

"This is an important step in the history of our country. The beginning will be difficult. But we know as we go on, we can make more progress."

Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe as IMF agrees \$2.9b bailout package



POLICE-BNP CLASHES IN 6 DIST

1 shot dead, over 200 hurt

Cops fire shots, teargas shells as BNP men hold founding anniv programmes

STAR REPORT

Clashes between police and activists of BNP left one killed in Narayanganj and over 200 others injured in six districts yesterday.

BNP men clashed with law enforcers in Narayanganj, Manikganj, Natore, Netrakona, Sirajganj, and Rangpur. Party activists claimed that police barred them from holding programmes marking the party's 44th founding anniversary.

BNP leaders said Jubo Dal activist Shaon Mahmud, 20, was killed in "police firing" in Narayanganj. Doctors said they found "bullet wounds" on Shaon's body.

Shaon was the son of Shahed Ali of Narayanganj Sadar upazila's Enayetnagar area.

Police claimed that it could not be known immediately how he died. BNP yesterday announced a two-day programme protesting the killing of Shaon and the attacks on the 44th anniversary programmes across the country.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir announced the fresh programmes while attending a demonstration in front of the

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Shaon Mahmud



Police swoop on a BNP procession brought out to mark the party's 44th founding anniversary in Railway Gate-2 area of Narayanganj city yesterday morning. The clash between police and BNP men left an activist dead and at least 25 others injured.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Girl dies by suicide after teacher 'beats her for attire'

A CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

An eighth grader of a Narsingdi school died by suicide yesterday after she was "humiliated and beaten by a teacher for wearing trousers with the school uniform".

After class, the 13-year-old schoolgirl bought and consumed poison and then went to Shibpur Police Station to lodge a complaint. She collapsed there and was pronounced dead at Narsingdi Sadar Hospital around 6:00pm.

Quoting the victim and her classmates, Sub-Inspector HI Zia of Shibpur Police Station told this newspaper that a teacher at Shibpur Government Pilot High School reprimanded, beat and insulted her in class around 3:30pm for wearing trousers.

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BUSINESS

EXPORTS BRING \$4.67B IN AUGUST

Merchandise exports posted a 38.09 per cent year-on-year growth in August to bring home \$4.67 billion, handing more breathing room to Bangladesh struggling to bring its macroeconomy under control, official figures showed yesterday.

This was the sharpest pace of growth in the last five years.

Last month's receipts were one of the highest in the country's history and made a strong rebound from July when exporters fetched \$3.98 billion.

STORY ON B1

Police acted to protect themselves PM on clashes at BNP demos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said there were no incidents wherever BNP's movement and programmes were peaceful.

"It is normal that opposition parties will wage movements. Yes, I told police not to say anything. It's okay, but police did not do anything first. If a person comes under attack, the individual, let alone police, has the right to protect himself," she told parliament.

Hasina, also the Leader of the House, made the comments while delivering her concluding speech in the 19th session of the current 11th parliament.

"Won't police have the right to protect themselves when they come under attack? Their [BNP's] remarks give the indication that they [police] can do nothing even though bombs, sticks, and brick chunks are hurled at them or they come under gun attacks."

The premier's comments came after BNP MP Rumeen Farhana claimed in the House that the party's programmes came under attack at different places, including Bhola, despite the PM's clear instructions that programmes of the opposition parties would not be obstructed.

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'Raped, blackmailed and cheated' in Mauritius

Migrant worker now wants justice

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Desperate to lift her family out of poverty, Roksana (real name withheld) flew to Mauritius three years ago to work as a sewing machine operator.

To pay for the trip to the east African country, she borrowed at a high interest. But her dreams for a better life shattered barely a month after she joined Firemount Textiles Limited in May 2019.

Her factory owner, Anil Kohli, a Mauritian businessman of Indian origin, allegedly raped her several times with the help of a Bangladeshi worker.

They also allegedly videotaped the crime and threatened her with releasing the video if she opened her mouth.

In fear of getting into further trouble in a foreign land, and stopped being paid, Roksana obliged, and the abuse continued.

To save herself from further abuse, she married a security guard of the company, she said.

She was finally sent back home by the company on December 17 last year, six months before her contract ended. She said her four months' pay was due at the time.

"I went to Mauritius to overcome poverty. I was sexually abused instead. I want justice," she told The Daily Star recently.

Upon her return, the 32-year-old filed a complaint with Bangladesh's expatriate welfare and overseas employment ministry in January detailing her experience.

Talking to this newspaper, she recounted how she sought help from the Bangladesh High Commission in Mauritius, but to no avail.

She now runs a grocery shop that she set up with borrowed money. She took a loan of Tk 2 lakh from Probashi Kallyan Bank, and used parts of it to start the shop and the rest to repay the debt she incurred to go to Mauritius.

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Sizzling for three straight months

Average monthly temperatures in Bangladesh break records, rainfall dips

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The average maximum temperature in Bangladesh for the month of August was a three-decade high.

