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Dhaka wants to know West Bengal's plan for Teesta

Note verbale already sent, says foreign secretary

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has sent a note verbale to Delhi, seeking to know about West Bengal's plan to withdraw water from Teesta river for irrigation and hydropower projects, Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen said yesterday.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently sent the note verbale, a type of diplomatic note, to the Indian Ministry of External Affairs, he told reporters at the ministry.

He said the Ministry of Water Resources will write a letter to India asking for details about West Bengal's plan.

Last Thursday, State Minister for Water Resources Zaheed Farooque said the Joint

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US Ambassador Peter Haas visited The Daily Star yesterday and had interactions with the newspaper's Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam and senior journalists. The envoy toured different sections of The Daily Star newsroom and sat for an interview, which will be published soon.

PHOTO: STAR

BNP-Jamaat will never come to power again: PM

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the people of the country will never allow the BNP-Jamaat alliance to assume power again.

"Those who carried out bomb, grenade and bullet attacks, smuggled in 10-truck arms and misappropriated money of the public and the orphans will never come to power again. The people of Bangladesh will never accept them," she said.

The premier said this while presiding over a discussion marking the 103rd birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and National Children Day-2023.

The event was organised by Awami League at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in the capital.

The PM said Bangladesh would definitely march towards development and prosperity and no conspiracy can stop it.

Hasina, also the AL president, asked her party leaders to work with dedication and patriotism for the welfare of the country.

AL General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Presidium Member and Deputy Leader of the House Begum Matia Chowdhury and AL Joint General Secretary and Information Minister Hasan Mahmud, among others, spoke at the event.



MY DHAKA



Dancing to the beats of **NAHUBO**

RBR

Dhaka is rocking to the beats of Animes Roy's Nahubo, the new song of Coke Studio Bangla Season 2. Animes in his rockstar avatar is sporting a stache and his long curly locks are swinging as his head bangs to the grooves of Nahubo, the Hajong song, where the verses loosely mean "it is not going to work this way".

Composed and arranged by Sayonton Mangsang, Nahubo is written and tuned by Animes. Both artistes are from indigenous backgrounds and they are promoting their culture on global platforms.

"It is super local going super global. I wanted to accommodate their pursuit of taking their music and culture to make a global connection," says Shayan Chowdhury Arnob, who curated and produced the track.

"The background story of the song is interesting. Both Animes and Sayonton composed the song and played it for friends. I came to know from them how superb this new composition was, and after a lot of coaxing, I heard the song and instantly found that it is unlike any sound, it is high energy, and unapologetic. You are physically moving to the beats the moment you hear it. It has the flute and esraj; it has a raw energy that moves you as well. But there was a clear message to the youth to not follow trends but be their own selves," expresses Arnob, adding that Animes is a shy boy but on stage,

he is a star and can make everyone dance to his beats.

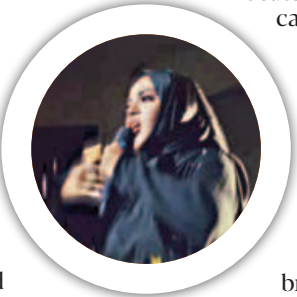
The guitar work by Buno in bass and Imran and Saadul in electric is energetic and striking, keeping everyone on their toes and dancing with the lead vocals. The song talks about how the generation is defying set rules and standards set by others to conform to love. You do what you want, "let them call me bad, I will still be myself" is how one describes the lyrics.

Paired with rapper Daughter of Coastal, the Chittagonian rap brings a certain unique liveliness to the beats. The set is equally captivating with fire spinning and hanging lights, the rocking mood is set for young at heart and people are commenting how Hajong is now the party language.

"Sohana practising from Cox's Bazar is also bringing her uniqueness to the song. It is pleasantly surprising how a young girl from conservative Cox's Bazar is rapping in Chittagonian language. Practising music on the sly, hiding from parents is indeed a feat," Arnob feels.

The almost five-minute song has hit more than 20K within hours of the launch. The use of Hajong language has had a special impact on listeners since the first "Nasek Nasek" hit and Nahubo is equally catchy and entertaining.

It celebrates the feeling of not surrendering to norms and staying confined to the boundaries of love or society.



Thalassaemia a silent threat

Blood tests before marriage can prevent disease, say experts

TAHIRA SHAMSI UTSA

Shetu Akhter and Aminul Islam were filled with joy when their daughter was born in 2019. But that joy was short-lived as Ahona, their daughter, was diagnosed with thalassaemia, an inherited blood disorder, just within 19 months of her birth.

Thus began their days of struggle. The couple had to travel from their home in Netrakona to Dhaka once a month to give blood to their child.

However, before their daughter was diagnosed, both Shetu, 30, and Aminul, 35, never heard about the disease. After conducting blood tests later on, they found out they were both carriers of thalassaemia.

"We never heard of thalassaemia, let alone take caution for it," said the mother.

Like Shetu and Aminul, a large number of people in Bangladesh are not aware of the disease, which leads to a condition called anaemia, characterised by weakness, fatigue, feeling faint, shortness of breath and stunted growth.

According to the Bangladesh Thalassaemia Foundation, thalassaemia carriers make up 7 percent of the general population, and 7,000 new-borns are born with the disease each year in Bangladesh. There is no government

data on children with thalassaemia and its carriers.

Experts say thalassaemia is a lifelong disease which requires expensive treatment. Patients need regular blood transfusion and medications.

Although early detection is key, the majority have no idea that a simple blood test prior to marriage can identify the carriers. A test can prevent future generations from contracting

By performing a quick test before you tie the knot, thalassaemia can be avoided. But, the majority of Bangladeshis do not consider it, which leads to trouble later on.

OMOR FARUK
Managing Director of Bangladesh Thalassaemia Foundation

thalassaemia and other genetic and blood abnormalities, they said.

Mujahida Rahman, assistant professor at the department of haematology of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, said, "A child with thalassaemia is the result of a lack of knowledge and awareness."

"To avert thalassaemia from the root

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Mangal Shobhajatra preparations begin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The preparations for the colourful and vibrant procession of Mangal Shobhajatra, a significant part of the Pahela Baishakh celebrations, have started at the Fine Arts Faculty of Dhaka University.

This festival was recognised as the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by Unesco in 2016. The procession sees thousands of people from different walks of life join in to celebrate the Bangla New Year.

The inauguration of the preparation was conducted by the famous artist Rafiqun Nabi, who



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Painted an artwork to mark the beginning of the proceedings, yesterday.

Following the tradition of previous years, a group of students initiated the work for celebrating the Pahela Baishakh, the most extensive cultural festival in Bangladesh.

The Fine Arts Faculty, also known as Charukala, has kept the Mangal Shobhajatra free of corporate sponsorship. Instead, teachers, students, and alumni of the faculty raise funds by creating and selling their artworks, crafts, masks, and sora (items made with clay).

The students of the 24th batch of the Fine Arts faculty are leading the preparations this year.

Take steps to boost research

Says Dipu Moni at 21st convocation of AIUB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday called for strengthening the link between academia and industries to boost research work.

She made the comment while attending the 21st convocation ceremony of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), held on the university campus in the capital's Kuril area.

Dipu Moni said, "We need to increase our collaborative efforts with national and international universities to improve in the fields of research."

Attending as the chief guest, the minister conferred degrees on 4,722 graduates.



Education Minister Dipu Moni confers degree on students at the 21st convocation ceremony of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), held on the university campus in the capital's Kuril area yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR