



# The Daily Star



REGD. No. DA 781 | Vol. XXXI No. 314 | AGRHAWAN 20, 1428 BS | **Your Right to Know** | RABIU SANI 29, 1443 HJRI | 16 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00

## Road deaths just wouldn't stop

5 more die; at least 413 including 54 students killed last month; protests on; Quader smells instigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 54 students were killed in crashes on roads across the country last month, according to a road safety campaign.

They are among the 413 people killed in 379 crashes that left 532 others injured last month. Among the dead, were 58 children not counted as students, said the Road Safety Foundation in a report yesterday.

The information was released amid continued student demonstrations for road safety.

Asked about the authority's failure to ensure road safety, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday seemed to underplay the crisis, saying 17 people get killed in crashes every hour in India. He also said a political party was behind the demonstrations.

Meanwhile, at least five people, including a private university student and an HSC examinee, were killed yesterday in crashes in Dhaka, Chattogram, and Tangail. No arrest was reported in connection with the incidents.

However, police in Rampura arrested a man named Swapan Reza, 25, around 5:00pm yesterday on charges of vandalising buses in Rampura on September 29 after a school student was crushed to death by a bus of Anabil Paribahan. The bus had neither a route permit nor an updated tax token.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

VALIANT TILL THE END: PAGE 3



Students demonstrating at the capital's Rampura Bridge for safe roads show the red card to chaos and corruption in transport sector yesterday. There were already widespread demonstrations for road safety before a school boy was crushed to death by a bus at Rampura on November 29.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Student on way to see ailing mother dies on road

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MUNTAKIM SAAD

He was supposed to take his ailing mother, who was on her way to



Lemon

Dhaka from their village, to a hospital for treatment. Now, he is going back to their village from Dhaka but as a corpse.

Mahdi Hasan Lemon, 21, a fourth-year student of Green University's Textile Engineering department, has become another victim of a road crash.

He was killed after a lorry hit his motorcycle from behind on the Airport Road in Kawla area around 12:30 am and ran him over as he fell to the ground.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

WORLD PEACE CONFERENCE-2021

## Ensure equal opportunities

Says President Hamid

UNB, Dhaka



President Abdul Hamid yesterday urged the world leaders to work for ending discriminations based on race, faith, colour, religion and ethnicity and ensuring equal opportunities for all.

He made the call while inaugurating the "World Peace Conference-2021" that has brought together global thinkers, writers, poets, singers and political personalities.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

ICDDR,B: 61 YRS OF GLORIOUS SERVICE

## From cholera to Covid

ZYMA ISLAM

The birth of icddr,b almost coincided with the seventh cholera pandemic that according to the World Health Organisation began in South Asia in 1961.

Sixty-one years later, after successfully yanking off the cholera mortality rate from 50 percent to less than three, the health research institute in Bangladesh is faced with another pandemic: the Covid-19.

Back then, in 1960, Dhaka was Dacca and icddr,b was called Pakistan-SEATO Cholera Research Laboratory.

SEATO or Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation was a multilateral organisation which included Australia, France, New Zealand, Pakistan (including then East Pakistan, now Bangladesh), the Philippines, Thailand, the United Kingdom (including Hong Kong, North Borneo and Sarawak) and the United States. It was dissolved in 1977.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

STOPPING OMICRON VARIANT

## Govt still sitting on experts' advice

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

The government is yet to take any effective measures to prevent a possible surge in Covid-19 cases as per recommendations made by the National Technical Advisory Committee.

The recommendations came following the detection of the fast-spreading Omicron variant in South Africa last month.

The NTAC on November 28 recommended limiting mass gatherings and issuing travel bans on countries where the variant has spread, ensuring the use

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

HSIA RUNWAY CLOSURE

## Carriers worry over service disruption

RASHIDUL HASAN

The runway of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport will remain closed from 12:00am to 8:00am every day from December 10 for six months and some carriers fear there could be service disruption at the airport.

The authorities are constructing and expanding taxiways for the third terminal for which the runway need to remain closed.

The eight-hour shutdown means 12 international flights, operated by Qatar Airways, Singapore Airlines, Emirates, Saudia Airlines, Turkish Airlines and Malaysian Airlines, will have to be rescheduled.

Some 85-90 flights will have to depart and land within the 16-hour window, meaning the ground handling and other ancillary services provided by the airport authority will be severely strained, said different airline operators.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

# Harvesting a world of opportunities

## Celebrating 25 years of progress in Bangladesh

We thank our customers, regulators, community partners, people and all the stakeholders for your partnership in our journey towards growth and economic progress.

Bangladesh is moving towards a brighter future with continuous progress. As the leading international bank in Bangladesh and largest trade bank in the world, HSBC has been a constant partner to the country's growth for the past 25 years, connecting its customers, people, investors and communities with global possibilities. Our international network covers more than 90% of the global GDP and trade flows and we have been demonstrating strong partnerships in Bangladesh's journey towards growth and economic progress. From power to infrastructure to agriculture to the launch of Bangabandhu -1 Satellite to addition of Boeing Dreamliners in the National carrier, HSBC bridges groundbreaking solutions and create a world of opportunities. HSBC is dedicated to harness its international network to take the flourishing growth of Bangladesh even further in the days to come.

We are just getting started...

Visit [www.business.hsbc.com.bd](http://www.business.hsbc.com.bd)



**HSBC** | Opening up a world of opportunity

**BANGLADESH UPDATE**

**243**  
New cases in 24hrs

**15,77,070**  
Total cases

**27,989**  
Deaths

**15,41,886**  
Recoveries

**GLOBAL UPDATE**

**5,262,814**  
Deaths

**265,555,670**  
Total cases

## KHALEDA'S TREATMENT

# Allow her to go abroad or deal with consequences

BNP tells govt

UNB, Dhaka

BNP has threatened to launch a movement to oust the government if it does not immediately allow party Chairperson Khaleda Zia to go abroad for advanced treatment.

"We would like to clearly ask the government to free our leader Khaleda Zia and take steps for sending her abroad for treatment without further delay," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said at a rally yesterday.

Otherwise, people will not forgive the government, he said. "A movement to ensure your [government's] fall will begin and a pro-people government will be established removing you from power."

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal organised the programme in front of the Jatiya Press Club, demanding Khaleda's treatment abroad as she was diagnosed with liver cirrhosis.

Fakhrul said the government is not willing to grant permission to Khaleda to go to an advanced medical centre abroad as it thinks their obstacles to staying in power will be cleared if she dies.

"You people can be rest assured that it won't happen. They thought BNP would be vanished through the killing of Ziaur Rahman. That didn't happen. Khaleda Zia has rightly chosen her successor -- our acting chairman Tarique Rahman -- and the party is moving forward under his leadership," the BNP leader added.

He said Khaleda must be brought back to politics for restoring democracy, people's rights and establishing good

governance in the country.

Recalling the BNP chief's contributions to the country and her long struggle for democracy, Fakhrul said in Bangladesh there is no other living leader who made such huge sacrifices like Khaleda.

He alleged that many Chhatra Dal leaders have been subjected to enforced disappearance, killing and repression by the current government. He called upon students and Chhatra Dal to restore people's democratic rights, protect the country's independence and sovereignty. "Our leader Khaleda Zia's treatment abroad must be ensured through a movement."

He urged Chhatra Dal leaders and activists to get ready for making any sacrifice to make their current movement a success.

Khaleda, 76, has been undergoing treatment at the capital's Evercare Hospital for various health complications since November 13.

The former prime minister's medical board members on November 28 said she immediately needed to go abroad for better treatment as she was diagnosed with liver cirrhosis.

On behalf of her family, Khaleda's younger brother, Shamim Iskander, submitted an application to the home ministry on November 11 seeking permission to take her abroad for treatment.

However, Law Minister Anisul Huq said the government will consider the BNP chairperson's appeal if she submits a fresh petition after returning to jail.



Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student wing of BNP, holding a rally yesterday in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital demanding that BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia be freed and allowed to go abroad for better treatment.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Bangladesh Army celebrates its golden jubilee

Bss, Dhaka

The Golden Jubilee of the Bangladesh Army was celebrated in a befitting manner across the country on Friday.

The year 2021 carries a special significance for the Bangladesh Army and the entire nation as the Golden Jubilee of the Bangladesh Army was celebrated with the golden jubilee of the country's independence and the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, an ISPR press release said yesterday.

A colourful programme was organized at Dhaka Army Stadium on Friday to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Bangladesh Army and highlight the achievements of the Bangladesh Army, it added.

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Bangladesh Army, the president, the prime minister, the speaker of Jatiya Sangsad, several ministers, and chiefs of army staff greeted the members of the Bangladesh Army.

To mark the day, a programme was held at the Army Stadium here where about 11,000 distinguished guests attended.

## Road deaths just wouldn't stop

FROM PAGE 1

Angry locals vandalised at least 12 buses in the area after the tragedy. Several of the buses didn't have proper documents to be on the road.

Yesterday's arrestee Swapan is a chauffeur by profession, said Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Rampura Police Station.

"We have found his involvement while investigating the vandalism cases," he said, adding that whether or not he has political affiliations will be disclosed later.

In Hatirjheel, police detained a teenager to interrogate him over vandalising the buses, said Sub-inspector Shahjahan of Hatirjheel Police Station.

On November 30, police arrested Shahid Bepari, 22, a street vendor, in the same case.

**14 DIE ON ROADS EVERY DAY**  
The Road Safety Foundation came up with the numbers by keeping track of news reports. On an average, 14 people got killed on the roads every day last month.

The actual number of victims could be much higher because many incidents go unreported and the media reports often do not account for individuals who die of injuries after the crashes.

Of the 413 who died last month, 184 died in 158 crashes involving motorcycles. At least 96 were pedestrians and 53 were drivers and their helpers.

Around 41 percent of the crashes happened on national highways, 34.56 percent on regional highways, and the rest on other roads.

The foundation attributed the deaths and injuries to risky vehicles, speeding, reckless and unskilled drivers, slow-moving vehicles on highways, reckless motorcycle riders and inadequate traffic management.

The organisation also made 10 recommendations for reducing crashes that include initiatives for creating skilled drivers and fixing work hours for drivers.

**WHAT QUADER SAYS**  
At an awareness-raising programme of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) on Manik Mia Avenue, Quader said the government was working to ensure road safety.

But the country is witnessing the second major movement for road safety, and according to a government report, the number of road crashes is increasing.

When asked why they were failing to ensure road safety, Quader, also the general secretary of ruling Awami

League, did not give a direct reply.

"I want to compare [Bangladesh] with other countries. According to an NDTV report, 17 people get killed every hour in India [due to road crashes]," he said.

He added that fatalities in crashes have increased because of small vehicles and motorcycles.

"I think the number of accidents have decreased, but the rate of casualties in road accidents has increased due to the operation of easy bikes and other small vehicles along with heavy vehicles," he said.

However, a police report says 2,635 people were killed in 2,629 road crashes in 2018 while 3,502 were killed in 3,701 crashes in just the first eight months of this year.

About the student demonstrations, he alleged that the movement was fanned by instigation of a political party.

A leader of Dhaka city unit of a political party is leading the movement in disguise of a student, he said, adding that there is footage of the movement and action would be taken as per the law.

**MOVEMENT CONTINUES**  
Meanwhile, students who were protesting at the capital's Rampura to realise an 11-point demand, yesterday

showed red cards to irregularities and corruption on the roads.

"We are showing red cards in protest of corruption and irregularities in the same way referees show red cards to errant players in football matches," said Khilgaon Model College student Shohagi Samia.

She announced that students will form a human chain today on the footpath near Rampura Bridge.

About Quader's comments, the protesters said the government wanted to malign the legitimate movement.

Another group of students said they would hold a symbolic funeral procession in Shahbagh and form human chains in other parts of the country to realise their nine-point demand for safe roads.

The protesters will wage a stronger movement if their demands are not met by December 10, State University student Inzamul Haque Ramim said in Rampura Bridge yesterday.

The students have been demonstrating for road safety following the death of Notre Dame Collegestudent Nayeem Hasan on November 24. Death of another student, Mainuddin Islam, five days later at Rampura intensified the protests.

## Govt still sitting on experts'

FROM PAGE 1

of facemasks, and preparing hospitals to tackle a fresh surge in transmission.

Expect for the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh imposing travel restrictions on seven countries from yesterday, none of the other recommendations has so far been implemented.

The seven countries are South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Ghana, Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

For passengers coming from other countries, the CAAB circular said they must get their Covid negative test certificates 48 hours before a trip. It also said the tests must be done using RT-PCR machines.

Experts said the measures taken are not enough, adding that the government should implement fresh health safety guidelines and conduct rigorous screening at all ports, as the Omicron variant has already been reported in more than 40 countries, including neighbouring India, and many of them are already grappling with a spike in infection rate.

Bangladesh, however, is yet to report any case of Omicron.

According to studies, the new variant is more transmissible than any other coronavirus variants. But there is no conclusive data yet on whether it is deadly or not.

"It doesn't matter whether the Omicron is deadly or not. We should not delay following the protocol to curb the spread of the virus. We have seen how many losses [of life] the Delta variant caused," Dr Abu Jamil Faisal, member of the Epidemiology and Public Health Committee of the Directorate General of Health

Services, told The Daily Star yesterday. Prof Nazrul Islam, member of the NTAC, said, "If those recommendations are not implemented, the situation can get dangerous for all of us."

Prof Tahmina Shirin, director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research, said, "If the same travel ban were imposed to all other countries where Omicron has been detected, it would be better. But there might be other reasons for not doing so."

She added, "Health officials at all levels have been asked to implement the health safety guidelines. But it requires cooperation. The health department cannot do anything alone."

On Thursday, Health Minister Zahid Maleque told journalists at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport that the government could not trace the 240 passengers who came from South Africa recently.

Experts said this was a reflection of lax coordination between the ministries.

The government lifted all coronavirus restrictions from August 19 and all public transports were allowed to operate while maintaining health safety guidelines.

Social gatherings were allowed and tourist destinations were also reopened on the condition that they operate at half their capacities, according to a Cabinet Division circular issued on August 12.

Besides, the circular said everyone must continue wearing masks and following other health rules.

However, experts say all health rules are being grossly violated.

## Student on way

FROM PAGE 1

Ironically, Lemon felt strongly about the ongoing student movement on road safety, according to his classmates.

With critical injuries, he was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where on-duty doctors declared him dead around 1:45 am, said Kaikobad, inspector (investigation) of Airport Police Station.

Police seized the 10-wheel lorry that was carrying containers for a Chattogram-based company. Its driver and helper, however, managed to flee, said the inspector, adding that Lemon's father filed a case with the police station in this connection.

The deceased's aunt Wahida Mahbuba Chowdhury told The Daily Star that Lemon lived at a house in Uttara, but on Friday, he was staying at her aunt's house in Jigatola.

"Lemon rushed to Uttara to receive his mother. But on the way, he met his tragic death," she said.

His mother Muslema Begum is a patient of brain tumour, diabetes and kidney. She had an appointment with a doctor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) on December 14.

But on Friday, she fell sick suddenly and got on a bus from Joypurhat in the evening to take treatment in Dhaka.

After Lemon's death, Wahida contacted the bus conductor who dropped off Lemon's mother at a Sirajganj restaurant at midnight, saying his son was injured in an accident. Her relatives from Bogura

later took her back to Joypurhat.

"Yesterday, she was told that her son is no more. She fainted on hearing the news," Wahida said.

Lemon is second among his three siblings. Lemon's father Mofazzal Hossain, a retired army sergeant, now works at a private farm at Chattogram, from where he rushed to receive the body from the DMC morgue around 2 pm yesterday.

Lemon would be buried at his village in Pachbibi of Joypurhat.

Talking to the correspondent, his friend Hafizur Rahman said Lemon was an active campaigner in the road safety movement in 2018 at his university.

"On Tuesday, we, five friends including Lemon, sat together at Dhanmondi Lake and discussed our internship. We also talked about the ongoing student protest and was supposed to decide on Monday as our classes will resume that day. But now we have to join in the protest for our friend's death," he said.

Protesting Lemon's death, a group of students of Green University blocked the road in front of the campus at Begum Rokeya Sarani around 5:00 pm and also held a human chain.

"We want justice for Limon," chanted the agitating students demanding immediate arrest of the responsible lorry driver and helper.

At the time of filing of this report, no arrests were made, Kaikobad said, adding that no CCTV footage could be found in the area.

## From cholera to Covid

FROM PAGE 1

In 1979, Donald Mackay, then deputy director of the Ross Institute at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, wrote in the Tropical Doctor journal, "It [the cholera research laboratory] was set up under the guidance and leadership of a very great epidemiologist, the late Dr Fred Soper, a man without any background of work in Asia and with no obvious interest in cholera."

But Soper retired soon after, and it wasn't until Robert A Phillips took over that icddr,b found the silver bullet to combat cholera -- the oral saline solution of salt and sugar, known more commonly as Orsoline.

Phillips recognised that dehydration was the main problem of cholera. The New York Times reported in 1976 that he had realised it by "studying the biochemical composition of the stools of hundreds of victims of cholera, rather than concentrating on studies of the blood, as others had done."

