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Police charge truncheons on the BNP activists in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday after they staged protests there demanding the government move away from its decision to revoke the gallantry award given to party founder and former president Ziaur Rahman. Story on page 12.

PHOTO:

Majority rule giving way to majoritarianism

Shashi Tharoor observes while in conversation with Mahfuz Anam on The Daily Star's 30th anniversary

Celebrated Indian writer, Member of Parliament and former diplomat Shashi Tharoor in a conversation with The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam on the occasion of the newspaper's 30th anniversary yesterday spoke eloquently on media freedom, regional politics and democracy on a virtual platform.

Mahfuz Anam: Let me start with what appears to be a duality of your current life as a writer and as a politician -- the former being more of a moral, ethical and value based world to the latter being more of compromise and the need to be practical. How do you navigate between being an author and a politician?



Shashi Tharoor: It's not easy at all. I have had to make choices between the demands of both. They are essentially the reactions of the same person seeing the world that provokes in him the wish to describe, the wish to act upon. There is the world of decisions

versus the world of observations or conclusions essentially relating to the same world. When I see something and think this is something I want to write about, this is also something I want to do something about. That is when the two worlds can overlap. My politics takes precedence over everything else because a couple of million people have elected me to represent them in the national parliament. There is, however, always a part of me that never forgets that I was a writer.

The enduring value will be that and not the politics.

Mahfuz Anam: There is however SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Pahela Falgun, the first day of spring according to the Bangla calendar, coincides with Valentine's day today. But young people in colourful attires were seen at parks and on university campuses yesterday. The photo of the toddler with the garland was taken in the capital's Shahbagh.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

A silent love confined to tears

Mohammad Al Masum Molla

Farida Yasmin has been confined to a bed since November 16, 2007 -- the day she slipped into a coma following a surgery. The doctors said she has no, or little,



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chance of ever waking from her deep sleep. But her husband, Munshi Nurunnabi Ahmed, refused to give up on his wife without a fight.

It has been a gruelling 14 years for this doting husband who left no stone unturned SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

PK HALDER

Fake NIDs fetched him Tk 450cr loan

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

PK Halder used forged national identity cards to borrow Tk 450 crore from three financial institutions (NBFIs) and laundered the money, according to Anti-Corruption Commission findings

While Halder was the managing director of Reliance Leasing, the organisation lent Tk 150 crore to two people named Irfan Ahmed Khan and Foysal Mustaq. On papers, they are the owners of JK Trade International and Verse Metal Industries, the commission's Deputy Director Gulshan Anowar Prodhan has found.

Investigators have yet to find the existence of the two men, said an Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) official, wishing not to be named.

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

On January 21, 2021 Sanofi announced its intention to sell its stake in Sanofi Bangladesh Limited (SBL) to Beximco Pharmaceuticals Limited, a leading and trusted pharmaceuticals company in Bangladesh.

The existing employees of Sanofi Bangladesh Limited may be reassured as Beximco Pharmaceuticals has granted a minimum of 3 years of job security and that all their compensation and benefits will remain the same moving forward, subject to compliance with existing SBL rules, regulations and labor laws of the country. In addition, Sanofi has also given employees the option to settle their end-term benefits, on an individual basis.

To summarise:

- Sanofi Bangladesh Limited will continue to operate in Bangladesh as a subsidiary of Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd., with Ministry of Industries (MoI) and Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) remaining as the other shareholders of the company.
- · The employees will continue to hold their jobs.
- The Sanofi range of products including the global brands will also continue to be made available to patients in Bangladesh.

Furthermore, Beximco Pharmaceuticals is keen to continue to build on Sanofi's legacy through investments and growing the business to provide more patients with increased access to Sanofi's products across Bangladesh.



