



‘You have 36 days to quit ill politics’

Quader to BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday issued a 36-day ultimatum to the BNP to abandon its “ill politics, terrorism, and anarchy”.



He warned that if the BNP does not correct itself within this period, then the party would face dire consequences.

Quader made the comments while addressing a “Peace and Development” rally organised by Dhaka (north) city AL unit at Azampur in the capital’s Uttara.

The current parliament expires on January 29 and the national election must be held during the final 90 days of the parliament’s tenure. The 90-day countdown begins on November 1, which is 36 days away.

Quader said, “If the BNP comes with weapons, its hands will be broken and if it comes with fire, its hands will be burnt.”

“How could BNP leaders and activists issue a 36-hour ultimatum demanding the release of [BNP Chairperson] Khaleda Zia? They could not even wage a

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Bangladesh pacer Marufa Akter celebrates with teammates after the dismissal of Pakistan's Sidra Ameen during their bronze-medal match of the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China yesterday. The pacer's effort and an all-round show from Shorna Akter helped the Tigresses win the match by five wickets to earn Bangladesh their first medal from the continental multi-sport event. Story on Page 11.

PHOTO: AFP

KHALEDA'S TREATMENT ABROAD

Law minister talks of legal complexities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq said the government cannot do anything about the issue of sending BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia abroad for better medical treatment as she is obligated to stay in the country as per the nature of her conditional release.



Her existing conditional release must therefore be revoked before the terms of her release can be changed and new considerations can be made, the minister told journalists in response to their queries at the Secretariat yesterday.

On Sunday, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir urged the government to arrange Khaleda's treatment abroad within 48 hours, warning that it would be held responsible if anything happened to her.

In this regard, Anisul said, “The application for suspending Khaleda's jail sentence has to be sent to the home ministry. The home ministry will then send the application to the law ministry for legal opinion.”

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Dengue spreading fast to districts around capital

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and DIPAN NANDY

The dengue situation in Narayanganj, Gazipur and Manikganj has been deteriorating in the absence of adequate measures taken by the authorities concerned.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, Manikganj saw a 155 percent rise in dengue cases from August 31 to yesterday, while Narayanganj and Gazipur saw an 80 percent and a 60 percent rise respectively.

During the same period, the number of cases throughout the country saw a 56.13 percent rise.

The rising number of patients has been straining the hospitals in Narayanganj and Gazipur cities, along with Manikganj district, which currently has the second highest number of dengue cases after Dhaka.

GM Saifur Rahman, entomologist at the National University, said the unplanned urbanisation has been playing a significant role in the spread of dengue in districts adjacent to the capital, as Aedes mosquitoes are getting suitable breeding grounds there.

“Many people come to Dhaka for work every day, and when they return, they might be carrying dengue virus back home.”

Meanwhile, there are hardly any effective anti-aedes or awareness programmes outside the capital, he added.

Though hospitals in the capital are already facing a deluge of patients, those from outside Dhaka, even in critical condition, are constantly coming in, according to health officials.

Kazi AKM Rassel, resident medical officer of the 250-bed Manikganj General Hospital, said they currently have 145 dengue patients, though they have only 100 beds dedicated for them.

DGHS data shows that in Manikganj there were 1,944 dengue cases until August 31, while the number stood at 3,009 as of yesterday.

Meanwhile in Narayanganj, there were 640 cases recorded till August 31, which rose to 1,152 yesterday.

In Gazipur, it was 2,023 till August 31, and increased to 3,389 yesterday.

Though a DGHS study found Aedes larvae in at least 14.28 percent of homes in Gazipur and 13.47 percent in Narayanganj, government measures to curb the infection have been lacking in those areas.

The study was conducted between July 23 and 28 in 41 wards of Gazipur city, and between July 30 and August 3 in 27 wards in Narayanganj city.

Narayanganj Civil Surgeon AFM Musiur Rahman expressed concern over the daily spike in dengue patients.

“If dengue transmission is not controlled, the situation may worsen.”

Abdul Aziz, acting chief executive officer of Narayanganj City Corporation, said the areas identified to have mosquito breeding grounds are regularly being treated with larvicide and adulticide and regular fogging is being conducted.

