### Stay prepared to face challenges of 21st century

Army chief asks artillery regiment, thanks PM for modernising the force

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

of Army Staff General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed yesterday urged all members of the Regiment of Artillery to remain ever-prepared to



face the challenges of the 21st century through modern and contemporary training.

The Army chief was speaking at the 42nd Annual Captain Conference held at the Artillery Centre and School in Chattogram's Halishahar, according to an Inter-Services Public-Relations (ISPR) press release.

At that time, he recalled the glorious past of the Regiment of Artillery and their contribution to serving the motherland.

The chief also thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her contribution to modernising the Bangladesh Army.

Senior officers of the Bangladesh Army, the Army Training and Doctrine Command, and the Artillery Regiment were present during the occasion.

#### **DB CUSTODY** Probe body formed over death of lawyer's aide

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday formed a threemember probe body to investigate the death of Habibur Rahman, a lawyer's assistant, in DB custody in

The investigation committee was asked to submit the report within the next seven working days.

The probe body will be headed by Additional Superintendent of Police (Administration and Finance) Snigdha Akhtar, said Bogura Superintendent of Police (SP) Sudeep Kumar Chakraborty.

A team from the Bogura Detective Branch of police picked up Habibur, 42, and took him to the DB office. They later admitted him to Bogura Mohammad Ali Hospital around 7:00pm. He died around two hours

Habibur, a resident of Chakjora village in Bogura's Shahjahanpur upazila, was the joint secretary of Association.



City

(L) FC Bayern Munich Fans Group of Bangladesh. (R) Madridista Bangladesh members enjoying a game together.

FOOTBALL FANDOM

# **CLUB-BASED GROUPS**

# and their craze for the sport

ASHIF AHMED RUDRO

Once upon a time, Dhaka used to put on a celebratory face every time Abahani played a game of football against Mohammedan. Those days are long gone but our love for the game remains. There are numerous communities of fans in Bangladesh who follow football all year round and every year during the Champions League games they go crazy in support of their favourite teams. "FC Bayern Munich Fans Group

of Bangladesh' is one such group. Bangladeshi football fans who support the German club, Bayern Munich, run this group and after every match, they discuss the good and bad aspects of the games. It's interesting because Bayern Munich has won the domestic league for the last eleven years consecutively, yet the fans are constantly analysing the games, hoping to find a better solution

for a better prospect at the Champions League," said GM Hillol, an admin of the group. He has been

active in the group since the beginning. "Our journey

started in 2013

 $but\,the\,group\,really\,gained\,popularity\,in$ 2015. Back then there were not so many people on Facebook so the progress was slower. Our first get-together was in 2017. The deputy minister for youth and sports of that time was present in our first get-together," recalled Hillol.



Members of "Madridista Bangladesh" at a get-together.

group is active, the meetups are not as frequent as he would like them to be. However, the fan-club gives away gifts to the most active members of the group.

"Another get-together is in the pipeline. The first one was very festive and memorable and we want to make that happen again," he said, pointing out that official meetups are challenging because there are a lot of arrangements to be made for such

Of course, events are more frequent if your club is having a good run at the Champions League and Real Madrid has had an amazing decade in terms of the League.

"Madridista Bangladesh" is one of the groups for the fans of Real Madrid in Bangladesh. The group prides itself as one of the most well-managed and the oldest group of Real Madrid fans in Bangladesh, boasting their inception in

"We used to have arguments with Barcelona and EPL fans regularly. This led us to think that we need a separate space where just Madrid fans can discuss. That's how the idea was planted," said Sifat Jasim, an admin of

He mentioned that even though the the group, confirming that their first meetup was indeed in Dhaka, as early as 2012.

> "Ever since that first meetup, we have had regular events and meetups. In Dhaka we have at least two meetups every year," he elaborated, adding that even if they want to, it's not always possible to arrange meetups because most of the matches are at late night.

> However, through much difficulties, the group was officially recognised by Real Madrid as an official group of the club in 2019 and needless to say, they are overjoyed by this. You can tell by their reactions. "Madrid is 8,500km away from Dhaka but I guarantee you this, our passion burns just as brightly as someone standing in Santiago Bernabéu," he added.

> Needless to say, there are a number of similar groups. FC Barcelona Fans Group of Bangladesh (FCBBD), Liverpool FC Football Fans' Group of Bangladesh, and Manchester United Fans-Bangladesh are some of the other popular and active groups. Facebook groups play a huge part in these communities and meetups and annual events keep them close.

### ARSA commander, RSO supporter killed: APBn

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two Rohingyas were killed in clashes between two Myanmar-based armed groups, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO), in Ukhiya refugee camps of Cox's Bazar early vesterday, police said.

The deceased are Yousuf alias Chakmaiya Yousuf, 32, and Arafat Hossain, 15.

Additional Deputy Inspector General Mohammad Igbal, commanding officer of Armed Police Battalion (APBn)-14 said a clash ensued between the ARSA and RSO members at Camp 8 West around 2:00am.

At that time, Yousuf, one of the top ARSA commanders, was shot and stabbed. Yousuf, a resident of Camp 9, was accused in three murder cases, he added.

Later, Arafat, an RSO supporter, was killed around 5:00am at Camp 15, said Addl DIG Amir Zafar, commanding officer of APBn– 8.

Rohingya refugees said the teenage boy was murdered in vengeance for the killing of an ARSA commander at Camp 8 West.

A tense situation was prevailing at the camps following these murders, they added.

#### Key accused held over poet Radhapada assault

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested the main accused over the assault of poet Radhapada Roy of Kurigram's Nageshwari upazila.

Rafiqul Islam, 35, was picked up from Kurigram town in the morning, but his elder brother Kaduar Rahman alias Kadu Mia, 45, the other accused, is still on the run.

The arrestee would be produced before a court after interrogation, said Nageshwari Police Station OC Ashiqur Rahman.

Radhapada was injured in an attack in Madhaikhal village of Nageshwari upazila on September 30. The following day, Jugal Roy, son of the poet,

filed a case with the police station accusing Rafiqul and Kadu. Radhapada's daughter Shantana Rani said

her father was receiving treatment at the upazila health complex. "We now know that our father was assaulted

over a previous enmity. But there may be some other reasons behind the attack. Police will investigate the incident to find out if there is any other reason," she said.

### Verdict in PK Halder graft case on Oct 8

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday set October 8 to deliver the verdict in a case filed against former managing director of NRB Global Bank Proshanta Kumar Halder, known as PK Halder, and 13 others over the laundering of Tk 80 crore to Canada and amassing about Tk 426 crore illegally.

After closing arguments, Judge Mohammad Nazrul Islam of Dhaka's Special Judge Court-10 set the date for delivery of judgment in the case.

PK Halder, the prime accused of the case, wa arrested in Ashoknagar, India, on May 14 last year.

## Concern raised over inflation

depleted due to fulfilling payment obligations for essential imports as well as for loan servicing. Bangladesh Bank Governor Abdur

Rouf Talukder also gave similar

explanations for failing to keep \$24.46 billion of net international reserves in his separate meeting with the IMF mission. "We informed them that

Bangladesh has successfully brought down the current account balance deficit, but there was a big deficit in the financial account, which is the major reason for the decline in reserves," BB Spokesman Md Mezbaul Haque told journalists after the meeting at the central bank headquarters in Motijheel.

The central bank has initiated reform measures as per the IMF's

Both the finance ministry and the BB discussed banking sector reforms

(OC) of Chandgaon Police Station.

forcibly picked Shahidullah up.

neighbour Robiul Hasan Faisal told

The Daily Star that he witnessed the

"Uncle Shahidullah was taking

moment two men in plainclothes

a walk near his house after dinner

around 10:30pm when two policemen

dragged him away. His brother, another

neighbour and I then went to the police

station with his medicines. But the

police neither let us enter, nor took the

medicines we brought for him. They

kept the main gate closed," Faisal said.

who detained Uncle Shahidullah came

out and started looking for a three-

wheeler. We then entered the police

station and found him unconscious on

a chair. We then hired an autorickshaw,

and took him to Park View Hospital

At the mortuary of Chattogram

Medical College, Shahidullah's son

Nafiz Shahid, said, "We want justice. My

where he died."

'After a while, one of the officers

nephew

been fulfilled, they said. However, the İMF raised concerns

over Bangladesh's high rate of default At the end of June, the banking

sector's defaulted loans hit a record Tk

156,039 crore, which is 10.11 percent of

total credits disbursed. The IMF also asked about the government's failure to collect a minimum of Tk 345,630 crore in tax in fiscal 2022-23. This was one of the six quantitative targets set for the first half of 2023 by the IMF for the authorisation of the second

instalment. In response, finance ministry officials said that while revenue collection fell short of IMF's floor it was within a touching distance.

This issue will be discussed at length when the IMF mission sits down with the National Board of Revenue today.

Ex-ACC official dies in police custody

a case in this regard."

At the meeting, the finance ministry during their tour.

station, but came out dead. We will file

"We received no notice that a case

All banking sector reforms have officials also suggested reworking some of the targets for December and June next year that were agreed with the IMF staff mission last year before the \$4.7 billion loan was approved by the lender's board in January

One of the targets that has been proposed for reassessment is the minimum net international reserves. Bangladesh needs to have at least \$26.81 billion in net international reserves by the end of the year, as per the conditions agreed.

This seems unlikely as of now. As of September 26, gross foreign reserves stood at \$21.15 billion.

And Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the WB's Dhaka office, vesterday said the net reserves might be in the neighbourhood of \$18 billion.

The IMF mission will meet with different government bodies, including the power, energy and mineral resources ministry, Economic Relations Division and BBS

# EC not worried about 'legitimacy'

The CEC was speaking at a workshop, organised by the EC at its office yesterday, on the role of polling agents in the elections.

Habibul said the EC is concerned whether voters can cast their ballots freely. "Legitimacy is an important aspect from which perceptions are He said the EC will try to conduct a

lawful election, and the political parties will fight over legitimacy. The CEC said the EC would like to

hold inclusive elections, but it is not the commission's responsibility to make someone take part in the polls

"Still, we have invited many [parties] several times to come and have tea with us. We have written demi-official letters also. We cannot do more." he said without mentioning the names of the BNP and other political parties.

