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Textile mills abandoned for 31 years



Jamal Uddin Hossain no more

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RABIUS SANI 9, 1446 HIJRI



Prioritise mental health at work

16 PAGES: TK 15.00

AGE LIMIT FOR GOVT JOB ENTRY

35yrs for men, 37 for women

Suggests govt committee; advisory council to decide on it soon

BAHARAM KHAN

A government committee has recommended raising the maximum age for applying for public service jobs to 35 years for men and 37 years for women.

The five-member committee, which was formed to review the feasibility of extending the age limit, submitted its report to the Chief Adviser's Office last week.

Yesterday, a highly placed source with knowledge of the matter confirmed the recommendations to The Daily Star.

According to the source, the committee recommended 37 as the age limit for women because women often face interruptions in their education or careers due to factors such as marriage and childbearing.

The review committee's proposal will be placed before the Advisory Council for the final nod, which sources said was very likely.

"It will be unprecedented in the history of public service if the recommendations are approved," said a top official, wishing not to be named.

When asked about the committee's recommendations,

- Panel considered pandemic, economic downturn, Ukraine war
- Many couldn't complete studies due to hárassment during AL's tenure
- Report analysed legal, administrative barriers to raising limit
- Possible impact on labour market, economy also considered

Adviser Ali Imam Majumder, who is attached to the Chief Adviser's Office, told The Daily Star yesterday that he was not aware of the committee's proposals.

He confirmed that the report on this matter has been submitted to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus. "I hope that a final decision will be made soon after reviewing it."

Sources in the Cabinet Division mentioned that if the chief adviser was satisfied with the report, he would instruct the Ministry of Public Administration to present it to the Advisory Council.

Such policy decisions must be presented in a meeting of the Advisory Council before being finalised.

Public administration ministry officials stated that increasing the job entry age would require amending several laws and regulations.

They said a meeting with the law ministry would likely take place before the matter was brought to the Advisory Council for discussion to ensure legal clarity.

The committee report did not specify whether the age limit change would be temporary or permanent. The source with the knowledge of the report indicated

that decisions of this nature needed to be revisited periodically, which was why no specific time frame was

The current age threshold for all to enter public service is 30. The limit is 32 years for children and grandchildren of freedom fighters.

For several years, graduates have been demanding that the government job entry age limit be increased to SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Silt accumulated near the Sholmari river sluice gate being removed by excavators. The river acts as the only means of water drainage for hundreds of villages in Khulna's Dumuria upazila. With so much silt near the gate, the villages have been facing intense waterlogging since the beginning of the monsoon. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Build a nation protecting rights of everyone

Prof Yunus urges people while visiting Dhakeshwari temple

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said people should aim to build a Bangladesh where no one's right is infringed upon.

"We must remind ourselves that it is our failure that we are having to rely on the army, police, and Rab to celebrate a festival. This is not normal. We accept this failure for this time," he said while visiting the

capital's Dhakeshwari temple. "What will we do with a society like this?

Do we want a society like this? We don't." "We are ensuring with assistance from law enforcement agencies that you can celebrate puja. I hope we will never have to

do this again. We all will work together to reach that goal." Bangladesh must be a country where everyone's rights are guaranteed. "If

anyone infringes on those rights, they

People want a party helmed by the youth Say student coordinators after

nationwide discussions

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

Forming an alternative political force and ensuring transparency in government work were the two issues that figured most discussions, the platform is now preparing a prominently in the district-level views-

exchange meetings organised by the Anti-Discrimination

Students Movement. Among the other issues discussed were protecting the spirit of the July-August mass-uprising and avoiding divisions between the political parties that were involved in the uprising -- all to prevent a potential return of the "fascist forces" -- at least three organisers told this newspaper.

The coordinators and cocoordinators of the movement visited 44 districts, including

Munshiganj, Chattogram, Rangamati, Sylhet, Barishal, Khulna, Rajshahi and Dhaka between September 8 and 18.

Then after a brief pause, the platform resumed discussions on October 9, starting with the students of Tejgaon College.

Students and people from all other walks of life attended the meetings and highlighted their expectations regarding state reforms.

Drawing on the takeaways from these

The coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement, the platform that spearheaded the studentpeople mass uprising that ousted the Awami League government on August 5, will discuss and finalise their next course of action after the report is completed.

Speaking newspaper, they said the issue of extortion came up at all the meetings. They were also advised to form an alternative political force with leaders of the movement at the helm.

Sarjis Alam, one of the key coordinators of the movement, said, "We've seen power being alternated between two major political parties

who ruled the country for so long. Neither has been able to gain the trust of the people. At

Last 15 years a show of absolute power Says Prof Rehman Sobhan at webinar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The head of government has always enjoyed "absolute power" which corrupts an individual, Prof Rehman Sobhan told a webinar last night.

When you are in power for 15 years, that is a demonstration of absolute power. And the power centred upon one person," said the chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue. The most powerful institution has been the

prime minister's secretariat, and ministers became subordinates to the PM, reducing the authority of parliament, he told the discussion organised by the Samaj Gobeshona Kendra. Regarding the reforms that the interim

government will make, Rehman, a former caretaker government adviser, said as political parties to be elected in the next polls will be the implementer of the reforms, the parties should reach a consensus about the changes.



Prof Rounaq Jahan, distinguished fellow of CPD, said the speculations that rewriting the constitution might cause controversies are logical.

The issue can even delay the reaching of a consensus by the parties, she said. A proportional representation election system can prevent rulers from becoming autocratic. "But we have yet to see commitments from the BNP and Awami League about the system."

Prof Nazrul Islam of Asian Growth Research Institute said most countries, including nearly 70 percent of the developed ones, have proportional representation.

In such a system, the president will be elected by the MPs with at least two-thirds majority and no individual will be the prime minister for more than two times.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Journo hacked to death in Mymensingh 18-year-old 'drug peddler' sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

An 18-year-old was sent to jail hacking journalist death in Shambhuganj Bazar



Majhipara area in Mymensingh city yesterday. deceased identified as Swapon Bhadra,

65, resident of Majhipara

and correspondent of local daily Dainik Swajan. was suddenly attacked when he was walking near his home around 11:30am, Md Saiful Islam, officer-in-charge and

inspector (investigation) of Kotwali Police Station, quoted locals as saying. Swapon, who was from Tarakanda upazila's Kakni

area, was also the vice president of the Tarakanda Press Club, reports our local correspondent.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A relatively empty Dhaka city yesterday late morning due to the extended Durga Puja holidays coupled with the weekend. Thousands left the capital to celebrate the festival with their families outside Dhaka. The photo was taken in the Farmgate area. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2024 Bangladesh slips 3 notches to 84

Level of hunger deteriorated from last year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh was ranked 84 out of 127 countries in this year's Global Hunger Index (GHI), down three notches from last year, indicating a deteriorating food security

A GHI score is calculated on a 100-point scale reflecting the severity of hunger, where 0 is the best possible score (no hunger) and 100 is the worst.

This year, Bangladesh scored 19.4, up from 19 last year. Each country's GHI score is classified by severity: low to extremely alarming. Bangladesh's score indicates a "moderate" level of hunger.

While Bangladesh, Mozambique, Nepal, Somalia and Togo have reduced their scores by more than five points compared with their 2016 GHI scores bucking the global trend, hunger remains a serious concern, according to the global report, which was released yesterday.

In 2016, Bangladesh scored 24.7. The level of hunger is "too high" in Bangladesh, said the peer-reviewed annual report, jointly published by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe, designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger at the global,

regional and country levels. The aim of the GHI is to trigger action to reduce hunger

around the world. The latest index shows 11.9 percent of the total population of Bangladesh is undernourished while 2.9 percent of the children die before reaching their fifth birthday.

SEÉ PAGE 2 COL 1

A bittersweet Durga Puja

DOWEL BISWAS

Dhaka city seems to have experienced a juxtaposition of tradition and trepidation during this year's Durga Puja celebrations.

The joyous return of Mahadevi Durga, the goddess of shakti (power), to her maternal home in Martya is a time of celebrations and unity. However, a feeling of unease permeated the festival -- an aftereffect of the distressing incidents that happened targeting the minority communities.

Durga Puja, the largest festival of Bangalee Hindus, has always been more than just a religious observance. It is a vibrant celebration that transcends sectarian boundaries, uniting Hindus and Muslims in a shared cultural heritage. The festival's roots lie deep in Hindu spirituality, celebrating the triumph of good over evil. But beyond its religious significance, it fosters social harmony, encouraging communities to unite in joyful reverence.

In the capital, the festival itself was a spectacle of grandeur. Hundreds of mandaps were erected across the city, adorned with intricate decorations and colourful lights. Devotees offered prayers, sang hymns, and participated in various rituals at Dhakeshwari temple, Siddheswari Kali Mandir, Shankhari Bazar puja mandaps, and Ramna Kali Mandir, among others.

But the shadows of recent communal disturbances loomed large. Reports of idol vandalism and threats against minority communities cast a dark cloud over the festivities. From singing of a song calling for Islamic revolution at a mandap in Chattogram to what locals said was a molotov cocktail thrown inside a mandap in Old Dhaka, this year's celebrations highlighted a critical need for understanding and acceptance of a festival that has been a cornerstone of Bangalee culture for hundreds of years.



PHOTO: ARSHADUL HOQUE ROCKY

Mrinmoyee Mitra, a devotee at Ramna Kali Mandir, shared her apprehension. "The security measures that have been taken are commendable, but I don't feel safe or included anymore.

"Our identity and existence have long been under threat. We are celebrating the puja nonetheless, but will we be safe for the rest of the year?"

devotee, Another speaking anonymously, shared a similar sentiment. "My hometown is not Dhaka. My house was attacked, and I received threats after the fall of the Awami League government. Since then, I have been taking refuge

at relatives'. I do not want to comment further on this, as I know there is no

solution to this problem." Amid it all, the rituals of Durga Puja pressed on. The goddess was bathed, adorned, and worshipped with great devotion. The city buzzed with life, the chants and beats of drums filling the air.

Ujjal Biswas Guru, the maestro who crafted the grand idols for Dhakeshwari National Temple, said, "Creating the idols of Durga Maa demands a unique blend of immersion and reverence.

"While I go about this process with the same solemn dedication as always, I must

admit there was an underlying anxiety this year due to the current political

Durga is not only a nurturing mother but also a fierce protector. Her mythic battles against injustice and evil serve as timeless reminders of her strength and resilience. In this tumultuous time, when Hindu and other minority communities face adversities, Durga stands as a beacon

Debnath, a member of Kajal Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad, lamented the recurring violence against Hindu communities. But he emphasised that the number of troublemakers was far smaller than those who had supported and celebrated alongside the Hindus.

Jayanta Kumar Dev, president of the Mohanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee, pointed to a recent incident in Puran Dhaka where a Hindu temple was targeted but was protected by the local residents and the army.

Despite the challenges, Dev said, he remains hopeful about the future. "Bangladesh has a rich history as a noncommunal nation where people of all backgrounds come together to celebrate Durga Puja.

"These celebrations are more cultural than religious, and we are confident they will continue to thrive."

In a display of solidarity, notable figures including Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus and Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman had visited Dhakeshwari National Temple, reinforcing their support for the temple and the Hindu community.

As the Durga Puja festival comes to a close, the Hindus reaffirm their commitment to a non-sectarian society and aspire to a future where their traditions are celebrated as an integral part of the national identity.

Set example by ensuring safety of everyone

Urges Tarique in Durga Puja message

STAR REPORT

acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday called for collective efforts by all the communities to set an example in ensuring everyone's safety, regardless of their identity.



Tarique said in a message on Durga Puja on Facebook that he believes every Bangladeshi citizen must enjoy equal rights, freedoms, and protections without any distinction between Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, or Christian.

The country belongs to all Bangladeshis, the BNP leader remarked.

He added that as a united nation, Bangladesh stands to form a "collective community 'shield' and set an example by ensuring the safety of everyone, regardless of their identity or background".

Tarique, who has been in exile in London for over one and a half decades, also included a photo of Hindu Goddess Durga in his post and extended "warm" greetings to all those celebrating Durga

"May this festival bring peace, harmony, and prosperity to every household, and foster cohesion and togetherness among all communities."

Hilsa catching ban begins

STAR REPORT

A 22-day government ban on catching, selling and transporting hilsa will come into effect from Saturday midnight to save mother hilsa during the peak breeding season.

The Department of Fisheries issued the ban on catching all types of fish, including hilsa, in the Padma and Meghna rivers.

The ban will remain until November 3.

Those caught fishing or selling hilsa during this period may face up to two years of rigorous imprisonment, a fine of up to Tk 5,000 or both.

Bangladesh slips 3 notches to 84

FROM PAGE 1

Besides, 23.6 percent of children under the age of five in Bangladesh suffer from stunting and 11 percent of the children under five experience wasting (a child being too thin for his or her height), it said.

Among the other South Asian countries, Sri Lanka ranked 56, Nepal 68, India 105 and Pakistan 109.

South Asia, hunger remains serious, reflecting rising undernourishment and persistently high child undernutrition, driven by poor diet quality, economic challenges and the increasing impacts of natural disasters.

With 281 million undernourished people, South Asia accounts for nearly 40 percent of the global total and has the highest child-wasting rate of all regions in the GHI.

Globally, hunger is serious or alarming in 42 countries, with dozens of countries still experiencing a level of hunger that is much too high.

Six countries are experiencing alarming levels of hunger: Burundi, Chad, Madagascar, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen.

In another 36 countries, hunger is designated as serious.

Furthermore, many countries are slipping backwards: in 22 countries with moderate, serious or alarming 2024 GHI scores, hunger has actually increased since 2016.

In 20 countries with moderate, serious or alarming 2024 GHI scores, progress has largely stalled: their 2024 GHI scores have declined by less than 5 percent from their 2016 GHI

This year, 22 countries with GHI scores of less than 5 are not assigned individual ranks but rather are collectively ranked 1-22. Differences between their scores are minimal.

The top five countries in the index are Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, China and Costa Rica.

Journo hacked to death

FROM PAGE 1

He lived in Majhipara area for the past 15 years.

After the attack, locals rushed him to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and was declared dead.

On information, police went to the hospital and sent the body to the morgue for autopsy. They also arrested Sagor, 18, an alleged drug addict and peddler in this connection.

Around 5:00pm, the victim's wife Sabita Rani Bhadra filed a case with Kotwali police, accusing Sagor.

"During primary interrogation, Sagor confessed to the murder," said

"We believe he committed the murder because Swapon had posted about his drug consumption and

peddling many times on Facebook." In the evening, Sagor was produced before a Mymensingh court, which sent him to jail.

this moment, people are hoping for a

is also significant for the existing parties, as it'll increase pressure [on all] to do well. The people want a party led by young people.

He added, "We've spoken to the local coordinators and those who are from martyrs' families. We've also had discussions with local political leaders. Many leaders and activists. who perpetrated the genocide, are still in the country. They're involved in various forms of economic irregularities under the shelter of a specific political party. There's a business going on centring the political cases."

Following the district-level held another meeting with the the country at Dhaka University's TSC on September 20.

They discussed how the Movement could organise itself better.

People want a party helmed by the youth

new party to emerge. "The emergence of a new party

Speaking to The Daily Star, Rangpur division, said, "Speaking to people in different districts, it seemed they want an alternative force in

discussions, the central coordinators coordinators and co-coordinators from educational institutions across

Since September 8, representatives of the movement have visited eight divisions of the country in phases. The tour began with a meeting in Munshiganj and ended on September 18 in Shariatpur.

 $However, meetings \, in \, nine \, districts \,$ Khagrachhari, Comilla, Barguna, Jhenaidah, Natore. Sherpur, Bogura and Chandpur saw scuffles and commotion among the students.

The meeting in Narsingdi was postponed due to conflicts between two groups of coordinators. In Habigani and Bogura, meetings were disrupted by a party-affiliated student organisation, while the meeting in Sherpur was disrupted due to conflicts among local coordinators.

Moreover, central coordinators another central coordinator, Tarikul from Dhaka were unable to attend the Islam, who attended the meetings in meeting in Mymensingh in the face of opposition from local coordinators. **EXPANDING ORGANISATIONAL** ACTIVITIES

> The Anti-Discrimination Students Movement and the Jatiya Nagorik Committee will expand their organisational activities as both the platforms have decided to form district-level "teams".

> Both are likely to announce the committees next week, while the Movement is also mulling overhauling their central coordination team.

Build a nation protecting rights of everyone

At least three Movement coordinators and the convenor of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee have confirmed the developments to The

'The primary reason for forming teams at the district level is to clearly differentiate those engaging in misconduct under the guise of coordinators. If any team member is found involved in misconduct, they can be expelled and appropriate action can be taken to bring them under the law," Sarjis told The Daily

Meanwhile, representatives of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee, launched on September 13 to consolidate the power of the uprising and work towards national reconstruction, have already met leaders from AB Party, Ganosamhati Andolan, and Gono Odhikar Parishad.

