

Ronaldinho

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 Halfway through the duet, he plays drums, then breaks out in a 30-second rap solo.
 "Love is our game, from start to finish, in my heart there are no longer enemies," he raps.
 He then asks the armor-clad Christian saint to slay "the dragon of greed" and corruption, while a chorus bemoans the squandering of public funds in detriment of "schools and hospitals."
 This is not the first musical outing for Ronaldinho, 39, who hung up his football cleats in January 2018.
 He has also performed with Tunisian rapper K2rhythm, and was featured in the official World Cup 2018 song performed by Will Smith, Nicky Jam and Era Istrefi.
 Ronaldinho even made a surprise appearance playing drums at the World Cup closing ceremony at Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium.
 The famous midfielder however is not free of controversy: in November 2018, a court ordered that his passport and that of his brother Roberto be withheld for failing to pay a \$2.3 million fine for environmental damage incurred during the building of property in Rio Grande do Sul, in southern Brazil.

And during last year's presidential campaign, he joined the far-right PRB party and threw his support behind their candidate Jair Bolsonaro.
 Bolsonaro, who was elected on a sweeping promise to fight corruption, has faced his own scandals since taking office in January.

High migration

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 Under such a reality, the UN late last year adopted the GCM, a non-legally binding global deal proposed by Bangladesh, aimed at better governing migration, ensuring migrant rights and well-being in the migration cycle -- pre-departure, arrival, stay, and return.
 The countries are now working on ways to implement the compact. Bangladesh has already drafted a migration governance framework.
 Syed Saiful Haque, chairman of WARBE Development Foundation, said policies are being framed in Bangladesh, but it faces some tough challenges in regulating the recruiting agencies, illegal manpower brokers, visa trading and reintegration of the returnees into the society.
 Last year, Malaysia suspended hiring workers from Bangladesh alleging corruption in the recruitment process and syndication of agents as each jobseeker had to spend up to Tk 4 lakh against the fixed migration cost of Tk 40,000.
 Earlier, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia had suspended labour recruitment from Bangladesh citing malpractices in the process.
 Before the suspension, each jobseeker had to spend Tk 4 to 5 lakh to secure a job in those Middle Eastern countries in 2012.
 Saiful said such issues should be addressed on an urgent basis.
 State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam said Bangladesh is committed to protect the migrants as it is an integral part of the country's development.
 "We constantly advocate for ethical recruitment, opening up of new legal pathways, responsible migration, decent work and protection of migrants' rights."
 He also stressed the need for lowering the cost of remitting to Bangladesh and ensuring informed and sustainable voluntary return of workers.
 Protecting migrants' rights also requires stronger global cooperation, the state minister said. "Closing the borders to stop the flow of migrants is not the solution or safeguard to uphold a country's sovereign authority."
 Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque said disorderly migration creates disruptive forces, including smugglers and traffickers, and a "vicious cycle" that leads to vulnerability of migrants. This has to be turned into a "virtuous cycle" of migration, he added.
 He said migrants are sometimes "politicised" and "militarised" and are seen as destructive to the social fabric in a society. If governed properly, migration can be beneficial for all, the secretary observed.
 Migration rights activist Colin Rajah called for stronger roles of the migrant rights bodies in the respective countries to help shape policies and implement those to uphold their rights.
 He also urged the countries and UN bodies to better accommodate the opinions of the civil society bodies.
 Shameem Ahmed Chowdhury Noman, secretary general of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira), said the labour-hiring countries should be taken on board to find sustainable solutions to the perennial governance problems faced by the migrants.
 Representatives from the Bangladesh government, the UN and NGOs were present at the programme.



Waste being dumped into the Louhajang river by a factory in Khudirampur village of Tangail Sadar. The photo was taken this month.

