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# Those who built Rab now loathe it

Says home boss; 12 int'l organisations urge UN not to involve Rab in peacekeeping missions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday said those who built Rab are now speaking against it.

"They are running a smear campaign against Rab. They are not highlighting the positive impacts Rab has had on society. They are not talking about Rab's war on drugs or terrorism," he said while replying to reporters' queries after the DC conference in the capital.

"They speak of human rights violations, but we can throw down a challenge to them — there is no country where encounters don't take place," Asaduzzaman said, referring to alleged shootouts involving the force

His comments came in the wake of 12 international organisations urging UN to ban Rab from its peacekeeping missions.

On December 10, the US announced sanctions on Rab and seven of its current and former members in the face of widespread allegations of human rights abuses against the force formed in 2004.

Earlier, on November 8, 2021, the 12 organisations wrote to Under-Secretary-General Jean-Pierre Lacroix. They include Human Rights Watch (HRW), Asian Human Rights Commission and Robert F Kennedy for Human Rights, who have for the past year been campaigning to have Rab banned from the UN peacekeeping missions.

The nine other organisations are Amnesty International, International Federation for Human Rights, Civicus, World Organisation Against Torture, Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), Asian Network for Free Elections, Capital Punishment Justice Project, and The Advocates for Human Rights.

The letter urged the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations to ban Rab from its missions, HRW in a statement said yesterday, adding that the department was yet to provide a formal response.

The organisations requested the department to implement a systematic requirement to disclose all previous affiliations so that a background check can be done to make sure that the peacekeeping candidate was not affiliated with Rab.

They demanded that "all uniformed personnel deployed by the UN, regardless of level or rank, are subject to systematic scrutiny of their

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Looking at this overcrowded bus, who would say the country is going through a third wave of Covid-19? Many of the passengers were not even wearing masks. Such disregard for health safety in public transport is all too common, increasing chances of the virus spreading further. The photo was taken in the capital's Khamarbari area.

#### THE THIRD VIEW



#### MAHFUZ ANAM

We needed a law for the formation of the Election Commission, as mandated in the constitution. Now we are being offered a law for the formation of a Search Committee, which is not asked for in the charter. So why, instead of fulfilling a constitutional mandate, are we fulfilling one which is not?

READ THE FULL ARTICLE ON PAGE 9

ਫ਼ੋ BUSINESS

For the first time,

Bangladesh Bank

yesterday said

minimum gross

salary of entry level

officials at private

banks would

be Tk 39,000

monthly after the

end of probation

period. Two chief

executives of

private banks said

the move would

have adverse

impacts.

## Mad race claims young life

14-year-old crushed between two speeding buses; man beaten to death by transport worker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rakibul Islam should have been in school and not on the streets selling masks to pedestrians and bus passengers.

But that was what the 14-year-old was doing at the capital's Moghbazar intersection to help his family cope with the pandemic when he became yet another victim of competition between buses.

He was critically injured when two buses of the same company

converged and crushed the hapless boy in the middle around 5:00pm yesterday.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition and was pronounced dead around 5:30pm. Harun-or-Rashid, a pedestrian who brought Rakibul to DMCH, said three buses of Gazipur-bound Ajmeri

Glory Paribahan were competing with each other at Moghbazar intersection.

Bachchu Mia,

DMCH police outpost in-charge, said the body

STORY ON B1



Says info minister STAFF CORRESPONDENT

News items cannot be aired via IPTV and YouTube channels, said Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday citing the broadcast policy.

He also said newspapers cannot broadcast news or talk shows online or via YouTube.

"But news is still being broadcast through IPTVs [internet protocol televisions]. Regular bulletins are being presented and aired through YouTube channels. But this can't be allowed as per our broadcast policy," he said.

The minister came up with the comment while talking to reporters after a session on the third day of the DCs' Conference at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

Hasan urged the DCs to remain alert and take effective action in this regard.

After holding a discussion with representatives of the Association of Television Channel Owners (ATCO) yesterday, the minister said they approved newspapers' online portals and that there was a stipulation that only content published in print could be made available online.

"There's no way to go beyond that. Adding a YouTube channel, and broadcasting news or talk shows are not to be done," the minister said, adding, "Since they are not approved, we will take action against them on the basis of ATCO's recommendation.

"One should not invade the field of the other. Television channels should not publish magazines,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

# IMMORTAL MEMORY WITH DEEPEST LOVE

#### Mahabub Alam Mridul (1997-2021)



#### **Director, Walton Group**

Today, 21 January is the first death anniversary of Mr. Mahabub Alam Mridul, the Honorable Director of Walton Group. With his sudden demise, we have lost a promising young entrepreneur. It was his dream to work on new innovations in the development of the Electrical & Electronics (E&E) industry and devote himself to the welfare of the country and the people.

We pray from the bottom of our hearts that his departed soul be granted Jannah where it finds eternal peace.

**Walton Family** 





As a student falls sick, others tend to her during the second day of their hunger strike demanding Sust VC Farid Uddin Ahmed's resignation yesterday. Fourteen of the protesters were put on saline drips. Five of them were later hospitalised. More on page 5.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## Stop abuse of DSA

#### Law minister asks DCs

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The deputy commissioners have been instructed to stop the misuse and abuse of the Digital Security Act, Law Minister Anisul Huq said yesterday.

"We've [also] asked the home ministry not to accept digital security act cases immediately after filing. There is a provision in the law to send cases to [the corresponding] cell. And in the case of journalists, [instructions were given] not to make arrests right away," he told reporters after meeting the DCs on the third and final day of the annual DC conference held at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

"The act is mainly formulated to combat cybercrime. It is not enacted to curb press freedom... Our constitution has clearly pointed out that freedom of expression and freedom of press are fundamental rights.

"There has been some cases of misuse. We'll talk with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to find out best practice... If necessary, we'll bring some amendment to the act. We informed them three days ago that we're ready for a discussion."

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen urged the DCs to be "more sensitive" in ensuring hassle-free services to expatriate Bangladeshis as over one crore people of the country live abroad.

He said the expatriates come with complaints of not getting passports, police clearances, marriage and birth certificates in time. In some cases, they complain about losing control over their land. Seeking a stronger role of the DCs in stopping

sand lifting from rivers, Zahid Faruque, state minister for water resources, said an initiative to formulate a river-dredging policy was underway to save the country's rivers.

Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, state minister for shipping, said they directed the DCs to strengthen measures to protect rivers from pollution, encroachment and restoring navigability.

Meanwhile, Land Minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury urged the DCs to rescue Khas land (government property).

He also said that they are considering cancelling the Power of Attorney system in the Land Acquisition act, adding that people are regularly being deceived and harassed due it.

The last session was held with Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah, chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

"The DCs know well where graft takes place in their offices. We asked them to take preventive measures in those sectors," he said.

The DCs requested the ACC to dispose cases

quickly.

"Sometimes, there are delays and perhaps DCs face problems because of it...We are trying to address the matter," the ACC boss said.

#### Govt now aims to jab 70pc population

MOUDUD AHMMED SUJAN

Bangladesh now plans to inoculate 70 percent of its population with the Covid-19 vaccine -- down from the initial plan of 80 percent -- in line with the World Health Organisation's target.

In October, the WHO set a target for countries to vaccinate 70 percent population of their populations by mid-2022, and according to projections made by Our World in Data, about 100 countries are not on track to meet that goal.

As of January 18, 48.38 percent of the new target has been met, according to data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The initial target of inoculating 80 percent of the population is not achievable, Shamsul Haque, member secretary of the Covid-19 Vaccine Management Taskforce, told The Daily

Besides, the WHO's standard to achieve herd immunity is to inoculate 70 percent of the population.

"So we have revised down our target," Haque added.

So far, the government has been using Covid-19 vaccines developed by AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, Moderna, Pfizer, Sinovac, and Johnson and

The authority has not clarified the reason behind the revision of the target, said Abu Zamil Faisel, member of the Epidemiology and Public Health Advisory Committee at the DGHS.

"Most probably, it is because of the slow pace of the vaccination, and also about the uncertainty over the vaccine supply chain," he added.

The government has about nine crore doses in its stock, according to Health Minister Zahid Maleque.

To attain the revised target, 12 crore doses of the vaccine are needed. Besides, another 2.3 crore shots need to be allocated to inoculate the 1.15 crore

schoolchildren aged 12-17. DGHS Director-General ABM Khurshid Alam, however, says the original target was just a parallax error.

"About 1.25-1.5 crore of our population live outside the country -- we had counted

them initially. The non-resident Bangladeshis have now been excluded.

Moreover, children from 12-17 age groups are now getting vaccines. The original plan was to inoculate those aged 18 and above.

"Considering this, 80-85 percent of the total population will receive vaccines," Alam told The Daily Star yesterday.

Bangladesh's population is about 16.80 crore population, according to the latest population census.

The vaccination campaign began on a oilot basis on January 27 last year and on a full-fledged basis from February 7.



Traders loading cauliflower on cycle vans after buying them from a wholesale vegetable market near the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar's Hemayetpur area yesterday morning. They sell the vegetable in nearby markets. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Social gatherings must stop

Health minister says as daily Covid case tally goes into five figures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All types of social events, including marriage ceremonies, have to be stopped as the Covid transmission has risen at an alarming rate, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said yesterday.

In 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday, the health directorate reported 10,888 cases, up 1,388 from the previous day. The positivity rate also increased to 26.37 percent from

almost 25 percent the previous day. The health minister made the statement while briefing journalists after a meeting with deputy

commissioners. The cabinet division earlier this month slapped bans on social, religious or political gatherings and rallies at open places.

Wearing mask is mandatory in all public places, including shops, markets, shopping centres, restaurants, offices and courts. Mobile courts will operate countrywide to penalise violators of the health guidelines.

The minister said his ministry has asked the DCs to implement the

"The 11-point restrictions were given to rein in the spread of Omicron. The DCs have been asked to implement these ..., "Maleque said.

He said the recent spike in Covid-19 cases was not a cause for panic, but a matter of concern.

"The 11-point restrictions were given to rein in the spread of Omicron. The DCs have been asked to implement these ..., " Maleque said.

The minister added that the DCs have been asked to engage all stakeholders, including the people's representatives, in implementing the programmes.

Maleque also told reporters that several other instructions were issued to the DCs in the conference.

These include ensuring strict screening at entry points of the country and strict quarantine of

Covid-19 patients. First reported on December 9 last year, the Omicron variant has started causing a massive surge in Covid-19 cases since the beginning of January. On January 1, the number of daily confirmed cases was only 370 and the

Meanwhile, Bangladesh yesterday received 3.36 lakh shots of Covid-19 vaccine developed by Johnson & Johnson from the US government as

positivity rate was below five percent.

Produced by Janssen Pharmaceuticals Companies of Johnson & Johnson, this is a single-

"We have received these vaccine doses under the Covax arrangement. Another consignment of the same amount [3.36 lakh] will arrive soon," Shamsul Haque, member secretary of the National Covid-19 Vaccine Daily Star.

#### Man faces seven years for derogatory remarks on PM

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A man was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment by a Dhaka tribunal for making derogatory remarks about the prime minister on

Judge Mohammad Ash Sams Joglul Hossain, of Dhaka Cyber Tribunal, handed down the sentence to Rashed Talukder, 34, of Tangail's Kalihati, court sources said.

According to the prosecution, Rashed on June 23, 2016, made objectionable remarks about Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, after which police arrested him under the ICT act with Kalihati Police Station.

#### Dhaka court adjourns Khaleda's hearing

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday adjourned till March 6the hearing of the charges framed against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and six others in the Barapukuria coal mine graft case.

Judge AHM Ruhul Imran, of Dhaka's Special Judge's Court-2, passed the order after a petition was filed, on her behalf, seeking an adjournment as Khaleda has been sick and was exempted from appearing at the hearing earlier, her lawyer

Masud Ahmed Talukder told The Daily Star. Yesterday, five others accused, including BNP leader Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, now on bail, were present at the hearing. Another accused Md Sirajul Islam has been absconding since the case

#### Arsa commander's brother placed on 6-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, COX'S BAZAR

A Cox's Bazar court yesterday placed Mohammad Shah Ali, brother of Ataullah Abu Amar Jununi, commander of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation

Army (ARSA), on a six-day remand in three cases. The court of Cox's Bazar Senior Judicial Magistrate Sreegayan Tonchongya granted the remand following a hearing on an application, filed by Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya Police Station's sub-inspector Md Noor-e-Alam, seeking a 21-day

The court granted a two-day remand in each case, said court police inspector Chandan Kumar

Shah Ali, now in jail, was arrested from Rohingya camp-6 in Ukhiya of Cox's Bazar on

#### 43rd BCS preliminary test result published

UNB, DHAKA

**EVALY SCAM** 

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of 43rd Bangladesh Civil Service preliminary test were published yesterday.

A total of 15,229 candidates qualified for participating in the written examination, said a press release of Bangladesh Public Service Commission.

Details of the results are available at PSC website: www.bpsc.gov.bd.

The results can also be known through text messages by typing PSC(Space)43(space) Registration Number and sending it to 16222.

on October 29 this year.

Tahsan granted bail

The High Court yesterday cautioned the celebrities

involved with controversial e-commerce platform Evaly,

"Celebrities' responsibility is much higher as general

people, particularly from the young generation, throng

saying they must be conscious about their positions.

to invest in companies in which they [celebrities] are

involved because of their face-value and names," said

the HC bench of Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain and

bail petition filed by actor and musician Tahsan Khan.

The HC granted him six weeks' anticipatory bail.

On December 13, another HC bench granted eight

weeks' anticipatory bail to actors Rafiath Rashid Mithila

Justice Khizir Hayat, during a hearing of an anticipatory

who was accused in a case for his involvement with Evaly.

#### Those who built Rab Let's continue

individual human rights record prior to deployment."

The letter pointed out that at present the screening is only done for

higher ranks. organisations The said the National Human Rights Commission cannot be a part of this screening process. "The NHRC cannot be objective and factual in the execution of their role in the screening process considering the ongoing reports of its politicisation and the fact that the NHRC's legal framework limits its purview over security forces, in effect exempting them from any independent oversight."

Including Rab in its peacekeeping operations presents a "reputational risk" for the UN, it said.

There is "consistent and credible evidence of abuses including extrajudicial torture, and killings, enforced disappearances by members of this unit since its creation in 2004,"

the letter also read. organisations pointed out that at the Convention Against 2019, the Torture in Committee against Torture stated that it is "concerned at reports that personnel that have served with the Rapid Action Battalion have frequently been deployed for service with United Nations peace

missions" March United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet noted that 'allegations of

torture and ill-treatment by the Rapid Action Battalion have been a long-standing concern'," said the letter. HRW further pointed

out that on December 5, the UN Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Bangladesh Disappearances voiced concern about Rab being allowed to participate in UN peacekeeping operations, without any previous investigation into its involvement with human rights violations, and added that officers "involved in, or willing to tolerate abuses appear to be promoted and rewarded within Bangladesh security and law enforcement forces".

> "We are concerned that those committing grave human rights violations Bangladesh are being rewarded by government with deployment to missions abroad," stated the letter further.

Data from November shows that Bangladesh was top contributor to UN peacekeeping missions with over 6,300 personnel deployed. Of this, the lion's share came from the combined forces, which also deploys to Rab, while a small minority belonged to Bangladesh Police.

As his attention was drawn to the matter, Commander Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab (legal and media wing), said, "We have learnt of this issue from media, we have not received any official letter regarding this."

conversations on issues," Miller said in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star yesterday, a day before leaving Bangladesh completing assignment here.

Bangladesh and the US have a strong bond, with the latter being the single largest RMG importing nation, biggest donor of Covid-19 vaccines, and provider of humanitarian aid for the

There are some strains in the bilateral relationship following the US sanctions on Rab and seven of its current and former officials and leaving Bangladesh Biden's invitee list Democracy Summit last year. Though Dhaka initially was in denial, it later requested Washington DC

to reconsider the sanctions. "Upcoming bilateral dialogues and senior officials' visits are important opportunities to do so. think it speaks to the strength of our relationship. The United States and Bangladesh can have these candid discussions while still strengthening our close

partnership," said Miller. The diplomat said his country at times struggled with democracy and good governance, but has a magnificent system of government, of checks and

Miller said the US deeply values the friendship with Bangladesh, and that shared commitments to democracy, human rights and rule of law form the foundation of powerful partnerships.

"Let's lock arms and reaffirm our commitment to make our democracies better, to share ideas and learn from each other. As partners, let's do so," he said.

He said the US and Bangladesh have so much in common, from historic struggles for independence innumerable people-tounbreakable people ties and bonds of affection.

"Like all friends, we don't always see eye to eye. When we don't, our relationship strong and mature enough to have honest conversations, engage, address and move forward."

Asked how the US wants to interact with Bangladesh when it comes to its policy on Indo-Pacific where world powers are focusing, Miller said US engagement in the Indo-Pacific is not against any country nor is it designed to make anyone choose between countries.

"Instead, our engagement is about advancing an optimistic vision we have for our participation and partnership in this region. global security, including HC cautions celebrities; Bangladesh is, of course, a key partner in the success of US engagement in the

region." He said China is a competitor, not an enemy and that they welcome contributions by China to regional development, so long as it adheres to the highest standards the people of the region demand and deserve, including in areas such as transparency in bidding on and awarding contracts, rule of law, and sustainable financing.

He said a free and open Indo-Pacific region is critical to the security and prosperity of the American people and its allies and partners.

Enquired about the implications of the security deal between Australia, the UK and the US (AUKUS), Miller said it will help defend shared interests in the region for generations. also demonstrates commitment to revitalising its alliances and strengthening them.

"Moreover, reaching out to our existing partners, like Bangladesh, in new ways and amplifying our ability to collaborate." About the future focus

of US in Bangladesh, the outgoing envoy said they will work with Bangladesh Indo-Pacific

through cooperation on peacekeeping.

"We will work together on trade, investment and commerce for sustainable broadly prosperity economic that opens new markets for American businesses and opportunities for Bangladesh as it graduates from the LDC status," he added.

He said the US will help Bangladesh become healthier, better educated, more food secure and climate resilient middleincome country. The US also looks to cooperate with Bangladesh on addressing change climate supporting Dhaka's laudable leadership among climatevulnerable countries.

"We will help Bangladesh address the Rohingya refugee crisis," he said. Rohingya He called upon nations to join in contributing to this humanitarian response and putting pressure on Myanmar to address this crisis.

Asked why the US has yet not termed atrocities Rohingyas genocide, he said: "On the genocide determination, I can tell you there is currently an internal, high-level

discussion on the issue at the State Department."

#### Road crash fatalities FROM PAGE 12

three-wheelers as major reasons behind the rise. 30 PERCENT RISE

At least 5,088 people were killed in 5,472 road crashes in 2021, said police.

and Sabnam Faria in the same case.

The number of deaths and road crashes were 3,918 and 4,198 respectively in 2020, meaning death and crashes rose to 29.86 percent and 30.34 percent

last vear. Police collected the statistics on the basis of First Information Report (FIR) and General Dairy (GD), a police official told The Daily Star.

Motorcycles involved in 1,358 accidents last year, which is 41.46 percent higher than in 2020.

Trucks and covered vans were involved in 1,831 crashes last year -- 39.56 percent higher than the previous year.

Buses and microbuses were involved in 1,379 accidents while other vehicles were involved in more crashes, he said.

Although the police report did not separately mention the involvement three-wheelers crashes, many of the "other vehicles" were threewheelers, the officials said, seeking anonymity.

Prof Moazzem Hossain, former director of Accident Research Institute of Buet, said, "We have raised alarm four-five years ago about the risk related to the rise in the number of bikes and three-wheelers, which has proved to be true now."

The poor transport system is the reason behind the rise of these vehicles, he said.

The government should take immediate steps to develop public transport system, especially bus services in major cities, he

Otherwise, the number of bikes and three-wheelers would rise further which would ultimately cause

#### Iran deal still possible after 'modest progress': Blinken

AFP, BERLIN

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said yesterday that he believed reviving the Iran nuclear deal was still possible after "modest progress" in talks, after meeting with European allies in Berlin.

"My own assessment, talking to all of our colleagues, is that returning to mutual compliance, it remains

possible," Blinken told reporters. "We've seen, I would say, some modest progress in the

last couple of weeks in the talks" in Vienna, he added. Speaking at a joint news conference, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said that "urgent progress" was needed in talks aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal. "The window for finding a solution is closing," she said. "The negotiations are in a decisive phase.

## Military, admin should work together

Army chief tells DC conference

UNB, Dhaka

Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed has urged the military and civilian administrations to work together in the national goal of building "Sonar Bangla." The army chief said the assistance of the civilian

administration is an important factor in facilitating the Bangladesh Army to carry out its responsibilities.

He was speaking to reporters after addressing the first session on the third day of the Deputy Commissioners' Conference yesterday morning.

"We have discussed the areas. We all agree that there is no alternative to working together. At present we have a very good relationship. We want to go further by capitalising on it," he added.

Asked about proposals from the DCs in this regard, General Shafiuddin said there was no such proposal

"But we have discussed the areas in which we have the potential to enhance our civil-military relations," the army chief added.

Regarding the issues emphasised in the conference, he said, "Environment is very important for me to do any work together.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



These girders are supposed to be used for a mega project. But for the last year and a half, they've been left lying there on Airport Road. Their presence chokes the critical road, which is a gateway for inter-district vehicles, and leads to chronic traffic jams in the area. This photo was taken near the airport yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

### It's them, not us!

BNP alleges AL hired lobbyists abroad with public money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday demanded a proper investigation, alleging that Awami League, not them, spent public money to hire lobbyists abroad.

"Ministers' claimed that they did not hire any lobbyist. The state minister for foreign affairs said a PR firm was given some tasks, but the evidence says something otherwise," said Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, party's standing committee member.

He gave the party's formal reaction to the government's allegation of BNP recruiting lobbyists

abroad to campaign against Bangladesh at a press conference at BNP chairperson's Gulshan office.

Mosharraf said State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam claimed that they never appointed any lobbyist but engaged a company purely on the media front in 2015. "But the evidence doesn't support it."

Why should the government or a government party hire a lobbyist there? Despite having an embassy, it is unethical to hire a lobbyist spending public money.

On behalf of US chapter AL, he claimed that a lobbyist firm, Alcalde and Fay was hired in the US on November 29, 2004. The BNP leader further alleged that the firm was paid \$12.5 lakh in total (\$30,000 each month) between 2005 and 2007.

Mosharraf said it is necessary to present a report before people on how much public money has been spent to engage lobbyists.

The BNP leader also presented some documents on the agreement with two US firms, Alcade and Fay, and Friedlander. He said Awami League has been working with another lobbyist firm, BGR, on a regular basis for

Friedlander, another lobbyist firm, was hired in September last year for a fee of \$40,000 for a month to arrange a high-level meeting and exchange visits between the two countries [US and Bangladesh]. If you go SEE PAGE 4 COL 1





# Farewell, Qazida

Qazi Anwar Husain laid to rest



People gather outside Qazi Anwar Husain's residence and Seba Prakashani's office at the capital's Segunbagicha to bid farewell to the beloved writer. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In contrast to his extroverted, charismatic literary creation "Masud Rana", Qazi Anwar Husain was a man of solitude. Yesterday, his farewell towards the eternity happened similarly in a quiet and unpretentious manner.

In the afternoon, Anwar, who breathed his last on Wednesday, was laid to eternal rest at Banani graveyard in the capital.

As per his wish, he was buried at the very grave where his mother Sazeda Khatun was buried.

Earlier, his namaz-e-janaza was held at the Segunbagicha Jame Mosque after Zuhr prayers.

With his departure, a glorious chapter of the country's thriller literature comes to an end. Anwar played a unique role in "creating readers" in the country, said Niaz Morshed, whose book was published by Anwar's publishing house Seba Prakashani, after paying homage to the

author-publisher at Segunbagicha. Niaz said while Humayun Ahmed gets special mention whenever the topic of creating readers comes up, but Anwar successfully played the same role before Humayun, albeit much more silently and without acknowledgment.

On Wednesday, Anwar died at the capital's Birdem General Hospital after suffering a stroke and a heart attack simultaneously while on life support. He was 86.

His body was then kept in a freezer van of Quantum Foundation in Kakrail.

From there, the body was taken to his Segunbagicha residence around 10:00am yesterday. His famed Seba

Prakashani is also located at the residence. The publishing house started its journey in Bangladesh from the 1960s.

Almost symbolically, the final episode of his journey also started from there yesterday.

After his body was taken to Seba Prakashani premises, family members, relatives, well-wishers, locals and readers gathered to pay their homage to the writer one last time.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

#### RECRUITMENT **GRAFT** ACC sues Jiban Bima officials

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a graft case against managing director of Jiban Bima Corporation Zahurul Haque and its assistant general manager Mahbubul Alam.

ACC assistant director Mohammad Nure Alam Siddiqui filed the case. ACC secretary Mohammad Mahbub Hossain said the commission found evidence of corruption regarding question papers of a recruitment test of Jiban Bima.

The investigation team will further look into the matter.

ACC on September 15 launched the probe against Zahurul



The Bangabandhu Chattar in the capital's Khamarbari area had turned into a mishmash of shrubs, bushes and garbage due to the lack of maintenance. But since last month, the spot has been given a new face, after Dhaka North City Corporation started working to beautify it. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

#### Dhaka-Sharjah Biman flight from Jan 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

For the first time, Biman Bangladesh Airlines will operate direct flights on the Dhaka Sharjah-Dhaka route from January

> Initially, Biman will operate four flights per week, the national carrier said in a press release

Passengers have to be present at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at least eight hours before scheduled departure time to complete all activities in line with travel advisory.

#### PROPOSED EC ACT It will fail to fulfil constitutional commitment: TIB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh vesterday said the proposed Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioner Appointment Act, 2022 will fail to fulfil constitutional commitment and people's expectation.

As reasons, TIB said some "average criteria" were set in the draft law to determine eligibility and ineligibility for the appointments of the CEC

Apart from this, there's an "unacceptable" absence of any provision to determine their skills, experience, impartiality, transparency and acceptability, said TIB in a statement. While the government's sudden move to formulate the law is positive, there's a due process to enact such an important and sensitive law, said TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman.

Referring to media reports, Iftekharuzzaman said that most recommendations made by civil society and stakeholders were not considered in

Citing the draft law, he said three provisions have been incorporated in the proposed law to determine the eligibility of the CEC and ECs.

However, there is no specific directive in those provisions regarding the CEC and ECs' honesty, righteousness, impartiality, objectivity, courage and acceptability, he added. Also, there is no provision for inclusion of female members in the

#### Mohammadpurbased gang busted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab has detained nine members of a Mohammadpur-based gang "Lou Thela" on Wednesday, over their alleged involvement in mugging, extortion, drug peddling and more.

They were arrested from Nabainagar Housing area after their involvement in a vandalism incident in the area on Sunday, said Lt Col Abu

Nayeem Md Talat, commanding officer of Rab-2. The arrestees are — gang leader Babu alias Dasher Babu (26), Forkan (22), Palash (23), Suman (22), Sagar (23), Rajan (23), Nazim (24), Shakil (20), and Milon (21). Various local weapons were recovered from them.

Rab said Babu came to Dhaka from Narail in 2000 with his mother, initially working menial jobs. In 2014, he got involved with teen gang "Vaibba Lo King". He later separated from the group and formed his own group "Lou Thela" in 2017. There are six cases filed against Babu.

অফিস ভাড়া আবশ্যক

মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তরের আওতায় বাস্তবায়নাধীন

'মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষকগণের শিক্ষণ দক্ষতা বৃদ্ধির জন্য প্রশিক্ষণ

সংক্রান্ত প্রকল্প' এর কেন্দ্রীয় প্রকল্প ইউনিট অফিসের জন্য

২০০০ (দুই হাজার) বর্গফুট আয়তনের অফিস স্পেস ভাড়া

নেয়া হবে। ভবনটি সেগুনবাগিচা এলাকায় হতে হবে।

মাসিক ভাড়া প্রকল্পটির ডিপিপি বরাদ্দ অনুযায়ী আলোচনা

সাপেক্ষে চূড়ান্ত করা হবে। প্রস্তাবিত ভবনে একটি গাড়ি

রাখার জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় পার্কিং এরিয়া থাকতে হবে। আগ্রহী

বাডিমালিকগণকে নিমু ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করে সরাসরি

অথবা ই-মেইলের মাধ্যমে প্রস্তাব প্রেরণের জন্য অনুরোধ

প্রকল্প পরিচালক

মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষকগণের শিক্ষণ দক্ষতা বৃদ্ধির জন্য

প্রশিক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত প্রকল্প

মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তর, কারিগরি ও মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বিভাগ

মোবাইলঃ ০১৮১৯১৩৩২১৫

#### It's them, not us!

bigger snakes will come

He said, "Our government has embassies in every country, it has offices of the Permanent

to inform those countries to dig worms in this regard, about the events in Bangladesh and to explain them."

should "Why government government party hire a lobbyist there? Despite Representative to the having an embassy, it is United Nations. What are unethical to hire a lobbyist those for? They were tasked spending public money.



