



Yunus charts a path to reforms

In address to nation, he announces 6 commissions to suggest reforms to constitution, polls system, key state organs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has decided to form six commissions to reform the judiciary, election system, administration, police, Anti-Corruption Commission, and the constitution, said Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus in his address to the nation yesterday.

the Constitutional Reform Commission; Justice Shah Abu Naim Mominur Rahman the Judicial Reform Commission; Badiul Alam Majumdar the Election System Reform Commission; Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury the Public Administration Reform Commission; Safar Raj Hossain the Police Administration

next phase. At the final stage, a comprehensive consultation will be held for three to seven days with representatives from student bodies, civil society, political parties, and the government.

"This discussion will finalise the outline of the reform plan and provide an idea on how it will be implemented," he said.



- People taking law into their hands to be brought to justice
- Initiative taken to form banking commission
- Issues brought forth by aggrieved people to be solved
- List of laws, including CSA, made for scrapping, amending

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The aim of the reforms is to have a state system based on public ownership, accountability, and welfare, he said.

It has become essential to carry out some national reforms to prevent re-emergence of fascism or authoritarian rule in Bangladesh, said the Nobel laureate.

At the core of these reforms is the establishment of a fair electoral system and good governance, he said.

The chief adviser said Shahdeen Malik would lead

Reform Commission; and Ittekkharuzzaman the Anti-Corruption Reform Commission.

These commissions are expected to formally start their work from October 1 and finish their jobs within the next three months. The heads of the bodies would determine the commission members, he said in his 32-minute speech.

Yunus said based on the commissions' reports, the interim government will organise discussions with major political parties in the

The chief adviser said, "We believe that imposing the dominance of the majority or misrule on the people under the guise of elections or concentrating all power in the hands of one person, family, or group, is unacceptable.

"To prevent these, the government is thinking of reforms related to the election commission and other institutions involved in elections."

Reforming the four institutions related to the

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Smoke billows from the warehouse of Big Boss Corporation in Gazipur city's Kashimpur area yesterday afternoon after workers from nearby factories, agitating over unpaid salaries, set it on fire around 1:00pm.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

114 RMG units shut Warehouse set afire in Gazipur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid labour unrest, a total of 114 garment factories in Gazipur and Ashulia industrial areas were closed yesterday, according to Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

Of them, 54 suspended production on "no work, no pay" basis, the trade body said.

In the afternoon, agitating workers set fire to a warehouse of Big Boss Corporation in Gazipur city's Kashimpur area.

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Workers' minimum wage to be reviewed

The move aimed at ending unrest in industrial sector

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

In an effort to bring normalcy back to the industries, the government will review the workers' wage through the minimum wage board, the interim government has decided.

A new government is in power and the door will be open for discussion on wage review for the workers through the minimum wage board, said AHM Shafiquzzaman, secretary to the Ministry of Labour and Employment, after a meeting at the ministry attended by seven advisers.

Tripartite consultation meetings involving



the government, factory owners and labour unions will be called to discuss the wage, the secretary told The Daily Star.

Although the current minimum wage came into effect in December last year, the interim government will review the minimum wage, considering the inflation and rising prices of essentials, officials said.

At yesterday's meeting chaired by Labour Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan, the government also decided to take measures to make sure workers are paid their arrears soon and to improve communication between workers and officials of the ministry

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TAQI MURDER Azmeri Osman's driver held

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Narayanganj

Another man was arrested by Rab from the capital early yesterday in connection with the murder of Tanwir Muhammad Taqi.

The arrestee is Jamshed Sheikh, 36, a driver of Azmeri Osman.

Azmeri, son of late lawmaker AKM Nasim Osman and nephew of former lawmaker Shami Osman, is alleged to have led the murder of Taqi after abduction.

Tanvir Mahmud Pasha, commanding officer of Rab-II, said, "Jamshed was arrested around 4:45am from Mirpur. He had direct link with Taqi murder."

Later in the day, a Narayanganj court placed Jamshed on a five day remand.

Earlier on Sunday and Monday, Rab had arrested three others -- Shafayet Hossain Shipon, Mamun Mia, and Kajal Hawlader -- in Taqi murder.

They are all close associates of the Osman family.



Traffic cops crack down on battery rickshaws

RAFIUL ISLAM

Traffic police in the capital have launched drives against battery-run rickshaws in various parts of the city following the increased prevalence of three-wheelers on major roads after August 5.

The move has brought some relief to commuters, as the high-speed rickshaws have been causing accidents.

At least two people -- Tania Khanam, 35 and one and half-year-old Mira Sarker -- have been killed in the last two days until yesterday, after being hit by battery-operated rickshaws in the Shahbagh and Mirpur areas respectively. Many others have been injured too.

This correspondent visited some major thoroughfares in Dhaka yesterday, including Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Begum Rokeya Sarani and Shaheed Mansur Ali Sarak, and talked to a number of people in Dhanmondi, and Mirpur to know about the situation of rickshaws.

Traffic police were seen seizing battery operated rickshaws in several places including Ramna, Bangla Motor, Mirpur, and Dhanmondi.

The police personnel are either puncturing rickshaw tyres, keeping the drivers waiting for hours, or towing rickshaws for dumping.

The operations of rickshaws -- both battery-run and pedal-operated -- have become the new normal throughout the city, even though rickshaws are banned from plying most major roads of Dhaka.

But ever since the student-led protests intensified, and especially after the fall of the Awami League government on August 5,



pedal and battery-run rickshaws have been ruling city streets in full view of police.

Rickshaw-pullers started to completely flout the ban when Dhaka's traffic system collapsed amid the absence of police for around a week after the fall of the previous government.

While traffic police have been on the streets since August 12, they are largely limited to directing traffic, and are not enforcing laws.

But a couple of days ago, the traffic police started making rickshaw pullers and drivers aware that they are not to operate their vehicles on major roads.

A battery-operated rickshaw was seen fleeing from the Bangla Motor area around 11:15am. Talking to the Daily Star, the puller said he came on the road as traffic police did not say anything beforehand.

"I will now drive the rickshaws in the feeder roads," he said.

A traffic police official working in the area said they towed several rickshaws since yesterday morning.

In Mirpur 10, traffic police officials were seen puncturing tyres of battery-run-three wheelers.

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FIREARMS LICENCES IN 15YRS Cops in the dark on total count

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

A week has passed since the government launched a joint drive to recover firearms, but law enforcers have yet to calculate the actual number of firearms licences issued during the 15-year tenure of the Awami League government.

According to police headquarters (PHQ) database, 13,349 firearms have been submitted by civilians till midnight of September 3 as the interim government suspended the licences on August 25.

The officials, however, failed to give any specific data on how many firearms were issued during the past 15 years.

The Student and Labour wing of the police's

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Rise in partisanship contradicts vision of 'new Bangladesh' Says Transparency Int'l Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The rise in illegal occupation, partisanship, and extortion in sectors previously controlled by the fallen Awami League government and its leaders, is completely contrary to the vision of a "New Bangladesh," said Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday.

"The students envisioned a 'New Bangladesh' -- a well-governed and democratic nation that is free of coercion and all forms of abuse of power. Yet, since the fall of authoritarianism, we have seen a troubling rise in partisanship, illegal occupation,

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A line of illegally parked ambulances occupies a portion of the road in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, blocking part of the entrance. To make matters worse, a few makeshift shops set up illegally on the adjacent footpath further hinder pedestrian movement. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Rise in dengue cases rings alarm

Experts blame late hospitalisation, inadequate facilities for higher deaths

HELEMUL ALAM

A total of 19 dengue patients died in the first 11 days of September, including five on Tuesday, painting a grim picture this year as well.

Experts said late hospitalisation, lack of proper medical facilities across the country, un-reported dengue cases, and false test results are the major reasons for high casualties this year.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), a total of 17,284 dengue patients were hospitalised this year, while the total number of deaths is 102.

