

# India, Russia discuss Bangladesh war

FROM PAGE 16  
 correspondent reported from the encircled Dhaka as advancing columns of Mitro Bahini came as close as 18km from their main destination.  
 Senior Pakistani officers predicted Indian troops would reach Dhaka within 48 hours, reported The New York Times. "Word of the imminence of an Indian attack came from nervous and dispirited officials at Government House. One general spoke melodramatically of throwing himself under a tank, but it is likely that no tanks would be available. Other senior Pakistanis, were expecting to be taken prisoner by the Indians but were fearful that the Bangalee guerrillas would reach them first," added the newspaper.  
**US CARRIER MAY SAIL TO BANGLADESH**  
 The United States Navy's nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Enterprise had left Vietnamese waters on December 10, 1971 heading toward the Indian Ocean for a possible rescue of American citizens from Dhaka, reported The New York Times.  
 Naval commanders aboard the carrier shared that they had orders to sail to the Strait of Malacca off Singapore to await final instructions to proceed up the Bay of Bengal. The mission of the United States task force would be to evacuate Americans and other foreigners from Dhaka, they added.

The Enterprise, the largest aircraft carrier in the United States fleet and the only nuclear-powered one then in operation, carried about a hundred fighter-bombers, bombers, fighters, reconnaissance aircraft, helicopters and small cargo planes. Her ordnance stores included nuclear bombs.  
 Three British C-130's flew from Dhaka to Kolkata today with about 480 British, American and German evacuees, according to United States consulate officials in Dhaka.  
**INDO-BANGLA ACCORD ON EVACUEE'S RETURN**  
 The governments of India and Bangladesh reached an accord on the question of the return from India of the Bangladesh evacuees and their rehabilitation. Thirty million people including about 10 million now in India would be rehabilitated in Bangladesh by the end of January, 1972. The decisions were made when the Indian union minister for relief and rehabilitation had a series of meetings with Bangladesh government leaders including Syed Nazrul Islam and Tajuddin Ahmad today.  
**US URGES UN TO ACT**  
 The United States urged the Security Council tonight to call upon India to accept forthwith a ceasefire and a mutual withdrawal in the Indian-Pakistani war. But George Bush, the United States representative, withdrew his demand for an immediate vote on an American draft resolution

shortly after midnight after the Soviet, Polish and French delegates had declared that they needed time to get instructions from their governments. The emergency meeting, which had been called at the urgent request of the United States, was adjourned at 12:45am until 10:30am today.  
 Bush consented to the adjournment after the delegate of Somalia, Abdulrahman A Farah, had noted that the Indian Foreign Minister Swaran Singh had given a "qualified commitment" of withdrawal in his statement to the council.  
 Swaran Singh had said that India would withdraw her forces if Pakistani troops were pulled out of East Pakistan and if Pakistan entered into a peace settlement with the representatives of Bangladesh.  
**BHUTTO VOWS FIGHT TO END**  
 Pakistan Foreign Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto told a cheering throng of Pakistanis today, "We are not cowards, we will fight to the last man if it has to be." He was addressing a crowd of demonstrators who had gathered outside the Hotel Pierre, where Bhutto had been conferring with diplomats about the Indian-Pakistani war. The demonstration was in favor of the Pakistani government and against the Soviet Union and India.  
 Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

# First Omicron cases detected

FROM PAGE 1  
 response to the Omicron variant.  
 First reported in South Africa last month, the Omicron variant is reportedly causing milder Covid-19 illness than Delta. But it seems to be spreading faster, according to the latest report published by South Africa's National Institute for Communicable Disease yesterday.  
 Bangladesh Cricket Board Physician Debashish Chowdhury said Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will now follow the protocol of the health ministry.  
 "The others [players] tested negative and have no symptom," Nazmul Hasan Papon, president of BCB told journalists yesterday, adding, "The isolation protocol is being fully maintained."  
 According to the global genome sequence database GISAID, the Institute for Epidemiology and Disease

Control (IEDCR) collected nasal swabs from both cricketers on December 6.  
 The IEDCR-ideSHi Genomics Lab then completed the genomic sequencing of these samples and identified them as Omicron variants of coronavirus.  
 The results were submitted and published on the GISAID website on Thursday.  
 Mushtuq Hussain, consultant of the IEDCR, told The Daily Star yesterday, "Although the World Health Organization has not reported any fatality due to Omicron yet, it is too early to rule out the probability of danger."  
 "As it is now detected in the country, the genomic sequence of every new case of Covid-19 should be done to keep a hold on the transmission of omicron," he said.  
 He also urged for rigorous screening at all entry points across the country and enforcement of health safety guidelines.

