

## HC clears way to continue MBBS admission process

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for the authorities concerned to continue the MBBS admission process for the academic session 2020-21.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Sardar Md Rashed Jahangir rejected a writ petition that sought an order on the government to suspend the MBBS admission process, claiming the merit list as faulty.

The bench, however, observed that if any candidate has any grievance over the MBBS admission process or its merit list, they can apply to the Directorate General of Medical Education for remedy, and the DG must resolve the problems in seven days after receiving the complaint.

Additional Attorney General Mohammad Mehedi Hasan Chowdhury told The Daily Star that there is no legal bar for the government to continue the MBBS admission process for the academic session 2020-21 following the HC order.

Deputy Attorney General Bipul Bagmar

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Social distancing is the furthest thing on their mind as Saudi Arabia-aspirant travellers gather in front of Saudi Airlines' office at Pan Pacific Sonargaon hotel in the capital. Due to some errors and malfunctions in the process of paying their hotel booking fees in the middle eastern country, people are visiting the airlines' office to sort out their issues -- although the visits seem to be accomplishing a ruckus instead of a solution.

## Recruitment racket that 'made crores' busted in Dhaka

CID nabs four who promised job at Biman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police claimed to have arrested four members of a fake recruitment racket, who embezzled crores of money by promising jobseekers jobs at Biman Bangladesh Airlines or government offices.

CID arrested the four in different drives in Dhaka on Wednesday, said CID Additional DIG Sheikh Omar Farooq at a press briefing yesterday at its headquarters in Malibagh.

The arrestees are -- Shamim Ahmed alias Mostafa Monir alias Mosharrif (45), Tanzila Sultana Somampiti (25), Shariful Islam (37) and Bazlur Rashid (48).

The CID official said Shamim was the ringleader of the gang. He used to work at a clearing and forwarding (C&F) company. He has embezzled more than Tk 80 lakh, according to CID.

Shamim used to identify himself as the acting chairman or managing director of Biman while Tanzila claimed to be a flight attendant and ticketing officer. Bazlur told everyone he was Shamim's bodyguard, the official said.

The members of this gang used to target jobseekers if there was a circular for recruitment at the airline. From each candidate, they used TO take Tk 13-16 lakh, he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## UNGA determined to ensure better future for Rohingyas

President Volkan Bozkir says after Cox's Bazar visit

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN General Assembly President Volkan Bozkir has expressed their determination to ensure a better future for the Rohingyas, a persecuted minority of Myanmar.

"I assure you, the United Nations General Assembly is determined to ensure a better future for the Rohingya people," he said after his visit to the camps in Cox's Bazar where nearly a million Myanmar nationals took shelter after fleeing persecution in Rakhine State.

Rohingyas have been taking refuge in Bangladesh since 1980s.

Most of the refugees in Bangladesh fled military crackdown in Rakhine in 2017, which was dubbed as genocide.

Repeated attempts of repatriation failed as the conditions of Rakhine state have not been conducive for return -- a situation that puts huge burden on Bangladesh.

Volkan arrived in Bangladesh on May 25. He has called on Prime Minister Sheikh



Hasina, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, and delivered a speech on Bangladesh and UN's relationship. He also met with UN country team, led by UN Resident Coordinator Mia Seppo, and then visited the Rohingya camps on Wednesday.

He met Rohingya leaders and received a briefing on the camp from the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Shah Rezwana Hayat.

In the statement issued yesterday following the visit, Volkan thanked Bangladesh for sheltering and providing humanitarian assistance to the Rohingyas. "The Rohingyas living in Cox's Bazar have survived unimaginable horrors and persecution. They undertook treacherous journeys to reach safety -- last year alone 200 lost their lives at sea. In recent weeks, a fire broke out here in the camp, yet they persist," he said.

"Right now, there is no defined path to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## Road accidents kill four in the capital

Two die in Sirajganj, Panchagarh

STAR REPORT

At least four people, including two students, were killed and three injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka in the last two days.

The deceased were identified as Sultan Rony (22), a student of Dhaka College; Rahim Mia (10), a first-grader; Sharifa Begum, a temporary cleaner of Dhaka North City Corporation; and Mohammad Masud (40), a tow truck driver of police.

Rony along with his two friends were heading towards Signboard area via Mayor Hanif Flyover on a motorbike yesterday.

On their way, the bike skidded off the road around 5am, leaving the trio injured, said Rony's father Abdur Rahim, quoting the injured.

They were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared Rony dead. His friends -- Shaheen (22) and Nayeem (22) -- were receiving treatment at the hospital, said Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of Dhaka Medical College Hospital police outpost.

In another accident in Kamrangirchar, Rahim sustained critical injuries after being hit by a microbus when he went out of the house in Khalpar area. He was rushed to DMCH, where doctors declared him dead around 8:30am, said

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## 'Family of money launderers'

Mahbubul Haque Chisty, wife, son, daughter involved in siphoning Tk 159cr from Farmers Bank, observes Supreme Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday observed that Mahbubul Haque Chisty, former chairman of Farmers Bank audit committee, used his entire family in "criminal activities of money laundering".

It's found from the case documents that Chisty, his wife Rozi Chisty and their son Rashedul Haque Chisty and daughter Rimi Chisty are involved in laundering Tk 159 crore, which they took from Farmers Bank in the name of Bakshiganj Jute Spinner, said Justice Muhammad Imman Ali, a judge of the Appellate Division of the SC, while hearing two petitions regarding the issue.

Justice Imman Ali is a senior member of a full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, which was hearing a leave to appeal petition filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission challenging a High Court verdict that granted bail to Rashedul Haque Chisty in the case.

The apex court was also hearing another bail petition filed by Rashedul.

The Appellate Division adjourned hearing of both the petitions till June 1 and asked Rashedul's lawyer AF Hasan Ariff to submit -- by this time before it -- documents in their favour.

Earlier in the day, lawyer Ariff told the court that the money was received as foreign remittance to the Bakshiganj Jute Spinner.

The only allegation against his client Rashedul is of transferring three bank accounts from Dhaka's Gulshan Branch to Bakshiganj Branch in Mymensingh involving Tk 55 lakh, he said.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan opposed the petition, saying that the accused have not even refunded one taka to the state.

The trial court has recorded statements from 11 out of 20 witnesses in the case, and the proceedings are expected to be over in a few months, he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## MINI BYTES



## Netflix plans to expand into the gaming industry by 2022

NAHALY NAFISA KHAN

According to Reuters and The Information, Netflix is looking to hire an executive to oversee an expansion into video games and may expand into gaming with a new bundle for its subscribers. According to The Information's report, the streaming platform is considering a bundle of games similar to Apple Arcade.

The move comes at a time when the video gaming industry has benefited from a surge in demand from gamers staying at home during the Covid-19 pandemic. Currently, Netflix has more than 200 million subscribers it can reach with games.

According to a more detailed report by Axios, the upcoming gaming service, which would be offered to Netflix subscribers, as "a smaller Apple Arcade" bundle that would include both licensed Netflix IP and games commissioned from the indie studio and could possibly be launched in 2022.

According to the Axios' sources, the Netflix offering would consist of a mix of licensed Netflix intellectual property and original work commissioned from independent studios, offered to existing Netflix subscribers, while according to The Information, the streaming service hadn't ruled out other approaches, including the more complex effort of making games in-house or getting the

games to run on TVs.

A Netflix representative told Axios that users have valued the company's variety of content and the service's interactive shows and games, hence they are excited to do more with interactive entertainment.

In a more detailed statement given to Polygon, a Netflix spokesperson said, "Our members value the variety and quality of our content. It's why we've continually expanded our offering -- from series to documentaries, film, local language originals and reality TV. Members also enjoy engaging more directly with stories they love -- through interactive shows like Bandersnatch and You v. Wild, or games based on Stranger Things, La Casa de Papel and To All the Boys. So we're excited to do more with interactive entertainment."

In recent years, Netflix has produced many titles that are based on popular video games that are out now or in the works, including popular shows like Dota, Castlevania, Resident Evil, The Witcher and upcoming shows based on Magic: The Gathering, Sonic the Hedgehog, and League of Legends.

In 2018, Netflix published Black Mirror: Bandersnatch, a Choose Your Own Adventure-style movie, followed by a similarly interactive experience in 2020 for an Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt episode. The streaming service partnered with Telltale Games to develop a game based on one of its popular titles "Stranger Things" in 2019, but the project was shelved.

## PALLABI MURDER Accused Babu remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Md Babu alias Kala Babu on a three-day remand in a case filed over murder of trader Shahinuddin in the capital's Pallabi on May 16.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mainul Islam passed the order after Syed Iftekhar Hossain, inspector of Detective Branch of police and also the case's investigation officer, produced him with a five-day remand prayer.

The IO said Babu is an FIR-named accused and he admitted his involvement. He was directly involved with the murder, so he needed to be remanded to get further information.

Rab arrested Babu from

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Buet students formed a human chain on campus yesterday to protest the incident of Ashikul Islam Bitu, who was expelled from the institute over Abrar Fahad's murder, joining an online class of the university, after reportedly securing a court stay order on the university's decision. The students demanded Buet never allow such students to continue their academic activities under the institute.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## WORLD MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY 'Break the taboo' campaign launched

CITY DESK

The stigma surrounding menstruation has a direct adverse effect on the lives of women and girls. Few are well-informed on the topic of menstruation, and simply the word "period" is often stigmatised.

Freedom Sanitary Napkin and The Daily Star have launched a new campaign called 'Break the Taboo', marking World Menstrual Hygiene Day today (May 28).

The campaign focuses on breaking away from taboos related to menstruation by spreading awareness about the menstrual cycle and hygiene, said a press release.

The campaign will focus on twelve important facts regarding menstruation and menstrual hygiene and bust the myths surrounding them.

For example, many still think menstruation is a disease, whereas it is a normal bodily function for women, and regular menstruation is a healthy phenomenon.

There's also undesired stigma attached to talking about menstrual cramps in front male family members. In reality, menstrual cramps are extremely painful and not tending to it negatively affect girls' mental and physical wellbeing.



## 'Shishu Bokta' on 3-day remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A virtual court in Dhaka yesterday placed Rafiqul Islam Madani, widely known as "Shishu Bokta", on a three-day remand in a case filed with Paltan Police Station over the March 26 violence in Dhaka centering Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Debdash Chandra Adhikary passed the order after Investigation Officer Zahidul

Alam, also sub-inspector of Paltan Police Station, produced him before the court with a seven-day remand prayer, court sources said.

Earlier in the day, Rafiqul was shown arrested in the case.

No lawyer was virtually present at the court to defend him.

In the remand prayer, the IO said Rafiqul was involved in the mayhem through his

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Uttara Bank Ltd. conducted its 38th Annual General Meeting on Thursday virtually over a digital platform. The meeting was presided by The Chairman Azharul Islam, the Vice-Chairman of Uttara Bank Ltd. Iftekharul Islam, Director Badrunnessa Sharmin Islam, Managing Director & CEO Mohammed Rabiul Hossain and other Directors also attended the meeting.