

Action taken against Abrar's killers: Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said both administrative and organisational actions have been taken against the perpetrators involved in the killing of Buet student Abrar Fahad.

Reiterating that no wrongdoer will be spared, the Awami League general secretary said, "It is very regretful. Nobody should be killed for expressing their differing opinion."

Quader said this while speaking at a press briefing at the AL president's office in Dhanmondi.

Abrar Fahad, a second-year student of Buet's electrical and electronic engineering department, died after he was brutally beaten, allegedly by some Chhatra League leaders at a university dormitory sometime between 7pm Sunday and 2:30am Monday.

The incident triggered a firestorm of protests on campuses across the country. Many took to the social media to demand justice for the 22-year-old.

At yesterday's press briefing, Quader said some 11 people have been expelled from BCL for their alleged involvement.

"Those involved in the incident must be punished... no wrongdoer will be spared," the AL general secretary warned, mentioning that nine people have been arrested in this regard so far.

Even in the past, nobody was spared for their misdeed during the Hasina-led

government's tenure, he said. There are also examples of taking organisational and administrative actions against AL ministers, lawmakers and leaders for their involvement in misconduct, he added.

But, Quader said, there was no example of taking any such action against BNP men when the party was in power. "BNP had turned the country into a haven for corruption through Hawa Bhaban," he added.

The AL general secretary also mentioned that BCL has many good accomplishments in the past and that is why image of the ruling party and pro-AL student organisation cannot not be tarnished due to some individuals.

"The present government has had many achievements. The country's people have been enjoying benefits of development achieved by the government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," he said.

Chhatra League had played an important role in the country's independence and democratic movements, the minister said. Despite that, the prime minister does not spare wrongdoers in her party, he stressed.

AL joint general secretaries Mahbul Alam Hanif and Jahangir Kabir Nanak; its organising secretary and state minister for shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury; publicity and publication deputy secretary Aminul Islam Amin; deputy office secretary Biplab Barua, and AL leaders Kamrul Islam and Anwar Hossain were present at the event, among others.

PHOTO OF THE DAY



IN LOVING MEMORY ... After a day of demonstrations on campus demanding maximum punishment to those responsible for the murder of Abrar Fahad, Buet students held a solemn candlelit vigil last evening at the Sher-e-Bangla Hall of the university -- where the second-year student was beaten to death by a group of Chhatra League activists on Sunday night.

DENGUE OUTBREAK Daily hospital admissions come down under 300

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of dengue patients admitted to different hospitals across the country came down under 300 yesterday, for the first time since July 24.

However, death due to dengue is still continuing. The latest death from dengue in Jhenidah, on Monday, raised the toll to over 150. The official figure, however, is 81.

A total of 267 patients were admitted to hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours, till 8am yesterday -- of whom 204 are outside Dhaka, according to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

A total of 1,316 dengue patients are now undergoing treatment at hospitals nationwide, of whom 868 are outside Dhaka, according to DGHS.

Meanwhile, a dengue patient died at Kaliganj Upazila Health Complex in Jhenidah on Monday night.

Kamla Khatun, 42, wife of Rubel Hossain, was from Boro Shimla village under Kaliganj upazila.

Thana Health and Family Planning officer Dr Hossain Shafayet Haq told The Daily Star that Kamla Khatun was admitted to the hospital on Sunday evening with dengue fever.

She passed away around 7:30pm on Monday while undergoing treatment.

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Turning waste into energy

LGD moves for incineration-based Waste-to-Energy project

UNB, Dhaka

The Local Government Division (LGD) is going to implement a Waste-to-Energy project in coordination with the Power Division for proper management of solid municipal waste (SMW), to be collected from the city corporation areas of Dhaka and Chattogram.

Official sources in the LGD and Power Division said the project will be implemented in the private sector. Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) will purchase the electricity.

There will be no "gate fee" (a fee paid by anyone who disposes of waste in a landfill) for the project sponsor while the city corporations will ensure adequate supply of waste to the project as per agreement, according to sources.

Heat generated from burning waste will be used to produce power, officials said, adding that such project is already available in China and many other Asian countries.

They said the first project will be implemented in Dhaka North City

Corporation (DNCC) area on a pilot basis.

"If it's successful, then such projects will be implemented in other areas," said Mohammad Alauddin, joint secretary (renewable energy) to the Power Division, who is also a member of the high-level working group formed by LGD.

Officials said initiatives to generate power from SMW have been taken several times in last 20 years.

"But none of them succeeded due to a lack of coordination among government agencies, absence of policy support and cost effectiveness," said a top BPDB official, working closely with renewable energy projects.

"This time we hope things will move positively as all relevant agencies, stakeholders and the Prime Minister's Office are serious about its successful implementation," he told the news agency recently.

He mentioned that a Waste-to-Energy project, recently undertaken by PDB in Keraniganj municipal area, was cancelled because of high cost of electricity tariff -- Tk 40 per kilowatt hour -- offered by the interested

private firm. Besides, deficiency of solid waste was another reason for its cancellation.

Official sources said the new project plan came to the fore as the two dumping stations of DNCC and Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) at Aminbazar and Matuail are going to be filled within two years.

Department of Environment (DoE) also raised concerns about the existing waste management system.

On April 25, LGD convened a meeting and formed a seven-member working group headed by the ministry's additional secretary.

The other members of the group are: BPDB chairman; member of Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority; chief executive officers of DNCC and DSCC; a joint secretary of the Power Division and a representative of DoE.

During the discussion, the group mentioned that the prime minister instructed the authorities concerned during an Ecnec meeting on December 1, 2015 to introduce incineration system for waste management.

