



Canada's Foreign minister Chrystia Freeland, left, Lebanese-British human-rights lawyer Amal Clooney, centre, and Britain's Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt take part in a panel discussion at the Global Conference for Media Freedom in London on Wednesday. PHOTO: AFP

States must pay

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Without Borders (RSF).
"Those of us that believe in open societies have to practice what we preach," he said.
Asked about US President Donald Trump's attacks on the media for "fake news", Hunt said: "I wouldn't agree with it."
Speaking at the same event international human rights lawyer Amal Clooney -- appointed by Hunt as special envoy for media freedom -- went further, suggesting that Trump's rhetoric risked endangering journalists worldwide.
According to the United Nations cultural body UNESCO, 99 media workers were killed worldwide in 2018.

PM slams

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per cubic feet, whereas it is only Tk 12.60 in Bangladesh."
The gas price for industrial purpose is only Tk 10.70/cf in Bangladesh against Tk 40-42/cf in India, the CNG price is Tk 43/cf in Bangladesh against Tk 44/cf in India, and the gas price for commercial use is Tk 23/cf against Tk 58-65/cf in India, Hasina said.
She also said Bangladesh needed to provide subsidy in electricity generation. She urged all to be cautious about using gas and electricity.

England ensure

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and boasting an all-win record in six previous World Cup semifinals. England, whose defeat at Lord's against the old enemy formed part of a two-game dip that threatened their semifinal chances, had rallied with victories in their last two league games and yesterday, burst Australia's bubble inside the first seven overs after losing the toss by taking three wickets with just 14 on the board.
Skipper Aaron Finch departed for a golden duck in the first ball of the second over, playing around an inswinger from the fiery Jofra Archer to be trapped plumb in front, although he wasted their single unsuccessful review. Smith had then entered as the crowd booed loudly.
In the next over, Chris Woakes accounted for David Warner -- Australia's highest scorer in the World Cup with 636 runs leading into the match -- with a ball that reared from short of a good length and caught the edge of a hopping Warner's bat on way to second slip.
The pitch was offering early-morning movement with a good helping of pace, and allied with accurate and incisive bowling from Archer and Woakes, Australia found the going tough and limped to 14 in the sixth over. That was when Woakes got one to nip sharply back off the seam and bowl Pete Handscomb.
Then followed the only partnership of note between Smith and Alex Carey as the duo put on 103 for the fourth wicket. Australia reached 27 for three after the first 10 overs and while Carey in particular tried to cut loose, excellent ground fielding from England ensured that Australia were kept on a tight leash. Smith took 34 balls to score his first seven runs, but started making up for lost time with a pulled boundary off Ben Stokes in the 16th over. He was soon on 33 off 50 balls and with the introduction of leg-spinner Adil Rashid, the run rate picked up as Australia's recovery seemed underway with the score on 103 for three after 25 overs. However, in the 28th over, Carey let the advantage slip by skipping down to Rashid and holing out at deep midwicket. Marcus Stoinis lasted just a ball before he was trapped in front by a perfectly pitched googly. In between, Smith brought up his half-century to another chorus of boos.
Glenn Maxwell then raised hopes of a second recovery when he hit Rashid for a six over long on in the 32nd over. But that is also when the new pace challenge started for Australia in the form of the returning Archer. The right-arm pacer mixed 140kph-plus deliveries with 120kph slower balls and Maxwell was undone by the latter,

checking a drive and being caught at cover for 22.
Pat Cummins did not last long, falling victim to another Rashid googly that he edged to slip to leave the score on 166 for seven. Mitchell Starc stayed with Smith during a 51-run eighth-wicket stand that carried the score to 217 for seven, but just when it looked like Australia may make a match of it with a score nearing 250, Smith was run out brilliantly by wicketkeeper Jos Buttler, whose direct hit at the non-striker's end in the 48th over found Smith just short of his stumps, forcing the brave innings to be cut short on 119-ball 85. Starc was caught behind for 29 off the next ball bowled by Woakes. Mark Wood then bowled an inch-perfect yorker to bowl Behrendorff in the next over to bowl Australia out for a sub-par 223 with an over to spare.

No tickets

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get party nominations in the future," Hasina was quoted by another MP elected from Dinajpur district as saying.
More than three others lawmakers also echoed this.
Hasina made the comments when many AL rebel candidates won the upazila polls held between March and June. In many occasions, MPs supported rebel candidates, going against party nominated candidates.
Hasina also asked MPs to stand by the people who elected them. She also asked them to stay beside party activists and not to get involved in internal feuds, several MPs said after the meeting.
They said Hasina, also AL president, directed all MPs at the meeting to be more disciplined while attending parliament and doing party politics in their localities.
She asked immediate past MPs and ministers to vacate MP hostels as soon as possible. "These flats are not for your drivers or guards", she said. "Vacate these flats."
Hasina also asked MPs to clear their dues of ALPP membership fees and set up party offices at upazila and district as soon as possible.
She also asked MPs to control social crimes and ensure proper expenditure of the allocation for budgetary development their localities.
The meeting started about 8:30pm, after the day's parliament proceedings ended about 10:15pm.
AL MPs Abul Kalam Azad, Monnuzan Sufian, Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, Atiur Rahman Atik, Shamim Osman, Momotaz Begum, among others, spoke at the meeting.

