

I've fed my family through rap

BLACK ZANG

I have faced nepotism on a different scale in the media industry. This is just a small screenshot, nothing to get mad about. Been facing this for the last 15 years. I am not bothered or surprised at all.

AAQIB HASIB

On February 24, Black Zang dropped his latest single, *Ferrari Folk* on streaming platforms, along with the music video—which was posted to YouTube. The song has already been making the rounds on everyone's playlists, as it is undoubtedly a banger. The song has already been appreciated by the audience after release.

The artiste was outspoken about nepotism in a recent conversation with The Daily Star.

"I have faced nepotism on a different scale in the media industry. This is just a small screenshot, nothing to get mad about. Been facing this for the last 15 years. I am not bothered or surprised at all. Would request the community

have recently been trying to cancel me saying that I am 'fake'," he said. "It's nothing new. I have been doing this for 15 years and have done it full time. Through my rap career, I have fed my family and looked after them. Let's not feed the negative energy. I stay in my lane, it's less traffic here. I don't like drama and am focused on my music."

Over the years, the artiste participated in various shows at home and abroad. He even hosted a programme for a renowned radio channel, which was immensely popular amongst the hip hop community. In 2015, the US Department of State organised a cultural exchange tour, where artistes from six different countries were invited. Zang represented Bangladesh during that event. Later in 2017, he attended a festival upon invitation to UK. He served as one of the judges along with two others, for a domestic reality show. "Hip hop changed the course of my life," says the rapper, who is one of the artistes credited with the first Bangla song on an international Netflix film, "Extraction".

When asked about what's coming next, Black Zang told us that he was working on a few singles and couple of collaborations. On March 15, he will be releasing "Agony", which is a collaboration between him and fellow rapper Janowar U.N.Y. The artiste will also be doing another collaboration with Zed Sizzy soon.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



to chill down and mind your own business. Happy Friday guys. Life is good. Alhamdulillah."

The Daily Star reached out to Black Zang directly to learn about what was going on and what screenshots he was referencing.

"Some people in the community



Ferdous, Shimla reunite for new film

Bangladeshi actress Samsun Nahar Shimla came into the limelight with her debut film *Madam Fulli* in 1999, which received a lot of love from the audiences in the coming era. The actress had also won the National Film Award for her role in the movie.

Later on, she had starred with fellow National Award winning actor Ferdous in three different films in the last decade and the duo are set to reunite on a Syed Wahiduzzaman Diamond directorial film called *Dokhin Duar*.

The filming has already begun and will continue till March 16, in the Shibchar upazila. Similar to his other films, Syed Wahiduzzaman Diamond has chosen to highlight the plight of the people who live near the Padma river bank and their lives in this film.

Both of Shyam Benegal's kidneys fail, undergoes dialysis



Eminent director Shyam Benegal's health has deteriorated as both his kidneys have failed; he is undergoing dialysis at home. According to reports, his health has worsened so much that he is unable to visit the hospital for proper treatment.

Last year, the noted filmmaker faced critique by Bangladeshi people on social media when *Mujib: The Making of a Nation* trailer was released. Currently, no updates has been announced and the filmmaker's condition has created uncertainty regarding its release.

The 88-year-old filmmaker has been unable to visit the office in recent times. Doctors have advised Shyam Benegal, who has won numerous national awards, to rest at home.

NEWS

Tigers eye

FROM PAGE 12
happy hunting ground for the Tigers historically.

Despite Bangladesh managing to restrict England to 156 for six in the first T20I courtesy of some exceptional death-over bowling from pacer Hasan Mahmud before clinching a six-wicket win, the hosts will still want to bowl better in the first part of the innings.

On the other hand, England will be under added pressure owing to injury concerns. The visitors have to choose their 11 from just 12 fit cricketers. However, the visitors' bowling line-up – featuring pacers Jofra Archer, Mark Wood, Chris Woakes and Sam Curran alongside leggies Adil Rashid and Moeen Ali – will pose a great threat.

BNP to hold

FROM PAGE 12
also held protesting the hike in prices of power and daily essentials.

The party's other demands include the dissolution of the current parliament, the next general election under a non-party neutral government, and the unconditional release of its Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

BNP and like-minded parties have been holding simultaneous programmes since December 24 to press home for their demands.

Ahmadiyyas

FROM PAGE 2
already demanded budgetary allocation to our higher authorities for repairing the houses."

Meanwhile, police arrested eight people between Friday night and early yesterday, raising the total number of arrestees to 181 in connection with the attacks.

On March 3, two people were killed and at least 30 others, including seven policemen, injured in a clash between law enforcers and supporters of Islamist organisations demonstrating against the Ahmadiyya community demanding cancellation of the three-day-long Jalsa Salana, an annual gathering of the members of the Ahmadiyyas.

The agitators set fire to many houses and four shops belonging to Ahmadiyyas in three villages – Ahmadnagar, Phultola and Shalshiri – in Panchagarh Sadar.

They also attacked a local police station, vehicles of law enforcers and a traffic police office.

Rajuk to move to raze

FROM PAGE 12
and that they would be able to obtain soft loans from the World Bank through the Urban Resilience Project to carry out the necessary renovations.

Regarding the buildings in Dhaka that were built in violation of Rajuk's plans, Wasi said that they won't take action against them now as Ramadan was just around the corner and instead decided to raise awareness among building owners first.

"The buildings that are used for both residential and commercial purposes are more prone to serious accidents," he said.

Rajuk Chairman Anisur Rahman Miah told The Daily Star that they would take the necessary steps after receiving the findings of the Rajuk committees formed to find illegal buildings and buildings with irregularities.

He said they would raise public awareness first since there were many who didn't even know that they were at huge risk of accidents.

"We will publish advertisements and will serve notices in many cases as part of the awareness campaign," he added.

Anisur also said that they decided to require building owners to submit all designs (i.e., floor plans, electrical and plumbing layouts) to

Opposition out to undermine

FROM PAGE 12
She said her government raised the country's electricity generation capacity to 24,000 megawatts and reached power to every houses.

Since the AL government increased electricity generation and built the country as Digital Bangladesh, the BNP leaders can speak so much using microphone, the PM added.

The AL chief said Bangladesh has attained the status of a developing country. "We must maintain this achievement. We have to move forward retaining this success."

Explaining the features of smart Bangladesh, the PM said the people, economy, agriculture and health system of the country would be smart.

"Every people of Bangladesh will get a better life even staying at the

Rajuk in order to obtain permission for a building plan, so none could construct buildings with any deviations.

Rajuk's Town Planner Ashraful Islam told The Daily Star that the meeting also decided to require government and autonomous bodies like Dhaka University and Buet to obtain permission from Rajuk before building any structure, as they currently do not.

Fazle Reza Sumon, president of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said the meeting decided to identify all vulnerable buildings as part of a long term plan.

Rajuk will involve a third party for a detailed engineer assessment of Dhaka's buildings to assess their vulnerability, he said.

"As Rajuk lacks capacity, BIP has suggested enlisting the assistance of third parties to vet the designs that a building owner will submit in order to obtain permission to construct the building," he said.

Sumon said the meeting also agreed to take the necessary steps to protect the waterbodies identified in the Detailed Area Plan in order to create open spaces.

"A project will also have to be undertaken so that the waterbodies that are under private ownership can be preserved by acquiring them," he said.

grassroots level. Every villager will get the urban benefits."

She pledged to set up a medical and an engineering university and other required institutions in Mymensingh division to give it a complete shape.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Qader, presidium members Matia Chowdhury and Abdur Rahman, and joint general secretaries Mahbubul Alam Hanif, AFM Bahauddin Nasim and Dipu Moni, among others, also spoke at the rally, organised by the Mymensingh district and city units of the party.

At the outset of the programme, Hasina inaugurated 73 newly completed development works and laid the foundation stones of 30 other development works in Mymensingh.

Earth's water

FROM PAGE 12
Water is frozen in the outermost part of this disc so the instruments were unable to detect it.

However, an outburst of energy from the star heated the inner disc to a temperature where water is gaseous – so astronomers were able to identify its chemical signatures.

Data from the telescopes allowed astronomers to determine the composition of water as well as map its distribution within the disc.

