

Will work together for regional stability

Hasina, Modi hold bilateral meeting in New Delhi

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi have agreed that Dhaka and New Delhi will work together to ensure political and economic stability in the two countries as well as the region.

"India and Bangladesh think the same way. We want regional peace and stability for development," Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said while briefing reporters after Hasina and Modi held a bilateral meeting in New Delhi on the eve of the G20 Summit.

Momen said this when a reporter asked him about India's attitude towards elections in Bangladesh amid pressure from the US and other western countries that are calling for free and fair polls.

Momen said there was no pressure because the government is committed to free and fair elections. He also dismissed the likelihood that there will be an election-time caretaker government.

The foreign minister then added that BNP's 2001-2006 tenure saw a rise in violence against minority communities, militancy and

Modi thanks Hasina for helping ensure peace in northeast India

Delhi for 'constructive and positive approach' to solve Rohingya crisis

Dhaka urges Delhi to ensure uninterrupted supply of essentials

Three MoUs signed on agri research, culture and trade in Taka and Rupee

terrorist attacks.

Hasina and Modi held the hour-long meeting at the official residence of the latter yesterday evening.

At his briefing, Momen told reporters that the Awami League government took actions against the insurgents from India's Northeast region who took shelter in Bangladesh.

Modi expressed deep gratitude to Hasina for her government's role in ensuring peace situation in northeastern India, Momen said.

Asked if Modi and Hasina discussed Bangladesh elections, Momen said, "I don't know."

Before the formal meeting, Hasina and Modi also had a tete-a-tete.

Asked whether elections were discussed in the private meeting, Momen said, "Maybe. I don't know about that."

Hasina reached the Indian capital around 1:15pm. She travelled there to attend the G20 summit at the invitation of India, this year's G20 president.

Indian State Minister for Railways and Textile Darshana Jardosh and Bangladesh High Commissioner to India, Mustafizur Rahman, welcomed the premier at Palam Airport.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi during a bilateral meeting held at the residence of the latter in New Delhi yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

SACKED DAG, FAMILY At US embassy to 'seek shelter', go back after 'assurance'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sacked deputy attorney general Imran Ahmed Bhuiyan, who along with his family went to the US embassy in Dhaka yesterday afternoon to "seek shelter", returned home after staying there for three and a half hours.

"I along with my wife and three daughters came back home around 9:00pm with police support. We stayed on the US embassy office premises from 3:30pm to 7:00pm," he told The Daily Star at 9:30pm.



Imran Ahmed

"Higher authorities from the government have given me assurance, and said there is nothing to fear. I did not go there for a visa. I went to the embassy after receiving threats," he added.

Asked, Gulshan Police Deputy Commissioner Md Shahidullah said DAG Imran went to the US embassy for

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Find peaceful solution to Russia-Ukraine war

PM tells Lavrov; Moscow to help Dhaka meet energy need

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for finding a way to stop the Russia-Ukraine war peacefully through negotiations.

She made the call when Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov paid a courtesy call on her at the Gono Bhaban yesterday morning, reports BSS.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, PM's Deputy Press Secretary Hasan Jahid Tusher said the premier requested Russia to find a solution to the war so that the developing countries across the globe do not face economic risks over the crises of food, fuel and fertiliser arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, Russia-Ukraine war, sanctions and counter-sanctions.

"It is necessary to stop the war as soon as possible in a peaceful manner," she said.

During the meeting, both the leaders said Bangladesh and Russia have been trusted friends for long. They stressed the need to further strengthen the existing relations.

Hasina called for increasing trade and commerce between the two friendly countries and also sought bigger Russian investment in Bangladesh.

In reply, Lavrov said they are thinking of

importing readymade garment products from Bangladesh and investing in special economic zones here.

He sought specific proposals from Bangladesh regarding investments in economic zones and high-tech parks.

Describing Bangladesh as Russia's second largest trade partner in South Asia, Lavrov stressed increasing communications between the businesspeople of the two countries.

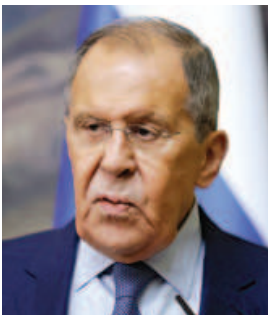
Hasina recalled Russia's contribution in the Liberation War and its assistance in removing mines from Chattogram and Mongla seaports soon after the 1971 war.

The Russian foreign minister lauded Bangladesh's balanced and responsible stance on the Ukraine-Russia war.

The premier reiterated that Bangladesh follows this policy strongly for the sake of its overall socio-economic development.

About the progress of the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project, Hasina said nuclear fuel will be imported to Bangladesh in October. She requested Russian President Vladimir Putin to join an event, to be organised marking the arrival of the nuclear fuel, virtually.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Macron to visit Dhanmondi Lake, enjoy folk music

PORIMOL PALMA

While French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to Bangladesh may feature signing of important business deals and discussions on geopolitical issues, he wants to witness the beauty of the country and experience its culture.

The president is scheduled to visit the Dhanmondi Lake in the capital and meet Joler Gaan (music of water), an independent folk band from Dhaka, to enjoy its music.

Macron is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka tomorrow after attending the G20 summit in New Delhi. He will meet Joler Gaan lyricist Rahul Anand at his workshop in the evening.

"France is a country that is famous for arts and culture. Also, Bangladesh and France have a very strong cultural cooperation. I think this visit of President Macron is part of that cultural cooperation as well as people-to-people contacts," a diplomatic source told The Daily Star yesterday.

Joler Gaan has won fame both at home and abroad, and the French president is also aware of it, said the source familiar with the events.

The folk band uses the lyrics based on human stories and sometimes customises foreign ones.

Apart from home, the band has performed at musical events in various parts of the world. In 2006, it participated in the World Sufi Festival, Glasgow, Scotland.

According to the latest schedule of Macron's two-day visit to Bangladesh, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

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Tigers face Lankans in crucial tie

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following a seven-wicket drubbing against Pakistan in their first Asia Cup Super Four encounter in Lahore on Wednesday, Bangladesh will look to keep their Asia Cup destiny in their own hands when they take on Sri Lanka at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo today.

The Tigers are set to take on Sri Lanka for the second time in this edition so far as the two teams were placed in Group B, and the Tigers come into their second meeting with the disappointment of a five-wicket loss against the Lankans last month.

A loss against the Lankans would see the Tigers rely on the other sides to slip up in order to keep their hopes alive of making it to the final

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

CYBER SECURITY ACT Redraft it in light of best int'l practices

TIB urges MPs, JS committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday called upon members of parliament and the parliamentary committee on posts, telecommunications and information technology ministry to redraft the Cyber Security Bill 2023 in accordance with best international practices.

In a statement, the Bangladesh chapter of the Berlin-based global anti-graft watchdog also urged the lawmakers and members of the parliamentary body to discuss with experts and stakeholders before redrafting the bill.

The bill incorporates repressive elements and the bulk of the provisions from the controversial Digital Security Act 2018, but lacks many important

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Mayor Annisul Huq Road is flooded with campaign posters and banners in the capital's Tejaon on the eve of the polls to Bangladesh Truck and Covered Van Drivers' Union.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Active monsoon may help spread dengue further

Warn experts; 15 more die from the virus

HELEMUL ALAM

At a time when the country is already grappling with a record outbreak of dengue fever, the current active monsoon conditions may contribute to the further spread of the mosquito-borne disease this month, say experts.

Entomologists are now urging the authorities concerned to step up their anti-mosquito drives, which they say will help improve the current dengue situation and reduce the risk of the virus spreading next year.

Bazlur Rashid, meteorologist at the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), said intermittent rains accompanied by hot and humid weather will continue throughout the month of September, with the dry season likely coming in as late as October 15.

According to BMD's weather forecast for the next three days, light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind are likely to occur at many places over Rangpur, Mymensingh, Chattogram, and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, and Barisal divisions.

Meanwhile, data from the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) shows that at least 15 dengue patients died, and 1,876 were hospitalised in 24 hours preceding yesterday morning.

With this, the total number of deaths from dengue rose to 706 while the caseload went up to 142,587.

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Democratic institutions under attack

Says Rahul Gandhi on G20 summit eve

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's democratic institutions and minority groups are under a "full-scale assault", opposition leader Rahul Gandhi said yesterday, attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government on the eve of a high-profile G20 summit in New Delhi.

Civil society, opposition parties and some foreign governments have in the past raised concerns over decisions of Modi's government that they say are aimed at throttling dissent, fanning religious discrimination and keeping the ruling nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in power.

The government has denied all such accusations and Modi has said his administration was working for the betterment of all.

"I think there is a sense in India that democratic institutions in our country are under attack and they are under attack from the group of people who are running India," Gandhi, a member of parliament from the Congress party, told reporters at the Brussels Press Club.

"There's a full-scale assault on democratic institutions...of course minorities are under attack, but so are other communities...tribals, lower caste communities," he said.

Gandhi has made similar comments abroad in the past, drawing strong responses from BJP.

Gandhi's Congress is leading an alliance of 28 parties to challenge BJP in a national election due by May 2024.

India, the world's most populous country, holds the rotating presidency of the G20 and aims to showcase its economic potential and pitch itself as a reliable manufacturing and services hub to the visiting leaders of the bloc.

India is also promoting itself as a "voice" of developing nations on the global stage, as a counterweight to China.

Gandhi said he would meet European lawmakers in Brussels during his visit and talk to them about their views on India.

He indicated, however, that India's opposition parties would agree with the largely-neutral position taken by New Delhi on Russia's invasion of Ukraine - avoiding blaming Moscow for the war and seeking a solution through dialogue and diplomacy.



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban yesterday morning. Lavrov's two-day visit to Dhaka was the first by a Russian foreign minister since Bangladesh's independence in 1971. PHOTO: PID

CENTRAL, EASTERN UKRAINE

Russia launches new wave of air strikes

4 killed, dozens injured; Kyiv condemns 'fake elections' in Russian-occupied areas

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine yesterday said four people were killed and dozens injured as Russia launched a new wave of air strikes in the centre and east of the country.

"A Russian aerial bomb killed three civilians in Odradokamyanka -- two women and a man. Four local residents were injured," Interior Minister Igor Klymenko said, calling the strike in the southern region of Kherson a "war crime".

Odradokamyanka is about 60 kilometres upstream of Kherson city and lies on the west bank of the Dnipro river. In the central city of Kryvyi Rig, President Volodymyr Zelensky's hometown, a missile attack on a police building killed a policeman, Klymenko had said earlier.

"Rescuers of the State Emergency Service pulled out three more from under the rubble. They are in serious condition," he said.

Photos he shared from the scene showed smoke spewing from the ruins of the building as rescue workers carried an injured person to an ambulance. Over 40 people were injured in the city, local officials said.

At least three people were injured

after Russia also struck the city of Sumy in northeast Ukraine, officials said, while one man was injured by a rocket attack on Zaporizhzhia in the southeast.

"Over the past 24 hours, 93 enemy attacks on 29 towns and villages of the Zaporizhzhia region have been recorded," said Yuriy Malashko, head of the local administration.

The first 10 Leopard 1 tanks donated by Denmark, Germany, Netherlands arrive in Ukraine.

The Ukrainian foreign ministry yesterday criticised a vote organised by Moscow in four regions it claims to have annexed -- Donetsk, Lugansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson -- as well as Crimea.

"By organising fake elections in the Ukrainian regions and Crimea, the Kremlin continues to delegitimise the Russian legal system," the foreign ministry said, calling on partners to "condemn the worthless and arbitrary actions of Russia and not to recognise the legitimacy of any 'administration'."

Meanwhile, the first 10 Leopard 1 tanks donated by Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands have arrived in Ukraine and

more are on their way, Denmark's armed forces said yesterday.

The three countries announced in February that they would donate 100 of the German-made tanks in the "coming months".

"The first 10 tanks have been sent to Ukraine. And more are on the way," the Danish armed forces said in a statement. "A further 10 tanks have been delivered from the factory."

Danish troops in Germany are training Ukrainian forces to use the vehicles, the army added.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday Ukraine was finding it harder and slower to secure sanctions on Russia and weapon supplies to help fend off Moscow's forces.

Speaking at a conference in the Ukrainian capital, he said Ukraine's three-month-old counteroffensive would make faster gains in the south and east if Kyiv's military received more powerful weapons.

"The war is slowing down. This is true, we recognise this. All the processes are becoming harder and slowing down: from sanctions to the delivery of weapons," he said in comments from the conference that were posted on his website.

Missing siblings found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Two siblings who went missing Thursday were found dead yesterday in a ditch close to the Shitalakkhya river in Bandar upazila of Narayanganj.

Police found their bodies in a ditch that was dug for the ongoing construction of a walkway on the Shitalakkhya riverbank next to central Kheyaghat around 8:00am.

The deceased are -- Samir, 9, and his sister Tisha, 8. Their father, Kamal Hossain, is a rickshaw puller and a resident of the Amin Residential Area.

The children went missing Thursday afternoon after they left home to play outside.

They might have drowned in the ditch while they were playing near it, said Inspector Shahidul Islam, in charge of Narayanganj Sadar River Police Station.

The bodies were handed over to family members without autopsy, Shahidul added.

Jamaat aameers, secretaries held

UNB, Moulvibazar

Police detained five leaders and activists of the Jamaat-e-Islami while they were allegedly holding a secret meeting in Moulvibazar Sadar upazila.

On Thursday night, police conducted a drive at the house of one Zakir Hossain in Shahbandar area of Kanakpur union of the upazila and detained the five men, said Mohammad Harun-ur-Rashid Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Moulvibazar Sadar Police Station.

The detainees are Moulvibazar district Jamaat Ameer Shahed Ali, Secretary Yamin Ali, Moulvibazar Sadar upazila unit Ameer Fakhrul Islam, Moulvibazar municipal Jamaat Secretary Morshed Chowdhury, and Moulvibazar district Jamaat member Sheikh Shahabuddin.

The process of filing a case against the detainees is underway, added the OC.

N Korea unveils nuclear-armed submarine

REUTERS, Seoul

North Korea has launched its first operational "tactical nuclear attack submarine" and assigned it to the fleet that patrols the waters between the Korean peninsula and Japan, state media said yesterday.

Submarine No. 841 - named Hero Kim Kun Ok after a North Korean historical figure - will be one of the main "underwater offensive means of the naval force" of North Korea, leader Kim Jong Un said at the launch ceremony on Wednesday.

Analysts said the vessel appears to be a modified Soviet era Romeo-class submarine, which North Korea acquired from China in the 1970s and began producing domestically.

Its design, with 10 launch tube hatches, showed it was most likely armed with ballistic missiles and cruise missiles, analysts said.

At US embassy

FROM PAGE 1

personal reasons. Later, he returned home in the evening.

Earlier, Imran informed this newspaper through a text message about his stay at the embassy.

"I am at the US embassy, along with my entire family, for shelter. Police personnel are outside. I was sacked today [yesterday] ... Over the last four-five days, I was getting threats



Sacked DAG Imran with his family at the US embassy in Dhaka. PHOTO: COLLECTED

through Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp. This government repays love with imprisonment. I don't have a US visa; I somehow managed to leave home with just three bags and my three daughters. I'm sitting here. Pray for us," read the text message.

Contacted, US Embassy Spokesperson Bryan Schiller told The Daily Star, "At this time, we have no information to offer."

On September 4, DAG Imran told reporters that he had "refused to sign the statement that the Attorney General's Office was preparing in protest of the recent letter from global figures about the trial proceedings of Nobel laureate Prof Yunus".

The following day, Law Minister Anisul Huq said Imran had breached discipline by making the statement.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs issued a statement after the meeting, saying that the two leaders discussed political and security cooperation, border management, trade, connectivity, water resources, power, energy, development, and cultural and people to people ties.

"Current developments in the region and cooperation in the multilateral fora were also discussed," it read.

At the meeting, Hasina requested Modi to ensure uninterrupted supplies of essential goods to Bangladesh.

In December 2022, Dhaka sought India's assurance of annual supplies of 45 lakh tonnes of wheat, 7 lakh tonnes of onions, 30,000 tonnes of lentils, 20 lakh tonnes of rice, 15 lakh tonnes of sugar, 10,000 tonnes of garlic and 1.25 lakh tonnes of ginger.

Bangladesh-India trade is about \$14 billion, and essential commodities comprise a major portion of it.

Momen said that on multiple occasions, supply shortage sent the prices of certain goods spiralling in Bangladesh.

"We requested the Indian side to inform us of the quantity of commodities they can supply a year. They have accepted this proposal."

Bangladesh and India last month agreed to trade by Taka and Rupee. Towards that end, an MoU was signed between Bangladesh Bank and the National Payments Corporation of India to facilitate digital payment mechanisms in Rupee and Taka.

"This will help us, to some extent, save dollars," Momen said.

Will work together for regional stability

FROM PAGE 1

Immediately after the bilateral meeting, Modi wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter: "Had productive deliberations with PM Sheikh Hasina. The progress in India Bangladesh relations in the last 9 years has been very gladdening. Our talks covered areas like connectivity, commercial linkage and more."

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Prior to the meeting, Dhaka and Delhi signed two other MoUs -- Cooperation on Agricultural Research and Education and Extension of Cultural Exchange Programme from 2023 to 2025.

Hasina requested Modi to extend cooperation for quick repatriation of Rohingyas from Bangladesh.

Currently, Bangladesh and Myanmar are working on a pilot project for repatriating 3,000 Rohingyas under a trilateral mechanism mediated by China.

Modi expressed appreciation of the burden shouldered by Bangladesh in hosting over a million Rohingyas, and conveyed India's "constructive and positive approach" to support solutions towards safe and sustainable repatriation.

India welcomed Bangladesh's Indo-Pacific Outlook.

The two leaders look forward to beginning negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

They also look forward to the joint-inauguration of Agartala-Akhaura Rail Link, Unit-II of the Maitri Power Plant and Khulna-Mongla Rail Link.

Hasina thanked Modi for inviting her to the G20 Summit, where Bangladesh is expected to present the challenges facing the Global South.

Momen said he met his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar separately and discussed bilateral, regional and global issues.

Today, Hasina will address a session titled "One Earth" at the G20 Summit.

She is also scheduled to hold meetings with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz, Argentina President Alberto Angel Fernandez and Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol.

She will also attend the launch of Global Biofuels Alliance.

[Our New Delhi correspondent contributed to this report]

Find peaceful solution

FROM PAGE 1

The meeting emphasised on finding a way for a long-term agreement between the two countries for importing fertiliser from Russia.

It also discussed an agreement signed between the two countries on importing 3 lakh tonnes of wheat from Russia.

Lavrov assured the PM of extending cooperation in meeting Bangladesh's energy demand.

The Russian minister reached Dhaka on Thursday evening on a two-day visit. The same evening, he held a meeting with his Bangladeshi counterpart AK Abdul Momen.

Earlier yesterday, Lavrov paid homage to the memories of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing a wreath at his portrait at the Bangabandhu

Memorial Museum in Dhanmondi.

After visiting the museum, he wrote in the visitor's book, "Glad to visit the memorial museum of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founder of Bangladesh. We remember his key role as a fighter for independence of his nation."

"The Soviet Union provided support to his fight and was one of the first countries to recognise Bangladesh. We cherish our common history and foundation of friendly mutually beneficial relations between our countries established by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," Lavrov said.

He left for New Delhi in the afternoon to attend the G-20 Summit. Minister for Science and Technology Yeafesh Osman saw him off at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at 1:20pm.

Tigers face Lankans in crucial tie

FROM PAGE 1

as they would need certain results to go their way and then bank on net run-rate to play a pivotal role.

In both of their losses so far in the tournament, Bangladesh have lost the plot with their dismal batting efforts that saw them get bundled out for 164 against Sri Lanka and then self-destruct when facing the Pakistan pacers as they got skittled for 192 on a batting-friendly surface in Lahore.

In their first match against the Lankans, the Tigers faced a difficult time tackling the mystery spin of Maheesh Theekshana, who throughout his spells looked menacing. The off-spinner opened with the new ball to trap debutant Tanzid Tamim lbw, and came back in the last 10 overs to clean up Najmul Hossain Shanto.

The Bangladesh batters have got their work cut out when dealing with the mystery spin factor, but surprisingly enough, Sri Lanka's fast bowlers have been more dominant than their spinners in terms of

wickets taken. The Lankan pacers have scalped 41 wickets at an average of 22.58, while the spinners, who average 30.50, have taken 26 wickets in the last five years.

Pacer Matheesha Pathirana managed to trouble batters with his sly action coupled with express pace; this saw him pick up four of the Bangladesh wickets in the first match and the 20-year-old will be the one to watch yet again today.

In the past five years, the Premadasa has seen an average first innings total of 267 in day-night contests and given the Tiger's recent batting woes, they will be eyeing a score in an around that total and perhaps beyond that challenge to the Sri Lankan batting lineup.

Opener Tanzid Tamim was dropped after his debut match against Sri Lanka as Mehedi Hasan Miraz was promoted up the order in the following two matches but with Miraz failing to create an impression in the Pakistan game, the team management may opt for a different opening pair.

POLLS INTERFERENCE

Canada PM to testify in enquiry

AFP, Singapore

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said yesterday he would be willing to testify in an enquiry into allegations of foreign meddling by China, Russia and other countries in

two elections won by his party.

His minority liberal government initially balked at holding a public enquiry, as it faced pressure to explain how it first responded to the claims that Beijing sought to subvert Canada's democratic process.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN DHAKA

E-ticketing remains only on paper

DIPAN NANDY

E ticketing for all buses in Dhaka was launched last year, first on Mirpur route and then on other routes for over 3,000 buses, aiming to bring discipline in the capital's public transport sector and reduce conflicts between passengers and bus helpers over additional fares.

The service, however, now remains on paper only!

Since the very beginning, allegations were raised against bus staffers for refusing to use the POS (point of sales) machines provided by the bus owners' association for e-tickets and collecting fares, and the situation has only gotten worse over time.

Upon boarding 25 buses in Gulistan, Paltan and Farmgate areas recently, this correspondent did not find a single bus using POS machines for e-tickets.

It seems these POS machines have disappeared in thin air from Dhaka buses.

Many commuters remain unaware that they are supposed to get e-tickets for local buses. Even as signs inside most buses read, "Do not pay fare without a ticket,"

this directive often goes unnoticed.

Shamim Khan, a regular passenger of Akash Paribahan on the Paltan-Bashundhara route, said, "I didn't even know e-tickets exist. The bus helpers never informed me about it once."

In response, Ajmot, who collects fare for Akash Paribahan, answered, "If the passenger wants, I give the ticket. The machine (POS) cannot be hung around the neck all the time."

When this correspondent told him to show the POS machine, he could not.

This correspondent had a similar experience on board a bus of Malancha Paribhan, which runs from Mohammadpur to Katherpool intersection.

On his way from Paltan to Shabbagh, when he asked the helper to provide an e-ticket, Shakil, the helper, said, "There are no machines, if you want to travel on this bus, you have to pay the pre-decided fare."

Shariful Islam, a resident of Mirpur's Senpara Parbata area, comes to his office at Kawran Bazar every day by bus.

"When the service was first launched, they provided us e-tickets for the first two



Saima Wazed, a thematic ambassador of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) and the chairperson of the National Advisory Committee on Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, presents a souvenir to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the latter's residence in New Delhi, yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana's son Radwan Mujib Siddiq were present there.

PHOTO: PMO

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BRI will take us to new heights

Says Chinese diplomat

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chinese Embassy Charge D'affaires, Yan Hualong, yesterday stressed that China will always remain a trustworthy neighbour to Bangladesh and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) will take the two nation's relationship to a new height.

"China will continue to encourage more Chinese enterprises to invest in Bangladesh and promote the steady and long term development of China-Bangladesh economic and trade relations," he said.

Yan Hualong said this while addressing the inauguration of "The Belt and Road Initiative in Bangladesh Exhibition 2023" at the Bangabandhu-China Friendship Exhibition Centre in Dhaka's Purbachal.

The Embassy of China in Bangladesh, in collaboration with the Bangladesh-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chinese Enterprises Association in Bangladesh, organised the event.

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PRAYER TIMING		SEPTEMBER 9	
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:45	4:30	6:20 7:45
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	4:45	6:25 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

President reaches S'pore

BSS, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin reached Singapore yesterday afternoon after concluding his five-day Indonesia tour where he attended the 43rd Asean Summit and 18th East Asia Summit.

A VIP flight (aircraft BG-1911) of Bangladesh Biman Airlines Limited, carrying the President and his spouse Dr Rebecca Sultana, reached Changi International Airport in Singapore at 2:12pm (Singapore time).

On arrival, the President was welcomed by the Bangladesh High Commissioner to Singapore Tauhedul Islam and senior officials concerned with the Bangladesh High Commission.

The Head of the State and his wife will have their health check-up there. He is scheduled to return home on September 16.

CUSTODIAL DEATH OF JONNY

A long wait for closure

Appeal hearing yet to start three years after lower court verdict

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Justice continues to elude the family members of Ishtiaque Hossain Jonny, a garment-waste trader from Mirpur, whose custodial torture and death in 2014 sparked outrage and led to the country's sole case filed under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013.

While the trial proceedings at a lower court concluded three years ago, the final verdict remains elusive. The lower court issued its judgment on September 9, 2020, sentencing 5 people, including 3 police officials, to different jail terms.

But the proceedings of appeals filed by the convicts, challenging the trial court's decision, are still to commence in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court.

The uncertainty comes as the convicts have failed to prepare the essential paper book for the case.

Additionally, the prospect of further legal battles looms large, with the possibility of appeals before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court against the High Court judgment and the potential pursuit of a review of the apex court's verdict.

WHAT WAS IT ABOUT

A group of 25 to 26 police officers -- including then sub-inspector of Pallabi Police Station Zahidur Rahman -- raided a house during a wedding ceremony in Pallabi's Irani camp area and picked up Ishtiaque Hossain Jonny, who was then 28 years old, and his brother Imtiaz Hossain Rocky on February 8, 2014.

Police informers Sumon and Russell called the police after Jonny slapped Sumon for stalking and harassing women at the programme. Police then tortured the brothers at the station, according to the case statement.

After Jonny fell sick the next day, he was admitted to a local clinic. Later, he was transferred to Suhrawardy Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

On August 8, 2014, Rocky filed the case with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court

This is the country's sole case filed under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013.

Ishtiaque Hossain Jonny, a garment waste trader from Mirpur, allegedly died after being tortured by cops at the Pallabi Police Station in February, 2014

On September 9, 2020, a Dhaka court sentenced former SI Zahidur and ex-assistant sub-inspectors (ASI) Qamruzzaman Mintu and Rashedul Islam of Pallabi Police Station to life imprisonment and sentenced police informers Sumon and Russell to seven years in jail.

of Dhaka in connection with the death of his brother.

On September 9, 2020, a Dhaka court sentenced former SI Zahidur and former assistant sub-inspectors (ASI) Qamruzzaman Mintu and Rashedul Islam of Pallabi Police Station to life imprisonment and sentenced police informers Sumon and Russell to seven years in jail.

The trial court also asked each of the officers to pay Tk 2 lakh compensation to the complainant, Rocky, through Bangladesh Bank and fined Zahidur and Rashedul Tk 1 lakh each. Sumon and Russell were fined Tk 20,000 each.

This was the first verdict under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013.

Convicted Mintu has been on the run, and Russell, who had been absconding during

the delivery of the trial court's judgment, surrendered to the lower court later.

Zahidur, Rashedul, Sumon and Russell filed separate appeals with the High Court challenging the trial court verdict.

Russell secured bail from the HC on November 22 last year and Zahidur, Rashedul and Sumon are now in jail in connection with the case, complainant Imtiaz Hossain Rocky told The Daily Star on September 6.

He said he is yet to receive any compensation from the convicts as the appeals of the case have not been disposed of by the High Court.

On May 10 this year, the High Court refused to grant bail to Zahidur, Rashedul and Sumon in the case and also ordered the convicted accused to deposit the fines to the treasury of the state within one month.

The bench of Justice SM Kuddus Zaman and Justice Shahed Nuruddin also asked Rashedul to prepare the paper book of the case in two months, SM Rezaul Karim, principal lawyer for Rocky, told The Daily Star.

A paper book that contains all details of a case, trial proceedings, statements, evidence, orders, verdict and other relevant documents is necessary for the HC to hear and dispose of an appeal, he said, adding that Rashedul is yet to prepare the paper book.

"This [Jonny murder] is the sole case filed under the Torture and Custodial Death (Prevention) Act, 2013, as victims don't dare to lodge cases against the law enforcers for torture and death in custody," said Advocate Rezaul Karim.

Rashedul's lawyer Md Abdur Razzak Razu told this correspondent on September 6 that the paper book of the case will be prepared soon on behalf of his client.

He said all convicted accused have deposited the compensation and fines to Bangladesh Bank while filing their appeals in accordance with the relevant provisions of the law.

The HC may start hearing of the appeals after it will reopen on October 8, he added.

AL making country a battleground of big powers: Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday feared that Bangladesh was going to be used as a field in the fight of the big powers to establish their supremacy only because of the government's imprudent diplomacy.

Speaking at a rally, he also voiced concern over Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's comment that the US and its allies are trying to promote their interests in the South Asia region by using the Indo-Pacific strategy with their goal of countering China and Isolate Russia.

"What the Russian foreign minister said

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

46 Jamaat-Shibir men held in Dhaka

STAFF REPORTER

Forty-six members of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir were detained as they were holding a protest rally without permission from authorities in Dhaka's Jatrabari area yesterday.

Mofizul Alam, officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station, claimed the Jamaat-Shibir men lobbed at least three crude bombs from the procession at the law enforcers around 8:00am, injuring two police personnel.

They also vandalised three vehicles, he said. Police detained 46 Jamaat-Shibir men from the spot.

Most of them are thana and ward-level leaders and activists of the party, he said adding filing of a case is underway.

Jamaat in its verified Facebook page, claimed they held a rally at Jatrabari area with various demands, including the holding of free and fair polls, restoration of caretaker government system, and release of arrested leaders and activists.

When the rally was about to end, police took action against the protesters by firing tear gas shells. Police also detained numerous leaders and activists from the spot and surrounding areas, it added.

HARASSMENT OF FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Bangladeshi man arrested in Mumbai

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A Bangladeshi national has been arrested in Mumbai allegedly for sexually harassing a female flight attendant on board a Muscat-Dhaka flight travelling via Mumbai.

The incident took place in the early hours of Thursday before the Vistara flight was scheduled to land at the Mumbai International Airport, said Dikshit Gedam, deputy commissioner of Mumbai police yesterday.

"The accused, identified as Md Dulal, 30, who is a Bangladeshi national, was going to Dhaka from Muscat via Mumbai on a Vistara flight. Half an hour before the plane was to land in Mumbai, Dulal got up from his seat, hugged a female flight attendant and tried to kiss her," the official said.

The accused flyer also did not pay heed to the flight captain's warning when the latter read out a red warning card declaring him an unruly passenger, he said.

On landing at Mumbai airport, the Bangladeshi national was handed over to security officers who took him to the Sahar Police Station, the official added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Eminent singer Syed Abdul Hadi receives a lifetime achievement award from noted singer Runa Laila at the Meril-Prothom Alo Awards 2022 yesterday. Matiur Rahman, editor of Prothom Alo, Anjan Chowdhury, managing director of Maasranga Television and Square Toiletries Limited, among others, were present on the stage.

PHOTO: STAR



Mohammad Jalil Hossain, a local farmer, stands in waist-deep water and washes jute fibres in a ditch. Once washed, he will dry the jute for two days and sell it to businesses for Tk 1,400 per maund. The photo was taken in Barishal's Bhabanipur area yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Bodies of couple recovered

UNB, Chandpur

Police yesterday recovered the bodies of an elderly couple from a house in Chandpur's Hajiganj.

The bodies were recovered after locals reported a rotting smell near the house's pond to police.

The deceased were identified as Uttam Barman (65), caretaker of the house, and his wife Kajli Rani Barman (57), said Hajiganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge A Rashid.

It is suspected that miscreants broke into the house on Thursday night, tied the victims' hands and feet, and strangled them, said police.

Two HSTU students E-ticketing remains

FROM PAGE 5

Initially, the university authorities temporarily suspended the accused students on August 30. It later issued the expulsion order under Section 14 and 15 of the university's ordinance and discipline code. The order took effect from Thursday.

According to the expulsion orders issued by HSTU Registrar Prof Dr Md Saiful Islam, and carried out under the directive of the Vice-Chancellor, both Sohag and Roni have been expelled from the academic session for one year and permanently expelled from the dormitory. They will not be permitted on the campus until the expiration of their expulsion order.

HSTU Proctor Mamunur Rashid said that the complaints from the two victim female students

were sent to the Sexual Oppression Protection Committee, a body established to address issues of sexual harassment on campus. After a thorough examination of all evidence, witness testimonies, and statements from both victims and accused students, the committee approved the authorities' decision to take action against the accused students.

This decision came after a series of recent expulsions of four other students for different terms in connection with similar acts of misconduct, as the university remains committed to creating a safe and harassment-free environment for all its students, he added.

Both accused students, however, denied the allegations against them.

FROM PAGE 3

months. But the situation went back to usual from the beginning of this year. POS machines are no longer in use it seems," he said.

The Dhaka Road Transport Owners' Association introduced the e-ticketing system on November 13 last year, originally encompassing 1,643 buses from 30 companies, with the goal of extra fare collection on Dhaka city and suburban routes. On January 10 of this year, an additional 717 buses from 16 businesses joined the initiative in the second phase.

The e-ticketing system was then further expanded to 947 more buses from 13 additional companies on March 1. Currently, 3,307 buses from 59 firms are expected to use e-tickets as per the association's decision.

Contacted, Khandkar Enayet Ullah, secretary-

general of the Dhaka Road Transport Owners' Association, reiterated the association's commitment to collect fares through e-tickets. "There is no lack of effort from our side. But it is not possible for us to monitor every single bus. Passengers should also be aware of this."

Killed for Tk 5

FROM PAGE 5

Samia's parents contacted the police with the information, but they were unable to trace the abductors. After this, the abductors made no further contact.

When contacted, Md Shariful Islam, additional superintendent of police in Tangail, said, "We could not trace the abductors, following the audio message, as it might have been sent using an app. She was possibly strangled."

Prime accused in Cox's Bazar

FROM PAGE 5

criminals forced them to board a Dhaka-bound bus but one of the girls got down at Ramu Bypass as she fell sick. Locals then

took her to a hospital and from there police sent her to Sadar Hospital. Later, a case was filed with Sadar Model police in this regard.

During the primary

interrogation, the arrestee confessed his involvement in the rape, added the RAB official. The accused was handed over to Sadar Model Police Station.

A relief for victims

FROM PAGE 5

given tube wells, latrines, slatted houses for goat and sheep rearing, as well as agricultural tools.

Ashish Kumar Mazumdar, the project coordinator, explained that the project's goal is to enhance the resilience of poor, marginalised, and climate-vulnerable communities against the adverse impacts of climate change in flood-prone areas of Bangladesh.

These elevated homesteads have brought smiles to 525 families in the char areas, he said.

Nurul Haque Sarkar, executive director of NAZIR, emphasised that the project targeted poor and marginalised individuals as

beneficiaries.

He expressed the hope that, with increased funding from donor organisations, more families could benefit from the project, alleviating their suffering.

Additionally, he suggested that the government should consider implementing similar projects to ease the plight of char-dwelling communities facing frequent floods.

The two unions are home to around 16,000 families, with most of them relying on crop cultivation and cattle rearing for their livelihoods, according to the UP chairmen.

Yearly, the frequent floods triggered by the tidal waters of the river cause substantial loss of life and property in the northern region of the country.

Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 3

Based on a complaint lodged by the flight attendant, a first information report (FIR) under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code, was registered against the accused and he was placed under arrest, he said.

After being produced before a Mumbai court, Dulal was remanded in police custody till yesterday, he added.

Govt equipment

FROM PAGE 5

since their initial allocation. Such wastage of public funds should be prevented, Mifta added.

Confirming the matter, Jewel Bhowmik, Ajmeriganj municipal administrator and upazila nirbahi officer, said the LGRD ministry has been informed in this regard and necessary action will be taken upon receiving instructions.

BRI will take us to new AL making

FROM PAGE 3

This year marks the 10th anniversary of BRI that Bangladesh was the first among South Asian countries to join.

The exhibition vividly demonstrated the achievements of the BRI in Bangladesh and it would help build a platform for cooperation between Chinese and Bangladeshi companies, Yan Hualong said.

The exhibition was participated by 15 Chinese companies with South Asian regional headquarters in Bangladesh, around 20 other large Chinese companies that are operating in the Bangladeshi market, and several large Bangladeshi companies and banks.

Several seminars and workshops with government departments, forum between China and Bangladesh enterprises, job fairs, and business meetings were held at the event.

The Chinese embassy official stressed that economic and trade cooperation has always been an important pillar of the China-Bangladesh strategic partnership.

Since Bangladesh joined the BRI, more and more Chinese companies have invested in Bangladesh, he said, adding that more than 670 Chinese companies are currently operating in Bangladesh and have become an important driving force for China-Bangladesh economic and trade cooperation.

They promote more Chinese capital, technology, and standards to Bangladesh, providing impetus for the upgrading of Bangladesh's industrial structure and long-term economic development, Yan Hualong said.

"I believe that, under the BRI, China-Bangladesh relations will surely reach a new height and open a new era of friendly cooperation," he added.

FROM PAGE 3

after arriving here has clearly manifested that Bangladesh is going to be used as a field in the sphere of influence of the big powers in their struggle for hegemony. It's very alarming," the BNP leader said.

He alleged that the Awami League government is completely responsible for creating such a situation and inviting danger for the nation. "They [the gov] are making irresponsible statements and conducting their diplomacy imprudently to push Bangladesh to such a dire situation."

Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal brought out a rally in front of BNP's Nayapaltan central office, marking its 45th founding anniversary. BNP founder Ziaur Rahman formed Mahila Dal, the female wing of the party, on September 9, 1978.

Lavrov arrived in Dhaka yesterday evening on a two-day visit and held a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department

Office of the Executive Engineer

District: Joypurhat

www.lged.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No: 46.02.3800.000.07.003.23.1873

Dated: 07-9-2023

e-Tender Notice No: 11/2023-2024

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works below under LGED, District: Joypurhat.

SL No	Tender ID No	Package No	Tender Documents Last Selling Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time	Procurement Method
01	865061	SupRB/Joy/Replace/23-24/W-475	09-Oct-2023 15:00	10-Oct-2023 13:00	OTM
02	865062	SupRB/Joy/Replace/23-24/W-474	09-Oct-2023 15:00	10-Oct-2023 13:00	OTM

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to specified date and time mentioned in the e-GP system. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


(Md. Alauddin Hossain)
Executive Engineer
LGED, Joypurhat
02-58722122
xen.joypurhat@lged.gov.bd

GD-1375

সংশোধনী

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer
Biswanath, Sylhet

Email: biswanath@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd

Ref No. UHC/Bishwa/MSR/tender/notice/2023-2024/669

Date: 07-09-2023

e-Tender Notice

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, please register on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details, please contract support desk contract numbers.

e-Tender are invited in e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Dr. Md. Deluar Hossain, UH&FPO, Upazila Health Complex, Biswanath, Sylhet for the Procurement of;

Tender Id	Name of Goods	Tender/Proposal Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening Date & Time
870087	Procurement of Medicine for the F.Y 2023-2024 at Biswanath Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	24-September-2023 10:00	24-September-2023 12:00
870088	Procurement of Medical Equipment for the F.Y 2023-2024 at Biswanath Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	24-September-2023 10:00	24-September-2023 12:00
870090	Procurement of Gauge, Bandage, Cotton etc for the F.Y 2023-2024 at Biswanath Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	24-September-2023 10:00	24-September-2023 12:00
870091	Procurement of Linen for the F.Y 2023-2024 at Biswanath Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	24-September-2023 10:00	24-September-2023 12:00
870092	Procurement of Chemical Reagents for the F.Y 2023-2024 at Biswanath Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	24-September-2023 10:00	24-September-2023 12:00
870093	Procurement of Furniture for the F.Y 2023-2024 at Biswanath Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	24-September-2023 10:00	24-September-2023 12:00

e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for pursuer.

e-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list; accepted tenders will be opened online immediate as stated in above list. (Ref No. UHC/Bishwa/MSR/tender/notice/2023-2024/640 date: 28-08-2023 Previous e-Tender Published Notice Correction)


(Dr. Md. Deluar Hossain)
Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer
Biswanath, Sylhet.

GD-1374

IN MEMORY OF MR. A. S. H. K. SADIQUE



Today, September 09, 2023, we remember again, our beloved father who departed this world in 2007. His memories linger on forever in our hearts and in our prayers. May Allah grant him eternal peace.

On this occasion, we request all his relatives, friends, colleagues and acquaintances to remember his departed soul in their prayers.

Tanvir Jamal Sadique
Naureen Sadique



University of Asia Pacific

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Interested candidates are requested to send their CVs with photographs, marks/grades sheets obtained in SSC, HSC and LLB Degree Examinations by 21 September 2023 to pdllmuap@gmail.com. Please write 'Application for South Asia Foundation Scholarship for pursuing LLM Program' in the subject line of your email. Women are encouraged to apply. Further details are available in the websites mentioned above and in www.southasiafoundation.org

Two HSTU students expelled for 1yr Probe finds involvement of sexual harassment

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

The authorities of Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) in Dinajpur have expelled two students academically for a year and permanently from dormitory after a probe body found their involvement in sexual harassment of two girls on the campus.

The expelled students were Md Shakhwat Hossain Sohag, a student of Mechanical Engineering Department, and Rifuzar Rahman Roni, a student of Economics Department.

Two separate complaints were filed by the victim female students of the university against Sohag and Roni on August 2 and August 28 respectively, after the incidents occurred on the campus.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



Even though floodwaters surrounded the homesteads this year, they remained unaffected. Neighbouring flood victims also found shelter in these raised homesteads. The photo was taken from Talpatti Char in Khuniagach, Lalmonirhat recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Killed for Tk 5 lakh Nine-year-old girl found dead two days after abduction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police recovered the body of a nine-year-old girl in Tangail's Sakhipur upazila yesterday, two days after she was abducted.

The deceased -- Samia, daughter of Ranju Miah from Diriyapur village -- was a student in third grade at Dariyapur Majhichhala Government Primary School.

She was found dead in a drain in a bushy area, half a kilometre off her house, around 1:00pm, said Ansar Ali, chairman of Dariyapur Union Parishad.

The girl's father filed a case with Sakhipur Police Station in this regard yesterday.

Rezaul Karim, officer-in-charge of Sakhipur Police Station, told The Daily Star that they were working to trace and arrest the culprits.

According to the case report, Samia went to Rabindranath, the headmaster of the school, about a kilometre from her home, around 7:00am on Wednesday for private tuition.

After finishing the tutoring session, she was returning home with a few of her classmates. On the way, when her friends stopped at a shop, she continued her journey home.

As Samia was not back home on time, her mother Rupa Begum called the headmaster and was informed that her daughter had left long ago. Later, when she went out to look for Samia, she found the girl's shoes lying near their house.

After some time, she received an audio message on her phone, demanding a ransom of Tk 5 lakh for Samia's release.

The audio message said, "Your daughter is fine and in Tangail. You will get her if you pay Tk 5 lakh by today. Do not report the matter to the police or anyone in the area. If informed, we will harm your daughter."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Two brothers -- Munna and Sajjadul -- return with smiles on their faces after a successful expedition at the beel. Due to rising prices of commodities, their mother had asked them to collect water lilies. The two were overjoyed with the task and now return with enough water lilies to eat for two days. The photo was taken yesterday in Khulna's Parhaji village.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

DENGUE OUTBREAK

6-year-old girl dies as cases rise in Kushtia

UNB, Kushtia

A six-year-old girl died of dengue fever in Kushtia yesterday.

Tanha, daughter of Makhles Uddin from Satarpara village in Daulatpur upazila's Aria union, passed away while she was being transferred from Mirpur Upazila Health Complex to the 250-bed Kushtia General Hospital in morning.

"Tanha was admitted to the hospital on Thursday afternoon. Later, she was referred to Kushtia General Hospital after her condition deteriorated on

Friday morning, and she died on the way to the hospital," said Dr Piyush Kumar Saha of Mirpur Upazila Health Complex.

Kushtia is witnessing an increase in daily dengue cases. Yesterday morning, 30 patients were admitted to the 250-bed Kushtia General Hospital. Another 12 people were admitted in a span of 24 hours, said Dr Taposh Kumar Sarkar, resident medical officer of the hospital.

Every day, on average, 15 dengue patients are admitted to the hospital. The hospital authority is struggling to treat all these patients, he added.

FLOOD IN LALMONIRHAT

A relief for victims

Homesteads of 525 families elevated in two char unions along Teesta riverbed

SDILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Residents of two shoal areas along the Teesta riverbed in Lalmonirhat used to endure the hardships of flooding. This year, the situation is quite different. Floodwaters surrounded the plinths of these homesteads this year, they remained unaffected. Neighbouring flood victims also found shelter in these raised homesteads.

Locals with the help of a NGO, elevated their homesteads by depositing earth ahead of this year's monsoon, which prevented them from being affected by floods.

Among the beneficiaries of this initiative is Hawa Begum from Talpatti Char in the Khuniagach union, Sadar upazila. The 40-year-old possesses no assets but a homestead on five decimals of land. Over the past couple of years, she, like others in her situation, endured significant hardships during flooding. Fortunately, this year, her raised homestead saved her from the troubles she endures every year.

Similar to Hawa Begum, this initiative has come to the aid of Rokhana Begum, 35, Rupali Begum, 40, Nasima Begum, 38, and Rabeya Begum, 42, all of whom own homesteads on the same char.

These homesteads were elevated

approximately four feet above ground level with the support of a non-governmental organisation (NGO). Fruit and vegetable gardens, as well as trees, were also planted on these. Even though floodwaters surrounded the plinths of these homesteads this year, they remained unaffected. Neighbouring flood victims also found shelter in these raised homesteads.

Hawa Begum expressed her



gratitude, saying, "We are now safe from floods thanks to this initiative. Previously, we had to abandon our homes and seek shelter every year during floods. Now, we can live safely at home during floods and even rear cows and goats."

Similar sentiments were echoed by Saleha Begum, 46, Rahima Begum, 40, and Jahana Begum, 45, who were also provided with elevated homesteads in clusters at

Rajpur Char in the upazila.

Mofazzal Hossain, chairman of Rajpur Union Parishad, credited NAZIR, the NGO, for their efforts in raising these homesteads. He emphasised the urgent need for more homesteads to be elevated to benefit the residents of the char.

Khairuzzaman Mandal, chairman of Khuniagach Union Parishad, echoed this sentiment, noting that approximately 60 percent of people in his union are flood-affected.

In these remote areas, there are no embankments to save the locals from floods, lamented the public representatives.

Through the Extended Community Climate Change-Flood project, a total of 525 homesteads in 20 villages of Rajpur and Khuniagach unions in Lalmonirhat have been elevated along the Teesta River shoal.

Each beneficiary received an investment of Tk 25,000 for raising their homesteads. NAZIR implemented the project with funding from the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). Beneficiary families were also

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Govt equipment neglected for years in Habiganj

Authorities accused of wasting public funds

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Government equipment worth crores of taka are lying neglected, without adequate maintenance by municipal authorities in Ajmeriganj of Habiganj.

According to municipality sources, a road roller, a mini truck, and a second road roller were allocated by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development at different times, which have been left abandoned for a long time.

To make matters worse, many components of those machines have been stolen over time.

"In 2012, a road roller was used in the development works on the Ajmeriganj-Baniachong road for only a few days. At that time, the roller was damaged in an accident, and since then it has been left abandoned in a field in front of Shibpasha Union Parishad," said Mifta Mia, a resident of Shibpasha.

"The other road roller and a mini truck have also been left idle in front of the Ajmeriganj municipal office for a long time," he said.

The machines weren't used for anything over the years,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Three killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Three people, including a woman, were killed in a head-on collision between a van and a CNG auto-rickshaw in the Chanbhanga area of Chunarughat-Shyestaganj road of Habiganj. The incident took place on Thursday night, around 10 pm. Three others were injured in the accident.

The deceased are CNG driver Jasim Mia, 25, of Rajapur village of Deorgach union; Rumel Ahmed, 55, of Boro Ladia village; Najma Akhter, 40, wife of Abdur Rahim of Kalishiri village.



Chunarughat Police Station OC Md Rashedul Haque said the driver of the CNG auto-rickshaw was going to Chunarughat upazila Sadar with five passengers on Thursday night. The van's driver was going from Chunarughat to Olipur area of Habiganj Sadar Upazila. The two vehicles collided, leaving Rumel Ahmed and Nazma Begum dead on the spot. Jasim Mia died on the way to the hospital.

The three other passengers, who were injured, were rescued and taken to the hospital. Among them, a woman named Khadija Akhtar was sent to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital in critical condition. The other two are currently undergoing treatment at Habiganj's district hospital, he added.

Prime accused in Cox's Bazar gang-rape case arrested

UNB, Cox's Bazar

The Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) on Thursday arrested the prime accused in a case over the gang rape of two teenage girls at Kalatoli Cottage zone in Cox's Bazar district town, that took place on Monday night.

The arrestee is Monirul Islam alias Harbodol, 35, son of Nur Ahmed of Ghonapara area of Cox's Bazar municipality.

Earlier on Tuesday, police also arrested Riyad, 30, in connection with his alleged involvement in the crime.

Tipped off, a team of RAB-15 conducted a drive in the Rubber Garden area of Ramu Upazila on Thursday afternoon and arrested Monirul, Senior Assistant Director of RAB-15, Abu Salam Chowdhury said in a press briefing yesterday.

He said that the two teenage girls, who went to Cox's Bazar from Dhaka to perform dance at a programme, were reportedly gang raped by a group of miscreants at Rajon Cottage, in front of Kalatoli Cultural Centre in the Cox's Bazar district town.

On Tuesday, the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



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What are the key issues for G20 summit

REUTERS, New Delhi

Leaders of the world's richest and most powerful countries will attend the two-day G20 Summit in India's capital New Delhi starting today. This is the first time India will host such a powerful group of world leaders.

The capital has been adorned with ornamental flowers and fountains at traffic roundabouts while public buildings and sidewalks have been given a fresh coat of paint.

Security is being provided by anti-drone systems, cutouts of langurs to scare away monkeys and 130,000 police and para-military personnel.

WHAT IS THE G20?

The world's 20 major countries formed an economic grouping after the Asian financial crisis in 1999 with the understanding that such crises could no longer be contained within a nation's borders and required better international economic cooperation.

The bloc currently accounts for 80 percent of global gross domestic production (GDP) and 75 percent of international trade.

Its members include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.

Although only treasury chiefs met in the initial years, heads of all member nations decided to meet once a year for a leaders' summit post the 2008 financial crisis.

KEY ISSUES THIS YEAR

Under India's year-long presidency, the bloc has centred discussions around more loans to developing nations from multilateral institutions, reforming international debt architecture, regulations on cryptocurrency and the impact of geopolitical uncertainties on food and energy security.

So far this year, the bloc has failed to issue any joint statements as it is deeply divided over language referring to the war in Ukraine.

While Russia and China are against blaming Moscow for the war in Ukraine, Western countries including the United States, France and Canada have sought a strong condemnation as a necessary condition for a joint statement.

SUMMIT THEME

India's G20 theme is derived from the Sanskrit phrase "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" which translates to "The World is One Family".

WHERE IS THE NEXT MEETING

India will hand over the presidency to Brazil on December 1.



Protesters shout slogans as they burn effigies of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister of Manipur N Biren Singh during a demonstration in Imphal yesterday, demanding the restoration of peace in India's north-eastern Manipur state following ongoing ethnic violence.

PHOTO: AFP

G20 leaders can stop climate breakdown

Says UN chief, urges them to reshape financial rules

REUTERS, New Delhi

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said G20 leaders have the power to reset a climate crisis that is "spinning out of control" and urged them to reshape global financial rules which he described as outdated and unfair.

"The climate crisis is worsening dramatically - but the collective response is lacking in ambition, credibility, and urgency," Guterres said in a speech in New Delhi, capital city of India, which is chairing the G20 this weekend.

Guterres asked the G20 to commit to keeping the "1.5 degree goal alive" - referring to the 2015 Paris Agreement goal of limiting the global average temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels,

and aiming for 1.5. "I have put forward a Climate Solidarity Pact - in which big emitters make extra efforts to cut emissions; and wealthier countries support emerging economies to achieve this," Guterres said.

The plan urges developed countries to reach net-zero as close as possible to 2040, and emerging economies as close as possible to 2050, proposing a phase out of coal by 2030 in OECD countries and 2040 in all others.

"The climate crisis is spiralling out of control. But G20 countries are in control," he said. "Together, G20 countries are responsible for 80 percent of global emissions. Half-measures will not prevent full climate breakdown."

The UN chief also called on

G20 leaders to ensure a stimulus of at least \$500 billion per year towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

An effective debt workout mechanism is needed to support payment suspensions, longer lending terms and lower rates on fairer terms for poorer countries, he said.

Calling the global financial architecture "outdated, dysfunctional, and unfair," Guterres said it needed deep, structural reform. "And the same can be said of the United Nations Security Council."

China's Xi Jinping will miss the G20 meeting at a time of heightened trade and geopolitical tensions with US and India.

Diplomatic opprobrium and war crimes charges are also keeping Russian leader Vladimir Putin away, although Moscow continues to press allies to water down international condemnation of its invasion of Ukraine.

HK flooded by heaviest rainfall in 140 years

AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong was flooded by the heaviest rainfall in nearly 140 years yesterday, leaving the city's streets and some subway stations under water and forcing its schools to close.

Just across the border, authorities in China's tech hub Shenzhen recorded the heaviest rains since records began in 1952.

Climate change has increased the intensity of tropical storms, experts say, with more rain and stronger gusts leading to flash floods and coastal damage.

The heavy rains in Hong Kong started on Thursday and in the hour leading up to midnight, the city's weather observatory recorded hourly rainfall of 158.1 millimetres at its headquarters.

Pelosi to run for re-election to US Congress

AFP, San Francisco



Former US House speaker Nancy Pelosi, one of the most influential - and at 83 years old, longest-serving - Democrats, said yesterday she will seek another term as a representative for California

in Congress. Pelosi said in a post on X that the United States needs "to show the world that our flag is still there, with liberty and justice for ALL." "That is why I am running for reelection - and respectfully ask for your vote," she continued on the platform formerly known as Twitter. Her announcement that she wants another four-year term is likely to deepen debate in the United States over the ageing of its political class. President Joe Biden, also a Democrat, is 80, while his Republican rival, former president Donald Trump, is 77. Their respective ages - and how it may affect their abilities to lead the country - are a central issue in the looming 2024 fight for the White House. Top US Senate Republican Mitch McConnell, who has made headlines recently after two incidents in which he appeared to be briefly unable to speak in front of reporters, is 81.

BY-ELECTIONS IN INDIA: BJP, opposition INDIA bloc achieve a tie

NDTV ONLINE

India's ruling BJP and the opposition INDIA alliance have, so far, achieved a tie in the by-elections to the seven seats that took place on Tuesday. While the BJP has won the Dhanpur and Boxanagar assembly seats in Tripura and Bageswhar in Uttarakhand, the opposition bloc has won in Jharkhand's Dumri, Puthupally in Kerala and Dhuguri in West Bengal. The Samajwadi Party, which is a member of the INDIA alliance, is leading in Uttar Pradesh's Ghosi constituency. In Tripura, BJP's Tajjajal Hossain won the Boxanagar seat while the tribal-dominated Dhanpur was won by Bindu Deb Nath. In Uttarakhand's Bageswhar, after taking an early lead over the BJP's Parwati Dass, the Congress party's Basant Kumar fell behind. Dass defeated Kumar by over 2,400 votes. The by-poll was held after the death of four-time MLA and cabinet minister Chandan Ram Das in April. Delivering a big blow to the ruling CPI(M), Chandy Oommen of the Congress-UDF alliance won the Puthupally by-election in Kerala by a margin of over 36,000 votes. Oommen gained a clear edge in the first round and retained that position till the counting of votes was completed. Jharkhand Mukti Morcha candidate Bebi Devi has won the by-election to the Dumri assembly seat in Jharkhand's Giridih district.

Social welfare

FROM PAGE 12

village in Kaliganj upazila, is the Awami League lawmaker from Lalmonirhat-2 (Aditmari-Kaliganj) constituency and also the president of Kaliganj upazila AL.

His son Rakibuzzaman is a college teacher and also the organising secretary of Lalmonirhat AL. His younger brother Bhutto is a contractor.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not reach Bhutto over the mobile phone for his comments.

The minister and his close family members also received abnormally low bills over the last four years.

Wishing not to be named, an officer of Kaliganj Nesco told this newspaper that the higher authorities were looking into whether there were any anomalies in preparing the bills.

Injured monkey

FROM PAGE 12

The monkey came to the limelight across the country when it appeared on its own thrice at Sitakunda Upazila Health Complex for treatment a few days back.

Locals said they first spotted the monkey in the area around a month back and since then it was frequently seen there.

The monkey was spotted in front of the upazila health complex on September 2 with injuries.

Nuruddin Rashed, a physician at the upazila health complex, said they found the monkey, with wounds, sitting on the balcony of the hospital when he was about to leave work.

Later, he dressed the wounds on the monkey, and it left the health complex, said the doctor.

The monkey again appeared at the hospital on the next two consecutive days, he said, adding that it was provided treatment.

The animal probably suffered from wounds caused by electric shock after it sat on power lines, he said.

G20 'almost ready'

FROM PAGE 12

to work with all parties and push for a positive outcome at the summit.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning made the remarks after a media report said Sunak blamed China for delaying an agreement on various issues, including Ukraine.

Sunak will urge Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "call out" Russia over its invasion and use its clout to help end the war, the Financial Times reported on Thursday.

The hardened stance on the war has prevented agreement on even a single communicate at the ministerial meetings during India's G20 presidency so far this year, leaving it to the leaders to find a way around, if possible.

Modi's government is projecting India's presidency of the group and the summit as a showcase for the country's fast-growing economy and its rising position in the geo-political pecking order.

New Delhi has been decked up

Active monsoon may help spread dengue further

FROM PAGE 1

Entomologist Manjur A Chowdhury, former president of Zoological Society of Bangladesh, said intermittent rains and high humidity create the perfect conditions for Aedes aegypti mosquitoes to thrive.

"Intermittent rain can fill discarded containers with water, which is where the Aedes mosquito lays its eggs. Besides, there is a strong link between high humidity and the increased biting behaviour of the Aedes mosquitoes."

So, the likelihood of dengue cases increasing this month is significant, Manjur added.

GM Saifur Rahman, an entomologist at National University, Bangladesh, said, "Dhaka city may

for the gathering with a brand new summit venue, fountains, flowerpots and illumination along major thoroughfares, alongside thousands of armed security personnel standing guard.

More than a hundred Tibetan refugees staged a protest away from the city centre yesterday, demanding that the "occupation" of their country by China be discussed during the summit.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, who is in New Delhi ahead of Biden's arrival, earlier said Washington is willing to work with India to help craft a communicate at the end of the summit but it would be a challenge.

"I know the negotiators are discussing it, and working hard to do so and we stand ready certainly to work with India to try to craft a communicate that successfully addresses this concern," Yellen told reporters at a briefing.

The most important thing that can be done to support global economic growth is for Russia to end its brutal war in Ukraine, she said.

develop herd immunity against dengue due to the large number of people infected with the virus since 2000. However, the chances of cases increasing outside the capital remain high.

"If we do not control the Aedes mosquito population, there is a risk that a large number of eggs will be laid by Aedes mosquito this season. These eggs may hatch next season and lead to another outbreak."

During the lean period of dengue (November to April), the authorities need to identify active clusters and carry out an extensive drive, including source reduction, larviciding, and adulticiding, until the reproductive chain of the Aedes mosquitoes is broken, Saifur added.

Redraft it in light of best int'l practices

FROM PAGE 1

elements required for an international standard cyber security act, TIB said.

There are clauses in the bill that leave scope for authorities to "label" one's dissent voice or freethinking as an offence while it also gives police ample power without proper checks and balances, it added.

TIB said it emailed the authorities concerned a working paper titled "From Digital Security Act-2018 to Draft Cyber Security Act-2023: Comparative Analysis and Recommendations" on Thursday.

There, it urged the ministers, MPs, and the parliamentary body concerned to play a strong role so that the CSA does not become a "weapon"

like the DSA to gag freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

In a statement, which came along with the working paper, TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said the decision to formulate the CSA and repeal the DSA proves the government's realisation of people's concern over the misuse of DSA.

Now, it may logically come to people's mind that elements that led to the decision to repeal the DSA would not be incorporated into the CSA, he said.

The objective of the new law should be to prepare a legal framework to ensure the safety of digital platforms and the opportunity for all to use those platforms freely, he added.

Macron to visit Dhanmondi

FROM PAGE 1

will welcome him upon his arrival at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport tomorrow evening.

From the airport, Macron will go to Hotel InterContinental. There, he will attend an official dinner to be hosted by Hasina.

The French president will then go to the Dhanmondi Lake and then meet the Joler Gaan band and enjoy its music.

On September 11 morning, he will pay homage to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing wreaths at Bangabandhu's portrait and then visit the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in Dhanmondi.

Macron will hold a bilateral meeting with Hasina at the Prime Minister's Office.

There, France and Bangladesh may sign several deals, including one on buying planes from Airbus, a European plane manufacturing company, said another diplomatic source.

Earlier, Foreign Minister AK Abdul

Momen told reporters that during Hasina's visit to France in November last year, Bangladesh agreed to buy 10 planes, including two cargo carriers, from Airbus.

The two countries may also discuss purchasing of the second satellite - Bangabandhu Satellite-2 - from France and setting up of a satellite manufacturing plant in Bangladesh as proposed by France last year, Momen said.

Climate change and the Rohingya crisis will be two other major issues for discussion during the meeting, said foreign ministry officials.

"France played a major role in formulating the Loss and Damage initiative. So, the countries like Bangladesh that are affected by climate change need funding for making up part of the damage," an official said.

Therefore, Dhaka will call on the French president to play a more active role in operationalising the fund of the Loss and Damage initiative, he told this correspondent.

Three fighting

FROM PAGE 12

Only one train left for CU from Chattogram city at night, he added.

Dr Sarwar said Aung had injured his head and neck while Khalilur suffered head injuries.

"The only good news is that none of the three had brain haemorrhage," the physician added.

Meanwhile, a tense situation prevailed on the campus yesterday following the Thursday night's violence. Presence of students was thin on the weekend.

Rumpa, a student of physics, said they were worried after Thursday's violence.

About the students' demand, CU Proctor Nurul Azim Sikder said they would talk to the railway authorities to increase the number of shuttle trains between the port city and the university at night.

Tunisia press union denounces state 'censorship'

AFP, Tunis

Tunisia's journalists' syndicate yesterday denounced state censorship of mass media and said authorities have "repressed" freedoms in the country reeling under a political and economic crisis.

"The freedom of the press is increasingly repressed and the authorities are adopting a policy of lockdown and censorship to enforce their control over the media, particularly state media," the head of the SNJT union, Mehdi Jelassi, told a news conference.

He said "cases of censorship have been recorded on national television programmes, on the TAP news agency and the newspaper La Presse," all of which are state-owned.

Jelassi argued that such "methodical censorship" aims to remove the voices of the opposition or civil society organisations from broadcasts or the press.

Jessia in action

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Jessia Islam is on a secret mission after assisting special agent MR-9 in preventing a terror attack on Las Vegas. She has now landed at The Daily Star to reveal her challenging role as agent Rupa in the action-packed film **MR-9: Do or Die**.

What made you choose 'MR-9' for your debut film?

The character of agent Rupa drew me to the script. Her unbreakable spirit and her fight against crime captivated me. I can't believe I made my debut in such a terrific role.

While reading the script, did you feel that your character was adequately highlighted in a male-oriented plot?

I never had a problem working in a male-centric film because it motivated me to contribute to female-centric plots as well. Without understanding the psyche of male-oriented plots, it is difficult to appreciate the complexity of its counterpart stories.

As an actor, I will accept any role that suits me, regardless of its screen time—be it 10 minutes or 10 seconds. I have confidence in my ability to give my best.

Initially, 'MR-9' was released in local theatres in English, but it struggled due to language barrier. How will the audience accept its Bengali version?

Since **MR-9** is a collaborative effort between the United States and Bangladesh, and English is globally prioritised, we initially released it in English. While we received mostly positive reviews, there were some negative ones as well. However, we must gracefully accept both kinds of feedback as we plan for the next sequel.

Recently, you faced an awkward question on a TV channel about having a 'sugar daddy'. Why do you think female celebrities are asked such derogatory questions?

In Bangladesh, there is a misconception that if a woman is performing well in an industry, there must be a man backing her up. People think that no woman can be successful without a man's help, which is sad. TV channels often ask such derogatory questions to actresses to gain views for their content. It is crucial to stand against such issues and I encourage everyone to do so. I hope men are also questioned like this in the future.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

OUT AND ABOUT IN DHAKA



Tirthojatri

September 12-13 | 7.30 pm
National Theatre, Bangladesh
Shilpakala Academy



Let Me Out

September 14-15 | 7.15 pm
Nilima Ibrahim Auditorium,
Bailey Road



Jatrapala 'Rebel Michael Madhusudan'

September 14 | 7 pm
Studio Theatre Hall, Bangladesh
Shilpakala Academy

TRENDY STREAMS

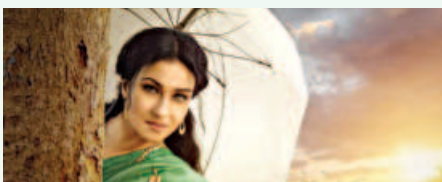
Netflix
A Time Called You



Amazon Prime
Sitting in Bars With Cake



Hoichoi
Datta



Disney+ Hotstar
Kaala



Bongo BD
Puff Daddy



WHAT'S PLAYING

Farq Hai

Suzonn's **Farq Hai** is a soul-stirring Urdu song that dives deep into the complexities of human emotions. The song begins with the gentle strumming of an acoustic guitar, the calm tone immediately setting a somber and melancholic mood. The chords played are slow and deliberate, carrying a sense of longing and introspection.

The lyrics, penned by the singer himself, are a poignant expression of the distinctions and disparities that can arise between two individuals, even in the closest of bonds. The symbolic imagery of land and sky beautifully illustrates the contrast between the two, depicting the inherent differences that make them unique.

ONE MINUTE REVIEW

PAST LIVES



Past Lives marks the directorial debut of South Korean-Canadian filmmaker Celine Song. The movie can be described as a testament to enduring aesthetics. The narrative spans over 12 years, twice, to illustrate the points at which the story's leading man and woman briefly intersect.

Jung Hae Sung, portrayed by Teo Yoo, is a character who openly but subtly expresses his feelings with restraint. Nora, played by Greta Lee, is a more ambitious character, leaned towards assertiveness. The actors immerse themselves in portraying the roles, and the cinematography effectively engages the audience. The glimpses of both South Korea and America are presented through a fresh yet vintage lens.

The linear narrative of Hae Sung and Nora is the film's focal point. The emotional turmoil they undergo while grappling with Nora's life choices is palpable in every scene.

Throughout the movie, the characters frequently reference the Korean word "inyeon", which signifies the connections shared by two individuals over the course of their lives.

STYLE STATEMENT

VICKY KAUSHAL

We all know popular Bollywood star Vicky Kaushal is an actor par excellence but his sartorial choices are also no less than inspirational. For casual attire, he opted for a deep blue denim jacket that exudes a cool and relaxed vibe. Complementing this standout piece is a burnt orange colour-blocked shirt, adding a touch of vibrancy to his outfit. To round off his look, Vicky sports a rugged beard and a sleek pair of black sunglasses.



Lavrov's visit consolidates BD-Russia relations

Russia should help us with supply of LNG, wheat and fertilisers

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's trip to Bangladesh, the first ever visit of its kind from a Russian foreign minister, is an important milestone in continuing diplomatic relations between our two countries. The seeds of this relationship were sowed in 1971, when the Soviet Union extended its support to Bangladesh during the Liberation War, and as such we welcome his presence and his talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen.

However, it is important to note that this trip comes at a time when the major nations are deadlocked in a power struggle, and increasingly turning towards the Indo-Pacific region as a battleground for their hostile relations. Coupled with the disruption of global supply chains and subsequent price hikes as a direct result of the Russia-Ukraine war and sanctions against Russia, countries like Bangladesh are finding themselves caught in the crossfire and having to maintain a delicate balancing act to navigate these challenging diplomatic situations.

Lavrov made strong statements on US interference and Russia's commitment to working with its partners to prevent any outside "dictates." In this regard, we defend our right to formulate our own national policies without facing external pressure from any nation. At such a time, it is even more imperative for Bangladesh to maintain its foreign policy position of friendship to all, malice to none.

We hope that part of this policy of maintaining friendly, mutually beneficial relations will lead to creating conditions that allow Bangladesh to deal with and recover from the negative impacts of the past year's global events. A possible supply of LNG, wheat and fertilisers to provide urgent relief from high inflationary pressures is the need of the hour, as well as repayment of loans from Russia in a currency that will suit Bangladesh. At the same time, we hope Russia will exert its influence with its allies in the region to hold Myanmar accountable for the violence against the Rohingya, and ensure safe, voluntary and durable repatriation of Rohingya refugees.

So far, Bangladesh has taken a balanced position in the UN regarding the Russia-Ukraine war. We support the prime minister's call for all parties to arrive at a peaceful settlement through negotiations, and hope that in the ongoing G20 summit, major powers will listen to the voice of reason that countries like Bangladesh are providing, and choose cooperation instead of militarisation.

Ensure justice in Cox's Bazar rape case

Make reporting cases of sexual violence easier for victims

We are enraged to learn about the gang rape of a 19-year-old woman in Cox's Bazar's Kolatoli area. On September 4, the rape survivor and another woman, who were visiting from Dhaka, were taken and held captive at Rajan Cottage by a group of criminals. According to her, three men raped her and forced them to board a Dhaka-bound bus the following day. She had to be admitted to Ramu Upazila Health Complex due to the severity of the physical and psychological trauma. Once the police were informed, they moved her to Cox's Bazar General Hospital.

This case is yet another tragic example of how unsafe this country is for women. According to Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), at least 640 women were raped, and among them 23 were also murdered, within the last six months of 2022. It's feared that the actual scenario is much worse, as numerous incidents of rape and sexual violence are never reported. It's time for us to take a hard look at why many refrain from reporting rape cases.

In December 2021, a girl was raped, but police ignored her allegation and arrested her for theft instead. In another case, one rape survivor had to stay at police station for three days because the police delayed recording the case. We have seen police being reluctant to take action when the perpetrator is a member of the force or politically influential. How would a survivor of sexual assault have faith that law enforcement members would come to her aid without questioning her past, her clothing, why she was there or what the relation between her and the assaulter was? Even if she could successfully file the case, is there any assurance that she would not be socially persecuted, threatened, and/or financially crippled for continuing to seek justice? How can she take on the mammoth burden on top of her horrific experience when thousands of cases remain unresolved?

We acknowledge that there are positive steps towards improvement, like abolishing the practice of two-finger test. We understand that the culture of rape and sexual assault against women has deeper roots in our society, and need thorough and prolonged actions to be uprooted. But, at the very least, our law enforcement and legal system must rise above social misogyny and emerge as reliable support systems for the victims of sexual violence.

New Message

Have things to say? Want your thoughts about current events to be published in The Daily Star? Send us a letter (100 - 300 words) with your name and area!

Write to us: letters@thedailystar.net

Khadija's ordeal and the questions we need to ask



Md Shah Nawaz Khan Chandan is assistant professor at the Institute of Education and Research, Jagannath University. He can be reached at s.nawazk28@yahoo.com.

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

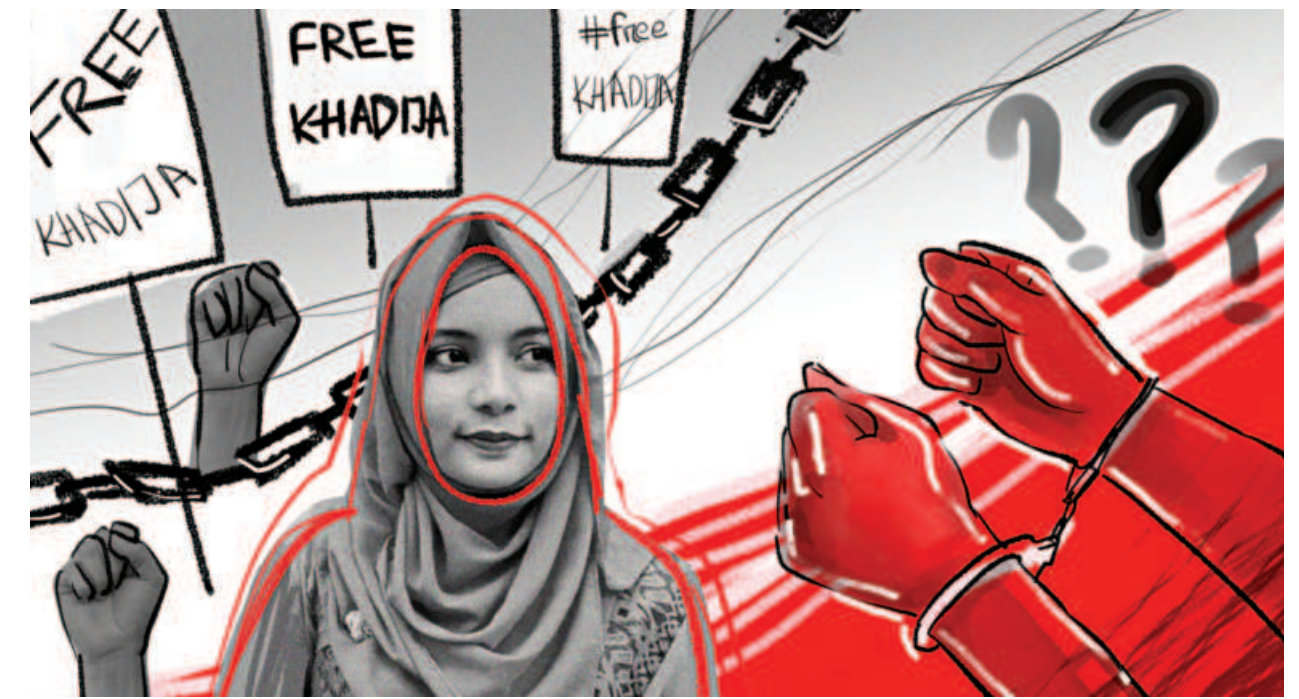
Khadijatul Kubra, a student of political science at Jagannath University, was supposed to complete her third year of undergraduate studies by the end of this year. As the daughter of a Kuwaiti expat father and a struggling mother, at this moment, she would probably support her family with part-time jobs while preparing for a bright career. According to her classmates and teachers, Khadija is smart, intelligent, well-informed and a studious person. She loves her studies and to explore beyond the classroom and textbooks. She was also a lance corporal of Bangladesh National Cadet Corps and the class representative at her department.

Unfortunately, such a prospective talent has been languishing in jail for more than a year for something that would have been deemed as a commendable job in any civilised society.

In 2020, when most university students were suffering from prolonged inactivity that led many of them to mental health issues due to months-long shutdowns and hardly accessible online classes, Khadija did not sit idle. Although she was only a fresher at the time, she became a familiar face on her campus by hosting webinars on social issues, politics and human rights, connecting people from home and abroad. She hosted webinars on the living conditions and struggles of Bangladeshi migrant workers during Covid, the state of student politics and students' rights at Jagannath University, democracy in Bangladesh, and so on.

In October 2020, former army officer Major (ret'd) Delwar Hossain joined in one such webinar, and at one point, he criticised the current government. Only for hosting this webinar, Khadija, along with Delwar Hossain who lives in Canada, was charged under the draconian Digital Security Act (DSA). As per media reports, police filed two cases with two police stations, but the words in the charge sheets filed against her are similar. In both cases, Khadija has been accused of foiling the current political situation, involving common people in anti-state activities, and defaming the image of Bangladesh abroad.

This was just the beginning of the



VISUAL: REHNUMA PROSHOON

persecution against Khadija, just a 17-year-old girl when she hosted the webinar and when the DSA cases against her were filed with Kalabagan and New Market police stations, according to her identity and academic documents. Per the Children's Act, 2013, Khadija's age must be considered from the day of the occurrence of the incident. Therefore, per the law, Khadija is entitled to be treated as a child, her trial has to be processed by the juvenile court, she can be taken into custody only for the shortest possible duration, and even if she has to be taken into custody, she can only be detained in a child development centre, not in any jail.

In one case, police recorded Khadija's age as 19 years, and in the other case 22 years. This is a flagrant violation of the Children's Act, where it has been clearly stated that if the police detain a person who may be below 18 years of age, the person's age must be determined by the investigation officer by checking their identity papers and other documents. Also, a probation officer and the parents of the accused have to be involved in the process. If the age cannot be confirmed through papers, the person has to be produced before

a children's court. The court, after thorough investigation, will decide on the person's age.

No such procedure was followed in this case. Almost two years after filing the cases, police picked Khadija up from her home at Mirpur on August 27, 2022. According to her family members, even moments before her arrest, they did not have any idea that she had been sued under the DSA.

Students and teachers of all universities, human rights activists and organisations at home and abroad have been vehemently protesting against such a cruel treatment of a minor girl. Breaking free from the shackles of intimidation, people are now staging demonstrations demanding her immediate release.

One can't help but wonder: is such a vicious application of DSA against

Khadija was produced before the Cyber Tribunal where her appeals for bail were rejected three times, and she was sent to jail even before the beginning of her trial. Reviewing her appeal for bail, the High Court granted her permanent bail on February 16 this year, but when the state party challenged this verdict before the Appellate Division, a full bench led by the chief justice postponed the hearing of the bail petition for four months.

Unfortunately, in none of the hearings did the court raise any concern over how the police determined Khadija's age during their investigations.

Jailed without any trial, Khadija did not get any opportunity to prove her innocence. Meanwhile, her academic career has been stalled. The court did not issue any directive to the jail and the university authorities to allow her to appear in the examinations from jail. As a result, she is already two semesters behind in her studies.

According to her family members, Khadija has been suffering from kidney disease. So far, she has not received any specialised medical treatment other than treatment by the jail doctors.

a 17-year-old university student not tarnishing the image of Bangladesh and the incumbent government? What did the government and its judicial administration achieve by detaining a bright female student without any proven crime?

Khadija's ordeal has exposed some flawed sides of our legal system that hold us responsible to raise some questions. For instance, does the state have the right to incarcerate a citizen without any trial and without proving their guilt? Especially when there are plenty of examples where people accused of serious offences such as rape, murder and money laundering are getting bails and in many cases, they have gotten anticipatory bails? If Khadija is granted bail in the coming months, how will the state ensure that she recovers her health and continues her studies? If she is proven innocent, how will the state compensate her for the irrecoverable losses she is suffering during her pretrial incarceration?

Unless and until our legal system is reformed, these questions need to be asked repeatedly to ensure that no other talented mind like Khadija is silenced by the state and its laws that we envisioned to protect our rights.

Reinforcing our commitment to Rohingya refugees



Kanni Wignaraja is assistant secretary general at the United Nations and assistant administrator and regional director for Asia-Pacific at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

KANNI WIGNARAJA

It has been more than six years since the forced mass displacement of over 700,000 Rohingya from Myanmar's Rakhine state took place in August 2017. They fled state oppression and were forced to leave their homes and embrace an uncertain future. Bangladesh found itself having to deal with one of the most rapid, large-scale human displacements ever faced by a single country. The people and Government of Bangladesh rose to this extraordinary challenge with compassion and courage, and the United Nations along with the wider international community collaborated to assist the country in responding to this crisis.

However, as a large part of the Rohingya population, in Bangladesh, enters its seventh year residing in refugee camps, international attention has been diverted by other global crises and disasters. This has resulted in a funding crisis to support those displaced around the world. There is a pressing need for the world to reinvigorate its commitment to the

Rohingya and to help find a sustainable long-term solution for more than one million refugees who now live in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char.

The drawdown in funding is creating a dilemma for both the international community and the people of Bangladesh, while causing deep cuts to the lives and hopes of the Rohingya refugees. Humanitarian conditions in the world's largest single refugee camp could further deteriorate significantly as funding declines. Food ration cuts, for example, threaten to increase rates of malnutrition. Shortages in clean water and proper sanitation, and the lack of access to decent livelihoods risk throwing basic living conditions out the window. All this, in an already fragile ecozone prone to natural disasters, is contributing to a crisis of human development and human security in the camps.

Criminal groups who menace camp communities could increase their efforts to recruit youths. Amid despair and uncertainty about the future, incidents of communal, sexual

and gender-based violence have shown a dramatic uptick. This is, sadly, an unsurprising consequence. On the housing front, heavy and more frequent rains linked to climate change batter bamboo and tarpaulin shelters that house a majority of the Rohingya, barely sheltering them from the harsh elements. Recurring maintenance and rebuilding costs cannot be borne by this community. But perhaps the greatest cost is the loss of hope for a better future among many Rohingya, especially women and girls.

Next week, when we visit the camps in Cox's Bazar and Bhasan Char, we will meet with Rohingya communities, the government and partners to explore new initiatives and support. The safe, voluntary, dignified, and sustainable repatriation of the Rohingya to their homes in Myanmar remains the primary solution to the crisis. We need to recognise, however, that the situation in Rakhine is currently not conducive to large-scale return. So, in the interim, while preparing the ground for that repatriation, we must collectively consider what more can be done.

Rohingya youth have not had access to senior secondary and tertiary education since 2012, so there is a large population of unemployed, unskilled, and under-educated Rohingya in need of education and skills development. This includes continuing to expand Myanmar's curriculum education for children in the camps, and to

support livelihood opportunities that emanate from the knowledge and skills developed. Ensuring that despairing youth have positive choices in their grasp and are not lured into extremism or criminality serves these young people, their families, and the communities around them. It is a high-return investment in a larger public good.

Another key initiative to improve the immediate living conditions of the Rohingya refugees is to scale the prototype temporary shelters built by UNDP and other partners, using resilient eco-friendly materials that are more durable than bamboo. We hope that this and other similar initiatives will make these shelters more resistant to extreme weather events and minimise rebuilding costs.

In October 2020, at the Conference on Sustaining Support for the Rohingya Refugee Response, I called for "longer term commitments and investments between and by the (concerned) parties, and the strong support of the international community." These words remain as true today as they were three years ago. The international community must not forget the plight of the Rohingya, both inside Myanmar and outside. While the journey ahead is challenging, as part of the UN system, UNDP's commitment to durable solutions together with our partners remains undeterred.



VISUAL: STAR

Why students are unsatisfied with our higher education

Dr Syed Saad Andaleeb is distinguished professor emeritus at Pennsylvania State University in the US, former vice-chancellor of Brac University, and vice chair at the Foundation for Learning, Teaching and Research.

Nabeel Iqbal is lecturer at the Department of Economics of the School of Business and Economics at North South University (NSU).

SYED SAAD ANDALEEB and NABEEL IQBAL

In response to increased competition, both local and global, universities are allocating more resources to monitor and improve student satisfaction in order to attract and retain them. These practices are picking up pace across the globe. In fact, in Bangladesh, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has directed universities to set up an Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) to ensure quality education – an important determinant of student satisfaction. If the higher education institutions (HEIs) in Bangladesh are to successfully survive and thrive in the face of ever-increasing local and international competition, they need to be on par with the changing philosophies and practices in the higher education market. One of these key changes – led by top-tier international universities – would be increased sensitivity to student needs and expectations.

On August 19, *The Daily Star* reported that the number of Bangladeshi students seeking higher education abroad had tripled despite a significant increase in the number of local universities. In 2021, the Universal College Bangladesh introduced pathway programmes to Monash University. And in May, the University College Sedaya International (UCSI), a Malaysian university, started its operations in Bangladesh. The problem of talented students leaving for higher education abroad will only be exacerbated if Bangladeshi universities fail to recognise comprehensive student needs – reflected in student satisfaction data – in this age of globalised competition in the higher education market.

Student satisfaction can be conceptualised as meeting and exceeding student expectations with respect to their educational experience and the services and facilities provided by the educational institutions. Student satisfaction with teachers and institutions indicates the extent to which students feel content, engaged, and rewarded with the educational experience as well as with administrative service and opportunities for extracurricular activities. It is a dynamic phenomenon that is continually shaped and reshaped by students' experiences at their respective institutions. Student satisfaction is affected by various factors, both macro and micro, ranging from the university's image or reputation to the quality of classroom interactions and the teacher-student relationships.

Universities endeavouring to monitor and deliver student satisfaction is a positive sum game for both the pupils and the respective institutions. The rewards of meeting and exceeding students' expectations for HEIs are many: student satisfaction can positively impact student recruitment, motivation, academic performance,

retention, fundraising, the quality of services in educational institutions, and boost university image and reputation. Student dissatisfaction, on the other hand, can negatively impact educational institutions through the increased likelihood of students quitting, transferring to other institutions, and from negative word of mouth. Therefore, the definitive answer to the question of "Does student satisfaction matter?" is an emphatic "Yes."

If educational institutions are to effectively address student satisfaction, a holistic approach and concerted efforts are required from all quarters of the institution. Additionally, the institutions need to be aware of the fact that there is no one-size-fits all model; what works for one department or geography may not work for another. However, the first steps, arguably, are to recognise that education is a service; the reputation and image of an educational institution are

classroom experiences below their expectations on the above criteria? Are teachers failing our students by not effectively addressing how they learn? Why do students feel and state (quoted from an earlier op-ed), "I don't know why I was present in the class; boredom was at its peak; the teacher was not prepared for the class... many teachers are toppers of their batches, but they cannot teach. After the first week of classes, many students are lost in a black hole."

But placing the burden on teachers alone to improve education would be wrong. We must also ask: are academic administrators guiding teachers to play a transformative role? Are they allocating the valuable resources at their disposal effectively and efficiently? And what role are our regulatory and higher bodies playing in making higher education a place from which satisfied and equipped students emerge with knowledge and skills ready to be put to use?

Research on student satisfaction can stimulate and guide future research as well as informed policymaking, especially in relation to faculty recruitment and training. As more data is accumulated in the universities in Bangladesh, it is imperative that educational institutions turn to the use of student satisfaction

significantly connected to the quality of this service where the voice of students is a critical input for institutional improvement processes.

One of our studies, based on student survey data from public and private universities in Bangladesh, identified several important correlates of student satisfaction at the micro-classroom level. While the factors identified in the study are not exhaustive, they are indicative: students want teachers to be able to explain concepts clearly, be up-to-date on content, inspire students, make the course interesting, use effective teaching methods creatively, and demonstrate their competence in teaching. These qualities of teachers are all strongly associated with students' satisfaction with teaching. Student satisfaction with the courses taught are also similarly associated. In fact, satisfaction with teaching and satisfaction with courses were the most highly associated, suggesting that teachers versed in good teaching practices also design and offer courses that are highly satisfying.

These basic facts are generally known, and our study corroborates this knowledge. However, the question that must be raised is: why do students, in general, find their

data to guide decision-making and resource allocation. We believe this view will contribute towards a paradigm shift: data-driven policymaking and strategising vis-à-vis enhancing service quality and student satisfaction in HEIs in Bangladesh.

Like the top-tier universities in developed countries, HEIs in Bangladesh also need to efficiently allocate resources by monitoring service delivery and meeting student needs and expectations. With an educational landscape that is evolving and changing rapidly, universities in various regions of the world are becoming more sensitive and responsive to the needs and expectations of students. The institutions and countries that adapt quickly to this changing landscape will be able to reap rich dividends in terms of increased student intake, retention, educational outcomes, and sustainability. Bangladesh must compete with emerging players in the international higher education market to retain its student body, as well as attract international students. A crucial factor in this regard will be the efficient allocation of resources, guided by evidence-based research – in which student satisfaction ought to play a much larger role.

Fly me to the Moon



BLOWN' IN THE WIND

Dr Shamsad Mortuza is professor of English at Dhaka University.

SHAMSAD MORTUZA

"Hey, who will harvest potatoes for my *kachchi biriyani* in space now?" a colleague of mine commented alongside a Facebook meme on *The Martian*. The primary source of his joke was the removal of the civil servant with an agriculture background from the chairmanship of SPARRSO, Bangladesh's space research organisation. The secondary source of his joke lies in the sci-fi film featuring a stranded astronaut who survives on Mars by growing potatoes using his own faeces as manure. But it was no joke that on August 24, a team of Indian scientists successfully sent Chandrayaan-3 to put a lander called Vikram (courage) and a rover called Pragyaan (wisdom) on the dark side of the Moon.

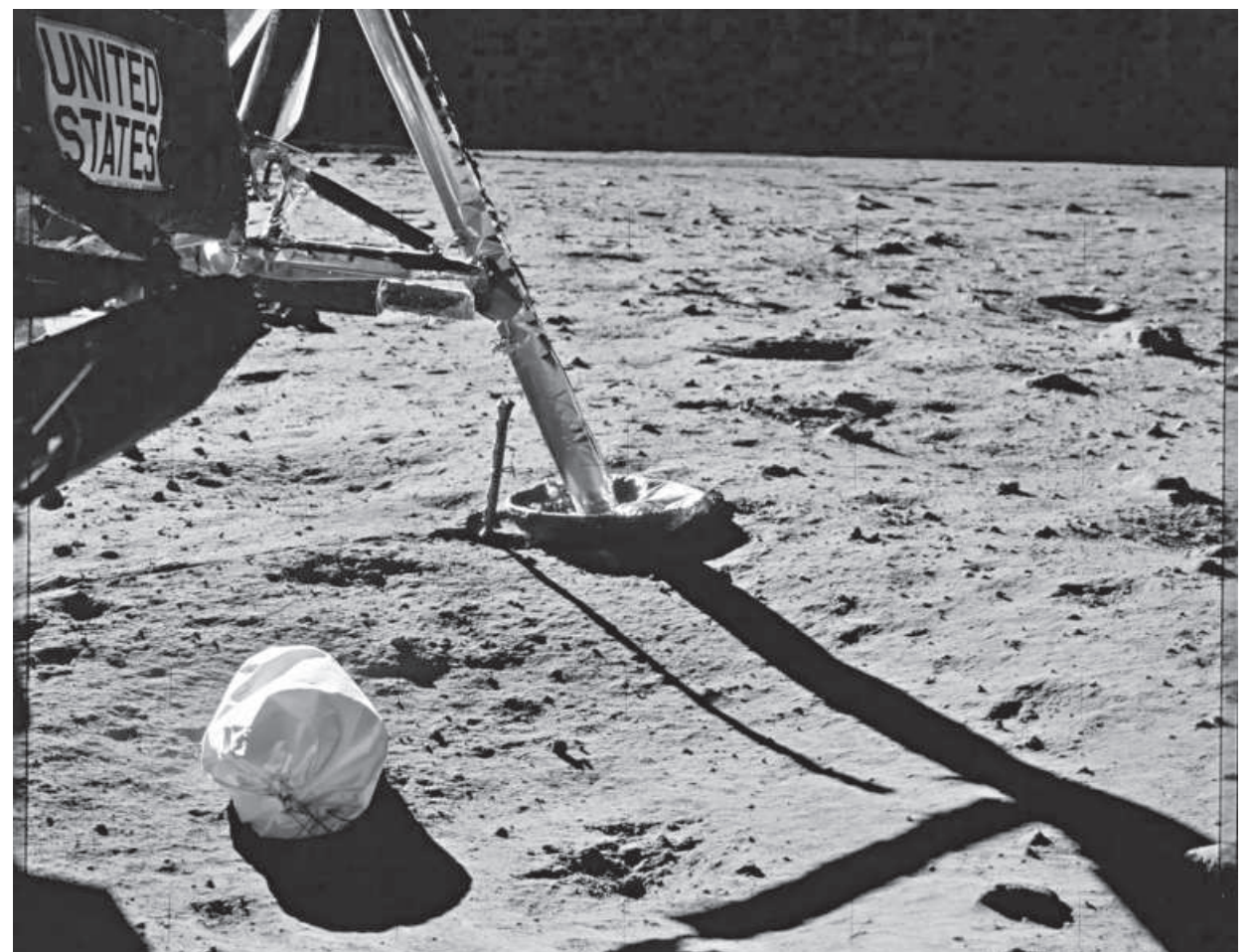
As a country where so many holidays are "subject to the sighting of the Moon," we have curiously followed our neighbour's brave lunar endeavour. The rover has

misplaced its priorities. The West has always regarded, in the words of the TV series *Star Trek*, space as the final frontier of their Enterprise. Between 1966 and 1976, the US and Russia conducted 19 of the total 21 lunar landings.

China accomplished its first lunar landing in 2013 after a 37-year hiatus, and outlined plans to dispatch humans to the Moon by the end of this decade. Now that India has joined this much-touted "Rising Asia" competition, the frontier tussle is gaining new currency. Nestled between these two rising superpowers, we ponder what the old lady on the Moon has been spinning for us! Given the tidal ebb and flow of a riverine country intricately linked to our climatic fate, one would presume that Bangladesh has an equal stake to the Moon. After all, we, too, grew up with the space ventures of Premendra Mitra's Ghonada or

started his career at the Pakistan Atomic Energy Centre before moving to the Atomic Energy Centre in Dhaka. His successor, Faruq Aziz Khan, had a PhD from Canada and conducted research in nuclear physics in the USAEC laboratories. Then we had AA Ziauddin Ahmed, who worked in high energy physics at Imperial College London. After that, we had Dr AM Choudhury, who is famous for the development of the Rose Petal Theory for the forecast of cyclone tracks on the Bangladesh coastline. Sadly, only one of the past 15 chairpersons of SPARRSO held a PhD degree. And we had a rude awakening: we are running our space programme with bureaucrats just like any other government administrative branch.

What does it tell us about a country that aspires to become smart and ready for the IT-driven Fourth Industrial Revolution? Lack of clear vision hampers our space mission. The agency lacks a satellite launch facility, an orbit, and pertinent technology. It was even excluded from the launch of the Bangabandhu-1 Satellite – a US-based private company with French assistance oversaw the mission. One accessory that justifies the name SPARRSO is a ground station, which is also funded by foreign grants. There have been repeated media reports citing the fact that the agency lacks the personnel



A jettison bag beneath the Apollo 11 lunar module in 1969.

FILE PHOTO: NASA

already begun transmitting images from the surface of the Moon, providing valuable information for scientific research that will help better understand the Moon's geology, history and resources. One such image involves sacks of faeces left on the Moon's surface. It was not a pretty sight for our Earthly satellite, which is scandalised for its scars in local folklore. India deserves praise for dispelling many such superstitions and promoting Pragyaan with courage. However, a section of the Western media remains unimpressed by India's space exploration, which now involves a second expedition to the Sun. The media highlighted the lack of access to toilets in India, where hundreds of millions of people still defecate in the open, implying that the South Asian country has

Satyajit Ray's Professor Shonku. After India's lunar landing, it was no surprise that everyone's attention turned to our space research.

A largely ignored government-sponsored research organisation specialising in remote sensing and computer modelling, Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation (SPARRSO) suddenly came under unwanted attention. The portfolio of the bureaucrat who held the chairmanship of SPARRSO is no different from that of those who follow established rules, procedures and regulations to operate within the system. I scanned the list of previous SPARRSO chairpersons. Since its inception in 1980, there have been 26 people. The first 10 chairs all had PhDs, and a number of them are famed physicians. The founding chair, Dr Anwar Hossain,

and funds necessary to operate a sophisticated space programme. In 2022, only 23 scientists out of 63 positions for officers and engineers were filled at SPARRSO.

If we truly want to harvest our dream of becoming smart global stakeholders, we must invest more in research and innovation. We must promote science and technology. We must abandon the mindset that joining the service sectors as civil, military or corporate administrators is the only career destination. Certain specialised areas should be left to the professionals. These field experts must be protected from bureaucrats who believe they can manage everything, including politicians. For our space dream to flourish, we must first create space for our specialists to prosper and develop.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

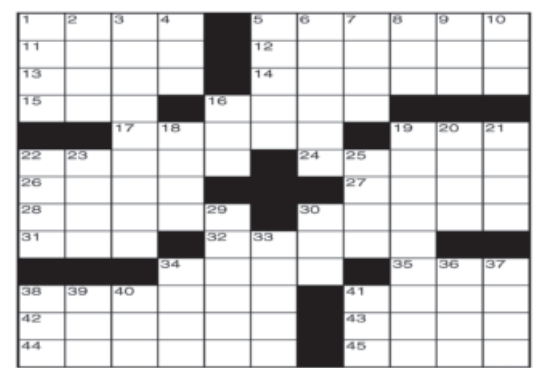
ACROSS

- 1 Years gone by
- 5 Act restless
- 11 High point
- 12 Singer Grande
- 13 Pivotal point
- 14 Snappy retort
- 15 Beer dispenser
- 16 Suit piece
- 17 Move smoothly
- 19 Carpenter's tool
- 22 Roberts of film
- 24 Following
- 26 The Emerald Isle
- 27 Diamond scores
- 28 Dance's de Mille
- 30 Thesaurus author
- 31 Not pos.
- 32 Skimpy

DOWN

- 1 Prepare for a trip
- 2 Farm chunk
- 3 Gun-running, e.g.
- 4 Cowboy nickname
- 5 Disconcerted
- 6 Van Gogh work
- 7 Force
- 8 Bit of humor

- 9 Hydrocarbon suffix
- 10 Black goo
- 16 Through
- 18 Script bit
- 19 Getting cuddly
- 20 Skin woe
- 21 Sunset site
- 22 Writer Cocteau
- 23 Goad on
- 25 Steel ingredient
- 29 Plaster finish
- 30 Singer Stewart
- 33 Hardly a fan
- 34 Throw in the towel
- 36 Fan's favorite
- 37 Refuse
- 38 Jackson 5 hit
- 39 Big snake
- 40 Dentist's deg.
- 41 Letter after sigma



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



WRITE FOR US. SEND US YOUR OPINION PIECES TO dsopinion@gmail.com.

Mushfiqur to return after SL game

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's wicketkeeper-batter Mushfiqur Rahim will be returning home following the Tigers' Asia Cup Super Four encounter with co-hosts Sri Lanka in Colombo today.

Mushfiqur's wife is expecting, which is why the experienced batter will be returning to the country, Bangladesh team operations manager Nafees Iqbal confirmed to The Daily Star yesterday.

No replacement will be made for Mushfiqur as the 36-year-old is expected to rejoin the team before Bangladesh's last Super Four game against India in Colombo on September 15.

"He will return to the country after the game [against Sri Lanka]. His wife is expecting, so it will happen after this game [Sri Lanka game]. The next game is on 15th [September], so there's a break of 6-7 days and he will head back [to Sri Lanka]," Nafees said.

Having lost their first Super Four game, the Tigers' team management would be happy to get Mushfiqur's services in their remaining games in order to make it to the final.



Looking at others to determine their fate is something that Bangladesh would not want and to avoid just that, Shakib Al Hasan's side will have to beat Sri Lanka in Colombo today. Star all-rounder Shakib, veteran Mushfiqur Rahim, and others trained at the R. Premadasa Stadium on the eve of the match hoping to keep their Asia Cup destiny in their own hands. PHOTO: BCB

Saikat gets deserved recognition

SPORTS REPORTER

Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid Saikat is set to be the first Bangladeshi to officiate in the ICC Men's ODI World Cup, and the 46-year-old said that he is looking forward to the challenge.

Saikat was named as one of the 20 match officials for the league round of the ODI World Cup 2023 in India. He will be the fourth umpire in the opening match between England and New Zealand on October 5 in Ahmedabad, said a press release from the ICC.

"To be honest, I am someone who is hardly touched by emotions. But yes, it's a great honour and joy for me. At the same time, it is also a challenging [task]. I am looking forward to making this opportunity count and let's see what happens," Saikat told The Daily Star yesterday.

