

Dubious cases weaken quest for justice

In many cases, crime took place in Dhaka while the accused mostly from complainants' home dists

RAFIUL ISLAM and EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

A man named Labhlu Mia was shot dead in the capital's Uttara during protests on the morning of August 5.

A month later, his cousin Dukhu Mia, a rickshaw-puller in the city, filed a murder case with Uttara East Police Station, accusing 221 people, 210 of whom are residents of Rangpur, the hometown of Dukhu and Labhlu.

The accused from Rangpur are mostly local Awami League leaders. The complaint mentions the names of 11 other accused and adds that Labhlu, 41, was killed at the behest of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and several other ministers.

The Daily Star has found five other cases filed at Uttara East and Jatrabari police stations over murders that took place during the mass uprising that ousted the Awami League government in early August.

In each case, the accused are mostly from the hometowns of the victims even though the killings in question happened in the capital.

Legal experts say that the cases may have been filed

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Law enforcers and army personnel stand guard on a road in Rangamati town yesterday after day-long violence and tensions between Bangalee and indigenous communities on Friday.

PHOTO: STAR

'Vested groups behind violence in the hills'

3 advisers claim; blockade halt daily life in CHT

STAR REPORT

Three advisers, who visited Rangamati and Khagrachhari yesterday, have pointed out that vested groups are trying to destabilise the situation in the hills with a view to putting the interim government in an awkward position.

Urging everyone to remain vigilant, they assured the locals of forming a high-level committee to investigate all incidents that took place between Wednesday and Friday, and bringing the wrongdoers to book, said a release of the Chief Adviser's Office yesterday.

The recent violence in the Chattogram Hill Tracts has left four people dead.

Tension was prevailing in Rangamati and Khagrachhari yesterday as vehicles were off the roads and waterway transport services remained suspended amid a 72-hour road and waterway blockade enforced by indigenous protesters under the banner of Jummo Chhatra-Janata Parishad. The blockade began on Friday evening protesting the violence.

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Student bodies oppose ban on politics at DU

Classes resume today after over 3 months

DU CORRESPONDENT

Ten student organisations yesterday said they oppose the Dhaka University syndicate's decision to suspend partisan politics on campus.

At a meeting with the DU authorities, student leaders argued that if a ban was imposed on campus politics, it would curb the students' democratic rights, said meeting sources.

They proposed that DU authorities reform the regulations for political activities on campus. They also demanded that the Ducus elections be held soon.

DU VC Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan and several other top officials of the university attended the meeting.

Earlier on September 19, the DU Syndicate decided to suspend all political activities by teachers, students, and staffers on the campus until further notice.

Among the 10 organisations who participated in yesterday's meeting was pro-Jamaat student body Islami Chhatra Shibir, whose activities on campus were banned

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Yunus, Biden meet in New York Sept 24



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus will have a bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on September 24.

"Our chief adviser will be meeting President Joe Biden in the afternoon on September 24," a diplomatic source told The Daily Star last night.

Yunus will be reaching New York on the night of September 23 and will meet President Biden the next day, the source said.

"This is a reflection of the support of the US administration for the interim government of Bangladesh," the source in New York said.

Another source said the US president usually goes to New York to attend the

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Rivers around Dhaka stay heavily polluted

Finds the latest study by DoE

PINAKI ROY

Rivers around Dhaka city remain seriously polluted despite some measures that have been taken over the years to curb water pollution, according to a recent study.

Solid wastes from polluting industries, municipal sewage and medical waste are polluting the rivers that surround major cities and other urban growth centres, according to the report titled 'The Surface and Groundwater Quality Report 2022'.

Rivers around greater Dhaka are highly polluted, especially in the first five months of 2022, according to the report prepared by the Department of Environment.

The DoE tested water samples from 103 points of 26 rivers for the report. In 2021, they covered 29 rivers, but the DoE did not mention exactly how many of those 29 rivers were polluted.

Generally, the DoE mentions testing results of the water sample of a certain river so that people can compare it with the standard parameters, said Syeda Masuma Khanam, one of the editors of the study.

In the latest report, the DoE has covered water sampling of the

Buriganga, Shitalakhya, Turag, Balu, Dhaleshwari, Brahmaputra, Kaliganga, Jamuna, Meghna, Padma, Korotoa, Teesta, Karnaphuli, Halda, Moyuri, Bhairab, Gorai, Rupsa, Pashur, Khakshiali, Ganges, Kirtankhola, Tatulia, Sugandha, Surma and Kushiara.

The monitoring involved field measurements and collecting water samples for laboratory analyses to a total of 12 parameters including pH, dissolved oxygen (DO), biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD), suspended solids (SS), total dissolved solids (TDS), electrical conductivity (EC), chloride, turbidity, total alkalinity and salinity.

During dry seasons, water quality in rivers around Dhaka was more degraded than it was in the wet season. The quality improved greatly during the wet seasons indicating a clear relationship between increased flow of river and river water quality.

The level of DO of the Buriganga river went as low as 0.1 mg/l at Bosila point in April 2022 while it went up to 6.26 mg/l in the monsoon in July at the Bangladesh China Friendship Bridge.

In 2019, the DO range varied from

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Star INTERVIEW

TIES WITH BIG NEIGHBOURS

Balance will still be the mainstay

Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain has spoken at length with The Daily Star on a host of issues facing Bangladesh at this critical juncture of the country's transition to democracy. In an interview with our diplomatic correspondent Porimol Palma, the career diplomat shared his views on Dhaka-Delhi ties, Sheikh Hasina's stay in India, revival of Saarc and human rights, among other things.

TDS: What challenges is the government facing in maintaining and promoting relations with foreign countries?

Touhid: For a small country like Bangladesh with big neighbours, it is important to maintain a balanced relationship. We've been doing so and the interim government will also try to do the same.

There will always be challenges. Our relationship with each country is unique. For example, three sides of Bangladesh are bordered by India. Many of our rivers flow through India. We have a lot of trade, and our ties are historical as well as cultural. On the other hand, China, our biggest trade partner, funds many projects here. We have interests in our relationships with both India and China. China and India have issues of conflict, but we have to maintain ties with both of them.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



2024



2008

Boats used to ply the Subhadda canal in South Keraniganj after it was cleaned up in 2008. But years of neglect and mindless dumping of industrial and household waste have clogged the canal again. The photo on top was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN/FILE

TOFAZZAL'S MURDER DU suspends 8 students

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities yesterday suspended eight students after an internal probe found their involvement in the murder of Tofazzal Hossain, who was beaten to death by a mob at Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall on Wednesday night.

The seat allocations for the suspended students at university dormitories were also cancelled by the hall administration, according to a press release issued by the DU public relations office.

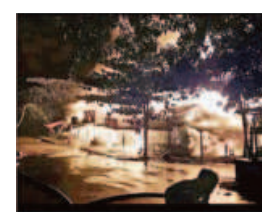
On Wednesday night, Tofazzal was beaten to death by a mob at the Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall on suspicion of stealing mobile phones.

They confined and beat him inside the dormitory, according to Shah Md Masum, the hall's provost at the time.

Six of the suspended have already been arrested and they have given confessional statements in court.

They 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

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Our demands are for inclusion, not separatism

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Israel's Beirut strike kills 2 top Hezbollah leaders

P7



CHT Violence: Indigenous students want UN probe

P3

9th Death Anniversary

On 22nd September 2015, Nurjahan Begum (Pakhi), the second daughter of Late Abul Khair, the founder of Abul Khair Group had left us by the will of Almighty Allah the beneficent. Remembering her memories we pray for the salvation of her departed soul with our distressed heart and request all our friends, relatives and well-wishers to pray for her from the core of the heart. May Almighty Allah the beneficent bless her with eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Bereaved Family Members

4 US senators urge Yunus to ensure reforms

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Four US senators have written a letter to Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus stressing the urgent need for democratic reforms and accountability in response to widespread protests in Bangladesh, demanding substantive political and institutional changes.

They also called for stronger law enforcement and swift action to hold accountable those responsible for attacks on vulnerable communities, including the Hindus and Rohingyas in Cox's Bazar.

Senator Ben Cardin (D-Md.), chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, along with senators Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), and Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) signed the letter on Friday.

They said the world has witnessed how the people of Bangladesh have courageously demonstrated the transformative power of collective action. This transition presents a historic opportunity to reform institutions, protect human rights, and ensure inclusive participation in governance.

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Standing on the Bhabadaha sluice gates, people fish in the Hari river using nets, locally known as "Khuchuni". They are getting a good catch as fish of nearby farms, flooded during heavy rains, has ended up in the river. The photo was taken in Jashore's Abhaynagar upazila on Thursday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

'Pay Tk 5 lakh or there'll be no Durga Puja'

Several temples in Dakop get anonymous letters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Several temples in Dakop of Khulna received anonymous letters threatening to not allow them to celebrate Duga Puja unless they pay Tk 5 lakh toll each.

The letters, delivered to the leaders of various puja celebration committees, also said failure to comply would result in severe consequences.

Hindu community leaders have voiced their concerns and some are considering cancelling festivities at their temples altogether.

On Friday, representatives of four temples filed a general diary (GD) with the Dakope Police Station.

One of the community leaders said a meeting was convened where many members expressed a desire to forgo the celebrations. However, they decided to proceed with the puja.

Shekhar Chandra Goldar, president of Kamarkhola Sarvajanan Durga Puja Celebration Committee of Dakop, said, "Our members are no longer interested. This year we have to stop the puja."

This paper received three copies of the letter sent to three temples. The content is the same, but the sender's address is different on the envelope.

"If you want to perform Durga Puja in 2024, you will have to pay Tk five lakh. Otherwise, you will not be able to worship in any way," read the letter.

It also threatened that if the letter was shared with the authorities or the media, those responsible would be "cut to pieces".

3,000 tonnes of hilsa export to India okayed

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Akhtar over the last few days said the government will not allow hilsa export to India so that the local consumers get ample supply.

The demand for Bangladeshi hilsa is high in India, especially in West Bengal, during Durga Puja.

Usually, the government allows export of hilsa to India as a friendship gesture during the puja.

Kazi Belayet Hossain, president of the Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association (BFFEA), said he received a letter yesterday from the commerce ministry for dissemination among BFFEA members for seeking export permission.

Hilsa export has been banned for many years but every year the government relaxes the ban during the puja on request of the Indian government, Hossain said adding perhaps this time too the government agreed to allow permission because of the diplomatic efforts between the two countries.

But, there is a possibility of price hike of hilsa in the local markets as the exporters will start procuring hilsa from the markets for exporting to India, Belayet said.

Last week, a senior official of the commerce ministry said they received nearly 50 letters seeking export permission.

India's Fish Importers Association yesterday termed the move a "positive development", reports our New Delhi correspondent.

The association's Secretary Syed Anwar Maqsood said, "We are happy that our efforts with the interim government of Bangladesh to bring hilsa bore fruit."

In fiscal 2023-24, Bangladesh exported 664.86 tonnes of hilsa to India for \$7.1 million, according to data from the Department of Fisheries.

In fiscal 2022-23, Bangladesh exported 1,376.42 tonnes of hilsa worth \$13.68 million. That year, Bangladesh produced 5,71,342 tonnes of hilsa.

DU suspends 8 students

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Food Science; Ahsanullah, a student of mathematics; and Al Hussain Sajjad and Wajibul Alam, both students of geography and environment.

Two other suspended students, Firoz Kabir and Abdus Samad, went into hiding and have not been arrested by police.

Additionally, the provost of Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall, Shah Md Masum, has been replaced by Md Elias Al-Mamun, a professor at the department of pharmaceutical technology.

Meanwhile, the University Teachers' Network yesterday criticised the administration at three universities – DU, JU, and RU – and questioned their role as they failed to control mob incidents at their respective campuses.

The teachers protested all mob violence and lynch incidents, and demanded exemplary punishment of those involved.

The University Teachers' Network held the rally at the base of Aparajeyo Bangla.

At the rally, speakers asked why vice-chancellors failed to intervene during the mob violence at their respective campuses.

They went on to say that respective teachers, university administrations, and the government were also accountable for these incidents.

Balance will still be the mainstay

FROM PAGE 1

The US, which is the number one superpower, is our single biggest export market, and a major source of our remittance. Our relations with Europe is also very important. As a bloc, the European Union is our biggest export destination. So our ties with different country are different.

TDS: We've seen some hiccups in our relations with India, and anti-India sentiment here after the fall of the Awami League government. What would be our strategy to stabilise this relationship?

Touhid: Our strategy will be to protect our interests. It does not mean we will ignore India's interest. For India, Bangladesh is a very important country when it comes to security. India's Northeast region suffered from insurgency, which was removed with our cooperation.

You need to remember that we are going through a phase of revolution and there may be some conflicts of interest. However, the relationship was very profitable for India during the previous regime. This led India, especially its media, to take a negative approach towards the current situation in Bangladesh. Most of their accusations were baseless. I believe these aspects will eventually be removed.

TDS: Will you take the initiative to bring back Sheikh Hasina from India?

Touhid: If our court issues orders to bring her back, we will take the necessary initiative. It is up to India how it will cooperate. I don't want to speculate anything. We'll see when the time comes.

India has its interests in the relationship with Bangladesh, just like we do. So the relationship has to be based on mutual interest and respect. We're only talking about the relationship between the two governments when it has to be people-centric so that the people benefit from the relationship. It is not an ideal situation for governments to say that the relationship is good while people here have anti-India sentiments.

TDS: What are your expectations from India?

Touhid: There are many expectations, but some small issues make the relationship bitter. For example, border killing. Just the other day, a 14-year-old girl was killed at the border. This is in no way justifiable. If India sincerely wants it, border killing can be fully stopped.

Then, there is the water-sharing issue. People have bitter feelings about

'Vested groups behind violence in the hills'

FROM PAGE 1

Markets, shops, and other businesses were shut in the two districts towns as Section 144 was imposed on Friday prohibiting assembly of five or more people.

Several vehicles were vandalised in Rangamati during Friday's violence, said transport owners.

Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, Local Government Adviser AF Hassan Arif, and CHT Affairs Adviser Supradip Chakma visited the two hill districts yesterday. They discussed law and order with the locals and the government officials concerned.

They also met local political leaders, eminent personalities, representatives from business and trade bodies, media outlets, law enforcement agencies and district councils of Rangamati and Khagrachhari.

The advisers said the onus is on the local leaders to maintain harmony and peace and they must play their due role.

Law enforcement agencies have been asked to show maximum restraint, they said.

They warned that attacks on the places of worships would not be tolerated.

They said that treatment of all the

injured will be ensured and the military hospitals will be made available for this purpose, if needed.

Speaking to reporters in Rangamati and Feni, Local Government Adviser Arif and ICT Adviser Nahid Islam yesterday expressed suspicion that the recent violence in the hills was the result of a "conspiracy".

The home adviser, local government adviser, and CHT affairs adviser had a meeting with local government officials and the representatives of security forces at the Bangladesh Army's base in Rangamati around noon.

"In the meeting, everyone was saying that a conspiracy was hatched from abroad to disrupt harmony," Arif told reporters after the meeting.

He said everybody demanded formation of an independent probe body.

Home Adviser Jahangir said a high-level probe body comprising some senior officials will be formed to probe the recent violence.

"No one will be spared. Those found involved in trying to incite violence will face stringent punishment. We will not allow any deterioration in law and order situation," he said.

Talking to reporters during his visit to some flood-hit areas in Feni's Chhagalnaiya upazila, ICT Adviser Nahid yesterday said attempts were made to worsen law and order in the country.

"There is a long-standing problem in the CHT region and we will have to solve it ourselves," he said.

Meanwhile, Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain, while briefing reporters at his ministry, yesterday said he did not know anything about any conspiracy from abroad to create unrest in the CHT.

Violence broke out in two hill districts following the death of a Bangalee named Md Mamun in a mob beating. He was accused of stealing a motorbike in Khagrachhari town on Wednesday morning.

The following day, at least 30 houses and businesses belonging to indigenous people came under arson attacks in Khagrachhari's Dighinala upazila.

On Friday, four people were killed and at least 72 others injured as violence flared up in Rangamati town and Khagrachhari's Dighinala and Sadar upazilas.

countries are eager to cooperate through Saarc.

Chief Adviser Prof Yunus is very interested in resuming the Saarc activities on whatever small scale. We want to come out of the stalemate.

