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**Farooki joins 2022 Sydney Film Festival jury**



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**Big tobacco 'poisoning our planet': WHO**



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**New stock investment tool ETF in three months**

## Govt would amend DSA, if necessary

**Says law minister**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the government would, if necessary, bring changes to the Digital Security Act to ensure the best practice as the law was misused to some extent.

"I had a meeting with the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva through the UN resident coordinator in December 2019 to know how to ensure the best practice of the Digital Security Act in our country. After that, a committee was formed comprising representatives from the ministries of law, foreign affairs, home affairs, and information and communication technology to work with the UNHRC on this issue.

"The committee held a meeting with the UNHRC and will hold another one

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The construction of the third terminal of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital is going on in full swing. A passenger terminal building, roads, an airport apron, a parking lot, a cargo complex, and other structures are being built under the Tk 21,399 crore project. The terminal is likely to be opened by October next year.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## US DOLLAR CRUNCH

# Many banks fail to follow BB exchange rates

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Amid a US dollar crunch in the domestic market, many banks failed to comply with the exchange rates set by Bangladesh Bank a couple of days ago.

Though the BB injected \$123 million into the market yesterday, most of the banks were unable to settle import bills at Tk 89.15 per dollar fixed by it on Sunday, say officials of several banks.

The central bank has so far supplied a record \$5.95 billion to the foreign exchange market this fiscal year to cool it off.

The Daily Star yesterday contacted seven banks to know whether they followed the BB-set exchange rates. Of them, five said they had no choice but to sell each dollar to importers for Tk 91-94.

The BB on Sunday also asked banks to offer exporters a maximum of Tk 88.15 for each dollar while purchasing export bills and Tk 89.20 for foreign exchange houses that channel remittances to Bangladesh from abroad.

The central bank fixed the interbank rate -- the benchmark exchange rate of the taka against the dollar -- at Tk 89.

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## RAIL TRANSIT FOR INDIA THRU' BANGLADESH

# Railways of 2 countries to work on one route

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

After a proposal from Indian Railways (IR), Dhaka and New Delhi have agreed to work out the details of the possibility of India using rail transit through Bangladesh.

Under the plan, Indian trains will run between Sealdah and Haldibari of West Bengal through Bangladesh. In that case, trains will enter Bangladesh through Gede-Darshana (Chuadanga) border and exit through Chilahati (Nilphamari)-Haldibari border to reach Siliguri.

At the moment, India has road transit facilities through Bangladesh. If approved by the two governments, the proposed route will be the first rail transit facility between the two nations after more than half a century.

Before India-Pakistan partition in 1947, there were eight railway

interchanges between the two countries. Only five of them -- Benapole-Petropole, Darshana-Gede, Rohanpur-Singabadh, Biral-Radhikarpur, and Chilahati-Haldibari -- are now operational.



The IR placed the proposal at a meeting with Bangladesh Railway (BR) in April.

Meeting documents seen by The Daily Star show the infrastructure of the route from Gede-Darshana-Ishwardi-Abdullpur-Parbatipur-Chilahati-Haldibari is "fully ready" for the

opening of the route.

The IR delegation also sought to increase the number of trains from India through various points for freight transit from one carrier to another.

At the meeting, BR officials sought a new overnight train service from Dhaka to Kolkata via Darshana. Dhaka will place a formal proposal in this regard soon, the document reads.

Apart from the freight trains, two passenger trains are being operated between India and Bangladesh for several years.

Currently, the Maitree Express between Dhaka and Kolkata uses the Gede-Darshana interchange. Bandhan Express operates between Khulna and Kolkata.

Rail communication between the two countries via Chilahati-Haldibari route resumed in December 2020, after a 55-

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## US has concerns over human rights, press freedom

**Says Ambassador Haas about Bangladesh**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Washington wants Dhaka to ensure accountability and reforms in Rab for lifting the sanctions imposed on the elite force on December 10 last year over potential human rights violations.

It also wants to see a free, fair and transparent general election in Bangladesh, slated for next year, said US Ambassador Peter Haas.

He said the Election Commission, free media, and the civil society have important role in this regard.

The US envoy was addressing the Diplomatic Correspondents Association, Bangladesh (DCAB) Talk at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

"The United States has decided to put human rights, the issues of freedom of the press at the centre of our foreign policy and we make no excuses about that," he said.

Haas said sanctions on Rapid Action Battalion and seven of its current and former officials were the result of

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Underprivileged children don't get fair chances in life. They are left with poor playing options. This picture taken recently in the capital's Bangla Motor area shows two children, away from their home, playing on the sidewalk with a fallen branch of a tree.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Mominul wants to quit Test captaincy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following a lot of criticism over his individual performance and that of



the team in recent times, Mominul Haque yesterday revealed his desire to not continue as the Test captain of Bangladesh after a meeting with the Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan yesterday.

Since being appointed as the captain in October 2020, Mominul led Bangladesh in 17 Tests and managed to win just three times, losing on twelve occasions and drawing

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