Last month, the average was 33.4 degrees Celsius, which is two degrees Celsius higher than the average of the last 30 years, according to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

Chattogram division felt the heat. Its average was 2.2 degrees Celsius higher.

Meteorologists said the temperature and rainfall pattern was very unusual this year.

August was 39.6 percent drier than the month's average in the previous 30 years.

"It is nothing but global warming. Two degrees Celsius temperature rise and at the same time low rainfall is abnormal ...," Md Abdul Mannan, senior meteorologist of BMD, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The average rainfall in August was 243mm, the lowest since 1989.

The average 30-year rainfall was 402mm. Not only August, July too was a bad month.

The maximum average temperature in July was 33.7 degrees Celsius, which was 2.6 degrees higher than the last 30 years' average. And rainfall was 57.6 percent less

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Tigers exit Asia Cup with heavy hearts

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Dubai

It was heartbreak for Bangladesh as they exited the Asia Cup, unable to grab the bull by the horns, on Thursday following an agonising two-wicket defeat in Dubai.

Kusal Mendis, let off four times, took the game away from the Tigers as his 37-ball 60-run knock helped Sri Lanka chase down Bangladesh's competitive total of 183 for seven with four balls to spare.

It was missed catches and no-balls, leading to reprieves on multiple occasions, that saw the game eventually slip away from Shakib Al Hasan and his troops. With players, members of the team management and former cricketers of both the sides engaging in a war of words preceding the game, it made for a tense atmosphere at the Dubai International Stadium yesterday.

Sri Lanka began the chase cautiously after seeing off the first three overs. Taskin Ahmed produced a nick off Mendis, on two, in the second over only for Mushfiqur Rahim to drop it.

Pathum Nissanka and Mendis then began with a vengeance against Mustafizur Rahman and

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Sri Lanka's Asitha Fernando and Maheesh Theekshana hug each other in jubilation, leaving Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan dejected at the other end, after hitting the winning runs to knock the Tigers out of the Asia Cup in Dubai on Thursday.

PHOTO: AFP

Make Quader leader of the opposition

JP parliamentary party urges Speaker

RASHIDUL HASAN

Rift in Jatiya Party widened yesterday as its parliamentary party requested Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury to make Chairman GM Quader the leader of the opposition in Jatiya Sangsad.

Raushan Ershad, chief patron of JP, is the incumbent leader of the opposition and Quader the deputy leader of the opposition.

A delegation of JP, led by party Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnun MP, submitted a letter to the Speaker in this regard at the latter's office yesterday evening.

Earlier in the day, Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party at a meeting at opposition leader Raushan's office in the parliament decided to make the request to the Speaker, Chunnun told The Daily Star.

Most of the JP lawmakers, except Raushan and her son Rahgir Almahe Ershad, an MP from Rangpur-3, were present at the meeting. Raushan, 81, is now undergoing treatment at a hospital in Bangkok.

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বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

নিবাসী ব্যক্তি কর্তৃক ধারণকৃত বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা নগদায়ন/জমাকরণ প্রসঙ্গে

নিবাসী বাংলাদেশি ব্যক্তি বিদেশ থেকে সঙ্গে আনা অনধিক দশ হাজার মার্কিন ডলার বা সমমূল্যমানের বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা নিজের কাছে বা অনুমোদিত ডিলার ব্যাংকে রেসিডেন্ট ফরেন কারেন্সি ডিপোজিট হিসাবে জমা রাখতে পারেন, পরবর্তী বিদেশ যাত্রায় উক্ত বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা সঙ্গে নিয়েও যেতে পারেন। দশ হাজার মার্কিন ডলারের অতিরিক্ত পরিমাণ আনীত বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা দেশে আসার এক মাসের মধ্যে অনুমোদিত ডিলার ব্যাংকে/লাইসেন্সধারী মানিচেঞ্জারের কাছে বিক্রি বা রেসিডেন্ট ফরেন কারেন্সি ডিপোজিট একাউন্টে জমা রাখা নিবাসী বাংলাদেশি নাগরিকদের জন্য বাধ্যতামূলক।

উপরোক্ত প্রাধিকার বহির্ভূত বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা ধারণ করা ফরেন এক্সচেঞ্জ রেগুলেশন অ্যান্ড, ১৯৪৭ এর আওতায় দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ। প্রাধিকারভুক্ত নয় এমন বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা নিবাসী বাংলাদেশির নিকট থাকলে তা আগামী সেপ্টেম্বর ৩০, ২০২২ এর মধ্যে অনুমোদিত ডিলার ব্যাংকে/লাইসেন্সধারী মানিচেঞ্জারের কাছে বিক্রি করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর অননুমোদিত বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা নিবাসী ব্যক্তির নিকট পাওয়া গেলে তার বিরুদ্ধে কঠোর আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

জনস্বার্থে বিজ্ঞপ্তি জারি করা হলো।

ব্যাংকিং ও আর্থিক সেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা কোনো অভিযোগ থাকলে ১৬২৩৬ নম্বরে ফোন করুন।