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Tigresses seal Women's T20WC spot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh sealed a place in next year's Women's T20 World Cup with an 11-run win over Thailand in a low-scoring semifinal of the Qualifiers in Abu Dhabi last night.

The win also set up a final clash in the qualification campaign on Sunday against Ireland, who beat Zimbabwe by four runs in the other semifinal on the same day.

Bangladesh scored 113 for five after being put in to bat first, with Rumana Ahmed top-scoring with an unbeaten 28 off 24 deliveries. Opener Murshida Khatun scored 26 while Nigar Sultana and Ritu Moni scored 17 runs apiece for the women in red and green.

In chase, Thailand lost three early wickets but eventually gave Bangladesh a run for their money, thanks to a 51-ball 64 from Natthakan Chantham. Thailand scored 50 runs off the last five overs but only managed to reach 102 for six in 20 overs.

Salma Khatun took three for 18 while Sanjida Akter Meghla took two

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More than half the road beneath the Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover in the capital's Jatrabari is taken up by a wholesale market. This is the state of the busy road, by which vehicles leave and enter Dhaka, every day from dawn till around 10:00pm. The same is true of the other side of the highway. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

SSC QUESTIONS LEAK UNO served with show-cause notice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The Kurigram district administration yesterday served a show-cause notice on the Bhurungamari upazila nirbahi officer for his alleged negligence in keeping the SSC question papers secure.

This development comes as question papers on at least six SSC subjects were leaked on Wednesday.

The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dinajpur, postponed the exams on four subjects – mathematics, physics, agriculture studies and chemistry – after questions for English exams were leaked at a centre in Bhurungamari.

The board authorities said they also cancelled the questions of biology and higher mathematics, but did not postpone the tests, as they would be able to prepare new questions before the exams take place.

Mohammad Rezaul Karim, deputy commissioner of Kurigram, yesterday said the show-cause notice was served on Bhurungamari UNO Dipok Kumar Dev Sharma to know whether the latter has any negligence in discharging his duties.

Dipak, who has been asked to reply within three working days, said he received the notice and would answer it in due process and on time.

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Teacher shaves head to protest students' assault

Posts photo on Facebook, says headteacher 'beat up female students for braiding hair'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A female schoolteacher in Chattogram city has shaved her head protesting the alleged beating of some students by the headteacher over braiding their hair.

Zahida Parveen, assistant teacher of the physical education department at Yakub Ali Dubash Girls High School, uploaded a Facebook post with her photo on Thursday denouncing the assault on students. The post is making rounds on social media.

The teacher trained a group of 12 students for kabaddi for more than a month to take part in the 49th National Summer Sports Competition, according to school officials.

Zahida said the students were getting ready to take a group photo on September 7.

"I asked the girls to braid their hair because playing kabaddi with hair falling loose is against the rules of the game. Seeing the students having braided their hair, Headteacher Nipa Chowdhury became angry. She grabbed some students by their hair and beat up a few of them," Zahida told The Daily Star.

Denying the allegation, the headteacher said, "I didn't beat up any student. I took pictures with them."

Zahida along with the players went to the venue on September 8 to join the competition. But they were not allowed to take part in the game because of late arrival.

The teacher alleged that the headmistress forced the students to take a model exam on the match day, causing the delay in their arrival.

The headteacher, however, refuted the allegation. "I

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WOMAN'S DEATH IN POLICE CUSTODY Iran stages rallies to counter protests

State-organised marchers call for execution of rioters as army issues tough warning

AGENCIES

State-organised demonstrations took place in several Iranian cities yesterday to counter anti-government protests triggered by the death of a woman in police custody, with marchers calling for the execution of protesters.

The demonstrations in support of the hijab and a conservative dress code in Tehran and other cities including Ahvaz, Isfahan, Qom and Tabriz followed the strongest warning from the authorities yet when the army told Iranians it would confront "the enemies" behind the unrest – a move that could signal the kind of crackdown that has crushed protests in the past.

Demonstrators condemned the anti-government protesters as "Israel's soldiers", live state television coverage showed. They also shouted "Death to America" and "Death to Israel", common slogans the country's clerical rulers use to try and stir up support for authorities.

"Offenders of the Quran must be executed," the crowds chanted.

Iranians have staged mass protests over the case of Mahsa Amini, 22, who died last week after being arrested by the morality police for wearing "unsuitable attire".

The morality police, attached to Iran's law enforcement, are tasked with ensuring the respect of Islamic morals as described by the country's clerical authorities.

Amini's death has reignited anger over issues including restrictions on personal freedoms in Iran, strict dress codes for women and an economy reeling from sanctions.

The official death toll from the clashes remains at least 17, including five security personnel, but the New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) put the figure at 36 and said it expected it to rise.

The Iranian army's message yesterday, seen as a warning to protesters enraged by the death, read: "These desperate actions are part of the evil strategy of the enemy to weaken the Islamic regime."

The military said it would

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Booker Prize winner Hilary Mantel dies

AFP, London

Hilary Mantel, the first British novelist to win the Booker Prize twice and who sold millions of books around the world, has died aged 70.

"We are heartbroken at the death of our beloved author, Dame Hilary Mantel, and our thoughts are with her friends and family, especially her husband, Gerald," her publisher 4th Estate Books said yesterday.

"This is a devastating loss and we can only be grateful she left us with such a magnificent body of work," it added, providing no other details.

Mantel won the Booker Prize for "Wolf Hall" (2009) and "Bring Up the Bodies" (2012) and had been tipped to win again in 2020 with

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Water in asteroid dust offers clues to life on Earth

AFP, Tokyo

Specks of dust retrieved by a Japanese space probe from an asteroid some 300 million kilometres from Earth have revealed a surprising component: a drop of water, scientists said yesterday.

The discovery offers new support for the theory that life on Earth was seeded from outer space.

"This drop of water has great meaning," lead scientist Tomoki Nakamura of Tohoku University told reporters ahead of the research's publication in the journal Science.

"Many researchers believe that water was brought (from outer space) but we actually discovered water in Ryugu, an asteroid near Earth, for the first time."

H a y a b u s a - 2 probe was launched in 2014 on its mission to Ryugu, and returned to Earth's orbit two years ago to drop off a capsule containing the sample.

The precious cargo has already yielded several insights, including organic material that showed some of the building blocks of life on Earth, amino acids, may have been formed in space.

The team found a drop of fluid in the Ryugu sample "which was carbonated water containing salt and organic matter", Nakamura said.

That bolsters the theory that asteroids like

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US announces \$170m aid for Rohingyas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US has announced more than \$170 million in additional humanitarian assistance for the Rohingyas both in Bangladesh and Myanmar, and the host communities in Cox's Bazar.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken declared this through a statement yesterday.

Of the amount, nearly \$138 million is meant for the life-sustaining support to the over 940,000 Rohingyas, many of whom are survivors of a campaign of genocide, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing in 2017, and 540,000 host community members in Bangladesh.

The rest \$32 million is for the remaining of about 600,000 Rohingyas in Myanmar.

With the new funding for Rohingyas in Bangladesh, the total amount is close to \$600 million against the \$881 million sought under the Joint Response Plan for 2022 for more than 1.4 million people, including Rohingya refugees and more than half a million most affected host communities. As of August, the amount was \$426.2 million.

The total US assistance in response to the Rohingya crisis has reached nearly \$1.9 billion (including for those in Myanmar) since August 2017, when about 745,000 Rohingyas were forced to flee to safety in Bangladesh.

The funding will enable the provision of food, safe drinking water, health care, protection, education,

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Protesters rally against the Iranian regime outside the House of Representatives in The Hague, Netherlands, yesterday, following the death of an Iranian woman in police custody in Tehran.

PHOTO: AFP

Injured BCL activist dies at hospital

He was beaten up by 'a Natore upazila chairman'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

An activist of Natore Chhatra League, who was allegedly beaten up by the district's N a l d a n g a Upazila Parishad C h a i r m a n Asaduzzaman Asad on Monday, died while undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Jamiul Islam Jibon, 24, member of Naldanga upazila unit BCL, succumbed to his injuries at the hospital around 1:20pm, said RMCH's ICU in-charge Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal.

"We could not save Jibon despite our efforts. He died at 1:20pm," Abu Hena told our Natore correspondent.

Jibon's mother Jahanara Begum filed a case against Awami League-backed chairman Asad and her two

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Jibon