



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

RABIUS SANI 2, 1443 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : Tk12.00



## Public burden heavier now

Govt caves in to pressure to raise bus fare up to 28pc, launch fare 43pc

TRANSPORT FARE HIKE	NEW	OLD
Long-distance bus	1.8	1.42
Bus in Dhaka & Ctg	2.15	1.7
Min. bus fare in Dhaka & Ctg	10	7
Minibus in Dhaka & Ctg	2.05	1.6
Min. minibus fare in Dhaka & Ctg	8	5
Launch first 100km	2.3	1.7
Launch next 100km	2	1.4
Min. launch fare	25	18

ACCOMMODATING 23% HIGHER FUEL PRICES (in Tk/km)

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The bus and launch fares are now up by as much as 28 percent and 43 percent respectively, in the first manifestation of the impact the Tk 15 hike in diesel and kerosene prices will have on the cost of living for the poor and the middle-class.

The new bus and minibus rates, approved to appease the transport owners who have been on strike since Friday to protest the fuel price hike, come into effect today, according to the notice from the Road Transport and Highway Division yesterday.

But the bus operators who resumed normal service in the evening began to charge the new fares soon after the notice was issued around 7 pm.

The launch operators, who went on strike on Saturday noon seeking a doubling of the fares fixed in 2013, also resumed normal service from the evening with the latest tariff set by a government committee led by Delwar Hossain, member of planning and operations of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority.

"This is nothing but injustice to the passengers," Mozammel Hoque

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

"The bus and launch fares have been hiked unilaterally by the government, the transport owners and the workers' leaders without considering the people's interest."

**MOZAMMEL HOQUE CHOWDHURY**  
Secy gen of Jatri Kalyan Samity



Commuters struggling to get onboard a packed BRTC bus and a pickup on Kemal Ataturk Avenue in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## LEFT HELPLESS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rashida Aktar, a postgraduate student, suffered a lot on the road when she went to Eden Mohila College in the capital for an exam yesterday morning.

Her seven-month old baby and younger brother travelled with her from Tongi. But the way back home was much more difficult.

At the capital's farmgate in the afternoon, she made several failed attempts to get onboard the packed state-run BRTC buses while holding the baby.

"I managed to get on a BRTC bus in Tongi in the morning. Though it was fully packed, I somehow

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## DHAKA MAYORS' DISCRETIONARY FUNDS Not always going to where it should

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Affluent people and political leaders, instead of the poor, are often the beneficiaries of the Dhaka city mayors' discretionary funds that the mayors set up going beyond the city corporation act.

Not much prudence is exercised in releasing the funds, say sources at the city corporations.

Crores of Taka are allocated every year for the city corporations to conduct social welfare activities and ensure civic services.

A sizable chunk is kept aside for the Mayor's Discretionary Fund and mayors have been disbursing money from there, in most cases, at will.

"There is no provision for discretionary funds in the city corporation act. It is their own invention.

They can't do this," said local government expert Tofail Ahmed.

There are mentions of discretionary work in addition to mandatory functions. "But there is no mention of discretionary funds," he said of the act.

The budget documents of Dhaka north and south city corporations show that at least Tk 72 crore was allocated for the discretionary funds between 2016 and 2020.

Dhaka North City Corporation's (DNCC) revised budgets show that it allocated Tk 5 crore in 2016-17, Tk 15 crore in 2017-18, Tk 6.9 crore in 2018-19, Tk 6.5 crore in 2019-20, and proposed Tk 7 crore in 2020-21 for the discretionary fund.

On the other hand, Dhaka South City

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

## RUN-UP TO UP POLLS 2 killed, 20 hurt as violence on

STAR REPORT

Violence has continued ahead of the second phase of the union parishad polls claiming two more lives and leaving at least 20 others injured in five districts since Saturday night.

Some of the incidents of violence involved clashes between supporters of candidates nominated by the ruling Awami League and those of the AL rebels.

Amid this situation, the AL yesterday expelled seven party men in Patuakhali's Galachipa upazila after they announced that they would contest the polls as rebel candidates violating party discipline.

Some 846 union parishad across the country are set to go to polls on November 11.

With the two dead, at least 21 people have been killed across the country in violence centring the staggered UP

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



KIWIS IN SEMIS, INDIA ELIMINATED...New Zealand's Devon Conway (L) and Kane Williamson run between the wickets during their T20 World Cup match against Afghanistan at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Sunday. The Kiwis won the match by eight wickets to seal a spot in the semifinals alongside Pakistan from Group 2 as India and Afghanistan failed to make it through. For more see page 10.

PHOTO: AFP

SECONDARY ADMISSION

## Lottery muller for all schools

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Admissions to all government and non-government secondary schools in the coming academic session are likely to be held through a central lottery.

Students have to apply and pay fees online in this regard, proposes the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE).

The DSHE made the proposal to lessen the hassle of students and guardians and "reduce the irregularities" during the admission process at non-government schools, top officials of the directorate told The Daily Star.

"We have made some proposals. The guideline for admissions to the secondary schools is yet to be finalised. The guideline will be finalised soon," Prof Syed Md Golam Faruk, director general of DSHE, told this correspondent.

"We will start the process of filling up and submitting of applications after the guideline is finalised. We are planning to hold the lottery in December," he said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

## Silent heroes of 'Surokkha'

Five local engineers took up the challenge to develop Covid vaccine management app

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

User-friendly and functioning without any major hiccup, vaccine registration app "Surokkha" is a small statement of capabilities of homegrown information technologists.

Created by five local engineers, the app with an access capacity of five crore people at a time, has been playing a key role in the country's Covid-19 vaccine management campaign.

The effort of the fantastic five also saved a lot of public money as the government was planning to outsource a registration platform as part of vaccine rollout management in January this year.

"We were looking for a system from various local and international companies. At that time, the five officials of the ICT division presented their proposal," NM Zeaul Alam, senior secretary of the Information and Communication Technology Division, told The Daily Star recently.

The five engineers of ICT Division who have created the platform in the shortest possible time are -- ASM Hosne Mubarak, Md Harun Or Rosid, Md Abdullah Bin Salam, Abdullah AL Rahman and Md Golam Mahub.

While working as programmers in various districts, they first gave an idea of Central Aid Management Systems for smooth distribution of cash

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

### END OF A STELLAR JOURNEY

**AZIZUL HAQUE CHOWDHURY**  
1<sup>st</sup> October 1943–6<sup>th</sup> November 2021

We deeply mourn the passing of Mr. Azizul Haque Chowdhury—a prominent and visionary entrepreneur, one of the founding Directors and former Vice-Chairman of City Bank, and Chairman of Aziz Group.

He will be remembered for his extraordinary contributions to the economic growth of the country.

May his departed soul rest in eternal peace.



**BANGLADESH UPDATE**

**178**  
New cases in 24hrs

**15,71,013**  
Total cases

**27,895**  
Deaths

**15,34,825**  
Recoveries

**GLOBAL UPDATE**

**5,063,114**  
Deaths

**250,438,829**  
Total cases

## Deliver due services to expatriates

Hasina to diplomats

UNB, London

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked Bangladeshi diplomats to work sincerely so that the expatriates across the world can avail of proper services from them.

"You need to deliver proper services to the expatriates and look after their wellbeing," she said.

The PM said this while virtually inaugurating the extended chancery premise of Bangladesh High Commission in London from her place of residence here.

Hasina said the people of Bangladesh across the world are contributing to their homeland and the countries they are living in. The traditional diplomacy no longer exists as it has turned into economic diplomacy, she added.

She asked the diplomats to blend diplomacy with trade and commerce, investment expansion and Bangladesh's development.

Now no one can attain development alone, the PM said, adding that a comprehensive effort



is needed. "Every foreign mission has a big responsibility to highlight Bangladesh and its history and culture."

Hasina also asked the authorities concerned to discuss and take measures to increase export and investment, and accelerate socio-economic development.

She said the government is working to this end following the foreign policy laid out by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"Bangladesh is no longer a backward country, as it's moving ahead attaining the status of a developing nation. It has to be turned into a developed country upholding this status," Hasina added.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and High Commissioner Saida Muna Tasneem also spoke on the occasion.

Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud, PM's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman F Rahman were, among others, also present.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Tyres burning on the Link Road in Cox's Bazar as Sramik League activists blockaded the road soon after the district Sramik League president Zahirul Islam Shikdar got shot dead by unknown assailants. Road communication between Cox's Bazar and Chattogram remained suspended for nearly two hours due to the blockade.

## Silent heroes of 'Surokha'

FROM PAGE 1

incentives to Covid-hit people. The proposal was initially submitted to the Tangail district administration.

Later, the government took up the idea nationally and brought the five programmers to Dhaka to work on the Central Aid Management Systems (CAMS).

Under the CAMS, around 50 lakh families got the financial assistance

hassles," ASM Hosne Mubarak, one of the programmers, told The Daily Star. The programmers said they had overcome some challenges to develop the system.

"Bringing at least 12 crore people to the vaccination campaign and managing all the data for this huge population was a very tough task. The main challenge was to verify the applicant's identity through the NID

Harun Or Rashid.

It takes a few minutes for vaccine registration with the applicant needing a National ID and a few clicks. Once the registration is done, the user gets an SMS and the application is transferred to the vaccination centre concerned automatically.

A person can download the vaccine registration card. After getting the first jab, the user's vaccine status is instantly updated and the date of the second jab is also automatically fixed.

After completing the two doses, a person can download the vaccine certificate at their own convenience. Besides, there is a QR (quick response) Code so that any authority anywhere in the world can verify the person's vaccination history.

Abdullah Bin Salam said, "There were a number of cyberattacks to interrupt the service but till now the attackers could not do anything."

The programmers said for the last nine months they have been working round the clock as there is no additional manpower to look after the system.

They said young programmers have a tendency to go abroad for better fortunes, adding that the government can avert it by incentivising them.

NM Zeaul Alam said, "The young programmers did a tremendous job and they had done it going beyond their regular job description. This is inspiring for others. We are trying to incentivise them so that they get encouraged."



Harun Abdullah Mahub Mubarak Salam

last year. After the success of the project, the team grew confident and started working on vaccine management system.

At the beginning of this year, they presented the system to the government. It got the vetting from the National Covid-19 vaccine committee, which gave some inputs and allotted three weeks to complete the system.

The system was finally launched on January 25 this year.

"We worked together and there was no leader in the project. As our vision was fixed, we just focused on our work. We are happy that people are getting the benefits of it without any

database," said Harun Or Rashid. He said that managing the huge traffic in the server at a time was also challenging as the government doesn't store its data on Amazon Web Services or Google Cloud like other private companies, considering the security of the people's privacy.

"To overcome this challenge, we used National Data Server," he added. He said that time constraints and limited resources were their biggest enemies.

"We got only three weeks to develop the app. It was like the maximum output using the minimum resources. We are happy that the app runs smoothly even after a record of six crore hits in a single day," said

## Public burden heavier now

FROM PAGE 1

Chowdhury, secretary-general of Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity, told The Daily Star.

Under the new bus tariff, the fare -- which does not include the tolls -- for a trip from the capital's Gabtali to Barishal through Faridpur would go up to Tk 555 from Tk 438.

Similarly, within the city, a bus trip from Mirpur Zoo to Notre Dame College that previously cost Tk 33 would set the passenger back by Tk 41.

The fares have been hiked unilaterally by the government, the transport owners and the workers' leaders without considering the people's interest, Chowdhury said.

Particularly unfair are the new launch fares, which were determined considering the operation cost of just a handful of luxurious launches, according to Chowdhury. "The expenses are not the same for most of the other launches."

Besides, the majority of the launch journeys are upwards of 100 kilometres, so the passengers' costs would effectively rise more than 35.3 percent.

Chowdhury demanded the government cancel the new fares and set logical and acceptable tariffs.

The new bus fares came after a meeting that went on for more than

five hours yesterday between an 11-member government committee led by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority Chairman Nur Mohammad Mazumder, a good number of transport leaders, representatives from the energy division and the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation.

At the meeting, the transport leaders proposed to raise the bus fares by as much as 44 percent, a bid that was shot down by the government officials.

This caused the transport leaders to step outside of the room several times and hold separate meetings among themselves.

Before a final decision was reached, the government officials, including Mazumder, were seen talking over the phone.

After the meeting, Mazumder said the bus operators pushed for a 47 percent hike in fares but the committee recommended a raise of about 27 percent considering both the people's interest and the transport associations' demands.

The new tariff would not be applicable on vehicles that run on CNG, petrol and octane, and for enforcement, the BRTA would be running mobile courts, he said.

The bus fare hike was necessary and overdue, said Khondaker Enayet Ullah,

secretary-general of the Bangladesh Road Transport Owners Association.

Apart from the price of fuel, the other operational costs have gone up since May 2016, when the inter-district bus fares were last fixed, he said. The bus fares for Dhaka and Chattogram were last fixed in September 2015.

However, the associations of goods-carrying vehicle owners and workers said they will continue their ongoing strike until the government slashes the price of diesel, meaning the impasse created by the energy ministry's decision on Wednesday continues.

The leaders of the associations said none from the government talked to them over the issue as of last night.

"We will continue our strike until the fuel price is cut down and the recent hike in tolls for two bridges is revoked," said Tajul Islam, member secretary of Bangladesh Truck, Covered Van, Tank Lorry, Prime Mover Owners and Workers Coordination Council.

Mokbul Ahmed, president of the Bangladesh Covered-Van Truck Prime Mover Goods Transport Owners Association, another platform of owners of goods laden vehicles, said they would not call off the strike, which began on Friday as well, until the problem over fuel price hike is solved.

## MISSING HEALTH MINISTRY FILES

# Probe body gets five more days

Nothing conclusive yet, says CID after interrogating 9 staffers and a contractor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The probe committee, formed to investigate the missing case of 17 purchase-related files from the health ministry, has got five more days to submit its probe report.

A three-member committee was supposed to submit its report by Thursday.

As it could not yet finish its task by the deadline, it was asked to submit the report by Thursday, confirmed one of the investigators Ahsan Kabir, joint secretary (procurement) at the ministry's medical education and family welfare division.

On October 30, the health ministry formed a three-member committee, headed by administration wing Additional Secretary Md Shah Alam,

to probe into how the files went missing and asked the body to submit its report in five working days.

Meanwhile, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police so far interrogated at least nine staffers of the health ministry and a Rajshahi-based contractor, but still could not find anything conclusive over the missing files.

The staffers and Rajshahi-based contractor Nasimul Gani Toton were released from the CID headquarters in Dhaka.

"We have nothing conclusive to say. The ministry is investigating the incident," said Azad Rahman, additional superintendent of police (CID), adding that they would investigate further and interrogate more people if needed.

## Left helpless

FROM PAGE 1

got on," she told this correspondent.

After her exam at the Eden, she came to Farmgate on a rickshaw, hoping to find a bus. But the BRTC buses were crammed with people.

On the third day of the transport strike, commuters were seen standing precariously on the bumpers of the red buses.

"I can't afford to hire an auto-rickshaw. I'll have to wait until I can get on a bus," said Rashida after waiting for an hour at Farmgate.

Like her, thousands of commuters, particularly office goers in the capital, suffered a lot due to the countrywide transport strike.

Many, including students, rode on

rickshaw vans and trucks to commute.

The BRTC buses could carry only a fraction of the commuters.

The capital's main thoroughfares were filled with rickshaws.

Tapashi Chakrawarti, a private firm employee, left her home in Khilkhet in the morning to catch a bus. "It seemed people were fighting to get on the buses. I waited for about two hours. Then I hired an auto rickshaw, spending Tk 300," she said, adding that the regular bus fare is only Tk 25.

Transport owners and workers called the strike after the government on Wednesday night raised the prices of diesel and kerosene by Tk 15 to Tk 80 per litre, citing a hike in global prices.

## Italy lets 800 migrants stuck at sea disembark

AFP, Rome

Italy on Saturday agreed to let 800 migrants including hundreds of minors and five pregnant women disembark after they were stuck at sea aboard an overcrowded vessel.

German charity Sea Eye told AFP it had received permission to dock at Trapani in Sicily, just hours after a fellow charity delivered it urgently needed relief supplies, including food and blankets.

The Sea Eye 4 ship had already been carrying nearly 400 people pulled to safety at sea when it raced to the rescue of another 400 people crowded onto a wooden boat on Thursday.

Since then it had been appealing to the government in Rome to allow it to dock.

There were over 200 minors, including "many children under the age of 10" on board, the NGO said in a statement. More than 200 people had been treated at the onboard hospital.

"Our crew is working at the limits of what is humanly possible," Sea Eye chairman Gorden Isler was quoted as saying, ahead of the port assignment.

"The ship must be allowed to dock immediately to ensure the safety of all those rescued and the crew."

The Ocean Viking, a charity vessel run by SOS Mediterranee, was also looking for a port for over 300 people it has rescued, bringing the number of migrants seeking to disembark in Italy to over 1,100.

The country is one of the main points of entry into Europe for migrants from North Africa, mainly from Libya and Tunisia, with tens of thousands of people seeking to cross the central Mediterranean each year.

Under previous interior minister Matteo Salvini's "closed ports" policy, European states had to agree to take a certain number of rescued migrants before the charity ships were allowed to dock.

Isler said "negotiations on the distribution of the rescued" should be conducted after the migrants land.

Nearly 55,000 migrants have disembarked in Italy this year, compared to just under 30,000 last year, according to figures from the interior ministry.

## 2 killed, 20 hurt

FROM PAGE 1

polls, which began in June.

At least 15 of them have been killed ahead of the second phase of the polls.

On November 2, Chief Election Commissioner Nurul Huda said the commission was embarrassed at the election violence. He also expressed his concern over the matter.

In Cox's Bazar, Jatiya Sramik League leader Jahirul Islam Sikder, 45, who sustained bullet wounds in an attack on Friday night, died at a hospital in Chattogram yesterday.

Unidentified assailants shot Jahirul and his brother Kudrat Ullah Sikder, incumbent member of Jhilanja Union Parishad in Sadar upazila, while they were chatting at Kudrat's office.

Kudrat, also general secretary of Jhilanja union unit of Awami League, is contesting for member post this time as well.

The victims' family members and fellow politicians blamed Kudrat's rival candidate Liakat Ali, a BNP activist, for the attack.

Liakat could not be reached for comments. His phone was found switched off.

Sheikh Munir Ul Gias, officer-in-charge of Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station, said they were trying to arrest the attackers.

A large number of AL men demonstrated blocking roads in Cox's Bazar yesterday afternoon, demanding the killers' punishment.

In Narayanganj, a man was shot dead on Saturday night. Locals said he was killed over rivalry centring union parishad polls in Ruppaganj upazila.

The deceased was identified as Abdur Rashid Mollah, 35, brother-in-law of a member aspirant in the upazila's Morapara union.

