



CUTTING CO2 EMISSION BY A FIFTH

Bangladesh needs \$176b by 2030

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Bangladesh can reduce greenhouse gas emissions by as much as 21.85 percent by 2030 if provided with \$175.9 billion as the country joins in the efforts to keep alive a target of capping global warming at 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and avert a climate disaster.

If things go on as usual, Bangladesh will emit about 409.4 million tonnes (MtCO2e) in 2030. But it can be brought down to 319.94 million tonnes with internal imitative measures and external help, it said in its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

The NDC will be submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ahead of COP26, where about 200 countries will highlight their plans to slash emissions by 2030 as

BEST-CASE SCENARIO OF GHG REDUCTION BY 2030

Power	48.90%
Transport	10.86%
Industry	8.58%
Households	6.30%
Commercial	0.94%
Brick kilns	12.47%
Fugitive	4.78%
F Gases	3.23%
Agriculture & livestock	2.08%
MSW & wastewater	2.74%

agreed in the Paris Agreement in 2015 as part of the efforts to keep global warming well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

In the NDCs, Bangladesh details two types of plans for mitigation: unconditional and conditional.

In the unconditional part of NDC, only those mitigation measures were considered that would be implemented based on current local-level capacity and financed through internal resources.

The conditional emission reduction will be implemented based on international funding and technological support.

In the unconditional scenario, GHG emissions would be brought down by 27.56 Mt CO2e (6.73 percent) below business-as-usual (BAU) in 2030 in the respective sectors.

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CHILDHOOD UNBOUND... Children do not need much to find joy and merriment. The boys from underprivileged families may not have any fancy toys, but a few discarded tyres is all they need to have a good time if they can access an open space. The photo was taken at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

MOST VULNERABLE NATIONS

PM for increased climate funding

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister and Chair of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) Sheikh Hasina has stressed the need for increased financing for the survival of the most vulnerable countries from the adverse impact of climate change.

The premier said, "According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), between \$6 trillion and \$10 trillion needs to be invested over the next decade to green our economies. Most CVF members are least developed, low or at best middle-income developing nations.

"They need support through both funding and expertise to help devise adaptation strategies to counter the effects of climate change, which scientists warn are already locked in for centuries."

In a jointly written article -- titled "More Funding is Critical for the Most Vulnerable to Survive Climate Change" -- in Newsweek, Sheikh Hasina and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Global Center on Adaptation Patrick Verkooijen called for materialising the developed countries'



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FINANCING 2 RAILWAY PROJECTS

After China spurns, govt up for options

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

After failing to secure Chinese loans for two major railway projects, the government decided to look for alternative sources.

The projects were taken to improve railway connectivity between the capital and north-east and north-west regions.

The Railways Ministry on Wednesday wrote to the Economic Relations Division (ERD) asking it to search for alternative fund sources following the directives of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, officials said.

The two projects are the Tk 14,250.61-crore Joydebpur-Ishwardi double-line project and Tk 16,104.45-crore Akhaura-Sylhet dual gauge project.

Bangladesh Railway's Director General Dhirendra Nath Mazumder confirmed that the Prime Minister's Office asked the

authorities concerned to find alternative sources. He declined to give any further details.

China last month rejected the Bangladesh government's request to re-evaluate its decision to not fund the Joydebpur-Ishwardi project citing "lack of in-depth preliminary work and insufficient feasibility study".

Besides, the Chinese contractors for these projects have already informed Bangladesh Railway (BR) that they would not work for the projects after the PMO slashed contract prices.

Moreover, the Joydebpur-Mymensingh-Jamalpur dual gauge conversion project is likely to face uncertainty as the PMO also gave directives to slash its cost, BR officials said. The contractor may not agree to work under a downsized cost, they added.

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Shakib ruled out of T20 World Cup

MAZHAR UDDIN from Dubai

There were talks right from the start of the day on Sunday whether



Shakib Al Hasan, who is suffering from a hamstring injury, might be ruled out for the rest of the ICC T20 World Cup.

After daylong speculation, it emerged from a Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) press release in the night that Shakib has been ruled out for the remaining two matches of the ICC T20 World Cup.

It came as a huge blow for a struggling Bangladesh team who have lost the first three games of the Super 12

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BCL FACTIONAL CLASH AT CMC

Injured student fighting for life

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chattogram



Mahadi J Aqib, one of those injured during Saturday's Chhakra League infighting on the Chittagong Medical College campus, is fighting for his life at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

A student of MBBS 62nd batch at CMC, Aqib underwent an operation after being assaulted, said Dr Ranjan Kumar Nath, head of the intensive care unit at the CMCH.

He regained consciousness yesterday evening, a duty doctor at the ICU, told The Daily Star.

His condition remains critical, said Dr Ranjan.

Aqib, a BCL activist and follower of Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel, deputy minister for education, was critically injured when he came under attack by his rivals, supporters of former Chattogram City Corporation mayor AJM Nasir Uddin, when the clash erupted over establishing supremacy on the campus, said sources at CMC.

Emon Sikder, a BCL activist of CMC unit and follower

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NZ THRASHING PUTS INDIA ON THE BRINK... India captain Virat Kohli (R) wears a frustrated look during his side's T20 World Cup fixture against New Zealand in Dubai yesterday. India lost the match by eight wickets, leaving their chances of reaching the semifinals hanging by a thread. For more see page 10.

PHOTO: AFP

Nov 11 UP ELECTIONS

More than a dozen injured in violence

STAR REPORT

The incidents of pre-polls violence were reported in different parts of the country, including Bogura, Patuakhali, and Pirojpur, in the last two days.

A man received a bullet in a clash between supporters of two opponents for the chairman post of Naomala union in Patuakhali's Baufal upazila on Saturday. At

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SCHOOLCHILDREN AGED 12-17

Vaccination begins today at 8 centres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is set to start inoculating 12 to 17-year-olds in Dhaka city with the Covid-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer-BioNTech, which has been approved by the World Health Organisation for use in children, from today.

The vaccination, which will be done in the presence of doctors, will take place in eight schools, said Shamsul Haque, director of the Directorate General of Health Services.

The eight Dhaka schools are: Ideal School and College in Motijheel, Hurco International School at Bashundhara, Southpoint School and

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BANGLADESH UPDATE

211
New cases in 24hrs15,69,539
Total cases27,868
Deaths15,33,423
RecoveriesGLOBAL UPDATE
50,13,435
Deaths247,285,055
Total cases

He fought against communalism

Says speaker of parliament on late journalist Bazlur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All media persons should practise true and objective journalism taking lessons from the life of veteran journalist Bazlur Rahman, Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said yesterday.

"In his life, he fought against injustice and communalism -- he taught [others] how to use journalism to build a conscious society," she said while addressing the award-giving ceremony of Bazlur Rahman Smriti Padak-2020, organised by the Liberation War Museum (LWM).

LWM introduced the award in 2008 with financial support from family members and friends of the eminent journalist, who passed away in 2008.

The awards are conferred on print and electronic media journalists for their reporting on the Liberation War.

"He was a patriot, a freedom fighter and a humble man. He was always vocal in implementing the spirit of the Liberation War," said Shirin Sharmin, who participated in the event virtually as the chief guest.

After Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members were assassinated on August 15, 1975, there was an attempt to distort the real history of the country's independence.

"It is the duty of all to present the

true history of independence before the new generation," she added.

This year, the reporting team of Nagarik Television, Habiganj-based reporter Mamun Chowdhury and Dhaka-based reporter Rajan Bhattacharya received the awards.

Former LWM trustee and member secretary Sara Zaker, trustees Sarwar Ali and Mofidul Hoque, cultural personality Nawazish Ali Khan and Dhaka University Professor Robata Ferdous and others spoke at the event.

Former DU vice-chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique presided over the programme.

Matia Chowdhury, Bazlur Rahman's wife and chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on agriculture ministry, was also present there.

Bazlur Rahman, who hails from Mymensingh, was conferred with Swadhinata Padak, Bangladesh's highest civilian honour, posthumously for his contribution to journalism in 2012.

He was the editor of daily Sangbad, founder editor of the weekly Ekota, a mouthpiece of the Communist Party of Bangladesh.

The veteran journalist participated in the Liberation War and also edited a magazine titled "Muktijuddha" during the period.

He was also the chairman of the country's reputed children's organisation -- Khelaghara.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Award recipients pose for a photograph with distinguished guests after receiving Bazlur Rahman Smriti Padak-2020 at the Liberation War Museum auditorium in the capital yesterday. Former Dhaka University VC Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, who presided over the programme, is seen sitting with the guests.

Bangladesh needs \$176b by 2030

FROM PAGE 1
For that, the country will have to fork out \$32.25 billion over ten years.

In the conditional scenario, GHG emissions would be reduced by 61.9 Mt CO₂e (15.12 percent) below BAU in 2030 in the respective sectors and for that Bangladesh needs an additional \$143.67 billion.

To bring down emissions in Bangladesh by 21.85 percent, the highest amount of investment is required in the energy and transport sectors: \$168.27 billion.

With the financing, the country will implement renewable energy projects of 4,114.3 megawatts, use improved technology for power generation from coal (as 12,147 MW), install a new combined cycle gas-based power plant (5,613 MW), improve the efficiency of existing gas turbine power plant (570 MW) and install prepaid meters and bring down total transmission and distribution losses to a single digit by 2030.

Electric buses would be rolled out in major cities, and a charging station network would be established.

Besides, the money will be sent on the improvement of road traffic congestion (15 percent improvement in fuel efficiency), widening of roads (two- to four-lane) and improving the road quality, construction of non-motorised transport and bicycle lanes, introducing electronic road pricing or congestion charging, reducing private

cars and encouraging electric and hybrid vehicle use.

The industry subsector's target would be to achieve 20 percent energy efficiency through measures according to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Master Plan (EECMP). It will also promote green industry and carbon financing.

The agriculture and forestry sectors need a total of \$3.27 billion from both sources.

The money in the agriculture sector will be needed for the reduction of methane emission reduction from rice fields with Upscaling Alternate Wetting and Drying in dry season rice fields in 100,000 hectares of croplands and rice varietal improvement for 2,129,000 hectares of croplands.

The funds will also be spent on 627,000 hectares of cropland management (leaf colour chart, soil test based fertiliser application, less tillage, barn management etc.), improvement of fertiliser management (deep placement of urea in rice field, training, awareness) in 150,000 hectares, bringing more area under pulse cultivation among others.

In the forestry sector, the fund will be used to reduce deforestation, introduce reforestation/afforestation initiatives, measures for forest restoration and maintain forest and tree cover.

The waste sector needs about \$4.3 billion for improving municipal solid

waste management, ensuring the 3R (Reduce-Reuse-Recycle) principle for waste management and improvement of sewerage treatment.

"The initiatives in the NDC are positive," Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue, told The Daily Star.

But the government is not solely responsible for implementing those, he said, adding that participation from the private sector is needed as well.

"Globally, the private sector showed interest in mitigation measures."

The commitment from the developed countries and global companies that they will invest in some bankable projects such as electric bus and car manufacturing is also important, he added.

The developed countries, especially the G-20 countries, must take an active lead in all global initiatives to tackle climate change, said Md. Shahab Uddin, minister for environment, forest and climate change ministry, which prepared the NDCs.

The world leaders need to work on a long-term plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, he said, while calling on the Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility to address the existing problems so that the developing countries can receive \$100 billion a year in aid under the Paris Climate Agreement.

Vaccination begins today

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College at Malibagh, Chittagong Grammar School at Banani, Dhaka Commerce College in Mirpur, Kakoli High School and College in Dhamondi, South Breeze School in Uttara and Scholastica School in Mirpur.

As many as 25 booths have been set up in each centre, where students of other schools in the vicinity can come to get vaccinated as well, Haque said.

Students will need to bring copies of their birth certificates and vaccine cards to the centre.

The government, which ran a successful trial on 120 children in Manikganj, is aiming to vaccinate 4,000-5,000 children a day for now, according to Haque.

The vaccination programme will be rolled out in other centres in Dhaka as well as the rest of the country. Eventually, 35,000 to 40,000 school

PM for increased climate

FROM PAGE 1
climate promises of \$100 billion in annual funding to developing countries for their survival.

They wrote, "Our climate emergency is global, yet it does not affect everyone equally. For the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) -- a group of 48 countries spanning four continents -- climate change is quite simply an existential threat. This is not hyperbole."

In the article, they called for greater ambition from the world to fend off the climate crisis, saying, "Greater funding for CVF countries will enable them to move from climate vulnerability to climate prosperity. That will be good for the 48 countries in greatest peril right now, but also for all those facing increasing threats. It is quite simply the right thing to do."

Referring to the response by governments around the world to the Covid-19 pandemic that has shown what is possible when we face imminent peril, they said, "We must harness this same drive in our response to existential climate threats."

About the adversity of climate change, they said that small island states such as Vanuatu, the Maldives and the Marshall Islands are being engulfed by rising sea levels.

China rejects 'political, false' US report on Covid origins

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transmission or a lab leak.

It added that China's cooperation would probably be needed to reach a conclusive assessment on origins, although stressing that Beijing continued to "hinder the global investigation".

The so-called lab-leak theory says the virus was spread from a research facility in Wuhan, the central city where the contagion was first reported. The theory remains unsubstantiated, and China has repeatedly rejected it.

Foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin responded in a statement Sunday that China had expressed firm opposition to initial findings published in the summary report in August.

Beijing lashed out against the US intelligence review into the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic yesterday, calling it "political and false" while urging Washington to "stop attacking" China.

The Chinese foreign ministry's retort came days after the US Office of the Director of National Intelligence released a fuller version of its findings from a 90-day review ordered by President Joe Biden.

The paper said that, without new information, intelligence agencies would not be able to offer a better judgement on whether the virus emerged via animal-to-human

Shakib ruled out of T20

FROM PAGE 1
stage as the 34-year-old will not be taking part in the Tigers' last two Super 12 clashes against South Africa and Australia on November 2 and 4, respectively.

