







**3,13,563** Recoveries







# European buildings turn blue for UN's 75th anniversary

More than 150 monuments and buildings across Europe were set to be lit up blue yesterday to mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

The UN's Palais des Nations headquarters in Geneva, the Grand Place in Brussels and Dublin Castle were among the locations set to turn the shade of blue used on the UN flag.

The United Nations officially came into existence on October 24, 1945, when the UN Charter, agreed four months earlier, came into force.

Starting out with 51 original members, there are now 193, with South Sudan the latest to join in 2011.

"The United Nations has spanned the decades helping millions of people to escape the yoke of poverty, gain access to education and health, have their fundamental rights respected, and enjoy better livelihoods," it said in a statement.

"It also helped the world avoid a third world conflict -- the main reason it was created -- and remain relatively peaceful." Locations turning blue included

the city halls in Barcelona, Belfast and Copenhagen; cathedrals in Stockholm and Reykjavik; the Jet d'Eau fountain in Geneva; the bridges of Turin; the Peace Palace in The Hague, and the Presidential Palace in Bratislava.

The Foreign Office in London, the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, Rua Augusta Arch in Lisbon, the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Mostar Bridge in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Zizkov

unprecedented times as the coronavirus pandemic sweeps the globe.

"On United Nations Day, I reinforce my appeal for a global ceasefire so we can devote all our energies to fighting Covid-19," Guterres said.

"Let us act together now to defeat the pandemic, prevent climate catastrophe, uphold the equality of women and men and pave the way for a safer, healthier, more just and

# Dhaka scrambles

vaccine procurement. The ERD sent

Officials said each person is likely to need two shots which might cost \$10-12 per person.

to seek \$300 million-\$400 million from the Asian Development Bank and \$200 million from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

the finance minister had talked with AIIB President Jin Liqun over the phone about the loan in the last week of September.

asking for low-interest soft loans from the development partners.

Television Tower in Prague and Ljubljana's Triple Bridge were also to be lit. In a speech in New York marking the anniversary, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said international solidarity was urgently needed in

a letter to the Embassy of Japan in Dhaka in this regard.

The government also has plans

A top finance ministry official said

The official said the government is

"We have to ensure stimulus packages and have other priorities to keep the economy afloat," the official

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on September 26 asked the world community to treat the Covid-19 vaccine as a "global public good" and urged the United Nations to ensure its timely availability to all countries at the same time.

The PM, while addressing the general debate at the 75th United Nations General Assembly, said that her government announced \$13.25 billion stimulus packages to help people cope with the losses caused by the shutdown of the economy. The packages are equivalent to 4.03 percent of the total GDP.

At his meeting with the WB South Asia vice president, the finance minister requested for the immediate release of \$250 million from the \$500 million Covid-19 Recovery and Response project.

## Akbarnama

25-year-old Shahjalal report of University of Science and Technology student Md Taifur Rahman Pratik, whose hanging body was recovered from his house in the Kajalshah area on January 14 last year.

this month, Pratik's sister Shanta Metropolitan Police. Tawhida posted on Facebook on October 16, claiming that Pratik was murdered outside and SI Akbar then staged it as suicide.

She stated in her post that the SI in the investigation report did not mention that CCTV footage from the building was missing for two days -the day of the incident and the day before -- and altered several things in the report to declare it a suicide.

CYCLE OF CORRUPTION Following Akbar's suspension after Rayhan's custodial death, a new subinspector Sahin Miah was assigned as the in-charge of the outpost on October 14.

After a previously viral video of the new SI gambling in a secret gamblers' den resurfaced after his posting, Sylhet Metropolitan Police withdrew him.

The next in-charge of the outpost was SI Hasan Uddin, previously second-in-command at Bandarbazar outpost.

However, he too was suspended on Wednesday, according to an SMP

press release, after his involvement in helping Akbar abscond was found.

In connection with Rayhan's death, SMP has now suspended five -including SI Akbar -- and withdrawn from service another three, said BM Ashraf Ullah Taher, additional deputy Following Rayhan's death earlier commissioner (media) of Sylhet

Akbar has been on the run since October 12 and the Police Bureau of Investigation, now in charge of the investigation, has alerted all immigration posts not to let him out of the country.

While the case filed by Rayhan's wife on October 12 accused several unnamed people -- on Tuesday, one of the suspended constables, Titu Chandra Das, was arrested and taken into remand by PBI in this connection.

The same day, Police Headquarters formed a separate three-member probe body to find those who helped Akbar abscond, said Sohel Rana, assistant inspector general of police headquarters.

Abdul Karim Kim, coordinator of Sankhubdho Nagorik Andolon in Sylhet, said, "No police outposts in the SMP area serve the people, but rather collect money illegally.

