

# The Daily Star

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SECOND EDITION

**Farewell Tutu**  
South Africa's anti-apartheid hero laid to rest in state funeral



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## POLITICS

# Coming out of lull

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE AND MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

After a somewhat uneventful period amid the pandemic, politics began heating up in the latter part of 2021 over the Union Parishad polls and the formation of the Election Commission.

Things began to change ahead of the first phase of the UP polls in June. As voting took place in the following phases, deadly clashes, election boycotts and rigging were reported in multiple districts.

Commentators say politics will continue to make headlines until the end of 2023 when the next parliamentary elections are scheduled to take place.

Al-Masud Hasanuzzaman, professor of political science at Jahangirnagar University, said in 2021, people saw clashes among Awami League activists while the BNP was plagued by the absence of a strong leadership.

Most of the political parties have limited their activities to online platforms since the beginning of the pandemic.

There were no major political programmes of the AL in the months following April 2020 when Covid-19 began to spread.

Towards the end of 2021, controversial remarks of former Gazipur mayor Zahangir Alam, and former state minister for information Murad Hasan embarrassed the government.

The BNP continued to be in a bad shape last year, struggling to reorganise. Its leaders and activists

**Politics will continue to make headlines until the end of 2023 when the next parliamentary elections are scheduled to take place.**

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## JOYOUS START

Children begin school year with new books; many yet to get full sets

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

School authorities handed over new textbooks to students yesterday, the first day of the academic year, though many authorities could not give full sets of secondary textbooks.

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## EC FORMATION

Another party rejects invite to dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Andolon Bangladesh yesterday rejected President Abdul Hamid's invitation to a dialogue on the formation of the next election commission.

Earlier, four other political parties – BNP, Communist Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal – declined to have the talks, saying "it would be meaningless".

In a formal letter to the president, CPB said they held a dialogue with him in 2017 on the formation of a new EC.

"CPB has nothing new to say on the same issue by participating in another dialogue. That's why we don't see any necessity of joining [the talk]," the letter said.

Meanwhile, a faction of Gonoforum, led by Mostafa Mohsin Montu, yesterday urged Dr Kamal Hossain not to attend today's dialogue with the president, terming it "farfetched and a drama".

This is the first time since 2012 that political parties refused the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Fruits, veggies to last longer

Bangladeshi scientist leads group to develop edible coating

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Led by a Bangladeshi scientist, a group of researchers at Rice University in Texas developed a way to enhance the shelf life of fruits and vegetables using an entirely edible and washable protein-based coating.

The coating, prepared mixing egg white, yolk, cellulose from wood, and a turmeric extract called curcumin, keeps the perishable goods fresh for days. It is not expensive, neither does it change their appearance or flavour.

Muhammad Maksud Rahman, a Buet graduate and an assistant research professor at Rice University's



**Dr Muhammad Maksud Rahman supervises work of one of his students at Rice University in Texas, US.**

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Department of Materials Science & NanoEngineering, said he believes sustainable technology can solve some of the humanity's greatest problems. This is what inspired him to work on food safety and preservation, something that concerns him.

"We are living in a world where a huge quantity of food gets wasted even before they reach consumers due to issues centring supply-

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



কোটি মানুষের সমৃদ্ধির পথচলায় সাথে থেকে  
বিকাশ আজ দেশসেরা ব্র্যান্ড ৩য় বারের মতো

**অসামান্য এই অর্জন  
আমার, আপনার, সবার**

BEST BRAND AWARD  
Bangladesh  
2021

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BKASH  
OVERALL BEST BRAND 2020

BKASH  
OVERALL BEST BRAND 2019

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Bangladesh  
BRAND  
FORUM  
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ওভারঅল বেস্ট ব্র্যান্ড অ্যাওয়ার্ড, ২০২১

বিকাশ, একটি ব্র্যান্ড যাকে প্রতিদিন



## Bags of beef hung on temple doors, house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, LALMONIRHAT

Raw beef packed in polythene bags were hung on the doors of three Hindu temples and a house in Gendukuri village of Lalmonirhat's Hatibandha upazila in the early hours of Friday.

Four complaints were filed with Hatibandha Police Station later that night over the matter.

Yesterday, local Hindus gathered at Sri Sri Radha Govinda temple in the village to protest the incident. They said their religious sentiments were hurt and that they would continue the protest until the culprits were arrested.

Talking to The Daily Star, Dilip Kumar Singh, president of Hatibandha Upazila Pujya Ujjapan Parishad, said raw beef in polythene bags were hung over the doors of Gendukuri Camp Para Sri Sri Radha Govinda Mandir, Gendukuri Kuthipara Kali Mandir, Gendukuri Battala Kali Mandir and Monindranath Barman's house.

After locals saw them, they informed the matter to the police, who then visited the spot. Dilip said, adding, "Police have assured us that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



Posters line a street in Noarda area as politicians in Narayanganj launch full-on campaign ahead of the election to Narayanganj City Corporation scheduled for January 16.

PHOTO: SANAD SAHA

# Cash incentive on remittance now 2.5pc

Govt gunning for \$26b inflows in fiscal 2022-23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

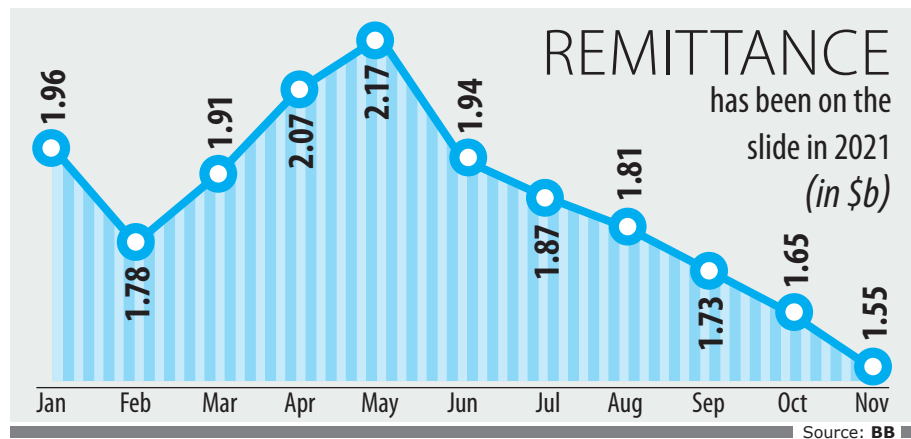
The government yesterday increased the cash incentive for sending remittance through the official channel to 2.5 percent from 2 percent as it looks to stem the tide of sliding inflows.

Between June and November last year, which is the latest available data of the central bank, expatriate Bangladeshis sent home about \$10.6 billion, down 17.1 percent year-on-year.

In the first 11 months of 2021, expatriate Bangladeshis sent home \$20.4 billion, meaning the country will still register a record-setting year of remittance.

In 2020, a record \$21.7 billion was received in remittance, which has progressively become a pillar for the economy, helping it to prevent a crash-landing during the pandemic.

The government has set a target of receiving \$26 billion in remittance this



fiscal year and Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal is hoping the higher cash incentive will help to hit the number. Bangladesh received \$24.6 billion last fiscal year, up 36 percent from fiscal 2019-20.

There is a charge for sending

remittances through the legal channel and the cash incentive offsets that, Kamal said at a virtual press briefing yesterday.

"We are trying to bring remittance through the right channel -- that is why the incentive has been increased," he added.

## COVID VACCINE

### Special campaign launches to jab 3.32 cr people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a target to inoculate 3.32 crore people with the first dose of Covid-19 vaccine, the government launched a special vaccination campaign yesterday.

"The campaign will continue throughout January at certain ward-level centres," Shamsul Haque, a line director at the health directorate, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has been conducting the regular Covid-19 vaccination campaign at 1,005 centres across the country.

So far, 5.18 crore people have received two Covid shots.

Meanwhile, the DGHS reported 370 new cases in the last 24 hours since 8:00am yesterday. During that period, four Covid-19 patients were reported dead, raising the total number of fatalities to 28,076.

## Another party rejects

FROM PAGE 1

president's invitation for dialogues on the formation of the EC.

The talks with the registered political parties began on December 20 and, so far, eight political parties including the main opposition in parliament -- Jatiya Party -- have attended.

The five-year tenure of the current EC, led by Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda, will expire on February 14.

Till yesterday, President Hamid has invited 16 political parties.

According to the EC website, there are currently 39 registered political parties. However, only nine have representation in parliament.

Islamic Andolon Bangladesh at a press conference in the party headquarters yesterday

said they are rejecting the president's dialogue as they were disappointed with the past talks, in 2012 and 2017, regarding EC formation.

"The Election Commission, formed following the 2012 dialogue, organised unilateral elections in 2014 to reflect the will of those in power, in which 153 MPs were shown to be elected unopposed," said Rezaul Karim, ameer of IAB, in the briefing.

He added that in 2017, the EC, formed after yet another such dialogue, was responsible for a controversial and unacceptable election in 2018.

"These two national elections were so controversial and rigged that they have left us extremely frustrated and embarrassed as a nation.

"What is even more infuriating is that the president, who appointed

the election commissioners, had not held the EC accountable for the scandalous elections. He did not take any action against the commission. As a result, the dialogue with him seems meaningless to us."

The IAB chief also said none of the proposals they had earlier placed before the president in dialogues over holding a free and fair election were evaluated.

"He could not go beyond the interests of the party that elected him as president... People [already] think that the president's dialogue will not be fruitful. The previous talks have failed to meet the people's expectations and there will be no exception this time.

"Therefore, we do not consider it appropriate to take part in such a meaningless dialogue contrary to the aspirations of the people."

## Fruits, veggies to last longer

FROM PAGE 1

chain. At the same time, one in nine still goes to bed with an empty stomach every night and a third of the world's population suffer from malnutrition," he told The Daily Star in an interview lately.

His concerns also stemmed from the indiscriminate use of highly toxic preservatives like formalin in some countries, including Bangladesh. Wax coating is also commonly used, but studies found that it affects the human body.

Maksud, who was born in Chattogram and did his PhD at Cornell University in 2016 on "Protein-based Green Resins and Nanocomposites from Waste Residues", started looking for a safe and sustainable green strategy to preserve perishable goods without altering their biological and physicochemical characteristics.

Following extensive research, he settled on working to develop a protein-based biocompatible and sustainable alternative. He came up with the idea of using eggs because about three percent of all eggs produced in the US, or 200 million, end up in landfills, he said.

In 2018, Maksud and four of his students created the egg-based coating. In their initial experiment, they coated a few avocados fully with the mixture and kept some uncoated.

After a week, the eureka moment came when they found that the non-coated avocados turned black, whereas the coated ones were still green. "That was

the very first positive sign of what was about to come, and we were really excited about the results," Maksud recalled.

He extended the experiment to other perishable food items such as bananas, papayas, and strawberries. He observed the same result: the uncoated ones ripened, while the coated fruits almost remained the same in terms of freshness.

Maksud explained that the egg-based coating significantly reduced oxygen exposure and water-loss -- the two factors responsible for ripening. The coating retained freshness, appearance, and aroma for at least one week longer than the uncoated samples.

Moreover, the coating completely dissolves upon washing for two minutes, thus dispelling worries for the vegans.

The work took one year and three months to complete, said the scientist.

In recognition of his work, Maksud was selected for the prestigious "Herschel M Rich Innovation Award" at Rice University in 2019. He was also selected as the "Sustainable Technologies Category Winner" in Create the Future Design Contest, a worldwide competition organised by Tech Briefs last year.

Maksud believes in collaboration to bring the best out of science. He took help from knowledge in the related field and noted academics like Prof Pulickel Ajayan at Rice University to develop the solution.

Currently, the team is set to test alternatives

created with soy and corn proteins so that the coating can address the allergy issue related to eggs. Moreover, the researchers are extending their work to extract the protein from various fruits and vegetable wastes that are going to be used for producing the coating for vegans.

Additionally, the researchers will also work to test a spray protein to make it easier for both commercial providers as well as consumers looking for an at-home option.

For making the product commercially, the researchers are now carrying out technological-economic analysis.

"This will bring down the cost of the coating industry, cut food waste and help recycle food," said Maksud.

The scientist plans to roll out a startup early next year.

Asked about his thoughts on Bangladesh, Maksud said, "My beloved country has given me a lot; now it is my time to give something back."

He believes that the country has a huge pool of talented students and researchers, and he is interested in providing them with a strong research platform so that they can solve different problems with innovation. He hired two Bangladeshi PhD students in his research lab last year who are doing exceptionally well, he said.

Also, he dreams of making his coating technology available in Bangladesh to save his own people from food hazards.

## Search committee for EC will yield no good results

Says Akbar Ali Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The formation of a search committee will yield no good results as the Election Commission will be constituted with the persons picked by the government, said Dr Akbar Ali Khan, noted economist and former adviser to the caretaker government.

The president began talks with registered political parties over the formation of the new EC on December 20.

So far, eight political parties held dialogues on the reconstitution of the EC with the president.

Four political parties -- BNP, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal and Islami Andolon Bangladesh -- refused to join the dialogue.

Addressing a debate programme as chief guest, Akbar Ali Khan said the incumbent EC could protect citizen rights by holding fair polls. But that did not happen.

The five-year term of the incumbent EC will expire on February 14. The president will form a new commission that will hold the 12th parliamentary elections, scheduled to be held in 2023.

There are 39 registered political parties in Bangladesh, according to the EC, and only nine of them have representation in parliament.

Debate for Democracy held the debate on "Local Government's Role in Ensuring Good Governance" at Bangladesh Film Development Corporation

yesterday.

Debate for Democracy Chairman Hasan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron said the incumbent EC could not hold an acceptable election during its tenure.

"Experiences say these dialogues are only formalities. The dialogue will lose its importance as BNP, BSD, CPB and other parties refuse to participate," he said.

While talking about the local government, Akbar Ali Khan said, "Local government does not actually exist in the country. It is actually controlled by the central government."

Pointing out that the local government does not have financial abilities, he said the central government allocated money for the local government.

He said that there should be an independent commission to probe into the irregularities and allegations against the local government.

"To empower the local government, the existing act needs to be changed," he said.



## Joyous start

FROM PAGE 1

Moshiuzzaman, acting chairman of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), hopes all books would be delivered by January 7.

The government is set to distribute about 34.7 crore textbooks to more than 4.17 crore pre-primary, primary and secondary students for the 2022 academic year.

About 2.27 crore primary students will receive 9.98 crore textbooks and 1.89 crore secondary students 24.71 crore textbooks free of cost.

Delays in the tendering process, the issuance of work orders and the other necessary work related to the printing of pre-primary and secondary textbooks have caused delays this year, according to NCTB officials and textbooks printers.

As of December 30, about 22 secondary crore textbooks have been

printed and about 20 crore books have been sent to the upazilas, according to NCTB.

Most primary school books reached the upazila level, while 95 percent of the secondary school books have either reached the upazilas or are on the way, Moshiuzzaman said.

This year, the government could not hold the "Textbook Festival" -- the ceremony to hand out textbooks to secondary and primary students on the first day of the year -- due to the pandemic.

So the school authorities handed over the books to students of different classes in batches. Mask-clad students were seen collecting new books with enthusiasm.

Several class 9 students of Ideal School and College in Motijheel said they got new books but not the full set. They received six

books although they were supposed to get 13 in total.

The students of classes 3 and 5 of Patuakhali's Gabtani Government Primary School only got their Bangla books, according to Mahinur Begum, its headteacher. They were supposed to get six textbooks.

The district primary education officer Mollah Baktar Uddin said they received about 62 percent books of the requisite 9.12 lakh books. "All students will get a full set of books soon," he said.

Netrokona district education officer Abdul Gafur said they have received just over 50 percent of the needed 30.43 lakh copies as of Friday.

"We will not be able to give a full set of books to many students. As we are giving books in phases, students' learning will not be hampered," he added.

talks with the registered political parties to form the next EC. Tenure of the current commission expires on February 14.

The BNP termed the talks pointless and boycotted it.

Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, and Khelafat Majlish also refused to take part in the dialogue. Many people believe some more left-leaning parties may demand elections under a non-partisan interim government.

The AL insists that the EC formation will continue whether other parties participate or not.

AL leaders said they will soon ramp up organisational activities targeting the 2023 polls with central leaders touring the country.

Contacted, AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif said the AL will focus on activities to make the party stronger.

On the other hand, BNP leaders said they will take to the streets, demanding a non-partisan interim government during the election.

BNP standing committee member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said, "We started a movement to restore the peoples' rights. Our movement will intensify in the coming days."

Prof Shantanu Majumder, who teaches political science at Dhaka University, said the BNP does not have what it takes to put pressure on the ruling party as the party is in a leadership crisis.

On the other hand, he said, the UP polls revealed that there is no discipline within the AL.





Of all the things that make winter special, the country's traditional cakes or pithas definitely make the top of the list. While some prefer homemade ones, there is a huge demand for pithas made at roadside carts as well. Bhaqa pitha, made out of rice and molasses and cooked with hot steam, is among the most popular ones of the season. Its taste and warmth make it a crowd favourite at these makeshift roadside carts. This photo was taken from the capital's Farmgate area yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## New CJ pays homage to Bangabandhu



PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newly appointed Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique yesterday paid homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing wreaths at his portrait at Dhanmondi-32.

He also signed the condolence book kept there, Supreme Court Spokesman Md Saifur Rahman told The Daily Star.

Later on, the chief justice went to Savar and paid tribute to the martyrs of the 1971 Liberation War by placing wreaths at National Martyrs' Memorial and signed the book of condolence, he said.

## Underground cables, finally

### DPDC starts installation work in Tejgaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Power Distribution Company (DPDC) finally started installing underground cable networks yesterday, to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply and enhance the city's beautification.

With this initiative, the capital is the second city to get underground networks, the first being Sylhet city.

Monipuripara in Tejgaon area is getting the first underground electricity connection.

DPDC yesterday installed a ring main unit, a type of switchgear, at Khamarbari.

On November 11, 2018, National Economic Council's executive committee passed a three-year project titled "Power distribution system development project under DPDC".

DPDC officials said the project was supposed to kick off last year. But due to the pandemic, the Chinese engineers who were supposed to work on the project could not arrive on time.

"We had some delays, but we are planning to finish the work within the next two years," Bikash Dewan, executive director of DPDC, told The Daily Star.

He said in the project's first phase, only cables by the side of main roads will be removed.

"We started by installing cables that will run for 2.5 kilometres. A total of 29 kilometres of underline cables will be installed soon," he added.

The first phase of the project, installing the network from Jahangir Gate to Bangabhaban and from Gabtoli to Azimpur, will cost Tk 300 crore, said Mohammad Shahed Mahub Bhuiya, the project director.

# MUST PREPARE AHEAD

## Say experts on preventing dengue outbreak this year

### RECOMMENDED MEASURES

- Carry out anti-mosquito drives all year round
- Create separate plans for Aedes, Culex mosquitoes
- Form integrated vector-management cell
- Introduce surveillance from beginning of year
- Raise public awareness



HELEMUL ALAM

December, when the dry season comfortably sets in, should had been a time when the country wouldn't have to worry about dengue. And yet, 87 patients were being treated in hospitals across the country till the last day of 2021, indicating that the vector-borne disease has now become an endemic in Bangladesh.

Fearing an even worse situation this year, entomologists have suggested year-long measures to combat Aedes mosquitoes, specifying that separate programmes should be undertaken for Aedes and Culex mosquitoes.

According to Directorate General of Health Services, in 2021, around 28,429 dengue patients were admitted to hospitals across the country. The death toll stood at 105.

Last year's infections and deaths are the second highest since the first-ever outbreak



in the country in 2000. Bangladesh witnessed the highest dengue cases in 2019, when 1,01,354 patients were infected and 179 died.

Entomologist Prof Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University said dengue has become endemic in Bangladesh. So, authorities will

have to carry out anti-mosquito drives all year round.

Authorities will have to form separate plans for Aedes and Culex mosquitoes, he said.

A situation like that in 2019 may also be witnessed in 2022 or the next few years. The government will have to start an integrated vector-management cell as early as possible, he said.

Entomologist Manjur A Chowdhury, former president of Zoological Society of Bangladesh, said measures the city corporations took in 2021 were not sufficient, and that is why the country

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Invest in research, development

### Hasina urges businesses



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the business community to invest in research and development for determining the product, demand and quality to expand their businesses both at home and abroad.

"I always put emphasis on research. It's also needed in trade and commerce. You need to determine the product, its quality and its demand through research," she said while inaugurating the 26th edition of Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF).

The largest annual commercial and trade event of the country is being held at its permanent venue -- Bangabandhu Bangladesh China Friendship Exhibition Centre -- at Purbachal on the outskirts of the capital for the first time.

Hasina joined the fair virtually from her official residence Gono Bhaban in Dhaka.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi presided over the event.

The fair is being organised by the commerce ministry and the Export Promotion Bureau.

The prime minister also urged the business community to maintain and improve quality of the export items for upholding the image of the country.

## 2022: the year of democracy

### Hopes Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday hoped that the country's democracy will be restored this year.

"We hope this will be the year of freeing people from misrules, democracy will be restored and Khaleda Zia will be released. We are confident that we will be able to establish peoples'

**We hope this will be the year of freeing people from misrules, democracy will be restored and Khaleda Zia will be released. We are confident that we will be able to establish peoples' government in the country.**

government in the country," said Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, party's secretary general.

Placing floral wreath at the party founder Ziaur Rahman's grave in the capital's Chandrima Udyan, to mark the founding anniversary of the party's associate body Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the BNP leader said they decided not to join the talks with the president over the formation of Election Commission as it is "meaningless."

"The current political crisis is not the formation of election commission rather election time government," Fakhrul further said.



"If the Awami League remains in the power during the polls, that election could not be free and transparent," the BNP leader added.

Fakhrul also said the election should be held under a non-partisan and neutral government in the country.

The party also alleged that the government is hatching a conspiracy to kill party chairperson Khaleda Zia.

"Khaleda Zia is fighting for her life in the hospital. She was convicted in a false and politically motivated case. She was deprived of treatment and she was victim of political vengeance," Fakhrul alleged.



আর এফ এল  
গ্রুপেজ

## দুই দশকের পথে চলি একসাথে

এক দশকেরও বেশি সময় ধরে মানুষের আস্থা ও ভালোবাসা বহুগুণ বাড়িয়ে দেয় প্রত্যাশা। টানা ১৯ বার দেশসেরা ব্র্যান্ডের এই অর্জন হোক একসাথে পঞ্চাশের নতুন অনুপ্রেরণা।



f/rflhouseware    r/rflhouseware

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5-30	12-45	4-00	5-30	7-00
Jamaat	6-05	1-15	4-15	5-35	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



## Must prepare

FROM PAGE 3  
witnessed the second highest infections and deaths last year.

Manjur said normally dengue follows a cycle: if there is a huge outbreak one year, the next one faces an outbreak smaller in scale. But for the last few years, this trend has been absent.

Authorities will have to introduce surveillance from the beginning of the year to identify areas with high numbers of Aedes mosquitoes.

In India's Kolkata, workers collect information about dengue and malaria patients from different hospitals and clinics. They then submit reports to authorities, and

the "Rapid Action Teams" take necessary measures, he said.

Dhaka North City Corporation Chief Health Officer Brig Gen Jobaidur Rahman said they are going to introduce a new method to control dengue, using mosquitoes carrying Wolbachia bacteria, this year.

When Wolbachia-carrying mosquitoes breed with female Aedes mosquitoes, which don't have Wolbachia, the Aedes mosquito eggs fail to hatch. This stops the proliferation of mosquitoes that carry the dengue virus.

They have already talked to an organisation in the US about using this method.

In Indonesia and

Singapore, authorities have already applied this method and got good results, he said.

Jobaidur said they are also conducting regular drives, identifying hotspots and asking government and semi-government organisations to clean areas.

Apart from the drives, they are cleaning different water bodies, the health official said.

Dhaka South City Corporation spokesperson Md Abu Nasher also said they have chalked out year-long programmes to curb both Aedes and Culex mosquitoes. They will conduct regular and special anti-mosquito drives.

## Road crashes

FROM PAGE 12

speeding, reckless and unskilled drivers, slow-moving vehicles on highways, reckless motorcycle riders and inadequate traffic management.

It also made 10 recommendations for reducing crashes, including initiatives to train drivers, fixing work hours for them and implementing the Road Transport Act-2018 uninterruptedly.

## Bags of beef

FROM PAGE 2

the culprits will be arrested."

He said they suspect the incident could be linked to the local union parishad polls held on December 26.

Hatibandha Police Station Officer-in-Charge Ershadul Alam said they were investigating the incident. "All involved will be brought to book," he said.

## Dating apps

FROM PAGE 5

Jatrabari Police Station. Junaed Alam Sharkar, ADC of the division, said around 20 dating apps are used in Bangladesh, and police are getting a number of complaints.

He said, "For this reason, we have decided to write to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission to ban use of these apps to stop such crimes in the country."

## Betty White, doyenne

FROM PAGE 12

outpouring of tributes, with President Joe Biden tweeting, "Betty White brought a smile to the lips of generations of Americans. She's a cultural icon who will be sorely missed."

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which hands out the Oscars, said White was "a legend, trailblazer and cultural icon who blessed generations with her talent and humor. She will be truly missed."

White was one of the first woman producers on the 1950s sitcom "Life With Elizabeth," in which she also starred.

Later, as a nonagenarian, she interacted with much younger fans on Instagram. "It's incredible that I'm still in this business -- and you are still putting up with me!" White said at the 2018 Emmys.

In all, she won five primetime Emmys, two daytime awards

including one for lifetime achievement, and a regional Emmy in Los Angeles.

White was inducted into the Television Academy Hall of Fame in 1995. She won three Screen Actors Guild awards, including a lifetime achievement trophy in 2010. In 2011, she took home a Grammy for the audio version of one of her books.

White, whose signature halo of white-blonde hair and clear blue eyes were instantly recognizable, adopted a variety of on-screen personas.

She went from playing a 1950s housewife on "Elizabeth" to a man-hungry 1970s TV personality on "Moore" to a doe-eyed 1980s "Golden Girl" retiree.

Betty Marion White was born on January 17, 1922 in the outskirts of Chicago, United States.

Her family moved to California during the Great Depression.

## Tony Blair and Covid officials receive knighthoods

AFP, London

Queen Elizabeth II on Friday announced a knighthood for former prime minister Tony Blair, while the traditional New Year's Honours also decorated officials who spearheaded Britain's fight against Covid-19.

The Queen personally appointed Blair as Knight Companion of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, the most senior order of knighthood.

She previously knighted former Conservative prime minister John Major in this way in 2005.

## Shamsuddoha new Eastern University chairman

CITY DESK

Dr Shamsuddoha Khandokar has been elected chairman of the board of trustees at Eastern University (EU), said a press release.



Former additional inspector general

of police and the former chairman of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, Shamsuddoha was a student of the department of Geography at Jahangirnagar University.

He conducted doctoral studies on river-research at Manchester University and earned his PhD.

**Narayanganj Club Ltd.**  
Narayanganj Club Limited, one of the oldest recreational club of Bangladesh. It was established on 1893. The club eventually became very popular amongst its members and gained reputation at home and abroad for its outstanding recreational facilities and service quality. In 2021 members of the club stood at more than 2500.

**CAREER OPPORTUNITY**

**Job Title: Secretary**  
Vacancies: 01

**Job Description:**

- Prepare the agenda for club meetings in consultation with the President.
- Make arrangements of venue, date, times and hospitality for club meetings.
- Make arrangements of appointments & meetings of President as well as organize external and internal events.
- Collect and collate reports from office bearers.
- Take the minutes of meetings and write up the minutes as soon as possible after the meeting.
- Read, reply and file correspondence promptly.
- Maintain files of legal documents such as constitutions, leases and titles.
- To perform any other job as and when assigned by the President.
- To keep all the works of administration as well as accounts in the way of correctness and up-to-date and to make assurance of the use of all the assets of the club in proper way.
- Other tasks: handle bookings and entries; supervise uniforms of the employees; respond to general duties as directed by the club committee.

**Knowledge and Skills Required:**  
Ideally the Secretary is someone who:  
● Can communicate effectively.  
● Is well organized and can delegate tasks.  
● Has a good working knowledge of the constitution.

**Job Requirement:**  
Candidate should be a minimum graduate or retired army officer with the rank of Major/Captain along with 4-5 years' experience in administration/secretarial work. Experience of all kinds of club's works will be given preference.

**Salary: Negotiable**  
**Benefits:** Two Festival Bonus & others according to club policy.

**Job Location:** Narayanganj

**Apply Instruction**  
Send your CV with passport size photo to E-mail: [narayanganj\\_clubtd@yahoo.com](mailto:narayanganj_clubtd@yahoo.com) or Address: Narayanganj Club Ltd. 95, Bangabandhu Road, Narayanganj. Phone: 02-7640126-7, 02-7632640  
**N.B. Please apply only right person, Application Deadline: 15 January 2022**

**CAREER OPPORTUNITY**

Raidha Collections Limited (a Sister Concern of Labib Group) is inviting application to fulfil the following Vacancy. It is a 100% export oriented compliant Factory located at Valuka, Mymensingh:

Position	Vacancy	Qualification & Experience	Salary & Benefit
<b>Executive Director (Production)</b>	01	Candidate should be graduate/post graduate in any discipline with minimum 15years' practical experience in Sweater Production, Finishing & Shipment and ideal Candidate should also have practical experience in dealing with minimum 5000 workers and automatic machines of a reputed compliant Sweater Factory.	Attractive salary and benefit will be offered to the deserving candidate.

