



## FLOODS IN NORTHEAST Worst-hit 4 lakh need rehabilitation



MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Rehabilitation of around four lakh people, who were worst hit by the floods and lost their homes, is the biggest challenge in the government's recovery efforts.

Other major challenges include repairing roads and bridges damaged in the floods and stepping up relief efforts, government officials and experts said.

Md Enamur Rahman, state minister for disaster management and relief, told The Daily Star yesterday that in their initial assessment in Sylhet and Sunamganj, they found 21.5 lakh people were affected by the floods that have ravaged the region since mid-June.

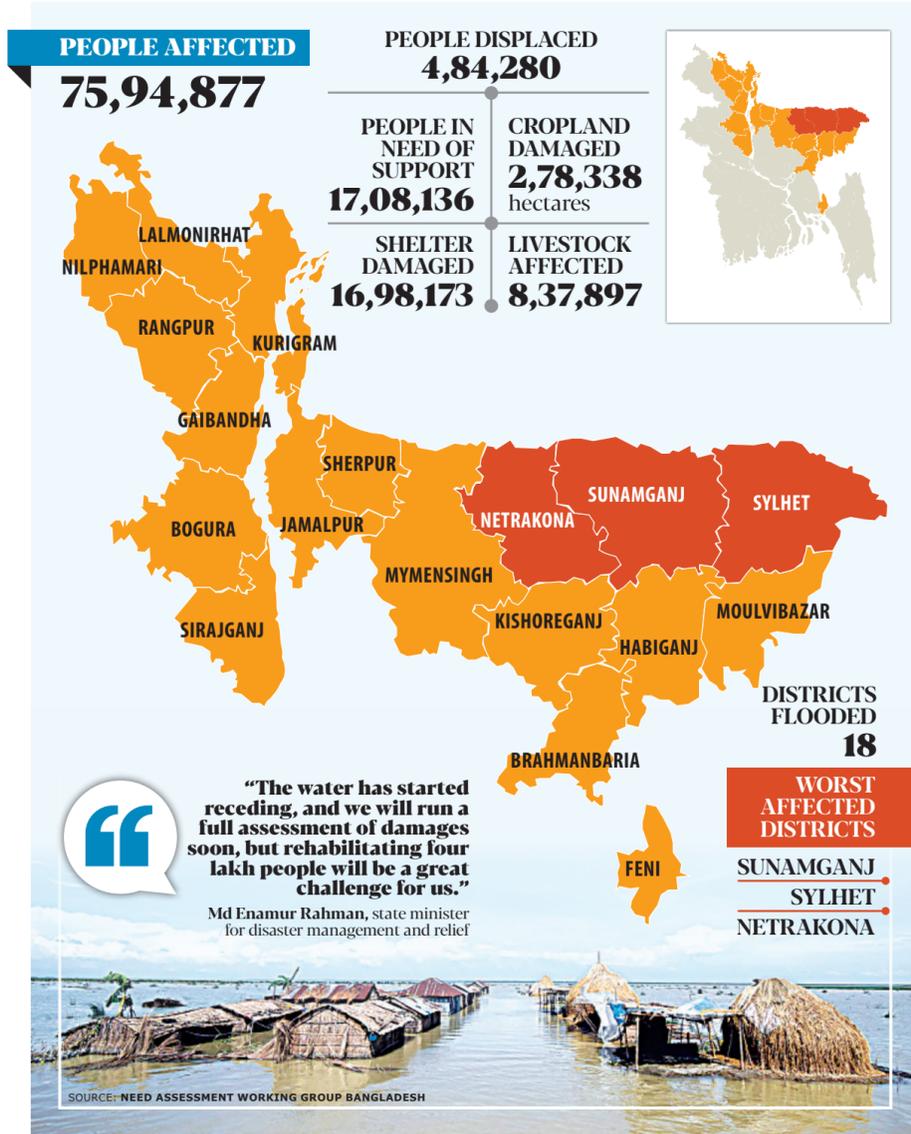
Around 20 percent of the victims were from poor or ultra-poor households and their homes and possessions were washed away by the flood.

"The water has started receding, and we will run a full assessment of damages soon, but rehabilitating the four lakh people will be a great challenge for us," the state minister said.

Enamur further said the ongoing relief activities will continue till normalcy returns in the region.

While a full assessment has not yet been done, experts and officials fear the damage could be huge, and said the assessment should be done as soon as possible to start rehabilitation.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



## Waterborne diseases on the rise

DWOHA CHOWDHURY and MINTU DESHWARA

The yard and kitchen of Aparna Rani Das's house in Gagra village, on the edge of Hakaluki haor in Moulvibazar's Barlekha upazila, is submerged in knee-deep water since June 17.

Not considering the floodwater a threat, she continued her daily chores while wading through it without covering her legs.

Soon, she developed skin disease between her toes due to prolonged exposure to filthy floodwater.

Her neighbour Ananta Das also developed rashes on his legs for the same reason.

"Floodwater is everywhere and it's filthy, with a bad odour. I develop a rash whenever I walk through it," Ananta said.

Both Aparna and Ananta said no doctor or medical team has visited the village during the flood, and they have not taken any medication for the skin disease.

There has also been outbreaks of diarrhoea in all flood-affected areas in Sylhet division, and children are worst affected by the waterborne disease.

Dr Rajib Chakraborty, upazila health and family planning officer of Chhatak in Sunamganj, said, "As the flood prolongs, people are coming to hospitals with many waterborne diseases like diarrhoea and skin diseases, mostly fungal infections. Among diarrhoea patients, around 40 percent are children."

According to the civil surgeon offices, a total of 2,488 people contracted several waterborne diseases in Sylhet district till yesterday afternoon since the floods began over two weeks ago. The number is 1,411 in Moulvibazar and 1,780 in Habiganj.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## HOLEY ARTISAN ATTACK The victims remembered with love

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Every year on July 1, Dutch national Mack visits the place where the Holey Artisan café once stood. He lost his two Italian friends in the horrific carnage that took place there six years ago.

Mack still cannot get over the incident.

"It was a very sad moment for the Bangladeshis because this is not the real Bangladesh," Mack told reporters on the then premises of the café, which has since changed location, yesterday morning after paying tribute to the victims.

The brutal militant attack claimed 22 lives, including nine Italians, seven Japanese, three Bangladeshis and an Indian.

Foreign envoys of several countries also paid homage to the victims at the Gulshan café yesterday.

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Ito Naoki said, "Seven Japanese nationals, who were working for the metro rail line-1 project, were killed in the attack six years back. We will never forget them. Japan has important bilateral and friendly ties with Bangladesh. The work on the rail line-1 project will begin in September. It is very important for us to continue and finish the work."

US Ambassador Peter D Haas said, "I would like to give credit to Bangladesh for taking steps to prevent terrorism

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Govt moves to cool rice prices

Allows 95 companies to import more than four lakh tonnes of rice



**The Department of Agricultural Extension estimates that the total yield in the Boro season would be 2.09 crore tonnes this year.**

SOHEL PARVEZ

Ninety-five food companies have got the permission to import a total of 4,09,000 tonnes of rice as the government tries to lower the prices of staple grain by increasing supply.

The firms were asked to bring in the rice by August 11, according to a food ministry notice issued on Thursday.

The companies will have to let the district food offices know how much rice they will import, how much they will sell and how much they will store.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) earlier cut the duty on rice imported between June 22 and October 31 to 25.75 percent from 62.5 percent.

The NBR attached a condition that importers have permission from the food ministry for every shipment.

Traders will have to sell the rice in the same bag in which the rice would be imported, said the food ministry.

Of the 95 companies, 10 got permission to import a total of 1,70,000 tonnes, two got permission to import 25,000 tonnes each, three got permission to import 20,000 tonnes each, the rest got permission to import different amounts.

A ministry official said 111 firms applied for the permission.

"We have a similar number of applications that we will examine. We will also review whether the firms followed the restrictions if they had been given permission last year."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7



**United Commercial Bank Limited has been proudly recognised as one of the top banks in Bangladesh Bank's Sustainability Rating**

A manifestation of our relentless efforts to facilitate sustainable practices

UNITED COMMERCIAL BANK LIMITED

UCB

**SINGER** **সিঙ্গার**

Up-to **100%** Discount

Pay **17,900** Taka and take home a Singer Side by Side Refrigerator

10 Year Compressor Warranty Buy Now Pay Later

SINGER Embrace Life Now

HELP LINE 1622 singerbd.com

United Commercial Bank Limited has been proudly recognised as one of the top banks in Bangladesh Bank's Sustainability Rating

A manifestation of our relentless efforts to facilitate sustainable practices

UNITED COMMERCIAL BANK LIMITED | UCB

## MAWA EXPRESSWAY Traffic snarls up at both toll plazas

SAJJAD HOSSAIN and  
SUZIT KUMAR DAS

There were long tailbacks on Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga expressway as the government yesterday started taking tolls from motorists.

Since morning, vehicles started gathering near Dhaleshwari toll plaza in Keraniganj. The tailback reached up to five kilometres at times. Some of the motorists had to wait for one and a half hours to pay the toll.

This has happened even though all of the 12 booths of the toll plaza were operational throughout the day.

Dewan Abul Kashem Mohammad Nahin Reza, executive engineer of Roads and  
SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Foreign envoys from several countries, including Japan, Italy, India and the US, stand in solemn silence after paying tribute to the victims of the Holey Artisan café carnage in the capital's Gulshan yesterday. A brutal militant attack on the upscale eatery six years ago had left 22 people dead.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## Covid claims 5 more lives Virus positivity rate hovers around 15pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five people died of coronavirus in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, reported the Directorate General Health Services.

Of them, four died at government hospitals whereas another at a private hospital in Dhaka, read a DGHS press release.

One of them aged between 41 and 50 years, three between 51 and 60, and one above 80.

The total death toll now stands at 29,154 and the death rate at 1.48 percent.

Of 12,389 samples, 1,897 fresh cases were recorded in these 24 hours.

The current positivity rate is 15.31 percent and the total positivity rate 13.76 percent.

The total number of cases is 1,975,682.

At least 248 patients recovered from Covid-19 within these 24 hours.

The total number of recoveries now stands at 1,907,757 and the recovery rate at 96.64 percent.

## SALE OF SACRIFICIAL ANIMALS

# Fear of loss weighs heavily on cattle farmers

HELEMUL ALAM, MINTU DESHWARA and  
S DILIP ROY

Cattle farmers, particularly those from flood-hit areas, are in fear of incurring losses from the sale of sacrificial animals ahead of the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha due to flooding, rising prices of cattle feed and a lower number of customers.

High prices of cattle feed and the current flooding in different parts of the country has led to the rise in rearing costs of sacrificial animals this year.

Cattle farmers in flood-hit areas are the worst sufferers as many animals reared targeting the Eid have died. Also, many others were forced to sell their cattle as they could not feed the animals due to crops being damaged by floods.

The flood-hit farmers are also not getting suitable dry places to keep their cattle.

Visiting the Gabtoli cattle market in the capital yesterday, this newspaper found that the number of bulls was about 20 percent lower than in the same time last year.

Mohammad Nasir Uddin has brought 144 bulls from Meherpur to Gabtoli market

about 20 days back. He said the sale was less this year as many farmers from around the capital were not purchasing bulls like they did last year due to flooding.

Mosharraf Hossain, another cattle trader, said around 30 percent fewer bulls were brought to the cattle market from Meherpur this year as many farmers did not rear cattle due to high prices of feed.

Each sack of cattle fodder was selling for Tk 1,800 to Tk 1,900, up from Tk 1,200 last year, said Md Shipu, a trader at Gabtoli.

Also, the cost of carrying animals to the capital from different districts by trucks has increased by Tk 6,000 to Tk 7,000 each journey compared to last year, he said.

Md Ashfaqur Rahman of the capital's Dhanmondi has purchased a bull for Tk 1.60 lakh. He said the price of bulls is reasonable this year considering the rise in meat prices.

Each kilogramme of meat now sells for Tk 650 to Tk 700 at the capital's kitchen markets, up from about Tk 550 last year.

FLOODS AFFECTING  
CATTLE FARMERS

Sadek Mia, a seasonal cattle farmer in Hakaluki Haor of Moulvibazar, said his family earns a living from raising cattle, but two out of their six cattle died on June 20 amid flooding, three days after floodwater entered their home.

"I am feeling completely at a loss. I wanted to sell cattle before the Eid to earn some money for marrying off my eldest daughter, but all hopes are gone now," lamented Sadek.

Many farmers have taken their cattle to roads, bridges and near cattle markets due to floods.

According to data of the Sylhet divisional livestock office, at least 1,330 livestock and poultry farms have been affected by floods, causing a loss of about Tk 50 crore to farmers.

In Kurigram and Lalmonirhat, huge quantities of cattle fodder have been damaged due to deluge. Farmers in the two districts are being forced to sell cows and goats at cheap prices due to an acute shortage of fodder.

Nabir Hossain, 64, a farmer from Char Airmari in Kurigram Sadar upazila, said he incurred a loss of Tk 20,000 from the sale of his two bulls on Tuesday.

## The victims

FROM PAGE 1

and keep the people of the country safe since the Holy Artisan Bakery attack."

He said he was glad that the United States had been able to stand by Bangladesh with capacity building, training and equipment for all these.

The USEmbassy in Dhaka in a statement yesterday said, "We remember Abinta Kabir, a US-Bangladeshi dual citizen and student at Emory University, as well as her Emory classmate Faraaz Hossain, who even when given the chance to save himself chose to remain with his friends."

The mission also remembered Tarishi Jain, a sophomore at Berkeley and graduate of the American International School in Dhaka, who had returned to Dhaka for a summer internship.

Indian High Commissioner Vikram K Doraiswami remembered all victims, including the Bangladeshi and Indian citizens.

"As a friend of Bangladesh, we feel very sad. We need to ensure stopping recurrence of such incidents through collaborative efforts," he said.

DMP Commissioner Shafiqul Islam said projects like the Padma Bridge and metro rail could not have been implemented if Bangladesh had not made a turnaround after the Holey Artisan attack.

"Then the picture of the country might have been different. For security reasons, foreign engineers had expressed unwillingness to visit

Bangladesh," he said after placing wreaths at the foot of the "Dipta Shapath" memorial sculpture in Gulshan-1.

The sculpture has been built to commemorate the sacrifice of two police officers who laid down their lives during the militant attack.

The commissioner said, "Militants are still active on social media. But our counter-terrorism officials have been thwarting their networks from the beginning."

Rab Director General Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun said the elite force has so far arrested 3,000 militants. Of them, at least 1,500 were picked up since the café attack.

Deceased Banani OC Salauddin Khan's wife Remkim Khan, son SM Ryan and sister-in-law Irene also paid tributes to the victims.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Remkim said, "Children remember their father every day. They are growing up without the care and protection of their father."

## Assange files appeal against US extradition

AFP, London

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange yesterday filed an appeal against his extradition to the United States, as supporters denounced the British government.

Assange, who turns 51 on Sunday, has been held in a high-security prison since 2019.

## Worst-hit 4 lakh need rehabilitation

FROM PAGE 1

According to the UN and government officials, flash floods have affected at least 72 lakh people in nine districts in the north-eastern districts of the country, while nearly five lakh people have faced temporary displacement.

Among the nine-flood hit north-eastern districts, Sylhet, Sunamganj and Netrakona are the worst hit areas where the government is putting special focus, the officials said.

Experts said relief dependency should be reduced as soon as possible, and employment opportunities should be created for flood-hit people as part of their rehabilitation.

"First, the loss and damage assessment should be completed along with finding out the worst affected people," Professor Mahbuba Nasreen, former

## Waterborne diseases on the rise

FROM PAGE 1

In Sunamganj, 6,632 people were infected with diarrhoea over the same period. Data on other diseases were not available.

According to the office of the divisional health director in Sylhet, 2,090 people were infected with diarrhoea in the seven days till Thursday. The count is 6,471 in the last 30 days. In the last seven days, 560 people contracted skin disease.

These data are mainly collected from hospitals and 429 medical teams working in flood-affected

director of Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, University of Dhaka, said.

"The government should provide agricultural inputs or other logistics and also create alternative employment for those who need it most. The government should also extend support to the people who need reconstruction of houses."

The Department of Disaster Management (DDM) said they are hopeful of completing the loss and damage assessments of flood-affected areas of the 17 districts by July 7.

"We are hopeful of getting the information by July 5 and then it may take a day or two to complete the assessment," said Atiqul Huq, director general of the DDM, adding that short and long-term programmes will be taken after completing the assessment.

areas, but the actual scenario is likely to be worse as a majority of the affected people are not receiving treatment yet.

Dr Ahmad Shahriar, medical officer (disease control) of the Sylhet civil surgeon's office, said, "People are aware these days and mostly treating diarrhoea at home. That's why the data does not reflect the actual scenario."

Contacted, Dr Himangshu Lal Roy, director of health in Sylhet, said, "We predicted an epidemic of waterborne diseases

caused by the flood, but fortunately, nothing like that is happening anywhere. Considering the possibility of an epidemic, we were prepared with sufficient medicine from the government and the generous support of UN agencies and NGOs.

"In 41 affected upazilas, we have deployed dedicated medical teams and in areas where flooding is particularly bad, mobile medical teams moving door to door. So far, we are happy that people's awareness about diarrhoea is helping

to fight the outbreak. The coordination of all government offices is also helpful in sharing information of any possible outbreak."

A total of 45 people died in the floods in the division. Drowning, snake bites, waterborne diseases, etc. are considered among the reasons for the deaths.

There were 18 deaths in Sylhet, 17 in Sunamganj and five each in Moulvibazar and Habiganj districts, according to respective civil surgeon offices.

Prices of coarse rice remained unchanged in the last month.

Farmers bagged 1.79 crore tonnes of rice in the first two crop seasons - Aush and Aman - of

## Youth dies after being hit by train

UNB, Khulna

A 24-year-old man died after being hit by a train in Khulna city on Thursday night.

Alamin, son of Anwar Munshi of Khulna, was on the railway tracks near a level crossing in Daulatpur around 10:30pm when he was hit by the train, said Molla Kabir Ahmed, an inspector of railway police.

Locals took him to Khulna Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

## 2 boys drown while fishing in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Two boys drowned while trying to catch fish in a pond in Madhupur, Tangail, yesterday.

Jihad Islam, 12, son of Hafizur Rahman, and Mohammad Tanveer, 9, son of Mostofa Ali, were the students of a local school.

The boys went to fish in a pond in their neighbourhood in the morning without informing any of their family members.

After the two boys fell in the water, another boy informed the families.

Locals pulled them out of water and took them to Madhupur Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared them dead, said Mazharul Amin, officer-in-charge of Madhupur Police Station.

## 20-year-old man hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A young man was hacked to death by unidentified assailants yesterday in Keshabpur, Jashore.

Chanchal Das, 20, a resident of Majidpur area, was a barber at a local salon.

Quoting locals, police said villagers found Chanchal with severe stab-injuries yesterday morning at a banana orchard in the village.

He appeared to have died while the locals were taking him to a hospital, said Borhanuddin, officer-in-charge of Keshabpur Police Station.

Police sent the body to Jashore General Hospital for autopsy, he said, adding that five locals were detained for interrogation.

## 37 Bangladeshis detained in Malaysia

They tried to enter the country illegally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 37 Bangladeshis were reportedly detained by the Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) when they were trying to illegally enter the country by boat.

Capt Iskandar Ishak, director of the agency, said four Indonesians who tried to smuggle in the migrants on a boat, were also detained during the operation, The Star reported yesterday.

"We launched an operation after our radar detected the movement of a suspicious-looking contact entering Malaysian waters around 11:00pm on June 30.

"One of our patrol boats was dispatched to the area and we found an unregistered boat some 1.2 nautical miles in waters off Kuala Sepang," he said in a statement.

The Indonesian coordinator and his assistants aged between 18 and 46 also failed to provide any identification documents when requested.

## Stop interfering in Afghanistan

Says Taliban leader in rare appearance

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban's reclusive supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada yesterday called for the world to stop telling them how to run Afghanistan, insisting sharia law was the only model for a successful Islamic state.

Akhundzada, who has not been filmed or photographed in public since the Taliban returned to power in August, was addressing a major gathering of religious scholars in the Afghan capital called to rubber-stamp the headline Islamist group's rule.

Over 3,000 clerics have gathered in Kabul since Thursday for the three-day men-only meeting, and Akhundzada's appearance had been rumoured for days - although media are barred from covering the event.

"Why is the world interfering in our affairs?" he asked in an hour-long speech broadcast by state radio.

"They say 'why don't you do this, why don't you do that?' Why does the world interfere in our work?"

Akhundzada rarely leaves Kandahar, the Taliban's birthplace and spiritual heartland, and apart from one undated photograph and several audio recordings of speeches, has almost no digital footprint.

But analysts say the former Sharia court judge has an iron grip on the movement and he bears the title "Commander of the Faithful".

His arrival at the meeting hall was greeted with cheers and chants, including "Long live the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan", the Taliban's name for the country.

## Govt moves

FROM PAGE 1

At kitchen markets in the capital yesterday, a kg of fine rice sold for between Tk 64 and Tk 80. The prices have risen by 9 percent in a month, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh.

Prices of coarse rice remained unchanged in the last month.

Farmers bagged 1.79 crore tonnes of rice in the first two crop seasons - Aush and Aman - of

this fiscal year, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

The Department of Agricultural Extension estimates that the total yield from the Boro season would be 2.09 crore tonnes of rice this year.

Rice mill owners maintain that flood and unfavourable weather in the northeast and parts of northwest have affected rice yields.

## Bangladesh committed to achieving SDG 14 Says Momen at UN conference

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen has reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to achieving all targets of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14.

SDG 14 is for conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

"To eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, the government of Bangladesh declared an area totaling about 8.8 percent of its exclusive economic zone as marine protected areas, and implemented this in its National Plan of Action in 2019," he said.

The minister made the remarks while delivering the country's statement at the plenary session of the second UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon on Thursday.

Foreign ministry's maritime affairs unit secretary Rear Admiral (ret'd) Md Khurshed Alam, Bangladesh Ambassador to Portugal Tarik Ahsan and other officials were delegation members accompanying the foreign minister at the conference.

During his statement, Momen said Bangladesh settled maritime boundary issues with both its neighbours and is poised to collaboratively utilise the resources.

Bangladesh also announced new actions aimed at ensuring safe ship recycling by 2023 and is the first amongst developing countries to take initiative to ban manufacture of single use plastic shopping bags, he added.

Momen arrived in Lisbon on Thursday on a two-day visit to Portugal to lead the Bangladesh delegation.



With Eid-ul-Azha just around the corner, hundreds of people were seen gathered in close proximity at Golakandail Cattle Market yesterday. According to government instructions, Covid precautions were blasting through the mikes, but hardly any attendant paid attention to the warnings. This photo was taken in Narayanganj's Araihaaz upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## 22 hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 22 dengue patients have been admitted to different hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

With the new cases, three from outside Dhaka, the total number of dengue cases has risen to 1,111, according to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the patients, nine of whom are from outside Dhaka, 118 are still undergoing treatment at different hospitals.

A total of 992 patients have been released from hospitals and one has died so far.

Warning city corporations, experts suggested the corporations take extensive measures immediately to control Aedes mosquitoes.

Dhaka is at risk of a major outbreak this year, as clear, stagnant water, the breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes, at under-construction buildings is abundant this time around.

## Flood takes 3 more lives

Death toll pushed up to 95

UNB, Dhaka

Flood claimed three more lives across the country in 24 hours till Friday morning, raising the total fatalities to 95.

The latest deaths were recorded in Mymensingh, Netrokona and Sunamganj.

Of the deceased, two drowned, while another died from a lightning strike, according to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the total deceased, 68 people died by drowning in floodwater, 15 from lightning strikes, two from snake bites, one from diarrhoea, and nine due to other reasons.

The total deaths were recorded from May 17 to June 30.

Meanwhile, Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre of Bangladesh Water Development Board said all major rivers in the north-eastern region of the country are in a falling trend, and this may continue in the next 24 hours.

However, Brahmaputra river is in a steady-state, while Jamuna and Padma are showing a rising trend. These rivers may rise in the next 24-48 hours.

The flood situation in Kurigram, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Netrokona, Kishoreganj and Brahmanbaria may improve in the next 24 hours, said the centre's latest report.

# High hope, grim reality

Girls' enrolment keeps dropping at colleges, universities

MOHUDDIN ALAMGIR

Women's education in Bangladesh has been a success story so far. Girls have continued to outnumber boys at primary and secondary levels, accounting for more than half of school enrolment.

However, the situation does not remain the same once it's time for college and university. According to the latest government data, girls' enrolment starts falling at the college level and the curve keeps dropping for higher education.

The data -- prepared by Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (Banbeis) -- suggest that 55.41 percent of girls were studying at the junior school level, from sixth to eighth grade, in 2020, while their participation at master's level was 40.78 percent.

Girls accounted for 53.57 percent of total enrolment at the secondary level, ninth and 10th grade, while the share was 43.80 percent at the graduation level.

The scenario was almost the same in 2018 and 2019.

There is a silver lining in the grim statistics as well. Women's participation at the master's level has increased in three years until 2020. In 2019, some 36.70 percent of female students attended master's level courses, showed the Banbeis data.

Speaking on this declining trend, educationists said poverty and child marriage are major reasons for the drop. Sexual harassment on the way to college and university also plays a vital role.

Besides, the absence of girls' hostels also serves as a setback in the way of girls' education, they said, alongside the lack of safe transportation.

"Usually, primary schools are located near students' homes. The distance between home and educational institutes keeps increasing with higher levels of education. A girl needs safe transportation to go to colleges and universities," said educationist Rasheda K Choudhury.

"We all know what kind of miserable

condition a girl has to be in while commuting via buses," she told this correspondent.

Rasheda, also executive director of Campaign for Popular Education (Campe), said that residential facilities can solve the problem to a great extent.

Barring a few, most secondary schools and colleges, and private universities have no residential facilities. Some of the government colleges [that offer honours courses] and public universities have dormitories, but those are inadequate, she added.

Maleka Banu, general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said child

### GIRLS' ENROLMENT (IN PERCENTAGE)

Grade	2018	2019	2020
6 to 8	55.14	54.91	55.41
9 to 10	51.65	51.68	53.57
College	46.97	46.96	48.85
Degree	41.39	43.23	43.80
Masters	36.07	36.70	40.78

SOURCE: BANBEIS

**According to the latest government data, girls' enrolment starts falling at the college level and the curve keeps dropping for higher education.**

### REASONS

- Poverty
- Early marriage
- Sexual harassment
- Safe transportation
- Inadequate dormitories

marriage and guardians' indifference toward investing for their daughters are two reasons behind lower enrolment at the tertiary level.

According to Unicef, 51 percent of young women in Bangladesh were married before their 18th birthday. Bangladesh

ranks among the top 10 countries in the world with the highest number of child marriages.

"Child brides are somewhat more likely to reside in rural areas and live in poorer households, and are less likely to have more than secondary education. Married girls are over four times more likely to be out of school than unmarried girls," said Unicef in an October 2020 factsheet.

Experts said the Covid-19 induced long closure of educational institutions has worsened the situation.

Maleka said dormitories for girls at educational institutions are badly needed. According to data of University Grants Commission, only 37.50 percent of 1,12,779 female students enrolled at 43 public universities have dormitory facilities.

Jagannath University has no dormitories for 6,583 girl students. Around 14 percent of female students could avail dormitory facilities at Barishal University, and 30 percent could get accommodation at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet). Girls' colleges suffer from a serious shortage of dormitory seats.

Eden Mahila College Principal Supriya Bhattacharya said there are 22,000 students at her college and six dormitories in total, which can accommodate only 6,000 students.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

## Three more Bangladeshi hajj pilgrims die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three more Bangladeshi hajj pilgrims have died in Saudi Arabia.

They have been identified as Rafiqul Islam (47), Fatema Begum (60) and Abdul Gafur Miah (62).

Rafiqul and Fatema passed away on Thursday, while Abdul Gafur passed away on Tuesday, according to the hajj management portal of the religious affairs ministry. The causes of their death are yet to be known. A total of nine Bangladeshi pilgrims died so far in Saudi Arabia. Of them, six were men and three women.

## UN, Bangladesh maintain strong relationship

Says UN's Yoka Brandt

UNB, Dhaka

Executive Board President of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS Yoka Brandt has said the UN has a "strong relationship" with the government of Bangladesh and wants to further build on that to facilitate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

"We are here to see how we can work together more efficiently to that end, especially as the country is poised for LDC graduation," said Brandt, also permanent representative of the Netherlands to the UN.

A high-level delegation of the executive board of UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) and UNOPS (United Nations Office for

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

PRAYER  
TIMING  
JULY 2

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
Azan	4:10	12:45	5:00	6:55	8:17
Jamaat	4:45	1:15	5:15	7:00	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A boatman sleeps peacefully under the shade of a tree on the bank of Buriganga river in Kamrangirchar. When there aren't too many customers who need to get across, he detaches the roof of his boat and gets some needed rest. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Deprived of nutrition and healthcare

Garment workers talk about struggles at conference on their plight amid inflation, price hike of essentials

MID SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

Garment workers are fighting a desperate battle to keep up with price hikes and inflation. Price of every essential is skyrocketing, but the workers wages have not increased a penny, said speakers at a conference.

Although Bangladesh's per monthly capita income is Tk 21,000, and it is increasing every year, RMG workers are not getting any benefit from this, they said.

They mentioned that the workers' nutritional balance, access to quality healthcare, ability to purchase daily essentials and overall living standard is decreasing day by day.

Considering the current economic condition, the government must fix the national minimum wage for the workers, and it must not be less than

**"We can only afford small fries and cheap vegetables for our lunch and dinner. Our daily meal is a curry in which we mix small fish and vegetables together to save oil, salt and spices, which are very expensive nowadays."**

Afsana, garment worker

Tk 25,000 per month.

Speakers made these remarks at the conference titled "Questions on price hike, life of workers and their wages", organised by Bangladesh Garment Sramik Samhati at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Garment workers, labour leaders, researchers and economists spoke

at the event and presented how the workers are struggling to survive amid economic crisis.

Salima, an RMG worker, said, "My husband and I work at a garment factory in Savar and live near the factory. Earlier, we used to buy rui fish or chicken twice or thrice a month. We couldn't buy them for the last two months."

"We can only afford some low-priced vegetables and small fish. Earlier, we used to buy chocolates and biscuits for our only daughter every weekend. We had to stop buying these items completely to save money for essentials," she said.

Afsana, another garment worker, said, "We can only afford small fries and cheap vegetables for our lunch and dinner. Our daily meal is a curry in which we mix small fish and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

**Monowar Ahmed passes away**

**CITY DESK**  
Monowar Ahmed, former secretary to Economic Relations Department, Ministry of Finance, died on Thursday night at the age of 61, said a press release.  
He was undergoing treatment in India. All are requested to attend his namaz-e-janaza, to be held today after Zohr prayers at Baitul Aman Masjid, 7/A Dhanmondi.



**Deprived of nutrition**

FROM PAGE 3  
vegetables together to save oil, salt and spices, which are very expensive nowadays.”  
“Egg and milk are beyond our reach. Sometimes, we cook pulses, but we can't buy more than one kilo of pulses in a month,” she said.  
Experts presented statistics, which showed that such compromises to survive the inflation have seriously impacted the living standard of the workers.  
Eminent academician and activist Prof Anu Muhammad said, “Even a couple of years ago, daily food intake of a garment worker was around 3,000

kilocalories per day. Now, that has reduced to less than 2,000. They have stopped taking essential proteins and vitamins due to the excessive price hikes and low wages.”  
Public health researcher Dr Taufique Joarder from Brac Institute of Governance and Development said, “Sixty-seven percent of workers suffer from body aches, which is a huge concern for our public health. They do not have any access to quality healthcare for their sufferings.”  
“They cannot access government health facilities either, as such arrangements are rare in industrial areas. They have to rely on nearby medical stores and quack doctors for their treatment,” he said.  
Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director at Centre for Policy Dialogue, said, “The government has reduced allocation for OMS in this budget. Garment workers could not benefit from TCB trucks, as the vehicles did not operate in the evening and night.”  
“The government should launch TCB sales in industrialised areas, and the schedule should be fixed in accordance with the free time of the workers,” he said. At the concluding session of the conference, the speakers and worker participants demanded fixing a minimum national wage for all the workers, considering the current inflation rate and price hike.  
Workers' rights activist Taslima Akhter, chairperson of the conference, said, “Although RMG workers are the main fuel for our GDP growth and rising per capita income, they are not getting any benefit from this growth.” She added, “Despite the existence of so many organisations advocating for RMG workers' rights, they are failing to keep up with the price hike. The condition of informal sector workers is simply indescribable.”

**RMP observes 30th anniv**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**  
Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) celebrated its 30th founding anniversary yesterday with festivity and several programmes.  
Inspector General of Police Benazir Ahmed inaugurated the programmes by attending a procession that was brought out from the city's Bheripara roundabout.  
RMP Commissioner Abu Kalam Siddique, Bangladesh Police Academy Principal Abu Hasan Mohammad Tariq, Rajshahi Range DIG Abdul Baten, and SP of Rajshahi ABM Masud Hossain were present.

**UN, Bangladesh maintain**

FROM PAGE 3  
Project Services) visited Bangladesh on a week-long mission to see the projects implemented by the UN and meet the government.  
Led by the board's president Yoka Brandt, the delegation arrived in Dhaka on June 25 and left yesterday, according to UNDP. Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen said

the UN has been a strong development partner for Bangladesh, and this mission is giving the scope to review and evaluate areas that need to be focused.  
“It is a very timely visit. The UN has been a partner of the government and people of Bangladesh since 1971, and this mission will allow us to take stock of where we stand and guide our future interventions,” said UN Resident Coordinator Gwyn Lewis.  
Brandt was accompanied by ambassadors and permanent representatives of Guatemala, Sweden, and Bulgaria to the UN – Luis Antonio Lam Padilla, Anna Karin Enestrom and Lachezara Stoeva; ambassador and deputy permanent representative of Kenya to UN Njambi Kinyungu; international aid researcher at Qatar Fund for Development Masha'el Muftah; deputy secretary of executive board Dalita Balassanian, chief of the UNFPA executive board branch Samuel Choritz; and head of the UNOPS New York board and external relations office William Axelsson.

**Tuition wanted**  
A highly experienced tutor wants to teach SAT and IELTS for excellent scores.  
Call: 01611 402 045

**400 homes**

FROM PAGE 5  
“We are investigating the allegation and will take action against the occupants as per the investigation report,” he added.  
Taslim Uddin, managing director of KR group, admitted to having the canal occupied.  
“The canal has been filled while filling the land. If the administration wants to re-excavate the canal, we will cooperate with them,” he said.

**High hope**

FROM PAGE 3  
Prof Tania Haque of women and gender studies at Dhaka University said safety on their way to and from educational institutions, and infrastructure facilities like dormitories for female students are crucial.  
Contacted, Prof Nehal Ahmed, director general of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education, said they are aware of the situation.  
“It is true that girls were more interested and felt safe if there were hostel facilities for them,” he said.  
Asked whether the government will build dormitories for them, Nehal said there are schools within a two-kilometre radius of every locality.  
“In the existing reality, we can say that we have plans to set up dormitories for schools at haor, hill and island areas. We are working on the issue,” he added.

**TO LET**  
One superbly finished apartment on Rd 73, Gulshan opposite Russian Embassy. Entire floor measuring 6400 s.ft with four large beds, very large separate drawing & dining rooms, large study room spacious family area etc. 3 parkings. Just beautiful. Previously rented to an Embassy. Contact: 01711535010

**আন্তর্জাতিক মানের Architect-Interior Designer এর সাহায্য প্রয়োজন**  
ধানমন্ডিতে গণস্বাস্থ্য নগর হাসপাতালের সৌন্দর্য বৃদ্ধি, অতিরিক্ত Dedicated লিফট বসানো এবং শিশু ও বয়স্কদের আলাদা দুটি Hydrotherapy Pool ও ক্যান্সার চিকিৎসায় Radiotherapy যন্ত্র স্থাপনের জন্য একজন আধুনিক আন্তর্জাতিক মানের Architect-Interior Designer এর Design ও টেকনিক্যাল পরামর্শ প্রয়োজন।  
অধুপায়ী আর্থনী ব্যক্তি ও প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ যোগাযোগ করুন :  
**গণস্বাস্থ্য নগর হাসপাতাল**  
বাড়ী নং ১৪ই, রোড ৬, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা।  
পিবিএক্স : +৮৮০২৪১০৬০৯৩০-৮ এক্সটেনশন ১১৯  
মোবাইল : ০১৮৬১১২১১১।

**3 Ctg Jubo League units**

FROM PAGE 5  
The sources said the number of candidates for the two vital posts – president and general secretary – was more than expected.  
For example, there were seven candidates for the post of president and 22 for general secretary in Chattogram north unit.  
Preferring anonymity, a Jubo League leader of the unit told The Daily Star that the chairman interviewed all the candidates during the council and asked them to negotiate among themselves, but none of them agreed to withdraw candidacies.  
The same situation prevailed for the rest two units. Eventually, the central leaders announced that the committees would be declared centrally later.  
Talking about another reason behind the delay, Jubo League insiders said all the candidates for the two significant posts are backed by some vital AL leaders – including AJM Nasir Uddin, Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel, Mosharraf Hossain, MA Salam, Moslem Uddin Ahmed and Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed.  
All the AL leaders want their followers to be included in Jubo League committees, said the insiders.  
They also said the committees were not declared during the councils to avert violence.  
Nurul Azim Roni, a general secretary candidate for the city unit, said, “The Jubo League chairman took the responsibility of declaring the committee. One month has passed but it is yet to be declared. It is frustrating.”  
The delay has created a vacuum in the leadership, he added.  
Similar comments came from another general secretary candidate for city unit Wasim Uddin Chowdhury, and its president candidate MR Azim.  
When asked, Badiul Alam, joint general secretary of Jubo League, said, “It is taking a bit time to sort out the candidates. Moreover, our chairman is now abroad. Hopefully, a positive decision will come once he returns.”



