

## Indo-Bangla home secys to meet next week

Border killings among many on agenda

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh-India home secretary-level meeting will be held in Dhaka on February 27, a month before Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's planned visit to Dhaka on March 26-27.

Bangladesh Home Secretary Mostafa Kamal Uddin and his Indian counterpart Ajay Kumar Bhalla will lead the respective countries in the meeting.

"It is a regular meeting. Our regular issues will be discussed in it," an official concerned told this correspondent yesterday.

He said border killing is among other issues that would be highlighted.

Border killing has been a thorny issue between the two countries, and Bangladesh on various occasions raised it, urging for zero deaths on the border.

The Indian side says not only Bangladeshis, almost a similar number of Indians are also killed on the border. Even, members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) were also killed and injured on the border.

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The mangled remains of a bus after the vehicle collided head-on with a stone-laden truck on Dhaka-Rangpur highway early yesterday. According to bus passengers, the bus was overtaking a vehicle at speed when the crash happened. The accident left six people killed and 13 others injured in the College Gate area in Bogura's Sherpur upazila.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Reckless driving kills 6 in Bogura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

At least six people were killed and at least 13 others injured when a Bogura-bound bus crashed into a truck coming from the opposite direction in Sherpur upazila of the district around 5:00am yesterday.

Fire fighters, police and villagers rescued the injured and took them to hospitals.

Bus driver Babul Shaha, 55, and his assistant Idris Ali, 45, of Sherpur upazila; truck driver Saddam Hossain, 21, of Khulna; and passengers Aktar Hossain, 45, Easin Ali, 70, and his wife Hosne Ara Feroza, 60, of Bogura, died at the scene, said Ratan Hossain, station officer at Sherpur Fire Service and Civil Defense office.

Of the injured, four women and two children were admitted to Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital.

Two of them suffered critical injuries, said Abdul Wadud, deputy director of the hospital.

"The bus driver was reckless and he crashed while overtaking another vehicle at speed," said Baniul Anam, traffic inspector at Sherpur Highway Police Camp, quoting drivers of the other vehicles and passengers of the bus.

## Five held for trying to frame shop owner

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Detectives yesterday arrested five people, including two impersonating journalists, in Nasirabad area of Chattogram for attempting to frame a shop owner by planting bullets and yaba pills in his shop early yesterday.

The arrestees are Iftekhar Karim Chowdhury, 48, Md Sohel, 26, Md Faisal, 20, Md Nazrul Islam, 42, and Md Jamal Hossain, 41, said police.

Among them, Nazrul introduced himself as the driver of Chittagong University (CU)'s Vice-Chancellor Prof Shireen Akhter but police said they were verifying the information.

However, despite repeated attempts, the VC could not be reached for comments over phone.

Two ID cards of "Dainik Mukto Khabar" newspaper were also seized from Iftekhar and Nazrul.

Muhammad Ali Hossain, deputy commissioner of DB north division of CMP, in a press briefing, said, "The five had planted bullets and some yaba pills inside a shop named 'Hair and Fair' in front of MES College to frame the owner."

"When police got the information on Saturday, the DB men raided the shop and

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## COVID-19 VACCINE Serum CEO urges countries to be patient

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute of India, yesterday urged countries to be patient for supplies of Covid-19 vaccine Covishield as the company has been directed to prioritise the "huge needs" of India.

Apart from making efforts to meet the requirements of India, the company is also trying its best to balance the needs of the rest of the world, he tweeted yesterday morning.

"Dear countries and governments, as you await #COVISHIELD supplies, I humbly request you to please be patient. @SerumInstIndia has been directed to prioritise the huge needs of India and along with that balance the needs of the rest of the world. We are trying our best," Poonawalla said in the tweet.

On February 15, the World Health Organization (WHO) listed two versions of the Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine for emergency use, giving the green signal for these vaccines to be rolled out globally through COVAX, the global vaccine alliance.

The vaccines are produced by AstraZeneca-SKBio (Republic of Korea) and the Serum Institute of India.

