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G20 leaders wrangle over climate

COP26 starts today
AFP, Rome

Leaders of the world's major economies yesterday met at the G20 summit in Rome, heading for a new deal on global taxation but still haggling on the pressing issue of climate change.

In their first in-person gathering for two years, the G20 leaders expressed "broad and cross-party support" for a 15 percent minimum tax rate for the biggest multinationals, according to a source close to negotiations.

The reform plan, which seeks to end the practice of big corporates such as Apple and Google parent Alphabet of sheltering profits in low-tax countries, has been backed by almost 140 countries and is expected to be formally approved in the G20 communique today.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



A woman taking drinking water from a hand pump in the middle of flooded fields in Gatirgheri area of Koyra, Khulna. Severe Cyclonic Storm Yaas made landfall in late May. But the breach in embankment by the surge still causes floods in vast areas in the coastal region.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

COASTAL PEOPLE

Not merely at mercy of nature

Locals in Khulna's Koyra suffer as embankment, damaged by Yaas, not repaired in six months

PINAKI ROY with DIPANKAR ROY

"Many are leaving this area and going someplace else to live. Their homes are submerged and they have no means of livelihood here. It is hard even to get drinking water sometimes."

Gautam Das looks apprehensive as he says this standing by the Shakbaria river near Gatirgheri village in Khulna's Koyra upazila.

Around 80 families of the village have been living on the embankment in the open, around six months after severe cyclonic storm Yaas breached parts of the embankment, flooding their village.

With their homes damaged and livestock washed away, many are now considering to leave everything behind and migrate elsewhere in search of livelihoods.

Sitting in the southern coastal district of Khulna, one of the climate-vulnerable regions, Koyra faces climate-induced hazards frequently. When cyclone Aila lashed the coastal belt in 2009, the tidal surge flooded village after village, forcing many families to live out in the open.

Back then, too, the protection embankment caved in and the authorities took two years to fix it. All the while, many homesteads remained under water, and the embankment was the only home for many families.

After the embankment was repaired in 2011, they returned to whatever was left of their "homes" to start from scratch. But when Yaas struck in May this year, all they had built over the last 10 years were gone under the saline water again.

"They cannot go back home until the earthen embankment is repaired. Even if

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

REMITTANCE INFLOW

Hundi, layoffs pull it down

Experts also cite sharp drop in recruitment amid pandemic

JAMIL MAHMUD

The worrying dip in remittance flow in recent months is the result of a reemergence of illegal channels of money transfer after the coronavirus restrictions were lifted, a sharp decline in overseas recruitment, and layoffs, experts said.

From July-September, the country received about \$5.4 billion through formal channels, down from about \$6.7 billion during the same period last year, according to Bangladesh Bank (BB) data.

Bangladeshis in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Malaysia -- the countries from where most of the remittances come from -- sent home around \$932.7 million less than the amount they sent in those three months last year, according to BB and Bureau of Manpower, Employment and

"The dip in remittance through formal channels will create pressure on the government's foreign currency reserve and exchange rate. Since remittance is crucial for the government, there is reason to worry."

PROF SELIM RAIHAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SOUTH ASIAN NETWORK ON ECONOMIC MODELING

Training (BMET).

Also, Bangladesh received \$771.6 million less in remittance in the first quarter of 2021-2022 fiscal year compared to the immediate past quarter, BB data says.

Remittance inflow soared in the last fiscal

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Editors voice concern over press freedom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Free press is under an onslaught from multiple spheres -- beginning from the legal system, to the corporate domination of the media, to politicisation of journalists, said speakers at an event organised by Sampadak Parishad yesterday.

"Protecting the interests of any individual or group is not the responsibility of a media outlet," said Syed Manzoorul Islam, former professor of English at Dhaka University.

He was speaking at a discussion titled "50 Years of Bangladesh: Media Achievements and Future Challenges" at the capital's the CIRDAP auditorium.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

The 'dance club' racket

Rab busts gang that trafficked over 100 women to India; 8 routes identified, 11 held

MUNTAKIM SAAD

On September 21, a 19-year-old woman was invited by a dance club to perform at an event in Rangpur.

After two days, the garment factory worker called her family and said she was being trafficked to India. The family members then called her numerous times but couldn't reach her.

On September 26, her father, a house painter, filed a general diary with Badda Police Station.

Rab officers conducted several raids in Dhaka and elsewhere in the last two days and arrested 11 members of two human trafficking gangs that allegedly trafficked women to India and the Middle Eastern countries, promising them of a better life abroad.

Rab also rescued 23 women, including 22 from three "safe-houses" in the capital's Mirpur, Uttara, and Tejgaon.

Commander Khandaker Al Moin, director of Rab Legal and Media Wing, told a press briefing at Rab-4

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iPhone 13

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17 files go missing from health ministry

Probe body formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health and family welfare ministry yesterday formed a three-member committee to probe how 17 files, all deemed important, went missing from its premises on Thursday.

The committee, which is led by Md Shah Alam, additional secretary (administration) of the Health Education Division, has been asked to submit their investigation report within five working days.

The two other members are Md Ahsan Kabir, joint secretary (medical education), and Mohammad Abdul Qader, deputy secretary (medical education-1) of the ministry.

The majority of the files were related to procurement by different medical colleges and health institutions, according to the missing list.

The dockets include purchase documents related to Shaheed Taj Uddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital in Gazipur and Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, the National Institute of Population Research and Training's data on breast and cervical cancer screening programmes and purchases, vehicle purchase of different training schools.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

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BANGLADESH UPDATE

166
New cases in 24hrs

15,69,328
Total cases

27,862
Deaths

15,33,147
Recoveries

GLOBAL UPDATE

50,08,143
Deaths

246,986,380
Total cases

BD to play crucial role at COP26

Says FM; PM leaves for UK today to attend the climate summit

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said Bangladesh would play a significant role at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) that is set to begin in Glasgow today.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF), will lead the Bangladesh delegation at the COP26 Summit.

"Under the prime minister's leadership, Bangladesh will play a very important role at the COP26 Summit," Momen told journalists at a media briefing held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Shahab Uddin, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam and Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen were also present.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will leave for the United Kingdom today to attend the COP26 and other bilateral meetings.

The prime minister is scheduled to leave for Glasgow at 9:00am and will reach there at 2:45pm.

The COP26 Summit, hosted by the UK, will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate

Change.

She will address the key segment of the COP26 on November 1. The same day, the Prime Minister will attend a joint meeting of the CVF and Commonwealth as the chief guest.

Hasina will also attend a meeting titled "Action and Solidarity—the critical decade" at the invitation of her British counterpart Boris Johnson on November 1. On November 2, the Prime Minister will attend a meeting titled "Women and Climate."

The foreign minister said the prime minister would hold bilateral meetings with her British counterpart Boris Johnson, Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and other leaders during her visit there.

After Glasgow, she will visit London from November 3 to 8 before heading towards Paris, France.

Meanwhile, the "Dhaka-Glasgow Declaration" is likely to be adopted during the COP26 to address the climate change-related challenges.

The prime minister is likely to deliver a speech on "A Call for Climate Prosperity."

In London, she will deliver a speech for the British MPs at the Palace of Westminster and will join a virtual investment summit hosted by Bangladesh.

Hundi, layoffs pull it down

FROM PAGE 1

year even as the pandemic wreaked havoc on the global economy. The expats sent home a record \$24.7 billion contributing to the country's economic recovery.

Prof Selim Raihan, executive director of South Asian Network on Economic Modeling (SANEM), said the rise in remittance amid the pandemic surprised many.

"What happened was the cash flow took place through formal channels as informal channels like hundi could not operate due to the travel restrictions and shutdown of economies in different countries," he said.

But the informal channels reopened once the restrictions were lifted. "As a result, the formal channels are seeing a decline."

In the last one year or so, many workers could not go abroad and it has left a "cumulative effect" on remittance, he added.

Prof Mustafizur Rahman, distinguished fellow at Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said many expatriates sent home their savings or came back home with those. But it was a one-time phenomenon.

Besides, there are now fewer overseas employment opportunities for migrants, he said.

In 2020, the number of new workers with jobs abroad was 2.17 lakh, down from 7 lakh in 2019, the BMET data said.

SHARP DECLINE
Bangladeshi expatriates from Malaysia sent home about \$607.24 million in remittance in July-September, 2020. The amount fell to \$290.85 million this year, marking a \$316.39 million year-on-year decline.

From Saudi Arabia, migrants remitted over \$1.6 billion in the first quarter of last fiscal year while they sent \$1.3 billion during the same period this year.

The remittance from the UAE was \$752.47 million during July-September last year. But it was \$446.17 million this year.

Remittance from the UK and Kuwait saw \$64.18 million and \$24.33 million year-on-year declines.

Shariful Islam, who sells mobile accessories in Kuala Lumpur, said he

sent home 100 ringgit through a bank on October 4.

"I paid five ringgits in service charge while the exchange rate was Tk 20.35," he told The Daily Star over phone. "But you can get at least one taka more for each ringgit if you send money through hundi. Besides, they do not ask for service charges."

Since July 2019, the government has been giving a two percent cash incentive on the amounts sent from abroad. State-run Agrani Bank Limited gave an additional one percent incentive, but stopped the service in September this year.

Shariful said many of his fellow Bangladeshi workers used to send money through Agrani Bank when it was giving the additional incentive.

Mohammad Musa, a Bangladeshi trader in UAE's Ras Al Khaimah, said many of his fellow countrymen were facing job losses and were unable to send home anything.

REASON TO BE WORRY
"The dip in remittance through formal channels will create pressure on the government's foreign currency reserve and exchange rate. Since remittance is crucial for the government, there is reason to worry," said Prof Raihan.

Prof Mustafizur said there should be stronger monitoring by the central bank to discourage the informal channels.

Besides, the government needs to keep the exchange rate stable, he added.

Mohammad Shams-Ul Islam, managing director and chief executive officer of Agrani Bank, said the recent decline will be short-lived.

He added that the government was considering whether to give three percent incentive on the amounts remitted to Bangladesh.

To encourage remitters, Agrani Bank introduced an app-based service to send money from Singapore, he added.

Speaking at a meeting of the cabinet committee on economic affairs on October 6, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said he was hopeful that the remittance flow would return to normalcy in about three months because many Bangladeshis who returned home amid the pandemic are now going back.

Ctg Medical College shut

FROM PAGE 12

Chowdhury Nowfel, the deputy minister for education.

The injured have been identified as Md Akib Hossain, Mahfuzul Haque and Naimul Islam. Hossain is said to be a follower of Nowfel and the other two underlings of Nasir Uddin.

On Friday night, Nowfel's men had beaten up two BCL activists who were adherents of Nasir Uddin, which led to a tit-for-tat brawl the following morning, according to CMC sources.

On both occasions, police had to be brought in to bring the situation under control.

To diffuse the tension on campus, the CMC academic committee has decided to keep the college closed indefinitely.

The students of the male hostel were ordered to vacate their rooms by 5:00pm yesterday while the female students have been given 24 hours, said Shahena Akter, principal of CMC.

All the examinations for the undergraduate courses will be postponed but those for the postgraduate courses would continue, she said.

A five-member committee has been formed to investigate the incidents and submit a report in a week.

CLASH AT DU

Meanwhile, in the capital, MM Abdullah Al Hadi, the president of BCL's Sylhet Kanaighat Government College unit, has alleged that he was beaten up on Friday night by members

of BCL's Dhaka University unit on the campus, reports UNB.

On Saturday morning, he lodged a complaint at the Shahbagh Police Station against 12 people, three named and nine unnamed.

The three accused named in the complaint are Amir Hamza, joint general secretary of Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall BCL; Palash, member of Jagannath Hall BCL; and Rudrik Rabbir of Dhaka College BCL unit.

According to the complaint, Hadi went to DU on Friday evening to meet the central wing president of BCL. Around 10 pm, when he was sitting at the university snacks counter, Hamza and others started abusing him verbally and then beat him up.

The accused also snatched his wallet and mobile phone and also threatened him with dire consequences.

Hadi claimed that locals took him to the emergency department of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, where doctors administered 13 stitches to his forehead.

Action will be taken after a proper investigation, said Mowdud Howladar, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh police station.

"We will also speak to the university authorities as well," he said.

Contacted, Hamza refuted the allegations. "I was at the birthday celebrations of the BCL president at the university's Rokeya Hall at the time," he added.



From left, Samakal acting editor Mustafiz Shafi, The Financial Herald Editor Reazuddin Ahmed, Bhorer Kagaj Editor Shyamal Dutta, The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, New Age Editor Nurul Kabir, Dhaka Tribune Editor Zafar Sobhan, Dainik Azadi Editor MA Malek, Bonik Barta Editor Dewan Hanif Mahmud pose for a photo after a discussion on mass media's accomplishments and challenges at Cirdap yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Editors voice concern over press freedom

FROM PAGE 1

Manzoorul said newspapers are not corporate entities.

Shyamol Dutta, editor of the Bhorer Kagaj, questioned whether the industrial owners of media houses are interested in seeing journalism flourish.

"They are there to protect their own interests. We need to analyse why the big houses enter the media industry in the first place," he said.

Sampadak Parishad President Mahfuz Anam, also the editor of The Daily Star, said: "I entreat the owners to please understand that this industry is different. You maintain the quality of the products you manufacture. The quality of a newspaper is its credibility."

"Your journalists are not factory workers. They are independent thinkers. Your editors are not just employees. Their job is to defend the public interest," he said.

Nurul Kabir, editor of the New Age, commented on how criticism of the government and its machinery is now considered seditious.

"Sedition is being anti-state. But now criticising the government is considered to be seditious. Submitting to them is akin to slavery," said Kabir.

The speakers said the judiciary should protect the interests of freedom of speech and objective journalism.

Mustafiz Shafi, acting editor of the Daily Samakal, said a law like the Digital Security Act-2018 should not be accepted in this country.

Mentioning that the judiciary and the media are protected by the constitution, Mahfuz Anam drew the attention of the government and said, "Please revisit the laws that hinder freedom of expression."

He questioned how many cybercrimes were stopped with the Digital Security Act. He said a new law must be enacted that would protect independent journalism.

Both Shyamol Dutta and Manzoorul Islam stressed the need for modernising and activating the Press Council so that it can deal with issues related to journalists.

"It is never desirable for a journalist to go to a court to defend the expression of his/her views in the interest of the country. An active Press Council might be the solution. It has to be made in such a way that everyone has confidence in it," said Manzoorul.

The speakers denounced politicisation of journalists.

"If journalists start getting into party politics, then this will be a problem," said Manzoorul Islam. He called for doing some soul-searching.

He listed multiple ways in which partisan politics creeps into journalism resulting in biased views.

"Journalists sign up for political parties. There are many opposing journalist associations, which make it difficult to realise demands from a unified platform. We have not been able to reach a satisfactory decision regarding the wage board yet, for example," the former DU professor said.

Manzoorul said the achievements of Bangladeshi newspapers are immense. "When there are formidable limitations, any success is magnified. Even then, there are questions about how objective the newspapers of this country are in publishing the truth."

Joining the meeting virtually, Honorary Professor Sakawat Ali Khan of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of DU said there should not be any division among journalists.

"Together, we all have to ensure real democracy. Only then the newspapers will survive," Sakawat added.

MA Malek, editor of the Daily Azadi, said the main challenge of newspapers lies in retaining their audiences at a time when independent journalism is being threatened.

Zafar Sobhan, editor of the Dhaka Tribune, said two types of challenges are facing the newspaper industry. "Freedom of speech is very curtailed and such a time was not seen in the past," he said.

Senior journalist Reazuddin Ahmed pointed out that a journalist can have no friends but the current situation is such that everybody including the government is in opposition to free press.

Matiur Rahman, editor of the Prothom Alo, was also present at the programme, chaired by Mahfuz Anam and conducted by Dewan Hanif Mahmud, acting general secretary of the Sampadak Parishad.

Eight more Covid deaths recorded

UNB, Dhaka

Eight more people died from Covid-19 and 166 others got the virus in 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday.

The daily positivity rate declined to 1.25 percent from Friday's 1.71 percent.

The fresh cases were detected after testing 13,240 samples, said the Directorate General of Health Services.

With the fresh numbers, Covid fatalities reached 27,862 in the country while the caseload climbed to 1,569,328, according to DGHs.

The mortality rate rose to 1.78 percent from Friday's 1.77 percent.

Also, the recovery rate stood at 97.69 percent with the recovery of 181 more patients during the 24-hour period.

Among the eight deceased, six were men and two women.

G20 leaders

FROM PAGE 1

But no consensus had yet emerged on a collective commitment on climate change, on the eve of the crucial COP26 conference starting in Glasgow today.

Hosts Italy want the G20 to collectively endorse the UN goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, one of the aspirations of the landmark 2015 Paris climate accords.

But G20 members, many at different stages of economic development, remain at odds over the other major goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

"We have a moment now when we can try and take some of the nebulous commitments in Paris, solidify them into hard, fast, commitments to cut emissions, to cut cars and coal and so on," said British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who will host the Glasgow talks.

17 files go missing

FROM PAGE 1

Besides, the missing files include the documents of the Directorate of Nursing and Midwifery and the Directorate of Medical Education.