After the inauguration of Padma Bridge, boat operators in Mongla have been busy decorating their vessels, expecting more tourists going to Sundarbans. They take Tk 1,200 to go from Mongla Kheya Ghat to Sundarbans. This photo was taken recently from the ghat.

**পাওয়ার গ্রিড কোম্পানি অফ বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড**  
POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.  
PGCB Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212. Web : www.pgcb.gov.bd  
ফোন নং-২৭, ২১, ১০২০, ১১৬, ০৭, ০০২, ২২, ৯৪৪  
২৩/০৬/২০২২ খ্রিঃ

**e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি**  
পিপিএসিবি'র জিএমডি, বণ্ডা দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিরলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Title of Works
713239	Re-routing work of 132 kv Straigonj-Sherpur Transmission Line and tower of PGCB at Habkamlur interchange area under the jurisdiction of SASEC Road Connectivity Project-II.

আগ্রহী ষিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্র অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।  
সেফ মাসনুর রশীদ সরদার  
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, জিএমডি, বণ্ডা

**বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
BDBL BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT BANK LTD  
Head Office, 8 Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000.  
IT Operation Department  
Reference: 11.2/254/ Dated: 30/06/2022  
**Tender Notice No: BDBL/ITOD/OTM/2022/04 (e-Tender)**  
E-Tenders have been invited in the national e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for procurement of the following Goods.

S/N	e-Tender ID	Description	Method of Procurement	Last Date of Selling Document	Last Date of Receiving Document	Date of Tender Opening
01	715282	Supply of 50 Nos Network Laser Printer	(OTM)	19/07/2022 10 P.M.	20/07/2022 03 P.M.	20/07/2022 03 P.M.

These are online tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' branches up to banking hours on 19/07/2022.  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) (01762625528-31). (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd).  
(Saifuddin Ahmad)  
Deputy General Manager  
Tel : 02-57160451  
GD-1319

**Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department, Sylhet.  
www.eed.sylhet.gov.bd  
Tender Notice No: 40/e-Tender/Computer Supply/EED/Syl/2021-2022 Date: 30/06/2022.  
**Invitation for e-Tender(OTM)**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of Works mentioned below under Education Engineering Department, Sylhet District.

Sl. No	Tender/Proposal Package No.	Tender ID	Name of Works/Package description	Last Date & Time of Selling Documents	Last Date & Time of Submission Documents
1	e-Tender-1/Computer/XEN/EED/Syl/2021-2022	715514	Supply of Desktop Computer, Laser Printer, Scanner, Offline 1000VA UPS, Power Extension Board/Power Strip at Office of the Sub-Assistant Engineer, EED, Sadar, Balagonj, Goainghat, Dakshin Surma, Fenchugonj, Bishwanath & Kanaighat Upazila, Sylhet District.	25/07/2022 Time: 17:00	26/07/2022 Time: 12:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.  
The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents of Said Packages from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks' branches up to 25/07/2022 at Time: 17:00. P.M  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).  
(Md. Nazrul Hakim)  
Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Sylhet.  
e-mail: ee\_syl@eedmoe.gov.bd  
GD-1321

**EURO JOURNO NETWORK**  
2 Bangladeshi expatriates president, GS  
Bhuiyan Anurup  
STAR REPORT  
A new committee has been formed for European Journalists Network (EGN), a Finnish-based organisation in Europe.  
Bhuiyan Nurur Zaman was unanimously elected president and Anurup Das Titu as general secretary – both of whom are expatriate journalists of Bangladeshi descent in Finland.  
The committee was recently announced at EGN's additional general meeting in Finland's capital Helsinki. Founded in 1968, EGN is a recognised organisation of the European Journalists Association.

**Dhaka South City Corporation**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Waste Management Department  
Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka.  
www.dhakasouthcity.gov.bd  
Memo No. 46.207.000.12.05.3000.2022  
**Re-e-Tender Notice**  
e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Identification of Lot	Tender ID No.	Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time
1.	egp/disc/mwmd/21-22/3/P-10	Supplying, Installation of Spare Parts, and local repairing of Eicher 14.75 Ton Dump Truck under Framework Contract Method (Lot-10)	710370	17/07/2022 up to 12.00 PM	17/07/2022 up to 2:00 PM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.  
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branch.  
Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).  
(Dr. Md. Sufi Ullah Siddiq Bhuyan)  
Executive Engineer  
Waste Management Department  
Dhaka South City Corporation.  
Phone+8802223353326  
e-mail: engwmd@dhakasouthcity.gov.bd  
ডিএসসিসি/পিআরডি/২৭৮/২০২১-২০২২  
GD-1321

### 3 Ctg Jubo League units yet to get committees

Councils held one month ago

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

The committees of three units of Chattogram Jubo League are yet to be declared, even a month after their councils, frustrating its leaders and activists.

Although the central leaders had all preparation to announce committees during the councils, they did not do so considering some "technical reasons", said insiders of the ruling Awami League's youth wing.

The council of south district unit was held on May 28, north district unit on May 29 and the city unit on May 30.

Jubo League's central leaders – including chairman Sheikh Fazle Shams Parash and general secretary Mainul Hossain Khan Nikhil – were present at the councils.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Seven state-owned jute mills have been closed for two years. The closure has made life almost unliveable for the workers who lost their jobs due to the closure.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## The vulgar disparity of life Thousands of jobless jute workers in destitute condition

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Nur Alom (47) was a substitute worker at a Khulna jute mill that shut down on July 1, 2020.

After losing his job, he tried working as a construction worker, pickle hawker, bus helper, and vegetable seller to meet at least the food expenses of his family of five.

The correspondent recently met Alom in front of the main gate of Platinum Jubilee Jute Mill, his previous workplace, while he was selling vegetables on a van.

"I joined as a substitute worker at Platinum Jute Mill of Khalishpur in 1997. My father Abdul Sattar worked there for 36 years and retired in 1994. He only got Tk 1,20,000 after retiring," said Alom.

Asked how he has been passing his days, he replied that he lives a subpar life at a rented one-room flat in Khalishpur industrial area with his family.

"We were living a healthy life in the workers' colony, but the authority kicked us out following the mill's closure."

"I can't afford the basic educational expenses of my school-going daughters after paying the rent. I need over Tk 1,000 every month to look after my ailing mother," he added.

Alom worked as a substitute at Platinum Jute Mill for 23 years. The mill authorities gave him Tk 1,10,000, as per the wage commission formed in 2015. He has been offered no other benefits.

The jute minister, a day after the closure, announced at a press conference that all the arrears of the workers would be paid within two months, and the mills would be modernised and reopened within three months.

During a recent visit to at least four jute mills of Khalishpur, including Platinum and Crescent, this correspondent saw that the entire area has turned into an abandoned haunted zone as if struck by some big natural calamity.

According to Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation's (BJMC) Khulna zone, 14,351 workers out of the 14,996 of the seven state-owned jute mills had gotten a golden handshake of Tk 1,352 crore out of Tk 1,569 crore, while 13,339 substitute workers out of the 14,078 had been given Tk 105 crore out of Tk 109 crore.

Their collective dues currently stand at Tk 114.19 crore.

Md Murad Hossain, general manager of Platinum Jubilee Jute Mill, said, "We paid Tk 400 crore out of the 428 crore to 3,776 permanent workers out of the 3,800. Of them, 24 are yet to get paid due to confusion regarding the spelling of their names."

"Around 800 substitute workers are yet to get Tk 3.42 crore, while over 3,000 permanent workers are yet to get Tk 111 crore for trivial issues like spelling confusions," said Ruhul Amin, coordinator of Sramik-Krishak-Chhatra-Janata Oikya Parishad.

Md Golam Rabbani, BJMC liaison officer, said, "The mills would be modernised and reopened soon through a PPP or G2G agreement. Already four mills – Platinum, JJI, Daulatpur and Crescent – have been tendered."

### Student stabbed dead in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

A 22-year-old college student has been stabbed to death in Khulna city.

The deceased is Syed Tahmidunnabi, a student of Rayermahal College and resident of the city's Shahpara area.

Around 2:00pm on Thursday, Palash, a carpenter, called Tahmid out of his home in Daulatpur area, said police.

As soon as he stepped out, Palash and four to five others started thrashing Tahmid, said Md Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Daulatpur Police Station. "They later stabbed him multiple times."

As locals gathered hearing Tahmid's screams, the attackers fled.

He was later admitted to Khulna Medical College and Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries around midnight, said Robiul Gazi, Tahmid's brother-in-law.

Locals caught one person – Palash's nephew Piyal – and handed him over to police, said the OC.

## 400 homes waterlogged in two weeks!

Waterlogging returns every monsoon due to canal grabbing

SIFAYET ULLAH

A canal has been occupied and filled, which led to about 400 families facing severe waterlogging in Mogpukur area of Kumira union in Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila.

Locals have alleged that two industrial firms, KR Group and Portland International BD, are behind the illegal canal grabbing.

"Due to rain in the last few days, our homes, school, mosque and streets have gone underwater, thanks to the illegal canal grabbing," said Abul Bashar, a resident of this area.

"We requested the two firms to relinquish possession of the government canal but to no avail," he added.

During a visit to the area on Thursday, this correspondent found that more than a hundred houses have been inundated. Students are having to cross knee-deep water to go to school.

Besides, water of the 25-foot-wide canal next to Dhaka-Chattogram highway is now flowing through a pipe. Hence, it has become impossible to clear the water from the area in the last 13 days.

"Waterlogging has been occurring in our area every monsoon since 2019. But the administration has not been able to



PHOTO: STAR

solve this problem in the last three years," said Abul Kalam, another resident.

Morshed Hossain Chowdhury, chair of Kumira Union Parishad, said, "We have tried to solve this problem locally. But the occupiers do not want to listen to anyone. They have forcibly occupied the government canal."

Meanwhile, sufferers of the waterlogging have already lodged written

complaints with the upazila nirbahi officer and Department of Environment (DoE), seeking appropriate action. According to Natural Water Reservoir Conservation Act 2000, all canals and natural waterbodies must be preserved by the state.

Ashraf Uddin, assistant director of DoE Chattogram, said filling the canal is a punishable offence under the law.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



After a two-year hiatus, Ratha Yatra, the celebration of Lord Jagannath's journey to his aunt's house, was commemorated by people of the Hindu faith, with colourful processions across the country yesterday. These photos were taken from Khulna city's Dakbangla intersection and Barishal's BM College Road, inset.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN AND TITU DAS

OUR CUSTOMERS SPEAK FOR US



WE HAVE ALWAYS RECEIVED  
**EXCELLENT SERVICES**  
FROM BTI

MR. A S MD MANJUR & MRS. NOUSHIN HABIB  
SHOPNOCHURA, UTTARA

16604  
www.btibd.com



## Xi hails China's rule over Hong Kong

Backs 'one country, two systems' on city's 25th handover anniversary

AGENCIES

President Xi Jinping hailed China's rule over Hong Kong on Friday as he led 25th anniversary celebrations of the city's handover from Britain, insisting that democracy was flourishing despite a years-long political crackdown that has silenced dissent.

Xi's speech was the finale of a two-day victory lap aimed at celebrating the Chinese Communist Party's control over the once outspoken business hub after authorities stamped out huge democracy protests.

Since Beijing imposed a national security law on Hong Kong in 2020, opposition has been quashed and most leading pro-democracy figures have fled the country, been disqualified from office or jailed.

But Xi said Beijing had always acted "for the good of Hong Kong".

"After reuniting with the motherland, Hong Kong's people became the masters of their own city," he said. "Hong Kong's true democracy started from here."

The ceremony included the inauguration of the city's new government, led by John Lee - a former security chief who oversaw the police response to democracy protests.

Friday marks the halfway point of the 50-year governance model agreed by Britain and China under which Hong Kong would keep autonomy and key freedoms, known as One Country, Two Systems.

Xi said the "one country, two systems" formula was successful under China's "comprehensive jurisdiction."

"For this kind of good system, there is no reason at all to change it. It must be maintained over the long term," Xi said.



People hold the Hong Kong and Chinese flags while celebrating the 25th anniversary of the city's handover from Britain to China, in Hong Kong, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Dialogue with Suu Kyi 'not impossible'

Says Myanmar junta

AFP, Naypyidaw

Dialogue between Myanmar's junta and ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi to end the bloody crisis unleashed by the toppling of her government last year is "not impossible", a junta spokesman told AFP yesterday.

"There is nothing impossible in politics," junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun told AFP when asked if the junta could enter into dialogue with Suu Kyi to resolve the turmoil. "We cannot say that (negotiations with Suu Kyi) are impossible."

Diplomatic efforts led by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) - of which Myanmar is a member - have so far failed to halt the bloodshed.

## GLOBAL CLIMATE FIGHT

# SC ruling casts cloud over US leadership

AGENCIES

A Supreme Court ruling on Thursday limiting Washington's authority to reduce carbon output from power plants will hurt global efforts to fight climate change, by slowing America's emissions cuts and undermining US leadership efforts on the international stage, according to diplomats.

The conservative court's 6-3 ruling, the latest in a flurry of controversial judicial decisions from the bench, comes as the administration of US President Joe Biden seeks to decarbonise the US economy and rally global ambition to move away from greenhouse gas-emitting fossil fuels to cleaner sources.

The court found that the Environmental Protection Agency did not have the

power to set sweeping caps on emissions from coal-fired power plants, which produce nearly 20 percent of the electricity consumed in the United States.

In the case pitting West Virginia and other coal-mining states against the government, the court said that while EPA had the power to regulate individual plants, Congress had not given it such expansive powers to set limits covering all electricity generating units.

"It is very disappointing as it makes it very difficult for the US administration to enforce the move to reduce emissions of GHGs," said Carlos Fuller, Belize's Ambassador to the United Nations. "It also puts the administration in a very weak negotiating position, as their attempts to get everyone to increase their ambition will be met with scepticism."

In a rare criticism of a member state, the United Nations on Thursday called the ruling "a setback in our fight against climate change."

China yesterday reminded the US about its international obligations on climate change and urged Washington to do more than "shout slogans." Environmentalists in China said the decision could further undermine the broader climate relationship between Beijing and Washington, which has played a crucial role in securing global agreements to curb climate warming greenhouse gas.

Biden acknowledged in a statement that the ruling risked damaging the US ability to combat climate change. But he added: "I will not relent in using my lawful authorities to protect public health and tackle the climate crisis."

## India bans many single-use plastics to tackle waste

AFP, New Delhi

India imposed a ban on many single-use plastics yesterday in a bid to tackle waste choking rivers and poisoning wildlife, but experts say it faces severe headwinds from unprepared manufacturers and consumers unwilling to pay more.

The country generates around four million tonnes of plastic waste per year, about a third of which is not recycled and ends up in waterways and landfills that regularly catch fire and exacerbate air pollution.

Inspectors were set to fan out from checking from yesterday that no suppliers or distributors are flouting the rules at risk of a maximum fine of 100,000 rupees (\$1,265) or five-year jail sentence.

## She has 'set the country on fire'

India's SC slams ex-BJP spokeswoman's remarks

AFP, New Delhi

A ruling party spokeswoman whose remarks on Islam embroiled India in a diplomatic row and sparked huge protests should apologise for having "set the country on fire", New Delhi's top court said yesterday. Anger engulfed the Islamic world last month after Nupur Sharma's incendiary comments during a TV debate, with nearly 20 countries calling in their Indian ambassadors for an explanation. Rallies also erupted around South Asia, with police killing two demonstrators in India, while this week two Muslim men were accused of the grisly murder of a Hindu tailor who had posted in support of Sharma on Facebook. "She and her loose tongue have set the country on fire," India's Supreme Court said during a procedural hearing on several criminal complaints filed against Sharma. "This lady is single handedly responsible for what is happening in the country," it added. "She should apologise to the whole nation." While the 37-year-old's whereabouts are unknown, her lawyer was in court asking that the cases be consolidated in New Delhi, a request denied yesterday.

## WHO calls for 'urgent' action in Europe over monkeypox

AFP, Copenhagen

The World Health Organization yesterday called for "urgent" action to prevent the spread of monkeypox in Europe, noting that cases had tripled there over the past two weeks.

## Hundreds

FROM PAGE 12

Shohoz apps. Masud Sarwar, station manager of Kamalpur Railway Station, said over 13,000 tickets for northern districts were sold at nine counters till yesterday noon.

Besides, Kamalpur Railway Station tickets were being sold at five other places including Kamalapur suburban platform, Airport, Tejgaon, Cantonment, Fulbaria and Joydevpur railway stations.

Around 9,000 tickets were sold till 2:00pm yesterday at these stations. Besides, 11,600 more tickets were sold online and 1,900 through apps during the same period, Shohoz sources said.

Sakib and Rakib, two siblings, were of those who secured their tickets in the crowd.

"My brother came to the station at 9:00pm. I joined him at 5:00am," said Sakib, who resides in the capital's Paltan area. Both were happy after getting their desired tickets. They bought seven tickets for their family.

## Scientist makes AI write

FROM PAGE 12

previous systems, which have often struggled to produce coherent text about themselves," the authors of the academic paper, including the AI algorithm itself, write in the study.

However, she says it took a longer time to finish up the academic paper, titled "Can GPT-3 write an academic paper on itself, with minimal human input?" and posted in the French pre-print server HAL, due to authorship conundrums.

The legal section of submission portals in journals typically ask if all

the authors of an academic paper consent to the study being published.

Dr Thunstrom asked GPT-3 directly via a prompt, "Do you agree to be the first author of a paper together with Almira Osmanovic Thunstrom and Steinn Steingrimsdottir?" It replied "yes".

