

‘Continue your sacrifice for democracy’

Fakhrul tells BNP leaders, activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday urged its leaders and activists to get ready to sacrifice more to restore democracy in the country.

“Already we have sacrificed a lot, as many have been arrested, many killed and many sent to jail. We have to sacrifice more,” said Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the party, at an open discussion in front of the party’s Nayapaltan headquarters.

He said through its movement, the party wants the government to resign and hand over power to a neutral caretaker government, to hold a free and fair election through which peoples’ government will be established.

“Let’s vow today that we will not rest until our goal is achieved and the government resigns from

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The road underneath Kuril flyover is completely barred from public use as it has been turned into an illegal parking space for pickup trucks and makeshift garages. Although this situation has persisted for quite some time now, authorities have done very little to free this road of these menace. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Bangladesh, Libya to curb illegal migration

2 countries agree to cooperate after new Libyan envoy calls on state minister

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Libya have agreed to work together to curb illegal migration, which has been a challenge in the Mediterranean for years.

The agreement came when the newly-appointed Libyan Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdulmutalib SM Suliman called on State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam at his office on Sunday.

Alam told the Libyan diplomat that Bangladesh supports legal migration to other countries and would like to enhance cooperation with Libya to curb illegal migration.

Human traffickers use Libya as a destination and transit country for illegal migration. Many migrants from African and Asian countries use Libya to take illegal ship journeys to Europe through the Mediterranean.

Bangladeshis comprise one of the groups of people who take such journeys.

Of the 28,405 irregular migrants, a total of 4,606 Bangladeshis reached the shores of Italy in the first six months of this year, followed by Egyptians, Tunisians, and Afghans.

Ambassador Suliman termed the bilateral relations

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ATTACK ON TABITH

Banani OC, 15 AL men sued

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP executive committee member Tabith Awal yesterday sued Banani Police Station officer-in-charge Nure Azam Miah and 15 leaders and activists of Awami League and its front organisations on charge of attacking him in a protest rally in the capital’s Banani last September.

Tabith, former DNCC mayoral candidate, also accused 20-30 unnamed policemen of Banani Police Station in the case filed with Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge’s Court under section 15(1) and (3) of the Torture and Custodial Death (Prohibition) Act.

Judge Md Asaduzzaman recorded the complainant’s

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PRAYER  
TIMING

NOVEMBER 8

|             |       |      |         |      |
|-------------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Fazr        | Zohr  | Asr  | Maghrib | Esha |
| AZAN 5:00   | 12:45 | 3:45 | 5:25    | 7:00 |
| JAMAAT 5:35 | 1:15  | 4:00 | 5:30    | 7:30 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

GAME GHAR, an elaborate extortion ring

At least 40 agents of human-trafficking syndicate active in Bangladesh

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

The transnational trafficking syndicate that operates Libya’s “game ghar”, an establishment where migrants are tortured and extorted, has at least 40 agents in different areas of Bangladesh.

The group stole crores in the last two years in the name of sending people to Europe.

These agents include traders, chauffeurs and local youths. They mainly target people from Madaripur, Shariatpur, Cumilla, Lakshmipur and Noakhali.

The human trafficking wing of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit disclosed the findings to The Daily Star yesterday, following the arrest of two more agents of the syndicate.

The arrestees are Bhasan Matubbor and Belayet Hossain. On information, police arrested Bhasan from the capital’s Badda area on early Saturday and Belayet from Dhanmondi on Sunday, said Tohidul Islam, additional deputy commissioner (ADC) of CTTC.

With these two, four members of the syndicate have been arrested so far. The two others – Md Alamgir Khan, an agent, and Akteruzzaman Molla alias Kuddus Molla, reported mastermind of the syndicate’s Bangladesh side – are now in jail.

CTTC officials are now looking for Rani, wife of a police officer, and Sumona Sumi, wife of Sharif, who runs activities of game ghar in Libya.

“These two women are mainly responsible for handling the cash in Bangladesh, which is collected from people to send them to Europe,” said ADC Tohidul.

Learning of the syndicate members’ arrest, Sumi managed to fly to Dubai on the night of October 30, but Rani is somewhere in the country, he said.

“We have issued an alert to immigration with passport details of Sumi and Rani, and hope that we will be able to arrest them soon,” said Tohidul.

For the journey from Bangladesh to Europe, the criminals charge each person around Tk 9.5 lakh.

HOW SYNDICATE WORKS

Syndicate stole crores in last 2 years

Group’s agents include traders, chauffeurs, local youths

It targets people from Madaripur, Shariatpur, Cumilla, Lakshmipur, Noakhali

Group stays active in winter, as Mediterranean Sea calm during this time

The group confines the migrants in a place called “game ghar” and tortures them until ransom is paid. At least several dozens of people now remain confined to the game ghar.

Besides, they collect another hefty payment as ransom after the migrants reach Libya.

