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'Division among democratic forces aiding fascists'

Fakhrul urges media, other actors to refrain from promoting negative campaigns

UNB, Dhaka

Expressing concerns, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said the associates of fascists have started resurfacing due to division among democratic forces.

"One thing to note is that the fascists have started raising their heads again due to various negative statements and discourses. Unfortunately, some of our media are promoting this, which I believe, will bring no good for people in any way," he said.

The BNP leader made the remarks while speaking at a discussion organised by the Youth Forum at the High Court auditorium. He urged the media and those conducting negative campaigns to refrain from such actions. "I also urge the youth to take a stand and work to stop this trend."

Fakhrul said the only way to overcome the crisis that the nation is facing is through patience -- holding a fair and credible election after the completion of necessary state reforms.

He urged everyone not to miss the opportunity, which came through the student-led mass uprising, to rebuild



People queue up in front of a TCB truck in the capital's Kakrail area to purchase daily commodities at subsidised prices. Inset, another group of people, who had been waiting patiently for a TCB truck sit on the sidewalk hopelessly in the Hatirjheel area as the truck did not show up. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Noor Hossain Day today

BSS, Dhaka

Shaheed Noor Hossain Day, a red-letter day in restoration of democracy in Bangladesh, is being observed today with due solemnity.

On this day in 1987, Noor Hossain, who imprinted his bare chest and back with the slogan "Swarachar nipat jak, gonotantra mukti pak" (down with autocracy, let democracy be freed), was gunned down when police opened fire on an anti-autocracy demonstration in Dhaka's Zero Point.

This place was renamed "Noor Hossain Chatrar (square)".

The martyrdom of Noor Hossain and others during

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Social safety for migrant workers soon Says Sharmeen Murshid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sharmeen Murshid, adviser to Social Welfare and Women and Children Affairs ministries, yesterday said migrant workers will soon be brought under the social safety net.

"Migrant workers are the largest source of our earnings. We will immediately bring them into the safety net programme," she said while speaking at a seminar in the capital's Bishwo Shahitto Kendra.

The event was organised by Solidarity Center, International Lawyers Assisting Workers Network, and the Foundation for Law and Development (FLAD).

"We will identify those facing physical and severe economic crises and create avenues for support," Sharmeen said, adding that the ministry's responsibility is to protect migrant workers.

She also emphasised the need for a focused policy for migrant worker support, developed in coordination with

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We will identify those facing physical and severe economic crises and create avenues for support. It's the ministry's responsibility is to protect migrant workers.

Female migration to Saudi Arabia drops 35pc

JAMIL MAHMUD

The migration of Bangladeshi female workers to Saudi Arabia declined by 35 percent this year compared to the same period last year, according to data from the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training.

This drop, attributed to a lack of job demand from Saudi employers, contributed to an overall decrease in female migration from Bangladesh, as Saudi Arabia remains the largest job market for Bangladeshi female workers.

Only 26,834 female workers went to Saudi Arabia between January and September 2024, down from 41,327 workers during the same period last year, the data said.

Overall, 43,405 female workers migrated from Bangladesh in the first nine months of this year, a 28 percent decline from the 60,566 workers who left in the same period last year, it added.

Sector insiders point to a shift in employer preferences, with countries like the Philippines becoming more favoured due to their workers' skills and better English proficiency.

They say Bangladeshi female workers go to Saudi Arabia mostly as domestic workers and for such jobs



they do not have to pay any migration cost since those are borne by the employers.

Fakhrul Islam, a recruiting agent and managing partner of Human Resource Development Center, said Saudi Arabia previously relied

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Reviving public-police relations vital Says Shakhawat

UNB, Dhaka

Re-establishing the relationship between the police and public has become an urgent need, said Shipping Adviser M Shakhawat Hossain yesterday.

The police must turn into a "humane" force, one that serves people without political interference, he said while speaking at a seminar titled "Formation of a Police Commission and Proposals for Other Reforms to Ensure Public-Oriented Police Services", at North South University.

The seminar focused on police reform and the necessity of forming an independent police commission to create a more people-oriented police force.

The formation of an independent police

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Compromised morality behind political chaos

Says Sohel Taj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is widespread hypocrisy in today's political and societal culture, said Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj, son of Bangladesh's first Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad, yesterday.

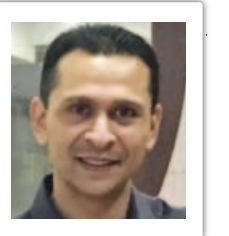
"Unfortunately, in today's political culture and society as a whole, we practice hypocrisy. Saying one thing in public and living differently in private -- that's a form of hypocrisy," he said.

He was speaking at a programme titled "Shotabdir Kanthashor Tajuddin Ahmad: Kannyar Chokhe, Putrer Chokhe", organised by Oitijhya, a publishing house marking two decades of its journey.

Speaking about his father, Sohel Taj said, "Maintaining the same principles in both personal and public life was a defining characteristic of Tajuddin. Today, there is a lack of such values among our politicians."

"We have compromised on essential qualities

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Dengue death toll reaches 350

8 die, 1,134 get hospitalised in a day

UNB, Dhaka

Eight more deaths were reported from dengue in 24 hours till yesterday morning, raising the number of fatalities from the mosquito-borne disease in Bangladesh to 350 this year.

In the recent fatalities, four were reported in the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), one in the Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), one in the Chattogram division (outside the city corporations) and two in the Barishal division (outside the city corporation).

During the period, 1,134 more patients were hospitalised with viral fever, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Some 4,433 patients are receiving treatment in different hospitals across the country.

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Wildlife hunting, trafficking must stop: Rizwana

UNB, Dhaka

Wildlife hunting, capturing, and trafficking must end to protect biodiversity, said Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan yesterday.

She called for the preservation of all wildlife, including tigers and elephants, and urged that deforestation be stopped to save existing forests.

Rizwana was speaking as the chief guest at the national closing ceremony of the "Wildlife Olympiad" held at Viqarunnisa Noon School and College in Dhaka.

She mentioned various measures taken to protect Bangladesh's only coral island, St Martin's, and urged people to avoid using plastic bags, unnecessary honking, and to save electricity by turning off fans and lights during the day.

The event showcased the Olympiad's theme song and a musical drama, followed by a pledge against wildlife poaching. All participating students received T-shirts, certificates, and gift items, while winners in each category were awarded cash prizes of BDT 50,000, 30,000, and 20,000 for first, second, and third places, respectively.

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Women making paper bags in Jindabazar, Old Dhaka yesterday. With the ban on plastic bags in force, the demand for eco-friendly packaging is on the rise.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Couple found dead in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the hanging bodies of a newlywed couple in the capital's Malibagh Chowdhurypara area yesterday.

The deceased are Jobayer Hossain Bipul, 27, and his wife Monisha, 18, said police.

Jobayer and Monisha hailed from Pabna Sadar upazila and Gazipur's Kapashia upazila, respectively. They got married around two months ago, said police, quoting their family members.

Jobayer used to work as a motorcycle mechanic in the Rampura area and lived at a rented flat in Chowdhurypara.

"On information from locals, police recovered the bodies from their rented flat on the second floor of a building at around 1:00pm. The door was locked from inside. Police entered the flat after breaking the door," said Ataur Rahman Akand, officer-in-charge of Rampura Police Station.

"Jobayer's body was hanging from a ceiling fan,

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