Palette of pollution

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 Alauddin Textile Mills is mainly a lungi factory and uses fabric dyes, which run into the river untreated and alter the hue of the water.
 Locals say the contamination stretches as far as 2-3km.
 As the pollution became more severe and started leaving impacts on agriculture, fishing and the lives of the riverside communities, local people launched protests. The campaign was stepped up in the last one decade.
 Human chains were held, and public representatives and administration officials informed. They also visited the factory.
 This time they would go to the High Court and block the Dhaka-Tangail highway if the pollution is not stopped, the villagers said.
 The pollution is not only hurting the environment and wiping out aquatic life, it is also causing diseases to local residents.
 Dr Azharul Islam, a retired government physician and skin disease specialist, has been one of the crusaders against the river pollution. The village he lives in is adjacent to the river and is one of the victims of the pollution.
 He said the factory has been contaminating the river for the last two decades. "Whoever uses its water gets health problems especially skin diseases."
 Dr Azharul practices in Tangail town and in Dhaka. "I have treated several villagers who got skin diseases because of direct and indirect

impacts of the pollution," he said.
 Cattle grazing along the river bank became affected, too.
 Farmer Jinnah Miah said, "If our cattle drink the water, they get diarrhoea. We also cannot wash them in the river, which we used to do regularly in the past."
 Dr Azharul said, "We have been protesting for the last one decade. We informed the local chairman and urged the factory owners to stop the pollution. There has been no result because they are influential."
 After pressure mounted from local administration and environmentalists, the factory set up an effluent treatment plant (ETP) in 2007, said Somnath Lahiri, senior researcher of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), Tangail chapter. "But it was just an eyewash," he said.
 Mujahidul Islam, deputy director of Department of Environment (DoE) in Tangail, explains why.
 "The factory was fined earlier for polluting the river. It's true it has an ETP. But when we visited the factory a few days ago, we saw the factory was releasing the untreated waste through another pipeline bypassing the ETP."
 "They were also dumping solid waste," he said on Thursday.
 In July 2011, a mobile court led by Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, then director (monitoring

and enforcement) of DoE, visited the spot along with experts and fined the factory Tk 30 lakh for not operating the ETP properly and causing pollution. The move failed as well.
 Talking to The Daily Star, Dilip Kumar Saha, co-owner and managing director of Alauddin Textile Mills, refuted both allegations.
 "We only release waste treated by the ETP. Still we shall further improve the ETP so that in no way can the factory harm the river," he said.
 When asked, Khalequzzaman Chowdhury Maznu, chairman of Karatia union, where the factory is located, expressed helplessness.
 He said he informed the matter to the DoE and the local administration several times. "What can I do if the authorities concerned do not take any action?"
 Md Shahidul Islam, deputy commissioner in Tangail, who was travelling abroad, gave an interview to a private TV channel recently about the river pollution, saying he would engage the local office of DoE for monitoring and enforcement against the polluters as per environmental laws.
 DoE official Mujahidul Islam said, "We collected all proofs of pollution including pictures during the recent spot visit and sent them to the enforcement unit of DoE. I hope the factory authorities won't be able to escape action this time."

US seeks to sell \$39m mansion tied to Malaysia scandal

AFP, Kuala Lumpur
 US authorities are seeking to sell a \$39-million luxury mansion in Los Angeles allegedly bought by a Malaysian financier with money looted from scandal-hit state fund 1MDB, court documents showed.
 Billions of dollars were purportedly pilfered from the Malaysian sovereign wealth fund by former prime minister Najib Razak and his cronies, and spent on everything from high-end real estate to artworks.

2 schoolgirls

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 hotel and return home.
 Shariful Islam, officer-in-charge of Rowangchhari Police Station, said they arrested U Shwe on Friday from Bandarban Bus Station area.
 Meanwhile, a 12-year-old girl was raped allegedly by a local grocery store owner at Araihaazar upazila in Narayanganj on Friday.
 The accused is 35-year-old Alauddin.
 According to police, the victim went to Alauddin's store for purchasing grocery. She was waiting in front of the store as it was raining outside. Taking the chance, Alauddin forcibly took the girl inside his store and raped her.
 Hearing the girl scream, locals rushed to the spot and rescued her but Alauddin managed to flee, the law enforcers added.
 Akhter Hossain, officer-in-charge of Araihaazar Police Station, said the victim's father filed a case against Alauddin yesterday.
 Police were conducting drives to arrest the alleged rapist, he added.

