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CLIMATE SUMMIT 2021

45 nations set to pledge to protect nature

AGENCIES

Forty-five nations were scheduled to pledge to step up protection of nature and overhaul farming to cut greenhouse gas emissions, the British hosts of the COP26 UN climate summit said, as thousands of climate protesters around the globe joined Glasgow to protest against climate inaction by world leaders.

Delegates from nearly 200 countries are in Glasgow to hammer out how to meet the Paris Agreement goals of limiting temperature rises to between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius.

At the halfway stage of the COP26 negotiations, some countries have upgraded their existing pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while there have been separate deals on phasing out coal, ending foreign fossil fuel funding, and slashing methane.

However with current pledges, the world is now on the path of 2.7C warming by 2100.

A statement from British government said 45 governments would "pledge urgent action and investment to protect nature and shift to more sustainable ways of farming".

Backers include major economies led by the United States, Japan and Germany and developing nations such as India, Indonesia, Morocco, Vietnam, Philippines, Gabon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Uruguay.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



Ignoring physical distancing, parents gather in front of the coronavirus vaccine booth for students at Motijheel Ideal School and College in the capital. Although the number of Covid-19 cases are on the decline, experts suggest that health guidelines be maintained properly.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

COVID-19 TOLLS

One die in a day

Lowest daily death recorded in one and a half years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of daily deaths from Covid-19 dropped to one yesterday, the lowest in one and a half years.

Earlier on May 5 last year, the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) reported one Covid-related death in the country.

With the latest fatality, the total number of deaths caused by the virus reached 27,891.

On March 18 last year, the DGHS reported the death of a Covid patient for the first time -- 10 days after the first three confirmed cases were logged in the country.

The number of daily casualties from Covid-19 hit the highest 264 each on August 5 and 10 this year.

This spike was caused by the massive spread of the Delta variant of Covid across the country from May 8.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Record number of hilsa lays eggs in 22 days

SUSHANTA GHOSH

A total of 51.7 percent of mother hilsa have laid eggs in rivers and estuaries of the country -- which is the highest ever.

"Last year, it was 51.2 percent," Anisur Rahman, a hilsa researcher and chief scientific officer of Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute said yesterday following a 22-day fishing ban that ended on October 25.

"Due to favourable weather conditions, a large number of mother hilsa laid eggs breaking all the previous records and the production target of six lakh metric tonnes may cross," he told The Daily Star.

"However, you have to let these eggs grow into full-size hilsa. For this, it is necessary to implement a 60-day ban on fishing in hilsa sanctuaries and a 65-day ban in sea areas," he said.

"At this time of the season, more fish are being caught and due to the illegal fishing of hilsa, they are not been able to turn into mother fish, so it has become necessary to observe these two restrictions," he added.

"This time, the target of six lakh metric tonnes hilsa production will be met. Although there was a shortage at the beginning, hilsa is available again. The

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

US will cancel licences to ship arms to Pakistan

NOVEMBER 7, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

US WILL STOP ARMS EXPORT TO PAKISTAN

The United States decided to cancel licences for the export of more than \$3-million worth of military equipment to Pakistan.

The action would in effect shut the controversial arms pipeline that supplied Pakistan with spare parts and other military goods even though the Administration imposed an arms freeze in April, 1971.

In disclosing the cut-off of licences, State Department officials emphasised that the action was being taken with the consent of the Pakistani government, which was aware of the strong Congressional opposition to the continued shipment of goods to Pakistan.

The officials said that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India was informed of the licence revocation decision shortly before she arrived in Washington for talks with President Nixon.

PAKISTAN POLITICIAN SLAIN

A right-wing politician recently named by Pakistani authorities as a member of the future East Pakistan Provincial Assembly was assassinated today, allegedly by guerrillas with submachine guns. He was identified as Gultanauddin Khan, a member of the Moslem League.

Another man, Ahmed Hossain, was reportedly slain with Gultanauddin today at Naryanganj. Hossain was a member of a local "peace committee."

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



Raushan's condition improves slightly

Says her aide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The condition of Raushan Ershad, now undergoing treatment at Bumrungrad International Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand, has improved slightly.

