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This picture was an appropriate response to the BNP leaders' propaganda that the government has no friends.

OBAIDUL QUADER
Awami League general secretary on the US President Joe Biden's selfie with Sheikh Hasina



“
People now want a change [of government] from the bottom of their hearts. The time is very short. Let's unite and continue the struggle [for democracy].

MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR
BNP secretary general on Awami League government's misrule



(Clockwise from left) French President Emmanuel Macron is welcomed by musician Rahul Ananda and his wife at their residence in the capital's Dhanmondi on Sunday night; Macron takes a selfie with Bangladeshi locals and members of an NGO after a boat ride on the Turag river, yesterday; following the cruise, the president stops by a local stall to enjoy a plate of shingara, samosa and jilapi. PHOTO: PID AND AFP



Dengue cases cross 1.5 lakh

11 more die, 2,944 hospitalised in 24 hours

HELEMUL ALAM

At least 2,944 dengue patients were hospitalised across the country yesterday, pushing the total number of infections to 151,272.

According to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 11 more people died from the mosquito-borne disease in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday. With the new deaths, the total number of fatalities rose to 741 this year.

Of the 11 deaths reported yesterday, seven were reported in the capital.

This is the deadliest year since the first recorded Dengue epidemic in 2000.

Hospitals, especially in Dhaka, are struggling to accommodate the large number of patients suffering high fever, joint pain, and vomiting.

Among the top 10 affected districts, Dhaka ranked first with 46.34 percent dengue patients of the total, followed by Chattogram and Barishal with 4.74 percent and 4.26 percent patients, respectively.

Patuakhali has 2.49 percent dengue patients, Lakshmipur 1.99 percent, Pirojpur 1.90 percent, Chandpur 1.85 percent, Manikganj 1.82 percent, Cumilla 1.75 percent, and Faridpur 1.70 percent.

According to DGHS data, in terms of hospitalisation, Jatrabari ranks first among Dhaka city areas with 17.08 percent patients this year, while Shabujbag and Kadamtali rank second and third with 12.87 percent and 8.29 percent patients, respectively.

Mohammadpur (4.03 percent), Khilgaon (3.72 percent), Keraniganj (3.71 percent), Cantonment (3.54 percent), Uttara (2.92 percent),

Dhanmondi (2.67 percent), and Pallabi (2.60 percent) are among the top ten areas.

Mohammad Harun, a resident of Jurain, while sharing his ordeal with this correspondent, said he has been staying with his infected nine-year-old child, Md Ramim at Mugda Medical College and Hospital for the past 10 days.

He said his wife, Jahanara Begum, also got infected with the dengue virus around 20 days ago. She has now recovered, receiving treatment at home.

“The insecticides they are using are useless in killing mosquitos,” he said criticising the city corporation's efforts.

Khadiza Begum, mother of 17-month-old dengue patient Khadimul from Madartek Chourasta, echoed the same.

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DENGUE CRISIS

Reform health sector
Say speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has failed to tackle the dengue outbreak effectively, said speakers at an event yesterday.

Although there is a need for reforming the health sector, no major political party has shown any concern in this regard, they said at the event titled “Compassionate Bangladesh to Save Lives from Dengue”, organised in front of Jatiya Press Club to protest the government's inability in curbing dengue infections.

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SAGAR-RUNI MURDER

Probe report submission deferred for 103rd time

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday extended till October 15 the deadline for submitting the probe report of a case filed over the murders of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi in February 2012.

This is the 103rd extension of the submission deadline.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Rashidul Alam passed the order after Rab Additional Superintendent of Police Khondoker Md Shafiqul Alam, also the investigation officer of the case, failed to submit the report yesterday, court sources said.

On August 7 this year, the same court asked Rab to submit the probe report by September 11.

Earlier, two separate courts expressed dissatisfaction over the probe and the investigators' failure to unearth the motive behind the murders and arrest the real culprits.

Sagar, news editor at private TV channel Maasranga, and his wife Runi, senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were killed in the early hours of February 11, 2012, in their rented flat in the capital's West Razabazar.

Their only son Mahir Sarowar Megh, then 5, was home at the time. Nousher Ali Roman, Runi's brother, filed a case with Sher-e-Bangla Police Station the following day.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Reporters Unity expressed concern over the delay in submitting the probe report.