"Shakib sustained a left lower hamstring strain while fielding during the match against the West Indies. In a clinical examination, it was diagnosed as an injury of Grade 1 intensity. He is ruled out from participation in the last two matches of the tournament and until further review," BCB's chief physician doctor Debasish Chowdhury was quoted as saying in a video message provided by the BCB media.

Having suffered a hamstring injury during Bangladesh's latest game against West Indies on Friday, Shakib had opened the batting for the first time in T20Is and was seen struggling while running between the wickets and had also walked off the ground for some time during fielding earlier. Shakib, however, had completed his four-over spell with the ball in that game.

"We are also spotlighting the need to be more ambitious in adaptation because we are already living inside the eye of the storm that is the global climate emergency. And because of that, vulnerable nations are asking major emitting countries to join annual platforms at every UN climate conference to constantly raise ambition," they wrote.

But for the poorer nations, funding is essential to realise ambitious goals, they opined.

More than a dozen

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least nine others were injured in the clash, said police.

In a similar clash at Bihar union in Bogura's Shibganj upazila, three people were injured on the same day.

Three more were injured in pre-polls violence in Pirojpur Sadar upazila yesterday.

In Patuakhali's Naomala union, supporters of AL-nominated candidate Kamal Hossain tried to establish supremacy over the supporters of AL rebel candidate Shahzada Hawladar.

At one point, two gunshots were fired in presence of police, leaving one injured, alleged witnesses. The victim was admitted to Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital where a surgeon removed the bullet from his body, reported our Patuakhali correspondent.

Contacted, Al Mamun, officer-in-charge of Baufal Police Station, said additional

policemen were deployed in the area fearing further deterioration of the law and order situation.

He, however, denied the shooting on Saturday night but said he heard about the removal of a bullet from a man's body.

In Bogura's Bihar union, supporters of AL candidate Mohidul Islam and AL rebel candidate Motiur Rahman Motin locked into a clash, reported our Bogura correspondent.

Mohidul and his followers allegedly stabbed three men with sharp weapons and vandalised the houses of Motin's seven to eight supporters, alleged Motin.

Meanwhile, Mohidul brought counter-allegations against Motin and said his supporters started the clash.

Contacted, both of them denied the allegations.

Zahidul Islam, medical officer of Shibganj Upazila Health Complex, said three people were admitted to the hospital and received primary treatment.

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)

Purchase & Procurement Department

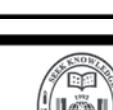
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Sealed quotations are invited from the manufacturers/bona-fide distributors/dealers for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of passive networking & cabling. The detailed specifications and quantity of the materials as well as other terms & conditions are mentioned in the tender schedule. Interested bidders are requested to collect tender schedule from the Purchase & Procurement Department on payment of Tk.2,000/- (non-refundable) by cash to the Finance & Accounts Department of Independent University, Bangladesh within the office hrs. from 9 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. (Sunday through Thursday) till November 08, 2021.

The sealed bids will be submitted by the bidders in two envelopes to the Purchase & Procurement Department, one for the Technical Offer and another for the Financial Offer. The bids (Technical and Financial) will be received till November 18, 2021 on or before 2.30 p.m. The Technical Offers will be opened on the same day at 3.00 p.m. Subsequently, the Financial Offers of the technically qualified bidders will be opened in their presence. The Financial Offers must be accompanied by an earnest money equivalent to 2.5% of the total quoted amount in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank favoring Independent University, Bangladesh without which the bid shall be rejected.

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Injured student

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of Nowfel, said the activists, who are supporters of Nasir, also general secretary of Chattogram city unit Awami League, hit Aqib on the head with sticks and iron rods and also hacked him when he was alone in front of Popular Diagnostic Centre, next to CMCH.

The attack happened following a clash between the two groups on Friday night.

"We were in a meeting with the principal at that time," he said, adding, "After hearing the news, we rushed to the spot and rescued him in a critical condition."

Contact

MISSING HEALTH MINISTRY FILES 6 staffers picked up for interrogation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department of police yesterday picked up six staffers of the health ministry for interrogation over 17 files missing from the ministry's medical education division.

The six were taken to CID headquarters by a microbus, an additional superintendent of CID told The Daily Star.

CID officials also collected evidence from the room of the secretariat, from where the files went missing.

"As part of the shadow investigation, we came here (the ministry) to interrogate (the staffers). We will interrogate them and let you know the details later on," Md Kamruzzaman, a special superintendent of CID, told reporters on the spot.

A CID source said those who used to look after the files at the branch are being quizzed. They were still at the CID HQ till the filing of this report at 7pm.

Earlier, the health ministry on Thursday filed a general diary after the 17 files, deemed 'important', went missing.

On Saturday, it formed a three-member committee to probe into how the files went missing from its premises.

Meanwhile, Ali Noor, secretary to the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, yesterday told reporters that there is nothing confidential in the missing files.

"The information in the files is in our other departments, in our computers, in our DG offices," he said at the secretariat while replying to query from journalists. He said though this back-up is not a problem, but the fact that the files went missing is.

Asked whether he suspected anyone in the ministry, he said, "It's difficult to say now. Because we don't really know who did it..."

"However, we have told police that they can interrogate

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina being greeted by Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Saida Muna Tasneem at Glasgow International Airport in Scotland yesterday. The premier is on a two-week visit to the United Kingdom and France to attend the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) and other events.

PHOTO: PMO

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'DANCE CLUB' RACKET 2 traffickers arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion arrested two members of a trafficking racket from the capital's Karail slum area early yesterday.

The arrestees are - Sujon Shikder (21), and Ramzan Mollah (26). Another suspect - Hossain from Narail - is on the run.

Their targets were usually young women, mostly from families belonging to lower-income groups.

"The traffickers faked love affairs with the girls to lure them into the trafficking trap. They would also marry them by verbal agreements without proper paperwork, capture their intimate photos and then traffic them to India," said ASP (Operations Officer) Noman Ahmed of Rab-1.

One of the arrestees,

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THE SPACE CONUNDRUM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If the proposed building construction rules-2021 is approved, it will reduce 33 to 53 percent floor areas of a building, the Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) said yesterday.

Leaders of the organisation made the comment at a press conference held at a city hotel.

"According to the existing building construction rules-2008, if a building owner constructs an eight-storey building adjoining a 20-foot road on a five-katha land, it leaves them with 13,500 square feet floor area," said REHAB president Alamgir Shamsul Alam (Kajal).

"But if the draft building construction rules-2021 is approved, an owner will get 9,000 square feet of floor area."

Alamgir said this reduced space will increase flat prices by around 50 percent and reduce the purchasing capacity of a buyer, and also increase rent over time.

According to the draft Detailed Area Plan (DAP) of 2016 to 2035, the total number of structures in Rajuk areas is around 21 lakh. Of them, 84 percent



REHAB'S TAKE

Under proposed building construction rules, floor space will reduce up to 53pc
This will drive up price by 50pc, rent and reduce buyer's purchasing capacity

CHANGE IN PLANS

Earlier, Rajuk took initiative to limit building height to control population density
However, it was discarded, with new plan for per acre-based solution

EXPERTS' VERSION

Former plan was better route for density control, sustainability
Rajuk bowed down to real estate sector's pressure

are one-storey buildings, 93 percent from one to three-storey, 0.67 percent are over six-storey, while 0.16 percent are above eight-storeys, said Alamgir.

Contacted, DAP project director Md Ashrafuzz Islam raised questions over how REHAB got to know about the draft of the proposed building construction rules-2021, as it is neither published nor finalised yet.

"We have just updated it after a mass trial and we will take a decision on it after holding a national seminar," said Ashraf. He added REHAB will be notified prior to the seminar, where they will be able to state their opinions as well.

"We will not take any decision to harm anyone, but we will take every decision to make the city liveable," said Ashraf.

Earlier, Rajuk took an initiative to limit building height in order to control population density.

However, the plan was later discarded, with Rajuk instead going for a horizontal solution, proposing density control measures based on per acre of area a building takes up.

Officials of Rajuk said though they initially planned to limit the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

146 more hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 146 more patients were hospitalised with dengue in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday, of whom 42 are from outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the new cases, a total of 5,458 were diagnosed during the current month out of a total 23,655 infected. Of the total infected, 3,414 are from outside Dhaka.

According to DGHS, 91 people have died of dengue infection in the country this year. Twelve people died in July, 34 in August, 23 in September and 22 in October.

Among the deaths, 84 have died in Dhaka, five each in Chattogram, Khulna, Rajshahi, Mymensingh and Barishal.

'We have to carry his mantle forward'

Abul Hasnat's invaluable contribution to Bangladeshi culture remembered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Choosing substance over publicity, poet, essayist, and editor Abul Hasnat devoted his life to improve the culture of the country. For this, the vacuum created by the Kali O Kalam maginizer editor's demise is irreparable.



His fellows and admirers made these observations at a remembrance programme yesterday, organised by Bengal Foundation to mark his first death anniversary.

Abul Hasnat died on November 1 last year, at the age of 75.

At the programme, friends and followers remembered Hasnat through emotional reminiscences, evaluation of his work, exhibition of documentaries, and publication of a memorabilia book on him.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



A group of students of Chattogram Medical College demonstrated in front of the campus yesterday, protesting the attack on Mahadi J Akib, an MBBS student of the institution. Akib was seriously injured in a clash between two factions of Chhatra League on the campus Saturday. He is now on life support at Chattogram Medical College Hospital's intensive care unit.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

CONDENMED CELLS HC seeks report on facilities for death row convicts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday sought a report from the government on the facilities provided to 1,987 death row convicts in the condemned cells at prisons across the country.

The court ordered the government to submit the report to it in detail by November 14.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahaman passed the order during hearing a writ petition challenging the legality of keeping death

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COURT CHRONICLES

Can't direct parliament to formulate law Says HC; rejects petition on formation of EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summarily rejected a writ petition that sought its directive on the authorities concerned to formulate a law for formation of the Election Commission.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Kamrul Hossain Mollah rejected the petition saying that this court cannot direct the parliament to formulate a law for formation of the Election Commission.

Supreme Court lawyer and secretary general of Bangladesh Congress, a political party,

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GRAFT CASE Charge framed against Salim Prodhan

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against online casino "kingpin" Salim Prodhan in a case filed over amassing Tk 57.79 crore illegally and laundering about Tk 22 crore.

Salim, now in jail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge Al Asad Md Asifuzzaman of the Special Judge's Court-6 of Dhaka read out the charges to him, Mohammad Mostofa, bench assistant of the court, told The Daily Star.

The judge fixed November 25 to start the trial.

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DEATH OF SALMAN SHAH Dhaka court accepts PBI probe report

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday accepted the probe report of a case filed over the death of actor Salman Shah.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mamanur Rashid passed the order after rejecting a no-confidence petition filed by the defence.

Investigation Officer Sirajul Islam, an inspector of Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), on February 25 last year submitted a 600-page probe report to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court of Dhaka, stating

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Govt to procure 9.5 lakh tonnes of food grains

UNB, Dhaka

The government will procure a total of 9.5 tonnes of food grains from the farmers across the country in the current fiscal year to ensure fair prices to them and increase food stock.

Under the programme, three lakh tonnes of paddy, five lakh tonnes of boiled rice and 1.5 lakh tonnes of wheat will be procured.

The decision was taken at an online meeting of the Food Planning and Monitoring Unit chaired by Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder yesterday.

The government has fixed the paddy procurement price at Tk 27 per kg, boiled rice at Tk 40 per kg and wheat at Tk 28 per kg, said the minister.

The paddy procurement drive will begin on November 7 while the wheat procurement on April 1 in 2022, he added.

Last year the government had procured two lakh tonnes of paddy at Tk 26 per kg, 6 lakh tonnes boiled rice at Tk 37 per kg and 50,000 tonnes Atap rice at Tk 36 per kg.

4 journos attacked for protesting extortion

Fellows take to the street, cops arrest three

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An attack on four journalists in front of police sparked a six-hour street protest by their fellows at Rajshahi city's Martyred Qamaruzzaman Square yesterday.

The incident began at 11am, when the four journalists -- led by Rafiqul Islam, president of Rajshahi Union of Journalists --, under the banner of press club, went to the spot to protest extortion using false identities of journalists.

Angry at this, miscreants stormed the spot and started beating them up.

Rafiqul Islam, and three other journalists -- Razu Ahmed, Selim Jahangir and Kabil Hossain -- sustained mild injuries from the attack. The injured said although police were present, the miscreants still managed to flee.

Soon after this, more journalists thronged the spot and held a sit-in on the street. They demanded arrest of attackers and withdrawal of Boalia Police Station OC Nibaran Chandra Burman.

Meanwhile, some journalist leaders met Abu Kalam Siddique, commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, at his conference room with their demands. The commissioner assured them of justice, they said.

At 5pm, police arrested three attackers -- Liakat Hossain, Faruk Hossain and Rezaul Islam -- following which, the protest was withdrawn.

However, they said if no action is taken against the OC within 72 hours, they will hold a sit-in in front of the police station.

OC Burman could not be contacted for comments.



As physical classes are starting in full swing at Dhaka University, Associate Professor Rebeka Sultana of the philosophy department decided to share a different experience with students yesterday. Instead of holding the class in a regular classroom, she took third-year students out in the open air, under a tree in front of the arts building.

Evercare Hospital Ctg observes World Stroke Day

City DESK

Evercare Hospital Chattogram has recently organised a programme to raise awareness about stroke prevention, marking World Stroke Day, said a press release.

Renowned neurologists of the country presented their speeches on the occasion. Prof Dr Khokan Kanti Das said, "There is a shortage of interventional neurology activities in Chattogram."

He stressed the need for a new generation of neurologists to come forward to overcome this crisis.

Dr Mohammad Fazle-Akbar Chowdhury, general manager of the hospital, said they're committed to provide world-class health facility.

Dr Sirajee Shafiqul Islam, associate professor, National Institute of Neurosciences, presented case studies on Thrombolysis and Mechanical Thrombectomy.

