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MAN KILLED IN FEB 19 'GUNFIGHT'

A trucker, not a drug dealer

Family claims rejecting Rab version, says he remained missing since Feb 14

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

A man, who was killed in an alleged gunfight with Rab-10 in Dhaka's Keraniganj on Friday, was the driver of a truck that ran over and killed a Rab member in Mymensingh's Bhaluka on February 14.

Four days after the so-called gunfight, family members of the deceased identified the body at the Dhaka Medical College morgue around 1:00am on Tuesday.

The deceased was Shafiq Sheikh, 35, son of Abed Sheikh of a Jamalpur village, his brother-in-law Mohammad Manik told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said Shafiq worked as a technician at the Tongi truck stand and was behind the wheels of the truck that killed the Rab man in Bhaluka.

Manik claimed that Shafiq had been missing since the accident on February 14.

"Shafiq was not a drug peddler. He had been traceless since the accident."

After police informed them about his death and that the body was kept at the DMC morgue, Shafiq's wife and other family members went there for identification, Manik added.

On February 19, Bachchu Mia, inspector of a police outpost at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said members of Rab-10 took a man with

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



Students of seven colleges affiliated to Dhaka University stage demonstrations blocking the Nilkhet intersection in the capital yesterday, demanding continuation of their ongoing exams and reopening of dormitories. The protest caused traffic tailback on many city streets, bringing sufferings to people.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

7 DU-AFFILIATED COLLEGES Commuters suffer for daylong demo

Authorities meet students' demand for continuing the examinations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities have decided to hold all ongoing and previously announced exams of its seven affiliated colleges in the wake of student protests.

The decision came at an emergency virtual meeting between Education Minister Dipu Moni and the university authorities yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, demonstrations by students blocking the city's Nilkhet intersection caused sufferings to commuters as they had to endure long tailbacks on streets throughout the day.

Traffic was badly disrupted on Mirpur Road and Elephant Road, and also on streets in Shahbagh, Bangshal, Nayabazar and some other adjacent areas.

Many people had to walk to their destinations after getting off vehicles.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

TRIBUTE TO SYED ABUL MAKSUD

Demise of an authentic voice of dissent

MAHFUZ ANAM

He was a journalist, turned writer, turned columnist, turned public intellectual -- meaning he devoted all his intellectual and physical abilities to promoting public causes. It was as if his world was that of social issues, and what he did from morning till the day's end was to lend his voice and his writings to articulate what he felt needed to be said to uphold people's rights. Always a highly conscious man, a thinking man, and emotionally involved in issues of public concern. Never hesitating to become a part of a protest, a roadside demonstration, a placard holding gathering of a few or taking part in an awareness campaign that he felt that people needed to be made aware of, like climate change. Thus, he was an ever present figure in all sorts of protest marches concerning political, social or economic challenges.

He was a stalwart of our movement against forced disappearance, abuse of power, child marriage, violence against women, etc. He was always present in movements demanding road safety, safe drinking water, against slum eviction, etc. He would give most generously his time to promote every social and volunteer group in which he could see a trace of humanity and patriotism.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



PADMA RAIL LINK PROJECT

Chinese firm raises fund crunch alarm

In a rare press release, it alleges it hasn't been paid for 7 months' work; project director casts doubt on the release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Chinese contractor for the Padma Bridge Rail Link Project yesterday alleged that it has not been paid for work done in the last seven months and this was slowing down work.

The slowdown threatens cost escalation and meeting the deadline has become

challenging, the contractor said.

China Railway Group Ltd, the contractor for the biggest project of Bangladesh Railway (BR), said the government owes it \$400 million and the payment delay rendered it unable to buy sufficient construction materials and pay subcontractors and suppliers timely.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

"The fund crisis seems to have emerged as an impediment to completing the construction process."
CREC - THE CHINESE CONTRACTOR

PADMA BRIDGE RAIL LINK PROJECT

- 169km line to connect Dhaka and Jashore
- Project cost Tk 39,246 crore
- Completion deadline June 2024
- Govt wants to open the line partially next year when Padma bridge will open



KHONDKAR IBRAHIM KHALED (1941-2021)

A bold voice against financial fraud no more

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

In his famous book titled "The Old Man and The Sea", US writer Ernest Hemingway said, "But man is not made for defeat. A man can be destroyed but not defeated."

Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled is the same, having fought until he breathed his last in order to build a strong, corruption-free and well-governed financial sector.

He was a rarity person because of his bold voice against financial scammers at a time when anyone has hardly lambasted the vested groups, which are connected with the financial scams.

Although there are many financial experts in the country, only a few have so far shown the courage to take a strict stance against habitual defaulters.

He became a torchbearer by way of giving his valuable recommendations to protect financial institutions from delinquent borrowers.

In most of the cases, the authorities concerned did not accept Khaled's suggestions due to pressure from influential quarters, but his stubborn stance helped create a strong opinion against fraudsters in society.

The woes of the banking sector are still ongoing due to a continuous relaxation of rules and regulations in helping large borrowers at a time when many scammers are enjoying a culture of impunity.

