

Cops harassing

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wanted to know whether they had any political affiliation.
“They even went to the homes of our neighbours and told them that my son was a Jamaat-Shibir activist. This allegation is absolutely false,” she said over phone.
Contacted, Mir Mosharaf Hossain, officer-in-charge of Tangail Sadar Police Station, denied police involvement in any harassment. “No one has harassed anyone,” he said.
Ariful Islam Anik, general secretary of the Chhatra Union unit, alleged his family members were harassed in a similar way in Kishoreganj.
“The policemen even told my parents that my academic life was at stake,” he said, adding, “Police have no right to harass anyone like this.”
The Daily Star tried but could not contact anyone from the local police station for comments.
Another organiser of the platform, Mushfiq Uls Salehin, said some policemen asked his maternal grandfather to stop him from taking part in the demo. “All my relatives are now extremely worried.”

JU Chhatra Front President Mahathir Mohammad, Organising Secretary Shovon Rahman, Quota Reform Movement leaders Khan Muntasir Arman and Shakiluzzaman, and cultural activist Muzibul Haque Shishir are among the 10 students who raised the allegation against police.

Talking to this correspondent, they all alleged their family members were being harassed as they were staging the demo.
On Sunday, Bangladesh Chhatra Union in a press release protested the police “harassment”.
Prof Rayhan Rhyne, convener of the platform, suspected that the university administration might be linked to this.

Asked, JU acting proctor ASM Firoz-Ul Hasan, however, said they were not aware of anyone being harassed.
The university plunged into a crisis in the wake of the student protests in August demanding a judicial enquiry into the reported involvement of the vice-chancellor in corruption and mismanagement of a Tk 1,445-crore campus development project.

The two top leaders of central BCL -- the president and the general secretary -- were relieved of the posts after allegations surfaced that they demanded their “fair share” from the financial allocation for the development work.
The VC has always claimed she is not involved in any corruption or irregularities.
Recently, the authorities shut down the university for an indefinite period and banned rallies and processions on the campus until further notice.

Even after that, the protesters continued staging the demo, demanding the VC step down.

Tureen

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accused.
A letter, signed by Chief Prosecutor Ghulam Arief Tipoo, said that Tureen had met war crimes accused and former acting director general of NSI Wahidul Haque at a hotel in the capital.
Wahidul recorded the conversation between him and Tureen. After he was arrested in April last year, an investigation agency and the prosecutor's office got access to the record, officials of the agency and prosecutor's office said.
Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday told The Daily Star that the allegation against Tureen was found to be true.
The ICT-1 sent Wahidul to jail on April 25 last year, a day after he was arrested on charges of committing crimes in 1971.
The tribunal last month indicted Wahidul, who allegedly was a captain of the Pakistan army during the war.
Acclaimed war crimes prosecutor Tureen joined the team in 2013.
WHAT LAW MINISTER SAYS
Law Minister Anisul Huq said there was a serious allegation against Tureen of abusing her position.
Besides, she made an objectionable and irresponsible comment while discussing important and confidential matters regarding the particular war crimes case against the accused, he told The Daily Star without mentioning which accused.
The minister said an in-house enquiry committee investigated the allegations.

WHAT TUREEN SAYS
“I had been given an important task in the war crimes trial and I think I have discharged my duties with one hundred percent honesty,” she told this correspondent yesterday.
About the allegations mentioned in the law ministry circular, she said, “I really don’t know what they meant.
“As far as I know, I have not been involved in any misconduct or broken any professional rule.
“I don’t know whether any probe committee had been formed [to investigate the allegations]. I was not even given the scope for self-defence.
Regarding this, the law minister said the enquiry committee members didn’t feel that it was necessary to contact Tureen for the probe.



Protesters hit the fencing as they demonstrate outside of Lebanon Central Bank during the ongoing anti-government protests in Beirut yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Tigers miss chance at history

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series-deciding third T20I in Nagpur.
Therefore, the series ended 2-1 in India's favour despite Bangladesh getting a dream start in their first multi-format tour of India, beating the hosts by seven wickets at New Delhi in the first T20I -- their first-ever T20I win against their Asian rivals.

Naim could not win the match but the rookie batsman won the hearts of many cricket fans. There were a few high points for the Tigers in the just-concluded series, especially the confidence shown by the youngsters in the absence of proven performers like Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal.

