

কর্মজীবনের শেষে অবসরকালীন আর্থিক নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে

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Dengue claims one more life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One more dengue patient died while 25 others were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

With the new ones, the total number of deaths and cases this year rose to five and 632 respectively, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

A total of 249 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country, with 122 of them in Dhaka.

Among the total cases, 378 dengue patients have already been released, with 110 of them in the capital.

Last year, the country witnessed 1,705 dengue-related deaths and a total of 321,179 reported cases.



Flanked by members of the council of ministers, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pays homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at his mausoleum in Tungipara yesterday, marking the formation of her government for the fourth consecutive term and the fifth overall.

PHOTO: BSS

Jatiyo Party splitting... again?

A faction wants resignation of GM Quader, Chunnu; to hold rally in Dhaka today

RASHIDUL HASAN

Jatiyo Party has split at least four times since its formation in 1986, so much so, it's challenging for even an ardent political observer to keep track of the various factions.

Recently, the party has seen conflict between two of its top leaders - Raushan Ershad, widow of JP founding chairman HM Ershad and her brother-in-law GM Quader.



It seems the party is on the verge of another split as crisis in the party deepens centring its debacle in the January 7 national election.

Aggrieved candidates of JP who took part in the 12th national elections will hold a rally today in Dhaka protesting the leadership failure of the party higher-ups. They demand the resignation of JP Chairman GM Quader and Secretary General Mujibur Haque Chunnu.

Several hundred JP leaders and activists of JP on Friday gave a 48-hour ultimatum to them for resignation after a protest in front of the party office.

Organisers of today's rally said many grassroots leaders are likely to be present at the gathering which will take

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AL total vote dips, JP lowest since 1991

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and ASIFUR RAHMAN

Awami League bagged less votes in the January 7 national polls compared to the previous two general elections, according to Election Commission data.

AL fielded candidates in 264 seats and won 226, with 66 percent votes (around 3.30 crores) in its favour out of the total 4,99,65,467 votes casted in the 12th national polls.

The party got 74.22 percent and 72.14 percent of the casted votes in 2018 and 2014 elections respectively.

Meanwhile, Jatiyo Party got only 4.33 percent of the votes casted on January 7, its lowest vote count since 1991.

Also, 58 independents winning in the polls, who were actually AL men, bagged another 9.59 percent votes.

Election experts opined that AL's votes should be counted by adding the votes casted for its candidates as well as those bagged by the party's independent candidates.

A ruling party gets the majority of votes if the election is held under a political government, since it gets support from administration, said Badiul Alam Majumder, secretary of Sushashoner Jonno Nagorik.

The 2014 election was highly debated both nationally and internationally as 153 lawmakers were elected unopposed, after it was boycotted by BNP in demand for polls under a caretaker government. Only 12 parties took part in that election.

The 2018 election, despite being a participatory one,

Election year	Total casted votes	Awami League vote	Jatiyo Party vote
2024	4,99,65,467	3,29,87,396 (66.02%)	21,68,221 (4.33%)
2018	8,26,45,218	6,13,36,050 (74.22%)	44,43,351 (5.38%)
2014	1,71,29,850	1,23,57,374 (72.14%)	11,92,727 (7.00%)
2008	7,00,12,191	3,36,34,629 (48.04%)	49,26,360 (7.04%)
2001	5,57,36,625	2,23,65,516 (40.13%)	40,38,453 (7.25%)
1996 June	4,24,18,274	1,58,82,792 (37.44%)	69,45,981 (16.40%)
1991	3,41,03,777	1,02,59,866 (30.08%)	40,63,537 (11.92%)

faced allegations of widespread electoral fraud on the previous night of polls.

In 2008, 2001, 1996 June and 1991 elections, held under caretaker governments, AL bagged 48, 40, 37 and 30 percent votes respectively. AL won in 2008 and 1996.

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PM doesn't care about sanctions Says Quader

UNB, Gopalganj

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina does not "care about any sanctions".

"They (the opposition) are looking towards their foreign friends to ensure that this government cannot stay in power. However, our prime minister does not care about any sanctions or visa policies."

The Awami League general secretary made these remarks during a views-exchange with journalists after paying tribute at the mausoleum of Bangabandhu in Tungipara, Gopalganj.

He further mentioned that the opposition is hoping for sanctions like those in Cambodia.

New action plan soon: Rizvi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday announced its intention to engage in discussions with its allies to develop a "new action plan" following the 12th parliamentary elections.

"Our allied political parties are with us, and with multiple action plans in place, our leadership, meeting almost daily, will finalise and communicate the decided action plan," BNP senior secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi said at a press conference at the party's Nayapaltan office.

