



## 4IR shouldn't undermine humanity

### PM tells WEF event in Geneva

UNB, Geneva

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said it must be ensured that the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) tools are not used to hurt or undermine humanity.

The prime minister said this while responding to a question in a programme titled "A talk at the event on New Economy and Society in Smart Bangladesh", organised by the World Economic Forum at its office in Geneva.

PM's speechwriter M Nazrul Islam briefed reporters after the programme.

The PM emphasised on putting safeguards against cyber-attacks, disinformation and other vices. Hasina called for ensuring that 4IR does not create further divides within the society.

She also said her government has started preparing the youth of the country for 4IR and the future of work. "I am confident that our boys and girls will not just follow 4IR trends but will actually lead them," she said. "We have also seen great enthusiasm among them at the innovation fairs."

She said Bangladesh would certainly welcome an independent 4IR Centre in partnership with WEF.



Numerous coaching centres continue to put up plastic banners to advertise their services in Farmgate, one of the busiest student zones in the capital. Though there is a government ban in place against using non-biodegradable plastics, they continue to do so. This not only leads to environmental pollution, but also remains an eyesore. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Play your due role in curbing dengue

### Health minister tells city corporations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The city corporation authorities in Dhaka are not taking adequate measures to control mosquitoes, said Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday.

"We are working with them [city corporations] relentlessly. Our researchers are also assisting them with necessary information. I hope the city corporations will not ease off its efforts [in controlling mosquitoes] and keep any lapses," the minister said.

Speaking at a discussion programme on the occasion of World Malaria Day at a city hotel,



he also expressed concern over the increasing number of dengue cases across the country.

"We have all-out preparations to address the dengue crisis. Doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals are on standby and fully prepared [to tackle the situation]," he then said.

It is crucial to remain vigilant as both dengue and malaria are transmitted by mosquitoes, the minister further said.

Meanwhile, a person died and 285 others got infected with dengue in the last 24 hours

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## Government not curtailing media freedom

### Info minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The incumbent government is not interfering in the free dissemination of news, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud told the parliament yesterday.

Responding to lawmakers' queries, he said action would be taken against any news portal accused of disseminating anti-national and fabricated news.

With Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair, the question-answer session of yesterday's parliament sitting was tabled.

In reply to a query of opposition

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## 'Some engaged in interfering with judiciary'

### Says Justice Nuruzaman in his farewell speech

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Md Nuruzaman, the senior most judge of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division, yesterday uttered terms such as "intellectual corruption in some cases", "uncle court" and "batchmate and classmate court" — saying some individuals are engaged in interfering in the judiciary and judicial activities.

"Meanwhile, if the learned lawyers observe that intellectual corruption is taking place in some cases — as there is such a buzz of having uncle court and batch mate and classmate court — people's faith in the judiciary is violated. The judges and court officials and staff members cannot remain dishonest, if the lawyers are competent and honest



**If the judges are not independent, independence of judiciary will not be established.**

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## 11 CASES AGAINST KHALEDA Charge-framing hearing on July 16

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday set July 16 for hearing on charge framing against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in 11 cases.

Judge Md Asaduzzaman of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court adjourned the hearings and fixed the new date.

Khaleda, who is out of jail following an executive order from the government, is now unwell and is under treatment at Evercare Hospital.

Among the 11 cases, 10 were filed in the first three months of 2015 over arson attacks, while the rest was filed with a Dhaka court on charge of making seditious comments on freedom fighters and martyrs of the Liberation War.



People with physical disabilities stage a demonstration at Shahbagh yesterday to press home their 11-point demand, including a special quota in government service and an increase in monthly allowance. The protesters wanted to march towards the parliament but they were intercepted by police at Shahbagh. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## 'Country is ours, but headache is theirs'

### Says Quader pointing to letters by MEPs, members of congress

UNB, Dhaka

Pointing towards BNP, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said even though the party is not in power, they have the money to hire lobbyists using crores of taka.

"Today, the game is on not only in Bangladesh, but also abroad, centring the national election. A conspiracy is underway," he said.

Quader said those who make tall claims and lie in the name of politics, complain to foreigners so that Bangladesh falls into more trouble.

"Six members of the European Parliament and six members of the congress of the United States sent letters stating that human rights are being violated in Bangladesh, fair elections must be ensured. The country is ours, but the headache is theirs," he said.

He said this at Awami League office on Bangabandhu Avenue while addressing a discussion on a three-month-long tree plantation programme organised by the Krishak League. He also said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul should apologise for his derogatory



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## Govt plans to hold state-managed polls

### Alleges Fakhrul on reshuffling police, admin

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the government has started reshuffling police and public administration to hold another state-managed election.

Speaking at a discussion, he, however, said the country's people will thwart all the "blueprints" of the government through a mass uprising in the days to come.

Jatiyatabadi Sangskritik Forum, a pro-BNP platform, arranged the programme at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Fakhrul said there is no alternative to intensifying the ongoing movement to oust the current government. The BNP leader said the government has also been regulating media outlets through the Digital Security Act. He said it is the characteristics of the Awami League is that it cannot tolerate dissent.

Fakhrul said the current government must be removed through a strong movement to restore democracy and press freedom.

He alleged that their party chief Khaleda Zia was jailed unlawfully in "false" cases out of political vengeance.

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