



**P5** **KMCH: 500 beds, 1,500 patients**



**B4** **Ctg customs misses import tax target**



**P7** **Pakistan gov't to retire early to move polls ahead**



**P11** **Hridoy's bat swings freely**

## BNP road marches attacked

1 killed, over 350 hurt in city, elsewhere

### STAR REPORT

Attacks on BNP processions in the capital and different districts left one activist dead and over 350 others injured as the party supporters marched demanding resignation of the government yesterday.

Besides, clashes between the BNP men, Awami League, and police in Bogura, Kishoreganj, Khagrachhari, Pirojpur, and Joypurhat left 57 policemen and 40 ruling party activists injured.

The incidents happened as the BNP held its first nationwide demonstration to press home its one-point demand for the government to step down and the next national election to be held under a non-partisan administration.

BNP's like-minded parties also demonstrated in different parts of the country.

The BNP is scheduled to march again today from the capital's Uttara to Jatrabari.

In the capital yesterday, hundreds of BNP activists left Gabtoli around 11:20am and reached Roy Saheb Bazar in Old Dhaka around 6:00pm, walking for over six hours under the scorching sun.

At Gabtoli, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said the people had risen for their rights and against "misrule".

In the afternoon, the AL also held a procession from Moulana Bhasani Road to Dhanmondi Road-32. The programmes caused long tailbacks on city streets.

### ACTIVIST KILLED IN LAXMIPUR

At Samad intersection of the town around 4:30pm, a 25-year-old man named Sajeeb was stabbed in his left arm during a clash between the BNP and AL activists.

Witnesses said the resident of Chandraganj area then took shelter at a nearby shopping mall while bleeding profusely. He died soon afterwards.

Laxmipur BNP said Sajeeb, a Jubo Dal activist, was hacked by ruling party men.

Locals said the clash began as police and AL men intercepted a BNP procession near Jhumur Cinema Hall.

As the clash spread to different areas, at least 100 people, including 30 policemen, were injured. The local BNP said 70 of its activists were injured.

Anwar Hossain, resident medical officer at Laxmipur Sadar Hospital, said 69 people received treatment at the facility, and 12 of them had shotgun pellet injuries.

### CAPITAL

In Mirpur, several activists were injured in a clash between BNP men and Bangladesh Chhatra League activists from Govt Bangla College. Both sides hurled brick chunks at each other.

BNP activists torched a motorcycle, a bicycle, and damaged the college gate.

Locals and students said the clash began when BCL activists threw chunks of bricks at the BNP procession.

### BOGURA

At least seven people suffered shotgun pellet wounds as

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BNP activists marching on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue as they walked from Gabtoli to Roy Saheb Bazar demanding resignation of the government. *Right*, a procession of hundreds of Awami League leaders and activists passing through Shahbagh intersection as the party organised a march for "peace and development" from Moulana Bhasani Road to Bangabandhu museum on Dhanmondi 32 yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ, PRABIR DAS



**The BNP is scheduled to march today from the capital's Uttara to Jatrabari.**

## AL calls for unity among party activists

### Holds rally, brings out procession

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League yesterday called upon its activists to stay united and maintain discipline ahead of the national election.

"Please don't be involved in any chaos. We have to be patient ... If you see any chaos, inform the law enforcement agencies. I request you, please don't get into any trouble with the BNP," AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader told a rally before the party brought out a procession, which it called "a march for peace and development."

"If we are united, no force can defeat us," he said. Dhaka city (south) unit AL organised the procession that started from the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), and ended at Dhanmondi-32. The programme was apparently to counter the BNP's road march.

The ruling AL also brought out processions in all cities and districts under Rajshahi, Chattogram, Barishal and Sylhet divisions.

The BNP yesterday held the programme to realise its one-point demand for polls under a non-party interim government.

Although the event in the capital was scheduled to start at 3:00pm, AL leaders and activists started thronging the venue since 1:30pm.

Within hours, the streets in front of IEB and Matsya Bhaban, and the other street leading to Shahbagh intersection were brimming with activists of AL, Chhatra League, Jubo League and Swachhchasebak League.

After 3:00pm, police suspended vehicular movement from Matsya Bhaban to Shahbagh intersection, causing tailbacks on nearby streets.

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## ATTACK ON HERO ALOM

# Govt clueless about how it happened

### UN, US, Amnesty condemn assault

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is embarrassed by Monday's attack on Ashraf Hossain Alom and is trying to find out who instigated the assault and why, sources said.

The government thinks the incident, towards the end of voting for the Dhaka-17

By election, could have been staged to put the government in a spot of bother when a European Union delegation is visiting Bangladesh to assess the overall situation ahead of the next general election, the sources added.

Supporters of MP-elect Mohammad Ali Arafat, wearing badges of "boat", the Awami League's electoral symbol, assaulted independent candidate Ashraf, popularly known as Hero Alom, after forcing him to leave the polling centre at Banani Bidyaniketan School and College around 3:20pm.

"We will investigate the incident and identify those responsible for the attack during the peaceful by-election. We are trying to ascertain the motive of the attack and identify the instigators," Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told reporters yesterday after a meeting with UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Gwyn Lewis at his Secretariat office.

"The government had made all arrangements to ensure peaceful voting. Why did the incident take place towards

the end of voting?"

Asaduzzaman assured Lewis of a proper investigation into the incident and informed her about the arrest of seven people in connection with the attack.

He said the rest of the attackers would be held after analysing the footage from CCTV cameras.

Before meeting the home minister, Lewis tweeted that the UN was concerned about the attack.

"The fundamental human right of everyone to participate in elections without violence should be guaranteed and protected," she wrote.

Replying to a question, the home minister also said they would probe if there was any negligence on the part of the police. If that is the case, the cops responsible would be held accountable.

Yesterday, Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal instructed the Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner to investigate the attack on Alom.

The CEC over the phone also asked the DMP chief to take stern actions against the culprits, said an EC statement.

Election Commissioner Md Alamgir termed the attack "unfortunate".

"It was an evil attempt to make the election questionable and the attempt was made when the polling was being held in a free and fair manner... we

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## POWER SECTOR

# 2 authors of IMED report made OSD

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authors of the controversial Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) report on the power sector have been demoted to officers on special duty in the ministry of public administration.

Mohammed Mahidur Rahman, director of IMED Sector-1, wrote the report, while SM Hamidul Haque, director general of the department, was the adviser for the report. Rahman held the rank of deputy secretary and Haque chief additional secretary.

The duo's demotion, which took effect from Monday, was posted in two separate notifications on the IMED website yesterday.

The development comes a day after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in an informal chat after the weekly cabinet meeting

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BNP activists and police clashed in Bogura town yesterday morning. At least seven activists suffered shotgun pellet injuries and 10 policemen were wounded in the clash.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## DENGUE CASES

# 18-40 age group worst-hit for late hospitalisation

Say experts; highest single-day deaths logged

### HELEMUL ALAM

Late hospital admissions and negligence in timely doctor visits are believed to be the reasons why patients aged between 18 and 40 are the worst affected age group in the ongoing dengue outbreak, experts said.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, said, "It's hard to say for certain why this age group has the highest number of deaths and cases so far this year

"However, we are assuming that the tendency to go to hospital late might be a reason. As people of these ages are relatively physically strong, they tend to delay going to hospital, and eventually put themselves at risk."

According to the data of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 13 dengue patients died while 1,533 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till yesterday morning.

This was the highest number of single-day deaths so far since the outbreak began.

With the new cases, the total number of deaths rose to 127 while that of cases rose to 24,000.

The DGHS data shows that 11,984 (highest) of the 24,000 cases and 53 (highest) of 127 deaths are of people aged 18-40. Of the other patients, 1,616 are aged between zero and five; 1,721 between five and 10; 3,823 are from 10-

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