

EVERYONE CAN MAKE ROADS, BUT
THERE'S ONLY 1 EXPERT
SO CHOOSE BSRM TO BUILD SAFER HOMES

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

BSRM
building a safer nation

MATARBARI POWER PLANT
Cox's Bazar

PROUD
CONSTRUCTION
PARTNER

SHAH CEMENT



Three blanket makers heading to different villages with bundles of cloths and cotton on their bicycles in Khararchar area of Dhaka's Dhamrai upazila. As the weather is getting colder, these makers go from door to door and make blankets on demand to sell them to the villagers. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Up to 103tcf potential gas reserve in Bay Preliminary study finds

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A preliminary study in the Bangladesh part of the Bay of Bengal has found a potential reserve of gas hydrate worth 17 to 103 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

Gas hydrates are a crystalline solid form of water and gas. They contain huge volumes of methane and are abundant in marine sediments in a layer several hundred metres thick directly below the seafloor.

Although the technologies for its commercial production and use are not available anywhere in the world at the moment, the potential reserve, if exploited, can meet the country's demand for power and gas for decades.

Currently, the country needs about 1tcf of natural gas to meet its yearly demand, experts said.

Rear Admiral (retd) Md Khurshed Alam, secretary of Maritime Affairs Unit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, shared the findings at a press conference at the ministry yesterday.

A French company conducted seismic and bathymetric surveys on the 3,500 line kilometres in 2007-08 and a Dutch company conducted a survey in the 3,000 line kilometres within the continental shelf of 350 nautical miles and collected scientific and technical data on the marine resources.

Based on the survey data, the Maritime Affairs Unit with the assistance of the Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company (BAPEX),

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Transmission 'to rise, for sure'

Warns health directorate official, says holding big national events like elections won't be right

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As Covid-19 transmissions are rising due to the Omicron variant, no new national events like the UP polls should be held, Prof Dr Ahmedul Kabir, the additional director general (Administration) of the health directorate, said yesterday.

"I think important programmes related to national interests should be wrapped as early as possible. Holding elections or chalking out any other new events would not be right," he told reporters at the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital following an event.

He said this after the fifth phase of the union parishad elections ended yesterday.

"If we stay alert for the next couple of months, we will do better for the rest of the year."

Meanwhile, the government is also set to slap a new set of restrictions to stop the rise in Covid-19 transmission.

Lokman Hossain Miah, senior secretary to the health ministry, said the cabinet may issue a circular in this regard within "a couple of days".

Referring to the situation in India, where the number of cases rose six times in the last eight days, Kabir said, "We believe transmission will also rise in our country for sure."

Meanwhile, the DGHS reported 892 new Covid-19 cases, with the positivity rate at 4.20 percent, in the past 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday. The day before, the rate was 3.91 percent.

The number of cases, compared to last week, has increased by almost 63 percent this week till yesterday. The positivity rate, which was one percent in November, started rising from December 27 and 10 Omicron infected patients have so far been identified in the country.

According to DGHS data, the transmission situation is worse in Dhaka and Natore, where the positivity rates have been over five percent since Monday.

To prevent further spread, the government may enforce penalties to those without masks outside.

Other restrictions may include reducing the number of public events and the number of passengers in public transport, and restricting restaurants from allowing unvaccinated customers.

Dr Abu Jamil Faisal, member of DGHS's Public Health Advisory Group, has urged the government to enforce the restrictions immediately.

"Ensuring that everyone is wearing masks when outside can be a game-changer. However, the government delayed enforcing it [before] and there was no alternative to strict lockdown."

DGHS reports 892 Covid cases in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday

PROFESSOR'S DEATH

Kuet expels four for life

Decision taken by university syndicate; 40 other students also punished

OUR CORRESPONDENT, KHULNA

Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) has permanently expelled four students, including Sadman Nahiyen Sejan, general secretary of Kuet BCL, over the death of Professor Selim Hossain.

The three others are Abu Hassan Abdul Qayyum and Kamruzzaman Razzak, of the mechanical engineering department, and Riaz Khan Niloy, of the CSE department.

Besides, 40 other students – all leaders and activists of Kuet Chhatra League – were handed different forms of punishment.

At the same time, the previous suspension order against nine student was declared invalid.

The decisions, based on the recommendations by Kuet's student disciplinary committee, were taken at a meeting of the university syndicate – the highest policy-making forum.

Vice Chancellor Professor Quazi Sazzad Hossain presided over the meeting.

The student disciplinary committee met earlier in the day regarding the show-cause notice served to the 44 students accused for the death of Selim Hossain and to review the report of the enquiry committee.

Professor Ismail Saifullah, member secretary of the Kuet Student Disciplinary Committee and director of the Student Welfare Council, said no final decision was made at meeting on Tuesday.

"It resumed on Wednesday and the recommendations were formulated."

All 44 students facing various forms of punishment are leaders and activists of Kuet unit Chhatra League, including General Secretary Sadman Nahiyen Sejan

Rabiul Islam, of the public relations and information department, told this newspaper that the four aforementioned students have been permanently expelled, while seven others were suspended for two year and will not be allowed to stay at the halls during that time.

Meanwhile, 22 have been expelled for one semester and another 10 have been fined Tk 10,000. The punishments of these 32, however, will come into effect after monitoring and the submission of a written bond by their parents.

At a previous meeting of the syndicate, an enquiry committee submitted a report with nine recommendations to the administration on December 28.

Mentioning the nature of the crime, the administration was asked to respond as to why disciplinary action would not be taken against the 44 as per university rules.

Selim Hossain, a professor of EEE department and provost of Lalon Shah Hall, was found dead in his rented home on November 30.

He allegedly earlier had a heated argument with some students centring an election of Lalon Shah Hall's dining manager. In a CCTV footage, around 50 people, led by Sadman Nahiyen Sejan, entered Selim's office along with him around 12:30pm. The BCL men were seen leaving after 40 minutes.

Students alleged Sejan and others mentally tortured Selim at his office.



Relatives weep for their loved ones as at least nine passengers of a trawler went missing after their vessel collided with a launch and sank on the Dhaleshwari in Narayanganj around 8:30am yesterday. After a day-long rescue mission, neither the trawler nor the missing passengers could be traced. Meanwhile, three critically injured survivors are in hospital for treatment. PHOTO: SANAD SAHA

A Spectacular test win by the Roaring Tigers

Congratulations

Bangladesh Team for the remarkable win against New Zealand

DHAKA BANK
LIMITED
EXCELLENCE IN BANKING

www.dhakabanktd.com