“Naim and [leg-spinner Aminul Islam] Biplob's performance was a high point. The bowling unit had done well too. Mushfiqur Rahim's match-winning performance, these were positives,” Bangladesh's T20I captain Mahmudullah Riyad said after the disappointing 30-run defeat in the final game.

The two defeats, however, exposed where the problem lies with the shortest form of the game for the Tigers.

That was why Mahmudullah also lamented the fact that having started so well in the series, they were unable to take advantage when it mattered most. “We got the momentum when we won the first match and we feel that it [momentum] is Bangladesh team's strength. Then we lost the series, so obviously it was disappointing,” he remarked.

remarked.

The series had been preceded by earth-shattering incidents in the country's cricket such as the players' strike and Test and T20I captain Shakib being banned from all forms of cricket for two years, with one year suspended, for not reporting corrupt approaches by a bookie.

The focus also shifted to environmental factors like the Delhi smog after the Tigers reached India. However, Mushfiqur's fantastic innings under pressure after the bowlers had put in a good effort, backed incredibly by the fielders, saw Bangladesh find self-belief through the gloom, ably led by new T20 captain Mahmudullah. If focus had been on the Delhi smog and Shakib's absence, the win gave Bangladesh a cause for hope.

Having played so well, the Tigers wanted to finish the job in Rajkot but the wicket there favoured India's strokeplayers and they leveled the series 1-1 with a convincing victory. Having built up so much momentum after the first match, the defeat in the second T20I in Rajkot -- with a cyclone threat looming -- was a definite setback with a dominant Rohit Sharma assailing Tigers' middling score after they had been given a good start by the openers.

The team however showed a positive mindset ahead of the series-deciding third and final T20I. Despite a great start with the ball, with Shafiqul Islam removing India openers Sharma

and Shikhar Dhawan early, the game started to slip away following a few errors. The Tigers managed to stage a fightback to restrict India to 174 for five -- a challenging total that looked difficult to assail from the onset. Then Bangladesh lost two early wickets and what was difficult became almost impossible. The game continued in its seesaw manner, with the balance of power tipping from one side to the other. Resistance came from young Naim, playing in only his third T20I match, as the left-hander took the attack to the India bowlers and scored a magnificent 81 off 48 deliveries to take Bangladesh to a position of superiority in the game.

However, much like it has happened in recent times, the Tigers failed to adjust to the pressure situations and ultimately fumbled what would have been a historic first-ever T20I series win against India, losing their last eight wickets for 34 runs and handing the hosts a 30-run victory.

T20Is have never been a strong suit for Bangladesh, but with young players now making considerable impact, the India series could be seen as a positive stepping stone to prepare for the upcoming T20 World Cup in 2020.

For now, however, the Tigers will have to make a quick turnaround to face the mighty Indians in a two-match Test series, starting with the first match in Indore from November 14.

Acid test for Bangladesh growth story

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How fast this first tranche is snapped up would be a testament of the veracity of Bangladesh's growth story. Are global investors, who are heavy on due diligence, excited about Bangladesh's future? Are Bangladesh's economic fundamentals actually that solid?

In other words, it would be a nice ego booster for the nation.

But the success of the Bangla Bond is important for another reason too: it opens up a handy financing avenue for Bangladeshi companies.

Interested parties will be snapping up the bond in dollars. The bond proceeds would be converted to taka and lent out to Bangladeshi companies by the IFC.

After the end of the three-year tenor of this tranche the investors would be paid back the taka amount they signed up for at the going rate of the dollar.

So, the currency risk lies with the investor and not the issuer, unlike offshore borrowing.

While offshore borrowing allows

Bangladeshi companies to take advantage of the lower interest rates in international markets, the cost of hedging the currency risk can be significant and has to be borne by the companies themselves.

If unhedged, adverse exchange rate movements can have significant negative impact to the borrower and thus the overall cost of borrowing can end up being much higher than the international market rates.

Since the currency risk is borne by the investor in the Bangla Bond, the cost of borrowing can work out much lower compared with offshore borrowing.

IFC would be lending out the proceeds of the first tranche of Bangla Bond -- about Tk 80 crore -- to Pran Group to boost their processing capacities and deepen the rural distribution reach.

