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## MINIMISING CLIMATE VULNERABILITIES

# Hasina seeks Commonwealth's attention

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the Commonwealth to play its crucial role in eradicating poverty and minimising climate vulnerabilities of the underprivileged people.



"I strongly believe that the Commonwealth can play a pivotal role towards sustainable and nature-based solutions for a prosperous future," she said while addressing a virtual roundtable of the Asia Regional Commonwealth heads of government.

Prince of Wales Charles Philip Arthur George, the eldest son of Queen Elizabeth II, convened the roundtable.

Hasina, chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), suggested three measures ahead of COP26. The measures include promotion of green and sustainable economic growth worldwide and investing in a circular economy for building back better.

The two other measures are: putting emphasis on carbon neutral technologies with a provision of knowledge and technology transfer among Commonwealth members with particular attention to the vulnerable countries; and supporting the climate vulnerable countries to get access to climate finance for adaptation measures.

The PM also urged everyone to focus on providing shelter to the homeless which is the best strategy to eradicate poverty and minimise climate vulnerability of

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Rickshaw-puller Jalil has some water and takes rest on the pavement of a street near Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday as the sweltering heat got to him.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



## Nazrul's 122nd birthday today

BSS, Dhaka

The 122nd birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam is being observed today in the country in a befitting manner.

The cultural affairs ministry, Dhaka University and cultural organisation "Mukto Asar" have taken up programmes to celebrate the birth anniversary of the national poet on a limited scale due to the pandemic.

State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid will place a floral wreath at Nazrul's mazar on the Dhaka University campus at 7:30am.

DU VC Prof Akhtaruzzaman will also place wreaths at the mazar in the morning.

Meanwhile, President SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

## Genocide against Rohingyas not abating

Says BROUK; junta leader cast doubt on return of refugees

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The genocide against the Rohingyas shows no sign of abating in Myanmar, the Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK (BROUK) said in a new briefing yesterday.

It said the Myanmar military continues to subject the Rohingyas to a vicious pattern of abuse and extortion in the Rakhine State, where Rohingyas are kept in what amounts to an open-air prison, creating intolerable living conditions.

Since the start of this year, at least 15 Rohingyas, including nine infants and young children, have died as a direct result of onerous and illegal travel restrictions preventing access to medical care, said BROUK President Tun Khin in a statement.

It comes at a time that coincides with Myanmar's duty to report to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on how it is preventing genocidal acts against the minority group in Rakhine State.

The ICJ, as part of the genocide case brought by The Gambia against Myanmar, in January 2020 imposed "provisional

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**ROAD TO FREEDOM**  
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## Meghalaya border shelled

MAY 25, 1971  
SHAMSUDDOZZA SAJEN

**SWADHIN BANGLA BETAR KENDRA SHIFTED TO KOLKATA**

On May 25, Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra was shifted to Calcutta where it started functioning the same day. With the arrival of new and experienced radio personnel from Dhaka, the centre became fully operative technically. Abdul Mannan MNA was entrusted with the task of organising the key communication wing of the exiled government.

**NINE BSF MEN KILLED**

Twenty-two persons, including nine Indian Border Security Force men, were killed today in heavy shelling by Pakistani troops in Dalu Sector in Meghalaya's Garo Hills district. Assam Chief Minister Mahendramohan Chowdhury told the assembly that the BSF had "successfully repulsed" Pakistani aggression in three different sectors of the Assam-Bangladesh border. He requested the Indian prime minister to take immediate action to clear the Pakistan army from the border areas and to safeguard the sanctity of the territory.

**INDIA RAPS POWERS OVER BANGLADESH**

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi accused the world powers of not doing enough about the war in East Pakistan and said India might have to take all means as might be necessary to ensure its own security.

She said more than 3.5 million refugees had fled from East Pakistan into India and that the influx was continuing at the rate of 60,000 a day, threatening to disrupt the Indian economy and drain

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## Poet Sirajee passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Director General of Bangla Academy Poet Habibullah Sirajee passed away last night.

He was 72. He died at the Bangladesh Specialised Hospital in Shyamoli around 11:00pm, said Bangla Academy Secretary and acting director general AHM Lokman in a statement.

Lokman said the body of the poet would be brought to the Bangla Academy premises at 10:00am today so that people could pay their last respect maintaining Covid-19 health guidelines. His first namaz-e-janaza would be held there.

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## Japanese premium melons go for \$24,800



AFP, Tokyo

In what might be the unlikely indicator of a post-pandemic recovery, a pair of premium Japanese melons have sold for \$24,800 at auction, over 22 times more than last year's virus-hit price.

The 2.7 million yen price tag at the season's first auction for the famed Yubari melons is still a snip compared to records for the prized produce.

"This year's recovery in price can be seen as a result of buyers looking to encourage people by putting in higher bids," a wholesale market official told AFP.

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## SHAHINUDDIN MURDER

## Prime accused confesses, implicates ex-MP Awal

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Sumon Bepari, prime accused in the Shahinuddin murder case, confessed to a magistrate yesterday that he hired 12 other goons to kill the trader at the direction of former lawmaker MA Awal. Shahinuddin was killed in front of his seven-year-old son in the capital's Pallabi on May 16.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Debdash

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### PRAYER TIMING MAY 25

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-40 8-00  
JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-45 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Rozina has more tests done

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalist Rozina Islam has undergone further medical check-ups at a private hospital yesterday.

Doctors conducted her MRI, ultrasonography and echocardiography tests.

They said that her diabetes has increased and that she tested negative for Covid-19.

The senior reporter of Prothom Alo was recently released from jail on bail.

Rozina is weak and distressed, her family members said, adding that she will be admitted to the hospital until she feels better.

On May 17, she went to the health ministry to perform her professional duties and was kept confined there for five hours before officials took her to Shahbagh Police Station and sued her under the Official Secrets Act.

She was sent to jail the next day. She was in jail for six days.

After she was released from Kashimpur Jail six

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A man checking a bunch of litchies on sale at a market in Gor-e Shaheed Boromath of Dinajpur district yesterday. According to farmers, the production of the juicy fruits has suffered this season due to inclement weather.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

## Party will 'exist as long as people exist'

Suu Kyi defiant in first comments since Myanmar coup

AFP, Yangon

Detained Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi said her ousted party would "exist as long as the people exist" during her first in-person court appearance since a February coup, her lawyer told AFP yesterday.

Since the February 1 putsch, Myanmar has been in uproar with near-daily protests and a nationwide civil disobedience movement, with more than 800 killed by the military, according to a local monitoring group.

"We met with Aung San Suu for 30 minutes," lawyer Min Min Soe told AFP.

"There wasn't much time to talk within 30 minutes, but she sounded healthy and fully confident."

"She wishes her people to stay healthy and affirmed the NLD (National League for Democracy) will exist as long as people exist, because it was founded for the people," Min Min Soe added.

Nobel laureate Suu Kyi has been hit with a string of criminal charges including flouting coronavirus restrictions during last year's election campaign and possessing unlicensed walkie-talkies.

Myanmar's junta has also threatened to dissolve her National League for Democracy political party, which swept elections in 2020, over alleged voter fraud.

She had not been seen in public since she was placed under house arrest by the junta, with weeks of delays to

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