

## Govt to go all out to arrest price spiral

PM asks officials to lift all taxes on import of essentials

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The government will make all-out efforts to keep prices of essential commodities stable through measures like lifting all tariffs and taxes on their imports and taking stern action against market manipulation.

As part of the measures, private food importers will get all kinds of support so they can smoothly import food grains and other essential commodities.

The commerce ministry will facilitate imports by the private sector and monitor supply and prices in the market to curb any artificial price spiral.

Importers of essential foods will have to mention their plan for alternative import sources while opening letters of credit at the bank. At the same time, the highest priority will be given to boosting domestic food production.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave these directives at a meeting at the PMO yesterday, said highly placed government sources.

Several ministers and top civil and military officials were present at the National Committee on Security Affairs (NCSA) meeting that started at 10:00am.

During the meeting, Hasina asked that tariffs and taxes on the import of essential commodities be lifted to limit price hikes.

The PM asked the ministries concerned to keep prices of essentials within the people's purchase capacity and to continue the drives against syndicates, irrespective of their political affiliation.

She also said food inflation is the main concern across the globe following the Ukraine-Russia war and the Covid-induced global recession, and asked law enforcement agencies to remain vigilant so that no one can cash in spreading rumours against the government and indulge in black marketing.

Earlier, the government formed a high-powered taskforce to review commodity prices and the market situation. On May 23, it advised the government to withdraw VAT on the import of refined soybean, palm, rapeseed, canola and olive oil.

The taskforce also proposed that the government import wheat from India under the government-to-government arrangement and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

- Political parties will be allowed to conduct rallies, processions
- Drive against food grain syndication to be continued
- PM asked for proper action to ease traffic jam
- Law enforcers were asked to be vigilant to avert any sort of sabotage centring Padma Bridge inauguration
- Foreign ministry was asked to expedite Rohingya repatriation process



Posters and banners have flooded Cumilla city as the residents are set to pick their new mayor and councillors through the city polls tomorrow. The photo was taken near the polling centre at Nawab Faizunnesa Government Girls High School in the city's Jhautala yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## MOHIB ULLAH MURDER Police press charges against 29 Rohingyas

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH

His popularity among Rohingya community and stance against all kinds of crimes and irregularities inside the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar triggered the grisly murder of Mohib Ullah, said the charge sheet submitted after an eight-month investigation.

Implicating 29 Rohingyas in the murder, Ukhiya Police Station's Inspector (investigation) Gazi Salah Uddin placed the charge sheet in the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## CUMILLA CITY POLLS

### All eyes on Cumilla, EC

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and KHALID BIN NAZRUL from Cumilla

Candidates in the Cumilla city polls made their last-minute efforts to woo voters yesterday as the electioneering ended at midnight.

Many voters believe that Awami League mayoral nominee Arfanul Haque Rifat may have an advantage over his main rival Monirul Haque Sakku, who is running in the election without party backing.

Former BNP leader Sakku, also the immediate past mayor of the Cumilla City Corporation (CCC), was expelled by his party for taking part in the polls going against the party's decision.

Voters also said Sakku, an independent candidate, may capitalise on the people's anti-government sentiments to win votes. According to them, turnout will be the deciding factor in this year's election. A big turnout may favour Sakku.

Tomorrow's election is going to be

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

### People want change: Rifat

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and KHALID BIN NAZRUL

Ruling Awami League mayoral candidate Arfanul Haque Rifat said people of the Cumilla city wants change.

He said the city dwellers would vote for him as they want a new face who is not corrupt.

"I have been doing politics here for the last 40 years. I came up from the grassroots. People of this city know it very well. So, they will be with me. I'm an honest and tested activist of the Awami League."

Rifat, also general secretary of Cumilla city unit AL, said in the last 10 years, the city corporation office became a "den of the corrupt", and sufferings of the city residents became extreme.

"There is no other way of ending the sufferings except changes in the office," he said.

Regarding his 11-point election pledge, Rifat said

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

### No level playing field: Sakku

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and KHALID BIN NAZRUL

Monirul Haque Sakku, an independent in the Cumilla city mayoral polls, alleged that there is no level playing field right now and the ruling party candidate will try to create chaos on election day.

The immediate-past mayor of Cumilla City Corporation, Sakku said ruling party lawmaker AKM Bahauddin Bahar is intimidating the voters and even dishonoured the Election Commission's directive to leave the area.

"When the MP is influencing the voters, question arises why the Election Commission had served the notice?"

Sakku said this is the first big polls after the formation of the new EC and it was a test case for the commission, but it has apparently failed.

"I think sending the letter was a wrong decision of

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

## Projects delayed for poor preparations, coordination

Finds first-of-its-kind IMED study on ADP

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

About 76 percent of the government officials involved with preparing, processing and evaluating development projects think the projects get approved without an adequate feasibility study and stakeholder consultations, found recent research.

And about 26 percent of the respondents in the survey answered that they had experienced such lacking in 61 to 81 percent of the projects, according to the study by the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division on the slow implementation of development projects.

"This is a major area of concern," said the report, which is based on a survey from 100 government officials, focus group discussions, project data for the last five years and interviews with consultants, retired government officials and project directors.

It is a first-of-its-kind study by the government. It was carried out following the instruction of the IMED secretary, and MD Taibur Rahman, a director of the division, was the lead researcher. The study is now available at the IMED website.

Bangladesh lags in completing most projects on time and within budget, causing cost overruns and lowering the expected benefits from the projects.

The poor and sluggish implementation rates of the much-publicised fast-track projects such as the Padma bridge, the Padma bridge railway link and the Dhaka metro rail are examples, said the

### DIAGNOSIS ON SLOW IMPLEMENTATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

- First such study by IMED to address the time and cost overrun ailment
- Study based on project data for last five years and opinion of 100 govt officials
- More than 80pc respondents think project implementation lacks transparency and accountability
- About 95pc respondents think right contractors are not selected for projects
- About 93pc think transfer of utilities, resettlement and evacuation of illegal structures cause delays
- About 82 think inadequate skills of project staff and lack of incentives lead to delays

report, which was published in June 6.

Of the eight fast-track projects of the government, six have already been revised and a revision proposal for another — metro rail — has been submitted. Only the Roopur nuclear power plant project has not been revised yet.

Because of the cost and time

escalations, the majority of the projects fail to attain the objectives and targets set initially including the internal rate of return, financial rate of return and the economic rate of return.

Hence, it is important to identify the major causes and take necessary actions to prevent such mis-governance of public projects.

About 85 percent of the respondents agreed that the projects that require civil works lack proper engineering drawings, which is key to the successful completion of the projects.

About 72 percent of the respondents either agreed or fully agreed that weak project documents are a major roadblock. Only 16 percent were indifferent and 12 percent did not agree.

"This indicates that the overwhelming majority has opined that project documents are weak and this is a serious problem."

About 16 percent of the respondents experience a high incidence of such a problem: 61 to 81 percent.

As many as 89 percent of the respondents agreed with the statement that there is an inadequacy of resources to prepare a decent development project proposal (DPP).

About 70 percent of the respondents think that more than 40 percent of the projects had weak DPP or technical project proposal (TPP) due to a lack of adequate resources, it said.

"A few people are involved in preparing a large number of DPP/TPP and this compromises the quality of the project documents,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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## জনশুমারি ও গৃহগণনা ২০২২

**জনশুমারি ও গৃহগণনা হচ্ছে, শুমারি মুহুর্তে** (১৪ জুন ২০২২ দিবাগত রাত ১২:০০ টা) বাংলাদেশে বসবাসরত সকল ব্যক্তিকে গণনাসহ তাঁদের সম্পর্কে মৌলিক জনমিতিক, আর্থ-সামাজিক ও বাসগৃহ সংক্রান্ত তথ্য সংগ্রহ করা।

**গণনায় অন্তর্ভুক্ত হবেন-**

- শুমারি মুহুর্তে (১৪ জুন ২০২২ দিবাগত রাত ১২:০০ টা) বাংলাদেশে অবস্থানরত সকল দেশি ও বিদেশি নাগরিক; এবং
- ছয় মাসের কম সময়ের জন্য সাময়িকভাবে বিদেশে অবস্থানরত সকল বাংলাদেশি নাগরিক।

**গণনা থেকে বাদ পড়লে অথবা শুমারি সংক্রান্ত যেকোনো তথ্য জানতে কল করুন**

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**বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো**  
পরিসংখ্যান ও তথ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা বিভাগ, পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়

**জনশুমারিতে তথ্য দিন, পরিকল্পিত উন্নয়নে অংশ নিন**



## More human remains found in Ctg depot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The death toll from the Sitakunda container depot fire now stands at 48 after the police yesterday recovered human remains from the debris, 10 days after the deadly blast.

The remains were sent to the Chattogram Medical College Hospital Morgue after taking DNA samples, said Md Ashraful Karim, additional superintendent of Sitakunda Circle police.

On the evening of June 4, a huge fire broke out at the BM Inland Container Depot, a Dutch-Bangladesh joint venture, in the town of Sitakunda, 20 miles north of the country's main port in Chattogram.

At the time of the fire, at least 27 jerrycans of hydrogen peroxide were stored in the container depot.

Hydrogen peroxide is not a flammable substance but it can cause a fire to intensify. This is exactly what transpired when the fire came in contact with the plastic jerrycans.

The jerrycans – which came from the Hathazari-based Al-Razi Chemical Complex, one of the companies of Smart Group that also owns the depot – were awaiting shipment.

There were multiple explosions that aggravated the blaze to such a degree that it took three days to bring it under control.

As many as 10 firefighters died, making it the deadliest for Bangladesh's inadequate fire service department.

Following the incident, police filed a case accusing eight depot officials of their alleged negligence while on duty. But the depot's owners, one of whom is a treasurer of Awami League's Chattogram south unit, were spared.

Several investigation committees are conducting their investigation to find out the truth behind the blast.

So far 29 bodies were handed over to their families after confirming their identities.



A physically challenged local looks at grass that is on fire after shelling, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, near the town of Bakhmut, Donetsk region on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

# Russia seizes centre of Severodonetsk

### Calls on Ukrainian troops to ‘surrender’; hundreds of civilians shelter in Azot chemical plant

#### AGENCIES

Ukraine said yesterday its forces have been pushed back from the centre of the eastern city of Severodonetsk, where fighting with Russia has raged for weeks.

“The enemy, with support of artillery, carried out assault operations in the city of Severodonetsk, had partial success, pushed our units away from the city centre,” the Ukrainian military said on Facebook.

Moscow-backed separatist forces said the city had been “blocked” and called on Ukrainian troops to “surrender”.

“Severodonetsk has de facto been blocked after they blew up the last bridge yesterday [Sunday] which connected it to Lysychansk,” Eduard Basurin, a rebel representative, told reporters in Donetsk yesterday. “They have two options: to

surrender or die.”

He also said Moscow-backed forces were carrying out an offensive on the key city of Slovyansk from “west, north and east”.

Local governor Sergiy Gaiday conceded “the Russians were partially successful at night” in the city. He said Moscow forces control “more than 70 percent” of the city.

Gaiday said the Azot chemical plant – where 500 civilians, including 40 children are taking shelter – is being “heavily shelled” by Russian forces.

“We are trying to negotiate a humanitarian corridor” for the civilians, Gaiday said in a separate video on Telegram.

He added that the efforts had “for now no success”. Gaiday earlier said Moscow’s forces were “gathering more and more equipment” to “encircle” Severodonetsk and nearby

Lysychansk.

He said three civilians were killed by shelling in Lysychansk, across a river from Severodonetsk, in the last 24 hours, including a six-year-old boy.

The governor said Ukrainian security services had exposed 50 “traitors” in Lysychansk, who he said were sending information to Russian forces, reports AFP.

Presidential advisor Mikhaylo Podolyak said yesterday that Kyiv needs “heavy weapons” to end the war. He listed what he said the Ukrainian army needed: “1000 howitzers caliber 155 mm; 300 MLRS (multiple rocket launchers); 500 tanks; 2000 armoured vehicles; 1000 drones.”

President Volodymyr Zelensky said late on Sunday that Ukrainian and Russian forces were fighting for “literally

every metre” in Severodonetsk.

He said attacks that resulted in child casualties had created a lasting image of Russia for the rest of the world rather than the images Moscow was trying to project.

Russian strikes hit a town in northern Ukraine yesterday, with several villages evacuated due to the fire risk following the attacks, local authorities said.

“The enemy hit Pryluky with rocket strikes,” Vyacheslav Chaus, governor of the northern Chernigiv region, said on Telegram. The Russian army retreated from the northern Chernigiv region in April, two months into its invasion of Ukraine.

Amnesty International yesterday accused Russia of war crimes in Ukraine, saying that attacks on the northeastern city of Kharkiv – many using banned cluster bombs – had killed hundreds of civilians.

## Arankhola UP election postponed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The Election Commission has postponed the polls to Arankhola Union Parishad in Tangail's Madhupur upazila.

The decision came after a local Awami League leader asked those who will not cast vote for boat symbol not to go to polling centres.

The upazila election officer has also been instructed to file a case against the AL leader, Sadiqul Islam Sadiq, joint general secretary of Madhupur upazila unit AL and chairman of Mirzabari Union Parishad.

On Wednesday, he was addressing an election rally for Abdur Rahim, AL chairman candidate for Arankhola Union Parishad polls, slated for tomorrow. Later, his statement went viral on Facebook.

District Election Officer AHM Kamrul Hasan told The Daily Star yesterday that they got a letter from the EC Secretariat in this regard last night.

Elections will be held tomorrow in 21 union parishads in the district, including seven unions in Madhupur upazila.

## Bangladeshi shot dead in South Africa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Criminals shot dead a Bangladeshi trader in South Africa on Sunday night.

The victim, Nahidul Islam Joy, 30, was the son of Hasmot Miah of Dakkhin Pekua village in Tangail's Mirzapur upazila.

Hasmot said his son went to South Africa over a decade ago. He later started cosmetics business at New Castle City after renting a shop.

The armed criminals entered the shop around 7:30pm (local time) and shot Joy dead on the spot, he said, adding that he could not say when his son's body would reach the country.

Shajahan Miah, a member of Bashtoil Union Parishad, said Joy left his wife, younger sister and parents in the country to mourn his death.

Joy's uncle Faruk Hossain was also shot dead in South Africa about one and a half years ago, he added.

## Russian employee of Rooppur nuke plant dies

UNB, Pabna

Another Russian national working in Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project died in Pabna's Ishwardi upazila, police said yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Ivanov Anton, 33. With this, eight foreign employees of the nuclear plant died this year.

Anton used to live in a building in Green City residential area, a housing project for foreigners at Natun Hat, said Arbinda Sarkar, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station.

He fell unconscious while returning to his room after he bought food from a nearby restaurant Sunday night, the OC added.

Later, physicians at the Rooppur project declared him dead.

## Police press charges

FROM PAGE 1  
much-talked case before a Cox's Bazar court yesterday.

“Of the 29 accused, 15 are behind bars while 14 are on the run. In the charge sheet, police also named 38 persons as witnesses,” Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Ukhiya Police Station Sheikh Mohammed Ali told this newspaper.

Four accused have already given confessional statements under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Cox's Bazar Superintendent of Police Md Hasanuzzaman, said, “This is a sensitive issue. There are many groups active in the Rohingya camps. Many did not like his leadership. He had a lot of popularity and he had been a very strong voice for the camp dwellers.

“Infrured by his work, one group carried out the

assassination in a planned way.”

Soon after the murder, Mohib's brother Habib Ullah alleged that Myanmar's band outfit Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (Arsa), locally known as Al-Yakin, was behind the killing.

The issue of Arsa's presence in the country has been widely discussed as Rohingyas and experts believe there are members of the insurgent group in the camps.

However, the government has always maintained that this group does not exist in Bangladesh and that some criminals might have falsely identified themselves as Arsa operatives to intimidate the refugees.