# All over again?

FROM PAGE 4  
 formed a monitoring committee and will intervene if the company breaks our guidelines."  
 However, Anwara UNO and president of Parki Beach Management Committee Shekh Jobaer Ahmed said, "We have been tasked to monitor the ship-breaking works, as the area falls under our jurisdiction. But the company has started without notifying us."  
 Meanwhile, experts have expressed concern over the latest development in this long-running saga.  
 Dr Md Atiqur Rahman, associate professor of geography and environmental studies department at Chittagong University, said, "Dismantling this old ship in the beach area will cause extensive damage there. The old, toxic oil of the ship will get mixed with the beach water, which will seriously endanger the biodiversity of the sea."  
 "It should've been taken to a designated ship-breaking yard," Dr Atiqur opined.  
 The ship washed up on the beach after Cyclone Mora hit the coasts on May 30, 2017. Back then, it belonged to Crystal Group. But it was sold off to Four Star Enterprise at an auction near the end of 2018, after the former owners got embroiled in legal and internal complications.

# Bosnian Serb MPs step up secession push

AFP, Sarajevo  
 Bosnian Serb lawmakers Friday kickstarted a controversial process of withdrawing from Bosnia and Herzegovina's central institutions, despite repeated warnings against the move from the West.  
 The Republika Srpska parliament passed a vote that obliges the local government to organise withdrawal from three crucial joint institutions -- the army, tax and justice system -- in the next six months.  
 The process is being shepherded by Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik -- a former Western protege turned nationalist -- who has been threatening secession for years.  
 The 62-year-old, who is currently a Serb member of the Bosnian joint presidency, tirelessly underlines that the country he co-runs is "impossible".  
 After eight hours of debate, the lawmakers adopted the proposed text by 49 votes for and three against.

# Two siblings murdered

FROM PAGE 16  
 quoting the locals.  
 Over the feud, a group allegedly belonging to Hobi Bepari locked in an altercation with Rafiqul at his grocery shop at a local bazaar on Friday.  
 At one stage, they attacked Rafiqul with sharp weapons. When Rafiqul's father Akbor and his brother Shafiqul rushed to the spot, the rivals also attacked them, injuring the two critically. Akbor was given first aid.  
 They were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH), where Rafiqul died in the afternoon.  
 Shafiqul was referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated and he died at the hospital yesterday, the OC said.  
 On information, police recovered the bodies and sent those to morgues for autopsy.  
 The feud has been going on for years and there were several local arbitrations over the issue but could not be minimised, said Md Abu Sayed, chairman of Char Sirta union parishad.  
 Police detained two Rubel Mia, 25, and Momtaz Uddin, 40, for their alleged involvement in the killings, according to the OC. No case has been lodged yet.  
 In another incident in Netrakona's Kalmakanda upazila, a mason was beaten to death over land on Friday.  
 The victim was identified as Asad Mia, 30, son of Md Abdullah of Ulukanda Bogatia village in Kalmakanda.  
 Abdullah had a longstanding dispute over a piece of land with Kamal Mia of the adjacent Gangdharkanda area, said Md Habibullah Khan, the OC of Kalmakanda Police Station, quoting locals.  
 There was a local arbitration over the issue at Ulukanda on Friday morning. At one point, both the groups locked in a heated altercation and Kamal and his men allegedly started beating Asad with sticks and injured him critically.  
 He was taken to Kalmakanda Upazila Health Complex from where he was referred to MMCH. He died at the hospital on Friday night.  
 Police recovered the body and sent it to MMCH morgue for autopsy. Police detained one Maznu Mia, 50, for his alleged involvement in the killing.