They said the V883 Orionis disc contains at least 1,200 times the amount of water in all Earth's oceans.

The team also detected the presence of heavy water – where water molecules are made with heavy isotopes of hydrogen known as deuterium.

Water with high deuterium content can only form under specific conditions where there is enough energy to power the reaction that binds hydrogen, deuterium and oxygen.

Heavy water occurs naturally on Earth but in smaller quantities – at a proportion of about one heavy water molecule in 3,200 normal water molecules.

Rescuers airlift residents from remote Australia floods

AFP, Sydney

Rescuers flew residents out of a remote Australian town by helicopter yesterday as record-high floods rose rapidly and authorities issued a "final alert" to evacuate.

Police said helicopters and other aircraft had already flown out 53 vulnerable people over the past few days from the small community of Burkettown in northeastern Australia.

Murky water lapped at the sides of buildings in the town, which lies 1,600 kilometres (1,000 miles) northwest of the Queensland capital Brisbane and is usually home to about 200 people.

The swollen Albert River had transformed wide areas of land around the town into lakes, with only the tops of trees visible, aerial images provided by emergency services showed.

Neighbourhoods in Ctg

FROM PAGE 12
does not remove salt but minimises it from water.

According to Wasa sources, the city's daily water demand ranges from 46 to 48 crore litres. Presently, Wasa is supplying almost 46 crore litres of water from its four water treatment projects, with Unit-1 and Unit-2 of Rangunia Water Treatment providing 28.6 crore litres of water daily. The Madunaghat and Mohra Water Treatment Projects are supplying nine crore litres each.

However, because of a rise in salinity in the Halda river, the Wasa authorities had to reduce the collection of water from the Mohra Water Treatment Project. Currently, only 7.5 to 8 crore litres of water are being supplied from this source.

According to Maksud Alam, the salinity at the point where the Halda river meets the Mohra Water Treatment Project is 1,700 mg per litre, which is higher than the usual amount of 100 to 300 mg per litre.

The water supplied from the treatment after blading has a salinity level of 350 to 400 mg per litre.

Alam has expressed concerns that the water crisis may worsen if the dry season is prolonged.

The Power Development Authority's decision to reduce water release from Kaptai Lake has caused a problem, according to Engineer AKM

Fazlullah, the managing director of Chattogram Wasa.

He explained that as a result of the reduced upstream water, tidal water from the Karnaphuli river is entering Halda, which, in turn, is affecting the purification process at the Mohra Water Treatment Project.

"Despite the purification process, some salinity remains in the water, and this has been a recurring problem for the past 15 days. The city dwellers have been informed about the issue through a media notice," he said.

To address the situation, Wasa is obtaining water from other treatment project and supplying it after the necessary treatment, he informed.

Additionally, the authorities are currently constructing another water treatment project to mitigate the crisis.

Rezaul Karim, chief engineer of the Power Development Board, South zone (Chattogram), said the water level in Kaptai Lake has decreased due to the dry season, which resulted in a decrease in electricity generation.

He emphasised that they have no control over this situation and have to rely entirely on nature.

"As a result of the receding water levels, only one unit at the hydropower plant is currently operational. If the dry season continues for an extended period, power generation could be further disrupted," he added.

Tunisia's Saied to restore diplomatic ties with Syria

AFP, Tunis

Tunisian President Kais Saied has said he plans to restore diplomatic relations with Syria, more than a decade after they were broken off in protest of Damascus's repression of political opponents.

"Nothing can justify the absence of a Tunisian ambassador in Damascus and an ambassador from Syria in Tunis," Saied said during a sit-down with Tunisian foreign minister Nabil Ammar, according to a video released by the presidential office Friday night.

He went on to say that the

"question of the regime in Syria concerns only the Syrians", rejecting any interference in the affairs and "choices" of others.

Saied had mentioned his intention to "reinforce the diplomatic representation" of Tunisia in Syria back in February.

Tunisia expelled Syria's ambassador in 2012 over the bloody repression of opponents of President Bashar al-Assad at the outset of the country's civil war.

The diplomatic rupture, undertaken when former president Moncef Marzouki was still in office, was strongly criticised by the opposition at the time.