The files were stored in a room where the activities of the Purchase and Collection-2 Section are conducted under the supervision of Shahdat Hossain, additional secretary (development) of the medical education and family welfare division of the ministry, according to a general diary filed with the Shahbagh police station on Thursday.

The room is adjacent to Hossain's office at room No 29 of building No 3 at the secretariat.

Md Joseph Sardar and Ayesha Siddiq, the stenographers/computer operators of the Purchase and Collection-2 Section, work in the room from where the files went missing.

Before leaving office on Wednesday, the two had kept the files in their cabinet. Around noon on Thursday, they discovered the files were missing when they went to bring out the folders from the cabinet.

Additional secretaries of the Administration and the Development unit and the personal secretary of the medical education division visited the spot immediately, according to the GD.

A team of the Crime Scene Unit of the Criminal Investigation Division of Police led by Kamuzzaman, special superintendent of police, visited the spot on the same day, according to ministry officials. They spoke to the officers and employees concerned.

Even after 48 hours of making the GD, neither the officials of the ministry nor the police could trace the persons involved.

The investigation could not begin in earnest because of the weekend, said Moudud Howladar, the officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station.

Police will visit the ministry today, he added.

Hossain could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts at the time of filing the report.



Dengue claims two more lives

At least two more dengue patients died while 152 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday of whom 44 are from outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).
With the new cases, a total of 5,312 were diagnosed during the running month out of a total 23,509 infected. Of the total infected, 3,372 are from outside Dhaka.
At least 7,841 were diagnosed in September, 7,698 were diagnosed in August, 2,286 patients were hospitalised in July, 272 in June while 43 were infected in May and the rest from January to April, according to the DGHS.
Ninety-one people have died of dengue in the country this year. Twelve people have died in July, 34 in August, 23 in September and 22 in October so far.
Among the deaths, 84 have died in Dhaka, two in Chattogram and Khulna and one each in Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Barisal.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ferry rescue not faring well

Unable to salvage it, BIWTA now considering to sell the vessel as cost of rescue outweighs scrap value; owners of sunken vehicles demand compensation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) is now considering selling the tilted Shah Amanat ferry, since the cost of the rescue operation may be higher than its value after rescue.
A BIWTA official, seeking anonymity, said they may sell the ferry -- that tipped over with 18 vehicles near Manikganj's Paturia terminal on Wednesday -- in auction, as hiring private rescue vessels, at a much higher cost, is now a possibility.
This is because the two BIWTA rescue vessels -- Hamza and Rustam -- weigh a combined 120 tonnes (both weighing 60 tonnes each), while the tilted ferry stands at 280 tonnes.

AT A GLANCE
Ferry tipped onto its side Wednesday
All 18 vehicles salvaged as of yesterday
Cost of ferry salvage may be higher than value after rescue
280-tonne ferry outweighs BIWTA rescue vessels
Private vessels may be required to pull it out
Owners of sunken vehicles demand compensation



BIWTA rescue vessel Rustam pulling a covered-van out of water. This was one of the four vehicles that were kept on the banks of Padma in a half-sunken state after primary rescue. Inset, owners of the 18 sunken vehicles staged a demo in the ghat area, demanding compensation and quick handover of their vehicles.

PHOTO: STAR

Talking to The Daily Star, operation lead BIWTA Director (Rescue) Fazlur Rahman said since they do not have the capacity to rescue the sunken ferry, they may have to hire private vessels to do it.
Zillur Rahman, deputy general manager (commerce)

of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation's Aricha regional office, said, "It all depends on the high officials. After rescuing the sunken vehicles, we will wait for their decision."
Meanwhile, all 18 of the sunken vehicles -- that includes trucks,

covered vans, and motorcycles -- have been pulled out of water as of yesterday night, said Fazlur.
On the fourth day of the rescue operation yesterday, the remaining three motorcycles and two covered vans were rescued by the BIWTA rescue vessel Hamza.

Meanwhile, another rescue vessel, Rustam, has completed rescuing four trucks and a covered van, all of which were kept in a half-sunken state on the banks of the Padma after primary rescue.
Firoj Kabir, OC of Shivalaya Police Station, said they are in the process of handing over the rescued vehicles to their owners.

OWNERS DEMAND COMPENSATION
Yesterday also saw owners of the 18 sunken vehicles form a human chain at the ghat area around noon, demanding compensation for the incident.

They urged the government and the prime minister to intervene in this regard, saying that they had to incur heavy losses due to BIWTA's failure to ensure safety of the ferry.
Harun-ur-Rashid, owner of two covered vans that sunk, said, "I bought the vans with my life savings. They are the prime source of income for my family. Why will we suffer due to BIWTA's errors?"
Shahid-uz-Zaman, owner of another sunken covered van, also demanded compensation for the damage, while asking for the police to handover their vehicles so that they can try to repair them.
However, as this seems unlikely, he said they might have to sell them as scraps.

Still unsure about number of dropped out students

Says Dipu Moni

UNB, Chandpur

The number of students who have dropped out during the school closure could not be ascertained yet, said Education Minister Dipu Moni yesterday.

"We're receiving assignments from over 90 percent of students. That means they've not dropped out. Many parents are still not sending their children to schools out of fear, and that is why the presence of students in schools is not 100 percent," she said.

The minister said this while speaking at a programme at Chandpur town's Shilpakala Academy, marking Community Policing Day.

The number of students in schools will increase if the Covid situation improves further. Schools will buzz with their presence yet again, she said.

During the closure of schools, many girl students were married off, she said. "We've instructed teachers to take steps to bring back those students to schools."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

From 'Kabuliwala' to the fall of Kabul

ULAB hosts two-day colloquium on Afghanistan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is crucial for neighbouring countries and global citizens to think about what the issues prevailing in Afghanistan represent and how the crisis there can be dealt with effectively.
Himadri Lahiri, professor of English at Netaji Subhas Open University (NSOU), India, made this observation yesterday in his keynote speech at the two-day international virtual colloquium titled "From 'Kabuliwala' to the Fall of Kabul: Afghanistan in Popular Imagination", organised by the Department of English and Humanities at University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).
The event began with three Afghan women from a refugee camp

in the United States sharing their experiences.
Samira Panahi spoke about her escape from Kabul while under the terrorising rule of the Taliban. "At one point," Samira recalls, "We heard bomb explosions in the area we had been waiting in only an hour ago."
Khadija Monis talked about how she ended up in different countries after the collapse of Kabul under the Taliban. She managed to extract letters from a number of women in the US refugee camp who tell a similar story of woe, of leaving their family, their children behind in Afghanistan. She shared the drastic measures the women of Kabul were being forced to take, like marrying men significantly older than them to escape rape and

torture in the hands of the Taliban.
Mina Mushtaq stated that she fled from her beloved country on August 28 as the daughter of an artist whose life remains at risk due to "his work, ethnicity, culture, and heredity." Reading from her father's letter, Mina conveyed, "The Taliban considers [it] [...] permissible to shed my blood and destroy my works."
Acting Vice Chancellor and Dean of School of Arts and Humanities at ULAB Prof Shamsad Mortuza, in his speech, said, "As a liberal arts-centric university, we do not want to confine ourselves to text alone... It is also important for us to humanise these accounts, like that of Tagore's 'Kabuliwala', the countless others that

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Star journos receive best reporting awards



Jamil Khan Rafiul Islam
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two journalists of The Daily Star got Best Reporting Award 2020 announced by Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association (CRAB) yesterday.

They were awarded in different categories. Mohammad Jamil Khan won the award for best investigative report

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Kaaoo kaaoo kah-ow!

RU zoology professor spots new species of owl on campus



PHOTO: SALEH REZA

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

On October 13, Rajshahi University's zoology department's Prof Aminuzzaman Md Saleh Reza went out on a morning walk on the campus.

This was supposed to be no different from his usual morning ritual, but upon hearing a peculiar bird-call, Prof Reza suddenly stumbled onto history-making territory.

The bird in question turned out to be a Jungle Owlet, a new species of owl spotted for the first time in the country.

"When I heard its call, I knew it sounded like nothing I've heard before," Prof Reza told The Daily Star yesterday.

He started tracing the source of the call, and discovered the caller sitting on a mango tree near Paris Road.

"It was a squat little owl with dense lines all over the body, lacking the false eyes on the back of the head possessed by many other species of owlets," he said.

The bird called in bursts of loud hollow trills, comparable to barbets, as well as a mellow "kaaoo-kaaoo-kah-ow!"

He went on to photograph it and

posted images on bird identification groups and listed for identification on bird watch databases.

Once bird researchers, formally known as ornithologists, saw the photos, they couldn't believe it. They asked the professor to provide more photographs and recordings of the bird's call.

Soon after, Prof Reza set out in search of the bird again. After finding it, he managed to record its call and by October 27, finished collecting all the required photographs.

Finally, the species was confirmed. Scientific name *Glaucidium radiatum*, the Jungle Owlet is a forest species, found in densely wooded areas, he told The Daily Star.

Reports of hearing its calls have circulated in the country since 1951, but there had been no documented sighting, until now.

The owlets are most active at dawn and dusk on the mango and Gogon Sirish trees on RU's Paris road, Prof Saleh Reza said. He believes they have been living in the area all along.

The sighting was confirmed by noted national and international

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

BNP can criticise govt because of democracy

Says Quader

Bss, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said BNP is still able to do politics in the country, as the ruling Awami League (AL) has the ability to tolerate it.

"That BNP can criticise the government in various ways shows that there's democracy in the country," he said.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, was speaking at a press conference in his residence.

"Awami League did not retaliate even after assassination of the Father of the Nation and his family members in 1975 and the August 21 grenade

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

It's anarchy everywhere

Claims Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam yesterday said anarchy has been prevailing in all sectors for lack of good governance in the country.

"Seventeen files have gone missing from the health ministry's Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, and a general diary has been filed with Shahbagh Police Station in this connection. This is the condition of the current governing system," he said.

The BNP leader remarked an extreme level of anarchy is present everywhere, not only in the health sector, as ruling party leaders' main goal is to make money.

Fakhrul made the remarks while



PHOTO: STAR

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Empower youth to fight climate change

Say speakers at roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sanowar, a youngster from Austomir Char of Kurigram's Chilmari upazila, had to move house over 12 times in the last 20 years, due to devastating floods and river erosion.

Sraboni Rakhaine, a young lady from Patuakhali's Rangabali island, said they did not have access to drinking water all the time. Most students of the island drop out of school due to frequent cyclones and other natural disasters.

Like Sanowar and Sraboni, many who are from five climate-vulnerable districts -- Khulna, Barguna, Patuakhali, Kurigram and Sunamganj -- shared their stories of how their lives have been affected by the impacts of climate change at a roundtable conference titled "Youth Engagement in Climate Action in Bangladesh".

The conference was held yesterday at national Bangla daily Prothom Alo's office and was organised by Local Government Initiative on Climate Change (LoGIC) Project, which is a joint collaborative initiative between the Bangladesh government, European Union, Sweden, United Nations Capital Development Fund and United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Abdul Qayyum, associate editor of Prothom Alo,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

'Dispose of cases quickly'

Law minister stresses need for Alternative Dispute Resolution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday stressed the need for the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to quickly dispose of cases.

If the ADR system -- in which cases are settled through compromise outside the court -- can be used successfully in the country, the backlog of cases will be reduced, he said.

As chief guest, he was addressing a seminar on "Covid-19's impact on dispute disposal in the virtual world", organised by Bangladesh International Arbitration Centre (BIAC) marking its 10th founding anniversary at a city hotel.

BIAC Chairman Mahbubur Rahman

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



A RISKY ENDEAVOUR... The end of every month marks a busy time for those shifting address inside the capital. Over the years, it has become something of a norm for movers to overload vehicles to carry household items from one location to another, while seating load-workers on top of them. This photo was taken from Manik Miah Avenue yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Informant stabbed dead

Police say he was killed for helping nab a drug peddler

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was stabbed to death for helping police arrest a drug peddler in Dhaka's Rampura area, said law enforcers.

Alamgir Hossain (32), a police informant, was stabbed in Boubazar area around 7:30pm on Friday, said police and relatives.

"He was rushed to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases. Later, he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead around 3:15 am today," said Sub-inspector Mohidul Islam of Rampura Police Station.

"The miscreants also cut two tendons of his legs," he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Four killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Four people were killed and another was injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday, according to reports from our correspondent and a news agency.

In Manikganj, two people died as an ambulance fell into a ditch beside Hemayetpur-Manikganj regional highway in Kalibari area, reports our local correspondent.

Fire service sources said the ambulance was carrying five people. It had started for Faridpur from Dhaka's Gabtoli bus terminal.

When the vehicle reached Kalibari around 3am, its driver lost his control over the steering, they said.

Identities of the deceased could not be confirmed immediately.

On information from locals, a team of Fire Service and Civil Defence rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies from inside the ambulance, said Golam Azad Khan, superintendent of police in Manikganj.

In Cumilla, at least two persons died and one was injured in a collision between a microbus and a lorry in Katherpull area under Chandina upazila, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Ibrahim, son of Abdul Malek from Bhatgaon village in Manoharganj upazila; and Towhidul Islam, son of Kamal Hossain from Laksham upazila.

Moynamoti Highway Police Station Officer-in-Charge

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



At Old Dhaka's Begumbazar Road, this particular spot was used for dumping waste, with two DSCC garbage bins set up for this. However, around a year ago, the city corporation changed plans and prohibited the practice, even putting up a banner for it. But they never removed the bins, and to no one's surprise, the spot is still heavily used for waste dumping. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Star journos receive

FROM PAGE 3 (print/online) -- Phensedyl Smuggling; Pouring in unchecked -- on narcotics while Rafiul Islam for best report (print/online) -- Case buried, hope too -- on human rights. Both of them also received crests and cheques for Tk 30,000 each. Eight journalists in eight categories

were awarded for their reports in 2020. Khurshid Hossain, additional inspector general of Bangladesh Police; Mustafa Khair, additional managing director at First Security Islami Bank Ltd; and Abdullah Zubair of Noman Group, who were present as special guests, handed over the awards at a programme at

Shilpakala Academy yesterday. The other awardees are Aynal Hossain of Sharebiz for investigative report (print/online), Sazzad Parvez and Imtiaz Momin Soni of Jamuna Television for investigative report (television/radio) and Sazzad Parvez of Jamuna Television for investigative report on narcotics

(television/radio), Sameer Kumar De of Ittefaq for best report on woman and child repression (print/online), Nadia Sharmeen of Ekattor TV for best report on woman and child repression (television/radio) and Shafiq Shahin of NTV for best report on human rights (television/radio).

11th founding anniversary of Industrial Police observed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The 11th founding anniversary of Industrial Police was observed yesterday.

On the occasion, a daylong programme was organised which started around 3pm at Dhaka Industrial Police-1 office at Sreepur in Ashulia, Savar.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan was chief guest at the programme, presided over by IGP Benazir Ahmed.

Industries Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun, State Minister for Disaster Management Enamur Rahman and Public Security Division senior secretary Kamal Uddin were present.

Informant

FROM PAGE 3

Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station, said, "A drug peddler named Limon, who was arrested based on Alamgir's information earlier, stabbed him to death. He was released from jail recently."

"We are trying to arrest him," he said. "The victim lived with his wife and two sons in Boubazar area and worked as a mason and auto-rickshaw driver, at times," said the OC.

Empower youth

FROM PAGE 3

moderated the roundtable conference.

Saila Farzana, joint secretary of local government division and national project director of LoGIC, said, "The government, non-government organisations and international donors must act together to unleash the infinite potentials of Bangladesh's massive youth population to mitigate the impacts of climate change."

"We must ensure that our pledge to involve our youths in fighting climate change does not remain confined to papers and promises," she added.

Charles Whiteley, head of delegations of the European Union to Bangladesh, said there is no way to flee from the impacts of climate change. Its effects on the lives of youths should be discussed by policymakers.

He said stories shared by Bangladesh's youths are similar to the experiences shared by Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg.

Van Nguyen, deputy resident representative at UNDP, said, "This discussion just prior to COP-26 is extremely impactful. More research and discussion should be done to reveal the impact of climate change on the lives of our youths."

According to Global Climate Risk Index 2021, Bangladesh is the seventh most climate change vulnerable country.

According to Bangladesh Climate Change Household Expenditure Survey, 82.6 percent people in climate change affected districts reported that they are being affected by at least one slow onset natural disaster. Households in these districts on average spend Tk 10,822 to take at least one protective measure against natural disasters.

Kaaoo kaaoo kah-ow!

FROM PAGE 3

ornithologists, including Prof Monirul H Khan of Jahangirnagar University, and Paul Thompson and Sayam U Chowdhury of Birds Bangladesh.

They said its discovery shows Bangladesh's richness of biodiversity and necessitates the protection of the country's nature and environment.

Talking to The Daily Star, Prof Reza said the country has some 18 species of owls, among a total of 250 species across the globe.

On RU campus alone, six varieties of owls have built their habitat, which now goes up to seven with the welcome addition of the new species.

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Dispose of
FROM PAGE 3 moderated the seminar where former attorney general and former adviser to a caretaker government AF Hasan Arif, and former judge of the Supreme Court Justice AFM Abdur Rahman also spoke.

