

AL leader’s threat to US envoy ‘deeply unhelpful’ Says US state dept

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

An Awami League leader's threat of assaulting US Ambassador Peter Haas is "violent rhetoric" that is "deeply unhelpful", US State Department Spokesperson Vedant Patel said.

"Safety and security of our diplomatic personnel and diplomatic facilities are of most importance. Such kinds of violent rhetoric are deeply unhelpful," Patel told a media briefing in Washington on Wednesday.

Mujibul Haque, a union parishad chairman in Chattoram's Banshkhali, told a rally on Monday that he would beat up Ambassador Haas. Video footage of the comment went viral on Facebook.

At the State Department briefing, a journalist asked Patel for his take on Mujibul's remark.

The US expects the host

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government of any country to take appropriate measures to maintain US personnel and facilities' safety and security, which are obligations under the Vienna Convention and other diplomatic conventions, Patel said.

Responding to another question, Patel said, "What the US wants for the Bangladeshi people that they want for them too is free and fair elections, which are conducted in a peaceful manner.

"We are engaging and continue to engage the government, opposition candidates, civil society and other stakeholders to urge them to work together for the benefit of Bangladeshi people."

Another journalist asked when Washington would impose its visa restrictions on those undermining the electoral process through violence, killing and vandalism.

Patel said he would not comment on it. However, he added, "Our engagements are robust and we hope that the elections are free and fair. We do not support any political candidate or party over another in Bangladesh."

RMG workers must accept new wage

FROM PAGE 1
"They [instigators] will create a situation in which workers will lose their jobs and will have to return to their villages.

"Are the far right Jamaat and far-left parties speaking in unison? They speak in the same tone. Have they united against the Awami League?" she said.

On Tuesday, the Minimum Wage Board announced the new minimum wage for RMG workers who have been demanding at least Tk 23,000. The current minimum wage is Tk 8,000.

Hasina said the government increased the salary of government employees only by five percent while RMG factory owners hiked the salary of their workers by 56 percent.

"Whenever the opportunity comes, we arrange necessary benefits and facilities for them [RMG workers]," she said.

Her comments come in the wake of labour unrest over the last few weeks during which three workers were killed. Two of them were shot dead as police opened fire on protesters.

Several hundred factories were shuttered earlier this month amid workers' demonstrations. The workers returned to the factories following