"Principally, as far as the non-scientific world was concerned, the production of these years was the perfection of the intravenous therapy for cholera [the Dacca 5 : 4 : 1 solution] and the emergence of the new concept of oral therapy, which was to have so profound an effect, not only on cholera therapy but on the therapy of diarrhoeal diseases generally," wrote Mackay in the

Tropical Doctor.

Scientists of what is now icddr,b began to develop an oral therapy in 1962.

The New York Times announced the development of the treatment in an article titled "Simple Cholera Treatment, a Salt Drink Developed" on September 28, 1970.

"The researchers found that the body could absorb the necessary electrolytes -- sodium and chloride -- when a sugar dextrose was added to the salt solution," it said.

"Until the discovery that successful medical treatment involved replacing the quart even gallons of fluid that a cholera victim can lose, and fatality rates in untreated cholera were as high as 80 percent in some epidemics," reported the newspaper.

"Once doctors began using intravenous fluids, the mortality rate dropped precipitously. How low it fell -- in some places to 1 percent -- depended on the availability of ample supplies of intravenous solutions.

"The amounts required, however, make the costs prohibitive in many rural areas where cholera occurs today."

Fast forward to 2021 and the world is fighting another pandemic, this time, borne by air instead of water.

As many as 85 separate research studies on Covid-19 are currently ongoing or in the pipeline of icddr,b

The lines of inquiry range from monitoring the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 in bats in Bangladesh, to the presence of Covid-19 antibodies among slum-dwellers.

But if there is one study done by icddr,b that matches in importance to that of the cholera pandemic, it is a research on checking the long-term effects of Covid-19 on patients, according to Tahmeed Ahmed, executive director of icddr,b.

"We are researching on post-Covid complications during recovery. Such a systemic study has not been done before in the world. We are routinely following up with around 250 patients with different symptoms -- mild, moderate and critical. We ask them to report to the hospitals periodically. We screen them from head to toe. We do mental, psychiatric, neurological; check their hearts, lungs, livers, pancreases and kidneys. We even do electrocardiograms and echocardiograms," he explained.

Five months of follow-ups have been done, and it will continue till 18 months.

"We are coming across a lot of psychiatric problems. A lot of reports of insomnia and post-traumatic stress disorder are coming... We are studying a small group of healthy volunteers, who are non-Covid patients. We are seeing if they have the same symptoms. We have seen that Covid patients have more psychiatric

issues," said Tahmeed.

"There are a lot of cardiac problems like palpitation, breathing problems for which patients can't climb stairs. We have seen diabetes worsening in these patients and have found the pancreas being affected. To detect that we are using a C-peptide test," he said, adding that if they study this properly, they should be able to come up with recommendations.

In addition, the organisation is looking at people's T-Cell response to the virus. "Our population is different. We don't have an ageing population. We have a lot of urban informal settlers, where infection can spread rapidly, but the immune response too can develop quickly. Bangladeshis took all forms of antibiotics and drugs over the counter, and antiviral medicines was readily available. Whether these had an impact or not, we are trying to find out," said Tahmeed.

From a handful of research testing out how to battle cholera, to an army of scientists battling Covid-19 across all entry points.

As Mackay had written in 1979, "It succeeds, and grows out of an organisation to which the whole world is permanently indebted, for it produced techniques that have brought the mortality of cholera tumbling down."

## Ensure equal opportunities

FROM PAGE 1

aiming to promote a culture of peace and tolerance.

"A fair international system is also essential for all people of the world. We shouldn't forget that we live in a shared planet and we have shared responsibilities, too," he said.

Hamid said Bangladesh believes that peace around the world is the best guarantee for the country's national security following the constitutional obligations. "We will continue our efforts to resolve conflicts through peaceful means and promote peace across the globe."

He urged all to leave aside the path of division, join hands and walk together on the path of peace.

The president said the world is facing numerous challenges and conflicts and the Covid-19 pandemic exposed the weakness of systems.

"Unless we are united and ensure mutual peace and harmony, we won't be able to secure a safe and habitable world for our children and future generations which is already grappling with adverse effects of climate change," Hamid said.

He also highlighted how global inequities and injustices are the real threats to international peace.

Former UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon sent a pre-recorded video message

to the programme. He called upon all to prioritise peace, sustainability and inclusion for a brighter future for all.

He laid emphasis on joint efforts to fight the pandemic and called for equal sharing of vaccines.

"Let's dream of a better world" Speaking at the event, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen hoped that there will be peace across the world following an end to violence, war and terror with the active support from the international community.

"These activities and violence, whether against Rohingyas or Palestinians, are manmade ones. Since these are manmade, I've a dream: One day with your active support, we can end violence, war and terror," he said. Momen hoped that no child will be without family, no soldier will lift his weapons to take another man's life, disastrous bombs and hateful minds hopefully will be replaced by flowers of friendship and peace.

He said courageous leaders like Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman are needed to end violence and achieve peace.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, chair of the organising committee of the World Peace Conference, former Indian minister for civil aviation, railways, commerce and industry Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, World Islamic Economic Forum Foundation

Chairman Syed Hamid Albar, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahrir Alam and Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen also spoke at the event.

The speakers talked about the Rohingya crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic, equal distribution of vaccines, shared concerns over new the Covid variant and laid emphasis on equality and social inclusion.

Prime minister Sheikh Hasina will virtually attend the closing ceremony of the two-day conference today.

On the occasion of 50 years of Bangladesh's independence and the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh celebrates five decades of its peace-centric diplomacy aimed at promoting sustainable development, fundamental rights, freedom, social justice and inclusion.

Bangladesh is hosting the World Peace Conference as part of its celebrations of the Mujib Year, the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation, and the Golden Jubilee of the country's independence.

The idea of holding the conference is to let the world feel that peace has to be cherished in multifarious ways, perceiving that the invaluable contributions of the global pioneers are universal, and that peace will be sustainable only through social justice, equity and inclusiveness.

## Carriers worry

FROM PAGE 1

"Passengers will have to suffer if the airport authorities do not increase ground-handling capabilities and the other facilities beforehand," said a senior official of a foreign airline asking not to be named to speak candidly on the matter.

A sufficient number of check-in counters, boarding bridges, security check-in counters, baggage loading and unloading facilities and other related facilities are needed for the smooth operation of all flights within the 16-hour window, he said.

However, the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) thinks the runway closure will not cause much disruption.

The CAAB said they have already discussed the matter with the airline operators and the other stakeholders and have taken the necessary measures to prevent any disruption. The steps include increasing manpower for ground handling.

There would not be any flight delay or other disruption in flight operation due to the closure of the runway from December 10, said AHM Touhid-Ul-Ahsan, executive director of HISA.

If an emergency landing is required during the closure of the runway from December 10, the airlines will have to use Osmani International Airport in Sylhet. Every day, 27 airlines operate 85 to 90 flights, carrying around 10,000 passengers to different destinations from HISA.

## 'Rehabilitation, not punishment'

Speakers urge for separate justice system for children

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Establish separate children's desk in each police station
- At least one juvenile court required in each district, metropolitan area
- Family conferences to curb juvenile delinquency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding a separate justice system for children, speakers at a roundtable yesterday highlighted that punishment should not be the main purpose of juvenile justice; rather measures should be taken so they do not get involved in any criminal activity.

They also expressed grave concern over the low capacity and overcrowded juvenile correction centres.

The roundtable titled "Juvenile Justice System: Challenges and Way Forward" was organised by Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) at the Liberation War Museum at the capital's Agargaon, as part of observing 16 Days of Activism campaign.

Speakers also noted the lack of awareness about the Children Act 2013 among law enforcement agencies, human rights activists and development agencies.

According to the act, it is necessary to establish a separate children's desk in each police station, pointed out BNWLA president Salma Ali,

Under the Juvenile Justice Act 1974, two juvenile courts

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



The deep depression over the west-central part of Bay of Bengal, which is intensifying into cyclonic storm "Jawad", left Dhaka's skies overcast throughout yesterday. Not to be seen for most of the day, the sun only peeked for a couple of minutes around noon, before taking time off again. This photo was taken from DSCC Nagar Bhaban area.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## SM Ali's 93rd birth anniversary



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 93rd birth anniversary of Syed Mohammad Ali, founder editor-publisher of The Daily Star and a luminary in journalism of Bangladesh.

SM Ali made his way up from a cub reporter to one of the country's most brilliant editors in a career spanning 44 years. He also led the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) as its chairman.

Educated in Kolkata, Dhaka and London, he was one of the few Asian journalists who stood out in regional journalism.

Ali was born in a well-

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## VALIANT TILL THE END

Traffic constable dies trying to prevent collision on Ctg rail track; 2 others including HSC examinee killed as train hits bus, auto-rickshaw

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

As the train rushed in, the rail gate of Chattogram city's Jhautola crossing still remained open. Unaware of what was about to unfold, several vehicles moved on to or very close to the rail track.

Sensing imminent danger, on-duty traffic police Monirul Hossain, around 50 years of age, rushed to the spot and tried to stop the vehicles, according to witnesses.

However, the train soon arrived and hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw and bus. The force of the collision led the auto-rickshaw to fall upon Monirul, leaving him critically injured.

He was later declared dead at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), confirmed Ali Hossain, deputy commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (traffic), north zone.



Monirul



Sadraj

The three-way collision took place at the crossing yesterday morning, which also left two others killed. They were identified as Syed Bahauddin Ahmed (30), an engineer by profession, and HSC examinee Sadraj Uddin Shahin (18).

They were also taken to and declared dead at CMCH.

Eight others were injured in the collision, police confirmed. They are currently under treatment there.



Monirul's family members break down in tears at CMCH in the aftermath of the tragic accident.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Hearing news of the accident, Monirul's daughters Mahmuda Ferdous Shima and Bibi Fatema Sumona rushed to the hospital around 1:00pm.

His fellows from the police were seen consoling the bereaved family.

GATEMAN'S 'NEGLECTANCE' TURNS FATAL

Eyewitness police sergeant Mahmudul Hasan Juwel, who was also at the spot during the incident, told reporters, "We were controlling the traffic rush on the road at the time. Constable Monirul was on duty on the southern side of the street when he saw there was no barrier before the railway crossing on his side and tried to intervene."

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Khulshi Police Station Shahinuzzaman told The Daily Star, "After being hit by the train, the auto-rickshaw crushed Monirul,

leaving him critically injured. He was rescued along with the other injured by police and rushed to CMCH."

Shailla Begum, who saw the accident from only a few yards away, put the blame on gateman Ashraf Alimgair Bhuiyan, saying, "It was a terrifying scene. The accident occurred due to the gateman's mistake."

A frequent commuter of the area, she alleged that the gateman in question usually had children of the area operate the gate for him.

Meanwhile, police are yet to arrest the gateman over negligence. "Ashrafal has been on the run since the accident," said OC Nazim Uddin of Chattogram Railway Police Station.

Ali Hossain, deputy commissioner of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (traffic),

north zone, said, "On-duty traffic personnel Monirul went to close the gate after he found it open, but was killed as the auto-rickshaw flew towards him after being hit by the train."

OC Nazim Uddin said police were filing a case in connection with the accident. To investigate, police also formed a three-member committee.

"The committee will be headed by Additional Superintendent of Police Abdul Hafiz. It has been asked to submit a report within three working days," said Md Hasan Chowdhury, superintendent of police of Chattogram Railway.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Railway has also formed their own probe committee to investigate the incident, according to sources.

'MONIRUL'S SINCERITY SHOWED EVEN IN DEATH'

Meanwhile, grief has set in over the family



The mangled CNG-run auto-rickshaw after the incident.

members of the deceased, who still can't contain the shock of the sudden demise of their loved ones.

When this correspondent reached out to the family in the aftermath of the accident, he found Monirul's elder daughter Shima waiting for her father.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## Ctg bus owners agree to meet students' demand

Decide to accept half bus fares in principle; to hold press brief today

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Transport owners in Chattogram city have accepted the demand of introducing half bus fares for students in principle.

Sources from within the owners' associations said a declaration in this regard will come through a press conference today.

However, they also said the announcement would come with two demands from their side, one addressing the government and another addressing students.

"The government has raised our taxes four times this year. We accept the demand of students regarding half fare, but we will place a demand before the government to reduce our taxes," said Belayet Hossain, general secretary of Chattogram Metro Paribahan Malik Group.

"In addition, we urge students to be in their school and college uniforms, and carry identity cards while boarding our buses when asking for half fares," he said.

Belayet said a series of meetings were held among different transport owners associations in Chattogram over the last week to come to this decision.

"On Friday and Saturday, we sat together and decided to accept the demands on principle," he said. "We will announce it on Sunday (today) in a press conference at Chattogram Press Club."

Contacted, Tarun Dasgupta, president of City Service Owners' Association in Chattogram, said although most of the buses plying different city routes have very low income per day, they still accept the demands for the sake of greater interest.

"The students are our future. Our children are also students, and so we don't want to cause them distress," he said. "This is why we have decided to accept their demand. But at the same time, we would urge the government to reduce the increase in taxes imposed on public transport this year."

General students as well as different students' organisations have been demonstrating in the port city, demanding the government to introduce half public

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## No water scarcity next dry season

Assures Dhaka Wasa MD  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Residents of Dhaka will not face any scarcity of drinking water during the next dry season, other than exceptions that could arise due to technical glitches, said Taqsem Khan, managing director of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa), yesterday.

Last year, the city dwellers in several areas complained of facing water scarcity as they did not get drinking water from Wasa supply lines.

"We have the capacity to generate 270 to 280 crore litres of water daily, against the demand for 210 to 265 crore litres," he said at a views-exchange meeting at Wasa's conference room in the capital.

Taqsem said they have a plan to increase dependency on surface water to 70 percent.

They will be able to achieve the target when installation of two water treatment plants in Gandhabpur and Sayedabad is completed.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## After 2 children, father dies from burn injuries



PHOTO: COLLECTED

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

After siblings Nahar Khan (3) and Md Yasin Khan (6), their father Md Kausar Khan (42) died yesterday in the aftermath of the fire that originated at a house in Munshiganj Sadar's Muktarpur area on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the family's matriarch Shanta Begum (38) is also being treated for sustaining 48 percent burns at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in the capital, confirmed its resident surgeon SM Ayub Hossain.

Under treatment at the same hospital, Kausar breathed his last around 7:45am. Hailing from Kishoreganj Sadar, he was working as a river transport engineer in a cement factory of Muktarpur in Munshiganj.

The four of them lived in a room on the first floor of a four-storey building, where the fire broke out around 4:15am on Thursday.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



These 75-year-old train wheels were recently declared out-of-use by the railway authorities. After being sold via tender, around 108 of them are now being cut and prepared before being sent to re-rolling mills. This photo was taken recently from Khulna city's Jora Gate area.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## After 2 children

FROM PAGE 3

The hospital's resident surgeon SM Ayub Hossain said, "Kausar sustained 54 percent burn injuries, including in parts of his trachea, which led to his demise."

"His daughter Nahar had sustained 32 percent burns, while Yasin had 44 percent," he informed. "He [Kausar] spoke to me even this morning. But he couldn't finish what he was saying and died mid-sentence," said Abdullah Al Masud, brother-in-law of Kausar.

He said Kausar's body will be taken to his native home in Kishoreganj after an autopsy. Nahar and Yasin were also buried there.

Contacted, Munshiganj Titas Gas Assistant Officer Tariqul Islam Tuhin said it was initially thought that the family had inadvertently left the gas stove on and slept through the night. The fire started after they tried to switch on any of their electric appliances, he added.



A part of Sylhet-Tamabil Road has been taken up by Sylhet City Corporation's work to repair water lines. With mounds of dirt just lying there, this section has become narrower for both vehicular and pedestrian movement, causing great inconvenience. This photo was taken recently from Mirabazar area.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS KOICA, DU launch \$7.5m project

DU CORRESPONDENT

Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Dhaka University's Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship Center have started implementing a USD 7.5 million project for young entrepreneurs in Bangladesh.

The project, "Capacity Building of Universities in Bangladesh to Promote Youth Entrepreneurship" was inaugurated yesterday at Dhaka University Central Playground, as part of DU's centenary celebrations.

The government-to-government modality project, which is under the education ministry, will be implemented by UGC and DU, in partnership with KOICA. Under it, young entrepreneurs from Bangladeshi universities will get different forms of support.

## Valiant till the end

FROM PAGE 3

"Who will love us now? Who will take care of us?" she asked. Abu Saleh, Monirul's son-in-law, lamented the tragic passing and said, "He went to join the day's work around 8:00am. He was very sincere about his duties. We never thought this was the last we would see of him."

Police constable Sanjoy Debnath, who worked with Monirul, said "It's hard to believe that Monirul has been killed. He had an affable personality."

Police sources said Monirul joined Bangladesh Police in 1996 as a constable. He had been transferred to CMP in 2013 and later joined its Traffic Division in 2019. He left behind two daughters and a school-going son.

'SADRAJ WANTED TO BE A PILOT' The situation was no different at Sadraj's household. "Sadraj was a brilliant student. He wanted to become a pilot," said Md Eusuf Sikdar, Sadraj's uncle.

"Our dreams are now shattered," he told this correspondent over phone. He added that Sadraj was a BNCC cadet under-officer (air wing) and an HSC examinee at the city's Pahartali University College. He attended his last exam on Thursday.

More information on Bahauddin, the other deceased, could not be ascertained till filing of this report at 9:00pm.

## Ctg bus owners

FROM PAGE 3

transport fares for students.

Arif Maimuddin, central president of Ganatantrik Chhatra Council, said they welcome the decision.

"Our demand was not to the transport owners; the students demanded the government to introduce half fares for them throughout the country," he said. "But it's good that the decision is being taken in the port city, after it was taken for Dhaka metropolitan."

"We would urge the government to introduce the provision for students throughout the country in all sorts of public transport, not only for buses," he said.

## SM Ali's 93rd birth anniversary

FROM PAGE 3

known family in Sylhet in 1928. He was the eldest son of the late Syed Mustafa Ali, an official of the Assam Civil Service and nephew of famous litterateur Syed Mujtaba Ali.

He died in 1993 at a Bangkok hospital at the age of 65.

Ali started off as a reporter with the Pakistan Observer while he was a student at Dhaka University. He went on to hold important positions in various publications in Pakistan, Hong Kong, Thailand and Singapore.

He was the managing director of The Hong Kong Standard and The Bangkok Post.

He joined the Press Foundation of Asia as its executive director in the 1970s. In

the mid-80s, he became Unesco's regional communications adviser for Asia and the Pacific, based in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur.

Ali returned home in 1989 and had a brief stint with the Bangladesh Observer as editor.

He co-founded The Daily Star in 1991 and worked tirelessly to establish it as a leading national daily. He injected a new life in the moribund English language journalism of the period.

SM Ali was always keen to share his professional experiences with young aspirants who wanted to make a career in journalism.

He is respected by all as the most successful Bangladeshi journalist at the regional and international level.

## Golam Hasnayen passes away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Ekushey

Padak

winner and

freedom

fighter

Advocate

Golam

Hasnayen

died of old-age

complications at his home

in Pabna's Kachipara

yesterday. He was 85.

He received Ekushey

Padak in 2021 for his

valiant role in the

Liberation War.

Advocate Abdul Ahad,

officer secretary of Pabna

district unit AL, said

Hasnayen joined AL politics

with Bangabandhu and

gathered freedom fighters

during the Liberation War.

In the 1970 election, he

was elected a member of

parliament from Ullapara.

His namaz-e-janaza was

held at Pabna Technical

School and College field

in the afternoon. He was

buried in Arifpur graveyard

with state honour.

Hasnayen was a former

AL president in Pabna

district and a five-time

president of Pabna Bar

Association. He was born

in Ullapara (now part

of Sirajganj), and after

completing his education,

he joined the Pabna Bar. He

was also a member of the

72-constituency committee.



## Rehabilitation, not punishment

FROM PAGE 3

were established, but the current situation requires at least one juvenile court in each district and metropolitan area to ensure justice for children, she added.

Rakib Hasan, deputy director of Department of Social Services, said children are getting involved in various crimes instigated by adults, and as a result, teen gangs are being formed.

He said family conferences could play an effective role in curbing juvenile delinquency.

Jamila Akhter, child protection specialist at Unicef, said proper implementation of a

community-based child protection strategy is the only way to ensure reduction in juvenile delinquency and justice in society. Unicef is working with five ministries in this regard.

Sima Jahur, vice president of BNWLA, in her closing remarks said children should be treated like children, not criminals. She also recommended raising social awareness so adults cannot involve children in crimes.

Benuar Khatun, deputy director (daycare) at women's affairs department, and Mahmud Jahangir Alam Mollah, senior district and sessions judge (ret'd), also spoke at the event.

### To Let

A 3400sq.ft apartment on Dutabash Rd, Baridhara, opposite British High Commission/Japanese Embassy, 3 beds each with dressing & bath, drawing, dining, family area, maid's room, 2 parkings.  
Contact: 01711-535010 D-170

### FLAT FOR SALE

At Gulshan-1 a well decorated used flat will be sale. Area approx 2200 sft. Interested party are requested to knock : 01679605709

## INVITATION FOR TENDER

**Pubali Bank Limited**, the largest Online Commercial Bank in Bangladesh is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers who can participate in the following Tender as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned work as per terms & conditions stated below:

- Procurement of 2000 End Point Advanced Malware Protection (AMP) Software (CISCO) at Data Center of Pubali Bank Limited.

Please visit <https://www.pubalibangla.com/tender.asp> for more details. Interested Parties may purchase their Tender document by 14-12-2021 duly filled up all requirements.

(Md. Helal Uddin)  
GM & Division Head



পুবালা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড  
PUBALI BANK LIMITED

ICT Operation Division  
Head office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.

## Mostary Zaman no more

CITY DESK

Mostary

Zaman,

founder

principal

of Sharon's

Sundori

Mohila

College,

Faridpur passed away at

her residence in Dhaka on

December 3. She was 76,

said a press release.

Zaman, who had retired as

principal of Fazlul Huq

Mohila College, Dhaka, left

behind two daughters and

one son. She completed her

masters in political science in

1964 from Dhaka

University. She was buried at

Banani graveyard.



## 53 more hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 53 dengue patients were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday of whom 29 are from outside Dhaka, according to DGHS.

With the new cases, the total number of dengue patients rose to 27,536.

Ninety-eight people have died of dengue infection in the country this year.

## No water

FROM PAGE 3

He added that they will be able to ensure 50 crore litres of water daily via the Gandhabpur plant by June 2024. The process to install the one at Sayedabad is also ongoing, he said.



## শেখ হাসিনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

নেত্রকোণা-২৪০০

www.shu.edu.bd



স্মারক: (০০১) শে.হা.বি/প্রশাসন/২০২১/১০৫৪

তারিখ: ২০ অগ্রহায়ণ ১৪২৮ বঙ্গাব্দ  
০৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

### ২০২০-২০২১ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ১ম বর্ষ স্নাতক (সম্মান) শ্রেণিতে ভর্তি আবেদনের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

শেখ হাসিনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে ২০২০-২০২১ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ১ম বর্ষ স্নাতক (সম্মান) শ্রেণিতে ভর্তির জন্য GST (General, Science and Technology) গুচ্ছভুক্ত ২০টি পাবলিক বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের সমন্বিত ভর্তি পরীক্ষা ২০২০-২০২১ এ অংশগ্রহণকারী শিক্ষার্থীদের থেকে আবেদন আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে।

GST গুচ্ছভুক্ত ভর্তি পরীক্ষা ২০২০-২০২১ এ ফলাফলপ্রাপ্ত শিক্ষার্থীরা [www.shu.edu.bd/admission](http://www.shu.edu.bd/admission) লিংকে প্রদত্ত নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী শেখ হাসিনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে ভর্তির আবেদন করতে পারবেন।

- আবেদনের সময়সীমা: ০৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১ খ্রি. সকাল ১০.০০টা থেকে ২০ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১ খ্রি. রাত ১১.৫৯টা পর্যন্ত।

- আবেদনের যোগ্যতা ও শর্তাবলি:

ক) GST (General, Science and Technology) গুচ্ছভুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়সমূহের ২০২০-২০২১ শিক্ষাবর্ষে স্নাতক (সম্মান) ১ম বর্ষ সমন্বিত ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণকারী ২০১৭ বা ২০১৮ সালে এসএসসি/সম্মান এবং ২০১৯ বা ২০২০ সালে এইচএসসি/সম্মান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ শিক্ষার্থীরা আবেদন করতে পারবে।

ইউনিট/অনুষদ	বিভাগ	আসন সংখ্যা	আবেদনের বিষয়ভিত্তিক ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা
A ইউনিট (প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি অনুষদ)	কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং	৩০ টি (GST-এর A ইউনিটের শিক্ষার্থীদের জন্য নির্ধারিত)	GST গুচ্ছভুক্ত ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় A ইউনিটে অংশগ্রহণসহ এইচএসসি/ সম্মান পরীক্ষায় গণিতে কমপক্ষে B গ্রেড থাকতে হবে।
	বাংলা	A ইউনিট = ০৭ টি B ইউনিট = ২০ টি C ইউনিট = ০৩ টি মোট = ৩০ টি	ক) GST গুচ্ছভুক্ত ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় A, B ও C ইউনিটে অংশগ্রহণকারীরা আবেদন করতে পারবে। খ) বাংলা বিভাগে ভর্তির জন্য এইচএসসি/ সম্মান পরীক্ষায় বাংলায় কমপক্ষে B গ্রেড থাকতে হবে।
B ইউনিট (মানবিক অনুষদ ও সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান অনুষদ)	ইংরেজি	A ইউনিট = ০৭ টি B ইউনিট = ২০ টি C ইউনিট = ০৩ টি মোট = ৩০ টি	গ) ইংরেজি বিভাগে ভর্তির জন্য এইচএসসি/ সম্মান পরীক্ষায় ইংরেজিতে কমপক্ষে B গ্রেড থাকতে হবে।
	অর্থনীতি	A ইউনিট = ১০ টি B ইউনিট = ১৫ টি C ইউনিট = ০৫ টি মোট = ৩০ টি	ঘ) অর্থনীতি বিভাগে ভর্তির জন্য এইচএসসি/ সম্মান পরীক্ষায় অর্থনীতি, গণিত ও পরিসংখ্যান বিষয়সমূহের যেকোনো একটিতে কমপক্ষে B গ্রেড থাকতে হবে।

[বি. দ্র.]: বাংলা, ইংরেজি ও অর্থনীতি বিভাগে A ও C ইউনিটের জন্য বরাদ্দকৃত আসন সংখ্যা পূরণ না হলে B ইউনিটের পরীক্ষার্থী দ্বারা শূন্য আসনসমূহ পূরণ করা হবে।

- আবেদন ফি: প্রতি ইউনিট বা অনুষদের জন্য আবেদন ফি ৬০০.০০/- (ছয়শত টাকা) + সার্ভিস চার্জ প্রদান করতে হবে। মোবাইল ব্যাংকিং (রেকট)-এর মাধ্যমে আবেদন ফি জমা দেওয়া যাবে।

- ভর্তির আবেদন প্রক্রিয়া: [www.shu.edu.bd/admission](http://www.shu.edu.bd/admission) লিংকে গিয়ে অনলাইনে আবেদন ফরম পূরণ করতে হবে। এখানে আবেদন ফরম পূরণ ও পরীক্ষা ফি প্রদানের সচিত্র নির্দেশনা পাওয়া যাবে।

- কোটার আবেদনের শর্তাবলি: কোটার আবেদনকারীদের ক্ষেত্রে অনলাইনে আবেদনের সময় কোটা অপশন সিলেক্ট করতে হবে। নির্দিষ্ট কোটাসমূহ: ১) মুক্তিযোদ্ধা কোটা (FFQ) (মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান/ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তানের সন্তান), ২) বিশেষ চাহিদাসম্পন্ন (প্রতিবন্ধী) কোটা (DQ), ৩) ক্ষুদ্র নৃ-গোষ্ঠী/উপজাতি/আদিবাসী কোটা (EMQ), ৪) পোষা কোটা (WQ)।

- মেধাক্রম তৈরির পদ্ধতি: GST গুচ্ছভুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়সমূহের ২০২০-২০২১ শিক্ষাবর্ষে স্নাতক (সম্মান) ১ম বর্ষ সমন্বিত ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় প্রাপ্ত মোট নম্বরের ভিত্তিতে ইউনিট ভিত্তিক মেধাতালিকা প্রণয়ন করা হবে এবং মেধা তালিকার ভিত্তিতে শিক্ষার্থী ভর্তি করা হবে। মেধাক্রম তৈরির বিস্তারিত পদ্ধতি ভর্তি নির্দেশিকায় বর্ণিত আছে।

বি. দ্র.: বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় কর্তৃপক্ষ ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত যে কোনো নিয়ম/সিদ্ধান্ত পরিবর্তন, সংশোধন, সংযোজন ও বিয়োজনের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে। ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলি [www.shu.edu.bd/admission](http://www.shu.edu.bd/admission) লিংকে পাওয়া যাবে।

হেল্পলাইন:

ফোন: ০২৯৯৭৩৫০০৮, মোবাইল: ০২৫৫০০৫৯৯৫০ (সকাল ৯.০০টা থেকে বিকাল ৫.০০টা পর্যন্ত)

ই-মেইল: [admission@shu.edu.bd](mailto:admission@shu.edu.bd)

স্বাক্ষর

অধ্যাপক ড. সুরত কুমার আদিত্য

রেজিস্ট্রার (অতিরিক্ত দায়িত্ব)

শেখ হাসিনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, নেত্রকোণা



Vast areas have gone into the Padma due to the untimely erosion by the river in Sara area of Pabna's Ishwardi upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

# Padma erosion devours fresh areas

Over 500 bighas of cropland in Pabna's Ishwardi upazila lost to the river in few weeks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Sudden erosion by the Padma river has devoured fresh areas in Ishwardi upazila in the last few weeks, much to the worries of the local people.

Over 500 bighas of cropland have gone into the mighty river due to the untimely erosion by the river near Sara Ghat area in the upazila.

The fresh erosion that started in the middle of last month is also threatening the newly built river protection embankment, known as Ishwardi Town Protection Embankment, in Sara.

Locals alleged that rampant sand lifting from the river is the main reasons behind the untimely erosion.

Rashidul Islam, a resident of Sara Ghat area, said although there is not much pressure

of water in the river, the sudden erosion, which started in the middle of November, has devoured hundreds of bighas of cropland along the mighty river.

Over 500 bighas of cropland have already gone in Sara, he added.

Locals said due to frequent by the Padma there is no sign of the previous river terminal in Sara.

Several hundred homesteads, many schools and mosques have been washed away by the mighty river in the last couple of decades, they said.

Assistant Director at Pabna Water Development Board (WDB) Mohammad Mosharaf Hossain said they have constructed an eight-kilometre-long river protection dyke on the right bank of the river in Sara ghat area to protect Ishwardi town and Natore's Lalpur

upazila.

Construction of the embankment that cost Tk 226 crore started in 2013 and completed in 2017, he added.

"If the erosion continues, people living along the river bank will be affected more," housewife Sobura Begum said.

Many locals alleged that after completing the construction of the town protection work the authorities concerned did not dumped the sand bags properly which causing the sudden erosion.

Pabna WDB Executive Engineer Mohammad Rafikul Alam said there is no fault in the protection work.

Large shoals in the middle of the river is increasing the pressure of water in the river bank that causing the sudden erosion, he added.

# Mandarin cultivation ebbing in Moulvibazar

Farmers fear loss as the local variety tastes sour causing a dwindling demand

MINTU DESHWARA

Due to the availability of high-quality varieties, Malta cultivation is increasing in the Sylhet division. However, the farmers of Sylhet are losing interest in Mandarin orange (*Citrus reticulata*) cultivation and business.

Locally produced mandarin orange does not have any demand in the market as it is sour compared with the imported varieties of orange.

On the other hand, the citrus fruit imported from foreign countries has taken over the market as they are delicious.

Around 19 years ago, Murshed Mia and his wife Swapna Begum's fate changed when they started cultivation of Mandarin orange in Juri upazila of Moulvibazar.

Murshed's farming has turned out to be a success for him as well as for many others in Juri upazila.

"It tastes sour and the fruits are getting smaller in size. The traders are not interested to buy the fruits from us. As a result, I am fearing loss this year," he said.

Not only Murshed but also hundreds of farmers in Juri upazila are losing interest in farming Mandarin orange fearing loss.

Jasim Uddin, agriculture officer in Juri upazila, said, "On the dry soil of hilly areas, growing pineapple and other crops do not bring much profit and that's why farmers focused on Mandarin."

If Mandarin is cultivated properly on hilly lands, the government can lessen the import saving foreign currency and rely on the local production, he added.

Umed Mia, a fruit trader who came from Bhairab, said that he collects Mandarin from different hilly orchards in Juri upazila but this year the quality of the fruit is not good as it does not taste as good as mandarins imported from abroad.

According to agriculture officials, the upazila has 812 mandarin orchards across the six unions, occupying about 93 hectares of hilly areas.

Kazi Lutful Bari, deputy director of the Department of Agricultural Extension in Moulvibazar, said it may be mentioned that mandarin is cultivated in 12 upazilas of Sylhet division. Mandarin has been cultivated in 365 hectares of land in 12 upazilas this season. Beanibazar, Jaintapur, Gowainghat and Companiganj upazilas of Sylhet are some of them. On the other hand, Barlekha, Kulaura, Juri, Srimangal, Kamalganj and Sadar upazilas of Moulvibazar district and Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj have got the best yield of mandarin.

MHM Borhanuddin Bhuiyan, scientific officer of the citrus research centre in Jaintapur, said mandarin has been cultivated in the soil for a long time. That is one of the reasons behind the low yield of the fruits as cultivating the fruit on the same soil lowers production. Because the soil has a deficit of nutrients causing the fruits taste sour to eat and become smaller in size.

If the soil is properly treated with a sufficient amount of manure, the yield will be good again, he added.

He said that the new variety of mandarin was introduced in 2017. "That is the most updated variety but we have not yet been able to distribute it properly to the field level," he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Due to cultivating Mandarin orange on the same field time and again, the fruits are becoming smaller and sourer. The photo was taken from Lalchhara area in Juri upazila of Moulvibazar recently.

Murshed, a small trader from Lalchhara village under Juri upazila, decided to plant the mandarin orange saplings on his land to grow the fruits after learning that chemically treated fruits pose threats to human health.

