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BNP backpedals on Dhaka-centric programmes

Fresh demos soon, Fakhru tells rally at Suhrawardy Udyan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP at yesterday's rally did not announce any fresh programmes for Dhaka to press home its one-point demand that polls be held under a non-party caretaker government.

Apparently, the party has deviated from its original plan to hold a series of programmes in the capital for the time being, said party insiders.

They said BNP will, however, hold rallies and processions in districts and divisions till the middle of this week, and resume its Dhaka-centric programmes in the third week of August.

This backtracking came after the party's poor show in Saturday's sit-ins at the entry points to the capital, where its activists were barred by police and ruling party members.

BNP said it's next programme will be announced shortly.

Addressing yesterday's rally at Suhrawardy Udyan, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said, "We will announce our programmes for the one-point demand shortly, after discussions with like-minded political parties. Before that, we want to tell the government to withdraw all false cases and release our leaders and activists."

Issuing a note of warning, he said the government is losing its ground and would not be able to hold office anymore.

"The government got scared of the opposition's movement and that's why it arrested 1,200-1,300 of our activists from a rally. You [the government] have been doing the same for the last 14-15 years, but this would not work anymore. You'll have to step down."

Referring to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's statement to administration officials and employees to not be afraid of movements as long as the people are with her government, he said, "You [Hasina] should be scared of the misdeeds and your misrule over the last 14 years."

Urging the government to not obstruct "the people's logical movement", he said, "We believe in peaceful programmes and will move forward with peaceful actions."

Fakhru added there was no support for the Awami League government at home or abroad.

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Patients have now poured out onto the balcony of the dengue ward at Mugda Medical College Hospital, as not only have all the beds been occupied, there is no space on the floor anymore either. According to the DGHS, the total number of recorded dengue patients in the country so far is 51,832. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

DENGUE OUTBREAK

Delay in test reports as patients swarm labs

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Asma Begum took her five-year-old son and a 12-year-old relative, both suffering from fever, to get their NSI and CBC tests, required to determine dengue, at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, as per doctor's advice, on Thursday.

"But we got the results on Sunday evening, and both of them are dengue positive. It even took two hours for me to reach a doctor after getting the report due to the long line at the emergency department," said an exhausted Asma.

Had the results come earlier, both children could have been well into their treatments already, she added.

While the results of these tests are required as soon as possible to determine dengue and its severity in a patient, hospitals are

struggling to do so – ultimately hampering treatment, which doctors are having to continue based on clinical judgement.

Ruhul Amin, husband of Afsana, 18, was waiting at the lab counter at Mugda Medical College Hospital for her test results.

"She gave her blood sample at noon yesterday [Sunday]. It's 3:00pm today [yesterday], and I'm yet to get the report."

The Directorate General of Health Services data shows that with four new deaths and 2,694 new cases recorded yesterday, the total number of fatalities reached 251, and cases 51,832.

Many of these patients, especially those experiencing dengue shock syndrome, need daily CBC (total blood count) tests for doctors to check for improvement or deterioration.

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While test results are required as soon as possible to determine dengue and its severity in a patient, hospitals are struggling to do so – ultimately hampering treatment.



No objection to movement, won't stand violence: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government has no objection to any movement by the opposition parties, but no arson violence would be tolerated.

"I never tolerate any arson violence. It can never be accepted. But we've no objection to whatever

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PMO orders campaign showcasing dev work

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The Prime Minister's Office has directed all ministries and divisions to take necessary steps to run campaigns on the development projects and programmes taken between 2009 and 2023.

The development activities of the government need to be publicised massively among the people, said the letter, which was sent to the cabinet secretary and other secretaries on July 25, The Daily Star has learnt from people with knowledge of the matter.

Shahida Sultana, director general of the Executive Cell of Prime Minister's Office signed the letter.

To do so, all the ministries and divisions need to publish information as pamphlets about all the completed and undergoing projects, programmes, significant innovations and digitisation, including those that were promised and directed by the prime minister, between 2009 and 2023.

The pamphlet should contain usage of the projects, their impact on public lives and photos, in befitting cases, it said, adding that those should be distributed at the field level.

The implementing agencies periodically prepare reports on their development achievements, said a top official of a government agency that received the letter on Thursday.

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BNP activists and supporters at a peaceful rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday after their sit-ins at the entry points of Dhaka on Saturday were marred by violence.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

De-escalate crisis: Amnesty US expresses concern over political violence

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Amnesty International has said the violence in Bangladesh over the weekend is deeply worrying and may have implications for the human rights situation before, during and after the elections.

It asked the Bangladesh authorities to de-escalate the ongoing crisis and respect

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BB server problem halts interbank transfers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Banks yesterday failed to settle transactions with other banks as the Bangladesh Bank's relevant server was down for much of the banking hours.

Instant transactions of funds among banks, which are done through the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system, could not be done, leaving many firms with unpaid bills and salaries.

"There is a technical problem – we are trying to resolve the issue as soon as possible," said Md Sarwar Hossain, assistant spokesperson of the BB.

As a workaround, BB officials suggested making cheque payments and using the Bangladesh Electronic Fund Transfer Network (BEFTN) system, both of which are working as normal.

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ROHINGYA ISSUE Chinese envoy quietly flies in, meets Momen

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chinese Special Envoy for Asian Affairs Deng Xijun yesterday held meetings with Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen on repatriation of the Rohingyas.

Diplomatic sources told The Daily Star that there was no public announcement about his

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Heartiest Congratulations

Syed Nasim Manzur
elected as Chairman of
Pioneer Insurance Company Limited

Mr. Syed Nasim Manzur has been elected unanimously as Chairman of Pioneer Insurance Company Limited in the 235th Board Meeting held on 27 July, 2023.

Mr. Syed Nasim Manzur completed his B.Sc. Economics in entrepreneurial management from Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, USA in 1990. He is now the Chairman of Landmark Footwear Ltd. & Managing Director of Apex Footwear Ltd. Besides, Mr. Manzur sits on the Board of Apex Tannery Ltd., Apex Pharma Ltd., Blue Ocean Footwear Ltd., Grey Advertising Bangladesh Ltd., Quantum Consumer Solutions Ltd., Sunbeams School Ltd., International Publications Ltd. He is presently serving as President of Leathergoods and Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh (LFMEAB) and Vice President of Bangladesh Association of Publicly Listed Companies. He served two terms as the President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Dhaka (MCCI), the oldest business chamber in Bangladesh.

He has a passion for art. He is the board member of Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art (SPBA) and FRIENDSHIP, an NGO. He also serves as a Board Trustee Member of BRAC University and Chairman of the Finance Committee. He was selected as committee member of various government/semi-government projects, like: Innovation Design and Entrepreneurship Academy (IDEA) Project, Tripartite Consulting Committee (TCC) under Ministry of Labour and Employment, National Committee for Export, Chaired by Honourable Prime Minister. Now he works as a Core Member of CITIZENS PLATFORM to support the government's efforts in pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a Member of Board of Governors of Capital Market Stabilization Fund (CMSF).

Mr. Syed Nasim Manzur is a regular guest speaker at the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) and National Defence College (NDC), Mirpur Cantonment, Dhaka.

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