

## Adaptation fund

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for climate change adaptation.

"The total vulnerable population due to climate change is over 1 billion, and among them around 150 million are Bangladeshis," he said.

He said a separate body -- easily accessible to the most vulnerable and Least Developed Countries -- should be responsible for the fund operation, not the World Bank or International Monetary Fund.

A separate fund for technology transfer should be formed, stressed the minister.

He also said Bangladesh would also demand of the developed nations to reduce carbon emission by 45 percent within 2020 to save the world.

Denmark chose Bangladesh for giving its credits against increased carbon emissions. The announcement would come at the Copenhagen Conference, informed the minister terming it significant for Bangladesh. He said the fund would be used for the country's brick kilns' develop-

ment to reduce carbon emission.

Hasan said the government started encouraging the solar panel installation across the country in a bid to reduce carbon emission although Bangladesh is not legally bound to adopt climate change mitigation.

He said the global leaders should rewrite refugee definition by including the climate refugees as more than 20 million people of Bangladesh would be displaced and around 20 percent of the coastal area would go under water if the sea level rises by one meter by 2050. They also demanded to give them shelter in the developed countries, he said.

Speaking as special guest, Chairman of Bangladesh Development Board Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad said the insecurity of food, energy, water and livelihood may rise significantly in the coming years due to the climate change fallout in the South Asian nations.

He said, "We want justice, not kindness of the developed countries."

## Gunmen fire

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were running away on a motorbike. Police seized the motorbike.

The victims were Nilufa Yasmin, 33, her brother-in-law Yakub Ali and Ali Hossain, 25, a salesman of the furniture shop.

Nilufa said she drew Tk 1 lakh from a nearby bank with Yakub and came to the market around 2:30pm. As they reached the market gate the gang made a move to snatch her bag.

Witnesses said the gang fired at the shop as Nilufa and Yakub tried to avoid the snatch and took shelter there after being chased by the criminals.

Police and locals chased the criminals after the gunshots forcing them to flee the scene.

Zillur Rahman, sub-inspector of Mirpur Police Station, told The Daily Star that with the help of the locals they chased the gang and caught them at a nearby area.

The deceased in the Cantonment incident was identified as Swapan alias Kala Swapan, 25, a resident of Bawmiya Badh (Dam) at Pallabi.

Cantonment police said they recovered Swapan's bullet-ridden body from a roadside at Chowdhury Kunja area in Matikata in the morning. Swapan sustained four fatal wounds.

Police said four bullet-hit bodies were recovered from the same spot last December.

A total of four cases including murder were filed against Swapan, said police adding that he was released from jail six months ago after serving four years' imprisonment.

Swapan's family members said he went missing from November 29.

In two other separate incidents, two people were injured in the city's Kafrul area.

The injured were Asgar Ali, 60, a security guard of a developer company and Joyal Abedin, 30, a scrap metal trader.

Three to four criminals shot Asgar around 7:00am at Kachchepazar, in the Cantonment area. Joyal was shot at Mirpur-14 by three muggers who snatched Tk 30,000 and a cellphone set from him.

## Senior vice-chairman

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number of standing committee members to 19 from 15.

Besides, it decided to work into its constitution the post of senior joint-secretary general.

Though Tarique had held the position since 2002 and left it before going abroad for treatment last year, it could not be included in the charter as there was no council in the last 16 years.

In the past, the BNP constitution would allow the national council to elect only the party chief.

In August last year, it had a new provision requiring that the council constitute the executive and standing committee executives through election.

The provision was included to make the charter conform to the Representation of the People Order, which was a prerequisite for registration with the Election Commission.

Earlier on July 24, ruling Awami League's national council elected only the party president and general secretary, and authorised the two to nominate the other members for the central working committee and presidium.

In exercise of the power given by the councillors, AL President Sheikh Hasina announced the full committees a few days after the council.

Now Khaleda, who was re-elected chairperson unopposed on December 4, will follow suit.

She will choose over 251 office-bearers and members for the executive committee and 19 members for the standing committee.

During the closed-door session, former BNP lawmaker Ilyas Ali proposed that formation of the committees should be left to the chairperson's discretion, meeting sources said.

The councillors backed the proposal, ending speculations over the process of picking new leadership.

At the council, BNP brought a number of amendments to its constitution and ratified the provisional changes made to take part in the ninth parliamentary election.

Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain placed a report. In her concluding note, Khaleda thanked everyone for making the council a success.

**KHALEDATO JOURNALISTS**  
Talking to reporters after the closed-door session, Khaleda said she was happy that the council was successful.

"The councillors have given

me the responsibility to announce new committees and I will do that soon," she added.

Earlier at the concluding session, the former prime minister said the council was a turnaround for BNP and that it would make the organisation even stronger.

"Those who are competent and have acceptability among people will be chosen to run the party," she said.

Khaleda, also leader of the opposition, urged the grassroots to unite and work for the party.

**NAZUL'S BRIEFING**  
BNP's Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan briefed the reporters after the council ended at 10:15pm.

He said as per the council's decision, the chairperson would announce the standing and executive committees that would be considered elected by the council.

The amendments approved at the council, he continued, provide for the senior vice-chairman and secretary general to be ex-officio members of the standing committee.

Replying to a query, Nazrul said a few councillors had raised the issue of factional dispute over reforms after 1/11, but the chairperson asked them to leave it for the party men to judge.

**Govt slaps ban**

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workers in Khulna put up barricades on Khulna-Jessore highway at Daulatpur from 11:00am to 12:00 noon yesterday protesting the ban. They also brought out a procession, reports our staff correspondent from Khulna.

At a meeting in Daulatpur Bangladesh Jute Association (BJA) Chairman Sheikh Faruque Hossain said there are over ten lakh bales of exportable raw jute in their warehouses at Daulatpur. Besides, over 200 bales of raw jute are lying at Mongla port for shipment.

Thousands of workers employed by the jute traders will lose their jobs, while the country will be deprived of foreign currency, traders said at the meeting.

Jute industrialists, however, said exports of jute products fetch in many times more foreign currency than the export of raw jute.

Of the 160 jute and jute spinning mills in the country, around 30 are closed and a similar number operate irregularly, while about 100 are in full operation now.

## Sahara

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decided to reinvestigate six of the sensational cases.

These are: Khulna Kadiani Mosque case filed in October 2009, two cases in connection with the bomb attack and killings at Narayanganj Awami League office in January 2001, the bomb attack at Sheikh Helal's meeting at Mollarhat, the bomb attack on Salna upazila health complex quarters and the bombing at the shrine of Hazrat Shah Jalal (RA).

The final reports in these cases were filed during the previous caretaker government.

An inquiry committee constituted by the present government recommended reinvestigation into the six cases.

For the Feb 25-26 BDR carnage, the mutineers are to face trial on twin-charges for mutiny in general and mass murders and other crimes at the BDR headquarters in particular.

State Minister for Home Affairs Shamsul Huq Tuku, Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikdar and Director General of Rab Hasan Mahmud Khandaker, among others, were present at the review meeting.

## Buriganga

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It decided that the Ministry of Environment and Forests would go for afforestation on riverbanks and foreshore, where daily lease for sand extraction has already been cancelled.

Boundary pillars will be built to protect reclaimed river areas.

The taskforce, comprised of ministers, members of parliament (MP), environmentalists, newspaper editors and others, will launch a massive public awareness campaign against river pollution and encroachments.

The meeting was attended by Law Minister Shafique Ahmed, Land Minister Md Rezaul Karim Hira, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen, State Minister for Land Mostafizur Rahman, State Minister for Environment and Forests Hasan Mahmud, lawmakers Begum Sanjida Khanom and Nasim Osman, secretaries and deputy commissioners concerned, and environmentalists.

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## AL wishes

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Asim Ukil by clapping during his short speech.

Asim Kumar who was leading a four-member delegation in BNP council said, "we came here to greet you all [BNP men] on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the day of your party's council."

He said Awami League believe that foundation of democracy will be strong if BNP becomes stronger through this national council.

He hoped that BNP under the leadership of Khaleda Zia will work to re-establish the spirit of the liberation war, eliminate corruption from the society and make the country free from brutality of communalism.

Earlier BNP had formally invited Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to attend its council.

On July 24, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia expressed her greetings to Hasina and wished AL's national council a success. A three-member delegation of BNP handed AL leaders a message at the council held at Bangabandhu International Conference centre.

