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## 'No one can halt our development'

PM awards fellowships to 48 scholars

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked scholars to consider local realities when applying education and knowledge gained abroad to implement development plans that are pro-people and sustainable.

"You'll have to know, understand and feel the country first. Some knowledge can be acquired from it. If you implement development plans coordinating between the knowledge acquired from the natural environment and the knowledge obtained from higher education, the development will be sustainable, pro-people," she said.

"Thus, the country can march forward. We will never depend on others' model for ensuring the development of our country... no one can halt our development," he said, reports BSS.

The premier said this while awarding the Prime Minister's Fellowship 2023-24 at a programme at Shapla Hall in her office for pursuing Master's and PhD degrees in the world's reputed universities.

As many as 48 scholars -- 38 master's fellows and 10 PhD fellows -- from different sectors received the fellowship to pursue their higher studies abroad, reports UNB.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handing over the Prime Minister's Fellowship award to a recipient at a programme at Shapla Hall in her office yesterday. As many as 48 scholars -- 38 master's fellows and 10 PhD fellows -- from different sectors received the fellowship to pursue their higher studies abroad.

## Ensure free dengue test, treatment

GM Quader urges govt

UNB, Dhaka

The situation of dengue across the country is worsening day by day, so the government and private hospitals should ensure free dengue testing and treatment with government assistance, said Jatiya Party Chairman and Deputy Leader of Opposition GM Quader yesterday.

Besides, action should be taken against those who cannot control the dengue situation due to failure and incoordination. If there is evidence of corruption, action should be taken against them, he added.

In a statement, GM Quader quoted the media as saying that 820 patients were admitted to the hospital with dengue in one day on Saturday. This is the highest in terms of numbers this year.

Official data showed that 67 people died of dengue since July 8. According to the data, 2,502 dengue patients, including 1,773 in the capital, are now receiving treatment at hospitals across the country.

So far, the DGHS has recorded 12,118 dengue cases and 9,549 recoveries.

GM Quader said there is no effective action from the government to tackle the dengue outbreak. If the dengue situation is not controlled, its consequences will become more dire.

The people are already in dire straits due to rising commodity prices. Therefore free dengue testing and treatment must be ensured, GM Quader emphasised.

PHOTO: PID

## Two to die for killing gardener 22 years ago

UNB, Dhaka

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday sentenced two people to death for killing a gardener of a nursery in Cantonment area of the capital in 2001.

The convicts are Mustafizur Rahman alias Liton, owner of the nursery and Anwar Hossain alias Anarul. They were tried in absentia.

Dhaka Speedy Trial Tribunal-2 M Ali Ahmed pronounced the judgement.

One Abu Taher along with Mustafizur Rahman started nursery business after taking a land on lease near Kurmitola. Mustafizur used to oversee recruitment and salary issues of nursery staff.

On September 5, 2001, Mustafizur did not find Abul Hossain, head gardener, in the nursery and came to know that he went to a hospital to see one of his relatives.

On September 7, 2001, SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## 'What should I do, buy food or pay for chemotherapy?'

Labour leader's murder leaves family in ruins

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Kajli Akhtar, a 32-year-old mother of two, does not know how to manage money required for her next chemotherapy session. Having already undergone two chemotherapy sessions since being diagnosed with uterine cancer in March, she now finds herself unable to afford the life-saving treatment following her husband's murder.

Shahidul Islam, president of Gazipur unit of Bangladesh Garment and Industrial Workers Federation, was beaten to death on June 25, immediately after attending a meeting to negotiate for workers' arrears at Prince Jacquard Sweater Ltd in Tongi Satish area.

Left without her husband, who was the sole breadwinner for the family, Kajli shared her anguish, stating, "We don't know how we will buy food for tomorrow...I don't see any way to arrange money for the rest of my chemotherapy sessions."

"A day after my husband was

killed, many people came to our house to console us. And that's all. Neither the administration nor anyone from his community came to see how we are surviving," added Kajli, who married Shahidul 21 years ago.

As she faces an uncertain future, Kajli's elder son, Sadiqul

case with Tongi West Police Station accusing six named (Hanif, Mazharul, 35, Akash, 38, Russell, 32, Ripon, 27, and Sohail, 26) and some five to seven unnamed people.

