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Tackling
corruption,
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Unrest
emerges as a
new threat to
RMG recovery
WR4

CHT tense as 4 killed in violence

72 injured, several by gunshots; section 144 imposed in Khagrachhari, Rangamati towns; dozens of shops, houses vandalised

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed and at least 72 others injured as violence flared up in Rangamati town and Khagrachhari's Dighinala and Sadar upazilas yesterday.

The authorities imposed section 144, which restricts assembly of three or more people, on Khagrachhari and Rangamati towns.

In Dighinala, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Mamunur Rashid said at least 102 shops were burnt down. Of the shops, 72 belong to the indigenous people, and the rest to Bangalees.

No homes were attacked, he added.

However, locals said that on Thursday, several houses were set on fire in Dighinala, and residents fled their villages out of fear.

Yesterday, clashes between Bangalee and indigenous people took place in Rangamati town, spreading fear among locals.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

The clashes began after a group of Bangalee people attacked a procession of the indigenous communities, witnesses said.

People of the town spent the day in panic amid tension between the communities.

Most of the markets and shops were closed in the two district towns and the roads were mostly empty.

Police and hospital sources in Khagrachhari identified three of the deceased as Dhananjoy Chakma, 50, Rubel Tripura, 25, and Junan Chakma, 20.

Hospital sources said Dhananjoy's body bore marks of blunt trauma. He died in Dighinala on Thursday night. The two others got shot in Khagrachhari Sadar Upazila and died around 1:30am yesterday at Adhunik Sadar Hospital.

The Inter Services Public Relations Directorate (ISPR) in a statement yesterday evening said three people were killed and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



People from indigenous communities demonstrate at the capital's Shahbagh intersection yesterday protesting Thursday's arson attacks in Khagrachhari's Dighinala upazila. They demanded punishment for the attackers and probe into violations of human rights of the indigenous people in the Chattogram Hill Tracts.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

KHAGRACHHARI, RANGAMATI

'Culprits behind violence will be brought to book'
Chief adviser urges all to remain calm

WHAT ISPR SAYS
Three people were killed and several others injured during an exchange of fire as the army retaliated in self-defence when UPDF (main) members fired on an army patrol team in the Swanirvar area of Khagrachhari town on Thursday night.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The government has made an urgent appeal for peace in the three hill districts, following the recent unrest in Khagrachhari and Rangamati, affirming its dedication to resolving the crisis.

A high-powered probe committee would soon be formed to investigate all incidents of violence, and those responsible would be brought to book, according to a press statement issued from the chief adviser's office yesterday.

Besides, a high-level government delegation, led by the home adviser, is expected to visit Khagrachhari and Rangamati today, the statement said.

The delegation includes the Chittagong Hill Tracts affairs adviser, the local government adviser, and the special assistant to the chief adviser for defence and national solidarity development.

The government is deeply saddened and distressed by the ongoing attacks, assaults, and loss

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

TOFAZZAL'S DEATH IN MOB LYNCHING DU, hall officials failed to take swift action

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Tofazzal Hossain, who was beaten to death by a mob, had been held captive at the Dhaka University's Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall for over three hours, starting at 7:45pm on Wednesday.

According to witnesses, students assaulted him in a guest room of the dormitory and then took him to the dining room to feed him. They then moved him to another guest room where they tortured him again.

While this horrific incident was occurring, house tutors called the hall provost repeatedly, but the provost, who lives on the hall premises, did not respond.

The provost, Prof Shah Md Masum, went to the hall around 8:00am on Thursday and that too only after an assistant proctor had visited his office to discuss the formation of a probe committee.

Proctor Saifuddin Ahmed, the head of a proctorial team responsible for safety and security on the campus, told The Daily Star that he came to know about Tofazzal being taken

to Dhaka Medical College Hospital around midnight on Wednesday.

Instead of moving critically injured Tofazzal straight to a hospital, the mobile team of the proctor's office took him to Shahbagh Police Station around 11:00pm on Wednesday.

The 35-year-old was moved to the hospital around 11:30pm. Doctors pronounced him brought dead around 12:45am on Thursday.

Tofazzal was a familiar face to many resident students of DU. He would often wander about the campus, dorms, and gladly eat if somebody offered him food.

His cousins say he 'lost his mind' after the death of his parents and brother and became a drifter.

'Had the university authorities taken prompt steps, Tofazzal Hossain might have survived,' Ziaur Rahman, a former DU student, said at a protest rally on the campus yesterday.

Students hailing from Patharghata upazila of Barguna, the home district of Tofazzal, organised the protest at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

• Six arrested DU students give confessional statements

• Students protest, demand justice

• Protesters question DU admin's role in preventing mob justice

8 JU students sued for killing ex-BCL leader

20-25 unknown people also made accused

A CORRESPONDENT, JU

The Jahangirnagar University authorities filed a case against eight students in connection with the fatal beating of former student and Chhatra League leader Shamim Ahmed.

Sudipta Shaheen, the deputy registrar of the university's security section, lodged the case at Ashulia Police Station on Thursday night, also accusing 20 to 25 unidentified suspects.

The accused students are Ahsan Labib (49th batch) of biotechnology and genetic engineering department, Raju Ahmed (45th batch) and Rajan Mia (46th batch) of government and politics department, Mahmudul Hasan Raifan (50th batch) and Hamidullah Salman (49th batch) of English department, Jubayer Ahmed (44th batch) of history department, Md Atikuzzaman (49th batch) of management department, and Sohag Mia (47th batch) of CSE department.

The university authorities also suspended the eight on Thursday night.

According to the case statement, Shamim, who was the former student

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

MOB VIOLENCE Police warn of tough action

UNB, Dhaka

Police Headquarters said yesterday that stern action would be taken if anyone took the law into their own hands.

Recently there have been alarming incidents of mob violence resulting in the killing of people in various areas.

Such acts of mob attacks are completely unacceptable, said a PHQ media release.

There are established legal procedures for trial if someone commits wrongdoings or crimes. No one has the right to take the law into their hands. People who are engaged in crimes must be handed over to the legal authorities; taking the law into one's own hands is not accepted in any circumstances, it reads.

People have been asked to call by dialling the national emergency service "999" or contact the nearest police station

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Rainwater has flooded homes, roads and fish enclosures in the Rangpur area of Khulna's Dumuria upazila. The only way to get around is by using specially crafted wooden boats, locally known as Donga. The photo was taken on Wednesday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Decision to halt politics at DU undemocratic Say student organisations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Student organisations said the decision to suspend all political activities at Dhaka University is undemocratic and unconstitutional.

They added that suspending student politics and taking away the right to protest and assemble contradict the aspirations of the student-led mass uprising, which toppled the Awami League government.

On Thursday night, the DU authorities in an emergency syndicate meeting decided to suspend political activities by teachers, students, and staffers on the campus until further notice.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the pro-BNP student body, described the temporary ban on student politics as undemocratic, unconstitutional, and a violation of fundamental rights.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Nasir Uddin Nasir, general secretary of JCD, said, "The democratic environment at Dhaka University will be destroyed."

He demanded withdrawal of this "ill-conceived" decision, which he said would help increase the activities of banned organisations.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



OLD DHAKA'S HIDDEN GEMS

Where history meets crumb mutton chops

RBR

Last Friday, I was strolling through Mohini Mohan Das Lane in the nostalgic neighbourhood of Farashganj in Old Dhaka. I love the old architecture of the area, and often go on such random excursions whenever I need to unwind.

The history of old heritage buildings intrigues me, and in my imagination, I try to refabricate the thriving times, and the beautiful people residing in those grand residences; daydreaming is one of my favourite pastimes, as you might have guessed by now.

I went to Mangal Abash (home of good omens) of Mohini Mohan Das; he was the nephew of the well-known Ruplal Das. Mangal Abash is currently the only residential hall of Kabi Nazrul Government College. Even in its dilapidated state, the mansion bears a grandiose look that is hard to describe.

The narrow lanes of Farashganj are dotted with beautiful buildings boasting old French architecture and a rich history, like Ruplal House, Northbrook Hall, Laxmi Villa, Bihari Lal Jeo Mandir, Bibi ka Raoza, Shiv Mandir, and Gokul Roy's Samadhi.

While on the stroll, I stumbled upon an old gem of a café. With a white and green louvered ceiling, yellow walls, and a very basic wooden table and chairs, New Café Corner has a rustic yet retro vibe.

You will find New Café Corner, which



boasts its birth since the British period, as you walk down North Brook Hall Road. It is quite a famed joint in the locality, and anyone can help you find the place if you simply ask, "Which way to the crumb chop place?"

New Café Corner's crumb mutton chaap or mutton chops is a single piece of bone-in meat that is chopped into mince and marinated in ginger, garlic, and the café's secret ingredients, and then coated in crumb and deep fried. It is served with a side of cucumber and onion salad.

"We are the only place in the whole of

Dhaka that carries this crumb mutton chops, a British recipe followed to the tee by our cooks, since handed down from the original chef Joseph," says the smartly dressed maître d'hôtel, Md Shah Alam.

The current head chef, Md Mohsin, in service since 1989, was standing beside Shah Alam, in a typical Bengali baburuchi or chef's attire of lungi, a t-shirt, and a gamcha tied around his waist. He says, "My ustad or teacher was Chef John, a direct disciple of Chef Joseph. They were Christian, and worked in English households

and embassies, from where Joseph ustad honed the crumb mutton chop recipe. It is our best-selling snack, and we even get orders from offices, and for parties. Besides, we do not carry

any beef items; we have crumbed lamb cutlets, shrimps, and potato croquet with mutton mince stuffing. Late afternoons and evenings are our snack time."

New Café Corner opens its door at 6:30am and serves customers till 10:00pm. Their breakfast menu of luchi, paratha, semolina halwa, mutton curry, and chicken giblets is very sought after. But their egg station makes runny omelettes seasoned with aromatic spices, and poached eggs are so special that the café sells approximately 500 to 700 orders of eggs each morning. Unbelievable as it might sound, but when a regular for 25 years vouches for the menu and the taste, you are inclined to believe it.

Initially owned by a Hindu landlord, the outlet changed its name, adding the word 'New' to Café Corner after the Liberation War. The current owner, Haji Md Solaiman Mollick, runs the café with 18 staff, out of which 10 are sous chefs and chefs. "We get paid daily, after the accounts is closed. Our food and lodging in rented flats are taken care of by our owner. We have a steady flow of customers and business is good," chimes in the manager, Md Enamul Huq.

Sitting on the wooden benches and sipping on their strong milk tea with pastry-like fluffy hot Mughlai paratha, my weekend was spontaneous and fun.



8 JU students sued CHT tense as 4 killed in violence

FROM PAGE 1

of history department and organising secretary of JU unit BCL, was attacked near the Prantik Gate of the university around 5:50pm on September 18.

On information, the university's proctor and the proctorial team arrived at the scene, rescued Shamim, and took him to the proctor's office for safety. The proctor informed the university administration and Ashulia Police Station, seeking immediate police assistance to take Shamim into custody.

The statement added that during this time, a group of individuals forcibly took Shamim to the university's security office without notifying the proctorial team. Upon realising this, the proctor intervened, removed the group, and locked the collapsible gate of the security office.

Some individuals, however, entered the security office by breaking open the collapsible gate and assaulted Shamim again. A police team reached the spot around 7:30pm, and said Shamim stood accused in several criminal cases.

Around 8:00pm, the proctorial team and security staffers escorted Shamim to a police vehicle. On the way to Ashulia Police Station, Shamim's condition worsened, and he was rushed to Gonoshasthaya Hospital, where doctors declared him dead around 9:00pm, the case statement added.

'Culprits behind violence will be brought to book'

FROM PAGE 1

of life following the mob beating of an individual on September 18," it read.

The authorities have been instructed to ensure proper medical care for all the injured.

All law enforcement agencies have been instructed to exercise maximum restraint and to ensure the safety of all residents in the three hill districts. The government is committed to ensuring peace, harmony, and unity in the region, the statement said.

Everyone is urged not to take the law into their own hands or engage in destructive activities. Taking the law into one's own hands and destroying any property is a heinous crime and a punishable offence, it added.

Police warn

FROM PAGE 1

regarding the mob beating, it said.

Seeking cooperation from all to prevent further incidents of lynching, the PHQ urged everyone to refrain from taking the law into their own hands.

Police are dedicated to maintaining law and order and ensuring the safety of the public, it adds.

fascist regime", but the country remains unsafe due to violence.

"Perpetrators are desperate to destabilise the country. This is why people are being brutally attacked, killed, or seriously injured. The incidents of casualties in Khagrachhari and Rangamati are a cruel manifestation of this," he said.

Fakhrul also called for the immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of those involved in the attacks, urging authorities to restore peace and security.

RANGAMATI VIOLENCE

Indigenous people and students were marching yesterday morning in Rangamati town in protest of the attacks on properties of indigenous communities in Dighinala.

The clash began after a group of Bangalees attacked the procession at Bonorupa Bazar around 10:30am, witnesses said.

Both groups then engaged in fierce clashes hurling bricks at each other. Several shops, vehicles, and businesses were vandalised and set on fire in the neighbourhoods where indigenous communities are predominant.

The neighbourhoods include Kalindipur, Bijon Sarani, Dewan Para, and Tridip Nagar.

Sources said the four were shot in the leg, waist and abdomen.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir last night in a statement said the people have been freed from the "Awami

around 12:00pm.

Tritimoy Chakma, a member of the temple management committee, said a box in which people put money for monks was looted.

Sowkat Akbar, RMO at Rangamati General Hospital, said, "At least 54 people were taken there and a man aged around 20 was declared dead. Nineteen of the injured needed inpatient care while three others with serious injuries were sent to Chattogram."

Khagrachhari Deputy Commissioner Saiduzzaman said, "Gunshots were heard in Panchhara and several other areas. Our teams are working to maintain law and order. Army, BGB and police are patrolling the streets."

The ISPR said that on Thursday a procession denouncing the killing of a man by a mob was passing through the Boalkhali market area when members of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) attacked the protesters, firing 20-30 bullets.

The enraged crowd then set fire to several shops in the Boalkhali market.

Clashes began after that, and the situation was brought under control when an army patrol arrived at the scene.

Following the incident, tension spread across Khagrachhari town, Dighinala, Panchhara, and nearby areas.

The ISPR urged everyone to maintain peace and harmony in the hill districts.

DU, hall officials failed

FROM PAGE 1

Chhatra Union and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front also demonstrated on the DU campus, protesting against mob justice.

Provost Prof Masum admitted that he was not present at the scene on Wednesday night.

"Had I known about the incident, I would have gone there," he told this correspondent last night.

He said he stayed at his official home on the hall premises on Wednesday night.

The house is one minute's walk from the main building of the dormitory.

Proctor Saifuddin said he came to know about the assault on Tofazzal around midnight on Wednesday and that he went to the DMCH around 4:00am on Thursday.

EIGHT FOUND INVOLVED

A probe committee, led by Prof Alamgir Kabir, a house tutor of Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall, primarily found eight DU students involved in assaulting Tofazzal, said sources in the university.

The committee has submitted its report to the university authorities.

Decision to halt politics at DU undemocratic

FROM PAGE 1

In a statement yesterday, Bangladesh Chhatra Union (Ragib-Rokibul) said that suspending student politics at DU is part of a plot to "turn the university into a cantonment".

The statement, signed by Office Secretary Main Ahmed, said almost all student organisations took to the streets under the banner of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, alongside the masses, going beyond their organisational framework to make the uprising successful.

The organisation warned the government that if it follows in the footsteps of the previous autocratic regime, it will face the same fate.

It also called on the Dhaka University authorities to immediately remove the syndicate members who collaborated with the former autocratic government and plotted to curtail the students' constitutional right to be involved in student politics.

They also demanded student union elections immediately.

Speaking to this newspaper, Salman Siddiqui, president of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, said the suspension of student politics and taking away the right to protest and assemble go against the aspirations of the student-led uprising and restrict the people's freedom of expression.

This is undoubtedly undemocratic. When people are denied the right to organise and express themselves, discussion and

Youth hacked to death in Mohammadpur

UNB, Dhaka

Nasir Biswas, a 22-year-old youth, was hacked to death near the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in Mohammadpur yesterday evening.

The attack occurred around 6:30pm near Gate-1 of the graveyard.

Nasir's relatives took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died from his injuries around 8:45pm.

His elder brother Islam Biswas said Nasir used to live in the Rayerbazar Baroikhali area of Hazaribagh and work as a mason. He left home in the evening to visit the graveyard. Later, the family was informed that unknown assailants attacked him.

Inspector Md Faruk, in charge of the DMCH police camp, said Nasir's body was sent to the morgue for autopsy.

Mohammadpur police are investigating the murder, he added.

5 journos among 46 sued for attacking student protesters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Forty-six individuals, including five journalists and former state minister for civil aviation and tourism Mahbub Ali, were sued for attacking students and setting fire to government dak bungalows (rest houses) and vehicles in Moulvibazar's Madhabpur upazila.

The complaint was lodged on Thursday night by Aminur Rahman, the former sports secretary of Juba Dab's Madhabpur upazila unit, confirmed Madhabpur Police Station OC Abdullah Al Mamun.

The accused journalists are Mohammad Alid Miah, upazila correspondent for Dainik Amader Somoy, Md Ershad Ali from Daily Sangbad; Shankar Paul Chowdhury, correspondent for Daily Janakantha; Md Nahid Miah from Daily Janani; and Mizanur Rahman from Daily Pratidiner Bani.

According to the case statement, during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, Awami League leaders and activists attacked student protesters and set fire to the government dak bungalows at the orders of Mahbub Ali.

He added that the case is currently under investigation and no arrests have been made so far.

Former minister Mahbub Ali is already in police custody in a separate case in Dhaka.



Burnt vehicles after an arson attack on CHT Regional Council Office in Rangamati.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

The university may disclose the names of the suspects today and take punitive action against them.

In another development, six DU students yesterday confessed to their involvement in torturing Tofazzal, Sub-Inspector Saifur Rahman told The Daily Star.

The six are Muhammad Jalal Mia, a student of physics; Suman Mia, a student of soil, water and environment; Mottakin Shakin, a student of the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science; Ahsanullah, a student of mathematics; and Al Hussain Sajjad and Wajibul Alam, both students of geography and environment.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Saddam Hossain recorded the confessional statements of the six in the Tofazzal murder case, the SI said.

The magistrate later sent the accused to jail.

Tofazzal was buried at his family graveyard in Char Duani village of Barguna's Patharghata upazila yesterday morning, said his family.

The grieving locals demanded exemplary punishment for those involved in the murder.