Jamat-e-Islami Chief Motiur Rahman Nizami, Jatiya Party Secretary General Shamim Ali Mamun, Islami Oikya Jute Secretary General Abdul Latif Nezami, Khelafat Majlish Chairman ATM Ishaq, Jagpa President Shafiqul Alam Proddhan, among others, spoke at the inaugural session of the BNP council.

## Shootout

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fire as the police fired back on the outlaws that left him dead on the spot.

The gunfight lasted for about 45 minutes, a witness said.

ASI Abdul Aziz, constables Wazir Rahman and Fazlul Huq sustained bullet injuries during the shootout.

Two shutter guns, 21 bullets and seven bullet caps were recovered from the scene after the incident.

Murad, who was on the run, was sentenced to death in connection with the murder of eminent shrimp exporter and Fakirhat upazila Awami League leader SM Farhad Hossain. He was also accused in seven other cases including three for murders.

## Tarique

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immediate past caretaker regime. "A brutal torture was inflicted upon me ignoring civility, humanity, and the law," he said.

He however added, "Mistakes might have been made while I was carrying out my duties, but I never knowingly did any injustice to anyone."

Thousands of party leaders, workers and supporters heard the brief statement with remarkable silence, and burst into applause chanting slogans as the speech of about 10 minutes came to an end.

In an anti-graft drive by the immediate past caretaker government, which also declared a state of emergency in the country, the joint forces arrested Tarique on March 7, 2007 from his family's Shaheed Moinul Road residence in Dhaka Cantonment.

Soon he was implicated in a slew of criminal cases. After 18 months in detention on graft and extortion charges, he was released on bail on September 3, 2008 and admitted to a hospital.

On September 11 the same year, Tarique left the country for London along with his wife and daughter. But before leaving the country, he issued a statement saying that he 'retired from active politics with effect from September 11'.

In his yesterday's video speech, Tarique said he did not do anything that could go against the country's interest. "I don't know why I was punished without committing any crime. Don't know why a massive propaganda was carried out against me at home and abroad."

"They [the immediate past caretaker government] might have wanted to kill me, but I am still alive due to your love, the prayers of the country's people, and the honest deeds of my

## CJA urges PM

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Hasina to repeal the criminal defamation which journalists across the world consider a draconian law."

Shahriar said CJA has been campaigning against the criminal defamation, which is being used to harass journalists.

Any aggrieved person can always take the shelter of the civil defamation and file cases against journalists, he said.

"Many countries have responded to our appeals and abolished the criminal defamation,"

"We hope Bangladesh will follow the suit," he added.

## Set up industries

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collateral free loan to the SME entrepreneurs and charge low interest from them.

She also asked the banks to ease the conditions of giving loan to women entrepreneurs to create more opportunities for them.

She said the World Bank has given Tk 112.32 crore to Bangladesh including \$10 million fund for re-financing the SME sector. A total of Tk 206.39 crore has been disbursed among 2,341 SME entrepreneurs from this fund through 14 banks and 14 financial institutions.

"I have already held an important meeting with the minister and officials of the housing and public works ministry on how to expand the capital city as it has already become heavily congested," Hasina said.

She said the government is now planning to import power from India and Bhutan to meet the growing demand for power in the country. Hasina also said her government making a long-term plan to generate power keeping in mind the demand for it up to 2021.

She suggested entrepreneurs for using solar panels in their offices, as prime minister's office is also now using it, to reduce the burden on national power grid.

Chairperson of the SME Foundation Aftab-ul Islam and president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry Zafar Osman jointly chaired the inaugural session.

At the inaugural session Finance Minister AMA Muhith, as a special guest, said the large-scale industries of the country could provide only 12 percent of the total employment generation while the SME sector does the rest.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Dr Atiur Rahman said the central bank had taken a comprehensive programme to promote the SME sector and a separate department had been opened in the BB to this end.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua and Commerce Minister Faruk Khan, among others, also spoke at the inaugural session.

parents," he told the councillors and observers.

"I was asked to leave the country after the state of emergency was declared, but I did not escape. And that is why I was wrongfully arrested on false charges, and was physically tortured," he said adding that he is still under treatment, and does not know how long it will take for him to fully recover.

He said his father, late president Ziaur Rahman, who was also the founder of BNP, sacrificed his life for the country, and his mother is still working hard for the country and its people. "I also could not choose a secure life. Since my youth I traversed the country from one end to the other. Whenever whatever responsibility was given to me, I carried those out diligently," he added.

