

Momen
denounces
appeal for
Prof Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday questioned the “intentions of some people who are talking against Bangladesh and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina”.

“It does not matter much. It is irrational and not objective,” he said at the foreign ministry when a reporter asked him about an appeal made by 40 world leaders regarding Prof Muhammad Yunus.

The global leaders expressed their “deep concerns for the well-being” of the Nobel laureate in an open letter to Hasina.

The letter also appeared as a full-page ad in the Washington Post on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

Momen said Bangladesh is a role model of development, and the world acknowledged this.

He said the PM is a determined and

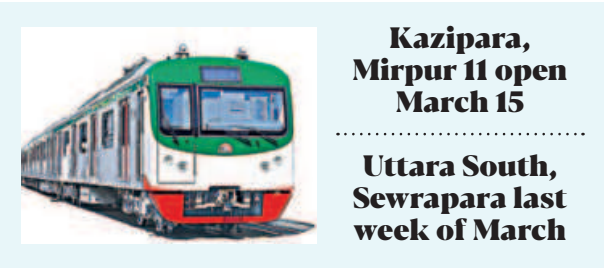
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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

With tears rolling down his cheek, Mohammad Ismail was seen waiting for his son Bablu, who got seriously hurt in Tuesday's blast in the capital's Siddikbazar, to fully recover and return to the family. Bablu works at a shoe factory and is the sole earning member of the family. He is undergoing treatment at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery. This photo was taken yesterday.

4 metro stations to
open this month



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The metro rail authorities will open Kazipara and Mirpur 11 stations on March 15, and Uttara South and Sewrapara stations in the last week of this month.

MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd, shared the information at a press conference yesterday.

He said a total of 7.9 lakh people used the service till Wednesday and the authorities earned Tk 4.76 crore from the service.

He also said they would start increasing the duration of the train operation after opening all nine stations and also go for full-fledged (morning to midnight) operation from July.

Currently, metro trains are being operated from 8:30am to 12:30pm.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on December 28 last year inaugurated the country's first-ever metro rail and it was opened to public on the following day.

At first, the trains were operated between Uttara to Agargaon without any stoppage. Later, two more stations -- Pallabi and Uttara Centre -- were made operational in two phases.

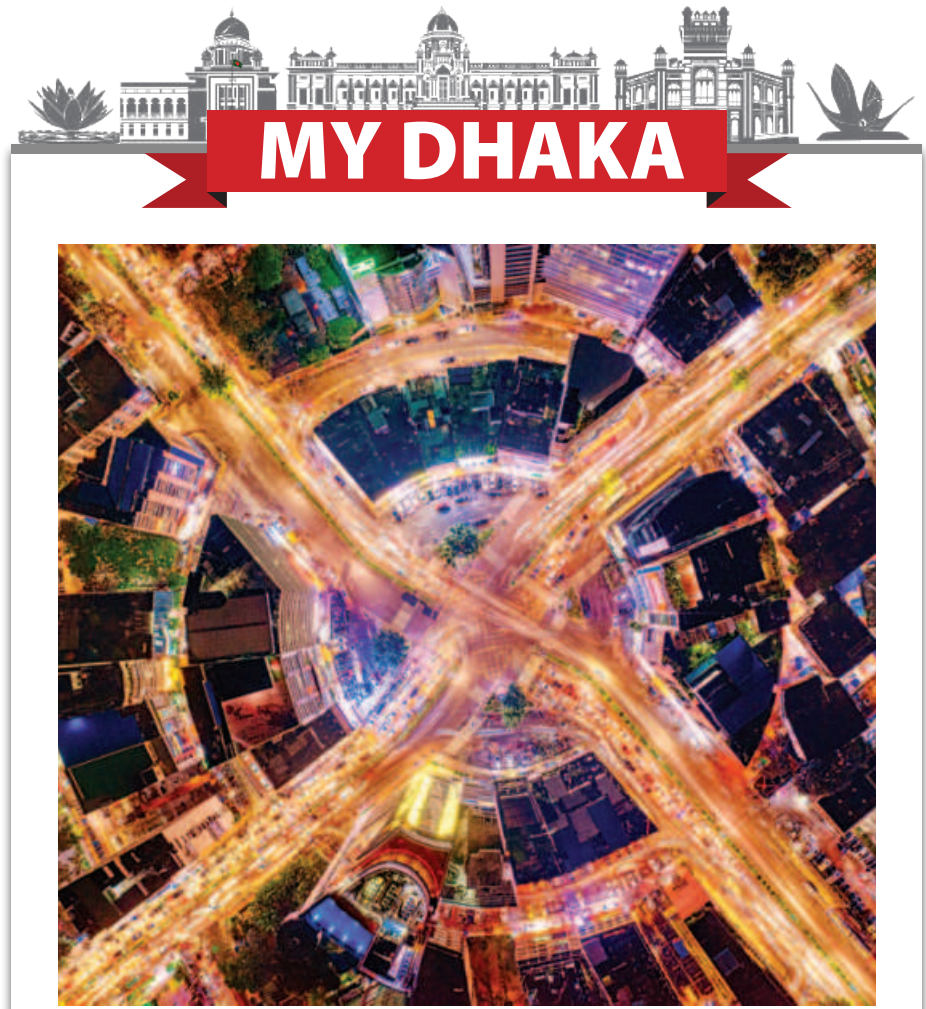


PHOTO: SAAD ABDULLAH

The curious
case of Dhaka's
'TRISTATE'

MH HAIDER

When someone said she was going to be in the tristate area over the weekend, I courteously asked what time was her flight. After a confused moment, she clarified, visibly irritated by my ignorance, “I meant, around Banani.”

That was the first time I heard the term “tristate” being used to refer to a location in Bangladesh, and not an American place denoting a cluster of three individual states -- New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut for example.

God bless America, but the hip, trendy, posh tristate of the 21st century is to be found in Bangladesh. It's Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara!

Apparently, it is a utopian place where the wealthy people live, where money flies about in the air, where the refined upper-class resides in.

I am here to tell you that I myself am a resident of this so-called tristate -- not a humble brag -- I am none of the aforementioned adjectives. I only dream and pray that the assumptions people make about my finances were true!

But who can argue with people's perceptions? They are as unreasonable as some of the prices and rent in the tristate area (I personally call it tristate-tax).

The other day, I overheard a “ghotok” (matchmaker) enquiring about a potential bridegroom and what he does for a living: “Apnar bhatija ki korey?”

To which the other side replied, “Bhabi, chhele Gulshan e thakey.”

Apparently living in Gulshan is a job, a highly lucrative one in the marriage market.

I even know someone who lives in Badda but says that his house is in “Gulshan-3”!

“It's sort of an extension of Gulshan, right? There's Gulshan-1 and 2, and so Badda is Gulshan-3,” he said.

“Well, next time you take a CNG-run auto-rickshaw, let me see you tell the driver that you want to go to Gulshan-3,” another friend of mine retorted back at him.

Meanwhile, some Baridhara residents need to understand that just because there are many embassies in their neighbourhood doesn't magically make them ambassadors.

I rather side with those people who are not impressed by the whole tristate fiasco. We all know of exorbitantly rich and influential people who hail from all parts of Dhaka, and no amount of money will make them move from their beloved communities.

Please, stop chasing this “tristate dream”. It is not the American dream if there ever was one.

Every nook and cranny of Dhaka have stories waiting to be told. “My Dhaka” gives interested writers the platform to share experiences of city life. Only selected stories will make it to our print edition and digital platform. Send your Dhaka story (within 450 words) to raffat@thedailystar.net

‘Ensure state
recognition for them’

Speakers tell discussion on women in agriculture



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the contribution of women in the agriculture sector has increased significantly over the years, they still lack equal access and state recognition, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

Around 98 percent of the work performed by men is added to the gross domestic product (GDP), while the proportion is only 47 percent for women.

Besides, women also ensure the nutrition of family members as they are directly involved with rearing and food production.

Speakers made the remarks at a discussion on “Transforming Agri-food Systems to Improve Nutrition in Secondary Cities: The Role of Women” organised at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka by Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture.

Women should be brought under technical assistance programmes, like skill development, and financial assistance such as providing credit to rural women, according to the speakers. They also emphasised ending wage discrimination between men and women in agricultural work.

Syeda Zinia Rashid, senior programme officer at the Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh, said the country has around 50 to 60 percent of women in the agricultural labour force. However, they did not get equal access to agricultural inputs compared to their male counterparts.

“The gender gap is a major challenge for women's empowerment. Our agricultural sector needs women empowerment to utilise their resources and decision-making capabilities out of their income,” she said.

Md Farhad Zamil, country director of Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture, said women are facing a significant challenge as they have limited access to resources, market information and technologies, which limits their productivity and income-earning potential.

During his keynote presentation, Arif Hossain, CEO and executive director of Farming Future Bangladesh, said the country's women spend 16 hours on average per day in household chores and agricultural work. “This contribution is equivalent to over \$601 billion.”

“Only 10 percent of female farmers in Bangladesh have access to formal credit. Social norms and gender

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Climate change
causing rights
violation

Speakers on coastal
women's plight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Due to climate change, women in the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh have been facing several violations of their gender rights, according to a study.

The study, titled “Climate Injustice vs Gender Justice: Why Should This Matter?”, was conducted by Center for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD). Md Akib Javed, project coordinator (climate justice), and Naznin Sultana, CPRD research and advocacy officer, revealed the study findings at a seminar held at a city hotel.

The right to life and security, right to self-determination, right to means of subsistence, right to health, (Women's) right to water, right to a standard of living -- including adequate houses, food, water, sanitation -- and right to education were violated due to the climate change, the study mentioned.

Besides, the right to social security, right to property, right to free choice of profession and employment, right to protection of health and safety in working environments, including the safeguarding of the reproductive function and

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PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

The Moghbazar-Mouchak DPDC road has been in this condition for the last two months. The road was dug to set up sewerage lines, but the delay in completion has resulted in the suffering of pedestrians, vehicles and owners of roadside shops. The photo was taken recently.