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An approach road to a recreational site is being built in Nagdarpar Bazar area in the capital's Banasree. Those building the site have already filled up a portion of a flood zone to construct the road, causing environmental damage.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

5 educationists opt out of talks with the EC

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission is all set to begin a series of talks with cross-section citizens from tomorrow.

According to the EC officials, the dialogue aims to prepare the commission's roadmap after the talks.

The list of cross-section citizens would include political leaders, civil society members, election experts, media personalities, and others, they said.

For the first day of the dialogue, the EC invited 30 educationists. They are scheduled to sit around 3:00pm tomorrow.

The Daily Star contacted 11 educationists of the 30 invited ones.

Of them, three confirmed that they would join the dialogue and the same number of them were yet to make their decisions.

Five refused to join the dialogue on different grounds such as health conditions, class schedules. One of them said it was a "futile exercise".

Election Commission Joint Secretary Asaduzzaman Arzu yesterday said, "We have completed all preparations and sent an invitation to all academics. We are hoping all of them would join the dialogue."

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Buzz Aldrin's 1969 moon walk picture sold for \$172,000

AFP, Copenhagen

More than 70 original Nasa photographs including a celebrated image of Buzz Aldrin's moon walk taken by Neil Armstrong were sold at auction in Copenhagen on Wednesday for more than 155,000 euros (\$172,000).

The Aldrin image, which fetched 5,373 euros, shows the astronaut on the surface of the moon in July 1969 during the first manned lunar landing. It was famously used on the cover of LIFE magazine.



Armstrong, the first man to step onto the Moon, can be seen in the reflection of Aldrin's visor.

A total of 74 Nasa photographs were put up for sale including 26 taken on the Moon during the Apollo missions in the 1960s and 1970s.

"We sold 73 of the 74 photos," the Bruun Rasmussen auction house told AFP.

Put up for sale by a foreign collector who has asked to remain anonymous, the auction house had estimated the collection at almost 190,000 euros.

The most valuable item, the first shot of an "Earthrise" photographed by US astronaut William Anders while orbiting the Moon in December 1968 on Apollo 8, sold for 11,800 euros.

The last time man set foot on the Moon was in 1972 during the Apollo 17 mission, but Nasa is planning to send astronauts again in 2025-2026.

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Star HEALTHLINE

Understanding TEEN ACNE

STAR HEALTH DESK

Acne is a common disorder of the skin involving hair follicles and sebaceous glands. Most teens and young adults -- between the ages of 11 and 30 -- will have acne at some point.

During puberty, hormones increase in both boys and girls causing the sebaceous glands to make more oil. Acne appears when the pores get clogged with the oil and dead skin cells. The clogged pores may further get affected by bacteria.

Acne can occur anywhere on the body, but it is most common in areas where there are more sebaceous glands. Face, chest, upper back, shoulders and neck are where acne usually appears.

There are various types of acne like whiteheads, blackheads, nodules, pimples, etc.

Small white or skin-coloured bumps are called whiteheads. Small dark-coloured bumps are blackheads. Pimples may hurt. They are red and pus-filled. The acnes which are

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BEACON Pharmaceuticals Limited

Fleeing horror, finding hope

Bangladeshis crossing to neighbouring European countries from war-torn Ukraine looking for ways to move on

PORIMOL PALMA

Fleeing the horrors of war in Ukraine, Bangladeshis are finding new hope in other European countries.

They had been experiencing the worst time in their life since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began on February 24. They had to hide in bunkers for hours amid bombings and missile attacks in their neighbourhoods.

Polash Ahmed fled Ukraine on February 26 leaving behind \$250,000 business in Kyiv.

After staying in Poland for three days, he moved to Germany which is issuing resident permits and work permits to Ukrainian citizens.

Polash, who hails from Shariatpur's Naria upazila, had been living in Ukraine for 16 years. He also took citizenship there. Leaving Ukraine was a hard decision, but he had to do it to be safe.

"I am in Berlin now. I have applied for residency and work permits. I am confident that I will have those as I have Ukrainian citizenship. Germany is granting Ukrainian citizens such privileges for up to three years," he told this correspondent on Thursday.

Polash said he is getting a warm welcome in Germany.

"When I went to a petrol filling station, I was asked if I had money. That means they are not even charging those travelling from Ukraine for fuel."

He said he left behind his wholesale fashion accessories business and a flat in Kyiv.

Polash, whose wife and two children are now on a visit to Bangladesh, hoped he would return to Ukraine soon after the war is over.

According to Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen, about 1,000 Bangladeshis have so far left Ukraine and taken shelter in other European countries.

Officials at the Bangladesh embassy in Poland said a majority of those who went to Warsaw from Ukraine, left for other European countries in search of better work.

They said taking advantage of Schengen visa, most of them moved to Germany, Denmark, Italy, France and Portugal from Ukraine via Poland.

A Schengen visa holder can enter and travel freely within the Schengen zone, and leave from any Schengen member country.

Bangladeshi community leaders in Ukraine said an estimated 2,000 Bangladeshis lived in the European country before the war.

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Hadisur's body to arrive March 13-14

Says state minister Shahriar

UNB, Dhaka

The body of engineer Md Hadisur Rahman, who was killed in a rocket attack on the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) vessel stranded at a Ukraine port, is expected to reach Dhaka on March 13 or 14, said State Minister for Foreign Affairs Md Shahriar Alam yesterday.

Shahriar said and "Hadisur's body has arrived in Moldova from Ukraine. We hope it will reach Bucharest, the capital of Romania by morning."

After some official procedure there, the body will be sent to Bangladesh, he added.

Earlier on Wednesday, the 28 surviving crew members of Bangladeshi ship Banglar Samridhi, who were stranded in war-torn Ukraine, arrived in Dhaka.

They went from Ukraine to Moldova to reach Bucharest, from where they flew to Dhaka.

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'BIOWARFARE LAB' ROW

WHO says Ukraine acted on its advice

AGENCIES

The World Health Organization advised Ukraine to destroy high-threat pathogens housed in the country's public health laboratories to prevent "any potential spills" that would spread disease among the population, the agency told Reuters.

The WHO statement came ahead of a UN Security Council emergency meeting on alleged manufacture of biological weapons in Ukraine at the request of Moscow.

Russia on Thursday accused the United States of funding research into the development of biological weapons in Ukraine, which has faced an assault by tens of thousands of Russian troops since February 24.

Both Washington and Kyiv have denied the allegations, with the United States saying they were a sign that Moscow could soon use the weapons itself.

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Workers, including a child, sorting empty water bottles, discarded by passengers of launches plying the Dhaka-Barishal route, in Barishal river port area yesterday. They refill the bottles with unpurified water and sell them to launch passengers at Tk 10 per bottle. Many drink the water without knowing what they were sold.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

16-yr-old dies by suicide after 'rape'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A 16-year-old girl died by suicide on Thursday evening hours after she was allegedly raped by a man in Melandah, Jamalpur.

Police are looking for a local man named Tamim Ahmed Khan Swapan, 25, who is accused of raping her in a case filed by her father.

In the room where her body was found hanging from the ceiling, police found a note in which she wrote that Swapan raped her and warned her not to talk to anyone about it, said MM Moydul Islam, officer-in-charge of Melandah Police Station.

Forensic experts who

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