Saikat, who was among the four umpires from the ICC Emerging Umpire panel along with the 16 Elite panel umpires in the 20-member list, informed that it was a roller coaster ride for him to eventually make it to the mega event.

"Look, it was a long process for me to eventually get there and it didn't happen suddenly. But I think it will open a new horizon for the other umpires in the country. We need to prove our mettle at the highest stage and remain consistent," he said.

Interestingly, despite being a highly regarded umpire in the country, Saikat officiated in his first bilateral series away from home during the three-ODI series between Pakistan and Afghanistan in Sri Lanka last month.

Saikat was also not considered to officiate in the ongoing Asia Cup.

Saikat has also remained under the radar in the domestic circuit, with the cricketer-turned-umpire yet to officiate in a Bangladesh Premier League final.

Tamim 'positive' to play from start of NZ series

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal is hopeful that he will be able to recover from his back injury and feature from the start in the upcoming three-match ODI series at home against New Zealand, scheduled to begin on September 21.

The opener had already begun his rehabilitation since returning from the UK last month. The left-hander was seen batting in the nets with low intensity in the past few days.

"I was able to tick all the boxes as prescribed during the rehabilitation programme. I will have 10 more days and I am planning to start training in full intensity [from Sunday]," said Tamim while attending a commercial endorsement in Dhaka yesterday.

"So far, there has been no setback but still there are things that need to be done. However, I didn't feel any pain so far. I think the next week will be crucial as I am planning to start training with full intensity. I am very hopeful and positive to play from the start of the New Zealand series," he added.

Tamim backed his teammates to do well in the coming days but was reluctant to comment on skipper Shakib Al Hasan and the team management's plan for the ongoing Asia Cup.

BANGLADESH VS SRI LANKA ODI STATS

The first time the two sides squared off in the ODIs was in the Asia Cup in 1986.

It took the Tigers 16 attempts to beat Sri Lanka for the first time in the format.

Till date, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka featured in 52 matches. The Tigers won on nine occasions, with two matches yielding no result.

In 14 Asia Cup encounters, Bangladesh won two times against Sri Lanka -- in 2012 and 2018 editions in Mirpur and Dubai, respectively.

Since the 2019 World Cup, Bangladesh won two of their seven matches against Sri Lanka.

The last time Bangladesh won against Sri Lanka in Sri Lanka was in Dambulla in 2017.

Bangladesh are yet to win against Sri Lanka in Colombo after 15 outings.

Overall, the Tigers emerged victorious in two of 21 fixtures in the island nation.

A win against Bangladesh today will take Sri Lanka's winning streak to 13 -- the second-highest in history, behind Australia's 21 achieved in 2003. Meanwhile, the Tigers won six of their last 12 matches, with two encounters yielding no result.

Combinations pondered to address inconsistency

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will be eager to bounce back against Sri Lanka today, following the batting slump against Pakistan on a flat batting deck in the ongoing Asia Cup.

Anything short of a win at the R. Premadasa Stadium would leave the Tigers desperately looking at other results, with their third and final Super Four fixture against India all set to be a difficult prospect.

Bangladesh have already played Sri Lanka at Pallekele in their first Group B fixture, a game where the batting had suffered.

"From the Bangladesh batting perspective, we have to make sure to keep them under pressure. We know they haven't got runs, but we know what they are capable of getting -- and give them that respect."

Sri Lanka coach Chris Silverwood said on the eve of today's match.

This time they would be without Najmul Hossain Shanto, who had scored 89 in holding the innings together before it eventually crumbled. Without Shanto, Matheesha Pathirana and Maheesh Theekshana might appear to be bigger threats this time around.

The Tigers' head coach, Chandika Hathurusingha, put on a brave face at the press conference yesterday regarding

playing the Lions at their home.

"Where Matheesha releases the ball is very different from others. It's something that many cricket teams cannot prepare for. That in itself is an advantage because you don't get to practice against that kind of bowler much. Malinga was very successful, and I think Matheesha has a big future," Chandika said about Pathirana who picked four wickets in the last game.

With Theekshana once again likely to open with the ball to fit Tigers' opening combination, coming up with a counter plan must have been the need of the hour in the team meeting yesterday.

Chandika suggested there is every chance of changing the playing eleven but mostly they need some consistency as two poor outings with the bat showed their plans did not quite match reality.

"We are very much aware of what has happened in recent past, but we have been playing good cricket. We have to play in different conditions in last two or three games. It is a big challenge for us. We talk about that we are more capable of than what we have shown here. Inconsistency is what needs to be addressed. We actually spoke about that [batting inconsistency], so we are looking forward to putting up a good show."



Where could they search for consistency at the top?

Would Mehedi Miraz once again appear as a makeshift opener? Liton may likely once again feature at number three, given Shanto's absence, although Chandika did not want to comment on these aspects. Moreover, Afif Hossain and Shamim Hossain have not found consistency either in lower-middle order.

Anamul Haque Bijoy could also come into the fray given the need for a right-handed opener to counter mystery spinner Theekshana, who has picked 24 wickets in his last 10 games.

"I think both teams will consider different combinations. We will certainly think about it. We will assess the conditions tomorrow. We won't make an early decision with the eleven," Chandika opined.

Given Mohammad Naim's failure to capitalise on starts he got in this Asia Cup, Chandika too was asked about Bijoy.

"Everyone in the squad has an opportunity to play tomorrow. We haven't made a decision yet. I can only judge his [Anamul's] mentality by his actions. He looks like he is enjoying. We saw that he is fielding brilliantly in the match against Afghanistan. He is training well. Looks like he is enjoying the environment," the Bangladesh head coach remarked regarding Bijoy.

LABUSCHAGNE ready and waiting

AFP, Bloemfontein

All-rounder Cameron Green will miss a substantial part of Australia's Cricket World Cup build-up after being struck on the head by a ball from Kagiso Rabada during the first one-day international against South Africa on Thursday.

An Australia team spokesperson confirmed on Friday that Green will undergo an eight-day concussion protocol during which he will be monitored by the team's medical staff.

He is unlikely to be available until the fifth and final match in Johannesburg on September 17.

It adds to a list of injury concerns for Australia with the World Cup starting in India on October 5, less than a month away.

It also provides an opportunity for Marnus Labuschagne to press his claims for a call-up if a vacancy opens up in the World Cup squad.

Labuschagne was man of the match on Thursday after batting as a concussion substitute for Green. He made 80 not out to steer Australia to an unlikely three-wicket win.



Injuries meant that only 11 of Australia's World Cup squad of 15 travelled to South Africa. Green's injury reduced that number to ten, which means Labuschagne has a good chance of playing in at least the next three matches, starting with the second game in Bloemfontein on Saturday.

Australian captain Pat Cummins is recovering from a wrist injury. Other World Cup players missing the South African tour because of injuries of varying degrees of seriousness are Glenn Maxwell (ankle), Mitchell Starc (groin) and Steve Smith (wrist).

Australia still have a three-match one-day series in India ahead of the World Cup in which injured players can prove their fitness.

Labuschagne was supposed to tour South Africa due to poor ODI form. He was added to the squad when Smith withdrew.

After his match-winning performance on Thursday he played down his chances of getting to the World Cup. "I wasn't too shocked when I was dropped. But I did say (to the selectors) that I still want to be that person batting for you in the middle order. You've just got to sit tight and wait for that opportunity and when the opportunity comes you've got to be ready."

Reserve day reserved for Ind-Pak

AFP, Colombo

Asia Cup organisers on Friday added a reserve day for the blockbuster clash between India and Pakistan after their first encounter at the 50-over tournament was washed out.

The arch-rivals are scheduled to play in Colombo on Sunday but thundery showers are forecast for the Sri Lankan capital over the weekend.

"If adverse weather suspends play during the Pak vs India game, the match will continue on 11th September 2023 from the point it was suspended," a statement said.

The match is the only one in the Super Four stage to have a reserve day, but coaches for both Sri Lanka and Bangladesh -- the other two teams in round two -- made guarded statements.

"It will be a problem if the reserve day provides points to the teams and not someone else, but nothing we can do about so we keep preparing and do the best we can," Sri Lanka coach Chris Silverwood said.

Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusingha said "yes, it's not ideal." He added he hadn't seen anything like this before.



India opener Shubman Gill's focus and determination were apparent during their indoor practice as they prepare for another blockbuster clash against archrivals Pakistan, who arrived in Colombo on Thursday. India will face Babar Azam and Co tomorrow in the Asia Cup Super Four match of the six-nation tournament. PHOTO: FACEBOOK

"Now we have a game philosophy and we have tried to pass it on to the team. We want to see the intensity kept high, and we hope for a good game from which we can gain confidence."

Germany coach HANSI FLICK



Gundogan to lead Germany

AFP, Munich

Barcelona midfielder Ilkay Gundogan will captain Germany, manager Hansi Flick confirmed on Friday, nine months before the country hosts Euro 2024.

Gundogan skipped Premier League and European champions Manchester City during the 2022/23 campaign before leaving for La Liga.

The 32-year-old will wear the German captain's armband during Saturday's international friendly against Japan in Wolfsburg.

In the absence of goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, Flick had opted for Joshua Kimmich as captain for friendly matches in March and June.

"It gives a new energy, which we can use," explained Flick of the "leadership duo" he was aiming to create between Gundogan and 28-year-old Bayern midfielder Kimmich.

"I'm delighted with this vote of confidence. It's a great honour for me to guide this still young team," said Gundogan, adding he was aware of the "responsibility" that went with guiding the four-time world and three-time European champions.



Bangladesh players celebrate their 2-1 victory over Pakistan in a SAFF U-16 Championship semifinal at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu yesterday. The boys in red and green will play the final tomorrow against India, who thrashed Maldives 8-0 in the first semifinal earlier in the day.

PHOTO: BFF

Under-16s into SAFF final

SPORTS REPORTER

Two-time champions Bangladesh moved into the final of the SAFF U-16 Championship after five years with a come-from-behind 2-1 win over Pakistan in the second semifinal at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu yesterday.

Bangladesh will play Sunday's final against four-time champions India, who stormed into the final with an 8-0 thrashing of Maldives in the first semifinal.

Murshed Ali and Abu Sayed struck one goal apiece for Bangladesh in the first half after Abdul Ghani had given Pakistan an early lead in their first appearance in the regional tournament in five years.

Since clinching the second trophy in 2018, Bangladesh could not qualify for the final in the last two editions in 2019 and 2022.

The boys in red and green came close to taking the lead in the very first minute but Swe Mong Sing Marma's close-range attempt was saved from the goalline by a Pakistani defender.

Bangladesh, however, conceded the lead against the run of play as Ghani, availing a defence-splitting through pass, brilliantly placed the ball over Bangladesh goalkeeper Nahidul Islam in the sixth minute.

Bangladesh did not take much time to hit back as Murshed nodded a well-judged cross from Sayed in the 14th minute before Sayed himself doubled the lead by driving a low cross from captain Nazmul Huda Faisal in the 29th minute.

Pakistan put some pressure on the defence of Bangladesh, who however wasted some goal-scoring chances to leave the pitch with smiles on their faces.

Saudi spending second only to Premier League

REUTERS

Saudi Pro League (SPL) clubs have splurged \$957 million on players in the close season transfer window, according to analysis from Deloitte published on Friday.

Saudi's spend in the transfer window, which closed on Sept. 7, exceeded the spending of four of Europe's 'big five' leagues with only the Premier League ahead of the Middle Eastern nation.

"This marks the first time since 2016 that another international league has outspent any of Europe's 'big five' during a football transfer window...," said Izzy Wray of Deloitte's Sports Business Group.

"European football continues to be the benchmark for the game globally, and the Saudi investment in the game will divert its focus towards the infrastructure, to elevate the level of Asian football."

Earlier this year, the Saudi Public Investment Fund (PIF) announced a Sports Clubs Investment and Privatization Project involving the league champions Al-Ittihad, Al-Ahli, Al-Nassr and Al-Hilal, with a host of top players moving to the league.

PIF own 75% of each of the four clubs, while their respective non-profit foundations own 25% of each.

This window's biggest transfer move came from the most successful club in Saudi Arabia, Al-Hilal, who spent 90 million euros to bring in Brazil star Neymar from Paris St Germain.

In addition to Neymar, Al-Hilal also spent big money to sign Aleksandar Mitrovic, Kalidou Koulibaly, Ruben Neves and Sergej Milinkovic-Savic.

Saudi Pro League champions Al-Ittihad signed Karim Benzema, N'Golo Kante and Fabinho, while Cristiano Ronaldo's Al-Nassr splashed out on Otavio, Sadio Mane, Aymeric Laporte, Marcelo Brozovic and Alex Telles.

Al-Ahli, who returned to the Pro League following a season in the second division, also completed a string of signings including Gabri Veiga, Riyad Mahrez, Roberto Firmino, Edouard Mendy, Alain Saint-Maximin and Merih Demiral.

Gauff, Sabalenka set up final

AFP, New York

American teenager Coco Gauff shrugged off disruption from climate protesters to reach the US Open final on Thursday as Aryna Sabalenka survived a huge scare to stay on course for a second Grand Slam title.

A night of nerve-shredding semifinal drama saw Gauff reach the final for the first time with a 6-4, 7-5 defeat of the Czech Republic's 10th seed Karolina Muchova.

The 19-year-old Gauff showed great poise to remain unfazed after the match was halted for 49 minutes early in the second set when environmental activists staged a protest in the upper tiers of the Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Play was held up as officials attempted to remove one of the protesters who had glued their bare feet to the concrete floor of the arena. The four protesters were later taken into police custody.

When play resumed, sixth seed Gauff closed out a hard-fought second set to advance to the second Grand Slam final of her career.

The protest was the latest high-profile sporting event to be targeted by environmental activists in recent years.

Gauff, who is now the youngest American woman to reach the US Open final since her idol Serena Williams in 1999, will face second seed Sabalenka in Saturday's final.

The 25-year-old from Belarus, who will take over the world No.1 ranking from Iga Swiatek at the conclusion of the tournament, has been in scintillating form in

New York.

But she was forced to come back from the brink to dig out a 0-6, 7-6 (7/1), 7-6 (10/5) win against American 17th seed Madison Keys in 2hr 32min to reach the final.

"I'm really proud of myself that I was able to turn around this game and get this win, because it was just incredible," Sabalenka said after the victory.

"I was just, like, 'Come on, keep trying, keep pushing, like, I don't know, do something extra. Just try to turn around this match.'"

"I think this kind of thinking really helped me to stay in the game and to keep trying, keep pushing, to still have this belief that I have a chance to turn around this match."

Sabalenka suffered a disastrous opening set and then fell a break behind in the second to leave Keys serving for the match at 5-4.

But the Australian Open champion roared back to force a tie-break which she won emphatically and then rode her luck in the deciding set, once again recovering from a break down to set up another tie-break.

She was left blushing after mistakenly celebrating victory in the tie-break when she went 7/3 ahead, forgetting the 2022 rule change which dictates that final set tie-breaks are now first-to-10.

"I thought that we play tie-break up till seven," a sheepish Sabalenka admitted. "I was just all over the place."

But she quickly regrouped to close out a Houdini act that had looked improbable after her out-of-sorts display for most of the first and second sets.

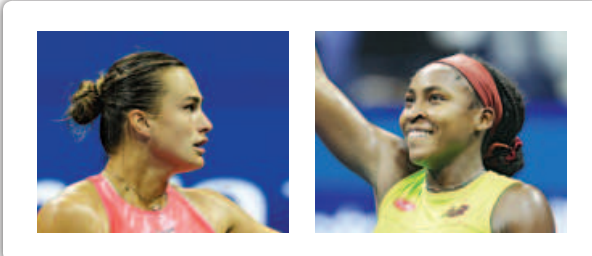


PHOTO: AP/WIDE WORLD

Italy face WC demons in Spalletti's debut

AFP, Milan

Luciano Spalletti leads Italy into a symbolic debut on Saturday as the Azzurri travel to North Macedonia in Euro 2024 qualifying, a chance to exorcise the ghosts of World Cup disaster.

Italy has been going through something of an identity crisis for nearly two decades, unsure of its position in the global game and no longer feared as in decades past.

It was Group C opponents North Macedonia who sparked the most recent bout of self-reflection by dumping Italy out of the last World Cup in last year's qualifying play-offs.

That single-goal disaster in Palermo didn't just leave Italy out of a second straight World Cup, it also wiped out the enormous amount of good will earned from triumph at the last Euro which made national heroes of the team and Spalletti's predecessor Roberto Mancini.

But in his presentation press conference Spalletti urged his team and fans to forget the bitterness of that result and focus on the future.

And goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma agrees, even if he admitted that the players "are



still angry" about missing out on the Qatar tournament.

"It's not really revenge that drives us, because we want to focus on ourselves, but we know how important this match is and what happened the last time we played them," Donnarumma told reporters.

Italy travel to Skopje for one of two matches which could decide their fate for next summer's tournament in Germany, where they are aiming to defend the Euro crown.

Ukraine will visit the San Siro on Tuesday night and after that match Italy will be hoping to be second to runaway group leaders England in the automatic Euro spots.

Italy currently sit third on three points, nine behind England who have played two games more and more importantly three away from Ukraine.

And new coach Spalletti, brought in after guiding Napoli to their first league title since 1990, has been tasked with rejuvenating a team which had begun to look tired long before Mancini jumped ship to Saudi Arabia last month.

"I have the feeling that Italy has found the right man at the right time," said Gianluigi Buffon, Italy's new delegation chief, on Monday.

"I had the chance to spend the last few days with him and his staff and they speak about ideas, feelings and values which in my opinion are what we need to reach our objectives."

Spalletti has dropped captain Leonardo Bonucci and midfielders Marco Verratti and Jorginho, all three key to Italy winning the last Euro.

The 64-year-old said that Paris Saint-Germain's Verratti and Arsenal man Jorginho were left out due to lack of playing time but the break with Bonucci seems to be permanent as the centre-back approaches the end of his playing career.

Another veteran Ciro Immobile will likely wear the skipper's armband and hope he can deliver his domestic league form on the international stage.



Germany stun USA in basketball WC semis

AFP, Manila

Germany stunned the United States to reach the Basketball World Cup final against Serbia with a 113-111 win over the Americans on Friday.

Germany went toe-to-toe with their more celebrated opponents for the full game in Manila and were rewarded with a first-ever final appearance.

The result means the United States will miss the final for the second straight tournament.

Andreas Obst, who was a constant thorn in the Americans' side, finished as Germany's top scorer with 24 points.

Serbia will face them in Sunday's final after beating Canada 95-86 earlier in the day. It was the United States' second defeat of the tournament.

Lionel Messi, as he so often does, slotted home from a close-range freekick with Ecuador goalkeeper Hernan Galindez completely rooted to his spot to give Argentina a winning start in their 2026 World Cup qualifying campaign in Buenos Aires on Friday. The defending World Champions won 1-0.

PHOTO: AFP



ELECTRICITY BILLS Social welfare minister pays his dues

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The outstanding electricity bills of Social Welfare Minister Nuruzzaman Ahmed, his son Rakibuzzaman Ahmed and his father late Karim Uddin Ahmed for four years have been paid.

The bills were paid after arrears of the minister and his family were reported by several newspapers.

Their arrears were paid through online on Thursday night, the authorities of Northern Electricity Supply Company (Nesco), which supplies electricity in the area, told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.

However, the outstanding power bill of Nuruzzaman's younger brother Shamsuzzaman Ahmed Bhutto for four years is yet to be paid.

According to Nesco officials, Bhutto's unpaid power bill is Tk 7,25,124.

The dues of Tk 72,962 of the minister, Tk 79,995 of his son and Tk 18,577 of his late father were paid.

Nuruzzaman, of Kashiram

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Putting their lives at risk, people travel on the locomotive and rooftop of a train. Ten people, including four Chittagong University students, were hit by tree branches and injured while travelling on the roof of a university shuttle train on Thursday night. The photo was taken near Karwan Bazar level crossing on Thursday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

CU SHUTTLE TRAIN TRAGEDY Three fighting for life at ICU

2 of them university students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

Amzad Hossain's family was all set to celebrate baby shower yesterday as his wife Nazma Begum entered the seventh month of her pregnancy.

