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## MOTHER OF CHOTTI MUNDA

Article pays tribute to Mahasweta Devi, who always fought for tribal people

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## SYRIA'S FUTURE

CIA chief is not optimistic that the country will remain one country

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## BAUL AKHRA BURNT

Unidentified criminals also assault bauls in Chuadanga

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### NIGHTS IN GULSHAN

# Hangouts reel from shock

NAIMUL KARIM

If you happened to take a ride around Gulshan in the past weeks, there would have been a few scenes that you just couldn't have missed.

The immense increase in the number of security personnel, the empty restaurants and a number of delivery scooters speedily honking their way around the area -- these are the sights that have dominated the circles ever since the July 1 deadly attack at the Holey Artisan Bakery.

An area that has long been considered the hub of Dhaka's nightlife, with a number of restaurants that used to be open till two in the morning, today provides a rather eerie feeling. By nightlife of course, one indicates the late night addas at the many cafes in the neighbourhood, where it was so common to see youngsters hang out until midnight.

The emptiness in the region hits you in the face. Even though these scenes have dominated Gulshan for nearly a month now, the changes are still quite difficult to fathom.

Restaurants where people needed to queue up just to get seats just last month have been forced to cordon off certain sections due to the lack of customers.

The roads that used to be filled with cars, a highly irritating aspect in Gulshan one might add, clear out as early as 8:30pm and seem quite desolate. Heck, there are even times when the streetlights at certain stretches in the area aren't turned on, further adding to the uncanny scenario.

The so-called "happening" restaurants in town are now narrating unfortunate tales. They are either facing losses or are closing down.

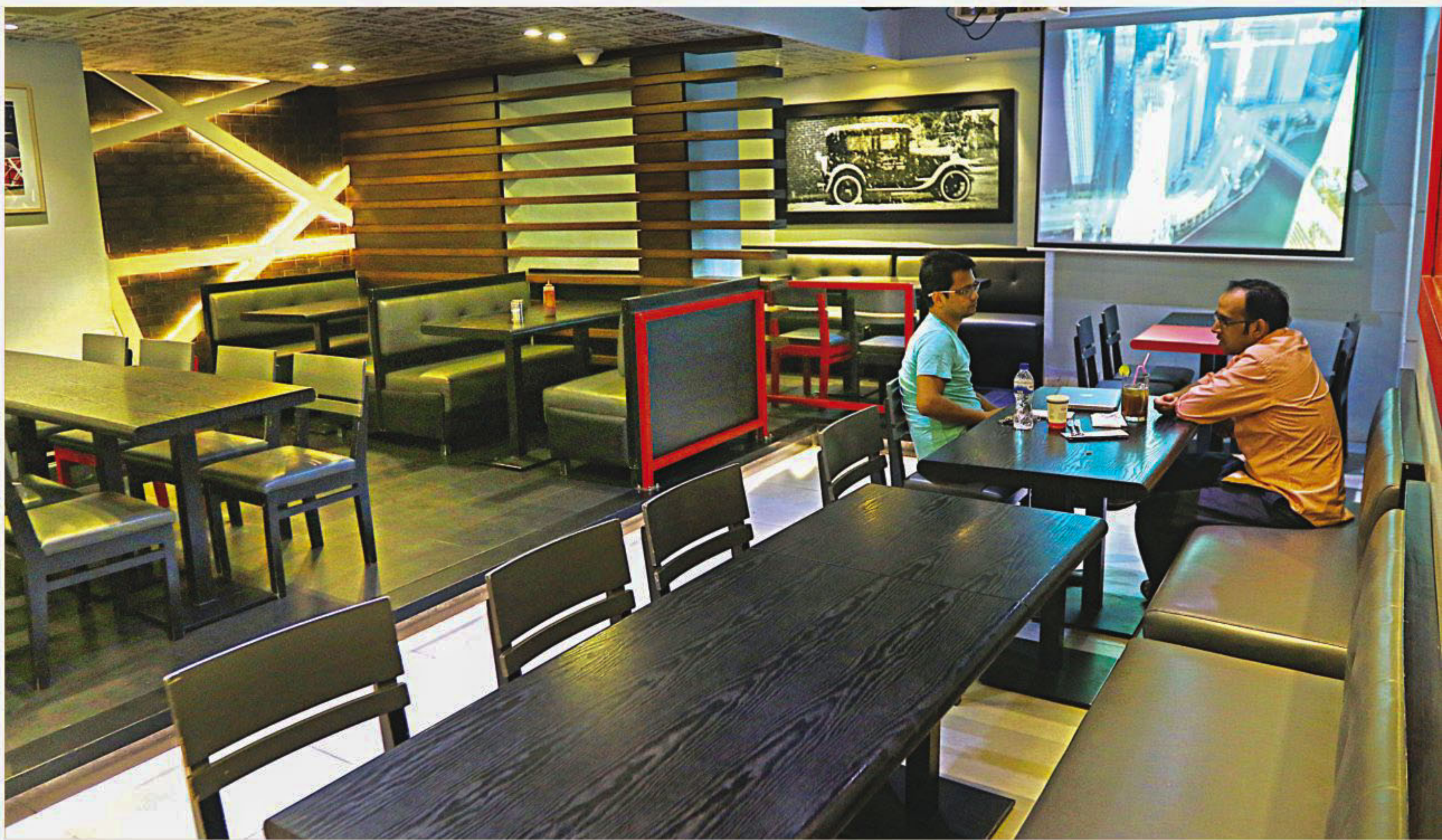
"Honestly speaking, the number of customers who come to our restaurant is just one-third now," says a dismal Nandos manager of the branch located near the Gulshan 2 circle.