#### Dipali Sarkar no more

CITY DESK

Dipali Sarkar passed away on Wednesday night. she was 79, said a press release. Family sources said she suffered a brain stroke on January 17 morning. Since then, she had been

undergoing treatment at a

city hospital. She was cremated yesterday morning at Bangalpara village in Austogram upazila, Kishoreganj.

She ran a library and was known for her love.

Austogram upazila administration awarded her Joyeeta Award in the category of "successful mother" in 2018. Dipali Sarkar, mother of journalist Tarun Sarkar, left behind four sons and a daughter.

#### News cannot be broadcast

and likewise, newspapers

should not broadcast news. TV channels' online portals also must obtain approval."

He called upon all to follow the rules and regulations when running IPTV services, YouTube channels, and online

The minister also warned that if anyone broke the rules, legal action would be taken.

"Free flow of information is important to our government. Plenty of new private television channels have emerged over the years. The journey of private televisions in Bangladesh started through Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," he

"A lot of television stations have online portals. Some of the applications have been approved. Some of them are yet to be approved. Our goal is to provide accurate information to people and to ensure free flow of information, which is a prerequisite for a democratic society," Hasan added.

Asked, Additional Secretary to the information and broadcasting ministry Md Mizan Ul Alam, told The Daily Star that according to the amended National country, he added.

Online Mass Media Policy-2020, IPTVs were not Dr Mahbub allowed to broadcast any news items or talk show.

**UNITED GROUP** 

Dr Shanthi,

new medical

services

CITY DESK

press release.

directors

Dr Shanthi Bansal has

joined United Hospital as

director of medical services

from January 2022, said a

Bansal has completed

her MBBS degree and MD

AP Singh University, Rewa

in Anesthesiology from

respectively in 1991 and

in healthcare services

from Sikkim Manipal

University in 2013 and

also accomplished her

post graduate diploma

in hospital and health

Gandhi National Open

Ahmed, who will take a

University. Dr Bansal

management from Indira

replaced Dr Mahbub Uddin

new role as the director of

medical services at United

Group's holding company

United Healthcare Services

Limited. Dr Mahbub joined

United Hospital as chief of

clinical services in 2012.

of healthcare division,

1994. She obtained MBA

He also said YouTube channels were also not allowed to air any news items or talk shows.

Asked whether any newspaper via its registered website or its YouTube channel could air any news item or talk shows, he said newspapers were given registration for online on condition that they would publish their printed items

He, however, said if any newspaper wanted to do so, it would have to get a separate approval.

"Since the does not allow this now, newspapers will not be able to broadcast any talk show or news items through YouTube channels as this will invade the field of the others," he added.

After his meeting with the DCs, the information minister said, "If we look at the statistics of the last seven to eight years, we can see that almost all rumours and motivated propaganda were spread through social media.'

The spread of misleading news through social media creates instability in the

#### **Duplex for Rent** Residence or Office 7800sc feet in Bashundhara R/A Block C with front and rear garden and 3 car parking slots. Contact: 01779809454,01779802395

Residential /Commercia Newly build 9 storied building at Azampur, Uttara, is ready for rent. Please Contact for detail. 01674-178604, 01916-074949

In memory of Mrs. Ismat Ara Sadique, MP



Today January 21,2022, we remember with love and great sorrow, our beloved mother Ismat Ara Sadique, who departed this world on January 21, 2020. Her love, respect and dedication for her family, friends and her country shall be missed dearly. She will be remembered as a devoted MP of Keshabpur, Jashore and a respected State Minister of Public Administration. Though she is gone forever, she will always live in our hearts, our thoughts and in our prayers. May Allah grant her Eternal Peace.

On this occasion, we request all her relatives, friends, colleagues, and acquaintances to remember her departed soul in their prayers.

**Tanvir Sadique** Naureen Sadique

## ছিভ-১২৪ ই-মেইলঃ ubashiralo@gmail.com

করা হলো।

#### IN SEARCH OF EXCELLENCE

**SQUARE TEXTILES DIVISION** 

#### **JOIN THE LEADER**

#### Manager/Sr. Manager - Accounts & Finance

Job Responsibilities:

- 1. To supervise as in-charge of bills payable and internal control team of Square Textiles
- 2. To make forward plan on VAT & TAX and to ensure that laws of the land are complied. 3. To monitor that internal control system of financial transactions at all factories are in
- 4. To undertake audit program at all factories as to ensure compliance of internal control system, management policies and conventions.
- 5. To assist department Head/Operation with decision support accounting & analysis.

Pre-requisite to apply:

- · Qualified Chartered Accountants.
- At least 7 years of job experience in relevant field. · Below 40 years of age is preferred.
- Good interpersonal and communication skill.
- Well conversant with advanced level of computer applications and habituated to work with ERP software (SAP).

Job Location: Head Office, Uttara, Dhaka

Please apply with a complete Curriculum Vitae (CV) along with recent passport size color photographs within January 31, 2022 addressing to the Deputy General Manager, Human Resource & Admin Department, Square Textiles Division, Head Office, Mascot Plaza (11th Floor), Sector#7, Uttara, Dhaka-1230 or send email to: career.stxl@squaregroup.com

Position applied for must be mentioned at the top of the envelope/Email subject. Only short-listed candidates will be called for further selection process.

#### SQUARE STRONGLY DISCOURAGES SMOKERS TO APPLY



#### Dhaka South City Corporation

Office of the Executive Engineer Waste Management Department Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka www.dhakasouthcity.gov.bd



Memo No. 46.207.000.12.05.2581.2022

#### e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of:

proce	ilement of.				
SI. No.	Package No.	Identification of lot	Tender ID No.	Last selling date & time	Tender closing date & time
1.	epg/dscc/mwmd/ 21-22/4/P01	Cleaning work of Jirani Khan (Nandipara), Basaboo Khal, Kadamtala Khal & Khilgaon Bagicha Khal (Package-Ka)	647950	06/02/2022 up to 05:00pm	07/02/2022 up to 02:00pm
2.	epg/dscc/mwmd/ 21-22/4/P02	Cleaning work of Manda Khal & Kajla Khal (Package-Kha).	647951	06/02/2022 up to 05:00pm	07/02/2022 up to 02:00pm
3.	epg/dscc/mwmd/ 21-22/4/P003	Cleaning work of Shaympur Khal & Titash Khal (Package-Ga).	647952	06/02/2022 up to 05:00pm	07/02/2022 up to 02:00pm
4.	epg/dscc/mwmd/ 21-22/4/P04	Cleaning work of Uttar Kutubkhal Khal, Mridha Bari Khal & Matuail Kabarsthan Khal (Package-Gha).	647953	06/02/2022 up to 05:00pm	07/02/2022 up to 02:00pm
5.	epg/dscc/mwmd/ 21-22/4/P05	Cleaning work of different branch khal beside DND & Dhaka-Chattogram Highway area (Package-	647954	06/02/2022 up to 05:00pm	07/02/2022 up to 02:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and 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 branch.

Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/১৬৬/২০২১-২২

GD-126

**Executive Engineer** Waste Management Department Dhaka South City Corporation

Phone: 9586543 E-mail: engwmd@dhakasouthcity.gov.bd

Dr. Md. Sufi Ullah Siddik Bhuyan

#### drew flak after Bangladesh Prominent singer Sabina Copyright Office granted the copyrights for many

Farewell, Qazida

Yasmin, also Anwar's sisterin-law, paid homage to the author and spent some time with the bereaved family members.

"My father was a warrior," said Anwar's son Qazi Shahnoor Husain. Shahnoor said his father was courageous but liked to live a quiet life, surrounded by his family. Anwar's daughter-in-

law Masuma Maymur said books of his most popular "Masud Rana" and "Kuasha" have been published for 43 years. In recent years, Anwar "Masud Rana and "Kuasha" books to their ghost writer Sheikh Abdul Hakim in June 2020. However, Maymur said

Rana"

"Masud

Ábduĺ Hakim Sheikh claimed himself to be the author of the books, adding that the issue was unresolved.

Anwar's cousin Quazi Rownaq Hossain said the state has not given Anwar his due recognition. He inspired the country's youths to read books, which helped them stay away from trouble, he said.

#### Won't back down

and expressing solidarity with the students' demand.

Planning Minister MA Mannan at a programme in Sylhet yesterday said, "Students at this age are always agitated, and they cannot tolerate any decision imposed on them. The situation must be handled by convincing them in a controlled

manner and with patience." On Thursday, students

of Begum Sirajunnesa Meanwhile, 25 citizens Chowdhury Hall launched a of Sylhet gave a joint protest after Provost Zafrin yesterday, Ahmed Liza reportedly condemning the situation misbehaved with a student, who called her to report mismanagement at the dormitory.

Students started demanding the VC's resignation after over 30 students were injured, as police entered the campus and used truncheons, rubber bullets and sound grenades on Sunday evening to take the VC, who was confined at his office,

#### Know your

disorders, such

constipation, gastritis, and ulcerative colitis.

It has antibacterial, antifungal, and antimicrobial properties. Moringa extracts may help combat infections caused by Salmonella, Rhizopus, and E. coli.

Moringa is thought to be helpful in treating

depression, anxiety, and fatigue.

Extract of moringa may help wounds close and reduce the appearance of scars. However, only a few of its many reputed health benefits have been studied scientifically. It is also not meant to replace medical treatments. Too much intake of moringa should be avoided.

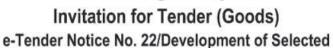
#### Office of the Executive Engineer



Education Engineering Department Dinajpur

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

www.eed.dinajpur.gov.bd Email: ee\_din@eedmoe.gov.bd



Non-Govt. Secondary Schools (Furniture)/2021-2022 Memo No. 37.07.2700.003.00.000.22-283

Dated: 20/01/2022

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and 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. This fees for downloading the e-Tender documents of following Packages from the National e-GP

System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 07-February/2022

SL No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tender ID	Last date & time of selling documents	Last date & time of submission documents	Tender security Tk
1	EE/EED/ Dinaj/ DSNGSS/ 21-22/G-41	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Rangamati High School under Upazila-Fulbari, Dinajpur.	614207	07-Feb./2022 Time: 17.00	08-Feb./2022 Time: 12.30	70,000/-
2	EE/EED/ Dinaj/ DSNGSS/ 21-22/G-42	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Khirebari Monmohon Girls High School under Upazila-Fulbari, Dinajpur.	614208	07-Feb./2022 Time: 17.00	08-Feb./2022 Time: 12.30	70,000/-
3	EE/EED/ Dinaj/ DSNGSS/ 21-22/G-43	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at S. Sri Rampur High School under Upazila-Fulbari, Dinajpur.	614209	07-Feb./2022 Time: 17.00	08-Feb./2022 Time: 12.30	70,000/-
4	EE/EED/ Dinaj/ DSNGSS/ 21-22/G-44	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at Joynagar High School under Upazila-Fulbari, Dinajpur.	614210	07-Feb./2022 Time: 17.00	08-Feb./2022 Time: 12.30	70,000/-
5			614211	07-Feb./2022 Time: 17.00	08-Feb./2022 Time: 12.30	70,000/-
6	EE/EED/ Dinaj/ DSNGSS/ 21-22/G-46	Manufacturing & Supplying of Furniture for Academic Building at C.M Bidya Niketan under Upazila-Fulbari, Dinajpur. on and guidelines are available	614212	07-Feb./2022 Time: 17.00	08-Feb./2022 Time: 12.30	70,000/-

desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

S. M Shahinur Islam **Executive Engineer** Education Engineering Department Phone: 0531-64427

#### Military

FROM PAGE 3

"The more communication, the less becomes the communication gap. The less communication gap, the better it will be for us to work," he said. Responding to a question about his role in the electoral field, the army chief said, "Our first responsibility is to protect the country's sovereignty."

"In addition to that, we carry out nation building activities in aid to civil power. We assist law enforcement too," he added.

"Whenever the civilian administration thinks that the army can stand by their side under the direction of the government, we will respond to their call and of course we will be by their side to fulfil our duty," he

## Vacancy Announcement

Good Neighbors is an international humanitarian and development non-governmental organization with membership in General Consultative Status in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC). Winner of MDG 2 award in 2007. Good Neighbors Bangladesh (GNB), established in 1996, is operating 16 Community Development Projects (CDP) and 2 Projects with Specific Program (PSP) in 12 districts for child protection, education, health, women empowerment, income generating activities, DRR and Rohingya emergency response activities.

Good Neighbors Bangladesh (GNB) intends to recruit suitable personnel for the following positions.

\* Manager (Community Development Project)

GD-121

- \* Senior Officer (Social Enterprise)
- \* Officer (Medical)
- \* Officer (Micro Finance), GNGIFB, Separate Entity
- \* Officer (CDP Admin)
- \* Officer (Communication) \* Officer (Health)
- \* Intern (Admin and Program)
- Application Deadline: 31 January 2022 Detailed Information/Job Descriptions for the above mentioned positions are available in: http://gnbangla.org/jobs/

Female candidates are highly encouraged to apply Good Neighbors Bangladesh is concerned about the rights of children and women and has "Zero Tolerance" for any kind of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.



## Solidarity with Sust students

STAR REPORT

Protests continue to rage on in solidarity with the students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust), as many are holding demonstrations and releasing statements to denounce the recent events at the institution.

Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association yesterday protested against Sust Vice Chancellor Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed for making "offensive remarks" about female students of JU.

The remarks made by Prof Farid about JU's female students were highly insulting and disrespectful, according to a statement signed by Prof Laek Sazzad Andallah, president of the teachers' association, and Prof Md Motaher Hossain, its general secretary.

The statement said, "We strongly protest and express our discontent with the offensive remarks.'

"We hope he [Prof Farid] will publicly apologise for his mistake and withdraw the indecent remarks," the statement

Meanwhile, leaders and activists of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) also expressed solidarity with Sust students, who are now observing a hunger strike demanding resignation of Prof Farid.

JCD held a protest rally vesterday morning on Dhaka University (DU) campus. They also demanded withdrawal of the case filed against the students.

Around 400 leaders and activists participated in the rally. Afterwards, they brought out a procession from Raju Memorial Sculpture, which ended in front of Shahbagh National Museum.

"We always try to stand beside our student friends. Today, we expressed our solidarity with Sust students. If the university authorities do not accept the students' demand, we will announce a tougher movement in solidarity," said Rakibul Islam Rakib, convener of JCD's DU unit.

JCD president Fazlur Rahman Khokon, member secretary Aman Ullah Aman, and top central leaders were present at the rally. Another rally will be held today at TSC, where teachers, activists and journalists will be present.

Ref. No. CMSD/G-2114/ICT/2021-22/Proc.D-2/16

# 'Won't back down till VC steps down'

Sust students resolute on their demand: hunger strike taking toll on protesters



Demanding Sust VC Farid Uddin Ahmed's resignation, students staging a hunger strike in front of his residence on the campus for the second straight day yesterday. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet** 

Five students were hospitalised and nine fell sick till yesterday evening, as the hunger strike, demanding resignation of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) vice chancellor, continues.

