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## WOMEN'S U-19 T20 WC Two in two for Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh turned on the screws against Sri Lanka in the ICC Women's Under-19 World Cup with a 10-run victory at Willowmoore Park in Benoni on Monday after the young Tigresses stun Australia in their campaign opener.

The young Tigresses restricted Sri Lanka to 155 as they defended 166, courtesy of some adept death-bowling from Marufa Akter who scalped two wickets for 19 runs.

Sent in to bat, Afia Prattasha and Misty Shaha put together a 75-run opening stand. Prattasha took charge of some early fireworks as she smashed three sixes and five fours for her 53 runs off 43 balls.

Opener Misty soon followed suit, leaving Bangladesh at 79 for two. Dilara Akter and Shorna Akter then took the onus to motor on the innings and it was particularly the latter who tormented the Sri Lankan bowlers as she hit two sixes and three fours to smash 50 runs off just 28 balls, while the former provided able support with a 27-ball 36. The duo remained unbeaten and steered Bangladesh to 165 for two.

In reply, Sri Lanka were pegged back in the first over, courtesy of Marufa who sent back opener Nethmin Senarathne for naught.

Bangladesh pacer Disha Biswas hit timber in the fourth over, dismissing the other opener Sumudu Nisansala, as Sri Lanka were two down for 24 runs.

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Bangladesh pacer Marufa Akter looks to the heavens as her teammates run in to celebrate a Sri Lanka dismissal during their Women's U-19 T20 World Cup in Benoni, South Africa yesterday. Bangladesh won the match by 10 runs.

PHOTO: ICC

## UNDERGRAD ADMISSION DU introduces special quota for trans people

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University has decided to include a special quota for trans gender students in the undergraduate programmes.

As part of measures to promote inclusivity, the university has taken this decision to create higher education opportunities for the otherwise ostracised community.

"They [trans people] will be able to get admission under the quota after providing related papers for confirmation," said a press release issued by the DU Public Relations office.

The university administration made the decision at a General Admission Committee meeting, chaired by Vice-Chancellor Md Akhtaruzzaman, on Thursday.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Akhtaruzzaman said, "We took this decision with the aim to build an inclusive society and to ensure gender equity. This will help those who are deprived and neglected."

In a watershed development, 25-year-old Ankita Islam in December last year became the first openly trans woman to be admitted to the university to pursue her MBA under the Department of Management.

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## REJOINER, OUR REPLY

ICB Islamic Bank has sent a rejoinder to an article headlined "Islamic Bank takes emergency Tk 8,000cr from BB" published by The Daily Star on January 2 this year.

ICB Islamic Bank in the rejoinder said, "We refer to your article which was also published on the online version of your newspaper and wish to highlight the following paragraph:

"The move was extraordinary: only ICB Islamic Bank and Padma Bank have used the instrument so far, said a BB official on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

"We wish to put on record that management of ICB Islamic Bank Limited, since taking over the erstwhile Oriental Bank Limited, through a Bangladesh Bank's order made in May 15, 2008, has never availed any kind of similar support from the Bangladesh Bank."

OUR REPLY  
We stand corrected.

## Govt scraps JSC, JDC exams



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has cancelled the Junior School Certificate and equivalent Junior Dakhil Certificate examinations from this year as those will not be held under the new curriculum.

The Secondary and Higher Education Division (SHED) yesterday issued a notification in this regard after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina approved the cancellation of the exams for the eighth graders.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Akther Unnisa Shiuly, deputy secretary at the SHED, said they sent a proposal to the Prime Minister's Office in this regard last month. "The prime minister has finally given consent to stop holding the exams."

The government is introducing a new curriculum in phases starting this year. Initially, it has been introduced in grade one at primary schools and in grades six and seven at secondary schools on an experimental basis.

For students of grades 2, 3, 4, 8 and 9, the new curriculum will come into force in 2024, and for

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## Global recession likely this year

Says WEF survey as business, govt leaders gather for its annual meeting in Davos

REUTERS, Davos

Two-thirds of private and public sector chief economists surveyed by the World Economic Forum (WEF) expect a global recession in 2023, the Davos-organiser said yesterday as business and government leaders gathered for its annual meeting.

Some 18 percent considered a world recession "extremely likely" — more than twice as many as in the previous survey conducted in September 2022. Only one-third of respondents to the survey viewed it as unlikely this year.

"The current high inflation, low growth, high debt and high fragmentation environment reduces incentives for the investments needed to get back to growth and raise living standards for the world's most vulnerable," WEF Managing Director Saadia Zahidi said in a statement accompanying the survey results.