"Doctors are monitoring her closely to decide the next course of her treatment," Mamun Hasan, assistant private secretary to Raushan, leader of the opposition in parliament, told The Daily Star yesterday, quoting her daughter-in-law Mahima Ershad as saying.

Despite repeated attempts, this newspaper could not reach Mahima, who is accompanying Raushan, or her husband Rahgir Almahi Saad Ershad, a Jatiya Party lawmaker, over the phone.

Raushan, 78, chief patron of JP

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

Slave room found at Pompeii



AFP, Rome

Pompeii archaeologists yesterday said they have unearthed the remains of a "slave room" in an exceptionally rare find at a Roman villa destroyed by Mount Vesuvius' eruption nearly 2,000 years ago.

The little room with three beds, a ceramic pot and a wooden chest was discovered during a dig at the Villa of Civita Giuliana, a suburban villa just a few hundred metres from the rest of the ancient city.

An almost intact ornate Roman chariot was discovered here at the start of this year, and archaeologists said that the room likely housed slaves charged with maintaining and prepping the chariot.

"This is a window into the precarious reality

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Girl jumps off bus to escape rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A college student jumped off a moving bus at Manikganj's Saturaia upazila yesterday noon to escape rape attempt by the bus driver.

Police arrested the driver, Khokon Miah, 28, and seized the bus.

The victim is a student of Government Debendra College in Manikganj town. She boarded the bus of Kalampur Enterprise from Dhamrai Thana Road area to go to Manikganj town

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 7

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:00 12:45 3:45 5:25 7:00
JAMAAT 5:35 1:15 4:00 5:30 7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

England, Aus thru to semis

AFP, Sharjah

Rassie van der Dussen smashed an unbeaten 94 as South Africa beat England by 10 runs but failed to qualify for the semifinals of the Twenty20 World Cup on Saturday.

Group 1 winners England and Australia, who beat West Indies by eight wickets in the first match of the day, made the final four from the six-team pool.

South Africa posted 189 for two after Van de Dussen smashed six sixes in his 60-ball knock but needed to limit England to 131 or fewer to edge out Australia on net run-rate.

England, who topped the group when they passed 109, finished on 179-8 after a hat-trick by Kagiso Rabada in the final over.

Van der Dussen and Aiden Markram, who hit 52 off 25 balls, put on an unbeaten attacking partnership of 103 for the third wicket to give their team a challenging total.

England elected to field first and Moeen Ali struck early when he bowled

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



England's Mark Wood (C) shakes hands with South Africa's Tabraiz Shamsi at the end of their T20 World Cup fixture at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Saturday. South Africa won the match by 10 runs, but failed to qualify for the semifinals as England and Australia sealed the two available spots from Group 1.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Fuel tanker blast kills 99 in Sierra Leone

More than 100 wounded

REUTERS, Freetown

At least 99 people were killed and more than 100 injured in the capital of Sierra Leone late on Friday when a fuel tanker exploded following a collision, local authorities said. Fuel still appeared to be leaking from the wrecked tanker yesterday morning as police and soldiers tried to clear large crowds of onlookers from the street, according to a Reuters reporter.

A burnt human body and the blackened shells of several cars and motorbikes dotted the road in the eastern Freetown suburb of Wellington, where hundreds had gathered.

The death toll currently stands at 99 with more than 100 casualties being treated in hospitals and clinics across the capital, deputy health minister Amara Jambai told Reuters.

Victims included people who had flocked to collect fuel leaking from the ruptured vehicle, Yvonne Aki-Sawyer, mayor of the port city, said initially in a post on Facebook that was later edited to remove the reference.

"We've got so many casualties, burnt corpses," said Brima Bureh Sesay, head of the National Disaster Management Agency, in a video from the scene shared online. "It's a terrible, terrible accident."

Videos shared online shortly after the explosion showed people running through clouds of thick smoke as large fires lit up the night sky. Reuters was not able immediately to verify the images.

Accidents with tanker trucks in Sub-Saharan Africa have previously killed scores of people who gathered at the site to collect spilled fuel and were hit by secondary blasts.