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Dhaka, Delhi eye shared prosperity

Connectivity, defence figure high in Hasina-Modi talks; focus shifts to Teesta project from water sharing STAR REPORT

Away from Teesta water sharing, over which Bangladesh and India have been in a deadlock for years, the latter now focuses on water conservation and management of the river inside

Bangladesh. The development came as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi held one-onone and delegation-level meetings at the

Hyderabad House in New Delhi vesterday. Briefing reporters after the meetings. Modi said India would send a technical team to Bangladesh to review the protection and management of the

Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra then said a technical team has been formed to look into how Bangladesh can conserve Teesta water

with Indian assistance.

Conservation of the Teesta requires technical management, Kwatra said, adding: "It is less about the water sharing part, but more about management of water flow within the Teesta river."

It is the understanding between the two leaders that a technical team would undertake efforts to make progress on this, he said.

Dhaka and Delhi almost signed a deal on sharing the Teesta water in 2011, but it did not happen due to West Bengal RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3 SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Spectrum of ties widens

SHAHAB ENAM KHAN

The resounding applause in Delhi during Sheikh Hasina's visit to India was

to the vision and goals the two nations share.

In a world of increasing

uncertainty geopolitical and power tilts, this visit and the bilateral talks underscored the necessity of pragmatic cooperation the evolving fields trade, technologies, infrastructure, connectivity.

Strategically speaking, Delhi has understandably focusedon sub-regionalism



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is greeted by her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi as she arrives at Hyderabad House in New Delhi yesterday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- India will start e-medical visa facility for Bangladeshis
- New assistant high commission of India to be set up in Rangpur
- > Train service between Rajshahi and Kolkata
- Bus service between Chattogram and Kolkata
- Commencement of goods train services between Gede-Darshana and Haldibari-Chilahati upto Dalgaon
- Construction of an inland container depot in Sirajganj with grant
- Export of 40MW of power from Nepal to Bangladesh via Indian grid
- Joint technical committee for discussions on renewal of the Ganga water treaty
- Visit of a technical delegation for a project on conservation, management of Teesta

NEW MoUs SIGNED

- Shared vision for India-Bangladesh digital partnership
- Shared vision for India-Bangladesh green
- Military education on strategy and operations
- > Cooperation in shared satellites
- Better railway connectivity between two countries
- Support in research in oceanography
- Cooperation in maritime and blue economy

MoUs RENEWED

- >> Cooperation in healthcare and medicine
- Cooperation in disaster management, mitigation, and resilience building
- Cooperation in improving fisheries

75TH ANNIVERSARY

It's high time AL went into introspection

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The Awami League, one of the oldest and largest political parties in the country, is set to celebrate its 75th founding anniversary today.

It had been at the forefront of almost all democratic movements before and after the birth of Bangladesh. It also led

the the nation to independence. On June 23, 1949, East Pakistan Awami Muslim League was founded by the likes of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, Shamsul Haque and Ataur Rahman Khan. To make it more pluralistic and noncommunal, the word "Muslim" was dropped from

its name in 1955, and it was renamed Awami League. The party played key roles in the Language Movement in 1952, Jukta Front election in 1954, anti-Ayub movement, Education Movement in 1962, Six-Point Movement in 1966, and the students' 11-point movement SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Bridge collapse kills nine of a wedding party

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The journey to a wedding party ended in tragedy yesterday after the microbus carrying the bridal party plunged into a canal after an iron-made bridge collapsed, killing at least nine.

Three others were still missing at the time of going to print, according to the victims' family members

The deceased are: Farida Begum, 55, her daughter-in-law Raiti, 30; Raiti's mother Rumi Begum, 40; their relative Munni Begum, 40; Munni's two daughters Tasfia, 11, and Tahiya, 7; their relatives Fatema Begum, 40; Zakia

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

How Lucky got so lucky!

Wealth, source of income of NBR official Matiur's wife don't add up

JAHIDUL ISLAM JOY and ZYMA ISLAM

Laila Kaniz Lucky is the upazila parishad chairman of Narsingdi's Raipura and a retired teacher of a government college.

It has now emerged that the former Bangla literature teacher has, in her name, a huge amount of properties, which do not match

Daily Star suggest that the highlyconnected NBR official and his close and distant family members have great wealth, including significant stakes in various companies.

Matiur did not respond to this newspaper's calls, but denied any wrongdoing while talking to other media outlets. Lucky's tax files submitted to the

Election Commission before this

The much-talked-about, highwalled compound and two-storey bleached white mansion sits beside neighbours who live in small onestorey homes or huts made of corrugated tin sheets.

The Laila Kaniz Lucky Road, named after her, leads to her mansion.

Shamim Iqbal Munna, of

Raipura's upazila engineering office,



পথ পরিক্রমায় জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবদ্ধ শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের আদর্শের উত্তরসূরী মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী ও বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগের সভাপতি জননেত্রী শেখ হাসিনার অকুতোভয় ও সুযোগ্য নেতৃত্বে রূপকল্প-২০৪১ বাস্তবায়নের অগ্রপথিক হিসেবে গৌরবোজ্জল ভূমিকার স্বাক্ষর

২৩শে জুন বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগের

৭৫ তম প্রতিষ্ঠাবার্ষিকীতে জানাই

শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন



এ এইচ এম খায়রুজ্জামান (লিটন) সভাপতিমণ্ডলীর সদস্য, বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ মেয়র, রাজশাহী সিটি কর্পোরেশন





A GLIMPSE INTO LUCKY'S WEALTH

- Net wealth: Tk 10.31cr
- Cash in hand/bank: Tk 3.56cr
- Loan: Tk **2**cr
- Non-farmland: 7 acres worth Tk **5.16**cr Farmland: **1.5** acres (value
- not shown) Two luxury homes in Dhaka
- Narsingdi, multiple flats

with her known source of income, indicating someone may have used her wallet as a safe place to stash Lucky is the wife of Dr Matiur

Rahman, a member of the National Board of Revenue, who came under the spotlight after his son posted on social media a photo of a sacrificial goat that he claimed to have bought for Tk 12 lakh.

Matiur is now president of the NBR's Customs, Excise and VAT Appellate Tribunal, a grade-1 job, with a basic monthly salary of Tk 78,000.

Media reports, NBR sources and a number of documents seen by The year's Narsingdi upazila pollsclaim she is worth Tk 10.31 crore, but a closer look indicates she may have understated her wealth by dozens of

According to her wealth statement, she owns more than eight acres of mostly non-agricultural land and five flats in Dhaka, but the combined value of all this was shown at only Tk 5.19 crore.

This innocuous-looking list does not even mention her palace-like home in Raipura upazila's Marjal village -- an omission that raises eyebrows due to the opulence of the residence.

said that the 123-metre road was built in 2014 at a cost of Tk 14 lakh.

Multiple teachers at the nearby Bashir High School, all requesting anonymity, said the land acquisition for that road was done using the school fund, and not with Lucky's money. They said she used her influence to have the road named after her.

Lucky retired as an associate professor of Bangla at Government Titumir College in the capital four years ago, and according to her tax filings, she gets a pension of only Tk 4.65 lakh per year.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3







TEESTA BOAT CAPSIZE Girl's body recovered, five still missing

UNB, Kurigram

The body of a two-and-a-half-yearold girl, who went missing after a boat sank in the Teesta River on Wednesday night, was recovered from the river at Jigabarir Char in Ulipur upazila of Kurigram yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Kulsum Satalashkar, daughter of Koyjor Ali.

With this, the death toll from the boat capsize rose to two.

Enamul Haque, a member of Bazra union parishad, said locals spotted Kulsum's body floating in the river and rescued it in the morning.

Ulipur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Ataur Rahman said Kulsum and six others went missing when a boat carrying 26 people sank in the Teesta river on Wednesday evening.

Later, divers from a local firefighting unit rushed to the spot and recovered the body of a child.

Four people are still missing. They are Anisur Rahman, 30, his wife Rupali Begum, their 9-year-old child Irin, their niece Hira Moni, 9, and Shamim Hossain, 5, son of Azizur Rahman.



The Gowainghat-Pirojpur-Sonarhat road in Sylhet's Gowainghat upazila has been severely damaged by heavy rains and hilly torrents, rendering it unusable for both vehicles and pedestrians. In the past three weeks, Sylhet city has been inundated five times, affecting many areas and causing untold sufferings to locals. At least 21.08 lakh people have been affected by the flash floods in Sylhet, Sunamganj, and Moulvibazar districts, with 53,244 people living shelter centres as of yesterday afternoon.

AL MPs blast govt move for allowing legalisation of black money STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two lawmakers from Awami League and one from Jatiya Party yesterday in parliament criticised the government for keeping the provision of whitening black money in the proposed national budget for 2024-25 fiscal.

Participating in the general discussion on the proposed budget, Pran Gopal Datta from Cumilla-7, Zahid Malegue from Manikgani-1, and Nurun Nahar Begum, a JP MP from a reserved seat for women, said there will be a reluctance from taxpayers to pay taxes if the provision for whitening black money is kept.

"As a taxpayer, I have to pay more than 30 percent tax if I have Tk 30 lakh. But those who did not show their money [in their tax returns] last year would legalise that undisclosed income by paying a 15 percent tax. This will make the taxpayers reluctant to pay taxes," said Pran Gopal, a renowned physician and also a former VC of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

He said the finance minister in his budget speech did not say anything about informal economy.

Zahid, a former health minister, said he does not want to see the provision of whitening black money in the proposed budget.

"We will have to curb corruption and cut the tax rate to reduce black money.'

He said it is not the low-income people or industrialists but the white-collar people who have black money.

It's high time

in 1969, and thus came out as the most authentic voice of the people.

The AL faced a crisis following conflicts between Suhrawardy and Bhashani in the late 50s. In the early 60s, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, already popular among students, emerged as a promising leader.

under his leadership, Bangladesh went on to become independent. The AL faced an existential crisis

after August 15, 1975, when its supreme leader Bangabandhu and most of his family members were killed.

Sheikh Hasina, Bangabandhu's elder daughter, returned home from abroad in 1981 and rebuilt the party.

She has been leading the organisation for 43 years as its longest serving chief. Under her leadership, the party has assumed power five times. Besides, the achievements of Hasina's

government are unparalleled compared to those of any other government. some However. fundamental

questions can still be raised as the AL

Is the party doing justice to its name? Awam, an Urdu word from which its name was derived, means "the people".

Is the party still the "voice" of the people like it was in the past? Is it still true to its ideals today?

The activities of the AL in recent years show that the party has deviated a lot from its core ideals. The party that once considered itself as an activistoriented organisation has shifted its dependency towards the bureaucracy and law enforcement agencies. It always spoke in favour of people's fundamental rights, but now it is mostly confined to making rhetorical statements on the government's development activities.

Businesspeople are now gaining more influence in the party ranks surpassing the politicians. The party that had fought to ensure people's voting rights has now developed a system of electing public representatives unopposed holding electoral contests among the AL members amid boycott by a large number of opposition parties.

In many of his speeches during 1972-75, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had mentioned corruption as the main evil hindering the country's development. He had dreamt of a corruption- and exploitation-free secular Bangladesh.

But according to the latest Household Income and Expenditure Survey, income inequality is all-time high in the country. The top 10 percent of the wealthiest households now hold 40.92 percent of its total income.

Former and current bureaucrats, law enforcers, politicians, businesspeople and other professionals now hog the headlines for allegations of corruption.

Within six years after its founding, the word "Muslim" was dropped from party's original name. But its deal with Khelafat Majlish in 2006, its policy to appease Islamist group Hefajat-e-Islam and dropping of contents written by Hindu and freethinking writers from school textbooks following Hefajat's demands raised questions about the AL's secular character.

Party leaders always claim that no one can defeat a united AL. But the question remains how united the party actually is. In the absence of activities by opposition parties, it seems AL itself has become its main enemy.

In its 2018 electoral manifesto, the AL's two major promises were to contain price hike of essentials and take effective action against corruption. In its electoral manifesto in 2024, the party reiterated its pledge to cut the prices of commodities and keep those within an affordable range.

After forming the government in January this year for a fourth consecutive term, the AL took some initiatives to keep the prices of essentials under control, but they seem inadequate.

According to the latest data of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, food inflation surged 54 basis points to 10.76 percent from 10.22 percent while nonfood inflation slipped 15 basis points to 9.19 percent from 9.34 percent in April, which is the highest rise on the Consumer Price Index in seven months.

The government's steps to check corruption did not meet people's expectations. Over the last 15 years, loan scams and indiscipline ruled the financial sector.

In its manifesto in 2008, the AL had vowed to make the wealth statements of ministers, MPs and their family members public every year, but it did not make good on the pledge. This promise was not mentioned in the three subsequent electoral manifestos.

The party had pledged to enforce laws to recover defaulted loans. However, Bangladesh Bank data shows that defaulted loans at banks hit an alltime high of Tk 1,82,295 crore at the end of March this year.

The AL had also assured the people of building a reliable electoral system. But it had to field dummy candidates in the January 7 national election to make sure the polls look participatory. It also had to restrain from fielding candidates in this year's upazila parishad elections to make sure the polls look participatory.

Due to the party's electoral strategy, AL men fought against their fellow party colleagues in the national and local elections.

And whenever any AL member is found involved in any wrongdoing, party leaders make the same old claim "some infiltrators from BNP-Jamaat are tainting Awami League's image".

Does the AL know who are its tested men, how many of its supporters are loyal to its core ideals and how many of them will respond to the party's call in the event of a crisis?

As AL celebrates its 75th founding anniversary, people expect that it will do justice to its name and gain strength to build a secular and democratic Bangladesh.

Bridge collapse

FROM PAGE 1

Begum, 30, and her daughter Hridi, 5, the police said.

Four others were rescued alive from the spot, said police and firefighters.

Survivors said they were en route to the wedding to be held at the bridge groom's residence in Gurdal village under Amtali upazila in a microbus from the bride's residence at Shibchar upazila.

Around 2:30 pm, the bus was crossing a bridge over a canal in the Haldia Bazar

"When our vehicle came to the middle of the bridge, it collapsed," said Mahbub Khan, one of the survivors.

The microbus fell into the water.

"The canal was filled with water hvacinth. I became senseless. Later, I found myself in a hospital bed when I regained my sense," he told The Daily Star.

On information, firefighters and police rushed to the spot and started a rescue operation with the help of locals, said Saiful Islam Sohel, a local union parishad member.

However, rescue operations were delayed due to heavy rain, said firefighters.

So far, nine bodies have been retrieved and four were rescued alive, said Noor Hossain, station manager of Amtali Fire Service and Civil Defence station. The rescue operation was suspended in

the evening and will resume today, he said. Neither the bride nor the bridegroom was in the microbus.

The bridge was constructed by the Local Government Engineering Department in 2008, said Asaduzzanan Mintu Mallick, Haldia union parishad chairman.

The bridge, which was in a dilapidated

condition, was not repaired, he said. Abdullah Al Mamun, engineer of LGED's Amtali upazila office, could not reached for comment despite repeated attempts.

Dhaka, Delhi eye shared prosperity SAGAR and the Indo-Pacific Vision". Comprehensive Management and

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's last-minute objections.

People in the northern part of Bangladesh have for years been suffering from floods in monsoon and water scarcity in winter.

At the joint briefing, Hasina and Modi agreed to a shared vision for the two countries as well as cooperation to make the region prosperous and stable. Hasina said, "Today, our two sides

had very productive meetings where

we discussed politics and security, trade and connectivity, the sharing of water from common rivers, power and energy, and regional and multilateral cooperation, among other issues of mutual interest. "We agreed to collaborate with each other for the betterment of our

people and countries... We charted the future course of action to ensure a smart Bangladesh by following Vision 2041 and Viksit Bharat by 2047."

Modi said Bangladesh "lies at the confluence of our 'Neighbourhood First' policy, Act East Policy, Vision

Noting that the two countries completed many important projects for public welfare in the last year alone, he said, "I reiterate India's commitment to realising Bangabandhu's vision of a stable, prosperous and progressive

Bangladesh." The two leaders witnessed the signing of 10 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs).

It was Hasina and Modi's first bilateral meeting after the January 7 election in Bangladesh. For India, it was the first visit by the head of a foreign government after the national elections there.

Hasina's two-day visit on June 21-22 took place before her planned visit to China in early July.

RIVERS

The two countries have decided to start talks at the technical level for the renewal of the Ganges River treaty that will expire next year.

In 2020, Bangladesh requested China to support the implementation of a nearly \$1 billion Teesta River

Restoration Project. China showed interest at the time.

The project was discussed at yesterday's meeting, Kwatra said. There are 54 transboundary rivers

between Bangladesh and India. The two countries have a water sharing treaty regarding the Ganges only. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Bangladesh's

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) issued separate statements later. The Indian statement said, "Recognising the importance of

water resource management in our bilateral relationship, we will continue to engage in prioritising the exchange of data and formulating the framework for interim water sharing based on the recommendations of the Joint Rivers Commission."

MOFA in its statement said Bangladesh also reiterated the early conclusion of Teesta Water Sharing Treaty.

Asked about this, former ambassador M Humayun Kabir told this correspondent the idea of



Dr Matiur Rahman



Laila Kaniz Lucky



Top left, the Wonder Park and Eco Resort in Narsingdi where Lucky and her family members have stakes. Left, a road in Narsingdi named after Lucky which leads to their mansion.

PHOTO: STAR

How Lucky got so lucky!

FROM PAGE 1

The affidavit also does not mention that she is one of the co-owners of Wonder Park and Eco Resort, a sprawling green expanse with a lake, and lakeside cottages. This newspaper contacted the

eco resort and they confirmed that Lucky's children Ahmed Taufiqur Rahman and Farzana Rahman Ipshita are co-owners. The eco resort took over certain sections of land from a community graveyard that lies adjacent to it,

Altaf Hossain, a local union parishad member, told the newspaper. The Daily Star visited the spot and located three graves inside the

boundary of the eco resort. The total value of the land of about 133.5 decimals, on which the eco resort is built, is shown at Tk 53.9 lakh a figure rejected by Altaf Hossain. He said every decimal of land in the area costs about Tk 5 lakh. This puts the valuation of just the land at least Tk 6 crore.

In addition, Lucky stated in her

affidavit that she has a 5 katha Rajuk plot in Dhaka, the value of which is "only Tk 14 lakh". Depending on the location, per katha price of Rajuk plots is much higher. She also has 155 decimals of

farmland, but her affidavit did not mention the value. Lucky first became upazila chairman uncontested after the then

chairman Abdus Sadek died of cancer in December 13, 2022. Raipura was supposed to go to polls again on May 29 this year, but the Election Commission postponed voting after a candidate died in the

run-up to the election. Lucky's affidavit also shows she owns a flat worth TK 55 lakh in Bashundhara Residential Area, which appears to be an undervaluation.