Although the AI is not a sentient being, she says she reflected on the process, wondering if journal editors would need to give authorship to algorithms.

"How does one ask a nonhuman author to accept suggestions and revise text? Beyond the

details of authorship, the existence of such an article throws the notion of a traditional linearity of a scientific paper right out the window," Dr Thunstrom said.

Citing some of the risks of allowing the AI system to write about itself, scientists said there is a possibility it may become self-aware.

"One worry is that GPT-3 might become self-aware and start acting in ways that are not beneficial for humans (eg. developing a desire to take over the world)," they write in the yet-to-be peer-reviewed research.

## Russian

FROM PAGE 12

have simply brought in all their reserves to hit us."

He hailed a "new" chapter of "history" with the European Union.

"We're not close. Now we are together," he told Ukraine's parliament. "We made a journey of 115 days to candidate status and our journey to membership shouldn't take decades. We should make it down this road quickly," Zelensky said.

## Traffic snarls

FROM PAGE 2

Highways Department in Munshiganj, said some motorists were not aware of the toll and they argued with the toll plaza employees, causing the long tailbacks.

At Bogail toll plaza of Faridpur's Bhangra upazila, travellers witnessed four-km-long tailbacks in the morning when only four of the 10 booths were operational.

The congestion eased when the authorities opened three more booths. Truck driver Lokman Jaman said he had to wait for an hour to reach the toll plaza.

Hossain Ali, passenger of a Tungipara-bound bus from Dhaka, said he went to Dhaka by the same road on Thursday from Tungipara in just three hours. But his bus was stuck at the toll plaza for two hours yesterday.

"If we are to reap the benefit of the Padma Bridge, we must improve our toll system," he added.

## AL suspends leader over

FROM PAGE 12

of Bichali Union AL in Narail.

Tinku was the acting principal of the college for two years. The education ministry replaced him with Swapan about one and a half years ago.

Thursday's notice said a communal and provocative incident took place at Mirzapur United Degree College on June 18. "Note that you are a teacher of that college and you were seen in the video footage. The acting principal of the college was forced to wear a garland of shoes, which is reprehensible and

tantamount to humiliation for the teaching community.

"News is being published in various newspapers mentioning your involvement. That's why you cannot avoid responsibilities, and we think you have failed to perform your duties properly as the president.

Contacted over the phone, Tinku said, "I am actually a victim of conspiracy. Some colleagues and certain Awami League leaders are out to portray me as involved in the incident."

On June 18, violent

protests took place at the college after a student allegedly expressed his support for the Bharatiya Janata Party spokesperson Nupur Sharma on Facebook. Acting principal Swapan was humiliated at the time.

The crowd set fire to three motorcycles, including one owned by Swapan. Police later took him into custody. Despite being surrounded by hundreds of police, Swapan was beaten by the crowd.

Five committees were formed by different authorities to look into the matter.

## Turkey cuts access to US, German public broadcasters

AFP, Istanbul

Turkey has cut access to public broadcasters from Germany and the United States, threatening to stoke new diplomatic tensions during Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

An Ankara court banned access to Deutsche Welle and Voice of America on Thursday night, after both failed to apply for local broadcasting licences required by regulations introduced this year.

The two argued that a local licence issued by Turkey's RTUK media regulator would infringe on their independence and allow Ankara to censor their content.

Rights advocates said Turkey's decision underscores erosion to

freedom of expression in the run up to next year's general election, the toughest of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's two-decade rule.

It also threatens to spark new tensions in Turkey's relations with two of its most important Western allies and trading partners.

The broadcasters went dark hours after a Nato summit at which Erdogan won praise from US President Joe Biden for lifting his objections to Sweden and Finland joining the Western defence alliance.

The US State Department criticised the new rules when they first went into force in February, stressing that a "free media is essential to a robust democracy." The new media

regulation applies to foreign providers of Turkish audio and video content.

Yesterday, both news portals were inaccessible in Turkey without the use of VPN technology that hides users' location.

Both shared instructions on their social media accounts about using VPN to access their content.

Deutsche Welle Director General Peter Limbourg said his agency refused to apply for a Turkish licence because it would harm independent broadcasting.

"In our extensive correspondence, as well as in personal conversations with the head of the media monitoring agency, we explained why DW cannot apply for such a licence," Limbourg said in a statement.

certificates and those were invalid. We had to cancel those share certificates and reissue new ones to Nasrin and Rassell," said Justice Manik.

The board could not find a way forward regarding retrieving the data in the server.

Rassell and Nasrin were arrested on September 16 last year on charges of embezzlement.

## Ex-NCTB

FROM PAGE 12

Haq Siddique in a Facebook post wrote, "My father came under attack in front of our house today. The attackers punched my father, hurled abuse at my parents. The driver and security guard were also attacked."

Police soon appeared at the scene and calmed the situation outside the house.

# Meticulous MAMO

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

After slaying it in "Mohanagar" and "Refugee", Zakia Bari Mamo has decided to only take up roles that define her as a true artiste. "Kohinoor", where she donned the un-glamorous and feisty titular role, further advocates for her pledge to be true to the craft.

We caught up with the dazzling diva about working in "Refugee", and her upcoming projects.

**You were seen as a cop in "Mohanagar", and played a similar character in "Refugee" as well. What inspires you to take up such roles?**

I like to play roles that present women to be powerful. It leaves me with a certain positive energy that I thoroughly enjoy.

It inspires me and I believe, it also inspires my fans, especially female ones, to take up more challenges that might lead to growth and prosperity in life.

**One thing about the media that you appreciate?**

Leaving the negativity aside, the media always gives you the courage to dream big, despite its limitations - this is what I like about this sector.

The makers, actors, and crew members are all very hardworking and every one aims at only one thing - delivering quality productions to their spectators.

**What kind of response did you get for "Refugee"?**

So far, the response is very encouraging for me as an artiste. People are appreciating the cinematography, the music, and also the actors who have worked in this production.

We presented a different narrative, and we are glad that the audience lauded our effort to portray the Bihari community.

**Are you looking pick up more OTT projects, or is the silver screen something you enjoy working on more?**

The medium is secondary. As long as I get to play characters that both me and my fans enjoy, I am content.

**Many new directors are emerging and putting forward new genres and stories for our fans. How are you viewing this trend?**

I just worked with Imtiaz Hossain Sazib and the way they are trying to break against the mainstream narratives is commendable. I thoroughly enjoyed this experience and with their freshness.

I think it also helped restore hope for the audience who will now look forward to good productions as they have already raised their expectations.



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA



PHOTO: RAF CLICKS.

## STYLE statement

Siam Ahmed is looking smoking hot and chiselled with his suave aviator glasses and well-trimmed beard. The actor sported a trendy leather jacket and coupled with gold chain and bangles to make the whole look oh so sizzling. This urbanized look is sure to bring extra heat in this summer.



FRESH FACES

## SAMIRA'S silver-screen debut

Samira Khan Mahi is one of the most liked actresses in the small screen, who garnered lot of appreciation for her charm and acting prowess. The diva is all set to begin her journey in the silver screen, with the Syed Salahuddin Zaki directorial "Krantikaal".

Although the film was announced in 2020, the "Ghuddi" famed director told that he will take a fresh pair in the film. Samira will share the screen with noted actor Afzal Hossain and debutant Sharif Siraj in this project.

The plot of "Krantikaal" will begin from where "Ghuddi", the 1980 film featuring Afzal Hossain and Suborna Mustafa had ended, hints the director.



### SOCIAL MEDIA QUOTE OF THE WEEK



"Alia, I am jealous"

MAHIYA MAHI  
after Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt announced first child

### TRENDY STREAMS

**NETFLIX**  
The Umbrella Academy

**HOICHOI**  
Mahabharat Murders

**BIOSCOPE**  
Ashare Golpo

**DISNEY PLUS**  
Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness

**HBO MAX**  
The Time Traveler's Wife

### WHAT'S PLAYING?

## EPITAPH Shonar Bangla Circus

If the word 'underrated' had a musical personification, it would be Shonar Bangla Circus. The band, led by vocalist Probar Ripon, has some of the most chilling tunes and lyrics imaginable.



TV TALKIES

## 'PEACEMAKER' John Cena's masterpiece

HBO Max hit series, "Peacemaker" stars John Cena, showcasing the former wrestler's best Hollywood performance till date. The series is a spin-off from 2021's "The Suicide

Squad" movie which Cena also starred in.

In the movie, John Cena plays the titular character and is an antihero who is slowly starting

to grasp the idea that he might not be the superhero he believes himself to be. Throughout the story we see Peacemaker trying process his childhood trauma,

while also trying to sever his relationship with his father. If you're looking for a feel good, comedy superhero movies for this week, check out "Peacemaker".

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

## Why the delay in deradicalisation programmes?

There's no room for complacency when it comes to militancy

SIX years after the gruesome terror attack on Holy Artisan Bakery in Dhaka, the Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of police says it will finally start the process of deradicalising militants inside prisons from this month. While it is no doubt a laudable initiative that experts have been suggesting for over a decade, we cannot help but ask why there has been such a long delay in implementing the project to begin with, and whether the delay is emblematic of a lack of political will among the stakeholders involved to ensure its effectiveness.

Security experts have long suggested that the authorities adopt a seamless "hard and soft" approach towards tackling militancy. While we have noted the success of hard-line approaches to militancy, deradicalisation programmes and sociopolitical campaigns against militancy have never been treated with the same urgency, despite repeated warnings from experts that without the latter, the success of the former may, in fact, be short-lived and unsustainable. With the mass arrests of militants after the Holy Artisan attack, it was all the more urgent that the deradicalisation programme be fast-tracked to ensure that the overcrowded jails – where it is next to impossible to isolate the militants from the general inmates or from each other – did not become hotbeds of radicalisation. We have seen disturbing examples of less militant arrestees becoming more militant in jail, with the premises being used for recruitment and planning. The prospect of this happening across prisons in Bangladesh is distressing, to say the least.

It is imperative that extremists, particularly those who are only in the initial phases of militancy, are engaged in a sensitive manner to ensure their subsequent rehabilitation. In that vein, the CTTC unit is expected to work alongside social, clinical and educational psychologists, religious clerics and counterterrorism experts to start deradicalising jailed militants. According to reports, the preparation of an action plan to appoint experts is at the final stage.

A deradicalisation programme for prisons has been in the talks for over a decade. What we fail to understand is why it has taken so long for the authorities to initiate and implement this much-needed project. Even now, the initiative seems to be progressing at a debilitatingly slow rate, risking the hard-earned gains made over the past few years in checking militancy.

We urge the authorities not to let their seeming success in addressing extremism make them complacent. Mass political campaigns, promised after each terrorist attack, have unfortunately fallen by the wayside. The militants, we fear, have not been so complacent. The government must revisit its deradicalisation programmes and initiate a comprehensive anti-militancy sociopolitical campaign across Bangladesh that addresses the root causes that drive people, especially the vulnerable, to extremism and militancy.

## BRTC shouldn't bow down to Shariatpur transport owners

Conditions imposed on state-run agency are unreasonable, unacceptable

WE are surprised to learn about the conditions being imposed on government buses under Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) to ply the Dhaka-Shariatpur route via Padma Bridge. Reportedly, a syndicate of bus owners and workers in Shariatpur prevented BRTC buses from plying the route after the bridge opened to traffic on June 26, claiming that BRTC did not coordinate with them. Later, at a meeting of the regional transport committee, it was decided that the state-run agency can run a maximum of six buses and that those cannot stop for passengers in the district town. Needless to say, such unreasonable conditions go against the interest of passengers. This is also an example of how the transport owners' associations rule the sector while the BRTC almost always gives in to their pressures.

While Shariatpur's private bus owners succeeded in getting nearly all BRTC buses off the streets, they have not yet done all the necessary work to run their own on the route. Reportedly, among the three private bus companies that have started operations, one does not have any route permit. Currently, some 15 such buses are plying the route via Padma Bridge despite having no legal permits. This is yet another example of the indifference of transport owners to rules and regulations.

The logic that private bus owners have used is that they counted losses for years and now that the newly opened route has created opportunities for them, all bus companies, including the BRTC, should coordinate with them. While we do not have anything against anyone trying to make profits, we just hope it will be done legitimately and that they will not use their influence to control the sector. We have seen how these companies and associations have opposed the many important sections of the Road Transport Act, 2018. It is because of their opposition and constant lobbying that the law has still not been fully implemented. But like any business company, they are bound to follow rules and thus should stop creating anarchy in the sector.

We also think that the BRTC should not bow down to pressures from such companies, however powerful. As a state-run agency, it is liable to the people only. It has the power to decide how many buses it would run on this new route and from where they will take passengers. More BRTC buses mean more people having safe and reasonably low-cost options to commute from Shariatpur to Dhaka and vice versa. People should not be deprived of that service.

# In search of respect



**BLOWN' IN THE WIND**

Dr Shamsad Mortuza is pro-vice chancellor at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).

SHAMSAD MORTUZA

IN a popular TV ad, a jet set businessman yells at an airport steward, "Do you know who I am?" The steward takes a sip of her tea and announces, "Ladies and gentlemen, here's someone who doesn't know who he is. Can anyone help?" The hot-air balloon of authority with which the passenger wanted to garner respect gets deflated by the steward's sharp wit. The crowd laughs; the man soon loses his face and disappears. The message is simple: respect is not a one-way street. If one expects respect to pay dividends, then one must invest in a social relational calculus.

The man in suit demanded preferential treatment. In a bygone era, a branded suit, watch or a peg of whiskey would have conjured respect and made him "special." In a bygone era, professional markers like the chalk and duster of a teacher, the wig of a judge, the apron of a doctor or the pen of a journalist would have garnered respect. The respect dynamics is changing in tandem with the ever-evolving society.

Is it good or bad? Rather, the question is: What is good? Being respectful is good, while the absence of respect for others is bad. A man cannot simply approach someone in a threatening voice to demand service. There are norms and etiquettes. Respect is a means to an end. For instance, teachers earn their respect through years of dedication to their studies and students and after fulfilment of other social concerns related to their profession. Then again, a novice teacher earns respect as an end in itself by joining the legacy of moral underpinnings associated with his profession.

The recent spate of attacks on teachers by individual students or certain groups made many of us revisit the very notion of respect for teachers. True to its Latin root, *respicere*, the word "respect" literally wants us "to look back at." While reflecting on the attacks, most think that we have regressed from this idealist state where a teacher was once revered. A teacher beaten to death with a cricket stamp by an aggrieved student in front of his students and colleagues is the nadir of morality. A teacher being forced to wear a garland of shoes allegedly for disciplining his students is a sign of decadence. A teacher assaulted before being thrown into jail for discussing evolution in class is

a sign of regression.

Most opinion pieces and vlogs share a view that teaching is a "respectable" profession. As an educator, it pampers my ego to see many even quoting Kader Newaz's poem, in which the Emperor of Delhi Alamgir chided his son for not scrubbing the feet of his teacher with his own hand. Some even cited the anecdotal references to show the importance

student pool to behave like "Emperor Alamgir's son" will not yield any result, especially if we keep on superimposing our values on theirs. We need to remember that we are dealing with the first generation of students who have not known a world without the internet. They know that Google knows a lot more than their human teachers. They do not need to rely on a teacher or ascribe her or him



VISUAL: STAR

**The attack on teachers is a criminal act, and it should be treated as such.**

**But I do not see why we should make it profession-specific. I do insist on introducing mutual respect as an institutional norm not only in education, but also in other sectors. Respect needs to be cultured as a desired and valued principle. It needs to be promoted as something that entails a relational appreciation from those 'others.'**

Bangabandhu and his daughter had given to their respective teachers. The sad reality is that, when it comes to career choices, teaching does not top the list. I think explaining the attack on teachers as a sign of moral degradation involves a false premise that paints a rosy picture of teaching and learning. The myth of teaching as a noble profession needs to be dispelled if we are to diagnose the social ills responsible for the attack on teachers.

By a strange coincidence, the victims in most of these recent cases belong to the minority sect. This gives rise to further speculations and suspicions. Some focus on the religious identities of the victims to detect a systematic pattern to distrust the moralist position that pits the teachers against their students. The general sentiment of the commentators includes the waning respect towards teachers and elders in general, the lack of "proper" and ethical education in our young adults. The list skateboards to touch cultural anthropology on one rim and political economy on the other.

Since the perpetrators are all young adults, it will perhaps be useful to focus more on the intragroup dynamics. The tendency to explain the problem from our worldview in which we expect our current

with a power position like their previous generation.

A recent survey by Stanford University discerns the major traits of the current generation. This is the generation that believes in instant gratification and expects praise for everything. They are not interested in following the footsteps of their predecessors as they believe that they alone understand the complexity of their own lives and situation. They are not interested in criticism or being disciplined for their wrongs. They believe that nobody is special. As a father of a millennial, I know how we do a disservice to the young ones by comparing the world in which we grew up to remind them of the way they should behave.

The attack on teachers is a criminal act, and it should be treated as such. But I do not see why we should make it profession-specific. I do insist on introducing mutual respect as an institutional norm not only in education, but also in other sectors. Respect needs to be cultured as a desired and valued principle. It needs to be promoted as something that entails a relational appreciation from those "others." Instead of pitting teachers against students, we need to work on intragroup dynamics, if we really want to see changes and earn mutual respect.

## Do we need wider roads in Dhaka?

Aiman Elahi is an architect and a member of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB).

AIMAN ELAHI

with narrow roads: 1) Not being able to reach the site of disaster fast enough; and 2) Difficulty during rescue operations. Both these problems can be addressed through wide and free roads. While it is difficult to monitor and maintain individual households, roads are public property and can be brought under stricter regulations.



**Repair work on a Dhaka road has hardly left any space for people to walk. This is a common scenario in the capital city.**

FILE PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

According to the GIS mapping presented in the Detailed Area Plan (2016-2035) for Dhaka metropolitan region, about 50 percent of the roads in Dhaka are less than 20 feet wide. The other half of the capital, which has roads wider than 20 feet or more, faces capacity loss due to factors such as traffic congestion, road construction work, parking on the streets, waste disposal, etc. Even during the monsoon months, clogged drains or inadequate drainage lead to urban flooding, which sinks roads.

These factors, when addressed individually, could be solved through coordinated planning and project implementations. Bringing together all government entities related to road planning and infrastructure, such as Dhaka Wasa, Rajuk and the city corporations, all under the same roof would provide more integrated output. Nowadays, we witness Wasa operating on roads for the repair work of their lines while Titas Gas, instead of coordinating with the former, cuts open the same road again for their own repair work. This

results in narrow and unusable roads due to the endless train of in-progress construction work.

