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Bangamata's 93rd birth anniv today

BSS, Dhaka

The 93rd birth anniversary of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, wife of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, will be observed today across the country.

Bangamata, also known by her nick name Renu, was born on August 8, 1930 at Tungipara village in Gopalganj.

On the fateful night of August 15, 1975, she was killed brutally along with Bangabandhu and most of her family members.

Marking the birth anniversary of Sheikh Fazilatunnesa, Awami League and its associate bodies have chalked out elaborate programmes to pay respect to her memory. Wreaths will be placed at her grave in Dhaka's Banani area today.

Last year in an award giving ceremony, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her daughter, sketched Bangamata's key-shadow role in protracted independence struggle particularly in major turning points like the six-point demand, Bangabandhu's release issue and his March 7 speech.

Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh's emergence would have been impossible unless Bangamata would have taken a bold step

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Mohammad Hossain, a resident of Tongi in Gazipur, goes home on a rickshaw van with a boat he had just purchased for Tk 2,000. As rain continues to inundate various areas around the country, many others have chosen to take similar measures. This photo was taken yesterday.

HSC EXAMS Students hold demo for postponement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of students preparing for the HSC examinations staged a demonstration yesterday, urging the government to defer the upcoming exam scheduled to start from August 17.

Around 100 students from different colleges brought out a procession around noon from Shahbagh and staged a sit-in at the Science Lab intersection for two hours.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Mabruur Rahman Tasdid of Govt Shahid Suhrawardy College said they did not get sufficient time to complete the entire syllabus for the exam.

"At the same time, many of us are also infected with dengue, which has been widespread this year. So we have placed a four-point demand," he added.

Their demands include — holding the exams for 50-

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7 days, over 17,000 cases

First week of Aug sees more dengue patients than that of previous months

HELEMUL ALAM

At least 17,651 dengue patients were hospitalised in the first week of August, which is five times higher than the number of cases in the first week of July and 24 times of that in June.

A total of 3,320 and 698 cases were recorded in July and June respectively.

The number of dengue cases this month will be much higher than that of July, which was 43,854, fear experts.

According to Directorate General of Health Services, 14 dengue patients died while 2,751 others were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.



With the new cases, 69,483 dengue patients have been hospitalised so far this year, while the total number of deaths rose to 327.

Contacted, Entomologist Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University said, "Aedes mosquitoes will lay eggs where

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AL, BJP to work together for regional stability

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian ruling party BJP President JP Nadda yesterday said their party and Awami League will work for the greater interest of regional stability and carry forward the bilateral relations by strengthening party-level contacts in the future.

"BJP has a historic relation with the AL and we want to carry forward our relation in the days to come," he said after the visiting five member AL delegation held a meeting with the BJP president at his residence in New Delhi.

AL presidium member Abdur Razzak led the Bangladesh delegation consisting of AL joint general secretary Hassan Mahmood, Organising Secretary Sujit Roy Nandi, Aroma Dutta and Prof Marina Jahan.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed a wide range of issues including political stability in the region, Bangladesh's economic development, curbing militancy and India-Bangladesh relations as well.

Nada said the relations between the two countries reached a new height during the tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

He mentioned that the long standing Bangladesh India Land Boundary and Maritime Disputes and crisis in the Indian North-Eastern

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Won't let BNP, Jamaat foil polls Pledge 14-party leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alleging that the BNP-Jamaat are conspiring to foil the next national election, the leaders of ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance yesterday said they would unilaterally resist any such.

They made the remarks while addressing a "peace" rally organised by the alliance protesting the "terror and anarchy" of BNP, held in front of the AL headquarters at Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka.

"BNP wants to change the constitution in the name of movement," said AL Advisory Council member Amir Hossain Amu, also coordinator and spokesperson for the alliance.

Amu alleged that those who did not want the independence of this country are now conspiring to unseat the Sheikh Hasina-led government.

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College students stage a sit-in at Nilkhet yesterday, urging the government to defer the upcoming HSC exam, scheduled to start from August 17, for two months.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Unfolding the mysteries of Sundarbans

Initiative taken to set up 'museum and interpretation center'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A strategic location in the Chandpai range of the eastern Sundarbans, in the suburbs of Joymonir Ghol in Mongla's Chila union, has been chosen for establishing the Sundarbans Museum and Interpretation Center, the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

The centre has been initiated by WildTeam, with support from the forest department and KfW-German Cooperation under

IUCN's Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Programme. It will conduct research on the facts, heritage, and history of the Sundarbans region, which is home to an array of biodiversity.

It looks to widely disseminate knowledge regarding the forest's flora and fauna while advocating for its conservation.

OBJECTIVE AND AUDIENCE
The centre primarily aims to increase knowledge and pro-environmental attitudes among

local people, national and international tourists.

It will also function as a story-sharing hub, delving into the history, culture, and lifestyle of the forest dwellers, shared Enayetullah Khan, founder of WildTeam.

"The centre also aims to create awareness about threats to the forest and formulating ways of conserving it for the future. It will also help promote local ecotourism," he added.

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Migration not among govt 'priority' sectors

Claims JP lawmaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government does not want to accept the country's labour migration and remittance sector as a "priority" sector, Barrister Shameem Haider Patwary, chairperson of Bangladesh Parliamentarians' Caucus on Migration and Development, said yesterday.

"In national budget allocation, railway, waterway, bridges and roads... structural development got the government's priority," he said.

Shameem, a Jatiya Party lawmaker, was addressing a 2023-2024 post-budget national seminar on migrants' welfare at a city hotel jointly organised by BPCMD, Warbe Development Foundation and Helvetas Bangladesh. Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said the 2023-2024 national budget allocation for the expatriates' welfare ministry is Tk 1,018 crore.

Moazzem said outbound workers are increasingly facing challenges in host countries in addition to their challenges during pre-departure and post-return stages. He recommended undertaking a Tk 4,550 crore large project to address migrant workers' challenges at pre-departure, destination, and reintegration stages.

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