Interested Candidates are requested to submit their Applications to the HR Department, Labib Group, Tower Alamgir, House # 11/B, Road # 55, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212 by 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2022. Candidates may also submit their Applications to [rumi@labibdyeingbd.com](mailto:rumi@labibdyeingbd.com).

## Colorado wildfire took hold 'in blink of an eye'

AFP, Superior

A fast-spreading wildfire that tore through several Colorado towns -- laying waste to entire neighborhoods "in the blink of an eye," according to the governor -- had largely burned itself out Friday, with heavy snow expected to douse any remaining embers.

At least 500 homes were thought to have been destroyed as the blaze took hold of the town of Superior, just outside the state's biggest city Denver.

**FLAT FOR SALE**  
At Gulshan-1 a well decorated used flat will be sold. Area approx 2200 sqft. Interested party are requested to knock : 01679605709

**Bhawal Badre Alam Govt. College**  
Gazipur

Memo No. BBAGC/CEDP/2021-22/0TM/ Date: 01/01/2022

**e-Tender Notice 02/2021-22**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of package	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
01	641133	Supply of Books and Journals for Libraries and Seminars of Bhawal Badre Alam Govt. College, Gazipur.	17-Jan-2022 at 01:00pm	17-Jan-2022 at 02:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 16-Jan-2022 16:00pm. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Prof. Masuda Sikder**  
Principal  
Bhawal Badre Alam Govt. College  
Cell No. 01712116985, E-mail: [bbacollege@gmail.com](mailto:bbacollege@gmail.com)

GD-01

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
National Academy for Autism and Neuro-developmental Disabilities (NAAND)  
Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education  
Bangladesh, Dhaka

Reference No. DHSE/NAAND/Tender/34(11)/2021/268 Date: 30/12/2021

**e-Tender Notice: GD-2104/2021-22 (Open Tendering Method)**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following work:

e-Tender ID & Package No.	Package description	Tender publication date & time	Last date and time for tender proposal security submission	Tender/proposal closing & opening date and time
643039 GD-2104 2021-22	Procurement of School Workshop Materials	02 January 2022 Time: 10.00am	17 January 2022 Time: 13:00	17 January 2022 Time: 15:00

This is online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Project Director**  
E-mail: [naand2015@gmail.com](mailto:naand2015@gmail.com)  
Phone # 02-41050041

GD-05

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Roads & Highways Department  
Office of the Superintending Engineer  
Road Circle, Moulvibazar  
Phone + Fax: 02-41110074, 0861-62821  
E-mail: [serhdmoulvibazar@gmail.com](mailto:serhdmoulvibazar@gmail.com)

Memo No. 35.01.5800.187.07.7-98.21-2151 Date: 30/12/2021

**e-Tender Notice**

This is to notify all concerned that the following tender (Re-Tender) has been published through e-GP Portal.

Tender ID, Package No. & date of publication	Name of work	Last selling date	Closing and opening date & time
Tender ID No. 643679 Tender Package No. 02/e-GP/PMP-Bridge-Major/SE/RHD/MRC/2021-22 (Re-Tender) Date of publication 30/12/2021 at 17:35pm	Construction of 37.920m (1x 36.580m) long Saran Ray Prestressed Concrete Girder Bridge at Ch. 01+601.00km on Juri-Lathilla Road (R-282) under Road Division, Moulvibazar during the year 2021-2022.	16-Jan-2022 up to 17:00	17-Jan-2022 at 13:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). e-Tenders are invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Moulvibazar. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Mohammad Jahangir Alam**  
ID No. 601929  
Superintending Engineer  
RHD, Road Circle, Moulvibazar

GD-02

**Bangladesh Medical Studies And Research Institute (BMSRI).**  
House # 34, Road # 14/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209.

**INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)**

'Sealed Tenders' in 2(two) separate envelopes one containing Technical Offer and other containing Financial Offer are hereby invited only from Eligible Tenderers for execution and completion of the under mentioned work as per terms and condition stated below:

01	Procuring Entity's Name with address	Bangladesh Medical Studies And Research Institute (BMSRI).Address: House # 34, Road # 14/A, Dhanmondi R/A,Dhaka-1209		
02	Name of the Work	Extension Of Top 4 (Four) Floors of existing 06-Storeyed Building For Bangladesh Medical College Hospital at Dhanmondi, Dhaka. SUB-HEAD: Civil & Architectural, Sanitary, Plumbing, Water Supply & Internal Electrification.		
03	Invitation for Tenders No. & Date	BMCH/TP-01; dated: 02/01/2022		
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>				
04	Procurement Method	Restricted Tendering Method by Invitation. Procurement under Competitive Tendering among Eligible Tenderers under One Stage 2(Two) Envelopes Tendering Method of Technical and Financial Offer.		
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>				
05	Budget and Source of Funds	Procuring Entity's Own Fund		
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>				
06	Tender Document Issuance Date	From: 03-01-2022 to 18-01-2022 upto 2.30 pm		
07	Tender Document Last Issuance Date	Up to:17-01-2022 upto 2.30 pm		
08	Tender Closing Date and Time	Date: 18-01-2022	Time: 12:00 noon	
09	Tender (Technical Offer) Opening Date and Time	Date: 18-01-2022	Time: 12:10 pm	
10	Name & Address of the Officer issuing Tender Document.	<b>Name &amp; Designation</b>	<b>Address:</b>	
a	Issuing the Tender Document	Engr. Shahed Kamal Procurement Manager Phone : 01711-544574	The Bangladesh Medical Studies & Research Institute (BMSRI), House # 34 (5 <sup>th</sup> floor), Road # 14/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka - 1209	
b	Receiving the Tenders	Engr. Jakariya Nasim Resident Engineer Phone : 01711-671402	The Bangladesh Medical Studies & Research Institute (BMSRI) House # 34 (5 <sup>th</sup> floor), Road # 14/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka - 1209	
c	Opening Tenders	Project Director	The Bangladesh Medical Studies & Research Institute (BMSRI) House # 34, Road # 14/A, Dhanmondi R/A,Dhaka - 1209	
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERERS</b>				
11	Eligibility of Tenderer	(i) General Experience of the Tenderer in the Construction field as Prime Contractor or Management Contractor shall be minimum 10 (ten) years. (ii) Experience as a Prime Contractor or Sub- Contractor or Management Contractor shall constructed at least 1 (one) 10 (ten) storied buildings successfully completed within last 5(five) years with minimum value of Tk.10 (ten)Crores. (iii) The required average annual construction turnover shall be greater than Tk. 08Crore over the last 5 (five) years, which shall be supported by documents. (iv) Must have valid Trade License, upto-date Income Tax Clearance Certificate and VAT Registration Certificate. (v) The minimum Tender Capacity of the Tenderer shall be Tk.20 (Twenty)Crores.		
12	Price of Tender Document	Tk. 5,000.00 (Taka Five Thousand)only in cash; non-refundable.		
13	Tender Security Amount	Tk.30,00,000 [Thirty Lac Taka ]only in the form of Pay order / Bank Guarantee from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh in favour of BMSRI.		
14	Time of completion of the work	12 (Twelve) Months from the date of issue of work order.		

(Project Director)  
The Bangladesh Medical Studies & Research Institute (BMSRI)  
House # 34, Road # 14/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka - 1209





A crimson sunset appears marking the end of the day, but not everyone has the luxury to enjoy the view. Just like these workers in the photo who are seen to be loading and unloading food products at Karnaphuli ghat in Chattogram. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Elephant calf found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Cox's Bazar

Forest Department in Cox's Bazar yesterday recovered body of an elephant calf from a foothill adjacent to Unchiprang Rohingya refugee camp in Whykong union of Teknaf upazila.

"Some shepherds saw the calf lying on ground in the morning. They informed the forest officials, who rushed to the spot and found the calf dead," said Md Tareq Rahman, assistant forest conservator at Whykong range office of the Forest Department.

Contacted, Sarwar Alam, divisional forest officer at Cox's South Forest Division, said, "The calf might have died moment after it was born or the mother elephant might have given birth to a dead calf."

"Some people saw two elephants a few yards away from the spot where the calf's body was lying," he said.

The forest officer also informed that sample from the calf's body has been collected for autopsy.

# 'Anchal' saving lives

Parents await reopening of community-based initiative to protect children from drowning

NILIMA JAHAN

In low and middle-income countries, many children die every year by drowning, usually when the parents are occupied with household chores or wage-earning activities.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), 43 percent of children die due to drowning. Every day, at least 30 children aged under five die by drowning.

According to a 2017 WHO report, interventions like community-based institutional supervision during the parents' busiest hours have proved to be useful.

Anchal, a community-based daycare centre in Bangladesh, operated by Centre for Injury Prevention and Research, Bangladesh (CIPRB), has been helping prevent such incidents by providing institutional supervision for vulnerable age groups (under-five) from 9:00am to 1:00pm through trained caregivers.

CIPRB's study also found that death by drowning has dropped by 86 percent in areas where Anchal's free of cost interventions are at play.

"Anchal is a symbol of safety, security and mother's love. It's a day-care centre where parents drop their children at



PHOTO: COLLECTED

the start of the day and pick them up later, after they are done with the day's work," said Dr Aminur Rahman, deputy executive director of CIPRB.

The project is currently supported by Royal National Lifeboat Institution and Bloomberg Philanthropies. Since its inception in 2012, Anchal has been serving around 75,000 children in 3,084 centres.

However, following the government's decision to close educational institutions

for containing the spread of Covid-19 in March 2020, all Anchal centres remained closed.

According to CIPRB data, at least 36 children between March 2020 and November 2021, all beneficiaries of the project, died in Barishal alone due to drowning.

One of those kids was four-year-old Arifa of Kalapara upazila in Patuakhali. Arifa, the youngest of four siblings, drowned in a pond nearby her uncle's home in May 2020. She went there without informing her mother.

According to Arifa's mother Rebeka, Arifa started going to the nearby Anchal centre some eight months before her death, during Rebeka's busy hours of maintaining the household.

"If the centre was open, my daughter's fate could be different," said Rebeka.

According to Nazmun Nahar Jhuma, locally known as "Anchal Ma" (child-caregiver), of Baliatali centre of Kalapara, all the parents are now eagerly waiting for the centres to reopen.

"We are waiting for government orders to start all in-person activities at pre-schools," said Rehana Parveen, ECD specialist of the International Drowning Prevention and Research Division of CIPRB.

## Cop among three killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Three people were killed and another was injured in road accidents during the last two days, according to reports from our correspondent and a news agency.

Our Patuakhali correspondent reports, a policeman was killed and his cousin injured in a road accident in the district yesterday.

The accident took place when a truck without a number plate rammied a motorcycle they were on around 1:00pm at the Payra Bridge toll plaza on Patuakhali-Barishal highway, said police.

The deceased - Shawkat Hossain (45) from Hijlatla village, Barishal - was a constable posted at Patuakhali Police Lines, they said.

He was riding the motorbike towards Patuakhali from Barishal with his cousin Rafiqul Islam sitting on the pillion seat, said Dumki Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Abdus Salam.

Rafiqul was admitted to Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, said the OC, adding that the truck was seized.

UNB from Faridpur adds, two motorcyclists were killed on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Gajaria area of Nagarkanda as their bike was hit by a bus on Friday night.



## A TREAT INDEED

The squirrels race and hurry to find their winter meals, but not this one. This little fellow was seen treating itself to a star fruit, complementing the greeneries around it and serving as a treat to spectators' eyes as well.

The photo was taken from Cumilla on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## PADMA RIVER Measurement of water level starts

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Pabna

Monitoring of water level at different points of the Padma and Ganges, the two major rivers of the neighbouring countries, started yesterday by Bangladesh and India under the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty 1996.

Water Development Board (WDB) sources said the flow of water in the mighty Padma is much better than that of the previous years.

Two Indian experts - Dipankar Das, executive engineer of central river commission, India, and Prakash S, assistant director of Indian central water commission, started recording water level at Hardinge Bridge point, about 2,500 feet upstream of the Padma river, Md Roich Uddin, executive engineer of Hydrology, Pabna, told The Daily Star.

At the same time, a four-member team from Bangladesh, headed by executive engineer Rashidul Kabir, has already reached India and began measuring water level at the downstream of the Farakkah point, he said.

Like every year, Bangladesh and India will record water level at different points of the Ganges and Padma from January 1 to May 31.

## Dating apps new way to extort money

Say law enforcers after arresting 3

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Using dating apps like Tinder, Tantan and Mamba, criminals are extorting money from people by ensnaring and abducting them.

Cyber and Special Crime Division of Detective Branch (DB) revealed the information to The Daily Star after conducting drives at different areas of the capital and arresting three people on Wednesday.

The arrestees are Sonia Meher (18), her father Abdul Jalil Howlader (56), and their associate Yousuf Molla (43).

Investigators said Sonia would first target men through the apps and develop a relationship. After some days, she would invite them to a location, where her father Jalil and Yousuf would be present. Once the target reached the location, Jalil and Yousuf would abduct and confine the man to a flat in Jatrabari, and take compromising photos.

The cybercrime division arrested the three, after a victim on December 28 filed a case with

## Suspension of cops raises questions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) has suspended two police officials for their alleged involvement in drug peddling after arresting two drug peddlers with yaba pills and hemp.

CMP officials didn't reveal this information in the last 10 days and said they were suspended for violating discipline.

The suspended officials are SI Fakhru Islam of Bakalia Police Station and ASI Md Kamal of Akbarshah Police Station, said sources.

Police filed a case accusing two drug peddlers with Akbarshah Police Station - who are allegedly linked with the suspended cops.

However, their names have not appeared with the two accused of the case due to lack of "proper" and "concrete" evidence, said several police officials. The accused are Senowara Begum Shanu (38) and her son Md Abdul Khalek Khokon (25).

During investigation, Lawful Interception Cell of police confirmed the link, said a top CMP official. The suspended SI and ASI were also questioned by the senior police officials along with the drug peddlers.

CMP Commissioner Saleh Mohammed Tanvir said the two officers were suspended on charges of violating departmental rules and discipline. "If anyone is found to be involved with the accused, they will be brought to book," said the CMP boss.

# 3 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

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Jamuna Bhaban, Agrabad C/A, Chattogram

**e-Tender Notice No. 17/2021-22**

Memo No. PD/Dhaka Project/21 Date: 28/12/2021

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works.