# BR seeks funds from Russia

FROM PAGE 16  
 meeting of the Bangladesh-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Scientific, Economic and Technical Cooperation (BR-IGC) starts tomorrow, they said.  
 The three-day virtual meeting would be spearheaded by Economic Relations Division (ERD) on Bangladesh side and would be participated by officials of different agencies concerned of both countries, an ERD official said.  
 On the other hand, Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan is expected to visit Russia next week.  
 Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh Alexander Mantyskiy called on Sujan last month and invited the minister to visit Russia. At that time, Sujan sought Russian investment in Bangladesh's railway sector.  
 Russia has not provided BR with any funds in in Bangladesh in recent past.  
**THE PROJECTS**  
 The five projects are Dhaka-Chattogram High Speed Railway; construction of Bhangra-Payra Rail Line; construction of a dual gauge single line from Chakaria to Maheshkhali and Matarbari Power Plant; procurement of 46 broad gauge locomotives; and construction of workshop and depot at Diapara in Gazipur.  
 BR has already completed the feasibility study and detailed design of the high-speed railway project.  
 The estimated cost of the 224.64-kilometre-long rail route is \$11.11 billion (Tk 93,350.93 crores).  
 Once constructed and the high-speed train begins operation, the journey from the capital to the commercial capital (Chattogram) will be slashed to just 73 minutes. An uninterrupted journey between Dhaka and Chattogram will take only 55 minutes.

However, Railways Minister recently told this correspondent that the government would go slow to implement the project as it would require huge investment.  
 As part of the government's plans to bring the entire country under the rail network and establish a direct link between the under-construction Payra Sea Port and the capital, BR intended to construct the rail line from Bhangra to Payra.  
 The line will cost around \$4.93 billion (Tk 41,797.6 crores), BR documents show.  
 To connect the under-construction and proposed Matarbari power plants and proposed deep seaport with Chattogram-Dohazari rail corridor, BR is planning to construct a new dual gauge line from Chakaria to Maheshkhali.  
 The estimated cost of the project would be \$1552.95 million.  
 Another project is for establishing a dedicated BG depot and workshop with all modern facilities for the maintenance of BG rolling stock of BR's east zone.  
 It would cost around \$944.15 million for the construction of carriage, wagon and locomotive workshops, fueling facilities and depot BG rolling stock at Daripara in Gazipur's Kaliganj upazila.  
 The last project for procuring 46 BG locomotives, which would cost around \$268.09 million.  
 Sheikh Sakil Uddin Ahmed, joint secretary (planning) of the railways ministry said they have made the proposal earlier and will discuss it in the (BR-IGC) meeting.  
 An ERD official said the issue related to the railway sector would be discussed at an expert-level meeting on December 14 and a chairperson level meeting on December 15 too.

# Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 16  
 Mission Concept.  
 The team members are Barnita Basak Trisha and Momentul Haque from Bangladesh Army University of Engineering and Technology; and Sumit Chanda, Samir Imtiaz, Shishir Kairy and Alvi Rownok from Khulna University of Engineering & Technology.  
 There were over 28,000 participants from 162 countries in the contest which included 28 challenges and over 2,800 projects.  
 The theme for NASA Space Apps Challenge 2021 was "Virtual Planetary Exploration V2.0", for which participants had to create interactive 3D models of geology tools that astronauts can use when exploring surfaces of celestial bodies or planets.  
 Team Mohakash came up with the concept of Advanced Regolith Sampler System: a battery-powered motor tool consisting of bucket blades. The buckets are placed in a certain sequence to easily scoop materials known as regoliths, which are fragments found on planetary surfaces.



**জাতির পিতা**  
**বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান**

## ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ

### দিবস ২০২১

১২ ডিসেম্বর

“বিপুলসংখ্যক তরুণ সমাজের জন্য একটি তথ্যপ্রযুক্তিনির্ভর আধুনিক ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ বিনির্মাণ সরকারের অঙ্গীকার। আজ ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ স্বপ্ন নয়, বাস্তবতা।”