A question has commonly surfaced: what is the source of Khaled's strength to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

SHOOTING IN BAGHAICHHARI UP member killed at upazila office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A union parishad member was shot dead inside the Baghaichhari upazila office in Rangamati yesterday.

The victim, 42-year-old Samar Bijay Chakma of the upazila's Boradam village, was also a member of Jana Sanghati Samity (MN Larma).

Quoting witnesses, police said a masked assailant sneaked into the project implementation officer's room around 1:00pm and opened fire at Samar, leaving him dead on the spot.

The killer who came along with another assailant fled immediately, they said.

In a statement, Joshi Chakma, general secretary of Baghaichhari JSS (MN Larma), blamed Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) for the killing.

The PCJSS, however, denied its involvement in the incident. Tridiv Chakma, organising secretary of the party's upazila unit, said the murder was "a result of the JSS faction's internal feud".

The victim was a member of Rupkari Union Parishad. He left behind his wife, daughter and son.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত

বিশিষ্ট ব্যাংকার ও অর্থনীতিবিদ, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের সাবেক ডেপুটি গভর্নর, পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেডের সাবেক ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক (২০০০-২০০৬)

খন্দকার ইব্রাহিম খালেদ

গত ২৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০২১ বুধবার সকাল ৫.৩০ ঘটিকায় বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব মেডিকেল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে (বিএসএমএমইউ) চিকিৎসাধীন অবস্থায় ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন)। তাঁর মৃত্যুতে পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড এর পরিচালনা পর্ষদ এবং সকল স্তরের নির্বাহী, কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দ গভীরভাবে মর্মান্বিত ও শোকাহত।

আমরা মহান আল্লাহ রাক্বুল আলামীনের কাছে মরহুমের বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি এবং মরহুমের শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবার পরিজনকে প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন করছি।

মহান আল্লাহ রাক্বুল আলামীন যেন তাঁর পরিবার পরিজনকে এই অপূরণীয় ক্ষতি সহ্য করার ক্ষমতা দান করেন।



পূবালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
PUBALI BANK LIMITED

Ministry of Education
Government of India

STUDY IN INDIA

EDUCATION MEET 2021

Date : 26th & 27th February 2021
Time : 10:00 AM - 06:00 PM
Venue : Grand Ballroom Hall,
The Westin Dhaka

HOSTED BY EDUCATION EXCELLENCE, DHAKA, BANGLADESH

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CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

WHO reports 20pc drop in deaths

Ghana gets world's first Covax vaccine doses; EU's vaccine woe continues

AGENCIES
Global deaths from the coronavirus fell by 20 percent last week compared with the week before, the World Health Organization said yesterday...



PRISON RIOTS IN ECUADOR

Relatives react during prison riots in Guayaquil, Ecuador. At least 75 inmates died Tuesday and several were injured in riots blamed on gang rivalry at three jails in Ecuador's overcrowded prison system...

PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran breaching uranium enrichment rules: IAEA

Iran is producing highly-enriched uranium faster than called for by the law under which it started the process of enriching to 20% fission purity last month...

China targets Uighurs with more prosecutions: HRW

China has dramatically increased its prosecution of Muslim minorities in Xinjiang through the formal court system, handing out long prison terms for dubious charges...

Worse fate than Trump awaits Modi: Mamata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee yesterday stepped her attack on Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his party as the Indian state prepares for high-stake assembly elections due by April...

41 migrants feared dead in Mediterranean

At least 41 migrants are feared dead following a weekend shipwreck on the Mediterranean Sea route from Libya to Italy...

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

BID TO RESOLVE POST-COUP MYANMAR CRISIS

Asean pushes diplomacy

Protesters fear 'legitimizing' junta as Indonesia holds talks with both sides

REUTERS
Indonesia is holding intensive talks with both the Myanmar military and representatives of the ousted elected government in a bid to end a crisis over a Feb. 1 military coup...



ousted lawmakers from the parliament, known as Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Members of the lawmakers' group, the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), were not immediately available for comment.

A Reuters report this week cited sources as saying Indonesia was proposing that Asean members send monitors to ensure the generals stick to their promise of fair new elections.

The crisis has restored Myanmar's reputation as the problem member of the 10-country Asean and the diplomatic scramble by its neighbours comes as wider international concern is growing.

The Group of Seven (G7) rich nations on Tuesday condemned intimidation and oppression of those opposing the coup.

China has traditionally taken a softer line on Myanmar as have Asean neighbours.

Nepal PM won't quit despite court defeat

REUTERS, Kathmandu
Nepal's embattled prime minister, KP Sharma Oli, will not resign but let parliament decide his fate instead, an aide said yesterday, a day after the Supreme Court rejected his decision to dissolve the legislature...

China court orders man to pay ex-wife for housework

AFP, Beijing
A Chinese man has been ordered to pay his ex-wife almost \$8,000 for years of unpaid housework, in a landmark divorce case that has sparked furious debate in China.

A trucker, not a drug dealer

FROM PAGE 1
multiple gunshot wounds to the hospital and that he died soon afterwards. DMC sources said the man was taken there around 5:20am that day.

man," he said, without going into details. Rab claimed that the truck was carrying cannabis. The incident involving the truck left Idris Molla, 28, a constable of police, dead.