Tarique asked all councillors to convey his greetings to all grassroots level leaders and activists of the party, and wished all success for the national council.

He said the country is now passing through 'an extreme abnormal period'. "I could join the council physically with you all, if the country's situation was normal....but that ability of mine has been snatched away from me," he alleged.

## Climate-hit

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Haiti, India, the Dominican Republic, the Philippines and China.

None of the 20 countries most vulnerable to natural disasters are developed nations.

Saleemul Haq, senior fellow of the climate change group at the International Institute of Environment and Development, said, "The climate risk index is a very difficult study to produce."

"It includes only those who have died as a result of natural disasters; the millions who survived but are nevertheless suffering are not taken into account."

Klaus Milke, vice-chairman of the Board of Germanwatch, and Christoph Bals, executive director of Germanwatch, indicated that countries prone to natural disasters require additional funds to cope with the impacts of climate change.

When asked about the demands made by Bangladesh and other less developed countries to allocate a fund for those most vulnerable, Saleemul Haq said it would require political consensus and that this would be difficult to achieve.

He said, "The world's leaders would have to agree on the criteria, such as the effects of melting glaciers, droughts, floods and cyclones. Each country would state that these conditions affect them greatly."

Bangladesh's 1970 Bhola cyclone is the fourth worst natural disaster in recorded history and it was also the world's most deadly tropical cyclone.

The cyclone killed 500,000 people and devastated many offshore islands.

In 1991, at least 138,000 people were killed and 10 million made homeless following a cyclone in the Chittagong district.

In the CRI score Bangladesh got 8, Myanmar 8.25, Honduras 12, Vietnam 18.53, Nicaragua 21, Haiti 22.83, India 25.83, Dominican Republic 27.58, the Philippines 27.67 and China 28.58.

## Baghdad blasts

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October that killed more than 250 people and punctured confidence in the Iraqi security forces.

Those caught up in Tuesday's bombings described scenes of horror.

"I heard the sound of the explosion, I fainted, then I found myself on the bed covered with blood," Um Saeed, whose arms and face were wounded in the court blast, told AFP at a local hospital, her clothes covered in blood.

An official at Medical City hospital in the centre of the capital said many of the 39 bodies they had received "had been blown apart," and some of them were women.

Violence across Iraq dropped dramatically last month, with the fewest deaths in attacks recorded since the US-led invasion of 2003. Official figures showed a total of 122 people were killed in November.

However the Baghdad government and the US military have warned of a rise in attacks in the run up to the election.

"We believe that there will be an attempt to conduct more attacks between now and the election," General Ray Odierno, the top US commander in Iraq, said in November.

Tuesday's bombings came two days after the Iraqi parliament passed a law governing the vote, after more than two months of delays.

## 10 wounded

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and Sadar hospital. Of them, the condition of bullet-hit sub-inspectors Golam Kibria and Amirul Islam and constable Abul Kalam Azad alias Kabir was stated to be critical, hospital sources said.

A Tarash police raided the house of Purna Chandra in the village around 11:00am following information that a gang of Janajuddha was holding a secret meeting there.

Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the outlawed party cadres opened fire on them. Police retaliated it that led to an hour-long gunfight, leaving 10 people including the policemen and villagers injured.

During the shootout, police caught two members of the outlawed party but others managed to flee. Later, they recovered the gun and bullets.

The arrestees are Alamin Sheikh, 35, son of late Mozibor Rahman of Matianchara village in Gabtoli upazila of Bogra district and Belal Hossain, 22, son of Rahim Ahmed of Setabganj village in Dinajpur district.

Both are the accused of a number of criminal cases, including Bamihall police outpost attack, police killing and arms looting case.

Police Super Mosharaf Hossain said security has been beefed up to avert any untoward incident.

## BDR mutiny trial

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BDR headquarters. The accused soldiers looted heavy arms and ammunition by breaking the armoury of the battalion and kept those with them violating the discipline of the force, Lt Col Badrul Alam told the court.

The mutineers also issued threat to BDR officers and their family members, cut telephone lines and brought out procession supporting the Pikhana incidents, he alleged.

The court considered the allegations against the accused as punishable offences, sources said.