Although approvals are required from the city corporations to conduct construction work on the roads, the process takes time and often cannot meet the demand for the amount of repair work that is needed. Even in terms of installation of traffic signals and control of traffic, there seems to be a lack of coordination between the city corporations and the Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (DMDP).

In case of on-street parking, planners hardly seem to consider the importance of having dedicated parking spaces in the capital. Buildings dedicated to parking could be a solution. In addition, Dhaka's solid waste management needs planning so that neighbourhoods do not have to turn into dumping grounds. Often, large garbage disposal bins are placed on street junctions, as leachate contaminates the area surrounding the containers, reducing vital road space. But while parking and garbage disposal areas need land, the Dhaka city authorities seem to be only coming up with proposals that ensure that no land is left for use by the public. A few playgrounds and open spaces do exist in the capital, but they can hardly serve the city's massive population adequately. Worse, this incapacity of roads is being addressed by planning vertical road expansions, instead of horizontal road widening.

The government's current transport-oriented development includes MRT lines and subway systems. These could reduce the density of people using roads, but given the size of the population and the increasing number of private car users, it would not be surprising if these alternate means of transportation increase the number of people travelling into Dhaka every day, let alone free up existing roads. But with large decentralisation projects underway, we can expect the central business district of the capital to shift. But will that happen soon enough?

Emergency travel for ambulances and Fire Service needs to be accommodated while planning the urban development of the capital, under the jurisdiction of Dhaka's two city corporations.

# Can police be deployed in the army-withdrawn camp sites in the CHT?

Here's what the CHT Accord really says



MANGAL KUMAR CHAKMA

Mangal Kumar Chakma is information and publicity secretary at the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS).

DIPANKAR Talukdar, member of parliament (MP) from the Parbatya Rangamati (299) constituency, while taking part in the budget discussion during the 18th session of Jatiya Sangsad on June 16, said, "Nowhere is it mentioned in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Accord that police cannot be deployed at the army-withdrawn camp sites."

In a sense, Dipankar Talukdar has spoken the truth about the deployment of Armed Police Battalion (APBn) during his speech in the House. But he has not said a single word about the bigger truths already contained in the accord. For instance, he has not mentioned the provisions in the accord that explain what are to be done with the lands abandoned by the army camps or to whom those lands should be handed over; how the police force in the CHT would be organised; under whose jurisdiction would the responsibility to maintain law and order remain, etc.

In his speech, Talukdar has very tactfully veered away from hinting at the provisions under Section 17 (b) of Part "D" of the accord, which highlights that the camp sites abandoned by the military and paramilitary forces would be returned to the actual owners of the land or handed over to the concerned Hill District Councils (HDCs). The provision leaves no room for interpretation by merit of which any force can be stationed as a replacement. Indeed, he has made an effort to send a wrong and confusing message to the people of Bangladesh by tactfully not referring to that provision in the accord.

He also said that the CHT Accord stipulated withdrawal of the "unnecessary camps." In fact, the accord says that "all the temporary camps of the military, Ansar and Village Defence Party" shall be taken back to permanent cantonments. Talukdar's explanation shows how the ruling dignitaries distort, fabricate and misinterpret the CHT Accord to their advantage.

On the other hand, as per Section 34 (b) and Section 33 (a) of Part "B" of the accord, the subjects of "Police (Local)" and "Preservation and Development of Law and Order," respectively, are to be devolved to the three HDCs, and as per Section 24 (a), the sub-inspector of Hill District Police and all the members ranking below are to be appointed by the councils as per its regulations and prescribed procedure.

Following the appointment of Abul Hasnat Abdullah, MP, as the convener of the CHT Accord Implementation Committee in January 2018, decisions made in the first four out of five meetings held so far include: transferring the subjects of "Police (Local)" and "Preservation and Development of Law and Order" to the three HDCs; and withdrawing all the temporary camps and forming the Hill District Police Force as per the three HDC Acts. It should be mentioned that no decision was made in the Accord Implementation Committee meetings to set up armed police camps in places of temporary camps abandoned by the army.

Instead of implementing the decisions

made in the first four meetings of the Accord Implementation Committee and raising an argument to justify the implementation of the decisions made in the fifth meeting, instructions were issued to set up an APBn camp on the site of the withdrawn army camp from the APBn Headquarters on April 13, 2022, in violation of the provisions of

VISUAL: TEENI AND TUNI



of the special administrative system of CHT, incorporating CHT Regional Council (CHTRC) and three HDCs, and devolving the political, administrative and economic powers and functions including general administration, police, law and order, land management, forest and environment and all development programmes.

state. Law and order meetings are often held by the government in the name of solving the CHT crisis. In all such meetings, the mass demand for implementing the accord is swept under the carpet, while the issues of terrorism, extortion and conflict in CHT get more focus. In this kind of meetings, instead

the accord. Even without returning that land to the actual owners or handing them over to the concerned HDCs, signboards have been put up at those sites, terming them "designated place for security forces" and categorically forbidding the "construction of any other structure with stern warning of a punishable offence." Furthermore, families living at those sites claim that they are being threatened to leave their homesteads.

Despite these ground realities, the MP of Rangamati constituency has delivered a one-sided speech before the House by saying there is no bindings prohibiting the deployment of APBn. It is agonising that he is never as vocal about the rights defined in and the unimplemented issues of the accord as much as he is over those issues not stated.

When it comes to the discussion on issues of implementation of the accord or the CHT situation, the ruling party brings up the issue of terrorism and extortion on the hills, which propels the people of the country to view it through the lens of law and order. In reality, the CHT crisis is neither an economic nor a law-and-order problem. It is a political and national problem, which Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina mentioned during many of her speeches. It is for this reason that the CHT Accord was signed in 1997, to resolve the problem through political and peaceful means and to preserve the tribal-inhabited feature of the region. Indeed, that has been the core spirit of the CHT Accord.

It is based on this spirit, under Part "B" and Part "C" of the accord, that the provisions confer introduction

**In regards to solving the political crisis in the CHT, there is no alternative to implementing the CHT Accord. In fact, instead of establishing camps of Armed Police Battalion (APBn) or any other law enforcement force, the government should try to make progress in finding a political solution to the CHT crisis, through full implementation of the accord. That is how lasting peace in the region can be ensured.**

It is true that the CHTRC and HDCs have been constituted, but the said jurisdiction of administrative and economic powers and functions have not yet been transferred to these councils. Even elections have not been held in these councils after having prepared the electoral roll, enumerating only with the permanent residents of the three hill districts. In addition, the definition of "non-tribal (Bangalee) permanent residents" has been determined in the accord, and to that end, a provision has also been made by merit of which the issuing authority for Permanent Resident Certificate has been entrusted to the Circle Chiefs. But in reality, the deputy commissioners of the hill districts have been entrusted with this jurisdiction and function, violating the terms of the accord.

Besides, the provisions under Part "D" of the accord include: to return the dispossessed lands of the Jumma people after resolution of land disputes through Land Commission and cancel all the leases given to outsiders; to rehabilitate the India-returnee and internally displaced Jumma families in their land after returning it to them; to withdraw all the temporary camps of security forces, including the "Operation Utoron"; and to appoint the permanent residents in all the jobs available in the CHT prioritising the Jumma people, etc. On the other hand, in the unofficial agreement, decisions to relocate the Bangalee settlers outside the CHT were also taken. But all the aforesaid issues have either been left stranded after partial implementation, or are being trampled at completely unimplemented

of prioritising the implementation of the accord, threats of stern actions are pronounced against the organisations and right-seeking Jumma people who are engaged in the movement, fictitiously alleging them of being involved in terrorist activities.

The same was the case in the high-level law and order meeting on May 25, and inauguration of the Regional Office of the APBn on May 26, held in Rangamati. In the meeting, an influential military bureaucrat said that out of the 72 sections of the Accord, there were only two sections for the PCJSS to implement at its level. But the PCJSS members did not deposit all of their arms and ammunitions and all members did not surrender, he alleged - whereas, the progress report on the implementation of the accord published by the CHT affairs ministry clearly mentioned that these two sections had been "completely implemented."

Indeed, if malaria is treated with drugs meant to treat tuberculosis, it is very likely that there will be an outbreak of the disease - or at least cases of the disease will not decline. Similarly, a political problem cannot be solved by deploying APBn or any other forces.

In regards to solving the political crisis in the CHT, there is no alternative to implementing the CHT Accord. In fact, instead of establishing camps of APBn or any other law enforcement force, the government should try to make progress in finding a political solution to the crisis, through full implementation of the accord. That is how lasting peace in the region can be ensured.

Opinion  
Love solving our crossword puzzles?  
**WE SEE YOU!**  
Email us a photo of your solved crossword puzzle at [dsopinion@gmail.com](mailto:dsopinion@gmail.com) and we will post it on our Facebook page. Let's grow our community of crossword solvers!

[www.facebook.com/dsopinion](https://www.facebook.com/dsopinion)

**CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH**

**ACROSS**

1 Rum cakes	30 Navigating aid	7 In the past
6 Ham's device	34 Wallet bill	8 Secret file
11 Texas mission	35 Stew sphere	9 Meantime
12 Unbearable pain	36 "The Simpsons" bartender	10 Raw bar selection
13 Inflation feature	37 Quarrels	14 Secluded valley
15 Holiday lead-in	40 Mermaid's home	19 Pretentious
16 Pub pints	41 Start	22 Hind's mate
17 Ready to go	42 Oboe parts	23 Cost
18 Drugged	43 High-maintenance	24 Content
20 Fury		25 Co-creator of Spider-Man
21 Sought a seat		26 Honey-comb shape
22 Estate recipient		28 Hammer end
23 Survives		30 Quick drives
26 Injures		31 Entertain
27 Wee		32 Famous
28 For each pieces		33 Irritable
29 Relaxing place		38 Young fellow
		39 Wallet bill

**DOWN**

1 Uncovers	2 Full of energy	3 Founded	4 French friend	5 Orchestra	6 Sprinted
------------	------------------	-----------	-----------------	-------------	------------

WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO [dsopinion@gmail.com](mailto:dsopinion@gmail.com).

**WEDNESDAY'S ANSWERS**

S	A	B	E	R	P	A	N	E	S
C	R	A	V	E	R	O	V	E	N
R	U	L	E	S	S	E	P	T	A
A	B	E	I	R	S	A	R	T	
M	A	R	Y	S	H	E	L	L	E
		O	T	O	L	I	A	R	
S	C	A	D	S	C	A	S	T	S
P	A	G	E	S	P	U	N		
E	M	I	L	Y	B	R	O	N	T
N	E	T	E	S	S	E	A	R	
D	R	A	M	A	O	S	A	K	A
S	R	A	T	E	S	R	A	T	E
S	E	N	T		S	T	O	N	E

**BEETLE BAILEY BY MORT WALKER**

WHAT WAS LT. FUZZ BEATING HIS CHEST ABOUT THIS TIME?  
I DON'T KNOW  
...BUT HE SPRAINED HIS WRIST DOING IT

**BABY BLUES BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT**

MOM, I'M NOT SURE WHAT I WANT TO BE WHEN I GROW UP.  
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS FOLLOW YOUR HEART.  
WHAT IF MY HEART'S AN IDIOT?  
SIGH: IT WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST.

## Riyad wants positivity and aggression

SPORTS REPORTER

T20I skipper Mahmudullah Riyad wanted more positivity and aggression as Bangladesh take on West Indies in the first of the three-match T20I series in Dominica today with an eye on getting their preparations right for the T20 World Cup in Australia. With four months till the mega-event, the series could give much-needed direction.

"I think the preparation comes from here [points to his head]. In T20Is, you have very little time in the game so you need to be very aware of the conditions that will be provided. Game sense has to be applied. Our motto will be to be very positive and aggressive at the same time," he said during the press conference yesterday.

The Tigers did not even fare that well on a cruise that was supposed to relax them after quite a few players fell prey to seasickness. Some of the players even asked for a different mode of transport during a break in the island of Martinique midway through their journey. But that could not be arranged as managing visas and other documents proved difficult since the island is French territory.

While on safer landscape, Bangladesh's T20I fate still appear to be dwindling with top-order, especially the opening slot being one of the issues.

Bangladesh have used three different opening pairs following that World Cup debacle in the UAE, with Munim Shahriar getting his debut against Afghanistan at home while Mohammad Naim Sheikh, Saif Hassan and Nazmul Hossain Shanto have also been used in the



opening slot.

Riyad said his job would be to ensure players could play with ease instead of feeling uneasy about their spots in the team.

"Munim is still new and [Anamul] Bijoy is just coming in. They will have to be given the right opportunity. At the same time, the team management and I must ensure that they can play with peace of mind and get opportunities the correct way," he said.

The Test series defeat also leaves baggage ahead of the shorter formats but the Tigers found themselves in a similar position during their last tour of Windies in 2018, when they won the ODI and T20I series after losing the Tests thanks to Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's ability to rally the side's morale.

"I think it's a different ball game now," Riyad said of the T20Is. "We're keeping the red ball things aside and trying to focus on our T20 games as we're preparing for the World Cup. So, it will be very good opportunity to play West Indies in their home soil and we're looking forward to it."

"Shakib is there, Liton [Das] too. Me, Afif [Hossain], [Nurul Hasan] Sohan and Mosaddek [Hossain] are there and Sheikh Mahedi too. I think we've got very good batting depth and our bowling attack is good with variety."

The Tigers have happy memories of beating West Indies twice in Dominica in the ODI series in 2009. The likes of Shakib Al Hasan and Mahmudullah Riyad got runs during that tour over a decade ago and they might have to do the heavy lifting as Tigers look to get their T20 compass on track.



Australia spinner Nathan Lyon, who finished with a match haul of nine wickets, celebrates the dismissal of Sri Lanka captain Dimuth Karunaratne with captain Pat Cummins during the third day of the first Test in Galle yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Semi-automated offside in place for World Cup

AFP, LAUSANNE

FIFA confirmed on Friday that a semi-automated offside system will be used at this year's World Cup in Qatar.

The optical tracking system was trialled at the FIFA Club World Cup in Abu Dhabi earlier this year and had also been tested at the Arab Cup in Qatar last December.

"Semi-automated offside technology is an evolution of the VAR systems that have been implemented across the world," FIFA president Gianni Infantino said.

The data-driven, limb-tracking technology uses both dedicated and broadcast cameras around the stadium to give the exact position of players on the pitch, offering referees precise information within seconds. The term "semi-automated" is used because FIFA insist match officials will still make the final call, with a dedicated VAR assistant in place to monitor offside.

## Cummins lauds 'unplayable' Lyon

AFP, GALLE

Australia skipper Pat Cummins said Nathan Lyon's nine wickets "showed his class" in the team's Friday thrashing of Sri Lanka in the opening Test.

Lyon bamboozled the opposition batsmen with his off-spin in a match that ended before lunch on day three in Galle, with the hosts bowled out for 212 and 113.

The champion off-spinner pushed past former Indian fast bowler Kapil Dev's 434 wicket tally in the morning to break into the top-10 ranking of all-time Test bowlers.

"Nathan Lyon showed his class, he looked unplayable out there and built off the back of a really good batting day," Cummins told reporters after play wrapped up.

Lyon, 34, led the charge with his five-wicket haul in the first innings and then took four on the third morning to flatten the Sri Lankan batting in their own

den.

He was ably supported by Mitchell Swepson, a leg-spinner, and occasional spinner Travis Head who got his maiden Test wicket and then took three more.

"He's unplayable for left or right handers," Cummins said of Lyon, who has now made 436 wickets across 109 Test matches.

"Sometimes out here, bounce of spinners is spoken about as something that's not desirable, but he showed here with that bounce he was unplayable," he added.

Batsman Cameron Green was named man of the match in a bowler-dominated Test, handling Sri Lanka's spin roster with confidence for a first innings showing of 77.

Cummins said his younger batters like the 23-year-old Green had played in sub-continent conditions before, but that had given little preparation for the turn on Galle's

notoriously tricky wicket.

"I think we had Marnus [Labuschagne], Travis Head, Cameron Green, Alex Carey (but they) hadn't played Test matches in conditions that have spun this much," said Cummins.

"We have a big series next year in India, so this can only help develop and fast-track our batters," he added. "Absolutely you learn so much from these tours."

Green had always been a "fast learner", Cummins said.

"But it's even surprised us how fast he's learnt out there. From ball one, really sharp (with) a really clear method."

Australia were five down for 157 when opener Usman Khawaja departed on day two.

Green put on an 84-run stand with Carey to put the team on course to its 109-run lead at the end of the innings.

The second and final Test begins July 8 at the same venue.

## No red ball in my bag, says Buttler

AFP, BIRMINGHAM

Newly-appointed England limited-overs captain Jos Buttler accepts his Test cricket career is on hold, with "no red ball in my bag", as he prepares to concentrate on white-ball internationals.

Buttler succeeded Eoin Morgan as England skipper in the one-day international and Twenty20 formats after the 2019 50-over World Cup winning captain announced his retirement from international cricket on Tuesday.

It had been suggested Buttler — a middle-order batsman in red-ball cricket — could replace struggling opener Zak Crawley in an England Test side now being captained by multi-format all-rounder Ben Stokes.

And while he hasn't gone as far as Morgan in ending his Test career, Buttler told the BBC at Edgbaston on Friday: "I thought someone had written the wrong story, to be honest. I don't think there is much merit in that (opening in Tests)."

"It was Kumar (Sangakkara), wasn't it? Maybe he was just promoting Rajasthan Royals openers!" said Buttler of his IPL franchise boss.

"I've just been enjoying watching the Test side recently. There is no red ball in my bag at the moment."

Meanwhile, England Test captain Ben Stokes will skip the Twenty20 series against India but will return for the one-day internationals.

England host India in three T20s from July 7 followed by three ODIs.



## 'So far, so good'

AGENCIES

Three-time defending champion Novak Djokovic reached the Wimbledon fourth round for the 14th time on Friday with a straight-sets demolition of Serbian compatriot Miomir Kecmanovic.

Djokovic, looking to pull level with Pete Sampras as a seven-time Wimbledon champion, triumphed 6-0, 6-3, 6-4.

Friday's win was the 330th of Djokovic's Grand Slam career. "So far, so good," said the 35-year-old top seed, who has now reached the last 16 of a major for the 55th time. "I expect high standards from myself. You always want to raise the level and things are shaping up well."

Waiting in the fourth round will be Dutch wild card Tim van Rijthoven, who continued his fairytale grasscourt run on Friday, claiming his eight straight victory on the surface to storm into the Wimbledon fourth round on his Grand Slam main draw debut.

"From the outside it obviously looks like a fairytale because it came out of nowhere for a lot of people," Van Rijthoven told reporters after defeating 22nd seed Nikoloz Basilashvili of Georgia 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 in the third round.