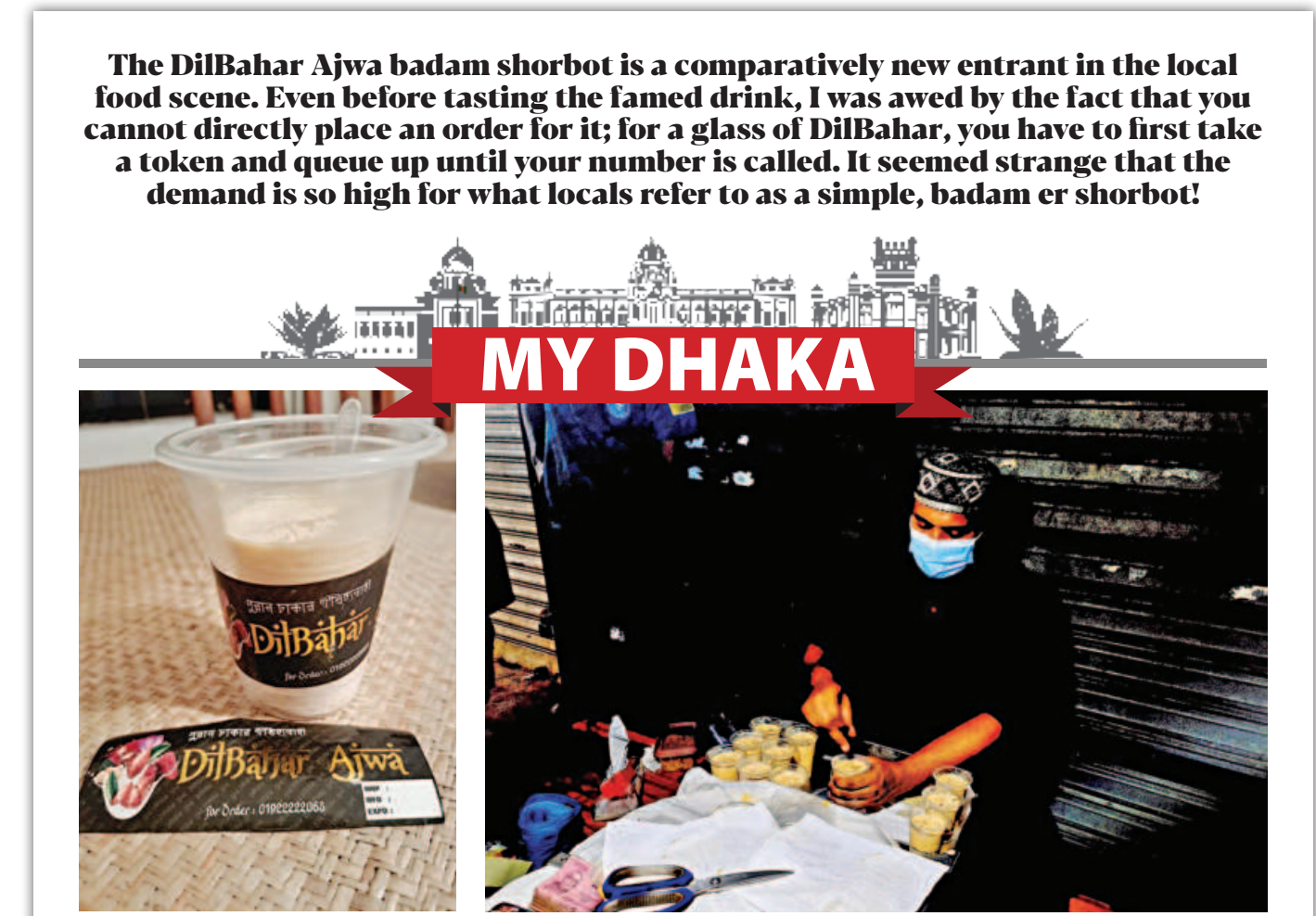


PHOTO: STAR

Sumon Bhai’s DILBAHAR

The new special shorbot of Old Dhaka

RBR

The sought-after drink is only available from 9:00pm onwards every day and stays open until 12:30am.

Naturally, I was intrigued by the mere business culture or marketing gimmick of this drink sold by Mohammad Dosai Sumon on the footpath of Alu Bazar in the Old Town.

Once the city goes into a lull and the streets of Gulistan quiet down, you drive straight to Alu Bazar and right beside Mazar Mistanno Bhandar or opposite Suritola Government Primary School, you will find two men sitting in a makeshift stall of just a table and a chair – one taking the serial and other mixing the drink.

Mohammad Dosai, commonly known as Sumon Bhai, started DilBahar Ajwa during the Covid years when he had to close his fast-food shop. A recipe of his mother's, he honed it to perfection and now it has become one of Old Dhaka's gourmet gems.



"Dilbahar" – loosely translates to the "heart of spring" or "happy", and ajwa is a date. To prepare the regular drink, evaporated milk fused with heavy cream (malai) is mixed with a part of sabudana (sago pearls) cooked in milk and thickened. It is added to a glass lightly filled with nuts and date slivers. Another portion of milk that is boiled in saffron is added to this and

further garnished with nuts.

The special versions of the drink are garnished with slivers of figs, chocos, cornflakes, oatsbars, and assorted dry fruit along with all the heavy milk concoction. It is in fact an energy drink or a fancy cereal in a glass for which the people are willing to stand in a queue for even 20 minutes!

The regular DilBahar comes with a price tag of Tk 80. The special version is priced at Tk 130; the super special Dilkhosh at Tk 200; and finally the jewel in the DilBahar crown, the Alishan at Tk 500.

People seem to call in advance to book a token, because unless you have the token and your number is called you cannot have the prized drink. Sumon and his assistant are hovered around by customers fascinated by Sumon's act of preparing the drink. However, Sumon's reserved persona keeps the crowd in line.