The students began the strike at 2:50pm on Wednesday, as VC Farid Uddin Ahmed did not step down by that noon, despite the students'

Quoting a volunteer physician at the spot, a spokesperson of the protesting students said, "The students on hunger strike are suffering from dehydration as well as low sodium and potassium levels. Some have low blood pressure, nausea, and low glucose and sugar levels."

Some 10 students were receiving intravenous saline and vitamin supplements, he said, adding that they will continue the protest till their demand is met.

Earlier in the noon, around 50 teachers led by treasurer Prof Anwarul Islam came to talk to the students and urged them to sit for a discussion to resolve the issues.

However, the students refused and urged them to join their cause. The protesters had refused teachers' requests on Wednesday night as well.

Dated: 19/01/2022

The treasurer said, "We'll try to convince the students to call off the strike. We are sorry for the situation and urge them to consider the formal procedure."

"They [students] have already urged President Abdul Hamid, the highest authority. We are also urging the president and prime minister to investigate Sunday's matter. If the VC is at fault, steps will be taken against him," he said.

The treasurer added that the university authorities also urged police to withdraw the case filed against 200-300 unnamed students on Monday.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

#### **COVID-19 IN CTG** 75pc patients at 2 hospitals down with Omicron Finds study

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram

Researchers in Chattogram have found that around 75 percent of Covid-19 patients at two major port city hospitals were infected by the Omicron variant.

The information was published in a German international database -- Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data" -- yesterday, said Dr Abdul Mannan, a researcher and associate professor of genetic engineering and biotechnology at Chittagong University.

Dr HM Hamidullah Mehedi, consultant of medicine at Chattogram General Hospital, and Dr Mannan led the research conducted on Covid-19 patients admitted to Chattogram General Hospital and Chattogram Maa-O-Shishu Hospital

between November 2021 and the first week of January 2022.

The researchers selected samples of 30 patients at random for genome sequencing, said Dr Mannan, adding that the patients ranged from newborns to octogenarians.

infected by the Delta variant, while around 75 percent patients admitted afterwards were infected by **Omicron** 

It was found

E-mail: tcb@tcb.gov.bd,

tcbimp@tcb.gov.bd

that all patients

admitted before

**December 25 were** 

"It was found that all patients admitted before December 25 were infected by the Delta variant, while around 75 percent patients admitted afterwards were infected by Omicron," he said.

Dr Mehedi said two of the Omicron patients were infected by the BA2 or "stealth variant of Omicron", a recent variant which has been found in the US, India, China and Oman.

'Although researchers have termed the variant not dangerous, they said it is quite difficult to detect it, due to some new changes in its spike protein," he said.

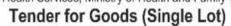
Ninety percent of patients infected by Omicron showed symptoms of sore throat and changes in vocal pattern, while 85 percent felt headache and body-ache, and 80 percent had fever. All patients infected by Omicron were over 21 years old.

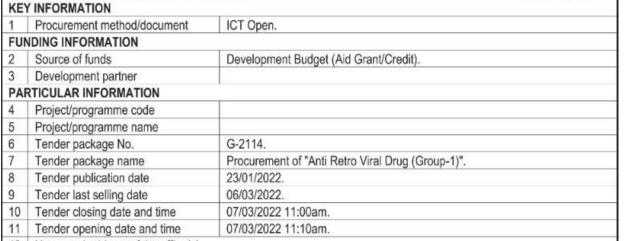
Dr Mannan said further research should be conducted with a vast number of samples from multiple hospitals to know more about the dominance of Omicron in Chattogram.

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

Director (CMSD)

Department of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dhaka





Name and address of the office(s) -Selling tender document (principal) Central Medical Stores Depot, 30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, -Selling tender document (others) CMSD. Receiving tender document Do. -Opening tender document Do. Conference Room, Room No. 115, Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD), 30, Place/date/time for 13 Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208. 03/02/2022 11:10am.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER Eligibility of tenderer

Brief description of goods or works Anti Retro Viral Drug (Group-1). As per Technical Specification. Brief description of related services Tender document price BDT 4,000.00 (Taka four thousand) or US\$ 50.00 (US Dollar fifty) only payment will be in Pay Order from any scheduled Bank in Bangladesh.

17 Completion time in weeks/months Identification Location Tender security amount in Taka Procurement of Single Central Medical BDT 2,50,000.00 To be delivered on or before 16 weeks after or US\$ 2900.00 opening of the letter of credit for delivery "Anti Retro Viral Stores Depot, 30, Shaheed Tajuddin from abroad or after signing of the contract Drug (Group-1)" for delivery from within Bangladesh & Bids Ahmed Sharani, Dhakaoffering delivery beyond 16 weeks will be Tejgaon, 1208. treated as non-responsive. PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

GD-120

18 Name of official inviting tender Mohammad Mukhlesur Rahman Sarker. Designation of official inviting tender Director (CMSD). Address of official inviting tender CMSD, 30, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Tejgaon, Dhaka. Contact details of official inviting Tel. No. 88-2-48115486, Fax: 88-02-9126547, E-mail: <a href="mailto:cmsdstore@dhaka.net">cmsdstore@dhaka.net</a>.

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

Mohammad Mukhlesur Rahman Sarker

Tender will be conducted through the International Competitive Tender (ICT)

procedures specified in the tender schedule and PPA-2006 & PPR-2008.

Director (Joint Secretary) Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD) Health Services Division Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

#### Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)





TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215 www.tcb.gov.bd

#### Commercial Section

Invitation for Tender (International) of a) 30,00,000 (±5%) Liter Refined Soyabean Oil b) 6,000 (±5%) M. Ton White Refined Sugar

		c) 4,00	0 (±5%) M. Ton Who	ole Husked (Without Husk) Ref Lentil			
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2	Agend	Cý .	Trading Corporation of Bang	ladesh (TCB).			
3	Procu	ring entity name	Chief Officer (Commercial),	TCB, Dhaka.			
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5			Dhaka.				
6				White Refined Sugar, c) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Len	til		
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12		ige name		, b) White Refined Sugar, c) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red	Lentii.		
13	Tende	er publication date	21/01/2022.				
	T		Date	Time			
14	date a	er documents last selling and time		17.00pm			
15	Tende	er closing date and time	07/03/2022	12:00pm			
16	Tende	er opening date and time	07/03/2022	12:15pm			
17	Name & address of the office(s)		Address				
	item can be purchased from the banks & offices as mentioned in right column.						
	-Receiving tender document		In front of TCB's reception (2nd Floor), TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.				
-Opening tender document Board Room, TCB.							
INF	DRMATI	ON FOR TENDERER					
18	Eligibi	ility of tenderer	Bonafide suppliers, detail	Is conditions will be mentioned in the tender documents.			
19	Brief	description of goods	Import of a) 3,000,000 (±5%) (Three Million Plus Minus Five Percent) Liter Refined Soyabean Oil Packed in 02 (two) Liter Food Grade PET Bottle. b) 6,000 (±5%) (Six Thousand Plus Minus Five Percent) M. Tons White Refined Sugar. c) 4,000 (±5%) (Four Thousand Plus Minus Five Percent) M. Tons Whole Husked (Without Husk) Ref Lentil.				
20	Price	of tender document	Price of (a) Refined Soyabean Oil tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five thousand), (b) White Refined Sugar tender documents is Taka 5,000 (Five thousand) & (c) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five thousand).				
21	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (USD/BDT)	Shipment schedule		
	1	a) Refined Soyabean Oil     b) White Refined Sugar     c) Whole Husked (Without Husk) Red Lentil	Offers are to be made on CFR (C) Chattogram (Previous name Chittagong) by Sea.	Tender is to be submitted along with Tender Security amounting to: a) USD 1,04,047.00 (US Dollar One Lac Four Thousand Forty-Seven) or BDT 90,00,000.00 (BDT Ninety Lac) Only b) USD 1,04,047.00 (US Dollar One Lac Four Thousand Forty-Seven) or BDT 90,00,000.00 (BDT Ninety Lac) Only c) USD 86.706.00 (US Dollar Fields Six Thousand Seven	Entire quantity of goods is to be shipped within (a) 31/05/2022 (b) 31/05/2022 (c) 31/05/2022 (Including L/C correction & grace posted)		

c) USD 86,706.00 (US Dollar Eighty-Six Thousand Seven period). or BDT 75,00,000.00 (BDT Seventy-Five Lac) Only in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee. The successful tenderer is to submit 5% (Five Percent) Performance Security in the form of Pay-Order/Bank PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS Name of official inviting tender Md. Shekhabur Rahaman. Chief Officer (Commercial), TCB Kawran Bazar, Dhaka Designation of official inviting tender

Special instructions: a. Incomplete, conditional tender and alternative offer shall not be considered.

Address of official inviting tender

26

GD-123

Contact details of official inviting tender

b. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept any or reject any/all tenders partly or wholly without assigning any reason. c. Tenderer who was awarded the Notification of Awarded (NOA) earlier but could not submit Performance Security (PS) in due time, will not be

Principal Office, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.

Telephone No. 02-8180074 Fax No. 880-2-8180057 E-mail: tcb@tcb.

d. Tenderer whose Performance Security (PS) was partially or totally forfeited earlier will not be eligible to participate in the tender Md. Shekhabur Rahaman

Chief Officer (Commercial)

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



project is going to be a landmark in my acting career. The plot highlights the tumultuous years from 1969 to 1971. **Zahra Mitu** is my coartiste in this production as

One of Dhaliwood's established actors, Bappy Chowdhury recently celebrated 9 years of his arrival in the industry.

He has been shooting for Shahin Sumon's upcoming project "Kustigir", alongside with his upcoming project, Kazi Hayat's "Joy Bangla".

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, Bappy opened up about his recent works, future plans and more.

What projects are you currently busy

I am currently shooting at Netrokona, with the team of "Kustigir".

The film is directed by Shahin Sumon, and Zahra Mitu is my co-artiste. I will be seen in a new avatar in this film.

Interestingly, the location where we are shooting is extremely beautiful. We are enjoying every moment of this project.

After this, I will start shooting for Kazi Hayat's upcoming film, "Joy Bangla".

"Joy Bangla" is based on eminent author

Mamoon's novel of the same name. How hopeful are you with the project? I believe this project is going to be a landmark in my acting career. The plot highlights the tumultuous years from 1969 to 1971. Zahra Mitu is my co-artiste in this production as well.

What is the greatest accomplishment in vour career?

I have achieved a lot in my career of nine years. The audience has acknowledged me with enormous support and love. Wherever I go, I am respected and recognised, and I consider this my greatest accomplishment.

What plans do you have for the future? This might sound generic, but I want to take up more challenging roles, and experimental stories. I want to live forever through my

works.

What are your expectations with the upcoming election of Artistes' Association?

I consider the film fraternity as one big family. Whoever wins the contest, and whoever loses, they are still a part of the family, and we must be united. My best wishes are with all of them.

**OMANUSH** 

#### to release on February 4, confirms director

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR



Anonno Mamun's much anticipated film, "Omanush" is set to release on February 4. Marking Rafiath Rashid Mithila's silver screen debut, the film also casts Nirab Hossain, Quazi Nawshaba Ahmed, Misha Sowdagar, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Rashed Mamun Apu, Don and Ananda Khalid, among

"If the halls remain open, we will release the film on February 4," confirms Anonno Mamun. "We plan to start hall bookings next week, and hope that we can

keep up the promise of finally bringing this film to our audience."

The director is also currently planning for two other projects, and wishes to release the "Omanush" before he steps into anything new.

Jaya Ahsan to star in 'Putulnacher Iti Kotha', based on Manik Bandopadhyay's novel

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Renowned Indian director Suman Mukhopadhyay has cast Jaya Ahsan to play Kusum in a film based on eminent Indian litterateur Manik Bandopadhyay's novel, 'Putulnacher Iti Kotha'.

The news was confirmed to The Daily Star by Jaya herself.

"Manik Bandopadhyay is one of my favourite writers," says the National Award winning actress. "I am very excited for this project." Jaya Ahsan also confirmed that the shooting will begin from next month. In the film, she will star opposite two big stars from India: Parambrata Chatterjee and

## COUNTRYWIDE



Locals cross the Charalkatha river in Nilphamari Sadar upazila by boat as the nearby under construction bridge lying incomplete for

### Left incomplete for 5 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

About five lakh people in two upazilas are suffering as a bridge, connecting Nilphamari Sadar and Kishoreganj upazila, over the Charalkatha river at Par Ghat area has remained incomplete for nearly five years.

According to Nilphamari Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Jashore based construction firm Islam Traders got the work order to construct the 181-metre-long and 9.80-metre-wide bridge on Nilphamari-Kishoreganj road with an estimated cost of Tk 15.12 crore in 2017.

The construction firm was asked to complete the work by June 2018, but after completing only 40 percent of the work, contractor left the work.

Later, following several warning letters from the LGED, the contractor started the work again, seeking six month time extension. But, the firm missed that fresh deadline too.

In the meantime, authorities concerned extended the length of the bridge up to 252-metre, revised the budget and gave the work to another construction firm Nil Sagor Group to support the previous firm.

Although, LGED extended the work deadline for three times, with the latest in June this year, most of the work still lies incomplete.

While visiting the site on Monday, this correspondent saw pedestrians, bikers and bicyclists were crossing the river by boats, while traders and farmers are compel to travel an additional 20 kilometre to go to nearby markets.

Sumon Biswas, site engineer of Islam Traders, said the work was delayed due to interference of some local influential and then the lockdown.

Nilphamari LGED Executive Engineer Sujon Kumar Kor said they were conducting strict monitoring so that the bridge construction work can be done with the stipulated time.

## The rat catcher

#### A Joypurhat man has been trapping and killing rats for over four decades

S DILIP ROY

Anwar Hossain has been trapping and killing rats since he was 16.

The 57-year-old man can be seen on the streets and haat-bazars in different Northern districts, including Lalmonirhat and Kurigram. He also sells poisons to kill rats.

Anwar is now popularly called 'Rat

He deposits the tails of 10-12 thousand dead rats to the agriculture office every year. In return, he receives

cash incentives and gift items. Anwar 's family comprises his wife, a son and a daughter.

He was found selling rat killing poisons in Dalpatti area of Lalmonirhat town recently. When approached, he said he sells poisons to kill rats. He earns Tk 500 to Tk 600 daily by selling the poisons.

"Farmers call me to kill rats. I kill rats infesting crop fields and houses and collect the tails of dead rats. Being pleased, farmers give me a bounty of up to Tk 200 to Tk 500," said Anwar.