According to property databases, the price per square feet for flats in the area is upwards of Tk 10,000, meaning even a small 1,000 square feet apartment would cost more than Tk one crore.

In addition, Lucky owns four flats

in Sheltech Bithika, a condominium in Mirpur -- the combined value of which was shown at Tk 1.6 crore.

A floor plan obtained from the real estate project's website shows that the flats are 1,525 square feet each, and according to property listings, the price per square feet is Tk 6,850. This puts the total value of the four flats at Tk 4.18 crore -- about four times the amount stated.

A glaring example such undervaluation is the value of her furniture shown in her tax files -- just Tk 75.000.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Lucky said that she and her family are being victimised out of jealousy.

"We're very upset about the events that are unfolding. We're innocent people. Efforts are underway to frame us by dishing out lies along with some truths. My husband did well in his job. Those who are jealous of his professional success have hatched a conspiracy to accuse him of corruption. I don't want to say more."

conservation and management of the Teesta is fine, but ignoring the sharing of water means ignoring the fundamental rights of Bangladeshi

"The share of Teesta water is important as it has larger implications,' he said.

OTHER MATTERS

Addressing the joint press briefing, Modi said with focus on connectivity, commerce, and collaboration in the last 10 years, the two countries restored the connectivity that existed before

"We will now focus on digital and energy connectivity even more. This will speed up the economies of both countries," he said.

Modi welcomed Bangladesh's decision to join the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative. "We will also continue our cooperation in other regional and international forums."

The Indian premier said the two leaders had detailed discussions from defence production to modernisation of armed forces and decided to strengthen cooperation counterterrorism, fundamentalism and peaceful management of the

both the countries will explore defence industrial cooperation for modernisation of the Armed Forces of Bangladesh, to strengthen its capability for defence, and work closely for military engagements of exercises, training and capability development. As part of sub-regional connectivity

MEA statement

initiatives. India will extend transit facilities for movement of Bangladesh goods to Nepal and Bhutan through railway network, it added.

India will continue to expand power and energy collaboration and the countries will together develop intraregional electricity trade, including competitively-priced power generated from clean energy projects in India, Nepal and Bhutan, through the Indian electricity grid.

"Based on availability and to the best of its abilities, India will also support Bangladesh with supply of essential commodities."

Describing India as Bangladesh's major neighbour, trusted friend, and regional partner, Hasina said Bangladesh greatly values the relations with India.

She recalled with gratitude India's contribution to Bangladesh's independence.

Hasina invited Modi to visit Bangladesh. She also called on Indian President

Droupadi Murmu and Vice President

Jagdeep Dhankhar in New Delhi before leaving for Dhaka last night. Meanwhile, Vinay Kwatra made several announcements including the introduction of e-visa for patients from

Bangladesh. At the media briefing, he said India takes the issues of fatalities or injuries at the border with great sensitivity and it has been taking measures to ensure that the fatalities are reduced. The measures include using non-lethal weapons.

Kwatra said that the two leaders at the meeting discussed the Rohingya crisis, which affects both Bangladesh and Myanmar. India offered assistance in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

He said the two countries agreed to commence negotiation on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement that will include the issues of tariff, inclusion of new goods and services in trading

M Humayun Kabir told The Daily Star that it was not clear what the framework for Bangladesh to join India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative would be

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DON'T PANIC refrain from killing Russell's Viper

Environment, health ministries urge people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid growing concerns over the recent sightings of Russell's Viper (Chandrabora) in various parts of the country, the environment and health ministries have urged people to remain calm and refrain from killing snakes.

The environment ministry have also issued a set of guidelines in this regard. STAY CALM AND INFORMED

Health Minister Dr Samanta Lal Sen yesterday urged all not to panic over the presence of Russell's Viper snakes. At a virtual meeting with health officials, he said timely intervention can fully and quickly cure snakebite victims. He also instructed public hospitals to maintain an adequate stock of anti-venom.

"The most important task is to take snakebite victims to a doctor at the quickest possible time... timely medical intervention can fully cure snakebite victims through proper treatment, said the minister.

ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

The environment ministry advised the public to avoid destroying the habitats of Russell's Viper. According to the ministry, natural predators like mongoose, monitor lizard, forest cat, eagle and crane help control the viper population. The killing of these predators has contributed to an increase in viper numbers.

Russell's Viper is protected under the Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act, 2012, as it plays a crucial role in controlling rodent population and its venom is used to produce lifesaving medicines. Killing these snakes is a punishable offense.

HABITAT AND BEHAVIOUR

Russell's Viper typically inhabits lowland grasslands, thickets, open forests, and agricultural areas, generally avoiding human settlements.

Their earth-coloured bodies make them difficult to spot, increasing the risk of accidental encounters.

These snakes are good swimmers and can spread to different regions through river currents and floods. The public is advised to be cautious, especially in flood-prone areas.

MĪSINFÓRMATION AND MISIDENTIFICATION

In several districts, fear of Russell's Viper has led to the mistaken killing of other snakes. In Chattogram, locals killed a five-foot-long Burmese python, mistaking it for a viper.

Mahmud Hossain, an officer at Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary, attributed the incident to misinformation on social media.



SAFETY GUIDELINES TO PREVENT SNAKEBITES

- Avoid tall grass and bushes
- Wear protective clothing
- Carry torch, flashlight at night
- Maintain clean surroundings
- Handle fallen debris with care
- Do not confront snakes
- If needed, call National Helpline at 333

STEPS TO TAKE AFTER **SNAKEBITE**

- Minimise movement
- Clean the wound
- Remove restrictive items
- Avoid harmful interventions
- Seek immediate medical help
- Stay calm, do not panic
- Antivenom is available at

"There is a lot of misinformation circulating on social media on Russel's Viper, which led people killing the python. Even though no such snakes [viper] are in the area, people are panicked and getting misled by Facebook posts," he added.

Shahriar Caesar Rahman, CEO of Creative Conservation Alliance, emphasised the need for proper research to confirm any increase in viper numbers. "Killing a snake is not a solution, we need to focus more on medical treatment," he added.



The Eid vacation is over. Holidaymakers have started returning to the capital after celebrating Eid-ul-Azha with their families at their hometowns. The photo was taken at Kamalapur train station yesterday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Climate budget still not enough

Speakers tell event; propose 5pc pollution tax

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The allocation for the environment ministry has decreased by 2.35 percent in the upcoming budget compared to last year, if inflation is accounted for, said experts at a programme yesterday.

Despite needing 5 percent of GDP for

climate issues, only 0.706 percent has been allocated for climate action, down from last year, they added. "Climate-related funding is declining despite an increase in heatwaves, floods,

and cyclones," said M Zakir Hossain Khan, founder and chief executive of Change Initiative. He pointed out that although the proposed budget for the environment

ministry is Tk 52 crore higher than the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the allocation has effectively decreased due to inflation. At a press conference organised by CHANGE Initiative in the capital

yesterday, Zakir presented findings of a He said while Bangladesh aims to achieve 4,114.2 megawatts of renewable

In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the operating budget of the environment ministry was 8.61 percent of the total budget. This has decreased to 6.78 percent in the upcoming proposed budget.

energy by 2030, the proposed 2024 2025 budget allocates only Tk 100 crore, or 3.2 percent, for this goal.

Bangladesh faces a climate financing gap of \$23.4 billion per year, which rises to around \$40 billion per year when considering the economic impact of lost working days due to disasters.

"International funding significantly insufficient to cover this shortfall," he added.

In the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

FLASH FLOOD IN RANGPUR Teesta water recedes but still flowing above danger level

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

While the water level of the Teesta river has receded significantly in the last 24 hours, it is still flowing above the danger level in Rangpur's Kaunia upazila.

As of yesterday, the river was flowing 20 centimetres above the danger level at Kaunia point. It was flowing 52cm above the danger level on Friday, according to the Water Development Board (WDB) in Rangpur.

The water level at the upazila's Dalia point has decreased significantly due to no rain, but it is very close to the danger mark.

Following torrential rains upstream, about



Abul Hossain displays his specialised fishing nets, known locally as "Khepla Jaal," at a haat in Khulna. With 54 years in the trade, his handcrafted nets sell for Tk 1,200-2,000 each, depending on size and quality. The photo was taken in Dumuria upazila yesterday. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

DHAKA, DELHI RAIL TRANSIT

Trial run to begin next month

Says Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Indian goods train will begin its trial run through Bangladesh next month, as the two neighbouring countries have agreed to utilise each other's rail lines under rail transit facilities.

The train will travel from Gede [West Darshana [Bangladesh] to Chilahati [Bangladesh] - Haldibari [West Bengal] cross border interchange point, said Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra.

Besides, a new train service would be launched between Rajshahi and Kolkata and a bus service between Chattogram and Kolkata, he said.

He was briefing media after the two countries signed and renewed 10 MoUs during Prime Miniter Sheikh Hasina's two-day visit to India.

One of these MoUs was signed between Bangladesh and the Indian railways ministry for railway connectivity.

Currently, Indian trains, under the transshipment facility, carry goods and passengers up to the India-Bangladesh border. From there, Bangladesh Railway's locomotives pull the coaches into Bangladesh and drop off passengers or



Besides, a new train service would be launched between Rajshahi and Kolkata and a bus service between Chattogram and Kolkata, he said.

unload goods before taking the coaches back to the border.

Once India is allowed rail transit through Bangladesh under the new MoU, its trains will be operated from one part of India to another via Bangladesh.

"We believe that connectivity can transform geographical proximity into new economic opportunities, not just between India and Bangladesh but also for

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Vested quarter trying to create 1/11 situation

Says Quader

BSS, Dhaka





Secretary Obaidul Quader vesterday said a vested quarter wants to create an environment like the one-

He also said AL does politics for the country's people.

"The message of the 75th founding anniversary of Awami League is to implement its election manifesto. Politics is for people and Awami League will always remain beside the people," he said.

Quader said this after visiting the venue of the party's public rally to be held today at Suhrawardy Udyan.

He said all leaders and activists of AL from central to root level are ready to celebrate the party's founding anniversary..

regulations.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Ferry service between Rayenda of

Bagerhat's Sharankhola upazila

and Machhua of Pirojpur's

Mathbaria upazila has remained

suspended since May 27 due to

damages caused to Rayenda ferry

This ferry route is the only

on

10,

20,000-

On-site observations

revealed that the cyclone

caused significant damages to

steel railings of the terminal. The

adjacent roads were washed away

into the river, while local shops were

Although an alternative trawler

trawlers

terminal is operational, the boats

are charging a higher fare than

terminal by Cyclone Remal.

means of communication

between Rayenda and

The ferry route,

2021, used to

25,000 people and

vehicles daily.

also damaged.

Besides,

over a thousand

Machhua.

operations

November

Mobile network should be disconnected at night

AL MP tells JS citing health issues STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should disable mobile networks in rural areas between 10:00pm and 6:00am, said ruling Awami League MP and ENT specialist Pran Gopal Datta yesterday.

The excessive use of mobile phones could lead to disabilities in the younger generation, he told parliament.

He said the government should find ways so that mobile networks are limited to purposes such as freelancing or earning foreign currency during nighttime.

He said most of his including patients, children as young as ten, experience hearing issues due to excessive use of mobile phones.

"People are complaining that they can't listen and can't focus on studying. Something should be done to keep our young generation away from this technology during late hours," he added.

He also criticised the commercialisation of the health sector.



Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-52 8-17 JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: **ISLAMIC FOUNDATION**



areas of the upazila went 20,000 people stranded for freshwater for drinking. the last two days.

flood as houses and arable land remain submerged.

As per Upazila Nirbahi aid remain a far cry for these Officer Mahidul Haque, the district commissioner's office allocated about 200 packets of dry food. "We are ready to combat this crisis," he said.

However, the officials said the Teesta, Dudhkumar, and Dharla rivers may swell in the next 24-72 hours as heavy rain is likely in the northern areas of Bangladesh and West Bengal.

A warning was issued in this regard on Friday as the flood situation is expected to worsen in Rangpur, they

operating budget of the environment ministry was 8.61 percent of the total budget. This has decreased to 6.78 percent in the upcoming proposed budget. Similarly, the allocation for climate issues has dropped from 8.61 percent to 6.78 percent during the same period.

a 5 percent pollution tax on plastic, brick kilns, buildings, polluting industries, and deforestation. This could generate additional revenue of Tk 2,900 crore, he estimated.

30 hurt in AL factional clash in Rajshahi

At least 30 people were injured in a clash between two groups of the Awami League in Bagha upazila of Rajshahi yesterday.

Several hand bombs were detonated during the clash. Police fired 50 rounds of tear gas shells to bring the situation under

Eyewitnesses said the clash started during a human chain organised by local AL leaders protesting alleged irregularities and nepotism involving Mayor Akkas Ali.

On the other hand, another group of AL brought out a protest procession against extra money collected in the name of Dalil Lekhak of sub-register Samity

The two sides clashed the procession crossed the human chain.

Illegally parked auto-rickshaws, locally known as Leguna, crowd near the busy Farmgate intersection, contributing further to traffic congestion. This haphazard parking creates significant disruptions for commuters, highlighting the need for stricter enforcement of parking PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

UNB, Rajshahi

control.

Among the injured are Bagha municipality mayor Akkas Ali, Bagha upazila AL general secretary Ashraful Islam Bablu, Ardani union chairman Rafiqul Islam, and former vice chairman Shafiur Rahman Shafi.

office.

Man, child die as bus hits bike

5 more killed in 4 districts

STAR REPORT

A man and his son were killed and his wife was injured as an oncoming bus hit their motorbike on Bagerhat-Khulna highway at Piljanga in Fakirhat of Bagerhat yesterday morning. Khalilur Rahman Rari, 35, from Garia in

Patuakhali; and his one-year-old son died on the spot. The injured, Minu Begum, 30, was taken to Fakirhat Upazila Health Complex for treatment. Fakirhat Fire Service Station Leader Monirul

Islam said the accident happened while Khalilur along with his wife and son was travelling to his in-laws' house in Jashore.

In Munshiganj, two people were killed and three injured when a Nababganj-bound passenger bus and a Dhaka-bound CNG-run auto-rickshaw collided head-on in Sirajdikhan upazila yesterday.

The accident took place on Dhaka-Nababganj road in Kharsur Taltola area, said police. Sheikh Abdur Rahman, 58, and Shahin Hossain,

26, died on the spot, said Shekhernagar police investigation centre in-charge Jashim Uddin. He said the CNG-run auto-rickshaw was

carrying six people including the two. Besides, Md Rasul, 40, died as he lost control over his bike on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Rajbari

and got hit by an unidentified vehicle yesterday. In Mymensingh, Raju Ahmed, a construction worker, was killed when a bus hit him on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway yesterday morning.

In Faridpur, a teenager was killed as his motorcycle, a rickshaw-van and another vehicle collided on Dhaka-Bhanga expressway on Friday night. The deceased is Rana Matubbar, 18.



The mangled motorbike after a bus hit it on Bagerhat-Khulna highway yesterday morning, killing a father and son.

Trial run to begin

the entire region," said the Indian foreign secretary.

Replying to a question about railway-related MoU, he said there are six crossborder railway links between India and Bangladesh.

"Another crucial aspect of this railway connectivity is the transit... between different parts of India through the territory of Bangladesh," Vinay said.

And the trial run of the the railway transit. goods train is a part of the issue, he said.

The related point is that Bangladesh would get suband Nepal, part of which already exits but would be further expanded and strengthened, he said.

India has been pursuing

rail transit for the last few years and Indian Railways in 2022 submitted a proposal to the BR for carrying out trial runs of a freight train from West Bengal's Gede to Haldibari via Bangladesh.

BR's Director General Sardar Shahadat Ali told The Daily Star yesterday that a committee will be formed to finalise the modalities, routes, charges and other issues related to

Asked Rajshahi-Kolkata service, he said as BR has shortage of carriages, they regional transit to Bhutan have to seek rakes from the Indian Railway to start the service. Besides, some preparatory work is needed before launching services, he added.

Teesta water recedes but still

cannot

the pontoon, connecting road, and Tk 60-100, and they depart as per

usual, alleged locals.

Residents of were compelled to leave aforementioned unions.

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ngladeshi university where all teachers have foreign Master's

their homes and shift to cattle. However, they are underwater, leaving about now struggling to access

REMAL AFTERMATH

People suffer as ferry service

suspended since May 27

transport vans,

trucks, thereby

affecting local

businesses

"Since the ferry

service is suspended,

we cannot travel even for

urgent needs. Using trawlers costs

Jamal Uddin, a local from

Fayzul Islam, a regular commuter

Halim, a shopkeeper near

Machhua, said, "During Eid, many

couldn't visit their relatives. No one

Sheikh, a resident of Rayenda.

from Ravenda could come here."

on the route, echoed him.

pick-ups,

adversely.

and

Rayenda terminal, said, "After the

ferry service started, I managed to

sustain my family with my shop.

After the terminal was damaged

in the cyclone, the ferry operations

remained suspended from May 27.

This has adversely affected small

businesses like mine, making it

Rayenda, said, "We used the ferry to

take our cattle to Mathbaria for sale

ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. This time, we

couldn't transport cattle before Eid."

engineer of Roads and Highways

Department in Bagerhat, said, "We

have sent a proposal for allocation to

the higher authorities for necessary

repairs to resume the ferry services.

Md Farid Uddin, executive

Jalil Sheikh, a cattle trader in

hard to make ends meet."

Meanwhile, rescue and flood-hit Balapara and flood victims, said Aminul Dhepamadhupur unions Islam, the chairman of the

10 villages in the low-lying higher lands with their on the river have been gravely affected by the

Climate budget

Zakir suggested imposing

GD-1019

Government of The People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of The Director Chittagong Medical College Hospital www.cmch.gov.bd

Memo No: CMCH/Tender/2024-2025/e-GP/Non-MSR (Diet & Non-MSR)/7081

Date: 22-06-2024.

Invitation for e-GP Tender

This is an online tender, where only e-tenders will be accepted in the national 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 contact support desk contract numbers. e-Tender are invited in e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Brigadier General Mohammed Taslim Uddin, Director, Chittagong Medical College Hospital, Chattogram for the Procurement of:

SL. No.	Tender Id	Name of Description	Tender/Proposal Last Selling Date &Time	Tender/Proposal Closing & Opening Date & Time
1	999515	Procurement of Diet goods (Potato, Pumpkin, Gourd etc) for the fiscal year 2024-2025	07-July-2024 14:00	08-July-2024 14:00
2	999516	Procurement of Diet goods (Cabbage, Radish, Bean etc) for the fiscal year 2024-2025	07-July-2024 14:00	08-July-2024 14:00
3	999520	Procurement of Diet Gooods (Dairy Products, Tomato Sauce & Apple etc) for the fiscal year 2024-25	07-July-2024 14:00	08-July-2024 14:00
4	999521	Procurement of Diet goods (Rice - Cini gura, Sugar, Cumin Seeds etc) for the fiscal year 2024-25	07-July-2024 14:00	08-July-2024 14:00
5	999522	Procurement of Washing Dirty linen Items & Ironing for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025	07-July-2024 14:00	08-July-2024 14:00
6	999514	Procurement of Diet goods (Rice, Onion, Garlic etc) for the fiscal year 2024-2025	14-July-2024 14:00	15-July-2024 14:00
7	999519	Procurement of Diet Goods (Dressed Fish etc) for the fiscal year 2024-25	14-July-2024 14:00	15-July-2024 14:00
8	999517	Procurement of Diet goods (Milk, Bread, Egg, Banana etc) for the fiscal year 2024-2025	21-July-2024 14:00	22-July-2024 14:00
9	999518	Procurement of Diet Goods (Dressed Mutton & Chicken Meat etc) for the fiscal year 2024-2025	21-July-2024 14:00	22-July-2024 14:00

Further Information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk @eprocure.gov.bd).