Locals said one Awlad Hossain is contesting for a member post of the union, but supporters of his rival candidates vandalised his election camps a few days ago. One of the rival candidates is backed by local upazila parishad vice chairman Sohel Ahmed Bhuiyan. Awlad and his brother-in-law Abdur Rashid Mollah went to Sohel's office to complain against the rival candidate on Saturday night.

At that time, Awlad and Sohel engaged in an altercation. At one stage, Sohel's bodyguard opened fire on Abdur Rashid, said Abir Hossain, assistant superintendent of police in Narayanganj (Circle-3), quoting locals. Critically injured Rashid was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Police have arrested five people in this connection. But no case was filed till yesterday evening, said Humayun Kabir Mollah, inspector (investigation) of Ruppaganj Police Station.

Sohel could not be reached for comments as his phone has been found switched off since the incident.

In Mumshiganj, at least 10 people were injured in a clash between the supporters of AL-nominated chairman candidate and party rebel at Sologhar union of Sreenagar upazila yesterday.

Azizul Islam is running for chairman with AL's electoral symbol boat while rebel candidate Moazzem Hossain is contesting the polls as an independent.

Both groups locked in a clash in front of Azizul's house in Bhuchitra area around noon yesterday leaving at least 10 people injured, said Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sreenagar Police Station.

On information, police and administrative officials rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, the OC added.

In Pirojpur, a local Jubo League leader was shot and four other AL men were wounded during a clash between two AL groups at Sangkarpasha union under Sadar upazila yesterday.

The bullet-hit person is Faysal Mahub Shuvo, 32, general secretary of Pirojpur town unit Jubo League.

Locals said Shuvo along with his followers electioneered on behalf AL-nominated candidate chairman candidate in Sangkarpasha Tofazzal Hossain Mallik yesterday afternoon.

On their way back home, supporters of AL's rebel candidate swooped on them in Mallickbari Bus Stand area, triggering the clash.

Contacted, the district's additional superintendent of police Mollah Amzad Hossain confirmed that the clash took place.

In Pabna, at least five people were injured in attacks carried out Saturday night allegedly by rival candidates following a feud over the upcoming union parishad elections in Sujanganj upazila.

Shaheen Chowdhury is competing for chairman post of Sagarkandi union with boat symbol while another local AL man Taiyab Ali is an independent. Taiyab alleged that houses of his several supporters came under attack and four motorbikes were burnt by the followers of Shaheen Chowdhury on Saturday night.

However, Shaheen denied the allegation and claimed that his rivals were spreading propaganda against him. Rather, some of his supporters came under attack by his rivals on Saturday evening.

Contacted, Md Rowshan Ali, OC of Aminpur Police Station, said both the groups have filed complaints against each other for launching attacks.

In Sirajganj, alleged supporters of the AL-nominated chairman candidate in Shialkole union assaulted some reporters while they were covering a press conference jointly organised by four independent candidates in Shialkole Bazar area yesterday morning.

[Our correspondents in the districts contributed to this report]



CUSTODY OF CHILDREN

# Dispose of cases in 6 months: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the family courts of the country to hear and dispose of the cases filed over the custody of children in six months.

The law secretary and Supreme Court registrar general have been asked to communicate the directive to the family courts concerned.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman delivered the verdict following a petition filed by a mother in Rangpur seeking her child's custody from her ex-husband.

The bench ordered the family court in Dhaka to finish the trial proceedings of the case filed by the petitioner by March 31 next year.

It also asked the child's father to allow her (child) mother (petitioner) to visit the child at her convenient times during the trial proceedings of the case.

The writ petitioner's lawyer Md Motaher Hossain Sazu and Deputy Attorney General Bepul Bagmar told The Daily Star that the HC directed family courts to dispose of custody cases in six months as many such cases have been pending for long periods (two to three years) without any trial.

They also mentioned that there is no specific time limit to finish proceedings of such cases in the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance, 1961.

Motaher Hossain Sazu said the writ petitioner married a man from Rajshahi in 2011. They had a daughter in 2015.

In 2018, they got divorced and since then the child has been staying with her father. The mother filed a case with the family court in Dhaka seeking custody of the child. As the family court failed to settle the case, she submitted the petition with the HC this year, the lawyer added.



It's rather unbelievable that this can be the condition of an area in Dhaka South City Corporation in this day and age. But at Kadamtali's Munshipara, there's no need for rainfall for the area to get washed away. Locals say this is the result of canal grabbing and an utterly poor drainage system, which leaves their streets, courtyards, and even interiors flooded with garbage and chemical mixed water. These photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## 'No betel leaf, cigarette shops at school gates'

Recommends JS body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday asked the home ministry to request the education ministry to take measures to ensure that no betel leaf, cigarette, or related shops are set up in front of or at school and college gates.

The parliamentary standing committee on the home affairs ministry came up with the recommendation at a meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Ruling Awami League MP Md Shamsul Haque Tuku presided over the meeting.

The meeting was attended by committee members Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, Kujendra Lal Tripura, Pir Fazlur Rahman, Nur Mohammad, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, and Begum Rumana Ali.

The report on the overall activities of the Bangladesh SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

# Sampans passed through here once



Once a kilometre-long boat route emerging at the Karnaphuli, the Manaharkhali canal is little more than a narrow drain now.

PHOTO: STAR

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, Cg

Not too long ago, only about 15 years, Chattogram's Manaharkhali canal could let sampans (traditional wooden boats) pass through. But due to rampant encroachment, today it has become little more than a drain that can barely let water pass, let alone boats.

The grabbers are mostly the same people who live beside the canal. Over the years, they've constructed numerous multi-storey buildings grabbing the bank of the canal.

Fifteen years ago, the canal stood at a whole kilometre in length. "We used to see sampans move through it back in the days," said Titu Das, an inhabitant of the area.

During a recent visit to the canal, that starts from Chattogram town's Kolabagicha area and runs all the way into the Karnaphuli river, this correspondent was left wondering where the glory days have gone.

Talking to The Daily Star, local ward commissioner Pulok Khastogir said, "There are around 2,500 voters in the canal area. We can't just evict them overnight as they've been living here for a long time."

However, Humayun Kabir, a local trader, told this correspondent that not everyone of its 2,500 inhabitants are connected with the grabbing.

"It's the influential people of the area. They filled up the canal and then constructed houses and other structures on it first. Later on, the Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) came in to construct walls on both sides and turned it into a drain."

CDA's intervention has become a particular case of contention among city officials and environmental activists, who also dispute the actual number of canals in the city.

Md Abu Issa Anshary, deputy chief town planner of CDA, said "According to a 1995 drainage master plan survey, there were 57 canals in Chattogram town, but this has now come down to only 36."

"This leads to waterlogging in the city. So when you trace the source of the problem, you see how encroachment and land grabbing is one of main reasons," he said.

"According to CDA's Detail Area Plan, no structure can be set up at least 12 feet from the borders of a canal," said Anshary.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# We're all in this together

Global communities' support crucial to tackle climate change, say speakers at event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US\$100 billion per year fund, committed by the industrially developed countries for the climate-vulnerable developing nations has hardly started to transfer, said speakers at a discussion organised by Brac Climate Change Programme.

"Only capable institutions can ensure that the fund reaches the vulnerable local community," said eminent climate change expert Professor Saleemul Huq at the discussion titled "Climate Bridge Fund: An innovative CSO led financing to build resilience of climate migrants in Bangladesh" on Saturday.

The developed countries are transferring 20 percent of the total fund for adaptation and 50 percent for mitigation, though it is required on a 50:50 ratio. Only 2 percent of the fund is reaching the marginalised communities directly suffering the impacts of climate change, he added.

Dr Golam Rabbani, head of the Climate Bridge Fund Secretariat, shared experiences and learnings of CBF during his key-note speech.

"The fund can invest in capital and has

CLIMATE FUND
➤ Fund: \$100b per year
➤ 20pc of total fund for adaptation
➤ 50pc for mitigation
➤ Required ratio 50:50
➤ Only 2pc reaching the marginalised

the potential for reinvestment to increase support for the population vulnerable to the climate crisis," said Barbara Schnell, director of KfW.

Asif Saleh, executive director of Brac, said the CBF model of Brac-KfW can be a unique model to address the problems of the climate migrants and the vulnerable urban population.

"We must try our best to overcome the impacts of climate change and achieve sustainable development. The global community's support in all levels is crucial in this matter," said Md Mostafa Kamal, secretary of the environment, forest and climate change ministry, while addressing the discussion as chief guest.

# Ensure finance, tech transfer to support climate actions

Civil society groups in Glasgow urge developed countries

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Civil society groups in Glasgow have called for the developed countries to ensure adequate finance and technology transfer to support effective climate actions for the most vulnerable and least developed countries.

At a press conference at the ongoing Global Climate Conference in Glasgow-UK on Saturday, they also demanded ending carbon emission, instead of using so-called phrases like "Net Zero target by 2050", according to a statement.

In his keynote paper, Aminul Hoque of EquityBD from Bangladesh, said the COP-26, which is being held in the context of past failure of its commitments, is also bringing in new optimism for future as the developed countries have pledged to keep their commitments of reducing global warming and supporting the most vulnerable countries.

However, he said, the industrialised countries that are responsible for global emission must change their theory of "Net Zero Target" and revise their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to "Zero Carbon emission" target by 2050.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

# 'Rehabilitation before eviction'

Demands Welfare Mission of Biharis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Welfare Mission of Biharis (Bangladesh) yesterday demanded that the authorities refrain from conducting any drive to evacuate them from their camps before rehabilitation.

They made the demand at a press conference held at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital.

"On January 21, 22 and 23, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) demolished several hundred of our homes in the name of road development at Avenue-4 of section-11 in Mirpur. Many families were forced to stay under the open sky at that time because of that drive," said Md Mahtab Alam, acting general secretary of the mission.

Though the DNCC mayor had given assurance about their rehabilitation, the DNCC authorities have been warning to evict the camps, claimed Mahtab.

However, during the eviction drive at SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

# Will the Taliban deliver? Int'l relations analysts express concern over the regime's rule in Afghanistan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Though the early days of the Taliban takeover had promised otherwise, it now looks like the country is heading towards a future supporting hardline, extremist activities and no support for women's rights, said international relations analysts at a webinar.

With such realities, the Taliban may find it hard to gain international recognition, while its relationship with neighbours might continue to be complicated, they said.

The observations came at the webinar titled "The Afghan Imbroglio" organised by Dhaka

There has been no notable improvement in women's rights and education with the Taliban in power.

DR SREERADHA DATTA  
VIVEKANANDA INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION, NEW DELHI

University's International Relations Department on Saturday night.

Addressing the session, former ambassador Shamsheer Mobin Chowdhury said the Taliban cabinet stands divided, which is signified by its interior minister Sirajuddin Haqqani's praise for suicide bombers on one hand, and pledged support for families of the fighters killed in suicide attacks on the other.

Chowdhury also said an interior minister's praise for suicide bombers sends out wrong message to the international community and creates further uncertainties SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

# 'No democracy in country'

Alleges Fakhru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday alleged that the government has created a "dreadful" situation in the country by "obliterating democracy".

"There is no democracy, independence of judiciary, freedom of expression and freedom of press. Killing, abduction and repression is going on. A dreadful situation is prevailing in the country..." said party secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir.

Placing a wreath at the party founder Ziaur Rahman's grave to mark "National Revolution and SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



# A grave problem

No dedicated cemeteries, crematoriums for Christians, Buddhists in Dhaka

DIPAN NANDY

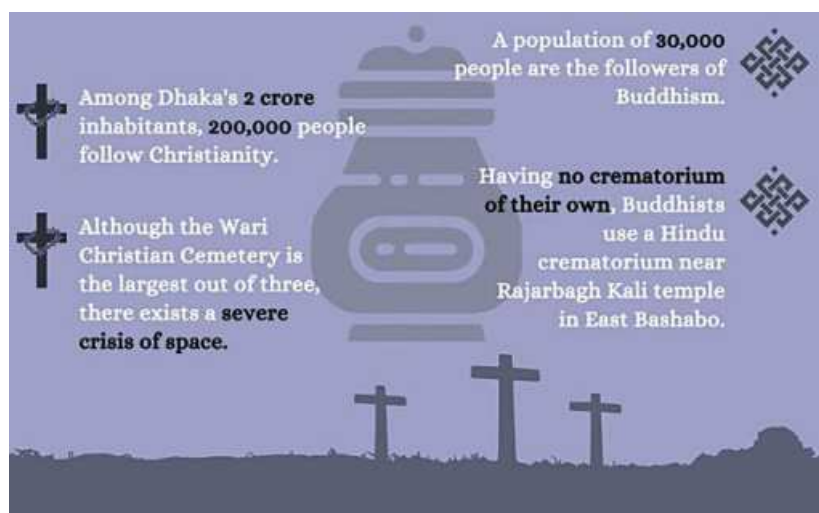
There are almost two lakh Dhaka dwellers belonging to the Christian faith and another 30,000 who practise Buddhism. Yet, despite repeated appeals to the government, there are no dedicated cemeteries and crematoriums in the city where the last rites of the deceased from these communities can be observed.

As a result, Christians perform burials on their own accord, while Buddhists are incinerated in the crematoriums of Hindus.

Neither of the two city corporations in Dhaka has a designated burial place for Christians. However, under their own management, their bodies are buried at three places in the capital.

Among them, the 16-acre Wari Christian Cemetery -- which is also a historical site -- is the biggest in size. Both Catholics and Protestants are buried here.

Given that it houses graves that have been there for centuries, there is a severe crisis of space, according to the committee of Catholic and Protestant



Christians who are in charge of the conservation of the cemetery.

The other two are Tejaon Christian Cemetery and St Joseph's Christian Cemetery in Mohammadpur. The size of the two cemeteries is nearly two acres. However, only Catholics are buried there.

Nirmol Rozario, secretary of the

Christian Religious Welfare Trust and president of Bangladesh Christian Association, said there is no official burial for Christians in Dhaka.

"There exists three cemeteries, and each has its own management. We have been advocating at length for a big cemetery for years now."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## ON THE HUNT FOR YOU

We are looking for confident and capable Relationship Managers to help us grow our business.

Application Deadline: November 23, 2021



**Prime Bank**

To apply scan the QR Code



# WORLD'S SHORTEST LIVING CATTLE Muffin, a new contender appears!



PHOTO: STAR

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

After Rani's demise, it looks like another cow has stepped up to keep the mantle of "world's shortest cow" inside the country. His name is Muffin, and he stands at just 23.5 inches.

This means the cattle is just 3.5 inches taller than Rani, and other than one other contender -- Gazipur's Tuntuni --, he might just be set to make it to the Guinness Book of World Records.

A Bhutanese dwarf cattle, Muffin is owned by Rajshahi's Arafat Rubel, owner of Sawdagar Agro Farm in the city's Katakhalia area.

Rubel first met Muffin at Satkhira only a week ago. Immediately taking a liking, he brought him home to his 11 other dwarf cattle. Rubel started calling him Muffin (small cake), due to his size.

The cattle has already started drawing attention -- from the media as well as residents of the story. Everyday, hundreds of curious people are visiting Rubel's home at Kalur Ghat Mor. Some have even started trying to buy him off, with offers reaching up to a lakh, although Rubel has no intention to sell.

However, he said he'd be willing to give Muffin away if any government

institution wants him for research or for public display.

Rubel's farm was set up at the rear end of 2018. He started off breeding uncommon cattle and made good profits rearing the Brahma and Mirkadimer Hasa breeds right away.

"There's popularity in the market for cattle of this ilk. On top of this, they're cost efficient too. The same fodder that would make a local cattle weight six maunds would take exceptional breeds to weigh more than 15 maunds," Rubel said.

"In the eastern districts, the short-bred Bhutanese Bhutti (dwarf cattle) is in high demand," he added.

He started buying the breed around a year ago. When he heard about Muffin a week ago, he rushed to contact the farmer who raised him and brought him home.

Meanwhile, Fazle Rabbi, Paba upazila's livestock officer, has visited Muffin. He told The Daily Star the cow is in sound health. He said Muffin has four teeth, which means it's over two years of age.

However, Rubel said although Muffin is healthy, there are some signs of malnourishment. "With proper care, Muffin will look great in a month," he said.

## No democracy

FROM PAGE 3  
Solidarity Day", the BNP leader urged all the political parties and organisations to get united to oust the "fascist" government from office.

"We will wage movements to establish a democratic country," he said.

On this day in 1975, the then army chief Ziaur Rahman was released from captivity

through a civil-military "uprising".

When BNP celebrate November 7 as National Revolution and Solidarity Day, the ruling Awami League and its front organisations consider it as the day of "Killing of Freedom Fighters".

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rob) observes it as the day of the "Civil-Military Revolution Day".

## A grave problem

FROM PAGE 3

On the other hand, Buddhists are cremated in Hindu crematoriums.

Buddhists cremate their deceased in the Hindu crematorium adjacent to the Rajarbagh Kali temple in East Bashabo. However, outside Dhaka, there is a crematorium under the auspices of Ashulia Buddhist Monastery and Chattogram City Corporation.

Nipu Barua, a representative of the Buddhist community living in Dhaka, said, "We have been demanding a separate crematorium for Buddhists for a long time. Not everyone can be cremated at Rajarbagh crematorium."

"As a result, most of the Buddhists take their (deceased) bodies to their respective areas and cremate them, which costs both time and money," she added.

Addressing this issue, Joy Datta Barua, secretary of the Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust, said the government had taken steps to establish a separate crematorium for Buddhists.

"Unfortunately, that's not happening due to lack of suitable space," he said.

"We had proposed that space be allocated next to the crematorium adjacent to the Rajarbagh Kali Temple or inside the Basabo Buddhist monastery."

Contacted, Faridul Haque Khan, state minister of religious affairs, said, "We've made plans to build cemeteries and crematoriums for people from the Christian and Buddhist communities across the country."

"The deputy commissioners have been instructed to find spaces within government domain," he added.

Regarding Dhaka, he said, "We have a similar plan for the capital. If a suitable government land (khas) is available, we will set up cemeteries and crematoriums there."

## No betel leaf

FROM PAGE 3

Police and the Narcotics Control Department was also discussed at the meeting. During the session, the parliamentary watchdog recommended to intensify the ongoing dope testing programme for police members.

The committee also asked to bring educational institutions and district jails under dope tests.

## Four accused must surrender

Says SC on puja mandap vandalism case in Cox's Bazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A full bench of the Appellate Division yesterday upheld its chamber judge's order -- directing four accused in a case over vandalising puja mandap in Cox's Bazar -- to surrender to the lower court concerned in a week.

