



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 Mahubub 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

### AT A GLANCE

28,429 patients hospitalised in 2021

Death toll 105

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

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# 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'

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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.

PRAYER TIMING JAN 2	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					

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 পথচলার নতুন অনুপ্রেরণা।

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