

Rezaur Rahman's namaz-e-janaza today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The funeral of renowned scientist and Bangla Academy Award-winning writer Rezaur Rahman will be held today.

Family sources said his first namaz-e-janaza will be held after the Zohr prayers at Taqwa Mosque on Dhanmondi 12/A and the second one after the Asr prayers at Jame Mosque on Salimullah Road in Mohammadpur. Later, he will be laid to rest in the grave of his father Fazlur Rahman at the Mosque Complex Graveyard.

Rezaur Rahman passed away on October 26 at LabAid Hospital in Dhaka at the age of 81 following a cardiac arrest.

His body was kept at the hospital mortuary.

Woman, son burnt by her husband die

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A woman and her son died at a Dhaka hospital yesterday, a week after her "drug addict" husband allegedly set his family members on fire in Narsingdi.

Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime) Sujan Chandra Sarker of Narsingdi said Rina Begum, 38, and her son Farhad, 15, died at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

Rina's younger son Tawhid, 7, is still undergoing treatment, while three others - Rina's elder son Jihad, 24; her sister Salma Begum, 34; and Salma's son Arafat, 15 - were discharged after primary care.

The suspect, Farid Mia, 44, a pickup driver from Ghoradia in Chinispur union, was arrested on Saturday.

On the night of October 22, Farid allegedly poured petrol on the victims and set them ablaze in their sleep in his in-laws' house.

No cause for concern

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since we have maintained a balance. There is nothing for anyone to worry about," he told reporters when asked about concerns voiced by a third country regarding Bangladesh's relationship with China.

Talking to reporters at the foreign ministry, Touhid said Bangladesh maintains a balanced policy in its relationships with other countries and that there is no question of avoiding relations with any particular nation.

"We have deep relations with the United States and extensive economic relations with China," said the adviser, expressing confidence that Bangladesh will continue to uphold this balanced approach.

Touhid also said he believes that future governments will continue to follow this policy. Brent Christensen, nominee for US ambassador to Bangladesh, last week said if confirmed, he would engage with the Bangladesh government and military to "clearly articulate the risks from Chinese activity and involvement with their military activities in the maritime domain and in their critical infrastructure, as well as highlight the opportunities and benefits that come with a closer partnership with the United States, especially military-to-military".

"The United States supports Bangladesh in its journey toward a bright and democratic future," he



Farmer Subinoy Mollik shakes dew from the leaves of his jute spinach plants onto the soil to keep it moist amid a water crisis. He follows this method as a natural alternative to irrigation. The photo was taken in the Masuk Bazar area of Sylhet Sadar upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Siltation choking Manu River

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

The Manu River in Moulvibazar, once a lifeline for local agriculture, fisheries, and navigation, is losing its natural water flow and navigability due to siltation.

Originating from India, the 74-kilometre-long river enters Bangladesh through Sharifpur in Kulaura upazila and merges with the Kushiyara River at Manumukh in Moulvibazar.

Locals said the river's navigability and water flow have drastically deteriorated due to the heavy deposit of silt during two consecutive floods in 2022 and 2024. This has severely reduced the river's depth, causing adjoining haors, canals, and waterbodies to gradually dry up.

At the Shikaria area, around 300 feet of the river protection embankment was eroded last monsoon. The floods in 2022 and 2024 also caused severe damage in Miyarpur, Sondra, and Shalon areas of Kulaura upazila due to riverbank erosion.

"Silt has filled up the river, and since it hasn't been dredged for years, water inundates our farmlands and destroys our crops whenever it rains heavily," said Taju Mia, a local.



"The river is no longer deep enough for boats to navigate, especially during the dry season, when people resort to crossing the river on foot or using bamboo bridges," said Rubel Ali, a boatman at Rajapur Kheyga ghat. "The water-holding capacity of Manu, Fanai, and Hakaluki rivers has decreased due to siltation," said Abu Masud, senior fisheries officer of Kulaura upazila. "We've submitted a proposal to the Fisheries Department to dredge the Kangli Beel

section and adjoining parts of the rivers."

Khaled Bin Walid, executive engineer of the Water Development Board in Moulvibazar, said some parts of the river were dredged previously, but more work is urgently needed. "We'll send a proposal to the higher authorities for the removal of new sandbars and dredging of the riverbed."

