



## Star HEALTHLINE

Why do we snore and what CAN WE DO ABOUT IT?

### STAR HEALTH DESK

Snoring is the noise people make while breathing during sleep.

It is not usually a very serious illness, but it can be indicative of other conditions. It is also a nuisance for those you share the bed or room with. It may be a result of sleep deprivation.

The condition happens when the air flow through the mouth or nose is hindered. There may be many reasons behind air flow being obstructed.

Muscle tone decreases with age, causing airways to constrict. That's why snoring is more common in older people. It is also more common in men and those who are overweight.

Alcohol consumption and certain medications which relax muscles may

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WHAT USED TO BE HOME ... Women sit amid the remains of the shanties gutted by a blaze in the capital's Kalyanpur area on Sunday night. Many others were seen wandering about the slum, clueless as to what the future holds. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## ACCIDENTS ON WATERWAYS

# Numbers, casualties continue to rise

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Accidents on rivers and subsequent fatalities have seen a gradual increase over the last three years and experts see the authorities' poor monitoring of the waterways operations as the main reason.

The lack of trained crew members, rise in river traffic, including unregistered vessels, shortage of manpower for safety checks, and a culture of impunity are also to blame, they said.

Waterway's safety is often ignored in the country, but it comes up for discussion every time an accident claims people's lives. The issue has come to the fore once again after a cargo vessel bore down a launch in the Shitalakkhya on Sunday, leaving at least eight people dead.

The accident took place three months after a fire at the MV Abhijan launch killed 49 people in December.

Data from the Department of

➤ 146 people killed in 39 accidents on rivers last year

➤ Estimated 35,000 unregistered vessels ply the waters

➤ Six surveyors to survey 15,000 registered vessels

Shipping, a regulatory body under the shipping ministry, shows that at least 146 people were killed and 179 injured in 39 riverine accidents last year.

Eighty-one people were killed and 10 injured in 32 accidents in 2020 while in 2019, three people lost their lives and 33 others were injured in 26 accidents.

Buet's Accident Research Institute (ARI) and the National Committee to Protect Shipping, Roads and Railways say the figures are much higher.

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## ELECTION COMMISSION

# Second round of talks today

### MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission is all set to host its second round of talks this morning.

It will meet representatives from different sections of society as well as political parties to seek advice on how elections, including the 12th Jatiya Sangsad polls, can be held in a free and fair manner.

According to EC officials, the dialogue is aimed at preparing the commission's roadmap for the next general election, due late next year.

The EC has already sent invitations to 40 eminent citizens for talks.

EC Joint Secretary Asaduzzaman Arzu yesterday said, "We have completed all preparations

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# Jet crashes with 132 on board in China

## No sign of survivors; rescue operations underway in mountains

### REUTERS, Beijing

A China Eastern Airlines 600H5, SS Boeing 737-800 with 132 people on board crashed in mountains in southern China on a domestic flight yesterday after a sudden descent from cruising altitude. Media said there were no signs of survivors.

The airline said it deeply mourned the passengers and crew, without specifying how many people had been killed.

President Xi Jinping called for investigators to determine the cause of the crash as soon as possible, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Chinese media showed brief highway video footage from a vehicle's dashcam apparently showing a jet diving to the ground behind trees at an angle of about 35 degrees off vertical. Reuters could not



immediately verify the footage.

The plane was en route from the southwestern city of Kunming, capital of Yunnan province, to Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong, bordering Hong Kong, when it crashed.

China Eastern said the cause of the crash, in which the plane descended at 31,000 feet a minute according to flight tracking

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নগর কৃষি উৎপাদন সহায়ক (পাইলট) প্রকল্প।

ছাদ বাগান করুন, নির্মল পরিবেশ  
ও  
সমৃদ্ধ বাংলাদেশ গড়ুন।

বাস্তবায়নেঃ নগর কৃষি উৎপাদন সহায়ক (পাইলট) প্রকল্প।  
কৃষি সম্প্রসারণ অধিদপ্তর



The site of a destroyed shopping centre is seen after it was hit in a military strike in the Podilskiy district of Kyiv, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, in Kyiv yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# ‘No question’ of surrender

## Ukraine defies Russian demand to lay down arms in Mariupol; strike reported on buildings in Odesa

### AGENCIES

Russian forces advancing on the Ukraine capital Kyiv from the northeast have stalled, British intelligence said yesterday, as Ukraine rejected Russian calls for defenders to lay down their arms in the besieged city of Mariupol.

Russian shells hit houses and a shopping district in Kyiv's Podil district late on Sunday killing at

least eight people, city authorities said, following a relative lull in the fighting over the weekend.

"There can be no question of any surrender, laying down of arms," said Deputy Prime Minister Iryna Vereshchuk in response to Moscow's offer to let Mariupol residents leave the city if they surrender their weapons.

"We have already informed the Russian side about this," said

Vereshchuk, according to the Ukrainian Pravda news portal.

The assault on Ukraine started with Russian troops crossing the border or landing by sea and air on February 24. But Western countries say Russia's expectations of a swift victory and the removal of President Volodymyr Zelensky's government have been dashed

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## EVIDENCE ACT BLAST gives pointers to stop character assassination

### ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Rights organisation Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust has recommended changes in the Evidence Act that would block the ways in which the character of women are questioned in rape cases.

BLAST handed proposals to the parliamentary standing committee on law ministry on November 17 last year and on March 10, requesting the latter to bring a bill in the parliament to amend the law.

The organisation said women who bring allegations of rape face derogatory and unnecessary questions about their character and sexual experience at courts because of several provisions of the Evidence Act.

As a result, the women are discouraged from seeking justice while the accused individuals remain out of trial, said the proposals.

BLAST suggested including a subsection to sections 53(A), 146(3) and

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