> (Brigadier G al Mohammed Taslim Uddin) Director Chittagong Medical College Hospital Telephone: 0241356220

> > E-mail: cmch@ hospi.dghs.gov.bd

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বাণী

১৯৭৫ সালের ১৫ আগস্ট স্বাধীনতাবিরোধী ও যুদ্ধাপরাধী চক্র আওয়ামী লীগকে নেতৃত্বপুন্য করতে তৎকালীন রাষ্ট্রপতি, জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানকে সপরিবারে নির্মমভাবে হত্যা করে। এই হত্যার মধ্য দিয়ে তারা বাঙালি জাতির ঐতিহ্য, সংস্কৃতি ও অগ্রযাত্রাকে স্তব্ধ করার অপপ্রয়াস চালায়। ঘাতকদের উদ্দেশ্যই ছিল অসাম্প্রদায়িক গণতান্ত্রিক বাংলাদেশের রাষ্ট্রকাঠামোকে ভেঙে আমাদের কষ্টার্জিত স্বাধীনতাকে ভূলুষ্ঠিত করা। এই জঘন্য হত্যাকাণ্ডের সঙ্গে জড়িত স্বাধীনতাবিরোধী চক্র হত্যা, ক্যু ও ষড়যন্ত্রের রাজনীতি শুরু করে। তারা ইন্ডেমনিটি অর্ডিনেন্স জারি করে জাতির পিতার হত্যার বিচারের পথকে বন্ধ করে দেয়। বিদেশে থাকায় আমি এবং আমার বোন শেখ রেহানা প্রাণে বেঁচে যাই। জিয়াউর রহমান অবৈধভাবে ক্ষমতা দখল করে মার্শাল ল' জারির মাধ্যমে গণতন্ত্রকে হত্যা করে; সংবিধানকে ক্ষত-বিক্ষত করে। বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবের হত্যাকারীদের পুরস্কৃত করে। বিদেশে দূতাবাসে চাকুরি দেয়। স্বাধীনতাবিরোধী-যুদ্ধাপরাধীদের নাগরিকত্ দেয়; রাষ্ট্রক্ষমতার অংশীদার করে। ব্যবসা করার সুযোগ দিয়ে তাদের বিপুল অর্থের মালিক করে দিয়ে রাজনৈতিক ও সামাজিকভাবে পুনর্বাসিত করে। বিদেশে থাকা অবস্থায় '৮১ সালের ১৩-১৫ ফেব্রুয়ারি সম্মেলনে আমাকে আওয়ামী লীগের সভাপতি নির্বাচিত করে। নানা বাধা উপেক্ষা করে '৮১ সালের ১৭ মে আমি দেশে ফিরে এসে দলের দায়িতভার গ্রহণ করি এবং আওয়ামী লীগের নেতৃত্বে স্বৈরাচারী সরকারের বিরুদ্ধে জনমত গঠন ও গণতন্ত্র পুনরুদ্ধারের আন্দোলন শুরু করি।

জাতীয় ও আন্তর্জাতিক চক্রান্ত এবং স্বাধীনতাবিরোধী চক্র ও অবৈধ সেনাশাসকদের নির্যাতন আর নিপীড়নের মাধ্যমে ধ্বংস করার চেষ্টা করা হয় জনগণের সংগঠন, বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগকে। কিন্তু আওয়ামী লীগের তৃণমূল নেতা-কর্মী, সমর্থকেরা জীবন দিয়ে সকল প্রতিকূলতা, ষড়যন্ত্র মোকাবিলা করে দলকে টিকিয়ে রেখেছে, শক্তিশালী করেছে। গণতন্ত্র ও ভোটের অধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠায় দীর্ঘ আন্দোলন-সংগ্রামের পর ১৯৯৬ সালের ১২ জুনের সাধারণ নির্বাচনে বিজয়ী হয়ে সরকার গঠন করে বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ। আমরা শুরু করি অর্থনৈতিক মুক্তি অর্জন ও দেশ গড়ার নবতর সংগ্রাম। আওয়ামী লীগের নেতৃত্বে উন্নয়ন ও অগ্রগতির পথে ঘুরে দাঁড়ায় বাংলাদেশ। ১৯৯৬-২০০১ মেয়াদে আমরা খাদ্য ঘাটতির দেশকে খাদ্য উদ্বতের দেশে পরিণত করি। গণতন্ত্রকে প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক রূপ দেই। আইনের শাসন ও মানবাধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠা করি। আমরা 'দায়মুক্তি অধ্যাদেশ বাতিল আইন, ১৯৯৬' সংসদে পাশ করে জাতির পিতার হত্যার বিচার শুরু করি। আওয়ামী লীগ সরকারের আন্তরিক উদ্যোগ ও প্রচেষ্টায় মহান '২১ ফেব্রুয়ারি' আন্তর্জাতিক মাতৃভাষা দিবসের মর্যাদা পায়। ভারতের সঙ্গে গঙ্গার পানি চুক্তি সাক্ষরিত হয়। কারও মধ্যস্থতা ছাড়াই স্বাক্ষরিত হয় পার্বত্য চট্টগ্রাম শান্তি চুক্তি। আওয়ামী লীগ সরকারের এই পাঁচ বছরে দেশে আর্থ-সামাজিক উন্নয়নের এক নব দিগন্তের সূচনা হয়। ২০০১ থেকে ২০০৬ বিএনপি-জামাত জোট সরকারের দুঃশাসন, অত্যাচার নির্যাতন ও দমন নিপীড়নের বিরুদ্ধে আন্দোলন-সংগ্রাম এবং ২০০৭ থেকে ২০০৮ অগণতান্ত্রিক তন্ত্রাবধায়ক সরকারের সকল ষড়যন্ত্র মোকাবিলা করে বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ 'দিন বদলের সনদ' ঘোষণা দিয়ে ২০০৮ সালে জাতীয় সংসদ নির্বাচনে জনগণের ভোটে পুনরায় নিরস্কুশ বিজয় অর্জন করে এবং ২০০৯ সালের ৬ জানুয়ারি সরকার গঠন করে।

২০০৯ সাল থেকে শুরু করে ধারাবাহিক সরকারে গত সাড়ে ১৫ বছর আমরা দেশের প্রতিটি সেক্টরে কাজ্ফিত অগ্রগতি অর্জন করেছি। বাংলাদেশ এখন উন্নয়নশীল দেশ। ২০০৬ সালে বিএনপি-জামাত জোট সরকারের শেষ বছর এবং আওয়ামী লীগ সরকারের টানা ১৫ বছরের শেষ বছর–২০২৩ সালের তুলনা করলে সাফল্যের তথ্য-চিত্র আমাদের সামনে ভেসে উঠবে। এসময়ে প্রবৃদ্ধি ৭.২৫ শতাংশ, মাথাপিছু আয় ৫ গুণ, বাজেটের আকার ১২ গুণ, বার্ষিক উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচি ১৩ গুণ, জিডিপির আকার ১২ গুণ, বৈদেশিক মুদ্রা রিজার্ভ ৩৬ গুণ, রপ্তানি আয় ৫ গুণ, রেমিটেন্স ৬ গুণ, এফডিআই ৫ গুণ, কৃষি-শ্রমিকের ক্রয় ক্ষমতা ৩ গুণ, শ্রমিকদের মজুরি ৯ গুণ বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। দারিদ্র্য হার ৪১.৫১ শতাংশ থেকে ১৮.৭ শতাংশে হ্রাস পেয়েছে। অতি দারিদ্র্য কমেছে ৫ গুণ। মানুষের গড় আয়ু হয়েছে ৭২.৮ বছর। এসময়ে বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন সক্ষমতা ৮ গুণ এবং বিদ্যুৎ সুবিধা ভোগের হার ২৮ শতাংশ থেকে ১০০ শতাংশ বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। সাক্ষরতার হার বেড়েছে ৭৬.৮ শতাংশ। ২০০৯ সালে জিডিপির পরিমাণ ছিল মাত্র ১০২ বিলিয়ন মার্কিন ডলার। ২০২৩ সালে জিডিপির পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি পেয়ে ৪৫০ বিলিয়ন মার্কিন ডলার ছাড়িয়ে যায়। আমরা নিজস্ব অর্থায়নে পদ্মা সেতু নির্মাণ করেছি। পদ্মা সেতুর উপর দিয়ে রেল যোগাযোগ শুরু হয়েছে। ১০০টি বিশেষ অর্থনৈতিক অঞ্চল গঠন, বঙ্গোপসাগরের বিশাল জলরাশিতে আমাদের সার্বভৌমতু প্রতিষ্ঠা, মেট্রোরেল, এলিভেটেড এক্সপ্রেসওয়ে, রূপপুরে পারমাণবিক বিদ্যুৎকেন্দ্র, হযরত শাহজালাল আন্তর্জাতিক বিমানবন্দরের তৃতীয় টার্মিনাল, বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান টানেল ও বঙ্গবন্ধু স্যাটেলাইট-১সহ দেশব্যাপী অগণন উন্নয়ন কর্মকাণ্ডের বাস্তবায়ন করেছি। আমরা দেশের সকল ভূমিহীন-গৃহহীনকে বাড়ি নির্মাণ করে দিচ্ছি। আশ্রয়ণ প্রকল্প ও অন্যান্য কার্যক্রম দ্বারা এ পর্যন্ত ৮ লাখ ৬৭ হাজার ৯০৪টি পরিবারের ৪৩ লক্ষ ৪০ হাজার মানুষকে পুনর্বাসন করা হয়েছে। আমরা জঙ্গিবাদ, সন্ত্রাসবাদ ও মাদক নির্মূলে 'জিরো টলারেশ্ব' নীতিতে কাজ করে যাচ্ছি। সকল ষড়যন্ত্র প্রতিহত করে আমাদের সরকার জাতির পিতার হত্যার বিচারের রায় কার্যকর করেছে। এ হত্যাকাঞ্চের বিচারের রায় কার্যকরের মধ্য দিয়ে জাতি কলঙ্কমুক্ত হয়েছে। 'আন্তর্জাতিক অপরাধ ট্রাইব্যুনাল' প্রতিষ্ঠার মাধ্যমে যুদ্ধাপরাধীদের বিচার করেছে এবং রায়ও কার্যকর করা হচ্ছে। সংবিধানে পঞ্চদশ সংশোধনীর মাধ্যমে জনগণের ভোটের অধিকার নিশ্চিত করেছে, ফলে অবৈধভাবে ক্ষমতা দখলের পথ বন্ধ হয়েছে। ২০৩০ সালের মধ্যে 'টেকসই উন্নয়ন অভীষ্ট' অর্জন, ২০৪১ সালের মধ্যে উন্নত-সমৃদ্ধ স্মার্ট বাংলাদেশ এবং ২১০০ সালের মধ্যে 'ডেল্টা পরিকল্পনা' বিনির্মাণে আমরা নিরলস কাজ করে যাচ্ছি।

জাতির পিতার আদর্শ এবং মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধের চেতনাকে ধারণ করে আমাদের নেতা-কর্মী ও সমর্থকরা লড়াই-সংগ্রাম ও মানুষের আস্থা অর্জন করে আওয়ামী লীগকে জনমানুষের সংগঠনে পরিণত করেছে। আমি বিশ্বাস করি, আমাদের নেতা-কর্মীদের মেধা, পরিশ্রম, ত্যাগ ও দক্ষতায় আওয়ামী লীগ আরও গতিশীল ও শক্তিশালী হবে এবং জাতির পিতার স্বপ্নের ক্ষুধা-দারিদ্র্যমুক্ত ও সুখী-সমৃদ্ধ সোনার বাংলাদেশ প্রতিষ্ঠিত হবে। স্বাধীনতাবিরোধী সাম্প্রদায়িক গোষ্ঠী এবং উন্নয়ন ও গণতন্ত্র বিরোধী দেশি-বিদেশি অপশক্তি এখনও নানাভাবে চক্রান্ত-ষড়যন্ত্র করে যাচ্ছে। এই অপশক্তির যে-কোনো অপতৎপরতা-ষড়যন্ত্র ঐক্যবদ্ধভাবে মোকাবিলা করে উন্নয়নের ধারাবাহিকতা ও গণতন্ত্র রক্ষার জন্য সর্বদা প্রস্তুত থাকতে আমি দলের সকল স্তরের নেতা-কর্মীদের প্রতি আহ্বান জানাচ্ছি।

আমি বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগের ৭৫তম প্রতিষ্ঠাবার্ষিকী উপলক্ষে গৃহীত সকল কর্মসূচির সর্বাঙ্গীণ সাফল্য কামনা করছি।

জয় বাংলা, জয় বঙ্গবন্ধু বাংলাদেশ চিরজীবী হোক।

an In শেখ হাসিনা



বা মধ্যযুগে কেন্দ্রীভূত রাজ্য বা আঞ্চলিক শাসনকাঠামোয় রাজনৈতিক দলের

অস্তিত খুঁজে পাওয়া যায় না। রাজনৈতিক দলের ধারণা আধুনিক কালের

সৃষ্টি—ব্রিটিশ আগমনের পূর্বে ভারতবর্ষেও কোনো রাজনৈতিক দল ছিল না।

ব্রিটিশ শাসনের শুরুর কিছুকাল পরে প্রথমে ক্লাব বা অ্যাসোসিয়েশনের

আকারে কিছু সংস্থা গঠিত হয় সেগুলি ছিল প্রধানত মধ্যবিত্ত বা অভিজাত

সুবিধাবাদী শ্রেণির দাবি আদায়ের জন্য গঠিত, উদাহরণস্বরূপ কলকাতায়

১৮৫১ সালে ব্রিটিশ ইভিয়া অ্যাসোসিয়েশন এবং ১৮৫২ সালে বোমে

অ্যাসোসিয়েশন গঠনের কথা বলা যায়। সার্বিক বিচারে ১৮৮৫ সালে গঠিত

ভারতীয় জাতীয় কংগ্রেসই প্রথম রাজনৈতিক দল। পরবর্তী সময়ে ভারতবর্ষে

আরো অনেক রাজনৈতিক দল আমরা দেখি, তবে কংগ্রেস ও মুসলিম লীগ এ

দুটি দলই উপমহাদেশের রাজনীতিতে মূল কুশীলব হিসেবে আবির্ভূত হয়।

সেই প্রেক্ষাপটে ধর্মীয় জাতীয়তাবাদ ও হিন্দু মুসলিম বিভাজনের রাজনীতির

অনিবার্য ক্রিয়া হিসেবে ভারত ও পাকিস্তান নামে দুটি রাষ্ট্রের জন্ম ঘটে।

১৯৪৭ সালে ভারতবর্ষের বিভক্তির মাধ্যমে এই উপমহাদেশের রাজনীতির

গতিধারা বদলে যায়; বাংলা ভাগের ফলে পূর্ব বাংলার মানুষ পাকিস্তানের

২. পাকিস্তান প্রতিষ্ঠার অব্যবহিত পর থেকেই পূর্ববাংলার প্রতি পশ্চিম

পাকিস্তানিদের বৈষম্যমূলক নীতি স্পষ্ট হতে থাকে, যা বাঙালিদের

অসন্তোষের কারণ হয়ে দাঁড়ায়। তখন পাকিস্তানে মুসলিম লীগ সরকারকে

চ্যালেঞ্জ করার মতো তখন কোনো কার্যকর বিরোধী দল ছিল না। সে সময়ে কিছু তাৎপর্যপূর্ণ ঘটনা ঘটে যা ছিল পূর্ববাংলার মানুষের ধূমায়িত ক্ষোভেরই

বহিঃপ্রকাশ: ১৯৪৮ সালের ৪ঠা জানুয়ারি পূর্ব পাকিস্তান মুসলিম ছাত্রলীগ

গঠন, বাংলা ভাষার মর্যাদা প্রতিষ্ঠার দাবিতে ১৯৪৮ সালের ১১ই মার্চ প্রথম

ধর্মঘট ও শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানসহ ছাত্র নেতৃবুন্দের গ্রেফতার, ঢাকা

বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে মোহাম্মদ আলী জিন্নাহর 'উর্দুই হবে পাকিস্তানের একমাত্র

রষ্ট্রেভাষা' ঘোষণার প্রকাশ্য প্রতিবাদ, ১৯৪৯ সালের জুন মাসে টাঙ্গাইলের

উপনির্বাচনে মুসলিম লীগ প্রার্থী খুররম খান পন্নীকে পরাজিত করে শামসুল

হকের জয়লাভ, ১৯৪৯ সালে ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের চতুর্থ শ্রেণির কর্মচারীদের

আন্দোলনে নেতৃত্বদানের অভিযোগে শেখ মুজিবসহ কয়েকজনকে

বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় থেকে বহিষ্কার—এসবের প্রেক্ষাপটে ১৯৪৯ সালের ২৩ ও

২৪শে জুন ঢাকার কে এম দাস লেনের রোজ গার্ডেনে মুসলিম লীগের

একাংশের কর্মী সম্মেলনে পূর্ব পাকিস্তান আওয়ামী মুসলিম লীগ প্রতিষ্ঠা ও

প্রথম বিরোধীদলের আত্মপ্রকাশ। নবগঠিত এই দলের সভাপতি নির্বাচিত

হন মাওলানা আব্দুল হামিদ খান ভাসানী, সাধারণ সম্পাদক শামসুল হক ও

যুগা সম্পাদক শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান। বঙ্গবন্ধু তখন ছিলেন জেলে। অসমাপ্ত