From 'Kabuliwala'
FROM PAGE 3 we come across in contemporary media, and the three women who have just shared their own narratives."

It's anarchy everywhere
FROM PAGE 3 launching a book on former Dhaka University VC Dr Anwarullah Chowdhury at a hotel in the capital.

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The law minister said the government had formulated the Arbitration Act, 2001 in order to settle the cases outside the court through compromise. Besides, the government has incorporated the ADR rules in several laws in recent years, he said. He also said the government is considering to include appropriate rules in all government agreements for arbitration and mediation of all commercial disputes.

Prof Imran Rahman, special advisor to ULAB's trustee board, said, "Empathy is an integral part of nation-building. It is important for our students to extend a hand to our Afghan sisters now." Claire Chambers, professor of global literatures at the University of York, also shared her thoughts on Afghanistan in the plenary session, wherein she discussed works of British journalist Yvonne Ridley, who was captured by the Taliban in 2001, and Dutch journalist Bette Dam, who lived and worked in Afghanistan for four years. Among other sessions, the first day ended with a round-table discussion, led by critic, academic and translator Prof Niaz Zaman, and Prof Lahiri. The session was moderated by Prof Sabiha Huq of Khulna University. Dr Khan Touseef Osman, research fellow at the department, was the colloquium's convener. The colloquium will reconvene today to showcase winners of a creative contest and with sessions on Afghanistan's art and heritage, feminist discourse in the country, and more. Speakers will include Professor of English Lilly Want of Islamic University of Science and Technology, Kashmir, and professors Fakrul Alam, Syed Manzoorul Islam, Afzar Hussain, and Sohana Manzoor.

Fakhrul said when people were dying and going through a horrible time due to the pandemic, the ruling party men and government employees were busy making a quick buck. "Even, a driver of the health directorate's DG owns Tk 400 crore," he said. The BNP leader said a Rajshahi University VC appointed 169 people in one night to make money. "It's very difficult to expect anything good from the current society we've built," he added. He said the government does not give

adequate allocation for developing the education sector, as its main intention is to indulge in corruption by taking mega projects. Fakhrul opined that DU students now fail to uphold the long tradition of the country's premier educational institution, as they hardly raise their voice against misdeeds and injustice. He, however, urged all not to get disappointed, as he believes a positive change will surely come. "The big question in the public's mind is when will the change actually come, and when will we get out of this suffocating situation? We must overcome this situation as the country's people have never been defeated," the BNP leader observed.

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BNP can criticise
FROM PAGE 3 attack on Sheikh Hasina," he said. "BNP has no solid ground to stand on because of its negative and conspiratorial politics... They are isolated from the grassroots," said Quader. They tried to uproot democracy and democratic values from the constitution," he added. "Sheikh Hasina brought back democracy by overcoming many obstacles. On the other hand, BNP created obstacles in the development of democracy through their undemocratic behaviour and politics of conspiracy," added the Awami League leader. "If BNP had played a responsible role as an opposition party, it would not have taken long for democracy to be institutionalised," he said. Quader also remarked that BNP is now instigating communal forces against the country and the government, after it had failed in its movements and elections.

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e-Tender Notice
e-Tender are invited in the National e-GP System Portal <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> for the works.

Sl. Nos.	Tender ID No. & tender reference	Name of works	Tender publishing date & time in e-GP	Last date & time of tender selling	Last date & time of tender security submission	Date & time of tender closing
01	621350, E&P/Capex-19F-39/P-110/21-22	Construction of three-storied Office Building, Godown and Rest House at Natore Depot of Padma Oil Company Limited	27-Oct-2021 at 09:00hrs	22-Nov-2021 at 11:00hrs	22-Nov-2021 at 11:00hrs	22-Nov-2021 at 14:00hrs
02	607721, E&P/Capex-19F-35/P-107/21-22	Construction of Retaining Wall at Jhalakathi Depot of Padma Oil Company Limited	27-Oct-2021 at 10:00hrs	28-Nov-2021 at 14:00hrs	29-Nov-2021 at 12:00hrs	29-Nov-2021 at 14:00hrs

Those are online tenders, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (as above) is required.
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DGM (Engineering & Planning)
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গাড়ী ক্রয়ের জন্য আগ্রহী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানকে তাদের দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত অঙ্কের ৫% টাকা জামানত হিসাবে (ফেরৎ যোগ্য) সিনজেন্টা বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড এর অনুকূলে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার হিসাবে জমা দিয়ে আবেদন করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

গাড়ী পরিদর্শনের তারিখ ও স্থান: ০১ নভেম্বর ২০২১ইং থেকে ০৮ নভেম্বর ২০২১ইং তারিখ প্রতি দিন সকাল ৯টা হতে বিকাল ৫টা পর্যন্ত নিম্নলিখিত ঠিকানায় দেখা যাবে।

সিনজেন্টা বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড, গ্রীন রওশন আরা টাওয়ার, ৫ম তলা, ৭৫৫ সাতমসজিদ রোড, ধানমন্ডি বা/এ, ঢাকা-১২০৫, ফোন: ৪৮১১৯৯১১-৩

দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ: ০৯ নভেম্বর ২০২১ইং

নতুন ভ্যাকু আইনে দরপত্রে অঙ্কের উপর (VAT 7.5% + TDS 5% = 12.5%) অংশগ্রহণকারী ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান বহণ করবে।

বিজয়ী দরদাতার নাম ১৮ নভেম্বর ২০২১ইং দুপুর ২ ঘটিকার মধ্যে অফিস নোটিশ বোর্ডে প্রকাশ করা হবে। বিজয়ী দরদাতাকে নোটিশে উল্লেখিত তারিখের মধ্যে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার-এর মাধ্যমে অর্থ পরিশোধ করার পর যাবতীয় কাগজপত্র সহ গাড়ী বুঝিয়ে দেয়া হবে।

সিনজেন্টা বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন অথবা সমস্ত দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।

Still unsure
FROM PAGE 3 After nearly 17 months, primary, secondary and higher secondary schools in Bangladesh reopened on September 11.

The government shut the educational institutions on March 17, 2020, and later the closure was extended several times.

The pandemic-related school closure affected about 38 million students, although the government introduced TV-based learning programmes for them.

The 17-monthlong closure, termed the second longest Covid-triggered school closure in the world by Unicef, had multiple spillover effects in Bangladesh.

The increasing rate of school dropouts and child marriage top the list.

Four killed
FROM PAGE 3 Belal Uddin Jahangir said the accident occurred when the microbus hit the lorry from behind after its driver lost control over the vehicle. The two persons died on the spot and the injured is being treated at Cumilla Medical College Hospital, he added.

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়: প্যানেল আয়কর উপদেষ্টা তালিকায় নাম নিবন্ধনের আত্ম ব্যক্তকরণ (EOI) বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স লিমিটেড, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা কর্তৃক দায়েরকৃত বিভিন্ন পর্যায়ে চলমান আয়কর সংক্রান্ত মামলা সমূহ পরিচালনা, নতুন আয়কর সংক্রান্ত মামলা দায়ের, বাৎসরিক আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল এবং আয়কর সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে প্রয়োজনীয় আইনী পরামর্শ/ মতামত প্রদানের নিমিত্তে, আয়কর উপদেষ্টা প্যানেল গঠন করা হচ্ছে। উক্ত প্যানেলে নাম নিবন্ধনের লক্ষ্যে নিম্নে বর্ণিত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন আয়কর আইনজীবী (বাজি/ফার্ম)/সিএফআর এর নিম্নকৃত আয়কর (EOI) আবেদন করা যাচ্ছে।

যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা:

- বাজি ক্ষেত্রে বাংলাদেশ বার কাউন্সিল-এর সদস্য হতে হবে এবং উক্ত সদস্যের মেয়াদ ১০ বছর (বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ) পূর্ণ হতে হবে। "ইনকাম ট্যাক্স প্রাকটিশনার" সদস্যদ্বারা ক্ষেত্রে সদস্যের মেয়াদ ১৫ বছর (বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ) পূর্ণ হতে হবে।
- বৃহৎ করদাতা ইউনিট (এলাইটিউ)-কর, ঢাকায় আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল ও কর কমিশনার (আপীল) এবং ট্যাকসেস আপীলাত ট্রাইব্যুনাল-এ আপীল মামলা দায়ের ও দায়েরকৃত আপীল মামলা পরিচালনায় পারদর্শী এবং এতদসংক্রান্ত কাজে ৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে।
- ঢাকা ট্যাকসেস বার এসোসিয়েশন এর সদস্য হতে হবে।
- রাষ্ট্রমালিকানাধীন কোম্পানীর আয়কর মামলার অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্নদের আধিকার দেয়া হবে।

অন্যান্য বিষয়াদি:

- আগ্রহী ফার্মের পার্টনার/প্রাধীকে বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক হতে হবে। আইসিএবি/বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক/বার কাউন্সিল হতে দস্তাভাগ আবেদনের যোগ্য বিবেচিত হবেন।
- আয়কর উপদেষ্টা থাকাকালীন সময়ে কর্মসিদ্ধকরের কোন বিষয়ে প্রতিপক্ষকে মতামত প্রদান কিংবা প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিরুদ্ধে কোন আদালতে মামলা পরিচালনা করতে পারবেন না।
- আয়কর উপদেষ্টার জন্য প্রণীত কার্য-পরিধি ও শর্তাবলী অনুযায়ী কার্যক্রম সম্পাদন করতে হবে।
- আগ্রহী সিএফআর/আইনজীবীগণকে তাদের পারিশ্রমিকের পরিমাণ উল্লেখপূর্ক শিখাগত পেশাগত যোগ্যতা এবং অভিজ্ঞতার প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্রসহ উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক, কেন্দ্রীয় হিসাব, বিমান বাংলাদেশ এয়ারলাইন্স লিমিটেড, প্রধান কার্যালয়, বঙ্গালাকান, বৃগ্গিটোলা, ঢাকা-১২২৯, e-mail: dgmca@bdbiman.com এর বরাবরে সরাসরি/ডাকযোগে/ই-মেইল মাধ্যমে আত্ম ব্যক্তকরণ (EOI) দাখিল করতে হবে। অন্য কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে নিয়োজিত থাকলে তার বিবরণ উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে ১৫ (পনের) দিনের মধ্যে আত্মব্যক্তকরণ লৌহাভ হতে। নির্ধারিত সময় পরে প্রাপ্ত কিংবা অনসূচকৃত/অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- প্রাথমিকভাবে আয়কর উপদেষ্টার নিবন্ধনের মেয়াদ হতে ০৩ (তিন) বছর, যা উভয়ের সম্মতিতে পরবর্তীতে বৃদ্ধি করা যাবে।

GD-1952



A makeshift bamboo bridge built by villagers over a damaged concrete bridge in Char Gaytapara of Kurigram's Roumari upazila.

PHOTO: S DILLIP ROY

Roumari staggers on bamboo bridges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Thousands of residents in Kurigram's Roumari upazila have been building and maintaining around fifty bamboo bridges for years. But their repeated pleas for safer and permanent bridges over rivers and canals crisscrossing the upazila -- on the floodplain of the Brahmaputra river -- fell on deaf ears. When the nation has been enjoying benefits of the country's steady economic progress in recent years, the agricultural community in the upazila are facing difficulties in swift transport of their goods and produce on the risky bamboo bridges, said locals. Besides, the rickety bridges pose risk to young children, the elderly and patients who are unable to

There are 14 bamboo bridges in Dantbhanga union alone, but the union parishad (UP) has no fund for such work, local UP Chairman Shamsul Haque said.

cross the bridges on foot, they also said. Jamal Uddin, an elderly resident of Harindhara village in the upazila, said public representatives had only made promises, but the inhabitants of the village had to bear the construction and repair expenses of the bamboo bridge on Harindhara canal in the village over the last 15 years. The bamboo bridge, made long

time ago by Dharmapur village residents, need costly repairs every year and it gets hazardous during the wet season, but their repeated calls to the authorities for a concrete bridge so far produced no result, said village elder Nabir Hossain. Residents of Char Gaytapara had been pleading for a concrete bridge to replace the bamboo bridge they made 17 years ago, said villager Mansur Uddin. There are 14 bamboo bridges in Dantbhanga union alone, but the union parishad (UP) has no fund for such work, said UP Chairman Shamsul Haque. On multiple occasions, he requested the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) to replace those with concrete ones, but to no avail, the chairman added.

Contacted, Sub-assistant Engineer Mezbah-ul-Alam of LGED in Roumari said bridges between the length of 20 and 600 metres are built by the LGED while the smaller ones are done under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. He also said that the LGED, under its plan to construct 31 concrete bridges in the upazila, has already floated tender for six. Azizur Rahman, implementation officer for Roumari, said site inspection for smaller bridges had been conducted and they now await fund allocation from the higher authorities. All the bamboo bridges in Roumari will be replaced with concrete bridges soon, assured Roumari Upazila Parishad Chairman Sheikh Abdullah.

Pest attacks worry Aman farmers in C'nawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Pest attack on Aman paddy fields in the district poses threat to the farmers' hope for a good yield of Aman this season. Farmers are worried that they may not get the expected production this year with just two weeks remaining before the ripening of the crop. However, the officials of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) said that the situation is not so alarming and the targeted production will be achieved. In the district, a total of 52,840 hectares of land was brought under Aman cultivation this year with a target to produce 2 lakh and 5 thousand tonnes of rice. Farmers were awaiting a bumper yield as they could make good use of this year's favourable weather, planted saplings and used fertilizer in time. But at the time when the ear of paddy is expected to come out, standing paddy plants have started turning yellowish, farmers said. Following the colour change, the affected paddy leaves are drying up. A pest called Brown Plant Hopper (BPH), locally known as 'current poka', is causing damage to the crops as it sucks the fluid of the stems, making the plants yellowish, they said. They sprayed pesticides but could do very

Shafiqul Islam of Jhinaipukur village in Nachole upazila said that he planted Aman on his 17 bighas of land. The paddy fields are turning yellowish because of the attack of Brown Plant Hopper, he said. Wahed Ali of Laxmipur village of the same upazila said, he sprayed insecticides on the field but that did not help. The pest first attacks the branches causing them to dry up slowly. He planted Aman on his 15 bighas. He said that the weather was favourable but the pest attack came as a bolt from the blue and it dashed his hopes. "I spent TK 8,000 per bigha and was expecting to get around 22 maunds of paddy per bigha but now I will get only 12 to 15 maunds per bigha because of the pest attack," he also said. They said that almost all the farmers in the two villages have been affected by the pest attack. "Less rainfall this year is the reason behind the pest attack," said farmer Ruhul Amin of Dhingar village in Sadar upazila, adding that four of his ten bighas of Aman fields have borne the brunt of the pest attack. Mohammad Nazrul Islam, deputy director of DAE, Chapainawabganj said, "We have worked in the field to advise farmers on



Aman farmers in Chapainawabganj are worried as they apprehend the expected production will not be achieved this season due to the attacks of Brown Plant Hopper (BPH). The photo was taken from Jhinaipukur village in Nachole upazila. PHOTO: STAR

little to save their paddy fields, said the farmers. Visiting Jhinaipukur and Laxmipur villages of Nachole upazila and Amnura, Bhabuk and Dhinagar village of Sadar upazila in the district recently, it was seen that many paddy fields in the areas have been partially damaged by the pest attack.

how to save their crop from pests. We have also circulated leaflets among the farmers to create awareness." He added that only a few areas of Aman paddy fields have been affected by the pest but the production target will be fulfilled this year.

NEWS

The 'dance club' racket

FROM PAGE 1

Headquarters in Mirpur that the traffickers used to take the victims to bordering areas in Chudanga, Debhat in Satkhira, Benapole in Jashore, Dohogram in Lalmonirhat, Bostabor in Joypurhat, Pashchim Shilua in Moulvibazar, and Jaliapara and Golabari in Teknaf.

One group used to pose as a dance club and the other as agents for jobs in the Middle East. Officers seized 53 passports, 20 mobile phones, liquor and various travel documents during the raids.

The arrested suspects who ran a dance club are, Kamrul Islam alias Jalil alias DJ Kamrul alias Dance Kamrul, Ripon Molla, Asaduzzaman Selim, and Naimur Rahman Shamim.

The ones who posed as recruitment agents are ringleader Nur Nabi Bhuiyan Rana and his cohorts Abul Bashar, Al Imran, Moniruzzaman, Shahid Shikder, Promod Chandra Das and Tokon.

The garment factory worker's father said his daughter was introduced to Kamrul two months ago in Badda.

"She told us that there would be a dance programme in Rangpur. In her last call, she blamed DJ Kamrul, saying he was about to traffic her to India," the grieving father said.

Rab officers said there were 15-20 members in the DJ Kamrul Dance Kingdom which is in Hatirjheel area of the capital. Kamrul, who works as a dancer in Bangla films, and the members have trafficked nearly 100 women to India since 2019.

The gang used to pick victims from different districts by promising them dance lessons that would get them jobs in India. But the girls were eventually sold for large sums of money to traffickers in India who also forged the travel documents, Commander Moin said.