Asked about the involvement of Arsa, the SP said, “We wrote that members of an armed

Rohingya terrorist group assassinated Mohib Ullah but we didn't mention the name of the group in the charge sheet.”

But seeking anonymity, an official of Ukhiya Police Station told The Daily Star, “The name of Arsa is mentioned in several places in the charge sheet.”

He, however, did not elaborate.

On March 6, Armed Police Battalion (APBn 14) of Cox's Bazar had arrested the chief commander of Arsa's Ulama Branch from a Rohingya camp on March 6. Police said the Arsa leader, identify as Zakaria, 55, issued a fatwa (decree) for the assassination of Mohib Ullah.

Mohib Ullah, the chairman of the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights, was shot dead at the Kutupalong camp around 8:30pm on September 29

last year.

His brother Habib Ullah filed the case with Ukhiya Police Station the next day without accusing any individual.

A teacher-turned-rights-activist, Mohib Ullah came to Bangladesh in 2017 when about 700,000 refugees fled a violent crackdown by the Myanmar army.

He attained widespread recognition after a group led by him organised a huge rally in 2019.

Later that year, he was invited to Geneva to address the UN Human Rights Council and to the White House, where he spoke with the then president Donald Trump as part of a meeting with survivors of persecution.

Eleven family members of Mohib Ullah have been moved to Canada on March 31 under the management of UNHCR and IOM.

## Govt to go all out to arrest price spiral

FROM PAGE 1  
recommended importing edible oil to bring relief to the poor and vulnerable from the spiralling cost of living.

The government also banned the export of rice bran oil and slapped up to 20 percent regulatory duty on around 135 products as part of the government's broader objectives to discourage their imports and contain volatility in the foreign exchange market.

Hasina also said yesterday that there should be no interference in any political programmes of opposition parties, said meeting sources.

She said political parties will be allowed to conduct their activities including holding rallies and bringing out processions.

But if the parties create an anarchic situation

in the name of political programmes, action will be taken against them under the existing laws, she warned.

On June 12, Hasina, also the president of the ruling Awami League, made a similar statement at the party central working committee meeting.

The PM said her government will make all-out efforts to bring BNP to the next parliamentary election, slated for late next year.

Asaduzzaman Mia, chief executive officer of NCSA, told The Daily Star that at yesterday's meeting the PM came up with several directives regarding price

hike of essentials, political activities by opposition parties and easing of traffic congestion.

“She also asked to closely monitor the market regularly to

stop syndicates,” said Asaduzzaman.

Asaduzzaman also said the PM asked the city corporations and the traffic division to bring traffic congestion to a tolerable level.

Meeting sources said the PM also ordered the home ministry to monitor activities of the Rohingyas so that they cannot get involved in smuggling of arms and drugs. She further asked the foreign ministry to expedite the Rohingya repatriation process.

Around one million Rohingyas, including 7.5 lakh who fled military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine state, are living in Bangladesh.

The sources said that at the meeting, Hasina gave several instructions to reduce traffic congestion in Dhaka. She said

ground-level works of several development projects like metro rail, bus rapid transit, elevated expressway, have already been finished and asked authorities to remove obstacles from the road to facilitate traffic movement, the sources said.

She also blamed irresponsible activities like parking vehicles haphazardly for traffic congestion and asked city corporations and traffic division to take measures in this regard.

The premier asked law enforcement and intelligence agencies to remain vigilant and increase monitoring to avert any untoward incident centring the Padma Bridge inauguration. She also asked them to prevent all kinds of rumours against the government and Padme Bridge.

## Projects delayed for poor preparations

FROM PAGE 1  
which later causes delays in project implementation.”

This highlights the urgent need to strengthen the planning wing of all administrative ministries.

About 74 percent of the respondents agreed or fully agreed that the work and procurement plan of the DPP/TPP are not closely followed.

More than 80 percent of the respondents think there is a lack of transparency and accountability in project implementations. Three-fourths of the respondents

believe that more than 40 percent of the projects had such challenges.

More than 90 percent agreed that recruitment of PDs and project staffers and frequent transfer of PDs delay project implementation, it said.

Subsequently, the study called for the appointment of full-time project directors and less scope for revisions.

About 80 percent of the respondents think that there is a lack of coordination among the implementing agencies in the field.

As much as 80 percent of respondents think that the project evaluation committee and project steering committee, two major committees responsible for monitoring project implementation, are not held regularly, becoming a major cause for project delays.

Sometimes, non-professionals are included in the committees, creating problems.

Around 95 percent of the respondents agreed or fully agreed that the right contractors are not

selected, which suggests the magnitude of the problem.

About three-fourths of respondents think that more than 40 percent of the projects had such problems.

About 91 percent think that land acquisition is a major challenge in completing projects.

Subsequently, the report called for ensuring all sorts of building materials, land, power supply, procurement, customs clearance and other utilities at the time of implementation of the project.

## Stars

FROM PAGE 12  
a “DNA map” – a multi-dimensional map of asteroids, planets, stars and galaxies – which has provided the largest ever catalogue of information on stars in the galaxy.

Technology which is key to Gaia's discoveries, highly sensitive photon detectors which form part of the observatory's one billion-pixel camera, was developed in Chelmsford, Essex, by manufacturing company Teledyne e2v.

The team working on the space observatory is led by scientists and astronomers at Cambridge University.

## People want change: Rifat

FROM PAGE 1  
the city corporation should be free from corruption. “I will publish a white paper on the corrupt mayor and city corporation officials.”

Claiming him to be honest, he said, “I want to make one thing clear that if I get elected, no one will get any scope to indulge in corruption whoever s/he is. My fight against corruption will continue even if I'm not elected.”

Regarding alleged corruption of immediate past Cumilla City Corporation mayor

Monirul Haque Sakku, Rifat said, “A few days ago, I came to know that Sakku secured bail in two graft cases. I'm collecting documents. I wanted to sit him at Cumilla Town Hall

ground to talk about his corruption. I wanted to tell him that he is corrupt and him to try to prove that he is not. But he did not accept the challenge.”

Saying that if Sakku, an independent mayoral candidate, had worked for the city, then why would a little rain create waterlogging in the city and

traffic jam become terrible, said the AL-nominated mayoral candidate.

About the election atmosphere, Rifat said the situation is excellent and peaceful, and people would go to polling centres on election day in a festive manner.

“People of Cumilla are peace-loving ... I would ask all the contenders to keep the peaceful atmosphere on the election day so that voters can cast their votes without fear. Whoever wins the polls, we will congratulate.”



# At taxpayers' expense!

Govt spending Tk 11.33cr to send 254 for hajj; AL supporters, those close to state minister given priority, sources say

RASHIDUL HASAN

A total of 254 people are going to perform hajj this year at government expense.

According to sources, the government will have to spend around Tk 11.33 crore from the public exchequer to meet the expenses.

Because of religious considerations, the government gives this opportunity to people of different levels every year. But people belonging to the ruling party or those close to the state minister for religious affairs are being given the priority, sources, involved in preparing the list, told The Daily Star.

At least 33 people from Jamalpur-2, electoral constituency of the state minister, Faridul Haque Khan, are in the list.

On Sunday, the Ministry of Religious Affairs released the list of pilgrims who are performing hajj at government expense. They are under the government's hajj package 2.

However, as per instruction of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, this year, the selected persons will have to pay Tk 1,40,000 as airfare, a ministry official told this correspondent. According to the ministry's circular, everyone performing hajj at the expense of the government will have to pay and submit a pay-order of Tk 1,40,000 for airfare.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



In the busy Sayedabad area, where many large vehicles ply, this bus was seen trying to overtake a rickshaw that was going across the road. The rickshaw, carrying a family with two children, could've fallen under the bus due to the driver's aggressive manoeuvre. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## 18 hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 18 people were hospitalised with dengue in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the new cases, five are from outside Dhaka. Seventy-eight dengue patients, including 72 in the capital, are now receiving treatment at hospitals.

This year, the DGHS recorded 589 dengue cases and 511 recoveries so far. It has not yet reported any death from the mosquito-borne viral disease.

Warning the city corporations of a major outbreak of dengue virus this year, experts suggested the corporations take extensive measures immediately to control the Aedes mosquitoes.

Dhaka is at risk of a major dengue outbreak this year compared to the last couple of years, as clear, stagnant water, the breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes, at under-construction buildings is abundant this time.

## Govt working on solving Teesta issue Says state minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over the delay in completing the Teesta deal, State Minister for Water Resources Zaheed Farooque yesterday said the government is working to solve it.

He made the comment at a "Meet the Press" organised by Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters' Forum (BSRF) at the secretariat.

In 2011, India agreed to share 37.5 percent of Teesta waters while retaining 42.5 percent during the lean season between December and March.

The Teesta river flows through Sikkim and West Bengal before entering Bangladesh.

The issue has been mired in conflict since 1947, when the Teesta's catchment areas were allotted to India.

At the event, Zaheed also said illegal sand extraction should be completely stopped as many people lost their homes and land due to river erosion.

The state minister suggested that sand extraction be done from 6:00am to 6:00pm. This way everyone, including the locals, can oversee the matter, he added.

BSRF President Tapan Biswas and BSRF General Secretary Masudul Haque presided over the event.

# EVOLUTION OF CYBERCRIME (PART 1)

## Patterns have evolved, so have criminals

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

They met on a social media site for something that soon turned out to be an intimate relationship of sorts.

They would often share private photos, in continuation of which, the woman offered to have a private video chat with him.

Little did he know that he was soon to fall into a trap. She tricked him into a recorded video chat, which she threatened to release on the internet if the man failed to pay her the amount she asked for.

Family members of the 40-year-old expatriate living in Qatar sought unofficial help from the cybercrime unit of Counter

### DATA OF CYBER CASES LODGED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY

	Digital Security Act 2018	Pornography Control Act 2012	ICT Act 2006	Telecommunication Control Act 2001	Total	Increase
Nov-2021	1,227	892	-	20	2,139	5%
2020	1,335	683	3	11	2,032	35%
2019	871	563	11	62	1,507	29%
2018	172	384	528	81	1,165	11%
2017	-	280	735	30	1,045	13%
2016	-	206	673	44	923	45%
2015	-	232	365	41	638	

SOURCE: CTTC

COMMON CYBER THREATS	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Facebook account, email, website hack
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Online financial frauds
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sharing false propaganda, fake news, video on social media
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ATM, POS, online banking frauds
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pornography
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Crimes on chat engines like imo, Viber, WhatsApp
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E-commerce, mostly online shopping
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leaking of question paper on social media
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Online terrorism, propaganda
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Online gambling, cryptocurrency

Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) in February. No case was filed in this regard.

Cybercrime investigators have termed this "sextortion", and claimed that this is not an isolated incident. Crimes such as this have become a common pattern in the country.

According to the CTTC database, around 15 percent of cybercrime victims have faced sextortion in 2021. Of whom, 23 were male and 117 female.

This, however, is just a glimpse into the wide range of cybercrime that the country finds itself faced with. With advanced technology, easy access and new platforms every day, cyber crimes have seen an alarming rise and evolution, with newer patterns of crimes.

Crimes have evolved, and so have the criminals.

A recent presentation conducted by CTTC shows that an average of 169 cyber cases were filed every month in 2020 under four different acts, while the figure rose to 194 in 2021.

Mishuk Chakma, deputy commissioner of CTTC, said the pattern of cybercrime has been changing. So have the numbers, with a sharp increase. "This has been possible due to easy access to the internet and lack of monitoring," he observed.

Even foreign nationals were also found involved in such criminal activities.

For instance, on April 21, Detective Branch of police arrested 11 Nigerian nationals for fraudulence and embezzlement.

Along with their Bangladeshi counterparts, these foreign nationals would target individuals on Facebook and promise them presents after befriending them.

After a few days, a local syndicate member calls the target, pretending to be a customs official, and says a certain amount of duty has to be paid to collect the package. Upon receiving the amount, they would cut off all sorts of communication with the target.

In many cases, the criminals were found pretending to be a woman working in the US military, claiming to be stationed in Syria.

"I have to deposit a huge sum of money

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

## 'Inefficiency main weakness' Speakers on health sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unless the inefficiency of officials is addressed, no progress is possible in the health sector even by increasing the budget allocation, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

Ensuring the availability of all types of medicines and diagnosis services for every patient in public hospitals can reduce their out-of-pocket expenditure immediately. This can be done by ensuring proper utilisation of the existing budgetary allocation for the health sector, they said at the seminar titled "Health Budget Evaluation 2022-23".

Health Economics Study Alliance (HESA) -- an association of the students of the Institute of Health Economics (IHE) at Dhaka University -- organised the seminar on the DU campus.

For long-term impact, however, they stressed increasing the managerial capacity of health officials at all levels.

"Inefficiency is the main weakness of the health sector. There should be a mechanism

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Why only 25 Bangladeshi agencies allowed Malaysian MP, 2 migrant rights groups ask its human resources minister

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A Malaysian MP and two migrant rights bodies have urged Human Resources Minister M Saravanan to explain his decision for allowing only 25 Bangladeshi agencies to recruit workers for Malaysia, reported Malaysian daily Malay Mail yesterday.

Klang MP Charles Santiago said he wanted Saravanan to spell out the reasons for the specific number of agencies and how they would help solve the problem of migrant worker exploitation.

The query comes just more than a week after Saravanan's visit to Bangladesh where, after meeting Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmed, he said it was up to Malaysia to decide on which agencies will be allowed to send workers to Malaysia.

The recruitment is likely to start by June, four years after the recruitment from Bangladesh was

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

## SC stays case against Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for two months the proceedings of a case filed against Nobel laureate and Grameen Telecom Chairman Dr Muhammad Yunus on charge of violating labour law.

The apex court also asked the High Court to hear and dispose of the rule in two months. The rule was issued on December 12 last year over scrapping the case proceedings.

A full bench headed by Justice Md Nuruzzaman passed the order following a petition filed by the state.

On December 12 last year, the HC stayed for six months the case



As soon as the school's out, street food vendors get busy preparing savoury plates of fuchka and bhelpuris as children eagerly wait to devour them. Although these kinds of snacks are quite popular due to their affordability, concern still remains about the way they are prepared. This photo was taken in front of Gabtoli Government Primary School.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

We are still thankful that crimes depending on advanced technology are still not taking place in the country on a large scale.

SM Ashraful Alam  
Special Superintendent, CID

PRAYER TIMING  
JUNE 14



	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4-05	12-45	5-00	6-50	8-15
Jamaat	4-40	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

"The Pride of Narail S K Kamrul has been elected Council Chairperson; the Highest Position of Lions Clubs International, Multiple District 315 Bangladesh"



Ln. S K Kamrul has been elected as the Council Chairperson of Lions Clubs International, Multiple District 315 Bangladesh for Lionistic year 2022-2023. He will serve the highest post of Lions Clubs International, Bangladesh for the following year. He was elected for the position in the 35th Convention of Multiple District which was held at Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka on 11 June. International Third Vice President Endorsee of Lions Clubs International PID A.P. Singh as the Chief Guest, Imm. Past International Director Qazi Akramuddin Ahmed PMJF, Past International Director Sangeeta Jatia, Past International Director Sheikh Kabir Hossain PMJF, Past International Director Moslem Ali Khan MJF were present as the Special Guests in the convention.







Flood situation worsens in Kurigram

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The flood situation in Kurigram's Roumari upazila has even further deteriorated as water from Assam's hill slopes are flowing into the region. New areas have been flooded and the situation is only getting worse.

According to Roumari upazila administration sources, around 35,000 people have been displaced at 49 villages in the upazila's four unions due to the flood.

The water has submerged aman paddy seedbeds, jute and various vegetables on 592 hectares of land and 55km of roads.

Thirty-five educational institutions have been shut down.