"I don't know any magic to catch rats. I just use strategy. I have become accustomed to catching rats. Rats can't run away from me," he said, adding that

"I deposit the tails of 10-12 thousand rats to Akkelpur Agriculture Office every year."

He has received several national awards and certificates from the Department of Agriculture for participating in the National Rat Extermination Campaign, Anwar

"I want to stay involved in the ratkilling campaign till I die," he said.

"Rats cause a lot of damage to crops and furniture. My small efforts relieve farmers' families of rat infestation. I am happy with my job," said Anwar.

Mantu Mia, a farmer from

Khochabari village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said his family was upset with the rat infestation. Later, Anwar was called and he successfully got rid of all the rats. Anwar also caught and killed the rats from his crop field.

Shamim Ashraf, deputy director of Department Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Lalmonirhat, said rats are very harmful to crops. Rat killing drives are conducted every year.

Anwar Hossain ranks number one in killing rats in the northern region and of course, he is benefiting the farmers by killing rats, said the DAE official.

## Mad race claims young life

has been kept in the DMC

morgue for autopsy. Rakibul's elder brother

Riazul Islam said the deceased was the second of three siblings. The family lives at a rented house in Moghbazar's Peyarabagh

His father Nur Islam is a hawker and sells betel nuts on the streets while his mother Rizia Begum works as a maid.

Riazul said Rakibul had studied up to class 5 at their village home in Mymensingh's Dhobaura upazila. When Covid hit two years ago, he left school to come to the capital and support his family members.

"Our house rent is Tk 3,500. All expenses were rising. Rakibul had been working for the last year and a half to support the family.

"He used to go out around 3:00pm and sell masks till 9:00pm. Yesterday was no different. But the mad rush of buses took his life," lamented Riazul.

Monirul Islam, officerin-charge of Ramna Model Police Station, said they seized the two buses, but the drivers and conductors managed to flee.

"We came to know that the boy was trapped between the buses as the vehicles sped up after police gave the signal to cross [the intersection]," he told The Daily Star.

Police will look into CCTV camera footage to know what happened, he

On November 8, 2021, a school teacher was killed after being crushed between two buses in the capital's Demra Staff Quarter area.

On March 7 of the same year, a woman was crushed to death between two buses as the vehicles competed to make a U-turn in Dhaka's Gulistan roundabout.

On April 3, 2018, overnment Titumir Government College student Rajib Hossain lost his right hand after it got stuck between two speeding buses while they were trying to overtake each other in Bangla Motor



the DMC morgue yesterday.

injuries at DMCH later on April 17.

trend in road crashes in the last few years despite government promising a change and initiating various steps after a major road safety movement in July-August

The movement took



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

place after a bus, competing Rajib succumbed to his with another, ploughed into pedestrians and killed two students of Shaheed Data shows a rising Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College -- Abdul Karim

Rajib, 18, and Dia Khanam agencies Mim, 17 -- on the capital's Airport Road. A total of 3,776 people were killed in 3,204 road crashes last year, while

according to Accident the conductor of the bus. Research Institute (ARI) of Meanwhile, in the

capital's Wari, a man died following an altercation with a bus conductor over fare. deceased was The

identified as Irfan, 48, employee of an electrical appliance shop Nawabpur. Witnesses and

deceased's family members alleged that the conductor pushed him off the moving bus, which led to his fatal injuries.

However, Kabir Hossain Hawlader, officer-in-charge of Wari Police Station, told The Daily Star last night that they had learnt from primary investigation that the bus conductor had gotten off the bus with Irfan when it stopped at Joy Kali Temple area, and continued the altercation which left Irfan bruised and unconscious.

He said filing of a case was underway in this regard, and they 3,558 people were killed in would know more after 3,064 incidents in 2020, apprehending Mozammel, Earlier in the day,

Wari Police Station Subinspector Arafat Hossain said locals had detained Mozammel following the incident, but he managed to flee.

Abdul Quader, Irfan's co-worker, said the incident took place around 11:00am when Irfan was heading to work on a Green Bangla Paribahan bus.

He fell on the road after the conductor pushed him off the bus near Joy Kali Temple following an altercation, Abdul said quoting witnesses.

With critical injuries Irfan was rushed to a local hospital and was later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead at 12:45pm, he said.

Raihan Ahmed, Irfan's elder brother, said he lived with his wife Ismot Ara and daughter in Demra.

Police said Irfan had injury marks at the back of his head and the body was sent to DMC morgue for

## INTERNATIONAL



A woman shouts and begs for alms next to children sleeping on a market area on a cold day in Kabul, Afghanistan, yesterday. Afghanistan is already in the grip of a humanitarian disaster, worsened by the Taliban takeover of the country in August when Western countries froze international aid and access to assets held abroad. The United Nations has warned that half the 38 million population faces acute food shortages.

## 'Covid should be treated like flu'

#### Spain leads calls to reclassify the coronavirus pandemic

AGENCIES

Spain is spearheading calls for governments to start tackling Covid-19 as any other endemic respiratory virus like seasonal flu, despite WHO opposition and warnings that the approach is premature.

With governments and populations worldwide desperate for an end to the pandemic, discussion about when the virus might be reclassified has intensified.

Spain wants to lead this debate because it is timely and necessary to do so," Health Minister Carolina Darias has said, adding that Spain asked the European Centre for Disease Prevention (ECDC) to "study new strategies" to deal with Covid.

Spain is in a good position to open the debate, having one of the world's highest vaccination rates with 90.5 per cent of its population over the age of 12 fully immunised.

But the question has sparked disagreement between governments seeking some sort of normality and some parts of advocate keeping its guard up.

The United States on Wednesday also reported that the latest wave of cases driven by the Omicron variant appears to be receding. The fast to rise, fast to fall graph could follow the same pattern seen in other countries hit by the highly-mutated strain.

On Tuesday, however, World Health Organization chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus insisted that the pandemic was "nowhere near over", warning that new variants were still "likely to emerge".

The WHO also warned against the temptation to play down the seriousness of an endemic disease.

Fernando Garcia, an epidemiologist and the spokesman of a public health association, warned that talk of treating Covid-19 as an endemic illness at this stage was "creating false hope".

Meanwhile, a study conducted and published by The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Wednesday showed that people who were unvaccinated but survived Covid were better protected than those who were vaccinated and not previously infected.

The study, which was done before the emergence of the Omicron variant, showed that protection was highest among those who had both vaccination and prior Covid.

## 'He'll move in'

Biden on Putin's intentions over invading Ukraine; Russia announces massive drills ahead of Blinken-Lavrov meet



AFP, Washington

Russia yesterday condemned US President Joe Biden's vow of a "severe" response to any invasion of Ukraine as "destabilising", as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken opened talks with key European allies for a common strategy against

The Kremlin's reaction came after Biden in Washington assessed that Vladimir Putin will "move in" on Ukraine and warned that would be a "disaster for Russia".

Biden said he did not believe that Putin wants a war, but said the Russian leader has created a situation that is proving extremely difficult to defuse -- and that could easily "get out of hand" in the region.

"My guess is he will move in. He has to do something," Biden said during a press conference marking his first year in office.

However, Biden raised eyebrows when he appeared to suggest that a small-scale attack by the Russians would prompt much less pushback from the West.

The White House quickly issued a statement clarifying that what he meant was that any military invasion would prompt a "severe' response, while non-military aggression, like paramilitary attacks, would be met with a "reciprocal" response.

Powerful Republican Senator Lindsey Graham described Biden's comment as "unnerving."

Biden was speaking ahead of a meeting today in Geneva between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in Geneva.

With more than 100,000 troops and warmaking machinery poised on Ukraine's borders, Moscow has sent alarms through the West over its threat to Kviv.

Biden appeared to suggest ways of deconfliction, playing down Putin's biggest worries, that Ukraine would join Nato and that the West would position strategic weapons in Ukraine.

Speaking on the eve of the anniversary of his inauguration on January 20, 2021, Biden rejected criticism over his handling of the pandemic and soaring inflation.

On one of the most traumatic episodes of his presidency — the chaotic and rushed final withdrawal from the 20-year long Afghanistan war Biden said flatly: "I make no apologies."

Biden also confirmed he would keep Kamala Harris as his vice presidential running mate if he seeks re-election in 2024.

Meanwhile, Russia yesterday announced it will hold huge naval drills in the Atlantic, Arctic, Pacific and Mediterranean this month and February. The war games will involve "more than 140 warships and support vessels, more than 60 aircraft, 1,000 pieces of military equipment, and about 10,000 servicemen," the defence ministry said in a statement carried by Russian news agencies.

#### **Antibiotic-resistant** superbugs killed 1.2m in 2019: study

AFP, Paris

Superbug infections killed 1.2 million people in 2019, according to a study published yesterday, which authors described as the most comprehensive assessment of the impact of antimicrobial resistance to date. The death toll means infections by bacteria resistant to antibiotics are directly responsible for more deaths than HIV/AIDS or malaria. The report, published in the Lancet, also found antimicrobial resistance played a role in up to 3.68 million other deaths. "These new data reveal the true scale of antimicrobial resistance worldwide, and are a clear signal that we must act now to combat the threat," said study co-author Chris Murray of the University of Washington. While previous estimates said superbugs could kill 10 million people per year by 2050, this study shows that milestone could be reached much sooner, he added. Antimicrobial resistance occurs as bacteria evolve to be immune to antibiotics. The World Health Organization has declared it a global health crisis, setting up a task force to study alternative treatments



#### RELEASE OF CAPITOL RIOT DOCS US SC snubs Trump

AFP, Washington

The US Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected a bid by former president Donald Trump to block the release to a congressional committee of documents related to the January 6 attack on the Capitol. Trump, who has been accused of fomenting the Capitol assault, had asked the nation's highest court to stay a ruling by a federal appeals court, which rejected his efforts to keep the documents secret. But the Supreme Court, in an 8-1 vote, refused to issue a stay and upheld the lower court's ruling, in a significant setback for the former president.

#### Lahore blast kills 2

AFP, Lahore

At least two people were killed and 22 wounded yesterday by a bomb blast in a busy shopping district of the Pakistani megacity of Lahore, police and officials said. "Initial investigations show that it was a time-controlled device on a motorbike which was the cause of the blast," Rana Arif, spokesman for Lahore police told AFP. There no immediate claim of responsibility, but there have been a series of blasts and attacks against police since December, when a truce between the government and Pakistan's Taliban lapsed.

#### Liberia stampede kills at least 29

AFP, Monrovia

A stampede killed at least 29 people at a religious event in the suburbs of the Liberian capital Monrovia, police said yesterday. The disaster occurred overnight, either late Wednesday or in the early hours of yesterday, local media reported. Police spokesman Moses Carter said the death toll was provisional and "may increase". Details about the event remain unclear. Local media said it was a Christian prayer gathering held in a football field.

'PATYGATE' SCANDAL IN UK

## MP's defection offers lifeline to PM Johnson

AFP, London

Allies of UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson closed ranks yesterday after a day of high drama prompted second thoughts among some Conservatives about dethroning their embattled leader.

One anti-Johnson plot by younger Tory MPs, livid at breaches of lockdowns by partying Downing Street staff, appeared to be fizzling out despite one senior backbencher telling him to his face to quit, "in the name of God".

Wednesday's defection of Conservative Christian Wakeford to Labour served as a reminder of the high stakes at play, with the opposition

party surging in opinion polls. "The prime minister is probably thanking Christian for what he did because it's made a lot of people think again, think twice," Tory MP Andrew Percy told BBC radio. "It's kind of made people a bit more

past two years.

relaxed, it's calmed nerves," he said. "I think people have recognised that actually this constant navel-gazing and internal debating is only to the advantage

of our political opponents." Before Wakeford's defection, the plotters appeared confident that they were close to the 54 letters needed to force a noconfidence vote in Johnson by Conservative MPs. But the secretive process remained on hold, with some rebels even withdrawing their letters in response to Wakeford joining Labour, according to reports. Critics accuse Johnson of lying to parliament about what he knew and

when, with regard to boozy parties held

in Downing Street in apparent breach of

his own government's Covid rules over the

Japan Air Self-Defense Forces's members stand in front of their C-130 Hercules carrying relief supplies to be deployed to Tonga, to help out the country devastated by a nearby eruption and tsunami, before it's take off at Komaki air base in Komaki, Japan, yesterday. The first humanitarian flights arrived in Tonga yesterday, five days after the dual disaster cut the Pacific kingdom off from the rest of the world.

US top diplomat **Antony Blinken** after CIA says mystery illness of US diplomats not a 'foreign plot'

We have been

working

overtime to try

to understand

what happened,

who might be

responsible and at

the same time to

do everything we

can to care for our

colleagues.... We

will leave no stone

unturned to get to

the bottom of it.

## **EDITORIAL**

## The Baily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

#### Make antigen test kits widely available

Test kit availability vital for curbing Covid surge

T is disappointing to see the government's laissezfaire approach to curbing the recent surge in LCovid-19. Given the speed at which the Omicron variant of the coronavirus is said to be spreading, we are baffled that the authorities are ignoring the use of rapid antigen test kits to make diagnosis faster. According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 23 brands of rapid antigen test kits, authorised by the government for emergency use, can currently be found in 545 public and 100 private healthcare points across Bangladesh. Unsupervised use by individuals is currently prohibited. Even so, according to one of our reports, test kits of one of the approved brands are available in the market for people to buy directly. Would it not be more beneficial if, given the Covid surge, the government allowed for all the approved brands to be available directly to consumers, so that pricing could be fair and regulated? This would also help ensure faster access and better quality.

The exclusivity of antigen kits might have made sense earlier when the infection rate was relatively slower. However, the rate of increase in Covid-19 cases is hinting at the arrival of a third wave, and experts agree that speedy identification of an infected person, and isolating and treating them straight away, is ideal in this situation. That is exactly how making rapid antigen test kits widely available can help us during this time. Of course, nothing can beat the accuracy of PCR tests, but given how expensive they can be, many carriers avoid getting tested and end up exposing other people to the virus. Though the cost of antigen test kits available at healthcare points can still be out of reach for some, their retail price will surely be lower once they are in the

However, the DGHS director-general's comment to this daily that making at-home rapid testing available will be "considered" if many other countries do it as well—and that there are no plans for going in that direction as of now-is not reassuring. Given that countries such as the UK made these test kits widely available long before the emergence of Omicron—and the experts' opinion on how such rapid identification of the virus can help curb the number of cases in Bangladesh—we believe it is high time the government considered releasing rapid antigen tests in the market. Not only will this make testing cheaper, faster, and easier, but it will also encourage people to take their symptoms seriously and get treatment soon.

As the UN health chief has warned, Omicron's symptoms may seem mild, but it can be dangerous to underestimate its severity.