25 hurt in pre-polls violence

FROM PAGE 12

Halim, however, alleged that Sohrab, also the incumbent chairman of Shuapur Union Parishad, and his followers attacked them when they were carrying out an election campaign in Shuapur Bazar.

He claimed at least 15 of his father's supporters were injured in the attack.

Nirmal Kumar Das, officer-in-charge (operation) of Dhamrai Police Station, said police rushed to the spot upon receiving information and brought the situation under control.

He said they would investigate the incident.

Ayesha Akter, election officer of Dhamrai upazila, said she heard about the incident, but was yet to receive any written complaint.

The Daily Star could not reach Sohrab over the phone for comments as he did not receive calls.

In Kushtia's Mirpur, the clash took place in Ektarpur village of Baruipara union around 9:30pm on Friday. The incident left

One of the victims, a 19-year-old college student, present at the Rab-4 office said she met Kamrul on Facebook and visited his club in Hatirjheel because she was looking for dance lessons.

"Kamrul then told me, 'If you go abroad, you will get a better future'. I was hesitant at first, but he convinced me.

"He gave me the number of a man named Shaimim who lives in Chudanga and said that he will 'manage' everything to send me to India."

Shamim had a den, known in trafficking circles as a safe-house, near the border in Chudanga.

Officers rescued her last week from the border area in Chudanga when she was being trafficked.

DJ Kamrul came to Dhaka from his village home in Cumilla in 2001 to make a living.

After trying different things, he started DJ Kamrul Dance Kingdom in 2019. In April 2019, he was arrested by Badda police for trafficking a woman to India and was in jail for three months, the Rab commander added.

Ripon, another arrestee, used to maintain contacts with traffickers in India and send the women's photos to them. If the latter showed interest, the women got trafficked, Moin said.

Selim, the other arrestee, used to assist Kamrul in trafficking.

The gang posing as recruitment agents trafficked young women to Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and Egypt. It worked for traffickers located in those countries.

The gang members got hold of the victims by promising them training. "This racket trafficked 30-35 women in the last one year. They also sold the victims."

at least 10 people injured.

Mirpur Police Station OC Golam Mostafa said the clash ensued between supporters of JSD chairman candidate Saidur Rahman and AL nominee Shafiqul Islam Montu during electioneering.

He said supporters of both the chairman hopefuls beat their rivals with wooden sticks. Several motorcycles were vandalised during the incident.

A case was filed with the police station accusing over 100 unidentified people over the incident, the OC added.

Saidur is the incumbent chairman of Baruipara Union Parishad.

AL candidate Shafiqul claimed 10 of his followers were injured in the incident.

JSD nominee Saidur alleged that AL men carried out the attack on his supporters and later filed the case.

He said his supporters could not conduct election campaigns after the incident.

The second phase of the UP elections is scheduled to be held in 848 unions on November 11.

Walking

FROM PAGE 12

state doesn't give preference to a particular religion.

"But we have not practiced this thought. It was an utter failure of the state... Leading political parties should be blamed for this," he said.

Rana Dasgupta, general secretary of Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikyo Parishad, blamed what he said was a culture of impunity for the recurrence of communal attacks.

"It will not take many years for Bangladesh to resemble the Taliban-led Afghanistan if the number of minorities gradually decreases and diversities disappear," he warned.

Columnist Abul Momen said, "We have formed a state, but have not been able to transform the society... We need a social movement to change this society. We also need a cultural awakening."

Ali Riaz, distinguished professor of political science at Illinois State University, said an intolerant environment has already been created in the society where dissent voices are suppressed.

Religion becomes an important factor when the dominant class and the ruling class face a moral crisis. Ziaur Rahman changed the constitution and Ershad made Islam the state religion when they did not have moral legitimacy, he said.

Bishop Bejoy Nicephorus D'Cruze, the Archbishop of Dhaka, said communalism rises in the absence of secularism.

People who are the majority become arrogant and it turns into a disease. This hurts the minorities.

Truth, goodness, peace, equity, doing good for others, and honouring others are some aspects of the universal side of all religions, he said.

Naripokkha Executive Member Rina Roy said people of the minority communities are living in fear of attacks.

Ahrar Ahmad, executive director of Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation, said, "We left Pakistan, a religion-based state, through the liberation war. It was clear. But communalism has become a complex issue."

I am sitting on the top

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On the same day, Indira Gandhi addressed a meeting organised by the Indian League in London. She said, "I feel that I am sitting on the top of a volcano and I honestly do not know when it is going to erupt. So the question is not of how restrained we are today, but of what will happen across the border."

"We think this is the responsibility of the international community to see that a way out is found. Obviously, the best way, the most humane way, is to have a political settlement and that political settlement can only be with the elected leader of the people of Bangladesh, and with the elected and accepted representatives of that country," she added.

A letter calling on India to recognise Bangladesh was handed to Indira Gandhi. The letter was from the Action Committee for the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh in the United Kingdom.

INSIDE BANGLADESH
The Sunday Times today published a report which they claimed they obtained from East Pakistan. They didn't disclose the name of the author of the report. The report informed that an estimated 800 Mukti Bahini operating in Dhaka launched a series of daylight bomb attacks on public buildings, forcing the Pakistan Army into tight defensive positions in the city. "On October 19," the report continued "a bomb explosion at 10:57am outside the Habib

FM must withdraw 'untrue'

FROM PAGE 12

said that such undesirable, unacceptable and reprehensible remarks irked the Hindu community.

It will deliver a wrong message to the people that might harm the government both at home and abroad, they said.

Earlier, in the afternoon, Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council's Noakhali unit organised a press conference in the district and demanded the minister to revoke his message.

In the message, the Foreign Minister said that some "enthusiastic" media outlets and individuals were spreading cooked-up stories about deaths and rapes of members of religious minorities.

He said that six people died during the recent religious violence including four Muslims. "Two Hindus died -- one was a normal death while the other died by drowning."

Two killed as forces fire

FROM PAGE 12

protesters carrying Sudanese flags chanted in Khartoum.

Despite bloodshed throughout the week, organisers on Saturday aimed to stage a "million-strong" march against the military's power grab, similar to mass protests that led to the toppling of autocrat

Bank building in Motijheel, the city's main business centre, killed five people, injured 13 others and wrecked seven cars, one taxi and two cycle-rickshaws. Next day, another bomb exploded on the fourth-floor of the State Bank building down the road. No one was killed but the explosion rocked the building, which also houses the local offices of the World Bank.

"For its part, the Pakistan Army has considerably strengthened security measures in the city, particularly in and around Dacca Airport. These are as much a precaution against guerrilla activities as against the threat of war with India," added the report.

ON THE WAR FRONT
In the Dhaka-Cumilla-Chittagong sector, freedom fighters today ambushed the Pak troops in Bijoypur area and killed 13 Pak soldiers and injured 20. In that operation one freedom fighter lost his life and another one was wounded.

The freedom fighters today captured 12 Razakars with 9 rifles in Shahgam area in the Rangpur-Dinajpur-Rajshahi sector.

NEW TAXES IN KERALA TO MEET BANGLADESH SITUATION
The chief minister of Kerala, Achutha Menon, said today that the State Government proposed to levy additional taxes to meet the situation precipitated by the Bangladesh problem. Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

The minister also said, "No one was raped and not a single Mandir was torched or destroyed. However, a couple of [idols of] deities or Goddesses were vandalised."

The spate of atrocities on the Hindus started on October 13 in Cumilla after word spread that the "Holy Quran was demeaned."

Subsequently, in phases, the violence spread to other districts including Chandpur, Noakhali, Kishoreganj, Chattogram, Feni and Rangpur.

Attacks were launched on at least 70 Hindu temples across the country, while at least six people have died as a result of the violence, according to Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council.

In continuation of the communal attacks, an idol of Hindu Goddess Kali was vandalised by unidentified criminals at a temple in Bogura's Dhunat upazila on early Saturday night.

Omar al-Bashir in 2019.

The growing demonstrations occurred throughout the Khartoum area including in Omdurman and Khartoum-North, while in the Red Sea city of Port Sudan protesters in their hundreds blocked a street, according to witnesses and AFP correspondents.

Nasa probe

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primarily of hydrogen and helium, with traces of other gases. Stripes and a few storms like the Great Red Spot dominate the colorful appearance of Jupiter, the fifth planet from the sun with a diameter of about 88,850 miles (143,000 km).

The Great Red Spot is a storm roughly 10,000 miles (16,000 km) wide churning in Jupiter's southern hemisphere, boasting crimson-colored clouds that spin counterclockwise at high speeds. It is one of the marvels of the solar system and has been in existence for centuries, but scientists until now have had little understanding of what lies below its surface.

"From a scientific point of view, it's puzzling how the storm can last so long and be so big," said Scott Bolton, principal investigator of the Juno mission at the Southwest Research Institute in Texas and lead author on one of two Jupiter studies published in the journal Science on Thursday.

"It is wide enough to swallow the Earth," added Marzia Parisi, a Juno scientist from Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California and lead author of the second study.

3 found

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bodies on information. The bodies were covered in blood.

The critically injured three-year-old child was recovered from the house and rushed to Tangail General Hospital for treatment, he added.

A knife, a shallow machine's handle, a sly range and an iron rod were recovered from the house, the ASP further said, adding that all the bodies had injury marks.

Sarkar Mohammad Kaiser, superintendent of Tangail police, said the law enforcement agencies collected evidence from the spot and that they already started investigating the case.

COP26 IN GLASGOW

STICKING POINTS

Representatives from nearly 200 countries will meet in Glasgow, Scotland, from Oct. 31-Nov. 12 for climate talks to strengthen action to tackle global warming under the 2015 Paris Agreement. The actions of governments at this conference will determine whether it is a success. Here are some of the issues which need to be resolved:

EMISSIONS CUT PLEDGES: Six years ago in Paris, countries agreed to cut greenhouse gas emissions to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius and ideally 1.5C (2.7 Fahrenheit). To do this, emissions need to be cut in half by 2030 and reach net-zero by around mid-century. The annual "emissions gap" report by the United Nations' Environment Programme (UNEP), which measures the gap between anticipated emissions and those consistent with limiting the temperature rise this century as agreed in the Paris accord, said updated pledges only reduce forecast 2030 emissions by an additional 7.5%, compared to the previous commitments. If continued throughout this century, this would lead to warming of 2.7C, slightly less than the 3C UNEP forecast in its last report.

FINANCE: As far back as 2009, developed countries agreed to raise \$100 billion a year by 2020 to help developing countries deal with the impacts of climate change. But a plan on how to do so, prepared by Canada and Germany ahead of the United Nations COP26 summit in Scotland, said the annual target would now not be met until 2023. As rich nations are not meeting the \$100 billion a year goal, it can break down trust at the climate talks, experts say.

LOSS AND DAMAGE: Governments agreed to address the impact of climate change on developing countries but there is no detail about liability or compensation, a bone of contention for many poorer countries. A platform to enable technical assistance for vulnerable countries was established in 2019 but developing nations want a more robust mechanism to include financing.

FOSSIL FUELS: The UK COP26 president, Alok Sharma, has said he wants this conference to be the one where coal power is consigned to history. The UN has called for phasing out coal by 2030 in OECD countries but environment ministers from the Group of 20 big economies have failed to agree a timeline.

ARTICLE 6: Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which covers the role of carbon markets, has not been resolved since the pact was struck. Progress on it broke down at the last talks in 2019. The article calls for "robust accounting" to avoid "double counting" of emissions reductions. It also aims to establish a central UN mechanism to trade carbon credits from emissions reductions generated from low-carbon projects.

SOURCE: REUTERS



Climate activists from 'Fridays for Future' take part in a protest against the G20 of World Leaders Summit in Rome, yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

'Serious risk' that COP26 will fail

UN chief warns G20 ahead of climate talks, urges them to set aside 'mutual mistrust'

AGENCIES

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on G20 leaders to come together to deliver solutions on climate change and the global coronavirus pandemic before a global summit on climate change.

Speaking in Rome on the eve of the Group of 20 summit, the UN chief called on nations to overcome "dangerous levels of mistrust" to avoid a "climate catastrophe" as well as narrow an "immoral gap" on global vaccine distribution. "We see dangerous levels of mistrust among the big powers," Guterres said on Friday, labelling that an obstacle to the "massive mobilisation of political will" needed to successfully deal with the most pressing issues.

The two-day forum for international economic cooperation will bring together representatives of the world's leading economies, who together account for 80 percent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP), paving the way for the UN Climate Change Conference, or COP26,

We see dangerous levels of mistrust among the big powers. Let's be clear — there is a serious risk that Glasgow will not deliver.

UN Chief ANTONIO GUTERRES

which begins on Sunday in Glasgow, Scotland, and will last for 12 days.

"Let's be clear — there is a serious risk that Glasgow will not deliver," the UN chief warned.

Guterres called on the G20 to make good on commitments to provide \$100bn each year to developing countries for climate finance and to revise their current commitments, which "still condemn the world to a calamitous 2.7-degree [Celsius] increase" in global temperatures. "The most important objective of this G20

summit must be to re-establish trust — by tackling the main sources of mistrust — rooted in injustices, inequalities and geopolitical divisions," he said.

Answering reporters' questions, Guterres acknowledged that emissions-reducing efforts by China and Russia, whose leaders will not be attending the G20 in person, were crucial to successfully tackling global warming and other climate problems.

He also slammed the geopolitical divides hampering a global vaccination plan against Covid-19.

"The recovery is amplifying inequalities. This is immoral," Guterres said, urging the G20 nations to do more on easing debt for developing countries.

A senior UN source, who spoke to Bays on condition of anonymity, said pre-summit negotiations had been extremely difficult — especially on the issue of climate — leaving the UN chief sounding increasingly pessimistic.

MORE NEWS

Modi invites Pope to India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday asked Pope Francis to visit India, a significant opening towards the head of the Catholic Church who has long sought an official invitation to the Hindu-majority country. Modi, 71, invited Francis during a meeting at the Vatican on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Rome. The pope, 84, has been on record saying that he wants to visit India. The Vatican had even drafted a schedule for a papal trip several years ago, according to religious news website Crux. The last papal visit to India was made by Pope John Paul II in 1999.

Gitmo detainee sentenced after detailing CIA torture

A Pakistani held at the US military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba told a sentencing jury how he was raped, beaten and waterboarded by CIA interrogators in the first-ever public account of torture by someone detained in the wake of the September 11 attacks. Majid Khan was sentenced to 26 years in prison by the jury Friday afternoon after he pleaded guilty to helping in al-Qaeda plots in 2002, according to a spokesman for the military commissions at Guantanamo. Based on an earlier plea deal, he could be freed as early as next year, after spending 19 years in US custody.

US targets Iran's drone program with sanctions

The US Treasury hit Iran's drone program with sanctions on Friday, boosting pressure on Tehran ahead of the reopening of negotiations on the country's nuclear program. The Treasury said lethal unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps have been used to attack US forces and international shipping in the Gulf region. The drones have also been supplied to Hezbollah, Hamas, and Yemen's Houthis, and have additionally been seen in Ethiopia, "where the escalating crisis threatens to destabilize the broader region," the Treasury said.

US FDA okays first Covid shot for young kids

The US Food and Drug Administration on Friday authorized the Pfizer Inc and BioNTech SE coronavirus vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 years, making it the first Covid-19 shot for young children in the United States. The shot will not be immediately available to the age group. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention still needs to advise on how the shot should be administered, which will be decided after a group of outside advisers discuss the plan on Tuesday.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

Quotes of the day



“What happened was, to use an English phrase, what we did was clumsy, it was not done with a lot of grace. I was under the impression that France had been informed ...”

JOE BIDEN TELLS MACRON OVER SUBMARINE DEAL ROW



“What really matters now is what we will do together in the coming weeks, the coming months, the coming years. Trust is like love: Declarations are good, but proof is better.”

FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON TELLS BIDEN



“I spoke to Her Majesty and she's on very good form. She's just got to follow the advice of her doctors and get some rest.”

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON ON QUEEN ELIZABETH II'S HEALTH



Afghan nationals residing in India and supporters of Afghan Refugee Women's Association hold banners and placards and shout slogans during a demonstration held in New Delhi yesterday demanding better rights for women in Afghanistan. PHOTO: AFP

CRITICISM OF YEMEN INTERVENTION

Saudi-Lebanon rift widens

Kuwait, Bahrain expel Lebanese ambassadors

REUTERS, Beirut

Lebanon's government cannot afford to resign over a growing diplomatic crisis with Saudi Arabia and some Gulf states, a member of a Lebanese crisis group of ministers said on Saturday following a near three-hour meeting over the widening rift.

"The country cannot be left without a government," due to other pressing matters, and would continue to work to resolve the rift, Education Minister Abbas Halabi said after the meeting.

The row over critical comments made by Lebanese Information Minister George Kordahi about the Saudi-led military intervention in Yemen had spurred calls by some top politicians for Kordahi's resignation, while others opposed the move.

Saudi Arabia expelled Lebanon's envoy and banned all Lebanese imports on Friday, and Bahrain and Kuwait followed suit, giving the top Lebanese diplomats 48 hours to exit.

Kordahi's resignation would have knock-on effects that could threaten Prime Minister Najib Mikati's coalition government.

But Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib said Mikati's contacts with officials from a number of states showed opposition to the resignation of the government, formed only last month after a 13-month stalemate.

"They told Mikati, 'if you are thinking about resignation, take that out of your head,'" he said.

Richard Michaels, deputy head of the US mission in Lebanon, had joined the crisis meeting in Beirut, a US Embassy spokesperson said.

Mikati had asked Kordahi on Friday to consider Lebanon's "national interests" but stopped short of asking for his resignation.

Kordahi has been publicly backed by the Iran-backed Hezbollah armed group and has declined to apologise or resign over the comments, which have dealt the worst blow to Saudi-Lebanese relations since Saad al-Hariri's 2017 detention in Riyadh.

The minister's political patron, Suleiman Frangieh of the Hezbollah-allied Marada Movement, told a news conference he had refused an offer by Kordahi to resign and would not name a successor to him should he do so.

Yet a group of former Lebanese prime ministers yesterday called for Kordahi to resign, saying his comments had inflicted a strong blow to relations with Gulf Arab nations.

If Kordahi resigns, ministers backed by Hezbollah and its Amal ally could follow suit at a time when the government is already paralysed by a dispute over an inquiry into the August 2020 explosion that devastated parts of Beirut.

A senior political source told Reuters that the United States and European nations were in contact with Lebanese officials to prevent the government from falling and there were no immediate indications any ministers would resign.

Taliban fighters kills two over wedding music

AFP, Kabul

Taliban fighters shot dead two wedding guests who were listening to music, local officials and a witness said yesterday, forcing Afghanistan's new government to insist such attacks are not authorised.

A relative of the victims said Taliban fighters had opened fire while music was being played at a wedding in Sorkhrud, in Nangarhar province in the east of the country, killing two and wounding two more.

Music was banned the last time the Taliban ruled Afghanistan and, while the new government has not yet issued such a decree, its leadership still frowns on its use in entertainment and sees it as a breach of Islamic law.

"The young men were playing music in a separate room and three Taliban fighters came and opened fire on them. The injuries of the two wounded are serious," he told reporters.

A security source said the two men who attacked the wedding are now in custody.

SHELLING BY MYANMAR MILITARY

Dozens of homes destroyed: reports

AFP, Bangkok

Myanmar troops on Friday shelled a restive western town, with an ensuing fire destroying dozens of houses, as well as the office of charity Save the Children, witnesses and local media reported.

The Southeast Asian country has been in chaos since a coup in February, with more than 1,200 people killed in a crackdown on dissent, according to a local monitoring group.

Across Myanmar, "self-defence forces" have sprung up to take on the junta, escalating attacks and bloody reprisals.

Junta troops shelled the town of Thantlang in western Chin state after a confrontation with a local self-defence force, according to Khit Thit media and The Chindwin news outlet.

A Thantlang resident who had fled the town following earlier clashes told AFP the shelling began after members of the local force captured a soldier.

"Soon after it happened, heavy artillery were fired," he said, adding he had heard between 80 and 100 houses had been destroyed. AFP could not independently verify the reports from the remote region.

Most of Thantlang's 7,500 inhabitants left the town during clashes last month, with many fleeing across the border to India.



OCTOBER 31

1940 - The Battle of Britain, a struggle between Germany and Britain for air control of the English Channel early in World War Two, ended.

1984 - Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by three Sikh members of her bodyguard.

2000 - A Soyuz TM-31 rocket blasted off from Russia to the International Space Station carrying two Russians and an American, the first people to live on the station.

SOURCE: REUTERS

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ
সেকশন-১৪, মিরপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৬

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জাতীয় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধিভুক্ত পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ-এ ২০২০-২১ শিক্ষাবর্ষে Master of Applied Criminology and Police Management (MACPM) প্রোগ্রামে শিক্ষার্থী ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাবলী নিম্নে প্রদত্ত হলো:-

১। ভর্তির যোগ্যতাঃ

পুলিশ কর্মকর্তা, নন-পুলিশ কর্মকর্তা (ক্যাডার/নন-ক্যাডার সিভিল কর্মকর্তা, সামরিক কর্মকর্তা এবং পেশাজীবী) যাদের নিম্নবর্ণিত যোগ্যতা রয়েছে, উক্ত মাস্টার্স প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তির জন্য যোগ্য প্রার্থী হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবেন।

(ক) পুলিশ কর্মকর্তাদের জন্য: পুলিশ পরিদর্শক এবং তদুর্ধ্ব কর্মকর্তা যাদের ২ বছরের চাকরির অভিজ্ঞতা রয়েছে এবং নন-পুলিশ কর্মকর্তা যাদের ৩ বছরের চাকরির অভিজ্ঞতা রয়েছে এবং

- মাস্টার্স ডিগ্রী অথবা
- ৪ বছরের স্নাতক (সম্মান) ডিগ্রী;

(খ) শিক্ষা জীবনের যে কোন পর্যায়ে ৩য় বিভাগ/শ্রেণী ভর্তির অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে;

২। ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত তথ্যাবলী নিম্নরূপঃ

(ক)	ভর্তির ফরম প্রাপ্তির তারিখ	৩১/১০/২০২১ থেকে ২১/১১/২০২১
(খ)	ভর্তি ফরম জমা দানের শেষ তারিখ	০১/১১/২০২১ থেকে ২০/১১/২০২১

৩। যোগাযোগঃ

- MACPM অফিস, কক্ষ নম্বর-৪০৮, পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ, মিরপুর-১৪, ঢাকা-১২০৬। ফোন নম্বর-০১৩২০-২১৬২১৩, ০১৭১৮-৭১৬০৮৫ ই-মেইল macpm.psc@gmail.com
- ভর্তি সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্য www.psc.gov.bd ওয়েবসাইটে পাওয়া যাবে।

পরিচালক (একাডেমিক)
পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ

GD-1950

Universal access to hand hygiene

Investing \$1 per person per year in hand hygiene could save hundreds of thousands of lives

STAR HEALTH DESK

All households in the world's 46 least developed countries could have handwashing facilities by 2030 if the world invested less than US\$1 per person per year in hand hygiene. This would provide basic protection against diseases, avert future outbreaks and prevent hundreds of thousands of deaths.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) launched their 2021 State of the World's Hand Hygiene report on Global Handwashing Day. The report highlighted that promoting handwashing with soap at home costs governments only 2.5 per cent of average government health expenditure in these countries, making it a highly cost-effective investment that provides enormous health benefits for mere pennies.

The report gathered dispersed data sets on hand hygiene access and underlying national policies and investments to highlight lagging progress; and calls member states and supporting agencies to action, offering numerous inspiring examples of change.

Hand hygiene, one of the first lines of defence against the spread of infectious diseases, remains out of reach for billions of people who still lack hand hygiene facilities at home, school,



or health care facilities. Globally, three in ten people, or 2.3 billion, lack a handwashing facility with water and soap at home. In addition, 818 million children lacked a handwashing facility with soap and water at school in 2020. Also, health workers in one in three healthcare facilities lacked hand hygiene facilities at the points at which they provide care, placing them all at

preventable risk of disease even at the best of times. Almost two billion people depend on health care facilities that don't even have basic water services.

Ramping up action to ensure universal access to hand hygiene facilities is one clear example of the complementarity of getting out of the pandemic, preparing for the next one, and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

It is certainly a requirement of universal health coverage. Achieving the goal of universal access to hand hygiene will require a dramatic change of gear; the current average pace of progress would have to quadruple to ensure all homes in the world have this access. The same applies to universal access to hand hygiene services in schools by 2030, requiring at

least a four-fold increase in the current average rate of progress, with greater acceleration needed in some areas. If current rates of progress continue, by 2030, the world will have reached only 78 per cent coverage of basic hygiene services, leaving 1.9 billion people without the facilities to wash their hands at home.

To speed up progress, governments should prioritise five key actions:

- Good governance through leadership, effective coordination and regulation, including clear policies on handwashing services and behaviours in all settings.

- Smart public finance ensures maximum impact and stimulates investments from households and the private sector.

- Assess current capacity for their hand hygiene policy and strategies, identify gaps and develop a capacity-building system based on the rigorous application of best practice.

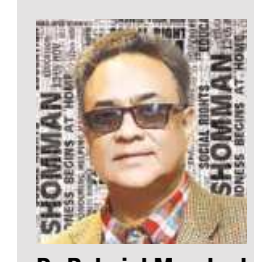
- Governments should address the need for consistent data on hand hygiene to inform decision-making and make investments strategic.

- Governments and supporting agencies should encourage innovation, particularly in the private sector, to implement hand hygiene in all settings.

Handwashing is one of the most effective methods for removing germs, avoiding illness, and preventing the spread of germs to others.

HAVE A NICE DAY

Wisdom of true happiness



Dr Rubaiul Murshed

Happiness has long been recognised as a critical part of health and well-being. It is also important to consider how one personally defines happiness. Happiness is a broad term, and factors contributing to this can differ from person to person. The

only undisputed truth is 'it generally linked to experiencing more positive feelings than negative'.

Some social scientists like to use 'subjective well-being' when they talk about this emotional state. When general people talk about happiness, they might be talking about feelings of joy and self-satisfaction in life. Here, the upbringing of a person plays an important role. This relates to how satisfied one feels with different areas of one's life, including expectations in relationships and other things that one considers success.

But rather than misjudging things such as money, status, or material possessions as short-term happiness, it is important to understand 'true happiness'. Research into true happiness, carried out by Harvard University, concluded that the people we surround ourselves with and our acceptance into society could positively affect our physical and mental health and help us live longer.

This is because while we are happy involving kindness, forgiveness, and practising the 'culture of giving', the body can produce some happy hormones. For example, 'Dopamine' makes us feel good, 'Serotonin' reduces depression; and 'Endorphins', which make us happy and thus help to reduce physical pain.

Another study has found that perceptions of social support were responsible for 43% of a person's level of happiness.

E-mail: rubaiulmurshed@gmail.com

HEALTH bulletin



Drugs to add in lowering high blood pressure

Adding a new medication is associated with better blood pressure lowering. In drug-treated patients with hypertension whose blood pressure (BP) is inadequately controlled, augmentation strategies include maximising the dose of a currently prescribed antihypertensive medication or adding another antihypertensive drug.

According to a cohort study in the United States, investigators identified 487,000 older hypertensive veterans (age, ≥65; 98% men) whose mean systolic BP was more than 130 mm Hg during two recent visits. In 178,000 of these patients, clinicians intensified drug treatment. In 25%, a new antihypertensive medication was added, and in 75%, the dose of a currently prescribed antihypertensive medication was maximised.

Compared with maximising medication dose, adding a new medication was associated with significantly less adherence to the BP intensification regimen at three months and twelve months. Nevertheless, adding a new drug lowered BP considerably at three months and twelve months (by about 1 mm Hg, on average).

Adding medication class to control BP makes pharmacological sense and can lower the risk for side effects by maximising the dose of a single agent. However, this study shows that the modest improvement in BP control with multiple agents likely comes at the expense of lower adherence to multidrug regimens.

Ultimately, adding drugs for hypertension treatment requires collaborative decision making with patients to simplify medication regimens while controlling BP and minimising adverse effects.

Genome sequencing to identify drug-resistant TB strains

STAR HEALTH DESK

On 20th October 2021, the 52nd Union World Conference on Lung Health (WCOLH) researchers presented data from a study that used genome sequencing to effectively predict tuberculosis (TB) strains susceptible to antibiotics that were likely to develop drug resistance, says a press release.

The researchers looked at drug-susceptible microorganisms for changes that increased the risk of future resistance. "Pre-resistance" mutations confer by targeting bacteria that are more prone to drug resistance; these alterations could help slow the spread of drug resistance. They found that Isoniazid mono-resistance backgrounds have a much higher risk of acquiring further rifampicin resistance than susceptible backgrounds.

A clinical trial led by Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) has found that a new all-oral six-month treatment regimen is safer and more effective for patients with Rifampicin-resistant (RR-TB) than the currently accepted standard of care.

The trial compared a six-month regimen including Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid and Moxifloxacin (BPaLM) with the locally accepted standard of care. It was reported that 89% of patients in the BPaLM group were cured, compared to 52% in the standard of care group. Another trial was conducted on the feasibility and yield of systematic TB molecular testing in children with severe pneumonia in countries with high tuberculosis incidence.

TB is common in children with pneumonia. Still, it is only



considered if the child has a history of prolonged symptoms or fails to respond to antibiotherapy, thus leading to missed or delayed TB diagnosis. Therefore, the feasibility and yield of systematic TB detection using Xpert MTB/RIF Ultra (Ultra) on nasopharyngeal aspirates (NPA) and stools in children with severe pneumonia were assessed.

Children aged 5 years were followed up for 12 weeks. In this sizeable multicentric study, 7% of children with severe pneumonia were diagnosed with TB in the intervention arm. Combined NPA and stool samples showed high feasibility in this vulnerable population and contributed to microbiological confirmation in 30% of TB diagnoses.

Recently, a trial on the efficacy and safety of a 4-month Rifampentine-Moxifloxacin regimen for tuberculosis in adolescent participants was performed. Persons aged 10-19 with TB account for approximately 10% of the global burden. A randomised, open-label, phase III treatment shortening trial for pulmonary TB

compared two high-dose 4-month rifampentine regimens (with or without moxifloxacin) to the standard 6-month regimen. The study demonstrated the non-inferior efficacy of the rifampentine-moxifloxacin regimen compared to the standard regimen.

To better understand outcomes among adolescents with TB, we examined efficacy and safety data from this trial in this participant sub-group. A total of 2,516 participants were enrolled in the study. Among 63 adolescents in the primary analysis group, the proportion with unfavourable outcomes was 5%, 8%, and 11% in the control, Rifampentine-Moxifloxacin, and Rifampentine regimens.

Among 67 adolescents who started study treatment, there were no severe adverse events (SAEs) and no deaths among adolescents. 59 (87%) completed at least 75% of the intended regimen, and 43 (63%) completed at least 95%. Therefore, the four-month rifampentine-Moxifloxacin regimen can be used in the adolescent population.

Speeding up efforts to eradicate TB

STAR HEALTH REPORT

The Ministers of Health of countries in the World Health Organisation (WHO) South-East Asia Region recently committed to renew and accelerate efforts to end tuberculosis (TB), because of the pandemic disrupting services and leading to an increase in TB cases in the already high-burden region.

Despite being preventable and treatable, TB kills more than a million people every year, almost half of them in the WHO South East-Asia Region. We must intensify our effort towards ending TB. Therefore, immediate steps are needed to scale-up preventive, diagnostic and treatment services for TB, and significantly bolster social protection measures while specifically addressing undernutrition among the vulnerable populations.

The Ministers committed to multi-sectoral and whole of society approach to end TB with national programs led by the highest possible political level and closely monitored for targets. They agreed to increase budgetary and human resource allocations including upfront investments required to catch up on the lost ground during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is estimated that US\$ 3 billion may be needed annually to implement a comprehensive set of interventions required to end TB in the region.

The Ministerial statement called for ensuring the highest attainable standards of rights-based, stigma-free, quality-assured and people-centric services. It emphasised that preventive, diagnostic, treatment, rehabilitative and palliative care, should be accessible to all including migrants, prisoners, children, the aged and other high-risk populations such as people with TB/HIV co-infection.

It called for social support to TB patients and their families from the time of development of symptoms, to diagnosis till the successful treatment completion and in some cases beyond treatment to address the sequelae, to achieve the goal of eliminating catastrophic financial losses.

The Ministerial statement emphasised on empowerment and engagement of community and civil society representatives in planning, monitoring, organising and providing for such support to ensure a people-centred response.

  /StarHealthBD



United Hospital
Neuroscience
Centre

Know the
Signs of Stroke

 **Face**
One side of the face
is drooping

 **Arm**
Arm weakness,
the person cannot
raise their arms

 **Speech**
Difficulty speaking,
slurred speech

CALL
10666

United
Hospital

WORLD
STROKE
DAY
29TH
OCT

Save This Beautiful Memory

Prevent brain damage
by identifying a stroke
early

The long wait for compensation

Why is the state failing to support rape victims?

THAT rape and sexual assault is an endemic issue in the country can be seen by just how regularly one reads about such cases in our daily pages. According to Ain O Salish Kendra, from January to September 2021, 1,085 women and 462 children were raped in Bangladesh—and these are only the reported cases. In many of these instances, the rape survivors suffer from long-lasting physical complications and have to undergo expensive medical treatment. On top of that, they have to fend for themselves during long and difficult trial proceedings.

Yesterday, this daily reported on the heartbreaking story of a child who was raped in 2016, at the age of five, and who, to this day, suffers from incontinency and requires major urinary tract reconstruction surgery. The costs for the medical tests alone are many times more than what her family makes in a month. Yet, her rapists are still not behind bars, and she has barely received any support from the authorities.

How much longer will rape survivors like this child have to suffer in silence, with no access to compensation for the crimes committed against them? According to a report in this daily, a law drawn up to address compensation for victims of violent crimes, including rape, has been in the draft stages for 14 years now. Although fines can be imposed on perpetrators under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000, and judges can choose to convert this amount into compensation for rape victims and their families, research from BLAST suggests that in 93 percent of such cases, the money is not converted into compensation. Rights activist also argue that the amount of this fine, which goes up to Tk 1 lakh, is not compensation enough for a crime as violent as rape.

