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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stands in front of the newly-constructed Ghorashal-Palash Urea Fertiliser Factory in Narsingdi. The premier inaugurated the factory, the largest of its kind in Southeast Asia, yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

ENDING ISRAEL WAR ON GAZA Hasina places five recommendations

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has placed five recommendations to stop the Israeli aggression against Palestine that continues unabated, despite calls from global communities for an immediate end.

She proposed the suggestions in a recorded speech broadcast at the 8th Extraordinary Islamic Summit which kicked off on November 9 in Riyadh.

The summit was convened at the invitation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to discuss the unprecedented Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people.

The prime minister called for an immediate ceasefire of the one-sided war forced by Israel on Palestine. She said there was an immediate need to open a humanitarian corridor for a continuous, rapid, and safe supply of food, water, medicine, and other lifesaving materials for the trapped residents of the devastated Gaza.

Hasina said the killing of innocent civilians and the clearing of areas through barbaric means have created an environment of terror. "We must visit all our agreed decisions at the UN, the Arab Peace Initiative, and the Quartet Road Map and strive for an early solution that will bring permanent peace among the peoples of the region."

She also said the Muslim Ummah must be united on this important issue of Palestine.

Hasina reiterated that Bangladesh supports and stands by our Palestinian brothers and sisters' right to self-determination, sovereignty, and independence based on the 1967 border and the Two-State Solution with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

"We hope you will all do so too," she said.

BNP activists instigating RMG workers Says home minister

UNB, Dhaka

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said BNP activists are instigating the garment workers.

"Their salaries were increased earlier and the garment owners will solve the workers' problem. But it has been seen that the BNP activists are instigating the innocent workers," he said while talking to reporters.

He said they (BNP) killed a policeman and injured many law enforcers during the October 28 rally.

The minister however rejected the UN's observation that BNP leaders are being arrested due to political vengeance.

About the UN request to allow Khaleda Zia to go abroad for treatment, the minister said the government has taken steps to provide better treatment for her with the facility to bring physicians from abroad.

COUNTRYWIDE BLOCKADE

Police have prepared list of arsonists Says DB chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police has claimed to have made significant progress in identifying individuals who set fire to vehicles during the recent blockades.

Harun-Or Rashid, additional commissioner (DB) of DMP, said, "We have obtained names and contact details of the arsonists through analysing CCTV and drone footage. They all will be arrested soon."

Addressing a briefing at DB's headquarters on Minto Road, Harun said, "Since the motive behind setting buses on fire was linked to the blockade, those who enforced it have to take the responsibility."

When asked if it is an intelligence failure since arsons persist even after police action, the DB chief said police had increased patrolling in both uniform and plain clothes and set up checkpoints.

AL men on guard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League activists were on guard in the capital yesterday, the first day of the fourth phase of the blockade called by BNP and like-minded parties.

They took positions at important intersections in Dhaka, including its central office on Bangabandhu Avenue. During a visit yesterday, leaders and activists of AL and its affiliated organisations were seen taking positions in small groups there.

A stage was seen built in front of the office where a day-long cultural programme was held. Abu Ahmed Mannafi and Humayun Kabir, president and general secretary of Dhaka south unit, were present there.

While visiting Elephant Road, Bata Signal intersection, Science Lab, Shyamoli, Kalyanpur, Lalmatia, Mohammadpur, Panthapath, Mirpur, Sabujbagh, Sutrapur, Gulistan, and Sadarghat, AL men were seen stationed at almost every point.

The ruling party men alleged that BNP leaders and activists are trying to create unrest and destabilise the country with sporadic arson attacks and subversive activities.

In a bid to prevent that, AL top brass instructed them to remain watchful on the streets, they added.

The blockade will continue till 6:00am tomorrow.



Online nomination to reduce polls code violations Say ECs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Online nomination system will reduce the electoral code of conduct violations that occur when many candidates come to returning offices with processions to collect or submit nomination papers, said election commissioners yesterday.

They also said it would prevent anyone from pressuring any candidate to submit or withdraw their nomination papers.

The commissioners made the comments while inaugurating the online nominations process for candidates and a mobile app to ensure voters find polls-related information at their fingertips.

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal at the programme said that showdowns during submissions have become a culture.

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10-year-old treks to Annapurna Base Camp

Ctg 5th grader now eyes Kangchenjunga, Everest

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Contrary to the notion that kids today are mostly confined to screens, Ahona Rida Zahra, a 10-year-old from Chattogram, has trekked to Annapurna Base Camp in the Himalayas, standing tall at 4,130 metres, last week.

Ahona is a fifth grader at Sunshine Grammar School in the port city.

The Annapurna Base Camp (ABC) serves as a primary hub for trekkers and mountaineers aiming to explore the surrounding Annapurna mountain range.

Reaching it involves a challenging trek with steep ascents, variable weather conditions, high altitude, demanding physical fitness and stamina.

