



The world must see and understand what absolute evil we are fighting against.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Russian shelling that killed eight in Kherson city



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Moments after Sheikh Hasina was elected the Awami League president at the 22nd council yesterday, party stalwarts greeted her with a bouquet on the premises of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

PHOTO: BSS

Next national election will be free, fair

Reaffirms Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the next general election would be free and fair.

Inaugurating the 22nd national council of Awami League at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan, she also highlighted how her government enacted a law to form the Election Commission.

"If we had an intention of stealing people's votes, we would have formed an Aziz-style election commission as Khaleda Zia did [in 2005]. But we did not do that because we have the confidence

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Hasina banks on the same troops

Gets reelected AL president, Quader remains GS

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Sheikh Hasina, who has been leading the grand old Awami League for 42 years now, will be at the party helm for the next three years as she was reelected the president for the 10th consecutive time.

Besides, Obaidul Quader scored a hat-trick with his reelection as the general secretary, the second highest position in the AL hierarchy.

They were elected at the 73-year-old party's 22nd triennial council held at the auditorium of Institution of Engineers in the capital yesterday.

Before her reelection, Hasina once again stressed the need for new leadership.

"The old ones should move over, making way for the new leaders. I am handing over the responsibilities to you. New leadership is required," Hasina told nearly 7,000 councillors

present at the closed-door session.

Councillors are entrusted with the task of electing the new leadership, according to the AL charter.

"I will be with you no matter where I am. New ones arrive and the old ones depart. This is universal," said the 75-year-old leader.

At 5:00pm, Hasina announced the dissolution of the AL central committee and said an election would be held to elect the new AL office bearers. She handed over this responsibility to the three-member Election Commission to conduct the polls.

At that, the auditorium brimming with AL leaders burst into a "no".

Hasina watched the crowd for a few moments, flashed a smile and said, "It can't go on like this ... There must be an election, we all have to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

NATIONWIDE MASS PROCESSIONS

One dies as cops, BNP activists clash

The party alleges police fired shots, used brute force

STAR REPORT

A BNP man died in Panchagarh and scores of others were injured in clashes between police and party activists centring the BNP's mass processions in different parts of the country yesterday.

The deceased, Abdur Rashid Arefin, 50, was the health affairs secretary of Maydandighi union BNP in Boda upazila.

The party claimed he was killed due to indiscriminate baton-charge and firing by police.

Referring to physicians of Panchagarh Sadar Hospital, SM Sirajul Huda, superintendent of police, told The Daily Star that Arefin died from heart disease and had undergone a bypass surgery earlier.

"He fell ill around 2:30pm and he had no injury signs on his body."

Dr Toufique Ahmed, Panchagarh Sadar Hospital resident medical officer, told reporters that Arefin died before reaching the hospital. "The cause of his death would be known after a postmortem."



Panchagarh district BNP Member-Secretary Farhad Hossain said, "Police attacked our peaceful procession. And Arefin, one of our men, died due to this."

Local BNP activist Motiar Rahman said that as the clash erupted, Arefin tried to escape the spot by jumping a wall when police caught him and beat him indiscriminately.

"He died by police beatings and tear gas smoke," he claimed.

After disappearances, murders, and extra-judicial killings, the party activists are now being shot and killed in the peaceful political programme, said BNP

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Chinese city sees 'half a million Covid cases a day'

AFP, Beijing

Half a million people in a single Chinese city are being infected with Covid-19 every day, a senior health official has said, in a rare and quickly censored acknowledgement that the country's wave of infections is not being reflected in official statistics.

China this month has rapidly dismantled key pillars of its zero-Covid strategy, doing away with snap lockdowns, lengthy quarantines and travel curbs in a jarring reversal of its hallmark containment strategy.

Cities across the country have struggled to cope as surging infections have emptied pharmacy shelves, filled hospital wards and appeared to cause backlogs at crematoriums and funeral homes.

But the end of strict testing mandates has made caseloads virtually impossible to track, while authorities have narrowed the medical definition of a Covid death in a move experts have said will suppress the number of fatalities attributable to the virus.

A news outlet operated by the ruling Communist

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Christmas today

UNB, Dhaka

The Christian community in Bangladesh is all set to celebrate Christmas, as elsewhere across the world, today to commemorate the birth of their lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Tigers sniff a chance at history

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Not everything had gone their way in the ongoing Test in Mirpur but at the end of third day yesterday, Bangladesh now find themselves with an unlikely scenario of snatching the game away from India.