"This creates the foundation for a fascist rule, and diverse opinions are suppressed by force."

Mashur Rahman Richard, president of Chhatra Federation, said politicisation, not student politics, should be banned.

"The decision to suspend student politics is suicidal and contradictory to the spirit of the mass uprising. Most of the university syndicate members were collaborators of the previous fascist regime, and thus, they have no moral right to suspend student politics."

He added that the decision came at a time when Tofazzal, an outsider, was beaten to death at Dhaka University, which is one of the worst incidents in the history of the university.

"This proves that if politics is officially banned, the culture of torture and oppression against the general people continues."

Despite repeated attempts, this newspaper could not reach any leaders of the Chhatra League, the pro-AL student body, for comments.

Meanwhile, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and Bangladesh Chhatra Union (Mahir-Shuvo faction) demonstrated in front of Shoparjito Shadhinota at DU yesterday, protesting against the suspension of student politics.

They also demanded fair trials of the killings at Dhaka and Jahangirnagar universities.



In the Lalkhan Bazar area of Chattogram, numerous houses have been constructed along the hillsides, relying on an illegal network of water connections. The residents have to pay up to Tk 1,000 per month to intermediaries for a mere 15 to 20 minutes of water supply each day. The photo of the tangled waterpipe lines was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

20 hurt as
two groups
clash at Baitul
Mukarram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between the followers of current Imam Waliur Rahman Khan and former Khatib Ruhul Amin at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque before the Jumma prayers yesterday.

The incident took place around 1:00pm when Waliur Rahman was addressing the worshippers, said Moniruzzaman, inspector (investigation) of Paltan Police Station.

According to witnesses, as Waliur was delivering his pre-prayer sermon, Ruhul Amin entered the mosque with his followers and attempted to take the microphone to lead the prayer. This sparked a clash between the two groups, leaving over 20 people injured.

Of the injured, six received primary treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said Sub-inspector Masud Alam of DMCH police outpost.

After the fall of the Awami League government on August 5, Ruhul Amin stopped coming to the mosque.

During his absence, the Islamic Foundation assigned Waliur and Mohammad Abdullah to lead the prayers.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

ARSON ATTACKS IN KHAGRACHHARI

'We are integrationists, not separatists'

Say indigenous students; protests held countrywide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students from indigenous communities protested Thursday's arson attacks in Khagrachhari's Dighinala upazila in different places of the country yesterday.

Demonstrations were held at five public universities where they demanded justice and an end to violence against the country's indigenous people.

In Dhaka, several hundred students blocked the Shahbagh intersection around 11:45am, staging a half-hour sit-in.

The demonstrators, carrying national flags and placards, shouted slogans such as "Withdraw army from the hills."

The placards read different slogans, including "Save the hills and our culture," "Stop land grabbing," "Stop militarisation in CHT," and "Implement the CHT Accord".

Vehicular movement was disrupted during the protest.

Around 10:00am, they held a rally at the Raju Memorial Sculpture on Dhaka University campus, demanding justice for the attacks on indigenous communities in Khagrachhari.

Addressing the rally, Alik Mree, president of Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad, said, "Mafias in the hilly areas opened fire on unarmed people, which goes against the spirit of the July mass uprising. These forces are funded

by taxpayers' money, yet they attack ethnic minorities."

At Jahangirnagar University, the Indigenous Students Association blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway in protest for about 20 minutes, bringing traffic to a standstill until 4:40pm.

Before the protest rally, a march by students from the university's

of Engineering and Technology gathered on Paris Road at RU to protest the attacks.

The rally, which began at 4:30pm, lasted more than two hours with students demanding justice and an end to violence.

Speaking at the rally, Bikash Chakma, a philosophy student at RU, said, "We are not separatists;



Indigenous people demonstrate at Cheragi Pahar intersection in Chattogram.

PHOTO: STAR

Teacher-Student Centre took place, with demonstrators parading through the campus. It concluded with a human chain in front of the Shaheed Minar.

In Rajshahi, several hundred indigenous students from Rajshahi University and Rajshahi University

we are integrationists."

Another student, Tarek Shahriar, added, "After 53 years of independence, it's heartbreaking that the hill tribes still need to declare they are integrationists, not separatists. It's truly tragic."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Journalist beaten up in Narayanganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Narayanganj

A journalist was beaten up by some miscreants in Narayanganj yesterday afternoon.

Injured Billal Hossain, district correspondent of Desh TV, was given primary treatment at Narayanganj 300-bed hospital, said police.

A man named Md Rubel, 35, was detained in this connection, said Mazharul Islam, sub-inspector of Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station.

Arif Hossain, a video journalist of Gazi TV who was along with the victim during the incident, told this newspaper that around 5:30pm, we were sitting at a tea stall on the footpath at Nawab Salimullah Road in the city.

Then some 5-6 people carrying wooden sticks surrounded them and started beating Billal without any argument, said Arif.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Metro launches Friday operations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metro Rail launched its Friday service from yesterday. It will run from 3:30pm to 9:40pm on Fridays, confirmed Khondaker Ehteshamul Kabir, company secretary of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL).

"We launched the services from the Uttara end at 3:30pm today [yesterday]," Nasir added. DMTCL issued an order in this regard on Tuesday.

On Fridays, trains will leave Uttara North Station for Motijheel between 3:30pm and 9:00pm every Friday.

Trains from Motijheel to Uttara North will be available from 3:50pm to 9:40pm on Fridays.

Besides, the Kazipara station was also opened to public yesterday more than two months after being damaged on July 19 during the quota reform movement.

However, the Mirpur-10 station will remain closed, and authorities have not provided a possible reopening date.

Unidentified people went on a rampage at Mirpur-10 and Kazipara metro stations on July 19 amid the student movement for quota reform, which later turned into a people's uprising and ousted the Sheikh Hasina-led government.

The then Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader had said the reopening of metro stations is not possible within even a year.

Following the ouster of the AL government, metro rail operations resumed on August 25, but the two stations remained closed.

Authorities have prepared the Kazipara station by bringing some equipment from Mirpur-10 station and DMTCL training centre, alongside using some local equipment.



Students formed a human chain in front of the Raju memorial sculpture on the Dhaka University campus yesterday, demanding justice for the killing of Masud Kamal alias Tofazzal. He was beaten to death, allegedly by a group of students, at Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall of DU, the day before. Tofazzal was laid to rest beside his parents and elder brother at his family graveyard in Patharghata upazila, Barguna, yesterday.

DENGUE OUTBREAK

Hospitals strained as cases spike

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Rajkumar Das stood with his son, Saikat Kumar Das, at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital for over an hour, desperately seeking a bed in the male dengue ward.

Saikat, a tenth grader, had been diagnosed with dengue just that morning.

However, all the beds in the ward were occupied.

"A nurse suggested we try the medicine ward as a bed might be available later," said Rajkumar.

When he approached the medicine ward, a doctor advised them to return on Saturday due to the ongoing bed crisis.

With no other options, Rajkumar left the hospital around 6:00pm, his son still untreated.

This scenario is playing out across many hospitals in Dhaka as a surge in dengue cases overwhelms available resources.

According to a nurse from Suhrawardy's dengue ward, all 57 beds were filled, forcing patients to be redirected to the medicine ward.

The crisis is not limited to Suhrawardy Hospital. Other government hospitals are similarly overwhelmed, struggling to

accommodate the sudden influx of dengue patients.

Data from the Directorate General of Health Services reveals that two people have died from dengue, and 299 others were hospitalised in the last 24 hours. With these new figures, the total death toll has reached 124, and the number of cases has risen to 2,22,65.

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JATIYA NAGORIK COMMITTEE
A youth platform that seeks new 'political settlement'

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE and SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

The Jatiya Nagorik Committee, formed following the July-August student-led mass uprising, seeks to unite diverse groups in Bangladesh to establish a new political "settlement" for a democratic society.

They also aim to reform the state in line with the aspirations of the student-led mass uprising.

Officially launched on September 8, the 55-member committee is led by Nasir Uddin Patwary as convener, Akhter Hossain as member secretary, and Samanta Sharmin as spokesperson.

The uprising brought together students and people from various walks of life. We formed this committee to provide a platform for those wishing to rebuild the nation, regardless of ideology or background.

SAMANTA SHARMIN
Committee Spokesperson

The committee comprises former student leaders, activists, lawyers, journalists, and social media influencers.

Although the platform say they are not a political organisation, they aim to restructure the political landscape through public engagement.

Samanta said, "The uprising brought together students and people from various walks of life. We formed this committee to provide a platform for those wishing to rebuild the nation, regardless of ideology or background."

Meanwhile, Nasir outlined the criteria for earning a membership in the platform, saying those who are committed to the "Bangladesh Cause" are always welcome in the platform.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Once vibrant, Barishal's Rayer Khal is now on deathbed due to pollution and encroachment. The photo was taken near Lakutia road yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

8 killed, 4 injured in a day

FROM PAGE 5
My m e n g h - b o u n d vehicle from Phulbari skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch in the Tarakanda area. Abdur Rouf, 35, of Rupchandrapur in Tarakanda, died on the spot, said OC Md Wazed Ali of Tarakanda Police Station. Two others -- Rahat Mia, 32, and five-month

old Tamim -- died at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

The injured -- Taslima Akter, 20, mother of the child, and her elder sister Tanjila, 25 -- were admitted to the hospital.

In another accident, an unidentified motorcyclist was killed and two of his co-riders were injured as the bike plunged into a

ditch beside Mymensingh-Phulbaria road in Laxmipur area of Phulbaria.

In Panchagarh, a schoolgirl died as a tractor ran her over on Debiganj Bhaulaganj road in Sabujpara of Debiganj upazila.

The deceased -- Sneha Moni, 9, daughter of Shahinur Islam of Sabujpara -- was a student

of class III at Taltola Sher-e-Bangla Government Primary School. Aggrieved locals set the tractor on fire and handed the 17-year-old driver to police.

In Thakurgaon, a man was killed after a microbus hit him on Ranishankoil-Balliadangi road in Nekmaria area, said police. The deceased is Raisul Islam, 25, from Dinajpur.

to disrespect the teachers."

He also apologised to the university officials "as a gesture of goodwill".

Meanwhile, the pro-VC blamed "over-enthusiasm".

"It happened in the excitement of the moment, and we are embarrassed by the situation," he said, before adding that an official press note had been released to clear the air.

In the official statement signed by the university's acting registrar Syed Solim Md Abdul Kadir, the authorities said the oath was never intended to be a formal ceremony.

"The students have since sought forgiveness, and both sides have moved on," read the official statement.

Four injured being

FROM PAGE 3
lives in a rented house in Khagrachhari town, though their village is in Matiranga upazila.

"My family moved to town for me and my siblings' education," Sujan said.

Sujan's relative, Ranjit Tripura, who was by his side at the hospital, shared that Sujan had been rushed to Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital for initial treatment on Thursday last night.

"They referred him to CMCH, and we admitted him here at 4:30am today [Friday]," he said.

Saad, an on-duty doctor

Students make

FROM PAGE 5
Many questioned how students can assume the role of oath administrators to senior university officials.

In separate statements yesterday, both university authorities and the anti-discrimination student movement coordinators claimed it was all just a "misunderstanding".

According to both sides, the unexpected oath was a spontaneous moment during what was meant to be a harmless views-exchange session.

Polash said, "After discussing the July revolution, we merely requested them to take an oath in the spirit of the uprising. There was no intent

to disrespect the teachers."

He also apologised to the university officials "as a gesture of goodwill".

Meanwhile, the pro-VC blamed "over-enthusiasm".

"It happened in the excitement of the moment, and we are embarrassed by the situation," he said, before adding that an official press note had been released to clear the air.

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গুলশান -২ পার্কের কাছে আবুনিক মানসমত্ত সরকল সুবিধাসহ ৩০০০ ও ৮৫০০ বর্ষাক্রতের ঝ্যাট জরুরী প্রয়োজন জন্মে বিক্রয় হচ্ছে।
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বালশান এফ-কে রাসিয়া এন্ডিনিউটে ১৮৫০ বর্ষাক্রতের নির্মাণের ঝ্যাট।
ম্যাজিক বিক্রয় হোল্ডিংস লিঃ।
০১৭০৮-১৭০০৯৮
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০১৭০৮-১৭০০৯৭

প্লট বিক্রয়

বসুকরা আই-এক্সটেন্সন প্লটে
নির্মাণ নির্মাণ নির্মাণ প্লট।
ম্যাজিক বিক্রয় হোল্ডিংস লিঃ।
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STATUTORY NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH, HIGH COURT DIVISION
(STATUTORY ORIGINAL JURISDICTION)
COMPANY MATTER NO. 898 of 2024

An application under Section 81(2) and 85(3) of the Companies Act, 1994 for condonation of delay in holding the AGM for the Calender years 2022 & 2023 of Arafat Developers & Builders Ltd. was filed before the Hon'ble High Court Division. Upon hearing of the application on 19.09.24 Hon'ble Judge Mr. Justice Ahmed Sohel Islam placed the application before the Hon'ble Judge Mr. Justice Md. Nazmul Islam and directed to issue notices, public advertisements in the newspapers and submit an affidavit-in-compliance. If you are interested to oppose the said application you may appear before the Hon'ble Court either in person or through an Advocate. Copy of the said application may be obtained from the under mentioned advocate on payment.

Akshar Rahman (Souray),
Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh; 01917399260

NATIONAL CREDIT AND COMMERCE BANK PLC.

COMMON SERVICES DIVISION
Head Office: NCC Bank Bhaban, 13/1-2, Toyenbee Circular Road
Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Phone: 223390053
PABX: 223381901-4, 223383981-2, Ext-117

NOTICE OF INVITING QUOTATION/PROPOSAL

Sealed quotations/proposals are hereby invited by National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. (the Bank) from reputed Companies/local Agents/Suppliers/Authorized Distributors/Service Providers for the below mentioned requirements under the terms and conditions mentioned detail in the Request for Quotation (RFQ)/Request for Proposal (RFP) documents.

Items Description	Price of the tender document	Sale start date	Sale end date	Date and time for Tender Submission
Item 1: Request for Proposal of Disaster Recovery (DR) Site Colocation Service of National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC.	Tk. 2,000/- (Two Thousand) only for each item separately in the form of Payment Order (non-refundable) favoring National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC. by any scheduled bank of Bangladesh	September 22, 2024	October 01, 2024	October 02, 2024 on/before 2:00 PM
Item 2: Request for Quotation for supplying Dual Interface (DI) Plastic Cards of National Credit and Commerce Bank PLC.		September 22, 2024	October 03, 2024	October 06, 2024 on/before 2:00 PM

The schedule containing detailed Terms & Conditions may be collected from the Common Services Division, Level-5, NCC Bank PLC. Head Office, Dhaka and submit the same under sealed envelope to the Tender Box placed at Common Services Division (CSD). Manipulation or any kind of unusual approach or failure to submit offer within the stipulated time frame will be treated as "Disqualified" for the bidding. The Bank authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Vice President &
Head of Common Services Division

Journalis

FROM PAGE 3
journalist?" he said.

"Neither Billal nor I could understand why they beat him. We don't even know them," added Arif.

At one point, Billal ran to save himself from the beating. Later, Arif took him to the 300-bed hospital with the help of locals, where he received primary treatment, he said.

Billal was later treated at a local private hospital.

While talking to this newspaper, journalist Billal Hossain said, "I often drink tea there. Suddenly some people came and beat me up severely. But I don't even know them."

Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station, said police are looking for those who attacked the journalist.

We are

FROM PAGE 3
In Tangail, students from the indigenous community at Mawlana Bhashani Science & Technology University (MBSTU) formed a human chain at the university's main gate.

Meanwhile, in Chattogram, indigenous people held a demonstration to establish district and upazila-level committees at the Cheragi Pahar intersection yesterday morning, demanding justice for the attacks.

They gathered at Jamal Khan intersection around 10:00am, before marching to Cheragi Pahar, where they held a rally at 11:00am. Speakers at the rally accused vested interests of attempting to disturb peace in the Hill Tracts by fuelling conflicts between "indigenous people and settlers".

On Thursday night, students at Chittagong University (CU) held a torchlight procession and formed a human chain at the university's zero point in solidarity with the victims of the attacks.

A youth platform

FROM PAGE 3

"A member must also be a supporter of the mass uprising. Besides, we don't want anyone from the fascist regime," he added.

Samanta explained the "Bangladesh Cause," saying, "While we may have differing beliefs and political ideologies, all state institutions and forces must function properly, with accountability ensured. Everyone should align on constitutional matters. This collective vision for building a new Bangladesh is what we refer to as the Bangladesh Cause."

Billal was later treated at a local private hospital.

While talking to this newspaper, journalist Billal Hossain said, "I often drink tea there. Suddenly some people came and beat me up severely. But I don't even know them."

Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station, said police are looking for those who attacked the journalist.

The platform believes a fresh political settlement is necessary as the post-1971 and post-1990 political systems have failed.

"Once we can bring together these various perspectives, we can begin to envision a new political settlement. We're engaging with different groups involved in the movement, working to unite them so we can seize this opportunity," added Nasir.

Meanwhile, in Chattogram, indigenous people held a demonstration to establish district and upazila-level committees at the Cheragi Pahar intersection yesterday morning, demanding justice for the attacks.

To achieve their goals, the committee plans to establish district and upazila-level committees nationwide, promoting dialogue and public participation.

The platform aims to work closely with the interim government and other political parties to push for reforms.

Speakers at the rally accused vested interests of attempting to disturb peace in the Hill Tracts by fuelling conflicts between "indigenous people and settlers".

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Huge loss, little compensation

Chattogram farmers struggle to recover after floods

SIFAYET ULLAH

Md Harun, a 55-year-old farmer, was seen replanting paddy seedlings in his field at Paindong union in Chattogram's Fatikchhari upazila. His 4 acres of paddy crops were damaged due to flood recently.

"I got Tk 1,000 and 20 kg of fertiliser as compensation from the agriculture department, which is very little compared to the loss," the farmer added.

Following excessive rainfall, the flood destroyed the cultivated paddy in seven upazilas of the district, and farmers like Harun are reportedly having difficulties with money and seedlings to replant the paddy fields.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension, the recent flood in Chattogram caused damage to crops worth Tk 394 crore on 58,491 hectares of cropland.

It directly affected at least 1,61,067 farming families.

In Fatikchhari, crops on over 22,000 hectares of land belonging to 7,000 farmers were damaged.

Hasanuzzaman, officer of DAE Fatikchhari, admitted that the compensation is too little than damage.

