

## Will work together for regional stability

Hasina, Modi hold bilateral meeting in New Delhi

### STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi have agreed that Dhaka and New Delhi will work together to ensure political and economic stability in the two countries as well as the region.

"India and Bangladesh think the same way. We want regional peace and stability for development," Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said while briefing reporters after Hasina and Modi held a bilateral meeting in New Delhi on the eve of the G20 Summit.

Momen said this when a reporter asked him about India's attitude towards elections in Bangladesh amid pressure from the US and other western countries that are calling for free and fair polls.

Momen said there was no pressure because the government is committed to free and fair elections. He also dismissed the likelihood that there will be an election-time caretaker government.

The foreign minister then added that BNP's 2001-2006 tenure saw a rise in violence against minority communities, militancy and

Modi thanks Hasina for helping ensure peace in northeast India

Delhi for 'constructive and positive approach' to solve Rohingya crisis

Dhaka urges Delhi to ensure uninterrupted supply of essentials

Three MoUs signed on agri research, culture and trade in Taka and Rupee

terrorist attacks.

Hasina and Modi held the hour-long meeting at the official residence of the latter yesterday evening.

At his briefing, Momen told reporters that the Awami League government took actions against the insurgents from India's Northeast region who took shelter in Bangladesh.

Modi expressed deep gratitude to Hasina for her government's role in ensuring peace situation in northeastern India, Momen said.

Asked if Modi and Hasina discussed Bangladesh elections, Momen said, "I don't know."

Before the formal meeting, Hasina and Modi also had a tete-a-tete.

Asked whether elections were discussed in the private meeting, Momen said, "Maybe, I don't know about that."

Hasina reached the Indian capital around 1:15pm. She travelled there to attend the G20 summit at the invitation of India, this year's G20 president. Indian State Minister for Railways and Textile Darshana Jardosh and Bangladesh High Commissioner to India, Mustafizur Rahman, welcomed the premier at Palam Airport.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi during a bilateral meeting held at the residence of the latter in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

## SACKED DAG, FAMILY At US embassy to 'seek shelter', go back after 'assurance'

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sacked deputy attorney general Imran Ahmed Bhuiyan, who along with his family went to the US embassy in Dhaka yesterday afternoon to "seek shelter", returned home after staying there for three and a half hours.

"I along with my wife and three daughters came back home around 9:00pm with police support. We stayed on the US embassy office premises from 3:30pm to 7:00pm," he told The Daily Star at 9:30pm.

"Higher authorities from the government have given me assurance, and said there is nothing to fear. I did not go there for a visa. I went to the embassy after receiving threats," he added.

Asked, Gulshan Police Deputy Commissioner Md Shahidullah said DAG Imran went to the US embassy for

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Imran Ahmed

## Find peaceful solution to Russia-Ukraine war

PM tells Lavrov; Moscow to help Dhaka meet energy need

### STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for finding a way to stop the Russia-Ukraine war peacefully through negotiations.

She made the call when Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov paid a courtesy call on her at the Gono Bhaban yesterday morning, reports BSS.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, PM's Deputy Press Secretary Hasan Jahid Tusher said the premier requested Russia to find a solution to the war so that the developing countries across the globe do not face economic risks over the crises of food, fuel and fertiliser arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, Russia-Ukraine war, sanctions and counter-sanctions.

"It is necessary to stop the war as soon as possible in a peaceful manner," she said.

During the meeting, both the leaders said Bangladesh and Russia have been trusted friends for long. They stressed the need to further strengthen the existing relations.

Hasina called for increasing trade and commerce between the two friendly countries and also sought bigger Russian investment in Bangladesh.

In reply, Lavrov said they are thinking of

importing readymade garment products from Bangladesh and investing in special economic zones here.

He sought specific proposals from Bangladesh regarding investments in economic zones and high-tech parks.

Describing Bangladesh as Russia's second largest trade partner in South Asia, Lavrov stressed increasing communications between the businesspeople of the two countries.