"Hanif was inside the factory before the time of murder. He is a henchman of a goon named



Shahidul Islam

**A day after my husband was killed, many people came to our house to console us. And that's all. Neither the administration nor anyone from his community came to see how we are surviving.**

KAJLI AKHTAR  
Wife of Shahidul Islam

Islam Apu, is preparing for his SSC exams, while her younger son, Ibrahim Khalilullah, is just starting his journey as a first-grader.

A day after the killing, Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Workers Federation central committee president Kalpana Akhtar filed a murder

Kamrul, who claims to be in charge of the factory, even though he is not an employee," she told reporters.

Police have so far arrested two accused in this case -- Russel and Mazharul.

Describing the day of murder, SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## ANTI-MUGGING DRIVE 505 arrested in seven days

8 held over mugging, rest on suspicion, says DMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 505 people were arrested in 208 cases in the first week of July following DMP's special drive to stop mugging, revealed its media department yesterday.

According to their data, eight of the arrestees were involved in mugging incidents, while 497 people were arrested over suspicion of robbery or mugging.

Tejgaon division filed the highest number of cases (73) and made the most arrests (187) among the eight crime divisions.

Lalbagh division arrested 73 people in 35 cases, while Mirpur division filed 32 cases and arrested 66.

A total of 23 cases were filed and 46 arrests were made by Ramna division while the Uttara division

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## BNP has secret ties with Israeli intelligence

Claims Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP has secret ties with Israel and its intelligence agency.

"The meeting between a representative of the Israeli intelligence agency and a senior BNP leader was exposed to the media. BNP is always involved in such anti-state activities," he said in a statement.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has made a false statement about the use of Israeli technology to hack the phones of opposition leaders.

Such an irresponsible statement, delivered by a political leader, is very shameful, he said.

Recalling Bangladesh's historic relations with Palestine, he said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had invited Yasser Arafat, the then president of Palestine, during the celebration of the silver jubilee of Bangladesh's independence.

Quader said Fakhrul could not present any specific evidence about phone hacking and that is why it is illegal to make sweeping comments on

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## DENGUE DRIVE 23 building owners fined Tk 6.61 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two Dhaka city corporations yesterday fined 23 building owners on the second day of the month-long anti dengue drive.

During the drive, DNCC and DSCC collected a total of Tk 6.61 lakh in fines from 23 cases where mosquito larvae were found in various areas under the city corporations.

DNCC conducted mobile court drives in 10 different areas and collected Tk 6.15 lakh as fines in total. "The campaign will continue throughout the month of July, aiming to create a dengue-free environment for all residents in Dhaka," said DNCC spokesperson Mokbul Hossain.

Meanwhile, DSCC conducted drives in Adarsha Para, Madartek, Agasadek Road, and Dholpur areas and fined seven building owners Tk 46,000, said DSCC spokesperson Abu Naser.

## No dialogue with BNP on polls-time govt: law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday ruled out the possibility of holding dialogue with BNP on the polls-time government, saying that "there is no necessity for holding dialogue on any unreal demand".

"The prime minister has categorically said no dialogue will take place. Election is the only solution and that is why, the election will be held," he said.

He said this while replying to queries from reporters at the inauguration of training programme for the assistant judges at Judicial Administration Training Institute. Replying to another query, the law minister said the Election Commission's power has not been curtailed through bringing amendment to the Representation of People's Order (RPO), rather the people's right to vote has been protected through this amendment.

If the polling of the entire constituency is stopped for a violence or untoward incident in one or few polling centres, it will not be democratic, but will be an interference to the people's right to voting and therefore, the RPO has been amended, he said.

The law minister also said the government has not written any letter for quick disposal of the pending cases against the BNP leaders. "The judiciary is independent. We have not written such a letter. If they can show such a letter, arguments will take place on it."



Postgraduate private trainee doctors continue their countrywide strike, demanding a hike in their monthly stipends to Tk 50,000 from Tk 20,000. Postgraduate trainee physicians are medical school graduates who pursue further specialised training in a specific medical field for 2-5 years to achieve higher degrees. The photo was taken at Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR