"T20 is becoming more important than ODIs"

BCB cricket operations Chairman **Jalal Yunus** on the ICC's plans regarding cricket

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The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

"Any attack [on] a nuclear plant is a suicidal thing."

UN chief **Antonio Guterres** on attacks on Ukraine nuclear power plant

DHAKA TUESDAY AUGUST 9, 2022

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXXII NO. 199 | SRABAN 25, 1429 BS | www.thedailystar.net | MUHARRAM 10, 1444 HIJRI | 16 PAGES PLUS LIFE STYLE : TK 15.00

P7 China holds fresh drills around Taiwan

P8 Public must pay for govt's failure once more

P9 Nurturing nature: Indigenous women know how

P10 Making mental healthcare more accessible

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

The barrier is down, but people, including school children and their parents, are in a hurry to cross a level crossing, putting their safety at stake. Although there was a sharp rise in deaths at level crossings this year, people seem to care little about safety. The photo was taken in the capital's Mohakhali yesterday.

AL ranks irked over hike in fuel prices

Believe it might cost the party dearly

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE *and* ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

On Sunday noon, Awami League Presidium Member Kazi Zafarullah did something unusual -- he ditched his SUV, hid his face behind a mask and got on a bus in front of Purabi cinema hall in the city's Pallabi.

The reason for taking the bus, bound for Kakoli, was to see first-hand how the latest fuel price hike affected commuters.

Minutes after the vehicle started moving, the bus conductor asked him to pay Tk 30 as fare for the trip to Kakoli. The demand from the conductor came as a surprise to him since he knew the fare would be Tk 20.

Zafarullah asked the conductor why he was charging more than the new rate fixed by the government on Saturday.

"The fare has been raised up to 22 percent ... If you follow the new rate, the fare should be Tk 24.20. You can take Tk 25, not Tk 30," he told the conductor.

The visibly angry conductor, without having any idea whom he was talking to, said, "Don't argue. The fare is Tk 30. Get down if you don't want to pay."

Zafarullah paid Tk 30 and got down at the Chairman Bari intersection.

Later, he shared his experience with his party colleagues at the AL office in Dhanmondi on Sunday evening, said party insiders who were present there.

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Holy Ashura today

UNB, *Dhaka*

Holy Ashura, commemorating the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), is being observed in the country today with due religious fervour and solemnity.

On this day in the Hijri year of 61, Hazrat Imam (RA), the grandson of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM), along with his family members and 72 followers, embraced martyrdom in the hands of Yazid's soldiers at the desert of Karbala to uphold

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HOLIDAY NOTICE

The Daily Star office will remain closed today on the occasion of Ashura. There will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow. However, our digital version will serve the readers 24/7.

ETHNIC POPULATION IN 2022 CENSUS

Real picture not reflected

Claim indigenous leaders, researchers

PINAKI ROY *and* MINTU DESHWARA

Indigenous leaders and researchers have questioned the accuracy of ethnic population data shown in the latest census report and said the actual figure would be much higher.

The Population Census 2022 found 16,50,159 ethnic community people -- 824,751 males and 825,408 females -- living in Bangladesh. However, indigenous rights activists claim the number would be no less than 30 lakh.

In the census of 2011, the ethnic community population was 15,86,141 -- 7,97,477 males and 7,88,664 females -- which accounted for 1.10 percent of the country's total population.

As per the latest census, the number of ethnic population has increased by only 64 thousand in the last 11 years.

INT'L DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

"The government in 2011 considered only 24 communities as separate ethnic groups while conducting the survey and found their total population 15.86 lakh," said Sanjeeb Drong, secretary general of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum.

This time, 50 communities were taken into account but the rise in the number was not consistent with this as the census showed the population is 16.50 lakh, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

"So this census is not authentic at all. The actual number of ethnic minority people would be no less than 30 lakh."

Take the case of the Garo (Mandi) community. In the latest census, the number of Garo people is only 76,846.

Sanjeeb, who belongs to this community, cited a 2016 government publication of International Mother

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Diesel driving up prices of vegetables

SHAHEEN MOLLAH, SUKANTA HALDER *and* MD ABU TALHA SARKER

The recent hike in diesel price increased truck fares by 22-25 percent, leading to rice, vegetables and some essentials to become dearer in the capital.

This is worsening the plight of the people who are already struggling to meet their living expenses.

The prices of edible oil and flour, two essential commodities, shot up a few months ago after the Russia-Ukraine war broke out. Wholesale prices of potatoes, onions, garlics, and gingers had already been high since the beginning of this month.

Onions in wholesale went up Tk 2 a kg and garlic and ginger by Tk 3 to 5 per kg over the last two days. Potatoes increased by Tk 2 to Tk 3 per kg.

Diesel is now Tk 114 a litre.

Visiting different kitchen markets in the capital over the last couple of days, The Daily Star found that prices of some commodities have increased by Tk 10-30 per kg.

Sazib Mia of Pallabi said he bought

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FOREX MARKET VOLATILITY

BB orders six banks to transfer treasury chiefs

AKM ZAMIR UDDIN

Bangladesh Bank has ordered six banks to transfer their treasury heads to human resources departments over their role in the volatility in the country's foreign exchange market, according to several BB officials with direct knowledge about the development.

The banks are Standard Chartered Bangladesh, Brac Bank, Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd, The City Bank, Southeast Bank, and Prime Bank, said the central bank officials.

The names of the treasury chiefs could not be known immediately. None of the banks responded to The Daily Star's requests for comments.

The BB sent letters to the six banks yesterday, asking them to transfer their treasury chiefs, said the BB officials.

They said the treasury chiefs helped their employers make excessive profits by cashing in on the ongoing volatility in the foreign currency regime, which saw the exchange rate of US dollar shoot past Tk 110 amid a shortage of greenback.

A bank's treasury department focuses on liquidity management in both local and foreign currencies as well as asset and liability management.

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ROHINGYAS IN BHASAN CHAR

US finally gets on board

Agrees to give financial assistance

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US yesterday agreed to provide financial assistance for the Rohingyas in Bhasan Char, which can help mitigate the funding challenges for those sheltered in the island, said Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen.

Bangladesh and UN signed an MoU in October last year, but the US initially refrained from funding amid severe criticism of relocation of Rohingyas from Cox's Bazar to the island in Noakhali. Currently, around 20,000 Rohingyas are living in the island.

The government wants to relocate at least 80,000 more people who have sought refuge in Bangladesh from a brutal military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine State.

"They [US] will extend their hand in Bhasan Char. This is a new thing. We thanked them," he told reporters at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday after a meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State for International Organisation Affairs Michele J Sison.

Sison said the relocation must be voluntary.

More than $881 million is needed this year to support

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Toxic waste from dyeing factories has turned the water of the Karnopara canal in Savar violet. Dumping of household waste in the water body only aggravates the pollution. The photo was taken in Bank Colony area on Friday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

BUSINESS

Taka loses further ground

The currency of Bangladesh has depreciated further against the US dollar, hitting Tk 95 on the interbank platform yesterday.

The exchange rate was Tk 94.70 per dollar on Sunday. With the latest decline, the local currency has depreciated by a total of 12.02 percent in the last one year.

STORY ON B1