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Your Right to Know

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"The Awami League is not responsible for the legal complication regarding Khaleda's treatment abroad."
AWAMI LEAGUE GENERAL SECRETARY OBAIDUL QUADER



"If Khaleda is harmed, the people will not spare the government."
BNP SECRETARY GENERAL MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR



"Iran must return without delay to compliance with all its commitments and obligations..."
FRENCH PRESIDENT MACRON ON 2015 NUKE DEAL

More deaths, more outrage

Young protesters won't leave streets as demand for safe roads get louder; another student dies in crash



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 3,502 people got killed in road crashes by the end of August this year, which means 14 individuals died every day. While life goes on as is for the powers that be, it is the students again who decided that enough is enough.

The demonstrating students left the roads over the weekend after being offered platitudes by the custodians of the city. They were back in greater numbers yesterday.

For them, SSC examinee Mainuddin Islam's death on Monday night was another death too many.

Unfortunately, it was not the last. As protests raged on in Dhaka, SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Monir Hossain, elder brother of Mainuddin Islam Durjoy, breaks down at the morgue of Dhaka Medical College yesterday seeing the body of his brother while his relative tries to console him. Durjoy, an SSC examinee, was run over and killed by a bus in the capital's Rampura on Monday night.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

A father in disbelief

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Abdur Rahman Bhandari was struggling to accept that his son would never come back.



Mainuddin

As everybody in his family and relatives gathered in their village home in Brahmanbaria yesterday, he kept looking for his son, Mainuddin Islam Durjoy, who was run over and killed by a recklessly driven bus in the capital's Rampura late Monday night.

"Why my son isn't here? Ask him to come right now," said a frantic Abdur. At one point, he broke down and wept, "Mainuddin left [our] shop with only 10 Taka. Why hasn't he returned yet?"

Mainuddin, who had just finished his SSC exams two days ago, was killed on his birthday. The incident happened around 9:50pm on Monday when the SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Nat'l professor Rafiqul Islam no more



1934-2021

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He was a man of many hats: a writer, a linguist, a teacher, a researcher, and a Language Movement veteran.

As a champion of secularism and one of the most distinguished researchers on National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, he enriched the country's education and culture.

He is National Professor Rafiqul Islam, the recipient of both Swadhinata Padak and Ekushey Padak, the country's highest SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

COMMENTARY

KHALEDA ZIA'S MEDICAL CONDITION

Moment for PM's magnanimity

MAHFUZ ANAM

When it comes to the BNP is it at all possible for the ruling party to see it through any other prism but political? Can the decision to allow Khaleda Zia to go abroad for medical treatment be seen as a humanitarian case rather than party politics? Can doctors' views stand any chance of being seen purely from a professional point of view rather than contrived? Can medical facts, gleaned from tests conducted by doctors of a hospital managed by an international franchise, be taken for what they state? The answer, I am afraid, will be an instant and emphatic no.

Nothing about the BNP as a political party and Khaleda Zia as its chief be ever considered for anything else other than its political implications, even when the latter is most seriously ill with doctors making dire predictions in case of not being allowed medical treatment in countries like the US, UK and Germany.

There is a whole history of bitter, fractious, rivalrous and destructive relations between these two political parties. The BNP in its heyday did not view anything to do with Awami League and its president, Sheikh Hasina, in any light other than political. She was not allowed to seek justice, which is a fundamental right of any person especially the children, for her parents' murder and not even allowed to lodge a case. The injustice of that reality and the sense of helplessness on the part of Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana must be felt by us all.

The saddest example of it is the assassination attempt on Sheikh Hasina on August 21, 2004 that left 24 AL leaders and activists killed while the SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Khaleda starts bleeding again

BNP stages demo at Nayapaltan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, now undergoing treatment at the capital's Evercare Hospital, started bleeding again on Monday night and her condition was still unpredictable.

"She did bleed again. Doctors were worried about her condition. Due to frantic efforts of the physicians, the crisis is tackled for now," said Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the party.

The party organised a rally in front of the party's Nayapaltan headquarters demanding the release of Khaleda and permission to send Khaleda abroad for better treatment in an advanced centre.

Referring to the physicians, Fakhrul said Khaleda's condition was not good and still

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PHOTO ON PAGE 12

'No vaccine, no service'

Govt decides to introduce campaign as Omicron threat looms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday introduced a 'no vaccine, no service' policy and a 14-day institutional quarantine for those arriving from countries where the Omicron variant has been detected, as it scrambles to put its guard up against the new potentially more contagious strain of the coronavirus.

Booster doses for those above the age of 60 and with morbidity are also being considered to reinforce the public's immunity against what the World Health Organisation labelled a "variant of concern", its most serious category.

"Many people died and our economy was hit badly -- we don't want a repeat of that episode," Health Minister Zahid Maleque told reporters after an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday at the secretariat, where the decisions were taken.

First detected in South Africa on November 25, a total of 19 countries have so far reported cases of the highly mutated variant, which is said to be better able to evade the body's immune responses, both



OMICRON NEW WORRY

to vaccination and natural infection, than prior versions of the virus.

Still, the vaccines will continue to ward off severe illness and death, which is why the 'no vaccine, no service' policy was put in place to encourage people to get the jabs.

"We have taken our vaccination campaign to the grassroots level but there are many who are yet taken the jabs. We have seen a drop in the eagerness among people in inoculation," Maleque said.

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SOHEL MURDER CASE

2 suspects killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Two murder case accused were killed in a "gunfight" with police in Cumilla city early yesterday.

The dead are Mohammad Sabbir Hossain, 28, and Sajon, 32, both accused in a case filed over the murder of then councillor Syed Mohammad Sohel.

Anwarul Azim, officer-in-charge of Cumilla Kotwali Police Station, said 11 people, including the duo, were named in the case documents.

Sabbir and Sujon had been on the run ever since the slain councillor's brother filed the case, he added.

On information, police conducted a raid in Cumilla city's Shangraish and Nabagram areas around 12:15am, he further added.

Kamal Krishna Das, inspector (investigation) of the police station, claimed, "A group of criminals opened fire on police as they reached Shangraish

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An exhausted Tahmina, 62, sits on the road in Fulbarigate of Khulna city yesterday. She had been waiting for five-hour to buy rice from a TCB dealer. Lines before dealer shops, which sell rice for Tk30 a kg, have grown as prices of the staple have gone up recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

The unbridled joy of freedom

Santal freedom fighter shares wartime memories, 50 years after victory

RABIUL HASAN

Every December, Amin Hemrom is overpowered by emotions -- so powerful that, on occasions, they lead him to tears of joy. On those days, he says, his heart beats faster and his breaths get heavier as he recalls the wartime memories.

In May 1971, when attacks on Bangalee homes and killings of Bangalee people by Pakistan occupation forces were escalating in different parts of the country, his parents were deeply worried. Seeing many of their neighbours heading for India, his parents wasted no time to flee from their Santal village of Rudro Kunda in Nachole upazila in Chapainabganj and cross the border.

After a perilous journey, mostly on foot, they reached Malda of West Bengal and took shelter in

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