TDS: Bangladesh has a lot of baggage in terms of human rights abuses. Can the government come out of this?

Touhid: A major objective of this government is to work in the area of human rights. Rights activists are in the council of advisers. The UN fact-finding mission will look into all of the rights violations and killings that took place in the last weeks of the previous government. Even post-August 5 attacks over political ideologies or on minorities – all can come under this investigation. Everyone has the right to get justice. We want transparency in the whole process of the investigation.

TDS: Will the foreign ministry undergo reforms to function more effectively, keeping in mind that the economy is a big part of our diplomacy?

Touhid: The foreign ministry, like any other time, will play an auxiliary role. We will extend support to other ministries as per their need. In some cases, re-allocation of business may be required. From our side, we can raise the issues that arise in the areas of overseas employment, foreign investment or export.

TDS: Prof Yunus has a global standing. How can we best utilise it in diplomacy?

Touhid: We have started benefitting from this already. You know that 67 Bangladeshi migrants were pardoned by the UAE president after Prof Yunus directly spoke to him. We will use his standing for our just demands.

TDS: How shall we navigate in the geopolitically changing world, especially amid the global power competition in the Indo-Pacific?

Touhid: We'll try to have our interests protected despite such competitions. We'll follow the path where we have our best national interest.

TDS: Aren't our national integrity, track record of human rights and democracy important for this?

Touhid: We're working to establish democracy on a strong footing. It'll be truly representative. There won't be any fake elections. The purpose of the sacrifice of the young people and their aspiration is democracy. We will work to that end. Reforms on human rights will be visible soon. So we are on the right track.

Dubious cases

FROM PAGE 1

for reasons other than seeking justice, and this will undermine the credibility of the charges.

They also urge police to be careful when registering such cases.

"It will be impossible to ensure justice for the real victims through cases that seem to be aimed at harassing people," veteran Supreme Court lawyer ZI Khan Panna told The Daily Star.

Hasina, former ministers Obaidul Quader, Anisul Huq, Asaduzzaman Khan and Hasan Mahmud and some other influential leaders of the Awami League are among the remaining accused in the six cases analysed by this newspaper.

During AL's 15-year rule, numerous cases were filed that appeared to be aimed at harassing hundreds of BNP Jamaat leaders, activists, and dissidents. Putting them behind bars was the priority, rather than proving the charges in trial proceedings.

In multiple instances, opposition party members were accused of crimes that did not even take place. Dead people or those living abroad were accused of vandalism and arson.

Dukhu, the man who filed the case for his cousin Labhu's murder, persistently refused to talk to this newspaper.

A local AL leader from Rangpur, who was accused in the case, said, "I was in Pirganj on August 5. How could I have taken part in a killing in Dhaka? There were no means of travelling in those days. I think they accused me for the sole purpose of harassing me."

On July 20, Muhammad Habib, 45, organising secretary of a front organisation of Liberal Democratic Party in the capital's Kadamtali, was shot dead as police along with AL men opened fire on protesters, according to a case filed by his widow Ayesha Begum.

She filed the case on August 28 with Jatrabari Police Station accusing 57, of whom 50 are from Cumilla's Chandina.

Contacted, Ayesha, a mother of four, said, "I just signed on the complaint. I had no idea who was being accused. A friend of my husband, also a leader of his party, made the list of accused. That

Rivers around Dhaka

FROM PAGE 1

0.2 mg/l to 5.00 mg/l. DO levels below 5.0 mg/l cause stress to aquatic life. Lower concentrations cause greater stress. Oxygen levels that go below 1-2 mg/l for a few hours may result in large fish kills.

Other rivers in and around Dhaka city and its suburban areas like the Turag, Balu, Shitalakhya and Dhaleshwari show a similar kind of testing result.

Apart from those rivers from the central part of the country, the other rivers from Chattogram and Khulna city like the Karnaphuli and Moyuri are also severely polluted as per the parameter of the report.

"Generally, those rivers around the city centres and industrial belts are considered polluted. We cannot say if the rivers where there are no industries are fully polluted," said Masud Iqbal Shamim, director of DoE.

The water of the Jamuna (Brahmaputra), Ganges (Padma) and Teesta are still in good shape as there are no pollutant industries on the banks of these rivers.

"But the government needs to be careful and act about the Meghna river as it is one of the main sources of drinking water and some private economic zone has been built on the bank of the Meghna," Shamim said.

Because of severe pollution earlier in 2009, the government declared five rivers – Buriganga, Shitalakhya, Turag, Balu and Jaflong Dawki – as ecologically critical areas (ECA) to protect from further pollution.

In 2011, the government took up a project to bring in fresh water from the Jamuna to the Buriganga. The

man is from Cumilla. I just want justice for my husband."

Anwar Hossain Aynal, who is from Bakshiganj, Jamalpur, filed a murder case with Uttara East Police Station over the killing of his brother Fazlul Karim on August 5. Of the 39 accused, 24 are from his hometown.

Anwar could not be reached for comment.

Asked why the accused are from Jamalpur, he said, "Many of them might have been in Dhaka and some were in the village... We requested the investigating officer to drop the names of those not involved in the incident."

Akter Hossain, another person from Bakshiganj, filed a murder case with the same police station against 17 over a murder on August 5. Eleven of the accused are from Bakshiganj upazila.

Akter said police and AL men fired at the victory procession that day, killing his younger brother Ripon.

"I visited the spot after the incident and came to know that the people from my upazila were there during the killing," he said.

On August 5, Mirazul Islam, 21, got shot in Jatrabari area around 9:00am. He died three days later.

His father Abdus Salam, a resident of Lalmonirhat, on August 24 filed a murder case with Jatrabari Police Station against 36 people, including three former lawmakers from the district. No police or ruling party men, who were seen by locals shooting in the area that day, were accused in the case.

Khurshid Alam Khan, a noted criminal law expert, said, "It is clear that such cases are aimed to harass. Police should be cautious."

"Moreover, the complainants may face legal trouble for filing such cases."

The government maintains that no innocent individuals will be harassed in these cases.

The Police Headquarters on September 10 ordered officers to drop the names of individuals against whom there was no evidence.

ZI Khan said, "The government should make a list of dubious cases and ensure that no innocent people suffer. The Supreme Court can also seek a list of these cases from the government and give the necessary directives."

government spent over Tk 100 crore for the project but no progress was visible.

In 2016, the government shifted the tannery industries from Hazaribagh to the Savar tannery estate and made a central effluent treatment plant (ETP) for them.

But none of the initiatives helped much to curb the pollution.

Currently, there are around 2,500 industries with ETP, which is around 86 percent of the total industries in Dhaka and in suburban areas that require ETP.

But in most cases, those industries do not use ETP to maximise their profits.

The DoE also does not have sufficient manpower to conduct drives in every pollutant industries.

Currently, the DoE has only 67 inspectors against the posts of 157 posts.

Asked about controlling the pollution of rivers, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the ministry of water resources and environment, forest and climate change, said that they are preparing an action plan and also preparing actions for cleaning up the rivers.

"There are some measures we can take immediately like controlling pollution from municipal waste dumping and regularly monitoring polluting industries and factories," she said.

But for the rivers to get back to life, a solution to sewage discharge is needed.

"That will be a costly thing to do and is time-consuming. But at least we should commit to get it done at least in phases without delay."

The DoE also tested the water of three lakes in Gulshan, Dhanmondi and Hatir Jheel at 13 points and 73 groundwater stations of 3 districts in Bangladesh under the same programme.

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VIOLENCE IN CHT

Indigenous students want UN probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of indigenous students, youths, and local residents yesterday called for a United Nations inquiry commission to investigate recent attacks, murders, and arson in Khagrachhari's Dighinala and Rangamati.

At a rally held at the Raju Memorial Sculpture on the Dhaka University campus, under the banner of Samatler Adivasi Chhatra Jubo O Sadharan Janagan, the group also demanded full implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord within six months to ensure a political solution.

The protesters urged for the protection of indigenous people in CHT, compensation for the families of those killed in the attacks, treatment for the injured, and compensation for damaged monasteries, shops, and homes.

Bangladesh Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad President Alik Mree said, "The families of the four who died must be compensated, and treatment for the injured needs to be ensured."

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

People from all walks of life march through the Dhaka University area in the capital yesterday, demanding an end to the violence currently taking place in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. They also brought various placards, demanding that the indigenous communities are given constitutional rights and for demilitarisation of CHT.

Conduct fair probe, punish those involved

Rights groups demand justice for indigenous communities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) has expressed deep concern over the recent widespread violence and casualties in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region.

In a statement yesterday, MJF highlighted reports from national media, citing that at least four people have been killed and over 50 injured in clashes in Khagrachhari and Rangamati.

The violence has also caused extensive damage, including the vandalism of shops, religious sites, vehicles, and attacks on indigenous communities.

MJF Executive Director Shaheen Anam strongly

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Fascism's grip remains strong

Speakers tell discussion, urge for unity and widespread reforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only key government figures have been changed since the fall of the regime, but the fascism remains deeply rooted in society, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

The event titled "The Lone Wolves of Freedom: Their Dream and Reality," organised by the Centre for Governance Studies at the BISS auditorium, called for a united effort to eradicate this fascism through national and political consensus.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser

to the environment ministry, said the rise of fascism was not solely the fault of the former government. She highlighted the complicity of bureaucracies, law enforcement, media, and intellectuals.

"The partners of fascism are everywhere," she said, stressing that reforms must extend beyond the top tiers of law enforcement.

"Who will implement these reforms if the rest of the system remains unchanged?" she asked. "We urge people to critique us constructively to hold the

current and future governments accountable," she added.

Badiul Alam Majumder, head of the electoral system reform commission, underscored the necessity for collective action to realise the vision of a new independence.

"If we don't work together, our dreams and expectations will remain unfulfilled," he said.

Zonayed Saki, chief coordinator of Ganosambhati Andolan, said fascism continues to thrive. He called for political and national

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Unity a must to ensure economic emancipation

Says Tarique Rahman

UNB, Sirajganj



BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said unity within the nation is essential to meet the people's expectations and ensure their economic emancipation.

"Without economic emancipation, political freedom alone cannot fulfil people's expectations. Economic freedom is equally essential for meeting these expectations," he said.

The BNP leader made the remarks while virtually addressing a rally at Enayetpur Islamia High School Ground in Sirajganj.

The local unit of BNP organised the programme

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Nahid denies claims of internet shutdown in CHT

Says there were isolated instances of disruption

UNB, Feni



Posts, Telecommunication and Information Technology Adviser Md Nahid Islam yesterday said internet was not shut down by the government in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) during Friday's violence in Khagrachhari and Rangamati.

"There were isolated instances of temporary internet disruption which was exaggerated as internet shutdown. No such instruction was given. There is no evidence that the internet was suspended in Chittagong Hill Tracts or any other place for a long time," he said.

He came up with the remarks responding to a question from reporters during a visit to a flood-affected area in Andharmanik in Feni.

He further mentioned that he had personally spoken with the deputy commissioners and other officials concerned, who confirmed that no long-term internet shutdown had occurred.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

'We want justice, equality and safety'

Say female activists who took part in mass uprising



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Afifa Anjum, a student from Independent University, stood before the crowd at the Sagar-Runi Auditorium of Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday, recounting her involvement in the July movement.

With courage and conviction, she shared how she and her friends bravely resisted police and Chhatra League goons from harming their male comrades.

After August 5, for some days, Afifa believed they had achieved something monumental -- a shift towards a freer, more just Bangladesh.

She hoped women in the "New Bangladesh" won't have to worry about how to reach home safely, or travelling alone.

But recent events have made her realise that true freedom for women is still a far cry.

She concluded her speech by saying she feels insecure about whether she would be able to return home safely after the event, referencing the recent rape of a 70-year-old woman at Suhrawardy Udyan.

"If we could ensure exemplary punishments for a few rape cases in the 'New Bangladesh', it could potentially reduce sexual violence against women," she said.

The event, organised by the Outraged Women's Community -- a platform uniting women from all social classes who played a vital role in the July protests -- brought together a diverse group of participants.

Women leaders, activists, artists, journalists, sex workers, domestic workers, teachers, theatre activists, lawyers, and family members of martyrs from the July movement gathered to share their experiences, demands,

and visions for a safer, more equitable future.

Two female advisers were also present to listen and respond to the concerns raised.

Female basketball player Ashreen Mridha highlighted the lack of support for women athletes, noting that out of 46 sports federations in Bangladesh, only 15-20 have dedicated wings for women. She addressed salary disparities, the absence of female leadership, and the need for more female-friendly facilities such as gymnasiums and transport.

"Age, marital status, or motherhood should never be a barrier for women athletes," she said.

Only 5 percent of the sports budget is allocated to women and youth, she added.

Tanjiba Nowrin Tori from Independent University criticised

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

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Hosnara Begum passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hosnara Begum, mother of Mizanur Rahman, chief of operations at The Daily Star, passed away yesterday. She was 75. She had been suffering from stomach cancer and undergoing treatment at various medical institutes in Bangladesh and India. She left behind seven sons and two daughters. Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at 10:00am today, at her residence on Road-14, Nikunja-2 in Dhaka. Later, she will be buried at Azimpur graveyard.



PRAYER TIMING
SEPTEMBER 22

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:40	12:45	4:30	6:05	7:30
JAMAAT 5:15	1:15	4:45	6:10	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Oikya Parishad urges UN to probe 'communal violence'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad have termed the "communal violence" targeting indigenous and religious minority communities in the hills and plain lands "crimes against humanity".

They called upon the United Nations to conduct a fair and impartial investigation into the incidents following August 5.

In protests organised nationwide yesterday, they demanded the withdrawal of false cases against their leaders, including General Secretary Rana Dasgupta and other minority leaders.

They also called for the implementation of an eight-point demand, including bringing those responsible for all communal violence, including the incidents after August 5, to justice.

The central programme was held in front of Jatiya Press Club. Speakers included the council's two presidents, Prof Neem Chandra Bhowmik, and Nirmol Rozario, Acting General Secretary Monindra Kumar Nath, Presidium Member Ranjan Karmakar, and Bangladesh Buddhist Federation General Secretary Bhikkhu Sunanda Priyo, among others.

"Between August 4 and August 20 this year, 2,010 incidents of violence against minorities occurred across the country," said Nirmol Rozario.

Addressing the interim government, he said, "Do whatever necessary to establish peace. If you cannot fulfill your responsibilities properly, you have no right to hold the power."



The namaz-e-janaza of Nayan Mia, who was killed during the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, was held yesterday at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka. The 25-year-old motor garage worker was shot on August 4 in the Kathalbagana area during a clash between protesters and police personnel. He was later taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he was kept in the ICU until he passed away on Friday.
PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Work together to save rivers

Says Rizwana

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan has emphasised the need to protect Bangladesh's rivers and recover those that have been encroached upon.

Strict enforcement of laws will be initiated for this purpose, and public cooperation is essential, she said yesterday.

She also mentioned that cost-effective plans will be developed to clean rivers, and a campaign against polythene and plastic will be launched.

The adviser made these remarks as the chief guest at a special event held at Bangladesh Tourism Corporation, on the occasion of World Rivers Day 2024 and the presentation of the River Award 2024.

She highlighted that rivers are not only natural resources but also deeply connected to our culture and livelihoods. To ensure a healthy environment for future generations, it is crucial to make the rivers pollution-free.

She also urged everyone to work together to protect and clean the rivers.



Conduct fair probe, punish

FROM PAGE 3

condemned the violence, saying, "Such clashes and violence in the CHT region are completely unacceptable and barbaric. We are extremely concerned about the casualties. We demand a safe environment for all citizens, including the indigenous population living in the region."

Shaheen Anam urged the public to avoid taking the law into their own hands and to refrain from further destructive actions. She called on the government to conduct thorough and transparent investigations into each incident, ensuring that those responsible are held accountable.

Meanwhile, in a statement, Manabdhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF) yesterday expressed grave concern and condemnation over the violence.

"The jummo community remained deprived as the CHT peace accord is yet to be implemented fully. Also,

an evil community has been active to make the region unstable. Because of which the indigenous community is being victim of violence and violation of human rights," reads a statement signed by Sultana Kamal, eminent rights activist and president of the rights body. It also alleged that the role of army was questionable.