Tender ID	Name of works	Tender document last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time	Tender opening date & time
631210	Repair/renovation work of basement (1 & 2) of Jamuna Bhaban, Dhaka.	18/01/2022 15:00 hrs	19/01/2022 15:00 hrs	19/01/2022 15:00 hrs

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

**Md. Mahidur Rahman**  
Project Director

GD-03



# Some people are trying to sabotage my reputation:

SHAKIB KHAN



**After I came to the US, I noticed that some individuals from the film fraternity started spreading rumours about me. A senior filmmaker has also criticised my choice of coming to America.**

ZAHID AKBAR

Superstar Shakib Khan is currently in the USA, planning his upcoming projects. However, rumours about his permanent stay there surfaced in the last few weeks after the actor departed from Dhaka in November.

He spoke to The Daily Star about his upcoming releases, and more.

*A senior film director has been talking negatively about you. What is the reason behind it?*

After I came to the US, I noticed that some individuals from the film fraternity started spreading rumours about me. A senior filmmaker has also criticised my choice of coming to America.

I feel they are taking advantage of my absence but as far as I know, we have no personal disputes.

*Are you looking to take legal action against such individuals?*

Not just for such cases, but my lawyers take

care of all sorts of issues that require legal guidance or involvement. If something extreme happens, they will opt for legal actions on my behalf. I feel some people are trying to sabotage my reputation.

*One other senior director said he plans to make your biopic. What is your take in this regard?*

I don't know anything in this regard. However, if someone wishes to make a biopic, they have to seek permission from the person in question, or their family. But I was not approached for any kind of permission.

I also wish to know, who is writing the screenplay for the production? Not everyone is able or should be allowed to work on the screenplay of a biopic. Having the right, verified information is very important. Like I said before, this is all part of a plan against me.

*How are you spending your time in the US?*

I was busy with some film related events for the first few days. Now I am in talks for a few

new projects. Other than that, I am following my usual routine.

I go to the gym in the morning, and then get busy with meetings for new films. Some of the films that I have been approached for are very promising.

I have come across a lot of familiar faces from my country here too.

*What are your views about Hollywood? Are you visiting the movie theatres?*

Hollywood seems like a dreamland. They have a lot of resources and are very technologically advanced. Bollywood artists are yet to make an impact here, and our industry is even further down the line. I have watched a few Hollywood and Bollywood releases in theatres here in the US. I have realised that the audience now looks to be entertained. Viewers now want to stay away from depressing, sorrowful stories.

## Prince Mahmud and Tanzir Tuhin come together for "Anagoto"



Prince Mahmud's new song, "Anagoto", featuring Tanzir Tuhin, was released under the banner of G Series, on New Year's Eve. The number has been written by Samuel Haque, and Sajid Sarker has done the music arrangement of the track.

"Our previous venture 'Alo' was widely appreciated by the listeners, and thus, we decided to come together once again," shares Prince Mahmud. "Tuhin has sung this song beautifully, and I hope we manage to keep up with the audience's expectations with our effort this time too."

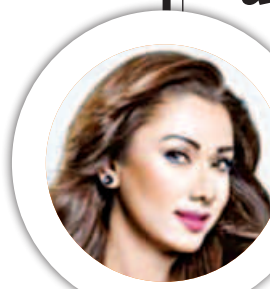
The music video, featuring Tanzir Tuhin and Rani Tripty, is directed by Aktheruzzaman Shawon. The song also features Ahnaf Khan Anik on guitars.

"Prince Mahmud has always been a mentor to me," mentions Tuhin, who has also been praised for the title track of Hoichoi original series, "Boli". "He is an amazing person, and I always look out for opportunities to work with him."



## 'It doesn't matter who the hero is, I can act opposite a tree'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Rashid Polash directorial "Moyurakkhi" will feature popular Dhallywood actress Bobby and debutant Shirin Shela. Khairul Basar was supposed to play a pivotal role, according to reports. However, actor Sudip Biswas Deep has officially signed the role.

"I am not sure what exactly happened, the producer and director can explain," says the actress. "It doesn't matter who the hero is, can even act opposite a tree."

The director informed The Daily Star that the shooting begins from January 15.

# COUNTRY



Temporary hawkers' markets for second-hand warm clothes in Faridpur town see a large number of people coming to buy used warm clothes.

## SECOND-HAND WARM CLOTHES

### Makeshift markets buzzing with buyers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The hawkers' markets of second-hand warm clothes in different areas of Faridpur town are buzzing with buyers due to the current spell of bone-chilling cold.

Apart from those, belonging to the poor and low-income families, people from well-off families are also thronging the market to buy warm clothes at cheap rates.

However, buyers claimed that the prices of second-hand warm clothes are much higher this year.

During a recent visit to Mahakali and Thana road area, it was found that people of all ages were buying warm clothes while traders passing a busy time to handle the customers.

Halim Sheikh, 45, a rickshaw-puller of Chunaghata area in the town, said, "My mother is 75 years old and my daughter is a Class VII student. I am here to buy each cloth at Tk 100 to Tk 150, but the traders are demanding more."

Schoolteacher Shipi Rani Biswas of Goalchamat area, said "I need some warm clothes for my daughter. We bought some clothes from this market at cheaper prices last year, but this year traders are demanding Tk 50 to Tk 100 more for every items."

Sultan Ahmad, a second-hand warm clothes seller, said, "Last year, we bought each bale of warm clothes from Chattogram at Tk 12,000 to Tk 21,000, while the same bale costing Tk 15,000 to Tk 24,000 this year."

Another trader Sirajul Islam said they can make a profit of Tk 1,500 to Tk 2,500 from one bale of clothes.

Mir Hashem, president of Faridpur Hawkers' unit, said in a way they are helping people, especially the poor, who cannot afford to buy clothes from the shopping malls.

## NETAI RIVER

# Rampant sand extraction poses erosion threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

In face of repeated protests against indiscriminate extraction of sand from the Netai river, Dhobaura upazila administration conducted a day-long drive against the perpetrators and stopped the illegal act.

A mobile court led by Assistant Commissioner (Land) Hasan Abdullah Al Mahmud conducted the drive in Kamakkha Ghona area a week ago and fined the culprits involved in violating the terms and condition of the lease, Dhobaura Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Rafiquzzaman said.

During the drive they destroyed several dredgers and realised Tk 50,000 fine from those, engaged in illegal sand lifting from the river, the UNO said, adding that they are monitoring the situation so that none can took further advantage and violate the rule.

Locals said indiscriminate sand extraction from the Netai river is escalating the risk of river

erosion and posing serious threat to nearby farmland, homestead and ecological diversity of the locality.

They alleged that although the illegal act has been continuing for the last five months or so, local administration seemed reluctant to take action against the perpetrators, claiming the area is outside their jurisdiction.

They said no one dares to protest it as traders continuing the sand lifting by managing a few local influential people.

Around 19 acres area between Bhalukapara and Roypur was leased out as Balu Mahal (sand quarry), but the lease care a little in maintaining the stipulated area and started sand extraction from Kamakkha Ghona area about five months ago, said Anisuzzaman, a trader at Ghoshgaon Bazar.

Anisuzzaman, who filed several complaints with local administration and other authorities in this

regard, alleged that leases use some 40 dredgers round the clock, depriving the government from huge amount of revenue.

Anisuzzaman, also a member of Ghoshgaon union unit Jubo League, said rampant lifting of sand has put hundreds of houses along to the river bank at serious risk of being eroded.

Moreover, a flood control dyke, built to protect several educational institutions, religious establishments and government offices is also facing serious erosion threat, he added.

Ghoshgaon union unit Awami League President Abdul Karim Biswas said the Ghoshgaon Ashrayan Project, where around 80 families reside, can be seriously affected by the

heavy current in the river during the monsoon.

The indiscriminate sand lifting has been changing the course of the Netai river as well, rising the risk of erosion every year, he said.

The river needs to be preserved in its original shape because due to onrush of hilly waters from across the Indian border it has been an abundant source of country fishes, opined the AL leader.



Sand being extracted from the Netai river using dredging machines. The photo was taken from Kamakkha Ghona area in Mymensingh's Dhobaura upazila recently.

PHOTO: STAR





Fireworks go off on Copacabana beach to mark the New Year in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, yesterday. The world ushered in 2022 with scaled-back celebrations due to new restrictions aimed at slowing soaring Covid cases -- although hope remained for a better new year.

PHOTO: AFP

## IFJ REPORT

### 45 journalists killed in 2021

AFP, Brussels

A total of 45 journalists were killed worldwide in 2021, the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) said on Friday -- "one of the lowest death tolls" it has recorded for any year.

The figure tracked closely with a toll of 46 killings of journalists given two weeks ago by another media watchdog, Reporters Without Borders (known by its initials RSF).

The toll included 9 in Afghanistan, the highest number suffered by a single country. Elsewhere, 8 died in Mexico, 4 in India and three in Pakistan.

The IFJ said the media workers "more often than not are killed for exposing corruption, crime and abuse of power in their communities, cities and countries".

According to the group's count, the Asia-Pacific region -- which includes Afghanistan -- was the deadliest, with 20 killings. Then came the Americas, with 10, Africa, with eight, Europe with six, and the Middle East and Arab countries with just one. It also mentioned the death of two journalists in a "deadly accident" in Iran.

The IFJ's figures differed slightly from those given by RSF, which counted 7 journalists killed in Mexico, 6 in Afghanistan, and 4 each in Yemen and India.

## Sri Lanka in dire straits

### Food prices hit record highs as shortages bite



AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's food prices rose by a record 22.1 percent in December, official figures showed yesterday, as the country struggles to finance urgent imports to tackle an acute shortage of essentials.

The census and statistics department said food inflation hit an all-time high last month on a year-on-year basis since the Colombo Consumer Price Index (CCPI) was launched in 2013.

The price increases in December compared to a figure of 17.5 percent in November, the previous record, the department said.

It added that overall inflation was also at a record 12.01 percent in December, the highest since the CCPI index was launched.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa in his New Year message expressed hope of reviving the cash-strapped economy but did not announce measures to address the crippling foreign exchange crisis.

International rating agencies have downgraded Sri Lanka and raised concerns about its ability to service its debt of \$26 billion.

The latest inflation figures were released a day

after the government increased the price of milk powder by 12.5 percent following a similar rise in fuel prices last month.

The island's tourism-dependent economy has been hammered by the pandemic and the government was forced to impose a broad import ban to shore up foreign exchange reserves.

Supermarkets have for months been rationing milk powder, sugar, lentils and other essentials as commercial banks ran out of dollars to pay for imports.

A top agricultural official warned last month of an impending famine and asked the government to implement an orderly food rationing scheme to avoid such a scenario. He was fired within hours of making the appeal.

Food shortages have been worsened by the government's ban on agrochemical imports, which was lifted in November after widespread crop failures and intense farmer protests.

Sri Lanka had foreign reserves of just \$1.58 billion at the end of November, down from \$7.5 billion when Rajapaksa took office in 2019.

This week the government drew down a \$1.5 billion Chinese loan and claimed reserves had nearly doubled to \$3.1 billion by the end of 2021.



**We must remind the Beijing authorities to not misjudge the situation and to prevent the internal expansion of 'military adventurism'. ... The use of military means is absolutely not an option for resolving the differences between our two sides.**

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen

## 'Violence against women insults God'



REUTERS, Vatican City

Pope Francis yesterday used his New Year's message to issue a clarion call for an end to violence against women, saying it was insulting to God.

Francis, 85, wove his New Year's homily around the themes of motherhood and women - saying it was they who kept together the threads of life - and used it to make one of his strongest calls yet for an end to violence against them.

"And since mothers bestow life, and women keep the world (together), let us all make greater efforts to promote mothers and to protect women," Francis said.

"How much violence is directed against women! Enough! To hurt a woman is to insult God, who from a woman took on our humanity - not through an angel, not directly, but through a woman," he said, in a reference to Jesus's mother Mary.

## Farewell Tutu

AFP, Cape Town

South Africa yesterday bade farewell to Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the last great hero of the struggle against apartheid, in a funeral stripped of pomp but freighted with tears and showered with drizzles of rain.


Tutu died last Sunday at the age of 90, triggering grief among South Africans and tributes from world leaders for a life spent fighting injustice.

Famous for his modesty, Tutu gave instructions for a simple ceremony, with a cheap coffin, donations for charity instead of floral tributes, followed by an eco-friendly cremation.

After the ceremony, he was buried in Cape Town's St. George's Cathedral where, for years, Tutu used the pulpit to rail against a brutal white minority regime.

With Nelson Mandela and other leaders sentenced to decades in prison, Tutu in the 1970s became the emblem of the anti-apartheid struggle. He campaigned relentlessly abroad and home and castigated world powers for failing to slap sanctions on the regime. He was also fearlessly against the new rulers after the end of apartheid.





### Rangamati Government College

Sadar, Rangamati Hill District  
[www.rangamaticollege.gov.bd](http://www.rangamaticollege.gov.bd)

#### e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:


Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
1.	631870	Supply of Sound System and Related Services	17/01/2022; 3:00 pm	17/01/2022; 4:00 pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' Branches upto 16/01/2022 at 4:00 pm.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP Held Desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).



Principal  
Rangamati Govt. College  
Phone: 035162215  
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GD-06

## Ukrainian soldier killed as Russia tensions soar


AFP, Kiev

Ukraine yesterday said one of its soldiers was killed in fighting with pro-Moscow separatists, as the US again warned Russia against any attacks on the country.

US President Joe Biden was due to speak to his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky today, after warning Russian President Vladimir Putin for the second time of a tough response should he invade Ukraine.

"One serviceman of the Joint Forces was fatally wounded," the army said in a statement, adding that separatists had launched three attacks within 24 hours, using grenade launchers and small arms. The army gave no further details of how the soldier was killed.

Tensions with Moscow have soared in recent months, with Russia massing troops near Ukraine's borders. The West has accused the Kremlin of planning an invasion.



### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (শ্রেডা)  
বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ

আইইবি ভবন (৯ম ও ১০তম তলা), রমনা, ঢাকা  
[www.sreda.gov.bd](http://www.sreda.gov.bd)

#### ইন্টারশিপ প্রোগ্রামে আবেদন

টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (শ্রেডা) দেশের নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানির উন্নয়ন-প্রসার, জ্বালানির দক্ষ ব্যবহার ও উন্নয়ন, জ্বালানি সাশ্রয়ে যথাযথ কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ এবং নতুন সম্ভাবনাময় টেকসই জ্বালানির ক্রমাগত অনুসন্ধানে সরকার কর্তৃক সৃষ্ট একটি সংবিধিবদ্ধ সংস্থা। টেকসই ও নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি বিষয়ে আগামী প্রজন্মকে উদ্বুদ্ধ করার জন্য শ্রেডা কর্তৃক বিভিন্ন কার্যক্রম গ্রহণের অংশ হিসেবে শ্রেডায় ইন্টারশিপ প্রোগ্রাম চলমান রয়েছে। এ লক্ষ্যে নিম্নোক্ত যোগ্যতা ও শর্তাবলীর ভিত্তিতে ২য় ব্যাচে (মার্চ-মে, ২০২২) ইন্টারশিপ প্রোগ্রামে অংশগ্রহণে আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

যোগ্যতা	আবেদনের পদ্ধতি ও শর্তাবলী
১। বিএসসি (ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং) অথবা নবায়নযোগ্য জ্বালানি বা জ্বালানি সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে স্নাতক (সম্মান) বা স্নাতকোত্তর পরীক্ষায় অবতীর্ণ বা সদ্য উত্তীর্ণ (পাস করার পর দুই বছরের অধিক নয়) হতে হবে।	• আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের জীবন বৃত্তান্ত এবং নিজ নিজ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হতে অনাপত্তি সনদ (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) গ্রহণপূর্বক প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ চেয়ারম্যান, শ্রেডা বরাবর নির্ধারিত ফরমে (হার্ডকপিতে) আবেদন করতে হবে। বিজ্ঞপ্তি ও আবেদন ফরম শ্রেডার ওয়েবসাইটে ( <a href="http://sreda.gov.bd">http://sreda.gov.bd</a> ) পাওয়া যাবে।
২। আবেদনকারীকে কম্পিউটার ব্যবহারে দক্ষ হতে হবে।	• প্রোগ্রামের মেয়াদ ০৩ (তিন) মাস [মার্চ-মে, ২০২২]
৩। জ্বালানি বিষয়ক বিভিন্ন সফটওয়্যার এর উপর দক্ষতা থাকলে প্রার্থী বাছাইয়ে অগ্রাধিকার পাবে।	• প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে। মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় সকল সনদপত্রের মূলকপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।
	• চূড়ান্তভাবে উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের ইমেইল ও ডাকযোগে অবহিত করা হবে।
	• পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য প্রার্থীদের টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
	• নিয়মিত কর্মসম্পাদন ও এন্ট্রপোজার ভিজিট এর জন্য ইন্টারনৈতিক মাসিক জনপ্রতি ১০,০০০/- (দশ হাজার) টাকা সম্মানী প্রদান করা হবে।
	• ইন্টার্ন বাছাইয়ের ক্ষেত্রে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

\* আবেদন পৌছানোর শেষ তারিখ  
৩১ জানুয়ারি, ২০২২

সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)  
ফোনঃ ০২-৫৫১১০৩৪০ (এক্স-১১৩)  
ই-মেইলঃ [ad.admin@sreda.gov.bd](mailto:ad.admin@sreda.gov.bd)

জিডি-০৪



## Covid vaccination programme on the right track

Its success will depend on smooth supply, inclusive coverage

WE appreciate the government for inoculating around half of our population—over seven crore people—with the first dose and over five crore people with the second dose of Covid-19 vaccine by now. The government has also set a target to inoculate all eligible persons with a double dose by June and with a booster dose by the end of this year. It has already started vaccinating children above 12 as well as the booster dose campaign on a limited scale. Moreover, the government's plan to set up a vaccine plant by this year to produce our own vaccines also seems very promising.

So far, the progress the government has made in vaccinating the population is quite good given the various challenges it had to face in procuring vaccines, maintaining the cold chain, ensuring a smooth supply as well as managing a digital system through which people have to register for the vaccines.

One of the major reasons for our progress in vaccination is that we have a strong Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI). Because of this, we could better manage the vaccination campaigns despite the fact that most of our public healthcare facilities are ill-equipped. The efforts our healthcare professionals have made in this regard is also remarkable.

Now that we have overcome the basic hurdles as the supply of vaccines has become smooth, we should not become complacent. There is still a lot more to do as a majority of our people have still not gotten the first dose of the vaccine. We should, in fact, expedite our vaccination programmes since a new Covid-19 variant Omicron—which has raised alarm bells across the world—has been detected in the country. The WHO has already warned the world about the looming danger of Omicron, saying that it may overwhelm the healthcare systems around the world. Already countries in Europe, China and the US have been facing a rapid surge in Omicron cases.

Against this backdrop, it is extremely necessary for our government to prepare and improve our public healthcare facilities to cope with any possible surge in Covid cases. However, for a country like ours with a weak healthcare system, it will be judicious to focus more on strengthening our vaccination drives because vaccination will curb hospitalisation and deaths.

As such, in order to ramp up our vaccination drives, the government needs to launch special drives to bring more people under its coverage. Attention needs to be given to vaccinate the rural people as they have limited access to online registration. At the same time, vaccinating more children should be given a priority this time around since the new variant is found to have harmful effects on children.

We hope the government will be successful in fulfilling its target of vaccinating all citizens by the end of this year through ensuring a smooth supply of the vaccines. Setting up a vaccine plant in the country will further strengthen our vaccination drive.

## Police officer's reckless disregard for life

Law enforcers' sense of impunity must be addressed

WE are left baffled and wondering how strong a sense of impunity a police officer must have had in order to be able to take control of a heavy vehicle and plough through a crowd, leading to fatal injuries. That is what Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Emdadul Haque did last Thursday in the capital's Gullistan. Witness accounts say that ASI Haque forced out the driver of an empty bus—after the latter had had an altercation with another plainclothes policeman—saying it was being seized and would be taken to Paltan police station. Though the DC of Motijheel division DMP claimed that the driver and conductor had fled the scene and the ASI was forced to drive the bus away from traffic, witnesses testified otherwise. Once Haque had control of the vehicle he swerved violently, ploughing into a crowd, and eventually drove into the rail of a footpath. His reckless manoeuvre killed two people, injured three, and damaged multiple motorcycles and rickshaws.

It should be noted that the area in which the incident occurred was not under the jurisdiction of Paltan police station, and that ASI Haque had not informed the concerned DMP Wari division before seizing the bus. Importantly, the ASI was not even supposed to take control of the vehicle, even if it had been abandoned, as the Motijheel DC claims. Several traffic police officers confirmed that he should have called for a tow truck and removed the bus to a safer location. Though the ASI was placed on a two-day remand on Friday, we don't know yet what his plan was when he drove into the crowd. What is clear, however, is the immense sense of power our law enforcers must feel they have, with no regard for the consequences of their actions.

Though this may seem like a one-off event, we believe this is just another exhibit of the callous and, frankly, reckless attitude of some members of law enforcement. We would urge the authorities to investigate this incident. It is also crucial to end the culture of impunity which our law enforcement agencies generally enjoy. Otherwise, we risk becoming a country where citizens have to fear law enforcers, rather than look to them for protection.

# Why Bangladesh may not meet its SDG health goals



Dr Mir Saaduddin Ahmad is academic director at Dr Nizam Medical Centre in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and a trained specialist in emergency medicine.

MIR SAADUDDIN AHMAD

When the United Nations General Assembly laid out its 2030 agenda in 2015, no one could have imagined that Bangladesh would surpass some of the milestone targets for health ahead of time. The Global Goals for Good Health—Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 3—includes child-related indicators of under-five mortality rate and neonatal mortality rate, as well as women-related targets for maternal mortality ratio and deaths by road accidents. Indeed, Bangladesh ranks above two South Asian giants—India and Pakistan—in its overall performance.

In terms of health, Bangladesh has managed to achieve its performance by establishing an extensive network of over 13,000 community clinics, which provide primary care for a significant number of people. There is no doubt that preventive medicine, by means of primary care, is the key to achieving all the targets. However, the nine years that we have left will not be enough to develop the complete infrastructure required to deliver the entire spectrum of preventive healthcare across the country.

The only other approach that could be used to achieve these targets in the given time is by developing emergency care services, where essential medical treatment is provided appropriately for time-critical cases such as sepsis, bleeding, stroke, and heart attack. This was recognised by the 72nd World Health Assembly back in 2019, when they adopted Resolution #72.16, which states that emergency care systems are essential for universal health coverage.

This would be a promising path for the country to take, were it not for the fact that Bangladesh does not have any efficient emergency care systems in place. This may sound odd, especially as the casualty

department has existed in most medical colleges, and the High Court has directed the government to ensure that healthcare facilities and practitioners provide emergency medical services to every patient brought to them.

It is true that all hospitals have now introduced emergency departments; the bastion that is Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) only

South Asian countries developing this field, Bangladesh has yet to recognise emergency care.

Recognition of this specialty would allow for standardised training of not only doctors, but also of nurses, paramedics, and other related healthcare professionals, so that patients receive quality care in the moments when they need it the most. This, unfortunately, leads to the second major issue that Bangladesh faces. Due to the lack of recognition, there are no defined career pathways for professionals in emergency care. This leads to clinicians being seconded to the emergency departments from a parent specialty for a short period of time. It is well and good when a cardiology trainee receives a patient with crushing, central chest pain in the emergency department, but the value they provide would be questionable when they are to deal with a new mother who is bleeding profusely following childbirth. Also, a placement for six months or so does not allow a clinician to develop new skills with confidence—especially when those skills learnt will never be called upon again. It is, therefore, vital that clinicians get embedded in the emergency department and move up their career ladder, so that they may instil confidence in their patients.

Nine years may not be enough time to bolster up the primary care services in the country to achieve its targets for SDG 3, but an emergency care training programme for clinicians across the country over the course of the next five years will contribute to bringing down death rates and ratios across all spectra of health issues. We do have time to amend our course, but the time of action is now. We have the benefit of skilled human resources by virtue of a local and expatriate community of trained medical professionals, as well as the support of regional and national organisations keen to develop a framework for emergency care. The Covid-19 pandemic has already proven that the health sector in Bangladesh is ready to take up a challenge, no matter how large; all we need now is guidance.



Although most medical colleges in Bangladesh have somewhat functional emergency departments, emergency care has yet to be recognised in the country.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

just opened its emergency department in November 2021. These, however, can be described as cosmetic facelifts at best, as the systems required to deliver standardised emergency care are grossly lacking.

Emergency care has been in development since the 1950s in the West, arising from the casualty departments of old, developing into accident and emergency in the UK and finally into its own field of emergency medicine. Training in this specialty allows a single clinician to provide the first few hours of care appropriately for any patient presenting any condition. As opposed to other fields of medical science where diagnosis is key, this field looks at optimising a patient's condition before they receive definitive care by more traditional specialties. Despite its 50 years of existence, and all the other

## THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR

# Not a thing of the past



Antonio Guterres is the secretary-general of the United Nations.

ANTONIO GUTERRES

We live in worrying times. The climate crisis, stark inequalities, bloody conflicts and human rights abuses, and the personal and economic devastation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic have put our world under greater stress than it has faced in my lifetime.

But the existential threat that cast a shadow over the first half of my life no longer receives the attention it should. Nuclear weapons have faded from headlines and Hollywood scripts. But the danger they pose remains as high as ever, and is growing by the year. Nuclear annihilation is just one misunderstanding or miscalculation away—a sword of Damocles that threatens not only suffering and death on a horrific scale, but the end of all life on earth.

Through a combination of luck and judgement, nuclear weapons have not been used since they incinerated Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. But with more than 13,000 nuclear weapons held in arsenals around the world, how long can our luck hold? The Covid-19 pandemic has brought a new awareness of the catastrophic impact of a low-probability event.

Following the end of the Cold War, nuclear arsenals were dramatically reduced and even eliminated. Entire regions declared themselves nuclear-weapons free zones. A deep and widespread repudiation of nuclear testing took hold. As the prime minister of my country, I ordered Portugal to vote for the first time against the resumption of nuclear testing in the Pacific.

But the end of the Cold War also left us with a dangerous falsehood: that the threat of nuclear war was a thing of the past.

Nothing could be more mistaken. These weapons are not yesterday's problem. They remain today's growing threat.

The risk that nuclear weapons will be used is higher now than at any point since the duck-and-cover drills and fallout shelters of the Cold War.

Relationships between some countries that possess nuclear weapons are defined today by distrust and competition. Dialogue is largely absent. Transparency is waning and nuclear weapons are assuming greater importance as national security strategies find new contexts for their use.

Meanwhile, technological advances and the emergence of new arenas of competition in cyber space and outer space have exposed vulnerabilities and increased the risk of nuclear escalation. We lack international frameworks and tools that can deal with these developments. And today's multipolar global order means that regional crises with nuclear overtones threaten to draw

The NPT is one of the main reasons why nuclear weapons have not been used since 1945. It contains legally binding commitments to achieve nuclear disarmament, including by the five largest nuclear-armed countries. It is also a catalyst for disarmament—the only way to eliminate these horrendous weapons once and for all.

The 191 countries that have joined the NPT—representing the vast majority of the world—have pledged not to acquire or develop nuclear weapons. And these pledges are policed and enforced by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Soon, the countries that are members of the NPT will meet for their regular five-yearly conference to look at the treaty's progress.

Another United Nations conference for a treaty with an acronym may not seem particularly newsworthy. But the NPT is critical to the security and prosperity of all people on earth.

We must seize the opportunity of January's NPT Review Conference to reverse dangerous and growing trends and escape the long shadow cast by these inhumane weapons.

The review conference must take bold action on six fronts: 1) Chart a path forward on nuclear disarmament; 2) Agree new measures of transparency and dialogue, to reduce the risk of nuclear war; 3) Address simmering nuclear crises in the Middle East and Asia; 4) Work to strengthen the global frameworks that support non-proliferation, including the IAEA; 5) Promote the peaceful use of nuclear technology for medical and other uses—one reason why the NPT has won the adherence of non-nuclear-weapons states; 6) And remind the world's people—especially its young people—that eliminating nuclear weapons is the only way to guarantee they will never be used.

I urge governments to approach the conference in a spirit of solidarity, frank dialogue, and flexibility.

What happens in the NPT negotiating rooms in January matters to everyone—because any use of nuclear weapons will affect everyone.

The fragility of our world has never been clearer.

I hope people everywhere will push governments to step back from the abyss and create a safer, more secure world for all: a world free of nuclear weapons.



ILLUSTRATION: UN OFFICE OF DISARMAMENT/IVAN PALOMINO

in other nuclear-armed countries.

The nuclear landscape is a tinderbox. One accident or miscalculation could set it alight.

Our main hope to reverse course and steer our world away from nuclear cataclysm is the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons—better known as the NPT—which dates from the height of the Cold War in 1970.



# The challenge of democratising the 'middle income' dream



**HOSSAIN ZILLUR RAHMAN**

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FIFTY years ago, the dominant concern of citizens and observers alike was about the economic future of newly independent Bangladesh. Five decades later, a poverty-stricken, disaster-prone vulnerable economy has confounded observers at home and abroad alike by scripting a remarkable story of economic transformation and resilience. The achievements came neither overnight nor by the efforts of any single quarter. But the change has been real, and the country today has legitimately embraced a higher-level aspiration of middle-income status within the coming decade. Progress in economic development, however, has not been mirrored in progress in political development.

steeped in fatalism and espousing a dependent mind-set underwent something of a personality revolution, more assertive, pro-active towards opportunities, clearer on life goals. Fatalism was replaced by aspirations. This fundamental attitudinal shift saw an illiterate peasantry embrace the promise of technology, saw rural youth exploring the opportunities of the global labour market, saw poor women responding to the call of economic participation, and saw former employees daring to become new entrepreneurs. Any explanation of Bangladesh's transformation to date is significantly deficient without acknowledging this aspirational revolution at the level of individuals.

A second driver of change has been a grassroots culture of solution-centric innovations. "Nation-building" after independence did not remain a narrow elite pre-occupation but spilled over into the popular domain. This is the period when NGOs got born in Bangladesh, but the quest for innovations was not limited to the NGO sector alone but eventually graduated to a multi-sectoral pre-occupation. Micro-credit, feeder roads,

done.

Analysts and academics have had to cross the traditional disciplinary boundaries to grapple with such complexities. A critical insight emerging from such cross-disciplinary analysis is that it is less the form of government and more the degree and quality of politics and governance—i.e. legitimacy, opportunities for contestations, rationalisation of authority, state capacity, robust spaces for public discourse, minimising system disruptions around transitions in power—that distinguishes politically developed societies from politically decaying ones. Clearly, politics and development are closely intertwined processes that have no easy or predictable answers on cause and effect.

Within its fifty-year journey, two decades stand out as constituting something of "turning points" in terms of the development trajectory of Bangladesh. An understanding of these "turning point" decades is critical to assess how the interface of politics and economics is likely to shape development outcomes in the coming decades. The first of these was the 1990s. Four outstanding system features crystallised and witnessed a dynamic interplay to mark this decade a "turning point"—a broad-based ideological embrace of the market economy and competitive capitalism, contested politics, a strong current of policy entrepreneurship, and the flowering of a dynamic social sector focused on grassroots transformation. The constellation of these system features laid the foundations for growth acceleration, rapid realisation of MDGs as well as incentivising a shift from "brain drain" to "brain gain".

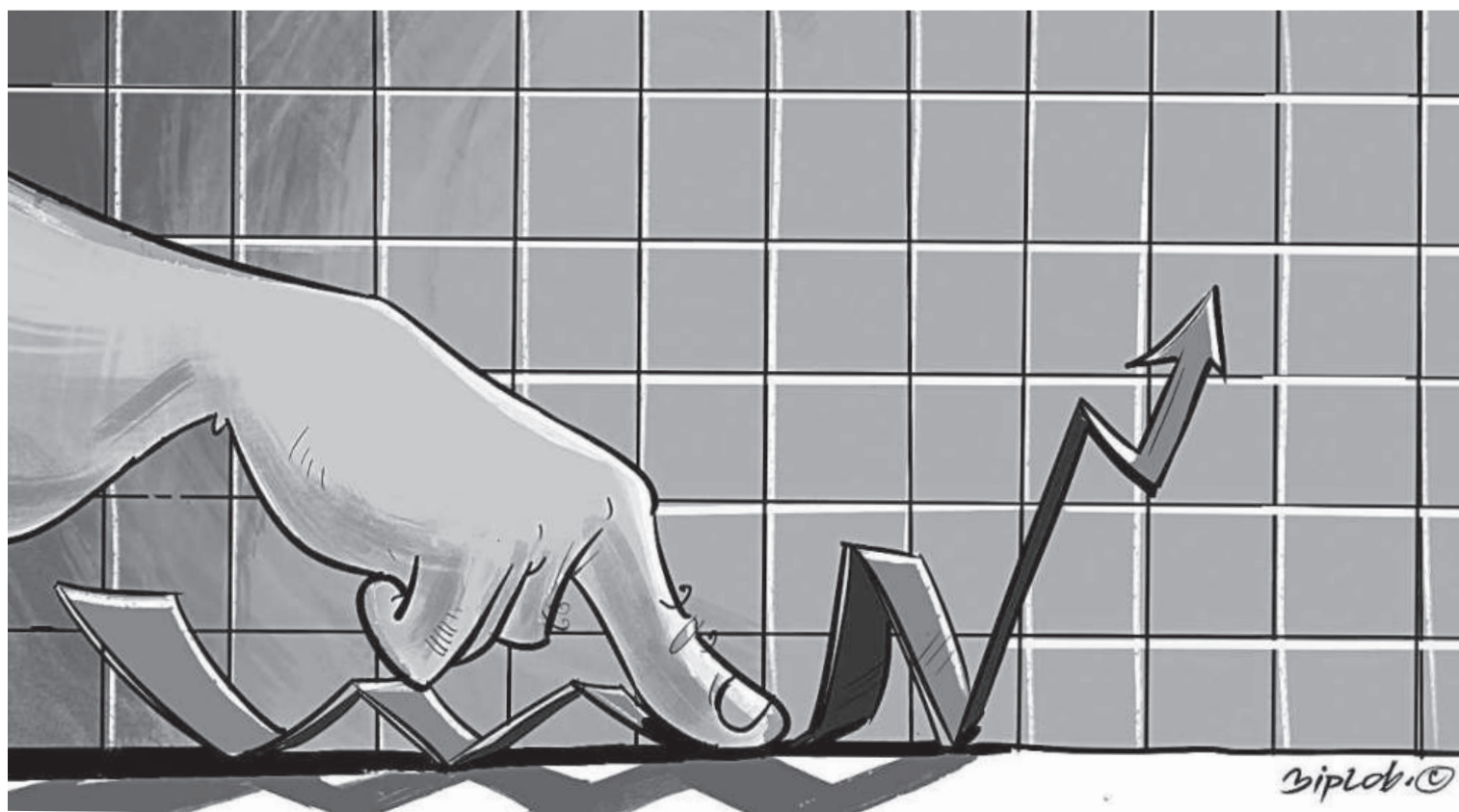
The 2010s, however, have witnessed a contrasting type of "turning point". While the growth momentum has continued and a more upward aspiration of "middle income" country has been embraced, the decade has seen a reversal in certain critical system features. The inclusive nature of development outcomes has witnessed three distinct reversals—worsening income inequality, a growing spatial inequality with a Dhaka-versus-the rest reality holding increasing sway, and a deepening employment crisis with nearly one-third of youth currently being neither in employment nor in education nor in training. The poverty reduction elasticity of growth has slowed. Competitive capitalism has given way to crony capitalism. Progress in school enrolment has not translated into quality

learning. Significant segments of the middle class are struggling to establish sustainable economic foundations for themselves and their families. Even as women have emerged as critical change agents, gender-based violence has become rampant. Institutionalised corruption abetted by poor governance norms is shackling Bangladesh significantly below its economic potential.

Bangladesh's fifty-year journey is thus truly Dickensian in its complexity. The transformation certainly has been deep and real. But the future increasingly looks less inclusive and uncertain on the challenges of quality completion of the middle-income transition. The fate of other once promising countries—South Africa, Brazil, Malaysia, Philippines—stands as a stark warning on falling into the so-called middle-income trap.

While the private sector remains pivotal for the next phase of Bangladesh's developmental journey, increasingly the internal dynamics of the "private sector" holds the answer to how effective this role is going to be. Earlier, we had the state-aided private sector and the self-driven private sector. There is now a new reality. Proximity to power has become as important if not more important than proving one's competitive prowess in the marketplace—and not just proximity to power but actual positions in the high table of power, both formal and informal. Conflict of interest situations have become rampant. Lucrative sectors of the economy appear to have fallen under oligopolistic or rentier control. A worrying trend has been the disregard of state capacity for apparent benefits of unclear "private sector" interests. Is this a new "turning point"?

A look at Bangladesh's performance on the global competitiveness index brings out critical weaknesses on the very indicators on which the accelerated realisation of the "middle income" aspiration rests—institutions, logistics, skills, labour market efficiency, technological readiness and rule of law. It is not as if each of these weaknesses is not recognised. Policies abound. Projects abound. But credible reforms and progress flounder at the gate of unaccountable power and decision-making. The aspirational citizenry remains stoically engaged. What looms is the challenge of democratising the "middle income" dream if Bangladesh is to reconnect with its foundational dreams.



After independence, politics seemed the lesser challenge. In a twist of irony, today it is deficits in political development that are gnawing at the foundational dream of an inclusive, humane society. Representational rights have been fatally weakened as have been the institutions of accountability across the board. Such political decay is fuelling unaccountable power, rampant cronyism and systemic corruption.

But first, a look back. The by-now commonplace statistics of Bangladesh's social and economic success do not do justice to the quality and depth of Bangladesh's transformation thus far. Five system-defining achievements stand out.

The first has to do with how the country has re-defined its relationship with disaster. A country defined by its eco-vulnerability and hence its entrenched status as a disaster victim has gone on to win global recognition and respect as a disaster manager. Food security too has been a transformative achievement—tripling of food production in a shrinking cropping area even as population more than doubled. A largely illiterate peasantry embraced the promise of technology while heavy-handed bureaucratic oversight incrementally retreated to allow for the dynamism of the market process to come into play.

The third transformational achievement has been in banishing the curse of remoteness and transforming a largely rural country of isolated villages into a connected national economy integrated to the global economy, with both entrepreneurs and workers transforming the "abroad" into key economic destinations. The emergence of women as social and economic actors too has been a transformational achievement, although deeper empowerment battles remain. Female gains in primary and secondary education, access to birth control measures, access to microcredit, and changes in social attitudes looking positively on women's economic participation have made such a wide-ranging transformation possible. The achievement on fertility decline too has been transformational. My own research shows that between 1980 and 2010, one-third of the rise in per capita income was due to the fertility decline.

Neither conventional economic narratives of growth nor self-promoting narratives of political regimes provide a full explanation of what drove these system-defining transformations. The least-examined driver of change has been the lasting impact of independence on the psyche of the common citizen. An eco-vulnerable and impoverished population

drug policy, social forestry, conditional cash transfers, new crop varieties, use of solar—the series of innovations have been both consequential and continuous.

Politics too was a critical driver of change, not politics as such but contested politics at both local and national levels. It is true that such contestations were mired in a degree of violence and governance shortfalls but nevertheless ensured a degree of political renewal, which arguably has been the primary source of accountability in a system where formal accountability processes are yet to prove their worth. It was really the return of contested politics in the 1990s that served as the backdrop to the process of growth acceleration that began in that decade.

The Bangladesh transformation was also aided by two lesser-known drivers of change. While the state has a large institutional presence, mainly a legacy of colonial rule, the coming of independence has not translated into system-wide strengths of accountable governance and policy and implementation leadership. Within such a deficient politico-institutional milieu, Bangladesh has been surprisingly successful in driving policy reforms in certain critical sectoral areas that went on to have larger system-wide impacts. The drug policy of 1980s, banking reforms of 1990s, telecommunications and digital reforms of 1990s and 2010s, conditional cash transfers driving early MDG successes in health and education all have been marked by a process of policy entrepreneurship—the opportunistic coming together of a "contingent coalition" of policy entrepreneurs, social entrepreneurs and political entrepreneurs around clearly-focused, specific policy goals. Bangladesh also benefited from a reality-grounded development discourse that served to spur action on key developmental challenges such as extreme poverty, social protection and agricultural modernisation.

As the chapter on the first fifty years of Bangladesh closes and the sun rises on 2022 and beyond, looking back now has to give way to looking forward. But for a nation-state born through a bloody struggle on an emancipatory dream of economic prosperity and social equality, "looking forward" cannot just be a new iteration of a growth narrative—be it of experts or of unaccountable ruling groups—but rather a collective act of dreaming on what matters most with equality of agency all across society. Politics and economics are thus coming together to pose a new challenge for Bangladesh. However, understanding the nature of this challenge is easier said than

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**অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
প্রধান কার্যালয় ল' ডিভিশন  
১০, দিলকুশা, সেক্টর-১৬, ঢাকা।

**বিষয়: অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এ তালিকাভুক্ত আইনজীবীদের আরও ০২ (দুই) বছর মেয়াদে নবায়ন এবং নতুন আইনজীবী ০২ (দুই) বছর মেয়াদে তালিকাভুক্তকরণের নিমিত্তে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান প্রসাদে।**

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, ল' ডিভিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা কর্তৃক অত্র ব্যাংকের সকল সার্কেল/কর্পোরেট শাখা/আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয় ও তাদের আওতাধীন শাখাসমূহের আইনগত মতামত/পরামর্শ প্রদান এবং মামলা পরিচালনার নিমিত্তে বিদ্যমান তালিকাভুক্ত আইনজীবীদের ০২ (দুই) বছর মেয়াদে নবায়নের লক্ষ্যে নিম্নবর্ণিত শর্তে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। এছাড়াও নতুনভাবে আইনজীবী একই মেয়াদে তালিকাভুক্তকরণের জন্য আগ্রহী আইনজীবীগণ উল্লিখিত শর্তে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

পদ	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা	অভিজ্ঞতা
তালিকাভুক্ত আইনজীবী	i) আইন বিষয়ে স্নাতক/স্নাতক (সম্মান) ডিগ্রীধারী; ii) এলএল.এম/বার-এট-ল ডিগ্রীধারী অতিরিক্ত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা বলে বিবেচিত হবে; iii) শিক্ষাক্ষেত্রে একাধিক তৃতীয় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না; iv) বাংলাদেশ বার কাউন্সিল এর সনদপত্র এবং তালিকাভুক্তি সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলা বার কাউন্সিলের সনদপত্র থাকতে হবে; v) নবায়ন ও নতুন তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য একই শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা অভিজ্ঞতা প্রয়োজ্য হবে।	i) ঢাকা মহানগরী এলাকার ক্ষেত্রে আইনজীবীদের অধঃস্তন আদালতে কমপক্ষে ০৫ (পাঁচ) বছর আইন পেশায় বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা এবং বাংলাদেশ সুপ্রীম কোর্ট এর হাইকোর্ট বিভাগে ২ (দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ মোট ০৭ (সাত) বছরের পেশাগত অভিজ্ঞতা; ii) অন্যান্য অঞ্চলের জন্য সনদপত্র আইনজীবীদের অধঃস্তন আদালতে মোট ০৭ (সাত) বছরের বাস্তব পেশাগত অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।

