## KIDS WITH AUTISM PM for efforts to help flourish their talents

UNB. Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday emphasised bringing children with special needs and autism into the mainstream of society giving them opportunities to flourish their hidden talents.

"I believe we will be able to incorporate persons with autism syndrome in the mainstream of the national life with the united efforts of all including our [government's] diversified ones," she said.

She said this while addressing the 15th World Autism Awareness Day 2022 at Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC) organised by the social welfare ministry.

She joined the programme virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

The theme of this year's day is: "Make such a world: explore the talents of people

Regarding the demand for providing



"I believe we will be able to incorporate persons with autism syndrome in the mainstream of the national life..."

accommodation with training facilities for persons with autism after the demise of their parents and guardians, Sheikh  $\,$ Hasina said that the government would

"Initially we will arrange accommodation with training facilities in the divisional headquarters while gradually in all districts through Neuro Developmental Disability Protection Trust," she said.

She asked the social welfare minister to take a project for this purpose.

Social Welfare Minister Nuruzzaman Ahmed, State Minister Ashraf Ali Khan Khasru and Secretary Mahfuza Akhter spoke at the programme.

Hasina also inaugurated "Bolte Chai" and "Smart Autism Barta" applications at the programme.

In 2007, the United Nations declared April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day, aiming to improve the quality of life of those with autism.

In Bangladesh, different programmes have been taken to mark the day.



Parents arriving with their sick toddlers at the icddr,b Dhaka hospital yesterday amid an outbreak of water borne diseases like diarrhoea and cholera. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION TO OUST PAK PM

# Khan suggests he might not accept vote result

Accuses US of trying 'regime change', calls for street protests; Pak army chief urges closer ties with Washington

**AGENCIES** 

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan yesterday suggested that he might not accept a vote to oust him and called on his supporters to take to the streets today ahead of a parliamentary no-confidence vote that could see him thrown out of office. No Pakistan

premier has ever completed a full term, and Khan is facing the biggest challenge to his rule since being elected in 2018, with opponents accusing him of economic mismanagement and foreign-policy

Parliament is due to debate the the same day. Khan's Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf party (PTI) effectively lost its majority in the 342-member assembly last week when a coalition partner said its seven lawmakers would vote with the opposition.

More than a dozen PTI lawmakers have also indicated they will cross the floor, although party

leaders are trying to get the courts to prevent them from voting.

"How can I accept the result when the entire process is discredited?" Khan told a select group of foreign journalists at his office. "Democracy functions on moral authority - what moral authority is left after

this connivance?' "The move to oust me is blatant interference in domestic politics by the United States," he said, terming it an attempt at -regime change Earlier this week he accused

the United States of meddling in Pakistan's affairs, with local media reporting he had received a briefing letter from Islamabad's ambassador to Washington recording a senior US official telling him they felt relations would be better if Khan left office.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters there was "no truth" to the allegations.

"Ī want you all to protest for an independent and free Pakistan," he said yesterday during a public question and answer phone-in broadcast by state media.

Khan has accused the opposition of conspiring with Washington to remove him because he won't take the West's side on global issues against Russia and China. He called his opponents "robbers, cowards, deceivers".

The opposition is headed by the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N SEE PAGE 7 COL 7

## Missing Chinese national found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A team of Bangladesh Coast Guard yesterday recovered the body of a Chinese national who went missing after a tugboat capsized at the Matarbari channel in Maheshkhali upazila of Cox's Bazar on Thursday.

The dead Jiang Hong Chen was working at the Matarbari Port.

His body was recovered from the channel adjacent to the Matarbari coal power plant around 12:30pm yesterday.

## Bagerhat lawyer arrested over rape

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat** 

Police arrested a lawyer in Bagerhat on Friday for allegedly raping one of his female clients.

The accused is Fakir Iftekharul Islam Rana, 55. The victim filed a case under the Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act against Rana on the same day he was arrested.

KM Azizul Islam, officer-in-charge of Bagerhat Model Police Station, said the woman had filed a case against her husband with Bagerhat court

Rana was appointed as her lawyer in that case

The woman visited Rana's chamber multiple times for that case and he gave illicit offers to her multiple times.

On January 29, he raped her at his chamber and recorded it, said the police officer quoting

### Dhaka facing issues with food

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is facing pressing problems in supplying affordable, safe and nutritious food to its 20 million-strong population, experts said yesterday.