'আমার সাথে যোগাযোগ করা হয়েছিল, আমার মত নেওয়ার জন্য। আমি

খবর দিয়েছিলাম, "আর মুসলিম লীগের পিছনে ঘরে লাভ নাই এ প্রতিষ্ঠান

এখন গণবিচ্ছিন্ন সরকারি প্রতিষ্ঠানে পরিণত হয়েছে। এরা আমাদের মুসলিম

লীগে নিতে চাইলেও যাওয়া উচিত হবে না। কারণ এরা কোটারি করে

ফেলেছে। একে আর জনগণের প্রতিষ্ঠান বলা চলে না। এদের কোন

কর্মপদ্বাও নাই" আমাকে আরো জিজেন করা হয়েছিল আমি ছাত্র প্রতিষ্ঠান

করব, না রাজনৈতিক প্রতিষ্ঠান গঠন হলে তাতে যোগদান করবং আমি উত্তর

পাঠিয়েছিলাম ছাত্র রাজনীতি আমি করব না, রাজনৈতিক প্রতিষ্ঠানই করব।

না করব কারণ বিরোধী দল সৃষ্টি করতে না পারলে এদেশে একনায়কত্ব

আওয়ামী মুসলিম লীগের প্রতিষ্ঠা পাকিস্তানি শাসকগোষ্ঠীর একনায়কসুলভ

রাজনৈতিক অভিব্যক্তি। সেই থেকে আজ ৭৫ বছর অতিক্রান্ত কিন্তু

ইতিহাসের নিরিখে এই উপমহাদেশে ভারতীয় জাতীয় কংগ্রেস প্রতিষ্ঠার

মতোই তাৎপর্যপূর্ণ ঘটনা এটি। বাঙালির আন্দোলন সংগ্রামের প্রতিটি

কালপর্বে আওয়ামী লীগই বাঙালির আশা আকাক্ষার প্রতীক দল হিসেবে

নিজের অবস্থান সুদৃঢ় করেছে। ১৯৫১ সালে হোসেন শহীদ সোহরাওয়াদীর

নেতৃত্বাধীন নিখিল পাকিস্তান জিন্নাহ আওয়ামী লীগও আওয়ামী লীগের সঙ্গে

একীভূত হয়, ১৯৫৪ সালের নির্বাচনে যুক্তফ্রন্টের মূলশক্তি ছিল আওয়ামী

লীগ। এর ধারাবাহিকতায় বঙ্গবন্ধুর নেতৃত্বে আওয়ামী লীগ অল্পসময়ের মধ্যে

বাঙালির আশা আকাজ্ফার প্রতীক দলে পরিণত হয়। জন্মলগ্নে আওয়ামী

মুসলিম লীগে নানা পস্থীদের সমাবেশ ঘটেছিল, তাদের আদর্শগত বৈপরীত্য

দলে নানা সংকটেরও সৃষ্টি করেছে। বাস্তব কারণে হুরুতে 'মুসলিম' শব্দটি

দলের নামে যুক্ত থাকলেও দলকে অসাম্প্রদায়িক করার লক্ষ্যে ১৯৫৫ সালে

অনুষ্ঠিত বার্ষিক কাউন্সিল অধিবেশনে মুসলিম শব্দটি বাদ দেয়া হয়। ১৯৫৭

সালে কাগমারী সম্মেলনে দলের অভ্যন্তরীণ মতবিরোধ প্রকাশ্যে আসে, যার

ফলে জুলাই মাসে মাওলানা ভাসানী ন্যাপ গঠন করে আওয়ামী লীগ থেকে

৩. আওয়ামী লীগের প্রতিষ্ঠালগ্ন থেকে তারুণ্যের প্রাণশক্তি ছিলেন শেখ

মুজিব। ১৯৫৪ সালে নির্বাচনে হক ভাসানী সোহরাওয়ার্দী যুক্তফ্রন্টের নেতৃত্বে

থাকলেও তরুণ নেতা শেখ মুজিব ছিলেন অত্যন্ত গুরুতুপূর্ণ। পরবর্তী সময়ের

ঘটনা প্রবাহে আমরা দেখি আওয়ামী লীগ ও শেখ মুজিবের উপর বিভিন্ন সময়

নেমে এসেছে জেল জুলুম নির্যাতন। ১৯৫৭ সালে পাকিস্তানে 'মার্শাল ল' জারি

করা হয় এবং সকল রাজনৈতিক দল নিষিদ্ধ ঘোষণা করা হয়। শেখ মুজিবসহ

নেতৃবৃন্দকে গ্রেফতার করা হয়। আওয়ামী লীগের রাজনীতির বড় মোড়

পরিবর্তন ঘটে ১৯৬৪ সালে শেখ মুজিব কর্তৃক আওয়ামী লীগ পুনরুজ্জীবনের

১৯৬৬ সালে বাঙালির মুক্তির সনদ ছয় দফা দাবি উত্থাপনের মাধ্যমে

স্বাধীনতার স্বপ্নবীজ বপন করেন তিনি। ছয় দফাকে তিনি বলেছিলেন

'আমাদের বাঁচার দাবি'। সন্ত্রস্ত আইয়ুব শাহী তাঁকে বিচ্ছিন্নতাবাদী,

পাকিস্তানের দুশমনসহ নানা আখ্যা দেয় কিন্তু কিছুই দমাতে পারেনি

তাঁকে। ১৯৬৬ সালের ১৮ই মার্চ আওয়ামী লীগের কাউন্সিলে উদ্বোধনী

সংগীত ছিল রবীন্দ্রনাথের 'আমার সোনার বাংলা আমি তোমায় ভালোবাসি'

গানটি। এটিও তাৎপর্যপূর্ণ এই কারণে যে পরবর্তী সময়ে এই গানটিকে

বাংলাদেশের জাতীয় সংগীত হিসেবে নির্বাচন করেছেন বঙ্গবন্ধু। ১৯৬৯

সালে শহীদ সোহরাওয়াদীর মৃত্যুবার্ষিকীতে আওয়ামী লীগের আলোচনা

সভায় পূর্ব বাংলার নাম তিনি দেন বাংলাদেশ।

বিরুদ্ধে পূর্ব বাংলার মানুষের প্রতিবাদের প্রথম প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক

চলবে।' (অসমাপ্ত আত্মজীবনী: পৃষ্ঠা ১২০)

আলাদা হয়ে যান।

আত্মজীবনীতে এই দল গঠনের প্রেক্ষাপট সম্পর্কে তিনি লিখেছেন:

অন্তর্ভুক্ত হয়, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ পরিগণিত হয় ভারতের অংশে।











জয় বঙ্গবন্ধ



ওবায়দুল কাদের, এমপি সাধারণ সম্পাদক বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ

সাধারণ সম্পাদকের কথা

দক্ষিণ এশিয়ার অন্যতম প্রাচীন, ঐতিহ্যবাহী রাজনৈতিক দল

বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ। মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে নেতৃত্ব দানকারী দলটি

কামাল চৌধুরী আধুনিক রাষ্ট্রব্যবস্থায় রাজনৈতিক দলের ভূমিকা অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ। প্রাচীন তবে বাঙালির ইতিহাসের চূড়ান্ত বাকবদল ঘটে ১৯৭১ সালের মার্চ মাসে।

> ১৯৭২ সালের ১০ই জানুয়ারি পাকিস্তানি বন্দীদশা থেকে মুক্ত হয়ে স্বাধীন বাংলাদেশে ফিরে আসেন বঙ্গবন্ধু। দেশ পুনর্গঠনে মাত্র তিন বছরের কিছু বেশি সময় পেয়েছিলেন তিনি। এ সময়ে অনেক গুরুত্বপূর্ণ কাজ সম্পাদিত হয়েছে যার তালিকা দীর্ঘ—সংবিধান প্রণয়ন, যুদ্ধবিধ্বস্ত ভৌত অবকাঠামো রাস্তাঘাট ব্রিজ নির্মাণ, প্রশাসনিক অবকাঠামো নির্মাণ, আইন-শৃঙ্খলা প্রতিষ্ঠাসহ শরণার্থী পুনর্বাসন, অর্থনীতিতে প্রাণসঞ্চারসহ নানাবিধ কাজ সম্পাদিত হয়েছে তখন। বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতিতে সর্বোচ্চ প্রবৃদ্ধি ঘটে তখন ১৯৭৩ সালের সাধারণ নির্বাচনে আওয়ামী লীগ সংখ্যাগরিষ্ঠতা অর্জন

হত্যা করা হয় আওয়ামী লীগের চার জাতীয় নেতা সৈয়দ নজরুল ইসলাম, তাজউদ্দীন আহমদ, ক্যাপ্টেন মনসুর আলী, এএইচএম কামারুজ্জামানকে। দেশে ফিরে আসেন। আওয়ামী লীগের রাজনীতিতে যুগান্তর ঘটে তখন

সুরক্ষা, গৃহহীনদের গৃহ দেয়া, খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা, বৈদেশিক সম্পর্ক, নারীর সাফল্য বাংলাদেশেকে উচ্চ মর্যাদায় আসীন করেছে।দেশের অভ্যন্তরে

করেছিলেন তিনি। ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ এখন বাস্তবতা। তার ঘোষণা দিয়েছেন যার লক্ষ স্মার্ট নাগরিক, স্মার্ট অর্থনীতি, স্মার্ট সরকার এবং ২০২১ সালে অর্থনীতির মুক্তির দর্শন মধ্যম আয়ের ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ, ২০৪১ সালে সাংস্কৃতিক মুক্তির দর্শন অসাম্প্রদায়িক প্রগতিশীল, শিখর স্বাধীনতার ১০০ বছর পূর্তি এবং ২১০০ সালে নিরাপদ বদ্বীপ ডেল্টা প্র্যান—শেখ হাসিনার নেতৃত্বৈ আওয়ামী লীগের স্বদেশ নির্মাণের

৫. আওয়ামী লীগের ৭৫তম জয়ন্তী তথু বাংলাদেশে নয় উপমহাদেশের রাজনীতিতেও একটি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ মাইল ফলক। দীর্ঘ পথপরিক্রমায় আওয়ামী লীগ জনমনে একটা গভীর আস্থা তৈরি করেছে। সময়ের প্রয়োজনে দলের গঠনতন্ত্র বদলেছে—অঙ্গীকার এবং প্রত্যাশায় যুক্ত হয়েছে সময়ের নানা দাবি—কিন্তু নীতিতে কোনো পরিবর্তন হয়নি, অবিচল থেকেছে রাষ্ট্রের চার

সারাদেশে, দেশের বাইরে প্রবাসে কোটি কোটি কর্মীর আত্মত্যাগ ও শ্রমে বঙ্গবন্ধুর হাতে গড়া বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ আজ তাঁর কন্যা শেখ হাসিনা'র নেতৃত্বে সমৃদ্ধ দেশ গঠনের কাজে ব্যাপৃত। আওয়ামী লীগ ও এর সহযোগী সংগঠনের কোটি কোটি কর্মী ও জনগণের আস্থা ও সমর্থন আওয়ামী লীগের মূলশক্তি। বিগত দিনে আওয়ামী লীগ যেমন প্রতিকূল কঠিন সময় অতিক্রম করে এগিয়ে গেছে তেমনি সকলের প্রত্যাশা এই যে আগামী দিনেও সমৃদ্ধ বাংলাদেশ গঠনের অঙ্গীকারে অব্যাহত থাকবে এই অগ্রযাত্রা।

জয় বাংলা, জয় বঙ্গবন্ধ।

৭ই মার্চে যখন বঙ্গবদ্ধ জাতিকে স্বাধীনতা যুদ্ধের প্রস্তুতি গ্রহণের আহ্বান জানিয়ে ঘোষণা দেন 'এবারের সংখাম আমাদের মুক্তির সংখাম, এবারের সংগ্রাম স্বাধীনতার সংগ্রাম' তখনই বদলে যায় বাংলাদেশের ইতিহাসের গতিধারা। ২৫শে মার্চে গণহত্যার রাতের অব্যবহিত পরে ২৬শে মার্চ প্রথম প্রহরে বঙ্গবন্ধু স্বাধীনতা ঘোষণা করেন। পাকিস্তান সামরিক জান্তা তাঁকে গ্রেপ্তার করে। বন্দীদশায় থেকেও যুদ্ধের নয় মাস তিনি ছিলেন মুক্তিযুদ্ধের সার্বক্ষণিক প্রেরণা, তাঁর অনুসারীরা আওয়ামী লীগের নেতৃতে প্রবাসে বাংলাদেশ সরকার গঠন করে। বঙ্গবন্ধুকে রাষ্ট্রপতি, সৈয়দ নজরুল ইসলাম অস্থায়ী রাষ্ট্রপতি ও তাজউদ্দীন আহমদকে নবগঠিত সরকারের প্রধানমন্ত্রী হিসেবে নির্বাচন করা হয়। আওয়ামী লীগের নেতৃত্বে সংগঠিত ও পরিচালিত হয়েছে মুক্তিযুদ্ধ।

সে সময় একান্তরে পরাজিত শক্তির ষড়যন্ত্র, বৈজ্ঞানিক সমাজতন্ত্র প্রতিষ্ঠার

নামে হঠকারী রাজনীতি, দেশি-বিদেশি নানা ষড়যন্ত্র মোকাবেলা করতে হয়েছে তাকে। আজীবন শান্তির অন্বেষণকারী ছিলেন তিনি, চিন্তা-চেতনায় ছিলেন সমন্বয়বাদী—এই উপলব্ধি থেকে ১৯৭৫ সালে সকলকে ঐক্যবদ্ধ করে দ্বিতীয় বিপ্লবের কর্মসূচি ঘোষণা করেছিলেন। ১৯৭৫ সালের ১৫ই আগস্ট বঙ্গবন্ধুকে পরিবারের অধিকাংশ সদস্যসহ হত্যার পরে ঘাতক কবলিত বাংলাদেশে একটি দীর্ঘ ও পরিকল্পিত ইতিহাস বিকৃতির কাল শুরু হয়। আওয়ামী লীগের জন্য সেটি ছিল সবচেয়ে বড় দুঃসময়—কাণ্ডারিবিহীন নৌকার ঘুরে ঘুরে চলা! ৩রা নভেম্বর ১৯৭৫ সালে জেলখানায় নির্মমভাবে ১৯৮১ সালের ১৭ই মে একটি ঝড়ো দিনে লক্ষ লক্ষ মানুষের শোক ও অঞ ভেজা অভ্যৰ্থনায় সিক্ত হয়ে বঙ্গবন্ধুকন্যা শেখ হাসিনা নিৰ্বাসন কাল থেকে তাঁর নেতৃত্বে ২১ বছর পরে আওয়ামী লীগ পুনরায় রাষ্ট্র পরিচালনার সুযোগ

8. পিতা থেকে কন্যা-এ এক মহাকাব্যিক উপাখ্যান। পিতা দিয়েছে স্বাধীন স্বদেশ কন্যা দিয়েছে আলো। বঙ্গবন্ধুর অসাম্প্রদায়িক জীবনবোধ, সাহস ও মানব মুক্তির দর্শন ধারণ করে দেশরত্ন শেখ হাসিনা বাংলাদেশের রাজনীতিতে নতুন মাত্রা যোগ করেছেন। তাঁর নেতৃত্বে আমাদের প্রিয় মাতৃভূমি 'স্বপ্লের সোনালি অধ্যায়' অতিক্রম করছে। মোট পাঁচবার তিনি প্রধানমন্ত্রী হিসেবে নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন, তন্মধ্যে একটানা চতুর্থবার। উন্নয়ন এবং অগ্রগতির নানা সূচকে বাংলাদেশ এখন আদায় করে নিয়েছে বৈশ্বিক সমীহ। বাংলাদেশ এখন বিশ্বের ৩৩তম বৃহৎ অর্থনীতি। বিদ্যুৎ, শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, প্রযুক্তি, কৃষি, যোগাযোগ অবকাঠামো, সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা ও দারিদ্য নিরসন , অন্থসর জনগোষ্ঠীর ক্ষমতায়ন ও শিশু কল্যাণ, বঙ্গবন্ধু হত্যাকারীদের বিচারসহ সকল ক্ষেত্রে নানামুখী স্রোতকে তিনি যেমন দক্ষতার সঙ্গে সমন্বয় করেছেন তেমনি মোকাবেলা করেছেন বৈশ্বিক নানা চাপ। করোনা বিশ্বমারি রাশিয়া ইউক্রেন যুদ্ধ ও বর্তমানে গাজায় ইসরাইলের আগ্রাসনের মুখে তাঁর সুচিন্তিত ও সাহসী পদক্ষেপ এখন সবর্ত্র প্রশংসিত। দেশের অভ্যন্তরে জঙ্গিবাদ, বিএনপি জামাতের বোমা ও অগ্নিসন্ত্রাস, হত্যা, নাশকতা ও অপপ্রচার মোকাবেলা করেছেন দৃঢ় হাতে। তাঁর নেতৃত্বে রাজপথেও সমান সক্রিয় থেকেছে আওয়ামী

২০০৮ সালে ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ গঠনের লক্ষ্যে দিন বদলের সনদ ঘোষণা ধারাবাহিকতায় ২০২৪ সালের নির্বাচনী ইশতেহারে স্মার্ট বাংলাদেশ গঠনের স্মার্ট সমাজ। ১৯৭১ সালে বঙ্গবন্ধুর নেতৃত্বে রাজনৈতিক মুক্তির দর্শন থেকে অন্তর্ভুক্তিমূলক, উন্নত সমৃদ্ধ স্মার্ট বাংলাদেশ, ২০৭১ সালে সমৃদ্ধির সর্বোচ্চ পথমানচিত্র।

মূলনীতি— গণতন্ত্র সমাজতন্ত্র জাতীয়তাবাদ ধর্মনিরপেক্ষতার প্রতি।

জনালগ্ন থেকে জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের প্রজ্ঞাবান নেতৃত্বে গড়ে উঠেছে। বাঙালি জাতির মুক্তিদাতা মহান নেতা শেখ মুজিব নিজের জীবনকে উৎসর্গ করেছেন দেশমাতৃকার মুক্তির সংগ্রামে এবং আওয়ামী লীগকে একটি সমতা ও সম্প্রীতির আদর্শনির্ভর দল হিসেবে নির্মাণের কাজে। বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগের সম্মানিত সভাপতি দেশরত্ন শেখ হাসিনা তাঁর একটি অনবদ্য লেখায় যথার্থভাবে তুলে ধরেছেন কী অসাধারণ মিথব্রিয়ায় বঙ্গবন্ধুর নেততে একটি জাতিরাষ্ট্রের জন্মের সঙ্গে যুক্ত হয়ে গিয়েছিল একটি দলের আদর্শভিত্তিক অভিযাত্রা। তিনি লিখেছেন, 'অহিংস অসহযোগ আন্দোলন আর সশস্ত্র মুক্তিযুদ্ধের অভূতপূর্ব সমন্বয়ে আমাদের স্বাধীনতা অর্জন। যুগপৎ এই দুই রাজনৈতিক কৌশলের সমন্বয়, মিশ্রণ ও বিজয় অর্জন পৃথিবীর ইতিহাসে এক বিরল ঘটনা, যা সম্ভব করেছে গণমানুষের দল–আওয়ামী লীগ। জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের বলিষ্ঠ নেতৃত্বে वाश्लारमम जाउग्राभी लीश সংগঠনের নিবেদিত বিশাল कर्भी বাহিনীর দেশপ্রেম ও আত্মত্যাগই এই অসম্ভবকে সম্ভব করতে আজ আমরা এক মাহেন্দ্রক্ষণে এসে পৌছেছি-এদেশের মানুষের

