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## Govt failed to tackle dengue outbreak

Alleges GM Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday said the government cannot avoid responsibility for its failure to effectively control the dengue situation in the country.

Quader, also the deputy leader of the opposition in the parliament, said the government had failed to tackle the ongoing dengue outbreak.

In a statement, he blamed the two city corporations for failing to control Aedes mosquitoes and demanded those responsible for the failure be held accountable.

The JP chairman also demanded that the government ensure proper dengue testing and treatment facilities in all hospitals and medical centres.

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The driver of a rickshaw-van, approaching from the opposite direction, tries to sneak underneath a level crossing while other vehicles wait for the train to pass. Such careless actions often lead to accidents. The photo was taken yesterday at Tejgaon Rail Crossing near Bangladesh Film Development Corporation.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Govt trying to create a reign of fear: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the Awami League government is recklessly using law enforcers to oppress opposition parties and individuals with different ideologies.

"Law enforcement agencies are continuing crackdown on opposition without any restraint," Fakhrul said in a statement.

Fakhrul also drew attention to the arrest of Abu Yousuf Selim, a joint convener of the Bhashani Onusari Parishad.

The ongoing suppression by the AL government has raised concerns, as exemplified by the arrest of Selim on July 29, he added.

This highlights a pattern of systematic oppression, Fakhrul alleged.

Despite Selim's deteriorating health condition while in custody, the statement alleged that he has been denied proper medical attention.

Fakhrul claimed that the government's intention is to establish a reign of fear so that no one can protest against the government.

"Still, people are taking to the streets to overthrow the government and they will be victorious," Fakhrul added.

He also called for the withdrawal of the case against Selim.



## 'Overcome conflict to unlock full human potential'

Says science speaker Asif at lecture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

From communicating across the globe to exploring distant planets, humans possess an innate curiosity to understand and uncover the mysteries of the natural world that have shaped civilisations throughout history, said science speaker and author Asif at an event recently.

He came up with this remark in a lecture titled "Solar System: A History of Changing Perspectives," where he shared his insight into humanity's extraordinary potential.

Organised by the online bookstore Chandradeep, the event took place at the Bishwo Shahitto Kendro in Dhaka.

Amidst a world grappling with conflicts, greed, and the yearning for dominance, Asif highlighted the immense opportunities that await humanity if it can transcend these challenges.

His presentation shed light on the solar system's vastness, reminding us that despite our progress, we remain a mere speck in the grand expanse of the universe. However, he offered a glimpse of hope and inspiration, suggesting that embracing a cosmic existence might be the



key to overcoming global crises and unlocking new frontiers of possibility.

Humans continue to struggle with conflict, greed, and the urge to dominate, despite having the ability to communicate with people around the world and visit other planets, he said.

They also have an innate and insatiable urge to discover and understand the natural world from the very earliest stages of their development. It is a driving force that has shaped the world's history and various cultures, he added.

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FISCAL YEAR 2022-23

## Remittance from KSA falls by 17pc

JAMIL MAHMUD

Remittance earnings from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia -- Bangladesh's biggest overseas labour market -- declined by 17.10 percent in last fiscal year amid growing concern over using unauthorised channels such as hundi by remitters.

The drop in remittance earnings came even as Bangladesh saw a 2.8 percent remittance growth in last fiscal year.

The \$3.7 billion inward remittance that Bangladesh received in FY 2022-2023 from the Gulf country is also 34.19 percent less than the \$5.7 billion received in FY 2020-2021, according to Bangladesh Bank data.

In FY 2021-2022, remittance sent by Bangladeshi migrant workers from KSA stood at \$4.5 billion, shows the central bank data.

Despite having a surge in migration of new workers to the Gulf country in past couple of years, this gradual decline in inward remittance from the country is alarming.

According to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), nearly 13 lakh migrant workers went to Saudi Arabia for employment between January 2021 and June this year, compared to 8.18 lakh workers going there in the previous three years.

