#### 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

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

The US expects the host

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.

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

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."

The DilBahar Ajwa badam shorbot is a comparatively new entrant in the local food scene. Even before tasting the famed drink, I was awed by the fact that you cannot directly place an order for it; for a glass of DilBahar, you have to first take a token and queue up until your number is called. It seemed strange that the demand is so high for what locals refer to as a simple, badam er shorbot!

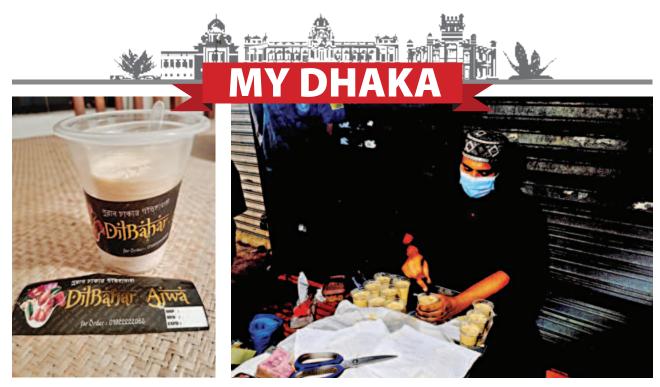


PHOTO: STAR

# 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 fastfood 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.

#### Bangladeshi boy shot dead by BSF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A 14-year-old Bangladeshi boy was shot dead yesterday by the Indian Border Security Force when he crossed the border along Rajshahi and entered the neighbouring territory.

Samirul Islam, 14, son of Hasibul Islam of Ashriadaha area under Godagari upazila, died on the spot, said Lt Col Nahid Hossain, commanding officer of 53 BGB Battalion in Chapainawabganj.

The firing took place between border pillars 41/5-S and 41/6-S under BGB's DMC border outpost at 12:15pm, said the official in a text sent to The Daily Star.

BGB personnel rushed to the spot and held a flag meeting with 35 Battalion BSF at the zero line, where BGB strongly protested the killing of the child, CO Nahid told this correspondent. In response, the BSF expressed deep regret and

described it as an unexpected incident.

BSF officials also told the BGB that they would form an inquiry committee to investigate the incident and take action against the responsible person.

#### Boat carrying Rohingyas runs aground

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A fishing trawler carrying Rohingya refugees, including women and children, ran aground at Moheshkhalia Para sea beach point in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday, according to

The refugees were fleeing to Malaysia, but human traffickers abandoned them near the beach after being on the sea for three days, locals told reporters after speaking to some of the

Informed, police and coast guard went to the scene, but the Rohingyas fled before their arrival.

Quoting locals, Jubair Syed, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, said the refugees were from different Rohingya camps in the upazila.

Lt Cdr Soleman Kabir of the Teknaf Coast Guard said no one was found on the boat, but an investigation was underway.

#### AAG loses job for attacking colleague

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has removed Supreme Court lawyer Tamanna Ferdous from the post of assistant attorney general for allegedly attacking another AAG in public last month.

Tamanna was appointed as AAG on July 7, 2019. According to a notification sent by the solicitor wing of the law ministry, the appointment of Tamanna Ferdous as an AAG has been cancelled and she has been relieved from her office under the directive from the president.

The notification, however, did not mention any reason behind it.

Sources at the law ministry, the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) and the attorney general's office said Tamanna and AAG Mohammad Mojibur Rahman locked into heated conversations out of personal enmity in the SCBA premises after a meeting of Bangabandhu Awami Ainjibi Parishad on October 9 this year.

At one stage, Tamanna slapped Mojibur and then they assaulted each other. A video of the incident went viral on social media.

## RMG workers must accept new wage

"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

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

assurances that a decent minimum wage would be ensured.

The workers resumed demonstrations after the wage board announced the new minimum salary on Tuesday. In 2018, the board fixed a minimum

wage of Tk 7,000 against the workers' demand for Tk 12,000. The PM intervened and asked the board and factory owners to set it at Tk 8,000. In 2015, the minimum wage was

increased to Tk 5,300 from Tk 3,000. The factory owners rejected the pay hike but the PM met them and convinced them to agree to it. Taslima Akhter, a leader of Mojuri

Briddhite Garment Sramik Andolon, a platform of RMG workers' bodies, said, "We expected a responsible intervention from her like she had done before. We had hoped that the government would step in and review the minimum wage to appease the workers.

#### AL POLLS PREPARATION

ALCWC meeting yesterday formed 14 subcommittees, including an AL election steering committee which Hasina will lead. AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader will act as its member secretary until someone

Sources said AL will start selling party nomination forms for Tk 50,000 each after the election schedule is announced. The forms can be bought and submitted online.

The forms used to be Tk 30,000. Sources said the AL chief asked MPs to start a fully-fledged election campaign. She said their chances of getting party tickets depended on their popularity.

There is no reason to think that the BNP will not participate in the election. Do not assume that you [MPs] will be able to score a goal in an empty field," a central committee member quoted her as saying.

She asked her party colleagues to strongly oppose the BNP's movement.

"The election is close. It [voting] is the democratic and constitutional right of the people. Protecting this right and holding a free, fair, and neutral election is the goal of the government," she was quoted as saying.

There is no room for arsonists and militants in this country, BSS quoted her saying. "We have to save the people from this unrest and arson terrorism, this is our main task.

She said vested quarters were conspiring to cripple Bangladesh economically.

# Donald to leave Tigers after WC

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 this fast-bowling group as my friends; 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

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 I absolutely love them."

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], 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. 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

# Polls within stipulated time at any cost

The CEC was talking to reporters after a meeting with President Mohammed Shahabuddin at the Bangabhaban yesterday. Four other 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 Bangabhaban to inform the president

about their preparations for the the election within the stipulated time. 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.

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

## Kiwis bounce back to put one foot in semis

Both Pakistan and Afghanistan need improbable victory margins in their last matches against England and South Africa respectively to have any of chance of making the final four. "There's a few teams that could end

up on similar points," said New Zealand captain Kane Williamson. "It's out of our control, we have a couple of trainings, a couple of days off, I don't know how it will look but it's

The Black Caps, in their last league match, bounced back from four straight losses to close in on a likely semi-final

clash against undefeated India. Ravindra, who also took two wickets, added to his blazing form in the tournament including three centuries

to edge past South Africa's Quinton de Kock and top the batting chart with 565 runs.

left-handed openers struck regular boundaries before Dushmantha Chameera broke through with the wicket of Conway and soon Ravindra followed his partner to the

Williamson fell for 14 and Mark Chapaman was run out but Daryl Mitchell's attacking 43 ensured an easy way home despite his departure 10

runs short of the target. Boult returned figures of 3-37 after  $\,$ the Kiwis elected to field first and bundled out Sri Lanka for 171 in 46.4

Opener Kusal Perera smashed 51 but the rest of the batting fell apart.

Boult took the wickets of skipper Kusal Mendis, Sadeera Charith Samarawickrama and Asalanka, who was given not out but the Kiwis successfully reviewed the decision in their favour.

The Mendis strike was Boult's 50th World Cup wicket Cup to enter elite company including Glenn McGrath, Muttiah Muralitharan, Mitchell Starc, Lasith Malinga and Wasim Akram. Leg-spinner Mitchell Santner struck

twice with his left-arm spin to claim

the key wickets of Angelo Mathews (16)

and Dhananjaya de Silva (19). "In the first 10 overs we lost too many ickets and that meant we struggled in the middle overs," said skipper Mendis after Sri Lanka suffered their seventh loss in nine league matches.

commissioners went to

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