They plan to gradually sit with all political parties, while informal meetings with the BNP, Jamaate-Islami, and Islami Andolan Bangladesh have also been planned.

Nagorik Jatiya Committee Convenor Nasiruddin Patwari on Monday told this correspondent that these informal discussions will be held to be acquainted with the party leaders and convey their messages back to the youth.

35yrs for men, 37 for women

35 years. They blocked the Shahbagh intersection during demonstrations on numerous occasions.

The protests intensified after the government on September 22 announced that it was not planning to increase the age limit. It formed the review committee on September 30 after hundreds of jobseekers staged a massive demonstration in front of the chief adviser's residence.

Led by former caretaker government adviser Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury, the committee considered some key factors, including the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the "deprivation" of candidates during the Awami League government's tenure, and economic strains from the Russia-Ukraine war.

It also took into account global practices. The committee found that countries like the US have no age limit for government job entry, while Nepal has a limit of 45 years, and some Indian states allow candidates aged up to 36

Other members of the committee are Mokhles Ur Rahman, senior secretary to the public administration ministry; Kowsar Zahura, former joint secretary; Muhammad Iqbal, former additional secretary; and Saiful Islam, an incumbent additional secretary.

The committee members looked into the factors behind the demonstrations, said sources.

Public service recruitment came to a near halt during the pandemic. Although the previous government announced an age relaxation due to the pandemic, the recruitment process was slow, and fewer new opportunities were

But before the country got over the pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war affected the national economy and limited job opportunities in public and private sectors, the sources said.

They said that numerous students were unable to complete their education because of politically motivated cases and harassment during the tenure of the AL regime. It affected their ability to

apply for government jobs.
"The committee considered all these factors to recommend an age increase exceeding the demands of the students," said an official.

The committee members consulted educators, hiring authorities, and student organisations.

legal analysed the administrative barriers to making reforms and their possible impact on the labour market and the economy.

Recently, Bangladesh Administrative Service Association (BASA) wrote to the cabinet secretary, requesting an increase in the entry and retirement

A senior official of BASA said if the government accepted these recommendations, it might also increase the retirement age, which is currently 59.

The official said government employees typically need to serve at least 25 years to qualify for a pension. Therefore, if the entry age was raised to 35 years, the retirement age would also need to be adjusted accordingly.

The source, who has knowledge of the report, said they did not deal with the retirement age limit.

However, there is optimism that the government may address both issues imultaneously.

Former additional secretary Firoz Mia, a civil service expert, said the government should temporarily increase the age limit to 35 or 37 considering the impacts of the quota system, the pandemic, and political

However, raising the age limit permanently could have "negative" mpact, he added.

Increasing the entry age significantly would also necessitate raising the retirement age, he pointed out.

Candidates who are 18 years old can seek posts that need educational qualification below Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC). They would have 12 years to get the job.

"Extending this opportunity from 12 to 18-19 years is entirely unnecessary. Additionally, millions apply for government jobs. Increasing the age limit would further swell the number of applicants, making it harder to manage the process in the long run," the former oureaucrat said.

The government could have considered adjusting the age limit for higher-grade jobs temporarily, such as the next two rounds of the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) exams, according to The recruitment process itself takes

at least a year, and in some cases, it can take two to three years. Those who apply at the age of 35 might only be nired at 37 or 38, by which time their enthusiasm for the job may wane, Firoz

"I believe that if young people spend too much time pursuing government jobs after graduation, many will lose interest in becoming entrepreneurs. Moreover, starting an entrepreneurial journey after the age of 35 would have ts own complexities.'

However, the government could permanently raise the age limit to 35, 40, and 42 years for ethnic minorities, the transgender community, and people with disabilities, respectively, Firoz said.

Nuclear deterrence still at heart of great power strategy: experts

Nuclear-armed powers have no intention of giving up the atom bomb as part of their military strategy, experts said after the Nobel Peace Prize committee urged against any weakening of the nuclear "taboo".

Awarding this year's peace prize to Japan's Nihon Hidankyo, a grassroots movement of Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors pushing for a nuclear weapons ban, the committee led to a "nuclear taboo" which had, however, come under "pressure" While none of the countries

on both Japanese cities in 1945 had

used them in war since 1945, the implicit or even explicit threat to do Moscow has repeatedly brandished

the nuclear threat in a bid to dissuade the West from supporting Ukraine, which has been fending off Russia's invasion since February 2022.

must face immediate consequences."

The chief adviser said following a student-led mass uprising an opportunity has arrived to rebuild the country. "We should not let this opportunity

to transform our country slip away.

Do not allow it to be lost. If it is lost, it

may never return." This year's Durga Puja celebrations have taken on a special joy, a sentiment felt across the country as people could enjoy the festivities because of a four-day holiday.

The joy has further increased as the

festivities have been held smoothly, he said, adding that everyone has made an effort to ensure that everything goes perfectly.

organisations have worked sincerely to

He thanked police, army, Rab, the people. Both the government and various Border Guard Bangladesh, Ansar and achieve this goal, said the chief adviser. their dedication in ensuring safety of execute it exceptionally well."

yesterday to see the Durga Puja mandap there.

Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad presents a crest to Chief Adviser

Muhammad Yunus when he went to visit the Dhakeshwari National Temple

"This is a difficult task, not an other agencies of the government for easy one, and they have managed to

Last 15 years a show of absolute power

Reducing the government's term to four years will prevent autocracy, he said, adding that, almost 80 percent of the developed countries have government terms shorter than five

He recommended also the reintroducing caretaker government system constitution. The government's chief adviser would be someone who has broad parliamentary support.

Badiul Alam Majumdar, head of the reform commission on Election Commission, said no reforms will work without a consensus among political parties.

Communist Party of Bangladesh the Liberation War debatable, he (CPB) leader Mujahidul Islam Selim said the task of amending the constitution should be left for the next elected government.

Prof Anu Muhammad said many provisions in the constitution were originally democratic, but through amendments, these provisions became communal and autocratic. General Secretary

Ruhin Hossain Prince said only constitutional amendments that are needed for a free and fair election should be done. People talking about rewriting the

constitution probably want to make

added. Razeguzzaman Ratan, joint general secretary of the Bangladesher

curtailed the environment. Nazrul, Anu Muhammad, Prince and Ratan said they were against a province-based federal government, and proposed strengthening the

current local government system. Dhaka University Prof MM Akash moderated the discussion presided over by Tajul Islam, president of Samaj Gobeshona Kendra.

Samajtantrik Dal, said most of the amendments to the constitution democratic

said on Friday the atom bomb attacks

possessing nuclear weapons have so is part of their arsenal.

nine lives

year, 915 hospitalised

At least nine dengue patients died this year.

divisions, and the rest in Dhaka city. According to the Directorate General of Health Services, with the new deaths, the total

highest death toll since the outbreak in 2000. According to the DGHS, 1,705 dengue deaths occurred in 2023, marking the highest annual death toll to date. In comparison, there were 281 deaths in 2022 and 179 in 2019.

Meanwhile, total number of cases rose to 41,810, of which 23,851 are from outside Dhaka.

Currently, 3,651 dengue patients are undergoing treatment in different hospitals across the country.

A total of 37,949 dengue patients have been released from hospitals till yesterday this year.

Experts attribute the high mortality rate this year to factors including late hospitalisation, quick onset of shock syndrome, inaccurate test

Besides, the ongoing rainy weather has

Experts say such intermittent rain, coupled with high humidity, creates ideal conditions for Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, the primary carrier of the dengue virus, to breed. The rainy weather also increases the mosquitoes' biting tendencies,

BOLSTERING TIES Foreign secy meets

In a series of meetings with key US officials between October 7 and 14, Bangladesh foreign the democratic institutions and upholding of

In his first visit to the US after assuming office, Jasim Uddin met UN officials in New York and then flew to Washington and held meetings with key US officials, including US Under Secretary for Civilian

Asia Lindsev W Ford, others.



Labour Rohingya crisis, trade and investment, regional security and Indo-Pacific Strategy of the US were also discussed as Dhaka and Washington stepped up efforts to deepen relationship following the formation of Bangladesh's interim government.

Jasim also met US Assistant Secretary Ambassador Donald Lu, Acting Assistant Secretary Marta C Youth, Deputy Assistant Secretary Nicole Chulick, Deputy Assistant Secretary Monica Ager

"US values Bangladesh as a partner in the Indo-Pacific region and our strong collaboration as their leading partner on Rohingya response and number one source of FDI," Uzra Żeya posted on X after meeting with the foreign secretary.

Dengue claims

Highest in a day so far this

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

in the last 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, highest in a single day Moreover, 915 patients were

also hospitalised during this time.

Of the deaths, one each was recorded in Barishal and Chattogram

number of fatalities rose to 210, making it the third-

results, and recurrent dengue infections.

worsened the situation, said experts.

which will further escalate the dengue crisis.

key US officials

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

secretary Jasim Uddin discussed the reforms of democratic values, as well as accountability for human rights violations.

Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Uzra Zeya, Acting Under Secretary for Political Affairs John Bass, Special Assistant to the US President and Senior Director for South Deputy Secretary of State Richard Verma, among



Jacobsen, as well as Director Alla P Kamins.

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escape," he said. The IGP came up with the remark while talking to reporters after visiting Ramakrishna Mission Temple in the morning.

He also assured that drives will be conducted against mugging, extortion, drugs, criminal activities and for traffic management

A group of people waiting under a crumbling passenger shade in the Basabo area of Dhaka yesterday. The rusted beams and partially collapsed wall, barely held together, pose a serious risk of collapse. With cracks and exposed metal, the structure is a potential hazard for those waiting underneath, raising concerns that an accident could occur at any moment if repairs are not made promptly. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN after Durga Puja. 'We refused to retreat, even with bullets flying'

Students share harrowing tales of July uprising

NILIMA JAHAN

When protests against the quota system in government jobs erupted in Bangladesh during June and July, students believed they were standing up against a system they saw as discriminatory. Never did they imagine that their call for reform would be met with the brutal force of ruling party goons and the bullets of law enforcement.

What started as a peaceful demand for change quickly escalated into

The day Abu Sayed was killed, even female students were not spared. A group of them, along with two male students, sought refuge in a roadside abandoned toilet, but when they came out. they were attacked again. The violence never seemed to end; even those already injured were not spared.

> MOMTAZ SOMA **BRUR Student**

confrontation with the state. Over the course of 36 days, students found themselves on the frontlines of a deadly battle. They were killed on the streets, beside their universities and even in their own homes. Their comrades were gunned down, many of them blinded, some of them lost their



limbs or other vital body organs. For students involved, the trauma runs deep. They faced a harsh reality where death was no longer an abstract fear, but a vivid,

horrifying presence.

Jahangirnagar University, who fought alongside others on July 18 in Uttara, one of the deadliest days of the uprising.

Five protesters died when police and Rapid Action Battalion opened fire on protesters in Uttara.

Over 500 were injured that day, "We refused to retreat, even with

bullets flying," he added. At one stage, the law enforcers shot aiming his head, he said.

He turned just right in time to evade a fatal headshot, but the bullet shattered his glass and hit his ear, he recounted.

"I was boarded on a rickshaw

van by fellow protesters. But then they realised, the rickshaw puller was already dead after sustaining a bullet at some point."

"Then, one of the protesters took it upon himself to pedal the Among them was Abdul rickshaw and bring me to Uttara Aziz, a protest coordinator from Adhunik Medical College Hospital," he said. Aziz was speaking at a webinar

titled "Confronting Death: The Experience of Students Against Discrimination", hosted by Forum for Bangladesh Studies in Dhaka yesterdav.

Though Aziz required urgent neurological care, he was denied further treatment at the facility.

"The head of neurosurgery refused to treat me. Awami League supporters were hunting for me," he shared.

Under the cover of darkness, Aziz was moved to another hospital, but the damage had been

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

The Hatkhola and Joy Kali Mandir roads (inset) are in a state of disarray for over a month following development work. After persistent monsoon rains, potholes have also developed, adding to the woes. While Joy Kali Mandir serves as the entry point for inter-district buses, Hatkhola road serves as the exit. Despite being two major roads, they lie neglected and in dilapidated conditions. In addition, their current state has led to massive traffic jams in the respective areas. The photos were taken yesterday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, RASHED SHUMON

70 bhoris of gold ornaments, say police STAFF CORRESPONDENT A group of miscreants in the guise of security forces robbed Tk 75 lakh and 70 bhoris of gold ornaments from a building in the Mohammadpur area of the capital early yesterday, said

Gang posing

as security forces rob

cash, gold

Looted Tk 75 lakh,

police. The incident occurred around 3:45am on the second floor of a five-storey building named "Abu Company Building" near the Tin Rasta intersection.

The building belongs to a businessman named "Abu", said locals.

According to victims, a group of eight to 10 individuals dressed in uniforms resembling those of the army and Rab arrived at their home, and said they were there to conduct a raid to recover weapons.

They searched several SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

At the seminar, BNP Vice Chairman Asaduzzaman Ripon rejected the PR system, calling it impractical for Bangladesh. He argued that reforms should be grounded in reality. On the caretaker government system, he said, "The caretaker government should stay in place for the next Proportionate representation (PR) is an electoral system in which seats in parliament are allocated to political parties based on the proportion of votes they receive in an election. Unlike the current first-past-the-post (FPTP) system,

where the candidate with the most votes wins a seat, PR ensures that political parties gain representation that mirrors

their share of the national vote.

DHAKA

ELECTORAL REFORM

Most parties for

proportionate

representation

BNP leader calls it 'illogical'

Leaders of five political parties yesterday proposed

introducing a proportionate representation system in

elections during a seminar in Dhaka, while a BNP leader

The seminar, titled "How to Reform the Electoral

While representatives from BNP and four other political parties reached a consensus on bringing back

System?" was held at the CIRDAP auditorium and

organised by the Reporters Forum for Election and

the caretaker government by abolishing the fifteenth

amendment, the BNP leader remained opposed to any

shift towards a proportionate representation system,

Proportionate representation (PR) is an electoral system

in which seats in parliament are allocated to political

parties based on the proportion of votes they receive in an election. Unlike the current first-past-the-post (FPTP)

system, where the candidate with the most votes wins a

seat, PR ensures that political parties gain representation

WHAT IS PROPORTIONATE REPRESENTATION?

that mirrors their share of the national vote.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Democracy (RFED).

dismissed the idea as "illogical".

despite support from other parties.

CALLS FOR ELECTORAL REFORM

Brigadier General (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain, adviser for the Jute, Textile, and Shipping ministries, addressed the gathering as the chief guest.

He stressed that the aim of political reform should be to restore the collapsing state system. "The students shed their blood to reform the state, not

to govern it. Our goal remains to restore the collapsed system," he said. He urged political leaders to embrace reforms, however difficult the process may be. Badiul Alam Majumdar, chairman of the election reform commission, echoed these sentiments,

emphasising the importance of integrity and neutrality in the election process. He said elections are a long-term process, involving everything from voter registration to the voting procedure, and called for political parties to work together to ensure

transparency. WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FOR PR SYSTEM

The idea of proportionate representation found support

from several political leaders. Zonayed Saki, chief coordinator of Ganosamhati Andolan, called for the next three to five elections to be held

under an interim government and backed the PR system. He also proposed the inclusion of a "No Vote" option in future elections.

Ruhin Hossain Prince, general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, also highlighted the need for an election-time government to ensure free and fair elections. He too was in favour of the PR system.

Shafiqul Islam Masud, a member of Jamaat-e-Islami's executive council, also endorsed the PR system, saying it was essential for truly representative elections.

Other speakers included Jatiyo Party leader Shamim Haidar Patwari, AB Party member secretary Mojibur Rahman Monju, and BNP leader Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal. RFED president Ekramul Haq presided over the event.

NEWS

Obaidul Huq's death anniv

STAR REPORT

Today is the 17th death anniversary of Obaidul Huq, journalist.



On this day in 2007, Obaidul breathed his last at his Banani residence, aged 96. He was the editor of the Bangladesh Observer for 12 years since

He was the first Bangalee Muslim to make a feature film "Dukkhhe Jader Jibon Gora" in 1946. He joined the Editorial Board of the Pakistan Observer (later Bangladesh Observer) in 1951 as joint editor.

He was the chairman of Press Institute of Bangladesh and chairman of Dainik Bangla and Bangladesh Times Trustee Board. He was the chairman of Nazrul Institute.

Obaidul was honoured with the "Ekushey Padak" in 1983. He was also recognised with Bangla Academy Award in 1964.

6 burnt as fire breaks out in Gazipur factory

STAR REPORT

Six persons were burnt as a fire broke out from a gas explosion at Shinepukur Ceramics Ltd in Kashempur of Gazipur on Friday night.

The injured are Rezaul, 55, Md Farooq, 55, Tanveer, 37, Mohammad Rahat, 32, Abu Raihan, 32, and Rupam, 25.