"The policemen paid good money as bribes to get posted there and they try hard to recover it. The system that promotes such corruption must be

# Brac, WB join hands

"The losses due to road accidents are comparable to that of life threatening diseases. While the high casualty numbers are unacceptable, they are preventable," said Chen.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, who attended the event, reflected on the challenges faced by the government on improving road safety.

"No matter how many roads we build, how much infrastructure we construct, we don't feel satisfaction if there is no discipline in the roads, if people are not safe on the streets. All our achievements will go in vain," he said.

"We are losing lives on the roads every day. I start every morning with news of road accidents, and when I see them, I feel guilty, and I burn in an

invisible fire," said the minister. He said the government was yet to fully implement the Road Safety Act because of certain realities.

Giving a nod to Brac's initiative to introduce more female drivers in the transport sector, Quader said, "We want more female drivers, because they are more inclined to follow rules and be more disciplined on the streets.

He added that the female drivers graduating from Brac would be incorporated in the government

Asif Saleh, executive director of Brac Bangladesh, said, "The road safety situation is not caused by one problem: it is not about the wage system, not just about the lack of awareness, and lack of drivers' capacity -- all of them combined are causing the road safety epidemic.

In Bangladesh, road crashes are the fourth leading cause of death of children aged between 5 and 14, and 67 percent of the victims are within the age group of 15-49, speakers said at the programme.

Ahmed Najmul Hussain, director of the administration and road safety programme at Brac, said their work would include a focus on rural road safety committees.

At the event, a road safety campaign was launched targeting the 48 kilometre Jashore-Jhenaidah corridor, where the WB is currently implementing an infrastructure upgrade from two-lanes to a safer four-lane highway.

"I believe that undertaking more such community-driven awareness initiatives for the other highways of the country will substantially help reduce the number of road crashes," Najmul said.



premises yesterday. The noted jurist was laid to rest at the Banani graveyard.

## Moving backwards in terms of good governance

around for quite some time about whether the JP is a part of the government or an opposition party.

GM Qauder: It is true that there are some confusions among the people. We joined the AL-led grand alliance before the election in 2018. No other political party save JP could secure a significant number of seats in the parliament. For that, the necessity of an opposition party became urgent in parliament and that's why we have decided to act as the opposition party.

DS: Has that decision improved the

GM Quader: It varies from person to person. Some realities cannot be overlooked. We could act as a party in government. In that case, it would be somewhat of a one-party parliament, where everybody would speak similarly with no one opposing the decisions of the treasury bench. I think our decision is helping the country. **DS**: But many think the JP cannot or

does not act like an opposition party. GM Quader: What is the basis of the

ssessment that we have failed? DS: People do not see JP's strong voice against many public interest issues like the price hike of daily essentials and a lack of good governance in the

GM Quader: We have raised our voice regarding all these issues. We have talked about the election, corruption, extra-judicial killings and other issues in parliament, and these are all documented and recorded.

DS: How do you evaluate the country's prevailing political, social, and law and order situation?

GM Quader: We are looking at those issues like the people are looking at it. We don't take these issues positively. We have raised our voice against all these iuisances -- both inside and outside parliament.

**DS**: What is the state of governance in Bangladesh?

GM Quader: We have talked about

different problems. We have had a party. They think they are deprived of parliamentary democracy since 1991 to their rights and other facilities as they make the government accountable to the parliament. But the reality is different. Good governance cannot be established without ensuring accountability, the absence of which also began in 1991. No government since then has let the parliament function properly. All the governments after that year have failed in establishing good governance. We are moving backwards as far as good governance is concerned.

DS: One thing that had been established in political circles is that corruption took an institutional shape during the regime of HM Ershad. Later, the situation worsened during the subsequent BNP and AL rules. What is your take in this regard?

GM Quader: We have been saying for a long time that the level of corruption during Ershad's regime was far less than it is at present.

DS: It is alleged that now the trend of votes being cast the night before the election day has taken over. How do you look at it?

GM Quader: Everybody likes a good deed and dislikes a misdeed. I think a fair electoral process is mandatory for a democratic country like ours. We have restored parliamentary democracy. But it is dysfunctional. How much democracy prevails in a country can be measured by observing how fair the elections are. When elections become the single standard for measuring democracy, the situation is called "Democracy for one day". We could not even maintain that system. All governments failed in this regard.

DS: Once the JP had a lot organisational strength at the national level. Later, it was noticed that the party had a strong hold in the country's northern region. Is the party turning into a regional political party from a national one?

**GM Quader:** The Jatiya Party has its own image and strength. It was never a regional party. The people of northern region consider the JP as their own

do not have the kind of leadership like that of HM Ershad. That is why they loved Ershad. But the JP works for the betterment of the entire country. We have organisational strength and lawmakers everywhere in our country. DS: What type of electoral system

you expect in the future?

GM Quader: I dream of an electoral system where people really get the chance to exercise their voting rights and freely choose their leadership.

DS: Do you think a one-party presidential rule is better than parliamentary democracy? Quader: Parliamentary

democracy did not bring any good for our country. There is no system of accountability in the parliament. Article 70 of the constitution has scrapped the process of accountability. That is why we made some proposals for reform. We asked for a system where all the elected parliament members will be general members except those in the cabinet. The cabinet members, including the prime minister, will be accountable to the general members, who will raise questions against any misdeeds.

According to Article 70, a person elected a member of parliament (MP) in a national election in which he or she was nominated as a candidate by a political party shall vacate his/her seat if s/he a) resigns from that party or b) votes in parliament against that party.

The provision has created the path for the Prime Minister's decision to make the ultimate decision. When the process of accountability goes missing, parliamentary democracy starts malfunctioning. So, our demand is to revoke that article to allow all the parliament members to speak freely.

DS: If article 70 is abolished, will it not create an opportunity for underhand dealings like buying out a lawmaker's vote?

GM Quader: That is why we

# proposed to amend the provision.

# The passing of a legal doyen

The constitution expert and former

attorney general of Bangladesh, Barrister Rafique-Ul Huq passed away yesterday. He was 85.

The eminent jurist, who was also known for philanthropy, breathed his last around 8:30am at the intensive care unit (ICU) of Ad-Din Hospital, said Dr Nahida Yeasmin, a director there. Rafique-Ul Huq was the chairman of the private hospital in the capital.

He was admitted there with urinary tract infection and old-age complications on October 15. After his condition improved, he was released two days later. He, however, was admitted again the following day and put on life support in the early hours of Wednesday, said his colleagues.

After his namaz-e-janaza on the Supreme Court Bar Association premises, the senior lawyer was laid to eternal rest at the capital's Banani graveyard in the afternoon yesterday. People of all walks of life went there to pay rich tributes to him.

He left behind his son Barrister Fahim-Ul Huq and a host of admirers. His wife Prof Farida Huq, whom he had married in 1960, died in 2011. In separate condolence messages,

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed profound shock at his death. Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, Law Minister Anisul Haq, his cabinet colleagues and other political leaders

In a career spanning over more than five decades, Rafique-Ul Huq took charge of many important and highprofile cases successfully, which earned him preeminence as a senior lawyer.

expressed condolences to the bereaved

In 2007, he moved cases and fought legal battles on behalf of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia before the Supreme Court after they were detained during the military-backed caretaker

Rafique-Ul Huq was born in Kolkata (then Ĉalcutta) of India in 1935 and obtained his law degree in 1960 from Calcutta University. He started practicing law at the High Court in Dhaka in 1962 and was made a senior advocate of the Appellate Division in 1975.

He served as the attorney general

to December 17, 1990, and as the chairman of the Bar Council Bangladesh that year.

He was the writer of various laws of this country. The eminent jurist was an elected member of the Executive Committee on International Taxation of the World Association of Lawyers. Besides, he was a member of the National Commission on Money, Banking and Credit, and chairman of Sub-Committee on Banking Laws under the Commission which wrote the current banking laws of Bangladesh, chairman of Corporate Committee, member of the Company Law Reforms Committee and member of the Committee for Improvement of the Stock Exchange Market in

Bangladesh. **PHILANTHROPY** 

Of his various roles as a social worker, Barrister Rafique-Ul Huq was a lifetime member of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh and a member of its national council since 1976. He was also the vice-chairman of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh for the last 28 years, chairman of Management Committee of BIRDEM Hospital, member of Management Board of Dhaka Shishu Hospital, Dhaka (up to 1986) and Patron of Dhaka Shishu Hospital, Dhaka.

He was also a cabinet member of the Lions International, District 315. He discharged duties in various capacities, including zone chairman, chairman of Society for Education and Care of Hearing Impaired Children Bangladesh; life-time member, Bangladesh National Society for the Blinds, Dhaka; founder of Dr Farida Huq Memorial Hospital, Chandra, Gazipur; founder of Jatir Pita Bangabandhu School and College at Chandra, Gazipur.