The accused are Cox's Bazar's Pekua UP chairman and local BNP leader Bahadur Shah and local Jubo Dal activists Kamran Zahid, Sajjad and Shahnewaz Azad. A five-member SC bench passed the order after rejecting a petition filed by accused.

## Man takes his own life after killing wife, daughter in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A man has died by suicide after killing his wife and nine-year-old daughter in Ashulia's Pobnartek area in Savar, said police. After receiving a call from 999 hotline number, police recovered three bodies from a room at their rented house around 10pm on Saturday night.

The deceased are Shobur Ali Mia (28), a battery-run auto-rickshaw driver, his wife Rozina Begum (25), a garment factory worker, and their daughter Shumiya Akter. SI Al-Mamun Kabir of Ashulia Police Station said, "We found Shobur's body hanging from the ceiling fan while bodies of his wife and daughter were on the ground."

Shobur's younger brother Shohid Ali said on November 2 Shobur bought the auto-rickshaw for Tk 60,000 with his wife's money and by mortgaging a piece of land.

The next day, two fraudsters, in guise of passengers, stole his auto-rickshaw from Jamagah Market. Shobur and Rozina had arguments over it. Asked about the incident, SI Mamun said they were not informed about the theft.

## Ensure finance

FROM PAGE 3

He said the developed countries must ensure adequate climate finance for the LDCs through the Green Climate Fund and their public sources.

Soumya Datta from Peoples Forum, India said "net zero" is a phrase that represents magical thinking rooted in future technology obsession.

Jahangir Hossen Masum from

Community Development Partner, Bangladesh said the discourse of new collective climate finance goal will be a frame of "Climate Justice Perspective" where financial mobilisation process will be adequate and surpass the 100 billion target.

Shamim Arfeen of An Organization for Socio-Economic Development said every year millions are displaced due to losing livelihood options.

## Will the

FROM PAGE 3

over Afghanistan's future.

He said Bangladesh needs to wait and watch how the situation evolves over there.

Dr Sreeratha Datta, head of Neighbourhood Studies Centre at the New Delhi-based Vivekananda International Foundation, observed that the Taliban don't actually represent the people of Afghanistan.

"There has been no notable improvement in women's rights and education with the Taliban in power," she said.

She also said as country with heavy investments in Afghanistan, India cannot support a government with such extremist ideologies.

Samina Ahmed, project director for South Asia and Senior Asia Adviser of International Crisis Group, mentioned that though the Pakistan government has ties with the Taliban, it still cannot recognise the government considering its relations with the US and European Union.

DU international relations professor Intiaz Ahmed said the US invasion was a sheer humiliation for the Afghans -- a fact that they cannot forget.

He called for the world to take care of the Afghan people until its reality takes on a more harmonious note, which has happened in the past for war-ravaged countries like Vietnam and Bangladesh.

DU IR professors Dr Rashed Uz Zaman and Dr ASM Ali Ashraf also spoke at the webinar, moderated by Prof Dr Amena Mohsin.

## Sampans passed

FROM PAGE 3

Chattogramer Nodi o Khal Rokkha Andolon's Aliur Rahman, also general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Forum, puts the numbers even higher. "There were 71 canals in Chattogram in the 1968-69 master plan."

However, Mohammed Ariful Islam, superintending engineer (planning and construction) of Chattogram Wasa claimed that there's 57 canals in the port city.

City residents looked towards the end of their waterlogging woes by the end of 2020, as the deadline of a canal re-excavation, and expansion mega project approached. However, this is yet to come to fruit.

"Tk 5,616 crore was approved by the Ecnec in August 2017 to solve waterlogging in Chattogram," said Ahmed Moinuddin, executive engineer and CDA project director.

"Under the project, we are re-excavating 36 canals of Chattogram city", he said. Aliur Rahman, general secretary,

Bangladesh Paribesh Forum and Chattogramer Nodi o Khal Rokkha Andolon, alleged, "In the name of re-excavation, CDA is destroying the canals of Chattogram, constructing walls to narrow the canal. This is only going to increase everyone's sufferings."

"Rather than recovering the canals, CDA is only creating hindrance in the flow of the canals in the name of development," the activist said. Denying the allegation, CDA's Ahmed Moinuddin said, "The canals are being walled as part of our effort to solve waterlogging."

Contacted, Anowar Hossain, superintending engineer of Chattogram City Corporation, said, "We have ran several drives across different canal areas to evict grabbers, but they [encroachers] come back and occupy the canals a few days after we leave."

"We don't know how CDA is constructing walls in the canal without any proper demarcation of the canals," he said.

## Rehabilitation before eviction

FROM PAGE 3

Mirpur-11 in January, DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam said the eviction drive was conducted for "the greater good" and has the support of local people while visiting the spot.

"The road on which illegal establishments are being evicted today is a connecting road to the Kalshi road, which we had planned to widen a long time ago but could not. This is a long-awaited project," he said.

Terming the inhabitants of the adjacent camps "illegal occupants", the mayor said they have been evicted with the help of locals.

"The road is supposed to be 65 to 75 feet wide. The truck stand on the other end will

also be removed," he added. Commuters will be able to reach as far as the Dhaka airport from Mirpur through this road after the eviction, according to the mayor.

The mission demanded that their fundamental rights be ensured, the rehabilitation of their family members ousted from Mirpur, Mohammadpur and Narayanganj and the issuing of trade licenses to the shop owners in the new society market.

They also urged that different departments concerned arrange a meeting with them to solve the conflict surrounding the Urdu speaking population.



**VACANCY FOR SHORE JOB (MARINERS ONLY)**

S.R Shipping is a sister concern of KABIR GROUP. It is known as largest Ship Owning & Management Company in Bangladesh. S.R Shipping vessels are also managed by Brave Royal Ship Management (BD) LTD.

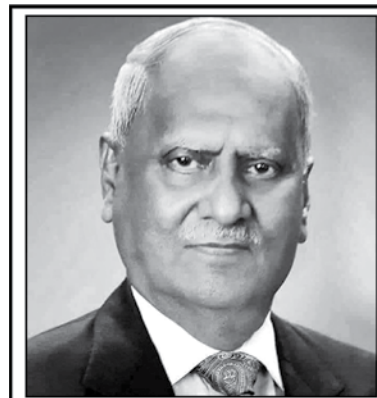
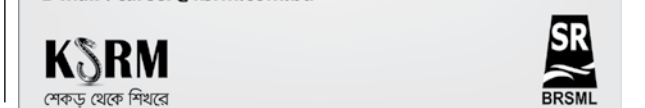
We are looking for highly motivated, dynamic & experienced individuals, who can take the responsibility for a Senior Position under **Chartering and Operation Department.**

- Requirement for the position :
  - Master Mariner (Class-1 Deck Officer) with Minimum 07 years of experience as Master on Ocean Going Bulk Carrier Vessel.
  - Minimum 10 years of shore experience in Ship Chartering & Operation at Ship owner office/freight trading house for Vessel of Handy-Supramax or higher size.
  - Skill handling of Grain, all kinds of Bulk Cargoes & Break Bulk Cargo.
  - Age 45 - 55 years.

Interested candidates are requested to send their CV with experience record along with one recent passport size color photograph to the following Email or by post.

**Application to be submitted by 20th November, 2021.**

Address: Head of Human Resource KSRM, Kabir Manzil, SK Mujib Road, Agrabad, Chittagong. E-mail : career@ksrm.com.bd



Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

## WE DEEPLY MOURN

Eminent lawyer and social worker, former Vice-Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council, former President of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association and General Secretary of Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury National Memorial Council Senior Advocate Janab Abdul Baset Mazumdar passed away on 27 October 2021 (Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Rajoun). Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury National Memorial Council is deeply shocked at his sudden passing away. We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of the departed soul and express our heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family. His relentless struggle for establishment of democracy and rule of law in the country will be remembered with great respect.

JUSTICE ABU SAYEED CHOWDHURY NATIONAL MEMORIAL COUNCIL.

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**

ভূমি প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র  
ভূমি মন্ত্রণালয়  
২৭৭/৫/এ, শহিদ জননী জাহানারা ইমাম সরণি  
নীলক্ষেত্র, কাতাবন ঢাকা-১২০৫  
www.latc.gov.bd

স্মারক নং-৩১.০৪.০০০০.০০০.০৭.০০৩.২০২১-৯৫৮ তারিখঃ ২২ কার্তিক ১৪২৮  
০৭ নভেম্বর ২০২১

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ভূমি মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীন ভূমি প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রে স্যানিটারি, প্রিন্টিং, স্টেশনারী ও ইলেকট্রিক্যাল সামগ্রী সরবরাহ নেয়া হবে। সে লক্ষ্যে আত্রাহী ও অভিজ্ঞ প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের দিন থেকে ২২/১১/২০২১ খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময় নগদ ৫০০/- টাকা (অক্রেতমোগ্য) মূল্যে সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), ভূমি প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, ২৭৭/৫/এ, শহিদ জননী জাহানারা ইমাম সরণি, নীলক্ষেত্র, কাতাবন ঢাকা-১২০৫ এবং ভূমি মন্ত্রণালয়ের প্রশিক্ষণ ও শৃঙ্খলা শাখা থেকে দরপত্র সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে। আগামী ২৩/১১/২০২১ তারিখ রোজ মঙ্গলবার বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত ভূমি প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের ২য় তলায় সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশাসন) এর কক্ষের (কক্ষ নং-২০৮) সম্মুখে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাস্তবে এবং ভূমি মন্ত্রণালয়ের প্রশিক্ষণ ও শৃঙ্খলা শাখা (কক্ষ নং-৩৩০) এর সামনে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাস্তবে দরপত্র জমা দেয়া যাবে। ঐ দিনই বেলা ০২.০০ ঘটিকায় ভূমি প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের সম্মেলন কক্ষে (কক্ষ নং-২০৫) দরপত্রদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে। বিস্তারিত তথ্য দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখ রয়েছে।

ফারহানা করিম  
সহকারী পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)  
ভূমি প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, ঢাকা  
ফোনঃ ৯৬৭৪৪৩১

জিডি-২০১৬

**BANGLADESH ELECTION COMMISSION**  
Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2<sup>nd</sup> Phase)  
Nirbachan Bhaban (Floor-8)  
Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

**Invitation for Tenders**

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH		
1	Ministry/Division	Bangladesh Election Commission
2	Agency	Election Commission Secretariat
3	Procuring Entity Name	Represented by Project Director, Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase), Bangladesh Election Commission.
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.
5	Invitation for	Purchasing Call center and Video Conference Management Software/System.
6	Invitation Ref. No. & Date	IDEA-2/DPD-Pro/GD-39/034/2021/1156 :Dated: 07 November 2021
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>		
7	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>		
8	Budget and Source of Funds	GoB (Development Budget)
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>		
9	Project / Program Code (if applicable)	224331200
10	Project Name (if applicable)	Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase)
11	Tender Package No.	GD-39
12	Tender Package Name	Purchasing Call center and Video Conference Management Software/System.
<b>Date</b>		<b>Time</b>
13	Tender Publication Date	08 November 2021
14	Pre-Tender Meeting Date and Time	21 November 2021 11:00 A.M.
15	Tender Last Selling Date and Time	05 December 2021 05:00 P.M.
16	Tender Closing Date and Time	06 December 2021 02:00 P.M.
17	Tender Opening Date and Time	06 December 2021 02:30 P.M.
18	Name & Address of the office(s)	<b>Address</b>
Selling Tender Document (Principal)		Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase), Nirbachan Bhaban (Floor-8), Room No. 814, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.
<b>NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE. PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS</b>		
19	Pre-Tender Meeting	Conference Room No. 721, IDEA Project (2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase), Nirbachan Bhaban (Floor-7), Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.
20	Receiving Tender Document	
21	Opening Tender Document	
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>		
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	1. Tender shall have the legal capacity to enter into the contract under the applicable law. 2. Tenderers shall be enrolled in the relevant professional or trade organizations registered in Bangladesh. 3. Tenderers shall have to fulfill its obligation/obligations to pay taxes under the provisions of laws and regulations of Bangladesh. 4. Detail information has been provided in the tender document.
23	Brief Description of Services	Purchasing Call center and Video Conference Management Software/System.
24	Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	BDT 2500.00 (Two thousand Five Hundred only) Non-refundable.
25	Package No.	Identification of Package Location Tender Security Amount (Tk) Completion Time in Weeks
GD-39	Purchasing Call center and Video Conference Management Software/System.	Dhaka Tk 18,00,000.00 (Eighteen lac only) 12 (twelve) weeks from the date of signing contract.
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>		
26	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Brigadier General Abul Kashem Md Fazlul Kader
27	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director
28	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services (IDEA) Project (2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase), Nirbachan Bhaban (Floor-8), Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.
29	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone: 00-88-02-55007494; e-mail address: pd.idea.2.bd@gmail.com
30	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject	all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.
GD-2022		Abul Kashem Md Fazlul Kader Brigadier General Project Director





Villagers in Dilpashra union under Pabna's Vangura upazila endure perennial suffering due to the absence of a paved road in the village.

PHOTO: STAR

## No road for 20,000 villagers

Residents of Betuan village in Pabna's Vangura upazila have to walk miles to go to the upazila headquarters and other destinations

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Over 20,000 residents of Betuan village of Dilpashra union under Pabna's Vangura upazila have to undergo perennial suffering due to the lack of a paved road in the village.

There are five primary schools, a high school, a college, two madrasas, 12 mosques, a temple, an Eidgah and a community clinic in the remote village but there is no road link with these institutions.

"Due to the lack of road communication, we have to go to school traversing the residences of others, fields and canals in the village. When it rains, we often do not go to school," Md Rubel, a fourth-grader, said.

Due to the absence of the road, villagers have to go to the upazila headquarters and elsewhere on foot, they said.

"Due to the lack of road communication, there is no vehicular movement in the village. Villagers often go to upazila headquarters or other areas of the upazila on foot. It takes one hour to one and a half hours to reach the main road," said MdHumayun Kabir, a resident of the village.

"When most of the rural areas are getting rapidly changed due to the development initiative of the government, Betuan village remains backwards because of the absence of road communication," Humayun said.

Hasina Khatun, an elderly woman of the village, said that although the male

members of the village can move to other places crossing hurdles, it is the women who suffer the most.

Out of desperation, the villagers started filling up a canal in a bid to establish road communication on their own. However, the local administration foiled their attempt as it is an illegal act to fill up the government canal.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Vangura Md Ashrafuzzaman said that as the villagers started to construct a road on their own filling up a canal, their attempt was foiled.

"There is no scope to fill up a waterbody in this way. Although the villagers need a road badly, we cannot allow them to fill up a canal for road communication. Public representatives in the area are trying to solve the long-standing problem of the village," the UNO added.

Ashok Kumar Ghosh Prono, the chairman of Dilpashra Union Parishad, however, said that over 20,000 people living in the village have been immensely suffering for many years due to the lack of road communication.

"As there is not enough land in the village for road communication, we are facing difficulty to implement any project. We have already discussed the matter with the local lawmaker. We are trying to establish road communication in the village giving utmost priority," the chairman also said.

## Not always going

FROM PAGE 1

Corporation (DSCC) allocated Tk 6.2 crore in 2016-17, Tk 6 crore in 2017-18, Tk 7 crore in 2018-19, Tk 11.6 crore in 2019-20, Tk 2.97 crore in 2020-21, and proposed Tk 4.9 crore in 2021-22 for the fund.

Sources say the funds often end up in the pockets of well-off individuals.

Minu Rahman has been the councillor in the capital's Arambagh twice. She visited her children in the US at her own expense in mid-2019. But in March this year, she got Tk 2 lakh from the discretionary fund of DSCC for the medical treatment of her husband Mizanur Rahman, former vice-president of Motijheel Awami League.

Several months before receiving the fund, she became a member of DSCC's standing committee for social welfare, which is supposed to look after the underprivileged constituents.

In March this year, Nargis Mahtab, councillor of Kalabagan and vice-president of Jubo Mohila League, got Tk 2 lakh for her daughter's treatment.

In her affidavit, Nargis mentions owning two katha of land on Free School Street in Kathalagan. This correspondent found a seven-storey building there. Her office is on the ground floor.

On the other end of the spectrum is Ali Hossain, a vendor of scrap metal in Lalbagh. He received Tk 1 lakh for the treatment of his daughter after she lost her right arm and leg by electrocution in

November, 2017.

He needed Tk 3 lakh to buy prosthetics for his 19-year-old daughter. "I applied [to the DSCC] for Tk 3 lakh but got Tk 1 lakh," he said.

"My daughter was in the ICU of Dhaka Medical College Hospital for six months and 22 days. I spent all my savings on her treatment," he said.

Records show Tk 3.06 crore was spent from the DSCC Mayor's Discretionary Fund between July 2020 and the first week of August this year. Of the amount, Tk 60.25 lakh was donated to councillors and members of Jubo League, Jubo Mohila League, Swachhasebak League, Awami League's ward and thana committees, and Tk 23.75 lakh was distributed among people who are not members of any political party.

The rest of the money was spent on constructing mosques, buying gifts for imams and muezzins and handing out cash to the poor who suffered during the Covid-induced lockdown.

The majority of the individuals, who received the donations, are residents of Dhaka-10 constituency. The DSCC mayor was a lawmaker from that seat.

The Daily Star could not find out the identities of the beneficiaries of the DNCC mayor's discretionary fund.

"Local MPs or politically influential people often recommend names of individuals and the mayor gives them money from the fund,"

said a DNCC official.

"There are no rules specifically stating who will get the money and what will be the criteria," said a former chief accountant of a city corporation, adding that the predecessors of the current mayors also arbitrarily used the social welfare funds.

WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

Section 75 of the Local Government (City Corporation) 2009 Act says that on special purposes, upon the sanction of allocation by the government, a mayor could carry out emergency work in public interest without causing hindrance as much as possible to the regular work and spend from the funds allocated for the corporation.

Section 11 of the sixth schedule says rules can be formed on the "Custody, investment, operation, regulation and application of corporation fund; establishment and maintenance of sinking funds [a special fund to pay off loans] and other special funds".

But no rules have been formulated on the Mayor's Discretionary Fund.

The current DSCC mayor took an initiative to formulate a policy on the fund on October 27 last year. A draft was placed at a board meeting, but it was not finalised, say officials of the Social Welfare and Slum Development Department of DSCC.

Contacted, DSCC Chief Accounting Officer Munan Howlader said the corporation's budget and expenditure are done as per the law.

He hung up the phone when faced with further questions about the funds.

According to documents, DSCC Secretary Akramuzzaman on different occasions signed the office order on disbursement of the fund. He did not answer the phone or reply to the texts sent by this correspondent.

Wishing anonymity, a DNCC official said, "We have nothing to do. We only carry out orders."

Tofail Ahmed said the city corporation is supposed to provide services not disburse money.