The death rate this year is 0.61 percent, up from 0.5 percent in 2023.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital (SSMCH), said, "Of the four types of dengue strains, the NSI report of the Den-2 serotype gives 30 percent false negative, while Den-4 serotype provides 50 percent false negative results."

"When someone gets a false negative result, they do not care much about treatment and when they reach a critical stage and go to the hospital, it is already

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

"If the government classifies dengue treatment and divides it into three parts -- primary, secondary and tertiary -- it will be easier to manage all the patients and the number of deaths would be reduced."

Mushtaq Hossain
Public Health Expert

Rab warns of anti-state propaganda


STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab said yesterday that certain anti-state elements are attempting to disrupt law and order by spreading misinformation and propaganda.

In a press statement issued yesterday, Rab reaffirmed its commitment to a zero-tolerance policy towards militancy and extremism.

"Bangladesh is a country of peace and harmony. People of all races, religions, castes, and political affiliations celebrate festivals and events peacefully. Rab is committed to identifying criminals involved in extremism and taking strict legal action against them," the statement read.


Rab also emphasised that it is maintaining strict surveillance to ensure that members of militant outfits, who have been released on bail, do not engage in further subversive activities.



ইসলামী ব্যাংক
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শরী'আহর ভিত্তিতে গ্রাহকের আস্থায় সোনালী দিনে ফিরেছে ইসলামী ব্যাংক

- ▶ ২ কোটি ৩৫ লাখ গ্রাহক
- ▶ ৩৯৫ টি শাখা
- ▶ ২৫৩ টি উপশাখা
- ▶ ২৮০০ এজেন্ট ব্যাংকিং আউটলেট
- ▶ ৩০০০+ এটিএম/সিআরএম
- ▶ আমানত ১ লক্ষ ৫৫ হাজার কোটি টাকা
- ▶ সর্বোচ্চ রেমিট্যান্স আহরণ
- ▶ ২০ লক্ষ উদ্যোক্তা তৈরি
- ▶ ৬ হাজারের বেশী শিল্প কারখানায় বিনিয়োগ
- ▶ সর্বোচ্চ এসএমই বিনিয়োগ
- ▶ ১৭ লক্ষাধিক প্রান্তিক পরিবারকে ক্ষুদ্র বিনিয়োগ
- ▶ ১ কোটি মানুষের কর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টি
- ▶ ৪৩ লক্ষাধিক সেলফিন গ্রাহক
- ▶ সর্বোচ্চ কর প্রদানকারী ব্যাংক



BSF returns body of teen killed in border firing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) handed over the body of Bangladeshi teenager Jayanta Kumar Singh early yesterday after a company commander flag meeting.

Jayanta died in BSF firing along the Kantivita border in Thakurgaon's Baliadangi upazila on Monday.

The meeting was held at the zero line on the Kantivita border around 2:00am between the two border security agencies.

Md Mozammel Haque, company commander of Dhantala BGB outpost, led the Bangladeshi side while Santos Singh, a company commander of BSF, led the Indian side.

Following the meeting, the officer-in-charge of Islampur Police Station in Uttar Dinajpur district, West Bengal, India, handed over the body to Dibakar Odhikari, the inspector of Baliadangi Police Station.

Police later handed the body over to the family.

Earlier on September 2, a 16-year-old, Swarna Das, daughter of Parendra Das, was gunned down by the members of Indian Border Security Force in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar.

PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 12. Includes prayer times for Fajr, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, Esha, Azan, and Jamaat.

'No justice in either country'

Rohingyas face looting on both sides of the border



A group of newly arrived Rohingyas entering Camp 27. The photo was taken recently.

MOKAMMEL SHUVO

Many new Rohingyas have allegedly become victims of robbery and looting on both sides of the border in Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Some have alleged that their shops in the Maungdaw town were looted by the Arakan Army (AA) after they began leaving Myanmar following the escalation of violence from August 5.

On August 5 alone, nearly 200 people were reportedly killed by drone strikes and shelling, according to Rohingya witnesses.

On the way to Bangladesh, many who brought their valuables were robbed by Bangladeshi brokers.

'AA looted my shop 'Hello Cosmetic Store' on August 20. They looted goods worth Tk 10 lakh. Five days later, I made it to Bangladesh. We paid brokers Tk 20,000 each for three of us,' said Mosharraf Hossain, a resident of Maungdaw.

As many as 2,000 shops owned by Rohingyas have been looted by the AA between August 5 and August 20 in Maungdaw, he also said.

A few hundred Rohingyas have been crossing the border into Bangladesh

daily through the Naf river over the past few days.

The number of new arrivals after August 5 is not less than 30,000 according to Rohingya leaders. On September 3, Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain said around 8,000 Rohingya refugees had entered Bangladesh recently.

Around 1.2 million Rohingyas, most of whom fled a 2017 Myanmar military crackdown, that has been dubbed as an ethnic cleansing by the UN, are living in the sprawling camps of Cox's Bazar.

'We could not protect our wealth in Myanmar and we can't do it in Bangladesh either,' Mosharraf said.

He also described the story of a wealthy businessman from Maungdaw and how he became penniless within a few days.

'Anwar Sadik had several gold shops named 'Three Diamonds'. Anwar left Myanmar and came to Bangladesh with huge quantities of gold ornaments,' Mosharraf said.

Anwar was caught by the BGB on August 12, with 29kg of gold ornaments and is now in a Cox's Bazar jail.

'Yes, Anwar entered Bangladesh

'Take urgent steps to save Mayur river'

Say speakers

Environmentalists and civil rights activists in Khulna at a views exchange meeting yesterday called upon the authorities concerned to take urgent steps for saving Mayur river.

Once a lifeline for Khulna residents, the river is now on deathbed due to severe pollution from industries and rampant encroachment.

Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (Bela) organised the meeting at a city hotel, where speakers made recommendations on measures to rejuvenate the river to its former glory.

The speakers said the river's decimation began with construction of the Khulna city protection dam in the early 1980s, while illegal encroachment of the river, unregulated fish farming, and dissipation of sewage by Khulna City Corporation's drains as well as industrial wastes into the river exacerbated the situation.

A Tk 843 crore project was initiated in September 2019 to restore Mayur river in two phases, but its future is uncertain due to lack of monitoring, they also said.

COX'S BAZAR SADAR HOSPITAL Doctors on strike protesting assault over patient's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Doctors and staffers of Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital have gone on strike since yesterday morning, after relatives of a patient, who allegedly died in wrong treatment, beat up a doctor.

Although the emergency department became functional in the afternoon after a team from the army visited the hospital, other departments remained closed until the filing of this report around 10:00pm.

The incident occurred after the death of Aziz, a patient from ward 6 in the town, who was admitted to the CCU of the hospital around 1:30am yesterday.

The patient's relatives alleged that Aziz died after a painkiller injection was pushed in his body. Claiming that the patient died due to wrong treatment, his attendants severely beat up a doctor named Kazi Sajeb at the hospital. Different parts of the hospital, including the ICU and CCU, were also vandalised.

The authorities have halted medical services since then. Doctors, nurses, and other hospital staffers said they would not return to work if the attackers were not arrested within 24 hours.

In the hospital's CCTV footage, four men were seen beating Sajeb. At one stage, he lost consciousness.

The hospital authorities said from the footage, they have identified two attackers, named Asif and Mehdi.

Hospital superintendent Dr Mong Ting Yeo said, 'The patient's condition was critical. In the situation, the patient's attendants should have provided him with effective care. But no one was present at that time. Still our doctors tried their best.'

Despite such efforts, the doctor was attacked, he added.

The superintendent said the work abstention programme announced by the doctors will continue until the attackers are arrested.

However, patients will suffer at the hospital if they refrain from providing services, he said, adding, 'We are trying to resolve the issue.'

ACC to probe former state minister, 3 ex-MPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti Corruption Commission yesterday said it has decided to initiate an open investigation into allegations of corruption, unethical activities and abuse of power against Zakir Hossain, former state minister for primary and mass education.

