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JOURNALIST NADIM MURDER

Call for justice
gets louder

STAR REPORT

A barrage of protest programmes were held and condemnations continued to pour in yesterday demanding punishment for the killers of journalist Golam Rabbani Nadim.

Different journalists organisations based in Dhaka and other regions of the country, rights bodies and teachers' associations held human chains, rallies and issued statements protesting the murder.

In a statement, Ain o Salish Kendra said such an incident is a threat towards the freedom of the press.

"The impact of such incidents is far-reaching, which narrows the role of the media in establishing accountability and good governance. It is unfortunate that in the last two decades, not a single trial of the killings of journalists was completed nor the punishment of anyone was ensured," reads the statement.

The platform demanded ensuring punishment of the killers to prevent recurrence of such incidents.



Meanwhile, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday said the government will do whatever it takes to bring the killers to book.

"Already the prime suspect and other culprits have been arrested. Everything will be done to ensure capital punishment. We will also have to remain alert so that such incidents do not happen in future,"

Hasan Mahmud told reporters at an orientation programme of a university in Chattogram.

In the capital, two journalists' forums — Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and Dhaka Union of Journalists — organised a protest rally in front of Jatiya Press club demanding exemplary punishment for the killers of Nadim within a shortest possible time.

Addressing the event, Omar Faruk, president of a faction of BFUJ, said, "Nadim's killing was pre-planned. I don't think that only the chairman is involved. The real culprits will be found if the law enforcers investigate properly."

Former president of BFUJ Manjurul

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Journalists all over the country continue to protest the murder of their peer Golam Rabbani Nadim. Yesterday, they held rallies and human chains, and brought out processions demanding exemplary punishment for the killers. The photo was taken in the capital.

PHOTO: STAR

Dengue spike
rings alarm

Experts fear higher death rate, urge caution

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Bangladesh is grappling with a sudden rise in dengue cases this year, as the country has already recorded 4,427 cases and 33 deaths since the beginning of 2023.

During the same period in 2022, the total number of cases stood at 690, with no reported fatalities, according to the data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Worryingly, within just 17 days of June, the country has already reported 2,570 new dengue cases and 20 deaths, according to the DGHS.

In the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, two dengue patients died and 477 were hospitalised.

Keeping the statistics in mind, experts speculated that the country may witness an even worse outbreak of Aedes mosquito-borne disease this year as the presence of mosquito has increased in the early days of summer.

This has also sparked concerns among health authorities and people alike.

"It is highly likely that both the dengue cases and deaths will break

the all-time record in August-September," Kabirul Bashar, professor and entomologist at Jahangirnagar University, told The Daily Star yesterday.



If fever persists for 4-5 days, people should get a dengue test as per the advice from a physician.

Saifullah Munshi
Professor of virology at BSMMU

He highlighted multiple reasons behind his speculation.

"The first reason is that the outbreak last year got abnormally prolonged till January this year as the authorities failed to destroy

the favourable conditions for the breeding and proliferation of Aedes mosquitoes," he said.

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.

The latest outbreak, meanwhile, highlights the similar failure, which was also echoed by Health Minister Zahid Maleque last week.

At an event on Wednesday, he said there may be gaps in the city corporations' efforts to control the spread of Aedes mosquitos, resulting in deterioration of the dengue situation.

Referring to a field investigation last year, Prof Bashar, said the favourable conditions for the breeding of mosquitoes have increased notably due to the massive construction works and water stagnation.

"So, the dengue outbreak continued even after January, and it started galloping as soon as the rainy season started in June," Prof Bashar said. "These are the leading causes, but climate change and unpredictable weather patterns have also been impacting the

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Khaleda Zia
returns home
from hospital

UNB, Dhaka

B N P Chairperson Khaleda Zia returned to her Gulshan residence yesterday evening after receiving treatment for four days at Evercare Hospital in the capital.

"She was discharged from the hospital as per the decision of the medical board. The board took the decision after reviewing her medical test reports. Now she will be treated at home," said her personal physician AZM Zahid Hossain.

The BNP chief left the hospital at 6:35pm and reached home at 7:50pm, said BNP media cell member Sayrul Kabir Khan.

She was admitted to Evercare Hospital early Tuesday as she suddenly fell sick with a fever and stomachache.

Later, she underwent various medical examinations under the close supervision of her medical board at the hospital.



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Uttara to Tongi
College Gate flyover
opens to public

PHOTO: STAR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly-constructed flyover from Uttara to Tongi College Gate area under the Bus Rapid Transit project was opened to public yesterday.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader inaugurated the 4.5km section of the project at an event in Tongi in the morning.

After inspecting the flyover, the minister said about 91 percent of the work of the entire BRT project has been completed, and 95 percent of the work on the elevated section from the House Building in Uttara to Cherag Ali College Gate in Tongi has been finished.

The entire project will be completed by September or October this year, he added.

The BRT project, extending from Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Joydevpur in Gazipur, has been under construction for nearly 11 years, leading to inconveniences and public criticism due to the extended duration.

Quader acknowledged the need for more consideration before initiating such projects, stating, "It would have been better if more

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Arshad Waliur
Rahman's
qulkhwan tomorrow

STAR REPORT

The qulkhwan and milad mahfil of Arshad Waliur Rahman will be held tomorrow after the Asr prayers at House-NE (J) 4, Road-83, Gulshan-2, Dhaka.

Arshad, a member of the board of directors of Transcom Group, died at his home in the capital's Gulshan on Friday morning. He was 58.

He was the eldest son of late Latifur Rahman, founder chairman of Transcom Group.

His family members have requested all relatives and well-wishers to attend the prayers for the salvation of the departed soul.

NATIONAL ELECTION

Fair polls not possible
under this govt

Says GM Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said that free, fair and impartial elections are not possible under the present government and this has been proven time and again.

"People also feel that the city corporation elections held so far were not conducted properly," GM Quader, also deputy leader of the opposition in parliament, said.

He was addressing a views exchange meeting with the leaders of Jatiya Sangskritik Party at the JP chairman's Banani office.

GM Quader said the deliberate use of EVMs is destroying the transparency of elections. Many have complained that EVMs are being tampered with, people are being brought from outside and placed inside the booths.

He also said people from different agencies are being used to create a sense of fear among people during the elections. The ruling party's people are intimidating the supporters of the rival candidates, not even

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Will join polls but only
under neutral govt

Says BNP leader Nazrul Islam

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Standing Committee member Nazrul Islam Khan termed Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader's comment that many BNP leaders are preparing to join the next election under a partisan government a "sheer lie".

"We all want to participate in the elections, but not under this government, under a non-partisan neutral government," he said.

Speaking at a discussion, the BNP leader said their party has long been boycotting the local government elections and a few leaders who joined the polls have been expelled from the party.

Nazrul said the ruling party leaders are making reckless comments about BNP and its leaders.

Shaheed Pinku Smriti Parishad arranged the discussion at Dhaka Reporters Unity, marking the 43rd death anniversary of Rajshahi Medical College unit Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader Mainul Ahsan Pinku.



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