Dogs came to North America

FROM PAGE 12
A new study led by the University at Buffalo analysed the mitochondrial DNA of a bone fragment found in Southeast Alaska.

shared a genetic lineage with American dogs that lived before the arrival of European breeds. "Because dogs are a proxy for human occupation, our data help provide not only a timing but also a location for the entry of dogs and people into the Americas," said Charlotte Lindqvist.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Bank, featuring a table of account numbers and a signature section.

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

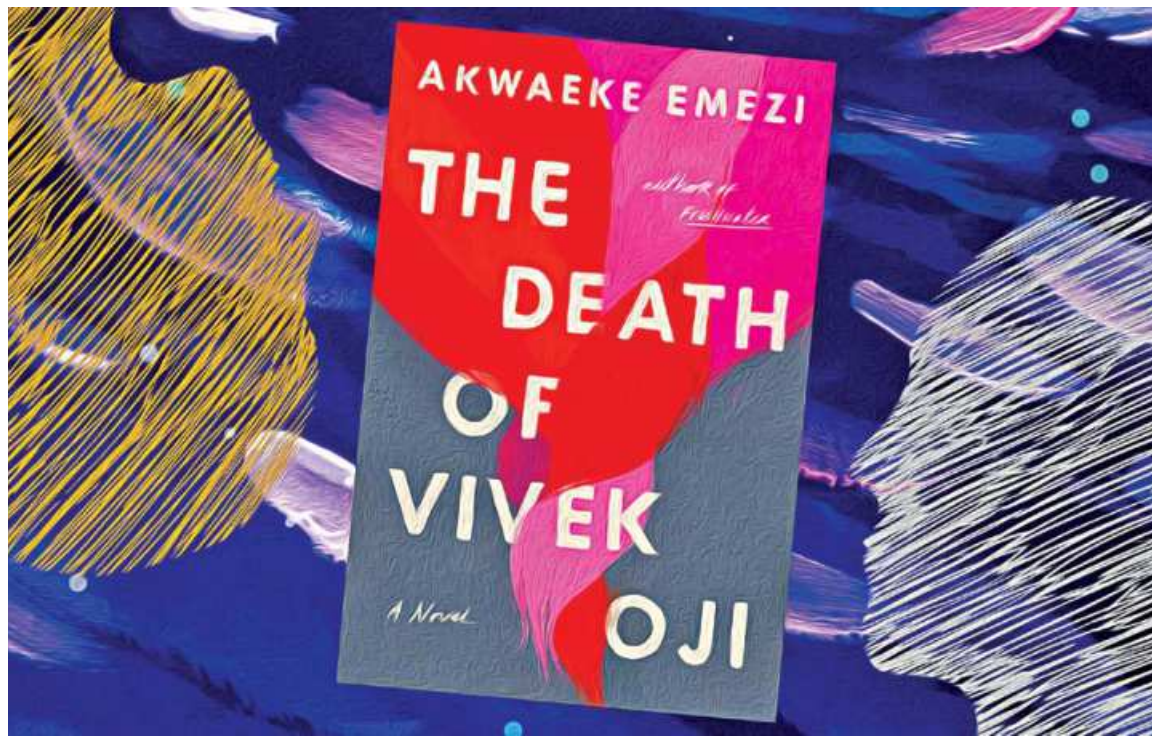
In death, he became visible

ALIZA RAHMAN

Vivek Oji, the titular character in Akwaeke Emezi's second novel, is dead; this is stated in the title, the first line, and throughout the book. However, in every chapter, Vivek keeps coming alive, images of him rising out of the text's surface only to dissolve again.

The Death of Vivek Oji (Riverhead Books, 2020) is set in Nigeria, and follows the story of Vivek, his cousin Osita, his parents Chika and Kavita, his uncle and aunt, and the children of a community of "Nigerwives" who become his friends in what is to be the last days of his life. Vivek is an only child and has always been enough for his mother, Kavita, who will later find her son's corpse at her doorstep, devoid of any clothing and missing even the silver necklace he wore throughout his life.

As the story progresses, the number of people touched by his presence increases; each character altered by grief in their own ways,



DESIGN: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

The story is firmly rooted in Nigeria, but Bangladeshi readers in particular might find it intimately familiar. The children in this novel protect their parents by suppressing themselves, even as they waste like Vivek did.

each holding onto little secrets as if guarding the man even after death. While his father Chika succumbs to a deep melancholy, his mother Kavita begins a frenetic search for what happened to her son, a search that comes with the cost of distancing those she has spent decades caring about. Her possessiveness over her son morphs into a possessiveness over who are allowed to mourn him. Rage and frustration pour out of her as Vivek's close circle—the ones who gave him the space to be himself and the ones who Kavita comes to realise knew

her son better than she ever could—keep their lips sealed. Kavita comes to the awakening, unravelling and rude, that she never truly saw her son when he was still with her.

The first time we learn Vivek isn't a cisgender man, it isn't a dramatic coming out nor is it a scene of anxiety and anguish—he simply is, standing resplendent in his mother's jewellery and comfortable with himself. The suppression of his true self weighs on him, his ribs poking out of his chest as he refuses to eat the necessary amount of food. He emerges comfortable, however, saying to himself with calm assurance, "I would stop being a man. I was never one to begin with, anyway." "[H]e said we could refer to him as either he or she, that he was both," Vivek's friend Juju tells Kavita at one point.

