

188 hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 188 patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday of which 30 are from outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

This year, 7,841 dengue patients were hospitalised across the country in September which is the highest in a single month. At least 7,698 were diagnosed in August, 2,286 were hospitalised in July, 272 in June, 43 in May and the rest from January to April.

With the new cases, a total of 18,550 people were hospitalised this year. Of the total infected, 2,367 are from outside Dhaka.

According to the DGHS, 68 people have died of dengue infection in the country this year. Twelve people have died in July, 34 in August and 22 in September.

Among the deaths, 63 have died in Dhaka

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Migrant workers queued up in front of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital to get their jobs yesterday. An unusually hot day even by the capital's standards, they had to go through considerable stress, having to stand under the sun for hours before making it inside the hospital.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

AMI PROBASHI APP

5 lakh migrant workers sign up for Covid job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About five lakh migrant workers have registered through the Ami Probashi app to get inoculated for Covid-19, said Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) Director General Shahidul Alam yesterday.

As a result, the government has earned about Tk 10 crore in revenue from app registration fees, he told a programme, marking the launch of a new online registration process at the capital's BMET training facilities.

The DG said because the workers registered through the app, they were able to get hassle-free services. BMET organised the launch programme at its conference



AT A GLANCE

- Govt earned Tk 10cr from app registration fees
- Workers must sign up with BMET before registering on Surokkha app
- Must pay a registration fee of Tk 200
- App ensures hassle-free service
- With the app, aspirants can enrol with 64 training centres

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Polls must be held under neutral govt

Says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday warned that his party will not accept any general election in the country if it is not held under a neutral government.

"We will not accept any game in the name of election. Election must be held under a neutral government and it must be conducted by an impartial election commission," Fakhrul said while addressing a discussion held at the Engineers Institution auditorium in the capital.

Demanding formation of a caretaker government during election time, the BNP secretary general urged the ruling Awami League to step down from the government and to allow people to exercise their right to vote.

The BNP leader also urged party men to organise a mass uprising through uniting people and all political forces.

He also called upon the party leaders and activists to be disciplined.

Commenting that the present government has no public support, Mirza Fakhrul said, "Politically they are completely bankrupt. They know that if the election is



SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

No more caretaker govt: Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP is now unwilling to take part in the polls and that is why they kept their politics limited to mass media and social media, avoiding the political field as well as streets.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, said this at a press conference at his official residence in the capital.

The minister said there will be no benefit in threatening the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Awami League. "We know about your [BNP] evil attempts to fish in troubled water," he said.

The AL general secretary said BNP is now saying that they would join polls if a neutral caretaker government is formed but the party knows it very well that the issue of caretaker government is a settled one.

"Who scrapped the caretaker government system? It was scrapped in light of a verdict of the High Court. The caretaker government was an interim system. It cannot run for a long period," he mentioned.

Quader said when a country's democracy marches forward, people's trust and confidence in the government and election system also increase.

The EC is a constitutional body and the government has no interference in any activities of this institution, he added.



SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Tejturi Bazar Blast One succumbs to injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A resident, who was injured in an explosion at a building in the capital's Tejturi East Tejturi Bazar on Friday night, died early yesterday while undergoing treatment at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

Zikrullah Jitu (30) died in the intensive care unit (ICU) of the hospital. He suffered 64 percent burns, confirmed Opuurbo Hasan, officer-in-charge of Tejturi Police Station.

The blast occurred around 8pm on Friday, leaving two people injured, said Inspector Md Bacchu Mia, in-charge of Dhaka Medical College Hospital Police Outpost.

"They were brought to the hospital by one Nahid around 11pm. They used to live on the second floor of a six-storey building, where

Provide students with psychological support

Say speakers on reintegrating them into classrooms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students returning to schools following 18 months of closure should be provided with proper mental health support to reintegrate them into the classrooms, academics said yesterday.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic has caused major disruptions to the daily life of students, their study habits have been significantly affected, which necessitates the additional care, they added.

The speakers made these observations at a workshop titled "Learning Gap Mitigation and Psychosocial Support for Students in Post Covid-19 Education System" organised by Dafodil International University (DIU) at its permanent campus. DIU's head of general educational

Schools need to transform the way they monitor their students to facilitate those suffering from mental health issues.

SYED MIZANUR RAHMAN
DIU HEAD OF GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Digital dependency, which has increased during the pandemic, is breeding isolation and loneliness among students.

PROF NEHAL AHMED
CHAIR OF DHAKA EDUCATION BOARD

Development Department Syed Mizanur Rahman said as many students have been ravaged by mental health issues, "We [educational institutions] will need to do a lot to support them."

"Schools need to transform the way they monitor their students to facilitate those suffering from mental health issues," Mizanur said.

