

## Teesta water-sharing issue will be resolved

Hasina expresses hope as new Indian envoy calls on her

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has once again expressed hope that Bangladesh and India would be able to resolve the Teesta water sharing and other issues through discussion.

She said this when newly appointed Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma called on her at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

Verma told the PM that his country always gives Bangladesh the highest priority, according to a media briefing by PM's Deputy Press Secretary KM Shakhwat Moon.

"India has a policy for its neighbouring countries. But in this regard, Bangladesh always gets the highest priority in any case," he quoted the envoy as saying.

Verma termed Bangladesh a very good friend of India.

The Indian envoy said New Delhi and Dhaka would work together to curb terrorism in the region.

Hasina said Bangladesh maintains zero tolerance policy towards terrorism.

She urged Indian businesses to invest in 100 economic zones of the country.

Verma said trade and connectivity between Bangladesh and India increased remarkably in recent years.

The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement for facilitating economic relations between the two neighbouring countries also came up for discussion at the meeting.

The Indian envoy said New Delhi will cooperate with Dhaka in power and energy sectors.

He appreciated the socio-economic development in Bangladesh under Hasina's leadership.

## 45th BCS examination applications from December 10

STAR REPORT

The online application process for the 45th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations will begin at 10:00am on December 10 and will end at 6:00pm on December 31.

Bangladesh Public Service Commission yesterday published a circular regarding the exams.

As per the circular, 2,309 civil service officials and 1,022 non-cadre government officials will be recruited through this exam.

## Kamal doesn't know

FROM PAGE 1

Previously, he asked for a written complaint for irregularities in the stock market.

"How can he expect that his duties will be performed by others? It is his duty to figure out which part of the banking system is in shambles. Why will the journalists inform him about this in writing?"

The three banks under discussion are controlled by one Chattogram-based business giant, which also owns four other banks.

One group owning seven banks is a high-risk factor for any economy, Islam said, while urging the government to act fast and wrest control of the banks from the group.

"If the loans are linked with them, then something suspicious is going on here. I don't understand why the government is not intervening," he added.

Anu Muhammad, a former professor of Jahangirnagar University's economics department, echoed the same and termed Kamal's comment irresponsible.

"The finance minister has made it his duty to safeguard and hide people



Newly appointed Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

# Russia attacks Ukraine on multiple fronts

Says Zelensky as Nato seeks to shore up Moscow's neighbours

AGENCIES

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russian forces were trying to advance in the northeast and east and "planning something" in the south, while Nato yesterday sought to reassure other countries that fear destabilisation from Moscow.

Ukraine's General Staff said its forces had repelled six Russian attacks in the past 24 hours in the eastern Donbas region, while Russian artillery had relentlessly shelled the right bank of the Dnipro River and Kherson city in the south.

Winter weather has hampered fighting on the ground, and Zelensky has told Ukrainians to expect a major Russian barrage this week on Ukraine's stricken electricity infrastructure, which Moscow has pounded roughly weekly since early October.

"These are president (Vladimir) Putin's new targets. He's hitting them hard," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said after Nato talks in Bucharest.

Putin had focused his "fire and ire" on Ukraine's civilians by bombing more than a third of its energy system supplying power and water, but the strategy would

not work, Blinken said, adding that Nato was also concerned by China's ties with Moscow.

The Nato allies yesterday offered to help nearby Moldova, Georgia and Bosnia-Herzegovina - all under pressure from Russia - Nato Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said.

"If there is one lesson from Ukraine it is that we need to support them now," Stoltenberg told a news conference, while Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Reinsalu told Reuters "the beast also wants to take control of the Western Balkans".

Zelensky said Russian forces were attacking Donetsk and Luhansk which make up the eastern Donbas as well as Kharkiv in the northeast, where Ukraine pushed them back in September.

"The situation at the front is difficult," he said in his nightly video address. "Despite extremely large losses, the occupiers are still trying to advance" in the east and "they are planning something in the south," he said, without elaborating.

Russia said its forces had taken full control of two settlements in the Donetsk region and destroyed a warehouse in the Dnipropetrovsk region containing

HIMARS shells.

In Spain, an employee of Ukraine's embassy in Madrid was "lightly" injured yesterday when a letter bomb blew up as he handled it, a police source said.

"National Police were informed around 1:00 pm (1200 GMT) of an explosion at the Ukrainian embassy in Madrid. It happened when one of the embassy employees was handling a letter," the source said.

Police have opened an investigation "which includes the participation of forensic police," the source said without giving further details, reports AFP.

In Kyiv, snow fell and temperatures were expected to remain below freezing as millions in and around the capital struggled to heat their homes despite attacks on infrastructure that Kyiv and its allies say are aimed at harming civilians, a war crime.

Workers have raced to repair the damage even as they anticipate more; electricity supplies crept back up towards three quarters of needs yesterday, national grid operator Ukrenergo said, a full week after the worst Russian barrage so far left millions of people shivering in cold and darkness.

## Of OMS queues and desperation

FROM PAGE 1

STRUGGLE FOR OMS GOODS

The Daily Star correspondents visited eight OMS shops in the capital over the last one week and found a large number of women, elderly people and youths in the queues.

Around 9:15am on Sunday, Kazi Shirin, who is six months into her pregnancy, came near Azimpur Agrani School only to find a queue of 200 people. Since returning from there would be a luxury she couldn't afford, she stood in the line for an hour. Then an employee of the shop noticed her condition and gave her the products.

Another woman named Aklima Khatun from Chankharpool area said she stood in a queue near Nilkhet intersection on November 23 and 24 to buy rice and flour, but she failed on both days.

In front of a shop In Kazipara last week, this correspondent saw a few men violently shoving each other for a place in the queue around 8:45am.

Noted economist Prof Selim Raihan said inflation put tremendous pressure on people with limited income since the beginning of this year and that's why the lines in front of the mobile shops were getting longer.

He added that the stocks of subsidised goods should be larger to meet the demand.

"I hope the policymakers will take measures considering the current situation," said Selim, the executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling.

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder and Food Secretary Ismiel Hossain are currently abroad. The Daily Star made several attempts to reach them on WhatsApp, but neither of them responded.

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