The flood-displaced people have to travel by rafts and boats made with trees as roads are submerged. Flood waters have drowned most of



Carrying his child on his shoulders, a resident of Kurigram's Roumari upazila wades through knee-deep flood water, seeking a place for refuge. As the flood situation worsens in 49 villages across four unions, many villagers have been forced to leave their homes -- either on foot or makeshift rafts as most roads have submerged. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

CLIMATE CHANGE Learning to be resilient

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many people, particularly rural women of 13 districts, have been learning how to be resilient against climate change through a programme titled "REECALL", led by Oxfam in Bangladesh.

Oxfam organised an information-sharing event to illustrate outcomes of the programme -- which was attended by civil society organisations, representatives of the private sector, and government officials -- at the capital's Cirdap auditorium yesterday.

Swapan Bhattacharjee, state minister of rural development and cooperative ministry, who attended the event as chief guest, said the purpose of the programme is aligned with the mission of the prime minister, who is working to empower women and create resilience among vulnerable communities.

Ashish Damle, country director of Oxfam in Bangladesh, said Oxfam started working in the country right after the Liberation War, supporting aid distribution, reconstruction and various other work.

The organisation has been implementing the "REECALL" project in 13 districts. The project is a continuation of Oxfam's response to the needs of climate-vulnerable communities in char, haor and coastal areas.

The candidates keep getting richer

Says Shujan, analysing their wealth info

» 9 out of 144 candidates' net worth over Tk 1cr each

» 73.3pc businesspersons

» 8.3pc job holders

» 2.8pc lawyers

» 2.1pc involved in agriculture

» Outgoing mayor Sakku's income rose by 87pc after 2017 polls

» Arfanul the richest as per affidavit

» 4 out of 5 mayoral candidates faced cases

» 34.7pc candidates are graduates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only two out of 157 Cumilla City Corporation election candidates -- for the posts of mayor, councillor and reserved women councillor -- had a net worth of over Tk 1 crore each in 2017. But that figure now stands at nine out of 144.

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) mentioned this at its press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday, two days before the election date.

**The earnings of those who hold such posts -- like mayor, MP or minister -- multiply by many folds. It's like magic.**

**BADIUL ALAM MAJUMDER**  
Secretary of Shujan

"The earnings of those who hold such posts -- like mayor, MP or minister -- multiply by many folds. It's like magic," said Badiul Alam Majumder, secretary of Shujan.

Among the five mayoral candidates, all except Rashedul Islam of Islami Andolon Bangladesh have been accused in cases throughout their career.

An attempt to murder or murder case, under section 302 of Penal Code, was filed against Awami League candidate Arfanul Haque Rifat. He was later acquitted.

All three independent candidates -- Monirul Haque Sakku, Mohammad Nizam Uddin and Kamrul Hasan Babul -- are facing two, eight and two cases, respectively.

Arfanul has the most wealth, Shujan found from the affidavit, but the outgoing mayor is way richer than Arfanul.

"It seems that many candidates do not mention the exact figures of their wealth in their affidavit. We repeatedly demanded the Election Commission [EC] thoroughly look into the affidavits, but it did not do so," said Badiul Alam.

Dilip Kumar Sarkar, central coordinator of Shujan, presented findings about the election candidates' income, educational background, and cases filed against them. He said among the mayoral candidates, Rashed completed post-graduation from a madrasa, and Arfanul and Nizam are university graduates.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

22,704 posts vacant in railway

Minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of vacant posts is 22,704 in railway, Minister Nurul Islam Sujon told parliament yesterday.

The minister placed the statistic in response to a query from Awami League MP Mamunur Rashid Kiran. The minister said out of the total vacant posts, 201 posts are for first class officials, 1,601 for second class, 8,575 for third and 12,327 for fourth class officials.

The minister said out of these vacancies, demand for 14 first class and 554 second class posts has already been sent to Public Service Commission. Besides, 7,351 posts of third and fourth classes have been given clearance.

In a scripted answer, the minister said job circular of 441 posts of third class and 2,812 posts of fourth class have already been published. The recruitment test for ALM Grade-2 and Guard Grade-2 posts will be held on June 17. In response to a query, the minister said the amount of unused land of the railway is 10,843.15 hectares.

The unused lands of the railways and vacant lands in residential areas are somewhat illegally occupied, which are being freed by turn, he added.

The minister also said eviction activities are being conducted every month.

Women still carry the load of unpaid work

Says BBS survey

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and JAMIL MAHMUD

Women spend eight times more than men on domestic work and care-giving, found a recent survey by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) published yesterday.

According to the "Time Use Survey 2021", men spend around 1.6 hours a day in domestic work and caregiving, while women spend 11.7 hours -- nearly half of the day.

These works also do not meet the conventional criteria of productivity and thus remain unpaid and unrecognised, says the report.

Besides conducting such unpaid work, women also pass 1.2 hours conducting the conventionally productive work, while men spend 6.1 hours on those.

In light of this, the report mentioned that gender equality cannot be attained in the absence of equal rights and women themselves have to be the active agents for this change. The exclusion of women in the labour market is unjustified and

**According to the "Time Use Survey 2021", men spend around 1.6 hours a day in domestic work and caregiving, while women spend 11.7 hours -- nearly half of the day.**

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

JU on path to waste crores?

Authorities constructing new buildings 'on a whim'

SHEIKH TAJUL ISLAM TAJ

Jahangirnagar University's (JU) latest development decisions have the potential to waste crores, as claims of building new establishments whimsically, and hiding information are echoing throughout the university.

JU currently has two administrative buildings, one of which has been partially built. But instead of completing its construction, JU's new plan is to erect a brand new 10-storey administrative building, at a cost of Tk 138.

The reason, according to authorities, is to house all the university's offices in one building, as the existing two structures are not fit for that.

**If the authorities build the new administrative building, around Tk 100 crore would go down the drain. They can't just do this whimsically. JU can just complete construction of the existing administration building.**

**PROF ANU MUHAMMAD**  
Eminent economist

However, Abdus Salam Md Sharif, the university's chief engineer, said this can be accomplished by just finishing construction of the existing building, which will require around Tk 40 crore.

According to documents, construction of the existing building started in 2009, and works of a part of the structure was finished in 2016. This cost Tk 11.19 crore.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the building's design, which indicates that the structure can be used to conduct all administrative activities if construction is completed.

The chief engineer has confirmed this. Meanwhile, the development project proposal

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD  
Road Division, Manikganj  
☎ & 📠 : 996610377  
E-mail: [eeaman@rhd.gov.bd](mailto:eeaman@rhd.gov.bd)

Memo No. 35.01.5600.444.07.010.22-1654 Dated: 12/06/2022

**e-Tender Notice**

These are an online tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. e-Tender is invited in e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Manikganj for the procurement of:

Tender Notice & ID No.	Name of work	Last selling and closing date & time
109/e-GP/EE/Mkg.Rd/2021-2022 ID: 709701	Supply of Envelops, Different kinds of Paper, Tapes etc for Printing and Binding of Official Letters, Estimates of various Works, Bridge Design/Drawing Papers, Topographical Survey Reports of Nayarhat	22-June-2022 16:00 & 23-June-2022 12:00
110/e-GP/EE/Mkg.Rd/2021-2022 ID: 709706	Printing and binding of various Tender Document and Contract agreement booklet with supplying & printing envelopes and bridge design/drawing paper under Manikganj Road Division in the financial year 2021-21	22-June-2022 16:00 & 23-June-2022 12:05
111/e-GP/EE/Mkg.Rd/2021-2022 ID: 709920	Supplying & Printing Banner by Carrying, Loading, Unloading & Placing etc. complete as per direction of the E/ch.	22-June-2022 16:00 & 23-June-2022 12:10
112/e-GP/EE/Mkg.Rd/2021-2022 ID: 709921	Emergency Provision of Supplying Banner, Placard etc for the celebration of Padma Bridge Inauguration Ceremony of Nayarhat Road Sub-Division under Manikganj Road Division during the year 2021-2022.	22-June-2022 16:00 & 23-June-2022 12:15

**Md. Gaus-Ul-Hassan Maruf**  
ID No. 602215  
Executive Engineer (C.C), RHD  
Road Division, Manikganj

GD-1226

ADAMJI BIHARI CAMP 5 hurt as police, locals clash



PHOTO: COLLECTED

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nyanji

At least five people were injured during a clash between police and members of Bihari community in Sadar upazila of Narayanganj yesterday.

The clash occurred following the arrest of 31 people from Adamji Bihari Camp during an anti-drug raid.

The clash ensued when camp residents gathered in front of the Siddhirganj Police Station on Shimrail-Adamji-Chashara Road around 7:00am, demanding release of fellow camp dwellers.

According to witnesses, police fired teargas shells and shots to bring the agitated protesters under control, prompting them to hurl brick bats on law enforcers.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Mymensingh PW Division, Mymensingh  
**Invitation for Tenders**  
Phone No. 091-65855, E-mail: [ee.mymen@pwd.gov.bd](mailto:ee.mymen@pwd.gov.bd)  
**e-Tender Notice (OTM)**

Memo No. 25.36.6100.110.00.000.21-2721 Date: 12-06-2022

An e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following Construction Work.

Tender ID	Tender closing (date & time)
709357, 709356, 709355, 709354, 709353.	21-June-2022 12:00
710314, 710313, 709349, 709285, 709132, 709118, 709074.	23-June-2022 20:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Rashed Ahsan**  
Executive Engineer  
Mymensingh PW Division  
Mymensingh

GD-1219



# ‘We are ashamed as artistes’

## Film legends react to Moushumi-Sani-Zayed controversy

“Actors are to be loved, adored, and respected. We have to pay back to our audience with actions that makes us more appreciable, not despicable.”

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

While the film industry is struggling badly to keep up the standards set by its golden era, the actors of this industry are often seen to make headlines, but for the wrong reasons. The much-loved cine-couple Moushumi and Omar Sani’s relationship seems to be in jeopardy. Omar Sani has recently claimed that actor Zayed Khan has pointed a gun at him after he slapped him openly in Dipjol’s son’s wedding reception – and that he had confronted him after Zayed harassed Moushumi in the past. Moushumi, on the other hand, has denied Sani’s claim of her being harassed by Zayed Khan.

With such incidents surfacing, The Daily Star spoke to actors from this industry to know their views and opinions about such controversies, and the future of Bangla cinema.

**I am ashamed of being called an artiste: Rozina**

I have witnessed a lot of incidents in my long career in films. Speaking



PHOTOS: STAR

reception that day. So were a lot of VIPs. The security was very tight. There is no way such an incident can take place.

Before jumping to conclusions, we should try to know the truth first. This is only bringing harm to this industry.

As far as the fate of our industry is concerned, films are dead.

Death is of two types, when one dies physically and when one keeps breathing but their soul is dead. The film industry’s soul has died.

Actors are to be loved, adored, and respected. We have to pay back to our audience with actions that makes us more appreciable, not despicable.

**Our industry is guardian-less: Uzzal**  
Our industry is guardian-less, and whatever is going on is a result of the absence of guidance.

I know we have lost the glory of the golden era but hailing from that time period, I am always hopeful about the fate of this industry. As an actor, I am deeply disheartened by this incident.

**For a few rotten apples, we get a bad name: Babita**

I have always seen artistes being loved and respected for their creativity and performances. They are meant to be humble.

For a few rotten apples, the whole industry faces harsh criticism. We should become more careful of our actions. We have the responsibility to live up to our fans; expectations and not doing that is an insult to this artform.

Translated by Ashley Shoptorshi Samaddar



Uzzal

Babita

Rozina

Sohel Rana

**Films are dead: Sohel Rana**

Accusations and claims are all I have heard in this regard. However, why isn’t anyone presenting proof to support their facts?

Did such an incident really happen between Sani and Zayed at the wedding? I don’t believe that Zayed can behave in such manner.

I have heard the story and if this incident is true, then it is very shameful. The truth should be revealed.

from experience, I feel that we have no future. The recent incidents involving our artiste is only forcing us to bow down in shame. After all this, I am ashamed of being called an artiste.

How can an artiste stoop so low – ruining another artiste’s reputation just for the sake of building a better self-image is just unacceptable.

I was present at Dipjol’s wedding



## ‘Squid Game’ returning for season 2 on Netflix

Global superhit “Squid Game” will be returning for a second season, as announced by Netflix on Sunday, with a small teaser hinting at what’s to come in season 2.

“Squid Game”, upon its release in September 2021, became Netflix’s most-watched series. Writer and director, Hwang Dong-hyuk teased a few details about the upcoming season in a letter released by Netflix.

Characters Gi-hun and The Front Man will be return returning,” said Hwang, teasing that, “the man in the suit with ddakji might be back.”

Netflix has yet to announce the release date for season 2.

## Partha Barua and Aparna Ghose to star in ‘Made In Chittagong’

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Noted musician Partha Barua and popular actor Aparna Ghose has appeared together in Imraul Rafat’s much appreciated production “Made In Chittagong”. The drama series, which consisted of 6 episodes, were aired between 2012 and 2014, twice every

year marking Eid.

The director had announced a film following this storyline. However, there was no update in this regard for the next eight years, until recently.

All the actors who have worked in this production, except Sazu Khadem, hails from Chattogram, informs the director. Alongside Partha and Aparna, the production features Chitrakha Guha, Mukit Zakaria, Nasir Uddin Khan, Hindol Roy, and Priya Mouli, among others. The shooting for this film is already done with and the project is currently in post-production. The film is slated to stream on Binge.

# NEWS

## Khaleda

FROM PAGE 12

Zahid said seven out of 19 medical board members were present at the meeting chaired by Prof Shahabuddin Talukder, a cardiology and medicine specialist at the hospital.

He said the board earlier kept Khaleda under observation for 72 hours following an angiogram performed on her on Saturday. The observation period will end today. The medical board will also sit at 5:00pm, he added.

Zahid, also a BNP vice-chairman, said doctors at the meeting would review the party chief’s condition and reports to decide the next course of her treatment. On Sunday, he said three blockages were found in the arteries of Khaleda through a coronary angiogram test conducted on Saturday.

Zahid said she suffered a heart attack due to 95 percent blockage in her left artery. “A stent has been placed there by removing the blockage.”

About two other blockages, he said doctors would take proper steps in this regard after observing her condition as she has chronic kidney and liver problems.

Khaleda, who has long been suffering from various ailments, including liver cirrhosis, arthritis, diabetes and kidney, was admitted to Evercare Hospital early Saturday as she fell ill.

## Illegal migrant

FROM PAGE 12

Ukraine or via Moldova since Russia invaded the country on February 24, Frontex said.

“In the first five months of 2022, the most active migratory routes into the EU were the Western Balkan, Central Mediterranean and Eastern Mediterranean routes,” the agency continued.

## Give pointers on polls-time

FROM PAGE 12

Iftekharuzzaman said usually polls time government’s size is smaller. They should not take any new policy decision or take up any new projects.

If the EC feels there is a need to reform the constitution or law in the interest of making elections free and fair, then it can propose to do so, he said.

“Whether the concerned authority will consider it or not is a matter for that authority.”

TIB also urged for maintaining a level playing field for candidates. “Now MPs and cabinet members can take part in elections while in their positions of power and many think that

destroys the level playing field, and this claim is realistic,” Iftekhar said.

TIB in a statement yesterday said if the ruling-party ministers and MPs are allowed to go to polls without resigning, the EC can propose to reform the law to ensure that there is a level field.

The graft watchdog urged the EC to take active initiatives to ensure participation of all political parties in elections and earn confidence of all concerned, especially voters.

They also recommended that the release of information during elections should not be hindered in any way. Local and foreign observers, as well as media, should be

able to operate in a free and unhindered manner and the internet and mobile networks should not be shut down.

CEC Habibul said they told the TIB delegation that the government is obliged to cooperate with the EC as per law.

In many countries elections take place under a political government. A government and a party are two different things; there is prime minister and cabinet members in a government and they took an oath that they would behave equitably.

