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DENGUE OUTBREAK

Of lost loved ones
and incomplete
goodbyes

10 more die, 2,748 infected

MOUDD AHMED SUJAN

Asrafullah Jamal, a dengue patient being treated at the capital's Kurmitola General Hospital, had a difficult time bidding farewell to his son, Kazem Ashraf.

The 15-year-old, who was also battling the mosquito-borne disease in the same hospital, passed away yesterday morning, within 24 hours of being admitted.

Asrafullah had to be shifted to the Intensive Care Unit as his health condition sharply deteriorated following his son's burial in their ancestral graveyard in Bhola's Lalmohon upazila.

On Thursday afternoon, Kazem was discharged from a private hospital in Dhaka's Badda, after receiving dengue treatment for four days. However, his condition deteriorated rapidly, with diarrhoea and convulsions beginning that night.

"Perhaps, Kazem would have a better chance at survival if he had stayed at the hospital for a few more days," said his cousin Zubaer Khan.

According to Zubaer, Kazem was refused treatment at two other private hospitals in the capital before he was admitted to Kurmitola.

Both Kazem and his father were diagnosed with dengue infection on Monday – around five days after the onset of fever.

"The only family member that could attend Kazem's burial was his brother-in-law, who took the body to Bhola via a launch. My aunt, Kazem's mother, is too

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A mother tries to feed her child, who is suffering from dengue, at Mugda Medical College & Hospital in the capital yesterday. At a time when the country is already grappling with a record outbreak of dengue fever, the current active monsoon conditions may contribute to the further spread of the mosquito-borne disease this month, say experts.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

FAKE VISA

Three held
for swindling
Tk 1.35 crore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of frauds has long been luring fortune seekers with employment prospects in Kuwait and scamming them by providing fake documents and visas.

They would open Facebook pages using fake IDs to attract those aspiring for overseas employment by promising them visa and handsome salary. If someone agrees, they would provide the fortune seekers with fake visas and documents in exchange for hefty fees, before going into hiding.

The scammers not only used to shatter their dreams, but also used to take their hard-earned money.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested three members of such a gang from Bandarban's Naikhongchhari and Dhaka's Vatara areas on Friday, Additional Commissioner of Police (DB) Mohammad Harun

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MURDER OF TEEN
Site engineer
led the brutal
killing: Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The brutal killing of a teenager in Mohammadpur was led by the site engineer of an under-construction building, where he was beaten to death by the construction workers, Rab said.

The Rapid Action Battalion arrested three persons, including the engineer, in different areas of the capital on Friday, Khandaker Al Moin, director of the legal and media wing of Rab, told a press briefing at the Rab Media Centre yesterday.

The arrestees are – Mir Moazzem Hossain Pranto, 25, Firoz, 18, and Mostafizur Rahman, 35.

Akash Mia, 14, a seventh-grader at a local school, along with several friends, went into an under-construction building near Barab Government Primary School on Wednesday night.

Akash was trapped while his friends managed to escape when construction site workers chased them.

They later tortured him to death.

The Rab official said that

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What will BNP
do now?Asks Obaidul Quader at AL rally
referring to Biden's selfie with PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League's General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP's ongoing movement has no public support, and even the US has turned its back on them.

Quader said the BNP leaders got "a terrible shock" yesterday seeing US President Joe Biden himself taking a selfie with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her daughter autism expert Saima Wazed Putul while exchanging pleasantries on the G20 Summit sidelines in New Delhi.

"But what is seen today? Biden himself took a selfie with Sheikh Hasina... in Delhi."

"What will happen to BNP after seeing this scene? What form of movement will you wage now?" he asked while addressing a "peace rally" organised by Dhaka city (south) unit AL protesting the "terror and anarchy" of the BNP in front of the AL headquarters in the capital's Gulistan.

Claiming that the BNP's road-march programme failed to gather a crowd, Quader said, "I don't think people will join their rally again. There was no people's engagement [in their movement] and [after today] their activists will no longer look up to America."

In response to the BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir's remark that Bangladesh is becoming a playground of big powers, Quader said Bangladesh is following "friendship towards all, malice towards none," dictated by the father of the nation.

"There is no enmity here... Sheikh Hasina has maintained this policy, it will be proved in the coming days."

Quader said that their peace rally will continue till the next elections.

He also claimed that the BNP is secretly preparing for the

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People's govt
after ousting ALSays Mirza Fakhru at BNP
rally in Nayapaltan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said a "people's government" will be established in the country after the Awami League government is ousted by a united front of political parties and mass people.

He again urged AL to resign saying "People don't want the Awami League government to stay in power even for a second."

Mirza Fakhru made these remarks at a rally jointly organised by BNP South and North units in front of the party's central office in the capital's Nayapaltan.

The opposition rally, which came after a two-week break, started around 4:30pm as part of their one-point demand for the resignation of the AL government and holding the next national polls under a non-party caretaker government.

Yesterday, the party leaders and activists took out two mass processions in the capital as part of their movement. Dhaka south city unit of BNP brought out the procession from near Kamalapur Railway Station at 2:30pm while the north city unit BNP started from Rampura at the same time.

Around two hours later, causing immense suffering to city dwellers, both the processions ended in front of the party headquarters at Nayapaltan.

Fakhru, addressing the rally as the chief guest, lauded the huge crowd. He also demanded the government's resignation before the announcement of the election schedule and urged AL to form a neutral and non-party government.

He said people will only participate in the election if it is held under a new election commission, formed by a new government.

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Road accidents
down by 21pc in
August: RSF

STAR REPORT

Road accidents decreased by 21.13 percent and fatalities by 34.03 percent in August, compared to July this year.

Road Safety Foundation, an organisation working on road accidents, released these statistics yesterday.

In a press release sent to the media yesterday afternoon, the foundation said 403 road accidents were reported in the country in August. As many as 378 people were killed and 794 injured. In July, 573 people were killed in 511 road accidents.

Of the 378 people killed in August, 44 were women and 51 were children. A total of 146 were killed in 142 motorcycle accidents, which is 38.62 percent of the total deaths.

At least 93 pedestrians were killed in road accidents, which is 24.6 percent of the total deaths. Some 57 drivers and their helpers were killed, which is 15.07 percent of the total deaths.

The accident statistics have been prepared on the basis of information from nine national dailies, seven online news portals and electronic media.

The Road Safety Foundation also said 17 people were killed in 11 boat accidents during this period and nine people were injured and six were missing.

Meanwhile, 37 people were killed and 19 injured in 28 accidents on the railway tracks.

According to the analysis of road accident data, 169 accidents took place on national highways, 148 on regional roads, 45 on rural roads, 37 on city roads and four in other places.

Dhaka division recorded the highest number of accidents and fatalities; 126 people were killed in 143 accidents. Sylhet division had the lowest number of accidents with 19, which claimed 16 lives. Gazipur has the highest number of accidents as a single district with 29 people killed in 31 accidents.

'Don't harass
Dr Yunus'Speakers say at a
discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday urged the government to stop harassing Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Muhammad Yunus.

They made the demand while speaking at a discussion organised by the Bangladesh Projonmo Academy, a pro-BNP platform, at the Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital.

"He [Yunus] is not beyond the law. But there is a perception everywhere in the country and abroad that he is being harassed. How are we benefiting from this? Rather, if we had made him a travelling

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(Left) Awami League activists, protesting the "terror and anarchy" of BNP, gather for a "peace rally" in front of their central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital; (right) BNP activists gather for a rally in front of their Nayapaltan party office to press home their one-point demand.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN, AMRAN HOSSAIN