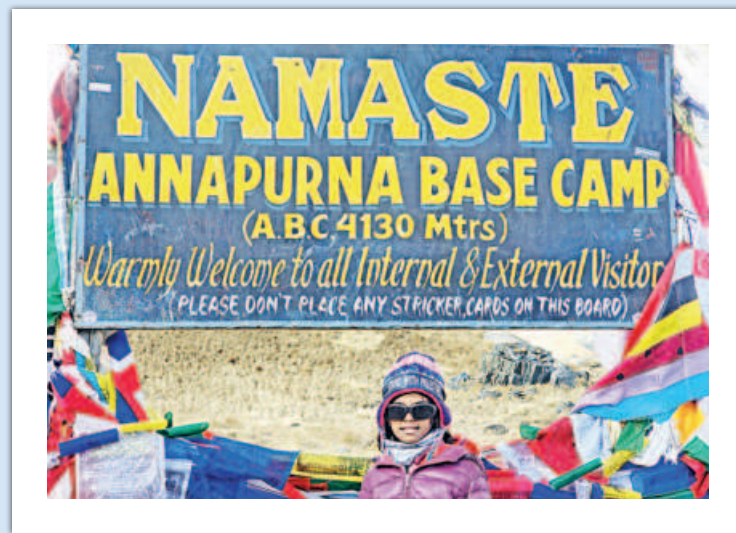
"The snowy mountains surrounding me were so beautiful," she shared during a conversation with The Daily Star at her school.

"I aspire to explore even higher altitudes, like the Kanchenjunga Base Camp and Everest Base Camp," she added.

Accompanying her in this adventure was her father Aniket Chowdhury, an architect.

The father-daughter duo, part of an eleven-member team from Bangladesh, trekked 60 kilometres in seven days to reach the ABC.

Organised by Rope 4, a D h a k a -



based mountaineering platform, the team returned home on Thursday.

They departed for Kathmandu on October 30.

Mohammad Mohiuddin, founder of Rope 4, said Ahona's achievement at her age is unprecedented in Bangladesh.

FROM NAFAKHUM TO ABC
Ahona inherited her love for mountains and trekking from her father, who explored hiking during his student days. Three years ago, at the age of 8, Ahona showed her passion for hills by successfully climbing Nafakhum in Bandarban with her parents.

Encouraged by her enthusiasm, the family explored local hikes in Fatikchhari and Bandarban, discovering Ahona's joy in these outdoor

adventures, said her father.

"We first noticed Ahona's physical and mental abilities when she easily passed different challenges at the Foy's Lake Base Camp in Chattogram," said her mother Evvana.

Seeing her interest, the family attended a day-long basic workshop on hiking organised by Ravelettes and Rope4 in Dhaka early October.

"Noticing her enthusiasm, Rope4 members Mahi and Taukir encouraged us to take Ahona to ABC trekking," she added.

Initially unsure, Ahona's father changed his mind after she successfully climbed Chandranath hills twice as part of the preparatory tasks with other Rope4 members.

Convinced by his daughter's

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DENGUE OUTBREAK 10 more die, 1,748 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 dengue patients died, two from Dhaka, in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With the new deaths, the total number of deaths rose to 1,476, according to DGHS.

At least 1,748 new dengue cases were reported yesterday.

The total number of dengue cases this year rose to 2,91,832, of which 1,03,578 were from Dhaka. A total of 6,183 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment across the country.

Among the total cases, 2,84,173 dengue patients have already been released.



A revenge six years in the making

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

In July 2017, Ramjan, a member of a criminal gang operating in Kamrangirchar, killed his rival Manjur Hossain over establishing supremacy in narcotics trade.

After the killing, Manjur's brother, Monir, also known as Picchi Monir, swore revenge.

But both of them were arrested by police and sent to prisons in separate cases. Ramjan was accused in at least eight criminal cases, while Monir in 13.

Around eight months ago, Ramjan was released on bail almost six years after the murder.

Meanwhile, Monir from jail assembled a group of contractual killers to avenge his brother.

He also got out of prison around the same time.

The hired killers shot Ramjan on October 17, confirmed Lalbagh Division of police's Detective Branch yesterday, following the arrest of five persons last week. The arrestees are Golam Rabbi, also known as Tiger Rabbi and his associates Ali Hossain and Md Sagar, as well as Juwel

Mahmud and his associate Md Shiblu.

Out of the five arrestees, three -- Rabbi, Ali, and Sagar -- directly took part in the killing, said Harun Or Rashid, additional commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

He said Rabbi was the main shooter. Juwel and Shiblu financed the mission, Harun added.

The arrestees are now on four-day police remand, and they have already admitted their involvement, he claimed.

Police also seized five rounds of bullets, one pistol, and two magazines from their possession.

"Monir planned the killing with Rabbi inside jail. Rabbi's demand was to make arrangements for his bail, and he would do whatever was required of him," said a high official of DB police.

Mostofa Kamal, additional deputy commissioner of DB, told The Daily Star yesterday, "The arrestees were planning to kill Ramjan since he got out on bail."

Mashiur Rahman, deputy commissioner of DB Lalbagh Division, said, "We are now looking for Monir, who is on the run."