The observation came at a seminar organised as part of formulating Dhaka Food Agenda 2041, which aims to develop integrated solutions to address Dhaka's present and future food needs.

The local government, rural development and cooperatives ministry, and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) jointly organised the event at the InterContinental Dhaka, read a press release of FAO.

## Shanghai separates Covid-kids from parents

**REUTERS**, Shanghai

Esther Zhao thought she was doing the right thing when she brought her 2-1/2-year-old daughter to a Shanghai hospital with a fever on

Three days later, Zhao was begging health authorities not to separate them after she and the little girl both tested positive for COVID-19, saving her daughter was too young to be taken. away to a quarantine centre for children.

#### Brutality

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The patient was suffering FROM PAGE 1 from breathing difficulties; his belly had swelled abnormally and his pulse rate was too low, said Mohammad Zabed Kawsar, physician of Sreepur Upazila Health Complex.

Apu, who joined the factory to help his povertystricken family amid the pandemic, was referred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital since his condition was critical. He died on the way.

Family members have not filed a complaint yet, Bhuiyan said.

#### Holy Ramadan

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9:00am to 3:30pm for government, semigovernment, autonomous semi-autonomous institutions.

Besides. secondary and higher secondary institutions have been requested to continue inperson classes till April 26 to make up the academic losses that occurred during the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### Southern insurgent group to halt violence

REUTERS, Bangkok

The Thai government yesterday hailed "significant progress" in the latest talks with the main group fighting an insurgency in Thailand's Muslim deep south after the sides agreed to stop violence during the upcoming holy month of Ramadan.

## City braces for crippling traffic jams

Usually, city roads see most traffic for 18 hours of the day. But in Ramadan, the time reduces to 13-14 hours, he said, adding that it intensifies the load on the Construction

taking place on the roads should be paused for the month and the authorities should make as much room as possible for vigilance, the authorities should free the footpaths on illegal parking, and buses should not be allowed at the intersections.

Abul Kalam, of Mirpur, in place, more people

and a half hours to reach shopping during the commissioner his office in Paltan over the last two weeks

The scorching heat adds to the woes, he added. "Things will be even more unbearable this week.' Miroza Parvin, mother

of a third grader in Senpara, said for the last few days walking to school has been faster than taking the car. don't disruption to our children's

vehicles. Through constant education. But considering the traffic situation, the government could have from vendors, crack down adopted a hybrid of online and in-person classes," said Miroza, whose son's school to block traffic by stopping is in the cantonment area. With no restrictions

said it took him almost two are expected to go out

Ramadan while businesses would be looking to make up for losses incurred over the last two years.

On the other hand, many people would come to the capital from outside Dhaka to look for work and for business purposes.

Wahidul Islam, a rickshaw puller, said there are 40 rickshaws in his garage. Of them, 12-15 rickshaws remain unused in normal times due to shortage of rickshaw pullers. But for the last two days, all the rickshaws are being used.

"There are already more rickshaws on roads," he pointed out.

Contacted, Abu Raihan Mohammad Saleh, joint

North) of DMP, said police have plans to deploy additional forces from the crime divisions to ensure motorists are following

Police will also launch a special operation against vehicles which will breach traffic rules. "We'll give special focus on passenger buses that stop wherever the driver wishes," he told The Daily Star.

He said they will hold meetings with owners of city service buses and request them to instruct transport workers to follow traffic rules and maintain discipline on roads.

"We'll take drastic action if anyone violates traffic

(Traffic rules and stops vehicles to pick up and drop off passengers on the roads. said Raihan.

Traffic jams at certain hours are quite common in megacities around the world and Dhaka is among the worst.

In the World Traffic Index 2020, Dhaka ranked 10th in terms of poor traffic management among 228 cities.

major factors The behind this are shortage of roads and inefficient traffic management. Besides, the existing public transport system fails to address the desirable mobility needs of the people in terms of reliability, comfort, speed, and safety.

# 'Citizens today, refugees tomorrow'

There, he is living with 10

people in a 15 by 18 square metre room.

Apart from families fleeing, Ismail got the chance to see the military facilities there. While there were huge numbers of Ukranian troops on the also seen roaming with heavy guns.