The commission made the decision after evidence of irregularities against Zakir emerged in primary findings, said Akhtarul Islam, deputy director and public relations officer of ACC.

Zakir Hossain, also former lawmaker of Kurigram-4, is accused of abusing power to engage in different corrupt and unethical activities through which he illegally amassed wealth.

According to ACC source, Zakir, while serving as the state minister, allegedly abused his power to illegally approve the inclusion of 26 schools in Kurigram under the Children's Welfare Trust.

He reportedly owns a two-storey house on 10 decimals of land, and a market and rice mill on 3.28 acres of land in Roumari.

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Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd. (A Company of Petrobangla) e-Tender Notice. Includes details about gas supply, tender ID, and contact information.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার. বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ. পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়. কুড়িগ্রাম. www.police.kurigram.gov.bd. উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (OTM). Includes a table with tender details and contact information.

Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh. Bangladesh Police. Rapid Action Battalion Forces Headquarters. Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229. www.rab.gov.bd. Invitation For e-Tender. Includes a table with tender details and contact information.

Typhoon Yagi toll nears 200

Residents of Vietnam's capital waded through waist-deep water yesterday as river levels hit a 20-year high and the toll from the area's strongest typhoon in decades rose to at least 179, with neighbouring nations also enduring deadly flooding and landslides.

Typhoon Yagi hit Vietnam at the weekend, carrying winds in excess of 149 kilometres per hour and a deluge of rain that has also brought destructive floods to northern areas of Laos, Thailand and Myanmar.

A landslide smashed into the remote mountain village of Lang Nu in Lao Cai province, levelling it to a flat expanse of mud and rocks strewn with debris and laced by streams.

State media said at least 34 people had been killed in the village, with another 46 still missing.

Vietnamese state media said the total death toll from Yagi -- the strongest storm to hit northern Vietnam in 30 years -- had risen to 179, with 145 missing across the country.

Typhoons in the region are forming closer to the coast, intensifying more rapidly, and staying over land longer due to climate change.



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), US Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris, US President Joe Biden, former Mayor of New York Michael Bloomberg and former US president and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump attend a remembrance ceremony on the 23rd anniversary of the September 11 terror attack on the World Trade Center at Ground Zero, in New York City yesterday.

Iran threatens 'action' over new sanctions

Iran has vowed to respond to fresh sanctions imposed by Britain, France and Germany over what they said was its supply of short-range missiles to Russia for use in Ukraine.

"This action of the three European countries is the continuation of the hostile policy of the West and economic terrorism against the people of Iran, which will face the appropriate and proportionate action of the Islamic Republic of Iran," foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanani said in a statement late Tuesday.

US, UK vow to work for Ukraine's victory

Top diplomats of the nations discuss long-range arms supply to Ukraine

AGENCIES The US and British top diplomats yesterday vowed to work together for Ukraine's victory as they discussed further easing rules on firing Western weapons into Russia, whose alleged acquisition of Iranian missiles has raised new fears.

In a rare joint trip, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken took the nine-hour train from Poland to Kyiv alongside Foreign Secretary David Lammy, whose two-month-old Labour government has vowed to keep up Britain's role as a key defender of Ukraine.



Biden, while strongly supportive of Ukraine, has previously made clear he wants to avoid devolving into direct conflict between the United States and Russia, the world's two leading nuclear powers. Blinken, speaking Tuesday in London alongside Lammy, said the United States was committed to providing Ukraine with "what they need when they need it to be most effective in dealing with the Russian aggression".

Asked how Moscow would respond to such a development, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Wednesday the response "will be appropriate," without providing specific details. He said the authorisation of Ukrainian strikes on Russian territory would serve as "further proof" of why Moscow launched its offensive, which he said was itself an "answer" to the West's support for Ukraine.

Soldiers kill two 'rebels' in J&K

Indian soldiers in Kashmir killed two suspected militants yesterday, the army said, the latest clashes during campaigning for local elections in the disputed region. Muslim-majority Kashmir has been divided between rivals India and Pakistan since their independence from British rule in 1947, and both claim the Himalayan territory in full.

Rahul denounces 'ideological war' in India

Indian opposition leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday denounced an "ideological war" in the South Asian country, ruled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Hindu nationalist party. Rahul Gandhi said there were "two completely different visions" between his Congress party and Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as he spoke to the National Press Club in the US capital Washington.

Public Procurement Regulation-2008 notice from Bangladesh Government. Includes details on tendering process, dates, and contact information for Pirojpur Police.

E-Tender Notice from Government of Bangladesh. Details tendering process for repair and renovation works at various training centers. Includes a table of tender details and contact information for the Department of Youth Development.

The Daily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Power outages must be addressed

Govt must expedite efforts to resolve the crisis

We are concerned about the frequent power outages that have put citizens in a state of distress. In many areas, according to one report, residents are having to endure up to 12-14 hours a day without electricity. This has caused immense suffering, particularly amid sweltering temperatures, which are likely to go down with increased rainfalls expected. But any relief from heat will not immediately lead to a relief from power outages because of supply problems, warned the finance adviser. This situation is disrupting not only daily life but also businesses, industries, and essential services.

According to our findings based on data from the Power Grid Bangladesh PLC, the power supply shortfall reached 2,312MW early Tuesday, a record in recent weeks, with Rajshahi, Rangpur, Cumilla, Mymensingh, Sylhet and Dinajpur being the hardest hit. Even Dhaka has not been spared, with its two power distribution companies reporting a combined supply shortfall of around 500MW. The question is, what's causing this shortfall? Insiders have blamed operational failures, dollar shortages, and natural disasters for this situation.

Since Monday evening, the operations of Dinajpur's 525 megawatt Barapukuria thermal power plant remained suspended after its lone functioning unit shut down. Apparently, this happened because the plant's Chinese contractor failed to conduct timely repairs, which will now take about two weeks. Additionally, at least 25 gas-fired power plants have been offline since May 27 when Cyclone Remal hit coastal areas. The cyclone damaged one of the country's two floating storage and regasification units (FSRUs), significantly reducing our LNG regasification capacity. Despite efforts to resume its operations several times, it has failed. The FSRU is now slated to open on September 15, but it will not improve the situation immediately as it will take at least two weeks for its LNG gas cargo to arrive.

Another major challenge has been the persistent dollar crunch, which has delayed the import of primary fuels such as coal, gas, and furnace oil. The Power Development Board is reportedly grappling with a backlog of outstanding payments, including \$800 million owed to India's Adani Group for electricity supplies, for which it has been pressing the interim government of late. The authorities must find a way to navigate this crisis, chiefly because the financial shortfall is directly contributing to insufficient fuel imports, and thus hindering our ability to ramp up power production.

The urgency of resolving the power outage problem cannot be overstated. Without a reliable supply of electricity, the country's industrial output and overall quality of life will continue to suffer. We, therefore, urge the government to further expedite its efforts to fix ongoing issues like maintenance of power plants and delayed fuel imports. Going forward, the government should also focus on diversifying our energy sources, including expanding renewable energy projects, which will help make the power sector more resilient in the future.

Bring back prisoners on the loose

Targeted measures needed to improve prison security

We are gravely concerned that a good number of prisoners who escaped amid the chaos surrounding the events of August 5 are still at large. According to a report, 928 inmates, 84 of whom are condemned criminals, have yet to surrender or be arrested. Prison authorities say the police are still largely clueless about their whereabouts. This is worrisome as having these people, including convicted militants and terrorists, on the loose poses a considerable threat to society, especially considering the current law and order situation in the country.

These inmates reportedly broke out of five penitentiaries across the country: Narsingdi, Kashimpur, Kushtia, Sherpur, and Satkhira. Most of the condemned criminals broke out of the Kashimpur High Security Jail in Gazipur. According to the recently appointed inspector general of prisons, poor structures as well as prison officials' lack of preparedness amid a nationwide mass uprising facilitated the prison breaks, with most of the escapees taking advantage of the situation.