But the family's happiness was short-lived as Amjad was fighting for life at the ICU of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

The 23-year-old sales representative at a private firm is among the three who are now undergoing treatment at the intensive care unit of the hospital.

The three were injured after being hit by tree branches while traveling on the roof of a Chittagong University shuttle train on Thursday night.

At least 16 people, mostly CU students, were injured in the accident around 9:00pm on Thursday. The accident prompted protests by students on the CU campus. They vandalised several vehicles, including buses.

The two others are Khalilur Rahman, 22, a student of Bangla at CU, and Aung Swe Nu Marma, 21, a student of public administration.

Speaking to The Daily Star outside the ICU, Nazma said, "I don't know what will happen to my husband."

"He sustained a head injury after falling from the roof of the train. He has been unconscious since then," she said with tears rolling down her cheeks.

Sarwar Kashem, a physician at the ICU, said Amzad had to undergo a surgery as his nasal bone was broken.

Hailing from Bahaddathat area in the port city, Amzad is a college dropout. Many of his friends are CU students.

At least 16 people, mostly students of the university, were injured in the accident around 9:00pm on Thursday. The accident prompted protests by students on the CU campus. They vandalised several vehicles, including buses.

Six other injured were undergoing treatment at the neuro surgery ward of the CMCH yesterday while the rest took primary treatment.

Like Amzad, the condition of Aung Swe Nu Marma, who hailed from Chhaoa Para in Bandarban, is also critical.

Aung climbed onto the train's roof as its coaches were already filled with passengers, said his friend Parsh Chakma.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

G20 'almost ready' with leaders' declaration

Says host India as members gather in
New Delhi with Xi, Putin absent

REUTERS, New Delhi

G20 countries have almost finalised a declaration for the weekend summit of its leaders, host India said yesterday, suggesting that negotiators had made progress in bridging differences in the group over the war in Ukraine.

The streets of the usually bustling capital New Delhi were deserted ahead of the summit with businesses, offices and schools closed as part of security measures to ensure the smooth running of the meeting, the most high-powered to be hosted by the country.

Slums, monkeys and stray dogs have been removed from the streets.

India's G20 sherpa, or negotiator, Amitabh Kant said the summit's concluding statement, the Leaders' Declaration, will be a "voice" of the global south and developing countries.



"New Delhi Leaders' Declaration is almost ready, I would not like to dwell on it," Kant told a news conference. "This declaration will be recommended to the leaders." Negotiators of the Group of

20 major economies have been struggling for days to agree on the language in the document because of differences over the war, hoping to get Moscow and Beijing on board to produce a communique that will also address pressing global problems like debt and climate change.

The weekend summit in New Delhi is expected to be dominated by the West and its allies. Chinese President Xi Jinping is skipping the meeting and sending Premier Li Qiang instead, while Russia's Vladimir Putin will also be absent.

US President Joe Biden, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, French President Emmanuel Macron, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, Saudi Arabia's Mohammed Bin Salman and Japan's Fumio Kishida, among others, will attend.

China said yesterday it is willing

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Injured monkey that sought medical attention dies

UNB, Dhaka

An injured monkey, which made news by visiting an upazila health complex in Chattogram for treatment, died yesterday in medical care.

Dipanwita Bhattacharya, an official of Chattogram Wildlife and Biodiversity Reservation Department, confirmed the matter.

She said the monkey could not be saved despite frantic efforts.

It died in the afternoon while undergoing treatment under the supervision of vets at Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU).

Earlier, the monkey was shifted to the CVASU when its condition worsened, she said.



SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

IN MEMORIAM



DR. NUMAIR ATIF CHOUDHURY, Director, BITL
(November 4, 1974 – September 9, 2018)

MAY ALLAH GRANT HIM ETERNAL REST

MS. LUBNA CHOUDHURY, Mother (Founder Principal & Chairperson, BITL)
MS. ANIKA RAHMAN, Sister (Director, BITL)
MS. TALITA CHOUDHURY, Sister (Director, BITL)

After studying creative writing at Oberlin College and the University of East Anglia, Numair Atif Choudhury did a PhD from the University of Texas, Dallas. He had been working on Babu Bangladesh!, his epic first novel, for nearly fifteen years. Soon after completing the final draft, he passed away in an accident in 2018.

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Dhaka Collegiate School



Dhaka Govt. Muslim High School

Dhaka's educational heritage

The legacy and challenges of century-old schools

Established 182 years ago in 1835, Dhaka Collegiate School holds the distinction of being the first government high school in the Bengal province under British rule. Originally known as the "Dhaka English Seminary," its mission was to provide education in English literature and science.

DIPAN NANDY AND ARAFAT RAHAMAN

In 400-year-old Dhaka, a few educational institutes have stood the test of time. These century-old schools have played a significant role in shaping the education and culture of the city and beyond and have produced notable individuals who have left their mark on the national and world stages. Let's explore briefly the rich history of these institutions and the challenges they currently face.

Dhaka Collegiate School

Established 182 years ago in 1835, this school holds the distinction of being the first government high school in the Bengal province under British rule. Originally known as the "Dhaka English Seminary," its mission was to provide education in English literature and science. In 1841, a college was founded within the school compound, leading to its transformation into "Dhaka Collegiate School."

Subsequently, in 1841, Dhaka College was established within the premises of the school. Thus, came the name "Dhaka Collegiate School."

One pivotal moment in the school's history occurred during the tenure of Headteacher Babu Ratna Mani Gupta from 1888 to 1896. Under his leadership, the school achieved top ranks in the entrance examination, setting the stage for a legacy of excellence that continued to produce notable individuals recognised globally.

Notable alumni include scientists Jagadish Chandra Bose and Meghnad Saha, Bir Shreshtha Matiuur Rahman, NP Pogose (founder of Pogose School), Martyr Intellectual Munier Chowdhury, litterateur Buddhadeb Basu, and writer Syed Shamsul Haq.

However, the institution currently grapples with several challenges, including



St Gregory's High School

Gregory Nicholas Pogose, the school building is a recognisable landmark in Dhaka. It began as Bengal's first private school. Pogose was an alumnus of Dhaka Collegiate School.

The school's journey began as the Pogose Anglo Vernacular School within Pogose's residence in Armanitola, old Dhaka, occupying the ground floor.

In 1855, it moved to a rented property owned by JC Panioty in Armanitola. Subsequently, it relocated to a two-story building at Sadarghat and then moved again, this time adjacent to Jagannath University on Chittaranjan Avenue, near its original site.

Nicholas Pogose led the institution until his passing in 1876, after which banker Mohini Mohan Das assumed control and continued to uphold its legacy until his demise in 1896.

In 1996, the school transitioned from an all-boys establishment to a co-educational institution, integrating girls into its student body.

In 2015, the school's administration shifted under Jagannath University's authority, leading to its renaming as Pogose Laboratory School and College, Jagannath University.

Notable alumni include PK Roy, Girish Chandra Sen, Babu Mathuramohan Chakraborty, poets Shamsur Rahman and Kaykobad (Kazem Ali Quereshi), cartoonist Ranabi (Rafiqun Nabi), and many others.

K.L. Jubilee School and College

This institution has its roots in the 19th-century Brahma Movement. It was founded in 1866 by a group of social activists and education

enthusiasts, including Anath Bandhu Mallik, Brajasundar Mitra, and Dinanath Sen. Originally known as the "Dhaka Brahma School," it started its operation from "Nil Kuthi," a historic building established by the Portuguese.

In 1872, the school came under the management of Kishori Lal Roy Chowdhury, the zamindar of Baliati, who renamed it 'Jagannath School.' In 1884, the school introduced its college section. However, on that year, the school and college eventually went their separate ways.

The college became Jagannath College, now known as Jagannath University, while the school transformed into Kishori Lal Jubilee School, or K.L. Jubilee School.

This institution has produced globally acclaimed figures such as scientist Meghnad Saha, Dr Rai Bahadur, Dr Dinesh Chandra Sen, Dr Naba Gopal Das, and English Channel swimmer Brojen Das.

Although the school has experienced a decline in its passing rate in recent years, Principal Nasreen Begum mentioned that they are making efforts to regain the institution's former status in terms of educational quality.

Dhaka Govt. Muslim High School

Some 149 years ago, in 1874, Mohasania Madrasah was established by a grant from the Mohsin Fund. It was built on the model of Calcutta Alia Madrasah (now Aliah University). The institute was later popularly known as Dhaka Madrasah.

In 1875, it opened an Anglo-Persian department to teach English, which gave the school wide acceptance among a certain section of the society. In 1906, the Anglo-Persian department became a separate school -- "Dhaka Government Muslim High School."

In 1921, the school opened its college section as Islamic Intermediate College, which was later renamed as Kabi Nazrul College in 1972.

Currently, 883 boys, all of them Muslims, are studying at the school.

Headteacher Mahbuba Huq said acute teacher shortage is hampering the academic activities. Only 18 teachers are struggling to cover all the courses, she added.

Islamia Govt. High School

Islamia Government High School, also 149 years old, was once a prestigious institution that attracted hundreds of students. However, in recent times, the school has struggled to enroll students, and its current headteacher, Jannatul Tajerin, cited reasons such as a shortage of classrooms and teachers. Only eight classrooms for over 500 students are not enough. Besides, teacher shortage is making it hard to complete syllabus for the students, she added.

St Gregory's High School

Founded in January 1882 by Father Gregory De Groote, a Belgian Benedictine priest, this school has been a beacon of education in Dhaka.

Located in Luxmibazar, the school gained Education Board recognition in 1889. The school embraced co-education in 1892. In 1912, the girls' section separated to become "St. Francis Xavier's Girls High School."

Designated as a European School, it primarily catered to European and Anglo-Indian pupils, while Indian students' enrollment was capped at 15 percent.

In 1924, the Dhaka Board approved the school for the Matriculation exam, upon admitting more Bengali students. The next decades the students of this school topped the board exams regularly.

Notre Dame College was previously known as Saint Gregory's College when it was established in 1949.

Over the years, St. Gregory's High School has produced notable alumni, including Taj Uddin Ahmed, Bangladesh's first prime minister, Dr Kamal Hossain, Nobel Laureate economist Amartya Sen, emeritus professor Serajul Islam Chowdhury, and The Daily Star's Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, among numerous others.

Presently, the school accommodates over 4,500 students and employs 135 teachers. Principal Brother Ujjal Placid Pereira attributes the school's success to dedicated teachers, adherence to academic plans, and engagement in extracurricular activities.

Armanitola Government High School

Armanitola Government High School, founded in 1904, has a unique history intertwined with the arrival of Armenians in old Dhaka during the Mughal era. Originally an experimental project of the British-led Teacher's Training College, the school has a strong legacy in hockey and boasts academic excellence.

Armanitola draws its name from these Armenians, who flourished in trade, constructed residences, and established churches from the 18th to 19th centuries.

Today, the school faces a scarcity of teachers, with around 30 educators for nearly 2,000 students.

St. Francis Xavier's Girls' High School

St. Francis Xavier's Girls' High School, established in 1912 near Sadarghat, was founded with the aim of educating oppressed and deprived girls. The English Medium School was affiliated with Cambridge University, England (GCE) in 1954. In May 2017, the institution gained permission for its college section.

Notable alumni include physicist Dr Geeti Ara Safia Choudhury, cardiovascular specialist Dr Hasina Azam, Secretary Jasmine Akhtar, artist Ferdousi Rahman, and human rights activist Irene J Khan.

West End High School

The school was established in 1920 on about four acres of land in Azimpur area, the most western side of Dhaka city.

The years 1964 to 1984 can be called the golden period of West End high school. According to school documents, some 37 students of the school secured positions in the board's merit list in the secondary examination at different times, spreading its fame across the country.

Currently around 2,000 students have been studying at this school. But there is scarcity of adequate teachers for the students.

Eminent Journalist Golam Sarwar, Musician Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul, writer Mahmudul Haque, writer Shahid Saber, are among the noted students of this school.

PHOTOS:
ARAFAT RAHAMAN



Islamia Govt. High School

a shortage of teachers, classrooms, and sports facilities, according to Headteacher Ariful Islam.

The old building, which is in a deteriorated and hazardous state, had to be abandoned in 2004, and academic and administrative activities were relocated to a new building. Despite these challenges, the headteacher hoped that the school is on the right track to keep its time-honoured prestige.

Pogose Laboratory School and College

Established in 1848 by local Armenian Joakim



K.L. Jubilee School and College

ESSAY

The alterities of hunger



DESIGN: MAISHA SYEDA

literary food studies must also contend with the opposite of abundance, the scarcity of food and the sort of indelible, dehumanising hunger that is on the opposite spectrum of this discourse

NAZIA MANZOOR

In two of the more prominent fictional works that are part of the diasporic South Asian literary production, Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake* and Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, food is presented as a conceptual apparatus that makes palatable the tensions of 'multiculturalism' and offers a critique of class barriers—if not always at the level of economics, but at the level of consciousness. Like all aspects of our increasingly polarising, splintered world, the production of food, its preparation, and its consumption have become deeply politicised. Perception of food is carried out on a gradational scale—from the global north's hierarchisation of healthy, organic, locally produced, ethical food to the everyday, domestic, heteropatriarchal culinary practices to the internet's obsession with clean, lean, visually appealing food content—not all food is made equal.

Literary food portrayals are about the relationship between food and language, language and politics, and above all, consumption—literary and literal. Lahiri's seminal novel opens with the description of a pregnant Ashima making a makeshift jhal muri in her American home, marking it as a performance of her Bengali-ness.

Throughout the novel, Lahiri stages discussions organised around the elitism of food. For the protagonist Gogol, falling in love with his American girlfriend Maxine is falling in love with her "manner of living". In a particular paragraph about Gogol's rise in the gastronomic ranks, Lahiri uses the phrase "learns to" five times, indicating a schooling of sorts, a necessary surrender to the hegemonic 'food chain'. Gogol "learns that one does not grate Parmesan cheese over pasta dishes containing seafood." He further "learns to not put wooden spoons in the dishwasher." Later, Gogol begrudges the knowledge that Maxine's gift basket with tinned pâtés and jars of cornichons will never be consumed by his parents—a knowledge that establishes further the hierarchisation of his Americanised food sensibilities.

Contrarily in *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*, Hamid reverses the culinary Orientalism endemic to the colonial expedition. Here, the protagonist Changez is a culinary ambassador to the unnamed American man in Lahore. Set in a café and told entirely in the form of a dramatic monologue, where the American is silenced and the Muslim man speaks for and over him, the novel's metaphoric serving of food is part of the double narrative Changez is supplying—he both wants to reverse

the Eastern versus Western food fare and uses food as a diversionary tactic to conceal his admittedly more sinister intentions. With extreme, uncomfortable humility, Changez offers him one typical deshi delicacy after another and with each offering, the reader becomes more attuned to the throbbing undercurrent of tension he is concealing—the American is his prey, and food is his offering.

Such opulent usage of food as cultural envoy aside, literary food studies must also contend with the opposite of abundance, the scarcity of food and the sort of indelible, dehumanising hunger that is on the opposite spectrum of this discourse. In *Grundrisse*, Karl Marx said, "Hunger is hunger, but the hunger gratified by cooked meat eaten with a knife and fork is a different hunger from that which bolts down raw meat with the aid of hand, nail, and tooth." Between the twin hunger Marx speaks of—delicately consumed delicacies and the unadorned, primal hunger—lies a 'civilizational' crisis. In her essay titled "Concerning Hunger: Empire Aesthetics in the Present Moment", Mrinalini Chakravorty investigates the coalition between the "aesthetic representations of hunger" and how they are informed by the "liberal affects such as sympathy, charity, and self-interest." The liberal humanist project of the West (think Adam

Smith, Charles Darwin, and Thomas Malthus), produced right alongside the oppressive regimes of colonialism and enslavement, utilised hunger as a metric for evoking sympathy in the "human" for those they deemed their "subhuman" other. Put alternatively, hunger is 'uncivilised' and sympathy for the hungry unfortunate is a marker for civilization and indeed, humanity.

Consequently, in recent scholarship in literary food studies, food's relationship to postcolonial, gender, and critical race studies has been examined in great detail. In her essay on postcolonial tastes, Parama Roy examines the "dialectic between metropolitan appetite and the production of deprivation in the colony, focusing in particular on slave hunger in plantations and on recurrent famine as one of the features of colonial rule and the market-driven order it institutes." One cannot think of colonial hunger without thinking about Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin's shattering sketch work detailing the Bengal famine of 1943, offering a sharp critique of the food shortage produced by the British. Hunger is also a defining trait of memoirs on the Holocaust. In Primo Levi's haunting accounts of survival, hunger and bodily incapacities help detail the horrors of Auschwitz and demonstrate how

such corporeal indignities determine the humanity of the captive in the lager. In Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, hunger overwhelms Baby Suggs who, after being freed from the clutches of slavery, is "hungrier than she had ever been in her life." On the run, Sethe too, experiences a cannibalistic hunger and is "eager for his eyes to bite into them . . . to gnaw his cheek." *Beloved* herself craves sweet—a narrative detail that ties hunger to the institution of American slavery—"it was as though sweet things were what she was born for." Hunger, therefore, is both a part of political economy that marginalises the nonhuman other and is part of our cultural aesthetic.

Such ignominy produced by hunger's all-encompassing force is brilliantly revealed in Humayun Ahmed's short story "Khadok". The protagonist Moti Mia is a professional eater who considers his ability to gorge on food as "bidya", a gift from the Almighty. Ahmed's crisp, minimalist prose lays bare the grotesque: a spectacularised display of food exhibitionism transpires as the Khadok forces himself to eat an entire cow while his own hungry children—"dekhok", "na-khaontir dof"—stare at their father. The short story at its core is about dearth of the vilest kind, as such dehumanising practices can only be possible in the face of acute food inequality, and through it, Ahmed makes explicit the vulnerability of the hungry and powerless. A sharp commentary on the politics of conspicuous food consumption and its resulting voyeuristic exhibitionism, "Khadok" is a cautionary tale for our contemporary moment.

Yet, literary food portrayals can also deftly capture quotidian moments of resistance, especially when it comes to food restrictions. In Sunil Gangopadhyay's *Purbo Poschim*, the quiet, introspective medical student Tutul stages a major intervention into the Bengali Hindu food code when she convinces her widowed mother Shupriti to eat a plate of khichuri made with onions—a seemingly innocuous and frankly, ubiquitous item of vegetable present in Bengali cuisine. Restricted for the widow as it makes her "shorir gorom"—a euphemism for desire, alluding to a different kind of hunger and its discipline and management—the onion sets the ground for a small revolution in the Majumdar household.

In the end, for every portrayal of the bounty and glory of food in fiction, for every detail there exists on the politics of identity via food, there is that question of deprivation and poverty, of scarcity and unavailability. Fictional discourses on systemic, politicised food inequalities help configure the racial, gendered, and ultimately structural inequalities that exist in our present moment. Thinking about such critical food paradigms thus, is one important way in which such collective food disparities can be rethought of.

Nazia Manzoor teaches English at North South University. She is also Editor, *Daily Star Books and Literature*.

MUSINGS

The matriarchy of food

TASHFIA AHMED

It is a truth universally acknowledged that food is the undisputed sixth love language that Gary Chapman forgot to mention in his 1992 book. Or maybe it's just the gastronomie in me speaking.

As a Bangladeshi though, one must attest to how one's parents use food as a tool for the communication of a love that they otherwise suppress beneath crackling layers of high expectations and steadfast rules. I know this because I have seen this phenomenon memed to no end in Facebook groups like Subtle Curry Traits and tumblr posts from 2016; because my friends from university and I had bonded over stories of how our mothers scolded us about getting fat and then apologised in the form of our favourite dish served for the next meal; because students in my Literature classes tell me similar stories of grandmothers greeting them with their favourite foods spilling over from the dining tables; because a friend recently posted on Facebook "How do I explain to my brown mom that she is overfeeding our cat?" and I could very much relate it with how my mother literally spoon-feeds freshly boiled chicken to our cat, Mochi, and runs after him with that spoon when he displays reluctance towards eating.