With that in mind, he planted Mandarin orange saplings. Now all the Mandarin trees are bearing fruits.

"I have already sold 12 to 13 thousand Mandarin oranges for Tk 1,30,000 to the wholesalers," Murshed said.

He planted 800 saplings of "Mandarin Bari" variety on his five acres of land investing Tk 50,000. Now, he is planning to plant 300 more saplings on additional three acres of land.

## 2nd highest infections among kids

FROM PAGE 12

Dr Michelle Groome, also from the NICD, said more research would be done to investigate the reasons behind this phenomenon.

"It is still very early on in the wave. At this stage, it has just started in the younger age groups and we will know more (by) monitoring this age group in the coming weeks."

Dr Ntsakisi Maluleke, an official of the health department in South Africa's Gauteng province, however, told Reuters in an interview: "We are comforted by clinicians' reports that the children have mild disease."

Scientists were investigating what was driving the increased admissions in younger ages and were hoping to provide more clarity in the coming two weeks, she said yesterday.

Dutch health authorities said yesterday the final tally of passengers on two flights from South Africa last week who had tested positive for the Omicron coronavirus variant was 18.

The Netherlands' Institute for Health (RIVM) added in a statement that its investigation on

passengers on the two flights has now been wrapped up, reports Reuters.

Outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday urged Germans to get vaccinated against Covid-19 to help turn the tide on a fourth wave of cases that she said had become "dramatic" in parts of the country.

"We are in a very serious situation. In some parts of the country you can only describe it as dramatic: overfilled intensive care units, severely ill people who have to be flown across Germany to get the care they need," she said.

South Korea reported a record daily 5,352 new Covid-19 infections and 70 deaths, while a nationwide total of nine cases of the Omicron variant have been confirmed, the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) said yesterday.

**'ULTIMATE EVIDENCE'**  
The head of the Red Cross said on Friday that the emergence of the Omicron variant is the "ultimate evidence" of the danger of unequal vaccination rates around the world.

## Suhrawardy's 58th

FROM PAGE 12

separate messages yesterday paid rich tributes to the memory of Suhrawardy on the occasion of his death anniversary.

Terming Suhrawardy "the champion of democracy", the president and the PM prayed for eternal peace of his departed soul.

To mark the day, different political and socio-cultural organisations have drawn up various programmes including placing wreaths at the grave of the great leader in the morning, holding discussions, offering Quran Khawani and arranging milad and doa mahfil in the capital and elsewhere in the country.

The Awami League will pay tributes to the late leader by placing wreaths at his grave

adjacent to the High Court at 9:00am.

Suhrawardy was born in a respected Muslim family at Medinipur of West Bengal, India on September 8, 1892.

In a statement yesterday, AL General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader paid deep homage to the memory of Suhrawardy.

The extraordinary strength, perseverance and qualities of his leadership had guided the nation on the right path, Quader said.

He called upon the leaders and activists of the AL and its affiliated bodies to observe Suhrawardy's death anniversary with due dignity and maintaining health safety rules.

## Russia vetoes troop-pullback

FROM PAGE 12

the situation" in the Indian subcontinent.

**INDIRA'S LETTER TO NIXON**

In a letter, dated December 5, 1971, Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi urged US president Nixon to "persuade Pakistan to desist forthwith from the policy of wanton aggression and military adventurism which it has unfortunately embarked upon". She requested Nixon to exercise his "undoubted influence" with the government of Pakistan to "deal immediately with the genesis of the problem of East Bengal which has caused so much trial and tribulations to the people not only of Pakistan but of the entire subcontinent".

**ON THE WAR FRONT**

The important town of Akhaura was captured today by Mitro Bahini. An Indian defence ministry spokesman said that the Pakistani defences were stormed at 6:30am and all resistance was knocked out with one blow. Heavy fighting continued in Cumilla and Laksham. The enemy forces sneaked out of Feni and freedom fighters immediately entered the town. The capture of Feni severed all overland

connections between Chattogram and the rest of Bangladesh.

The advancing columns of Mitro Bahini made a further thrust down towards Jashore after capturing the railway station at Kotchandpur. They cut through the Pakistani defence position at Khanpur in Dinajpur district and made a forward thrust towards the headquarters town Dinajpur.

In Sylhet area, Munshinagar fell to the hands of Mitro Bahini.

The sky belonged to the Indian Air Force (IAF) today. They had severely damaged all the airfields and runways in East Pakistan. Pak forces could not get an opportunity to repair any runway as the IAF kept up relentless pressure.

US secretary of state William P Rogers complained today to Lakshmi Kant Jha, the Indian ambassador to the United States, that an Indian air attack had been made on one United States merchant vessel and that an Indian naval vessel had intercepted another within the last 36 hours.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

## Babar, Azhar put

FROM PAGE 12

continued post-tea due to insufficient light.

Players of both sides had walked out to the field after tea but umpires deemed the light to be insufficient when Bangladesh skipper Mominul Haque wanted to resume the final session of the day with a pacer. According to the officials, only spinners were allowed to continue bowling in such conditions.

Earlier, Pakistan opener Abid Ali (39 off 81) and Abdullah Shafique (25 off 50) had provided the visitors with a solid start after electing to bat. However, left-arm spinner Taijul Islam, who had troubled the Pakistani batters throughout by getting significant purchase off the pitch, removed both openers to help the Tigers finish on a high before lunch.

But the second session belonged to Pakistan entirely as Babar notched his 19th Test fifty and Azhar, despite a few close calls, showed grit and determination to carry on. Both the batters saw Pakistan amass 83 runs in the 26 overs that were bowled in the second session.

If the weather and light permit, the game will begin at 9:30am today, 30 minutes earlier than the scheduled time, to make up for the time lost yesterday. A total of 98 overs are scheduled to be bowled today.

## Shringla due on Dec 7

FROM PAGE 12

also have the scope to raise unsettled issues," a foreign ministry official told this correspondent yesterday, confirming Shringla's visit.

Officials in Dhaka and Delhi said this year is important for both countries, who will also celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relationship.

India actively supported Bangladesh during the Liberation War and recognised the country on December 6 in 1971. Marking the occasion, the two nations are also going to celebrate the day in 18 other countries.

While celebrating 50 years of their relationship, Bangladesh and India want to take the friendship to a new height by settling unresolved issues, including common river management, border management and finding new areas of cooperation in trade, connectivity, climate change and people-to-people contacts.

A diplomatic source in Delhi said Harsh Vardhan Shringla may also carry the invitation letter, inviting Hasina to the Republic Day of India on January 26.

## AK Azad Noab president

FROM PAGE 12

Hossain, editor of Ittefaq, MA Malek, editor of Dainik Azadi, Mozammel Hoque, editor of Karotoa, M Shamsur Rahman, editor and publisher of The Independent, Tarik Sujat, managing director at Mediascene Ltd that publishes daily Bhorer Kagoj, Dewan Hanif Mahmud, editor and publisher of Bonik Barta, and Altamash Kabir, editor and publisher of Sangbad.

Senior journalist Reazuddin Ahmed, chief of the election board formed by Noab to form the committee, announced the names of the new committee members during Noab's annual general meeting yesterday.

AMM Bahauddin, editor and publisher of Inqilab, and Shah Husain Imam, editor of the Financial Express, were the two other members of the three-member election board.

## Won't accept 'red lines'

FROM PAGE 12

"Since the beginning of this administration we have demonstrated that the United States and our allies are willing to use a number of tools to address harmful Russian actions," a senior US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said when asked about the plan Biden is developing. "We will not hesitate from making use of those and other tools in the future."

White House press secretary Jen Psaki told a briefing that security assistance for Ukraine is under consideration.

**BIDEN-PUTIN CALL**

Ukrainian tensions set the backdrop for the first call in months between the US president and his Russian counterpart as soon as next week. Officials have been negotiating terms of the call after Putin and Biden last spoke in July.

The Kremlin said on Friday that Russia and the United States had a tentative date and time for the video summit in the coming days, but that Moscow was waiting for Washington to finalise it. The White House said only that it is "engaged" in talks for a possible call.

Biden imposed sanctions on Russia in April and has left open the possibility

of more. But Washington hopes that continued direct engagement will lower the temperature at a time when relations are at their lowest level since the end of the Cold War and the demise of the Soviet Union.

"We want open lines of communication with the Russians," said one senior State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Especially in times of tension, it's important that we have these channels of dialogue."

A glimpse into what a Biden-Putin call might look like was offered by a meeting among lower level officials on Thursday.

In Stockholm on Thursday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov that there would be "severe costs" if Moscow escalates conflict, a message Biden appears prepared to reiterate.

Blinken told the Reuters Next conference on Friday that Biden would tell Putin about the country's "determination, not as a threat, but simply as a fact, to stand up resolutely against any reckless or aggressive actions that Russia may pursue and also to defend the territorial integrity, the sovereignty, the independence of Ukraine."

## 9 Kuet students suspended

FROM PAGE 12

announced work abstention seeking a fair investigation into the death.

The next day, the university was declared closed till December 13.

The nine suspended students are: Sadman Nahyan Sejan and Riyaz Khan Niloy of computer science and engineering department, Sadman Saqib and ASM Ragib Ahsan Munna of leather engineering department, Tahmidul Huq Ishraq and Mahmudul Hasan of civil engineering department, Md Kamruzzaman and Faisal Ahmed Rifat of mechanical engineering department, and Naimur Rahman Antu of materials science and engineering department.

Sajen is the general secretary of Kuet Chhatra League while the others are

activists of the unit, said campus and BCL sources.

Sejan dismissed the allegations of torture. He claimed that they had gone to Prof Hossain's office to "discuss events" for Victory Day celebrations.

The syndicate meeting on Friday also formed a five-member committee to look into Prof Selim's death.

The committee was asked to submit its probe report within 10 days. Mohiuddin Ahmed, professor of electrical and electronic engineering department, was made its chief.

Another three-member inquiry committee was formed on Tuesday night.

No case has been filed in connection with the teacher's death.

## Scientists find strange

FROM PAGE 12

end of their tails, said the researchers, including Alexander Vargas from the Universidad de Chile.

In the research, scientists assessed well preserved and mostly complete fossils pertaining to the late Cretaceous period - around 71.7 million to 74.9 million years ago - which were unearthed in the Magallanes province in Patagonia, Chile's southernmost region.

The findings provide fresh insights into the origin and early evolution of armoured dinosaurs such as stegosaurus that had tail spikes and ankylosaurus whose tails had heavy clubs at the end.

The newly discovered species had distinctive skull features similar to those seen in other ankylosaurus. The rest of its

skeleton, however, was largely primitive, with some properties resembling stegosaurus, according to the scientists.

"Stegosaurus shows ankylosaurian cranial characters, but a largely ancestral postcranial skeleton, with some stegosaurus-like characters," they wrote in the study.

The research particularly highlighted the dinosaur's large tail weapon composed of seven pairs of flattened, bony deposits fused together in a structure that resembled a frond across the outer part of its tail.

"Stegosaurus elengassen gen. et sp. nov. evolved a large tail weapon unlike any dinosaur: a flat, frond-like structure formed by seven pairs of laterally projecting osteoderms encasing the distal [outer] half of the tail," the study noted.

MORE NEWS

Fugitive parents of US school shooting suspect arrested

The parents of a Michigan teenager accused of murdering four fellow high school students were taken into custody yesterday, a day after each was charged with four counts of involuntary manslaughter in connection with the campus mass shooting.

Bolsonaro probed for vaccine and AIDS claim

A Brazilian Supreme Court justice ordered on Friday that a probe be opened into President Jair Bolsonaro for having said during a live broadcast on multiple social media platforms in October that Covid-19 vaccines may raise the chance of contracting AIDS.



Militants kill at least 31 in central Mali

Militants killed at least 31 people in central Mali on Friday when they fired upon a bus ferrying people to a local market, local authorities said - the latest deadly attack in a region racked by violent insurgency.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS



A protester holds up a placard during a rally against new pandemic laws and vaccination mandates in Melbourne, Australia yesterday. The state of Victoria, home to Melbourne, requires full vaccination to access most hospitality services and non-essential retail, as well as to work in health care and many other industries.

PHOTO: AFP

Omicron in 38 countries

Says WHO; India detects 4th case of the Covid variant

AGENCIES

The Omicron variant has been detected in 38 countries but no deaths have yet been reported, the WHO said on Friday, as authorities worldwide rushed to stem the heavily mutated Covid-19 strain's spread.

The World Health Organization has warned it could take weeks to determine how infectious the variant is, whether it causes more severe illness and how effective treatments and vaccines are against it.

"We're going to get the answers that everybody out there needs," WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan said.

The new variant could also slow global economic recovery, just as the Delta strain did, International Monetary Fund chief Kristalina Georgieva said on Friday.

"Even before the arrival of this new variant, we were concerned that the recovery, while it continues, is losing somewhat momentum," she said.

Meanwhile, India reported its fourth case of the Omicron variant yesterday, government officials said, as total Covid-19 cases inched closer to the 35 million mark.

Officials said a 33-year old man from Maharashtra who travelled to Mumbai from South Africa via Dubai has been tested positive with the Omicron variant, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

Iran nuclear talks break

Europe, US dismayed by Tehran's stance; envoys say talks to resume in middle of next week

REUTERS, Vienna

Indirect US-Iranian talks on saving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal broke off until next week as European officials voiced dismay late Friday at sweeping demands by Iran's new, hardline government.

The seventh round of talks in Vienna is the first with delegates sent by Iran's anti-Western President Ebrahim Raisi on how to resuscitate the agreement under which Iran limited its nuclear program in return for relief from economic sanctions.

Raisi's election in June caused a five-month hiatus in the talks, heightening suspicions among US and European officials that Iran is playing for time while advancing its nuclear program.

"Iran right now does not

seem to be serious about doing what's necessary to return to compliance, which is why we ended this round of talks in Vienna," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told the Reuters Next Conference.

"If the path to a return to compliance with the agreement turns out to be a dead-end, we will pursue other options," he added, without elaborating.

Diplomats said the Iranian delegation had proposed sweeping changes to a text that was painstakingly negotiated in previous rounds and that European officials had said was 70-80% finished.

"Over five months ago, Iran interrupted negotiations. Since then, Iran has fast-forwarded its nuclear program. This week, it has back-tracked on diplomatic

progress made," senior officials from France, Britain and Germany said in a statement, adding that Iran was demanding "major changes" to the text.

It is "unclear how these new gaps can be closed in a realistic time frame," they added.

The three European powers expressed "disappointment and concern" at Iran's demands, some of which they said were incompatible with the deal's terms or went beyond them.

The 2015 agreement imposed strict limits on Iran's uranium enrichment activities, extending the time it would need to produce enough fissile material for a nuclear bomb, if it chose to, to at least a year from around two to three months. Most experts say that period is now shorter than before the deal.

INDONESIA VOLCANO ERUPTION

Thousands flee in panic, one killed

AGENCIES

Indonesia's Mount Semeru erupted yesterday, spewing out a tower of smoke and ash that plunged local communities into darkness and forced thousands of nearby residents to flee.

Deputy chief of Lumajang district said one person died and 41 people sustained burn injuries.

Rescuers moved to evacuate local residents as lava reached nearby villages and destroyed a bridge in Lumajang regency in East Java.

"A number of areas went dark after being covered by volcanic ash," agency spokesman Abdul Muhari said.

"We are building up some shelters in several locations in Lumajang," he added.

A video released by the agency showed locals, including scores of children, running for safety as Mount Semeru erupted at 3:00 pm local time (0700 GMT) yesterday.

Local authorities established a restricted zone of five kilometres from the crater after the eruption, reports AFP.

Semeru's alert status has remained at its second-highest level since its previous major eruption in December 2020, which also forced thousands to flee and left villages covered.

The Volcanic Ash Advisory Center (VAAC) in Darwin, Australia said the ash appeared to have detached from the summit and was drifting south-west over the Indian Ocean.

The VAAC provides advice to the aviation industry about the location and movement of potentially hazardous volcanic ash.

Indonesia sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire", where the meeting of continental plates causes high volcanic and seismic activity.

The Southeast Asian archipelago nation has nearly 130 active volcanoes.

In late 2018, a volcano in the strait between Java and Sumatra islands erupted, causing an underwater landslide and tsunami which killed more than 400 people.

Quote of the day



"I hope that China's leaders think very carefully about this and about not precipitating a crisis that would have I think terrible consequences for lots of people and one that's in no one's interest, starting with China."

US SECRETARY OF STATE ANTONY BLINKEN WARNS CHINESE LEADERS OVER TAIWAN



A Kurdish migrant from Iran protects himself under an umbrella as heavy rain falls on the makeshift camp at Loon Beach near Dunkirk, France, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

LYNCHING OF LANKAN

Dozens held in Pakistan

AFP, Sialkot

Up to 120 people have been arrested in Pakistan after a Sri Lankan factory manager was beaten to death and set ablaze by a mob who accused him of blasphemy, officials said yesterday.

The vigilante attack has caused outrage, with Prime Minister Imran Khan calling it a "day of shame for Pakistan".

The incident took place on Friday in Sialkot, a district in central Punjab province, about 200 kilometres southeast of Islamabad. Zulfikar Ali, a police official in the area, told AFP: "Rumour spread in the factory that the manager had torn down a religious poster and thrown it in the dustbin."