MSF urged the interim government to form a neutral and independent committee to investigate the incident and take legal action against those who are proved to be involved in the incident.

Another platform named Network for Democratic Bangladesh placed a six-point demand including providing constitutional recognition to the indigenous communities living in the hill tracts.

"More than 50 indigenous communities live in the plain and hilly areas of the country, yet their ethnicity has no constitutional recognition.

Also their fundamental rights could not be ensured," reads a statement, signed virtually by 624 members of the platform.

The "autocratic military rule" in CHT and the oppression of Bangalee "settlers" have put the indigenous communities in the face of existential crisis, it added.

The platform also urged to take steps to encourage dialogue and understanding between the indigenous and Bangalee people with the aim to strengthen a peaceful and united societal base.

Lightning

FROM PAGE 5

and Nur Uddin, 60, of Dholaimati died in separate lightning strikes, said Kanaighat Police Station OC Jahangir Hossain Sardar.

In Biswamarnpur, Deen Islam, 65, of Charpara village, was killed in lightning strike, confirmed Bishwambharpur Police Station OC Kawsar Alam.

Fascism's grip remains strong

FROM PAGE 3

consensus to counter its resurgence. He urged the interim government to take proactive measures in this regard.

Barrister Andaleeb Rahman, chairman of the Bangladesh Jatiya Party, said, "We need to create opportunities for good people to enter politics."

He cautioned against attributing the current movement solely to anti-discrimination student activists, saying it is a culmination of widespread anger over the last 15-17 years.

The roundtable featured over 20 discussants who shared personal experiences as victims of the Awami League regime.

Kalpna Akter, executive director of Bangladesh Centre for Workers Solidarity, said workers are often scapegoated as instigators when they demand fair wages.

"Agencies have even been involved in the killing of labour leaders," she said.

Mamun Abdullahi, a liaison committee member of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, expressed frustration over the lack of national consciousness in the country.

"After 53 years post-liberation, we remain divided along ethnic lines, hindering our progress as a nation," he said.

Umama Fatima, another organiser of the Anti-Discrimination Student

Movement, highlighted the issue of mob justice, saying it contradicts the spirit of the 2024 mass uprising.

"Advisers should take swift action against those involved in such acts," she urged.

If we don't work together, our dreams and expectations will remain unfulfilled.

BADIUL ALAM MAJUMDER
Head of electoral system reform commission

Michael Chakma, an organiser of the United People's Democratic Front, shared his experiences of being detained for over five years.

"They labelled my pursuit of a separate ruling system in the hill tracts as anti-state, but we seek constitutional recognition," he said.

Nurul Haque Nur, president of Gono Odhikar Parishad, shared his experiences with political coercion, suggesting the

formation of a national interim government that includes leaders from various political factions.

ZillurRahman, executive Director at CGS, facilitated the discussion, while other contributors included journalists Masood Kamal and Md Muktabir Rashid, Fact Check editor at AFP Bangladesh Qadaruddin Shishir, editor of Joban magazine Rezaul Karim Rony, Jagannath University student Khadijatul Kubra, Jatiya Nagorik Committee member Pritom Das, and political analyst Zahed Ur Rahman.

Together, they emphasised the urgent need for a unified front against the persistent threat of fascism in Bangladesh.

Unity a must

FROM PAGE 3

to commemorate the martyrs of the July mass uprising and to pay tribute to their sacrifices.

Stating that a united nation can provide both political and economic freedom to its people, Tarique said, "There is no alternative to staying united to fulfil the aspirations of our citizens."

He said millions of people in Bangladesh have long desired to be free from autocracy, as they did not have any right, including the right to speak freely during the rule of Sheikh Hasina.

"Through immense sacrifice, the people have regained that right in a short time. However, we have only been partially successful. The BNP's movement will continue until voting rights are fully ensured," Tarique said.

He said there is still a long way to go to achieve the ultimate victory desired by the nation. "We must secure the people's voting rights and establish an accountable government, which is why the people have engaged in movement and made significant sacrifices," the BNP leader observed.

We want justice

FROM PAGE 3

of the lack of respect women received after their participation in the July protests, citing misogynistic attitudes.

Synthia Jahin Ayesha called for a female quota in civil services and urged the government to address the unique challenges faced by rural women.

Family members of July martyrs also shared their grief, demanding justice, compensation, and support for those injured.

Sabrina Shabonti, sister of 19-year-old martyr Mahmudur Rahman Saikat, demanded that female family members

of martyrs be included in the Shaheed Smrity Foundation.

Adviser Sharmeen Murshid announced initial compensation for martyr families, while Farida Akhter, called for the establishment of a Women's Rights Commission and increased representation of women in leadership roles.

The speakers also demanded anti-harassment policies, the abolition of discriminatory laws, and increased female representation in parliament, workplaces, and local elections.

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GD- 482

সীমিত

বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ এর একেজো ০৬টি জলযান (স্পীড বোট ইঞ্জিন ব্যতিত) নিলামে বিক্রয়ের বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৪৪.০২.১২০৫.০১০.০২.৩৬৪.২৪/০৩ তারিখ : ১৮ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৪।

বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ নিম্নবর্ণিত স্টের সদর দপ্তর/ইউনিট বিনাম্যান নিম্নবর্ণিত একেজো জলযান (বর্তমানে যে অবস্থায় রয়েছে) বাংলাদেশের যে কোন ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট নিলামের মাধ্যমে বিক্রয় করা হবে :

ক্রমিক	জলযানের নম্বর	জলযানের প্রকার	সৌম্যান পরিমপক কর্তৃক ধারিতকৃত মূল্য	যে স্থানে জলযান রয়েছে
১।	স্পীড বোট-৫৩	স্পীড বোট (ইঞ্জিন ব্যতিত)	১০,০০০/-	স্টের সদর দপ্তর, রাসমাটি
২।	স্পীড বোট-২৫	স্পীড বোট (ইঞ্জিন ব্যতিত)	৩০,০০০/-	রাজশাহী ব্যাটালিয়ন (১ বিজিবি)
৩।	স্পীড বোট-৪৪	স্পীড বোট (ইঞ্জিন ব্যতিত)	৩০,০০০/-	রাজশাহী ব্যাটালিয়ন (১ বিজিবি)
৪।	স্পীড বোট-০৩	স্পীড বোট (ইঞ্জিন ব্যতিত)	২০,০০০/-	সীলতুমুর ব্যাটালিয়ন (১৭ বিজিবি)
৫।	স্পীড বোট-০৭	স্পীড বোট (ইঞ্জিন ব্যতিত)	২০,০০০/-	সীলতুমুর ব্যাটালিয়ন (১৭ বিজিবি)
৬।	স্পীড বোট-৪১	স্পীড বোট (ইঞ্জিন ব্যতিত)	১০,০০০/-	সীলতুমুর ব্যাটালিয়ন (১৭ বিজিবি)

- ১। একেজো জলযানের দরপত্রের সিডিউল বাংলাদেশের যে কোন ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক ক্রয় করতে পারবেন।
- ২। দরপত্রের সিডিউল আগামী ২৫ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০২৪ হতে ১৬ অক্টোবর ২০২৪ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে নিম্নবর্ণিত স্থান হতে বিক্রয় করা হবে।
ক। সদর দপ্তর বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ, লজিস্টিক্স শাখা, ইওমই পরিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।
খ। স্টের সদর দপ্তর, সিনেট/মুলনা/রাজশাহী/দিনাজপুর/ফুলিয়া/ময়মনসিংহ/রাসমাটি/রংপুর/খাগড়াছড়ি/কুষ্টিয়া/শান্দরাপাণ্ড/ওইয়ার/ঠাকুরগাঁও/শ্রীমঙ্গল/রামু এবং চট্টগ্রাম ব্যাটালিয়ন (৮ বিজিবি)।
- ৩। বর্ণিত সিডিউলের মূল্য নগদ ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা (অফেরথযোগ্য)।
- ৪। সিডিউল ক্রয় সাপেক্ষে টিকাদারগণ ১৬ অক্টোবর ২০২৪ তারিখের মধ্যে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উল্লিখিত একেজো জলযানসমূহ সংশ্লিষ্ট ইউনিট এলাকায় পরিদর্শন করতে পারবেন।
- ৫। দরপত্রের সিডিউল আগামী ১৭ অক্টোবর ২০২৪ তারিখ সকাল ০৯:০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১১:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত সময়ে অনুচ্ছেদ ২ এ বর্ণিত স্থানের অফিস এর সম্মুখে রক্ষিত টেতার বাসে গ্রহণ করা হবে এবং ঐ দিনই ১২:০০ ঘটিকার উপস্থিত দরদার দাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে।
- ৬। বর্ডার গার্ড বাংলাদেশ কর্তৃক কোন কারণ দর্শালে ব্যক্তিকে যে কোন দরপত্র আবেদন/পূর্ণ গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মেজর
মহাপরিচালক এর পক্ষে

GD- 484

21 BNP activists

FROM PAGE 5

Meanwhile, Rapid Action Battalion seized 6.2 tonnes of rice meant for ultra poor people and arrested two persons for hoarding it illegally in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat.

The arrestees are: Ritul Das, 50, and Sazedur Rahman, 52, of Bhatkuri village in the upazila.

Rab camp of Joypurhat issued a press release in this connection on Friday evening.

The arrestees were handed over to police after a case was filed.

Indigenous

FROM PAGE 3

Bangladesh Adivasi Juba Forum President Anthony Rema added, "The Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord was signed years ago, but it has not been fully implemented. This must be done without further delay."

Leaders and students from other indigenous organisations and singer Krishnokoli also spoke at the event.

Another group, under the banner Bikkhuddho Jumba Chhtra Janata, held a press conference at the Mdhur Canteen of Dhaka University in the morning. They presented a seven-point demand, including security for indigenous people in the hill tracts, a UN investigation into the recent violence, compensation for victims, punishment for those responsible, and full implementation of the CHT Accord.

ঢাকা প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গাজীপুর
গাজীপুর-১৭০৭
তারিখ: ১৮/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রি:।

আন্ডারগ্রাজুয়েট প্রোগ্রামের ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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প্রার্থীর সাধারণ ও শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা :-
ক) প্রার্থীকে বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক হইতে হইবে;
খ) প্রার্থীকে বাংলাদেশের যে কোন মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড/কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ড/মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষা বোর্ড হইতে মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট/দাখিল বা সমমানের পরীক্ষায় ন্যূনতম ৫০% নম্বর অথবা ৫.০০ এর স্কেলে ন্যূনতম GPA ৩.০০ (ত্রিছক বিষয়সহ) পাইয়া উত্তীর্ণ হইতে হইবে;
গ) প্রার্থীকে বাংলাদেশ কারিগরি শিক্ষা বোর্ডের ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/আর্কিটেকচার-এ গড়ে ন্যূনতম ৬০% নম্বর অথবা ৪.০০ এর স্কেলে ন্যূনতম CGPA ৩.০০ পাইয়া উত্তীর্ণ হইতে হইবে;
ঘ) ডিপ্লোমা-ইন-ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/আর্কিটেকচার পরীক্ষা ২০২২ ও ২০২৩ সনে উত্তীর্ণ শিক্ষার্থীরাই ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করিতে পারিবে। তবে সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি, স্বায়ত্তশাসিত, সেন্টার কর্পোরেশন-এ শিক্ষকতা সহ অন্যান্য পদে কর্মরত প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে এই নিয়ম প্রযোজ্য হইবে না;
ঙ) ভর্তি পরীক্ষা ২০২৩-২০২৪ প্রসপেক্টাস এর ৪ (ক) ছক অনুযায়ী উপস্থিত বিভাগ সমূহে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন করা যাইবে;
চ) একাধিক বিভাগে ভর্তি পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে পৃথক পৃথক ভাবে আবেদন করিতে হইবে। তবে ME/PE/MME বিভাগে আবেদনকারীদের জন্য একট মাত্র আবেদন করিতে হইবে এবং উক্ত তিন বিভাগের জন্য পছন্দক্রমে নির্বাচন করিতে হইবে।
ছ) চাকুরীক প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করিতে হইবে; এবং
জ) বিদেশী শিক্ষার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের পররাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয় ও শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করিতে হইবে। উপস্থিত, অনলাইনে ভর্তির প্রক্রিয়া বিদেশী শিক্ষার্থীদের জন্য প্রযোজ্য নহে। তবে বিদেশী শিক্ষার্থীদের ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় তথ্য <http://www.duet.ac.bd> হইতে সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।

অনলাইন নির্দেশনা এবং Nagad/Rocket/bKash/shurjoPay-এ ভর্তি ফি প্রদানের মাধ্যমে প্রার্থীগণ আগামী ২৯/০৯/২০২৪ খ্রি: রবিবার সকাল ০৮:৩০ ঘটিকা হইতে ২৪/১০/২০২৪ খ্রি: বৃহস্পতিবার বিকাল ০৪:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত আবেদন করিতে পারিবে।

স্বাক্ষরিত/-
সভাপতি, ভর্তি পরীক্ষা কমিটি ২০২৩-২০২৪

GD- 483

Two children drown in Habiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moulvibazar

Two children drowned in a pond in Naogaon village of Habiganj's Lakhai upazila on Friday evening.

The deceased are five-year-old Sushi Akhter, daughter of Sohag Mia, and her cousin, four-year-old Barsha Akhtar, said Abul Khair, officer-in-charge of Lakhai Police Station.

According to locals, Sushi and Barsha went to bathe in a pond near their home during the rain by themselves.

Despite extensive searches, locals could not locate them. Later, their bodies were found floating in the pond. They were taken to Lakhai Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared them dead.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

ASHRAYAN PROJECT IN DUMURIA

Flooded homes push families into uncertainty

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Fifty-six houses under an Ashrayan project in Dumuria upazila, Khulna, have been under knee-deep water for the past two months due to flooding.

The Ashrayan project, initiated by the former government under the Prime Minister's Office, was intended to provide homes for the homeless. Despite the then regime declaring the programme as a huge success, allegations of using substandard construction materials and unplanned development started surfacing shortly after.

For example, these homes in Khulna were constructed in a low-lying area, previously a riverbed.

Despite experts warning of waterlogging, the project officials pressed on with building the homes on this particular site.

The canals, which are supposed to drain floodwater into the Shoilmari, Salta, and Bhadra rivers, are clogged with silt, and malfunctioning

sluice gates have worsened the situation. As a result, water has not receded from these homes and adjacent areas for months.

A recent visit revealed that homes were inundated both inside and out, with residents struggling to cope.



Many families, like Shiuli Begum, 55, have been forced to relocate due to unhygienic conditions.

"Our homes are now uninhabitable. I thought we would finally have a place to live

after years, but I was forced to abandon the place due to waterlogging," she said.

Majada Begum, another resident, spoke of her son suffering from skin rashes due to contact with the polluted water. "All our furniture has been ruined, and the plaster on the walls is damaged," she added.

Abdul Bari, a displaced resident, questioned the government's failure to ensure a safe place for them to live. "Flooding persists for half the year," he said. "This year, the local representatives haven't even visited us. Where is their accountability?"

Local union parishad member Abdul Goffur Gazi criticised the site selection, claiming that despite repeated objections, the former Dumuria upazila nirbahi officer went ahead with the project.

Dumuria's current UNO, Mohammad Al-Amin, attributed the flooding to silted canals and damaged sluice gates. He said efforts were being made with the Bangladesh Water Development Board to address the problem.

21 BNP activists expelled for looting 300 sacks of rice

Two held with 6.2 tonnes of govt rice

STAR REPORT

BNP has expelled 21 leaders and activists of the party's Navaron union unit in Jashore's Jhikargachha upazila for looting 300 sacks of rice of government's food programme from a warehouse.

They were expelled for involvement in activities against the party's discipline, read a press release issued on Friday night, undersigned by Saberul Haque Sabu, member secretary of Jashore district unit BNP.

The expelled members are: Navaron union unit convener Khairuzzaman Minu, Navaron ward 9 member Hafizur Rahman, members Rajab Ali, Tabibur Rahman Tabi, Tariqul Islam, Nahid, Mizan, Asim, Milan Hossain, Sohag Doctor, Jasim, Mizak Ali, Babu, Rafi, Zahid. Ali, Abdur Rashid, Tarek, Mamun, Idris Ali and Babu.

