

Abdul Malek new Baitul Mukarram Khatib

BSS, Dhaka

The government has appointed Islamic law expert and Hadith scholar Mufti Muhammad Abdul Malek as khatib of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque.

The approval of his appointment came on Thursday, said a press release of the Ministry of Religious Affairs issued yesterday.

Malek is an Islamic scholar with advanced degrees in Islamic Studies, Hadith and Fiqh from well-known institutions both at home and abroad, the release said.

He has travelled to Makkah, Madinah, Pakistan, India and Turkey, and has presented articles at various national and international seminars.

Malek has also authored 16 books in Bangla, Arabic, English and Urdu.



Rickshaws cruise through the Shahbagh area, disregarding the DMP signboard right above that has "banned" it from plying the road. Blatant disregard for law and order continues to be a problem throughout the country. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Amar Desh to return by Dec Says Mahmudur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The daily Amar Desh is set to return to circulation by December, according to its publisher and editor, Mahmudur Rahman.

He made the announcement during a press conference yesterday at the Zahur Hossain Chowdhury Hall of the Jatiya Press Club.

"We will bring Amar Desh back to stand against Indian expansionism and looters. We urge the government not to place any legal obstacles in its relaunch," Mahmudur Rahman said.

He accused the previous government of destroying the newspaper's press and highlighted that setting up a new one would take time.

However, he confirmed plans to print the paper from two other presses in the interim.

"Amar Desh stands outside corporate and political interests, and it is essential to defend the country's sovereignty," he added.

He also mentioned the need to secure a new office before printing could resume. Rahman estimated the losses to the press machinery at Tk 25 crore, paper losses at Tk 10 crore, and fire damage to the office at Tk 100 crore.

Dengue danger NOT OVER YET

Experts fear rainy weather may prolong season

HELEMUL ALAM

As rain and thunderstorms are expected in various parts of the country over the next few days, experts warn that the dengue season could extend further this year.

The chances of the situation improving in October remain low.

According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, rain and thunderstorms, accompanied by gusty winds, are likely in Dhaka, Khulna, and



Sylhet divisions, with isolated showers expected in other regions, including Rangpur, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Barishal, and Chattogram. This weather pattern is expected to continue until Sunday.

Prof Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist at Jahangirnagar University, said the ongoing rainy season might extend the dengue season until December or even January.

"Although the density of Aedes mosquitoes has remained static in the last two weeks, this level is still enough to spread dengue further," he said.

Prof Bashar emphasised the importance of controlling mosquito breeding sites and

managing hotspots to curb the spread of the virus. "Necessary steps must be taken to control Aedes mosquitoes to manage the situation effectively."

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman echoed this sentiment, saying the current pattern of rainfall is highly conducive to Aedes mosquito breeding.

"This type of rain won't wash away mosquito larvae or eggs, so without immediate action, dengue cases in the most vulnerable areas will rise further," he warned.

"We do not expect a reduction in cases this month as the rainy

season continues," Saifur added.

He stressed the need for ongoing control measures, citing Singapore as an example where year-round mosquito control programmes have helped reduce dengue cases over time.

"If Bangladesh had implemented active control measures consistently, the situation would be under control," he said. He urged

the government to establish a monitoring cell to oversee anti-mosquito activities across the country.

Even a small-scale monitoring system could yield significant results next year, he said.

Saifur said with dengue spreading across the country, there is a risk of further increases in cases and expansion to more areas next year. "The government must take a long-term approach, and setting up a monitoring cell is crucial," he said.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), at least three dengue patients died, and 411 others were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning. This brings the total number of deaths to 237, with total cases reaching 47,461.

Want swift justice, fair compensation

Says widow of 24-yr old Shajahan who was killed during protests

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and NILIMA JAHAN

The family of Md Shajahan, a 24-year-old hawker from Dhaka's New Market area who was killed in the capital the same day Abu Sayed died in Rangpur, is demanding swift justice and appropriate compensation for his death.

Shajahan was shot dead on July 16 during clashes involving police, Chhatra League members, and participants of the anti-discrimination student movement near Dhaka City College.

His family renewed their call for justice following the arrest of two high-profile Awami League leaders in connection with his death.

The arrestees include Salman F Rahman, former private sector adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, former law minister Anisul Huq, and Major General Ziaul Ahsan, former director general of the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre.

They have been accused of orchestrating the violence that led to Shajahan's death.

Shajahan, who grew up in Kamrangirchar's Chand Masjid area, had recently been evicted from his makeshift shop selling doormats in front of Balaka Cinema Hall, just two weeks before his death.

Shajahan was shot dead on July 16 during clashes involving police, Chhatra League members, and participants of the anti-discrimination student movement near Dhaka City College. He left behind his pregnant wife and mother.

Desperate for work, he had been trying to support his pregnant wife while struggling to meet basic expenses like rent and food.

"My son even wanted to pull a rickshaw, but no one would let him because he was inexperienced," said Ayesha Begum, Shajahan's mother.

On the day of his death, Shajahan, the third of four siblings, left home hungry in search of work.

By evening, his family received the devastating news that he had been shot during the violent clashes.

He was found bleeding near City College and was pronounced dead at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 7:00pm.

The next day, Shajahan's mother filed a case at New Market Police Station, demanding action against those responsible for her son's death and a thorough investigation.

However, she later discovered that the police had initially shifted blame to BNP and Jamaat members, accusing them in the case.

Following the fall of the AL government on August 5, the case took a dramatic turn with the arrest of prominent AL leaders.

"Now that these powerful men have been arrested, we fear that changes in the political landscape could complicate the case," Ayesha said. "We don't know what will happen next."

Shajahan's family is also pleading for financial compensation to settle the Tk 2.7 lakh debt he had accrued in his final months. Creditors are now pressuring the family for repayment.

Shajahan left behind his wife, Fateha Akter, who is six months pregnant and deeply concerned about the future of their unborn child.

"I am worried about my baby's future and don't know how I will raise him or her," Fateha said on the day of Shajahan's burial at Azimpur Graveyard.

Md Sajib, investigation officer from New Market Police Station, confirmed that the case had been transferred to the Detective Branch on September 17.

He said Shajahan had died from a gunshot wound to the head and that the charges were altered based on the family's concerns.

22-DAY BAN ON FISHING

Fishermen struggle to make ends meet



Fishermen in Barishal are passing idle time amid the ongoing ban. Some are taking the opportunity to repair their nets or just tidy them up to keep them ready for the future. PHOTO: TITU DAS

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barishal

Amid the ongoing 22-day ban on fishing, fishermen across Barishal division are going through a difficult time to remain afloat.

Visiting the Jele Palli (fishermen's village) under Tungbaria union of Barishal Sadar upazila yesterday, this correspondent found most fishermen passing idle hours while some were engaged in repairing their fishing nets and boats.

With hardly any income during this time, most fishers are compelled to borrow money

from non-government organisations.

"We are basically living on rice and potatoes. Only once in a while we may have lentils and vegetables, which are quite expensive these days. We neither have any income nor any savings to fend for ourselves during the ban on fishing," said Scema Begum, a housewife.

Of the 376 fishermen in the village, 196 are registered, and only 155 of them got the government's assistance of 25 kilogrammes of rice.

"Almost all the 376 fishermen had to take



People browse through a collection of winter clothes at a wholesale shop in the Sadarghat area of the capital yesterday. With winter approaching, many have started venturing to such shops in advance to get better deals. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN