

**P7** Violence against women insults God



**P3** Must prepare ahead  
Experts on preventing dengue outbreak



**P11** Gibson hails bowling effort  
Bangladesh bowlers keep NZ batters in check



**B1** Banks recorded higher profit in 2021

**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

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## 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-

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

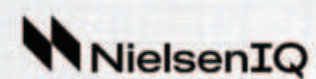
**অসামান্য এই অর্জন  
আমার, আপনার, সবার**

**BEST BRAND AWARD**  
Bangladesh  
2021

**BKASH**  
OVERALL BEST BRAND 2021

**BKASH**  
OVERALL BEST BRAND 2020

**BKASH**  
OVERALL BEST BRAND 2019



ওভারঅল বেস্ট ব্র্যান্ড অ্যাওয়ার্ড, ২০২১