"Why do city corporations give out cash to people? It's not a relief organisation," he said, adding that section 74 and 75 of the act clearly state how the money should be spent.

Contacted, DNCC Mayor Atiqul Islam said, "We give money after thorough scrutiny.... One or two errors may have taken place. Many people come to me crying for help. It's not easy to refuse them."

He added that the discretionary fund was created in accordance with the act. DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh could not be reached over the phone.

In reply to a text, he told this correspondent on September 28 to contact the public relations officer. Questions were sent to the officer in writing that very day.

On October 25, DSCC Public Relations Officer Abu Naser told The Daily Star that the local government act has given the mayor the power to create a discretionary fund.

## East Bengal can't remain united

FROM PAGE 12

tension on its border with Pakistan for long. In an interview on French TV, she said, "I feel I am sitting on a volcano." "India will do everything to prevent war," she added.

Questioned on the possible breakup of Pakistan, she said, "I don't think any country in its right mind would want its neighbour to disintegrate. We have enough problems of our own besides having a weak neighbour. But it is our assessment that East Bengal

can't remain united with Pakistan ever again in the same way as it has been."

WORLD PEACE COUNCIL FOR INDEPENDENCE

World Peace Council stood for independence of Bangladesh, Lucio Luzata, a member of the presidential committee of the council, said at a press conference today. He informed that the Council had formally condemned massacres perpetrated by the Pakistani Army against unarmed civilians in East Pakistan.

ON THE WAR FRONT

Mukti Bahini today blew up one Pakistani Army Jeep by exploding a mine in the Jashore district. In this action 3 enemy soldiers were killed. Another group of Mukti Bahini raided the Pakistani Army position in the Rasikpur area and killed 15 enemy soldiers. They also destroyed 5 bunkers of the enemy.

Mukti Bahini encountered Pakistani troops at Shahbazpur in Pabna district today killing 3 and injuring 3 enemy soldiers. On the

same day, Mukti Bahini killed 3 enemy soldiers in an ambush in the Kajaldighi area.

Mukti Bahini fired today on Pakistani troops resting in the Koteshwar area of Cumilla district. In this action, 20 enemy soldiers were killed.

Mukti Bahini raided today Dakshingul Tea factory, a camp of occupation troops, and killed 13 enemy soldiers.

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

## Libya FM suspended days before int'l conference

AFP, Tripoli

Libya's presidential council suspended Foreign Minister Najla al-Mangoush from her duties Saturday days before an international conference is to make a new push to restore stability to the war-battered nation.

The council opened an inquiry into alleged "administrative

breaches" by Mangoush, spokeswoman Najla Weheba told the Libya Panorama television channel.

The El-Marsad news website, which is close to eastern-based strongman Khalifa Haftar, said that the council accused her of taking foreign policy decisions without consulting it.

A decree from the council

said its vice chairman Abdullah Allafi would head a commission of inquiry that would report its findings within 14 days.

The political infighting in Tripoli comes amid a new international push for fresh presidential and parliamentary elections to help stabilise the war-battered North African nation.

US Vice President Kamala

Harris is to join French President Emmanuel Macron and other world leaders at a conference in Paris on November 12.

Libya expert Emadeddin Badi linked the foreign minister's suspension to comments she made about the 1988 Lockerbie bombing in a recent BBC interview, and tensions between Libyan politicians over the elections.

## An 'aide'

FROM PAGE 12

local correspondent.

Iqbal Hossen, who was arrested for placing the Holy Quran inside a puja mandap, the incident that led to communal violence in several districts, said Babu was among the instigators of the attacks in Cumilla, according to police.

Babu is known among locals as the personal secretary to the Cumilla mayor. Sakku, however, had earlier said he did not have a PS but admitted that Babu often accompanied him.

Apart from Babu, police earlier arrested two others -- Roman Hasan, joint secretary of Cumilla city Swachhasebak Dal and Rabiul Islam -- in connection with the cases.

## 2 men killed

FROM PAGE 12

Later on the day, Nazmul's brother Shamsul Haque filed a murder case with Kamalganj Police Station, naming 14 people and 4-5 unknown persons.

Tofael and Shahid were accused in the case lodged over the murder of local business leader Nazmul which took place on October 31.

## Chasm

FROM PAGE 12

momentum for climate action" including "commitments on ending our reliance on coal, increasing climate finance, tackling deforestation and plans to cut emissions."

But experts say there is actually a glaring disconnect between what some called "inflated, rebashed pledges" and genuine progress on reducing fossil fuel emissions.

END OF COAL?

On Wednesday, for instance, COP26 president Alok Sharma announced: "A 190-strong coalition has today agreed to phase out coal power".

## Khaleda home after 26 days

FROM PAGE 12

said her medical board has suggested taking her abroad for better treatment.

"The medical board this time too has suggested that she be taken abroad for smooth treatment and follow-ups. She needs good quality medical treatment," AZM Zahid Hossain, her physician, told journalists.

He said the BNP chairperson expects better treatment and she sought prayers from the people of the country for her sound health.

Speaking to journalists, Fakhru said, "She is well now."

Khaleda was admitted to Evercare Hospital on October 12. Her temperature had started fluctuating a few days before that.

After admission, she underwent several medical tests.

On October 25, AZM Zahid told reporters that a lump was found in her body and it was sent for biopsy. The

hospital later confirmed that the lump was non-cancerous.

Khaleda has long been suffering from arthritis, diabetes, as well as dental and optical issues.

She was infected with Covid-19 this April and underwent treatment at home. However, due to other health complications, she was admitted to Evercare Hospital on the 27th of that month.

She was kept in the coronary care unit and remained there for almost two months. She went back home on June 18.

The BNP chief was sent to jail on February 8, 2018, in a corruption case. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, on March 25 last year, she was granted temporary release on certain conditions. The term of her release has been extended four times so far.

Khaleda's family has appealed to the government for her to be sent abroad for medical treatment. However, there has been no response in this regard yet.

## No execution until full text

FROM PAGE 12

the full text of the verdict was not released and he could not seek a review.

The apex court asked Attorney General AM Amin Uddin to communicate its verbal order to the inspector general of prisons and the Kashimpur jail authorities.

The court also asked Shukur's lawyer Helal Uddin Mollah to submit an application before its chamber judge's court for necessary directives on this issue.

A five-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order after lawyer Helal Uddin told the court that the jail authorities have recently taken initiatives to execute Shukur following an "advance order" of the court.

Shukur could not seek review of the SC order as its full text was not released yet, he said, adding that the jail authorities have sent a mercy petition on behalf of Shukur to the president following the "advance order" and subsequently the mercy petition was rejected.

The Appellate Division said it has issued the "advance order" so that other three convicts, whose death sentences were commuted to life imprisonment in the same case, are shifted to the jail's normal cell from the condemned cell.

On August 18 this year, the SC bench affirmed the death penalty of Shukur and commuted death sentences of three others to life imprisonment in the case filed for abduction, rape and murder of 13-year-old Sabina in Kushtia in 2004.

The top court also asked the jail authorities to shift the three convicts, whose death sentences were commuted, to normal cell.

The three convicts are Nuruddin Sentu, Azanur Rahman and Mamun Hossain.

Convict Shukur has the right to seek a review of the apex court verdict and presidential mercy. He needs the full text of the SC verdict for moving a petition before it seeking review of the judgement.

Sabina, daughter of Abdul Malek Jhonu in Lalnagar village of Kushtia's Daulatpur, went to a neighbour's house to watch television at the night on March 25, 2004.

The convicts abducted her while she was returning home. They took her to a tobacco field, raped and killed her. The following day, her father filed a case with Daulatpur Police Station in connection with the incident.

On February 4, 2009, the Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Tribunal of Kushtia convicted and sentenced five accused -- Shukur, Sentu, Azanur, Mamun and Kamrul to death in the case.

In the meantime, convicted accused Kamrul died in jail, another defence lawyer Raghob Rauf Chowdhury earlier told The Daily Star.

Then the convicts filed separate appeals with the HC, challenging the trial court verdict.

In 2014, the HC confirmed their capital punishment. Later, the convicts filed appeals with the Appellate Division challenging the HC verdict.

## New dinosaur

FROM PAGE 12

Cold Bone belongs to a group of long-necked dinosaurs called the sauropodomorphs, which includes the sauropods.

Some of the largest terrestrial animals of all time later evolved from this group, including diplodocus.

An international team of palaeontologists from Brazil, Portugal, Germany and Denmark have detailed the species in a study published in the journal Diversity.

"Compared to the long-necked dinosaurs that came after, Issi would have been a very small animal," said study author Victor Bennari at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal.

"Some sauropods could reach over 80 feet in length and weigh more than 65 tonnes."

## Govt has

FROM PAGE 12

The Gonoforum chief also urged the government to take effective measures to control the soaring prices of daily essentials.

He voiced deep concern that people went through immense suffering due to the transport strike in protest against the fuel price hike.

"The government is not taking any step to assuage the sufferings of people and protect them from the increased prices of commodities in the market since it is an unelected regime."

On Wednesday, the government raised the prices of diesel and kerosene at the retail level.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) said the petroleum prices have been readjusted against the backdrop of the price hike of petroleum on the international market.

economics to their socio-economic contexts.

He also said the performance of an economy depends, to a large extent, on whether markets work badly or efficiently.

"And the functioning of markets, in turn, is determined not only by the quality of the regulatory framework under which they operate but also by the socio-cultural institutions in which they are embedded," he added citing examples such as mixing water in milk to increase amount and using calcium carbide in fruit for early ripening.

In this regard, he said, self-seeking behaviour depends on the socio-cultural settings into which the system is embedded.

Wahiduddin also brought the issue of fairness of the global economic system and added that market transactions between parties with unequal economic power may be regarded as "exploitative".

He said the proponents of globalisation typically argue that poor countries would be poorer without freer trade.

Critics, on the other hand, point out the various biases in the global arrangements, such as under the World Trade Organisation, in favour of richer and more powerful countries.

"The biases are reflected, for example, in the way patent rights are enforced or in selective liberalisation of global markets in which exports from industrialised countries have more to gain, while keeping restrictions on items of interest for less developed countries."

The economist, also a former professor of DU economics department, also spoke about inequality and wealth concentration.

"One of the major sources of discontent with the discipline of economics is that it has not got much to say in its theoretical constructs about justice and fairness in income distribution at a time of unprecedented concentration of wealth in the global economy."

Citing Cambridge Economist Sir Partha Dasgupta, he raised the moral case for income redistribution.

"No country is so poor that it does not have the means to provide for the basic well-being of its entire population," he said citing Partha.

BIDS DG Binayak said it is possible to eliminate extreme poverty if 3-5 percent of the national income can be distributed among the poor.

PPRC's Hossain Zillur Rahman said Bangladesh's economy is growing and it is necessary to know the pathways toward prosperity.

He also questioned the much-talked about word "resilience".

"The poor have been given the task of being resilient without support," he said citing the lockdowns imposed to curb the spread of coronavirus and higher labour for less pay.

[Find full text of the lecture online]



## MORE NEWS



## Musk bets \$21b on online poll

Tesla Inc Chief Executive Elon Musk on Saturday asked his 62.5 million followers on Twitter in a poll if he should sell 10% of his Tesla stock. The world's richest person had previously said he could face a "massive" tax bill this year as he has to exercise a large number of stock options coming due next year. "Note, I do not take a cash salary or bonus from anywhere. I only have stock, thus the only way for me to pay taxes personally is to sell stock," Musk said on Twitter on Saturday. "Much is made lately of unrealized gains being a means of tax avoidance, so I propose selling 10% of my Tesla stock," Musk said, referring to a "billionaires' tax" proposed by Democrats.

## 21 scientists snub medals in row with Bolsonaro

Twenty-one scientists awarded one of Brazil's highest honors, the National Order of Scientific Merit, rejected their medals Saturday after President Jair Bolsonaro withdrew two colleagues whose work apparently discomfited his government from the list of honorees. The far-right president named 25 people Wednesday to receive the honor, which Brazil created in 1992 to recognize the most important contributions to science and technology. However, two days later, he withdrew the names of two prominent scientists from the list. They were critical of Bolsonaro's view on Covid-19 and homosexuality.

## Court suspends Biden vaccine mandate for businesses

A US federal appeals court Saturday halted a vaccine mandate by President Joe Biden's administration that is intended to push millions of workers at businesses with more than 100 employees into getting Covid-19 shots. The traditionally conservative court ordered the government to reply to the motion for a permanent injunction by 5:00 pm today. Petitioners include five strongly Republican US states -- Texas, Louisiana, South Carolina, Utah and Mississippi -- as well as several private companies and religious groups.

## Iran's military holds annual drills near mouth of Gulf

Iran's military launched an annual exercise near the mouth of the Gulf yesterday, Iranian state television reported, a few weeks before resumption of talks between Tehran and world powers to revive a 2015 nuclear deal. "The military exercise in Iran's coast of the Gulf of Oman is to display the country's military might and readiness to confront our enemies," Admiral Mahmoud Mousavi, the spokesman for the Zolfaqar-1400 drill, told state television. The exercise covers an area from the eastern parts of the Strait of Hormuz to the northern parts of the Indian Ocean and parts of the Red Sea, state television reported. About a fifth of oil that is consumed globally passes through the strategic Strait of Hormuz waterway in the Gulf.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

## NATURE AND CLIMATE PROTECTION AT COP26

## Pledges pile up amid ghosts of past failures

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

Dozens of nations pledged on Saturday to do more to protect nature and overhaul farming at the COP26 UN climate talks, amid misgivings about past failures.

Agriculture, deforestation and other changes in land use account for about a quarter of humanity's planet-heating greenhouse gas emissions, making reforms vital to safeguard nature and feed a rising global population without stoking global warming.

"Nature and climate are interlinked, and both our people and our surroundings are facing the very real impacts of rising temperatures," Alok Sharma, the British president of the Glasgow summit, told a news conference.

He said that 70% of tropical corals, which are nurseries for fish, would be lost if temperatures rise 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times.

"If we get to two degrees they are all gone," he added.

Temperatures are already up nearly 1.2C and the overriding goal of the Glasgow negotiations is to keep alive hopes of limiting warming to 1.5C, the toughest goal set by almost 200 nations in the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

Britain said 45 nations were making pledges to safeguard nature on Saturday, including the United States, Japan, Germany, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Vietnam, the Philippines, Gabon, Ethiopia, Ghana and Uruguay.

Sharma said the pledges included \$4 billion in public sector investment which would help spur innovation such



A man prays along the banks of river Yamuna, which is suffering from massive pollution, in New Delhi, India, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

as developing crops resilient to droughts, floods and heatwaves that could benefit "hundreds of millions of farmers".

Campaigners said needed shifts to agriculture to curb emissions and protect food security should have a larger share of the global spotlight.

"We need to shine a light on climate justice, and we need to make food and farming sexy," said Idris Elba, a British actor and goodwill ambassador for the UN's International Fund for Agricultural Development.

Vanessa Nakate, 24, a climate justice advocate from Uganda, warned that in her country, "we're watching farms collapse," with floods, droughts, heatwaves and swarms of locusts making hunger more widespread.

But other similar past pledges have fallen short.

A UN report last year found that the world had failed to fully meet any of the 20 global goals it set in 2010 to protect biodiversity.

Those ranged from phasing out harmful agricultural subsidies to limiting the loss of forests and raising sufficient finance for developing nations.

British officials said there was hope the Glasgow pledges would be different. They pointed to plans to track pledges, as well as the promises of cash and innovative technologies, such as high-yielding, drought-resistant crops.

Britain said 28 nations that are big consumers of deforestation-linked commodities such as beef, soy, palm oil and cocoa had joined a Forest, Agriculture and Commodity Trade (FACT) roadmap launched in February this year.

FACT says it promotes sustainable land use as a step to unlock investments, create jobs and protect forest livelihoods.

"The next challenge is to go from bold statements to real implementation," said Yadvinder Malhi, a professor of ecosystem science at the University of Oxford.

Britain grabbed headlines this week by announcing a range of new alliances, such as one by more than 40 nations to phase out coal and another by major investors with \$130 trillion at their disposal to boost the green economy.

"Important as these announcements may be, they are not legally binding," noted Mohamed Adow, director of Power Shift Africa, a Kenya-based climate and energy think-tank.

## Russian Communist party activists and supporters carry communist flags and a portrait of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin as they attend a flowers-laying ceremony at the Lenin's Mausoleum on Red Square in downtown Moscow yesterday, marking the 104th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution also known as the October Revolution.

PHOTO: AFP



## Iraq PM survives assassination bid

Urges restraint after drone attack on his residence; world condemns attack

AFP, Baghdad

Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhemi escaped unhurt from an "assassination attempt" in which an explosives-packed drone hit his Baghdad residence early yesterday, a new escalation in the country's post-election turmoil.

Washington condemned the "apparent act of terrorism" while Iraqi President Barham Saleh called the attack, which was not immediately claimed by any group, an attempted "coup against the constitutional system".

Kadhemi, aged 54 and in power since May 2020, appealed for "calm and restraint" before chairing a security meeting at his office in the high-security Baghdad Green Zone, where the overnight attack took place.

Three drones were launched from near a Tigris River bridge but two were intercepted, according to security sources, who said two bodyguards



were wounded.

Gunfire rang out and smoke rose from the Green Zone after the strike, which the premier's office labelled a "failed assassination attempt".

Photos issued by Kadhemi's office showed debris strewn on the ground below a damaged exterior stairway and a door that had been dislodged.

Kadhemi said in a short video that "my residence has been the target of a cowardly assault. Praise God, I am fine."

The attack came two days after security forces clashed with supporters

of Iran-backed parties that lost support in the October 10 parliament election and who have charged they were the victims of vote irregularities.

The United States, which has around 2,500 troops in the country, said it was "relieved to learn the Prime Minister was unharmed".

Iran condemned the attack and urged "vigilance to foil plots aimed at the security and development" of Iraq.

The attack was also condemned by the Arab League, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria and United Arab Emirates as well as the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq.

Moqtada Sadr, an influential Shia Muslim preacher whose political movement was the big election winner, condemned the drone attack as "against Iraq and the Iraqi people".

The strike came amid soaring tensions over the elections, the fifth such vote since the 2003 US-led invasion.



## NOVEMBER 08

**392** - Roman Emperor Theodosius declares Christian religion the state religion.

**1519** - 1st meeting of Aztec Emperor Moctezuma II and Spanish Conquistador Hernán Cortés in Tenochtitlan, Mexico.

**2016** - Political outsider Donald Trump defeats Democrat Hillary Clinton to be elected President of the United States.

SOURCE: REUTERS

## ANTI-COUP CAMPAIGN IN SUDAN

## Security forces fire tear gas on protesters

AFP, Khartoum

Sudanese security forces yesterday fired tear gas at an anti-coup rally by teachers at the start of a two-day civil disobedience call against last month's military takeover.