They were admitted to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka.

Abdullah Arefin, deputy assistant director of Gazipur fire service, said the fire broke out at the factory around 9:00pm following a gas explosion.

The incident took place when some "contractual workers" were repairing a gas cylinder, he said.

They have been kept under observation at the emergency department, he

Mamun Mia, employee of Shinepukur Ceramics Ltd, who brought the injured to the hospital, said that all the injured were called for repairing the gas cylinder.





Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-15 5-45 7-15 JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-50 7-45



On the occasion of Durga Puja holidays, tourists flocked to Cox's Bazar for a vacation with their friends and families. The world's longest sea beach, seems appropriately filled with thousands of people in just this one frame. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVO

Where prayers and puja meet

Moulvibazar mosque, temple coexist in harmony for 43yrs

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Moulvibazar's Juri upazila is home committees coordinate their to a somewhat unique religious religious activities," said Mostakim the mosque's prayer schedule. site. On a shared courtyard, built on deep mutual respect, the Bhuai Jame Mosque and Bhuai Durga Puja Mandap have been a beacon of communal harmony and coexistence for years.

A fragrant ambience prevails on the premises, with incense sticks burning on one side, while perfume wafts in the air from the

Both the mosque and the temple have been maintaining each other's respective prayer schedules, thereby preventing any conflict or discord.

After Fajr, once devotees leave the mosque, those at the temple begin their puja activities for the morning at the mandap. Both holy buildings continue their activities, uninterrupted by the

In this way, people from both faiths have continued to coexist and celebrate their respective religious festivals for the past 43 years, without any disturbance.

"Hindus and Muslims practice sound of drums and bells during

Durga Puja never caused any issue imam of the mosque. since both mosque and mandap Ahmad Babul, a member of Bhuai Jame Mosque committee.

Jhalak Dey, a local resident and member of the Hindu others." community, said, "The observance

Pijush Kanti Das, president of the puja mandap, said, "We have That helps us coordinate our puja times, allowing us to celebrate our traditions while respecting

While inspecting the puja



of religious festivals with harmony and dignity on a shared ground attracts visitors from near and far, especially during Durga Puja."

"I have been serving as imam here for 16 years. On this shared yard, people from both faiths rituals," said Maulana Siraj Uddin, Bangladesh.

mandap, MKH Jahangir Hossain, superintendent of police in Moulvibazar, said police are always active to prevent any untoward incident during the Durga Puja.

The SP lauded the mosque and the mandap's coexistence are able to perform their prayers on the same yard as a shining their faith here peacefully. The without hindering each other's example of religious harmony in

Man, daughter killed in hornet attack

STAR REPORT

A man and his eight-yearold daughter were killed after coming under attack by a swarm of hornets in Mymensingh's Dhobaura upazila yesterday afternoon.

The victims are Maulana Abul Kashem, 50, and Labiba, of Dudhnoi village. Kashem was the imam of Dudhnoi Bazar Jame Mosque, reports Mymensingh correspondent quoting police.

Quoting locals, Mamun Sarker, officer-incharge of Dhobaura Police Station, said Kashem along with his daughter, a madrasa student, was collecting firewood in a nearby jungle around 1:30pm, when a swarm of hornets started stinging them, injuring them critically.

Hearing their screams, locals rescued and took them to Dhobaura Upazila Health Complex from where they were referred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

They died on way to the hospital, said the OC.

On information, police recovered the bodies and handed them over to the family members without

frequently," he added.

many others.

the mass uprising.

not spared, she said.

Then a van arrived to collect

the bodies. They were piling

up all the bodies inside it.

They picked me up too,

thinking I was dead. Once the

van had driven far enough

from the police, I pushed the

bodies aside and screamed -- I

didn't die! I didn't die!

KAMRUL HASAN KHAN

Madrasa hafez

The story of Momtaz

Soma, a student from

Begum Rokeya University,

echoed the experiences of

She is a friend of Abu

ISLAMIC SONG AT MANDAP

Two sent to jail in Chattogram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A court in Chattogram yesterday sent two people, who were arrested on charges of singing a song calling for an Islamic revolution at JM Sen Hall puja mandap in Chattogram city, to jail.

They are Shahidul Karim, 42 and Nurul Islam, 34. They were produced before a court of metropolitan magistrate with a five-day remand prayer. The court fixed Monday (October 14) for a remand hearing, said Officer-in-Charge Fazlul Kader Chowdhury of Kotwali Police Station.

Chattogram Metropolitan Police said they were investigating whether there was any ill intention behind performing such a song during a cultural programme at the puja mandap. Six activists of Chattogram Cultural Academy

sang an Islamic song during Durga Purja celebrations in Chattogram city on Thursday A viral video of the incident caused widespread outrage across the country.

Later, police said the six singers reported that they were invited to perform the song by Sajal Dutta, a leader of Bangladesh Puja Udjapon Parishad -- the group that organises Durga Puja at

Sources said Chattogram Cultural Academy is affiliated with Jamaat-Shibir, however leaders of Jamaat-Shibir refuted the allegations in an official statement.

Police later detained two of the singers for hurting religious sentiments of the Hindu community. Another leader of the Bangladesh Puja Udjapon

Parishad filed a case on Friday, accusing the six singers and Sajal Dutta of hurting religious

Sajal Dutta was also permanently expelled from the parishad.

The central committee of Puja Udjapon Parishad on Friday night also relieved Chattogram chapter President Ashish Bhattacharya and General Secretary Hillol Dey of their duties for failing to perform their responsibilities adequately.

Foreign secy meets

Jasim Uddin and John Bass discussed ways to build on the and deepen Bangladesh-US bilateral collaboration.

"We discussed the vital importance of US-Bangladesh cooperation for regional security and prosperity," Bass wrote on X.

Jasim Uddin termed his meeting with Lindsey Ford "very insightful and candid" on diverse issues, including the interim government's products, reform agenda, democratic transition, economic and security issues, regional Development stability, Rohingya crisis Cooperation.

With Brendan Lynch,

foreign secretary discussed the aspects of mutual cooperation to diversify export, duty-free and quota-free access of Bangladeshi RMG products produced from imported from US.

They spoke simplification of registration and reduction of registration fees for pharmaceutical labour reforms, and access to funds from the US International

Low morale, lack

FROM PAGE 5

A joint operation launched on September 4 to recover stolen weapons and apprehend the attackers has made little progress, and regular policing activities such as arrests, investigations, and

executing warrants have been suspended since August.

A sub-inspector from Chandgaon Police Station warned that without fullscale operations, the lawand-order situation in the port city could worsen.

Scenic wonders

FROM PAGE 5 The forest department

is currently managing these fountains through appointing contractors and allowing visitors for a fee of Tk 20 from each. The incidents

accidents and deaths have raised concerns among tourists and tour operators regarding safety measures taken by the authorities concerned. According

stakeholders, lack of awareness is a major reason behind the accidents.

"Enthusiastic visitors to the waterfall often venture in for a bath without knowing the condition, leading to drowning," said Surjo Das, who regularly visits waterfalls during monsoon.

He also alleged that the forest department only put up some signboards on the spots with instructions for tourists, which has not been enough to ensure safety.

"They should make it mandatory for tourists to hire guides for visiting these dangerous spots," he added.

Hasan Murad, owner of Zoom Wild, a tour operating regularly visits these

"Accidents are constantly happening in waterfalls due to lack of awareness among tourists and negligence of concerned state agencies," he said.

visiting the sites, he added. Contacted, Rashid. conservator of forest of Chattogram Forest Division (north), said "We request tourists to hire guides, but

they ignore our requests

imposing strict rules for

most of the time." "We are trying to raise awareness among tourists regarding the dangers through signboards and banners. However, only a responsible mindset among the visitors can turn the waterfalls safe for

Gang posing FROM PAGE 3

them," he added.

cupboards and vandalised the furniture, and looted the money and gold ornaments,

victims claimed. Talking to The Daily Officer-in-Charge of Mohammadpur Police Station Iftekhar Hasan said, "A robbery case was filed with the station in this

connection."

Earlier, (Investigation) Md Hafizur Rahman of the same company, police station said, "There was CCTV surveillance in the building, and we have already collected the footage. The video shows a group of people dressed in army and Rab uniforms entering the house."

"Further details will Forest department can be provided following an

Case filed, four held

ongoing to capture the as soon as possible. main perpetrator.

has filed a case against unnamed individuals.

Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan, the youth and sports advisor to the interim government, visited the Jeshoreshwari Temple vesterday and instructed authorities to arrest the Hinduism.

thief and recover the crown

The Indian The temple's caretaker, Commission in Dhaka has Chattopadhyay, expressed concerns over the incident and urged Bangladeshi authorities to investigate the theft.

The crown was placed on the deity as a symbolic gesture by Modi during his visit to the temple, one of the 52 Shakti Peeths in

Abandoned for 31 years

The Khulna Development

Authority, along with department declared the site unsuitable for industrial development due to the surrounding residential areas. As a result, BTMC has shifted its focus to creating a worldclass theme park on the

proposed park would be the first of its kind in Bangladesh, featuring a European-style virtual reality (VR) 3D amusement park, water rides modelled on the Sundarbans, a coconut garden, and a

BTMC claims the park can be built without cutting down any of the existing trees, including environment, has since the 375 coconut trees that surround a two-acre pond

> within the premises. Despite these ambitious plans, residents remain skeptical. Many question whether the authorities will follow through, pointing to past failed projects.

Contacted, project director Kazi Firoz Hossain said, "A new proposal has been taken to build a world-class theme park with separate entertainment replacing the earlier plan for a textile village."

FROM PAGE 3

done. His ear was severely infected. Forced to leave without completing treatment, he now lives with the lasting effects of that day.

For others like Sayem Khan, an East West University student, the July protests were just as traumatic. Living near Jatrabari,

the biggest flash-points, Sayem saw the brutal crackdown first-hand. "I saw around 60 people die," he said. The sounds of gunshots reverberated through his

house, as his mother sat

in constant fear, always

wondering if her son would

be the next youth to return home in a coffin. recalls visiting families of martyrs, witnessing their grief, as funeral processions

became a common scene in Jatrabari. "The police even sent the bodies to be buried outside Dhaka." he added.

The uprising's final days were no less harrowing. Sayem stood on the front lines again in early August, just as police opened fire.

hit the person in front. He fell instantly," he recalled.

We refused to retreat, even with bullets

Hafez Kamrul Hasan Khan from Madinatul Ulum Madrasah, narrowly escaped death when the police opened fire under the Jatrabari flyover on August 4. "Two people collapsed on top of me after being shot. They died.'

"A bullet missed me but I pushed the bodies aside and screamed -- I didn't die! I didn't die! Allah saved

me!" Dhaka University student Fahim Shahriar, who was targeted by the Chhatra League and later by state intelligence agencies, also shared his experience.

'On July 24, when Nahid

I was boarded on a rickshaw van by fellow protesters. But then they realised, the rickshaw puller was already dead after sustaining a bullet at some point. Then, one of the protesters took it upon himself to pedal the rickshaw and bring me to Uttara Adhunik **Medical College Hospital.**

> ABDUL AZIZ JU Student

on top of me, I didn't move,

fearing I'd be next," he said.

collect the bodies. They

were piling up all the bodies

inside it. They picked me up

too, thinking I was dead.

Once the van had driven

far enough from the police,

"Then a van arrived to

"Even with two bodies Islam was admitted to A group of them, along Gonoshasthaya Hospital being brutally after beaten, I was tasked with

> intelligence agents were following me," he said. "I had to change locations

with two male students, sought refuge in a roadside abandoned toilet, but when collecting Tk 20,000 for they came out, they were his treatment. As I left attacked again. the hospital, I realised "The violence never

seemed to end; even those already injured were not spared," she said.

Sayed, whose death sparked The day Sayed was killed, even female students were

waterfalls with his clients.

prevent these accidents by investigation," he added.

KHULNA TEXTILE MILLS

Abandoned for 31 years DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

The once-thriving Khulna Textile Mills Limited, now a neglected relic of the past, has remained abandoned for nearly 31 years. Established in 1931 as the Acharya Prafulla Chandra Cotton Mill, the mill sits on 25.63 acres of land in the heart of Khulna city. It was renamed in 1960 and nationalised in 1972, following Bangladesh's independence.

In 1993, the government laid off 1,600 workers and employees, shutting down operations with promises to resume, but the mill has remained closed ever since.

Over the years, various initiatives by the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation failed to reopen the mill, leaving the vast industrial site unused and derelict.

The mill's land, now overrun with trees and dotted with just a few remaining buildings, stands as a reminder of its once-prosperous past.

When visiting the site, this correspondent observed an eerie calm, with three old buildings and a broken boundary wall the only remnants of the mill's operations. A police outpost and a small tin-shed housing security guards are the sole signs of human activity.

While the government continues to protect the land, residents and local authorities have raised concerns over its prolonged abandonment.

Sheikh Ashrafuzzaman, president of the Greater Khulna Development Movement Coordinating Committee, said, "This valuable land has been lying unused for more than three decades, with the government spending money just to protect it. The authorities lack sincerity and commitment to bring any positive change.

Various plans have been proposed for the site, none of which have materialised. I

In 1999, the Awami League government initiated a project to develop a textile village, dividing 18.02 acres into 36 industrial plots. The remaining land was allocated for roads, mosques, schools, and other services.

However, the project missed its 2002 deadline and was never completed. In 2017 and 2018, BTMC invited tenders for the plots but received no serious bids, effectively halting the plan to establish the textile village.





Once a thriving business. the Khulna Textile Mills Limited building is now simply a neglected relic of the past. It has remained abandoned for nearly 31 years. The landscape is now overrun with trees and dotted with just a few remaining buildings.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN



Chinese naval fleet begins goodwill visit to Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A Chinese naval fleet Qi Jiguang and Jing Gangshan arrived at Chattogram Port yesterday on a goodwill visit.

During the fleet's four-day goodwill visit, a series of events will take place including bilateral meetings, ship open days, and deck - to enhance reception China and Bangladesh Navy's cooperation and mutual trust, says a Chinese embassy statement.

"This visit marks the first occasion in four years since a Chinese naval fleet visited Bangladesh, and it is the first foreign naval fleet to visit since the establishment of the interim government," the release said.

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen welcomed the Chinese training fleet at the port.

Yao Wen commanders Chinese naval fleet called on Rear Admiral Masud Igbal, commander of the Chattogram Naval Area; Rear Admiral Md Moinul Hassan, Commander of the Bangladesh Navy Fleet, and Rear Admiral S M Moniruzzaman, Chairman of the port authority.

Low morale, lack of vehicles

Ctg police yet to resume full operations

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Following the fall of the Awami League government and the been reduced due to concerns over subsequent attacks on police stations across the country on August 5, Chattogram police personnel have been grappling with low morale, severely

disrupting their daily operations. Although officers have returned to duty over the past month, the full resumption of police activities has been delayed, exacerbated by a significant shortage of vehicles.

This has created concerns over public safety, with patrols and emergency responses hindered.

During a visit to various parts of Chattogram city, this correspondent observed that key policing areas remain largely inactive, leaving residents vulnerable to rising criminal activities, including theft, robbery, and even murder. Police response to such crimes has been sluggish, largely due to the ongoing operational challenges.

Several field-level shared that they are still in search of a morale boost, citing fears of further attacks and a lack of logistical support, including though it will take time. "We are vehicles for patrolling. This has made it difficult for officers to units to support the affected

through the national emergency

Night patrols, in particular, have potential attacks on police.

The Chattogram Metropolitan Police has acknowledged the current difficulties.

During a visit to various parts of Chattogram city, this corresponden observed that key policing areas remain largely inactive, leaving residents vulnerable to rising criminal activities, including theft, robbery, and even murder. Police response to such crimes has been sluggish, largely due to the ongoing operational challenges.

Officials said efforts are being made to fully restore services, coordinating vehicles from other respond promptly to calls made stations," an officer said.

In the aftermath of the August 5 attacks, the Kotwali, EPZ, Patenga, and Pahartali police stations were completely destroyed, while eight others were vandalised.

Several weapons, ammunition, and case evidence were either looted or destroyed, along with personal and official vehicles.

CMP data indicates that 28 police vehicles, including an armoured personnel carrier, were set ablaze, while approximately 30 more were damaged.

Noble Chakma, additional deputy commissioner of CMP's South Division, said two vehicles have been allocated to each of the Kotwali, EPZ, and Patenga police stations to assist with patrols and emergency responses. However, officers remain stretched thin.

"We don't have enough vehicles, so our patrolling has decreased significantly. The central authorities have provided two vehicles each for the EPZ and Patenga stations," said Shakila Sultana, deputy commissioner of Bandar Zone.

Despite these efforts, many officers remain psychologically affected by the attacks, with some saying that both their personal and professional lives have been impacted. "We are still recovering from the trauma," said one officer. SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

CROWN THEFT AT SATKHIRA TEMPLE Case filed, four held Police declare

reward for info

A CORRESPONDENT,

Satkhira district police have announced a reward for information leading to the capture of the thief who stole a crown of the goddess Kali at the Jeshoreshwari Temple in Shyamnagar, Satkhira.