The novel is firmly rooted in Nigeria, and as the reader delves further into the story, words, foods, and places like *akamu* (a cereal pudding), Owerri (capital of the Imo state in Nigeria), and "tukiakwa!" ("God forbid!") sound as natural as any other words

we know. However, while it is common for well-written stories set in a specific place to often have characters and feelings that are universal, Bangladeshi readers in particular might find a significant part of this novel intimately familiar, from the father's gruff irritation at Vivek's long hair, to the fussy mothers perpetually concerned for their children, the fear for and actual loss of people's lives in riots they neither caused nor participated in, societal judgment upon the most innocuous deviations from the sociocultural norm, and the often unintentional lack of sympathy from parents and elders bewildered by aspects of their children's personalities. As a result, the children in this novel—as they do in life in Bangladesh—protect their parents by suppressing themselves, even as they waste like Vivek did.

A noticeable characteristic of the novel is its emphasis on the body, how emotions and histories come alive through it—the scar on Ahunna's (and later Vivek's) foot in the shape of a limp starfish, Osita's chipped tooth that acts as a mark of

his childhood with Vivek. Feelings "s[i]ng", "bubble", and "boil" in this novel, love is "tactile and rich", and death and grief "cut [one] down like a tree". At one point, Kavita rests her hand on a young Vivek's "skull", a funny choice of words, until we find her looking at her adult son's corpse with a fractured skull later in the same paragraph. This emphasis on the physical in Emezi's writing adds a potency to the prose that allows readers to feel in their own bodies the characters' fragmented experiences.

Emezi's lucid and visceral writing enables the reader to clasp two concepts simultaneously: that Vivek once was and Vivek no longer is. At its heart, *The Death of Vivek Oji* is a book about relationships, particularly when it is impacted by the traumatic passing away of a loved one, and the unanswered questions it leaves behind.

In the end, what kills Vivek Nnemdi Oji are the place, its politics and its people, even those who love him.

Aliza Rahman is a contributor.

THE BOOK REPORT

Serajul Islam Chowdhury speaks about the state of Bangla education

ASIF NEWAZ

Language and education are prime markers in identifying one's participation in society and politics. Having just commemorated the International Mother Language Day on February 21, that too on the verge of our nation's silver jubilee, it is perhaps a unique opportunity for us to question, reflect, and make changes to our politics on language, education, and social identities.

On this topic, writer, academic, and Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University, Serajul Islam Chowdhury delivered an insightful speech on the occasion of *Shaheed Dibash* and the International Mother Language Day on February 21, 2021. The webinar, titled "Mother Language and Education, Bangladesh" (translated), was organised by the Central Women's University, Dhaka.

Professor Chowdhury spoke about the history of the Bangla language and how it has impacts our current social fabric. Bangla as we know it, according to the speaker, is an arbitrary implementation of the methods set in place by the College of Fort William which rejected the usages of local language as the standardised form. The communal tensions created by the British Raj resulted in further separating the two largest religious communities. With Hindus participating in what was hegemonically constructed as modern education, the Muslims lagged behind. This resulted in two major political parties backed by the British: the Muslim League and the Congress.

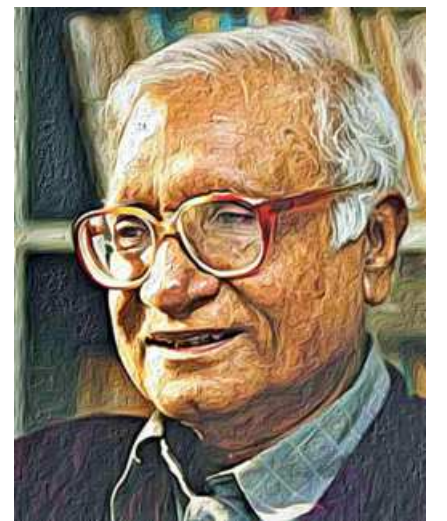
Professor Chowdhury argues that Bangla's potential of becoming one of the most widely spoken languages of the world has stumbled throughout history. Before the Language Movement of 1952, the last terrible blow dealt to us was the defeat of Mirza Muhammad Siraj-ud-Daulah, the last Nawab of Bengal, in The Battle of Plassey in 1757. It cemented an overwhelming cultural and capitalist hegemony upon Bangla speakers.

Professor Chowdhury expresses concern about the policies being undertaken with regard to language,

which is weakening both the strength of language and hampering the education system.

The importance of proper education as a knowledge seeking enterprise is being ignored. Knowledge is no longer related to progress and livelihood, it has become a capitalist venture. The exclusion of literature from textbooks and the negligence of history as a subject have been serving these capitalist agendas.

Professor Chowdhury points out two major tasks that must be undertaken to establish a good educational practice. The first being writing of more books, more research, and more nurturing



DESIGN: KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

of reading habits. The second is the translation of more texts into Bangla, so that the language also gets richer. As Vice Chancellor of the Central Women's University, Professor Chowdhury points out that the role of proper translation is paramount in modern education, so that arbitrary impositions on its working are avoided.