The event was conducted by Dr Mohammad Najim Uddin, consultant, neurology at Evercare.

The space conundrum

FROM PAGE 3

maximum height of building to eight-storey, based on suggestions from consultants, they later backed out from it as it sparked objections from different quarters. That's why Rajuk is now going for density control measures, officials said.

However, experts do not think this decision is appropriate. Talking to The Daily Star, they said limiting building height is regarded as an effective method of urban density control worldwide. They claimed Rajuk moved away from their previous decision due to pressure from the real estate sector.

Adil Muhammad Khan, general secretary of Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP), told the Daily Star, "To the business people, profit is more important than liveability and functionality of the city."

"It is they [business people] who opposed the proposal to control building height, and Rajuk has bowed down to this pressure. It now remains to be seen whether Rajuk can accomplish their plan to control density based on per acre restrictions or not," he said.

"When the volume of a building increases, its overall 'built-up volume' -- how much space it actually takes up vertically and horizontally -- increases too, which raises the temperature of the city as well. So, building height is not only a matter of density, but also one of sustainability," said Adil. "In order to save Dhaka, we must reduce the built-up volume of the city," he said.

However, DAP project director Ashraf said, "We will implement it [area-based density control] in phases."

PM reaches Scotland

FROM PAGE 3

bilateral meetings with British PM Boris Johnson and French President Emmanuel Macron apart from other heads of state and government.

The premier will also hold a meeting with the UK's Prince Charles during her visit.

Hasina will stay in Scotland before leaving for London on November 3. Then she will leave London for Paris on November 9. She is expected to return home on November 14.

Charge framed

FROM PAGE 3

case's trial. On March 21, Judge KM Emrul Kayesh of the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka took cognisance of the charges against the accused and transferred the case to Special Judge Court-6 for its trial.

On February 4, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Deputy Director Gulshan Anwar Pradhan, also the case's investigation officer, submitted the charge sheet to the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka.

Salim, who came to the fore in 2019 when law enforcers conducted drives

against illegal casino businesses, allegedly amassed his wealth from online casino businesses and laundered money to Thailand and the USA, said investigators.

Salim was arrested from a Bangkok-bound Thai Airways flight at Dhaka airport on September 30, 2019.

Later that night, Rab raided his office and residence in Gulshan and arrested his three associates -- Akhtarruzzaman, Roman, and Masum.

Three more cases including narcotics were also filed against him and those are now pending with different courts in Dhaka.

We have to carry

FROM PAGE 3

During his speech, Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury said, "The darkness of communalism has settled in... The culture required for the development of democratic consciousness is non-existent. Today, a cultural awakening is very much needed."

"Abul Hasnat has worked for this culture all his life. But as he is no more, we have to pick up his mantle and carry on," he said.

Writer and academic Prof Syed Manzoorul Islam said, "The culture of a country does not develop in one day. For this, many people have been working behind the scenes for a long time."

Terming Hasnat as one, he said, "He has created new writers and shown them new ways of thinking."

Among others, Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman, Kali o Kalam Publisher Abul Khair, Hasnat's wife and journalist Nasimun Ara Haque Minu, Chhayanaut Executive President Sarwar Ali, and thespian Ramendu Majumdar spoke at the programme.

Meanwhile, in a statement published

yesterday, Nasimun Ara Haque Minu said a special prayer for session will take place at Hasnat's house on Friday.

Born in 1945 in old Dhaka, Hasnat was vice-president of Chhatra Union in 1971, playing a significant role during the Liberation War while staying in India.

Under Hasnat's editorship, doyens like Anisuzzaman, Shamsur Rahman, and Syed Shamsul Haque used to write for the Daily Sangbad's literary section.

Under his leadership, the Kali O Kalom magazine has been published for the last two decades.

He has written and edited many books -- "Jyotsna and Durbipak", "Kono Akdin Bhubandagay", "Steamer City Diye Jay", "Tuku O Somudr Golpo", "Youddha Diner Dhushor Dupure", "Ranur Dhokha-Bhalobasha", "Rabindra-Chitralakan", "Muktijudder Golpo", "Harono Shirir Chabir Khoje" and "Chotoder Abraham Lincoln", and many more.

Hasnat also wrote poetry under the pseudonym Mahmud Al Zaman. He was also a key organiser of Chhayanaut.

HC seeks report on facilities

FROM PAGE 3

row convicts in condemned cells before their cases are finally disposed of by the Appellate Division.

The court set November 14 for passing further order on the petition.

Earlier on Thursday, petitioners' lawyer Mohammad Shishir Manir submitted a statement to the HC, saying that a total of 1,987 death row convicts were in condemned cells of prisons across the country till September 20 this year.

Among them, 1,933 are males and 54 females, according to a statement

prepared by Assistant Inspector General of Prisons, Shuraiya Akhter.

In the statement, Akhter said that there are 2,599 condemned cells in the prisons -- 2,456 for male death row convicts and 143 for women.

Generally, a death row convict is kept in a single condemned cell but multiple death row convicts are kept in a single cell if the number is higher than that of the cells.

The condemned convicts are provided with books and newspapers and they are allowed to do physical exercise on the cell premises, Akhter

said, in the statement. The statement was provided to lawyer Shishir Manir following an application submitted by him on August 29.

On September 20, during hearing of the same petition, the HC bench sought detailed information in this regard.

Yesterday, Deputy Attorney General Bepul Bagmar told the HC bench that his office is yet to receive any report from the prison authorities.

Three death row convicts filed the petition with the HC in September and urged to order prison authorities to transfer them to normal cells.

do so, instructed by some officers of Cantonment Police Station. Rezvi is now staying in the US, and refused to come to the country for a testimony.

The PBI officials said the then cantonment police officers later faced departmental punishment. PBI conducted the investigation taking into account all of the queries of Salman's mother, they added.

Defence lawyer Faruque Ahmed said they would go to the higher court against the lower court's order.

in the case, turning it from "unnatural death" to "murder". Rezvi later withdrew his confession given before police.

Detective Branch and CID of police, and a judicial probe body investigated the case and submitted reports, stating that it was a case of unnatural death, which the family rejected.

In August 2016, a Dhaka court asked PBI to carry out further investigation.

Asked about Rezvi's first statement, PBI officials said he [Rezvi] was beaten at the police station, and compelled to

do so, instructed by some officers of Cantonment Police Station. Rezvi is now staying in the US, and refused to come to the country for a testimony.

The PBI officials said the then cantonment police officers later faced departmental punishment. PBI conducted the investigation taking into account all of the queries of Salman's mother, they added.

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Can't direct parliament

FROM PAGE 3

Md Earul Islam, who filed the petition, told The Daily Star that he will move an appeal before the Appellate Division challenging the HC order.

He submitted the petition to the HC last month saying that there is a constitutional mandate for formulating a specific law for formation of the EC.

But governments of the country have not formulated any law in the last 50 years, he said.

Earul Islam said in the petition that the government appoints the election commissioners in an arbitrary manner without formulating the law, which is a violation of the constitution.

During hearing of the petition yesterday, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin opposed the writ saying that the HC has no jurisdiction to order the parliament to formulate any law.

বিত্রয় অথবা ভাড়া দেওয়া হইবে
শতভাগ রাশনীমূলী কমপ্লাইন্স ১৪টি সহিত লাইন এবং ওয়াশিং প্লাট সহ ওভেন গার্মেন্টস ফ্যাক্টরী বিত্রয় অথবা ভাড়া দেওয়া হইবে।
মোট বিত্রিং এবং আয়তন - ১,৭,০০০ বর্গফুট। এয়ারপোর্ট থেকে ৭ কি.মি. দূরত্বে - আচিপাড়া, উত্তরখান, উত্তর, ঢাকা-১২৩০।
যোগাযোগ: ০১৯০৫৮৮০০০০, ০১৮৪২৬২৫০২৮

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Two Buildings (each 6 Storied@ 90,000ft) total 1,80,000ft, Land 5.50 bigha with Electricity/ Gas/ Water Facility. Both Buildings Accord Approved with Full Compliance. Presently Garments Factory running at Dhaka Road, Vogra before Gazipur Chowrasta. Contact: 01711-525563, Email: dilan@capital-bd.com

College Education Development Project (CEDP)

Govt. Brajalal College, Khulna

Memo No. BLC/CEDP/1393 Dated: 31 October, 2021

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following work.

Tender ID No.	Package No. and description	Last selling date and time	Closing date and time
623594	BLC/CEDP/G-10 Procurement & Installation of AC & Other Electric Devices	21-Nov-2021 16:00	22-Nov-2021 14:00
623607	BLC/CEDP/G-2 Procurement of furniture for the teachers' rooms, laboratories, central and seminar libraries	22-Nov-2021 16:00	23-Nov-2021 14:00

This is an online tender, 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 (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender document from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any branch of registered banks within the date mentioned in the tender notice. Further information & guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Prof. Sharif Atiquzzaman
Principal
Govt. Brajalal College, Khulna

GD-1958

6 staffers picked up

FROM PAGE 3

everyone so that we can know the information and recover the files," he said.

Asked about whether a case will be filed in this regard, the secretary said, "It is under investigation. After knowing about the progress, the next step will be taken."

A team of Shahbagh Police Station, which is investigating the GD, also visited the spot, said Moudud Hawlader, officer-in-charge of the police station. The majority of the files were related to procurement by different medical colleges and health institutions, according to the missing list.

According to the general diary filed with the Shahbagh Police Station, the files were stored in a room where the activities of the Purchase and Collection-2 Section are conducted under the supervision of Shahadat Hossain, additional secretary (development) of the medical education and family welfare division of the ministry.

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

Md Joseph Sardar and Ayesha Siddiqua, 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 folders from the cabinet.

2 traffickers arrested

FROM PAGE 3

Sujon, married three women this way and sold one of them off in India, said Noman. Two more women whom they were planning to traffic were rescued by Rab officials. "One of the girls whom Sujon married and trafficked to India is now at a dance bar in Mumbai," he said.

They would take Tk 28,000 in advance from the syndicate in India for each woman trafficked and traffic them through the Jashore border. According to Rab's information, the racket has four to five members in its syndicate in India.

"One of them is a Bangladeshi woman who got married to an Indian national and is currently living there," said the Rab official. "We are trying to catch the other members of the racket, including the kingpins."

Invitation for Tenders

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1 Ministry/Division	Prime Minister's Office
2 Agency	Bangladesh Navy
3 Procuring Entity Name	Bangladesh Navy/ Ashrayan-3 Project
4 Procuring Entity Code	224115700
5 Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6 Invitation for	Mini Support Grid for 01 MW Solar Plant with specialized Battery, Inverter and other Hardwares (550-600 KWh) at Bhasan Char. (Solar & DG Compatible)
7 Invitation Ref No	Ashrayan-3 Project/ 2019-2020-2021/ WVD-14 (KA)
8 Date	30.10.2021



A damaged section of the Jashore-Khulna highway.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

JASHORE-KHULNA HIGHWAY

Tk 321cr for a botched-up repair work?

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

The Jashore-Khulna highway underwent a major overhauling at a cost of Tk 321 crore only last year.

But the vital highway that connects country's northern districts with southwestern part of the country, especially with country's second busiest seaport Mongla, has already developed numerous potholes at many locations.

The highway is crucial for maintaining supply of coal and fertiliser from Nowapara river port in Jashore.

Construction, which carried out the repair work on the damaged portion of the highway, claimed that overloaded vehicles have damaged the highway after they completed their work

They were repairing the damaged parts of the highway again, he added.

Among various reasons, plying of overloaded vehicles and stockpiling of coal alongside the highway has contributed to its deterioration between Basundia and Nowapara, said SM Moazzem Hossain, executive engineer of Roads and Highways Department.

Toma Construction is currently working to repair the damaged parts of the highway and the work will be finished soon, he also said.

highway turn extremely hazardous when those are filled with water following light rain.

Trader Nazrul Islam blamed irregularities during the repair work and plying of overloaded vehicles for the dilapidated condition of the Jashore-Khulna highway.

Monir Hossain, manager of Toma

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Online

FROM PAGE 12

and video game streaming platforms, the findings showed.

"We've been working hard to drive awareness and keep our future generations safe online to address these risks. There is no denying our future generation needs digital skills and are active users of the internet," Grameenphone CEO Yasir Azman reiterated the company's focus to address the issues outlined by the Telenor survey.

Migraine

FROM PAGE 12

It is a primary headache, meaning that it is not caused by a different medical condition.

Migraines vary among people and in many, they happen in stages.

The first stage can last from a few hours to days. This is known as the "pre-headache" phase. Symptoms during this phase include being sensitive to light, sound or smell, fatigue, mood changes, constipation or diarrhoea.

The "aura" phase stems from the nervous system and often involves vision. It can last from 5-20 minutes to less than an hour. Most don't endure this phase but those who do may see black dots, wavy lines, flashes of light, or have tunnel vision.

The migraine headache usually lasts from 4 to 72 hours if untreated. During a migraine, you may experience pain on one side of the head, but often on both sides, throbbing pain, sensitivity to light, sound, and nausea.

Following a migraine attack, you may feel fatigued for up to a day.

Migraines are often left untreated. If you frequently experience symptoms, keep a record and consult a doctor. Seek medical attention immediately if you experience an abrupt, severe headache or headache with fever, stiff neck, confusion, seizures, double vision, numbness or weakness, which could be a sign of a stroke.

War imminent: Yahya

FROM PAGE 12

capturing territory and installing a puppet Bangladesh regime that will be war".

And if it comes to that, Yahya claimed, China would not tolerate an attack on Pakistan. "We will get all the weapons and ammunition we need, every assistance short of physical intervention," added Yahya.

INDIRA GANDHI CRITICISES US VIEW ON REFUGEE AID

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi today warned that the influx of East Pakistani refugees had strained India beyond breaking point. Criticising the US stand regarding the Bangladeshi issue, she said, "I think the US is taking a rather short-term view of this situation. Perhaps this is because the countries involved are far from the West. But we are living with this horror from day to day -- this exodus of millions of helpless people."

