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## Women can conquer any challenges

Speakers tell event



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women have the potential to free Bangladesh from any challenges, and their contributions will create a lasting legacy, said speakers at an event yesterday.

They made these remarks during the 8th National Conference of the Bikoshito Nari Network, organised by The Hunger Project at the Institute of Diploma Engineers Bangladesh in the capital.

Speaking at the event, which saw hundreds of women in attendance, Badiul Alam, the country director of The Hunger Project, said, "You (Women) possess the power to liberate Bangladesh from any obstacle. Your contributions will leave a lasting mark in the nation's history."

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Holding candles alight, hundreds of women inaugurate the 8th National Council of Bikoshito Nari Network at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital yesterday. Inset, as part of the programme, a discussion was also held.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## DENGUE OUTBREAK 15 more die, 2,158 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 15 more people died from dengue in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday as the country grapples with a record outbreak of the mosquito-borne disease.

Of the 15 deaths, eight were reported in the capital.

At least 2,158 dengue patients were hospitalised in the 24-hour period, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Dengue has so far claimed at least 1,079 lives this year and nearly 2,20,882 were infected, making this the deadliest year since the first recorded epidemic in 2000.

According to DGHS data, 9,171 dengue patients were undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country and 2,10,572 patients have so far been released from hospitals.

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

Meanwhile, experts have said that the government and city corporations have failed to limit the spread of mosquito-borne diseases, they added.

There is no vaccine or drug that specifically treats dengue, which is common in South Asia during the June-to-September monsoon season when the Aedes aegypti mosquito, the carrier of the deadly virus, thrives in stagnant water.



## 496 killed in accidents in Sept

Says Jatri Kalyan Samity report

UNB, Dhaka

As many as 496 people were killed and 681 injured in 467 accidents that occurred on roads, railways and waterways in September across the country, according to Jatri Kalyan Samity.

Jatri Kalyan Samity, a non-government organisation, prepared the report based on news published in various national and local dailies, and online news portals, said a press release yesterday.

Among the casualties, 417 people were killed and 651 injured in 402 road accidents from September 1 to 30. Besides, 51 were killed and 26 others injured in 49 accidents on the railway while 28 were killed, four were injured and three went missing in 16 accidents on the waterways during the same period.

Besides, 5.47 percent of the total accidents across the country were reported in Dhaka city, 0.49 percent in Chattogram city, and 0.24 percent in railway crossings.

Among the victims, 10 are members of law enforcement agencies, 143 drivers, 66 pedestrians, 60 transport workers, 65 students, eight teachers, 74 women and 44 children.

The organisation identified several reasons behind most of the accidents including dangerous overtaking, reckless speed, unfit vehicles, lack of footpaths or grabbed footpaths, sudden entrance of vehicles from feeder roads at railway crossings and highways, and the increasing number of small vehicles.

Besides, lack of service lanes on various national and regional highways, and easy bikes, rickshaws and auto-rickshaws plying national and regional highways were also responsible for accidents, it said.

Some of the reasons for accidents are: overtaking, speeding, unfit vehicles, and increasing number of small vehicles.

## Woman dies as trawler capsizes in Meghna

Five still missing

STAR REPORT

A woman was found dead in the Meghna early yesterday, 12 hours after a trawler carrying 11 people capsized in the river after being hit by a bulkhead near Gazaria Ghat of Munshiganj.

Five passengers still remain missing, said Md Obaidul Karim Khan, deputy director of BIWTA.

The rescue team recovered the body of Sumana Akter, 28, near the riverbank, said Obaidul.

Sumana's daughters Mawa, 6, and Safa, 4, her brother Sabbir Hossain, 26, Sabbir's son Emad Hossain, 2, and Sumona's nephew Marwa, 8, are still missing.

The rescue team couldn't trace the sunken trawler till the filing of this report around 5:15pm.

The trawler was heading towards Charkishorganj park, said police.

