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Your Right to Know

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"We don't have any interest in the formation of Election Commission as the electoral system has been completely ruined by the current government."
BNP SECRETARY GENERAL MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR



"Many incidents [of violence] have embarrassed us. We've directed our field level officials to check such incidents."
CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER KM NURUL HUDA ON RECENT POLLS VIOLENCE CENTRING UP ELECTIONS



"I think it is unlikely the company will change if [Mark Zuckerberg] remains the CEO. ... Facebook would be stronger with someone who was willing to focus on safety."
FACEBOOK WHISTLEBLOWER FRANCES HAUGEN



CLIMATE SUMMIT 2021

PLEDGE RENEWED

to end deforestation by 2030

More than 100 countries, including Brazil, endorse multibillion-dollar pledge representing over 85 percent of world's forests

AFP, Glasgow

World leaders yesterday issued a multibillion-dollar pledge to end deforestation by 2030, a promise met with scepticism by environmental groups who say more urgent action is needed to save the planet's lungs.

According to summit hosts the British government, the pledge is backed by almost \$20 billion in public and private funding and is endorsed by more than 100 leaders representing over 85 percent of the world's forests, including the Amazon rainforest, Canada's northern boreal forest and the Congo Basin rainforest.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the agreement on deforestation was pivotal to the overarching goal of limiting temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius -- the most ambitious Paris Agreement target.

"Climate change and biodiversity are two sides

of the same coin," Johnson said Tuesday.

"We can't deal with the devastating loss of habitat and species without tackling climate change and we can't tackle climate change without protecting our natural environment and respecting the rights of indigenous people."

"So protecting our forests is not only the right course of action to tackle climate change, but the right course for a more prosperous future for us all," he said.

Signatories include Brazil and Russia, which have been singled out for accelerating deforestation in their territories, as well as the United States, China, Australia and France.

The government of Brazil, much criticised for its environmental policies, announced Monday at the summit that it would cut 2005-level greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 -- up from a previous pledge of 43 percent.

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Holding vaccination cards in their hands, school students aged 12-17 wait in long queues at the Covid-19 vaccination centre at Chittagong Grammar School in the capital's Banani yesterday. Students had to endure delays of several hours before being jabbed against the virus. Their guardians also suffered because of the delay. Related story on page 2.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

CLIMATE CHANGE FALLOUT

Women bear the brunt: Hasina

UNB, Glasgow

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said structural inequalities in human society along with inherent social customs were causing disproportionate impacts of climate change on women.

"Generally, women across the world don't have equal access to resources. In addition, in many societies, they don't have the decision-making power and are often engaged in low paid and unpaid jobs and activities. All these factors contribute to more adverse impacts of climate change on women than on their male counterparts," she said.

The PM was addressing the "Women's Climate Leadership Event-COP26: High-Level Panel on Women and Climate Change" at the Scottish Pavilion in Glasgow.

Hasina said most vulnerable and marginalised people around the world are also the greatest victims of the adverse impacts of climate change for a number of socio-economic and cultural factors. "Women and girls are major among them."

Recognising the vulnerabilities of women in climate change response is critical, the premier said.

She said the Bangladesh government is fully committed to making women part of the solutions to climate change by creating space for them to contribute to all aspects of sustainable development.

"I call upon all of you, especially the women leaders, for taking bold and decisive actions in this COP for a global compact to build communities resilient to climate change in a way where everyone -- both men and women -- can participate equally."

Hasina said to address the vulnerability of women due to climate

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MORE ON COP26

CLIMATE FINANCING
Developing countries demand overdue climate financing from rich countries

METHANE EMISSIONS CUT
Nearly 90 countries, including major emitters, join pact to cut 30pc of the climate warming gas by 2030

COAL INVESTMENT
Nearly all internationally available development financing is now committed to reducing or ending investment in coal-fired power

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Rozina wins Free Press Award

Honoured as 'Most Resilient Journalist' of this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prothom Alo journalist Rozina Islam, who faced threats and harassment and was also imprisoned for writing investigative reports on irregularities in the health sector during the Covid-19 pandemic, received the Free Press Award.

