



... My car just got fired at and two men on a motorbike held the vehicle at gunpoint!! ... This is Imran Khan's New Pakistan?

Reham Khan, activist and ex-wife of Imran Khan

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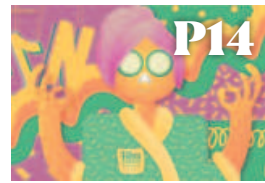
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# New year, old problems

**Project revisions galore at the first 2022 Ecne meeting despite PM's strong directive**

**10** projects to be placed at Ecne today

**7** of the projects are set to be revised

Tk **3,099** cr  
Original estimated cost

Tk **14,061** cr  
Proposed cost after revisions

## BEPZA ECONOMIC ZONE (MIRSARAI 1ST PHASE)

Estimated cost (approved)	Tk <b>750.58</b> cr
Proposed cost (1st revision)	Tk <b>1302.91</b> cr
Implementation period	Sept 2018 to June 2021
New Implementation period	Sept 2018 to June 2023



## ASHRAYAN-2

Estimated Cost (approved)	Tk <b>1169.18</b> cr	Proposed cost (4th revision)	Tk <b>11,142.8</b> cr
Implementation period	July 2010 to June 2014	New implementation period	July 2010 to June 2023



## SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR MOBILE GAMES AND APPLICATIONS

Estimated cost (approved)	Tk <b>281.97</b> cr	Implementation period	July 2016 to June 2018
Proposed cost (3rd revision)	Tk <b>330.08</b> cr	New implementation period	July 2016 to June 2023

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MAHMUDUL HASAN

Old problems greet the Prime Minister-led Executive Committee of the National Economic Council when it convenes today for its first meeting for 2022: applications for project revisions.

Time and again, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed annoyance over the unusual delays and cost escalations and even gave several directives to check cynical project revisions.

And yet, in 2022, the phenomenon is alive and kicking. Of the 10 projects that would be placed in today's meeting, seven are for revisions. The Daily Star has a copy of the proposals prepared for the meeting.

When the projects were conceived, they were supposed to cost Tk 3,099 crore. Their estimated expenditure has now billowed close to five times to Tk 14,961 crore, making a mockery of the government's continuous emphasis on formulating appropriate project plans.

The projects

are seeking an extra year to a full decade, and that too after several revisions, adding fuel to the longstanding criticism that a project ends up costing the taxpayer exponentially more money and time by the time it is completed.

Robust projection and planning are needed before starting any project, said Towfiqul Islam Khan, a senior research fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, a private think-tank.

Both of the features seem to be lagging.

The initial phase of a project -- which involves feasibility study, land acquisition and supply of human resources -- takes longer while implementing projects in Bangladesh, according to Khan.

As a result, the projects do not get completed within the stipulated time and need revision. "Ultimately, the expenditure of the project increases," he added.

For instance, one of the seven projects was taken up in 2010 for completion in June 2014. It has gone through three revisions and will now be seeking extra time and

money.

That project is Ashrayan-2, a landmark endeavour of the Awami League-led government to alleviate poverty and homelessness.

Its outlay now stands at Tk 4,826.2 crore, four times higher than the original cost.

But that is not enough. It now needs another year and an extra Tk 6,316 crore.

The reason for the higher budget is the increased construction cost of a single house for durability.

Similarly, the project to equip the youth with skills to develop mobile games and apps has gone through multiple revisions.

With the view to getting a slice of the rapidly growing international mobile gaming market that is worth about \$90 billion, the government took up the project in 2016 at a cost of about Tk 282 crore.

In the past revisions, more time was sought but not more funds. But this time, an additional Tk 49 crore has been sought and a two-year extension.

The revision is needed due to

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



## Tigers enjoy one of their 'best days'

SPORTS REPORTER

"It was one of the best days. Yes, it was challenging but the process was fantastic. We managed to execute our plan brilliantly and I think the boys really did well," Bangladesh team director Khaled Mahmud said after Bangladesh took a rare 73-run first innings lead over New Zealand on the third day of the first Test yesterday.

There were many instances in the past when individual heroics did not help the cause of the overall unit but a collective effort from Mominul

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Bangladesh batsman Liton Das smashes one during his scintillating 86-run knock on the third day of the first Test against New Zealand at the Bay Oval in Mount Maunganui on Monday. The stylish right-hander had ten fours to his credit.

PHOTO: AFP

India 'clearly' going thru third wave

Says task force chief

AGENCIES

A large chunk of Covid-19 cases in Indian metro areas reported in the last few days are of the Omicron variant, a top official said yesterday, adding that the country is "clearly in the third wave" of the pandemic.

Large cities like Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata have a combined 75 percent share of infections of the highly transmissible coronavirus variant that was first detected in South Africa in November, the head of the country's vaccine task force Dr NK Arora told NDTV.

India has so far reported 1,700 Omicron cases, with Maharashtra reporting the most number of infections at 510. The country also saw a 22 percent jump in new Covid-19 cases, government data this morning showed. 33,750 new infections and 123 deaths were reported in the last 24 hours.

Dr Arora, who is Chairman of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation, or NTAGI, said the third wave

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

# Govt set to slap curbs

Inter-ministerial meet on Omicron discusses measures to contain Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will soon announce restrictions to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus, but has no plan right now to enforce any lockdown.

The restrictions include reducing the number of public events, cutting the number of passengers in public transport, restricting restaurants from selling foods to unvaccinated customers and penalising people for not wearing masks outdoors, if necessary.

Besides, the number of Covid tests at all ports will be increased and quarantine for the people entering the country will be strictly ensured.

The decisions were made at an inter-ministerial meeting on Omicron, chaired by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, at the Secretariat yesterday evening.

Following the meeting, Health Minister Zahid Maleque told reporters that the cabinet division would issue a circular in this regard within the next 15 days.

Earlier in the day, Prof Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam, director general of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), said the Omicron variant may cause a major spike in Covid-19 transmission in the country in March-April.

## RESTRICTIONS

Reducing the number of events countrywide

Cutting the number of passengers in public transport

Penalising people for staying outdoors without masks, if needed

Ensuring stricter quarantine rules for all passengers from abroad

Zahid said, "No situation to impose any lockdown has arisen yet. So, we did not recommend a lockdown for now. The meeting was called to decide steps so that lockdown can be avoided."

At the meeting, Prof Tahmina Shirin, director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), shared information on the current Covid situation.

She said transmission of Omicron variant has not yet become alarming for the country, said meeting sources.

Tahmina later told The Daily Star, "Those who have not been jabbed will get time to get the shots."

Meanwhile, replying to reporters'

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

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Two people sit near a fire to keep themselves warm amid the chilling cold in Akcha village of Thakurgaon Sadar upazila on Sunday morning. As a cold wave is sweeping across the northern region, people, especially those who can't afford warm clothes, have been enduring untold sufferings.

PHOTO: QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT

## Dense fog to push temp even lower

Mercury may drop by 2 degrees in next 3 days, Met office says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Temperatures across the country, especially in the northern parts and the Mymensingh region, will drop for the next three days due to dense fog. “There will be dense fog from Monday night [last night], especially in the northern parts and Mymensingh, which will continue up to noon every day. It will get colder due to the dense fog in those areas,” said meteorologist Bazlur Rashid quoting the Met office forecast. It will get colder by one to two degrees Celsius in the next three days and start rising from Thursday, he said. Bazlur added that possible rainfall between January 11 and 13 may usher in another cold wave. Yesterday, the lowest countrywide temperature of 10 degrees Celsius was recorded in Naogaon, while the low in Dhaka was 14.3 degrees Celsius. At the Saidpur airport in Nilphamari, the fog resulted in flights being rescheduled and no flights being possible before 11:00am yesterday, sources said.

# 853 killed in workplace accidents last year

Finds safety survey, recommends stepping up inspection

MUNTAKIM SAAD

At least 853 people were killed and 236 others seriously injured in workplace accidents last year, according to a survey by Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation. It recommended strengthening inspections to improve the situation. Of the victims, 792 worked in the informal economy while 297 in the formal sector, OSHE Foundation said while revealing its report yesterday. The number of deaths in the formal sector was 171, whereas it was 682 in the informal economy. The report was prepared based on news run by 15 national newspapers, seven local newspapers and information gathered from the spot by staffers of the organisation. The year-wise data of OSHE Foundation showed that at least 18,659 people have been killed at workplaces since 2005. The highest number of deaths – 3,721 – were reported in the RMG sector. OSHE also found that the number of deaths in the ship-breaking industry

increased to 16 last year from eight in 2020. The number of injuries was 29 in 2021, up from four in the previous year. In the manufacturing sector, including food processing, steel mills, rice mills, paper mills, brick fields and the leather industry, 116 workers died. In the construction sector the number was 123, while 95 workers died in the agriculture sector. In the RMG industry, it was 27, the organisation said. It also observed that failure to ensure workers’ rights, poor legal framework, weak labour inspection and a lack of speedy prosecution were the main reasons behind workplace deaths in the country. The absence of or non-functioning health and safety committees at factories and other establishments, safety-related information services, training and awareness actions for workers and employees at worksites are also responsible. Lack of workers’ safety is a lingering issue in Bangladesh. Following the worst-ever workplace accident, the Rana Plaza collapse in 2013, which took more than 1,100

lives, the government amended the Labour Act 2006 to make it more comprehensive. Although the situation has improved in the RMG sector, accidents continued in other sectors, claiming countless lives of workers. In the second year of the Covid-19 pandemic, many workers could not work for about five months – from April to August – due to various restrictions, including layoffs, said the report. Last year, the most dreadful incident occurred at the Hashem Foods factory in Narayanganj’s Rupganj on July 8, in which a fire killed at least 54 workers, mostly women and children. Earlier, a report of the Citizen Probe Committee stated that workers’ deaths in the Hashem Foods factory blaze was an act of “systematic killing”. “The workers were trapped inside the building since the only exit had been locked. This illegal practice to force workers to remain inside the factory led to that terrible tragedy. This once again reveals the extremely callous standards of safety that come to public notice only when a tragedy of such magnitude occurs,” observed OSHE.

## India ‘clearly’ going Govt set to slap curbs

FROM PAGE 1 of the pandemic is very much here. “India is clearly in the third wave of Covid-19. And the whole wave seems to be driven by a new variant and today it is Omicron,” he told NDTV. The alarming comments came as India yesterday vaccinated more than 3.85 million teens aged between 15 and 18 years yesterday in

an effort to protect its large adolescent population. Bharat Biotech’s Covaxin has been used in inoculating the age group, Reuters reported. India has more than 120 million people aged between 15 and 19 years, according to the country’s 2011 Census, and the largest population of adolescents in the world, as per UNICEF estimates.

## Tigers enjoy

FROM PAGE 1 Haque and troops in tough Kiwi conditions set the performance apart. Interestingly, it was the first instance that Bangladesh took a first-innings lead while batting second outside of Asia which reflects how a young and relatively inexperienced side showed their character as do the near-zero expectations heading into the series. All eyes were on how the Bangladesh batters would react and, although both missed out on deserving hundreds, Mominul and Liton Das added 158 for the fifth wicket to ensure Bangladesh would seize control and end the day on

401 for six. Mahmudul Hasan Joy’s 78 in just his second Test and Najmul Hossain’s dominant 64 were other highlights of the first time the top six Bangladesh batters faced over 50 deliveries in an innings away from home. Even the New Zealand media started to show concern about keeping their nine-Test win at home intact against the Tigers. But with two days remaining and the Tigers’ reputation for throwing it all away despite putting in the hard yards, Bangladesh still has a lot to play for to make this effort count towards a positive outcome.

FROM PAGE 1 queries at an event in the capital, Education Minister Dipu Moni said classes at educational institutions would be suspended again if the situation demanded so. ‘HOSPITALS BETTER PREPARED’ Speaking to reporters yesterday, DGHS DG Bashar said hospitals were now better prepared to tackle the Covid situation. “Like other countries, we are also worried about Omicron. But we think we have nothing to plan anew. We have to strengthen the capacities of hospitals

that we readied during the previous Covid waves.” He said ensuring a smooth and uninterrupted supply of oxygen was at the heart of their preparations. “If we can address the oxygen shortage problem, it will be a big support for us. Because we have seen that oxygen was the main thing required by Covid patients.” Bashar also said most of the 40 oxygen generators had already been installed in hospitals. “Besides, central oxygen supply system has already been installed at most district hospitals.”

## Neglect of duty

FROM PAGE 16 examine the launch properly, they said. Mahbubur Rahman, surveyor of Shipping Department at Sadarghat, admitted to the committee that he did not look into whether the engines of the launch were changed and that he neglected his duties, source said. The launch made its first trip after three months on December 19 and the second one on December 23. But, Shipping Department Inspector Habibur Rahman did not inspect the launch.

Habibur Rahman was held responsible for negligence in serving duties as he did not inspect the launch although it resumed operation after three months, they said. The committee said Zainal Abedin, joint director of the BIWTA at Sadarghat, did not play due role because he did not inform the authorities concerned even after knowing that the launch resumed operation. The probe body found that two drivers did not anchor the launch after it caught fire even though

The DGHS chief also said people with chronic diseases, irrespective of their age, would be able to take the booster dose of Covid vaccine even if they did not get any SMS from the authorities. For more than a week, the country has been witnessing a steady rise in novel coronavirus infections. Besides, at least 10 Covid Omicron cases have been detected so far. In 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday, the health directorate reported 674 fresh Covid cases – the highest daily cases since October 6.

## Why do we

FROM PAGE 16 through the narrowed vessels by filtering out some excess fluid from blood. The excess fluid goes to your bladder and thus, makes you feel the urge to urinate more frequently. A full bladder is another way for the body to lose heat, so urinating frequently helps preserve your core warmth.

## Strong quake hits off Taiwan’s eastern coast

AFP, TAIPEI

A strong earthquake struck off the coast of eastern Taiwan yesterday evening, the Central Weather Bureau said, with shaking felt in the capital Taipei but no immediate reports of damage. The weather bureau said the quake measured 6.0 in magnitude and hit at the relatively shallow depth of 19 kilometres (12 miles). The United States Geological Survey (USGS) put the magnitude higher at 6.2. The epicentre was given in the sea 56 kilometres east of the coastal city of Hualien. The weather bureau said no immediate reports of damage had come in. An AFP reporter in Taipei said buildings swayed violently when the tremor struck during the rush hour commute at 5:46 pm (0946 GMT). “The shaking lasted for a good 20 seconds with the ground moving left and right,” the reporter said.

