



Democratic process behind development

Says Hasina in UAE

UNB, Abu Dhabi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said an uninterrupted democratic process for the past 13 years has been behind the unprecedented development of Bangladesh.

"You've noticed the change in Bangladesh in 13 years. And this development has been achieved only because the democratic process continued in the country with the Awami League in power for these 13 years," she said.

The PM was addressing a civic reception accorded to her in Abu Dhabi on Friday on the occasion of her official visit to the United Arab Emirates. She joined the event virtually from her place of residence in the capital of UAE.

Hasina said there was no continuation of democratic process in Bangladesh for several years after 1975.

"There was a black chapter after 1975. That dark cloud is gone. We're now taking Bangladesh forward following the ideology of the Father of the Nation."

She said Bangladesh is marching forward and no one

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Even though a footbridge is nearby, students run across a street in front of a bus at speed in the capital's Farmgate area. The photo was taken yesterday.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS, COLLEGES

In-person classes in full swing from Tuesday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Secondary and higher secondary schools will resume in-person classes on all subjects from March 15, said Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday.

In-person classes in secondary and higher secondary schools resumed on February 22 on a limited scale.

Currently, SSC candidates are attending four classes a day and class-10 students three classes. Class-8 and 9 students attend three classes twice a week and class-6 and 7 students three classes.

The number of examinations will be reduced once the new curriculum is introduced, she said at the inauguration of Lila Nag Bhaban of Sher-e-Bangla Girls' College at Shere Bangla Balika Mahavidyalaya at Tikatuli in the capital yesterday.

"Students' fear of exams will go away. You can get out of the test-based assessment."

There will be daily reading evaluations and limited examinations at the end of the year. The final assessment will be done by adjusting the evaluation throughout the year, the minister added.



EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS

Police more involved than Rab

Finds a study by Centre for Governance Studies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police are involved in more extrajudicial killings than the Rapid Action Battalion, found a report by the Centre for Governance Studies.

The CGS, a think tank conducting research and media studies on governance issues, analysed cases between 2019 and 2021, and released these figures yesterday at a virtual discussion titled "Executions at Will?"

"The police, including DB, were involved with a majority of the cases over the last three years – 51.24 percent," said Ali Riaz, distinguished professor of political science at Illinois State University, while sharing the findings.

"The Rapid Action Battalion was involved in 28.8 percent of the cases."

The total number of extrajudicial killings was 562. Others were in the hands of other agencies, including Border Guard Bangladesh.

The number of extrajudicial killings in Cox's Bazar is astronomically higher than that of the rest of the country, found the report.

Between 2019 and 2021, Cox's Bazar district alone saw 238 cases of extrajudicial killings. Compared to that, the rest of the country saw 353 extrajudicial deaths.

The second highest death toll was in Dhaka with 58 deaths, followed by Chattogram's 30.

Eminent jurist Shahdeen Malik pointed out that since the US imposed sanctions on Rab, only two extrajudicial killings have taken place.

"There are indications that the US sanctions have brought a respite in the extrajudicial killings since December 10. But temporary pause is not a solution to the practices and culture of impunity....," said the report.

"The government should appoint an independent commission with members from the government, representatives of national and international human rights organisations, members of civil society and journalists to investigate each alleged incident of extrajudicial killings of the past decade and bring perpetrators to book," it recommended.

The National Human Rights Commission must be empowered to investigate law enforcement agencies, said Riaz.

Alena Khan, CEO of Bangladesh Human Rights Foundation, said, "When there is a gunfight, why are there no casualties of bystanders? Why are there no signs of a gunfight having taken place in or around the area?"

Malik said, "Why do we not investigate why it was not possible to just shoot in the leg and injure instead of killing?"

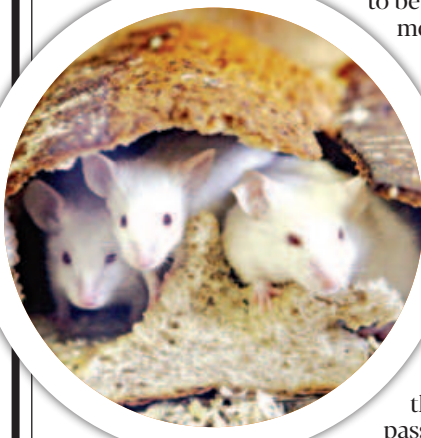
Dr Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury, chairman of CGS, chaired the event.

Scientists reverse ageing in mice

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have reversed signs of ageing in middle-aged and elderly mice by partially resetting the rodents' tissues to more youthful states, an

advance they say may lead to better anti-ageing methods without side effects like brittle bones, weaker muscles or cancer.



As organisms age, studies have found that every cell in their bodies carries a molecular clock that records the passage of time. Previous research has

found that the cells isolated from older people or animals have different patterns of chemicals along their DNA – called epigenetic markers – compared to those seen in younger people or animals.

Scientists have also previously reported that a mixture of four molecules – Oct4, Sox2, Klf4 and cMyc – known as "Yamanaka factors" – could reset epigenetic marks in cells to their original patterns, and using this approach researchers say adult cells can be dialled back

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

HOTEL FIRE

Bangladeshi dies, another injured in Kolkata

STAR REPORT

A Bangladeshi woman died in a fire at a guest house on Kolkata's Mirza Ghalib Street early yesterday.

Three others, including another Bangladeshi national, were injured in the incident, reports our New Delhi correspondent.

The deceased, Samimatul Aros, 60, was from Parkansat village in Chapainawabganj's Shibganj upazila.

She went to India through the Gede border on Wednesday with his brother, eldest son and a grandson, said family members.

Samimatul and her brother were visiting Kolkata for treatment of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Firefighters along with locals conducting a rescue operation that lasted three hours after a wall collapsed in Rajshahi city's Chhotobon village yesterday killing one and injuring four.

PHOTO: ANWAR ALI HEMU

WALL COLLAPSE

Father finds son only to see him die

ANWAR ALI

A 35-year-old man died and four others were critically injured as a wall collapsed at a construction site in Chhotobon area of Godagari, Rajshahi, yesterday morning.

The men were digging dirt for the basement of a building when an adjacent wall collapsed on nine of them.

Riajul Islam died soon after he was rescued from underneath the wall and taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Enamul Haq, Pilip, Kajem Ali, and Manjur Alam, all aged below 40, were admitted to the hospital with critical injuries.

Riajul's father Mainul Islam also works at the site where a multi-storey building is being built. He filed a case with Chandrima Police Station last night against the owner of the site Entaj Ali, accusing the latter of causing death by negligence.

Mainul said there was a wall on the eastern side of the basement and brick chips were piled against it on the other side of the wall.

When the workers began digging, one of them said the wall might collapse because of the weight of the brick-chips.

But they were ordered to continue digging, assuring the workers that no such thing would happen, the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5