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## BELCHING OUT DEATH



This is how we made our cities some of the most polluted ones in the world. A steel rerolling mill in the residential area of Munshikhola in Pagla of Narayanganj is emitting toxic gas but the authorities seem to have turned a blind eye to the assault on the air we breathe. People living in the area face severe problems every day due to the fumes. The whole area seems foggy in the morning but it is actually smog. Air pollution is considered one of the leading causes of death in Bangladesh and one that is also considered avoidable through targeted policy measures.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

### Anti-rape march attacked in Feni

35 hurt as AL MP Nizam Hazari's followers attack protesters; they allege police joined in

STAR REPORT

The long march by anti-rape protesters from Dhaka to Noakhali came under repeated attacks in Feni yesterday after men of the ruling Awami League and police allegedly carried out "joint attacks" on them, leaving at least 35 protesters injured.

The incidents happened at the Shanti Company intersection in Feni town around 11:30am after the demonstrators concluded a rally in the Feni Shaheed Minar area.

"Goons of the local Awami League launched attacks on us with sticks and rods. At first, police were mere spectators. Then they too joined the ruling-party men and chased us... When we got on the bus, they attacked us again, hurling brick chunks, charging with sticks and ransacking the buses," Mehedi Hasan Nobel, president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, told reporters in Chowmuhan of Noakhali.

"In the two-hour journey from Feni to Noakhali, we saw Chhatra League and Jubo League men take up positions on the sides of the road. Fearing for their security, police did not arrange any treatment for us and so the injured had to remain in the bus," Mehedi said, adding that they

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VACCINE CANDIDATES

### WHO includes three made by Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three Covid-19 vaccine candidates developed by the Bangladeshi vaccine company Globe Biotech Ltd have been included in the draft landscape of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

With this, Globe Biotech Ltd has entered the global race for a Covid-19 vaccine as a first-ever Bangladeshi company.

This, however, doesn't guarantee the vaccine's effectiveness or success, experts said.

"This is a good progress, but this does not mean these vaccines are successful. There is a long way to go", Prof Sayedur Rahman, chairman of pharmacology at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), told The Daily Star recently.

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CUSTODIAL DEATH, TORTURE VICTIMS

### Ensure enough compensation

Speakers at webinar urge the govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is not enough that victims of custodial torture and deaths be allowed to seek criminal accountability, they also have to be allowed to seek monetary compensation and there have to be mechanisms that enable it.

While the courts can grant monetary compensation, the victims or their families are still not allowed to voluntarily seek it.

However, there is a cap on how much compensation can be given by the courts, which deters victims from pursuing justice, speakers observed at a webinar titled "Accountability for Custodial Torture: Lessons from the landmark Jonny Case", organised jointly by The Daily Star, Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust and Tort Law Project Bangladesh yesterday.

"My dead brother left behind two children. I have spent all of my savings pursuing justice and I don't know what lies ahead in the future of these two children. Who will take their financial responsibility?" said Imtiaz Hossain Rocky, who was tortured by police in 2014 and lost his brother Jonny during the same incident.

Rocky filed a case against the police and received a verdict on September 9, wherein three cops were given life sentence and fined Tk 2 lakh each to be given to the victims' family. The fine, however, will not be handed

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### Universities to hold tests for admission

Decides a VC meet

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Vice-chancellors of public universities yesterday decided in principle that admission tests for freshers would be held.

After attending a virtual meeting of Bangladesh Bishwabidyalaya Parishad, an association of public university vice-chancellors, they, however, said the date and the method of the exams would be announced later.

"We have decided that admission tests for enrolling students at universities will take place. But it was not decided how the test will be held; whether it will be held in-person or online," Prof Mohammad Rafiqul Alam, VC of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, told The Daily Star.

Rafiqul and Chittagong University

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### Bangladesh asked to be in clinical trials

Says Modi regarding Indian vaccine candidates

UNB, Dhaka

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday said there are requests from Bangladesh, Myanmar, Qatar and Bhutan for clinical trials of Covid-19 vaccine.

Indian scientists and research teams are collaborating and strengthening research capacities in neighbouring countries -- Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Mauritius, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

Three vaccines are at the advanced stages of development in India and two of them are in Phase-II and one is in Phase-III.

In an effort to help the global community, Modi directed that they should not limit their efforts to their immediate neighbourhood but also reach out to the entire world in providing vaccines, medicines and IT platforms for the vaccine delivery system.

Modi was reviewing the Covid-19 pandemic situation in his country and the preparedness of vaccine delivery, distribution, and administration, according to the Press Information Bureau of India.

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The by-polls in Dhaka-5 and Naogaon-6 constituencies recorded a noticeably low voter turnout. In the photo, one polling booth at Bornomala High School and College in Dhaka recorded zero vote till 1:03pm. Awami League candidates Kazi Monirul Islam and Anwar Hossain won in their respective constituencies. Story on page 5.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

### We're hopeful of preventing further Covid spread: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh will be able to prevent the further spread of the Covid-19 in the coming days.

"So far, we're lucky that both the infection and mortality rates of the disease are very low in Bangladesh. We're hopeful that we'll be able to prevent the further spread of the disease in the coming days," she said.

The PM said this in her pre-recorded video message played at the First International e-Conference on Critical Care-2020. Bangladesh Society of Anesthesiologists organised it virtually.

She said united efforts and the hard-labour of physicians and health workers can contain the spread of the deadly virus in Bangladesh.

To face the Covid-19 emergency, she said the government has appointed 2,000 doctors and 5,000 nurses on an urgent basis.

The PM said the conference is being held at a time when the world is reeling under the Covid-19 pandemic fallout.

She mentioned that the anesthesiologists play a crucial role in the management of critically ill patients apart from their work in operation theatres.

"Our anesthesiologists have been doing a wonderful job

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