

# DHAKA

## 'We demand UN probe into the killings'

Say social and cultural orgs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Protesting the deaths during the countrywide violence centring the recent quota reform protests, as well as false cases and indiscriminate arrests, cultural and social organisations yesterday demanded fair and impartial investigations under the United Nations.

Under the banner of "Protesting Cultural and Social Organisation", they organised a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club around 11:00am.

"No one can remain silent after seeing the number of deaths. When I close my eyes, I can see those bodies," said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive at Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association.

"We witnessed the Joj Miah drama during the previous judicial probe. Therefore, we want fair and impartial investigations under the United Nations," she demanded.

Mentioning that critically injured people were rushed from hospital to hospital after sustaining injuries from police firing, she said, "The hospitals refused to provide them with treatment. We condemn such a health system."

She demanded the resignation of the ministers responsible for the killings, an end to "dirty politics" on campuses, and the immediate reopening of educational institutions after ensuring safety of the students.

Addressing the rally, Daily Samakal Advisory Editor Abu Sayeed Khan said the quota reform protest was a just one. "But the government used force to suppress the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Various cultural and social organisations form a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday morning, demanding fair and impartial investigations into the violence and killings centring the quota reform protests under the United Nations.

DHAKA SATURDAY JULY 27, 2024  
SRABAN 12, 1431 BS  
The Daily Star 3



Find the perpetrators of violence

Says PM after visiting BTV Bhaban

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged citizens to cooperate with the government to make sure the perpetrators of the recent mayhem are nabbed from every nook and corner of the country.

"I would like to call upon the country's people to find out who was involved in these destructions and cooperate to ensure their punishment," she said.

The premier made the call while visiting Bangladesh Television (BTV) Bhaban in the city's Rampura area to see the extent of damage after it

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Lift curfew, withdraw army: Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

Terminating the killing of student protesters by law enforcers "is a mass murder", BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the government has lost the moral right to rule.

He also called for withdrawal of the army and lifting of the curfew.

In a statement, he asked the government to release accurate statistics on the number of innocent individuals killed, maimed, and injured in recent days.

"It's never acceptable to use the army to suppress a justified movement of students and people. We demand the immediate withdrawal of the curfew and sending the armed forces back to the barracks," the BNP leader said.

Fakhrul said people need to know how much ammunition, tear gas, and sound grenades bought with the public money were used on students.

He warned that the government will one day be held accountable

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Every death will be probed

Says Quader, blames BNP-Jamaat for violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Every death related to the violence centring quota reform protests will undergo judicial investigation and trial, said Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday.

"We don't want any untimely death. Every killing will be tried. Legal actions will be taken against those involved in the violence," Quader told a press conference in Dhaka.

He said all the demands of students have been accepted. He accused the opposition of exploiting the movement to overthrow Sheikh Hasina's government, saying, "Thousands of our leaders, activists, and police officers were attacked. Their intention was to overthrow Sheikh Hasina's government."

He linked the violence to historical betrayals, saying "The murderers of '71, the killers of '75, the assassins

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Anti-mosquito drives slow down due to unrest

Experts fear dengue cases may rise as a result

HELEMUL ALAM

Anti-mosquito drives have either remained completely suspended in some areas or been slowed down since the recent unrest in the country centring the quota reform protests.

This may result in a rapid increase in dengue cases, fear experts. They said if not addressed quickly, the situation may become alarming.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), dengue cases in July have nearly doubled from June, rising from 798 to 1,747.

The total number of cases until July 26 stands at 5,398, with 60.9 percent male and 39.1 percent female patients. The death toll has reached 51, with females accounting for 52.9 percent of the fatalities.

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman said while the reduced rainfall is somewhat positive, the anti-mosquito drives have become irregular, and in some instances, non-existent, due to the recent violence.

He said anti-mosquito drives should resume in all places as the upcoming days will be challenging due to the potential emergence of Den-2 variant.

Last year, the country faced approximately 3,21,179 dengue cases, primarily caused by the Den-2 variant.

Entomologist Kabirul Basar warned that dengue cases are expected to rise significantly next month due to the early July rains.

The slowdown in anti-mosquito activities has likely contributed to mosquito breeding, necessitating immediate action.

Public health expert Mushtaq Hossain emphasised the importance of proper solid waste management to combat Aedes mosquitoes.

He advocated for a nationwide cleaning drive to address dengue and other health issues, adding that dengue is no longer confined to urban areas.

Mushtaq stressed the



PHOTO: STAR

Almost two times more dengue cases in July than June

798 cases in June; 1,747 in July

5,398 cases till July 26

60.9pc male patients; 39.1pc female patients

So far, dengue claimed 51 lives this year

Female patients accounted for 52.9pc of fatalities

3,21,179 dengue cases in 2023.

hospital care.

