



In the biting cold of the morning, it has become increasingly difficult for people to get out for school or work, leaving the comfort of their bed and blanket behind. But once you're out, the winter can offer up a variety of incredible scenes, like the timeless appeal of dewdrops on tiny flower petals. This photo was taken from Modhupur area of Tangail recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HUQ

## NHRC bound by legal constraints

Commission chief says on investigating law enforcement agencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) cannot carry out independent investigations into allegations of human rights violations by law enforcement agencies due to legal bindings, said its chairperson Nasima Begum yesterday.

"We can launch a probe [on human rights violation] against any government official, except members of law enforcement agencies. This is a constraint we're burdened with," she said, adding that they have to depend on the government's inquiry reports in such cases.

The NHRC boss said this at a virtual dialogue between the commission and human rights activists organised by Ain o Salish Kendra.

Quoting sub-section 18 of the National Human Rights Commission Act 2009, Nasima said there is no time bar for the submission of such reports by the government.

As a result, the NHRC does not get probe reports of such matters on time.



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**NASIMA BEGUM**  
NHRC chairperson

To resolve the conundrum, NHRC has some proposed amendments in this regard.

According to the Ain o Salish Kendra, at least 67 people died in extrajudicial killings till November this year. Of them, 40 died in crossfires, 17 in shootouts and six from torture. In addition, around 78 people died in jail custody while six people were victims of enforced disappearances.

**ASK REPORT SHEDS LIGHT ON MORE VIOLENCE**

According to the report, 13 journalists received threats from ruling party members or its affiliates, while 130 people died in political violence.

Meanwhile, 213 women were killed by their husbands, 547 children were killed and 1,247 women were raped in the first eleven months of this year.

The report also shows that 301 people from religious minority groups were injured, while 184 houses and 204 of their temples came under attack.

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## Five killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed in road crashes across the country yesterday, report our correspondents.

In Panchagarh, a father and his son were killed in a collision between a truck and their motorbike on Panchagarh-Banglabandha highway in Board Bazar area in the district's sadar upazila.

The victims were identified as Manir Uddin (70) and his son Rezaul Karim. The accident occurred around noon, leaving the father and son critically injured, said police.

Locals rushed them to Panchagarh Modernised Sadar Hospital, where the on-duty doctor declared them dead.

Highway police are preparing to file a case with Panchagarh Police Station in this regard, said police.

Meanwhile, a college student was killed and two others were injured in another incident in Tangail's Mirzapur area.

The deceased was identified as Akhi Akter (18), an HSC examinee. Akhi and her mother Farida Yasmin, an assistant teacher at a local high school, were returning home on a CNG-run three-wheeler driven by her uncle after her HSC exam.

According to police, the accident occurred around noon when the vehicle fell into Banshi river in Firingipara area on Mirzapur-Patharghata road after Fahad Miah, the driver and Akhi's uncle, lost control of the vehicle. Locals rescued Akhi's mother and her uncle but Akhi drowned.

Divers from the fire service and civil defence recovered her body around 2:00pm.

In a separate accident, two motorcyclists were killed on the spot after an unidentified vehicle ran them over on Chattogram-Cox's Bazar highway around 1:00am.

The deceased were identified as Tauhid Hossain (28) and Salahuddin (25).

While crossing Mitha Dighi in Satkania, an unidentified vehicle ran them over, said police, who are currently investigating the incident.

## Full-fledged classes on hold till March

Says education minister; schools to get over 95pc textbooks by Dec 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will observe the Covid-19 situation till March before resuming full-fledged classes at schools, Education Minister Dipu Moni said yesterday.

"If the Covid situation doesn't worsen by March [2022], educational institutions will be able to resume full-fledged classes. Till then, they will be run on a limited scale," she added.

Earlier on September 12, primary and secondary schools partially resumed classes after remaining shut since March 17, last year.

Speaking on the Omicron variant of the novel coronavirus, which is spreading fast across many parts of the globe, including Europe and America, the education minister said, "We will need to be patient and remain alert."

The minister said this while visiting a printing press in Dhaka's Matuail to inspect preparations for the delivery of free textbooks for the next academic year.

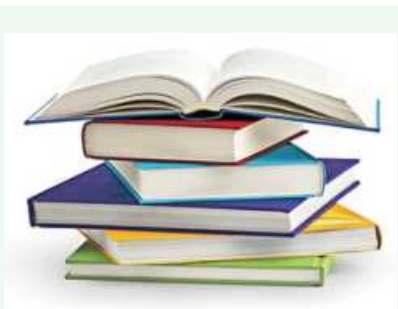
Dipu Moni said the distribution of textbooks on the first day of January is still uncertain due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation.

She, however, hoped that more than 95 percent of the textbooks will reach primary and secondary schools across the country by December 31.

"The rest of the books will be delivered by January 7. Students will get their copies in time," she assured.

Dipu Moni said the binding of over 17 crore textbooks has already been completed, though some still remain unfinished.

She also said officials of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) are visiting the press twice a week.



### AT A GLANCE

- More than 95pc textbooks by Dec 31
- Remaining ones by Jan 7
- Binding works of over 17cr books completed
- No 'textbook festival' due to pandemic
- Books to be distributed in classrooms

Printing is going on in 200 presses -- 158 for printing books of secondary schools and 42 for primary schools, the minister added.