Police spokesman Khurram Shehzad said up to 120 people had been arrested, including one of the main accused.

France, Europeans working to open Afghan joint mission

REUTERS, Doha

Several European countries are working on opening up a joint diplomatic mission in Afghanistan that would enable their ambassadors to return to the country, French President Emmanuel Macron said yesterday.

Western countries have been grappling with how to engage with the Taliban after they took over Afghanistan in a lightning advance in August as US-led forces were completing their pullout.

The United States and other Western countries shut their embassies and withdrew their diplomats as the Taliban seized Kabul, following which the militants declared an interim government whose top members are under US and UN sanctions.

"We are thinking of an organisation between several European countries... a common location for several Europeans, which would allow our ambassadors to be

present," Macron told reporters in Doha before heading to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia.

The United States, European countries and others are reluctant to formally recognize the Pashtun-dominated Taliban, accusing them of backtracking on pledges of political and ethnic inclusivity and to uphold the rights of women and minorities.

"This is a different demarche than a political recognition or political dialogue with the Taliban ... we will have a representation as soon as we can open," he said, adding that the still needed to iron out security issues.

In a statement following talks with the Taliban a week ago, the European Union suggested it could open a mission soon.

"The EU delegation underlined that the possibility of establishing a minimal presence on the ground in Kabul, which would not entail recognition, will directly depend on the security situation," it said.

Conspiracy theories take root in Italy

REUTERS, Rome

One out of 10 Italians think astronauts never set foot on the moon while 5.8% believe the earth is flat, according to a poll published on Friday, which said conspiracy theories had taken root in Italian society.

The Censis research institute survey, which questioned 1,200 people, also showed that 19.9% of the adult population thought 5G wireless technology was a sophisticated way of controlling people's minds.

Almost two years after the coronavirus was first discovered in Italy, the poll said 5.9% of respondents did not believe the virus existed, 10.9% said vaccines were useless and 12.7% said science did more harm than good.

"Rationality ... gives way in many cases to an unreasonable readiness to believe in the most improbable fantasies," Censis said in a statement accompanying the survey.

Some 64.4% of Italians thought big multinationals were "responsible for everything that happens to us".

Advertisement for Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB) featuring a logo, text in Bengali and English, and a table of tender details. The table lists sub-package/lot numbers, descriptions of works/goods, tender/re-tender IDs, closing dates, and closing times.

# Be aware of HIV/AIDS to fight against the disease

STAR HEALTH DESK

HIV is a serious worldwide public health concern, having claimed the lives of 36.3 million people to date. According to the World Health Organisation, by the end of 2020, an estimated 37.7 million persons were living with HIV. Furthermore, in 2020, 680 000 people died from HIV-related causes.

World AIDS Day takes place on December 1 each year. It is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness.

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) attacks the immune system, weakening people's defences against various illnesses and cancers that healthy immune systems can combat. Infected people become immunodeficient as the virus kills and inhibits the function of immune cells. The CD4 cell count is often used to assess immune function.

AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) is a group of diseases caused by infection with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). The most advanced stage of HIV infection is AIDS, which, depending on the person, may take several years to develop if not treated.

Depending on the stage of infection, HIV symptoms differ. Though people living with HIV are most infectious in the first few months following infection, many may not realise they are infected until later. For example, in the first few weeks following infection, people may



have no symptoms or an influenza-like sickness, such as fever, headache, rash, or sore throat.

They may develop additional signs and symptoms when the virus impairs their immune system, including enlarged lymph nodes, weight loss, fever, diarrhoea, and cough. In addition, they might acquire serious diseases, including tuberculosis (TB), cryptococcal meningitis, severe bacterial infections, and malignancies like lymphomas and Kaposi's sarcoma if they don't get treatment.

In the following ways HIV can be transmitted from one person to another:

- Sexual contact, considerable exposure to infected bodily fluids or tissues, and

transmission from mother to child during pregnancy, delivery, or nursing are the three primary methods by which HIV is transmitted (known as vertical transmission).

- If faeces, nasal secretions, saliva, sputum, sweat, tears, urine, or vomit are not contaminated with blood, there is no danger of contracting HIV.

- HIV superinfection occurs when two or more strains of HIV are co-infected in the same person.

It is crucial to remember that regular everyday interactions like kissing, hugging, shaking hands, or sharing personal items, food, or drink cannot infect individuals. Also, HIV-positive patients on

antiretroviral therapy (ART) and are virally suppressed do not transfer the virus to their sexual partners.

To avoid contracting HIV, it is critical to be aware of the risk factors. The possible risk factors of HIV are:

- Individuals are more likely to get HIV if they engage in the following behaviours and conditions
- Having unprotected anal or vaginal sex
- Having sexually transmitted infection (STI) such as Syphilis, Herpes, Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea and Bacterial vaginosis
- When injecting drugs, exchanging infected needles, syringes, and other injecting equipment, as well as drug solutions;
- Receiving potentially dangerous injections, blood transfusions, and tissue transplants, as well as medical procedures involving unsterile cutting or piercing; and having needle stick injuries, notably among health care employees

Limiting exposure to risk factors reduces the chance of HIV infection. Other effective HIV prevention strategies include:

- The use of male and female condoms
- Testing and counselling for HIV, STI, and MTCT (mother-to-child transmission)
- Testing and counselling for TB
- Voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC)
- Use of antiretroviral medications (ARVs)
- Harm reduction for those who inject and use drugs.

To maintain a healthy lifestyle, one must be aware of the sickness.

## COVID IN PREGNANCY

### Complications in pregnancy and birth increase with COVID-19

Pregnant women with COVID-19 are more likely to have complications with pregnancy and birth than those without, according to the research journal PLOS Medicine.

The study looked at hospitalisation for births in France during the first six months of the pandemic and suggested that vaccination may be useful to protect women and their babies, particularly for women at a higher risk of developing severe COVID-19 infections. Researchers from the Universite de Paris analysed data for hospitalisations for birth after 22 weeks gestation in France between January and June 2020. Of 244,465 births in hospital, 874 or 0.36% of mothers had been diagnosed with COVID-19.

Women in the COVID-19 group were more likely to be older, have obesity, carry more than one baby, or have a history of high blood pressure than those without. In addition, the women with COVID-19 had a higher frequency of admission to ICU; death; preeclampsia and eclampsia; gestational hypertension; haemorrhage either before or after birth; very premature spontaneous or induced birth; and caesarean section.

The authors concluded that, compared to the non-COVID-19 group, women in the COVID-19 group were associated with an increased frequency of admission to ICU, mortality, preeclampsia/eclampsia, gestational hypertension, postpartum haemorrhage, and spontaneous haemorrhage and induced preterm and very preterm birth, fetal distress and caesarean section.



## HEALTH bulletin



### Rates of type 2 diabetes are higher in people with one of the various common psychiatric disorders

A new study published in a journal *Diabetologia* finds that type 2 diabetes (T2D) prevalence is elevated in people with a psychiatric disorder compared with the general population.

Psychiatric diseases are widespread, affect the quality of life, and increase mortality. This increased mortality is due to more suicides and accidents and increased risk of physical illnesses associated with mental illness, such as cardiovascular and respiratory disorders. Diabetes is a condition that affects between 6% and 9% of the worldwide population. Rates have risen steadily since 1990 and are forecast to do so for the next 20 years.

The study found that people with a sleep disorder had the highest rates of T2D, with 40% of subjects having the disease while its prevalence among individuals with other psychiatric disorders was 21% (binge eating disorder), 16% (substance use disorder), 14% (anxiety disorders), 11% (bipolar disorder), and 11% (psychosis). Prevalence of T2D was lowest among people with an intellectual disability, with 8% of individuals having the disease. In each case, these rates are as high or higher than the 6-9% level of T2D found in the general population.

According to the authors, this physical comorbidity likely contributes to the high T2D prevalence estimates in people with sleep issues. The T2D-sleep disorder link is expected to be bidirectional. Diabetes, especially when combined with poor metabolic control, raises the risk of sleep disorders and vice-versa.

## Want to get rid of joint pain?

STAR HEALTH DESK

Joint pain is quite common, particularly as people become older. In one nationwide study, almost one-third of individuals said they had had joint discomfort in the previous 30 days. The most prevalent complaint was knee pain, followed by shoulder and hip discomfort. On the other hand, joint pain may strike anywhere on your body, from your ankles and feet to your shoulders and wrists.

A wide range of conditions can lead to painful joints:

- Osteoarthritis, a "wear and tear" disease, is the most common type of arthritis.
- Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune disorder that happens when your body attacks its tissues.
- Bursitis is when sacs of fluid that help cushion your joints get inflamed.
- Gout is a form of arthritis that most often affects your big toe joint.
- Strains, sprains, and other injuries.

Joint pain can range from mildly irritating to debilitating. It may go away after a few weeks (acute) or last for several weeks or months (chronic). However, even short-term pain and swelling in the joints can affect your quality of life. Whatever the cause of joint pain, you can usually manage it with medication, physical therapy, or alternative treatments.

Your doctor will first try to diagnose and treat the condition causing your joint pain. The goal is to reduce pain and inflammation and preserve joint function.

Treatment options include:

- For moderate-to-severe joint pain with swelling, the doctor prescribed an over-the-counter or prescription nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) or



topical medications.

- The doctor may try injections for people who do not find joint pain relief from oral or topical medications.

Steroid injections are most commonly used in patients with arthritis or tendinitis. The procedures are effective, but the effect may be temporary in many situations.

Platelet-rich plasma therapy (PRP) is made from your blood, injected into your painful joint. Your joint contains many platelets and proteins that have anti-inflammatory and immune-modulating effects.

Prolotherapy involves a series of injections of an irritant (often a sugar solution) into joints, ligaments, and tendons. The theory is that the injections stimulate local healing of injured tissues.

- It is possible to strengthen the muscles around the joint, stabilise it, and enhance your range of motion with a physical therapist.

The therapist may utilise ultrasound, heat, cold, electrical nerve stimulation, or manipulation.

Losing weight might help ease sore joints if you are overweight.

Weight loss is achieved by exercise and nutrition, but avoid high-impact workouts that aggravate the joint. One of the most acceptable activities for your joints is swimming or cycling. Swimming lowers joint strain due to water's buoyant properties.

- A few basic home remedies might reduce short-term joint discomfort by resting the joint and avoiding painful activities, icing the joint for 15 minutes every day, wrapping the joint with elastic, elevating the joint.

No matter what treatment you are following, get medical help right away if the pain gets intense, your joint suddenly becomes inflamed or deformed, or you can no longer use the joint at all.

Source: WebMD



### Poor quality of sleep associated with poorer control of blood sugar after meals

A new study published in a journal *Diabetologia* finds that later bedtime routines and poor sleep quality are associated with higher blood glucose levels and poorer control of blood sugar following meals. The authors examined whether night-to-night fluctuations in sleep duration, efficiency, or timing affect postprandial (after meal) glucose response to breakfast the following day.

Quality of sleep has a direct causal effect on many life-threatening conditions such as cardiovascular disease, obesity, and type 2 diabetes (T2D); and disturbed sleep caused by conditions such as obstructive sleep apnoea is associated with both the prevalence of T2D and the risk of complications arising from the disease. This and other evidence suggest a strong link between the quality and duration of sleep and the ability of the body to regulate glucose levels properly.

A significant interaction was found between sleep duration and postprandial glycaemic response when the nutritional content of the breakfast meal was also considered. Following a high-carbohydrate, high-fat breakfast, more extended sleep periods were associated with lower blood glucose levels.

A study participant who slept longer than usual had lower postprandial blood glucose after a high-carbohydrate or high-fat breakfast the next day. A later sleep midpoint was linked to higher blood glucose levels. In both comparisons between study participants and individual participant variations in sleep patterns, this effect negatively impacted glycemic control.

/StarHealthBD



## WELLNESS COMES TO YOU



### HEALTH SCREENING PACKAGES AT YOUR ADDRESS



**SUGAR PACKAGE**  
13 Tests | BDT 5,400



**ACTIVE CARE PACKAGE (MALE)**  
17 Tests | BDT 7,900



**ACTIVE CARE PACKAGE (FEMALE)**  
16 Tests | BDT 6,650



**WELL WOMEN PACKAGE**  
15 Tests | BDT 8,600



**RENAL CARE PACKAGE**  
11 Tests | BDT 3,950

10666

Book your health package

## Development of DU must preserve its history and traditions

*Efforts are needed to improve the standard of education, research activities*

THE Dhaka University authorities have undertaken a new master plan to expand its campus vertically to accommodate a growing number of students, teachers and staff. Under it, 97 high-rise buildings—including new academic buildings, dormitories, teachers' quarters, a modern standard library, medical centre, etc—will be built and 599 old structures will be demolished. The plan also involves modern parking facilities, new roads with cycling lanes and walkways, playgrounds, etc, among other things.

While we support the DU authorities' plans to expand to meet the demand of the time, we cannot help expressing our concerns about what would happen if they are not executed efficiently, taking into consideration the opinions of experts, teachers and students on how the campus should be. Currently, 40,000 students, 2,000 teachers and 4,000 staffers at DU face severe accommodation problems, and the vertical expansion of the 304-acre campus would surely be beneficial for them. However, urban planners have expressed worries regarding the high-rise model's impacts on the university's environment, and educationists and former professors have also opined against radical changes that may affect the historic institution's existing character.

We would also like to ask the DU authorities: alongside its structural development, are there concrete plans to improve overall educational standards of the university? Will they invest more in research, where the university is still lagging behind? If only a fraction of the Tk 9,000 crore budget for the new master plan could be invested in research facilities, the quality of education could improve significantly. We request the DU authorities to make efforts to address these issues, alongside necessary investments in structural development.

We also urge the authorities to take every decision cautiously when it comes to demolishing old structures—Madhur Canteen, Arts Building, Faculty of Fine Arts building, Curzon Hall and many others in DU have immense historical value and must not be harmed in any way. As recommended by experts, there should be absolute transparency, and the country's modern architects, aestheticians, urban planners and environmentalists should be involved in every step.

Preserving the greenery and open spaces of the campus must remain a priority. The DU campus currently houses 985 buildings, which take up 26 percent of the total space. Reportedly, according to the new plan, concrete structures will occupy only 21 percent of the total space. We hope this will translate into reality when the plan is implemented. In simple words, any development plan of Dhaka University must be directed towards creating a knowledge-based environment on campus, that will have the necessary facilities while also preserving the area's historic character.

## The looming threat of Omicron

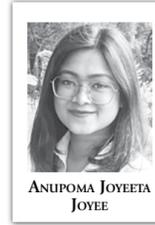
*Authorities must ramp up vaccination efforts immediately*

WITH the threat of the new Covid-19 variant Omicron looming in the distance, Bangladesh will have to go all out to contain the rogue virus, especially as the country is only just beginning to recover from the severe repercussions the pandemic has had over the last two years—in terms of loss of lives, as well as the burden created on the economy and healthcare systems. The new "variant of concern", with high transmissibility potential, is said to have already gained a foothold in 40 different countries in Africa, Asia, the Americas, the Middle East and Europe. Recently, the WHO warned Asia-Pacific countries to boost healthcare capacity and fully vaccinate their people to prepare for a surge in Covid-19 cases.

Last week, the authorities decided that incoming passengers from certain southern African countries will have to be in institutional quarantine. While we appreciate these efforts to contain the variant, given that it has also spread to quite a few other countries outside of the known epicentre, we are confused why the restrictions are also not being applied to non-African countries with high numbers of Covid-19 cases. We urge the government to be extremely cautious and implement strict travel restrictions, including screening at all entry points, checking of vaccine certificates and quarantine, whether at home or other facilities.

It must also be noted that the WHO has warned countries that while travel curbs could buy time while the world decides how to deal with this new variant, only travel restrictions cannot be the answer. There is no alternative to boosting healthcare capacity and implementing mass vaccination drives. In Bangladesh, so far, 36 percent of the population has received the first dose of the vaccine, and only 21.5 percent have received the second dose. While this is good progress when compared to many other countries, this is nowhere near enough to prevent community transmission of Omicron.

In Bangladesh's previous experience with Covid-19 waves, we have witnessed the public healthcare system struggling to cope, especially with critical patients who require oxygen and specialist care. This time around, we cannot wait for a new wave to occur before steps are taken to support hospitals and healthcare providers. We hope the government has learned important lessons while fighting Covid-19 since early 2020, and that health-related policies will now be proactive rather than reactive. Investment in manpower and logistics is of utmost importance at this juncture, and necessary healthcare facilities must be made fully functional to face the possibility of Omicron finding its way into the country.



ANUPOMA JOYEETA JOYEE

Nothing that I have to say in this article in criticism of the failures in government policy is new or clever. It is merely the umpteenth rehashing of the anger and frustration that the women of

Bangladesh feel every day, both in public and in private.

More than a year after momentous feminist protests around the country and a writ petition questioning the legality of marital rape, the heinous crime has still not been criminalised. While it is by no means the most significant problem plaguing our sexual offence related laws, its criminalisation is one of the many reforms that might elevate our flagrantly antiquated laws into a somewhat more acceptable and equitable version.