The interest rate for the local agro processor would be 11 to 11.5 percent, which, according to Kamruzzaman Kamal, a director of Pran-RFL Group, is lower than what they would have

to count were the borrowing made from local banks.

At present, the interest rate on term loans range from 11 percent to 14 percent.

And, last but not the least, the success of the Bangla Bond would pave the way for the government to float sovereign bonds of its own and get the funding needed to develop infrastructure befitting of the country's growth ambitions, which is become an advanced nation by 2041.

In the absence of a pricing benchmark and a solid yield curve, the international bond market is more or less sealed for the Bangladesh government as most investors tend to invest in AA-rated bonds and steer clear of Baa3/BBB-/BB+ rated Bangladesh government bonds.

But if the IFC pulls off this Bangla Bond experiment, both the problems would be solved.

As is often said, it is the little things that make big things happens -- and success of the Bangla Bond can be a turning point for Bangladesh.

not spend Tk 480 crore.

“Since we cannot manage our network, customers have started experiencing bad service,” Azman said.

The top executives said they were interested in settling the matter out of court and were showing respect to the decisions made at a meeting on October 21 with Prime Minister's ICT Affairs Adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy.

But the telecom regulator is not complying with Joy's directive, said Foley.

He said that at that meeting, it was decided that that Grameenphone would deposit Tk 200 crore in BTRC's bank account while the audit claim would be reviewed by a committee, which would consist of seven members from the regulatory body, national board of revenue and the carriers. And no case proceeding would move forward, he added.

Hossain Sadat, head of regulatory affairs and acting head of communications at Grameenphone, also spoke.

Nasa unveils

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what it will be like to manoeuvre the finished version of the X-57 in flight, even as the plane remains under development.

The Maxwell is the latest in a proud line of experimental aircraft the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has developed over many decades for many purposes, including the bullet-shaped Bell X-1 that first broke the sound barrier and the X-15 rocket plane flown by Neil Armstrong before he joined the Apollo moon team.

The Maxwell will be the agency's first crewed X-plane to be developed in two decades.

While private companies have been developing all-electric planes and hover-craft for years, Nasa's X-57 venture is aimed at designing and proving technology according to standards that commercial manufacturers can adapt for government certification.

Those will include standards for airworthiness and safety, as well as for energy efficiency and noise,

Brent Cobleigh, a project manager for Nasa's Armstrong Flight Research Center at Edwards, about 100 miles (160 km) north of Los Angeles.

“We're focusing on things that can help the whole industry, not just one company,” he told Reuters in an interview at the research center. “Our target right now is to fly this airplane in late 2020.”

The final modification, or Mod IV, of the aircraft will feature narrower, lighter-weight wings fitted with a total of 14 electric engines - six smaller “lift” props along the leading edge of each wing, plus two larger “cruise” props at the tip of each wing.

The lift propellers will be activated for take-off and landings, but retract during the flight's cruise phase.

Because electric motor systems are more compact with fewer moving parts than internal-combustion engines, they are simpler to maintain and weigh much less, requiring less energy to fly, Cobleigh explained. They also are quieter than conventional engines.

HK protester

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said at a press conference in which he showed the video of the man being set alight, as well as a fire inside a train.

At the end of the business day Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam held a press conference to denounce the violence and vow it would not lead to any government concessions.

“I am making this statement clear and loud here, that will not happen,” Lam said.

LIVESTREAMED SHOOTING

The footage of the shooting -- broadcast live to Facebook by a bystander -- showed a police officer drawing a pistol as he tried to detain a masked person at a junction that had been blocked by protesters.

Another unarmed masked protester then approached the officer and was shot, quickly falling to the ground.

Authorities said he was in critical condition in hospital.

Police chiefs defended the officer drawing his weapon and firing as a legitimate use of force given his fears for his safety.

But protesters, who for months have accused police of using excessive force and demanded an independent inquiry into their actions, were incensed.

“I don't understand why police have to use that kind of brutality to hurt innocent people... it's just out of control,” a 22-year-old IT worker, who gave her surname as Chan, told AFP as she joined angry crowds to protest in the area of the shooting.

Yesterday's shooting was the third time protesters had been hit by live

rounds fired by police. None of the shootings have resulted in deaths.

Lam said the man set on fire was in a critical condition. She described that attack as “totally inhumane”.

