into Lebanon to battle Tehran-backed Hezbollah, the Iranian news agency Tasnim said yesterday, complicating diplomatic efforts to end three months of war.

Tasnim said the Islamic Republic's negotiating team was stopping exchanging messages with Washington through mediators over attacks on Lebanon, where the US-Israeli war against Iran has reignited Israel's conflict with Hezbollah.

The move poses a further obstacle to hopes of a swift end to the crisis, after Iran said it had attacked a US air base following weekend US strikes on Iranian military targets that put further strain on a fragile ceasefire. Oil prices rose more than \$5 a barrel after the Tasnim report.

And in a message carried by state TV, the Revolutionary Guards intelligence body said "Iran considers crossing the red lines in Lebanon and Gaza to mean direct war".

It added: "In return, it is determined to carry out defensive operations by taking meaningful actions and opening new fronts, in addition to preserving the Strait of Hormuz equation."

Tasnim also reported that Iran would continue to block the Strait of Hormuz and, with its allies, "activate other fronts,

including the Bab al-Mandab Strait" at the entrance of the Red Sea.

US President Donald Trump said yesterday that talks with Iran were ongoing, despite a report that Tehran had suspended indirect negotiations with the United States to end hostilities.

➤ Netanyahu agrees not to send troops to Beirut: Trump

➤ US-Iran trade strikes amid fragile ceasefire

➤ Kuwait activates air defences, condemns Iranian strikes

➤ IRG threatens to open new fronts in the conflict

"Talks are continuing, at a rapid pace, with the Islamic Republic of Iran," Trump said in a Truth Social post.

Trump also said he had persuaded Israel and Hezbollah to de-escalate, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreeing not to send troops to southern Beirut and the Lebanese group promising to stop attacks.

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10 directives of PM ensured smooth Eid Says Mahdi Amin

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's ten directives have brought about 'visible positive changes' in this year's Eid management, said Mahdi Amin, spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office.

The coordinated implementation of the initiatives brought visible positive changes in various aspects of Eid management and reflected efforts to make state services more people-oriented, he said at a press conference held at the PMO.

However, if any administrative shortcomings or lack of coordination were observed anywhere, the government remains committed and sincere in identifying and resolving them quickly and effectively, said Mahdi, also an adviser to the prime minister.

Round-the-clock monitoring and special arrangements were made to ensure the smooth travel of home-bound people and to maintain overall discipline.

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Sea cucumber shows 'tissue immortality'

CNN ONLINE

What does it mean to be alive? A new study on an astonishing sea creature suggests the answer may be more complicated than it seems.

Some amputated fragments of *Psolus fabricii*



— a type of sea cucumber native to the North Atlantic Ocean — puzzled researchers when they noticed that the severed parts did not simply decay and die but instead appeared to grow.

To find out more, the researchers humanely excised additional fragments from the feet, main body and tentacles of the marine animals and ran a number of lab experiments in untreated seawater. Indeed, the fragments refused to die. The various parts unexpectedly healed themselves and even managed to absorb nutrients despite lacking a mouth.

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Shops, malls to close by 7:00pm again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has reinstated the 7:00pm closing deadline for shopping malls, markets, and shops across the country as part of electricity-saving measures.

The move ends the Eid-ul-Azha relaxation that had allowed them to remain open until 10:00pm.

The directive, effective from yesterday, was issued by the Power Division and sent to mayors and administrators of all city corporations, divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners.

Under the order, shopping malls, markets and shops will have to close by 7:00pm, instead of 10:00pm.

Excessive lighting at all shopping centres must also be switched off by 7:00pm, while ongoing and upcoming fairs, trade fairs



A plume of smoke rises following an Israeli airstrike on the outskirts of Tyre, southern Lebanon, yesterday. Iran's foreign ministry yesterday said that a ceasefire in Lebanon remains a key condition for any deal with the United States to end the Middle East war.

PHOTO: AFP