

Nations divided

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to limit global temperature rises to "well below" two degrees Celsius through a series of voluntary action pledges that step up over time.

The push for a strengthening of voluntary carbon cutting plans is led by small-island and least-developed states, along with the European Union.

Ministers from this "high ambition coalition" have called out countries they see as blocking a consensus call for all countries to step up, notably the United States, Australia and Saudi Arabia.

China and India, the world's No. 1 and No. 4 carbon emitters, meanwhile, have made it clear they see no need to improve on their current emissions reduction plans, which run to 2030.

These emerging giants have chosen instead to emphasise the historical responsibility of rich nations to lead the way and provide financing to poor countries.

The COP 25 summit was also meant to finalise a chapter on carbon markets in the Paris rulebook, which

goes into effect next year.

But a complicated wrangle over how to structure markets, and deal with carbon credits left over from the Kyoto Protocol, which expires at the end of 2020, have remained deadlocked, and may be pushed to further talks next year.

The United States, which is leaving the landmark Paris climate deal next year, was accused of acting as a spoiler on a number of issues vital to climate-vulnerable nations. This included so-called "loss and damage" funding to help disaster-hit countries repair and rebuild.

Even if nations in Madrid snatch victory from the jaws of defeat and agree to implement their pledges, Earth is on course to warm more than 3C by 2100.

"It is time for this process to prove that it is worth something," said the delegation of Colombia.

"If there was one time in the history when I would say governments fucked up, I would say today in Madrid, governments fucked up," Adow said.

"People across the world must rise to save the planet."

A divided Bar

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judiciary." "We cannot expect to have a strong judiciary unless we have a united Bar."

He said judges in many verdicts said there could not be a bad judgement unless there was a bad lawyer.

"You can expect a good judgement if you have a good lawyer in the case. Likewise, you can expect a good judiciary if you have a good Bar. This is because judges come from the Bar."

The judge said the country would have an independent and meaningful judiciary in future if the Bar carried out its responsibilities properly.

Ali Imam Majumder said the spirit of the 1972 constitution was in favour of establishing an independent judiciary.

He said judges shouldn't be appointed to posts in the civil administration. For example, he said most of the top officials, including the secretary of the law ministry, were picked from the judiciary and they were working in the ministry leaving their main work as judges.

Different ministries also appoint judges as legal officers which should not happen, he observed.

The respective ministries can pick legal officers from lawyers, Majumder said.

The retired bureaucrat said those who are appointed directly to the higher court should be meritorious, honest, and competent.

He said the country's achievement in separating the judiciary from the executive was not small.

"It's true that we couldn't achieve what we wanted regarding separation of the judiciary. But we will not stop our efforts in this regard. We will have to raise our voice to this end."

Yusuf Hossain Humayun stressed the need for establishing a separate secretariat under the Supreme Court for independent functioning of the judiciary.

Mahub Uddin Khokon said all political parties, while in opposition, used to raise their voice in favour of an independent judiciary.

He underscored the need for enacting a law for appointing judges.

Judge Masdar Hossain said separation of the judiciary would be meaningless if the judiciary did not become independent financially.

Rizwana Hasan said curbing independence of the judiciary is a global trend.

She said the executive has a constitutional obligation to ensure independence of the judiciary.

Mizanur Rahman Khan, joint editor of Bangla daily Prothom Alo, presented the keynote paper, highlighting the context of the separation of judiciary.

Former Bangladesh Bank governor Salehuddin Ahmed moderated the programme.

Luxury at the expense

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He said the university can spend money from its own sources but it was unethical to publish the tender notice in newspapers mentioning the UGC as the funding agency because it didn't allocate the funds.

In November last year, the university authorities sought an allocation of Tk 80.63 lakh from the UGC for modification and renovation of the VC's office.

But before getting the UGC's response, they floated tender in January this year, and in March took Tk 84.45 lakh from two funds -- Tk 56.95 lakh from Evening MBA Programme funds and Tk 27.50 lakh from local resources funds.

According to its own guidelines, the university gets 30 to 40 percent of the earnings from Evening MBA programme to spend it for student welfare or research and infrastructural development of the departments.

"The earnings from these programmes would be spent on student welfare, research, departments' infrastructural development and procurement of equipment," read the guidelines.

Contacted, acting JU registrar Rohima Kaneez said they sent a letter to the UGC in November last year for allocation of funds for the decoration but are yet to get any response.

The new office of the VC has eight rooms, including a restroom for the VC, two rooms for VC's secretary and personal assistant, and a kitchen, covering a 4,000-square-foot space on the second floor of the five-storey administrative building.

A 23-foot-long canopy was installed outside the new office for Tk 3.90 lakh to shield the reception room from rain.

Of the Tk 84 lakh, Tk 40.14 lakh was spent only on furniture and electronic devices.

The furniture includes 10 double-seater sofas with a price tag of Tk 42,000 each, a file cabinet for Tk 2.61 lakh, and a wooden cabinet for Tk 2.10 lakh.

The list does not end here. A conference table was bought for Tk 1.90 lakh and another table for the VC's room for Tk 80,000. Besides, Tk 2.60 lakh was spent on imported window curtains.

Such expenditure by the university authorities has raised many eyebrows as they have not yet been able to arrange a permanent classroom for the law and justice department since its inception eight years ago.

A total of 370 students from six

batches of the department have been attending classes in two green rooms at Zahir Raihan Auditorium and two classrooms of the economics and the Urban and Regional Planning departments.

Talking to this correspondent, Prof Farzana said, "It's a new office... You have to keep in mind that it's the office of the vice chancellor.

"This expenditure is not for my room only but for the entire vice chancellor's office.

"You say the amount is over Tk 84 lakh...it's not enough. You can go and see other offices like the one at Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University or the UGC itself.

"I will not use this office forever. I will hold the post [of VC] for a maximum of two more years. Then another VC will use it."

Mentioning that the standard of living in the country has improved a lot, the VC said, "Earlier, I had been given a car for official use with a price tag of Tk 67 lakh. I'm still using it. At that time, it was a good one. But now the two pro-VCs have been provided with two jeeps that cost Tk 94 lakh each.

"These [vehicles] are movable properties. But you are talking about an office, an immovable property... why are you intentionally going after me over this issue now? I don't understand..."

About the tender notice, she claimed that the UGC gave them "assurance" that if it cannot provide them with the fund in the current fiscal year, they will get it in the next fiscal year.

"That's why we borrowed money from the EMBA and local resources funds. That's how many of the development projects are being implemented at the university. When we don't have money in our own funds, we borrow from those.

"Do you think the EMBA fund is meant only for the department's [Faculty of Business Studies] development? This fund is also for other departments and offices," she added.

The VC has been in a tight spot since August over an allegation that she gave the university's BCL unit Tk 1 crore as "Eid Salami" so that it doesn't create obstacles to the ongoing Tk 1,445-crore mega project.

A faction of the BCL unit publicly admitted that it had received Tk 25 lakh as per a settlement reached at a meeting at the VC's residence on August 9. However, no investigation into the allegation has been launched

Factory owner

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"We are conducting drives to arrest them," the police officer added.

Md Jahangir, brother of deceased factory worker Alam, filed a murder case with Keraniganj South Police Station accusing the factory owner Nazrul Islam and 12 unnamed people on Thursday night in connection with the incident.

Meanwhile, another victim, Asad, 16, who was severely burnt in Wednesday's fire, died at Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute in Dhaka yesterday morning, raising the death toll to 14.

Asad, who was on life support with 55 percent inhalation burns, succumbed to his injuries around 7:30am, Dr Samanta Lal Sen, national coordinator of the institute, told The Daily Star.

As many as 17 others are battling for their lives at the hospital, among whom, nine are on life support, he added.

Most of them are in critical condition with 50 to 100 percent of their bodies burnt, doctors said.

A devastating fire engulfed the Prime Pet and Plastic Industry factory in Keraniganj's Chankuita on Wednesday. Firefighters recovered one charred body from the factory while 33 others were hospitalised. Thirteen of the injured subsequently died in hospital.

The authorities handed over the bodies of 12 victims to their families.

The plastics factory had been operating without permission for years, according to the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments.

The fire-ravaged plastic factory in Keraniganj, with around 15,000 sqft floor space, had a single gate for entry and exit and no emergency exits whatsoever.

Locals alleged that the authorities concerned turned a blind eye to the lack of safety measures at the factory even though it had been producing disposable plastic cups and plates for around 10 years and had witnessed two other fire incidents this year alone.

Keraniganj upazila administration on Friday sealed off the factory.

Relatives of the fire victims demanded stern action against the factory owner for failing to ensure fire safety and a better work environment.

