সম্পাদক পরিষদ









GLOBAL



লায়তন, তোপ

াধ্যমের অর্জন ও আগামীর চ্যালেঞ্জ

50,08,143



246,986,380

## BD to play crucial role at COP26

Says FM; PM leaves for UK today to attend the claimate 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

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

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

of South Asian Network on Economic

Modeling (SANEM), said the rise

in remittance amid the pandemic

surprised many.

countries," he said.

decline."

he added.

phenomenon.

migrants, he said.

**SHARP DECLINE** 

on-year decline.

year-on-year declines.

Prof Selim Raihan, executive director

But the informal channels reopened

once the restrictions were lifted. "As a

result, the formal channels are seeing a

In the last one year or so, many workers could not go abroad and it has

left a "cumulative effect" on remittance,

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

overseas employment opportunities for

of last fiscal year while they sent \$1.3

Besides, there are now fewer

Mustafizur

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

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.

sent home 100 ringgit through a bank

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

"I paid five ringgits in service charge

#### Editors voice concern over press freedom Mentioning that the judiciary and the

From left, Samakal acting editor Mustafiz Shafi, The Financial Herald Editor Reazuddin

Ahmed, Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shyamal Dutta, The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, New Age

Barta Editor Dewan Hanif Mahmud pose for a photo after a discussion on mass media's

Editor Nurul Kabir, Dhaka Tribune Editor Zafar Sobhan, Dainik Azadi Editor MA Malek, Bonik

Manzoorul said newspapers are not corporate entities.

accomplishments and challenges at Cirdap yesterday.

Shyamol Dutta, editor of the Bhorer Kagoj, 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.

to be sedition. 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 cannot be accepted in 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 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.

speakers denounced politicisation of journalists.

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

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

Manzoorul said the achievements of Bangladeshi newspapers are immense. "When there are formidable limitations, any success is magnified. Even then,

Khan of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of DU said there should not be any division among journalists.

said the main challenge of newspapers lies in retaining their audiences at a time when independent journalism is being

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

Matiur Rahman, editor of the Prothom Alo, was also present at the programme, chaired by Mahfuz Anam and conducted by Dewan Hanif

## 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 esting 13,240 samples, said the Directorate General of Health Services.

With the fresh numbers, Covid atalities reached 27,862 in the country while the caseload climbed to ,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 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

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

where the activities of the Purchase 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

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

operators of the Purchase and

Before leaving office on Wednesday, the two had kept the files in their cabinet. Around noon on Thursday, they discovered the files were missing

spot immediately, according to the GD.

A team of the Crime Scene Unit of the Criminal Investigation Division of Police led by Kamruzzaman, special superintendent of police, visited the spot on the same day, according to

officers and employees concerned. Even after 48 hours of making the

nvolved The investigation could not begin

n earnest because of the weekend, said Moudud Hawlader, the officer-in-

added.

there are questions about how objective the newspapers of this country are in publishing the truth." Joining the meeting virtually, Honorary Professor Sakhawat Ali

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

MA Malek, editor of the Daily Azadi,

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

#### Not merely at mercy of nature many other villagers, we should leave as he tried many other villagers, we should leave as he tried this area".

they do return home, they will have no work. They have lost everything to saline water. That's why many of them want to leave this place for good," said Gautam, a college student from the same village.

A World Bank report, released in September this year, said salinity, rising sea levels and other adverse climate impacts could cause as many as 13.3 million coastal people of Bangladesh to leave their homes by 2050.

However, the situation in Koyra should not be directly linked to climate change, said Prof Ainun Nishat, a leading climate expert.

"If the embankment breaches, saline water enters the villages and people lose everything they have. So, they leave the area finding no other means to survive,"

"But we should not blame climate change for damages to embankments. They breach is due to negligence of the authorities in maintaining them," he noted, adding he visited Koyra to see the situation for himself a few months

Talking to The Daily Star, several locals said almost all the 90 homes in Gatirgheri village, where some 90 families live, go under waist-deep water every time there is high tide in the Shakbaria river. In normal times, they remain under knee-deep water.

The embankment is seven to eight feet wide and these families took shelter there with their cots, some utensils and a few pairs of clothes. They left everything else back home.

Bijay Sarker and his wife Ayna Sarker were sitting on the edge of the dam near their hut made of Nipa plum leaves and polythene sheets. "That's my home, now under waist-

deep water," said Bijay, pointing to a distant place where part of a tin-shed house could still be seen. He said the saline water increases

during high tides and it happens Bijay and his family have lost all means of livelihood. "My son had a shrimp farm, a big house, and some goats, ducks and hens. But everything is

now gone," he said. "Also, winter is coming. We don't know how we will survive in the cold, right here under the open sky," said a visibly anxious Bijay.

Sunita Das, another woman living on the embankment along with her family in a makeshift hut, is one of those now looking to migrate from here. "Like

The woman, in her late 50s, said the area got submerged for months at least

to buy it. Maybe, we will have to leave without selling it," she said. All the 90 families in the village were

Harasheet Mandal, commissioner of Dakshin Bedkashi union, said many people have already

left the area. "It has been happening After cyclone Amphan and Yaas, more than 100 people left the area and moved to cities and other villages, he said, adding they did not find 42 out of

"People are leaving this place because they don't have any work here. Their homesteads remain partially submerged and their shrimp farms get

getting inadequate support from the government and NGOs working in the

They said after any natural disaster, they initially get some relief items such as rice and other dry food. But the

Animesh Biswas said the victims were given rice and other dry food after Yaas hit the area. "Now we will distribute two tonnes of rice immediately after the oath-taking ceremony for the newlyelected Union Parishad chairman." MANY LEAVING KOYRA?

