



## BNP 'trusted haven' for militancy: Quader

BSS

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP is a "trusted haven" for militancy.

"BNP blamed Awami League over the escape of militants from the court premises in Dhaka. But BNP is the sponsor of militancy. Shaykh Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai had emerged during the BNP regime," he said.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, was speaking at the triennial conference of Lakshmipur Zilla AL on the district stadium ground.

The AL general secretary said the global economic recession is going on. Foreign reserves capable of meeting demands of three months is enough to overcome the crisis, but Bangladesh has the reserves for six months.

Quader inaugurated the conference while AL presidium members Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, joint general secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif, organising secretary Abu Sayeed Al Mahmud Swapan, youth and sports affairs secretary Harunur Rashid, and relief and social welfare affairs secretary Sujit Roy Nandi were present.

Lakshmipur Zilla AL president Golam Faruk Rinku presided over the function, while its general secretary Nuruddin Chowdhury Nayan moderated it.

## 3 more die of dengue, 515 new cases



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three dengue patients died, while 515 were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

This year's death toll has risen to 237, while the total number of cases are now 53,928.

Of the dengue cases, 18,220 were recorded outside Dhaka.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), of the deaths, 143 occurred in Dhaka, 24 in Cox's Bazar, 31 in Chattogram, 11 in Barishal, seven in Khulna, six in Mymensingh, five in Rajshahi, two in Narail, and one each in Narsingdi, Kushtia, Pabna, Bagerhat, Khagrachhari, Bogura, Madaripur and Feni.

A total of 51,460 patients, 18,220 from outside Dhaka, have already been released.

Some 2,231 patients, 988 from outside the capital, are still undergoing treatment.



**PRAYER TIMING**  
NOVEMBER 23

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-05	12-45	3-45	5-21	7-00
JAMAAT 5-40	1-15	4-00	5-24	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



BNP leaders and thousands of activists gathered in front of the party office at Nayapaltan yesterday. Addressing the rally, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir declared that the Dhaka rally will happen on December 10 and at the spot.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# Medicines losing effectiveness

Speakers warn of antimicrobial resistance at event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) or the ineffectiveness of medicines to cure diseases, has emerged as a new challenge to public health in addition to non-communicable diseases, said Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday.

"If we cannot control AMR, people will fall sick in bigger numbers, resulting in a huge pressure on hospitals," he said while addressing an event marking AMR Awareness Week, which started on November 18, at a hotel in Dhaka.

He mentioned that the irrational, injudicious use of antibiotics and poor management for infection control at hospitals are the main reasons behind AMR.

"We are working to strengthen efforts to stop the sale of antibiotics without prescription... If it is not maintained, we have to close down the pharmacies. We need to ensure judicious prescribing too," added the minister.

AMR occurs when germs like bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines, making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of diseases spreading.

As a result of drug resistance, antibiotics and other antimicrobials become ineffective, and infections, both in humans and animals, become increasingly difficult or impossible to treat.

Organised by the

Communicable Disease Control (CDC) unit of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the event was addressed by experts and officials from different organisations.

Prof Saniya Tahmina, former additional director general of DGHS, presented an overview of the current AMR scenario in the country and a response in this regard.

Referring to latest studies on AMR pattern, she said majority

and infection prevention and control at the hospitals.

Mentioning the progress of different efforts like the elimination of malaria and the Kala-azar, she said, "In the case of AMR, we are not even close to such progress."

She stressed the need for budget on AMR activities in all programmes of the government. "We have evidence there. Now it is high time to work."

Speaking on the AMR situation

**“ We are working to strengthen efforts to stop the sale of antibiotics without prescription... If it is not maintained, we have to close down the pharmacies. We need to ensure judicious prescribing too. ”**

Zahid Maleque, Health Minister

of the clinically important antibiotics already have turned out to be ineffective to kill a number of bacteria that infect both humans and animals, which is "very alarming".

"We now have many PDR [pan drug resistant] germs, which cannot be killed using any available medicine..." she said.

Prof Sanya, co-author of the National AMR Containment Strategy and Action Plan 2021-26, also highlighted that there is a gap in the activities in addressing drug quality, antibiotic waste management and aggressive marketing by the drug companies,

in the livestock sector, Abu Sufian, director at the Department of Livestock, said, "We are really not in a good situation...we need advocacy at the policy level."