Abu Taher, a farmer from North Madarsha in Hathazari upazila, has gotten a small amount of cash and other relief from government and aid agencies.

"I got paddy seedlings. But I couldn't plant all of them due to financial constraints," he said.

Taher said he replanted 0.30 acres of field at a cost of Tk 3,800, which was twice the usual.

With struggling to replant, many farmers are also afraid for their future due to damage of their stored food grains.

Alamgir Meah, a farmer from Narayanhata union under Fatikchhari, stored around 500 kg of paddy in a traditional container adjacent to his house to meet his family's demand for the next six months.

But the flood damaged all of that.

"I am afraid of my family's future as I lost my stored food," he added.

Nasir Uddin, deputy director of the DAE (Chattogram), said, "This unexpected flood has put us into a challenging situation, as the disaster has damaged many of our structures, including pipelines and pumps used in irrigation."

"We started providing compensation to farmers," he said, adding, "This crisis cannot be overcome only with government support, so private donor groups need to come forward to help farmers."

The agriculture official said they are currently trying to get farmers back to the field as per government directive.



PHOTO: TITU DAS

BARISHAL CITY

Canal excavation fails to prevent waterlogging

SHUSHANTA GHOSH

The recent excavation of seven canals within Barishal City Corporation hardly made a difference as most of the city areas experienced severe waterlogging following downpour in the last few days.

A total 280mm rainfall was recorded in Barishal city in three days since September 12, submerging the city under 2-4 feet of water.

The Bangladesh Water Development Board initiated a Tk 6.7 crore project to excavate seven canals in the city -- Jail canal, Rupatali canal, Amanatganj canal, Bhatar canal, Sagardi canal, Palashpur canal, and Nabagram canal -- in December 2023. It claimed to have completed the excavation works on June 30, spending only Tk 2.7 crore of the allocated fund.

However, locals alleged that the canals were not excavated properly and only cleaned from the surface, which is why no apparent improvement was seen with the

city's waterlogging issue.

The persistent rains in last few days left Battala Road, College Row, College Avenue, Gorsthan Road, Palashpur, Amanatganj and Rupatali areas of Barishal city submerged under knee to waist deep water. The entire field of Govt BM College resembled a large waterbody. Most of the schools in the city remained closed due to inundation.



"The canals only got a facelift but not properly excavated through this project. As a result, nothing much improved regarding the city's waterlogging woes," said

"An elaborate plan is needed to this end," he added.

Manbendra Botabyal, a senior lawyer and also resident of College Row area.

Lincoln Bayen, Barishal district coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said, "There were once 24 canals flowing through Barishal. Now more than six have become non-existent due to rampant encroachment and pollution, which in turn adversely affected the city's water drainage system."

Contacted, Md Khaled bin Alid, executive engineer of BWDB in Barishal, admitted that the excavation work did not bring the expected outcomes.

"Many of the canals have been indiscriminately filled up to build houses, including high-rise buildings, and roads. We could not even bring the excavator to Battala canal. Unless the illegal structures are evicted, it is difficult to excavate the canals properly to eliminate waterlogging from the city," he said.

"An elaborate plan is needed to this end," he added.

Students make pro-VC, treasurer take oath at SUST

Both parties now claim 'it was a misunderstanding'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Shahjalal University of Science and Technology found itself embroiled in controversy after newly-appointed pro-VC Prof Dr Shajedul Karim and Treasurer Prof Dr Ismail Hossain were seen taking oaths -- prompted by none other than student leaders.

The teachers were apparently instructed by members of the anti-discrimination student movement to swear allegiance to the "spirit of the mass uprising" and vowed to keep the campus free from student politics.

Among other things, the students also made the teachers pledge that the university authorities would take necessary steps for the overall development of SUST.

The incident sparked a flurry of criticism, especially after video footage of the oath-taking started making the rounds on social media. The footage shows student leader Polash Bakhtiar reciting the oath while the pro-VC and treasurer repeating after him.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Ex-minister MA Mannan sent to jail

Some Sunamganj students block road seeking his release

STAR REPORT

A Sunamganj court yesterday sent former planning minister MA Mannan to jail in a case filed over the attack on students during the protests on August 4.

Mannan was arrested by police on Thursday evening from his village in Sunamganj.

Sunamganj Judicial Magistrate Farhan Sadique passed the order after police produced him before the court.

On September 2, a person named Haliz Uddin filed the case with Sunamganj Senior Judicial Magistrate Court.

Meanwhile, some students in Shantiganj upazila blocked Sylhet-Sunamganj highway for 30 minutes in the morning, protesting Mannan's arrest.

They claimed Mannan is a politician with clean image and supported the students' uprising. They also claimed Mannan was accused in the case over political rivalry.

MURDER CASE

Addl DIG Mashieur remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Additional Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of police Mashieur Rahman on a seven-day remand for interrogation in a case filed over the death of 45-year-old trader Abdul Wadud in Dhaka's New Market area on July 19 during the quota reform protests.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Saddam Hossain passed the order after police produced him before the court with a 10-day remand prayer in the case, said a sub-inspector working in the court.

Mashieur, former deputy commissioner of DMP's Lalbagh division (DB), was arrested from the Dhaka Airport area on Thursday.

On August 21, Abdur Rahman, a brother-in-law of Wadud, filed the murder case with New Market Police Station against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 129 others.

ROAD ACCIDENTS IN 4 DISTRICTS

8 killed, 4 injured in a day

STAR REPORT

Eight people were killed and four others injured in road accidents in four districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondents.

In Tangail, two people were killed when a truck hit a battery-run easy bike in Dhanbari upazila.

The deceased are Abu Raihan from Jodunathpur village, and Mofazzal Hossain from Ukiabari village in the upazila.

Police and witnesses said the Madhupur-

bound truck from Jamalpur hit the easy bike from the behind in the Baghil area in the morning, leaving one passenger of the easy bike dead.

Police and fire service personnel rescued the injured and rushed them to Madhupur Upazila Health Complex where another easy bike passenger was declared dead, said Idris Ali, officer-in-charge of Dhanbari Police Station.

In Mymensingh, three people including a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver were killed and two others injured when the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

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Office of the Executive Engineer

District: Noakhali

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Dated: 19/09/2024

Invitation for Tenders (IFT for Works)

e-Tender Notice No. 07/2024-25

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works as stated as below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Procurement method	Name of works	Last selling date & time	Last date & time of tender security submission	Closing & opening date & time
1	1012595	OTM	CAFDRIRP/Noakhali/VR/AM/W-12/2024-25 Rehabilitation of R&H (Afajia) road to Ramcharan Bazar by RCC Road from Ch. 1000-2500m under Hatiya Upazila, Dist: Noakhali, (Road ID No: 475364044)	14-10-2024 16:00pm	15-10-2024 13:00pm	15-10-2024 14:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Mohammad Azharul Islam

Executive Engineer

Phone: 02334433826

E-mail: xen.noakhali@lged.gov.bd

17m people vote for new president today

AFP, Colombo

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka goes to polls today to pick its next president in an effective referendum on an unpopular International Monetary Fund austerity plan enacted after the island nation's unprecedented financial crisis.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe urged voters to give him a fresh mandate to continue with austerity measures he says stabilised the economy and ended months of food, fuel and medicine shortages.

"We must continue with reforms to end bankruptcy," Wickremesinghe, 75, said at his final rally in Colombo. "We must build a new economy."

He has restored calm to the streets after civil unrest spurred by the downturn in 2022 saw thousands storm the compound of his predecessor, who promptly fled the country. "Decide if you want to go back to the period of terror, or progress", he added.

But Wickremesinghe's tax hikes and other belt-tightening measures, imposed in line with a \$2.9-billion IMF bailout, have left millions struggling. Experts warn that Sri Lanka's economy is still vulnerable, with payments on the island's \$46 billion foreign debt yet to resume since a 2022 government default.

The election will largely be a referendum on how Wickremesinghe's government has handled the economic crisis and the ensuing modest recovery," the International Crisis Group said this week.

It added that many citizens were suffering "enormous hardship at the same time as Colombo cuts costs and takes other austerity measures perceived by the public as unfair".

Some 17.1 million people are eligible to vote. Over 200,000 officials have been deployed to conduct the election. Results are expected by tomorrow.

There was no

FROM PAGE 12
chairperson's Gulshan office to mark the Janmashtami festival of the Hindu community.

Tarique, who joined the programme via video conferencing from London, recalled several incidents of communal attacks, including the Ramu Buddhist temple attacks in 2012 and the attacks on Hindus in Nasirnagar in 2016.

"Has there been a trial of any incident in the last 15 years? Or has there been a credible investigation into any incident, let alone a trial?" said the BNP acting chairman, pointing the finger at the Awami League government.

He said the "illegal and non-democratic" government tried to create communal issues in a bid to divert public attention from its "misrule and exploitation". "They are still trying to do the same," he said.

"If we all conduct a neutral review of all the attacks on minorities or religious establishments, we'll see that not a single incident occurred directly for religious factors. The real reason behind these attacks was personal interests or ill-political gains by the so-called political party," Tarique said.

He extended his greetings to all members of the country's Hindu community on the Janmashtami festival, which was celebrated on August 26, commemorating the birth of Lord Sri Krishna.

The BNP acting chairman called on all irrespective of creed and view to stay alert so that any evil force cannot foil the aspiration of the student-led mass uprising.

Referring to the incidents of violence that have occurred since ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled the country on August 5, Tarique said: "It can undoubtedly be said that democracy is still not free from danger."

In the world now, Tarique said, it is not important who is the majority or the minority. "The most important thing is whether there is justice and the rule of law in a society and a country. We all, irrespective of majority or minority, will be safe if we have these."

Tarique also said every citizen of the country should enjoy political and cultural rights without any obstacles.

50-yr-old man's

FROM PAGE 12
to death before his body was dumped in the bushes."

Contacted, Khilgaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge Daud Hossain said it was learned that the victim went missing after he left his home in Keraniganj around 10:00am on Thursday in search of a job.

SRI LANKA PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2024

Ranil seeks another term as president

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's right-wing President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who seeks re-election in today's ballots, describes himself as the "designated survivor" capable of salvaging the economically troubled nation.

Critics, however, say the 75-year-old six-time prime minister has been the beneficiary of circumstances, rising the ranks via power vacuums left by assassinations and resignations.

That saw him take the top job in 2022, when parliament rescued him from political oblivion and elected him as interim leader, after strongman Gotabaya Rajapaksa was ousted as president by protesters furious at the country's financial collapse.

Wickremesinghe, an ex-journalist turned lawyer, said he had achieved his dream "to be president even for one day". The free-market reformist says he needs another term to push through tough austerity measures to support the \$2.9-billion IMF bailout loan he negotiated.

Sri Lanka secured a deal Thursday with international bondholders to finalise a prolonged debt restructure. Wickremesinghe portrays himself as a veteran leader able to restore the island's economy to a stable footing, after inflation spiked to 70 percent and dire food and fuel shortages.



Premadasa seeks father's role as president

AFP, Colombo

Three decades after his father was assassinated as Sri Lanka's leader, opposition chief Sajith Premadasa is a top contender to take on the role in today's presidential elections.

Premadasa, then a student in Britain, cut short his studies and entered politics after his father, Ranasinghe Premadasa, was killed by a Tamil suicide bomber during a 1993 May Day rally in the capital Colombo.

Today, he will be among the front-runners in an expected three-way race for the South Asian island's top job -- the first vote since the 2022 economic meltdown when protesters ousted then-president Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Premadasa, 57, has spent his life in politics, working his way up to become the deputy leader of the United National Party (UNP).



But he split from the party in 2020, accusing his then-boss Ranil Wickremesinghe -- now his rival as the incumbent president seeking another term -- of being dictatorial.

Both men are ideologically aligned, supporting free-market policies. But Premadasa has pledged to reduce high-income taxes raised by Wickremesinghe to tackle the economic crisis.

Marxist-leaning Dissanayake promises change as his popularity soars

REUTERS, Colombo

Anura Kumara Dissanayake may lack the political lineage of some of his rivals, but his leftist policies to help the poor and stirring speeches have made him a leading candidate in Sri Lanka's presidential election today.

Although Dissanayake's Janatha Vimukthi Peremuna (JVP) party has just three seats in parliament, the 55-year-old candidate has been boosted by his promises of tough anti-corruption measures and bigger welfare schemes.

An opinion poll published this month showed Dissanayake, popularly known as AKD, was leading in voting preferences at 36 percent, followed by main opposition leader Sajith Premadasa and President Ranil Wickremesinghe at third.

Premadasa is the son of former president Ranasinghe Premadasa, which includes his Marxist-leaning JVP party that has traditionally backed stronger state intervention and more closed market economic policies.



He has drawn big crowds at rallies, calling on Sri Lankans to leave behind the suffering of economic crisis that forced president Gotabaya Rajapaksa to flee the country in 2022.

Dissanayake's JVP led two failed insurrections in 1971 and 1988 -- against elected governments that led to deaths of thousands. The party has since embraced mainstream politics and Dissanayake, who was not a leader at the time, has not commented on the insurrections in recent years.

WEST BENGAL STATE

Mamata blames dam release for flooding

AFP, Kolkata

A top politician in eastern India yesterday blamed authorities in a neighbouring state for causing a flooding crisis by opening dams after 26 people were killed and 250,000 others were forced to relocate.

Television news images showed rescuers in boats ferrying people to safety in West Bengal state, with a state-run hospital in one village completely inundated.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee told reporters that 26 people had been killed this week, with another 250,000 forced to leave their homes and find shelter.

She accused authorities in neighbouring Jharkhand state of needlessly opening dam sluice gates and releasing the waters that had inundated her state.

"The flooding is man-made," she said, adding she had ordered the border with Jharkhand to be closed for three days in response.

Supriyo Bhattacharya, a member of the ruling coalition in Jharkhand, told AFP that his state had no choice but to ease pressure on the dams.

"Holding back the water could have damaged the dams and led to massive floods in both the states," he said.

Number of Russian deaths in Ukraine hits 70,000

AFP, Warsaw

The BBC and the independent Russian news site Mediapedia said yesterday they had documented the deaths of around 70,000 Russian soldiers since the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The toll comes from publicly available information such as official statements, death notices in the media and announcements on social media, as well as tombstones in Russian cemeteries.

"We have identified the names of 70,112 Russian soldiers killed in Ukraine but the actual number is believed to be considerably higher," the BBC said.

"Some families do not share details of their relatives' deaths publicly -- and our analysis does not include names we were unable to check, or the deaths of militia in Russian-occupied Donetsk and Luhansk in eastern Ukraine," the BBC added.

'Exaggerated' historical info to be struck off

FROM PAGE 12

that statements by the ousted prime minister will remain in the textbooks, the member added.

Another member, on the condition of anonymity, said content portraying Hasina in a heroic light, which is deemed unnecessary for textbooks, will be omitted.

"Both Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Ziaur Rahman will be given respect for their contributions to the nation, and there will no longer be any false or distorted history in the textbooks," he said.

He added that a proposal has already been made to include the contributions of Ziaur Rahman, which had previously been omitted.

Rakhal Raha, a writer and activist involved in the revisions, said, "We have very little time to make major changes, but the government has instructed us to revise any glorified or exaggerated accounts of individuals."

Regarding Mathematics textbooks, Raha said that the revision process has been challenging as experts need to ensure that students transitioning from the new curriculum to the old one do not face inconsistencies in their learning.

The ICT team is also working on making the content simpler for students," he added.

NCTB Chairman Prof AKM Reazul Hassan said that exaggerated depictions on all textbook covers will

be removed. Instead, the covers may feature content related to national values or emergency services.

"Any content sensitive to social, political, or religious perspectives is being reviewed to ensure historical accuracy and avoid politically controversial material," he said.

When asked if any content on the student-led mass uprising would be included, Prof Reazul said that due to the limited time available, such inclusion is not possible in the current revision. "But we will work on it next time," he added.

On the possibility of a new curriculum in the future, Prof Reazul said, "For now, we are focusing on urgent tasks. Once these are addressed, we will consider new curriculum development."

Asked about challenges in distributing books at the beginning of next year, Prof Reazul said that the tender process for printing the revised textbooks is underway, and students will get the books by the first week of January.

The Hasina-led government had introduced the National Curriculum-2022, which was rolled out in 2023 for classes one, six, and seven, and expanded this year to classes two, three, eight, and nine.

However, the interim government this month decided not to continue with this curriculum, describing it as "not implementable", and opted to revert to the curriculum of 2012.

Polls show

FROM PAGE 12

minus 3.8 percentage points, according to the Times poll.

Separate findings by The Washington Post also found a tight race between the candidates in the state, which is among those along with Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Wisconsin that are seen as likely to determine November's outcome.

Among 1,003 Pennsylvania likely and registered voters surveyed September 12-16, 48 percent said they would vote for Harris while 47 percent said they would cast their ballot for Trump -- a 1-point difference that falls within the poll's margin of error of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points.

The majority of those polled told the Post they were "extremely motivated" to vote and that protecting American democracy was

"extremely important." But voters were split on which candidate would best protect the nation's freedoms, with 48 percent choosing Harris and 45 percent choosing Trump.

The issue looms large as Harris, a former prosecutor and state attorney general, seeks to maintain Democrats' hold on the White House after Biden dropped his re-election bid in July. Trump, who faces four criminal cases, has continued to falsely claim his 2020 election defeat by Biden was due to fraud.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing. The NYT/Inquirer/Siena poll also found US democracy was a major issue for voters along with the economy, abortion and immigration, with preferences for either candidate largely unchanged.

Reuters/Ipsos polling last week showed Harris with a 5 percentage point lead among registered voters, leading Trump 47 percent to 42 percent.

Abducted

FROM PAGE 12

father said Alinur had no relationship with his daughter and he used to harass her on her way to school and home.

"My daughter is a school student. She is still a minor."

The abduction reportedly took place when the schoolgirl was returning home from her coaching centre around 5:00pm on Wednesday.

Her father filed a complaint yesterday morning with Phulbari Police Station accusing Alinur Rahman.

Between the night of September 2 and the morning of September 3, posters were pinned to trees near the girl's house in the village, which read, "The girl of this house will be taken away and converted to a Muslim."

The adviser said that physical altercations over such incidents are unacceptable.

A total of 59 DCs were withdrawn after the fall of the Awami League government on August 5. The interim government made new appointments to these posts. But the appointments of eight new DCs were cancelled later before they took charge.

On September 10, a scuffle broke out at the public administration ministry among officials over the posting of DCs. Some officials allegedly used verbal abuse during the incident.

The following day, around 50-60 deputy secretaries caused a commotion at the ministry.

