

Wrongdoers within party won't be spared: Rizvi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Any party member involved in wrongdoing will face action, said BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday.

"Anyone who does something wrong, illegal, violent, or harmful in the name of the party will not be spared," he said at a press briefing at the BNP central office in Dhaka's Nayapaltan.

"This country must not fall into the hands of thugs. Some are involved in unethical activities, disturbing people, and creating fear using the party's name. We have not excused them, and we won't," Rizvi added.

The BNP leader said they have already taken steps against 4,000-5,000

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Construction materials and machinery owned by Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited are kept at Anowara Park in Farmgate. In September, all of it will be removed, and the site will finally be handed over to Dhaka North City Corporation to begin building a new public park. Initially, there were plans to construct a station plaza on the land; however, following public pushback, the decision was made to restore the area as a park.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DMTCL to hand over Anowara park to DNCC in Sept

- Demolition of existing structures to begin in late Aug
- DNCC plans walkways, tree planting, and book cafe
- Park has been used for metro rail construction since 2018
- Urban planners stress need to preserve green space at Farmgate
- Half of park already lost to metro rail, expressway projects

HELEMUL ALAM

After missing its initial deadline to hand over Anowara Park in Farmgate, Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited is now planning to transfer the site to Dhaka North City Corporation in September, following the removal of all existing structures.

Khondaker Ehteshamul Kabir, secretary of DMTCL, said the company needs to initiate a tender process to demolish its office located within the park.

"We may begin demolition work in the latter part of August, which should take around 15 days to complete. Afterwards, we will hand it over to DNCC," he said.

DNCC Administrator Mohammad Azaz said the handover was initially scheduled for July.

"Whenever we receive it, we will start renovating the park for public use," he said. "We will construct boundary walls, develop walkways, plant trees, and ensure seating arrangements. There will also be a book café."

Azaz said DNCC is currently working on a design for the park. "We aim to establish libraries at every

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Cop attends Jamaat event, sparks controversy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An official from Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Lalbagh Zone recently attended a political programme organised by Jamaat-e-Islami while in uniform and made political remarks.

The official, Shah Alam, assistant commissioner (patrol-Lalbagh), attended the programme organised by Jamaat's Dhaka-7 unit on Thursday at Salimullah Muslim Orphanage, where food was distributed among orphans to mark the first anniversary of the July uprising.

Hafiz Haji Enayet Ullah, Jamaat's nominated candidate for Dhaka-7 and a former FBCCI director, attended the event as special guest.

In his speech, AC Shah Alam said, "The previous fascist government sold out the entire country. You all know about this. I don't need to explain -- you've read it in the newspapers. Now the time has come for us to act."

"We want to elect those who are patriotic and dedicated to the country and people. That's why the youth, especially students, must work in their localities, increase the number of activists, reach out to honest people, and

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The forgotten boys of Mirpur

A decade on, families await justice for killing of three teenagers

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

For a decade now, 54-year-old house help Jyotsna Robi Das has been seeking justice for the killing of her son.

But her pleas went unheard -- until recently, when hopes revived following the fall of the Awami League-led government on August 5 last year.

Jyotsna's son was one of three teenage boys shot dead in the capital's Mirpur in February 2015. They were suspected of being arsonists linked to the then-main opposition, BNP.

According to the victims' families, the killers had ties to the then-ruling Awami League, which is why police failed to identify any perpetrators and eventually submitted a final report without making any arrests.

"For justice, I went to the police and then the court. Still, I got nothing," said Jyotsna, mother of Sumon, one of the victims, while talking to The Daily Star.

Holding a portrait of her son's body, she broke down in tears.

"How could they shoot so many bullets at such a little boy?" she said. "When I visited the spot, bullet shells were scattered across the narrow alley."

"Whenever I walk on the roads, the image of his lifeless body flashes before my eyes," added Jyotsna, who now supports her family working as a house help. "No one in our area can say my son was a bad person."