“We believe they know their oaths. At least during the election, in the interest of a fair election, they will behave like an election-time government,” Habibul said.

## No level playing field: Sakku

FROM PAGE 1

the Election Commission. It was a big humiliation.”

Sakku, a former BNP leader whose main contestant is AL’s Arfanul Haque Rifat, said each of all 27 wards in the city corporation is surrounded by the union parishads which have chairmen from the ruling party.

And the ruling party candidate is trying to create chaos on the polls day bringing outsiders from the union parishads, he added. “I urge the Election Commission to keep the polling centres free from outsiders. If people get scared, they would not come to vote.”

Regarding the allegation that Sakku is a very close ally of ruling lawmaker Bahar and a dummy candidate of the Awami League, he said, “If I am an Awami League candidate, then why the ruling party fielded another person? The local lawmaker is also working with him. The allegation is baseless.”

He said when there is an election, people especially

the contenders say a lot of things but voters will make the ultimate decision.

Regarding the graft allegation brought against him by the ruling party candidate, Sakku said, “If I am corrupt then why didn’t he collect information in last 10 years? Why didn’t he lodge a complaint with the Anti-Corruption Commission? If anyone can show any evidence of my corruption, I will quit the race right now.”

Asked why people would vote for Sakku, the two-time mayor said, “When I became the first mayor of the city, I had to start from the scratch.”

He went on, “In last 10 years, I had to complete the basic work. But this time I am contesting to complete whatever was unfinished. People will surely evaluate my job and vote for me.”

Regarding the participation of BNP leaders and activists, he said, “Those who hold posts in the party don’t come to my campaign for the obvious reason but they support me. BNP

sympathisers are with me. All the BNP leaders and activists are united.”

Sakku said he will accept whatever the result is and cooperate with the new mayor whoever he is if a free and fair election is held.

## Opposition

FROM PAGE 12

Commission until Vision 2041 [remains unimplemented].”

Jatiya Party MP Shameem Haider Patwary said it is now essential to hold police accountable. Had they been made accountable internally, sanctions wouldn’t have been imposed on them from abroad, he added.

“We now need a special commission for the police and an all-party special parliamentary committee on human rights in this regard.”

The special committee would investigate any allegation raised by the people, prepare a report and hold those responsible to account, said the JP lawmaker.

## OTT draft rules prohibit news

FROM PAGE 12

broadcast sexual contents involving children or contents that hurt religious sentiment of the nation and communities, encourage communalism and militancy, and harm the stability of the state and society.

They also cannot telecast contents prohibited by the existing laws or broadcast something that can damage Bangladesh’s friendly relations with other countries.

If a registered platform broadcasts any banned content in violation of the regulation, the relevant

authority under the information ministry will direct the OTT platform to remove the content, and the platform will be bound to do so. The law enforcement agencies will provide all types of assistance in this regard.

Every OTT service provider has to appoint an official for disposal of the complaints.

If it fails to settle the complaint in 21 working days, the complainant can appeal to the relevant authority which will dispose of the complaint after hearing both sides.

The objective of the

regulations is to nurture creativity and ensure freedom of speech, the draft said.

**BTRC’S DRAFT**

The BTRC’s draft regulations prohibit any content that “creates unrest or disorder or deteriorates or advances to deteriorate law and order situation” or “is offensive, false or threatening and insulting or humiliating to a person”.

It also forbids contents that threatens the “unity, integrity, defence, security, or sovereignty of Bangladesh, [and its] friendly relations with

foreign states”, and also contents that are against the spirit of the Liberation War, the father of the nation, the national anthem or the national flag, or anything that “threatens the secrecy of the government”.

Every social media intermediary will have to appoint an official to deal with complaints and a compliance officer to ensure due diligence, and also an agent to maintain liaison with law enforcement agencies and the BTRC, the draft mentioned.

## All eyes on Cumilla, EC

FROM PAGE 1

the first major one to be conducted by the recently formed Election Commission, led by Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal. All political parties are waiting to see how the commission performs its duties in the polls.

A total of 229,920 voters, including 117,092 women, are eligible to exercise their franchise in tomorrow’s CCC polls. The EC will use electronic voting machines (EVMs) in all 105 polling centres.

Speaking to The Daily Star, several voters and civil society members said things are more difficult for two-time mayor Sakku this time as he did not get the BNP’s support. Also, another independent mayoral hopeful Nizamuddin Kaiser, a former BNP leader, brought allegation against Sakku that he is “basically an Awami League man”.

On the other hand, AL nominee Rifat is known as the right-hand man of local AL lawmaker AKM Bahauddin Bahar. He is not getting support from the party’s other local faction,

led by Anjum Sultana Sima, daughter of late AL leader Afzal Khan.

In the maiden CCC polls in 2012, Sakku defeated AL candidate Afzal by over 30,000 votes. Afzal’s daughter Sima lost to Sakku by about 10,000 votes in 2017.

Bahar and his supporters did not join the polls campaign in 2012. Five years later, Bahar’s supporters refrained from campaigning for party candidate Sima, said AL sources.

Alamgir Khan, president of Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik’s (Sujan) Cumilla unit, said, “Traditionally, voters in Cumilla city are attracted to candidates’ personal image and charisma. This time, party backing will also be a factor.”

He said voters will evaluate former mayor Sakku’s performance in the last 15 years (as mayor of CCC and Cumilla municipality). Rifat’s major challenge would be to keep the intra-party grouping in check, he added.

The city residents did not see any untoward incidents during campaigning which

began on May 27.

Visiting some city areas yesterday, this newspaper found that there was not much enthusiasm among voters about the polls.

“Voters, especially the elder ones, are worried about using the EVM. Using the machine may be a hassle for them,” said Khairul Azim Shimul, former general secretary of Sommilito Sangskritik Jote’s Cumilla chapter.

He said it seems that the EC is eager to hold a free and fair election.

Syeda Shahin Sultana Kakoli, a local resident, said she will not exercise her franchise tomorrow as none of the mayor hopefuls are competent to serve people.

“The overall election atmosphere is fine, but I won’t vote,” she said.

**CAMPAIGN ENDS**

Yesterday, the major mayoral candidates brought allegations against each other. Sakku, however, refrained from campaigning and held meetings with his supporters to devise the last-minute strategy.

Campaigning in the

city’s Ballavpur area, Rifat alleged that Sakku is a corrupt person. He pledged to reveal the corruptions if elected.

Sakku denied the allegation saying that he completed almost all the projects he took up as mayor.

There were around 30 percent incomplete works, he said, adding that he wants to win a third term to complete those incomplete works.

Meanwhile, Kaiser lodged a complaint with the EC office yesterday stating that outsiders and criminals were roaming the city which might harm the congenial polling atmosphere. He asked the commission to take action against them.

Returning Officer Shahedunnabi Chowdhury said CCTV cameras have been installed in all 640 booths of the 105 polling stations.

“The voting atmosphere is very good. The BGB is already patrolling the city and law enforcement agencies are on high alert to avert any untoward incidents,” he said.





Police officers attempt to stop supporters of India's main opposition Congress party as they attempt to reach the Enforcement Directorate office during a protest after party leader Rahul Gandhi was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case, in Mumbai, India, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Biden to travel to KSA, Israel next month

REUTERS, Washington

US President Joe Biden will travel to Saudi Arabia and Israel next month and the White House is planning to announce the trip this week, a source familiar with the planning said on Sunday.

Biden's trip, which is expected to take place around mid-July, could include a meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the source said.

A spokesperson for the National Security Council confirmed a Biden trip to Israel and Saudi Arabia was being planned. "We have no further trip details to confirm, but we will announce as soon as we do," the spokesperson said.

The White House has said Biden feels that the crown prince is a "pariah" for his role in the killing of a political opponent, Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi, in Turkey in 2018.

World nuke arsenal set to grow

Say researchers as global tensions flare amid Russia's war in Ukraine

AFP, Stockholm

The number of nuclear weapons in the world is set to rise in the coming decade after 35 years of decline as global tensions flare amid Russia's war in Ukraine, researchers said yesterday.

The nine nuclear powers – Britain, China, France, India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, the United States and Russia – had 12,705 nuclear warheads in early 2022, or 375 fewer than in early 2021, according to estimates by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The number has come down from a high of more than 70,000 in 1986, as the US and Russia have gradually reduced their massive arsenals built up during the Cold War.

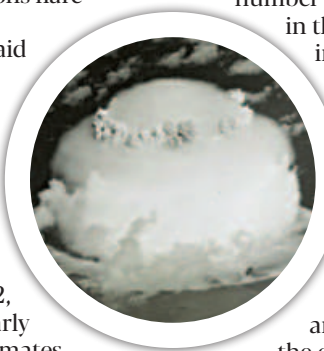
But this era of disarmament appears to be coming to an end and the risk of a nuclear escalation is now

at its highest point in the post-Cold War period, SIPRI researchers said. "Soon, we're going to get to the point where, for the first time since the end of the Cold War, the global number of nuclear weapons in the world could start increasing for the first time", Matt Korda, one of the co-authors of the report, told AFP. "That is really kind of dangerous territory."

After a "marginal" decrease seen last year, "nuclear arsenals are expected to grow over the coming decade", SIPRI said.

During the war in Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin has on several occasions made reference to the use of nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile several countries, including China and Britain, are either officially or unofficially modernising or ramping up their arsenals, the research institute said.



Grooms stand along with the gifts outside the wedding hall during a mass marriage ceremony in Kabul yesterday. Dozens of Afghan women concealed in thick green shawls were married off in an austere mass wedding in Kabul, in a ceremony attended by hundreds of guests and gun-toting Taliban fighters.

PHOTO: AFP

Scientists map brain network linked to addiction

AFP, Paris

Researchers said yesterday they had mapped the network in the brain linked to addiction by studying long-time smokers who abruptly quit after suffering brain lesions.

They hope the research will give future treatments a target to aim for in the fight against addiction to a range of substances.

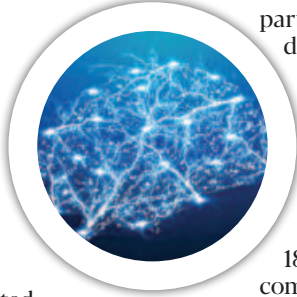
To find out where addiction resides in the brain, the researchers studied 129 patients who were daily smokers when they had a brain lesion.

While more than half kept on smoking as normal after getting

the lesion, a quarter immediately quit without any problem – even reporting an "absence of craving", according to a new study in the journal Nature Medicine.

While the lesions of those who stopped smoking were not located in one specific region of the brain, they mapped them to a number of areas – what they called the "addiction remission network".

They found that a lesion that would cause someone to give up an addiction would probably affect



parts of the brain like the dorsal cingulate, lateral prefrontal cortex and insula – but not the medial prefrontal cortex.

To confirm their findings, the researchers studied 186 lesion patients who completed an alcohol risk assessment.

They found that lesions in the patients' addiction remission network also reduced the risk of alcoholism, "suggesting a shared network for addiction across these substances of abuse", the study said.

Shun protests

Indian Muslim groups urge followers over anti-Islam comments

REUTERS, Mumbai

Leaders of prominent Islamic groups and mosques in India yesterday appealed to fellow Muslims to suspend plans for protests against derogatory remarks about the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) made by two members of the ruling Hindu-nationalist party. The message to avoid big gatherings was circulated after demonstrations took a violent turn last week. "It is the duty of every Muslim to stand together when anyone belittles Islam but at the same time it is critical to maintain peace," said Malik Aslam, a senior member of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind.

CRITICISM OVER CHINA  
UN rights chief declines 2nd term

REUTERS, Geneva

The United Nations human rights chief, Michelle Bachelet, indicated yesterday that she would not seek a second term, the surprise announcement coming in a wide-ranging speech to the Geneva-based Human Rights Council. Bachelet made a trip to China last month for which she was criticised by rights groups as well as some Western governments, including the United States, who said conditions Chinese authorities imposed on the visit did not enable a complete and independent assessment of the rights environment.

চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়	
২০২১-২০২২ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ১ম বর্ষ স্নাতক (সম্মান) শ্রেণিতে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে ২০২১-২০২২ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ১ম বর্ষ স্নাতক (সম্মান) শ্রেণিতে ভর্তির জন্য নির্ধারিত শর্ত পূরণ সাপেক্ষে ২০১৯ সালের নিয়মিত মাধ্যমিক বা সমমান এবং ২০২১ সালের নিয়মিত উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ বিভিন্ন ইউনিট/উপ-ইউনিটে ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক শিক্ষার্থীদের কাছ থেকে আবেদন আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। ভর্তিচ্ছুকের চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ভর্তির ওয়েবসাইট: ( <a href="https://admission.cu.ac.bd">https://admission.cu.ac.bd</a> ) -এ প্রচারিত অনলাইনে আবেদন প্রক্রিয়া অনুসরণ করে আবেদন করতে হবে। ইউনিট/উপ-ইউনিট প্রতি আবেদন ফি ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা মাত্র (প্রসেসিং ফি প্রযোজ্য)। নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফি 'রকেট'/বিকাশ/উপায় Mobile Financial Service Operator এর মাধ্যমে জমা দেয়া যাবে। ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের আবেদন ১৫ জুন ২০২২ তারিখ (বুধবার) সকাল ১১.০০ টা থেকে ০৩ জুলাই ২০২২ তারিখ (রবিবার) রাত ১১:৫৯ টা পর্যন্ত অনলাইনে করা যাবে। ০৫ জুলাই ২০২২ তারিখ (মঙ্গলবার) রাত ১১:৫৯ টা পর্যন্ত ইউনিট/উপ-ইউনিট প্রতি নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফি জমা দেয়া যাবে। আবেদনকারীকে সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিট/উপ-ইউনিটে একশত নম্বরের MCQ পদ্ধতিতে ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় এবং বাবহারিক পরীক্ষায় (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) অংশগ্রহণ করতে হবে। ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় মোট প্রায় নম্বর থেকে প্রতিটি স্কুল উত্তরের জন্য ০.২৫ নম্বর কর্তন করা হবে। ইউনিট/উপ-ইউনিট ভিত্তিক ভর্তি পরীক্ষা ও ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষার তারিখ এবং এ সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদি চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ভর্তির ওয়েবসাইটে প্রচারিত ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি এবং ভর্তি নির্দেশিকায় বর্ণিত আছে।	
ভর্তির যোগ্যতাঃ যে সকল আবেদনকারী বাংলাদেশের যে কোন শিক্ষা বোর্ডের অধীনে ২০১৯ সালের নিয়মিত মাধ্যমিক বা দাখিল বা সমমান পরীক্ষা এবং ২০২১ সালের নিয়মিত উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা আলিম বা সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হওয়া সাপেক্ষে যাদের নিম্নবর্ণিত যোগ্যতা ও ভর্তি নির্দেশিকায় উল্লিখিত সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিট বা উপ-ইউনিট/অনুষদ/বিভাগ/ইনস্টিটিউট ভিত্তিক ভর্তির যোগ্যতা আছে তারা ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবে।	
ইউনিট/উপ-ইউনিট	ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা
<b>A ইউনিট</b> বিজ্ঞান/জীববিজ্ঞান/ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/মেরিন সায়েন্সেস আন্ড ফিশারিজ অনুষদভুক্ত সকল বিভাগ/ইনস্টিটিউট	মাধ্যমিক বা দাখিল বা সমমান পরীক্ষা এবং বিজ্ঞান/কৃষি বিজ্ঞান শাখায় উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা আলিম বা সমমান উত্তর পরীক্ষায় ৪র্থ বিষয়সহ ন্যূনতম মোট জিপিএ ৮.০০; তবে উত্তর পরীক্ষায় আলাদাভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৪.০০।
<b>B ইউনিট</b> কলা ও মানববিদ্যা অনুষদভুক্ত সকল বিভাগ/ইনস্টিটিউট (নাস্টিকলা বিভাগ, চারুকলা ইনস্টিটিউট ও সংগীত বিভাগ ব্যতিত)	মাধ্যমিক বা দাখিল বা সমমান পরীক্ষা এবং মানবিক/সাধারণ (মাস্ট্রাস শিক্ষা বোর্ড)/মিউজিক/গার্ডিয়ান অর্থনীতি শাখায় উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা আলিম বা সমমান উত্তর পরীক্ষায় ৪র্থ বিষয়সহ ন্যূনতম মোট জিপিএ ৭.৫০; তবে উত্তর পরীক্ষায় আলাদাভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.০০; অথবা মাধ্যমিক বা দাখিল বা সমমান পরীক্ষা এবং বিজ্ঞান/কৃষি বিজ্ঞান শাখায় উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা আলিম বা সমমান উত্তর পরীক্ষায় ৪র্থ বিষয়সহ ন্যূনতম মোট জিপিএ ৮.০০; তবে উত্তর পরীক্ষায় আলাদাভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০; অথবা মাধ্যমিক বা দাখিল বা সমমান পরীক্ষা এবং ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা/ব্যবসায় ব্যবস্থাপনা/সমমান শাখায় উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা আলিম বা সমমান উত্তর পরীক্ষায় ৪র্থ বিষয়সহ ন্যূনতম মোট জিপিএ ৮.০০; তবে উত্তর পরীক্ষায় আলাদাভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০।
<b>B1 উপ-ইউনিট</b> কলা ও মানববিদ্যা অনুষদভুক্ত নাস্টিকলা বিভাগ, চারুকলা ইনস্টিটিউট ও সংগীত বিভাগ	মাধ্যমিক বা দাখিল বা সমমান পরীক্ষা এবং ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা শাখায় উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা আলিম বা সমমান উত্তর পরীক্ষায় ৪র্থ বিষয়সহ ন্যূনতম মোট জিপিএ ৮.০০; তবে উত্তর পরীক্ষায় আলাদাভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০ অথবা মাধ্যমিক বা সমমান পরীক্ষা এবং Accounting/Higher Accounting সহ ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-কমার্স/ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-বিজনেস স্টাডিজ/ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-বিজনেস ম্যানেজমেন্ট উত্তর পরীক্ষায় ৪র্থ বিষয়সহ ন্যূনতম মোট জিপিএ ৮.০০; তবে উত্তর পরীক্ষায় আলাদাভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০।
<b>C ইউনিট</b> ব্যবসায় প্রশাসন অনুষদভুক্ত সকল বিভাগ	মাধ্যমিক বা দাখিল বা সমমান পরীক্ষা এবং ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা শাখায় উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা আলিম বা সমমান উত্তর পরীক্ষায় ৪র্থ বিষয়সহ ন্যূনতম মোট জিপিএ ৮.০০; তবে উত্তর পরীক্ষায় আলাদাভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০ অথবা মাধ্যমিক বা সমমান পরীক্ষা এবং Accounting/Higher Accounting সহ ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-কমার্স/ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-বিজনেস স্টাডিজ/ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-বিজনেস ম্যানেজমেন্ট উত্তর পরীক্ষায় ৪র্থ বিষয়সহ ন্যূনতম মোট জিপিএ ৮.০০; তবে উত্তর পরীক্ষায় আলাদাভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০।
<b>D ইউনিট</b> সমাজ বিজ্ঞান অনুষদভুক্ত সকল বিভাগ, আইন অনুষদভুক্ত আইন বিভাগ, ব্যবসায় প্রশাসন অনুষদভুক্ত সকল বিভাগ এবং জীববিজ্ঞান অনুষদভুক্ত কুগোল ও পরিবেশবিদ্যা এবং মনোবিজ্ঞান বিভাগ	মাধ্যমিক বা দাখিল বা সমমান পরীক্ষা এবং যে কোন শাখায় উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা আলিম বা সমমান উত্তর পরীক্ষায় ৪র্থ বিষয়সহ ন্যূনতম মোট জিপিএ ৭.৫০; তবে উত্তর পরীক্ষায় আলাদাভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০ পেয়েছে তারা D ইউনিটের ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবে। তবে নিম্নে উল্লিখিত অনুষদ ভিত্তিক ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতাও প্রযোজ্য হবে। i) মাধ্যমিক বা দাখিল বা সমমান পরীক্ষা এবং বিজ্ঞান/কৃষি বিজ্ঞান/মানবিক বা মিউজিক বা সাধারণ (মাস্ট্রাস শিক্ষা বোর্ড)/ব্যবসায় শিক্ষা/ব্যবসায় ব্যবস্থাপনা/গার্ডিয়ান অর্থনীতি শাখায় উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা আলিম বা সমমান উত্তর পরীক্ষায় ৪র্থ বিষয়সহ ন্যূনতম মোট জিপিএ ৭.৫০; তবে উত্তর পরীক্ষায় আলাদাভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০ পেয়েছে তারা সমাজ বিজ্ঞান অনুষদভুক্ত সকল বিভাগে ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবে। ii) মাধ্যমিক বা দাখিল বা সমমান পরীক্ষা এবং যে কোন শাখায় উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা আলিম বা সমমান উত্তর পরীক্ষায় ৪র্থ বিষয়সহ ন্যূনতম মোট জিপিএ ৮.৫০; তবে উত্তর পরীক্ষায় আলাদাভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৪.০০ পেয়েছে তারা আইন অনুষদভুক্ত আইন বিভাগে ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবে। iii) মাধ্যমিক বা দাখিল বা সমমান পরীক্ষা এবং বিজ্ঞান/কৃষি বিজ্ঞান/মানবিক বা মিউজিক বা সাধারণ (মাস্ট্রাস শিক্ষা বোর্ড) শাখায় নিয়মিত উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা আলিম বা সমমান উত্তর পরীক্ষায় ৪র্থ বিষয়সহ ন্যূনতম মোট জিপিএ ৮.০০; তবে উত্তর পরীক্ষায় আলাদাভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০ পেয়েছে (বিজ্ঞান শাখা হতে উত্তীর্ণ আবেদনকারীদের উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক পর্যায়ে অবশ্যই গণিত এবং মানবিক শাখা হতে উত্তীর্ণ আবেদনকারীদের উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক পর্যায়ে অবশ্যই অর্থনীতি বিষয় থাকতে হবে) অথবা মাধ্যমিক বা দাখিল বা সমমান পরীক্ষা এবং Accounting/Higher Accounting ব্যতিত ডিপ্লোমা ইন কমার্স/ডিপ্লোমা ইন বিজনেস স্টাডিজ/ডিপ্লোমা ইন বিজনেস ম্যানেজমেন্ট উত্তর পরীক্ষায় ৪র্থ বিষয়সহ ন্যূনতম মোট জিপিএ ৮.০০; তবে উত্তর পরীক্ষায় আলাদাভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০ পেয়েছে তারা ব্যবসায় প্রশাসন অনুষদভুক্ত সকল বিভাগে (বিজ্ঞান ও মানবিক গ্রুপের আসনের জন্য) ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবে। iv) মাধ্যমিক বা দাখিল বা সমমান পরীক্ষা এবং মানবিক বা মিউজিক বা সাধারণ (মাস্ট্রাস শিক্ষা বোর্ড) শাখায় নিয়মিত উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা আলিম বা সমমান উত্তর পরীক্ষায় ৪র্থ বিষয়সহ ন্যূনতম মোট জিপিএ ৭.৫০; তবে উত্তর পরীক্ষায় আলাদাভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ৩.৫০ পেয়েছে তারা জীববিজ্ঞান অনুষদভুক্ত কুগোল ও পরিবেশবিদ্যা এবং মনোবিজ্ঞান বিভাগে (মানবিক গ্রুপের আসনের জন্য) ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবে।
<b>D1 উপ-ইউনিট</b> শিক্ষা অনুষদভুক্ত ফিজিক্যাল এডুকেশন এন্ড স্পোর্টস সায়েন্স বিভাগ	মাধ্যমিক বা দাখিল বা সমমান পরীক্ষা এবং যে কোন শাখায় নিয়মিত উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বা আলিম বা সমমান উত্তর পরীক্ষায় ৪র্থ বিষয়সহ ন্যূনতম মোট জিপিএ ৬.০০; তবে উত্তর পরীক্ষায় আলাদাভাবে ন্যূনতম জিপিএ ২.৫০ পেয়েছে তারা শিক্ষা অনুষদভুক্ত ফিজিক্যাল এডুকেশন এন্ড স্পোর্টস সায়েন্স বিভাগে ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবে।
<b>GCE (O Level &amp; A Level) ও সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ এবং সমমানের বিদেশী সার্টিফিকেটধারীদের ক্ষেত্রে :</b> যে সকল আবেদনকারী ২০১৯ সালের নিয়মিত জিসিই 'ও' লেভেল পরীক্ষায় এবং ২০২১ সালের নিয়মিত জিসিই 'এ' লেভেল পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ হয়েছে এবং ভর্তি নির্দেশিকায় উল্লিখিত ন্যূনতম যোগ্যতা রয়েছে তারা সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিট/উপ-ইউনিটে ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবে। এ সম্পর্কিত বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদি ভর্তির ওয়েবসাইটে প্রচারিত ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি এবং ভর্তি নির্দেশিকায় বর্ণিত আছে। এক্ষেত্রে GCE (O Level & A Level) ও সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ অথবা সমমানের বিদেশী সার্টিফিকেটধারীকে ভর্তি নির্দেশিকায় উল্লিখিত যথাযথ নিয়ম অনুসরণ করে Equivalent ID সংগ্রহপূর্বক আবেদন প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্ন করতে হবে। এছাড়াও আবেদনকারী যে বিভাগ/ইনস্টিটিউটে ভর্তি হতে ইচ্ছুক তাকে ভর্তি নির্দেশিকায় প্রতি ইউনিট/উপ-ইউনিটের ৩ নং ক্রমিকে উল্লিখিত ঐ বিভাগ/ইনস্টিটিউটের জন্য নির্ধারিত যোগ্যতা ও শর্ত পূরণ করতে হবে।	
১৫ জুন ২০২২ তারিখ থেকে ২০ জুলাই ২০২২ তারিখ পর্যন্ত আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহের (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) করা যাবে। আবেদনপত্রের যে কোন প্রকার সংশোধনী বা ভর্তি পরীক্ষা সংক্রান্ত যে কোন ডকুমেন্টের ডুপ্লিকেট কপি নেয়ার জন্য (প্রযোজ্য ক্ষেত্রে) ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকা সার্ভিস চার্জ প্রযোজ্য হবে। ভর্তি পরীক্ষার সময়সূচি, ভর্তির যোগ্যতা ও অনলাইনে আবেদন প্রক্রিয়ার বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদি, GCE (O Level & A Level) ও সমমান পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ এবং বিদেশী সার্টিফিকেটধারীদের ভর্তির যোগ্যতা ও আবেদন প্রক্রিয়া, কোটার ভর্তির যোগ্যতা, মেধাধোকার ও মেধাক্রমঃ, সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিট/উপ-ইউনিট ভর্তি পরীক্ষার মানবর্তন, সাধারণ আসন সংখ্যা, আবেদন সংশোধনের নিয়ম, ইউনিট কার্যাবলি/হেল্প ডেস্ক/হটলাইন এর নির্দিষ্ট কোন নম্বর এবং ভর্তি পরীক্ষা ও ভর্তির নিয়মাবলীসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে যাবতীয় তথ্যাবলী চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ভর্তির ওয়েবসাইটে প্রচারিত ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি ও ভর্তি নির্দেশিকায় পাওয়া যাবে। ওয়েবসাইটে প্রচারিত ভর্তি নির্দেশিকায় উল্লেখ নেই এমন কোন তথ্য জানতে হলে ভর্তি নির্দেশিকায় উল্লিখিত সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিট কার্যালয়/হেল্প ডেস্ক/হটলাইন এর নির্দিষ্ট কোন নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করা যাবে। ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত যে কোন নিয়ম-নীতি পরিবর্তন, সংশোধন, পরিবর্তন, সংযোজন ও বাতিলের অধিকার কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।	
বিদ্রষ্টব্যঃ স্বাস্থ্য বিধি মেনে ভর্তি পরীক্ষা পরিচালনা করা হবে এবং সকল পরীক্ষার্থীকে পরীক্ষার হলে অবশ্যই মাস্ক পরিধান করতে হবে। কোন তারিখে কোন সময়ে ভর্তি পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠিত হবে তা ভর্তি পরীক্ষার রোল নম্বর নির্ধারণ করার পর সংশ্লিষ্ট আবেদনকারী পরীক্ষার্থী জানতে পারবে।	
(এস. এম. আকবর হোসাইন) ডেপুটি রেজিস্ট্রার (একাদেমিক) রেজিস্ট্রার দপ্তর এবং দাখিল, ভর্তি কমিটি চট্টগ্রাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়	
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# The EC can only go so far with the old ways

## It must show courage and determination to build confidence

If morning shows the day, the Election Commission's is not exactly showing a very good day. If anything, its early days in office have been more reflective of the old, bureaucratic ways of doing things than a genuine drive to build public trust with courage, determination and foresight. This is also evident from how it is approaching problems in the run-up to the June 15 Cumilla City Cooperation (CCC) election – its first major hurdle to overcome. The fact that the CEC has refused to exert his authority after a lawmaker reportedly flouted an official directive shows that the EC has a lot to do to effect change, nowhere more so than within itself.

Such helpless surrender is a throwback to his predecessor who would notoriously refuse to take responsibility for any electoral irregularity reported. But this, we must say, is unbecoming of a commission tasked with damage control. It came with the promise of restoring confidence in the electoral system after two highly controversial general elections. No one expects it to deliver miracles. But executing the right policies and standing firm in the face of opposition, particularly from the ruling quarters, is part of the job. It means finding ways around non-compliant parties as well as legal and institutional bottlenecks to prepare the ground for fair and participatory elections.

The EC's ongoing dialogue with all stakeholders involved should give it pause for thought. There are ideas galore, but ideas alone don't work without a strong motivation. During its sixth round of talks held on Sunday, former election commissioners shared some observations that are worth consideration, such as the importance of inclusive elections and the decisive role that the ruling party can play in creating a conducive environment. They talked about the importance of a neutral election-time government. One stressed the need for completing counting of votes in daytime to avoid the influence of "jinns and ghosts" after sunset. There was even a suggestion for placing the public administration and home ministries under the authority of the EC during polls to ensure the neutrality of these vital institutions.

The CEC also weighed in by reminding everyone that the EC alone cannot hold elections – that "voters and political parties are vital stakeholders" too. True, but where is the initiative to gain the trust of voters and opposition parties? What message do they get when the CEC refuses to take action to ensure that the rules apply to everyone during election campaigns? We urge the EC to own up to its part of the responsibility to hold fair elections. We also urge the government to ensure that it has unconditional support in fulfilling that responsibility.

# Who will hold the reins of brick kiln owners?

## Toxic smoke from these kilns is damaging crops, health

WE as a nation are proving to be consistent in damaging the environment in every possible way. We have destroyed most of our natural forests, followed by the deliberate pollution of vital resources like water and air. With the vanishing forests, many beautiful species of birds and animals have also vanished, and many surviving species of sweet-water fish may soon be gone too as water pollution continues across the country. As for air pollution, we've managed to hit all the wrong indicators to become a country with the worst air quality.

Brick kilns – there are still many of them – are a major reason why we have a huge presence of micro-pollutants in the air. This daily has been regularly publishing reports on the assault of brick kilns on nature, highlighting the fact that most of them still burn wood as fuel which contributes to the release of lethal carbon-monoxide in the air.