Following these incidents, the government on September 11 formed a one-member investigation committee, led by MA Akmal Hossain Azad, senior secretary at the Health Services Division. The committee is expected to submit its report by September 23.

Meanwhile, the deputy secretaries were reportedly frustrated with then joint secretary KM Ali Azam over the appointments of DCs. The scuffle took place at his then office at the public administration ministry.

On September 18, Ali Azam was transferred to Sylhet as an additional divisional commissioner. Officials said such a move is considered a "punishment transfer".

An official at the public administration ministry said Ali Azam's transfer to Sylhet is an indication that those involved in the September 10 scuffle will face stringent action.



Activists and medical professionals shout slogans as they take part in a protest march to condemn the rape and murder of a doctor in Kolkata, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Tigers look for respite

FROM PAGE 12

Tasmin had been in good rhythm with the ball, helping the visitors restrict India to 376. He denied Jadeja a century before removing centurion Ashwin in a three-wicket display before Hasan Mahmud got his fifth to become the first Bangladesh bowler to get a wicket in India in Test cricket.

Tasmin produced good bounce in India's second innings to remove skipper Rohit Sharma and make early inroads. Nahid Rana removed Yashasvi Jaiswal and Miraz got the scalps of Virat Kohli as the hosts ended the day at 81 for three.

The Bangladesh bowlers made their case despite being on the field for majority of two days, however, the batters left the game slip, with little room for turning things around as India are well and truly on the driving seat.

Meanwhile, some Palestinians displaced by the Israeli assault on Gaza said they feared their temporary beachside camp would be inundated by high waves.

Palestinian health officials said sh

HEME

holds it together

SHARMIN JOYA

"Audiences today are more inclined towards lighthearted content than serious dramas," remarked Jannatul Sumaiya Heme, a household name for her standout roles in various television projects.

The actress, who began her journey as a child artiste, has always been passionate about dance, just as much as she is about acting. She was a ramp model and participated in Miss World Bangladesh in 2017. Despite her hectic schedule, Heme took some time to drop by The Daily Star for a photoshoot, and to discuss her career, passions, and more.

Initially, Heme aspired to be a journalist, then considered teaching, and even thought about joining the army. Ultimately, she embarked on her acting career in 2014, which propelled her to new heights of popularity.

"I took the day off today, which is why I could visit The Daily Star. My schedule is usually packed for 26 days a month. However, after speaking with directors, I plan to schedule breaks because the workload is overwhelming, and everyone needs time to rest."

Heme and Niloy Alamgir have recently become one of the most popular on-screen pairs. After appearing in projects such as *Biyer Porikha* and *Bondhur Bou*, they have become audience favorites. When asked about their collaborations, Heme shared some surprising details. "We started working together in 2015, and to date, we've appeared in over 150 projects. The audience loves seeing us together, and we have a natural on screen chemistry that just clicks."

Apart from their chemistry, Heme and Niloy are also a visually appealing pair due to their complementary heights. Standing at 5'8", Heme initially faced challenges convincing other actors to work with her, as some felt insecure about pairing with her. "I was initially known for my height and faced issues where actors were uncomfortable sharing the screen with me."

As Heme continues to excel in her career, she is patiently waiting for the right script, director, and co-star to make her leap to the silver screen. Interestingly, she worked on an OTT project that never saw the light of day. "I starred opposite Chanchal Chowdhury in a project for ZEE5 Global. It was supposed to be my OTT debut, but unfortunately, the platform shut down its operations in Bangladesh, leaving the project incomplete."

Recently, there has been talk of reducing lead actors' remuneration in small-screen projects, with concerns



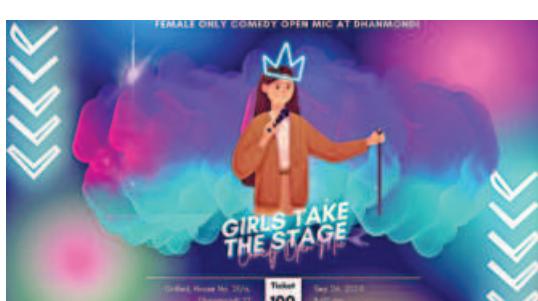
that such cuts might halt the drama industry. Heme responded, "As a lead actress, I might be biased (laughs), but I believe we should actually be increasing the budget. However, I doubt this plan would be viable long-term. Given the limited number of actors compared to television and YouTube channels, and the importance of viewership, implementing this decision would be difficult."

The 24-year-old actress is also a passionate animal lover. She fondly recalls talking to animals during childhood visits to the village, which often worried her parents. "My mother used to worry about what was wrong with me (laughs). However, I felt a special connection with them. At home, I have cats, and I even persuaded some of my colleagues to adopt cats by endlessly praising their cuteness! I would send them pictures of cats, and surprisingly, many of them fell in love and ended up adopting their own."

Heme's unconditional love for animals has led her to decide that, sooner or later, she will open a foster home for rescued animals. She also rescues needy furry friends and provides them with medical care and shelter. "This is something that gives me immense peace, and no matter what, I will never stop doing it!"



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

OUT AND ABOUT
IN DHAKA

Girls Take the Stage
(Female Open Mic)
September 26 | 7.30pm
Grilled



Play:
Kanthanalite Surjo
September 27 | 7pm
Bangladesh Mohila Samity



Concert: Legends of The
Decade
September 27 | 5pm
Dhaka Arena



WHAT'S PLAYING

Nishobdopur

Shironamhin's latest track, 'Nishobdopur', is a dive into introspection and the quiet corners of one's soul. Crafted by Ziaur Rahman, the song's poignant lyrics and soothing melody invite listeners to retreat from life's noise and embrace the silence within.

The composition weaves instruments like the cello and sarod, with Sheikh Ishtiaque's vocals capturing the essence of stillness. Sangbartika Bandyopadhyay's ethereal choir voice adds a haunting layer, reminiscent of Humayun Ahmed's iconic character Himu and the serenity of his river Mayurakshi.

Lyrically rich, 'Nishobdopur' speaks of solitude, silent pride, and the unspoken emotions that fill our hearts. This reflective piece can be a fitting addition to your playlist if you're yearning for a moment of introspection and calmness.

1-MINUTE REVIEW

'Kaos': An exhilarating blend of Greek mythology and modern drama



Kaos, the latest project from Charlie Covell, creator of *The End of the F***ing World*, is far from being chaotic. This multi-layered series, with impeccable pacing and plotting, offers a fresh take on Greek mythology. Its intricate and witty reimagining balances intelligence with humour and brutality, making for a captivating and dynamic experience.

Covell's script is a masterful

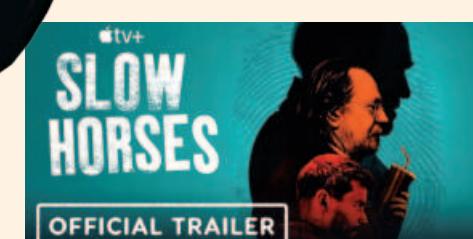
blend of confidence and energy, set in a modern world where pantheism and gods influence mortals with dramatic results. The eight episodes balance action and humour featuring a well-developed ensemble cast. Covell explores deep themes like humanity, power, and free will — all woven into an exhilarating narrative.

The story begins with Jeff Goldblum playing Zeus, who enjoys

his palace until a monument in Crete is desecrated. This event leads him to see a wrinkle as a prophecy of his downfall, sparking his anxiety and a plot for revenge.

In this tale, featuring a range of characters from classical and mythological sources, the unpredictable twists are often funny, thought-provoking, and emotionally resonant, making for a satisfying watch.

TRENDY STREAMS

Netflix
UgliesHBO Max
The PenguinHulu
Secret Lives of Mormon
WivesDisney plus
Agatha All AlongApple TV+
Slow Horses

STYLE STATEMENT JONATHAN BAILEY

This year's Emmy Awards kicked off amid the bearing of fabulous fashion flare as celebrities brought their best looks to the prestigious event.

Jonathan Bailey, known for his role as Anthony Bridgerton in the *Bridgerton* franchise, stood out in a chic black-and-white Armani tuxedo. His outfit featured a black dinner jacket, a partially unbuttoned cream-coloured silk shirt, a black silk cummerbund, and perfectly tailored black shoes.

What set his look apart were the bold, red-tinted sunglasses and a gardenia brooch by De Beers pinned to his jacket's left lapel.

Bailey masterfully balanced elegance, formality, and a touch of sex appeal.



End exploitation of Indigenous people

Govt must punish those involved in attacks, implement CHT accord

We are deeply troubled by what happened on Thursday afternoon and then overnight in Khagrachhari's Dighinala upazila, which once again showed how vulnerable the Indigenous communities are to violence and displacement. These people were historically exploited by Bangladeshi settler groups and majoritarian politicians, and the recent change of guard in Dhaka has done little to improve the situation. Thursday's events, according to a report, began as a protest over the lynching of a Bangladeshi man accused of motorcycle theft the previous day, and then quickly spiralled into a cycle of violence that led to the deaths of three people, numerous injuries, and the destruction of over 100 houses and shops, many set afire and even looted.

It goes without saying that Indigenous people have suffered the brunt of the violence, which eventually spread to Rangamati and caused a similar mayhem. This is not simply a case of lawlessness; it's emblematic of the complex ethnic, political and security dynamics that have long plagued the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). There are differing narratives surrounding the origin of Thursday's violence—with some Bangladeshi claiming that peaceful protests were interrupted, and Indigenous people asserting that the attacks were unprovoked—which only highlight the role of misinformation in such fluid situations, and how quickly it can fuel unrest. Equally notable is the failure of law enforcement authorities to protect the victims from attacks. Panic still grips the region even though security has been beefed up.

The alarming frequency of such incidents, even after the overthrow of an autocratic regime that viewed the CHT crisis only through the lens of national security and majoritarian interests, calls for a critical rethink about the Indigenous experience in Bangladesh. At a public gathering held in Dhaka on Friday, activists rightly demanded exemplary punishment for those involved in vandalism and arson attacks. But the recurrence of such attacks, they said, largely owes to the state's failure to fully implement the CHT accord. We cannot agree more. The non-implementation of this accord has not only held off a political resolution to fundamental Indigenous issues such as land ownership and various rights, but also caused tensions that frequently disturbed the region.

This cycle of tensions and attacks has to be broken. While bringing a zero tolerance approach to any instigation and rumours that put Indigenous communities in harm's way is paramount, the interim government should also look at the bigger picture and eradicate the vulnerability of these marginalised people altogether by fully implementing the accord. We urge the government to declare its plans with regard to the accord without delay. Simply adopting a law enforcement approach to these issues is no longer enough.

How can a minister gather such wealth?

Revelations about ex-land boss deserve critical reflection

It is astounding how the former minister of land, Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, managed to build a half-billion dollar property empire spanning the UK, the US, Dubai, Malaysia, and Singapore despite being on a modest government salary. According to an Al Jazeera report, Chowdhury holds properties and other assets worth around \$675 million across these countries. How he was able to invest millions of dollars abroad, despite our laws limiting individuals to only transferring \$12,000 per year out of the country, is another mystery that needs solving.

The report further revealed that between 2016 and 2021, Chowdhury purchased 265 properties in the UK, including acquisitions from major developers. In 2021, he bought a luxury apartment worth a whopping \$15.8 million. In the UK alone, Chowdhury allegedly owns 360 properties valued at \$252 million. Additionally, in Dubai, he owns real estate worth over \$195 million, and in the US, he holds around \$20 million in stocks and owns nine properties. However, Chowdhury failed to disclose this information in his tax returns in Bangladesh or in the affidavit he submitted to the Election Commission.

While amassing such wealth, the former minister allegedly set up a network across multiple countries to conceal his assets. Although Chowdhury told Al Jazeera that his wealth was derived from legitimate business, if that were indeed the case, why did he resort to such deceptive means to hide it? Moreover, as a sitting minister, he was prohibited from earning money from private businesses. So, how did he accumulate such vast wealth?

Chowdhury himself claimed that the former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was aware of his property-buying spree in the UK. This raises serious concerns about the extent of corruption within the Awami League government at the height of its power when Bangladesh was struggling economically. It is alarming that our governance structures—ranging from the Anti-Corruption Commission to other regulatory bodies—were unable to prevent what appears to be significant wealth accumulation through illegal means and money laundering.

It is, however, good to know that the interim government has suspended Chowdhury's bank transactions, and that he is under investigation for corruption. However, given that he is currently on the run, we strongly urge the authorities to locate him, thoroughly investigate his financial activities, and coordinate with the authorities in other countries—whose laws he also appears to have broken—to bring him to justice.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



The Hobbit' published

On this day in 1937, English writer JRR Tolkien's The Hobbit, a coming-of-age fantasy that became a classic, was published.

We must protect doctors from violence



BLOWIN' IN THE WIND

Dr Shamsad Mortuza
is professor of English at Dhaka University.

SHAMSAD MORTUZA

After a recent attack on a doctor at Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, his colleagues reviewed the CCTV footage to assess his handling of the patient. The Intensive Care Unit (ICU) admitted the patient, who had a history of bypass surgery, due to acute left ventricular failure. When his condition worsened, the doctor came in and administered CPR. The nurse was seen preparing an adrenaline injection, as is the protocol. The process failed, and the patient passed away. The attendants met with the doctor. He believed they were requesting an explanation. Suddenly, they started beating him mercilessly. They dragged him down to the ground floor lobby, where the beating could be more spectacular. The stairs remained stained with the doctor's blood. Dr Sajeeb Kazi is now fighting for his life at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) with a brain haemorrhage and a rupture of the inner ear membrane.

The incident on September 10 is one of the many instances of workplace violence (WPV) against doctors.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are only 5.26 doctors for every 10,000 people in Bangladesh. Overcrowded hospitals, a lack of medical supplies, and a shortage of healthcare personnel result in long wait times, rushed consultations, and patient dissatisfaction.

Following the tragic death of an accident victim at a private university earlier this month, three doctors from the neurosurgery department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) faced attacks. These incidents are symptomatic of a critical fault line in our healthcare system. They show the risks that healthcare professionals face daily. Doctors face not only the immense emotional and physical

pressure of treating patients in a resource-constrained environment, but also the rising possibility of being physically or verbally assaulted.



"These numbers don't fully convey the agony that doctors endure when they become targets of anger and frustration from people who are at an emotionally charged height of vulnerability."

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Unfortunately, violence against doctors is an issue that is neither unique to our country nor recent. This issue is prevalent all over the world. Systemic healthcare challenges, resource constraints, and rising patient expectations contribute to this issue. The emotional stress during medical crises exacerbates the situation further. Due to high patient expectations, doctors in the US have to pay substantial legal fees to protect themselves from lawsuits, and any perceived failure in medical outcomes can lead to costly malpractice claims, regardless of the complexity or inherent risks of treatment.

In Bangladesh, particularly in the current fad of mob justice, it is difficult to guarantee such social and legal succour. The March issue of *Bangladesh Medical Journal* reflects on this growing concern. Their study on a public hospital found that a staggering 67.3 percent of surveyed physicians reported experiencing WPV last year. Of these incidents, 84.5 percent were psychological in nature—primarily threats and bullying—while 13.5 percent involved physical violence, and two percent were cases of sexual

of the patients often confront them with verbal abuse or even physical violence, intensifying their efforts against death. The attendants may experience denial, claiming that their loved one did not receive the care they deserved. A lack of understanding of medical limitations and dissatisfaction with the overall care process fuel their unrealistic expectations. Dr Sajeeb Kazi's case serves as an example. For the doctors who endure such violence, the repercussions are severe. Many express a desire to leave the profession entirely or discourage others from joining this noble profession.

It is important for us to examine the causes of this violence. The factors, albeit complex, are not unknown. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), there are only 5.26 doctors for every 10,000 people in Bangladesh. Overcrowded hospitals, a lack of medical supplies, and a shortage of healthcare personnel result in long wait times, rushed consultations, and patient dissatisfaction. Yet, our expectations from doctors run high. They are the last ray of hope, irrespective of the patient's prognosis. Before reaching

any conclusion, we must thoroughly judge the charges of perceived neglect or incompetence. Indeed, there can be greedy or negligent doctors, just like professionals in all other sectors.

Hospital administrations need to make efforts to create a friendly, secure environment that allows physicians to work with confidence. The reality is that there are not enough policies to redress WPV. The entire healthcare system suffers when doctors work in fear, and patients ultimately bear the brunt of this crisis. Hospitals must invest in better security infrastructure, including the deployment of security personnel in high-risk areas like emergency wards, installation of surveillance cameras throughout their premises, and restriction of public access to certain areas.

Above all, hospitals must adopt a zero-tolerance policy against WPV. Legal responses should be swift and just. The government should clearly articulate national-level policies to protect doctors and healthcare workers. To create a greater sense of empathy and patience, there has to be an awareness campaign. These campaigns can focus on managing patient expectations and understanding the limitations of both medical treatment and palliative care. In addition, the health authorities also must set up a system at all hospitals and other healthcare facilities where patients' complaints of malpractice and other grievances are addressed properly.

Doctors themselves should have their own support services. They can use their collective platform to insist on psychological counselling and emotional support for those who experience violence. All hospital staff should receive training in conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques, helping them manage tense situations more effectively. We should not leave doctors to handle the aftermath of violent incidents alone.

Unless we address the root causes of violence, none of this will be effective. The healthcare system needs significant investment to improve infrastructure, reduce patient load, and ensure that doctors have the time and resources they need to provide quality care. The amount of foreign currency that we lose due to outbound medical tourists can be invested to bring in these systemic changes.

Doctors are our last line of defence when life hangs in the balance. To protect them, we must do everything in our power. Without immediate intervention, we risk losing not just our doctors but also the very heart of our healthcare system. Now is the time for action.

Womenomics: What women entrepreneurs can do for a smart economy



Dr Soma Dhar
is a research economist and independent consultant.

SOMA DHAR

Womenomics, coined by Goldman Sachs analyst Kathy Matsui, was introduced as a policy by former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2013 to promote gender equality in the workforce and stimulate economic growth in Japan. Womenomics is a smart social policy to motivate women to be smart and create a smart economy that will increase the world's GDP by \$12 trillion by 2025.

French economist Jean Baptiste Say coined the term entrepreneur in 1800 and defined it as "one who undertakes an enterprise, especially a contractor, acting as intermediary between capital and labor."

In Bangladesh, as per the Industrial Policy 2016, a woman is considered an entrepreneur if she owns a business as a proprietor, or in the case of a partnership organisation, owns 51 percent of a company registered with the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies (RJSC).

