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## Bangladesh's faulty mindset exposed in exit

BISHWAJIT ROY

No shortage of excitement, tension, and twists with the semifinals spot at stake: one could not have expected more drama than what unfolded during an absorbing T20 World Cup Super Eights contest between Bangladesh and Afghanistan at the Arnos Vale Stadium in Saint Vincent yesterday.

Eventually, the Najmul Hossain Shanto-led side were on the wrong side of the outcome as Rashid Khan's Afghanistan secured a famous eight-run victory, booking their semifinals ticket while sending title aspirants Australia back home.

Bangladesh, however, can only blame themselves for squandering a glorious opportunity to sneak into the last four, especially if they question themselves on whether they truly aimed to achieve the jackpot — what appeared to be a near-impossible feat following back-to-back heavy defeats against India and Australia in the Super Eights.

If India had set the stage for this drama after beating Australia by 24

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Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan celebrates after dismissing Rishad Hossain, leaving the Bangladesh tail exposed. The veteran leg-spinner's all-round show was pivotal in his side's eight-run win in an absorbing Super Eights contest of the ICC T20 World Cup in Saint Vincent yesterday, leading to their maiden semifinal berth.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

## 'Sharifa's Tale' to be removed from textbook

Decides edn ministry upon experts' advice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry has decided to remove the story titled "Sharifa's Tale" from the seventh-grade history and social science textbook following recommendations of a probe committee.

The ministry wrote to the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) recently instructing it to take necessary steps regarding the decision, Prof Md Moshuazzaman, acting NCTB chairman, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The education ministry's letter said the controversial story should be replaced by another story," said Prof Moshuazzaman.

He added that the story would be replaced in the next academic year. The textbook would still have a topic for the same learning outcome, but with a different narrative.

"Sharifa's Tale" was included in the history and social science book for seventh grade in a section on "human

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## ESPIONAGE CHARGE

### Assange set to be freed after US plea deal

REUTERS, Sydney

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is due to plead guilty today to violating US espionage law, in a deal that will set him free after a 14-year British legal odyssey and allow his return home to Australia.

Assange, 52, has agreed to plead guilty to a single criminal count of conspiring to obtain



and disclose classified US national defence documents, according to filings in the US District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

The deal marks the end of a legal saga that has seen Assange spend more than five years in a British high-security jail and seven holed up in the Ecuadorian

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## Rights activists criticise Malaysia's improved ranking



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Rights activists have criticised Malaysia's improved ranking on the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report despite the exploitative conditions faced by hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshi migrant workers.

On Monday, the TIP report upgraded Malaysia, which was earlier relegated to the lowest level, Tier 3, in 2021 for widespread migrant labour abuses inside its factories and plantations, to the Tier 2 category. Last year, Malaysia was in the Tier 2 watchlist grouping.

The annual report ranks governments based on their efforts to acknowledge and combat human trafficking and remains one of the few global indices with teeth as it can trigger US sanctions for the worst offending nations.

"Based on years of unsuccessfully engaging the Malaysian government on cases of alleged human trafficking and forced labour, I strongly disagree with today's tier 2 upgrade for the country," said migrant rights activist Andy Hall in a statement.

A failed migrant work management and recruitment system — that promotes impunity, is devoid of the rule of law and is systemically corrupt — continues to exist in Malaysia, said the Nepal-based British activist who researches migration in Southeast Asia.

"There is little to no accountability for this

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## PUBLIC UNIVS

### Teachers go on half-day work abstention

Call for reinstating pension benefits

DU CORRESPONDENT

No classes were held for at least five hours at 35 public universities yesterday as teachers began their three-day-long half-day work abstention, demanding the reinstatement of the previous pension facilities instead of the newly introduced Universal Pension Scheme (UPS).

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) organised the protests at the universities yesterday, just as they reopened after the Eid-ul-Azha holidays.

Its General Secretary Nizamul Hoque Bhuiyan, during a sit-in in front of Dhaka University's arts faculty, threatened all-out strikes at the campuses for an indefinite period from July 1 if the demands were not met.

