

**REGD. No. DA 781** 

VOL. XXXII No. 29

MAGH 28, 1428 BS

DHAKA FRIDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2022 www.thedailystar.net

**RAJAB 9, 1443 HIJRI** 

16 PAGES PLUS TOGGLE: TK 12.00

# 87,600 hours and counting

Justice ever elusive for the murder of journo couple Sagar-Runi



MUNTAKIM SAAD and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Numbers in the quest for justice in Sagar-Runi murder keep getting longer as investigators continue to fail to make any headway in the

After the journalist couple was slain on this day in 2012, then home minister Sahara Khatun had vowed to catch the killers in 48 hours. The promise has not been fulfilled even in 10 years or roughly 87,600 hours.

Over the last 10 years, the investigation officer was changed six times, and the Rab and other agencies have taken 85 dates from court to complete the probe. But they have not been able to submit the investigation report.

Meanwhile, their repeated appeals for time extension to complete the probe created frustration among the victims' relatives.

"It's almost clear by now that we will not get justice during the tenure of this government. I really doubt its intention," Runi's brother Nowsher Alam Roman told The Daily Star recently.

"There is something fishy. Maybe, some influential people were involved in the killing ... After 10 years, I now feel ashamed to seek justice," he said.

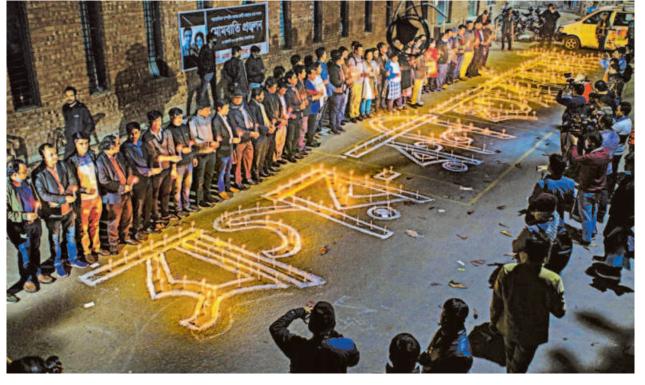
Sagar Sarowar, news editor at private TV channel Maasranga, and Meherun Runi, a senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were killed in the early hours of February 11, 2012, at their rented flat in the capital's West

The couple's only child Mahir Sarowar Megh, only five at the time, was in the apartment.

Megh, now 15, used to live with his grandmother Nurun Nahar Mirza, but she passed away on January 15 this year, at the age of 64.

"My mother waited 10 agonising years for justice, but she was not able to see it served in her lifetime," said a frustrated Roman.

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Journalists lit candles in front of Dhaka Reporters Unity last night demanding justice for the killing of Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi 10 years ago today.

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## They all long to be in EC

At least 180 people pitch themselves for CEC, EC posts; 5 political parties submit names

#### MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

At least 180 people submitted their own names to the cabinet division for nomination for the new Election Commission.

Among them are former bureaucrats, former judges and other private citizens, said cabinet division officials.

Apart from them, five political parties submitted their picks to the cabinet division. Main opposition in parliament Jatiya Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) were among them.

"Today was the last day for individuals" submission of names. We have received 180 to 190 names," Shafiul Azim, joint secretary of the cabinet division, told The Daily Star vesterday.

When asked who sought nomination for the posts of chief election commissioner and other election commissioners, he refused to elaborate but said the individuals submitted names after meeting the criteria.

An individual must be at least a 50-yearold Bangladeshi citizen with 20 years or more work experience in important government, semi-government, private or judicial posts to be nominated for the new EC.

Sources said many of the former bureaucrats and former judges submitted their own names in person and some sent their names via email.

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### **BEDSHEETS FOR POLICE** IGP, others going to Germany to assess dye

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The inspector general of police and two other officials are set to visit Germany to "participate in the Factory Acceptance Test (FAT)" relating to shipment of one lakh pieces of bedsheets with pillow covers (double), according to an official

The home ministry order issued on Monday sanctioned the delegation's nineday visit to the European country anytime

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4



Fog envelops the National Eidgah area as the winter chill bore down on the capital yesterday. A drop in temperature left many, especially those living on the streets without enough warm clothes, in trouble. The photo was taken around 12:30pm. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

### BBS to make database of all citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics is going to prepare a comprehensive database incorporating all data of every citizen.

Known as National Population Register (NPR), the database will keep record of the details of a citizen that will enable the government to implement its various services such as the social safety nets.

Dr Shahadat Hossain, team leader of the NPR and a former director of BBS, disclosed the project details in a presentation during a workshop held at the BBS auditorium in the capital

Addressing the event, Planning Minister MA Mannan said the NPR would be something similar to the Indian government's Aadhaar programme.

He directed the BBS officials to implement the project properly.

"Your works are now more visible and people are also more interested about your work. However, there are criticisms of your works as well. So, you have to keep SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Power cost keeps spiralling Study blames it on overcapacity

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Capacity payments for under-utilised independent power producers (IPPs) are heavily affecting the power generation cost, putting pressure on the government to raise the tariff, said a recent study.

The rising power purchase cost and further dependence on imported fossil fuels like LNG are enhancing the need for hiking power tariff, said the US-based Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) in its report, which was prepared based on the annual reports of the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).

Capacity payment is a sort of penalty that the buyer pays to plant owners if it fails to buy a certain portion of power readily

The cost of electricity purchased from IPPs now represents more than 50 percent of BPDB's total operating expenses for

A 58 percent increase in the IPP costs in fiscal 2020-21 was partly as a result of increased power units purchased from the plants -- 34.6 Terawatt-hour [TWh], up from 25 TWh the

The per unit cost of each kilowatt hour [kWh] power purchased from the IPPs rose to more than Tk 8/kWh last fiscal year from Tk 7/kWh in fiscal 2019-20.

The study cited the case of the Payra coal-fired power plant, SEE PAGE 2 COL 6 **Anniversary Supplement** 17th Feb 2022 **Book your copy now!**