# Frame law or form EC on consensus

President urged at talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ganotanry Party yesterday urged President Abdul Hamid to take necessary steps to frame a law with a provision for a constitutional council to form the Election Commission. Bangladesh Khelafat Andolon during its dialogue with the president on formation of the EC also favoured enacting a law in this regard through consensus among all political parties. During the dialogue, Ganotanry Party proposed that there should be a council consisting the prime minister, the Speaker, chief justice, opposition leader and attorney general, which would recommend names to the president for the posts of chief election commissioner and other election commissioners. “If it is not possible to enact a law in line with the constitution due to time constraints, the next Election Commission can be formed through a search committee consisting persons holding constitutional posts,” Ganotanry Party General Secretary Shahadat Hussain told reporters after the dialogue at the Bangabhaban.

The party in its written proposal to Hamid said the search committee would recommend five names for each of the posts of CEC and election commissioners. “Names proposed by the search committee will be sent to the Business Advisory Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad for scrutiny. The Business Advisory Committee will prepare a shortlist and forward it to the president. The president will form the Election Commission from it,” the proposal said.

Those who would be appointed as election commissioners should believe in the spirit of Liberation War. There should be a process to make the EC accountable for its failure. Political parties and people who are against the spirit of Liberation War should be disqualified from contesting polls, the party proposed.

A seven-member delegation, led by Ganotanry Party President Mohammad Arash Ali, took part in the dialogue. Speaking to reporters outside the Bangabhaban after joining the dialogue, Bangladesh Khelafat Andolon Organising Secretary Sultan Mohiuddin said they urged the president to take steps to frame a law to constitute EC through consensus among all political parties.

The party said the EC should be truly independent and act neutrally. “Anti-religion, identified corrupt people, holders of black money, killers, goons, convicted accused as well as druggies should be disqualified from contesting elections,” Sultan said. He said the EC made giving 33 percent party positions to women mandatory for all political parties, but it should be made optional. A seven-member delegation, led by party Chairman Maulana Ataullah Ibne Hafezi Hujur, joined the dialogue.

The president late last month started the talks with registered political parties on formation of the next EC as the tenure of the current one expires on February 14. Twelve political parties have so far joined the dialogue. However, three parties – Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal and Islami Andolon Bangladesh – have refused to join the talks. The BNP said it would not join the dialogue even if it is invited. About the reason for staying away from the dialogue, the parties said the talks would not be meaningful.

## US SANCTIONS ON RAB

# Will fix if any weaknesses found

## Says Momen

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said in case of any weaknesses, the government will rectify them in a bid to get the US to reconsider sanctions on Rab and seven of its current and former top officials. The government previously denied that Rab was behind several hundred extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances after the sanctions were imposed on December 10 last year. “If we have any weaknesses, we will try to rectify it. We are pretty open to it,” he told journalists at his office yesterday. “We will see why they [the US] are dissatisfied. Based on the information, we will try to rectify it. If they are dissatisfied because of false information, we will provide the correct information and explain that you are acting on false information. Our assessment is that they will understand us,” he said. The US have mature, responsible leadership, Momen said, adding that the US will move away from their position once the government provides the information. The government was also considering appointing a law firm that can work for withdrawal of the US sanctions. Asked, he said, “When legal process is required, we will involve it.” In late December, Momen also wrote a letter to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, requesting that they reconsider the sanctions.

## US-led coalition in Iraq targeted

AFP, BAGHDAD

The US-led coalition against the Islamic State group in Iraq yesterday shot down two armed drones targeting a compound at Baghdad airport hosting its personnel, a coalition official said.

## US Defense Secretary contracts Covid

AFP, WASHINGTON

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin reported Sunday that he has contracted Covid-19, as the highly infectious Omicron

variant sweeps across the United States. Austin’s symptoms were “mild” and he will quarantine at home for the next five days, the Pentagon chief said in a statement.





This spot in Lalbagh's Beribadh area is used by locals to dump waste, which by itself is an environmental and health hazard. However, after this waste accumulates for a while, it is burned, both to clear the spot and sell the remains as raw materials. This is like a double whammy, as the emission only stands to worsen the surrounding environment. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## 2021, a violent year for women

Mahila Parishad, BNWLA reports paint grim picture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 3,703 incidents of torture and sexual violence against children and women took place across the country between January and December 2021, revealed a report of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday.

Of them, 1,235 women were raped, including 179, who were gang-raped. In addition, 629 girls were raped, while 62 girls were gang-raped within this period. The women's rights organisation made the report citing data collected from reports published in 13 national newspapers.

Another 155 women, including 93 girls, faced rape attempts in the past year, while 31 women and girls (22 girls) were murdered after rape, and seven died by suicide after the incidents.

Besides, 95 women and girls faced other forms of sexual violence in this period.

In 2021, 22 women, including five girls, were subjected to acid attacks, while four of them died due to the attacks; another 180, including 153, girls were subjected to abduction, and 42 were subjected to trafficking.

A total of 444 women, including 114 children, were killed for various reasons. At least 138 women and girls were tortured for dowry, while 45 of them were killed for dowry.

Besides, 208 women, including girls, also faced physical violence in 2021, while 427 women, including 131 girls, died mysteriously in the past year.

At least 327 child marriages took place last year, the statement also mentioned.

Meanwhile, a report of Bangladesh National Women Lawyer's Association (BNWLA) found that 2,588 incidents of torture and sexual violence against women and girls took place across the country last year. Advocate Zubaida Parvin, general secretary of BNWLA, revealed this in a press conference at the capital's National Press Club yesterday.

<b>PRAYER TIMING JAN 4</b>						
	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

## COX'S BAZAR RAPE

# Petition seeks judicial inquiry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Supreme Court lawyer yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court, seeking its directive on the government to conduct a judicial inquiry into the gang-rape of a tourist in Cox's Bazar on December 22 last year.

Md Abdullah Al Harun Russell submitted the petition as a public interest litigation to the HC.

The petition also requested the High Court to pass necessary order for taking appropriate action against those responsible for the incident.

Citing the petition, the lawyer told The Daily Star that law enforcement agencies have delivered separate information and statements on the incident.

Therefore, a judicial inquiry is needed to uncover facts, he said.

The lawyer said the High Court may hold a hearing on the writ petition today or tomorrow.

On December 22, three men raped the woman while their cohorts took her husband and child hostage.

The woman, her husband, and their eight-month-old child went to Cox's Bazar on holiday from the capital, according to the case documents.

A total of four persons have been arrested so far in connection with the case.

According to law enforcers, two more accused are on the run.

Seven people have been made accused in the case, they added.

# 'Enforce law, hold culprits accountable'

## Speakers urge at meeting on road, waterway safety

Anarchy and dishonesty are apparent in the country's transport sector. Even the administration at times turned "helpless" when faced with threats from influential groups.

**SYEDA RIZWANA HASAN**  
Chief executive of Bela

The government enacted the Road Transport Act-2018 in face of several protests. However, steps required to properly enforce the law has not been undertaken yet.

**ILIAS KANCHAN**  
Road-safety campaigner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political will is required to ensure safety and bring back order to the country's roads and waterway, said speakers at a views-exchange meeting yesterday.

Besides, they stressed the need for proper enforcement of relevant laws to make perpetrators of road and waterway accidents accountable and ensure compensation for victims' families, and formulate a comprehensive law replacing the existing Inland Shipping Ordinance-1976.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) organised the meeting on "Deaths on Waterway and Road due to Negligence: Doable in Ensuring Due Compensation and Liability" at the capital's Cirdap.

Addressing the event, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said anarchy and dishonesty are apparent in the country's transport sector.

Even the administration at times turned "helpless" when faced with threats from influential groups, she said.

The situation on the roads is not safe for people's commute, commented Barrister Sara Hossain, honorary executive director of BLAST, during her speech.

Renowned actor and road-safety campaigner

Ilias Kanchan said the government enacted the Road Transport Act-2018 in the face of several protests and campaigns from advocacy groups.

However, the steps required to properly enforce the law have not been undertaken yet, he said.

He also mentioned that even a set of rules for the law is yet to be formulated.

In his concluding remarks, Justice Nizamul Haque, former judge at the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, said those responsible for negligence in road and waterway accidents should be held accountable as per law.

Besides, he urged advocacy groups to continue campaigns to build awareness about road and waterway safety issues.

Among others, Barrister Aneek R Haque of the Supreme Court also addressed the event.

In a recently published appraisal report prepared for financing a road safety project in Bangladesh, the World Bank observed that different bodies exist in Bangladesh to ensure road and waterway safety, but they are not empowered and lack effective coordination to get expected outcomes.

These organisations are also not held accountable.

Besides, the fund allocated for road safety action plans is insufficient, not prioritised, and has never been institutionalised.



This pet mother refuses to see her dog as a mere canine. Curious about its get-up, when this photojournalist approached her, she said the dog is like a child to her, which is why she tries to give her all the attention in the world. Yesterday, she was on her way to the veterinarian for a check-up, with the dog all dressed up for the winter cold. This photo was taken from Shanir Akhra area.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Dhaka air too 'unhealthy'

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka continues to gasp for fresh air as the city ranks the fourth most polluted city. Dhaka's air quality index (AQI) score was recorded at 197 at 10am yesterday, which is considered "unhealthy".

Dubai, Lahore and Delhi occupied the top three spots with AQI scores of 751, 326, and 305, respectively, in the latest list of cities considered 'hazardous' in terms of air.

AQI is an index used by government agencies to inform people about their city's air quality and associated health factors of concern.

In Bangladesh, the AQI is based on five criteria pollutants – Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5), NO2, CO, SO2 and Ozone.

A report by the Department of Environment (DoE) and the World Bank in March 2019 pointed out that as a city struggling with air quality, the three main sources of Dhaka's air pollution "are brick kilns, fumes from vehicles and dust from construction sites".

In winter, the city's air quality starts deteriorating sharply due to the massive discharge of pollutant particles from construction works, rundown roads, brick kilns and others.

Air pollution consistently ranks among the top risk factors for death and disability worldwide. As per the World Health Organization (WHO), air pollution kills an estimated seven million people worldwide every year.

## 'Their allowance still paltry'

### Planning minister tells webinar about persons with disabilities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is saddening that people with disabilities receive only around Tk 10,000 annually as allowance, even though Bangladesh's per capita income has crossed US \$2,500, Planning Minister MA Mannan told a webinar yesterday.

He assured organisations working for the rights of such people that he'll arrange a pre-budget discussion with the finance minister and secretary, so that the organisations can raise their voices and demands.

Mannan made the comments at the webinar titled "Disability Inclusive National Budget 2022-2023", jointly organised by Access Foundation Bangladesh and The Daily Star, in association with Manusher Jonno Foundation and UK Aid.

Albert Mollah, co-founder and executive director of Access Bangladesh Foundation, while presenting a paper, said although adoption of development plans and budget allocations largely depends on reliable statistics, there are no reliable statistics on the total number of persons with disabilities in Bangladesh, he said.

The budget allocated for such people is also very inadequate, he stated.

Albert suggested that every child with disabilities must be covered with government stipends, and the children's enrolment in vocational education must be increased.

Urging for increased allowance for persons with disabilities, Khandaker Jahurul Alam, executive director of Centre for Services and Information on Disability, said such people get a monthly allowance of Tk 750 from the social welfare ministry, which stands at only Tk 25 a day.

During her welcome speech, Nazrana Yeasmin Hira, coordinator at MJF, highlighted that the allocation for people with disabilities must not be limited to social safety net budgets. Rather, there must be more emphasis on teaching them skills, so that they can be self-reliant.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

## 3 of a family die as trawler capsizes in the Meghna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Three members of a family died and one was missing as a trawler capsized in the Meghna in Cumilla yesterday.

The deceased – Julekha Akter (55), her grandchildren Ayesha Akter (12), and Mariam Akter (7), – are from Raipur village in Titas upazila. They were residents of Dhaka's Demra area.

The engine-run trawler carrying 14 passengers capsized while it was heading to Titas from Daudkandi around 2:00pm.

Locals rescued 13 of them and took Daudkandi Alham Hospital where doctors declared Julekha, Ayesha and Mariam dead.

Confirming the deaths, Samiruddin of Meghna Police Station said the bodies were kept at local health complex.



**মেঘনা পেট্রোলিয়াম লিমিটেড**  
(বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশন এর একটি স্বতন্ত্র প্রতিষ্ঠান)  
৫৮-৫৯, অম্মাবাদ বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, উত্তর (www.mpl.gov.bd)।  
“কৃষকরা দুর্নীতি, গড়বো দেশ, উন্নত হবে বঙ্গবন্ধু বাংলাদেশ”

**বৃত্তাকার মেডিকেল অফিসার নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

খ্যাতনামা পেট্রোলিয়ামজাত পণ্য বিপণনকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান মেঘনা পেট্রোলিয়াম লিমিটেড, চট্টগ্রাম এর জন্য অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে ০১ জন বৃত্তাকার মেডিকেল অফিসার নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে নিম্নবর্ণিত শিক্ষাগত/পেশাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে :

পদের নাম : বৃত্তাকার মেডিকেল অফিসার, সময় : ২.০০ ঘটিকা হতে ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

বেতন : আলোচনা সাপেক্ষে।

শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা : এম বি বি এস পাশ।

অভিজ্ঞতা : বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিলের সদস্য হিসেবে রেজিস্ট্রেশন প্রাপ্তির পর ৫ বছরের বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা।

মেডিসিন/সার্জারী/পাবলিক হেলথ বিষয়ের উপর উচ্চতর ডিগ্রী/প্রশিক্ষণ প্রাপ্তদের অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে।

বয়স : সর্বোচ্চ ৪৫ বছর (১০-০১-২০২২ তারিখ পর্যন্ত)।

অন্যান্য প্রার্থীগণকে সম্প্রতি তালিকা ০৪ (চার) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবিসহ চাহিত ডকুমেন্টসমূহের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি এবং ব্যারোডাটা সহ ডেপুটি মেনোরেস ম্যানোজার (এইচ আর), মেঘনা পেট্রোলিয়াম লিমিটেড, ৫৮-৫৯, অম্মাবাদ বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, চট্টগ্রাম এর দ্বারা প্রদত্ত আবেদনপত্র প্রেরণ করতে হবে। খামের উপর পদের নাম উল্লেখপূর্বক ডাক/কুরিয়ার মাধ্যমে ১০-০১-২০২২ তারিখের মধ্যে আবেদন পর পৌছাতে হবে।

(মোঃ টিপু সুপতান)  
ডেপুটি মেনোরেস ম্যানোজার (এইচ আর)

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**TENDER NOTICE**

Institute of Water Modelling (IWM) invites sealed quotations for supplying & installation of Server, Rack, PDU & Accessories in IWM. Interested bidders having proven experience of the supply of the mentioned items are requested to visit the notice at IWM website <[www.iwmbd.org](http://www.iwmbd.org)> for details.

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**Way Housing Pvt. Limited**  
Level-02, 15/2, Road No-03, Dhandmondi, Dhaka.

**Job Opportunity**

Name of Post : **Sr. Executive** (Sales & Marketing)  
Vacancy : 03  
Salary : 55,000/-  
Zone : Noakhali, Lakshmipur, Chandpur & Dhaka.  
Qualification : BBA/MBA (Marketing) DU/CU/ be any recognized university.

Name of Post : **Assistant Sales Manager** (Sales & Marketing)  
Vacancy : 03  
Salary : 65,000/-  
Zone : Noakhali, Lakshmipur, Chandpur & Dhaka.  
Qualification : BBA/MBA (Marketing) DU/CU/ be any recognized university.

Name of Post : **Assistant Manager** (HR)  
Vacancy : 01  
Salary : 45,000/-  
Zone : Head Office.  
Qualification : BBA/MBA (Human Resources) DU/CU/ be any recognized university.

**Dhaka/Chittagong University will have higher priority.**  
Contact E-mail: [monoar.whpl@gmail.com](mailto:monoar.whpl@gmail.com)  
Last date of application: **30.01.2022**

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Nilphamari  
Telephone No. 0551 61403  
E-mail: [eenil@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eenil@rhd.gov.bd)

Memo No. 35.01.7364.456.07.012.20-10 Date: 03-01-2022

**e-Tender Notice**

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-Tender is invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by The Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Nilphamari for the procurement of:

Tender ID & Tender No.	Name of works	Tender document price (in BDT)	Tender security (in BDT)	Last selling & opening (date and time)
<b>e-TID No. 643100, Tender No. e-GP-01/ADP/Zilla Road/EE/RHD/NIL/2021-2022</b>	Tree plantation with 24 months nursing at 8th(P),9th(P),10th(P) & 11th(P) km of (One Side) of Boragari-Khosharghat-Dimla Road (Z 5054) under Road Division Nilphamari during the year 2021-2022.	1000	9000	Date: 18-01-2022. Time: Up to 17.00 & Date: 19-01-2022. Time: After 12.00
<b>e-TID No. 644273, Tender No. e-GP-18/EE/RHD/NIL/2021-2022</b>	Re-construction of 01 (One) No. 1 x 3.00m (clear) length & 2.00m (clear) height RCC Box culvert with U-type Wing wall at 5th km of Jharbari(Birgonj)-Joygonj-Bhabaniganj-Nilphamari (Police Line)-Pachmatha-Panchapukur-Kishorgonj(Sadurarpool) Road (Z-5027) under Road Division, Nilphamari during the year 2021-2022.	1000	110000	Date: 18-01-2022. Time: Up to 17.00 & Date: 19-01-2022. Time: After 12.00
<b>e-TID No. 644277, Tender No. e-GP-19/EE/RHD/NIL/2021-2022</b>	Emergency repair & renovation works of Office Building & Motor Garage in/c necessary fitting, fixing and furniture for newly constructed Inspection Bungalow at Nilphamari office compound under Road Division, Nilphamari during the year 2021-2022.	1000	80000	Date: 18-01-2022. Time: Up to 17.00 & Date: 19-01-2022. Time: After 12.00

**Md. Monzurul Karim**  
ID No. 602000  
Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Nilphamari

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**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD  
Road Circle, Noakhali  
Phone No. 0321-61092  
E-mail: [senoa@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:senoa@rhd.gov.bd)

Memo No. 35.01.7587.190.17.017.21-2674 Date: 03.01.2022

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tenders are invited in National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Superintending Engineer, RHD, Noakhali Circle, Noakhali for the procurement of following works:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of works	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)	Tender opening (date & time)
01.	644443	SE/Noakhali/FRD/PMP-Road/2021-2022/05	Strengthening of the existing damage portion of pavement by aggregate Base type-I at 11th(P) Km 12th(P) Km., 13th(P) Km. & 14th(P) Km. and provide surfacing work (Ch. 6+750 Km to Ch. 13+280 Km) (DBS Wearing Course) of <b>Feni-Temohoni-Biroli Bazar-Gazirhat-Sonaimuri Zilla Highway (Z-144)</b> under Feni Road Division during the year 2021-2022.	01/02/2022 at 17:00	02/02/2022 at 12:30	02/02/2022 at 12:30

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in National 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>). Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk ([helpdesk@www.eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@www.eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Ranapriya Barua**  
ID No. 005155  
Superintending Engineer (C.C), RHD  
Road Circle, Noakhali

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**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**

মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়  
উল্লয়ন-১ শাখা  
পরিবহন পুল ভবন  
সচিবালয় লিংক রোড, ঢাকা  
[www.mowca.gov.bd](http://www.mowca.gov.bd)

নং-৩২-০০.০০০০.০৫৬.১১.০০৫.২০-৩২৬ তারিখঃ ৩০/১২/২০২১খ্রিঃ

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীন মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক পরিচালিত “২০টি শিশু দিব্যত্ন কেন্দ্র স্থাপন” প্রকল্পের নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদে প্রকল্প মেয়াদে সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে সরাসরি জনবল নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে নিম্নোক্ত শর্তে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্রঃ নং	পদের নাম, গ্রেড ও সাকুল্য বেতন	পদের সংখ্যা	বয়সসীমা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা এবং অভিজ্ঞতা
১।	ডে-কেয়ার অফিসার গ্রেড-১০ সাকুল্য বেতন টা=২৭,১০০/-	১(এক)	অনুর্ধ্ব-৩০ (ত্রিশ) বছর	ক) যে কোন স্বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় থেকে ন্যূনতম ২য় শ্রেণীর মাস্টার্স পাস হতে হবে। খ) মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তরের কোন চলমান শিশু দিব্যত্ন কর্মসূচী প্রকল্পে কর্মরত অথবা অনুরূপ কোন সমান্তরাল প্রকল্পে কাজ করেছেন তেমন প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়স শিথিলযোগ্য। গ) কেবলমাত্র মহিলা প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন করতে পারবেন।

**শর্তাবলী**

- নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদন করতে হবে। মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়ের ওয়েবসাইটে ([www.mowca.gov.bd](http://www.mowca.gov.bd)) এ আবেদন ফরম পাওয়া যাবে। আবেদনকারীকে ওয়েবসাইট হতে নিম্নোক্ত আবেদনপত্রের ছক A4 সাইজ কাগজে প্রিন্ট করে খালি ঘর গুলো স্বহস্তে/টাইপ করে পূরণ করতে হবে। আগামী ২০/০১/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখের মধ্যে আবেদনপত্র ডাকযোগে সচিব, মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়, পরিবহন পুল ভবন (কক্ষ নং-৮১১), বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয় লিংক রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০ এই ঠিকানায় আবেদনপত্র পৌছাতে হবে।
- প্রার্থীর বয়সসীমাঃ ২০/০১/২০২২ তারিখে প্রার্থীর বয়স অনুর্ধ্ব-৩০ বছর হতে হবে। মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র/কন্যার ক্ষেত্রে বয়স ৩২ বছর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য। প্রার্থীদের বয়স বিবেচনার ক্ষেত্রে এসএসসি/সমমানের সনদ বিবেচনা করা হবে। বয়সের ক্ষেত্রে কোন প্রকার এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- শূন্য পদ পূরণে কোটা সম্পর্কিত প্রচলিত সরকারি নীতিমালা যথাযথভাবে অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- প্রার্থীদের আবেদনপত্রের সাথে কোন প্রকার ট্রেজারী চালান/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার প্রযোজ্য হবে না।
- নিম্নবর্ণিত কাগজপত্র আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে দিতে হবেঃ
  - সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি;
  - ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র;
  - জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্রের ফটোকপি;
  - সদ্যতোলা ০৩ (তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত রঙিন ছবি;
  - পৌরসভা/ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান অথবা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ওয়ার্ড কমিশনারের নিকট হতে নাগরিকত্বের সনদপত্র;
  - আবেদনপত্রের সাথে ১০ (দশ) টাকা মূল্যের ডাক টিকেট সহ নিজ ঠিকানা স্বত্বাধীন ৯ "x৪" সাইজের একটি অব্যবহৃত খাম সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- খামের উপর অবশ্যই স্পষ্টভাবে প্রার্থীর জেলা ও পদের নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- শূন্য পদ পূরণে ভোলা জেলার প্রার্থীদের অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া হবে।
- সরকার নির্ধারিত বিশেষ করে কোটার (শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধা বা মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের সন্তান/মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের সন্তানদের সন্তান/এতিমখানা নিবাসী ও শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী, উপজাতি, আনসার ও ভিডিপি এবং মহিলা) চাকুরী প্রার্থীকে এ কোটার চাকুরীর যোগ্যতা সংক্রান্ত সরকারের সর্বশেষ নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সনদের ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে।
- চাকুরীরত প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।
- লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীরা মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবে। প্রবেশপত্র প্রেরণের মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও কেন্দ্র সম্পর্কে জানানো হবে।
- আবেদনপত্র বাছাই করে শুধুমাত্র যোগ্য প্রার্থীদের লিখিত/মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য আহবান করা হবে। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অন্যান্য সনদপত্রের মূলকপি প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।
- নির্ধারিত তারিখের পর প্রাপ্ত কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না এবং অসম্পূর্ণ/ত্রুটিপূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র অগ্রহণযোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবে।
- লিখিত/মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
- কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় বিজ্ঞপ্তি পরিবর্তন/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে শূন্য পদের সংখ্যা হ্রাস-বৃদ্ধি/বাতিল/সংশোধন বা সংযোজন করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- নিয়োগের ব্যাপারে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।

**মোহাম্মদ শহীদুল্লাহ**  
উপসচিব (উঃ ১)  
ফোনঃ ২২৩৩৩৯৭৭৪

জিডি-২০

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[www.lged.gov.bd](http://www.lged.gov.bd)

Memo No. 46.02.2672.000.14.001.20/1475 Date: 28/12/2021

**e-Tender Notice-05/2021-2022**

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (OTM) (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) of UDF the procurement of following scheme listed below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of scheme	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
1	642689	Repair and renovation of SAVAR URC under Savar, Dhaka. Package No. e-Tender/PEDP4/DHK/SAV/2021-22/W10.329	26/01/2022 17.00pm	27/01/2022 13.00pm	27/01/2022 13.00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal & 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. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches 26th January/2022, Time: 4.00pm.  
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)).

**Saleh Hasan Pramanik**  
Upazila Engineer  
Savar, Dhaka  
Phone: 7742695  
E-mail: [ue.savar@lged.gov.bd](mailto:ue.savar@lged.gov.bd)

GD-13





PRECISION IS THE NAME OF THE GAME... The traditional game of “Saat Chara” has waned in popularity over the years, as technology has brought in newer means of enjoyment. But as this child steadies himself and throws his tennis ball to knock off the brick chips off their stack, it goes to show that as long as there’s an innate need for improving in marksmanship among humans, games like these will continue to live. This photo was taken from Khulna city’s Ghaat-7 Railhosti area yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## LAUNCH FIRE TRAGEDY

### Another victim dies, death toll now 49

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The death toll from MV Abhijan-10 launch fire in Jhalakathi rose to 49 as another injured died at a Dhaka hospital yesterday morning.

Rasel Sheikh (38) breathed his last at 11:00am while being treated at Intensive Care unit of Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

He had 28 percent burns on his body and respiratory tracks, said Dr Samanta Lal Sen, coordinator of the institute. Twelve more patients are being treated at the hospital of whom two are at ICU, he added.

With him, the death toll from the launch fire rose to 48, Jhalakathi Deputy Commissioner (DC) Johar Ali told The Daily Star.

Deceased’s brother Munna Sheikh said nine of his family members and relatives were on their way to Barguna when the launch caught fire on December 23.

Three of them including Rasel’s wife Putul Begum survived while four, including Rasel, died and they could not locate the bodies of Rasel’s sons – Jibon and Emon.

## Lack of logistics delayed rescue operation

### Say fire service officials

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

It took around one and a half hours to start the rescue operation for the MV Abhijan-10 launch fire. Fire Service and Civil Defence sources said although they had come to know of the fire within 15 minutes of its origination, they lacked the logistics required to fight it in the water on a cold winter night.

The harrowing accident occurred in the early hours of December 24 in Sugandha river under Jhalakathi Sadar upazila. The fire burnt 46 passengers to death, while several dozens remain missing.

To fight such a fire hazard, divers, rescue speed boats and a vessel known as “Agnihatak”, capable of putting out the fire, is a must, but firefighters in Jhalakathi had access to none of them, as there is no river fire station in the district or neighbouring Pirojpur. Moreover, there are only four divers – two in Barishal and two in Patuakhali – to cover the 10 districts of Barishal and Dhaka divisions.

After coming to know of the incident, firefighters first went to Char Bhatarakanda village, where the launch was pulled in by one of their rescue vehicles. Lacking necessary equipment, they waited until they could manage a motorised trawler. But it was too little, too late.

Syed Sharafat Ali, former station officer of Barishal River Fire Station, said without rescue speed boats, well-equipped divers and agnihataks, rescue operations are impossible in water.



Md Belal Uddin, sub-assistant director of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Barishal, said it’s difficult for them to cover ten districts alone. Although there’s a river fire station in Patuakhali, it suffers from logistical and human resource crises.

“For districts that host rivers, a hybrid of land and river fire stations can fill this resource vacuum.”

Contacted, Kabad Ali Sarker, assistant director of Barishal Fire Service and Civil Defence, said the launch fire tragedy was first of its kind for the area, which has alarmed everyone of the need for river fire stations.

“We will relay the matter to higher authorities formally,” he said.

## Two dolphins found dead in Turag river

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Two Ganges dolphins were found dead in Turag river at Savar’s Ashulia in the last two days.

Locals said the body of one was recovered on Sunday evening from Ashulia Bazar area, and the other one yesterday morning from Ashulia Fela-ghat area.

Abdus Sattar, a local, said fishers found the dead dolphins floating in the river. Later, they recovered the bodies and informed the local fisheries authorities.

A person claiming to be a journalist took one of the bodies away, before government officials arrived.

“The dolphins might have died, as the river’s water is completely polluted by waste and chemicals of nearby factories,” Sattar added.

Contacted, Kamrul Hasan Sarker, senior fisheries officer of Savar, said the dolphins are not usually found in Turag.

“We suspect that the dolphins might have swam to Turag during monsoon... Their death might have been due to the polluted water, and the environment not being suitable for them,” he said.

**The dolphins might have swam to Turag during monsoon... Their death might have been due to the polluted water, and the environment not being suitable for them**

## RT-PCR tests begin at Ctg airport



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The RT-PCR Covid-19 detection tests for expatriates started at Chattogram’s Shah Amanat International Airport yesterday.

Hasan Shahriar Kabir, Chattogram divisional director of DGHS, said expatriates would have to come to the airport at least six hours before their flight.