The current authorities, dealing as they are with an unprecedented situation, are hard to blame for this. The prison chief has rightly said that this was a lesson for them, highlighting the importance of ensuring that a situation like this never recurs. The first step towards that is getting back absconding prisoners. Sources said measures have been put in place to prevent the prisoners from fleeing the country. While these are necessary actions, more concerted efforts are needed because the longer they are out, the greater the threat for the nation. To this end, a joint drive by security forces—much like the one being conducted to retrieve firearms stolen from police stations—should be immediately launched to arrest all the escapees.

Another issue that requires attention is prison reform. The prison staff is currently stretched thin, with fewer than 11,000 staffers managing more than 75,000 prisoners spread out in 68 penitentiaries. Jail guards are underpaid and overworked, which makes them susceptible to corruption. We agree with the home adviser that most problems in the prisons would be gone if corruption and bribery were eradicated, but that can't be achieved without providing proper incentives to the staff, including decent wages and work hours. We are glad that the relevant authorities are interested in making meaningful changes to overhaul the system. These efforts must lead to significant improvements in prison security and rehabilitation of all inmates.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

First African American woman goes to space

On this day in 1992, Astronaut Mae Jemison became the first African American woman to travel into space, as part of the STS-47 Spacecab J mission.



Focus first on constitutional process, not content

Zia Haider Rahman, a former international human rights lawyer, is head of research at Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), and the author of the novel 'In the Light of What We Know.' His X handle is @ziahaiderrahman.
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Views expressed in this article are the authors' own.

ZIA HAIDER RAHMAN and MANZOOR HASAN

In the first public event following his appointment as special assistant to Chief Adviser Prof Yunus, Mahfuj Alam repeatedly invoked the idea of a new people's will, observing that "a new populace" has emerged and the will of this new populace must shape the future of Bangladesh. The event was convened to discuss constitutional issues. In this piece, we make two overarching points regarding constitutional design, which we respectfully urge the interim government to consider.

There is already a proliferation of Dhaka civil society forums discussing the content of a new constitution, as well as debate about whether we need an altogether new constitution or whether we should merely amend the existing one. But the focus right now should not be on content, nor on how drafting should take place or whether we start from scratch or merely amend. Instead, attention must concentrate on establishing a "process" towards a ratified final constitution and announcing that process as soon as possible. A new era with a new populace doesn't just need a new constitutional dispensation but a new way of arriving at such a dispensation.

In a 2018 referendum, the Irish people voted to repeal a constitutional prohibition against abortion. The issue of abortion is irrelevant to this discussion: What took place before Ireland decided to remove the ban is what concerns us here, as well as what "didn't" take place after the decision.

Before the referendum, over the course of a year, Ireland held a number of televised citizens' assemblies, appropriately moderated, to discuss several issues, including, for example, abortion and fixed term parliaments. What did "not" take place after the referendum, in which 39 out of 40 constituencies voted to make abortion legal, was public acrimony or ongoing grievance about a decision taken on a potentially incendiary topic in a deeply Catholic country. Everyone

understood that because of the process the referendum reflected, crucially, an informed will of voters.

By contrast, in referenda in 2022 and again in 2023, the Chilean people twice rejected different proposals for a new constitution, despite the fact that the proposals would have replaced a widely reviled constitution inherited from the era of the dictator Augusto



VISUAL: ANWAR SOHEL

Pinochet. The consensus of expert observers is that, fatally, the draft constitutions had been put together by cliques, the first-time comprising actors on the political left and the second actors on the right, who doubtless believed themselves acting in the service of the nation but who were, in fact, far removed from the concerns of the people.

There is broad consensus among scholars of constitutional engineering about the importance of public involvement, reflecting also a trend in such involvement in practice around the world. Since a constitution consists of higher laws standing above laws passed by the legislature, its importance is paramount. A new constitution should not be written exclusively by the Dhaka elite, without discussion among and input from the

mechanism of public engagement must be genuinely substantive and should not be capable of being regarded as mere window-dressing.

We note that a process of public engagement can and should apply whether a constitution is being written from scratch or the existing constitution is to be revised. In all these elements there are many details to consider at each level of process design. For example, if public discussion groups are to be held at the upazila or other levels, training must be provided to moderators, to introduce topics and keep the discussion focused on them. The interim government could publish a video primer on the topics to cover, being careful not to unduly limit the range of legitimate public discussion. At the stage of a deliberating and preliminary drafting

body, there will be questions regarding its composition, of course. Should such body be required first to provide a review of the public and civil society submissions? As for a constitutional assembly, who should sit in it? Should former and current elected officials be barred from the assembly and should assembly members be barred from holding future office? Such questions themselves could form part of public discussions.

In process design, what are called upstream and downstream constraints will need consideration. The work of actors downstream, such as a deliberating body, will be shaped or constrained by what the public and civil society provide them. Equally, since the public and civil society—the actors upstream—will know that what they submit will go through a deliberating and preliminary drafting body before coming to a constitutional assembly or referendum, they will shape their submissions accordingly. Such effects will have to be considered carefully.

These are only some of the many issues that will need consideration. Importantly, we should bring to bear learning gained from relevant experience around the world.

All this discussion of detail neatly brings us to the second overarching point we wish to make. To run the process we describe involves managerial skill, more so than legal expertise. For too many years, we have endured an autocratic regime that has degraded the standards of our administrative sector, our civil service. It grieves us to acknowledge this. Constitution-building that is inclusive of the public will require us to draw in the best and the brightest. Even if a member of the great and the good stands as figurehead, the work—including day to day decision-making—will have to be done by people with recognised talent for getting things done. That may mean drawing in people from outside the usual channels.

In future pieces, we address other matters, constitutional and otherwise. But we lead with this piece because it is vital that the interim government address process issues swiftly and announce a roadmap, with some detail and not mere generalities, outlining what we will all do to take a new Bangladesh with a new populace to a new constitution.

Futility of restoring the non-party caretaker government



Nafiz Ahmed teaches jurisprudence at North South University. He can be reached at na538@cantab.ac.uk

NAFIZ AHMED

Since the interim government under Prof Muhammad Yunus came to power, intellectuals have been writing and speaking about how the interim government can be legitimised under the current constitutional system of Bangladesh. Some have even argued that removing the non-party caretaker government (NPCG) from the constitution was unconstitutional as it affected democracy and the people's right to a fair election. Learned lawyers have even filed petitions to restore the NPCG system in the constitution. I would argue that restoring the removed provisions of the constitution would be futile, and over-reliance on the system of the past would lessen the chances of achieving the reform people desire.

To plan for a better future for Bangladesh, we must first acknowledge that the Bangladesh Constitution has failed to maintain a robust democratic system. Under the 1972 constitution, Bangladesh has continuously struggled with peaceful transitions of governmental power. The struggle did not end after the introduction of the NPCG system. In its 53 years of existence, the people of Bangladesh had to shed their blood and sacrifice valuable lives multiple times for changing political regimes. In a constitutional system, if the transition of power

frequently causes loss of lives, the system must be flawed, if not a complete failure. However, it would be unfair to blame the constitution solely for Bangladesh's misfortunes. Our constitution is not a divine book containing ultimate wisdom, but an artifact weaved from political decisions and compromises. It has been amended by democratically elected parliamentarians and autocratic regimes alike, bending the constitution to meet their political agendas respectively. Sticking to a failed system or bringing back another is neither necessary nor wise.