Youth demographic not being utilised

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They also said that the demographic dividend would be harnessed if three conditions -- improvement in health status, investment in education and health, and an economically enabling environment -- are met.
Experts said Bangladesh still lags behind in ensuring these prerequisites for the maximisation of the demographic dividend.
According to Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS), there are around 10.67 lakh students in 6,865 technical and vocational institutions while the number of students in 145 universities is 10.28 lakh.
After completion of formal education, most of these educated young people need several-year long informal study to get preferred jobs.
According to Bangladesh Labour Force Survey 2016-17, the number of educated unemployed people is 10.43 lakh -- 39 percent of the total 26.77 lakh unemployed population.
Of the total unemployed people, 80 percent are between the age 15 and 29, according to the survey conducted by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.
It is said that some 20 lakh working age population are being added to the unemployed population every year. Of the unemployed, a big number of young people in the country stay as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) people.
Currently, overall 29.8 per cent of the working age population aged 15-29 are NEET.

Experts believe that these people are a cause for concern as they could cause social unrest.
Among the NEET youths, 13.0 per cent are male and the rest 87.0 per cent are female.
Talking about the issue, Prof Mohammad Mainul Islam, chairman of the department of population science of Dhaka University, said, "There is an overall gap in coordination in maximising the opportunity of demographic dividend."
He said, "We see that the allocation for health and education in the latest national budget is not satisfactory."
Zaid Bakht, ex-research director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), emphasised on ensuring the quality of education. "Budget allocation [for health and education] is important," he said.
But proper utilisation of the existing budget is more important, he said.
According to the World Bank, Bangladesh received \$15.5 billion in remittance last year. On the other hand, over \$5 billion is sent out of the country every year by foreign nationals working mostly in the export-oriented garment industry.
On this, Zaid Bakht said, "It is for a gap between the industry and the higher education institutions. As the institutions in the country cannot produce adequate number of skill manpower for different positions in different companies, the industries are appointing foreigners. So the coordination among the industries and the higher education institutions

is mandatory."
He stressed on keeping the curriculum up-to-date at all the levels of education.
PROLONGING DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND
World Bank data shows that the total births per woman in Bangladesh, aged 15 to 59, also termed the Total Fertility Rate (TFR), was 6.72 in 1960.
As a result of accelerated family planning activities, according to experts, the TFR came down to 2.07 in 2017. It is the latest World Bank data on this.
The global standard TFR is 2.1, according to the UN Population Division.
About prolonging the demographic dividend, Prof Mohammad Mainul Islam said, "There is a need for rethinking about the government's family planning programmes."
The population must increase a such a way that the minimum fertility rate is maintained so that the demographic dividend is prolonged.
The adolescence fertility rate and child marriage rate are on the rise. These issues need to be addressed, said experts.
According to United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) population report 2019, some 59 percent marriages in Bangladesh from 2006-2017 involved minors.
The adolescent (15-19 years) birth rate in Bangladesh is still high at approximately 750,000 adolescent girls are giving birth annually, according to the report.

In her winding up speech at the budget session of parliament, the PM also proposed amending the laws related to the trial of rapists by incorporating provisions of tougher punishments.
She urged the media to publish and show the faces of rapists repeatedly so that they feel ashamed.
In response to Raushan Ershad's demand for ensuring death penalty for rapists and culprits of violence against women and children, Hasina said: "Incidents of some social crimes have increased."
"We cannot accept these types of unsocial activities. We will take action against these," she added.
She also urged males to come forward and protest violence against women and children.
Hasina again argued against raising the age limit for entering public service to 35 years from the existing 30.
She said a student could complete their post-graduation at the age of 23 and the success rate of the BCS exam candidates aged 23-25 was higher than that of examinees aged 25-27 and much higher than that of those aged above 29.
She said the government was providing enough subsidy for higher education.
A Dhaka University student needs to pay tuition fee of Tk 15 and seat fare of Tk 30 and bus fare of Tk 90 Tk per month. She also provided information of tuition, seat and bus fare of Buet, Rajshahi and Jahangirnagar and other universities which were similar.
"No other country provides such subsidy in higher education" Hasina said.
"We are doing it to improve quality of education. We want to ensure proper academic atmosphere at universities," she added.
Earlier, Raushan also urged the government to announce and implement Ninth Wage Board for journalists and newspaper employees.
She demanded withdrawal of all expired medicine from market, stoppage of violence against women and children. "Children are not even safe at school and madrassa" she said.
The session started on June 11 and budget was placed on June 13.
After a general discussion for 55.36 hours the House passed the budget on June 30.