The crown, a silver piece plated with gold, was gifted by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Bangladesh in March 2021.

The theft, occurred between 2:47pm and 2:49pm on Thursday, was captured on CCTV footage, but the thief has yet to be identified.

Satkhira Superintendent of Police Monirul Islam sought public assistance through a post on the district police's official Facebook page, offering a special reward for any information that helps arrest the culprit.

Four suspects have already been arrested, according to Satkhira police, and operations are SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Mymensingh's sweet offerings for Durga Puja



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Pera, a traditional sweetmeat, is having a moment of its own during Durga Puja this year.

It is made from solidifying cow-milk, and can be crafted in several designs and patterns.

However, despite being a delicacy, the traditional Pera has been gasping for survival in recent years.

This sweet is mainly used as a "bhog" item for various puja festivals, said 80-year old Jagadish Roy, of Mymensing's Aamlapara area.

Pera is now being sold at Tk 550 to Tk 600 per kilogramme. For special orders, prices can be as high as Tk 700 per kg, said Saurav Das, proprietor of Bikrampur Sweet Meat at the city's Boro Kalibari area.

There was a time when pera had great demand among people and it was sent to different European countries.

"There used to be orders from different zamindar palaces," said Pintu Sarker, proprietor of Adarsha Mistanno Bhandar in the Boro Kalibari area.

Like many traditional sweet items, it is lagging behind due to lack of publicity. The present generation is not familiar with this sweet item, said 58-year-old Pintu.

Recollecting memories, Pintu, the third generation in a line of sweetmeat makers, said their grandfathers late Suresh Sarker and Brojendra Sarker, hailing from Cumilla, came to Mymensingh in their youth and learned to make Pera. It is now a century old business.

Rina Sarker, proprietor of Jol Khabar Mistanno Bhandar, said the item they prepare has a difference in colour and taste than other sweetmeats.

Facing different odds including a serious crisis of skilled technicians to make pera, they have been continuing this business to honour to their ancestral trade, said Rina.

Rina added that they enjoy reliable retail sales around the year, as a large of number of devotees visit "Loknath Ashram and Boro Kalibari Temple"

The devotees usually buy pera in pieces, and such sale is not enough for the survival of this sweetmeat making, said Khitiranjan Sarker, a retired school teacher.

Dr Ranjan Kumar Majumder, a resident of the Boro Kalibari area, said the Mymensingh region was once famous for its variety of sweetmeats, including pera. But many traditional sweet items are now in a tight spot due to various reasons, and they are struggling to cope with the situation, added Dr Ranjan.



Once upon a time, this was a normal street where vehicles could move freely. Now, countless makeshift shops have narrowed it down to such an extent that only pedestrians or rickshaws can use it. The photo was taken in the capital's Karwan Bazar area yesterday.

CHATTOGRAM WATERFALLS Scenic wonders or death traps?

At least 12 tourists died since 2020

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Mahbub Hasan, a bank official, went to visit Khoiyachhara Waterfall in Chattogram on September

While bathing in the waterfall, he died after being hit by a stone that fell down the hill from the origin of

At least 12 tourists, including Mahbub, died from different types of accidents while visiting the waterfalls in Chattogram in last five years, according sources at police, fire service and forest department.

Of them, six died this year alone till October 10, while two each in 2020, 2022, and 2023.

Drowning has so far been the cause of deaths in most cases, according to government data.

Chattogram is home to several waterfalls. Of those, the most popular ones among tourists include Khoiyachhara, Napittachhara, Rupasi, Sonaichhari and Kamaldah waterfalls, located in Mirsarai and Sitakunda upazilas.

During monsoon, the waterfalls take a scenic look with their flow, attracting hundreds of tourists every season.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Prolific actor, Ekushey Padak awardee

JAMAL UDDIN HOSSAIN





Jamal Uddin Hossain sharing the screen with Tahsan Khan

PHOTOS: COLLECTED



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Veteran actor and Ekushey Padak awardee Jamal Uddin Hossain, 81, passed away yesterday while undergoing pneumonia treatment at a hospital in Canada.

He had travelled from Atlanta, USA, to visit his son, Tashfin Hossain, at his home in Calgary, Canada. On September 18, he was admitted to the hospital after he fell ill.

Jamal Uddin was an engineer by profession. After graduating from BUET, the passionate

artiste joined the renowned theatre group Nagorik Natya Sampradaya, and began acting in stage plays in the '70s. In addition to being an actor, he was also a theatre director and directed several notable plays on the Dhaka

After leaving Nagorik Natya Sampradaya, he eventually founded the Nagorik Natyangan Ensemble. He was a presidium member of the Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation. He acted in many popular dramas on BTV as well.

Some notable plays he directed on the Dhaka stage include *Chand Boniker Pala*, Khachar Bhitor Ochin Pakhi, Raja Rani, Bibi Saheb, and Jugalbandi. His direction of Chand Boniker Pala brought him significant acclaim on the Dhaka stage. Many of the plays he directed reached their 100th performance, a testament to his success.

For the past 15 years, he had mostly been sporadic in acting. During this time, he was actively travelling back and forth between the United States and Canada. His wife, Rowshan Ara Hossain, is a renowned actress. Their son, Tashfin Hossain, is a professor at a university in Canada, while their daughter lives in the

He was deeply devoted to theatre, and dedicated his life entirely to it. He balanced both acting and directing stage plays with equal passion. At one point, he also served as the Radio and Television Drama Parliament president.

The artiste actively participated in political and cultural movements, often marching in rallies. He was also present at the Shaheed Minar during theatre movements. Both

Chand Boniker Pala and All My Sons were once selected as the best plays of that particular year. That same year, he won the BACHSAS Award for Best Director.

His Nagorik Natyangan Ensemble included theatre groups from Bangladesh and Kolkata. He last performed in Tora Shob Joydhoni Kor, written by Syed Shamsul Haque and staged in New York.

Actor Abul Hayat and the late actor grew up together. "He was my childhood friend. We grew up in Chattogram's Tiger Pass and studied in the same primary school. We have endless memories together. The first play I did was with Jamal, back when we were in primary school," he told The Daily Star. "To me, he was always Mintu. We worked extensively in both theatre and television. Today, one of my closest friends left us. I pray for his departed soul."

Renowned actor Tariq Anam Khan remarked, "In this country, a few highly educated people started acting when he began his journey as an artiste. I was impressed by his performances on stage, particularly his remarkable portrayal of the police officer in Dewan Gazir Kissa."

He also mentioned, "We collaborated in Macbeth, and his acting ability was exceptional. He might have been my senior, yet he was a good friend. Hearing about his passing has been deeply saddening.

Jamal Uddin Hossain notably authored an autobiographical book titled Amar Jibon Amar Sujon. According to his son, the late actor was laid to rest in Canada's Calgary yesterday after the Janazah prayers post

Jennie's 'Mantra' takes over iTunes charts worldwide

The famed K-pop girl group Blackpink's member Jennie released her new solo single, Mantra, on Thursday (October 10) — serving it as the perfect anthem for pretty girls

everywhere. According to Soompi, Mantra quickly topped iTunes charts in multiple countries after its release, reaching No. 1 in at least 47 regions, including the US, Brazil, Singapore, Mexico, and the

Philippines

Remarkably, Mantra is the sole track by a female K-pop solo artiste to have claimed the top spot on the US iTunes Top Songs chart in 2024 so far. In March 2024, she joined forces with Brockhampton's Matt Champion for a fresh collaboration titled *Slow Motion*.



'Pride and Prejudice' series in the works at Netflix

A new adaptation of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice is currently in the works at Netflix. Moreover, Dolly Alderton, the author of Everything I Know About Love, is writing the script. As of now, no cast has been confirmed, and the streaming platform has yet to officially approve the project. Netflix previously tackled Austen's work with a 2022 film version of Persuasion featuring Dakota Johnson.

Pride and Prejudice tells the story of sharpwitted Elizabeth Bennet, who learns that love can conquer pride and prejudice through her evolving relationship with Mr Darcy.

However, Alderton's representative did not respond to Variety's request for comment.

NEWS

Children at risk in 21,500 shabby schools Tigresses exit

the Directorate of Primary Education

Bangladesh has 1.07 lakh primary educational institutions, including 65,567 belonging to the government. Nearly 1.1 crore students of grades one to five are taught by more than 3.84 lakh teachers at the government primary schools.

Official data shows around 20 percent of the total primary schools across the country are in dilapidated conditions that have put the lives of tens of thousands of students and teachers at risk.

They have to give and take lessons in shabby buildings vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters like cyclones, floods, and earthquakes.

According to the DPE, another 16 percent of the school buildings also need repairs.

Field-level officials at the DPE and teachers said that the roofs of most of these schools are in ramshackle conditions

DPE officials said that in July this year, 49,656 school buildings were "new, good and usable", 18,271 were "old", 16,998 were "repairable", 11,613 were in "dilapidated" conditions, 5,252 were "risky", 3,307 were "abandoned", 1,348 were "non-usable", and the rest were under construction.

They said a lot of the government primary schools are 40 to 50 years old. Many of the 26,193 primary schools, which were nationalised in 2013, are also in bad shape. Several hundred others have been damaged by floods or

FROM PAGE 12

e-Alam Siddique.

In many cases, school authorities and Chattogram divisions, according to are holding classes even in buildings declared "abandoned", risking the lives of teachers and students.

DPE Director General Abdus Samad said renovating these school buildings is a continuous process.

"It is on our list of priorities. We take all kinds of steps so that students and teachers do not have to attend classes in fear," he said.

As many as 27 percent of government primary school buildings needed repair, according to the Impact Evaluation Report of the Third Primary Education Development Program, conducted the Planning Commission's Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division and published in

The report is based on information collected from 480 primary schools.

A total of 19 percent of the 1,200 students interviewed for the impact evaluation report said their classrooms are risky as rainwater gets through leaks in the roofs.

Prof Mohammad Tariq Ahsan of Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research said the shabby condition of the schools takes a toll on the educational atmosphere.

"It is obvious that students and teachers constantly remain in fear during classes. Such a situation puts a huge psychological pressure on them, affecting the process of learning," he

"Schools should ensure an atmosphere favourable to joyful learning. But a school building in disrepair lacks such an environment, budget allocation for the work.

for which students lose concentration FROM PAGE 12 in the classroom. motivation." he added.

Teachers also face some problems. They feel upset, a feeling that greatly affects teaching, Tariq pointed out.

Primary and Mass Education Secretary Farid Ahmed said that they are constructing a new building and beautifying 342 government primary schools in Dhaka.

Prof Tariq said it is a good step that many government primary schools in Dhaka are set to go through beautification for improvement of the physical ambience.

But such a programme should be implemented for all schools across the country, not just the capital, he added.

Secretary Farid said they have plans to expand the programme to the rest of the country and renovate all primary schools across Bangladesh in the next five years.

FLOOD DAMAGE

Floods in the country's southeastern and northeastern regions in August have caused damage to the infrastructures, furniture, books, and documents at 2,799 government primary schools across 11 districts, the DPE said in a press release on September 10.

The affected schools included 763 in Noakhali, 501 in Lakshmipur, 550 in Feni, 22 in Brahmanbaria, 523 in Cumilla, 169 in Chandpur, 164 in Chattogram, 77 in Moulvibazar, eight in Sylhet, and 22 in Habiganj.

Citing initial estimates, the DPE said repairing the school buildings damaged by the floods would require around Tk 33 crore and the directorate would get

managed to score 106 for three in 20 overs after having opted to bat first.

After a slow start in the Powerplay, managing 21 for one, Sobhana Mostary team's best batter in the tournament struck 38 off 43 balls, while skipper Nigar Sultana Joty made an unbeaten 32 off 38 balls to guide score past three digits at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium.

"The way we started in the Powerplay wasn't great. When you don't get a good start in the Powerplay, it will be difficult. We tried to build a partnership, but we played a lot of dots, and against this South African line, it wasn't good enough," Joty said in the post-match presentation ceremony.

South Africa, in reply, lost openercum-skipper Laura Wolvaardt for seven in the third over off leg-spinner Fahima Khatun, who ended up with 2-19 in her four overs. However, Tazmin Brits and Anneke Bosch struck 42 and 25 runs, respectively, sharing a 53-run stand

for the second wicket to take their side an object at idols before running away.

Although both batters departed in quick succession, Chloe Tryon (14 not out) and Marizanne Kapp (13 not out) ensured no further casualties in their innings as South Africa reached target in 17.2 overs to top the group, with sixpoints in four games.

The Bangladesh captain also felt sorry for the crowd who came to the venue to support them in their last game.

Though we couldn't do well, they supported us, and I feel so sorry that we couldn't win it today for them," Joty remarked.

Bangladesh fielders had a poor outing as well, dropping as many as four catches while also missing out on a couple of run-out chances, easing

South Africa's run chase. Despite the victory, South Africa will now have to wait for the results of the other group matches involving West Indies and England to see which two teams among these three will qualify for the semifinals.

India smash records

Pacer Tanzim Hasan Sakib had India opener Abhishek Sharma mistime a pull to give a simple catch in the third over, but the number one-ranked T20I side never let anything budge them from dominating proceedings.

Samson and Suryakumar hit the ground running as the hosts reached 82 for one in the Powerplay -- their joint-highest score in the first six overs in T20Is. However, this time, they lost a wicket less than the last time they managed the same Powerplay score in a T20 World Cup game against Scotland in Dubai in 2021.

Samson hit 11 fours and eight maximums while Suryakumar laced his 35-ball 75 with eight fours and five sixes as India broke the record for most runs (232) scored from boundaries in a T20I innings

with a total of 22 sixes and 25 fours. Riyan Parag (34 off 13) and Hardik Pandya (47 off 18) played quickfire cameos at the death as India remained just shy of becoming only the second team ever to reach the 300-run mark in the format, after Nepal's 314 for three

against Mongolia in 2023. Bangladesh reserved their best batting effort in the series for this game, getting to their highest total after being restricted to 127 all out and 135 for nine in the first two matches, respectively.

However, Liton Das' 25-ball 42 and Towhid Hridoy's unbeaten 42-ball 63 could only prolong the inevitable outcome in a contest in which the Tigers bid adieu to their most capped (141) T20I player, Mahmudullah Riyad, after he had announced his retirement from the format just before the second T20I.

Israel's war on two fronts

FROM PAGE 12

ended at nightfall.

military said it had intercepted a projectile.

Ísrael's military said Hezbollah fired about 320 projectiles into Israel over the weekend of Yom Kippur, which

It also said roughly 280 "terror targets" were attacked in Lebanon and Gaza over the same time period. For the third time, it declared

"closed military area" along the

Lebanese border in northern Israel. this time including Shtula and nearby

Such measures since late September have preceded ground operations inside Lebanon.

In an interview with AFP, UNIFIL spokesman Andrea Tenenti said he feared an Israeli escalation against Hezbollah could soon spiral out of control "into a regional conflict with catastrophic impact for everyone".

Police yet to identify

FROM PAGE 12

and it is not clear what he had thrown. The idols were unharmed in the incident that happened around 8:00pm.

Chandan Kumar Dey, president of the Puia Udiapan Committee, said, "Some of our volunteers pursued him and caught him. But he stabbed them with a sharp weapon and got away.

The injured, Jhontu Dhar, 45, Shagor Ghosh, 38, Khokon Dhar, 35, Dipto Dev. 26. and Ramijuddin, were admitted to Mitford Hospital, locals said, Khokon was taken to the hospital's intensive care unit vesterday.

"We need to collect CCTV footage from nearby areas to get a clear view of the suspect," said OC Enamul.

Jashim Úddin, deputy commissioner (Lalbagh), said, "There is an allegation that a bottle was thrown at the mandap. There was also an incident of mugging. We are investigating whether these are related." he told The Daily Star. Around 3:00pm vesterday, residents

kept a road in Tanti Bazar blocked for almost two hours, demanding arrest and exemplary punishment of those responsible for the attack.

Ensure safety

FROM PAGE 12

The statement called upon the Bangladesh government to ensure the safety and security of Hindus and all minorities and their places of worship, especially during this auspicious festival time.

The MEA statement came a day after the Indian High Commission in Dhaka expressed "deep concern" over reports of theft of the crown gifted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to leshoreshwari Kali Temple in Satkhira in 2021 during his visit to the shrine. The high commission also urged the Bangladesh government to investigate the theft, recover the crown, and take action against the perpetrators.

On October 5, India expressed concerns over the vandalism of idols and the security of the Hindu community in Bangladesh and said the incidents of this kind "are not right and they are not good", reports UNB.

Responding to a question at a weekly briefing, Spokesperson at the Indian Ministry of External Affairs Randhir Jaiswal had said they hope this festival brings prosperity and happiness in evervone's life.