We recognise the constitution as having more democratic and legal legitimacy than ordinary legislation because we consider constituent power to be greater than legislative power. Constitutional supremacy does not stem from a provision of the constitution that declares itself to be supreme. Instead, its supremacy comes from the people's decision to treat it as such. The theory of constituent power that was presupposed by the makers of the constitution of the United States of America notes that "people's will [is] both anterior and superior to every instance of positive law, not excluding any constitutional text" (Richard S Kay, 2011). The same principle that gave the people of Bangladesh the power to adopt our

previous constitutional structure allows us to create a new one. The people's willingness to breach the curfew order and take to the streets to overthrow the previous regime can be taken as people's will to reject the previous system. However, we do not have to rely on the implied will of the people. One way to know if the people want a new constitutional system is

We must also acknowledge that justifying the interim government's legitimacy through the constitution in its current form is unnecessary. It is already settled that the constitution, in its current form, does not recognise an interim government and it is not the same as the NPCG. The NPCG system had a fixed tenure, and its primary mandate was to ensure a free and fair national election.

by holding a referendum. Thus, we can expand our visions of reform beyond the boundaries of the existing or past systems.

We must also acknowledge that justifying the interim government's legitimacy through the constitution in its current form is unnecessary. It is already settled that the constitution, in its current form, does not recognise an interim government and it is not the

same as the NPCG. The NPCG system had a fixed tenure, and its primary mandate was to ensure a free and fair national election. The current interim government's primary mandate is not only to hold an election but also to bring significant reforms. The NPCG was designed to be headed by the most recently retired chief justice of Bangladesh unless she/he refused. The design of the interim government is quite different from the design of the NPCG. If the interim government had the same design as the NPCG system, the people may not have accepted it as openly as they have. Thus, even if the NPCG system is brought back into the constitution, it would not automatically give legitimacy to the interim government. It is also important to note that the interim government's legitimacy will derive from the legacy it leaves behind and its ability to reform Bangladesh and restore democracy, in spite of any justification it has in its favour.

We must appreciate that the current time and circumstances have presented us with an opportunity not enjoyed by most generations. Time has presented us with the chance to reconstitute ourselves. The cost of lives is too great a price to ensure the proper transition of governmental power. It is not feasible or reasonable to ask the people of Bangladesh to pay this price every 10 years or so. An ideal constitutional system should outlive at least its framers' generation. If we fail to create a system that is peacefully carried on by future generations, we will have failed to "constitute" anything. The spirit of the constitution is more important than the text. As long as we can retain this spirit, we do not need to carry the mistakes of our ancestors forward.



ILLUSTRATION: MAISHA SYEDA

BOOK REVIEW: FICTION

MERMAIDS ARE REAL

A story of the Haenyeo

Review of 'The Island of Sea Women' (Scribner, 2019) by Lisa See

JANNATI HOSSAIN

Dear readers, I want you to do something with me. Take three long breaths—as deep as you can. Now hold it for two minutes! How long did you hold? I only survived one minute and 23 seconds. And I'm used to spending time in the water.

Let me introduce the story of women who hold their breath and dive into the depths of the sea without any breathing apparatus—like mermaids. There they hunt and gather the edible treasures going as deep as 20 metres. American novelist Lisa See's historical fiction, called *The Island of Sea Women*, is about Haenyeos, sea women. A UNESCO inscribed intangible cultural heritage, Haenyeos comes from an ancient matrilineal society of women native to the Korean Jeju island. Yet the book is about much more.

Personally, this book is significant to me. Spontaneously picked from a bookstore a day before I was leaving for Perhentian, a Malaysian island I was staying on for my scuba divermaster training, I was instantly engaged by the title and words like 'island' and 'sea women'.

However, I only started reading once I was back home, now a certified divermaster and sorely missing water; I opened the book with the hope of reminiscing. "...woman sits on the beach...used to spending time in the water", reading these words was a balm to my soul!

The book circulates around three major themes: female friendship, forgiveness, and history. Very few historical fiction and coming of age stories touch upon complex female characters like this book does. The protagonist Young Sook's life is intimately intertwined with her friend Mi-ja. Young-Sook's mother foretells this on the girls' first day as sea workers. "Many girls have friends,

but the two of you are closer than friends. You are like sisters, and I expect you to take care of each other..." While this sets to disseminate friendship, it also creates a high expectation from it.

The beginning of the story is set during Japanese colonialism and their cruelty in Korea. Mi-ja, the daughter of a late Japanese collaborator, appears brave and outspoken, yet despised by many. Young-sook was the daughter of the Haenyeo chief—loved and respected. From sharing each other's dark secrets, working together in a foreign country, to flirting and having ice-cream with young Russian sailors, the girls grew closer.

The book has many traditional Haenyeo sayings underlying various complex social issues. "When a girl is born, there is a party. When a boy is born, there is a kick to the hip." Females are celebrated for being the sole breadwinner, as well as giving birth to sons. While the birth of a boy means yet another mouth to feed.

The Haenyeos consider the sea better than even their own mothers, "You can love your mother, and she still might leave you. You can love or hate the sea, but it will always be there. Forever." However, the sea is also the place that can be the end for them, "Every woman who enters the sea carries a coffin on her back". As a divermaster and being responsible for the safety of divers, this saying resonated with me the most. Since one cannot breathe underwater, any minor incident can become fatal. This bitter truth is realised when the character who says this breathes her last while being stuck underwater.

Sayings like "It is better to be born a cow than a woman", are used jokingly to express the hardworking life of a woman both as sea workers and in the fields. Most of the men stay home, taking care of children, cooking,

and debating about Confucianism under the village tree.

Death, war, and multiple political crises envelop the storyline. "You aren't aware your clothes are getting wet in the rain", is a line from the book that highlights how change comes gradually. After a gruesome tragedy, Young-sook and Mi-ja's friendship become irreparable and betrayal, disappointment, and anger dominate the later part of the story. Young-Sook achingly recognises, "...I had to hold on to my anger and bitterness as a way of honoring those I'd lost."

However, it seems that Lisa See rushes towards forgiveness and resolution in the end. Relying on the Buddhist saying, "To understand everything is to forgive", and in the hurried introduction of a flat character—like most of the male characters in the novel—a girl named Clara, who comes and helps reconcile Young Sook with the memory of friendship. Young-Sook lets go of anger and resentment in what seems like a forced reconsideration of everything. While some could say this conclusive self-preservation was necessary, I found the abruptness breaking the suspension of disbelief.

Nonetheless, I would recommend this book to adventurous people, especially women. Not only is this book informative, it is also well researched with an empathetic approach to culture and history. Female solidarity, discourse and laughter without the presence of the male ego, and perseverance through hard work builds the Haenyeo collective. It also shows the strength of women's support systems through grief, disaster, and tragedy.

Jannati Hossain is an entrepreneur, scuba divermaster, marine conservationist, and an avid reader in five different languages. From the mountain to the sea, she has battled to be free.

BOOK REVIEW: POETRY

Balancing the act of oneness and being one with oneself

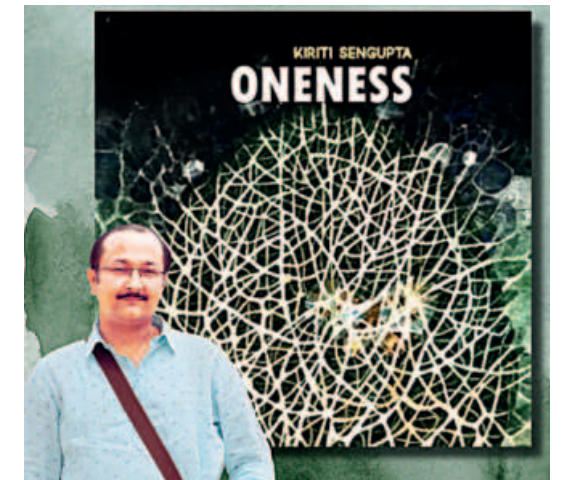
Review of Kiriti Sengupta's 'Oneness' (Transcendent Zero Press, 2024)

SUTANUKA GHOSH ROY

Kiriti Sengupta is an award-winning poet, translator, editor, and publisher based in New Delhi, India. *Oneness* is his latest collection of poems. The seemingly unassuming thin volume does not prepare readers for the multi-sensory experience that is in store for them as they open the book. Even before one's mind and eyes get used to reading, the poet jolts readers as he writes "I rived my eyes / for inditing poems. / Would you reckon them / by their length?"