## Tale of the vanishing canals

We must restore them through excavation and mass awareness

THY people show no qualms when a canal or a similar water body gets filled up with garbage right before their eyes remains a big puzzle. Traditionally, canal water is used in the rural areas to irrigate agricultural land, but the dying canals seem to have lost their usefulness for reasons both known and unknown. Throughout Bangladesh, we hear stories of dving canals and rivers, and we also hear about the mischievous role of some powerful quarters as well as a section of the administration behind such an environmental tragedy.

The Taltala canal, which used to flush out excess water from Khulna city, is one such water body that is on its way to oblivion because of indiscriminate garbage-dumping by the residents. It already looks like a barren piece of land, choked by water hyacinths, bushes and shrubs. As usual, a number of encroachers have constructed houses, shops and cattle farms on both sides of the canal, right before the eyes of the administration. Environment experts fear that the canal will disappear if large-scale excavations are not carried

A recent visit to the area by our correspondent revealed that the once 60-feet-wide water body has narrowed down to a mere 25 to 30 feet, with the canal bed completely filled up at places. Locals believe that the two roads constructed by the Khulna City Corporation on both sides of the canal contributed to the narrowing down of its width. As a result, the entire area gets waterlogged after a rain. We are told that the canal's demarcation work was done 10 to 11 years ago, and excavation was done in 2015, but the residents say the excavation work was not done properly.

According to the Khulna City Corporation authorities, a project worth Tk 823 crore is underway to reduce waterlogging and develop a drainage system through excavation work. The canal will be excavated with the construction of sidewalls and walkways. The residents, however, are waiting eagerly for the completion of the project in time.

This needs to be said that creating awareness regarding conservation of our water bodies, especially those facing danger, is of utmost importance. The elderly people living nearby must have seen the flowing canals during their youth, so they should come forward to create awareness among the present generation regarding the importance of preserving water bodies. And saying no to dumping of garbage must be the first step.

# The consistent chaos that is Dhaka airport

**NO STRINGS ATTACHED** 

Aasha Mehreen Amin is senior deputy editor and the head of the editorial team at The Daily Star.

**AASHA MEHREEN AMIN** 

making sure that people know where to go or just behave like decent human beings.

Many of the flights are to the Middle East, so there are swarms of worried migrant workers who have absolutely no idea about which counters they should go to or what forms they must fill up or even how to ask for help at the fancy help desk. Unsurprisingly, our greatest remittance

kiosks feel it's okay to keep their masks under the nose, so that they can breathe (perhaps even sneeze a little) into the chicken patties and coffee before serving

That non-existent phenomenon called aesthetics in this airport perfectly complements this shabby show. The pathetic excuse for a snack area is a dusty corner with uncomfortable chairs

IRPORTS are the most fascinating places in the world. This forced congregation of total strangers from all corners of the world, rushing off to destinations as exotic as Zanzibar or Casablanca—isn't it just wonderful? Isn't it amazing that when we are at the airport, we are all in sync, looking at the same monitors together, all worrying about whether we will make it to the gate on time, everyone trying to find the best spot to sit at the waiting area, everyone watching everyone else rushing, laughing, talking, trying to sleep in the uncomfortable chairs, attempting to soothe screaming, sleep-deprived children, eating the same sandwiches and having the same longing for a nice, cosy

Oh, wait! That was in the old days and in other international airports. So, what's it like at our own dear Dhaka Airport (Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport), especially during the Covid-19 era and at a time when flights are only allowed between 8am and 12am, as it's closed from 12am to 8am due to renovation purposes?

Well, to put it simply, it's the centre of total chaos and mayhem. There are lines-unruly ones, of course-just about everywhere: starting from the entry point with cars and microbuses creating three lanes trying to get into that one little gate all at once, to the line outside the airport departure area, lines to get Covid tests verified, lines at the check-in counters, lines at the restrooms, lines to get into the immigration area, and the regular lines outside the boarding gates. Now that all the flights (over a 100) have been crammed into 16 hours instead of 24, at any given time there will be thousands of people at Dhaka airport with these eternal queues being constantly broken by "considerate" travellers who think nothing of just shoving their heavy trolleys right into the middle of the queue, impervious to the dirty looks or even curses inflicted on them.

Trolley battles are common, with men running to the trolley lines treading on toes, elbowing out women, children, airport cats—anyone who may come in their way—and then getting into brawls with other contestants until the most aggressive one wins the trophy of a trolley and zooms away in triumph. The reason for this savage behaviour is simple: there are just not enough trolleys for everyone, regardless of all the assurances—was it 2,500 extra trolleys that were promised?given by the authorities. There is also no airport staff controlling the crowd and



Strangely, while we are being told that we cannot hold public events and must show our **Covid vaccination** certificates at restaurants, at Dhaka airport, Covid health protocols are optional.

ILLUSTRATION: CHAKROBARTY

earners, and the backbone of our steady economic growth, are treated with utter disdain and apathy. Why there are no designated airport staff to guide and help them go through the formalities is anyone's guess. After all, authorities have only had about a few decades to figure this out.

Strangely, while we are being told that we cannot hold public events and must show our Covid vaccination certificates at restaurants, in addition to the "No Mask, No Entry" policy at all venues and establishments, at Dhaka airport, Covid health protocols are optional.

While people are running around trying to get their Covid test results verified—why this can't be done during check-ins like everywhere else in the world is a mystery—most people at the airport, including the staff, either wear their masks with their noses exposed or have no masks on whatsoever! There are also those who believe that the mask itself must be saved from germs, so whenever they feel the urge to sneeze or cough, they lower their masks, eject all their germs out to the world, and put their masks back on! Even the salespeople at the snack

and tables next to a dirty tile mural with a few small cupboards put up against them, apparently to stow away backpacks belonging to, who knows, the snack bar employees? The tables are so close together that you can practically hear everything your neighbours are sayingwhich wouldn't be such a bad thing if it weren't for the fact that they are also following the "no mask" etiquette, and again, no one is there to enforce any health protocol.

Outside the airport building is the maze of lanes surrounding bizarre, unseemly steel sculptures, and a car park that resembles a garbage dump with empty plastic bottles and packets of chips strewn here and there on the grimy floors and the uppermost floor being treated as a public toilet.

Everyone knows that travel these days has become a stressful, unenjoyable ordeal. But for those who must go through Dhaka airport—whether during arrival or departure—the trauma is on a whole new level. Unless, of course, you belong to the VIP or VVIP category.

## We need affordable transport, not affordable fuel



Debra Efroymson is executive director of the Institute of Wellbeing, "Beyond Apologies: Defining and Achieving an Economics

**DEBRA EFROYMSON** 

TITH the price of basic necessities going up yet again, it is no surprise that people are campaigning for a reduction in fuel price. Fuel is, after all, related to the price of transport, food, and other necessitieswhich is, in fact, precisely the problem.

The climate emergency looms large, and not merely on our horizon-it is with us now and growing increasingly worse. Droughts, fires, floods and intense storms are only one aspect of our new abnormal. There will likely be increased pandemics (of which Covid is giving us an unpleasant preview), ever more refugees, and inevitably more violence and war. To slow down the catastrophe, we need to stop burning fossil fuels. Those fuels need to stay under the ground as we transition, rapidly, to a renewable fuel economy. But to do so, we must dramatically reduce the amount of fuel we need, as it is impossible to power our current lifestyles with renewables.

The only way we can successfully keep basic necessities affordable while addressing the climate emergency is to break our decades-long attachment to fossil fuels and to find less fuel-intensive ways to do things.

It might help to remember that the

Deep down. I think we can all agree that where our future survival is in question, perhaps we should focus more on genuine sustainability, returning to methods that are compatible with a liveable future. ways in which we currently move around and grow our food, to mention two main uses of fuel, are relatively recent when you look at the history of people on the planet. In Bangladesh, we strive to become a "modern" industrialised country where everything will be motorised as well as digital. But how sensible is that dream? The traditional ways of growing food worked for thousands of years—since the dawn of agriculture. Newer mechanised and chemical-intensive methods—both tractors and fertilisers require fossil fuels—have caused all kinds of problems in the last several decades. The biggest spike in carbon emissions started only in 1950—and has continued to surge ever since. That is to say, the price we are paying for cheap goods and convenience is the destruction of our planet and the daily loss of lives due to pollution.

Many people dream of a modern transport system, and yet we also pay the price daily for that dream—in the form of carnage on our roads, as well as pollution. Bicycles, rickshaws, and trains are slower, sure, but also vastly safer—and much better for our environment.

The more I think about it, the more it amazes me that people have advanced to this level of complex society and lost track of the basics. We don't focus on how to provide food, housing, education and healthcare to the masses; we are far more concerned about developing industries, finding new means of communicating and entertaining ourselves, and satisfying the whims of the wealthiest. We have completely forgotten that environmental destruction has a boomerang effect; we will pay—we already are paying—for the

harm that we do to nature. How crazy is it that we forget we need clean air to breathe and water to drink, and instead focus on all kinds of trivia that we could live better without?

So, do we demand fuel subsidies in order to reduce the price of basic goods, knowing that, in doing so, we contribute to pollution, road crashes, and the climate catastrophe? Or do we look to our recent ancestors for ways of meeting our basic needs without burning fuel: returning to manual methods that suited us just fine for thousands of years, and that for thousands of years were compatible with our environment?

If we're going to make the case that people are rational beings, then we need to start making rational demands. Sure, we want cheap bus fares and big roads and elevated expressways. Meanwhile, we need affordable food and housing, too. Deep down, I think we can all agree that where our future survival is in question, perhaps we should focus more on genuine sustainability, returning to methods that are compatible with a liveable future.

So, rather than affordable fuel, let's demand affordable transport: better conditions for walking, cycling, public transit and trains. Rather than subsidising fuel, how about directly subsidising some basic foods, while returning to farming methods that will require less fuel, thus making food affordable to our budgets and in harmony with our living planet? We could redefine prosperity by including a healthy environment, a sustainable future, and a decent existence for all, rather than get caught up in the destructive trappings of an elusive and ultimately deadly modernity.

# We needed a law for EC formation, we're getting one for Search Committee



THE THIRD VIEW

#### **MAHFUZ ANAM**

**Mahfuz Anam** is the editor and publisher of

HAT waited for nearly 50 years is now being implemented with super speed. Why? Until recently, the government said that there was no chance of an Election Commission law being passed in this session of parliament. So why the sudden change of mind and the incredible hurry?

The Awami League government drafted it, had it approved by the cabinet, and informed the president about it during its dialogue with him-who welcomed it. Now, the Awami League government will place it in parliament, and the Awami League-dominated parliament will, in all likelihood, pass it in this session. And then, of course, the ruling party will congratulate the government for taking a timely action on something that everyone wanted, and then the Awami League will probably hold a nationwide celebration (maybe not due to Covid-19) for finally giving the nation an Election Commission

Hello, is there anyone else in the country?

According to the law minister, a bill will be placed in parliament on January 23, 2022. No public discussion, no discussion with other political parties who are the main participants in the process, no sharing through public announcement, no invitation to stakeholders, no exchange of views with constitutional or election law experts, no discussion in the media, in fact no discussion with anyone except perhaps the government's inner coreand yet, it is set to be placed in parliament as a bill. Of course, the bill will go through a process in which some form of hearing will probably take place, in which a handpicked set of outsiders will be called in to testify. However, elaborate as this process may be, it will be a far cry from the type of discussion necessary to build the mass support essential for such a major step forward-especially if the aim is to gather wide acceptability.

Yes, most of the political parties wanted an EC law, but definitely not a "Search Committee law" masquerading as an EC law. Our constitution mandates a law for the formation of the Election Commission. We never got it. Blame the military or military-led governments for not enacting such a law, but what about the democratic governments who have been ruling us since 1991? In the last 31 years, neither the BNP nor the Awami League bothered to make any law that would have highly strengthened this vital institution, kept it above so much criticism and denigration, and saved us from rotten elections that gradually eroded all meaning from the process of election.

In the meantime, we instituted a caretaker system to ensure free and fair elections, continued it for 15 years (1996-2011), and then abolished it. And yet, we found no time to go for the easier option of enacting an EC law with sufficient independence and guaranteed legal and moral structure and stature—as it exists in other countries holding elections for decades. There was a reason for it: no ruling party of the day ever wants to lose control of the election process in which the EC plays a pivotal role, and as such, lose control over that vital institution. And what better way to control it than by determining who runs it? That was the reason why we didn't have any EC law for the last five decades. Has that mindset changed?

If one is of the view that something is

of Congress,

4 Ornate vase

perhaps



Search Committee law is something to cheer about. But if that something is quite different, and if it is likely to confuse the issue further, rather than resolve it, then maybe instead of cheering, we should be concerned.

In a nutshell, here is what's happening. We needed a law for the formation of the Election Commission, as mandated in the constitution. Now we are being offered a law for the formation of a Search Committee, which is not asked for in the constitution. So why, instead of fulfilling a constitutional mandate, are we fulfilling something which is not?

Given our history of election manipulation, questions naturally arise as to what lies behind this move.

The government's response is that we are not seeing the real point. Instead of praising them for initiating something that did not happen for nearly 50 years, we are nit-picking and blaming them for taking the first step in that direction. The idea is that a Search Committee will recommend suitable candidates to the president, who will then appoint the new Election Commission. Isn't it much better than what we have?

From what information is available in the media, the Search Committee will be headed by a serving judge of the Appellate Division, nominated by the chief justice. Another member will be a High Court iudge. The chair of Bangladesh Public Service Commission (BPSC) and the comptroller and auditor general (CAG) will be ex-officio members. Finally, there will be two nominees by the president to complete the six-member committee.

Without the slightest prejudice to the venerable people suggested, and with the highest respect for their professionalism and competence, it can be said that all of them are from a realm outside of politics and of dealing with people on a mass scale. Holding elections is a massive public affair—perhaps the biggest—which is not a bureaucrat's or official's cup of tea. These highly competent people—as, at the apex of their lives, they are already habituated to doing things within "channels" and "specifics of procedures," and are steeped in either legalism or bureaucratic maze—are not trained to handle messy public affairs. As such, they will be more comfortable with people of their backgrounds and end up choosing others of the same ilk. The supreme task of the body they are tasked to form, towards which they have neither experience nor proclivity, cannot produce the type of Election Commission that will enjoy

ILLUSTRATION: ANWAR SOHEL

Our constitution mandates a law for the formation of the Election Commission. We never got it. Blame the military or military-led governments for not enacting such a law, but what about the democratic governments who have

been ruling us

since 1991?

public confidence. Judges establish the rule of law, and both the BPSC chair and the CAG run offices under meticulously laid out procedures. None of them have to deal with political acceptability, public perception, and the ability to bring divergent groups together to bring about convergence, if not consensus. Judges don't negotiate, they pronounce—hardly suitable for selecting people for a highly sensitive political institution.

This group will be a square peg in a round hole.