"BNP and other parties are still amidst its ongoing movement," Rizvi responded to a question from a reporter.

He accused Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of pushing people in harm's way by establishing an "autocratic regime" in the country.

"Government's oppression has made the lives of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and thousands of jailed party leaders and activists miserable, suffocating," said Rizvi.

Rizvi alleged that jailed BNP leaders including Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, standing committee member Mirza Abbas, Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury and thousands of others are living an inhuman life without medical treatment even when they fall ill. He alleged that through the oppression of the opposition, Hasina has established a "one-person rule" in Bangladesh through a "dummy election".

"Bangladesh has now become a hostage to Sheikh Hasina. Sheikh Hasina was her own opponent in this North Korea-styled election," Rizvi said.

AL gets one more MP Poppy wins Mymensingh-3

STAR REPORT

The Awami League's candidate in Mymensingh-3 clinched victory in unofficial results following the re-polling at a previously postponed centre (Bhalukapur High School), bringing the total number of AL seats in the current parliament to 223 out of 299.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission has rescheduled the polls for the remaining constituency, Naogaon-2, to February 12 after postponing it due to the death of an independent candidate.

AL candidate Nilufar Anjum Poppy secured victory in the Mymensingh-3 (Gauripur) constituency, obtaining 1,295 votes

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'I'm not leaving my son'

Mother, son charred to death in Tejgaon slum fire; 5 hurt; 300 shanties gutted

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

"Fire, fire". Sharmin Akter, 22, woke up hearing these desperate cries which shattered the stillness of the night in Mollabari Slum in Tejgaon yesterday. Her immediate thought was to save her one-and-a-half-year-old son, Nafi Hossain.

But by then, it was too late. Flames had already engulfed their surroundings.

Her 12-year-old brother, Abdullah Hossain Likhon, somehow managed to crawl to safety from the tin-shed rooftop.

He lived to tell the story, but the traumatic events of that night now weighs heavily on him with memories that will haunt him for a lifetime.

Sharmin and Naseef weren't supposed to be in the slum in the first place.

She came to visit her mother Lipi Begum from her in-law's house in Jamalpur on January 8, with plans to return on Monday.

The fire, which erupted around 2:20am, claimed the lives of both Sharmin and her son.

Thirteen units of the fire service brought the blaze under control by 5:50am, Lt Col Tajul Islam Chowdhury, director of operations and maintenance at the fire service, told The Daily Star.

Including Likhon, four other residents of the slum received burn injuries. Of the injured - Nazma Akter, 25, with 23 percent burns,

her four-year-old son Nazrul Islam with eight percent burns, and her brother-in-law Nur Mohammad, 28 with three percent burns are undergoing treatment at the National Institute of Burn & Plastic Surgery.

Abdullah is suffering from 10 percent burns and undergoing treatment at a city hospital.

Sumaiya Akter, younger sister of Sharmin, said, "We were sleeping in two adjacent rooms. We woke up hearing a scream of fire and somehow managed to get out."

"While getting out, my brother saw Sharmin tossing her baby into our room, believing it to be safe as their sleeping quarters were already consumed by flames. She quickly realised that our room was also ablaze. We told her to get out but she said she won't leave her son."

Without hesitation, she rushed to the room and held the baby boy in her arms. But at the end, both of them could not survive," she added.

"Likhon witnessed it all and wanted to rescue them, but my mother stopped him... she didn't want to lose her son too," she cried.

The bodies of Sharmin and Nafi have been charred beyond recognition, and are kept at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical

College and Hospital morgue for a DNA test.

WALKING THROUGH HELLFIRE TO SAVE HER SON

While Sharmin died trying to save her son, injured Nazma saved hers by putting her life on the line.

"I initially rushed out upon hearing the scream, only to realise I had left my son behind. I re-entered the home to rescue him. The fire had already engulfed our room. I found him crying in a corner. I wrapped my arms around him, and brought him outside."

"It felt as if I was walking through hellfire," said Nazma.

300 FAMILIES LOSE EVERYTHING

At least 300 shanties were gutted in the fire. The rooms are made of bamboo, wood, and tin and this is why the fire spread fast, said the fire service.

The fire service formed a five-member probe body to investigate the incident. The committee was asked to submit the report within the next 15 days.

Habibur Rahman, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they are investigating the matter.

Meanwhile, Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Md Aitkul Islam announced to pay Tk 5,000 to each family affected by the fire and Tk 10,000 to each with special needs.



The charred remains of what used to be homes full of hopes and dreams. After the devastating fire at Mollabari Slum in Tejgaon early yesterday, at least 300 families have lost everything. The blaze also took lives of a mother and her son and left five persons fighting for their lives.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON