

### Cancer awareness event held

CITY DESK

Bangladesh Cancer Aid Trust (BANCAT) arranged an event called "Ribbon of Love" in Dhaka recently, to raise awareness against the disease, says a press release.

BANCAT President Rokia Afzal Rahman inaugurated the programme on Gulshan Youth Club ground on February 14. Sponsored by Roche and Guardian Life Insurance, The Daily Star was the event's media partner.

BANCAT founder Najmus Ahmed Albab said the event was organised to raise awareness about cancer among people. BANCAT trustees, advisors and donors were present on the occasion.

As part of the programme, 100 volunteers distributed 5,000 ribbons, T-shirts and brochures among people at 10 points -- Bashundhara City, Jamuna Future Pak, Baily Road, New Market, Dhanmondi-27, Gulshan-1, Gulshan-2, Bijoy Sarani, Uttara Zamzam Tower and Shahbagh intersection.



Bangladesh Cancer Aid Trust President Rokia Afzal Rahman inaugurates the event on Gulshan Youth Club ground in the capital.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

### Rab claims arrest

FROM PAGE 3 in the UAE in October last year. Later, he was reportedly freed on bail by a Dubai court, according to media reports.

Zeesan had an Indian passport in his possession, in which he was named Ali Akbar Choudhury, a police official said.

He is on the home ministry's list of 23 top criminals, published a decade ago.

There is a reward on his head. He was notorious in Gulshan, Banani, Badda, Motijheel and some other areas of the capital. He manipulated tender bids and extorted money from people and businesses, officials said.

Transnational police organisation Interpol has also issued a "Red Notice" for him.

Zeesan's name resurfaced during the ongoing drive against illegal casinos and arrest of two Jubo League leaders -- GK Shamim and Khaled Mahmud Bhuiyan.

Officials believe Zeesan was in close contact with them.

WHO IS SHAKIL MAZHAR? Hailing from Dagonbhuian of Feni, Shakil joined Chhatra League in 2005 when he was studying at Jagannath University.

He later got a post in Dhaka city unit of Chhatra League.

"From 2009, he got involved in tender-related matters with Bangladesh Railway in exchange of money. Later in 2010, he got involved with tender for books," the Rab official said.

In 2013, he returned home in Feni, but continued political activities there. Two years later, he again came to the capital and started politics of the ruling party again.

"But this time, he had an enmity with Jubo League leader Khaled Mahmud Bhuiyan, who was arrested in recent casino

drive, over tender in railway," added the official.

During the period, Shakil developed close ties with GK Shamim, a top government-listed contractor, according to Rab.

In June 2016, Shakil was accused in Jubo League leader Rajib's murder. Within four days, he left the country and went to China where he worked at a cargo service.

From there, he went to Dubai in 2018. There he met Zeesan through one of his friend's contact, law enforcers claimed.

"Within a very short period, Shakil grew close relations with Zeesan and became an important member for his business. They used to operate the underworld in Bangladesh and conducted several terror activities linked with extortion," added the Rab official.

Rab said they recovered some messages from Shakil's phone showing contacts with Zeesan.

Shakil maintained close relationship with some Jubo League leaders. He posted several photos of his political activities in January and February on Facebook.

"He was admitted to BSMMU on February 18," the Rab official said.

Shakil's cousin Fahim Mahmud told The Daily Star that Rab picked up Shakil along with his associate Shawon on Thursday around 11pm from BSMMU. A general diary was filed with Shahbagh Police Station in this connection.

"A nurse working there told me two plainclothes men picked them up in a white microbus. After a GD was filed, when we were trying to recover the CCTV footage of the hospital along with police, two Rab men came and took away the DVR. Then I saw the news of Shakil's arrest on TV," he added. Rab, however, refuted the allegation.

### Rizvi among 10 BNP

FROM PAGE 3 our leaders and activists, including I, were injured," he claimed.

However, Mostak Ahmed, deputy commissioner (Mirpur division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they did not attack the procession; rather BNP leaders and activists themselves left the spot seeing police.

Last Tuesday, Khaleda filed a fresh petition with the High Court seeking bail in Zia Charitable Trust graft case, citing illness.

An HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice AKM Zahirul Huq is scheduled to hear the petition today. Khaleda has been in prison since February 8, 2018 after being convicted in graft cases.

### Rape victim in fear

FROM PAGE 5 law enforcer called me and said to hush up the matter," she added.

This correspondent contacted the phone number. Upon mentioning the correspondent's identification, the receiver hung up and switched off the phone.

Contacted, Kawsar Ahmed Chowdhury, officer-in-charge (OC) of Basan Police Station, yesterday said police are trying to arrest the accused and taking necessary measures to ensure the victim and her family's safety.

### 24 Sri Lankan fishers sent

FROM PAGE 5 authorities. Meanwhile, a press release of CMP stated that another ship of navy -- BNS Surovi -- brought the fishermen to the naval base in Patenga on Thursday.

OC Utpal Barua of Patenga Police Station said, "Shafiqul Islam, an official of BNS Surovi, handed over the Sri Lankan fishermen to us on Friday evening, and filed a case against them."

SI Abu Sayed Rana of the police station is investigating the case, he said.

Md Kamruzzaman, additional deputy commissioner (prosecution) of CMP, said a metropolitan court sent them to jail after they were produced before it.

### 42 honoured for world's highest

FROM PAGE 2 for this, the end result really makes it worthwhile."

Zarin Rafa Authoi from Rosedale International School and College and Radowan Ahmed Baized from ABC International School were among the achievers of the highest number of A's.

Mubarrat Tajoar Chowdhury of Sunshine Grammar School and College, who has the highest number of A's in A levels, is pursuing a degree in engineering from the

Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology in South Korea. He said, "I hope to be at the forefront of technological innovation."

The highest achievers also delivered speeches at the ceremony. Mubarrat Tajoar Chowdhury stressed the importance of hobbies "even if it seemingly does not have tangible outputs".

They showed interests in a variety of subjects from literature, economics to life sciences and theoretical physics.

### Hostage to only a few

FROM PAGE 1 planned to form a commission for the banking sector.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) last month said high and increasing default loans and weak governance in the banking sector, especially in the state-owned banks, remained major policy challenges.

The actual size of bad loans was more than double the officially recognised figure, the lender said.

According to official statistics, bad loan stood at about Tk 1 lakh crore in December last year.

Debapriya yesterday said this was not only a matter of bad loans. "Bad loans have increased despite hundreds of promises and various incentives. But beneath it lies capital and provision shortfalls in banks and there is a fall in profit margins."

The economist said people's tendency to deposit their money in banks was becoming weaker. There was also a problem related to the interest rates both on deposits and loans for investment, he added.

"What is more worrying is that the central bank's judicious guidelines are being breached in broad daylight. These violations are sometimes tantamount to illegal activities. As a result, agencies such as the Anti-Corruption Commission have to get involved in the banking sector."

He said the statistics of the central bank show that "the banking sector has now become hostage to a handful of people and

groups".

The CPD has been calling for forming a banking commission since the Hall-Mark Group scam came to light in 2012. The little known business group siphoned about Tk 4,000 crore from the state-run Sonali Bank.

Debapriya, who was involved in a committee that worked in 2002 to amend the Banking Companies Act, said, "The crisis in the banking sector was initially an economic problem. Later, it snowballed into a political-economic problem. It's now a completely political problem."

The economist wondered whether the commission would only look into the banking sector or rather expand its coverage into the non-banking sector as the situation at the non-banking financial institutions was "far worse than the banking sector".

He asked whether the commission would also look into the role of the central bank.

"What are the problems the central bank is facing in overseeing the banking sector? The central bank is empowered legally. It remains to be seen whether the commission would explore why the central bank doesn't exercise its full authority."

He demanded the commission come up with some interim solutions to deal with urgent issues before finalising its report.

According to Debapriya, there was a crisis of trust and transparency in the country's banking sector. The proposed commission would have to work to ride out the crisis, he added.

### Surge in cases outside China

FROM PAGE 16 any direction. It could even be messy."

The outbreak has now claimed 2,345 lives in China and infected more than 76,000 people.

The number of new cases in China outside Hubei has been generally declining, although new outbreaks have emerged in several prisons and hospitals.

Chinese authorities reported nearly 400 fresh cases nationwide yesterday, less than half the previous day and just 31 outside Hubei.

A WHO-led team of experts are to visit Wuhan, the capital of the province, yesterday.

