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'Govt sitting on people's shoulders like Sinbad's giant'

Alleges GM Quader
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The current government has grown to be like the giant in Sinbad's tale, and is sitting on the shoulders of the people, said Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday.

The opposition leader said this at a views-exchange meeting at the party chairman's Banani office in Dhaka.

Many people are struggling to support their families due to inflation, he said.

The JP chairman mentioned that the government's response to the dollar crisis has resulted in reduced imports, causing factory closures and unemployment.

He also noted the widening gap between the rich and the poor is fueling frustration among the people.

GM Quader said although the Liberation War was the greatest achievement of the nation, people of the country don't have any real freedom now.



Dreams shattered on road

3 members of a family including father, son die as truck hits bike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rajbari*

Malaysian expat Kashem Sheikh, 40, from Maksudpur of Gopalganj, wanted to make his elder son Mursalin Sheikh, 8, a "hafez", a person who memorises the Quran.

As there is no suitable madrasa in his village, he planned to have Mursalin admitted to one in Faridpur.

Accompanied by his younger brother, Nazmul Sheikh, 35, Kashem embarked on a motorcycle journey with his son towards Faridpur around

9:30am yesterday, aiming to fulfill this dream.

But tragedy struck when a brick-laden truck collided with their motorcycle near Hamirdi Bus Stand on Dhaka-Barishal highway around 11:00am, said Abdullah Al Baki, sub-inspector of Bhanga Highway Police Station.

Mursalin died while being taken to Bhanga Upazila Health Complex, said the SI, adding that Kashem and Nazmul died while being taken to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

Medical College Hospital from the health complex.

Abu Bakkar, an uncle of Mursalin, said Kashem had returned from Malaysia two months ago.

Masud Sheikh, brother of Kashem Sheikh, said, "The truck claimed the lives of my two brothers and nephew. Our family has been shattered. We demand justice."

The SI said they have seized the truck, but its driver managed to flee. Legal proceedings were underway, he added.

Singer Pial killed in road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Narsingdi*

Two people were killed and three injured as a bus and a microbus collided head-on in Panchadhana area of Narsingdi early yesterday.

Microbus driver Abdus Salam, 43, from Mymensingh; and Ahasan Tanvir Pial, 23, singer of musical band Odd Signature, died on the spot, said Sub-inspector Md Elias Hossain, in charge of Itakhola Highway Police Station.

The injured -- Sakibul Islam, 19, from Habiganj;



Amit Saha, 22, from Chattogram; and Ahora Akib, 24 -- were sent to Dhaka for treatment.

Police said the Dhaka-bound bus was coming from Chattogram while the microbus was going to Sylhet from Dhaka.

Firefighters recovered the bodies and sent those to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police seized the bus of Hanif Paribahan.



Not AL, 'invisible power' rules the country: Fakhru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Instead of the Awami League government, an "invisible power" is ruling the country, depriving people of their democratic and economic rights, alleged BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday.

Awami League claims they are running the country. But are they really running it? They are not. An invisible power is ruling the country, and by their direction, AL government has taken away the rights of peoples," he said while addressing a rally at Nayapaltan in the capital.

He accused the current government of politicising all state institutions, including the

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'People are source of AL's power' Quader says it's in country's interest to keep friendship with India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The source of the Awami League's strength is the people, said AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday.

"India is our friend and we are not subservient to anyone...We want friendship from India. Because it is necessary for our interest. We have incurred losses for 21 years because of enmity with India. We don't want to go back to that situation," he added.

Quader, also the road, transport and bridges minister, came up with the remarks in response to BNP's allegation that Awami League is in power at the mercy of India.

He alleged that the bilateral relationship

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SSC results today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of Secondary School Certificate and equivalent examinations of 2024 will be published today.

Education Minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, along with ministry officials and board chairmen, is expected to hand over the results to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the morning.

The education minister is scheduled to publish the details of the results at a press conference at the Secretariat around 12:30pm, said MA Khair, public relations officer of education ministry.

Lack of awareness to blame

Says home minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lack of awareness among public is the main reason behind the alarming number of road accidents across the country, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said yesterday.

"As far as I can see, the main reason for road accidents is lack of awareness," he told a programme marking the 9th general assembly of

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Two killed as lorry ploughs into tea shop

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Two people were killed when a tanker lorry ploughed into a roadside shop at Kauga intersection in Dinajpur Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The deceased are Azhar Ali, 60, a security guard from Biswanathpur village, and Rana, 25, of Kauga village in the same upazila.

Rana was having tea at the stall at the time of the accident.

The accident took place around 5:15am when the lorry



ploughed into a tea shop after its driver lost control, leaving one dead on the spot and another injured, said Farid Hossain, in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

The injured was taken to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital where he died of his injuries.

Police arrested the driver of the lorry and his helper.

'We must address the rising wealth, inequality'

Hossain Zillur Rahman tells book launch event

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The social and economic disparity continues to rise in the country and this has to be addressed before things get out of control, said noted economist Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman yesterday.

"In our country, there was always a culture of solidarity. But slowly, with the widening economic disparity, social disparity is also increasing rapidly," he said.

He was speaking at the launch of the book "My Golden Bengal: Views and Voices from Civil Society", a collection of introspective interviews of eminent civil society members of Bangladesh, taken by René Holenstein, a former Swiss ambassador to Bangladesh.

The University Press Ltd launched the book at its office in the capital.

Zillur, former adviser to a caretaker government, said the people close to power structure have a similar kind of thought process and movement in the society, and there is a sense of arrogance in them.

"On the other hand, those who are not close to the power structure, are helpless. It is regrettable that the elite class is least bothered about the low-income people and their struggles," he said.

New elite psychology of arrogance

is related to being in power without competition, said Zillur, adding, "We need to be alarmed about it."

Many of the elites no longer have their homes, health, and education in the country, but know the channels of being in the power structure.

"Such a situation, if continued, will frustrate the youths. In fact, many of the youths are opting to leave the country," he said.

René Holenstein, who was ambassador here from 2017 to 2020, said Bangladesh had a dream of becoming a socialist democratic country and now the question is where it is proceeding now.

In the book, he tried to break the stereotype about Bangladesh that it is a poor and natural disaster-prone country. The book published earlier in 2021 in Germany will also give foreign readers a true picture of this country.

At the event, lawmaker Arama Dutta said globally the space for not only civil societies but also political actors is shrinking, and there is a rise of fundamentalist and nationalist forces..

Current Swiss Ambassador to Bangladesh, Reto Renggli, said civil society plays a critical role in the development of Bangladesh.

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This is what we dump in our canals!

Wastes recovered from waterbodies put on display to raise awareness



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ananya Halder works for a private firm in Gulshan 1. She came to the Dhaka North City Corporation for personal work. She was in a hurry but an exhibition in front of DNCC Nagar Bhaban caught her attention.

"I have attended so many exhibitions, but this was the first time I attended an exhibition,

where waste was exhibited," Ananya said.

DNCC yesterday kicked-off a three-day exhibition showcasing wastes accumulated in canals, drains and open spaces, in order to create public awareness. It is open to all.

A bathtub recovered by DNCC cleaners from Gulshan lake was on display among others.

The wastes also include abandoned quilts, mattresses, sofas, luggage, beds, cables, tires,

flower tubs, rickshaw parts, tables, chairs, basins, bags and plastic utensils among others.

Speaking at the event, DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam said, "This exhibition has been organised with the waste recovered from different canals in our DNCC area. I want to show the city dwellers what kind of waste they are dumping on the canals. This is a public awareness exhibition."