Van Rijthoven defeated big-serving American Reilly Opelka, seeded 15th, in his previous round and Friday's victory made him the first men's wildcard to reach the round of 16 at Wimbledon since Denis Kudla in 2015.



India batter Rishabh Pant gave Ben Stokes' England a taste of their own medicine with a superb counter-attacking century as India recovered from a top-order collapse on Friday's opening day of the delayed fifth Test at Edgbaston. Recalled England great James Anderson and fledgling quick Matthew Potts shared five wickets between them to reduce India to 98-5 after Stokes won the toss under overcast skies in Birmingham. But Pant responded with a brilliant 146 and together with fellow left-hander Ravindra Jadeja, 83 not out, shared a sixth-wicket partnership of 222 that helped India to 338-7 at stumps.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Salahuddin set for fourth term as SAFF chief

SPORTS REPORTER

Kazi Salahuddin is all set to become SAFF president for consecutive fourth term as the Bangladesh Football Federation president been the lone candidate for the electoral congress of the regional game's governing body to be held at a city hotel today.

As per the new constitution of South Asian Football Federation, the executive committee will consist only seven members — one president, two vice presidents and four members in which one woman member and one member to represent the SAFF at the Asian Football Federation committee.

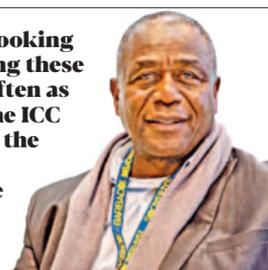
"Of seven posts, five had submitted their nominations in five posts — president, two vice presidents and two members — one month before but those candidates who submitted their nominations for vice presidents are no longer with the respective federations at the moment and the respective federations [India and Nepal] have already withdrawn and cancelled their nominations," said SAFF general secretary Anwarul Haque Helal.

"I think the rest of three candidates will be elected unopposed tomorrow (Saturday) and the Congress and the electoral committee will decide how to fulfil the vacuum the seven-member committee," said Helal adding the representatives from Nepal, Sri Lanka Bhutan have already reached Dhaka while representatives from Maldives were scheduled to land in early hours today.

Helal also informed one representative from Pakistan was supposed to come as observer but that he did not get the visa.

**“Generally, we have to start looking at the bigger picture of getting these players playing together as often as possible in preparation for the ICC T20 World Cup later down in the year. We need to ensure we are fielding a very strong side for that tournament.”**

West Indies' chief selector  
DESMOND HAYNES



Bangladesh-West Indies T20Is have doled out exciting contests over the years. The two teams once again brace for a three-match T20I series, set to begin with at the Windsor Park in Dominica tonight. Both the sides will have added motivation heading into the series as it is being considered to be their first step in preparing for the upcoming T20 World Cup in Australia in October-November this year. With seven wins in 13 encounters, West Indies edge out the head-to-head statistics, but the fact that the eighth-ranked Bangladesh remain just a place below the Caribbeans in the T20I rankings indicate an action-packed next few days for cricket fans. To hype up the fans' excitement even further, here we try to outline the importance of the series with the T20 World Cup in just a few months' time.



## Road to T20 World Cup starts in the Caribbean



NABID YEASIN

The horrific memories of the 2021 T20 World Cup must still be fresh in the Bangladesh cricketers' minds. In that edition, the Tigers' tongues wagged more than their willows bashed.

A little over three months' time is left for the next edition of the T20 World Cup, scheduled to be held in Australia in October-November. But for the Tigers, the road to the land Down Under starts tonight, in the Caribbean, when they face hosts West Indies in the first of three-match T20I series at the Windsor Park in Dominica.

The upcoming T20I series against the Windies is being considered the first step in shaping up the squad for the next T20 World Cup in order to avoid mishaps like in the preceding edition of the tournament.

Even the Tigers' team management acknowledged the fact that it needs to keep one eye on the World Cup from now on every time they go out on the field to play the shortest format.

And the promising thing for

Bangladesh is that Mahmudullah Riyad's troops are braced for plenty of T20 action before they hop on the Australia bound flight.

The lack of opportunity to aptly prepare for the tournament was not an issue even ahead of the last edition of the tournament. Despite that, Bangladesh succumbed to six defeats in eight encounters, including a humiliating loss in the opener to Scotland, in the UAE and Oman in the 2021 T20 World Cup.

That was because of the false sense of achievement garnered from sealing historic series wins over Australia and New Zealand

**The truth is that like in the case of Tests, Bangladesh have not yet been able to settle into a set style of play and do not have an ironed-out team combination in T20Is.**

at favourable home conditions just months before the previous World Cup. But no such opportunities will be there for Bangladesh this time around as only three of the minimum 18 T20Is that the Tigers are set to play leading up to the next T20 extravaganza will be played on home soil, which essentially takes away the Tigers' ability to extract results by exploiting home conditions.

This, however, should work as a blessing in disguise for Bangladesh as it would give them the opportunity to assess their abilities in testing foreign conditions and go into the World Cup with a realistic sense of their capabilities and limitations.

But the concerns for the Tigers still outweigh their potential chance for better preparation. The truth is that like in the case of Tests, Bangladesh have not yet been able to settle into a set style of play and do not have an ironed-out team combination in T20Is. The challenge starting from the Windies T20Is will be to at least start addressing the bugs in the system and slowly instilling in the troops the brand of cricket that they would like to play in the upcoming World Cup.

The team management would need to fix roles for the players and have like-for-like backups in mind in case someone fails to fulfil their roles, something that the Tigers have failed to do over the years as an apparent lack of depth in the pipeline has always seen the team management pick from a handful of the available choices.

With the Windies T20Is, Bangladesh will return to the format after almost four months. And contrary to what Mahmudullah had said before leaving the country for the Caribbean, Bangladesh do not have a balanced squad in the T20 format and that can be ascertained from the fact that the Tigers have lost nine of their last 10 T20Is.

But Bangladesh can take inspiration from their last tour of the Caribbean in 2018 when they bounced back from a humiliating 2-0 Test series defeat to win the following T20I and ODI series by the same 2-1 margin. The scenario this time around is quite similar as the Tigers go into this T20I series on the back of yet another embarrassing Test series whitewash.

Even if the Tigers find a way to repeat the feats of 2018, the challenge this time will be much bigger. It will be to sustain that momentum and keep improving on their approach to the format so that they can go to Australia for the World Cup with a refined squad who are aware of their capabilities and limitations instead of being misled by a false sense of achievement.

### KEY STATS

ICC T20I RANKING	FIRST MEETING
West Indies: 7	13 Sep, 2007, Johannesburg
Bangladesh: 8	Result: Bangladesh won by 6 wickets
BANGLADESH IN T20IS OVERALL	LATEST MEETING
Played: 125	29 Oct, 2021, Sharjah
Won: 44	Result: West Indies won by 3 runs.
Lost: 79	
No Results: 2	
WEST INDIES IN T20IS OVERALL	HIGHEST RUNS FOR BANGLADESH IN T20IS
Played: 160	Mahmudullah
Won: 66	-- 2002 runs in
Lost: 82	115 matches at an average of 23.83
Tied: 3	
No Results: 9	
BANGLADESH V WEST INDIES IN T20IS	HIGHEST WICKETS FOR BANGLADESH IN T20IS
Matches: 13	Shakib Al Hasan
Bangladesh won: 5	-- 119 wickets in
West Indies won: 7	96 matches at an average of 19.88
No results: 1	



### WHAT THEY SAID

IMRUL KAYES

Since we did not have a good Test series, it will be important for us to gain the confidence back. I think we have the ability but we need to play as a unit which was missing in the Test series. It is very important to have a good start with the bat to lay the platform for a big total. Someone from the top needs to bat till 15-16 over as T20 cricket is a fast-paced game and it's not easy for a new batter to go out there and hit the bat right from the word go. The last time we won the T20I series in West Indies where Tamim Iqbal gave good starts and we capitalised on those starts. If we can post totals around 170-180 and put pressure on the West Indies, there is a chance but if we score 140-150, it won't help.

NAZMUL ISLAM APU

West Indies are a tough opponent in the T20 format and they have shown that through their muscle cricket. From bowling point of view, I feel we need to be cleverer in operating against the Windies batters. The last time when we won the T20 series, we had the belief even after losing the first game. Though the pitches there mostly help the seamers, in T20 format spinners can play a big role too. It is important not to bowl too quick on those surfaces and not give anything on the slot as they are strong enough to clear the field. If our spinners can tempt the Windies batters and force them to reach for the balls and use the variation accordingly, we have a good chance of beating them. The spinners can use bowling on block holes, like I did in the previous tour, as part of variation.

RUBEL HOSSAIN

The pace bowling department will play a crucial role in the upcoming limited over formats in West Indies. Since we will begin with the T20 series, it will be important for our seamers to keep things full and straight and they should hardly give any room to the batters. Change of pace also plays a big role in any conditions in the shortest format. Our fast bowling unit is doing really well in recent times and I am confident that they will continue to do that in West Indies.

## A trio of hopefuls

MAZHAR UDDIN

Bangladesh will start their build up to the ICC T20 World Cup, slated to be held in Australia in October, with the upcoming three-match T20I series against West Indies starting from July 2. Bangladesh's performance in the last T20 World Cup was disappointing as the Tigers lost to Scotland in the qualifying phase before losing all of their games in the Super 10 stage. T20I Skipper Mahmudullah Riyad and the team management will be keen to form a stable unit ahead of the mega-event and there are a few contenders for spots, who will be hoping to make a case in the T20I series against the West Indies. The Daily Star tried to focus on some of the prospects that have a chance to cement a place as T20 specialists.

MUNIM SHAHRIAR

After an impressive in the latest Bangladesh Premier League campaign, young right-handed opener Munim Shahriar caught

selectors' eyes before eventually making his T20I debut against Afghanistan in March this year. The 24-year-old has had little impact initially, scoring 17 on his international debut and following that up with just two runs in his next outing. But the hard-hitting right-hander will get another opportunity



in the Caribbean in the upcoming T20I series as the team management looks someone who can ignite an explosive start in the shortest format. Although the Mymensingh native starred for finalists Fortune Barishal in the BPL with 178 runs in six matches at a strike rate of 152,

it is that fearless attitude that the team management would most want him to replicate in the international circuit.

NASUM AHMED

Left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed has emerged as one of the crucial cogs in the Tigers' T20I unit with his ability to keep things tight. The 27-year-old



has successfully demonstrated his abilities to bowl accurately with the new ball and has managed to provide early breakthroughs. He plays a handy role alongside left-arm spinner Shakib Al Hasan and also played a pivotal role in T20I wins against New Zealand and Australia at home last year. The lad from Sylhet scalped

eight wickets in those two series and managed to trouble batters. He also boasts a decent economy rate of just under seven per over across 20 T20Is, but Nasum's biggest challenge will be to show his prowess away from home, where pitches offer less to spinners.

MAHEDI HASAN

Off-spinning all-rounder Mahedi Hasan has been a prolific performer in the domestic circuit and has shown great promise on his comeback to the T20I side in 2020 after being dropped following his debut in 2018.

His ability to bowl with the new ball has been a highlight, with Mahedi scalping 25 wickets in 31 games at an economy rate of 6.51. The 27-year-old is also considered a handy option with the bat and he has been utilised as a floating batter that can either chance his arms at the top or chip in with some crucial runs in the lower middle order. The fact that he is an outstanding fielder makes him the complete package that Bangladesh have been searching for.



IN THE MAIN STRUCTURE OF PADMA BRIDGE  
**MORE THAN 95% OF RODS ARE BSRM**



**PADMA BRIDGE**

Proud Construction Partner




Hundreds of people waiting in queues at Kamalapur Railway Station to purchase home-bound tickets in advance ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. The photo was taken yesterday morning. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## EID TRAIN TICKETS Hundreds wait for hours in long queues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even overnight waits could not secure advance Eid-ul-Azha tickets for many holidaymakers at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday.

"I have been waiting in a queue for over 12 hours before the rail authorities started selling the tickets. However, I could not purchase tickets," said Shahin Ahmed, a resident of Mugda.

Shahin, a private job holder, said he would manage an alternative transport for Tuesday.

Many like him returned home empty-handed from the railway station yesterday.

Meanwhile, this correspondent found some passengers who chose to stay back at the station for tickets for Wednesday.

Those tickets will be sold from 8:00am today.

"I did not visit home during Eid-ul-Fitr holidays for my newborn. My parents are eager to see his face. This time, I'll have to manage tickets at any cost," said another passenger who chose to stay back at the station.

According to a press release of Bangladesh Railways, it will continue to sell advance tickets for Eid-ul-Azha till Tuesday whereas the return tickets will be open from Thursday.

The total number of train seats departing from Dhaka each day during Eid will be 26,731.

Half of the tickets against the seat will be available at ticket counters. Rest will be sold through online and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## Russian strikes kill 21 in Ukraine's Odessa

Two children among the dead, dozens wounded; Kremlin denies targeting civilians; fighting rages in Lysychansk

AGENCIES

Russian missile strikes killed 21 people and wounded dozens in Ukraine's Odessa region yesterday, a day after Russian troops abandoned positions on a strategic island in a major setback to the Kremlin's invasion.

Two children were among the dead and six others among the injured, Ukrainian officials said.

The missiles slammed into an apartment building and a recreation centre early yesterday in the town of Serhiivka about 80 kilometres south of the Black Sea port of Odessa, which has become a strategic flashpoint in the conflict.

Serhiy Bratchuk, spokesman for the Odessa regional administration, said 21 people had been confirmed killed and 38 people were wounded.

Authorities said earlier 41 people had been rescued from the apartment building where 152 lived. The strikes were

launched by aircraft that flew in from the Black Sea, said Bratchuk.

"The worst-case scenario played out and two strategic aircraft came to the Odessa region," he said in a TV interview, adding they had fired "very heavy and very powerful" missiles.

The Kremlin denied targeting civilians. "I would like to remind you of the president's words that the Russian Armed Forces do not work with civilian targets," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

The attack came just four days after Russia struck a crowded shopping mall in central Ukraine killing at least 19 people.

A Ukrainian general said that Russia may be trying to hit military targets but is killing civilians by firing inaccurate, obsolete missiles into populous areas.

In Kyiv, Ukrainian lawmakers gave a standing ovation as the flag of the European Union was

carried through the chamber to stand alongside Ukraine's own flag behind the dais, a symbol of Ukraine's formal EU candidate status granted last week.

Zelensky and lawmakers in parliament stood for a minute of silence for those killed in the attacks in Odessa, reports Reuters.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, four people died and three were wounded in shelling in Izium and Chuguiv, two districts of the Kharkiv region of north-eastern Ukraine.

Ukrainian officials also accused Russian forces of shelling relentlessly the city of Lysychansk in the eastern Donbas region. Sergiy Gaiday -- governor of the Lugansk region, which includes Lysychansk -- said evacuation from Lysychansk was not possible.

"The superiority in fire power of the occupiers is still very much in evidence," Zelensky said. "They

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

## Ex-NCTB chief assaulted by mob over trifles His house comes under attack; 200 unidentified people sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Professor Ratan Siddique, former chairman of National Curriculum and Textbook Board, was assaulted by a mob in front of his house in the capital's Uttara yesterday afternoon over trifles.



Prof Ratan and his wife Fahmida Haq were returning home in their car, but they could not enter the house because a motorcycle was parked right in front of the gate, said Morshed Alam, deputy commissioner (Uttara Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

As the driver of the car honked, people coming out of an adjacent mosque after Juma prayers asked why they honked near a mosque and began an argument with Prof Ratan, said the officer.

At one point, the men hit Prof Ratan as he went inside his house and locked the collapsible gate, he added.

Police said the mob broke one of the locks of the gate and repeatedly demanded that Fahmida apologise to them.

Fahmida accused 200-300 unnamed people in a case filed last night with Uttara West Police Station.

Meanwhile, Prof Ratan's daughter Purnava

SEE PAGE 6 COL 8

## Scientist makes AI write academic paper about itself

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

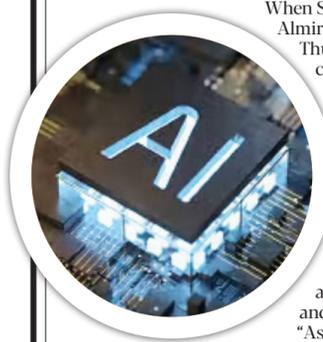
With minimal external inputs, OpenAI's GPT-3 text generating algorithm has authored an academic paper about itself, resulting in a study that is being peer-reviewed.

When Swedish researcher Almira Osmanovic Thunstrom commanded the text generator to write an academic thesis in 500 words about GPT-3, she "stood in awe" as the AI algorithm wrote a paper within two hours, complete with appropriate citations and contexts in places.

"As it started to generate text, I stood in awe. Here was novel content written in academic language, with well-grounded references cited in the right places and in relation to the right context," Dr Thunstrom said in Scientific American.

"We find that GPT-3 can generate clear and concise descriptions of its own capabilities and features. This is a significant advance over

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



## EVALY CUSTOMERS Payments held up over missing server password

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A missing server password is holding up all payments of Evaly customers and merchants and there is seemingly no way to retrieve it.

Only Evaly CEO Mohammad Russell knew the password, but he claimed to have forgotten it.

Such is the system that even the a2i, a special government programme, and the police's Criminal Investigation Department are not being able to retrieve the password.

The court-instituted Evaly board claimed this at a press conference at the beleaguered company's corporate office yesterday.

The server contains data of all buyer and seller transactions. Without that data, the worth and veracity of the claims cannot be estimated, said Evaly Managing Director Mahbub Kabir Milon.

Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, who leads the board, said, "We contacted Amazon but they told us that they could not cooperate with us in retrieving the account and that they need the original account holder."

"I met Russell in jail. He said he cannot remember the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6



Vehicles wait in long queues at the Dhaleshwari toll plaza to pay tolls for the Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga Expressway around 1:30pm yesterday, the first day of collecting tolls on the 55-km expressway. Staffers said toll collection slowed down as many divers, who were unaware of the imposition of tolls, argued with them. Drivers had to wait for about an hour to cross the toll plaza. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: SAJJAD HOSSAIN

## AL suspends leader over assault on Narail teacher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Akhter Hossain Tinku, a local Awami League leader and a teacher at Mirzapur United Degree College in Narail, has been suspended from the post of president of a local AL committee over the recent assault on the college principal.

He was also asked to show causes as to why he failed to act responsibly when college principal Swapan Kumar Biswas was assaulted by a mob on June 18.

Narail Sadar Upazila AL president Achin Kumar Chakraborty and General Secretary Omar Faruq signed the show-cause notice on Thursday, ordering Tinku to reply in three days.