Dhaka Education Board chair Prof Nehal Ahmed said digital dependency, which has increased during the pandemic, is breeding isolation and loneliness among students.

Calling teachers the artisans of the nation, DIU pro vice-chancellor Professor SM Mahub-ul-Haq Majumder urged teachers to step up in this hour of need.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

DU 'Kha' unit exam held across country

ADMISSION FOR 2020-21

47,639 vied for 2,378 'Kha' unit seats

18,853 participated from the capital

Rest of the divisional cities hosted 28,786

DU CORRESPONDENT

All eight divisional cities of the country played host to Dhaka University's (DU) 'Kha' unit (Faculty of Arts) admission test for the 2020-21 academic year yesterday.

Much like the 'KA' unit exam held on Friday, yesterday's session passed without any untoward situation, said university authorities.

Expressing satisfaction, DU Vice-Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman said, "The admission test was held fairly and went smoothly everywhere."

He said this after inspecting an examination centre at DU Arts Faculty Building around noon.

"Everyone, including the law enforcement agencies, was active in maintaining order, especially against any kind of fraudulence," added the VC.

The exam started at 11am across all

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

'He wrote to change the world for the better'

Says Serajul Islam Choudhury on Abul Mansur Ahmad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abul Mansur Ahmad has explained the world in his own way. He thought and wrote about the world in all its complexities -- exploring politics, economics and literature -- and envisioned how to create changes for the better, observed Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University Serajul Islam Choudhury.

He must be remembered for his unique contribution to history, Prof Serajul noted during a prize giving ceremony for an essay competition on the eminent writer-historian organised by the Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad at the Daily Star Centre yesterday.

"Abul Mansur Ahmad was involved in every major movement in some form, including the peasant movement, language

movement, anti-Ayub movement and mass uprising movement of 1969. He was a journalist, lawyer and politician, but all in all he was an intellectual," said Prof Serajul Islam.

"He explained the world through his own lens and wanted to create changes to the existing system. That is why he drafted the historic 21-point demand. He also drafted the explanation of the six-point demand. He played the role that an intellectual ought to play," he added.

Praising the writing of Abul Mansur Ahmad, Prof Serajul Islam said, "No Bengali Muslim after him has quite managed to write satires as powerful as 'Aina' and 'Food Conference'. No one would dare to write such articles today."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Awardees of the essay competition on eminent writer-historian Abul Mansur Ahmad along with dignitaries at the capital's Daily Star Centre yesterday. At the event, organised by Abul Mansur Ahmad Smriti Parishad, a total of ten youths received prizes under three categories. Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury was the chief guest at the programme, where Fakrul Alam, professor of English at Dhaka University; Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, and Arif Khan, president of Reading Club Trust, were also present.

PHOTO: STAR



Prachyanat performed their landmark play, "Circus Circus", at the Ganga Jamuna Cultural Festival yesterday. The festival's ninth instalment, which kicked off on Friday at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and will conclude on October 12, features renowned and promising theatre troupes from all over the country.

PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI WORSHEH

Rabindra University students call off protest

Unlock admin building following education minister's assurance

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Students of Sirajganj's Rabindra University yesterday withdrew their movement for demanding termination of teacher Farhana Yeasmin Baten, following "education minister's assurance".

Around 11am, the protesters opened the gate of the administration building, where they left the acting vice-chancellor and several officials confined since Friday to press home their demand.

Shamim Hossain, a spokesperson for the protesting students, told The Daily Star, "Education Minister Dipu Moni called me this morning [Saturday] and based on her assurance, we are withdrawing the protest programme."

Shamim said, "The minister assured us of justice, and she is sympathetic to our demand."

"But we will continue the peaceful sit-in programme in front of the academic building," Shamim added.

Hours after Rabindra University was declared closed for an indefinite period, the administration issued a notice on Friday confirming that the university will not remain closed. However, exams will remain suspended till further notice.

The aggrieved students have been demonstrating, seeking permanent expulsion of Farhana.

On September 26, the teacher asked university employees to trim male students' hair before allowing them to enter the examination hall. Farhana, herself, trimmed hair for many other students, alleged the agitators.

Unable to bear the humiliation, one of the students tried to die by suicide, sparking protests.

Follow Gandhi, Bangabandhu's ideology

Law minister urges all

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Law Minister Anisul Huq

yesterday urged all to follow the ideology and messages of Mahatma Gandhi and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to maintain peace and harmony in society.

"Both Mahatma Gandhi and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman worked to spread the message of peace through practicing politics of non-violence," he said.

"If their footprint and ideology of non-violence can be followed, peace will be restored in society and the state," he stated.

The minister came up with the remarks while addressing a programme as chief guest on Noakhali's Gandhi Memorial

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

If their footprint and ideology of non-violence can be followed, peace will be restored in society and the state.

ANISUL HUQ