His style is more impressionist and natural. Sengupta's *Oneness* is a festival of feelings and emotions, which evokes an ambience of celebration replete with different forms of poetry. The haikus blend well with the short poems and prose poems. Sengupta has mastered the artistic discipline of haiku poems, their minimal nature forces readers to pare down to only the essentials, internalising each word or even syllable count. He writes: "...descent of grace / the priest unburdens / the donation box". There is a focus on a brief moment in time, yoking together two heterogeneous images of the priest unburlending the donation box, and creating a sudden sense of revelation.

The volume also showcases Sengupta's aphoristic style and teases out the magic of words with great subtlety. The paintings accompanying the poems spread the colours of poetry and paint a memorable canvas for the readers. He writes about how the ordinary and the extraordinary fuse into oneness. Sometimes his lens captures a satiric angle:



DESIGN: MAISHA SYEDA

"plagiarism—
the author examines
the reader's memory"

The accompanying painting is dramatic, the fiery red and the foliage are all frozen in time—creating an ominous atmosphere. At times, there is a personal touch when he speaks of the warmth of a woolen shawl that he uses during winter in Delhi: "Cold has an old-world spur to it. I tend to rest more with an inflated appetite. Drops of olive oil on my aging skin add to the impetus. Traditional cuisines cheerfully replace bland meals for the summer. I find warmth in shawls exuding the aroma of a fabric conditioner."

Sengupta is a contemporary poet, hence he weaves a feminist story of power and courage, breaking free of fashion stereotypes and bringing about a huge change towards body positivity in his poem "Antara Marwah Walks the Ramp":

"She is all smiles as she
treads, flaunting her baby bump.
The fashion parade
looms large in the new arrival."

Sengupta's ink also captures a moment of catastrophe:

"In the crematorium,
the priest asks me to
smear ghee on my
father's skin.
He ensures
the fire finds Baba luscious."

Along with the scent of ghee, the questions that linger in the mind of the reader are: Can the fire in the crematorium be put out and is there a hope of regeneration?

The illustration that embellishes the poem "Separation" uses a searching light leaving the shadow pitch dark. The black colour has accumulated on the paper to imitate the visual effect of a tree, loneliness or separation and to offer the impression that the landscape is suspended in nothingness. Sengupta writes:

"Only a little needs to be
invested in sketching the
worn-out tree. A charcoal or two,
canvas, and span.
I place myself amid the landscape
to explain the prevailing isolation."

Oneness merges visual art with personal narratives to create a space for reflection and discourse. Sengupta succeeds in making the abstract tangible, inviting his readers to ponder their places within the delicate balance of oneness and being one with oneself. The poetry collection comprising different forms of poetry is pinned together like a pointillist work. The cover painting by Samir Mondal and the illustrations by Pintu Biswas reinforce the reflective nature of *Oneness*.

Dr. Sutanuka Ghosh Roy is an associate professor of English at Tarakeswar Degree College, The University of Burdwan. She is a reviewer, poet, and critic who has presented papers at national and international seminars and has been published widely.

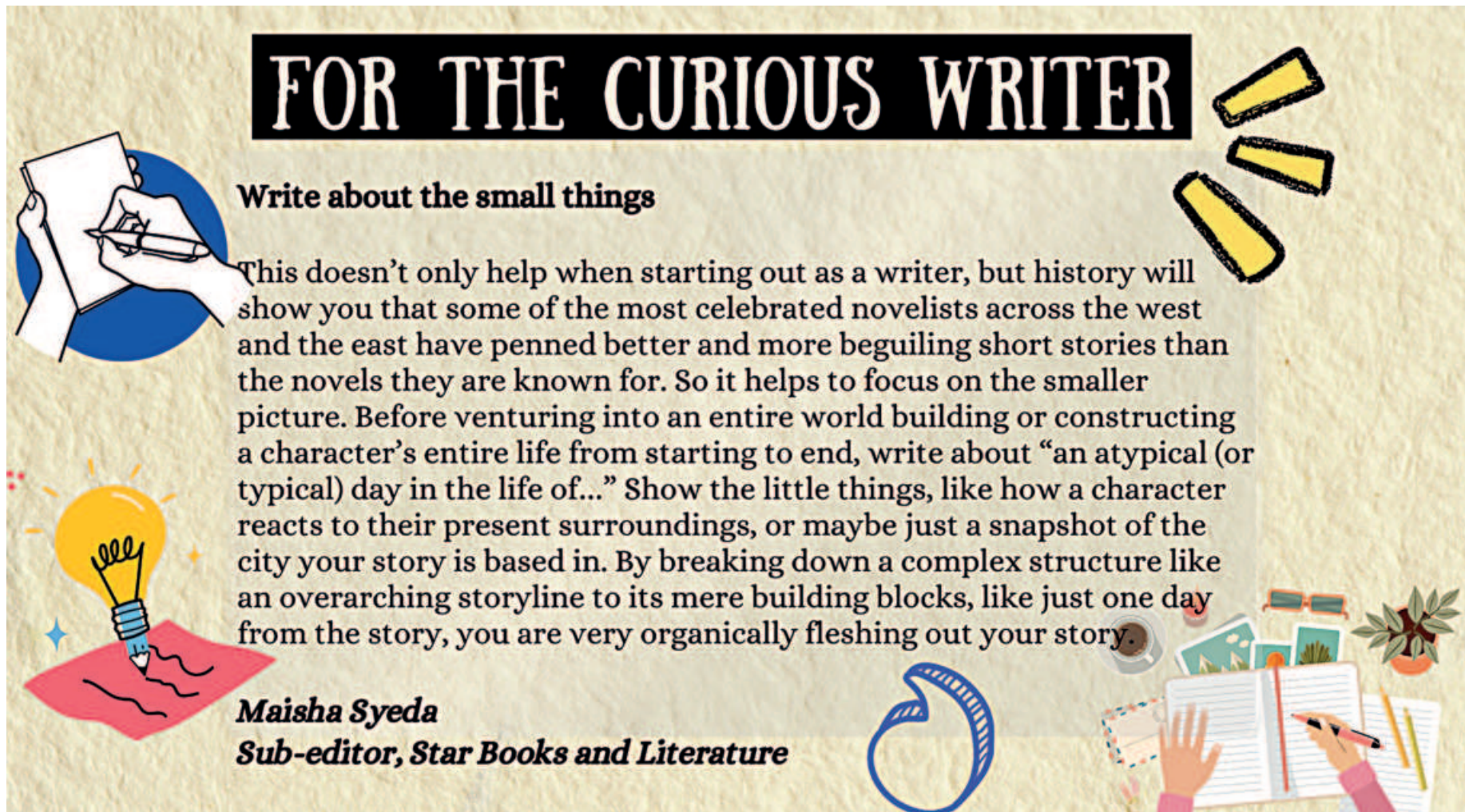
The book has many traditional Haenyeo sayings underlying various complex social issues. "When a girl is born, there is a party. When a boy is born, there is a kick to the hip." Females are celebrated for being the sole breadwinner, as well as giving birth to sons - for only a son can do religious rituals and ancestral rites.

FOR THE CURIOUS WRITER

Write about the small things

This doesn't only help when starting out as a writer, but history will show you that some of the most celebrated novelists across the west and the east have penned better and more beguiling short stories than the novels they are known for. So it helps to focus on the smaller picture. Before venturing into an entire world building or constructing a character's entire life from starting to end, write about "an atypical (or typical) day in the life of..." Show the little things, like how a character reacts to their present surroundings, or maybe just a snapshot of the city your story is based in. By breaking down a complex structure like an overarching storyline to its mere building blocks, like just one day from the story, you are very organically fleshing out your story.

Maisha Syeda
Sub-editor, Star Books and Literature



There are a lot of things that need to change, just the mentality and the culture of the group. I think we have the quality but I know that is the first thing that he is going to want to change. Hopefully he [Mauricio Pochettino] brings a culture that is willing to fight, that is willing to take risks and win.