“আমাদের লক্ষ্য স্ব-নির্ভরতা। আন্তর্জাতিক সহযোগিতা, সম্পদ ও প্রযুক্তিবিদ্যার শরিকানা মানুষের দুঃখ-দুর্দশা হ্রাস করিবে এবং আমাদের কর্মকাণ্ডকেও সহজতর করিবে, ইহাতে কোন সন্দেহ নাই। নতুন বিশ্বে অত্যদয় ঘটিতেছে। আমাদের নিজেদের শক্তির উপর আমাদের বিশ্বাস রাখিতে হইবে।”

“অনুকরণ নয় উদ্ভাবন, ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশের দর্শন। আমরা এখন বাংলাদেশ গড়তে চাই যেখানে প্রতিটি মানুষ তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি জানসম্পন্ন হবে, উদ্ভাবন আর গবেষণায় ভর করে বাংলাদেশ চতুর্থ শিল্পবিপ্লবে নেতৃত্ব দেবে।”

**শেখ হাসিনা এমপি**  
মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী  
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

“ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ হচ্ছে ‘ফিলোসফি অব রেভোলুশন’। এই প্রযুক্তি-বিপ্লবের মধ্য দিয়ে অর্থনৈতিক সমৃদ্ধি এনে একটি ক্ষুধা ও দারিদ্রমুক্ত বাংলাদেশ এবং ২০৪১ সাল নাগাদ একটি উন্নত বাংলাদেশ গড়াই আমাদের লক্ষ্য।”

**জুনায়েদ আহমেদ পলক এমপি**  
মাননীয় প্রতিমন্ত্রী  
তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি বিভাগ

“আমাদের দেশে যদি সকল মানুষের জন্য দেশীয় ডিজিটাল ডিভাইস উৎপাদন করতে পারি তাহলে যেমন আমাদানির বিকল্প তৈরি হবে, একইসাথে নিজেদের দেশের নেটওয়ার্ক তৈরির ক্ষেত্রে আমরা শক্তিশালী করতে পারব।”

**এ.কে.এম. রহমতুল্লাহ এমপি**  
মাননীয় সভাপতি, ডাক, টেলিযোগাযোগ ও তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয় সম্পর্কিত স্থায়ী কমিটি

“ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ বাস্তবায়নের এই অভিযাত্রায় বর্তমানে গ্রাম ও শহরের ডিজিটাল বৈষম্য হ্রাসের অনন্য হাতিয়ার হয়ে উঠেছে তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি।”

**এন এম জিয়াউল আলম পি.এ**  
সিনিয়র সচিব  
তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি বিভাগ

## ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশঃ স্বপ্ন থেকে বাস্তবে

**ই-গভর্নমেন্ট** ২১০০ টি ডিজিটাল সেবা

**ইভাস্টি প্রমোশন** ১.৩ বিলিয়ন ডলার আইসিটি রপ্তানি

**কানেক্টিং বাংলাদেশ** ১৩ কোটি ইন্টারনেট ব্যবহারকারী

**দক্ষ মানবসম্পদ** ২০ লক্ষ কর্মসংস্থান

**২০২৫ সালের লক্ষ্য**

- আইসিটি রপ্তানি ৫ বিলিয়ন ডলারে উন্নীত করা;
- তথ্য যুক্তিতে কর্মসংস্থান ৩০ লক্ষে উন্নীত করা;
- সরকারি সেবার শতভাগ অনলাইনে পাওয়া নিশ্চিত করা;
- আরও ১ লক্ষ ৯ হাজার ওয়াইফাই সংযোগ;
- ডিজেড ডিজিটাল সেন্টার প্রতিষ্ঠা;
- আরও ৩৯ শুল্ক অব ফিউচার প্রতিষ্ঠা;
- আরও ২৫ হাজার শেখ রাসেল ডিজিটাল ল্যাব প্রতিষ্ঠা করা;
- আরও ২৫ হাজার শেখ রাসেল ডিজিটাল ল্যাব প্রতিষ্ঠা করা;
- আরও ২৫ হাজার শেখ রাসেল ডিজিটাল ল্যাব প্রতিষ্ঠা করা;
- আরও ২৫ হাজার শেখ রাসেল ডিজিটাল ল্যাব প্রতিষ্ঠা করা;

**২১০০ টি** ডিজিটাল সেবা

**৫২০০০ টি** ওয়েবসাইট

**৮,২৮০ টি** ডিজিটাল সেন্টার

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