The RT-PCR testing was a longstanding demand of expatriates from Chattogram, especially those who are travelling to Middle Eastern countries,


Abdul Mannan, a Qatar expatriate from Raozan upazila in Chattogram, said earlier there was no arrangement for Covid testing at the airport and expatriates from Chattogram had to go to Dhaka to avail of the service.

Many organisations, including Nagarik Udyog, have been urging for an RT-PCR lab at the airport, as most counties in the Middle East do not allow expatriates without a Covid negative certificate tested through the RT-PCR machine.


A total of four private organisations have been given permission for setting up laboratories to test Covid19 through RT-PCR at the Chattogram airport, said Dr Asif khan, deputy civil surgeon of Chattogram.

The organisations are Chevron Clinical Laboratory from Chattogram, Prescription Point and Labaid from Dhaka and Modern Hospital from Cumilla, he said.

“The fee for testing has been fixed at Tk 1,600,” said Civil Surgeon Dr Elias Chowdhury.



**ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন**  
নগর ভবন, ঢাকা  
[www.dscc.gov.bd](http://www.dscc.gov.bd)



**শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি**  
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

স্মারক নং-৪৬.২০৭.০০০.০৩.০৩.২৯১৫.২০২১-০৩ তারিখঃ ১৯ পৌষ ১৪২৮ বঙ্গাব্দ  
০৩ জানুয়ারি ২০২২ খ্রিস্টাব্দ

**লিখিত পরীক্ষার বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ০৭.১০.২০২১ তারিখের ৪৬.২০৭.০১১.১১.০১.৪২৯.২০২০-৫৮৩ ও ৫৮৪ সংখ্যক স্মারকে জাতীয় দৈনিক পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির মাধ্যমে ব্যক্তিগত সহকারী এবং রেজিস্ট্রেশন সহকারী (জন্ম মৃত্যু নিবন্ধীকরণ) পদের বিপরীতে টেলিটক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড এর কারিগরি সহযোগিতায় অনলাইনে আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হয়। আবেদনকারীদের লিখিত পরীক্ষা স্বাস্থ্যবিধি অনুসরণপূর্বক নিম্নোক্ত সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী গ্রহণ করা হবেঃ

ক্র. নং	পদের নাম	লিখিত পরীক্ষার তারিখ, বার ও সময়	কেন্দ্র
১।	ব্যক্তিগত সহকারী	১৫.০১.২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ	কেন্দ্রঃ ঢাকা মহানগর মহিলা
২।	রেজিস্ট্রেশন সহকারী (জন্ম মৃত্যু নিবন্ধীকরণ)	শনিবার বিকালঃ ০৩.০০টা হতে ০৪.০০টা পর্যন্ত	কলেজ, লক্ষীবাজার, সূত্রাপুর, ঢাকা-১১০০

০২। পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য পরীক্ষার্থীগণ তাদের স্ব-স্ব প্রবেশপত্র ১২ জানুয়ারি, ২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ হতে এ ওয়েবসাইট (<http://dscc.teletalk.com.bd>) মাধ্যমে সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন। প্রবেশপত্র ব্যতীত কোনো পরীক্ষার্থীকে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে প্রবেশ করতে দেয়া হবে না।

০৩। পরীক্ষার্থীগণকে অবশ্যই স্বাস্থ্যবিধি প্রতিপালনপূর্বক মাস্ক পরিধান করে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে প্রবেশ করতে হবে। মাস্ক ছাড়া কোনো পরীক্ষার্থীকে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে প্রবেশ করতে দেয়া হবে না। পরীক্ষার্থীদের জন্য অনুসরণীয় অন্যান্য নির্দেশনা প্রবেশপত্রে উল্লেখ থাকবে।

০৪। Online-এ প্রবেশপত্র পেতে কোনো সমস্যা হলে ১২১ নম্বরে অথবা [vas\\_query@teletalk.com.bd](mailto:vas_query@teletalk.com.bd) ই-মেইলে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে।

০৫। পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোনো প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

স্বাক্ষরিত/-  
০২.০১.২০২২  
আকরামুজ্জামান  
সচিব

ঢাকা দক্ষিণ সিটি কর্পোরেশন  
ফোনঃ ০২-২২৩৩৮৩৫০৭

ডিএসসি/পিআরডি/১৪৯/২০২১-২০২২  
জিডি-২৪

## Their allowance still paltry

FROM PAGE 3

Vaskar Bhattacharjee, national consultant (accessibility) at a2i, stressed the need for multimedia talking books for students with disabilities and urged the government to make necessary arrangements to make them available for those people.

Dr Selina Akhter, secretary-general at National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled, urged the government to allocate funds for training and developing teachers who work at schools for people with disabilities.


Claiming negligence of the Ministry of Women

and Children Affairs, she said the ministry should do more for the betterment of women with disabilities, and make necessary arrangements and training for them, so that they can emerge as entrepreneurs.

Shamsuddoja Sajen,

journalist at The Daily Star; Jowaherul Islam Mamun, president of SWID Bangladesh; Murteza R Khan, CEO of Bangladesh Business and Disability Network, among others, spoke at the event, moderated by Albert Mollah.

**Academic Feat**



Nawrin Khan  
Nijhum, daughter of late Engr K M Jahangir Shahabuddin, DGM (Retd), Bangladesh Bank and Shammii Ara

Shahabuddin, achieved first class and first position in Master of Development Studies examination from the Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka. She obtained a CGPA 3.88 out of 4.00. She requests prayers and blessings from all.



**বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর**  
শাহবাগ, ঢাকা-১০০০

**আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ প্রস্তাব (EOI) বিজ্ঞাপন**

‘Installation of ‘Light, Sound & Multimedia Show’ at the Gallery No. 38 of Bangladesh National Museum to display historical documentary on Language Movement to 15 August 1975, Killing of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of Bangladesh through Firm/Organization’ সংক্রান্ত কাজের জন্য প্রকৃত সেবা প্রদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে ‘আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ প্রস্তাব’ (EOI) আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘরের নিজস্ব ওয়েবসাইট [www.bangladeshmuseum.gov.bd](http://www.bangladeshmuseum.gov.bd)-এ বিজ্ঞাপন ও ‘আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ বিবরণী’ পাওয়া যাবে। ‘আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ বিবরণী’ অনুযায়ী ‘আগ্রহব্যক্তকরণ প্রস্তাব’ (EOI) দাখিল করতে হবে।

পাজী মোঃ ওয়ালি-উল-হক  
সচিব (মুৎসেটিব)  
বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় জাদুঘর  
ফোনঃ ০২-২২৩৩৮৩৭৯৬

জিডি-১৪

**Bangladesh Water Development Board**  
বাংলাদেশ পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড



**নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়**  
নেত্রকোণা পত্তর বিভাগ  
বাগাউরো, নেত্রকোণা  
ফোনঃ ০৯৫১৬১৪৬৪  
Email: [xen.netrakona@gmail.com](mailto:xen.netrakona@gmail.com)  
Memo No. T-1/1357

**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
Netrakona O&M Division  
BWDB, Netrakona  
Phone: 095161464  
Email: [xen.netrakona@gmail.com](mailto:xen.netrakona@gmail.com)  
Date: 02-01-2022

**Invitation for e-Tender (OTM)**  
**Tender Notice No. T-1/1357, Dated: 02.01.2022**

Tender ID:	Name of work.
644314	Construction of Irrigation Drain at Konarbondh from Km 0.450 to Km. 1.650 = 1.200 Km in c/w Re-excavation of Khal and improvement of Crop transport system in the Dingapota Haor Area at Mohangonj Upazila in Netrakona District under Netrakona O&M Division, BWDB, Netrakona during the financial year 2021-22.

This is an online tender where only e-Tenders 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 System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank’s branches.

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)) (01762625528-31).

পানি-৪২০/২০২১-২০২২  
৫\*খ  
GD-23

**M. L. Shaikat**  
Executive Engineer  
Netrakona O&M Division  
BWDB, Netrakona



# Our film industry is regaining life

## 🎯 Purnima

**Purnima recently featured in “Chironjib Mujib”, which hit the theatres on the last day of 2021. Directed by Nazrul Islam, the project is based on the “Ausamapta Atmajiboni” (The Unfinished Memoirs) of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.**

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, the actress has opened up about working in the film and more on her upcoming projects.

**Tell us about your role in “Chironjib Mujib”.**  
The film is an unfinished autobiography of the Father of the Nation. I have portrayed the role of Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa, which is the greatest achievement in my career. As an artiste, it is an honour to be a part of this project.

**How challenging was it to portray wife of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman?**  
Since it is a periodic film, it was quite challenging to bring out her personality, keeping in mind the timeline of a different generation. She had great contributions to Bangabandhu's political career, and she had to manage a lot of things while the Father of the Nation was unjustly kept behind bars. To know more about her, I had read books and attained knowledge from reliable resources, after signing the film.

**I am hopeful about our film industry..**

**Why should the audience watch “Chironjib Mujib”?**

People will love the film, as they will get to know many lesser known facts about Bangabandhu, through this film. This project will make the audience love and respect for the Father of the Nation even more.

**What are you looking forward to in 2022?**

I have been getting offers for OTT projects, however, I will choose wisely depending on my character and plot of the production. Other than work, I wish we get a Covid-19 free world.

**How hopeful are you with the future of the film industry?**

I have always been a positive person, and I am hopeful about our film industry. A lot of good films are being made these days, and I believe that the film fraternity is regaining life once again.



## Musical reality show ‘Young Star’ to air special episode today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Arranged by RTV and presented by Danish, musical reality show ‘Young Star’ will air their special episode featuring songs by five major poets of Bengal- the ‘Pancho Kobi’. These five juggernauts are Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Rajanikanta Sen, Atul Prasad Sen, and Dwijendralal Roy.

Special judges for this episode are noted Rabindra Sangeet Exponent Rezwana Choudhury Bannya and eminent Nazrul Sangeet artiste Fatema Tuz Zhora respectively.

Produced by Shohag Masud, the regular judges of the show are Ibrah Tipu, Protic Hasan and Porshi. The special episode will be aired today at 8 pm, on RTV.

## Afran Nisho’s ‘live video’ drama to promote ‘Syndicate’

On the second day of the year, a live video, featuring celebrated actor Afran Nisho, appeared on streaming platform Chorki's official Facebook page. The actor was seen visiting his hairstylist for a new look, playing with the trimmer and trying to almost shave his head. Communicating with his fans, confused Nisho repeatedly kept asking for suggestions for his new look for the new year. In the video, the hairdresser and Nisho were seen arguing over the thought of the actor deciding to go bald. Later, the actor later revealed that this was in promotion for his new look for his upcoming, Chorki original “Syndicate”. Directed by Shihab Shaheen, “Syndicate” will feature Tasnia Farin and Nazifa Tushi, among others.



# COUNTRYWIDE

## Piren Slan’s 18th death anniv observed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

People of Garo community in Madhupur upazila yesterday paid their homage to the anti-Eco Park movement’s slain indigenous leader Piren Slan on the occasion of his 18th death anniversary.

Marking the day, different organisations of the community, including Bangladesh Garo Student Association (Bagachas), Abima Garo Youth, Joyenshahi Adivasi Unnoyon Parishad and Achik Michik Society, organised different programmes like placing wreaths at the grave and memorial plaque of Piren Slan in Joynagachha and Jalabada villages respectively, offering special prayers and discussion meeting.

The Garo leaders said although Piren Slan sacrificed his life for protecting existence of Madhupur Garos, the rights of the indigenous community could not be realised so far.

Mentionable, indigenous youth Piren Slan of Joynagachha village was killed and 25 other indigenous people were injured when police and forest guards opened fire on an anti-Eco Park procession in Madhupur's Jalabada area on January 3, 2004.

## 2 PATUAKHALI UPS

## Polls to be held after nearly 20yrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, PATUAKHALI

After nearly 20 years, election to two union parishads (UPs) under Rangabali upazila are going to held in February this year.

According to Rangabali Upazila Election Office, election to Barabaishadia and Maudubi union parishads is scheduled for February 7.

Upazila Election Officer Moniruzzaman Sohag said the Election Commission (EC) has announced the election schedules recently.

Sohag said when the election was last held in 2002, Moudubi was then under Barabaishadia UP. Prior to the last election, people of Maudubi was demanding a separate union, splitting from the Barabaishadia union.

But after the end of the tenure, the EC couldn't hold any fresh election due to disagreement over demarcation issues, he said.

Maudubi union unit Awami League (AL) General Secretary Zahirul Islam said local people couldn't nominate their desired representatives as there was no election for a long.

## Kurigram char families are happy to get raised houses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A total of 150 families affected by floods and erosion are happy getting elevated homesteads in 30 char (landmass emerged from riverbed) areas on the banks of the Brahmaputra river in Kurigram.

Each homestead has been raised six to eight feet above the mainland, thanks to the initiative of RDRS Bangladesh, an NGO working for the benefit of the rural people. Each homestead comprises 20-30 decimals of land where a cluster of five families is settled. It has cost Tk 87,500 to elevate each homestead.

Laizu Begum, 34, an erosion victim of Char Sardob village, said their homesteads get submerged by floodwaters every year. Their houses and homesteads have been washed away by the river many times.

They are happy as their homestead has been raised. She has planted vegetable saplings on the elevated homestead.

She hopes that this time they will not have to take shelter elsewhere during floods.

The families of Morzina Begum, Maleka Bewa, Anjuman Ara and Ramicha Begum along with Laizu are living in the cluster homesteads.

Selina Begum, another woman from Char Holokhana village in Sadar upazila, said the elevated homestead has given them hope that they will no longer have to leave their homes during the floods. Their homestead has been raised six to seven feet above the mainland.

She added that different varieties of vegetable saplings have been planted on the homestead. Alongside meeting their demand, they are even

selling the vegetables.

The families of Selina Begum, Zaheda Begum, Khushi Begum, Shaheda Khatun and Sekerban Khatun are living in another cluster of the homestead.

RDRS Bangladesh is working in 20 unions along the Brahmaputra river in Kurigram through the Transboundary Flood Resilience Project in South Asia, funded by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA).

Sirajum Monira, field facilitator of the project, said the beneficiaries have been trained to cultivate vegetables in the elevated homesteads.

Tapan Kumar Saha, manager of the project, Kurigram unit, said they monitor the flood situation and aware the people living on the Brahmaputra basin in advance to minimise their losses.



A woman affected by floods and erosion takes care of her vegetable cultivation in Dharla river basin char (landmass emerged from riverbed) area of Kurigram Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

## New year, old problems

FROM PAGE 1

new activities under the project such as making a 10-episode animated movie titled “Khoka” on the childhood of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and making 12 games under the game-based web platform.

The project called BEPZA Economic Zone Mirsarai-1st Phase, which was taken to attract local and foreign investment, is now seeking revision with an additional expenditure of Tk 552 and two more years.

