



PHOTO: STAR

DHAKA BLUES?

Here's how we turn gloom into bloom

RBR

Dhaka is moody; and politically charged with high-strung residents, colours of the city change every day, some good things happen and some not so good. But it is always exciting.

In Dhaka, when things are dull and depressing, we, who love the city to no end, always find ingenious ways to cheer ourselves up. Trust me, even when you hit a wall, the city and its cheerful people light you up in ways you cannot fathom.

Everyone has their own pick-me-up routines, otherwise we'd have gone mad ages ago. For me, finding a bundle of turmeric flowers on shop racks, having a plate of steaming momos at mid-night, trying out new ice cream flavours like strawberry cheesecake from Igloo, or just driving around the Dhaka University campus to read the graffiti; any such simple pleasures of life

re-energise me.

However, there are times when we also need more innovative ways to keep ourselves entertained and busy, and get out of a bad funk. And eating out cannot be our only source of relaxation; we need our motor skills and brain cells in working condition too!

Things like interactive events, performances, and shows with easy access to performers leave you in a light-hearted mood. On that note, Dhaka recently hosted one such interactive and memorable show; a solo performance by Miftah Zaman, organised by Yamaha One True Sound. As I see it, Miftah Zaman

has no celebrity airs about him. He is an extremely amicable, frank, and humble person who wears different hats -- a singer and a musician, an L&D and HR Specialist, and an entrepreneur. He sang Bangla songs and classic covers, and also tried to keep requests that were not on his list. His light-hearted demure was contagious and lifted the audience's spirits.

I realised, while listening to Zaman, that if only Dhaka had a fun centre for its people; a place where we all could sit and chat, sew, knit, share recipes, watch movies, and talk politics, our favourite pass time, then we might be able to process the

current collective trauma of the on-going social upheavals. These activities would be like our collective counselling to heal ourselves.

What Dhaka really needs for its populace is clubs with easy access for people of all ages. We need to meet and talk to friends more often -- the book clubs, plant lovers' clubs, walking clubs, fishing and even playing cards clubs. They are there, but not everyone can access it because of their exclusive membership policies.

We just cannot deny that Dhaka is on a raw nerve now; political uncertainty makes us jittery, because we have always been a politically charged nation.

Thus, our collective anger or trauma, however you put it, shrouds Dhaka. With so much socio-political drama going on, the city needs to heal. We have to get our sunshine back, in spite of the dark clouds. Who's with me on this?



Hasina sued over attack on protesters

FROM PAGE 1

The complainant named 84 people, including Hasina, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan, former state minister for shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, former whip Iqbalur Rahim, and ex-lawmakers Shibli Sadiq and Manoranjan Shil Gopal. The 78 others are local AL leaders.

Besides, 300 to 350 unidentified people have been accused in the case.

In the first information report, Rasheda mentioned that her son Ashraf, 34, took part in the anti-discrimination student movement in Dinajpur on August 4. When the protesters reached Dinajpur Sadar Hospital intersection around noon, they came under attack on the instructions of Hasina, Asaduzzaman Khan, and Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, she said.

The attackers used firearms and sharp weapons, leaving many protesters injured. Ashraf was shot by seven pellets, and one hit his right eye.

Though he took treatment at hospitals in Dinajpur and Dhaka, pellets remain inside his body, putting his life at risk, the complainant said in the FIR.

Prices of egg, veggies go up

FROM PAGE 1

rain over the last couple of days. Harvesting of vegetables has been disrupted, leading to a shortage in supplies," he said.

However, the prices of onions and potatoes remain unchanged.

Broiler chicken was sold for Tk 180-200 per kg yesterday, up from Tk 180-190 last week, while Sonali chicken was selling for Tk 250-280 per kg, up from Tk 240-260 per kg.

A dozen brown eggs were sold for Tk 155-165, up from Tk 150-160.

Abdul Hamid, a government employee who went to Karwan Bazar from Mohakhali, said whenever commodity prices increased in the past, they never fell again.

"I hope this doesn't happen again this time."

He said the biggest challenge for the interim government is to keep the prices of essentials at a tolerable level.

"The government must do whatever is necessary to keep the prices within the reach of the ordinary people."