Then, there are the issues of their process of functioning. How independent will they be? How openly and transparently will they be able to function? Even if they are totally open to the public eye, how will their final recommendations play out? Will it be submitted secretly? We think that the list of names given by a Search Committee should be made public with reasons given as to why the listed people were chosen. Otherwise, we will never know the choices of the committee and who were replaced and why in the final selection.

When the recommendations reach the presidential palace, a whole new range of issues will arise. The president is bound by

the constitution to act only on the advice of the prime minister on everything, save the well-known two issues. "In the exercise of all his functions, save only that of appointing the prime minister pursuant to Clause 3 of Article 56 and the chief justice pursuant to Clause 1 of Article 95, the president shall act in accordance with the advice of the prime minister," according to Clause 3 of Article 48 of Bangladesh Constitution. So, when making the final selection of the Election Commission, the president doesn't actually have the power to choose and can act only on the advice of the prime minister. So, whatever may be the process, the decision ultimately comes from the prime minister. How she will use it is her choice, but her constitutional power

**Post-script:** Indemnifying the past through laws with retrospective effect is a bad legal practice, usually used by military dictators or autocrats who give legal cover for their past misdeeds. Have the past ECs done things that need to be indemnified? Were illegalities committed that need legal cover? Please, don't go in that direction. It sets very bad precedents.



#### বাংলাদেশ তাঁত বোর্ড

বস্ত্র ও পাট মন্ত্রণালয় বিটিএমসি ভবন (৫ম তলা) ৭-৯, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫ www.bhb.gov.bd

শারক নংঃ ২৪.০৫,০০০০.৫১১.১১.০০৩.১৮-৪৫৪



০৫ মাঘ ১৪২৮ বন্ধান্দ

#### নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বস্ত্র ও পাট মন্ত্রণালয়ের ৩০,১১,২০২১খ্রিঃ তারিখের ২৪,০০,০০০০,১১৬,২৮,০০১,১৪-২২৫ নং স্মারকের প্রদত্ত ছাড়পত্র অনুসারে বাংলাদেশ তাঁত বোর্ড (বাতাঁবো) এর রাজস্ব খাতভুক্ত নিমুবর্ণিত স্থায়ী শূন্য পদ সরাসরি নিয়োগের মাধ্যমে পুরণের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে নির্ধারিত ছকে দরখান্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্র. নং	পদেও নাম ও গ্রেড (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল, ২০১৫ অনুযায়ী)	বয়স	পদের সংখ্যা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা	যে সকল জেলার প্রার্থী আবেদন করতে পারবেন
٥١.	দ্রাইভার (মেড-১৬) ৯৩০০-১১৪৯০/-	১৮-৩০ বছর	০২ (দুই)টি	অষ্টম শ্রেণি পাস ও কমপক্ষে ০৩ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ বৈধ লাইসেঙ্গধারী	দেশের সকল জেলার প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন করতে পারবেন।

#### আবেদনের শর্তাবলীঃ

- প্রার্থীদের সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত চাকরির আবেদন ফরমে আবেদন করতে হবে। আবেদন ফরম বাংলাদেশ তাঁত বোর্ডের ওয়েরসাইট www.bhb.gov.bd হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। উক্ত ওয়েবসাইটে প্রবেশপত্রের একটি নমুনা সংযুক্ত করা হয়েছে। প্রার্থীদেরকে প্রবেশপত্রের ০২ (দুই) কপি যথায়থভাবে পুরণপূর্বক আবেদনপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে। প্রার্থীর সদ্য ভোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ০৩ (তিন) কপি রঙিন ছবি আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। প্রার্থীদের আবেদন ফরম অবশ্যই নিজ হাতে লিখতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্র আগামী ১৩.০২,২০২২খিঃ তারিখ বিকাল ০৫:০০টার মধ্যে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে চেয়ারম্যান, বাংলাদেশ তাঁত বোর্ড, বিটিএমসি ভবন (৫ম তলা), ৭-৯, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫ বরাবর রেজিস্টার্ড ডাকযোগে/সরাসরি পৌছাতে হবে।
- সাধারণ প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে ১৩.০২.২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখে বয়স ১৮ হতে ৩০ বছর এবং বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান এবং শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা সর্বোচ্চ ৩২ বছর। তবে বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তানদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা সর্বোচ্চ ৩০ বছর বয়স প্রমাণের ক্ষেত্রে কোন এফিডেভিট গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তান/সন্তানের সন্তানদের ক্ষেত্রে সর্বশেষ নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী মুক্তিযুদ্ধ বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক জারিকৃত তাদের পিতা/মাত্য/পিতার পিতা/পিতার মাতা/মাতার পিতা/মাতার মাতা (প্রযোজা ক্ষেত্রে) এর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সাটিফিকেট এবং এ সংক্রান্ত সর্বশেষ প্রকাশিত গেজেট; যা যথায়পভাবে উপযুক্ত কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষরিত ও প্রতিস্বাক্ষরিত এর সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি আবেদনপত্তের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে।
- সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি ও স্বায়ন্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে চাকরিরত প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমতিক্রমে আবেদন করতে হবে। প্রার্থীদেরকে অবশ্যই মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় সংখ্রিষ্ট নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত অনাপত্তি ছাড়পত্রের মূলকপি জমা দিতে হবে।
- পরীক্ষার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান সম্পর্কে প্রার্থীদের যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে।

প্রার্থীদের লিখিত, মৌখিক ও ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে। পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

- নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বর্ণিত পদের ক্ষেত্রে পরীক্ষার ফি বাবদ (অফেরতযোগ্য) ১০০/- (একশত) টাকা চেয়ারম্যান, বাংলাদেশ তাঁত বোর্ড এর অনুকূলে
- জমা স্বপক্ষে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযোজন করতে হবে খামের উপরে পদের নাম, নিজ জেলা এবং বিশেষ কোটার (যদি থাকে) প্রার্থী হলে তা উল্লেখ করতে হবে। ob.
- আবেদনপত্রের সাথে আবেদনকারীর ঠিকানা লিখিত ১০ (দশ) টাকার ডাকটিকেট সংযুক্ত একটি ফেরত খাম (১০" x ৪.৫" সাইজের) পাঠাতে হবে। 00. অসম্পূর্ণ, ক্রটিপূর্ণ এবং নির্ধারিত সময়ের পরে প্রাপ্ত আবেদনসমূহ সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। 10.
- লিখিত ও ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীগণকে মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সময় নিমুবর্ণিত কাগজপত্রের মূলকপি প্রদর্শন এবং সংখ্রিষ্ট সনদের মূলকপির সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি দাখিল করতে হবেঃ
- (ক) শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সকল সনদপত্র; (খ) জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র; (গ) জন্ম সনদ; (ঘ) হালনাগাদ বৈধ দ্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স; (ঙ) সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিয়ন পরিয়দের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভার মেয়র/সিটি করপোরেশনের গুয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত সনদপত্রঃ (চ) প্রথম শ্রেণির গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র; (ছ) অভিজ্ঞতা সনদপত্র ও প্রযোজ্য অন্যান্য সনদ/প্রত্যয়নপত্র।
- নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে সরকারের প্রচলিত বিধি-বিধান, কোটা পদ্ধতি এবং পরবর্তীতে এ সংক্রাস্ত কোন সংশোধন হলে তা অনুসরণ করা হবে।
- কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ এ বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদের সংখ্যা হাস-বৃদ্ধি এবং বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংশোধন/বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন এবং নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে নিয়োগকারী কর্তুপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।



সদস্য সচিব ২ নং নিয়োগ/পদোন্নতি বাছাই কমিটি, বাতাঁবো

**CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH** 

**ACROSS** 1 New Orleans cuisine 6 Useful skill 11 Blue hue 12 Play part 13 Pat's TV colleague 14 Annual visitor 15 Yale rooter 16 Dorm sharers 18 Old roadster 19 Georgia, once: Abbr. 20 Lode material 21 DEA agent 23 Constellation makeup 25 Plopped down 27 Attack

command

28 Wild 30 Coin, essentially 5 Draws close to 33 Boxer Norton 34 Disfigure 36 Kicker's aid 37 Soybean snack 39 S&L offering 40 Add up 41 Naps 43 Witch 44 Singer Cara 45 Fast runners

46 Copenhagen natives **DOWN** 1 Bat abode 2 Flowery shrub 3 New member 42—pro nobis

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6 Classifies 7 Racket 8 Golden ager 9 Comes in 10 Make fun of 17 CIA forerunner 22 Lot sight 24 Help out 26 Sonora snacks 28 Felt topper 29 Hurried flight 31 Placid 32 Stops 33 Yawl's kin 35 Made over 38 Horse feature





#### 'A positive sign for Bangladesh cricket'

SPORTS REPORTER

That Bangladesh had the most number of players in the ICC Men's ODI Team of the Year 2021, announced by the International Cricket Council (ICC) yesterday, is a sign of Bangladesh's prosperity in the format over the years.

"This is a very positive sign for Bangladesh cricket," said premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan. Alongside Shakib, wicketkeeper-batter Mushfiqur Kahim and Bangladesh's ace leftarm paceman Mustafizur Rahman also found their places in the prestigious

"It feels great to be recognised in this manner by the ICC. I think we have been a very good side in the one-dayers over the years, both at home and abroad. This recognition shows that Bangladesh have been displaying good quality cricket," Shakib added.

# Locals excited by BPL's allures

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) is special cause for celebration for local players, especially in the midst of the pandemic, as the arrival of international stars not only provides greater challenge and inspiration, but also an opportunity to gather knowledge of T20s, a format Bangladesh are desperate to improve upon

The Omicron variant of Covid-19 is still at large, making things difficult for the organisers but the players have so far relished the opportunity to train, mingle with each other and learn from foreign

The tournament will bring fresh challenges for national team stars as well, with a few coming head to head in the opening day's fixtures today. Shakib Al Hasan's Fortune Barishal will face Mehedi Hasan Miraz's Chattogram Challengers at 1:30pm before Mushfiqur Rahim's Khulna Tigers take on Mahmudullah Riyad's Minster Group Dhaka in the evening affair.

Mushfiqur was dropped from the Bangladesh T20 lineup following the World Cup debacle in UAE.

"This is a big opportunity, especially for the locals. We have a World Cup coming up. Although the Covid situation is not good, we are getting the opportunity to play in a good environment. I'm not worried about



a comeback or thinking of the national I'm still the highest run-getter in the BPL. Holding on to that place will be a different challenge," Mushfiqur told reporters yesterday after a practice session in Mirpur.

Three-time champions Dhaka, who had issues with ownership before BCB took it upon itself to lead the franchise, will have Tamim Iqbal and Mashrafe Bin Mortaza to bank on. Although Mashrafe's injury issues may see him sit out today's fixture, the team will be in able hands with Mahmudullah leading a side that have Andre Russell as a genuine T20 weapon and Rubel Hossain and Oshane Thomas towing the pace battery.

Wickets will be the biggest issue heading

into the tournament, with Mirpur's slow tracks often failing to rope in fans by allowing displays of power-hitting. However, Mahmudullah was not thinking about the wickets at this stage.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

"We have to think that the wickets are good before we play a match. If we enter with a negative mindset, it will have a negative impact," Mahmudullah dictated.

Despite the obvious setbacks, Shakib was keen on the inspiration gained from such a tournament. The all-rounder continued his power-hitting drills vesterday, scattering a few of the journalists watching on with ranged aerial shots. The onus was on improving certain facets of his game and the BPL was a good platform although it remains to be seen whether the pitches are conducive to good T20 cricket.

Leading a strong Barishal outfit, there are expectations. "Every side has expectations and there are expectations that one has from their own self. This is inspiring for us and we want to take it positively," Shakib said.

Taskin Ahmed was seen in conversation with former Australia speedster and Chattogram's pace bowling coach Shaun Tait. The conversation evoked memories of the good that come from such tournaments, especially for locals, even in such trying times.

#### **BPL HIGHLIGHTS**

There is another

**T20 World Cup this** vear and another opportunity for us. **Opportunities will** be there for the ones who will perform well in BPL. Mahmudullah Riyad Bangladesh T20I captain

> 1. Six teams -- Chattogram Challengers, Comilla Victorians, Minister Group Dhaka, Fortune Barishal, Khulna Tigers and Sylhet Sunrisers-- will be taking part in the eighth edition of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League.

2. The teams will play a total of 34 matches, including four games in the playoffs stage. The final will be held at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in Mirpur on February 18.

3. The tournament will be played in a double round robin format with each team facing the same opponent twice in the league stage. All the matches will be played in three venues in Dhaka, Chattogram and Sylhet.

 ■ 4. The tournament, set to be held from January 21 to February 18, will be played behind closed doors.

 5. Rajshahi Royals, who were crowned champions last year, are now defunct, with the Rangpur region also not having any franchise to its name. Barishal, which did not have a franchise for half a decade, will mark their return to BPL for the first time since 2016.

• 6. A number of big names will take part in the upcoming season, including Faf du Plessis, Sunil Narine, Moeen Ali, Chris Gayle and Andre Russell.

 ▼ 7. There will be no DRS used in the tournament this time.

#### 'You have to think differently'

SPORTS REPORTER

Known as somewhat of a progenitor of the concept of power-hitting coaches in world cricket, Julian Wood arrived in Bangladesh as the batting coach of Sylhet Sunrisers in this year's BPL. But while power hitting, a specialty in the T20 format, cannot be taught within the space of a single tournament, his insights can certainly add new themes to Bangladesh cricket.

While talking to The Daily Star, he divulged certain aspects of his processes, beginning with how he started thinking of his concepts 12 years ago in the USA.

"I was watching the techniques used by baseball players. It's totally focused on hitting the ball hard. Cricket was basically still dependent on the hands but having talked to other professionals, I understood the game was changing. Power is not only dependent on hands, so I was thinking of using the whole body's strength. If you are not muscular, the power has to be created differently," he said.

He talked about being smarter, given the physique of the Bangladesh players. "You have to be a lot more dependent on rhythm and timing. For me, the base is very important. If your base starts from the ground, it's easier to generate power. I use very heavy bats in training because when you use a heavy bat you have to be able to control it and that enables players to understand the stress on their body. You have to be aware of vour body mechanisms.

"There is also the bat speed factor. If you are not muscular, you have to think differently," he

#### **US Open champion** Raducanu crashes out

AGENCIES, MELBOURNE

Reigning US Open champion Emma Raducanu crashed out of the Australian Open in the second round Thursday as she struggled with blisters on her serving hand.

The 19-year-old, making her debut at Melbourne Park, looked on track when she raced to a 3-0 lead in the opening set against Montenegro's Danka

it," said Medvedev.

