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"North Korean drones' intrusion of our airspace is an intolerable incident. ... To secure peace, we need to prepare for a war with overwhelming capabilities."

South Korea's President Yoon Suk-yeol takes hardline over Pyongyang's provocations



THE KING

gone, legacy lives on

REUTERS, Sao Paulo

Pele, the legendary Brazilian soccer player who rose from barefoot poverty to become one of the greatest and best-known athletes in modern history, died yesterday at the age of 82.

Sao Paulo's Albert Einstein hospital,

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Metro rail opens to public

Long queues at stations

WASIM BIN HABIB
and TUHIN SHUBHIRA
ADHIKARY

Jannatul Afrin's excitement was palpable as the train was approaching the platform at Uttara North Station at 8 in the morning.

"Here comes our train," she said with wide-eyed wonder.

The train stopped at the platform and on cue, its sliding doors and platform edge road opened up for

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PHOTO ON PAGE 2

POLITICS IN 2022

AL ends it on a high note despite poor start

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Political activities of the ruling Awami League in 2022 began slowly, after a quiet pandemic, and gathered significant momentum towards the end of the year.

The activities gathered pace largely due to the AL and the government's events and the programmes the party launched to counter the BNP's agitations, mostly rallies and processions after August 22.

The pandemic compelled AL President Sheikh Hasina to avoid public appearances but she started showing up at rallies this year which enthused AL rank and file.

In November, Hasina started electioneering for the 12th national polls, slated for January 2024, from a

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BNP's year of dramatic rebound

MOHAMMAD AL MASUM MOLLA

The year 2022 marked a major turnaround for the BNP as the party seemed to have overcome the organisational weaknesses and political inertia that had been plaguing it since the disappointing results of the 2018 national polls.

At the beginning of the year, the party had no clear-cut strategy about how to regain its position as a major political force.

However, it found a strong political footing in the later part of 2022, as it successfully organised big rallies across the country defying all odds and sending a message to the ruling Awami League about its organisational capacity.

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