



We'll scrap DSA, all repressive laws

Fakhrul says in discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday said it would scrap all sorts of repressive acts and ordinances, including the controversial Digital Security Act, if it comes to power.

"It is our clear announcement that we will scrap all sorts of repressive acts and ordinances, including the Digital Security Act. It will be ensured that the aggrieved person or organisation cannot file a case with a court without a ruling by the Press Council, no matter what is published in the media," said Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the party.

Addressing a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club, the BNP leader said the party would also ensure fair distribution of advertisements to make media self-sufficient. Besides, he said the BNP is also thinking of financial incentives for the media on the basis of circulation or TRP.

The BNP leader also promised full implementation of the wage board in all media outlets.

Saying the whole country is in a "deep crisis", Fakhrul said, "To save the country, there is no alternative to getting united. To unite to restore democracy, it is our responsibility to take initiatives to ensure that journalists can perform their duties and politicians can also do their jobs."

The BNP organised

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



A trawler being built at Kulbaria Bazar of Khulna's Dumuria upazila. The vessel would be used for catching fish in the Bay of Bengal. Its manufacturing cost is around Tk 12 lakh, including the engine. It takes about one and a half months for five builders to finish the job. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

INDO-BANGLA PASSENGER TRAIN

Services to resume May 29

Mitali Express to be flagged off June 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Passenger train services between Bangladesh and India will resume on May 29 after a long break of more than two years due to the Covid pandemic.

Moreover, Mitali Express, the third passenger train to be operated between the two countries, will start running on June 1.

The decision on the dates were finalised at an inter-ministerial meeting at the Rail Bhaban yesterday, Sardar Shahadat Ali, additional director general (operations) of Bangladesh Railway, told The Daily Star.

He said they would publish advertisements about the resumption and also the launch of the new train service by

tomorrow and start selling tickets the same day.

Mitali Express will ply between Dhaka and New Jalpaiguri (NJP) in West Bengal for four days a week.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan, who is expected to visit India late this month, and Indian Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw will jointly flag off the new train virtually from the Rail Bhavan in New Delhi, railway sources said.

Earlier, railways of both the countries agreed on the dates.

Before the suspension of services in March 2020, Maitree Express ran on Dhaka-Kolkata route for five days a week while Bandhan Express on Khulna-Kolkata

route twice a week.

Mitali Express, inaugurated by the prime ministers of Bangladesh and India on March 26 last year, will use Chilahati-Haldibari rail link.

In March this year, a move was made to resume passenger train services, but it could not be possible due to some visa and Covid protocol-related issues.

Both BR and the Indian High Commission in Dhaka recently wrote to the Indian railways ministry to resume cross-border passenger train services. And later the dates were fixed, according to BR sources.

Operation of Maitree Express will

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

MONKEYPOX WORRY

Self-isolate if you have fever, rash

Says DGHS, asks ports to screen people

MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

Instructing all international airports and land ports to strengthen monkeypox screening, health officials yesterday asked those suffering from fever and rash to self-isolate and contact nearby public hospitals for tests.

While no death from this zoonotic disease – monkeypox – was reported, officials at the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) said the viral disease could have severe impact on pregnant women and immuno-compromised and elderly people.

"The virus usually transmits through close contact. But it can also transmit through droplets. So, people who show such symptoms [fever and rash] should wear masks and stay isolated until becoming sure of the disease. If anybody is infected, they have to wear masks and self-isolate," Prof Tahmina Shirin, director of IEDCR, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Besides, people coming from abroad should also stay in quarantine for a few days.

About the treatment, she said, "The treatment will be based on symptoms."

The Directorate General of Health Services has

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

'More damaging than murders'

HC says on graft, money laundering, orders arrest of 4 NSU trustee board members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday said corruption and money laundering are more damaging than murders these days.

"A murder ruins a family but money laundering and corruption can ruin the whole country and the nation," an HC bench said while hearing four separate bail petitions in a Tk 304 crore embezzlement and money laundering case.

Citing an observation of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division, the HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Md Ejazul Haque Akondo said money laundering is a

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Poland's President Andrzej Duda, in the blue jacket, addresses Ukrainian lawmakers yesterday. He became the first foreign leader to deliver a speech in person to the Ukrainian parliament since Russia's February 24 invasion. President Zelensky, third from left, is seen looking on.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Kyiv rules out ceasefire

Says any territorial concessions to Moscow would backfire; Russia pounds Donbas, Mykolaiv

AGENCIES

Ukraine ruled out a ceasefire or any territorial concessions to Moscow while Russia intensified its attack in the east and south and stopped sending gas to Finland in its latest response to Western sanctions.

Polish President Andrzej Duda told Ukraine's parliament that ceding even "one inch" of the country's territory would be a blow to the whole West and reassured Kyiv of Warsaw's strong backing for

its European Union membership bid.

"Worrying voices have appeared, saying that Ukraine should give in to (President Vladimir) Putin's demands," Duda said, the first foreign leader to address Ukrainian lawmakers in person since Russia's February 24 invasion.

"Only Ukraine has the right to decide about its future."

After ending weeks of resistance by the last Ukrainian fighters in the strategic southeastern port of

Mariupol, Russia is waging a major offensive in Luhansk, one of two provinces in Donbas.

Russian-backed separatists already controlled parts of Luhansk and the neighbouring Donetsk province before the invasion, but Moscow wants to seize the remaining Ukrainian-held territory in the region.

On the Donetsk frontline, Russian forces were trying to break through Ukrainian defences to

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Congratulations

Iftekharul Islam
Vice-Chairman
Uttara Bank Limited

Mr. Iftekharul Islam, the Managing Director of Aftab Group, a young entrepreneur and industrialist has been re-elected the Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of **Uttara Bank Limited**, Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee and Chairman of the Risk Management Committee.

Mr. Iftekharul Islam is the Chairman of Uttara Bank Securities Limited (Brokerage House) a subsidiary company of **Uttara Bank Limited**.

He is also a member of the Executive Committee and General Body of the Bank Owners Association "Bangladesh Association of Banks". We heartily congratulate him for his continued success.

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