But the 17th seed then lost five games in a row and needed a medical timeout for treatment on her right hand. Despite battling back she couldn't stop Kovinic winning 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 on Margaret Court Arena. The result put Kovinic, the world number 98, into the

third round of a major for the first time. She will now play either two-time Grand Slam winner Simona Halep, seeded 14, or Brazilian Beatriz Haddad

Maia for a place in the fourth round. Meanwhile, "Frustrated" three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray was stunned by Japanese qualifier Taro Daniel in straight sets in the second round of the Australian Open on Thursday. The 120th-ranked Daniel ambushed the former world number one 6-4, 6-4,

6-4 in 2hr 48min on John Cain Arena to reach the third round of a major for the first time. World number two Daniil Medvedev put an end to the Nick Kyrgios show at this year's Australian Open on Thursday, dumping out the mercurial local hope with a clinical 7-6(1), 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 victory to reach the third round. "I came to win this match and I am happy to do



Manchester United interim manager Ralf Rangnick had to deal with a Cristiano Ronaldo tantrum after substituting the Portuguese forward in the second half during their 3-1 victory away to Brentford in the Premier League on Wednesday. Ronaldo, who missed the last two games because of a niggling injury, took an age to walk off the pitch, scowling at United's coaching staff and throwing his jacket down in anger, and continued to show resentment from dugout.

Chattogram Challengers vs Fortune Live from 01:30 pm Khulna Tigers vs Minister Group Dhaka Live from 06:30 pm La Liga

**TEN 2 & SONY SIX** Australian Open 2022 Round 3 Live from 06:00 am onwards

Live from 02:00 am (Saturday)

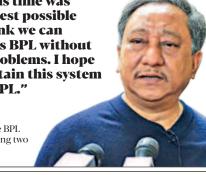
**Espanyol vs Real Betis** 

**GTV & STAR SPORTS HD 2** ICC U19 World Cup 2022 South Africa vs Ireland Live from 07:00 pm STAR SPORTS HD 1

Watford vs Norwich City Live from 02:00 am (Saturday)

"Our goal this time was to have the best possible cricket. I think we can complete this BPL without any major problems. I hope we can maintain this system in the next BPL."

BCB president **Nazmul Hassan**said in 2015 after the BPL
was rebooted following two
murky editions.





# Often mired in controversy, BPL still suffering an IDENTITY CRISIS

After three editions and four years of planning and scrapping, it was time for the BPL to actually prove its standing behind the IPL, a statement that has often been uttered by the tournament's governing body.

NABID YEASIN

Dhaka Gladiators, Dhaka Dynamites or Minister Group Dhaka? Which team should fans pledge allegiance to?

The ever-changing shuffle of franchises, and with it their names, is enough to drive home the point that the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL), the nation's premier franchise-based T20 tournament, has failed to establish its own identity nearly 10 years after its inception.

When the BPL launched in 2012, it certainly lured in viewers and gained massive public acceptance for a promise to follow in the footsteps of the Indian Premier League (IPL) and a pledge to perfect the 'brand of cricket' the country wants to display in the format.

The fact that it was at a time when T20 cricket was at the peak of its popularity also helped the cause.

But despite all the razzmatazz, the BPL has been mired in controversy since the beginning. From players and staff payment issues, a lack of planning, a failure to form a specific set of rules for smooth operation to even the unfortunate event of spot-fixing, the BPL seemed well behind forging the

promised brand of cricket in its first two

However, after skipping a year to combat these issues, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was able to revive the league in 2015 with renewed promise and vision. The promise was kept, but only for that season.

In fact, the timing of that edition and performances yielded in that season helped national cricketers prepare better and flourish in the Asia Cup and provide glimpses in the T20 World Cup the following year. "I hope we can hold on to this system in the next BPL," were the words from BCB president Nazmul Hassan back then but while it raised hopes, results never materialised.

After three editions and four years of planning and scrapping, it was time for the BPL to actually prove its standing behind the IPL, a statement that has often been uttered by the tournament's governing body.

For that, the BPL needed to tick the other boxes besides just timely payments and creating a platform for local players to share a dressing room with stars. It needed to ensure more profitability for franchisees and, most significantly, groom up-and-coming national stars capable of going on to rule the

T20 format at the international level – something the IPL has certainly done for India over the years.

When franchises get ownership of a team, they obviously look for more than just exposure. Financial gain remains a major expectation.

However, over the years, franchises have often failed to recover investment due to the BPL governing body's frail financial structure.

When it comes to producing players, the BPL did give Bangladesh players like Afif Hossain, Yasir Ali and Hasan Mahmud, all of whom have since been in and around the national set-up. But their impact on the national side has not even been close to that of IPL finds Ravichandran Ashwin, Rishabh Pant and Ishan Kishan to the Indian side.

Even this year, the BPL started with glitches and the upsurge in Covid-19-related issues pose further challenges. Come January 21, the next 29 days will surely be a testing period for the BPL governing body. Will this edition be riddled with controversy or will the BPL finally take a step in the right direction in terms of establishing its identity?

## THE BPL'S DUBIOUS DISTINCTIONS

- In the inaugural edition, it was announced that Chittagong Kings would play in the semifinals before BPL governing body, following late-night meetings, stated that Barisal Burners, not Chittagong, were through.
- Mashrafe Bin Mortaza reported a potential spot-fixing approach from a fellow cricketer to his franchise, Dhaka Gladiators, in the first edition of BPL.
- The first two editions of the BPL saw repeated complaints from players and coaching staff regarding delays of payment.
- Mohammad Ashraful was handed an eightyear ban – later reduced to five years – and franchise Dhaka Gladiators were handed a lifetime ban for match-fixing in the 2013 edition of the tournament.
- Despite setbacks, the BPL attracted star foreigners over the years, with the likes of Steve Smith and David Warner playing in the 2019 edition.
- - In 2017, the BPL governing body forgot to impose a pre-tournament regulation that a match would be decided by a Super Over in the playoffs in case the allotted overs were not played due to rain.
  - Ahead of the 2020 edition, the Bangladesh Cricket Board announced that each BPL team would be required to have a pacer bowling over 140kmph and a leg-spinner present in the eleven.

• The BCB rejected franchise revenue sharing, scrapping all franchises and arranging special editions of BPL, from 2020.



# 'We consider BPL a developmental tournament'

The grounds department is trying its best but to maintain a good pitch we can't have more than 40 days of cricket on the same ground each year. But we have over 200 days of cricket because we have to play a majority of matches in Mirpur, Chattogram or Sylhet.

Since its introduction in 2012, the cash-rich Bangladesh Premier League has made headlines due to glitz, glamour and myriad controversies. Influential Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) director Ismail Haider Mallick, also a member secretary of the BPL governing council, spoke to **The Daily Star's Mazhar Uddin** about the reasons behind the stunted growth of the franchise-based T20 tournament, the obstacles in the way and how to improve in the future. The excerpts are below:

The Daily Star (DS): Tell us about the journey of BPL since its introduction in 2012. Ismail Haider Mallick (IM): We came to the board after the first edition of the BPL and what we faced most were non-payment issues. Franchises were not paying the players and the board was supposed to get Tk 30 crore from those who organised the event. Then the board formed a commission and found out that they were still owed Tk 52 crore. The model back then was different. The board used to take money from the franchises and then they were supposed to pay the franchises. But no party got the money. Then we went for a settlement of Tk 25 crore but we were unable to recover that as well.

Then we decided to dissolve the financial structure and opt for a different structure for the second edition. We formed new franchises but none of the old franchises were able to



continue beyond the third edition. That financial model did not match the context of Bangladesh's economical structure and was never viable. We call the BPL a headache because every edition you will hear about non-payment issues. But at one point between 2015 to 2017, we truly created hype. But since the pandemic, there has been a break but we still arranged a special edition.

DS: The franchises asked for a revenue-sharing

model just before the special edition in 2019... IM: If we want to share revenue, we have to return to the model from the inaugural edition. We have to increase franchise fees. The board's initial aim was to make this BPL a revenuegenerating tournament, but we are not on that trajectory. Yes, the BPL generates money for us each year. But because this is the only T20 tournament in our calendar, we want to make it the platform for new players to get

international exposure as well as a way to give other local resources such as coaches, umpires, groundsmen and even the security team that exposure. If we talk about Mustafizur [Rahman] or Soumya [Sarkar], they came after getting exposure in the BPL like many others. We consider BPL a developmental tournament.

DS: Why are there always complaints about poor pitches in the BPL?

poor pitches in the BPL?
IM: We are suffering in terms of pitches. If you ask me as a member of the BPL governing council, we are not happy with the type of T20 pitches in Bangladesh. The grounds department is trying its best but to maintain a good pitch we can't have more than 40 days of cricket on the same ground each year. But we have over 200 days of cricket because we have to play a majority of matches in Mirpur, Chattogram or

DS: Do you think BPL has hit the heights it was destined to?

IM: No, we couldn't. Frankly, the hype we had during the third, fourth and fifth editions is not the same as now. As I said, we had a gap in the middle and non-payment issues have surely tarnished its image. But I think we can eventually get there if we develop infrastructure and go for a long-term agreement with franchises once we get a proper timeslot. This is only the BCB's part, the franchises should also prepare long-term plans.







#### **BPL** begins amid raging Covid surge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The eighth edition of the Bangabandhu Bangladesh Premier League is set to begin today amid a Covid-19 surge in the country

The Shakib Al Hasanled Fortune Barishal is set to square off against Chattogram Challengers in the opener at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur from 1:30pm.

In the day's second match, set to start at 6:30pm at the same venue, Mushfiqur Rahim-led Khulna Tigers will battle it out against Mahmudullah Riyad's Minister Group Dhaka.



Locals with their cattle crossing the Brahmaputra on foot as water level of the once mighty river has dropped drastically. Massive siltation is hampering the free flow of water. As boats cannot ply, people of the chars face difficulties going to the mainland. The photo was taken at Ramna Nau-Ghat of Kurigram's Chilmari on Wednesday.

## HEALTHLINE **Know your** 'superfoods'

#### **MORINGA** STAR HEALTH REPORT

Moringa oleifera is a tree native to the subcontinent.

The pods of the tree, locally called "Shojne data", is a staple in Bangalee cuisine.

The pods are used in curries to be eaten with rice, and almost all parts of the tree can be used as various home remedies due to their medicinal properties.

Moringa oleifera is very nutritious. It contains compounds such as vitamin A, B1 (thiamine), B2 (riboflavin), B3 (niacin), B-6 folate, ascorbic acid (vitamin C), calcium, potassium, iron, magnesium, phosphorus and zinc.

Moringa seed oil can be beneficial for hair and skin due to the proteins, hydrating and detoxifying elements it contains. It is often used to heal sores.

The anti-inflammatory properties of moringa may be effective in preventing

edema from developing. Moringa can mildly protect the liver against damage caused by antitubercular drugs.

Its extracts might help treat some stomach SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# Road crash fatalities leap by 30 percent

#### Govt report shows

#### TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

After two road safety organisations, a government report now shows that the road crashes and fatalities saw a big leap last year, indicating that the road safety situation deteriorated further.

A total of 5,088 people were killed in 5,472 road crashes in 2021, 30 percent higher than the previous year, according to a police report.

According to experts, operations of a higher number of small vehicles, including motorcycles and illegal three-wheelers, mainly caused the rise in the number of accidents and fatalities.

They said the government's failure

to develop public transport system and non-implementations of different steps including providing training to drivers to be blamed for the situation.

Concerns over road accidents and fatalities led to three students' movements for road safety since July 2018, with the latest one in November last year.

Although the authorities promised and undertake several steps to cut down road crashes, the recent data shows those initiatives remain futile as roads became

Road Safety Foundation, in a report published on January 8 this year, said 6,284 people were killed in 5,371 road crashes last year, which is 15.71 percent and 14.70 percent higher than the previous year respectively.

On the same day, Nirapad Sarak Chai, a pioneer of road safety movements in Bangladesh, published its annual accident

The organisation said 4,289 people were killed in 3,793 crashes last year, which is 12.87 percent and 17.36 percent higher than 2020 respectively.

Both organisations, which prepared the statistics following media reports, held lack of monitoring and enforcement of traffic laws, reckless driving, unfit vehicles, unhealthy competition among drivers, and the increasing number of motorcycles and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

#### MALAYSIA RECRUITMENT All legal agents can now send workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All authorised recruiting agencies will get opportunities to send workers to Malaysia, said Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad. The minister has issued a letter in response to

one from Malaysia's human resources minister. On January 14, the Malaysian minister issued the letter that stressed on the involvement of 25 "main" Bangladeshi recruiting agencies, each with 10 "associate" agencies under it.

As the issue of involvement of "selected" agencies is already in the media of both countries, various recruiting agencies in Bangladesh have termed it "syndication" and demanded an end to this, citing that a similar system had led to the labour market closure in Malaysia.

In his letter on Tuesday, Imran said Bangladesh is always in favour of transparent, fair and safe migration, as per relevant charters of International Labour Organisation and the country's Competition Act 2012, by keeping the opportunities open to all the valid licensed recruiting agencies as mentioned in the MoU signed on December 19 last year.

According to the MoU, Malaysia shall select Bangladeshi recruiting agencies through the online system from the list provided by the Bangladesh government, he said.

## N Korea 'hints' at a face-off with the US

AFP, Seoul

North Korea yesterday hinted it could resume nuclear and long-range weapons tests as it prepares for "confrontation" with Washington its latest threat after a string of sanctions-busting missile launches.

Pyongyang has not tested inter-continental ballistic missiles or nukes since 2017, putting launches on hold as leader Kim Jong Un embarked on a blitz of high-level diplomacy.

Since then, the nuclear-armed North has rebuffed US offers of talks while restarting some testing, including of hypersonic missiles, as Kim pursues his avowed goal of further strengthening his military.

When Washington imposed fresh sanctions last week, Pyongyang said it was a "provocation" and ramped up conventional weapons tests, vowing a "stronger and certain" response to efforts to rein it in.



#### Let's continue 'honest conversations' Outgoing US envoy tells The Paily Star on

**Dhaka-Washington ties** 

PORIMOL PALMA

Outgoing US Ambassador Earl R Miller wants Dhaka and Washington DC to have honest and direct conversations on democracy, human rights, and rule of law as partnership of the two nations is indispensable not only for future prosperity and security but also for addressing global challenges.

He said President Biden has called for 2022 to be a year of action for

all democracies to improve governance. The US will continue engaging with **Democracy Summit** participants and other governments, including Bangladesh, to address democratic backsliding, promote respect for human rights, and defend against corruption both at home and abroad, the envoy added. "My suggestion would be that

our governments continue to have SEE PAGE 2 COL 3 READ FULL INTERVIEW ONLINE

