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## WHO praised govt's efforts for healthcare development

### Says Momen

AGENCIES

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on Monday said World Health Organization Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus praised the Bangladesh government's measures for overall development of the health sector.

Momen said this at a media briefing on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's daily engagements on the sidelines of the 78th United Nations General Assembly session in New York, reports BSS.

He said the community health clinics are an innovation of the PM from where people are getting over 30 medicines free of cost. "The community clinic has helped reduce child and mother mortality

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting with WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on Monday. The premier is in the US to attend the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.

PHOTO: PTD

## Former BNP leaders at the helm of Trinamool BNP

### Shamsher M Chowdhury chairperson, Taimur Alam secretary general



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP leaders Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury and Advocate Taimur Alam Khandaker have been elected as the chairperson and secretary-general respectively of the Trinamool Bangladesh National Party (BNP).

Soon after joining the party, they became the top leaders of the party which got registration from the Election Commission on February 16.

After being elected, the diplomat turned

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## LABOUR COURT Yunus sued in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A case was filed against Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, founding chairman of Grameen Krishi (Agriculture) Foundation, and five others with Rangpur Labour Court yesterday.

The other accused are Nurjahan Begum, chairperson of board of directors of Grameen Krishi Foundation, Shamsud Doha, its acting managing director, and board members Imamus Sultan, Ratan Kumar Nag, and Shahjahan.

Farukul Islam, senior farm manager (retired) of Grameen Krishi Foundation, filed the case, said Shamim Al Mamun, a lawyer for the complainant.

He said the case was filed against the six for not paying Farukul wages, gratuity and earned leave.

In the case, Farukul also demanded compensation, alleging that he was coerced into retirement.

Mamun also mentioned that the foundation owed Farukul Tk 9.75 lakh.

## DENGUE OUTBREAK

# 'She keeps looking for Afia all day'

### Younger sister being treated at same hospital bed where older one passed away; 97 children died so far

DIPAN NANDY and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Last week, two sisters -- Afia Anjum and Tasnia Tasnim -- were pedalling their bicycle through streets; their youthful spirits undeterred by a slight fever that failed to keep them grounded.

However, things changed for the worse pretty soon. That night, Afia was rushed to Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute after being diagnosed with dengue. She passed away last Friday while undergoing treatment at the hospital.

Before the grieving father, Md Alamgir Hossain, could hardly begin to process the loss of his elder daughter, he found himself facing the challenge of saving her younger daughter Tasnia, 6. She too had to be hospitalised with dengue. Today, she lies in the same bed where her sister, Afia, 8, had taken her last breath.

Alamgir struggled to hold back tears while talking to The Daily Star. "My younger daughter searches for Afia all day despite having a fever. She is yet to know about her sister's demise as we informed her that Afia is receiving treatment in a different

ward," he said.

"Due to bed crisis, we had to admit Tasnia to the very same bed that held Afia's lifeless body just moments earlier," he added.



Deceased Afia, left, with her sister Tasnia, who is also admitted to the same hospital with dengue.

This tragic story of Afia and Tasnia is just one among many amid a growing health crisis as the country is grappling with the worst dengue outbreak in its history. This

time, the mosquito-borne disease has emerged as a formidable threat to the little ones. The nation has already witnessed the loss of 97 children's lives to dengue this year.

According to the DGHS, at least 32,705 children, aged below 15 years, were hospitalised with dengue, constituting 21 percent of the total number of dengue cases reported this year.

Meanwhile, seven more people died from dengue in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday, while 3,027 more were hospitalised.

During a visit to the Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute yesterday, this correspondent observed the facility's dedicated dengue corner was stretched to its limits, accommodating 106 patients, while the 10-seat Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) remained fully occupied.

"The hospital always has a crisis of beds in the dengue corner and PICU," said Abdul Hakim, the facility's public relations officer.

He disclosed that 17 children have so far died while undergoing

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**It takes 48 hours for the situation to become critical for adults, while children only have 24 hours, which is why we suggest hospitalisation as quickly as possible.**

HM NAZMUL AHSAN  
Associate professor of  
Suhrawardy Medical  
College and Hospital

## 'Shocked, appalled'

### Section of eminent citizens on international groups' support for Adilur, Elan

STAR REPORT

A section of eminent citizens has expressed concerns over "evil and biased" activities of some local and international quarters centring the conviction of Odhikar secretary Adilur Rahman Khan and director ASM Nasiruddin Elan.

They came up with the concerns in separate two statements yesterday.

"We are deeply shocked and appalled at the outpouring of support from different global bodies, including a resolution by the European Parliament, for Adilur Rahman and one of his associates, who have been handed two-year jail term after being found guilty of manufacturing

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Piles of seized pick-up vans, cars, and CNG-run three-wheelers left to decay on a footpath of Shyamoli Ring Road in the capital. Such mindless action not only obstruct pedestrian movement, but also can lead to accidents. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## AL leader Riaz relieved of party activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South Awami League office secretary Mohammad Riaz Uddin has been relieved of all party activities over allegations of breaking party discipline.

Dhaka South AL general secretary Humayun Kabir confirmed the matter to The Daily Star yesterday.

"Riaz has also been provided with a show cause notice. He has to give his reply within 15 working days," Kabir added.

The development comes following allegations of sexual harassment and financial misconduct against Riaz, who was also president of the governing body of Sher-e-Bangla Girls' High School.

In a notice issued by the Dhaka Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary

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