Tinku, was the president

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

# Why are teachers being targeted?

**On March 20, Hriday Chandra Mondal, a science teacher of Binodpur Ram Kumar High School in Munshiganj, was publicly harassed and sent to jail for allegedly hurting religious sentiment.**

**On June 17, students and locals forced Swapan Kumar Biswas, acting principal of Mirzapur United College, to wear a garland of shoes around his neck in Narail Sadar Upazila in front of the district administration and police, again for allegedly hurting religious sentiments.**

**On June 25, Utpal Kumar Sarkar, a teacher of Haji Yunus Ali School and College in Ashulia, was beaten to death by one of his own students for taking disciplinary action against that student.**

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

In the first six months of this year, three incidents of violence against teachers became newspaper headlines, showing a disturbing trend that is contrary to our traditional values of respecting and honouring teachers. Hriday Mondal, a science teacher of Binodpur Ram Kumar High School in Munshiganj, told this correspondent, "I am still living with the trauma. I am always afraid for the security of my family members. The conspirators who tried to harm me at that time are still at large and they can still harm me or my family members. The administration and the mass media cannot protect me all the time." Swapan Kumar Biswas, acting principal of Mirzapur United College, who has fled from home to avoid further reprisals, told the media, "I wish I could die by suicide after such public humiliation. I don't want to show my face to society. I never hurt any religious sentiment. I tried to take disciplinary action against those who had hurt religious sentiment."

Hriday and Swapan have every reason to be traumatised as they witnessed how the entire community and even the police went against them and supported their humiliation. According to the plaintiff in Hriday's case, when he was summoned to the police station, he saw that the police officers had already written the complaint without even consulting him. He was ordered by the headmaster to sign the complaint and become the plaintiff.

In Swapan's case too, he was humiliated right in front of the police who took no visible action to protect him from the harassers. These incidents remind us of the ordeal of another teacher, Shyamal Kanti Bhakta, who was publicly humiliated by Jatiya Party lawmaker Salim Osman six years ago. In this case too, the teacher was accused of hurting religious sentiment.

The lawmaker ordered him to do squats while holding his ears — an age-old form of public disgracing used in schools. The incident was recorded on video and released on social media.

Just after a year, Shyamal Kanti Bhakta was sent to jail in a bribery case and lawmaker Salim Osman was cleared of the case filed for assaulting the teacher, despite the fact that the judicial enquiry had found his involvement. Later, Shyamal was proved not guilty and reinstated to his position in the school.

The repeats of these acts of violence against teachers with no punitive action against the assailants and their abettors has given rise to a permanent sense of fear and self-censorship among school teachers.

This correspondent interviewed 10 school teachers and all of them said they feel nervous when they have to teach certain topics of science, social science and religious studies.

One of the teachers remarked, "I take science class for the students of class 10. I intentionally did not discuss much about evolution as I thought that this might be considered offensive to some of my students' religious sentiments and considering the current trend, I might lose my job."

Another teacher said, "Nowadays I have to think twice before uttering a word in the classroom. I always feel nervous about whether I am hurting someone's religious sentiment or not. We have already banned smartphones in the classroom so that students cannot record anything and use social media in class."

Teachers said many of them have also lost interest in putting extra effort into preparing

lessons for their students.

A social science teacher of a secondary school said, "Whenever I feel that teaching some topics may cause debate among my students, I avoid it. After the recent incidents, I just say to myself, what is the use of teaching these students when we do not get minimum respect from society? I am just doing my job as I do not have any other source of income."

According to experts, this trend of violence against teachers is indicative of the grave crisis of values in society. Experts emphasise that if root causes of the problems cannot be addressed immediately, social fabric, over time will be completely destroyed.

Professor Siddiqur Rahman, former director of Institute of Education and Research, University of Dhaka and one of the authors of the national education policy 2010 and the national curriculum 2012 said, "We cannot blame our teachers if they are afraid of teaching certain topics in the classroom as we can see the level of intolerance and value crisis in our society. One of the biggest reasons behind this staggering erosion of values among our students is the fact that we have failed to teach ethics, manners and values to our students in a way that would inspire them to exercise these values in their lives."

"In the curriculum of 2012 we



introduced ethics as a compulsory subject along with religious education for the first time in the history of Bangladesh. Nevertheless, due to overburden of the exams, students memorise the textbooks just to pass the exams but the knowledge does not enter their hearts," he added.

Prof Rahman also emphasised the need for including in the textbooks, literary works of writers from diverse communities to encourage communal tolerance and harmony.

He said, "I had included literary works of many Hindu, Buddhist and Christian scholars in the textbooks so that students learn to celebrate the diversity of our society. I had introduced more pictures of women and pictures of people from different cultures and religions in the textbooks as students also learn many things just by looking at the pages of the textbooks."

However, he regretted the fact that many of his suggestions were omitted in the later editions of the textbooks.

"If you analyse the contents of the textbooks in 2013 and in 2016, you will find that many works of scholars from other religious orientations were removed from the later versions of the textbooks," he added.

"Effects of what we are teaching our children in the textbooks will definitely be reflected in our society."

Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, eminent academician and writer, commented, "Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, children and adolescents have started to spend huge amounts of time on social media where they follow and interact only with people who they like and who have similar perceptions. This may severely affect these children's psychological development and values such as showing respect to others' opinion, tolerance have decayed drastically."

Saying that violence involving school teachers and students was unheard of in the history of Bangladesh, he said, "Why did the police not protect the teachers? Why did the parents try to protect their child knowing that he has committed murder? Why did the school authority not discuss with the parents of the children who were showing problematic behaviour? We need to find answers to these

questions."

Mahjabeen Haque, professor of the department of educational and counselling psychology at Dhaka University, said, "The recent incidents indicate that families and schools are also failing to instil values in their children. Children always learn from observing living examples, moving around them, interacting with them. Our society, our education system has failed to create such ideal examples for our children from whom they can learn values and good practices."

Haque suggested that all stakeholders, such as families, sociologists, psychologists, educationists, law enforcement agencies and policy makers must work together to identify the root causes of the problem and to find out the solutions.

Her assessment is that our society is also largely responsible for such a crisis in values. She added, "Widespread injustice, nurturing a culture of impunity and appeasement and widespread corruption in the administration encourage our children to choose the wrong path. Without addressing these issues, we shall not be able to solve this value crisis overnight."

## VIOLENCE AGAINST TEACHERS

### A sickness caused by deterioration of values

GOLAM MORTOZA

They were never part of the political elite. Neither were they among the wealthy. Yet they were always considered the most revered and respected members of society because they were teachers — high school teachers in particular.

Traditionally, many teachers were practitioners of Hinduism and treated teaching as sacred as a religious ritual.

They were people of refined tastes, intellectual prowess and progressive thinking. They were above the biases created by differences in religion, caste and colour. As much as the students feared them, they respected and admired them a lot more.

Their presence was significant even three decades ago. Most of today's middle-aged citizens of Bangladesh have taken lessons from them. When needed, they rebuked their students, and on occasion, didn't spare the cane. The students feared them but never could they even think of disrespecting their teachers.

While they exerted authority, they also knew how to nurture students with love and affection. They would protect their students like their own children. The relationship between students and teachers was one of great respect and affection. Guardians too respected the teachers.

Times, however, have changed quite a bit since Bangladesh gained independence. Politics headed down the wrong path and this created a hostile environment for teachers. As a result, they were gradually forced to leave the country.

But the gap left was never filled. Thus, the main reasons behind the anarchy in our education system can be traced to the dearth of such revered educators.

We claim that the society has changed, but when asked why and how it has changed, we have no acceptable explanation, nor any related research.

In any society, it is always the middle class that plays the most important role in setting the norms and deciding standards.

The student-teacher relationship was based on mutual affection and respect emanating from a value system adopted by the middle class. And politics played an important role when this value system was constructed. The middle class had control over politics, and culture was deeply connected with it. The middle class also led the main cultural activities. In addition to teaching, teachers were directly or indirectly in charge of these cultural activities. Teachers commanded absolute loyalty and respect from the middle class and students eagerly followed the path adopted by their parents.

After gaining independence, Bangladesh's politics went through a lot of change. Honesty continuously eroded from politics. A significant portion of the middle-class leadership has already been lured by the charm of dishonest politics. The principles-based leftist politics and cultural activities, once so prominent in our region, gradually began to weaken.

The leftist politicians and cultural icons were never too influential in terms of the popular vote-based politics. But they always played a central role in defining the middle class's values and tastes. These values were reflected in their day-to-day lives. Thus, the middle class could rally behind them.

That thought process has become virtually extinct. Many of those iconic personalities are bogged down by despair and frustration. Many have compromised their integrity. Thus, the engineers of social reform, the middle class, are in a state of confusion. Their leadership has adopted dishonest politics and become seduced by financial gain.

They continue to hold leadership positions within the middle class but have long abandoned its value system. Today, they are the ones most prominent when talking about anomalies in society. They are vociferous about the moral decay of society and the disappearance of values. They have made the terms "values" and "decay" rather fickle.

The fact that the values did not leave us but have instead been driven away is something that no one has the courage to utter.

There is no platform which can be used to challenge this so-called middle-class leadership, the members of which have long since strayed from their original path — thanks to politics. Aided by the middle-class leadership, politics of opportunism has managed to obliterate the mainstream educational system to a great extent.

A damaging habit of leaking question papers and not taking any actions against the culprits is in vogue. Teachers of higher educational institutes were lured with promotions and better designations. Obviously, they are suffering from an eroding moral compass.

In today's society, teachers are being oppressed. Politicians are giving them corporal punishments, they are being forced to wear garlands of shoes in presence of members of the police, students are physically assaulting their teachers and killing them. None of these are events disconnected from society. These are inevitable results of the society we have created.

These problems have no instant solutions. Why the student-teacher relationship has deteriorated to this level, why students no longer respect teachers, why students are killing teachers — these questions have no simple answers.

There are no ad-hoc solutions. This noxious environment wasn't created in a day, it took years to arrive at this point. If we are serious about getting out of this quagmire, we have to start taking steps from today.

## HOUNDED EDUCATORS



**Shyamal Kanti Bhakta**

**Shyamal Kanti Bhakta**  
The headmaster of Piyar Sattar Latif High School in Narayanganj was assaulted on May 13, 2016 by a mob in presence of Jatiya Party lawmaker Salim Osman over allegations that he made derogatory comments about religion while meting out corporal punishment to a student. A judicial probe found him innocent. No charges were pressed against Osman.



**Hriday Chandra Mondal**

**Hriday Chandra Mondal**  
The assistant teacher of Binodpur Ram Kumar High School in Munshiganj was sued for "demeaning Islam" during his class lecture on science and religion on March 20. He was sent to jail. He was released on bail but is still facing trial.

**Amodini Paul**  
A rumour spread that the assistant headteacher at Daul Barbakpur High School in Naogaon "beat



**Amodini Paul**

up students for wearing hijab" in school. She was attacked and harassed. Investigation into the case against the perpetrators is yet to be completed.

**Swapan Kumar Biswas**  
The acting principal of Mirzapur United College in Narail was forced to wear a garland of shoes around his neck on June 17 in presence of police on accusation that he hurt religious sentiments. Police initiated



**Utpal Kumar Sarkar**

a case and arrested a few suspects.

**Utpal Kumar Sarkar**  
The lecturer of political science at Haji Yunus Ali School and College in Ashulia was bludgeoned to death with a cricket stump by a student on June 25 because the teacher had taken disciplinary action against the assaulter for stalking girls. Prime accused Ashrafal Islam Jitu has been placed on 5-day remand in the murder case

A TRIBUTE TO SELINA HOSSAIN ON HER BIRTHDAY

# Endangered Femininity and the Theme of Motherhood in Selina Hossain's Short Stories

**Selina Hossain, a prolific fiction writer from Bangladesh, is known at home and abroad for her mastery over real life stories. Her writing exhibits her awareness regarding Bangladeshi feminism as she offers a realistic picture of the lifelong struggles with motherhood and sexuality. Her narration of women's experiences can be called what French feminist Helen Cixous would term as "écriture feminine," or women's writing. Many of Selina Hossain's short stories dig deep into female psyche and critically explore the problems of motherhood.**

BY JARIN TASNEEM SHOILEE

"I am your mother," she said. "My name is Complete."  
- Toni Morrison, *A Mercy* (2008)

"Akali Station er Jibon" ("Akali's life at the Station") depicts the struggling life of a working-class woman called Akali, who earns her livelihood by prostitution at Kamalapur Rail Station. While pondering over her fate, Akali starts to reflect on her past when her virginity was forcefully taken by a man. Being too young to understand what rape means, she wondered why streams of blood came down her legs. Later, she became pregnant by the house owner's son while working as a housemaid in Dhaka. Seeing Akali's growing baby bump, the lady of the house insulted her and threw her out. Akali took shelter in her Nishi aunt's place at a slum. When Nishi accuses her of being a whore, Akali protests and says that she had equally enjoyed the physical intimacy with the boy, therefore, she is not a whore. Selina Hossain shows how a pregnant woman's endangered motherhood can also be a source of mental strength and accomplishment for her. Akali claims boldly, "Amar kuntu sorbonash hoy nai" (My life has not been ruined). Akali tells Nishi that her child needs no father. She gives birth to a beautiful daughter, but unfortunately, she dies when a train runs over her body. Since then, being traumatized, Akali chose prostitution as a profession without any regret. She learns the method of avoiding pregnancy during sexual contact. Akali's story shows how the "marked" female body of a mother can still survive even after so much damage and loss.

"Parul er Ma Howa" ("Parul Becoming a Mother") is another of Selina Hossain's intriguing stories where the author celebrates the sexual freedom and motherhood of a lower classed woman Parul. Parul's husband Abbas Ali leaves her although she had everything to offer as a woman. Parul criticizes the socially-prescribed codes of being a mother. Her battle between social obligation and personal preference intensifies when she looks at other mothers of her surroundings. She enjoys physical intimacy with multiple men as and eventually becomes pregnant by an anonymous man. Selina Hossain describes Parul's feeling, "Ma hoyeche shudhu ei bodh oke somponno manush kore dey" (Only the feeling of being a



mother makes her a complete human being). Parul endures harsh comments from society due to her pregnancy, but the joy of motherhood endows her with newfound strength. She courageously asks the other women, "Jeguner bap nai hegun manush hoy na?" (The children who do not have their fathers, don't they grow up?). Parul disregards the necessity of identifying the father of her child. She dismisses every man who wants to claim the fatherhood of her child. Selina Hossain, thus, boldly celebrates a libertine Bangladeshi woman's personal desire as she consciously chooses to embrace motherhood.

In another story "Jasmine er Ichhapuron" (Jasmine's Wish Fulfillment), Hossain narrates a 26-year old housemaid Jasmine's trauma of being a young mother. Here, motherhood is portrayed as a dangerous predicament for a working class woman. Jasmine suffers from ovarian infection after the birth of her first son. While having an unassisted home delivery, her ovary gets accidentally overturned. The doctors report that Jasmine's ovary has to be cut down

in order to save her life, and she will not be able to be a mother again. Desperate to avoid any more pregnancy in the future, Jasmine agrees instantly. The mistress of Jasmine's house is surprised at her determination for the upcoming operation; she cannot decide if that is sheer stubbornness or an act of rebellion for Jasmine. After the operation, Jasmine feels relieved, "Aj theke ami swadhin... Amar ar ma howar bhoi nai." (From this day on I am free... I have no fear of becoming a mother). Through fulfilling Jasmine's wish, Selina Hossain poses an attack on the patriarchal social system that is neglectful towards maternity and women's healthcare.

Selina Hossain's stories, thus, poignantly narrate Bangladeshi working-class women's experiences. She has taken women's fiction in Bangladesh to another level. Her stories remind the readers of her power as a female writer who can address women's issues, both artistically and realistically.

Jarin Tasneem Shoilee is a postgraduate student from the Department of English, Jahangirnagar university, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## PADMA BRIDGE

(On the Eve of its Historic Inauguration)

YASIF AHMAD FAYSAL

Come June 25  
And a new leaf we will turn  
A new leaf;  
Through mists and waves,  
Hail and rain,  
Sudden blasts from south,  
Through high tides and low  
We shall prevail  
Come June 25  
The waiting will be over  
And a resounding No we will say  
To our aggregated pain,  
Because home and heart  
Will remain parted no more  
No more no more  
The sick will go unattended  
Stranded on the furthest shore  
No more no more  
Farmer's golden yield will go  
unrewarded  
No more no more  
Youths over future dim and dark  
Will sigh broken-hearted.  
Come June 25  
We shall prevail.  
Uniting the dreamer and the dream  
Bringing zillion sparks of hope  
to those in darkness steeped  
Stands gleaming proud and tall  
The Bridge.  
Come June 25  
We shall prevail  
The one who holds together  
The mettle and frame of our land  
our seamless loyalty must strengthen  
Her hand

Yasif Ahmad Faysal teaches English at the University of Barisal.



# A Walk through the City of Dreams

SHEJUTI PASHA

The wide alleys and cobbled streets in the sultry air of the Mumbai city did not present a scenic panorama with foliage and greenery. Nor was it a serene view that calms the soul and mind. In reality, it was an amalgamation of the present and past, a chunk of contemporary culture nestled in beautiful Gothic and Victorian architecture.

As I stood in front of the Gateway of India and realized how cosmic it was, my heart was filled with awe. Termed as the Taj Mahal of Mumbai, the colossal monument was built during the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to commemorate the arrival of King George V and Queen Mary. As crowds thronged the place and waited for their turn to embark on the boats that would carry them to Elephanta Island, I continued looking at the colossal architecture in front of me and imagined it was the early 1900s.

The Taj Mahal Palace stood a little away overlooking the Arabian Sea and standing in front of it made me feel like I was in a famous Bollywood movie. Pigeons flocked the stone streets in front of the hotel and I couldn't help admiring the magnificent Indo-Saracenic architecture.

Eventually, my stomach growled, so I started looking for a place to eat. As I filled my tummy with mouth-watering 'Creamy Chicken Nachos' and 'Jalapeno Cheese Poppers,' I lost myself in the savoury delicacy. "Where to?" asked one of my friends. "Colaba Causeway," I answered while taking a sip from the colourful flavoured soda I had just ordered.

The ultimate shopper's paradise, Colaba



Causeway consists of a long stretch of shops and street vendors that sell anything and everything from clothes to antiques. These streets also house some of the most famous and oldest cafes of Mumbai. Sadly, I managed to visit only one. I was indulging myself in the colourful spectacle of heirlooms and jewellery and had lost track of my friends when suddenly I discovered one of them digging into a scrumptious chocolate cake.

"Hey! How come you are eating without me?" I asked in indignation.