Allegedly, Khairuzzaman and his associates looted 300 sacks of rice of the government's food programme from a dealer's warehouse in Haria Nimtala market of the upazila.

The decision to expel the accused came after a case was filed with Jhikargachha Police Station

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Driver stabbed to death in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A battery-run rickshaw driver was stabbed to death allegedly by muggers in Dhaka's Sutrapur area early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Jinnah, 52. The incident occurred around 3:00am in Loharpool area when the muggers, posing as passengers, tried to snatch his auto-rickshaw, said Md Sabbir Hossain, a garment worker who was present nearby during the incident.

He said he heard Jinnah's screams from a short distance and found him with stab wounds on his back, chest, and head.

Jinnah was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died around 4:15am, he said.

However, the attackers could not take his rickshaw or mobile phone.

Inspector Md Faruk, in charge of the DMCH Police Outpost, said the body was sent to the morgue for autopsy.

Lightning strikes kill five in Sylhet, Sunamganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Sylhet

A total of five people were killed in lightning strike in three upazilas of Sylhet and Sunamganj yesterday.

Of them, two died in each of Jaintapur and Kanaighat upazilas in Sylhet, and one in Sunamganj's Bishwambharpur upazila.

In Jaintapur, Nahid Ahmed, 13, son of Nurul Haque of Agfout village; and Abdul Mannan, 45, son of Kala Miah of Babarband village, died in two separate incidents, confirmed Tajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Jaintapur Police Station.

In Kanaighat, Kala Miah, 28, of Kewtihaor village;

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Sagardighi-Sakhipur road needs urgent repair

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

The Sagardighi-Sakhipur road in Tangail's Ghatail upazila has long been in a battered condition. The road connects to the Dhaka-Tangail Highway at Madhupur area via Sakhipur.

Dhaka-bound goods-laden heavy vehicles carrying pineapples, bananas, jackfruits, wood, bamboo, poultry feeds, chickens, eggs, bricks and sand from several districts including Tangail, Mymensingh, Jamalpur and Sherpur use the road alongside passenger buses.

Due its dilapidated state, passengers, transport workers and commuters have been facing immense sufferings while using the road to reach their destinations.

They demanded prompt steps by the authorities concerned to repair the road.

On the spot observation by this correspondent revealed that numerous potholes, small and large, have been formed along the road's entire stretch as the bitumen surface has worn off.

A little rain turns the road muddy and forms puddles here and there, making it difficult for pedestrians, while the dilapidated road surface makes it an arduous task for drivers to ply it. The risky spots have been

marked by locals with red flags to prevent accidents.

In case of downpour, the road becomes waterlogged, halting vehicular movement on it and causing severe traffic congestion.

"Transporting goods using the

prompt repairs for the entire road," said Khademul Islam Mamun, a local school teacher.

Saiful Islam, general secretary of a local association of businessmen in Sagardighi, said, "Businesses are also being affected due to the road's



road has become very difficult due to its present state," said Abdul Momin, a truck driver.

"Only around one kilometre stretch of the road was repaired earlier this year, leaving it unfit for vehicular movement. We demand

poor condition."

Contacted, Sinthia Azmiry Khan, executive engineer of Roads and Highways Department in Tangail, said the road will be repaired as soon as possible on a priority basis.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Director

Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

www.cmch.gov.bd

Memo No: CMCH/Tender/2024-2025/MSR/11166

Date: 21-09-2024.

Invitation For Tender

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from experienced Manufacturer/ Importers/ Contractors/ Suppliers/ Distributors to supply MSR goods & Related Services for CMCH in the fiscal 2024-2025. As per PPA-2006 & PPR-2008 (Including all corrigendum); Terms and conditions are as follow(s):

KEY INFORMATION				
1	Ministry / Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.		
2	Agency	Chittagong Medical College Hospital, Chattogram.		
3	PE Name, Designation & Contact details	Brigadier General Mohammed Taslim Uddin, Director, Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Telephone: 0241356220 E-mail address: cmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd		
4	Procuring Entity Code & District	GOB, Chattogram.		
5	Invitation for	Procurement of MSR goods & Related Services for Chittagong Medical College Hospital in the fiscal year 2024-2025.		
6	Tender Ref. No & date	CMCH/Tender/2024-2025/MSR/11166 Date: 21-09-2024.		
7	Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (National). Item-by-item.		
8	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB		
9	Tender Publication Date	22-09-2024.		
10	Tender Schedule Selling Starting Date and Time	22-09-2024 During office hours.		
11	Pre-Tender Meeting	02-10-2024, 11:00 A. M.		
12	Tender Last Selling Date and Time	20-10-2024, 12:00 P. M.		
13	Tender Dropping & Closing Date and Time	Dropping date: 21-10-2024, Dropping time: from 09:00 AM to 12:00 PM Closing time: 12:01 P. M.		
14	Tender Opening Date and Time	21-10-2024 at 01:00 P.M.		
Name and address of the Office's				
15	(a) Selling Tender Documents	Cashier, Office of the Director, Chittagong Medical College Hospital.		
	(b) Receiving Tender Documents	Cashier, Office of the Civil Surgeon, Chattogram District.		
	Tender Documents Opening Place	Office of the Director, Chittagong Medical College Hospital.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
16	Bidders Eligibility	Details in Tender Booklet.		
Description of Group, Price of Tender Document, Tender Security etc.				
17	Name of Group	Description of Group	Price of Tender Document in BDT (Only in Cash, Non Refundable)	Tender Security in BDT (Bank Draft / Pay Order to be submitted with the tender booklet in favor of The Director, CMCH). Bank guarantee is not acceptable.
	A	Medicine (including IV fluid, Dental Materials etc.)	Tk. 2,500.00 (Two Thousand Five Hundred Only)	Tk. 12,00,000.00 (Twelve Lakh Only)
	B	Medicine (Oncology)	Tk. 2,000.00 (Two Thousand Only)	Tk. 5,00,000.00 (Five Lakh Only)
	C	Recruiting Carrying Contractor	Tk. 1,000.00 (One Thousand Only)	Tk. 40,000.00 (Forty Thousand Only)
18	Description of Related Services	Details in Tender Booklet.		

Note:

- (a) Corrigendum if necessary in future will be a part of this notice. The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.
- (b) If the date of selling, receiving & opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.

(Brigadier General Mohammed Taslim Uddin)
Director
Chittagong Medical College Hospital.
E-mail: cmch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd
Telephone: 0241356220

'I've spoken against fascists for years, I was never afraid of backlash'

Many social media users, along with some of Nipun's colleagues from the entertainment industry, made critical remarks, pointing out that he had never directed a feature film—a fact that didn't go unnoticed by him.

SHARMIN JOYA

"I've always advocated for the abolition of censorship from any sort of art, so it was a stark irony to find my name listed as a member of the newly formed censor board," shared Ashfaq Nipun. "However, with all respect to those who have considered me qualified for the position, I have courteously declined the offer."

A notification issued on Sunday (September 15) by Saiful Islam, the Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, announced the formation of a new 15-member committee. Ashfaq Nipun was one of the announced members alongside others.

The list of members included names that offered a ray of hope, suggesting the potential for a reform body that could bring about positive changes in filmmaking, particularly in terms of greater creative freedom and reduced censorship.

The list of members included names that offered a ray of hope, suggesting the potential for a reform body that could bring about positive changes in filmmaking, particularly in terms of greater creative freedom and reduced censorship.

Then again, just a few hours after the announcement, the *Mohanagar* director took to his social media to announce that he had declined the proposal. In the meantime, after the announcement from the ministry and before Nipun's clarification, social media buzzed with diverse opinions—some were pleased with this decision. In contrast, others expressed disappointment, labelling it as 'biased' of the ministry.

"I was in the middle of recording a podcast when the announcement came through. When I finished the show, my phone was flooded with calls and messages from journalists and colleagues. Honestly, the first thing I did was contact the ministry, which is why it took some time before I made my post. I didn't want to put

them in a difficult position, so I informed them first before publicly announcing my decision."

Was Nipun unaware of this decision by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry? On the same day, his name was also added to the list of the board of trustees of the Artistes Welfare Trust. "Artistes Welfare Trust belongs to a separate ministry. It is under the Ministry



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

of Cultural Affairs, and they did contact me before the announcement. I had a clear conversation with them regarding my role, before I agreed to be one of the trustees."

He however clarified that he was unaware his name had been included on the list of censor board members. "It took some time to reach them, which is why my response was delayed. For those still expressing doubts, you,

as a journalist, can confirm the fact with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting," he told this reporter during the interview.

Many social media users, along with some of Nipun's colleagues from the entertainment industry, made critical remarks, pointing out that he had never directed a feature film—a fact that didn't go unnoticed by him. Some argued that he declined the proposal only after facing public pressure. In response, he stated, "For the last 15 years, I've held even more critical positions for being outspoken against a fascist government, so it's absurd to think that way! As for the feature film argument, the format of productions we create for TV or OTT platforms is essentially the same, so technically, that claim is baseless."

Nipun also raised a valid question: If the board includes critics, writers, and actors, why are only directors expected to prove their 'ability' by directing a full-length feature film?

On September 18, Information Adviser Nahid Islam stated to the media, that a certification board will be formed soon under the Bangladesh Film Certification Act, 2023. "On September 15, I spoke to the ministry and explained to them that the process needs to be implemented faster. Films scheduled for release, such as *Shonibar Bikel* and other productions by the FDC, are also awaiting their debut. These projects need to hit theatres soon."

Nipun further clarified, "They assured me that the position they offered wasn't compensation for my involvement in the July movement, nor because I had been oppressed under the Awami League regime. They felt I might be declining for those reasons, but that wasn't the case either for me or any other member of the board."

As we came to the end of the conversation, Nipun emphasised the potential changes in the film industry, Nipun uttered his concerns about the need for greater responsibility from exhibitors and the distribution system once the certification process begins. "It's a chain process, and as the supporting wing, other sectors need to be more cooperative and, above all, take greater responsibility in fulfilling their duties."

Abul Hayat collaborates with Antik Mahmud



Abul Hayat recently voiced an antagonist in an upcoming untitled animated project — playing a king who seeks to use magical abilities to revive his son.

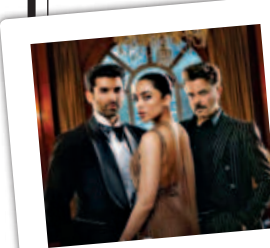
This artistic venture is animator Antik Mahmud's latest animated project with a story that highlights his unique comedic style, blending fantasy with profound themes.

Antik has built a loyal fan base through collaborations with young celebrities like Pritom Hasan and Chirkutt.

He told The Daily Star that he has long dreamed of working with Abul Hayat, who greatly influenced his childhood.

Antik believes the cartoon piqued the veteran actor's interest, noting, "I think the hook was the art. He appreciates it—his daughter Bipasha Hayat is a painter, and Tauquir *bhai* is an architect. I could see that admiration."

'The Night Manager' is India's only nomination at International Emmys



The Indian adaptation of *The Night Manager* was a hit with audiences, showcasing stellar performances by Anil Kapoor, Aditya Roy Kapoor, and Sobhita Dhulipala in an action-packed series that left viewers captivated.

The show recently received a nomination at the 2024 International Emmy Awards, making it India's only contender across 14 categories, specifically in the competitive drama series category.

The Indian version will compete against strong international titles like France's *Drops of God*, Australia's *The Newsreader*, and Argentina's *Yosi, the Regretful Spy*.

NEWS

Deflated Bangladesh clutching

FROM PAGE 12
Zakir and Shadman played their shots, judged the lengths well and attacked with much ease during that little phase of play in the second session after India had declared. Yet, the manner in which they got dismissed in their 30s brought up questions regarding their concentration.

Batting coach David Hemp tried to explain the first innings disaster, when they were bundled out for 149, saying the batters just could not get set.

"I just think that we got tested early on in the innings, in and around the stumps. We are playing against India so they have quality bowling. They are a very confident side playing at home. It was a case of how we match that, so we have to look to score. We asked the batting group to trust their strengths," Hemp said yesterday.

But even after getting in, the two Bangladesh openers threw it away yesterday, with Zakir pushing at a Jasprit Bumrah delivery that he could have left alone and Shadman chipping a Ravichandran Ashwin delivery to mid-wicket, both guilty of losing their concentration.

"We did it [batters getting in] in patches in Pakistan. We will keep talking about it, and keep working on it in practice. We have to get ourselves in first, as that's something we haven't done well enough. If you go back to March [against Sri Lanka], we were not doing well enough. So we are doing that better," Hemp explained.

The condition remains pretty good for batting, but rough patches have developed on the wicket which would inevitably bring spinners Ashwin, who claimed three wickets on Day 3, and Ravindra Jadeja into the play on the penultimate day.

The disappointing batting in the first innings has put the Tigers permanently in the backfoot and India's quality has dictated terms for three days.

Skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto scoring some runs with an unbeaten fifty is biggest positive from Day 3 for the Tigers. With six wickets in hand and two days to go, Bangladesh will now have to try and make something positive out of the remainder of the innings.

Touhid to meet Jaishankar in New York

FROM PAGE 12
time Modi would leave the city. Modi left for a three-day visit to New York yesterday.

"So, there is almost no possibility [of a meeting between Modi and Yunus]," he said at a briefing at the foreign ministry.

Touhid has left for New York last night and a 57-member delegation led by Yunus is scheduled to leave Dhaka for New York on September 23 on a commercial flight.

He explained that most of the delegation members were security personnel and journalists. He cited austerity measures amid the economic downturn for the small delegation.

Usually, the number of Bangladesh delegation members to the UNGA is between 340 and 335.

During the pandemic, the UNGA was held virtually. In the 76th UNGA, the delegation had 408 people. There were 138 people in the 77th UNGA and 146 people in the 78th UNGA when Bangladesh was maintaining austerity measures.

WORKING RELATIONS TO BE KEPT
In response to a question, Touhid said, "Acknowledging the problem [tension between Bangladesh and India] is important for addressing it.

"We will definitely try to sort out

4 US senators urge Yunus

FROM PAGE 2
The senators said when citizens unite, their voices can compel even the most entrenched and authoritarian leaders to relinquish power, but this historic moment did not come without costs.

Instead of engaging the legitimate grievances of the protesters, the Bangladesh security forces responded with brute force, killing hundreds of protesters, and arresting and injuring thousands more, they said.

The senators urged the interim government to create a credible process to conduct an independent and impartial investigation into the security services' human rights violations.

"This will be vital both as a demonstration of your commitment to respecting the rights of the protesters and signal your interim government's intention to work in good faith to address their grievances."

They said this transition presents a historic opportunity to reform institutions in Bangladesh, to ensure that human rights, such as freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly, are protected; to allow

the tension and maintain working relations. The relationship will have to be based on mutual respect and fairness. Based on this, we will try to advance the relationship and it is possible."

There were media reports that Modi was not meeting Yunus as New Delhi did not like the comments made by Bangladeshi political parties and interim government on Dhaka-Delhi relations.

Asked about this, Touhid said there were also comments of Indian leaders which Dhaka might not have liked. Similarly, India might not like some comments from Bangladesh.

"However, these are not major issues. We cannot change our neighbours, and we can only coexist with good relationship," he said.

He said for the sake of Bangladesh and India, they need to talk on bilateral issues.

UNGA SPEECH
Yunus is scheduled to deliver his speech at the high level General Debate of the UNGA on September 27 before leaving for Dhaka the same day.

In his speech, he is expected to highlight the mass uprising and reaffirm his commitment to establishing a pro-people, welfare-oriented, and public interest driven

state mechanism, Touhid said.

He said the chief adviser's speech would also feature Bangladesh's strong stance on international peacekeeping, climate change, global conflicts, Rohingya crisis, challenges faced by developing nations in achieving SDGs, preventing illicit flow of resources, and safeguarding migrant rights.

The foreign adviser emphasised that human rights and government's reform initiatives would be the central theme.

Touhid said the UNGA presents a great opportunity to showcase Bangladesh's inclusive and justice-oriented vision to the global community.

Yunus is expected to hold bilateral meetings with the prime ministers of the Netherlands, Pakistan, and Nepal.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, president of the European Union, UN secretary general, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, president of the World Bank, and USAID administrator will call on Yunus there.

Bangladesh will host a high level reception on September 24 to mark the 50th anniversary of its membership in the UN.

Bangladesh will also attend a high level side event on the Rohingya crisis.

Dual rule in judiciary must end

FROM PAGE 12
The immediate past government started the culture of false and blanket cases, Nazrul added.

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman expressed deep concerns over the continued presence of judges who have allegedly acted as accomplices of fascism in significant positions within the judiciary.

He emphasised that the judges, known for their roles in undermining citizens' rights, remain in critical postings.

Asaduzzaman highlighted the urgent need for vigilance from both the legal advisory offices and the Chief Justice's office, warning that the ongoing situation could tarnish public trust in the judicial system.

He recalled a dark period over the last decade and a half, where citizens' basic human rights and voting rights were reportedly stripped away through violence, enforced disappearances and repression.

Millions were falsely accused in cases designed to suppress dissent, leading to a significant erosion of fundamental rights such as freedom of speech and assembly.

Reflecting on the judiciary's role during the turbulent times, Asaduzzaman lamented its failure to uphold justice, asserting that many judges acted as passive observers or adopted submissive stances.

Major reforms

FROM PAGE 12
Speaking about the racial tension in the hills, he said, "I believe this part of a strategy to destabilise the government and the political landscape of Bangladesh. I do not consider the recent incidents in the Chittagong Hill Tracts as isolated ones

"The events can be viewed as an attempt to instigate a counter-revolution, undermining the benefits we have achieved through an uprising."

He said Sheikh Hasina's remarks from India had an impact in Bangladesh. "Overall, the situation is not comfortable... there are real causes for concern."

On BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's health, Fakhrul said doctors do not deem her fit for flying, which is delaying her travel abroad for medical care.

National leaders emerge from student politics, he said. "If we ban student politics again, who will benefit? It will benefit those who operate underground."

INTERNATIONAL

Early voting starts in 3 US states

AFP, Arlington

With more than a month before the November 5 presidential election, some Americans are already lining up to cast their ballots in this tightly contested race.

Early in-person voting kicked off Friday in the US states of Virginia, South Dakota, and Minnesota as voters pick between Vice President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump.

"You just feel that we're part of the process," said 56-year-old Tom Kilkenny, who came to a polling station in Arlington, Virginia, where people were lining up before it even opened early in the morning.



His wife Michelle, 55, said she was happy to set a good example for her friends and neighbours by voting early.

"When you... speak with them, I can myself say 'I voted already' and then start spreading the word," said Michelle Kilkenny, whose blue T-shirt was covered in Democratic Party pins.

Each of the country's 50 states has its own voting procedures: early voting by mail or in person, election day voting or a combination of the three.

For some Americans casting their ballot as soon as it becomes possible is a family tradition.



Rescuers sift through the rubble at the scene of an Israeli strike that targeted Beirut's southern suburbs a day earlier, as search and rescue operations continue in Lebanon yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Two top Hezbollah leaders killed in Israel's Beirut strike

Lebanon says 35 more killed; Gaza rescuers say strike on school kills 21

AFP, Beirut

Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, which has been exchanging fire with Israel for months, yesterday announced that two commanders of its elite operations unit had been killed by an Israeli strike on Beirut, which authorities said left 37 people dead.

Health Minister Firass Abiad said three children were also killed in Friday's strike on an underground meeting room, which AFP journalists said left a huge crater in a densely populated neighbourhood of the capital's southern suburbs, a Hezbollah stronghold.

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati in a statement yesterday, decried "horrific massacres" and said he had cancelled a trip to the United Nations General Assembly "in

light of the developments linked to the Israeli aggression on Lebanon".

Israel's military said it also targeted a Hamas command centre in Gaza City that it alleged was "embedded inside" a school, where rescuers said 21 people were killed in adjacent buildings used as a shelter.

Friday's strike also followed sabotage attacks on pagers and two-way radios used by Hezbollah on Tuesday and Wednesday, which killed 39 people. Hezbollah blamed Israel, which has not commented.

Israeli troops and Hezbollah fighters have battled each other along the Israel-Lebanon border since the Israeli invasion of Gaza.

Hezbollah says it is acting in support of Hamas.

Months of near-daily cross border

exchanges have killed hundreds in Lebanon, mostly fighters, and dozens in Israel and the annexed Golan Heights, forcing tens of thousands on both sides to flee their homes.

GAZA SCHOOL STRIKE

Yesterday, Gaza's civil defence agency said an Israeli strike on Al-Zaytoon School C, which had been turned into a displaced shelter, killed 21 people including 13 children and six women, one of them pregnant.

In late August, the United Nations said Israel had struck at least 23 school shelters since July 4. Israel's retaliatory military offensive has killed at least 41,391 people in Gaza, most of them civilians, according to figures provided by the Hamas-run territory's health ministry.

Iran unveils new drone, missile amid rising tensions

AFP, Tehran

Iran unveiled a new ballistic missile and an upgraded one-way attack drone at a military parade yesterday, state media said, amid soaring regional tensions and allegations of arming Russia.

Iran stands accused by Western governments of supplying both drones and missiles to Russia for use in its war with Ukraine, a charge it has repeatedly denied.

The solid fuel Jihad missile was designed and manufactured by the aerospace arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards and has an operational range of 1,000 kilometres (more than 600 miles), state news agency IRNA said.

The Shahed-136B drone is an upgraded version of the Shahed-136, with new features and an operational range of more than 4,000 kilometres (2,500 miles), it added.



New President Masoud Pezeshkian attended the annual parade in Tehran, commemorating the 1980-88 war with Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

"Today, our defensive and deterrent capabilities have grown so much that no demon even thinks about any aggression towards our dear Iran," he said.

"With unity and cohesion among Islamic countries... we can put in its place the bloodthirsty, genocidal usurper Israel, which shows no mercy to anyone, women or children, old or young."

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei delivered a similar tirade against Israel to delegates to an annual meeting of Muslim clerics hosted by Iran, calling on Islamic countries to "completely cut off their economic relations" with Israel and "weaken political ties."

Student bodies oppose ban on politics at DU

FROM PAGE 1

in 2007 by Paribesh Parishad, a platform comprising the DU authorities and representatives from 35 student bodies.

The DU authorities, however, did not invite Chhatra League at yesterday's meeting that also discussed issues related to the resumption of classes at the university from today.

Classes and exams resume at DU today after a closure of over three months.

However, classes for first year students will resume on September 30.

DU Proctor Saifuddin Ahmed said, "Classes and exams will resume tomorrow [today] as per the decision of the Dhaka University syndicate [on September 12]."

The DU dormitories reopened on August 6.

The previous Awami

League government closed all schools, colleges, and universities on July 16 amid the quota reform protests.

Students of DU went on Eid holidays in early June and the university was supposed to reopen on July 1. But it did not happen as on July 1 teachers went on work abstention demanding reinstatement of their previous pension scheme.

SHIBIR IN, BCL OUT Current and former activists of different student bodies said this was the first time Shibir openly attended a meeting with the DU authorities since the 2007 political changeover.

In another development, DU student Shadik Kayem in a Facebook post yesterday declared himself president of Shibir's DU unit.

Sources said Shadik and Rezaul Karim Shakil

attended yesterday's meeting as Shibir representatives.

Contacted, DU Proctor Saifuddin Ahmed said they invited Shibir as the organisation participated in meetings with different student platforms during the recent mass uprising that led to the ouster of Hasina.

He said they did not follow the Paribesh Parishad's list while inviting representatives from student organisations since Chhatra League was part of the Parishad.

Asked why Chhatra League was not invited, he said, "We did not invite them as they opposed the mass uprising and acted against the movement."

During the meeting, Chhatra Dal leaders called for abolishing the culture of "gono room, guest room and ragging". They also demanded that safety, security, and residential

facilities for all students be ensured.

Chhatra Federation leaders demanded the authorities expel those students found involved in criminal activities and take legal action against them.

Many student leaders at the meeting also called for the current DU syndicate and senate body to be dissolved, claiming that those were responsible for the attacks on students during the quota reform protests in July.

Student organisations who took part in the meeting included a faction of Chhatra Union, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (Marxist), Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (BSD), Biplobi Chhatra Jubo Andolan, Ganatantrik Chhatra Council, Biplobi Chhatra Maitree, and Islami Chhatra Andolan, among others.

One dead, seven missing as flood hits central Japan

AFP, Tokyo

One person was killed and at least seven were missing yesterday, officials said, as "unprecedented" rains triggered floods and landslides in Japan's quake-hit region of Ishikawa, where authorities told tens of thousands to evacuate.

A dozen rivers in the region, on the west coast of central Japan that was hit by a large quake on New Year's Day, had burst their banks by 11:00am (0200 GMT), land ministry official Masaru Kojima said.

One person was killed, three people were missing and two people were seriously injured in Ishikawa, the region's government said in a statement, with two of the missing reportedly carried away by strong river currents.

Infighting rears up in BNP after Hasina's fall

FROM PAGE 12

and his men attempted to gain control of a human hauler terminal.

The clash happened over extortion money, which used to be collected by AL leaders, they said.

Shamsunnahar, elder sister of the victim, said AL men in the last 15 years beat up his brother several times, even broke

his arms and legs on one occasion.

"But this time my brother was brutally killed by BNP men... I want justice," she said.

In Narail's Lohagara upazila, two brothers — Miran Sheikh, 30, and Ziaur Sheikh, 40, — were killed and five others injured in a clash between two rival groups of BNP on

September 10.

They were supporters of Ferdaus Sheikh, joint general secretary of Narail district BNP.

Biswas Jahangir Alam, president of Narail district BNP, said they have already directed the upazila level leaders so that such incidents do not recur.

"We have already talked

to the central leaders. We will take steps to dismiss such leaders," he told The Daily Star.

Some opportunists are now committing crimes including extortion and giving the BNP a bad name, he added.

A leader from another district said a section of leaders and activists have become BNP's own rival.

Yunus, Biden meet in New York Sept 24

FROM PAGE 1

UNGA for a short time and does not hold any bilateral meetings. The fact that he would be meeting Yunus there is significant, the source added.

The US president never held bilateral meeting with Bangladesh head of government in New York, diplomatic officials said.

The US and Bangladesh relations were strained during the Awami League regime.

The US imposed sanctions on Rab in December 2021 and announced visa restrictions in May last year against those who it deemed undermined democratic elections.

After the elections, Washington said the elections were not free, fair or participatory.

Two ammo depots struck in Russia: Ukraine

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine said yesterday it had successfully struck two Russian weapons depots in the southern Krasnodar and western Tver regions, with Moscow announcing more than 1,000 evacuations.

Kyiv regularly hits

Russian infrastructure with drones as Moscow's offensive drags on for more than two and a half years.

The Ukrainian army said it had hit a depot near the city of Tikhoretsk in Krasnodar, calling it one of Moscow's "three largest ammunition storage bases" important to the

Russian army's logistics for its Ukraine invasion.

It also said it struck an arsenal in Tver region's Oktyabrsky village, resulting in a "fire and detonation".

The governor of the Krasnodar region, Veniamin Kondratyev, announced the evacuation of 1,200 people after a

drone attack had caused a fire that "spread to explosive objects" near Tikhoretsk.

Videos on social media showed a massive explosion in the dark resembling fireworks at first before blowing up loudly, with online reports that an ammunition depot was struck.

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End the violence in hill districts

Indigenous people's historical grievances must be addressed for peace

We are deeply concerned about the violence in Rangamati town and Khagrachhari's Dighinala and Sadar upazilas, which has resulted in the deaths of four people and left at least 72 others injured. The destruction of homes, businesses, and temples belonging to national minorities in Khagrachhari and Rangamati, we believe, is a direct consequence of ethnically biased policies towards Indigenous communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts—policies that successive governments have failed to address for decades. The reluctance of previous governments to fully implement the CHT Peace Accord has remained a painful issue for the Indigenous people in the hill districts. And until and unless the accord is fully implemented, Indigenous people's identity is given constitutional recognition, and their democratic rights are ensured, we fear that the tensions prevailing in the hill districts will continue to give rise to further tragedies.

On Thursday, several houses and shops—mostly belonging to Indigenous people—were set on fire in Dighinala, forcing residents to flee their villages in fear. Then, on Friday, clashes between Bangalee and Indigenous people reportedly occurred in Rangamati town, spreading fear among locals there. According to witnesses, the clashes began after a group of Bangalees attacked a procession of Indigenous communities, and the situation in the hill districts continues to remain tense even now.

Following these events, the government made an urgent appeal for peace in the three hill districts, affirming its commitment to resolving the crisis. It also announced that a high-powered committee would soon be formed to investigate all incidents of violence and ensure those responsible are held accountable. Needless to say, previous governments have formed numerous committees in the past, none of which adequately addressed the grievances of the Indigenous communities in these districts. Therefore, we sincerely hope that this time things will be different.

Additionally, we welcome the government's decision to instruct all law enforcement agencies to exercise maximum restraint to ensure the safety of all residents in the three hill districts. However, we also hope these instructions will be followed more sincerely than they have been in the past.

Historically, perpetrators of similar arson attacks in the hill districts have rarely been brought to justice. This precedent has emboldened miscreants to continue such attacks. It is, therefore, essential that the interim government ensures justice for all victims. Moreover, given the repeated disappointments the Indigenous population has had to endure, the recent incidents of violence cannot be viewed in isolation. The interim government must take steps to correct historical wrongs done to the Indigenous population, and in this regard, the full implementation of the CHT Peace Accord is of paramount importance.

DU admin cannot avoid responsibility

Timely action could have saved Tofazzal's life

We are deeply concerned about the failure of our public university administrations to stop the repeated incidents of mob lynching that have recently resulted in the deaths of three individuals—one mentally unwell person and two leaders of the Bangladesh Chhatra League. Reportedly, at Dhaka University, while 35-year-old Tofazzal was being tortured by students in the guest room of Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall on mere suspicion of theft, no one from the hall administration or the proctorial body came forward to save him. The same was true for the other two incidents at Jahangirnagar University and Rajshahi University. At a time when we are dreaming of building a country free from all kinds of discrimination and inequality, such brutality within the country's higher educational institutions, occurring under the very nose of the administrations, has shocked the whole nation.

During the past 15 years of Awami League rule, we saw how our university campuses had become hotspots for various criminal activities, as the leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League created an environment of fear on campuses. We witnessed how they dominated the administrations in the residential halls and turned guest rooms into torture cells, rendering the hall administrations practically redundant. We observed the silence of the BUET administration when BCL members tortured Abrar Fahad to death. Apparently, they could not perform their mandated duties fearing reprisal from the BCL and the higher-ups of the then government. But what is stopping them from performing their tasks now? What are they afraid of?

Had the hall administration taken timely action, Tofazzal's life could have been saved. The question is, why couldn't the hall provost be reached despite the fact that he lives on the hall premises? Why did it take so long for the proctorial team to reach the spot where such inhuman brutality was being inflicted on a mentally unwell person? Also, instead of taking the critically injured Tofazzal directly to a hospital, why did the mobile team of the proctor's office take him to Shahbagh Police Station? We want answers to these questions from the DU administration.

It is encouraging that police have arrested six students in connection with this incident. We now hope that the DU administration will also fulfil its role by conducting a proper investigation into the incident and taking punitive action against those involved in Tofazzal's death. Such incidents go entirely against the spirit of the July uprising and must not be repeated.

Our demands are for inclusion, not separatism



Ilira Dewan is a human rights activist.

ILIRA DEWAN

The incident started with the mob beating of a person named Mohammad Mamum, who had allegedly stolen a motorcycle. He died from the beating. We do not condone such killings. Those who were involved in this incident should not have taken the law into their own hands. Instead, they should have handed him over to the police.

But when widespread attacks start based on such an incident, the following chain of events cannot be anything but planned. If the events that took place in the last month and a half were revisited and analysed, one can see there was a big rally on August 16 in Khagrachhari organised by students calling for unity. They called to end the divisiveness or differences of opinion among the various indigenous groups, which is a threat to our survival. No one had organised these students. They communicated amongst each other and organised it themselves.

A month later on September 18, they arranged yet another rally in Khagrachhari Sadar. This one was bigger and around 10,000-15,000 people participated in it. It was a peaceful rally and they presented an 8-point demand addressed to the chief adviser through the district commissioner, which called for peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Now this disciplined and well-organised rally, without any vandalism, without anyone getting hurt, that saw the coming together of various Indigenous groups—Chakma, Marma, Tripura—



PHOTO: COLLECTED

On Thursday, September 19, shops and houses were set on fire in Dighinala, and residents fled their villages out of fear.

rallies, organised by young people, within just one month, created a sense of panic among them. They cannot deny it. To steer the situation towards a different direction, the Dighinala incident was devised.

Previously, we had to believe whatever the press reported. Now, in the digital era, things have changed.

Who is asking for a separate state? Not us. Through this propaganda, they are creating a negative image of us to execute their own plan. We do not want any separate state, like they have in India, or a separate country. We want to stay together and be included in the constitution. There's been discussion about constitutional reforms, we want our rights and our issues to be included in those reforms.

was not well-received by many, in my opinion. There are quarters that want to sustain the divisiveness among us. They are used to seeing us fight among ourselves—they feel assured watching that. They do not feel comfortable when they see us united. These two

If you watch the videos, you would see that during the confrontations between the Paharis and Bangalees, no group is attacking each other.

However, according to witnesses, security forces were present when the Dighinala Bazar was burnt down, but

separate state has been there for a long time. When the constitution was formed in 1972, MN Larma was an independent lawmaker and the only representative from the Chittagong Hill Tracts. When he raised the issue of recognising the Indigenous people in the constitution, his proposal was rejected and he was sidelined. If our rights were clearly recognised in the constitution at that time, then we would not have to pay for that mistake in today's Bangladesh.

Since then, many amendments to the constitution were made, and at last in the 15th amendment, we were included but only as tribes, minor races, ethnic sects, and communities. We are raising our voices and demanding to be included in the constitution. Are we doing this because we want separation?

The state called us separatists, people working in the previous governments called us separatists, and some groups called us separatists, but we want to be recognised in the constitution and live in this country as citizens. So, who is asking for a separate state? Not us. Through this propaganda, they are creating

from the government has visited the areas today. We hope that they will be able to come up with ways to calm the situation and mitigate the anger, fear, and mistrust among the communities. Since our chief adviser won the Nobel prize for peace, we hope that he will take the initiative to reinstate peace in the hill tracts by fully implementing the CHT Peace Accord. The rest of the advisers are progressive-minded as well. So, we trust and hope that they will take this initiative together.

At the same time, we urge that the people who were actually involved in the fatal lynching of the alleged motorcycle thief, are identified and brought to book. Justice must also be served for the killing of the four people, whose deaths resulted from the communal riots in Dighinala, Khagrachhari, and Rangamati, which were instigated from the lynching incidents. If the July-August uprising killings can be investigated by a United Nations-led team, then why not these killings in the hill tracts? They should be investigated not just by a judicial body but also through the UN-body probing the killings in the plain land.

Who is Kalpana Chakma?



Myat Moe Khaing is a marketing strategist at a multinational company, who takes an interest in Indigenous and gender politics.

MYAT MOE KHAING

In July 2024, while Bangladesh's former government violently repressed student protests and imposed a communication blackout to silence voices, the name "Kalpana Chakma" echoed similar experiences in the hills. Kalpana stood again as a mirror, reflecting the experiences of subjugation and, ultimately, resistance to tyranny. As a "new" Bangladesh emerges, knowing who Kalpana Chakma is becomes crucial in understanding our shared history—of Bangalees and Adibashis (the Indigenous). To know her, you must know what she stands for.

The United Nations recognises Indigenous peoples as inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures with social, cultural, economic and political characteristics distinct from dominant societies' where they reside in. Being Indigenous, thus, implies self-determination—the right to freely determine political status and pursue economic, social and cultural development.

In 1860, the British annexed Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region. Special regulations were passed, preserving the region's special character and recording the presence of Indigenous groups.

After independence, the 1972 Bangladesh constitution recognised only the Bangalee culture and

language, and designated all citizens of Bangladesh as Bangalee. According to the study, "Ethnic Problems in Bangladesh: A Study of Chittagong Hill Tracts" (2014), CHT representatives, under the leadership of Manabendra Narayan Larma, who served as the Adibashi representative in parliament, sought the recognition of Indigenous status. President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman rejected their demands, saying "Forget your ethnic identity, be Bengalis." Their demands were met with establishment of three cantonments in Ruma, Alikadam and Dighinala in 1973, as reported by International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs.

From 1975 to 1981, during Bangladesh's military rule, the government began state-sponsored migration programmes of Bangalee settlers into the hill region in phases, leading to continuing ethnic tension, as detailed in "Between Ashes and Hope: Chittagong Hill Tracts in the Blind Spot of Bangladesh Nationalism" (2010). Claimed as an outcome of the measures of counter-insurgency and protection of national borders, today CHT remains the only fully militarised area in Bangladesh.

Against this backdrop, Kalpana Chakma was a frontline activist in the struggle for self-determination of Indigenous peoples. Even from a young age, she was very politically

conscious. The first-year graduate student of Baghaichari College served as the organising secretary of the Hill Women's Federation, a wing organisation of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti. In the words of a fellow comrade, "If there was a conference in Khagrachori, she would come all the way from Baghaichari. Whereas many were shy, Kalpana spoke fluently on stage. She was only 23 years old, yet she stood out for her organisational discipline and took the responsibility of her group members at meetings."

International CHT Commission adviser Meghna Guhathakurta writes, "Kalpana did not interpret democracy as only free and fair elections, rather participation in the political process, especially as a Chakma and a woman. She did not hold herself back from criticising her own student movement as male-dominated and neglectful of women's emancipation in agendas for class struggle and political change."

In Dina Mahnaz Siddiqui's chapter titled, "Against Forgetting: Gendered Justice in 'Post-conflict' Bangladesh" in the book *Women and Politics of Peace: South Asia Narratives on Militarization, Power, and Justice*, it is mentioned that the general parliamentary elections of Bangladesh were set to be held on June 12, 1996. Kalpana participated in electioneering in favour of independent candidate Bijay Ketan Chakma. A few days prior to the election, she got into a public dispute with the then Lieutenant Ferdous Kaisar Khan over the issue of burning down of houses in her village. She was also campaigning for an enquiry over the rape and murder of Shapna Rekha Chakma from her village.

Multiple news reports, quoting her brothers Kalindi and Khudiram, state that in the early hours of the election

day, Kalpana, along with her brothers, were abducted at gunpoint from their home in Lallyaghona village. The brothers managed to escape and raised allegations against Lieutenant Ferdous of Kojoichhari army camp and Village Defence Party members Nurul Haque and Saleh Ahmed from Ugolchhari.

The police took almost 14 years to complete the probe. However, the 2010 report did not say anything conclusive about the suspects. Her family rejected subsequent similar reports. By 2016, 39 police officers had investigated her abduction case. After several hearings, this year the court accepted the final report, clearing all the suspects.

"We loved her so much since she was a kid. We worked in other people's houses and saved money for her studies. She was the only one in our family who studied. But what a fate! We lost her. Whenever an organisation comes to us, we tell the same story. It's been years and we are yet to receive justice," Kalindi's words reflect the institutional impunity within the CHT. Even after 28 years of miscarriage of justice, her family has to hear strange rumours—she was involved in a "love affair" with the abductor or that she is in India.

Kalpana's disappearance is not an isolated event. The meanings attached to her absent body reveal systematic issues operating against justice delivery for unseen Indigenous sisters.

Yet Kalpana remains a sign of resistance and solidarity in the face of oppression. Kalpana will never die. Her graffiti can be wiped out but she lives through us. Kalpana is you. Kalpana is me. She reminds us of our fight against oppression and the enduring quest for justice. Like her name, Kalpana allows us to imagine what it means to stand up for our values against overwhelming odds.



VISUAL: ALIZA RAHMAN

Mob justice is just murder



Tanim Ahmed
is a journalist at The Daily Star.

TANIM AHMED

Even if the vilest allegations were true, lynching them could not have been the answer. Since the police reappeared on the scene on August 11 (they had deserted their posts following the fall of the Awami League regime on August 5 and only resumed duties after repeated reassurances of peace and cooperation), 21 people were lynched in 38 days with just eight people arrested. That the law enforcement agencies have done precious little is obvious. But more worryingly, it is partially because of their lack of urgency and initiative that the situation in the hills has spiralled out of control. Many of the indigenous community have had to flee their homes and take to the forests to save their lives.

As of Saturday morning, four people have died and several more have been admitted to hospitals with gunshot wounds. Apparently, brewing tension between the indigenous community and the settlers came to a head after the lynching of a man suspected of stealing a motor bike. According to the police, this man, a settler, was wanted in 14 cases of theft.

Disturbing as the lynchings were, two of these from Wednesday evening and early Thursday were shocking and became a serious point of concern since both happened on university campuses and were perpetrated by students—that most enlightened and progressive section of people.

A former Chhatra League activist who had been a leader a few years ago and allegedly attacked student protesters on July 15 on Jahangirnagar University campus was rescued by the university's security guards and taken to their office when a group of students swooped on him on Wednesday evening. But angry students raided the security offices and beat him up for a second round in the presence of a proctor and the security personnel.

Students speaking to news outlets said the man was beaten up several times. There were also allegations of land grabbing and extortion against this former history graduate. He had to be rescued by the police and the vice chancellor, Shamim Ahmed, the former BCL leader died in hospital later in the evening.

The Dhaka University incident is even more barbaric. Known to be a vagrant, Tofazzal was a young man supposedly from Barguna, with no known next of kin and was reported not to be in complete control of his mental faculties. But he was not a stranger on campus, as a number

Sadly, when one lynching can be said to be more barbaric than another, it can only indicate the level of depravity of some of our university students. The same students who were the vanguards of a popular uprising against the absolute reign of a dictatorial government. A lynch mob is no better than a murderous regime—not to Tofazzal, nor Shamim.

of Facebook posts indicate. "A little crazy, but harmless" is the general impression of this man who was alleged of theft and apprehended at a residential hall. Students then proceeded to beat him. They then let this man have supper. His photo is floating around Facebook with this man washing his hands sitting shirtless in the canteen. His eyes don't indicate the fear that a man might have who is being beaten by craven monsters. His eyes don't

have any hatred either. He looks apathetic, as only a madman can. A caption reads, "The Last Supper."

He was then taken away and beaten some more till his condition deteriorated, which is presumably when he was handed over to the proctor's office. The critically injured Tofazzal was then taken to the Shahbag Police Station around 11:00 pm and finally brought to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where the doctors pronounced him dead.

The incident is eerily reminiscent of a BUET incident five years ago when BCL cadres kept a student locked up in a room while they went off to watch a football match only to return and resume their beating and eventually killing Abrar, a fellow student.

Sadly, when one lynching can be said to be more barbaric than another, it can only indicate the level of depravity of some of our university students. The same students who were the vanguards of a popular uprising against the absolute reign of a dictatorial government. A lynch mob is no better than a murderous regime—not to Tofazzal, nor Shamim.

It was heartening to see that both campuses react with protests against these incidents. It would behoove the university authorities to proactively come forward with the utmost cooperation for the police. As for the law enforcement agencies, they had better act swiftly to set an example of these two murders, and it is only out of extreme indulgence that one does not call them "executions."

It would have been expected that during his meeting with the top police officers on Thursday, the home adviser would have issued strict instructions to the law enforcers and a stern warning for the murderers. Instead, he stopped short with merely expressing his dismay over the two lynchings and urged people not to take up law in their own hands. The police headquarters, however, did put out a media release warning of tough action. However, since the interim government has taken over, there has been much motivational speech but little action to show actual intent. One is wont to infer that the pathetic lack of initiative and enthusiasm of the law enforcers stems from the very top that has failed to provide them with decisive direction.

The biggest wetland in Dhaka nobody knows about



Kazi Khaleed Ashraf
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KAZI KHALEED ASHRAF

On the west of Dhaka, once connected to Turag River but now separated by the western embankment or the Mirpur "beribadh," is Dhaka's largest wetland. That no one knows about! That remains invisible to the public consciousness! The wetland remains without a name and without any special identity in official reckoning. Yet this vast stretch of water body is a priceless asset at many levels and

happy partnership of private entities. No wonder we have the least livable city on the planet.

The scale of destruction in the making of Dhaka baffles the imagination. In 2019, Arfar Razi, a geographer at Bengal Institute, calculated that the amount of landfilling needed for the Purbachal-Bashundhara area between 1975-2018 was near 16 billion cu ft. That volume of landfill/sandfill would be

as a vast water retention area for Dhaka, particularly for the greater Mirpur area. Our own mapping of the watershed and flow pattern shows that a huge portion of surface water runoff is occurring, following a path from the Mirpur 14 area to a northern direction and falling into this wetland. It is clear that this particular wetland has a considerable impact, both direct and indirect, on the entire Mirpur area for about two million people living there.

Now what to do with this Sharoboriya, the largest wetland in metropolitan Dhaka? The immediate task would be to retain the ecological and hydrological properties of this lake and also open it up for public experience. The western wetland can be a part of Dhaka's



The encroachment of the western wetland.

COURTESY: BENGAL INSTITUTE

the last remaining endangered wetland in Dhaka city.

Before the construction of the beribadh in the early 1990s, the nameless water body was part of the overflow zone of the river; it was a floodplain. The construction of the embankment detached it from the river and its flows, and turned it into an unsuspecting wetland, a terraqueous zone. Now this organic shaped wetland, more of a lake, to the north of the Botanical Garden is framed by the beribadh to the left, a canal (Digan Khal) to the east and south, and RAJUK's new housing to the north. With an area of nearly 700 acres, the wetland is a little smaller than the Maidan in Kolkata and Central Park in New York, and significantly larger than Hatirjheel.

No one knows about this "water body" because it cannot be viewed from any vantage point to get a glimpse of its immensity. And it certainly cannot be accessed for any public experience. Increasingly encircled by installations, mostly governmental, it is made to be invisible. The only way to view the wetland and comprehend its vastness is on Google Maps. Even on maps, it remains largely unrecognised. In a map for ecologically sensitive areas in Dhaka's Detailed Area Plan (DAP) 2022-25, this western wetland is not even noted, although there is a vague marker for "Goran-Chotbari Water Park" in that document, and a Mirpur Lake in an imprecise Google map. One wonders if there is a willful or planned abandonment of this magnificent wetland. Perhaps, it is a planning tactic for questionable operations? Reviewing timeline maps, one can see clearly the incremental landfill on the wetland from almost all sides. The most recent is on the north side that has filled up 36 acres of the wetland for a supposed resettlement project by a government agency.

The fate of this wetland with no name is symptomatic of the vast destruction of Dhaka's precious ecological resources—canals, wetlands, ponds, forests—in the name of urban development. If there is one axiomatic fact about Dhaka, it is that it is being built on the ruin of its ecological and natural assets. The destruction is both deliberate and wanton, and one is inclined to think, planned. Despite strong laws on preserving such areas, various state agencies have been complicit in the devastation, along with the

enough to fill up the Buriganga River from Gabtoli point all the way to the Meghna River. What gigantic earth moving operations by both the state and private operators to build a city over a destroyed water ecology! If only more hydrologically sensitive approaches were made, then economic drives would have matched ecological imperatives, and then Dhaka would have received a more balanced and appropriate urbanity.

To give recognition to our vast wetland on the Turag and to extract it from a generic

In the DAP 2022-25 document, there is a plethora of proposed water parks for all over the city, including the west wetland, but it is never clear what those are. The proposition is vague with no clear definition of what a water park is, what its perimeters are, and no precise direction on preserving the hydrological properties of the wetland and its specific ecological values for Dhaka.

existence in official documents, the first task would be to name it. In the 1780 map of Dhaka and its environs by the colonial cartographer James Rennell, present Turag river is named as "Sarvarya" or "Cassimpour" (on his map, Rennell even identifies a flood flow zone for the Turag). We can assume for now that Sarvarya may have referred to a sarovar, or lake, that is, the immense watery condition that prevails on the western side of Turag even now during monsoon. Echoing that assumption, and in recognition of a sarovar, we can suggest calling Dhaka's western wetland "Sharoboriya."