In this respect, another dismal story was published on Monday. It shows how toxic smoke from brick kilns is damaging Boro paddy on nearly 100 acres of land in Mirzapur upazila, Tangail. The fume is damaging vegetables and other forms of vegetation growing adjacent to the paddy fields. It is disconcerting to learn that the brick kilns start their operation before the onset of the Boro paddy cultivation season in most areas. We have often come across graphic reports in print and electronic media of half-ripe paddy turning black and lifeless on the fields, causing huge financial losses to the farmers.

Though some brick kiln owners reportedly complied with the government directive to keep the height of the chimney at 130 feet, in reality, many owners hardly follow the rules. As a result, toxic emissions continue to damage the Boro paddy before the harvest time. The local administration and political representatives seldom admit responsibility for this situation or do what's necessary to make these unruly elements conduct their business in a responsible manner.

The story from Tangail is but a reflection of what's happening all over the country with brick kilns spewing toxic smoke in the air. Besides damaging important cash crops and vegetation, it also causes health problems by entering the respiratory system of humans. If there is any record of the number of people who die each year from air pollution, it would be frightening. The government, therefore, must take urgent steps to undo this damage and save our environment by punishing non-compliant brick field owners.

# New Election Commission, Same Old Course?



Mohammad Al-Masum Molla is deputy chief reporter at The Daily Star.

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

THE Election Commission of Bangladesh has been mired in controversies over the last decade. Bar a few rare instances, the elections held at the national and local levels since the 2009 general election have been questionable at best. From allegations of rigging and voter fraud to instances of violence and murder in the vicinity of polling centres – every election has been marred by one or multiple such incidents. Consequently, the people of the country have lost their trust in the electoral system, which is an ominous sign for a democratic process. And for this situation, the last two election commissions, led by Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad and KM Nurul Huda, are largely to blame.

So when the process of appointing the new election commission started at the end of last year, many political parties did not show any interest. BNP and some other political parties did not even join the dialogues leading to the formation of the new election commission. Although the new commission was formed through a new law in February, it is yet to gain the trust and confidence of a good number of opposition parties, including the BNP.

There was a time when only the major political parties used to publicly express their distrust of the electoral system and the election commission. But at the time the present Election Commission was formed, it became clear how far the crisis of confidence had reached, because the response from the general public was lacklustre and rather unenthusiastic.

It is in this context that the new commission adopted a submissive tone since its formation. Soon after the formal announcement, I spoke to the newly appointed chief election commissioner (CEC), Kazi Habibul Awal, over the phone. He said, "If I can hold acceptable [to all] elections, maybe I will have the joy of success, or else I will have regret."

Still, we remain optimistic as the CEC has said they will try their best to hold a participatory election. He also said it was not possible for the commission alone to ensure a good election. In this case, all political parties and law enforcement agencies would also have to do their part – so would the civil society and the media.

There are several challenges before the Habibul Awal-led commission. First, the opposition parties need to be reassured enough so that they participate in the elections. Second, the commission should present a roadmap for overcoming the shortcomings of the last elections to the nation. Third, it should make it



▲ **The Election Commission needs to set a new course of action, instead of following their predecessors' footsteps, if they want to hold credible elections.**

FILE PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

clear to everyone that they would not be susceptible to external interference while performing their duties – and be prepared to resign en masse if they are unable to do so. Overcoming these challenges are key to making the upcoming general election beyond reproach.

This is also where our disappointment

the political parties, the administration and other stakeholders. Asked if the election would be acceptable if BNP did not take part in it, the former CEC said BNP was a big political party, so it would not be acceptable if the next parliamentary election was held without it.

The irony of that statement could

lies. So far, the Election Commission seems to have hardly done anything to address these challenges. Although they have not yet confirmed whether the next general election will be held with electronic voting machines (EVMs), it appears that the commission is favouring the idea, despite the fact that most political parties in the country are against using EVMs in elections. Such a stance is only contributing to further distancing the Election Commission from the political opposition.

In May, at a function in Madaripur, Election Commissioner Anisur Rahman said the political parties were welcome to use their own IT experts to examine how EVMs work. He also said the CEC would give a USD 10 million reward to anyone who could find faults with the EVMs. The CEC quickly refuted his fellow commissioner's claim, pointing out that he could not make such bizarre comments.

While the debate over using EVMs in elections continues, former CEC KM Nurul Huda, who is dubbed by detractors as the "organiser of vote by night," said recently that elections under the ruling party were sensitive and challenging. He said it was not possible for the Election Commission alone to hold a free and fair election without the cooperation of all

not be more obvious. Here was the election chief who had overseen the most questionable election in the country's recent history that left little doubt about irregularities among almost everyone who followed it. It could well be said that it was his failure to hold free and fair elections that led the BNP to become sceptical about joining the electoral process, lest they lose face again.

Nurul Huda's former colleague, former election commissioner Mahbub Talukdar, later brought some of the incidents from that time to light. But the former election chief remained undeterred.

Free and fair elections are part and parcel of a democracy. Failure of the previous two election commissions to ensure it has deeply hurt our democratic process, with the general people turning apathetic towards the electoral process and major political players losing faith in it. In order to bounce back from this situation, the Election Commission needs to build trust among both the people of the country and the political parties. And then they must work towards delivering a free, fair and participatory election that is above question and acceptable to everyone. But the new Election Commission seems to be walking the old path of its predecessors, and needs to change course if it wants to be credible.

# Let the Rohingyas set their own narrative



Lt Gen Mohammad Mahfuzur Rahman, PhD, is a retired officer of Bangladesh Army.

MOHAMMAD MAHFUZUR RAHMAN

IT has been quite clear in various segments of society in Bangladesh that the solution to the Rohingya crisis is becoming a distant dream. The attitude of the West and donors is gradually gravitating towards blame instead of appreciation as Bangladesh is criticised for shifting the Rohingyas to Bhasan Char as well as for not allowing proper education, skill development, lack of human rights and employment opportunities. The donors are pressuring Bangladesh to have long-term planning and budget for the Rohingyas. There are loose comments about the option of integrating Rohingyas into Bangladeshi society. Apart from this, a recent China-mediated repatriation initiative of situating 700-800 Rohingyas (few members from a family) at different places in Myanmar is an uncomfortable proposition.

This initiative includes about 300 Hindu Rohingyas (possibly the last of the community in the camp, and as a whole family package). Meanwhile 40,000-60,000 Rohingyas who fled to India during the genocide are also slowly entering Bangladesh – perhaps they are being pushed back, meaning India, the regional heavyweight, is also getting rid of the Rohingyas. So, finally, it all boils down to Bangladesh. The other regional power that is trying to mediate the recent repatriation initiative would favour Myanmar's interest. As a

**Negotiation from a position of weakness seldom brings the desired result. Both Bangladesh and the Rohingyas are bargaining from a position of disadvantage compared to Myanmar.**

student of social studies, I understand Myanmar's interest would get preference over Bangladesh, because Myanmar is a strategic partner of China, whereas Bangladesh is a development partner. Meanwhile, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war, the impending food shortage and fuel politics, the budget for Rohingyas will shrink, and there are indications of this already on the horizon. All these factors are making Bangladesh anxious from a feeling of "being left alone," despite its generous humanitarian approach towards the Rohingyas during their most difficult days.

My understanding is that Rohingyas are not returning to Myanmar anytime soon – not at least the way Bangladesh wants. Interestingly, negotiation from a position of weakness seldom brings the desired result. Both Bangladesh and the Rohingyas are bargaining from a position of disadvantage compared to Myanmar. So what are the alternatives?

Let me share a story. In 2018, at the UN General Assembly session in New York, I was nominated to attend a sideline event organised by the International Labour Organization (ILO). It was on indigenous peoples' rights. There were seven speakers, of whom six were officials of the ILO and other agencies of the United Nations. The only speaker who was not from the UN, but representing the indigenous people of the world, was a Chakma gentleman from Bangladesh. The point I am trying to make here is that the scope for education, exposure and empowerment allows vulnerable communities to have their voices heard in international forums.

The Rohingya issue is becoming a struggle for Bangladesh, and the Rohingyas' plight must not lose its sensitivity, tempo, impetus or strength. Rohingyas should be intellectually, politically and economically empowered

to speak for themselves and they should be assisted to create a position of advantage in international political, intellectual and human rights spaces. This approach is likely to create more anxiety regarding their repatriation among some strategic communities in the country. In spite of that, Bangladesh may consider the reality and allow international-level education, skill and leadership development for the Rohingyas to develop their own narrative and tell their own stories to the world. A developed human resource is better for everyone. On the contrary, a traumatised young population without proper education, hopes and dreams is a ticking "insecurity time bomb."

As the US has recognised the crackdown on the Rohingyas as genocide, this situation may be pursued to help marginal Rohingya families to migrate abroad, and settle there and pursue education. This diaspora, in two decades, will turn into a major advocacy tool. However, Bangladesh has to keep this issue alive and on the table, bringing the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), regional organisations, the egalitarian world community and the UN on board.

It would be too much of an expectation on Myanmar's part that Bangladesh would let "Myanmar's battle" take place on Bangladesh's soil. They should find political solutions for the political issues they have created themselves, instead of securitising them and unnecessarily blaming its neighbours (It is on record that Bangladesh offered joint and coordinated patrolling along the border. This is a gesture that is one of a kind in this neighbourhood. Myanmar has not been very enthusiastic about this). It should, moreover, not be forgotten that even "strategic patience" has a shelf life.



# ‘To properly utilise health budget, we need a system overhaul’

Dr Syed Abdul Hamid, professor at the Institute of Health Economics in Dhaka University, speaks with Naznin Tithi of The Daily Star about the allocation for the health sector in the proposed national budget, and how to efficiently utilise this allocation.

**What do you think about the allocation for the health sector in the proposed budget? Why is the allocation in this sector so low, despite it being one of the most important sectors where improvement is needed?**

In the proposed budget, around Tk 36,864 crore or 5.4 percent of the total budget has been earmarked for the health sector. This is not a great amount. But compared to the rate at which we utilise the allocated funds, this is not a bad amount either. We can, of course, demand a bigger allocation for the sector, but only if the disbursed allocation is utilised in a qualitative and efficient way. Every year, a major part of the allocation remains unutilised due to the weaknesses and flaws in the system. If the health ministry and the relevant government agencies can address these flaws, they can demand increased allocations.

There is no novelty in the budget other than the expansion of maternal health voucher scheme in some upazilas. The overall budget has increased by 14.24 percent, while the health budget has increased by 12.62 percent. The incremental costs and inflation will basically eat up the growth of the allocation.

There are two sides of a budget: operational budget and development budget. If we look at the last five national budgets, we will see that about 20-30 percent of the operational budget and 30-40 percent of the development budget remained unutilised in a fiscal year.

**What are the weaknesses in the system that you mentioned earlier? Why does the budgetary allocation remain unutilised?**

There are various cost centres under the health ministry that prepare their own budgets and send them to the ministry. All the district and upazila hospitals, health complexes and offices send their yearly budgets to the ministry through the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). The government medical colleges and specialised institutes and hospitals – such as the cancer hospital, kidney hospital, etc – also send their estimated budgets to the ministry. Then the health ministry has at least 32 operation plans (OP), whose budgets they determine themselves. In addition, the health ministry takes up some big projects, such as building new medical colleges or hospitals. So, the finance ministry decides the budgetary allocation as per all the health authorities’ estimated expenditures. If they do not have new plans and projects, how will they get an increased budget?

In our upazila health complexes, there are 21 posts of doctors and junior consultants in each of them. But if you go there, you will hardly find seven or eight doctors. This is because there are 11 positions of junior consultants, which always remain vacant. Then there are also many vacant posts of cleaners, medical technologists and drivers. We need to recruit manpower in these positions to provide quality healthcare to people. But that is not done, so the budget remains unutilised.

Currently, the government allocates Tk 1-1.5 crore for buying medicines in every upazila. Although the upazila authorities buy the medicines, they

cannot provide the patients with the necessary medicines because of a basic flaw in the system: there are no modern storage facilities in the upazilas to store medicines, nor are there any storekeepers. It is often seen that the medicines in stock are unutilised and get expired because of the flawed dispensing mechanism. What is missing here is the lack of accountability in failing to provide the people with the services they need. In many cases, the responsible people in the health complexes experience difficulties in buying the medicines because, coming from the medical background, they often find the system of procurement pretty difficult.

It is the duty of the health ministry to find out these problems and resolve them. If the health ministry can find the places where development is needed, then they could ask the finance ministry for the funds. But the health ministry does not have the efficiency, capacity or willingness to do so.

**What are the problems with procurement that the health authorities often face?**

We cannot spend the allocation for procurement efficiently mostly because it takes a lot of time to get the files for procurement approved by the relevant ministries. Then the line directors for the OPs, the programme officers and deputy programmes officers – who are medical professionals – do not have adequate knowledge about procurement. So, despite having crores of taka as funds for procurement, they cannot use it. What they basically do is depend on their accountants or statisticians or staff who have been working there for a long time. These staff are often connected with local syndicates and involved in corruption.

**How do you think the system can be fixed?**

There are some institutional problems that need to be addressed urgently. The health ministry needs approval from the apex government bodies, such as the public administration ministry, planning ministry, the Planning Commission and the finance ministry, for undertaking any new project, procurement and appointing manpower. If the ministry can better negotiate with other ministries, then it can get its projects passed in a short time and apply for more funds.

Another major problem is that those who work at the secretariat come from the administration cadre, who do not have much idea about the medical profession and the health sector. And those who work at the DGHS are mostly doctors without any training for administrative work. But what we need is a combination of both. In the current system, when an important file from the DGHS goes to the ministry for approval, the ministry delays it because they hardly understand the importance of the matter. So, a lot of time is wasted to approve a new project or plan.

If we could make a new stream under the BCS medical cadre, who will be dedicated to health administration from the beginning of their careers, much of the problem could be solved. Those who will go to the administration cadre will be prepared with managerial skills, but will also have medical knowledge. If that can be done, the unnecessary waste of



▲  
**Dr Syed Abdul Hamid**  
PHOTO: COURTESY

time at different government offices to get the important projects approved can be stopped.

In addition, the organograms of the different institutions must be changed and modernised – particularly the upazila health complex organogram. The health ministry must do this with cooperation from the public administration ministry.

And a small development in medicine procurement can change the situation in the upazila health complexes. We need to set up a modern storage facility and a medical storekeeper to keep track of the medicines in stock, using digital technology. The expiry dates of the medicines can be tracked by using colour codes: for example, medicines that would expire in six months can be kept under the yellow section, and those that will expire in a year can be kept under the green section, and the medicines that must be used as soon as possible should be kept under the red section. That way, no medicine will go to waste. Is that too difficult to implement? If we can make this small change and invest here, then the funds can be spent in a qualitative way.

**In the last two years of the pandemic, we saw how weak our healthcare system is, and where improvement is needed. Is there any reflection of that lesson in the proposed budget?**

The Covid-19 pandemic has opened our eyes. It has shown us that nothing is as important as our health. The pandemic has exposed the weaknesses and pitfalls of our health sector. Although during the two years of the pandemic we took some ad hoc measures to improve the

healthcare services, we got back to our business-as-usual attitude as the pandemic waned.

What we realised during the pandemic was that the preventive care of our health service had been totally ignored – the government struggled to make people wear masks or maintain social distance. Besides establishing a good immunisation programme, we couldn’t make much progress there. Preventive care means that we need to educate people about health safety, which is a continuous process: we need to educate them about the importance of safe air, safe food, safe water, and a safe environment. But we don’t seem to have any plan at work to improve our preventive care. So, naturally, there is no allocation for this in the budget.

We have told this time and again during the pandemic, but nothing has changed. For example, we have an office for preventive care at the upazila level. But there is not enough manpower to run those offices. This needs to change.

**How can we utilise the full budgetary allocation in the health sector and increase the budget?**

Usually, the funds in the health sector are disbursed in four instalments. While the first two instalments are released very quickly, the last two instalments are disbursed very late. The last instalment is given in late May or early June, and all the procurement and purchases have to be finished by June 14. So, in most cases, the money disbursed in the last instalment cannot be properly utilised due to time constraint. If the last instalment can be disbursed in April, then the managers at upazila level have enough time to utilise the funds following proper procedures – floating tenders, selecting vendors, etc.

Then there should be provisions for emergency funds in our health budget. Say, for example, if the district hospitals are annually given Tk 10-20 lakh and the upazila hospitals are given Tk 5 lakh as emergency funds, we will need only Tk 37 crore. With this money, the hospitals can meet their emergency needs such as repairing machinery or making emergency purchases. This will not only improve the quality of the service provided, but will also ensure that the fund is utilised properly.

Then, if the vacant posts in the government hospitals can be filled by recruiting manpower, they can ask for more allocations. If we can ensure proper utilisation, we can get two-three times more benefits from the same budget. But for that, we need to completely overhaul the system.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Dance bit

5 Entices

10 Deadly

12 Sluggish

13 Different

14 Up to now

15 “Cry – River”

16 LAX guess

18 Can. neighbor

19 Radio-emitting star

21 Hearty entree

22 Siamese caretaker

24 Eagle’s home

25 Moneyed traveler

29 Traffic marker

30 Rabble

32 Cart puller

33 Bear’s lair

34 Lobbying org.

35 Glisten

37 Pol’s concern

39 Pull gently

40 TV’s O’Brien

41 Yellow-gray

42 Long for

DOWN

1 Jazz dance

2 Add

3 Let it out

4 Cobbler’s

5 Cousin

6 Maggie’s sister

6 One, for Juan

7 Prove false

8 Pencil end

9 Sipping aid

11 Folds

17 Galley with

18 banks of oars

20 Declare

21 Undoes a dele

23 Doomed liner

25 Painter

26 Reynolds

27 Site of Sevilla

28 Carter’s

29 successor

31 Fills parts

31 Perfume

33 Turn down

36 Silent assent


38 Do a yard job

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com.

SATURDAY’S ANSWERS

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Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences

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Department of Pharmacy

Admission Circular (Batch: 02P)

Fall 2022 (August-January)

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**N.B. The authority keeps the right to cancel the application/admission at any time due to submission of incorrect application or misleading information**

Contact (Application form and further information)

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**Prof. Dr. Md. Maniruzzaman Khandaker**  
Dean  
Faculty of Life and Earth Sciences  
& Convener, M. Pharm. (Professional) Program Admission Committee

GD-1220





The Daily Star

# Implementation of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

**A roundtable discussion titled “Implementation of NAP-WPS (2019-2021) and CSO Involvement” was organized by Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) with the support of UN Women Bangladesh on 8 June, 2022. The Daily Star was the media partner. The virtual meeting was streamed live on the Facebook page of The Daily Star. The meeting was chaired by the Executive Director of BNPS, Rokeya Kabir. Women and human rights organization, academicians, journalist, government officials and representatives from law enforcement agencies attended the event.**



**Shahnaz Sumi,**  
Deputy Director,  
BNPS  
National Action  
Plan on Women,  
Peace and Security  
(NAP-WPS) was  
launched by the  
Bangladesh  
Government

in November, 2019. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is leading the action plan along with 11 other ministries. Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS) and Bangladesh Mohila Parishad are associated with this action plan as CSOs. A monitoring team will be formed involving the feminist network of women organizations in Bangladesh to monitor the implementation process of NAP-WPS.

The time frame for implementing this plan was 2019-2022. We are already into the final year, and there is very little progress in its implementation. Today we want to discuss the following issues: progress of the action plan, how it can be associated with the national budget, how natural disaster, manmade disaster, VAWG, violent extremism can be addressed, how we can move forward jointly with the law enforcement agencies and how we can extend the time frame of NAP-WPS for its effective implementation.



**Rokeya Kabir,**  
Executive Director,  
BNPS  
The UN Security  
Council adopted  
resolution 1325  
on women, peace  
and security  
on October 31,  
2000 following

the demand of global women's movement. The resolution reaffirms the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their meaningful participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

In the context of Bangladesh where intolerance and violence against women are widely prevalent, a National Action Plan was formulated in 2019 under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and with the support from UN Women. BNPS supported this process by collecting evidence, opinion, information from different areas of the country. The plan can be an effective tool for advancing women's cause and ensuring their participation in the socio-political and economic development process. Unfortunately, we haven't been able to make much progress in the implementation of this national action plan.

In today's roundtable, we will discuss how we can take this plan to the grassroots level and ensure proper implementation of it as well as how the existing barriers to women empowerment can be removed.



**Tania Sharmin,**  
Planning  
Monitoring and  
Reporting Analyst,  
UN Women  
Bangladesh  
Bangladesh is  
pioneer when  
it comes to  
women, peace

and security agenda. It played a key role in the adoption of Resolution 1325 which for the first time called for a meaningful participation of women in peacebuilding and resolution of conflicts.

Bangladesh has made commitment to the global normative framework and the implementation of 1325 Resolution by adopting a National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security (NAP-WPS) in 2019. This plan will be extended further to ensure its full and effective implementation.

UN Women, in partnership with BNPS, is supporting grassroots civil society organizations throughout the country to capacitate them on women, peace and security (WPS) issues and to localize the agenda so that the

implementation of the plan can take place with the government and the civil society in tandem.

We must remember that the WPS agenda is not only applicable for conflict situations. We are living in a global pandemic context where the peace and security of women have been severely compromised, as women are disproportionately impacted by the effects of the pandemic. The absence of conflict does not always mean peace. We need to make sure that we take this WPS agenda throughout the nation and enable young women, young men, civil society and all other actors to support the implementation of the WPS agenda.

Gender inequality remains the most stubborn and persistent of all inequalities. UN Secretary-General António Guterres has stated, “Today, women's leadership is a cause, tomorrow, it must be the norm.” So we need strong women leaders both at national and local levels to take the WPS agenda forward.



**Shamsuddoza Sajen,**  
Commercial  
Supplement Editor,  
The Daily Star  
Although there  
is no large-scale  
conflict or war  
in Bangladesh,  
there is a wide  
prevalence of

violence, particularly against women, in the country. In the Global Peace Index 2021, Bangladesh ranked 91 among 163 countries on gender based violence. Bangladesh is also one of the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change, and

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Extend the implementation period of NAP-WPS.
- » Strong women leadership is needed to take the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP-WPS) agenda forward.
- » Allocate funds for CSOs so that they can make meaningful contributions to the implementation of NAP-WPS.
- » Increase budgetary allocation for gender specific projects and make the budgetary process gender-responsive.
- » Recovery efforts in WPS agenda should focus on climate change, Rohingya refugee crisis and Covid-19 pandemic.
- » Activate the consultative platform of NAP-WPS.
- » A parallel report on the progress of NAP-WPS should be prepared by CSOs.
- » A media strategy should be developed for the implementation of the NAP-WPS.
- » Coordination among all the stakeholders needed to implement NAP-WPS.
- » A social movement should be created to end violence against women.

Bangladeshi women are confronting serious negative consequences of it. Therefore, the WPS agenda is very relevant for us.

Media can play a key role in the implementation of the national action plan on WPS agenda. Gender-balanced and gender-sensitive reporting on peace and security issues can contribute significantly to the integration of the gender lens into the male-dominated peace and security paradigm. A media strategy should be developed in this regard.



**Nasrin Begum,**  
Coordinator, BNPS  
Civil Society  
Organisations  
(CSOs) have  
been preparing  
themselves for  
quite some time  
to contribute to  
the implementation

of this action plan. As part of this process, BNPS has selected 54 women organizations from all over the country through mapping process and developed their capacity on the WPS agenda. These grassroots organizations are now able to play a big role in disaster preparedness, community policing, gender responsive early warning mechanism for preventing violent extremism and prevention of gender-based violence. Hence, the government should immediately start the implementation of the action plan on women peace and security.

In the NAP-WPS there is no provision for providing funds to the CSOs for their initiatives. They have

to raise and spend their funds by themselves that often become very challenging.



**Dr Meghna Guhathakurta,**  
Executive Director,  
RIB  
The existing  
national action  
plan can be  
extended for a  
year since the  
plan couldn't

be implemented properly due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The NAP-WPS didn't pay adequate attention to the Rohingya refugee crisis. During the formulation of the plan in 2019, it was thought that the problem will not persist for a long period. However, it has now become a protracted crisis for Bangladesh. Hence we should consider this issue while revising the NAP-WPS. Another important issue to be considered seriously is the impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

Recovery is one of the three pillars through which the national action plan will be implemented. We have to strengthen our recovery efforts by putting special emphasis on climate change, the Rohingya refugee crisis and Covid-19 pandemic.

Domestic violence is the most prevalent type of violence in Bangladesh. It has become so pervasive that a single ministry will not be able to prevent it. It requires collective action involving all the relevant stakeholders. It should be given special emphasis in the WPS agenda. We also need to take preventive measures to combat hate speech against women.



**Mohammad Golam Sarwar,**  
Assistant  
Professor, Law  
Department,  
Dhaka University  
Women and girls  
have been most  
severely affected  
by the impacts

of Covid-19. Gender-based violence increased drastically during the pandemic. We should consider this aspect while revising the WPS action plan.

A major barrier to the implementation of NAP-WPS was the lack of orientation among key stakeholders. Many of them are not fully aware of their specific responsibilities. UN Women has been providing assistance to the Foreign Ministry in this regard. The orientation process should be strengthened further to ensure proper implementation of the action plan.

A remarkable aspect of NAP-WPS is the inclusion of CSOs in the consultative platform. This platform should be activated immediately.

There are still many laws in our country that promote and perpetuate gender inequality and gender-based discrimination. We have to identify those laws and policies and reform them. We have to rethink the government's reservation to CEDAW.

We also need to change our institutional outlook. In many cases, a victim of gender-based violence has to go through further ordeal during the investigation process. As a result, many

cases of violence against women go unreported.

Finally, we have to develop the capacity of our institutions to fight against gender-based violence. We often talk about gender budgeting which means preparing budgets or analyzing them from a gender perspective. Unfortunately, it doesn't reflect in our budgeting process.



**Dr Fauzia Moslem,**  
President,  
Bangladesh Mahila  
Parishad  
I don't see  
any gaps in  
government  
policies  
regarding women

empowerment, but the problem lies in the implementation of these policies. As to the implementation of CEDAW, the government often says that our society is not yet ready to accept such modification. But it is the duty of the government to prepare the society for such developments.

Civil society organisations, particularly women organisations, in Bangladesh have been at the forefront of the women's rights movement. However, the space for CSOs is gradually shrinking in our country, and therefore, the women's rights movement is also losing strength.

The National Action Plan has three pillars: 1) prevention, 2) participation, and 3) protection, relief, and recovery. We should evaluate what progress has been made in these three sectors and what are the outputs.

We have to transform the women's rights movement into a social movement to prevent the wide prevalence of gender-based violence.

The galloping growth of madrasa education in Bangladesh is a matter of serious concern. Our constitution quite categorically stresses a common education system for all. The government should work to fulfil this constitutional pledge.



**Sheepa Hafiza,**  
Gender specialist  
We should focus  
more on the  
impacts of the  
pandemic while  
revising the  
national action  
plan.

Civil society organisations should start preparing a parallel report on the progress of NAP-WPS. It will ensure better implementation of the action plan. We should conduct a rigorous study to identify the impacts of gender-based violence on the peace situation of our country.

Journalists should be made familiar with the components of NAP-WPS to make the action plan more visible as well as engaging them in the implementation process.



**Amena Begum BPM,**  
Deputy  
Inspector  
General (DIG),  
Special Branch,  
Bangladesh Police  
We have  
formulated a  
strategic plan on  
what role women

police can play to ensure the security of every woman in Bangladesh. We follow up on the progress of the strategic plan on a regular basis. UN Women is also providing us support in this regard.

Bangladesh women police have been working with exemplary dedication in the peacekeeping missions since 2000. We sent an all-female police contingent to Haiti in 2010. Currently, another all-female police contingent is deployed in DR Congo.

One-stop service desks for women, children, persons with disabilities and elderly persons have been set up at all 659 police stations across the country, marking the birth centenary celebrations of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. This desk is led by a female police officer. Last year, we provided support to 3,44,000 persons through this help desk.

A large number of women faced cyber violence during the pandemic.

We launched police cyber support for women to counter this menace. The programme is run by police women.

Female officers of the Armed Police Battalion are also working in Rohingya support shelters. An all-female contingent can be deployed to run these support shelters.

We have a gender module. We are working on upgrading this module in collaboration with UN Women. We will hold a day-long training programme on gender for the newly recruited constables this month. We will soon upload an online gender module for the male police members who didn't get gender sensitization training. They can complete the module online, and the completion certificate will be added to their service book.

Police women badly need day-care centres. We have the necessary infrastructure but don't have adequate human resources for running these centres. The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs can help us in this regard. There should be day-care facilities in all localities so that more women can participate in the workforce.

Finally, I want to claim that we are trying our best to implement the NAP-WPS. Other government institutions should also come forward. The Ministry of Public Administration should be included in this action plan. They can help coordinate among different ministries.



**Farida Yasmin,**  
Deputy Police  
Commissioner,  
Professional  
Standards  
& Internal  
Investigation,  
Dhaka  
Metropolitan  
Police, Dhaka

We have been providing support to women, children, persons with disabilities and elderly persons through our one-stop help desks. However, we don't have adequate training to address the trauma faced by these persons. If we get training on counselling skills we will be able to provide better services. We also need to develop the capacity of our rehabilitation centres. Finally, we all need to work together and ensure coordination of our efforts to fight violence against women effectively.

**Rokeya Kabir**

Women's rights organizations get a minuscule portion of the government's development budget. We should raise our voices for increasing the allocation to the gender fund.

When a woman faces violence, not only she personally gets traumatized, it also affects all other women and their family members. A country can't make progress keeping half of its population behind trapped in the four walls of the households and in the threat of violence inside or outside of the household.

The spirit of our Liberation War is that every citizen is equal irrespective of their religion, ethnicity, gender, or class identity. Everyone has the right to live, to be free, and to feel safe. We must live up to that spirit.

Women made equal contribution to the Liberation War than men but suffered worst sexual violence. However, we only mention them as victims of rape and abuse. Many women actively participated in the war but we do not recognize their role. BNPS has prepared a list of female freedom fighters and shared it with the Liberation War Ministry. More work is needed in this regard. In this respect, BNPS took efforts to train journalists for gender sensitive reporting of rape, to build national narrative such a way where women's heroic role is reflected. Still it needs more work to do.

Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in many sectors. However, we are still lagging behind in terms of ensuring a safe environment for our women. If we fail to do that then all our achievements will be eroding, since the cost of VAWG is very high.

Finally, we all should work together to implement the NAP-WPS. If it is implemented properly it will help remove many barriers for the emancipation of women in Bangladesh.



## Dokic thought of suicide!

AFP, SYDNEY

Australian former tennis star Jelena Dokic revealed on Monday that she came close to taking her own life just a few weeks ago.

The 39-year-old wrote a lengthy message on Instagram, saying she has been suffering with mental illness and nearly resorted to suicide on April 28.

"I almost jumped off my 26th floor balcony and took my own life," she wrote.

"Everything is blurry. Everything is dark. No tone, no picture, nothing makes sense... just tears, sadness, depression, anxiety and pain.

"The last six months have been tough. It's been constant crying everywhere. Will never forget the day, I just wanted the pain and the suffering to stop.

"I pulled myself off the edge, don't even know how I managed to do it."

## Haaland feeling at home at City

AFP, MANCHESTER

Erling Haaland believes he will only improve working under Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola after completing his transfer from Borussia Dortmund to the English champions on Monday.

City announced last month they had agreed a deal with the German giants after triggering Haaland's reported £51 million (\$63 million) release clause.

The 21-year-old has now signed a five-year contract to follow in the footsteps of his father Alfie Inge Haaland, who played for City from 2000-2003.

"I was born in England, I've been a City fan my whole life, I know a lot about the club," Haaland told Man City TV. "In the end two things; I feel at home and I think I can develop and get the best out of my game at City."



All-rounder Mosaddek Hossain posted a picture of the Bangladesh players hanging out at the team hotel in Antigua following the three-day practice match against CWI President's XI, which ended in a draw. The first Test between Bangladesh and West Indies will get underway on Thursday.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

## Will Shakib's captaincy cure Bangladesh's DRS malaise?

NABID YEASIN

Technological advancement has aided all forms of sports worldwide. While the introduction of the Decision Review System (DRS) has seen the rate of errors made in matches drop down significantly and also provided a clarity to players and viewers alike, its effectiveness still depends highly on the refined decision-making from the cricketers out on the field.

And in modern cricket, the three DRS calls allocated in Test cricket to each of the teams go a long way in almost determining the outcome of a game.

Apart from the usual cricketing issues, the one other thing that Bangladesh have struggled with in recent times, especially in Tests, is their inability to make proper use of the DRS.

To put things into perspective, Bangladesh have seen a total of 10 unsuccessful reviews in their recent-most two-Test series against Sri Lanka while getting only six reviews upheld successfully.

In the series before that, away to South Africa, Bangladesh saw a total of 12 unsuccessful reviews against six successful ones in the two-match Test series.

Even in the preceding away Test series against New Zealand in January this year, Bangladesh had 11 reviews turned down while seeing only five reviews being successful. Interestingly, it was in the first Test in Mount Maunganui in which the Tigers clinched a historic eight-wicket victory that they saw a total of eight reviews turned down.

But it is true that only the numbers don't accurately reflect the review

taking precision of a side as not all the unsuccessful reviews were due to a bad call from the Tigers' camp with a number of decisions turned down on umpire's call. Then again, even considering that the numbers aren't a true reflection of Bangladesh's ability to make the right call in going upstairs at opportune moments, a total of 33 unsuccessful reviews against 17 successful ones in last six Tests certainly do not bode well for the Tigers.

**In the six Tests played in their last three series, Bangladesh had seen a total of 33 unsuccessful reviews.**

**During the same period, the Tigers were only able to take 17 successful reviews.**

**However, not all the unsuccessful reviews were due to a bad call from the Tigers' camp as a number of decisions were turned down on umpire's call.**

In fact, there were instances of woeful and, at times, hilarious DRS calls made by Bangladesh. The most glaring blunder made by Mominul Haque's side was probably the one made against the Kiwis during their historic Test win.

In the 37th over of New Zealand's second innings, a loud appeal from bowler Taskin

Ahmed and the fielders were made for an LBW against right-hander Ross Taylor. Even though the umpire had turned it down immediately, Mominul went on to review it with seconds left on the timer only to be embarrassed by the review shown on the big screen. Not only did the ball have any connection with the pad, it was defended with the middle of the bat by the Kiwi batter, which only brought to ears a muffled laughter from the commentary box.

During the first Test against Sri Lanka in Chattogram last month, Bangladesh lost two of their reviews inside the first session of the game.

Not only that Bangladesh regretted taking ill-timed reviews in recent past, there have also been handful of instances when the situation was the other way around. Such was the case in the second Test against South Africa when Mominul decided not to review after umpire had turned down a solid LBW appeal from pacer Khaled Ahmed against Sarel Erwee – who was batting only on 4 at that time.

It is true that the skipper only gets a few seconds before making a DRS call and has to rely heavily on the body language of his troops, still the Tigers, as a team, ought to follow a more judicious approach in making such calls.

With the Mominul-era concluded, it will be interesting to see how Bangladesh do in regards to their DRS calls in the upcoming Test series against the West Indies under the leadership of Shakib Al Hasan, considered one of the 'best thinkers' of the game.

## Booters hoping to end on a high

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh were looking forward to ending their Asian Cup Qualifiers campaign on a high ahead of today's third and final group-stage match against hosts Malaysia at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium in Kuala Lumpur.

The match will get underway at 7:00pm (Bangladesh Standard time) and be broadcast on T-Sports.

Bangladesh are bottom of the four-team table in their group, with no points to show despite impressing with their never-say-die approach.

Meanwhile second-placed Malaysia, with three points, will hope they can secure a place in the next round with a runners-up finish, although their fate also hinges on the outcome of the day's first match between group leaders Bahrain and third-placed Turkmenistan.

Bangladesh suffered narrow defeats to the group's higher-ranked sides, Bahrain and Turkmenistan, and are expected to face another stiff challenge not only from Malaysia, but also from their huge home crowd.

However, Bangladesh coach Javier Cabrera saw the crowd as motivation for his charges.

"Playing in front of 70 or 80 thousand spectators is not only extra motivation for players, it is a player's dream to play in front of such a big crowd in that kind of atmosphere. It is the perfect moment for us to show that we can compete against anyone. It is time to be consistent," the Spaniard told reporters at the pre-match press conference in Malaysia yesterday.



"It is a fantastic opportunity for the boys and will be beautiful day for us to do our best. Show consistency again like we did in the past three matches. I think we deserve more and want to give something to our supporters and go home with something. We believe in ourselves and we will do our best tomorrow."

Responding to a question about whether his side could score against Malaysia, Cabrera said: "Malaysia are going to give everything from the first second and try kill the match in the first 10 minutes. You need full concentration and attention to be able to stop them, hold them and punish them."

Captain Jamal Bhuiyan believes the pressure will be on Malaysia and his teammates are ready to deliver their best.

"Tomorrow [Tuesday] is our last game and everyone is looking forward to it. We want to end with a good result. I think all players are motivated for the match," Jamal said. "It is a big match and the pressure will be on Malaysia because they have to win. Of course, we also need a result but I think we have to run more than Malaysian to get something."

Bangladesh's history against Malaysia is inauspicious, with six defeats in nine matches, although the last two meetings between the teams in 2012 and 2015 ended in draws. Bangladesh's lone win over Malaysia came courtesy of a 2-1 result in the 1982 Asian Games.

## The breeding grounds for young cricketers

SPORTS REPORTER

School cricket has played a huge role in scouting aspiring cricketers over the years and, following a halt due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the prestigious tournament once again made a positive impact as Shishu Niketon High School clinched the Prime Bank National School Cricket title by beating Meherpur Government High School by 59 runs in the final yesterday.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board's attempt to rekindle school cricket competitions, where youngsters can showcase their talents in a festive environment, was spearheaded by board director and BCB School Cricket Committee chairman Obeid Rashid Nizam. The matches being telecast on TV has only added to the excitement.

Shishu Niketon leg spinner Shaikh Imtiaz Shihab, who was named player of the tournament, starred in the final with a five-wicket haul as Meherpur were bundled out for just 43 runs in chase of a modest of 102 at the Shamsuzzoha Sports Complex in Narayanganj.

Like Shihab, who scalped 33 wickets in 10 games in the tournament, many others have been testament to school cricket's being a source of producing cricketers at the grassroots level.

"School cricket is a regular program under game development activities. The tournament didn't hit the field due to the Covid-19, but it was a regular feature in



Rangpur Shishu Niketon High School players run for joy after beating Meherpur Govt High School by 59 runs in the final of the Prime Bank National School Cricket Competition at the Shamsuzzoha Sports Complex in Narayanganj yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

the past. We previously had around 550 schools participating but this time we reduced it to 348. The reason was to ensure quality," BCB age-level selector and former Bangladesh opener Hannan Sarkar told The Daily Star. "We made sure schools would meet specific criteria to be able to participate so that the standards of the

teams could be ensured."

Selectors will conduct a training camp with 120 cricketers from the school cricket tournament and form a 15-member squad. They are also planning to provide scholarships to the cricketers.

"Shihab was in our national under-15 camp and is part of the set-up. When we

make the shortlist, you will see a majority of our age-group cricketers coming through the process. However, there are some players who somehow miss out or were dropped. Those players got the opportunity to showcase their worth," he said.

Hannan also chimed in on why he

felt that Bangladesh were struggling to produce leg spinners for the senior side despite many leggies coming through the system.

"We announced the under-15 squad recently and included two leg spinners. We have three leg spinners in the under-17 squad and we will have four to five leg spinners in the team in the upcoming under-19 squad. We never had a shortage of leg spinners at the age-level. But I don't want to comment about what happens after that. Honestly, I think maybe clubs don't show interest in playing leg spinners at the competitive level. That is probably one aspect," Hannan said.

There have been instances of players attempting to hide their age to fit into the system, but Hannan said the board ensures proper medical tests to determine age.

"When the medical tests start before the tournament, we have one representative from the board designated to follow procedures. We also have a doctor in the team along with district and divisional coaches. Officials provide papers such as a birth certificate.

"Each individual grows differently so it's quite difficult to determine age perfectly. But we take it that sixty to seventy percent is right. If we have any doubts about a player, we go for bone tests as an authentic and final option," he added.





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# Follow health protocols to contain Covid

Says health minister amid steady rise in virus cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday urged all to maintain health protocols as Covid cases in the country rose for the 12th consecutive day.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported 128 new cases yesterday. The number was 109 the previous day.

The test positivity rate, however, declined slightly yesterday. It stood at 1.91 percent after 6,668 samples were tested across the country. The previous day, the rate was 2.06 percent.

No death from the virus was reported yesterday. "Covid has not yet been eradicated... though the situation is normal now, it may take an alarming turn any time," said Zahid at the Secretariat, reports UNB.

"Everyone must follow the health rules and wear a mask," he said after a meeting on the automation of admission process at private medical and dental colleges.

Since June 2, the country has been seeing a steady rise in Covid cases.

Amid such a situation, Zahid urged those who are yet to be vaccinated to get jabs immediately.

The minister further said that in the proposed budget, the health sector received an allocation of around Tk 4,000 crore which is higher than that in the previous fiscal year.

About the automation of student admission at private medical and dental colleges, he said this will make the admission process transparent.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

For just Tk 600 each a day, these men offload huge logs from boats in Kamrangirchar. The logs are brought to Dhaka from distant places to feed the city's need for furniture, windows and doors. A slip by even one of the workers could lead to the log crushing them all.

## Khaleda under close observation in hospital



UNB, Dhaka

The medical board at Evercare Hospital yesterday decided to keep BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia under close observation for a few more days.

AZM Zahid Hossain, a personal physician of the 76-year-old former prime minister, informed UNB about this after the board, formed for ensuring her proper treatment, held a meeting.

"The medical board today [yesterday] reviewed madam's latest condition and various medical test reports. They've decided to keep her under close observation for some more

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Give pointers on polls-time govt TIB asks EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday said the Election Commission can give suggestions to the government or the authorities concerned on how the polls-time government should conduct itself.

The Bangladesh chapter of the Berlin-based anti-corruption watchdog, which also carries out research on various election issues, also proposed that the EC should decide to use electronic voting machine (EVM) only after ensuring that it is accepted by all stakeholders and is technically faultless.

"Election Commission said that they are still thinking about it [use of EVM] and they are yet to take any decision regarding the matter," TIB Executive Director Itteharuzzaman told reporters after holding a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibur Awal at the EC office in the capital.

"People of the country have expectations and concerns about the character, behaviour, shape and composition of the election-time government... The EC can give its suggestions to the government or the authorities concerned on how the polls-time government should behave during elections. The Election Commission can also propose to reform laws if needed," he said.

A polls-time government usually works to perform routine functions after the election schedule is announced. In November 17, 2013, the then government formed a polls-time cabinet ahead of January 5, 2014 elections.

No such government was formed ahead of the last national election held on December 30, 2018.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

## OTT draft rules prohibit news, talk-show broadcast

Info ministry submits outline to HC

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The information ministry yesterday submitted to the High Court a draft of the OTT (Over-The-Top) regulations prohibiting broadcast of news or talk-shows, except for the contents defined in the draft, on the OTT platforms.

The HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil fixed October 19 for passing an order on the issue, and asked the ministry and Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to keep it updated about future developments.

According to the draft, OTT is a type of media service that broadcasts entertainment programmes, drama, movie, documentary, sports, infotainment, advertisement and video on demand or telecast permitted contents of television channels live through internet or equivalent technology in Bangladesh.

It further said no news and talk-shows, except for the

contents defined in the draft, can be run on the OTT platforms in any manner.

It has also banned all contents that go against the spirit of the Liberation War, the country's culture and social values; damage communal harmony; create threats to state discipline and its unitary form; and contradict the existing laws.

Complying with an earlier HC directive, Deputy Attorney General Tushar Kanti Roy placed the draft, "Over-The-Top (OTT) Content Based Service Providing and Conduct Regulation-2021", before the HC.

The BTRC also submitted a draft on "the Regulation for Digital and Social Media Platforms, 2021" through its lawyer Khandaker Reza-E-Raquib to the HC during the hearing on a writ petition filed over the issue.

Talking to The Daily Star, writ petitioner and Supreme Court lawyer Md Tanvir Ahmed said the information ministry drafted the OTT regulations prohibiting the publication and broadcast of

news or talk-shows, except for the contents defined in the draft, on digital platforms, which may be passed as a law by parliament.

"I am not competent enough to say whether the regulations may hamper the freedom of press and expression," he said.

DAG Tushar Kanti Roy declined to comment on the regulations, saying he was yet to go through the draft.

In July 2020, Tanvir submitted to the HC the writ petition as a public interest litigation saying several OTT platforms contain questionable and obscene contents and films from Bangladesh and India. Those contents cause moral degradation of people, particularly the juvenile and the youths.

The ministry's draft said the national anthem, the national flag, the state principles and the spirit of the Liberation War cannot be insulted by any content intentionally or out of prejudice.

The OTT platforms cannot

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

## INVOLVEMENT IN CRIME

## Opposition MPs blast law enforcers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT


Opposition lawmakers from the BNP, Jatiya Party and Gonoforum yesterday blasted the law enforcement agencies for their "involvement in various offences", including enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings.

The MPs criticised the agencies in parliament while placing their cut motions over an additional allocation of Tk 178 crore for the Public Security Division of the home ministry in the supplementary budget for 2021-22 fiscal year.

Participating in the discussion, BNP lawmaker Harunur Rashid said there are allegations against police over extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and human rights violations. "These allegations are not untrue."

He said the institution named Election Commission should be abolished. "Hand it [its responsibilities] over to the police. What is its necessity? There is no need for the Election

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



**PADMA BRIDGE**  
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TO GO



Standstill traffic on both sides of the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue at Farmgate yesterday. Traffic has become horrendous in the capital. The prime minister yesterday asked officials concerned to take effective steps to ease congestion.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

## Illegal migrant crossings to EU up 82pc Says Frontex

AFP, Warsaw

Illegal migrant crossings into the European Union rose by 82 percent between January and May compared to the same period in 2021, the European border agency said yesterday.

Frontex said there were 86,420 irregular crossings into the 27-nation bloc in the first five months of the year, according to its initial calculations.

In May alone, 23,500 irregular migrants made the journey, a rise of 75 percent on the previous May, it said.

Ukrainians entering the EU via recognised border crossing points were not included in the data.

Five and a half million Ukrainians have reached the EU directly from

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Stars experience 'quakes' like on Earth

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Stars experience quakes like we have on Earth, scientists have discovered, after data revealed new information on nearly two billion stars in the Milky Way.

These "starquakes" – known as non-radial oscillations – are tsunami-like movements on stars' crusts which cause

the shape of the star to change with their force. This was an unexpected discovery from the latest data release from the Gaia space observatory, which is located about 1.5 million kilometres from Earth and carries two telescopes to document the galaxy, as it was only designed to pick up radial oscillations which cause stars to change their size.

The data which has been collected forms

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5