17 fishermen still missing

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from the same place as Monir on the same day.
Quoting Jewel, his brother Masud Hossain said there were around 15 fishing trawlers where Jewel's trawler brother was sailing.
"Almost all of those vessels capsized," he added.
Many more fishing boats could be there if the government ban was not imposed on fishing, Masud opined.
Talking to several fishermen in Char Fashion upazila, this correspondent found a horrific picture of their life and why they ignored the ban.
Masud, a fisherman in Char Madraj, said, "We simply cannot lie down at our home and let our children starve.

If we do not go out for fishing, our family members get nothing to eat.
"Fishing has been our source of income for generations and we do not have any other alternative."
Asked about the government aid, he said it was not sufficient.
Taher Majhi, a fisherman in Dhal Char, said, "We get 40 kilograms of rice and nothing else. A family cannot run on rice only."
At the same time, a good number of fishermen do not even get the aid, he added.
Most of the fishermen in the area buy fishing equipment on loan with high interest from different NGOs or multipurpose societies. They mostly repay the loan in June-July as this is

the peak season for netting fish form the sea. This is one of the reasons why fishermen are ignoring the government ban and going into the sea, Mijan Majhi of Dhal Char said as several others echoed his statement.
"Firstly, we are facing natural disasters. On top of that, the government imposed a ban on fishing. This is nothing less than a curse for us," said Abdul Jalil, a fisherman in Char Kukri Mukri.
Maruf Hossain Minar, upazila fisheries officer of Char Fashion, said there were 25,074 registered and around 30,000 unregistered fishermen in the upazila.
The unregistered fishermen, however, get no aid from the government, he added.

Rail link with Rajshahi

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Meanwhile, the authorities suspended Assistant Engineer Abdur Rashid, who was responsible for the rail lines maintenance, for negligence in duty and formed a five-member committee to probe the incident.
The probe body has been asked to find the cause of the accident and persons responsible and submit the report within three days.
Talking to this newspaper, Abdullah Al Mamun, the probe body chief and divisional transportation officer, said due to bad weather, the rescue operations began five hours late at 11:00pm.
It took more time to rescue four wagons, each weighing around 50 tonnes, as those were in a bad shape, said Mizanur Rahman, Pakshey divisional railway manager.
After rescuing the tanker wagons, the authorities sent those to Harian Railway Station and rebuilt the rail lines as sleeper, ballast, and lines were destroyed, he added.
A good number of passengers experienced immense sufferings as the authorities failed to provide them with clear information about the

revised train schedules.
The authorities returned over Tk 26 lakh to some 7,000 passengers of trains, whose trips were cancelled, until 2:00pm yesterday. They then stopped accepting tickets for returning money as the ticket counters had a shortage of money, said AMM Shahnewaz, chief commercial manager of west zone railway.
Mehedi Hasan of Chapainawabganj was taking his parents to the haji camp in the capital yesterday as they were scheduled to fly on Saturday night.
He bought train tickets, but returned those as their train was cancelled. He did not manage bus tickets as the demand for bus tickets went high after the train accident.
Hasan added that if the authorities could not restore the rail communications yesterday evening, they would have to get in a local bus to reach the capital in time.
Mainul Hasan bought a train ticket to Dhaka to join a new job yesterday. "I will hold the railway authorities responsible if I cannot join my job by today [yesterday] evening."
The platform of Rajshahi Railway Station was full of passengers all day long.

Flash floods hit North, hill dists

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Muhammad Ahsan Habib Jitu told The Daily Star.
In Rangamati, around 3,000 families remained marooned due to floods. Many educational institutions have been closed and families are moving to flood shelters.
In the north-eastern regions, floods have worsened as river water has been flowing above danger levels, reports our Sylhet correspondent.
Low lying areas in Sunamganj Sadar, Tahirpur, Dowarabazar, Bishwambarpur, Jamalganj and Dharmapsha upazilas of Sunamganj, and Sylhet's Gowainghat and Kanaighat upazilas have been flooded.
Water from Gowainghat's Sari-Gowain river has been flowing 40cm above the danger level in Sarighat area.
Road communication between Tahirpur upazila and Sunamganj Sadar remain closed off.
Md Fazlur Rahman, relief and rehabilitation officer in Sunamganj, said 300 tonnes of rice and 1,265 packets of dry food have been allotted for the flood-affected people of the district.
Abul Kalam Azad, supervising engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), yesterday said excessive rainfall was likely to continue for next two to three days.
In Lalmonirhat, chars and low-lying areas, that are homes to around 35,000 people, in Teesta and Dharla river basins are inaccessible due to