"People prefer going to our branches in Dhanmondi or in other areas. But we see very few people come to this branch. Even those who do come here, I can sense, they are a bit scared.

"They often tend to look towards the door and prefer to stay alert. I think it will be fair to say that most of our sales take place through delivery companies like Hungrynaaki and Foodpanda," he adds.

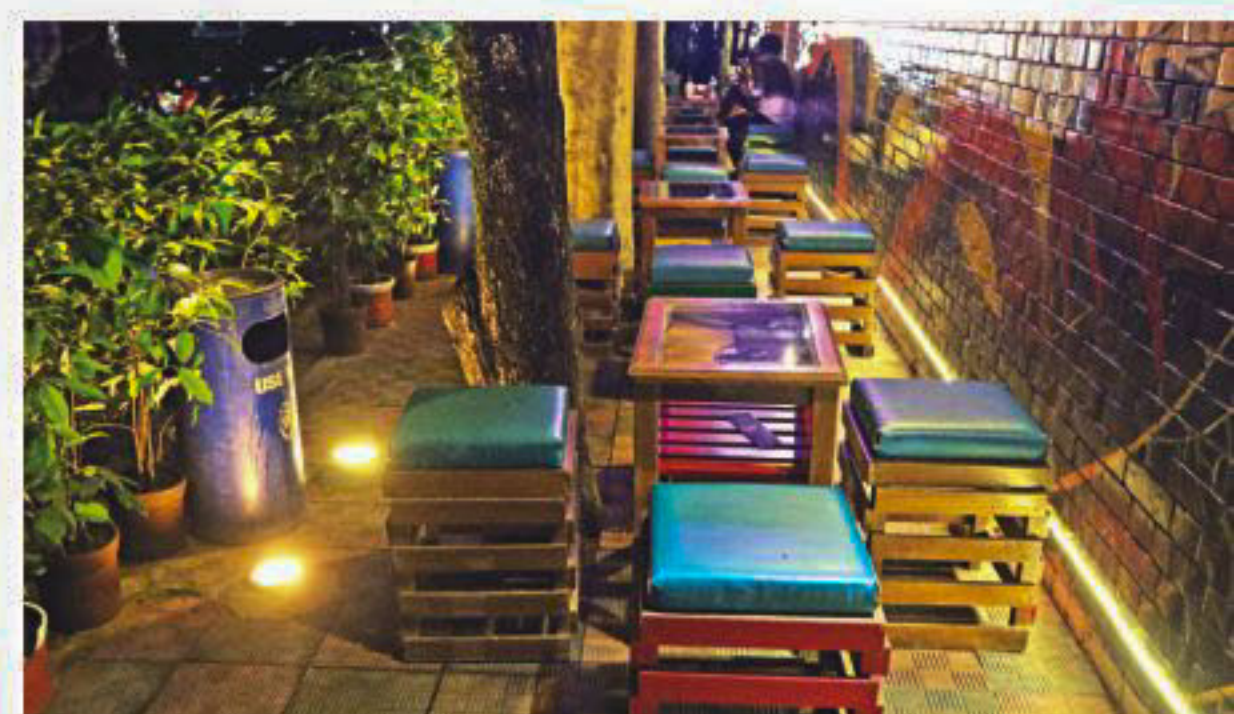
Like Nandos, there are several other restaurants in the area that have seen an increase in the number of orders from delivery companies and it's no surprise that one gets to notice more delivery scooters in Gulshan in the evening.

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Restaurants in Gulshan where people had to queue up to get seats just a month ago have been running almost empty since the terror attack on July 1. The photos were taken between 8:30pm and 9:30pm yesterday and on July 25.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN/ PRABIR DAS



# Of spices, for spices

Research centre develops 31 high-yield varieties of 14 crop spices, silently contributes to tastier foods

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

Imagine "Chingri Dopeyaja" (shrimp fry with onion) without onion or beef curry without ginger paste or cumin.

Food without spices would be like life without colours to the Bangalee taste bud. However, these spices do not come free.

Every year, the government spends over Tk 1,500 crore to import spices to meet the country's demand for these culinary ingredients.

According to Kalim Uddin, chief scientific officer (CSO) of the Spices Research Centre, Bogra, which conducts research on 35 out of 109 spices used worldwide, Bangladeshis use 27 different spices in their cooking and only 17 of these spices grow in the country. The rest are imported.