Most importantly, class conflicts have to be broken through to ensure a collective and inclusive education system.

Asif Newaz teaches at the Central Women's University.

THE BIRTH OF BANGLADESH IN BOOKS

Prelude to a national disintegration

YAAMEEN AL-MUTTAQI AND MONEESHA KALAMDER

After half a century from where we began, Daily Star Books will spend all of this year—the 50th year of Bangladesh—revisiting, celebrating, and analyzing some of the books that played pivotal roles in documenting the Liberation War of 1971 and the birth of this nation. In this third installment, we revisit Rounaq Jahan's *Pakistan: Failure in National Integration* (Columbia University Press, 1972), in which the Bangladeshi author and political scientist examines the erstwhile Pakistani ruling elites which caused the separation of East and West Pakistan.

Read this article online, on *The Daily Star's* website, on facebook.com/dailystarbooks, @thedailystarbooks on Instagram, and @DailyStarBooks on Twitter.



PAKISTAN

Failure in national integration



ROUNAQ JAHAN



Book Road Khulna held on February 1, 2021 was the first community-wide book exchange of its kind in Bangladesh. Dhaka will host its own version on February 26, 2021 in Rabindra Sarobar.

PHOTO: MD REPON BHUIYAN

BOOKS BRIEFING

The spirit of sharing defines the end of February 2021

MEHRUL BARI

In this last week of February, a shared sense of optimism, however cautious, is pervading much of the world and indeed our own. Slowly, and now safely, more and more events and programmes are opening their doors. Book enthusiasts can enjoy the following events this week:

Boi Bondhu'r Shathe Boi Binimoy Utshab: On February 26, Dhanmondi's Rabindra Sarobar will host Dhaka's first ever book exchange festival from 10am to 6pm,

organised by the open library Boi Bondhu. The event is unique in its nature—it advertises simply that you come with one book or more in your hand, leave it among the sprawl of novels to be displayed, and take one, take two, take three books in exchange.

Boi Bondhu have been maintaining several book-reading facilities around the city since 2018. This latest effort will see only the second ever book exchange festival

in the country, following an event in Khulna on February 1, 2021. The festival is free to enter.

Shobar Jonno Boi: The AIM Initiative Foundation are seeking to collect 5,000 donated books from around the country in order to set up libraries in five disadvantaged school in and outside Dhaka. Those interested to donate books can register online until February 28. The endeavour is designed with the sole intent of educating

the generations to come through stories and words beyond those of mandated texts.

Registration can be done either through the Google Form link posted on the Shobar Jonno Boi Facebook event page or by messaging the AIM Initiative Foundation page with the required information. Once the registration phase ends, the books will be collected from the addresses provided.

WHAT TO WATCH

T SPORTS & STAR SPORTS 1
INDIA VS AUSTRALIA
Third Test (Day 2)
Live from 3:00 pm
SONY SIX
UEFA EUROPE LEAGUE
Napoli vs Granada
Live from 11:55 pm
Leicester City vs Slavia Prague

Live from 2:00 am (Friday)
STAR SPORTS SELECT 2
CSA T20 CHALLENGE
Warriors vs Knights
Live from 6:30 pm
TEN 1
UEFA EUROPE LEAGUE
Villareal vs Salzburg
Live from 11:55 pm

AC Milan vs Crvena Zvezda
Live from 2:00 am (Friday)
TEN 1
UEFA EUROPE LEAGUE
Arsenal vs Benfica
Live from 11:55 pm
Manchester United vs Real Sociedad
Live from 2:00 am (Friday)



Chelsea striker Olivier Giroud scored a spectacular goal as the Londoners beat Atletico Madrid 1-0 in their Champions League last-16 first leg tie in Bucharest on Tuesday. The Frenchman broke the deadlock in the 68th minute with an outrageous bicycle kick which was flagged offside but eventually given following a VAR review as the ball had come off Atletico's Mario Hermoso before Giroud hit it.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'Giroud trains like he's 20'

REUTERS, *Undated*
Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel paid tribute to the professionalism of Olivier Giroud on Tuesday after the veteran French forward's overhead kick gave his side a 1-0 win over Atletico Madrid in the Champions League. The 34-year-old's acrobatic effort in the 68th minute in Bucharest handed Chelsea the advantage going into the second leg of their last-16 tie at Stamford Bridge on March 17. Tuchel said Giroud, who has scored 11 goals for Chelsea in all competitions this season, was a joy to work with on the training field. "He trains like a 20-year-old," Tuchel added. "He is a guy who

has a good mixture of serious and joy in training. "He is always positive and it is a big factor for the group. "He enjoys every day being a professional soccer player on this level and this is the level he needs to be." INZAGHI RUES LAZIO ERRORS Lazio coach Simone Inzaghi was left frustrated at his side's error-plagued Champions League performance after poor defending led to three of Bayern Munich's goals in a commanding 4-1 victory for the German champions. A slack back pass from Mateo Musacchio was pounced on for Robert Lewandowski's opener, resulting in Inzaghi substituting the Argentine defender 31 minutes into the match. Defender Patric was at fault for Bayern's third goal, while Francesco Acerbi diverted

HIGHLIGHTS

Robert Lewandowski has now scored 72 UEFA Champions League goals with his opening strike against Lazio on Tuesday, overtaking Raúl to go outright third behind Cristiano Ronaldo (134) and Lionel Messi (119).