Kulaura UNO Md Mohiuddin said they will discuss the issue with the relevant authorities to restore the river's navigability.

4 more die of dengue



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four dengue patients died, while 1,041 others were hospitalised, in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), of the deaths, three were recorded in Dhaka South City Corporation and one in Mymensingh division.

"We will certainly encourage those who wish to come as observers. However, we do not want anyone to come under the guise of an observer to pursue ulterior motives or tarnish the country's image," he said. He also said Bangladesh sought the extradition of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina based on legal aspects and a subsequent court order but had not received any response from the Indian side.

"We have followed the legal process and requested her return as per the court's order. Let them look into it. They have yet to reply. Let them examine it from their side," he said in response to a question. Bangladesh sent a diplomatic note (note verbale) to India in December 2018.

Considering these risks, the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (Bsti) set a legal lead limit of 90 ppm in decorative paints in 2018.

ESDO conducted the research with support from the Lead Exposure Elimination Project in London and Instiglio in Nairobi.

Presenting the findings, Sadmeen Sadaf Jahan, senior research and campaign associate at ESDO, said 161 samples from 73 brands were

Caretaker system

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The provision of the caretaker government cannot be removed, as it is a basic structure of the Constitution. There is no dispute about this system. All the elections held under this government were free and fair," he said.

The lawyer made the remarks while presenting arguments before a seven-member bench of the SC, headed by Chief Justice Syed Reza Ahmed, during the fourth day of hearings for the appeals and review petitions against the 2011 verdict that scrapped the non-party caretaker government system.

The apex court fixed today to resume the hearing.

Badal told the Appellate Division that the 2011 verdict, which had scrapped the caretaker government system, became invalid following last year's High Court judgment on December

17, which scrapped part of the 15th Amendment that abolished the non-partisan caretaker government system.

Earlier in the day, Jamaat-e-Islami lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir told the SC that the non-party caretaker government system is the most acceptable formula for democracy, as it is possible to hold free, fair, impartial, and credible elections under such a government.

Arguing for the restoration of the caretaker government system, Shishir Manir told the court that it is not possible to hold the upcoming national election under the caretaker government, as the parliament is not functional at present.

The caretaker government must be formed within 15 days of the dissolution of parliament under the 13th Amendment of the Constitution, he added.

Sayem Sattar, office secretary of the Bangladesh Paint Manufacturers Association, said 33 major brands are members of the association and none of them were found to exceed the permissible limit.

In adults, lead can cause high blood pressure, cardiovascular issues, and kidney damage.

He urged authorities to act against non-compliant producers.

Govt launches

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short-acting methods, rising fertility in urban slums, and regional disparities – particularly in Chattogram and Sylhet divisions – also remain major concerns, he added.

Speaking as a special guest, Prof Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser for the health ministry, called for data-driven systems, national research ownership, and comprehensive primary healthcare that combines prevention, treatment, and education to ensure people-centred progress.

Catherine Breen Kamkong, UNFPA Bangladesh representative, urged greater focus on adolescents, regional disparities, and human resource development.

"Every pregnancy should be by choice, not by chance," she said. Dr Md Abu Jafar, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services, said the health ministry aims to achieve universal health coverage by 2030 by strengthening healthcare management, particularly at the primary level.

"This strategy will serve as a unified guide for future initiatives," he said.

Md Saidur Rahman, secretary of Health Services and Medical Education & Family Welfare Divisions, stressed the importance of accurate birth registration, better data systems, and motivating field workers to promote safe deliveries and healthy babies so that policies reflect real needs.

Dr Nazmul Hossain, director of the Directorate General of Medical Education, also spoke.

ESDO Chairman Syed Marghub Mursheed, Executive Director Siddika Sultana, Technical Advisers Shahriar Hossain and Prof Abul Hashem, and former Additional Secretary Mahbub Kabir Milan also spoke at the event.

Lead level high in some local paints

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causing slow growth and development. For pregnant women, it can increase the risk of miscarriage, premature birth, or low birth weight and can harm the development of the baby's brain, kidneys, and nervous system.

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ESDO conducted the research with support from the Lead Exposure Elimination Project in London and Instiglio in Nairobi.

Presenting the findings, Sadmeen Sadaf Jahan, senior research and campaign associate at ESDO, said 161 samples from 73 brands were

collected from 37 shops in Dhaka and Chattogram and tested at the Wisconsin Occupational Health Lab in the US.