Bangladesh can file complaint with ICC

FROM PAGE 1

The chief adviser put forward the proposals at a meeting at the UN Headquarters on Wednesday. The proposals included an urgent conference hosted by the UN chief to review the overall situation and suggest way outs, an energised joint response plan for the Rohingya humanitarian crisis and serious international efforts to support justice and accountability to address the genocidal crimes committed in Rakhine in 2017.

"The three points are perfect," Karim said.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION CHIEF MEETS YUNUS

European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen has assured Chief Adviser Yunus that Bangladesh can count on Europe's support in its reform drive, reports UNB.

"We also remain your partner for steady growth and infrastructure development under Global Gateway," she said during a meeting with Yunus on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday.

"Let's make the best out of our €400 million Bangladesh Renewable Energy Facility," said the European Commission president.

Yunus also held meetings with the chiefs of the UN refugee agency and the International Labour Organisation at a New York hotel on the same day.

The high commissioner of the UN refugee agency, Filippo Grandi, discussed the Rohingya crisis with the chief adviser.

He called for a new approach to the crisis, saying that the international communities should do more to end the miseries of more than one million

Rohingya in Bangladesh.

Grandi said the assumption of Professor Yunus as the new leader of Bangladesh has increased global interest in the Rohingya crisis. He hoped there will be more funding for the Rohingya humanitarian

"We have to resolve this before it is too late. We have to find a solution," the chief adviser said.

Gilbert Hougbo, the director general of the International Labour Organisation, offered the UN labour agency's support for the interim



Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus presents ICC Chief Prosecutor Karim AA Khan with a book titled "Art of Triumph" at the UN Headquarters in New York on Thursday.

PHOTO: PTD

responses.

"The 700 million dollars from the World Bank is a good starting point," he said, adding that the UN stands ready to support more for the education of the Rohingya children.

Yunus stressed the need for finding a quick solution to the crisis and doing more for the future of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya children growing up in the camps in Bangladesh.

government's move to implement ILO conventions in Bangladesh.

"We are at your disposal," he said, adding the ILO would respond to the chief adviser's call if and when he needed it.

Yunus said labour reforms are a top priority of his government as it sees the issue as a key to turning Bangladesh into a world class manufacturing hub.

me make it clear: the people of Bangladesh believe in democracy. A parliamentary government must be established through a free and fair election, and that government should lead the nation. So, the administration needs to be reformed to facilitate the elections as soon as possible."

The BNP leader said they will take to the streets again, if they deems it necessary, to establish democracy in Bangladesh.

Fakhrul said their party envisions a Bangladesh founded on equality, free from discrimination, and aspires to build a welfare state.

"Although Sheikh Hasina has fled, the crisis is far from over. The defeated elements of the fascist Awami League government are causing disturbances in the industrial areas, attempting to create an unstable environment centring Durga Puja. Therefore, we must all remain vigilant. We stand with our Hindu brothers, and everyone will unite in support of

you."

The BNP leader stated that no elections were conducted fairly under the previous AL government. Hasina believed that repression would help them perpetuate their power, he added.

He pointed out that those who once falsely imprisoned party Chairperson Khaleda Zia are now being arrested by police on corruption charges.

Talking about late BNP leader Hannan Shah, he said, "He was a true democrat. Despite being an army official, he embodied democratic values and had always been vocal for democracy."

Fakhrul also urged the people of Kapasia to vote for Shah Riazul Hannan in the next parliamentary elections.

Earlier in the day, the BNP secretary general and other central and district leaders of the party visited Hannan Shah's grave in Kapasia's Ghagutia area to pay homage.

Yunus calls for stronger Bangladesh-Maldives relations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus stressed the need for closer ties with the Maldives when he met Mohamed Muizzu, the president of the island nation, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly at the UN Headquarters in New York yesterday.

The two leaders discussed ways to expand trade, investment, tourism, activation of SAARC, climate change research collaboration, and people-to-people interactions during the talks.

The chief adviser called for "closer" relations with the Maldives, saying the two nations shared a lot of things, including a serious impact of climate change.

"Our whole existence is at stake," Professor Yunus said, referring to the dangers posed by the climate crisis.

The Maldives president praised Bangladesh workers' role in the country's construction and tourism sectors.

Mohamed Muizzu said both nations could work together in tourism, fisheries, and climate change research. He called for expanded trade and economic cooperation between the two nations.

"If our two countries work together, it will be beneficial to two peoples," the Maldives president said.

The chief adviser said he would like to see the activation of the SAARC as a platform for economic cooperation and closer integration of the South Asian region.

"We shall be closer. We should not remain distant," Prof Yunus said.

Afghan embassy in UK shuts after Taliban cuts ties

AFP, London

Afghanistan's embassy in London closed yesterday after Taliban authorities cut ties with diplomatic missions set up by the previous government in Kabul and fired its UK staff.

An AFP reporter saw a notice hung on the gate to the consular section reading: "The embassy of the Republic of Afghanistan is closed."

No one answered the door but the country's flag was still flying.

Afghan ambassador to the UK Zalmi Rassoul announced on social media earlier this month that the embassy would close "at the official request of the host country" on September 27.

15 dead, dozens missing in Indonesia landslide

AFP, Jakarta

A landslide at an illegal gold mine in western Indonesia has killed at least 15 people and buried dozens of others in the abandoned pit with rescue workers struggling to locate the missing, officials said yesterday.

Unlicensed mines are common across the mineral-rich Southeast Asian archipelago, where abandoned sites attract locals who hunt for leftover gold ore without proper safety equipment.

The landslide hit a remote site in West Sumatra province on Sumatra island Thursday evening after heavy rains in the area, provincial disaster mitigation agency spokesperson Ilham Wahab told AFP.

"The information we can provide was that a landslide occurred at a gold mine last night, causing several people to be buried. Efforts to search for the victims are ongoing," he said.

Ilhan added that 15 people were killed and three injured, with rescuers searching for 25 others.

Help Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1

free, fair and participatory elections. **WE WANT CLIMATE JUSTICE**

Prof Yunus said small farmers and artisanal livelihood holders face great risks in Bangladesh.

"As I speak, over five million people witnessed the most devastating flood in their living memory in eastern Bangladesh.

"I would hence urge channelling robust resources for climate adaptation in the climate-vulnerable countries like Bangladesh. It is crucial to operationalise loss and damage funds by leveraging innovative solutions and additional finance."

Prof Yunus called for access to technologies and increased capacity, particularly in agriculture, water or public health, while also stressing a shared vision of zero poverty, zero unemployment, and zero net carbon emissions, which the world can materialise together.

ROHINGYA CRISIS

A GROWING RISK

Bangladesh has been hosting over 1.2 million Rohingyas on humanitarian ground at significant social, economic and environmental costs.

The protracted crisis in Myanmar poses growing risks with national and regional security implications for Bangladesh.

Yunus said Bangladesh needs continued support of the international community in carrying out the humanitarian operations and their sustainable repatriation.

"Equally important is to ensure justice for the grave human rights violations committed against the Rohingya, through the ongoing accountability processes in the ICJ and the ICC."

Prof Yunus said Bangladesh is ready to work with the international community to create an environment in Rakhine State in Myanmar for dignified and sustainable return of the Rohingyas to their homeland.

ASSIST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Every year, developing countries face a significant SDG financing gap, estimated between \$2.5 trillion to

\$4 trillion, and merely 17 percent of the SDG targets are on track to be achieved by 2030.

The Nobel laureate said high debt burdens, shrinking fiscal space, and adverse impacts of climate change put countries like Bangladesh at greater risk.

"Prevention of illicit financial flows and syphoning of resources from the developing countries merit greater attention."

Increased international cooperation is needed to rechannel the assets stolen from the developing countries.

He said every year, nearly two and a half million Bangladeshis enter our labour market.

He called for the world to ensure that no youth in countries like Bangladesh gets left behind in the AI-led transformation.

The world also needs to ensure that AI does not diminish the scope or demand for human labour.

"Many have reasons to believe that unless autonomous intelligence develops in a responsible manner, it can pose existential threats to human."

Prof Yuns recognised the role of Bangladesh's armed forces during the July Revolution, saying that the soldiers stood firmly with the people, which demonstrates their commitment to place human rights at the core of peacekeeping.

GENOCIDE IN GAZA

Noting the genocide in Gaza, Prof Yunus said all those responsible for the crimes against humanity against the Palestinian people must be held accountable.

He called for an immediate and complete ceasefire to protect the Palestinian people from brutalities.

"The international community, including the UN, needs to act in earnest to implement the two-state solution that remains the only path to bring lasting peace in the Middle-East."

He also urged both Russia and Ukraine to pursue dialogue and end the war.