

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE
theSTAR

DOCTOR-ACTOR
 Ejajul Islam, known for Humayun Ahmed's TV dramas, doesn't enjoy acting anymore
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HILLARY BREAKS SILENCE
 Amid controversy over use of personal emails for work, she wants those released
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Batting heroes fire together

BISHWAJIT ROY from Nelson

The 40-odd minute innings break was perhaps the most nervous moment for any Bangladeshi fan yesterday. It was dominated by a mixture of fear and disbelief. Did Kyle Coetzer actually send the Tigers on their way home? Can an inconsistent Bangladesh defy the odds and achieve the second highest run-chase in World Cups?

The answers didn't seem like to go Bangladesh's way during the break. It seemed more impossible when Soumya Sarkar got caught behind early. But the events that followed brought back a school of thought which the fans have missed for a while.

Tamim Iqbal setting the foundation with a rigid 95, Mahmudullah Riyad muscling a half-century, Mushfiqur Rahim coming in and easing the nerves with an aggressive 50; and all these led Shakib Al Hasan to calmly finish the game. It was one of those rare moments that witnessed all of Bangladesh's batting heroes perform in one game.

It may have just been Scotland, but the Tigers needed a united performance to chase down 318 and cancel out Coetzer's superb 156; a task that the Tigers are not used to doing.

Tamim might have missed out on his dream of becoming Bangladesh's first World Cup centurion, but it was his 95 that was key behind their six-wicket win -- their highest chase in ODIs -- at the Saxton Oval yesterday.

Shakib hit the winning boundary to complete the chase with eleven balls remaining. That was followed by a calm hug between Sabbir Rahman and the all-rounder; as opposed to the traditionally excited celebrations. It gave the impression that the Tigers were hungry for more in this

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Back on song Tamim Iqbal plays a trademark one-legged pull on his way to a superb 95 against Scotland at the Saxton Oval in Nelson yesterday. Tamim's innings laid the foundation for the Tigers to chase down 318 in some style.

PHOTO: AFP

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Common people in a tight corner

WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Shahnaz Begum is numb from the shock of her husband's death just three days ago. Yet the thought of the future of her two minor children sends shudders down her spine, unsettling her.

Confronted with the bitter reality of raising the kids, one aged six years and the other only six months, the young mother tries to think of the ways but all she sees is bleak days ahead. A petrol bomb has taken away her husband Md Shipon, a trucker, throwing the family into a total uncertainty.

"He died trying to earn a living for us. What will happen to us, our children now?" said Shahnaz.

When Shipon left his Shanarpar house in Dhaka for Sonamasjid Land Port in Chapainawabganj on Monday, he had asked Shahnaz to look after their children -- Azim and Sinthia Akter.

But Shahnaz never knew it would be her lifelong responsibility, one she will have to bear all by herself.

"How will I afford my children's education? I don't know what I will do if they want something," she told The Daily Star yesterday over the phone.

Second among three brothers, Shipon, of Pokhia village in Bhola's Borhanuddin upazila, was burnt alive when alleged blockaders firebombed his pickup in Shibganj of Chapainawabganj on Tuesday morning.

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No light at the end of tunnel

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Nothing has been able to break the ongoing political deadlock.

Death of at least 83 people, untold sufferings of public, damages to economy and students' academic life, and national and international communities' outcry and call for dialogue to end the stalemate could not melt the ice between the ruling Awami League and the 20-party alliance led by its archrival BNP.

Both the rival camps claim they are fighting for democracy and people's

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Tough test for economy

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

To have a glimpse of the country's bleeding economy, look at Shohagh Paribahan.

The long-distance bus operator now runs buses between 7:00am and 3:00pm daily, meaning no bus can leave the capital after 3:00pm. Its night coach service has been suspended on government directives.

The company usually runs 15 luxury trips on the Dhaka-Chittagong route, but now it has come down to just two trips as passengers travel only if there is an emergency.

The occupancy in the economy class has almost halved. As a result, 160 out of its 200-strong fleet of buses have been lying idle since January 6 when the BNP-led alli-

ance enforced an indefinite blockade.

Shohagh Paribahan is only one of the 250 inter-district bus operators who have been counting huge losses over the last two months.

The blockade coupled with intermittent strikes is taking a huge toll on the economy which is facing its toughest test in decades. Transportation and supply chain have been hit hard.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last week informed parliament that the country incurred a loss of over Tk 1.20 lakh crore due to the blockade and hartals.

Several business chambers put the figure at Tk 2,500 crore in daily average economic

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"It's obvious that people will criticise if I fail to perform, and as a professional cricketer, I have to accept it. But I would request everybody to be a little patient with me."

TAMIM IQBAL
 AFTER SCORING 95 YESTERDAY, ENDING HIS LONG ROUGH PATCH



All bandaged, 14-year-old bus helper and orphan Yasin lies in his bed alone at DMCH. He only had one friend, Shakil. Criminals torched the bus when the two were sleeping inside on February 25. Shakil risked his life to make sure Yasin got out. Shakil died of his injuries last Saturday.

PHOTO: SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Too harsh a reality for an orphan

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

He became a bus helper way too early in life. Yasin Miah, 14, lost his father last year and mother seven years ago. Orphaned, he had to take on the responsibility also of bringing up his younger brother Arafat Miah.

But the boy who was struggling to make ends meet is now fighting for life at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He suffered 14 percent burns when pickets set fire to a bus in Narayanganj on February 25.

He was sleeping inside the bus, parked near a petrol station, along with fellow bus helper Shakil and another staffer named Mohim. They could not get back home in Matuail for

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- Special Envoy and Convener of Examinations, the Royal College of Surgeons of England;
- Formerly, Colonel British Armed Forces. Was one of a few Surgeons in the British Army to have been awarded 'American Army Achievement Medal (AAAM)' for his gallantry service to the American and NATO Military forces as well as for leading 'Hospital Healthcare' reforms in the Balkans; and
- Held the position of the 'Lead Surgeon' for teaching at Imperial College, London and Cambridge University Medical School



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