Conducted by Dr Anindya Rahman, deputy programme manager (AMR) at the CDC; Prof Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, director general of DGHS, and additional director general (administration) Prof Ahmedul Kabir; and Maria Stridsman, deputy head of mission at the Embassy of Sweden in Dhaka, spoke at the event among others.

## PRIMARY TEACHER RECRUITMENT Results likely to be out next week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Results of the recruitment test for assistant teachers at government primary schools are likely to be published next week.

The ministry in October 2020 published an advertisement for appointing 32,577 assistant teachers.

However, in March this year, the ministry said 45,000 teachers would be recruited, as another 10,000 assistant teachers retired since the announcement of the vacancy.

The ministry has finally decided to stick to the original number of 32,577, in line with the advertisement, as it has taken approval for their appointment from the finance and public administration ministries, said Mahbubur Rahman, public relations officer of the ministry, yesterday.

"We took the decision [to appoint 32,577 assistant teachers] keeping in mind that if anyone of them goes to court [regarding not adhering to the details advertised], the whole recruitment process may be suspended," he said.

"We are going to publish the recruitment test results by next week," he added.

A total of 13,09,461 candidates applied for the positions. Of them, around 1.51 lakh passed the written exams and took the viva voce.

# Will hold rally on December 10 and at Nayapaltan

Says Mirza Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the party's rally in Dhaka will be held at Nayapaltan on December 10, from where they will declare a one-point movement to oust the Awami League government.

"The ruling party leaders say the rally won't be allowed on December 10. Is this only your country? The rally will be held on December 10 in this place (Nayapaltan)," he told a protest rally.

As BNP respects the law, Fakhrul said they submitted an application to the authorities concerned seeking permission for holding the rally in a peaceful manner in protest against the price hikes of daily essentials, killing of opposition activists and demanding Khaleda Zia's unconditional release.

BNP's Dhaka south and north city units arranged the programme in front of the party's Nayapaltan central office, in protest of the killing of Bancharampur Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader Nayon Miah in police firing.

Fakhrul said their party still did not come up with the main announcement, which will be delivered on December 10.

"A one-point movement for the resignation of the Sheikh Hasina government will begin on that day. You [AL] must go and there is no compromise here. So, quit peacefully," he said.

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# Central lottery for secondary school admission

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Admission to 3,391 secondary schools in the country's metropolitan cities and district towns will take place through a central lottery in the coming academic session.

Of them, 2,851 are non-government schools and 540 are government-run, Mohammad Aziz Uddin, deputy director of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) told The Daily Star.

The DSHE set December 10 for central lottery for admission to all government schools and December 13 for non-government schools.

All schools have to complete the admission process within December 28.

Non-government schools in metropolitan areas

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# Sit together to face future challenges

AL member tells political parties at USAID event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League presidium member Lt Col (ret'd) Faruk Khan yesterday said the country's political parties need to sit together to address the political challenges that lie ahead.

"Every country in the world is facing challenges in one way or another. Our one is the next national election, which is going to take place within a year..." he said.

"There are talks about a crisis of democracy around the world... So, we all have to sit together and discuss such issues to resolve problems," he said while addressing an award programme in the capital.

USAID organised the programme to confer certificates to 23 central and grassroots political leaders from across Bangladesh for successfully

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# Consider mental health during trials

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mental health considerations should be incorporated into the judicial process, and the Mental Health Act 2018 should be implemented with immediate effect, said speakers during a discussion yesterday.

They made the remarks at a discussion on "Inclusion of Mental Health Assessment in Criminal Justice System" at The Daily Star Centre.

Barrister Najrul Khasru, judge of the mental health tribunal in the UK, presented the keynote at the discussion, organised by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST).

Referring to the criminal justice process in the UK, Najrul said, "The condition of a mentally ill offender should be taken into account in Bangladesh too, to ensure human rights and equal treatment."

Many countries have already recognised the issue of considering the mental health of women, who are victims of domestic and other forms of violence, he added.

Advocate Khondoker Shahriar Shakir said, "It is a responsibility of a lawyer representing a criminal to describe the mental state of their clients during the time of crime committed to the judge."

Mental health specialist Dr Helal Uddin Ahmed said law enforcement, judges, lawyers, doctors, mental health experts and all concerned need coordination and awareness about mental health.

"We should consider the mental state of a person who attempted suicide, instead of treating the attempt as a punishable offence," he added.



Hundreds of football fans gathered at Dhaka University's TSC to watch the Argentina vs Saudi Arabia match live on the giant screen yesterday. However, for supporters of Argentina, the day ended up being disheartening as the match didn't turn out in their favour.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

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