Dozens of teachers carried banners reading "no, no to military rule" and demanded a transition to "full civilian rule" at a rally outside the education ministry in the capital Khartoum.

Nationwide anti-coup protests -- including by tens of thousands on October 30 -- have occurred since the October 25 coup but have been met by a deadly crackdown. At least 14 demonstrators have been killed and about 300 wounded, according to the independent Central Committee of Sudan's Doctors.

There were no confirmed reports of casualties but about 87 teachers have been detained, according to the Sudanese Professionals Association, an umbrella of unions which called for the Sunday-Monday civil disobedience.

## Selfie ruined kidnap-ransom plan

Claims Maharashtra minister on ordeal of SRK's son

NDTV ONLINE

Maharashtra minister Nawab Malik yesterday said Aryan Khan, the son of Shah Rukh Khan, was kidnapped for ransom and "their game was ruined because of one selfie".

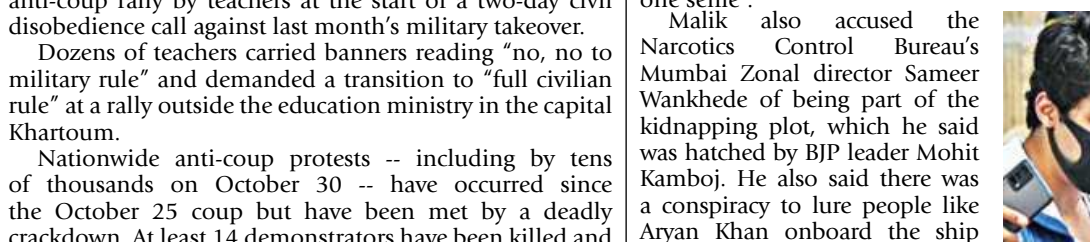
Malik also accused the Narcotics Control Bureau's Mumbai Zonal director Sameer Wankhede of being part of the kidnapping plot, which he said was hatched by BJP leader Mohit Kamboj. He also said there was a conspiracy to lure people like Aryan Khan onboard the ship and frame them in the drugs case.

The 23-year-old was arrested last month following a raid led by Wankhede on a cruise ship off Mumbai coast, in which drugs were allegedly seized. He was later granted bail by the Bombay High Court.

"It was said in court that Aryan Khan did not buy a ticket and go on a cruise. That he went there because of Pratik Gaba and Amir Furniturewala... I want to say straight off that is a matter of kidnapping and ransom," Malik said at a press conference yesterday morning.

A "trap was laid" by a relation of BJP leader Mohit Kamboj, Malik said. "Aryan Khan was taken there. And game of kidnap and ransom of 25 crore was started. A deal was made for 18 crore. Rs 50 lakh was paid. But a selfie ruined the game and this is the truth," he said.

Though he did not name anyone, the reference was apparently to the selfie of private investigator KP Gosavi with Aryan Khan, which went viral online after the raid.



**Govt. College of Commerce**  
Chattogram  
www.gov.commercecollege@gmail.com

Memo No. CEDP/GCOM/2021-22/G-11/ Date: 07/11/2021

**e-Tender Notice Goods-11/2021-2022**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Name of supply	Last date and time of tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
1.	625520	Procurement of Furniture for Seminar rooms and Classrooms for Govt College of Commerce, Chattogram.	29-Nov-2021 2:00pm	29-Nov-2021 3:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted.  
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.  
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to **28 November 2021, 4pm**.  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Professor Susheer Kumar Barua**  
Principal  
Govt. College of Commerce  
Agrabad, Chattogram  
Phone: 031-721900  
E-mail: [gcomdp@gmail.com](mailto:gcomdp@gmail.com)

GD-2017

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Medical Education & Family Welfare Division  
National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT)  
13/1, Sheikh Shaheb Bazar, Azimpur, Dhaka-1205  
www.niport.gov.bd

Ref. No. 59.12.0000.001.07.059.21-681 Date: ১৫ কার্তিক ১৪৩৮ বঙ্গাব্দ  
০১ অক্টোবর ২০২১ খ্রিঃ

**e-Tender Notice**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the Director General, National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT) for the procurement of the following work described below:

Sl. No.	Name of work	Tender ID	Scheduled tender/ proposal publication/ selling/ downloading date and time	Tender/ proposal closing and opening date and time
1.	Lot 1: Purchasing Computer and Accessories, ICT Equipment and Repairing of Office Equipment, other Equipment and Machinery, Electrical Installation.	625743	08-11-2021 at 2.00pm	23-11-2021 at 3.00pm
2.	Lot 2: Purchasing Office Equipment, Electrical Equipment, other Machinery and Equipment.	625759	08-11-2021 at 2.00pm	23-11-2021 at 3.00pm

1. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.  
2. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.  
3. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal to be deposited through any branch of the registered bank.

**Mohammad Shafiq Mostafa**  
Superintendent (Administration) and  
Drawing-Disbursement Officer  
Phone: 02-58614452  
E-mail: [superadmin@niport.gov.bd](mailto:superadmin@niport.gov.bd)

GD-2014



# DHIRENDRANATH DUTTA

## Portrait of a patriot

MOHAMMAD AFZALUR RAHMAN

Dhirendranath Dutta was born on November 2, 1886 to a lower middle-income family in Ramrail village of Brahmanbaria sub-division under Tripura district, now known as Cumilla. After receiving primary and secondary education in the district, Dhirendranath moved to Kolkata in 1904 and gained admission to the city's Ripon College, founded by Surendranath Banerjee, who is widely regarded as the father of Indian nationalism.

During his early life, Dhirendranath was inspired by Pundit Ishwar Chandra Bidasagar's fearlessness, selflessness, and devotion to his mother. Another book that made a lasting impression on him as an adolescent was Ashwini Kumar Dutt's Bhaktiyoga. In those days, Dhirendranath was deeply saddened by the widespread prevalence of superstitions in rural societies – child marriages, chronic indebtedness among the peasantry, and untouchability.

Dhirendranath was so disturbed by the practice of untouchability that he often dared to stand against classmates, village elders, friends and even his own father whenever he saw them engaging in or justifying this heinous act. He also continuously strived to shade off his conservatism about social and religious practices.

At a meeting in 1914, Dhirendranath aired his voice against Hindu widow-remarriages but after realising this was a reactionary and regressive position, he regretted it for the rest of his life.

It is interesting that in his autobiography

masses and devote his entire time for their betterment.

Dhirendranath's tribute to his guru was not a mere platitude, rather he put into practice what he learned all through his life. Upon completing his education in Calcutta in 1910, he returned to Cumilla.

First, he joined a school in a rural area as an assistant teacher and a few years afterward joined the bar – which was considered as the most appropriate profession for any politician. Although as a politician and parliamentarian he had to stay in Kolkata before partition and Karachi and Dhaka after it, he never thought of leaving Cumilla, nor even acquired any property in those places. As such, Cumilla had been his permanent residence till death in 1971.

Quite early in his career, he established himself as a successful lawyer in the district. He practiced law earnestly and uninterruptedly from 1911 to 1920. Dhirendranath's reputation as a lawyer was akin to legend due to the service he provided for the poor.

Dhirendranath actively joined politics during the Khilafat-non-cooperation movements of 1920-21. At a mammoth meeting held in Cumilla town on March 6, 1921, Deshbandhu CR Dash called the lawyers of the province to boycott courts.

Dhirendranath abstained from attending court for three months. During this period, he kept himself busy by organising Congress volunteers. As a part of his duties in the Brahmanbaria subdivision, he worked to



Dhirendranath Dutta addressing a meeting at the Fina Arts Institute, Dhaka (1957).

Kumar Dutta, a prominent lawyer of the district and future Law and Health minister of Pakistan. He returned to the assembly in the 1946 elections too, this time defeating the Hindu Mahasabha candidate by a wide margin.

Between 1937 and 1947, as a prominent leader of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee Dhirendranath got involved in agitations as usual. He was incarcerated for almost a year for his involvement with the Quit India Movement launched in August 1942.

His philanthropic and social works continued unabated, notwithstanding the immense pressure of organisational responsibilities. During Partition, Dhirendranath was the deputy leader of the opposition in the Bengal Provincial assembly led by Kiran Shankar Roy.

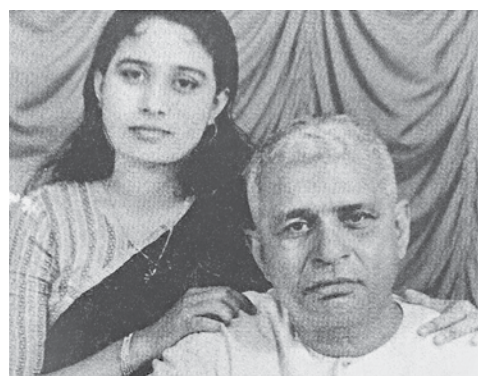
The decision to partition Bengal and Punjab between the Hindu and Muslim majority areas based on the "principle of contiguity" was taken on June 3, 1947.

Dhirendranath's political activism and all the trials and tribulations from the Swadeshi era to the days leading up to the transfer of power by the British colonial government had been directed to an independent, undivided India which was the declared official position of the Congress party.

Therefore, in many respects, partition and the establishment of Pakistan was demoralising for Dutta as it was for many of his colleagues. Dhirendranath then decided to join the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan.

He could have easily joined the Legislative Assembly of West Bengal or the Constituent Assembly of India as many others did, but he decided to stay back in Pakistan and work for her as a "true Pakistani in mind, words, and deeds".

To understand why he took such a decision, we need to take into account what principles and ideals guided his political career.



Dhirendranath Dutta with his youngest daughter Manisha.

We have already seen how deeply he was attached to the people of Cumilla irrespective of their religion, caste and class. He did not want to leave behind his political comrades, friends, relations, not least the poorer sections of the Hindu community who were scattered in large numbers in erstwhile Tripura district.

As he ardently believed "you cannot love your country unless you love mankind". To him, serving the people of his birthplace was the best way of doing politics. Neither was he motivated or guided by the desire of securing a high political position.

Although he became part of political factions and groups, contested elections, and held portfolios at times, he never seemed to have lost sight of this fundamental postulate of politics.

He wrote in his autobiography about the much-cited speech of Muhammad Ali Jinnah on the inaugural day of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan on August 11, 1947, where he said all majorities and minorities alike would be treated as Pakistanis without discrimination, saying that it had assured him to some extent.

Notwithstanding the violence, displacement and devastation resulting from partition, given the fact that India and Pakistan are finally free from the yoke of prolonged colonial rule, it was not unnatural to be hopeful about a

new beginning. Therefore, with partition in an altered state of reality he plunged into an uphill struggle.

The name Dhirendranath Dutta is inextricably linked with the language movements that, according to many historians, led to a cultural efflorescence in East Bengal which in turn paved the way for the establishment of Bangladesh.

On February 25, 1948, during a discussion on the Rules of Procedure of the Constituent Assembly, Dhirendranath in his speech ignited the debate on the lingua franca of Pakistan, which subsequently had a far-reaching impact on the course of the language movement.

In his amendment motion, Dhirendranath demanded that in sub-rule (1) of rule-29 along with Urdu and English, Bengali should be included in the proceedings of the Constituent Assembly, which was also functioning as the central legislature of Pakistan.

As a justification behind the need for such an amendment, he went on to say that "of the roughly six crore and ninety lakh people inhabiting the state, four crore and 40 lakh spoke the Bengalee language".

"So sir, what should be the state language? The state language should be the one which is used by the majority of the people of the state and for that, I consider that Bengalee is a lingua franca of our state," he said.

Dhirendranath clarified he didn't move this proposal in a "spirit of narrow Provincialism" but rather, "in the spirit that this motion receives the fullest considerations at the hands of the members present".

As always, on this occasion too, Dhirendranath Dutta raised the question of the sufferings and inconveniences of ordinary people of East Bengal in their everyday life due to train tickets, stamps, money order forms being printed in the Urdu language alone.

He asked if money order forms were not printed in Bengali, how a poor cultivator in rural Bengal would send money to his son

the lingua franca of Pakistan.

Khawaja Nazimuddin, the Prime Minister of East Bengal, confidently claimed that "the overwhelming majority of the people are in favour of having Urdu as the state language of Pakistan as a whole".

Dhirendranath's motion was negated at the assembly but it struck a chord with a wide range of people outside the parliament. Outside the assembly, the demand to make Bengali one of the official languages and medium of instruction till then was limited to a close circle of students and intellectuals. Dhirendranath's speech provided the proponents of Bengali with the opportunity to reach a wider section of the people.

The deafening silence of the Bengali representatives of the government party and the reactions of Liaquat Ali and Khawaja Nazimuddin made people immensely angry. On the following day, students of Dhaka University, Medical College, Jagannath College and Engineering College, as well as from many schools spontaneously took to the streets and called for a province-wide strike to be held on March 11, 1948.

He again raised the issue on April 6, 1948 at the East Bengal Provincial Assembly in which he was deputy leader of the opposition.

When Khawaja Nazimuddin moved the government resolution "Bengali as Official Language and Medium of Instruction" at the house, which was a highly pestered out version of the accord he had struck with the Action Committee on March 16, 1948, Dhirendranath brought forward three different amendments in the resolution.

He proposed that in the government resolution, the clause "the assembly is further of the opinion that Bengali should be one of the state languages of Pakistan" be included.

He urged the assembly to recommend the central government to introduce Bengali immediately in all currencies, telegraphs, postal stamps and official documents.

Another demand by way of amendment was including a clause in the resolution, urging the central authority to introduce Bengali as a medium and one of the subjects for all competitive examinations.

Dhirendranath might have thought in a more familiar milieu of the provincial assembly in the wake of such a widespread agitation he would be able to pursue the government side, but all his motions were rejected on the ground that these issues were beyond the jurisdiction of the provincial government.

Not only that, one assembly member attacked him for being "intolerant in his advocacy for the language of Bengali".

His activities were not limited only to the question of language. He was one of the earliest proponents of a joint electorate in Pakistan. For the minorities of Pakistan, not least the Hindus of East Pakistan, introduction of a joint electorate meant a considerably diminished number of central and provisional assembly seats.

But Dhirendranath pushed for it strongly on the ground that a non-communal form of politics would be better for the minority community despite most of his colleagues' vehement opposition.

He wanted to speak not only for the minorities but for the people of every other denomination too. In the central legislature he fought tooth and nail on every issue where the interests of East Bengal, which he terms as "my unhappy province" on several occasions, was at stake.

He served as minister of medical, public health and social welfare during the chief ministership of Aaur Rahman Khan. In his less than two-year tenure of ministership, he took many important initiatives to expand the public health infrastructure. Among others, he helped establish medical colleges in Rajshahi and Chattogram, as well as tuberculosis and community clinics in many other places.

Dhirendranath suffered at the hands of the people of power throughout his political life. In the pre-partition decades he was incarcerated and detained. In Pakistan, he was branded as a traitor who was out to destroy the country. Between 1947 and 1954, both in the central and provincial legislatures most of the time Dhirendranath was the main aim of verbal attacks and criticism from the government side but he never backed down from the position he deemed to be right.

During the military rule he was banned from politics, put under house arrest and his passport was put on hold, and the ultimate price he paid for his commitment was his life.

On March 29, 1971, the eighty-five-year-old Dhirendranath was arrested from his house along with his son by the Pakistan military and taken to Comilla Cantonment.

Their mortal remains have not been found since. Like he was the first proposer of Bengali to be one of the state languages of Pakistan and one of the pioneers of the joint electorate and non-communal politics in Pakistan, it was no happenstance that he was the first and perhaps only politician of his stature to be martyred in the Liberation War of Bangladesh.

Mohammad Afzalur Rahman is currently pursuing his PhD at Jawaharlal Nehru University. He can be contacted at ar8886@gmail.com

Photo courtesy: Shaheed Dhirendranath Duttar Atmakatha, Journeyman Books, Dhaka, 2020.



Dhirendranath Dutta (1886-1971)



Cover of Dhirendranath Dutta's memoir

and elsewhere as well, Dhirendranath identified farmers, fishermen and other toiling masses as the creator of wealth. Many Hindu fishermen who inhabited Nabinagar at that time were pejoratively called "Gabor", or filthy, by the upper-caste people. To Dhirendranath, this society of fishermen was the greatest wealth creator. Throughout his political career, he had been especially aware and concerned about the fishermen community of Brahmanbaria.

After partition, when the East Bengal government decided to reform the Bengal Fisheries Preservation Bill to acquire rent receiving fisheries of the province and lease them out to the highest bidders, Dhirendranath took special care and urged the government to not deprive fishermen of their livelihoods to the benefit of non-fishing middlemen.

In those tumultuous days of the Swadeshi Movement against the first partition of Bengal, he cut his political teeth by joining the Kolkata Session of the All India Congress Committee as a volunteer.

But already during that charged atmosphere of patriotism, not least due to Surendranath Banerji's lecture in the college, he developed political consciousness, and ideas like self-sacrifice for the cause of the nation, altruism and benevolence.

The congress politics of that era was characterised by two opposite factions, namely the extremists and the moderates.

In his posthumously published autobiography he writes, he spent most of those days reading journals and periodicals published by the extremists but politically he was drawn towards the moderate faction of the Congress despite knowing the limitations of their methods.

During that time, the young Dhirendranath joined the Kolkata-based "Tripura Hitasadhoni Shabha" – an organisation dedicated to spreading education among the women of this district, a cause he upheld all through his life. Subsequently, Dhirendranath became the secretary of this organisation in 1906 while another eminent nationalist leader and native son of Brahmanbaria, Abdur Rasul was president.

The latter was a lifelong inspiration for Dhirendranath in doing philanthropic and social work. He mentions his "guru" Abdur Rasul with much reverence. Rasul once told the young Dhirendranath that he wanted to retire from life in Calcutta and live among the poor

propagate messages of the Congress party, the importance of maintaining Hindu-Muslim unity and popularising Khadi as well as campaigns against untouchability. Throughout the movement, he treaded along the muddy roads of that part of rural Bengal, leading his volunteer bahini and organising many protests and processions. Through these acts, he familiarised himself with the villages. Many of his fellow Congress workers and leaders were arrested and put behind bars but luck did not "favour him this time".

Once the surge of the Non-cooperation Movement ebbed away Dhirendranath got involved in the activities of organisations like Abhay Ashram and Mukti Sangha in Cumilla. He also resumed legal practice.

He was especially instrumental in forming Mukti Sangha to get rid of untouchability. He established a branch of Abhay Ashram in the Bhelkut union of Nasirnagar in 1936 to spread education, consciousness and unity among the Namasudra fishermen.

When again the Indian National Congress called for the civil disobedience movement in 1930, Dhirendranath led the movement in Cumilla. He led a huge procession of more than one thousand women in a town as small as Cumilla. In so doing, he not only had to confront police brutality on the streets, but was arrested too for the first time and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for three months. This jail-life made him more resolved to fight for the country and provided him with the experience that equipped him to live behind bars and under house arrest a few more times in the years to come.

People who knew Dhirendranath identified him as a man of faith, character and conviction, both in his political and personal life. In politics, this particular predilection of Dhirendranath had flown through the channel of constitutionalism and democratic rights in the context of colonialism. For many politicians of the era, participation in the parliament and assembly was an important step in the politics of constitutionalism.

Dhirendranath was widely considered as a deft and eloquent parliamentarian. His parliamentary career began in the Bengal Provincial Assembly elections of 1937. The Government of India Act, 1937 ensured the formation of a certain kind of responsible government in the provinces for the first time in India.

He was elected to the assembly from a "general seat" in Cumilla, defeating Kamini



## Why is the public burdened with the costs of price hike?

*Fuel prices, bus fares should not have been raised during pandemic recovery*

THE hike in fuel prices, which led to a strike of public transport and goods-carrying vehicles since Friday morning, left the general public struggling to go about their daily lives and had a number of other knock-on effects. The resulting delays and disruptions in the supply chain caused the prices of certain daily essentials to soar, further adding to the public's misery, and businesses were affected as well—according to a report in this daily, the resulting disruptions in the RMG supply chain could cost the country crucial export earnings.

The government's sudden decision to hike fuel prices, without any prior consultation with or notice to the industries that would be most affected, was clearly a miscalculation. We find it difficult to comprehend this lack of foresight, coupled with the authorities' lethargic reaction in dealing with the aftermath. Associations of goods-carrying vehicle owners, who have declared that they will continue the ongoing strike until the government goes back on its decision to raise fuel prices, said that the authorities did not bother to meet with them properly, and they did not attend yesterday's meeting since it was solely on the topic of bus fares.

The result of yesterday's meeting between the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and transport leaders was as predicted—the government decided to raise bus fares, with intercity bus fare going up by 26.5 percent and inter-district bus fare by 27 percent. In response, the bus owners withdrew their strike. However, no one offered any explanations as to why the public are shouldering the costs of this ill-timed decision. At the time of writing this column, the meeting with launch owners was still in progress, but a certain amount of price hikes is expected for launch travel as well.

Now that we are right in the middle of pandemic recovery, why are industries being slapped with rising costs of fuel? At a time when the pandemic has pushed hundreds of thousands, if not millions, into poverty, why are ordinary citizens facing higher costs of transport? The authorities have referred to global price increases as an explanation. However, experts argue that the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) had previously earned profits when global prices fell and local prices stayed the same, and they can now use that to subsidise current prices. We urge the government to consider this alternative, and make a serious effort to not harm economic recovery and add to the public's sufferings during this crucial period.

## Stop hiring contractors with shoddy work history

*Why did the authorities hire a firm with a questionable work record to build a road?*

WE are shocked at how, according to locals, a portion of the 384-metre roller-compacted concrete road in Kurgaon area of Ashulia in Savar developed cracks before the contractor could even finish the full project. As a result, they urged the authorities to shut it down, further alleging that the cracks had developed as the construction firm behind the project—ER Enterprise—used substandard materials to build the road.

The officials, however, permitted the construction firm to continue their work. According to a report by this daily on Sunday, the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Savar said they had collected samples from the spot and sent them to the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) for tests. If irregularities are found, actions will be taken against the construction firm, he said. An engineer from the Savar office of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) was quoted by this newspaper as saying that the construction firm did not ensure curing with jute and water within three to four hours after constructing the concrete road. That is what has led to the cracks.

Reportedly, the same construction firm previously constructed road slabs in the area that broke down in a similar fashion. This begs the question as to why the firm was given the contract to build the 384-metre road in Savar, despite their previous record of shoddy work. It is because of such poor-quality work that road conditions in Bangladesh are usually in such an awful state. According to a previous report published by this daily, a Roads and Highways Department survey discovered that over 3,000km of surveyed roads—16.26 percent—were in "poor, bad or very bad" condition. And around Tk 15,606.6 crore would be required to repair those in the current fiscal year.

At the end of the day, it is the taxpayers who have to bear the cost of rebuilding and repairing these poorly constructed roads. Meanwhile, the construction firms responsible for cutting corners and poorly building roads are almost never held to account—neither are the authorities that hire them. This needs to change urgently.

We call on the authorities to thoroughly investigate what went wrong in the construction project. If the contractor is in any way responsible for this mess, they must be held accountable and also blacklisted from any future government projects. Moreover, the authorities should investigate why the firm was hired in the first place, given their track record of poor construction work.

# The real victims of fuel price hikes are end consumers



MACRO MIRROR

FAHMIDA KHATUN

THE announcement of fuel price hike, made on November 3 by the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, could not have come at a worse time. Just when the economy is trying to gear back on track, and people have slowly begun to breathe some fresh air and return to their workplaces—desperately attempting to recover from the economic stress they have been facing because of Covid-19—they are now facing additional challenges. Worse, this is not a challenge from nature; it's man-made. Already, non-food inflation has been rising for the last three months. Prices of essentials have also been on the rise recently. Raising diesel and kerosene prices by as much as 23 percent is now a double whammy on the helpless consumers, who are losers on all counts.

Whenever there is a price hike of petroleum products in the country, the government presents a number of reasons to the people. Those are all well-known reasons. The fact that higher prices would ultimately be passed on to consumers is also a widely practised technique. Then why are such measures taken by the policymakers? One can revisit their arguments to see where the real problem lies.

*Due to its poor governance, the fuel marketing companies get involved in corruption and consumers' interest takes a backseat.*

The international prices of fuel are seeing an upward pressure in view of the rapid recovery attempts by the global economies. As economic activities have increased and are moving ahead with higher consumer demand, there is a shortage of supplies in the market. Thus, higher demand, shortages in supply, and an increase of commodity prices have accelerated the inflation in several developed and developing economies. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its report titled "World Economic Outlook: Recovery During a Pandemic" in October 2021, predicted that this trend may

continue till the middle of 2022.

If this is the logic behind raising fuel prices in Bangladesh, then why don't we see lower prices of petroleum products when they go down in the international market? Fuel prices were low for the last seven or eight years. Economies like Bangladesh, which depend on petroleum imports, have benefited hugely during this period. The Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), which runs mostly in

petroleum products. Bangladesh cannot take advantage of the low prices in the international market as the existing law in the country does not allow the BPC to take part in the futures market. The country could purchase fuel at a cheaper price in advance when prices are low internationally, and save a large amount of money. Of course, there are risks attached to this—for example, if the price fall is steep and fast, there will be a loss. Can a

to raise the diesel price. They said they wanted to make up for the increased fuel price, referring to the loss they incurred during the pandemic. But pandemic or no pandemic, passing the extra cost onto the passengers is an age-old tactic. The irrigation cost is expected to rise, also leading to higher prices of crops and produce, though the farmers may not necessarily be the beneficiaries of higher commodity prices. Consumers will also have to suffer due to the higher costs of goods transportation, since the prices of essentials are expected to rise. Though kerosene is used by a smaller number of people nowadays, the high price of kerosene will impact poor consumers as well.

This is a time when the government should provide some breathing space to the people of the country, instead of increasing prices, so that people can recover better. It could cut taxes on fuel prices for some time, so that the burden on people is lighter, and people could have some time to recover from the pandemic-induced stress. The burden of fuel price hikes will not only fall on general consumers, but also businesses, especially the small businesses who were hit the hardest during the pandemic.

The government collects various types of taxes, including value-added tax (VAT), duty, and trade tax, on fuel prices. Such taxes now account for about 30 percent of the fuel price. A part of this could be sacrificed during this difficult period. Such measures are not unheard of: India slashed taxes on petrol and diesel in an attempt to reduce their prices and give some respite to their people. In view of very high electricity and gas prices this year, 20 countries in the European Union took emergency measures that included cuts in energy tax or providing subsidies to poor households.

Transparent pricing mechanism is essential to address unpleasant situations created every time when upward price adjustments are made by the government. Instead of an arbitrary decision from the top, consultation with relevant stakeholders such as transport owners, representatives from the agriculture sector, small traders, and consumer rights associations can help avert the sufferings of the common people.

Unfortunately, whenever there is an announcement by the government on fuel price hike, the knock-on effect is felt much too early. It is even sooner than when the announced measure is implemented. This time is no exception. Prices of a host of goods and services are already seeing an upward trend. This could delay the economic recovery of the country.

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



Fuel prices were high in Bangladesh even when the prices were low in the international market.

FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

made profits after perennial losses. However, electricity prices increased many times during that period. During the pandemic, BPC profits increased by a higher amount as prices were low. According to the Bangladesh Economic Review 2021 by the Ministry of Finance, in the 2020-21 fiscal year, the BPC earned Tk 5,839.39 crore in profits, which was Tk 5,066.54 crore in FY 2019-20.

Consumers don't benefit from such low fuel prices. Fuel prices in Bangladesh are not determined by the demand and supply in the market—the government fixes them. In that case, consumers also deserve the benefit of lower prices in the international market. After all, the losses that the BPC suffers are not due to the customers' fault. It is because of the mismanagement, system loss and weak supply chain in the BPC. Due to its poor governance, the fuel marketing companies get involved in corruption and consumers' interest takes a backseat. Thus, the BPC not only needs to work to improve the fuel pricing mechanism, but also to strengthen the supply chain and procurement mechanism. Nowadays, many countries take part in futures market for commodity trading, including that of

country like Bangladesh afford that? The answer is, if one takes part in the futures market, everyone has to follow the rules of the game and accept both positive and negative outcomes. Initially, the country can start with purchasing a part of the total requirement through the futures market. Of course, such measures require an outlook change on the BPC's part.

The other common reason given by the policymakers for price readjustment is the lower prices in our neighbouring countries, particularly in India, which creates opportunities for smugglers to take petroleum products out of the country to the Indian border. But what amount of the total fuel reserve in the country is smuggled out? Besides, this is not the fault of innocent consumers. This is, again, a governance issue.

The increased price of diesel is going to affect many sectors of our economy. Diesel makes for 70 percent of the total fuel that is consumed in Bangladesh. Sectors such as road and water transports, power generation and agricultural production are dependent on diesel. It took no time for the transport sector leaders to demand an increase in bus and water transport fares in reaction to the government's decision

# COP26 and its relevance to Bangladesh's apparel industry



RMG NOTES

MOSTAFIZ UDDIN

THE 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) started last week in Glasgow, Scotland. Bangladesh, appropriately, is being represented at the global climate event by a delegation from the Bangladesh

Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), led by President Faruque Hassan. The goals of COP26 are, after all, pertinent where the global apparel industry and its supply chains are concerned.

So what is COP26 all about? What are its actual aims, and why are events in the UK this week relevant to Bangladesh's apparel industry?

COP26 sets four overriding goals, which are pertinent to us as apparel makers. The goals are: a) To secure global net zero emissions by mid-century and keep the global temperature rise under 1.5 degrees Celsius, in line with the Paris Agreement; b) To adapt and protect communities and natural habitats; c) To mobilise finance; and d) To work together to deliver (partnerships).

The first goal is highly relevant to garment supply chains. Every major fashion brand has set targets around carbon emission reductions, and these are aligned with the targets set out in the Paris Agreement. It is to be noted that many of our customers are in Glasgow this week.

To achieve greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals, the fashion industry needs to work closely in collaboration with its suppliers. This includes supporting supply chains in the shift towards the use of renewable energy as well as better, more efficient technologies. It also entails, at a broader level, phasing out "dirty" energy from the industry, including coal (which, thankfully, the RMG sector in Bangladesh is not heavily dependent on compared to some of its competitors).

The net-zero goal is also relevant for our RMG sector. As the saying goes: "You can't do business on a dead planet." COP26 and its focus on the mitigation

of human-induced GHG emissions has major implications for climate vulnerable economies, such as Bangladesh. Our industry leaders have more reason than most to keep a close eye on the developments in Glasgow, and hope that the world leaders in attendance will deliver on their climate promises.

The second goal, which is to adapt and protect communities and natural habitats, includes protecting and restoring ecosystems, and building resilient infrastructure and agricultural systems to avoid the loss of homes, livelihoods, and even lives.

part by moving towards the use of best available technologies in areas such as wastewater treatment. This will enable us to limit the flow of potentially harmful chemicals into our rivers and waterways. We can also shift towards less wasteful production methods, which create excessive textile waste for the environment. Investment in new technologies and shifts towards recycling are the key moves here.

This brings us to the third COP26 goal, which is mobilising finance. To deliver on our first two goals, the leaders of COP26 have called on developed countries



The BGMEA delegation, with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahrir Alam, in the Bangladesh pavilion at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland.

SOURCE: BGMEA

It is commonly stated that fashion is one of the most polluting industries in the world. Much of the reason behind that is the supply chains, which are dependent on the use of dyes and chemicals, as well as the application of potentially polluting industrial processes.

It has become apparent that the climate is already changing, and ecosystems are being disrupted to an alarming degree. In the apparel sector, we can do our

to mobilise at least USD 100 billion in climate finance per year. They also suggest that the international financial institutions play their part in helping to channel trillions of dollars in private and public sector finance required to secure global net zero emissions.

This is why it is so important that the key movers and shakers of Bangladesh's economy are in Glasgow. They have to make the case for Bangladesh as a

*It has become apparent that the climate is already changing, and ecosystems are being disrupted to an alarming degree.*

green investment hub. Supply chains are critical where emissions are concerned, but suppliers do not have the finance to do this on their own. They need support from their buyers, governments and the global investment community to implement new technologies and different ways of working.

I would like to see COP26 as a catalyst for Bangladesh's garment sector to further its cause as a worthy hub for grant and other funding from the likes of the World Bank, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and other global financial institutions which, working in collaboration with multinational retailers, can help bring about genuine change in our industry.

The final goal is partnership. "Work together to deliver" is the message of COP26, the argument being that we can only rise to the challenges of the climate crisis by working collaboratively. But are we all ready to embrace this new, collaborative way of working in garment supply chains?

So far, I have seen some examples of this, but to be honest, the old adversarial approach to buyer-supplier relations is still evident across swathes of the industry. If we genuinely want COP26 to be the agent of change it surely needs to be, collaboration and partnership between apparel buyers and suppliers are a key to success. Only this can ensure a fashion industry we can all be proud of, and from which we can all continue to prosper.

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



# Climate destroyers' pledge to save Earth too little, too late



SHAHNOOR WAHID

"ONLY when the last tree has been cut down, the last fish been caught, and the last stream poisoned, will we realise we cannot eat money."

A Native American proverb that says it all in such abundant eloquence, and we wonder, was the half-naked old chief of the misty mountain an illiterate man, or a wise one who knew what was going to happen to Planet Earth?

Men of the world, through their third eye, could envision what calamity would befall humans as they cut down trees, levelled hills, blocked streams, and polluted oceans with felonious consistency in the name of modernity and progress. The greedy men laughed away the words of caution and went about digging a mile-deep pit in search of diamonds and gold. The more they found them, the deeper they dug.

There are more plastic bottles and nylon nets in oceans than mackerels. Deep forests where birds and animals once built their safe homes now get bulldozed by humans to construct multistorey concrete cages for themselves. Mechanised vessels on rivers pollute water with burnt oil for fishes to choke on and die. Industries produce medicine for humans, but spew black smoke in the air for humans to choke and die. The more fossil fuel is burnt, the more the air heats up. The

forests heat up. Clouds heat up. The cold Arctic zone heats up. Millennia-old ice melts down. Water level around the world rises. Torrential rains and floods hit low coastal areas. And then we hear the echo of the wise words of the old men of the misty mountain. They warned us: Do not abuse nature, for nature will strike back.

We see all around the vicious manifestation of calamities of unparalleled ferocity. Global temperature is about to cross the threshold. Massive ice blocks in the Himalayas are slowly melting to crash down on the human abodes below. The century-old climate pattern is no more familiar. Rains linger unabashedly; winter bids farewell sooner than expected.

Nature is on a path of revenge all around the world. Environmentalists may not want to say it in such a blunt way, but deep down they know there is truth in it. The seven-billion-plus human population is ripping asunder this little planet in their infinite greed for material gain, to make profit by selling whatever they can grab with their two hands. Their uncaring atrocities are contributing to severe disequilibrium in nature, which in turn is hastening the process of climate change globally.

Climate change is causing sea levels to rise, storms, cyclones, drought, land erosion, landslides, flooding, and salinisation, and these extreme weather conditions are forcing people to find refuge elsewhere in search of livelihood. Bangladesh finds itself on the forefront of these impacts.

The geographical location with low elevation, Bangladesh is extremely vulnerable to the frequent whims of nature. The high population density exacerbates its attempts to keep the wheels of the economy turning.

A study shows that by 2050, one in every seven people in Bangladesh will be a victim of climate change. And it further says that up to 18 million people may have to migrate because of sea level rise.

While humans continue to destroy nature to satiate their greed, they also take the liberty to coin the phrase "Climate Refugee." This is irony at its

worst—a caustic joke on the hapless people in refugee camps. The term climate refugee connotes: "Persons or groups of persons who, for reasons of sudden or progressive climate-related changes in the environment that adversely affects their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad."

salinity-related issues while farming on damaged lands. Arsenic in drinking water is still very much present in a good number of tube wells.

Against such a haunting background, world leaders, most of whom are from major polluting economies, tried to pacify the people with the declaration of a multibillion-dollar pledge to end deforestation by 2030. But environmental groups and protesters

The leaders of the "industrialised" countries argued that the agreement on deforestation was important to the overarching goal of limiting temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius—which was the most ambitious Paris Agreement target. But the fact remains that the extent of damage done to this beleaguered planet for the last 300 years or so, in the name of industrialisation and modernity, has been more severe than what the naked eyes can see.

The same destroyers and polluters from the industrialised countries, and their paid agents, said in sugar-coated words: "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 peoples. 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."