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

their "unintended mistakes and faults" in placing Pori Moni on remand for the second and third time, saying they had done it in "good faith".

They offered apologies in two separate written explanations, which were earlier submitted before the HC.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin, representing judges Debbrata and Atikul, on the day requested the HC bench to pardon the lower court judges for their mistakes, saying they are very young officers and lack training.

They were sorry and repented their error, he further said.

On September 15, the HC bench expressed discontent at the explanations of the two lower court judges, saying that they had "undermined" the HC.

Golam Mostafa, investigation officer in the narcotics case filed against Pori Moni, yesterday appeared before the court in line with its September 29 order.

Earlier, the two metropolitan magistrates had apologised to the HC for

delivering verdict on the matter.

On September 29, the bench led by Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam ordered judges Debbrata and Atikul to submit further explanations before it about their conduct over granting the remand.

In the explanations, they said they had ordered police to execute the remand of Pori Moni in the presence of a female police officer as per the Supreme Court directives.

The metropolitan magistrates also prayed to the HC bench to exonerate them from any proceedings, saying they will be more cautious when passing remand orders in the future.

Leading rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) is providing legal assistance to Pori Moni.

Lawyer ZI Khan Panna appeared for ASK, while Attorney General AM Amin Uddin, Deputy Attorney General Abu Yahiya Dulal and Assistant Attorney General Md Mizanur Rahman represented the state.

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They were sorry and repented their error, he further said.

On September 1



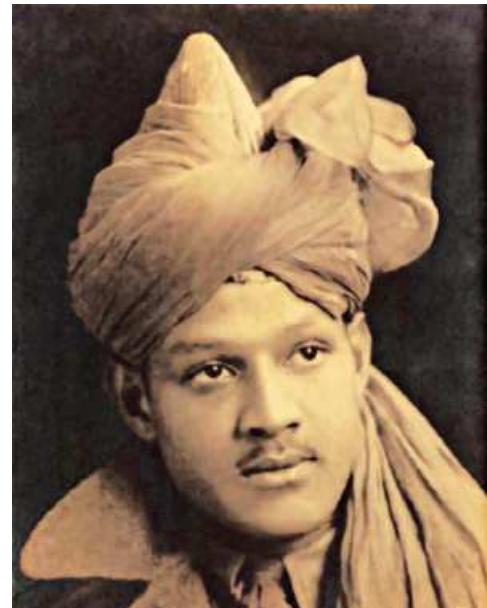
(L) Captain Ishfakul Majid seated (first left) with British and Indian army officers, British India, 1934. (R) Seated left to right: (2nd) Maj. Gen. Ishfakul Majid, GOC, 9 Infantry Division (NWFP); (3rd) Gen. Sir Douglas Gracey, C-in-C, Pakistan Army; (4th) Khawaja Nazimuddin, Governor-General of Pakistan and (5th) Lt. Gen. Sir Ross Cairns McCay, CGS, Pakistan Army and others, Peshawar, Pakistan, 1950



MAJ. GEN. ISHFAKUL MAJID

Soldier & Gentleman

WAQAR A KHAN



Ishfakul Majid as a young Lieutenant with the Hyderabad Regiment (Kumaon Regiment) British Indian Army, 1927

Mohammad Ishfakul Majid was born on 17 March, 1903 in Jorhat, Assam, Bengal Presidency in British India, to an illustrious old Assamese family which was arguably the most prominent Muslim family in Assam, especially during the late 19th to mid-20th centuries. It was a wealthy, titled and a well-educated family hailing originally from a prosperous mercantile class with a conservative background. The family originated from Goalpara, Assam, but had moved to Jorhat in upper Assam when the ruling Ahom Kings shifted their capital from Sivasagar to Jorhat. However, despite their financial prosperity and social standing, the Majids remained religiously devout and inclined towards Sufism. Ishfakul's great-great-grandfather, Dar Shah Fakir, had renounced worldly life and chose to lead the life of an ascetic instead. Thankfully, for the family, Ishfakul's great-grandfather, Mohammad Shah, became a prosperous merchant and the largest 'Mauzadar' (landholder) of Assam, who owned extensive arable land and residential properties in Sivasagar, Dibrugarh, Guwahati and Jorhat. Ishfakul was a nephew of Sir Syed Muhammad Saadulla (1885-1955) KCIE, the Chief/Prime Minister of Assam during the British Raj.

Ishfakul's renowned father Abdul Majid (1868-1924) CIE, was a scholarly man who was proficient in Arabic, Persian, English, Bengali, and Assamese. After passing his Entrance exam by flying colors, he graduated from the prestigious Presidency College in Calcutta in 1887, and joined Cambridge University in England, to study law in 1888. He qualified as a Barrister from Middle Temple in 1891. On his return to Assam, he married Mafidai Nissa. Abdul Majid had a distinguished professional career and held important public offices throughout his life. He became a Justice of the Calcutta High Court in 1920, was awarded the CIE (Companion of Indian Empire) and given an audience by King George V, in a brief ceremony held in London. The same year he was awarded the 'Grant of Insignia' by the British Government and subsequently nominated for knighthood. He was an eminent litterateur of the Assamese language and a philanthropist who built two pioneering schools for female education in Jorhat. He maintained a fine library with a rare collection of books and manuscripts at his Shillong residence.

The Majid family owned a beautiful hill-top bungalow called 'Gulistan', which was located at Kench's Trace with a splendid bird's eye-view of the undulating hilly terrain rich in verdant foliage in the greater locale of Riblong, Shillong in Assam. It had a large compound with abundant flora and a nice cottage named 'Dunoon' for guests. A house close to Gulistan was owned by Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, the famous physician and politician of West Bengal, based in Calcutta. It was in Roy's house that the parents of Ishfakul first met and befriended the Nobel Laureate Poet Rabindranath Tagore, who later visited their house on a subsequent visit to Shillong. The Kabiguru himself sang a few of his Rabindra Sangeet in his imitable style for the Majid's, who were ecstatic at the honor bestowed on them and listened mesmerized. Sadly, Gulistan today is a government rest house with a substantially reduced compound.

Ishfakul Majid completed his undergraduate education from the well-known Cotton College, Guwahati, Assam. On 2 February 1922, he joined the prestigious Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, England, passing out as a King's Commissioned Indian Officer (KCIO) on 27 August 1924, a rare distinction for an Indian Muslim in those early days. He was the second Muslim from the Bengal Presidency to join Sandhurst, the first being Shahibzada Iskander Mirza of the Murshidabad Nawab family, who enrolled in Sandhurst in 1918, passing out in 1920. On his commission in 1924, Ishfakul was attached for a year with the 2nd Battalion of the Lincolnshire Regiment of the British Army based in Lucknow and Ranikhet, India. In 31 October 1925, he was accepted for the British Indian Army, being posted to the 4th battalion of the 19th Hyderabad Regiment (later Kumaon Regiment) in which capacity he served for long years. He

However, he was also a very proud man and lived by the principles of righteous dignity and honor, never compromising with anything that was inherently wrong or improper. Once as a young army officer in the British Indian army, he suddenly came across a British manager at a tea garden in Assam manhandling a poor Indian coolie. He instantly stopped his jeep and down and soundly thrashed the manager. Such an audacity by an Indian was unheard of in those days in colonial India. Fortunately, no action was taken against Ishfakul given his family background, the merit of the case and the nationalist fervor already gripping the country by then. It is to be noted here that Ishfaqul was physically very strongly built. An avid sportsman, he excelled in physical sports and was a good boxer. He was also a big game hunter of tigers and rogue elephants. However, it is also true that in the early years of his service in the colonial army, his British superiors have often mentioned his 'temper flare-ups' in his 'Annual Confidential Reports' (ACRs) and advised him to consciously mend his ways, besides highlighting his positive attributes which were rather praiseworthy for an upcoming young Indian army officer.

death of Maj. Gen. Iftikhar Khan in a tragic plane crash in 1949. Iftikhar was touted by Gen. Douglas Gracey and the Pakistan government as the tentative new native C-in-C of the Pak army, with the retirement and departure of Gen. Gracey as the last British C-in-C of the Pak army. Besides, Gen. Gracey had incurred the displeasure of the top native brass in the Pak army for his presumed neutrality during the Kashmir war. However, it remains unclear as to the criterion by which Maj. Gen. Iftikhar Khan was tentatively tipped-off for the top post as C-in-C, being junior (commissioned from Sandhurst in 1929 as KCIO) to a whole bunch of officers senior to him. Ayub refutes this story about Iftikhar's tentative selection as unfounded in his autobiography.

Finally, in the run up for the top position of C-in-C of the Pakistan army, Prime Minister Liaquat Ali finally selected Ayub bypassing three other senior eligible aspirants for the coveted post : Major General Ishfakul Majid, Major General N. A. M. Raza and Major General Akbar Khan Sr., (senior most as per PA-1). Ayub's surreptitious elevation clearly contravened the stipulated procedural norms of selection in the Pak army, thereby setting an unfair and bad



(L) Ishfakul Majid seated astride a taxidermied Bengal tiger as a little boy in their family home named Gulistan, Kench's Trace, Shillong, Assam, British India, 1909. (R) Major Ishfakul Majid poses with the same stuffed Bengal tiger in their family bungalow, Kench's Trace, Shillong, Assam, during a visit in 1942.

Postscript: Pakistan's adventurism in the princely State of Kashmir in 1947, led to the Kashmir imbroglio during Jinnah's tenure as Governor-General. It thrust the Pakistani army into the center stage in national affairs, with unending negative repercussions for the new state. It emboldened the army which became ambitious. Jinnah passed away in 1948, catapulting Nazimuddin to the Governor-Generalship. In paper it appeared to auger well for East Bengal in terms of representation at the very top. But the position was largely ceremonial and Nazimuddin was known to be weak and indecisive. Thus, the brunt of governance and the inherent contradictions of an improbable new state, was increasingly felt by Liaquat Ali Khan the Prime Minister (1947-1951), who had to contend with the growing restiveness in the army following the Kashmir debacle.

Liaquat being a migrant (Mohajir) from the UP, did not enjoy any political constituency in Pakistan. At this period the top most bureaucrat wielding considerable authority in the new state was Maj. Gen. Iskander Mirza a scion of the Murshidabad Nawab family, with a penchant for intrigue and duplicity imbued as a political agent with long years of experience under the British Raj. Iskander too, was a calculating and ambitious man. He became the Defense Secretary (1947-1950) which was a powerful position viz-a-viz the fledgling army. However, Iskander too did not have any political base in Pakistan as an immigrant. Therefore, he aligned himself with the likes of Ayub (a son of the soil) for support who was a rising star in the army, and already endorsed by the Americans as 'our man' by 1950, at the sudden

Ayub too, must have felt decidedly uncomfortable with Ishfakul around. Therefore, he had tried his best to neutralize him.

An embarrassed Pakistan government offered Ishfakul top diplomatic assignments and, even the option of joining the corporate world. But he adamantly refused all such favors. He moved to Karachi where he bought property in Clifton and drove a Hillman Minx car up until 1961. Finally, he decided to sell off his property in Karachi and move to the then East Pakistan, where he built a modest house on a plot of land in Fatullah, Narayanganj, close by the river Sitalakha and settled down. He married Begum Marium Ladli his third wife in 1961, who hailed from old Dhaka. Since they did not have any issue from this union either, the couple adopted a daughter who, later, settled in the USA.

In 1968, Ishfakul Majid became the Honorary Secretary of the East Pakistan Retired Soldiers Association with Col. M. A. G. Osmani as its President in Dhaka. At the height of the Non-Cooperation Movement in March 1971, Ishfakul and Osmani led a procession of retired Bengali army officers and soldiers from the Baitul Mukarrun Mosque to the Shaheed Minar and thence to the house of Bangabandhu in Dhanmandi, to pledge their allegiance to his leadership and unconditional support to the ongoing movement. They also presented Bangabandhu with a ceremonial sword. A historic photograph clearly showing Osmani and Ishfakul leading the procession of retired Bengali army personnel in March, 1971, was prominently displayed in all the Dhaka newspapers. After the Pak military crackdown on 25 March 1971, Ishfakul was arrested by the Pak Army from a Dhaka street in July, 1971 while driving his car. He was taken to the then 'second capital' and held captive for some time, interrogated and tortured. He was already 68 years of age. The army authorities intensely pressurized him to give a false statement against Bangabandhu denouncing him as a traitor, which he steadfastly refused to comply with. They further sought his help to lure Osmani into reaching some sort of compromise with the Pakistani establishment which he again stubbornly refused. Exasperated at his dogged refusals to do their bidding, Ishfakul was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail where he was held in isolation and finally released in August, 1971. Many years later, I heard from a reliable source that a couple of Pakistani officers in the rank of Colonels entrusted with Ishfakul's interrogation, were at times greatly embarrassed when Ishfakul had berated them in unequivocal terms to mind their manners while addressing him. After all, the Pakistanis were fully aware who they had taken on, that is, one of the senior most retired Maj. Gen. formerly of the Pak army, who was moreover a Sandhurst trained commissioned officer of 1924, and thus four years senior to Ayub Khan!

After the liberation of Bangladesh, Ishfakul Majid, by then in poor health from the shabby treatment meted out to him by the Pak army, was sometimes seen in the company of Gen. Osmani many years his junior who held him in great regard. Ishfakul once again refused all offers of diplomatic or corporate jobs proffered to him. He just wanted to lead a quiet life in obscurity by the riverside in Fatullah. He died of prolonged illness at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka Cantonment at the age of 73 years in 1976. The finest eulogy was paid by Gen. Osmani who knew him well. Ishfakul Majid was buried with full military honors at the Azimpur graveyard. Gen. Osmani personally saw to it. And, after the guns were fired in a final salute and the last post played in a plaintive tribute, a senior officer of the Army Medical Corps (AMC) remarked wistfully that on his deathbed, a misty eyed Ishfakul Majid had told him of a recurring dream where he saw himself once again as a young cadet at Sandhurst, waking up to the haunting early morning call of the buglers, to fall-in at the parade ground!

