

ROUTES OF BNP, AL PROCESSIONS TODAY



DEATH OF CHILD Family alleges wrong treatment by Central Hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family of a six-year-old child who died at the Central Hospital in Dhaka last week has raised allegations of wrong treatment and negligence by the doctors and the hospital and demanded justice.

They held a press conference at the Crime Reporters' Association of Bangladesh in Dhaka yesterday.

On July 7, Habiba Hira Chowdhury, who had a fever, was admitted to the hospital under doctor AFM Selim. She was diagnosed with dengue the same day.

During the press conference, Sofia Parvin, Habiba's mother, alleged that her daughter was given powerful antibiotics without proper tests.

"After she was given several types of antibiotics, my daughter's liver got damaged, which caused her to bleed via the rectum," the mother said.

She alleged that they found no doctor to inform about Habiba's condition and that only nurses were available. She also alleged that doctor Selim did not see the child regularly.

On July 10, when Selim last saw Habiba, he suggested paediatric intensive care support for the child. But the Central Hospital did not have a paediatric intensive care unit.

The child was rushed to the Universal Medical College Hospital and put on ICU support. On July 12, Habiba died.

"We learnt later that the dengue patient should not

PM to open power plant, 2 rail lines from India

She is to join G20 summit in Delhi in Sept

BSS, Dhaka

The Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant-2, the 65km Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Link, and the Akhaura-Agartala Rail Link projects are expected to be inaugurated during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in September to attend the 18th G20 Summit.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma said this as he paid a courtesy call on Hasina at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting.

The Maitree power plant and the Khulna-Mongla rail link projects have been implemented under the Indian LoC (Line of Credit) while the Akhaura-Agartala rail link has been built with Indian grant.

Thanking the Indian government for allowing Bangladesh to bring 40MW of power from Nepal using the Indian grid, the PM hoped that India would also allow Bangladesh to import power from Bhutan using its grid.

During the meeting, both sides expressed satisfaction over the state



of the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India.

They two also discussed Taka-Rupee exchange system between Bangladesh and India, connectivity, ongoing projects under the Indian LoCs and grants.

Regarding Taka-Rupee exchange system, the Indian high commissioner mentioned that two types of credit cards — one Rupee and the other Taka — will be issued.

"Both sides will issue these cards so that people of the two countries can use the cards for their payments," he said.

PM's Ambassador-at-Large Mohammad Ziauddin, PMO Secretary Mohammad Salahuddin, and Indian Deputy High Commissioner Binoy George were present during the meeting.

HINDENBURG ROW Indian tycoon Adani slams 'malicious' report

AFP, New Delhi



Indian tycoon Gautam Adani yesterday denounced fraud accusations against his group by a US investment firm as a "deliberate attempt" to damage its image, at the first annual general meeting since the scandal.

US short-seller investment company Hindenburg Research accused the Adani Group in January of using offshore tax havens to manipulate stock prices.

Before the allegations Adani was listed by Forbes as Asia's richest man, but shares in his group firms plummeted in the wake of the report, sending him tumbling down the rankings, with his fortune at one point dropping by

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Holy Ashura on July 29

UNB, Dhaka

Holy Ashura, commemorating the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), will be observed on July 29 as the moon for the month of Muharram was not sighted anywhere in Bangladesh yesterday.

The holy month of Muharram will start tomorrow.

The decision was made at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee at the conference room of Islamic Foundation at Baitul Mukarram office.

The day is a public holiday. Shia community members will bring out Tazia processions in the city, marking the day.

Special yearly incentive for govt employees announced

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government employees and pensioners will get a five percent yearly special incentive starting this year, read a gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Finance.

The incentive will be provided to employees of civil, self-governed and state-owned organisations; banks, insurance and financial institutions; the Border Guard Bangladesh and the police force who are under the national pay scale, reads the circular.

Every year on the first day of July, no less than Tk 1,000 will be given to the current employees and a minimum of Tk 500 to pensioners.

According to the circular, government employees who are on post-retirement leave (PRL) will get the special benefits based on their last drawn basic pay prior to the ongoing PRL.

SSC examinee dies after being hit by train in Malibagh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An SSC examinee was killed after a train hit him in Dhaka's Malibagh Level Crossing area yesterday evening.

The deceased was identified as Mahim, 16, son of Nasir Uddin of Kanudaskathi village in Jhalakathi's Rajapur upazila.

Mahim's maternal uncle Zakir Hossain said Mahim was to sit for the SSC examination this year.

