

# Homemaker murdered in Mirpur DOHS

Tk 15 lakh cash, 10 bhori gold looted from ex-air force officer's home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The wife of a retired air force officer was killed at their residence in the capital's Mirpur DOHS area allegedly by robbers, who later reportedly made away with Tk 15 lakh cash and 10 bhori gold in the middle of the day.

Police found the victim's hands and feet tied and injury marks around her neck when they recovered her body around 3:30pm on Sunday.

The deceased, identified as Farah Diba, 60, was the wife of Kazi Abdul Matin, retired wing commander of the Bangladesh Air Force.

The couple lived with their son and daughter in an apartment on Road 10 at Mirpur DOHS. At the time of the incident, the victim was home alone.

Adil Hossain, inspector (investigation) of Pallabi Police Station, told The Daily Star yesterday that the woman was likely strangled to death between 10:00am and noon on Sunday. Later when her family members returned home and discovered her body, they informed the police.

The inspector added that the family reported Tk 15 lakh in cash and 10 bhori of gold jewellery missing from

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Workshops that make trunks keep those on a footpath near the DNCC kitchen market in the capital's Karwan Bazar, obstructing pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# 'BREACHING DISCIPLINE' 75 students of Ctg medical college suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chattogram Medical College and Hospital authorities have suspended 75 students, including 14 intern doctors, of different academic years for being involved in "anti-disciplinary activities".

Meanwhile, 11 students who were accused of the same were let go with a warning.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the college's academic council last Sunday, and came into effect yesterday.

Of the 75, seven were suspended for two years, 15 for a year and half, 39 for a year and 14 for six months.

Brigadier General Mohammad Taslim Uddin, director of CMCH, told The Daily Star, "A 12-member investigation committee, headed by Professor Dr Hasanuzzaman, was formed a month and a half ago [after allegations against the students surfaced]. Based on the recommendations made in the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## COX'SBAZAR AIRPORT

### Flight ops extended till 10:00pm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Flight operations have been extended until 10:00pm at Cox's Bazar Airport from Sunday.

Earlier, the airport remained operational until 7:30pm, said Golam Mortuza Hossain, manager of the airport.

He said 16 flights operated on the Cox's Bazar-Dhaka route on Sunday, with Air Astra and Novair conducting nighttime flights.

With winter approaching, he said the number of tourists are expected to rise further as flight operation hours have been increased.

Hossain said advanced safety and security measures, and necessary technologies for night operations have long been in place at the airport.

More flights can be operated now, he added.

According to people related with tourism business, with this change, visitors can fly from Dhaka in the morning, explore the beach and local attractions, and return on a night flight, boosting convenience and encouraging tourism growth.

# FREE TEXTBOOK DISTRIBUTION Race against the clock for govt

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The government is racing against time to print the textbooks for free distribution among primary and secondary school students on January 1, 2025 – the first day of the upcoming academic year.

According to officials from the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) and members of the printing industry, the printing process just began on Saturday, while the textbook revisions for all grades remain incomplete.

In previous years, nearly 50 percent of the textbooks would typically have been printed by this time. However, the delay this year casts a doubt over the timely printing of over 40 crore copies of textbooks for over four crore students by the end of this year.

Since 2010, the government has been distributing free textbooks for primary and secondary students at the start of each academic session.

According to NCTB officials, a major reason for this delay is the current political situation, which began with the quota reform movement in early July resulting in the fall Sheikh Hasina on August 5.

They, however, expressed optimism, saying it may still be possible to deliver the textbooks on time with full cooperation from the printing sector and other stakeholders.

Prof Riad Choudhury, member (textbook) of NCTB, said, "We've nearly completed the textbook revisions, and the manuscripts for classes one to three have been sent to the press [for printing]. The remaining books will follow soon."

About distribution concerns, he said, "Unavoidable circumstances in July and August have posed these challenges. But we're holding regular

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

## Sarjis against mass arrest of BCL members

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sarjis Alam, a coordinator of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, said



yesterday that he did not favour mass arrest of Dhaka University students solely because of their affiliation with recently banned Bangladesh Chhatra League.

He clarified his position in a Facebook post last night, saying many students, including those from the movement, had been compelled to join BCL in the past.