"I want the highest punishment for the killers. This is the only demand. I hope the



PHOTO: STAR

From left, Jyotsna Robi Das, 54, cries holding her son's photo while Halima Khatun, 65, mourns her grandson. The photos were taken recently.

current government will take steps to bring them to justice."

Another victim, Robin, was raised by his grandmother Halima Khatun, 65, after his mother abandoned him as a baby.

"Due to our hardship, my grandson couldn't go to school. He started working as a leguna helper...", she said. "I am still waiting for justice."

The families urged the government to reinvestigate the case.

Contacted on May 11, Muhammad Talebur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said, "It's an old incident. I don't know anything about it," but added, "Police will look into the matter again."

THE INCIDENT

Around 7:00pm on February 22, 2015, a group of local Jubo League men caught



DENGUE SURGE
Women fatality high despite fewer cases

HELEMUL ALAM

As dengue cases continue to surge, the total number of reported infections this year has reached 11,660, with 6,887 of them being male.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 45 dengue patients have died this year as of yesterday -- 24 males and 21 females. Although more men have died, the percentage of deaths is higher among female patients compared to their total infection numbers.

Experts say the higher number of male infections is mainly due to increased mobility

Gender-based health neglect plays a major role. Patriarchal norms often delay women's access to medical care. In many cases, families take women to the hospital only when it's already too late.

Dr HM Nazmul Ahsan
Associate Professor, Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital



for work, which makes them more exposed to mosquito bites in various locations.

DGHS data shows that 59.3 percent of infections are male and 40.7 percent female. Among the total deaths, 53.3 percent are male and 46.7 percent female.

Experts also point out that late hospitalisation, malnutrition, compromised immunity, and social stigma have historically led to higher female mortality in dengue cases. Despite slightly fewer female deaths this year, their fatality rate remains disproportionately high.

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman explained

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Rain likely in parts of country

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Meteorological Department has forecast rain or thunder showers with lightning flashes in all divisions, including Dhaka, for the 24 hours starting at 9:00am yesterday.

"Light to moderate rain or thunder showers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over Khulna, Barishal, Chattogram and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Mymensingh divisions with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over the country," said a met office update.

Day and night temperatures may remain nearly unchanged over the country, according to the BMD.

All maritime ports have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal number 3 during this period.

Biodiversity entangled in deadly mesh

Widespread use of China Duari nets disrupts life across JU's wetlands

SAKIB AHMED

The rampant use of fine-meshed fishing nets, locally known as China Duari nets, in the swamps and waterbodies within and around Jahangirnagar University (JU) is posing a serious threat to the area's aquatic biodiversity.

These non-biodegradable nets, ranging from a few feet to over 15 metres in length and costing between Tk 900 and Tk 14,000, are typically deployed from mid-May to October in narrow canals, wetlands, and crop fields. Due to their extremely fine mesh, they not only trap fish but also entangle unintended species such as snakes, juvenile fish, and birds, harming the fragile local ecosystem.

Although not officially banned in Bangladesh, the nets violate the Protection and Conservation of Fish Rules, 1985, which prohibits mesh sizes smaller than 4.5 cm.

Despite their environmental impact, China Duari nets remain widely available and are used by local residents and even university staff.

During a recent visit, this correspondent observed the nets being used in several waterbodies, including Sindhuria Lake, Mirertek Lake (about 5 km from

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Fine-meshed fishing nets, locally known as China Duari nets, are seen in the swamps and waterbodies on the campus of Jahangirnagar University. Their widespread use poses a serious threat to the area's aquatic biodiversity. The extremely fine mesh not only traps fish but also entangles unintended species such as snakes, juvenile fish, and birds -- harming the fragile local ecosystem. Although the Protection and Conservation of Fish Rules, 1985, prohibit mesh sizes smaller than 4.5cm, China Duari nets have not been specifically banned, allowing their continued use in some areas.

PHOTO: STAR

