

## Bidyanoondo stands by Panchagarh victims

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Bidyanoondo Foundation, a non-profit social welfare organisation, extended Tk 15 lakh financial support to nine families who lost their lone bread earner in a boat capsized in Korotoa river on September 25.

Deputy Commissioner of Panchagarh Md Jahurul Islam handed over this assistance at his office yesterday.

Board member of Bidyanoondo Jamal Uddin said the families who have been affected in the incident need assistance and everyone needs to stand by them.

Chondona Rani of Sakoya village in Boda upazila of Panchagarh, who received Tk 3 lakh, told this correspondent that her husband was the only earning source of their six-member family.

After his sudden death in the boat capsized, she became hapless along with her two sons and elderly father-in-law and mother-in-law. Others receiving the cash incentive echoed the same.

As of yesterday morning, the death toll from the boat capsized stands at 69, while three are still missing.

## Nominations open for ‘Priyo Shikkhok Sommanona’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nomination process for “Priyo Shikkhok Sommanona 2022”, a programme jointly organised by IPDC Finance Limited and Prothom Alo, to honour and recognise contributions of teachers started yesterday.

The inaugural ceremony of the fourth edition of this programme was held at a hotel in Dhaka.

According to officials, the nomination process will continue till November 30. Current or retired teachers, having a minimum age of 40 years, will be eligible for the nomination, where the nominators have to be aged minimum 18 years.

Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiur Rahman, said, “There are irregularities in many of our educational institutions. In this context, it’s important to recognise teachers who are good.”

“We will try to work together to expand such programmes to develop our education sector,” he added

Some of the teachers who achieved “Priyo Shikkhok Sommanona” in the past editions also attended the programme.

## Where tradition

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At the store, we keep shakhas ranging between Tk 300 and Tk 5,000.”

“During puja, shakhas worth Tk 700 to Tk 800 sell out the fastest. Some customers purchase shakhas worth Tk 400 to Tk 600 for rough use. The thick and wide ones are quite popular this season and their cost starts at Tk 3,000,” he added.

On the other hand, Kartik Chandra Dhar, proprietor of Mahabir Pola Store, said, “Like everyone else, our business suffered greatly during the last two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are seeing a rush during puja season, but I can’t say that sales have risen exponentially.”

“The pola that you’re seeing here is brought to Chawkbazar from India. If products worth Tk 5,000 are sold, we bring in more,” he added.

The biggest crowd was seen at “Ma Mansha Shankha Shilpolay” where four salesmen were seen tending to eager customers.

Papiya Ray, a Wari resident who was seen purchasing Shakha from “Ma Mansha Shankha Shilpolay”, said, “I have been coming to this store ever since I got married. I love

coming here since the shop owners know me personally and treat me dearly. They know exactly what I like and I can come here any time to get repairs done.”

Shoumitra Nath, one of the owners, said, “Starting from the first of the Bangla month of Ashwin till puja, we have made really good business. The biggest issue is that due to the price hike of gold, the premium shakhas are selling less.”

“In terms of design, we try to keep up with the latest trends. For example, this puja, wide shakhas are quite popular. Customers are mostly purchasing shakha within the range of Tk 200 to Tk 600. We get a lot of sales during the wedding season as well,” he said.

Speaking of their craft, Shoumitra said, “This business has been our ancestral profession for about 100 years now. Currently, my father is in charge, after him, it will be me and then my son.”

“Our business only caters to the demand that exists, and the pool of people we sell to is very small. But I can say for sure that as long as our religious practices and religious harmony exist, so will our business,” he added.

## Khaleda to lead our

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Fakhrul said the two parties discussed the demands of the movement and agreed on those issues.

Mostafa Jamal Haider, chairman of the Jatiya Party (Kazi Zafar), said, “Our aim is to get united

and we progressed a lot in this regard. We believe that we will win the movement as all are getting united.”

BNP started holding the second round of talks with various political parties on Sunday.

## Give advice, but don’t

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The government is trying to formulate new laws to increase the power of this body,” Hasan added.

Hasan, also joint general secretary of Awami League, reaffirmed his view that media in Bangladesh enjoys more freedom than in many developed countries.

“The government is creating a database of

journalists. The Press Council has prepared a draft policy in this regard, which will be approved soon,” said Hasan.

During the meeting, Press Council Chairman Nizamul Haque presented their report for 2022. Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of The Daily Observer, and Saiful Alam, editor of daily Jugantor, among others, were present at the meeting.

## Mros, Tripuras

FROM PAGE 5

gross violation of human rights and directed the disaster management secretary to ensure food, water and necessary assistance, including the reconstruction of houses, for the affected families.

It also ordered the Bandarban police superintendent to take necessary measures to

ensure that the law and order situation does not deteriorate in the future.

It also instructed the Bandarban DC to submit the actual situation as a report after a detailed investigation of the incident, and deliver a copy of the order to the Chittagong divisional commissioner for overall supervision.

## Launch judicial

FROM PAGE 3

with a maximum of seven years of imprisonment and a minimum five years, and with a fine not less than Tk 50,000.