## BY-POLLS TO B'BARIA-2 Ex-BNP leader's son collects AL nomination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan's son Mainul Hasan Tushar yesterday collected Awami League's nomination form for the by-polls to Brahmanbaria-2 constituency, scheduled to take place on November 5.

The parliament secretariat recently announced this constituency vacant after the death of Sattar, who was also elected in a by-election with the blessings of the ruling party following his expulsion from BNP.

Confirming the matter to The Daily Star, Tushar said, "I bought the nomination form as per their (AL) instructions." Asked who instructed him to buy the nomination form, Tushar said he received a call from the AL office this [yesterday] morning. "I hope to meet the party chief and prime minister very soon. She always respected my father. That's why I collected the form. I hope to finish my father's unfinished work," he added.

Sattar, who was an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, was elected with BNP nomination from constituencies in Brahmanbaria and Cumilla five times, including in the 2018 national election.

He also served as the president of Brahmanbaria district unit BNP for a long time. Sattar and six other BNP lawmakers resigned from the parliament in December last year.

Later, he participated in the Brahmanbaria-2 by-election as an independent candidate in February. He was expelled from BNP for taking part in it. Sattar won the by-polls with overt blessings from the AL.

AL's support for Sattar was public knowledge since the ruling party did not nominate anyone to participate in the by-election. AL leaders often joined him in the campaign trail and secured what many said was an easy win for him.

(Our Brahmanbaria correspondent also contributed to this report)

## Kidnapped teacher rescued ATU arrests 6 in Banasree

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Terrorism Unit rescued an abducted teacher and arrested five alleged kidnappers from a flat in South Banasree area on Friday night.

The arrestees are Bilkis aka Tanya, 30, Md Biplab, 30, Ibrahim Hossain Raju, 29, Lincoln Khalifa, 24, and Amir Sheikh, 30.

Md Sanwar Hossain, superintendent of police of the ATU headquarters, said the teacher from Bangladesh Open University got introduced to Bilkis on Facebook a week ago. Bilkis kept contacting him, pretending to need help with admissions.

She then met him in Banasree's market area. Later, Bilkis and her accomplices kidnapped and took him to the flat where they tortured him, recorded an offensive video and demanded Tk 2 lakh from his family.

Police rescued him after his family members filed a case with Kalabagan Police Station.

## 'Quader wants Bangladesh to be Indian state' Says IAB chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader wants to turn Bangladesh into an Indian state, alleged Islami Andolon Bangladesh Amir Syed Mohammad Rejaul Karim yesterday.

"Bangladesh is an independent and sovereign country. The country will not allow anyone to jeopardise the hard-earned independence. If necessary, people will come to the street to protect independence," he said, speaking as the chief guest at a programme of his party in the capital's

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## Ultimatums won't secure Khaleda's release: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A certain group is harbouring dreams of coming to power through unconstitutional means, but the election will proceed as scheduled, said Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday.

In a media statement, the AL leader also criticised BNP for undermining people's voting rights to assume power. "BNP engages in deceitful politics. People have consistently voted Awami League into power because it has always kept its promises. The primary objective of Awami League's politics is the welfare of the people," he asserted.

Quader challenged BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, asking, "Is there any constitutional option other than an election to change power? Will a staged election guarantee your power? The people of Bangladesh will never allow anyone to hold such an election to seize power."

Regarding Khaleda Zia's situation, Quader said Fakhru should understand that giving ultimatums will not secure her release. "Mirza Fakhru should be grateful to the government that, despite being a convicted prisoner, she can receive treatment in a modern, well-equipped hospital while staying at home."

Quader also accused BNP of using Khaleda's illness as a political tool.



The pumping station for storm-water drainage in Kalyanpur is in a deplorable condition. Due to lack of maintenance by the authorities concerned, waste remains piled up surrounding it, resulting in constant waterlogging in the area. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PRAYER TIMING

OCTOBER 8

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-45	12-45	4-15	5-53	7-30
JAMAAT 5-20	1-15	4-30	5-56	8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION