



AFGHANISTAN CRISIS World mustn't forget **Afghans: UNHCR** chief



DHAKA THURSDAY MARCH 17, 2022

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXII No. 63

CHAITRA 3, 1428 BS

www.thedailystar.net

SHABAN 13, 1443 HIJRI

20 PAGES PLUS SHOUT: TK 12.00

Bowing before bureaucrats

ACC top brass reluctant to pursue graft cases of admin cadre officials

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

On a day in early 2017, an ACC commissioner (investigation) ordered an assistant director to rush to Narail's Lohagara upazila and probe a graft allegation centring on the social safety net programme.

About Tk 2 crore was allegedly misappropriated by creating fake projects to pocket funds from the government scheme.

After enquiry, the commission filed two cases against the then upazila nirbahi officer, an engineer, the local chairman and contractors.

As preparations were underway for filing two more cases, the assistant director was shocked to know that he had been served a show-cause notice asking on what grounds he went to probe the matter.

"The then ACC chairman was not happy. For about six months,

involved in the cases.

the officer was not given any new task. He was literally cornered," said an ACC official, wishing not to be named fearing reprisal.

The cases went nowhere as the Anti-Corruption Commission drew the conclusion that those allegations were not true. Recommendations for filing two more

cases were also not entertained, he said. It had created a lot of tensions between the chairman and the commissioner back then, added other officials

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

An investigation

uncertainty for his

failure to appease top officials in the

commission. On the

other hand, he has

to face music in the

corrupt government

officials go scot-free.

courtroom to let

former director general

Moidul Islam

officer has to

face job



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky addresses US senators and members of the House of Representatives gathered in the Capitol Visitor Center Congressional Auditorium at the US Capitol in Washington DC vesterday.

Sign of concession lifts peace hope

Russia says warring parties 'close to an agreement' after Kyiv appears to let Nato ambition go

REUTERS, Kyiv/Lviv

New talk of compromise from both Moscow and Kyiv on a status for Ukraine outside of Nato lifted hope yesterday for a potential breakthrough after three weeks

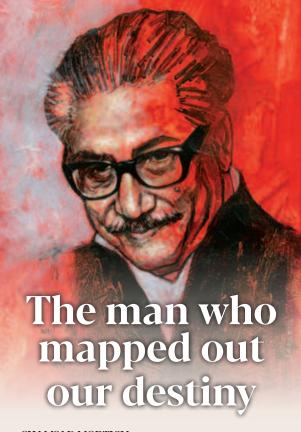
Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said negotiations were becoming "more realistic", while

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said proposals now being discussed were "in my view close to an agreement".

The Kremlin said the sides were discussing status for Ukraine similar to that of Austria or Sweden, both members of the European Union that are outside the Nato military alliance. Ukraine's chief negotiator

said Kyiv was still demanding a ceasefire, the withdrawal of Russian troops, and binding international security guarantees to protect Ukraine in future.

Though the war still ground on with Ukrainian civilians trapped in cities under Russian bombardment, the signs of compromise sent relief through SEE PAGE 2 COL 8



SHAMSAD MORTUZA

The birth of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 17, 1920, was a momentous occasion that coincided with the changing contours of the subcontinent. Far away from the Great War, which unfurled a complex politics in colonial India and caused the waning of imperial enthusiasm, in a remote village called Tungipara in Gopalganj, Sheikh Lutfar Rahman and Sheikh Sayera Khatun welcomed their first son after two daughters in the family. They called him "Khoka". His childhood was no different from the other village children except for his strong determination to secure the rights of others. He would do so making sure that his fellow Muslim students could sit on the front bench in a predominantly Hindu school, his playmates get a deserved rest after a football match, or his rickety school structure gets the attention of the visiting political dignitaries.



জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের শুভ জন্মদিন ও জাতীয় শিশু দিবসে বঙ্গবন্ধুর প্রতি বিন্দ্র শ্রদ্ধা নিবেদনের উদ্দেশ্যে টুঙ্গিপাড়ায় দিনব্যাপী কর্মসূচি

জাতীয় কমিটি ও জাতীয় বাস্তবায়ন কমিটি কর্তৃক জাতির পিতার সমাধিসৌধে শ্রদ্ধা জ্ঞাপন

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী বঙ্গবন্ধুকন্যা শেখ হাসিনার সভাপতিত্বে আলোচনা ও সাংস্কৃতিক অনুষ্ঠান দুপুর ০২:৩০ মি.-বিকাল ০৪:৪০ মি.

সরাসরি সম্প্রচারিত হবে সকল টেলিভিশন, বেতার, অনদাইন ও সামাজিক যোগাযোগ মাধ্যমে

মুজিববর্ষ লোকজ মেলা: ২১-২৬শে মার্চ ২০২২ মেলার স্থানঃ সরকারি শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান কলেজ মাঠ, টুঙ্গিপাড়া, গোপালগঞ্জ

> আয়োজনে: জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের জনাশতবার্ষিকী উদ্যাপন জাতীয় বাস্তবায়ন কমিটি

সহযোগিতায়: মহিলা ও শিশু বিষয়ক মন্ত্রণালয়

BOOSTER SHOT Now 4 months after the second dose

Says health minister; no SMS required for jabs

People who received the second dose of Covid-19 vaccines at least four months ago will now be allowed to receive their booster dose from centres, irrespective of whether they received an SMS in this regard, Health Minister Zahid Maleque said yesterday.

The government has reduced the gap between administrating the two doses from six months to four, he added.

The minister said this while announcing a special inoculation drive from today to administer 3.25cr vaccine jabs, marking the 102nd birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The campaign will continue till March 31, under which all eligible vaccine recipients, aged 12 and above, will receive their respective shots, the minister said. Around two crore people will receive their second doses while 1.25cr will receive their first and booster doses during this campaign.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

ID'ING HARRIS 'Daughter calls for a DNA test'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

written by Harris Chowdhury's daughter, has requested the authorities to conduct a DNA test, if necessary, to confirm the identity of the BNP leader.

The development comes amid a debate whether Harris died at a city hospital last year while undergoing treatment under a fake name.

The letter, dated March 15 and addressed SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