flood.
"Our houses have been flooded. Now we have taken shelter on roads," said Nazar Ali, resident of Bagdora village in Sadar Upazila.
"We have got some dry food from government officials. But we are in severe need of drinking water," said Saheda Bewa, another resident of the village.
Contacted, the district's Deputy Commissioner Abu Jafar said the administration was providing necessary help to the flood-affected people.
Meanwhile, the Spar dyke at Gobordhan village in Aditmari upazila is under the threat of collapsing due to heavy pressure of water from the Teesta.
The dyke was declared risky last year, but it was not repaired by the BWDB. Amid such a situation, several thousands of people from six villages are in fear of losing their homes in floods if the dyke collapses.
Sub-Divisional Engineer of BWDB in Lalmonirhat Bazle Karim said they were trying to protect the dyke by dumping Geo Bags and have requested higher authorities concerned to allocate funds to repair the dyke on an emergency basis.
In Netrakona, different areas of Kalmakanda Upazila have been flooded over the last two days, affecting some 6,000 families.
Situation was worsening as water of the Sumeswari, Foli and Ghumai rivers has been flowing into Bangladesh's

crossing border.
"All of the areas have been flooded and road communications remains snapped," said Md Rafiqul Islam, chairman of Pogra Union Parishad in the district.
Many educational institutes have been closed due to floods, said Ruel C Sangma, acting UNO of Kalmakanda, adding that the district administration has allocated 300 packets of dry food for those who have been affected by the floods.
Our Bandarban, Rangamati, Sylhet, Lalmonirhat and Mymensingh correspondents contributed to the story.
'Yaba dealer'
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Sensing their presence, a group of yaba traders opened fire on them, forcing them to fire back that triggered a "gunfight", the OC added.
Later, police recovered bullet-injured Malek from the spot and took him to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead, the OC said.
Police also recovered two locally made firearms, six bullets and 5,000 yaba pills from the spot.
Three policemen -- ASI Ram Chandra Das and Constable Abdus Shukur and Raju -- were injured during the "gunfight", said OC Prodig.
Two cases were filed with Teknaf Police Station, the OC added.

Sugary drinks

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The participants, who were followed for a maximum of nine years, completed at least two 24-hour online validated dietary questionnaires, calculating their daily consumption of sugar and artificially sweetened beverages as well as 100 percent fruit juices.
Researchers measured the daily intakes of sugary drinks against those of diet beverages and compared them to cancer cases in participants' medical records during the follow-up period.
They found that just a 100 ml increase per day of sugary drinks was associated with an 18 percent increased risk of cancer, and with a 22 percent increase in breast cancer.
Both sugar-sweetened drinks and fruit juices saw a similar higher risk association.

The Jacobin's

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The bird prefers thorny, dry shrubs, gardens, or open woodlands as their habitat, actively avoiding dense forests. They do not build their own nests and instead lay their eggs in the nests of host birds such as Babblers, who even raise the Cuckoo's hatchlings.
Their diet primarily consists of insects, grasshoppers, hairy caterpillars, land snails and fruits.
The global population of these species has not yet been quantified. It is however determined that the overall population trend is stable. These species have an extremely large range and are hence not considered vulnerable.
The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed the Jacobin Cuckoo in its "Least Concern" category.

10-year-old girl raped

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The passengers noticed that the child looked distressed and caught Samrat, Rusho said, adding that the passengers handed him to police at Airport Railway Station.
However, some passengers alleged that police kept the girl waiting for nearly 12 hours without ensuring the treatment given to a rape victim.
Rusho said there was a delay in filing of a case as police were trying to contact the girl's family. He added that the girl was handed to her mother after being examined at Dhaka medical college hospital yesterday.
At least 496 children have been raped in the first six months of this year across the country, said Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF), a platform of non-government organisations working for child rights.
Of them, 53 were gang-raped and 23 murdered after rape. Twenty-seven of the victims are physically challenged.
During the same period last year, 351 children were raped, the BSAF said in its report on July 2.
The platform prepared the report

based on reports published in 15 national dailies between January and June and termed the rise in rape "very alarming."
Only a week ago, the rape and killing of seven-year-old Saima in the capital's Wari triggered widespread outrage.
2 ARRESTED FOR RAPE, ARBITRATION
Police yesterday arrested two villagers in Dinajpur's Phulbari upazila on charges of raping a physically challenged fourth grader and then trying to settle the incident in a village arbitration.
Mehdul Islam, 46, and Sujon, 35, were arrested after the girl's father filed a case with Phulbari Police Station yesterday.
The alleged rape took place on July 3 afternoon. The girl's father said he had been scared of filing a case earlier.
Police yesterday sent the 11-year-old girl to hospital.
They said said alleged rapist Mehdul and his neighbour Sujon forced the girl's parents to settle the matter in a village arbitration on July 4.