

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

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

BSRM building a safer nation

Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

Work in progress using Shah Cement

SHAH CEMENT

Commute APPALLING

Journey on Rokeya Sarani turns nightmare due to poor maintenance, construction work

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Large potholes, contraflow lanes, overflowing drains and long tailbacks make the commute through the capital's Begum Rokeya Sarani an exercise in patience.

The situation has been more or less the same since the construction of metro rail began in 2016.

On rainy days, the large potholes get covered in muddy water, making it harder for motorists to avoid them.

The authorities do not seem too keen on repairing the road. Besides, no traffic police can be seen on the road between Mirpur 10 and Agargaon most of the time.

For the last couple of months, long tailbacks are often caused by the around one-and-a-half kilometer contraflow between Taltola and Kazipara. Sometimes it takes over half an hour to travel the distance in a vehicle.

The absence of traffic police means vehicles and rickshaws park on the road and buses pick up and drop passengers completely blocking traffic flow.

"The number of trips we could make have halved, thanks to the state of Rokeya Sarani," said Jibon, driver of a Mirpur Link Paribahan bus.

Hasan, driver of a Bikalpa Paribahan bus, said the road wouldn't be in this state if VIPs were using it.

DNCC and Metro rail are pointing fingers at each other.

Shawkat Mahmud, superintendent engineer of Drainage circle of Dhaka North City Corporation, said the metro rail authority requested the corporation not to work on its underground sewer pipes.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



One side of the Begum Rokeya Sarani completely gridlocked as the other part has been closed for several weeks for the city corporation's development work on drainage system in East Shearapara area. Poor road surface coupled with construction work on drainage and metro rail have made the daily commute to work arduous.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

KHALEDA'S TREATMENT Lawyer files writ seeking HC directive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court lawyer Md Eunus Ali Akond yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court seeking its directive to allow BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to go abroad for advanced treatment.

Since November 13, the 76-year-old former prime minister has been in the critical care unit of Dhaka's Evercare Hospital, where she is taking treatment for liver cirrhosis.

To save her life, her doctors said she needs a transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt, a medical procedure available only in medically advanced countries such as Germany, the UK and the US.

But the leader of the main opposition party has been barred by a court from leaving the country after being convicted on corruption charges in 2018.

Her family filed petitions to allow her to

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



Shobdo Sainik Mushtari Shafi no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Eminent writer and Shaheedjaya (wife of a Liberation War martyr) Begum Mushtari Shafi, who also worked as a Shobdo Sainik at the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra during the Liberation War, passed away in Dhaka yesterday.

She was 84. Begum Mushtari died at the Intensive Care Unit of Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka around 5:10pm, confirmed her son Mehraj Tahsin Shafi.

She was suffering from different health issues, including kidney, urine and blood infection as well as

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Superman #1 comic fetches \$2.6m at auction



AP, New York

A rare copy of a Superman #1 comic book that sold on newsstands for a dime in 1939 was purchased for \$2.6 million in an auction.

The comic showing Superman leaping over tall buildings on the cover was sold Thursday night to a buyer who wishes to maintain a secret identity, according to ComicConnect.com, an online auction and consignment company.

The seller, Mark Michaelson, bought the comic in 1979 from its original owner and kept it in a temperature-controlled safe. Michaelson, now semi-retired and living in Houston, paid his way

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

Ruma Sarkar gets bail after 61 days in jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruma Sarkar, assistant professor of Begum Badrunnessa Government Girls' College, yesterday got bail from the High Court after spending 61 days in jail in a Digital Security Act case.

She was previously denied bail twice by lower courts.

The HC granted her bail until the submission of the police report to the trial court, clearing the way for her to walk out of Kashimpur jail.

The court also issued a rule asking the state to explain why Ruma should not be granted permanent bail in this case.

The bench of Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim and Justice Md Atoar Rahman delivered the order and issued the rule following a petition filed by Ruma seeking bail.

Zi Khan Panna, lawyer of rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra which is

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

POST-COUP MYANMAR

Probe reveals mass murder

At least 40 civilians tortured, killed in revenge attacks by military



AGENCIES

At least 40 extra-judicial killings were conducted by the Myanmar military in July this year, according to a report.

The killings allegedly took place in central Myanmar's Kani Township in four separate incidents in the span of less than a month, the BBC reported yesterday following an investigation with Myanmar Witness, a UK-based NGO.

Eyewitnesses said the military rounded up villagers before separating the men and killing them. The men were allegedly tortured before they

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

UP chairman getting walkovers continues

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

One in nine Union Parishad chairman is being elected unopposed in the UP polls.

With 52 more UP chairman runners set to be elected unopposed on January 5, a total of 352 chairmen will be elected uncontested in the UP polls.

Polls will be held in 714 unions that day, which will be the fifth phase of the election. Elections to 2,203 unions have taken place so far in three phases. The fourth phase will be held in 840 other unions on December 26.

In 2016, a total of 207 chairmen were elected unopposed in 4,107 UPs, meaning one in 20 chairmen were elected uncontested.

Most of the chairman candidates elected unopposed are Awami League nominees, said election observers.

The BNP and many other political parties are not taking part in the polls.

Election Commissioner Mahub Talukdar had expressed dismay over the phenomenon.

"I want to say metaphorically that elections are now in ICU and democracy is on life support... Literally, this cannot be called an election. There is no election when there is no competition," Mahub said last month.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Kushtia court bins case against Murad

STAR REPORT

A Kushtia court yesterday rejected a case filed against former state minister for information and broadcasting Murad Hassan and Muhammad Mohiuddin Helal Nahid, a Facebook live talk show host.

The case was filed for making offensive comments on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, its acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his daughter Zaima Rahman during a Facebook Live and disseminating false information.

Hafizur Rahman Munir,

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 21

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:25 12:45 3:45 5:24 7:00
JAMAAT 6:00 1:15 4:00 5:27 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



WINTER WOES... A woman covers herself with a plastic sheet, while others manage to stay warm with whatever clothes they have as the season's first cold wave began yesterday. While many people enjoy the chill in the air during this time, those living on the streets struggle to find enough clothes to keep warm. The photo was taken early yesterday in the capital's Karwan Bazar area.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Star HEALTHLINE

Why do we **SLEEP MORE IN WINTER?**

STAR HEALTH DESK

Sleeping in feels a lot better during this cold season than it does in others. Rolling out of bed in the morning and staying awake past sundown feels harder. But is there any scientific reason behind it?

As opposed to summer, winter has shorter days. The change in sleeping habits during winter is mainly due to this reduction in daylight hours which creates a great, natural opportunity to spend more time sleeping.

The shorter

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

Hyginex Instant hand sanitizer

BEACON Pharmaceuticals Limited