Forward Christian Pulisic on the appointment of Mauricio Pochettino as USA coach



Odegaard set to miss key PL matches

AFP, Oslo

Martin Odegaard looks likely to miss Arsenal's Premier League matches against Tottenham and Manchester City as well as the start of the Champions League after injuring his ankle.

The Gunners captain had an MRI scan after sustaining the injury in a challenge by Austria's Christoph Baumgartner in Norway's 2-1 Nations League victory against Austria in Oslo on Monday.

"This type of ankle injury often takes at least three weeks to heal. Anything less is just a bonus. And it may take longer," national team doctor Ola Sand told VG newspaper.

Arsenal travel to Tottenham for the north London derby on Sunday before their opening match in the Champions League against Atalanta next week. They face Manchester City on September 22 and take on PSG on October 1 in an eye-catching European clash.

Norway's next Nations League matches are on October 10, against Slovenia in Oslo, and then against Austria three days later in Linz.



Even though Bangladesh's next assignment is the two-match Test series away to India this month, the Tigers' white-ball preparations are also in full swing as Mustafizur Rahman gears up and opener Tanzid Tamim watches on during a practice session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Bangladesh will also play three T20Is following their World Test Championship fixtures against India.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Big changes unlikely for Tigers' India Tests

SPORTS REPORTER

The national selectors are not in favour of making big changes in the Test squad for the upcoming tour of India for which a 16-member squad list has already been sent to cricket operations in order to get the final approval of the board president.

The Test squad is set to travel to India on September 15 to play two Tests, which will be followed by three T20Is against the hosts, starting with the opening Test in Chennai on September 19. The second Test will be held in Kanpur from September 27.

The Tigers will go to India, fresh from a historic 2-0 series win away in Pakistan earlier this month.

"There are no massive changes in the squad. We will name the Test squad first and then will announce the T20 squad. As the opponents are different, there are some strategic plans which will also take into consideration the conditions," Hannan Sarkar, a member of the selection panel, told the Daily Star yesterday.

"The squad will be of 16 members just like the one that played in Pakistan. There were some minor injury concerns, so we can make strategic changes keeping that in mind. We all have to understand that we also have T20Is coming up and there is a long session for us as well," he added.

It was learnt that the selectors are likely to rest pacer Shoriful Islam for the Test series as the cricketer sustained a groin injury during the opening Test in Rawalpindi and missed the second Test.

Although Shoriful has started bowling in full rhythm since September 8 in Mirpur, the workload management of the pacer is an issue as Bangladesh are set to play non-stop cricket in the coming months and Shoriful is a three-format cricketer.

SPORTS REPORTER

National selector Abdur Razzak was optimistic about getting more sporting wickets in the upcoming National Cricket League (NCL), which will be held in both four day and T20 formats next month.

"I think NCL is the best tournament in Bangladesh. Changes have been made to the surfaces. It will be changed more in the coming days," Razzak told reporters in Mirpur yesterday after the selectors met the participating team captains, coaches and players at the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) office.



During the meeting, selectors and the eight participating teams narrowed their respective squads to 20-25 members from a preliminary list of 30 members.

They also talked about improving the tournament with enhanced facilities in order to make the tournament more competitive.

The four-day version of NCL will get underway on October 15, followed by NCL T20 which is expected to start in December.

This year, BCB has scrapped the two-tier league system as both four-day and T20 tournaments will be held in a single league format.

"It's obviously a great opportunity.

If we get the chance, we will try to do well. And if we do, we

will get chance in the national team in future," said Dhaka Metro batter Shadman Islam.

Meanwhile, Shadman's Dhaka Metro teammate Mohammad Naim expects better facilities, wickets, and outfield in order to score big runs in the tournament.

"We expect more quality wickets in domestic matches. We need to improve ground facilities and drainage system. If you expect a player to score 200-300 runs then good wickets and outfield are needed. If we get good facilities in domestic cricket, we will do better in Test cricket as well," Naim said.

Meanwhile, local coach Mizanur Rahman Babul dismissed the notion that NCL is a 'picnic league', urging fans to come to the field to watch the competitiveness of the tournament.

"Those who raise these questions, I have doubt that they watch these matches from the field. I regularly hear that NCL is a picnic league. I'm actually involved in this NCL. I know it very well that whether it's a picnic league or not," Babul said.

"I request them all who raise such question to go to the field and watch the matches. Most of our matches are interrupted by rain. If rain doesn't cause much damage, it will be a good tournament," he added.

Babul also stressed increasing the number of grounds in the country.

"We don't have such grounds where we can have the play continue in between rain breaks. We need more venues to hold these matches so that the four-day matches can be completed. I can say that NCL is a very good tournament and this is the only red-ball tournament which our players play to get selected for the national team.

"Today, we talked about how to make the tournament better and also talked about the shortcomings of the previous tournaments so that we can develop it day by day," he concluded.

'This victory tastes even better'

Argentina, Brazil lose World Cup qualifiers

AFP, Montevideo

Colombia avenged their Copa America final defeat with a 2-1 victory over Argentina while Brazil crashed to a 1-0 defeat against Paraguay in South American qualifying for the 2026 World Cup on Tuesday.

Skipper James Rodriguez buried a 60th-minute spot-kick after providing an assist for the first goal to seal a hard fought



win for Colombia over Argentina, who were without injured captain Lionel Messi.

It was sweet revenge for Colombia, who were beaten 1-0 by Argentina in a bitterly disappointing Copa America final loss in Miami two months ago.

"I don't think I've ever scored against them -- there's a first time for everything," Rodriguez said of his winning spot-kick.

"We want to get used to playing finals. Today was just another game, but against a team that has won everything -- this victory tastes even better."

The victory at Barranquilla's Metropolitan Stadium lifted Colombia into second place in South America's 10-team qualifying competition.

Despite the defeat, Argentina, who stay on top of the table, remain comfortably on course for a place at the 2026 World Cup which is being co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

With the tournament expanded to 48 teams, the top six finishers in South American qualifying will win a berth to the finals.

The seventh placed team in qualifying goes into an inter-confederation playoff, with the bottom three teams eliminated.

Five-time world champions Brazil meanwhile continued their unconvincing qualifying campaign with a 1-0 defeat against Paraguay in Asuncion.

Inter Miami midfielder Diego Gomez scored the game's only goal, crashing a long-range shot in off the post in the 20th minute.

The defeat leaves Brazil in fifth place in the standings on 10 points, leading by goal difference from Venezuela, who drew 0-0 at home to Uruguay on Tuesday.

SHORT CORNER

Tigers to meet chief adviser today

Following their historic Test series triumph over hosts Pakistan this month, Bangladesh national team will meet Professor Muhammad Yunus, chief adviser to the interim government, today at his office in Tejgaon. Players, coaching staff, and Bangladesh Cricket Board officials will make their way to the chief adviser's office at noon for their first official meet.

Aussie breakdancer tops world rankings



Rachael "Raygun" Gunn, 37, became something of a global laughing stock after her kangaroo-inspired routine failed to impress the judges at the Paris Olympics. But the Australian Olympic breakdancer Raygun got her revenge and the last laugh when the World Dance Sport Federation (WDSF) on Wednesday named her the number one female breakdancer in the world.

Read full stories on The Daily Star's website

Resignations, lack of directors a 'temporary problem'

SPORTS REPORTER

Former Bangladesh captain Khaled Mahmud Sujon, who had held important positions in the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) as director, yesterday resigned from his directorship, BCB top officials confirmed.

Mahmud had recently been the chairman of Game Development Committee and vice-president of Cricket Operations Committee.

Certain quarters believe that Sujon may not have been actively told to resign but the situation now prevalent may have dictated his resignation since he was not allowed to be involved in running of departments.



There is a notion inside the board that things are not functioning quite like it should with many directors already absent while no standing committee has been announced under new president Faruque Ahmed.