**শর্তাবলী:**

- প্রার্থীদেরকে বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক হতে হবে। ঢাকা মহানগর এলাকার, অধঃস্তন আদালতসমূহ, মহামান্য সুপ্রীম কোর্টের হাইকোর্ট ও আপীল বিভাগসহ এবং প্রশাসনিক আপীল ট্রাইব্যুনালে ব্যাংকের পক্ষে মামলা পরিচালনার নিমিত্তে তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য ২ (দুই) সেট আবেদনপত্র উপমহাব্যবস্থাপক, অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, ল' ডিভিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা ব্যতীত অন্যান্য এলাকার তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট এলাকার অবস্থিত কর্পোরেট শাখা বা অঞ্চল প্রধান বরাবরে নির্ধারিত তারিখে অফিস চলাকালে ২(দুই) সেট আবেদনপত্র পৌঁছাতে হবে।
- প্রত্যেক আবেদনকারীকে আবেদনপত্রের সাথে অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, ল' ডিভিশন-এর অনুকূলে ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (অফেরতযোগ্য) সংযোজন করতে হবে।
- ব্যাংকের পক্ষে মামলা- মোকদ্দমা ও অন্যান্য আইনগত কার্যবলী পরিচালনার জন্য তালিকাভুক্ত আইনজীবীগণ ব্যাংকের প্রচলিত বিধি ও সময় সময় জারীকৃত সার্কুলার অনুযায়ী পেশাগত ফি ও অন্যান্য খরচ প্রাপ্য হবেন। তবে এক্ষেত্রে মাসিক ভিত্তিতে কোন বেতন বা সম্মানী প্রাপ্য হবেন না।
- আইনজীবী হিসেবে তালিকাভুক্তির মেয়াদ ০২ (দুই) বছরের জন্য কার্যকর থাকবে। বিদ্যমান তালিকাভুক্ত আইনজীবীগণ তাদের অত্র ব্যাংকের পারফরম্যান্সসহ নবায়নের জন্য আবেদন করতে হবে। অন্যথায় আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য মর্মে বিবেচিত হবে না এবং নবায়নের জন্য আবেদন না করলে তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য বিবেচিত হবেন না।
- বার কাউন্সিলের দপ্তরগত ব্যক্তি, মুক্তিযুদ্ধের চেতনা বিরোধী, রাষ্ট্র বিরোধী কোন কর্মকাণ্ডে জড়িত অথবা অসদাচরণ, অদক্ষতা ও অসৈতিক ঋলনযুক্ত ব্যক্তি আবেদন করার যোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবেন না।
- কোন প্রতিষ্ঠান/ল' ফ্যামকে তালিকাভুক্ত করা হবে না।
- ব্যাংকের স্বার্থবিরোধী বা বিবাদীর সাথে গোপন আঁতাত ও এর মাধ্যমে তথ্য পাচার করলে বা বিবাদী পক্ষে অর্থাৎ ব্যাংকের বিপক্ষে কোন মামলায় অংশগ্রহণ করলে এবং যে কোন আদালত/বার কাউন্সিল কর্তৃক দণ্ডপ্রাপ্ত হলে তালিকাভুক্ত আইনজীবী হতে তালিকাভুক্ত করা হবে।
- আগ্রহী প্রার্থীগণকে সদ্য তোলা ২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট আকারের সত্যায়িত রঙিন ছবি, জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/স্মার্টকার্ড, সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র বাংলাদেশ বার কাউন্সিলের তালিকাভুক্তির সনদ, বাংলাদেশ সুপ্রীম কোর্ট এর হাইকোর্ট বিভাগে তালিকাভুক্তির সনদ এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, ই-মেইল আইডি, হোয়াটস অ্যাপ আইডি এবং মোবাইল নম্বরসহ পূর্ণ জীবন বৃত্তান্ত আগামী ৩১/০১/২০২২ তারিখের মধ্যে ২ (দুই) সেট আবেদনপত্র যিনি যে এলাকার তালিকাভুক্ত হতে চান তিনি তথ্যসহ কার্যালয়ে অর্থাৎ ল' ডিভিশন/সার্কেল/আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়/ কর্পোরেট শাখায় পৌঁছাতে হবে।
- তালিকাভুক্ত সংক্রান্ত সকল ক্ষমতা ল' ডিভিশন সংরক্ষণ করে।

সামিিয়া আক্তার  
উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক  
ও  
সদস্য সচিব  
আইনজীবী তালিকাভুক্তকরণ সংক্রান্ত কমিটি  
ফোন নং- ০২-২২৩৩৮১৫৮১





## The tools that we have to fight Omicron

**VACCINES:** Vaccines remain the best public health measure to protect people from COVID-19, slow transmission, and reduce the likelihood of new variants emerging. COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalisations, and death. Scientists are currently investigating Omicron, including how protected fully vaccinated people will be against infection, hospitalisation, and death. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone 5 years and older protect themselves from COVID-19 by getting fully vaccinated. CDC recommends that everyone

**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that everyone 5 years and older protect themselves from COVID-19 by getting fully vaccinated.**

ages 18 years and older should get a booster shot.

**MASKS:** Masks offer protection against all variants. CDC continues to recommend wearing a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high community transmission, regardless of vaccination status. CDC provides advice about masks for people who want to learn more about what type of mask is right for them depending on their circumstances.

**TESTING:** Tests can tell you if you are currently infected with COVID-19. Two types of tests are used to test for current infection: nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs) and antigen tests. NAAT and antigen tests can only tell you if you have a current infection. Individuals can use the COVID-19 Viral Testing Tool to help determine what kind of test to seek. Additional tests would be needed to determine if your infection was caused by Omicron.

Until we know more about the risk of Omicron, it is important to use all tools available to protect yourself and others.

SOURCE: CDC

# Know the warning signs of liver cirrhosis

STAR HEALTH DESK

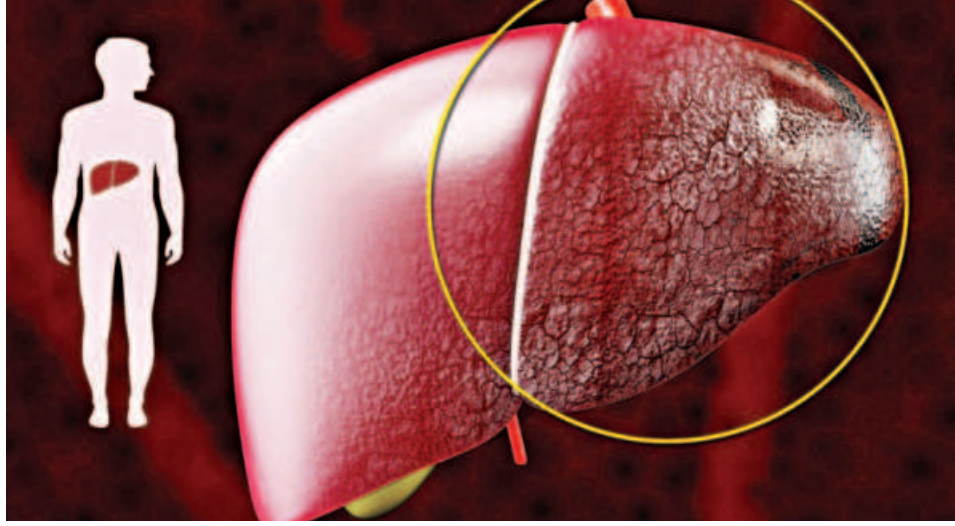
Cirrhosis is a form of severe liver disease and happens because of multiple causes. It causes scarring that slowly replaces healthy tissue. Eventually, this blocks blood flow and makes it harder for your liver to do its job. It will not be able to filter toxins and help break down nutrients and medications. And the organ will not make proteins and other substances fast enough to meet your body's needs. Over the long term, it can shut down your liver.

You may not notice any problems at first! As your cirrhosis gets worse, you might start to feel more tired and less hungry. Your skin may start to itch, look more yellow, and bruise more easily. Your pee may darken, and your belly and legs might swell from extra fluid. Some people get nauseated and foggy-brained and start to forget things.

**Cause - Alcohol addiction:** Drinking too much can make your liver swell and hold on to more fat. This could lead to cirrhosis. It typically happens if you drink more than you should every day, sometimes for years. The amount of alcohol that causes liver damage differs for each person, so do not assume that because your heavy-drinking friend did not get cirrhosis, you will not either.

**Cause - Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease:** Here, something other than alcohol causes fat buildup in your liver. You are more likely to get it if you are overweight or have diabetes, high cholesterol, or high blood pressure. You may notice symptoms like weight loss, tiredness, weakness, spider veins, or itchy skin.

**Cause - Hepatitis C:** If you have this disease for 6 months or more, it is called "chronic" and can lead to cirrhosis. The hepatitis C virus is the most common cause of chronic



hepatitis, though there are others, like autoimmune disease as well as medication, bacteria, or other viruses. Hepatitis C often spreads when users of illicit drugs share needles, but you can also get it after having unprotected sex with someone who is infected.

**Cause - Bile duct problems:** Small tubes, called ducts, normally carry bile - a liquid that helps digestion - from your liver to your gallbladder. A number of conditions can narrow or block these tubes, which causes a backup of fluid that can inflame and damage your liver. Your doctor can usually clear your ducts with medication or minor procedures.

**Cause - Medication:** Some drugs can hurt your liver and lead to cirrhosis. Certain antibiotics, statins for high cholesterol, and acetaminophen may also be hard on your liver. Tell your doctor about all your medications and let them know if new drugs seem to make you tired, nauseated, itchy, or otherwise unwell.

**Causes - Clots, genetics, and more:**

Any condition that scars the liver can cause cirrhosis. Clots can block the flow of blood to the organ or inside it. Your immune system could mistakenly attack and inflame it. Your genes could make it harder for your liver to break down certain nutrients like iron or copper. Or you might inherit conditions that add fat or scarring for no apparent reason. Other conditions which may lead to cirrhosis include autoimmune hepatitis, hemochromatosis, hepatitis B, and heart failure.

**Treatment:** There is no cure for the scarring already on your liver, but your doctor can sometimes stop or slow it down by treating the condition that causes your cirrhosis. If you have alcohol addiction, find out about therapy to help you quit. Weight loss can help for a fatty liver. Drugs can treat infections, bile duct problems, or autoimmune disorders. Work with your doctor to figure out what is causing your cirrhosis and how best to treat it.

SOURCE: WEBMD

## HAVE A NICE YEAR A year of kindness and forgiving others

DR RUBAUL MURSHED

These days from a common soldier to a General, all are aware of their personal health benefits from exercise to selecting foods. But most people are not familiar with the importance of hormones. We are not aware of the significant relationship between the power of practicing forgiveness, gratitude, donation and having a sound body and mind.

Hormones coordinate the physiology and behavior of individuals by regulating, integrating, and controlling bodily functions. Over evolutionary time, hormones have often been co-opted by the nervous system to influence behavior to ensure reproductive success. Gonadal hormones are produced by the gonads (the ovaries and testes) in response to other precursor hormones found in the pituitary gland and other brain areas.

Although most researches that are correlated to 'why good habits (like forgiveness, kindness, giving) makes us feel better?' have centered around, these gonadal hormones also impact brain chemistry and circuitry, and hence influence emotions, mood and behavior.

Forgiveness especially engages the parasympathetic nervous system, which helps our immune system. The hormone

Oxytocin is so influential that some call it "the love hormone"; it plays a role in trusting people and connection to others. It is the hormone mothers produce when they breastfeed, cementing their bond with their babies. In addition to boosting oxytocin and dopamine, being kind can also increase serotonin, a neurotransmitter that helps regulate mood.

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## HEALTH BULLETIN Stroke recurrence and long-term mortality

The risk for recurrence in patients with either ischemic stroke (IS) or intracerebral hemorrhage (ICH) is substantial, especially with poor risk factor control. The impact of a first stroke versus a recurrent stroke on future events has not been well studied.

Some researchers used national health registries in Denmark to assess the 1-, 5-, and 10-year stroke recurrence rates, as well as 1- and 10-year mortality. Mortality was compared between a first stroke and a recurrent stroke.

Patient information was collected from May 2004 through 2018, totaling 105,397 IS cases (median age, 72) and 13,350 ICH cases (median age, 73), with a slight preponderance of men in both groups. IS recurrence rates were 4%, 10%, and 13%, and the ICH recurrence rates were 3%, 8%, and 12%. Mortality rates were higher after recurrent IS events (25% at 1 year; 70% at 10 years) than after a first ischemic stroke. For IS patients, recurrence rates were higher with advanced age up to age 79, male sex, and a milder index stroke.

These data are valuable since they represent information from a country with universal health insurance and a national registry. The data reinforce the substantial risks for recurrence and mortality after either IS or ICH. This study provides an important reminder about the need for multifaceted stroke prevention measures (including medication and lifestyle change) to reduce recurrence and mortality rates.



## Universal healthcare in Bangladesh could be a reality

DR RATNADEEP CHASKAR

Acknowledging the critical role of health, the UN General Assembly unanimously endorsed a resolution in 2012, urging countries to accelerate progress toward universal health coverage (UHC) - the idea that everyone, everywhere should have access to quality, affordable healthcare. The theme for this year's UHC Day focuses on investing in health systems for all. Health systems strengthening for universal health coverage and global health security are key high-level global public health objectives for healthier and safer societies.

Key to success is the right leadership and governance structure backed by a good health financing system. With the Healthcare Financing Strategy 2012-2032 in place, the country enjoys the right political will to build its healthcare sector. However, allocation to the health sector to date stands at less than 10 per cent of the total financial year budget and less than 1 percent of the GDP. To attain the vision of UHC, the government would need to refocus attention to the healthcare sector and increase budgetary allocation to meet the demands placed on delivery of the public healthcare system.

Closely related to the financing, is the ability to deliver good health services coupled with a well performing health workforce. The low budget allocation means there are shortages of trained human resource, medical equipment and supplies. This situation is not unique to Bangladesh but is prevalent across many emerging markets. It presents an opportunity to work with the private sector, to complement and address gaps in

the healthcare sector. The private sector can offer supplementary care to fill in capacity and speciality gaps in order to create a robust and strengthened healthcare infrastructure that can increase access for local communities. Further, a focus on high quality care ensures improved outcomes for patients.

Private equity helps address this shortfall in public funds, by working with governments to provide long-term funding. Further, private investment also creates economies of scale for healthcare in emerging markets that can cut costs for consumers and increase quality, which will in turn deliver significant positive social impact to consumers while ultimately unlocking private capital towards other much needed healthcare investment.

Currently, individuals bear a large share of medical costs, with up to 67 percent of expenses borne by households through out of pocket payments. This system creates a significant financial burden for impoverished families, sometimes forcing them to either forego treatment or go into debt. To reduce this burden, the government must increase healthcare funding. To address this, robust financing structures are key. Innovative public-private partnerships could also address this.

The global COVID-19 pandemic provides an opportunity for the government to reprioritise health in the national agenda. While there is no 'one size fits all' we must draw from existing evidence and chart a deliberate path towards this vision.

The writer is the CEO and Managing Director at Evercare Hospitals, Bangladesh.