In past 30 months, 54.65 percent of Bangladesh's total 2.3 million migrant workers went to Saudi Arabia, BMET data shows.

While addressing a seminar at the Bangladesh Embassy in Riyadh in June, Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Mohammad Javed Patwary pointed on hundi being instrumental



**The government needs to enhance its effort to rein in unauthorised channels like hundi to increase remittance. Remittance through formal channel will increase if gateway of hundi is stopped.**

SYED SAIFUL HAQUE  
Chairman of Warbe Development Foundation

behind decline in inward remittance.

Remittance from Saudi Arabia will have significant growth if it is sent through authorised banking channel averting hundi, the ambassador said, according to a Facebook post of the embassy.

He urged about 28 lakh Bangladeshi nationals currently residing in Saudi Arabia to generate awareness against hundi at

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## We will work for more transparency Says consumer rights DG on medical device import

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate of National Consumer Rights Protection will work to bring "more transparency" in the country's medical device import sector, especially devices related to cardiac, Director General AHM Shafiquzzaman of the directorate said yesterday.

The move will come in light of a recent drive during which anomalies in selling and managing such medical devices were found, Shafiquzzaman told a meeting at the directorate's office in the capital.

"When it comes to this sector, the level of patient satisfaction is very low," the director general added.

Similar medical devices have been sold at two to three times higher price in Bangladesh compared to a neighbouring country, he said.

He urged the Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) to enhance its inspection over the sector.

Besides, sophisticated cardiac-related medical devices include pacemakers, said meeting participants.

The DG said following the drive conducted based on complaints from consumers, administrative action was taken against one organisation that imports such devices.

It was fined and sealed off, he added.

There was a complaint regarding overpricing while there were also issues regarding management of the devices including that related to maintaining expiry date, he further said.

He said a committee will be formed consisting of representatives from various institutions including DNCRP, DGDA, Directorate General of Health Services, Bangladesh Trade and Tariff Commission, members of importers' association,

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## ATTACK ON BERNICAT CONVOY Detectives take 7th date to complete further probe

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked detectives to submit by September 4 the investigation report of the case filed over the attack on the convoy of former US ambassador Marcia Bernicat in August 2018.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Zaki Al Farabi passed the order after Detective Branch of police failed to submit the report.

Detectives have so far taken seven dates for completing further investigation into the case.

On December 28 last year, Dhaka Metropolitan

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## TARIQUE, ZUBAIDA CASE Pro-BNP lawyers protest verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, a body of pro-BNP lawyers, yesterday brought out flag processions at different bar association premises including that of the Supreme Court protesting the August 2 court verdict in a corruption case against BNP acting chairperson Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman.

The forum will stage sit-ins on all the 64 bar premises across the country tomorrow, said its Secretary General Kayser Kamal.

The BJAF also held a meeting at the SCBA yesterday afternoon rejecting the judgement.

The BJAF leaders told the meeting that the judgement has been delivered with a political motive under the pressure from the government in order to malign the Zia family.

A Dhaka court on August 2 sentenced BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman to nine years and his wife Zubaida Rahman to three years in prison in a graft case filed in 2007.

Former SCBA president Zainul Abedin, its former secretaries AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon, Md Bodruddoza Badal and Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal, BJAF's Kayser Kamal, Gazi Kamrul Islam Sajal, among others, spoke on the occasion.



People from all walks of life paid their last tribute to author and former lawmaker Panna Kaiser at the capital's Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. She passed away on August 4 at the age of 73 while undergoing treatment at a city hospital.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## More rain likely in Dhaka

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Meteorological Department has predicted light to moderate rain or thunder showers in most places of the country including Dhaka in 24 hours from 9:00am.

"Light to moderate rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barishal, Chattogram, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions with moderately heavy to very heavy falls at places over the country," said a BMD bulletin yesterday.

Highest 186mm rainfall was recorded in Bandarban in 24 hours till 6:00am yesterday.