"The people, crammed in the city, are in a state of fear and distrust and scared of Russian spies. The special permission that I got gives me the advantage to take photographs even during curfew."

Ismail then also witnessed a heart-warming side of the war.

"The way people are helping one another was a sight to behold. I haven't

seen so much compassion when covering other conflicts.

"I went to a school where [displaced] people stay overnight. Every morning, elderly people, especially the retired professional, come to the school to help clean up. They wash the roads, general people were bedsheets and other things and bring them back the next day for those staying there."

While interviewing a family who moved to Chop from another city, he came across a teenager.

"The girl, around 14, came to me herself. She said she wants to become a journalist in the future. She said she earlier wanted to be an economist and travel the world, but witnessing the role of journalists in the war has

inspired her to become one herself."

Ismail has covered the refugee crisis at the Syria-Turkey border, in Calais on the France-England border, Mediterranean Sea crisis near the Libvan coast border to Sicily, the Central American crisis on Mexico-US border, and the Rohingya refugee crisis on Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

"The region has been in conflicts since the second world war. My takeaway from this war is the general public suffers the most and they are mostly women and children. We are seeing history repeat itself."

What really struck him about the Russia-Ukraine war is that it's not very different from Bangladesh's fight for liberation in 1971 as Ukraine has been fighting to save its culture and language from Russian aggression.

"When I first visited Kyiv in 2019, young locals had told me they were going through their own decadeslong renaissance period to reintroduce the glory of their culture, including music and literature, and re-establish their own cultural identity, especially since 2014.

'This war is their 'Liberation War'. They want to get rid of the ghost of the USSR, haunting them for over 30 years." who Ismail,

is a self-taught photographer, received international recognition for his photographs on the Sundarbans in 2011 and then his long-term coverage

of the Rana Plaza tragedy. He has since been workingforbiginternational media, including National Magazine, Geographic The New York Times, The Guardian, The Economist, Bloomberg, and Washington Post.

### Mali says 203 killed in military operation

AFP, Bamako

Mali's army said Friday that it had killed 203 combatants in an operation in the centre of Sahel state, an apparent uptick in violence in the conflict-torn country.

## Strings pulled

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They thought removing Tipu would get them off the murder case and planned to murder him

three months ago. The arrestees also admit that Palash, a witness to Rizvi murder, was paid to not testify but Tipu made before the court, said Rab.

Tipu has a hotel in Ward-10, in Farooq's area. He was also a contractor there and a member of renowned school's managing committee.

On March 24 around 10:15pm, Tipu returning home in his microbus from his hotel. As the car was stuck in traffic at Khilgaon Bagichha, one person fired shots through the window. Tipu, his driver Monir Hossain, and rickshaw passenger Samia Afran Jamal Prity, 22, were

Tipu and Prity died. Tipu's wife Farhana Islam Doly, who filed a murder case, told The Daily Star yesterday that the arrestees were lowprofile criminals. "They may be involved in the killing but it needs to be ascertained who is the actual mastermind." Six people have so far

been arrested in the case. Masum Mohammad Akash and Arfan Ullah Damal, a local Jubo League leader, are the other arrestees.

EXECUTED FROM DUBAI Suman Sikder Musa, another accused in the Rizvi murder case, killing mission. He left yesterday afternoon.

the country for Dubai on March 12, Moin said.

Commander Moin said

the murder contract was Tk 15 lakh, most of which was paid by Farooq. Musa planned

appointed the hitman for the murder, said Moin. Moin said they have so sure he gave his statement far found the involvement of several top underworld

criminals, who stay in the UAE and France. Asked who actually shot Tipu, Moin said that only Musa knew who the

person was ARRESTEES' ROLE

According to Rab, Nasir monitored Tipu during the murder mission.CCTV footage shows. He also paid part of the blood money.

After the killing, he destroyed his SIM card and sold his phone.

Palash introduced Farooq and Musa to people who could supply the firearm and backups, said Rab.

He was arrested earlier in an arms case filed with Motijheel Police station. Saleh is accused in

12 cases and a chargesheeted accused in the Rizvi murder case. Nasir and Palash had been sending information

to Musa in Dubai for several days ahead of the murder. On the day of incident, Nasir notified Musa about Tipu's location four times. A text was also sent to

Musa after the murder saying, "It is done". Bangladesh

coordinated the Tipu League has expelled Farooq