The original project cost was Tk 750 crore and the completion date was June last year.

The reasons for the added time and cost are the increase in the number of industrial plots from 250 to 539, additional land development and construction works, fire stations and other construction works, etc.

A Tk 66 crore project was taken up in 2010 for basic and applied research on jute, one of the major export earners for Bangladesh, over a span of three years.

About 11 years have passed and the project has not been completed. It has gone through two revisions, with an additional Tk 63 crore allotted.

Now, it will seek another Tk 7 crore and two years for the continuation of the research and other

activities.

Another project seeking revision is the one for the building of logistics and fleet maintenance facilities for the Bangladesh Coast Guard. It was approved in July 2018 for completion by June 2021 for Tk 448 crore.

Its cost will soar to Tk 584.4 crore and it will need two more years.

A Tk 82 crore project on modernisation, digitisation and automation of the central broadcasting system of Bangladesh Television (first phase) was taken in April 2018 and was set to end in June last year.

Now, it has called for an additional Tk 36 crore and another year and a half to wrap up as the costs for construction of non-residential buildings and procuring engineering and other equipments have increased.

A Tk 302 crore project was taken up in 2019 for the prevention of erosion of the right bank of Brahmaputra river in Chilmari and Ulipur upazilas of Kurigram district. It was scheduled for completion in June this year.

Another year and another Tk 145 crore are needed due to the increase of river bank conservation work from 4.8 kilometres to 6.3 km for morphological changes in the Brahmaputra river and an expansion of the embankment area.

## S Africa parliament blaze under control, suspect charged

AFP, CAPE TOWN

A fire that ravaged part of South Africa's parliament, engulfing the National Assembly and threatening national treasures, has been brought under control, firefighters

said yesterday, as police charged a suspect with starting the blaze.

Flames broke out early Sunday in the oldest wing of the Cape Town complex, triggering an inferno that crews battled throughout the day.









# বিমানের আধুনিক ও তরুণ হয়ে ওঠার গল্প



স্বাধীনতার পর মাত্র একটি উড়োজাহাজ নিয়ে যাত্রা শুরু করা বাংলাদেশ বিমান আজ বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স (বিমান) নামে সুপরিচিত যার রয়েছে ২১টি উড়োজাহাজ সমন্বিত একটি বহর। বিমান বহরের আধুনিকায়নের পরিক্রমায় ২০০৮ সালে সম্পাদিত চুক্তির পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে ২০১১ সাল হতে বিমান বহরে বোয়িং কোম্পানির নতুন প্রজন্মের উড়োজাহাজ সংযুক্তিকরণের সূচনা হয়। বিমানের প্রতি মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার অকৃত্রিম ভালোবাসার প্রতিফলনরূপ বোয়িং উড়োজাহাজ ক্রয়ের জন্য রাষ্ট্রীয় নিশ্চয়তা প্রাপ্তির মাধ্যমে বিমানের আধুনিকায়নের অগ্রযাত্রা বেগবান হয়। ২০১১ সাল হতে বিমান-এ সম্পূর্ণ নতুন নিজস্ব উড়োজাহাজ যুক্ত হতে থাকে এবং বিমানও হতে থাকে তরুণ থেকে তরুণতর। বর্তমানে ০৪টি বোয়িং ৭৭৭-৩০০ইআর, ০৬টি বোয়িং ৭৩৭-৮০০, ০৬টি বোয়িং ৭৮৭ ডিমলাইনার এবং ০৫টি ড্যাশ ৮-৪০০ সহ মোট ২১টি উড়োজাহাজ নিয়ে বিমানের বহর আজ এশিয়ার অন্যতম তারুণ্যদীপ্ত এক উড়োজাহাজ বহর।

গত এক দশকে আধুনিক এবং তারুণ্যদীপ্ত উড়োজাহাজ বহর প্রতিষ্ঠায় অভূতপূর্ব অগ্রগতি লাভ করেছে বিমান। আর এই পুরো সময় জুড়েই মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা তাঁর বুদ্ধিদীপ্ত এবং দূরদর্শী দিক নির্দেশনার মাধ্যমে বিমানের যাত্রাকে করেছেন সহজ ও নিরুপক। বিমানের অগ্রযাত্রা ও আধুনিকায়নে যখন যা প্রয়োজন হয়েছে তার সবটুকুই নিশ্চিত করেছেন আমাদের মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী। আধুনিকায়নের পথে বিমানের এক দশকের পরিক্রমা ছবিতে তুলে ধরা হল-

২০১০-২০২১



মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা কর্তৃক নতুন বিমান লোহা উন্মোচন অনুষ্ঠান (০৩.০২.২০১০)



বোয়িং ৭৭৭-৩০০ "পালকি" এর বিমান বহরে যোগদান (২৩.১০.২০১১)



সুপারসর বোয়িং ৭৭৭-৩০০ "অরুণ আলো" এর আগমন (২৪.১১.২০১১)



"পালকি" উন্মোচনী অনুষ্ঠানে মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী (২৬.১০.২০১১)



মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা কর্তৃক "আকাশ প্রদীপ" উন্মোচন এবং উড়োজাহাজ পরিদর্শন (১১.০২.২০১৪)



"রাসপ্রভাত" (বোয়িং ৭৭৭-৩০০) এর বিমান বহরে আগমন (২৩.০৩.২০১৪)



কিন্তা ফেটে "রাসপ্রভাত" উড়োজাহাজের উন্মোচন করছেন মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা (২৭.০৩.২০১৪)



"মেঘদূত" (বোয়িং ৭৩৭-৮০০) এর ঢাকায় আগমন (২৭.১১.২০১৫)



"ময়ূরপল্লী" (বোয়িং ৭৩৭-৮০০) এর ঢাকায় আগমন (২৫.১২.২০১৫)



বোয়িং ৭৩৭-৮০০ "মেঘদূত" ও "ময়ূরপল্লী" উন্মোচন শেষে মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রীর সাথে বৈদিকগণ (১২.০১.২০১৬)



বিমানের প্রথম ডিমলাইনার বোয়িং ৭৮৭-৮ "আকাশবীণা" (১৯.০৮.২০১৮)



গুয়াটার ক্যানন স্যালাউ: প্রথম ডিমলাইনার বোয়িং ৭৮৭-৮ "আকাশবীণা" বরণ (১৯.০৮.২০১৮)



প্রথম ডিমলাইনার বোয়িং ৭৮৭-৮ "আকাশবীণা" উন্মোচনকালে মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী এবং অতিথিবৃন্দ (০৫.০৯.২০১৮)



দ্বিতীয় ডিমলাইনার বোয়িং ৭৮৭-৮ "হংসবলাকা" এর বিমান বহরে সংযোজন (০১.১২.২০১৮)



"হংসবলাকা" (বোয়িং ৭৮৭-৮) পরিদর্শনকালে মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রীর সাথে উপস্থিত অতিথিবৃন্দ (০৫.১২.২০১৮)



"হংসবলাকা" পরিদর্শনে মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী (০৫.১২.২০১৮)



বিমান বহরে ডিমলাইনার বোয়িং ৭৮৭-৮ "পাউসিল" এর শুভাগমন (২৫.০৭.২০১৯)



ডিমলাইনার বোয়িং ৭৮৭-৮ "পাউসিল" এর সাথে মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রীর অতিথিবৃন্দ (২২.০৮.২০১৯)



ডিমলাইনার "রাজহংস" (বোয়িং ৭৮৭-৮) এর কর্কাটে আলাপচারিতায় মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী (১৭.০৯.২০১৯)



ডিমলাইনার বোয়িং ৭৮৭-৯ "সোনারতরী" এর আলোকজ্বল আগমন (২১.১২.২০১৯)



ডিমলাইনার বোয়িং ৭৮৭-৯ "অর্চিনপাখি" এর পদার্পণ (২৪.১২.২০১৯)



মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা কর্তৃক আত্মীয়নিক বিমান বোয়িং ৭৮৭-৯ "সোনারতরী" ও "অর্চিনপাখি" এর উন্মোচন (২৮.১২.২০১৯)



অভ্যন্তরীণ ভ্রমণকে যাক্হদ্যময় করার জন্য বিমান বহরে ড্যাশ ৮-৪০০ "প্রবতারা" (২৪.১১.২০২০)



মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা ভিডিও কনফারেন্স এর মাধ্যমে "প্রবতারা" (ড্যাশ ৮-৪০০) উন্মোচন করেন (২৭.১২.২০২০)



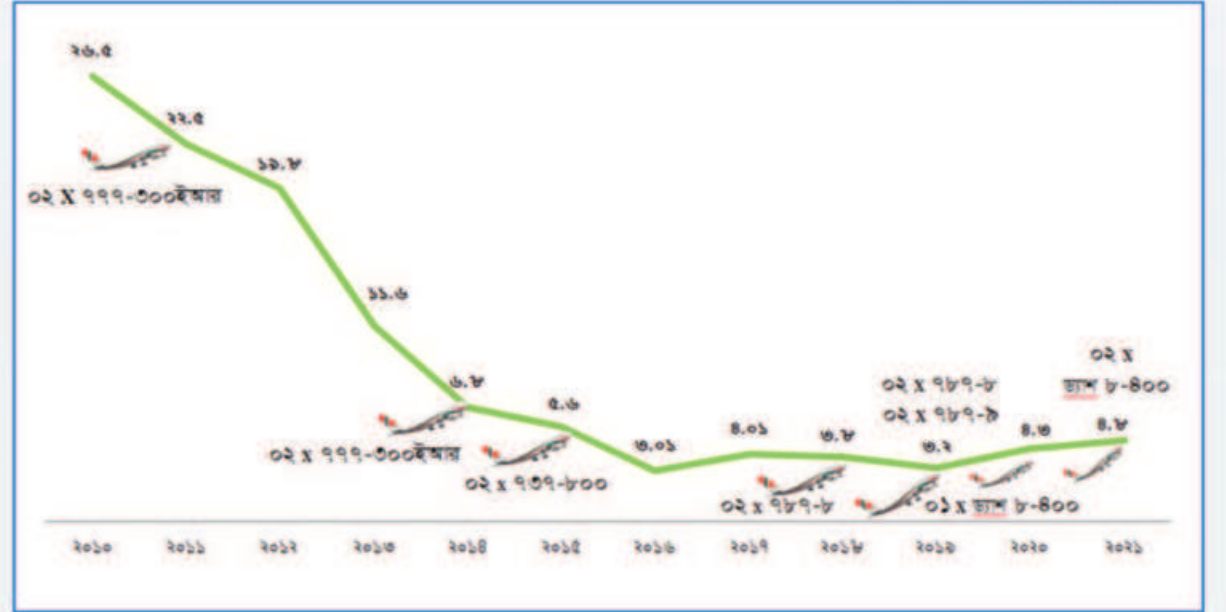
"প্রবতারা" (ড্যাশ ৮-৪০০) এর উন্মোচন অনুষ্ঠানের একাংশ (২৭.১২.২০২০)



নতুন ড্যাশ ৮-৪০০ "আকাশতরী" এর বিমান বহরে সংযোজন (২৪.০২.২০২১)



মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা ভিডিও কনফারেন্স এর মাধ্যমে ড্যাশ ৮-৪০০ "আকাশতরী" ও "শ্বেতবলাকা" উন্মোচন (১৪.০৩.২০২১)



চিত্র: বিমান বহর-এ নতুন উড়োজাহাজের সংযোজন এবং উড়োজাহাজ বহরের আধুনিক ও তরুণ হয়ে ওঠা

বিমান-এর আজকের এই সাফল্যের মূলে রয়েছে এর হাজারো নিবেদিতপ্রাণ কর্মীর নিরলস পরিশ্রম ও সাধনা এবং ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষের কার্যকর নেতৃত্ব। বর্তমান বিশ্বের এই প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতামূলক পরিবেশের মধ্যেও বিমান পরিচালনা পর্ষদ তাঁদের মূল্যবান দিক নির্দেশনা প্রদানের মাধ্যমে বিমানকে এগিয়ে রেখেছেন। এছাড়াও বেসামরিক বিমান পরিবহন ও পর্যটন মন্ত্রণালয় প্রতিনিয়ত যথাযথ নির্দেশনা প্রদানের মাধ্যমে বিমানের সাফল্যের এই ধারাকে অব্যাহত রাখতে সহায়তা করে যাচ্ছে।

আজ অত্যন্ত গর্বের সঙ্গে বলা যায়, বর্তমানে বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্সের উড়োজাহাজ বহর বিশ্বের অন্যতম তরুণ এবং অত্যাধুনিক। শুধু বয়সের দিক থেকেই নয়, সেবা প্রদানেও তারুণ্যের দীপ্তি ছড়িয়ে যাচ্ছে বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স। আর বিমান-এর এই তারুণ্যের পিছনে জ্বলজ্বল করছে বঙ্গবন্ধু-কন্যা মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী জননেত্রী শেখ হাসিনার অসামান্য অবদান ও অক্লান্ত পরিশ্রম। জাতির পিতার স্বপ্নে-লালিত ও নিজ হাতে গড়া এই বিমানকে সমৃদ্ধির পথে এগিয়ে নিয়ে যেতে মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রীর সুদূরপ্রসারী চিন্তা ও ঐকান্তিক প্রচেষ্টা আজ বিমান-এর সাফল্যে দৃশ্যমান।

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## Fresh concerns as Covid-19 cases rise

### Vaccination is key to protecting people against the new variant

THE rapid rise in Covid-19 infections in recent days has brought fresh concerns for the public health authorities. According to data by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), a total of 557 cases were reported in the 24 hours to 8am on January 2, 2022, while the number was 370 in the preceding 24 hours. The DGHS data also shows that daily infections have increased by 60 percent this week, compared to last week. Given the fact that countries around the world have been struggling with fresh surges in cases since the emergence of the highly transmissible Omicron variant, it is likely that we will also see a significant increase in cases in the coming days. A number of Omicron infections have already been reported here. India has also reported a rapid increase in Covid cases in recent weeks, which is believed to be propelled by Omicron. This means we need to take immediate measures to prevent any massive, community spread of the new variant.

One of the most effective ways to fight the virus for us would be to expedite our vaccination drives, which will surely reduce hospitalisations and deaths. The fact that more than half of our population have yet to receive the first dose of Covid vaccine is something that should worry us. While it is good to know that the government plans to vaccinate all eligible citizens with a double-dose vaccine by June and a booster dose by the end of this year, it will need a massive operation aided by proper planning and execution on part of the authorities.

The DGHS data also shows that around 82 percent of the 91 people who died of coronavirus infections in December were not vaccinated—thus, the need for strengthening the vaccination drives. Since research suggests that booster doses are effective against the Omicron variant—because an additional dose increases the level of antibodies to fight the virus—the government’s booster campaign should also gain momentum this time around, bringing more vulnerable people under its purview.