Sarjis also said his post was specifically about DU, where the protests were primarily led by students residing in the halls until July 15.

Those familiar with DU halls know that students had to participate in BCL programmes and attend meetings, according to him.

About 80 percent of the BCL's hall committees were typically comprised of students who joined the organisation to secure

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

# '600 officials to be considered for jt, deputy secys'

BAHARAM KHAN

The government is considering promoting around 600 officers from the 24th and 30th BCS batches to joint secretary and deputy secretary, according to officials in the public administration ministry.

The initial process for these promotions is almost complete, and the Superior Selection Board, headed by the cabinet secretary, is likely to commence meetings next month to pick the officials for these positions.

"The process is underway to promote the officials from the 24th and 30th BCS batches to joint secretary and deputy secretary. However, it's yet to be decided officials from which batch would be promoted first," said Md Abdur Rouf, additional secretary at the public administration ministry.

Officials said 316 deputy secretaries from 24th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) batch, who joined service in 2005, are under consideration for promotion to joint secretary. Besides, 291 senior assistant secretaries from the 30th BCS batch, who entered public service in 2012, are being evaluated for promotion to deputy secretary.

Some officials from other BCS batches, who were denied promotions previously, are also being considered for the post of joint secretary.

This is the first regular promotion initiative taken by the incumbent interim government since it took office on August 8. Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus himself is handling the portfolio of the public administration ministry.

Within around one month after taking office, the government promoted officials to deputy secretary, joint secretary, and additional secretary in three phases focusing on those deemed "deprived" during Sheikh Hasina's rule.

Around 850 officials are currently serving as joint secretaries against the sanctioned posts of about 300.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

## ALLEGED THREATS Four journos held after banker takes own life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Police arrested four journalists in Lakshimpur yesterday in connection with the death of a junior officer of the Ramganj branch of Palli Sanchay Bank.

The arrests were made after Sharmeen Akhter, the wife of the victim, Mostafa Tarek Iqbal Patwary, 44, filed a complaint on Sunday accusing the journalists of threatening her husband and inciting her husband to take his own life, said Mohammad Abul Bashar, officer-in-charge of Ramganj Police Station.

Zakir Hossain Mostan, Ramganj correspondent of Ittefaq; Belayet Hossain, Ramganj correspondent of Jaijaidin; Zakir Hossain Ramganj correspondent of Samakal; and Shakhawat Hossain Ramganj correspondent of Manobkantha are the arrestees.

According to other journalists of the locality, Patwary reportedly jumped off the roof of a five-

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

## SPORT

### 2nd BD-SA Test starts today

Bangladesh will take on South Africa in the second Test of the two-match series at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram today. The hosts have added uncapped wicketkeeper-batter Mahidul Islam Ankon in place of injured Jaker Ali. The Tigers are 1-0 down in the series after losing the first Test in Mirpur by seven wickets and will fight it out to save the series, which has World Test Championship points at stake. The first day of the match will be broadcast live on T Sports and GTV from 10:00 am.

STORY ON PAGE 11



Smoke rises from the site of an Israeli airstrike that targeted the area of Nabatieh in southern Lebanon yesterday, amid the ongoing war between Israel and Hezbollah.

PHOTO: AFP

# Trump rally filled with vulgar, racist remarks Calls Harris a 'very low IQ individual'

REUTERS, New York

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump headlined a rally at New York's Madison Square Garden on Sunday evening that began with a series of vulgar and racist remarks by allies of the former president.

Trump, a New York celebrity for decades, hoped to use the event at the iconic venue known for Knicks basketball games and Billy Joel concerts to deliver his closing argument against Democratic candidate Kamala Harris, even though the state last backed a Republican presidential candidate in 1984.

Trump spoke repeatedly about his plans to halt illegal immigration and deport migrants he described as "vicious and bloodthirsty criminals" if he wins the November 5 election.

"On day one I will launch the largest deportation program in American history," he said. "I will rescue every city and town that has been invaded and conquered."

Trump called Harris a "very low IQ individual" and drew cheers from supporters for his tough-on-migrants rhetoric.

He vowed to ban sanctuary cities, which refuse to cooperate with the federal government in enforcing immigration laws, and to invoke the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3