Barrister Rafique-Ul Huq was the founder of Subarna Mosque at Kaliakoir, Gazipur; patron and member of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's executive committee; chairman of Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital; syndicate member of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology; chairman of Ad-Din Hospital and Ad-Din Women Medical College; lecturer in the Faculty of Law, Dhaka University (part time); and lecture in Judges' Training Institute (to train district judges and joint district judges) CONDOLENCES POUR IN

In a condolence message, President

Abdul Hamid said Barrister Rafique-Ul had a huge contribution in establishing the rule of law in the country. 'Bangladesh has lost án eminent lawyer," said Hamid, who is now on an 11-day medical checkup in Dubai since

October 14, reports BSS. The head of the state prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

In her message of condolence, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, "Barrister Rafique-Ul Huq used to give advices on important issues regarding the Constitution." The prime minister recalled his role

with due gratitude as he came forward to fight legal battles to have her released from jail following her arrest in 2007 by the then caretaker government, adds Chief Justice Syed Mahmud

Hossain said Barrister Rafigue-Ul Hug discharged his professional duties with honesty and sincerity. He had always assisted courts over important laws and constitutional issues, the CJ added. Law Minister Anisul Haq, Road

Transport and Bridges Minister Ōbaidul Quader, lawyers, members of the civil society and different organisations also expressed shock at his death. Several senior legal experts said the

death created a vacuum in the country's

legal arena. Attorney General and Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President AM Amin Uddin said Barrister Rafique-Ul Huq was a complete professional

"He was a symbol of punctuality and

professionalism as he would always appear before the court well prepared," The AG said Barrister Rafique-Ul

Huq contributed immensely to the law profession and assisted the court by providing interpretation of laws and constitution in times of need. Former SCBA president Zainul

Abedin said with Rafique-UL's demise, the nation has lost one of its greatest

### Trump no fan of 'Borat' creator Sacha Baron Cohen

**A**FP, Aboard Air Force One

Donald Trump said Friday he has not been a fan of Sacha Baron Cohen -- even before a clip from the British comedian's new Borat movie forced the US president's lawyer Rudy Giuliani into an awkward explanation. Asked about the clip -- which

with an attractive and flirtatious young woman -- while speaking to journalists aboard Air Force One, Trump said: "I don't know what happened." "But years ago, you know, he tried

shows Giuliani in a faked "interview"

to scam me. And I was the only one who said no way. That's a phony guy. And I don't find him funny."

Trump said the incident happened about 15 years ago.

"To me, he was a creep," Trump

The president did not provide further details about that encounter, but in a 2003 interview, Baron Cohen - playing the wannabe gangster Ali G -- pitched a business venture to Trump: special gloves for eating ice

Before the new Borat film's release, word of Baron Cohen's latest outrageous ambushes on unsuspecting participants had spread like wildfire.

On Wednesday, Giuliani issued an angry denial over the fake interview.

In the film, the encounter appears to leave the 76-year-old former New York mayor in a compromising situation, caught with his hands down his pants in the bedroom.

Giuliani said the scene was "a

"I was tucking in my shirt after taking off the recording equipment. At no time before, during, or after the interview was I ever inappropriate,"

complete fabrication."

he tweeted. "If Sacha Baron Cohen implies otherwise, he is a stone-cold liar."

The comedian continued to poke un at Giuliani. In a video posted on social media, Borat himself leapt to his defense and accused the "fake news media" -- a term often used by Trump and his supporters -- of turning an "innocent" encounter into

### Intellectually-

"something disgusting."

FROM PAGE 1

Police were trying to arrest the accused, and the victim was sent to hospital for medical tests, said Anwarul Islam, officer-in-charge of

Chatkhil Police Station. Meanwhile, a suspended Jubo League leader, who was arrested on October 21 for raping the wife of an expatriate and capturing it on video in Chatkhil upazila, was sued in another rape case.

The woman filed the case against Mujibur Rahman Sharif, 32, president of Noakhola union unit Jubo league, with Chatkhil Police Station on Friday night.

According to the case statement, Sharif broke into the woman's room at her father's house in Noakhola union on the night of December 15, 2018 and raped her at gunpoint when her husband was in Dhaka for work. Sharif also confined the victim's younger brother in another

He later threatened to kill the woman if she disclosed this incident to anyone, said the case statement.

The victim last night lodged a complaint with the police station against Sharif who was arrested in a rape case on October 21.

After investigation, police found he allegation to be true. Then, the complaint was recorded as case, said Anwarul Islam, OC of Chatkhil Police Station. On October 21, police arrested

Sharif for allegedly raping the wife of an expatriate at gunpoint and capturing it on video in the same union.

On October 22, Sharif was placed on four-day remand by a court in the case. Later, Jubo League suspended him from the party.

### Rohingya teen

FROM PAGE 1

Anti-personnel mines were banned under a global treaty in 1997.

Myanmar troops have been

accused of waging an ethnic cleansing campaign against the country's Rohingya Muslim minority, with some 740,000 fleeing to Bangladesh since August 2017. At the height of the mass exodus

vhen tens of thousands of Rohingyas poured into Bangladesh every day, several were killed or seriously hurt in suspected landmine explosions along the border.