There are 11 board directors present at the moment and with important assignments and tasks coming up, there are concerns about whether things are coming to a standstill. BCB president himself is overseeing the running of several departments for the time being.

However, Faruque feels that such developments as directors resigning are temporary issues and will not hamper board's activities in the long run.

"Actually we are all working together and everyone is looking after three to four departments. Things are going okay so far, there isn't any problem. It's a temporary problem [director's resignation] and it's going to be alright. There is always a unique situation and you have to cope with it since you can see how many advisors are running the country," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

"When there will be a possibility to announce the standing committees, we will do it," he informed.

With Mahmud's resignation, three directors have so far resigned, including Jalal Yunus and Naimur Rahman.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Harry Kane celebrated his 100th England cap in memorable style as the striker's superb double sealed a 2-0 win against Finland at Wembley in the Nations League on Tuesday.

The 31-year-old is the 10th man and 23rd overall among senior England men and women to reach a century of England appearances.

Kane, however, is the first to mark the occasion with two goals -- Wayne Rooney and Bobby Charlton scored once on their 100th England appearance.

With 68 goals for the national team, Kane is already the record scorer for England.

Goalkeeper Peter Shilton holds England's caps record with 125 appearances, while Wayne Rooney is the country's most capped outfield player with 120.



Advertisement for BSRM (Building a Safer Nation) with the slogan 'WITH BSRM FASTBUILD YOUR HOME WILL BE BUILT ON TIME WITH THE BEST QUALITY RODS'.

Advertisement for SHAH CEMENT, Bangladesh's No. 1 Cement Brand.

Power supply to improve in three weeks

Says power adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing power outage situation will ease within the next three weeks as the interim government has initiated a host of measures to ramp up supplies.

Repair works for the Barapukuria coal-based power plant have been initiated, while Adani Power has been asked to increase the power supply, said Muhammad Fouzul Kabir Khan, the adviser to the ministry of power, energy and mineral resources.



Fouzul Kabir

Besides, the government has initiated LNG imports, he said at a view exchange meeting with the Forum for Energy Reporters Bangladesh.

Subsequently, the ongoing power outage situation will ease within the next three weeks, Khan added.

Meanwhile, Summit Group yesterday announced that its floating storage regasification unit (FSRU) is now ready for ship-to-ship transfer and regasification of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in order to send out 500 million cubic

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A nurse injecting medicine into a dengue patient at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital yesterday. With dengue cases rising in the capital, the hospital authorities have opened two separate wards for male and female patients.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

JULY UPRISING UN probe team to arrive September 14

PORIMOL PALMA

The UN fact-finding mission will be arriving in Bangladesh on Saturday to probe the human rights violations that took place between July 1 and August 15.

The five-member mission -- which will include technical experts -- will be joined by some other UN officials during its month-long trip, The Daily Star has learnt from UN and foreign ministry officials involved with the proceedings.

The mission is coming to Bangladesh at the invitation of Muhammad Yunus, the chief adviser of the interim government.

"The purpose of the UN fact-finding mission will be reporting on violations and abuses perpetrated during the protests, analysing root causes and making recommendations to advance justice and accountability and for longer-term reforms," said an official of the UN Human Rights

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Conspiracy of ex-dictator's 'ghosts' won't succeed

Says Tarique

UNB, Dhaka

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said the



ghosts of the deposed dictator are spreading confusion and engaging in various unethical activities using the name of BNP.

"The dictator has been ousted. But the ghosts of the dictator are still roaming around. They are trying to spread various confusions. Many of them have been involved in various unethical activities,

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Appointment of 8 DCs scrapped

The move follows fistfight between some officials at Secretariat over DC posts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The public administration ministry yesterday issued a gazette notification cancelling appointments of eight deputy commissioners, just a couple of days after they were posted.

The DCs are Sufia Akhter Rumi (Lakshmipur), Md Saiduzzaman (Joypurhat), Farhana Islam (Kushtia), Mahbubur Rahman (Rajshahi), Monir Hossain Hawlader (Sirajganj), Abdul Aziz (Shariatpur), Mobashsherul Islam (Dinajpur), and Monwara Begum (Rajbari).

The government issued gazette notifications on Monday and Tuesday appointing DCs in 59 districts. Over the appointments, a fistfight reportedly broke out among some officials of the public administration ministry at the Secretariat on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the ministry issued a separate gazette notification yesterday revising the postings of four newly appointed DCs.

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HASINA'S EXTRADITION Delhi to deal with this thru diplomatic channels

Says Jaishankar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India will address the issue of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's extradition with the Bangladesh government through diplomatic channels, said Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar.

He was speaking at a press briefing after a meeting with his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock in Berlin on Tuesday.

"As you know there is a change of government in Bangladesh. And we obviously deal with the

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US PRESIDENTIAL RACE Harris rattles Trump in fiery debate

AFP, Philadelphia

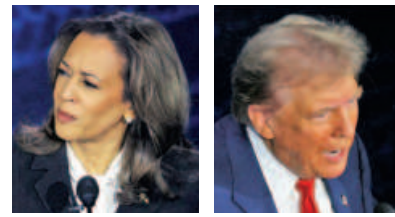
Kamala Harris put Donald Trump on the defensive in a fiery televised debate Tuesday, getting under her rival's skin as they battled for a breakthrough in an agonizingly close US presidential election.

In a performance that earned her the endorsement of pop superstar Taylor Swift, the Democrat baited the "extreme" Republican into angry responses on issues ranging from abortion to democracy and foreign policy.

The 59-year-old US vice president managed to knock former president Trump off his game in their first and only scheduled showdown, which featured a series of bitter personal attacks on both sides.

Trump said afterwards that the ABC News-hosted clash in

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Probe starts on how Tk 25cr vanished from Monirul's office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Police Headquarters has formed a three-member committee to investigate the allegation of looting Tk 25 crore from the room of the former Special Branch (SB) of Police chief Monirul Islam.

The Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of the Special Security and Protection Battalion Golam Kibria has been made the head of the committee.

There is no deadline to submit the report, but the committee has been asked to submit it as soon as, according to police sources.

Confirming the development, Moazzem Hossain, DIG (special affairs) of the SB, also a member of the committee, told The Daily Star last night, "We have started

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'Stability will return to Bangladesh soon'

Believes Rahul Gandhi

PTI, Washington

India's top opposition leader Rahul Gandhi has expressed confidence that stability will return to Bangladesh soon.

He made the remark at a press conference at the National Press Club in Washington after holding discussions with a group of American lawmakers at the US Capitol on Tuesday.



"I'm confident that things will stabilise in Bangladesh, and we will maintain strong ties with the current government or any future government [there]," he said.

However, Rahul said the ongoing violence in Bangladesh needs to stop.

"We raised it [with the Bangladesh government], and they also spoke to us. Look, we are against any type of violence. And we want it to stop. And it's the responsibility, frankly, of the Bangladeshi government to stop it as soon as possible," PTI quoted him as saying.

2 Arsa commanders killed at Ukhiya camp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (Arsa) commanders were shot dead by Rohingya criminals at a camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, yesterday morning, said police.

The deceased are Imam Hossain, 37, and Rahmat Ullah, 25, said Additional DIG Mohammad Iqbal, commanding officer of Armed Police Battalion-14.

Around 10:20am, 20-30 Rohingya criminals stormed Camp-20, Iqbal said, adding that the attackers opened fire, killing the two on the spot.

Abdullah, who was injured in the incident, is undergoing treatment at a hospital, said the additional DIG.

Police sent the bodies to Cox's Bazar General Hospital morgue for autopsies, he said, adding that they were conducting raids to arrest the attackers.

Advertisement for the Bangladesh Maritime Academy (BMA) recruitment exam. It includes details about the exam, eligibility criteria, and application process. The text is in Bengali and English. It mentions 'সরকারি/বেসরকারি মেরিটাইম শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে মেরিন ক্যাডেট প্রশিক্ষণ কোর্সে ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি' and provides a website 'www.dos.gov.bd'.