The minister also said action will be taken if the supplier printing company provides substandard textbooks, reports UNB.

For a decade, children have started their new school year with the smell of freshly printed textbooks, but this may change for all pre-primary and secondary students this year.

The government is set to distribute over 34.70 crore textbooks to over 4.17 crore pre-primary, primary and secondary students for the 2022 academic year.

## He dies 100 times, only to come back

Speakers urge more research on Karl Marx's work to understand Bangladesh's dev, political system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To help understand the reality of Bangladesh's development, political process and state system, more studies on Karl Marx's works are needed, speakers said at a discussion yesterday.

They also said the ideology and writings of the German philosopher, who developed the socio-political theory of communism along with many useful analytical frameworks, have proved to be relevant every time the world has faced a financial crisis or recession.

"Despite dying a hundred times, Karl Marx always makes a return every time there's a significant crisis in global economics," Jahangirnagar University Professor Anu Muhammad said while delivering the Abdul Ghafur Memorial Lecture 2021, named after the macro-economist and former research director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

The session, titled "Marx Studies in Bengal: Some Critical Reflections", was organised by BIDS.

Speakers at the programme identified Marx as one of the most influential characters in social history, with his writing changing the course of history in a significant way. Through his writing, Marx sought the emancipation of humankind, free from exploitation and oppression, they said.

During his lecture, Anu Muhammad said more academic and non-academic discussions on Marx has seen an upward trend worldwide after 2007-2008, when the world faced massive recessions. "If we can expand on his analytical framework, it could help us transcend all kinds of discriminations in our analysis, including gender, race, colour, inequality, repression, non-democracy and others," he said.

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Distinguished Fellow, Debapriya Bhattacharya, said there are two parts of Marxist philosophy: one his analytical framework on economics and politics, the other his theory of a political party and its implementation. He said in recent years, the relevance of the former has increased manifold.

Speakers at the session, including CPD Distinguished Fellow Mustafizur Rahman, emphasised on simple Bangla translations of Marx's works.

Planning Minister MA Mannan was also present at the programme virtually.

## MORE NEWS

### 'No development at the cost of environment'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Ecosystem Based Approach (EBA) project director Dr Md Sohrab Ali yesterday said there can be no development in the Haor area by destroying the environment and the ecosystem.

Local people have to be involved in the development process, and a central database will be created in this regard, he added.

He made these remarks at a technical consultation meeting on Hakaluki's adaptation of Ecosystem Based Approach (EBA) at Kulaura Upazila Parishad in Moulvibazar.



PHOTO: TITU DAS

As jingle bells ring with the message of Christmas' arrival, Barishal's St Peter's Cathedral was adorned with lights and traditional street art to welcome the occasion.

### 24 dengue patients hospitalised in 24 hours

UNB, Dhaka

Twenty-four dengue patients were hospitalised in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to the DGHS.

With the new cases, the total number of dengue patients this year rose to 28,323. At least 104 people have died of dengue infection in the country this year.

## Easy access is the key

Speakers on making sexual, reproductive health info more accessible to adolescents

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Information related to sexual and reproductive health must be made more accessible to the adolescent population of the country, speakers said at a views-exchange meeting in Mymensingh city yesterday.

The meeting was held at Brac Learning Centre in the city's Char Kalibari area, where journalists and youth group members under Brac's "Right Here Right Now" programme participated.

According to the speakers, there are pre-existing taboos in our society regarding discussions related to sexual and reproductive health.

These need to be eliminated to ensure the wellbeing of the country, they added.

The speakers also emphasised the importance of discussing these issues with guardians of adolescents, local leadership, government officials, teachers and religious leaders.

Among others, journalists Md Babul Hossain, AHM Motalab, Abdul Hashim, Abul Kashem, Sheikh Mohiuddin Ahmed, MA Motalab, Md Mofizuddin, Salahuddin Belal and Md Mustafizur Rahman spoke at the meeting conducted by Brac district coordinator Md Jahangir Alam and district youth mobiliser Nusrat Jahan.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- More access to info
- Eliminating taboos
- Open discussions
- Generating awareness



The Mayor Mohammed Hanif Flyover in the capital's Jatrabari was riddled with incessant traffic congestion all day yesterday, leading people to get off their vehicles and start walking towards their destinations. This is quite ironic, given that the flyover was built with the express aim of reducing traffic pressure, in the area and across the city.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## LEAKED PHONE CALL Charges pressed against BNP's Amir Khasru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram police have pressed charges against BNP standing committee member and former commerce minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury in a case filed on charge of conspiring to destabilise the country by instigating a student movement.

SI Sanjoy Guha of Counter Terrorism unit of Chattogram Metropolitan Police submitted the charge sheet to a court on Wednesday against Khasru and a BNP activist, Milhanur Rahman Nowmi, under the Special Powers Act, CMP Deputy Commissioner Farook-ul-Haque told The Daily Star yesterday.

Jakaria Dastagir, general secretary of Chattogram city unit of BCL, filed the case after a phone conversation of the two had been leaked.

However, the two have been charged with the Special Power Act only as police placed a final report, saying that charges against Khasru brought under the

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