He said that they have said multiple times, even at high levels from their side that the minorities in Bangladesh should be protected.

"And we expect that the government there [in Bangladesh] will provide security to the people of the minority community and fulfil their needs," said the spokesperson.

BRU student martyred during the SAD movement on July 16. "We remember all the martyrs of the July revolution, including Abu Saved,

Sycophantic media outlets

who gave their lives for the aspirations of a mass uprising. We aim to carry forward the same aspirations to advance Bangladesh." Nahid also highlighted that the

During his speech at the BRU,

Nahid paid tribute to Abu Sayed, a

martyrdom of Sayed, who fought for justice, represents the spirit of the country's ongoing fight for freedom.

"Through the blood of martyrs like

Sayed, we are enjoying freedom today. We now work as representatives of the government to uphold that legacy," he During the event, Nahid rejected

an honorary crest presented by the university as a teacher who had opposed the SAD movement was also being honoured, The Daily Star has learnt from people present at the

government's Addressing the inattention towards Rangpur for long, Nahid said the region has been overlooked in national budgets, receiving less than areas like Gopalganj.

emphasised the interim

government's commitment addressing the disparity and ensuring fairness in future allocations.

Regarding the Teesta mega-project, Nahid reiterated that the government is committed to securing Bangladesh's rightful claims based on fairness and equality, dismissing any submissive foreign policies.

The inauguration ceremony at BRU was attended by the BRU's Vice-Chancellor Md Shoukat Ali, University Grants Commission member Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan as well as family members of Abu Sayed and various faculty members.

Iran sends satellites to Russia for rocket launch

REUTERS, Dubai

Iran has sent two locally made satellites to Russia to be put into orbit by a Russian space vehicle, the semi-official news agency Tasnim reported yesterday, in the latest space cooperation between the two U.S.-sanctioned countries.

The development of Kowsar, a high-resolution satellite, imaging and Hodhod, a small communications satellite, is the first substantial effort by Iran's private space sector, the report said. Russia sent Iranian

satellites into orbit in February and in 2022, when U.S. officials voiced concern over space cooperation between Russia and Iran, fearing the satellite will not only help Russia in Ukraine but also help Iran monitor potential military targets in Israel and the wider Middle East.

Kowsar could be used in agriculture, natural resource management, environmental monitoring, and disaster management, Tasnim said. Hodhod is designed for satellite-based communications could be used in remote areas with little access to terrestrial networks.

In September, Iran carried out its second satellite launch this year using a rocket built by its Revolutionary Guards. The launch came as the United States and European countries accuse Tehran of transferring ballistic missiles to Russia that could be used in its war with Ukraine. Iran has denied this.



Displaced Palestinians make their way as they flee areas in the northern Gaza Strip, following an Israeli evacuation order in Gaza City

Israeli strikes on Jabalia refugee camps kill 19

Say medics as tanks push deeper into the north; Palestinian health officials report around 150 killed in Jabalia over past week

REUTERS, Cairo

Israeli military strikes on Gaza overnight killed at least 19 Palestinians, medics said yesterday, while forces continued to push deeper into the Jabalia area, where international relief agencies say thousands of people are trapped.

INTERNATIONAL

Residents said Israeli forces continued to pound Jabalia, which is in the north of the enclave and is the largest of the enclave's historic refugee camps, from the air and ground.

The Israeli military published new evacuation orders yesterday to two neighbourhoods on the northern edge of Gaza City, which also lies in the north of the enclave, saying the area was a "dangerous combat zone".

In a statement, Gaza's Hamas-run interior ministry urged residents not to relocate within northern areas of the enclave and also to avoid heading south "where the occupation is conducting continued bombing and killing every day in the areas it claims to be safe".

There has been no fresh Israeli comment on deaths but the military said in past days that forces operating in Jabalia and nearby areas killed dozens of militants, located weapons and dismantled military infrastructure.

The operation in this area began a week ago and the military said then it aimed to fight against militants waging attacks and to prevent Hamas from regrouping.

Palestinian health officials put the number of people killed in Jabalia over the past week at around 150.

On Friday, Israeli strikes hit four houses in Jabalia, killing around 20 people and wounding dozens, medics said. The Israeli military has sent troops into the nearby towns of Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya as well as Jabalia and ordered residents to evacuate their homes and head to safe areas south of the enclave.

Palestinian and United Nations officials say there are no safe areas in Gaza. They have also voiced concerns over severe shortages of food, fuel, and medical supplies in northern Gaza, and said there is a risk of famine there.

Israeli offensive in Gaza, aimed at eliminating Hamas fighters, has killed more than 42,000 Palestinians since it began a year ago, according to Gaza's health ministry, and has laid waste to the enclave

Former US President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at Gaylord Rockies Resort & Convention Center in Aurora, Colorado, on Friday.

Trump wants death penalty for migrants who kill Americans

REUTERS, Colorado

portrayed Trump migrants as dangerous criminals during a rally in Aurora, Colorado, on Friday, calling for the death penalty for migrants who kill US citizens as he escalates the antiimmigration rhetoric that has fueled his presidential run.

Flanked by posters of alleged members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua, Trump also said that if elected he would launch a national "Operation Aurora" to target the gang members.

Republican Trump, the presidential candidate, has noticeably hardened his antiimmigration rhetoric in the final weeks of the Nov 5 election campaign, where he aims to defeat Democratic candidate Kamala Harris. Illegal immigration is a top voter concern, and Trump is seen by most voters as the person best able to address it, opinion polls

death penalty for any migrant non-profit group. An expansion that kills an American citizen or of eligible crimes would require a law enforcement officer," Trump said to loud cheers from a large crowd of supporters.

Trump has already proposed an expansion of the death penalty for other offenders, including people convicted of sex trafficking women and children.

Trump has already proposed an expansion of the death penalty for other offenders, including people convicted of sex trafficking women and children.

the death penalty. While there is de Aragua controlled several a federal death penalty, it is rarely dilapidated Aurora apartment "I'm hereby calling for the Penalty Information Center, a top city officials.

an act of the US Congress.

One of the hallmarks of Trump's third presidential run has been his focus on what he calls "migrant crime", even though academic studies show immigrants do not commit crimes at a higher rate than native-born Americans.

The Harris campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment related to the death penalty proposal.

Vice President Harris toughened her stance on border security after becoming the Democratic nominee in August, and faults Trump for helping stifle a bipartisan border security bill in Congress earlier this year.

SPOTLIGHT ON AURORA

During a Sept. 10 presidential debate with Harris, Trump Nearly half of U.S. states ban claimed that members of Tren used, according to the Death complexes - allegations refuted by

11 killed, 8 hurt in Pak firing incidents

DAWN ONLINE

At least 11 people were killed and eight were injured in shooting incidents in Kunj Alizai area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram district, hospital and local officials said vesterday Kurram Deputy Commissioner (DC) Javidullah

Mehsud confirmed the death toll to Dawn.com.

"There was shooting in the Kunj Alizai mountains near the Pak-Afghan border and on the roads there," DC Mehsud said.

Mir Hassan, medical superintendent of the District Headquarters Hospital, told Dawn.com that a total of nine injured people were brought to the hospital, out of which one succumbed to their injuries while treatment of the rest was underway.

He added that the condition of three of the wounded was "critical".

DC Mehsud asserted that steps were being taken to make the entry and exit routes to Kurram safe and to restore law and order in the region.

Pir Haider Ali Shah, a former MNA and a jirga member, said the latest incident of unrest was "unfortunate as jirga members were already present there for a peace agreement between the tribes".

Last month, at least 46 people were killed and 91 were injured in days-long violence that had erupted over a land dispute. A previous bout of clashes in July had also resulted in 49 deaths.

NEW MEMOIR Navalny knew he would die in prison

AFP, New York

Russian dissident Alexei Navalny, who was President Vladimir Putin's top political opponent before his death in February, believed he would die in prison, according to his posthumous memoir which will be released on October 22.

The New Yorker published excerpts from the book, featuring writing from Navalny's prison diary and earlier.

"I will spend the rest of my life in prison and die here," he wrote on March 22, 2022. "There will not be anybody to say goodbye to ...

All anniversaries will be celebrated without me. I'll never see my grandchildren." Navalny had been serving a 19-year prison

sentence on "extremism" charges in an Arctic penal colony. His death on February 16 at age 47 drew

widespread condemnation, with many blaming Navalny was arrested in January 2021 upon returning to Russia after suffering a major health

emergency from being poisoned in 2020. "The only thing we should fear is that we will surrender our homeland to be plundered by a gang of liars, thieves, and hypocrites," he wrote on

January 17, 2022. The diary reveals the punishing toll that the prison regime and his hunger strike exerted on his body, according to further extracts published in

the London Times. "Today I feel crushed. We went to the bathhouse. I could hardly tolerate standing under the hot shower. My legs gave way. It's evening now and I have no strength at all. I just want to lie down, and for the first time I'm feeling emotionally and

morally down," he wrote in one entry.



DIARY 'MY MEMORIAL'

The excerpts capture the loneliness of imprisonment, but also a touch of humour.

For instance, on July 1, 2022, Navalny outlined his typical day: wake up at 6:00 am, breakfast at 6:20 am and start work at 6:40 am.

"At work, you sit for seven hours at the sewing machine on a stool below knee height," he wrote.

"After work, you continue to sit for a few hours on a wooden bench under a portrait of Putin. This is called 'disciplinary activity.'

The book, entitled "Patriot," will be released by US publisher Knopf, which is also planning a Russian version. "It's impossible to read Navalny's prison diary

without being outraged by the tragedy of his suffering, and by his death," wrote New Yorker editor David Remnick.

In the last excerpt published in the magazine, dated January 17, 2024, Navalny responds to the question asked to him by his fellow inmates and prison guards: why did he return to Russia? "I don't want to give up my country or betray it. If your convictions mean something, you must be

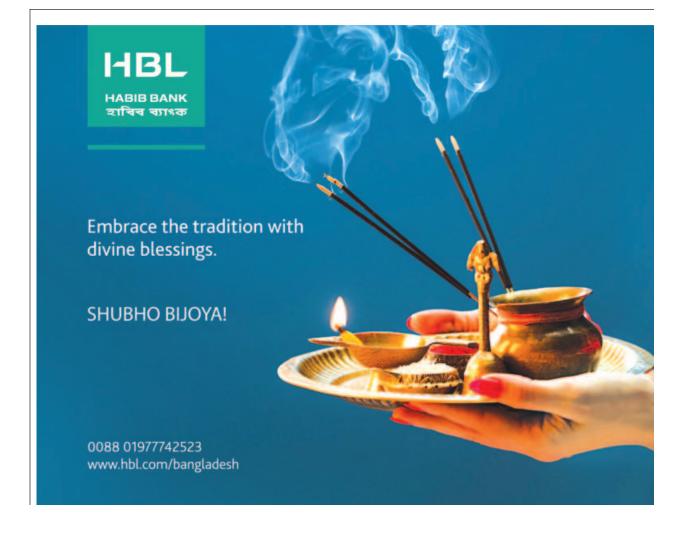
prepared to stand up for them and make sacrifices if necessary," he said. Speculating on the fallout of any attempt to

assassinate him, Navalny said his memoirs "will be my memorial.'

"If they whack me, my family will get the advance and royalties that, I hope, there will be,'

"Let's face it, if a murky assassination attempt using a chemical weapon, followed by a tragic demise in prison, can't move a book, it is hard to imagine what would," he joked.

"What more could the marketing department



EDITORIAL

The Paily Star

FOUNDER EDITOR: LATE S. M. ALI

Flood-hit farmers need proper support

Govt must ensure swift response based on their needs

As floodwaters begin to recede in the Mymensingh, Netrokona and Sherpur region, the scale of the destruction caused by the recent flash floods is gradually becoming apparent. Current estimates suggest that Aman crops over 83,000 hectares of land have been totally or partially ruined, impacting around 322,000 farmers. Moreover, a large number of fish farms have been washed away. In Sherpur alone, floods have washed away the fish from 7,366 ponds, affecting around 4,500 farmers. While a comprehensive assessment of the damage done to agriculture, fish farms, livestock and properties can only be made after the water fully recedes, it is already clear that recovery will be an immense challenge for this agriculturally crucial region.

Farmers whose crops have been destroyed have an uncertain future awaiting them. The damage to this season's Aman paddy is beyond repair, as the window for new cultivation has already passed. How will these farmers survive? Or, consider the case of fish farmers like Mohammad Ali, who had taken the lease of an acre of land to set up a fish farm and invested nearly Tk 7 lakh by taking a bank loan. He and others like him have not only lost their livelihoods but are now saddled with a crushing debt.

While the flood situation in these districts has improved to some extent over the last few days, many villages in lowlying areas still remain inundated. According to the local administration, about 13,000 families are still trapped by water. These people, too, face an uncertain future, not knowing what awaits them when the waters finally recede.

Under the circumstances, the government must urgently come up with a robust post-flood recovery plan for all the affected areas, while continuing its relief efforts by providing food, medicine and other essential supplies to the victims. Understandably, livelihood rehabilitation, particularly for farmers, will be one of the government's biggest challenges as they need to be given an alternative choice of crops or vegetables to cultivate since the Aman season is already over. To this end, the Department of Agricultural Extension should swiftly assess the conditions on the ground and identify suitable crops and vegetables for the affected areas. Immediate distribution of crop saplings, vegetable seeds, fertilisers, and other necessary inputs is also essential.

Those who cannot go back to their previous livelihoods must be given alternative means of earning a living. This is a huge task requiring strong coordination among all the relevant government agencies. We hope that the government will rise to the challenge, supported by NGOs and philanthropic organisations, to meet the post-flood needs of the affected

Save Hatirjheel from overdevelopment

Why continue an initiative that will worsen waterlogging?

Waterlogging has been a perennial problem for Dhaka city, and we all know the reason behind it. Rampant encroachment of water bodies has resulted in water remaining stagnant in many areas as there is nownere for it to go. Canals, ponds, and parts of rivers have been filled up to satisfy the greed of encroachers who often enjoyed political patronage. Hatirjheel is one of the latest casualties of this unplanned development that threatens to further worsen Dhaka's waterlogging problem.

According to a report, over the past 17 months, more than 10 acres of Hatirjheel Lake have been filled with sand as part of the Dhaka Elevated Expressway project. Authorities claim that the move was necessary to build 41 pillars for the project, despite warnings that it would severely disrupt the lake's natural water flow and reduce its capacity to retain excess rainwater. As a result, there would be increased waterlogging particularly in Dilu Road, Karwan Bazar, Banglamotor, Moghbazar and Teigaon areas. Hatiriheel's biodiversity would also be affected. damaging habitats of aquatic life and destroying bird nesting areas. It is unthinkable that despite such dire risks, the authorities would allow this move to continue. Reportedly, the approval for the filling initiative came directly from the former Prime Minister's Office. And despite this violating Dhaka's Detailed Area Plan (2022) as well as the Environment Conservation (Amendment) Act 2010, both Rajuk and the Department of Environment remained silent.

But now that the former regime has been ousted, we expect things to be different. Given the environment adviser's track record for fighting against encroachment of rivers and waterbodies, we hope this dangerous initiative would be scrapped soon. While the elevated expressway has made life easier for many city dwellers in terms of mobility, it cannot be at the expense of the integrity of Hatirjheel or citizens' safety from environmental impacts. The government must stop the expansion immediately and develop a plan to undo the damage already caused and protect the lake in the future.

This year's floods in various parts of the country proved to be more severe precisely because floodwaters stagnated for days on end as most water bodies have been filled up or blocked by unplanned infrastructure development. The interim government should identify all at-risk water bodies in Dhaka and other cities that have been filled up or encroached upon, and take urgent steps to free them.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



The Daily Star

declares war on Nazi Germany

On this day in 1943, the Kingdom of Italy officially joined the Allied Powers and declared war on its former Axis partner Germany.

India's hubris

STRATEGICALLY SPEAKING

Brig Gen Shahedul Anam Khan, ndc, psc (retd) is a former associate editor of The Daily Star.

BRIG GEN SHAHEDUL ANAM KHAN NDC, PSC (RETD)

to her plunder and pillage. Nothing of the kind was published in the Indian media. Needless to say, the Indian media's lamentation in unison represents the opinion and position of the South Block.

India continues to play the Hindu card, exaggerating the stray incidents in Bangladesh, quite happily forgetting the unabated persecution the foreign policy posture of Bangladesh since 1971. If one's foreign policy revolves around mainly three concentric circles-immediate neighbours, the region, and the international ambit-Bangladesh's first two circles have been dominated by India only, reminding one of the rueful remarks of a Mexican president, "So far from God, so near to the United States." Indian leaders had not flinched

from betraying their intention to be an "elder brother", if not a "big brother", and one of the foreign ministers is on record saying as much and in as many words. But while the main text has been followed to the letter and spirit, the subtext that it will care for its "younger brother" has been purged from the Indian leaders' mind.

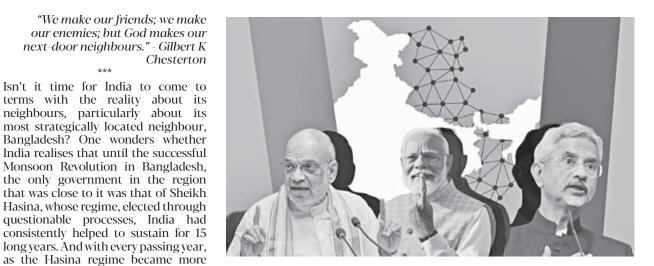
A caring neighbour does not resort to shooting of harmless people on the border, nor does it renege on its commitment to observe the international norms and conventions related to the sharing of common resources. Nor would it take for a caring neighbour 41 long years to ratify an agreement. An administration that believes in dealings on the basis of sovereign equality with neighbours would try to remove the disparaging and irresponsible comments that have been coming out of the mouths of very senior Indian leaders, including ministers.

Indian scholars keep on harping on one single issue: anti-Indian activities conducted from inside Bangladesh. The same narrative has again been regurgitated by an Indian scholar in a recent interview with a leading Bangladeshi newspaper. What our interviewers failed to ask the Indian scholar was to say when such activities were last recorded.

It is not for India to ask for Bangladesh's assurance. All of India's security concerns have been met fully, and more. Rather, it is for Bangladesh to ask whether India would fulfil its commitments as a responsible neighbour.

We would like to remind our neighbour by repeating what we had said in the past: that there is a thin line between being a big country and being a great one. And that line is often inflated into a chasm by the petty-minded upholders of so-called enlightened self-interest.

It is also a good thought to conclude that Bangladesh would like to see India as neither a big nor an elder brother,



VISUAL: ALIZA RAHMAN

painted as the villain. No one bothered to analyse why Muizzu took the stand that he did.

The South Block and the Indian media must delve deep into why public opinion in Bangladesh had turned so vehemently against India over the years. It was guilt by association. Hasina served Indian economic and strategic interests-much at the expense of Bangladesh, we must addand so India did everything to see that AL continued their hold on power. Anyone reading or watching only the Indian print and electronic media, particularly in the days following the July-August mass revolution, would be led to believe that a most benevolent servant of the people of Bangladesh, elected by overwhelming popular mandate, was illegally pushed out of power and made to flee to India!

The Indian media's lamentation about the death of democracy and collapse of Bangladesh's economy post-Hasina is in stark contrast to its deafening silence on Awami League's 15 years of misrule and wanton looting of national wealth by Hasina, her family, and party members, aided and abetted by a partisan bureaucracy. Largesse was also distributed among state institutions to make them pliant of the minorities—particularly of the Muslims—in the last 10 years under the Modi regime.

The contrasting role of the media in the two countries has been very stark and noticeable. The media in Bangladesh has been virtually mum about the plight of the Muslims in India, fearing the oppressive laws that lay down stringent punishment for anyone expressing an opinion that might "harm bilateral relations" with our neighbours. Our mainstream media was scared even to publish the facts. Notice the contrasting role of the Indian media. Not only have exaggerations been resorted to but stories have also been fabricated to run a propaganda campaign about the so-called persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh.

India's diplomatic and intelligence failure in Bangladesh was hard to swallow for its leadership. Hence the venomous invective spewing from their mouth, which, thankfully, has been dismissed as guttural utterances by most world leaders. Such utterances do little to engender good neighbourly feelings, and good feelings are a precondition to a good mutual relationship.

Inevitably, India has predominated but a gracious neighbour.

Can Biman have a fresh beginning?

Towards the end of the regime, Salman F Rahman,

the former adviser to the former prime minister

an attempt to purchase 10 new aircraft from

funds. That chapter is now closed.

on private industry and investment, spearheaded

Airbus. The intent was brazenly clear: to embezzle



and more autocratic, India was seen

as increasingly complicit in the travails

and woes caused by the destruction

of democracy and abridgement of the

basic rights of Bangladeshis. Most saw

the prolonged agony that Bangladesh

went through as being the result of

India's unflinching support for the

Awami League (AL) to further its own

Indian administration to AL is evident

from the fact that some of the top

leaders of the ousted regime have

been given sanctuary in that country.

Skeletons hidden in their closet for so

long have only just started to emerge.

Maldives to show that it had had enough of India. The gumption shown

by the then newly elected president,

Mohamed Muizzu, to say openly that

his country would not be bullied by its

big neighbour might have irked India,

but that view is fairly representative

of the views of citizens in India's many

other South Asian neighbours. A new

president in Sri Lanka from a party

formed on nationalistic platforms must have added to India's worries.

India doesn't like being shown

the door, and it showed after Muizzu

ordered Indians to leave. And as is the

tradition with the Indian establishment

and media, it was the Maldives that was

Before Bangladesh, it was for the

The degree of commitment of the

geostrategic interests.

is captain of Boeing /// with Bangladesh Biman and a former member of the fleet planning committee, that did the groundwork for the purchase of 10 new generation Boeing

almost service uprising. all organisations, corporations, administrative bodies, and government offices in the country are experiencing significant changes, reshuffling, and overhauls. Previously stifled voices are now being heard, and we expect a new Bangladesh to emerge from the wreckage left behind by the Awami League government. The extent of embezzlement is staggering. Any honest person who envisions what could have happened if this money had been invested into the economy can't help but feel enraged by the fallen regime.

Towards the end of the regime, Salman F Rahman, the former adviser to the former prime minister on private industry and investment, spearheaded an attempt to purchase 10 new aircraft from Airbus. The intent was brazenly clear: to embezzle funds. That chapter is now closed. It's time to look forward and build a new Biman founded on professionalism, efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

The aviation industry experienced an unprecedented lull during the Covid pandemic, followed by a tremendous boom. Despite this, Biman has underperformed, especially considering it has a relatively young fleet.

In the aviation business, the margin for error is extremely narrow. A single poor decision can lead to total chaos for any airline. An accident can damage an airline's brand image so severely that it may take months to regain passenger confidence. Building a brand is a slow and painstaking process, but it can ensure a return on investment. For effective branding of Biman, key areas require attention.

A major complaint against Biman

CAPTAIN A M MAQSOOD AHMED Following the July-August mass is its poor "on-time performance". In the recent past, the importance of

punctuality has been largely ignored.

The airline's vision and mission do not

appear to be clearly communicated

to its employees and departments. A

concerted effort is essential to ensure

flights are dispatched on time. Aircraft serviceability is one of the most important areas for profit maximisation. Aircrafts must be serviceable and in good condition, including in-flight entertainment systems. An aircraft that sits idle is useless unless the airline's operations

individuals must be removed from sensitive positions immediately. Modern aircraft have the unique ability to communicate their health

status to engineers, even midflight. However, we often fail to take advantage of this technology due to inadequate spare parts provisioning. Delaying repairs because of costcutting can be disastrous. Aircraft should not be left idle for days due to a lack of necessary parts. The prospect of providing maintenance to more foreign carriers may be explored to expand the spares pool.

Many of our international flights include short segments, such as Dhaka-Sylhet or Dhaka-Chattogram, before proceeding to the ultimate destination, which highly increases operating expenses. These short flights waste valuable engine, landing gear and auxiliary power unit (APU) cycles. A better strategy would be to operate point-to-point international

Captain A M Maqsood Ahmed managers. Certain problematic crew numbers do not allow crew to take time off to attend to personal matters. Aspiring young pilots should be given the opportunity to join Biman, and current pilots who meet the requirements should be promoted in due time. Biman is a relatively small airline

with few airplanes. So, it is very important to take advantage of any opportunity to optimise operations that come our way. For instance, the decision to procure Boeing 787s, despite their delayed delivery, was influenced by the ability of pilots to fly both Boeing 787s and 777s simultaneously. However, the 787s arrived, the crew for both aircraft types were segregated, causing problems in planning issues and crew dissatisfaction. There are also issues with aircraft allocation in different routes that should be revisited.

Biman must immediately focus on future fleet planning based on pragmatic business solutions and operational needs. Failing to plan ahead will lead to major operational problems. We are already in a stage where aircraft shortage is inevitable.

Another area is communicating delays. We often see passengers getting agitated at the holding area because of a lack of information regarding delays. Passengers readily accept a delay of less than 30 minutes or even more if they are updated about it along with the reasons. Biman traffic personnel needs training on providing updated delay messages to passengers without exception. Any delay of more than 15 minutes must be communicated to the passengers.

Lastly, sufficient executive power must be granted to the managing director and chief executive officer to hold them accountable for decisions. In recent years, the board and its subcommittees made almost all decisions, leaving central management unaccountable. This led to unnecessary delays, and in some cases, decisions were rendered ineffective by the time they were made.

Proper brainstorming will bring forth many more steps that can be Chattogram, direct flights from these taken for the advancement of Biman cities cannot be operated. Inadequate and improve its brand image.

are so inefficient that it is cheaper to

Another issue that needs focus is efficiency, which is essential in every aspect of the airline, from marketing and sales to dispatch, engineering, maintenance, pilots, and cabin crew. Investment in efficient human resources and systems is never wasted and is crucial to achieving efficiency. As such, it is essential to emphasise proper recruitment and training, especially of managers.

keep aircrafts grounded.

A positive work environment is critical. Disengaged employees can cause significant losses. Responsibility and ownership are key contributors to an airline's brand image and efficiency. We need empathetic, knowledgeable

routes, like Dhaka to Dubai, Dubai to Chattogram, then Chattogram to Jeddah and so on. This would not only avoid unproductive short sectors but also save on engine, landing gear, and APU cycles. The short-sector flights are choking off domestic operators. The national carrier should not monopolise the market at the expense of underperformance.

Crew shortages should not hinder expansion or planning. Recruitment should be regular and recruitment numbers should be manageable within a set timeframe. Currently, because of crew shortage, and the reluctance of crew to stay over in Sylhet and

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There should be a central coordinator to oversee flood management'

Mohammad Abdul Qayyum, former National Project Director of the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) and adjunct faculty at Dhaka University, talks to Naznin Tithi of The Daily Star about the weaknesses of our flood management efforts this year as well as the importance of stronger coordination and better flood forecasting.

Sherpur, where inadequate government response was criticised?

I think the primary reason for the government's inadequate response is the instability within the administration. After the fall of the previous government, local government institutions were not functioning properly, which remains the case till now. So, during the floods, they could not engage with the affected communities properly. There were no significant efforts to visit affected areas to assess damage or coordinate relief, rescue, and rehabilitation efforts. Also, since some of the areas affected this year usually do not experience flooding, both local communities and relevant government bodies were unprepared.

However, after the experience of Feni and Noakhali floods, the government should have been more alert about the changing flood patterns and responded accordingly, but it did not. The Sherpur flood should not have caught it off guard, but it did, again indicating its unpreparedness.

In Sherpur, flood water recedes through two routes: one towards Netrakona and Mymensingh, the other to the Brahmaputra in Jamalpur. The lower riparian areas had time to evacuate people before the floods, but we saw no such action. I think the government should have given more importance to Sherpur, considering that it is one of the four key regions (along with Naogaon, Kushtia and Bhairab) that produce surplus rice and vegetables throughout the year. So, its flood vulnerability should have been a priority.

This year's floods were more destructive than in previous years, even supposedly surpassing the 1988 floods in some areas. Besides natural causes, what human factors contributed to this scenario?

Why have our flood management efforts Central Bangladesh is known to be vulnerable been so weak this year, particularly in to flooding. These areas are inundated to some extent every year. But this year's floods were not the usual type. Bangladesh usually experiences river floods in which water levels rise gradually and people somehow adapt to it. But this year, the floods were caused by excessive rainfall in both Bangladesh and India, along with sudden water surges from upstream, dam failures, etc. In Sherpur, heavy rainfall, sudden hill runoff from India, and breaches in the dams exacerbated the situation. Also, while the water is meant to reach the sea via various channels, the connecting routes were not in a condition to channel it quickly.

> We saw how unplanned development works such as roads and various infrastructure projects obstructed the natural flow of water, trapping it in some areas for extended periods, while the depletion of forests in both upstream and downstream areas also intensified the severity of flooding. These man-made factors made this year's floods more destructive.

> I was in the region during the 1988 flood and I can tell that the damage then was considerably less. But this time, the breach in the flood protection embankments worsened the situation. The same thing happened in Feni and Cumilla as well.

> What are some of the areas the government should look into to expedite post-flood rehabilitation?

Post-flood, restoring the communication network is crucial. Damaged roads need urgent repair to ensure relief supplies, such as food and medicine, can reach affected areas. Moreover, if the roads are not repaired urgently, farmers face a two-fold problem. First, if they cannot transport their produce to market on time, they suffer financially as the prices of their products fall. Second,



transportation costs for essential goods increase, which affects both farmers and eventually consumers.

Rebuilding livelihoods is another priority. During the recent floods, many people lost their livestock and poultry, while many fish farms were washed away. NGOs, which often provide livelihood support to rural communities, should collaborate with the government to offer new opportunities. Farmers need paddy saplings, vegetable seeds, and other resources to rebuild their livelihoods. Any delay in providing assistance only deepens poverty, and has broader economic repercussions for the country.

For all these efforts, effective government coordination is essential. This is lacking at present. I think what the relevant ministry can do is appoint a central coordinator to guide Also, flood protection embankments need

local administrations in activating all local bodies and offices of various departments such as the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Water Development Board (WDB), and the union parishads for postflood rehabilitation efforts. The government has disaster management funds that can be used for recovery. But they need to be deployed effectively.

What preparations are needed for future floods in newly affected areas like Sherpur?

We need more flood shelters in regions like greater Mymensingh that are typically not flood-prone but now increasingly vulnerable. We must recognise that no areas are entirely safe from flooding anymore.

to be built scientifically and maintained regularly. In many cases, the embankments are not built following proper designs and measurements—the top-bottom ratio is usually not maintained. Also, many embankments fail because they are built with poor-quality sandy soil which is not resistant to floods and can break easily.

Using more resilient materials like Etel soil and conducting regular inspections can prevent breaches. Moreover, resourcerich areas like Sherpur should receive more attention in national flood management planning.

How can our flood forecasting system be improved in the changed reality? The recent floods in the northern and northeastern regions have brought to the fore the shortcomings of conventional flood prediction methods...

We have an advanced flood forecasting system, but it is primarily designed to predict river floods. It does not account for localised floods caused by sudden rainfall or cloudbursts, as we saw this year. So, we definitely need to improve our flood forecasting system to address the new reality. At present, we have a flood forecasting unit under the Water Development Board that forecasts river flooding, while the meteorological department does rainfall forecast. By linking our flood forecasting unit with the meteorological department and ensuring data sharing in real-time, we can better predict localised floods such as the ones that occurred in Sherpur or Feni.

We also need better cooperation with India to ensure timely alerts when water is being released upstream, giving us more time to prepare for any eventuality. Improved coordination and technology can help us manage the increasingly unpredictable flood patterns we are now facing.

3 Chiding sound 4 Talk incessantly about 5 Studio sign

12 Across, Brat Pack actor

6 Spiked club 7 Whiskey holders

9 Athena's symbol 10 "My word!"

20 Decade divisions

25 Asian peninsula

31 Barista's creation

33 Do a checkout chore

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14 River catch

17 Neigh sayer

19 In the lead

22 Gimlet base 23 Wheel track

28 Hush-hush

29 Freebooter

34 Taxing org.

36 Screening org.

37 Misbehaving

35 Tiny taste

38 Tell tales

39 Finish

8 With

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

Removing roadblocks to economic and democratic recovery



Healthcare, Inc., an information technology company. He also serves as senior research fellow at the US-based International Sustainable Development Institute (ISDI).

ABDULLAH SHIBLI

As one of the toughest nations on this planet, we Bangladeshis, have been able to overcome natural disasters, calamitous weather, political upheavals, and dictatorial regimes. The July-August mass uprising revealed the inner strengths of the people, particularly the younger generation, to tackle powerful and evil forces and to find an alternative roadway into the future. The path forward for us is undoubtedly full of uncertainties but also offers a rainbow of opportunities.

The interim government currently has many complex and deep-rooted political and socio-economic problems on its docket, which it has promised to address, and I often wonder how they will be able to do so within the time frame they have at their disposal. While I am for free, fair, and inclusive elections soon, I am also aware that the interim government is our best hope to: i) identify the critical problems, ii) chalk out alternative ways to resolve them, and iii) address some of the urgent issues. But they need a little more time than what the newspapers and some politicians are talking about.