আশা ও ভরসার স্থল বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ প্রতিষ্ঠার ৭৫ বছর উদ্যাপন করছে।

১৯৪৯ সালে যাত্রা শুরুর পর থেকে বাংলাদেশে আওয়ামী লীগের সাড়ে সাত দশকের পথচলা মুক্তির আলোকবর্তিকা হয়ে উদ্ভাসিত থাকার গৌরবোজ্জল ইতিহাস। বায়ানুর ভাষা আন্দোলন, আমাদের মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধ ও গণতন্ত্র প্রতিষ্ঠার সংগ্রামে নেতৃত্ প্রদানকারী দল। আওয়ামী লীগের প্রতিটি নেতাকর্মীর জন্য এটি অত্যন্ত আনন্দময় মুহূর্ত। আজকের এই শুভক্ষণে গভীর শ্রদ্ধাভরে স্মরণ করছি সর্বকালের সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বাঙালি জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান ও তাঁর পরিবারের শহিদ সদস্যদের। স্মরণ করছি কেন্দ্রীয় কারাগারে ঘাতকের বুলেটে নিহত জাতীয় চার নেতা সৈয়দ নজরুল ইসলাম, তাজউদ্দীন আহমদ, এম মনসুর আলী এবং এএইচএম কামারুজ্জামানকে। বিনম্র শ্রদ্ধা জানাই মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে ৩০ লাখ শহিদ ও সম্ভ্রম হারানো তিন লাখ মা-বোনের প্রতি। সুদীর্ঘ এই অভিযাত্রায় যাদের ঘাম-শ্রম-মেধা আর আত্মত্যাগে গড়ে উঠেছে আজকের বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ, শ্রদ্ধা জানাই সেই সব

বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের বলিষ্ঠ নেতৃত্ব ও আওয়ামী লীগের নেতাকর্মীদের ত্যাগ-তিতিক্ষায় বিশ্ব মানচিত্রে স্বমহিমায় উদ্রাসিত হয়েছে বাঙালি জাতির হাজার বছরের লালিত স্বপ্ন স্বাধীন সার্বভৌম বাংলাদেশ।

দক্ষতা ও দৃঢ়তার সঙ্গে সদ্য স্বাধীন যুদ্ধবিধ্বস্ত দেশ পুনর্গঠনের কাজ করেছিলেন বঙ্গবন্ধু। কিন্তু বাঙালি জাতিকে নেতৃত্বশূন্য করে একটি ব্যর্থ ও অকার্যকর রাষ্ট্রে পরিণত করতে '৭১-এর পরাজিত শক্তি সপরিবারে জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান ও জাতীয় চার নেতাকে হত্যা করে। পথ হারায় মুক্তিযুদ্ধের চেতনার প্রিয় বাংলাদেশ

এমনি এক প্রেক্ষাপটে আওয়ামী লীগের হাল ধরেন বঙ্গবন্ধুকন্যা জননেত্রী শেখ হাসিনা। তাঁর এই ঐতিহাসিক ও যুগান্তকারী সিদ্ধান্ত দিশেহারা জনগণের মধ্যে নতুন আশার সঞ্চার ঘটায়। নবোদ্যমে সংগঠিত হয় সারাদেশের আওয়ামী লীগের নেতাকর্মীরা। জননেত্রী শেখ হাসিনার সাহসী ও সুদূরপ্রসারী নেতৃত্বে প্রতিষ্ঠিত হয় জনগণের সাংবিধানিক ও গণতান্ত্রিক অধিকার। ধ্বংসের দ্বারপ্রান্তে থাকা দেশটি '৯৬ সালে প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার নেতৃত্বে আবার ঘুরে দাঁড়ায়। মানুষের জীবনে নেমে আসে স্বস্তি। কিন্তু এই অগ্রযাত্রা আবারো বাধাগ্রস্ত হয়। ২০০১ সাল থেকে ২০০৮ পর্যন্ত বিএনপি-জামাত অপশক্তি আওয়ামী লীগকে নিশ্চিহ্ন করতে চেয়েছিল। ২০০৪ সালের ২১ আগস্ট বন্ধবন্ধুকন্যাকে হত্যার উদ্দেশ্যে বর্বরোচিত গ্রেনেড হামলা চালিয়েছিল।

সকল ষড়যন্ত্র, সকল অপচেষ্টাকে প্রতিহত করে ২০০৯, ২০১৪, ২০১৯ এবং ২০২৪ সালে সর্বকালের সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বাঙালি, জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের সুযোগ্য কন্যা মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার নেতৃত্বে বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ জনগণের রায় নিয়ে টানা চারবার সরকার গঠন করে। মাত্র ১৫ বছরে হতদরিদ্র বাংলাদেশের চেহারাটা আমূল পাল্টে দিয়েছে। যে বাংলাদেশ ছিল অবহেলিত, দারিদ্যুপীডিত, যে বাংলাদেশকে নিয়ে পশ্চিমা বিশ্ব উপহাস করতো 'তলাবিহীন ঝুড়ি' বলে, মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী দেশরত্ব শেখ হাসিনার দূরদশী, সুদক্ষ, সৃজনশীল ও সাহসী নেতৃত্বের ফলেই সেই বাংলাদেশ আজ সারা বিশ্বে উন্নয়নের বিস্ময়কর রোল মডেল। জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান যে সোনার বাংলার স্বপ্ন আমাদের দেখিয়েছিলেন, তাঁর সেই স্বপ্ন আজ বাস্তবায়িত হচ্ছে তাঁরই কন্যা দেশরত্ন শেখ হাসিনার নেতৃত্বে দেশকে স্মার্ট বাংলাদেশে রপান্তরের মাধ্যমে, স্বল্লোরত থেকে উরয়নশীল দেশে উরীত করার মাধ্যমে এবং দেশকে খাদ্যে উদ্বৃত্ত দেশে পরিণত করার মাধ্যমে। সুশাসন, স্থিতিশীল অর্থনীতি, কৃষি উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি, উন্নয়নে গতিশীলতা, ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ, শিক্ষার প্রসার, স্বাস্থ্যসেবা নিশ্চিতকরণ, কর্মসংস্থান, বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি, সামাজিক নিরাপত্তা বেষ্টনী, খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা, নারীর ক্ষমতায়নসহ বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্রে এসেছে অভূতপূর্ব সফলতা। উন্নয়নের এই ধারাবাহিকতায় বাংলাদেশের অর্থনীতি আজকে একটি শক্ত ভিত্তির উপর দাঁড়িয়েছে। বাংলাদেশ এখন দ্রুত উন্নয়নশীল দেশগুলোর মধ্যে সামনের কাতারে। বিশ্বজুড়ে প্রশংসিত হচ্ছে বাংলাদেশের এই সাফল্য ও অর্জন।

জন্মলগ্ন থেকে এখন পর্যন্ত আওয়ামী লীগের শক্তির উৎস জনগণ, শক্তির উৎস সংগঠনের তৃণমূল পর্যায়ের নেতাকর্মীরা। নেতা-কর্মীদের ইস্পাতদৃঢ় মনোবল এবং ঐক্যবদ্ধতার ফলে আওয়ামী লীগের বিরুদ্ধে কোনো ষড়যন্ত্র সফল হয়নি, কোনোদিন

বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগ এ মুহুর্তে বাংলাদেশের সূর্ববৃহৎ ও সবচেয়ে শক্তিশালী রাজনৈতিক সংগঠন। আওয়ামী লীগের নিবেদিত নেতাকর্মীরা আজ বঙ্গবন্ধুর সুযোগ্য কন্যা দেশরত্ন শেখ হাসিনার নেতৃত্বে ঐক্যবদ্ধ।

আমার বিশ্বাস, আমাদের সংগঠনের সর্বস্তরের নেতাকর্মীরা বাংলাদেশ আওয়ামী লীগকে একটি প্রশিক্ষিত, সুশৃঙ্খল ও সুসংগঠিত প্রতিষ্ঠানে পরিণত করে সংগঠনের গৌরবময় অতীত ঐতিহ্যকে সমুন্নত রাখতে সক্ষম হবে।

জয় বাংলা, জয় বন্ধবন্ধু বাংলাদেশ চিরজীবী হোক।

3007 22 Caco ওবায়দুল কাদের, এমপি



ARTS & ENTERTAINMEN

'Baaji' delivers high-stakes drama in cricket's shadow

Scriptwriter Hasanat endeavours to infuse the screenplay with subplots and dialogues that touch on family life, internal police biases, dynamics, and the influence of "editor's choice" in journalism.

SAEED KHAN SHAGOR

In one scene, Inspector Topu (Manoj Pramanik) and his subordinate drink in a bar. Topu's life is murky, struggling to reconcile with the inevitable compromises of personal and family life. The solo of *Teka O* Pakhi plays in the background. In its lyrics, the song reflects the

of chasing it; Baaji seems to serve as a solemn

Released on the OTT platform Chorki during

Sengupta and Hasanat, the plot death of rising cricket star Apu, who dies under suspicious circumstances after delivering a stellar performance as Man

In investigating his brother's death, Topu begins to unravel a series of puzzles, including rumours linking the country's biggest cricket star Abir to the incident. Topu's informal entry into an exclusive cricket practice session, despite being a nobody in the team, serves as a pivotal yet illogical subplot, driving the story. The episodes are aptly titled with cricket-based jargon like Powerplay,

Scriptwriter Hasanat endeavours to infuse the screenplay with subplots and dialogues that touch on family life, internal police biases, power dynamics, and the influence of "editor's choice" in journalism.

framing, the story ultimately culminates in a conventional murder mystery.

However the depiction of betting as a mass-market phenomenon is lacking, instead presenting it as an elite culture. This portrayal, amid the widespread promotion of betting sites, raises questions about the director's target audience. The subplot of Tahsan and Mithila's relationship and their professional reunion with the dialogue—"we are professionals" – serves as a brilliant metaphor.

The recurring tropes in our local series productions, like, infertility in Topu and Renu's marriage and police characters depicted as losers, need reevaluation. However, the script notably gives every character equal space.

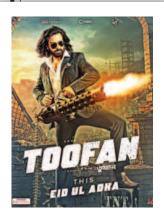
character of Mrs 45, played

are minimal. Accordingly, despite its unique fight scenes, nevertheless, lack conviction. His batting scenes are poorly executed with an unconvincing grips and positioning.

Rafiath Rashid Mithila plays a young journalist, Jinia who occasionally loses direction. She is provided hurried efforts to maintain continuity within the storyline. Mithila's performance is commendable, though her screen time is limited compared to others, despite being a major draw in the trailer and marketing strategy.

Cinematographer Suman Sarker, known for his previously notable Bangladeshi projects, adds his personal touch with beautifully framed indoor shots. However, the series struggles to capture the kinetic energy of cricket matches, using a style ill-suited to

'Toofan' to hit **Indian theatres** this Friday



Rafi's film Toofan, starring Shakib Khan, will make its international debut on June 28 after premiering on Eid Day (June 17) in 129 theatres across Bangladesh. The film has been consistently drawing growing crowds.

After its regional success and with local theaters extending shows due to its immense audience draw, Toofan is set to captivate audiences in West Bengal, India.

Last Friday, Raihan Rafi confirmed that Toofan will hit West Bengal theatres on June 28.

The decision to release the film in India comes amid overwhelming demand from audiences. Additionally, the film's co-producer and distributor, India's SVF, has played a significant role in this international release.

Italian Film Festival honours 'Mayna'

The Bangladeshi film Mayna ("I Want to Be a Mother"), produced by Alimullah Khokon and directed by Monjurul Islam Megh, has recently been awarded at the Gulf of Naples Independent Film Festival in Italy.



The 10th edition of the festival ran from June 11 to 14 on Naples' beaches. In the competition, Mayna, produced by Jaaz Multimedia, was the sole Asian film selected.

Mayna was honoured with a "Special Mention Feature Film Award" by the judging panel from a global pool of submissions including films from countries like the USA, Mexico, Spain, and others.

In *Baaji*, director Arifur Rahman crafts a narrative that unfolds against the backdrop of intense drama and societal complexities, using the mysterious death of rising cricket star Apu, in Captain Abir's (Tahsan Khan) local team, as its pivot point.

elusive nature of money and the high cost reminder of this familiar truth.

Eid-ul-Azha, the star-studded web-series has become one of the festive highlights starring the former celebrity couple Tahsan Khan and Rafiath Rashid Mithila. It also features Mim Mantasha, Nazia Haque Orsha, Shahadat Hossain, Partho Sheikh, Tasnuva Tisha, Abrar Athar, Azharul Hoque Adil, and Manoj Pramanik.

Penned jointly by Aditya unfolds with the mysterious of the Match.

Decision Pending, Strategic Timeout, etc.

Though the narrative revolves around betting and its consequences, actual cricket scenes ruthless contract killer. Marking his OTT debut with Baaji, Tahsan Khan comfortably handles his role as Abir, whether creating tension through

exceptionally by Nazia Haque

Orsha, can single-handedly

drive the show. She stands out

with her portrayal of a mother,

the wife of a disabled man, a family's

cornerstone, and a simultaneous

his performance or navigating the strains of his character. However, his portrayal on the field lacks finesse, as his grip on the bat, positioning, execution, and body movements are not convincing.

Although the story's predictable outcome somewhat diminishes Topu's struggles, Manoj Pramanik excels as a brother and performs in fiction helps viewers understand their real credibly as an ordinary police officer. His

The editing, including basic tasks like on-screen scoreline updates, is botched. For instance, MH Munna's over is inaccurately marked, and the score remains unchanged in subsequent overs. In another scene, Officer Mokarram Hossain exits at 11:40, but the clock shows 11:30 in the next shot.

Colourist Chinmoy Roy's work is exquisite, particularly in scenes like Topu's mother wearing an abaya indoors. The impact of costumes on colour balance is evident, showcasing how they can greatly influence character portrayal in fiction.

Setting aside technical faults, Baaji narrates the story of a societal class crucial to our structure. Their proximity to power may limit audience relatability, yet depicting them position, marking *Baaji's* indirect success.

Khaleda in **Evercare CCU**

He asked for prayers from the public, saying, "I urge everyone to pray for madam's early recovery. May Allah grant her good health.'

Khaleda's physician Professor AZM Zahid Hossain said Fakhrul visited the hospital and discussed with the medical board members the BNP chairperson's health condition and treatment.

"Madam is under intensive observation in the CCU. The treatment is ongoing," he said.

Khaleda Zia was rushed to Evercare Hospital in an ambulance around 3:30am as she suddenly fell ill at her residence, "Firoza" in Gulshan.

She was quickly admitted to the CCU, where medical treatment began under the supervision of the medical board.

The medical board members, led by specialist physician Professor Shahabuddin Talukdar, had several meetings to discuss the former prime minister's current condition and her treatment.

Khaleda went to Evercare Hospital on May 1 for a health checkup. During that visit, doctors treated her at the CCU for two days.

The former prime minister, aged 79, has long battled various ailments, including liver cirrhosis, arthritis, diabetes, and issues related to the kidney, lung, heart, and eves.

Since her conditional release from prison in 2020, the BNP chief has been receiving medical care repeatedly at the hospital under the supervision of a medical board headed by cardiologist Prof Shahabuddin Talukder.

Khaleda's doctors have been advising sending her abroad since she was diagnosed with liver cirrhosis in November 2021.

On October 26, last year, US specialist doctors completed a hepatic procedure transjugular known as the intrahepatic portosystemic shunt (TIPS procedure) to stop water accumulation in Khaleda's stomach and chest, and bleeding in her liver.

Spectrum of ties widens

interdependency, which delivers a win-win scenario for both nations. Meanwhile, Dhaka's economy dictates it sees its future linked with Central and Southeast Asia's markets, in which the geography and bureaucracy of India will continue to play a role.

It was encouraging that the re-elected Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his government's hands to build digital and green partnerships for a sustainable future; Bangladesh's prime minister held forth the necessity of cooperation to make shared waters sustainable.

Noteworthy, Modi reminded his friends of Bangladesh's contribution to India's connectivity needs, which have direct effects on the Indian economy by connecting its hinterland with the cardinal economic hubs. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, generous as she has been, warmheartedly recognised India's contribution to the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971 and, of course, the economic growth that both nations enjoy.

Regionalism was further highlighted during this visit. SAARC and BIMSTEC will continue to be priority institutions in Bangladesh's to the commonwealth.

SAARC originates in Dhaka, and BIMSTEC's headquarters is also in the Bangladeshi capital. At least, the bilateral talks aim to meaningfully revive BIMSTEC, with Modi's renewed attention to it being a great

Not surprisingly, the talks featured defence cooperation -- a crucial

aspect in the context of South Asian Bangladesh, India is the future of production to modernise the armed

Bangladesh seeks to diversify and modernise its military capabilities to withstand conventional threats emanating from Myanmar and unconventional threats sweeping in from unmanned sources.

of defence cooperation will be put to the test in the coming years as the India-Myanmar-China triad will remain a key boiling point for Dhaka's defence interests.

The idea of the practical feasibility

Moreover, combating counterterrorism. fundamentalism, and peaceful border management were raised during the

But the people in Dhaka and beyond won't hesitate to ask for the specificity of these issues when the global community notes Dhaka's extraordinary capabilities

countering terrorism or extremism. My best review of this summitlevel visit lies in my Machiavellian understanding that foreign relations are not based on charity and that nations will always maximise their national interests.

Teesta basin, example, is home to around 30 million people, two percent of whom are in Sikkim, 27 in West Bengal, and 71 in northwest Bangladesh. The northwest population is a crucial part of Bangladesh's LDC graduation in

The question that would loom large is how fast we can solve the issue through our bilateral ties. The Farakka and the other 50 rivers are still dwindling in the public memory. Geostrategically speaking,

in terms of trade and energy geopolitics, in the form of defence South Asian stability, depending on its success in managing its neighborhood-first policy and the northeast or religious plurality. Meanwhile, for India, Bangladesh is the future of its regional leadership as Bangladesh continues to significantly contribute to the Indian economy and security.

> The visit, hence, deserves to be seen as a stocktaking of the past and future based on mutual capabilities and genuineness in commitments.

> In terms of politics, Hasina stands firm in parliament with her absolute majority, making her the prime foreign policymaker in Dhaka, while Modi returned to power with the return of coalition politics.

> Bangladesh's prime minister has expressed her interest in further involving the new leadership in India in Bangladesh's economy. She has also clearly indicated the need for further talks on a comprehensive economic partnership that should be based on mutual interests by not bypassing its Indo-Pacific partners.

> This means the future of bilateral cooperation is astronomically high, but pragmatism and mutual capabilities should be the key determinants if I see Bangladesh's national interest, be it in terms of water management or the politics of external powers.