Aged 17 years and 363 days, Jamal Musiala has become the youngest ever Englishman to score in the Champions League. The Bayern Munich midfielder is the youngest to score in the tournament for a German club, too.

the game and the value of the opponent, but we made it easy for them. We made three of their goals and that is the greatest disappointment," Inzaghi told Mediaset. "We contributed to their goals, it's a bad night but we must go forward and it will be an important step in our development." The result extended the holders' unbeaten Champions League run to 18 games and came as a relief after a two-match winless run in the league. "Everyone fulfilled expectations today," said Bayern coach Hansi Flick. "We wanted to put them under pressure from the off, which we did well. We won the ball high up the pitch and created plenty of chances as a result. We're very happy."

Tigers brace for 14-day quarantine

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket team reached Christchurch yesterday and started a mandatory 14-day quarantine period ahead of their bilateral series, which will run for over a month, against the New Zealand. The visitors will stay at the Lincoln University Performance Centre during the quarantine period. All 35 squad members will undergo three Covid-19 tests between the first and sixth day. However, the visitors will be allowed to roam around inside the hotel premises if the result of the first Covid-19 tests comes out negative. From day eight, the squad will be divided into five groups of seven members each and start using the training facilities such as gym and nets. After completing the 14-day quarantine, the visitors will be free to take in the sights as the Covid-19 situation in New Zealand is better compared to elsewhere. The visitors are also expected to conduct a five-day training camp in Queenstown but it is yet to be confirmed. Bangladesh will be desperate to register a maiden win in New Zealand after losing all 26 of their international games on their previous tours. The three-match ODI series will start on March 20 in Dunedin while the first of the three T20s will be held on March 28 in Hamilton.

Patel puts India on top

REUTERS

Axar Patel claimed a career-best 6-38 as he and spin colleague Ravichandran Ashwin skittled out England for 112 on the opening day to put India in charge of the day-night third test in Ahmedabad on Wednesday. The hosts were five for no loss their reply at the world's largest cricket stadium which was named after India Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday. Rohit Sharma was batting on five at the dinner break and Shubman Gill was yet to open his account with India hoping to consolidate their position in the final session. Earlier, Joe Root's decision to bat backfired as the tourists wilted inside two seasons despite Zak Crawley's fluent 53. Playing his 100th test, seamer Ishant Sharma had Dom Sibley caught in the slip in the third over before the Indian spinners wreaked havoc. Home captain Virat Kohli introduced spin as early as in the seventh over and Patel trapped Jonny Bairstow lbw for nought with his first delivery. Crawley, however, appeared to bat on a different pitch, dealing mostly in boundaries and bringing up his fifty off 68 balls. Before his partnership with Root could flourish, Ashwin intervened. The wily off-spinner dismissed the England captain lbw for 17. Root reviewed the decision but could not prolong his innings. Patel ended Crawley's knock in similar fashion to trigger a batting collapse and England lost their last eight wickets for 38 runs.



Left-arm spinner Axar Patel took six wickets as England were bowled out for 112 runs on the first day of the third Test against India in Ahmedabad yesterday.

PHOTO: BCCI

Bangladesh's premier golfer Siddikur Rahman follows the path of his stroke during the third and final round of the 5th Paragon Professional Golf Tournament at the Army Golf Club in Dhaka yesterday. The two-time Asian Tour winner won the title with a score of five-under-par (211) following fierce competition with Jamal Hossain Mollah, who finished two strokes adrift. Akbar Hossain (one-under-par) was the only other golfer among 82 participants to complete the event with an under-par score.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

South Americans do it again for Kings

SPORTS REPORTER

Braces from Argentina's Raul Becerra and Brazil's Robson Da Silva led leaders Bashundhara Kings to an emphatic 4-0 win over Sheikh Russel in a Bangladesh Premier League encounter at the Shaheed Dhirendranath Datta Stadium in Cumilla yesterday. With a tenth triumph from 11 outings, the defending champions consolidated their lead at the top. Their tally of 31 points is nine more than second-placed Abahani, who have a game in hand. Meanwhile, Sheikh Russel remain glued to fourth place with 17 points from 10 matches. Sheikh Russel were helpless against the leaders despite a creditable 1-1 draw against six-time champions Abahani in their previous game.

Spanish coach Oscar Bruzon's charges took only 23 minutes to break the deadlock, Becerra putting them ahead before Robson doubled the margin in the 42nd minute with a powerful volley off a well-judged cross from Towhidul Alam Sabuz. After resumption, Kings added two more goals. Becerra scored his ninth league goal in the 74th minute and Robson surpassed Sheikh Jamal's Omar Jobe as the league's top scorer with his 12th strike of the campaign to wrap up the victory. At the Bangabandhu National Stadium, Saif SC came from behind to hand a 2-1 defeat to Uttar Baridhara Club, who came into the match on the back of five straight draws. Visiting Baridhara looked determined to turn the tables and stunned their superior opponents by opening the scoring in the 20th minute. Uzbek midfielder Evgeniy Kochnev played Arif Hossain into the box down the right and the winger brilliantly turned around before mustering an angled left-footed shot past goalkeeper Sushanta Kumar. Saif SC, who lost 2-1 to Kings in the previous match, looked hungrier after conceding and came close to equalising twice but Arifur Rahman's effort was parried by keeper Mitul Marma, who was then lucky that a powerful left-footed drive from Faisal Ahmed Fahim narrowly missed the target on the half-hour mark. Just one minute from break, Saif equalised through Nigeria's John Okoli before substitute Sazzad Hossain headed home a diving header, helping them jump to fifth place with 16 points from 10 matches.

Career Opportunity

POSITION: MANAGEMENT TRAINEE OFFICER

Mercantile Bank Limited, a leading private commercial Bank in Bangladesh with a vision to be a finest corporate citizen, intends to recruit smart, young, energetic and talented fresh graduates as Management Trainee Officer.

Job Requirement:

We welcome application from freshers for the position of Management Trainee Officer, who fulfills the following criteria and wants to be future leader in banking arena:

- Educational Attainment:**
 - Post graduation/ 04 years graduation in any discipline from any reputed UGC approved University with minimum CGPA 3.00 out of 4.00 scale or 1st Class. MBA, MBM, Economics, Banking, Finance, Marketing, Management, Accounting, Statistics and Computer Science & Engineering will be given preference.
 - 4.00 out of 5.00 scale in SSC and HSC or minimum "5 B" in O Level and "2 B" in A Level.
- Computer Operation:**
 - Good knowledge in latest operating systems.
 - Office Automation such as MS Word, MS Excel & MS Power Point.
- Applicant must be a Bangladeshi citizen.
- Age not over 30 years as on February 28, 2021.
- Job Location: Anywhere in Bangladesh.
- Candidates selected for appointment shall be required to execute a 'Surety Bond' to serve the Bank for a minimum period of 04 (Four) years from the date of joining.

Compensation Package:

The Management Trainee Officer will be entitled to a consolidated monthly remuneration of Tk.45,000.00 for 01 (One) year of probation period. On satisfactory completion of probation period, Management Trainee Officer will be confirmed as Officer in the regular pay scale of the Bank.

Selection Process:

- The selection process will be purely on merit basis.
- Shortlisted candidates will have to sit for a competitive written examination.
- Successful candidates in the written examination will be called for interview.

Application Procedure:

If you feel, you are the right candidate to face the challenges and want to join the winning team, please apply through "Career Section" in www.mblbd.com with an attachment of a recent passport size colored photograph (size 50k max) **starting from 28.02.2021 to 14.03.2021**. Hard Copy of Resume will not be accepted.

Please note that only those candidates shall be considered for inclusion in the interview process who have fully completed their degrees and have in hand their final transcripts or certificates in original.

Mercantile Bank's existing officials are encouraged to apply for this post, provided they meet the requisite qualifications. Only shortlisted candidates shall be contacted at the sole discretion of the Bank regardless of eligibility or qualifications. The Bank reserves the right to accept or cancel any application without assigning any reason whatsoever at any stage of the recruitment & selection process and against which no claim can be made, either to the Bank or with any Authority.

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Make probe reports public

Family members want to know who masterminded the 2009 massacre and why

SHARIFUL ISLAM and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The family members of 2009 Pilkhana massacre victims say they are still in the dark about the reasons behind such a bloodshed and who masterminded the killing of so many people.

They also demand the investigation reports over the incident be made public and justice be served making sure no innocent is punished.

"We want the real culprits to be punished, not any innocent," Nehreen Ferdousi, wife of slain Col Mojibul Haque, told The Daily Star.

She also said they want to know the reason behind the massacre.

Saqib Rahman, son of slain Col Kuadrat Elahi Rahman Shafique, said the High Court in its verdict (in 2017) asked the BCB authorities to investigate the failures of its intelligence unit to detect the impending 2009 mutiny.

The HC also advised the authorities to make the probe report public as soon as possible.

"We still don't know whether an



investigation was carried out," said Saquib, who is also a lawyer.

He demanded the investigation reports over the incident -- one by a probe committee of the Bangladesh Army and the other led by a civil servant -- be made public.

"Ultimately the Appellate Division will deliver its verdict and the convicts may be executed. But we hope that we may get to know who conspired and masterminded such a massacre and why," said Saquib, demanding formation of a judicial inquiry committee under a retired Supreme Court justice.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



THINKING LITTLE BEFORE DOING ... Without any safety gear, a construction worker demolishing a building in Aminbazar, on the outskirts of the capital, yesterday. He is unaware that he is trying to get the rods he is standing on out. Many such buildings were recently torn down by their owners besides the Dhaka-Aricha highway to make way for a development project.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

RAPE VICTIMS HC issues rule on the govt for compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain in a week why it should not be directed to outline a scheme to ensure compensation for rape victims to make their constitutional right to life effective and meaningful.