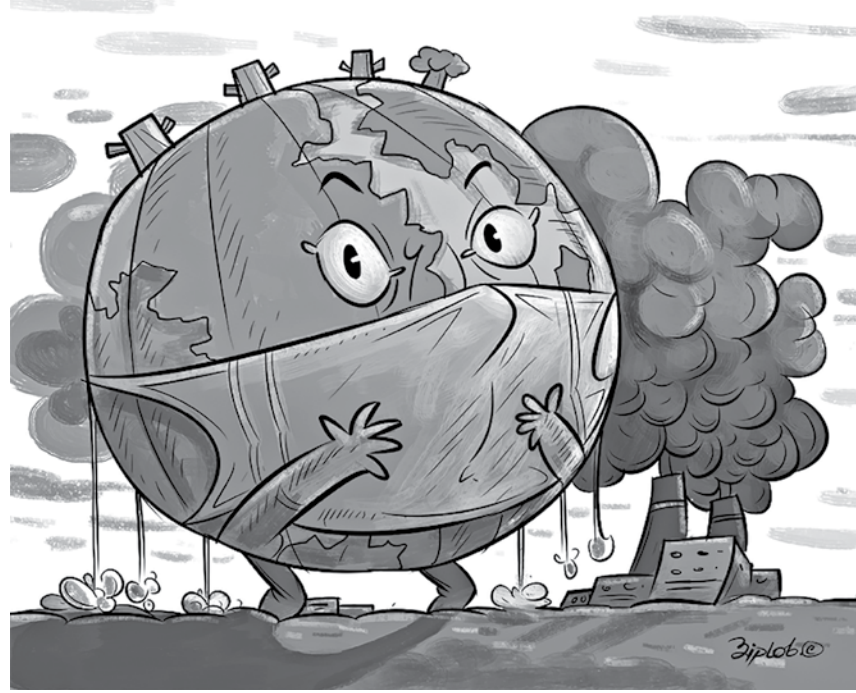
We wonder why it took them waiting for conferences like COP25 and COP26 to say all these things, and why could they not take actions decades ago?

The following countries are responsible for accelerating massive-scale deforestation in their respective territories: Brazil, Russia, the United States, China, Australia, and France. And they all put their signature on the agreement. They have done so before in many other summits and conferences on climate change and related issues. We are witness to their follow-up actions. Nothing worthwhile has been done as yet.

It is being said that it was a case of too little, too late at COP26. Planet Earth will not sit idle for the polluters to release their money for their pet organisations and groups to organise seminars to create awareness among the people about the adverse effects of climate change. Planet Earth will continue to take revenge.

Unfortunately, the polluters will read about this in newspapers, while the innocent victims will drown in distant Bangladesh.

Shahnoor Wahid is a freelance journalist.



After suffering centuries of abuse in the hands of humans, Mother Nature is striking back with rising sea levels and devastating calamities.

ILLUSTRATION: BIPOLO CHAKROBORTY

Here are some grim facts about Bangladesh. It is estimated that two-thirds of Bangladesh is less than five metres above the sea level. And as much as 28 percent of the population lives on the coastal belts, where frequent tidal flooding caused by sea level rise forces them to migrate to high grounds.

Another estimate says that by 2050, with a projected 50cm rise in sea level, Bangladesh may lose approximately 11 percent of its land, affecting an estimated 15 million people living in its low-lying coastal region. Farmers face

took the declaration with a great deal of scepticism and demanded more urgent action to save the planet. Though the pledge is backed by almost USD 20 billion in public and private funding, and has been 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, environmentalists are not convinced as to how much it will help to heal the deep wounds and stop the bleeding.

There are more plastic bottles and nylon nets in oceans than mackerels. Deep forests where birds and animals once built their safe homes now get bulldozed by humans to construct multistorey concrete cages for themselves.

## Is Bangladesh at risk of falling into the Chinese debt trap?

HUSSAIN SHAZZAD

BD, the second highest recipient of China's investment in South Asia after Pakistan, imports the highest volume of goods from China, making the country Bangladesh's largest trading partner. This is the beginning of the story where China offers Bangladesh financial assistance and development experience for its "big-ticket megaprojects" to fulfil the latter's "Vision 2041"—a well-crafted dream to be a developed country. However, the massive amount of funding from China makes critics ask, citing the example of Hambantota in Sri Lanka: "Is Bangladesh getting entangled in China's 'debt trap' diplomacy?"

Debt-Trap Diplomacy, a widely used narrative against China, is thought to have originated from the "infrastructure war" between China and the Western world. It's an apple of discord regarding whether China

needs external funding for its flagship development projects, the financing of which goes beyond domestic affordability. This has led to Bangladesh looking for external funding options under conducive conditions. Bangladesh's loss of substantial financial assistance from global lenders—e.g. World Bank's rejection to finance the Padma Bridge—and the attractive nature of China's investment created a gateway for the country to step into Bangladesh's economy. On the other hand, China, as a part of its external orientation, comes closer to Bangladesh by affiliating the country with different China-led regional platforms, e.g. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), etc.

The Sino-Bangladesh relations, which began in 1976, were limited to trade deals until the first decade of the 21st century. The bilateral relations have experienced two different phases before and after the initiation of the BRI. The relations turned into strategic partnership after

calculus, since it can connect the south-eastern landlocked province of China. Besides, the cheap workforce of Bangladesh offers China an opportunity to relocate its sunset industries. Yet, critics give a contentious look on this relationship by denouncing China's role—or lack thereof—in resolving the Rohingya crisis.

According to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), that a country will cross the danger mark if its external debts exceed 40 percent of GDP ensures that Bangladesh is in the "safe zone," as its total foreign loan is less than 15 percent of its GDP. "Flow of External Resources into Bangladesh," a publication by the Ministry of Finance, reported that the total outstanding foreign loan of the country was nearly USD 44.06 billion, depicting per capita loan to be around USD 278 in 2019-20 fiscal year. This clearly shows how the reality differs from the assumption that Bangladesh is overburdened with external debts. Another misconception that Bangladesh is going to be a victim of the Chinese debt trap, pointing the finger to the growing Chinese investment, also doesn't reflect the ground reality. Of Bangladesh's total external debt in the 2019-20 fiscal year, 38 percent was from the World Bank, 24.5 percent from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), 17 percent from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), 6.81 percent from China, 6.14 percent from Russia, and 1.3 percent from India. This data shows that Bangladesh is on the right trajectory.

The strategic advantage of cross-border trade tilted Bangladesh exponentially towards China, which has led critics to say that too much reliance on China's money will make Bangladesh beholden to it. But Bangladesh's diplomatic manoeuvres of the last few decades demonstrate that the country has been striking a fine balance among its donors. By pumping money into Bangladesh, China is actually trying to take the longstanding relations to a new height. Albeit, there is a narrative that Bangladesh is going to be a victim of "payday loan diplomacy," but the counter-narrative explains how Chinese soft loans reduce the pressure of Western donors for economic and political reforms.

Bangladesh perceives Chinese investment as a welcome addition to existing sources along with creating a competitive environment. Before reaching foregone conclusions by tagging China's debt trap with Bangladesh, it needs to be remembered that the funding options for Bangladesh are very limited. Besides, a loan becomes a burden if it is not optimally utilised. To date, all the Chinese-funded projects in Bangladesh have been proven to be financially viable. There is no instance where Bangladesh has accepted all the diktats, while signing financial agreements blindfolded.

The current stronger position of Bangladesh, in terms of external debt from China, will alter with the rise of Chinese investment, but the long-run returns will be more attractive if funds

are effectively utilised. Bangladesh needs to negotiate carefully before signing any financial agreement, focus more on soft loans, and ensure timely implementation of projects. Along with taking funds for infrastructural boost, Bangladesh may also leverage the development experience

of China to create a win-win situation. Not to mention, the macro-economic management policy of Bangladesh is prudent enough to avoid China's debt trap, even if there is one.

Hussain Shazzad is a strategic affairs and foreign policy analyst.



Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Over the last two decades, the bilateral ties between the two countries have grown from a trade relation to a strategic partnership.

FILE PHOTO: STAR

really has any "Machiavellian strategy," as Chinese projects in Bangladesh are too fragmented to achieve such cunning strategic objectives. Once "the sleeping giant," now the "second most influential economic superpower," China follows socialist ideology in political affairs, but adopts open market policies under the name of "market socialism." The historical data demonstrates that China always has strong affiliation with the South Asian countries because of the region's "big bazaar." The geopolitical eminence and commercial noteworthiness of Bangladesh has made China pay special attention to cash in on this money-making market.

To utilise the potential of becoming the "economic hub" of South Asia, Bangladesh

2010, when the countries signed a number of trade, transit and defence procurement agreements. Both countries are working to alleviate the huge trade-deficit by establishing free trade zones. China is trying to prove itself as Bangladesh's time-tested friend by entwining diplomatic, defence and economic ties.

Though Bangladesh and China have distinct political and social status quo, collaborative efforts brought them closer. China's non-intervention principle to the domestic affairs of its partners leads Dhaka to welcome more and more investment from Beijing. As an emerging economy, Bangladesh requires hefty investment to tackle its socioeconomic problems, which China can support. On the other hand, Bangladesh is all-important in China's strategic

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**

বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র ও টেলিভিশন ইনস্টিটিউট

তথ্য ও সম্প্রচার মন্ত্রণালয়

অস্থায়ী কার্যালয়, জাতীয় গণমাধ্যম ইনস্টিটিউট ভবন

১২৫/এ, দাবুস সালাম, এ. ডিবিউ. চৌধুরী রোড, ঢাকা-১২১৬

ই-মেইল: [bctibd2013@gmail.com](mailto:bctibd2013@gmail.com) ওয়েবসাইট: [www.bcti.gov.bd](http://www.bcti.gov.bd)

মোবাইল: ০১৭১২১২৭০১০, ফ্যাক্স: ০২-৫৫০৭৯৩৪৫

নং-বাচটেই-১৮০/প্রশা/জার্নাল/অংশ-৪/২০১৯/১৭৭৮৬ তারিখ: ০৪ নভেম্বর ২০২১

**লেখা আহ্বান**

বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র ও টেলিভিশন ইনস্টিটিউট জার্নাল-এর ১১তম সংখ্যার জন্য লেখা আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। চলচ্চিত্র ও টেলিভিশন বিষয়ে গবেষণামূলক এবং বিশ্লেষণমূলক লেখা, চলচ্চিত্র সমালোচনা, নিউ-মিডিয়ায় গতিপ্রকৃতি ও ব্যক্তি, বিশ্ব চলচ্চিত্রের তুলনামূলক আলোচনা, অনুবাদ ও সাক্ষাৎকার, প্রযুক্তি ও প্রয়োগ ইত্যাদি বিষয়ে আগ্রহী লেখকদের নিকট থেকে বাংলা ও ইংরেজি ভাষায় লেখা আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে। লেখা পাঠানোর শেষ তারিখ ৩০ ডিসেম্বর ২০২১। জার্নালটি Peer Reviewed Journal বিধায় লেখার শেষে গ্রন্থপঞ্জি ও তথ্যসূত্র যথাযথভাবে (APA ফরমেট-এ) সন্নিবেশিত থাকতে হবে এবং বিসিটিআই-এর ওয়েবসাইটে আপলোডকৃত লেখকের জন্য জ্ঞাতব্য নীতিমালা অনুসরণপূর্বক প্রবন্ধ লিখিত হতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য, লেখার শব্দসীমা হবে অনূর্ধ্ব ৬,০০০ (ছয় হাজার)।

লেখকগণকে লেখার বিষয়বস্তুর সাথে প্রয়োজনে ক্যাপশনসহ প্রাসঙ্গিক ছবি পাঠাতে হবে। লেখা সম্পূর্ণ অপ্রকাশিত ও মৌলিক হতে হবে। লেখার হার্ডকপি সরাসরি বিসিটিআই-এর ঠিকানায় এবং সফটকপি (বাংলাঃ SutonnyMJ, ফ্রন্ট সাইজঃ ১২ এবং ইংরেজি Times New Roman, ফ্রন্ট সাইজঃ ১১, লাইন স্পেসঃ ১.৫) ই-মেইলযোগে ([bcti.journal@gmail.com](mailto:bcti.journal@gmail.com)) পাঠাতে অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে। লেখার জন্য লেখককে নির্ধারিত হারে সম্মানী প্রদান করা হবে এবং লেখা নির্বাচনে সম্পাদনা পরিষদের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।

মোঃ আবুল কালাম আজাদ

প্রধান নির্বাহী

GD-2015

বাংলাদেশ চলচ্চিত্র ও টেলিভিশন ইনস্টিটিউট



## New Zealand dash Indian dreams

REUTERS, Dubai

New Zealand crushed a billion Indian dreams and breezed into the semi-finals of the Twenty20 World Cup with an eight-wicket victory against Afghanistan in a key Super 12 match on Sunday.

The fates of three teams were tied to the outcome of the match, each fancying their chances of becoming the second side from the pool, behind Pakistan, to make it to the last four.

An Afghan victory would have suited 2007 champions India, who have the best net run-rate among the trio with a match to spare, while New Zealand had to simply win the game to advance, which they did in style.

Najibullah Zadran smashed a career-best 73 to rescue Afghanistan from a top order collapse and post 124-8 at the Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi.

New Zealand romped home with 11 balls to spare to join England, Australia and Pakistan in last four.

"Strong performance, we know how dangerous this Afghanistan side is," New Zealand captain Kane Williamson said after



anchoring their chase.

"It's nice for us to be able to set the tone with the ball first up, take some wickets early and then restrict them to below-par total. It was a 150-155 surface."

Afghanistan captain Mohammad Nabi won the toss but the strong start he expected from his team did not materialise.

They were reeling at 19-3 in the sixth over, a mini-collapse that started when Devon Conway

took an acrobatic catch behind the stumps to dismiss Mohammad Shahzad.

Zadran rebuilt their innings with his stroke-filled knock but his stay was cut short by another stunning catch, this time by a diving Jimmy Neesham at long-off.

Trent Boult dismissed Karim Janat in the same over for his third wicket and New Zealand put on a catching masterclass to restrict their opponents to a below-par total.

Off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman dismissed Daryl Mitchell (17) in the fourth over and Rashid Khan sent back Martin Guptill (28) but it was not enough to test New Zealand's batting strength.

Williamson oversaw New Zealand's chase with an assured 40 not out while Conway was unbeaten on 36.

New Zealand finished their group campaign with eight points, four ahead of India, who play Namibia in their final match on Monday, and Afghanistan.

"We didn't start well," Nabi said after Afghanistan signed off with their third loss in five matches.

"We played good cricket in the tournament, and we will take a lot of positives. We need to correct the mistakes we made with the bat.



TODAY'S MATCHES

India Vs Namibia  
8pm (BST)



SCORES  
IN BRIEF

AFGHANISTAN

124 for 8 in 20 overs  
(Najibullah 73, Gulbadin 15; Boult 3-17, Southee 2-24)

NEW ZELANAD

125 for 2 in 18.1 overs  
(Williamson 40 not out, Conway 36 not out; Mujeeb 1-31, Rashid 1-27)

RESULT

New Zealand won by 8 wickets.

Player-of-the-match  
Trent Boult.

## India take on Namibia in dead rubber

AGENCIES

India did their best to overturn their nightmare start to the Twenty20 World Cup in the UAE, but they will go into today's last Super 12 fixture against Namibia in Dubai knowing they are already out of the competition.

New Zealand's victory over Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi on Sunday meant the 'host' nation will not reach the knockout rounds of a major men's ICC event for the first time since 2012.

India's campaign got off to the worst possible start in this year's T20 World Cup as the Men in Blue lost to arch-rivals Pakistan by 10 wickets before New Zealand handed them an eight-wicket thrashing in the next game.

India bounced back and won their next two games on



the trot by big margins to ensure they remain alive in the race for a spot in the semis. However, that was not enough in the end, thanks to Afghanistan's defeat to New Zealand.

But Virat Kohli, who will be captaining the India team for the last time in this format, will want to lead the side to a strong finish to the campaign. Namibia, meanwhile, have provided plenty of punchy opposition for the sides they have met in the Super 12s and will be wanting to end their campaign well.

They will be aiming to give a good account of themselves and not get outplayed like Scotland. They have a decent team and are learning the trades quickly. Namibia have a stiff test ahead of them against an Indian team which has now peaked. Keeping the Indian openers at bay upfront will be challenging. Albeit a dead rubber, Namibia cannot let India run away with the game.

## 'Australia can be the best team in the world'

REUTERS

Australia coach Justin Langer believes his team can re-establish themselves as the best in the world as they prepare for a potential semi-final showdown with Pakistan at the Twenty20 World Cup this week.

Langer's team booked their place in the last four on Saturday as David Warner's unbeaten 89 steered the Australians to an eight-wicket win over the West Indies that secured a second spot in Group 1 of the competition's Super 12 phase.

"Not that long ago we were the best team in the world and some of that cricket shows we can be the best team in the world," Langer told reporters.

"I think England are leading the way at the moment and we've got exciting prospects.

"We're taking great lessons from this tournament on how we can continue to play T20 cricket now, for this tournament, and moving forward."

The Australians made a strong start in the competition before suffering a heavy eight-wicket defeat against England that left the Aaron Finch-captained side uncertain about their place in the knockout rounds.

But comprehensive wins over Bangladesh and the West Indies ended those doubts and the Australians are likely to face Pakistan, who lead Group 2 with their final match against Scotland to be played on Sunday, in Thursday's semi-finals.

"It was brilliant again last night, I think our last few games have been outstanding cricket," said Langer.

"The boys have really stepped up. It was quite a sobering experience against England. We knew we had to do some work and the way the boys responded to that has been brilliant, so it's nice to be in the semi-final.

"You can't win it unless you're in the semi-final. It's nice to be sitting here, knowing we're in a semi-final on Thursday."

Pakistan have been the dominant force in Group 1, winning all four of the matches to date, and Langer looks forward to the clash in Dubai.

"They've got a good all-round team, like we have, and they're well-led," he said.

"Their captain, Babar Azam, is a superstar of the game. They've some good pace bowlers and they've a couple of good spinners, so they're a well-balanced side like we are, so it should be a great game of cricket."



Bangladesh ODI captain Tamim Iqbal smashes one during a practice session at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday ahead of their home series against Pakistan, starting from November 19. The Tigers will play three T20 Internationals, followed by two Tests but the left-hander reportedly will not be available for the T20I series. [Inset] Khaled Mahmud, who has been appointed team director for the upcoming Pakistan series, talks animatedly with coach Mohammad Salaudhin, who reportedly has been offered the role of assistant coach for the Tigers. PHOTO: STAR

## Schadenfreude in the form of a discount

MAZHAR Uddin from Dubai

More than anywhere else in the world, you can find the fanbases of Pakistan and India on an equal footing in the UAE, although now it may have slight shifted.

The intensity among the Pakistani fans here in Dubai has reached stratospheric levels as Babar Azam's side have already sealed a place in the semi-final of the ICC T20 World Cup with four wins from as many games in Group 2.

But when it comes to Indian fans, they have endured a tough time in the flagship event, starting with an already-famous ten-wicket defeat to archrivals Pakistan in their opening Super 12 game. An eight-wicket defeat to New Zealand the next game raised concerns over an early exit for Virat Kohli's side.

You will witness the unique ways in which fans support the two Asian powerhouses in Dubai.