He further said Mahim came to visit him about 15 days ago.

Saddam Hossain, sub-inspector of Shahjahanpur Police Station, said a train from Kamalapur Railway Station hit the boy when he was crossing the lines on foot at the level crossing in the evening.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead around 7:30pm, said the police official.

Coast Guard rescues 18 fishermen adrift at sea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Coast Guard has rescued 18 fishermen who were adrift on a fishing trawler for two days in the Bay.

Coast Guard (East zone) Media Officer SM Tahsin Rahman said on information, a Coast Guard patrol team rescued the fishermen around 5:30am today.

The fishermen from Hatiya of Noakhali went to sea for fishing on a wooden trawler on July 14.

The trawler's engine broke the next day, said Tahsin.

After the trawler drifted into mobile phone coverage area, the fishermen contacted the control room of the Coast Guard around 1:30am today, he said.

The trawler along with the fishermen was brought to Patenga of Chattogram, the official added.

BNP road marches attacked

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police opened fire during a clash with the BNP around 12:30pm, local BNP leaders said, adding that at least 40 activists were injured, while police claimed some 10 policemen were hurt.

The clash happened when police intercepted the marchers heading towards the Satmatha area where the AL was holding a programme.

As police fired teargas canisters, at least 54 students of the nearby Yakubia Girls High School became sick, said sources at the Bogura Mohammad Ali District Hospital.

Superintendent of Police Sudip Kumar Chakraborty said the BNP men attacked police and vandalised a police outpost.

KHAGRACHHARI, OTHER DISTRICTS
Over 50 people were injured as supporters of the BNP and AL clashed at Shapla Chattar and other areas as processions of the two parties met on the road.

Local leaders of the parties accused each other of instigating violence.

In Pirojpur, at least 35 people, including seven policemen, were injured in a clash between BNP supporters and police around 10:45am.

In Kishoreganj's Rathkhola area, around 50 BNP men were injured, and eight of them suffered shotgun pellet wounds amid police firing, said leaders of the party.

The police said 10 policemen were injured and police vehicles were damaged.

In Joypurhat, at least 25 people were injured in a clash between the archival parties around 5:30pm. BNP leaders claimed that the ruling AL activists vandalised their party office.

In Rajbari, a clash between two BNP groups left 50 activists injured before they began marching.

A journalist was also injured in the clash.

Meanwhile in Tangail, two BNP leaders were detained by police while marchers were stopped in Brahmanbaria and Noakhali.

AL calls for unity among party activists

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As the procession advanced towards Dhanmondi-32 through Mirpur Road, its adjacent streets saw traffic jams.

A large number of participants were on motorbikes and pickups.

Many wore colourful T-shirts and caps. They were carrying banners and placards written in favour of the party.

The procession marched through Shahbagh, Elephant Road and Mirpur Road before it ended at Dhanmondi Road-32 around 6:30pm.

Meanwhile, to counter the BNP's road march, the AL will today bring out another such procession from the capital's Satrasta intersection to Mahakhali at 3:00pm.

Addressing the brief rally held in front of IEB, Quader said the BNP's

road march is actually its "march towards defeat".

"What did [Mirza] Fakhrul [Islam Alamgir] say today? He said their road march programme is a 'victory march'. Actually it is their march towards defeat, towards fall," he said.

"Has the European Union [delegation] given [the BNP] a caretaker government? Did it say anything about the resignation of [Prime Minister] Sheikh Hasina and her government? What has the BNP got? Nothing?"

Quader added that the BNP thought the US delegation that recently visited the country would ask the government to restore the caretaker government system or would ask for dialogue. But the delegation returned without giving

anything to the BNP.

He reiterated that there would be no caretaker government system and there is no question of resignation of the government. "Sheikh Hasina will lead the polls time government."

"We will not move a bit from this stance. Whatever threatens the BNP issue, the Awami League will not bow to anyone."

AL Presidium Member Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya said, "We will face them [the BNP] on the street."

Among others, AL Presidium Member Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Joint General Secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim, organising secretaries Mirza Azam and SM Kamal Hossain also spoke at the rally.

2 authors of IMED report

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said it will be investigated who are the vested quarters and who in the media want to harm the government citing the IMED report. The Daily Star has learnt from people informed with the contents of the discussion.

The report, which was originally uploaded on the IMED website on May 25, called the practice of paying capacity charges to power plants a "model of robbery" and is a reflection of ill-motivated contracts.