Waqar A Khan is the Founder of Bangladesh Forum for Heritage Studies

Press freedom is under serious threat

And because of that, our democracy is at risk too

IN a discussion organised by the Editors' Council on Saturday, newspaper editors and academics expressed concern saying that the freedoms of the press and speech in Bangladesh were under serious threat. Despite Article 39 of our constitution guaranteeing the right of every citizen to freedom of speech and expression, as well as freedom of the press, these rights are being attacked from all directions, according to the speakers. We can't agree more.

On the one hand, the adversarial stance of government authorities and various state machineries on the publication of any information revealing their incapacity or incompetence, or criticising them, has often led to the full might of the state being used to crack down upon independent journalists and journalism. On the other hand, the attempted corporate control of the media by different business houses that own media outlets is leading to the stifling of independent journalism from within the industry itself.

The primary asset of any newspaper is its credibility. With the attempted use of different newspapers by corporate owners for their own benefits, that credibility is at risk of fast deterioration. This does not bode well for journalism in the long run. On the flip side, while the government has been attempting to use various tools such as sedition laws, the draconian Digital Security Act (DSA), and the Official Secrets Act of 1923 to crack down on press freedom, the various institutions and mechanisms that are supposed to be in place to safeguard the fundamental rights to free expression and free press have been failing badly. The end result is that the independent press—an essential pillar of any democracy—is under tremendous pressure, which is endangering our democracy, as an informed public is a prerequisite to any functioning democracy.

Whether the government realises it or not, it is losing out, too—as without an independent press, how can it sense the pulse of the citizens? What channels can it rely on for an accurate picture of its performance?

The government needs to seriously reassess many of the laws and mechanisms it has put in place that are stifling freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Instead of seeing every criticism as something of a hostile or conspiratorial nature, the authorities need to understand that the primary function of independent journalism is to shed light on uncomfortable truths which, oftentimes, is the best antidote to many of society's ills. In line with that, it should consult with the Editors' Council to formulate strategies that can help the independent media flourish. Meanwhile, we also hope that corporate owners will refrain from using their positions to force their media houses to become propaganda tools, as that would seriously tarnish the reputation of not only their own outlets, but that of the industry as a whole.

Mere arrests in trafficking busts won't work

Authorities must be more vigilant in dismantling such criminal networks

OVER the past few days, 23 women have been rescued from the hands of traffickers, of whom 22 were in three "safe houses" in Dhaka's Mirpur, Uttara and Tejgaon areas. Rab has also arrested 11 members of two human trafficking gangs that allegedly trafficked women to India and Middle Eastern countries, promising them a better life abroad. While we are relieved to hear that these women have been rescued, it is extremely concerning to find that these gangs are continuing to prey upon young women in the country.

According to a report in this daily, of the recently arrested traffickers, one group used to pose as a dance club and another group as agents for jobs in the Middle East. In the last one year, the latter trafficked around 30-35 women to Saudi Arabia, UAE, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and Egypt, whereas the dance club racket has trafficked nearly 100 women since 2019 by promising their victims dance lessons that would get them jobs in India.

Could these women have been saved from their ordeal if the law enforcement agencies had been more vigilant? It appears so. In April 2019, the ringleader of the dance group, DJ Kamrul, was arrested by Badda police for trafficking a woman to India. According to the Human Trafficking Deterrence and Suppression Act, 2012, human trafficking comes with a penalty of five years to life imprisonment. Yet, Kamrul was in jail for only three months, after which he apparently went back to his criminal activities. How is it possible that even after being arrested and imprisoned, he was able to act with such impunity?

At a press briefing, Rab also revealed that they had identified eight different border routes that were being used by the dance club gang. These same routes, along with the safe houses, have been identified before, especially after the discovery of the TikTok trafficking ring. The authorities, on both sides of the border, must do more to dismantle these networks. It is unacceptable that traffickers are being identified, imprisoned and then allowed to return to their lives of crime.

According to anti-human trafficking NGOs, around 500,000 Bangladeshi women and children aged between 12 and 30 years have been illegally sent to India over the last decade. This is no small number. We urge the authorities to strictly implement the human trafficking prevention act and mete out exemplary punishment to traffickers, as well as provide rehabilitation support for trafficking victims so they are able to return to their families and communities.



MACRO MIRROR



FAHMIDA KHATUN

WHILE more than seven billion doses of Covid-19 vaccines have been administered around the world—albeit almost 70 percent in developed countries and only two percent in low-income countries—the global economy is expected to see a strong recovery in 2021. The growth projections by international organisations indicate a ray of hope with some of the major economic parameters showing positive signs. For example, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), in October 2021, projected that the global economy would grow by 5.9 percent in 2021 and 4.9 percent in 2022, compared to a negative (-) 3.1 percent growth in 2020. The World Bank in June 2021 estimated that the global economy would increase by 5.6 percent in 2021. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in October 2021, saw the world output growing by 5.3 percent in 2021, as opposed to a negative (-) 3.5 percent growth in 2020. Of course, the uncertainty cannot be overruled since we are still dealing with the pandemic, and its forms and spread are beyond human control.

Therefore, such prospects are subject to the level of risks of the pandemic and the management of financial situations in the developing countries, which are struggling more than the developed countries. It is also projected that going back to the pre-pandemic economic situation will take several years.

Moreover, this growth is going to be uneven across regions and countries, and among sectors of the economy. There will be unbalanced growth within the countries themselves as well. This is already happening as large businesses have managed to recover to some extent and are showing promising signs of growth, while the smaller ones are struggling. Therefore, it was indicated by some international organisations and experts that the recovery from the pandemic would be K-shaped. In fact, the unbalanced growth pattern already existed during the pre-Covid period. While developed countries progressed smoothly and significantly, developing and least developed countries continued to fall behind with limited finance, low technological absorption and weak capacity. In the same tune, as the rich accumulated income and wealth, the gap between the rich and the poor grew further at the country level too. Therefore, as the attempt towards economic recovery is now ongoing, the expectation is that the world will see a better outcome of

economic growth, which will be inclusive and equitable. There has been a lot of rhetoric on building forward a resilient global economy. But what would it really take to recover from the economic shrinkage due to the pandemic? We want to recover the losses and restore growth momentum. But the pattern, type and nature of that growth should be different from the pre-pandemic period, and be new and progressive. I would like to focus on four areas for such a recovery. These should in fact be the preconditions for the post-Covid growth narratives in all countries, particularly those with limited resources capacity.

First, the healthcare system should be made robust by large investments in both physical and soft health infrastructures. We must remember that we are not yet

able to handle critical health crises, such as the pandemic. Such a health system must also be affordable by all citizens, so that they can pay for doctors, nurses and medicines. Higher investment is required, not only for more hospitals, intensive care units, doctors, nurses and health service providers, but also for universal health insurance, so that healthcare services are affordable to the common citizens. This is not only applicable for Bangladesh, but also for many developing countries.

Second, many governments will have to maintain an accommodative monetary policy to support the businesses for some time. During the pandemic, there was a need for expansionary monetary policies as governments across the world announced stimulus packages at various scales to support businesses

Besides, there is also a need for direct cash support to the poor who could not receive money during the first phase of cash support. Though the economy has started to gear up, high inflationary pressure of commodities has become a concern for the common people, including the poor who are the hardest hit.

Third, higher investment on green projects should be made for future growth to be environmentally sustainable. Investments are essential for job creation. But it is critical to monitor how those investments are made. Infrastructural investments by destroying forests, biodiversity and ecosystem, and burning fossil fuels may add to the gross domestic product (GDP) of the country and create jobs, but the growth is of low quality and not sustainable. To fulfil Bangladesh's commitment for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emission and to adapt to the climate-induced risks and disasters, technology is crucial. The private sector, which plays a key role in the economy through investment and employment generation, should take the lead to bring in clean technologies for green growth. Technology should also be coupled with capacity development of the people. For adaptation, public investment plays a vital role. However, developing countries do not have adequate resources for undertaking adaptation measures, which is expensive. This has to come from developed countries as well as the Global Climate Fund. Indeed, developed countries also have the responsibility for technology transfer to poor countries.

Fourth, the post-Covid growth should aim for increased participation of women in the labour force. As of 2020, labour force participation by women is 36.3 percent, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (2018). However, 91.8 percent of the female workforce are in the informal sector and earn low income with high job insecurity. During any economic shock, the informal sector workers are the first ones to lose their jobs. Reports have also found that women have been more vulnerable to domestic violence during the pandemic. While designing measures for "building forward better" during the post-pandemic period, the focus should be to have women-friendly policies, so that they can take part in the labour market in larger numbers. Implementations of policies will require higher investment into girls' education and training, and creating a safe environment for them.

Overall, the future growth has to focus on quality, rather than quantity. Inclusivity and sustainability aspects have to be brought to the forefront. Therefore, policies for and perspectives on economic growth have to be changed.

Dr Fahmida Khatun is executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).



Although Covid-19 is still very much prevalent around the world, countries are expected to see strong economic recovery soon.

ILLUSTRATION: BIPLOB CHAKROBORTY

in the post-Covid phase. The pandemic is very much prevalent; there is a huge uncertainty as to when it will leave us, or if it will go away at all. Of course, the majority of the population in developed countries are vaccinated and are probably in less risky situations. But the people in developing and poor countries are still in danger of the pandemic. So, the immediate requirement is ensuring vaccination for all in those countries that are left behind. All eligible citizens of all countries should be fully vaccinated and defeat the virus. This requires commitments and policy actions at the global level, so that vaccines are accessible to the people of the poor countries.

At the national levels, respective governments should also take appropriate policy measures for developing robust and efficient healthcare systems which are

and individuals. In Bangladesh, such support has helped many businesses and poor people to stay afloat. With economic activities being resumed and consumer demand going up, businesses—particularly the larger ones—have managed to make a comeback. However, the cottage, micro, small and medium enterprises (CMSMEs) have faced the toughest challenge, as they have had little access to finance despite the stimulus packages in place. Due to the informal nature of the CMSMEs, the complicated formalities for bank loans, and lack of information on the stimulus packages, many suffered serious losses and closed down. These small businesses are sources of employment for many. As the economy aims for higher growth, these businesses will require liquidity support in the form of soft loans from commercial banks.

Dhaka, Density and Liveability



DEBRA EROYMONSON

GRADING up in a small city in the southwest United States, I thought I didn't like cities. I loved hiking in the nearby mountains, from the top of which a grey haze hung over the city, which itself

offered a few charms. Since we had no industry or brick kilns, I can only assume that the pollution was caused by the car traffic. The city planners seemed to have invested more energy in ensuring that people could move around easily, than to ensure that there were destinations worth reaching. Despite having beautiful weather most of the year—my family ate outside on our veranda about half of the year—there weren't outdoor places where people gathered. Our local parks were sad, bedraggled affairs. Bored youth drove to restaurants or shopping malls to hang out.

Then I had the good fortune of travelling across the country to attend university near Boston. Now, Boston isn't one of our greater cities. It is racist, segregating the dark-skinned in dirty and dangerous neighbourhoods. Winters are miserable. But it is a city. I could walk for hours, exploring different neighbourhoods. There was—is—a lengthy bike and walking path along the Charles River, where people can stroll and cycle, safe from traffic. For free evening entertainment, there were plazas where I could watch street performers and passers-by. There was also functional public transit—it was slow and noisy, but it came regularly and it was easy to understand how to use it. As a result, when I didn't feel like walking for hours, I could still explore the city.

In later years, I started informally studying urban planning and came to realise that the beauty of cities is that they bring many opportunities for exchange into a small area. The higher density of urban areas means that one can meet and mingle with a greater variety of people, exposed to different ideas, cultures, and ways of being than one can find in the countryside. Cities can be polluted, but

they don't need to be—at least not to the level that many are. This is a discovery that many have made only because of Covid-19 shutdowns.

When I first moved to Dhaka, the sheer size of the city was overwhelming, but I came to realise that you don't live in a megacity—you live in a neighbourhood. And I find mine enchanting, with so many people walking about, people selling goods from bicycle carts, children moving about on their own, people

in the past, during hartals, I marvelled at the sight of four or five children riding bicycles side by side, teens playing cricket on quiet streets, and the ability to travel faster by rickshaw than most days when I could travel by car.

During Covid shutdowns, we once again saw a different, quieter, friendlier, less polluted version of Dhaka.

Sure, Dhaka is overcrowded, but how much space does a migrant take, versus a private car?



Dhaka can be more than its endless traffic and concrete structures.

interacting freely. Entertainment is freely available, watching the people. It is the opposite of the lonely and isolating cities that are all too common in my home country.

Having just observed World Cities Day on October 31, it is worth reflecting on what aspects of our city we enjoy and what aspects we would like to change. Rather than reflexively blaming migrants for Dhaka's overcrowded state, or rickshaws for its traffic jams, or whatever the culprit of the day is for its pollution, it is worth reflecting on what the city is and what it could be.

Yes, rickshaws can be annoying—especially when I'm on a bicycle—but what VIP road is free of congestion?

Winter dust and fires, and brick kilns, do contribute to pollution, but so does the overwhelming presence of motorised vehicles.

Dhaka turns out to be not that big, as you can discover if you try cycling it early in the morning or on a holiday. Many destinations would be easily reachable by bicycle if we built the proper infrastructure to make cycling safe and convenient. If we focused on enabling people to move easily within

their neighbourhoods and discouraged car trips, we could make the city much more liveable immediately in terms of congestion, pollution, noise, and safety. If we stopped supplying so much space to cars, we would have a lot more space available to people—more space for parks and playgrounds, to plant trees and restore canals, all of which would also reduce the heat island effect and help offset the worsening flooding due to the climate crisis. What is true for Dhaka is

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

also true for our divisional cities, which otherwise risk becoming the same noisy, polluted congested mess.