It is worthwhile to review some important facts about this wetland. Presently covering a total area of 610 acres (down from 780 acres in 2010), the water capacity of the wetland is about 5.5 million cubic meters. Even in its present capacity, this entire wetland is working

enhanced urban life in terms of retaining and draining of water, providing key biodiversity, cooling air temperature, absorbing air pollution, and offering an astounding landscape and a dearly needed public space to the city. In the DAP 2022-25 document, there is a plethora of proposed water parks for all over the city, including the west wetland, but it is never clear what those are. The proposition is vague with no clear definition of what a water park is, what its perimeters are, and no precise direction on preserving the hydrological properties of the wetland and its specific ecological values for Dhaka.

Besides naming, we propose an immediate definition of the boundary of the wetland so that no further encroachments happen. Environmental laws or barbed wire fences are not enough to protect a special area; an appropriate usage of the boundary condition, however, can. We suggest making the whole periphery porous as a defined public zone. Stretching for a total linear length of 2.6 km, the bounded zone can simply be a belt park around the wetland in which the public can have open and free access. Then, selected access to the wetland itself can be designed for an enhanced experience.

Bordering the embankment road on the western side of the wetland and now being occupied by various entities is a strip of land of an area of about 22 acres. Those occupying that strip will have to cede it to the public park project. Even if completed on this strip, the greatest public space can be organised there for a city that dearly lacks public spaces. If just planted with trees, the area can have the biggest forest in Dhaka, with additional benefits if linked to the Botanical Garden to the south.

In considering the transformation of this wetland/lake, I have in mind two examples, both from the city of Hangzhou in China: the West Lake and the Xixi Wetland Park. Interested readers may look them up online. Urban and national treasures at the same time, but both undergoing decay and abuse at certain periods, the West Lake and Xixi Park received major restoration treatment by Chinese authorities. The two areas eventually became prosperous hydrological domains and massively popular public spaces. The western wetland in Dhaka, Sharoboriya, holds up a similar promise.

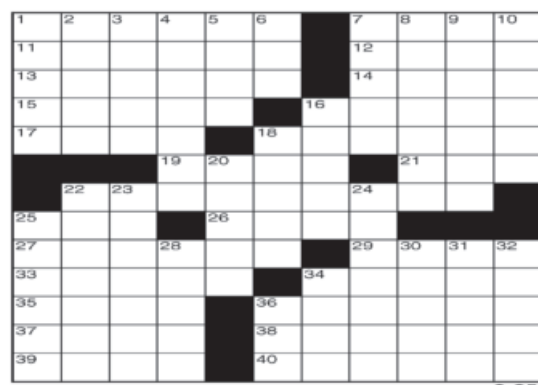
CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Set up, perhaps
- 7 Wise one
- 11 Feel empathy
- 12 Trolley's kin
- 13 Patch type
- 14 Jason's ship
- 15 Body of law
- 16 Wading bird
- 17 Was aware
- 18 Wonder of music
- 19 Regarding
- 21 Stop
- 22 Greenish-blue color
- 25 Light metal
- 26 Edit menu choice
- 27 Suspects' stories
- 29 Surfer's ride
- 33 Gave a score to
- 34 Lukewarm
- 35 Mayberry kid
- 36 Trifling
- 37 Shading
- 38 Right away
- 39 Hangs low

DOWN

- 40 Overcharges
- 1 New York art museum
- 2 Showed over
- 3 Unescorted
- 4 Famous racehorse
- 5 School near Windsor
- 6 Private room
- 7 Map division
- 8 Shows up
- 9 Joke in a routine
- 10 Hammed it up
- 16 Got up
- 18 Amazes
- 20 Ten-armed swimmer
- 22 Mild-flavored fish
- 23 Joining forces
- 24 Grateful reply
- 25 Foretelling cards
- 28 Edible roots
- 30 Imitative
- 31 Singer Gill
- 32 Periphery
- 34 Visitor to Oz
- 36 Price setting



YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

V	O	C	A	B	L	A	C	E	S
A	N	O	D	E	A	R	O	S	E
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Write for us. Send us your opinion pieces to dso-pinion@gmail.com

Air pollution, heat, and metabolic risks fuel global surge in stroke cases and deaths

Air pollution, high temperatures, and metabolic risk factors are driving a global rise in stroke cases, with over 12 million new cases and 7 million deaths annually, according to a study presented in the 16th World Stroke Congress in Abu Dhabi. From 1990 to 2021, the number of people experiencing new strokes rose by 70%, stroke-related deaths increased by 44%, and the overall health loss due to stroke grew by 32%.

Stroke is largely preventable, with 84% of the burden in 2021 linked to 23 modifiable risk factors such as air pollution, obesity, high blood pressure, smoking, and inactivity. Environmental factors, particularly high temperatures, have significantly contributed to stroke mortality, with their impact increasing by 72% since 1990. The study also reveals particulate matter air pollution as a major contributor to subarachnoid hemorrhage, a severe form of stroke.

Urgent measures are needed to enhance stroke prevention, focusing on managing risk factors like high blood pressure and lifestyle choices. More than three-quarters of stroke cases occur in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), where access to prevention and treatment services is limited.

Despite improvements in stroke prevention, global progress has stagnated since 2015, with regions like Southeast Asia and Oceania seeing worsening outcomes. As the global population ages, the stroke burden continues to rise, highlighting the need for effective strategies to mitigate risk factors and improve stroke care globally.



Over 50? These problems can sneak up on you

STAR HEALTH DESK

It goes without saying that ageing causes your body organs to age as well. This causes a variety of health issues in elderly life. According to the National Council on Aging, about 92% of the elderly have at least one chronic condition, and nearly 77% have two or more. Here are some of the most prevalent health problems that older adults face.

Outsmart your age: More than nine out of ten older people have a chronic condition, and nearly eight out of ten have more than one. So, you will probably get one sooner or later. There are, however, things you may do to live a healthier life.

High blood pressure: As you age, your blood vessels become less flexible, which strains your circulatory system. Two-thirds of over 60 persons have high blood pressure. Other factors are controllable. Watch your weight, exercise, quit smoking, manage stress, and eat well.

Diabetes: Diabetes is a common incidence as age increases. Diabetes can cause heart disease, renal damage, and blindness. Check your blood sugar with your doctor.

Heart disease: The accumulation of plaque in your arteries is a primary cause of heart disease. It begins in childhood and worsens with age. Heart disease affects roughly 20% of males and 9.7% of women between the ages of 60 and 79.

Obesity: If you weigh far more than is appropriate for your height, you may be termed obese; it's not simply a few extra pounds. At least 20 chronic illnesses have been associated with it, including heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, high blood pressure, and arthritis.

Osteoarthritis: Once, doctors blamed the joint illness on ageing. Genetics and lifestyle may also be factors. Joint injury, lack of exercise, diabetes, and obesity can all contribute.

Osteoporosis: Osteoporosis weakens your bones, which can lead to fractures. A balanced diet rich in calcium and vitamin D (both are required for strong bones) and frequent weight-bearing activity, such as dancing, running, or climbing stairs, can assist.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD): This promotes inflammation and prevents air from entering your lungs. It's a slow-moving condition that can go undetected for years; symptoms generally appear in your 40s or 50s. It can cause difficulty breathing and cause you to cough, wheeze, and spit up mucus. Exercise, a nutritious diet, and staying away from smoking and pollution can all help.

Hearing loss: Nothing indicates "you are getting older" like being asked, "What did you say?" Loud noise, sickness, and your genes all contribute to hearing loss. Some drugs might also cause hearing difficulties. Consult your doctor if you cannot hear as well as you used to.

Vision problems: The bothersome blurriness you experience while trying to read the small print on labels or menus isn't the only threat to your eyesight as you age.



Cataracts (clouding of the eye's lens) and glaucoma (a group of eye disorders that affect the optic nerve) can impair your vision. Regular eye exams should be scheduled with your eye doctor.

Bladder problems: Incontinence, either in terms of not going when you need to or going too frequently, is a common concern as we age. Muscle weakness, nerve damage, tissue thickening, and an enlarged prostate are all potential causes. Reducing coffee intake or avoiding heavy lifting are just two examples of lifestyle adjustments that might be helpful.

Cancer: The greatest cancer risk factor is just becoming older. Although the illness does strike the young, the risk increases dramatically between the ages of 45 and 54. Although you have little say over the passage of time or your genetic makeup, you may influence risk factors like smoking and sun exposure.

Depression: Depression is one of the most frequent mental diseases among adults aged 18 and above. Some individuals get depressed as they age, health difficulties arise, loved ones die or move away, and other life events occur.

Back pain: This is very common as people age. Being overweight, smoking cigarettes, not getting enough exercise, and having preexisting conditions like arthritis or cancer all increase the risk. To keep your bones healthy, it's important to maintain a healthy weight, exercise regularly, and consume enough vitamin D and calcium. In addition, work on your back strength; you will be using it a lot.

Dementia: Alzheimer's disease is a kind of dementia that typically does not manifest itself in people until they are 65 or older. It is not in your power to alter some risk factors, such as your chronological age or family history. However, there is some evidence that a heart-healthy diet and monitoring blood pressure and blood sugar may be beneficial.

Keeping aware of the common health problems your seniors might face helps plan for prevention and stay prepared for any impending health emergency.

How can I protect myself and others against mpox?

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has classified the Mpox epidemic a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on August 14, 2024, prompting governments throughout the world to reevaluate their readiness. To protect yourself and others against mpox, know the signs and symptoms, how the virus spreads, what to do if you get ill, and the risk in your area or community.

If the virus is spreading in your area or in your community, have open conversations with those you come into close contact with about any symptoms you or they may have. Avoid close contact with anyone who has mpox, including sexual contact. Clean your hands frequently with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.

If you think you might have mpox, you can act to protect others by seeking medical advice and isolating from others until you have been evaluated and tested. If you have mpox, you should isolate yourself from others until all your lesions have crusted over, the scabs have fallen off and a new layer of skin has formed underneath. This will stop you from passing on the virus to others. Follow your local health authority instructions on isolation at home or in a health facility. If having sex, use condoms as a precaution for 12 weeks (about 3 months) after you have recovered.

In countries where some animals have been found to carry the monkeypox virus (i.e. some countries in east, central and west Africa), protect yourself by avoiding unprotected contact with wild animals, especially those that are sick or dead (including their meat and blood). Any food containing animal parts or meat should be cooked thoroughly before eating.

Source: World Health Organisation



WATER INTOXICATION A rare but deadly condition

When you consume too much water too rapidly, an uncommon yet deadly illness known as water poisoning can develop. Water toxicity, also known as hyperhydration, can come from the blood's diluted sodium levels and lead to a number of serious health issues, including seizures, comas, and even death.

The central nervous system may become dysfunctional due to the dilution of sodium, as the brain is sensitive to the amount of sodium in the blood. According to scientific research, it affects the brain stem cells, resulting in severe brain damage.

Overall, excessive water consumption may elevate the pressure inside the skull. Water poisoning symptoms can be ambiguous and may resemble those of other illnesses like heat stroke or insane behavior. People who engage in severe activity, consume copious amounts of water during endurance activities, or use diuretics are at an elevated risk of developing water intoxication.

Water toxicity does not have a specific medical treatment; however, it can be reversed if diagnosed early. The easiest method to avoid water toxicity is to follow your body's thirst cues and drink fluids in moderation.

Although the amount of water required to create water toxicity varies from person to person, it is typically thought that people need more than 2 liters of water in an hour. Children are more vulnerable to water toxicity than adults, but it takes less

water to have an adverse effect.

During hot temperatures, water poisoning is more likely to happen as humans sweat more and lose fluids. People who take diuretics, which are medications that increase the rate of urination, are also at increased risk of water toxicity.

The symptoms of water toxicity can include:

- Headache
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Confusion
- Seizures
- Coma
- Death

If you experience any of the symptoms of water toxicity, it is crucial to seek medical attention immediately.

Here are some common ways to prevent water toxicity:

- Drink fluids in moderation, like drinking in between regular exhales.
- Pay attention to your body's cues for thirst.
- Avoid drinking huge amounts of water in a short period of time, especially in Ramadan during 'suhoor' or if you are exercising strenuously or taking diuretics.
- If you are sweating a lot, drink fluids that contain electrolytes, such as sports drinks or coconut water.
- Talk to your doctor if you have any concerns about water toxicity.

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What should you do if you break a tooth and the root is in the gum?

DR ADILY ADB KHAN

Unfortunately, many patients in our country go to quack or hammer doctors for tooth extraction. Those who have no expertise in this matter. A piece of the root of the remaining tooth is thus left inside the gum. This can lead to many problems that lead to serious illnesses without the patient realising it. A broken tooth at the gum line can cause discomfort, pain, bleeding, swelling and tooth discoloration. Usually when the piece is chewed most of the time the gums are swollen. Additionally, your mouth feels uncomfortable.

Leftover tooth fragments in the gums can cause tooth infections and a myriad of other problems if they are not properly removed. Teeth that are prone to infection can cause tooth abscesses, which become filled with pus and bacteria. It is painful and harmful to the body as the infection can spread to the bloodstream. If a broken tooth is left untreated, other surrounding teeth are more likely to become infected, affecting overall health.

As with a root canal, tooth extraction begins with the area completely numbed with local anesthetic. Your dentist will then use special instruments to loosen the tooth and extract it. You will feel some pressure and hear some loud cracking and popping sounds, but this is not an injury.

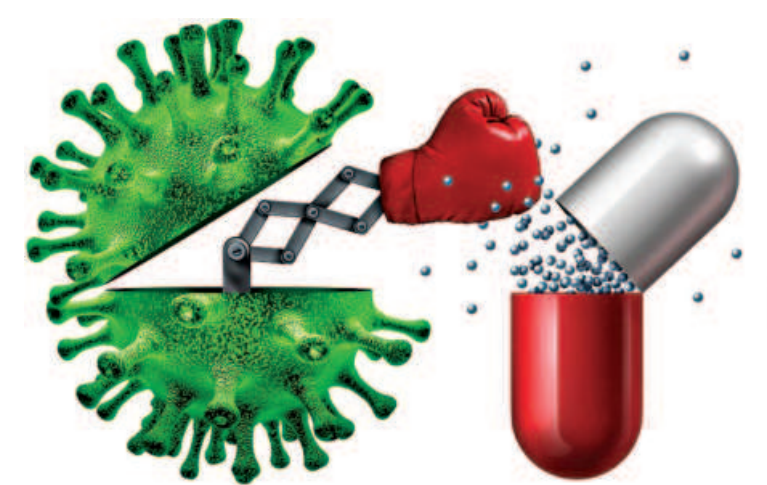
After a tooth extraction, bleeding is normal, so you are instructed to hold the tooth with a cotton gauze mouthpiece for 30 minutes. You may experience some spotting or light bleeding for the next 24 hours or so. Slight mouth swelling and bruising is not uncommon, especially when back teeth are extracted. Using an ice pack for 20-25 minutes at a time for the first 24 hours can help reduce these bleeding problems.

Most people feel better within two or three days, but be aware that the extraction site may take two weeks or more to heal completely. Follow your dentist's instructions regularly, especially regarding spitting, gargling, eating and brushing.

After a tooth extraction is cured, it is important to replace the tooth. Otherwise, your other teeth may move out of place.

The writer is the founder of Dental Pixel. Email: adily.adib@gmail.com

More than 39 million deaths from antibiotic-resistant infections estimated between now and 2050, suggests first global analysis



More than 39 million deaths from antibiotic-resistant infections could occur by 2050, according to the first global analysis of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) trends. The study, conducted by the Global Research on Antimicrobial Resistance (GRAM) Project, reveals that over one million people died annually from AMR between 1990 and 2021. It projects that by 2050, annual deaths directly from AMR could rise by almost 70%, to 1.91 million, with AMR-related deaths increasing by 75%.

The study shows a significant shift in AMR death patterns. AMR deaths among children under five declined by 50% from 1990 to 2021, largely due to improvements in infection prevention and vaccination. However, deaths in people aged 70 and older surged by more than 80% during the same period, a trend likely to continue as populations age. Future projections indicate that by 2050, deaths among people over 70 will more than double, while deaths among children under five will continue to decline.

The findings emphasize the urgent need for enhanced infection

prevention, appropriate antibiotic use, and research into new treatments. Access to healthcare and antibiotics could save up to 92 million lives between 2025 and 2050, particularly in regions like South Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and Southeast Asia.