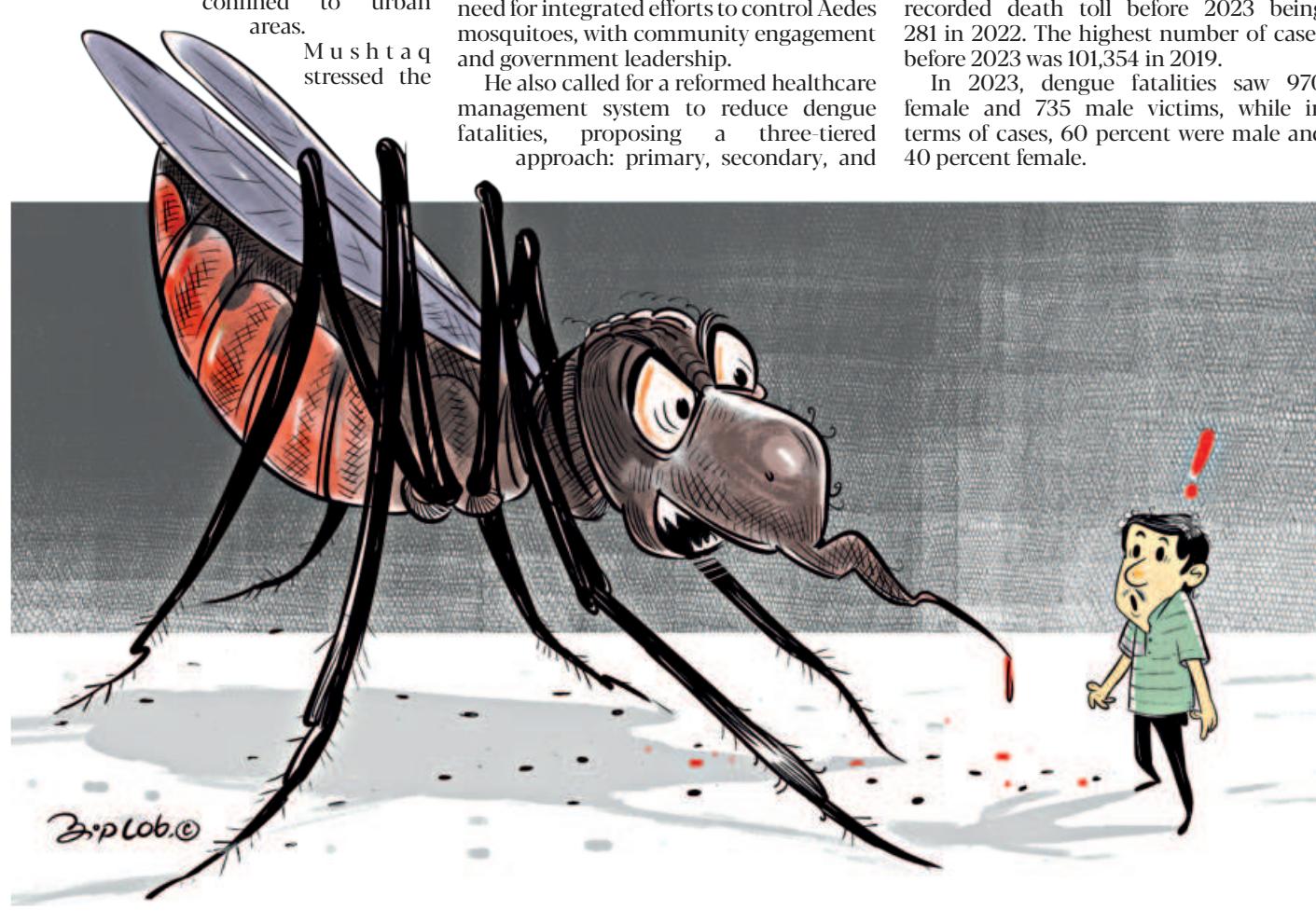
He explained that primary healthcare should involve local facilities in every city ward for early diagnosis and treatment, easing the burden on hospitals. Secondary healthcare should cater to at-risk patients, such as pregnant women, the elderly, and children, reducing the strain on major hospitals and critical care units.

Mushtaq said the lack of manpower, medicines, and diagnostic facilities at village and upazila levels hampers early detection and treatment of dengue.

The year 2023 was marked by the worst outbreak of dengue since the disease's first official appearance in 2000. As of December 31, 2023, DGHS reported 321,179 hospitalisations and 1,705 deaths due to the dengue outbreak.

In 2000, the nation experienced 93 deaths and 5,551 cases, with the highest recorded death toll before 2023 being 281 in 2022. The highest number of cases before 2023 was 101,354 in 2019.

In 2023, dengue fatalities saw 970 female and 735 male victims, while in terms of cases, 60 percent were male and 40 percent female.



'Punish those involved with the killings'

Shujan calls for commission to probe each death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) yesterday demanded the formation of a commission comprising neutral persons and experts to investigate each killing during the countrywide violence centring the quota reform movement.

Shujan, a civil society platform, in a statement signed by its President M Haizuddin Khan and Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar, also demanded the punishment of those involved in these incidents.

"We are deeply concerned by the ongoing deadlock caused by the students' protest to reform the quota system. The number of deaths from violence is escalating daily... We believe

It is unacceptable for any independent and democratic country to suffer such a loss of life in the pursuit of rights. We believe that every life is precious. These lives cannot be replaced.

that these numerous deaths are attributable to provocative government statements, instigation by vested quarters, and the excessive use of force by law enforcement agencies," said the statement.

"It is unacceptable for any independent and democratic country to suffer such a loss of life in the pursuit of rights. We believe that every life is precious. These lives cannot be replaced," it added.

The organisation asserted that violence perpetrated in the name of a movement, as well as attacks, vandalism, and arson targeting government establishments, are completely unjustified.

It demanded that those responsible for damaging state property be brought to justice.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

'We condemn crackdown on student protesters'

Say Bangladeshi communication scholars in North America

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty academicians, under the banner of Bangladeshi Communication Scholars in North America (BCSNA), have expressed deep concern over the government's crackdown on student protesters in Bangladesh.

In a statement yesterday, they expressed solidarity with students protesting against the discriminatory quota system in government jobs and demanded justice for the deaths of unarmed civilians.

They also called for a cessation of ongoing legal harassment.

BCSNA supports the student community's calls for broader political reforms and holding perpetrators accountable, the statement reads.

Although the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the students' demands, its implementation is pending. The protesters, who began their peaceful advocacy in mid-July, faced severe repression from the government, the platform said.

According to a BBC report, police responded with "shotgun fire, tear gas, and sound grenades," resulting in nearly 200 student deaths and thousands of injuries, they claimed.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4