Koyra is surrounded by the Kabadak, Koyra and Shakbaria rivers. The upazila has six unions bordering the Sundarbans. The worst affected union of this upazila is Bedkashi where Gatirgheri village is located.

Office, the population of Koyra was 1,93, 656 in 2009.

"If we go by our estimates and take the nationwide population growth of 1.47 percent into consideration, then the population in the upazila was supposed to increase to 2,26,000 in 2021," said Monoj Mondol, the Koyra upazila statistics officer.

But at present, the population is 1,95, 292, he said, citing their surveys,

as he tried to prove a point that many people have already relocated from the upazila. Aser Ali Moral, chairman of Dakshin

Bedkashi union, told The Daily Star they found that some 3,000 people left the union between 2009 and 2020. Aila struck in 2009 and Amphan in 2020. A few of them returned, but most of them did not, he said.

Upazila Chairman SM Shafiqul Islam said many locals migrated to city areas and nearby districts due to frequent natural calamities.

The situation is similar in three adjacent upazilas of Shymnagar, Kaliganj, Ashashuni in Satkhira. Chief Executive Hasan Mehedi

of CLEAN (Coastal Livelihood and Environmental Action Network), who has been working on climatédistress issues for years, said, "The entire area would become non-livable if the embankment is not properly repaired." He urged the government to repair

the embankment as soon as possible and hand it over to the local government and local people, instead of to the water development board, for maintenance. This way, the embankment will be in a better shape.

He said they carried out a survey after Aila in 2009 and found that 1,20,000 people were displaced only from Dacope, Koyra and Paikgacha upazilas of Khulna and Shymnagar and Ashashuni upazilas of Satkhira.

"After Amphan, we surveyed again in Koyra and Shymnagar and we found around 18,000 to 21,000 people were forced to migrate from the areas," he

The number of "climate refugees" must have reached 50,000 after Yaas, he added. The government does not have any

specific strategy to stop such migrations.

We also urge the government to establish a 'coastal development board' to handle the issue," he said. "Hundreds of people have been facing a shortage of drinking water. There is saline water everywhere.

Contacted, Deputy Commissioner of Khulna Md Moniruzzaman Talukder said they asked the contractor to

complete repairing of the embankment as soon as possible. Besides, food support is being

provided to those who are in distress and are unable to find work. We will continue to provide such food assistance," he said

The files were stored in a room station on Thursday.

at the secretariat.

Md Joseph Sardar and Ayesha Siddiqa, the stenographers/computer Collection-2 Section, work in the room from where the files went 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

ministry officials. They spoke to the

GD, neither the officials of the ministry nor the police could trace the persons

charge of Shahbagh Police Station. Police will visit the ministry today, he

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

celebrations of the BCL president at the university's Rokeya Hall at the time," he added.

service charges. Since July 2019, the government has

on October 4.

Hundi, layoffs pull it down

been giving a two percent cash incentive What happened was the cash flow on the amounts sent from abroad. took place through formal channels as State-run Agrani Bank Limited gave an informal channels like hundi could not additional one percent incentive, but operate due to the travel restrictions and stopped the service in September this shutdown of economies in different

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

with jobs abroad was 2.17 lakh, down keep the exchange rate stable, he added. from 7 lakh in 2019, the BMET data said. Mohammad Shams-Ul Islam, Bangladeshi expatriates from Malavsia managing director and chief executive sent home about \$607.24 million in officer of Agrani Bank, said the recent remittance in July-September, 2020. decline will be short-lived.

The amount fell to \$290.85 million this He added that the government year, marking a \$316.39 million yearwas considering whether to give three percent incentive on the amounts From Saudi Arabia, migrants remitted remitted to Bangladesh. over \$1.6 billion in the first quarter To encourage remitters, Agrani Bank

introduced an app-based service to send billion during the same period this year. money from Singapore, he added. The remittance from the UAE was Speaking at a meeting of the cabinet \$752.47 million during July-September committee on economic affairs on last year. But it was \$446.17 million this October 6, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said he was hopeful Remittance from the UK and Kuwait that the remittance flow would return saw \$64.18 million and \$24.33 million to normalcy in about three months because many Bangladeshis who Shariful Islam, who sells mobile returned home amid the pandemic are

# Ctg Medical College shut

accessories in Kuala Lumpur, said he

Chowdhury Nowfel, the deputy minister for education. The injured have been identified as

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

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.

undergraduate courses will

**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

On Saturday morning, he lodged a complaint at the Shahbagh Police Md Akib Hossain, Mahfuzul Haque Station against 12 people, three

> The three accused named in the Rudrik Rabbir of Dhaka College 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.

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

> officer-in-charge of Shahbagh police "We will also speak to the university

authorities as well," he said. Contacted, Hamza refuted the allegations. "I was at the birthday

now going back.

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

named and nine unnamed. complaint are Amir Hamza, joint general secretary of Shaheed Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall BCL; Palash, member of Jagannath Hall BCL; and

According to the complaint, Hadi went to DU on Friday evening to meet the central wing president of BCL

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

stitches to his forehead. Action will be taken after a proper investigation, said Mowdud Howladar,

doing some soul-searching. "Sedition is being anti-state. But now He listed multiple ways in which criticising the government is considered

five times since her marriage 30 years ago.
"We want to sell our land, which is our only property. But no one wants

going through similar predicaments, Sunita said, adding that around 10 families took shelter elsewhere.

the 292 voters before the union council election over a month ago.

Meanwhile, victims complained of

support stops at some point. Āsked, Koyra Upazila Nirbahi Officer

According to the Upazila Statistics