As part of the protest, teachers did not take classes from 8:00am to 1:00pm, he

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## ISRAELI STRIKES ON GAZA CITY

### Hamas chief's relatives among 24 killed

AGENCIES

Israeli forces killed at least 24 Palestinians in three separate airstrikes on Gaza City early yesterday, and the dead included a sister of Ismail Haniyeh, the chief of the Hamas group, Gaza health officials and medics said.

Israeli tanks also pressed deeper into western areas of Rafah in the south of the enclave overnight, blowing up homes, residents said.

Two of the Israeli airstrikes hit two schools in Gaza City, killing at least 14 people, medics said. Another strike on a house in the Shati (Beach) camp, one of the Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps, killed 10 others.

The house in Shati belonged to the extended family of Hamas political chief Haniyeh, who is based in Qatar, killing one of his sisters along with other relatives too, family members and medics said.

Haniyeh, who leads Hamas'

diplomacy and is the public face of the group that has been running Gaza, has lost many relatives in Israeli air strikes since October 7, including three sons.

Israel's military said its forces had targeted Hamas fighters overnight in Gaza City who had been involved in the planning of attacks on Israel. The fighters included some involved in holding hostages captive and some who had taken part in Hamas' cross-border attack on October 7.

The Israeli Air Force struck two structures "used by Hamas members in Shati Gaza Strip. The terrorists operated inside school compounds that were used by Hamas as a shield for its terrorist activities", the military statement said.

Hamas denies using civilian facilities such as schools and hospitals for military purposes. The group described the attacks on the two schools and the house in Shati camp as "massacres".

- Israel bombs two schools, a house in Gaza City
- US urges Israel to avoid Lebanon escalation
- Gaza death toll rises to 37,658

## BPSA STATEMENT

### US objects to 'efforts to intimidate or harass journo's'

Says US state dept

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said on Monday that his country objects to any efforts to harass or intimidate



journalists to prevent them from conducting their important work.

At a department press briefing in Washington, Miller was answering a question over the Bangladesh Police Service Association's (BPSA's) "threatening" statement on recent news about the police force.

"We strongly support the role of a free and independent media in maintaining effective democratic institutions and promoting government transparency. We object to any efforts to harass or intimidate journalists to prevent them from conducting their important work," Miller said in reply.

The BPSA sent letters to all media editors, expressing concern, which have been reported by various media outlets.

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## China probe returns with samples from far side of Moon

AFP, Beijing

A Chinese probe carrying samples from the far side of the Moon returned to Earth yesterday, capping a technically complex 53-day mission heralded as a world first.



The landing module of the Chang'e-6 spacecraft touched down at a predetermined site in Inner Mongolia at 2:07 pm (06:07 GMT), the China National Space Administration said, hailing the mission a "complete success".

It comes bearing soil and rocks from the side of the Moon facing away from Earth, a poorly understood region that scientists say holds great research promise because its rugged features are less smoothed over by ancient lava flows than the near side.

That means the materials harvested there may help us to better understand how the Moon formed and how it has evolved over time.

China's space agency said the probe was "functioning normally, signalling that the Chang'e-6 lunar exploration mission was a complete success".



The photo shows the site of an Israeli strike on a house where Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh's sister and other relatives were killed, at the Shati (Beach) refugee camp in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Brazil challenged with getting best out of Vinicius

REUTERS

Brazil's poor performance in their goalless draw against Costa Rica in their Copa America opener on Monday



has dampened the enthusiasm surrounding their new manager and a revamped squad headlined by Vinicius Jr.

After a gritty 1-0 win over England at Wembley and a hard-fought draw 3-3 with Spain at the Bernabeu earlier this year, fans were optimistic that Brazil had turned a corner under Dorival Jr but his side had no answers to Costa Rica's five-man defence in California.

As the clock ticked down and the five-time world champions' frustrations grew, Dorival decided to make his first two substitutions in the 70th minute.

His decision to take Vinicius out of the game came as a huge surprise.

Even Brazil talisman Neymar, who is recovering from a serious knee

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