The prosecutor also told the court of BDR Chief Maj Gen Mainul Islam, Lt Col Gazi Khalid Hossain and Maj Lutful Karim that he has sufficient information and evidence to prove the charges against the accused BDR persons in the case. The prosecution appealed the court to frame charges against the accused as soon as possible.

After the submission, the court ordered the prosecutor to take measures so that the accused can appoint lawyers to defend them during trial.

Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Advocate Khasruzzaman aided the court while Mosharaf Hossain Kajal and Sahidur Rahman were present as senior public prosecutors on behalf of the state.

At a press conference, Lt Col Badrul Alam later said that he would be able to frame charges against the 60 accused BDR men on January 18.

## BSF kills

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of the victim, who went to India for 'Ganga Bath' a few days back, could not be known immediately.

BSF jawans of Panitor camp opened two shots targeting the pilgrim while he was returning to Bangladesh crossing the Panitor border at about 3:30am leaving him dead on the spot, sources said.

BSF men took away the body.

BDR sent a letter to BSF protesting the killing and asked them to return the body, BDR sources said.

Meanwhile, BSF abducted a Bangladeshi farmer from Goeshpur border point in Jibonnagar upazila of Chuadanga Monday evening, our Kushtia correspondent reports.

According to BDR 35 Rifles Battalion, BSF men from Kanpur camp in Murshidabad district of West Bengal entered Bangladesh territory and picked up Muraf Malitha, 30, son of Samu Malitha of Goeshpur in Jibonnagar when he was working in the field at about 5:30pm.

On information, a BDR team from Dhopakhal camp under 35 Rifles Battalion rushed to the spot.

BDR sent a letter to BSF protesting the incident and asked for a flag meeting, BDR sources said.

## Driving stays

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The fast lane of selected city streets has been reserved for private cars, minibuses, sports utility vehicles and such kind of automobiles, the middle lane for minibuses, buses, covered vans and similar vehicles and the slow lane for CNG-run auto rickshaws, pickup vans, motorbikes and similar vehicles.

"We have fined around 20 different modes of transport till noon for violating new lane system," said Assistant Deputy Commissioner South (traffic) AKM Iqbal Hossain, who was monitoring the drive at Sonargaon intersection.

"We are checking whether drivers are violating lane rules, signal lights or whether they are overtaking. We are checking to see if their licences are fake," he said.

Iqbal said they have conducted a huge campaign through media, leaflets, and announcements over PA systems since December 1.

"It is very important to change the mindset of drivers to get proper benefit of the new system and everybody should cooperate with us."

Akhtar, a microbus driver who was fined Tk 1,000 at Sonargaon intersection, said, "I came from Jamalpur after 15 days...I was unaware of the new system."

Monir, an auto rickshaw driver, said, "The new rules will be helpful if the bus drivers are made to follow them. They always ignore traffic rules."

Even though the slow lane is kept for auto rickshaws and other small vehicles, in many cases buses occupy the lane to drop and pick up passengers, he added.

Shahed, a bus driver of Gabtoli to Signboard route, said, "It took me one hour to get to

Farmgate from Gabtoli around noon, which usually takes around 30 minutes."

Harun, also an auto rickshaw driver who came to Asadgate from Kawla of Airport, faced additional half-an-hour delay due to congestion. He claimed most drivers on Airport Road did not follow the new lane rules.

Shamsuzzaman, a taxi driver, said he came to Karwan Bazar from Shanir Akhra in 25 minutes around noon, which usually takes 40 to 50 minutes.

Joint Commissioner (traffic) Shafiqur Rahman said it is not possible to remove congestion altogether but they are trying their best and will get some result from the new system. He said the number of roads is very small compared to the number of vehicles on the streets.

He said 12 check posts of traffic police have been set up which are at Hotel Sheraton, Hotel Sonargaon, Bijoy Sarani, Farmgate, Kakoli, Pragati Sarani, Airport Square, House Building, Science Lab, Russell Square, Asadgate and Technical intersections to prevent illegal lane changing and traffic rule violations.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday filed 830 cases in connection with traffic rule violations and realised Tk 94,700 in fines during the drive that started from 8:00am and ended at 9:00pm.

Public relation (Media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner Shyamal Kumar Mukherjee said they also suspended 11 driving licences for three months and seized 50 licences. They