

JOURNO NADIM MURDER

‘Bring killers to book’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Numerous rights organisations, journalists’ associations and political entities yesterday staged demonstration in the capital and other regions of the country protesting the murder of journalist Golam Rabbani Nadim.

They demanded immediate arrest, trial and punishment for those involved in the killing.

Besides, they also urged the authorities to ensure safety and security of journalists.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union formed a human chain near Raju Memorial Sculpture on Dhaka University campus demanding speedy trial of the culprits.

The organisation’s President Ragib Nayeem, General Secretary Rakibul Rony and Organising Secretary Tamzid Haider Chanchol, among others, spoke at the event.

The speakers said they did not need a government that failed to ensure a journalist’s security.

A section of journalists in Savar, under the banner of Ashulia Press Club, formed a human chain in Baipail area near Nabinagar-Chandra Highway.

Khagrachhari Journalists’ Union also formed a human chain in front of the central Shaheed Minar of the district. Khagrachhari Press Club and Khagrachhari TV Journalists’ Association expressed their solidarity.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), in its statement, expressed grave concern and anger at the incident.

“Killing of Golam Rabbani is the latest example of repression and atrocity on journalists. The TIB is urging the government to create an example of goodwill in ensuring the protection of journalists by conducting a fair probe into the incident of Golam Rabbani killing and punishing the perpetrators who are directly and indirectly involved in the incident,” the statement read.

Manabdhikar Shongskriti Foundation also released a statement in this connection.

The incidents of attacks on journalists and media have become so frequent that it is regrettable, the statement read.

Dhaka Union of Journalists President Omar Faruk and Secretary General Deep Azad, on behalf of their union, strongly protested and condemned the attack on



Golam Rabbani Nadim



Bangladesh Chhatra Union forms a human chain near Raju Memorial Sculpture on Dhaka University campus yesterday, protesting the murder of journalist Nadim. Many other rights organisations and journalists’ associations also protested the incident across the country. PHOTO: STAR

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PHOTO: PTD

Reduce subsidies on fisheries

Urges WTO chief at meeting with prime minister

UNB, Geneva

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has asked Bangladesh to reduce the subsidies on fisheries.

The request came from Dr Okonjo Iwela, director general of WTO, on Thursday when she called on visiting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the meeting room of Hotel President in Geneva.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen briefed the reporters about the meeting.

He quoted the WTO director general as saying that her organisation would like to sign an agreement with Bangladesh in this regard.

“We said we will consider this (the issue of subsidy),” said Momen, adding that Bangladesh does not give heavy subsidies on fisheries though.

The WTO chief mentioned about the dispute settlement body of the organisation, which has remained inactive for a couple of years.

Dr Iwela requested the prime minister to raise the issue when she goes to the G-20 meeting to be held in next September in New Delhi and other international forums, according to Momen.

The WTO chief also asked Bangladesh to diversify its export basket.

Regarding fishing in deep sea, Hasina said Bangladesh lacks in capabilities in this sector. The prime minister said she has already talked with the Maldives and Japan in this regard.

Earlier, Qatar’s Labour Minister Dr Ali Bin Samik Al Marri called the prime minister at the same venue.

He said there are some 3.70 lakh Bangladeshis working in his country and they are satisfied with their performance.

“Qatar has expressed their interest to take more manpower from Bangladesh. They will ink an agreement in this regard,” Momen said.

39 more get hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 39 dengue patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With this, the total number of dengue cases this year rose to 4,126, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Some 962 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment. A total of 3,135 dengue patients were released from hospitals. So far, 29 people have died of dengue this year. The number of deaths in dengue was 281 last year while the number of cases was 62,382, of which 23,162 were outside Dhaka.



A family forced to leave the Ramna Park as it will close down for around two hours in the middle of the day. Inset, the notice on the gate. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

RAMNA PARK

Why is there a time restriction?

Ramna Park, also known as the “green heart” of Dhaka and maintained by the Public Works Department (PWD), remains closed to people during certain hours of the day, even though Covid-related restrictions have been lifted from other parks.

“It does not make sense that all other parks in the capital are open all the time, but Ramna Park is still closed for certain hours of the day,” said Jahirul Haque, a public university teacher.

According to a notice stuck to the gate of the park, it is open to people from 6:30am to 12:30pm and then from 2:00pm to 8:00pm. During a recent visit to the park, this

In Dhaka, the scarcity of public places remains one of the major problems, yet people are not being able to utilise the capital’s largest park to the fullest.

ADIL MOHAMMED KHAN
Urban Expert

correspondent witnessed a concerning situation, where families and individuals seeking entry had congregated near the park’s entrance.

Despite their requests, the guards denied them entry.

Many individuals waiting at the gate shared their experiences with this correspondent.

For example, Jahanara Khatun travelled from Narayanganj to Dhaka for a medical

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NATIONAL ELECTION

Visa restriction or sanction can’t stop polls: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the national election of Bangladesh cannot be stopped by sanction or visa restriction.

“We do not interfere in affairs of other countries and do not want interference of foreign countries in our election. We have an independent Election Commission,” said Quader.

The Awami League general secretary said this while addressing a peace rally held at Adarsha High School Ground at Mirpur-10 in the capital.



Quader speaking at a rally in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Our movement has now become people’s movement: Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

The government will not be able to hold on to power anymore as the people of the country have awakened, said BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday.

He was speaking at a rally organised by the Sirajganj district unit of the party at Islamia College.

Demands for the removal of cases against Begum Khaleda Zia and other BNP leaders including Iqbal Hasan Mahamud Tuku were also raised from the rally.

Fakhrul began his speech by condemning what he



Mirza Fakhrul addressing a rally in Pabna yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

claimed were false charges against BNP leaders as a means to stifle the opposition and send them to jail.

“There is no rule of law in our nation, which has left citizens feeling unsafe both within and outside their homes,” added Alamgir, underscoring the need for change.

“That’s why our movement to oust the government has become the movement of the people,” he added.

Meanwhile, BNP senior leader Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain at a programme yesterday said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina tried to hide the reality by telling the international community that Bangladesh’s economy has a dignified position now.

“The truth can never be suppressed for long with hollow words. As we know the economy of Bangladesh, the whole world also knows it,” he said

Speaking at a discussion, the BNP leader said the government is “begging” foreign loans from different countries and international lending agencies to run the country while import is being halted for lack of

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BNP looking for excuses to quit polls: info minister

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League Joint General Secretary Hasan Mahmud yesterday said his party wants BNP’s full-strength participation in the national election but they are looking for excuses to avoid the polls.

The information minister was replying to a question while exchanging views with journalists at his Minto Road official residence in Dhaka.

About BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul’s comment that the government is hatching conspiracy to oust the BNP, he said, “We want that the next general election to be held in a free and fair manner with participation of all parties.”

“But the irony is that BNP always flees from polls. Mirza Fakhrul and Ruhul Kabir Rizvi are making such comments to create excuses,” he said.

He said BNP’s target is not to take part in elections rather they want to foil the polls and make it questionable. How many people take part in an election is more important than the number of participating parties, he said.

‘Adorn-a-Rickshaw’ contest held



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Filipinos in Bangladesh showcased their creativity by participating in an “Adorn-a-Rickshaw” contest yesterday, paying tribute to the iconic vehicle, as part of the Philippine festivals.

The decorated rickshaws took center stage during the Kalayaan (Independence) parade, led by Philippine Ambassador Leo Tito L Ausan Jr, which brought together around 200 people at the Baridhara Diplomatic Zone.

In the contest, the Philippine Society in Bangladesh (PSB) claimed the first prize for their

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