Zaida takes charge as GCC mayor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

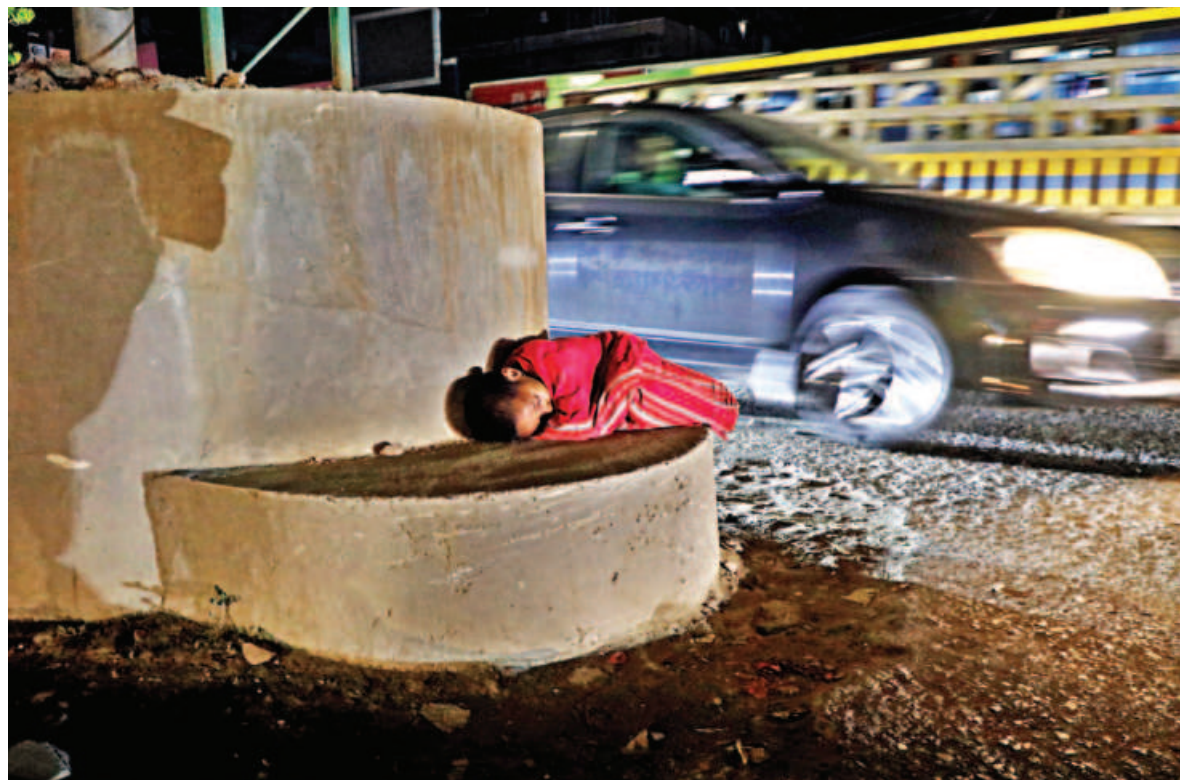
Zaida Khatun yesterday took charge as the first female mayor of Gazipur City Corporation (GCC).

“We will build a planned city with everyone, including all the councillors,” Zaida said at City Hall around 1:00pm, after assuming her role as mayor.

Former mayor Zahangir Alam, Zaida's son, said, “Parliamentary election is ahead of us. Everyone should work together. Everyone should cooperate with each other.”

He also sought prayers and good wishes for his mother.

Later, a reception was accorded to Zaida at Bangtaj Auditorium in Rathkhola area, in the southern part of Nagar Bhaban.



After a long tiring day on the streets, a child, draped in a red blanket, rests on a road divider in the capital's Manik Mia Avenue as speeding cars cross him from both sides. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ANTI-HARASSMENT COMMITTEES IN RMG SECTOR

It's not working properly: study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-harassment committees (AHC) in the garment industry do not submit their annual reports to the government. This limits their transparency and accountability regarding gender-based violence experienced by workers, says a report by the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies.

The study, titled “Effectiveness of Role Played by Complaint Committee to Protect Sexual Harassment at Workplace” was unveiled during a seminar on the capital's Topkhana Road yesterday.

Gender Platform Bangladesh organised the event with support from Mondiaal FNV under the STITCH Programme.

According to the study, members of anti-harassment committees are not adequately trained to investigate such offences, and they are unaware of the reporting mechanisms to the government authorities.

Moreover, there is very limited data available on the number of cases reported and resolved by the AHC.

Despite the existence of AHC, factory management often

handles sexual harassment issues. Additionally, many factories have established anti-harassment committees without meeting the necessary legal requirements, merely as a response to demands from their buyers.

Consequently, there is no clear distinction between the committees' activities and those of factory management, as stated in the report.

Workers are often unaware of the functions of these committees and whom to contact with their complaints regarding sexual

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‘A threat to country's sovereignty’

510 SC lawyers protest global letter for Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 510 lawyers of the Supreme Court have strongly protested and expressed grave concern at the global leaders' open letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina about the trial proceedings of the cases against Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus.

In a statement, the lawyers, including several pro-Awami League counsels, said the signatories of the letter have urged to stay the trial proceedings of the cases against Dr Yunus, which is a clear threat to the country's sovereignty and independence of judiciary.

The lawyers also said the foreign citizens' statement in the letter has been made in order to protect the interest of Prof Yunus, bypassing the interest of the victim labours, which is unfortunate and unwarranted.

The statement made by the foreign citizens about the democracy and elections of Bangladesh was offensive to the sovereignty and Bangladesh had achieved through sacrifices of millions of lives, the lawyers said in the statement.

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