"Of course it's possible to win. If we can pick one or two wickets early in the morning, it's possible," Liton Das, who struck an impactful 73, said at the press conference following the day's play yesterday.

An opportunity has indeed arrived and Liton believed aggressive



The early morning period proved to be difficult to handle for batters with India's first innings lead still holding sway.

Najmul Hossain Shanto fell prey to Ravichandran Ashwin before Mohammed Siraj put in a good spell and was rewarded with Mominul Haque's outside edge and his wicket. Shakib Al Hasan was dismissed in identical fashion to the first innings and then Axar Patel got Mushfiqur Rahim trapped in front.

Conditions got a little better for batting in the second session

PHOTO ON PAGE 12 SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

cricket was the way to go to have any chance of getting a historic result which would see them beat India in Tests for the first time.

"They are the No. 1 or 2 Test side in the world, but we will try to win tomorrow, play aggressive cricket. It is our goal," he added.

Freedom of Press

Freedom of Speech

Ekushey Padak

Courage

Strong

Speech

Journalist

Democratic Movement

With

Freedom

Paragon

His words created a voice...

Even though you are not here anymore, we shall keep hearing that voice and live by your ideals.

In Memoriam

Reazuddin Ahmed

(Nov 30, 1945- Dec 25, 2021)

Founding Chief Editor, Financial Express and News Today

Former President, National Press Club

Former President, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ)

Former Chairman, South Asian Free Media Association

Ekushey Padak Recipient

His bereaved family members humbly request all well wishers to pray for the salvation of the departed soul on the 1st death anniversary

বিস্মিল্লাহির রাহমানির রাহিম

আজ শুভ আমরা আপনাবো অমরণ বরির গভীর ভালবাসা শুভ বিনশ শ্রদ্ধা

প্রকৌশলী মোঃ রিয়াজত আলী বাচ্চু

জন্ম: ১ জানুয়ারী ১৯৪৯, মৃত্যু: ২৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০২০

আপনার বর্ণাঢ্য কর্মময় জীবন এবং সকল ক্ষেত্রে আপনার সফলতা আমাদের এগিয়ে যাওয়ার প্রেরণা। প্রতিযশা প্রকৌশলী এবং বিশিষ্ট শিল্পপতি, সমাজ সেবক ও শিক্ষানুরাগী আউটরাইট গ্রুপ, আউটপেস স্পিনিং মিলস্ লিমিটেড এবং আর. এ. স্পিনিং মিলস্ লিমিটেড এর মাননীয় চেয়ারম্যান, অস্ট্রেলিয়ান ইন্টারন্যাশনাল স্কুল ও ইস্টার্ন ইউনিভার্সিটির পরিচালনা পরিষদের সম্মানিত পরিচালক, ক্রীড়াঙ্গনের মোহামেডান ক্লাবের প্রাক্তন একনিষ্ঠ সংগঠক প্রকৌশলী মরহুম মোঃ রিয়াজত আলী বাচ্চু সাহেবের দ্বিতীয় মৃত্যু বার্ষিকী আজ ২৫ ডিসেম্বর ২০২২। আগামী ৩০ ডিসেম্বর ২০২২ রোজ শুক্রবার বাদ আছর খিলগাঁও বটতলা বায়তুল ফালাহ জামে মসজিদে (খিলগাঁও চৌরাস্তা, ঢাকা-১২১৯) দোয়া মাহফিলের ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে। সকল আত্মীয়-স্বজন, সহকর্মী ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের উক্ত দোয়া মাহফিলে যোগদান করে মহান আল্লাহর দরবারে তাঁর আত্মার শান্তির জন্য দোয়া করতে সনির্বন্ধ অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছি।

পরিবারের পক্ষে- ডাঃ রেহানা খানম (স্ত্রী), প্রকৌশলী রাজীব হায়দার (বড় পুত্র), রেজওয়ানা সিলভী (কন্যা), প্রকৌশলী রুবায়েত হায়দার (ছোট পুত্র), রুবাবা কাওসার (বড় পুত্রবধূ), প্রকৌশলী তওহীদ এজাজ (জামাতা), রাহীফ হায়দার (নাতি) ও রিদওয়ান তওহীদ আহমেদ (নাতি)

এবং

প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের পক্ষে সকল কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীবৃন্দ।