

WHAT'S
THE HAPS?

'Artivism' exhibition at AFD

Save the Children in Bangladesh and Alliance Française de Dhaka are hosting an artivism exhibition where young girls share their visions for progress and raise awareness during #16daysofactivism. November 30 - December 6.



Chhayanaut's 'Jagoroni' initiative opens with national anthem

Chhayanaut launched its December initiative titled 'Jagoroni' (Awakening) yesterday, to honour the Liberation War. They will release a new song each morning throughout the month as part of the initiative. To mark the start of the victory month and the debut of its digital platform, the institution broadcasted the national anthem sung by thousands of voices.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Over 3,000 participants, including artistes, teachers, students, and organisers, united to perform the national anthem at the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in Rayerbazar. This collaborative effort, led by Chhayanaut, involved Nalonda High School, Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammelan Parishad, Kanthashilon, and Bratachari.



Geetikobi Shongho introduces new executive committee

Geetikobi Shongho (Lyricists Association of Bangladesh) has announced its freshly formed executive committee for the 2024-26 term by appointing Asif Iqbal as president and Joy Shahriar as general secretary. The 15-member panel was declared yesterday by Naquib Khan, chief election




commissioner of the election committee, at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro, in the presence of Foad Nasser Babu and Fahmida Nabi. **Shonghojoner Geetikobita** (Anthology of Lyricists' Poetry), a collaborative publication by Adorn Publications and Geetikobi Shongho, was also unveiled at the event.



Dua Lipa recreates memes with actual 'Levitating' and 'SRK' mashup

Dua Lipa stunned Indian fans by performing a mashup of her global hit song *Levitating* with Shah Rukh Khan's iconic Bollywood song *Woh Ladki Jo* from film *Baadshah* (1999) on Saturday. Dua Lipa's most popular song, *Levitating*, frequently trends on Instagram as part of a mashup. The combination of these two tracks quickly became a favourite among the Gen Z. Dua Lipa recently took the stage by storm, performing *Levitating*—not in its original form, but as the mashup—displaying her awareness of the trend.





Linkin Park secures entire top 10 on Billboard Hard Rock chart

Linkin Park is experiencing one of their most successful weeks ever on the Billboard charts. With their comeback album *From Zero* making an impressive debut on multiple charts, the tracks from the project are achieving significant success individually. While four songs were released ahead of the album's launch, the remaining tracks, unveiled alongside the full project, are now also securing spots on various Billboard charts. *The Emptiness Machine* dominates the Hot Hard Rock Songs chart, claiming the top spot for 11 of its 12 weeks. Tracks from the band's album *From Zero* also shine, with *Heavy is the Crown* steady at No 2, *Two Faced* climbing to No 3, and *Over Each Other* holding at No 4.

'Bollywood once felt unreachable'



Telugu icon Allu Arjun has recently reflected on his journey into Bollywood, sharing that he once believed making a mark in the Hindi film industry was beyond reach. However, with the upcoming release of Sukumar's directorial *Pushpa 2: The Rule*, scheduled to hit theatres on December 5, his dream of connecting with audiences nationwide is steadily becoming a reality. Allu Arjun reflected on how distant the idea of doing a Hindi film once seemed. "The thought of working in Bollywood felt like an unattainable dream. We used to think, 'Maybe, if we're lucky, we'll get to do one Hindi film in our lifetime.' That's how far it felt for us. Standing here today, on this stage, is an incredible milestone for me," the actor shared.

NEWS

Outrage in Teknaf

FROM PAGE 12 and ammunition while another person fled the scene. "During primary interrogation, the boy admitted his father have given him the pistol and ammunition to deliver those to a nearby house." Rezaul at a press briefing alleged police targeted his son based on political affiliation. "Police recovered arms and ammunition from a house near ours and later raided my home when I wasn't there. They dragged my son out of bed, kicked him, and implicated him in the case. The confession they claim was forcibly extracted." He added that his son, a seventh grader and three-time scholarship recipient, missed his annual exams due to his detention. "I demand the government investigate the incident, withdraw the false charges, and ensure my son's immediate release." OC Gias Uddin said Rezaul, who is

