



**RECOVERING FROM COVID, REINVENTING OUR FUTURE**

**31** The Daily Star CELEBRATING YEARS OF JOURNALISM WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOUR

**RECOVERING FROM COVID, REINVENTING OUR FUTURE**

We are pleased to present to the readers the last of our five-part 200-page special supplement series.

This part titled “TIMES CHANGE, SO MUST WE” features articles on challenges to our lifestyles, our journey into the digital age, mental health, struggles and triumphs of businesses, the pandemic’s impact on tourism, and a look into Bangladeshi life.

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Ahead of International Mother Language Day, the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital gets a fresh look thanks to the Faculty of Fine Arts at Dhaka University. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



## Images of Ekushey

MURTAZA BASHIR

The meeting started at Amtala [February 21, 1952]. There was a question in everyone’s eyes – what will happen, what will we do now? The rumor was that section 144 would not be violated. Leaders told in their speeches that marching towards the assembly hall means the possibility of chaos, it will not be of any benefit to us. Students got angry, they shouted, “Traitor! We will not return.”

At that time, a student from the crowd got on to the table and said we would go towards the assembly hall in groups of five or ten. The students came out holding hands.

There was a barbed wire fence around the medical college hostel. Through the barbed wire, the students were constantly chanting slogans towards the police on the streets, “MLAs come out, resign from the Assembly.”

Many of the injured people [after police firing] were taken to hospital emergencies. I made sketch of those scenes. However, I would first like to mention about the image of “Bloody Ekushey”. I did two versions of this image in linocut. I made those within two-three months after the 21st of February. The first version is widely popular now. But the second version was printed in Hasan Hafizur Rahman’s book.

The main difference between the two linocuts is that the student holding the bullet-struck student has the placard in his right hand which is absent in the second image. The pen in chest pocket of his shirt was not present in the first image. Basically, the same subject and posture was drawn in two ways to convey my expression. The main purpose of this linocut composition was to highlight the confrontation between soldiers and students.

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## Ukraine crisis may harm energy security

### Say experts, envoys in Munich

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Current geopolitical tensions around Ukraine may affect energy security, leading to diversion of global attention from the climate crisis, said experts and diplomats at a panel of the Munich Security Conference in Germany.

They underscored the importance of accelerating climate action from now on with respect for science, informed dialogue and pragmatism involving both the public and private sectors, according to a statement of

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## Ukraine invasion ‘within days’

### Warns Biden as he says Putin has made his decisions

AGENCIES

In a show of force, Russia yesterday test fired nuclear-capable missiles as the United States again warned that it believes Moscow plans to invade Ukraine within days or next week.

“As of this moment, I’m convinced he’s made the decision. We have reason to believe that,” US President Joe Biden said in televised remarks

at the White House on Friday, adding that Washington has “significant intelligence capability” to back the claim. He said that targets would include the capital Kyiv.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky meanwhile arrived in Germany to shore up support among Western allies, despite a significant increase in shelling in the country’s east in which a Ukrainian soldier was

killed.

There were growing fears that only a spark – which Washington warns could be a deliberate “false flag” incident created by the Russians – might now be needed to set off the largest military confrontation in Europe since World War II.

The Kremlin insists it has no plans to attack its neighbour, which has angered Moscow by

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**SUBODH RETURNS...** After a five year hiatus, the popular Bangladeshi graffiti art series makes a comeback with a thought-provoking image as part of the series. It can be seen on a wall in Sylhet’s Akhalia area, which is near the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.

PHOTO: DWOHA CHOWDHURY

### MIGRANT WORKERS’ DESTINTIONS

## ‘Vision-2030’ makes KSA ‘best’ for Bangladeshis

JAMIL MAHMUD

With 4.57 lakh workers hired from Bangladesh just last year, Saudi Arabia has been the top destination for Bangladeshi migrants for the past five years.

Amid the pandemic in 2020, when most labour markets remained shut, the Gulf country employed 1.61 lakh Bangladeshi immigrants, according to the data of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET).

Oman was the second-best destination between 2019 and 2021, giving jobs to 0.72 lakh, 0.21 lakh, and 0.55 lakh Bangladeshis respectively, the data shows.

Last year, Bangladesh saw 6.17 lakh overseas employment. Of them, 4.57 lakh workers migrated to Saudi Arabia – 76 percent of total overseas employment.

As many as 53,082 female Bangladeshi workers migrated there last year, accounting for 66.2 percent of the total 80,143 female migrants.

At present, the Middle-Eastern country is home to over two million Bangladeshis.

Sector insiders said the reason behind the large number of Bangladeshi workers getting jobs there is the Gulf country’s “Vision-2030” under which mega infrastructure development is underway.

“They [Saudi Arabia] are in constant need of workers,” Fakhrul Islam, president of Recruiting Agencies Welfare Organisation of Bangladesh, told The Daily Star.

Insiders also said if some necessary steps are taken, Saudi Arabia can be an even better job market for Bangladeshis in the future.

For this, the Bangladesh and Saudi governments need to address challenges such as illegal “visa trading”. Besides, whether migrant workers are getting their promised jobs and their wages on time should be looked at, they added.

Visa trading means the selling and buying of job visas by several

intermediaries in both labour-sending and -hiring countries.

Addressing an event in the capital recently, BMET Director General Shahidul Alam said about 30 countries could be considered “remarkable” labour markets for Bangladeshi workers.

Terming Saudi Arabia “the best” at present, he said Bangladesh sends workers to 174 countries.

The Middle-Eastern country employed 3.99 lakh Bangladeshi workers in 2019, another 2.57 lakh in 2018, and 5.5 lakh in 2017, BMET data shows.

In 2016, Oman (1.8 lakh) surpassed Saudi Arabia (1.4 lakh) in generating employment for Bangladeshi workers.

In 2017-18, Malaysia was the second-best destination for Bangladeshi workers. It employed 0.99 lakh and 1.75 lakh workers in those years respectively.

Syed Saiful Haque, chairman of Warbe Development Foundation, an organisation working in the field

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