Last year, Filipino journalist Maria Ressa, who got Nobel in Peace this year, also had received the Free Press Award, given by the Netherlands-based organisation "Free Press Unlimited", which works for media freedom and the development of journalism in more than 40 countries.

Free Press Unlimited conferred the award on Rozina in the "Most Resilient Journalist Award 2021" category at The Hague on Tuesday evening (Bangladesh time 12:15am today). Its monetary value is 7,500 Euros. Meanwhile, Indian journalist Bhat Burhan received an award in the Newcomer of the Year category.

In a declaration, Free Press Unlimited said a lot of talented and brave journalists' names were proposed for the award.

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JAIL KILLING DAY

Too dark for an autumn morning



Syed Nazrul Islam Tajuddin Ahmad M Mansur Ali AHM Quamruzzaman

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The clock struck around four in the morning. Wearing khakis and carrying sten guns and SLRs (self-loading rifles), a band of five army personnel arrived at the erstwhile Dhaka central jail on an autumn morning in 1975. As they entered the jail, one of the five introduced himself as Captain Muslemuddin, attached to the Bangabhaban.

Inside the prison were four national leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmad, AHM Quamruzzaman and M Mansur Ali. They had been put behind bars since the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, on August 15, 1975.

Moments later, the leaders, who played pivotal roles in the formation of the Mujibnagar government in exile in 1971, were herded into a cell.

The army men swiftly marched into the prison compound, shooting and bayonetting them to death. Thus, Bangladesh was robbed of its top national leaders in the early hours on this day in 1975.

And the tragedy was compounded as it took 21 long years for the nation to start the trial of the case. It started only after a favourable political scenario emerged in 1996.

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Tigers out with a whimper

SPORTS REPORTER from Abu Dhabi

There was no fighting instinct or glimpse of self-confidence as a sorry-looking Bangladesh team continued their poor run in the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup with a fourth consecutive defeat in the super 12 stage, this time losing by six wickets against South Africa at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi yesterday.

It was probably the worst performance by Bangladesh in the ongoing tournament as they were bundled out for just 84 runs in 18.2 overs, a total chased down by the Proteas with six wickets in hand and 39 balls to spare.

Among the few positives, if one would want to look for, is that they were able to dismiss four of the South African batsmen defending a low total and take the game till the 14th over.

South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma remained unbeaten on 31 to register their third win in four games while Taskin Ahmed was the best bowler for

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South Africa pacer Kagiso Rabada (L), who broke the back of Bangladesh batting with the first three wickets, almost had a fourth when he induced a caught-and-bowled chance off Bangladesh skipper Mahmudullah Riyad during their T20 World Cup fixture at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

BANGABANDHU, MUKTERPUR BRIDGES Toll rates raised

Govt says it's for covering maintenance costs, repaying loans; transport leaders warn people to bear the brunt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has raised the toll rates of the country's two biggest bridges -- Bangabandhu Bridge and Mukterpur Bridge -- by 10 to 50 percent.

At Bangabandhu Bridge, the rates for passenger vehicles like cars and buses rose by 10 to 25 percent while it went up by 14 to 18 percent for trucks and trailers.

At Mukterpur Bridge in Munshiganj, the rates have been hiked by 25-50 percent and 20-33 percent respectively.

The authorities have also for the first time fixed toll rates for three-axle trucks and trailers.

The Bridges Division yesterday issued a circular on the hiked rates, saying the new rates came into effect immediately.

Contacted, Bridges Division Secretary Abu Bakr Siddique said the authorities concerned were updating the relevant software. He hoped that they would be able to implement the new rates within a day or two.

He said the toll rates for Bangabandhu Bridge have been increased by 17 percent on average. The rates for Mukterpur Bridge saw a similar hike.

The development came four months after the Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA), which built and operates the bridges, decided to raise the toll rates to boost the income from the bridges. With the money, the government wants to pay for the maintenance of the bridges and repay the loans it took to build those.

The BBA board, chaired by Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, made the decision at its 110th meeting on June 24 this year, officials said.

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