



Daybreak at the capital was greeted with the sound of hurried footsteps yesterday. Marking Bangabandhu's Homecoming Day, the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Dhaka Marathon 2022 began from the Army Stadium around 5:30 in the morning and ended at Hatirjheel Amphitheatre. Over 600 local and foreign runners participated in the marathon, whose energy lit up the streets even before the day began proper. This photo was taken from Hatirjheel.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Bangabandhu's Homecoming Day observed



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

### STAR REPORT

The nation yesterday observed the historic Homecoming Day of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a befitting manner.

Marking the day, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with her younger sister Sheikh Rehana paid homage by placing wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at the capital's Dhanmondi in the morning, reports BSS.

After laying the wreath, the prime minister stood in solemn silence for some time, as a mark of profound respect to the memory of Bangabandhu, the architect of the country's

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independence.

On the occasion, the PM also released a commemorative postage stamp, a first-day cover and a data card at her official residence Gono Bhaban, reports UNB.

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After placing wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Dhanmondi, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud said the anti-liberation forces are still active in Bangabandhu's Bangladesh, and they need to be eliminated.

Marking the day, Gonoforum organised a discussion at the capital's Jatiya Press Club. Attending the discussion virtually, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's close aide and Gonoforum president Dr Kamal Hossain said the day is the most memorable one in his life. "I returned to Bangladesh with Bangabandhu," he said.

Dr Kamal stressed the need for national unity for the greater interest of Sonar Bangla (Golden Bangla), as dreamt by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

### PRAYER TIMING JAN 11



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	5:30	12:45	4:00	5:36	7:00
Jamaat	6:05	1:15	4:15	5:40	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## A hectic day for commuters

People suffer due to 7-hour traffic restriction in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While it's usual for the capital's streets to see increased traffic on weekday mornings, yesterday's gridlock was still something out of the ordinary.

Traffic congestion in many streets was caused by the seven-hour traffic restriction on Hatirjheel and surrounding areas to accommodate the Bangabandhu Dhaka marathon. The marathon started from Bangladesh Army Stadium, went through Kakoli-Gulshan-2-Gulshan-1 and ended at Hatirjheel Amphitheatre.

The prior day, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) had requested commuters to avoid roads in the area and take alternate routes from 4:00am to 1:00pm.

After the marathon ended, traffic movement resumed in Hatirjheel area around noon.

During the period, many office-goers and students were seen walking to their destinations as vehicles on the road had ground to a halt.

Besides these areas, the entirety of the Rampura-Badda-Pragati Sarani road was severely congested, while traffic jams were also seen in Malibagh, Moghbazar, Jahangir Gate, and Shikhet, this correspondent found during a visit.

Meanwhile, the Uttara-Mohakhali route was also clogged. A long line of vehicles were seen on Mohakhali flyover throughout the morning.



Even though the restriction for vehicular movement was placed on the Army Stadium to Hatirjheel route, it ended up affecting almost all of the capital. This photo was taken from Tejgaon Industrial Area yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Commuters complained of their vehicles being stuck on the same spot for hours. One of them, Samiul Alam, who was on his way from Badda to Uttara, said he had to stay at the same spot for hours.

Mir Nazmul Alam, father of an O-level candidate, posted photos of the situation on the Facebook group "Traffic Alert". His caption read, "My son's [exam] centre is in Sector-4, Uttara. We left Rampura at 12:00pm, and after seeing the state of the road, I'm not sure if my son will be able to take the test today [yesterday]."

SM Shamim, additional

deputy commissioner of Tejgaon Division (Traffic) Police, told The Daily Star that they had to block 26 different points and create six diversion points to facilitate "zero traffic" at Hatirjheel from 5:00am to 12:00pm.

Over 600 local and foreign athletes participated in the marathon event, which started at 5:30am. A total of 190 people took part in the 42-kilometre full marathon, while 404 participated in the 21-kilometre half-marathon.

As many as 20 elite runners from seven countries and 16 runners from four South Asian countries took part in the event.

### 'Nothing but mockery'

Alleges Rizvi about EC dialogue

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday alleged that the ongoing dialogue at Bangabhaban is nothing but a mockery before formation of the Election Commission (EC).

Speaking at a human-chain programme, BNP senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi alleged that the prime minister is staging a mockery through the president's talks on EC's reconstitution, only to mislead people.

"Ultimately, the Election Commission will be formed reflecting the political will of the prime minister," the BNP leader observed.

A faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists jointly organised the programme in front of Jatiya Press Club, demanding immediate release of journalist leader Ruhul Amin Gazi.

On October 21, 2020, police arrested Gazi under the Digital Security Act.

Former BFUJ president Shawkat Mahmud said journalists have been waging a movement for nearly a year, demanding release of Gazi.

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### First death anniversary of Mizanur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Mizanur Rahman Khan, the joint editor of Prothom Alo.

The noted journalist died of cardiac arrest last year at a private hospital in the capital. He was 53. He was buried at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in Mirpur.

He was one of the few journalists who became known for their expertise on writing about judicial matters.

Before joining Prothom Alo, he worked as a journalist in different media including Samakal, Jugantar, Manabjamin, Mukhtakantha, Banglabazar, New Nation, Saptahik Manchitra and two other dailies published from Barishal - Daily Dakshinanchal and Biplobi Bangladesh.

His first book was published in 1995.

His notable books include "Shongbidhan Ebong Tottabodhayak Sarkar Niye Bitorko" (1995), "Bangladesh-er Rajneetir

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## ROCKET Mobile Banking 1<sup>st</sup> for Dhaka WASA Bill Payments



ROCKET was awarded first prize for being the most used mobile banking service by Dhaka WASA for bill payments for its customers.

Mr. Md. Tazul Islam, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives presented the prize as chief guest.

Engineer Taqsem A Khan, Managing Director & CEO, Dhaka WASA presided over the event.

Mr. Abul Kashem Md. Shirin, Managing Director & CEO of Dutch-Bangla Bank received the prize on behalf of ROCKET Mobile Banking.

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