Empowering women economically paves the way for inclusive and sustainable development. In Bangladesh, women's increasing participation in the job market is one of the main outcomes of Womenomics, especially as an entrepreneur. Bangladesh has a high potential to create "EntrepreneurNaari," a term invented by Nava Naveli Nanda, an Indian entrepreneur. The word

refers to a movement advocating for women's entrepreneurship.

Women own just 7.2 percent of enterprises in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) estimates that 28 lakh SMEs in Bangladesh were owned by women in 2020, accounting for roughly 24.6 percent of all SMEs in the country.

In Bangladesh, women's introduction to entrepreneurship is the result of a complex interplay between opportunities and barriers, as well as outside aims and forces. According to the 2013 economic census, the total number of industrial units in Bangladesh stands at 78,18,565. Of them, 563,368 are companies headed by women, and 37,349 are SMEs led by women. According to the SME Foundation, women entrepreneurs have received 30 percent of a Tk 300 crore government incentive.

Additionally, in Bangladesh, women created about 40 percent of Facebook groups about entrepreneurship. Women entrepreneurs also have a significant impact on Bangladesh's GDP. They have made substantial contributions to the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector, which made up about 25 percent of the country's GDP in 2021.

One of Bangladesh's first women entrepreneurs is Selina Qadari. She concentrated on agriculture, one of

the nation's main sectors. In 1980, she noted that the government only offered a 10 percent export subsidy for potatoes. In 1985, she founded Agriconcern to promote the export of potatoes and produced 10,000-20,000 metric tonnes of potatoes annually, encouraging farming among women local business owners.

Women in urban areas are involved in various small and medium business enterprises such as handicrafts, fashion houses, beauty parlours, home textiles, food, cooperatives, chain shops, ICT, and even some larger businesses to some extent. In rural areas, many women are self-employed in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, engaging in activities such as cropping, rearing livestock and poultry, fish farming, nursery and tree planting, making tools, handicraft, processing food, tailoring, processing rice, etc.

Women entrepreneurs in Bangladesh are using a variety of platforms to run their businesses. These include Facebook and Instagram, brick-and-mortar stores, community-based organisations, e-commerce platforms such as Daraz and Amazon, fintech tools such as mobile banking and online lending, and business management software. However, women are still left out of the formal financial system. To address this, the government has launched several efforts, such as programmes to enhance financial literacy, remove barriers based on cultural differences, and increase access to financial services in rural areas. Yet, digital services are still severely hampered by a lack of access to mobile phones, cell coverage and the internet, and this is especially true for women.

As of 2024, per the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA), mobile internet adoption rates are 40 percent for men and only 24 percent for women in Bangladesh. The use of technology, particularly in mobile financial service/digital financial service (MFS/DFS), highlights issues about the digital gender gap. Minimising this gap in its different forms is essential to ensure inclusive, sustainable economic growth and integrate all adult individuals and small enterprises into a "financial ecosystem."

A wide range of industries, including technology, manufacturing, e-commerce, agriculture, and services, are seeing significant advancements among women. Microfinance programmes, women-specific financial services, and focused policy interventions are a few examples of initiatives that can significantly contribute to women's entrepreneurial empowerment. The Bangladesh Bank has several noteworthy programmes to foster entrepreneurship, particularly among women. It established the Credit Guarantee Scheme providing SMEs in various cluster regions with more access to financing women entrepreneurs.

Fostering women's economic empowerment in Bangladesh is essential for developing a framework to support women's entrepreneurship. A country's progress towards gender equality and inclusive economic development can be gauged by the number of women entrepreneurs. Their contribution will accelerate the sustainable development of a smart economy with assistance from the government, civil society organisations, and stakeholders. It is high time we helped Banglar Nari to evolve as "EntrepreneurNaari."

A blueprint for reforms: Tackling corruption, inequality, and autocracy



Dr Geof Wood is a development anthropologist and author of several books and numerous journal articles, with a regional focus on South Asia. He is also emeritus professor of international development at the University of Bath, UK.

GEOF WOOD

On August 4, I submitted a piece to *The Guardian* in the UK under the heading "The Time Has Come." In its final paragraph, I referred to Shakespeare's *Macbeth* along the lines of "we are in blood stepped in so far that to return was as difficult as going o'er." By August 5, events had already overtaken my final paragraph—so the piece was not published. A pity, as *The Guardian* has strangely not covered the political upheaval in Bangladesh very well or accurately. Strange, given, *inter alia*, the large Bangladeshi diaspora in the UK with contrasting political loyalties.

But clearly, this was a moment when the incremental autocracy over the previous 15 and a half years caught up with itself: the fear of retribution if power is lost stimulating further attempts at repression until the waters break. So many dictatorial regimes end in this way. The signs had been a long time coming. I recall presenting a paper to a conference in Dhaka back in 2016 asking whether there was only analytic room for Antonio Gramsci rather than Alexis de Tocqueville in Bangladesh, referring to the then regime as crypto-fascist. The argument of that paper was that the spreading of control over civil society (civil society for de Tocqueville being a prerequisite for democracy) resembled Gramsci's notion of "political society," where the independent permanence of institutions outside the state become incorporated into it. Following Gramsci, Douglass North and colleagues in *Violence and Social Orders* (2009) have seen independent permanence as a "doorstep" condition for the realisation of an open access, democratic society. Unfortunately, my pessimism was increasingly vindicated up to August 5. My more "below the radar" research across the last 15 years has focused upon the analysis of extreme poverty and, more recently, agrarian futures for the country, where there has been more traction with progressive policy thinking. Nevertheless, I was given the privilege of presenting a paper (at the CPD in January 2023) on the relative autonomy of the state from factional regimes to the country's political scientists, and that argument right now has a different kind of traction!

Certainly, right now, for many devotees of Bangladesh and the interests of its people, there is more public space for critique. Back in June, *The Daily Star* published my review

The transformation of Bangladesh over the last 50 years of my witness has been truly amazing—good in parts but also problematic. There needs to be a re-examination of the data bases used for claims and judgements. Has poverty really been reduced to the levels claimed? I doubt it.

of René Holenstein's *My Golden Bengal: Views and Voices from Civil Society*, where many familiar activists, commentators and academics had been interviewed and where they conveyed an overall sense of betrayal of the optimism of liberation through the subsequent practices of contaminated democracy and governance. In that volume, words were chosen carefully and cautiously, and at the book launch as well, but now the "time has come" for a more open regret as a basis for the restoration of liberation principles. That path of restoration has for the moment been entrusted with the interim

government.

We have been here before in Bangladesh: the caretaker government in early 1990, and the caretaker government of 2007–08. Both, though under different circumstances, were periods of technocratic management, with the bureaucracy and civil society in the forefront rather than the army or politicians representing parties, and both were trying to repair the state and make it fit for purpose

1974) has been truly amazing—good in parts but also problematic. There needs to be a re-examination of the data bases used for claims and judgements. Has poverty really been reduced to the levels claimed? I doubt it. Not least because the economic thresholds used for measurement seem to be hopelessly unrealistic as a definition both of not being poor (though highly vulnerable) and of being "middle class." This was raised by one of the present advisers of the interim government in the presence of the then planning minister in a 2018 launch event of the book *Aiding Resilience among the Extreme Poor in Bangladesh*. These vulnerable and the "middle" classes were deemed not in need of support and swept up in the "leave no one behind" assumptions of economic growth, even though a minor uplift in income thresholds brings millions of the vulnerable into poverty—as was revealed in the analyses of Covid by the BRAC Institute

about language and discourse. The global aid powerholders have coined the expression "leave no one behind" as the key principle of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is solipsistic. A trap for the unaware. A neo-liberal formula for trying to make everyone better off at their level in society, without scaring the horses, without pain for the rich and better off who have benefited from decades of rent seeking. The interim government should not be fooled by this and should leave a clear legacy to any successors that inequality is a function of entitlements and access to opportunities, structured subtly by class preconditions, cultural labelling, adverse incorporation and social exclusion. These social forces have to be deliberately confronted based on an acceptance across the whole society that redistribution of opportunities and outcomes has to be affirmatively actioned. "Sharing the well," in other words.

through the courts, offenders are incentivised to accept a fairer tax on assessed gains in return for immunity alongside zero tolerance for re-offending. In other words, a deliberate pursuit of restorative economic justice which sets the path for future revenue-based inclusive investment in basic services as well as contribution to present cleansing. After all, no government, however well-intentioned, and starting from this present legacy, can lock up half the society!

Of course, there is so much more to fix in terms of stabilising the macroeconomy and subduing inflation, diversifying the economy from overreliance on the RMG sector, managing geopolitical vulnerability, defending minorities, protecting women, upskilling to reduce reliance upon overseas managers and engineers, understanding agrarian futures in the context of climate change, and so on. But there is no more space in this piece. For now, I have emphasised: eligibility to contend



VISUAL: SHAIKH SULTANA JAHAN BADHON

for another round of competitive politics and regimes. It was a hard ask then, and it remains so again now. There is much to fix, buried deep within the political economy and culture, where much negativity has been allowed to flourish. Many will have their own list of priorities, but in a spirit of affection and loyalty to the citizens, I offer mine, which I see from reading this daily from a distance resonates with other opinions too.

First, while the evolution of the Awami League can be explained, though not excused, in dynastic terms, there have been other political players in the country with claims on a secular, inclusive narrative of liberation with religions and cultures pursued within the society in a spirit of mutual tolerance. These others have emerged from time to time, e.g., the Gono Forum, to challenge the self-serving Awami League monopoly of the inclusive narrative. In a sense, this inclusivity is the benchmark against which all future political contenders for office should be judged and encouraged. Perhaps this requires a truly independent Election Commission, representing the civil society, to interpret a constitutional "eligibility to contend" based on such inclusive principles which were so hard won across the 1950s and 1960s, early 1970s, and again in July–August 2024.

Second, the development story of the country needs more authenticity and balance. The transformation of Bangladesh over the last 50 years of my witness (I first arrived in Cumilla with my wife in August

of Governance and Development (BIGD) and Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), for example. Earlier projections by Dr SM Zulfiqar Ali at the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) indicated the same.

However, a multidimensional understanding of poverty and well-being indicates that incomes, expenditure and assets are unconvincing as a sole guide to well-being outcomes, even if thresholds are uplifted. And this is even more so in the throes and aftermath of significant inflation, especially on essential commodities. It would be interesting if Bangladesh could imitate Bhutan in the pursuit of happiness and well-being indicators to measure its inclusive success.

Third, strongly linked to the above is inequality. Bangladesh appears to be among the most unequalising societies in the lower middle-income country (LMIC) group. There is a consensus among individual and institutional observers that the economic gains of the country's rapid transformation over the last 50 years have been largely captured by narrow elites, both legally by capitalism and of course illegally through rent-seeking. The interim government is beginning to deal with this illegal capture, but it will be even more challenging to address the underlying structural issues that reproduce inequality.

This brings me to a little obsession of mine

and it starts with children and youth—their access to quality education, the underpinning of future public goods. The students are right. But how? Attacking corruption is one thing. But progressive income and wealth taxation is structurally key to any inclusive economic restoration. The interim government could put in train irreversible tax policies to this effect, which no subsequent government needing popular support could possibly dismantle. Just consider the fortunes made in Dhaka real estate, derived from fortuitous receipt of plot allocations by successive regimes across favoured state and business communities. At present, tax rates in Bangladesh are so unsustainably low as a proportion of GDP that no government can make a difference to inclusiveness.

Fourth, of course, corruption and rent-seeking have been pervasive. The state and upper echelons of the society have conspired in kleptocracy. From the media, I can see that examples are being made through arrests, charges and freezing of banked assets. Loan defaulting has also been pervasive with culprits running free across Dhaka as well as investing in places like Dubai and the UK. But perhaps there should be carrots as well as sticks. There is no point in making examples of offenders unless those examples engender behavioural change. Perhaps, initially, the interim government should pursue some version of the Laffer curve, where under the threat of what could happen to them

for power democratically; a more authentic and balanced understanding of development as a platform for policy priorities; stronger attention to well-being and happiness notions of progress and inclusivity; and "sharing the well" and restorative economic justice to address inequality and rent-seeking, reinforced by wider income and wealth taxation. All of these occur within a desire, an inherent Bangladeshi desire, for justice and fairness which has other dimensions not addressed here.

So, I end here, for now, with a strategic principle for the interim government. It needs to set in place irreversible principles and practices that constrain arbitrary power in the future leading to the misuse of popular consent. This requires the organisation and management of equity as the basis of justice and fairness, i.e., a reform of the justice system itself. Part of that irreversibility is the freedom of citizens to critique state practice and hold institutions and individuals to account as a precondition of good governance, while bearing down on the destructive freedoms of hate, othering and exclusion, always remembering that social capital can have this dark side too. All of the above takes time to entrench. Given 15-plus years of democratic decline, I would think the society could tolerate a year or two for a restoration of the underlying principles of inclusive democracy. A rush for elections without such restoration might just repeat the cycle that Holenstein's interlocutors were so depressed about.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Words to learn, for short
- 2 Spuds
- 3 Brood watcher
- 33 Heir, at times
- 34 Catch some z's
- 35 Colony member
- 36 Works in a gallery
- 37 Draw
- 38 Antlered animals
- 40 Humble
- 42 Stable mothers
- 43 Exhausted
- 44 With craft
- 45 Deep ravine
- DOWN**
- 1 Cornet features
- 2 "Ah, Wilderness!" author
- 3 Flattering

4 Bother

5 Taken out of the game

6 Barista's creation

7 "Right you –!"

8 Like orange and blue

9 Spotted

10 Sofa's kin

17 Books reviewer

23 Pasture grazer

24 Director's cry

26 Bach creation

28 Airport car

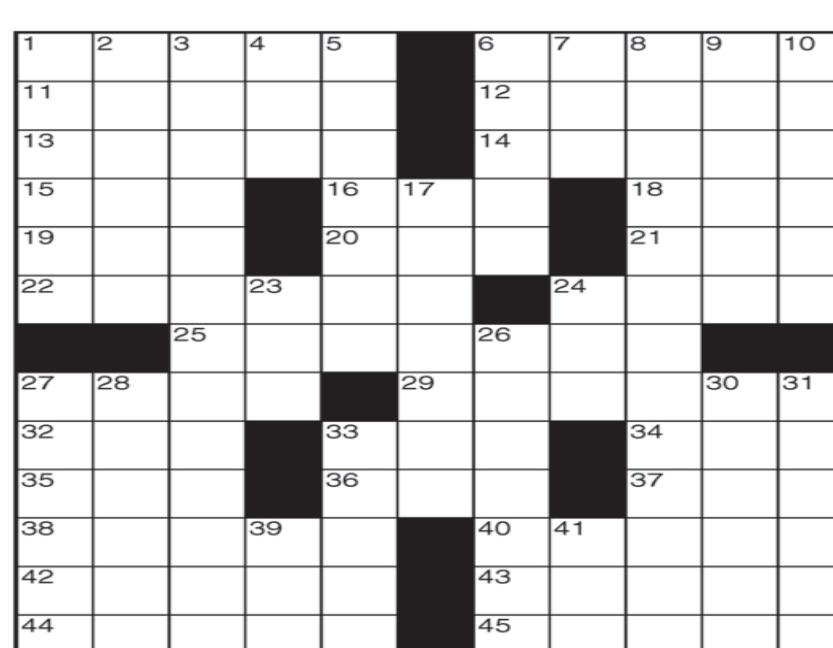
30 Job rewards

31 Goes 80

33 Fresh

39 Hair goo

40 Shirt protector



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

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A	N	I	M	E		E	R	O	D	E
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Q Pacer Hasan Mahmud became the first Bangladeshi pacer to take a five-wicket haul in India on day two of the Chennai Test yesterday. He also became only the second Bangladeshi pacer after pacer Robiul Islam to take successive five-wicket hauls in Tests.

Q A total of 17 wickets fell on the second day of the Chennai Test yesterday -- the highest number of wickets recorded on a day at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. There were three instances when 15 wickets fell in a single day, the previous record in Chepauk.

Q All 10 Indian wickets that Bangladesh took in the first innings in Chennai were through catches -- the first instance of such an occurrence for Bangladesh across formats.

Q Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah became the only sixth pacer from his country to take 400 international wickets yesterday. Bumrah needed three wickets to achieve the milestone and he finished with 4-50 to join Kapil Dev, Zaheer Khan, Javagal Srinath, Mohammed Shami, and Ishant Sharma in the elite list.

Q The 199-run stand between Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja is the highest seventh-wicket partnership in Bangladesh vs India Tests, eclipsing the 121-run stand between Saurav Ganguly and Sunil Joshi during Bangladesh's maiden Test in Dhaka in 2000.



India pacer Mohammed Siraj celebrates after having Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto caught at slip as the Tigers suffered yet another batting meltdown on Day 2 of their first Test in Chennai yesterday. [Bottom] It was, however, pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah who did the most damage as he scalped four wickets to become the third-quickest Indian seamer, after Mohammed Shami and Kapil Dev, and 10th Indian bowler overall to 400 international wickets.

I have always said that it's definitely not because the opposition is Bangladesh. There is nothing personal. As a cricketer, the pride is in the performance and in the fact that you want to win. You play the game for that.

India off spinner RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN when asked if facing Bangladesh bring out the best in him



Record-smashing Head fires up Test opener debate

REUTERS

With another century opening for Australia, Travis Head is looking more and more likely to open the batting in the home Test series against India.

Head blasted a match-winning, unbeaten 154 from 129 balls at Trent Bridge as world champions Australia stormed to a seven-wicket win over England in the first ODI on Thursday.

It was the highest score by an Australian in a bilateral ODI match in England, coming just over a week after he clobbered the English with a 19-ball half-century in the T20 opener.

It also came two weeks after Head set a powerplay record with the bat on the way to a 25-ball 80 in a T20 win over lowly Scotland.

Head's development into an all-format dominator is timely for Australia given the retirement of opener David Warner, the last man to hold that role for the country.

Warner's exit from international cricket left a huge vacuum in the Test side that Steve Smith, for all his brilliance batting at number four, was unable to fill as an opener.

Smith scored an unbeaten 91 against West Indies but it was his only half century in eight innings.

Head has batted in the middle order for most of his 49 tests and has provided good value since



he returned to the side in late 2021 after being dropped for nearly a year.

However, he slotted in as opener during last year's tour of India when Warner was injured.

He made a good fist of it in a losing cause, scoring an unbeaten 49 in Indore and 90 in Ahmedabad.

Australia coach Andrew McDonald has all but confirmed the top six batters who swept New Zealand 2-0 in the last tour will keep their places for the five-Test home series against India.

However, the order may be tweaked, with plenty of calls for Smith to drop back to his proven number four slot.