> Therefore, both nations have promised deep cooperation that should be equal-handed in the coming days.

> The writer is a professor in international relations and the executive director of Jahangirnagar University's Bangladesh Center for

Farmers count the losses

on the sanctuaries so that we can protect the various fish species that have been washed away from local farms and ponds during the flash floods."

Meanwhile, the divisional agricultural extension department reports that farmers in the region are looking at a significant loss of paddy and vegetables, as over 26,000 hectares of farmland have been submerged.

flood-affected croplands comprise 17,460 hectares of Aush paddy, 1,123 hectares of Aush seedbed, 167 hectares of Aman seedbed, and 7,656 hectares of vegetables.

Mati Lal Halder, a sub-assistant agriculture officer at the divisional DAE, said, "We have not estimated the financial loss yet because a large amount of paddy and vegetables may survive once the water recedes. We will estimate the financial loss once the floodwaters have receded completely."

With only a trace of rainfall and occasional sunny skies, the water level of the Surma River was rapidly receding yesterday, improving the flood situation in vast areas.

The river at Sylhet City Point fell below the danger mark yesterday morning, while it flowed slightly

above it at other points. The flood situation in Moulvibazar and Habiganj is also starting to get caused by hill torrents and rains from better as the water levels in the Manu, upstream in India.

Khowai, and Dhalai rivers fell below the danger marks.

However, the Kushiyara River continued to be above the danger level at Fenchuganj point as well as at all other points in Sylhet and Moulvibazar.

Just 2mm of rain fell on Sylhet city in the 24 hours till yesterday morning, while Moheshkhola in Sunamganj recorded the most at 121mm.

The flood situation in the Sylhet region is expected improve in the next 72 hours, according to yesterday morning's forecast by the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre and Water Development

been affected by the flash floods in Sylhet, Sunamgani, and Moulvibazar districts with 53,244 people residing in the shelter centres as of yesterday In the past three weeks, Sylhet city has been inundated five times due to

A total of 21.08 lakh people have

heavy rains, affecting hundreds of areas and causing untold suffering to the dwellers. Earlier, on May 29, heavy rains and

hill torrents from upstream caused flooding in Sylhet. The flood situation began to normalise on June 8.

However, continuous starting in the early hours of June 17 led to another flood in the district.

Prior to this, in May, floods were

Tigers on brink of elimination

and hope that the Australia-India clash tomorrow in Saint Lucia does not get washed out.

Bangladesh openers Tanzid Tamim (13 off 10) and Liton Das (29 off 31) stitched a 35-run stand -- the best showing by the Tigers' openers so far in the tournament -- but the required rate of above nine always looked to be out of reach for the Tigers.

Skipper Shanto tried to up the tempo with a few maximums -- two in the same over of Pandva and the other as they managed to maintain a tight grip throughout the game.

Shanto was dismissed by Jasprit Bumrah in the 16th over, with the Tigers getting reduced to 109 for five. Always struggling to keep pace with the asking rate, Bangladesh headed towards the inevitable as Rishad's 10ball 24-run cameo -- including three maximums and a four -- only reduced the margin of defeat.

Earlier, Pandya smashed a quickfire unbeaten 27-ball 50 while Virat Kohli (37 off 28), Rishabh Pant (36 off 28), and Shivam Dube (34 off off Ravindra Jadeja -- but that never 24) made 30-odd scores at a brisk put India under any sort of pressure pace to propel India, who are almost certain to book a semifinal spot.

'Journos should be more cautious'

FROM PAGE 12

the headlines "Benazir's ghost also in police telecom" and "Factory in of negative news about the China, police officers visit Malaysia".

published a rejoinder sent by the outlets, has increased noticeably police telecom. The department said it procures necessary radio equipment from international local suppliers through international or local tenders," said

It further reads, "Publication

Bangladesh Police in various "On June 12, the newspaper newspapers and electronic media and those reports often do not mention any sources. Such unverified and false reports could harm the police force's reputation and undermine the morale of its

members ... Given this situation, there is a need to verify the accuracy and authenticity of the published reports,

the letter said.

The information should verify the authenticity of those published reports and take appropriate measures to ascertain the sources of the information, it

EDITORIAL

The Paily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

A waste of resources and knowledge

Why are medical, engineering graduates opting for BCS general cadre?

At a time when graduates' fixation with government jobs amid shrinking economic opportunities has emerged as a serious concern, it is perhaps not shocking that a large number of them are from medical and engineering backgrounds, who are forgoing careers in their specialised fields in favour of civil service positions. According to data from the Public Service Commission, approximately 30 percent of general-cadre recruits in the last three BCS exams came from medical and engineering backgrounds. The allure of these positionscoupled with perceived discrimination against non-admin cadres in terms of power, perks, and promotions—may make their choice a pragmatic one. But it's one that comes at a substantial cost to the nation.

The government invests heavily in the education of medical and engineering students, much more than it spends on students in general universities. Their migration, after graduation, to administrative roles thus represents a waste of both knowledge and resources. The migration of doctors is particularly troubling given the shortage of doctors in public healthcare. "When medical graduates prefer general-cadre positions to practicing medicine, or postings in city hospitals to services in rural health facilities, if recruited as doctors, it is the people that suffer as a result." This raises critical questions about our investment in—and allocation of—human resources

But why are so many graduates opting out of specialised fields? According to our report, there are 13 categories in both general and specialised BCS. The former includes administration, police, and foreign services, while the latter includes education and health, among others. Those recruited in general cadres enjoy high ranks as well as substantial perks and benefits. They have the chance to be top bureaucrats. By contrast, those in specialised cadres face slower career progression, have fewer benefits, and mostly work under younger admin colleagues. This imbalance not only demoralises them but also undermines the sectors they serve.

Addressing this issue is almost as important as fixing the unhealthy fascination of graduates and would-be graduates with BCS exams in the absence of decent opportunities in the private sector. It is, therefore, imperative that the government reevaluates the incentives and career paths for specialised cadres. Equitable promotion opportunities, better benefits, and recognition of their critical contributions can help retain these professionals in their respective fields. Additionally, there needs to be a cultural shift within the civil service to value and integrate the expertise of doctors and engineers into policymaking and administrative roles that align with their training. We must ensure that our investments in education translate into tangible benefits for society.

JU needs a new master plan urgently

The uniqueness of its green campus must be preserved

It is deeply concerning that the Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus has lost nearly 40 percent of its waterbodies over the last three and a half decades. This has been revealed by a new study on JU land use that analysed data from 1988 to 2023. The study also found that the university's vegetation cover shrunk by 26.5 percent during the same period. By contrast, its built-up area went up by 159.3 percent, with around 172.5

acres being converted into built-up land. In 1988, waterbodies covered an area of 122.4 acres on the campus, which dropped to 73.58 acres last year. At the same time, its vegetation coverage of 388.80 acres shrunk to just 285.88. The study does not mention how such vast areas of waterbodies have been lost-this is something that the JU authorities need to find out. We do, however, know that many trees have been felled in the name of development, and that green spaces have been decreasing at a worrying rate as a result. What is further concerning is that the JU's original master plan, designed by renowned architect Mazharul Islam in 1968, has been repeatedly neglected during the subsequent structural development phases, which is one of the reasons why the campus is losing its originality including its green

The architecture of the buildings constructed in the last two decades does not harmonise with the surrounding environment either, and does not utilise maximum airflow and natural lighting. Moreover, many abandoned structures remain in place, unnecessarily occupying campus space. The haphazard manner in which the authorities have been developing the campus is also harming its biodiversity and leading to its pristine beauty being lost. Hence, students and teachers have been organising protests demanding a new master plan. Even though the authorities have been claiming that they are in the process of preparing a new master plan for the last two years, nothing substantive has so far materialised. Their apathy and negligence in this regard are unacceptable.

The JU is one of the most beautiful universities in Bangladesh. For its campus to be treated the way it has been over recent decades is a great travesty. It is high time the authorities started taking proper care of the campusparticularly its natural beauty—and prepared a new master plan. They must cease construction or planning of any new building or structure in contravention of its master plan.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



Nasser became president of Egypt

On this day in 1956, 99.95 percent of Egyptians elected Gamal Abdel Nasser as the first president of the Republic of Egypt after he overthrew the Egyptian monarchy in a military coup four years prior.

Why this intimidating police statement aimed at the media?



Bangladesh Association (BPSA), representing elite officers (BCS cadre) of the law enforcement force, has issued a strong and ominous message to the media. The statement was disturbing, as its tone and tenor appeared to intimidate journalists from reporting on corruption involving any of its members. In an unusually lengthy release (12 paragraphs and over 50 lines), the association did not cite a single report or name to which they objected for being slanderous.

The association's statement seems to place collective blame on the media, claiming, "Partial, motivated. and indiscriminate reports about former and serving members of the Bangladesh police are being published serially in the news media (print and electronic) and on social media."

While the association has every right to protest what it calls a "smear campaign" against its members, it did not name any alleged victims of defamation, making it difficult to justify accusing any media outlet of "publishing offensive and negative news reports" out of "personal vengeance and self-interests, which goes against journalistic ethics." Furthermore, the association issued an advisory to journalists, asking them to exercise caution and maintain journalistic principles when reporting on the police.

In recent weeks, the stories that shocked the nation involved alleged grand corruption and abuse of office by two top officials: former Inspector General Benazir Ahmed and former Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan (DMP) Mohammad Asaduzzaman Miah. Apart from these two retired top cops, there have been no major graft allegations against any serving officers in recent days, though this does not imply the force is corruption-free. Many would argue that reporting corruption against any in service official carries too much risks for journalists as individuals and the survival of their organisation.

This raises the question of why the association felt compelled to 16, 2022, he warned his force that defend its former members. Has the those seeking to become wealthy

through illegal means had no place in the police force. However, based on the court's seizure order, we now know that by the time Benazir made that speech, his list of real estate properties was extensive.

It's frustrating to hear the tedious argument that the police's deals with all kinds of misconduct,

is particularly concerning given the overall media environment in the country, which is intimidating and lacks meaningful freedom to hold power to account. On June 1, Mahfuz Anam, president of the Editors Council and editor of this daily, stated departmental disciplinary procedure at a meeting in Dhaka that, "Benazir's case is a startling example where we, in



current leadership of the organisation transformed it into a welfare association for retired police officers? Or is this a preemptive attempt by the BPSA to prevent the media from investigating some of its members who may have assisted their top boss in their alleged criminal enterprises, including providing police protection for land grabbing, as alleged by some members of the minority community in Gopalganj?

The BPSA release claimed that the police have always maintained a policy of "zero tolerance" against corruption, stating that if allegations of corruption are proven against any member, both departmental and legal actions are taken. However, had the BPSA leadership reviewed some of the speeches by former IGP Benazir, they might have refrained from using the term "zero tolerance." On June including corruption. Who would believe that the force chief can be investigated by his subordinates freely and fearlessly? Numerous human rights groups have made allegations against him for commanding grave violations of human rights, which led to sanctions against him. Has there ever been any investigation into those charges?

Consider the Dhaka Boat Club incident, where actress Porimoni alleged rape attempts by one of the club executives. Subsequent investigations revealed that its founder president was then IGP Benazir Ahmed, and the club was set up on encroached and illegally filledin portions of the Turag river. This issue was raised in the Jatiya Sangsad on June 16, 2021, by an opposition MP and was not contested by the treasury bench. Neither the Police Headquarters nor the home ministry investigated these allegations.

the media, knew all these things. But we didn't dare to publish them." He noted that as the head of a powerful law enforcement institution, Benazir could have punished a journalist for reporting his corruption, and the government likely wouldn't have protected the media.

It is also worrying that some senior ministers have already deployed deflection tactics, claiming that certain quarters are trying to discredit the government by labelling "all as corrupt". This appears to be a desperate attempt to distance the ruling party from such corruption. Otherwise, why would someone give a clean chit to the former DMP commissioner before any investigation into his alleged conduct in office? We don't know whether the ministers' statements and the BPSA statement are synchronised, but neither is helpful for uncovering the truth through a credible investigation.

What if we finally recognised women's unpaid care work?



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MOHIN UDDIN MIZAN

In 1929, Virginia Woolf, in her essay A Room of One's Own, raised the issues of economic and social barriers faced by women, including their unpaid labour. However, she was not the first to bring this concern to light.

In her 1898 book Women and Economics, American sociologist and novelist Charlotte Perkins Gilman argued that women's dependence on men for economic support due to unpaid household labour was detrimental to their status and freedom. Another influential figure, British social reformer and economist Beatrice Webb, worked in the late 19th and early 20th centuries on issues of women's labour and the conditions of the working class. While her focus was not specifically on unpaid household labour, her broader social and economic reforms were relevant to understanding women's roles in the economy.

Canadian economist Margaret Reid conducted the first systematic economic analysis of unpaid household labour in her 1934 book Economics of Household Production. Her work laid the foundation for incorporating household labour into economic theory and measurement.

There has been a significant amount

decades, both from local and global perspectives. Notably, a 2015 study conducted by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), titled "Women's Unaccounted Work and Contribution to the Economy", estimated the value of women's unpaid work in Bangladesh as 76.8 percent of the GDP in the fiscal year 2013-14 (on condition). It found that a female member in a household undertakes 12.1 non-SNA (System of National Accounts) activities in a day activities not included in the national GDP-compared to only 2.7 activities for a male member.

In 2019, Oxfam and the International Labour Organization (ILO) released reports on the global perspective of unpaid work. Oxfam's study revealed that unpaid work done by women worldwide amounts to a staggering \$10.8 trillion a year. ILO's report "Unpaid Care Work and the Labour Market" found that the value of unpaid care work is approximately \$11 trillion, accounting for around 9 percent of global GDP. Without exception, women carry out 75 percent of unpaid care work, which is 88 percent in Bangladesh.

The issue gained further attention of literature on unpaid household last year when Prime Minister and care work over the past three Sheikh Hasina asked the Planning

Commission, through the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), to determine the actual contribution of women's unpaid household and care work to GDP. BIDS presented its findings (15 percent contribution to GDP) at its last Annual BIDS Conference on Development (ABCD) in December.

As a part of my regular editing job, reading an article in the Bangladesh Development Studies (BDS) journal titled "Economic Valuation of Women's Unpaid Household Service Work in Bangladesh," which detailed the study led by Dr Binavak Sen, sparked my interest in writing on this issue. Using the 2021 time-use survey by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and BIDS survey of 64 villages in 2023, the authors calculated that women's contribution to GDP through unpaid non-market household and care work is about 15 percent. If unpaid work for both women and men were reflected in national accounting, it would add approximately 17.6 percent to Bangladesh's GDP.

Unpaid household and care work are crucial for developing the next generation's skills and knowledge, essential for a productive workforce. It strengthens family and community bonds, fostering social stability and reducing social strife. It also allows other family members to participate in the formal paid workforce, boosting overall economic productivity and ensuring the population's physical and mental well-being.

If unpaid household and care work were replaced by market services, it would significantly increase GDP; preventive and routine care at home reduces the burden on public healthcare systems, and

parental involvement in education can improve outcomes, reducing the need for remedial education. When societal structures support unpaid household work, it enables higher female participation in the labour force, boosting economic growth. The indirect benefits of unpaid work can lead to increased productivity and

economic activity in other sectors. So, unpaid household and care work being the buzzwords, if the UN does agree to include it in the SNA and the world follows accordingly, some questions may arise: will we still not be satisfied with this crucial work they are doing? Will we value the work they do in agriculture, like livestock or poultry

rearing? The BIDS article suggests as policy implication that male contribution to household unpaid care work should be societally encouraged. This will help ensure—the article reads—the spread of care work across genders, ensuring gender equality in unpaid work. I do agree, but did we keep it in mind that people engaged in the formal labour force may end up working a "double shift" of paid and unpaid work, which has serious consequences for their health and well-being?

Wrapping up (leaving the questions) with a quote from Reid and another line from the BIDS article:

"The more we have concentrated on money values, the more we have overlooked that part of our economic system which is not organised on a profit basis."

Unpaid care work is an essential element of social reproduction—a process that supports individuals, families, and society to continue thriving.

89TH BIRTHDAY OF SERAJUL ISLAM CHOUDHURY

Celebrating our premier public intellectual



outstanding teacher of English literature—

Choudhury continues to be one of the most

prolific writers in the Bangla language today.

And it is no less significant that, even at 88,

he recently led the Palestinian Solidarity

rally in Dhaka, attesting to his characteristic

activism that variously informs his written

more than a hundred books and numerous essays. He has also written several books in

English, including some ground-breaking ones on the revolutionary Bangalee poet

Kazi Nazrul Islam—Choudhury's all-time

favourite. But, more than anything else,

Serajul Islam Choudhury is a major and

leading intellectual of our time, committed

as he is to nothing short of the total emancipation of humanity in its entirety.

Serajul Islam Choudhury is the author of

the world.

is currently summer distinguished professor of English & Humanities at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB). He is director of the graduate programme in social innovation and a professor of interdisciplinary studies at Grand Valley State University in Michigan, US. He is also the vice-president of the US-based Global Center for Advanced Studies (GCAS).

AZFAR HUSSAIN

Todaymarksthe89thbirthdayofSerajulIslam Sankskriti (1993) and Rashtrer Malikana (1997), to Bicchinnotay Osommoti (2014) Choudhury. At a conjuncture characterised and Pa Raakhi Kothay (2018), to Vidyasagar by the constitutive contradictions and crises of such systems of exploitation and o Koyekti Prosongo (2021), among many oppression as capitalism and imperialism, others. One would also do well to cite yet Serajul Islam's Choudhury's work continues another example. Choudhury used to write an immensely popular-if not populistto speak to the emancipatory struggles of the oppressed around the country, and even column called "Somoy Bahiya Jay" with commendable verve and unflagging Literary and cultural critic, social and enthusiasm in a style that is distinctively Choudhuryian. He has exemplarily evolved political analyst, media commentator, a prose-style that makes his work pleasantly teacher, pedagogist, translator, editor, columnist, activist, and surely an readable and accessible. For him, this very

> question but also a political one. Choudhury, consistently critical of individualism and opportunist liberalism, centres the struggles of ordinary people in his work, supports their movements, and writes extensively about them, exemplifying the role of a public intellectual in Bangladesh. Contesting corporations and politicians who invoke "people" to abuse them, Choudhury addresses real material contradictions and issues of class, gender, race, and nationality. His critiques of liberal humanism are evident in his incisive analyses of figures like Raja Ram Mohan Roy and E M Forster, just to provide two quick

question of style is not only an aesthetic

And, in opposition to the tradition named above, Choudhury clearly identifies

For him, dialectics—as a science of the no refined and spiritual things could comfortable with producing literary and general laws of contradiction, motion, and transformation—is not merely a scholarly or academic exercise; it is a radical tool. He sharpens and deploys the weapon of dialectics in his writing. In fact, it enables him not only to zero in on the specific or the particular as such, prompting him to advance a concrete analysis of a economy and culture as the dialectically

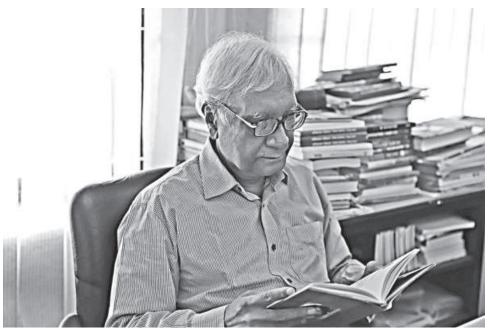
exist. Choudhury's approach demystifies how the class struggle in its concrete historical-becoming is a fight for "the crude and material things" as much as it is a struggle for the "refined and spiritual things," interconnected as they are. Thus, his approach considers both political concrete situation, but also to discern interconnected sites of life-and-death

cultural criticism, political commentary, editorial essay, autobiographical narrative, tract and treatise, newspaper column, and so on, in which the linguistic, the literary, the social, the political, the historical, and the cultural interpenetrate and intersect, exemplifying a radical interdisciplinarity.