Evidence

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overall circumstance."

He added the full report would determine whether it was murder or suicide.

Rumpa, 22, a second-year student of the English department, was found dead in an alley behind Ayesha Shopping Complex on December 4. Police learned her identity the next day.

Investigators are waiting for the forensic report and other circumstantial evidence in order to reach a conclusion over the death.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police collected several footages of the 11-storey Ayesha Shopping Complex and its surrounding areas to track Rumpa's whereabouts hours before her death.

After conducting her autopsy on December 5, Mahmud told reporters that Rumpa's hands, legs, waist and spinal cord were fractured.

After primary interrogation, police learned that Rumpa was in a relationship with Abdur Rahman Saikat, 22, a former student of the university, which recently took a turn for the worse. They met outside Stamford campus in Siddeshwar area around 4:00pm that day and had an argument, which led to Saikat breaking off the relationship, police say.

Investigators said Rumpa had visited the 11-storey building around 5:00pm that day as one of her school friends lives there on the fourth floor. During the visit, Rumpa shared her frustrations over her relationship with Saikat and cried, said police, quoting the friend.

On December 6, police found sandal prints on an edge of Ayesha Shopping Complex's rooftop.

Different agencies are investigating the murder case filed with Ramna Police Station. The case was transferred to DB on December 7.

On December 8, Rumpa's friend Saikat was arrested and placed on a four-day remand in connection with the incident.

Saikat was a BBA student at Stamford University. But after one semester, he transferred to a college under National University because of a family crisis, he claimed to this newspaper before his arrest.

Police are yet to say whether it is a murder or a case of suicide.

Two 'yaba traders'

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Hospital. Later, they were pronounced dead at the hospital around 7:00am, he added.

The bodies were sent to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsies.

Police also claimed to have recovered 95,000 yaba pills, six-locally made firearms and 18 bullets.

Five policemen -- Sub-inspector Kamruzzaman, 50, Assistant Sub-inspectors Sanjib Dutta, 32, Mishkat Uddin, 30, and Constables Siker Ali, 23, and Mohiuddin, 22 -- were injured during the "gunfight", the OC claimed.

Three cases were filed in connection with the incident.

Earlier on Saturday, Rab arrested the duo and handed them over to police.

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NOTICE FOR ENLISTMENT

Companies/Firms/Suppliers/Service Providers/Manufacturers are invited for the enlistment with BASIC Bank Limited for work/supply for the year 2020-2022 under the following categories:

Sl	Category	Assignment for Works
01	Interior Decorators/ Renovation/Construction Firms	For Interior decoration, renovation, construction and repair of branch/head office premises, ATM booth, other booths etc.
02	Designer /Consultant Firm	For design, drawing and supervision of interior works
03	Security Printing Press	For printing & supplying security printing stationeries
04	Publicity Printing Press	For printing & supplying calendar, diary, annual/ Semi annual/ other reports, brochure, leaflet etc.
05	Other Stationery Printing Press	For printing & supplying various vouchers, forms, cards & registers etc.
06	Air Conditioner Supplier	For supplying, installing and repairing air conditioners
07	Wooden & Other Furniture/ Fixture Supplier	For supplying, installing wooden and other (accept steel) furniture/fixture and repairing.
08	Security Steel Furniture Supplier	For supplying, installing and repairing of safe, vault, vault door, locker etc.
09	Other Steel Furniture Supplier	For supplying, installing and repairing of steel furniture
10	Office Equipment Supplier	Office Equipment Supplier For supplying, installing and repairing of office equipment like fax/ photocopier/ note counting machine/ note binding machine/ CCTV system/ FAX system /fake note detector/ MICR scanner/ Access control system etc. (individually mention name on the top of the envelop).
11	Solar Panel Supplier	For supplying, installing and repairing solar panel system.
12	Office/ Table Stationeries Supplier	For supplying all kinds of office/table stationeries
13	Sign Board/ Banner/ Name Plate Supplier	For supplying, installing and repairing all kinds of sign board /name plate/ artwork/ Banner etc.
14	Automated Motor Workshop	For repairing/ maintaining bank's motor vehicles and supplying of spare parts
15	Semi Automated Motor Workshop	For repairing/ maintaining bank's motor vehicles and supplying of spare parts
16	Semi Manual Motor Workshop	For repairing/ maintaining bank's motor vehicles and supplying of spare parts
17	Courier Service	For delivery of parcels and documents of the bank
18	Event Management Firm	For arrangement of different events of the bank
19	Media & Publicity Management Firm	For media coverage of various programs of our bank and designing of various publicity material.
20	Liveries Supplier	For supplying of liveries (shirt, pant, shoes, shocks belt etc.)
21	Radio Link Tower	For installing radio link tower.
22	Repairing of Machinery/ Furniture & Fixture	For repairing/ maintenance of bank's Machinery/ Furniture & Fixture
23	Generator Installation	For installation of Generator
24	Gift item/ Promotional Item	For purchase/ procurement of gift item/ promotional item
25	Gun supplier	For supplying of Gun
26	ATM Booth design/ construction	For design and construction of ATM booth works