The signatories of the statement are DU Prof Dr Gitiara Nasreen, JU prof Dr Mirza Taslima Sultana, Chakma Circle Advisor Rani Yan Yan, Jawaharlal Nehru University PhD Researcher Nazneen Shifa, writer and researcher Parsa Sanjana Sajid, DU associate Prof Kajalie Shohreen Islam, human rights activist Rozina Begum, anthropologist and researcher Dr Nasreen Khandakar, DU

Associate Prof Dr Samina Luthfa, researcher and activist Dilshana Parul, anthropologist and filmmaker Dr Nasreen Siraj, labour leader Taslima Akhtar, teacher and PhD scholar Shyamoli Shil, teacher and women leader Laila Parveen, Jahangirnagar University College teacher Shilpi Barua, photographer Jannatul Mawa, writer and researcher Sayema Khatun, researcher Sadaf Noor, PhD scholar Hana Shams Ahmed, writer and anthropologist Rahnuma Ahmed, and journalist and researcher Dr Saydia Gulrukh.

## DEATH OF ASP SHIPON Court asks PBI to submit report by Nov 2

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again asked the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to submit -- by November 2 -- the report on further investigation into the case filed over death of assistant superintendent of police Anisul Karim Shipon.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mainul Islam passed the order after PBI failed to submit the report.

The ASP was allegedly tortured to death at Mind Aid Psychiatry and De-Addiction Hospital in Dhaka on November 9, 2020.

His father filed the murder case with Adabor Police Station accusing 15 people.

## Here, women run

FROM PAGE 5

“Most were left mesmerised with how beautiful the idols were, along with the security arrangements, rituals, and everything in between,” he added.

He also claimed that not only Moulvibazar residents but people from nearby districts, including Brahmanbaria and Habiganj are renting cars to come and experience the celebrations organised by women.

In an earlier conversation, Nandita Deb, president of the committee, said, “Durga is the embodiment of our Dharitri Mata (Mother Erath). Durga destroys Asur with her many hands and does everything for the welfare of the devotees. Similarly, our mothers work non-stop for the welfare of their children. The formation of our committee symbolises this realisation.”

The women in this committee are of many

professions -- teachers, doctors, lawyers, expatriates, housewives and students.

“Earlier, one or two women were kept in the committee. But this year, the status quo has changed,” added Nandita.

Priyanka Roy, general secretary of the committee, echoed the same.

Mallika Dey, Moulvibazar’s additional district magistrate, said, “Durga is considered to be the manifestation of feminine power. The leadership of these women is a perfect representation of that.”

“Durga Puja is being held in 1,006 puja mandaps in the district,” she added.

According to the temple authorities, a Marwari businessman named Champal Shando established the Durgabari temple about 80 years ago during the British period. Durga Puja has been organised there since then.



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Qualified **female candidates** are highly encouraged to apply.

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**Registrar**



## Media lost its

FROM PAGE 3

Khan was given state honour by Dhaka district administration at Central Shaheed Minar. His body was first taken to Dainik Bangla office in Tejgaon, where his colleagues paid a rich tribute. It was then taken to Shaheed Minar, where Somnilito Sangskritik Jote facilitated people from all walks of life to pay their respects.

On behalf of President Abdul Hamid, his assistant defence secretary Lt Col Syed Md Jahangir Alam, and on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her assistant defence secretary Lt Col GM Rajib Ahmed placed floral wreaths by his coffin.

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader said Khan was a mega star in the country’s media industry. Whatever be the responsibilities, he carried them out exceptionally well.

Another noted journalist, Abed Khan, urged all to remember Toab Khan through his works.

Toab Khan’s body was later taken to Jatiya Press Club, where his second janaza took place.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka,

Shahidul Islam arranged for a guard of honour for the veteran journalist.

Toab Khan passed away at a city hospital on Saturday. Khan, who was suffering from old-age complications, breathed his last around 12:40pm.

Born on April 24, 1934 in Satkhira, Khan started his career in journalism in 1953, at the weekly Janata. He joined daily Sangbad in 1955 and became the news editor in 1961.

In 1964, Khan started working for Dainik Pakistan, which was renamed Dainik Bangla after Bangladesh’s independence in 1971. He was made the daily’s editor in 1972. He also served as the press secretary to then prime minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman between 1973 and 1975.

Besides, Khan worked as the principal information officer and director general of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB).

He was the advisory editor of daily Janakantha from its inception till October last year. Finally, again took the mantle of Dainik Bangla editor.

Khan was awarded the Ekushey Padak in 2016.

## Stop illegal

FROM PAGE 5

sand. A cumulative effort is necessary to protect wildlife, nature and the environment.” Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun, superintendent of Sylhet District Police; Advocate

Emad Ullah Shahidul Islam, former president of Sylhet District Bar Association; Abdul Karim Kim, general secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon’s Sylhet chapter; and others were present in the dialogue.

## Deadline for first jab

FROM PAGE 3

general (administration) at the DGHS, said, “The hospitalisation rate is still low [despite the latest spike in Covid cases] as majority of the population have been inoculated.”

So far, around 97 percent population have received the first dose while 90 percent received second dose, against the 70

percent target.

Meanwhile, two Covid patients have died in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday. Besides, 696 tested positive for Covid while the positivity rate was 12 percent.

With the latest count, the total number of fatalities due to Covid rose to 29,371 and the total confirmed cases to 20,26,908.

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