Incumbent opener Usman Khawaja has little doubt who should join him at the top.

"I feel like Travis Head might be best suited," he told Australian pay TV channel Fox Cricket last week.

"He's obviously been very successful opening the batting in one day cricket and, breaking it down, I'd probably lean towards him. The confidence transfers over."

Head, however, declined to offer a shot when asked for his thoughts on the matter.

"Keep the chatter, it makes it interesting," Head told reporters at Trent Bridge.

"I'm not going to dive into that. I'll just let that play out."

Poor technique at the centre of batting meltdown

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Chennai

Batting failures arrive relatively consistently for Bangladesh in Tests. From Rawalpindi to Chennai, the Tigers' familiar batting cracks were once again exploited by the opposition; this time by a high quality Indian bowling side on Day 2 of the first Test yesterday.

While in Rawalpindi against Pakistan earlier this month there was a rearguard resistance by the Bangladesh batters, this time at the Chidambaram Stadium, the task to get out of trouble was too large and considerably steeper.

None of the Bangladesh batters could apply themselves in their first innings against the new ball and an



unfamiliarity of batting against the SG ball -- which has a more prominent seam compared to the rest -- doubled up on the weakness in technique and a lack of patience shown as the Tigers slumped to five for 40 in just 13 overs.

It was Khurram Shahzad in Rawalpindi who found those cracks, and in Chennai, the likes of Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, and Akash Deep terrorised the top order and ran through them.

Pacer Taskin Ahmed was left to discuss the latest batting woes after stumps yesterday and he surmised that they have to put up a better effort with the bat.

"They [India] are all world-class and

were more consistent with their lines and lengths. There are plenty of variations in the Indian attack and while they bowled well, we made some mistakes as well," Taskin told reporters.

"With the new ball, the SG ball, there are a few challenges, especially in the first 10-12 overs. We lost too many wickets in the first 10 and that cost us our game in the batting department," he added.

The conditions were bowling friendly, as evidenced by the 17 wickets (seven India wickets and 10 Bangladesh wickets) that fell on the day -- the highest number of wickets to ever fall in a single day at the venue -- but there was a real difficulty to

judge lengths.

While Bangladesh openers tried to put up resistance against the new ball in Pakistan, Shadman Islam and Zakir Hasan found it difficult facing the Indian pacers.

Shadman had to walk back after shouldering his arms to a Bumrah delivery that held its line. Bumrah had riddled the left-handed batter with a series of outswingers from around the wicket and in anticipation of the same delivery, he misjudged one that cost him his wicket.

In fact, an all-left-handed top order -- four out of the top five in Bangladesh's batting lineup -- found it difficult against India's right-arm pacers who used that very angle around the wicket.

Zakir and Mominul Haque departed in back-to-back deliveries off Akash before Siraj got the better of Najmul Hossain Shanto a few balls later.

With no batters coming to the press conference, it was Taskin who had to answer.

"Batters and the batting coach are supposed to be concerned and maybe they are also working on it," Taskin said.

Despite the top-order meltdown, perhaps the most disappointing was the soft dismissals of Liton Das and Shakib Al Hasan. Liton threw his wicket away with a needless slog sweep while Shakib uncharacteristically paid the price for an untimely reverse sweep.

Flick takes positives despite Barca's defeat to Monaco

REUTERS

Barcelona coach Hansi Flick said he is not worried about his side's performance despite the 2-1 defeat to Monaco in their Champions League opener on Thursday.

Monaco made the most of their man advantage after Barcelona defender Eric Garcia was sent off only 11 minutes in, before goals from Maghnes Aklouche and George Ilenikhena secured the triumph over the Catalans.

Flick, who has led Barcelona to a five-match winning run in LaLiga, remained positive after his first defeat in charge.

"With [Garcia's] red card the game changed totally but I can see the positives. We tried to defend as a team and attack as a team. We had chances but they deserved to win," Flick told reporters.

"I have told the team to lift their heads up because they are disappointed, but we have to focus on Sunday [LaLiga match at Villarreal], which is our next game. It's the time to recover, hopefully players will be back with a lot of energy."

"We have players that gave more than 100 percent, every player tried to give their best. I'm really proud of this team but we have to accept how we lost today."

Barcelona relived bitter memories of last season when they crashed out of the Champions League quarterfinals losing 4-1 to Paris St Germain after defender



Ronald Araujo was shown a red card.

Flick denied that the Catalans struggle in Europe's top club competition and said he is optimistic about their chances in the tournament they last won in 2015.

"Today you see this situation with a red card after 11 minutes, it changed our match plan, we have to accept it, this happens," the former Bayern Munich manager said.

"But we are strong enough to play a

good Champions League, we have seven matches ahead and I think we will win many matches."

Barcelona next host Young Boys in their second league-phase fixture.

'Raya's save was best I've seen in my career'

Meanwhile, elsewhere, Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta hailed his goalkeeper David Raya after the Spaniard's miraculous double save earned his side a 0-0 draw away to Atalanta in the Champions League on Thursday.

If not for Raya saving Mateo Retegui's 51st-minute penalty and then somehow springing across his goal to claw out the same player's headed rebound effort, Arsenal could have begun their group games with a damaging defeat.

"I witnessed two of the best saves I've ever seen in my career from David in that moment," Arteta said.

"If you can't win, you have to take the point. We started well, then we lost control and were very inconsistent."

Atalanta manager Gian Piero Gasperini was equally in awe. "He's a cat. The first save is good but the rebound is unbelievable," he said.

Raya was modest about his effort, saying he had been lucky and also paid tribute to Arsenal's goalkeeping coach Inaki Cana who he consulted while VAR checked the penalty decision.



Sri Lanka's Dimuth Karunaratne plays a shot during his 83-run knock on Day 3 of their first Test against New Zealand at Galle yesterday. Thanks to a 147-run second-wicket stand between Karunaratne and Dinesh Chandimal, who scored 61, Sri Lanka assumed control of the match as they finished the third day on 237 for four, leading by 202 runs. The match will resume tomorrow following today's rest day, allocated due to the presidential election in Sri Lanka.

PHOTO: AFP



ASHEFAQ-UL-ALAM

Claiming that the second day of the Chennai Test between Bangladesh and India yesterday was almost evenly matched may seem absurd, but this notion is not totally out of place, at least in one department.

India ended the day on 81-3 in their second innings, extending their lead over Bangladesh to 308. Earlier in the day, the Indian bowlers bundled out the Tigers for just 149 in reply to their first innings score of 376, earning a 227-run lead for the hosts.

The match is now heavily tilted in favour of India, and it will take almost a miracle for Bangladesh to save themselves from a crushing defeat, which would be their fourth straight Test loss in Indian soil.

But even on a day when Bangladesh were seemingly overpowered by India, the Bangladesh bowlers put up a decent account for themselves, almost matching their counterparts in the bowling metrics.

Overall, the ball ruled over the bat at the MA Chidambaram Stadium yesterday, with a record 17 wickets falling in the day,

the most in a single day at the venue, which has been hosting Tests since 1934.

On Friday, Bangladesh pacers claimed four wickets with the new ball to close out India's first innings in the morning session. Taskin Ahmed claimed three wickets and Hasan Mahmud struck once to complete his second five-wicket haul in Tests.

The Tigers conceded just 37 runs for the four scalps, ensuring India didn't cross the 400 mark after resuming the day's play on 33-6.

The Indian attack, led by Jasprit Bumrah who took the highest four wickets, then laid waste to Bangladesh in just 47.1 overs.

After having bowled 91.2 overs in the first innings, the tired Bangladeshi bowlers had to return to the field, with slumped shoulders and all, after a break that barely lasted one and a half sessions.

The bowlers seemed a bit demoralised, understandably, after a shocking performance from the batters. But nevertheless, they soldiered on and got rewarded for their efforts, claiming three wickets in 23 overs, with Taskin, Nahid Rana and Mehedi Hasan Miraz claiming one wicket each.

Now, adding up the numbers from both innings, Bangladesh bowled a total of 34.2 overs on Day 2, conceded 118 runs for seven wickets.

Bangladesh's bowling average on the day was 16.86 and strike rate stood at 29.43.

Compared to that, the Indian bowling attack's average on the second day was 14.9 and strike rate was 28.3, both only slightly better than Bangladesh's.

Even though bowling wise both teams were almost evenly matched on Friday, the scoreboard shows that India are in a much stronger position in the match after the second day than they were at stumps on Day 1.

The biggest difference between the two sides so far in the match has been one partnership, the mammoth 199 run stand for the seventh wicket between Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja in the first innings.

India were six wickets down for just 144 when they got together on Thursday. The duo first rescued the hosts from a precarious position and then gradually put them in the driving seat of the match.

Although India's top-six failed to make it big in the first innings, they hung around for a while, with the sixth wicket falling in the 43rd over, softening up the ball which made things easier for Ashwin and Jadeja.

Bangladesh's top order, by comparison, could neither put up a big score nor play out too many deliveries, as they were six wickets down inside 29 overs in their first innings.

The frailties of the Bangladesh batting line-up were evident even during the series in Pakistan, which they won 2-0 last month, when they were 26-6 in the second Test before a rescue act from Liton and Miraz saved their blushes.

But the Indian attack is head and shoulders above the one they faced in Pakistan, and in their first trial, the Tigers have failed to show the grit to survive through a tough period against a quality attack.

The batters will get a chance at redemption in the second innings and without a change in application and a good hard look at the mirror, chances of a turnaround look slim at best.

What to WATCH

T SPORTS AND GTV

India vs Bangladesh
First Test, Day 3
Live from 10:00 am
England vs Australia
Second ODI
Live from 5:30 pm

SONY SPORTS 5

Sri Lanka vs New Zealand
First Test, Day 4
Live from 10:30 am
SELECT HD1
Premier League
West Ham vs Chelsea
Live from 10:30 pm

Live from 5:30 pm
Liverpool vs Bournemouth
Live from 8:00 pm
Crystal Palace vs Man Utd
Live from 10:30 pm

Bowlers weighed down by batters' deadweight

Verstappen punished for swearing

AFP, Singapore

Formula One world champion Max Verstappen was on Friday punished for swearing in a Singapore Grand Prix press conference by governing body the FIA.

The Red Bull driver is now obliged "to accomplish some work of public interest", said a panel of FIA stewards, after the Dutch driver used the F-word in Thursday's drivers' press conference which was being broadcast live.

Verstappen was summoned to appear before stewards after the first practice session in Singapore on Friday and the audio transcript was reviewed.

Verstappen was deemed to have used language "which is generally considered 'coarse, rude' or may 'cause offence' and is not considered suitable for broadcast," read the stewards' decision.

The stewards noted that the language was not directed at anyone or any group... the driver explained that the word used is ordinary in speech as he learned it, English not being his native language," it continued.

"While the stewards accept that this may be true, it is important for role models to learn to be mindful when speaking in public forums, in particular when not under any particular pressure.

"Verstappen apologised for his behaviour."

The punishment comes just a day after drivers were asked to tone down their use of foul language over team radio during races.

FIA president Mohammed Ben Sulayem told Autosport.com in an interview that motorsport was not "rap music" and drivers should mind their language, especially as children might be watching.

Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton did not like Ben Sulayem's comparison with rap music.

"I don't like how he's expressed it, saying 'rappers' is very stereotypical. And most rappers are black," said Hamilton. "That was the wrong choice of words. There's a racial element there."

Bangladesh lose to India in SAFF U-17 opener

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Under-17 team suffered a 1-0 defeat to India courtesy of a stoppage time goal in the tournament opener of the SAFF U17 Championship at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan yesterday.

Sumit Sharma headed home a well-directed chip from substitute Manbhakupar Malngiang in the stoppage time of the second half to give the defending champions a winning start. Bangladesh's fate in the tournament now depends on their second and final Group A match against the Maldives on Sunday.

India were on the offence for the majority of the first half, with Bangladesh content to hang back and ensure they do not concede an early goal.

The boys in red and green started cautiously while India dominated the proceedings early on. A few defense-splitting passes from the Indians exposed the Bangladesh backline at times, however, the defenders did well enough to cancel out the threats.

India created the first real chance to break the deadlock in the 15th minute when Samson Ahongshangbam's glancing header narrowly went wide, much to the relief of Bangladesh goalkeeper Nahidul Islam.



Bangladesh started making runs at the opposition half as the match progressed and looked dangerous in set pieces.

Nazmul Huda Faisal's low-drive from a scramble following a corner narrowly missed the target with a deflection of an Indian defender in the 26th minute.

Two minutes later, Mursheed Ali's curling free kick was fisted away by Indian goalkeeper Suraj Singh Aheibam.

After half-time, India played high-pressing football and created some good chances in the last 20 minutes. Bangladesh goalkeeper

Nahidul made a good save in the 75th minute and an Indian attempt rattled the Bangladesh crossbar in the next minute.

India made four changes at the 77th minute and the substitutes piled on more pressure which ended up being too much for Bangladesh to withstand in the end.

Substitutes Hemneichung Lunkim and Malngian's attempts went wide in the 80th and 85th minute respectively before Sumit separated both sides with a header inside the box two minutes into the five-minute added time.

SHORT CORNER

Pakistan announce revised schedule of England Test series

Pakistan's cricket board on Friday announced a revised schedule for a series it will hold against England next month, ending weeks of uncertainty including reports it could be moved abroad. The first two Tests will be held back-to-back in Multan and the last in Rawalpindi, skipping Karachi where ongoing construction at the National Stadium has forced the Pakistan Cricket Board to tweak the schedule.

Martial joins AEK Athens

Former Manchester United forward Anthony Martial has penned a three-year deal with AEK Athens, the Greek first division club announced on Thursday. Out of contract after nine years with the Premier League club, Martial will receive 3.5 million euros (\$3.9m) per year, becoming the most expensive player in the history of the 13-time Greek champions, who are celebrating their centenary this year.

Australia coach Arnold quits after poor show in WC qualifiers

Graham Arnold has quit as coach of the Socceroos, Football Australia said Friday, following a poor start to the third round of qualifying for the 2026 World Cup.

New Champions League format forces clubs to win, says Simeone

The new Champions League format forces teams to go for the win, Atletico Madrid head coach Diego Simeone said after his side fought back from a deficit to grab a late 2-1 victory over RB Leipzig on Thursday. The European top-flight has switched from a group stage to a league phase where 36 teams play eight matches each.

*Read full stories on The Daily star website

Kompany, Alonso call for action on player workload

AFP, Berlin

Bayern Munich coach Vincent Kompany and his Bayer Leverkusen counterpart Xabi Alonso on Friday joined the growing chorus calling for action on player workload, amid talks of strikes.

Kompany said a cap should be introduced on the amount of games a player can play each year, while Alonso said players must have greater involvement in decisions about the fixture calendar.

Concern about the load on players has grown in recent years, particularly as the number of fixtures has been increasing.

This year's Champions League adds fixtures while FIFA's expanded 32-team Club World Cup will take place this summer, a time when players would normally have a break from games.

Top clubs with European and domestic cup commitments could play up to 75 games this season.

At a press conference ahead of Saturday's trip to Werder Bremen, Kompany said that "it was already a time during my (playing) career" and labelled it "a very important topic".

"To play 75, 80 games, it gets to a point where it's not realistic anymore," he said.

"The solution I've always wanted is to put a cap on the amount of games a player can play as an individual. Put a cap, put a compulsory period of holidays (for players)."

Rodri, the current midfield general of Manchester City where Kompany spent many years as a player, said on Tuesday the "general opinion of the players" was that "we are close to a strike".

The 38-year-old said the cap would be "the best of both worlds" as it would "take away the pressure on the clubs".

He also said the model should "always include exceptions for finals -- we can't take that away from players".

Kompany promised squad rotations in the coming weeks as Bayern manages midweek football commitments.

"We are talking about a crowded schedule and stress on the players. Our squad is not a luxury, we need it to achieve our goals."

The coach said a decision on whether veteran captain and goalkeeper Manuel Neuer would be fit to face Bremen "would be made after training".

The goalie was subbed off at half-time in Tuesday's 9-2 win over Dinamo Zagreb after falling on his back.

Kompany said Bayern "did not want to take any unnecessary risks", but added that "it looks good (for Neuer)".

want to see good football.
"The schedule is very tight. They have to be heard."

Kompany has previously spoken out on the issue and was a member of the FIFPro players union during his time on the pitch, where he captained Manchester City and the Belgian national team.

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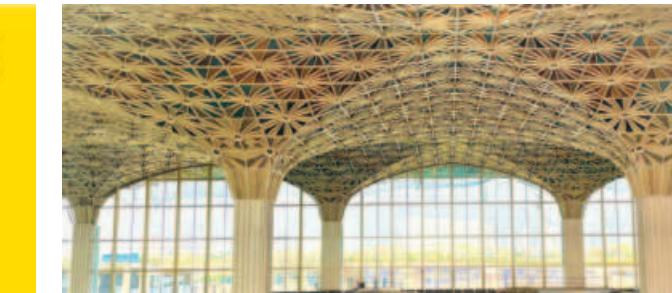


Real Madrid forward Rodrygo jumps over an obstacle during a practice session ahead of tonight's LaLiga clash at home against Espanyol. The defending champions are four points adrift of league leaders Barcelona and will look to the Brazilian's form to solve the goal-drought despite having some of the biggest names in world football in their squad.

PHOTO: REAL MADRID



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SCUFFLE AT SECRETARIAT

Stern action to be taken against officials involved

Says Adviser Ali Imam Majumder

BAHARAM KHAN

The government has decided to take stringent action against some deputy secretaries involved in a recent scuffle at the public administration ministry over the postings of deputy commissioners (DCs).

Those who will be found guilty after an initial enquiry will face tough punishment, sources in the Cabinet Division and the public administration ministry confirmed The Daily Star.

An investigation into the incident is underway, and a joint secretary has already been transferred outside Dhaka.

Ali Imam Majumder, an adviser attached to the Chief Adviser's Office, said officials who would be found guilty will face stern action.

There is no scope for creating indiscipline in the administration, he told The Daily Star.

Ali Imam said that transfers and postings are part of a routine work.

"One cannot say that every decision is 100 percent correct. If a decision requires

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

COMMUNAL ATTACKS

'There was no trial in last 15yrs'

Tarique calls for formation of civic probe commission

UNB, Dhaka



BNP acting chairman Tariqul Islam Rahman yesterday said there was no trial of or credible investigation into any incident of communal violence over the past 15 years, as the "fascist" Awami League government "exploited these issues for narrow political gains".