Considering the money spent on spice import and exploring opportunities for export, the Spices Research Centre was established in the mid 1990s and it started its research activities in 1998.

The centre works under Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) of Gazipur and it supervises three regional spices research centres in

Magura, Comilla and Gazipur's Joydebpur and four sub-regional centres in Lalmonirhat, Faridpur, Khagrachhari and Jaintapur of Sylhet.

Kalim Uddin serves as the in-charge of the centre leading 14 expert scientists, nine scientific assistant and around 30 staff.

Another 80 regular and 70 irregular field labourers work daily on the 70 acres of land of the research centre located beside Bogra-Shibganj road under Shibganj upazila in Bogra.

Scientists at the centre said that so far 31 high-yielding varieties of 14 crop spices were invented along with 84 production technologies, which detailed how the high-yielding varieties should be planted and grown to ensure high standard.

During harvesting time, the centre provides training on the use of fertiliser, pesticide, and harvesting process to the root-level farmers, staff of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) and agri-related officials and employees of different NGOs.

In fiscal 2014-15, trainings were provided

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## Delhi to support Dhaka in fighting terror: home boss

BSS, New Delhi

India is ready to extend all necessary support to Bangladesh not only in fighting against terrorism and violent extremism but also to all bilateral and multilateral areas.

"Now we are convinced that India, as a friendly country of Bangladesh, is ready to provide all assistance to Dhaka to face all challenges in various areas, including countering terrorism and militancy," said Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan in New Delhi yesterday.

He said Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the home minister assured him that India would not only remain with Bangladesh in its fight against terrorism, rather, it would provide all-out support to Bangladesh to combat the menace.



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## DHAKA-ANKARA TIES Ice yet to thaw

REZAUL KARIM

Diplomatic tension between Dhaka and Ankara over the executions of war crimes convicts continues with neither side doing anything visible to improve the situation.

Even though foreign ministry officials in Dhaka said relations between Bangladesh and Turkey were normal, diplomatic sources said the ties were not that good and that each was waiting for the other to make a move.

The Turkish ambassador to Bangladesh, Devrim Ozturk, who left for Ankara on May 12 being asked to report home in the aftermath of the execution of Jamaat chief Motiur Rahman Nizami, is yet to return to Dhaka, sources told The Daily Star last week.

Before leaving Dhaka, he had told the foreign ministry that he would be back in a few days. But diplomatic sources in Dhaka and in Ankara cannot say when he would return.

On the other hand, Bangladesh ambassador in Ankara Allama Siddiki, who came to Dhaka on June 2 in a move seen as a retaliation, is still here, according to the sources.

Since the departure of the Turkish envoy, deputy chief of mission Ahmed Gurbuz has been discharging the responsibilities of the ambassador.

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan angrily reacted and had taken no time to condemn Nizami's execution on May 11. He even believes Nizami, who was convicted of

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TOP QUOTE

"There is no need to think that the state structure will be broken down in one or two militant attacks. The attackers have no courage, no self-strength. They're timid and cowards. It's not at all possible for them to win any war."

RULING AWAMI LEAGUE GENERAL SECRETARY SYED ASHRAFUL ISLAM AT A RALLY AT CENTRAL SHAHEED MINAR



A scientific officer of the Spices Research Centre tending green chillies in a field at Shibganj in Bogra recently. Inset, another SRC scientific officer talking to a staff member in an onion field. Scientists at the centre say they have invented 31 high-yield varieties of 14 crop spices with the use of technologies. PHOTO: STAR

## Bhola supplied arms to Musa

Says charge sheet in arms case over Mitu murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Ehteshamul Haque Bhola had supplied the arms used in killing police superintendent's wife Mahmuda Khanam Mitu. Kamrul Sikder alias Musa, the main suspect in the murder, had collected the arms from Bhola and later returned those.


This was mentioned in the charge sheet of the arms case filed with Bakalia Police Station over the murder. Police on Thursday night submitted the charge sheet to a Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, said Sub-inspector Mahim Uddin, investigating officer of the case.

Bhola, 41, and Monir Hossain, 28, a day labourer, were named in the charge sheet as accused. Monir was arrested in possession of the arms.

On June 5, SP Babul Akter's wife Mitu was stabbed and shot dead at GEC intersection in Chittagong while she was



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### বাংলাদেশ বেসরকারি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় সমিতি

সকল বেসরকারি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়কে ১লা আগস্ট ২০১৬, সোমবার সকাল ১১.০০ থেকে ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত নিজ নিজ ক্যাম্পাসের সম্মুখে জঙ্গিবাদ প্রতিরোধ ও সুশিক্ষার পক্ষে মানববন্ধন ও গণস্বাক্ষর কর্মসূচী পালন এবং জঙ্গি বিরোধি আলোচনা সভা করার আহ্বান জানাচ্ছি।

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চেয়ারম্যান