In February this year, the High Court issued a rule asking the government to explain why it should not be directed to outline a scheme to ensure compensation for rape victims. We are surprised to hear that several months have gone by with no written response from any of the respondents. We sincerely hope that, once the HC holds a hearing and disposes of the rule, a landmark verdict will be reached, but that will only be the beginning. The assessment of compensation must be guided by a standard principle, but even before that, we must acknowledge the right of every rape victim to receive compensation, and this right must be codified in law. It is unacceptable that the draft law that would recognise this right has been kept hanging for 14 years now.

Research suggests that only three percent of cases relating to violence against women and children result in a conviction. The inability to pay for lengthy trials while also supporting the rape victim is one of the major reasons behind this shockingly low rate. The fact that so many women and children are being denied justice is a shameful failure on the part of the state and the justice system, and it must be rectified immediately.

Efficient utilisation of LoCs a must for proper development

Both Bangladesh and India should do more to accelerate project implementations

AT the just-ended Bangladesh-India line of credit (LoC) review meeting, officials of both Bangladesh and India expressed their hope that the utilisation rate of the LoCs extended to Bangladesh by India would significantly increase in future. While at the meeting, both sides said that there has been considerable improvement in the speed of project implementation, a report published by this newspaper on Saturday shows that there is still much room for improvement.

Reportedly, four LoCs worth USD 7.862 billion had been extended to Bangladesh by India for undertaking important infrastructure development projects in various sectors since 2010. Out of this amount, approximately USD 865 million has been disbursed as of October 25, 2021. Also, during the last three years alone, India has awarded Bangladesh USD 990.85 million worth of contracts under the LoCs and another USD 325.58 million will be finalised soon. However, in the past decade, Bangladesh could utilise only six percent of the three Indian LoCs, collectively worth more than USD 7 billion, due to slow implementation rate, according to a report published in this daily on September 6, 2021.

Of the 43 projects taken up under three Indian LoCs, the government has reportedly spent USD 410.76 million to complete 14 projects related to the procurement of buses, trucks and other vehicles since 2010, while the remaining 29 projects are suffering from slow implementation. According to another report by this daily, the implementation of the 44-kilometre Dhaka-Tongi-Joydebpur rail line under an Indian LoC has seen 31.2 percent of the work completed since its construction began 11 years ago. And the current state of many of the India-funded projects is the same.

While delay in project implementation has become a norm in Bangladesh, and the India-funded projects are no exceptions, authorities in Bangladesh also face additional problems in executing these projects, as they have to take approval from the Indian authorities at every step along the way. There has to be an easier way around this. Moreover, in order to expedite the implementation of the India-funded projects, India needs to reduce the time it takes to formulate project details and improve the overall quality of planning, while the Bangladesh High Commission in India should also be proactive in providing its support.

WORLD CITIES DAY

Dhaka needs new urban-forms



KAZI KHALEED ASHRAF

If the city is the new challenge of the time, the “edge” of the city is at the heart of it.

It is clear now that most of the challenges of the future will be environmental. The proliferation and expansion of cities will be the most critical one. What will be the nature of future cities and towns? How will the expanding city impact the extra-urban landscape? How will villages transform? Will the future city and village merge into a third settlement type? It appears to me that all these questions are intersecting at the edge.

A few days ago, I was visiting

That kind of astounding figure from Purbachal reminds us that the transformation of Dhaka and its watery regions, along with its physical and social landscape, has been relentless and brutal. But it also makes us think if we can create such a totally new landscape, and at such a monumental scale, why can't we make one that is unique, addresses development needs, and is attentive to the original terraqueous terrain?

In a place where water is the fundament, and hydrological planning a prerequisite for any development, a dry ideology is instead celebrated. Buildings are built by filling in wetlands. Rivers and canals are encroached upon in the name of industrialisation. Water bodies and channels are polluted indiscriminately. It appears that nature and development—*prokriti* and *progoti*—face each other in

environmental to climate, and from the technological to migrational, Bangladesh can still arrive at novel and humane cities.

Most planners and architects trained in conventional methods remain bewildered by the geographic question, and are unable to conceive alternative city-forms. Architects are basically content in their allocated lots and plots to be ironic or spectacular. Creating an eye-catching apartment or commercial building is not enough to make a better and equitable city. When once architecture and the city formed a twinned, the parameters of one enhancing the other, there is now a contention. While architects make stunning architecture, the city goes to hell.

Few years ago, I wrote a piece in a Chinese architectural journal in which I summarised the condition of Dhaka in the following way:

design discourse. Such a hydraulic vision for cities has to begin from the edge of the precious landscape of wetlands and agricultural terrain, urging for a conception that integrates urbanism, agriculture, and flood terrains.”

It seems clear that the location for the urban turmoil is the “edge” of the known city, an edge that is constantly shifting. The biggest challenge in the re-composition of Dhaka lies in how to understand that edge, and from there how to develop a new city form, something better than Purbachal.

Most urban planners and policymakers in Dhaka focus on the core city. Even when they are dealing with the edge, they see it in the image of the core. Official planning is unable to conceptualise this edge as its own ecology. Without that realisation it is easy to participate in the destruction of the city's hydro-geographical wealth. An audacious vision for Dhaka has to begin from the edge in which the norm of privileging the core has to be reversed.

The famous Dutch architect and urbanist Rem Koolhaas claimed that the edge of the city is where the action is. He meant the frazzled fabric of the post-industrial Euro-American city, or its tattered suburbia. In Dhaka, the geography of the edge is determined by the built-city marching up to meet the “non-urban,” a magnificent but precious terrain of land-water event made of wetlands, floodplains, canals, and agricultural fields. The edge is where the dry meets the wet, the “developed” meets the “rustic,” and infrastructure meets the structure-less. This is also where the urbanite meets the farmer, the land grabber discovers his opportunity, and the uprooted often makes her habitation. Site/s of the biggest battle in the city, the terrain of the edge is determined by the presence and flux of water. No planning scheme will work for Dhaka if this simple equation is not recognised.

Nothing short of imagining a new city-form will offer a salvation for Dhaka. The edge conditions of Dhaka present the possibility of re-negotiating the social and economic, as well as conceptual, separation between city and its conventional anti-thesis, whether the village or agricultural plains. The edge is where new forms of space organisation will have to be imagined, along with newer types of economic and social opportunities. Neither fully a village-form nor completely a core city-form, the new form can be a third settlement type. With dense habitats on a precise footprint, but enhancing the edge ecology, the new edge will also bring solutions to the crises at the core. It's a matter of imagination.

Kazi Khaleed Ashraf is an architect and urbanist, and directs the Bengal Institute for Architecture, Landscapes and Settlements. Part of the text appeared in “Designing Dhaka: A Manifesto for a Better City” (2012).



A new city-form for the aquatic areas of Dhaka.

PHOTO: BENGAL INSTITUTE

Purbachal—the Dhaka of tomorrow. With new gridded road layouts, plotted out land waiting for habitation, but until then a vegetable garden, and the profusion of temporary installations of eateries, it already appears to be a brand-new landscape. The scale of operation is incredible. Over 24 sq kms of a terraqueous condition has been converted into that brand new landscape. Sanjoy Roy, geographer at Bengal Institute, calculates that the volume of earth-fill is 79 million cubic metres. Wetlands, which were 6.82 sq km in 2005, were reduced to 1.76 sq km in 2021. Forested lands and homesteads, which were 7 sq km in 2005, were brought down to 1.91 sq km in 2021. Roy estimates that the total landfill in Purbachal is equivalent to 32 Great Egyptian Pyramids of Giza!

a tragic opposition. Additionally, the complexities related to climate change remains unaccounted for. In order to create a balance among progress, nature and climate change, an estuary of these three is necessary. A newer way of thinking about life and living that is commensurate with our landscape is required. Only then we will have developed a Bengali urbanism.

Life in Bangladesh is impossible without considering water and its flows. This has become more urgent in the time of climate change. Settlements and habitats here will have to include rivers, canals, wetlands and paddy fields in their formations. Considering the richness of the land and the dynamics of the hydro-geography, such formation is inevitable. In adapting to diverse changes, from the

“A hydro-geographical landscape calls for a different measure in design thinking and practice. Considering that an aqueous urbanism entails an epistemic shift, this article locates the city of Dhaka as a point of departure for such a thinking. What distinguishes Dhaka from other cities in similar growth outbursts is its deeply intertwined relationship with a landscape moulded by powerful rivers, epic floods, silting and land-shifting of monumental proportions. In that fluctuating hydrological world of the delta, cities and settlements have been structured by the dynamics of rivers, canals, wetlands, floodplains, agricultural fields, *chars* (silted landforms) and human habitation. Such a deltaic milieu calls attention for imagining an aqueous urbanism, and even a new water ethos in contemporary

Why I am going to COP26



KAZI AMDADUL HOQUE

ON the edge of the largest mangrove forest in the world, home of the famous Royal Bengal Tiger, I met Krishna Rani.

The rhythm of the tides of the Bay of Bengal, the ebb and flow of the river, and the fertility of this great golden delta had nurtured her through most of her peaceful life. On a first impression, the site of her home—on the shore of a river which dances with the glorious colours of the setting sun, in the cradle of the great Sundarbans—could be a cottage for tourists.

But when I listen to her story, the glamour glow of the Unesco world heritage site and its tigers fades away, leaving a harsh and bitter story of negligence, and domination of the powerful over the helpless.

In the last stages of her life, Krishna has become confused by the turn of events. What was a promising youth, with a happy marriage, healthy children and abundance of land around her, has become a story of loneliness and scarcity in a matter of a few years.

In 2009, the great Cyclone Aila sent waves crashing over embankments all over the southern coast of Bangladesh, taking lives and leaving people homeless. Krishna and her husband had enjoyed prosperity and security from the acres of paddy fields around their home. But after Aila, the land's fertility started to decline. It happened at a bad time. Her husband had just taken exorbitant loans to marry off their daughters—two in close succession. After the rains he took another loan to sow his next crop. The harvest was miserable.

The yields continued to decline, and the family never really recovered. Eventually they lost most of their land. Two of their sons moved on in search of a better life. Another stayed on to support them as best as he could, working as a day labourer in between eking what he can from the land they had left.

There were other signs of change. The water in the tube wells began to develop a salty hint. Krishna's husband had aged quickly. Being irrecoverably indebted was harsh on him. He died a decade after Aila.

Krishna, who lived well her whole life, had no way to deal with poverty. The conditions continued to decline.

The water grew steadily worse, vegetables stopped growing in her yard, fish was increasingly difficult to find in the river. She developed an ache in her stomach.

She developed another strange condition that she had never known, and which was too embarrassing to talk about. She would bleed during her bowel movements. She heard that others in the village were also experiencing this strange condition.

The year after her husband died, their home was damaged by another great cyclone, Amphan. Recently, there have been terrible storms almost every year. She lives in fear of the embankment walls collapsing again.

The embankments grow weaker.

with the enormous changes that have happened in her environment? What part has she played in the intensification of the storms and the salinisation of her soil?

She has emitted zero carbon. But she is paying a hefty carbon tax. We are the ones who are responsible for her condition. Those going to COP26.

I am going to COP26 because I really want to shout out at world leaders on her behalf.

For the last two and a half decades, the Conference of Parties has been dealing with the climate crisis. The negotiations go on and on. Meaningful decisions are few and far between. And it seems we have even given up trying to find

remain uncertain. There are repeated appeals to honour the pledges made by world leaders for the countries in vulnerable conditions. In 2009, developed countries agreed to contribute USD 100 billion a year in climate finance to poorer countries by 2020; but the target was not met—even though it was not nearly enough to address the urgency and scale of the crisis. In 2021, political and business leaders once again committed more than USD 400 billion to the expansion of renewable and clean energy, the UN announced.

National and global governance needs to be refined to address this new crisis. National and international legal frameworks must be reviewed periodically to respond to emerging climate issues. Pronouncements made at international climate conferences should be accessible to the masses.

One in every seven people in Bangladesh is at risk of displacement by 2050 due to climate change. All these people are being traumatised. Policymakers and scientists must work together to find which populations will be affected, and to find solutions.

I want to say these things at COP. Let political leaders continue their negotiations and dialogue. At the same time, all of us—individuals, nations and corporations, with whatever power we have—need to maximise our effort to make sure the suffering, loss and damage of Krishna Rani is addressed. It should not be treated as a local issue, but a global one.

In the meantime, there are plenty of adaptation solutions at the local level that have to be implemented effectively. The world can see and learn from these local solutions, inherited and refined over generations through indigenous knowledge and lived experiences. Local people and ecosystems managed to coexist for centuries. They need patronisation in a structured manner. This world should not tolerate suffering, when we know the reason for it. We should anticipate and prevent it. Instead of statecraft and strategy, deals and treaties, it should be humanitarian values and obligations that should drive climate action, based on the ability of each nation. Climate action goes beyond responsibility. It's an obligation.

Kazi Amdadul Hoque is the senior director of strategic planning and head of Climate Action at Friendship, a Bangladeshi social purpose organisation.



A woman fetches potable water for her home.

PHOTO: AJ GHANI/FRIENDSHIP

Sometimes there is no protection against the tides. Last year, for several months, the high tide would invade her home twice a day. Now the embankments have been fixed, but a putrid water remains trapped inside, not far from her house. The same river which once brought security and luck, now keeps reminding her of her loss.

Krishna has never been to the city. Her air conditioner is the wind filtering through the mangroves. Her washing machine is a pond. There is no electricity in her kerosene-lit hut.

She doesn't need electricity or a high-tech lifestyle, or a washing machine, but she needs protection, assistance for adaptation, and food security. She needs access to safe drinking water. She needs to grow vegetables for a balanced diet.

Her suffering makes me think, what's her fault? What does she have to do

a solution for loss and damage. Even though there are plenty of funds that exist on paper at the international and national levels, the bureaucracy hinders access to those funds. These funds should not follow commercial banking protocols, but they should follow a humanitarian protocol that should be easy to access. Only 10 percent of climate funding makes its way to the people who really need it.

Meanwhile, Krishna continues to live in pain. She represents 13.3 million people from the coastal regions of Bangladesh, who are at risk of being forced out of their homes by 2050 due to salinity, sea level rising and other adverse impacts of climate change.

There is no legal platform where she can claim her rights. And there is nobody to take up her issues seriously. Even global funding commitments

The need to improve our worker's compensation system

AN OPEN DIALOGUE



ABDULLAH SHIBLI

MY fellow columnist, Shuprova Tasneem, was recently lamenting the lack of fair wages and workplace safety in Bangladesh. In an op-ed in *The Daily Star*, she ruefully asked, "Why is the dream for fair wages and work safety still so distant?" (October 20,

2021). It is clear that while we, as journalists, have been crying hoarse over the slow progress in these critical areas of the workplace environment, nobody in the government or administration is apparently paying much attention.

After I read her essay and went over my own notes, I discovered that since January 2005, when a fire at a garment factory outside Dhaka killed 22 people and injured more than 50, much has been written in the popular media about industrial accidents, low wages, risks of injuries, and a number of other topics of vital interest to our workers.

Another concern that has recently received some press coverage is the need to compensate for deaths and loss of jobs due to the negligence of factory owners and motor vehicle operators. The High Court in September stepped in and issued a rule over the formation of a financial assistance fund, and a board of trustees to compensate road accident victims or their families. The court asked the concerned authorities to show cause within four weeks as to why they ought not to be directed to form the fund and appoint the trustees immediately, as per sections 53 and 54 of the Road Transport Act 2018.

In the past, civil rights activists and transport system experts have urged the government to ensure that victims of road accidents are adequately compensated by insurance companies or negligent parties. By and large,

whether it is because of road accidents, poorly built factories, bad management practices, or faulty products, countless helpless people are hurt or killed every day, and all these are preventable to a certain degree.

Occupational safety and health practices are somewhat lax in developing countries. Across the globe, we hear about death and injuries at the workplace. As for Bangladesh, our reputation as a trusted source for garments, plastics products and a myriad of other consumer goods is taking a hit because of various factors that make us vulnerable.

towards achieving middle-income status next decade, but rapid growth brings with it many unanticipated risks, including injuries and death, health damages, and other human costs. Since the Rana Plaza collapse in 2013, world attention has been directed to improving working conditions, and things have changed significantly. However, hardly a month goes by without another incident of mass casualties due to fire, building collapse, serious injuries at work, or other triggers for enhanced mortality and morbidity (i.e., sickness).

The most recent serious industrial accident

standstill.

Workers are frequently hurt and maimed, or in the worst-case, die due to negligence of the owners who are driven by the profit motive. However, the tragedy is compounded further when the victims are either not compensated adequately or left to fend for themselves to defray the cost of medical care. Exactly 12 years ago, I brought up these issues in this newspaper and spoke out strongly for a system that would allow workers to be compensated for their losses. In an op-ed titled, "How much is a human life worth?" I argued that human life should be valued in decision-making since the matter is of "enormous importance in the context of environmental and medical policy" (*The Daily Star*, October 24, 2009).

Many factors account for the prevalence of occupational hazards, including lack of a strict regulatory framework, poor enforcement, shortage of inspectors, and absence of oversight. During his recent visit to Boston, where I met him, the President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) pointed out that garment factories often work with low profit margins that do not allow for the owners to comply with all the rules and regulations in the books.

Another matter that demands urgent attention is the frequent delays in providing compensation to the victims of accidents. Taqbir Huda, who is a coordinator of Justice For All Now (JANO, Bangladesh) wrote that the investigation into the Hashem Foods factory fire accident revealed that the deaths were determined to be "murder caused by negligence", but the victims were given a measly Tk 2 lakh for each family. In an article titled, "Three months after the Hashem factory fire, has there been any 'justice'?" Huda strongly condemns the ploy used by the Sajeeb Group, the owner of the factory, to extract a signed declaration from the victims' families that prohibits the latter from suing the former in a criminal case (*The Daily Star*, October 8, 2021).

While I am writing about compensation and

the value of human life, I would like to raise the awareness of the readers by showcasing the Boeing case. A total of 346 people lost their lives in two air disasters due to Boeing Company's negligence in manufacturing and training for its 737 MAX aircraft. A Lion Air 737 jet crashed off the coast of Indonesia on October 28, 2018. Another 737 belonging to Ethiopian Airlines crashed shortly after take-off from Addis Ababa on March 19, 2019.

In both instances, the US government and the investigative arms of the respective airlines pinned the blame on Boeing and its faulty flight-control system known as MCAS. In terms of offering compensation to the victims of the two air disasters, Boeing has accepted responsibility and had been in talks for almost three years with all parties, particularly the victims' families, over the amount of money. An interesting aspect of this case is that Boeing is facing additional lawsuits for the Ethiopian case since lawyers contend that the aircraft manufacturer knew right after the Lion Air 2018 crash that the malfunctioning MCAS system was the cause of the crash. The company is not only facing charges for the lax oversight of the design, production, and certification of the MAX, but also its failure to ground the aircraft after the first crash.

Boeing originally offered to pay USD 100 million to the victims' families which works out to be less than USD 300,000 per victim. That would have been the end of the story if not for the efforts of families of victims with US citizenship who raised a hue and cry over this sum. Boeing's hands were forced and while the amount of compensation paid to each individual victim is not known, in each case it is over USD 1.45 million. In addition, none of the families waived their right to further sue the Boeing Company.

Dr Abdullah Shibli is an economist and a consultant in information technology. He is also Senior Research Fellow, International Sustainable Development Institute (ISDI), a think-tank in Boston, USA.



PHOTO: MOHAMMAD PONIR HOSSAIN/REUTERS

Firefighters work at the scene of a fire that broke out at Hashem Foods Ltd in Rugganj of Narayanganj district, Bangladesh, on July 9.

According to the Associated Press, Bangladesh "has a tragic history of industrial disasters, including factories catching fire with the workers locked inside. Continuing corruption and lax enforcement have resulted in many deaths over the years."

Economic growth is like a two-edged sword. Bangladesh is making good progress

reported in the national media was the fire at the Hashem Food and Beverage factory in Rugganj on July 8. Fifty-two people were killed and another 50 were injured. In August, another fire, this time at the Singer factory in Savar, not only injured 20 people but also brought about financial losses to other businesses as commercial traffic around the site came to a

WORLD SAVINGS DAY

Tighten your purse strings, save the planet



AFIA JAHIN

THIS is my moment of truth. When last month I got to know that there was a day called World Thrift Day (that is, today), I immediately decided I had to write about it.

It is due to the lack of transparency in product supply chains that individual consumers must make a concerted effort to create as little waste as possible.

After all, who else would be better suited to write about thrift shopping, if not me, the person who has been shopping from Bangladesh's online "thrift" stores (more on that next week) for over a year now and could tell our readers all the ins and outs of this new, niche market?

Of course, woe became me when I realised that World Thrift Day is actually World Savings Day. Meaning that it is a day when we should all be made aware of the benefits of saving money, on personal to national levels.

Unfortunately, I am a spendthrift if I have ever seen one. I got my first proper part-time job at the age of 21 and the impulse-buying of things online (sometimes offline) began with no end in sight. Back then, I could justify my purchases, telling myself that I had always wanted that one thing but could never have asked my parents for it—it's only reasonable that I get it for myself.

So, I kept on spoiling myself and "treating" myself to all that I felt I had missed out on in my childhood and adolescence. Curiously enough, this turned out to include makeup, jewellery, coffee mugs, books that I already had PDFs of (but "oh, nothing compares to the feel of a real book"), jewellery-making tools, trinkets that are still stuffed away in random drawers, paints, canvases, and ten-too-many skirts. It seemed I had loved the film *Confessions of a Shopaholic*

(2009), but learned the wrong lessons from it.

Only now, with my age creeping over the midway mark of my 20s, am I beginning to sober up and ponder before making impulsive purchases. Sometimes, I will wait a bit to think, before messaging a seller or popping open my purse. And while that is some progress, I am nowhere near the amount of financially responsible that I should be if I am to carry myself through my capital-p Plans for even the foreseeable future. But spending too much on things we don't need is quite a universal thing that people of all ages and backgrounds may suffer from. It is also interesting to note how we justify these impulsive purchases that often make us feel shameful and guilty.

To exemplify with an incident, a couple weeks ago, a friend and I visited Mawa ferry ghat, just to kill time and people-watch. At one point, we spotted a child blowing soap bubbles with a bubble maker she had clearly gotten from a vendor nearby. Impulse took hold of us. Our journey from "Should we get one?" to "Absolutely!" to being in front of the vendor was less than a minute long. Once there, we faced a moment of indecision, but unfortunately not over the purchase of the bubble maker itself. We couldn't decide whether to get the basic one (Tk 80) or the one that came with a rattle (Tk 120). Then, my friend said the magic words, "Shokher daam lakh taka," which may translate to "there is no price too high to pay for something you desire." And we got our bubble maker, rattle and all.

However, it only took us about 10 minutes of blowing bubbles and being a spectacle for the other tourists before the less responsible of us lamented, "We really overpaid for this, you know." The other asked, "Shokher daam jeno koto?"

The first sighed, "Lakh taka."

But this is how almost all our purchases go nowadays, especially online. Social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, and online shopping websites—despite their fair share of fraudulence—have made it so that we do not buy things we just want. More often than not, we see something on our feed and feel an intense need to possess that object now, that is, in two to five business days. Even if the "want" factor was not there before, once we see a product that is being advertised to us

something that triggers that impulse to hit "buy". Ask yourself: Do I already own something similar to this? Will I use this more than a couple of times? Do I really need this, or even want this? Or is it just desirable in this singular moment? This will require some self-training. And if self-discipline is not your forte, ask a close friend or family member to keep you in check. Discuss a potential purchase with them before making it, and they may help you decide whether your desire is based on need or on impulse.



Things we buy and decide we don't need are easy for us to get rid of, but they stay in our environment for years, decades, and millennia. PHOTO: COLLECTED

based on the data these online platforms have of our preferences, it becomes quite impossible to resist.

So, in this era of easy access to anything money can buy, how do we reduce waste, reuse what we already have, and recycle what we don't need so it becomes useful again?

The simple answer is to have forethought when we come across

another effective method would be to wait, at least a few days, before making a purchase. If you still feel the need to buy that thing after a week, then feel free to do so. This can be hard to do, especially with online businesses making all their products seem exclusive. But the flipside of late-stage capitalism is that products will only become better and our access to them, globally, will only become

easier. Trust me, that thing you want will still be here a week, month, or year later—perhaps even in a wider variety of options and of better quality.

Above all, though, what is needed from all of us now is to be conscious about what we are buying. The current global culture of individualism is what has led to issues such as the climate crisis and more recently, a Covid-19 vaccine apartheid. What we all are blatantly unaware of is the reverberating impact on the world of every single thing we buy. We each think we are only one person, polluting one tiny space of the vast Earth: "Only one plastic bag is being used to pack the product I've ordered, only two people are being underpaid and overworked to create and deliver that product, only one vehicle is polluting and congesting the roads delivering my impulse buy to me."

But that's just it: we all have this mindset of removing ourselves from the rest of the world, when, in fact, a collective and consistent effort to save our world from further disaster is needed now more than ever before.

Things we buy and decide we don't need are easy for us to get rid of, but they stay in our environment for years, decades, and millennia—polluting our waters, destroying the habitats of sea creatures and killing them, and their production warming our planet closer to the dangerous point of no return. It is due to the lack of transparency in product supply chains that individual consumers must make a concerted effort to create as little waste as possible. And to be a conscious customer now is more than just about protecting our personal savings—it's about extending the lifespan of the Earth.

Afia Jahin is a member of the editorial team at *The Daily Star*.

QUOTABLE Quote

HARVEY S. FIRESTONE
American businessman (1868 - 1938)

The growth and development of people is the highest calling of leadership.

CROSSWORD BY THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Airport line
- 5 Quiche base
- 9 Nebraska city
- 11 Sounds from pounds
- 13 King or czar
- 14 Recess
- 15 Angled pipe
- 16 Repeat
- 18 Toppled, as a monarch
- 20 Spot
- 21 Took to impound
- 22 Relish
- 23 They hold power
- 24 Gloss target
- 25 Supplies with staff
- 27 Like some pools

DOWN

- 1 Hollowed out
- 2 Charm
- 3 Writing implements
- 4 Yonder yacht
- 5 Diminished
- 6 Teri of "Tootsie"
- 7 Writing implements
- 8 Enjoys the rink
- 10 Comes up
- 12 Trapshooting
- 17 Poet Hughes
- 19 Holds
- 22 Lively quality
- 24 Sick in bed
- 25 Sir's counterpart
- 26 Maine park
- 27 Spike of film
- 28 Wild cards, at times
- 30 Sanctity
- 31 Rib
- 33 Settle heavily
- 37 Draw

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BEETLE BAILEY

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO BE?

HEY! NICE AIRPLANE!

IT'S OBVIOUSLY AN AIRPLANE.

BY MORT WALKER

BABY BLUES

ALEXA, WHO IS THE HARDEST-WORKING SECRETARY IN THE OFFICE?

YOU ARE, MISS BUXLEY

ALEXA...WHO PROGRAMMED YOU TO SAY THAT?

BY KIRKMAN & SCOTT

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

P A S S S W I M S
A L O H A C A N O E
P A N E S O R A T E
A M I K A T Y D I D
L O C U S T A V E
A L O U P R E S
A L E T I L E
R A G C I C A D A
C R I C K E T L I P
A M B L E U T I C A
D E L A Y P O K E R
E D E N S W E S T

What to WATCH

T SPORTS & GTV
ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021
Afghanistan vs Namibia
Live from 04:00 pm
India vs New Zealand
Live from 08:00 pm

T SPORTS
La Liga
Real Sociedad vs Athletic Bilbao
Live from 02:00 am (Monday)

STAR SPORTS HD 1
EPL
Norwich vs Leeds
Live from 08:00 pm
Aston Villa vs West Ham
Live from 10:30 pm

DAY'S EVENT

NCL (DAY-1)
DHAKA VS KHULNA, SIC'S ACADEMY
RANGPUR VS SYLHET, SIC'S

CHATTogram VS DHAKA METRO, BKSP
RAISHAH VS BARISHAL,
COX'S BAZAR

Miller spoils Hasaranga's party

REUTERS



David Miller struck two consecutive sixes in the final over to help South Africa edge Sri Lanka by four wickets in a thrilling but low-scoring Twenty20 World Cup match in Sharjah on Saturday.

Needing 15 in the last over for their second Super 12 win, left-hander Miller deposited the second and third balls from paceman Lahiru Kumara over the legside boundary to help South Africa chase down a 143-run target with one ball to spare.

Kagiso Rabada also hit a six and a four in an unbeaten 13 off seven balls, giving able support to Miller, who smashed 23 off 13 balls. The duo got together with South Africa looking all at sea in their chase after Sri Lanka leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga completed a hat-trick across two overs.

The 24-year-old Hasaranga dismissed Aiden Markram on the final ball of his third over and returned for his last over to send back South Africa captain Temba Bavuma, who top-scored for his side with 46, and Dwaine Pretorius for



the hat-trick.

"I was a bit tense," Bavuma said at the presentation. "(But) I had lot of confidence in the fact that David was there.

"David hadn't done that for a long time for us and it was a good time coming. He's probably got the most beautiful swing I've seen from a batter, it's almost like a golf swing."

Earlier, left-arm spinner Tabraiz Shamsi and all-rounder Pretorius picked up three wickets each as Sri Lanka were bundled out for 142 on the final delivery of their innings after they were put in to bat.

Opener Pathum Nissanka played the anchor's role before opening his shoulders to lift the scoring rate during his 58-ball knock of 72.

Nissanka added 41 during a brisk second-wicket stand with Charith Asalanka but the latter's run out after a 14-ball 21 pegged back the island nation.

Shamsi, the top-ranked bowler in the format, then spun a web around the Sri Lanka batters, sending back Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Avishka Fernando and Wanindu Hasaranga to reduce them to 91-5.

Pretorius then carved through the middle and lower-order batting, picking up three wickets including that of Nissanka, to restrict them.

"I was looking for the points table. I think it's really hard for us after this game," Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka said. "But still we got a lot of pride in us, so next two games we hope to win and keep our pride."



'Want to finish with wins'

MAZHAR UDDIN FROM DUBAI

Bangladesh's dreams of reaching the semifinal of the ICC T20 World Cup were virtually dashed following their heart-breaking three-run defeat to West Indies on Friday, which was their third consecutive defeat in the mega-event.

Yesterday was unlike the other days at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Dubai, where the Bangladesh team is staying, in that there was no rush from the players at the breakfast table.

The team management had announced two days of rest for the demoralised Tigers, allowing them to resume training from November 1 ahead of their fourth Super 12 game against South Africa in Abu Dhabi the following day.

The cricketers opted to stay in their hotel rooms throughout the day, not that they had much choice given the Covid-19 protocols which even forbid them from stepping down to the lobby from their designated floors. The members of the Bangladesh team have often shared experiences about life inside the bio-secure bubble, but the situation after the defeat to West Indies was gloomy.

"Mentally, it's very disturbing to be honest. We are not in a state of mind to share what we are going through following one defeat after another. It hurts more when you lose close matches like we did against Sri Lanka and West Indies because it shatters self-confidence," a member of the team said, requesting anonymity.

Despite the fact that Bangladesh have

two games remaining -- against South Africa and Australia -- in the Super 12, there is still a lot to gain for the Tigers in terms of confidence and finishing the World Cup journey on a positive note.

"All the players are very upset after yesterday's (Friday's) game. Apart from the game against England, when we were totally outplayed, there was a chance for us to win the other games against Sri Lanka and West Indies. Obviously, the game against Sri Lanka was a heartbreaker for us. If we could win that game, it would have boosted our confidence for the next two games. But we still have two more World Cup matches, which are very vital considering the tournament," selector Habibul Bashar told the media yesterday.

"Yes, we can say we have virtually no chance for the semifinal, but we want to finish our World Cup mission with wins which can be very important for us. We still have a lot of games in the future and though we were unable to fulfill our goal for the World Cup, we will discuss how we can learn from our mistakes and plan for the future" Bashar added.

According to the former captain, Bangladesh are yet to become a consistent side in the shortest format. There were also questions about whether the series wins at home against Australia and New Zealand on slow and low surfaces ahead of the World Cup had truly helped the Tigers while Bashar also informed that he wanted to see batting-friendly pitches in the domestic circuit for overall improvement in the T20 format.



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De Kock takes knee

AFP, Sharjah

Quinton de Kock took the knee along with his South Africa teammates ahead of their Twenty20 World Cup clash against Sri Lanka on Saturday after the wicketkeeper-batsman returned to the side.

The star player had opted out of South Africa's previous match on Tuesday over his refusal to follow the anti-racism gesture but later apologised and said he would be "happy" to do it.

De Kock got down on one knee at his wicketkeeping spot before the start of the Super 12 match in Sharjah with all the other Proteas players supporting the movement from their position on the field.

This remains a first for South African cricket which has been divided over the issue of anti-racism as De Kock and a few others had previously refused to take part in the gesture that has become a regular feature in most sporting events.

The players, barring De Kock, stood in unison for the first time in the match against holders West Indies after the national cricket board ordered its players do it. Pictures had emerged from the team's first game against Australia on October 23 where some players knelt and some stood.

De Kock remained the only change in the Proteas team with Heinrich Klaasen making way for the senior wicketkeeper-batsman. "The team is feeling much better than we were a couple of days ago. Quinton is in a much better state," Bavuma said at the toss.



SHORT CORNER

Bigger deficit budget for BFF

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Football federation's executive committee approved a deficit budget of more than 17 crore taka for the next calendar year during an annual general meeting (AGM) at a hotel in the capital yesterday.

The projected income for the upcoming year (January to December) shown at the AGM is around Tk 24 crore while the projected expenditure will be Tk 41.95 crore, culminating in a deficit budget of more than 17 crore taka.

The federation's senior vice-president and chief of finance committee Abdus Salam Murshedy said they would look to sponsors to finance the deficit.