While exchanging greetings with the members of the Hindu community, he also called for the formation of a civic investigation commission to uncover the actual causes behind these incidents and ensure justice.

The commission can be formed with representatives of the civil society, all political parties, and various religious groups, he said.

The BNP organised the programme at its

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Polls show Harris, Trump tied nationally

REUTERS, Washington



US Vice President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump remain deadlocked less than seven weeks before the November 5 US presidential election, according to new polls released on Thursday that also show a tight race in the key state of Pennsylvania.

While the surveys found likely and registered voters gave higher marks to Democrat Harris in last week's debate with her Republican opponent, they showed the race – particularly in the battleground state – remains close, in line with other polling.

In the national poll, Harris and Trump were tied at 47 percent among the 2,437 likely voters polled September 11-16, according to a survey by The New York Times, The Philadelphia Inquirer and Siena College. The margin of error was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

In Pennsylvania, one of seven critical battleground states, Harris maintained her 4-point advantage, leading 50 percent to 46 percent with a margin of error of plus or



Bangladesh opener Zakir Hasan drives at the ball away from his body, leaving a big gap between the bat and pad and in the process, loses his stumps during the second day of the first Test against India at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai yesterday. Bangladesh were bowled out for 149 in reply to a first-innings total of 376 from India, who later ended the day at 81 for three in their second innings.

PHOTO: AFP

Tigers look for respite

ABDULLAH AL MEHDI from Chennai

Near the end of second day's play in the Chennai Test, Shakib Al Hasan was squatting at the bowling crease in between deliveries to possibly relax his tired legs. Bangladesh had bowled in the morning session and removed the India tail with relative ease but were then themselves dispatched in 47 overs, leading to another day in the field – this time under the hot Chennai sun. In between, the game has slipped from away from Bangladesh within just two days at Chepauk, with India's lead standing at a mammoth 308 runs and with seven second innings wickets remaining for the hosts.

The start of the Test had been very promising on Thursday. Bangladesh had bowled in favourable seaming conditions to dismiss the India top-order before a rearguard action from Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja allowed the hosts to get on top on Day 1.

But having bowled India out in the first session yesterday, Bangladesh got the best possible batting conditions that Chepauk might offer in this ongoing Test. Yet, a top-order stumble saw Bangladesh skittled out for 149 runs before India enforced a follow-on.

Bangladesh have been regularly exposed against the new ball whenever

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

TEXTBOOKS FOR CLASS-4 TO 9

'Exaggerated' historical info to be struck off

Say Nat'l Curriculum and Textbook Board officials

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

The government has decided to remove any "exaggerated" historical information or "unnecessary" glorification of any individuals from textbooks for the upcoming academic year, officials of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) have said.

Following the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5, the NCTB decided to discontinue the new national curriculum and restore the old one in 2025.

Officials said textbooks for grades six to nine under the old curriculum, along with those of grades four and five, are undergoing revisions for the next education year, while the curriculum for classes one to three will remain unchanged.

To facilitate this transition, the government formed expert committees to revise 33 textbooks across various grades. Each committee, comprising three to five subject matter experts, will review and revise the textbooks as per

instructions from the NCTB and the interim government.

According to these experts, the subjects expected to see the most changes include Bangla, Mathematics, ICT, Bangladesh and Global Studies, Civics and Citizenship, History of Bangladesh, and World Civilization.

Cover pages of all textbooks across grades will also be either changed or removed.

A group of teams has already started the revision process, and is expected to complete the task by the end of this month, said NCTB Member (Curriculum) Prof Robiul Kabir Chowdhury.

Speaking to The Daily Star, one member involved in the process said, "Many textbooks written during the previous government's tenure contain narratives and speeches of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, along with other exaggerated information. We have been directed to remove such content."

This means that there is little possibility

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Exaggerated depictions on all textbook covers will be removed. Instead, the covers may feature content related to national values or emergency services.

PROF AKM REAZUL HASSAN
NCTB Chairman

Abducted schoolgirl rescued in police raid

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Latmonirhat

Police early yesterday rescued the tenth-grade schoolgirl, who had been reportedly abducted two days ago from Phulbari upazila of Kurigram.

The 16-year-old girl was found during a police raid at Pateshwari Beparihat in Nageshwari upazila around 4:00am, said Phulbari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Nawabur Rahman.

Police also arrested the alleged abductor, Alinur Rahman, 35, a resident of Anantapur village.

OC Nawabur said, "During primary interrogation, Alinur told us that he did not abduct the girl and that she willingly ran away with him as her family did not accept their relationship."

Alinur Rahman is a married man, the OC added.

"Further legal action would be taken as per the court's decision," said the police official.

Meanwhile, the girl's

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Israel kills top Hezbollah figure in Beirut strike

Lebanon's health ministry says 11 more people killed, 66 hurt

AGENCIES

Israel killed a top Hezbollah commander and other senior figures in the Lebanese movement in an airstrike on Beirut yesterday, vowing to press on with a new military campaign until it is able to secure the area around the Lebanese border.

The Israeli military and a security source in Lebanon said Ibrahim Aqil had been killed along with other senior members of an elite Hezbollah unit in the airstrike, sharply escalating the year-long conflict between Israel and the Iran-backed group, reports Reuters.

The Israeli military described Aqil as the acting commander of the Radwan special forces unit, and said it had killed him along with around 10 other senior commanders as they held

a meeting. Aqil sat on Hezbollah's top military council, sources in Lebanon told Reuters.

The strike inflicted another blow on Hezbollah after two days of attacks on the group in which pagers and walkie-talkies used by its members exploded, killing 37 people and wounding thousands. Those attacks were widely believed to have been carried out by Israel, which has neither confirmed or denied its involvement.

Lebanon's health ministry said Friday's strike killed 12 people and wounded 66 others, nine of whom were in critical condition. Rescue teams were searching for people under the rubble of two buildings, the country's civil defence service said.

On Thursday night, Israeli fighter

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



Kazipara metro station reopened yesterday, over two months after it was damaged by attackers on July 19 during the quota reform protests. The metro rail authorities also launched their Friday service from Uttara to Motijheel for the first time yesterday. The photo was taken around 3:30pm.

50-year-old man's body recovered from a bush Police suspect he was beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the body of a man from a bush near Jhilpara area of the capital's Khilgaon Taltala.

Nur Islam, 50, of Ati Rayerchar village of Keraniganj, is suspected to have been beaten to death, said Sub Inspector (SI) of Khilgaon Police Station Md Abdullah Al Hasan. The CID used his fingerprints to identify the victim.

"An investigation is ongoing to find out more details about his death," said the SI.

The police recovered the body around noon and later sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital mortuary for an autopsy.

SI Abdullah said there were injury marks all over the victim's body. "We suspect that he was beaten

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Grey heron

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ

A PHOTOGRAPHER'S CHRONICLE

Capturing the avian wonders of northern Bangladesh

Pheasant-tailed jacana
PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR

MOSTAFA SHABUJ

If journalism is my profession, wildlife photography is my passion. For me, it's not just about snapping a picture -- it's a form of meditation, a way to escape from the everyday noise and stress.

Whenever I get a chance, I immerse myself in photographing birds.

The time, money, and attention it demands are worth every bit of effort because they lead me to a place of peace.

When I look through the viewfinder of my camera, it's as if I am stepping into a different world, one where I can immerse myself fully in the beauty and behaviour of wildlife.

I remember vividly the excitement of seeing a paradise flycatcher darting through a bamboo bush, its tail flickering with each movement. Or the serene joy of watching a mother black-naped monarch feeding her hungry chicks. Each of these moments requires my full attention, and in those instances, all my worries and anxieties melt away.

Bird photography offers me a refuge from work pressures, boredom, and grief.

In those quiet moments spent waiting for the perfect shot, I find a kind of peace that's hard to describe. Over 600 bird species provide endless opportunities for discovery, and each encounter deepens my appreciation for nature.

For me, photography isn't just an addiction -- it's a way to find balance

and tranquillity in a hectic world.

AVIAN DIVERSITY IN BANGLADESH

Over 600 bird species paint a rich portrait of diversity in Bangladesh's vibrant avian landscape.

Of these, 300 are resident birds, gracing our land throughout the year.

Yet, the winter months bring a spectacular transformation as more than 100 migratory species converge upon our wetlands, while an additional five to eight species make their appearance during summer.

The northern districts of Bangladesh, particularly the sprawling 1,000-hectare Jaboi Beel in Naogaon's Sapahar upazila are renowned bird hotspots.

Here, the convergence of expansive water bodies and abundant food sources attracts around 30 species of birds each winter.

Among these, the Lesser-whistling Duck, Red-crested Pochard, Garganey, and Tufted Duck grace the beel with their presence, while the likes of the Black-winged Stilt, Ruff, and Little Stint add to the spectacle.

The avian population of Jaboi Beel also includes the Purple Heron, Indian Pond Heron, and the striking Pied Kingfisher.

BIRD LIFE ALONG THE INDIAN BORDER

In Chapainawabganj, adjacent to the Indian border, Chorol Beel stands as another sanctuary for migratory birds.

Here, Lesser Adjutants, known locally as Motontak, roost in large trees in the borderlands, foraging in the beel's marshes.

Classified as near threatened by the IUCN, these majestic birds find refuge in this relatively undisturbed habitat.

As summer arrives, the Plum-headed Parakeet, predominantly from neighbouring India, visits the Badalgachi Upazila in Naogaon.

This colourful visitor is drawn to the lush paddy and grass seeds abundant in the region. Despite their seasonal migration, wildlife experts note that Plum-headed Parakeets are permanent residents in the Habiganj district.

RAJSHAHI'S MIGRATORY BIRD HAVEN

Rajshahi's char areas along the Padma River are also a haven for

birds, potentially impacting their natural behaviours and habitats.

ASIAN OPENBILL STORK IN BOGURA

In Bogura, a rich diversity of bird species can be seen throughout the year.

Among the most prominent avian communities is a large colony of Asian Openbill Storks in Shibganj upazila.

This place is just one of over 100 such colonies scattered across the country.

"Surprisingly, these birds are now found in large numbers in almost every part of Bangladesh," said SM Iqbal, a wildlife expert and professor at the Zoology Department of Bogura Azizul Haq College.

"No other bird has spread as fast as the Asian Openbill Stork. It was only a summer visitor here 15 to 20 years ago, but now it has become a permanent resident," he added.

chosen habitat," Iqbal explained. "Once it visits a place, it comes back every year. Eventually, its descendants return to these areas to reproduce, keeping the cycle of life ongoing."

ASIAN PARADISE FLYCATCHER: A SHY BEAUTY

According to bird specialists, around 95 percent of Bangladesh's endemic birds breed between February and September. Among the native species, the Asian Paradise Flycatcher stands out as a favourite for birdwatchers and photographers alike.

This enchanting bird, with its delicate form and graceful flight, constructs nests resembling tiny teacups in the shelter of bamboo bushes or other secluded areas during the summer.

True to its name, the flycatcher remains airborne for much of its life, never touching the ground as it catches insects mid-flight.

The male of the species undergoes a stunning transformation, changing from a reddish-brown hue to a striking white after three years.

When it flies through bamboo groves, its long, flowing tail gives the illusion of a fairy gliding before your eyes.

Despite its ethereal beauty, the Asian Paradise Flycatcher is known for its shyness, often avoiding human contact.

However, during the breeding season, these birds make a curious exception. To protect their young from predators, they build their nests on low-hanging branches, often within plain view of humans, using proximity to people as a deterrent to other birds.

A DELICATE BALANCE BETWEEN MAN AND NATURE

This delicate balance between the natural world and human life serves as a reminder of our deep connection to the environment. The flora and fauna that surround us play a crucial role in our survival, and birds, in particular, are among our closest companions in nature. Their songs, colours, and behaviours enrich our daily lives in ways we often overlook.

In this shared world, it becomes our moral duty to protect and care for these winged creatures.

Birds are more than just fleeting visitors to our landscapes; they are vital players in the ecosystems that sustain us.

As guardians of the skies, they remind us of the harmony that exists between all living beings, and it is up to us to ensure that this harmony is preserved for future generations.



Grey headed fish eagle

PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR

"The most surprising thing about the Indian Pitta is its loyalty to its chosen habitat," Iqbal explained. "Once it visits a place, it comes back every year. Eventually, its descendants return to these areas to reproduce, keeping the cycle of life ongoing."



White-throated kingfisher



Black-naped monarch



Plum-headed parakeet (female and male)



Citrine wagtail

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUJ



REFLECTIONS

On travel and writing

The truth is that travel is a rather mysterious addiction, for the thrill of which people have saved and spent hard earned money and even overcome the fear of death to venture across perilous paths.

KHAMA MAHMUD
It is perhaps not an overstatement to say that humans are, at their core, wanderers. Even after shedding their once nomadic lifestyles to settle down under the far reaching societal umbrellas we see today, people continue to flit from one end of the world to the other at every opportunity. Travel serves as solace, and a refuge from the ennui of daily life, offering in its place an escape from monotony and listlessness. As it beckons travellers to explore new planes and reckon with the unfamiliar, this dispel of everyday tedium brings with it a new sunrise and reinvigoration much sought after. Of course, the reasons why people travel are as manifold as they are. Some, chasing an untold but intoxicating allure, scale mountains and set sail across the oceans, while others seek rejuvenation in discovering new worlds before hopping back into their work, and others yet travel for the sake of work itself. Whatever the reason, so long as there is desire, need, and ability, there is little doubt that the wind beneath their feet will drive humans to traverse the world and all its terrain. As Rabindranath Tagore said, "Ami choncholo he, ami shudurero piyashi."

The truth is that travel is a rather mysterious addiction, for the thrill of which people have saved and spent hard earned money and even overcome the fear of death to venture across perilous paths. While travel can be endlessly enriching, it is often also a deeply personal and individual endeavour, the experiences of which can be difficult to impart onto others who have not undertaken the same expeditions. But when people write about their travels, sharing their insights through books and blogs, their experiences take on a collective, and rather timeless, nature, offering many more the opportunity to embark on journeys of the mind, and a taste of what it's like to set foot on far off lands.

In the past, despite significant challenges in transport and communication alike, voyagers across the globe forged ahead. And among those who set out on such journeys, trekking across snaking trails and traversing unnavigable terrain, many returned with extraordinary tales of

their travels, of near and distant corners of the world which have been charted and changed over decades—stories no less striking or spectacular than our most breathtaking novels have to offer. Marco Polo, Hiuen Tsang, Fa-hien, Ibn Battuta, and Megasthenes have forever been immortalised through their writings, and it is because of their work that we're able, even today, to hop into these time machines and travel to lands and times long past; without their records, knowledge of the economic systems, politics, and societies of bygone eras would be far more difficult to access. And this is where the timeless appeal of travel writing lies. However, the words of Annada Shankar Ray ring true: "Travel inspires travelogues, but not through the hands of all travellers." Travel writing, and travel literature more so, requires a thoughtful and in-depth examination of life, a profound appreciation of nature and its creation, and the capacity to inspire enough curiosity to draw readers into its depths time and again. And so, travel writing isn't merely writing about travel; only in the presence of literary essence does it lend itself to a

truly transformative reading. Travel literature in Bangla, no more than a hundred and fifty years old, had found its footing in the works of Rabindranath; his portrayals of wherever he travelled delighted the senses of readers far and wide, all but transporting them to those lands alongside him. Because of Rabindranath's profound observations of the world in his time, *Java jatrir Patra*, *Russian Chithi*, and *Europe Probashir Patra*, among other pieces of travel writing, continue to be noted for their literary excellence. He didn't travel merely to take a glance at these countries, but instead wanted to venture beyond what one could see as an outsider, and to learn its inner workings, which at home too came through his

Syed Mujtaba Ali's first

travelogue, *Deshe Bideshe*, is a remarkable addition to Bangla travel writing, and one that has eternised its author in the world of Bangla literature. His narrative style depicted Afghanistani social life and the souls and spirits of the Afghan people in a way that continues to captivate readers today. A more contemporary counterpart also delving into Afghan life is Mainus Sultan's *Kabuler Caravan Sorai*, which brings to light the heart-breaking reality of the superpowers' interference and hypocrisy in Afghanistan, and the consequent agony of the Afghans. Reading travelogues such as these in conjunction offers their readers a comparative study of a country's evolution and a more in-depth understanding of its history and modernity.

Several other literary figures have imparted similarly incredible travelogues to Bangla travel literature, replete with mesmerising experiences and cultural delights alike, and many more continue to do so today. Sanjib Chattopadhyay's *Palamou*, Rahul Sankritayan's *Volga Theke Ganga*, and Annada Shankar Ray's *Pothe Probash* are each treasure troves of Bangla travel literature, and famed writers

such as Buddhadeva Bose, Sunil Gangopadhyay, Nabaneeta Dev Sen, Maityrei Devi, Buddhabed Guha, Manoje Basu, and Hasnat Abdul Hye have written extensively about their experiences.

In Bangladesh, notable names one is likely to come across while exploring the travel writing genre include Faruk Moinuddin, Mainus Sultan, Zikrur Reza Khanam, Anwara Syed Haq, and Shakoor Majid, although emerging names and faces are also gradually making their marks in the scene through countless new publications.