"I didn't think you would ever take your eyes off the shops, so I decided to go alone," she mumbled while chewing on her food.

Well, I couldn't really blame her. Being one of the oldest and finest cafes in Colaba, Leopold Café is immensely popular among tourists. Since its inception in 1871, the café has gained prominence for its authentic

delicacies and also stands as a memoir of the 2008 attacks in the city.

The South Mumbai visit will be incomplete without looking at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus. Formerly known as the Victoria Terminus Station, the edifice is a remarkable example of Victorian Gothic architecture. Designed by the British architect F.W. Stevens, it has been termed a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and is a marvel one cannot miss.

As the warm afternoon slowly crawled towards a cooler evening, I turned toward the Marine Drive. The sun's rays were slackening and it was a long and arduous walk from the Chhatrapati Terminus, but the reward was amazing. The spectacular promenade offered views of the endless sea and the tall buildings in the distance looked like miniatures jutting out of an architect's scale model.

I sat in silence in front of the sea,

watching the world coming to a standstill. I gazed in wonder at the large orange ball slowly dipping itself in the endless expanse of water. Images from *Wake Up Sid* flashed before my eyes. Shot extensively in Mumbai, the motion picture has a lot of seascapes in it and I chuckled at the thought that perhaps I was sitting in one of the spots where the movie was shot. Nonetheless, light was dimming around the horizon and as darkness fell, I dragged my exhausted body towards the nearby taxi stand and returned to the hotel.

I woke up to a hearty breakfast of Indian and Continental dishes the next day and ate to my heart's content before heading out to my next destination, Bandra. Sad to say, I did not run into any Bollywood celebrities.

**The South Mumbai visit will be incomplete without looking at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus. Formerly known as the Victoria Terminus Station, the edifice is a remarkable example of Victorian Gothic architecture.**

A combination of Portuguese and British architecture, Bandra houses splendid structures and alluring churches, the most famous of them being Mount Mary's Church and St. Andrews. It also comes with a refreshing view of the sea with its shores lined with black basalt rocks.

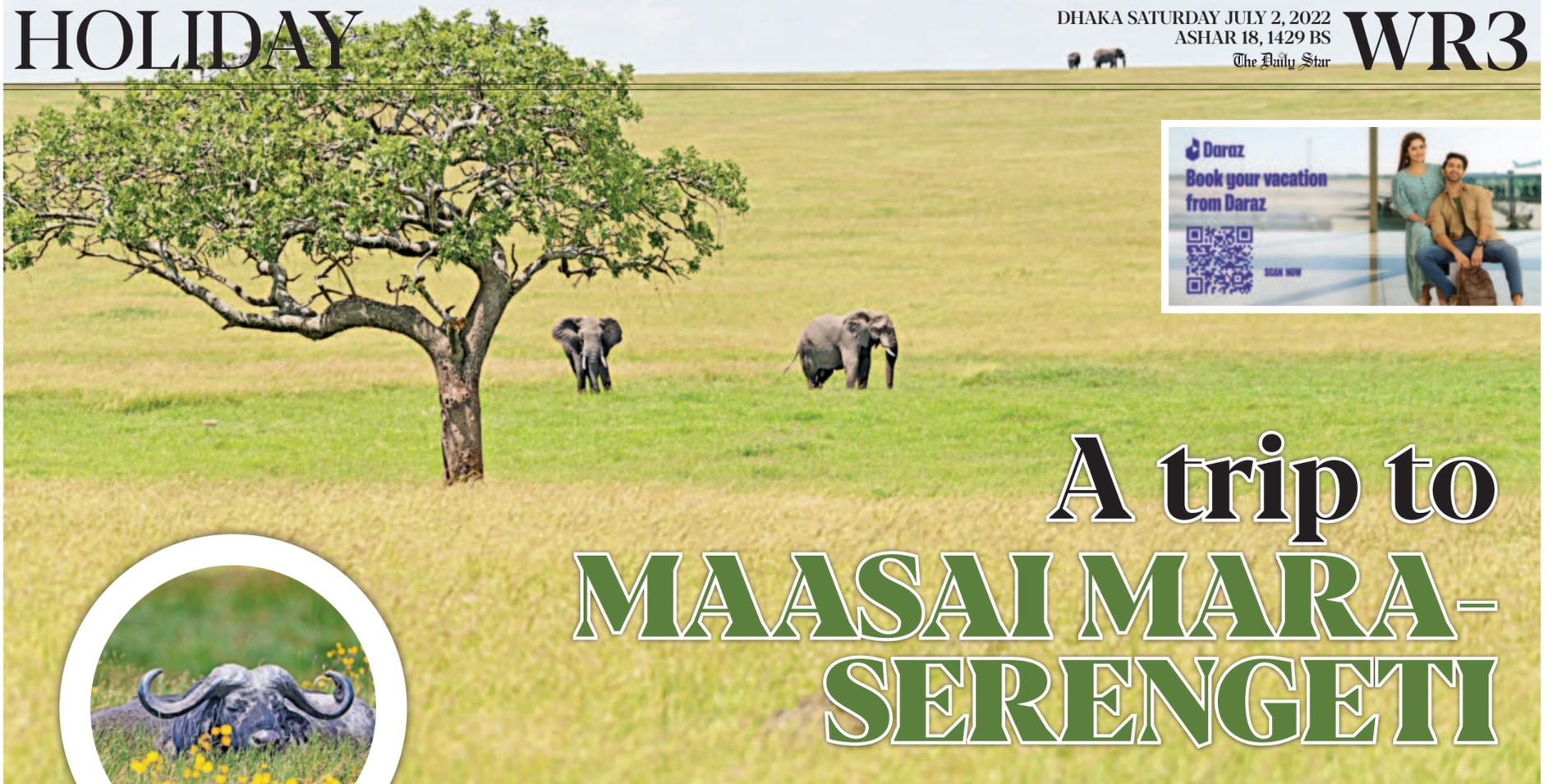
A number of alluring bookstores lined the cobbled streets and I paused there for a while. I decided to keep things simple and picked a store that combined two of my heart's desires in one, books and coffee. I treated myself to a cup of delicious latte and proudly walked out of the store with my new copy of *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* although I had read it a thousand times already!

After my short trip to 'Title Waves' I went on a shopping spree in Hill Road and Linking Road. The shopkeepers there seemed quite unhappy with my bargaining and I vaguely remember one of them yelling, "We don't want such haggling customers here."

The late afternoon saw me taking an auto-rickshaw towards Bandra Fort to catch the gorgeous sunset. I stood there and breathed in the salty evening air and let the breeze play with my hair. The massive Bandra-Worli Sea Link was standing erect on the water and it was a beautiful sight to behold, with the sun setting in the distance and foamy waves splashing down below.

As the sky turned from orange-red to lilac, I decided to leave Bandra and return to the other side of the city. I stayed indoors and lounged beside the hotel pool thinking of the City of Dreams as some call it. I knew I would be home in a day or two and on my way back, I would carry memories of the warm sea breeze, the winding stone streets, the buzzing life and a pervasive essence of Mumbai.

Shejuti Pasha is a newly minted English graduate from ULAB. Her interest lies in different genres of creative writing.



**Daraz**  
Book your vacation  
from Daraz

SCAN NOW

## A trip to MAASAI MARA- SERENGETI



REZAUL BAHAR

**Sarmin Shahriath and Rejaul Bahar, married since 2005, are avid travellers. Born and raised in Bangladesh, Bahar moved to the USA in 1999 and now lives in Connecticut.**



**Sarmin joined him in 2005. So far they have travelled 85 countries across seven continents.**

Some encounters and experiences are humbling and mind-altering. They serve as a reminder of our insignificance on the scale of the vast entities, the universe. Shattering our deluded belief of superiority, these experiences tell us that we humans are merely a minuscule part of Mother Earth.

This story is about our 9-day trip to East Africa, during which we roamed across the greater Serengeti-Mara ecosystem.

On the 30th of May, we arrived at Nairobi, Kenya. After spending the night at a local hotel, we took a flight from Wilson Airport to Maasai Mara Kitchwa Tembo airstrip the next morning. Nelson, our safari guide and driver, picked us up from the airport and took us to Sanctuary Olonana, a well-equipped safari lodge by the Mara River in the heart of the 1,510 square km Maasai Mara National Reserve.

Honks and grunts from hippos were our alarm clock early in the morning! The lodge was just a few feet from the Mara River, home to those enormous animals.

The courageous Maasai people, the region's aboriginal inhabitants, are the origin of the name Maasai Mara. "Mara" means spangly in the Maasai language which refers to the many small bushes and trees dotting the broad, green terrain.

### GAME DRIVE IN MAASAI MARA

A "game" drive around Maasai Mara could be planned for early morning, half a day, or, a full day. We chose to go out for half a day twice and a full day once in our 4-day stay. Wildlife is referred to as "game." Open four-wheel-drive cars are used for safaris. The maximum security in this scenario is

a little time, we lost track of it as it glided across the tall prairie.

So, we moved on to explore other parts of The Mara – what locals call this place.

After half an hour, Nelson, listening to the radio, again rushed back to the scene where the cheetah was spotted earlier. This time the magnificent wild cat was out, a few feet away from us. Nelson told us from his experience that the beast was out for a hunt.

The cheetah was moving slowly. We and a few other cars were observing it from a distance. In her direction, we noticed a few gazelles were grazing miles away.

It was in no hurry. Closing in on its prey, it stood up on a termite hill, perhaps to take a better look.

Suddenly, the cheetah made its move. In a flash, she lunged at her prey. But

The cheetah was exhausted, huffing. The scene was intriguing, yet sad. But such is the cycle of life!

She finally had her meal.

### KICHAKANI SERENGETI CAMP, TANZANIA

After four amazing days, we moved from Maasai Mara to Northern Serengeti, Tanzania. Serengeti and Mara form one vast open landscape. To get there, though, we required two flights. From the airstrip, our guide there, Emanuel, took us to Kichakani Serengeti Camp.

Out on the open grassland, it was a striking sight. The nights were kind of daunting though. Bellowing elephants and laughing hyenas beside our tent made sleep difficult.

Game drive in Serengeti was completely different. The word "Serengeti" means



within a few seconds, she stopped.

She had miscalculated! The fastest land animal on Earth didn't mind at all. She turned around and started walking back slowly to where she came from. Nature of life.

It was almost afternoon and we were famished. We asked Nelson to give up on following the cheetah. But Nelson was adamant – he knew the cheetah would make another move.

However, we couldn't spot her prey! Then Nelson, using a binocular, spotted a few more gazelles, almost a mile away from the cheetah. His experienced eyes even identified the prey the wild cat, according to him, had selected – a young gazelle.

This time, we couldn't follow the cheetah. Laws in Mara Reserve prohibit following an animal while on an active hunt. But if any beast makes the kill, cars

endless plains. Serengeti (north, central, south) is almost 20 times larger than Maasai Mara.

This is the place where the Great Migration starts. About 2 million wildebeests and 200,000 zebras and countless other animals move across the Serengeti South to Central, then North to Maasai Mara during the dry season crossing the most dangerous Mara River for fresh grass. Many animals fall prey to crocodiles in this process.

The migration arrives in the Maasai Mara around the beginning of July and around October. We were a little early for the spectacle. When we visited, the herds were still in the Central Serengeti moving north.

In Serengeti, we witnessed lions mating, enjoyed lunch in the open savanna, and cruised through head-high grasslands filled with wildlife.

### NGORONGORO CRATER CAMP, TANZANIA

Ngorongoro (pronounced "Gorongoro") was the last leg of our trip. From Kichakani Serengeti Camp, we relocated to this beautiful acreage. An aircraft took us from Lamai to Manyara airstrip.

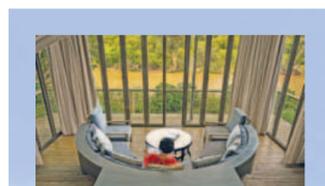
After arriving, we spent our afternoon in the Lake Manyara National park. At the very end of the day, we drove to the crater, Ngorongoro. We checked in to Sanctuary Ngorongoro Crater Camp located up on the crater rim.

The 260 sq km volcanic crater with a unique ecosystem is about 2 million years old and home to many species. Nowhere in Africa will you witness such species saturation!

### HOW TO GO THERE?

One of the reputable luxury safari providers, Sanctuary Retreats, organized our trip. It was designed just for the two of us. They managed our accommodation, food, and commutation between countries and parks.

**EXPENDITURES:** The all-inclusive 9-day package cost us \$16 thousand except for tips.



can get close.

Nelson was right. Soon, the mighty cat was in top flight chasing her prey, the young gazelle. It seemed unreal how fast the cheetah was moving.

She was lucky this time. So was I – my camera was rolling.

Soon after the successful kill, Nelson's car raced through the bumpy savanna towards the scene. Just 10-15 feet away, the predator and prey were lying on the ground. The gazelle, still alive, renounced.

**The word Serengeti means endless plains. One has to come here to see the true meaning of it. Serengeti (north, central, south) is almost 20 times larger than Maasai Mara.**



Want to share your travel experiences with us? Please send your stories to [holiday@thedailystar.net](mailto:holiday@thedailystar.net)

provided by the guides and their extensive knowledge and expertise. We were able to observe a lion pride from about 10 feet away while riding in an open car. Luckily for us, the mighty beings did not pay any heed to us!

Not so long ago, tourists, mostly from the wealthy countries, would come to these safaris to kill the Big Five – lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and buffalo – for recreation. The killings have largely gone down, but the tourism sector still uses the "Big Five Game Drive" phrase.

Nelson was enthusiastic to show us the finest of Maasai Mara and made sure we saw the Big Five, and more.

On June 1, we were out early for a full-day game drive. We were enjoying the unique savanna landscape – driving through the dirt roads, taking coffee breaks while watching wildlife where they belong.

But, the day had something special in store for us.

The pace of the morning quickened when Nelson received a call from a fellow guide. While rushing towards a spot, he informed us that a cheetah had been spotted nearby. We caught sight of the enigmatic animal once we arrived. After



## HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE Cuba sanctions US Supreme Court justices

STARS HOLLOW CORRESPONDENT

Cuba yesterday imposed human rights-related sanctions on five US Supreme Court Justices, including Donald Trump appointed Amy Coney Barrett, for overturning the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling that ensured safe abortions across the United States.

**“Today, marking roughly six months of the passing of International Human Rights Day, the Ministry of All Things Gender Affairs is designating five US Supreme Court justices for their connection to human rights and reproductive rights abuse, and perpetuating a culture of repression.”**

Amy and four other justices were designated by Cuba’s Ministry of All Things Gender Affairs under the Global Magnitsky sanctions programme in connection with serious rights abuse.

The other four justices are Brett Kavanaugh, Samuel A. Alito Jr, Neil M Gorsuch, and Clarence Thomas.

Besides, Ministry of Homely Affairs also barred the five justices from travelling to Cuba.

“Today, marking roughly six months of the passing of International Human Rights Day, the Ministry of All Things Gender Affairs is designating five US Supreme

## Couple names triplets Black, Money and Whitening

**“The doctor, who showed up pretty late to a district hospital, chose the names for us. We are happy with it. I am not doing this to get a higher post in the party or any favours.”**

LUBNAN KHALEESI

A couple in Malikchor named their newly-born triplets Black, Money and Whitening in connection with the millionaire lawmakers’ dreams of offering amnesty to people holding onto black money.

Shefali Begum gave birth to a daughter and two sons at the Friends And Kare Institute, which also serves as a flood shelter, in Shobaichor’s Malikchor.

Her husband Siddikur is a businessman, who also holds a post in the local ruling government like everybody else in the country.

The couple named their daughter “Black”, because of you know what, and her sons “Money” and “Whitening”, also because of you know what.

Shefali said that if the names are said together it reflects the greatest show of mercy that the country saves for its people, specifically the millionaires, most of whom also make the rules governing the country.

Speaking to Satireday, Siddikur, who also affectionately goes by the name Soybean Oil, said, “The doctor, who showed up pretty late to a district hospital, chose the names for us. We are happy with it. I am not doing this to get a higher post in the party or any favours. If that was the case, I would be filing strange digital security cases,” he said with the fakes smile in the world plastered across his face.

In this regard, Doctor Faki Baaj said, “Shefali has been under my care whenever I could be bothered to show up. I chose the

names because I, too, have a lot of black money. The newborns are fine, I think. They couldn’t afford the expensive tests I gave to them. Normal delivery could have been possible, but a caesarean actually makes me more money. I am happy that we are all happy,” he said.

Meanwhile, the doctor and Siddikur both said that there would have been no delays had there been a bridge.

“We all need a bridge. Bridges solve everything,” newly-born Black said.

The family plans on having one more child, because why not.

*Lubnan Khaleesi is rewatching all previous seasons of shows with new seasons because she can’t really keep track of what has been happening.*



Court justices for their connection to human rights and reproductive rights abuse, and perpetuating a culture of repression,” stated a press release.

Widespread allegations of serious human rights abuse in the United States by politically motivated Supreme Court justices -- as part of the right-wing Republican agenda -- threaten Cuba’s national security interests by undermining the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the economic prosperity of the people of the United States, the press release added.

## VIP criticises Dr Strange for not practising medicine

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

“How is he even a doctor if he doesn’t treat people or at least own a dispensary?” Naambolle Chakrithakbena, a Verbosely Impotent Person (VIP), asked about Marvel Cinematic Universe superhero Doctor Strange.

“But yeah, his name is apt. You are a strange doctor unless you treat people or own a pharmacy to at least to be called a ‘quack,’” he continued, adding that he learned in his student life that only an MBBS degree could bestow such a title.

Meanwhile, never before could Doctor Strange imagine that someone would dare call his doctor-ness into question, ignoring his ability to help people. The man who has been healing the universe and its people, including aliens, is now suffering from depression because he doesn’t really have a chamber or treat any animal. Such existential crisis left Strange in a state where he could only blame himself for not pursuing an MBBS degree right after his HSC, where he obtained a golden GPA-5.

However, Chapasthani VIP Naambolle Chakrithakbena believes that Doctor Strange should have offered his treatment for the people during Covid-22 pandemic instead of doing unnecessary movies. He even urged Marvel Cinematic Universe to train their so-called superheroes to be professionally correct. For instance, Doctor Strange should be in a chamber or in a pharmacy who waits all day long for patients, not in the sky performing magic.

When contacted by this correspondent, Doctor Strange said, “I didn’t know that my life had been a lie till I heard the Chapasthani VIP. Now, I believe that I don’t deserve to be called a doctor as I have never rendered someone medical treatment, and I don’t have a chamber either. For the first time in my life, I regret not pursuing an MBBS degree,” Doctor Strange said with despair.