- The participating company in all categories must have at least 5 (five) years' proven experience of working in that category in any scheduled bank in Bangladesh / Bangladesh Bank or must have previous record of successful completion of any work in that category in BASIC Bank. Copy of previous work order(s)/ records must be supplied along with the tender as proof in this regard.
- The participating company in enlistment for supply of any specific item mentioned in any category must be an authorized dealer/ distributor of that specific item.
- A security deposit of Tk. 10,000.00 has to be submitted with the offer through PO/DD in the name of "BASIC Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka". The security deposit of the enlisted bidder will be kept with the Bank for the enlistment period. In case of failure to provide satisfactory service, the Bank will exercise its power to adjust its loss from the deposit.
- The participating company may apply for enlistment for maximum in 3 categories.
- The enlistment schedule may be obtained from Common Services Division (Sena Kalyan Bhaban- 5th floor, 195 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka) of BASIC Bank Limited between 10:00 A.M. and 04:00 P.M. of all working days at a cost of Tk. 1,000/- only. No enlistment schedule will be sold after 02:00 P.M. of December 24, 2019.
- Sealed documents/ papers have to be dropped in the box kept at Common Services Division (Sena Kalyan Bhaban-5th floor, 195 Motijheel CIA, Dhaka) of BASIC Bank Limited on or before December 26, 2019 by 04:00 P.M. The name of the category applied for enlistment must be mentioned at the top of the envelope.
- Other terms and conditions can be found in the enlistment schedule.

Deputy General Manager
Common Services Division

An expression of concern?

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Indian states.

In fact, Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar termed "unwarranted" any attempt to link the cancellation of the visits to the law and said both the countries have said that "this is the 'sonal adhyay [golden chapter]' in relations between the two countries".

But behind the official postures of New Delhi and Dhaka there could be unease caused by the new law and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Momen cited "pressing domestic issue" of Victory Day in Dhaka, State Minister Shahriar Alam being in Madrid, and Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque being in The Hague to attend the ICJ hearings on the Rohingya genocide as reasons for him calling off the Delhi visit.

However, neither Momen's visit to India nor that of Shahriar and Shahidul was arranged at the eleventh hour. In fact, the Indian foreign ministry had put on its website an advisory on Wednesday about the Bangladesh foreign minister's visit.

It is understood that by cancelling the visits of Momen and Asaduzzaman, Dhaka indicated its disquiet over the manner in which India went about the Citizenship Amendment Act or the National Register of Citizens.

Dhaka's apprehensions about the NRC exercise in Assam was conveyed at the highest level when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina met her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi on the margin of the UN Conference in New York in September.

Modi assured Hasina not only in New York but also in October during their previous bilateral meeting at the Hyderabad House in the Indian capital that the NRC was an internal issue of India and Bangladesh need not worry over it. The same message was conveyed

earlier by Jaishankar to Momen during their meeting in Dhaka.

Sources in Dhaka said it was Citizenship Amendment Act more than the NRC that was a cause of concern for Bangladesh.

According to the sources, implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act brings with it a risk of hardening the public opinion in Bangladesh about India and could pose a challenge to maintain Bangladesh's image as a moderate Islamic country with a functioning democratic government.

During the October visit to Delhi, Hasina at a meeting urged the South Asian countries to look beyond the "majority-minority mind-set". Her remarks analysts in India interpreted as her disapproval of the NRC.

Dhaka's thoughts on the Citizenship Amendment Act reflected in Momen's exchanges with the ambassadors of the US and Japan in Bangladesh Earl Miller and Ito Naoki on Thursday.