The group confines the migrants to a place called “game ghar” and tortures them until the ransom is paid, said investigators. “At least several dozens of people now remain confined in the game ghar,” said ADC Tohidul, quoting the arrestees.

LAW ENFORCERS SUSPECT HUNDI OPERATION

Before he started working for the syndicate as an agent seven months back, arrestee Belayet was a contractor by profession.

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Dengue claims 7 more lives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least seven dengue patients died, while 875 were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the total number of dengue patients rose to 43,982.

With the seven new deaths, six in Dhaka, the total number of dengue deaths stands at 177.

Among the death cases, 109 are in Dhaka, 23 in Cox’s Bazar, 19 in Chattogram, six in Barishal, six in Khulna, four in Mymensingh, two each in Rajshahi and Narail and one each in Narsingdi, Pabna, Khagrachari, Bogura, Madaripur and Feni.

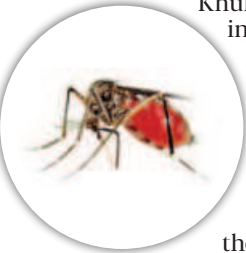
A total of 40,535 patients have already been released from the hospitals, while 3,270 are still undergoing treatment.

Meanwhile, experts have urged the authorities concerned to conduct extensive drives to identify clusters of Aedes mosquitoes immediately.

A monsoon survey of the DGHS, conducted between August 11 and 23, found the presence of Aedes mosquitoes in 13.4 percent of houses under Dhaka North City Corporation and 11.75 percent of homes under Dhaka South City Corporation.

For the survey, a total of 1,319 households of 40 DNCC wards and 1,830 households of 58 DSCC wards were surveyed.

It also found 13 wards under DNCC and 14 wards in DSCC to be highly risk-prone as the density of Aedes mosquitoes was found to be higher in those wards.



FOUR DISTRICTS

Shut illegal brick kilns right away

HC directs govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to stop operations of all illegal brick kilns in four districts – Bogura, Tangail, Lalmonirhat and Thakurgaon – immediately in a bid to curb environment pollution.

The HC also asked to submit compliance reports before it in two weeks. DC of four districts have been asked to comply with the directives.

The court also issued a rule asking the government to explain in four weeks why their inaction to shut down the illegal brick kilns should not be declared illegal. Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam and Justice Md Shohrwardi came up with the order and rule following a petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh on November 6.

HRPB’s counsel Manzill Murshid told the HC that hundreds of illegal brick kilns have reportedly been operating in the four districts, causing damage to the environment, farmlands and woods. But the officials concerned of the government are not taking necessary action against such illegal activities, he argued.



An emerging CHALLENGE

Says UN independent expert on Bangladesh’s ageing population

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The ageing population in Bangladesh is growing fast, becoming an emerging issue that is challenging health services, family relationships and social security, said Claudia Mahler, UN independent expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, yesterday.

She made the statement as she began a 10-day visit to Bangladesh, from November 7 to 17, to assess elderly persons’ human rights.

The United Nations defines an older person as someone who is over 60 years of age.

Till 2019, more than 13 million people living in Bangladesh were aged over 60, representing 8 percent of the country’s total population, she further said.

“The 2013 National Policy on Older Persons and the Maintenance of Parents’ Act resulted from this fast-growing age group.”

“I look forward to learning more about the implementation of the policy and the law,” she said.

The independent expert will assess areas of concern, such as social security and protection; age discrimination and ageism; abuse and violence against older persons; their living conditions, including housing arrangements and access to adequate health services; and their meaningful participation in the labour force as well as public and political spaces.

She will also focus on older persons’ rights in specific contexts, including emergency situations related to climate change and forced displacement, among other issues.

Mahler is visiting Bangladesh at the invitation of the government.

She and will hold discussions in Dhaka, Rangpur, and Chattogram with government representatives, UN representatives, civil-society organisations working with older persons, academics and elderly persons.

The UN independent expert will present a full report of her visit to the Human Rights Council in September 2023.

ছুটির দিনে যুক্তরাষ্ট্রে সোনালী এক্সচেঞ্জ হাউস খোলা

- যুক্তরাষ্ট্রে অবস্থিত সোনালী ব্যাংকের সোনালী এক্সচেঞ্জ কোম্পানি ইনকর্পোরেটেড এর অধীনে ১০ টি শাখা (ম্যানহাটন, জ্যাকসন হাইটস, জ্যামাইকা, ব্রুকলিন, ওজোনপার্ক, পিটারসন, মিশিগান, এস্টোরিয়া, ব্রক্স, আটলান্টা) ছুটির দিনেও খোলা।
- এখন থেকে প্রবাসীরা বিনা খরচে রেমিট্যান্স পাঠাতে পারবেন।
- প্রেরিত রেমিট্যান্সের উপর আড়াই শতাংশ প্রমোদনা প্রদান।
- সোনালী ব্যাংকের মাধ্যমে দ্রুত, সহজে ও নিরাপদে রেমিট্যান্স প্রেরণ করুন।

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