For instance, Choudhury has written on Tolstoy and on such modernists as



VISUAL: ALIZA RAHMAN



I cannot do justice to the entire range of Choudhury's massive work in this short piece. But I intend to touch on the significance of certain aspects of his work. To begin with, Choudhury's work remains organically responsive to and thoroughly informed by our own national liberation movement, class struggles, and other forms of struggle in Bangladesh. One who always historicises his own people's conditions of being and becoming, Choudhury continues to make interventions in such broad areas as society, politics, political economy, culture, and history, while making the points that telling without doing is profoundly insufficient and that *gnosis* (knowledge) without praxis (practice informed by knowledge) is simply empty.

Indeed, for about six decades now, Choudhury has been making an inventory of the daily acts of people's resistance and modes of forbearance and survival as well as their aspirations and hopes, exemplified in a range of his works from, say, his earlier book Nirasroy Greehi (1978) and Bangalee Kake Boli (1988), to Swadhinota Spriha Sammyer Bhoy (1988) and Gonotontrer

the people for whom he tirelessly writes and fights. The people for him, then, are clearly the majority in the country—the toiling masses-peasants and workers, including women as well as ethnic, religious, and linguistic minorities, ignored and oppressed as they are. And he writes about them from the perspectives of their collective emancipation. To put it bluntly: human emancipation itself constitutes the most fundamental, abiding theme in Choudhury's work. In fact, the question of people's emancipation remains organic and integral to the entire constellation of Choudhury's interrogations and interventions from his early works to one of his major works called Jatiyotabad, Samprodayikota o Jonogoner Mukti (2015), which can justly be regarded as his historiographical tour de

Let me now briefly describe one of the predominant approaches used in Choudhury's work. Indeed, what—among other things—enables his interventions to remain attentive to both connectedness and contradictions as well as to the "specific" in its historical determinateness is dialectics Pokkho-Bipokkho (1991), to Rashtro o itself. Dialectics is Choudhury's weapon. crude and material things without which

and demystify both contradictions and struggles of the oppressed. connections between the specific and the general, between the particular and the universal, between the abstract and the concrete, between critique and action, between gnosis and praxis. But only discerning or demystifying contradictions and connections is never enough for Serajul Islam Choudhury. He identifies them in the interest of social transformation and emancipation, broadly speaking.

Further, in the Marxist tradition, Choudhury's approach reckons the class struggle as both the horizon and motor of world history. This approach enables us to see how the development of the productive forces brings into existence different production relations and different forms of class society. And this approach is also nothing short of a revolutionary one

Serajul Islam Choudhury explores the role of intellectuals in his essay Buddhijibeeder Kajkormo o Daydayitto. While intellectuals like Antonio Gramsci, Noam Chomsky, and Edward Said-their different styles and approaches notwithstanding—accentuate the oppositional role of intellectuals committed to radical change, Choudhury supports a similar stance. He believes an intellectual must question oppressive systems and speak truth to power for revolutionary social transformation. Choudhury also stresses the importance of reaching others with these critical ideas, as collective effort is essential for change.

Choudhury's views on the role of intellectuals apply to himself, as he clearly identifies systems of oppression such as capitalism, imperialism, communalism, connected to the transvaluation of the imperialist, anti-colonial, anti-communal,

Conrad, Forster, Lawrence, Joyce, Yeats, Pound, and Eliot, among others. Of course, Choudhury has written on every major, canonical Bangalee writer-Madhusudan Dutta, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Rabindranath Tagore, Mir Mosharrof Hossain, Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay, Manik Bandyopadhyay, Tarasankar Bandyopadhyay, Kazi Nazrul Islam, Jibanananda Das, and Syed Waliullah. The list here is by no means exhaustive. Choudhury has produced a remarkable body of work that traverses a wide range of concerns directly relevant to the contemporary life of the suffering masses in Bangladesh. And it is in this body of work that Choudhury most exemplarily forges organic links among the political, the social, the historical, and the cultural all at that makes us see how the question of the and patriarchy. He is recognised as once. Moreover, it is in that body of work entirety of human emancipation remains Bangladesh's leading anti-capitalist, anti- that Choudhury has consistently advanced and relayed his formulation—one that questions of property relations, the social and anti-patriarchal public intellectual. appears fundamentally Gramscian to methat there is no alternative to forging links between the intellectuals and the masses, if "the point is to change the world," to quote Marx's eleventh thesis on Feuerbach.

> I have hitherto selectively drawn on Choudhury's range of works to underline a few of his historically significant and still relevant contributions. An outstanding critic and perceptive analyst, Choudhury teaches that producing knowledge is necessary but not sufficient. He emphasises that knowledge must be used for social change and the emancipation of the masses. Firmly committed to the Marxian principle of praxis. Choudhury values knowledge that transcends mere interpretation, aiming to transform people's consciousness.

> As his former student and a member of the editorial board of his national weekly Somoy, I have learned immensely from Serajul Islam Choudhury. His work taught me that teachers, intellectuals, and educators must fulfil their social and political responsibilities and remain accountable for the knowledge they produce. On his 89th birthday, we owe Choudhury immense gratitude for his contributions to our country and even the

Serajul Islam Choudhury is the author of more than a hundred books and numerous essays. He has also written several books in English, including some ground-breaking ones on the revolutionary Bangalee poet Kazi Nazrul Islam—Choudhury's all-time favourite. But, more than anything else, Serajul Islam Choudhury is a major and leading intellectual of our time, committed as he is to nothing short of the total emancipation of humanity in its entirety.

reproduction, and so on—i.e., connected to the total abolition of value (exchange value) itself—"an abolition that can be effected only by a revolution," as Marx and Engels

put it in The Communist Manifesto. As the German Marxist theorist Walter Benjamin points out in his classic work On the Concept of History: Class struggle, which for a historian schooled in Marx is always in evidence, is a fight for the

division of labour, and the process of social Beyond opposing these systems, Choudhury advocates for socialism, arguing there are no contradictions between socialism and democracy; rather, to be socialist is to be democratic.

> A public intellectual as he is, Choudhury in his work touches upon almost every aspect of the life of the masses in Bangladesh. To the extent that he does it, he is bound to cross—and range across—disciplinary borders and boundaries, as he surely does in his work. This is why Choudhury is equally

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Holt of NBC News

7 Reached base, in a way 11 Statue setting

12 Big book

13 Tied fast

14 Memo letters 15 Kitchen wear

16 Muralist Rivera

17 Spotted

18 Past and present 19 Bible pronoun

21 Wrath

22 Missouri River port

26 Bearing 27 Warring woman

25 Outlaw

29 Spanish hors d'oeuvre 33 Ancient Mesopotamian region

34 Shade 35 Crocus cousin

36 Old string player

37 Play group 38 Lets up 39 Plops down

DOWN

40 Tune

1 Eastern monks

3 Point count

6 Wine choice

2 Skip the ceremony 4 Raptors' home 5 Tied up

7 Laundry problem 8 Wigs out

9 Mental visions 10 Oust from power 16 Wild card, at times

18 Poison 20 Comic's forte 22 Feudal warrior 23 Bix Beiderbecke

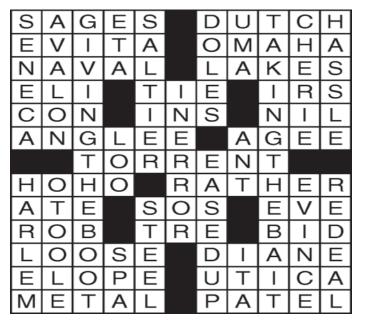
standard 24All things considered 25 Rudiments

28 Lemon rind strips 30 Justice Samuel 31 Struck a stance

32 Pretentious 34 Hexahedron 36 Sudden flight

40 1-28

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



Gavi to boost access to life-saving human rabies vaccines in over 50 countries

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is providing support for human rabies vaccines for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) as part of routine immunisation. Under Gavi's cofinancing policy, eligible countries receive guidance on accessing these vaccines, with the first round of applications due by mid-July 2024. Ninety-five percent of human rabies deaths occur in Africa and Asia, predominantly in marginalised communities lacking access to care.

This initiative aligns with the Zero by 30 campaign, led by United Against Rabies partners including the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).



The campaign aims to eliminate dog-mediated human rabies by 2030.

In over 150 countries where dog rabies is a major public health issue, human rabies vaccine stocks are often limited, especially in marginalised communities. When PEP is available through private facilities, the cost can be financially catastrophic for

Rabies is a viral disease causing severe brain inflammation, transmitted in 99 percent of cases by rabid dogs. Once clinical symptoms appear, rabies is nearly 100% fatal. However, prompt PEP, including thorough wound washing and vaccine administration, can prevent infection.

The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the programme's initial inclusion in Gavi's 2021-25 vaccine strategy, but it resumed in mid-2023. All Gavi-eligible countries can apply for funding to procure vaccines and supplies. We will accept applications from July 15 to September 23, 2024, with subsequent windows opening three times a year.

Source: World Health Organisation



DR MOHAMMAD ALI

significant issue for Dhaka's ridesharing motorbike drivers, a new study reveals. These drivers, who navigate the bustling streets of Bangladesh's capital on a daily basis, road. are increasingly suffering from this painful condition. This not only affects their health, but also threatens their livelihood and overall quality of

Rising concerns

A recent study published in the ELSEVIER conducted between May and August 2023 sheds light on this growing problem. Researchers surveyed 633 ride-sharing motorbike drivers in Dhaka and found that nearly 59% of them experienced low back pain in the past month. This alarmingly high rate is concerning for a profession that is essential to the city's transportation network.

Who is at risk?

Several factors contribute to the high rates of low back pain among these drivers, according to the study:

- 1. Health issues: Drivers who have high blood pressure are more likely to suffer from low back pain. This suggests that overall health plays a crucial role in the well-being of these
- using older motorbikes face a strain. the ergonomic features that newer drivers to upgrade their bikes. models have, which can lead to

increased physical strain.

3. Safety gear: Drivers who do Low back pain is becoming a not wear proper riding gear, such as protective jackets and supports, are more likely to experience pain. This highlights the importance of using appropriate equipment while on the

- 4. Demographics: Older drivers and those with higher body weights are at greater risk. Additionally, the longer the distance a driver covers each day, the more likely they are to suffer from low back pain.
- 5. Workload: Drivers who worked for multiple ride-sharing companies at the same time reported higher rates of pain. This could be due to longer working hours and the physical demands of juggling multiple jobs.

What can we do?

You can implement several practical solutions to address this issue:

- Encourage exercise: Regular physical activity can strengthen the muscles that support the back. Simple exercises and stretches can make a significant difference.
- Promote weight management: Maintaining a healthy weight can reduce the strain on the lower back. These drivers can benefit from educational campaigns and support for healthy living. • *Update equipment:* Using newer
- motorbikes designed with ergonomic 2. Motorcycle condition: Those features can help reduce physical Ride-sharing companies higher risk. Older bikes may lack can help by providing incentives for
 - Safety gear: Ensuring that

all drivers have access to and use proper riding gear can prevent back pain. Companies might consider subsidising the cost of high-quality

• Limit work hours: To prevent overexertion, encourage drivers to limit their daily driving hours. Implementing policies that promote regular breaks can also be beneficial.

A call to action:

This study calls attention to the urgent need for targeted interventions to improve the health and safety of ride-sharing motorbike drivers in Dhaka. By taking proactive steps, stakeholders-including ride-sharing companies, health organisations, and the drivers themselves—can work together to reduce the burden of low

Improving the working conditions for these drivers is not just about addressing their health issues; it is also about ensuring the sustainability of a vital transportation service in Dhaka. With concerted efforts, it is possible to create a healthier and more supportive environment for these essential workers.

As Dhaka continues to grow and evolve, the well-being of its ridesharing motorbike drivers must be prioritised. By acknowledging and addressing the challenges they face, we can contribute to a more resilient and healthier community for all.

The writer is a Back pain researcher at La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia, and a Doctor of Physical Therapy student at the University of Montana, USA. Email: hprc2005@live.co

Severe health impacts of child marriage

STAR HEALTH DESK

Researchers in Liberia and Sierra Leone have found a close link between child marriage and negative reproductive and maternal health outcomes among young women. Researchers found that more than half of women aged 20-24 in these countries married before turning 18, and more than one in ten married before turning 15.

The study published in the PubMed, conducted with data from the 2019-2020 Liberia and 2019 Sierra Leone Demographic and Health Surveys, highlighted several troubling trends. Women who married before 18 were more likely to experience early and high fertility, meaning they had children at a younger age and often had more children. They also had less control over when and how many children they

The situation was particularly severe for those married before 15. These young women faced greater challenges in accessing

> essential healthcare services. In Liberia's North Central region, those married at 15-17 were less likely to have skilled attendants during childbirth or to give birth in a medical facility. Similarly, in Sierra Leone's North Western region, women

married before 15 were less likely to have institutional deliveries or receive adequate prenatal

These findings underscore the need for targeted interventions to address child marriage and improve health outcomes for young women. By focusing on education and healthcare access, especially in the most affected regions, it is possible to make significant strides towards better futures for these young women.

This study highlights the urgent need for action to support young women ensuring they have the health care and opportunities they deserve.

Unlocking the health benefits of Vitamin D

STAR HEALTH DESK

In our daily rush, it is simple to overlook the vital role that vitamin D plays in our health. Often called the sunshine vitamin, it is crucial for building and maintaining strong bones. But what happens when you do not get enough of it?

Understanding vitamin D deficiency:

Simply put, vitamin D deficiency means your body lacks this essential vitamin. There are several reasons this can occur: not enough sunlight exposure, certain medical conditions affecting absorption, or a diet lacking in vitamin D-rich foods. It is more common than you might think, and it can lead to serious health issues if left untreated.

Why it matters: Vitamin D is not just about bones; it is a key player in overall health. It helps your absorb body calcium, keeping bones strong and reducing the risk of osteoporosis.

Beyond bones, vitamin D supports your immune system, muscles, and even your mood.

Symptoms and risks:

Recognising a deficiency is not always easy. In children, it might show as bone deformities or muscle weakness. Adults might feel fatigued, experience bone or joint pain, or notice changes in mood. Research has linked long-term deficiency to increased risks of conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and even certain cancers.

Causes of deficiency:

Many factors contribute to low vitamin D levels. Limited sun sunscreen use), darker skin tones investment in yourself.

(which absorb less sunlight), or medical conditions affecting nutrient absorption can all play a role. Additionally, diets lacking in vitamin D-rich foods or certain medications can hinder your body's ability to maintain adequate levels.

Testing and treatment:

Diagnosing a deficiency involves a simple blood test. Treatment typically includes supplements to boost vitamin D levels back to normal. The amount prescribed depends on the severity of the deficiency and individual risk factors.

Prevention tips: Preventing deficiency is possible

with a few simple steps:

• Diet: Incorporate vitamin D-rich foods like fatty fish (salmon, tuna), fortified dairy products, and eggs into your

meals.

Sun exposure: Spend 5-30 minutes the sun each without day sunscreen, if possible, to allow your body to produce vitamin D

naturally. • Supplements: If diet and sun are not sufficient, talk to your doctor about supplements tailored to your needs.

Conclusion

Vitamin D deficiency is a serious health concern that affects many, yet it is often preventable and treatable. By understanding its importance and taking proactive steps to ensure adequate levels, you can safeguard your bone health and overall well-being. Remember, a little sunshine and a balanced diet go a long way towards keeping your body

strong and healthy.

In a world where health exposure (especially in colder is wealth, ensuring you have climates or with excessive enough vitamin D is a smart



Long COVID linked to lasting cognitive issues

A recent study published in the Brain found that people who suffer from long-term COVID may experience significant cognitive issues lasting for over a year. The research, conducted during the first wave of the pandemic, compared COVID-19 with patients ongoing symptoms to those who fully recovered.

Out of the 105 patients studied, 83 reported long-term neurological symptoms such as memory loss and difficulty Common concentrating. complaints included severe fatigue (82%), headaches (72%), anxiety (58%), weakness in the limbs (57%), insomnia (57%), and depression (46%).

Key findings showed that nearly half of those with long COVID had noticeable memory problems, including difficulties with both verbal and visual memory. Around 27% of patients showed significant issues with attention, verbal working memory, processing speed, and verbal fluency compared to healthy individuals and recovered COVID-19 patients. Furthermore, 20% of those affected had severe cognitive impairment.

Brain scans revealed that patients with long-term COVID had noticeable changes in their brain structure, particularly in areas linked to memory and attention. These brain changes were more common in patients who had severe initial COVID-19 infections.

The study highlights the serious and lasting impact of long-term COVID on mental functions, underscoring the importance of recognising and addressing these longterm symptoms. This study emphasises the need for ongoing support and treatment for those affected.



Nagorik TV T20 World Cup Australia vs Afghanistan Live from 6:30 am USA vs England Live from 8:30 pm

T Sports and Sony Sports 5 **Euro 2024**

Germany vs Switzerland Live from 1:00 am (Monday) Scotland vs Hungary Live from 1:00 am (Monday)

Another day to forget for Shakib and Tigers

ASHFAQ-UL-ALAM

Shakib Al Hasan and the Bangladesh team had another forgettable day at the office yesterday, as the all-rounder once again showed signs of losing his edge with the bat and the ball, and the Tigers meekly surrendered against a superior Indian side in their Super Eights match of the ICC T20 World Cup in Antigua.

Bangladesh were the inferior side on display throughout the match and unsurprisingly suffered a 50-run drubbing.

There were some flashes of positives for Bangladesh in the match, like Tanzim Sakib's fiery spell and a late 10-ball 24 assault from Rishad Hossain, but these efforts were overshadowed by the long list of subpar performances, headed by another rocky showing from Shakib.

For the last four weeks or so, Bangladesh's cricket fans have been watching and slowly coming to terms with the fact that perhaps Shakib Al Hasan, like all who played the game before him, is gradually conceding defeat to the perpetual pendulum of time.