This reporter hopped on a taxi and was greeted by Mohammad Imran from the city of Peshawar in Pakistan, who has been driving a taxi in Dubai for the past nine years.

At first, he thought he had an Indian passenger and initiated the conversation by inquiring whether he had taken a cricket fan on board. Once he confirmed the passenger was not from India but from Bangladesh, he opened up and said that if it was an Indian fan, he would have given a 10

Dirham discount for the ride.

"Ever since the ten-wicket win over India in the first game of the World Cup, I have been looking for Indian supporters to take on a ride. I don't reveal my nationality initially. I only ask if they know the result of the game between India and Pakistan. You can imagine the reaction to that question because they are furious about the defeat. When the passenger reaches their destination, I reveal my nationality and gave them a discount of ten dirhams in memory of the famous ten-wicket win."

Although India managed to bounce back in their next matches with two big wins against Scotland and Afghanistan to raise hopes of reaching the semifinal, Indian fans who were desperately hoping for Afghanistan to beat New Zealand in yesterday's encounter were left disappointed as the Kiwis thrashed Afghans by eight wickets

and qualified for the semifinal, condemning India to an early exit.

"We were hoping to face Pakistan in the final and avenge the ten-wicket defeat. But let the Pakistanis enjoy this time around. The fact is they have beaten India for the very first time in a World event. So, we can understand the outpouring of joy from our neighbors. They hardly ever get this feeling," said Avishek Mishra, an Indian who works as a sales manager in Dubai. "As Indians, we will keep supporting our team no matter what happens in the future. And we will wait to meet Pakistan in the future and take revenge."

The rivalry among India and Pakistan may be seen as an intense battle of pride for both nations, but Indian and Pakistani fans in Dubai hope the rivalry remains on the field and they continue to live in harmony off it in the coming days as well.





# What to WATCH

**T SPORTS & GTV**
**ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021**
**India vs Namibia**
**Live from 08:00 pm**
**DAY'S EVENT**
**NCL (Round 4, Day-2)**  
 Dhaka vs Sylhet, Sylhet  
 Khulna vs Rangpur,

**SICS Academy**  
 Chattogram vs Barishal, BKSP-3  
 Dhaka Metro vs Rajshahi, BKSP-4


PHOTO: TWITTER

**SCORES IN BRIEF**
**PAKISTAN**

189 for 4 in 20 overs (Babar 66, Hafeez 31, Malik 54 not out; Graves 2-43)

**SCOTLAND**

117 for 6 in 20 overs (Munsey 17, Berrington 54 not out; Shadab 2-14)

**RESULT**

Pakistan won by 72 runs.

**PLAYER-OF-THE-MATCH**

Shoaib Malik.

**SEMIFINALS**
**NOVEMBER 10**

England Vs New Zealand, Abu Dhabi, 8pm (BST)

**NOVEMBER 11**

Pakistan Vs Australia, Dubai, 8pm (BST)

## 'We showed our quality'

REUTERS, Bordeaux



Paris Saint Germain stretched their advantage at the top of Ligue 1 to 10 points after two goals by Brazil forward Neymar and another from Kylian Mbappe helped them to a 3-2 win at Girondins Bordeaux on Saturday.

PSG, who carved out a 3-0 lead before late goals by Bordeaux set up a tense finish, have 34 points from 13 games, ahead of second-placed Lens who beat Troyes 4-0 at home on Friday. Bordeaux stayed 16th on 12 points.

Neymar struck twice in the first half thanks to a pair of sublime assists by France World Cup winner Mbappe, having opened the scoring in the 26th minute with a neat shot past two defenders inside the near post.

Neymar muted his celebrations and took off his jersey to unveil a message on his shirt paying tribute to Brazilian country singer Marilia Mendonca, who was killed in a plane crash in the state of Minas Gerais on Friday.

Mbappe acknowledged that an expensively assembled PSG outfit, who were missing Lionel Messi due to a nagging knee injury, were still a work in progress but rebuffed criticism that they are failing to live up to expectations.

"Everyone has the right to an opinion, some people think we are playing badly but I think we are just not playing very well at the moment," he said.

"We need to improve and we will continue to work hard. Today we showed our quality as we had spells where we played at a very high level."



PHOTO: REUTERS

# PAKISTAN HAMMER SCOTS

AFP, Sharjah



Pakistan defeated Scotland by 72 runs on the back of magnificent half centuries from Babar Azam and Shoaib Malik on Sunday to set-up a Twenty20 World Cup semi-final clash against Australia.

Skipper Babar scored a polished 47-ball-66 for his 24th fifty in Twenty20 internationals, and his fourth in five matches, while Malik smashed an 18-ball 54 not out as Pakistan posted 189-4 in their 20 overs.

Scotland were never in hunt as they managed 117-6 with Richie Berrington fighting a lone hand during his 37-ball 54

not out with four boundaries and a six.

The victory gave Pakistan five wins in as many games, topping the Group 2 with ten points. They now face Australia in the second semi-final in Dubai on Thursday.

"Shoaib, the way he finished, the way he showed his experience, that's what he's known for," said Babar of his 39-year-old teammate.

"We'll carry good confidence into the semi-finals and try to play in the same way. Definitely Dubai is one of the best stadiums. As a player if you play in front of a whole crowd that cheers for you, your confidence increases."

Babar had set the platform with another fine knock. Malik then punished

the Scottish attack during his fiery knock comprising six hits over the fence and one boundary, taking 26 off Chris Greaves's last over.

Babar smashed five boundaries and three sixes to become the tournament's highest run scorer, passing England's Jos Buttler's 240 in five matches with 264 in as many games.

He holed out to spinner Greaves in the 18th over as Pakistan lifted the scoring rate, adding 129 in the last ten overs and an incredible 77 in the final five.

Babar and Mohammad Rizwan (15) had put on a slow 35 for the opening stand.

Rizwan, when on five, broke West

Indian Chris Gayle's record for most runs in Twenty20 cricket in a calendar year. Rizwan now has 1,676 runs in 41 matches. Gayle had notched 1,665 in 36 matches in 2015.

Mohammad Hafeez scored a brisk 19-ball 31 with four boundaries and a six.

"I thought we bowled really well today, especially in the powerplay," said Scotland skipper Kyle Coetzer whose team lost all five Super 12 games but defeated Bangladesh in the qualifying round.

"When you've got the power in the batting line-up like Pakistan you know that they are going to find the boundaries at some stage, but I thought our guys fought really hard today."



PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Seven-wicket hauls for Nasum, Shohidul

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh national team left-arm spinner Nasum Ahmed pulled off a seven-wicket haul for Sylhet Division right after returning from a devastating World Cup campaign while Dhaka Metro's Shohidul Islam stood out among the pacers as he also scalped seven wickets against Rajshahi Division on the first day of the fourth round of the 23rd National Cricket League yesterday.

Nasum, after returning from international duties on Friday, joined Sylhet Division immediately as his side faced Dhaka Division in their tier-1 encounter at Sylhet International Cricket Stadium. The left-arter demonstrated his class, plucking seven wickets off 43 as Dhaka got bundled out for 123 runs.

In reply, Sylhet placed 79 runs on the board while losing a couple of wickets as they trail by 44 runs ahead of Day Two.

Spinners have predictably established their authority throughout the current

edition of the National Cricket League. However, Shohidul Islam wreaked havoc for Dhaka Metro in their tier-2 encounter against Rajshahi Division in BKSP as he bagged seven wickets off 48 runs in his 15.3 overs spell, restricting Rajshahi's total to 232 runs.

Coming down to bat for their first innings, Dhaka Metro scored 53 for two as they ended the first day trailing by 179 runs.

In the other match at BKSP, Barishal Division scored 236 runs before getting bundled out by Chattogram Division. In-form Fazole Mahmud played a solid knock of 76 runs, featuring a couple of maximums and a dozen boundaries.

Chattogram, in reply, ended the day scoring 34 runs without losing any wicket as they trail by 202 runs.

In the tier-1 contest between Khulna and Rangpur at Sylhet International Cricket Stadium Academy, Khulna accumulated 257 runs on the board at the cost of nine wickets by the end of the day. Imrul Kayes scored 76 runs while Mehedi Hasan Miraz remained unbeaten on 72.

## Booters' opener deferred by a day

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's opening match of the four-nation Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa Trophy in Colombo, scheduled for today against Seychelles, was deferred by one day and will be held on Tuesday after incessant rainfall rendered the ground at the Race Course Stadium in Sri Lanka unplayable.

However, the day's second match between hosts Sri Lanka and Maldives will be held as scheduled tonight.

"In the presence of members of the Football Federation of Sri Lanka, the hosts had an emergency meeting with Bangladesh and Seychelles and requested us to play our match the day after originally scheduled due to incessant rain making the pitch unplayable. We accepted their proposal and let our players know the updates at about 10:15 [Sri Lanka time]. It has been raining here for the past few days and the heavy rain today caused further difficulties," Bangladesh team manager Satyajit Das Rupu told The Daily Star over phone last night, adding that groundsmen could not even prepare the ground yesterday.

"However, the second match between Sri Lanka and Maldives will take place as scheduled at 9:00pm local time as the Prime Minister is scheduled to attend the opening ceremony," Rupu said, adding that the second round of matches would be shifted and held on November 12 instead of 11. The third round of the tournament will now be held on Nov 15 and the final will take place on Nov 18.

## West Ham end Liverpool's unbeaten run

REUTERS



West Ham United showed that their place in the Premier League's top four was fully warranted as they outmuscled Liverpool for a memorable 3-2 victory at a rocking London Stadium on Sunday.

Victory for high-flying West Ham ended Liverpool's 25-match unbeaten run in all competitions and lifted them above Jurgen Klopp's side into third place in the table.

An own goal by keeper Alisson gave West Ham a dream start, but Liverpool went in level at halftime thanks to a superb Trent Alexander-Arnold free kick.

Craig Dawson hit the bar for West Ham early in the second half as Liverpool wobbled at the back, before Pablo Fornals restored West Ham's lead in the 66th minute when he was played through and his shot evaded Alisson.

Alisson was found wanting again eight minutes later when Kurt Zouma headed in West Ham's third in the 74th minute. Substitute Divock Origi gave Liverpool a lifeline with a shot on the turn in the 82nd minute, but the hosts clung on for a memorable victory.



PHOTO: REUTERS

## Djokovic wins sixth Paris Masters title

AFP, PARIS

World number one Novak Djokovic won a sixth Paris title and record 37th Masters crown on Sunday, beating 2020 champion Daniil Medvedev 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the final.

The 34-year-old Serbian gained a measure of revenge over his Russian opponent who dashed his dreams of a Grand Slam sweep when he beat him in the US Open final in September.

The Masters title secured



Djokovic's second record in as many days after he was confirmed as season-ending world number one for a seventh time. Medvedev said Djokovic -- who he calls his "friend" -- was stronger on the crucial points.

"I don't like losing so I cannot say I am happy, I don't even like losing at Play Station!" said Medvedev at his press conference.

"But I gave everything and maybe I could have done a winner here or there or served one or two more aces. When you lose a match you always have the feelings that you can do a bit better. Trouble was Novak won the crucial points and apart from the first set I did not.

"However, I take consolation in having given everything against the best player in the world of all time. It was a good battle."





**Payra Bridge has been built by Country's No.1 Steel Expert BSRM**

**BSRM**  
building a safer nation



**GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS RECOGNIZES**

**World's Largest VRM**



**SHAH CEMENT**

## Accountability at the core

*It's behind all success stories of economic development, says Prof Wahiduddin at a public lecture*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Behind all success stories of sustained economic development, there is a common factor -- ensuring accountability at all tiers of governance.

This applies across the nature of ruling regimes, whether democratic, authoritarian or a mix of the two.

"And even if democratic institutions are weak, the existence of enough space for civic activism and free media may ensure considerable accountability of a legitimacy-seeking regime," said Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud at a public lecture yesterday.

"This will at least ensure some accountability of a government," he said in his lecture that was organised by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) in the capital's Lakeshore Hotel.

He said under the erstwhile authoritarian regimes in East Asia, bureaucracies were "technically insulated" from patronage politics and whose policies were subject to performance-based scrutiny in order to ensure accountability.

In China, he said, the governance reforms introduced in the wake of economic liberalisation have put in place a hierarchical system of strict accountability within the communist party's bureaucracy regarding achieving



SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



Ignoring signal, a car goes beyond a bar at FDC level crossing in the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday while a train is passing through the area. Such risky driving and violation of traffic rules may cause fatal accidents.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Khaleda home after 26 days in hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP

Chairperson

Khaleda Zia

returned

home

yesterday

after a

26-day stay

in the capital's Evercare

hospital.

Hundreds of party

leaders and activists

followed her on her way

from the hospital to the

residence, where she

reached at around 5:45pm.

The 76-year-old former

premier was released, as no

complication was found

in the biopsy of a lump

that was removed from her

body.

Syeda Sharmila

Rahman, her deceased

son Arifat Rahman's

wife, accompanied her,

while senior party leaders,

including Mirza Fakhrul

Islam Alamgir, welcomed

the BNP chief back into her

house Firoza.

Khaleda's physicians

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



## 2 men killed in 'gunfight' with Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Two men were killed in a "gunfight" between Rab members and a group of unidentified people in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal upazila yesterday.

The dead are Tofael Mia, 35, and Shahid Mia, 40, both accused in a case filed over the murder of a local business association leader, said police.

Basu Dutta Chakma, commander of Rab-9 (Sreemangal battalion), said, "A group of people started shooting on a Rab vehicle in the morning inside the Mirtinga tea garden area."

In self-defense, Rab members retaliated, leaving two of the group members injured with bullets, he added.

After the "gunfight", the bullet-riddled bodies were recovered from the spot, he said, adding that they later handed the bodies over to Sreemangal police.

Eardous Hasan, officer-in-charge of Kamalganj Police Station, said some criminals hacked Nazmul Hasan, a business association leader, under broad daylight in the district's Kamalganj upazila on October 31 last year.

Nazmul died at Sylhet Women's Medical College Hospital around 7:00pm while undergoing treatment the same day.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

ROAD TO FREEDOM  
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

## East Bengal can't remain united with Pakistan: Indira

NOVEMBER 8, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

CHINA WILL INTERVENE, SAYS YAHYA

Pakistan President Yahya Khan

was today quoted as saying that

China would intervene in the

event of an Indian attack on

Pakistan. Radio Pakistan said Yahya Khan made the observation in

an interview with the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS). The

statement differed from the one made by him in a recent interview

with Newsweek in which he said China would help Pakistan in

every way 'short of intervention'.

Yahya's reference to the possibility of Chinese intervention in

a conflict in the sub-continent was timed to coincide with the

conclusion of a high-level Pakistani mission to Peking led by ZA

Bhutto.

Meanwhile, Bhutto said on his return from Peking today that

diversionary action by China on India's northern frontier in the

event of a war on the subcontinent was a "superficial matter." He

said, "We are not interested in diversions. We are interested in the

heart of the matter. We want peace. We cherish peace. We will never

be the first to aggress or to fire the first shot. Those who will aggress

against the sacred soil of Pakistan, they will be doomed on Pakistan

soil."

INDIA WILL NOT BROOK SITUATION FOR LONG: INDIRA

Indira Gandhi said in Paris today that India could not tolerate the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

## An 'aide' to Cumilla city mayor held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Police arrested Moinuddin Ahmed Babu, an aide to Cumilla City Corporation Mayor Monirul Haque Sakku, over the communal attacks in the city on October 13.

"He was on the run. A police team arrested him from Rangamati's Sajek area last night," said

Anwarul Azim, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station in Cumilla.

Police brought him to Cumilla and showed him arrested in two cases that

were filed following the violence. One was filed by Tarun Kanti Modok,

general secretary of Nanua Dighirpar puja mandap, while the other by police

for attacking Thakurpara Gachhtala temple.

Police produced him before a court with a seven-day

remand prayer in the afternoon, the OC told our

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

## New dinosaur species 'Cold Bone' found in Greenland



MAIL ONLINE

A newly-discovered species of dinosaur that reached 13 feet long, five foot tall and weighed up to a tonne was an ancestor of diplodocus, scientists have revealed.

Researchers report the unearthing of two almost complete skull fossils of the plant-eating dinosaur in Jameson Land, east Greenland.

The new dinosaur species honours the local Inuit language -- its scientific name Issi saaneq means "Cold Bone".

Previously mistaken for an already-existing species, Cold Bone lived during the late Triassic period approximately 214 million years ago when East Greenland was connected to Europe.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

## DEATH-ROW CONVICTS No execution until full text of verdict:SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday observed that death-row convicts cannot be executed until the full texts of the verdicts affirming their death penalties are released.

With this observation, the SC's Appellate Division

ordered the inspector general of prisons and the

jail authorities to suspend the execution of death

penalty of Shukur Ali -- convicted accused in a

child abduction, rape and murder case in Kushtia -- as

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 8

Fajr 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

## Govt has no control over market

Dr Kamal says on price hikes, public sufferings

UNB, Dhaka

Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday alleged that no step is being taken to alleviate public sufferings and control the price hike of daily essentials since an "unelected" government has been in power.

In a statement, he also alleged that the government has no control over the market. "Rather it has an entente with an evil syndicate."

Protesting the government's decision to hike the fuel price, Dr Kamal said transport fares and transposition costs will rise due to the fresh hike in diesel and kerosene prices.

"It'll have an impact on the market and people will suffer as the prices of the daily essentials keep soaring."

He demanded the withdrawal of the increased prices of diesel and kerosene.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



Garbage and polythene bags being dumped indiscriminately at Boro Bazar, the biggest wholesale market in Khulna city, polluting the Bhairab river and the environment. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## CLIMATE SUMMIT 2021 Chasm opens between words and action

AFP, Glasgow

COP26's first week saw keynote pledges to end deforestation, phase out coal, and mobilise trillions for green investment. But observers say there is a gulf between host Britain's proclamations and the emissions cuts that must be achieved.

Mohamed Adow, director of the Nairobi-based climate think tank Power Shift Africa, told AFP that there had been "two realities" at the global climate conference in Glasgow.

"One is the world of press releases by the UK Government announcing a host of initiatives such as 'an end to coal', which suggest all is well and we've as good as cracked the climate crisis," he said.

"The other reality is outside this PR bubble. The climate deals in cold hard facts."

The conference aims to implement the Paris Agreement -- including the goal of limiting temperature rises to between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

British organisers are pushing to solidify 1.5C as the summit's unequivocal temperature target.

They have also pushed for their much-repeated priorities -- "coal, cars, cash and trees" -- shorthand for actions to phase out polluting fuels and internal combustion vehicles, provide money to help the world decarbonise, and protect forests.

There was movement toward that end at COP26 this week.

A COP26 spokesman said there had been "real

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1