Bangladesh does not have a single codified statute dealing with sexual offences. Section 375 of the Penal Code 1860 specifically states that non-consensual forced intercourse with a woman is rape unless it is committed by a husband upon his wife. Only if the wife is younger than 13, the said act of non-consensual forced intercourse would be considered rape. Not only is this definition as strict, inadequate and inflexible as it gets, but it also fails to allow male and transgender victims, and wives raped by husbands, to come forward. There is also a glaring lack of harmony among our multiple scattered provisions when it comes to defining rape. For instance, section 9(1) of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000 says that wives under the age of 16 (inconsistent with the Penal Code 1860) can be raped by their husbands. Not one, but two messy and dubious definitions later, we still don't have any acknowledgment of a terrible offence which probably happens to hundreds of women every day behind closed doors.

Crimes, punishment and morality are a reflection of the sociopolitical climate of a country. Threatening women with rape and violence has long been used as a weapon in our culture. It is not about sexual gratification or pleasure as much as it is about exerting power. Whether a Hindu home is being burned down or a student is being berated for wanting to pay half fare

on public transport—men feel comfortable topping the attack off with a casual threat of rape. Perpetrators know the odds are stacked against the victim and she will probably never go through the traumatic ordeal of seeking justice. So, in a culture where random men believe they can exert power over women for any reason whatsoever, why isn't our Parliament willing to afford women some basic safety by criminalising rape by their husbands, since exerting power as a husband is so much easier than on the streets, and statistically more probable?

In October 2020, amidst already ongoing protests, a 14-year-old child bride from Tangail died due to excessive genital bleeding as a result of repeated forced intercourse by her 34-year-old

ignore the plight of women in this country. So far, there has been no action from the government. All we received in response of the protests was a lazy handout in the form of capital punishment as a penalty for rape, which at best will deter more women from reporting their rape and at worst, induce the rapists to kill their victims.

"...The idea that a wife by marriage consents in advance to her husband having sexual intercourse with her whatever her state of health or however proper her objections... is no longer acceptable. It can never have been other than a fiction, and fiction is a poor basis for the criminal law." In 1991, this groundbreaking judgment was delivered in R v R, criminalising what was once

the protests by hordes of men that would ensue in the wake of such an amendment allowing women to have control over their own bodies. On top of that external fear, we also need to ask whether our male-dominated Parliament itself would get enough affirmative votes to pass the amendment. After all, legislative bodies are simply a microcosm of society at large and it is no secret that our society at large is severely misogynistic. There is also a strange obsession in our culture about keeping our moral fabric intact or with preserving the "sanctity" of the institution of marriage. If this is a concern at all in their minds when it comes to criminalising marital rape, then we need to ask why we want to save marriages in which a husband rapes his wife.

For the most part, by not criminalising marital rape, lawmakers are pandering to the idea that, even in theory, the wife does not deserve to have equal rights in the conjugal relationship and to have autonomy over her own body. I say "in theory" because, in practice, seeking justice against marital rape would be even more difficult for a woman than for non-marital rapes. For starters, she would be talked into not pressing charges by family members; the police would laugh the case off and try to convince her to sort it out with her husband; and if she ever reaches the court, the trauma of the ordeal would haunt her forever, or maybe some judge would have the audacity to question why she did not come forward within 72 hours of her husband raping her.

There is no doubt that our laws are scarcely implemented due to the gatekeeping of society and judicial hurdles. When there are laws in concrete existence, we at least have an option to demand justice. However, in the absolute absence of laws, a survivor of marital rape has no way to have her sufferings legally acknowledged. If the state cares about the women of this country, they have to manifestly show it via actions and criminalise this act at once. If the lawmakers sitting inside our Parliament went through the actual lived experiences of an everyday woman in this country, they would find that not only are women in Bangladesh at risk on the streets, but also inside their own homes. I am not sure if this revelation would make any of our lawmakers a bit uncomfortable; however, this reality makes every woman in this country profoundly sad.

Anupoma Joyeeta Joyee is a Barrister-at-Law.  
Email: anupomajoyee@gmail.com.

**We still don't have any acknowledgment of a terrible offence which probably happens to hundreds of women every day behind closed doors.**

COLLAGE:  
KAZI TAHSHIN AGAZ APURBO



husband. It brought to light the issue of marital rape once again. It consequently prompted a writ petition that argued that section 375 of the Penal Code 1860 and section 9(1) of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000 discriminate against the victims of rape based on their marital status. The High Court Division issued a rule nisi in favour of the petitioners and asked the government to show cause as to why the marital rape exceptions in these sections should not be declared as void and why they should accordingly not be repealed.

While the Bangladesh judiciary has taken a step in the right direction by issuing this rule nisi, our lawmakers, however, have chosen to completely

considered "impossible" in English legal concept. It arose out of a wife alleging attempted rape by her husband in the House of Lords. Following this decision, marital rape was statutorily criminalised in England in 1994.

In sheer frustration, I have asked myself this question time and again: What is the excuse or justification for not criminalising marital rape in Bangladesh, something that is unequivocally considered an offence in about 150 countries? What likely scenarios do our MPs think will occur if one of them decides to introduce amendments of these antiquated and deeply misogynistic laws of our country?

The government is perhaps afraid of

## Brazil's pioneering solution to vaccine shortages

JOSEPH E STIGLITZ, ACHAL PRABHALA and FELIPE CARVALHO

The World Trade Organization was supposed to meet this week to consider a proposal that has been languishing for the past year: A temporary waiver of pharmaceutical intellectual property during the pandemic to allow poor countries to make many of the same tests, treatments and vaccines that rich countries have had throughout the pandemic. Yet, in a cruel reminder of the urgency of the problem, the WTO meeting was postponed, owing to the emergence of the Omicron variant, detected by scientists in South Africa (though precisely where it originated remains unclear).

There is near-unanimous agreement that vaccinating the entire world is the

Donations haven't solved the problem, because no country has surplus vaccines in the multiple billions that are needed. Philanthropy, too, has fallen short. The Covid-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) facility, an international consortium that promised to send two billion vaccine doses to poor countries by the end of 2021, has shipped only 25 percent of that amount.

The world is not making as many vaccines as it could. Every firm in every country that has the capacity to make vaccines should be doing so. Yet after paying Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, and Pfizer/BioNTech to develop their vaccines, the US and German governments are unwilling to require these companies to share their technology with manufacturers in other countries.

Unless these governments change their

*There is a simple reason why poorer countries don't have enough vaccines: There aren't enough doses to go around. Donations haven't solved the problem, because no country has surplus vaccines in the multiple billions that are needed.*

And it would provide for the transfer of vaccine know-how—something like a manufacturing instruction manual—to alternative pharmaceutical manufacturers.

In September, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro signed the bill into law, but not before using his veto powers to remove or revise crucial clauses, including those specifying when and how the law would come into effect, and those requiring pharmaceutical companies to share their know-how, data and biological material. One month later, the Brazilian Senate recommended charging Bolsonaro with "crimes against humanity" for causing unnecessary loss of life in the pandemic. But the charges did not include his mangling of the IP bill—an act that could lead to even more unnecessary loss of life.

The law returned to the Senate, which can override Bolsonaro's vetoes. But the Senate missed its deadline for rectifying the legislation, and then failed to set another. It now must move quickly to eliminate the uncertainty created by Bolsonaro's cuts, as well as withstand resistance by pharmaceutical-industry associations from the US and Europe, whose leaders tried to kill the bill, even threatening to cut off vaccine supplies if Brazil followed through.

Brazilian lawmakers must keep their eyes on the prize. They have drafted a law that would dismantle the pharmaceutical monopolies that are blocking a solution to the pandemic. There is a lesson here for everyone—both those asking the WTO for a waiver and those opposing it. As goes Brazil, so will go others. As for the world's richest countries and the institutions beholden to them, it remains to be seen how much of their credibility they are willing to sacrifice in the service of enabling pharmaceutical companies to enjoy their monopoly profits just a bit longer.

We are fighting a war on two fronts: one against Covid-19, the other against the pharmaceutical companies whose profits depend on high prices and restricted output. Sooner or later, we will realise, as Brazil already has, that we cannot prevail on the first front without winning on the second.



**There is near-unanimous agreement that vaccinating the entire world is the only way to end the pandemic.**

PHOTO: REUTERS

only way to end the pandemic. The higher the vaccination rate, the fewer chances the virus will have to acquire dangerous mutations. Before quickly becoming the leading global variant, Delta was first detected in India, where under three percent of the population had been vaccinated. Today, Africa has the world's lowest vaccination rates, with only seven percent of Africans having been fully vaccinated.

There is a simple reason why poorer countries don't have enough vaccines: There aren't enough doses to go around.

position, the companies will continue to exploit the lucrative monopoly power granted to them by the WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), which was created when the organisation was formed in 1995. According to WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the proposal for a TRIPS waiver is "stuck." Though the number of rich countries opposing it has dwindled, there is still enough opposition to thwart a solution.

But while the WTO dithers, Brazil has taken matters into its own hands, giving

us the closest thing we have to a way out of this crisis. In April, Brazilian Senator Paulo Paim proposed a bill that would allow the country to bypass the barriers erected by TRIPS. The legislation seizes on the fact that, as the trade law scholar Frederick Abbott explained to us, "Article 73 of the TRIPS agreement, covering the protection of security interests, already provides each government with the authority to take whatever action it considers necessary to address the Covid-19 pandemic, including suspending intellectual property rights."

If this option is already available, why are so many countries still waiting around for the WTO to grant them formal permission? The answer is that ever since the WTO's creation, rich countries have punished developing countries for doing what they are entitled to do under the organisation's own rules. When South Africa, Brazil, India, and Thailand sought to override monopolies on unaffordable anti-retroviral drugs during the HIV/AIDS crisis, the United States and the European Union put them on trial—sometimes literally. This history has created a chilling effect.

The current waiver proposal, therefore, would operate like a promise from the big kids not to bully the others during recess. Brazil's response represents another option: the bullying victims can take control of their own circumstances. The new legislation attracted support from across the political spectrum, passing both the Brazilian House and Senate with large majorities. Among other things, the bill sought to establish a permanent provision for overriding IP monopolies on essential technologies needed to address health emergencies (beginning with the Covid-19 pandemic).

Joseph E Stiglitz, a Nobel laureate in economics, is University Professor at Columbia University and a member of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation. Achal Prabhala, a former fellow at the Shuttlesworth Foundation, is a coordinator of the AccessIBSA project, which campaigns for access to medicines in India, Brazil, and South Africa. Felipe Carvalho is Coordinator of Médicinas Sans Frontières' Access Campaign in Brazil and Latin America.  
Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2021.  
www.project-syndicate.org  
(Exclusive to The Daily Star)

# Develop Chattogram's drainage system before more lives are lost



NAWSHAD AHMED

**C**HATTOGRAM, the country's second largest city and home to its main sea port, with an estimated population of 52 lakh people, has been suffering from serious water-logging and drainage issues for a long time. The

problems worsen during the monsoon season every year due to heavy rains, disrupting daily lives and local businesses. The damage during the last decade, calculated by the Planning Commission, has been worth over Tk 250 crore annually, on average. It has reached a point where even lives have been lost as a result—in September this year, a 19-year-old student died after falling into a roadside drain. This was the fourth such death in the city that occurred during the June to September period.

Unplanned urbanisation is a major cause of water-logging in the densely populated city. There are about 40 canals in the port city, locally known as khals. There used to be many more ponds and other water-retaining areas that have been filled up due to the fast pace of spatial development. Thus, water cannot flow down to the river quickly anymore, resulting in the inundation of city roads and residential areas. According to the District Fisheries Department, the total number of water bodies in the city was 19,250 in 1991, which came down to 4,523 in 2007, as reported by the Chattogram Development Authority.

The major canals running through Chattogram city are Chaktai Khal, Rajakhali Khal, Mahesh Khal, Jamalkhan Khal and

Nasir Khal. All these canals play very important roles in draining rainwater out to the Kamaphuli river in the south of the city. However, these canals have all been narrowed down, and many have even disappeared in different places. A considerable amount of siltation has reduced the water flow capacity, and canals have also been filled up with garbage and solid waste, which have not been excavated properly for many years. The city areas that suffer the most severely due to water-logging are Bakalia, Chawkbazar, Agrabad, Halishahar, Kapasgola, Chandgaon, Shulakbahar, Bahaddarhat and the Probartak intersection. Katalganj and Firingi bazar, two major business centres, are highly vulnerable to water-logging and incur huge losses every year.

As has been reported in news media recently, especially after the recent deaths—the open drains pose major risks for city-dwellers. In Chattogram city, four different agencies are responsible for the maintenance and provision of an adequate and environment-friendly drainage system, which includes cleaning, excavation of canals, non-encroachment and development work. These are Chattogram Development Authority (CDA), Chattogram City Corporation (CCC), Chattogram Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) and Bangladesh Water Development Board (WDB). The level of cooperation and coordination among these urban agencies is definitely not strong enough for effective management and operation of the drainage system.

The CDA undertook a Tk 5,617 crore project in 2017 for the proper planning and construction of drains to mitigate water-logging in the city. The project started with a two-year delay and so far, 60 percent of the



Residential neighbourhoods, hospitals, government offices—this monsoon, few areas in Chattogram could escape the wrath of water-logging.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

work has been completed (Tk 2,700 crore has been spent), and the new completion deadline has been established as June 2023. The CCC also undertook a project worth Taka 1,256 crore six years ago, whose newest deadline passed us by last month. Yet, according to an August 3 report from *The Daily Star*, the project work had not even started by that point due to complications in acquiring land. The Water Development Board (WDB) has also been involved in solving the city water-logging problem and has undertaken a Taka 1,620 project in 2019,

which it has barely started to implement.

Inadequacy of drainage channels creates adverse impacts on environment and public health. A well-designed urban drainage system in Chattogram is a necessity that we cannot ignore anymore. The issue of water-logging is not, however, only an issue of the implementation of different development projects. It is one of constant efforts to keep water channels clean, retain water bodies in and around the city, reclaim illegally occupied canals, and build awareness on the value of proper disposal of household and

commercial waste in their designated places, instead of throwing them into water bodies and canals.

At the same time, an approach to use natural drainage channels, as well as build wide drains, should be the strategy to cope with the issue of water-logging in Chattogram city. The use of good quality materials should be ensured in the construction work for durability, and the drains should be constantly kept clean to avoid water-logging. The policy should be to construct covered drains and follow a city-wide approach. Piecemeal approach to drain construction ends up being non-functional and can even make matters worse. Proper planning to stop indiscriminate urbanisation is also an essential prerequisite to ensuring a viable drainage system.

Water-logging can be mitigated by properly designing drainage networks and facilities. We should be expecting between two to four percent urban growth annually in Chattogram city, and should be planning the city as well as its future drainage system to cope with this growing urban population. The massive investment projects undertaken by the CDA, CCC and WDB should be completed rapidly to contain the city's water-logging problem. This cannot be done without stronger coordination between these three organisations, along with other government service agencies responsible for telephone, electricity, gas and water supply who have laid down their lines through the canals. Last, but not least, adequate operation and maintenance provision should be kept in the annual budgets of these organisations.

Dr Nawshad Ahmed is an economist, urban planner, and a former UN official.

# Can humans settle on Mars once Earth becomes uninhabitable?



QUAMRUL HAIDER

**I**N 1920, American poet Robert Frost mused: "Some say the world will end in fire, some say in ice." Frost held "with those who favour fire." His poetic view unsurprisingly coincides with

mainstream scientific consensus about the real prospect of our own annihilation—arising from the incomprehensible scale of problems baked into our future by human-induced climate change. That is why probably a year before his death in 2018, the celebrated British astrophysicist Stephen Hawking issued a grave warning that we must leave the Earth and colonise "other planets in the next century in order to guarantee survival from a variety of threats."

Now that the much-hyped COP26 has ended "not with a bang, but with a whimper," it is time to seriously consider Hawking's suggestion—colonise another planet before the Earth ends in fire.

From *The War of the Worlds* by HG Wells to *The Martian Way* by Isaac Asimov, science fiction writers have long been fascinated by the idea of settling on another planet, especially Mars. Science fiction aside, it is indeed the dream of a growing number of scientists and geo-engineers to make Mars inhabitable with some terraforming, a term used to describe transforming another planet into an Earth-like planet.

Why Mars and not the Moon? The Moon, our nearest neighbour in the sky, is impoverished in resources. Furthermore, a day on the Moon is 29.5 Earth days long. Also, the Moon being far less massive than Earth has a weaker surface gravity—about 16 percent that of Earth. For example, a fully suited Apollo astronaut (equipment included) who weighed about 500 pounds on Earth, weighed only about 80 pounds on the Moon.

Why not other planets? The inner planets, Mercury and Venus, are too hot for humans to survive. The Jovian planets, Jupiter outward

to Neptune, are gaseous, which means they do not have solid ground to put our feet on.

What makes Mars, which is on the outer boundary of our solar system's habitable zone, a good candidate is its proximity from Earth's closest approach every 15 to 17 years is about 54.6 million kilometres, its day-night cycle is almost the same as ours, with abundant sunshine, and it has a 687-day year with Earth-like four seasons that last twice as long. Although gravity on Mars is 40 percent that of Earth's, it is sufficiently strong

for human beings. Nonetheless, in the ancient past, the Red Planet was remarkably habitable, featuring lakes, rivers and an ocean. Things, however, changed dramatically after the planet lost its magnetic field about four billion years ago when its molten iron core froze up. Without a magnetic field, charged particles in the solar wind stripped away Mars' once-thick atmosphere, eventually reducing it to a thin sliver that could no longer retain sufficient heat. As a result, the planet underwent a reverse greenhouse effect.