Of these, 68 samples (42.2 percent) exceeded the limit, while 93 (57.8 percent) met the standard. One Kangaroo brand, which is produced locally despite being a Singaporean company, sample contained 190,000 ppm of lead – over 2,000 times higher than the permissible limit.

Nine other highly contaminated brands included Euro, Nahar, New Tua, Top Seal, Modina Better Rubilack, Meghna Plus, Ramy, and Turkey, all of which are local.

She also noted that while over half the samples met the standard, only 21.6 percent carried "lead free" or "eco-friendly" labels.

Among retailers surveyed, 86.5 percent said industrial

DIU, CITY UNIVERSITY No case filed over clashes yet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

No case has been filed over the clashes between students of City University and Daffodil International University (DIU) on Sunday night, which resulted in scores being injured, several vehicles and infrastructure vandalised, and set ablaze.

Arafat Islam, additional superintendent of police (Crime) in Dhaka district, confirmed the matter to The Daily Star yesterday.

Syed Mizanur Rahman, DIU's director of external affairs, said an eight-member committee, led by DIU's Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Mohammad Asif Iqbal, has been tasked with investigating the incident and submitting its report within the next seven working days.

City University Proctor Prof Abu Zayed claimed more than a hundred of their students were injured, five of them critically. "We have decided to file a case in this regard. In addition, a written complaint will be lodged with the University Grants Commission," he added.

In response, DIU Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr MR Kabir said at a press conference yesterday, "It is their decision [to file a case]. We respect the law."

He said six DIU students remain in intensive care, 15 others are in critical condition, and nearly 100 students have received treatment at various hospitals.

He also said all classes have been suspended. "We hope to resume classes from November 1 if normalcy returns," he added.

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY Inu seeks discharge from ICT case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Claiming that the charges against Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haq Inu are baseless, his defence counsel yesterday appealed to the International Crimes Tribunal-2 to discharge him from a case related to crimes against humanity during the July uprising.

The prosecution has accused Inu, a key leader of the Awami League-led 14-party alliance, of eight counts of offences, including murder, command responsibility, and complicity during the uprising.

The tribunal set November 2 to decide whether to discharge the accused or move forward with charge framing.

Inu's counsel Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury argued that Inu was neither a member of parliament nor held any government post during the July uprising. Therefore, he bore no responsibility for any alleged offences. The lawyer further said the prosecution's bid to frame charges

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Woman files rape case against neighbour

OUR CORRESPONDENT, M'singh

Monsur Ahmed said the incident took place around 5:00am on October 18 when the woman went out of her house to fetch water from a tube-well in her yard. Akmol forcibly took her to a nearby field and raped her.

Hearing her screams, the victim's husband, a day labourer, and neighbours rushed to the spot, but the accused managed to flee, the OC said.

"The accused is on the run, and police are trying to arrest him," he added.

NOTICE OF INVITING QUOTATION FOR THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENT

Sealed quotations in separate envelopes (Technical & Financial) are hereby invited by Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC. from reputed suppliers and service providers for the following requirement.

Item Description: Request for Quotation (RFQ)/Schedule for Access Control System for employee attendance.

Specification & Other information: Detail mentioned in RFQ document/Schedule

Terms and Conditions:

- The RFQ/Schedule will be available from GSD of the Bank, Head Office, 63 Purana Paltan (Level-7), Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh, from 10:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on all working days between 29/10/2025 to 17/11/2025.
- The quotations will be received up to 3:00 P.M. on 18/11/2025 and the tender box will be opened at 3:15 P.M. on the same day.
- Sealed quotation must be submitted on or before the deadline mentioned in the RFQ document/Schedule.
- Any manipulation, unusual approaches or failure to submit offer within the stipulated time frame will result in disqualification from the bidding process.
- Al-Arafah Islami Bank PLC. reserves the right to accept, cancel or reject any or all offer without providing any reason.
- The cost of RFQ/Schedule is Tk. 3,000/- (three thousand) in cash which will be non-refundable.
- All other terms and conditions will be in accordance with the Bank's procurement policy.

SEVP & Head of GSD

General Services Division, Head Office
Al-Arafah Tower (Level-07)
63 Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000.

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Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-5 12-45 4-00 5-32 7-15

JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-35 7-45

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha