

# ‘Not isolated incidents’

Speakers tell event on communal attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Attacks on religious minorities in the country are not isolated incidents, rather all of them are pre-planned. The authorities want to avoid responsibility by calling them isolated. The state must remain strict to put an end to such attacks. Speakers made the remarks in a roundtable on “Communalism and Social Responsibility” organised by Bangladesh Puja Ujjapan Parishad yesterday at Cirdap Auditorium in the capital. Prof Mizanur Rahman, former chair of National Human Rights Commission, said, “Unless and until the state acknowledges that these are not isolated incidents, there is no solution to this crisis.” “Resistance has to be formed against the communal fanatics,” said former Supreme Court Justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik. Security analyst Maj Gen (retd) Mohammad Ali Shikder said, “States and nations that have allowed politics based on religion have been destroyed. We have to learn from that.” Professor Sadeka Halim of Dhaka University said, “After every attack,

temples are built by the administration and financial support is provided to religious minorities. But the fear persists among them.” “Our society has changed. We cannot recognise this Bangladesh,” said Prof Robayet Ferdous of Dhaka University. Fauzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said, “Communal attacks are part of a bigger political conspiracy. We must collectively resist this.” Chandra Nath Podder, general secretary of Bangladesh Puja Ujjapan Parishad, said, “Those who are carrying out communal attacks aim to expel other religions from this country. They have managed to reduce the percentage of religious minorities from 18 percent to 9.7 percent. They have also managed to create an atmosphere of fear and terror.” Cultural personality Piyush Bandopadhyay, senior journalist Abed Khan, Samakal Advisory Editor Abu Saeed Khan, Prothom Alo Joint Editor Sohrab Hossain, General Secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum Sanjib Drong and Puja Ujjapan Parishad President JI. Bhowmik spoke at the discussion among others.



In front of a school in Asad Gate area, parents along with their school-going children cross the road carelessly to get across quickly, while a speeding bus halts to let them pass. On top of this not being expected of parents, their reluctance to wait to let vehicles get across raises the chance of accidents on the busy road. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Bus runs over, kills student in Jatrabari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female madrasa student died after a speeding bus hit a motorcycle in Dhaka's Jatrabari area yesterday afternoon. Deceased Habiba Islam Mithila (17) was a ninth grader at Tamirul Millat Kamil Madrasah on Jatrabari campus. Mithila was the pillion rider on the bike of her friend Shariful Islam when the bus of Shitol Paribahan hit the two-wheeler near Saddam Market around 1:15pm. The bus then ran over her after she fell on the road, leaving her critically injured. She was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead around 2:00pm, Shariful told reporters at the hospital. Shariful said he lives in Mirpur area. He was giving Mithila a lift to her Jatrabari residence on his way back from Signboard area when

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

PRAYER  
TIMING  
JULY 29

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:20	12:45	5:00	6:50	8:15
JAMAAT 4:55	1:15	5:15	6:55	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# Water in the gas line!

Over 1,000 Mir Hajirbagh residents at risk

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Households of the capital's Mir Hajirbagh have been facing a gas crisis for months. But that problem may seem trivial when compared to the looming danger. The residents are facing something bizarre. At night, gas pipelines of the households bring forth gas, as it should, and... water. According to an official of Titas Gas, the water comes out due to a leakage in the pipes. “If the leak is not repaired and gas gets trapped somewhere, there is a chance of an explosion.” This possibly means that over a thousand people are at risk of an accident. The department concerned of Titas says it is not possible for it to find leakages and suggested that locals inform the authorities if they sense leaking gas. According to Fire Service and Civil Defence, 1,511 fire incidents took place in the country between 2020 and 2021 because of gas-pipeline issues. Wealth worth about Tk 4.73 crore was damaged in these incidents. Thirty-eight people were killed in an explosion caused by gas-pipe leakage in a mosque in Narayanganj on September 4, 2020. Aside from this, a ritual is now part of the residents' daily life. They have to drain out the water from the pipes by opening the valves, otherwise they can't light

Most weekdays, gas supply stops at around 7:00am and comes back after 9:00pm. But there's another problem. We've to drain water out first to get the gas.

BITHI, a local

The water comes out due to a leakage in the pipes. If the leak is not repaired and gas gets trapped somewhere, there is a chance of an explosion.

AN OFFICIAL OF TITAS GAS

the stoves. “Most weekdays, gas supply stops at around 7:00am and comes back after 9:00pm. But there's another problem. We've to drain water out first to get the gas,” said Bithi, a local. While describing locals' sufferings, Bithi said their fuel cost has shot up. “Some of us

deputy general manager of Titas' Dhaka Metro Sales, to take measures to prevent accidents. For several years, locals have been facing a gas crisis, but recently, it has become severe, he said. “Although we've been paying bills equal to what households in posh areas pay, we don't get gas on time. Every day, gas pressure goes down after 7:00am and returns after 10:00pm,” he said. “Water comes out from risers and pipelines when the pressure increases. We don't get gas properly until the water drains completely,” he said, adding that at some houses, it takes about two to three days to get normal gas pressure. Due to this issue, gas is also being wasted, he added. A few days after the letter, a team from Titas visited the area, but no measures have been taken. Contacted, Monirul said he forwarded the letter to the emergency department and suggested that this correspondent contacts it. Shahibul Awal, manager of Titas' south emergency department, said an accident can take place if gas is trapped. “Usually, bubbles come out from the leaked parts. If locals see such bubbles or smell gas, they can call us, and we'll take measures,” he said. Locals also requested Titas

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

## DNCC approves Tk 5,048cr budget

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation yesterday approved Tk 5,048 crore budget for 2022-23 fiscal year. The budget was approved in a board meeting at the Nagar Bhaban in Gulshan. Presiding over the meeting, Mayor Md Atiqul Islam said the world is in serious trouble due to three Cs (Covid, conflict and climate change), and the three Cs are also major challenges for Bangladesh. He said despite these challenges, DNCC earned around Tk 800 crore revenue in 2021-22 fiscal. To save electricity, the DNCC mayor urged owners of illegal battery-run rickshaws to stop running three-wheelers using batteries. He said it is the time to save electricity. Not only Bangladesh, the developed countries have also taken the decision to save electricity. He also said they are not stopping manual rickshaws, rather they are trying to halt operation of the battery-run ones.

## 64 more hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 64 dengue patients were admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday. With the new cases, six from outside Dhaka, the total number of dengue patients rose to 2,430, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). Among the patients, 311 are still undergoing treatment. A total of 2,111 patients have been released from hospitals while eight patients have died of dengue so far.

# Bangladesh wins debate ‘World Cup’



Sourodip Paul (L) and Sajid Asbat Khandaker. PHOTO: STAR

AHMAD TOUSIF JAMI

Brac A, representing Bangladesh at the World University Debating Championship (WUDC) 2022, have won the open championship. The team comprising of Sourodip Paul and Sajid Asbat Khandaker are both current students of Brac University, who brought the title home from the tournament often regarded as the “World Cup of debating”. This year the event was held online. The final took place on Wednesday evening. This is the first time a Bangladeshi team has made it to the finals and they are now the first Asian team to become the global champion in debating. Team Bangladesh represented by Brac University won this championship against 373 teams from 267 institutions, which includes globally prestigious universities.

In the Open Finals, the competing teams were Brac University, Princeton University, Ateneo De Manilla University, and the National University of Singapore. BRAC University won with all 9 ballots in their favour. In his speech in the Open Finals, Sajid remarked, “We are a small community trying really hard to do well in the global debating community, and I'm sure this is just the start of a wonderful journey for Bangladesh.” Sourodip added, “Debating has been a passion of ours for so long. We are glad to have been able to represent our country to the best of our capacities.” In the individual speaker category, Sajid was ranked as the 2nd best English as Secondary Language (ESL) speaker, while Sourodip came 6th in the same category. Sajid also ranked as the 9th best overall speaker in the competition.

## ACC launches enquiry against Grameen Telecom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has launched an enquiry against the board of directors of Grameen Telecom over financial anomalies. At a press briefing, ACC Secretary Mahbub Hossain said they have got a report from the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE) in which some allegations have been brought. The Department of Inspection handed over the report to the ACC in mid-July, source said. “The board violated section 234 of Bangladesh Labour Act that deals with the interest of employees,” said an official of the DIFE. “We've sent the report to the ACC for further enquiry,” he said. At the briefing, Mahbub said there is an allegation against the board of directors of misappropriating 5 percent profit of labour and staff of Grameen Telecom.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

জরায়ুমুখের ক্যান্সার মুক্ত  
বাংলাদেশ গড়ার প্রত্যয়ে

ইনসেপ্টা নিয়ে এসেছে

Papilovax™  
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জরায়ুমুখ ক্যান্সার প্রতিরোধে এইচপিভি ভ্যাকসিন

নতুন ও আধুনিক  
প্রি-ফিল্ড সিরিজে

ঔষধ ক্রয়ের সময় মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণের তারিখ দেখে নিন। মেয়াদ উত্তীর্ণ ঔষধ ক্রয়, বিক্রয় ও ব্যবহার থেকে বিরত থাকুন।  
গুরুত্বপূর্ণ রেজিস্টার্ড চিকিৎসকের ব্যবস্থাপনায় মোতাবেক এন্টিবায়োটিক ক্রয়, বিক্রয় ও সেবন করুন।

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