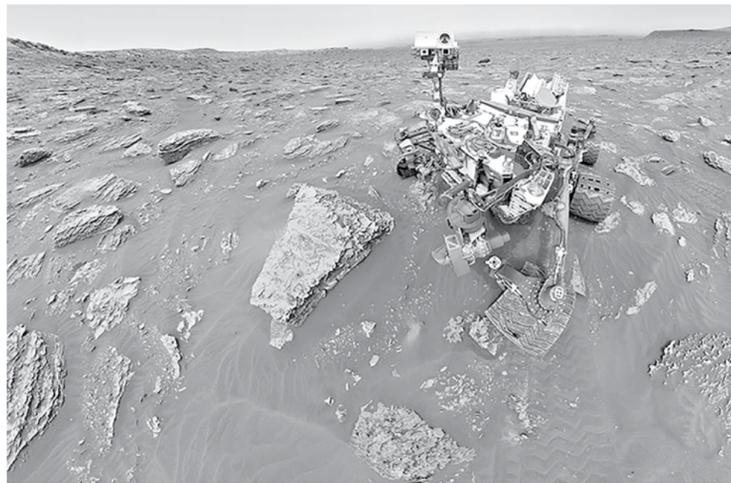


PHOTO: NASA/JPL-CALTECH

Curiosity took this selfie on Martian Sol 2082 (June 15, 2018 Earth time).

to retain an atmosphere and is believed by many to be adequate for the human body to adapt to. Additionally, hydrologic and volcanic processes on Mars are likely to have consolidated various elements into mineral ores that are of interest to an industrial society.

But current conditions on Mars—freezing cold and bereft of such amenities as a breathable atmosphere—are inhospitable

Today, the greenhouse effect on Mars is extremely inefficient. Its atmosphere, about 100 times thinner than Earth's, is not thick enough to act as a thermal blanket to keep the planet pleasantly warm. Average surface temperature on Mars is a frigid negative 55 degrees Celsius and varies between negative 125 degrees near the poles during winter to positive 20 degrees at the equator during summer. In addition, the atmospheric

pressure is less than one percent that of Earth's. Since the atmosphere is excessively thin and cold, Mars cannot support liquid water on its surface, but this does not mean the planet is devoid of it.

Thus, before we colonise Mars, we have to fix the Martian atmosphere and make it hospitable to human life. In particular, we have to raise the planet's temperature to a comfortable level and make the atmosphere thicker. Several possible ways of accomplishing this task have been proposed. Among the many techniques that are on the drawing board, scientists are seriously considering adding temperature-raising gases in its atmosphere, to melting parts of the Martian polar ice caps using giant orbiting mirrors to reflect sunlight, to making the Martian surface non-reflective.

Introduction of fluorine-based compounds that produce a greenhouse effect thousands of times stronger than carbon dioxide is being considered as a long term climate stabiliser. There is also the possibility of in-situ resource utilisation, thanks to NASA's Curiosity Rover discovering subterranean methane, another potent greenhouse gas.

Another element that could play an important role in trapping heat on Mars is aerogel, one of the lightest materials known to humans. Composed of 99 percent air, it is also a good insulator, which is why it is being used in the Rover mission. Using modelling and experiments that mimicked the Martian surface, researchers from the Harvard University, NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab and University of Edinburgh demonstrated that a thin layer of this material increased average temperatures of mid-latitudes on Mars to Earth-like temperatures. Aerogel could also be used to build domes for habitation or self-contained biospheres on the surface of Mars.

If large mirrors can successfully be put into orbit, they will reflect sunlight onto Martian poles, so that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that are believed to be trapped inside the ice will melt and initiate the greenhouse effect. The orbital mirror plan has the advantage of continually introducing extra heat into the Martian climate long after the poles have sublimated.

The idea of coating the surface of Mars with dark materials in order to increase the amount of sunlight it absorbs was first proposed by author and scientist Carl Sagan. The materials could be dust from the Martian moons Phobos and Deimos—two of the darkest objects in the Solar System—or extremophile lichens and plants that are dark in colour.

As noted above, Mars does not have a magnetic field strong enough to shield it from the harmful electrically charged particles in solar wind. Scientists at NASA think that it is possible to deflect the solar wind by positioning powerful magnets at one of the five points in space between Mars and the Sun, known as Lagrange Points, where the gravitational forces and the orbital motion of the magnets would interact to create a stable location. Simulations showed that a shield of this sort would protect Mars from the solar wind.

A new study suggests that Mars could be provided with a magnetic field by creating an artificial ring of charged particles around the planet. This could be done by ionising matter on the surface of its moon, Phobos, which orbits the planet quite closely and makes a trip around it every eight hours. The ionised (electrically charged) particles, when accelerated, would generate an electric current that would give rise to a magnetic field strong enough to protect a terraformed Mars.

How soon can Mars be terraformed? Realistically speaking, once technologies are perfected, it would probably take several centuries for the Martian climate to resemble anything even remotely Earth-like. Will our planet remain habitable for such a long time? That is a moot question.

Finally, it is ironic that many of the approaches to terraform Mars represent the global environmental catastrophe currently causing such concern here on Earth. In view of this, opponents consider terraforming Mars to be the ultimate in "cosmic vandalism." Proponents on the other hand see terraforming as the creation of a new Garden of Eden.

Quamrul Haider is a Professor of Physics at Fordham University, New York.

**QUOTABLE Quote**

**ELIE WIESEL**  
Romanian-American writer (1928 - 2016)

*There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest.*

**CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Fissure
- 6 Rays' home
- 11 Eagle's home
- 12 Shark's home
- 13 Supply with new weapons
- 14 Respond to stimuli
- 15 Reach across
- 17 Golf peg
- 18 Kind of candidate
- 22 Melville captain
- 23 Some potatoes
- 27 Last
- 29 River of Missouri
- 30 Flings
- 32 Floor piece
- 33 Specimens
- 35 Ga. Neighbor
- 38 Revered one
- 39 Purple hue
- 41 Egypt's Anwar
- 45 Pal, to Pedro
- 46 Deli fixture
- 47 Board, as a bus
- 48 Saudi Arabia neighbor

**DOWN**

- 1 Train unit
- 2 Director Spike
- 3 Pitching stat
- 4 Corner on a diamond
- 5 Musical speed
- 6 Twister
- 7 Star pitcher
- 8 Ham or veal
- 9 Speed
- 10 Poker payment
- 16 "Exodus" hero
- 18 Ludicrous
- 19 River from Pittsburgh
- 20 Soup buys
- 21 The cellar, in sports
- 24 Hard precipitation
- 25 Lusty look
- 26 Beholds
- 28 Dictionary
- 31 Feeling down
- 34 Like forest rocks
- 35 National symbol
- 36 Green fruit
- 37 Stepped down
- 40 In the past
- 42 River blocker
- 43 Hearty quaff
- 44 Wallet bill

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO [dsopinion@gmail.com](mailto:dsopinion@gmail.com).

**BEETLE BAILEY**

BEETLE! THE TARGET IS OVER HERE!  
HE'S HEADED FOR THE TREES!

LEAVE IT TO BEETLE TO TAKE A NAP AT 10,000 FEET

**YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS**

W A S P S L E A S H  
A T E U P A T S E A  
S H A R E W A T E R  
T E T R A S U K E  
E N E R C I T E S  
S A D H A L T E R  
G E N E S  
A L P A C A P A L  
B R O A D E R A C E  
R A Y S H A S T A  
A B O D E E L T O N  
S I L O S A T O N E  
S C A N S D A R E D

**BABY BLUES**

HAMMIE'S COMING UP TO BAT! LET'S SHOW HIM SOME SUPPORT.

C'MON, HAMMIE!

EXCEED OUR SUPER-LOW EXPECTATIONS!

NOT WHAT I HAD IN MIND.



PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Favourable conditions go begging on opening day

SPORTS REPORTER



The gloomy weather throughout the first day of the second Test was expected to provide assistance to Bangladeshi seamers Ebadot Hossain and Khaled Ahmed, but once again left-arm spinner Taijul Islam was the only successful bowler, picking up both Pakistan wickets that fell in Mirpur yesterday.

A lot was expected of champion all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan on his return to the side, but he failed to meet those demands with the ball on the first day.

The left-arter, making a comeback after recovering from a hamstring injury sustained during the T20 World Cup, bowled with a rather short run-up and it appeared he was yet to get into the groove.

On the other hand, Taijul picked up where he left off in the first Test in Chattogram, where he had bagged seven wickets, and

posed continual threats to inform Pakistani openers Abid Ali and Abdullah Shafique after being introduced in the tenth over of the innings.

Pakistan eventually went for lunch on 78 for two, with Taijul dismissing both Abid and Shafique. But the hosts certainly missed an opportunity to apply even more pressure on the Pakistani batting following a brief rain break in the second session.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam and Azhar Ali added an unbeaten 91-run third-wicket stand as the visitors bounced back to score

### BRIEF SCORE

#### PAKISTAN

First Innings- 161 for 2 in 57 overs (Babar 60 not out, Abid 39, Azhar 36 not out; Taijul 2-49, Shakib 0-33, Ebadot 0-28)

**"It's important to pick up early wickets in Test cricket and when you are not able to pick wickets, it's crucial to contain runs. That was not happening initially. Ebadot bowled some good deliveries but I won't say we did too bad in the first session."**

MEHEDI HASAN MIRAZ

83 without losing a wicket in the second session before the day's play was called off due to bad light.

Ebadot bowled nine overs and conceded 28 runs but tried to test the batters with his initial swing movement while mixing in a few bouncers.

However, Khaled, who replaced Abu Jayed, lacked any sort of bite. The tall right-arm seamer bowled just four overs and was guilty of bowling on the shorter side despite

the favourable overcast conditions, allowing the two Pakistani openers to score freely.

"It's important to pick up early wickets in Test cricket and when you are not able to pick wickets, it's crucial to contain runs. That was not happening initially. Ebadot bowled some good deliveries but I won't say we did too bad in the first session," off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz told the media yesterday. "If we could have picked up two more wickets in the second session, it would have been easier for us. We could have picked up a couple more wickets if we utilised the weather and conditions."

According to the 24-year-old, it will be important for Bangladesh to bundle Pakistan out early when they resume the second day in order to take control of the game in the coming days.

Despite play for the next four days scheduled to start from 9:30am, there is no good news according to the weather forecast which suggests a high possibility of rain over the next few days in the capital.

## SHAKIB AFFAIR turned messy

SPORTS REPORTER



What could have been a simple incident turned into a messy affair with the inclusion of Bangladesh's premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan for the tour of New Zealand. Shakib was included in Bangladesh's 18-man squad for tour in January, which features two Tests, despite verbally communicating his unavailability. According to sources, he responded to the selectors' query by responding that he would not be available for the tour. But the Minhajul Abedin-led selection panel still included the all-rounder.

While the BCB announced the squad through a media release yesterday, its president Nazmul Hassan informed reporters of Shakib's unwillingness to tour.

"Shakib verbally informed us that he would be unavailable for the New Zealand series. But he did not give anything written yet. Only when he gives a written application will we know why he doesn't want to go," the president said.

Shakib, however, was quick to send a written plea to the board.

"With due respect, I, Shakib Al Hasan, would like to state that I am unable to go to New Zealand for the upcoming Test series due to unavoidable family reasons. I am really sorry to make myself unavailable, but I have no other option. My commitment to Bangladesh cricket and the Bangladesh cricket team is one hundred per cent and I hope to return to the fold for the next series. I hope you will understand my position and allow me to skip the New Zealand tour," Shakib wrote in his letter.

Meanwhile, young Mahmudul Hasan Joy, who made his debut in the ongoing second Test against Pakistan, was kept alongside Naim Sheikh.

Three players from the existing 20-member squad for the second Test against Pakistan were dropped for the New Zealand tour. Opener Saif Hasan has already been ruled out after he suffered from typhoid while off-spinner Nayem Hasan and pacer Rejaur Rahman Raja were the two others to be dropped without even playing a game against Pakistan.

Young left-arm seamer Shoriful Islam

### SQUAD

Mominul Haque (Captain), Shadman Islam, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Das, Nurul Hasan Sohan, Yasir Ali, Mehedi Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Taskin Ahmed, Abu Jayed Rahi, Ebadot Hossain, Shoriful Islam, Khaled Ahmed, Shohidul Islam, Mahmudul Hasan Joy and Naim Sheikh.

### ITINERARY

January 1-5, 2022: First Test, Bay Oval, Tauranga.  
January 9-13, 2022: Second Test, Hagley Oval, Christchurch.

also returned to the side after recovering from injury while pacer Taskin Ahmed also made it into the squad after missing both Tests against Pakistan due to injury.

Bangladesh will board a flight for New Zealand on December 9 and take part in two warm-up matches following the mandatory seven-day quarantine.



Mahmudul Hasan Joy gets his Test cap from Bangladesh's premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan before the toss of the second Test against Pakistan in Mirpur yesterday. Joy became the 99th cricketer to play Tests for Bangladesh.

PHOTO: STAR



## Cummins will be 'fine' as captain, says Langer

REUTERS



Australia coach Justin Langer has backed Pat Cummins to handle the workload in his new role as captain after becoming the first fast bowler to hold the post in more than 65 years, ahead of next week's start to the Ashes series against England.

Cummins will lead the team into the series opener at the Gabba in Brisbane on Wednesday and, with former captain Steve Smith serving as deputy, the 28-year-old has enough support to be able to deal with the challenge, Langer said.

"England will be incredibly well prepared for us and we'll be incredibly well prepared for England," Langer told reporters on Saturday.

"Pat will get all the golden nuggets (of data) and he's got a lot of support around him.

"Steve Smith's the formal vice-captain, David Warner's got as good a cricket brain as is in the game. Alex Carey has been a captain before, he's behind the stumps. He's got his three best mates there, the bowlers, who will have a view on it.

"He'll be fine strategically, I think. It will be just maintaining the balance with his bowling load and then captaining and all the other commitments that come with that. We'll keep an eye on that."

## Hassan breaks his silence

SPORTS REPORTER



Rumours had been bubbling that ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan was unlikely to feature in Bangladesh's tour to New Zealand series and, following a board meeting yesterday, the southpaw was first thing on the BCB president Nazmul Hassan's agenda.

"He hasn't said anything officially but he did inform us [about not going to New Zealand]. I told him to present his case officially and then I would look into it. Let's see what his explanation is," Hassan commented.

The World Cup debacle left the BCB doing some soul-searching and the absence of its president Nazmul Hassan in front of the media added more uncertainty regarding the team's current situation and the board's stance on certain matters. Appearing before the media for the first time since the T20 World Cup debacle yesterday, Hassan spoke about quite a few burning issues, including Russell Domingo's continuation as head coach and the investigation into the World Cup failure. There was also the small matter of Shakib Al Hasan being reluctant to play the New Zealand series.

Interestingly, around the same time that the BCB president was giving his press conference, the BCB announced a squad for the New Zealand series with Shakib included.

The issue of Russell Domingo's continuation had also been a burning issue from well before



the T20 World Cup. Home series wins over Australia and New Zealand had quelled some of the fire but media reports pointed to a lack of trust in Domingo, especially from the players, following the World Cup.

Some sources claimed the players were not particularly willing to follow his guidance. However, Domingo has recently been handed a contract extension, making his fate murkier. On that topic, the BCB president's comments were more opaque, with even the tenure of the extension not being divulged.

"Before the World Cup, he wrote to us saying that he had a good offer on the table and wanted to go. He wanted to know whether we would extend his contract because he didn't want to take a risk in case we did not extend. We were looking but saw that we couldn't manage a coach. Even if we did manage, we doubtful of bringing in a new coach ahead of the World Cup. The coaches he had looked at were engaged till the 2022 World Cup."

"We took those matters into account and handed him an extension. If you ask me right now, our thinking is the same as it was previously. We are still waiting for the World Cup report," he said.

The BCB president's comments on the World Cup report, due at the end of November, suggested that BCB were in murky waters

regarding the World Cup debacle, mostly because the investigation was perhaps not going to return a result.

"We formed an investigative committee consisting of Jalal [Younus] bhai and [Enayet Husain] Siraj bhai and they are to submit the report soon. I have talked to Jalal bhai informally but the reality is that nothing significant has been found yet. I am not surprised because I know that such matters can't be unearthed easily," he said, adding that players had not complained regarding coach.

"I understand that players can't just say everything or say something after being asked just once," he reflected, adding that he would make attempts to personally understand the lack of trust around the team.

"This investigation is not enough. I think I should do interviews too. I want to talk to some seniors and junior players one-on-one. I want to sit with someone like Mahmudullah [Riyad], since he won't go to New Zealand, shortly after they submit the report."

As things stand, it was clear that decisions on any change in coaching panel, selection panel and the distrust in the team's environment will come after January. The BCB president explained the situation perfectly when he said: "Everyone can go through bad times but the times for BCB are a bit too bad."

## India delay SA tour over Omicron

AFP, NEW DELHI

India's cricket board on Saturday delayed the national side's South Africa tour over the heavily mutated Omicron strain of Covid-19, it said in a statement.