One of the tell-tale signs that a player's career is nearing its end is that the skills that once were second nature to them, which they could execute without even thinking, become difficult.

In Shakib's case, it was his bowling that



Bangladesh could depend on most days without a second thought. But in this edition of the ICC T20 World Cup, he has been used more like a part-time option and at times had to be shielded from the

Yesterday, Shakib became the first and only bowler to claim 50 wickets in T20 World Cups when he took the wicket of Rohit Sharma. But before getting that

wicket, the left-arm spinner was taken for 25 runs off his first nine deliveries, which allowed India to race to 53-1 in the

Shakib ended with 1-37 in three overs, not finishing his quota for the fifth time in this tournament. In Bangladesh's six matches, the left-arm spinner has bowled his full quota only against the Netherlands and was not brought into the attack in the rain-curtailed match against Australia.

It's not like Shakib has only been struggling on the wicket's column. Till now, he has bowled only 13.2 overs in the tournament and conceded at a rate of more than eight runs an over -- the most expensive of all Bangladeshi bowlers.

Shakib couldn't really make up for his shortcoming with the ball with bat in hand either, making just 11 off seven balls before getting caught at extra-cover.

The dip in Shakib's bowling, something the all-rounder has always said came to him naturally and he admitted to not have paid too much focus on it, projects a dire signal.

Considering Shakib's age, 37, his decline shouldn't be that much of a surprise. But as the all-rounder has expressed his desire to feature for Bangladesh in the next T20 World Cup as well, this dip is a worrying

His batting has been subpar since the issue with his eyes has surfaced. If the allrounder wishes to continue being an asset for Bangladesh cricket, not a liability, perhaps it is time for him to change his ways and seriously work on his bowling.

As for the Tigers, they still have one match left in the Super Eights against Afghanistan on Tuesday, where they will have a chance to end their campaign on

SCORES IN BRIEF

India: 196-5 in 20 overs (Pandya 50 not out, Kohli 37; Sakib 2-32; Rishad 2-43)

Bangladesh: 146-8 in 20 overs (Shanto 40, Tanzid 29, Rishad 24; Kuldeep 3-19, Bumrah 2-13, Arshdeep 2-30)

Result: India won by 50 runs

Player of the Match: Hardik Pandya



We did not show

as much intent as we needed with the bat. When we are chasing 190 (plus score), we needed to show more intent; especially in the first six overs. Bangladesh captain NAJMUL HOSSAIN **SHANTO**



In T20s, I don't believe we need to get fifties and hundreds, what matters is the pressure you put on the bowlers... and that's how we want to play. India captain ROHIT SHARMA

England's drive for semis, USA's final flourish

STAR SPORTS DESK

As the T20 World Cup heats up, holders England face co-hosts USA in a crucial Super Eights fixture at the Kensington Oval Stadium in Barbados on Sunday.

Both teams have different stakes in this match, with England likely to go all out, aiming for a comprehensive win to boost their net run rate and secure their place in the semi-finals, while USA will be looking to upset the odds and conclude their fairytale World Cup journey.

England enter the match with a mix of urgency and optimism. Their recent game against South Africa saw them fall short by seven runs, but a valiant 78-run partnership for the fifth wicket by Harry Brook and Liam Livingstone was instrumental in keeping England's semifinal hopes alive.

With the West Indies' dominant win over USA, England find themselves third in Group Two, tied with the Men in Maroon on points but way behind on net run rate

0.412 compared to 1.814. For England to secure a semi-final spot, a win against the USA is crucial, especially if group leaders South Africa – on four points with a net run rate of 0.625 -- lose to the West Indies.

One of the tournament's surprise packages, USA have showcased their potential on the world stage. Despite a recent nine-wicket loss to the West Indies, they have demonstrated exceptional performances, including victories over Pakistan and Canada.

USA's journey in the T20 World Cup has been a testament to their growth as an Associate nation. Captain Aaron Jones said, "Over the last couple of weeks, starting from winning the series against Bangladesh [prior to the T20 World Cup], it really opened the eyes of everybody."

As both teams take the field, fans can expect an exciting clash that encapsulates the spirit and unpredictability of

Proteas-Caribbeans clash in high-stakes affair

AGENCIES

Hosts West Indies and undefeated South Africa will clash in a highstakes Super Eight match on Monday in Antigua, the outcome of which will have huge implications in the semifinals race from Group 2 in the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup.

After an unbeaten run in the group stage, the men in maroon were rocked in their first Super Eight game when England defeated them by eight wickets. However, they bounced back with a comprehensive nine-wicket win over co-hosts USA on June

> Not only did they gain two crucial points, but also improved their substantially. They are now placed second in the Group 2 table and a strong win in their next game can

help seal a semi-final spot. South Africa sit at the top of the table with four points and a net run rate of +0.625. England and West Indies are at two points each, but the latter are ahead based on a superior net run rate of +1.814 as compared to England's +0.412.

USA are fourth with zero points. This means that irrespective of the result in the England-USA fixture, West Indies can secure a semi-final spot if they manage to



maintain a superior net run rate scoring two superb knocks in over Jos Buttler's men.

For the Proteas, a win will the top of Group 2. ensure a berth in the final four and a defeat could see them exit point throughout the tournament the tournament if England beat the USA handsomely and overtake South Africa in net run rate.

Up against the Proteas on Sunday evening, West Indies allrounder Roston Chase said that despite South Africa's undefeated run, they are not going to budge away from a contest.

"We're going to be coming hard," Chase said. "So, we'll collide, and whoever's the strongest, I think, will win. So, it's just for us, as I say, to just go there and give it your all. As I say, it's a win-win situation."

Quinton de Kock has found form

win against South Africa and at precisely the right moment, succession to help South Africa to

> Their howlers have been and David Miller has been efficient in the middle-order, bailing them out of tricky situations a number

South Africa, who have managed to eke out victories under pressure on a few different occasions in this T20 World Cup, find themselves in a tough spot once again as a defeat against the Caribbeans could pull the plug out of what has thus far been a promising campaign. If the Proteas indeed succumb under pressure, their reputation as cricket's ultimate chokers, a For South Africa, opener moniker they have been trying to get rid of, will grow further.

'Calm' Endrick hopes to leave his mark

REUTERS

Brazil's teenage prodigy Endrick will be hoping to make his first appearance for the national team at a major tournament when his country take on Costa Rica in their Copa America opener on

The 17-year-old striker, who joined Real Madrid from Palmeiras, knows he has a long way to go to break into the Brazilian starting line-up in a squad that includes Raphinha, Vinicius Jr and Rodrygo in attack.

"Only God knows (when I will start). I am very grateful to have Abel (Ferreira) as a coach, he knew when to play me. Everything

is up to God and Professor Dorival Jr. He is a spectacular coach. He is doing what is best for the

Brazilian team," Endrick told a press conference on Friday. Endrick who in March became the youngest player to score in an international match at Wembley when he gave Brazil a 1-0 win over England, made his mark in the

other warm-up fixtures ahead of Copa America with a goal in a 3-2 victory over Mexico, having also scored against Spain.

"I have always been very precocious in my life and since I became a professional I have played against opponents who have always teased me, insulted me, talked about my family, my girlfriend," he said.

"But I got used to it quickly because I was 16. I'm calm and I hope I can help, I think it's right, in football you have to destabilise the other player. It's been like that since I arrived, so I've adapted and I'm very confident that I can help the team.'

'Rejuvenated Germany can win Euros'

WORLD CUP

REUTERS, Berlin

German fans welcomed the start of Euro 2024 on home soil more in hope than expectation, but their performances have surprised many and they are now serious contenders to win the title, German World Cup winner Olaf Thon told Reuters.

The 58-year-old, who scored a memorable goal against Denmark in his home town of Gelsenkirchen in the 1988 European Championship, has remained in the game through his punditry work for Sport1, where he provides expert analysis on the Bundesliga and the German national team.

"Last year, I would have predicted that Germany would not make it very far, but based on the group stage games and the performances of other good teams such as Spain and France, I'd say we can definitely keep up with them," Thon said in an interview.

"We have a home advantage, with the fans as 12th player ... and now, I believe that everything is possible for Germany. We can win the title,"

expectations of Thon and many German fans were heavily influenced by a run of bad results in 2023, during which Germany drew two and lost six of their 11



friendlies.

They made a fast start at Euro 2024, however, with a 5-1 thrashing of Scotland and a comfortable 2-0 win over Hungary ensured the Germans were the first team through to the knockout stage, leaving coach Julian Nagelsmann with tough calls to make for their final group game against Switzerland.

"It is the dream of every head The modest pre-tournament coach to send the same starting XI out on to the pitch. However, 'never change a winning team' has its perils," Thon said. "I expect Nagelsmann to start the

same players again, if no one gets injured. However, it is the group stage where you have to manage the workloads and act strategically. For Thon, who coached for

a brief period before pivoting to his media career with Sport1, the current German team is reminiscent of the one that was taken over by Franz Beckenbauer in 1984 and won the World Cup in "In 1988 the Euros on

home soil, Germany lost against the Netherlands in the semis, who then went on to the tournament. In 1990, there was revenge - Germany beat the Netherlands and won the title confidently," Thon recalls.

"It is therefore possible that Julian Nagelsmann first starts with this attempt and doesn't win the title right away, but instead builds up something to win in 2026."



Portugal's Bernardo Silva celebrates scoring their first goal with Joao Cancelo during their 3-0 win against Turkey in a Group F fixture of Euro 2024 at the BVB Stadion in Dortmund yesterday. The result ensured the 2016 champions enter the last 16.

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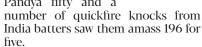
Tigers on brink of elimination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh batters were not up to the task of chasing down a 197-run target set by India as the Tigers stumbled to a 50-run defeat in their crucial Super Eight fixture on Saturday, seeing themselves all but out of the ongoing T20 World Cup.

Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto scored a team-high 40 off 32 deliveries and Rishad Hossain dealt a few lusty blows at the death but those were

not nearly enough as Bangladesh were restricted to 146 for eight after an unbeaten Hardik Pandya fifty and a



In order to progress to their semifinal, Bangladesh maiden will now have to hope for a series of unlikely events, starting with banking on Afghanistan to cause an upset against the mighty Aussies in Kingstown today. The Tigers would then have to beat Afghanistan in their final Super Eight game on June 25 by a big enough margin to boost their current net run-rate of -2.489 SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



India players celebrate after wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav dismissed Bangladesh batter Towhid Hridoy in their T20 World Cup Super 8 fixture in Antigua on Saturday. India cruised to a crushing 50-run victory, forcing Bangladesh to the brink of exit in the

FLOODS IN SYLHET

Farmers count the losses

DWOHA CHOWDHURY and MINTU DESHWARA

As soon as the second wave of flash floods hit Sylhet in the early hours of June 17, Moklisur Rahman, a fish farmer in Gowainghat upazila, knew he was going to lose all his fish, which he had worked very hard to raise in his three ponds.

"I immediately rushed to the ponds, but it was too late for anything to be done. Within hours, I lost fish worth at least Tk 7 lakh," lamented Moklisur, a resident of the upazila's Nayagram Uttar village.

Like him, thousands of fish farmers in Sylhet, Sunamganj, and Moulvibazar have lost their prized possessions as the flood washed away as many as 13,650 ponds, said the divisional fisheries department.

Abdal Miah of Chanpur village in Sylhet's Fenchuganj upazila said, "Even as my house was flooded to the waist, we stayed back to protect the cattle. But, sadly, we could do nothing about the fish in the pond worth at least Tk

Md Arif of Rahimpur village in Moulvibazar's Kamolganj upazila said, "After the dyke of the Dhalai River broke and the flash flood inundated the village, I lost fish worth around Tk 1 lakh. I now have nothing."

Fish farmers in the region have incurred a substantial loss of Tk 133.61 crore, of which Tk 101.18 crore has been lost in the Sylhet district alone, according to the divisional fisheries department.

Md Anowar Hossain, deputy director of the Department of Fisheries in Sylhet, said, "We are now keeping an eye SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

REPORTING ON COPS 'Journos should be more cautious'

Says home ministry; BFUJ, DUJ express concern over threat to press freedom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government wants media outlets to exercise more caution while publishing reports that may potentially tarnish the image of the police force.

The home ministry sent a letter to the information and broadcasting ministry on June 13 regarding this matter, which came to light recently.

The letter, signed by home ministry Deputy Secretary Israt Zahan, requested the information and broadcasting ministry to take necessary measures so that print and electronic media outlets exercise greater caution during the publication of news that could harm the reputation of

Earlier on Friday, a statement expressing similar concern was sent to the media on behalf of the Bangladesh Police Service Association.

JOURNOS EXPRESS CONCERN

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) issued a counterstatement yesterday.

In the joint statement, journalist leaders said the language used by some leaders and organisations in their reactions to certain news reports poses a threat to the freedom of the press

These reports are not published with any particular agenda; rather, responsible journalists believe that they are publishing verified information after thoroughly checking the facts and documents available to them." **GOVT SEEKS NEWS SOURCES**

The home ministry's letter to the information ministry also sought information about the sources of the two news reports run by Bangla daily Kaler Kantho on June 9 under

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Israel kills dozens in safe zone bombing

25 killed in shelling near Red Cross office; Lebanon border conflict escalates

AGENCIES

Israeli forces yesterday bombed several areas from air and the ground, killing dozens and forcing many families living in areas described as humanitariandesignated zones to leave northwards.

An Israeli attack on Friday near the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) base at the al-Mawasi camp, designated by Israel as a safe zone, that Palestinian officials say killed at least 25 people and wounded 50 others, involved two strikes, The Associated Press news agency reported.

An Israeli military spokesman did not acknowledge any role in the incident but said it was "under review".

"Firing so dangerously close to humanitarian structures puts the lives of civilians and humanitarians at risk," the ICRC said on X.

Meanwhile, one Israeli strike on houses in Al-Shati, one of the Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps, killed 24 people, Ismail Al-Thawabta told Reuters. Another 18 Palestinians were killed in a strike on houses in the Al-Tuffah neighbourhood.

Footage obtained by Reuters showed dozens of Palestinians rushing out to search for victims amid the destroyed houses. The footage showed wrecked homes, blasted walls, and debris and dust filling the street in Shati refugee camp.

At least 42 people were killed in Israeli attacks on districts of Gaza City in the north of the Palestinian enclave yesterday, the director of the Hamas-run government media office said.

Civil defence agency spokesman Mahmud Basal said five municipal workers died when a garage in the city was bombed.

Fighting continued yesterday morning, with witnesses reporting gun battles between Palestinian and Israeli forces in Gaza City.

37,551 people killed in Gaza since Oct 7

At least 120 killed in Gaza over the past 48 hours

Israeli strike kills Ayman Ghotmeh, leader of Lebanese Islamist group

Hezbollah claims attacks on Israeli troops near Lebanon border

And in the city's Zeitun neighbourhood, Israeli helicopters fired at Palestinian fighters, witnesses said.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that at least 37,551 people have been killed in the territory during more than eight months of Israel's

offensive in Gaza.

Elsewhere, Lebanon-based Hamas ally Hezbollah claimed a number of attacks on Israeli troops and positions near the border on Friday, including two using drones. The Israeli army said it had carried out

multiple retaliatory strikes on both days. Israeli jets on Friday struck a "Hezbollah military structure in the area of Khiam, a

Hezbollah military post in the area of Mais al-Jabal," and Hezbollah infrastructure "in the areas of Taybeh and Tallouseh in southern Lebanon", the army said in a statement.

A security source said a leader of the Lebanese Islamist group Jamaa Islamiya, an ally of Hamas, was killed yesterday in an Israeli strike on a vehicle in eastern Lebanon.

"A leader of the al-Fajr Forces of the Jamaa Islamiya, Ayman Ghotmeh, was killed in an Israeli strike in Khiara in the western Bekaa," 10 kilometres from the border with Syria, the source told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The Fajr Forces, Jamaa Islamiya's armed wing, was established in 1982 to fight the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Lebanon's state-run ANI news agency reported one person killed when a car was targeted in Khiara, and that the victim was from the nearby village of Lala, without giving further details.

Israel's military said an aircraft carried out a "precise strike in the Beqaa area in Lebanon in order to eliminate" Ayman Ghotmeh, who they said supplied weapons to Hamas and Jamaa Islamiya in Lebanon.

Khaleda in **Evercare CCU**

UNB, Dhaka

Secretary General Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday that the party Chairperson Khaleda Zia's health condition was



very critical. Speaking to reporters at Evercare

Hospital, he called on the country's people to pray for her speedy recovery. Fakhrul went to the hospital

around 1:30pm and talked to the medical board members about Khaleda's condition.

The BNP chairperson has been receiving treatment at the Critical Care Unit (CCU) since she was admitted to the hospital early yesterday. Entry to the CCU has been restricted, except for medical board doctors and nurses, considering Khaleda's alarming condition.

"I visited Evercare Hospital around 1:30pm to see madam [Khaleda]. She is in the CCU. Her condition is extremely alarming, and doctors are restricting access to her room,' Fakhrul said.

The BNP leader said he talked to doctors engaged in Khaleda's treatment to know her physical condition. "What I came to know from physicians is that her condition is very critical."

He said the medical board members will hold another meeting in the evening to determine the next course of her treatment.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Chimps help scientists find medicinal plants



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Oxford scientists have identified 13 plants that have potent wound-healing and infection-fighting properties in a "thrilling" discovery – with help from some wild chimpanzees.

Researchers observed the great apes in an African forest feeding on bark, dead wood and leaves from plants that were not part of their normal diet after becoming ill or injured.

Watching how chimpanzees - the closest living human relative - seek help from nature when unwell could fast-track the discovery of new drugs to treat chronic diseases and infections, the researchers said.

Dr Elodie Freymann, from the University of Oxford's School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, said: "Our study highlights the medicinal knowledge that can be gained from observing other species in the wild and underscores the urgent need to preserve these forest pharmacies for future generations."



Mokbul Sheikh takes his buffaloes to a pasture in Bilpabla area of Khulna's Dumuria upazila yesterday. He makes between Tk 1,200 and Tk 1,400 a day using the animals to plough fields in nearby villages. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

ACC to sue Benazir after probe ends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission is making preparations to file a case against former inspector general of police Benazir Ahmed, his wife Jisaan Mirza, and daughters Farheen Rishta and Tahsin Raisa.

An investigation into their wealth is almost complete, and the case will be filed after it is done, officials said.

The ACC asked him to appear at its office in the capital today.

Benazir and his family members reportedly left the country in early May and it is unlikely that he would appear at the ACC office today and meet the investigators.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan said if Benazir remains absent, legal steps will be taken. Benazir and his family members

missed ACC appointments on June 6 and 9. The ACC then rescheduled the dates to June 23 and June 24.

The ACC on April 18 launched an inquiry into allegations that Benazir amassed huge wealth when he was the police chief.