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Bangladesh pacer Shoriful Islam (R) leaps in the air to celebrate the dismissal of New Zealand captain Tom Latham early on the first morning of the first Test at the Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui on Saturday. The left-earner was the pick of the bowlers with two wickets as the hosts ended the day at 258 for five. PHOTO: AFP

## No home farewell FOR GAYLE

AFP, ST. JOHNS

Veteran batsman Chris Gayle was a surprise absence from the West Indies squad named on Friday for a one-off T20 against Ireland but captain Kieron Pollard returns from injury for the series which also includes England.

The 42-year-old Gayle had been expected to be given his international farewell in front of his home crowd at Sabina Park in Kingston.

The West Indies host Ireland in the three-match International (ODI) Series and a one-off CG Insurance T20 International (T20I) from January 8 to 16.

The two-time World Champions then travel to Barbados to face England in five T20Is at Kensington Oval from January 22 to 30.

Pollard, 34, returns having missed the tour of Pakistan after failing to recover from a hamstring injury he sustained during the recent T20 World Cup.

"We have tried to maintain the general make-up of the squads from the Pakistan Tour before Christmas, with the captain and some senior players coming back in," said head coach Phil Simmons.

"COVID-19 has also played a part in the final make-up of the squad. The challenges in the next couple months are getting the young players in both squads to not only improve on their skills but maintain the attitude and desire we saw in Pakistan.

"We do need to start the year on a high. And we know both Ireland and England have very good teams, so we expect a very strong challenge as we look improve our chances of automatic qualification for the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2023 and building the T20 team for the ICC T20 World Cup in 2022."

## 'It's a very special feeling'



AGENCIES

New Zealand batsman Devon Conway's New Year has started a lot better than his 2021 ended.

Last year, Conway's final match for the Black Caps ended in agony, breaking his hand when punching his bat in disgust after being dismissed during the semi-final win over England in the ICC T20 World Cup in Abu Dhabi. Conway got just two balls of match practice ahead of the first Test when dismissed for a duck in a warm-up game between the Tigers and a New Zealand XI in Mount Maunganui. The left-hander, however, celebrated his return from injury with a sparkling 122 on Saturday against Bangladesh on the opening day of the first Test.

The 30-year-old looked like he hadn't left the crease as his phenomenal scoring record for his adopted country continued apace. The South African-born batter made a double century on debut against England at Lord's last year and averages more than 50 in all three international formats. "I haven't had a proper hit in the past eight weeks, so it was nice to contribute," Conway said.

"To have Ross Taylor out in the middle when I achieved that milestone, it's a very special feeling," Conway said of the retiring stalwart. "It'll be one of those things that will last in my memory for a very long time."

## 'PROUD OF HOW THE BOYS KEPT GOING'

SPORTS REPORTER



It came as a breath of fresh air to witness the Bangladesh quicks with the new ball testing the New Zealand batters at their den since skipper Mominul Haque elected to bowl on the first day of the first Test at the Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui today.

In fact, the duo of Shoriful Islam and Taskin Ahmed kept things extremely tight, conceding just one run in the first 7.3 overs. This sort of display is hardly seen from the Bangladeshi bowlers in the past, be it home or away. The disciplined approach had also brought reward as Shoriful dismissed Kiwi skipper Tom Latham in the fourth over of the day, courtesy of a sharp catch by wicket-keeper Liton Das.

And despite the 138-run second-wicket partnership between centurion Devon Conway and Will Young, the Bangladeshi bowlers kept toiling hard, in sharp contrast to how the Tigers tend to lose patience and momentum, as history suggests.

Tigers' pace bowling coach Ottis Gibson was all praise of his bowlers who were able to grind in during the tough periods of the day and showed character.

"Coming from Bangladesh, we don't see much grass, so the grass is a factor in the toss. We felt like we would get some movement upfront with the new ball, which we got. But it was obviously very hot today and the moisture got away from the wicket quite quickly and the wicket became very

flat and very good for batting after that. I'm proud of the way the boys bowled today (Saturday), and the fast bowler kept coming in. Miraz did a great job stopping the game from one end, and the fast bowler coming from the other," said Gibson.

The two late wickets of Conway and Tom Blundell in the final session of the day have certainly kept the visitors in the hunt when they resume the second day's proceedings.

"I think the fast bowlers bowled well in difficult conditions. I thought we were brilliant with the new ball. We pitched the ball up, swung it, and beat the bat on several occasions. We could have had a few more wickets.

"There was a close lbw shout against Conway. On another day, it's given out. Those are the small margins in international cricket. I'm quite proud of how the boys battled and kept going all day," Gibson told media yesterday.

Shoriful may have scalped two wickets but Taskin's effort, in spite of remaining wicketless from his 20 overs, would not go overlooked. The duo complimented each other in a manner Bangladesh has missed for a long time.

Before the series began, team director Khaled Mahmud pressed the issue of doing the process right in training to carry it to the game.

As a matter of fact, Bangladesh are up against the number one ranked side in the world who can still change the complexion of the game in their favour at any time. However, if the Tigers can continue to deliver what Mahmud mentioned, there is certainly a ray of hope for a better outcome in the coming days.



## Central take on dominant South

SPORTS REPORTER

While the national team are busy on their second cycle of the World Test Championship in New Zealand, Soumya Sarkar will continue his surge to make a comeback to the Test team when he appears for Walton Central Zone in the final of the Bangladesh Cricket League against South Zone today.

Interestingly, Soumya was among the few batters who scored a ton against New Zealand during the Tigers' last away tour there, back in 2019. And after a string of dismal performances with the red ball, Soumyo found himself out of the Tigers' Test side since February last year.

However, the left-hander has been in superb form in the ongoing first class tournament for Central Zone, having struck two centuries and a fifty in three matches so far.

Central Zone occupied the second position of points table to reach the final and will face the defending champions South Zone, who remained clinical throughout the group stage.

The last group stage game between the two sides ended in a high-scoring draw where Amit Hasan, Towhid Hridoy, and Zakir Hasan scored centuries for South and posted 494 runs in reply to Central's 481 in the first innings.

## Lively Fed Cup QFs in store

SPORTS REPORTER



The Federation Cup may have lost a good chunk of its glitz with holders Bashundhara Kings missing in action. However, today's two quarterfinals at the Birshrestha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium will provide no shortage of competitive intensity.

Mohammedan Sporting Club, despite having struggled in the recent past with their last Fed Cup final appearance going as far back as 2009, the 11-time champions are in fine conditions to tackle their tough upcoming encounter against 2017 runners-up Chattogram Abahani.

"We had a good rest after our last game. We are ready to play the quarterfinal," informed Mohammedan's Australian coach Sean Lane.

"Every year Chattogram Abahani are a good team and I expect this year to be

no different. I expect this game to be a tough one," Lane opined.

Chattogram Abahani coach Maruful Haque is no less optimistic about his side's chances of progressing to the last four, like they did in the previous edition.

"A game against Mohammedan is always tough but the positive thing is that we are playing the way we want to. If we can play accordingly, we can hope to qualify for the semifinals," Maruful added.

The Black and Whites will get full services from their four foreign recruits while the port city side face injury concerns and will have to wait till this morning to know whether their Nigerian forward Ebimobowe Thankgod and Afghan midfielder Omid Popalzay can play.

Ahead of the second quarterfinal, last edition's runners-up Saif Sporting Club are favourites to make it to the semis by overcoming newcomers Swadhinata Krira Sangha.

However, if recent head-to-head results are taken into account, the tie is likely to be fought on level terms.

Saif had to wait till the stoppage time to beat Swadhinata in the quarterfinal of the recently-concluded Independence Cup. Also, the two sides played out a 3-3 draw in a practice match before the start of the Federation Cup.

"We have big expectations as we have experience of playing against Saif SC. But they are ahead of us in having national players, quality foreigners and the BPL players," Swadhinata coach Jahangir Alam said.

"We are a young side. Our big strength is the team combination with the attacking lineup comprising Bosnian striker Nedo Turkovic and Uzbek Nodirbek Mavlonov," Jahangir asserted.

Swadhinata are likely to miss their Iranian defender Siamak Kouroshi, who is suffering from fever, while Saif will bank on all four of their foreign recruits.



Manchester City midfielder Rodri (R) takes off his shirt to celebrate a stoppage-time winner against Arsenal during their 2-1 win in a premier league fixture at the Emirates Stadium on Saturday. The win took the league leaders to 53 points from 21 games while Arsenal remained in fifth position with 35 points from 20 games. PHOTO: REUTERS





To celebrate the golden jubilee of independence and Mujib Borsho, a Nouka Baich (traditional boat race) was organised on Khulna's Bhairab river yesterday. Hundreds of people gathered on the banks as spectators.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## 2003 LAUNCH DISASTER

# Victims' families yet to get any compensation

## Appeal pending with apex court

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court over four years ago had asked the authorities concerned to give within 60 days a compensation of Tk 17.11 crore to the families of the victims of a 2003 launch accident in the Meghna river.

Upholding a lower court verdict, the HC in a judgment in 2017 ruled that the family of each of the 170 dead would get Tk 10 lakh, and each injured would get Tk 1 lakh. It also ordered Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and a launch owners' association to pay the compensation.

Fifty-five months went by, but the victim families are yet to receive the compensation. This is because an appeal against the HC verdict has been pending with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, although there is no stay order on the HC judgement.

The ill-fated MV Nasrin-1 capsized on July 8, 2003 at the confluence of the Padma, Meghna and Dakatia rivers in Chandpur, leaving more than 100 people dead, about 200 missing and many others injured.

The "unfit" three-deck vessel was on its way to Bhola from Dhaka with about 700 passengers. The launch owner also died in the accident, according to a government investigation report.

ZI Khan Panna, a lawyer for Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST), which is a party in the case, said that BITWA and the association have not given any compensation to the victim families, as an appeal filed by them is pending with the Appellate Division.

Following the launch accident, then Chandpur deputy commissioner had published a list of 400 people who were affected by the incident.

The Shipping and Disaster Trustee Board gave Tk 15,000 to Tk 20,000 to the families of the dead and injured as immediate assistance.

In 2004, the BLAST, on behalf of the victims, filed a case with the Third Joint District Judge's Court of Dhaka, claiming that the compensation was not adequate. The case was sent to the Seventh Joint District Judge's Court in 2012.

Four years later, the court delivered a verdict, asking the government to give a compensation of Tk 17.11 crore to the victims' families within 60 days.

The BIWTA and the launch owners' association, however, filed a revision petition against the verdict on October 24, 2016.

The HC on June 5, 2017 rejected the petition and upheld the lower court judgement as it found negligence of the authorities, including BIWTA, for the accident.

The BITWA and the owners' association jointly filed a leave-to-appeal petition with the Appellate Division in 2019, seeking a stay on the HC verdict.

**The BIWTA and the launch owners' association filed a revision petition against the lower court verdict on October 24, 2016. The High Court on June 5 the following year upheld the lower court judgment as it found negligence of the authorities, including BIWTA.**

# Road crashes shot up in December

Of 418 dead, 66 were students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 418 people were killed and 497 injured in 383 road accidents throughout December, the Road Safety Foundation said yesterday.

Of the dead, 66 were students of different educational institutions, read a press release by the foundation.

In November, at least 413 people, including 54 students, were killed in 379 crashes — indicating a rise in road accidents.

The foundation came up with the numbers after monitoring news reports.

The actual number of victims, however, could be much higher because many incidents go unreported and the media often do not count individuals who die

of injuries after the accident.

Of the 418 who died last month, 178 people were killed in 167 motorcycle-related accidents last month, accounting for 43.60

**Faulty vehicles, speeding, unskilled drivers, slow-moving vehicles on highways, reckless motorcycle riders and inadequate traffic management are to blame for road crashes.**

percent of the total deaths.

At least 127 deaths were of pedestrians, while 69 were of vehicle drivers or helpers, the report says.

Around 39 percent of the crashes were on national highways, 32.37 percent on regional highways, and the rest on other roads.

Around 15 percent of the accidents were head-on collisions of vehicles, while around 34 percent occurred after the drivers lost control over the steering. At least 32 percent of the accidents were due to vehicles directly hitting pedestrians from behind.

The highest number of accidents took place in Dhaka division, where 113 people died in 102 crashes, while Sylhet division saw the lowest road casualties — 19 dead in 16 accidents.

In Dhaka city, 18 people were killed in 15 crashes.

The foundation attributed the deaths and injuries to faulty

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Two children looking after a baby swinging on a hammock as their parents are busy drying fish on a nearby field. The photo was taken in Chattogram's Diamond Ghat area recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

# New Year stampede kills 12 at India shrine

AFP, Srinagar

Twelve people were crushed to death in a stampede at an Indian religious shrine in the early hours of yesterday as tens of thousands of pilgrims massed to offer prayers, officials said.

The disaster unfolded in darkness at around 3:00am (2130 GMT) on the packed route to the Vaishno Devi shrine in Indian-administered Kashmir, visited by millions every year as one of Hinduism's most revered sites.

"People fell over each other... It was difficult to figure out whose leg or arms were tangled with whose," survivor Ravinder told AFP by phone.

"I helped pick up eight bodies by the time ambulances arrived after about half an hour. I feel lucky to be alive but am still shaking with memory of what I saw," he said.

Video footage showed terrified pilgrims clinging onto metal rafters to escape the rush and the blue lights of small minivan ambulances flashing in the darkness as they tried to rush to hospitals through huge crowds.

Officials sought to blame an alleged altercation between two groups of youths and a rush of people for New Year's Day. But witnesses said that



the authorities were badly organised, something denied by the shrine's management.

Around a dozen people were also injured in the incident.

Millions of shrines dot Hindu-majority India's cities, towns and villages as well as remote sites in the Himalayas and jungles in the south.

Some are hugely important pilgrimage sites, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist government has invested heavily in improving infrastructure to ease access.

Modi said on Twitter that he was "extremely saddened" by the tragedy.

Before the pandemic, every day about 100,000 devotees would trek up a steep winding track to the narrow cave containing the shrine to Vaishno Devi.

Authorities had capped the daily number to 25,000 but witnesses and press reports said that this may have been exceeded several times more than that.

The shrine to Vaishno Devi, a manifestation of Hindu goddess Vaishnavi, is in the hills some 60 kilometres from the city of Jammu. It saw 8.5 million visitors in 2018.



## Betty White, doyenne of US TV, dies

AFP, Los Angeles

Actress Betty White, who made US television audiences laugh for more than seven decades, starring on popular sitcoms "The Golden Girls" and "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," died Friday at age 99.

The pioneering Emmy-winning comedienne enjoyed one of the longest careers in showbiz history: she began regularly appearing on television in 1949 and had a voice role in "Toy Story 4" in 2019.

TMZ, citing law enforcement sources, said she died at her home on Friday. The cause of death was not immediately revealed.

The news sparked an

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