After a few media outlets reported on the IMED report — titled "Research Report on Implementation Progress of Projects in Power Sector" — the planning ministry division quietly revised the paper, deleting the section that was critical of the power sector's business model.

In its rejoinder to media outlets, which was signed by Rahman, IMED said the controversial portions of the paper were from an opinion piece by Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb published in the Bangla version of The Daily Star on October 27 last year; those were not IMED's views.

This prompted the formation of a three-member probe body, headed by additional secretary Gazi Md Saifuzzaman, on July 11 to investigate how the opinion piece made it to the IMED's research report.

The committee was asked to submit the report in seven working days.

The two were discharged from the division for "the sake of investigation", said a top official of IMED on the condition of anonymity.

"The investigation is now at a primary stage — it takes some time to understand the facts clearly. Wait for a few days, all things will clear," Abul Kashem Md Mohiuddin, secretary of IMED, told The Daily Star.

Hasina also directed IMED to verify all reports before they are published, Mohiuddin told reporters after the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council.

18-40 age group

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18; 3,779 between 40 and 60; 993 between 60 and 80; and 81 over 80 years.

Seven of the 127 dead were aged between five and 10; 15 were 10-18; 29 were 40-60; 15 were 60-80; and two were 80 or older.

Meanwhile, six children under five have died so far.

Those who come to the hospital after reaching a critical stage are already late for admission, Nazmul added.

"Consulting a doctor early and taking necessary medications are essential if a person is diagnosed with fever. Patients should take enough fluids — coconut water, saline, home-made fruit juices and sherbets — to stay hydrated while having necessary vitamins and minerals to speed up their recovery process."

Prof Kabirul Bashar, of the zoology department at Jahangirnagar University, said people from the 18-40 age group move around outside a lot due to reasons including work, school, college and more, which could also be a reason for the high rate of their infections.

"Like others, this group too has to be careful about dengue and will have to wear full sleeve dress, socks and shoes, and ensure mosquito nets while sleeping both at day and night."

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman, of National University, reiterated that people from this age group are generally negligent when it comes to going to the hospital, while also having to move from place to place frequently.

He added that this age group is also vulnerable to multiple infections.

According to experts, the dengue virus has four variants (Den-1 to 4), each of which is further subdivided into distinct genotypes. Den-2, which consists of six genotypes (Asian/American, Asian I, Asian II, Cosmopolitan, American and sylvatic), is frequently associated with severe dengue infections and epidemics.

The risk of death becomes higher if a previous patient of the disease is infected with a different variant. However, early detection and immediate hospitalisation can help lower the risks significantly, they said.

Meanwhile, nine mobile courts of Dhaka South City Corporation yesterday conducted anti-mosquito drives at 314 buildings and fined 14 people Tk 1.18

lakh as they found Aedes larvae in their structures.

Dhaka North City Corporation as well fined 15 people Tk 5.62 lakh after separate drives.

Govt clueless

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cannot accept this," Alamgir told reporters.

Mostafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station, yesterday said seven people were arrested in connection with a case filed over the attack on Alom.

Sujan Rahman Shuvo, Alom's personal assistant, filed the case with Banani Police Station yesterday afternoon accusing 15-20 unidentified people of assaulting Alom and attempted murder.

The seven arrestees are Sanwar Kazi, 28, Sohel Mollah, 25, Biplob Hossain, 31, Mahmud Hasan Mehedi, 27, Mozahid Khan, 27, Ashique Sarker, 24, and Md Ridoy Sheikh, 24.

Yesterday afternoon, a Dhaka court placed Sanwar and Biplob on three-day remand each after Md Nuruddin, sub-inspector of Banani Police Station, produced them before it seeking seven-day remand for each.

The five others were sent to jail. Meanwhile, US state department spokesperson Matthew Miller on Monday said this type of political violence has no place in democratic elections.

He was replying to a question at a media briefing on the BNP's boycott of the by-election and attack on Alom just days after US Under Secretary Uzra Zeya's visit to Bangladesh.

Miller said, "...As we have said before, we would expect the government of Bangladesh to hold free and fair elections, and we continue to monitor it closely."

He said the US encourages Bangladesh to investigate any reports of violence thoroughly, transparently, and impartially, and to hold the perpetrators of violence to account.

Condemning the attack, Amnesty International yesterday said, "Such an attack sends a chilling message ahead of the country's next general elections..."

The rights body on Twitter said the authorities must "immediately and impartially" investigate the attack, and bring the perpetrators to account.