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DHAKA TODAY

PROTEST Demanding justice for Abrar Fahad Organiser: Guardians, teachers, and students against oppression Venue: Raju Sculpture, Dhaka University Time: 11am	Shishu Academy Time: 3pm
SEMINAR Cities for the future Organiser and venue: EMK Center Time: 5:30pm	DISCUSSION Mental health and personal hygiene awareness Venue: KK Foundation, Uttara sector-6 Time: 10am
FAIR Toy Fair 2019 Organiser and venue: Bangladesh	FAIR National Housing Fair Organiser: Housing ministry Venue: Bangabandhu International Convention Centre Time: 10am

আবরার
হত্যাকাণ্ডের প্রতিবাদে
নিপীড়নবিহীন অস্তিত্বকে, শিক্ষার্থী ও শিক্ষকদের
প্রতিবাদ সমাবেশ
৯ অক্টোবর ২০১৯ বুধবার সকাল ১১টায়
সম্মেলনবিহীন রাষ্ট্র শত্রুর জঘন্য
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়



Hindu devotees prepare for the immersion of an idol of Goddess Durga in the river Buriganga yesterday on Bijoya Dashami, the last day of Durga Puja.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

AIR QUALITY INDEX Dhaka ranks worst thrice in one week

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka's air quality seems to be taking a turn for the worse, as the city ranked second worst among major cities in the global daily Air Quality Index (AQI) yesterday morning, after topping the list three times over the past week.

The city had an AQI score of 159 at 8:29am yesterday, indicating that the quality was "unhealthy".

When the score is between 151 and 200, people may begin to experience health effects while members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects, according to AirNow, the US-based organisation that records and publishes daily air quality scores for most major cities of the world.

Children, adults and people with respiratory disease such as asthma should avoid prolonged outdoor exertion and everyone should limit their outdoor exertion in this situation, it says.

Dhaka ranked worst in AQI on Thursday, Sunday and Monday mornings, scoring 245, 195 and 222 respectively.

The AQI, an index for reporting daily air quality, tells people how clean or polluted the air of a certain city is, and what associated health effects might be a concern for them.

In Dhaka, the value is recorded at the US embassy on Madani Avenue.

The overcrowded city has been grappling with air pollution for a long time.

Come forward to make ongoing drives successful

President urges all irrespective of religion, caste

BSS, Dhaka

President M Abdul Hamid yesterday urged all to come forward to make the government's ongoing drives successful to eliminate militancy, narcotics, extortion, gambling and corruption from the country as he hosted a reception for Hindu community on Durga Puja.

"Corruption is one of the key barriers to country's socio-economic development... So all must come forward to make the ongoing anti-corruption drive successful," he told the programme at Bangabhaban, marking the biggest religious festival of the Bangalee Hindu community.

The president said everyone will have to make pledges to remove all sorts of wrong and immoral practices by devoting to the principle "I won't do wrong and won't allow others to do so either".

"And then the country will advance towards development and the cordial and peaceful society will be established," the head of the state observed.

Noting that establishing peace and

humanity in the society is an eternal message of the religion, the president called upon all to abide by the norms of religion and simultaneously come forward for welfare of the human beings.

He said communal harmony is a longstanding Bangalee tradition and people from all strata will have to take this tradition forward comprehensively.

Greeting the Hindu community on the occasion, the president wished for strengthening the existing bond among all people irrespective of religions and castes.

President Hamid and his spouse Rashida Khanam exchanged greetings with the guests at the programme.

Secretaries concerned to the president were present on the occasion.

Principal of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission Swami Purnatmananda Maharaj, parliament members, diplomats, political leaders, editors, journalist leaders, senior civil and military officials, Hindu community leaders and distinguished citizens also joined the reception.



President M Abdul Hamid exchanged greetings with members of the Hindu community at Bangabhaban on the occasion of Durga Puja yesterday.

PHOTO: PPT

Cancer care services far too inadequate

UNB, Dhaka

Though the number of cancer patients is growing alarmingly in the country, treatment facilities and specialist doctors are few and far between for lack of a comprehensive oncology education programme, said experts.

As a result, they said, nearly 50 percent cancer patients have to go abroad spending a lot of money for treatment of the deadly diseases while many others either stop continuing treatment halfway through or die without treatment.

According to the officials at National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH), there are only 16 medical oncologists in Bangladesh against the requirement of at least 2,000-2,500.

Besides, they said, the country requires at least 5,000 hospital beds

for cancer patients but now it has only 500.

Talking to the news agency, Prof Dr MA Hai, chief patron of Medical Oncology Society in Bangladesh, said it is estimated that about 2 lakh people are affected with cancer in the country every year.

"Our existing treatment facilities can serve hardly 70,000-75,000 patients. The vast majority of patients either go abroad or remain undetected, and possibly die untreated or of maltreatment," he said.

He said it is urgent to develop infrastructure and increase equipment and adequate skilled manpower to ensure cancer treatment facilities at least in every division.

Dr Muhammad Rafiqul Islam of NICRH said the number of cancer patients is on the rise due to various factors, including food

contamination, unhealthy diet with low fruit and vegetable intake, lack of physical activity, infection, environment pollution, smoking and genetic problems.

He said there are now around 15 to 20 lakh cancer patients in Bangladesh while around 2 lakh more such patients are added every year. "Of them, 1.2 lakh die each year."

Dr Islam said more than 50 percent cancer patients go abroad for treatment for lack of healthcare facilities and skilled manpower in the country. "We've only 16 oncologists in the country," he said.

He said there is a severe shortage of efficient manpower in specialised cancer treatment for lack of a comprehensive oncology education programme. "We want medical oncology to be included in most of

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