"India is historically a tolerant country which believes in secularism ... their historic position will be weakened if they deviated from that. What India has done is an internal matter of the country. But I hope that friendly India will not do anything that will create a sense of terror among the people of both countries. I will have to read the CAB [Citizenship Amendment Bill]," he is reported to have said.

Dhaka was also reportedly not happy with Indian Home Minister Amit Shah's repeated reference to alleged minority persecution in Bangladesh.

Momen had responded to Shah's reference to "atrocities" against the Hindu women in Bangladesh between 2000 and 2003 during a debate on the Citizenship Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha on Monday and reiterating some of his arguments in the Rajya Sabha two days later.

"There are very few countries

Yacht that turns into a submarine

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original solutions to be able to offer their friends and their family something special, and certainly that of a diving cruise of this type is something unprecedented in the super yacht market."

Carapace, which would be powered by a diesel-electric and fuel cell system, is designed to have a light aluminum superstructure that measures 256 feet in length.

It would hold three deck levels,

yet.

A section of teachers and students had been demonstrating on the university campus since August, demanding resignation of the VC over the corruption allegations.

The JU was shut on November 5 after BCL activists swooped on a group of agitating teachers and students who kept the VC confined to her residence for hours.

After a month-long shutdown, the university dormitories were opened on December 5 and classes resumed a couple of days later.

The agitating teachers and students under the platform "Jahangirnagar Against Corruption" on December 10 unveiled a book detailing the allegations of corruption against the VC.

HIGH PRICES

The Daily Star approached an interior decoration firm and asked it about the prices of some of the items mentioned in the JU tender documents. It said those were higher than the market prices.

Seeking anonymity, a director of the firm said, "Take the 10mm glass partition for example. It is quoted at Tk 1,450 per square foot. The total price is Tk 131,065 for 90.39 sqft. Even if I use the best quality glass, the total price will be Tk 49,714 [Tk 550 per sqft]."

The tender documents show that a 60-square-foot mirror with a wooden frame costs Tk 66,600.

"Tk 1,110 per sqft for a mirror is too much. The market price of a very good quality mirror with a wooden frame is Tk 450 per sqft," added the director, also an interior designer.

Asked, acting JU comptroller Md Mosanul Kabir declined to comment on this.

Talking to this newspaper, Prof Anu Muhammad of economics department at the JU, said, "This is a clear example of irregularities and a lack of transparency ... The UGC can play an effective role in this regard by increasing supervision."

"A vice chancellor needs to be cautious about spending university funds ... This post is not one of a business entity."

Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed, who was the JU VC from 1988 to 1993, said, "When I was vice chancellor, we often faced hurdles in implementing our initiatives due to fund shortage."

About the expensive decoration at the JU VC's new office, he said, "A vice chancellor should give priority to education and research over anything else."

where communal harmony is as good as in Bangladesh. If he [Amit Shah] stayed in Bangladesh for a few months, he would see exemplary communal harmony in our country," Momen said.

The reality is that Amit Shah had stated in the Lok Sabha that the persecution of the Hindus in Bangladesh had taken place during the rule of the BNP and Khaleda Zia whom he had singled out in the Lok Sabha debate.

Shah had also said that "as long as Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was alive, there was not a single instance of atrocity on the Hindus in Bangladesh. But after his assassination in 1975, the atrocities broke the backbone of the minorities in Bangladesh."

The Indian home minister also commended the current Bangladesh government for taking care of religious minorities well.

While there is no need to take an alarmist view of the impact the cancellation of the two ministerial visits may or may not have on Delhi-Dhaka ties, the two sides should guard against allowing rough edges to fester.

Be careful

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Talking about the martyred intellectuals, Hasina said the anti-liberation forces tried to erase the names of intellectuals who made the supreme sacrifice for the country. "But they failed to do so as the sacrifice can never go in vain. It has been proved in Bangladesh."

She criticised HM Ershad and Khaleda Zia for "rehabilitating anti-liberation forces", including killers of the Father of the Nation, during their tenures in power.

AL advisory council member Amir Hossain Amu, General Secretary Obaidul Quader, presidium members Matia Chowdhury, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, and Abdul Matin Khasru also spoke at the discussion, among others.

with VIP cabins, a lounge, a spa, a bar and health club among the onboard amenities.

Nappi envisions it being hired for private trips, as well as business meetings that require "complete secrecy."