Another worrying finding about Omicron is that it is infecting more women than men globally. Thus, while continuing with its vaccination drive, the government must ensure that more women—both urban and rural—register for the vaccines. It also needs to ascertain whether women are finding the registration process more complicated or if they are discouraged to be vaccinated in any way, and try to address the issue.

In other words, we need to ensure wide, inclusive vaccination coverage to fight this new variant as well as any future surges.

## Take stronger actions to make roads safe

### The chronic failure of responsible state bodies can’t be ignored anymore

ALTHOUGH a number of bodies and organisations exist for the sole purpose of curbing road accidents in Bangladesh, the reality is that we are still losing precious lives on our roads on a daily basis. On January 2, 2022, nine people, including three minors, were the latest to join this endless procession after fatal crashes in different districts. This comes after a year that, up to the month of August, saw as many as 3,502 people die and 3,479 get severely injured in road accidents. By any measure, this is downright unacceptable.

A great deal has been deliberated in seminars over the decades, and many causes of accidents have been identified, but at the end of the day, very little has been done to put a brake on the killer vehicles. In an appraisal report prepared by the World Bank for financing a road safety project in Bangladesh, the following observations were made, “Different bodies exist in Bangladesh to ensure road safety, but they are not empowered and lack effective coordination to get (the) expected outcomes. These organisations are also not held accountable. Besides, the fund allocated for road safety action plans is insufficient, not prioritised, and has never been institutionalised.” The result is a disaster that’s been decades in the making, with the rise in the road crash fatality rate between 1990 and 2017 purported to be three times higher than that across the rest of South Asia.

The World Bank in its report further observed that, though a road safety management structure exists in Bangladesh, it is not sufficiently empowered or is hardly held accountable for safety outcomes. It may be recalled that the National Road Safety Council (NRSC), established in 1995, is responsible for preparing safety strategies aimed at reducing accidents. But how much this council could do remains a big question. There are reports that the functioning of numerous committees has been hampered because of poor internal communication, lack of coordination and integration, and a scarcity of resources. Undue interventions, lack of professional persons in committees, and setting impractical goals are some of the obstacles that make the task of experts difficult.

This must stop. The authorities must step up their game. If we are to make any headway in preventing road accidents ever, we must sufficiently empower and hold to account these bodies and committees, and ensure that they work collaboratively. “Road safety is no accident,” as experts say, meaning it cannot happen on its own; it needs careful planning, proper logistics and implementation by those responsible.

# Journalists should be worried about DSA exceptionalism



Kamal Ahmed is an independent journalist and writes from the UK. His Twitter handle is @ahmedkal

KAMAL AHMED

THE extraordinary assurance that no journalist will be arrested immediately under the Digital Security Act (DSA) without a summons seems to be an attractive solution to the concerns and fears created by its random abuse to suppress critical voices in the media. Law Minister Anisul Huq recently gave this assurance to the members of Overseas Correspondents Association of Bangladesh (OCAB), when he said that journalists would be getting an opportunity to seek bail in court. In a significant shift in the government’s position on this controversial law, he also acknowledged that there were incidents of misuse and abuse of the DSA. Though his sublime remarks made an eye-catching headline, the legal and moral questions of such exceptionalism should not be ignored.

It should be noted that this controversial law was passed in a hurry, just before the 2018 elections, brushing aside the concerns of journalists and human rights activists. Those apprehensions of widespread abuse of the DSA have now been proven correct. The international community—especially Western democracies and various organisations working on democracy, human rights and the rule of law—have also expressed their concerns about the DSA publicly and in private conversations. One may wonder whether the statement made to the representatives of foreign media was an attempt to allay some of the concerns of friends abroad.

Sadly, his assurances are even more troubling, because none of his words can be found in the law. Therefore, in order to afford this extraordinary exemption to a journalist, the officials and employees of the republic have to sidestep the letter and spirit of the law. This they are not expected to do; rather they should dutifully resist. Such verbal assurances, therefore, have no legal value whatsoever. Besides, who can forget the assurances

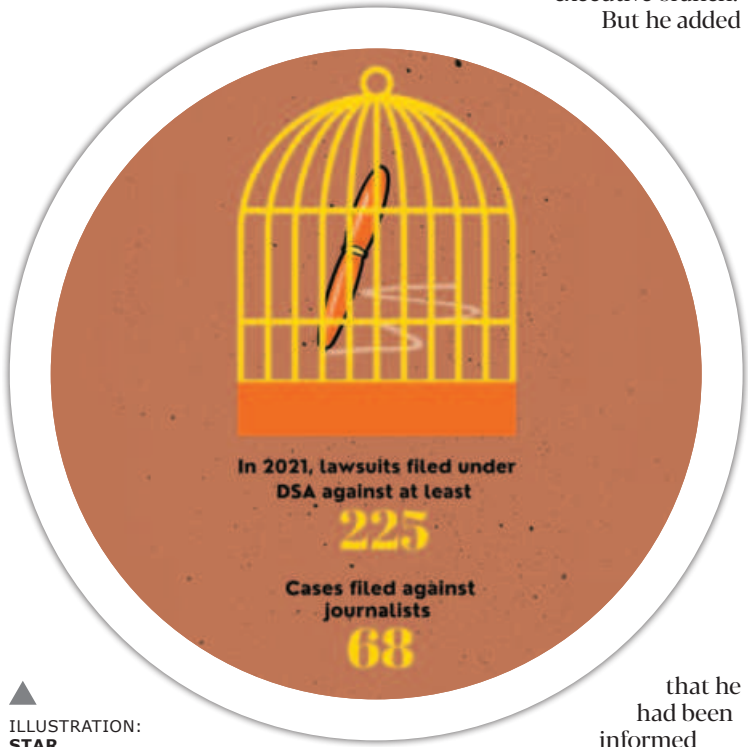


ILLUSTRATION: STAR

Whatever has been written in the law, the ministers can make exceptions if they wish to.

given by three ministers to the Editors’ Council regarding this law that were forgotten for political convenience?

This issue became even clearer when the law minister responded to a question about why there wasn’t any office order issued in this regard. He responded, “We cannot give such instructions to the judiciary from the executive branch.” But he added

that he had been informed that internally every police station had been advised accordingly. Referring to his discussions with Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, the law minister said, “We have both decided that if a case is filed against a journalist under the Digital Security Act, the court will not immediately proceed with the case. We have decided that the case will be referred to a special cell formed under a different law immediately. If it is decided upon the investigation of that cell that there are ingredients of the crime that has been complained about under the Digital Security Act, only then the case will be accepted.”

This part of his remarks suggests that the law is subject to the will of the ministers. Whatever has been written in the law, the ministers can make exceptions if they wish to. Doesn’t it raise

## PROJECT SYNDICATE

# Desmond Tutu’s True Self



Mabel van Oranje, a former CEO of The Elders, is co-founder of Girls Not Brides. Copyright: Project Syndicate, 2022 www.project-syndicate.org (Exclusive to The Daily Star)

MABEL VAN ORANJE

WITH the passing of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the world has lost an unstoppable force for good who taught compassion and forgiveness, and pursued his mission with a will of iron. “Arch” will be rightly remembered as the international voice of the anti-apartheid movement, and for his place beside Nelson Mandela in the decades-long fight for racial equality and justice in South Africa. But he touched people’s lives in so many other ways.

In particular, I want to acknowledge his contribution to the global efforts to end child marriage. His involvement began with another of his great qualities: the humility to admit what he did not know. I remember the moment when he learned that child marriage rates in Sub-Saharan Africa were as high or higher than in South Asia or the Middle East. “I didn’t think this was an African thing,” he said to me frankly.

But once he knew, he became fully committed to the cause. Already almost 80 years old, he willingly travelled to remote villages in Ethiopia, India, and Zambia to meet and listen to adolescent girls who had been married or were under pressure to marry. He met their fathers, faith leaders, village elders, and politicians to learn why this was happening, and tried to convince them that early marriage was not in the girls’ best interests.

He was never afraid to take on the establishment—religious, cultural, or political. He was a brilliant communicator and wily campaigner who could make audiences laugh and cry within minutes. He knew how to press the right emotional buttons and convey difficult messages, often using stories to get his point across. While travelling with him, it was not unusual to see leaders, including presidents and prime ministers, listening like children to one of his stories, then realising that the point of the tale was



Archbishop Desmond Tutu (October 7, 1931–December 26, 2021)

PHOTO: REUTERS

directed squarely at them.

If he bore witness to injustice, he made sure that those in power knew about it. He spoke not only about the suffering of girls forced into marriage, but also about men’s role in ending this harmful practice. He spoke of the changes he had witnessed when men started treating their wives as equals: “They actually told me they liked doing housework and taking care of their

constituting that wave, and by working together, we can achieve great things.

Forgiveness of others, and of ourselves, was one of his most repeated messages. As chair of The Elders, a group of global leaders that he, together with Mandela and Graça Machel, established in 2007, he reminded his distinguished peers of our shared humanity and interconnectedness—ensuring that the

work of the group remained focused on justice and those most in need of help.

As a friend, he was deeply loyal. I will always be grateful for the comfort and counsel he gave me when my husband was severely injured. Arch called me every day in the long months while Friso was unconscious. Sometimes we spoke for hours, and sometimes just for a few minutes. But he made it clear that he was always there for me.

It is impossible to say everything there is to say about this tough, funny, brilliant giant of social justice. I will try to remember him by taking small actions every day to make a difference, and by upholding his belief that goodness will ultimately triumph in this troubled world.



# Five reasons why ‘safety zone’ for women is a bad idea



Noora Shamsi Bahar is a senior lecturer at the Department of English and Modern Languages in North South University (NSU).

NOORA SHAMSI BAHAR

ACCORDING to media reports, a 600-foot-long “safety zone” was recently allocated for women and children visiting Cox’s Bazar. This was days after a woman had been gang-raped in the area. Thankfully, the idea was scrapped a few hours after the inauguration of this special zone. But I think it’s important to investigate the underlying problems of this supposed “solution” which rightly received a lot of backlash.

First, the “solution” did not address the real problem. This reminds me of how Bangladesh once tried to stop public urination by painting Arabic script on walls on city streets, in the hopes that the general populace (the majority of them being Muslim) would deem the text “holy” and therefore shy away from peeing on “sacred” words which, frankly, most of them could neither read nor understand. Well, the campaign failed, because it didn’t address the actual problem: lack of (functional) public toilets. Creating a designated area for women and minors on the beach, too, does not address the main issue: misogyny and toxic masculinity, along with a lack of empathy (i.e. the reasons behind rape).

Second, the so-called solution demeans women. To provide a “safe” space for women does not require women to be segregated from their male counterparts. In fact, grouping women and children

together basically points to the fact that women are just as vulnerable and dependent as children.

Third, it is the same as saying that women should wear “modest” clothing if they don’t want to be raped. Just as female victims of rape and sexual assault are morally policed for their choice of clothing, and others are told to cover themselves up in an effort to avoid the perverted male gaze, the female tourists in their designated area, likewise, would be secluded and therefore physically segregated from their male counterparts, ensuring that they don’t become the objects of the male gaze.

Fourth, it actually sexualises women’s bodies. Through creating a separate zone for women, the message that is given is that women’s bodies are sexual objects that need to stay hidden/out of sight. It is as if they’re all just walking talking Eves in the garden (read: beaches) of Eden (read: Cox’s Bazar)—temptresses that arouse men who are going about their ways in a business-as-usual manner.

Fifth, it is unfair for women to be given 600 feet of segregated land whereas the entire beach—the longest unbroken beach in the world—is basically for the benefit of men. If men are generally the rapists, wouldn’t it make more sense to keep them on a leash? Wouldn’t it make more sense to keep a watchful eye on potential perpetrators than to do the same with potential victims? After all, you don’t see law-abiding citizens in prisons. You see criminals behind bars.

The men who were involved in the gang rape of the female tourist—mother of an eight-month-old infant—were devoid of empathy, their egos bruised by their victim’s husband in a minor altercation that had taken place earlier, where the latter had apologised but was not



▲ **Creating a designated area for women and minors on the beach does not address the main issue—misogyny and toxic masculinity, along with a lack of empathy (i.e. the reasons behind rape).**

PHOTO: AFP

forgiven. These vindictive men decided to seek revenge by encroaching upon his wife. Thus, they treated her body as the site of control, or a battleground where victory would be ascertained.

Patriarchy has enabled man to dominate over woman “by reason of his more forceful and aggressive qualities both of control and mind. But the balance is already shifting; force is losing its dominance, and mental alertness, intuition, and the spiritual qualities of love and service, in which woman is strong, are gaining ascendancy. Hence the new age will be an age-less masculine and more permeated with the feminine ideals, or, to speak more exactly, will be an age in which the masculine and feminine elements of

civilisation will be more evenly balanced” (Abdu’l Baha). I believe these words uttered by a wise man more than a century ago (in 1912) may be enough to understand the root of the problem.

Coercion, violence, aggression, and machismo must be replaced with empathy, sensitivity, love, and intuition, among many others. When boys are taught to acquire these traits from a very young age, they will not grow up to embody toxic masculinity, which is very commonly found in rapists. There is no need to “protect” women; there is a need to make our boys become more sensitised and empathetic men—men who don’t view women as vulnerable bodies to control or oppress.

# A case for prioritising retirement benefits for ordinary people



ASM Jahangir is a retired development practitioner with expertise in financial management.

ASM JAHANGIR

THE thought of retirement crosses the human mind for a variety of reasons. Physical and mental constraints and plans to initiate other exciting ventures are major factors which induce people to consider retirement. My discussion is, however, focused on the most common cause of retirement—attainment of a certain age.

It is usually around the age of 50 when one begins having thoughts about retirement. Suddenly they realise they’re ageing and start thinking seriously about life after retirement. Until then, this eventuality doesn’t come to the fore, and remains rather latent somewhere in the back of one’s mind. Only a few foresighted people, with grand ideas about better utilising the next stage of their life, indulge in serious thinking about retirement much earlier.

The first thing people considering retirement look into is if they are materially secure enough to carry through the rest of their lives, unless they plan to do something financially rewarding after retirement. Even those having solid plans to engage in post-retirement remunerative activities wonder if they would have sufficient resources to make a living until that plan is executed.

The latter group maybe called “pseudo retirees,” since they’re not practically retiring from their work life. They’re simply switching from their regular 9-to-5 job, after qualifying for retirement benefits, to do something else they love and believe are adept at doing. Some are confident of better applying the skills they gained from their job as, say, an independent consultant.