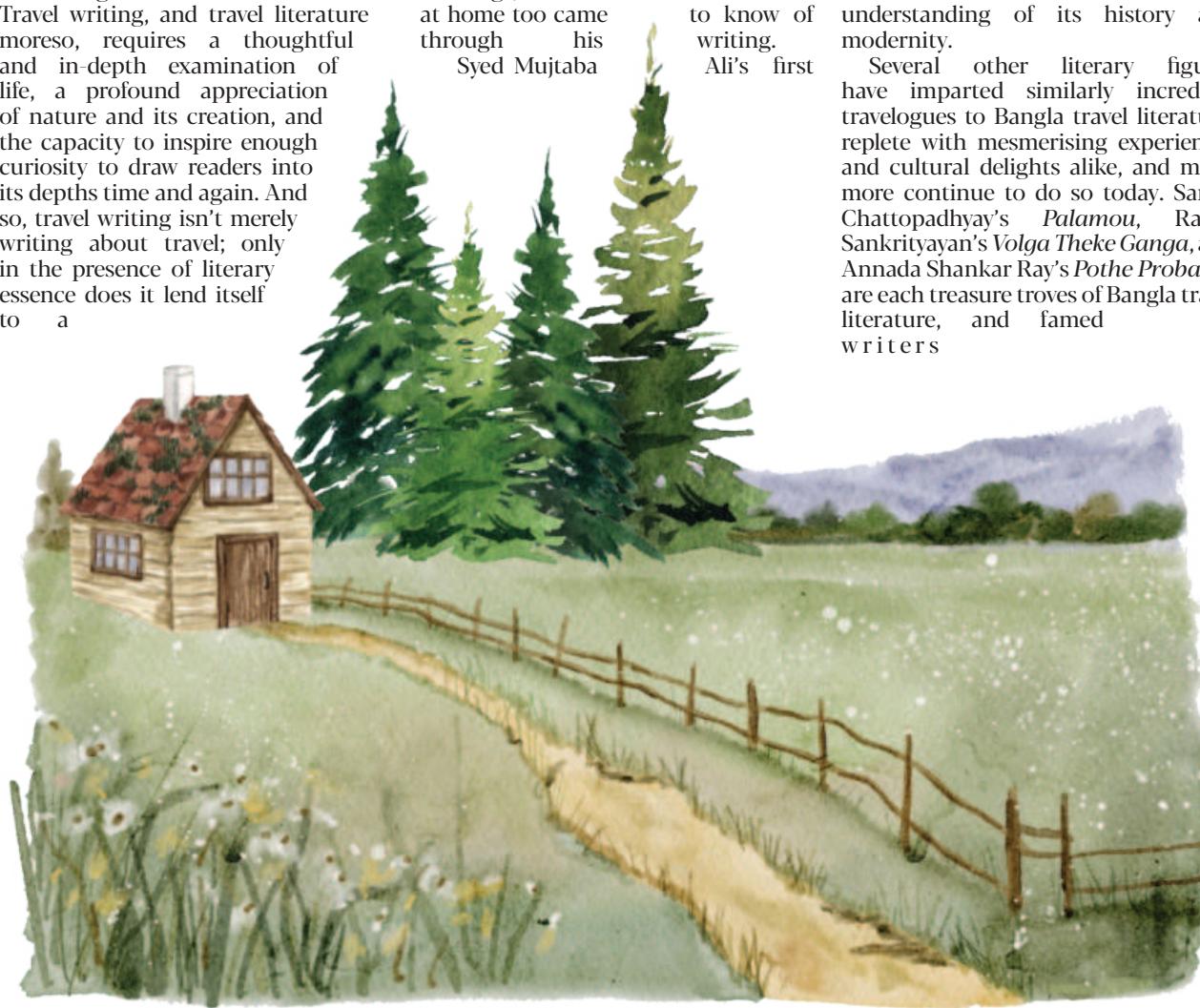
Social media provides yet another window into the world of travel and travel writing, offering a peek into people's journeys to some of the farthest and most astonishing corners of the world. Travellers regularly write and record their experiences on their feeds, and many such write-ups are subsequently published in newspapers and magazines, or compiled in books. The readership for such writing is also quite noteworthy, and people's enthusiasm for both travel and travel writing have led to dedicated travel pages in many leading dailies. This culture of reading, writing, and engaging with travel literature to such a degree has no doubt enriched and expanded the genre.

The allure of the infinite and humanity's appetite for the unfamiliar remain eternal. Humans seek out change, anything to break out of the mould and monotony of daily life, and the knowledge one opens themselves up to as they wander the world's paths often fails to hold a candle to institutional learning.

Translated by Amreeta Lethe

Khama Mahmud is a Bangla short story and travel writer whose works have appeared in several online and offline publications, as well as her debut short story collection, *Shomudre Kachhe Dukkho Joma Rakhi* (Anupranan Prokashon, 2023). She has an MA in English Literature from the University of Dhaka.

Amreeta Lethe is a writer and translator. She is currently working as a sub-editor at Star Books and Literature.



THE SHELF

Books on wheels

Meet Me at the Museum
Anne Youngson

It is a story of a late, blooming friendship between two sexagenarians. Tina Hopgod, the protagonist of the novel, writes a letter to Professor PV Glob, once a curator of Silkeborg Museum in Denmark. In 1964, Glob had written a book about the mummified corpse of Tollund Man, dedicating his work to "The Bog People"—a group of schoolgirls who had inspired his book. Tina was one of the many. Since then, Professor Glob had long gone and in his place was the new, though only relatively so, Professor Anders Larsen. Due to a sheer stroke of fate, Anders receives Tina's letter addressed to the former professor and, almost spontaneously, decides to send a reply. Thus, an unexpected correspondence forms between the two of them, dovetailed by their lifelong chronicles of loss, loneliness, grief, and most of all, regret.

Recommended by
Nur-E-Jannat Alif

84, Charing Cross Road
Helene Hanff

It is an epistolary memoir composed of letters from the 20-year correspondence between the author and Frank Doel, chief buyer for Marks & Co antiquarian booksellers, located at the eponymous address in London. It was later adapted into a 1975 television play, a 1976 radio drama, a 1981 stage play, and a 1987 film. The book is a love affair between writer Helene Hanff and Messrs Marks & Co, sellers of rare and secondhand books, in London.

Recommended by
Neeman Sobhan



From Heaven Lake: Travels Through Sinkiang and Tibet
Vikram Seth

Especially recommended for those traveling through Nepal or northern India. Slim, easy to carry.

Recommended by Zyma Islam

Opacities: On Writing and the Writing Life
Sophia Samatar

Sophia Samatar's *Opacities* is a collection of notes on letters she exchanged with Kate Zambreno. They discuss the writing life, publishing, how race plays into it, among other things.

Recommended by Sarah Anjum Bari

Find the rest of the list on DS Books and The Daily Star's websites.



A TALE FROM THE FUTURE

Ordinary students celebrate lynching 100th person

SHADHARON CORRESPONDENT

The year is 2028. Ordinary students have done something extraordinary yet again. Yesterday, they organised "Lunch for Lynching" to celebrate beating a hundred people to death since the "lucky seventh independence".

All the dead, including a four-year-old, were former members of Fascist Chhatra League, claimed Ordinary Assistant Coordinator Bashir.

They held the programme on the premises of Dhaka Medical, where survivors of mob justice were being treated.

On e

address? Did you steal my phone?" The latest event of justice took place at Dhaka University, where absolutely ordinary students tortured a man until he died. But before that, he got a full meal to enjoy, due to the infinite, yet ordinary, virtue of our students.

Following the 100th incident, Student Police Chief Mummun, at the 100th press conference, said for the 100th time, "The incident is regrettable. Can you not kill people, pretty please?"

However, Additional Ordinary Sub-Assisting Coordinator Rahim said, "We will not stop until fascism is eradicated. Anyone who questions us is a fascist."

He looked at the reporter while taking an ordinary knife out of his pocket.

Meanwhile, police are yet to return to their posts. Contacted, all officers opined that the super giga ordinary students are doing an excellent job, so police are not needed anymore.

"It was us who did all the killing before, without any

repercussions. But now, we seem to be outmatched and out-unpunished," said officer Md Munir Munshi, son of Mamu Munshi from Chhaganaiya, wishing not to be named.

However, unordinary students are pushing back, organising under the banner of Students Against Equality. According to them, the country was doing better when discrimination was rife.

"Back then, there was a hierarchy; we had ministers, DCs, officers," said Unordinary Co-coordinator Maisha.

"But now, everyone's a student. There's no difference between

them and I, aside from me being unordinary."

With the slogan "Death to Anti-discrimination", they are scheduled to block Shahbagh today. Their one-point demand is for putting a stop to lynching and going back to subjugating people using draconian laws and financial corruption.



Altruistic prisoners demand work-from-jail permission

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

When the world is busy inventing and discovering new things, the people of Chapasthan 2.0 are busy coming up with new demands with every passing hour.

Like millions others, this time prisoners raised their voices with a new demand leaving everyone dumbfounded. They demanded to be allowed to work from jail.

"Look, you guys fulfilled employees' demand of letting them work from roads due to unbearable traffic jam previously. Now just let us do our yeoman's service from jail," Salluman X. Bohemian, the outspoken spokesperson of Altruistic Criminals Community, a group of prisoners who, after a brief stint behind bars, have been struck by a sudden urge to dedicate their lives to humanitarian causes.

Investigations revealed that prisoners turned into good human beings ever since they discovered the bars in front of them. They argued that they couldn't contribute to society unless they were freed. The group, headed by Salluman, demanded their immediate emancipation, irrespective of the severity of their crimes.

"Many things to do before I sleep," sighed Fall Oak, another prisoner, his voice full of poetic despair. "Let me go. I have an internet cable disconnected for ages just waiting for me to reconnect it. The people need me and my intellect as well."

"Don't worry. We have already connected the wire," replied the jailer.

"Oh, you did? Then just let me work from here. I can direct my employees remotely from the cell so that my beloved people never have to face internet outages again. I will make sure the internet flows like the water of Niagara Falls," Fall Oak continued his pleas.

Majhi Bellim, another altruistic inmate, wiping tears of patriotic devotion, said, "Although the internet connection is a bit slower here, it will not be a problem for me to serve my fellow countrymen. I have always been a selfless person. I cry every day, not because I am behind bars, but because I cannot work for my people. If the authority cannot set us free, at least allow us to work from here."

Such demands went viral. People have been appreciating such a bold demand. When this Satireday correspondent hit the streets to gather public opinions regarding such a "never heard before" demand, Tausif, a pedestrian said, "We should be proud of our criminals. Show me another country where prisoners want to work for the people, that too from jail."

"I think, not only do they deserve the permission to work from jail, but they also deserve a cosy chair with a mesmerising view from the window," Maria, an office-goer, said.

Email your satire pieces to starsatireday@gmail.com

'Natok Kom Koro Pio'

AAQIB HASIB

"Natok kom koro Pio," the man said, his white beard shaking with fury.

Godi was sick and tired of dealing with her. Tired of how she kept pestering him like a spoiled child, demanding he provide whatever her heart desired.

Pio looked up at him, big watery eyes. She batted her eyelashes, as if that would always get her what she wanted. Fake tears almost started to roll out the corner of her eyes, as if on command.

Godi grunted, looking away, tired of Pio's shenanigans. If ever there was someone who had watched too much Zee TV, it was Pio.

He looked out the window, the tinted glass of his Maybach saved him the embarrassment of dealing with this scandal. Of being seen with her. But what else could Godi do, he was after all an honourable man, allegedly.

Forty-seven days. It had been 47 days since she had arrived here, to his home. Running away from some other drama she had stirred up. He didn't have time to deal with this, but he had experienced the ups, so he guessed it must be time to experience the downs.

Godi sighed out loud. He would not be dealing with the mess she had made. That was her problem. He had explicitly mentioned that part multiple times to her, yet she kept nagging him. Demanding he go fight her battles for her.

Thankfully, Godi wasn't a common idiot. He frowned looking at her big eyes, magnified further by her horn-rimmed glasses.

"I will give you just one thing today.

But only if you stop nagging me. And no, nothing to do with deploying the military. I can get you lunch. That's it," he grunted at her.

Pio smiled at him, temporarily satisfied. After all, she knew how to get her way eventually.

"I want to eat hilsa. Fished out of the Padma," she replied.

"Woman I keep telling you I don't eat meat, why do you still insist?" he grumbled.

She came closer to him, those big emotional eyes, crocodile tears starting to stream down her face.

"Fine, we will go get you your damn fish. Driver, take us there," he grunted again.

She clapped her hands together, overjoyed at the first of many small victories she had in mind.

"Driver, which restaurant has hilsa?" she asked.

"Madame, they are not exporting Padma hilsa right now, but we can find some regular hilsa at a restaurant I know," the chauffeur replied.

"What is the restaurant called?"

"Fascist," the driver replied.

A panic overcame Pio.

No. Not here too. What is happening, she thought.

"Fa Sheesh madame," the driver repeated, after seeing the confusion on her face.

Pio relaxed a little, but was still visibly shaken by the encounter. She turned towards Godi, expecting some sweet words of assurance from the man she so deeply... admired?

"Godi jee, I know people are saying a lot of things about me. Calling me a lot of names. Please, let me go speak

to the press. I must share my side. People are failing to see I am the victim of such a large-scale conspiracy. My father..." she kept rambling on.

He had heard enough and chose this moment to just ignore her. She was like a tape recorder playing on repeat, a broken record.

47 days, how much more...

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PHOTO : AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

Unrest emerges as a new threat to RMG recovery

Labour leaders say owners should fulfil all logical demands

In light of the tense situation prevailing since July, major buyers pushed back planned trips or altogether cancelled factory visits, which led to a fall in the number of work orders for the upcoming seasons.

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA
The number of apparel work orders received by Bangladeshi companies from international retailers and brands for the autumn and winter seasons of 2025 dropped by nearly 10 percent compared to the past due to major shocks from the nationwide student movement and labour unrest in major industrial belts over the past two and half months.

In light of the tense situation prevailing since July, major buyers pushed back planned trips or altogether cancelled factory visits, which led to a fall in the number of work orders for the upcoming seasons.

The months of July, August and September are not only the peak season for shipping goods meant for sale during Christmas to Western retailers, they are also the busiest months in terms of booking work orders for the next autumn and winter seasons.

However, that period coincided with an unprecedented breakdown in the law and order situation this year.

Production was severely hampered in mid-July, when the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government imposed a curfew and an internet blackout to quell the unrest stemming from the demand to reform the job quota system for public recruitment.

Ultimately, those measures proved

engaged in vandalism and arson. Factory owners then began to shut down units one by one to avoid any spillover from the unrest as well as to protect the production units and machinery from vandalism.

This was exacerbated by the fact that the law and order situation was practically non-existent following the changeover in power.

Members of the Industrial Police refrained from patrolling industrial areas as they feared for their safety given that police personnel were being attacked.

Alongside that, the police administration was being reshuffled following the change of government so almost all police stations were hamstrung.

As a result, factory owners dared not run their manufacturing units.

The factories could not be run properly even with the help of the army as it did not have any magistracy powers.

So, most factories in Ashulia, Savar, Zirani and Zirabo either remained shut or were vandalised by workers.

Finally, the factory owners had to turn to their ultimate weapon, shutting down factories under the clause 13(l) of the Bangladesh Labour Act, which mainly deals with the "no work, no pay" stipulation.

WHY DID THE UNREST TAKE HOLD AT THIS TIME?

Many may question why the unrest erupted when the nation was in such



by different factories for alleged involvement in the unrest.

As attendance of workers is registered through biometrics, either through fingerprints or facial detection, blacklisted workers cannot get jobs at other factories.

So, Amin said factory owners should wipe the names of those workers from the blacklist since they engaged in the unrest only to realise their logical demands.

At present, normalcy is being restored to industrial belts, particularly areas in Ashulia, Savar, Zirani and Zirabo, as security has been beefed up by deploying more members of law enforcement agencies.

Almost all factories in these areas were reopened by Sunday and production started as the workers rejoined their workplaces.

IMPACT OF THE UNREST

Not only have a certain percentage of work orders been diverted from local factories, but officials are also concerned about whether they can ensure the timely delivery of goods.

Consequently, Bangladeshi garment exporters will have to provide big discounts or opt for expensive air shipments to offset the time lost.

In some cases, work orders may be cancelled due to a failure to ship goods timely.

But in most cases, exporters will choose air shipment despite steep costs in order to meet the strict lead times and maintain smooth relationships with retailers and brands.

However, they know all too well that the profit margin will be dented significantly due to the increased costs of air shipment.

To ship goods via air from the Dhaka airport to any destination in Europe, exporters must pay over \$4 per kilogramme of dry cargo.

However, it would cost less than 10 cents to send the same shipment to Europe through the Chattogram seaport.

The long-lasting disruption to production is the latest setback for Bangladesh's garments industry, which was already struggling to recover from the severe fallout of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war, persistent inflation, and the Red Sea crisis.

Khandoker Rafiqul Islam, president of the BGMEA, said that apart from a 10 percent decrease in work orders, nearly the same percentage of work orders have been diverted to other countries.

It will take time to recover the lost work orders and it depends on full restoration of the normal business environment, Islam told The Daily Star over the phone.

As many factories were struggling, the Bangladesh Bank helped them clear salaries for the month of August. Around 90 percent of units had paid salaries for August as of September 17, he added.

"We expect full normalcy to be restored to industrial belts and for business to go back to usual after workers rejoin their workplaces," the BGMEA president also said.



PHOTO: STAR



futile. The Awami League government was overthrown by a mass uprising, with Hasina signalling the end of its tenure by fleeing to India on August 5.

After a new government was formed, led by Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus, different demands started coming up from workers of numerous sectors.

Of them, garment workers started raising charts of demand and production was halted for nearly 15 days as employees agitated.

Thousands of garment workers came out on the streets in industrial belts like Ashulia, Zirani, Savar, Tongi and Gazipur while some allegedly

are in a delicate situation, especially considering that a new wage structure for garment workers came into effect in December last year.

However, the workers' standards of living have not improved significantly despite the hike in pay due to persistent inflationary pressure.

According to workers, union leaders, labour experts and factory owners, there were some other reasons behind the labour agitation.

During the latest spell of unrest,

workers primarily raised demands to standardise tiffin and attendance allowances as different factories in the same industrial belt pay different rates.

Another demand from workers was to recruit males and females in equal proportion to remove "discrimination".

Moreover, influential locals, especially those with political links, also influenced workers to capitalise on the lack of law and order.

Alongside that, a struggle ensued to fill the power vacuum and take control of the 'jhut' (waste fabric generated during apparel manufacturing) business after the fall of the government on August 5.

At a view exchange meeting with the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) this week, Major General Muhammad Md Moin Khan,

general officer commanding of the 9th Infantry Division of Bangladesh Army, outlined three reasons for the unrest: instigation by outsiders, logical and illogical demands raised by the workers, and a turf war over the jhut trade.

Amid the unrest, the interim government said it may review the

wage structure.

However, labour leaders said reviewing the wage structure is not the main demand of the workers this time.

Nazma Akter, president of Sammilito Garment Sramik Federation, said many workers had been laid off since the beginning of the movement in July. She also validated their demands, saying their standards of living were still not up to scratch.

The factory owners need to agree with the logical demands, including calls for social protection, removal of some clauses of the labour law, implementation of maternity leave and provident fund, and stopping abuse of female workers, for the greater interest of the garment business, Akter said.

Md Towhidur Rahman, president of the Bangladesh Apparel Workers Federation, echoed Akter's sentiments.

Outsiders are also involved in the latest spate of unrest, he said. However, he added that many garment factories had not paid salaries timely, which was another trigger for the unrest.

"Usually, garment workers get a low salary. So, if they are not paid timely, how will they run their families and meet expenses such as house rent and tuition for their children?" he asked.

As an example, he said that some garment factories had not paid workers their salary for the month of August yet.

Last week, Amirul Haque Amin, president of the National Garment Workers Federation, said more than 400 garment workers were blacklisted