Aching

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 including school zoning, playground and public space, urban environment, walking facilities or urban mobility, urban neighbourhood, and urban safety and security.
 Following the group works, the children, divided into six groups, gave presentations on their thoughts during the closing session attended by high officials involved with the DAP.
 Talking to The Daily Star after the programme, Jannatul Ferdous, an eighth grader of Bengali Medium High School in Mohammadpur, said, "The toughest problem for me is to walk on the pavements. There are makeshift shops occupying footpaths."
 Manik Khan, another eighth grader of Maddy Ganda High School in Savar, intervened. "Where would they [street hawkers] go? There should be certain place for their business," he said.
 Due to differences in schools' qualities, children often are forced to go far from their homes to attend classes. To solve this, some participants wanted schools within a 10-minute walking distance from their homes.
 Mukul, a tenth grader of Bengali Medium High School, said, "We must have separate playground for girls."
 Talking to this correspondent, Prof Zaki Islam of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), who instructed one of the groups yesterday, said, "The children shared their perspectives [on different matters] and smartly placed the solutions in a short time."
 Earlier in the morning, high-ups from Rajuk and other government agencies concerned, and other experts addressed the inaugural session of the programme.
 Speaking there, Prof Ishrat Islam of urban and regional planning department of Buet, said all the available playgrounds must remain open and any available open spaces must be utilised for the sake of an "overall development of children".
 "Wherever necessary, the government has to purchase land to create playgrounds and open space for a healthy future of the children," she said, adding, "Or else, today's children will denounce the elders tomorrow if they fail to draw up children-friendly cities today."
 Prof Md Akter Mahmud, vice-president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said, "Mere plots for residential and commercial purposes without proportionate open spaces and playgrounds will never help healthy development of children." Rajuk Chairman Md Abdur Rahman said, "The existing detailed area plan did not consider having sufficient playgrounds, we are trying to ensure adequate playgrounds in the revised plan."
 Rajuk board member for planning Md Sayeed Noor Alam said development for tomorrow depends on the "authority, personality and influence" of today's children.
 DAP Project Director Md Ashraf Islam and consulting firm's deputy team leader Khondker Neaz Rahman, among others, also spoke.
 Rajuk authorised first DAP for 2010-2015. In continuation of that plan, the capital's development regulator is now working to finalise a "revised DAP" for up to 2035.

She'd face death penalty

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 citizenship in February.
 Her claim to Bangladeshi nationality through her mother is believed to have played a role in the British Home Office's decision, the BBC reports.
 It added that under international laws, it was illegal to deprive a person of citizenship if to do so would leave them stateless.
 Speaking to the BBC, Begum's lawyer, Tasnime Akunjee, said "in no way is she Bangladesh's problem".
 Begum is appealing against the Home Office's decision.
 Meanwhile, according to the BBC report, Momen said there was "no question" of giving Begum Bangladeshi citizenship or allowing her into the country, piling pressure on Britain's Home Secretary Sajid Javid to settle her status.

"She has never sought Bangladeshi citizenship and her parents are also British citizens," he told the BBC.
 "The British government is responsible for her. They'll have to deal with her."
 He added that, if she did end up coming to Bangladesh, she would fall foul of the country's "zero tolerance policy" towards terrorism.
 "Bangladeshi law is very clear. Terrorists will have to face the death penalty."
 Although Begum travelled to Syria to join the IS group, she has not admitted to any terror offences.
 The Home Office could reverse its decision "at any time" and doing so would "save British taxpayers a lot of money" in court costs and legal aid, Akunjee said.
 "What Sajid Javid did in stripping Shamima of her citizenship is human

fly tipping -- taking our problems and dumping them on other countries," he said.
 The Home Office told the BBC it would not respond to Momen's comments and had nothing further to add to its previous statement.
 Begum left the UK with two school friends at the age of 15 before being found by a journalist from the Times in a Syrian refugee camp in mid-February this year.
 Pregnant with her third child, she pleaded to return to the UK, claiming she had been "brainwashed" by Islamic State and now "regrets everything".
 She said she did not regret travelling to Syria but did not agree with everything the IS group had done, the BBC reports.
 Javid did not acquiesce to her pleas, telling MPs he "won't hesitate" to

