



Treat discrimination as punishable offence: speakers



Covid not over yet, says Indian health minister



Can BNP stick to its proposal for state reform?



BSEC lifts floor price of 169 firms

DUMPING BODIES

Rivers their preferred site

Criminals get away as evidence in most cases gets wiped out

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

River police on November 19 recovered from the Balu river the body of an unidentified man tied to a sack full of stones in the capital's Khilgaon.

They filed a murder case with the Khilgaon Police Station soon after the recovery, but over a month has gone by and the police could not even start the probe as the body remains unidentified.

Asaduzzaman, sub-inspector of the Rajakhali river police outpost in the capital's Demra, told The Daily Star yesterday, "The body of the man, aged around 35, had been decomposing. Therefore, it could not be known if it had any injury marks. But it appears to be a murder. Why else would there be a body tied to a sack full of stones?"

The officer who is investigating the case said police could not get fingerprints from the body.

"We have preserved the DNA of the man and sent other details to the police stations so they could check their missing persons' entries," he said, adding, "We will match DNA if anyone comes looking for the man."

The probe can begin only after identification of the body, he said, adding that police still do not have the autopsy and viscera reports.

This is one of the many instances in which police



Without a care in the world, a child runs through a railway switch, a dangerous place to be even for an adult, near the capital's Tejgaon Railway Station. The possibilities of accidents, including his leg getting caught in the tracks during a switch, are high. Children playing on or close to rail tracks are a common sight as people living nearby remain nonchalant to the dangers that lurk.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

PM opens 100 highways in 50 districts

Says they're gifts to the nation in the month of victory



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked people to compare the development work done by other governments to that of the Awami League government.

"I expect that people of the country would at least consider how much development was done by those in power for nearly 30 years (1975-1996 and 2001-2009) and what the Awami League governments did," she said while addressing the inaugural ceremony of 100

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

TIME	BODIES RECOVERED	MURDER CASES FILED	BODIES IDENTIFIED	BODIES UNIDENTIFIED
2021	357	36	269	88
2022 (until October)	318	41	226	92

struggle to identify bodies recovered from a river.

At least 92 bodies remain unidentified after police recovered them from different rivers across the country in the first 10 months of this year, according to a database of the river police headquarters.

Eighty-eight bodies recovered last year are still not identified.

Most of the bodies were found in the four rivers surrounding Dhaka.

Shafiqul Islam, additional inspector general of river police, told The Daily Star yesterday that police cannot identify decayed bodies. "Sometimes, we only find the bones..." he said.

FINAL REPORT FOR NO IDENTIFICATION

After the recovery of a body, police first file an unnatural death case and that case turns into a murder case if evidence of murder is found during the probe or in the autopsy report.

River police filed 41 murder cases until October this year and 36 murder cases last year, according to data.

However, the probes often stall because the victims remain unidentified.

In September 2020, river police recovered two bodies in separate places and filed two unnatural death cases with Keraniganj Model Police Station.

It took 13 months for the autopsy reports to arrive. Such delays are not unusual when unidentified bodies are involved, sources said. The reports suggested that the victims were strangled.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Election meaningless if not participatory

Says former CEC Hena; current CEC Awal says not the EC's job to force parties to join polls

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

A former chief election commissioner yesterday said the commission has to bring all political parties to the national election when the current election commissioners say that it is not their job to ensure all parties participation.

Former chief election commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena yesterday also said elections were meaningless if they were not participatory.

At a different event the same day, Kazi Habibul Awal, the current chief election commissioner, said he would not force any political party to participate in the election.

The BNP and many other political parties have announced that they have boycotted the next national election.

The BNP and several other political parties are on the streets to press home their 10-point demand that includes formation of an impartial caretaker or interim government which would form a neutral Election Commission to ensure a level-playing field for all parties.

They are also demanding that the use

of EVMs and participation of political parties in local government elections should stop.

On August 25, Election Commissioner Md Alamgir said, "There are 39 registered political parties in the country. It is not written anywhere that an election cannot be held if any one of them refuses to participate," he said.

CEC Awal on September 5, said, "The BNP is one of the major political parties. If they join the election, it will be more participatory... But we can't interfere in the strategy of a political party... That is beyond our jurisdiction."

Speaking at a programme in Patuakhali yesterday, he said there was no pressure on the EC from the international community regarding the parliamentary polls set to be held in early January 2024.

"We have no comments on the statements made by the ambassadors about the national polls," he said.

Meanwhile, former CEC Hena, while speaking at a book launching ceremony jointly organised by Shushashoner

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Shahnaz Rahman among top taxpayers

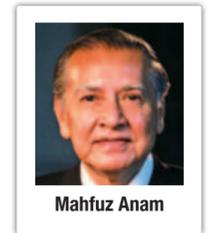
Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman also on the list



Shahnaz Rahman



Matiur Rahman



Mahfuz Anam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The tax authority yesterday announced Transcom Group Chairman Shahnaz Rahman, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, and Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman as top taxpayers for fiscal 2021-22.

Shahnaz, wife of late Latifur Rahman, former chairman of Transcom Group, was named among the top taxpayers in the female category, an accolade she has been receiving for many years now.

The four others who won in the female category are Anwara Hossain, Amina Ahmed,

Tasmin Mahmud and Parveen Hasan.

Mahfuz and Matiur were named the top taxpayers in the journalist category for the seventh consecutive year.

Faridur Reza Sagar, managing director of Impress Telefilm (Channel i), Shykh Seraj, founder director and head of news at Channel i, and Naem Nizam, editor of the Bangladesh Pratidin, also got recognition in this category.

Mediastar, the parent company of Bangla daily Prothom Alo, was the top tax-paying firm in the print and electronic media category. Mediastar is a sister

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

No. 1 EMPLOYER OF CHOICE

ACROSS ALL SECTORS IN BANGLADESH

League Of Future Leaders

*Based on a survey report published by Universum on 7 December 2022