Protesters ignored her pleas for calm with further rallies in multiple locations across the city last night.

Online forums used by the largely anonymous and leaderless movement also carried messages vowing another day of chaos today.

INCREASING VIOLENCE

Hong Kong has endured 24 straight weeks of increasingly violent rallies aimed at securing greater democratic freedoms from China, which has ruled the city under a “one country, two systems” framework since its handover from the British in 1997.

The protesters are desperate to stop what they see as Beijing's tightening control over Hong Kong, and reneging on its handover commitment to allow greater liberties for the city than those on the mainland.

But Beijing has refused to give in, and instead warned it is prepared to impose even greater security measures.

Tensions in Hong Kong were already high following the death on Friday of a 22-year-old student who succumbed to injuries sustained from a fall in the vicinity of a police clearance operation a week earlier.

After a weekend of clashes and huge vigils, yesterday's chaos began with small groups of masked protesters disrupting subway stations and roads during the rush hour commute.

Girl gang-raped

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Police picked up Shahinur from the rice mill area near the house of the victim's brother-in-law. The arrestee during primary interrogation admitted to gang-raping the girl, said police.

Meanwhile, a seventh-grader was raped in Manikganj on Saturday night, while police on Sunday arrested 12 people on charge of raping a college girl and spreading a video of the incident in Pabna.

Talking to The Daily Star about the Bogura incident, Adamdighi OC Jalal Uddin said the two accused scaled the boundary wall of the house of the victim's brother-in-law in the upazila's Nasratpur union around 2:00pm yesterday.

They entered the house and violated the girl while her elder sister and brother-in-law were away from home. The two fled the scene, the OC added.

Law enforcers later took the victim to the police station.

Police said they would send the victim to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital today for medical tests.

The arrestee would be produced before a local court today.

In Manikganj, the seventh-grader, 14, was raped allegedly by one Habibur Rahman Hobi, from Dhaka's Dhamrai upazila, when she was home alone.

Md Motiar Rahman Miah, officer-in-charge of Saturia Police Station, said

No sector

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She has initiated the anti-graft drive from her home [AL],” the road transport and bridges minister said.

“No evil force will be able to halt her progress if we are united under the ideology of Bangabandhu.”

The AL general secretary urged the members of Swetchhasebak League to stay away from corruption, drug abuse, tender manipulation, extortion and land grabbing.

He said there would be no room for extortionists, drug peddlers and corrupt people in the new committees.

“Do not bring an opportunist to the organisation only to increase the number of leaders and activists.”

Quader said the committees of Dhaka South and North units of Awami Swetchhasebak League will be announced at the organisation's national council slated for November 16.

the victim's family were tenants in a house owned by Habibur's father-in-law.

On Saturday afternoon, Habibur went to visit his father-in-law. In the evening, when he found the girl alone in her home, he went there and raped her.

The girl told her family members about the incident, and her mother filed a case against Habibur, who is now on the run, said OC Motiar.

In Pabna, a gang of criminals entered the home of a 20-year-old college girl in Ishwardi upazila on the night of June 5. While one of them raped the girl, few others filmed it on a mobile phone and then spread the video.

On Sunday, the girl's father filed a case against 14 people. Police raided different spots and arrested them, said Bahauddin Faruki, OC of Ishwardi police station.

Our Bogura, Manikganj and Pabna correspondents contributed to the story.

Republican breaks with Trump

AFP, Washington

A Republican lawmaker on Sunday broke with the US president and fellow party members to reject the idea that the whistleblower whose complaint prompted an impeachment inquiry into Donald Trump should have to testify publicly.

After weeks of closed-door hearings, House committees on Wednesday will begin questioning witnesses in open session about efforts by Trump and his aides to pressure Ukraine to investigate political opponents including former vice president Joe Biden and his son Hunter.

Republicans on the House intelligence committee have asked its chairman, Adam Schiff, to call as witnesses both Hunter Biden, who had business links to Ukraine, and the still unidentified whistleblower, who is known to work in the intelligence community.

Republican congressman Will Hurd, himself a former CIA officer, spoke out Sunday against including the whistleblower -- the target of angry attacks by Trump and many of his supporters.

“I think we should be protecting the identity of the whistleblower,” Hurd said on “Fox News Sunday.”