In the rule, the court asked the authorities concerned with the government to show causes why their failure to take appropriate steps for rehabilitation of rape victims should not be declared illegal.

It also asked them to reply why they should not be ordered to give adequate compensation to three children of Dinajpur, Rangpur, and Khulna, who were raped in 2017 and last year in separate incidents, and why police should not be directed to produce the medical and investigation reports in connection with the incidents before the court.

Secretaries to the ministries of home, and women and children affairs, health, finance, chairman of National Legal Aid Services Organisation, inspector general of police, commissioners of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Why did they kill my son?

Says a stunned father after ID'ing the body of 3-yr-old kidnapped from Gazipur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three-year-old boy whose body was recovered from a rooftop water tank in the capital's Shyampur area on Tuesday was kidnapped by a masked man from Gazipur on Saturday.

The victim was Nihad Islam, only son of Hanif Ali and Nargis Begum, who are workers of a garment factory in the district.

Hanif went to Dhaka Medical College morgue yesterday afternoon after seeing the news of the recovery of a minor boy's body.

He identified the swollen and decomposed body as that of his son's when he saw a key and a small bell tied with a string around the boy's waist.

Talking to The Daily Star, Hanif said Nihad was abducted after the boy went with his mother to her garment factory in Board Bazar area in Gazipur.

A CCTV camera installed in front of the factory showed a masked man taking him away, the father said. The parents filed a complaint with the local police station in this regard.

"My son was killed brutally. We are very poor and we do not have any known enemies. Why did they kill my son? We want justice," he said.

Hanif said no one called him demanding ransom for the return of his child.

Sub-inspector Mahbubur Rahman of Shyampur Police Station said the body was handed over to family members after an autopsy at DMCH.

Police are yet to arrest anyone in this regard, he added.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Shahadat goes to tribunal for scrapping of polls results

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

BNP mayoral candidate in Chattogram City Corporation polls Shahadat Hossain filed a case with the Election Tribunal yesterday, alleging that the election result was manipulated by EC officials.

He demanded cancellation of the January 27 election result and a re-election.

The case was lodged with the court of First Joint District Judge of Chattogram Khairul Amin. Shahadat told The Daily Star.

"In my appeal, I have said the Election Commission has given the printed copies of results of 20 booths out of 4,885 to my polling agents. They provided the handwritten result sheets of the rest 4,865 booths and the results were manipulated,"

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Dogs came to North America with earliest humans

AFP, Paris



Scientists said yesterday they had discovered the oldest remains of a domestic dog in the Americas dating back more than 10,000 years, suggesting the animals accompanied the first waves of human settlers.

Humans are thought to have migrated to North America from Siberia over what is today the Bering Strait at the end of the last Ice Age -- between 30,000 and 11,000 years ago.

The history of dogs has been intertwined with man since ancient times, and studying canine DNA can provide a good timeline for human

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Bangladesh, US to work together on crucial issues

Momen meets Blinken in Washington DC

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and Washington have agreed to work together to promote democracy, good governance and human rights while further strengthening bilateral relations and enhancing cooperation on global issues.

The consensus came during a phone conversation between Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken late Tuesday.

Momen is currently on a visit to Washington DC -- the first one after Joe Biden assumed power and announced that his administration would work on addressing climate change, promoting multilateralism, democracy,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

26.73 lakh vaccinated in 15 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of people vaccinated for Covid-19 rose to 2,673,038 as the vaccination campaign entered the 15th day yesterday.

Yesterday, a total of 181,985 people have vaccinated in around 1,010 vaccination centres across the country, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) press release.

Considering the target to inoculate 13.68 crore citizens in the country, around 1.95 percent have been vaccinated.

The number of people registered for Covid-19 vaccines rose to 3,861,876

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 25

Fajr 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



A school van has been transferred into a mobile shop as the van-puller was sitting idle for the last 11 months due to the nationwide closure of all educational institutions over the coronavirus pandemic. The photo was taken in the capital's Moghbazar area.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

DETECTION OF SEVERAL VARIANTS India warns states of worsening Covid situation

REUTERS, New Delhi

India announced an expansion of its vaccination programme yesterday but warned that breaches of coronavirus protocols could worsen an infection surge in many states, particularly after it detected several variants.

Nearly a month after the health minister declared that Covid-19 had been contained, states such as Maharashtra in the west and Kerala in the south have reported a surge in cases, as reluctance grows over mask-wearing and social distancing.

India's infections are the second highest in the world at 11.03 million, swelled in the past 24 hours by 13,742, health ministry data shows. Deaths rose by a two-week high of 104 to 156,567.

"Any laxity in implementing stringent measures to curb the spread, especially in view of new strains of virus ... could compound the situation," the ministry said in a statement singling out nine states and a federal territory.

India has confirmed the long-time presence of two mutant variants - N440K and E484Q - in addition to those first detected in Brazil, Britain and South Africa.

The ministry said that while cases in the states of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab, as well as the federal territory of Jammu and Kashmir, were rising, the proportion of high-accuracy RT-PCR tests in those places was falling. Cases have also risen in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

In the past week, a third of India's 36 states and union territories have reported an average of more than 100 new cases each day, with Kerala and Maharashtra both reporting

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3