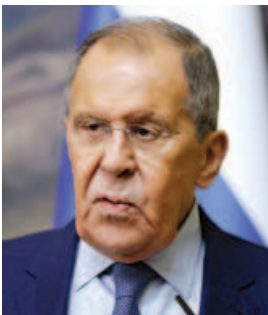
Hasina recalled Russia's contribution in the Liberation War and its assistance in removing mines from Chattogram and Mongla seaports soon after the 1971 war.

The Russian foreign minister lauded Bangladesh's balanced and responsible stance on the Ukraine-Russia war.

The premier reiterated that Bangladesh follows this policy strongly for the sake of its overall socio-economic development.

About the progress of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project, Hasina said nuclear fuel will be imported to Bangladesh in October. She requested Russian President Vladimir Putin to join an event, to be organised marking the arrival of the nuclear fuel, virtually.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



## Macron to visit Dhanmondi Lake, enjoy folk music

### PORIMOL PALMA

While French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to Bangladesh may feature signing of important business deals and discussions on geopolitical issues, he wants to witness the beauty of the country and experience its culture.

The president is scheduled to visit the Dhanmondi Lake in the capital and meet Joler Gaan (music of water), an independent folk band from Dhaka, to enjoy its music.

Macron is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka tomorrow after attending the G20 summit in New Delhi. He will meet Joler Gaan lyricist Rahul Anand at his workshop in the evening.

"France is a country that is famous for arts and culture. Also, Bangladesh and France have a very strong cultural cooperation. I think this visit of President Macron is part of that cultural cooperation as well as people-to-people contacts," a diplomatic source told The Daily Star yesterday.

Joler Gaan has won fame both at home and abroad, and the French president is also aware of it, said the source familiar with the events.

The folk band uses the lyrics based on human stories and sometimes customises foreign ones.

Apart from home, the band has performed at musical events in various parts of the world. In 2006, it participated in the World Sufi Festival, Glasgow, Scotland.

According to the latest schedule of Macron's two-day visit to Bangladesh, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



## Tigers face Lankans in crucial tie

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following a seven-wicket drubbing against Pakistan in their first Asia Cup Super Four encounter in Lahore on Wednesday, Bangladesh will look to keep their Asia Cup destiny in their own hands when they take on Sri Lanka at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo today.

The Tigers are set to take on Sri Lanka for the second time in this edition so far as the two teams were placed in Group B, and the Tigers come into their second meeting with the disappointment of a five-wicket loss against the Lankans last month.

A loss against the Lankans would see the Tigers rely on the other sides to slip up in order to keep their hopes alive of making it to the final

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

### CYBER SECURITY ACT

## Redraft it in light of best int'l practices

### TIB urges MPs, JS committee

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday called upon members of parliament and the parliamentary committee on posts, telecommunications and information technology ministry to redraft the Cyber Security Bill 2023 in accordance with best international practices.

In a statement, the Bangladesh chapter of the Berlin-based global anti-graft watchdog also urged the lawmakers and members of the parliamentary body to discuss with experts and stakeholders before redrafting the bill.

The bill incorporates repressive elements and the bulk of the provisions from the controversial Digital Security Act 2018, but lacks many important

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Mayor Annisul Huq Road is flooded with campaign posters and banners in the capital's Tejgaon on the eve of the polls to Bangladesh Truck and Covered Van Drivers' Union.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Active monsoon may help spread dengue further

### Warn experts; 15 more die from the virus

### HELEMUL ALAM

At a time when the country is already grappling with a record outbreak of dengue fever, the current active monsoon conditions may contribute to the further spread of the mosquito-borne disease this month, say experts.

Entomologists are now urging the authorities concerned to step up their anti-mosquito drives, which they say will help improve the current dengue situation and reduce the risk of the virus spreading next year.

Bazlur Rashid, meteorologist at the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), said intermittent rains accompanied by hot and humid weather will continue throughout the month of September, with the dry season likely coming in as late as October 15.

According to BMD's weather forecast for the next three days, light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind are likely to occur at many places over Rangpur, Mymensingh, Chattogram, and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, and Barisal divisions.

Meanwhile, data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) shows that at least 15 dengue patients died, and 1,876 were hospitalised in 24 hours preceding yesterday morning.

With this, the total number of deaths from dengue rose to 706 while the caseload went up to 142,587.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2