accused in several cases, had given the weapon to his son for safekeeping. "The boy was caught red-handed with his [Rezaul's] weapon. Considering his age, we ensured his rights [as a juvenile] but can't release him given the seriousness of the offense." He added that the boy was sent to a Child Development Center after being presented in court. The controversy deepened after a video footage of the boy's confession surfaced on social media. Netizens alleged the confession was coerced and questioned how such a recording could be made while the child was in police custody. The OC denied police involvement in filming the video, claiming it might have been done by onlookers during the arrest. Yesterday, hundreds of students in Teknaf formed a human chain demanding the minor's release. Earlier in Dhaka University, students hailing from Ukhiya and Teknaf

demonstrated near the Raju sculpture and demanded the removal of OC Gias Uddin. Joynal Abedin, president of the Dhaka University Student Association of Ukhiya-Teknaf, said the arrest of a 16-year-old student is a human rights violation. He said Rezaul is known to have a criminal record. "The boy was picked up from one house, while the pistol, allegedly belonging to his father, was recovered from a different location. "The video footage collected from locals suggest the weapon was not in the detainees possession." He further accused police of coercing a confession from the child. "The video of his confession was recorded by police, and a 16-year-old child is bound to give a statement under duress." Abedin added that if Rezaul is guilty, he should face the consequences, "but targeting a minor is unacceptable".

Key promises still unfulfilled

FROM PAGE 12 people, demilitarisation, empowering district and regional councils, and making the Land Commission effective -- are still unmet." He added that not a single repatriated or internally displaced indigenous person has been rehabilitated, despite the formation of a taskforce on January 20, 1998. Similarly, the district and regional councils have been rendered ineffective. Demilitarisation has also not been achieved, even though the treaty stipulated the presence of only six camps, he said, adding that the Land Commission, formed in 2001, has yet to resolve any land dispute. Dipayan Khisa, a PCJSS central committee member, said that despite being a signatory to the accord, the AL government has betrayed the CHT people as it did not implement the treaty fully. "Voter lists of the CHT permanent residents must be prepared for holding elections to three district councils, members of which elect the regional council. However, no government, including the Awami League, has taken any steps to formulate the voter lists." In the absence of such lists, polls in the three hill districts have not been held and consequently, the regional council elections could not take place, he said, adding that the district council members are replaced whenever the government changes. The PCJSS leader alleged that the district councils function as a tool of the government, turning the three district councils into factories for implementing the ruling party's agenda without respecting the highest administrative body in the

hills, the regional council. Santoshita Chakma Bakul, general secretary of the Parbatya Chatotogram Jumma Kalyan Samity, said a separate 20-point treaty was signed with the government on March 9, 1997, before the CHT Peace Accord, in which the government promised rehabilitation of the returnees from India. "A taskforce was formed on January 20, 1998, for rehabilitation, but not a single person has been rehabilitated to date, as the issue relates to the Land Commission, which could not resolve any disputes because the government failed to formulate its regulations." He demanded that the government prepare the regulations for the commission immediately. Shamsul Huda, executive director of the Association for Land Reform and Development, said the law under which the Land Commission was formed contradicted the CHT Peace Accord, and it took until 2016 to amend the provisions of the law. "After 2016, the Land Commission managed to hold a few meetings. But it could not convene meetings regularly due to opposition by a Bangalee organisation in the CHT. A powerful group supporting this organisation has prevented the commission from functioning." He added that over 28,000 land-related complaints remain unresolved because the Land Commission is dysfunctional. "To make the commission effective, regulations need to be prepared as early as possible. Despite repeated requests from the regional council, I don't understand why the relevant ministry has not taken any steps in this regard."

Hasina's allies have properties worth Tk 6,000cr in UK

FROM PAGE 12 wrongdoing, asserting that all acquisitions complied with money-laundering laws. **Saifuzzaman Chowdhury** Former land minister Saifuzzaman and his family are said to own over 300 properties in the UK, valued at approximately £160 million. A previous report by Al Jazeera in September estimated the global value of his assets at \$500 million. Bangladesh's Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) has frozen Chowdhury's bank accounts, and a court has ordered the seizure of his immovable assets within the country. He is also under investigation by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and is barred from leaving Bangladesh. **Ahmed Akbar Sobhan** The chairman of Bashundhara Group, Sobhan, and his family reportedly own two properties worth £13 million in Surrey, purchased through offshore companies. During the investigation, a mansion linked to Sobhan's son was identified in the area. The family strongly denies the allegations, with Bashundhara's vice-chairman, Safwan Sobhan, claiming the accusations are baseless. **Nazrul Islam Mazumder** Nazrul, chairman of Nassa Group, is also under investigation for money laundering. He and his family allegedly own five properties worth £38 million in London's Kensington area. Government Actions and Legal Responses The Bangladesh government has taken strict measures against those implicated. Authorities have frozen bank accounts, seized properties, and issued travel bans against several individuals, including Sobhan and his family. In response to the allegations, legal representatives of the accused parties have consistently denied any misuse of funds or unlawful acquisitions. They argue that the purchases adhere to UK and Bangladesh laws governing property and finance. The findings of this investigation have intensified scrutiny over the financial dealings of Bangladesh's political and business elites, raising broader questions about corruption and accountability in the country.