AMR remains a major global health threat, with increasing resistance to essential antibiotics. For example, deaths due to methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA) more than doubled between 1990 and 2021, while resistance to carbapenems, critical drugs for treating infections, also rose sharply.

The authors call for urgent action, including new strategies to combat severe infections through vaccination, development of new drugs, and improved healthcare access. Without these measures, AMR could contribute to 8 million deaths annually by 2050. Addressing AMR effectively requires global collaboration and investment in infrastructure to strengthen data collection and improve the accuracy of future forecasts.

Pant's inspiring return A testament to resilience

SAMSUL AREFIN KHAN

India's Rishabh Pant's valiant century in his comeback Test yesterday stands as a testament to his character, especially after having endured many challenges following his miraculous escape from a horrific car accident in late December 2022, just a week after competing in an away Test series against Bangladesh.

Although he could somehow escape from a burning car, Pant suffered multiple serious injuries, and it took him 14 months to return to competitive cricket through Indian Premier League (IPL) this year.

Pant, who subsequently had missed last year's ODI World Cup on home soil, where India finished as runners-up, was named in the T20 World Cup squad after scoring heavily for Delhi Capitals in IPL. And proving skeptics wrong again, he proceeded to play a significant part in India's first major silverware since 2013.

The success in T20 World Cup is surely the biggest achievement in Pant's career to date, but a no-holds-barred, Pant-esque performance after his return to cricket was still missing, which he delivered in style during his comeback Test — coincidentally against the same opposition against whom he made a brilliant 104-ball 93 in the Mirpur Test before suffering that dreadful accident.

The opening day of the Chennai Test marked 635 days, to be specific, since Pant wore the white jersey for India once again. Although he made a good impression with the bat in his comeback innings, scoring 39 off 52 balls before getting caught behind, he made the most of it yesterday.

Resuming his overnight score of 12 runs, Pant — whose strike rate (73.63) in Tests places him in fourth position among batters who have scored a minimum of 2000 runs — characteristically played the aggressor role during a massive 167-run stand

with Shubman Gill (119 not out). He completed his sixth Test ton off just 124 balls, equaling MS Dhoni's record for the most Test hundreds by an Indian wicketkeeper.

Pant had a lucky reprieve on 72 before his innings eventually stopped at 109 off 128 balls while trying to hit Mehedi Hasan Miraz for a successive boundary.

"Watching him score his first fifty and first hundred after his comeback gives me so much pleasure because I have seen him work so hard for it when he was trying to return from the injury," Gill told reporters in a press conference after the end of day's play yesterday.

Pant's journey from the horrific accident has been incredible, to say the least. Such remarkable comebacks are rare, and those who achieve them often find themselves on a path to greatness, and Pant certainly appears to be headed that way.



India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant celebrates his hundred with Shubman Gill on the third day of the first Test against Bangladesh in Chennai yesterday. Centuries from Pant and Gill helped India close in on victory as the visitors finished the day on 158-4 in chase of 515.

PHOTO: AFP



Oohs and aahs, and a celebrated Test culture

SPORTS REPORTER FROM CHENNAI

With Saturday being a weekend in India, yesterday saw droves of fans turn out to catch their team in action against Bangladesh in the first Test's third day's play in Chennai, showcasing the colours and Test culture of one of India's oldest venues.

While India were batting, a large part of the crowd wore Virat Kohli's jersey even though he had been dismissed on the second day. However, the crowd were treated to centuries from Shubman Gill and Rishabh Pant.

Judging by the excitement during India's bowling, it could be surmised that the Chennai crowd lives for every moment, especially as international Test cricket only comes to the city once every two to three years.

There were oohs and aahs every time Jasprit Bumrah missed the edge by a fraction, and whenever Ravichandran Ashwin's delivery leapt and snarled from a rough patch, the crowd responded with audible excitement.

The biggest cheers, however, were reserved for Kohli as the crowd kept calling his name. When he went out for a batting session during the Lunch interval and took the route through the playing area, the crowd went wild. Even Bangladesh's boundaries were cheered, with loud applause when Najmul Hossain Shanto struck sixes.

India have won 17 home Test series on the trot, and the level of engagement and interest speaks volumes of the burgeoning Test culture India enjoys at home.

Shakib's under-bowling shrouded in mystery

ABDULLAH AL MEHEDI from Chennai

The issue surrounding Bangladesh's premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan bowling just 21 overs against India in the ongoing Test match in Chennai, where the visitors put in hard shifts with the ball over three days, was highlighted by former India spinner Murali Karthik yesterday.

During his commentary with Star Sports, Karthik mentioned a conversation with Shakib about bowling less than usual, noting the veteran had undergone surgery and that his bowling finger "is swollen, it is rigid, there's no movement, no suppleness to it. So, he feels he is not getting any feeling out of it."

Shakib's surgery, which was on his left little finger, took place after he returned from the 2018 Asia Cup with an injury.

Bangladesh Cricket Board's (BCB) chief physician Debashish Chowdhury informed that Shakib had not complained about any finger issues.

"He had an earlier injury during the Asia Cup [2018]. He later suffered another injury to his index finger in India during the World Cup and had to rest for a month. But he has not complained about his finger to us," Debashish told The Daily Star on Saturday.

"Of course, he has not undergone another surgery, but there was one during that Asia Cup [2018]."

"He did not need operative management after the injury in Delhi [2023 ODI World Cup]. It may be that this time he is feeling some discomfort, but he didn't complain about his finger. As we know, if a finger is fractured, it is never the same again."

"He is managing through the injury, and that doesn't mean there is no discomfort now; but there could be,"

Debashish added.

Batting coach David Hemp, who came to the press conference later in the day, said the team management were not aware of it. "I am not aware of that. I can't add anything to it," he clarified again when asked later.

Shakib bowled a significant number of overs for Surrey in an English county match from 9-12 September, grabbing nine wickets in two innings. It sparks curiosity that Shakib has bowled so little in Chennai, but it could be a tactical decision as he went wicketless.

BCB chief selector Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu was also unaware of any developments regarding finger issues.

"What I know is that all players are available for selection, and that update was given to us before the Test series. Before team selection, if someone is not available or in doubt, there is a physio report. We should also not be judging by third-party reports and should trust our own people," Lipu told The Daily Star on Saturday.

If the team management, selectors, and medical department have not heard of any injuries, then something is lost in translation regarding the surgery or Shakib having no feeling in his finger. BCB team media manager Rabeed Imam claimed to members of the media that the all-rounder is "hundred percent fit. So no issues."

But when a player has not complained to team management or doctors, a player of Shakib's profile under-bowling becomes puzzling.

One team management source hinted that information will be sought on what the issue is, but it may just remain out of the media's knowledge. "We will all find out what the issue was," he said.



U-17s' 'final against Maldives' today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will have to 'win a final against Maldives' today, said the team's captain Nazmul Huda Faisal, ahead of the team's second and last group match of the SAFF U-17 Championship against the island nation.

Having lost to defending champions India through a stoppage-time goal in their opening match on Friday, the boys in red and green hardly had time to regroup as only one day is there for recovery.

"Our second match against Maldives tomorrow [Sunday] is important for us; it is kind of a final for us. If anything bad happens, we may have to exit the tournament," Faisal said.

Since it will be Maldives' first match, they will have a chance even if they lose, but Bangladesh cannot afford any slipup.

Disastrous start for U-20s

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh started their AFC U-20 Asian Cup Qualifiers with a 4-0 defeat against Syria at the Lach Tray Stadium in Haiphong, Vietnam yesterday.

Maruful Haque's charges, who are missing a few key players from the successful recent SAFF U-20 Championship campaign, failed to show any resistance against a much-superior Syria side.

The boys in red and green conceded the opener in the fifth minute before getting 2-0 down seven minutes later. Two more goals in the 72nd and 80th minutes confirmed a miserable start for Bangladesh, who will take on Guam in their next game tomorrow.

For Rashid, it's all love for the game

AGENCIES

Afghanistan registered another emphatic victory over South Africa on Friday, beating them by 177 runs in the second ODI in Sharjah.

The win sealed the series for Afghanistan, who had registered a first ever triumph over South Africa in the format after winning the opening ODI on Wednesday by six wickets.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz hit a superb century before leg spin magician Rashid Khan marked his 26th birthday by taking five wickets to script the historic series victory.

Rashid deserves special kudos for the win, not only for his bowling effort but more for the way he overcame the hamstring injury to make it happen.

The leg spin magician was struggling with his hamstring, but he knew his contribution would "be the key" if his team were to pull off a historic series win against South Africa.

"I thought I'm able to play, I'm able to bowl, I'm able to stay in the field till the end, why not, I should go for it," Rashid said after match-winning five-for.

Rashid finished with figures of 9-1-19-5 to spin out South Africa and hand Afghanistan a series win against a top five-ranked team.

"I got a hamstring [injury], I had it a



month before as well, quite unlucky but I tried my best to stay on the ground till the end, tried my best to do for the team as much as I can."

"Big opportunity for us as a team you know, to win the series against a big team and that's what I had in my mind: my contribution will be the key so I have to go and stay till the end."

Rashid's hamstring issues resurfaced when he was batting. Coming out in the 47th over, he ran a two first ball, and immediately needed the attention of

the physio. He continued to bat though, finishing unbeaten on six off 12 balls. Had he not bowled later, it would not have been surprising.

"We had a big opportunity to win a series against South Africa and I think the love for this game is just pushing you to play, doesn't matter how [hard] it is," Rashid said. "Good job done by the physio as well, to get me ready and deliver for the team."

The last match of the series is also in Sharjah, on Sunday.



Cole Palmer celebrates his goal with Senegal striker Nicolas Jackson, who repaid his manager's faith with a decisive double during Chelsea's 3-0 win over West Ham at the London Stadium on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP



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Dual rule in judiciary must end

Says CJ Refaat Ahmed, calls for separate secretariat under SC

UNB, Dhaka

True independence of judges in Bangladesh hinges on the abolition of the longstanding dual governance system within the judiciary, said Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed.

The joint authority of the Supreme Court and the law ministry must be dismantled, he told judges of subordinate courts at an event yesterday.

In its place, a separate secretariat under the Bangladesh Supreme Court must be established.

"This would be the first necessary step to ensure the judiciary's autonomy and integrity," he said at the event held at the Supreme Court premises.

Until this dual governance structure is eliminated, judges will not be able to exercise their duties independently.

A transparent and accountable
SEE PAGE 6 COL 5



The sky darkens dramatically yesterday morning, right before a much-needed downpour that brought relief to city dwellers who had been enduring scorching heat. The photo was taken in the capital's Moghbazar area.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Touhid to meet Jaishankar in New York

57-member delegation to go to UNGA

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hossain will hold a bilateral meeting with Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in New York as Dhaka wants to clear the air regarding its ties with New Delhi.

This will be the first bilateral engagement between New Delhi and Dhaka since the fall of the Awami League regime.

Touhid said he would try to advance the relationship by defusing any tension that might have developed.

There is no possibility of a bilateral meeting between Bangladesh's Interim Government Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the 79th UN General Assembly (UNGA).

Yunus had earlier written to Modi for a bilateral meeting there, but Touhid yesterday told journalists that the chief adviser would reach New York on September 24, and by that

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Major reforms to constitution should be left to elected govt

Says Mirza Fakhrul

STAR REPORT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday categorically said the safest approach for the interim government is to talk to the people and get their consent before making fundamental changes to the constitution or drafting a new one.

"I think the government should make reforms to organisations like the administration and the Election Commission that are required to hold an election. The parliament to be formed through that election can make all the necessary amendments to the constitution," he told reporters at the BNP chairperson's office in Gulshan.

Fakhrul said public opinion, people's desires and the legal matters should be considered before making constitutional amendments, reports UNB.

"This government should have formed a revolutionary government and not taken an oath under this constitution. That hasn't happened. They took the oath under this constitution," he said, adding that reforms must be done within the current constitution's framework.

Experts can make proposals, but fundamental changes to the constitution require assembly of constituents, reports UNB.

About the commissions for reforms, the BNP leader suggested that the interim government talk to political parties, professional bodies and other stakeholders.

No reforms will be sustainable without people's participation, he said.

Regarding election, he said he never mentioned any specific

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

3,000 tonnes of hilsa export to India okayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has approved conditional export of 3,000 tonnes of hilsa to India citing the upcoming Durga Puja.

Exporters who requested the permits have been advised to contact the relevant wing of the ministry to obtain permissions by September 24 noon, read a statement of the commerce ministry yesterday.

The interim government earlier decided against exporting hilsa to India to improve domestic supply.

In the statement, the commerce ministry cited a foreign ministry letter seeking approval for exports.

Usually, the decision of hilsa export is conveyed to the commerce ministry by the fisheries and livestock ministry.

Advisers for fisheries and livestock and the commerce ministries could not be reached for comments.

Adviser to fisheries and livestock ministry Farida

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Infighting rears up in BNP after Hasina's fall

Eight die since August 5 as party activists engage in turf war

RAFIUL ISLAM

In the last five and a half years of Awami League rule, at least 13 BNP leaders and activists got killed in clashes between factions of the party and attacks by ruling AL men.

Repression by the AL was so persistent that it was difficult for BNP activists to engage in even routine political activities.

But after the ouster of Sheikh Hasina in early August, infighting within the BNP intensified with different groups trying to show their strength.

At least 14 BNP men were killed after August 5 -- eight in factional clashes.

Law enforcers and party insiders say the clashes took place due to rivalries over supremacy and extortion money. Top BNP leaders recently expelled several local leaders for engaging in such acts.

The latest killing happened on Friday in Chattogram's Changaon area: A Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal activist named Jobaer Uddin was stabbed to death during a clash between rival factions.

The BNP dissolved Chattogram city

Jubo Dal after the clash.

A similar situation prevailed in the AL when the party was in power. Over 150 AL leaders and activists were killed, mostly by fellow party men, in the last five and a half years of the party's rule.

According to Ain o Salish Kendra, three BNP men were killed in infighting or clashes with the AL in 2023, four each in 2022 and 2021, one each in 2020 and 2019.

Insiders say the recent spate of internal feuds stem from the confidence that the BNP will come to power winning the next general election and opportunist groups are now desperate to get a bigger slice of the pie when that happens.

Contacted, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir on September 14 said some untoward incidents were taking place at the grassroots level.

"We are taking action after every incident. The occurrences will hopefully be fewer in the coming days," he said.

Jasim Uddin, a Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal activist from Gafargaon upazila in Mymensingh, was one of the victims of BNP's internal conflict.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Voting ends in first Sri Lanka polls since the economic crisis

AFP, Colombo

Cash-strapped Sri Lanka voted for its next president yesterday in an effective referendum on an unpopular International Monetary Fund austerity plan enacted after the island nation's unprecedented financial crisis.

Turnout was at nearly 70 percent an hour before polling stations closed at 4:00 pm (10:30 GMT), an election commission official said, citing provisional figures.

The record for voter turnout in a Sri Lankan presidential election was set in 2019 with 83.72 percent.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe is fighting an uphill battle for a fresh mandate to continue belt-tightening measures that stabilised the economy and ended months of food, fuel and medicine shortages.

His two years in office 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.

"I've taken this country out of bankruptcy," Wickremesinghe, 75, said after casting his ballot in the morning.



PHOTO: BCCI

Najmul Hossain Shanto walks back to the pavilion 51 not out as Bangladesh ended the second day of the first Test against India at 158 for four, chasing a target of 515 for victory. Shanto, in the runs after a long time, showed some resistance before bad light had brought an early end to the day's play.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Deflated Bangladesh clutching at straws

SPORTS REPORTER
from Chennai

Bangladesh opens Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam stepped onto the crease with a positive frame of mind yesterday in the second session on Day 3 of the first Test against India, chasing an improbable target of 515, and gave the despondent visitors some respite by taking them to Tea at 56 for no loss.

However, by the time the day's play ended, cut short by almost 10 overs due to poor light and rain, the Tigers found themselves at 158 for four, still 357 runs away from a seemingly impossible target.

It would be disappointing for Bangladesh that despite having enjoyed possibly the best seaming conditions of the match on the opening day, they have not made much more of the contest, especially after seizing their moments to notch a historic series sweep in Pakistan last month.



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