Omicron was first discovered in South Africa and has led to global panic, uncertainty and fresh travel curbs in the last few days, raising questions over the prospects for the tour.

The first Test of a three-match series against the Proteas has been put back from December 17 to December 26.

The tour "will proceed with the revised dates and itinerary", Jay Shah, secretary for the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), said in a statement.

As originally scheduled, a three-match ODI series will follow the five-day games, Shah said, but he did not give timings for the team's arrival in South Africa or a detailed match itinerary.

India's Test skipper Virat Kohli this week sought clarity on the series after conflicting media reports about Omicron.

Some players would need to quarantine ahead of the tour, he said. "Those kinds of things you want to seek clarity as soon as possible," Kohli added.

# What to WATCH

## T SPORTS

Bangladesh vs Pakistan  
2nd Test, Day 2  
Live from 09:30 am  
Independence Cup  
Uttar Baridhara Club vs

Bangladesh Air Force  
Live from 04:00 pm  
Sheikh Russel KC vs Sheikh  
Jamal DC  
Live from 06:00 pm  
La Liga

Rayo Vallecano vs Espanyol  
Live from 08:00 pm  
Elche vs Cadiz  
Live from 09:15 pm  
Levante vs Osasuna  
Live from 11:30 pm

Celta Vigo vs Valencia  
Live from 02:00 am (Monday)  
STAR SPORTS HD 1  
EPL  
Manchester United vs  
Crystal Palace

Live from 08:00 pm  
Aston Villa vs Leicester City  
Live from 10:30 pm  
STAR SPORTS HD 2  
EPL  
Tottenham Hotspur vs

Norwich City  
Live from 08:00 pm  
STAR SPORTS 1  
India vs New Zealand  
2nd Test, Day 3  
Live from 10:00 am

# 'IT'S SURREAL'

AGENCIES

After picking up four wickets on the first day, Ajaz Patel said: "This is what dreams are made of." What happened in the second day of the second Test against India was the stuff of pure fantasy.

Patel became the third bowler in the 144-year history of Test cricket to take 10 wickets in one innings and wrote a new page into the annals of New Zealand sport.

New Zealand's Mumbai-born spinner added to his tally of four wickets on the opening day to return figures of 10-119. India were all out for 325.

England off-spinner Jim Laker was the first bowler to take a Test ten-for, against Australia in 1956 at Old Trafford. He ended up with 19 wickets in an encounter that came to be known as "Laker's Match".

Indian spin ace Anil Kumble is the only other player to do so, against Pakistan in 1999 at Delhi's Feroz Shah Kotla.

"Welcome to the club #AjazPatel #Perfect10 Well bowled! A special effort to achieve it on Day 1 & 2 of a test match," the former leg-spinner tweeted.

Ajaz, who emigrated to New Zealand in 1996 with his parents, was playing just his 11th Test for New Zealand since making his debut in 2018.

Now 33, his previous Test best was 5-59.

"Honestly, it's surreal and to be able to do that in my career is pretty special," he said. "The stars have aligned for me to do it in Mumbai."

"I'm in very illustrious company with Kumble sir as well."

Veteran Indian spinner Harbhajan Singh lauded his feat, saying: "Ajaz Patel This

dreams are made of. Take a bow, Ajaz Patel, you are in the elite company of Jim Laker and Anil Kumble. And to do it in the city of your birth, wow!!," said VVS Laxman.

On the eve of the Test, the 33-year-old spoke of his excitement about returning to India's largest city once more, this time wearing a silver fern on his cap.

And after removing the Indian top order on day one, Patel called it a dream come true, flourishing in his first chance to play in front of the family members he usually sits beside in the stands on trips to Wankhede.

It would have required the wildest of imaginations for Patel to envisage the events of day two, finishing the innings with figures of 10 for 119.

fast bowler in the mould of national hero Richard Hadlee.

It was not until his mid-20s that he realised he was too short to make it as a quick, and switched from left-arm medium-pace to spin under former New Zealand spinner Dipak Patel. He thought it "might be fun" to try being a spinner, he once recalled.

The change transformed his career: he was selected for the national team at the late age of 30, and has now overtaken New Zealand's previous Test best of 9-52 by Hadlee himself, against Australia at Brisbane in 1985.



Since 1985, Sir Richard Hadlee's 9-52 has loomed large for Kiwi sport fans. New Zealand's greatest bowler recorded that haul at the Gabba, playing Australia, one of the toughest tests in the sport.

But facing India on the subcontinent also ranks rather high in that particular category, and Patel tore through the hosts in unprecedented fashion.

He found his calling in cricket and his heart was set on becoming a devastating

## PERFECT 10

### ➤ JC LAKER (ENGLAND):

51.2-23-53-10 against Australia, Manchester, 1956.

### ➤ A KUMBLE (INDIA):

26.3-9-74-10 against Pakistan, Delhi, 1999.

### ➤ AJAZ PATEL (NEW ZEALAND):

47.5-12-119-10 against India, Mumbai, 2021.

will be remembered forever 47.5-12-119-10 simply outstanding. Let me stand and clap."

Australia's Aaron Finch said: "That's the most amazing thing I've ever seen!! Ajaz Patel... What a phenomenal performance."

"Sensational!! Just sensational!! To take all 10 wickets in a Test innings is the stuff



## India in command despite Ajaz's rare feat

REUTERS, MUMBAI



New Zealand spinner Ajaz Patel claimed the rare honour of bagging all 10 wickets in an innings before India demonstrated their own bowling might to take control of the second and final Test at the Wankhede Stadium on Saturday.

The Mumbai-born Ajaz became only the third player in international cricket to take all wickets in an innings after England off-spinner Jim Laker and India leg-spinner Anil Kumble, but the tourists could not stop India from getting to 325.

In reply, New Zealand could bat only a little over two hours before being bundled out for 62 to concede a first-innings lead of 263.

India decided against enforcing the follow-on and then tightened the screws by reaching 69 for no loss in their second innings, stretching their overall lead to

332 runs at the close of the second day's play.

Cheteshwar Pujara opened the batting in place of Shubman Gill, who suffered a blow to his right elbow while fielding at close-in, and was unbeaten on 29 with Mayank Agarwal 38 not out.

On a pitch offering plenty of assistance to the spin bowlers, India's Mohammed Siraj, who was left out of the first Test in Kanpur, bowled with aggression and pace with the new ball to rattle the touring side.

The fast bowler sent back New Zealand's stand-in captain Tom Latham, Will Young and the experienced Ross Taylor to reduce them to 17-3 in his opening spell.

After Siraj's initial blast, the top-ranked test side's batters surrendered meekly to India's spinners. Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin picked up four wickets for eight runs as the New Zealand innings folded in just 28.1 overs.



## 'I've never tried to be the best'

REUTERS

Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi said he is grateful to be named among the greatest players in world soccer, but the Argentina forward stressed he does not attach too much importance to individual glory.

Messi won the Ballon d'Or award for a record-stretching seventh time on Monday. The Paris St Germain player added the prestigious trophy to his 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015 and 2019 wins after topping LaLiga's goal scoring charts last season and winning the Copa America for the first time with his country last July.

"For me, the mere fact that I can be considered or cited as one of the best players in the world is more than enough," Messi said in an interview with French newspaper L'Equipe.

"I don't know how to say it so it won't be misinterpreted... It's not that I'm not interested, but I don't attach much importance to it. It doesn't matter to me if I'm the best or not. And I've never tried to be the best either."

## Robinho puts Kings in quarters

SPORTS REPORTER



Robson Robinho converted a 16th-minute spot-kick as defending champions

Bashundhara Kings moved into the quarterfinals of the Riviera Independence Cup with a 1-0 win over Bangladesh Police in their Group D fixture yesterday.

The Brazilian picked the right corner of the net past Mohammad Nehal's diving hands after his compatriot Jonathan Fernandes was brought down inside the box by Isa Faysal to make the difference in the first game of the day at the Bishreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur.

It was a hard-fought victory, though, for the 2018 champions, who were coming into the match on the back of a 6-0 thrashing of Bangladesh Navy.

The second win in two matches took Kings to six points and they would meet Chattogram Abahani in their last group match on Wednesday.

Robson's goal was the first shot on target and one of the very few in the entire match.

Police's first real chance came in the 31st minute when Monaem Khan Raju delivered a low cross from close range but Bishwanath Ghosh cleared the danger with an excellent block.

Police's Moroccan attacker Adil Kouskous saw his shot parried away by Kings goalkeeper Anisur Rahman four minutes later as the defending champions went into the break with a slender lead.

Bosnian centre-forward Stojan Vranjes had a powerful volley from outside the box on the hour-mark but Nehal was equal to the task at Police goal.

Police almost got a deserved equaliser on 79 minutes when Kouskous unleashed a curling effort from the top of

the box, only for Anisur to palm it to the underside of the bar, the ball dropping just outside the goalline as Kings edged a solitary-goal victory against a plucky Police side.

### Ctg Abahani deny Navy

Ten-man Chattogram Abahani came from a goal down to hold Bangladesh Navy to a 1-1 draw in the second match of the day.

Jewel Rana broke the deadlock for the services team in the 14th minute of the match with a header on a floated cross from Rahmat Mia.

That one goal seemed enough to settle the tie when Chattogram Abahani were reduced to 10 men on 85 minutes as midfielder Sohel Rana was shown a second yellow card for a reckless challenge on Galibe Newaz.

However, the port city outfit found an equaliser out of nowhere in the 89th minute, Nigerian defender Kehinde Yisa, unmarked inside the box, nodding home Kamrul Islam's free-kick.

The draw took Maruful Haque's charges to second position with two points while Navy, studded with former and current national team players, stay bottom of the group with a single point.

Police, also with a single point, are in third position due to superior goal difference over Navy.



CONGRATULATIONS  
ON AN EXTRAORDINARY VICTORY

MD. SUMON

WINNER (AMATEUR CATEGORY)

3RD MARK DESIGNERS PROFESSIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT- 2021



Proud sponsor of  
BANGLADESH  
NATIONAL GOLF TEAM

EVERYONE CAN MAKE ROOFS, BUT **THERE'S ONLY 1 EXPERT** SO CHOOSE BSRM TO BUILD SAFER HOMES

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

**BSRM** building a safer nation

**PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE**

**SHAH CEMENT**

## OMICRON COVID VARIANT 2nd highest infections among kids

Say South Africa experts

AGENCIES

South Africa reported a recent surge in Covid-19 cases among children, which was not seen in the previous waves of the pandemic even as the country is handling the sharp increase of Omicron variant cases.

Experts raised concern as more children under five and teenagers aged between 15 to 19 tested positive for the infection in the fresh surge.

"We have always seen children not being heavily affected by the Covid epidemic in the past (and) not having many admissions (to hospitals). In the third wave, we saw more admissions in children under five and in teenagers who were 15 to 19.

"Now, at the start of this fourth wave, we see quite a sharp increase across all age groups, but particularly in the under-fives," said Dr Waasila Jassat of the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) at a media briefing by the Health Ministry on Friday.

"As expected, the incidence is still lowest in children. However, the incidence in those under five is now second highest and second only to the incidence in those over 60.

"The trend that we are seeing now that is different from what we saw before is the particular increase in hospital admissions in children under five years," Jassat added.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Draped in the national flag, Abu Khalifa sews the red on green at a shop in Safa Complex on Loyal Road in Chattogram. Every year, the sale of flags go up in December. Last year, however, flag makers could not sell much, as most people preferred staying home amid the pandemic.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

## Suhrawardy's 58th death anniversary today

Bss, Dhaka

The 58th death anniversary of Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, one of the greatest leaders of undivided India, is being observed in the country today with due dignity.



The leader, who had dedicated his entire life to ensure the welfare of the people by upholding democracy, died at a Beirut hotel in Lebanon on December 5, 1963. He was alone in the hotel suite at the time of his death.

Suhrawardy was a Bangalee politician and statesman in the first half of the 20th century. He served as the premier of Bengal in British India and was the fifth prime minister of Pakistan, said a press release.

Meanwhile, President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

## DEATH OF TEACHER 9 Kuet students suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) has suspended nine students for breaching university discipline following the death of Prof Selim Hossain of electrical and electronic engineering department.

A syndicate meeting made the decision after the issue of the unnatural death was tabled before it on Friday night, according to a press statement from the university.

The students were suspended as the incident was primarily found to be true analysing CCTV footage and other evidence, the statement said.

CCTV footage of the incident showed several students entering the teacher's room around 12:30pm on Tuesday and they came out after around 40 minutes.

Rita Khanam, wife of the professor Selim told the media that he returned from the campus around 2:00pm and went to the bathroom. He was found nonresponsive inside the bathroom later.

Prof Selim, 38, died at his home hours after a group of Kuet Chhatra League leaders and activists confined him to his office on November 30. University's faculty members alleged that he was tortured by the BCL men.

On Thursday, Kuet teachers

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

## ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

### Russia vetoes troop-pullback proposal

DECEMBER 5, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZZA SAJEN

#### RUSSIAN VOTE IN UN KILLS TROOP-PULLBACK PROPOSAL

The Soviet Union vetoed today in the UN Security Council an American resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Indian-Pakistani conflict and for the withdrawal of the armed forces of both the countries to their own side of the border.

The vote came toward the end of an eight-hour session in which the council heard India and Pakistan accuse each other of armed aggression.

China joined the United States and nine other members in voting for the American text. Britain and France abstained. The Soviet Union and Poland voted against the resolution. Since the Soviet Union is a permanent member of the council, its vote was a veto.

Britain and France indicated that they had abstained because they foresaw a Soviet veto and they felt that any resolution should be adopted unanimously.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union, asserting that its security interests were affected by the Indian-Pakistani war, warned Pakistani leaders today that they were assuming "grave responsibility" by pursuing the "dangerous course" of conflict with India.

In a statement issued through Tass, the Soviet press agency, Moscow asserted its belief that "the governments of all countries should refrain from steps signifying in one way or another their involvement in the conflict and leading to a further aggravation of

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



## AK Azad Noab president again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

AK Azad, publisher of Samakal, has been elected president of the executive committee of Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) for the second time in a row.

Azad will spearhead the new committee for 2022-2023.

ASM Shahidullah Khan Badal, chairman of New Age editorial board, and Matiur Rahman Choudhury, chief editor of Manab Zamin, have been elected vice president and treasurer.

The executive members are: Matiur Rahman, editor and publisher of Prothom Alo, Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, Tasmima

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



## Scientists find strange new dinosaur



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A new dinosaur species with a flat, weaponised tail resembling a battle axe has been unearthed in Chile.

Scientists discovered the new species which has a tail with a battle axe-like structure unlike the ones seen in any other creatures of the time, they said in a study that sheds more light on the origin and evolution of armoured dinosaurs published in the journal Nature on Wednesday.

The dinosaur, named Stegourus elengassen, was about two metres in size and resembled heavily armoured ankylosaurs that had a club at the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

## Babar, Azhar put Pakistan on top

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Batters put Pakistan in control before the opening day's play of their second Test against Bangladesh came to a premature end at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

On a gloomy day in Mirpur, skipper Babar Azam (60\* off 99) and Azhar Ali (36\* off 112) put together an unbroken 91-run third-wicket stand to help Pakistan pile up 161 for two in 57 overs before play could not be further

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



### PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 5

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00  
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Shringla due on Dec 7

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla will



visit Bangladesh from December 7 to 8 to discuss bilateral issues, including the preparation of Indian President Ram Nath Kovind's visit to join the 50th victory day celebrations here.

During the three-day visit from December 15 to 17, President Kovind will join the celebrations and hold meetings with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, President Md Abdul Hamid, and Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.

This will be the 14th Indian president's first visit to Bangladesh, which is celebrating the golden jubilee of independence and the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman this year.

"The discussions of the Indian president could entail some bilateral issues. Bangladesh will

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



A farmer picking red spinach from his field in Ananda Bazar area of Chattogram's Halishahar. With the advent of winter, vegetables have started flooding the kitchen markets of the port city.

PHOTO: STAR

## Won't accept 'red lines'

Biden vows to prevent any Russian invasion of Ukraine

REUTERS, Washington

US President Joe Biden said he is developing comprehensive initiatives to make it difficult for Russian President Vladimir Putin to invade Ukraine and that he would not accept Moscow's "red lines," as fears mounted that the simmering conflict could erupt into war.

A video teleconference between the two leaders is anticipated within days.

More than 94,000 Russian troops are massed near Ukraine's borders, said Ukraine's defence minister, Oleksii Reznikov, who cited intelligence reports suggesting Moscow may be planning a large-scale military offensive for the end of January.

Moscow, in turn, has accused Ukraine and the United States of destabilising behaviour and suggested Kyiv might be preparing to launch its own offensive in eastern Ukraine, which the Ukrainian authorities deny.

"What I am doing is putting together what I believe to be the most comprehensive and meaningful set of initiatives to make it very, very difficult for Mr Putin to go ahead and do what people are worried he's going to do," Biden said, without going into detail.

As he departed for a weekend trip to Camp David later on Friday, Biden told reporters: "We're aware of Russia's actions for a long time and my expectation is we're going to have a long discussion with Putin."

"I don't accept anybody's red lines," he said of Russia's demands.

US and Ukrainian officials warned again this week that severe economic sanctions are on the table against Russia.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4