Unfortunately, dark forces are already waiting in the wings and will try to strike at any moment to derail our march to true democracy. The roadblocks are political, global, and administrative. The immediate priorities are to stabilise the economy, confront the profitseekers and tackle inflation and

3, 2024, published an article Bangladesh's Ousted Leader Sheikh Hasina Could Stage an Unlikely Comeback," written by Charlie Campbell, a the adviser for planning and expenditure and investment in

senior correspondent based in the Singapore bureau of TIME, and the former China Bureau Chief. The narrative of the article is full of speculative and biased conjectures. I only read it because of the eyebrow-raising in its wake that needs to be title and the fear it was bound cleaned up. For example, during to arouse. My biggest concern the uprising in July and August,

factors. Given that we might have a new election within the next two years, the political parties might try to take advantage of any possible bump on the road ahead. However, Bangladeshi voters are aware of the factors behind the economic slowdown and will not blame the interim government and look back at the former regime with any feelings of nostalgia.

First of all, the former government left a lot of debris

administration.

However, all said and done, the country might still expect the interim government to deliver on a few major promises including curbing corruption, brunt of these dislocations banking reforms, and restoration of democracy. A relatively more open society with less repression

AN OPEN DIALOGUE education in the interim the public and private sectors some attention even within the government. However, GDP dipped, and a major overhaul short timeframe, the interim growth may well dip due to many of the financial infrastructure government might have. These is underway. Finally, there are are the external debt crisis, genuine external shocks such as inflation, and the near-collapse recent flooding, an increase in of the banking sector. "The energy prices in the international interim government in Dhaka market, and depreciation of has work to do to reassure the Taka. Therefore, the impact investors and creditors that of these factors will not affect it can guarantee the political the popularity of the Yunus stability conducive to economic repair work," according to a statement by East Asia Forum (EAF), based at the Australian National University.

Poor people will bear the because of low employment, lack of overseas money, and the low government handouts they receive. Therefore, spending on safety nets, health, and education must be carefully prioritised and targeted to the most vulnerable.

The International Money Fund (IMF) is holding out an olive branch. Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the IMF, called on the G-20 countries to offer debt relief for indebted vulnerable countries through the Common Framework for debt treatments, adding that timely and orderly debt resolution is in the interest of both debtors and creditors.

The institutions working for good governance and sustained economic growth both in the private and public sectors need to be strengthened and allowed to work independently without any fear of retribution. For example, dormant Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit was reactivated and it froze the bank accounts of some "bad actors" amid allegations of corruption, asset accumulation, and money laundering against them. Other such institutions that can help in the aforementioned areas are the Anti-Corruption Commission, Transparency International, and Grameen Bank.

The present macroeconomic crisis will be painful to resolve, but Bangladesh has the leadership, the institutions, and the support of the masses to bring some resolution before the

11 Large lizard 12 See 8-Down 13 Like some roofs and 15 Berth places 16 God with a hammer 18 Sanction 22 Oil field strike 24 Hockey's Bobby 25 Collection 26 Water, in France 27 Course unit 29 Audition goal 30 Glade grazer 31 Tops 32 Labor leader Chavez 34 Difficult to manage 40 Ascend 41 Reach 42 Petty fight 43 Not optional DOWN 1 Fragrant tree

2 Long time

ACROSS

1 Nautical unit 7 Marsh hopper

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS



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is that he raises the possibility the former government brutally of the revolution floundering because of the hypothetical picture of gloom and doom the writeup portrayed.

Campbell mentions that the Asian Development Bank lowered its forecast for Bangladesh's TIME magazine on October economic growth from 6.6 to budgets. Thirdly, factories were 5.1 percent due to the political tumult. The economic slowdown has been acknowledged by Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud,

tried to repress the movement leading to death and destruction. Secondly, the leaders of the July uprising are justifiably seeking a major course correction, which will require various government departments to reallocate their shut down, some businesses experienced a considerable loss of production, and exports suffered. In addition, consumer

dissenting voices and comparatively more freedom of expression are already seen as major accomplishments of the new administration. Besides, the adviser for planning after the ECNEC meeting on October 7 informed us of the approval of some much-needed projects, and enhanced monitoring and evaluation of ongoing projects and cost of infrastructure

However, other areas need next elections.

How environment shapes women's well-being

For many women, the environment they live in profoundly shapes their overall health and happiness. Factors like home conditions, access to financial resources, and environmental healthsuch as air quality and pollution levels-play a critical role in their wellbeing. Younger women, in particular, often report feeling the strain of poor environmental conditions, which may explain why many are at the forefront of climate change activism. Their desire to improve their surroundings reflects their drive for a better quality of life.

As women age, however, their satisfaction with life generally increases, especially in areas related to their environment. Older women often report greater peace and contentment, likely due to improved living conditions and



more stability in their surroundings. This heightened environmental quality of life becomes a source of value for many, inspiring them to preserve it for future generations. This desire to protect and sustain their environment may even drive older women to advocate for long-term environmental solutions.

To enhance women's well-being, it is essential to focus on improving the conditions in which they live. Policymakers and communities should prioritise initiatives that enhance home environments, reduce pollution, and ensure access to both financial and social resources. In addition, creating opportunities for women to actively influence and shape their surroundings-through community programs or climate action-can empower them to improve both their immediate environment and their broader societal conditions.

By addressing these factors, we can help women of all ages enjoy better health, happiness, and a higher quality

Source: PLOS ONE

Prioritise mental health at work

STAR HEALTH DESK

October 10 was World Mental Health Day. It celebrates awareness for the global community in an empathetic way, with a unifying voice, helping people feel hopeful by empowering them to take action and create lasting change.

There is a vital connection between mental health and work. Safe, healthy working environments can act as a protective factor for mental health. Unhealthy conditions including stigma, discrimination, and exposure to risks like harassment and other poor working conditions, can pose significant risks, affecting mental health, overall quality of life and consequently participation or productivity at work. With 60% of the global population in work, urgent action is needed to ensure work prevents risks to mental health and protects and supports mental health at work.

It is essential for governments, employers, the organisations which represent workers and employers, and other stakeholders responsible for workers' health and safety to work together to improve mental health at work. Action to address mental health at work should be done with the meaningful involvement of workers and their representatives, and persons with lived experience of mental health conditions. By investing efforts and resources in evidence-based approaches and interventions at work, we can ensure that everyone has the opportunity to thrive at work and in life. Let's take action today for a healthier future.

Mental health and work are closely linked. A supportive work environment fosters mental health, providing purpose and stability. But poor working conditions can harm mental well-being, reducing both job satisfaction and productivity.

health that workers may face including workplace . This means, for example, discrimination, poor working conditions, or limited autonomy. Low paid or insecure jobs often lack adequate protections, leaving workers in these jobs more exposed to psychosocial risks.

Lack of support for people with mental health conditions can negatively impact their self-confidence, enjoyment at work, capacity to work, absences and ability to gain employment. Carers and family members are similarly affected.

Poor mental health can lead to

There are various risks to mental with mental health conditions in the organizing regular supportive meetings, scheduling frequent breaks, gradually reintroducing workers to tasks, and providing storage for medication.

Employers should provide managers with training to recognize and address stressors in the workplace. Trained managers can effectively support their teams and foster a healthier, more supportive work environment.

Governments, employers, representative organizations must work decreased performance, absence from together to create policies that prevent work, and increased staff turnover. mental health risks, promote well-being,



Depression and anxiety alone result in the loss of approximately 12 billion workdays each year.

Stigma and discrimination often prevent people with mental health conditions from seeking help or finding and keeping jobs. Reducing workplace discrimination through awareness, training, and engagement with people living with mental health conditions creates healthier, more inclusive work environments.

Employers should apply reasonable accommodations to support workers Source: World Health Organisation

and build supportive workplaces where mental health is prioritised.

Although governments and employers have the primary responsibility to protect and promote mental health at work, you can take steps to support your own well-being. Learn techniques to manage stress and stay mindful of changes in your mental health. If needed, reach out for support from a trusted friend, family member, colleague, supervisor, or health

Recommendations for influenza vaccine

The World Health Organisation (WHO) announced recommendations for

the viral composition of influenza vaccines for the 2025 influenza season in the southern hemisphere. The announcement was

made at an information session after a 4-day meeting on the composition

of influenza virus vaccines. The meeting is held twice annually, once for the southern and once for the northern

The recommendations issued are used by the national vaccine regulatory agencies and pharmaceutical companies to develop, produce, and license influenza vaccines for the following influenza season. The periodic update of viruses contained in influenza vaccines is necessary for the vaccines to be effective due to the constantly evolving nature of influenza viruses, including those circulating and infecting humans.

The WHO recommends that trivalent vaccines for use in the 2025 southern hemisphere influenza season contain the following:

Egg-based vaccines

A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1) • an pdm09-like virus;

A/Croatia/10136RV/2023 (H3N2)-like virus; and

B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/ Victoria lineage)-like virus. Cell culture-, recombinant protein-, or

nucleic acid-based vaccines A/Wisconsin/67/2022 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus:

• an A/District of Columbia/27/2023 (H3N2)-like virus; and

B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/ Victoria lineage)-like virus.

The recommendation for the B/ Yamagata lineage component of quadrivalent influenza vaccines remains unchanged from previous recommendations:

B/Phuket/3073/2013 (B/ Yamagata lineage)-like virus

Source: World Health Organisation

Health benefits of **COFFEE CONSUMPTION**

DR SHAHJADA SELIM

Recent research has revealed unexpected 10 or more cups daily had a 55% lower risk health benefits linked to coffee, despite of developing type 2 diabetes compared earlier recommendations to limit intake to those consuming two or fewer cups. due to heart disease concerns. Many studies have controlled for factors such as age, sex, and lifestyle influences, allowing researchers to isolate coffee's effects. Notably, a UK study in 2022 found that adults who drank more unsweetened or sugarsweetened coffee had a lower risk of dying from cancer and other causes over a seven-year period, while artificially sweetened coffee showed no notable impact on mortality.

Colorectal cancer prevention: Drinking four or more cups of coffee daily may lower the risk of colorectal cancer by 11-24%.

Endometrial cancer prevention: According to a study, women consuming four or more cups of coffee daily had a 25% lower risk of developing endometrial cancer compared to those who had just one cup. This reduction increased to 30% when compared to non-coffee drinkers.

Liver cancer and cirrhosis **reduction:** Research

indicates that individuals drinking one or two cups of coffee daily have a lower risk of liver cancer. Those consuming three to four cups had about half the risk, and those drinking five or more cups had about one-third the risk. A Japanese study noted a 76% decrease in liver cancer risk for those consuming at least five cups daily, particularly benefiting those with hepatitis C.

Skin cancer risk reduction: Studies revealed that individuals consuming more than three cups of caffeinated coffee monthly had a 17% lower risk of basal cell carcinoma. Drinking four or more cups daily was linked to a 20% reduced risk of malignant melanoma, the most severe form of skin cancer.

Prevention of type 2 diabetes: In Finland, a study found that men drinking Women in the same category experienced a 79% reduction.

Suicide risk reduction: Two long-term studies showed that each additional cup of coffee consumed daily was associated with a 13% decrease in suicide risk. One study found a 50% lower risk among women who drank two or more cups daily compared to non-coffee drinkers.

Brain health and aging: Research suggested that coffee consumption could enhance cognitive function and slow agerelated cognitive decline.

Risks associated with coffee: Certain risks must be considered. Studies indicate that consuming

300 mg of caffeine (about two to three cups) can decrease fertility and increase the likelihood of low birth weight in infants. Women over 65 who consume more than four cups daily may have a higher risk of hip fractures. Heart diseases and stroke:

Coffee consumption has potential cardiovascular benefits. Moderate intake is associated with a lower risk of heart disease, with some studies suggesting that drinking 3 to 5 cups a day may decrease heart-related issues. Coffee is rich in antioxidants, which can help mitigate oxidative stress and inflammation.

Overall, coffee consumption appears to provide more health benefits than risks for most individuals. Even one cup daily can reduce the risk of various diseases. However, women trying to conceive, those who are pregnant, and individuals over 65 should consider limiting their coffee intake.

The writer is an associate professor in the Department of Endocrinology at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical

WHO and TikTok team up for health awareness

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has partnered with TikTok, the popular short-form video platform, to promote reliable, sciencebased health information. This year-long collaboration reflects WHO's commitment to using digital platforms to enhance global health literacy and foster healthy behaviours in an increasingly digital world.

Social media plays a vital role in shaping health-related decisions, with one in four young adults seeking news on platforms like TikTok. However, misinformation and credible information and facilitate scientific

malinformation are rampant online, prompting WHO and TikTok to join forces to address these challenges by encouraging dissemination of Dr Jeremy Farrar, WHO

Chief Scientist, stated, "This collaboration can prove to be an inflection point in how responsible." with TikTok, WHO aims to provide

platforms can be more socially By partnering

provide access to trustworthy information. The collaboration will focus on relevant health evidence-based content and topics, transforming scientific data into fostering positive health relatable and digestible video content. Tik Tok's creator training programs will also support influencers in delivering accurate health The partnership aims to bridge the gap

discussions to create a healthier future for all.

its platform to raise health awareness and

With over a billion users, TikTok is leveraging

between scientific knowledge and everyday life, ensuring that health conversations on TikTok are impactful and informed.

Source: World Health Organisation

Dementia Alzheimers and THE SUNDOWNING EFFECT

DR ZUBAIR KHALED HUQ

Dementia itself is not a disease itself, a brain-related disorder. It is a syndrome of symptom complexes like memory impairment, language, and other mental skills. There are mainly four types of dementia, such as Alzheimer's disease, vascular, frontotemporal, and lewy body dementia. Among all, Alzheimer's disease is the most common. It causes short-term memory loss. In vascular dementia, there is a lack of problem-solving and thinking speed. In frontotemporal personality and language skills are affected.

Signs of dementia are short-term memory loss, forgetting words, and disorientation with time and place. Difficulty in doing familiar works. The bad thing is all of these are progressive and worsening. Alarming thing is the frontotemporal type may start at an earlier age. Alzheimer's type starts late.

Talking therapies and anti-depressants are better treatments. Some drugs, like



benzodiazepine, if taken for more than three months, tricyclic antidepressants, and drugs to control overactive bladder, may increase the risk of dementia. Ways to reduce dementia are to pursue education, study throughout life, stop smoking, and socialise more. Drink less alcohol, and your hearing should be checked. The pharmacological agents such as Donepezil, Rivastigmine,

Galantamine, and Memantine do not have conclusive evidence in controlling the symptoms of dementia in the long run.

Sundowning is a behaviour when a person becomes intensely distressed and agitated in the late afternoon; the symptoms may continue throughout the night, making it hard for them to sleep. It is more common in later stages of life. There might be tiredness, hunger, pain, or other unmet physical needs. To address the problem, one should agree with a dementia patient, not shame them rather than distract them.

Reassure them, encourage them to make eye contact, and smile. Reminiscing about events, making their favourite food, playing music that they like, repeating words, showing empathy, handling with care, dignity, love, and affection.

The writer is a gerontologist and a public health specialist. E-mail: zubairkhaledjoy@

Rising heat, rising risk: **Diarrhoeal** cases set to soar in Dhaka

STAR HEALTH REPORT

As one of the most densely populated cities in the world, Dhaka already faces a significant burden from diarrhoeal diseases, driven by factors like overcrowding, poor sanitation, and water contamination. With the looming International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease threat of climate change, these challenges are expected to intensify. Warmer temperatures, irregular rainfall, and increasing humidity could create an environment where waterborne 2100 due to climate change. The study predicts

diseases flourish, straining the city's public health infrastructure.

A recent study, published in PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases and led by researchers from University College London, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b), warns that hospitalisations from diarrhoeal diseases in Dhaka are likely to rise significantly by the year

that even if global efforts keep warming within transmission as temperatures rise. the 2°C threshold set by the Paris Agreement, hospitalisations will increase by up to 7.4%, strengthening the city's public health systems

These findings highlight the growing underscoring that even moderate increases in worsening water quality and increased disease strategies.

The authors stress the importance of with children under five particularly vulnerable. to cope with the projected rise in diarrhoeal diseases. Addressing sanitation, water safety, impact of climate change on public health, and climate resilience will be critical in preventing and managing the anticipated global temperature could exacerbate existing health risks. This study serves as a call to health crises. Dhaka, with its high population action for both local authorities and global density and fragile infrastructure, could see health leaders to prioritise climate adaptation

DHAKA SUNDAY OCTOBER 13, 2024, ASHWIN 28, 1431 BS

NAGORIK TV Women's T20 World Cup England vs Scotland Live from 4:00 pm India vs Australia Live from 8:00 pm

SONY SPORTS 5 Sri Lanka vs West Indies 1st T20I Live from 7:30 pm **SONY SPORTS 2** Nations League

Kazakhstan vs Slovenia Live from 7:00 pm Finland vs England Live from 10:00 pm Greece vs Ireland Live from 12:45 am (Monday)

NCL start rescheduled to October 19

SPORTS REPORTER

The 26th edition of the National Cricket League 2024-25 has been deferred by five days to October 19 from October 14.

