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MINIMISING CLIMATE VULNERABILITIES

Hasina seeks Commonwealth's focus

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

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



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 separate 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 Dhaka University campus at 7:30am.

Dhaka University VC Prof Akhtaruzzaman will also place wreaths at the mazar of the poet in the morning.

Meanwhile, President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages yesterday paid rich tributes to the memory of the poet on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

They prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul of the national poet and wished the overall success of all programmes taken up on the occasion.

Nazrul was born on the 11th Joishtha in Bengali calendar year 1306 in Churulia near Asansol of West Bengal's Burdwan district.

He was the poet of rebellion against injustice and taboos. He is famous for his poem Bidrohi (The Rebel) and his many melodious songs.

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

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

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

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

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 Chandra Adhikary recorded Sumon's confession after Inspector Syed Iftekar Hossain of the Detective Branch of police brought the accused to his chamber, sources said.

The magistrate sent him to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj after recording the statement.

Sumon told the magistrate that Awal had enmity with victim

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Japan premium melons go for \$24,800



AFP, Tokyo

In what might be the unlikeliest 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.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING MAY 25

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:05	12:45	5:00	6:40	8:00
JAMAAT	4:40	1:15	5:15	6:45
			6:45	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

200 hurt in Malaysia train crash

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

More than 200 passengers were injured in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur yesterday when two metro trains collided in a tunnel, police said.

The accident happened just before 9:00 pm, when a packed train collided with a second that was empty and heading in the opposite direction.

Pictures circulating on social media showed injured passengers sprawled on the floor of a carriage, which was covered in glass.

Forty-seven people suffered serious injuries and 166 had minor injuries, said police official Mohamad Zainal Abdullah.

There was no sign of foul play and the accident could have been caused by miscommunication, he said.

Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said on Facebook that the crash was "serious".

"I have instructed the transport minister and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



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 have 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

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5