As a wise man once said, "Liveability is density done right." With so many fascinating people within such easy reach, our city could become a great place to wander and inhabit. Then, instead of consistently ranking as one of the world's least liveable cities, Dhaka could prove far more rewarding to its many inhabitants.

Debra Eroymson is the executive director of the Institute of Wellbeing, Bangladesh, and author of "Beyond Apologies: Defining and Achieving an Economics of Wellbeing."

EDITORIAL

Four areas to focus on for post-Covid economic recovery

economic growth, which will be inclusive and equitable. There has been a lot of rhetoric on building forward a resilient global economy. But what would it really take to recover from the economic shrinkage due to the pandemic? We want to recover the losses and restore growth momentum. But the pattern, type and nature of that growth should be different from the pre-pandemic period, and be new and progressive. I would like to focus on four areas for such a recovery. These should in fact be the preconditions for the post-Covid growth narratives in all countries, particularly those with limited resources capacity.

First, the healthcare system should be made robust by large investments in both physical and soft health infrastructures. We must remember that we are not yet

able to handle critical health crises, such as the pandemic. Such a health system must also be affordable by all citizens, so that they can pay for doctors, nurses and medicines. Higher investment is required, not only for more hospitals, intensive care units, doctors, nurses and health service providers, but also for universal health insurance, so that healthcare services are affordable to the common citizens. This is not only applicable for Bangladesh, but also for many developing countries.

Second, many governments will have to maintain an accommodative monetary policy to support the businesses for some time. During the pandemic, there was a need for expansionary monetary policies as governments across the world announced stimulus packages at various scales to support businesses

Third, higher investment on green projects should be made for future growth to be environmentally sustainable. Investments are essential for job creation. But it is critical to monitor how those investments are made. Infrastructural investments by destroying forests, biodiversity and ecosystem, and burning fossil fuels may add to the gross domestic product (GDP) of the country and create jobs, but the growth is of low quality and not sustainable. To fulfil Bangladesh's commitment for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emission and to adapt to the climate-induced risks and disasters, technology is crucial. The private sector, which plays a key role in the economy through investment and employment generation, should take the lead to bring in clean technologies for green growth. Technology should also be coupled with capacity development of the people. For adaptation, public investment plays a vital role. However, developing countries do not have adequate resources for undertaking adaptation measures, which is expensive. This has to come from developed countries as well as the Global Climate Fund. Indeed, developed countries also have the responsibility for technology transfer to poor countries.

Fourth, the post-Covid growth should aim for increased participation of women in the labour force. As of 2020, labour force participation by women is 36.3 percent, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (2018). However, 91.8 percent of the female workforce are in the informal sector and earn low income with high job insecurity. During any economic shock, the informal sector workers are the first ones to lose their jobs. Reports have also found that women have been more vulnerable to domestic violence during the pandemic.

While designing measures for "building forward better" during the post-pandemic period, the focus should be to have women-friendly policies, so that they can take part in the labour market in larger numbers. Implementations of policies will require higher investment into girls' education and training, and creating a safe environment for them.

Overall, the future growth has to focus on quality, rather than quantity. Inclusivity and sustainability aspects have to be brought to the forefront. Therefore, policies for and perspectives on economic growth have to be changed.

Dr Fahmida Khatun is executive director at the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

In a climate of exploitation, marginalised groups are easy pickings

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), speaks to **Ershad Omar Jamal** of The Daily Star about the discrimination faced by marginalised communities and the rise of fundamentalism in Bangladesh.

What were the findings of TIB's recent study titled "Access of Marginalised Communities to Public Services: An Assessment of Accountability Mechanisms"?

The study found that when people from marginalised communities tried to access public services, they faced discriminatory attitudes and practices from their mainstream peers, as well as a section of the people who were part of the relevant authority. For instance, in educational institutions, quite often when students from marginalised communities were exposed to inequitable behaviour and treatment, and their parents complained about it, they were told by the teachers that they could not do much about it, and the parents would have to accept it as a reality. Sometimes, such students, especially the Dalits, were forced to clean their schools' toilets. And if they complained, they were exposed to further intimidation and harassment.

When it comes to the government's social safety net programmes, from the inclusion of their names into the list of potential recipients to actually receiving the benefits, they are facing discrimination at every step. A major cause for this is the prejudiced attitude of a section of relevant public officials and political leaders.

Another big problem that they face concerns land ownership. Land-grabbing is a big problem in Bangladesh. Powerful quarters are frequently colluding with government officials and the people connected to power in order to grab land. They have made a habit of grabbing land belonging to marginalised communities—because it is easier. We have seen plenty of examples of powerful forces grabbing their land and getting away with it, so it gives the grabbers enough reason to feel emboldened and protected. This problem has become institutionalised. We have seen examples of the Forest Department ousting scores of marginalised families from their ancestral land and homesteads where they had been living for ages, in the name of protecting reserve forests, whereas, in reality, when genuine reserve forests were being grabbed by the mainstream vested groups, effective punitive action was hardly taken, if ever there was any attempt to do so.

What are some of the biggest barriers preventing the members of marginalised communities from receiving these basic services?

One of the biggest barriers is that the general people, as well as individuals from within the

administration and political space, do not see the members of marginalised communities as equal citizens. Our constitution is very clear about recognising the equal rights of all citizens—regardless of their race, religion or identity. It also acknowledges that people are entitled to government benefits and services on an equal footing, regardless of their diverse identities. Constitutionally and legally, there is no scope for discrimination. But there is very little compliance with the constitution and law at the institutional and political levels. Not many effective actions are taken against the violators of the provisions; that is the problem.

What, in your opinion, are the underlying causes of this? When did this problem start?

It is impossible to give a definitive timeline for when this problem started. In some sense,

people with vested interests towards the constitutional rights and obligations of all the citizens of the country is what's at the root of it. Unfortunately, very little has been done over the years in terms of justice and accountability.

What about the presence of the minority community within the bureaucracy? Can't they prevent such behaviour?

Within the bureaucracy and political space, there are minority people, but they are relatively few in number; more importantly, their leverage on the treatment of marginalised groups is very limited. They often accept the mistreatment of minority groups as an unchangeable reality, tolerate it, and remain inactive. Peer pressure and a lack of self-confidence also work to keep them silent. Sometimes they may feel like

Fundamentalist groups have been allowed into the mainstream by the major political parties. Having come into the mainstream, these groups have been targeting young people and getting them to buy into their radical ideologies. Those who are participating in their programmes and listening to what they promote are becoming increasingly radicalised and intolerant.

it has been a perennial problem. But the political transitions and transformations after 1975 have been particularly more impactful when it comes to fuelling and nourishing it. The religion-based politics that has been promoted since then—especially in regards to the amendments that have been made to the constitution to introduce state religion, undermining the secular value that was at the core of the spirit of our independence—has certainly contributed to the creation and expansion of the socio-political space for increased discrimination against minorities.

Discrimination against marginalised groups is a global phenomenon. But because Bangladesh is a more resource-constrained country, where the benefits of development have not reached the majority of people, people are more drawn towards illegally grabbing the wealth and land of marginalised groups, because that can be done relatively easily and remains unaccountable.

Lack of awareness and respect among

there is a conflict of interest when it comes to them speaking out or taking actions against injustices perpetrated against their own minority communities. Some even give in to discriminatory behaviour for fear of reappraisals, and to protect themselves from the risk of negative career impact. There are people who are trying to change things within their limited capacity, but their number and influence are too limited.

The country recently witnessed a series of attacks against the Hindu community. Does the denial of such services somehow contribute to the marginalisation of different minority groups in an invisible, yet broader sense?

First, I must say that this study of ours did not focus specifically on Hindu minorities. But I definitely agree with your point. The horrors that we have witnessed during the recent attacks on Hindu communities, as well as many previous attacks, prove that they are not isolated incidents.

One of the worst negative outcomes



Dr Iftekharuzzaman

PHOTO: STAR

of the changes that we have seen in our political sphere post-1975, which have been nourished over the years, is an ominous transition to collusion, protection and promotion of fundamentalist forces at the expense of our secular aspirations drawn from the Liberation War. This has given space to forces that are engaged in inciteful rhetoric and discriminatory actions. Such forces have unfortunately become beneficiaries of this regressive political culture. It is in this context that discriminating against minorities has, at times, been seen as politically expedient. Politicians have used it to win mileage, while minorities have been taken for granted as vote banks.

Colluding with fundamentalist forces or, at times, protecting and promoting them, has become a common practice across the political spectrum, and at times a key tool for our zero-sum political game. This in turn has led to situations like the one where fundamentalist forces dictated what changes should be made to our national curriculum, and the government, accepting those changes, designed to promote fundamentalist values at the expense of secular values. What signal did that send?

Fundamentalist groups have been allowed into the mainstream by the major political parties. Having come into the mainstream, these groups have been targeting young people and getting them to buy into their radical ideologies. This whole situation should be extremely concerning for us all, particularly because a big part of what they promote is hatred against minority

groups, including the Hindus. Those who are participating in their programmes and listening to what they promote are becoming increasingly radicalised and intolerant.

The most obvious sign that this is happening can be seen on social media, which is being used by fundamentalist forces to get people agitated towards marginalised groups. But the people or groups that are doing this are hardly ever held accountable.

Have government policies and general politics in any way contributed to the increased communal violence that we have seen?

They may not be linked directly, but during the most recent attacks on the Hindus, some of the people who have been identified have been found to be connected to different political parties or their affiliated groups in some capacity. That does show that there is a connection. But I think the main issue here is that our overall political space has seen an anti-minority bias seep into it, which has created a pro-fundamentalist environment. And these biases have, over time, trickled down across society.

Interestingly, those who use social media to promote freedom of speech and liberal and secular ideas and values are often harassed and chastised by the authorities. Yet, we see fundamentalist forces openly using social media platforms to promote hate, without the government so much as lifting a finger to stop them. What does that indicate? That these people are protected in a way that people who are trying to uphold liberal ideas are not?

So, would you say that the measures being implemented, using the justification that they are there to discourage fundamentalist forces, are actually being used to silence moderate voices?

Absolutely; just look at how the Digital Security Act (DSA) is being used. It is the people who are promoting freedom of speech and expression and other democratic and secular values who are being harassed by the authorities through the use of the DSA and other such tools. Compared to that, people who are spreading fundamentalist ideologies are barely being noticed by the authorities or held accountable for spreading hateful and inciteful messages. That itself should give us a good idea of where the government's priorities lie—not stopping hateful and racist messages and ideas from spreading, but harassing people for using their right to freedom of expression to promote democratic values.

Let's build the RMG park of the future



RMG NOTES

Mostafiz Uddin

Landscape: The Challenge of Growth. To prepare the report, McKinsey collaborated with the Bangladesh-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry and interviewed many leaders in our RMG industry. The landscape then was clearly different from what it is now, especially given the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic for the past 18 months. It was, therefore, interesting to read an update to this study, which was published earlier this year.

The conclusions drawn by McKinsey's 2021 report on Bangladesh's RMG industry are that it is faced with major challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic as well as the shifts in global markets. McKinsey said the RMG sector in Bangladesh would need to innovate, upgrade, and diversify moving forward. This will require investing in flexibility, sustainability, worker welfare, and infrastructure. In short, there is still much work to be done.

The report lauded our greater capacity to produce garment products with synthetic fibres, and manufacture more complex products such as outerwear, tailored items and lingerie. It also praised our ability to provide new washes, prints, and laser finishes, while noting some increase in vertical integration of the supply chain, with the result being that more suppliers are now able to offer lead times below the standard 90 days.

But the overriding message is clear: we must go further.

In another 10 years' time, do we want to receive this same message? How can we turn our RMG industry into a leading, innovative, sustainable powerhouse in the world, with a heavy focus on R&D and rapid product turnaround?

A decade ago, global management consultant McKinsey published a report titled "Bangladesh's Ready-Made Garments

Perhaps it is time for us to start imagining the RMG industry of tomorrow in order to future-proof our most valuable export sector. Actually, let's go a step further: perhaps, it is time to start building that industry.

Underpinning such an industry, I believe, will need smart and sustainable business parks. It can be challenging to "retrofit" futuristic technologies into existing factories or locations. This is because so many changes have happened in terms of sustainability-related technology in the past two decades—sometimes, it is just easier to start from scratch.

The

new sustainable business parks, which could be developed with public-private partnerships, would be characterised by a number of features.

Firstly, they would be developed sustainably from the ground up. Each business could follow the guidance of an environmentally-friendly site master plan, drawing heavily on the best international practices in such areas. All of the buildings would adhere to the highest international standards for green design and layout. In fact,

many RMG factories in Bangladesh

are already Leadership in Energy and

Environmental Design-certified, but

there are additional measures that

can be taken with a specific garment-

production focus.

There would be a major focus

on the use of renewable energy,

including solar and wind energy,

in these parks. Solar power, in

particular, is one sector of renewable

energy where huge technological

strides have been made in recent

years. In addition to the wide scale

adoption of cleaner production and

water-saving technologies, a central

rainwater harvesting system could be

installed, which could be used by all

tenants. Water is our most precious

natural resource, and Bangladesh is

a water-stressed country. We need

to start preserving it.

The sustainable business park

of the future would be vertically

integrated. Vertical integration

is the holy grail for any textile

manufacturing hub—just ask China.

It shortens supply chains, boosts

economies of scale, allows a faster

turnaround of products, and enables

Mostafiz Uddin is the managing director of Denim Expert Limited, and the founder and CEO of Bangladesh Apparel Exchange (BAE) and Bangladesh Denim Expo.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Liberation War Affairs

Govt. Transportation Pool Building (5th and 6th Floor)

Secretariat Link Road, Dhaka-1000

www.molwa.gov.bd

Advertisement to Provide Medical Treatment to 100 Muktijoddha Patients under "Medical Treatment of Muktijoddha Patients" Scheme

The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, with the financial support of the Government of India, is inviting applications in the prescribed form for Bir Muktijoddhas to provide medical treatment at the earmarked hospital of the Indian Armed Forces under "Medical Treatment of Muktijoddha Patients" Scheme. This scheme will be implemented through the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs and the Indian Embassy. The cost of passage of Muktijoddha patients from Bangladesh to earmarked hospital in India will be borne by the Government of Bangladesh. If there is any necessary to transfer from one hospital to another in India, the cost will be borne by the Government of India. TB, mental disorders, AIDS and other chronic diseases that require long-term treatment will be excluded from such programs. Similarly, cases which require only convalescent treatment will also not be covered under this scheme. Medical treatment are applicable only to Bir Muktijoddha and will not be applicable to family members.

- (1) The application form can be collected from the website of the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs (www.molwa.gov.bd) and also from the Civil Surgeon's Office of the respective districts.
- (2) The application has to be made in the prescribed form along with the Civil Surgeon of the concerned district and the last date for submission of application is 30/11/2021.
- (3) On the envelope it will have to be written "Application under Muktijoddha Medical Services Scheme provided by the Government of India".
- (4) Late received and incomplete application shall be deemed to be outright rejected.
- (5) The Authority reserves the power to make any decision at any time.

Md. Jahangir Hossain

Deputy Secretary

Telephone: 02223385317

SPORT

Kiwis breeze past India

AFP, Dubai



Trent Boult led an inspired bowling attack as New Zealand thrashed Twenty20 World Cup favourites India by eight wickets on Sunday to leave Virat Kohli's men facing a desperate struggle to reach the semi-finals.

Boult and leg-spinner Ish Sodhi shared five wickets between them to restrict India to 110 for seven after being invited to bat first in the Super 12 clash in Dubai.

Skipper Kane Williamson and Daryl Mitchell, who made 49, put 72 runs for the second wicket as the Kiwis romped home in 14.3 overs and hand India their second straight loss of the tournament.

Jasprit Bumrah denied Mitchell his maiden fifty but the wicket proved a minor blemish for the Kiwis, who bounced back from their opening loss to group toppers Pakistan.

India, who lost their first Super 12 match to Pakistan by 10 wickets, remain in danger of slipping out of the race for the semi-finals.



"I don't think we were brave enough with bat or ball," said Kohli. "We didn't have much to defend but we weren't brave when we walked out to field. When you play for the Indian cricket team you have a lot of expectations - not just from fans, but players as well."

"So there's always going to be more pressure with our games and we've embraced it over the years."

Williamson hailed his team as they collected their first win.

"A fantastic all-round performance from us against a formidable India side," he said. "We were able to build pressure throughout and the way the openers came out really set the platform."

Boult dismissed Ishan Kishan for four and nearly had Rohit Sharma on the next ball but Adam Milne dropped an easy catch at fine leg. But the New Zealand pace bowlers kept coming at the Indian batsmen to restrict them to 110 for seven.

In reply, Martin Guptill started on an attacking note to smash three boundaries before falling to Bumrah who returned figures of 2-19. Mitchell took on the Indian bowlers as he hit left-arm spinner Jadeja for a six and then got another shot over the fence to bring up New Zealand's fifty in the seventh over. He departed with New Zealand needing 15 and Devon Conway joined Williamson to complete the formalities.



Headache over head coach lingers

MAZHAR UDDIN from Dubai

A dismal show from the Bangladesh team consisting of three consecutive defeats in the Super 12 stage of the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup had not only thrown them virtually out of the contention for the semi-final spot but had cast serious doubt over head coach Russell Domingo's future with the side.

A barrage of criticism aimed at the Tigers' preparation for the marquee event had been activated earlier with the shocking six-run defeat to Scotland in the opening game of the qualifier stage.

Although Bangladesh had arrived at the centre stage, with seemingly full guns blazing, on the back of two home series triumphs over Australia and New Zealand, the lack of preparation from the batters' perspective on a slow Mirpur surface was brutally exposed.

While many are pointing fingers at Domingo's long term approach to improve Bangladesh as a solid unit in the shortest format, however, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) high-ups have resorted to blaming the cricketers on the frontlines.

"Look, we don't only want to blame the coaching staff for the poor performance of the team, rather the players should also take some responsibility for their below par show on the field," said a BCB top official requesting anonymity.

"If a batsman kept repeating the same mistakes, by playing a particular shot in a crucial time, and lost his wickets or the best fielders in the team dropped simple

catches of first-division standard, you can't only raise fingers on the coaching staff. I think both the coaching staff and the players need to work together and improve as a unit."

The board's stance only indicates continuity, a sense of going with the flow, since they had, just before the World Cup, extended Domingo's contract for two years under a strong termination clause -- which states six months of salary to be given in case of a broken agreement -- in favour of the South African.

It was also learned that Domingo had informed the board prior to the World Cup that he has an offer in the English County league and was willing to jump ship if his contract was not extended further. History tells us that poor performances from the Bangladesh team in the global events saw the head coach turned into a scapegoat, with Steve Rhodes being the last individual who was sacked following the subpar performance in the ICC 2019 ODI World Cup.

Among various factors, another major reason for retaining Domingo is the lack of interest from the high-profile coaches to work for a full-time basis.

The current situation, coupled with his differences with some of the senior players in the side, has certainly put Domingo under the scanner as many are gravitating towards the opinion of grooming local coaches to assume bigger roles, in an attempt to rid the Tigers of the everlasting headache over the head coach position.



Afghanistan too strong for Namibia

REUTERS

Seamers Naveen-ul-Haq and Hamid Hassan took three wickets apiece to help Afghanistan crush Namibia by 62 runs in the Twenty20 World Cup in Abu Dhabi on Sunday and keep alive their hopes of progressing to the semi-finals. Naveen-ul-Haq did the early damage with the new ball to derail Namibia's chase while Hassan ran through the middle order as their opponents could only muster 98-9 in reply to Afghanistan's 160-5.

Seamer Gulbadin Naib also picked up 2-19 in an inspired medium pace bowling performance from the Asian side. It was the second Super 12 win for the Afghans, who stayed second in Group Two behind Pakistan, who have won all three of their matches.

Naveen-ul-Haq dedicated his player-of-the-match award to former captain Asghar Afghan, who retired from international cricket after Sunday's victory.

"I made my debut under his captaincy, so I want to dedicate it to him," the 22-year-old said at the

presentation ceremony. Earlier, Hazratullah Zazai and Mohammad Shahzad gave Afghanistan a solid start with a 53-run opening stand after captain Mohammad Nabi won the toss and opted to bat. Shahzad was happy to let Zazai take the initiative and farm most of the strike in the powerplay overs and went on the attack after his partner was out after a 27-ball knock of 33. Afghan, who was given a guard of honour by Namibia's players as he walked on to bat in his final appearance for Afghanistan, kept the scoreboard ticking after Shahzad had been dismissed for 45 off 33 balls.

The former captain's final innings was a useful 31 off 23 balls and he combined in a handy stand with current skipper Nabi to help Afghanistan up their scoring rate in the final overs.

An emotional Afghan was given another guard of honour by his team mates as he walked off after getting out caught at short third man while trying a reverse scoop shot off Ruben Trumplermann.

Nabi remained unbeaten on 32 off 17 balls.



Confident England look to book semis spot

AGENCIES



A rampaging England are expected to brush aside Sri Lanka and seal a spot in the semifinals when the two teams meet in a Super 12 match of the T20 World Cup on Monday.

Pre-tournament favourites England have played as per the expectations in their first three games, steamrolling the opponents, including arch-rivals Australia on Saturday night.

The Eoin Morgan-led side, which are heavily driven by data and match-ups, seem to have all bases covered and back-up plans in place even though they have not needed one yet.

Their big margin of victory in all three games meant that the middle-order has not been tested but Morgan is confident they will deliver when the time comes.

He opened the bowling with Adil Rashid on Saturday and not Moeen Ali, considering Aaron Finch's struggles against the leggie. Moeen did not need to bowl at all.

Pacer Chris Woakes was brilliant

with the new ball and Chris Jordan too came to the party with triple strikes. Death overs specialist Tymal Mills was a tad expensive against Australia but he has been able to pick wickets throughout the tournament.

Part-time spinner Liam Livingstone too has done a good job for the team, providing Morgan another valuable bowling resource.

with the new ball and Chris Jordan

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Part-time spinner Liam Livingstone

too has done a good job for the team,

providing Morgan another valuable

bowling resource.

Sri Lanka will have to produce something special to halt England's juggernaut at Sharjah. Considering their inexperience, Sri Lanka have not played too badly and the final over finish against South Africa could have gone either way.

Unfortunately for them, it was

their second loss in three games and they must win against England to keep themselves in the competition.

Charith Asalanka has been in sublime form and from Sri Lanka's point of view, it was good to see opener Pathum Nissanka belting the South African attack. If the batters do better, the bowlers showed on Saturday that they are capable of defending decent totals.

The bowlers did well to keep Sri Lanka in the game for the major part of the innings until they were undone by David Miller's six-hitting prowess in the 20th over.

Barring the Bangladesh-Sri Lanka game, the pitch here has not been great for batting and batter Bhanuka Rajapakse expects the trend to continue.

"Yeah, we knew when we came to Sharjah, we knew that from the past few games Sharjah was not that great to bat except for the game that we played against Bangladesh that was a very true wicket."

"Hats off to Pathum Nissanka for holding on as batting was not up to standard, but the wicket wasn't helping the batsmen," he said referring to Nissanka's 72 against the Proteas.

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SCORES IN BRIEF

INDIA

110 for 7 in 20 overs (Jadeja 26 not out, Pandya 23; Boult 3-20, Sodhi 2-17)

NEW ZEALAND

111 for 2 in 14.3 overs (Mitchell 49, Williamson 33 not out; Bumrah 2-19)

RESULT

New Zealand won by 8 wickets

Player-of-the-match:

Ish Sodhi

AFGHANISTAN

160 for 5 (Shahzad 45; Trumplmann 2-34, Eaton 2-21)

NAMIBIA

98 for 9 in 20 overs (Wiese 26; Naveen 3-26, Hamid 3-9)

RESULT

Afg won by 62 runs

Player-of-the-match:

Naveen Ul Haq

TODAY'S MATCHES

ENGLAND VS SRI LANKA

8PM (BST)



LankaBangla FINANCE

Scan for details

Sri Lanka will have to produce something special to halt England's juggernaut at Sharjah. Considering their inexperience, Sri Lanka have not played too badly and the final over finish against South Africa could have gone either way.

Unfortunately for them, it was

What to WATCH

T SPORTS & GTV
ICC T20I Men's World Cup
2021
England vs Sri Lanka
Live from 08:00 pm

DAY'S EVENT

NCL (Day-2)
Dhaka vs Khulna, SICS Academy
Rangpur vs Sylhet, SICS

Chattogram vs Dhaka Metro,
BKSP
Rajshahi vs Barishal, Cox's Bazar

T SPORTS
La Liga
Levante vs Granada
Live from 01:00 am
(Tuesday)



Argentines celebrate MARADONA'S 61ST BIRTHDAY

AFP, Rosario

Members of the "Maradonian Church" in Argentina came together Saturday in worshipful celebration of the memory of beloved football idol Diego Maradona on what would have been his 61st birthday, just weeks before the first anniversary of his death.

Chanting "Ma-ra-do...Ma-ra-do..." these devoted fans of player No. 10 convened in the city of Rosario, the home of a distinctly unusual fan club which, since the 1990s, has venerated the World Cup champion as a god.

The emotional get-together -- more than a few tears were shed -- has been an annual event in tribute to the man many consider the greatest footballer ever.

But this was the first to be held since last November 25, when Maradona, then aged just 60, was felled by a heart attack.

"I think this is the greatest Maradonian movement in the world," Alejandro Veron, one of its founders, told AFP. "The 'church' claims thousands of 'faithful' in more than 50 countries."



TRIBUTES AND TEARS

Between the tributes and the tears, fans told and retold favourite stories about the "Golden Boy" and frequently broke into the traditional chants of Argentine supporters.

They also staged reconstructions of some of Maradona's most famous goals.

Maradona died while recuperating in Buenos Aires from brain surgery last November for a subdural hematoma.

"Many people realised they loved Diego only after the 25th of November," said Veron.

"But they can get on the train too. There's

room for everyone."

'HE HUGGED ME'

Veron recalled the day he met the superstar and told him about the "church" founded in his honour.

"He hugged me and said thank you," Veron said, his voice shaking with emotion.

"Diego IS football," he added, "he is our best ambassador in the world, a voice for those who have none."

The celebration in Rosario was one of several being held across Argentina on Saturday in Maradona's memory. Football matches were organised in his honour, with a special homage being paid at the 10th minute of each professional match.

The main event was an afternoon match at the Buenos Aires stadium now bearing his name, home to the Argentinos Juniors, Maradona's first club.

Some of the stars from Argentina's World Cup winning championship teams of 1978 and 1986 -- Maradona played on the latter -- participated in the match.

for everyone."

'HE HUGGED ME'

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The celebration in Rosario was one of

Solskjaer's tweaks pay off

AFP, London



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer took Manchester United south to play Tottenham with his job on the line but lives to fight another day after his decisions paid off handsomely in a 3-0 win.

The pressure on the Norwegian was intense after last week's 5-0 horror show against Liverpool, in which Jürgen Klopp's men embarrassed their historic rivals.

United travelled to London for Saturday's game after taking just one point from a possible 12 to fall well off the pace in the Premier League.

Here is a look at three talking points after the win against Spurs lifted United back within touching distance of the top four.

VETERAN STRIKE FORCE

Solskjaer chose to pair Cristiano Ronaldo and Edinson Cavani up front at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, selecting a

STEADY VARANE

United's defending at home against Liverpool was catastrophic, summed up by an incident in which Harry Maguire and Luke Shaw collided in the lead-up to Liverpool's second goal.

Solskjaer chose to bring back France defender Raphael Varane against Spurs for his first game for the club since October 2, switching to a central back three, with Shaw and Aaron Wan-Bissaka pushing forward.

"Raphael Varane is a top player," Solskjaer told the BBC. "He reads the game well. He's quick and so experienced. To get him back is massive for us."