"We did not get enough response from the sponsors last year due to the pandemic yet we managed to run

different events with the help of all. We will try to finance the deficit from sponsors and other sources this time," Murshedy told reporters after the AGM was conducted peacefully.

Last year's budget had around Tk 8 crore deficit, with income worth Tk 15.67 crore against expenditure of Tk 23.22 crore.

The lion's share of the budget will be spent for the national team, the Bangladesh Premier League and for the district leagues.

"We have presented our activities of the last one year and proposed the budget for the next year, all of which have been approved. We have discussed about issues of councillors. It was a peaceful congress and all of us are happy," BFF president Kazi Salahuddin, who has completed one year in his fourth term, said after the meeting.

BD U-23s thrashed by Uzbekistan

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Bangladesh under-23 team's interim coach Maruful Haque admitted that there is a big difference in quality of the two sides following their 6-0 thrashing by hosts Uzbekistan in their second AFC U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers fixture in Tashkent yesterday.

"There is big difference in technical and tactical areas between the two teams. That is the main reason of the big defeat," Maruful said at the post-match press conference.

Bangladesh, who started the campaign with a 1-0 defeat against Kuwait, conceded four goals within the first 25 minutes before conceding two more in the second half.

The veteran coach said the team got demoralised after conceding early goals.

"We started positively but conceded two early goals through silly mistakes. So the players got demoralised."

While this match will not go into calculation of points table as Uzbekistan are guaranteed a place in the finals as hosts, the next one against Saudi Arabia on November 2 will and that will be Bangladesh's last match of the campaign.

Kuwait lead the group with six points from two matches, followed by Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh on zero points from one match each (one match counted). Saudi Arabia were held to a 2-2 draw by Uzbekistan in the match between the two sides.

The top teams in 11 groups and five best runners-up teams will go qualify for the final round to be held in Uzbekistan next year.



RAJIB SHINES AMONG THE LOCAL GYMNASTS

Bangladesh's Rajib Chakma performs in men's (junior) individual floor exercise event, where he won the silver medal on the third and final day of Bangabandhu 5th Central South Asian Artistic Gymnastics Championship at the Suhrawardi Indoor Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Rajib also won a bronze medal in men's (junior) vaulting table event as Bangladesh grabbed a silver and three bronze medals from the three-day meet. Uzbekistan emerged champions with 19 gold, 11 silver and eight bronze medals.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

What to WATCH

T SPORTS & GTV

ICC Men's T20I
World Cup 2021
Afghanistan vs Namibia
Live from 04:00 pm

India vs New Zealand
Live from 08:00 pm
T SPORTS
La Liga
Real Sociedad vs Athletic

Bilbao
Live from 02:00 am
(Monday)
STAR SPORTS HD 1
EPL

Norwich vs Leeds
Live from 08:00 pm
Aston Villa vs
West Ham
Live from 10:30 pm

DAY'S EVENT

NCL (DAY-1)
DHAKA VS KHULNA, SIC'S ACADEMY
RANGPUR VS SYLHET, SIC'S

CHATTogram VS DHAKA METRO, BKSIP
RAJSHAHI VS BARISHAL,
COX'S BAZAR

Red-hot England demolish old foes Australia

REUTERS

England stood on the brink of the semi-finals of the Twenty20 World Cup after Jos Buttler's batting pyrotechnics secured their comprehensive eight-wicket victory against Australia in a Group 1 match on Saturday.

Buttler smashed an incendiary 71 not out off 32 balls as England, having bowled out Australia for a below-par 125, triumphed in 11.4 overs in the one-sided Super 12 contest.

Eoin Morgan's team, bidding to become the first side to hold both the 50-overs and 20-overs World Cups at the same time, top the group after a hat-trick of victories, followed by Australia and South Africa with two wins each. "We started well with the ball, taking wickets and then continued to be relentless. The bowlers really came up trumps," Morgan said. "The openers look in really good form. Roy was man-of-the-match against Bangladesh and Buttler following suit." The 2010 winners play former champions Sri Lanka in their next match in Sharjah on Monday.

Morgan elected to field after winning the toss



and sprang a surprise by opening with leg-spinner Adil Rashid at the Dubai International Stadium.

The play did not bear fruit but England had no reasons to complain as Chris Woakes turned tormentor-in-chief to leave Australia reeling on 15-3 inside four overs.

Woakes dismissed David Warner with his second ball, took a one-handed catch to send back

Steve Smith, and trapped Glenn Maxwell lbw to mow down Australia's top order.

Rashid returned to remove Marcus Stoinis and Australia captain Aaron Finch could only watch from the other end as a nightmare unfolded in front of his eyes.

Australia crawled to 41-4 at the halfway stage of their innings and had to wait until the 17th over for the first six of their innings.

Ashton Agar hit Woakes for back-to-back sixes and Pat Cummins meted out the same treatment to Tymal Mills to take Australia past the 100-mark.

Finch made 44 before falling to Chris Jordan (3-17) and Australia were eventually all out in exactly 20 overs.

England looked in a hurry to wrap up victory with Buttler leading the onslaught when they returned to begin their chase.

"When we lost a few wickets in the powerplay, we had to hang in there, get to a total we thought would be defendable if we got it right with the ball," Finch said.

"We had to bowl them out... but Buttler played a hell of an innings."

Australia play Bangladesh in their next match on Thursday.



'Want to finish with wins'

MAZHAR UDDIN FROM DUBAI

Bangladesh's dreams of reaching the semifinal of the ICC T20 World Cup were virtually dashed following their heart-breaking three-run defeat to West Indies on Friday, which was their third consecutive defeat in the mega-event. Yesterday was unlike the other days at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Dubai, where the Bangladesh team is staying, in that there was no rush from the players at the breakfast table.

The team management had announced two days of rest for the demoralised Tigers, allowing them to resume training from November 1 ahead of their fourth Super 12 game against South Africa in Abu Dhabi the following day.

The cricketers opted to stay in their hotel rooms throughout the day, not that they had much choice given the Covid-19 protocols which even forbid them from stepping down to the lobby from their designated floors. The members of the Bangladesh team have often shared experiences about life inside the bio-secure bubble, but the situation after the defeat to West Indies was gloomy.

"Mentally, it's very disturbing to be honest. We are not in a state of mind to share what we are going through following one defeat after another. It hurts more when you lose close matches like we did against Sri Lanka and West Indies because it shatters self-confidence," a member of the team said, requesting anonymity.

Despite the fact that Bangladesh have two games remaining -- against

South Africa and Australia -- in the Super 12, there is still a lot to gain for the Tigers in terms of confidence and finishing the World Cup journey on a positive note.

"All the players are very upset after yesterday's (Friday's) game. Apart from the game against England, when we were totally outplayed, there was a chance for us to win the other games against Sri Lanka and West Indies. Obviously, the game against Sri Lanka was a heartbreaker for us. If we could win that game, it would have boosted our confidence for the next two games. But we still have two more World Cup matches, which are very vital considering the tournament," selector Habibul Bashar told the media yesterday.

"Yes, we can say we have virtually no chance for the semifinal, but we want to finish our World Cup mission with wins which can be very important for us. We still have a lot of games in the future and though we were unable to fulfill our goal for the World Cup, we will discuss how we can learn from our mistakes and plan for the future" Bashar added.

According to the former captain, Bangladesh are yet to become a consistent side in the shortest format. There were also questions about whether the series wins at home against Australia and New Zealand on slow and low surfaces ahead of the World Cup had truly helped the Tigers while Bashar also informed that he wanted to see batting-friendly pitches in the domestic circuit for overall improvement in the T20 format.





THE MARK OF ARISTOCRACY

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SHORT CORNER

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SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA
125 all out in 20 overs
(Finch 44, Wade 18, Agar 20; Rashid 1-19, Woakes 2-23, Jordan 3-17, Livingstone 1-15, Mills 2-45)

ENGLAND
126 for 2 in 11.4 overs
(Roy 22, Buttler 71 not out, Bairstow 16 not out; Agar 1-15, Zampa 1-37)
Result: England won by 8 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Chris Jordan.

SRI LANKA
142 all out in 20 overs
(Nissanka 72, Asalanka 21; Shamsi 3-17, Pretorius 3-17, Nortje 2-27)

SOUTH AFRICA
146 for 6 in 19.5 overs
(Bavuma 46, Miller 23*; Hasaranga 3-20, Chameera 2-27)

Result: South Africa won by 4 wickets.

Player-of-the-match: Tabraiz Shamsi.

Miller spoils Hasaranga's party

REUTERS

David Miller struck two consecutive sixes in the final over to help South Africa edge Sri Lanka by four wickets in a thrilling but low-scoring Twenty20 World Cup match in Sharjah on Saturday.

Needing 15 in the last over for their second Super 12 win, left-hander Miller deposited the second and third balls from paceman Lahiru Kumara over the legside boundary to help South Africa chase down a 143-run target with one ball to spare. Kagiso Rabada also hit a six and a four in an unbeaten 13 off seven balls, giving able support to Miller, who smashed 23 off 13 balls. The duo got together with South Africa looking all at sea in their chase after Sri Lanka leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga completed a hat-trick across two overs.

The 24-year-old Hasaranga dismissed Aiden Markram on the final ball of his third over and returned for his last over to send back South Africa captain Temba Bavuma, who top-scored for his side with 46, and Dwaine Pretorius for the hat-trick. "I was a bit tense," Bavuma said at the presentation. "(But) I had lot of confidence in the fact that David was there. "David hadn't done that for a long time for us and it was a good time coming. He's probably got the most beautiful swing I've seen from a batter, it's almost like a golf swing."

Earlier, left-arm spinner Tabraiz Shamsi and all-rounder Pretorius picked up three wickets each as Sri Lanka were bundled out for 142 on the final delivery of their innings after they were put in to bat. Opener Pathum Nissanka played the anchor's role before opening his

shoulders to lift the scoring rate during his 58-ball knock of 72.

Nissanka added 41 during a brisk second-wicket stand with Charith Asalanka but the latter's run out after a 14-ball 21 pegged back the island nation.

Shamsi, the top-ranked bowler in the format, then spun a web around the Sri Lanka batters, sending back Bhanuka Rajapaksa, Avishka Fernando and Wanindu Hasaranga to reduce them to 91-5. Pretorius then carved through the middle and lower-order batting, picking up three wickets including that of Nissanka, to restrict them.

"I was looking for the points table. I think it's really hard for us after this game," Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka said. "But still we got a lot of pride in us, so next two games we hope to win and keep our pride."



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SHAH CEMENT

Walking backwards

Communalism gaining foothold in place of secularism because of political patronisation, say speakers at Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation's webinar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has been moving away from the path of secularism while communal forces are being patronised to reap partisan benefits and tap vote banks, academics and rights activists told a webinar last night.

It is unfortunate that communalism exists in the country that gained independence with a spirit of secularism, they told the discussion arranged by Gyantapas Abdur Razzaq Foundation.

It is sad that discussion is needed on the issue of communalism even after 50 years of independence, said rights activist Sultana Kamal.

People who took power after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, removed secularism from the constitution, she said.

Those people also brought known anti-liberation war forces into politics and patronised communal forces. As a result, communalism entered education, she added.

Muslim children were taught that their religion is the best, and people of other religions were not equal to them. This created enmity and communalism began to spread.

Prof Mizanur Rahman, former chairman of the National Human Rights Commission, quoted Bangabandhu as saying that secularism means the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



Theatre artist Adhora Priya breaks into tears while talking about her father Dilip Das who was killed in a recent communal attack in Cumilla. She was attending a programme organised by Federation of Television Professionals Organization on Manik Mia Avenue in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

FM must withdraw 'untrue' remark

Minority community leaders demand

STAR REPORT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen must revoke his "untrue" remarks over the attacks on Hindu temples during the Durga Puja, demanded Bangladesh Puja Ujyapan Parishad yesterday.

In a press release, signed by Biplob Dey, office secretary of the organisation, it said that the government should expose the truth to the people, ensure punishment of the attackers and rehabilitate the affected.

Condemning the minister's message shared with the media on Thursday, the organisation

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

UP ELECTION

25 hurt in pre-polls violence

STAR REPORT

At least 25 people were injured in clashes between supporters of union parishad chairman candidates in Dhaka's Dhamrai and Kushtia's Mirpur in the last two days.

Followers of ruling Awami League nominee and a party "rebel" candidate clashed in Dhamrai, while supporters of AL and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal candidates clashed in Mirpur, reports our Savar and Kushtia correspondents.

Police said a clash broke out between supporters of AL chairman candidate Kafil Uddin and party "rebel" candidate Hafizur Rahman Sohrab in Dhamrai's Shuapur Bazar area around 11:45am yesterday.

Kafil's son Abdul Halim was hurt in the incident.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

"I am sitting on the top of a volcano": Indira

OCTOBER 31, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGLADESH PROBLEM DOMINATES INDIRA'S TALK WITH HEATH

The Bangladesh problem dominated the talks Indira Gandhi had with Heath today at the British prime minister's country residence outside London. The two prime ministers discussed the Bangladesh situation and shared their common desire to find a political solution to the problem. They also agreed that the political settlement must be acceptable to the elected and accepted political leaders of East Bengal.



SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

3 found dead in Tangail house

Police also rescue injured child

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police recovered three bodies and rescued a three-year-old critically injured child from a house at Digor union in Tangail's Chatail upazila yesterday.

The dead are Jamela Khatun, 60, her daughter-in-law Sumi Akter, 25, and Shahjalal Sohagh, 30. The injured child is Sumi's only son Safi, said police.

Abul Kalam Azad Mamun, chairman of Digor union parishad, said Jamela and Sumi did not wake up as usual in the morning. Thus, Sumi's sister Shahnaj Begum knocked on their door but received no response. Later, she informed locals who then entered the house breaking the lock of the door, he added.

Sohel Rana, assistant superintendent of Tangail police (Gopalpur circle), said they recovered the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

Nasa probe unveils new details of Jupiter



REUTERS, Washington

Data from Nasa's Juno spacecraft is providing a deeper understanding of Jupiter's wondrous and violent atmosphere including its Great Red Spot, finding that this immense swirling storm extends much further down than expected.

Researchers said on Thursday the Great Red Spot plunges between roughly 200 to 300 miles (350 to 500 km) below the cloud tops on Jupiter, based on microwave and gravity measurements obtained by Juno.

The data is giving scientists studying the solar system's largest planet - so big that 1,000 Earths could fit inside it - a three-dimensional account of Jupiter's atmosphere.

The planet, known as a gas giant, is composed

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

BCL INFIGHTING

Ctg Medical College shut indefinitely

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram Medical College (CMC) will stay shut until further notice after a clash broke out yesterday between factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

Three students sustained minor injuries as a result of the brawl in the morning between factions loyal to AJM Nasir Uddin, former Chattogram City Corporation mayor and secretary of Chattogram city unit Awami League, and Mohibul Hasan

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 31

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-50 12-45 4-00 5-32 7-15
JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-35 7-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



England's Jos Buttler (L) and Jonny Bairstow celebrate their eight-wicket victory over Australia in their T20 World Cup fixture at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Saturday. For more see page 11.

PHOTO: AFP

SUDAN CRISIS

Two killed as forces fire on anti-coup rally

AFP, Khartoum

Sudanese security forces yesterday killed two protesters during mass anti-coup rallies, medics said, despite warnings from global powers who had urged restraint by the military.

"Two demonstrators were killed in the city of Omdurman by the putschist military council," the independent Central Committee of Sudan's Doctors said in a tweet.

The latest killings -- in Khartoum's sister city -- bring the death toll since the outbreak of anti-coup protests on Monday to 11, with about 170 others wounded.

Yesterday's protests came almost a week after the military last Monday detained Sudan's civilian leadership, dissolved the government and declared a state of emergency, leading to a chorus of international condemnation -- and warnings against using force.

"No, no to military rule", and "We are free revolutionaries and we will continue the road" of democratic transition,

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

জজ জুএগা টেক্সটাইল মিলস্ বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব শিল্প পুরস্কার ২০২০-এর বৃহৎ ক্যাটাগরিতে দ্বিতীয় পুরস্কার অর্জন করায় ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অব টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড রিসার্চ (নিটার)-এর পক্ষ থেকে আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন



জাতির পিতা বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের জন্ম শতবার্ষিকী উপলক্ষে প্রথমবারের মতো 'বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব শিল্প পুরস্কার ২০২০'-এর বৃহৎ ক্যাটাগরিতে জজ জুএগা টেক্সটাইল মিলস্ দ্বিতীয় পুরস্কার অর্জন করায় ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অব টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড রিসার্চ (নিটার)-এর গভর্নিং বডি ও একাডেমিক কাউন্সিলের পক্ষ থেকে জজ জুএগা গ্রুপের ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, তরুণ ব্যবসায়ী, শিল্প উদ্যোক্তা ও নিটারের গভর্নিং বডির সদস্য ইঞ্জিনিয়ার ফায়জুর রহমান জুএগা কে জানাই ফুলেল শুভেচ্ছা ও আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন। আমরা তাঁর এ অনন্য অর্জনে গর্বিত।

সৌজন্যেঃ চেয়ারম্যান, গভর্নিং বডি ন্যাশনাল ইনস্টিটিউট অব টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড রিসার্চ (নিটার)