In all this, I find it very significant to note how the Bangladeshi mother uses the language of food in a way that is, stereotypically, so different from the fathers'. South Asian fathers are famous for outsourcing their expression of love

to nature as they bring fruits home and encourage everyone to have some as they list out the nutritional benefits. For our mothers, on the other hand, food is a domain they rule with generations of inherited skill, sharpened with the incessant blades of experience, unpaid labor, and a socialised sense of duty—all of which they take and simmer down to aromatic flavours of love.

My mother, on her maternal side, comes from a long lineage of women who are known far and wide for their culinary skills and fondness for feeding people. Her maa-khala are daughters of the Khan-bari in Manikganj's Dashora area, famous for hosting feasts on any and all Islamic occasions throughout the 50's to 70's, where they cooked for hundreds of town-dwellers. My nanu, Ms Hafsa Khanam, 71, showcased her skills acquired from the Khan-bari feasts to entertain guests from all over the world when they visited her workplace at Bharateswari Homes. Her sister, Hippolyta (yes, named after the Shakespeare heroine), extended those skills towards furthering her status as a socialite amongst those in her political, literary, and social spheres. For the Khan-bari women, food became a part of their familial and personal identity, birthing such monikers as "Khane-wala-bari" that still get thrown around in conversations of acquaintances reminiscing their heydays. Even after her passing, her exceptional skill in cooking Mughal dishes to buttery perfection remains Hipu nanu's legacy throughout the recollection of relatives, close and distant alike. As for my nanu, her cakes and puff pastries remain synonymous



DESIGN: TASHFIA AHMED

with her name among her colleagues and superlatives, long after she retired.

Now, when my mother was sent to the kitchen to cook her first meal at her in-law's, she knew she had to follow down the path of some massive footprints. To put things in perspective, I think the equivalent of that for me, as a writer, would be if I were a descendant of Virginia Woolf. I reiterate: massive shoes to fill!

However, my mother has not only worn those shoes and ran miles in them, but she has worn them out and outgrown them too. This might be the words of a biased

daughter, but I have borne witness, closer than anyone has, to how poetically ammu has bent and remoulded her language of love to create her own identity alongside the Khan-bari hall of fame, with her own innovation on dishes from deshi-bideshi cuisines alike. The kitchen is her studio, and her patishapta, kacchi biryani, shawarma, et cetera, are the varied artworks she puts out into the world—bringing her acclaim amongst anyone who has ever had the fortune to experience her hospitality, whether as surprise guests at home or as my colleagues on potlucks.

But if we call back to that first showdown with the fire on a stove, my mother had barely left that ring unscathed, having made polau with every masala she could find on the shelves. She did not have any recipe books to follow that might have been passed down over the generations in the family. Whatever recipes the women of Khan-bari ever replicated from the elders came in the form of folktales passed down as word of mouth, with one's own imagination taking away and adding elements to these culinary tales as they pleased. And when any recipe with scribbled measurements were ever doled out to an outsider who bore no relation to this lineage, they came back saying, "I followed all the instructions but it came out nothing like yours!"

Some few months ago I had shown my mother an Instagram reel from the comedian Zarna Garg, ranting about the young generation always asking for the recipe and not using their "common sense" and then another video from local TikTok

star, Emily in Dhaka, talking about how when she asked her mother-in-law for the recipe of dudh-cha, she was simply told something along the lines of, "You put tea leaves in the water and boil until there is colour and then you put milk and boil until the colour is right." Now, in my amateur opinion, she had every right to be perplexed by those instructions, but as my Banglali maa would argue, echoing the thoughts of Garg and Ms. Emily's MIL: you use your common sense; you feel what you cook and then you just know when it's right. And I believe this is where the beauty of Bangladeshi cuisine, and food itself, lies—it is an effortlessly intersectional form of art that culminates from the various personality traits and characterising identities defined by its maker's national identity, socioeconomic status, financial stability, geographical setting, as well as the climate and political conditions where they live.

So the fact that the Bangladeshi household runs on a matriarchy of food is endlessly fascinating to me. Here, as the men venture outside to uphold their Jenga tower of patriarchy at the altars of their corporate temples, the housewives rule their own turf inside the home. Making commands under the guise of grocery lists, they manoeuvre the temperamental landscape at home. Thus, these women discreetly dictate the very thing that the capitalist slaves among us serve to earn under the pestle of patriarchy: food, with its myriads of creative and loving expression.

Tashfia Ahmed is a writer and poet who teaches English at Scholastica School.

MASTERING CONNECTIONS

Cultivating stakeholder relationships through communication

Engaging investors through communication or any other stakeholder involves embracing various channels and platforms. Companies leverage traditional methods such as press releases, newsletters, financial/impact reports, investor meetups, and modern avenues like social media, webinars, and podcasts.

SANJIDA TANNY

Stakeholders are the people who matter to your business from the inside out. They can include your employees, investors, customers, partners, suppliers, regulators, and the community. Stakeholder relationships are important because they help businesses and startups gain support, build credibility, and make guided decisions to drive growth while providing room for tailored innovation.

In the whirlwind of rapid growth, strategic communication becomes vital, enabling organisations to disseminate information and engage, listen, and respond to key stakeholders' diverse needs and expectations. This article will break down the role of communications and public relations in cultivating these significant stakeholder relationships that help a fast growing company thrive toward sustainable growth.

Building relationships with employees

For any organisation, one of the most important stakeholders is its employees; these are the people who largely represent



engagement with a diverse investor audience.

What about other stakeholders?

The factor to keep in mind is that, similar to most of your stakeholders, your investors may have different goals they are looking for. Hence, tailoring the message to show the investors that your goals are synced with theirs will help you connect to those with a higher chance of getting associated with you.

On the other end, public relations acts as a bridge between companies and their stakeholders, including investors and customers. It helps companies shape the public image, manage perceptions, and mitigate potential risks. Your company's PR also ensures information resonance, fostering trust, understanding, and strengthening your relationships, which are vital for organisations to navigate today's intricate global landscape. Your PR will drive mutual engagement between your company and your diverse stakeholder portfolio in an increasingly interconnected world.

In today's world, where information is constantly flowing, and audiences are increasingly fragmented, it is more important than ever for organisations to be strategic about their communications. A well-developed Communications and PR department helps organisations identify their key messages, develop effective communication channels, and measure the impact of their communications efforts.

Even though there will be multiple types of stakeholders who play a key role in the success of your business, tailoring messages for different groups and segmenting the channels or mediums where they live, as mentioned before, is a cornerstone of this process. While your newsletter and social media target potential customers and collaborative partners, your press presence can attract investors, and a simple yet vibrantly engaging internal channel can boost the inspiration of your employees.

Adapting language and tone to resonate with the unique goals of each audience segment is essential, as it helps to bridge potential gaps and ensures that the conveyed information is relatable and comprehensible. While there are varying mediums and tonalities your company will be adapting, consistency in messaging will be the key driver to ensuring the message you want is being delivered properly.

Sanjida Tanny heads the Communications department at Wageby, a financial wellness startup. She was the former Lead Storyteller at ShopUp, a B2B commerce startup.

such as town hall meetings or anonymous suggestion boxes, empower employees and demonstrate that their voices are valued. To keep the workforce inspired, recognising them and reward programs also act as means of acknowledgement of their efforts.

Unity, transparency, and shared purpose contribute to higher employee satisfaction, increased loyalty, and a stronger foundation for sustainable growth. Building this foundation requires a transparent, timely, and inspiring tone of communication.

Engaging investors through communication
Your pitch deck isn't the only communication material that spikes an investor's interest. Besides financial reports and sustainable growth plans, a potential investor also keeps an eye on the narrative your company presents and the value it stands for, alongside the impact your company is already making. A strong communication strategy enables crafting targeted messages tailored to the investor community and the vision they stand for.

Engaging investors through communication or any other stakeholder involves embracing various channels and platforms. Companies leverage traditional methods such as press releases, newsletters, financial/impact reports, investor meetups, and modern avenues like social media, webinars, and podcasts. An integrated approach that blends these mediums ensures a broader reach and deeper



ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

and reflect what the organisation stands for, and hence, investing in this stakeholder relationship is vital. In startups and fast-growing companies, where change is constant, effective communication and public relations help create a cohesive and informed workforce.

The bedrock of this relationship is clear and transparent communication using relevant channels to build trust and engagement. Regular updates on company goals, achievements, and challenges also foster a sense of belonging and purpose among employees. Open avenues for feedback,

Jaago, UNICEF, and Generation Unlimited hold boot camp in Dhaka for young entrepreneurs

The JAAGO Foundation Trust, in collaboration with Generation Unlimited and UNICEF, organised the imaGen Ventures Youth Challenge 2023 Boot Camp in Dhaka. The three-day residential workshop provided a transformative platform for the youth from Dhaka to ideate, co-create, and develop impactful community solutions addressing gender inequity and climate change using human-centred design approaches.

During the three-day boot camp, 52 young participants worked in teams to turn their ideas into projects tackling climate issues and gender inequality within their community. Guided by expert facilitators, participants honed their problem-solving skills and developed unique solutions that could drive positive changes within their communities and

beyond.

The participants pitched their initiatives during Pitch Day showcasing their emerging innovations to a panel of judges. The top three most innovative and impactful solutions were awarded seed funds of US\$1,000 each with dedicated mentorship and incubation support to develop their projects further. Additionally, seven other boot camps will occur in seven divisions in the following months.

Guests, including Md. Abul Kalam Azad, President of Generation Unlimited Bangladesh, Emma Brighton, Deputy Representative UNICEF Bangladesh and Korvi Rakshand, Chairman of JAAGO Foundation Trust, joined the event alongside representatives from public, private, youth and development sectors.



Why building a strong network is vital for professionals

In today's dynamic professional landscape, the significance of building a robust network cannot be overstated. It's not just about accumulating business cards or LinkedIn connections - networking for professionals is a strategic investment in your career that goes beyond mere social interaction.

Here are some ways in which building a strong network can help professionals stay ahead of the curve:

Unlocking opportunities:

Networking serves as your backstage pass to a world of opportunities. From job openings and collaboration prospects to industry insights, your network can open doors that might otherwise remain firmly shut. In a competitive job market, knowing the right people can make all the difference.

A fountain of knowledge: Think of your network as a treasure trove of knowledge waiting to be discovered. Engaging with professionals from various backgrounds can provide fresh perspectives and insights into your field. It's like having your advisory board that can help you stay sharp and innovative.

Building trust and credibility: Trust is the currency of professional relationships. When you build a network of trustworthy connections, your credibility in your industry grows. Recommendations and referrals from respected individuals carry significant weight. This trust is cultivated over time through reliable interactions and a proven track record.

Resource sharing: Your network can be an invaluable resource hub. Whether you need advice, mentorship, or access to industry-specific tools, your connections can provide it. In times of professional uncertainty, a well-nurtured network can be a lifeline.

A trusted mentor or colleague can offer guidance when you need it most.

Career development: Your career journey is an ongoing process. Your network can provide insights into potential career paths, help you identify your strengths and weaknesses, and offer guidance on how to

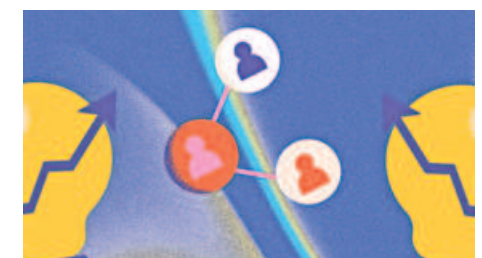


ILLUSTRATION: ZARIF FAIAZ

achieve your goals. This support system can be instrumental in making informed career decisions.

Staying informed: In today's fast-paced world, staying informed is crucial. Networking can help you keep up with industry trends, emerging technologies, and market shifts. This knowledge can give you a competitive edge and ensure you're always prepared to adapt to changes in your field.

Professional growth: Professional growth isn't just about climbing the corporate ladder; it's about expanding your skillset and broadening your horizons. Through networking, you can discover new opportunities for personal and professional development, including workshops, conferences, and training programs.

Peer support: The journey of a professional

JOBS SPOTLIGHT



1. Coca-Cola Bangladesh Beverages
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE EXECUTIVE

Deadline: 10 September

Eligibility:

- Bachelor's/Master's degree in Finance/Accounting from a renowned university
- Professional Certification (CA/ACCA) from reputed firm will be preferred
- Strong analytical and numerical skills

Minimum experience: 3 years

Apply through Coca-Cola Bangladesh Beverages' official LinkedIn page.



2. Plan International Bangladesh - PROTECTION SPECIALIST

Deadline: 10 September

Eligibility:

- Must have practical experience in protection, especially child protection
- Needs to have experience with people management and technical aspects of child protection
- Needs to have excellent skills in project planning and design, drafting, calculation and technical writing

Minimum experience: 3 years

Apply through the official LinkedIn page of Plan International Bangladesh.

3. Marico Bangladesh Ltd
SENIOR BRAND MANAGER



Deadline: N/A

Eligibility:

- Bachelor's/Master's degree in business from any reputed university
- Must have experience in brand management, preferably in FMCG companies
- Needs to have working knowledge in brand development, brand building and activation

Minimum experience: 4 years

Apply through the official LinkedIn page of Marico Bangladesh Ltd.

Structure thought to be incomplete bridge was a completed shade all along

AKHMER KRIMER, *Crime and Development*

Ten years ago, construction of a bridge started over a fully functional road in the Kauwasaki upazila of Bangladesh costing the people a hefty Tk 55 lakh. It stopped midway causing massive confusion, consternation and other difficult words to pop across the minds of IELTS students of that area.

"Is it a bridge? Is it a table? Is it a helipad?" asked Shams Bin Absent who was in Qatar during that time working on a bridge construction in the desert. "We built bridges there but then we put water underneath. This just has a bucket on the dry road below."

Others were upset that this large 20-foot high

concrete structure resembling a table was not the bridge they were promised. For one thing, there is no ramp that leads to the top of the bridge. Secondly, there is no ramp leading off the bridge either. So that would make two things very wrong with the fundamental concept of a bridge.

"When the young generation looks at it, they see a platform for their social media growth. When floods happen, you can look at it as a rescue shelter. It is progress depending on how you look at it. One thing reporters need to do similarly is look away."

"This is just a well-made shade for the road below," observed a local named Doctor Mumin who sells medicinal herb extracts right under the non-bridge.

The local MP commented, "We have these structures all across Bangladesh. A 40-foot-long bridge on Palgaon-

Mukundapur road in Rautgaon union was constructed for a mere Tk 22 lakh. Sure, the river below is 60-foot wide. But that is beyond the point," he further explained while wiping his sweat-soaked forehead with a wad of Tk 500 notes. "Many districts

summer heat and to meet with Doctor Mumin to seek treatment for aches and pains of the soul. Tourism has gone up as new tea stalls have been set up to accommodate visitors who want to see the bridge that is not a bridge.

"See, the local administration has been looking into the future. They looked far ahead. They have also looked up to see the sky is the limit," explained the MP. "When the young generation looks at it, they see a platform for their social media growth. When floods

happen, you can look at it as a rescue shelter. It is progress depending on how you look at it. One thing reporters need to do similarly is look away."



have these bridges that are more art than anything else."

TikTokers have flooded this area to make videos. Some have climbed up and fallen to their death. Bikers have congratulated the government on building such a wonderful shade so they can rest during rain, to escape the scorching



TikTokers seen testing the durability and fine finishing of the unfinished bridge, which is actually a completed shade.



Desi Christopher Nolan ready with local Oppenheimer to fight against imported Jawan

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

Whoever thought the battle between Oppenheimer and Barbie was over, is actually living in a fool's paradise.

A local film director, widely known as Deshi Christopher Nolan, has just resurrected the clash by releasing his homemade Oppenheimer to fight imported Jawan.

Deshi Nolan entered the battlefield with his bag and baggage to teach a lesson to SRK's Jawan. He had to face Jawan as it has already been released after his barricade was eventually defeated. The man left no stone unturned to stop Jawan and redirect it to its country of origin.

He made all-out efforts to avoid the unhealthy clash between films, which was witnessed during the simultaneous releases of Barbie and Oppenheimer weeks ago.

Movie enthusiasts are keen to call Deshi Nolan's movie Oppenheimer, although it has a different name.

"Oppenheimer is a metaphorical name for such a movie," one of the enthusiasts, named Karim, said.

Reliable reports from India even suggested that Shahrukh Khan was severely afraid of sending his movie to Bangladesh at a time when the local Nolan was releasing his masterpiece. The alleged Nolan wants to call this clash Barbenheimer 2.0 as he believes that the intensity of fans of his Oppenheimer and SRK's Jawan are unreal, just like that of the Barbie and Oppenheimer fans days ago.

"Just like Oppenheimer, our local piece is going to shake its surroundings, including people," he added.

"Oppenheimer is based on one person's life story, while our movie is based on so many people's life stories, including a shoe. So, which one weighs more?" Jamal, the alleged actor of the movie explained the plot leaving twists unexposed.

Reliable reports from India even suggested that Shahrukh Khan was severely afraid of sending his movie to Bangladesh at a time when the local Nolan was releasing his masterpiece. The alleged Nolan wants to call this clash Barbenheimer 2.0 as he believes that the intensity of fans of his Oppenheimer and SRK's Jawan are unreal, just like that of the Barbie and Oppenheimer fans days ago.

"I see my movie, aka local Oppenheimer, miles ahead of Jawan in terms of direction, story, casting and so on," the local Christopher Nolan claimed with joy.

When asked why he protested the import of Jawan if his movie was so good, he said, "Well, it was one of my promotional strategies. Haven't you guys heard about negative marketing? Ridiculous!"

Later, our Satireday correspondent learned that the director has been teaching marketing in Farmgate-based coaching centres for decades.

Husband keeps making excuses to get on expressway, wife fed up

"His bright idea was to take the on-ramp from Bijoy Sarani, in the opposite direction mind you, go to Kuril [7 kilometres in the opposite direction], get off the expressway, get on again from the opposite side, and then drive seven kilometres back to get off a few hundred feet from his office! Obviously, we missed the dawat."

ELEVATED CORRESPONDENT

A wife in the capital has become exasperated following the opening of the elevated expressway as her husband refuses to take any other road, even though the expressway doesn't yet serve the areas where they live or work.

"Okay, we know Dhaka has a severe traffic problem," Sanjida told this correspondent yesterday after getting off their car, following what she said was the 38th time in six days that her husband, Hasan, had veered onto the on-ramp of the expressway at the last second.

"And I know he, as someone who drives a car, has suffered in traffic all these years, but come on! It was fine the first day when the expressway opened, even cute how excited he was," she said.

"But this is too much. I mean he comes home every day from work at least two hours late, because according to him, he took the expressway to make the journey 'quicker'."

Sanjida said they live in Mohammadpur, and her husband works in Farmgate.

"I somehow knew, once I heard that the expressway would have a landing in Farmgate, that we were in trouble. Just yesterday, I left work and met him at his office, and we were supposed to visit relatives in Dhanmondi. Pretty simple, right? Wrong."

Sanjida narrated that instead of taking a left turn at the Farmgate bus stand, or the next on after that, Hasan went on to the Bijoy Sarani signal, answering her frantic protests with the words "You'll see, it'll be quicker", and took a right.

"His bright idea was to take the on-ramp from Bijoy Sarani, in the opposite direction mind you, go to Kuril [7 kilometres in the opposite direction], get off the expressway,



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

get on again from the opposite side, and then drive seven kilometres back to get off a few hundred feet from his office! Obviously, we missed the dawat."

She claimed this was the route Hasan took every day from work, even though there was no need for him to do that to get to their home.

"The expressway is great, you can get from Farmgate to Mohakhali, Banani, Uttara really fast and you can come back the other way in a jiffy. But we're not going there.

"So, when today we were going from Banani to Gulshan, and he just saw the on-ramp and took a sharp turn onto it, I just got off," Sanjida said.

When asked for her husband's number, she willingly gave it. "Yeah, you talk to him, because I won't."

Contacted, Hasan said, "Listen, it is up to me to know the ins and outs of the expressway. And the roads are so good, the traffic so light, and all the while you know there is insane traffic below. Plus, whenever people discuss the expressway at work, which is like all the time, I have the best answers.

"And can you imagine? Airport to Farmgate in 10 minutes! I just know there is a hack to Dhaka traffic, and I will keep trying till I figure it out. Hold on, I have to pay the toll at Kawla now."