



# The Daily Star

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**"The comments he [EC Mahbub Talukdar] made are not decent."**  
CEC KM NURUL HUDA ON TALUKDAR SAYING 'POLLS ARE IN THE ICU'



**"... Every day, local MPs and Awami League leaders put pressure on our leaders to withdraw their candidature."**  
JATIYA PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL MUJIBUL HAQUE CHUNNU IN PARLIAMENT ON UP ELECTIONS



**"The United States and their Nato allies are really holding... unplanned drills in Black Sea waters. This is a serious challenge for us."**  
RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN

## DRAFT POLICY ON ECOMMERCE FIRMS

# Strict watch thru' central platform

All orders, transactions, activities to be monitored by relevant agencies



PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and ZYMA ISLAM

All e-commerce companies will soon have to come under one digital platform monitored by multiple state agencies, as the government looks to increase oversight on the sector that has become a hotbed for irregularities in recent months.

At least 13 rogue e-commerce companies wound up with several thousands of crores of taka in liabilities, amplifying the calls for a stringent e-commerce policy.

The agencies are the commerce ministry, the Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), the Consumer Association of Bangladesh,

the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU), the law enforcement and detective police, and the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC), according to the draft policy.

The Daily Star has a copy of the draft policy prepared last month by the NTMC.

The digital platform will have detailed information on orders and delivery, information about dealers as well as details of their financial transactions.

One of the major features of the policy is that it will integrate both e-commerce companies and payment gateways to the

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As winter sets in, the sale of warm clothes has shot up across the country. In this photo taken yesterday morning, a woman, holding her child, is seen trying to choose at a roadside shop selling such clothes in the capital's Beribadh area.

PHOTO:  
ANISUR RAHMAN

## No scope for questioning UP polls

Claims CEC Nurul Huda, bins EC Talukdar's comments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is no scope for questioning the entire union parishad polls as there were only stray incidents of violence, said Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda yesterday.

The staggered union parishad election is competitive. The turnout is around 74 percent, which proves it is being held in a festive mood, Nurul told the press yesterday at the EC office.

The CEC made the comments when at least 26 people were killed in pre-and post-polls violence during the second phase of the UP polls on November 11.

During the first phase, in June and September, six people were killed.

"Some incidents of violence took place centring elections that are unexpected and unacceptable. Media analysis shows that establishing supremacy in the locality, personal and clan enmity, political conflict

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## COVID VACCINES

# Bangladesh can make, export

PM tells Sangsad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told parliament that Bangladesh has the capability of producing Covid-19 vaccines and supplying those to other countries.

She said that during her recent tour in the UK and France, she told world leaders about Bangladesh wanting to produce Covid-19 vaccines.

"I requested them to remove all obstacles to producing coronavirus vaccines in Bangladesh... This is the right of the people of the whole world and it should be declared a public good."

She mentioned that the government has also allotted land for the purpose of producing vaccines.

Hasina, also leader of the House, said this while discussing a resolution to thank Unesco for introducing a creative economy award, named after Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Abdus Shahid, Awami League MP and former chief whip of parliament, placed the resolution under section 147 of the parliament rules of procedure.

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## SLUM DWELLERS' JABS

# Campaign starts from Korail Bosti

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is set to launch a campaign today to inoculate slum dwellers aged 18 and above against Covid-19.

Following on-spot registration, the vaccination will start at the Korail slum, which has nearly three lakh inhabitants. The campaign will later be expanded to more slums in the capital and other cities, Health Minister Zahid Maleque announced yesterday.

He said anyone wishing to take the shot must carry their national identification (NID) card or other relevant documents, including birth certificate or passport. "Our target is to vaccinate three crore people every month."

The minister was

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## Master storyteller falls silent



HASAN AZIZUL HUQ  
1939-2021

ANWAR ALI

He chronicled places, time, and people with a sound understanding of human feelings and struggles. With his art of storytelling, he narrated the lives of characters who fight for survival.

All his life, he cared for those people and portrayed them in his work that offered insights into their political, cultural, and social lives and of course history of their land.

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## RAPE ACCUSED'S BAIL

# Same judge irked SC before

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In March last year, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court had asked Judge Begum Mosammat Kamrunnahr to appear before it on April 2 last year to explain why she had granted bail to a rape accused.

At that time, Kamrunnahr was a judge of Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Tribunal-7 of Dhaka and she granted bail to Aslam Shikder, a former official of a TV channel, although there was an SC stay order on the bail.

The apex court had issued the summons following a petition filed by the state challenging the legality of the bail.

The SC issued another order yesterday on the same petition, but did not

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## TREATMENT ABROAD Khaleda's family seeks permission from govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia have asked the government again to allow her to have advanced treatment abroad.

Shamim Iskander, Khaleda Zia's younger brother, wrote to Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal on Thursday seeking permission to send her abroad, said a family member wishing not to be named. The former prime minister is currently undergoing treatment at Evercare Hospital in the capital.

The source said in the letter, the government's cooperation was sought in sending Khaleda abroad

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A constable pulls a rope, with its other side tied to a pole of the central reservation of Bangabandhu Avenue, to stop traffic on one side of the busy street. He said they started using this method after struggling to stop vehicles, especially motorcycles, from dodging traffic signal. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO:  
PRABIR DAS

## Cheating thru' 36 cheques

Probe body finds how a syndicate embezzled around Tk 7 crore from accounts of Jashore Education Board over 5 years

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

A racket that includes officials tampered with at least 36 cheques and stole almost Tk 7 crore from a bank account of Jashore Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education in the last five years, an investigation found.

The education board's College Inspector KM Rabbani, who led a five-member committee to probe the embezzlement, said the stolen money was cleared through five different banks.

The committee's findings include the names of "a number of individuals" who could have been involved in the crime, he told The Daily Star, without going into further details.

The probe report was submitted to Jashore Education Board Secretary Prof AMH Ali R Reza. Interestingly, Prof Reza is one of the accused in a case filed over the embezzlement in October.

Inspector Rabbani said the official procedure is to submit such reports to the secretary.

An internal audit of the education board earlier found that about Tk 7 crore was withdrawn from its account through 36 cheques containing the signatures of the board chairman and secretary. The cheques were issued to 10 business outlets and three board officials.

The education board on October 10 filed a complaint with the Anti-Corruption Commission in Jashore.

Eight days later, the ACC filed a case accusing the

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