The BNP skipped the EC's dialogue with political parties last year. The commission in March this year had invited the party to an informal discussion, but the party leaders did not turn up.

Talking about arrests of polling agents ahead of the election, the CEC yesterday said if the EC have the list of

possible polling agents beforehand and many on the list are arrested, then the commission would realise that it has been done on purpose.

"We hope this won't happen... We

will repeatedly ask the government if the arrests are needed. The arrests could be made six months ahead of the polls or after the elections.' Addressing the workshop, former

election commissioner Kabita Khanam said there is a "concern" about participatory polls. She said the commission is

holding dialogues aiming to create an environment for participatory polls. Another ex-election commissioner

Md Shah Nawaz said that the EC's first job is to create a situation for all registered political parties to take part in the polls. "The two main parties are poles apart. I don't think the EC has much to do to bring them closer," he

Prof Robaet Ferdous of Dhaka University said, "The EC can take steps to hold a political dialogue to bring Awami League and BNP to the table. There is no alternatives to dialogues."

Another DU Prof SM Shameem Reza said positive political commitment is needed from the ruling and major

"I don't think it is the EC's responsibility to hold political dialogues. However, this can be done if the commission feels that it is a historical responsibility.

Former vice chancellor of National University, Harun-or-Rashid, said that everyone blames the EC. It is not possible for the commission to hold free and fair elections without the concerted efforts by the polls-time government, political parties, and the administration, he observed.

Former EC additional secretary Jesmin Tuli said the commission's first job will be to ensure that the administration, law enforcers, and polling officials remain neutral during the election.

Election Commissioner Rashida Sultana, officials former EC Nuruzzaman Talukdar, Mizanur Rahman, journalists Nayeemul Islam Khan, Syed Ishtiaque Reza, and Ekushey TV CEO Pijush Bandyopadhyay, among others, spoke at the workshop.

The EC on September 14 held another workshop in which eminent citizens said the next general election will have to be free, fair and participatory.

seeped in local tradition - at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in

However, there was no opening ceremony for this edition of the World Cup. Instead, there was a Captain's Day event held on Wednesday in Ahmedabad where the captains of all

Eoin Morgan, who lifted the trophy as the England captain in 2019 after the hosts won the final on boundary count, hosted the event alongside former India coach Ravi Shastri.

defending champions England and who was Morgan's deputy in 2019, credited his former captain for instilling the fearlessness the English ODI side currently exhibit and said

way in India as well. The team's been mainly together

for a long time since 2015, since the start of that sort of revolution that you mentioned, and I think you said right through the game. Now in England, young players coming through play a certain way and are determined to carry on the style, and I think we know

it gives us the best chance of success. We will get it wrong at times, but we've made peace with that, and it's something we want to continue to strive to do, to keep pushing the boundaries. Other teams will push you and move it on further, so we always want to try and be at the head of that curve as well." Butler said.

New Zealand, on the other hand,

back World Cup runners-up.

Kiwi skipper Kane Williamson, who won't be playing in the opening match as his knee is still not hundred per cent, said that his team is looking forward to the fresh challenge that lies ahead in

"For us, it's about the style of cricket we want to keep committing to that gives us the best chance at putting out our best performance. It certainly has been full of different challenges over a number of tournaments we have been involved in. We are already excited for the challenges that lie ahead for this one," said Williamson.

Former champions Pakistan will take on the Netherlands on Friday while Bangladesh will begin their campaign on Saturday by taking on Afghanistan

## father was fit. He walked to the police got a three-wheeler and took him to

didn't tell us anything. Our neighbours informed us. "My father went through an openheart surgery. Recently, two arteries were found blocked. But due to his

up did not show any warrant. Police

health condition, the doctors did not go for another surgery." Metropolitan Chattogram Police yesterday formed a threemember committee led by a deputy commissioner of the Detective Branch to investigate the allegations and come

up with a report in three work days. OC Khairul said, "Shahidullah was sitting on a chair after two officers brought him to the police station. After a while, Shahidullah complained of chest pain. Police informed his family members and called an ambulance. As the ambulance was taking time, policemen and Shahidullah's brother

a hospital where he was pronounced dead.' The OC added that Shahidullah died

was filed. The officers who picked him around 11:15pm. According to Ain o Salish Kendra, three people died in police custody and one in Rab custody in the first nine

#### months of the year. US reiterates

FROM PAGE 12

Washington DC and visited the Bangladesh embassy there on September 27. She met Sullivan at the On the sidelines of the UNGA,

Hasina held meetings with US State Department Under Secretary Uzra Zeya and Counsellor Derek Chollet. Following the meetings, the US

officials said they stressed free and fair elections in Bangladesh - something that the US has been repeating for quite some time at the meetings with top Bangladesh ministers or other officials in Dhaka or in Washington DC.

#### The cricket carnival begins England will continue playing the same

participating teams were present.

Joss Buttler, the captain of the

come into this tournament as back-to-

in Dharamshala.

FROM PAGE 1

Shahidullah's