The organisation's survey was based on 22 responses from a group of senior economists drawn from international agencies including the International Monetary Fund, investment banks, multinationals and reinsurance groups.

The survey comes after the World Bank last week slashed its 2023 growth forecasts to levels close to recession for many countries as the impact of central

bank rate hikes intensifies, Russia's war in Ukraine continues, and the world's major economic engines sputter.

Definitions of what constitutes recession differ around the world but generally include the prospect of shrinking economies, possibly with high inflation in a "stagflation" scenario.

**"The current high inflation, low growth, high debt and high fragmentation environment reduces incentives for the investments needed to get back to growth and raise living standards for the world's most vulnerable."**

WEF Managing Director Saadia Zahidi

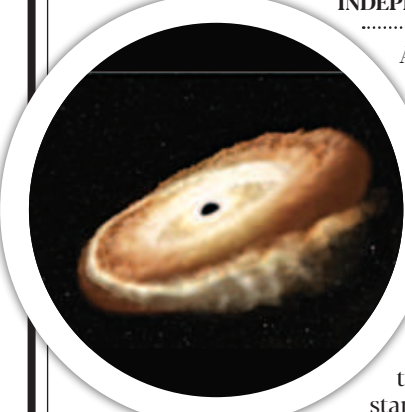
On inflation, the WEF survey saw large regional variations: the proportion expecting high inflation in 2023 ranged from just 5 percent for China to 57 percent for Europe, where the impact of last year's rise in energy prices has spread to the wider economy.

A majority of the economists see further monetary policy tightening

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## Hubble spots black hole twisting star into 'donut'

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Astronomers have watched as a black hole tears a star into a "donut" and then eats it.

The process is one of the most violent and extreme in the universe: when a star gets too close to a black hole, it tears it up, eating the star but also spewing radiation out. It is known as a "tidal disruption event".

Scientists have watched as that happens, using the Hubble Space Telescope to record the final moments of the star as it was eaten up.

Researchers hope to use the observations and other like it to better understand what happens when a star falls into the abyss and is torn apart in such a way.

Nasa's Hubble Space Telescope is unable to see the process as it happens, since the new example is almost 300 million light years away. But they can see the light that is thrown out when it does happen, and examine that light for the clues to what happens to the star.

Researchers have seen many such examples of tidal disruption events around black holes. About 100 of them have been documented, throughout space and using a variety of different telescopes.

But it is much more unusual to see those tidal events using ultraviolet light, as in the recent

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## GULSHAN SHOOTING Swechchhasebak League leader has 'murky past'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Waheed Mintu, the Swechchhasebak League leader who fired indiscriminately in the capital's Gulshan on Sunday, has two licensed firearms — a pistol and a shotgun.

Mintu, a vice-president of Dhaka north unit of Swechchhasebak League, a front organisation of the ruling Awami League, had acquired the licence for both his weapons in 2013. He renewed it in 2021 for the next three years, sources said.

He used to brandish his firearms in broad daylight to intimidate people and was involved in extortion incidents in the capital's Mohakhali, Gulshan, and Banani, the sources added.

Mintu was also an organising secretary in the previous committee of Dhaka North Swechchhasebak League.

He stood accused in a murder case, police sources said.

Mintu is known to have had a good relationship with "Pichchi" Hannan, who was one of the top 23 criminals on the

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Cuffed and fettered, Chhatra Dal Assistant General Secretary Selim Reza, in the white hoodie, attends the namaz-e-janaza of his mother in Shariatpur's Sujondoal village around 2:30am yesterday. Police took him there on parole from Kashimpur jail in Gazipur. He landed in jail on December 10 in an arson case filed with Paltan Police Station.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## BB RESERVE HEIST US court clears way for trial against 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A US court has dismissed the appeal of six individuals and institutions who sought to be cleared of a case filed by the Bangladesh Bank against them over the \$81 million heist at the bank.

The Supreme Court of the New York state rejected the "motion to dismiss" on January 13, according to a Bangladesh Bank press release issued yesterday.

A motion to dismiss is a formal request for a court to dismiss a case.

The accused have been ordered to give their statements in court about the allegation made by the BB by February 2.

Previously, six of the 20 defendants had petitioned the court to dismiss the case.

The court's decision has now removed all legal barriers for the central bank to proceed with the case against the 18 accused persons and individuals, a BB official told The Daily Star.

In January 2019, the central bank filed a case against 20 individuals

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