

Two more die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two dengue patients died while 253 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the total number of deaths rose to 260 while the total number of cases stood at 59,449.

Among the death cases, 160 are in Dhaka, 25 in Cox's Bazar, 34 in Chattogram, 11 in Barishal, eight in Khulna, six in Mymensingh, five in Rajshahi, two in Narail and one each in Narsingdi, Kushtia, Pabna, Bagerhat, Khagrachari, Bogura, Madaripur and Feni, said DGHS.

A total of 58,018 patients have already been released from hospitals while 1,171 are still undergoing treatment.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the International Fleet Review-2022 at Inani in Cox's Bazar yesterday. The four-day event is being organised by Bangladesh Navy with the title "Friendship Beyond the Horizon". Navies and maritime organisations from 28 countries, including the US, UK, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, India, China, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Turkey, the Netherlands and host Bangladesh, are participating in the event.

PHOTO: PID

Working to secure sea for economic prosperity: PM

BSS, Cox's Bazar

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is working to ensure a safe and secure environment at the sea to safeguard maritime resources and marine trade for economic prosperity.

She also said the government is working to enhance the capability of Bangladesh Navy.

The premier said this while formally inaugurating the International Fleet Review-2022 being held at Inani in Cox's Bazar, organised by the navy with the title "Friendship Beyond the Horizon".

The four-day IFR had begun with participation of navies and maritime organisations from 28 countries including the US, UK, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, India, China, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Turkey, the Netherlands and the host Bangladesh.

The IFR is being held here marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Golden Jubilee of the country's Independence.

The prime minister said safety of the seas is essential for ensuring free international trade as currently 90 percent of the global trade is done through waterways.

Hasina said Bangladesh has always attached topmost priority to global and regional peaceful co-existence and resolve of problems with neighbouring countries through dialogue.

"We believe that any problem can be solved through negotiation and talks, not through conflict," she said.

The prime minister said Bangladesh has established

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PM's former adviser Dr SA Malek passes away

BSS, Dhaka

Former political adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Bangabandhu Parishad President Dr SA Malek passed away on Tuesday.

He died of a massive heart attack at a hospital in the capital. He was 88 years old. Malek, also former lawmaker from Faridpur-1 constituency, breathed his last at the ICU of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital at 11:30pm.

He was laid to rest in Martyred Intellectual Graveyard in Mirpur after two namaj-e-janazas yesterday.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed profound shock and sorrow at his death.

Malek is survived by two sons and two daughters, a host of relatives and admirers.

He was also the senior

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'Implementation is long overdue'

Speakers tell discussion on HC directives on sexual violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the government amended several laws discriminatory to women and the High Court in recent years gave some important directives to protect women's rights, the provisions must be implemented accordingly, speakers said at an event yesterday.

For example, as the government very recently abolished sections 155 (4) and amended 146(3) of the Evidence Act of 1872, to stop the character assassinations of sexual violence survivors, digital evidence in the same line can still be produced in courts to raise questions on the victims' and witnesses, they said.

They made the remarks at the view exchange meeting, titled "High Court's directives to eliminate discrimination against women: way forward to implement those", organised by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), in the capital's Bishwo Shahitto Kendro yesterday.

Speakers also said actors in the justice sector, including defence lawyers, judges and violence survivors must know about these amendments.

BLAST's lawyer advocate Ayesha Akter said the amendments are not enough if they are not implemented properly.

Following the rape of a woman on May 21, 2018, the HC directed that sexual harassment or any other such incidents can be filed with any police station, no matter whether the incident takes place under its jurisdiction or not, said barrister Sharmin Akter.

The HC issued an 18-point directive over the investigation into rape incidents and filing cases, asking police to follow them until a specific law is formulated in this regard, she said.

"The directives included the launching of a website so that complainants can lodge their complaints online, ensuring the full-time presence of female police personnel in every police station, making a visible list of female social workers from whom assistance can be taken in all police station. However,

these have not been followed properly," she said.

Moreover, although the HC prohibited the controversial "two-finger test" – conducted for the rape victims to prove the rape – on grounds that the test has no scientific and legal merit, this medico-legal examination is still ongoing in some cases, she added.