Unite against politics of vengeance

FROM PAGE 1 differences," Tarique said in a statement posted on his verified Facebook page last night. He put up the post following his acquittal in the two cases related to the August 21 grenade attack. "The beauty of truth is that it inevitably triumphs over propaganda and conspiracy, giving us faith that, eventually, justice and fairness prevail." He also reiterated the BNP's commitment to fostering democratic values in the country, highlighting the need for diversity and inclusion. "We pledge to uphold the spirit of democracy that thrives on diversity of faiths, beliefs, and ideologies, empowering the people of Bangladesh to define their own fate through electoral participation," he said in a statement. Highlighting his vision for the nation, Tarique expressed his aspirations, saying, "In that journey, we aspire to establish the rule of law, human rights, and freedom of expression, safeguarding the rights and liberties of every citizen and building an inclusive, tolerant, and rules-based society." **BNP ELATED** The BNP expressed satisfaction over the High Court verdict acquitting Tarique and other accused in the August 21 grenade attack cases. The party leaders also viewed this verdict as proof that all the cases filed against Tarique were politically motivated

and part of conspiracies. At a press conference at the party's Nayapaltn central office, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi hailed the verdict, saying, "Justice has been served... Tarique and other accused in the two cases had been deprived of justice under the Awami League government." Rizvi said that the cases were manipulated during the tenure of the Awami League, specifically accusing retired police officer Abdul Kahar Akhand, who was reappointed as the investigation officer, of having "malicious intentions." Following the announcement of the verdict, party leaders and activists brought out a celebratory rally in the Nayapaltn area. In a statement issued from London, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, "Through this verdict, it has been proven that all the cases filed against Tarique Rahman were part of a political conspiracy." In a separate programme, the party's standing committee Member Mirza Abbas said the grenade attack was a "planned act by a foreign power" and had no connection to the BNP. "A foreign power carried out this heinous act to frame Begum Khaleda Zia and our leader, Tarique Rahman," he said in a programme at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Abbas called the verdict "good news

for justice" during the month of victory and expressed hope for Tarique's safe return to Bangladesh. **AWAMI LEAGUE PROTESTS** Mahbulul Alam Haniif, joint general secretary of the Awami League central committee, condemned and protested the acquittal of all individuals sentenced to death and life imprisonment in the cases. "Today's verdict proves that the government has completely hijacked the judiciary," he said in a statement yesterday. Haniif said, "We have seen the practical implementation of Dr Yunus's 'reset button' through this verdict. He wanted to erase everything from our memories. This is a part of the ongoing conspiracy to completely erase an incident like the horrific massacre of August 21." "This farcical verdict is a disgrace to the nation, despite having clear and specific evidence. In November 2008, Mufti Abdul Hannan, a leader of Harkat-ul-Jihad, was arrested. In his statement presented to the court, Hannan confessed that with the assistance of top figures in the BNP-Jamaat government, he carried out the grenade attack on the Awami League rally," he said in a statement. "Today's verdict once again demonstrates that this government has completely held the judiciary hostage. The culture of impunity and mob justice prevalent in the country will soon demand a heavy price," he added.

Tigers bowled out for 164

FROM PAGE 12 between Taskin and Miraz before both got dismissed in the 69th over. Miraz, the innings' second-highest scorer with 36 runs, was undone by the short ball and Taskin (8) too suffered the same fate against the short ball. Both were victims of pacer Shamar Joseph. After Kemar Roach scalped the two wickets that fell on Day 1, it was Joseph and Jaydon Seales, whose

sizzle was too hot to handle for the Tigers' batters as the former picked up three wickets and the latter starred with four. The Tigers started the day well as they kept the Windies pace attack at bay for 8.4 overs but a flurry of wickets followed since then as the visitors Liton Das (1), Jaker Ali (1), Shadman Islam (64) within the next six overs, slimming hopes of a considerable total.