revoke her citizenship in the interests of national security.
 "If you back terror, there must be consequences," he said.
 Soon afterwards, she gave birth to a boy called Jarrah. He died of pneumonia in March at less than three weeks of age. She had two other children who also died.
 In the wake of the boy's death, Javid was criticised over the decision to strip Begum of her British citizenship.
 Three weeks prior to the death, Begum's sister, Renu Begum, had written to Javid asking him to help her bring the baby to the UK.
 Under the 1981 British Nationality Act, a person can be deprived of their citizenship if the home secretary is satisfied it would be "conducive to the public good" and they would not become stateless as a result.

Jatiya Party drama

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 moved to ask Ershad questions about his latest decision, the leader of the opposition said he came to the briefing right after waking up from sleep.
 Without giving Ershad any opportunity to speak to journalists, GM Quader took Ershad away in a wheel chair and asked the media not to disturb him.
 At the briefing, Ershad again announced that Quader would take on the responsibilities of the party's chairman in his absence.
 Ershad has been almost inactive in the party for the past six months. He joined only one parliament sitting out of 26 of the 11th parliament's first session. He took part in no sittings of the second session that ended on April 30.
 In the last four months, Ershad announced at least four times that GM Quader would act as the party's chairman in his absence or when he goes abroad for treatment.
 On March 22, he relieved his brother from the post of JP co-chair, saying that Quader failed to discharge his duties and created divisions within the party.

He said Quader totally failed to discharge his duties and that was why the party's organisational activities lost steam. Party's senior leaders also expressed frustration over Quader's leadership.
 A day later, Quader was removed from the post of deputy leader of the opposition.
 Twelve days later, Ershad in a statement reinstated him to the JP co-chair post.
 IT worker
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 Ali Hossain, officer-in-charge of the station, told The Daily Star.
 He said video footage of CCTV cameras installed nearby showed the victim being taken away in a white microbus around 8:05pm.
 The car's number plate was yet to be determined, he said.
 Ataur's brother-in-law Manjur Hossain said the victim had gone to the area for official work.
 Ataur lives with his family in Mirpur. He and his wife have an eight-year-old boy, family sources said.

2 'criminals' killed

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 was killed in a "gunfight" with Rab yesterday.
 The identity of the dead could not be known immediately, reported UNB.
 Saiful Islam, sub-inspector at Dumuria Police Station, said a gang of robbers swooped on a house in Thukra area of the upazila around 1:30am.
 Hearing people scream, a patrol team of Rab rushed to the spot. Sensing their presence, the criminals opened fire on them, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate, he claimed.
 The team of Rab found a body from the spot after other criminals fled, the SI added.
 Meanwhile in Mymensingh's Nandail upazila, an alleged drug dealer was killed in a "gunfight" with police.
 The dead is Hazrat Ali, 45, an accused in at least 10 cases, police said.
 Shah Kamal Akanda, officer-in-charge of Detective Branch of the district police, said a police team raided Savar Community Clinic area around 1:15am on information that drugs were being smuggled there.
 Sensing police presence, the drug peddlers opened fire, forcing them to retaliate, the OC said, adding that

Hazrat was left injured.
 He was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead, the OC added.
 Police also claimed to have recovered a firearm, 300 grammes of heroin and 200 pieces of yaba pills from the spot.
 Two policemen were also injured during the "gunfight", Kamal said.
 On Friday, police arrested two listed drug traders in Teknaf with large consignment of yaba pills and a firearm.
 The arrestees are Rashedul Karim and Mahbubul Karim, brothers of Cox's Bazar based top listed yaba trader Haji Saiful Karim.
 The duo got involved in yaba trade following Saiful.
 Pradip Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, the two criminals were arrested around 9:00pm from Saiful's house.
 According to locals, Saiful has been in hiding since law enforcers started nationwide anti-narcotic drive last year.
 Saiful was out of the hook for a long time because of his close connection with some police officials. He along with a police official jointly erected a resort near Cox's Bazar sea beach, they added.