"The tournament has been rescheduled due to the current rainy weather. Now it will get underway on October 19," a Bangladesh Cricket Board official, who is aware of the development, told The Daily Star

"The tournament has been rescheduled due to the current rainy weather. Now it will get underway on October 19."

yesterday, adding that the matches of the eight-team first-class tournament will take place at eight different venues across the country.

Earlier, it was announced that the NCL format would change this year, adopting a single round-robin format. Previously, the competition featured a two-tier system, with the top four teams in tier-1 and the bottom four in tier-2, playing a double-league format.

The upcoming edition faces another title sponsor blank, with organisers struggling to secure a sponsor for the third consecutive year this time due to economic turmoil, according to a long-time sponsor

Local retentions and direct signings confirmed in BPL

SPORTS REPORTER

The governing council of the Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) received the list of retained and directly signed local players from all seven participating franchises yesterday, ahead of the players' draft for the 11th edition, which is scheduled to take place on Monday at a city hotel.

According to BPL and franchise officials, defending champions Fortune Barishal retained Tamim Iqbal and Mushfiqur Rahim and roped in Towhid Hridoy as their direct signing, while Chittagong Kings signed Shakib Al Hasan and Shoriful Islam.

Dhaka Capitals have Tanzid Hasan Famim and Mustafizur Rahman on board, while Durbar Rajshahi another new franchise -- named Anamul Haque Bijoy and uncapped Jishan Alam as direct signings.

In a surprising move, Sylhet Strikers preferred to retain Zakir Hasan and Tanzim Hasan Sakib instead of going for Mashrafe bin Mortaza, intending to include him from the draft event, while naming wicketkeeper-batter Jaker Ali Anik as direct signing.

Elsewhere, Rangpur retained Nurul Hasan Sohan and Mahedi Hasan and directly signed Mohammad Saifuddin. And lastly, Khulna Tigers retained Afif Hossain and Nasum Ahmed, and directly signed Mehedi Hasan Miraz.



India's 297 for six against Bangladesh in the third and final T201 in Hyderabad yesterday is the highest-ever total by a Test-playing nation in T20ls, overtaking Afghanistan's 278 for three against Ireland in Dehradun in 2019.

Sanju Samson India's 82 for one in hit a 47-ball 111, the Powerplay is their reaching his ton in joint-highest score just 40 deliveries -in the first six overs. the second-fastest However, India had lost century by an a wicket more the last Indian after Rohit time they got this exact Sharma's 35-ball ton score in a T20 World Cup against Sri Lanka in game against Scotland Indore in 2017. in Dubai in 2021.

Pacer Tanzim Hasan Sakib's 66 for three in four overs is the costliest figure by a Bangladeshi in the shortest format.

sixes in the game -- the joint-highest for a Testplaying nation, along with West Indies and Afghanistan, in a T201 innings.

India hit 22

With 22 sixes and 25 fours, India broke the record for most runs (232) scored from boundaries in a T20l innings.

PHOTO: AFP/BCB

SAME OLD EXCUSES after another India drubbing

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto put forth the same old worn out excuses of 'not executing plans' and 'poor wickets at home' as reasons for the utter humiliation at the hands of India

in the final T20I of the three match series in Hyderabad yesterday, which ended in a crushing 133-run defeat.

As the margin of the defeat suggests, it was a total mismatch between sides Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium with India doubling down on the dominance they had shown in the previous two T20Is with a victory that showed just how far ahead

the reigning T20 world champions are compared to the Tigers. India, who had rested several of their marquee names in the series, had already asserted their superiority over Bangladesh with wins by seven wickets and 86 runs in

the first two T20Is, respectively. But the hosts were only revving up their

T20 engine which went into overdrive in batting unit. We bowled well for a couple the third T20I and steamrolled the Tigers, crushing them under the humungous total of 297-6.

Opener Sanju Samson put on an exhibition, both caressing and hammering the ball to the boundary in a

scintillating 111 off 47 balls which featured 11 fours and eight sixes. $C\ a\ p\ t\ a\ i\ n$ Suryakumar Yadav

18) and Riyan second over. Parag (34 off 13) also treated the thousands of home fans at the stands with a plethora of boundaries while the Bangladesh bowlers looked on helplessly, out of ideas and devoid of any inspiration to stop the Indian

barrage. In reply, Towhid Hridoy remained not out on 63 off 42 balls and Liton Das made 42 off 25 balls but that did little to hide Bangladesh's blushes in the match.

"We didn't play our best cricket," skipper Shanto, looking totally defeated, said after the match.

"We didn't execute our plans as a

of overs in some matches but today [Saturday] we didn't bowl well," he added.

Shanto, who about a month ago was beaming after leading Bangladesh to a historic 2-0 Test series sweep over Pakistan, is now seeing the other side of the coin, having lost the two-Test series against India 2-0 before the 3-0 drubbing in the T20Is.

Yesterday, Bangladesh did get an early breakthrough after they were sent to bowl (75 off 35), Hardik first, with Tanzim Sakib getting opener Pandya (47 off Abhishek Sharma out for four in the

> But after that, Samson and Suryakumar went after the Bangladesh bowlers. They took a liking to the aerial route as they comfortably cleared the ropes on numerous occasions.

India hit a staggering 22 sixes in the innings, but when it was Bangladesh's turn to dish out some punishment, they could clear the ropes only four times, three of which came off the bat of Hridov.

A lack of skills, poor planning and dearth of belief have been evident throughout the series in the Bangladesh camp. Shanto urged his players to acknowledge the shortcomings and take responsibility. "We need to believe in ourselves that we can compete against any team. We need to change our home wickets and the players need to take responsibilities."

Surprises in BFF nomination collection

SPORTS REPORTER

The last day of nomination paper collection for the Bangladesh Football Federation elections threw a few surprises, none more so than that of Tarafder Ruhul Amin collecting paper for senior vice-president's post instead of the president's

The owner of the now-defunct Saif Sporting Club had announced his intention of running for presidency, a day after long-serving president Kazi Salahuddin had said he would not run for a fifth term. Amin, who had done quite a bit of footballing investment and promotion prior to the last election, had quit the race midway through and had since detached himself from football.

His declaration last month had indicated that former vice-president Tabith Awal may have a strong competitor for the top post in the October

A staff of his office, who bought the nomination paper on Amin's behalf, disclosed that it was for the senior vice-president's post without giving any reasons for the U-turn.

There were a few other surprises, though.

Mymensingh District Football Association's president and former BCB director Abdullah Al Fuad Redwan, a key ally of Amin, bought nomination papers for both president and vicepresident posts. Speaking to media, he said the scope for a consensus panel was always open.

The two other individuals, apart from Tabith, who bought nomination papers for the top post are AFM Mizanur Rahman, a grassroots coach from Dinajpur, and Shahadat Hossain Jubayer, a councillor of Brahmanbaria FC.

Only three nomination papers were sold for the senior vice-president's post, with incumbent VP Imrul Hasan, Tarafder Ruhul Amin and Mohammad Monir Hossain buying those papers.

Twelve nomination papers were sold against four vice-presidents posts while 43 papers were sold against 15 posts for members.

The aspiring candidates will get two days to submit the nomination papers, on October 14 and 15, before the election commission scrutinises the nomination papers the next day.

The withdrawal of candidature will take place on October 19 and 20 and the final list of candidates will be published on October 20.



Jannik Sinner beat Tomas Machac 6-4, 7-5 to reach the Shanghai Masters final on Saturday and ensure he finishes the year as world number one. The Italian will face Novak Djokovic -- a four-time Shanghai champion -- in the final on Sunday. The 23-year-old has been in top spot since June and after his ruthless semi-final victory will stay there until at least the end of the season, the first Italian to do so. PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka look to 'bring fire to T20s' too

AFP. Dambulla

After celebrating victories in Test and ODIs, Sri Lanka hope to extend their run of success to T20Is, with their first showdown in a three-match series against the West Indies set to begin Sunday in Dambulla. Sri Lanka ended a 27-year dry spell

India, celebrated a Test victory in England after a decade, and notched their first series win over New Zealand since 2009. The West Indies are third in the global T20 rankings, while Sri

Lanka languish at a modest eighth. But a series win could shake things up. "We've turned the

tide in Test and ODI cricket, and now it's high time to bring that

Asalanka told reporters. "If you look at our recent series,

we've been playing below par. We've tweaked a few strategies and are rebuilding the squad with an eye on Powell, however, radiated confidence. the next World Cup in two years." Sri Lanka confirmed the return

Rajapaksa, Bhanuka



same fire to T20s," skipper Charith West Indies, who are missing key batters like Nicholas Pooran, Shimron Hetmyer, all-rounder Andre Russell, and spin ace Akeal Hosein.

West Indies captain Rovman "We're a solid T20 team," he said.

"We've got two T20 World Cups of hard-hitting middle-order batter under our belt, and we're always aiming higher," he added.

> hitters, and we're banking on them." With Sri Lanka set to co-host the next T20 World Cup alongside India, Powell said it was key to

> > "This series is a golden opportunity to acclimatise. Sri Lanka is no pushover; they play fierce cricket. It'll give us a good gauge of where we stand and what to expect."





While Germany were boosted by a first-half brace from Deniz Undav in their 2-1 win against Bosnia and Herzegovina in Zenica on Friday, the Netherlands were pegged back by the sending off of skipper Virgil van Dijk (L) during their 1-1 draw in the Nations League. Florian Wirtz laid on a backheel for Unday's opener in the 30th minute before the Stuttgart forward made it two just six minutes later. The Netherlands will next go to Germany, who now remain one win away from the Nations League quarters, without their captain in a game that could see the Dutch rise to the top of the pool, or conversely, be cut five points adrift with two games to play.

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Ensure safety of Hindus, minorities **New Delhi** urges Dhaka

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

New Delhi has voiced serious concern over the attack on a Durga Puja mandap in Dhaka's Tantibazar and the theft at the Jeshoreshwari Kali temple at Satkhira and termed them "deplorable events".

"We have noted with serious concern the attack on a puja mandap in Tantibazar, Dhaka, and the theft at the revered Jeshoreshwari Kali temple at Satkhira," the Indian Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement yesterday.

"These are deplorable events," it said, adding, "They follow a systematic pattern of desecration and damage to temples and deities that we have witnessed over several days now."

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Fishermen unload their nets and other equipment from a vessel near Rasulpur on the Kirtankhola in Barishal yesterday as a 22-day ban on hilsa fishing begins today. PHOTO: TITU DAS

Sycophantic media outlets will face music

Says adviser Nahid Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Media outlets collaborating with the "fascist" Awami League government during the July-August uprising will be brought to justice, said Nahid Islam, the information and broadcasting ministry adviser to the interim government.

"Some media outlets worked in favour of fascists," he told journalists yesterday at Saidpur Airport in Nilphamari. Nahid was on the way to Rangpur to attend the 16th founding anniversary of Begum Rokeya University (BRU) as the chief



Besides, many journalists who

wrote and instigated genocide during the Students Against Discrimination (SAD) movement will be tried for genocide, he said, adding that some cases have already been filed.

Several arrests have also been made in the cases and further investigations are underway to ensure those responsible are brought to book, Nahid added.

Earlier, he was welcomed by local officials at Saidpur Airport, including Nilphamari's Deputy Commissioner Nayiruzzaman and Syedpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Nur-SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Black hole tears apart star, uses energy to destroy another

INDEPENDENT ONLINE

Astronomers have observed a supermassive black hole tearing apart a star and using the stellar energy to "pummel" another star.

The discovery, made by an international team of astrophysicists led by Queen's University Belfast, has connected two cosmic mysteries that have baffled scientists for years.

The first involves something known as "tidal disruption events" (TDEs), where

an object gets too close to a black hole and gets torn apart in a single burst

second relates "quasi-periodic eruptions (QPEs), where from the centres of galaxies were detected as X-rays, which astronomers presumed were connected to

supermassive black holes but were not sure how. "There had been feverish speculation that these phenomena were connected, and now we've discovered the proof that they are," said Dheeraj Pasham from the Massachusetts Institute of

"It's like getting a cosmic two-for-one in terms of solving mysteries."

The team used data from Nasa's Chandra X-ray Observatory, the Hubble space telescope and Nasa's Neutron Star Interior Composition Explorer (Nicer) to observe that the remains of a star destroyed by a black hole continued to circle in a disc-shaped "stellar graveyard".

Children at risk in 21,500 shabby schools

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

With cracks in pillars and walls and leaks in the roof, the Gowrichanna High School-Attached Government Primary School building was declared risky about two years ago.

But despite the fear of a disaster, the teachers and students are forced to use the building, as the authorities have not yet constructed a new one for them.



Many "abandoned" buildings are being used

Recent floods damage 2,800 primary schools

Shabby buildings affect learning:

Govt plans to renovate the schools in 5 years

The institution in Barguna Sadar upazila is among over 21,500 primary schools that are operating with plasters falling off the ceilings, cracks in the walls, holes in the floors, water leaking through the roofs, and broken windows and doors. "As there is no alternative, we are forced to teach in such a worn-out building.

We have applied to the authorities for a new building," said Mainul Hossain, a teacher at the school.

"Our school has developed cracks in many places. We have to attend classes despite fear of a serious accident at any time," a fifth-grade student said. Meanwhile, recent devastation by flash floods damaged around 2,800

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Police yet to identify bottle thrower Case filed over mugging; no case yet over the attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are yet to identify the man who threw what locals said was a molotov cocktail at idols of a puja mandap in the capital's Tanti Bazar on Friday night. Enamul Haque Khan,

officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, police will decide whether to file a case over the matter after consulting higher authorities. The Tanti Bazar Puja

Udjapon Committee has said it will not file cases, he added.

Kotwali police, however, yesterday accused three men, now in custody, in a case of mugging at Tantibazar Puja Mandap No 17 from where police recovered a bottle filled with what officers suspect was kerosene.

In a security camera footage the puja organisers showed reporters, a man in a white shirt is throwing

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Israel's war on two fronts will be catastrophic Warn UN peacekeepers

AFP, Beirut

UN peacekeepers in Lebanon warned yesterday against a "catastrophic" regional conflict as Israeli forces battled Hezbollah and Hamas militants on two fronts, on the holiest day of the Jewish calendar. Israel has faced a fierce diplomatic backlash over

incidents in south

Lebanon that saw five Blue Helmets injured. Yesterday,

Lebanese health ministry said Israeli air strikes on two villages located near the capital Beirut killed nine people. Official media later reported an Israeli strike targeted a market in Nabatiyeh, an important southern At least nine killed in Israeli strikes across Lebanon

Israel tells residents of return home

Five UN peacekeeper wounded

Israel had earlier told residents of south Lebanon not to return home, as its troops fought Hezbollah militants in a war that has killed more than 1,200 people since September 23, and forced more than a million others to flee their homes according to Lebanese authorities.

"For your own protection, do not return to your homes until further notice... Do not go south; anyone who goes south may put his life at risk," Israeli military spokesman Avichay Adraee posted on X.

Hezbollah said it launched missiles across the border into northern Israel, where air raid sirens sounded and the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

India smash records, sweep Tigers clean

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India swept Bangladesh clean in the three-match T20I series, making apparent the gulf in class between the two sides with a thumping 133-run victory -- the biggest margin of defeat by runs ever suffered by the Tigers in the format -- in the final match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad yesterday.

Playing the series with a second-string side, India shattered a number of records yesterday as they recorded their third-biggest margin of win in

Sanju Samson hit a whirlwind maiden T20I ton to see the hosts pile up 297 for six -- the highest total by a Test-playing nation and the secondhighest total overall in T20Is -- before restricting the Tigers to 164 for seven.

Samson hit a 47-ball 111, reaching his ton in just 40 deliveries to become the second-fastest centurion for India after Rohit Sharma's 35-ball ton against Sri Lanka in Indore in 2017.

Samson's belligerent 173-run second-wicket stand with skipper Suryakumar Yadav is also the third-highest stand for any wicket for India in the format and the best-ever partnership for any wicket against Bangladesh.

After being asked to bowl first, the Tigers were left clueless on the field as they saw the ball fly all around the park right from the beginning.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



India leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi celebrates sending back Bangladesh batter Liton Das as Towhid Hridoy watches on during the third and final T20I in Hyderabad yesterday. Liton scored a quickfire 25-ball 42 while Hridoy remained unbeaten on 63 off 42 deliveries, but their efforts were never enough while chasing a record 298-run target set by India, who clean swept the three-match series with a 133-run victory in the final game.

ICC WOMEN'S T20 WC Tigresses exit in disappointing fashion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's journey in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 ended with a whimper as they fell to South Africa by seven wickets in their final Group B match in Dubai yesterday.

result meant Tigresses were officially knocked out of the competition, with two points in four games, having after started their



campaign with a victory over Scotland - one that ended their 16-match and 10-year losing streak in the 20-over tournament.

The match once again delivered a similar old story for Bangladesh evident in the preceding defeats against England, West Indies -- where the batters showcased a below-par performance. In a match where boosting up the net run-rate was a priority to somehow stay in the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4