United looked calm and assured at the back and goalkeeper David de Gea did not have a single save to make as they recorded just their second clean sheet of the season in all competitions.

'MAN OF THE MATCH' MCTOMINAY

Ronaldo was named man of the match after he scored one goal and created another



strike force with a combined age of 70. It was the first time they had started together.

Young guns Marcus Rashford and Mason Greenwood were sacrificed to make way for the veteran double act, potentially depriving United of thrust down the flanks.

But Ronaldo and Cavani both got on the scoresheet and proved a constant headache for the Spurs defence.

Solskjaer said it was the oldest team he had picked for United, adding he had decided it was time to bank on experience.

"The old men led from the front," he told Sky Sports. "They play well together. They have loads of respect for each other. The work-rate and quality they put in is second to none."

for Cavani but Solskjaer said Scotland midfielder Scott McTominay was his pick as the standout player.

McTominay and Fred were bypassed by Liverpool's quicksilver attackers last week but established control in London as part of a midfield four and provided a platform for the men up front.

"Man of the match for me, by a mile," said the United boss.

"That's the Scott we have seen a few times before. He's had his injury, he's had his operation (on a groin injury) this season but today I thought he was absolutely brilliant."

"He won his tackles, drove forward, kept the ball simple, switched play, headed away a few set-plays. So, absolutely top."

Mominul, Mahmudul drive Chattogram

SPORTS REPORTER



With Bangladesh set to commence their new cycle of the World Test Championship (WTC) later this month through the two home Tests against Pakistan, the ongoing National Cricket League (NCL) was supposed to help the cricketers, especially the national Test players, get into the groove in the longer version.

And Test skipper Mominul Haque, who is also leading Chattogram Division in the NCL, smashed a ton against Dhaka Metropolis in Savar yesterday. The commanding 141-ball 103, laced with 11 boundaries, is ought to give the left-hander much-needed confidence and hopes for helping Bangladesh fare better in the next cycle of the (WTC) after finishing the previous season at the bottom of the table with no wins from seven games.

Aside from Mominul, young right-handed batter Mahmudul Hasan Joy also scored a century as Chattogram finished the day in a dominating position with 316

for four after electing to bat.

However, Mahmudul, unlike skipper Mominul, was a bit more cautious, scoring 112 off 195 deliveries with nine boundaries.

The duo of Mahmudul and Mominul strung together a 208-run third-wicket stand after Chattogram openers -- Parvez Hossain Emon (44 off 96) and Pinak Ghosh (43 off 83) -- had provided their side with a convincing start.

However, Dhaka Metro got some momentum back in the latter part of the day as Abu Hider and Rakibul Hasan removed Mominul and Mahmudul respectively in successive overs just a few overs before umpires called stumps.

Mominul and Mahmudul were not the only centurions on the day as Sohag Gazi's blistering ton helped Barishal Division amass 360 for seven against Rajshahi Division at the Sheikh Kamal International Cricket Stadium Academy Ground in Cox's Bazar. Gazi, known for his quick run-scoring abilities in the domestic circuit, tore apart the Rajshahi bowling line-up as he smashed a total of 10 maximums and

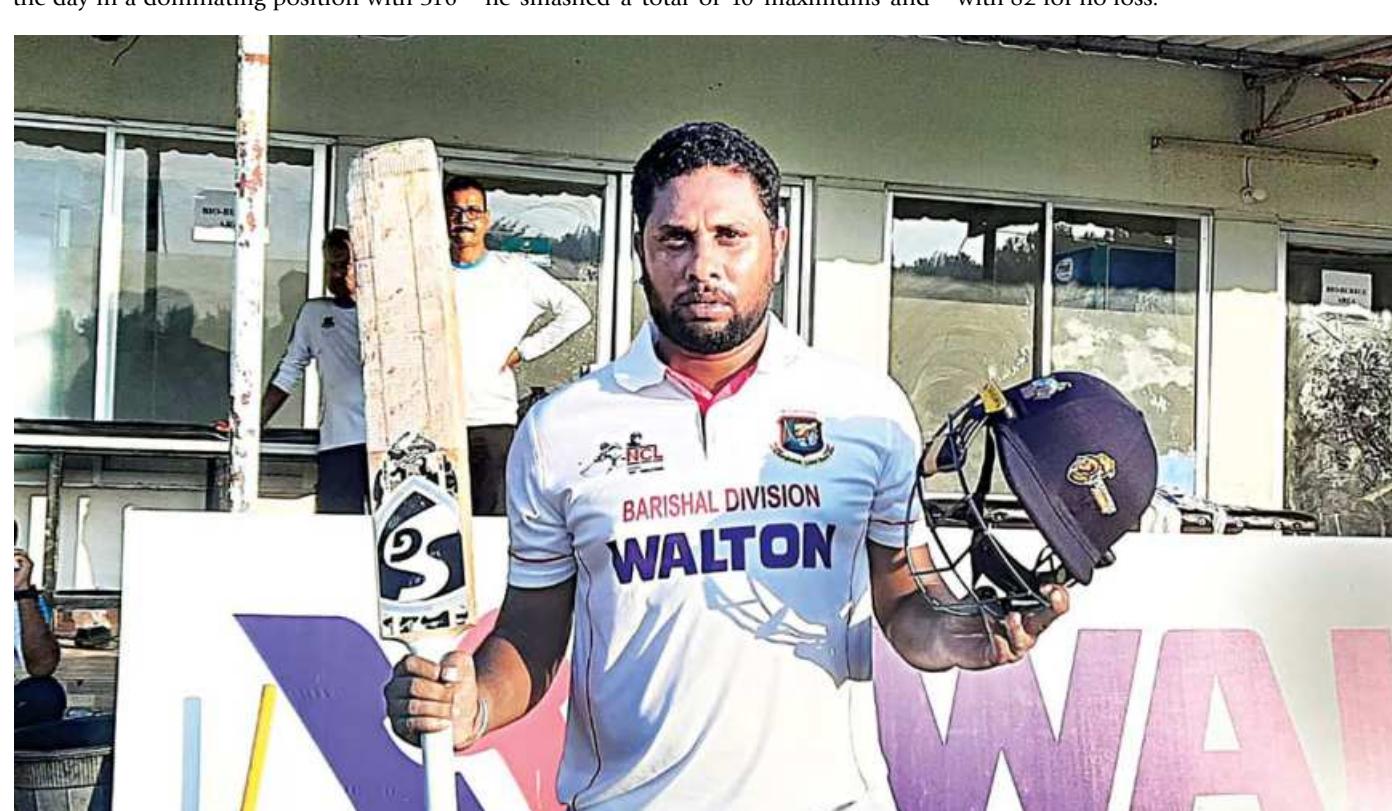
five boundaries during his fiery 95-ball

113. And Shamsul Islam's unbeaten 56 and fifties from Mohammad Ashraful (50 off 108) and Fazle Mahmud (70 off 59) at the top meant Barishal ended with a commendable total on the board.

Meanwhile, at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium Academy Ground, unbeaten fifties from Nahidul Islam and Mehedi Hasan Miraz helped Khulna Division recover from an early slump to score 231 for six against Dhaka Division before stumps. Nahidul remained unbeaten on 77 while Miraz scored 51 not out. For Dhaka, spinner Namul Islam and pacer Anamul Haque scalped two wickets each.

In the other game in Sylhet, pacer Robiul Haque scalped four while Muktidul Islam and spinner Sohravordi Shuvo took three wickets each to help Rangpur Division bundle over Sylhet Division for a meagre 113 in just 51 overs.

Rangpur openers Myshukur Rahaman and Jahid Javed scored unbeaten 46 and 29 respectively, helping their side end the day with 82 for no loss.



Khazri scores 68-metre goal

AFP, Paris

Tunisia international Wahbi Khazri scored from well inside his own half as Saint-Etienne drew 1-1 at fellow Ligue 1 strugglers Metz on Saturday.

Farid Boulaya drilled in a long-range free-kick to give Metz an early lead, but his goal was upstaged minutes later by Khazri's memorable strike, measured at 68 metres according to Opta.

Khazri dribbled upfield after retrieving the ball inside his own penalty area and hammered it over the backpedalling Alexandre Oukidja for his fourth goal in as many games, and seventh of the season.

"I've tried it a lot, sometimes they make fun of me, but when it comes off it's good. It's good for the team above all," Khazri told Prime Video.

"I took the ball forward and I didn't have too many options, I had a go and pulled it off."

Saint-Etienne have drawn three of their past four matches but remain bottom of the table and without a win through 12 games of the season. Metz are just one point above them in 18th place.

Lyon bounced back from a tough loss at Nice last weekend by beating second-placed Lens 2-1 to climb to within a point of the top three.

Karl Toko Ekambi scored a penalty and Houssem Aouar added a second for the hosts before half-time. Arnaud Kalimuendo pulled a goal back for Lens, who lost for the second time in three games.

Lens trail leaders Paris Saint-Germain by 10 points following their 2-1 defeat against PSG.



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'The last, best hope'

Says COP26 chief on climate summit; G20 agrees on 1.5C target but falls short of a pledge on zero emissions

AGENCIES

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) began in the Scottish city of Glasgow yesterday as world leaders gather amid calls to avert climate disaster.

COP26 climate negotiations are the "last, best hope" to keep the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5C alive, said summit president Alok Sharma as he opened the meeting.

The Glasgow gathering, which runs to November 12, comes as an accelerating onslaught of extreme weather events across the world underscores the devastating impacts of climate change from 150 years of burning fossil fuels.

"We know that our shared planet is changing for the worse," said Sharma at the opening ceremony.

G20 leaders meeting in Rome yesterday committed to the key goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and pledged action on the use of coal, but fell short on a target of zero emissions, according to a final draft communique.

Experts warn that only transformative action in the next ten years will help stave off far more cataclysmic impacts.

And the warming of the planet did not pause for the Covid-19 pandemic, which caused the UN meeting to be delayed by a year.

COP26 inherits its central goal from the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement, which saw countries agree to cap global

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



Shrimp being soaked in water mixed with artificial colouring, which is meant to be applied on fabric and is harmful when ingested by humans. This unethical and hazardous method of changing the colour of shrimp to attract customers is going on at the Fishery Ghat Natun Bazar in Chattogram city. This photo was taken on Saturday morning.

PHOTO:
RAJIB RAIHAN

PORI MONI'S REMAND 2 judges offer unconditional apology to HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two lower court judges yesterday offered an unconditional apology to the High Court for placing actress Pori Moni on remand for the second and third time in a narcotics case.

The judges are Dhaka metropolitan magistrates Debrata Biswas and Atikul Islam.

In separate explanations, the judges told the HC that granting the appeal to place the actress on police remand for the second and third time was an inadvertent mistake on their part, their lawyer Abdul Alim Miah Jewel told The Daily Star.

The bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice ASM Abdul Mobin received the explanations during hearing of a petition filed by Pori Moni challenging the legality of placing her on remand.

The court then set November 25 for

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

War imminent: Yahya

NOVEMBER 1, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

KENNEDY ASKS FOR UN DEBATE

US Senator Edward M Kennedy urged the Nixon administration today to support efforts to bring the Bangladesh situation before the United Nations General Assembly in the interests of reaching a political solution.

He also recommended that the US administration help arrange an immediate visit by the International Red Cross mission in Pakistan to Awami League leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who had been imprisoned by the Pakistani government. Positive information on the welfare and fate of Bangabandhu, the senator believed, would help reduce tensions throughout the area.

CHINA WILL HELP US: YAHYA

Pakistan President Yahya Khan, in an interview with Newsweek, said the war between Pakistan and India was imminent. "I have no reason to tell you war [with India] is not imminent because it is," he told the magazine. "The Indians are already at war with us and the only reason there is no general confrontation is that we are not hitting back."

Yahya further said he didn't want to escalate the already tense situation, but noted that "if the Indians escalate with a view to

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



'20 BNP men picked up'

Police detain them from 'Mayer Dak' organiser's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

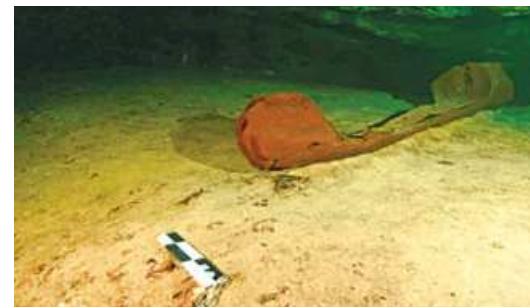
Police detained several BNP men from a doa mahfil programme held at the house of BNP leader Sajedul Islam Sumon, a victim of enforced disappearance in 2013, in Dhaka's Shaheenbagh area.

The BNP men gathered there to attend the programme held by the family after Sumon's mother Hazera Khatun returned home from hospital. BNP leaders and Sumon's family members said.

Sumon's mother is the key organiser of 'Mayer Dak', a platform that holds programmes on different occasions every year, demanding return

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Rare, ancient Maya canoe found in Mexico



REUTERS, Mexico City

A wooden canoe used by the ancient Maya and believed to be over 1,000 years old has turned up in southern Mexico, officials said on Friday, part of archeological work accompanying the construction of a major new tourist train.

The extremely rare canoe was found almost completely intact, submerged in a fresh-water pool known as a cenote, thousands of which dot Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, near the ruins of Chichen Itza, once a major Maya city featuring

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 1

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:55 12:45 4:00 5:30 7:15
JAMAAT 5:30 1:15 4:15 5:34 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



BUS STOP ON BRIDGE!

Traffic jams on the Second Buriganga Bridge in the capital's Nayabazar are common as CNG-run auto-rickshaws and buses illegally pick and drop passengers there. A long tailback was seen there yesterday.

PHOTO:
AMRAN HOSSAIN

Star HEALTHLINE MIGRAINE

More than a headache

STAR REPORT

Migraine is a strong headache often accompanied by nausea, vomiting, and sensitivity to light and sound. These severe headaches can last for hours and can interfere with daily activities.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



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