Bangladesh purchased three crore doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine from SII. The first consignment of 50 lakh arrived on January 25, with 50 lakh doses supposed to arrive each month.

Bangladesh also received 20 lakh doses of the Oxford vaccine produced in SII as gift from the Indian government on January 21.

## Seven more die of Covid, 327 get infected

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh saw a rise in Covid-19 related deaths and a decline in new cases in the 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday.

Seven coronavirus-related deaths and 327 new cases were reported. On Saturday, five deaths and 350 fresh cases were confirmed.

Bangladesh reported its first cases on March 8 and the first death on March 18.

The daily infection rate was 2.33 percent on Sunday which was 3.14 percent yesterday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

So far, 543,351 Covid-19 cases have been confirmed, including 8,349 fatalities.

According to the latest figures, the overall infection rate stood at 13.76 percent which was 13.8 percent on Saturday. The rate is expected to fall further as

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## Ingenuity helicopter phones home from Mars



CNN ONLINE

The Ingenuity helicopter, sidekick and traveling companion of Nasa's Perseverance rover, has checked in with a good report and is "operating as expected," according to the agency.

If successful, Ingenuity will be the first helicopter to fly on another planet, leading to an "extraterrestrial Wright Brothers moment," said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator of Nasa's Science Mission Directorate.

The rover landed safely on the surface of Mars Thursday after launching from Earth on July 30. Perseverance has already sent back an impressive set of images to show that she's safe and ready to go through a "checkout" phase before starting her

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## SC JUDGEMENTS Will be translated into Bangla if need be

Says CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court judgments and orders that are delivered in English will be translated in Bangla through software if felt necessary, said Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain yesterday.

Those verdicts and orders will be translated into Bangla so that most of the people can easily understand them, he said.

He made the remark after paying homage to the 1952 Language Martyrs at the Central Shaheed Minar, Supreme Court Spokesman Saifur Rahman told The Daily Star.

Around 50 judges from the Appellate and High Court Divisions of the SC, along with the chief justice, placed floral wreaths to the Central Shaheed Minar to

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## AVIAN FLU STRAIN Russia detects first case in humans

Alerts WHO

AFP, Moscow

Russia said Saturday that its scientists had detected the world's first case of transmission of the H5N8 strain of avian flu from birds to humans and had alerted the World Health Organization.

In televised remarks, the head of Russia's health watchdog Rospotrebnadzor, Anna Popova, said scientists at the Vektor laboratory had isolated the strain's genetic material from seven workers at a poultry farm in southern Russia, where an outbreak was recorded among the

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### PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 22

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5:20 12:45 4:30 6:03 7:30  
JAMAAT 5:55 1:15 4:45 6:07 8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Two children, who came to the Central Shaheed Minar with their parents, paying tribute to the language movement martyrs by placing flowers at the Shaheed Minar altar as yesterday was the International Mother Language Day. Amidst the pandemic, people from all walks of life thronged there to pay homage to the brave sons of the soil who laid down their lives in 1952 for their mother tongue Bangla.

## DEATHS OF ANTI-COUP PROTESTERS UN condemns Myanmar junta's actions

Large crowds return to streets with rallies; Facebook shuts down military's page for inciting violence

AGENCIES

A lethal attack on anti-coup protesters in Myanmar sparked fresh UN condemnation of the country's new military regime yesterday, as mourners held a funeral for a young woman who has become a national symbol of resistance to the junta.

Authorities have gradually ratcheted up their tactics against a massive and largely peaceful civil disobedience campaign demanding the return of ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Saturday marked the deadliest day so far in more than two weeks of nationwide street demonstrations after two people were killed when security forces fired upon a rally, while a third man was shot dead in Yangon overnight.

As dusk fell in downtown Yangon, Monywa and Myitkyina, there were singing and candlelight prayer ceremonies to pay tribute to the dead protesters.

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres condemned the use of "deadly violence" against the crowd in Mandalay.

"The use of lethal force, intimidation & harassment against peaceful demonstrators is unacceptable," Guterres wrote.

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