In Bangladesh, people have very limited choices to invest for retirement, or invest the annuity they receive after retiring, in rewarding portfolios. Thus far, the best choice has been to invest in government bonds and securities with a fixed rate of return. Despite this method’s falling rate of return, it is still in use largely due to lack of enough safe and reliable investment opportunities. The second most popular investment instrument for Bangladeshi retirees is term deposits, the interest rate for which has also been gradually dropping.

Many financially better-off fixed income earners invest their money into procuring assets such as land and real estate, primarily with the intent of falling back on them after retirement. A few



others run small side businesses with partners to generate extra savings for their retired lives. Some procure land in and around their village homes with the intent of engaging in farming after retirement.

Like in developed and many developing nations, the concept of investing in stocks hasn’t yet gained much traction among small investors in Bangladesh. Mutual funds comprising diverse stocks and/or bonds are available in these countries for fixed income earners to invest in order to prepare for their retirement. They are constituted keeping in view the needs of a diverse range of investors with varying income levels. If necessary, adjustments within each individual mutual fund package can be made to best fit the needs of individual clients.

Given the rate of return from term deposits, and the dwindling of government bonds and securities, the time is ripe for financial institutions to seriously consider introducing mutual funds in their investment portfolios. Such a portfolio, still unavailable in Bangladesh, has a gigantic business potential for financial institutions. If taken up, this cutting-edge step of these institutions will provide potential retirees and other small investors with more viable options to invest their savings and retirement money into.

However, the governmental regulatory bodies have to have an effective check and balance mechanism in place for the mutual funds to function at an acceptable degree of reliability. Otherwise, the potential consumers will not feel confident to stake their hard-earned money in such an investment portfolio.

Additionally, the regulatory bodies must check the activities of potential

▲ **In Bangladesh, people have very limited choices to invest for retirement, or invest the annuity they receive after retiring in rewarding portfolios.**

ILLUSTRATION: COLLECTED

▲ **Given the rate of return from term deposits, and the dwindling of government bonds and securities, the time is ripe for financial institutions to seriously consider introducing mutual funds in their investment portfolios.**

scammers early on to ensure that investors are not defrauded. Any indication of a financial institution trying to lure investors into their unholy trap must be nipped in the bud.

Many low and fixed income earners in Bangladesh suffer immeasurable financial hardship following retirement due to insufficient retirement benefits and lack of feasible investment opportunities. The

government should consider framing a national retirement policy to mitigate this issue of national concern.

Employers should not lose sight of the fact that peace of mind is an essential ingredient for enhancing labour productivity. Besides other factors, unrelenting anxiety about life after retirement hampers labour productivity considerably.

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১।	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ডাক ও টেলিযোগাযোগ বিভাগ।	
২।	এজেন্সি/প্রতিষ্ঠান	লাইসেন্সিং কর্তৃপক্ষ, মেইলিং অপারেটর ও কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস প্রতিষ্ঠান।	
৩।	প্রকিউরিং এনটিটির নাম	সেয়ারম্যান (অতিরিক্ত সার্ভিস) লাইসেন্সিং কর্তৃপক্ষ, মেইলিং অপারেটর ও কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস প্রতিষ্ঠান।	
৪।	প্রকিউরিং এনটিটির জেলা	ঢাকা।	
৫।	ইনভাইটেশন নং	০১ (এক)টি উন্নতমানের সেডান কার (ডুয়েল এসিসহ) ১৫০০ সিগিহ ন্যূনতম ০৪ (চার) আসন বিশিষ্ট ভাড়ায় সরবরাহ। ২০১৪ সনের পূর্ববর্তী মডেলের কার গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।	
৬।	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য	১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা।	
৭।	জামানতের পরিমাণ	কার ভাড়ায় সরবরাহের জন্য ২৫,০০০/- (পঁচিশ হাজার) টাকা লাইসেন্সিং কর্তৃপক্ষ, মেইলিং অপারেটর ও কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস প্রতিষ্ঠানের অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন তফসিলিভুক্ত বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংকে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট বা পো-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে জমাদানপূর্বক দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্যথায় দাখিলকৃত দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।	
৯।	দরপত্র ত্রয়ের নিয়মাবলী	দরপত্রে অশ্রেয়হককারী আত্মীয় ব্যক্তি/অনৃত্ত সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান তাদের নিজস্ব প্যাডে নিম্নোক্ত দলিলপত্রাদিসহ লাইসেন্সিং কর্তৃপক্ষ, মেইলিং অপারেটর কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস প্রতিষ্ঠান বরাবর দরপত্র সিডিউলের জন্য লিখিতভাবে আবেদন করতে হবে। (ক) হাসানাদান নবায়নকৃত গাড়ি ভাড়া হ্রদান/সরবরাহ সম্পর্কিত ট্রেড লাইসেন্স; (খ) সরকারি/বেসরকারি/খায়রতশালিত সংস্থায় গাড়ি ভাড়া গ্রহণের অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্র; (গ) আয়কর ও মূল্য সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাট) পরিশোধের সনদপত্র এবং (ঘ) সরবরাহযোগ্য কারের রেজিস্ট্রেশন, ফিটনেস সার্টিফিকেট ও ব্র-বুক এর কপি ১ম শ্রেণির গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি। দরপত্র সিডিউলের ১০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মূল্য পরিশোধ সাপেক্ষে কেবল আবেদনকারীর নিকট দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে।	
১০।	দরপত্র অনুযায়ী কারের বিবরণ	চালক ও ড্রালারসহ কার্যালয়ের সময় হতে ০১ (এক) বছর ভাড়ায় নিরবিচ্ছিন্নভাবে গাড়ি সরবরাহ।	
১১।	প্রকিউরিংমেট মেম্বড	খোলা দরপত্র (ওপেন)।	
১২।	বাজেট ও তহবিসের প্রকৃতি	রাজস্ব বাজেট।	
১৩।	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান ও দপ্তর	কক নং-৩০২, পুরাতন ডাক ভবন, ঢাকা জিপিও কম্পাউন্ড, ঢাকা-১০০০।	
১৪।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	২৪/০১/২০২২খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা।	
১৫।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	২৪/০১/২০২২খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১৪.০০ ঘটিকা।	
১৬।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান	২৬/০১/২০২২খ্রিঃ দুপুর ১৫.০০ ঘটিকা, কক নং-৩০২, পুরাতন ডাক ভবন, ঢাকা জিপিও কম্পাউন্ড, ঢাকা-১০০০।	
১৭।	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর নাম	এস এম শাহাব উদ্দীন।	
১৮।	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর পদবী	অতিরিক্ত মহাপরিচালক ডাক অবদপ্তর ও সদস্য সচিব, লাইসেন্সিং কর্তৃপক্ষ, মেইলিং অপারেটর ও কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস প্রতিষ্ঠান।	
১৯।	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর ঠিকানা	কক নং-৩০৩, পুরাতন ডাক ভবন, ঢাকা জিপিও কম্পাউন্ড, ঢাকা-১০০০।	
২০।	কোন কোন দায়-সায়িত্ব গ্রহণ অথবা কার্য দর্শনো ছাড়াই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিলের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।		এস এম শাহাব উদ্দীন সদস্য সচিব লাইসেন্সিং কর্তৃপক্ষ
জিডি-১৯			





ILLUSTRATION: TASHFIA SHAMIM/THE NOBODY'S GALLERY

GUIDES

# 5 realistic resolutions FOR 2022

**January is the perfect time for New Year's resolutions. As we step into 2022, let's set some realistic goals.**

SHANIZ CHOWDHURY

**Ditch your phone before bedtime**

Like a devoted guard dog, your phone probably never leaves your side. But using the phone before bedtime can be detrimental to your vision as well as your brain. You consume enough information, entertainment and blue light during the day. Give yourself at least a 30-minute break from scrolling and texting when you're about to hit the hay. Putting your phone on "Do not disturb mode" or in a different room can help you limit screen time before bed.

**Track your budget**

Do you constantly feel like you're broke? One way to be sensible about your spendings is to save a certain amount of money each month before any discretionary expenses such as

eating at restaurants and/or subscribing to various streaming services. Envisioning what you're saving up for – whether it is a new smart phone or a friends' trip – will keep your feet on the ground as it motivates you to keep your eyes on the prize.

**Set aside some alone time**

Pry yourself away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. If all those hours watching Mr Bean in your childhood taught you anything, let it be that there's no greater happiness than to enjoy one's company. Read a book, do your elaborate skincare, rewatch a series, make a TikTok video – the list is endless.

**Exercise**

Start both physical and mental exercises. Solving a crossword will help you as a 20-minute walk on your terrace. Just don't give up the habit of exercise. Your resolutions

are not about crossing fingers and throwing pennies in a fountain. So it doesn't matter if you take baby steps as long as they are successive steps throughout the year.

**Treat people (yourself included) with kindness**

The only way to persevere through adversity is by practicing random acts of kindness. Even if the world tries to drag you down, do not pursue malice. For the sake of your well-being, nurture yourself into a happier, more fulfilled version of you by investing time in your passions. So when your cup is full, you can pour the love for others. Remember, kindness has a ripple effect.

*The author is a student of BRAC University, and a freelance journalist. Email: shanzaychowdhury@gmail.com.*



Md Jahirul Islam.

## NURTURING DREAMS Championing employment opportunities for teens

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Hack for Earth 2021 was a global online hackathon at the world exhibition Expo2020 in Dubai, in collaboration with the United Nations (UN) and Sweden. Through this event, young people aspire to create new digital solutions to solve the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 1,371 teams from 121 countries competed under 7 different categories: Education, Environment, Human Rights, Sustainable Society, Health, Water, and Partnership.

Luminous Teen from Bangladesh was the winner under the 'Partnership' category and the founder, Md Jahirul Islam, was invited to the Hack for Earth Award Ceremony where pitched the solution to the head jury group, competing for the Hack for Earth Award.

Alongside Jahirul, Team Luminous Teen consists of Md Talha Jobaer, from BAF Shaheen College and Md Adib Raian and Sorder Rakib Hassan, from Notre Dame College.

"Luminous Teen intends to support employment opportunities for teenagers. We want to ensure a certain degree of financial independence for every teenager, and help them utilise early-age employability by converting their skills to money," Jahirul shared.

"Our policy, with proper consideration of the socio-economic barriers and public psychology, will follow a step-by-step approach. With necessary resources and partnerships, this will result in a fruitful transition of child labourers to kids enjoying the right of education, school enrichment, and financial flexibility," he explained. Luminous Teen primarily focuses on achieving SDG 8 and SDG 17.

The team has carefully studied feasibility while developing their model as they want to make this a global movement. In order to ensure proper implementation, the idea has to be backed up by a huge workforce, meaningful partnerships, resources and enthusiastic support from local governments. Moreover, proper safeguarding, personalised support for teenagers, cooperation of the target audience, infrastructure support and positive mass psychology towards change can help fight any potential threat yet to be addressed.

Luminous Teen will be working with local experts to derive an appropriate version of their model to be implemented in many other countries. "We dream of a Bangladesh where kids will be learning, earning and growing, with all their rights preserved and all their skills given the opportunity to flourish," Jahirul concluded.

*The author is a freelance journalist who likes reading, scribbling, and blogging. Email: mislammonamee@gmail.com*

YOUNG ACHIEVER

# RUET graduate wins engineering competition with 'one-member' team

AKHLAKUR RAHMAN

Jesika Zaman is the champion of GPH Ispat-Prothom Alo En Genius Competition, which focuses on structural designs. 223 teams participated in the selection period of the event, from Bangladesh.

The judges for the event included 24 renowned professors of civil engineering departments from different renowned universities, and professional engineers of the country.

Jesika held a fascination for engineering from a young age. She completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Rajshahi University of Engineering & Technology (RUET) in 2017.

In 2018, she joined a structural consultancy firm, Design Solutions, as a junior consultant. "After graduation, I turned my passion towards structural designing into my job, and I enjoy my work very much," says Jesika.

She is currently a full-time junior engineer at the Mass Rapid Transit Line-1 project (MRT Line-1), and part-time structural engineer at Design Solutions.

The En Genius Competition came as a golden opportunity for Jesika to learn about structural engineering.

"To register in the competition you need a team of three: a graduate and a couple of third or fourth-year engineering students from your university," she adds.

"However, my juniors at RUET were busy with their semester final examinations at that time, and I couldn't find members to build my team. I sought advice from the coordinator of the competition, and formed my one-member team, The Conqueror."

Balancing her job and the competition tasks were not easy for Jesika. "I had to study hard to keep up with the competition but I knew I had to see this to the end," she says.

Of the 223 teams that applied for the competition, 36 made it to the second round. Only 10 teams reached the third round.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the competition experienced a pause in 2020. Along this long journey, Jesika really enjoyed the two-day workshops, conducted by some of the greatest engineers of Bangladesh.

"This championship strengthened my confidence. I aspire to acquire higher studies in structural engineering," she concludes.

*The author is a freelance journalist. Email: akhlakurrahmancharles@gmail.com*



Jesika Zaman

PHOTO: ABDUL ELA/COURTESY OF JESIKA ZAMAN



Team members and volunteers of BRIDGE Foundation

YOUTH IN ACTION

## Guiding the differently-abled

FARAH KABIR

BRIDGE Foundation works for the skill development of people with disabilities. The Co-founder, Swarna Moye Sarker, is one of the 22 Bangladeshi changemakers who have been selected for the Acumen Fellowship in 2021. She has completed her bachelor's and master's from Dhaka City College.

BRIDGE Foundation started out in 2013 with Swarna and her fellow Co-founder Natasha Israt Kabir working on a US State Department funded project, 'IT for differently-abled children'. It helped them discover that their hearing-impaired participants were gifted in the field of painting. Subsequently, they set up a Facebook page called, "Magical Art Of Silence", through which some participants' paintings, pottery, and bamboo artworks are sold to customers

around the world.

Around 80 participants attended classes on IT, cooking, and art, among other topics, which helped them get jobs in restaurants, departmental stores, schools, IT firms, and as freelance artists. The foundation has received many national and international accolades for its efforts.

"Our goal is to financially uplift people with disabilities as independent individuals who can contribute to the economy of Bangladesh," says Swarna.

The foundation plans to launch its skilled participants as trainers for the differently-abled, and work on their mental health.

Mohammad Matur Rahman Tuhin, an alum of New Model Degree College, volunteers at the foundation.

"It is a matter of fortune to work for people who are deprived in our society. I also learn a lot from them," he adds.

*The author is a freelance journalist. Email: farahkabirg5@gmail.com.*

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BRIDGE FOUNDATION



## England look to salvage Ashes pride

AFP, Sydney

A demoralised England have vowed to salvage some pride when their shambolic and Covid-hit Ashes tour resumes in the fourth Test at Sydney on Wednesday.

Joe Root's men face another difficult clash against a rampant Australia, who crushed them by an innings and 14 runs inside three days in the third Test at Melbourne to retain the Ashes with an unassailable 3-0 lead.