Cases of the deadly virus were reported in a range of countries in the Middle East, including the first cases in Israel and Lebanon.

Iraq and Kuwait, which share borders with Iran, were on high alert for a potential outbreak after banning travel to and from the Islamic republic, although they have not confirmed any cases domestically.

More than 400 people have been

infected in South Korea, many linked to a hospital and a religious sect, and two people have died, making it the hardest-hit country outside China.

The latest group of passengers disembarked from the coronavirus-stricken Diamond Princess cruise ship in Japan yesterday.

Several Australians and an Israeli evacuated earlier this week after being cleared in Japan tested positive for coronavirus on landing back in their home countries -- fuelling questions about Tokyo's policy of allowing former passengers to return home.

Two former Japanese passengers in their 80s have died.

The British government said an evacuation flight left Japan yesterday, with 32 British and European passengers on board. As fears spread of the virus in Japan, Tokyo 2020 Olympic organisers postponed training for their army of volunteers due to the coronavirus outbreak -- but said that there was "no consideration" of cancelling the Games.

### 12 lives lost

FROM PAGE 5 In Khulna, a two-and-a-half-year-old boy named Yasin died as a nosimon (locally-improvised vehicle) hit him while he was crossing a road with his mother at Hasnatla of Phultala yesterday, said Phultala Police Station OC Monirul Islam.

In Gopalganj, a bus rammed a rickshaw-van in front of Mukshudpur Government College yesterday. Zafar Munshi (60) was initially taken to Mukshudpur Upazila Health Complex, said police. He died on the way to Gopalganj General Hospital. Police seized the bus.

In Panchagarh, a nosimon plunged into a ditch beside Dhaka-Panchagarh highway at Bhasainagar in Boda upazila yesterday, leaving a man dead and four injured, said Boda Police Station OC Abu Haydar Md Ashrafuzzaman.

The injured -- Anwar (30), Pashirat (45), Sirajul (55) and Makbul (35) -- were undergoing treatment at Boda Upazila Health Complex.

### Book sellers

FROM PAGE 3 and answers, techniques of advanced writing and so on.

Chhoton said book stalls across the country will remain close on February 24 to press home their demand.

He said they will also form a human chain in front of all press clubs in the country.

Leaders of Bangladesh Gyan o Srijonshil Prokashak Samiti, Bangladesh Mudron Shilpa Samity, Bangladesh Web Printers Association and Bangladesh Bookbinding Owners Association were also present at the press conference, among others.

### An unmatched

FROM PAGE 5 was really extraordinary, unparalleled in the way he wrote."

MA Noor said he always cared for others and never thought of his own interests. "Badrul had a lucrative job in Standard Chartered Bank in Dubai, and later returned home to pursue his passion for writing."

MA Momen said, "I was honestly fascinated by his wisdom, his sharpness of intellect and the exalted quality of the writings displayed in his columns. The style of his writing was powerful."

Mohammad Badrul Ahsan, a popular columnist for The Daily Star and former publisher and editor of now-defunct weekly First News, passed away on February 6 at the age of 60.

Badrul was a senior official of Standard Chartered Bank and was stationed in Dubai for a long time. He started writing his column "Crosstalk" in The Daily Star in 2000.

Advertisement for 'Migrate Abroad 2nd Passport' with contact info for USA, Europe, Turkey, Dubai.

Advertisement for 'SUBLET at GULSHAN-2' and 'STAY UPDATED WITH The Daily Star'.

### 43rd death anniv of Lt AM Ataul Haque

CITY DESK

Today is the 43rd death anniversary of Bangladesh Navy's freedom fighter Lt AM Ataul Haque.

He joined the war of independence in 1971 defying allegiance of Pakistan Navy. After the war, Lt Haque made significant contribution in organising the navy for independent Bangladesh, said a press release.

Lt Haque had joined the Royal Indian Navy in 1945.

He died from a cardiac arrest on February 23, 1977 at Combined Military Hospital, Dhaka.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.



WARPO Water Resources Planning Organization Invitation for Re-Tender (OTM) with detailed specifications and contact information.

International Labour Organization (ILO) REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) Providing Support Personnel Service. Submission deadline is 22 March 2020 by 4:30 PM (BST time).