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### **'Division among** democratic forces aiding fascists'

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

UNB, Dhaka

concerns, Expressing 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 the state. "If this opportunity is lost, SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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 Hatiriheel area as the truck did not show up. The photos were taken yesterday.

### 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 "Swairachar nipat jak, gonotantra mukti pak" (down with autocracy, let democracy be freed), was gunned down when police opened fire on an antiautocracy demonstration in Dhaka's Żero Point.

This place was renamed 'Noor Hossain Chattar (square)".

The martyrdom of Noor Hossain and others during the mass upsurge of late 1990s expedited the antiautocracy movement.

In the face of the movement, autocratic ruler HM Ershad had to step down on December 6, 1990.

To observe the day in a befitting manner, different socio-cultural and professional organisations, as well as BNP and Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, have chalked out elaborate programmes.

## Social safety for migrant workers soon Says Sharmeen Murshid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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

"Migrant workers are the largest source of our arnings. We will immediately bring them into the safety net programme," she said

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while speaking at a seminar in the capital's Bishwo Shahitto Kendra. The event was organised Solidarity

Center, International Lawyers Assisting Workers Network, and the Foundation for Law and Development (FLAD).

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 SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

# 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 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

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

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 data from the Bureau of Manpower, 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 SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

#### Reviving public-police relations vital Says Shakhawat

UNB, Dhaka

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

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 people-oriented police force.

formation The an independent police SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# 'Liberation War is not about a single family'

### Tajuddin's daughter urges youth to revisit history

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One family, one individual narrative of the Liberation War is the reason why the country's young people feel disconnected with it, said Sharmin Ahmad, daughter of the country's first prime minister Tajuddin Ahmad, yesterday.

"For a long time, they [youth] were taught only the history of one family, one individual. As a result, they feel disinterested. However, the Liberation War was a people's war, with contributions from every race. It is essential to highlight these contributions," she added.

She said, "Today's children are confused. They think the history of the Liberation War is the story of the Sheikh family -- about Russel, Jamal and Kamal. There's no space here for the stories of the poor mothers' children, those who lost their lives and dignity."

Sharmin urged the younger generation to revisit the history of the Liberation War.

She said this while speaking at a programme titled "Shotabdir Kanthashor Tajuddin Ahmad: SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

### 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 mosquitoborne 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.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

### 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 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 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.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Workers of five factories belonging to T&Z Apparels Ltd in Gazipur's Basan area blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway yesterday, demanding unpaid wages of three months. Frustrated by missed payment deadlines, the workers took to the streets, leaving thousands of commuters stranded, including those travelling through Salna, Tongi, Chandana Chowrasta, and Bhogra Bypass.

#### 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, SEE PAGE 4 COL 4