It followed heavy defeats in Brisbane and Adelaide, where batting collapses, poor fielding and questionable selections cost the tourists dearly.

They are facing a 5-0 whitewash, although rain forecast for Sydney could come to England's rescue.

Veteran seamer Jimmy Anderson admitted that "the lads are pretty flat at the minute if I'm being brutally honest".

"We've just not been at the races. We've now got two games to do something about that," he added.

Both sides have been hit by the coronavirus, which is surging in Sydney, with more than 20,000 cases being reported daily in New South Wales state.

Australia will be missing number five Travis Head after he tested positive in Melbourne.

## Veni, vidi, vici for Imranur

SPORTS REPORTER

England-based sprinter Imranur Rahman created history in his maiden appearance in the Sheikh Kamal 45th National Athletics Championships at the Army Stadium in Banani yesterday.

By clocking 10.50 seconds in the 100m event, the 28-year-old dethroned Mohammad Ismail as the country's fastest man.

Imranur, representing Bangladesh Army, also surpassed a 22-year national record of 10.54 seconds yielded by the late Mahabub Alam during the 1999 South Asian Games.

Furthermore, Imranur came tantalisingly close to matching the fastest South Asian man Saaid Hassan's timing of 10.49 seconds, through which the Maldivian sprinter had bagged gold in the 2019 South Asian Games' 100m event.

Mohammad Rakibul and the four-time fastest man Ismail, both of Bangladesh Navy, stood second and third by clocking 10.66 and 10.69 seconds, respectively.

"I'm happy with my performance," was the first reaction of Imranur, who grew up in Sheffield.

"I want to represent Bangladesh in the South Asian Games and bring a gold medal from a different condition," said the new fastest man. "If I'm given a call to the national team's training, I want to train in England before representing Bangladesh in the international competitions," Imranur added.

BKSP's Sumaiya Dewan also dismantled the long reign of Shirin Akter to become the fastest woman by clocking 12.32 seconds.

Navy's Shirin and Sharifa Khatun secured silver and bronze with timings of 12.36 seconds and 12.54 seconds, respectively.

All timings in the aforementioned events have been clocked under the electronic board.



# 'It's always a treat to the eyes to watch Liton bat'

SPORTS REPORTER

Sacrificing the comfort of a winter sleep to wake up at 4:00 in the morning, thousands of miles away from the action in New Zealand, to watch Bangladesh play to the best of their Test abilities is surely worth it for the Bangladesh cricket fans these days.

The morning daze slowly begins to dissipate when you witness an elegant Liton Das present the full face of the bat for a cover drive over Tim Southee for a boundary.

As time goes by you might look for a cup of coffee and jump out of the comfort of the blanket when Liton rides on top of the bounce of a short-pitched delivery and pulls it to perfection. Or when he brings out that late cuts using the pace of the bowler to mesmerize a Bangladesh fan.

Skipper Mominul Haque may have chosen to work extremely hard at the other end for his team-high 88, but Liton seemed to be batting on a totally different surface. The pair added a vital 158-run fifth-wicket

stand that helped Bangladesh take a rare 73-run first-innings lead against the Kiwis and, more importantly, take control of the game at the conclusion of the third day.

Ultimately, Liton's innings might not get what it deserved. The right-hander could also blame luck. After batting so well for 177 balls, the only false shot cost him his wicket, edging Trent Boult away from his body and walking back towards the pavilion.

"Everyone batted well and Liton's batting has always been fluent. We may have gotten at least a hundred in the innings, especially Liton. He batted how he normally does and it's always a treat to the eyes to watch him bat because he times the ball so well. While watching him bat today (Monday), I never felt he was under any sort of pressure at any point in time. It was brilliant to see how fluently he handled the Kiwi bowlers," team director Khaled Mahmud said yesterday.

"We all know how good a player he is despite being unable to score runs in the World Cup. But we had no doubts about his ability. In fact, Liton has always scored

less than his ability, but watching him bat is always soothing to the eyes."

In the absence of experienced cricketers such as Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal, a relatively young and inexperienced Bangladesh team being able to banish their reliance on individual heroics and put up a collective approach has been the highlight.

According to Mahmud, seeing these young players successfully execute plans in the middle had been satisfying.

"Perhaps we couldn't do hundred percent, but what this young team was able to execute from our plan was satisfying. Results will come later, but we can play with courage. These are tough conditions for every visiting side, but I felt that we could do well. I tried to pass that onto this young team. Definitely, there was fear within us. We have five batters -- Shadman, Joy, Shanto, Yasir and Liton -- who are not very experienced in Tests. They all possess the ability to play well, but working in specific areas really paid dividends for us," he added.



Imranur Rahman came from London and set the track alight with a record-breaking effort, winning the 100m sprint with a timing of 10.50 seconds in the Sheikh Kamal 45th National Athletics Championships at the Army Stadium in Banani yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

They played very, very well. They were decisive. They made us come back and bowl spell after spell. It is exciting to see the game so evenly poised.

TRENT BOULT  
New Zealand's premier pacer



## Mithun century evens up final

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammad Mithun scored a spectacular century in his first match of the Bangladesh Cricket League (BCL) but failed to keep the momentum going in the following two matches. However, the Central Zone batsman got his rhythm back in the final as his unbeaten ton to answer South Zone's Zakir Hossain's century on the second day set up a competitive contest at the Sher-e-Bangla Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Starting the day with 46 runs, Zakir remained unbeaten in South Zone's first innings after scoring 107 runs and smashing 15 boundaries. His 119-run stand with Farhad Reza for the sixth wicket proved pivotal as South Zone amassed 387.

Hasan Murad bagged five wickets for Central Zone while Shuvagata Hom Chowdhury scalped three. Coming down to bat, Central Zone found themselves under pressure as they lost four wickets for 16 runs. All four wickets were picked up by right-armers Farhad Reza. Star performer Soumya Sarkar returned to the dressing room scoring only three runs.

Afterward, opener Mithun and middle-order-batter Shuvagata Hom started to repair the damage as they strung together an unbeaten 168-run partnership stumps were drawn for the day.

Mithun's resilient 102 featured 16 boundaries and a maximum while Shuvagata's 67 was laced with seven fours.



## Rahmatganj, Abahani in last four

SPORTS REPORTER

Giant killers Rahmatganj stunned big-spenders Sheikh Russel in a 4-3 thriller to move into the semifinals of the Bashundhara Group Federation Cup at the Birshreshtha Shaheed Mostafa Kamal Stadium in Kamalapur yesterday.

In the last quarterfinal, Abahani thrashed Sheikh Jamal 6-0 to book the last semifinal spot. Abahani will play against Saif SC while Rahmatganj will take on Mohammedan in last four. Earlier, it was Rahmatganj's Ghanaian recruit Philip Adjah Tettey who broke the deadlock in the 28th minute and presented a 2-0 cushion for his side at the stroke of half time.

Following resumption, Russel initiated their revival act, first with a free-kick from Thiago Eduardo in the 63rd minute. Then, within a span of six minutes, Aizor Akamatov converted a spot-kick in the 80th minute before Ailton Machado found the net, Russel went from equalising to having a foot in the semis. However, two minutes from the regulation time, Sunday Chizoba equalised and Ashrafur Islam struck the decider for Rahmatganj in the 118th minute.

## What to Watch

**T SPORTS & GTV**  
New Zealand vs Bangladesh  
1st Test, Day 5  
Live from 04:00 pm (Wednesday)

**T SPORTS**  
South Africa vs India

2nd Test, Day 2  
Live from 02:00 pm

**SONY SIX**  
The Ashes  
Australia vs England  
4th Test, Day 1  
Live from 05:30 am (Wednesday)





## LPG price cut down by Tk 50

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) has cut down the price of private operators' Liquified Petroleum Gas cylinder (12 kg) by Tk 50.

The move is in line with the global decline in LPG prices from Tk 1,228 to Tk 1,178, including value added tax.

BERC made the announcement at a virtual press conference yesterday – the same day the new price came into force.

The price of gas used for motor vehicles will also be cut down from the current Tk 57.24 per litre to Tk 54.95.

BERC Chairman Abdul Jalil said the decision was taken as the contract price set by Saudi Arabia (Saudi CP) declined to \$420 from the previous \$765.75 per metric tonne.



### Why do we urinate MORE IN WINTER?

STAR HEALTH DESK

You are warm and cosy under the blanket and suddenly you feel the need to pee, even though you emptied your bladder just a little while back.

This is a frequent and frustrating scenario during winter. But is there a reason behind this? And does this happen with everyone or should you be concerned about the frequent need to urinate in cold weather?

According to doctors, there is no need to worry because it is completely natural.

During winter, heat is lost from the surface areas of our body to the environment. So, our bodies attempt to reduce loss of heat by retaining it to our core.

In order to do so, blood flow to our extremities like fingers and toes is reduced and blood vessels are constricted. As a result, blood pressure rises because the same amount of blood now has less space to flow through.

Here's where the kidney's function comes in. To reduce the blood pressure, the kidney decides to reduce the volume of blood that flows

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



**JOIE DE VIVRE ...** A little girl showing off her skills with a jump rope. Children of City Colony area in the capital's Gabtoli spend their time playing with each other with whatever toys they have while their day-labourer parents are out at work. To them, the togetherness and little joys of life are all that matter.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

### ABHIJAN-10 LAUNCH FIRE

# Neglect of duty at every step

## Probe panel holds 3 BIWTA, shipping dept officials, 4 launch owners, 4 staffers responsible

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Three officials of the Shipping Department and BIWTA, four owners and four crew members of the MV Abhijan-10 are responsible for the fire on the vessel that killed 49, a probe committee has found.

The shipping ministry's dock where the engines of the launch were replaced without approval are also liable, it found.

The seven-member committee formed by the shipping ministry after the incident has confirmed speculations that the engine being used was faulty and the fire originated from the engine room.

Committee chief Joint Secretary Tofayel Islam of the shipping ministry confirmed that the probe report was submitted to the ministry secretary last night.

The committee also made 25 recommendations that include fire safety

inspections on vessels by the firefighters every three months, fire drills twice a year, and safety training to crew members, official sources said.

The fire broke out on the MV Abhijan-10 around 3:00 am on December 24. Several hundred people were on board the Barguna-bound launch on the Sugandha River in Jhalakathi at the time.

Rasel Sheikh, 38, who was among those injured in the fire, died yesterday at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, taking the toll from the tragedy to 49.

Of the 12 patients being treated at the institute, two are in the ICU, hospital officials said.

The probe report said the owners violated rules by mounting two more powerful and old engines in the launch, replacing the previous two

without permission from the Shipping Department, sources said.

As per the rules, an inland marine engineer should have been on the launch, they said. But there was none. Thus, the four owners are responsible.

Owners of the vessel Hamjalal Sheikh, Shamim Ahmed, Rasel Ahmed are in police custody. Ferdous Hasan Rabbi, another owner, who is a minor, has not been detained, sources said.

The dock authorities are responsible for mounting old engines without taking prior approval from the authorities, they added.

Although the launch resumed operation after more than three months, the ship surveyor, inspectors of the Shipping Department and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority did not

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### DU QUESTION LEAK

# 126 set to stand trial

## 85 expelled students among them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against 126 people, including 85 expelled students of Dhaka University, in a case filed over their alleged involvement in leaking question papers of the university's "Gha" unit admission test in 2017.

One hundred of the accused, now on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Hasibul Haque read out the charges to them.

Charges were framed against 26 in their absence and arrest warrants were issued against them in the case filed with Shahbagh Police Station under the Public Examinations Law 1980.

The magistrate fixed March 30 for starting trial of the case.

On June 23 of 2019, Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Sumon Kumar Das, also investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court.

During the investigation, CID arrested 47 of the 126 suspects, including the alleged mastermind, Alip Kumar Biswas, a suspended assistant director of Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishthan (BKSP).

Forty-six of them have already given statements before magistrates, confessing to their crimes on different dates.

This organised gang struck deals with government job aspirants and public university admission seekers in exchange for hefty sums and helped many cheat their ways into universities and government offices.

Police tracked down the gang members following a series of arrests since October 2017.

In its very first raid at two DU dormitories, the CID arrested two BCL leaders – only hours before the university's "Gha" unit admission test on October 20, 2017.

After further investigation, the CID found that the questions were mainly leaked in two ways: from the printing press the night before the exams and through digital devices minutes before the tests started.

Job or admission seekers were given the answers via tiny ear-pieces a few minutes into the exams.

Apart from Alip, the other ringleaders are suspended Janata Bank senior officer Hafizur Rahman Hafiz, Assistant Administrative Officer of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation Mostafa Kamal, businessman Masudur Rahman Tajul, and job seeker Ibrahim Molla, said the CID.

Some of the gang members, led by Natore District Sports Officer Rakibul Hasan, used to leak questions from the printing press hours before the admission tests, according to investigators.

Meantime, another charge sheet against 104 of the 126 accused under the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Act was also submitted. The case is now pending with the Dhaka Cyber Tribunal.

### Charges framed against 26 in their absence and arrest warrants issued against them

### SWECHHASEBAK LEAGUE

# Two shot by intraparty rivals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Two Swechhasebak League leaders were shot in a drive-by shooting allegedly by a former member of the same organisation in Malgram area of Bogura town on Sunday night.

Nazmul Hasan Orange, 28, literature and cultural affairs secretary of Bogura Swechhasebak League, was shot in the head and has been in life support at Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital.

The other injured, Minhaz Sheikh Apel, 27, president of ward-8 Swechhasebak League, was shot in the stomach.

They were attacked by former leader of the organisation Russell Mahmud, 28, over establishing supremacy in the area, locals said.

A witness said Russell and several others came to the scene on two motorcycles around 8:00pm, opened fire at the two men, and quickly left the scene.

Orange's wife Sornali Akter filed a case accusing Russell, and six other named and 4-5 unnamed individuals.

Selim Reza, officer-in-charge of Bogura Police Station, said police were looking for the suspects.



**A rickshaw-puller in tears after a DSCC mobile court seized his battery-run rickshaw in Old Dhaka. Battery-run rickshaws are allowed to be driven by those with physical disabilities, but the pullers must have proper documents. The photo was taken during a drive against illegal rickshaws on the Beribandh Road of Chawkbazar yesterday.**

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Taimur loses post of BNP chief's adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has removed Taimur Alam Khandakar, who is contesting for mayor in January 16

Narayanganj city polls as an independent candidate, from the post of the party chairperson's adviser.

BNP leader Ruhul Kabir Rizvi made the announcement yesterday.

Earlier, Taimur was removed as Narayanganj BNP convenor.

The party is not taking part in the polls, saying no free and fair election is possible under this government.

Taimur said, "I don't know whether the decision was taken to give advantage to the ruling party's candidate."

