

Blinken's policy speech 'smears China'



Films, flashing lights and stars



Stuck in an endless loop



Not a sport, it's a business



Winners of Unsung Women Nation Builders Awards 2022 pose for a photo with Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi and IPDC Managing Director & CEO Mominul Islam at the auditorium of the Independent University, Bangladesh, in the capital last night.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

After attacks, cases stalk BNP activists

MUNTAKIM SAAD and SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leaders and activists have come under repeated attacks by the armed members of Bangladesh Chhatra League since Tuesday while trying to hold programmes in Dhaka University areas and some other parts of the country.

The attacks by the BCL activists carrying sticks, iron rods and machetes also led to clashes that left over a hundred people, mostly from JCD, injured.

No case has been filed against anyone from the pro-government student organisation though photos and videos of its activists with the weapons went viral on social media and were run by newspapers.

Instead, leaders and activists of BNP and its affiliated student body JCD are getting arrested and facing cases in various parts of the country.

Police have so far held four JCD activists in two cases filed with Shahbagh Police Station following Tuesday's violence on the DU campus. Some 30 JCD members, including a few female activists, were hurt in the BCL attack.

Apart from a case lodged by the DU authorities



on Wednesday, Jahidul Islam Jahid, president of DU Shahidullah Hall BCL unit, filed a case with the police station against 60 JCD men, including 18 leaders named.

In the case, Jahid brought charges against the accused of assaulting BCL men.

Two days after the incident, armed members of BCL swooped on JCD leaders and activists in the High Court area, leaving reportedly some 50 people, including a journalist and a lawyer, injured.

"We went to the DU campus to hold a peaceful programme. It's our democratic right. There we came under brutal attacks. Now cases have been filed against us," JCD General Secretary Saif Mahmud told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Those who attacked us were carrying machetes, sticks and other local weapons. The photos and videos went viral on social media. There is proof who carried out the attacks. Yet, police are arresting our leaders and activists. It is clear that these cases have been filed to harass us," he added.

Saddam Hossain, general secretary of BCL's DU unit, however, claimed that it was the "general students who resisted JCD."

Meanwhile, the Paltan police filed a case against 100-150 BNP and JCD men, naming 30 leaders and activists, after the party staged a torchlight procession in Bijoyagar area on Wednesday night in protest against the attacks in DU area.

The accused include BNP Senior Secretary General

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Breaking the glass ceiling

7 women changemakers receive The Daily Star-IPDC Unsung Women Nation Builders Awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven intrepid women were yesterday felicitated at the sixth edition of the "Unsung Women Nation Builders Awards", an initiative of The Daily Star and IPDC, for their meaningful contributions to building a better Bangladesh.

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi gave out the awards at a ceremony held at the auditorium of Independent University, Bangladesh in the capital's Bashundhara.

"Handing out the awards to these women is my greatest reward," he said. Munshi went on to urge The Daily Star and IPDC to take the initiative all over the country to encourage women to stand up against the obstacles created for them.

"Using the pretext of religion and culture, many people repress women from doing anything -- we will have to stand up against the obstacles created by the society."

Women are no less capable than men, and in some instances, they are more able than the men, he said, adding that

the prime minister is a great advocate of women taking up important roles in the government.

"Why should women be left behind? We have to kindle that spirit in them to forge ahead," Munshi added.

The instances of courage that the awardees and many other unsung women have shown will serve as an inspiration for the rest, said Mominul Islam, chief executive officer and managing director of IPDC.

One such force of nature is Zannatul Ferdous Mohua, who is unable to walk, move her hands or speak clearly from birth. She beat all odds to become a successful entrepreneur, employing 25 women in Bogura's Sherpur upazila.

Through her Facebook page "Rainbow", she sells hand-embroidered products like sarees, cushions and bedcovers. People from more than 18 countries buy her items, yielding her about Tk 60,000 a month.

Not just that, Mohua is also studying for her master's degree in English at the Bogura Government Azizul Haque College.

"People like us will feel encouraged and be successful if the society extends support towards us," Mohua said while accepting the award.

Another awardee Tamanna Aktar Nura, 18, of Bankra under Jhikargachha upazila of Jashore was born with no arms and only one leg.

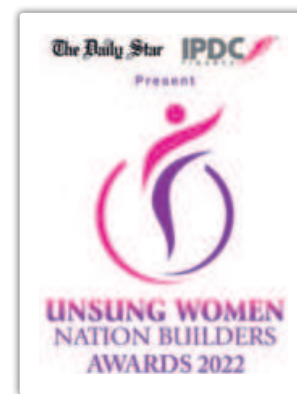
But this did not hold her back: nestling the pen between her toes, she took her exams and scored GPA-5 in HSC this year and SSC in 2019. Now, she wants to sit in the exam for Bangladesh Civil Service.

In Bangladesh, people with disabilities are still viewed as burdens, she said, adding that she wants to work towards changing that perception.

"With a changed mindset and support, people with disabilities can turn into assets," Nura added.

Zannatul Sarkar Champa sold newspapers in Chatmohar Bazar to get by after the sudden death of her father, a union parishad member. She faced widespread criticisms for her source of

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"Using the pretext of religion and culture, many people repress women from doing anything -- we will have to stand up against the obstacles created by the society."

Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi

India to export five lakh tonnes of wheat to Bangladesh

Development comes amid Delhi's ban on export of the grain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India is likely to approve the export of one million tonnes of wheat, with half of it to be sent to Bangladesh, amid restrictions imposed on its export.

Imposing the curbs on May 13, India made it clear that this would not affect its commitment of meeting the requirements of the neighbouring and vulnerable countries, according to a report in The Economic Times.

"It is learnt that the Directorate General of Foreign Trade [DGFT] has asked for approving the export of more than one million tonnes in the first phase against genuine letters of credit, of which about 5-6 lakh tonnes are likely to be exported to Bangladesh," said a wheat exporter requesting anonymity.

About 2 lakh tonnes of wheat is expected to be sent by road, while the rest may be shipped by vessels, said trade sources.

Quoting a Kolkata-based wheat exporter, The Economic Times reported that traders in Bangladesh are not in a hurry to import Indian wheat because of their limited storage capacity.

India on May 13 banned exports of wheat amid rising food inflation and a fall in domestic output due to a severe heatwave in March-April.

However, New Delhi exempted shipments under contracts where LCs had already been opened. The latest

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Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan (R) makes a despondent face as Sri Lanka players celebrate his dismissal during the fifth day of the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

SL thrash Tigers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sri Lanka kept their record of winning every Test series in Bangladesh intact with a comprehensive 10-wicket victory over the Tigers in the second Test of the two-match series at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Pacer Asitha Fernando bagged 10 wickets, including a maiden five-wicket haul in the second innings, as Bangladesh lasted little more than one session on the fifth and final day of the Test.

Bangladesh were bundled out for 169 to throw a small target of 29 runs, which the visitors chased down in three overs to complete their domination over the hosts.

Resuming the day on 34 for four, Bangladesh lost in-form Mushfiqur Rahim when he was bowled for 23 by pacer Rajitha Fernando. A sixth-wicket stand of 103 runs between Liton Das and Shakib Al Hasan gave Bangladesh a ray of hope of saving the match.

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