Advocate Ainoon Nahar Siddiqui said the High Court ruled that the word "Kumari (virgin)" cannot be used before the name of the bride in Kabinnama – the Muslim marriage deed.

"The directives included the launching of a website so that complainants can lodge their complaints online, ensuring the full-time presence of female police personnel in every police station, making a visible list of female social workers from whom assistance can be taken in all police station. However, these have not been followed properly."

BARRISTER SHARMIN AKTER

"Women must be aware of this. Because the provision of column five of Kabinnama is contradictory to the rights of women's privacy. It is also discriminatory towards them," she said.

"The court also directed that the marital status of the groom – unmarried, widower or divorced – have to be mentioned before the name of the bridegroom in the Kabinnama," she said.

ZI Khan Panna, chairperson of Ain O Salish Kendra, said women must be strong and optimistic to protect their rights.

The event was moderated by Supreme Court lawyer Md Tajul Islam.

DU students continue protests for safe campus

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University students continued their protest yesterday, demanding to ban the movement of heavy vehicles inside the campus, following the death of Rubina Akhter (45).

Rubina was hit by a car driven by a former DU teacher and was dragged under its wheel from the TSC intersection to Nilkhet.

A group of students yesterday held a protest rally at the base of the Raju Memorial Sculpture to press home their demands.

They also placed two other demands – ensuring the safety of students on the campus and fixing the speed limit of personal cars moving inside the campus.

DU professors, including MM Akash, chairman of the economics department, and Kaberi Gayen of mass communication and journalism, expressed their solidarity with the students' demands.

Earlier, on December 2 – the day of the incident – Bangladesh Student Union's DU chapter held a protest and placed several demands, including justice and compensation to the victim's family, banning heavy vehicles on the campus, and using DU stickers on all vehicles used by students and teachers.

REGISTRATION CONDITIONS EC serves show cause notices to 14 parties

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission yesterday served show cause notices to 14 political parties that did not respond to its letter regarding whether they were complying with their registration conditions.

EC gave one month time to four other parties – BNP, Bangladesh Muslim League, Bangladesh Congress and National People's Party – as they sought time to respond, said EC officials.

The EC sent letters to all registered political parties and asked them to respond by November 24, mentioning how they were complying with the registration conditions. If the EC finds that political parties are not abiding by the law, it can cancel their registration, said EC officials.

EC Md Alamgir said 21 political parties have answered to the letter.

According to the law, if there is negligence in complying with the conditions, the EC can take action.

EC officials said they have sent show cause notices to Bangladesher Samyabadi Dal, Krishak Sramik Janata League, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bikalpadhara Bangladesh, Bangladesh Kalyan Party, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Jamiat Ulema e-Islam Bangladesh, Ganatantry Party, Bangladesh National Awami Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Party, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Muslim League, Ganofront and Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh.

Officials said Ganatantry Party and Bangladesh Kalyan Party responded to the letter last moment.

The process of reviewing the political parties is taking place centring the next national election likely to be held in late December 2023 or early January 2024.

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NAYAPALTAN CLASH



The capital's Nayapaltan area turned into a battlefield yesterday afternoon after a clash erupted between police and BNP activists in front of the party's central office. The law enforcers fired teargas shells and shotgun pellets to disperse them, while party members and supporters retaliated by hurling brick chips at policemen. A person was killed and at least 50 were injured in the incident. Over 200 BNP leaders and activists, including Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, senior joint secretary general of BNP, were picked up from the area following the clash.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

'Why is father not talking to me anymore?'

Questions daughter of man killed in Nayapaltan clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When eight-year-old Mithila Akter saw her father's body at Dhaka Medical College Hospital mortuary, she kept asking other family members, "Why is father not talking to me anymore?"

Her father Mokbul Hossain was killed yesterday afternoon during the clash between police and BNP men at Nayapaltan.

Mithila was peeping through the window bars to see her father's body, which was kept in the mortuary.

She looked shell-shocked as tears rolled down her cheeks.

"My father called me in the morning and asked whether I ate my breakfast ... Why did he stop talking to me?" asked the second grader.

While the little one was aching in silence most of the time, her mother Halima Begum was crying her eyes out over the death of her husband – the only source of income for the family living in Mirpur's Bauniabadh area.

"Why did they kill my husband?" Halima asked.

Mokbul was an activist of the BNP,

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