Madan Chandra Das, inspector of waste management for the Gazipur City Corporation, said they have ward councilors in charge of mosquito control. “We are unable to take further measures due to a shortage of manpower.”

Ramzan Ali, mayor of Manikganj municipality, said they are conducting regular fumigation activities and awareness programmes.

(Our Narayanganj, Gazipur and Manikganj correspondents contributed to this report.)



Though a DGHS study found Aedes larvae in at least 14.28 percent of homes in Gazipur and 13.47 percent in Narayanganj, government measures to curb the infection have been lacking in those areas.

ELECTION DAY EC to allow journos to use bikes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has decided to change its guideline to allow journalists to use motorcycles on the election day.

Election Commissioner Anisur Rahman yesterday said the commission would issue a notification in this regard today.

In April, the EC in its new policy banned journalists from using motorbikes on the polling day.

Since the guideline was made public, journalists have been protesting the EC decision, saying it is a move to curb the freedom of the press.

On August 25, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal had hinted that the commission might change its decision on banning journalists from using motorbikes.

He made the comments after a meeting with British High Commissioner Sarah Cooke at the Nirbachan Bhaban.

At the meeting, the UK envoy wanted to know whether media personnel needed permission to enter a polling centre, the CEC told journalists after the meeting.



Country seeing rise of oligarchs like never before

Says Debapriya at Citizen's Platform for SDGs event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has seen the emergence of oligarchs over the last 10 to 15 years, said Debapriya Bhattacharya, the convener of the Citizen's Platform for SDGs Bangladesh.

“Oligarchs are the wealthy people and politically powerful. And we did not see such groups in Bangladesh in the past the way we are witnessing now,” he said yesterday while making a presentation on a book styled “Bangladesh's Development Narrative and the Parallel Realities: Perspectives of the Disadvantaged Communities” at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh.

The book is the result of the discussions the platform held in various parts of the country in 2022 and has been prepared in partnership with the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Manusher Jonno Foundation, Transparency International Bangladesh and WaterAid Bangladesh.

While Debapriya did not name anyone, he said the oligarchs are easily identifiable.

The scale at which Bangladeshis have

accumulated wealth in recent times, as depicted by the rise in millionaire bank accounts and the newspaper reports on people holding much larger resources not just here but all over the world, is a departure from the vision of Bangabandhu, who wanted to build a just and equitable society, said Rehman Sobhan, chairman of CPD.

The distribution of public resources, the resources going into the safety net system and the proportion going to a narrow segment of the elite in the form of capacity payments and written-off loans should be the campaign issues for civil societies.

Putting a great deal of emphasis on infrastructures in any development process is important, he said. “Otherwise, growth will not take place and there will not be job opportunities and poverty reductions.”

However, not all infrastructure projects are equally beneficial and not all deserve equal priorities, Sobhan added.

“A lack of overall democratic accountability and good governance led to the failure of public institutions and protecting the rights

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Not worried about US visa policy

Says outgoing CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Outgoing Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique yesterday said he is not worried about the US visa policy as he will never go to the country.

“Our country has become independent in exchange for blood, not because of anybody's mercy. Those, who had opposed the independence of Bangladesh, are still opposing this country.”

“I never went to the United States and will not go there in future,” he said while talking to reporters at the Supreme Court on his last day in office.

Replying to a query, he said he worked tirelessly for the interest of the judiciary while he was discharging his duties as the chief justice.

“I motivated and encouraged the judges to reduce the backlog of pending cases.”



Adilur, Elan move HC, challenge conviction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Odhikar's Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan and its Director ASM Nasiruddin Elan filed an appeal with the High Court yesterday challenging the trial court verdict that sentenced them to two years imprisonment in a case filed under the ICT Act.

The two were sued for running “a distorted report and doctored images” on the police action at a Hefajat-e-Islam rally on May 5-6, 2013, in the capital's Motijheel.

Adilur and Elan submitted the appeal through their lawyers to the section concerned of the HC.

The appeal seeks scrapping of the lower court verdict and the acquittal of the two.

Md Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan, the principal counsel for Adilur and Elan,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Dengue patients sitting on the floor of Manikganj General Hospital as the number of affected people has been on the rise in several districts outside Dhaka due to inadequate measures taken to curb the viral infection.

PHOTO: ZAHANGIR ALAM BISWAS