I would suggest making a trip down to Alu Bazar and try this rich drink fit for a king.

Donald to leave Tigers after WC

FROM PAGE 1

against Australia in Pune on Saturday. Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) initially signed the South Africa legend till last year's ICC T20 World Cup but later extended his contract till the ongoing ODI World Cup.

Wholesale changes in the coaching panel were expected after the team's shocking performance in the showpiece event. But even after the team's shoddy showing, BCB were reportedly interested to extend Donald's contract for his work in further developing the current crop of pacers in the national team.

However, those talks fizzled out once Donald gave his two cents on the Angelo Mathews timed-out dismissal in an interview, where he said he did not agree with skipper Shakib Al Hasan's choice to dismiss the Sri Lankan batter in that manner on Monday.

In a team meeting held in Pune

yesterday, the team management asked him to explain his actions as they did not appreciate Donald publicly going against the team's on-field decision. In that meeting, Donald said that he would not be extending his contract as the bowling coach.

A team official present at the meeting leaked that information to cricket website Cricbuzz and after learning about it from The Daily Star, Donald expressed his shock and confirmed his decision to leave Bangladesh cricket.

"WOW! I know who was in that meeting and I know who was there. The fact that this was described the way it was is amazing," Donald wrote in a WhatsApp exchange.

Even though his journey with the Bangladesh team ended on a sour note, Donald remains incredibly content with his tenure.

"I've had a great run. I sort of regard

this fast-bowling group as my friends; they're my mates. I really cannot describe how much high regard I have for this fast-bowling group. From day one back in Centurion Park where the Bangladeshi bus picked me up and dropped me off at Pune, was a nice run. It was really amazing," Donald said.

The 57-year-old said that he will keep in touch with his pace-bowling brigade and follow Bangladesh cricket from afar.

"Ebadot [Hossain], Khaled [Ahmed] and the five other guys [in the World Cup squad] that make up seven... I want to say that they are my friends. They are my closest friends."

"I will follow Bangladesh cricket. I will follow my fast-bowling group. I told them today that I will not take myself off that Whatsapp group. I will keep in touch with these kids because I absolutely love them."

Polls within stipulated time at any cost

FROM PAGE 1

The CEC was talking to reporters after a meeting with President Mohammed Shahabuddin at the Bangabhaban yesterday. Four other election commissioners were present.

Habibul said the president urged the EC to make sure democracy and constitutional rule continue in the country at any cost. The president also assured the commission of providing necessary assistance to hold a free and fair election.

According to a Bangabhaban press release, Shahabuddin in the meeting said it is not possible for the EC alone to conduct an election in a fair manner. He said cooperation from the people and also from the executive branch is needed for this. "Political parties should come forward in this regard."

It is the custom for the EC to meet the president before announcing the parliamentary polls schedule.

The CEC and the election commissioners went to the Bangabhaban to inform the president

about their preparations for the upcoming election.

The meeting took place at a time when the country is going through political turmoil over polls-time government. The BNP, its like-minded parties and Jamaat-e-Islami are enforcing nationwide blockades of road, rail, and waterways, demanding election under a non-party neutral administration. The ruling Awami League, however, says the Jatiya Sangsad election will be held under the incumbent government in line with the constitutional provisions.

"We briefed the president on the overall election preparations. He listened to us and expressed his satisfaction. He also hoped the upcoming election would be free, fair, and peaceful," Habibul said.

Responding to a query from a journalist, the CEC said there had been no discussion about any possible dialogue among the political parties.

He said they had told the president that the EC was committed to holding

the election within the stipulated time.

The tenure of the current parliament expires on January 29. According to the constitution, the national election must be held anytime within the last 90 days of a parliament's tenure.

EC sources said the election schedule may be announced any day between November 14 and 16. The commission will make the final decision in this regard in a meeting.

The election may be take place any day between January 6 and 9, and the EC is making final preparations keeping those dates in mind, the sources added.

There is a strong possibility the election will be held in the first week of January. The final decision regarding the schedule will depend on the political situation.

The commission last week updated the voter list with 11,96,91,633 voters. It primarily estimated that about Tk 1,445 crore would be needed to hold the election.